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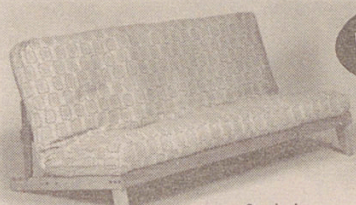
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Extra, Extra, Read All About It:

2002 has come and gone, but there's still time to analyze every detail. So stroll through the pages of *CityBeat* as we stroll through the year that was. You'll find "The Year in Review" stories in every section of the issue.

THIS MODERN WORLD	DOPE	SQUINT	PUTTING OUT THE BONE	TO DO	SAVAGE LOVE	ROAD TO WELLNESS	THE CITY
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Relive *CityBeat's* take on 2002: arts, news, music, film, voices and cover story archives

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Illustration by Woodrow J. Hinton III

Design by Geoff Raker

CityBeat



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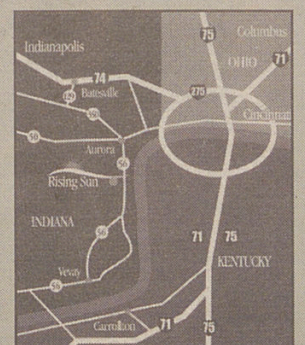
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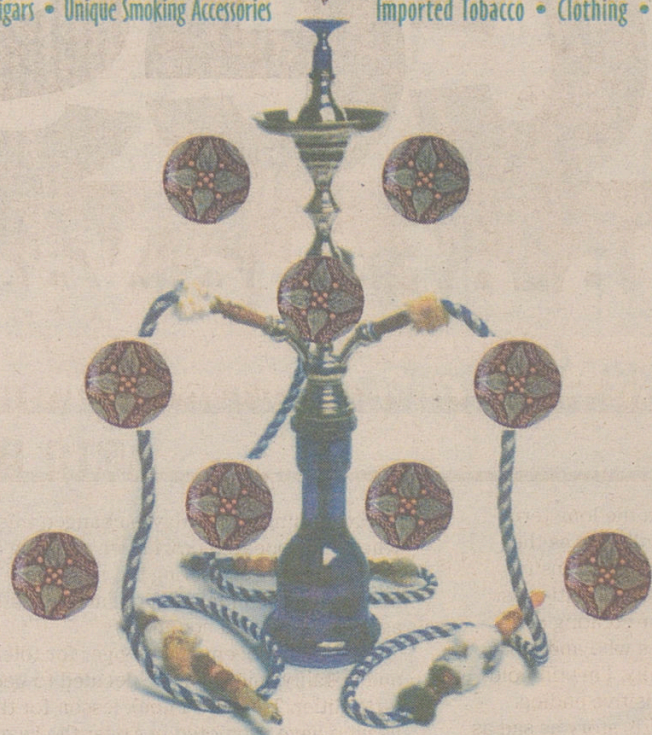
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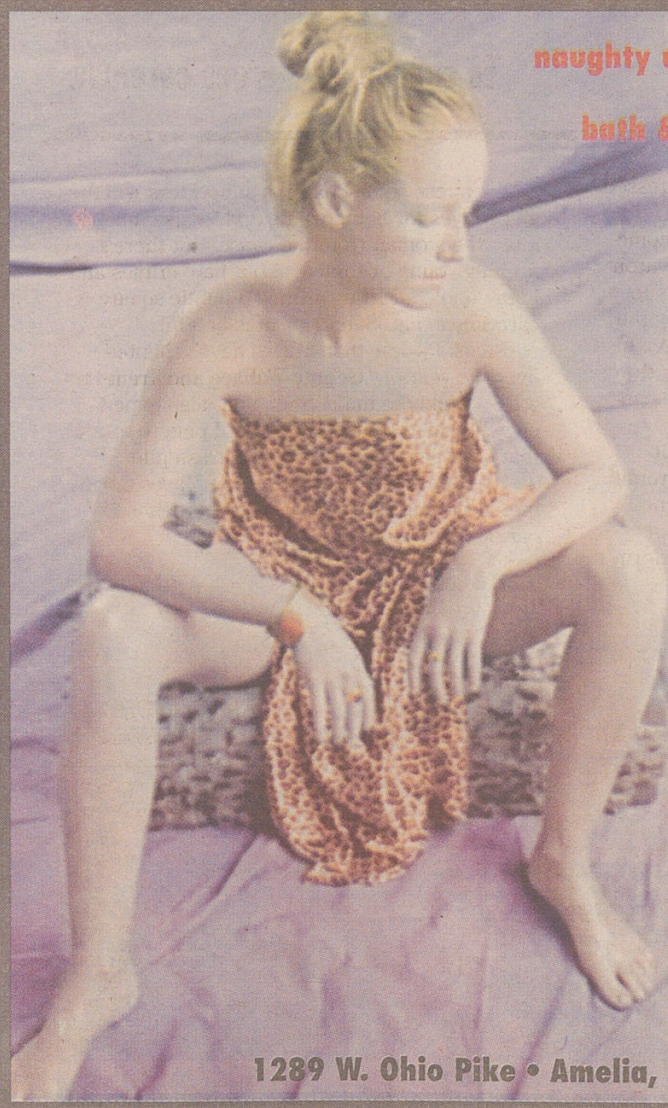
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Voices

People of the Year

Thomas Condon and Amanda Mayes made statements

ARTS BEAT

BY STEVE RAMOS

Choosing the person who mattered the most this year in the Cincinnati arts is a no-brainer for me. Artist Thomas Condon represents all that's good and trying about life in Cincinnati.

The good is that Condon's artwork — his sketchbook drawings, photographs and mixed-use sculptures — reflects skill and unique talent. His show this fall at The Carnegie Center in Covington, which included drawings he made while serving part of his prison sentence, revealed the compassionate spirit that supports his projects. It was the first time Condon's artwork was allowed to speak for itself, and I think it continues to make a powerful impression on the people who saw it.

The bad news is that Condon became Cincinnati's latest martyr for free expression after being convicted in April 29 on eight counts of gross abuse of a corpse after taking pictures of dead bodies, supposedly without permission, at the Hamilton County Morgue in January 2001.

Condon is currently free from prison on appeal, and it looks like he hasn't lost any passion for his work. The results of his appeal will determine whether he has to serve the remaining two years of his sentence. For the time being, he gets small pieces of his life back. He can to come and go as he pleases.

Condon has also become an unexpected spokesperson for civil liberties. The National Coalition Against Censorship is supporting him, bringing his story to a national level.

For now, Condon's story gives Cincinnati another black eye of intolerance, as damaging as the obscenity charges brought against Contemporary Arts Center Director Dennis Barrie in 1990 for hosting the Robert

Mapplethorpe retrospective. In the long term, Condon's story might be remembered as the turning point that rallied tolerant citizens to action to ensure that a future Cincinnati artist would never again go to jail for creating art.

Either way, Condon impacts who and what we are as a community. I'm still holding out hope for a positive ending.

There's another arts story as sad as Condon's, although this one has to do with a young woman's personal failures rather than any injustices dropped at her feet.

Amanda Mayes, the 26-year-old co-chair of the Coalition for a Just Cincinnati, is one of the driving forces behind the Artists of Conscience ban, which has asked performers to cancel their Cincinnati engagements until progress is made on what the coalition calls "social and economic apartheid." I've

heard Mayes speak a number of times, and I was always impressed by what she had to say and the thoughtful way she expressed her views on social justice.

Mayes was instrumental in convincing comedian Bill Cosby and musical performers Wynton Marsalis, Smokey Robinson and The O'Jays to cancel performances at venues managed by the nonprofit Cincinnati Arts Association (CAA). In February, the CAA demanded \$77,350 from the coalition to pay for damages caused by the cancellations.

On March 18, the CAA formally filed suit against the coalition, but Mayes held her ground. She was a Cincinnati anomaly, a twentysomething black woman who had the attention of local businessmen and politicians. Her platform was equality, and there was no denying the validity of what she had to say.

THE YEAR



IN REVIEW

Everything about Mayes changed this fall when she appeared downtown carrying an anti-Semitic poster protesting the placement of a menorah on Fountain Square and spreading hate against the Jewish community.

Mayes had been a messenger for tolerance and equality, and then she decided to become a little Hitler. The hard-knock lesson for those of us who have promoted her over the year is that we need to choose our heroes carefully. You have to stick with a person and keep track of their actions.

The hard-knock lesson for those of us who have promoted Mayes over the year is that we need to choose our heroes carefully.

I suppose some coalition supporters will forgive Mayes for being young and foolish and separate the woman from the cause. But there's nothing young or foolish about hate crimes and, in my book, strutting around a public square carrying an anti-Semitic sign is hateful.

Racists worse than Mayes have repented over the years — George Wallace and Trent Lott come quickly to mind. She might also experience a similar rebirth. For now, I plan to toss all that she's said recently into the trash pile.

I do appreciate the one lesson Mayes taught me. In the future, I'll choose my heroes more carefully.

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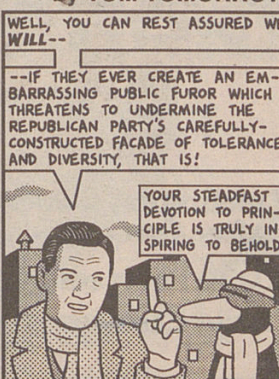
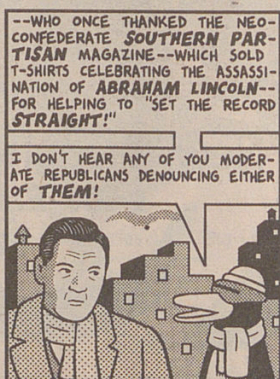
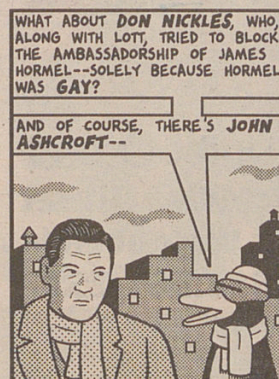
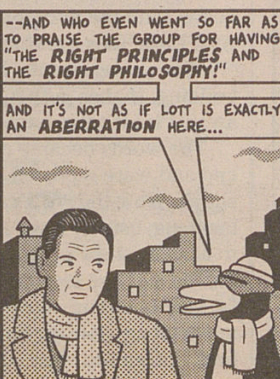
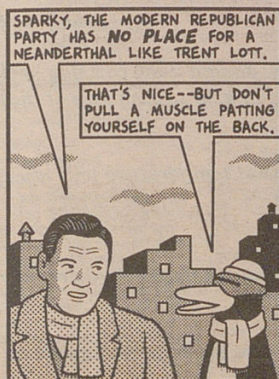
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THIS MODERN WORLD



by TOM TOMORROW

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STRAIGHT DOPE

BY CECIL ADAMS

No quotation dictionary gives the origin of the common phrase "Elvis has left the building." Who said it first?
—Nicole A., Palo Alto, Calif.

Funny you should ask. The guy who said it just left the building himself. Horace Lee Logan, founder and longtime producer of *Louisiana Hayride*, the Country-music radio show that gave Elvis his big break, died Oct. 13 at age 86.

In 1954 Sam Phillips of Sun Records sent Logan a demo recording of the 19-year-old Elvis singing "That's All Right, Mama" and "Blue Moon of Kentucky," touting this white kid who sounded black. Elvis was a radical departure from the Country crooners who were the staple of *Hayride* lineups at the time. (To give you an idea, one of the acts that preceded Elvis on his first night was a yodeler.)

But Logan decided to take a chance. On Oct. 16, 1954, Elvis debuted on the show, which was broadcast live on KWKH, a 50,000-watt station in Shreveport, La., that reached 28 states. The studio audience responded politely to the young singer—he had yet to develop his trademark hip wiggle or sultry sneer—but Logan and company saw his potential and signed him up for a regular gig. Soon teen-age girls discovered him, and Elvis was on his way.

After two years of touring the South and Southwest and drawing increasing national attention, Elvis bought out his contract with *Hayride* for the unheard-of sum of \$10,000, with the stipulation that he give one last performance, which turned out to be Dec. 15, 1956. By this time he was verging on superstardom. Ten thousand kids jammed the youth building on the fairgrounds in Shreveport and screamed at the top of their lungs for the duration of the King's 45-minute show. (According to KWKH disc jockey Frank Page, it was sometimes hard to tell if Elvis was singing or even if the band was playing.) After Elvis had given his final encore and left the stage, the crowd headed for the exits, even though many other *Hayride* acts were still waiting to perform. Logan took the microphone and pleaded with Elvis' fans to return to their seats: "Please, young people, Elvis has left the building. He has gotten in his car and driven away. Please take your seats."

The words became part of the Elvis legend and were repeated at many subsequent shows. Now they're a catchphrase whose meaning, usually tinged with irony, is clear to all: The show's over, the curtain has fallen, the sun has set, that's all she wrote, the fat lady has sung, our work here is done, move along, nothing more to see, disperse, beat it, turn the page, hit the road, don't for-

get to tip your waitress, pack it up, turn out the lights, *das ist alles*, time's up, toodle-oo, *exceunt omnes*, class dismissed, back to work, don't let the screen door hit you where the good Lord split you, end of story, that's all there is there ain't no more, so long, hasta la vista, you don't have to go home but you can't stay here, later gator, 30, buh-bye, get lost, *ite missa est*, the end, finito or Scotty, beam me up.

Questions We're Still Thinking About

I go camping a lot and sometimes people like to waste my matches by throwing them in the fire. Do you know if they have invented fire resistant matches? If so, where can I find them?

—ISeeUOO

Is there a recipe for baggly eyes? If so, can you forward it to me?

—lilmoomoo

In my personal and family development class (home ec) my teacher said that salt and pepper are married, so that's why they always have to stay by each other. If they are, then one has to be the husband and the other the wife. All of the people I've asked have

agreed that the pepper would be the husband and the salt the wife. Well, what if the fork, knife and spoon were a family? Which would be the dad, the mom and the kid, and would the kid be a boy or a girl? Also, what if thunder, lightning and rain were a family, how would that go?

—Molly Moxie

What would happen if a giant alien came up and ate the sun—would it die? What would happen to us? Would it eat us too or would it be too full from the sun? Is there any nutritional value in the contents of the sun or any of the planets of the matter?

—D Guarna

Does any one group or individual, anywhere, own rain? Or claim to?

—Saqib R., Los Angeles

Subj: donald duck can you send me the hearing of him saying any of that?

—theallens

At what temperature will my eyeballs freeze?

—Randall

So, Randall. I take it you're new to Chicago?

CONTACT CECIL ADAMS: cecil@chicagoreader.co



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YOUR NEGRO TOUR GUIDE

BY KATHY Y. WILSON

Merry Christmas to Me

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kathy was too busy to write a new letter to Santa Claus, so she sent last year's instead. A version of this column first ran in the issue of Dec. 20-26, 2001.

DEAR SANTA,

Can you please come straight to the ghetto? And on your way, could you please, pretty please, straighten out Soul Brother No. 1 James Brown and tell him never again to accept another invitation to visit from an elected official in Cincinnati?

Could you spare some change for our panhandlers so they can get themselves something to eat, medical attention for their pregnant wives and cab fare back to Louisville?

The new *Streetvibes* Vendor Action Figures are out. I want the "armed" ones — the ones who do us a "disservice."

And while you're at it, could you puh-leeze give us some bathrooms during the Coors Jazz Festival weekend that aren't only for paying customers so Negroes from Detroit, Cleveland and Dayton won't have to pee at the library?

How 'bout a spine for my mayor? You know, the "strong" one.

I'd also like two World Trade Centers, an undemolished Pentagon and an undisturbed cornfield in Pennsylvania. Throw in a president without a pedigree and an Osama bin Laden Power Ranger who'll use his powers for good.

Hmmm. Lemme see. What else?

Oh yeah! How 'bout a new April, a different police chief, an Officer Stephen Roach Doll with a gun that shoots only rubber bullets and one of those Timothy Thomas Dolls that breathes, speaks and walks.

There's a life-sized Happy Black Mamma Angela Leisure Doll that goes with him. You pull her string and she says, "Don't run, Timothy!"

Santa, could I pleasepleasepleaseprettypleasewithsugarontop have two winning professional sports teams?

Can you *not* bring another Cincinnati CAN committee? The last one was defective. It imploded after my Charlie Luken Attack Dog "lynched" it one day. Speaking of that, how 'bout another Nate Livingston Chatterbox Figurine to bring some action to city council?

And can you tell the white people in Hyde Park and Mount Adams that the next time my Charlie Luken Attack Dog issues a curfew it applies to them, too? It'd be really cool, too, if you could repeal Article 12 of the City Charter so everyone could have the same rights under the law.

I'd like one of those reality checks, too. You know, the ones where you don't ever really expect to host the Olympic Games in a city where you can't even guarantee the citizens are safe from the cops or where gays are legally classified as inferior.

Since I've been asking for so much, Santa, I'd like to thank you for this year scaring religion into the Ku Klux Klan. What with all the racial strife here, they got spooked and decided not to apply for a permit to erect a cross on Fountain Square.

I know, I know. My list is lengthy, Santa, and it's a lot to ask.

But I've been a really good Negress this year. I told the truth, I ate my vegetables and I gave "Alms to the Poor" (see the issue of Oct. 11-17).

Besides, I really need this new stuff, Santa. I'm bored with the old stuff. None of it works well at all.

I'll understand if you can't bring it all at once. It's a really heavy load.

But I'll take what you've got. I'll take it in installments, even.

Anything's better than nothing at all.

PEACE,
KATHY Y. WILSON
YOUR NEGRO TOUR GUIDE

P.S. Mine is the intolerant city on the right. Thanks again.

CONTACT KATHY Y. WILSON: kwilson@citybeat.com. Hear Kathy's commentaries on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*.

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Cincinnati CityBeat is published every Thursday by Lightborne Publishing Inc., Thomas R. Schiff, Chief Executive Officer. One copy per person of the current issue is free; additional copies, including back issues up to one year, are available at our offices for \$1 each.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$60 for six months, \$110 for one year (delivered via first-class mail).

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DEADLINES: Calendar listings information, noon Thursday before publication; classified advertising, 4 p.m. Friday before publication; display advertising, noon Friday before publication. Next issue will be published Jan. 1, 2003.

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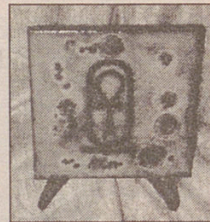
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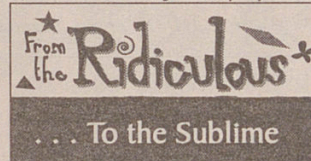
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Photo: Jerome Manigan

TAKE IT FROM US!

You should know by now that there are plenty of things to do and see in Greater Cincinnati. For further proof, thumb through *CityBeat's* newly published good book, the **ANNUAL MANUAL 2003**, complete with volunteer opportunities, causes worth supporting, highlights of 2003 events and lists of everything from theater groups and music clubs to parks and local colleges. It's tucked inside this week's issue. Happy New Year!

Hearing Voices

Excerpts from *CityBeat* letters and editorials in 2002

COMPILED BY JOHN FOX

Last Friday I was on the sidewalk outside of the Aronoff Center when I was accosted by a representative from Procter and Gamble. She was shoving a sample-sized package of tissues into my personal space while enthusiastically proclaiming something about "enchanted pillows." (I can only imagine that such a product will elevate the experience of weathering the common cold to the level of Nirvana.)

I walked away wondering if anyone else in this city would find it ironic that it's perfectly legal for corporate representatives to interrupt a peaceful evening with their consumerist clamor, but it's against the law for an individual to ask for money to buy some food or for bus fare home. I personally find P&G's "enchanted pillow" free sample blitz a deterrent to my enjoying our city far more than what the city has dubbed "panhandling."

— Letter from Cathy L. Hale regarding local efforts to curb panhandling (Jan. 3)

It seems to me that some in the African-American community complain a bit too

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much about white racism. Racism exists. Its negative impact and influence have caused a lot of pain and suffering for many, many people. Still, I'm beginning to wonder if many complaints alleging racism are nothing more than excuses for not taking responsibility for self. At the same time, it seems to me that some in the white community are unwilling to even consider that some things are really in need of change.

— Letter from Jerome Manigan responding to a *CityBeat* editorial looking back on 2001 and looking ahead (Jan. 17)

Bureaucracies always seem to be more interested in the process of decision-making than in the actual decisions or actions themselves. And CAN certainly seems — in deeds, not words — to have been formed for the purpose of having meetings rather than for the purpose of bringing fundamental change to Cincinnati.

— Editorial on the Community Action Now (CAN) commission's lack of efforts and results (Jan. 24)

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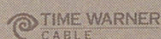


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My hats are off to *CityBeat* now and in the future for telling the truth about our gay community. The fact that Kathy Y. Wilson referred to me in her article as a black man speaks volumes; I've been called much worse in Cincinnati. — *Letter from Roy Ford responding to a CityBeat story on racial tension within the local gay/lesbian community (Feb. 14)*

Congratulations to *CityBeat* for establishing a new "concentric circle" to your comfort zone by naming Angela Leisure your 2001 Person of the Year. While you've never shied away from what might not be the popular view, you really did it this time!

— *Letter from N.E. Thomas praising our choice for Person of the Year (Feb. 28)*

April Fool's Day came early this year for *CityBeat* editors. Maybe the staff was ingesting cocaine and alcohol when discussing how great Angela Leisure is. She's so great a mother that she allowed her son to have multiple warrants for arrest and apparently approved of his running from the police.

— *Letter from Albert Zellhuber criticizing our choice for Person of the Year (Feb. 28)*

Cincinnati's, it's time to get out of your cushy comfort zone, put down your cheese coney for a minute and do the unthinkable: Get an open mind.

— *Letter from Rick Chambers (March 14)*

When corporations threaten the welfare of downtown, it's called "negotiation tactics." When boycott groups do it, it's called "economic terrorism." But the city has shown before that it can squeeze win-win outcomes from thorny impasses. It doesn't make sense not to try here as well — on issues that certainly are more important than whether Cincinnati retains an upscale store or a professional football franchise.

— *Editorial on the economic boycott of downtown (April 4)*

Citizens, unless they've been arrested or detained, have every right to run, skateboard, skip, hop or leap away from police. Police, on the other hand, have no right whatsoever to shoot citizens for "improper" behavior, and certainly not for running away.

— *Letter from Elise R. Hendrick on the one-year anniversary of Timothy Thomas' death at the hands of Cincinnati Police (April 11)*

Our editorial mission hasn't changed in the wake of this ban, even if our movie-viewing habits have.

— *Editorial on CityBeat's reinstating the Esquire and Mariemont theaters' movie times despite remaining banned for editorial coverage (April 18)*

I appreciate the strength of Kathy Y. Wilson's spirit and the insight inherent in her voice. In a city rotting under the weight of racism and political corruption, her presence is more significant than it might first appear because it gives those of us surrounded by darkness the assurance that there are, in fact, a few people who see with clear vision and are unafraid to speak the truth — even when threatened by the oppressors.

— *Letter from Jason Claudon praising Wilson's column, Your Negro Tour Guide (May 23)*

Next year, if a Women's Issue is still *de rigueur*, please give thoughtful readers more than just the self-congratulatory girl gab fest we cringed through this year. Pajama parties are for bad TV networks. A little skepticism as well as some critical input from men would make a difference, as would the assumption — apparently foreign to the *CityBeat* ladies — that women are capable of surviving some honest scrutiny.

— *Letter from Sean McDonald criticizing the Women's Issue, edited by Kathy Y. Wilson (May 30)*

Do I want my tax dollars to pay for political campaigns? Absolutely! Then elected officials will report to us voters instead of the deep pockets who write campaign checks with three or four zeroes.

— *Letter from Kathy Helmbock regarding Jene Galvin's column on campaign finance reform (June 6)*

In a culture where journalists consider themselves "media celebrities" who engage in self-censorship and self-image impression management, Gregory Flannery's cover story was an honest and elegant piece of true journalism. His insider knowledge helped us secular plebs comprehend some of the dynamics of an organization managed by people not full of love and grace but blocked by their own sanctimonious arrogance and ignorance.

— *Letter from Pete Grady regarding Greg Flannery's story on the Catholic Church's sex abuse scandal (June 13)*

Bob Woodiwiss hit a home run with his fittingly titled cover story "Death in the Afternoon." When I wasn't laughing I was crying, because every distilled, frank word in the entire story is true. Pro sports have turned fun into greed.

— *Letter from John W. Behle regarding Bob Woodiwiss' first-person account of attending a Reds game July 4*

Goodbye, Stonewall. It was inevitable, I guess. You were in our hearts for almost 20 years, but no more. A few "activists" took it to play with, and when it doesn't exist anymore they'll move on to the next poor unsuspecting group and destroy them, too.

— *Letter from Darryl Dravaland regarding a story on strife among Stonewall Cincinnati board members (July 18)*

There's really only one silver lining to a tragedy — the hope that people learn something from it so it never happens again. Purposefully refusing to learn lessons from the 1979 Who deaths is more disrespectful of those who died than moving on with efforts to improve Cincinnati.

— *Editorial supporting the return of festival seating to U.S. Bank Arena (Aug. 15)*

I think if we had "Afro-town" here in Over-the-Rhine like New York City has "Little Italy" or Detroit has "Greek-town" or San Francisco has "Chinatown," it would be great. Go for it. We need a good, classy African-American place to eat and dance for all Cincinnati's to enjoy. Just do it. If it's a success, we all win. What is Lynch waiting for? Put your neck on the line. Invest in your heritage. Start a business and hire.

— *Letter from Jim Crosset regarding a story about the Rev. Damon Lynch III (Sept. 12)*

The evil snakes in the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office have absolutely no morals and they need to go to jail. They're going down — it's just a matter of time. Everyone in this unfair city should be outraged about what transpired during Officer Robert Jorg's trial, but you have people in this one-horse town who just don't give a damn.

— *Letter from Frederick Malone regarding a story on the death of Roger Owensby Jr. (Oct. 10)*

The message is clear: If you are a leader with vision, just get away from here, we don't want your kind. That's why there are so few leaders left in the Cincinnati community. I personally am sadder and wiser and less trusting than I was. Cincinnati lost, and time will show how much.

— *Letter from Heidi Bruins, who was forced from her co-chair position at Stonewall Cincinnati (Oct. 10)*

The maneuvering leaves one with an unsavory mental picture of a small group of politicians sitting around a room in the state capital dividing the spoils — one for you, two for me, attorney general for you, treasurer for me. And with the GOP's utter dominance in Ohio (both houses of the legislature, both U.S. senators), the spoils are easy pickings.

— *Editorial supporting Democratic candidates running for statewide office (Oct. 17)*

One of these years we have to bury the prevailing attitude here that if it's a good idea it doesn't belong in Cincinnati, that Cincinnati doesn't deserve anything better and that Cincinnati is about as good as it's going to get. This is the year, and this is the election.

— *Editorial supporting progressive issues and candidates in the 2002 elections (Oct. 24)*

I know that I had enough registered voters to get on the ballot. I lost on technicalities that could have gone either way. I want to make sure that this doesn't happen ever again — not to me, not to other candidates and not to the voters.

— *Letter from Marilyn Hyland regarding the cover story "Does Your Vote Count?" (Oct. 24)*

I know that I need to do more than just bitch. I should do my part to encourage Cincinnati to thrive in ways that I value. Still, the rub is there. What I want for my child and my family isn't convenience but a life that's rich, diverse and challenging to mind and spirit. I promise to do my part for any community where I might make a home, but when I consider my values and aspirations for myself and my family, it's difficult to conceive of Cincinnati as a place to pursue our dreams.

— *Letter from Peter White regarding the cover story "Why We Left Cincinnati" (Nov. 7)*

If you want change here, speak up locally or take a lower paying position that fosters change and tolerance. It won't happen overnight, but it certainly won't happen if nobody's here to do the crap work and challenge politics.

— *Letter from Courtney Rose regarding the cover story "Why We Left Cincinnati" (Nov. 7)*

To keep our talented young people, it's time for regular working people like us to speak up and demand solutions. We can't leave this one to the elites who give us shiny stadiums (which we pay for) and dilapidated schools. The elites have failed us. On this issue, we will need to lead them.

— *Letter from Bill Collins regarding the cover story "Why We Left Cincinnati" (Nov. 14)*

Cincinnati sits on a precipice right now. Young creative professionals stream out of the city for greener pastures, while those left behind feel very alone. A beacon for young creatives here, Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival, downsizes due to a severe financial crunch. A city built on creative planning, Portland, offers hope to Cincinnati, which schemes to kill off its planning department.

— *Editorial on the reader response to the cover story "Why We Left Cincinnati" (Nov. 21)*

I've lived here, on and off, for most of my life. It seems that it was a fad to renounce this city as conservative and close-minded. I followed the fashions, and now I kinda like this town. Cincinnati has plenty of hip, but it just doesn't have any hop.

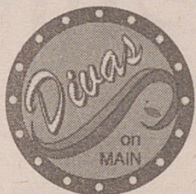
— *Letter from M. Elgazzar regarding the cover story "Why We Left Cincinnati" (Dec. 5)*

Unfortunately, the placement of a menorah in Fountain Square might very well lead to the Klan placing a cross there in the near future. For every ounce of good, there will always be an ounce of evil. But it's vitally important to prevent the evils of the world from forcing those who work for peace and love to cloak themselves in darkness and hope that they and their nemeses are both forgotten.

— *Letter from Michael S. Cody regarding a story on protests against the menorah on Fountain Square (Dec. 19)*

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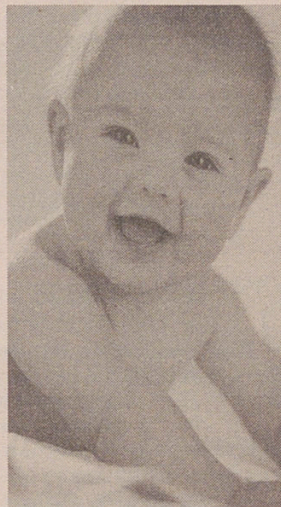
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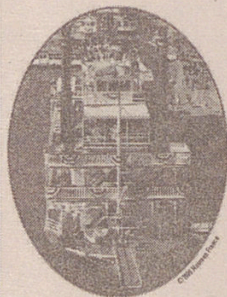
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News

Police Deals

Cincinnati still wrangling over reform measures

BY MARIA ROGERS

Cincinnati Police officers didn't kill any unarmed African Americans this year. But the best gauge of the pace of reform came at year's end, with police union bosses hinting at a slowdown by cops if the city insists on changes approved by voters.

Citing a charter amendment allowing the police chief and assistant chiefs to be chosen from outside the department, city council refused Dec. 18 to approve a contract with police supervisors. In 2001, voters approved the charter amendment, which appeared on the ballot as Issue 5.

"We took an oath of office, all of us, to uphold the charter of this city, and the more I look at this I'm convinced that these agreements do not comport with the charter," said Councilman Pat DeWine. "The charter change voted for by the voters last year and supported by all members of council at the time said very clearly that we would move the assistant chiefs into the unclassified service of the city."

Pending litigation brought by the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) challenges Issue 5.

"Issue 5 was in complete conflict with the contract," FOP Vice President Keith Fangman said. "Now we're told at the 11th hour that the rug's about to be yanked out from under us."

Fangman called the city's agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice an "ongoing debacle" (see "Ambling Toward Justice — Or Just Shuffling Along?" issue of June 13-19). He also expressed disappointment in the decision not to challenge the racial profiling lawsuit in court, calling its allegations baseless.

The agreement ending the suit has "not done a whole lot to improve police/community relations at this point," Fangman said.

He promised council there would be consequences unless it approved contracts for both the rank and file and police supervisors.

"When you talk about consequences, are you talking about a slowdown?" asked Councilwoman Alicia Reece.

The conversation between Reece and Fangman turned into a shout-down.

"I would almost be afraid if I'm just a citizen if a council member is treated like that," she said.

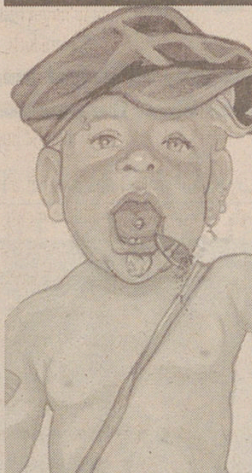
Fangman said he was only talking about "legal consequences" but told Reece they're



Stuck in the middle with you: Police Chief Tom Streicher addresses city council while surrounded by critics Jackie Shropshire (left) and the Rev. Damon Lynch III.

PHOTO: JYMI BOLDEN

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"none of your business."

FOP President Roger Webster was less coy than Fangman.

"I'm not going to ask for a slowdown," Webster said. "I don't have to. The guys are going to take it on themselves probably, because they're that angry at this city council."

In the end, council approved the contract for police officers but rejected the supervisors' contract.

Fangman explained that because of the pending litigation, the FOP couldn't negotiate the issue of declassifying the assistant chiefs. Councilman David Pepper said the city's negotiating position should have been similar.

"Just as the FOP said to us, 'We aren't going to negotiate this,' our answer needed to be, 'Well, we can't either,'" Pepper said. "Once we let down our guard, then Issue 5 will become meaningless."

Combative collaborative

In the summer, the city reached an agreement settling a lawsuit in which the Black United Front and the American Civil Liberties Union accused the Cincinnati Police Department of racial profiling. The settlement included an

agreement with the Justice Department that's supposed to change the way the police department operates.

But the settlement hardly began with a spirit of collaboration (see "Unsettled Feeling," issue of May 30-June 5). It required the appointment of an independent monitor to oversee the progress of police reform.

When the city and the plaintiffs couldn't agree on a monitor, U.S. District Judge Susan Dlott appointed California attorney Alan Kalmanoff. He lasted less than a month. Soon after receiving Kalmanoff's first invoice, city council unanimously voted to challenge his appointment and ordered city administrators not to pay him.

Kalmanoff decided to quit.

In a three-sentence statement, Mayor Charlie Luken welcomed the resignation.

"I'm glad that Dr. Kalmanoff has decided to leave the position," Luken said. "I have been urging him to do it for three weeks. I'm looking forward to the meeting next week, when we can discuss the next steps."

The Justice Department was less than thrilled with council's behavior.

"Over the past several weeks, numerous city officials have publicly criticized the independent monitor, advocated that the city refuse to pay

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April Aftermath Archive

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EDITED BY GREGORY FLANNERY

All Democrats Are Not Created Equal

If you hoped change in Cincinnati might come through the Democratic Party, keep hoping. With the next city council election still 11 months away, **the party has already endorsed** all five Democratic incumbents eligible to run: Paul Booth, John Cranley, David Crowley, David Pepper and Alicia Reece. Term limits prevent Democrat Minette Cooper from running for another two-year term in 2003.

"We have a city council majority that works as a team and these officials have earned the support of the party and of the citizens of Cincinnati," says Bernadette Watson, co-chair of the Cincinnati Democratic Committee.

That team spirit doesn't always cross jurisdictional lines. Thus **Mayor Charlie Luken** and **Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune** are both Democrats, but their views on social issues often differ (in thanks for which, let all the people say, "Amen"). Luken, for example, has gone out of his way to badmouth *Streetvibes*, the monthly newspaper published by the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless. Portune has always supported the paper's mission, which is to highlight the needs of the homeless and give them a way to earn a living. Portune has proposed amending the county budget to include a \$53,000 grant for *Streetvibes*.

"Such an initiative is not only constructive in dealing with the myriad issues posed by homelessness and poverty and its attendant impact on those in that condition and those with whom they interact, but it is also consistent with Hamilton County's stated budget goals of funding those initiatives that enable us to remain a leader in transitioning individuals from poverty to self-sufficiency," Portune's proposal says.

But Wouldn't a Slowdown Be Superfluous?

The two men who allegedly burgled Police Chief Tom Streicher's apartment in Price Hill were "foolhardy," according to a headline in *The Cincinnati Enquirer*. But that's hardly the case. With the president of the Fraternal Order of Police all but **threatening a slowdown**, criminals would be foolhardy not to sense they have an open season in Cincinnati.

After approving the hiring of additional police officers and additional spending on police overtime last year, city council should reasonably expect a dramatic decrease in crime this year. But the opposite has happened. The num-

ber of homicides in the city has already passed 60, and the year's still not over.

If the city won't fire Streicher because of the woeful state of police-community relations during his tenure or because an inordinate number of his officers have been arrested this year or because he seems unable to keep his cops from harassing peaceful protesters, perhaps this is sufficient grounds: Under Streicher's leadership, Cincinnati is becoming an increasingly violent, dangerous place.

If you don't believe that, ask Streicher himself. He can't even keep his own home free from crime.

Xavier University won't tolerate racism, according to a letter recently issued by the Rev. Michael Graham, XU president. Two African-American students recently reported **racist incidents on campus**. One involved harassing telephone calls. Another student was given an item that contained a "racist symbol," Graham wrote.

"The incidents have been investigated and it appears that both resulted from the actions of people outside the Xavier campus community," the letter said. "Still, these events provide an opportunity for me to clearly state that actions and words motivated by racial hatred will not be tolerated at Xavier University. Such acts are considered hate crimes in the legal community and will be treated as such here on campus. The integrity of our learning environment as well as all members of our campus community will not be compromised by the racist acts of a few."

The West End has a new tool for neighborhood self-determination called Renaissance West, a development

corporation associated with the **West End Community Council**. Renaissance West will play a major role in shaping the revitalization of one of Cincinnati's most storied — and, for the past four decades, most neglected — neighborhoods.

"We will take charge of our own community," says Dale Mallory, president of the West End Community Council. "This will not be a free-for-all for developers to come in and do whatever they want. We are very excited. I hear a lot of talk about the Vine Street Plan and the Over-the-Rhine Plan. I'd like to offer a little friendly competition."

The members of the board of Renaissance West are Len Garrett, Reggie Boyd, Chris Stevens, Donald Tye, Nate Tubbs, Tony Moore, Ralph Moon, Joe Porter and Keith Blake.

"This is a blue ribbon development corporation," Mallory says. "These guys are sharp."

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PHOTO: JYMI GOLDEN

Hamilton County Municipal Judge William Mallory Jr. (right) swears in board members for Renaissance West, the new neighborhood development corporation in the West End.

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Year of the Status Quo

Democrats, schools and public transit lose at the polls

BY DOUG TRAPP

Across the country, in Ohio and in Cincinnati, Democrats are licking their wounds. Tristate fans of light rail will have to settle for buses for years to come. But Cincinnati Public Schools supporters have only just begun to fight.

That's how the 2002 elections are playing out.

School campaign isn't over

A \$480 million bond issue for the Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) failed Nov. 5 by 611 votes. The bond remains the missing link in the \$985 million CPS Facilities Master Plan, a plan to rebuild or rehab almost all of the district's schools. The rest would come from a 23 percent state match.

The 4.89 mil bond would have cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$143 annually.

But CPS isn't done yet. Unlike other urban school districts in Ohio, CPS has enough money to pay for the first part of the four-phase facilities plan. To keep the 10-year plan on its original schedule, it needs to pass the bond issue in May.

The Cincinnati Board of Education recently agreed to take the first of two necessary votes Jan. 13 to put the levy on the May ballot, according to Jan Leslie, CPS spokeswoman.

"In order to not cause any delay in the next segment, we need to pass a bond issue by the fall," Leslie says.

Leslie says the Ohio School Facilities Commission — the state agency overseeing the statewide push to update schools — isn't demanding CPS pass a levy for the whole facilities plan by August 2003, as some have said.

But CPS officials are concerned they will miss out on historically low interest rates. Every 1 percent increase adds \$70 million to the total project cost, and construction costs increase by an average of 3 or 4 percent each year, Leslie says.

Democrats lose big

The one thing Hamilton County Democrats could agree on during a Dec. 5 brainstorming session was that there was a lot of energy in the room.

"I think it was valuable from a standpoint there were a significant number of people in that room who care," says Dr. Jean Siebenaler, who won only 40 percent of the votes in her race for county commissioner against Republican Phil Heimlich.

No matter Democrats spent some of the energy beating each other up a bit. There's still palpable tension between Siebenaler and County Auditor Dusty Rhodes — perhaps the most conservative Democrat.

Siebenaler campaigned for light rail. Rhodes campaigned against it. That's the easiest difference to point out, but it's just the beginning.

Unlike longtime Democratic activist Jene Galvin — who called his friend Rhodes a "son of a bitch" at the meeting — Siebenaler hasn't talked to Rhodes since the election. She sat next to him during the Dec. 5 meeting but barely

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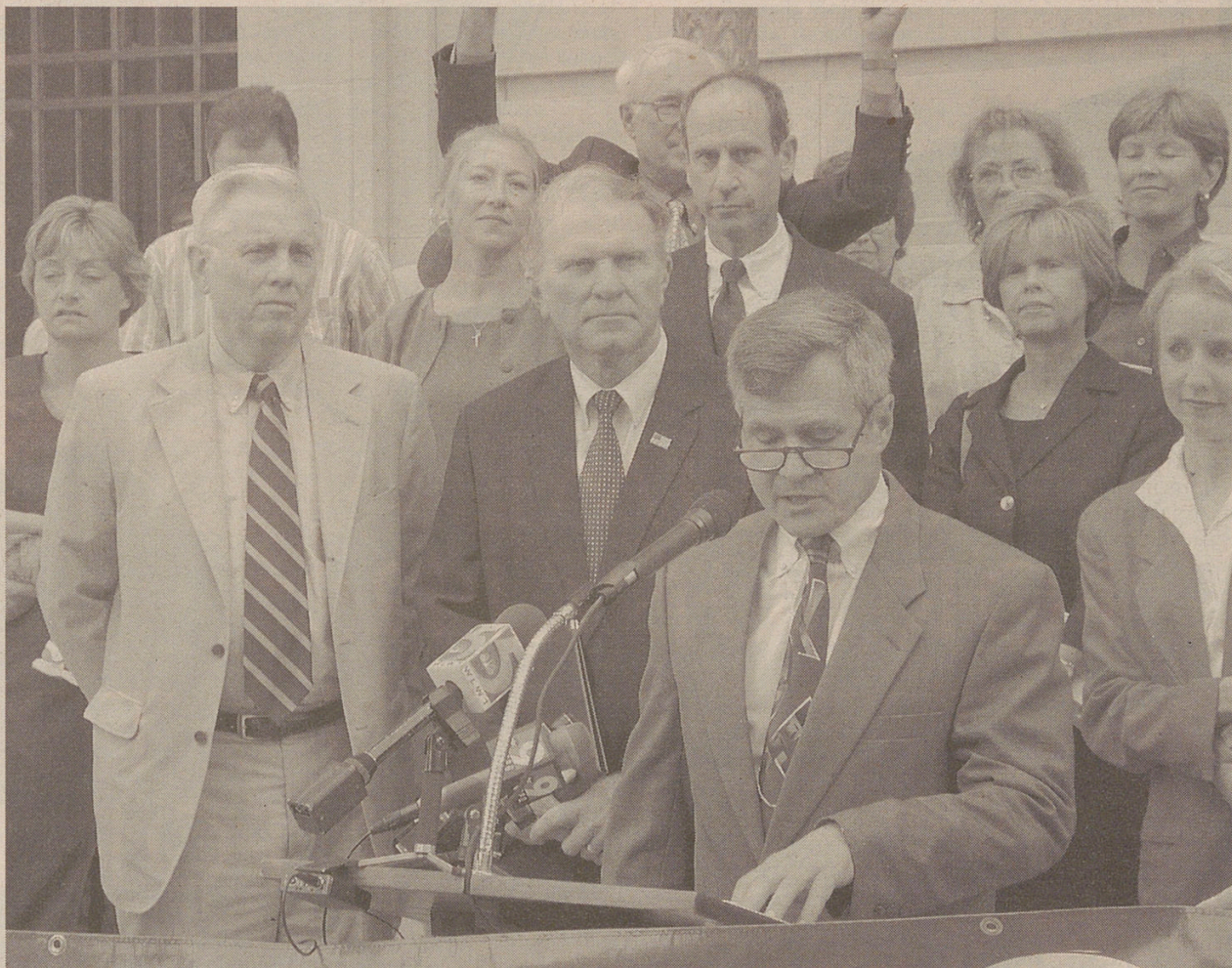


PHOTO: JYMI BOLDEN

Middle-aged white guys against progress: Stephan Louis of Alternatives to Light Rail speaks out against the transit tax, joined by (L-R) County Auditor Dusty Rhodes, U.S. Rep. Steve Chabot and Phil Heimlich.

looked his way. When asked about Rhodes, the usually talkative Siebenaler gets pretty quiet.

Attorney Bruce Whitman is heading back to private practice after being soundly defeated by Republican Fred Nelson for a seat on the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas. The Ohio Supreme Court rejected Whitman's challenge to Nelson's qualifications. Whitman had argued Nelson hadn't practiced law in Ohio for five years, the statutory minimum.

The complaint first went through the Hamilton County Board of Elections, hung on a tie vote, then went to the Ohio Secretary of State's Office, then to the Ohio Supreme Court. But the high court didn't rule on the specific question; instead the justices said they didn't have jurisdiction to end Nelson's candidacy, so they dismissed the complaint.

"I think now it's up to the prosecutor or the attorney general under Ohio law," Nelson says.

Those officials are in charge of investigating candidates' qualifications after an election. Both, like Nelson, are Republicans.

Like Siebenaler, Whitman isn't faulting his campaign for his loss. Like Siebenaler, he raised about as much money as his opponent. But he says he learned a few things about our political system.

"I think I learned that the Board of Elections is a political body and not an agency," he says.

He also learned that suburban Hamilton County voters are very focused on safety, especially downtown safety.

"I must say I think that people are overly concerned about it," Whitman says.

Transit tax is a train wreck

But perhaps nothing took a bigger beating this fall than Issue 7, the proposed half-cent sales tax for a \$2.6 billion light rail network and expanded bus system.

A little more than 68 percent of county voters rejected the proposal, soundly ending a once-in-five-year opportunity to grab federal matching funds.

This year the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) is going to have a difficult time keeping Metro running at full speed. It's expecting cuts in both state and federal funding, according to spokeswoman Sallie Hilvers.

"It is going to be a budgetary crunch for us," she says.

The SORTA board hasn't even hinted at tackling any large projects at its first two meetings after the election, Hilvers says.

"There's no plan to go forward with a tax levy of any sort," she says.

There's talk of SouthBank, the Northern Kentucky economic development group, working on a riverfront streetcar line, and SORTA will open the Riverfront Transit Center under Second Street in March. But all other projects are on hold.

Metro might try some new bus routes, but that doesn't mean they're adding new buses.

SORTA might entertain its first general fare increase since 1993 if its budget really shrinks, Hilvers says. It's also facing contract negotiations with a union representing 700 drivers, mechanics and support personnel.

The long-term future of the MetroMoves light rail and bus expansion plan remains a big, open question. ©

Please Don't Go

Bar the door: The young folk are leaving

BY DOUG TRAPP

Could this have been the year Cincinnati and the rest of the Tristate woke up and realized we're losing our young people and aren't doing much to keep them here?

Was this the year we got back to the business of building a great city — not by having the lowest taxes or widest roads or biggest department stores or newest stadiums but by returning life to our streets and neighborhoods?

Was 2002 the year we embraced the arts and historic redevelopment as a way to regain our long-lost title as the Paris of the Midwest?

Ask again in a year. So far the early signs aren't bad, despite the failure of light rail, despite state leaders' half-hearted efforts with public education and despite gutting of the city's planning department.

Even if the efforts of three new civic groups — Urbanists I and II and Cincinnati Tomorrow — don't radically change the city, they might be the seeds for some new thinking, which Cincinnati has needed for a long time. Their efforts in Over-the-Rhine will probably be helped by Cincinnati's new budget — the first in recent times to offer more than lip service toward the idea of investing in neighborhoods.

Last one out, turn off the fountain

Cleveland once had a fire in its river. Other cities, such as Miami, have faced bankruptcy. For Cincinnati, the 2000 U.S. Census might have been the unmistakable sign the city isn't going in the right direction.

During an early 2001 city council meeting, Mayor Charlie Luken announced Cincinnati had lost another 9 percent of its population — about 32,800 people.

You could almost feel the air pressure in the room drop and see council members slouch. It was the fourth decade in a row the city suffered a net population loss. Today Cincinnati has about two-thirds of the 500,000 residents it had in 1960.

In response, the 2003-2004 city budget sets aside \$15 million to attract another \$85 million from local banks for low-interest loans for market-rate housing and rehabs. The city estimates the fund could attract a total of \$250 million in new neighborhood investment.

The budget also merges the city's Planning Department with the Community Development Department but keeps the historic preservation section intact. The key casualty is former Planning Director Liz Blume, a clear talent forced out by the city manager's and mayor's budget.

The city is also refocusing its economic development efforts. A task force appointed by Luken recently issued its first recommendations for how the city can boost its economy.

The first suggestion was stunning in its simplicity: Establish a mission for the city's economic development department. Then the city needs to develop a system for judging and awarding development incentives.

It begs the question: Why wasn't this done years ago?

Those who scoff at the city's woes should know one thing: The population decline is more regional than previously thought, according to an analysis by the Hamilton

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Nicholas Spencer, the moving force behind Cincinnati Tomorrow, has a radical idea for keeping young people in Cincinnati: Give them something to do.

County Regional Planning Commission. The study covered 11 years of Internal Revenue Service data on county-to-county migration.

Since 1994 the Tristate's 13 counties haven't been attracting as many new people to the region as they used to. Of the 13, only Warren County in Ohio and Boone County in Kentucky had a net population gain without counting locals moving from one Tristate county to another.

From 1990 to 1993 the 13-county region had a net gain of 4,000 to 5,000 people. In 1994, these net gains decreased to almost an even trade, peaked again in 1997 at about 3,500, then hit a new low in 2001. That year the region had a net loss of population of a few hundred people.

"People seem to be spreading out," says Senior Planner Christine Nolan, who researched the report.

Most of the population loss is centered in the Tristate's old, urban centers such as Hamilton, the inner suburbs and Cincinnati, according to Nolan.

So who's leaving? Young people accounted for a lot of the decline in Cincinnati and Hamilton County in the 1990s. The city suffered a net loss in every age category under 39, while the rest of the county suffered a similar losses of people ages 22 to 34.

For example, the city lost 28,582 people between the ages of 18 and 39. The county lost 16,672 people in the same age group, not counting the city.

Nolan hasn't conducted similar research into the age of people moving into or leaving the other 12 Tristate counties, but plans to.

The Florida factor

Which brings up Richard Florida, the Carnegie Mellon University economic development professor and author of

The Creative Class. He has a new theory about why some cities — such as San Francisco, Austin, Chicago and New York — boomed in the 1990s, and why others — such as Cincinnati, St. Louis and Pittsburgh — did not.

Economic development experts have been tracking the number of high tech and high-paying jobs, but Florida argues using tax incentives to lure companies isn't the way to succeed anymore.

Florida visited in June as part of a nationwide lecture tour. He was invited by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Procter & Gamble (See "Cool Is Money," issue of June 20-26).

Florida says a new class of workers — the Creative Class — is driving today's economy. They are about 38 million people who use their brains to create wealth, he says. They work in courtrooms, scientific labs, studios, universities and other places where creative thought counts.

These people are mobile and choose to live in cities that have lots of street life, good music and arts scenes and other cultural amenities.

In short, it's about providing a quality urban environment. Cincinnati has the raw materials for it — the buildings, the streets and parks. We just haven't maintained most of them very well.

Whether or not Florida's statistics and theories are exactly right, he seemed to hit a nerve when he talked about the need for young people taking action to rebuild their cities.

"The only way to change this is if we do it," Florida said.

The Urbanists — a group of 40- and 50-something city lovers in Cincinnati — had already been quietly examining great cities of the past 2,000 years to find out what made them great.

After Florida's visit, a younger, more action-oriented group called Urbanists II began talking about doing a model redevelopment project in Over-the-Rhine. In early December the two groups held a joint meeting attended by 75 people, and now people in the group such as Jeffrey



PHOTO: JYMI BOLLEN

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Crimes of the Art

Thomas Condon's camera has the county in court

BY MARIA ROGERS

Photographer Thomas Condon spent April 29 through Sept. 13 creating art on index cards, while serving a 30-month prison term for eight counts of gross abuse of a corpse.

Now known in Cincinnati as the "morgue photographer," Condon was convicted in 2001 as a result of photographing bodies at the Hamilton County Morgue. He's out of prison pending a decision on his appeal; a three-judge panel has already heard oral arguments in the case.

The National Coalition Against Censorship issued a statement Dec. 2 protesting Condon's criminal prosecution.

"Since 1990 Cincinnati has been the stage for repeated threats against artistic freedom," the coalition said. "Artistic expression, even when it is controversial or offends some sensibilities, is essential to our society and has the full protection of the First Amendment. Art is not a crime."

Last month Condon participated in a conference on free expression at Columbia University. His work was shown and categorized with other artists who have been censored, such as Robert Mapplethorpe. Condon also showed his work at The Carnegie in Covington last fall.

"I felt the show was an extremely positive experience," he says. "For me, it was a chance to validate not only the pursuits that I made at the morgue but my work generally."

What did the county know?

Condon was unsuccessful in July in his attempt to get Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge Norbert Nadel to

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IN REVIEW



PHOTO: JYMI BOLDEN

Photographer Thomas Condon has become a cause celebre for artists concerned about censorship. He is free on bond pending an appeal of his conviction for photographing corpses in the Hamilton County Morgue.

grant shock parole (see "Prison for Art's Sake," issue of Aug. 1-7). But an appeals court ordered him released while his appeal is pending.

At trial, attorneys for Condon and his co-defendant, Dr. Jonathan Tobias, argued the two men believed the coroner's office had approved the morgue photography project.

Tobias, a former assistant coroner, is free on bond pending an appeal of his conviction.

During the summer, County Commissioner Todd Portune predicted that new evidence of the county's role in

the photo scandal will likely surface in a lawsuit in federal court.

"My goal through all of this has been to have full disclosure of what exactly went on," Portune says. "There's way too much smoke that suggests that this was known at the highest levels as opposed to how it was presented and prosecuted."

Relatives of the deceased persons in Condon's photographs have sued him and the county, challenging "the shocking practice of using bodies in government custody for private, grotesque and disrespectful purposes."

The suit alleges too little attention was paid visitors at the morgue.

"The county defendants failed to maintain records of who was in the building or why they were there and failed to record the identity of visitors," the suit contends.

It also alleges Condon never signed a log-in sheet. But the plaintiffs' claims in the civil action extend beyond lack of security, arguing County Coroner Dr. Carl Parrott approved of Condon's actions — the very argument Condon and Tobias unsuccessfully used in their own defense.

"Dr. Parrott was personally aware of the fact that defendant Condon intended to take photos of the human remains in the custody of the Hamilton County Coroner's Office for Condon's own commercial purposes, having been shown examples of such photos before granting Condon access to the morgue," the complaint says. "Dr. Parrott authorized Condon to enter the facility and put no restrictions on his activity in the facility. Condon and Dr. Parrott agreed that visual images of the deceased family members would be captured by Condon without the consent of the families."

At sentencing, Condon told Nadel he had shown some of his photos to a pathologist at the coroner's office (see "Death of Innocence," issue of April 18-24). He said he showed an administrative aide for the coroner a list of symbolic objects he wanted to use in the photos.



PHOTO: JYMI BOLDEN

Far from their usual venues — an art studio and a pathology lab — photographer Thomas Condon (middle, next to his wife, Kelly) and Dr. Jonathan Tobias (right, with hands folded) appear in court.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 21

BLIGHT OF THE WEEK

BY MARIA ROGERS



PHOTO: JYMI BOLDEN

Address: 1615 Clayton St., East Walnut Hills

Owner: Paul Wallpe

Year Built: 1913

Value: \$7,400 according to the Hamilton County Auditor's Office

Comments: The city of Cincinnati has a contract for the demolition of this building, but the issue is tied up in court, according to Al Taylor, an inspector with the Department of Buildings and Inspections. The owner, Paul Wallpe, filed suit to prevent demolition, Taylor says.

Wallpe says he invested in parts of East Walnut Hills when no one else would invest in the property and fixed up buildings in the neighborhood.

"It was a matter of trying to do something for the neighborhood," he says.

Both Wallpe and his wife were past presidents of the community council, he says.

Wallpe says two people who lived and worked in

the neighborhood are interested in rehabbing the building. At present, he says, he uses the building for storage. Without a proper permit, that's illegal, Taylor says.

Mary Anne Lee, president of the East Walnut Hills Assembly, says no one wants to tear down historic commercial or residential buildings.

"We try our very hardest to save the best representative examples," she says.

However, this building has been vacant throughout the 18 years she's lived in East Walnut Hills, Lee says.

"It's a chronic eyesore," she says. "It pulls down everything else."

An eight-unit building on one end of the block is getting ready to be rehabbed and a 30-unit building on the other side is also going to be rehabbed, according to Lee.

"There's gorgeous residential property around it," she says. "I am not at all opposed to anyone's right to buy their property and rehab it."

But she opposes an owner buying property and simply sitting on it.

Wallpe says he bought the property 10 years ago, put a new roof on it and sold it. He says he re-acquired the property about eight years ago. Wallpe says he bought the building with the intention of rehabbing the property when he retired. But there were a number of vacancies in the area and there wasn't a strong demand for the building, he says.

Wallpe says he twice applied for permits to rehab the building but was denied because the city said he had to make the first floor of the building commercial. He says he unsuccessfully applied for a zoning variance.

Zoning problems with the first floor don't prevent Wallpe from renovating the other two floors, according to Taylor. He says Wallpe also could have brought the building into minimum compliance with the building code.

BLIGHT OF THE WEEK is an effort to highlight the problem of abandoned buildings — and who's responsible for them.

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PUTTIN' OUT THE BONE

BY JENE GALVIN

At Year's End, I'm Not Fired Yet

Am I crazy, but didn't we have fun this year? I mean, we had conflict. We had defeat. We had drama. We even had the passing of liberal talk radio in Cincinnati.

C'mon, Jene. You're talking about your own damn self. All right, maybe I am. Yeah, it was me who took myself off the air at WDBZ, The Buzz (1230 AM) this year, but don't you wish there were some progressive chatter to balance Limbaugh, Barry, Thomas, Cunningham and Savage?

I raised hell for about a year on The Buzz, my favorite station. But I ran short on time for the necessary preparation, given my other jobs. But there is a place, even in this stodgy town, for liberal talk. More stations should consider taking a chance with someone who could draw listeners they don't have and keep ones who would love getting pissed off every day. So mark down the closing of "Straight Talk Live on the Night Side, with Jene Galvin" as one of the earth-moving events of 2002.

And what about the peace protest at Union Terminal this fall? Who doubts that George W. Bush got wet pants when thousands of local peace freaks, young and old, pushed against the barricades on Ezzard Charles Drive the night he told America he needed a war to get our minds off his inability to find Osama Bin Laden?

Speaking of media earlier, this will be the year generations will say an old, white-haired man, who once was one of the more parodied targets of *Saturday Night Live*, got another television show. Maybe it's because of Phil Hartman's caricature that I laugh every time Phil Donahue shouts at a guest on his new cable news show, which draws about as many viewers as a Bengals game draws fans. So much for my theory on liberal talk shows.

And how about the public battle between my former boss, Vice Mayor Alicia Reece, and my newer boss, John Fox? He says the vice mayor threatened him with firefighters doing bodily harm if he didn't get Kathy Y. Wilson's writing under control.

Alicia remains a longtime friend of mine, so it was painful, and still is, to address this controversy. At the same time, Fox

strikes me as a man of integrity. So I was relieved when Alicia provided an apology, though she was unwilling to totally corroborate his version of a conversation between the two in the *CityBeat* conference room.

Needless to say, from the perspective of us in the *CityBeat* family, it was one hell of a news event that played out beyond our own ink and walls.

Speaking of the beat, it went on during 2002 with that pesky boycott coalition. Just when the mayor would proclaim them pulse-less, they'd rise up and smite another big name into publicly pulling out of a contract in Cincinnati. I remain a supporter of this legal muscle to make social change. It might be the strongest and only peaceful strategy to redress our desperate issues.

So it outrages me when a few of the boycott leaders spout anti-Semitic venom, especially in the context of the boycott, which they did recently on Fountain Square. It disgraces the history of Jews and African

Americans who stood together in the civil rights war. It belittles the ultimate construct that all men and women are equal. And it puts a small face on what is otherwise a large movement.

And what the hell happened in the November 2002 election? I mean, how can a person like Dr. Jean Siebenaler, so full of integrity, brains, passion and vision, get so trounced in an election for Hamilton County Commissioner? The short answer is that Jene Galvin played a central

role in her campaign strategy.

OK, maybe I did ask her to stand on street corners every afternoon waving to drivers. But, hey, Steve Chabot did it. And remember the mountain-climbing city councilman Walter Beckjord? I learned it from him.

The fact is the county's total vote comes almost two-thirds from suburbanites, people hardly in love with us Democrats. If Siebenaler ran for Cincinnati City Council, she'd win easily. But she doesn't live there, so we'll have to watch her make her mark on this world through other important endeavors. Good luck, Dr. Jean.

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IN REVIEW

Speaking of the beat, it went on during 2002 with that pesky boycott coalition. Just when the mayor would proclaim them pulse-less, they'd rise up and smite another big name into publicly pulling out of a contract in Cincinnati. I remain a supporter of this legal muscle to make social change.

pline just as the city's highest-ranking African-American officer gets into a hazy fender bender in his city-issued car. The city says Twitty was driven to a plea bargain because he lied, not because he dented a fender. No one ever proved to me that he lied. Even so, lots of people at City Hall have lied. Some even got promotions or elected. Go figure.

But what do I know? Nothing, except that I'll still be whining here in 2003. I know because I got invited to the company holiday party.

Wait a minute. This is that paper with a sense of humor. They wouldn't fire my ass there, right by the cheese dip, would they?

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More of the Same

2002 was a relatively quiet sports year, except for the really weird stuff

BY BILL PETERSON

At the end of most years, it's quite easy to dream up a theme for the past 12 months in sports, even if it's something as broad and obvious as "change." The year 2002 hasn't been so generous.

We first heard about 2002 back in 1986, when a professional wrestling tag team calling itself "The New Breed" claimed to have traveled backwards from 2002, across the time and space continuum, to save the National Wrestling Alliance (NWA) from the likes of Dusty Rhodes and Ric Flair. At this point, the NWA has seen better days, Flair is still kicking, Rhodes is barely kicking and The New Breed probably has returned to 2002 and settled into a quiet life.

One imagines that 2002 will go into the books as the year that time forgot and, doubtless, most sports fans will forget about it, too. In Cincinnati, the year delivered more of the same from the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University basketball teams, which is good; more of the same from the Reds and UC football, which is so-so; and more of the same from the Bengals, which is dreadful.

Tiger Woods won a bunch more golf tournaments, Lance Armstrong won another Tour de France and Mike Tyson continued to disintegrate. The Lakers won another NBA title for Los Angeles, which saw its bubble-headed step-sister, Anaheim, win the World Series. Another team from nowhere in particular, New England, won the Super Bowl. Another Atlantic Coast Conference school, Maryland, won another college basketball title. Detroit won another Stanley Cup, and Brazil won another World Cup.

Sports usually is full of surprises. Not in 2002. No interesting or dominant new athlete stepped up in any sport. Unless you're counting high school basketball star LeBron James, who's Dick Vitale's latest iteration of The Greatest Thing Since Sliced Bread — a Diaper Dandy, a PTPer. For all we know, Kobe Bryant could have whipped him one-on-one in his high school days. If anything, the very idea that ESPN piped out one of James' games nationally demonstrates the American sports fan's starvation for novelty.

The most interesting stories developed off the field. The two biggest concerned the expansion of athletic opportunity for women, which really should be a no-brainer, except it conflicts with two historically intractable interests — privacy and opportunity for men.

The *New York Times* has made a rather mawkish dolt of itself in the past couple months, going to so far as to temporarily kill two sports columns that disagreed with its mission to force the all-male membership of Augusta National Golf Club to accept women. It's a fine, high sentiment,

though one suspects that inclusion among a bunch of stuffy, old crackers isn't the finest way to treat a lady.

To understand *The Times*' insistence that The Masters be boycotted by Woods, rather than any or all other male golfers, we would have to venture deep into The Old Gray Lady's inner sanctum, and we really don't want to go there. That aside, one can support public equality along with private autonomy.

An important difference holds between equality in the workplace, which promotes access to subsistence, and equality in private clubs, which just promote vanity. And it's distasteful to prescribe behavior for private agents who aren't in trouble and aren't seeking that kind of help. So we probably should stop short of saying that if *The Times* feels so strongly about the matter and has any guts about it, the newspaper would boycott The Masters. But you get the idea.

The second such story concerns Title IX, intended to ensure equal educational opportunity. It's an important, legitimate and extremely valuable law that the Clinton Administration butchered beyond sense. Unfortunately, Clinton interpreted the law in such a way as to equalize opportunity not so much by expanding opportunities for women as by contracting opportunities for men. Only the Bush Administration could handle it worse, which means the next couple years are going to be dicey.

Bush's Commission on Athletic Opportunity, composed of a reasonable cross section of coaches and administrators across the athletic spectrum, is to recommend new rules for the enforcement of Title IX at its next meeting on Jan. 8. Presently, of the three tests for compli-

ance, the safest is to maintain women's participation at the same percentages as women's general undergraduate enrollment. The problem is that walk-ons are counted as participants, so even if women were to receive proportionate funding and scholarships — which they aren't — schools still would be out of compliance if more men than women were to participate of their own volition.

If the Bushes were to get this right and exclude walk-ons from their participation calculations, then everyone who wants to compete could compete without shorting women their due funding and opportunities proportionate to undergraduate enrollment. Colleges shouldn't be inventing women's sports and begging women to take their scholarships while preventing men from competing without compensation. Opportunity that answers to any other master than demand should go by some other name.

All that said, the emphasis on proportional participation misses the point, because real proportionality won't be achieved until funding is proportionate, and the men's

sports generate (or lose) much more revenue than the women's sports. But now we're just talking crazy. Very few universities are even close to funding women proportionally and, across the country, the idea that women will receive 56 percent of the athletic funding to go with their 56 percent undergraduate enrollment rate is a dream of a distant future.

That's if the Bush Administration doesn't reduce it to a complete fantasy. The commission will issue its final report on Jan. 31.

Moving on to a far less important issue, which still manages to exercise a lot of people, the ballot for the Pro Football Hall of Fame recently was released to its voters. The ballot includes a fascinating name, that of Eddie DeBartolo, the Youngstown shopping center magnate and former San Francisco 49ers owner who's been kicked out of the NFL for his sleazy pursuit of a riverboat gambling license in Louisiana. Basically, back in 1996, DeBartolo attempted to seal the deal by handing then-Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards \$400,000 in a suitcase.

So DeBartolo has been excommunicated from the NFL, but he's still eligible for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Famously, the distinction has been lost on Major League Baseball, which extended its holy crusade against Pete Rose by prevailing upon the National Baseball Hall of Fame to exclude persons on its suspended list. With that ruling, MLB took a tiger by the tail. Battered and bloodied by the bites and scratches, MLB is stuck with having to consider Rose's active reinstatement when the whole matter could have been greatly defused by just letting him into the Hall of Fame.

The Rose affair dovetails with the only truly momentous Cincinnati story of 2002, the pending demolition of Riverfront Stadium, which has been a foregone conclusion for seven years. Through a glorious run from 1970 through 1990, five National League pennant winners and three World Championship baseball clubs played there, as did two Super Bowl teams. Four baseball Hall of Famers played there, as did a pro football Hall of Famer.

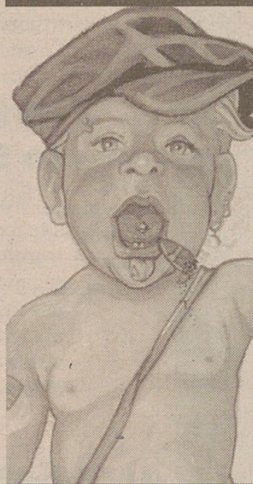
A Hall of Fame baseball manager worked there, as did a Hall of Fame football coach who owned his own team. So, too, did the baseball player who notched the most hits and the most winning games. Unfortunately, he pushed his luck in every way imaginable.

With Rose's demise and Paul Brown's death, the stadium lost its breath in the past 10 years. First one team decayed, then the other. Then one team left, then a section of the stadium went down, and now the other team is leaving and all that's left is the explosives.

The Reds will be in a new park next year. The view from 2003 will be more scenic. Here's hoping, also, that it will be more eventful.

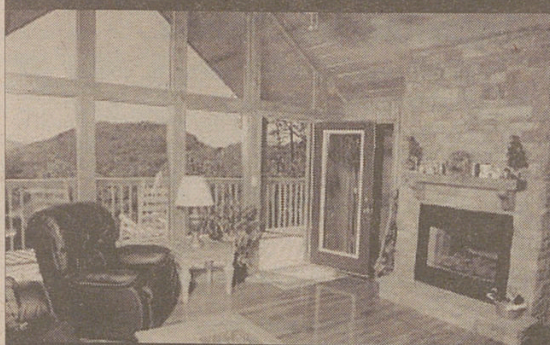
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THE YEAR



IN REVIEW

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Remember the Cows That Didn't Get Away

Foibles, missteps and dumb ideas in 2002

BY GREGORY FLANNERY

It all goes back to the cows.

Everyone knows about the one that got away from the slaughterhouse in February. The mad dash of Cincinnati Freedom, as the cow is now known, brought her freedom, life and fame. The happy beast now cavorts on a New York farm sanctuary for escaped farm animals.

But what about the other cows — the ones who played decoy to help ensnare the fugitive? Mayor Charlie Luken didn't give them a key to the city. Artist Peter Max didn't take them away to a life of udder luxury.

After nearly two weeks on the run from Cincinnati Police officers and Hamilton County Sheriff's deputies, Cincinnati Freedom was finally captured near Mount Storm Park. She was double-crossed, lured by the sound of fellow cows in a temporary cattle pen set up to trap her.

The snitches did their job. They tricked Cincinnati Freedom. What has been their lot? You guessed it — they're hamburger.

The case of the run-away cow provides an apt metaphor for Cincinnati in 2002, illustrating how half-measures so often substituted for real change and how city leaders tended to miss opportunities for doing the right thing.

Consider some of the past year's foibles:

- Cincinnati City Council entered into an agreement with the Black United Front and American Civil Liberties Union to reform the police department. But the city refused to pay the plaintiffs' legal bills, instead calling for private contributions. Luken even asked for donations from Bill Cosby and Whoopi Goldberg, whose cancellation of performances boosted the civil rights boycott of Cincinnati.

- After the second March for Justice took to the streets on April 7, city council members expressed outrage at reports that protesters had climbed atop and defaced a memorial to police officers killed in the line of duty. Councilman Pat DeWine demanded an investigation and prosecution — until the police chief explained that no laws had been broken.

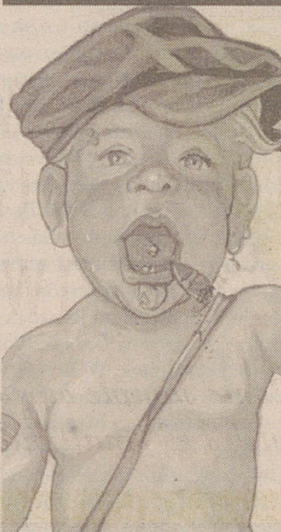
- In the summer DeWine wrapped City Hall in red tape to illustrate his concern about the city's development policies. He wasn't prosecuted for defacing the building.

- While mounting a public relations blitz urging people to visit, shop and stay in hotels downtown, intended to counteract the effect of the boycott, city council held its planning retreat in another county.

- In yet another effort to make downtown a friendly place, Luken lashed out at *Streetvibes*, the monthly newspaper by and for the homeless. Luken chided the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless for "arming panhandlers with newspapers," as though the publication were being used as cudgels on unwary citizens. Yet in 2001 Luken had been so enamored of the same paper that he issued a proclamation setting aside "Streetvibes Day."

- The mayor's welcome mat isn't for everyone. When former President Bill Clinton expressed an interest in visiting Cincinnati to try to facilitate interracial dialogue, Luken hemmed and hawed, seeming more annoyed than pleased at the prospect of such a high-profile visitor.

THE YEAR



IN REVIEW

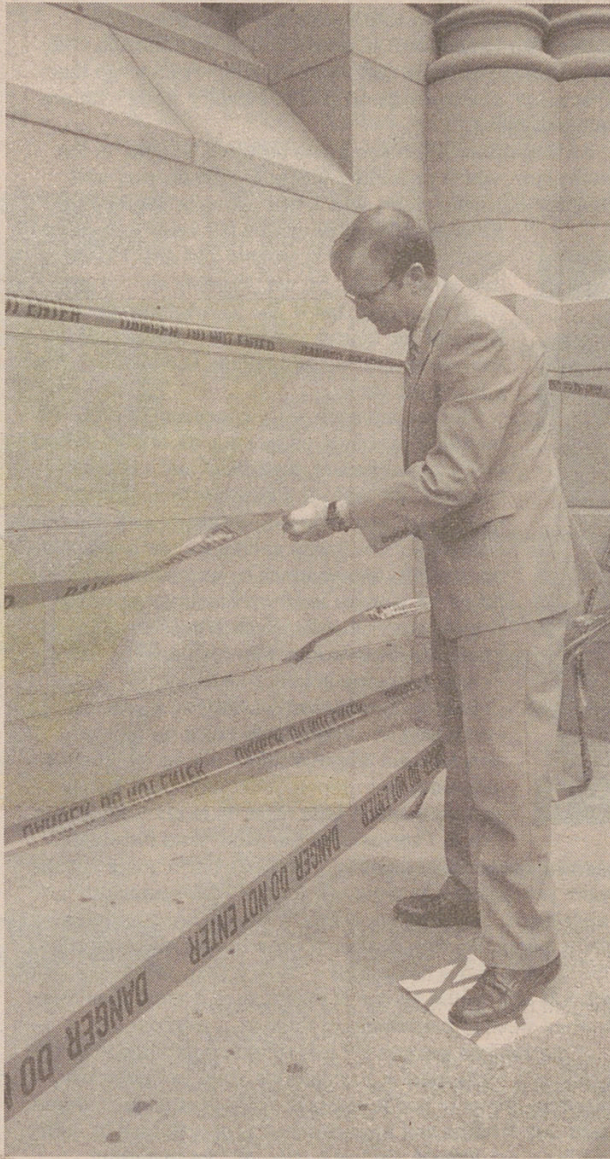


PHOTO: JYMI GOLDEN

The message is upside down and backwards, but it's still true: City Councilman Pat DeWine wraps Cincinnati City Hall in red caution tape.

- Two of Cincinnati's most notorious police officers — each indicted in the death of unarmed African Americans — found work in suburban police departments this year. Stephen Roach, acquitted of negligent homicide, went to work for the city of Evendale. Robert Jorg, whose trial for involuntary manslaughter ended in a hung jury, is now working for the Pierce Township Police Department.

- Vice Mayor Alicia Reece apologized for allegedly threatening to have Cincinnati firefighters silence a *CityBeat* columnist. Without admitting she'd made the threat, Reece blamed her conduct on stress caused by concern about her mother's health and on her perception that the columnist had accused Reece of incest with her father.

- In an effort to keep the Ku Klux Klan from mounting a cross on Fountain Square, city council passed a law banning everyone from putting anything on the square, reserving the site to its own use for a seven-week period. When a federal judge threw out the law, the city appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which — to no one's surprise — ruled the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution applies even in Cincinnati. ©

CITYLIGHTS

Take on the Power of Peacemaking

The Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center presents the Empowerment Workshop for People Against War from noon-5 p.m. Jan. 11 at St. Joseph Church in the West End.

The keynote speakers are Rania Masri, representative to the United Nations for the Arab Women's Solidarity Association; and Sister Mary Evelyn Jegen, co-founder of Global Peace Services USA.

Workshop topics include training for nonviolent civil disobedience, strategies for involving college campuses in the anti-war movement and how to make meaningful the Bush regime's stated goal of eliminating weapons of mass destruction.

The suggested donation is \$10, including lunch. Day care is available. For more information, call 513-579-8547.

Get Informed, Get Active to Stop Bush's War

"War Is Not the Answer" is an indispensable Web site for Greater Cincinnati residents interested in learning about — and working to resist — the Bush regime's war plans. The Web site offers free art for use in making buttons and fliers, links to articles about the coming war and suggestions for joining the anti-war movement. Visit <http://www.geocities.com/cincydemo>.

Shape the State of Cincinnati

Local residents and groups can participate in compiling "The State of Cincinnati — a Grassroots Citizen's Report" from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 25 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 745 Ezzard Charles Drive. A sharing session allows groups to present information and give brief descriptions of their written reports. Lunch is at noon. For more information on what should be included in the reports and how to get involved, contact Brian Garry at 513-236-4180 or bgarry@fuse.net.

Leading Women Recognized

Leading Women 2003 seeks nominations for its March "Celebration of Women" luncheon honoring Cincinnati area women who have achieved greatness. The deadline is Tuesday. To nominate someone, call 513-771-7222.

High School Students Organize for Peace

High school students opposed to the coming war in Iraq can join other students at a meeting to make banners and posters to spread the message of peace throughout the city. Drop by any time between 1-6 p.m. Jan. 11 at 3503 Middleton Ave. in Clifton. For more information, call Traven 513-861-8722 or Lynnea at 513-631-2289.

CITYLIGHTS follows and announces events of public interest.

for the services of the independent monitor and suggested that the city might unilaterally decide to nullify the MOA (memorandum of agreement)," wrote Robert N. Driscoll, deputy assistant attorney general in the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department. "Regardless of the merits of the criticism of Dr. Kalmanoff, such public statements undermine successful implementation of the MOA, and have the potential to place the city in breach of the MOA."

Earlier this month Dlott named former U.S. Attorney Saul Green of Detroit the new monitor.

'We have more power'

This year also saw the creation of the Citizen Complaint Authority (CCA) as a result of the Collaborative Agreement. The agency will investigate complaints about police conduct.

CCA Chair Nancy Minson had served on the now-defunct Citizens Police Review Panel, but she says this is a "different ballgame."

"I don't know if we're better prepared but we're going to have more ability to function properly this time around," she says.

Unlike the earlier panel, the CCA will have a staff, the ability to do investigations for themselves and more control over their work, according to Minson.

"We have more power," she says. "We have more authority. I believe that the city learned from some of the deficiencies in the last model. The proof is in the pudding. We're going to have to wait and see how it turns out. But I'm very hopeful."

However, as of late December, the group still did not have its staff of investigators or an executive director.

The police killing of Timothy Thomas and the subsequent uprising in Over-the-Rhine continued to affect the city in 2002. The police department released its investigation into the "police drive-by" that wounded four people 19 months earlier, following Thomas' funeral. The department's report concluded the officers involved in the incident had complied with policies in place at the time (see "Are Little Girls So Dangerous?" issue of Dec. 5-11).

The city paid nearly \$250,000 to settle a lawsuit brought by 40 people injured or detained by police during the April 2001 uprising, plus \$40,000 in attorney fees.

Meanwhile, the city this year dealt with an even earlier police killing of an unarmed African American, Roger Owensby Jr. (see "Piling On," issue of Oct. 3-9). Two years after Owensby's asphyxiation death in police custody, City Manager Valerie Lemmie referred eight officers for disciplinary hearings. ©

PLEASE DON'T GO: FROM PAGE 15

Stec are looking at buying property in Over-the-Rhine to fill in the gaps between existing residents.

"Where it's headed is just a greater focus on our development efforts in Over-the-Rhine," Stec says. "How that all plays out is still up for grabs."

Days later, another 50 people showed up to start Cincinnati Tomorrow, a loosely organized group bent on creating life in the Tristate's center, especially Over-the-Rhine.

What began as Xavier grad Nicholas Spencer handing out flyers for a meeting at Oakley's 20th Century Theater is now an e-mail list with more than 1,000 people on it.

While the Urbanists are talking about theories and bricks and mortar, Spencer and Cincinnati Tomorrow are talking about a different kind of action: not meetings and

a top-down organization, but social gatherings and other projects.

Whenever they get together, they want to add life to the city, not idle conversation. Cincinnati Tomorrow plans a Jan. 9 walk through Over-the-Rhine to visit local businesses.

Cincinnati Tomorrow and the Urbanists are not redundant groups, Spencer says.

"We have pretty much the same goal, but our ways of getting there are really different," he says. "I think that both organizations help each other."

For more information on CINCINNATI TOMORROW, contact Spencer at 513-884-4224 or e-mail info@cincinnati-tomorrow.com. For more information on URBANISTS II, write Stec at Jeffrey.Stec@uwgc.org.

CRIMES OF THE ART: FROM PAGE 16

Condon says he was allowed to work on his project in exchange for making a training video for the coroner.

But Parrott has denied any knowledge of Condon's activities. A memorandum in the civil case by his attorney claims Parrott authorized a producer, Ernie Waits, to observe an autopsy at the morgue so he could give an estimate on the cost of preparing an educational film for the coroner's office.

"The only purpose for permitting access to Waits or his assistant Condon was to allow them to check the lighting in the morgue and other factors which would enable them to make a quote," the memo-

randum states. "It was not part of the purpose of that visit for a videotape or photographs to be taken."

Parrott never saw Condon take photos in the morgue or manipulate or place props on any body there, according to his attorney.

"(Parrott) had no knowledge whatsoever of Condon's activities until he learned of those activities after the fact on Jan. 10, 2001," the memorandum says.

In sentencing Condon and Tobias, Nadel gave his opinions on the photos.

"They're not art," he said. "They're sick, they're disgusting, they're disrespectful and really the worst invasion of privacy." ©

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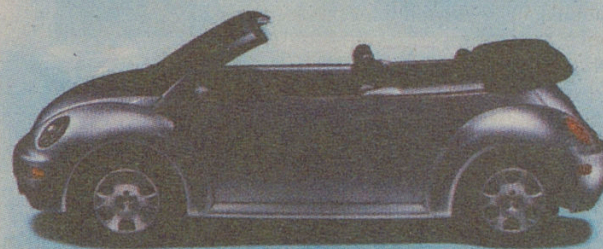
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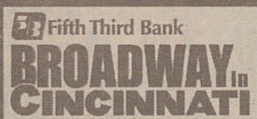
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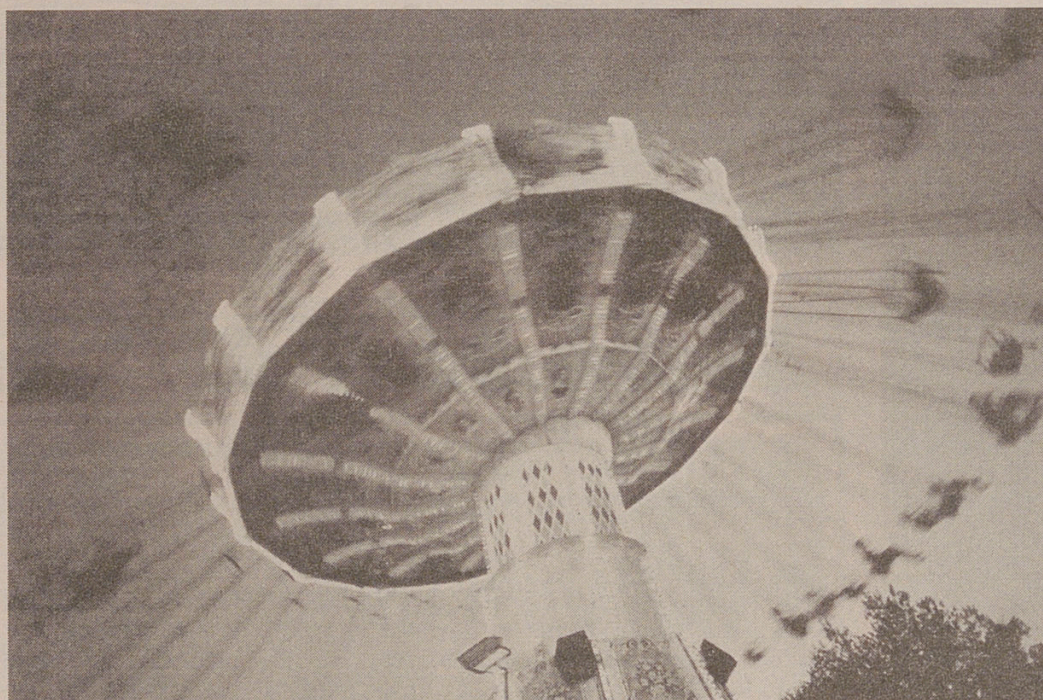
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To Do

TUESDAY 31



Round and round: Carsten Höller's "Carousel" (1999)

One Last Glance

CAC's *Loop* is nearing the end of a cycle

After the holidays, some of us have assuredly come to the gruesome conclusion that our families are alien units imported from the nether regions of the universe to make our lives hellish for a few days. Enduring boorish episodes of "Oh, what a nice scarf set" and more parched turkey is enough to send us running to alternative forms of entertainment — football or eating too many leftovers. Join the loop, right?

Well, here's something to be excited about, and it's not just the gift receipts with those unwanted gifts. How about leaving your ho-ho-holiday hole of a home and breaking into the cycle of **LOOP: BACK TO THE BEGINNING** at the Contemporary Arts Center?

Reasons to go? How about sweet reminiscence? It's the CAC's last show at the downtown location on Fifth Street before shuffling to Zaha Hadid's freestanding unit at Sixth and Walnut, soon to be known as the Lois & Richard Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art. That's how it goes: A \$35.7 million building, a longer name.

If you haven't been to see *Loop*, the final invitation stands to witness your contemporaries in disparate environments with works like Rodney Graham's performance/ video "City Self/Country Self" (2001) and Santiago Serra's "Six people who are not entitled to be paid for sitting in cardboard boxes" (2001).

For those of us who are *Loop* veterans, it's time to cycle back to previous visits. In fact, you might take one of your slower cousins and watch his/her endless attempts at flipping Ceal Floyer's projected "Light Switch" (1992/2001). Take your mama for a spin on Carsten Höller's "Carousel" (1999) to celebrate the New Year and fetishize the flickering cyclical crowd projection and "tie guy" in Marijke Van Warmerdam's "Kring (Circle)" (1992).

On one hand, there's no prospect of change. On the other, a plenitude of change. Before Francis Alys walks the streets for the final time at the old CAC, Larry Johnson prepares for the last shout and Rodney Graham gets one last kick in the pants, remind yourself: Every loop has an end, and this one happens on Jan. 5. 513-345-8400 (See Art.) — LIBERTY WAMPLER

Had enough of Dick Clark's perpetually perky visage invading your New Year's Eve? If so, get your partyin' ass over to The Southgate House Ballroom as local Avant-Jazz pranksters **RAY'S MUSIC EXCHANGE** headline their third annual New Years Eve show. As usual, it's a diverse affair: Also on hand are Pop rockers The Swarthy Band, Hip-Hop savants Iswhat?! and the aptly named Comet Bluegrass All-Stars. And that's not all: The Walker Project and Athens, Ohio, Jam band Peach Melba take over the second-floor parlour. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. and \$25 (in advance; \$30 day of show) gets you a champagne toast, food from Chipotle and, of course, plenty of music. Take that, Dick. Tickets: www.musictoday.com or 859-431-2201. (See Music.) — JASON GARGANO

Music and New Year's Eve go hand in hand, so perhaps you're ready to move up to the city's biggest concert — **THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE — WITH A TWIST**. The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's year-end gig at Music Hall is headed by Associate Conductor John Morris Russell. Since this year is the jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II of England (that means she's 75, if you're too proper to ask), the evening features works by British composers, an elegant dinner and post-concert dancing to the music of the Jerry Conrad Orchestra in the royally appointed Grand Ballroom. Don't expect the Queen herself to show up (or do the twist), but we are promised a few tongue-in-cheek surprises. 513-381-3300 (See Onstage.) — RICK PENDER

What exactly happens **EVERY TIME A BELL RINGS**? We're pretty sure it's not of the angel-gets-his-wings variety, at least not when it's a production of Mayhem & Mystery. Their New Year's Eve dinner theatre in Hamilton promises suspense and slapstick comedy as the audience pitches in on cracking the case. With hors d'oeuvres, libations, dinner and champagne at midnight, the \$80-per-person price is a deal. Will you be a victim? Will you be a detective? Will you even live to clink your glass at midnight? That's up to Mayhem & Mystery. 513-896-6200, ext. 121. (See Holiday.) — JESSICA TURNER



One of Cincinnati's best new bands, **GIANT JUDYS**, will be playing Downtown's promising new venue, The Cavern, on New Year's Eve. The event also features Boy Radio, the local DJ duo that specializes in BritPop and Indie sounds, and DJ Joe Nicholson promises lots of '80s faves as well. Food (from Jerusalem Café) and a midnight champagne toast are included in the \$10 cover charge (advance tickets go for \$7), shuttle service from Northside and Clifton is available, and organizers will have games from Twister to Trivial Pursuit on hand for dance-floor breaks. 513-379-9624. (See Music.) — MIKE BREEN

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Music

The CD Side of Town

A survey of the best locally produced albums of 2002

BY MIKE BREEN

Another year, another strong showing from the local music community in the CD-release department. The CDs coming out of Greater

Cincinnati continue to get better sonically with the accessibility and affordability of recording options. And, if there were any trends, it was in length — shorter-running EPs were more common than in years past and, perhaps because of their leanness and focus, were often as good as the long-players. Guess size doesn't matter after all.

Here are our picks for the best of year. See "Locals Only" on page 31 for a rundown of the wider-distributed, nationally available records.

THE YEAR



IN REVIEW

• Iswhat?! — *You Figure It Out ...*

The local trio Iswhat?! has shattered preconceived notions and made the album of their career. Known around town for their smart, creative blend of Spoken Word, Hip Hop and Jazz and their enigmatic live performances, the group goes to the next level with *You Figure It Out ...*. The band weaves in new elements like drums (courtesy of jazzier Hamid Drake), turntables (from the Animal Crackers and John Doe) and computer music (by Michael Barnhart), which greatly accentuate the strengths of their core of Jazz bass, sax and flute, deft rhymes and human beat-boxing. A local treasure.

• Giant Judys — *Giant Judys*

This exciting debut was given out free by the band at their shows (making it the bargain of the year and one of the best local first efforts in a long time). Smart, incredibly catchy tunes for fans of Indie Pop's best, from Pavement to Creeper Lagoon and beyond.

• The Underwoods — *Natural Memory*

This stunning debut EP is a graceful, sophisticated showcase of the band's majestic songwriting and original style, which mixes a classic Brit-like flair with a grounded, organic feel. Highlights include the ethereal, keys-filled

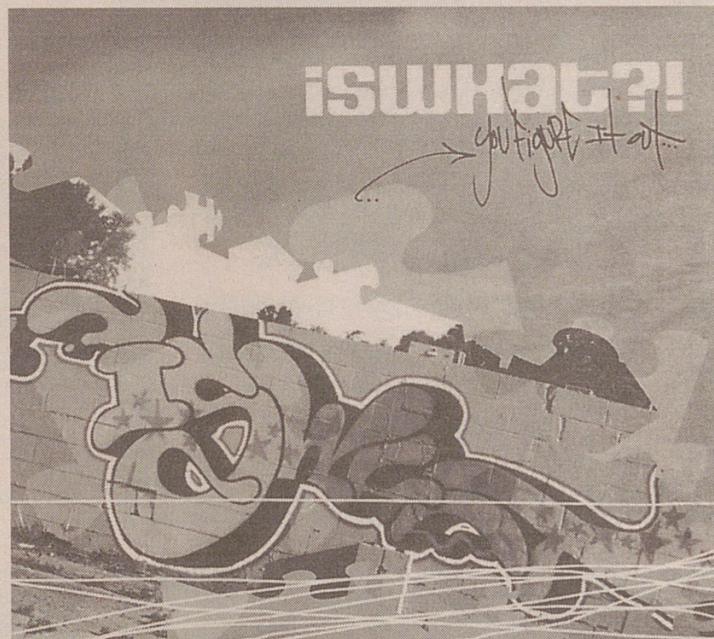
"Guenivere" and the stunning, spine-tingling "It Never Will," the local "summer" song of the year, with its perfect balance of sunshine and melancholy.

• Mallory — *The First One Hundred Years*

A kaleidoscopic assortment of ambient sounds, churning Post-Punk rhythms, wild-eyed guitar interplay and winding, engaging arrangements and compositions. On this often-hypnotic disc, the Built to Spill-like vocals come across better than they do live, adding a tasty extra layer of icing to their distinct sound. A mesmerizing piece of work.

• Various Artists — *Hidden Treasures: Cincinnati's Tribute to King Records' Legacy*

Featuring local musicians of all styles paying tributes to the songs from King Records — the historic local label that produced singles and albums from some of the biggest names in all of



create a great record. Delicious, hook-loaded songwriting makes *Boxed* one of the best local releases this year.

• The Swarthy Band — *Play This in Front of Your Cool Friends*

The singer/songwriter gets a band and makes a humble masterpiece in EP form. His new bandmates (members of Ray's Music Exchange) serve as an excellent foundation to his catchy, emotionally-driven songs. Fans of archetypal Pop music should do anything they can to get their hands on this collection.

• Dallas Moore Band — *High on the Hog*

This disc is these Outlaw Country masters' best yet. The group does a great job of keeping the proceedings as diverse as possible, mixing rockers with acoustic songs and bluesy numbers. Those tiring of mainstream Country music's increasing tendencies toward Top 40 Pop stylings won't be disappointed.

• Mike Wade and the Jazz Mafia — *The Broach Approach*

Cincinnati's favorite trumpeter teams up with some of the area's best artists for this return to traditional Jazz. Masterful performances and choice song selection made this the best local Jazz release of 2002.

• The Stapletons — *Low Dealers ... and Hangers On*

Roots Rock's great local band of brothers turned turmoil into art with this great sophomore effort. *Low Dealers* — the band's first



music — the *Hidden Treasures* disc is one of the most creative, diverse and well-produced "various artist" CDs to ever come out of Cincinnati.

• Swissfarlo — *Boxed*

Twelve tracks of highly addictive, catchy-as-hell songs, fleshed out by endearingly raw vocals and crafty guitar parts. The do-it-yourself diehards of Swissfarlo have shown that big studio budgets and gimmicks aren't necessary to

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Searchable music listings

CONTINUES ON PAGE 30



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MUSIC LISTINGS

CityBeat's free music listings are for all concerts and clubs that feature live music on a regular basis. Contact **MIKE BREEN** at 665-4700, fax at 665-4369 or e-mail at mbreen@citybeat.com. Listings are subject to change. See Club Directory for all club locations.

* is CityBeat staff's stamp of approval.

Concerts

*** JULY FOR KINGS WITH BLUE KARMA, SAVING RAY AND COPING WITH IGNORANCE** — Rock (see Spill It, page 31), 8 p.m. Thursday, Bogart's, 2621 Vine St., Corryville. \$7. 513-624-4949.

*** EKOOSTIK HOOKAH** — Jam/Rock (see Gig of the Week), 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Bogart's, 2621 Vine St., Corryville. \$15. 513-624-4949.

Varied Venues

CHRIS DUNNETT — Acoustic. 7 p.m. Friday, Starbucks, 1405 Grand Ave., Newport. Free. 859-441-5210.

JIM HART/SANDY SUSKIND TRIO — Jazz. 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Palm Court, Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Hotel, 35 W. Fifth St., Downtown. Free. 513-564-6465.

JIM MORRIS — Reggae/Tropical. Friday (4:30 p.m.) Saturday (4:30 p.m.) Sunday (5 p.m.) Monday (5 p.m.), Bahama Breeze, 325 N. Commerce Way, Springdale. Free. 513-671-1488.

SHIRLEY JESTER TRIO — Jazz. 7 p.m. Friday, Vernon Manor, 400 Oak St., Corryville. Free. 513-281-3300.

THE RON ENYARD TRIO — Jazz. 8 p.m. Friday, La Petite France, 3177 Glendale-Milford Road, Evendale. Free. 513-733-8383.

BERNYCE GOLDEN AND THE GOLD DUSTERS — Jazz. 7 p.m. Saturday, Vernon Manor, 400 Oak St., Corryville. Free. 513-281-3300.

CHRIS DUNNETT — Acoustic. 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Starbucks, 866 Eastgate North Drive, Eastgate. Free. 513-943-4858.

CHRIS DUNNETT — Acoustic. 3

p.m. Sunday, Borders Cafe, 11711 Princeton Pike, Springdale. Free. 513-671-5852.

MAPLE KNOLL BIG BAND — Big Band/Jazz. 2 p.m. Sunday, Maple Knoll Activities Center, 11199 Springfield Pike, Tri-County. \$9. 513-782-2427.

BRIAN LOVELY, GEORGE CUNNINGHAM, DON AREN AND KAREN ADDIE — Jazz/Swing. 6 p.m. Monday, Tinks Cafe, 3410 Telford Ave., Clifton. Free. 513-961-6500.

ALECIA — Dance/Holiday. 6 p.m. Tuesday, Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave., Colerain. Free (with dinner; reservations required). 513-385-9309.

GREG DAVIS, LULLATONE, SHEDDING, 8-FOLD, LESNIAK AND ESKLADIPOSE — Electronic. 9 p.m. Tuesday, SSNova, 2260 Central Pkwy., Downtown. Cover.

KENNY POOLE AND PAM KNEER — Jazz. 7 p.m. Tuesday, DeSha's American Tavern, 11320 Montgomery Road, Symmes Twp. Free. 513-247-9933.

LEROY ELLINGTON AND THE E-FUNK BAND — Funk/R&B. 9 p.m. Tuesday, Argosy Casino, 777 Argosy Pkwy., Lawrenceburg. Cover. 1-888-ARGOSY-7.

NEVADA WILKENS WITH JACK DOLL JR — Jazz. 6 p.m. Wednesday, The Phoenix, 812 Race St., Downtown. 513-721-8901.

Clubs

THURSDAY DECEMBER 26

ALLYN'S CAFE — Goshorn Bros. Rock. Free.

ARNOLD'S BAR & GRILL — Fred and Dottie. Acoustic. Free.

BAR HUMBUB — Swirl. Dance. Free.

BARRELHOUSE BREWING CO. — Da Lemmings Onsomol. Jam. Cover.

BLIND LEMON — Kenny Cowden. Acoustic. Free.

BOSWELL ALLEY — Sonny Moorman Group. Blues. Cover.

BRIARWOOD — Bill Smith. Solo piano. Free.

THE CADILLAC RANCH — Noche Latina featuring DJ Andrea. Dance/Latin. Cover.

CHEZ NORA — Rich Uncle Skeleton. Jazz. Free.

CODY'S CAFE — Rick Hickey and The Loose Wrecks. Rock. Free.

CODY'S LOUNGE — Harmony and Matt. Acoustic. Free.

THE CRICKET LOUNGE — Herb Kirchener. Jazz/Lounge. Free.

DEE FELICE CAFE — Lee Stolar. Trio. Jazz. Free.

DELANY'S RESTAURANT — Guest Performer Night with Johnny Schott, Ms. Rachel and Open Mic. Acoustic. Free.

DEUCE'S WILD — Dallas Moore. Outlaw Country. Free.

THE FACTORY — Mike Sizemore's Songwriter's Night. Various. Free.

HARMONY CLUB — Sonny Hill and The Nightshift. Blues. Cover.

HOPPS WEST CHESTER — Websters. Rock. Cover.

JACK QUINN'S IRISH ALEHOUSE — Roger Drawdy and the Firestarters. Celtic. Free.

JEFFERSON HALL — Austin Spiegel. Project. Rock. Cover.

JUDI'S PUB — Chaser. Blues/Rock. Free.

KENTUCKY HERB & COFFEE CO. — Open Mic. Singer/Songwriter. Free.

LA NORMANDIE — The Bottomfeeders. Acoustic. Free.

MILLION'S CAFE — 10 Feet Big. Rock. Cover.

MT. ADAMS PAVILION — DJ Johnzy. Dance. Free.

NORTHSIDE TAVERN — Amos Frank and Kate Maudlin. Acoustic. Free.

ONE EYED JACK'S — Matt Decoster. Rock. Cover.

PANE E VINO — Nick Fryer Trio. Jazz. Free.

PEECOX I — Face. Rock. Cover.

THE PROMONTORY — Steve Schmidt Trio. Jazz. Free.

RAILYARD CAFE — The Swinging Johnsons. Blues. Free.

SHANNON'S GRILL AND BAR — Bluebirds. R&B/Rock. Cover.

SNEAKY PETE'S — Vagarakis with DJ Timachi. Various. Cover.

SOME PLACE DIFFERENT — Nomad. Funk. Free.

STANLEY'S PUB — Lee Rolfes. Folk/Rock. Cover.

STEIN AND VINE AT THE HERITAGE — Kenny Poole. Jazz. Free.

THE TOUSEY HOUSE — Paul Hawthorne/Don Steins Duo. Jazz. Free.

TRACK SIDE DELI — Bob Allgeyer Organ Trio. Jazz. Free.

VILLAGE TAVERN — Eurmama. Acoustic. Free.

YORK STREET CAFE — Montgomery Greene. Rock. Cover.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 27

APPLEWOOD RESTAURANT — Karl Dappen. Jazz. Free.

ARNOLD'S BAR & GRILL — Ohio Valley Rounders. Bluegrass. Free.

ART'S BILLIARDS AND BAR — DJ Sly Luv. Dance/Funk. Free.

BAR HUMBUB — Clique. Dance. Free.

BARRELHOUSE BREWING CO. — Jerry's Little Band. Jam. \$4.

BRIARWOOD — Bill Smith. Solo piano. Free.

BURBANK'S — The Goshorns. Blues/Rock. Free.

THE CELESTIAL — Larry Kinley and Co. Jazz. Free.

CHEZ NORA — Rich Uncle Skeleton. Jazz. Free.

CODY'S CAFE — DQ with Philly Phil. Hip Hop. Free.

CODY'S LOUNGE — The Underwoods. Rock. Free.

THE COMET — The Wolverton Brothers with Pearlene. Indie. Free.

THE CRICKET LOUNGE — Steve Barrone Trio and Billie Walker. Jazz. Free.

DEE FELICE CAFE — The Buffalo Ridge Band. Dixieland/Jazz. Free.

DEUCE'S WILD — Leadfoot Johnny. Blues/Rock. Cover.

EASTSIDE INN — Devona & The Demos. Rock. Cover.

THE ELBO ROOM — Joe Clooney. Guitar. Free.

FOLEY'S IRISH PUB — The Swinging Johnsons. Blues. Free.

HARMONY CLUB — Bruce A.



Cody's Cafe

FREE 7 Nights a Week

Every Thursday	Ric Hickey & The Loose Wrecks: Harmony & Matt from Me or the Moon
Every Sunday	Open Mic Night - Sign Up @ 8pm w/ Andrew Geonetta
Every Monday	Brian Newman Jazz Quartet Qualitee w/ DJ Dubb Spinning Hip Hop
New Year's Eve	Brian Newman Jazz Quartet & Special Guest DQ of Animal Crackers
Every Wednesday	Ian Clevlands Super Funky Jazz Songwriters Showcase w/ Tristen Shields

FREE Meeting/Party Room: jack4codys@hotmail.com or 295-3430

113 Calhoun St.
parking 48 W. McMillan
513.569.0555
www.codyscafe.com



- Fri December 27
PABLO HONEY, FICKLE, SETH ALDER PROJECT, HATHAWAY & SYNERGISM
- Sat December 28
8C8, HOTPIPER
9:30pm Doors, 10:00pm Show, 21+
- Sun December 29
FUDGIE & FUFU, EUPHIO?, JOHNNYTWENTYTHREE
8:30pm Doors, 9:00pm Show, 21+
- Mon December 30
THISTLE, ABIGAIL, EL GIGANTE, FIZZGIG
9:00pm Show, 21+
- Tue December 31 - New Years Eve
RAY'S MUSIC EXCHANGE, SWARTHY BAND, ISWHAT?!, THE COMET, BLUEGRASS ALLSTARS
PARLOUR: WALKER PROJECT, PEACH MELBA
- Thur January 2
INNER VISION COLLISION
PARLOUR: ORTHO
- Fri January 3
MONTCLAIRE, THE PATSYS, CHESTER
9:30pm Doors, 10:00pm Show, 21+
PARLOUR: GREGORY PATRICK AGNEW AND FRIENDS
0:00pm Show, 21+



Menefield & Bam-tet. Jazz.

HAVANA MARTINI CLUB — Leroy Ellington E Funk Band. R&B. Cover.

HILL STATION — Boe Davis and the Broken Arrow Band. Country. Free.

HOPPS — The Difference. Rock. Cover.

JACK QUINN'S IRISH ALEHOUSE — The Snappers with The Flock. Roots Rock. Free.

JACOB'S ON THE AVENUE — Ricky Nye. R&B. Free; Ricky Nye. R&B. Cover.

JAZZMANIA — Them Bones. Blues. Cover.

JEFF RUBY'S — Kelly Red and the Hammerheads. Blues/Rock. Free.

JUDI'S PUB — Heartbreak. Rock. Free.

KENTUCKY HERB & COFFEE CO. — Open Mic. Singer/Songwriter. Free.

KNOTTY PINE — Dallas Moore Band. Outlaw Country. \$10.

LA NORMANDIE — Kenny Cowden. Acoustic/Rock. Free.

LUCILLE'S — Ron Harris & The Knott Brothers. Blues. Cover.

MADISON THEATER — Only Everything. Rock. Cover.

MANSON HILL TAVERN — Blue Lou and The Accusations. Blues. Cover.

MECKLENBURG GARDENS — Brian Coulson and Todd Ferguson. Jazz. Free.

MILLION'S CAFE — Lot 10. Rock. Cover.

MONTGOMERY TOWNE TAVERN — Greg Schaber & High Street. Blues. Cover.

NORTHSIDE TAVERN — The Radials. Rock. Free.

OLDE VILLAGE TAVERN — Bob Cushing. Acoustic/Rock. Free.

ONE EYED JACK'S — Uptown R&B. Funk. Cover.

PJ'S ON THE SQUARE — Ray Heckman and friends. Rock. Free.

PAPA GALLO'S — Tension. Rock. \$5-\$3.

PEECOX I — ESP. Rock. Cover.

PEECOX II — Skut Fargus. Rock. Cover.

THE PROMONTORY — The Dixie Karas/Scott Weingart Group. Jazz. Free.

RARE ELEGANCE CAFE — Christian Entertainment Night with Gospel DJ Lee Larkins, Mother Jenkins and Michele

Phillips. Comedy/Contemporary Christian. \$5.

REDFISH LOOZIANA ROADHOUSE — Willie Ray and the Midnighters. R&B. Free.

RICK'S TAVERN AND GRILL — Touch Tones. Dance/Funk. \$3.

SHANNON'S GRILL AND BAR — Bluebirds. R&B/Rock. Cover.

SNEAKY PETE'S — Moo. Rock. Cover.

SOME PLACE DIFFERENT — The Cincinnati Wrecking Crew. Dance. Cover.

SOUTHGATE HOUSE — Pablo Honey. Rock. Cover.

STABLES — .357. Rock. Cover.

STANLEY'S PUB — Mill with The X-Rated Cowboys. Rock. Cover.

SUDSY MALONE'S — Hootenany with Annie Winslow. Roots. Cover.

TANINO'S CAFE — John Baumgardner. Jazz. Free.

TURNER GILL'S — Ryan Broshear Band. Country. \$3.

V-TWIN BAR AND GRILL — The Gamut. Pop Rock. Cover.

VILLAGE TAVERN — Saving Stimp. Rock. Cover.

VINEYARD CAFE AND WINE ROOM — Zack Thomas. Pop Rock. Free.

THE VOID — This Guy with Dead End Path. Indie/Punk. \$5.

WILD BILL'S NEW AMERICAN GRILLE — Back Forty Blues Band. Blues. Cover.

WOODLAND INN — Brothers First. Classic Rock/Country/Dance. Free.

YORK STREET CAFE — Milhouse. Rock. Cover.

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gig OF THE WEEK

The region's most esteemed "Jam" band, the legendary **EKOOSTIK HOOKAH**, are often pointed to by music industry pundits as a band that is doing things the right way — on their own. With a fan base kept fertile by the band's steady touring regimen, the band has become a successful "business," putting out their own records (and keeping all of the net profits — cha-ching!) and handling every aspect of their careers independently. Of course, it's all about the music, and if you've seen this wonderfully eclectic band in concert, you'll already know that it's a rainbow-flavored sensory-wrangling exploration through rootsy Rock & Roll, much like their latest album *Ohio Grown*. Live is where they shine though, so keep those holiday good vibes going for the Central Ohio-based band's smack-dab-in-the-middle-of-X-mas-and-New-Year's-Eve marathon show this weekend.

At Bogart's on Saturday.

— M.B.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 28

A.J.'S ALLEY — Porcelain Will. Rock. Cover.

ALLYN'S CAFE — Katie Prichard. Acoustic. Free.

APPLEWOOD RESTAURANT — Karl Dappen. Jazz. Free.

ARNOLD'S BAR & GRILL — Ricky Nye. R&B. Free; Ricky Nye. R&B. Free.

ART'S BILLIARDS AND BAR — Hellifino with Coven, Crazy D and Mint6Ten. Alternative/Rock. Free.

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THURSDAY 12/26 | 10PM | FREE
DA LEMMINGS ONSOMBOL

CHRISTMAS JAM

FRIDAY 12/27 | 10PM
JERRY'S LITTLE BAND

SATURDAY 12/28 | 10PM
BUCKRA, THE HUM, BLUE KARMA

NEW YEAR'S EVE | PARTY BEGINS @7:30
NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

w/ **WORLDWIDE**

\$75 INCLUDES BEER, WINE,

GOURMET BUFFET & CHAMPAGNE

CREDIT CARD REQUIRED TO SECURE RESERVATION

FRIDAY 1/3 | 10PM

PURE GRAIN, FOUR OHMS
BLACK AND TAN CARPET BAND

SATURDAY 1/4 | 10PM

ONE MORE SATURDAY NIGHT,
SKELETON CREW FROM DAYTON

WEDNESDAY 1/8 | 9PM | FREE
TWO COW GARAGE

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FREE CHAMPAGNE TOAST | PARTY TRAYS | APPETIZERS

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JACOBS' IN NORTHSIDE

THURSDAYS

BRIAN NEWMAN TRIO

FRIDAYS 12/27

VICKI D'SALLE

9:30-11PM • NO COVER</

CLUB DIRECTORY

MUSIC

AIOLI 700 Elm St., Dntown. 513-929-0525.

AJ'S ALLEY 233 E. Ohio Pike, Amelia. 513-753-6917.

ALLYN'S CAFE 3538 Columbia Pkwy., Columbia-Tusculum. 513-871-5779.

APPLEWOOD RESTAURANT 215 Judiciary St., Aurora, In. 812-926-1166.

ARNOLD'S BAR & GRILL 210 E. Eighth St., Dntown. 513-421-6234.

ART'S BILLIARDS AND BAR 2617 Vine St., Clifton. 513-569-0222.

AVENUE CAFE 1079 Reading Road, Mason. 513-459-4700.

AWAKENINGS 2734 Erie Ave., Hyde Park. 513-321-2525.

BABA BUDAN'S 243 Calhoun St., Clifton Heights. 513-221-1911.

BAR HUMBUG 6-8 W. Pike St., Covington. 859-491-1333.

BARRELHOUSE BREWING CO. 22 E. 12th St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-421-BEER.

BEACH'S GROESBECK TAVERN 7560 Colerain Ave., Groesbeck. 513-522-0400.

THE BEER SELLAR 301 Riverboat Row, Newport. 859-431-6969.

BLIND LEMON 936 Hatch St., Mount Adams. 513-241-3885.

BLUE WISP JAZZ CLUB 318 E. Eighth St., Dntown. 513-241-9477.

BOSWELL ALLEY 1686 Blue Rock St., Northside. 513-681-8100.

BREAK ROOM LOUNGE 8809 Beechmont Ave., Anderson Twp. 513-528-2601.

BRIAN'S SPORTS BAR 2910 W. U.S. 22, Landen. 513-697-7241.

BRIARWOOD 7440 Hamilton Ave., Mount Healthy. 513-729-2554.

BURBANK'S 11167 Dowlin Drive, Sharonville. 513-771-1440.

BURNING DESIRES 7833 Cooper Road, Montgomery. 513-984-2876.

CABARET CLUB 9660 Dry Fork Road, Harrison. 513-367-5030.

THE CADILLAC RANCH 11974 Lebanon Road, Sharonville. 513-563-6007.

THE CAVERN 1120 Walnut St., Dntown. 513-361-0036.

THE CELESTIAL 1071 Celestial St., Mount Adams. 513-241-4455.

CHEZ NORA 530 Main St., Covington. 859-491-8027.

CLUB ELEGANTE 1752 Seymour Ave., Bond Hill. 513-350-8705.

CODY'S CAFE 113 Calhoun St., Clifton Heights. 513-569-0555.

CODY'S LOUNGE 113 Calhoun St., Clifton. 513-569-0555.

THE COMET 4579 Hamilton Ave., Northside. 513-541-8900.

THE CRICKET LOUNGE Cincinnati Hotel, 601 Vine St., Dntown. 513-381-3000.

CROW'S NEST 4544 W. Eighth St., Western Hills. 513-921-2980.

DEE FELICE CAFE 529 Main St., Covington. 859-261-2365.

DELANY'S RESTAURANT State Line Road at Hwy. 50, Lawrenceburg. 513-353-1236.

DEUCE'S WILD 9956 Escort Drive, Mason. 513-229-7700.

DUCK CREEK COUNTRY CLUB 601 Duck Creek Road, Cold Spring. 859-442-7900.

EAST END CAFE 4003 Eastern Ave., Columbia-Tusculum. 513-321-2627.

EASTSIDE INN 4056 Mount Carmel-Tobasco Road, Mount Carmel. 513-528-1986.

THE ELBO ROOM 1115 Magie Ave., Fairfield. 513-939-3100.

FELDY'S 8060 Beechmont Ave., Anderson Twp. 513-474-2212.

FOLEY'S IRISH PUB 312 Benson St., Reading. 513-948-9163.

THE GREENWICH 2442 Gilbert Ave., Walnut Hills. 513-221-1151.

HABITS CAFE 3036 Madison Road, Oakley. 513-631-8367.

HARDY'S ROCK CAFE 708 Monmouth St., Newport. 859-291-7500.

HARMONY CLUB 7532 Reading Road, Roselawn. 513-761-5729.

HAVANA MARTINI CLUB 580 Walnut St., Dntown. 513-651-2800.

HILL STATION 7938 Cincinnati-Dayton Road, West Chester. 513-777-0761.

HOPPS 2910 W. U.S. Route 22, Landen. 513-697-7241.

HOPPS WEST CHESTER 7340 Kingsgate Way, West Chester. 513-777-0761.

JACK QUINN'S IRISH ALEHOUSE 112 E. Fourth St., Covington. 859-491-6699.

JACOB'S ON THE AVENUE 4029 Hamilton Ave., Northside. 513-591-2100.

JAZZMANIA 9th and Willard Street, Mainstrasse. 859-491-2403.

JEFF RUBY'S Seventh & Walnut streets, Dntown. 513-784-1200.

JEFFERSON HALL 1150 Main St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-723-9008.

JUDI'S PUB 5120 Pleasant Ave., Fairfield. 513-868-0317.

KENTUCKY HERB & COFFEE CO. 218 Pike St., Covington. 859-491-8999.

KNOTTY PINE Cheviot and Blue Rock Roads, White Oak. 513-741-3900.

LA NORMANDIE 118 E. Sixth St., Dntown. 513-721-2761.

THE LOCKER ROOM 3152 Lighthouse Dr., Fairfield. 513-860-2221.

LUCILLE'S 3715 Winston Ave., Covington. 859-431-8086.

MAD FROG 1 E. McMillan St., Clifton. 513-784-9119.

MADISON INN 101 N. Front St., Middletown. 513-424-9261.

MADISON THEATER 730 Madison Ave., Covington. 859-655-4807.

MANNA VEGETARIAN DELI 39 E. Seventh St., Dntown. 513-241-8343.

MANSION HILL TAVERN 502 Washington Ave., Newport. 859-581-0100.

MECKLENBURG GARDENS 302 E. University Ave., Coryville. 513-221-5353.

MILLION'S CAFE 3212 Linwood Ave., Mount Lookout. 513-871-1148.

MILTON'S 301 Milton St., Prospect Hill. 513-784-9938.

MONTGOMERY TOWNE TAVERN 10813 Montgomery Road, Montgomery. 513-489-2228.

MT. ADAMS PAVILION 949 Pavilion St., Mount Adams. 513-744-9200.

NORTHSIDE TAVERN 4163 Hamilton, Northside. 513-542-3603.

OLDE VILLAGE TAVERN 8123 Cincinnati-Dayton Road, West Chester. 513-777-7200.

ONE EYED JACK'S 3195 Linwood Ave., Mount Lookout Square, Mount Lookout. 513-871-5006.

PACIFIC MOON CAFE 8300 Market Place Lane, Montgomery. 513-891-0091.

PANE E VINO 2724 Erie Ave., Hyde Park. 513-321-7100.

PAPA GALLO'S 2235 Bauer Road, Batavia. 513-735-6200.

PEECOX I 635 Donaldson Rd., Erlanger. 513-342-7000.

PEECOX II 12200 Madison Pike, Independence. 859-356-1440.

PETE'S CAFE 1220 Hwy. 28, Milford. 513-575-2150.

PIRATE'S COVE TROPICAL BAR AND GRILL 4609 Kellogg Ave., Columbia-Tusculum. 513-871-1820.

PI'S ON THE SQUARE 10780 Montgomery Road, Sycamore Twp. 513-489-7995.

PLUS 825 Main St., Dntown. 513-651-2667.

THE PROMONTORY 1111 St. Gregory, Mount Adams. 513-651-4777.

PITTER'S TAVERN 6575 Cincinnati-Dayton Road, Bethany. 513-755-0222.

RAILYARD CAFE 8450 Blue Ash Road, Blue Ash. 513-794-1234.

RARE ELEGANCE CAFE 7655 Reading Road, Roselawn. 513-761-3661.

REDFISH LOOZIANA ROADHOUSE 700 Race St., Dntown. 513-929-4700.

RICK'S TAVERN AND GRILL 5955 Boymel Drive, Fairfield. 513-874-1992.

ROUNDING THIRD 3210 Springdale Road, Northgate. 513-851-9200.

SHADY'S PUB 9443 Loveland-Madeira Road, Loveland. 513-791-2753.

SHANNON'S GRILL AND BAR 4343 Kellogg Ave., Columbia-Tusculum. 513-321-0636.

SILVERTON CAFE 7201 Montgomery Road, Silverton. 513-791-2922.

SNEAKY PETE'S 8512 Marketplace Lane, Montgomery. 513-793-1980.

SNEEKY PETE'S SALOON 305 E. Wyoming Ave., Lockland. 513-821-0080.

SOME PLACE DIFFERENT 8087 Vine St., Hartwell. 513-821-3096.

SOUTHGATE HOUSE 24 E. Third St., Newport. 859-431-2201.

STABLES 469 Old State Route 74, Mount Carmel. 513-528-4707.

THE STADIUM 16 S. Poplar St., Oxford. 513-523-4661.

STANLEY'S PUB 323 Stanley Ave., Columbia-Tusculum. 513-871-6249.

STEIN AND VINE AT THE HERITAGE 7664 Wooster Pike, Mariemont. 513-561-9300.

STRASSE HAUS 630 Main St., Covington. 859-261-1199.

THE STRIKE ZONE 7958 Harrison Ave., Taylors Creek. 513-353-1724.

SUDSY MALONE'S 2626 Vine St., Coryville. 513-751-2300.

TANINO'S CAFE 114 Pike St., Covington. 859-431-8575.

THE TOUSEY HOUSE 5963 Jefferson St., Burlington. 859-689-0200.

TRACK SIDE DELI 275 E. Sharon Road, Glendale. 513-772-5221.

TURNER GILL'S 2556 Millville-Oxford, Hamilton. 513-863-3383.

V-TWIN BAR AND GRILL 7220 Dixie Hwy., Fairfield. 513-860-3279.

VILLAGE TAVERN 9390 Montgomery Road, Montgomery. 513-793-7882.

VINEYARD CAFE AND WINE ROOM 2653 Erie Ave., Hyde Park. 513-871-6167.

THE VOID 4011 Hamilton Ave., Northside. .

WEDGE INN 7905 Colerain Ave., Colerain. 513-522-9389.

WEEZEE'S 1079 Millvale Ave., Hamilton. 513-737-0700.

WILD BILL'S NEW AMERICAN GRILLE 20 E. Silver St., Lebanon. 513-934-1300.

WOODEN HORSE TAVERN 10080 Springfield Pike, Woodlawn. 513-771-7767.

WOODLAND INN 14042 Dixie Hwy., Walton. 859-356-3348.

YORK STREET CAFE 738 York St., Newport. 859-261-9675.

MUSIC

AVENUE CAFE — Brothers First. Classic Rock. Free.

BAR HUMBUG — Zodiac Party. Dance. Free.

BARRELHOUSE BREWING CO. — Buckra with The Hum and Blue Karma. Rock. \$4.

THE BEER SELLAR — Bob Cushing. Acoustic. Free.

BLIND LEMON — Kenny Cowden. Acoustic. Free.

BRIARWOOD — Bill Smith. Solo piano. Free.

BURBANK'S — The Goshorns. Blues/Rock. Free.

CABARET CLUB — Rita Beach. Classic Rock/Dance. Free.

THE CELESTIAL — Larry Kinley and Co. Jazz. Free.

CLUB ELEGANTE — DJ Andrea. Dance/Latin. Cover.

CODY'S CAFE — The Sundresses with Mallory. Rock. Free.

CODY'S LOUNGE — Mystic Dub Star. Alternative. Free.

THE CRICKET LOUNGE — Billie Walker. Jazz. Free.

DEE FELICE CAFE — The Buffalo Ridge Band. Dixieland/Jazz. Free.

DEUCE'S WILD — Company Cane. Rock. Free.

EASTSIDE INN — Devona & The Demos. Rock. Cover.

THE ELBO ROOM — Joe Clooney. Guitar. Free.

HARMONY CLUB — Bruce A. Menefield & Bam-tet. Jazz.

HAVANA MARTINI CLUB — Kim Seay Blues. Blues. Cover.

HILL STATION — Boe Davis and the Broken Arrow Band. Country. Free.

HOPPS — In Rage. Rock. Cover.

JACK QUINN'S IRISH ALEHOUSE — M C Blue and Roger Drawdy and The Firestarters. Blues/Celtic. Free.

JEFF RUBY'S — Greg Schaber & High Street. Blues. Free.

KENTUCKY HERB & COFFEE CO. — Singer/Songwriter Night. Singer/Songwriter. Free.

KNOTTY PINE — Dallas Moore Band. Outlaw Country. \$10.

THE LOCKER ROOM — Moo. Rock. Cover.

LUCILLE'S — Roadhouse Kings. Blues. Cover.

MAD FROG — Stonewater with Bosley. Rock. Cover.

MANSION HILL TAVERN — Blue Lou and The Accusations. Blues. Cover.

MILLION'S CAFE — Paul Otten. Rock. Cover.

NORTHSIDE TAVERN — Iswhat?!. Hip Hop. Free.

ONE EYED JACK'S — Soul Pocket. Rock. Cover.

PI'S ON THE SQUARE — Ray Heckman and friends. Rock. Free.

PACIFIC MOON CAFE — Ann Chamberlain, Ed Morgan and Wayne Yeager. Jazz. Free.

PAPA GALLO'S — Tension. Rock. \$5-\$3.

PEECOX I — ESP. Rock. Cover.

PEECOX II — Skut Fargus. Rock. Cover.

PLUSH — Boys and Girls Night with Culture Queer and Boy Radio. Indie. Cover.

THE PROMONTORY — Triage. Jazz. Free.

PITTER'S TAVERN — Leadfoot Johnny. Blues/R&B/Rock. Cover.

REDFISH LOOZIANA ROADHOUSE — Chris Goins. Rock. Free.

RICK'S TAVERN AND GRILL — Touch Tones. Dance/Funk. \$3.

SILVERTON CAFE — Rich Nesbitt and The Metro City Band. Oldies. Cover.

SNEEKY PETE'S SALOON — International Party. Rock. Cover.

SOME PLACE DIFFERENT — The Cincinnati Wrecking Crew. Dance. Cover.

SOUTHGATE HOUSE — Hotpipes. Rock. \$5.

STABLES — .357. Rock. Cover.

STANLEY'S PUB — Bucket. Americana. Cover.

SUDSY MALONE'S — The Reduced and 16 Piece Bucket. Punk/Rock. Cover.

TANINO'S CAFE — John Baumgardner. Jazz. Free.

TURNER GILL'S — Rick House Band. Various. \$3; Rick's House Band. Classic Rock. cover.

V-TWIN BAR AND GRILL — The Gamut. Pop Rock. Cover.

VILLAGE TAVERN — Uncle Salty. Rock. Cover.

VINEYARD CAFE AND WINE ROOM — Zack Thomas. Pop Rock. Free.

THE VOID — Brazil, Amazing Transparent Man, Bottom Line, Daycare Swindlers, Distorted Penguins, Lightweight Holiday, Farkus, Hello Shelby, Glass Joe, Chasing The Yellow Line, Cross-Eyed Cow and Spur of the Moment (see Spill It, page 31). Indie/Punk. \$10.

WEDGE INN — The Swinging Johnsons. Blues. Free.

WOODEN HORSE TAVERN — Thicker Than Water. Rock. \$3.

YORK STREET CAFE — Ben Walz. Rock. Cover.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 29

ALLYN'S CAFE — The Blue Birds Big Band. R&B. Free.

AWAKENINGS — Bobby Sharp Trio. Jazz. Free.

BAR HUMBUG — The Late Circuit. Dance/House. Free.

THE BEER SELLAR — The Swinging Johnsons. Blues. \$1.

CHEZ NORA — Erwin Stuckey Ensemble. Jazz. Free.

CODY'S CAFE — Open mic night. Various. Free.

THE COMET — The Comet Bluegrass Allstars. Bluegrass. Free.

DEE FELICE CAFE — The Norm Ridge Trio with Earl Waldman. Jazz. Free.

EAST END CAFE — Sonny Moorman Group. Blues. Cover.

THE FACTORY — Songwriter's Night with Mike Sizemore. Singer/Songwriter. Free.

HABITS CAFE — Open mic night. Various. Free.

KNOTTY PINE — Randy Peak and Miss Heather. Acoustic/Blues/Country/Rock. Free.

MAD FROG — Kadouz. Reggae. Cover.

MILLION'S CAFE — Tim and Aaron. Rock. Cover.

MILTON'S — Open mic. Various. Free.

THE STADIUM — John Kogge and the Lonesome Strangers. Folk/Rock. Cover.

STRASSE HAUS — Bob Cushing. Acoustic/Rock. Free.

DANCE

ANNIE'S 4343 Kellogg Ave., Columbia-Tusculum. Friday, Saturday - Club Illusions Hip-Hop; Sunday, Sunday Night Fever until 2:30 a.m. (Disco). 513-321-0220.

BAR HUMBUG 6-8 W. Pike St., Covington. Mondays (Swirl), Tuesdays (Service Industry Appreciation), Wednesdays (Brit nite - '80s synth-pop/new wave), Thursdays (Os Alto Nivel - Latin beats), Fridays (Clique - urban dance music), Saturdays (Intelligent Lounge - eclectic sounds), Sundays (The Late Circuit - downtempo/nu jazz/lounge), 8 p.m. - close. 859-491-1333.

CADDY'S COMPLEX 11460 Sebring Drive, Forest Park. Five clubs (Caddy's Island, Sleep Out Louie's, Captain Tony's Saloon, Mangrove Mama's, The Pit) in one complex. Thursday-Sunday until 2:30 a.m. 513-742-0620.

CORINTHIAN 3253 Jefferson Ave., Clifton. Latin dance, Friday and Saturday until 2 a.m. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. 513-961-0013.

DICK CLARK'S AMERICAN BAND-STAND GRILL 7860 Montgomery Road, Kenwood. Tuesday-Saturday, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. 513-985-0100.

THE DOCK 603 W. Pete Rose Way, Dntown. Friday-Saturday. Until 4 a.m. 513-241-5623.

FIRST RUN 36 E. High St., Oxford. Wednesday-Sunday, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. (Sunday is Swing night). 513-523-1335.

GATORZ 1597 McMakin, Mount Healthy. DJs Wednesday-Saturday. 513-729-0034.

HAVE A NICE DAY CAFE 1130 Main St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-381-4210.

JACOB'S ON THE AVENUE 4029 Hamilton Ave., Northside. Dance Sundays (karaoke), Tuesdays (Funk & Soul Night) and Wednesday (BritPop and Indie with Boy Radio). 513-591-2100.

JB'S NIGHTCLUB AND GRILLE 9176 Winton Road, Finneytown. Thursdays (Ladies Night with Johnny B), Fridays, Saturdays and Wednesdays (with Johnny B) and Tuesday (Karaoke with Bob Jones). 513-522-6166.

JILLIAN'S 1200 Jillian's Way, Covington. Thursday-Saturday, until 2 a.m. (Retro/High Energy). 859-491-5388.

LAVA LOUNGE 835 Main St., Dntown. 513-333-0889.

LE BISTRO'S 9292 Cincinnati-Columbus Road, West Chester. 513-755-1963.

LONGWORTH'S 1108 St. Gregory St., Mount Adams. Thursday-Saturday. Until 2:30 a.m. 513-651-2253.

MADISON THEATER 730 Madison Ave., Covington. 859-655-4807.

MARY A GO-GO 911 Vine St., Dntown. 11:30 a.m.-1 a.m. Monday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-2 a.m. Friday-Saturday; 5-11 p.m. Sunday. 513-381-MARY.

METROPOLIS Forest Fair Mall, 1121 Forest Fair Drive, Forest Park. Until 2:30 a.m. 513-671-4433.

MONDIALE CLUB 1717 Glendale-Milford Road, inside Quality Inn.

Evendale. Latin night every Wednesday with salsa lessons and Latin DJ; American night every Thursday; Caribbean night every Friday - with DJ; International Jam every Saturday; Reggae night every Sunday. 513-771-5201.

OSCAR'S 700 Pete Rose Way, Dntown. Thursday-Sunday, until 3 a.m. 513-421-3007.

PACHINKO'S 424 W. Sixth St., Covington. DJ Dan, every Friday. 859-431-6400.

PETE'S CAFE 1220 Hwy. 28, Milford. Dance/Karaoke, Monday-Thursday. DJ Michael Jay until 2:30 a.m. 513-575-2150.

PIER 52 1329 U.S. Route 52, New Richmond. Friday and Saturday, Dancing with DJ Remo. 513-553-2129.

THE PIPELINE/FLUX 241 W. Court St., Dntown. Thursdays, Spicy Divas; Fridays, Dance until 4 a.m.; Saturdays, Dance until 5 a.m. with DJs Chris Mercier, Cheri and Spyce. 513-241-5678.

R CLUB AT BIG RED'S 217 Calhoun Ave., Clifton. Featuring DJ Temper \$5 (18-20 years old) or \$3 (21 and up). 513-751-7177.

RUMBA 14 Pete Rose Pier, Covington. Thursday (College Night; 19 and up), 9 p.m.-2:30 a.m.; Friday (Smooove Groove; 21 and up), 9 p.m.-2:30 a.m.; Saturday, 9 p.m.-4 a.m.; Wednesday (Jeff Ruby Champagne Jam) at 6 p.m. 859-581-1414.

SNEEKY PETE'S SALOON 305 E. Wyoming Ave., Lockland. Friday-Saturday - International Party with

DJs; Sunday-Thursday - Go-Go dancers. Cover. 513-821-0080.

SPY CLUB 301 W. Fifth St., Dntown. 513-684-0123.

THE STRIKE ZONE 7958 Harrison Ave., Taylors Creek. 513-353-1724.

THE UNDERGROUND 126 W. Sixth St., Dntown. (Side entrance.) Fiesta Fridays (an alternative lifestyle affair). 513-819-6028.

VENUS CLUB 1314 Vine St., Over-the-Rhine. Open Wednesday, 9 p.m.-2:30 a.m. Thursday is Lift with international and local DJs beginning at 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday DJs spin house until 4:30 a.m. 513-241-8868.

VERTIGO University Plaza, Coryville. Monday and Thursday, 8 p.m.-2 a.m.; Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.-4 a.m. Sundays, Fuse with local DJs spinning Trance until 3 a.m. 513-751-2642.

W.C. FIELDHOUSE 401 Crescent Ave., Covington. Wednesday-Saturday, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. 859-581-1500.

THE WAREHOUSE 1313 Vine St., Over-the-Rhine. Wednesday 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Alternative Retro/Industrial. Friday and Saturday 10 p.m.-4 a.m. Friday the Factory, and Nuts and Bolts Party every Saturday. Eurodance/ House/RetroPop 18 & over! 513-684-9313.

WILLIE'S SPORTS CAFE 401 Crescent Ave., Covington. 859-581-1500.

YUCATAN LIQUOR STAND 1 Madison Ave., Covington. Tuesday-Saturday, until 2:30 a.m. 859-261-0600.

IF THE MILK'S SOUR, I AIN'T THE TYPE OF PUSSYCAT TO DRINK IT

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NEW YEAR'S EVE

\$40 per person
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New Year's Eve Bubbly!!

Free Food & Prizes
Free Champaign
Free Breakfast
\$5 Cover before 11pm

1313 Vine Street • 684-9313

THE VOID — Death to Graceland with Tubring and Peelander Z. Indie/Punk. \$6.
YORK STREET CAFE — Hard Molly with Denial. Rock. Cover.

MONDAY DECEMBER 30

BABA BUDAN'S — Sonya Gaier. Acoustic/Folk. Free.
BAR HUMBUG — DJ Round Boy presents the Dark Side of Pop. Dance/House. Free.
CODY'S CAFE — The Brian Newman Quartet. Jazz. Free.
CODY'S LOUNGE — Andrew and Jeremy. Acoustic. Free.
THE CRICKET LOUNGE — Herb Kirchener. Jazz/Lounge. Free.
DEE FELICE CAFE — Earl Waldman. Jazz/Solo piano. Free.
DEUCE'S WILD — Bob Cushing. Acoustic/Rock. Free.
JEFFERSON HALL — Rick Douglas Band. Rock. Cover.
MAD FROG — Tropicoso. Latin. Cover.
NORTHSIDE TAVERN — Kim Taylor. Pop Rock. Free.
RARE ELEGANCE CAFE — Absolute 1. Jazz/R&B. Free.
SOUTHGATE HOUSE — Thistle, Fizzgig, El Gigante, Caruso and Abigail. Rock. Cover.
STANLEY'S PUB — New Year's Eve "Eve" Party with Big Whiskey and Ossified. Rock. Cover.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 31

A.J.'S ALLEY — Porcelain Will. Rock. Cover.
AIOLI — Pamela Mallory and Wayne Yeager. Acoustic/Jazz. Free.
ALLYN'S CAFE — Katie Pritchard. Acoustic. Free.
ARNOLD'S BAR & GRILL — Fred Gary. Acoustic. Free; Side Cars. Western Swing. Free.
ART'S BILLIARDS AND BAR — DJ Lily Luv with Mista Rare Groove. Dance/Funk. Free.
BARRELHOUSE BREWING CO. — Worldwide. Funk. Cover.
BRIARWOOD — Bill Smith. Solo piano. Free.
BURNING DESIRES — DJ Jimmy Mack. Dance. Free.
CABARET CLUB — The Back Street Band. Classic Rock/Dance. Cover.
★ THE CAVERN — The Giant Judys (see To Do picks, page 23) and Boy Radio. Dance/Indie/Pop. Cover.
CODY'S CAFE — DQ. Hip Hop. Free.
CODY'S LOUNGE — Tristen Shields. Acoustic. Free.
THE CRICKET LOUNGE — Herb Kirchener. Jazz/Lounge. Free.
DEE FELICE CAFE — Earl Waldman. Jazz/Solo piano. Free.
FELDY'S — Kenny Cowden. Acoustic. Free.
HAVANA MARTINI CLUB — Mickey Esposito. Lounge. Cover.

HILL STATION — Outlet. Rock. Cover.
HOPPS — Rusty Griswolds. Rock. Cover.
JACK QUINN'S IRISH ALEHOUSE — Roger Drawdy and The Firestarters with Speakinginagreen. Celtic. Free.
JAZZMANIA — Bruce Menefield Trio. Jazz. Cover.
JEFFERSON HALL — Friar Tuck. Rock. Cover.
JUDI'S PUB — Lethal. Rock. Free.
KNOTTY PINE — Dallas Moore Band. Outlaw Country. \$10.
LA NORMANDIE — Danny Frazier. Acoustic. Free.
LUCILLE'S — The Natalie Wells Band. Blues. Cover.
MADISON INN — Sonny Moorman Group. Blues. Cover.
MADISON THEATER — Fuzzy Feet. Rock. \$60.
MANNA VEGETARIAN DELI — Segunda Venida. Jazz. \$2.
MILLION'S CAFE — Higher Ground. Rock. Cover.

NORTHSIDE TAVERN — Rat Fuel with The Not. Rock. Free.
ONE EYED JACK'S — T-Sly Trio. Fusion. Cover.
PANE E VINO — Nick Fryer Trio. Jazz. Free.
PAPA GALLO'S — Tension, Neveah and Psychobabble. Rock. \$10.
PEECOX I — ESP. Rock. Cover.
PEECOX II — Skut Fargus. Rock. Cover.
PLUSH — Gravity Bass. Drum and Bass. Cover.
RARE ELEGANCE CAFE — Absolute 1. Jazz/R&B. Free.
RICK'S TAVERN AND GRILL — Trump Tight. Dance/Funk. Cover.
ROUNDING THIRD — Rounding Third. Rock. Free.
SHADY'S PUB — Swinging Johnsons. Blues. Cover.
★ SOUTHGATE HOUSE — Ray's Music Exchange, The Comet Bluegrass Allstars, The Swarthy Band, Iswhat?!, Peach Melba and The Walker Project (see To Do picks, page 23). Various. Cover.

STABLES — Corona Styles. Rock. Cover.
STANLEY'S PUB — Open Mic Night. Various. Free.
THE STRIKE ZONE — Boe Davis and the Broken Arrow Band. Country. \$10.
TURNER GILL'S — Dakota. Country. \$3.
VILLAGE TAVERN — The Kevin Fox Band. Rock. Cover.
WOODEN HORSE TAVERN — Twisted Fate. Rock. Cover.
YORK STREET CAFE — Masala. Rock. Cover.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 1

BAR HUMBUG — Brit Nite. BritPop. Free.
BEACH'S GROESBECK TAVERN — Ken Cowden. Acoustic/Rock. Free.
BLIND LEMON — Ray Solinski. Acoustic. Free.

BLUE WISP JAZZ CLUB — Blue Wisp Big Band. Jazz. Cover.
BREAK ROOM LOUNGE — Pedro-X Blues Explosion. Blues/Various. Free.
BRIAN'S SPORTS BAR — DJ Jimmy Mack. Dance. Free.
BRIARWOOD — Bill Smith. Solo piano. Free.
CHEZ NORA — Ricky Nye. Blues. Free.
THE CRICKET LOUNGE — Herb Kirchener. Jazz/Lounge. Free.
CROW'S NEST — Bob Cushing. Acoustic/Rock. Free.
DEE FELICE CAFE — Phil Burkhead, Lou Lausche and Ron McCurdy. Jazz. Free.
DUCK CREEK COUNTRY CLUB — Open Mic. Singer/Songwriter. Free.
FELDY'S — Rick Leighton. Acoustic. Free.
THE GREENWICH — Open mic poetry with Tsunami. Spoken word. Free.
HARDY'S ROCK CAFE — Open Mic hosted by Justus. Acoustic. Free.
JEFF RUBY'S — Airwave with Dixie and Ted Karas. Adult Contemporary/R&B. Free.
LA NORMANDIE — The Goshorn Brothers. Rock. Free.
NORTHSIDE TAVERN — Jeff Wehmeier. Acoustic. Free.
ONE EYED JACK'S — Open Mic with Nicholas Tuttle. Various. Cover.
PI'S ON THE SQUARE — Ray Heckman and friends. Rock. Free.
PANE E VINO — Nick Fryer Trio. Jazz. Free.
PETE'S CAFÉ — Michael and Jeff from House Party. Acoustic. Free.
PIRATE'S COVE TROPICAL BAR AND GRILL — Ras Shaggai. Rock. Free.
RARE ELEGANCE CAFE — Absolute 1. Jazz/R&B. \$5.
STANLEY'S PUB — Big Whiskey. Acoustic/Rock. Free.
STEIN AND VINE AT THE HERITAGE — Kenny Poole. Jazz. Free.
VILLAGE TAVERN — Snowshoe Crabs. Rock. Free.
WEEZEE'S — Open Jam with Rick House Band. Rock. Free.

Upcoming Concerts

JASON MRIZ — 20th Century Theater. Monday, Jan. 13. \$8/\$10 day of show. 513-562-4949.
DAVE HOLLAND QUINTET — Lexington Opera House. Saturday, Feb. 1. \$23-\$14. 859-233-4567.
PHISH — U.S. Bank Arena (formerly Firststar Center). Friday, Feb. 21. \$37.50. 513-562-4949.
PHISH — U.S. Bank Arena (formerly Firststar Center). Saturday, Feb. 22. \$37.50. 513-562-4949.
REGINA CARTER — Lexington Opera House. Sunday, March 2. \$23-\$14. 859-233-4567.
BEN KWELLER — 20th Century Theater. Thursday, March 6. \$12. 513-562-4949.

POSITIVELY YEAH YEAH YEAH

BY JOHN M. JAMES

With the rolling wheels of the record industry grinding down for a holiday break, here are more of my picks for the best of 2002:

Best Spoken Word CD of the Year: Paul Krassner — *Irony Lives!* (Artemis Records)

Recorded earlier this year in the post-Sept. 11 dialogue, this thinking man's comedy release comes from the fertile and skewed mind of co-founder of the Youth International Party (Yippies) and all around muckraker. It's a nail among the balloons of government and the media elite. From his days on the run from the FBI with Jerry Rubin and Abbie Hoffman to publishing *The Realist* from 1958 to 1974 and numerous books published in the 1990s, Krassner's scope takes deadly aim at the hypocrisy of our abundant society and consumer culture. Conservative listeners might have to sit on their hands to keep from drawing up their fists in anger, but you might be surprised to hear your own mind click along with his logic between the laughs. Wide-eyed and sharply perceptive, this founding father of the underground press has his most fun shining his light on the media. Catching blips and sound bites from the mainstream, his take on major news networks' spin on the tragedy, overworked terrorists and homeland security is brilliantly funny and refreshingly paranoid. Other highlights include his observations on the CIA, conspiracy theorists and induction into the Cannabis Cup Hall of Fame.

Best Cover Concept CDs of the Year:

OK, I admit it, I'm a cover fiend. My ears are always perked for those perfect moments when an artist transcends the original version of a song and calls it his or her own. From tender, loving tributes to wacky juxtapositions of unbelievable pairings, the art of the cover version is magic, drawing eyes up and puzzled grins — "Was that really what I think I just heard?" Here's my pick for three shining stars of the musical salute, each one proving that maybe it really is the singer, not the song:

Various Artists — *When Pigs Fly: Songs You Never Thought You'd Hear* (Xemu/Aorta Records)

Featuring a dozen mind-melting tracks like

Don Ho's take on Peter Gabriel's "Shock the Monkey" and Lesley Gore of "It's My Party"-fame covering AC/DC's "Dirty Deeds Down Cheap," this collection has the most giggles and outrageous delight. Where else could one conceive indie inspiration Ani DiFranco and martial arts superstar Jackie Chan singing a duet of Nat King Cole's classic, "Unforgettable," or Billy Preston's R&B funkafication of Duran Duran's "Girls on Film?" I can't pick my personal favorite track: a droll delivery of Cypress Hills' "Insane in the Brain" by The Connells or Alex Chilton and the Box Tops' spin on Blondie's "Call Me."

Eva Cassidy — *Imagine* (Blix Street Records)

Tragically haunting, this collection of previously unreleased tracks from the late singer opens with a beautiful cover of Paul Anka's "It Doesn't Matter Anymore," best known by the hit renditions by Buddy Holly and Linda Ronstadt. Primarily discovered by most of the world after her death at the age of 33 in 1996, Cassidy possessed a most perfect voice — relaxed and pensive like a deep-warm bath, soaring pure and free. And it's no wonder that those who've heard her pause sadly at the thought of her heavenly voice stilled much too soon. Known for her gorgeous interpretation of other writers' songs, these selections come from archives of her limited recording output.

Luther Wright & the Wrongs — *Rebuild the Wall* (Back Porch/Snakeye Music)

Knee-slappin' and delightfully weird, this steel guitar, lonesome back-woods howler is a corn-fed cover of Pink Floyd's double-LP opus, *The Wall*, in its entirety. Strolling along with finger picked six-strings, fiddle, banjo and clarinet, it's uncanny how well classics like "Mother" and "Run Like Hell" sound in this genre, asking the eternal question, "Daddy, what did you leave behind for me?" More serious than *Hee-Haw* silly, these good ol' boys have their tongues in their cheeks and their hands on the pedal steel guitar, the sound of drifting cattle at the end of "Another Brick in the Wall, Part 2," mooing in the moonlight. Highly recommended to tweak the mind of Floyd fanatics.

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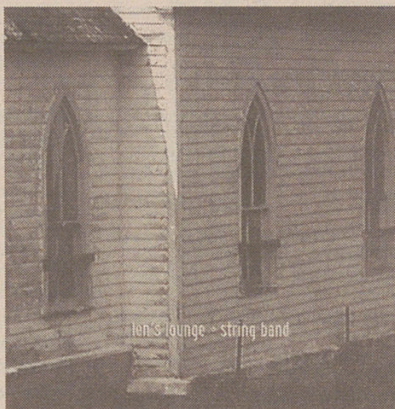
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THE CD TOWN: FROM PAGE 25

album for local 3rd Silo Records — is their best-sounding effort to date, thanks to a crisper sound. The songs aren't a huge departure from the band's distinctive upbeat and melodic Rock & Roll, but there's now a depth to the songs that wasn't there on the earlier releases.

• **Len's Lounge — String Band**

This is the Lounge's finest recorded effort in its 10-year existence, from the crispness of the production quality to the richness and proficiency of both the performances and the songwriting. Frontguy Jeff Roberson leads the accomplished band through 11 tracks of mountain Folk that come across more direct and pure than past efforts, due in large part to the organic, acoustic nature of the performances.



len's lounge - string band

• **Jake Speed and the Freddie's — Queen City Rag**

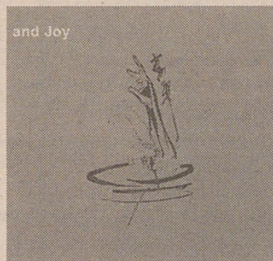
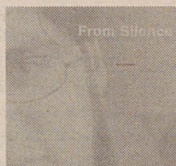
Speed is a clear disciple of Woody Guthrie and other classic Folk singers and old-time musicians, and that influence is dripping from *Queen City Rag*. But his endearing personality puts a huge stamp on the record as well. His affable charm is spread all over *Rag*.

• **Brian Lovely — Superimpose**

One of the city's best Pop songwriters (and a heck of a guitarist and producer as well), Lovely took time out from assisting on other people's projects this year to release this great solo effort. Amazing songs and brilliant execution, *Superimpose* is the Pop/Rock album of the year.

• **Readymaid — This View Should Never Change and Images of the Floating World**

Two, count 'em, two releases from the most creative band in Cincinnati. *This View* (the group's debut full-length) is a chaotic testament to sonic exploration, while the *Images* EP is a more focussed showcase of the band's songwriting abilities. We should be happy Readymaid lives and works in Cincinnati.



• **Kim Taylor — So Black So Bright**

Smart, gorgeous songs from the Cincinnati Entertainment Awards winner for New Artist of the Year. A staggeringly accomplished debut.

• **The Bluebirds — Laughing Boy**

These local veterans got giddily diverse on their new CD, *Laughing Boy*. Retaining the R&B, Rock and Blues influences they're best-known for, the album features some of the best, more melodically memorable moments of the band's esteemed career.

• **Semi-Automatic — Semi-Automatic**

On their self-titled debut, this talented new band showcases a sound built around muscular guitar riffs, creative but never head-scratching structuring and strong, melodic vocals. It's easy to imagine nearly any of the memorable tracks on their debut being played on current Rock radio.

• **Benj Clarke — Out Through the In Crowd**

One of the most ambitious local releases in recent memory. Clarke, a great Pop songwriter, lined up an impressive roster of more than 50 "guest" singers and musicians for this eclectic, memorable solo debut.



• **Cari Clara — Cari Clara**

Except for the vocal similarities, there's little mistaking this debut solo disc from

Eric Diedrichs for the poppier, rockier songs of his former band, the Simpletons. As his alter-ego, Diedrichs writes in a more ethereal, somber style, and this debut is a gorgeous mesh of minimal guitar, pounding percussion, plaintive drum machine pulses, raw vintage keyboards and deliciously layered vocals.

• **Kailip — Pyramid Schemes**

Rock and Jazz dance gracefully within Kailip's sound, but this is far from Fusion. Progressive and thought-provoking, their intertwining musical telepathy warmly yanks the listener into their impenetrable mind-lock.

• **Dophesus — Opium Cunningham**

This trio has been one of the more unique Rock acts on the local scene for the past couple of years. Their Post-Punk sound is highlighted by a progressive compositional approach, with the songs blissfully wandering where you'd least expect.

• **Ampline — The Choir**

On *The Choir*, Instrumental Indie Rock virtuosos Ampline roll their way through eight compositions that float from muscular, roxy rockers to a more textural glide, with excellent arrangements that are intricate and potent enough to make you completely forget the lack of a vocal presence.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 32

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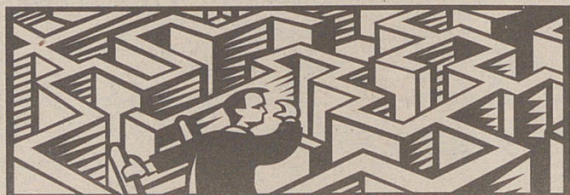
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Spill It

BY MIKE BREEN

Galore-ious Debut

The year in local music CD releases is ending with a bang on Saturday as Northern Kentucky's **Morals Galore** unleash their magnificent Indie Pop debut, *Donerail*. Or is it the first great local disc of 2003? Either way, fans of the local guitar Pop scene will have a new favorite band once they hear it.

The CD is named after a notorious Kentucky Derby long-shot winner, but *Donerail* is a surefire success from a creative standpoint, brimming with fantastically melodic, unforgettable Pop/Rock songs. They've got the snap and pop of a young Weezer, but there's a looser vibe that gives *Morals Galore* their crackle. Like Sebadoh, Guided By Voices or Apples In Stereo, the band knows the power of not only one good hook per song, but a busload scattered throughout. And there's a genuine and intimate quality to the performances and vocal delivery that sets the group apart from their peers. While there's an emotive slant to the band's approach, the CD is largely void of all of the earnestness and wounded-boy qualities you'll find in your average "Emo" band.

It's a cohesive, solid effort from start to finish, but some of the many highlights include "Aristotle," an airy, keyboard-and-acoustic-guitar-driven floater that's gorgeously lush and dreamy, the percussion-littered "Check Your Head," which has an almost Beatles-y BritPop flair, and "Rock Star," with it's Moog-ish key flutters and ropey, plodding rhythms. Also lacquered throughout this dazzling debut is some tasty guitar radiance, the glue that holds the disc's bountiful dynamics in check. It's CDs like *Donerail* that let you know that the future of the local music scene is in good hands.

Saturday's CD release party is a refreshing break from the night-club norm. The band has rented the American Legion hall (22 E. Sixth St.) in Newport for the 8:30 p.m. event, with all ages invited. And instead of using the release show as a way to rake in some supplementary dough, the band will donate proceeds to the Starfire Council, which organizes recreational outings for teens and adults with disabilities. Haleymill and Dr. Jim Esmail open the show. For more info, slink on over to www.moralsgalore.com.

Local Notes

• DJ **Scott Carrelli**, onetime Cincinnati resident currently living and working in San Francisco, returns home on Saturday to spin at the Spy Club. Carrelli is fresh off his second tour of Australia where he is building a strong following (he even had one of his shows taped for national broadcast), and he has been on bills with heavyweights like Paul Van Dyk, Sasha and John Digweed.

• Locals-gone-national **July For Kings** (previously known as Swim) had a great 2002 — MCA Records released their major label debut, *Swim*, on Nov. 5 and they've been touring in support ever since, opening for acts like Collective Soul and Days of the New. Swing by Bogart's on Thursday and buy them a congratulatory round of drinks as JFK does a big homecoming concert with special guests **Saving Ray**, **Coping With Ignorance** and **Blue Karma**.

• Debunkfest, a benefit concert presented by Deliberately Insane Records, hits the Void on Saturday. The all-ages show kicks off at 3 p.m. and will feature Punk bands like Brazil, Amazing Transparent Man, Bottom Line,

Lightweight Holiday, Farkus and Hello Shelby. Proceeds benefit Cincinnati Anti-Racist Action, Louisville Crusade For Children and other organizations. To pre-order tickets, go to deliberatelyinsane.com.

• Local favorites **Pearlene** and the **Wolverton Brothers** put on a free X-mas concert at The Comet on Friday. This will be Pearlene's first show in a while, with members returning to town after touring Europe with Boom Bip and the Soledad Brothers.

• Stanley's Pub hosts a New Year's Eve Eve party on Monday, for those who won't or can't go out on the big night. Local Rock bands **Big Whiskey** and **Ossified** provide the music. The \$15 ticket gets you unlimited food and beer.

• Roots rockers **The Stapletons** will play an in-store show at Shake It Records on Saturday at 3 p.m. to promote their fantastic new release, *Low Dealers ... and Hangers On*. The show is free and the record store will provide food and drink.

CONTACT MIKE BREEN: mbreen@citybeat.com

COAST TO COAST

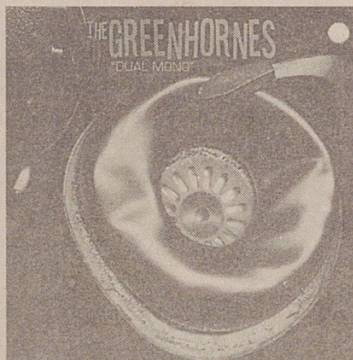
The best local artist CDs that were released on a national level

BY MIKE BREEN

• The Greenhornes — *Dual Mono* (TelStar)

They lost their keyboardist and a key singing/songwriting contributor, but The Greenhornes managed their best record yet on this magnificent slab of retro-fied Garage Rock. And they couldn't have picked a better time, with the ears of the world primed open by the band's constant press praise and musical contributions to *The Sopranos* (thanks to fan "Little" Steven Van Zandt) and a Jack Daniels' commercial. *Dual Mono* has a slightly cleaner production quality than past

Greenhornes efforts, which surprisingly works to the songs' advantage. Highlights include the energetic opener "Satisfy My Mind," the shady, slinky "Three Faint Calls," and the soul-bursting "Too Much Sorrow." The album is made even better by some versatile closing numbers — "There Is an End" features sexy, goose-bumpy vocals by guest vocalist Holly Golightly; the rolling harpsichord on "Don't Come Running to Me" is perfect; and Golightly and singer Craig Fox close the disc with "Gonna Get Me Someone," a buzzing, back-and-forth duet that ends the proceedings on a playful, grin-inducing note.



with boundaries and genre specifics. Like DJ Shadow's best work, *Seed to Sun* is a collection of original musical compositions that incorporate "real" instruments (guitars, keyboards) with some sample and beat manipulations. Bip creates a remarkably ethereal sense of melancholy even amidst the kinetic beats on cuts like the bubbling "Closed Shoulders" and the manic "Awaiting an Accident." As good as he is with being ambient, he also shows a superb knack for the majestic, especially evident on the opener,

"Woods Must Roll." While much of it's danceable, this isn't the stuff of Techno or Disco. Attesting to his eclecticism as a composer, Bip would be more at home on a bill with a Post Rock band like Tortoise or BritRock expanders Super Furry Animals (who he toured the states with earlier this year) than spinning in a college campus dance club. *Seed to Sun*, drawing praise from the global music press (and winning Best Album from the 2002 Cincinnati

Entertainment Awards), is sure to be a milestone record for Boom Bip, an artist with unlimited potential and enough heart and soul in his music to ensure integrity.

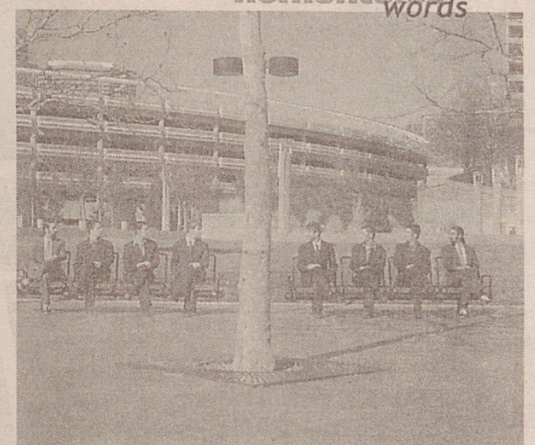
• Moth — *Provisions, Fiction and Gear* (Virgin)

Local boys done good, Moth were the first locally based band to release an album on a major label this year. *Provisions* is a dynam-

ic album, split between spacious ballads and adrenalized rockers, with melody and singer Brad Stenz's raw, almost wounded vocals being the main consistency factor. The record starts with a mighty 1-2-3 punch of AltRock radio-friendliness. "I See Sound," the record's first single, sets the tone. On the more expansive songs, Stenz is able to show an emotional range that's harder to fit into a quick three-minute Pop tune, especially with all of the curves this band throws in. Guitarist Bob Gayol also has a chance to show off his skillful playing, which drips across the tracks like sweet sonic drizzle.

• Sonny Moorman — *Sonny's Blues* (Atlas)

Sonny's Blues, released by Macon, Ga.-based Atlas Records, is essentially a "greatest hits" package containing digitally remastered material from Moorman's previous four albums. It's a brilliant collection of both live and studio material, largely consisting of his reworkings of songs by various artists, plus a few originals. The album is yet another chance for the guitarist/singer to showcase his soulful, often awe-inspiring guitar abilities — he's certainly the best Blues/Rock guitarist in the region and has to rank as one of the best in the country. Like the greats of Blues/Rock (Page, Allman, Beck, Clapton), Moorman's body of recorded work shows that, while he has a loving respect for Blues tradition, he's not afraid to let his own personality and interpretation take a song to the next level.



• July For Kings — *Swim* (MCA)

They began as a Modern Rock band from Middletown called Swim. Just a few years later, they've changed their name to July For Kings and joined the MCA Records stable. With accessible, radio-friendly songs, JFK have the kind of package that could lead to chart-topping success. *Swim* hasn't caught fire yet, but with the right exposure it certainly has the makings of a money-maker.

• Homunculus — *Words* (Howling)

OK, this one came out locally in 2001. But it was picked up for a national release this year. On their third album, Homunculus develop their charming groove-meets-melody blend and write the best songs of their career. While it's easy to see why they'd appeal to the Jam Rock fans, with their music's heavily rhythmic backbeat the band manages to find a perfect balance of funky flow and addictive melodic hooks. With *Words* out on a national level now, it shouldn't be long before the rest of the country gets in on one of the area's best, most consistent artists. ©

• **Worldwide — Pieces of Life**

Pieces of Life is a soulful, groovy party in a jewel case, highlighted by well-constructed songs. That's not always a strong point for Funk-oriented bands, who often overlook songwriting finesse in favor of overdoing their dance-centric rhythms.

• **Ryan Adcock — From Silence and Joy**

The local singer/songwriter has released his most fully realized effort to date, and it could well be the one that launches him into a wider, national profile. He retains all of the affable qualities he exhibited on his previous work, but *From Silence* has the kind of hooks, sheen and accessibility that could slide easily into rotation on Pop radio right between John Mayer and David Gray.

• **Oval Opus — Red Sky Recovering**

A showcase of Oval Opus' accomplished brand of radio-ready Modern Rock, this CD is highlighted by the band's knack for hooky melodies and skillful songwriting. With their growing regional fan-base and crisp sound, don't be surprised if these guys are the next in town to garner a big-time record contract.

• **Brian Ferry — Some Sort of Static**

Ferry decided to take a more relaxed approach to recording this sophomore effort, a creative, organic Indie Rock-meets-Folk release featuring a "full-band" sound on most of the tracks and also featuring Ferry's experiments with loops and samples.

• **Philosopher's Stone — The Goods and the Ills**

This trio's sound is so novel that it's refreshingly difficult to draw direct comparisons. The group's songs have a fluid, watery vibe that feels very organic, and they don't write in an expected Pop format, eschewing the cookie-cutter verse/chorus style for an atmospheric approach that

simply pours forth and develops naturally.

• **Echo Park — Little Breakdown**

This album continues in the same vein as Echo Park's impressive debut release, *The Machine*, featuring hook-heavy, muscular Pop songs that are surefire radio-friendly.

• **Ric Hickey and the Loose Wrecks — A Pool and a Pond**

Fans of Hickey's work get a little bit of each side of his musical persona on this new CD. It's a bit of a hodge-podge but quite an enjoyable one, as he lays out everything from folksy solo-acoustic tracks to neon-glowing lo-fi to frolicking, full-band Pop Rock.

• **V-Mob — Equilibrium**

This metallic group's hard-to-the-core sound is exhibited brilliantly on this relentless five-song disc that relies on syncopated guitar riffing, a thumping rhythm section, crafty vocals and esoteric key-

board and sample ornamentation, which lends the music a creeping undertow.

• **Broken Head — 420**

Eccentric Hard Rock, artfully pulled off by this new group of veteran locals.

• **The Sidecars — Stay All Night**

A joyous, masterful take on traditional Western Swing, where Jazz meets Bluegrass. A lot of fun to boot.

• **Venus Mission — Midwestern Soul**

Fans of Sarah McLachlan or Over The Rhine will find a

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effort, featuring just him and an acoustic guitar. Lynch's rich songwriting ability makes this a thoroughly satisfying listen.

• **Ms. Jaz — Chances**

This album mixes original songs with cover tunes, but the highlight is Marshall's soulful, expressive vocals. The general sound of the album is a warm Contemporary Jazz-to-Pop crossover, with an R&B undercurrent.

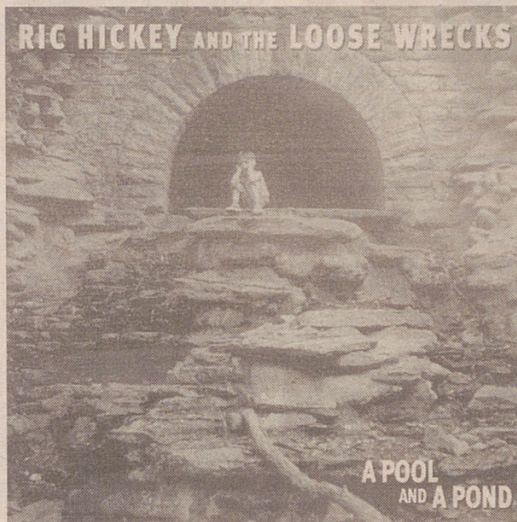
• **Bottom Line — In and Out of Luck**

Warp Tour vets who've already toured Japan, these Pop Punk hooligans are poised to go big time with their catchy, energetic approach.

• **The Flock — Recovering Catholics**

Eclectic Americana from one of the city's best bands. The diversity of material is part of their appeal, and their versatility has enabled

them to be an even more potent presence on the local club front, where they play Celtic venues, Folk clubs and even Blues spots. ©



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film

Leo vs. Leo

Leonardo DiCaprio returns to the spotlight with two year-end movies

INTERVIEW BY STEVE RAMOS

The first question one has to ask Leonardo DiCaprio is about survival. Basically, how does he cope with the constant scrutiny and the daily gossip columns about his personal life?

DiCaprio answers matter-of-factly but quietly: "I don't deal with it. Who I am is spoken for up on the screen. I can't get on the podium and declare who I am to the rest of the world. It's a waste of time and a no-win battle. I want my work to speak for itself."

It's been nine years since DiCaprio, infamous womanizer, night-crawler and acclaimed actor, starred in the drama *This Boy's Life*, playing the role of Tobias Wolff in the film adaptation of Wolff's autobiographical story. He acted opposite Robert DeNiro and Ellen Barkin, playing a boy who learns to endure his stepfather's abuse. DiCaprio surprised audiences by holding his own against his veteran costars. What people didn't realize was that his best was still to come. Since then, DiCaprio has starred in various films like Jim Carroll's autobiographical drama *The Basketball Diaries*, playing a teen-age drug addict and director Baz Luhrmann's street-smart adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*. In 1997, DiCaprio became one of Hollywood's leading men thanks to his co-starring role in the phenomenon *Titanic*. Since then, life has become admittedly surreal.

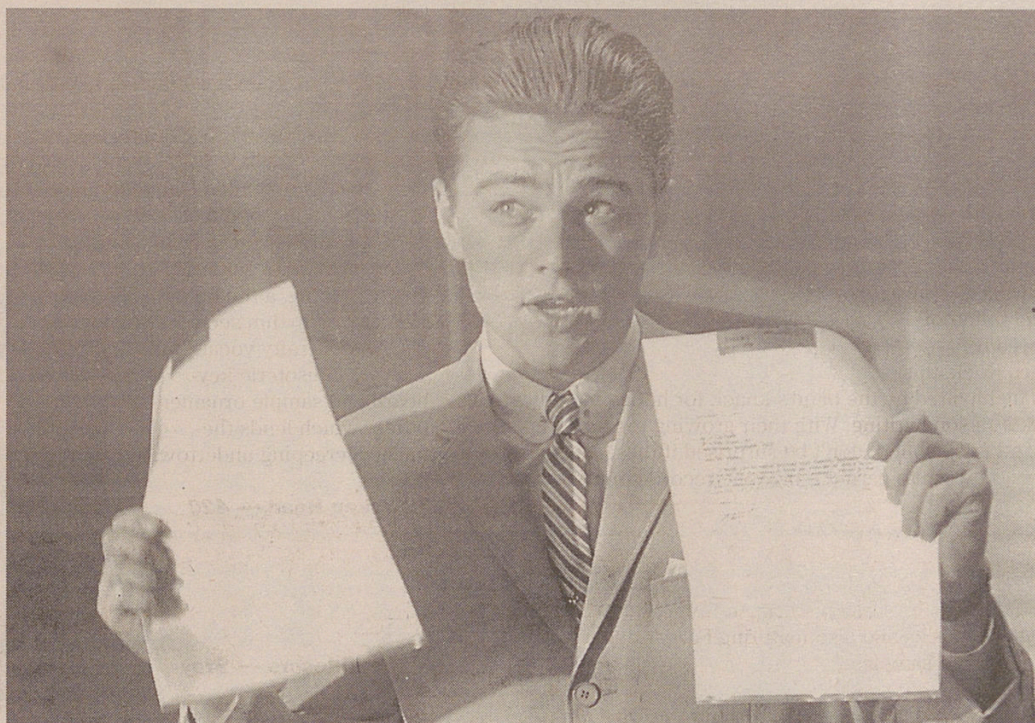
"The purpose of being out in the public eye for an actor is to promote a film. Other than doing something for charitable reasons, there is no other reason for it. I think it gets harder and harder through the course of time to get people to believe you in different roles and believe you as an actor."

DiCaprio's most significant roles revolve around his good looks and charismatic presence. He is cocky and outgoing. That's part of his charisma. He can test his dramatic skills with an off-kilter drama like *The Beach*, playing a man in search of a secluded paradise, but no matter what he says or does, he's still a charmer.

In director Martin Scorsese's period epic *Gangs of New York*, the first of his two current films, DiCaprio's charisma is more elusive and enigmatic. His raggedy clothes and spotty complexion as Amsterdam Vallon, a gang leader battling for control of the Five Points neighborhood in 1863 New York, soil his matinee idol looks.

The opposite is true for *Catch Me If You Can*, DiCaprio's second year-end feature, in which he plays teen-age con man, Frank Abagnale, a smooth talker who impersonated an airline pilot, a doctor and a lawyer. In *Catch Me If You Can*, DiCaprio dons stylish clothes and surrounds himself with beautiful women. Basically, *Catch Me If You Can* fits his public persona like a well-worn glove.

What arrives for the interview is a DiCaprio



Leonardo DiCaprio plays teen-age con man Frank Abagnale in the comedy *Catch Me If You Can*, the second of his two year-end movies.

few people have seen before. DiCaprio talks quietly, looking down at the table as he answers questions. It makes me wonder. Where is the smooth-talking charmer who brought Abagnale to life? Where is the infamous carouser whose club-hopping habits and supermodel girlfriends make his name a gossip column regular? DiCaprio's trademark charismatic swagger is gone. On this occasion, DiCaprio is quiet and reflective. He's all business because speaking to the press is part of his job. In fact, for the last few weeks, it's mostly what DiCaprio has been doing. When you're starring in two year-end movies, there are a lot of interviews to be done.

"I just finished a four-day marathon, and now I'm on to the new one," DiCaprio says. "You know. You do your best."

Born in Hollywood, Calif., DiCaprio began acting early, appearing in commercials and the TV sitcom, *Growing Pains*. Movies were a natural transition, and he credits the support of his "bohemian" father.

"My father has been a huge influence on me because he has always directed me in a different angle in all walks of life, in art, the environment and architecture. He always introduced me to interesting and unique things that I would never experience if it weren't for him."

These days, people read more about DiCaprio's personal life than his performances. He admits there is little he can do to fight it. It makes sense that he would choose to ignore the

constant gossip. What's surprising is the way DiCaprio says it. He fills the New York City hotel room with a calm demeanor. For the time being, he's at peace with the world.

DiCaprio looks intentionally disheveled today with oily hair, a shaggy goatee and a wispy mustache. The style is two steps away from his *Gangs of New York* character. It's also a statement of grounded seriousness. For this morning, DiCaprio leaves his matinee idol persona hanging in the closet with his other clothes. A Detroit Tigers ball cap rests on his head. A dark shirt and trousers hang loosely on his body. He wants you to know he's a regular 28-year-old man, albeit one who happens to be one of contemporary film's greatest actors.

Catch Me If You Can promises to be the more audience-friendly of his two new films, but it also has moments of drama. Still, it's best surprise is that DiCaprio is capable of making audiences laugh.

Asked about how he managed to play a character 10 years younger than himself, DiCaprio says, "It dawned on me one week before production that I was 11 years this guy's senior ... but I eased my mind understanding that this guy was mature beyond his years. He had this air of authority ever since he was 16 years old and actually had gray streaks in his hair when he

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citybeat.com

Movie showtimes

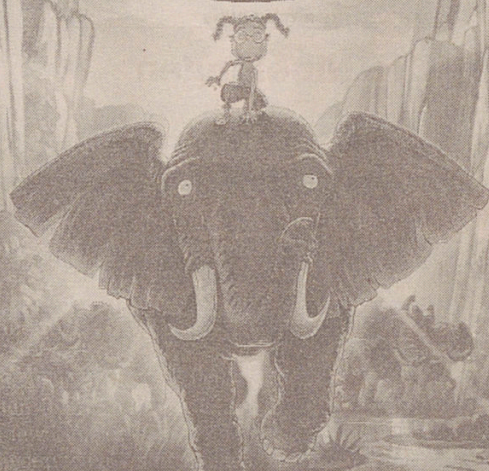
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America Online Keyword: Lord of the Rings www.lordoftherings.net www.LOTRshop.com Moviefone.com



OPENING FILMS

IAI excellent IBI good ICI average IDI poor IFI utter failure



THE GREY ZONE — Actor-turned-director Tim Blake Nelson adapts his own play into a complex and engaging World War II drama. Based on Miklos Nyiszli's book *Auschwitz: A Doctor's Eyewitness Account*, *The Grey Zone* tells the story of Auschwitz's 12th Sonderkommando, a special squad of Jewish prisoners employed by the Nazis to help herd the Jewish prisoners into the gas chambers, dump the corpses into the furnaces and haul away the ashes. Their tale is bleak and disheartening and Nelson captures their inhuman spirit perfectly. The story's drama rises with the Auschwitz inmates plot to overthrow the camp. Adding to the turmoil is a young girl who has mysteriously survived the gas chambers. David Arquette and Steve Buscemi enjoy some powerful scenes as Sonderkommandos struggling with their roles as Nazi helpers. Harvey Keitel makes the biggest impact as a Nazi commander in charge of Auschwitz. But the spotlight truly belongs to Nelson, who has made a concentration camp drama that's more intimate and ultimately more disturbing than Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List*. — **Steve Ramos** (Rated R.)

CityBeat grade: B.



THE LION KING — The greatest of Disney's contemporary animated features returns to IMAX theaters bigger, bolder and more colorful than ever before. The story of the lion cub Simba (voice of Jonathan Taylor Thomas) who grows up to reclaim his rightful place as the king of the African veldt is familiar to people around the world. As an IMAX extravaganza, its tale is more heartfelt and exciting than ever. — **SR** (Rated G.)

CityBeat grade: A.



PINOCCHIO — The story of Pinocchio might be a universal fable but it's puppet boy hero needs to speak English if he wants to play in American cinemas. At least that's the logic of the distributor behind Italian comic Roberto Benigni's live-action *Pinocchio*. One challenge is the dubbed English-language voices attached to Benigni and his European cast. The other challenge is the fact that the very adult Benigni has given himself the role of Pinocchio. — **SR** (Rated G.)



RABBIT-PROOF FENCE — Set in 1931, *Fence* is the story of the journey of Molly (Everlyn Sampi), Daisy (Tianna Sansbury), and Gracie (Laura Monaghan), three aborigine girls who have been removed from their home and placed in a re-education camp for half-caste children. The girls escape and cross over 1000 miles as they follow the fences, which had been erected to protect Australian farmland from rabbits. Director Phillip Noyce leaves the filmmaking genre tricks in his bag and allows his three non-actors to tell the story. It is easy to get so caught up in the minimalist approach that you mistake this for a documentary on the subject. Not even the familiar presence of Kenneth Branagh as the official in charge of the heinous reassignment program breaks the spell. Beautiful, sadly breathtaking, and full of real emotion. — **tt clinkscals** (Rated PG.)

CityBeat grade: A.

King of the Yellow Brick Road

DiCaprio's charm provides plenty of laughs in *Catch Me If You Can*

REVIEW BY STEVE RAMOS

There's one primary reason why Leonardo DiCaprio constantly finds his picture in the papers and his life the topic of gossip columns. He's charismatic, engaging and chock-full of spirit.

Basically, DiCaprio is larger than life in a golden-age movie star kind of way, and his acting peers, both on and off screen, look tiny by comparison. He has gusto, and the same thing can be said for teen-age con man Frank W. Abagnale, who passed himself off as an airline pilot, a doctor and a lawyer while cashing over \$2.5 million in forged checks before his 21st birthday.

DiCaprio is gaining plenty of attention for his role as a gang leader in the period epic *Gangs of New York*, but his performance as Abagnale in *Catch Me If You Can* is better. DiCaprio is completely convincing as the cocksure Abagnale, despite the fact that he's 10 years older. His boyish face is put to perfect use.

Abagnale is a tailor-made role for DiCaprio, and his jokey swagger is the driving force behind director Steven Spielberg's breezy road comedy. DiCaprio's smooth-talking charm is the source of many of the film's laughs. He's funny, so much so that I think he should put drama temporarily aside for screen comedy.

In one of the film's funniest scenes, Abagnale sidesteps his main adversary, FBI Agent Carl Hanratty (Tom Hanks), by impersonating a Pan Am pilot and strutting through the Miami airport with a crowd of pretty stewardesses on each arm. You can sense the playfulness in Abagnale's eyes, despite his clunky aviator sunglasses. He's putting his life on the line and having a great time doing it.

Catch Me If You Can is the second film from Spielberg this year, and it's worlds apart from his dark science fiction thriller *Minority Report*. In fact, *Catch Me If You Can* is the most spontaneous and funniest film he's ever made.

Minority Report, like Spielberg's futuristic Pinocchio tale *A.I.*, challenges audiences with ethical and philosophical questions. But *Catch Me If You Can* has a simpler goal — to make audiences laugh. *Catch Me If You Can* is not some Spielberg epic like *Saving Private Ryan* or *Schindler's List*, and it's a better film for it.

Based on Abagnale's memoir, *Catch Me If You Can* follows the escapades of its teen-age rogue as he crisscrosses the United States forging checks and reinventing himself. Abagnale is on a roller coaster ride of pretty women and luxurious living, and he doesn't know how to get off or whether he wants to.

Christopher Walken flashes plenty of charm as Abagnale's father. He's visibly impressed by his son's con-artist ways, and the scenes with Walken, especially one where he shares his secret for smooth talking the ladies, are some of the film's best.

Veteran French actress Natalie Bay adds a streak of heartache to the film as Abagnale's mother. Martin Sheen delivers some big laughs as a conservative New Orleans

District Attorney whose daughter Brenda (Amy Adams) falls in love with Abagnale.

Adams makes the most of her supporting role as Abagnale's fiancée. She's believably innocent, and her naïveté brings out a different side to Abagnale's character. She makes Brenda more than window-dressing, and that's quite an accomplishment.

Hanks is dry and solemn as a workaholic FBI agent. He plays the straight man to DiCaprio's charismatic womanizer. He's the second banana, and his deadpan humor is well suited for the role.

Hanks showed his serious side earlier this year playing a mob enforcer in the Depression-era drama *Road to Perdition*, but his *Catch Me If You Can* performance is just as satisfying. He makes good use of his round face and eagle-eyed stare. He even brings some subtle changes to Hanratty, slowly shifting him from Abagnale's adversary to an unexpected friend.

DiCaprio stumbled in his previous performance as an American traveler in search of paradise in director Danny Boyle's 2000 drama *The Beach*. He's surprisingly straightforward in *Gangs of New York*, failing to bring the zest that his 1860s gang leader character requires.

In *Catch Me If You Can*, DiCaprio runs with the recklessness of a young kid, and it's a pleasure to watch. His boyish face, soft shoulders and blonde hair give him the appearance of a teen-ager. More importantly, he possesses the confident swagger of one.

DiCaprio's comic spark rises to the surface when he's conning female bank tellers and hospital nurses. Early in the film, in one of its funniest scenes, Abagnale reverses a nervous day at a new school by pretending to be a substitute teacher.

In *Gangs of New York*, DiCaprio plays matters mature and complex, but at heart he's still just a rambunctious kid. In *Catch Me If You Can*, he gets to play the boy adventurer, and the result is the truer performance.

Catch Me If You Can has all the subtle details and technical polish you expect from a master like Spielberg. John Williams' cocktail lounge score adds to the film's bouncy feel. Janusz Kaminski's photography brings a colorful oomph to the film's 1960s setting.

My one problem with the film lies in its storytelling. Spielberg is too much the humanist to let *Catch Me If You Can* rely solely on its laughs. He keeps returning to Abagnale's emotional need to reunite his parents.

The film's family drama pales next to Abagnale's clever scams. It's as if Spielberg isn't content with simply entertaining audiences — he also wants to teach them some life lessons no matter how contrived they might be.

Still, I laughed out loud frequently watching *Catch Me If You Can*, and that's something I don't do enough at the movies. It proves that Spielberg has a sizable funny bone, and that's not to be taken lightly.

CityBeat Grade: B.



ZEN AND THE ART OF DVDS

Die Nibelungen

Unrated
1924, Kino

If there's a precursor to director Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, the second installment of his elaborate *Rings* trilogy, it's director Fritz Lang's 1924 two-part medieval tale *Die Nibelungen*. Based on the Nordic Siegfried myth, *Die Nibelungen* was a mainstream epic targeted at mass audiences and proved to be a worldwide hit despite protests from Germany's left-wing community over the film's nationalist leanings.

The Nazis used *Die Nibelungen* as a tool for propaganda during its re-release in 1933, and it provides a valuable outlook on the culture that allowed Hitler's rise to power. A step away from its political subtext, *Die Nibelungen* remains a spectacular epic whose elaborate sets and camera effects hold up today.

Like the *Rings* trilogy, Lang used the best special effects available at the time and enjoyed a massive 31-week shooting schedule. Helped by his screenwriter wife Thea von Harbou, he adapted the epic poem into a tale of honor and blood sacrifice. The hero Siegfried (Paul Richter) must win a bride for his brother, King Gunther (Theodor Loos), in order to win the hand of the beautiful Kriemhild (Margarete Schoen). Betrayals and murder bring about Siegfried's downfall, and it's up to Kriemhild to seek revenge.

In one of the film's most dazzling scenes, Alberich, the guardian of the Nibelungen treasure, taunts Siegfried with images of wealth projected on the wall of Alberich's underworld cave. Siegfried reaches out to the treasure, despite the fact that he understands it can't be real. The same thing is true for the film's initial audiences, who were bedazzled by its trick effects.

Kino's stunning restoration of *Die Nibelungen*, restored on two discs with a photo gallery of production sketches and 100 minutes of additional footage unseen by Western audiences, represents the best potential of the DVD phenomenon. The DVD release brings some much-needed attention to Lang, who became one of Germany's most famous directors in the 1920s, escaped from the Nazis and struggled to reinvent himself in Hollywood. With the exception of *Metropolis*, Lang's silent films are obscure.

It's unclear exactly where the DVD revolution will or should lead us in terms of what we watch. Hopefully, other long-ago classics like *Die Nibelungen* will be made available to the public.

Blockbuster releases like *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial* and *Signs* attract the most attention and shelf space at the video rental shops. Kids movies like *Hey Arnold! The Movie*, based on the popular Nickelodeon cartoon show, or *The Country Bears*, a live-action comedy based on a popular Walt Disney World attraction, also grab a sizable piece of the video spotlight.

Classic movies like director Sidney Lumet's cop drama *Serpico* and director Billy Wilder's Hollywood noir *Sunset Boulevard* recently enjoyed their DVD debuts alongside cult favorites like the vampire thriller *Near Dark*. Little-seen art-house fare like *Angela*, director Rebecca Miller's 1995 drama about a 10-year old girl trying to escape her harsh family life, discover a second life on DVD. Boxed sets including entire seasons of recent TV shows like *Once and Again* and *Felicity* and cult series like *Space: 1999* and *Thunderbirds*. The artistic potential of the DVD format is best revealed in *1 Giant Leap*, a compilation of musical and spoken word performances filmed in 25 different locations in 20 different countries around the world.

The most exciting prospect is the DVD format acting as film preservationist. This is the case with *Die Nibelungen*. It's a welcome chance to own a film that really matters.

Die Nibelungen CityBeat grade: A.

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HARRY POTTER 11:25, 2:55, 6:25

HOT CHICK 7:25, 10:00, (12:15)

LORD OF THE RINGS 11:00, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:45, 3:50, 4:30, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 8:15, 8:45, 10:15, (11:15)

MAID IN MANHATTAN 12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 7:40, 9:50, 10:10, (12:10, 12:35)

PINOCCHIO 11:45, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30, (11:55)

SANTA CLAUSE 2 11:35, 2:00, 4:25

STAR TREK 10:35, 1:20, 4:00, 6:50, 9:35, (12:05)

TREASURE PLANET 11:55, 2:05

TWO WEEKS NOTICE 11:50, 12:20, 2:25, 3:10, 4:50, 5:40, 7:20, 8:05, 9:55, 10:30, (12:20)

WILD THORNBERRYS 10:30, 10:55, 12:35, 1:10, 2:50, 3:20, 4:55, 5:30, 7:05

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8 MILE 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 9:50, (12:00)

DRUMLINE 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, (12:00)

EMPEROR'S CLUB 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30, (11:50)

FRIDAY AFTER NEXT 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, (11:30)

GHOST SHIP 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50, (11:50)

I SPY 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50, (11:55)

JACKASS 7:55, 9:55, (11:55)

SIGNS 2:15, 5:00, 7:20, 9:35, (11:50)

SOLARIS 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50, (11:55)

SPY KIDS 2 1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45, (11:50)

STUART LITTLE 2 1:30, 3:25, 5:20, 7:15, 9:10, (11:05)

SWEET HOME ALABAMA 2:15, 5:00, 7:25, 9:40, (11:55)

VEGGIE TALES 1:25, 3:20, 5:15

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CATCH ME IF YOU CAN 12:45, 3:45, 6:50, 9:45

HARRY POTTER 11:20, 3:00

HOT CHICK 9:35

LORD OF THE RINGS 11:00, 2:45, 6:30, 10:00

MAID IN MANHATTAN 12:15, 2:40, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50

MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 11:10, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40

STAR TREK 6:40, 9:30

TWO WEEKS NOTICE 12:10, 2:35, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55

WILD THORNBERRYS 10:45, 12:40, 2:50, 4:55, 7:10

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CATCH ME IF YOU CAN 12:45, 1:15, 3:50, 4:15, 6:45, 7:20, 9:45, 10:15, (12:30)

DIE ANOTHER DAY 9:15, (12:00)

HARRY POTTER 11:30, 3:00, 6:35

LORD OF THE RINGS 11:00, 12:00, 2:40, 3:40, 6:25, 7:30, 10:10, (11:15)

MAID IN MANHATTAN 11:40, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:00, (12:25)

PINOCCHIO 11:50, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30, (11:50)

SANTA CLAUSE 2 11:15, 1:40

STAR TREK 4:05, 6:55, 9:40, (12:10)

THE RING 9:55, (12:15)

TWO WEEKS NOTICE 12:10, 2:30, 5:10, 7:45, 10:05, (12:20)

WILD THORNBERRYS 10:30, 12:35, 2:50, 5:00, 7:05

FILM LISTINGS

★ is CityBeat staff's stamp of approval.



GANGS OF NEW YORK — It's man (Gangs of New York) against mythical creatures (The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers) in two year-end film epics competing for audiences' attention, and man wins hands down. Scorsese's sprawling American epic focuses on the Lower Manhattan neighborhood of Five Points. On-screen, Leonardo DiCaprio's hero Amsterdam Vallon pales next to Daniel Day-Lewis's villain William Cutting. In fact, Day-Lewis' fiery performance is the main reason to see the film. — Steve Ramos →

CAPSULE REVIEWS AND SUMMARIES BY TT CLINKSCALES, RODGER PILLE AND STEVE RAMOS

8 MILE — (Grade: C) A lulling screenplay sabotages the big-screen debut from rapper Marshall "Eminem" Mathers III. In *8 Mile*, Jimmy "Rabbit" Smith uses Rap as a way to escape his life a trailer park punk. Brittany Murphy wiggles and jiggles as the pretty girl who believes in Jimmy's talent. What Murphy fails to provide is a dramatic counterpart to Eminem's pent-up anger and youthful rebellion. Kim Basinger shrieks her way through her performance as Jimmy's unemployed mother. Mehki Phifer is the best thing about *8 Mile*, playing the friend who pushes Jimmy to pursue his Rap career. Eminem has more than enough charisma for an acting career. What he needs is a credible drama. The irony is that screenwriter Scott Silver based *8 Mile* on Eminem's own story. — SR (Rated R.)

★ 8 WOMEN — (Grade: A) Director Francois Ozon unites eight of France's leading actresses — including Catherine Deneuve, Isabelle Huppert, Emmanuelle Béart, Virginia Ledoyen and Fanny Ardant — for *8 Women*, a lively, laugh-out-loud whodunit inspired by classic MGM musicals. Ozon's script (adapted from a 1960s crime play) is pure Agatha Christie. The matriarch Gaby (Deneuve) is preparing to spend Christmas at her estate with her daughters (Ledoyen and Ludvine Sagnier), her complaining sister (Huppert) and her absentee husband. *8 Women* jolts into action after the husband is discovered murdered in his bedroom. *8 Women* offers only routine suspense. Of course, its greatest joys are the song-and-dance numbers performed by its cast. When Ardant performs a jazzy number inspired by Rita Hayworth's performance in *Gilda*, it's impossible not to smile. — SR (Rated PG-13.)

ANALYZE THAT — (Grade: C) Mobster Paul Vitti (Robert De Niro) not only cry, but also sing a medley of *West Side Story* songs in *Analyze That*. The sequel to the 1999 comedy *Analyze This* reunites the cast and director Harold Ramis back for dysfunctional family therapy. Vitti fakes insanity after repeated attempts on his life in prison and he is released into the care of Dr. Ben Sobel (Billy Crystal). There are laughs as Vitti attempts to become a productive member of society and Sobel again gets entangled with the "reformed" mob boss. By the film's finish, its lackluster story leaves you searching for a climactic punch line. *Analyze* all you want, but the effective chemistry between Crystal and De Niro only goes so far. — RP (Rated R.)

★ BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE — (Grade: B) Documentary filmmaker and expert muckraker Michael Moore connects a series of interviews and TV news footage into a passionate and scathing expose about America's obsession with firearms. The student shootings at Colorado's Columbine High School is the focal point for Moore's film *Bowling for Columbine* but its best scene belongs to a tense interview between Moore and National Rifle Association head Charlton Heston.

Moore's travels throughout the United States and Canada include lively visits to a Michigan bank that gives away guns with new accounts and an interview with organic farmer James Nichols, a friend of the Oklahoma City terrorist Timothy McVeigh. Moore is basically pickflicking in *Bowling for Columbine*, but it's some of the most entertaining and thoughtful pickflicking you'll ever see. — SR (Rated R.)

DIE ANOTHER DAY — (Grade: C) Early in *Die Another Day*, the latest James Bond adventure, the iconic British spy appears unshaven, dirty and beaten. There's not a tuxedo in sight, and you get the impression that director Lee Tamahori wants to shake up actor Pierce Brosnan

and the sleepy Bond franchise. But a familiar formula remains Bond's greatest nemesis, and it's not long before *Die Another Day* slips into another comic book plot about a crazed mastermind holding the world hostage thanks to a deadly new weapon. *Die Another Day* delivers more thrills than a recent action dud like *I Spy*, but with the exception of Halle Berry's performance as the spy, Jinx, *Die Another Day* is riddled with stunts, characters and plot twists that have become familiar Bond clichés. — SR (Rated PG-13.)

★ DRUMLINE — (Grade: B) Screenwriters Tina Gordon Chism and Shawn Schepps' tale of a Harlem drummer (Nick Cannon), who travels to a prestigious Georgia college in order to play in their marching band, is a rare surprise in a season filled with sequels, familiar faces and overdone plots. Nick Cannon is strong-willed and charismatic as an egotistical drummer who comes of age during his freshman year at college. Zoe Ljajcic is his girlfriend who wants to study dance despite the objections of her parents. Orlando Jones shines in a rare dramatic role, as the band's director who has to balance his artistic integrity with the wants of the university's alumni. Their stories come together neatly in a climactic band contest that deftly balances old-fashioned drama, youthful pizzazz and credibility. — SR (Rated PG-13.)

THE EMPEROR'S CLUB — (Grade: D) There is no better delivery boy for well-intentioned hokum than the likable Kevin Kline. In director Michael Hoffman's adaptation of Ethan Canin's short story "The Palace Thief," Kline gives an earnest performance as a classics professor at a boy's prep school struggling to teach his students good morals. Unfortunately, Kline's believable role is quickly swallowed by screenwriter Neil Tolkin's trite story. *The Emperor's Club* is a follow-the-noble-teacher drama that's predictable to the point of annoyance. Emile Hirsch is the best thing about this sugary film, playing an affluent troublemaker who disrupts the school until Kline reaches out to him during a school-wide academic contest. Hirsch's character is the one clever bit in a movie that's formulaic drivel. — SR (Rated PG-13.)

EMPIRE — (Grade: F) In writer/director Franco Reyes' *Empire*, cocky drug dealer Victor Rosa (John Leguizamo) has a hard time recounting his career switch from the drug trade to high finance. Victor also has a hard time figuring out when he's getting played by the Wall Street slickster Jack (Peter Sarsgaard) and his all-too-obvious femme fatale Trish (Denise Richards) or his Columbian supplier Joanna Menendez (Isabella Rossellini) and her brother Rafael (Nestor Serrano). Basically, Victor's not smart enough to tell his own story, and it's certainly not as complex a story as he thinks it is. In *Empire*, his debut film, Reyes appears to be striving for gangster noir with a distinct Latin flavor, but the film looks dim and amateurish. Just like Victor. — ttc (Rated R.)

★ FAR FROM HEAVEN — (Grade: A) Its heartfelt story makes *Far From Heaven* more than a paint-by-numbers homage to 1950s Douglas Sirk melodramas. Dennis Quaid gives a realistic performance as the secretive husband. Moore is rock solid as Cathy, the wife determined to maintain her family's status quo. Dennis Haysbert, as the gardener who befriends Cathy, delivers the film's most satisfying performance. Cinematographer Edward Lachman re-creates 1950s suburbia with dazzling beauty, but Haynes keeps the film focused on its storytelling. Moore has teamed with Haynes before, playing a sickly housewife battling toxins in the film *Safe*. Her performance in *Safe* was powerful, but her work in *Far From Heaven* is close to perfection. Moore uses the period clothes, hairstyles and rigid dialogue as a launching pad for something rich and unforgettable. — SR (Rated PG-13.)

FRIDA — (Grade: C) While Salma Hayek captures an airbrushed approximation of Frida Kahlo, director Julie Taymor (*Titus*) supplies *Frida* with a sense of true artistic vision. Several imaginative set pieces, such as those surrounding the bus accident, which severely disables Kahlo, have a creative energy that connects the painful reality of Kahlo's life into the body of her artwork. Unfortunately, the physical trauma and the emotional anguish of her marriage to the adulterous muralist Diego Rivera (Alfred Molina) fails to register through Hayek's performance. *Frida* benefits from the supporting work of Molina, Geoffrey Rush as Leon Trotsky, and Roger Rees as Frida's father Guillermo Kahlo. At the film's center, Hayek only strikes poses and turns the story into a static, and ultimately rather ordinary, portrait. — ttc (Rated R.)

→ **GANGS OF NEW YORK** — (Grade: B) Director Martin Scorsese's sprawling period drama, *Gangs of New York*, is a story of gang leaders battling to make their bloody imprint on 1863 New York City. *Gangs* has its share of disappointments but I'm eager to watch it a second time. Its story follows the battle between an upstart gang leader, Amsterdam Vallon (Leonardo DiCaprio), and Five Points' longstanding kingpin, William "Bill the Butcher" Cutting (Daniel Day-Lewis). DiCaprio is getting all the attention as the scrappy Vallon, but *Gangs* ultimately belongs to Day-Lewis. With a thick mustache and a worn top hat, Day-Lewis brings the Butcher to life with a high-wire act of creepy charisma and hot-tempered violence. He packs more than enough gusto to match *Gangs*' detailed street life. — SR (Rated R.)

HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS — (Grade: C) At the risk of being turned into a Cornish pixie, I'm just not entertained by the *Harry Potter* film series. The sequel *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, which follows Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) during his sophomore year at Hogwarts, is another meandering story. The art direction alone almost makes the two-and-a-half hours worthwhile, but director Chris Columbus still seems more interested in filming every detail from the book than in telling a great story. I guess if you build those enormous, elaborate sets, you'd want to film every inch of them. The on-screen talent still do well, creating characters that stand out from the colorful backgrounds. If only the story line could do the same. — RP (Rated PG.)

THE HOT CHICK — (Grade: F) Let's put this in perspective: When I sat through *Dude, Where's My Car?* last year, I did find myself laughing a couple times. In *The Hot Chick*, not once. That really says something when a film can't manage one funny or inventive moment in its 100-minute running time. The loose plot revolves around Rob Schneider's dude body-swapping with some sexy women, the sub-genre that produced '80s fluff such as *Like Father, Like Son* and *Vice Versa*. Here's a hint: when you're stealing from Kirk Cameron and Judge Reinhold, you know you're in trouble. — RP (Rated PG-13.)

★ INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE — (Grade: B) Until Harrison Ford reprises his role as globe-trotting archaeologist Indiana Jones — something that's beginning to look more and more likely — director Steven Spielberg's likable 1989 adventure will serve as the latest Indiana Jones tale. Written by George Lucas and Philip Kaufman, *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* pairs Ford with Sean Connery as Jones' archeologist father, Professor Henry Jones. The father-and-son adventurers are after the Holy Grail. That is, if they can beat the Nazis to the punch. — SR (Rated PG-13.)

★ INTO THE DEEP — (Grade: A) A screen that's six stories high by eight stories wide plunges audiences into an undersea forest of kelp that sways and teams with far more life than could be imagined in still photos or in other televised media. Two huge projectors achieve the 3D effect. And thanks to Newport IMAX Theaters' stadium seating, the images stream along above the heads of those in front of you. Curiously, as the beautifully exotic ecosystem expands before your eyes, the sensation is similar to being suspended in a deep-sea diving tank with your face pressed close to the glass. It may take supreme exertion of will power to not reach out to touch the fish or plant life that passes before you. Submit to the visual pleasures first. The commentary can be informative, but *Into The Deep* is, foremost, a feast for the eyes. — ttc (Unrated.)

★ JANE GOODALL'S WILD CHIMPANZEES — (Grade: B) An OMNIMAX update on the 1990 National Geographic documentary *Jane Goodall: My Life with the Chimpanzees* complements the story of Goodall's career as a researcher at the Gombe National Park in Tanzania with beautiful footage, vibrant colors and spell-binding images of the African landscape. Archival footage shows Goodall being sent to Africa by Dr. Leakey in 1960 at age 26. She stayed there for three decades. *Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees* is the most subtle of OMNIMAX films. Because it has an engaging story that's equal to its widescreen photography, there is no need for dizzy

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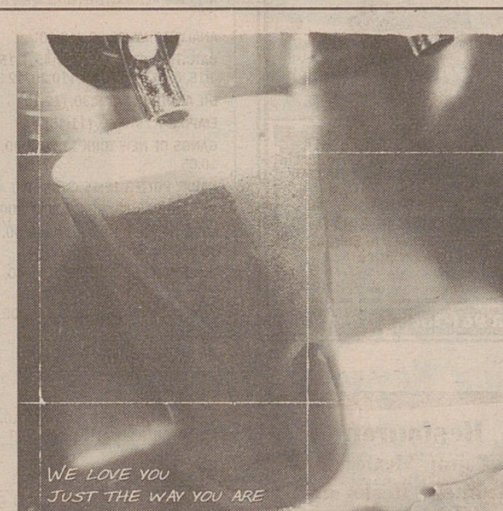
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camera work with Goodall in the picture. — SR (Unrated.)

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS — (Grade: C) The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers, director Peter Jackson's second installment of his adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's Rings trilogy, packs half the spark of its exciting predecessor, *The Fellowship of the Ring*, despite a climactic showdown between warring armies at a mountain-side fortress, Helms Deep. *The Two Towers* picks up where its previous installment finished. The hobbit Frodo Baggins (Elijah Wood) and the rest of the Fellowship continue on their mission to destroy the Ring of power. The Fellowship is split up, causing *The Two Towers* to lose its spirit of camaraderie. Jackson uses every special effect imaginable to wow audiences, and the battle spectacle he creates is breathtaking. Still, the film is more solemn than any fantasy has the right to be. — SR (Rated PG-13.)

MAID IN MANHATTAN — (Grade: D) A sugary Christmas present to moviegoers is *Maid in Manhattan*, director Wayne Wang's comic romance that tells a Cinderella story about Marisa Ventura (Jennifer Lopez), a housekeeper at a plush Manhattan hotel. Happenstance involving a guest's designer clothes pushes Marisa into an accidental encounter with a wealthy Senate candidate, Christopher Marshall, played by Ralph Fiennes. Of course, it's love at first sight. It's the type of timeless rich boy/poor girl story that's been seen before. Yet, when Fiennes looks into Lopez's eyes and kisses her passionately, you're left with a sinking feeling in your stomach. There isn't one spark between them. Lopez is warm and likable but *Maid in Manhattan* is the type of cloying romantic comedy that quickly gets on one's nerves. — SR (Rated PG-13.)

★ MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING — (Grade: A) Forget the standard boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl back premise. How about girl meets boy, they fall in love, and boy meets girl's family. That director Joe Zwick ends *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* with a wedding is no surprise. The surprise will come if Hollywood can avoid prostituting this well-made, boisterous indie film about the marriage of two cultures. When unassuming Greek girl Toula (Nia Vardalos) meets the very non-Greek Ian (John Corbett), you know it's love. The laughs ensue as he will do whatever it takes to make not just Toula, but her large, boisterous family, happy. — ttc (Rated PG.)

★ REAL WOMEN HAVE CURVES — (Grade: A) Patricia Cardoso's breezy and engaging adaptation of Josefina Lopez's play, *Real Women Have Curves* tells the likable story of Ana (America Ferrera), a Mexican-American high school girl who wants to leave her East Los Angeles home to attend college in New York City. Ana's English teacher believes she has the talent to succeed at college but Ana's critical mother Carmen (Lupita Nyong'o) isn't convinced. *Real Women Have Curves* is a celebration of Latino culture. It's also a tale about family and self-identity. More importantly, its universal themes are just as relevant outside the Latino community. — SR (Rated PG-13.)

THE RING — (Grade: C) Director Gore Verbinski's adaptation of the 1998 Japanese film *The Ring* offers an interesting version of the urban legend. A cursed videotape kills its viewers seven days after they view it. At least that's the theory of a Seattle reporter (Naomi Watts) out to find the real story. As an

encore to her performance in last year's *Mulholland Drive*, Watts' earnest scream queen performance in *The Ring* is something of a letdown. The film's true star is the tape itself, which Verbinski portrays with a mesmerizing, avant-garde mix of stark images and blurry photography. Verbinski saves the best scare for late into the film, when the cursed spirit behind the tape finally makes itself known. Unfortunately, the ghost's appearance is too brief to be satisfying. — SR (Rated PG-13.)

THE SANTA CLAUSE 2 — (Grade: D) There is more holiday magic in one line of *The Night Before Christmas* than all of director Michael Lembeck's cluttered comedy *The Santa Clause 2*. Tim Allen is likable enough as Scott Calvin, the absentee dad who's become the latest choice in a long line of Santa Clauses. Elizabeth Mitchell plays the woman Calvin targets as someone worthy to be Mrs. Clause. But Allen's easy-going nature can't boost a lulling plot that has Calvin needing to marry by Christmas Eve in order to remain Santa. The film's funniest performances belong to David Krumholtz and Spencer Breslin as Santa's top elves. They're the one burst of joy in an otherwise spiritless film. — SR (Rated G.)

★ SOLARIS — (Grade: A) One question surrounds director Steven Soderbergh's glossy remake of Andrei Tarkovsky's 1972 film, *Solaris*. Why would Soderbergh attempt to remake a film masterpiece from the most revered and influential Soviet filmmaker? The soulful reasons behind his *Solaris* remake belong to Soderbergh and his muse, but the beautiful results are available to everyone. While shorter and more straightforward, the update remains true to the story's humanistic characters and passionate sense of spirituality thanks to an approachable lead performance from George Clooney. *Solaris* is Soderbergh's most audacious surprise yet, a daring remake of a beloved film that, at first glance, looks too complicated for the Hollywood system. Then again, Soderbergh seemingly has become an expert at knocking down commercial constraints. — SR (Rated PG-13.)

★ STANDING IN THE SHADOWS OF MOTOWN — (Grade: B) Director Paul Justman's *Standing in the Shadows of Motown* is based on Allan Slutsky's same-titled book about Motown bass player James Jamerson. The documentary uses Jamerson's story as the launching point to revisit the surviving members of the Funk Brothers, the largely unknown session musicians behind the Motown hits. The film is a collection of stories and it is the director's responsibility to make audiences forget what's missing, which in this case, is any new insight into Motown founder Berry Gordy. Obviously Justman wanted his film to celebrate the Funk Brothers rather than vilify their employer. Despite the great musical treasures from a reunion concert in Detroit, *Standing in the Shadows of Motown* is orderly instead of truly coming to life. — SR (Rated PG.)

STAR TREK: NEMESIS — (Grade: C) The tagline "A Generation's Final Journey...Begins!" would have audiences believe that *Star Trek: Nemesis* is a climactic send-off. The adventure story focuses on Shinzon (Tom Hardy), a renegade warrior intent on taking over the Romulan Empire who also happens to be a clone of Captain Jean-Luc Picard (Patrick Stewart). Then there's a subplot involving a discovered precursor to Lt. Commander Data (Brent Spiner). All these double characters allow for a lot of talk about humanity, which is a hallmark of the *Star Trek* universe, but there's something missing: The rest of the crew. This journey, directed by

Stuart Baird (*U.S. Marshals*), is a two-man voyage. The faces and bodies are present, but almost none of the personalities. — ttc (Rated PG-13.)

★ TREASURE PLANET — (Grade: B) Directors Ron Clements and John Musker tweak Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel into a unique animated adventure. *Treasure Planet* may tell a familiar story but its inventive mix of Tall Ships and outer space travel give Stevenson's beloved characters an energetic boost. Following a map for hidden treasure, young Jim Hawkins (voice of Gordon Levitt) joins a spaceship crew and quickly befriends its cook, Long John Silver (voice of Brian Murray), a half-robot/half-man who has a few surprises up his robot arm. The spaceship's feline captain (voice of Emma Thompson) is a welcome twist on what's normally a boyhood tale. Silver's friendship with Hawkins is heartfelt and believable, making *Treasure Planet* as rollicking an adventure as Disney's 2001 animated film *Atlantis*. — SR (Rated PG.)

TWO WEEKS NOTICE — (Grade: C) Am I the only person who would like to see the movie about the lives of characters in romantic comedies after the formulaic cute meetings, simple-minded bits of misdirection, and the oh-so-startling proclamations of true love? It takes about a year of working for rich boob George Wade (Hugh Grant) before Lucy Kelson (Sandra Bullock), a granola-crunchy, Harvard-educated lawyer realizes that she has fallen in love with him. Of course, by this time, she has given her two weeks notice and even found an ambitious replacement (Alicia Witt). Bollock and Grant have perfected the quirky staples of the genre, but I am far more interested in the *War of the Roses* style battle that seems inevitable. I bet that's where the fun begins. — ttc (Rated PG-13.)

★ WHITE OLEANDER — (Grade: B) Director Peter Kosminsky's *White Oleander*, as engaging a melodrama as you're likely to see, stars Michelle Pfeiffer, Renée Zellweger, Robin Wright Penn and newcomer Alison Lohman in a story about Astrid (Lohman), a teenage girl who struggles through foster homes and shelters after her mother (Pfeiffer) is sent to prison on murder charges. Wright Penn flashes trashy clothes and a Southern drawl as a born-again Christian who takes Astrid into her dysfunctional home. Zellweger brings the film some much-needed levity as an insecure actress who becomes Astrid's second foster mother. Pfeiffer's cold beauty matches perfectly with her role as Astrid's self-obsessed mother. Still, the film's best performance belongs to Lohman, who equals Pfeiffer in a gripping mother-daughter confrontation at the end of the film. — SR (Rated PG-13.)

★ THE WILD THORNBERRYS MOVIE — (Grade: B) What *The Wild Thornberrys Movie* lacks in visual artistry it more than makes up for in storytelling sass. Eliza Thornberry (voice of Lacey Chabert), the 12-year-old girl who can talk to and understand animals, her nature documentary parents (voices of Tim Curry and Brenda Blethyn) and her bratty teen-age sister (voice of Marisa Tomei) all share the rough-hewn characteristics we've come to expect from Nickelodeon cable TV network cartoons. While Eliza lacks the colorful polish of a Disney heroine, her courage and tenacious belief in environmental causes makes her a likable kid heroine. Directors Jeff McGrath and Cathy Malkasian keep the storytelling swift, balancing a drama about African poachers with plenty of slapstick humor. — SR (Rated PG.)

LEO VS. LEO: FROM PAGE 33

was 18 years old.

"How he engaged people was much more important to me. How he was able to make you feel calm around him was more important to me. You talk about a great actor. He (Abagnale) had that gift. He was a great actor."

Most other actors who compare with DiCaprio's dramatic strengths are decidedly older. Scorsese compares DiCaprio with DeNiro, and I don't think anyone would disagree.

If one wants to find a combination of All-American good looks and depth, Nick Nolte springs to mind. As far as actors who are closer to DiCaprio's own age, Jude Law and Johnny Depp are his dramatic equals. That's not the case with newfound action heroes Matt Damon and Ben Affleck. As far as the

rest of the rising male crop is concerned, like Freddie Prinze Jr. and Ashton Kutcher, DiCaprio shares little in common. Like Al Pacino and DeNiro, DiCaprio looks like someone who's in the business for the long haul.

Scorsese calls DiCaprio a great film actor. Spielberg describes his work in *Catch Me If You Can* as brilliant.

The characters continue to get more interesting. He reunites with Scorsese for *The Aviator*, based on the life of Howard Hughes. His next project is *Alexander the Great*, with Luhrmann directing. His roles keep getting more interesting. DiCaprio holds our attention, and it doesn't matter what he's wearing or how he looks. Now that's something no gossip columnist would ever print.

Diner

Digesting the Year

Several pleasant recollections of dining in 2002

Although they spend lots of time checking out the area's many new and interesting dining establishments for *CityBeat* readers, our restaurant writers have favorites of their own — some based on meals, some on the company they kept. Here are four glimpses into some of their fond memories from 2002.

Claddagh Irish Pub

A meal at Claddagh is nearly always memorable, though perhaps not for the reasons you'd expect. Yes, the barkeep will draw your "pint of plain" in the time-honored manner of the old sod;

THE YEAR



IN REVIEW

the Guinness is tapped using the two-part pour method to assure a perfect head. And yes, the fish-and-chips here are the real deal, a heaping platter of cod fillets coated in a Bass Ale batter served with a dry cabbage slaw (no sugar, no mayo as in its American cousin, cole slaw).

But what distinguishes Claddagh — comfortably nestled on the riverbank at Newport on the Levee — from its Celtic brethren in town is the speed of service.

At the Dubliner, Nicholson's, Crooked Nail Pub, Jack Quinn's and Pub at Rookwood Mews, you'll find equally tempting pub fare, but don't look for a fast meal. "Erin go slow," is the motto of most leisurely taverns. Whenever we stroll in Claddagh, however, be it for a Bushmill's and a pound of steamed black mussels or a pint and a half order of Fish & Chips (\$8.95 for the half; don't even attempt the full order by yourself), we're in, we're out in 45 minutes.

The pub defers to the American palate with its hearty Shepherd's Pie — it's ground beef, not ground lamb, slopped amid the savory melee of potatoes, peas, onion and gravy — but the serving remains delicious and massive, stretching to three meals easily (making its \$10.95 price tag easier to swallow). And we'd return again and again for the Full Irish Breakfast (\$8.95), two Scotch eggs with rasher bacon.

The pub is replete with nooks and crannies, isolated booths and book-lined dining areas. The boisterous central stone room is noisier, but cheerful nonetheless. And the outdoor patio has a wonderful view across to Cincinnati.

The central downside at Claddagh Irish Pub is also the upside: The plates are heaping and enormous, bigger than the petite tables. Plenty of food to go around, just precious little space left on your table for a fork, napkin or 20-ounce pint.



PHOTO: DAVID WASINGER

Newport's Claddagh is distinguished from its Irish brethren by its speed of service.

No room for a pint? A tragic state of affairs, indeed. — FELIX WINTERNITZ

The National Exemplar

One of my favorite meals of 2002 was with my brother and his two teen-age sons, age 17 and 13, at Mariemont's National Exemplar. We sat in the corner where we could survey the room, which was packed and noisy. My older nephew told his brother, "I think it's safe to say you're the youngest person here." There's always a preponderance of gray hair in that place.

The best part of going to dinner with my family is listening to their comments about what's going on around them. At one point my brother whispered about the retreating waiter, "It looks like somebody just kissed that guy. Like he had lipstick on his mouth." (The waiter, kissed or un-kissed, was great. Exemplar service is always exemplary.)

The younger of the boys joked about ordering the "petite fill-eet," but ended up getting the regular filet mignon. The older, who's economy-conscious, got pork loin and mentally calculated the price of each bite. "I reckon this bite here costs about 75 cents," he'd say ruminatively, skewering a luscious-looking morsel on his fork. We also discussed wine: My brother got a dry Chardonnay, and the boys wanted to know what "dry" wine meant. When we told them, they looked skeptical.

When it came time for dessert, the younger boy, who's adventurous about food, chose the heretofore alien mousse, which he ended up loving. My brother and his other son shared cheesecake, son insisting that Dad eat the slice's

"point," the tenderest bite.

An adolescent contretemps erupted as we left. It's been my experience that you don't spend more than an hour with teen-age brothers without some kind of argument.

I enjoy restaurants most when I can experience my nephews' curiosity about and wry reactions to them. They're stern but good-natured commentators. Their evaluations, while irreverent, are frequently gracious and always hilarious. They've been refreshing people to be around since babyhood, and although they've become strapping young men now, *that* quality about them — at least — hasn't changed.

— SIAN GIBBY

Aralia

One of my fondest dining memories from this year is one of the simplest. A childhood friend pulled into town on a rainy afternoon, and we decided to lunch at her favorite area restaurant, Aralia, recently relocated to Loveland from its former downtown location.

Similar to Indian, Aralia's Sri Lankan cuisine is exotic, with rich curries, but a lighter, island flair. There are lots of vegetarian options and some fusion twists. Sauces are flavorful without turning your taste buds (or stomach) upside down. And ingredients are fresh and never overcooked — my most frequent complaint about Indian food.

On our visit, owner and chef, Triset de Fonseka, seated us, took our order, retreated to the kitchen to prepare the food and reemerged

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citybeat.com

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993 restaurants

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Bar Louie

NEWPORT

New Year's Eve GRAND OPENING

Tuesday, December 31st

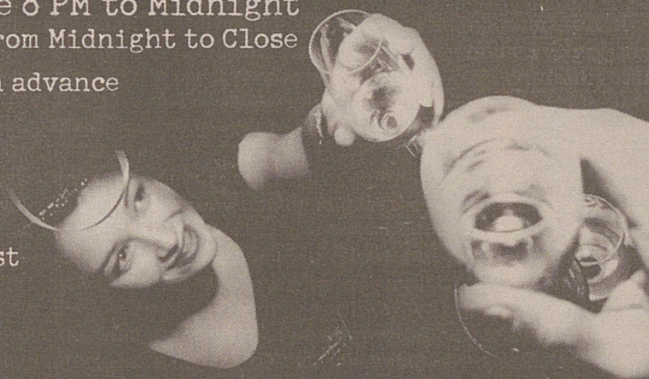
Party Package 8 PM to Midnight
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RESTAURANT LISTINGS

Compiled from *CityBeat's* 2001 and 2002 restaurant reviews and "Best of Cincinnati 2002" picks, these capsules are listed by area of town. Menus and times are subject to change. Also included are markets, shops and takeout places we've written about. Review dates, reviewers' initials and "Best of" awards are listed as well. If you have any questions or comments, contact Rick Pender at *CityBeat*, 811 Race St., Fifth Floor, Cincinnati, OH 45202. Phone: 513-665-4700. Fax: 513-665-4369. Don't forget to check out the Fall 2002 Dining Guide online at www.citybeat.com and the restaurant section of our "Best of Cincinnati" Web site at www.bestofcincinnati.com

PRICING GUIDE

\$ = Inexpensive (entrées \$6 and under).
\$\$ = Reasonable (\$7-\$13).
\$\$\$ = Moderate (\$14-\$20).
\$\$\$\$ = Expensive (\$21 and over).

PAYMENT GUIDE

AC = All credit cards accepted.
SC = Some credit cards accepted.
AP = All forms of payment accepted.
CA = Checks accepted.
LC = Local checks only.
CO = Cash only.
NC = Credit cards not accepted.

CENTRAL

BOCA — If you went to Boca before September 2001, you need to go again. New owner/chef David Falk's skills are clearly apparent from the time you enter the trendy Tuscan revival. A couple of must list starters are the Seared Hudson Valley Foie Gras and the Grilled Diver Caught Sea Scallops. A succulent entrée surprise is the Grilled Ahi Tuna. It arrives in a large soup plate and features slices of rare fish fanned over kimchi. Some of the other entrées include Fresh Tagliatelle Pasta, Chicken Breast and Grilled Salmon. Desserts change regularly with a few standards, such as the chocolate lovers favorite, Boca Negra. (LM, 02-14-02) Tuesday-Thursday 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday 5:30 p.m.-10 p.m. 4034 Hamilton Ave., Northside. 513-542-2022. (\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$, SC)

DOWNTOWN

BARRELHOUSE BREWING CO. — Even after last year's riots and the subsequent downturn in many Over-the-Rhine businesses, folks still turn out to BarrelHouse for two reasons: live music and excellent beer. Brewmaster Rick DeBar has developed many award-winning

brews, including the Hocking Hills Hefeweizen, a traditional unfiltered German Weisse beer, and the RedLegg Ale. Although the menu has changed somewhat over the years, pub grub favorites are still standard. For a safe bet, stick with the gourmet pizzas — BBQ Chicken Pizza or the Mediterranean Pizza. Vegetarian choices include several pizzas, calzones or quesadillas. Winner of "Best Brewpub." 11 a.m.-2:30 a.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 4 p.m.-2:30 a.m. Sunday; closed Monday. 22 E. 12th St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-421-BEER. (\$-\$\$, AC)

EAST

DAYBREAK — The majority of Daybreak's substantial menu is breakfast items — omelets, egg specialty dishes, pancakes, waffles and French toast, crêpes and a few heart-healthy selections. Six sandwiches and five salads round out the fare. Daybreak's food is hot and delicious: The skillet is a house specialty of potatoes, andouille sausage, onions, eggs sunny-side up and melted cheddar and jack cheese, while the omelet is bursting with fresh-wilted spinach, mushrooms, onions, black olives, feta and the best part: roasted red pepper coulis. Both are served with potatoes and an English muffin. (DC, 10-10-2002) 7 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday-Sunday. 3816 Paxton Ave., Hyde Park. 513-871-4400. (\$-\$\$, SC)

ZIP'S CAFE — Stop by this neighborhood haunt to watch the beloved Zip train go around the Mount Lookout wall mural. Then stay to enjoy the traditional Zip Burger. It's still as perfect as ever, with all the fixings and condiments on the side, served with famous Shoestring French Fries. For hearty eaters, try the Girth Burger that's topped with a grilled mettwurst. Soups and salads are also offered. For dessert there are Snickers ice cream bars. Winner of "Best Burgers." 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Tuesday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. 1036 Delta Ave., Mount Lookout. 513-871-9876. (\$, SC)

NORTH

BLAKE'S SEAFOOD GRILL — Formerly the swanky Hyde Park Grille steakhouse, Blake's has undertaken a daunting task: providing the freshest seafood possible to discerning customers far from either ocean, in a posh but unimposing setting. Their array of choices is frankly dazzling. Clams, lobster, fresh and fried oysters, Chilean sea bass, shrimp, squid ... you name it, practically. Blake's is an ambitious restaurant that endeavors to provide excellent food and a comfortable, unpretentious fine dining experience. By and large, they succeed. (SG, 10-3-2002) 4:30-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 4:30-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 4-8:30 p.m. Sunday. 3159 Montgomery Road, Loveland. 513-697-0800. (\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$, SC)

TAVO'S GRILLE — This Hamilton eatery features an eclectic menu and a welcoming atmosphere. The headlining portions of Tavo's dishes are creative, but the side ingredients are lacking — a little more variety and spice would help. Nevertheless, Tavo's is a fine choice for lunch or dinner if you're in the neighborhood. Of the entrées, the Walnut-Crusted Chicken is tender and flavorful, and the side of mushroom risotto is creamy and thick. Salads are included with entrées, so be sure to order the wonderful House Salad, consisting of field greens, dried cherries, silvered almonds and balsamic vinaigrette. End an evening at Tavo's with a slice of the creamy Vanilla Cheesecake. (EL, 11-27-02) Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; Dinner: 5:30-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 5:30-11 p.m. Friday and 5-11 p.m. Saturday. 345 High St., Hamilton. 513-894-5222. (\$\$\$\$, SC)

NORTHERN KENTUCKY

ANCHOR GRILL — Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Anchor Grill is an essential early morning grub stop after a night of carousing. The menu is classic short-order (breakfast, sandwiches, desserts) and the waitresses will remind you of your aunt Minnie. Winner of "Best 24 Hour Restaurant." Open 24 hours. 438 Pike St., Covington. 859-431-9498. (\$, CO)

DIGESTING THE YEAR: FROM PAGE 39

to present it.

Warming up with hot Ginger Tea, we appeased ourselves on Sweet Potato Soup, roti flatbread and memories, like the time she picked me up and dropped me on my head in third grade. The soup was thick, nutty and lightly spiced. The roti was soft and warm, flavored with coconut milk, green chilies, onions and a spoonful of tart, red ginger chutney.

Our entrées — Sour Fish Curry and All-In-One Jackpot (jackfruit, potatoes and chickpeas) — arrived as nostalgic conversation about drinking goat's milk as children turned to current events, political (defense budgets) and personal (relationships). Both dishes came with thick red curry, basmati rice, lentils and chutney. Flavor combinations were subtle, but thoughtfully composed.

Often used as a vegetarian meat substitute, jackfruit is fibrous and firm, with a faint, citrus-like sweetness that's well-paired with creamy potatoes and starchy chickpeas. Salmon, the fish of the day, was tender, and its richness stood its own under the curry.

I'm not sure which I was tasting more — the food or my friend's familiar face — but both resonated with my cravings that day. I left Aralia with a full belly and a warm heart. — EMILY LIEB

Sensorial Moments

When my editor asked me to choose a favorite dining experience from 2002, I knew immediately I would not be able to limit it to one. For me, the pleasure of dining is a reflective sensation, born from the various

details of place, time and people who make up the setting of the meal — it comes down to sensorial moments.

Like Sunday mornings at Sugar and Spice: hash browns off the griddle and the crisp brown waffle with warm maple syrup next to them; dressed in sloppy clothes, *The New York Times* and a lingering perfume of Saturday night love.

Or the exotic smells and potent aromas that fill my nose when I enter Ambar India Restaurant and the quiet family that makes up most of the staff — dark with enormous, visionary eyes slipping like silhouettes in and out of the kitchen.

Or a rainy afternoon of girlfriends, gossip and Aglamesis' hot fudge sundaes, where the fudge is kept hot in a simmering pot of come-hither smells at the end of the marble counter.

How about biting into a fresh, organic tomato at Findlay Market, with the just-picked taste of its moist, warm flesh in my mouth and juices streaming down my chin?

Or watching Betta DeLuca — with reverence — from our tiny trattoria table at Betta's Italian Cuisine in Mount Lookout. In the kitchen she bends over a large pot of marinara sauce; her body is all meditation in motion as she stirs, the rising steam giving her cheeks the glow of a Naples sun as the sauce bubbles with secret sighs. The pot releases an intense and vigorous breath of garlic, tomatoes, basil and oregano throughout the dining room; and the two of us, sitting in a cozy corner immersed in the warmth and fragrance of the process, quietly shed tears without knowing why. — DONNA COVRETT

attention eaters!

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Arts

Getting the Picture

Contemporary photo show is Kowal's next venture in art

BY DOUG TRAPP

Long before Photoshop software, there was Jerry Uelsmann. He created many of his impeccably-realistic photographic blends in the darkroom years before computers made similar prints a matter of pointing and clicking instead of dodging and burning.

A solid example of his beautiful trickery is an untitled work joining a wall of empty picture frames with a few people walking along a beach. It perfectly aligns two seemingly unrelated pictures into a third image that's obviously impossible but at the same time completely natural. Uelsmann, now 68 and living in Gainesville, Fla., has the imagination of M.C. Escher and the photographic eye of Ansel Adams.

Five of his prints are at the Carl Solway Gallery in Over-the-Rhine (424 Findlay St.) as part of *The Photographic Edge*, an impressive show of contemporary American photographers from a variety of disciplines. Most of the prints are black-and-white, but there are also tapestry-like works on cloth and other more abstract pieces.

Uelsmann's prints alone are enough reason to plan a visit, but they're just the beginning of the 71-piece show on display through Jan. 17.

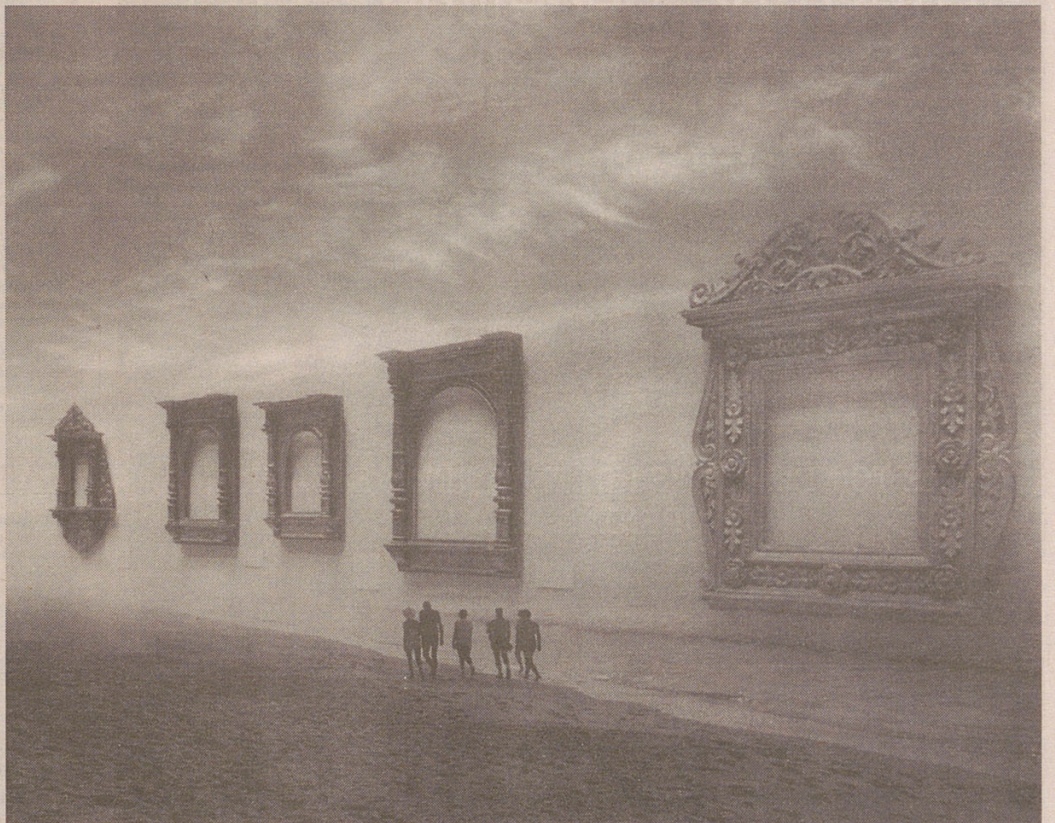
Also imaginative is the work of photographer Suzanne Mitchell. The University of Louisville professor emerita has sculpted and sewn pieces of clothing from prints on heavy-weight paper, plus wood, canvas and other materials. The most impressive of her three pieces in the show is "Este," a turn-of-the-century blouse stitched together from lace and dozens of the same small, dark, difficult-to-read architectural photos. Her work artfully connects clothing, sculpture and photography into pieces that draw the viewer into the Victorian era on a couple of visual levels.

Adding a touch of whimsy is photographer Cynthia Greg. She contributes four large, close-up shots of dollhouse-sized white bowls, broken sunglasses, a magnifying glass and a deck of cards being handled by regular-sized fingers.

Also included are two examples of the documentary work of Eastern Kentucky photographer Shelby Lee Adams; four of Jock Sturges' intimate, sometimes controversial photos of nudists in California and Europe; three of Jack Leigh's elegant landscapes of soupy swamps near Savannah, Ga.; and two of Kenneth Josephson's studies of books.

(Josephson will speak March 27 at 7 p.m. at the Cincinnati Art Museum as part of the Lightborne Contemporary Photography Lecture Series. Some of the artists represented in *The Photographic Edge* have previously spoken in earlier free lectures. That's how show curator Cal Kowal got to know some of the work.)

The Photographic Edge is a debut of sorts



This untitled photo by Jerry Uelsmann is part of *The Photographic Edge*, an impressive collection of contemporary American photography currently on display at Carl Solway Gallery.

for Kowal, recently retired from the Art Academy of Cincinnati. After 31 years of teaching, he's set his sights on a new career as a fine art photography dealer.

"There hasn't been much in Cincinnati with contemporary photography in the gallery scene," Kowal said. "So in a sense I'm trying to bring good things to Cincinnati that most people don't get to see."

One of the bigger names included is Yasuhiro Ishimoto, a graduate of the Chicago School of Design and Kowal's favorite. Three of Ishimoto's 1950s Chicago documentary photographs hang just to the right of the gallery's front door, leading the show.

This show is also designed to provide Kowal a chance to get some dealing experience and give Carl Solway Gallery some new momentum.

Solway — the international art dealer and Kowal's longtime friend — bought the 40,000-square foot, four-story building in 1987 as an office, artists' fabrication studio and gallery. Solway recently sold the building but continues to rent office and storage space.

Internationally-known video artist Nam June Paik and other visiting artists used the Solway fabrication space for years. A stroke six years ago has kept Paik in New York full time.

Solway will probably keep dealing art as long as his body lets him, but with his three sons living outside of Cincinnati, there's doubt surrounding the first-floor gallery.

"We're thinking about keeping this space going," said Kowal, who's put a lot of effort toward attracting photography fans to the show. Opening night went well, but since then getting people to come to the gallery has been a bit of a challenge.

"For many people totally unaware of this area, it's difficult," Kowal said.

Visitors must buzz their way into the building, which is located just west of Central Parkway in a mostly industrial zone. The entrance, however, stands out because it's marked with non-slip stainless steel plates.

With Kowal's work, perhaps the Solway Gallery will fill the gap between smaller, local shows of varying quality and the huge, high-end Cincinnati Art Museum exhibits of photographers such as Weegee and Ansel Adams. I'm rooting for him.

Next on Kowal's agenda for the Solway Gallery is a show of folk art.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EDGE is on view through Jan. 17 at Carl Solway Gallery in Over-the-Rhine.

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CALENDAR LISTINGS

★ *CityBeat* staff's stamp of approval

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Please include a contact name and daytime phone number. Due to space considerations, we cannot guarantee that all submitted information will make it to print.

ART

Holiday wardrobe less than festive? How about some Wearable Art? ➔

OPENINGS & RECEPTIONS

★ CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM

This week's Family Fun Tour makes the *Token Response*, a hands-on tour with touchable objects. 1 p.m. Saturday. Free. ... Art du Jour walks through *Uncommon Legacies: Native American Art from the Peabody Essex Museum*, followed by a delightful lunch in the museum cafe. \$8; \$5 additional admission for nonmembers. ... An exhibit of more than 100 original costume and set drawings from *The Golden Age of Costume and Set Design for Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo* are on display through Jan. 12. ... Continues some *Uncommon Legacies: Native American Art from the Peabody Essex Museum*. A rare showing of more than 120 exemplar works by Native American artists from the Eastern seaboard, Great Lakes regions, Plains/Plateau area, Pacific Northwest and South America's Amazon region. Through Jan. 5. \$8; \$6 for seniors and students; children free. ... Opens *A Window on the Past: Early Native American Dress from the John Painter Collection*. Early masterworks of Native American craftsmanship showcase the talents from the Plains and Woodlands areas. Through March 30. \$8; \$6 for seniors and students; children free. ... Presents *Museum within a Museum: Treasures from the Taft at the Cincinnati Art Museum*, selected artwork from the Taft Museum. Through Jan. 12. ... Japanese printmaker Ay-o works the rain-bow in an exhibit of screen prints. Through March 30. ... Museum hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday-Friday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Wednesday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; noon-6 p.m. Sunday. \$5; \$4 students and seniors; free children 17 and under; free on Saturday. Special exhibit prices vary. 953 Eden Park Drive, Mount Adams. 513-721-ARTS. www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org.

THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE — Dayton's hippest social event returns with *A Black and White New Year's Eve!* Includes a casino, silent auction, music, buffet-style spread and a conclusive toast at midnight. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Wednesday night. \$100 each ticket; \$85 for members. Call 937-223-5277 for reservations. ... Turns your critical eye to Clement Greenberg: *A Critic's Collection*. Guides

you through post-painterly abstraction with a broad range of mid-century American paintings and sculptures by artists such as Jackson Pollack, Jules Olitsky and Larry Poons. Witness the critic's opinionated views and special relationships within the arts communities. Through Jan. 5. ... Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily; open Thursdays until 9 p.m. 456 Belmonte Park North, Dayton, Ohio. 937-223-3140 or www.daytonartinstitute.org.

PENDLETON ART CENTER — It's ... another Final Friday! Browse through the eight floors of artists' studios while enjoying wine, finger food and friends; just don't confuse the three. Featured artists include painter Fabienne Christenson and photographer Cathy Baker. 6-10 p.m. Friday. ... Catch a second glance of the studios from noon-4 p.m. at Second Look Saturday. Free. ... 1310 Pendleton St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-559-3958, ext. 1257.

GALLERIES & EXHIBITS

537 GALLERY — Presents the paintings of Lucas Meyers, whose work goes from tradition landscapes to abstract forms with equal aplomb. Through Feb. 7. Hours: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 537 E. Pete Rose Way, Downtown. 513-481-3743.

ALLEY SHOP — Histoplasmosis stole Rosie Petrou's sight but not her vision in her first one-woman multimedia show of landscapes, still-lives and imaginary images. Through Dec. 31. Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 4628 Paddock Road, Reading. 513-242-5400.

ART ACADEMY OF CINCINNATI — Art Academy undergraduates submitted small works for the 2002 Juried Student Exhibition; see who takes the cake in *Grab Bag*. Through Jan. 3, 2003. Hours: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 951 Eden Park Drive, Mount Adams. 513-562-8777, 800-323-5692 or www.artacademy.edu.

THE ARTERY — It's a good sign when you can hear the *Click*. Exploratory photographic works by Matt Albritton, Terry Bond, Thomas Condon, Peter Griga, Shannon Smith, Matt Steffen and more. Through Jan. 5, 2003. Hours: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, Friday; noon-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 913 Monmouth St., Newport. 859-431-8151 or www.newportartery.org.

ART ON SYMMES — Now open, the studios, gift shop and gallery feature more than 50 artists including Sue St. John, Sandy Mauldin, Steve Perucca, Linda Mc Coy and the 13-year-old Alex Lesler. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Saturday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday-Friday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday, 1000 Symmes Road, Fairfield. 513-844-2787.

AURORA BOREALIS ART GALLERY

— Regularly houses work from Tristate artists, such as whimsical pottery by Susan McConnell and representations of North American waterfowl by William Zimmerman. Gallery hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 109 Third St., Aurora, Ind. 812-926-0117.

BASE GALLERY — Announces *The Greatest Show on Earth*. Charcoal and pastel images by Lionel Cortez Hill Sr. of cultural, natural and portraiture themes present a pleasant viewing experience. Through Dec. 31. Gallery hours: noon-5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday, 1227 Main St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-721-BASE.

BLACKBIRD STUDIOS — Changing exhibits of paintings, works on paper and mixed media by Merle Rosen are on regular display. By appointment only, 2523 Essex Place, Walnut Hills. 513-681-2477.

BOWMAN'S FRAMING AND FINE ART — Displays a celebration of watercolors by Cynthia Kukla. Through Dec. 31. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday; and by appointment. Free. 103 N. Ft. Thomas Ave., Fort Thomas. 859-781-2233.

BROWNINGS OF WYOMING — Hosts an ongoing show of original artworks by a variety of artists. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, 1424 Springfield Pike, Wyoming. 513-821-7079.

BROWNSTONE GALLERY — Holds the *Holiday Art Show 2002*. This show includes prints and artwork from resident artist Joel Thompson, Black American collectibles and works by local renowned African-Americans. Through Dec. 31. Hours: by appointment only, 848 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Hills. 513-221-5591.

CARL SOLWAY GALLERY, INC. — Has extended the duration of *The Photographic Edge*, including images from Les Krims, Robert Stiegler, Jock Sturges and Barry Andersen in a show curated by Cal Cowal. Through Jan. 17. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; or by appointment, 424 Findlay St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-621-0069.

CHIC BEAUTY STUDIO — Diva Joyce Gibson presents a rotating exhibit of the artwork of Bishop Cool. Galerie Chic, 1401 Woodland St., Roselawn. 513-821-DIVA.

CINCINNATI ART GALLERIES — Looks at Cincinnati painters from 1850 to present-day in *Panorama XVII*. Henry Farny, Charles Meurer, Charles Kaelin, Dixie Selden and Bessie Wessel are some of the bunch. Through Jan. 21. Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, 225 E. Sixth St., Downtown. 513-381-2128.

CLOSSON'S ART GALLERY — Celebrates French holiday events with art from Paul Vivien and John Stobart, maritime artist. Through Jan. 31, 2002. ... Surprise a special someone with *Holiday Small Treasures*, paintings and prints starting at \$50. Through Jan. 31, 2003. ... Americana sculptor and Colorado cowboy artist Fritz White's *The Spirit of America*. Through Dec. 31. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 401 Race St., Downtown. 513-762-5510.

THE COMET — Central Kentucky print-maker Stephanie Potter displays recent prints. Through Dec. 31. Hours: 4 p.m.-2:30 a.m. daily, 4579 Hamilton Ave., Northside. 513-541-8900.

DAYTON CONVENTION CENTER — Miami Valley Cooperative Gallery proudly presents the *Annual Group Exhibition*, a tribute to pioneering Dayton artist the late Lillian G. Lamden. Features Yasue Sakaoka, John Koepnick and Jon Graubarth. Takes place at both the Downtown YMCA at Monument Ave. at Wilkinson St., Downtown and Dayton Convention Center at the corner of Fifth St. and Main St., Downtown Dayton, Ohio. Through Dec. 31. Hours: Downtown YMCA, 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday; Dayton Convention Center, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. For more information call 937-278-2710.

DEOGRACIAS LERMA PHOTOGRAPHY — James McKenna explores the feminine in his photography exhibit, *White Women*. Through Dec. 31. Hours: 1:5 p.m. Thursday-Friday; 1:6 p.m. Saturday; Also by appointment. 1319 Main Street, Over-the-Rhine. 513-305-2585.

DESIGN CONSORTIUM — It's a holiday affair with the landscape paintings of Joanne Sloneker and mixed media abstractionist Nelle Ferrara, jewelry by Patti Rogers and Peggy Greenberg and Paige Krantz's painted furniture. Through Dec. 31. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday, or by appointment. 2012 Madison Road, O' Brynville. 513-321-1800 or www.DesignConsortiumgallery.com.

DESIGNSMITH GALLERY — Presents a new series of work by Douglas Paul Smith in *My Childhood at Present*. Through Dec. 31. Hours: Noon-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 1342 Main St., Downtown. 513-421-1397 or www.designsmithgallery.com.

EINE KLEINE PHOTOGRAPHY — New photo gallery has an ongoing exhibit of black and white landscape/architectural photography by Ron Durham. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-9:30 Friday-Saturday, 610 Main St., Covington. 859-341-4148.

ELEGANCE IN ART — Regularly features more than 50 local artists' works. Hours: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday, 613 Main St., MainStrasse Village, Covington. 513-291-7203.

→ FISH HOUSE ART GALLERY — Skip through Waynesville's historic district for the Fish House's *Wearable Arts and Holiday Show*. Through Dec. 31. Gallery hours: Noon-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sundays, 188 N. Main St., Waynesville. (513) 897-1280 or www.fishhouseart.com.

FLOWERS AND BEYOND — Displays a new exhibit of Robert Geisler's new photographs. Through Jan. 1. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, 118 East 13th St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-421-5004.

GOLDEN RAM GALLERY — Works by Wyoming's Ed Ingold, Cincinnati's Sam Crew and other artists are on permanent display. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Friday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 6810 Miami Ave., Madeira. 513-271-8000.

GOTHIC EDGE — Regularly features Medieval, Renaissance and Celtic fantasy artwork, brass rubbings and tapestries. Hours: 1-11 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday, 602 and 716 Main St., MainStrasse Village, Covington. 859-491-6800.

GTL FINE ART GALLERY — Regularly features the work of African-American artists and poets. Gallery hours: noon-8 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday, 726 McMillan St., Walnut Hills. 513-861-3288.

GREATER CINCINNATI FOUNDATION — Kristina M. Teague and Michelle Disbennett-Jeffreys apply abstract hands in *Seeking a Perfect Balance*. Through December. Hours: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, 200 W. Fourth St., Downtown. 513-241-2880.

HYDE PARK CENTER FOR OLDER ADULTS — Reabelle Edmin's glass mosaic mural "The Spirit of Hyde Park Square" is on permanent display in the Hyde Park Center for Older Adults, 2800 Erie Ave., Hyde Park. 513-321-6816.

INDONESIAN ANTIQUES — Items on display include woodcarvings, teak benches, stone pieces, armoires and artifacts. Noon-4 p.m. daily, 501 Minnesota Ave., East Walnut Hills. 513-961-7321 or 513-321-9705.

ISI MAIN STREET — Goes through the wood with Brian Andreas and *Story People*, a combination of sculptures and prints using recycled and found objects with original stories. Through Dec. 28. Winter hours: noon-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-5 p.m. Saturday; 1-4 p.m. Sunday, 1313 Main St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-260-8434.

JACK WOOD GALLERY — Rare and vintage American and European poster art from the 19th and 20th centuries are on permanent display. Gallery hours: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; and by appointment, 2039 Madison Road, O'Bryonville. 513-321-7077.

KENWOOD TOWNE CENTRE — At A Show of Hands, more than 300 artists represent a selection of holiday items including handcrafted ornaments, Judaica, ceramics, jewelry, blown glass and more. Hours: 10-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 12-6 p.m. Sunday, Kenwood Towne Center, 7875 Montgomery Road, Kenwood. 513-791-7110.

LE MISTRAL FROM PROVENCE — This boutique boasts hand-blown glass, hand-printed linens, pottery and tableware. Hours: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday, 6880 Wooster Pike, Mariemont. 513-271-5600.

MAHATMA — In Carew Tower, Mahatma presents elaborate beadwork from Comanche and Kiowa artist Michelle Red Elk. Through Dec. 31. Hours: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; Noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Carew Tower, 441 Vine St., Downtown. 513-723-1287.

MAINSTRASSE ART COLLABORATIVE — Stroll through several ongoing displays of paintings, jewelry and sculpture by local artists in MainStrasse's art galleries for the Friday Gallery Hops. Gallery hours: 1-4 p.m. Thursday-Monday; by appointment, 636 Main St., Covington. 859-491-6003.

MAIN STREET GALLERY, AUGUSTA — Regularly displays area artists' landscapes in oil, pastel and watercolor, portraits, still-lives and the photography

of Tom Ross. Gallery hours: noon-5 p.m. Thursday-Sunday; noon-8 p.m. Fridays, 116 Main St., Augusta, Ky. 606-756-2261 or www.visitaugusta.net.

MAPLE KNOLL VILLAGE — Bells ring at the holiday group show *Genesis and Generations*, featuring 19 local artists such as Pendleton Studios artist Fabienne Christenson. Through Jan. 13. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, Maple Knoll Village, 11100 Springfield Pike, Springdale. 513-782-2716.

MARITAIN GALLERY — During *Christmas in Loveland*, enjoy an "engendering" exhibit of William Schickel's shescaes, hescaes and elements paintings. ... Also shines through with *Coherent Light*, an ongoing exhibition of photography by Sara Kitchen and Kerry Brown blending nature and landscape imagery with a fine art mentality. Both through Jan. 30. ... Hours: by appointment, Second floor, 200 W. Loveland Ave., Loveland. 513-588-0418 or www.schickelstudios.com.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY ART GALLERIES — Jared Joslin, winner of the William and Dorothy Yeck Award, exhibits recent pictorial narrative paintings along the themes of "modern day saint" and the human psyche in *Passage*. Through Jan. 31. ... The Miami University Annual Young Painters Competition continues in the North Gallery. Through Feb. 3. ... *Wired: Art that Moves* moves on in Gallery 2. Through Jan. 22. ... A study of *Collage*, including Miriam Schapiro and Joseph Cornell, carries on in Gallery 3. Through Jan. 26. ... The Cincinnati School includes Dixie Selden and Henry Mosler in *Captured Moments: The Cincinnati School*. Galleries 4-5. Through March 23. ... Museum hours: noon-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Gallery hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free. 801 S. Patterson Ave., Oxford. 513-529-2232 or www.muohio.edu/artmuseum.

MIDNIGHT MUSE — The new O'Bryonville shop (just opened Nov. 2) offers mystical gifts, including 19th and 20th century art, jewelry, stained glass, candles, books and the like. Hours: noon-9 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 513-533-4301 or www.midnight-muse.com.

MILLER GALLERY — Is pleased to announce the 11th annual holiday show *Objects of Desire XI*, an array of original art objects for giving and collecting. Figurative sculptures by Tiffany Ownbey and Jeri Hollister's ceramics are only a taste. Through Jan. 4. Hours: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 2715 Erie Ave., Hyde Park. 513-871-4420 or www.miller-gallery.com.

MODERN DESIGN GALLERY — Presents *Walk on the Water*, Spanish-influenced paintings by Sonya Eagan Ricard-Brock. Through Dec. 27. Gallery hours: noon-6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 1409 Main St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-723-1097.

PATRICIA WEINER GALLERY — Rings in the *Holiday Exhibition* with recent acquisitions of 19th and 20th century works including John Rettig, Anthony Thieme and Frank Harmon Myers, not to mention several artists from the contemporary collection. Through Jan. 11, 2003. Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; by appointment, 9393 Montgomery Road, Montgomery. 513-791-7717.

PENDLETON ART CENTER — Carouse through eight floors of exemplar



CINCINNATI SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

"(Nick Rose) gives Marley flesh and passion as he gives the audience cause to ache. And to laugh... and to exalt..." - *CityBeat*

"...filled with rich imagination, dramatic surprises and warm holiday spirit." - *Cincinnati Enquirer*

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol

By Tom Mula

Through December 29

Wednesday-Saturday at 7:30pm | Sunday at 2pm

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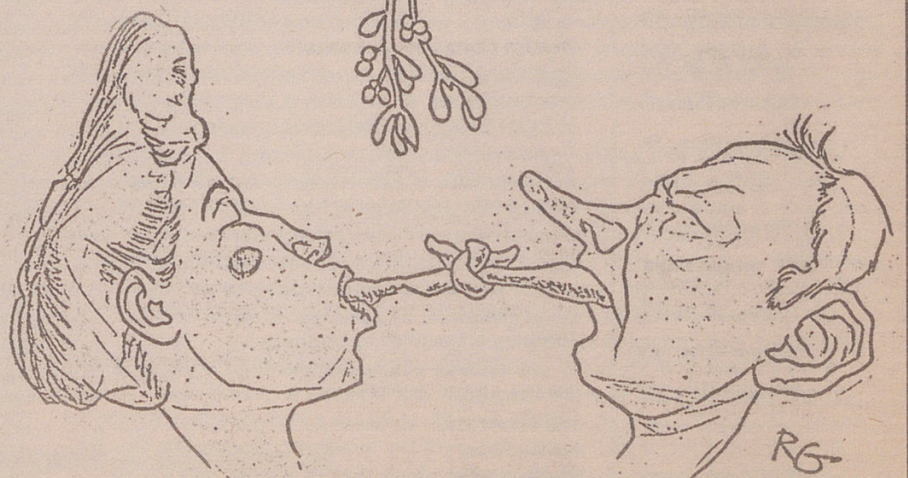
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'TIS THE SEASON...



SAVAGE LOVE, PAGE 53

local art in a studio-collaborative setting. Featured artists include Janet Berg, Eileen Mc Conkey, Charles Ross and Ed Stern. Hours: Call for appointment. 1310 Pendleton St., Over-the-Rhine, 513-559-3958, ext. 1257.

PENDLETON ARTISTS AT TOWER PLACE — Tower Place Mall features *Pendleton Artists*, several works from the Pendleton artists for display and sale through Dec. 31. This show and sale includes work by Sam Crew, Ned Stern, Caren Hebenstreit and Marti Mochabee. Open through Dec. 31. Store hours: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Tower Place Mall at the corner of Fifth St. and Vine St., Downtown. 513-241-0793.

RAYMOND GALLERY AND THE FRAMERY — Renowned Cincinnati editorial cartoonist Jim Borgman prods with original political parodies and Zips comic strips. Through Dec. 30. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday. 3508 Edwards Road in Hyde Park Square, Hyde Park. 513-871-9393.

ROHO PHOTO GALLERY — Looks at *Age and the Spirit*, photographs by Andrea Millette and David Baxter. Through Feb. 1. Hours: Noon-5 p.m. Saturdays. 1209 Central Ave., Downtown. 513-254-7646 or www.rohophoto.com.

SALLY HUSS GALLERY — Art, prints, apparel, accessories, wallpaper and more by Sally Huss are on permanent display. By appointment only. 2725 Erie Ave., Hyde Park. 513-321-5750.

SEMANICS — Sara Stolar and Seth Myers work through *Conflict & Facade*. Through Dec. 28. Hours: noon-4 p.m. Saturdays. 1107 Harrison Ave., Brighton Corner. 513-651-5460.

SITWELL'S COFFEE HOUSE — Rides the hard edge of Tim Gold's geometric abstractions in *Simply Color*. Through Dec. 31. Hours: 8 a.m.-2 a.m. daily. 324 Ludlow Ave., Clifton. 513-281-7487.

STONEY'S FRAME AND GIFT SHOP — Wildlife artist Christopher Walden's work is an ongoing display. Hours: noon-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday. 328 W. Sixth St., Mainstrasse Village, Covington. 859-655-9571.

SUZANNA TERRILL GALLERY — Brings in the season with a variety of gallery artists and friends in *Small Works of All Kinds*. Through Dec. 28. Gallery hours: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; 1-9 p.m. Final Fridays. 1315 Main St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-665-4500 or e-mail artzan@aol.com.

THE VENICE ART GALLERY — Features an ongoing display of the colorful paintings of Wolfgang Ritschel. Gallery hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; noon-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. 2605 Cincinnati-Brookville Road, Ross Twp. 513-738-5068.

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI CLERMONT GALLERY — Continues *A Season of Color with Perceptions of Home*, a visual celebration of past and present Appalachia. Through Jan. 16, 2003. Hours: 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday; 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday. 4200 Clermont College Drive, Batavia. 513-732-5281.

VINCENT'S ART GALLERY — Regularly features a collection of watercolors, oils, pottery and other media by Cincinnati artists. Hours vary. Steinbach Floral Company, 459 Greenwell Ave., Delhi. 513-922-4400.

WARSAW PROJECT SPACE — Presents *Plots*, a quilted, stapled, mono-printed installation exhibition by Sara Mulhauser. Through Jan. 3, 2003. Gallery hours: noon-2 p.m. Saturday; and by appointment. 3116 Warsaw Ave., Price Hill. 513-652-2349.

WEAVERS' GUILD OF GREATER CINCINNATI — Experience the woven delights of Edie Harper's fiber exhibit. Viewing by appointment only. 4870 Gray Road at Winton Place. 513-591-2500.

*** WESTON ART GALLERY** — Explores *Theories of Public Space* in Don Harvey's site-specific installation showing alongside curator Susan Channing's group exhibition *Connections*. Features Ann Hamilton, Kelly Novak, Malcolm Cochran and Masumi Hayashi to name a few. Through Jan. 18. Hours: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Aronoff Center for the Arts, 650 Walnut St., Downtown. 513-977-4165 or www.cincinnatiarts.org/weston.

WILLOW HOUSE ANTIQUES AND ART GALLERY — A permanent display of watercolors by Judy Sock, oil paintings by Bob Grimes and antique art and frames. Hours: noon-6 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and Sunday; noon-8 p.m. Friday-Saturday. 603 Main St., Mainstrasse Village, Covington. 859-655-9555.

WONDERS GIFTS AND BOOKS — Regularly houses the photography of Ron Durham. Hours: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. 609 Main St., Mainstrasse Village, Covington. 859-261-6545.

XAVIER UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY — Check out the changing exhibits. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. 3800 Victory Pkwy., Evanston. 513-745-3811.

YWCA WOMEN'S ART GALLERY

— Nancy Rudolph is *Bearing Witness to the Human Spirit* in this exhibit of photographs from her own worldwide odysseys. Through March 15. Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. 898 Walnut St., Downtown. 513-361-2127.

YORK STREET CAFE & ART GALLERY — The works of B.B. Hall (aka Betsy Cunningham) are on permanent display throughout the facility. Gallery hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday. 738 York St., Newport. 859-261-9675.

MUSEUMS

* CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER

— Communicates the effects of science and technology while considering our altered perception of physical and metaphoric time with *Loop: Back to the Beginning* featuring sculpture and video works by Carsten Holler, Bruce Nauman and Ugo Rondinone. Through Jan. 5. *Loop* is the last show in the CAC's historic Fifth Street location until it moves *Toward a New CAC* with an ongoing exhibition featuring the architectural musings of Zaha Hadid. ... Center hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. \$3.50; \$2 seniors and students; free Mondays. 115 E. Fifth St., Downtown. 513-345-8400.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

— A time of *Romance and Solitude: American Prints 1900-1941* from the *Theodore C. Rogers Collection* features 45 printed images of joy and melancholy. Through Jan. 26, 2003. ... *Wired: Art that Moves* moves into town with kinetic art changing by mechanical, magnetic, electro-mechanical, electrical systems or chemical reactions. Exhibiting artists include Heinz Mack, Gerhard von Graevenitz, Fletcher Benton and Jim Killy. Through Jan. 22, 2003. ... *Captured Moments: The Cincinnati School* focuses on Cincinnati's role as a major art center in the 1800s and early 1900s. Galleries 4-5. Through March 23, 2003. ... Museum hours: noon-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Gallery hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free. 801 S. Patterson Ave., Oxford. 513-529-2232 or www.muohio.edu/artmuseum.

PYRAMID HILL SCULPTURE PARK AND MUSEUM

— Enjoy art in a natural setting. The Museum features over 40 contemporary sculptures among 265 acres of hills, meadows and forest. ... See *Cincinnati Story* by George Sugerman in its new setting. Hiking trails, lakes and picnic areas are available for family outings. ... Winter hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, weather permitting. Adults \$4; Children \$1.50; Children under 6 free. 1763 Hamilton-Cleves Road., St. Route 128, Hamilton. 513-887-9514 or http://www.pyramidhill.org/.

THE SPEED ART MUSEUM

— Continues with *Millet to Matisse: Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century French Painting* from Kelvingrove Art Gallery, Glasgow, Scotland. Features renowned impressionism and post-impressionist artists including Van Gogh and Georges Seurat. Through Feb. 2, 2003. \$8; \$5 for museum members. ... Get a free digital brochure on their Web site http://www.speedmuseum.org/brochure. ... See Ed Hamilton on the flipside in his exhibit, *From the Other Side*. Through Dec. 29. ... Museum hours: 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Friday; 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday; 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. \$7 adults; \$5 students and seniors; \$3 children. 2035 S. Third St., Louisville. 502-634-2700 or www.speedmuseum.org.

TAFT MUSEUM OF ART

— The Taft Museum is currently closed for renovation and expansion; look for other off-site events at www.taftmuseum.org. William Howard Taft National Historic Site, 2038 Auburn Ave., Clifton. 513-241-0343 ext. 36.

WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

— The Wexner's winter lineup stars *From Pop to Now: Selections from the Sonnabend Collection*. From this Paris/New York collection comes paintings, sculptures and photographs from pop influentials Johns, Rauschenberg, Koons and of course, Warhol. Through Feb. 2, 2003. Wexner Center for the Arts, Belmont Building, 330 West Spring St., Arena District, Columbus. ... Makes some *Notations* in Franz West's ongoing *2Topia* on the Lower Level and Lawrence Weiner's *Until It Is at the Mirror Lake Hollow*. ... The Wexner galleries are currently under construction. ... Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Friday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday; noon-6 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday. \$3; \$2 students, seniors and groups; free on Thursdays, 5-9 p.m. Wexner Center for the Arts, 1871 N. High St., Columbus, Ohio. 614-292-3535 or www.wexarts.org.

ATTRACTIONS

*** CINCINNATI HISTORY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY** — Try a twist to the New Year with "Party Like It's 1859!" See how people would have gotten ready in the 19th century to cele-

brate. 1,2 and 3 p.m. Saturday. ... Learn from members of the Queen City Samplers Guild how girls did needlework with "Samplers: A Learning Experience." 1-4:30 p.m. Saturday. ... "Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin: Inspiring Imagination for 150 Years" is on display. View materials from the collection of Dr. Fritz Dagguillard, consisting of various artifacts, including books, lithographs, objects, posters, music and more. Through March 2. ... On permanent display are the exhibits *Cincinnati Goes to War: A Community Responds to World War II*, *Cincinnati: Settlement to 1860s*, *Silent Testimony: Prehistoric Earthworks of the Ohio Valley* and *Forming a New World: Cincinnati's Machine Tool Industry, 1850-1930*. ... 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. Prices vary according to package. Museum Center at Union Terminal, 1301 Western Ave., West End. 513-287-7000.

* CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER AT UNION TERMINAL

— Join the Museum Center for their annual celebration of trains, "Holiday Junction 2002," in a 2,000 square foot, four level train layout. See model trains wind through tiny villages and tunnels and go around hills and miniature mountains. Through Jan. 1. ... Come for an exhibit and OMNIMAX film focusing on Jane Goodall's life work. The film includes her research from Gombe National Park in Tanzania and an examination of the relationship between humans and primates. Through Feb. 14. ... Join more than one million other museum-goers as they explore the home of the Museum of Natural History & Science, the Cinergy Children's Museum, the Cincinnati History Museum and Cincinnati Historical Society Library, the Robert D. Lindner Family OMNIMAX Theater, the Arts Consortium of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Railroad Club. See individual listings for exhibits and events. Rotunda Tours run every Saturday and Sunday. ... 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. Prices vary according to events and exhibits. Cincinnati Union Terminal, 1301 Western Ave., West End. 513-287-7000 or www.cincymuseum.org.

* CINCINNATI ZOO AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

— Enjoy permanent exhibits like *Monkey Island*, *Lords of the Arctic* and *Insect World*. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily. Adults \$11.50; seniors \$9; children ages 2-12 \$6; parking \$6.50. 3400 Vine St., Avondale. 513-281-4700 or http://www.cincy zoo.org/.

* CINERGY CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

— "Celebrate the Holidays!" by learning about the many different celebrations around the world. 1, 2 and 3 p.m. Friday-Tuesday. ... The ongoing "Super Sprouts!" programs encourage children ages 4 and younger to explore themselves and the world around them. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday and 2-4 p.m. Thursdays. ... "Story Tree Time" captivates your child's imagination with a weekly story. 11 a.m. Wednesdays. ... "The Best of CCM!" traces the fun activities from the past year. 1-2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. ... On permanent display are the exhibits *The Woods*, *Water works*, *Energy Zone*, *Animal Spot*, *Little Sprouts Farm*, *Kids' Town*, *Kids at Work*, *Chapter Crew*, and *Children Just Like Me*. ... 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. Prices vary according to package. Museum Center at Union Terminal, 1301 Western Ave., West End. 513-287-7000.

*** KROHN CONSERVATORY** — One of the largest public greenhouses in existence, the conservatory has a desert, orchid, floral, bonsai, palm and tropical display. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Free; donations accepted. Krohn Conservatory, 950 Eden Park Drive, Mount Adams. 513-421-5707.

* MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY & SCIENCE

— Explore the people, lands, rich cultural history and stories of Africa. The newly installed "Inside Africa" consists of interactive displays, multimedia presentations and African artifacts. ... "Animals in Nature" offers a chance to meet animal specialists and the animals they take care of. 12:30-1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. ... "Bat Aviation" investigates one of the most misunderstood mammals on the planet - bats. 11-11:30 a.m. Mondays-Fridays; noon-12:30 p.m. Saturdays; 1-1:30 p.m. Sundays. ... On permanent display are the exhibits *Cincinnati's Ice Age: Clues Frozen in Time*, *All About You and Pathways to Changes*, *Earth Stories: The working Museum and The Cavern: A World Without Light*. ... 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. Prices vary according to package. Museum Center at Union Terminal, 1301 Western Ave., West End. 513-287-7000.

* NEWPORT AQUARIUM

— The aquarium houses 16 galleries that take you to the far reaches of the world to see a variety of aquatic life. There are nine exhibits: *Surrounded by Sharks*, *Kingdom of Penguins*, *Gator Bayou*, *Jellyfish Gallery*, *The Bizarre & The Beautiful*, *The Dangerous & Deadly*, *Rivers of the World*, *Shore Gallery* and *The Riverbank*. There's also a cafe and gift shop on site. ... 10 a.m.-7 p.m. daily. Adults \$16; seniors

No More Waiting

Beckett's complete plays move from page to screen

BY ALAN SCHEIDT

Samuel Beckett was one of the greatest playwrights of the past century. His works are taught around the world, and his most famous play, *Waiting for Godot*, is frequently produced. Local audiences flocked to an acclaimed Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival production of that venerable classic a few seasons back.

But what about the Irish-born author's other 18 plays?

Though frequently performed in cities like Dublin and Paris, where Beckett settled and wrote, plays other than *Godot* are seldom staged in America. Seasoned theatergoers might come across the occasional production of *Endgame*, but Beckett's works — the most influential and, yes, challenging of his time — have existed almost exclusively on the printed page in the States.

Fortunately that's changed. Thanks to *Beckett on Film*, all 19 of his plays have been turned into tantalizing movies now

available on DVD. The project is the brainchild of Michael Colgan, artistic director of Dublin's Gate Theatre, and was originally produced for Irish television. Nine of the shorter works were presented in September on PBS' *Stage on Screen* series, and *Godot*, directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg, is set to air New Year's Day.

Aside from making all Beckett's plays accessible — perhaps "attainable" is a better word, given the author's penchant for obscurity — *Beckett on Film* is distinctive for the prodigious amount of talent involved. A number of A-list directors, actors and visual artists were tapped for the project. Hot filmmaker Atom Egoyan (*The Sweet Hereafter*) directed John Hurt in *Krapp's Last Tape*, in which a 69-year-old man listens to a tape he made on his 39th birthday. British heavyweights Michael Gambon and David Thewlis squared off in a brilliantly realized *Endgame*. And Oscar-winning director Anthony Minghella (*The English Patient*) placed Alan Rickman, Kristen Scott Thomas and Juliet Stevenson in enormous urns so they become, literally, talking heads in *Play*.

Perhaps the most poignant and powerful of the nine pieces presented in September was *Catastrophe*. This brief play has perplexed me ever since I read it in *The New Yorker* in the early 1980s. (Like most of Beckett's work, it was written in French then translated into English by the author.) In it a director instructs his

female assistant to carefully arrange a catatonic, elderly actor on a stage. Filmmaker David Mamet made menacing sense out of the piece, and the final tableau feels inevitable. Harold Pinter, whose own plays rank with Beckett's, was perfect as the director. As for the poignancy, it should be noted that the silent, manipulated actor was the final screen appearance of John Geilgud.

Although Beckett's plays are the essence of theater, this project makes a strong argument that his works might be better suited for film than stage. Computer-generated special effects

allowed Jeremy Irons to play both a reader and his attentive self in *Ohio Impromptu*. Onstage, of course, the characters are played by two similarly dressed actors.

The camera took the place of spotlights for directing focus in *Play*. And in the 10-second *Breath*, originally written for the show *Oh! Calcutta*, a British installation artist transformed the work into one amazing camera movement that

could only exist on film.

Consider, for instance, *Act Without Words II*. According to Beckett's customarily precise stage directions, his 10-minute mime piece is to "be played on a low and narrow platform at back of stage, violently lit in its entire length, the rest of the stage being in darkness. Frieze effects." Ireland's avant-garde filmmaker Enda Hughes trumped the challenge by merging form with content.

The mechanics of film basically become presences, even characters in the drama. The result is uniquely cinematic but utterly faithful to Beckett.

And therein lies perhaps the greatest success of this venture — fidelity to the writer's vision. Beckett was infamous for insisting productions of his plays follow his dialogue and detailed stage directions (some of the works are all stage directions) verbatim. He was, after all, an artist who actually sued theaters that dared to stray from his exact texts.

Beckett on Film doesn't change a word of the playwright's dialogue, and every stage direction is followed to the letter. Filtered through unique cinematic sensibilities, all 19 works can now be seen as their author intended.

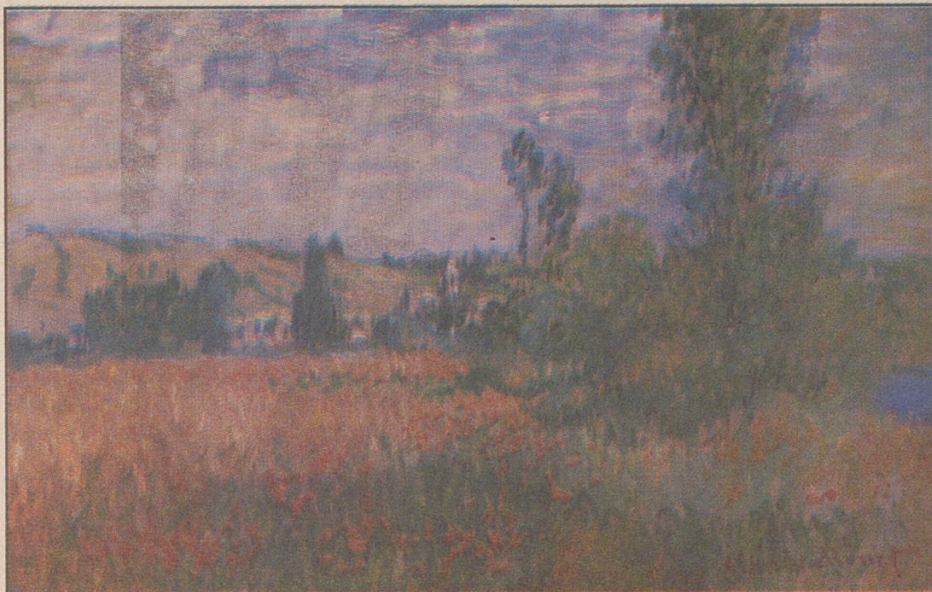
Beckett, I'm sure, would have been pleased.

WAITING FOR GODOT airs on WCET-TV (Channel 48) on Jan. 1 at 9:30 p.m. Information about *Beckett on Film* can be found at www.beckettonfilm.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CSF


Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival produced *Waiting for Godot* in 1999.



Millet to Matisse

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ATTRACTIONS

(65+) \$14; children 3-12 \$10; children under 3 free. One Aquarium Way, Newport. 859-491-FINS or <http://www.newportaquarium.com/>.

ONSTAGE

Who says you have to be royalty to have a Queen's New Year's Eve? →

THEATER

THE BIBLE: THE COMPLETE WORD OF GOD (ABRIDGED) — From "fig leaves to the Final Judgement," Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park presents this condensed and nutty religious journey. Expand your knowledge on 10 other rejected commandments besides the Ten. 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday and Monday-Tuesday; 5 and 9 p.m. Saturday; 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday. Through Dec. 31. \$47-\$39. Thompson Shelterhouse Theatre, Playhouse in the Park, 962 Eden Park Drive, Mount Adams. 513-421-3888 or www.cincyplay.com.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL — Like *It's a Wonderful Life*, but a little darker, with ghosts instead of guardian angels. Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park presents Howard Dailin's adaptation of Dickens' holiday story. 7 p.m. Thursday and Monday; 2 and 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday. Through Dec. 30. \$45-\$33; \$20-\$15 children ages 5-12. Robert S. Marx Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, 962 Mt. Adams Drive, Eden Park. 513-421-3888 or www.cincyplay.com.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL — The Covedale Center for the Performing Arts opens its 2002-'03 season with this new musical take on Dickens' version performed by Cincinnati Young People's Theatre. 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. Through Dec. 29. \$19; \$17.50 students/seniors. Covedale Center for Performing Arts, 4990 Glenway Ave., Covedale. 513-241-6550 or covedalecenter.com.

CONTACT — Addicted to love? Fifth Third Bank Broadway in Cincinnati explores three accounts of modern-day soul(mate)-searching through song and dance, with music ranging from Classical Tchaikovsky to Robert Palmer. 8 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Through Dec. 29. \$60-\$20. Aronoff Center for the Arts, 650 Walnut St., Downtown. 513-214-7469, www.ticketmaster.com or BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com.

THE FANTASTIC TOY SHOPPE — Toys coming to life? Could be scary. The Children's Theatre presents this holiday fantastical musical by David Kisor and Joseph McDonough. 7:30 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Through Dec. 29. \$15; \$12 seniors/children under 12. College of Mt. Saint Joseph's College Theater, 5701 Delhi Road, Delhi. 513-569-8080 or www.thechildrenstheatre.com.

THE FROG PRINCESS — Hooray for inner beauty! The Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati presents this holiday musical fairy tale. 7 p.m. Thursday-Friday; 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. Through Dec. 29. \$28; \$25 students/seniors; \$12 children 12 and under. ETC, 1127 Vine St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-421-3555 or www.cincyetc.com.

HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH — The German, he/she, trailer-park, Rock star wannabe is back, courtesy of the Phoenix Theatre. 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Through Dec. 31. \$22.50; \$10 ages 24 and under. ... The New Year's Eve show will be at 10 p.m., with hors d'oeuvres, a midnight champagne toast and a post-party performance from the band. \$30. ... In the Phoenix Underground (smaller theater), Phoenix Theatre, 749 N. Park Ave., Indianapolis. 317-635-PLAY or www.phoenixtheatre.org.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE — Join George Bailey, his guardian angel Clarence and the town of Bedford Falls just in time for the holidays at LaComedia. 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Thursday and Sunday; 6 p.m. Saturday. Through Dec. 29. \$49-\$35. LaComedia Dinner Theatre, 765 W. Central, Springboro. 800-677-9505.

JACOB MARLEY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL — Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival presents Tom Mula's modern take on the holiday Dickens classic. 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. Through Dec. 29. \$22-\$16. 719 Race St., Downtown. 513-381-BARD or www.cincyshakes.com.

JOEY AND MARIA'S COMEDY ITALIAN WEDDING — A comedic wedding tale involving the antics of a typically wacky Italian family. 7 p.m. Saturdays. Through February. \$49.50 includes dinner. BB Riverboats, One Riverboat Row, Newport. 859-261-8500.

KILLER LAUGHS FOR NEW YEARS

— Murder Mystery Players promise an evening of whodunit comedy to die for. The interactive performance includes hors d'oeuvres, a four-course meal, Dave & Buster's power card and midnight champagne toast. \$130 per couple. Reservations required. Dave & Buster's, 11775 Commons Dr., Springdale. 513-671-5501 or www.mysteryplayers.com.

OVER THE TAVERN — The Phoenix Theatre brings Tom Dudzick's first story in a trilogy of 1950s Catholic upbringing to life. 7:30 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. Through Jan. 12. \$22.50; \$10 ages under 25. Mainstage, Phoenix Theatre, 749 N. Park Ave., Indianapolis. 317-635-PLAY or www.phoenixtheatre.org.

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP — Mayhem & Mystery presents the Mystery Dinner Theatre's interactive Santa Claus crime play. Solve the case for a prize. 6:45 p.m. Monday. \$21.95 includes dinner and show. The Spaghetti Warehouse, 36 W. Fifth St., Dayton, Ohio. 937-461-3913.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

→ **CINCINNATI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION** — John Morris Russell leads the CSO and pianist Michael Chertok in the New Year's Eve Gala Concert and Ball: *The Queen's Jubilee* — *With a Twist*, featuring Elgar's *Variations*, Handel's *Overture to the Royal Fireworks* and selections by Vaughn Williams, Gilbert and Sullivan, Haydn and Holst. Concert: 7:30 p.m.; gala ball: 9:30 p.m. Tuesday. \$55-\$13. Music Hall, 1241 Elm St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-381-3300 or www.cincinnati-symphony.org.

DAYTON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION — Neal Gittleman leads the DPO and the Dayton Opera in the 8th annual Viennese New Year's Eve Concert, featuring a potpourri of orchestral music and operetta excerpts, and including Party favors, a midnight balloon drop and champagne toast. 8 p.m. Tuesday. \$70-\$24. ... Pre-concert dinner: 5:30 p.m. \$40 per person. ... Late night party and dancing: 10:30 p.m. \$140 per couple. ... Memorial Hall, 125 E. First St., Dayton, Ohio. ... 937-224-3521 or www.daytonphilharmonic.com.

MIXED MEDIA

ONSTAGE AMATEUR NIGHT — Audiences are invited to bring their own script or sample one of Emerald Entertainment's selections as they take a chance at becoming a star, or at least winning nifty prizes. 8 p.m. Fridays. \$10 per group; \$5 per person. 2442 Gilbert Ave., Walnut Hills. 513-221-1151.

SHADOWBOX CABARET — Gets in the spirit with *Holiday Hoopla 2002: Naughty and Nice*. 7 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Through Dec. 29. \$25; \$10 students/seniors. Newport on the Levee, Newport. 859-581-ROCK or www.shadowboxcabaret.com.

COMEDY

BELOW THE BELT HUMOR — The Cincinnati Hysterical Society welcomes the new year with *Comedy Countdown 2003*, featuring Steve Caminiti and the Cincinnati Public Theatre (who will perform excerpts from *The Penis Dialogues*). 8 p.m. Tuesday. \$15 admission includes dinner, live music and plenty of laughs (extra undergarments suggested). Bootleg Saloon, 5012 Glenway Ave., Price Hill. 513-251-1641.

GO BANANAS — Laugh 'til you bust a spleen, with Al Lubel. 8:30 p.m. Thursday (College Night). \$5. ... 8:30 and 10:55 p.m. Friday. \$10. ... 8:30 and 10:45 p.m. Saturday. \$12. ... 8:30 p.m. Sunday (Ladies' Night). \$5; \$2 women. ... Spend New Year's Eve with Cincinnati native Drew Hastings, heard on the Bob and Tom show and seen on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. 7:45 and 10:15 p.m. Tuesday. \$15 for the 7:45 show (ages 18 and older); \$50 for the 10:15 show (21 and up), which includes a copy of Hastings' new CD and a little champagne to ring in the new year. Reservations are required. ... 8410 Market Place, Montgomery. Reservations required, so call 513-984-9288 or www.gobananascomedy.com.

JOKERS COMEDY CAFE — Funny man Marvin Todd takes the stage. 8 p.m. Thursday. \$22.95-\$7. ... Mystro Clark joins Todd for some funny festivities 8 and 10:30 p.m. Friday; 7, 9:15 and 11:15 p.m. Saturday; 8 p.m. Sunday. \$27.95-\$7. ... Kick off the new year with Spanky Brown, Sue Bump and Jesse Nutt. 7 and 10 p.m. Tuesday. \$40-\$15; \$220 hotel package per couple. ... 8900 Kingsridge Drive, Dayton, Ohio. 937-433-5233.

KITTY'S COMEDY CLUB — Catches the comedy mouse, whatever that means. 8:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday. \$10. Quality Inn, 10900 New Haven Road, Harrison. 513-894-4003.

WIT'SENDSDAY — Whose line is it anyway? Why, Wit's End and Tower Players share the duties. 9:30 p.m. Wednesday. \$3. York Street Cafe, 738 York St., Newport. 513-922-7131.

EVENTS

Can't find your beige iridescent lipstick? Maybe your dead aunt Hildy can help. →

CANDLELIGHT SINGLES — Local singles are invited twice each week for an evening of dinner and music by candlelight with other single business professionals ages 23-39, 40-50, 51 and up. 7:30-11 p.m. Saturdays; 6:30-10 p.m. Mondays. \$50 per person. Groups meet at various Greater Cincinnati locations. Reservations are required. 513-761-6201 or www.candlelightsingles.com.

FARMER'S MARKET — It's that time again. The Market offers organic produce, baked goods and just about anything you can imagine through the duration of the growing season. 3-7 p.m. each Wednesday. 4100 block of Hamilton Avenue, Northside. 513-591-0083.

→ **GALA MEDIUMSHIP DEMONSTRATION** — The United Spiritualists of the Christ Light put you in contact with deceased loved ones for a night. (Ever seen that one TV show, "Crossing Over?") This is for those of you who would like to know that your loved one has "gone to a better place." 8 p.m. Friday. \$15. The United Spiritualists of the Christ Light Church, 128 E. Broadway, Loveland. 513-683-4926.

PROFMATCHMAKER — Organizes social events for Cincinnati singles via the Web site www.profmachmaker.com. Friday and Saturday evenings. For more information, call 859-581-2229.

HOILDAY

SwinGallery wants you to jump, jive and wail your way into the New Year. →

55TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS NATIVITY DISPLAY — Come and see the life-size nativity scene put on by Comboni Missionaries. 6-9 p.m. daily through Dec. 30. Admission by canned-good donation. Comboni Mission Center, 1318 Nagel Road, Anderson. 513-474-4997 or www.ComboniMissionaries.org.

BOOKS AND CO. — Throughout the season, this bookstore has provided kids' storytimes, live music and book readings. ... Bring your kids for a Kwanzaa story and craft. 11 a.m.-noon Saturday. Free. ... Fellowship Winds bring music to soothe even the most holiday-frazzled soul. Treat your ears to an afternoon of oboe, flute, clarinet, bassoon and French horn. 4-6 p.m. Sunday. Free. ... Books & Co., 350 E. Stroop Road, Kettering. 513-298-6540.

CHRISTMAS SINGLES BALL — Good Shepherd New Visions is a group of folks who want to bring together separated, divorced and widowed men and women. Now they're throwing a party; that means snacks, beer and dancing. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturday. \$10. American Legion Hall, Old State Route 74 at Weiner Lane, Mount Carmel. 513-769-4402.

A CINCINNATI HOLIDAY AT KROHN CONSERVATORY — Come enjoy the festive poinsettias, cyclamen, evergreens and nativity. Hours: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. through Dec. 30; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 31-Jan. 5. Admission by donation. Krohn Conservatory, 1501 Eden Park Drive, Eden Park. 513-352-4080 or www.cinciniparks.org.

CINCINNATI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION — John Morris Russell leads the CSO and pianist Michael Chertok in the New Year's Eve Gala Concert and Ball: *The Queen's Jubilee-With a Twist*, featuring Elgar's *Variations*, Handel's *Overture to the Royal Fireworks* and selections by Vaughn Williams, Gilbert and Sullivan, Haydn and Holst. Concert: 7:30 p.m.; gala ball: 9:30 p.m. Tuesday. \$55-\$13. Music Hall, 1241 Elm St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-381-3300 or www.cincinnati-symphony.org.

EVERY TIME A BELL RINGS — Start off your New Year's Eve with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, then connect the clues and crack the case in Mayhem & Mystery's interactive mystery dinner play. A champagne toast follows the production at midnight to ring in 2003. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. \$149 a couple with 10 drinks; \$80 single with 5 drinks. ... Why not make a night of it? Surprise your sweetie with an overnight package with a deluxe room and a Wednesday brunch. \$250. ...

MORE, PAGE 46



Holiday pleasure!



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CURTAIN CALL

THEATERS, ACTORS, ETC.

BY RICK PENDER

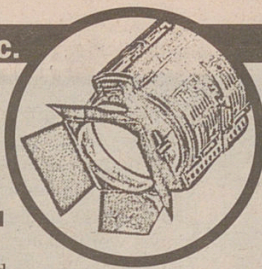
While the common wisdom about 2002 is that it's been a down year in the performing arts — it's surely been a tough year to sell tickets — there's lots of evidence by local theaters that good work and intriguing shows can overcome the trend. During 2002 Cincinnati stages saw works that weren't simply familiar fare. It was a rare chance to see two plays by a contemporary writer, when the **CINCINNATI PLAYHOUSE IN THE PARK** staged Carter Lewis' *Men on the Take*, the 2002 Rosenthal Prize winner, while **ENSEMBLE THEATRE OF CINCINNATI** (ETC) offered the local premiere of his *Women Who Steal*. In September at ETC we saw the first staging outside New York City of Anne Nelson's moving *The Guys*, a tribute to firefighters lost at the World Trade Center. Perhaps the year's most memorable production was Mia McCullough's *Chagrin Falls* by the **CINCINNATI SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL** (CSF). The Chicago premiere of McCullough's powerful play, about an Oklahoma town where death is the principal industry, won the national 2002 M. Elizabeth Osborn Award from the American Theatre Critics Association for an up-and-coming playwright; CSF gave the young playwright's script its second production, earning multiple Cincinnati Entertainment Awards in November for their effort, including the year's best production. Other memorable productions of new works during the past 12 months have included CSF's *The Beard of Avon*, *Jesus Hopped the "A" Train* and *The Gimmick* (which will be reprised in January); ETC's *Cowgirls* and *Syncopation*; Stage First Cincinnati's *Alexander the Great*; and the Cincinnati Playhouse's *Dirty Blonde* and *Barbara's Blue Kitchen*. Even **BROADWAY IN CINCINNATI** has gotten in on the act with a few new shows (as opposed to rereads and revivals): In October the Aronoff Center was one of the first national stops for *The Producers*, 2001 winner of more Tony Awards than any other Broadway musical, and this week we're watching the 2000 Tony winner for best musical, *Contact* (see review, page 48). The year began with an unusual partnership when Broadway in Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Playhouse teamed up to present the national tour of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*, a show some thought would never play in Cincinnati. But its three-week run sold out the Aronoff's Jarson-Kaplan Theater (and warranted a return one-week engagement over the summer in the big hall at the Aronoff) and garnered praise for its frankness and life-affirming attitudes about a generally avoided subject. ... Behind the scenes, several

theaters have struggled this season. **STAGE FIRST CINCINNATI** announced last spring that it would cease operations after four seasons; only when artistic director Nicholas Korn found a last-minute sponsor willing to breathe the organization back to life was he able to assemble a 2002-03 season. Cincinnati

Shakespeare Festival faced an even bigger challenge when its bold 2002-03 season failed to sell enough tickets to sustain operations. In mid-November, CSF announced that its founding artistic director, the energetic and innovative **JASSON MINADAKIS**, will step down at year's end after nine seasons to be replaced by another founder, actor/director **NICK ROSE**. The balance of CSF's commendable and socially relevant season — which was to include *Hamlet* and its Tom Stoppard doppelganger, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*; Martin Sherman's 1980 Tony

winner, the gay-themed *Bent*; and yet another work on racial themes, *In the Blood* by Suzan-Lori Parks (winner of the 2002 Pulitzer Prize) — has been scrapped for more audience-friendly fare, including two comedies by Shakespeare and one by Molière. Rose and his new leadership team have begun to map out CSF's 10th season with an emphasis on classic work and a return to the acting company CSF used in its early days. There's hope that some of the company's former performers will return for guest appearances. ... One other sad result of CSF's difficulties is that top-notch designer **WILL TURBYNE** will leave the staff, although he plans to stay in town and seek other opportunities, including doing some contract work with CSF. His designs for CSF productions have been remarkable, elevating them well above previous amateurish efforts. Turbyne's impact at CSF is comparable to the results **BRIAN C. MEHRING** has achieved in several seasons at ETC, where scenic design was also once a weak point. Mehring's designs (superbly executed by technical director **CHAD G. ENGELMAN**) make ETC's shows a pleasure to watch — from the musty walk-up 1912 dance studio in *Syncopation* to *Cowgirls*' cheesy Country bar to the innovative, multiple-imaged set using computer projections for *Praying for Rain*. The Cincinnati Playhouse is often and appropriately praised for its marvelous sets, but that sizeable theater has substantial resources to work such magic. CSF and ETC have been doing it on meager, shoestring budgets and still making it look excellent — thanks to the brilliance of Turbyne and Mehring.

CONTACT RICK PENDER: rpender@citybeat.com



THE YEAR



Designer Will Turbyne is leaving his full-time position at CSF but will stay in town to work.

PHOTO: JYMI BOLDEN

HOLIDAY

The Hamiltonian Hotel, One Riverfront Plaza, Hamilton. 513-896-6200, ext. 121 or www.mayhemmystery.com.

HILLFOREST HOUSE MUSEUM — See the museum in Victorian holiday décor as you tour the facility for the Victorian Christmas Exhibit, sponsored by American Electric Power of Lawrenceburg, Ind. While you're in the neighborhood, check out Hillforest's Museum Store for everything from old-fashioned toys to jewelry. 1-5 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. Through Dec. 29. Free. Hillforest House Museum, 213 Fifth St., Aurora, Ind. 812-926-0087.

HOLIDAY ART EXHIBIT — The Cincinnati Association for the Blind presents works of art by artists who are blind or visually impaired. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Through Dec. 31. CAB facility, 2045 Gilbert Ave., Walnut Hills. 513-487-4233.

HOLIDAY ART SHOW AT MAPLE KNOLL VILLAGE — *Genesis & Generations*, Maple Knoll Village's Holiday Art show, features the diverse works of 19 local artists and is curated by Daniel Brown. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Maple Knoll's Benevolent Care Fund, which allows them to care for their financially-dependent residents. Through Jan. 13. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Maple Knoll Village, 11100 Springfield Pike, Springdale. 513-782-2400.

HOLIDAY FEST AT THE BEACH — Here's something you and your kids can do for New Year's Eve without having to stay up until 2 a.m. Hit up The Beach Waterpark for an evening of outdoor ice skating, carriage rides, live entertainment, food, a mini train display, a petting zoo and even an early New Year's countdown with a balloon drop. 2-10 p.m. Tuesday. \$6; pass holders and children 5 and under are free. 2590 Waterpark Drive, Mason. 800-886-7946 or www.the-beachwaterpark.com.

HOLIDAY JUNCTION AT THE CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER — Revisit the great trains that once rolled in and out of Union Terminal, in miniature form, of course. This exhibit includes 2,000 square feet and a four-level train display. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. Through Jan. 1. \$6.75; \$5.75 seniors; \$4.75 children. Union Terminal, Cincinnati Museum Center, 1301 Western Ave., West End. 513-287-7000 or www.cincinnati-museum.org.

HOLIDAY TOY TRAINS AT BEHRINGER-CRAWFORD MUSEUM — Bring your children to see this awesome train display setup. There will be 14 interactive stations, which will allow you to operate two of the trains and navigate them around 200 feet of track. While at the museum, children can also enjoy old-fashioned toys and activities in the parlor area. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Through Jan. 5. \$3; \$2 seniors/students; \$8 for family of four. Behringer-Crawford Museum, 1600 Montague Road, Covington. 859-491-4006.

MIDNIGHT AT THE OASIS — Support the Free Store/Food Bank by spending your New Year's amongst live entertainment, dining and drinks. For each couple \$3 will be donated (\$21 worth of food for the area's needy families). \$25 can feed a whole family for a week. You should also bring a couple cans of food to donate to the Free Store. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. \$199 per couple. Oasis Conference Center, 902 Loveland-Miamiville Road, Miami Township/Clermont County. 513-583-8383.

PNC FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS — The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens lights up, this year with more than 2.5 million lights (the most lights at any zoo in the U.S.). It's a twinkling, walking-tour winter wonderland, thanks to PNC. Do some shopping, catch a train, join in on a carol or two and grab a snack. Never ever saw the Northern Lights? Not to worry; you can see them at the Northern Lights laser show. 5-8:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 5-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Through Dec. 30. \$11.50; \$9 seniors; \$6 children 2-12 years old. Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens, 3400 Vine St., Avondale. 513-281-4700 or www.cincyzoos.org.

PYRAMID HILL LIGHTS UP HAMILTON — Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park and Museum's landscape light show just keeps getting bigger and bigger. Proceeds help with the Summer Series for Kids and the Concert Series that takes place during the summer. \$12 per vehicle (of one to eight passengers) Monday-Thursday; \$14 Friday-Saturday. \$24 mini-buses (nine to 16 passengers) Monday-Thursday; \$28 Friday-Saturday. Buses (with 16 to 25 passengers) \$60 Monday-Thursday; \$72 Friday-Saturday. Hours: 6-10 p.m. Sunday-Saturday. Through Jan. 5. 1763 Hamilton-Cleves Road, Hamilton. 513-868-8336 or www.pyramidhill.org.

SHAPE NOTE SINGING — Every year beginning and experts singers come together for this New Year's Day Sing. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday. Free. Walnut Hills Christian Church, 1438 E. McMillan Ave., Walnut Hills. 513-861-1137.

SHARON WOODS HOLIDAY IN LIGHTS — The Alleen Company and Aggreko present this glittery light display throughout Sharon Woods. Bring the fam, a date or group of kindred spirits for a holiday drive-through. 6-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 6-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Through Jan. 5. \$45 vans with 15 or more passengers; \$10 per car Friday-Saturday and holidays; \$8 per car Sunday-Thursday. Sharon Woods, route 42 off I-275 Sharonville exit, Sharonville. 513-769-0393 or www.holidayinlights.com.

SWING IN THE NEW YEAR — Brought to you from the swing scenes of Dayton and Cincinnati, the evening will be full of dancing, snacks and favors, Lee's Junction (a 10-piece big band) and plenty of singles. Don't know how to swing dance? Take a free lesson from SwingGallery. Dressy clothing would be nice. 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Tuesday. \$25 per person; \$20 in advance. College Hill Town Hall, 1805 Larch Ave. 513-290-9022. www.cincyswing.com.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE — The National Park Service wants you to have a holly jolly Victorian Christmas at the birthplace of the 27th U.S. President. 2038 Auburn Ave., Mount Auburn. 513-684-3262 or www.nps.gov/whio.

CLASSES

Beat the winter chill by staying in and studying Merle Rosen's artistic expertise. ➔

ACTORS INTENSIVE — Kirk Baltz and Barry Papick return to give their weekend acting workshop focusing on group and individual exercises. Pre-registration is required. Classes will be Jan. 17-19. \$275 per person. The workshop is held at Xavier University, Edgely Hall, 3800 Victory Pkwy., Avondale. To register, contact saraelizabethtimmins@hotmail.com, or visit actorsintensive@aol.com.

ART ACADEMY COMMUNITY EDUCATION — Drawing, painting, clay sculpture, photography, computer animation and glass blowing are a few of the things that will be available courtesy of the Art Academy's Winter/Spring 2003 class schedule. Classes are held at Eden Park, Mount Adams, French Park, River City Works and The Carnegie Center of Columbia-Tusculum. Prices vary. To register or for more information, call 513-562-8748.

AFRICAN DRUMMING AND DANCING — BiOkoto Drum and Dance Theatre invites you to join in an open drum and dance circle. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays. ... Classes in Nigerian and Ghanaian dance, West African drumming and Yoruba and Akan languages are offered for adults and children on Tuesdays and Saturdays. ... \$10; \$7 children. Columbia Performance Center, 3900 Eastern Ave., Columbia-Tusculum. 513-321-1333 or www.biokoto.com.

ART CLASSES — Gallery 109 offers a variety of art classes for both adults and children. Times and dates vary. 109 Park Place, Covington. 859-261-9109 or visit www.gallery109.com.

ARTS CONSORTIUM FALL CLASSES — Your chance to take classes in dance, visual arts, textile art, music lessons, theatre and photography is now. Through Jan. 28. \$7 registration fee, and instructional fees vary. The Arts Consortium of Cincinnati, 1515 Linn St., West End. 513-381-0645.

ART INSTRUCTION CLASSES IN LOVELAND — The Loveland Art Center provides an outlet for artistic expression from an introduction to art, basic drawing, watercolors, oils, acrylics and more. For ages 5 through adult with a maximum of 10 students per class. Classes start at \$49. 649 Loveland-Madeira Road, Loveland. 513-683-1888. www.lovelandartcenter.com.

BALLROOM AND LATIN DANCE CLASSES — Two ballroom dance classes are offered including Latin dance. Tuesdays 6:15-7 p.m., Jan. 14-Feb. 18, 2003 or Thursdays 1:15-2 p.m., Jan. 16-Feb. 20, 2003. \$40 per person. Arthur Murray Dance Studio, 10792 Montgomery Road, Sycamore Township. Register by Jan. 10 at 513-745-5691.

BUDDHIST CINCINNATI — Weekly insight meditation and discussion group. Beginners welcome. 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays. 4011 Alston St., Oakley. 513-531-6032.

CINCINNATI FOLK DANCERS — Learn line and couple dances from Greece, Serbia, Japan, Israel and more. Beginners are welcome and no partner is needed. 8:10 p.m. Tuesdays. Madisonville Recreation Center, 5320 Stewart Road, Madisonville. 513-533-3699.

CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATER — Dance classes are offered at the CDT, from Hip Hop to Afro-Caribbean to Ballet. Call for prices. Contemporary Dance Theater, 1805 Larch Ave., College Hill. 513-591-1222.

COUNTRYSIDE YMCA DANCE LESSONS — Offers dance lessons for Latin styles, swing dance and traditional classes in foxtrot, waltz and cha-cha. Times and days vary. \$25 member (single); \$45 member (couple); \$30 non-member (single); \$55 non-member (couple). Countryside YMCA, 1699 Deerfield Road, Lebanon. 513-932-1424.

DANCE CLASSES — Take ballet, tap, jazz, Dunham technique and Balinese dance classes. Wyoming Dance Center, 322 Wyoming Ave., Wyoming. 513-948-1900.

DANCE CLASSES AT UNIVERSITY YMCA — Offers a wide variety of dance classes. Beginners' Salsa: 7-8 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays; \$8 per class for six-week session, or \$9 for walk-ins. For information, call Doni Jensen at 513-871-1785. ... Intermediate Salsa: 7-8 p.m. Mondays; 8-9 p.m. Thursdays. \$8. For information, call Nfii Ndikintum at 859-441-3322. ... Walk-ins are welcome. No partner necessary for any class. 270 Calhoun Ave., University of Cincinnati, Clifton.

FRENCH CLASSES — The Alliance Française of Cincinnati is getting ready for their next session of classes for all different levels, children and adults. For more information, call 513-389-9100 or www.france-cincinnati.com.

FREE COMPUTER TRAINING/FREE EDUCATION — All those between the ages of 8-18 are invited to free computer training/education. Enjoy snacks, fun, entertainment and field trips. 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays. ... Youth aerobic/workout session. 5-6 p.m. Thursdays. ... Melrose YMCA, 2840 Melrose Ave., Walnut Hills. 513-731-3227.

GANDEN SAMDRUP-LING MONASTERY — Community center for studies of Tibetan Buddhism and culture presents weekly meditation and dharma discourse. 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Donations requested. 3360 Bishop St., Corryville. 513-961-7110.

HEALING MEDITATION & CHANNELING — Come meditate with us and channel your energies. Offered Tuesday evenings by Rev. Doris Beir, Healing Touch Practitioner. Will accept donations. 3209 Madonna Drive, Edgewood. 859-341-7447.

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE — Learn dances from Turkey, Norway, Romania, Israel, Croatia, Egypt, Germany and more. Open social dancing, teaching for beginners. No partner necessary, visitors welcome. 8-11 p.m. Saturdays. Donations welcome. The Lodge, 4120 Hamilton Ave., Northside. 513-631-8830.

INTERNATIONAL HOLISTIC LIGHT CENTER — Holds weekly lectures on health followed by a meditation session. Registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. \$5 suggested donation. 7015 Miami Ave., Kenwood. 513-272-0202.

KNEADING RELIEF — This is a Partners Pregnancy Massage Class. Bring 3 pillows and a blanket. Class space is limited, so make a reservation. Second Tuesday of each month. \$25. The Art of Birthing Center of Cincinnati, Suite 2, 5945 Ridge Road, Pleasant Ridge. 513-382-6000.

MEDITATION/SAHAJA YOGA — Enjoy the silence within at weekly meditations. 7 p.m. Thursdays. Free. NKY Technical College, Room 102, 799 Thomas More Pkwy., Edgewood. 513-784-2720.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY META-PHYSICAL GROUP — Healing Meditation, Color Therapy and Channeling workshops offered 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Donations preferred. 3209 Madonna Drive, Edgewood. 859-341-7447.

OLD-TIME MUSIC AND DANCE GROUP — Young and old, experienced or beginning dancers are welcome to this weekly social dance club. All dances are taught. 7:30-10 p.m. Mondays. \$3. Church of the Annunciation Annex, 3457 Clifton Ave., Clifton. 513-681-4768.

PAINTING CLASS — All skill levels are welcome. Ages 16 and up. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mondays. \$10 per class. Risch Gallery, 118 N. Fort Thomas Ave., Fort Thomas. 859-441-3838.

SALSA CLASSES — Join instructor Nfii Ndikintum as he guides you into Salsa perfection. Beginning and intermediate classes will be held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Mondays. Advanced classes will be held from 8-9 p.m. on Thursdays. \$7.50 one time cost. Participants must join Corryville Center, 2823 Eden Ave., Corryville. 513-281-0888.

SELF-ESTEEM: A FAMILY AFFAIR — Join Catholic Social Service's eight-week course to help increase your self-esteem and learn about parenting. Registration is due by Wednesday. Classes begin Jan. 8, 2003 from 7:15-9:45 p.m. \$65 per person. St. Peter and Paul Church, 417 Vine St., Reading. 513-241-7745.

"SICK" HOUSE WORKSHOP

Find out if your house is making you sick at a workshop lead by Gene Carroll teaching how to battle mold, dust mites, mildew, asbestos fibers and lead paint. Pre-registration is required. Begins Jan. 7, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. \$19 per person, including a 22 page handout. Miami University-Hamilton, 1601 Peck Blvd., Hamilton. 513-785-3131.

SKILLS ENHANCEMENT CLASS

Prepare now for GED testing or come enhance your English skills. Classes offered 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays or 6-9 p.m. Thursdays. Raymond Walters College, Science and Health Building, Room 100. 513-745-5691.

SOFT TRAINING FOR WOMEN

Learn a common sense approach to sustain fitness and health. 10-11 a.m. Saturdays. Free first class; \$10 each additional class. Call for location. 513-541-5793.

SQUARE DANCE LESSONS

The Hayloft Square Dance Association offers free square and round dance lessons. ... Square dance: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays. ... Round dance: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Mondays. ... A valid Hamilton County Park District Motor Vehicle Permit required to enter the park. \$1 daily; \$3 annual. Parly's Farm, Winton Woods, 10245 Winton Road, Greenhills. 513-863-0612.

STEPNOUT STUDIO

Offers a salsa workshop the last Saturday of each month. ... Beginners: 1:30-3 p.m. ... Intermediate: 4-6:30 p.m. ... Rueda de Casino workshop: 1:30-3 p.m. the last Sunday of each month. Basic Salsa required. ... Walk-ins welcome. \$20. 721 Madison Ave., Covington. To pre-register, call 859-291-2300.

THEATRE CLASSES

Classes in acting, improvisation, dance and directing begin this spring at the Rising Phoenix Theatre Co. For all levels and ages, from young novices to seasoned pros. Registration is required. Call for prices. Rising Phoenix Theatre Co., 4 N. Main St., Middletown. 513-705-0548.

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION FELLOWSHIP

Unaffiliated meeting for practicing and lapsed meditators. Group meditation and discussion of experiences and topics related to personal growth. 7:15-8:45 p.m. Thursdays. Free. Clifton United Methodist Church, 3416 Clifton Ave., Clifton. 513-281-3294.

UNIVERSITY YMCA ART CLASS

All Greater Cincinnati teens are invited to work with Artist-in-Residence Thomas Hieronymus Towhey on oil painting. \$20-6:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays. \$10 monthly. YMCA's Club Art Studio, 270 Calhoun St., Clifton. 513-556-1601.

WEAVING CLASS

Come for some weaving and spinning with the Weavers Guild of Greater Cincinnati. Non-members and members invited to take classes in the evening or during the day. 4870 Gray Road, Winton Place. 513-591-2500. www.geocities.com/weaversguildcincinnati.

→ WINTER DRAWING CLASS

Explore the dimensions of drawing with artist/instructor Merle Rosen. Classes include beginner and intermediate levels. For more information, call 513-681-2477.

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

Victims of sexual assault or domestic violence can now receive free Yoga classes as a means of healing, thanks to Women Helping Women and Carol Haefner, a trained Integrative Yoga Therapist. 5:30-7 p.m. Mondays. Those interested can call the Protect Hotline at 513-872-9259.

WOODCARVING

Beginning and out-of-practice artists of all levels can attend adult workshop studios. Limited enrollment. Pre-registration required. 5:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays. \$30 per month plus materials. City Art Center, 501 E. 13th St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-381-2333.

YMCA DANCE CLASSES

Swing, ballroom and Latin dance classes are offered through three YMCAs: Middletown, Lebanon and Wilmington. Times, days and costs vary. 513-932-3349.

YOGA CLASS

Classes taught for individuals. 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays. \$10 per class plus membership. Butterfield Recreation Center, 22 Garfield Place, Downtown. 513-421-2804.

ZEN PRACTICE

Dae Mun Zen Sangha offers weekly Zen practice. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; 9 a.m. Sundays. Free. Cincinnati Zen Center, 513-684-4216 or www.daemun.org.

GET INVOLVED

ART OPPORTUNITIES

97X COMMUNITY GALLERY AND ARTISAN GROUP

A virtual art gallery of digital art, photography, sculpture, poetry, food and art has opened its doors on the pages of woxy.com. 97X encourages listeners to show and share their works in the gallery. All details are posted on the woxy.com homepage. 513-863-5665 or 513-523-4114 or gallery@woxy.com

ARTSPIKE WEB GALLERY

The new gallery seeks artists who want to display their work on the web (www.artspike.org/gallery/). This will include captions and contact information on albums and pictures. The gallery will also feature local art openings in addition to individual artists. Set-up fee \$25-40. Interested parties should contact ArtSpike Magazine/CincyRing. 513-751-9729.

BASE GALLERY

Looking for diverse new visual artist-members to join the co-op. Initial fees are \$80; monthly fee is \$35 to exhibit on a regular basis. Interested applicants should submit at least 10 photo/slides and a resume or bio to Base Gallery Membership, 1227 Main St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-721-BASE.

CINCINNATI ARTS ASSOCIATION

Accepting entries for their *SchoolTime* and *Artists on Tour* exhibits to be on display next spring in the Aronoff Center for the Arts. Artists in grades K-12 must send 2-D works only, with a size no larger than 14-by-18-inches. Mail entries to: Cincinnati Arts Association, Education Department, 650 Walnut St., Cincinnati OH 45202. For an entry form or more information, call 513-977-4119. Deadline for submissions is May 12, 2003.

DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

Is accepting submissions to be considered for an exhibition in the Regional Artists Gallery. Those interested should submit no more than 10 slides, a slide description list, artist's statement, C.V. and SASE. Send entries to: The Dayton Art Institute, Regional Artists Gallery, c/o Shayna McConville, 456 Belmonte Park North, Dayton, OH 45405. For more information, call 937-223-5277.

FISH HOUSE ART GALLERY

Seeks artists for two upcoming shows: their Holiday show (through Saturday), and their Tea Pot show (Feb.8-March 30). For the Holiday show, artists with original, wearable art are needed. For the Tea Pot show, well, that's self-explanatory, but they don't have to actually be functional. Contact Sharen Eninger at 513-897-1280 or e-mail: eninger@go-concepts.com.

THE GREENWICH

Looking for artists to submit original works in their new exhibition space, "Upstairs at the Greenwich." This space is ideal for two-dimensional works, as it features professional lighting, hardwood floors and white walls. Please send \$10, 10 slides, an artist statement and a SASE if you want slides returned, to: The Greenwich, 2440 Gilbert Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45206. For more information, call Laura Hollis, 859-291-0460.

MODERN DESIGN GALLERY

Looking to give up-and-coming artists an opportunity to display and promote their work at an affordable rate. In return, the gallery asks each artist to participate by helping to expand the gallery's presence in the Over-the-Rhine/Main Street district. For more information, call Cedric Michael Cox at 513-723-1097.

ROSEWOOD GALLERY

Announces a call for exhibition proposals for Rosewood's 2004 season. Work in any type of medium is eligible for consideration. For proposal guidelines, call 937-296-2454, e-mail chris.klinger@ketteringoh.org or write to: Rosewood Gallery, 3600 Shroyer Road, Kettering OH 45429. Deadline for submissions is March 1.

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

BASE GALLERY

Looking for diverse musicians to perform at their Final Friday events. 1227 Main St., Downtown. 513-721-BASE.

CINCINNATI CAMERATA

The group seeks new voices to fill openings in the bass, tenor and alto sections (proficient site-reading and ability to match timbre imperative). Call Christian Miller to arrange an audition, 859-491-2362.

CINCINNATI METROPOLITAN ORCHESTRA

Currently seeking viola, cello and bass players. Contact Kellie Williams at 859-647-9375.

CIRCLE SINGERS

The local adult community chorus is expanding and invites area music lovers to join. All voices welcome, particularly tenor and bass. No auditions required. Repertoire includes Broadway, Classical, Spiritual and Folk, patriotic and more. Rehearsals are 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays. Cottingham Retirement Community, 3995 Cottingham, Sharonville. 513-777-1481 or 513-755-2607.

KINGSMEN

One of the area's most colorful male choruses is looking for new members over 21. Rehearsals: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Zion United Church, Montgomery Road, Norwood. 513-825-1103 or 513-891-8381.

MAY FESTIVAL CHORUS

Auditions to this prestigious chorus will be held throughout January. To schedule an audition time call 513-744-3229.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COALITION CHORALE

Seeks singers to participate in the annual commemorative program Jan. 20 at Music Hall. Rehearsals are every other Tuesday

through Jan. 14, at the House of Joy, 5918 Hamilton Ave., College Hill. For more information, call Catherine Roma at 1-800-341-9318, ext. 368.

SHAPE NOTE SINGERS

Beginning and experienced singers welcome to this recreational singing group. Four-part, a cappella, early American traditional singing. 4:30-7:30 p.m. Second Sunday of the month. Walnut Hills Christian Church, 1438 E. McMillan St., Walnut Hills. 513-861-1137.

SWEET ADELINES

These women are always welcoming new female singers to perform four-part "barbershop-style" harmony at community events. Rehearsals are 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Valley Temple, 145 Springfield Pike, Wyoming. 513-624-0535.

SYCAMORE SINGERS, INC.

After nearly 30 years, this chorus enjoys having new members. Rehearsals are 7 p.m. Mondays at Sycamore High School, 7400 Cornell Rd., Montgomery. For more information call 513-984-0055 or 513-703-6223.

THEATER OPPORTUNITIES

BLUES ALLEY CAT

This independently-produced musical about Over-the-Rhine is holding auditions for actors, singers and dancers beginning in January 2003. There are parts for children, including a male lead role. Hiring for production crew is also underway. Send resumes and 8.5-by-11 inch photo to Blues Alley Cat, 67 Mulberry St., Cincinnati, OH 42502. 513-521-1164 or go to www.bluesalleycat.com.

CASCADE CABARET 2003

Singers and dancers needed for this showcase to be performed Feb. 3 and 4. Headshot and resume required. Audition for dancers 2-4 p.m. Jan. 11 or 1-2 p.m. Jan. 12. Vocalists can audition 5-7 p.m. Jan. 11 or 3-5 p.m. Jan. 12. Auditions will be held at the University of Cincinnati or Northern Kentucky University. Call Beverly Williams for audition time at 513-861-1876.

EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION

Is looking for volunteers to do mailings, data entry, clerical work and other miscellaneous help. 513-977-4763, ext. 236.

THE KNOW THEATRE TRIBE

Volunteers are needed to work in directing, grant writing, publicity, editing, costuming, set designing, set building, lighting and sound designing, graphic designing, stage managing, house managing, stagehands, poster distributors and on the construction/set building crew. Experience is a plus, but not necessary. Stipends available for most positions. Flexible work schedule. Gabriel's Corner, 1425 Sycamore St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-871-1429 or knowtribe@hotmail.com.

NONAME THEATRE

Is looking for a few good members and volunteers as well as a stage manager for an upcoming production of one-act plays. 513-662-5654.

PEE-AIR ENTERTAINMENT

The local independent feature film project, "Expensive Collaborations," seeks financial backing, cast, production crew, co-producers, company sponsorship, artists of all kinds and much more talent. Initial casting seeks two African-American female co-stars, aged 18-30; one Caucasian female co-star, ages 18-20. Call to set up an audition appointment, 513-787-6247.

RENEGADE GARAGE PLAYERS

Volunteers are needed for this theater group involving people with and without disabilities. 513-328-6300.

RISING PHOENIX THEATRE COMPANY

Seeks ushers, box office attendants, office helpers, rehearsal assistants, set builders, painters, errand-runners, sewers and others to assist in the six show (8 performances each) season. Ushers and others receive free admission to professional productions. All ages encouraged to apply. Located in Middletown, Ohio. 513-705-4131.

TRULY BLESSED ENTERTAINMENT

Will be holding auditions for their upcoming production of *Mama Can't Save You, But the Lord Can*, calling for African-American and caucasian teenagers. Auditions will be Jan. 11 at the College Hill Presbyterian Church, 5742 Hamilton Ave., College Hill. To schedule an appointment, call 513-851-0212.

CONTESTS & GRANTS

AMATEUR POETRY CONTEST

The Bards of Burbank is offering \$1,000 to inspire sincere poets. Open to everyone, the deadline is Jan. 16, 2003. Send one poem 21 lines or less to Free Poetry Contest, PMB250, 2219 W. Olive Ave., Burbank, CA 91506 or at www.freecontest.com.

LOOK HERE

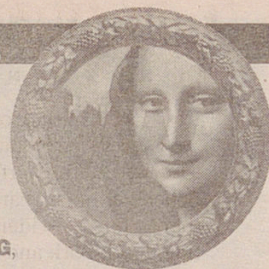
BY KATE BRAUER

The past year was filled with transition for Cincinnati's visual art scene. Gallery openings were aplenty, challenges were ever present and some of our major art pillars undertook major structural changes. Let's start there. Ask any Cincinnati to name the most prominent art organizations in the city, and almost everyone will answer **CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM (CAM)**, **THE TAFT MUSEUM OF ART** and the **CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER (CAC)**. Cross the river, and you might hear **THE CARNEGIE** or **THE ARTERY** thrown

into the mix. This year, all experienced significant changes. CAM, the Taft and the Carnegie Gallery spent 2002 undergoing extensive renovations. In 2003, visitors to CAM will experience the new Cincinnati Wing, a major expansion for the building and the collection, with significant works donated to the museum by Procter & Gamble in 2002. The Taft has been closed all year, but when it reopens in 2003 the renovated museum will undoubtedly make headlines. The Carnegie is already showing off a newly renovated gallery, as stylish and smart as the wonderfully diverse works gallery director Bill Seitz likes to showcase. The Artery closed in the summer for interior work and reopened with a fresh look in the fall. ... Meanwhile, the CAC is saying goodbye forever to its old location with one final show above Walgreen's before reemerging in May in its new home across from the Aronoff

Center, designed by Zaha Hadid, the Lois & Richard Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art. The Rosenthals' largesse will also be felt at CAM, where their gift means that general admission will no longer be charged as of the opening of the Cincinnati Wing in May. The Rosenthal family again stakes its claim among the city's best philanthropists, living in prominent eponymy in our city for generations to come. ... The biggest tour news in 2002 came when pop artist and national icon **PETER MAX** came to Malton Gallery with a special fund-raiser for the Hamilton County SPCA. Perhaps as many people who went to meet Max did so due to his local fame in saving the runaway cow. (He took on the cause of the cow that ran away from the slaughterhouse last February. Thanks to the famous artist and activist, she'll live out the rest of her bovine days in peaceful repose at a farm sanctuary.) ... There were some notable comings and goings in 2002. Perhaps the biggest stir was the departure of **SUE SPAID** from the CAC. Those of us who appreciated her eclecticism and creative angle toward her role as

ART, ARTISTS, ETC.



curator certainly felt a pang of loss when she left. Northward, **TULIZA FLEMING**, daughter of John Fleming of the Cincinnati Museum Center, joined the Dayton Art Institute as Assistant Curator of American Art. The departure of **ANNIE BOLLING** from Closson's made news with the opening of Annie Bolling Gallery in Oakley, an expansive, chic space housed alongside a top interior designer's studio. Bolling Gallery wasn't the only new gallery to open its doors in 2002. Among the notable newcomers, **EINE KLEINE PHOTOGRAPH** opened on MainStrasse in Covington, and Robert J. Morris founded **DICERE GALLERY** in Madisonville. Cincinnatians thrilled this year when **BASE GALLERY**, one of the oldest artists' co-ops in the country, re-opened its doors just one block down from its current location on Main Street in Over-the-Rhine. **SSNOVA**

THE YEAR



IN REVIEW



Artist Peter Max, now the owner of Cincinnati's runaway cow, raised funds for the SPCA with this image.

surely became "the" hip spot for the more adventurous, as the old warehouse in Brighton hosted interesting events almost every weekend. ... Speaking of Main Street, the 2001 riots left the blossoming art scene of Over-the-Rhine in turmoil. As this year comes to its close, more and more people are returning to the city, but the great burst of excitement around the art scene we felt in the late '90s has been subdued. Some galleries are rumored to be closing or moving out of the area. By the end of 2002, the rally cry to save the art scene in Over-the-Rhine is greater than ever. ... Through all these great transitions, one thing remains certain: Cincinnati will never lose its great tradition of presenting good art in historically relevant or architecturally significant venues and neighborhoods. Now more than ever, it's vital to support our art community through this period of change. Make a New Year's resolution to see more art in 2003. With all the exciting things coming down the pike, that shouldn't be too difficult.

CONTACT KATE BRAUER: kbrauer@citybeat.com

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A '50s housewife (Meg Howrey) fantasizes about dancing ballet when her husband goes for cannoli.

Simply Irresistible

Contact is a joyous toe-tapper

REVIEW BY RICK PENDER

As the lights dim following the intermission of *Contact* at the Aronoff Center, Dean Martin's inimitable pipes warble, "You're nobody 'til somebody loves you." Those six words neatly summarize this unusual musical-dance production. In fact, it's three tales rolled into one evening, but a subtly pervasive message about connecting makes it a show that's both delightfully engaging and subtly thought-provoking.

The opening trifle, "Swinging," brings to life Fragonard's 18th-century painting of a woman being courted by a man and a servant who pushes her flowered swing. It slides off into a fantasy — not to mention some fancy and ribald athletics — when the young woman (Mindy Franzese Wild) and the servant have their own little fling. It's a 10-minute prologue that engages the audience in a bit of amusement.

Fantasy is also a component of "Did You Move?" set in an Italian restaurant during the 1950s. A married couple is dining — he's surly, she's repressed. As he wanders off to the buffet, she imagines herself dancing with waiters and guests to several familiar and dramatic Classical music melodies. The husband (Adam Dannheiser) is a rude pig who wants to control his wife's every movement. She (danced beautifully by expressive Meg Howrey) is full of an energy she has trouble containing. The 30-minute piece ends with poignant sadness.

The show's second act, "Contact," tells a more complex story in about 55 minutes. A desperately unhappy advertising executive, Michael Wiley (Daniel McDonald), has achieved professional success, but his life is empty. At a late-night swing dance club he glimpses a tantalizing and mysterious woman in a seductive yellow dress (the stunning Colleen Dunn), who lights a fire in him. His awkward efforts to get up the nerve to connect with her are both frustrating and endearing, ultimately leading to his unexpected salvation.

This tale is set to a toe-tapping array of music by Benny Goodman, the Fabulous Thunderbirds, the Beach Boys, the Squirrel Nut Zippers and — to especially good effect — Robert Palmer's "Simply Irresistible."

By the way, the elegant curtain call, danced to Van Morrison's "Moondance," is a delightful summation of the evening. *Contact* isn't a holiday entertainment, but it creates a feeling of joyous well-being that's perfect for this time of year. Simply irresistible.

CONTACT, presented by Broadway in Cincinnati at the Aronoff Center for the Arts, continues through Dec. 29.

GET INVOLVED

FALLEN HEROES SCHOLARSHIP FUND — This fund helps to provide educational grants to families of firefighters who have died in service. For applications and information, contact 1-877-453-FIRE or www.firehero.org.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS PHOTO CONTEST — Amateur photographers unite! Load up your cameras with FujiFilm and head over the to the Cincinnati Zoo's 20th annual PNC Festival of Lights. The photographer who best captures the 2.5 million lights, holiday characters and more can win various prizes, including a grand prize of a new Fuji FinePix digital camera. Deadline is Monday. Visit any Pete's PhotoWorld or any of the Zoo's gift shops for entry forms and complete contest rules, 800-800-3854, ext. 3117.

A GALLERY WALK PHOTO CONTEST — Seeks entries in a contest that focuses on the nearly extinct structure known as Cinergy Field. Judging and awards will be presented at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20, during Mainstrasse's third Friday Gallery Walk. All entries should be mounted prints (B&W or color) and can be matted and/or framed. Sizes can range from 4 by 6 inches to 16 by 20 inches. Entries must be dropped off no later than 7 p.m. Dec. 20 at Elaine Klein Photograph, 610 Main St., Covington, 859-291-5892.

PERFECT BAKER RECIPE CONTEST — What's cookin' in your kitchen? Got a good original recipe, not your aunt's secret Betty Crocker sauce? Send it in - you could win a 7-day trip to New York City. T-Fal's 2003 Perfect Baker Recipe Contest began Oct. 1, and you only have until April 25 to enter. Pick up an application form wherever you find T-Fal's Patisserie Professional Bakeware, or send a SASE to T-Fal Perfect Baker Contest, P.O. Box 396, Pine Brook NJ 07058-0396.

YWCA CAREER WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS/MAMIE EARL SELLS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS — Time to nominate your female heroes. The Career Women of Achievement Awards nominations must be in by Jan. 22; the Mamie Earl Sells Scholarship nominations are due Jan. 28. Pick up nomination applications at the YWCA, 898 Walnut St., Downtown, call 513-241-7090 or go to www.ywcacincinnati.org.

DONATIONS

DUNAMIS OF FAITH WORLD MINISTRIES — The non-profit organization is looking for home school supplies (books, houses, computers, checks, money orders, vouchers, etc.) for needy families. Donations can be sent to: Dunamis of Faith World Ministries/The Church in Cincinnati, P.O. Box 46908, Cincinnati OH 45246. For more information, call 513-961-9995.

FOOD FROM THE HEART — The food drive still needs 41,200 pounds of food to meet the goal by Friday. Donate canned goods at area Kroger stores or at The Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park through Tuesday. For more information, visit www.FOX19.com or www.svdpcincinnati.org.

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES CLOTHING DRIVE — Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries and Braxton's Cleaners are partnering in an effort to collect clothing, shoes and linens for local men and women with disabilities. Accepting donations at these locations: 8605 Haines Drive, Florence and 2515 Chelsea Drive, Fort Mitchell, 859-586-9595.

KATEY BRICHTO RELIEF FUND — A fire destroyed the home of this teacher/writer causing her to lose her dogs and cat, family heirlooms, all her writing and her lesson plans, among other possessions. The Cincinnati Writer's Project is organizing a collection for her. Donations can be made to Katey Brichto at the following address: c/o Kate Brauer, 7419 Briarpatch Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45208. For more information, e-mail.

SUMMIT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE — Is looking for volunteers to give parties, donate gifts, money and entertainment to help out needy families for the holidays. Call Lisa at 513-948-3777 for information.

VOLUNTEERS

ABILITIES FIRST — Seeks volunteers to assist with residential activities and outings, offer one-on-one assistance and friendship to a person with a disability and help in the inclusion preschool/day-care. Also seeks help making curtains and bedspreads for residents' rooms. Middletown. 513-423-9496 or elaine.garver@abilitiesfirst.org or vicki.fleming@abilitiesfirst.org.

ACLU OF OHIO — Volunteers are needed for the Southwest Chapter of the ACLU of Ohio. Our interests are in the areas of the First Amendment, illegal search, privacy, racial equality, women's rights, employment rights, student rights,

gay and lesbian rights, prisoner's rights and police abuse. 513-588-4235 or shan-non_aclu@mailcity.com.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY — Seeks volunteers to fill retail-type positions for the Discovery Shop. ... Also looking for young professionals to start a Young Professionals Committee. 11117 Kenwood Road, Kenwood. 513-891-1600.

AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION — Seeks volunteers for clerical support, data entry and special events support for the area office in West Chester. 513-759-9330.

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION — Seeks volunteer nurses, LPNs, nursing students, paramedics and EMTs to help conduct blood pressure screenings and cardio-vascular and stroke risk assessments. 513-281-4048 or Tharper@heart.org.

ARONOFF CENTER FOR THE ARTS — Volunteers needed to staff the Information Desk. A twice per month minimum commitment is required, and training is provided. Usher applications are being accepted for the January 2003 orientation. Volunteers receive invitations to select dress rehearsals of performances. Call Meghan Kaskoun, Volunteer Manager, 513-977-4113.

ART CONSORTIUM OF CINCINNATI — The ACC's Linn Street and Union Terminal Facility need volunteers to assist with special events, act as docents and more. 513-381-0645 or 513-381-0916.

THE ARTERY — The Artery, a non-profit community art center in Newport, seeks volunteers for special and upcoming projects. Opportunities available in exhibition installation, clerical work, education, fundraising, renovation, etc. If interested, contact Laura Hollis, director, at 859-431-8151 or www.newportartery.org.

ASSE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM — This program, which provides academic year exchange programs in the U.S. for students around the world, is looking for volunteers to serve as area representatives in one's local community. If interested, call Shannon Stevenson at 740-494-9849.

BAYLEY PLACE NURSING AND RETIREMENT HOME — Seeks volunteers to transport residents to and from activities, help them with shopping and be their friend. Also seeks help in the gift shop. Delhi. 513-347-5500.

BEECH ACRES — Seeks childcare providers and group facilitators for parent support groups in Westwood, Lincoln Heights, Downtown, English Woods, West Chester, Blue Ash and Millvale. Training and ongoing support are provided. 513-231-6630.

BOONE COUNTY CASA — Boone County Court Appointed Special Advocates needs adult volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children. Training provided. 859-334-3154.

BRANDON BLAIR YOUTH INC. — Seeking tutors to help at-risk youth. Also needs volunteers to do yard work and work at festivals. South Fairmount. 513-244-7675.

BRIGHTON CENTER, INC. — The center is seeking volunteers for Local Emergency Assistance Program for needy families. Volunteers can spend as little as two hours weekly or monthly to distribute or shelf clothes, or to bag food commodities. Volunteers are able to work 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday - Friday. Call 859-491-8303, ext. 2032. ... Volunteers needed to assist with tutoring or mentoring youth, providing activities for seniors, marketing, fund-raising, painting and beautification projects, clerical duties, emergency assistance, activities for school-age children and more. Volunteers also needed for landscaping, lawn maintenance, home repairs and building projects. Newport. 859-491-8303, ext. 2026.

BROOKSIDE — Seeks volunteers to work in the day camp, help with recreational activities, assist with outings, read to residents and entertain residents. Mason. 513-398-1020.

BROWN COUNTY HELPING HANDS — Help sort clothes and take inventory of the food pantry. Georgetown. 937-378-6942.

BROWN COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL — Seeks volunteers to serve as drivers for clients. Georgetown. 937-378-6603.

CAMPUS CALIFORNIA TG — New non-profit organization recruiting volunteers to train for work at development projects in Africa. 530-467-4082 or www.cctg.org

CARACOLE — Cincinnati's only non-profit agency, providing safe, secure and affordable housing for persons living with HIV/AIDS, seeks volunteer caregivers at residence. Training is provided. Other volunteer opportunities are available. 513-761-1480.

CARMEL MANOR — Volunteers needed 5:30-7 p.m. daily to help feed residents their evening meal. Fort Thomas. 859-781-5111 or carmelmanor@fuse.net.

CEDAR VILLAGE — Seeks volunteers to visit with residents and to transport residents to and from activities, lead residents in activities and entertain residents. Mason. 513-336-3162 or mklein@cedar-village.org.

CENTER FOR CHEMICAL ADDICTIONS TREATMENT — Needs volunteers to work in the garden. West End. 513-381-6672 or ccatsobser@mind-spring.com.

CENTRAL CLINIC — Seeks volunteers to work in the consignment shop. Corryville. 513-861-8666 or justasecond@fuse.net.

CHILD FOCUS, INC. — Needs volunteers to assist with the Head Start preschool program. Clermont County. 513-528-7224 or www.child-focus.org.

CHILDREN'S THEATER — Seeks volunteers to work during daytime school performances. 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. 513-569-8080, ext. 17.

CHURCHES ACTIVE IN NORTH-SIDE — Help collect food, household and hygiene items for Northside residents. 513-591-2246.

CINCINNATI ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND — Volunteers are needed to read to blind or print-impaired and provide transportation for some clients and staff members. Training and ongoing support is provided. 513-487-4217.

CINCINNATI HABITAT FOR HUMANITY — Volunteers of the corporate community needed to join local families to build a simple, decent place to live. Corporations can help support by contributing cash gifts, in-kind building materials and services, sponsoring or co-sponsoring a CHFH house, casual marketing and volunteering on the job site. 513-621-4147 or 513-763-3100.

CINCINNATI OBSERVATORY CENTER — Training will be provided to volunteers interested in becoming astronomy assistants, early childhood teachers, librarians or historical archivists. 513-321-5186.

CIVIC GARDEN CENTER — The non-profit organization promoting gardening and environmental responsibility seeks volunteers for gardening, horticultural research, reception desk, garden shop sales and hands-on gardening education in elementary schools. 513-221-0981.

CITY OF MONTGOMERY'S SISTER COMMISSION — The City of Montgomery's Sister Cities Commission provides exchange program with the city of Neuilly-Plaisance, France. 513-891-2424.

CINCINNATI READS — Reading volunteers are needed for one hour each week to tutor kindergarten through fourth grade students in the Cincinnati Public Schools. Most of the students participating in the program are reading below grade level. Although most of the tutoring opportunities are during the school day, schools try to be flexible around volunteers' schedules. Of the 40+ schools affiliated with Cincinnati Reads, volunteers can choose which school location is most convenient for them. Training is provided. Please call Cincinnati Reads at 513-784-0450.

CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER — Recruits new docents. These volunteers guide groups of school children through CAC exhibitions. 513-345-8420.

CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATER — Contemporary dance theater needs volunteers for clean up and office staff. Volunteers receive free dance classes in return for their services. Call 513-591-2557.

COUNTY OF HAMILTON PROBATION DEPARTMENT — Volunteers needed to be a case aide or one-to-one counselor for Hamilton County Adult Probation. Training and supervision provided. 513-852-3795.

DEUPREE COMMUNITY MEALS ON WHEELS — Help deliver a warm lunch and a smile to elderly adults. 513-561-8150.

DROP-INN CENTER — Help collect non-perishable goods for the shelter or work in the shelter with the homeless. 513-721-0643 or volunteer@overtherhine.org.

EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ORGANIZATION — Is seeking volunteers for special projects, mailings, and clerical work. If you have theatre background or just enjoy the theatre atmosphere, call 513-977-4763, ext. 236.

EMANUEL COMMUNITY CENTER — This non-profit agency seeks support in the following program areas: mentors for school-age children, computer instructors, help in grant-writing to raise project funds, aerobics instructors, library help and coaching sports for boys and girls. 513-242-2563.

EVERY CHILD SUCCEEDS — Seeks volunteers to assemble parent-aid bags, which include educational and useful items for families and babies. Forest Park. 513-825-3020 or e-mail angie.coyle@chmcc.org.

FAIRMOUNT DAY CARE CENTER — Provides childcare service including before-and-after-school programs. Seeks

help writing, making menus as well as teacher's assistants and tutors to help children with their writing. 513-921-1241.

FEAST OF LOVE — Seeks volunteers to pick up and deliver furniture from 8 a.m.-noon on at least one Saturday morning a month. Volunteers must supply their own truck or seat-less van. 513-541-5676.

FREESTORE/FOODBANK — Services include providing emergency food, clothing and shelter to low-income clients. Seeks help sorting food. Downtown. 513-482-7535.

FRIENDSHIP READING CENTER — Seeks volunteers to build literacy and enhance education for children of Mount Auburn. People from high schools universities, churches and other civic organizations are invited to foster personal growth of a child for at least one day a week as a reading tutor or homework tutor for a term of six weeks. 513-541-5676.

GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER — Seeking volunteers to train as peer counselors for evening help-line. 513-591-0200.

GREATER CINCINNATI COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS — Help homeless people circulate the Streetvibes newspaper. 513-421-7803 or streetvibes@juno.com.

GREAT OAKS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT — Needs tutors to help adult students who are improving their academic skills or learning the English language. 513-612-5830 or e-mail meyerdl@greatoaks.com.

GREENACRES FOUNDATION — This environment, agriculture and arts education center in Indian Hill needs volunteers to start right away. Volunteers must be available during the normal school day. Those interested in working with children and teaching outdoor education classes are greatly needed. 513-891-4227, ext. 221.

HCR/MANOR CARE — Spend time with residents with dementia. Colerain. 513-591-0400.

HAMILTON COUNTY COMPEER PROGRAM — Being a hero is as easy as being a friend. Compeer matches adult volunteers in supportive friendships with adults who suffer loneliness and isolation as a result of the stigma surrounding mental illness. See the power of friendship to help people with mental illness lead happier, more productive lives. This can be accomplished by volunteering for one hour a week, making phone calls, going on activities or using the Internet. 513-287-8540, ext. 14.

HARRISON ELEMENTARY STARS — In search of adults ages 55 and up to tutor and mentor elementary students at the Harrison Elementary School in Hamilton. Volunteers will receive tuition units, free lunch, tax-free stipend, mileage reimbursement and the satisfaction of helping today's youth. 513-863-0143.

HARRISON HOUSE — Seeks volunteers to visit elderly residents, help the residents keep up with current events and serve as an activities assistant. Also seeks help making and putting up decorations for the facility. Westwood. 513-389-4527.

HEALTH ALLIANCE — Volunteers are needed in various areas at the following hospitals: Christ, University, the St. Luke Hospitals, Jewish and Fort Hamilton. For more information, call 513-585-7200.

HEARTLAND HOSPICE — HH needs some loving people that will work with terminally ill patients and their family.

Volunteers 18 and older are needed for grievance, support and clerical support. Training and visits can be given to fit into your schedule. 513-458-4270 ext. 483.

HOMEWORK CLUB — Seeks volunteers to serve as math/reading tutors and coaches for youth grades 6-12, 4:30-5:30 Wednesdays. Urban League, 3458 Reading Road, Walnut Hills.

HYDE PARK LUMINARA CELEBRATION — Volunteers are needed for people to act as street captains for the seasonal Luminara celebration. For more information, call Charlie DeSando at 513-561-3065.

IMAGO EARTH CENTER — The family-oriented education facility is looking for volunteers to help with teaching, trail maintenance, prop making, carpentry, gardening and special events. 513-921-8455.

INTER-ETHNIC COUNCIL — The Inter-Ethnic Council of Greater Cincinnati seeks volunteers to assist the promotion of multi-cultural awareness, understanding and respect. 513-352-3498 or www.naicgc.org.

INTER PARISH MINISTRY — Assists families in becoming self-sufficient. Seeks help sorting and pricing items for the thrift store. Milford. 513-561-3932 or interparishministry@juno.com.

JEWISH VOCATIONAL SERVICE — Seeks volunteers to work with and serve as companions to senior citizens with developmental disabilities. 513-985-0515.

JORDAN CENTER — Jordan Center provides free health services for the medically under-served. Nurse and office volunteers are needed. 513-569-6400.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT — Recruiting business and community volunteers to spend one hour each week for a maximum of eight weeks in area classrooms to help prepare students to be tomorrow's leaders. All lesson plans and training are provided. 513-531-3777 or www.jacincy.org.

JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION — Seeks volunteers to help with office support and upcoming events. 513-793-3223.

KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF GREATER CINCINNATI — Work at special events distributing educational materials, helping with blood pressure screenings and assisting with slide presentations. 513-961-8105 or e-mail lhumphrey@kidney.cincinnati.org.

KIDS SAFE — Needs volunteers to cook, serve and share a meal with hungry children ages 3-14 during Thursday, Saturday and Sunday meals and reading tutors on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Also seeks volunteers for "Homework Club" Mondays-Thursdays, (during the school year), who tutor, mentor and love needy children ages 5-14. 513-541-7757, ext. 2.

KENTON COUNTY ADULT LEARNING — The Kenton County English as a Second Language program is looking for volunteers to assist in the classroom. Needs volunteers to help adults learn to read, write and speak English using a varied curriculum during day and evening sessions. 859-581-7323.

LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH SERVICES — This social services agency primarily serves abused, neglected and homeless youth and families in crisis. The Youth Crisis Center needs staff assistants at the 24-hour emergency shelter facility. Foster Care needs drivers to transport clients to appointments. The Transitional Living Program needs tutors and mentors to help clients become more self-sufficient. The Family Outreach Program needs childcare workers to help assist social workers and families. The General House Staff needs help cooking, answering phones and supervising youth in the emergency shelter program. Career Connections need drivers to help handicapped and impaired adults get to various appointments. Mentors and tutors are also needed. 513-221-1017, ext. 220.

LIT-ER-ATE CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION — Seeks volunteers to help further promote and encourage literacy. People with skills in marketing, strong leadership, financial management, grant and proposal writing especially needed. Send a copy of your resume and a handwritten description of what you have to offer to: 136 Sheehan Ave., Room 7, Cincinnati, Ohio 45216.

LITERACY IN NORTHERN KENTUCKY (LINK) — Seeks volunteers to take a 12 hour tutor training on October 14, 17, 21 and 24. Following the training, tutors will be matched with adults who wish to learn to read. Give someone the gift of literacy. Call Amy at 859-581-7323 to find out more or to register.

LITERACY NETWORK OF GREATER CINCINNATI — Daytime and evening volunteers are needed to tutor adults with beginning literacy, basic skills or GED preparation in one of over 70 area literacy programs: Children's Basic Reading Classes and the newly established Children's Dyslexia Classes. 2:30-5 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays. Training provided. 635 W. Seventh St., Downtown. 513-621-READ.

MAN-TO-MAN/WOMAN-TO-WOMAN OF CINCINNATI, INC. — Visit with and be a mentor for an inmate. 513-681-4129.

MERCY FRANCISCAN HOSPITAL-MOUNT AIRY — The hospital's auxiliary gift shop needs people who enjoy working in retail to help with sales, pricing and processing merchandise. ... Surgical waiting desk needs two volunteers every weekday to maintain surgery schedules and serve as a liaison between nurses, doctors and family. Can be very busy 8-hour shifts. ... Volunteer crafters needed to make crafts for sale at various hospital functions. They supply the materials. 513-853-5150.

NATIONAL ABORTION AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS ACTION LEAGUE OF OHIO — This pro-choice group is seeking to fill the position of Choice Action Team Coordinator. Also seeking general volunteers. 1-800-GO-NARAL.

NEW PERCEPTIONS, INC. — Seeks volunteers to assist adults with mental retardation and developmental disabilities with their day-to-day sorting and packaging jobs as well as social and recreational projects. Also seeks help with planning and implementing fundraising and special events. Edgewood. 859-344-9322 ext. 55 or npi@one.net.

NORTH FAIRMOUNT COMMUNITY CENTER — Needs volunteers for yard work and general maintenance. North Fairmount. 513-921-5842.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY COMMUNITY CENTER — Needs volunteers to help school-age children with homework and games. Also seeks help working at bongo to raise funds for the senior center. Covington. 859-431-5700.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY — Seeks volunteers to help with family nurturing, property maintenance, church relations, special events and construction. 513-942-9211.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY SYMPHONY — Seeks ushers and box office help for the upcoming season. 859-431-6216 or www.kyso.org.

NORWOOD SERVICE LEAGUE — Needs volunteers to paint classrooms and offices, clean up the yard and clean out the storage area. Norwood. 513-631-4000.

O'BRYONVILLE ANIMAL RESCUE — This organization seeks adult volunteers to help with rescued cats and kittens. For information, call 513-871-PAWS, or www.theanimalrescue.com.

OVER-THE-RHINE SOUP KITCHEN — Help feed the hungry by preparing and serving food and setting the table. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. Over-the-Rhine. 513-961-1983 or aposervice@juno.com.

PARACHUTE: FOR ABUSED CHILDREN — The Butler County Court Appointed Special Advocates are currently seeking volunteers for a training program that focuses on child abuse and its causes, as well as many other aspects of the problem. For information about becoming a volunteer, call 513-887-3880 or 513-424-5351, ext. 3880. Or write: Parachute: Butler County Court Appointed Special Advocates, 280 N. Fair Ave., Hamilton, Ohio 45011.

PEOPLE WORKING COOPERATIVELY — Seeking volunteers to perform essential repairs for low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners. Volunteers gather the third Saturday of every month. Call to register. 513-351-7921.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD — Looking for help in administrative, special events/fund raising, community outreach and other areas. 513-721-7635, ext. 221.

PRO SENIORS — Seeks volunteers to make weekly visits to nursing homes, make residents aware of their rights and to cover the Hotline for Older Ohioans. 513-345-4160.

RAYMOND WALTERS COLLEGE-BLUE ASH — Raymond Walters College needs volunteers for Skills Enhancement Classes teaching ABLE, ESL basic skills and GED preparation. Training available. Call 513-745-5691.

READING VOLUNTEERS — Needed for one hour a week to tutor kindergarten through fourth grade students in the Cincinnati Public School System. Training is provided and volunteers can serve at a time convenient to them. 513-602-2424.

REDWOOD REHABILITATION CENTER — Volunteers age 14 and up needed Monday-Friday between 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Redwood is a non-profit agency serving adults and children with disabilities. 859-331-0880.

SANTA MARIA COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC. — Seeks assistants for the meals-on-wheels program. Also needs tutors and mentors. 513-557-2700.

SAVE THE ANIMALS FOUNDATION — Volunteers age 18 and up are needed to feed, clean and love cats and dogs at a no-kill shelter. For cats, 513-378-0300; for dogs, 513-588-6609

SCHOOL MENTORS NEEDED — Local non-profit organization needs volunteers to mentor school kids at local elementary schools. If interested call 513-242-7613, ext. 378 or e-mail Arholdenburg@Staloyiscincinnati.org

SENIOR SERVICES OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY — Needs volunteers who could spend a few hours each month grocery shopping, delivering meals, helping with chores or just visiting. Hours are flexible and one-time projects are available. 859-491-0522.

SERVICES TO AREA YOUTH (STAY) — Seeks tutors to help prevent high school dropout. Harrison. 513-367-1441 or e-mail stay@fuse.net.

SEVEN HILLS - EAST END — Needs help preparing and serving food in the soup kitchen as well as picking up food from the FreeStore/Foodbank. 513-321-7520.

SIERRA CLUB — Every day sierra club volunteers are exploring and protecting the environment in Cincinnati and Southwest Ohio, and they need your help! Their conservation committee meets the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at Avon Woods Nature Center on Paddock Road. To find out how you can help call 513-841-0111.

SMARTMONEY COMMUNITY SERVICES — This financial resource organization in Over-the-Rhine seeks volunteers in several areas. 1731 Vine St., Downtown. 513-241-7266.

SOPHIA-ONLINE DATABASE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING — A database for affordable housing in Cincinnati

is looking to increase its current 1,500-unit list. Volunteers are needed to work on human service housing database. 513-761-1480.

ST. JOHN — Provides a variety of emergency services and self-sufficiency programs. Needs help sorting food and clothing. Downtown. 513-241-2186 or e-mail scbrown@health-partners.org.

ST. JOSEPH HOME — This home, which works with disabled children and adults, needs people to work one-on-one with residents. Be a friend or an assistant on community outings. Must be at least age 15. Training provided. St. Joseph Home, 10722 Wycarver Road, Sharonville. 513-563-2520, ext. 117.

ST. RITA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF — Needs tutors and teachers' aides. Must know sign-language. Seeks volunteers to watch children in the day care. Also needs help landscaping the grounds and cleaning inside and outside of the building. 513-771-7600, ext. 325 or e-mail bellegia_h@hccanet.org. Evendale.

ST. PAUL'S CHILD CARE CENTER — Seeks volunteers to help maintain the facility. Newport. 859-581-3390.

STARFIRE COUNCIL — Reconnect with the simple pleasures. Go on small outings with adults and teen-agers with disabilities to shows, restaurants, boat trips and more. Starfire Council, 2330 Victory Pkwy., Suite 100 A, East Walnut Hills. 513-281-2100.

SUMMERFAIR INC. — Summerfair Inc., a non-profit arts organization dedicated to supporting visual and performing artists in greater Cincinnati, is looking for volunteers for their annual SummerFair festival. Send an e-mail to the organization at summerfair@fuse.net. 513-531-0050 or www.summerfair.org.

SUPPORTED LIVING OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY — Volunteers needed to provide meaningful companionship and to assist adults with mental retardation/developmental disabilities in community activities. 859-261-0909.

TEEN CHALLENGE CINCINNATI — Seeks volunteers to drive clients to appointments and serve as mentors. Milford. 513-248-0452.

TENDER MERCIES — Volunteers are needed to serve meals, work in the administrative department, assist staff with maintenance and help with special events for Tender Mercies, an agency that provides housing and individualized supportive services to homeless persons. 513-639-7027.

TERRACE GUILD — The social service agency seeks volunteers to help answer phones, distribute food, tutor adults and children and to work within the community. 4848 Winneste Ave., Winton Hills. 513-641-0382.

THERAPEUTIC HORSE RIDING AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAM — Volunteers needed to work with horses and children or adults with disabilities or restrictions. Must be at least 14 years old. No experience necessary. 513-923-4390.

THREE SQUARE MUSIC FOUNDATION — Currently seeking volunteers for choir direction, computer instruction, dance and drill team instruction, tutoring, mentors, event planning, fund-raising and much more. 7373 Brookcrest, Suite 350, Roselawn. 513-731-3227 or ThreeSquare@yahoo.com.

UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF GREATER CINCINNATI — UCP seeks volunteers to assist in advancing the independence of adults with physical disabilities. They are looking for: musical volunteers, to encourage participants through songs; an exercise instructor for a weekly class promoting participants to move; computer trainers to tutor adults students in the use of Word Perfect, MS Office or Excel. Interested volunteers may contact Eileen and Patti 8:30-4:30p.m. weekdays. Alfred J. Rendigs Center, Victoria Parkway. (513) 221-4606.

UNITED MINISTRIES — Help pick up, sort and stock food, clothes and shelves to help families in need. Seeks help with building maintenance, yard work and yard sales. Also seeks GED tutors. Erlanger. 859-727-0300 or www.umnky.org.

UNITED WAY — The United Way Volunteer Resource Center offers volunteer opportunities for anyone interested in donating some time. Opportunities include: Starfire Council, City of Cincinnati Planning Department, Mercy Franciscan at St. John, ProKids, Great Oaks Institute, Great Rivers Girl Scout Council, Council on Child Abuse for Southern Ohio and Toward Independence. 513-721-7900 or e-mail volunteer@uwgc.org.

UPTOWN ARTS — This after-school arts program in Over-the-Rhine seeks volunteers to work with professional artists in assisting young children as they learn art, music, dance and theater. No experience is necessary. 2:15-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. 513-651-1500.

VALLEY INTERFAITH FOOD & CLOTHING CENTER — Work in the Back-to-School program packaging school

FINE TUNING

CLASSICAL MUSIC, TUNES, ETC.

BY RICK PENDER

The past year has included milestones for several Classical music ensembles. The Kentucky Symphony Orchestra (once known as the Northern Kentucky Symphony) marked its first decade, while the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra celebrated 25 years with **ERICH KUNZEL** at its helm. The Pops is one of America's most recorded ensembles, with 70 releases on the Telarc label — it almost always has something up there on the Classical charts. This year also saw the release of **PAAVO JÄRVI**'s second recording with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra: Jan Sibelius' *Symphony No. 2*, paired with the fifth symphony of Järvi's fellow Estonian, Eduard Tubin. Järvi's presence is felt everywhere in the local Classical scene (and it's not just because his face looms from those billboards proclaiming "Bravo, Paavo!") — he's drawing bigger audiences to concerts at Music Hall and getting rave notices when he guest conducts elsewhere. (In March he takes the CSO to New York's Carnegie Hall.) Another handsome young conductor, **MISCHA SANTORA**, is doing a fine job with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, too, finding ways to present the smaller orchestra in approachable, intimate settings that appeal to young audiences. UC's College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) trains and employs musicians of the highest caliber: **XIAN ZHANG**, a CCM assistant professor of conducting, this fall was a co-winner of the prestigious Maazel/Vilar Conductors'

THE YEAR



IN REVIEW

Competition, a sort of World Series of orchestra conducting. CCM's presence also means a constant stream of new ensembles for local music fans: Two relatively new groups worth hearing are the **ARC ENSEMBLE**, which focuses on chamber music composed after 1900, and **CINCINNATI BAROQUE**, led by **THOMAS JUNEAU**, a professional ensemble of 20 singers supported by up to 20 instrumentalists to perform music from the 18th century by composers such as Bach and Handel. ... The biggest splash in the world of high-end music this past season was surely the Cincinnati Opera's production of **DEAD MAN WALKING**, only the new opera's third staging, garnering international attention during the July performances at Music Hall. Composer Jake Heggie spent lots of

time in town, as did Sister Helen Prejean, whose story the opera tells (as did the Academy Award-nominated film of the same name). Perhaps even more satisfying than this contemporary work was a spectacular staging of Richard Strauss' **ELEKTRA**, a seldom-presented 1909 piece — this was, in fact, its Cincinnati premiere — with a cast of renowned singers including Deborah Polaski (who happens to be a CCM grad), Inga Nielsen and Anja Silja. It made lots of knowledgeable opera fans around America and the world sit up and take notice.

CONTACT RICK PENDER: rpender@citybeat.com

SHAKE IT

BASICALLY DANCE

BY KATHY VALIN

Cincinnati's last calendar year in dance was a rich one, with lots of strong evenings from big presenters — **CINCINNATI BALLET** led by Artistic Director Victoria Morgan and **CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATER** (CDT) led by Artistic Director Jefferson James, plus a strong showing from other local groups, especially The First Annual Gala of International Ballet Stars from **BALLET TECH PERFORMING ARTS ASSOCIATION**. The latter is directed by Claudia Rudolf Barrett with Alexei Kremnev as associate artistic director, assisted by Anna Reznik and occasionally by Desmond Richardson, all confirming yet again that Cincinnati is ready and willing to support dance on a high level and also receptive to innovation. Our town was also chosen to host the OhioDance Annual Festival this year.

The rest of my short list of superlatives: Cincinnati Ballet's historical tribute to **FREDRIC FRANKLIN** and the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo plus (finally) a full roster of principals — the breathtaking Lorna Feijoo and Kristi Capps, Nelson Madrigal and Dmitri Trubchanov — and the sterling work of the company's amazing longtime music

THE YEAR



IN REVIEW

director **CARMON DELEONE**. High marks also to ballettech ohio's *Pinocchio* and *La Fille Mal Gardée* and CDT's **PERFORMANCE AND TIME ARTS** series, which sprinkled talented local modern dancers during the year; many of the latter also appeared in CDT's presentation of Maureen Fleming. More high notes were CDT's presentation of Ronald K. Brown/Evidence and the sold-out Pilobolus Dance Theatre, plus Cincinnati Ballet's *Sleeping Beauty*, for both its classic breadth and its pairing of new principal dancers Kristi Capps and Dmitri Trubchanov.

Two out of town notes: In New York City last summer I was lucky enough to see the New York City Ballet, as well as the year-end performance from the School of American Ballet — wonderful experiences that also reminded me, though Cincinnati is not New York City, we have nothing to apologize for locally. Finally, on an inadvertent trip to San Antonio, Tex., I was lucky enough to see The Rolling Stones and am happy to report that Mick Jagger is still one heck of a dancer.

CONTACT KATHY VALIN: kvalin@citybeat.com

Gradison McDonald &
KeyBank present

A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens
Adapted by Howard Dallin

Final
Weekend!

Cast of the 2001 production
of A Christmas Carol.
Photo by Sandy Underwood.

December 4-30

"For my money, there's no better
local holiday entertainment."
—Cincinnati Enquirer

Special children's price for ages 5-12
(under 5 not admitted)

Call (513) 421-3888

Order on the web:
www.cincyplay.com
or at Tickets.com retail outlets

Also Playing:

The Bible

The Complete Word of God (abridged)

by Adam Long, Reed Martin
and Austin Tichenor

Nov. 9-Dec. 31

The entire Bible in one
short, hilarious evening!

"Zany...A triumph of
good 'n silly over evil."
—Boston Globe

Sponsor: Mercedes-Benz of Cincinnati

Final
Weekend!

PLAY-
HOUSE!

Great Theatre
in a Great Theater

Season Sponsors: The Otto M. Budig Family Foundation &
Heidelberg Distributing Company

FineArtsFund Delta Connection
Consolidated

GET INVOLVED

supplies, serving as a clothing fitter and
distributing goods. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Weekdays. Lockland. 513-821-3233.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DMD
— The Parent Project for Research, an
international group of parents and friends
of children with Duchenne Muscular
Dystrophy, is seeking volunteers for a
variety of fund-raising activities. 513-522-
6774.

WALNUT HILLS SOUP KITCHEN —
Help feed the hungry by preparing and
serving food and setting the table. 9
a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays or
Thursdays. Walnut Hills and Over-the-
Rhine. 513-961-1983 or e-mail apospervice@juno.com.

**WASHINGTON UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST** — Cook, serve and share
a meal with hungry children Tuesdays and
Thursdays. ... Cook, serve and share a
meal for 400 people at the Over-the-Rhine
Soup Kitchen on Saturdays. ... Sort and
display clothes at the camp freestore.
Camp Washington. ... Seeks help with
community restoration including painting,
electrical work, carpentry and demolition.
... Needs a nurse to work at the Free
Medical Clinic. ... 513-541-7757 or e-mail
wierville@msn.com. ... Also seeks tutors
for the homework club and the community
school. 513-385-9077.

WCET 48 ACTION AUCTION —
Needs volunteers now for their 2003
Action Auction April 24-May 3. Serve as
your neighborhood's WCET Volunteer
Captain by donating items valued at \$50
or more. Call 513-345-6530 for more
information.

**WELCOME HOUSE OF NORTHERN
KENTUCKY** — Needs help stocking the
food pantry, cooking food, sorting clothes
and preparing bags for distribution. Seeks
volunteers to assist clients go shopping
and do laundry. Needs help managing the
on-site store, including stocking, cleaning,
organizing and staffing. Also needs help
with general maintenance. Covington.
859-431-8717 or e-mail
Hofheinz@one.net.

WELLNESS COMMUNITY — The
free support network for people fighting
cancer seeks receptionist, library assis-
tant and phone volunteers for their Blue
Ash office. 513-791-4060.

WESLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES
— Seeks volunteers to deliver meals to
older adults and work in the adult day
care program. Westwood, Western Hills,
Cheviot. 513-661-2777 or e-mail ssmookler@wesleys.org.

WOMEN'S CONNECTION —
Receptionist needed to assist staff twice
a week. Join The Women's Connection
team by greeting participants, answering
the telephone and doing some light cler-
ical work. For more information, call Carla
at 513-471-4673.

WOODS EDGE POINT — Seeks vol-
unteers to play games with the residents,
visit the residents and accompany the
residents on field trips. Bond Hill. 513-
242-1360.

**WORLD CULTURAL EXCHANGE,
INC.** — This nonprofit organization,
which promotes world peace through edu-
cation, art, music and sports, is recruit-
ing volunteers in the following areas: aca-
demic tutors and mentors; peace con-
cert musicians, artists, video and audio
sound technicians and promoters; com-
munity outreach programs, grant writers,
accountants, public relations representa-
tives, program coordinators and special
events planners. 513-203-2448.

**WORLD HERITAGE INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT EXCHANGE PRO-
GRAM** — Seeks local host families for
exchange students and representatives to
volunteer their time and skills to provide
students from several countries with local
program support. 765-676-4306 or 800-
785-9040.

YOUNG PARENT CAREER CENTER
— Seeks volunteers to do basic math
tutoring in a group setting for approxi-
mately three to four hours each week.
Participants are teenage mothers who are
preparing to take the GED exam. 8:30
a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. 859-491-
8303, ext. 2032.

YWCA BATAVIA — Help pick up food,
sort clothes and make food boxes.
Batavia. 513-732-0450.

MISCELLANEOUS

ARTSPIKE MAGAZINE — ArtSpike
magazine is looking for editors, layout
artists, sales personnel and writers inter-
ested in the production of a new arts-driv-
en print publication. For more information
go to www.artspike.com.

KARMATICA — Karmatica is a group
that studies the power of the mind and
intuition. Meetings will be held every
other Monday from 7-9 p.m. Reservations
are required. P.O. Box 324, Lebanon,
Ohio 45036, e-mail
karmaticaforu@aol.com or [www.karmati-
caforu.com](http://www.karmati-
caforu.com).

**MT. ADAMS BOOKSTORE & WINE
SHOP** — Wine tasting 7:30 p.m.

Fridays; 4-7 p.m. Saturdays. ... Live
acoustic music, no cover, 8:30 p.m.-mid-
night Fridays and Saturdays. ... Breakfast
Buffet: 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays and
Sundays. ... Weekday light lunches, 11
a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday, 1101 Gregory
St., Mount Adams. 513-241-9009.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN FICTION WRIT-
ERS** — The cross-genre group needs
entries in their unpublished Romance,
Mystery and Science-Fiction categories.
RWA membership not required. For more
information, visit
www.rmfw.org/framesX.htm.

SITWELL'S COFFEE HOUSE — Is
looking for artists, poets and musicians.
... Got an old book or magazine? Sitwell's
accepts your literary hand-me-downs. ...
C'mon get happy at another Happy Hour.
4-7 p.m. Monday-Friday. ... Start your day
off right with a Belgian Waffle Breakfast
every Sunday. ... Weekday lunch specials
11 a.m.-2 p.m. ... Enjoy drink specials
and award-winning sandwiches. ... Non-
smoking seating available. ... Hours: 8-2
a.m. daily. 324 Ludlow Ave., Clifton. 513-
281-SITS.

TEEN DISCUSSION GROUP — Will
meet to discuss today's issues as well as
go on field trips, visit colleges, party and
have fun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. the first and
third Saturday of the month. Free. PNC
Bank Building, 7162 Reading Road, Suite
606, Roselawn. 513-731-3227.

TRAINED MONKEY PRESS — Is
accepting poetry, prose and unpreten-
tious art for inclusion in TMP Broad-
sides. Send all inquiries and submissions to:
trainedmonkeypress@amish2000.com or
P.O. Box 381, Covington, Ky. 41012.

UNDERNEATH CINCINNATI — This
local film and video exhibition is accept-
ing submissions on 8 mm, 16mm and
VHS. Initial submissions on VHS only.
Send submissions to: Cincinnati CityBeat,
c/o Underneath Cincinnati, 811 Race St.,
Cincinnati, OH 45202.

GROUPS

ENVIRONMENTAL

**ALLIANCE FOR CHEMICAL SAFE-
TY** — This group of Cincinnati industries,
emergency responders, government agen-
cies and citizens working to promote
chemical safety meets from 3-4:30 p.m.
the third Wednesday of every month.
Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati,
3805 Edwards Road, Suite 500
(Rookwood Tower office building),
Norwood. 513-612-3074, ext. 26.

BIKE/PAC — The Cincinnati
Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee is
dedicated to making our city a friendlier
place to bike and walk. They focus on top-
ics like bike racks on buses, bike lanes,
bike and hike trails to Work Week every
May. Meetings are held the third
Wednesday of each month. City Hall,
Room 35, 801 Plum St., Downtown. 513-
352-3205.

EARTHSAVE CINCINNATI —
Promotes healthy food choices for peo-
ple, animals and the planet. Learn to har-
ness the power of your fork with 60-140
other intelligent folks at monthly vegetari-
an/vegan pot lucks with informative pro-
grams. 6 p.m. the third Sunday of each
month at St. John's Unitarian Church,
320 Resor Ave., Clifton. Bring a dish
(preferably vegan) to share. Admission
free for members; \$1-\$2 donation
requested for non-members. 513-929-
2500. Cincinnati@earthsave.org or
Cincinnati.earthsave.org.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY
ORGANIZATION** — Join ECO, a com-
munity and network that creates solutions
to protect and improve health, welfare,
and the environment. 515 Wyoming Ave.
513-761-6140 or www.env-comm.org.

FIFTY AND SINGLE — Join us for din-
ner the third Monday of the month for din-
ner. For information and a calendar call
Jean. 736 Nelles Road, Fairfield, Ohio
513-756-9241.

FRESH — The Fernald Residents for
Environmental Safety & Health meet at
7:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of every
other month. Venice Presbyterian Church,
4244 Layhigh Road, Ross Twp. 513-738-
8055.

FRIENDS OF THE ZOO — This young
adult social group meets the last Tuesday
of the month at 6:30 p.m. with informa-
tion on social, educational and volunteer
opportunities. 513-731-1138 or 513-559-
7736.

**HEALING MEDITATION AND CHAN-
NELING** — Healing meditation and chan-
neling classes will be offered by Doris
Beekle, Reiki Master Teacher. 3209
Madonna Drive, Edgewood. 859-341-
7447.

**NORTHERN KENTUCKY META-
PHYSICAL GROUP** — Discusses
"Secrets of the Mystery School," by
Charles Kernes. Edgewood Public Works
Building, South Loop Road, Edgewood.
859-341-7447.

NORTHSIDE GREENSPACE —
Established to protect and enhance open

spaces and natural areas in Northside
and its vicinity. P.O. Box 23306,
Cincinnati, Ohio 45223. 513-541-9119.
info@northsidegreenspace.org.
www.northsidegreenspace.org

NORWOOD TREE BOARD — This is a
volunteer organization dedicated to refo-
restation of public land. Meetings are held
the third Thursday of every month. 513-
531-2002.

OHIO CITIZEN ACTION — This net-
work of citizens and organizations works
with industries to protect families, the envi-
ronment and quality of life. 2330 Victory
Pkwy, Walnut Hills. 513-221-2100 or
www.ohiocitizen.org.

SIERRA CLUB — National conservation
organization encouraging protection of the
environment for families and the future.
Weekly activities include hiking, backpac-
king, biking and canoeing/kayaking. 7:30
p.m. first Monday of every month.
Raymond Walters College auditorium,
9555 Plainfield Road, Blue Ash. 513-841-
0111.

THE WILD ONES — This is a non-profit
organization dedicated to the education
and use of native plants. Meetings are
held the third Wednesday of every month.
McKie Center, 1655 Chase Ave.,
Northside. www.for-wild.org

GAY & LESBIAN

CINCINNATI FRONT RUNNERS —
Gay and lesbian runners and walkers meet
Saturdays at 9:15 a.m. in the parking lot
across the street from Spring Grove
Cemetery's main gate; Tuesdays at 6:15
p.m. in the Mount Storm parking lot; and
Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. at the gazebo in
Eden Park. 513-621-6363.

CINCINNATI YOUTH GROUP — This
support and social group is for lesbian,
gay, bisexual, transgendered and question-
ing youth under the age of 21. 513-684-
8405.

**GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY
CENTER** — A hub for lesbian, gay, bisex-
ual and transgender people in the
Cincinnati area. 4119 Hamilton Ave.,
Northside. 513-591-0200 or 513-591-
0222.

**GAY/BISEXUAL MARRIED MEN'S
SUPPORT GROUP** — Provides an
opportunity for gay and bisexual married
and formerly married men to discuss mat-
ters pertaining to being gay or bi in the
context of marriage and family. Meets on
the first and third Friday of the month.
513-293-3640.

GAY MEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK
— A weekly discussion and support group
for gay and bisexual men ages 18 and
over. 7 p.m. Mondays. Gay & Lesbian
Community Center, 4119 Hamilton Ave.,
Northside. 513-591-0200 or 513-591-
0222.

GAY MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP —
Serves the gay, lesbian and bisexual com-
munities with support and therapy groups.
4:30 p.m. every other Sunday. 513-861-
8999.

GAY MEN'S TANTRA GROUP —
Promotes Tantra-like, wholeness, responsi-
ble sexuality. Experience full aliveness
through physical/mental/metaphysical
awakening; real fellowship, expression of
feelings and caring, opening of energy cen-
ters. 513-591-0200 or Gay & Lesbian
Community Center 4119 Hamilton Ave.,
Northside.

**GREATER CINCINNATI WOMEN'S
RESOURCE CENTER** — Offers a
Coming Out Group for women exploring
their sexuality as well as lesbians or bisex-
ual women in any part of the "coming out"
process. 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays. 513-244-
4403. Crazy Ladies Bookstore, 4039
Hamilton Ave. Northside. 513-541-1917.

**JEWISH FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF
GAYS AND LESBIANS** — Jewish
Family Service is offering a
discussion/support group for families,
friends and members of the Jewish gay
community. The group meets once a
month and welcomes all that wish to find
support, become informed, share
thoughts, and advocate for their loved
ones. 7:30 p.m. fourth Thursday of the
month. Jewish Family Service offices,
11223 Cornell Park Road, Blue Ash. 513-
469-1188.

MEN IN TOUCH — Aids Volunteers of
Cincinnati introduces a six-week program
for gay men who want to learn more pos-
itive ways of dealing with their lives outside
of the bar environment. It focuses on a dif-
ferent topic each week designed to help
gay men learn more about themselves.
Program facilitated by AVOC's Risk
Reduction Specialist, John Nelson. 513-
421-2437.

PFLAG — Parents, Families and Friends
of Lesbians and Gays meets at 7:30 p.m.
on the second Tuesday of the month for
support, education and advocacy. All are
welcome. Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church,
103 Wm. Howard Taft Road, Mount
Auburn. 513-755-6150.

**STONEWALL CINCINNATI HUMAN
RIGHTS ORGANIZATION** —
Specializes in education, advocacy and
outreach for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and
transgendered people. P.O. Box 954,
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201. 513-651-2500.

the fine print

BY RICHARD HUNT

THE YEAR



IN REVIEW

Looking back isn't nearly as exciting as looking forward. Perhaps it's the numbers — with that nearly-incomprehensible avalanche of 50,000 new books published every year, which translates to 138 new ones *every day* — it would be arrogant, indefensible and plain old ludicrous to think that any one person could pick out which ones were the best.

What's most crucial within this whole crazy mix is this: For whatever precious time you're able to spend with a book, you want that book to sing to you. Many, many books can do that — and provide whatever you might need at that moment (distraction or illumination; resonance or raciness; humor or humbleness). All in all, you want a book to make you better, in some real way.

One way to go is with *A Year of Reading: A Month-by-Month Guide to Classics and Crowd-Pleasers for You or Your Book Group*. This book is like going to the same restaurant once a month, opening the menu and finding 10 new dishes to choose from: five fiction, five non-fiction. The months/chapters are sub-divided into "Crowd-pleaser's," "Challenges," "Memoirs," "Classics" and "Potluck." You quickly begin to trust the authors' choices if — after reading one of their picks — you find you like it for many of the same reasons they did. After that, there's no looking back, and all of 2003 will be your literary Yellow Brick Road.

Meditations from the Mat: Daily Reflections on the Path of Yoga almost sounds too New Year's resolution-like, and we all know how long those self-made promises last. *Meditations* is different. It's not a book on doing yoga. Instead, the days are presented as bits of insight. Whether you mull the varying points over while stretching or sitting is irrelevant. The viewpoints have

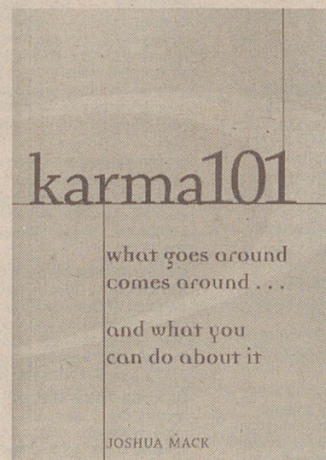
flowed out of Rolf Gates' years of practice as a yoga instructor, but the material draws from quoting Rock lyrics, inspirational figures, historical references and much more. It's really a roll-up of moments of contemporary clarity that the reader can share.

Trieste and the Meaning of Nowhere by Jan Morris is the final work by one of the most interesting, engaging and well-traveled writers in the last half century. Although virtually all of Morris' writing is wonderful, *Trieste* seems more important because it's the last of her career. As one reads about a region that not too long ago was one of the world's primary seaports, it's the metaphor that this exploration has in terms of the

author's life that is most profound. With Morris as your tour guide, the reader is in exceptionally good hands, and heart, and mind. I guarantee there is no way to finish this book without being measurably better for the journey.

Ready for a little fun? A little enlightenment? Maybe Grandma's holiday feast is rendering any heavy reading just too much to stomach. You might want to try *karma101* for some lighter fare that will leave you better

off than when you began, which is more than you can say about that cheesecake. Karma, like Jerry Lewis, is often bandied-about, so misunderstood. For instance, I learned that the whole reincarnation-karma thing is not that if you're bad in this life you're doomed to come back as some President's dog (see, there is a lower-than-low). Instead some of us will pass along the natural mineral-life chain so that parts of you and me and even the folks in Bora-Bora will rise again. It's inevitable. It's karma. Don't let the small size of this book fool you — believe it or not, there's plenty to not just snack on, but feed and nourish yourself within these



words.

Ah, there is one best of 2002 that should be pointed out, only because it might not be the first title on the Gift List, but deserves to be. *The World's Top Photographers: Wildlife* is a breathtaking,

stunning, literally amazing collection of photos that bring the entire spectrum of life on this planet into your home. An international all-star team of photographers possess the knowledge to frame and expose the shot, having the patience of Job to wait days and nights for the right moment to present itself. Readers will come

away with a whole new reverence for animals in their habitats and how people are just one part of the spectrum, and perhaps not even the most adorable, nor wily, nor resourceful. It's just we've got the guns — which we hide behind when facing these remarkable examples of courage and action and grace in the wild.

CONTACT RICHARD HUNT: letters@citybeat.com

THREE DOLLAR INVESTMENT CLUB — This gay investment club offers the chance to learn about the stock market and investing with a gay perspective. Meets monthly on the second Tuesday of every month. 513-541-6036. www.3dollar-investing.com

YOUNG GAY PROFESSIONALS IN CINCINNATI — A group now forming for gay generation X professionals to promote networking and fraternity. clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/cincinnati-gay-professionals.

HUMAN RIGHTS

AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT OF SOUTHERN OHIO/NORTHERN KENTUCKY — This group fights for local Native American issues such as grave desecration, the environment, Leonard Peltier and mascot names. Meets at 7 p.m. the first Saturday of the month. P.O. Box 17872 Covington, Ky. 41011-0872. 859-586-7210. Aimsupport@earthlink.com

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL — The international human rights group meets once a month. 513-221-7659.

COALITION FOR A HUMANE ECONOMY (CHE) — Formed to organize protests against the TransAtlantic Business Dialogue (TABD) conference here in November 2000, the group is remaining together in the hope of becoming a nexus for anti-globalization education in Cincinnati. 1606 Elm St., Cincinnati, OH 45210 513-588-8883 or www.che-2000.org.

GREATER CINCINNATI COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS — This group seeks help with the production and implementation of *Streetvibes* newspaper, advocating for Cincinnati's homeless population and coordinating services among the different homeless shelters in Greater Cincinnati. 513-421-7803.

INTERCOMMUNITY JUSTICE AND PEACE CENTER — Helps promote social, political, economic and environmental justice issues by working against capital punishment and globalization, plus network with other socially conscious organizations. 215 E. 14th St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-579-8547.

NAACP — The nation's largest civil rights organization works to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority group citizens and to eliminate race prejudice. 4439 Reading Road, Suite 202. 513-281-1900 or e-mail Naacp@fuse.net.

NATIONAL ABORTION AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS ACTION LEAGUE OF OHIO — Pro-choice volunteers needed. 800-GO-NARAL.

RIGHT TO LIFE OF GREATER CINCINNATI — Advocates options to abortion. 1802 W. Galbraith Road, North College Hill. 513-728-7870.

WORLD CULTURAL EXCHANGE, INC. — Is currently conducting research on racism, discrimination and xenophobia. If you or your business have been discriminated against, please write to: P.O. Box 3214, Cincinnati, OH 45201. 513-203-2448. All information will be kept confidential if you are interested in volunteering you may send your resume to this address also.

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY — Through nonviolent direct actions, the group advocates public funding of elections and universal health care, among other issues, and fights for individual rights over the spreading power of corporations. www.thealliancefordemocracy.org.

CENTRAL AMERICAN TASK FORCE (CINCINNATI CHAPTER) — Study up on what's happening in Central America and how the United States impacts the small countries there through political maneuvering, militarism and corporate actions. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. 735 Derby Ave., Winton Place. 513-244-9001 or www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Senate/9126/index.html.

CHARTER COMMITTEE — Cincinnati's official third party, still playing a role in city politics and public issues 78 years after helping to reform City Hall. 707 Race St., Suite 800, Downtown. 513-241-0303.

CINCINNATI WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS — Work with this multi-partisan, grassroots group to identify, recruit, train and support feminist women and men for elected and appointed office. Meets third Wednesday of each month. 513-522-5222 or www.nwpc.org.

CITIZENS FOR CIVIC RENEWAL — This citizen-based, non-partisan group seeks transportation reform, an alternative way to fund Ohio's public schools and to affect regional planning through environmental, social and land-use planning. Rockwood Tower, Suite 549, 3805 Edwards Road, Cincinnati, OH 45209. 513-458-6736.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAMILTON COUNTY — 615 Main St., Downtown. 513-421-0495. ... Young Democrats: 513-421-0495.

FAIR ELECTION COALITION — This informal network includes more than 20 civic organizations dedicated to renewing the democratic process in Cincinnati. Volunteers needed. 513-221-2100 or 513-381-4994. members.aol.com/Uptuyunow/index.htm.

GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY — This group trains community and emerging leaders to take control of their neighborhoods and empower them to make choices on civic, social and economic issues that impact their way of life. 3330 Reading Road, Avondale. 513-872-0100.

GREEN PARTY OF SOUTHWEST OHIO — The Greens are looking for people to help build a strong, ongoing third party presence. 513-761-6978 www.swohgp.org.

INDEPENDENT VOTERS ALLIANCE — Be an active petition circulator and voter. A little effort, a lot of democracy. Learn how to transform politics. 6:30 p.m. Guest & discussion, 7:30 p.m. Third Thursday of every month. 513-251-3155, uptuyunow@aol.com or www.geocities.com/dist1oh/uptuyunow.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION — The Cincinnati Branch of the ISO, an organization of an international tendency dedicated to working for a socialist future. 6:30 p.m. Sundays. University of Cincinnati, Room 635, Dyer Hall, Clifton. 859-251-3843 or www.international-socialist.org.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS — Regular meetings are held on topics from regional development to children at risk to campaign finance reform. 103 Wm. Howard Taft Road, Mount Auburn. 513-281-8683 or www.lwcincinnati.org.

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF HAMILTON COUNTY — 700 Walnut St., Downtown. 513-381-5454.

SOCIAL SERVICES

ADOPT-A-SPOT — Join your neighbors, community groups, churches and schools in cleaning up Cincinnati through the Adopt-A-Block program. 513-352-4380.

THE ARC — The nation's oldest membership organization, which promotes equal opportunities for people with mental retardation, is recruiting new members for both its Hamilton and Clermont/Brown county offices. ... Hamilton, 1821 Summit Road, Roselawn, Suite 030. 513-821-2113. ... Clermont/Brown, 1075 Ohio Pike, Withamsville. 513-752-4330 or fax 513-752-4339.

BEECH ACRES — Are you a single parent raising a child alone? Beech Acres, Cincinnati's premiere parenting resource sponsors an on going support group for single and first time parents throughout the area. They help through services such as the ParentSource Info Line, single parent groups, For the Love of Kids, groups for adults going through a divorce and their children and therapeutic foster care as well as training groups and support groups. 513-231-6630.

BETHESDA OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES — Bethesda Hospital offers occupational health services, including follow-ups to work-related injuries, return-to-work physicals, drug screening and alcohol testing. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Bethesda Care Queensgate. 336 Gest St., Queensgate. 513-241-4135.

BRIGHTON CENTER — Helping children, youth, job seekers, families and communities through day-care programs, skills training, counseling and more. Seventh and Park streets, Newport. 859-491-8303.

CENTER HILL ADULT DAY SERVICES — Provides protective day services for the elderly and mentally ill in Hamilton County. Seeks senior citizen group members. The Salvation Army, 6381 Center Hill Ave., College Hill. 513-482-7262.

CHABAD HOUSE OF CINCINNATI — The non-profit emergency shelter for families is the largest family shelter in Greater Cincinnati. Volunteers are needed. 1636 Summit Road, Roselawn. 513-821-5100.

GOODWILL — Cooperative helps veterans find employment. 35 E. Seventh St., Suite 610, Downtown. 513-421-4501.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY — Seeks people to provide any of the following: development/fund-raising leadership, a late-model pick-up truck, house construction experience or skilled construction experience. 201 W. Eighth St., Downtown. 513-621-4147.

HEALING MEDITATION — Is offered by Doris Beierle. 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays. 3209 Madonna Drive, Edgewood. 859-341-7447.

IMPACT OVER-THE-RHINE — Employs and trains inter-city adults and at risk youths who are in school to signifi-

cantly improve the physical appearance of Over-the-Rhine. Eco-garden program teaches kids entrepreneurship /marketing skills. 1718 Pleasant St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-241-8934.

THE LITERACY NETWORK OF GREATER CINCINNATI — The Literacy Network helps combat illiteracy. Volunteers needed for the Children's Basic Reading Program, 2:30-5:00, Monday-Thursday during the school year. Volunteers also needed for one-on-one tutoring for adults. 635 W. Seventh St., 19 Broadcast Plaza, Suite 103, Downtown. 513-621-7323.

MERCY CONNECTIONS — The center works to provide the needs of the underserved in the Walnut Hills community. Programs include computer job training program, computer-based GED programs, computer literacy classes, grandmothers (raising their grandchildren) support groups, emergency assistance, community wellness programs for women and a computer skills classes for children ages 5-14. 1602 Madison Road, East Walnut Hills. 513-221-7331.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS — OA is a non-profit 12-step program open to everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively. The group is not affiliated with any other organization, ideology or religious doctrine and holds weekly meetings throughout the Tristate area. 513-921-1922.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF CINCINNATI REGION — Has provided women with a wide range of affordable services since 1929, from birth control and gynecological exams to counseling for safer sex and mid-life services. Everything is confidential. 2314 Auburn Ave., Mount Auburn. 513-721-7635.

PRO SENIORS — A non-profit legal advocacy program for Ohio residents over the age of 60. Dedicated to helping older adults maintain their independence by giving them free legal advice, by protecting interests and by helping them access resources. Also houses an ombudsman program, which advocates for nursing home residents. Suite 1150, 7162 Reading Road, Roselawn. 513-345-4160.

REV. ASHLEY BEAGLE MINISTRIES — This non-profit organization helps those with no church affiliation with weddings and funerals. Serves the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area. 513-589-0148 or www.groups.msn.com/RevAshleyBeagleMinistries

SALVATION ARMY CENTER HILL ADULT DAY SERVICES — Provides protective day services for the elderly and mentally ill in Hamilton County, includes dementia. Call for information and referral. 6381 Center Hill Ave., College Hill. 513-482-7262.

SOUTHWEST OHIO CAREER RESOURCE NETWORK — If you're looking for work or looking for employees, the center can help. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesdays. 1811 Losantville Ave., Roselawn. 513-731-9800. Forest Park 513-825-1070. Great Oaks 513-772-5908. Over-The-Rhine 513-357-2880. Western Hills 513-921-4212.

YOUNG ADULTS COPING WITH ARTHRITIS — Support group for young adults over 18 suffering from rheumatic disease. Meets every first Saturday of the month. Sabin Education Center, Children's Hospital, 3333 Burnet Ave., Avondale. 513-351-5510.

YWCA PROTECTION FROM ABUSE PROGRAMS — Alice Paul House and House of Peace provide housing, advocacy and support to battered women and their children. 513-872-9259.

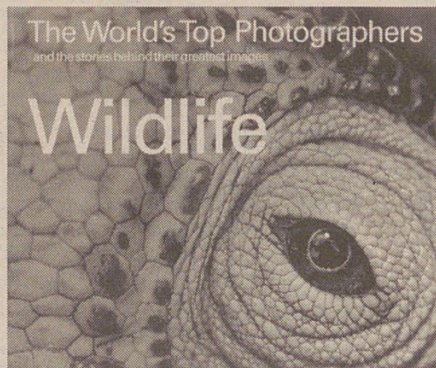
SUPPORT

ADD SUPPORT GROUP — All parents of children who have been diagnosed with ADD are invited to join an online community, newsletter and resource center for help in dealing with issues and treatments of ADD. Online meeting and chat: 9-10 p.m. Tuesdays. www.addhelpline.org/chatroom.htm.

AIDS VOLUNTEERS OF CINCINNATI — An estimated one million Americans are infected with HIV. AVOC offers support groups for persons living with HIV, as well as their families, friends and loved ones. All services are free and confidential. 220 Findlay, West End. 513-421-2437.

AIDS VOLUNTEERS OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY — Together for Healing, a support group for persons living with HIV/AIDS, meets 6:30-8 p.m. Sundays. St. Elizabeth North, 401 E. 20th St., Covington. ... Together for Caring, a support group for caregivers and bereaved individuals, meets 5-6:15 p.m. Sundays. St. Elizabeth North. ... Together for Spirituality, a support group for persons living with HIV/AIDS, caregivers, family, friends and partners, meets every Tuesday (except the fourth Tuesday) every month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth North. ... Monthly

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GROUPS

social for HIV/AIDS challenged families, friends and caregivers meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month. 6-8 p.m. Dinner, fun and more provided. Holy Family Catholic School of St. Benedict's Church, 16th St., Covington. 513-483-5757.

AL-ANON — If you are upset about somebody else's drinking, Al-Anon can help. Meetings are held during the day and evening every day of the week at many locations throughout the Greater Cincinnati area and surrounding counties. For information and a recorded message, call 513-771-4070 anytime.

ALLIANCE FOR CHEMICAL SAFETY — The Alliance is a group of Cincinnati industries, emergency responders, government agencies and citizens working to promote chemical safety. Meets from 3-4:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month. This month's meeting will be about spill response on the Ohio River. TechSolve, 1111 Edison Ave., Bond Hill. 513-612-3074 ext. 26.

AFRICAN AMERICAN SAFER SEX ADVISORY GROUP MEETING "HIV STOPS WITH ME" — SSAG is currently recruiting new members to make a one year commitment to decreasing HIV/AIDS among African American Men. The table is open for discussion Please come and help us reach our brothers in Cincinnati. 513-421-2437.

AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP — The group meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of every other month. Drake Hospital Conference Center, 151 W. Galbraith Road, Hartwell. 513-636-7203.

BEECH ACRES — Beech Acres is forming a new single parent group in West Chester. Meetings will be held on the first and third Thursday of each month. 6:30 p.m. Thursday. West Chester Presbyterian Church, 8930 Cincinnati-Dayton Road, West Chester. 513-231-6630.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP — A support group for widows and widowers of any age. 1:30-2:30 p.m. second Friday of each month. \$15 per seven sessions; sliding fee scale. Jewish Community Center, 1580 Summit Road, Roselawn. 513-469-1188, ext. 133.

CANCER FAMILY CARE CENTER — Breast Cancer support group at Barrett Cancer Center 5:30-7 p.m. first and third Monday of the month. Support group for children and families, "Walking the Dinosaur," call for info. Cancer Family Center, 2421 Auburn Ave., Mount Auburn. 513-731-3346.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP — If you provide care that helps a person who is frail, elderly or disabled, either in your home, their home, at a facility or via long distance, and find it physically and emotionally demanding, join the Caregivers Group every first Sunday of the month from 4:50-6 p.m. for support. 513-522-3618.

CELEBRATE ADOPTION — Offers programs, monthly discussion groups, educational sessions and a holiday party. Open to adoptive families, waiting couples and anyone else who wants to rejoice in the positive aspects of adoption. Meeting times and days vary. \$20 membership. 11223 Cornell Park Drive, Blue Ash. 513-489-1616.

CENTER FOR CHEMICAL ADDICTIONS TREATMENT — Provides treatment for chemically addicted adults. 830 Ezzard Charles Drive, West End. 513-381-6672.

CINCY WIDOWS, WIDOWERS, AND SINGLES CLUB

f. Invites members for meetings, music, dancing, and socializing. Meets from 8:10-10:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Lakeridge Conference Room, 7118 Pippin Road at Banning, Groesbeck. Call 513-522-0297 for more information.

CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING OPTIONS — Services provided by and for people with disabilities to attain and maintain independence. 632 Vine St., Suite 601, Downtown. 513-241-2600.

CLUTTERERS ANONYMOUS — This is a 12-step program for people who have difficulty with clutter, both emotional and physical. Noon-1 p.m. Wednesdays, St. John's Unitarian Church, 320 Resor Ave., Clifton. 513-791-3627 or www.clutterers-anonymous.org.

CROHN'S AND COLITIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA — Holds support groups for people with Crohn's or ulcerative colitis. 7 p.m. second Tuesday of the month. 2139 Auburn Ave., Christ Hospital, Mount Auburn. Call 513-585-1775 to confirm date and time, or go to www.cfa.org

CROSSPOST — A transgender support group. P.O. Box 1692, Cincinnati, Ohio 45201. 513-768-3161.

DEBTORS ANONYMOUS — This non-profit, no-fee 12-step recovery group offers support to anyone struggling with debt or compulsive spending. 6 p.m. Tuesdays, St. Peter in Chains Cathedral, Downtown; 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Lutheran Church of Good Shepherd, 7701 Kenwood Road; Kenwood. 859-240-4799.

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP — An educational support group for people with diabetes. Second Wednesday of the month. 1:30-3 p.m. Join at any time. 513-522-1184.

DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP — Share experiences and feelings with others in a safe, friendly environment. Develop skills to grow through this difficult experience. Sundays. Northminster Family Life Center, 703 Compton Road, Finneytown. 513-931-5777.

DIVORCE SURVIVAL GROUP — Jewish Family Service offers a support group for those whose lives have been turned upside down by divorce. Meetings are 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. \$10. 11223 Cornell Park Drive, Blue Ash.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT GROUPS — The Women's Connection offers support for those whose lives by violence. Is a support, referral, education organization for women and children. Domestic violence meeting: 6:30-8 p.m. Mondays. 4042 Glenway Ave., Price Hill. 513-471-HOPE.

FACE (FOR AIDS CHILDREN EVERYWHERE) — The non-profit organization provides support and services to families affected by HIV/AIDS who have children under 18. 513-584-3571.

FAMILY NURTURING CENTER — This non-profit social service agency is dedicated to ending the cycle of child abuse by promoting individual well-being and healthy relationships. 7990 Dixie Hwy., Florence. 859-525-3200.

FRAGILE-X SUPPORT GROUP — Support group for parents and children with Fragile-X syndrome. 859-781-5872.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB — Holocaust survivors share stories, listen to various guest speakers and attend special programs. Lunch is offered afterward at the JCC. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. first and third Wednesdays of each month. \$3 donation suggested. Jewish Community Center, 1580 Summit Road, Roselawn. 513-469-1188, ext. 133.

FUTURES — A Mercy Professional Services-sponsored support group designed to address the needs of heterosexuals with AIDS. A safe, comfortable environment where you can discuss your situation and learn how to face the future through the experience and hope of others. Call for location and times. 513-221-2330.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP — Brings together people who share the loss of a loved one, to get help and gain an understanding of the grieving process. For schedule to start next group, call 513-931-5777.

HELPING CHILDREN COPE WITH DIVORCE — Given in partnership with the Court of Common Pleas - Division of Domestic Relations, required for parents going through the legal process of divorce. First Tuesday of each month, 5:30-8 p.m. \$35. 513-231-6630.

HERPES HELP GROUP — For those thinking they're alone or who just want more information. Meets 7-9 p.m. third Tuesday of the month. Ambros H. Clemmens Health Center, Room 129, 3101 Burnet Ave., Clifton. 513-557-3435 or cincinnati_help@yahoo.com

JOB SEARCH SUPPORT GROUP — For those coping with downsizing, or looking to change jobs or return to the job market. Weekly group meetings: 1:30-3 p.m. Mondays. 513-931-5777.

LEARNING DISABILITIES PARENT SUPPORT GROUP — This non-profit, scientific and educational organization dedicated to the study and treatment of dyslexia. Meetings suspended indefinitely. Topics vary. Springer Center, 2121 Madison Road, Hyde Park. 513-731-4250.

MEN OF COLOR OUTREACH PROJECT — Discusses strategies to deal with the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the African-American community. Meets from 6-8 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Urban League of Greater Cincinnati, 3458 Reading Road, Avondale. 513-487-6520.

MIRACLE MOMS — A support group for moms (and dads!) that have experienced infertility. Meet every third Tuesday of the month from 7-9 p.m. through June. Hyde Park United Methodist Church, Grace and Observatory Roads, Call 513-598-4791.

MOTHERS AND MORE — A national non-profit organization serving sequencing mothers. Weekly playgroups, twice-monthly meetings, mom's night out and other activities are offered. Children's Urgent Care, Mason Children's Drive, Building A. 513-697-8539. www.geocities.com/mothersandmorecinci.

MUSCLE UP — An exercise, nutrition and support group for obese or overweight women. 513-956-7926.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL OF HAMILTON COUNTY — NAMI welcomes family and friends of individuals of all ages who have mental illness. 7 p.m. every third Monday of the month. Summit Behavioral Health Care, 1101 Summit Road, Roselawn. 513-948-3094. www.na.org

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Twelve-step recovery meetings offered at various locations. Hopeline: 513-820-2947.

NATIONAL STUTTERING PROJECT — The Cincinnati Chapter of the NSP is holding an open house for those affected by stuttering. 7:30-9 p.m. Every third Monday of each month. Ester Benzing Conference Room A, Mercy Hospital South, Fairfield. 513-521-7635.

OHIO FRIENDS — A state wide social group for people with herpes or HPV. Cincinnati Help (division of Ohio Friends) holds its monthly meeting every third Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. at Ambrose H. Clement/ Cincinnati Health Department room 129, 3101 Burnet Ave. (corner of Martin Luther King Drive). 513-551-3425, E-mail: cincinnati_help@yahoo.com. www.ohiofriends.org

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS — OA is a nonprofit 12-step program open to everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively. The group is not affiliated with any other organization, ideology or religious doctrine, and holds weekly meetings throughout the Tristate area. 513-921-1922.

RECOVERY INITIATIVE — A resource and referral group for mental health consumers, with computers, support groups, housing information and other services available. 2601 Melrose Ave., Suite B-100, Walnut Hills. 513-221-8660.

RECOVERY RESOURCE CENTER — Beyond AA. This group offers information, education and referral to the following self-help groups: Women for Sobriety, Life Ring, Secular Recovery, Secular Organization for Sobriety, SMART Recovery and Rational Recovery. 513-761-7353 or www.rrci.net.

SEX AND LOVE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS — 12-step recovery group meets daily throughout Greater Cincinnati. 513-852-9459.

SEXUAL DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS — 12-step recovery group, based on the principles of AA, for those dependent on selfish sex. 513-931-5900.

SHARON VAN RISSEGHEN ENDOWMENT FUND FOR CANCER RESEARCH — Established by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the fund is for cancer patients and musicians experiencing catastrophic health-care costs. 513-562-8841.

SICKLE CELL PARENT AND FAMILY NETWORK — For families and friends of people with sickle-cell anemia. 513-641-5683.

STAY-AT-HOME DADS — For those dads and moms who have left their careers to raise their children full time. Meets weekly for children to play and hosts monthly "Dads' Night Out." 513-248-8596 or www.cincinnatiads.com

SUPPORT GROUP CLEARINGHOUSE — Lists hundreds of area support groups. Look for a group at www.mentalhealthassn.org or call 513-721-2910, ext. 12 for a referral.

SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE — This support group for people who have lost loved ones through homicide meets 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays. 3891 Reading Road, Avondale. 513-241-4484.

SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE — Provides a comfortable setting for sharing and support to anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one by suicide. 7 p.m. First Tuesday of the month. United Church of Christ, 15 S. Fort Thomas Ave., Fort Thomas. 859-441-1958.

TRICHOTILLOMANIA SUPPORT GROUP — Aims to help those with compulsive hair pulling from their scalp, eyebrows, lashes or body. 6:45 p.m. first and third Thursday of each month. United Way & Community Chest Bldg., 2400 Reading Road, Mount Auburn. 513-531-2002.

UNITED WAY HELPLINE — Provides counseling, support-group information, crisis intervention and assistance 24 hours a day. 513-721-7900.

WELLNESS COMMUNITY — In introductory meetings, people who have recovered from cancer give an overview of the Wellness Community. They offer weekly support groups for people with cancer as well as their families and friends. 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays; 10 a.m. Fridays. 4918 Cooper Road, Blue Ash. 513-791-4060. ... 6:30 p.m. Mondays. Fort Wright Facility, Suite 145, 1717 Dixie Hwy., Fort Wright. 859-331-5568. www.cancer-support.org.

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN — Provides crisis intervention and support services for primary and secondary victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. ... Domestic Violence Support Group. 10:30-noon and 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays; 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays. ... Sexual Assault, 5:30-7 p.m. Mondays; 6-7:30 p.m. Thursdays. ... Childhood Sexual Abuse. ... Groups are held throughout the community. Free childcare provided at certain locations. For locations and times, 513-872-9259.

WOMEN'S

CINCINNATI NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN — Cincinnati NOW is a 35-year-old organization that works to bring women into full partnership in the mainstream of American society, exercising all privileges and responsibilities in truly equal partnership with men. Meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of the month at the First Unitarian Church, Reading Road at Linton. 513-852-9948.

MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS) — MOPS offers mothers of preschoolers (from infancy to age 5 and their children) a half-day each month of making friends, sharing concerns and learning. Offers snack-caring activity and music activities while moms attend adult programs. \$15 registration. First 2 months free! 9:15-11:30 a.m. every first Thursday of month. Northminster Church, 703 Compton Road off Winton Road, Finneytown. 513-931-5777.

UNITED WAY — United Way agencies reach out to local women. Women Helping Women, Inc. provides crisis intervention and support services for sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking victims. Deaf/Hard of Hearing outreach programs and date rape/dating violence prevention programs also. 513-977-5541. ... The Women's Crisis Center provides a 24-hour hotline and safe-emergency shelter for women and children. 859-491-3335. ... Sojourner Women's Recovery Service offers drug and alcohol treatment. 513-868-7654.

THE WOMEN'S CONNECTION — This Price Hill neighborhood support and referral service for women and children offers a developmental playroom for children as well as various support groups and a parent to parent group. Homework assistance program, Girl's Clubs, Basic adult literacy classes, tutoring, employment seminars, Quilting. ... Domestic Violence Support Groups. 4042 Glenway Ave., Price Hill. 513-471-HOPE.

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN — Cincinnati agency serving Southwestern Ohio since 1973 is offering support services for sexual assault survivors, including group meetings and free Yoga classes. ... Domestic violence support groups: Wednesday mornings and evenings, Thursday and Sunday evenings; sexual assault support groups: Monday evenings, Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings. ... Support groups for children who witness domestic violence and Yoga for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence begin in January. 513-872-9259.

WOMEN WRITING FOR (A) CHANGE — Supports the writing of women and girls. Provides counseling, retreats, classes, etc.. Call for times and course schedules. 4850 Madison Road, Hyde Park. 513-272-1171 or www.womenwriting.org.

YWCA — Provides literacy, GED, job-readiness/training, and health and wellness programs for women, in addition to serving as a battered women's shelter. 513-241-7090.

VARIOUS

ALLIANCE FOR LEADERSHIP AND INTERCONNECTION (ALLY) — Provides leadership development training for community organizations and agencies. 1216 E. McMillan St., Suite 202, Walnut Hills. 513-221-2822 or www.allyguides.org.

APPLESIDERS — Own an Apple Computer? Join the Club! AppleSiders of Cincinnati have been helping each other since 1979. We're a nonprofit club of Apple Computer users at every level. Mingle, get help, see a presentation, buy/sell/swap equipment at our main meetings. We also offer smaller meetings for beginners, older Macs, OSX, digital photography, digital video, genealogy and the internet. We meet at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at Maple Knoll Wellness Center, 11100 Springfield Pike, Springdale. 513-741-4329 or www.applesiders.com.

ASTROLOGY GROUP — Free astrology group meets 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays. The Memorial Community Center, 1607 Mansfield Road, Over-the-Rhine. 513-588-8527.

BUDDHIST CINCINNATI — Offers weekly meditations. Ease into practice with this relaxed approach to meditation. Open to all, especially those with questions and people who need encouragement. This is a good place for beginners to get started. 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Held at Cincinnati Zen Center, 4011 Allston St., Oakley. 513-531-6032.

BUTLER COUNTY CHIPPERS WOODCARVING CLUB — Woodcarvers gather twice a month to practice and learn their craft. Each meeting features a project to be carved and a dissertation on the techniques involved. 7-9 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Fitton Center for Creative Arts, 101 S. Monument St., Hamilton. Herb Sedlitz. 513-863-8873.

CHEERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB — Meetings held every Monday. Noon-1 p.m. Crown Plaza Hotel, Second floor, Sixth and Vine streets, Downtown. 513-723-2452.

CINCI GYMNASIUM — Nudist club affiliated with the American Association for Nude Recreation and Naturalist Society. P.O. Box 40871 Cincinnati, OH 45240-0871. 513-648-0401.

CINCINNATI CRIBBAGE CLUB — This club is seeking new players to be potential members. 513-688-0089.

CINCINNATI ECO-VILLAGE — Cincinnati Eco-village is a group of people who have come together because we have a strong desire to create a residential community based on the social principles of co-housing and the environmental principles of sustainable living that characterize an eco-village. We are looking for other individuals who are also interested in creating a co-housing community in Cincinnati. Our first meeting will be on 7:30pm Wednesday, May 22nd at Heritage Universalist Church, 2710 Newtown Road, Newtown, Cincinnati. 513-232-8568 http://members.aol.com/cinctecovillage.

CINCINNATI FILM SOCIETY — Dedicated to showing innovative film series and developing filmmaking seminars. Volunteers needed. P.O. Box 1460, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0606 www.cincinnati-film.com/filmsociety.

CINCINNATI GNU/LINUX USERS GROUP — Meets at 10:30 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of each month at 4555 Lake Forest Drive, Room 140, in Blue Ash, to discuss and help computer users with the GNU/Linux operating system and other related free software. 513-899-2030 or e-mail jeff@sgis.com. www.clug.org

CINCINNATI JAYCEES — Leadership development and social coed group, ages 21-39, meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Pleasant Ridge Community Center, 5915 Ridge Ave., Pleasant Ridge. 513-956-7704.

CINCINNATI PLAYWRIGHTS GROUP — Holds monthly meetings at 7 p.m. on the second Sunday of every month in French Hall at the University of Cincinnati. www.geocities.com/cpicinci/ or 513-721-6170.

CINCINNATI SINGLES GOLF ASSOCIATION — Holds a monthly meeting with guest speaker. Any single golfer 21 or over is invited. Friends of members are welcome. \$70 first year. ... Social hour and hors d'oeuvres. 6-7 p.m.; open membership meeting: 7-8 p.m. third Monday of the month at a given restaurant. 513-588-0271.

CINCINNATI 2600 — Holds monthly meetings as a forum for all interested in technology to discuss events in technology, learn and teach. Meetings are open to anyone of any age or level of expertise. 6 p.m. first Friday of the month. Cody's Café, 113 Calhoun St., Clifton. www.cinci2600.com

CINCY WIDOWS, WIDOWERS & SINGLES CLUB — Join this group for a meeting, music and socializing every second Tuesday of each month at the Lakeridge Conference Room from 8 to 10:30 p.m. 7118 Pippin Road at Banning, Groesbeck. 513-522-0297.

A COURSE IN MIRACLES STUDY GROUP — This weekly study group meets to discuss a practical approach to peace of mind and healing. Wednesdays, beginning Dec. 4. \$5 love donation. Amethyst Books and Gifts, 11921 Montgomery Road, Symmes Twp. 513-309-8377.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUP — Designed to help those whose first language is not English and for those who want to practice their English conversation skills in a supportive and friendly environment sponsored by the Literature and Languages Department of the Public Library. The next meeting (and the last scheduled until January) will be 2-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30. Main Library, 800 Vine Street, Room 3A (near the History Department), Downtown.

EXPLORE THE ARTS CLUB — Meets monthly for laid-back evenings including dinner and a play, movie, concert, etc. Ages 25-40. E-mail Sgroh@cinci.rr.com.

EXPLORE CINCINNATI — Anyone between the ages of 21 to 30 interested in exploring local restaurants and pubs is welcome. 5 p.m. Saturdays. 812-537-0288 or e-mail jeffgroh@hotmail.com.

GREATER CINCINNATI BLUES SOCIETY — Non-profit organization dedicated to the perpetuation of blues music as an American art form. Meets 7:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month. Brewhouse, at McMillan and Park Streets, Walnut Hills. 513-684-GCBS or www.gcbss.org.

GREATER CINCINNATI FRIENDS OF JUNG — The non-profit organization offers lectures, films, dream-sharing and other events relating to the ideas of C.G. Jung, founder of archetypal psychology. 513-984-2059.

GURDJIEFF — GURDJIEFF group meets weekly to study the ideas and methods of

G.I. Gurdjieff. 513-651-5446. Or e-mail tpool@seidata.com

HIGH CINCINNATIANS TALL CLUB — The High C's promote the exchange of friendship, information and ideas between persons of comparable height. Activities and special programs are offered to better instill self-confidence and a positive outlook on being tall. Membership requirements: Height: men 6'2" or taller; women 5'10" or taller. Must be 21 years of age. 513-352-0281 or www.highcincinnati.com.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS (IAAP) — The Cincinnati chapter of IAAP provides education and networking through dinner/program meetings (third Thursday of each month); a newsletter; seminars and workshops; and professional certification. International Association of Administrative Professionals, P.O. Box 473, Cincinnati, OH 45201-0473. A message left on Chapter Voicemail will bring a prompt response. 513-483-5555, or visit www.iaap-cinci.org.

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE — Dances from Turkey, Norway, Romania, Israel, Croatia, Egypt, Germany and more. Open social dancing, teaching for beginners. No partners needed, visitors welcome. The group meets from 8:15-11 p.m. every Saturday. Donation requested. 4120 Hamilton Ave., Northside. 513-631-8830 or www.geocities.com/ucfolkdance.

MILFORD AREA JAYCEES — This social organization for people between the ages of 21 and 39 specializes in community involvement and leadership training. Meets every second Wednesday at 7 p.m. American Legion Annex, 111 Water St., Milford. 513-225-4949 or members.aol.com/milfordjaycees.

NANCY-CINCINNATI SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION — Promotes the sister city relationship between Cincinnati and the French town of Nancy. Meets Quarterly. 513-731-1354.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY METAPHYSICAL GROUP — Creating health through earth-centered healing. 7:30 p.m. Thursday. Free. Edgewood Public Works Building, 553 S. Loop Road, Edgewood. 859-341-7447.

OHIO SHOGI CLUB — Shogi is a Japanese chess game in which captured pieces are used against your opponent. Beginners welcome. 6-9 p.m. Wednesdays. Papa Dino's, 349 Calhoun St., Clifton. 513-706-2508 or dougdyart@hotmail.com.

OVER FIFTY AND SINGLE — Meets for dinner the third Monday of each month. Perkins Restaurant, 736 Nilles Road, Fairfield. 513-756-9241.

PEER GROUP — PEER Group is a sincere discussion/support/social group for all adults interested in dominance/submission in a safe, sane and consensual environment. PEER Group, P.O. Box 12872, Cincinnati, OH 45212-0872. 513-763-3883 or BDSM-PEERGroup.com.

PRAYER/HEALING CIRCLE — Promotes true acceptance and freedom of religion in a group atmosphere. 2 p.m. Every other Saturday. Harmon Park, Lebanon. 513-934-3803 or karmat-caforu@aol.com.

QUEEN CITY BARBIE DOLL CLUB — This club for both vintage and contemporary collectors meets at 2 p.m. one Sunday a month. 513-321-5260. P.O. Box 9372 Cincinnati, OH 45209 or e-mail askmargie@aol.com

RENT-A-KID — Need help with odd jobs around the home or office, like pulling weeds or stuffing envelopes? The year-round non-profit program matches your needs with a youth in your neighborhood. 513-632-5200.

SAVE OUR STRAYS — Did you know the mating of one male and one female cat in 2002 can result in close to 1,000,000 offspring by 2010? Help us try and eliminate overpopulation and the need for euthanasia. Please contact us at (513)-768-3600 or e-mail SOS@cinci.rr.com.

SHAPE NOTE SINGERS — Beginners and experienced singers are welcome to this recreational singing group. Four part a cappella, early American traditional signing. 4:30-7:30 p.m. second Sunday of each month. Walnut Hills Christian Church, 1438 E. McMillan St., Walnut Hills. 513-861-1137.

SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM — The SCA is an international organization dedicated to researching and re-creating the many varied aspects of pre-17th-century history. 7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at White Oak Christian Church, 3675 Blue Rock Road, Groesbeck. P.O. Box 14871, Cincinnati. OH45250 or w3.one.net/~scotty/fenix.

SUMMERFAIR SEEKING NEW MEMBERS — Summer Fair, Inc. is a volunteer organization with approximately 100 members. But to remain effective they need more help. Prospective members are invited to come for an audition. Oakley Community Center, 3822 Paxton Ave., Oakley. 513-531-0050 or www.summerfair.org

SOUTHERN OHIO FILMAKERS ASSOCIATION — SOFA is a networking group for anyone involved in independent film or video production. 8 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month at 20th Century Theater, 3021 Madison Road, Oakley. \$2. Email Jerrystone@cinci.rr.com or 513-531-5839.

TOASTMASTER CLUB — Provides a mutually supportive and positive learning environment so that members can develop communication and leadership skills. 6:30 p.m. The first and third Tuesday of each month. Council Chamber of the Golf Manor Municipal Building, 3333 Reading Road, Avondale. 513-631-7978.

TRANSMISSION MEDITATION GROUP — Transmission is a specialized form of meditation that will not conflict with any other form of meditation you might be practicing. 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Astrology group meets at 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Memorial Community Center, 1607 Mansfield Road, Mount Auburn. 513-588-8527.

TRISTATE VOLUNTEERS — One of the Tristate's largest volunteer/social organizations for adults supports some of the best-known events of the area. 6:15 p.m. Mondays. Holiday Inn Eighth St., 800 W. Eighth St., Downtown. 513-766-2002, ext.4485, or visit www.tristatevolunteers.org.

YADAI YOUNG ADULT DISCUSSION & ACTION — YADAI! is a well-coming group for all open-minded young adults (18-35) interested in meeting new people and discussing anything and everything. Discussions take place 7-8:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of each month at St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church, 320 Resor Ave., in Clifton. This group is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association, which affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Call 513-821-7682 for more information.

SPORTS

It's the ladies turn to shoot it out. ➔

SPECTATOR

CINCINNATI CYCLONES — The Cyclones throw down with the Toledo Storm. 7:05 p.m. Thursday. ... The Clones dethrone the Reading Royals on "Melt the Ice" Bikini Competition Night. ... The Clones throw down again with Toledo, and then throw a "New Year's Eve Party." \$17-\$9. US Bank Arena, 100 Broadway, Downtown. 513-421-7825.

CINCINNATI MIGHTY DUCKS — The Ducks slap Grand Rapids. 7:35 p.m. Friday. \$15-\$10. Cincinnati Gardens, 2250 Seymour Ave., Roselawn. 513-351-3999.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL — The Norse go mad on Wayne State. 7 p.m. Monday. \$5. Regent's Hall, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights. 859-572-5193.

★ UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI MEN'S BASKETBALL — The Bearcats take on longtime rival Miami. 6:05 p.m. Saturday. \$20-\$12. US Bank Arena (formerly Firststar Center), Downtown. 513-556-CATS.

→ UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI WOMEN'S BASKETBALL — The Lady Bearcats battle Xavier in the women's version of the Crosstown Shootout. 1:30 p.m. Thursday. \$5. Shoemaker Center, UC campus, Clifton. 513-556-CATS.

XAVIER UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL — The Muskies thrash Eastern Kentucky. 7:30 p.m. Saturday. ... The Muskies cream Creighton. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. ... \$10. Cintas Center, 1624 Herald Ave. XU campus, Evanston. 513-745-3411.

RECREATIONAL

CINCINNATI NATURE CENTER — Come enjoy the great outdoors at three different locations: Rowe Woods, 4949 Tealtown Road, Milford; Gorman Heritage Farms, 3035 Gorman Heritage Farm Lane, Reading; and Long Branch Farm, 6926 Gaynor Road, Goshen. Programs are offered to school groups and individuals year-round. \$5-\$1; free to CNC members. 513-831-1711.

CINCINNATI OUTDOOR GROUP — COG is an informal group of energetic, fun, non-competitive outdoor enthusiasts, age 25-35, who enjoy self-organized outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, climbing, skiing and adventure travel. Holds a monthly potluck. 513-981-0801.

CINCINNATI PARK BOARD EVENTS — Venture into the cool evening air for the exciting and informative "Owl Prowl." Recommended for adults and their older children. 7-8:30 p.m. Friday. Free. French Park, Amberley Village. 513-861-3435.

Here are a few programs to look out for in the upcoming week ...

THURSDAY 9 P.M. Times Square: America's Town Square, Travel Channel. At the bustling heart of New York City, our nation has celebrated its greatest victories and mourned its deepest losses. Find out how this sometime-seedy, vibrant square became one of the most important pieces of real estate in the world. Bore your friends at the New Year's Eve party with all sorts of trivia.

THURSDAY 10 P.M. The System, Court TV, "Danger on the Job." A look at the risks of working at a convenience store including burglaries and murders. These common crimes make convenience stores one of the most dangerous places to work in America. It's worth the risk, though, for the free Big Gulps.

SATURDAY 7 P.M. Gangs of New York, The History Channel. Find out what's history and what's Hollywood as History Channel experts examine Martin Scorsese's *Gangs of New York*. Set against the backdrop of the infamous Five Points, an area of Manhattan once described as the world's worst slum, the film

focuses on powerful Irish and Italian gangs in the 19th century. Scorsese tours Josh Binswanger around Five Points, where outlaws, crooked cops and corrupt politicians once flourished. Includes interviews with Leonardo DiCaprio and Cameron Diaz. Yes, the gangs were violent, but they were so good looking!

SATURDAY MID-NIGHT. Rain Man, TCM. Sister channels (WTBS and TNT) run this now and again, but here you have it without commercials. See Tom cruise down Columbia Parkway (sorry) and jam to 97X (listen closely). By the way, do you think they sell this at Kmart?

TUESDAY 2 P.M. Blue Thunder, A&E. Fine action thriller from 1983 about a Los Angeles cop who uncovers a government plot to use a high-tech helicopter to spy on citizens. Roy Scheider, Daniel Stern and Malcolm McDowell are all quite good.

TUESDAY 11:30 P.M. MTV's New Years Eve Pajama Party, MTV. Lots to choose from in this time slot. Dick Clark is over on ABC, of course, but this one sounds a bit more contemporary. Brittany Murphy, Carson Daly and Ashton Kutcher host the festivities. Dude, where's my champagne?

— P.F. WILSON

University, Oxford, Ohio. For more information on what the center has to offer, contact April White at 513-529-8178 or www.muohio.edu/fitness

QUEEN CITY RUGBY — Looking for players, new or used. Rookie season is free. If you practice, you play. 888-RUCK-OVER.

RUGBY LEAGUE — No experience (or pads) needed. Men and women wanted to play, coach, administrate or just watch. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Games on Saturdays. For locations, 513-684-1166 or 800-CIN-KELT.

SIERRA CLUB — Join the Miami Group Sierra Club for their weekly trek into the woods. 7 p.m. The first, third and fifth Friday of the month meet at the Kemper Road Playground at Sharon Woods. Second and fourth Friday of the month meet at the Oval in Mt. Airy Forest. ... National conservation organization encouraging protection of the environment for families and the future. Weekly activities include hiking, backpacking, biking and canoeing/kayaking. 7:30 p.m. first Monday of every month. Raymond Walters College auditorium, 9555 Plainfield Road, Blue Ash. 513-841-0111.

SIN CITY (CINCINNATI) HASH HOUSE HARRIERS & HARRIETS — A drinking club with a running problem. Go chasing Hare(s) on alternating Saturdays at venues all around town. 5K to 10K. Only the Hare knows where it's going - but it always leads to beer. \$5. Call for next run start time and location. 513-956-7234 or www.sch4.com.

TAE KWON DO — Tiger's Lair Martial Arts offers Classical Tae Kwon Do classes. The first week is free. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday. To reserve a free class, 513-225-KICK or 513-752-8552.

TEN STAR ALL-STAR BASKETBALL CAMP — This All-Star Basketball has an outstanding reputation throughout the country, considering past participants include Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and Antawn Jamison. Tristate camp locations include Bluffton, Ohio, Greencastle, In. and Owensboro, Ky. Boys and girls ages 10-19 are eligible for this invitation-only camp. Application deadline is April 15. For a free brochure or application, call 704-373-0873 or go to www.tenstarcamp.com

TOUR DE WEDNESDAY — Tour de Wednesday is a Cincinnati Cyclery Club activity for intermediate bicyclists. Morning start times vary. Every Wednesday. All riders must wear ANSI-approved bicycle helmets. 513-831-0746.

WHEELCHAIR FOOTBALL — An insane combination of flesh and metal. Weekly games. Able-bodied players welcome, extra wheelchairs provided. 513-755-2427.

WHEELCHAIR SPORTS — Games held weekly for all ages and disabilities. Non-disabled are welcome. Extra wheelchairs provided. 513-792-8625.

SAVAGE LOVE

BY DAN SAVAGE

A few weeks back I invited readers to share their most horrifying true stories of desperate and/or depressing holiday sex. As promised, the author of the best horrifying true story of holiday sex — as determined by me — wins a \$75 Toys in Babeland gift certificate. See if you can spot the winner before you get to the end of the column.

I moved away from my friends and family last year to Seattle. As I left work on Christmas Eve, the homeless people were having a trash-can-fire, plastic-bottle-liquor ho-down on University Avenue. I figured what the hell and decided to join in. I wound up sharing a bottle of cheap vodka with one particularly attractive homeless girl. My judgment eroded, I invited her back to my apartment. Before I could protest, she invited two of her friends to join us. My Christmas

Eves until this point in my life were Norman Rockwell-ian clichés. This particular year, I had an all-night drunken orgy with three homeless girls. We fucked our brains out, baked cookies naked and fucked some more. When I woke up in the early afternoon, the girls were gone. So were my wallet, most of my food, my toiletries and my CDs.

— Finally I Love The Holidays

Last Hanukkah I decided to tell my mother I was a lesbian. Around the table were my mother, her husband Phil and a couple my mother and step-dad are friendly with, Don and Mary. "I have something I want to share with all of you," I said. "I'm gay." My mother gave me a supportive look before turning the attention to herself. "Well," she said, "I'm really happy you told me that because now I feel comfortable exposing a part of my life to you. When Phil and I first started dating, we found that we both enjoyed nudist resorts. We met a lot of people with whom we're still friends. Don and Mary are two of the people we met there. We've been together with them for three years now." Later that evening I was out on the porch having a cigarette. Don came out on the porch. "So you're gay," he said. "Would you be interested in getting together with us some time?" I left before my mother brought out the carrot cake.

— Freaked Out Then, Freaked Out Still

Last year, my husband's folks were visiting us in New York for Christmas. My husband decided to treat me to something I'd always wanted — a session with a female dominatrix. I'm not a lesbian, but it had always been a fantasy of mine to be dominated by a woman, tied up and, you know, other stuff. So my husband made an

appointment for me early in the day on Christmas Eve, thinking it would relieve the holiday tension — and the tension of having his parents around. So I go, and half-way through a rather lame, not-living-up-to-my-fantasy domination session, the woman I'm "serving" starts to cry. She's all alone for the holidays, and she's depressed. Wanting to reach out to a person in need, I invited her to come to our house for dinner. Big mistake. When I introduced her to my in-laws as "a friend from work," she got bent out of shape. She's not ashamed of who she is or what she does, she announced, and then she told my husband's parents just exactly when we met (that very day) and how (kinky sex for money). She lectured me about being ashamed of my masochistic and homoerotic desires (in front of my in-laws), then stormed out of our apartment.

My in-laws think I'm the whore of Babylon now.

— Could've Died

When I was in eighth grade, my cousin Donna from Wisconsin came for Christmas. She and I were the same age and she had sprouted some major hooters. After dinner, with our extended family sacked out on couches, I found myself alone in a bedroom with Donna. Without saying anything, I started pawing at her boobs. My hands were shaking like crazy, fearing rejection, but she didn't mind. I pulled her boobs out of the top of her dress and she got on her knees, undid my zipper and took my penis in her hands. I shot my very first load all over Donna's chest. Then someone said, "My Lord!" It was my very uptight aunt, Donna's mother, standing in the door. Horrified, I mopped up Donna's breasts with my shirt while her mother stood there watching.

— Jacked By Cousin

You want a depressing/horrifying holiday sex story? This girl has never had sex or anything remotely like it on or near any holidays. For everyone out there who thinks they have it bad because the sex they had during the holidays was horrifying, I say this: At least someone was looking forward to having sex with you.

— Sexless Holidays

No holiday sex? Good or bad? Ever? That's horrifying! If anyone needs a \$75 gift certificate to Toys in Babeland, it's Sexless Holiday, so you win, SH! Your gift certificate is in the mail, and I recommend you blow your dough on a Hitachi Magic Wand. It isn't a lover, of course, but look at it this way: A vibrator won't tell your in-laws what you've been doing with it, won't break down sobbing and won't come all over your cousin's boobs. Enjoy.

CONTACT DAN SAVAGE: mail@savagelove.net

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CLIFTON: Gaslight, spacious 2+ BR, secure entry, hwd fls, ht & wtr, Indry, cat ok, \$795/mo, 3414 Telford. Also 1 BR, ht & wtr, parking, \$495/mo, 3415 Telford. 513-385-3600

CLIFTON: Small Apartment Complex: Studios are \$400, 1 Bedrooms are \$450, 2 Bedrooms are \$600. Call 513-751-5397

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CLIFTON/UC AREA: 1 room efficiencies, \$300 plus utilities or \$375 including utilities. 1 BR's for \$375 + utilities. 4 BR + studio, \$800 + utilities. Clean & repainted, hwd flrs, high ceilings. Small yard, pets ok. Call 859-341-6050.

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PLEASANT RIDGE: 1 bedroom Art Deco apartment. For your cool dog and you too, 10x15 dining room, new kitchen. \$495/mo Ht. incl. Call 513-604-2190

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Real Estate

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CLIFTON GASLIGHT roommate wanted in January. \$275.50 plus phone/electric. All furnished except bedroom. On-site Laundry. Gay friendly, any sex, race. No pets. Chris - 861-1921.

COVINGTON, KY SEEKING Trustworthy Roommate to share large, restored house, hwd flrs, marble bath, male or female, short term lease avlb. \$375+utilities 513-271-9036

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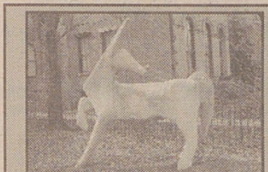
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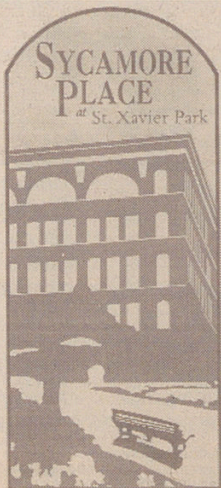
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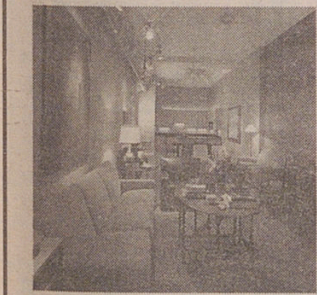
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1987 ISUZU TROOPER 2 4wd, head gasket blown, have gasket kit and other nec. parts, great off road vehicle, new tires, \$500, 513-753-5163

1987 MAXIMA 192K well maintained, non smoker car. AC/auto, blue book \$1625.00 asking \$1500.00 O.B.O. 859-441-1998

1987 VW CABRIOLET convertible w/ 113,000 miles; Very reliable. \$1200 OBO; Call Mike @ 651 3947

1990 MITSUBISHI MONTERO, beige, 5DR Sport Utility, 89000 Miles original, Automatic, fully loaded, Tinting, Towing, \$4600. 513-556-7028

1991 FORD EXPLORER 4 DR, wrecked in front, good 6 cyl engine, trans, tires and 4WD. \$599 OBO. 513-233-3289

1992 CHEVY CORSCA, V6 auto, AC, cruise, cassette, PS, PL, PB ABS, looks good, runs great, white, 110K, \$1695, must sell, Bob 513-752-3641

1992 JEEP WRANGLER 6" lift, 3 tops, huge tires, new parts, winch \$8500 call 305-6170 for info.

1993 VW CABRIOLET 2DR Classic Convertible, green w/ white top, 104K Miles, automatic, a/c, power windows, in great condition. \$4000 OBO. 513-861-6442

1993 VW EUROVAN GL: Only 71,000 miles, automatic, power windows, power locks, rear air, auxiliary heat, excellent condition \$8600 513-651-4524 or 513-675-8188

1994 MAZDA MVP Van. 85,000 miles, V-6 runs great, looks great, air conditioning, power breaks+ windows, am-fm radio, new tires, oil changed every 3,000 miles, 8 passenger. \$3700.00 OBO, call DAVE 272-3027

1995 FORD ESCORT. 5 - speed manual, Alpine CD player, 150K miles. Dent in front hood from a deer. \$1850.00. 513-237-4668

1995 MERCURY COUGAR XR7 V8 leather wrap interior, glass sunroof, full pwr, tilt/telescopic steering wheel, cruise ctrl., AC, CD player, five spoke alloy rims with new tires. \$2000.00 513-825-3985

1996 CHEVROLET LUMINA. White 4-door with 3.1 engine with 111,000 miles. Asking \$3,900.00 859-746-9003

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1998 HONDA CIVIC CX 2dr hatchback - \$6800. Silver w/ rims, tint & stereo. 61,000 miles. Well maintained. 859-781-0991

1998 HYUNDAI ELANTRA - Automatic, A/C, AM/FM/Cassette, 50k miles, Rear Spoiler,Tilt, Cruise, Great condition! \$5,000. OBO. Frankie or Stacy (513) 939-0404

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'89 MERCURY SABLE. Never stalled or given out. Needs power-steering pump and paint job. \$400 obo. Shannon @ 872-0033

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AAA CAR AUDIO/VIDEO— 6.4" in-dash-tv \$550, in-dash dvd \$275, 2-6" headrests \$400, exc. condition, lv. mssg @ 395-9218

CLASSIC 1961 THUNDERBIRD. Gorgeous car, white with black interior, PW/PB, lots of new parts; must sell. \$3500.00 O.B.O. call 859-441-1998

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MAZDA PROTEGE 102K Gray Auto, Exec Cond, \$2100 obo, 513-772-8152

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INDEPENDENT DIGITAL FILM Casting: All Ages, All Types. Auditions in April. Shoot in May. For More Info Check Out: www.thunderlady.net Contact: FISEcasting@thunderlady.net or call (718) 387-9857

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MIAMI RIVER PRODUCTIONS needs Actors/Actresses for independent short films and future feature films in Hamilton, Ohio. please e-mail MIAMI_RIVER_PRODUCTIONS_1@yahoo.com

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GREAT COMPUTER for sale!!! To much to list... many extras and a lot of software. Great 1st computer Christmas gift! only a year old!!! owned by adults No kids Call 697-6457 LM

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LOVE SEAT \$50 Panasonic Cordless Phone \$15 Aiwa 3 cd changer with speakers \$40 call Jason 859-781-1864 or email for photos jason913@yahoo; also Baseball cards and memorabilia for sale-best offer

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WE WANT MINORITY WRITERS: The Academy for Alternative Journalism, supported by alternative papers like this one, seeks experienced minority journalists and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Chicago. The eight-week program (June 23 - August 15, 2003) aims to recruit talented minority writers into the alternative press and train them in magazine-style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3,000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information visit the Web site at <http://www.medill.northwestern.edu/aaj> or write for an application: Academy for Alternative Journalism, Northwestern University, Medill School of Journalism, 1845 Sheridan Road Evanston, IL 60208. altacademy@northwestern.edu Application deadline February 7, 2003. (AAN CAN)

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DRUMMER & BASS PLAYER needed for blues/rock band. If you are serious and want part time, we need you! Call 513-894-7700.

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PEAVEY 4X12 CABINET. Slant front, Sheffield speakers. Sounds comparable to a Marshall. \$375.00 O.B.O. 513-528-7644, Joe

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e-mail: rooftoprecording@aol.com
www.rooftoprecording.com

DRUMMER AVAILABLE. Lots of experience. Looking for something casual. A, "Here's a beer, there's the kit...1121314!" kinda thang. Ailandpete@yahoo.com

BASSIST NEEDED for all original rock band. Demos available, call Paul at 513-851-2562

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KORG DTM-12 Digital Tuner and Metronome. Very High Quality. Used for four performances, saving for a rack tuner. Paid \$300 new, will sell for \$175; TUBA. BESSON, Silver. Made in England. 3 Key, no Trigger. \$850 923-4376

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FRONTMAN SEEKS BAND. 25 y.o. with great presence, no drugs please, in Fairfield area. hanna1616@hotmail.com. alternative rock

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YAMAHA BEACH CUSTOMS 4pc. lime green all hardware, cymbals, pedal, throne, nice set hardly used \$1500 obo Richard 859-866-0666 call anytime

E.L.O. TRIBUTE BAND seek members to complete line-up. Need Lead vocal, Piano, Bass, Drums, Cello, Violin. Steve 812-934-4912 Jim 812-933-9925 goodidea33@aol.com

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BASSIST AVAILABLE: experienced, versatile, good gear; will play rock/funk/punk/jazz ect. call 859-331-6810(ask for ty) or retyigazda@msn.com

METAL BAND ISO bassist, must be driven, energetic, and talented. Drug Free, email Thomas at x_kain_x@hotmail.com

SELMER TENOR SAXOPHONE - Intermediate; rarely played; comes with hardshell case; \$675 OBO. Amy @ 321-3971.

BASS OR GUITAR player needed for rock & roll band. 102.7 & 97.3 covers now, originals later. Call Joshua at 659-8463

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BASS PLAYER LOOKING for band Hair Metal-New Rock No Rap Metal !! Original Material Preferred Samus0378@yahoo.com

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40 WATT, SMALL p.c. head, Peavey Dunno much about it, \$50 OBO. Make Offer must sell. Joey 260-9627 skatur9615@hotmail.com

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DRUMMER WANTED NOW: Experience band searching for Modern Hard Rock Drummer. Originals some covers WEbn 97.3 Contact Doug 513 787 8289 or Morbiddburns_1979@yahoo.com

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40 SOMETHING blues/classic rock band looking for keyboard player who can sing call denny 271-9338 or akdangai@msn.com

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ORIGINAL ELECTRIC / ACOUSTIC guitarist / singer / songwriter looking for same to form core band project bass & drums also feel free to call. Let's rock ASAP call 513-885-5654

LEAD GUITAR / BACKUP looking for working band, don't like to waste time, 97.3 tunes, antigravity2@aol.com

PEAVEY 2X15 CAB for sale. works great for bass or guitar. \$200 OBO. contact RazorTRb@yahoo.com

FEMALE VOCALIST ISO: songwriter/producer to work on original R&B, Pop or Gospel songs for CD. Can be reached at 513-345-6008.

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GUITAR LESSONS Nicholas Tuttle Guitar Studio in Mt. Adams. All levels accepted. Latin & Classical training available. www.nicktuttle.com Call 513-929-4462.

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ELUSIVE TRAVEL SEEKS bassist & drummer for doom/ rock/metal band. Drummer needs double bass & pro gear, bassist needs pro gear with deep, warm tone. Must tour, label interest. Influences: Katatonia, Smashing Pumpkins, Anathema. call 513-662-8672

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GUITAR PLAYER NEEDED covers first with possibility of originals later 97.3, 97.7 type music. Lead vocal ability. MAJOR PLUS email at Xjoe311X@aol.com or call 513-467-6131

BASS PLAYER NEEDED Former members of the snow shoe crabs seeking talented bass player for weekend work and practices. (513)539-1080

ISO: FEMALE SINGER(S) a la-Aretha, Chaka, The Emotions, Cheryl Lynn, Diana Ross, Patti Labelle etc. For 70's-90's R&B, Funk & Dance. Must have a mic! wd_miller@hotmail.com or 678-6734.

VETERAN ROCK DRUMMER seeks working band. Email drmsark@hotmail.com

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DRUMMER / GUITARIST looking for weekend warriors who want to jam originals. no wannabe rock stars please. contact caseyandsonproductions@hotmail.com

'64 GRETSCH CLIPPER archtop electric GC \$600 & '64 Gretsch amp VGC \$400 rhouse5050@hotmail.com

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NEED A BASSIST and Drummer for Acoustic Rock/Classic Rock email yellowsunmarine@peoplepc.com if interested

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DRUMKIT FOR SALE twenty seven pieces willing to part in pieces!! contact:tony at 513-742-1360 or by email:tddmrbboy@aol.com

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BASS PLAYER / GUITARIST-need to complete pop trio. 10-20% covers, influences include Police, DMB, Beatles, BaréNL. Have background in jazz, pop, rock -email, sean.mitchell@kmcnetwork.org

MRS DRUMS nice set, blk finish DW7000 double pedal. \$450.00 (513)861-2437 ask for jody

CRATE SPEAKER CABINET 4X12 guitar cabinet barely played through - like new, asking \$150.00 ask for Mick (513)583-9551

EXPERIENCED DRUMMER SEEKING 97z formatted rock band, serious only, only have practice spot in Cleves, Ohio 467-1296

FEMALE SINGER / SONGWRITER/ acoustic guitar seeks musicians to work with. Covers okay, Originals a must. Many influences. Shannon 513-929-0911 or Starlyn867@fuse.net

VERSATILE DRUMMER SEEKS gigging band. 20+ yrs exp. Pro gear & attitude. Prefer 50's-present Rock. Kurt 520-9370 or kortez32@hotmail.com

MORE, PAGE 58

The Road to Wellness

As the new year approaches, you might be deciding what changes could bring you a more positive life. Many of you will embark on resolutions involving weight loss, image transformation and health improvement. These are certainly excellent goals to set and ones you can reach if you desire to put forth the effort, prioritizing these resolutions in your life.

Only you can defeat yourself by giving up, so we encourage you to emphasize your goals and stick with them. Don't spend another year looking back saying, "If only I had stuck with it, I'd be there..." You can be there this time next year with a smile.

We'd like to share a couple of stories with you. We have a client in her 50s who began training for the first time in her life. She hired us to train her and set a goal of toning her body. She approached her goal with complete dedication and soon entered a body transformation contest. She won the contest but, more importantly, achieved self-satisfaction because she lost 37 pounds of fat in just three

months.

We also know this man who struggled with high cholesterol. His doctor suggested prescription medication, but he chose to eat healthier instead and contacted us to set up a dietary regimen for the sake of his health. Within five weeks, his cholesterol went from over 300 to 150. His doctor was surprised that he was able to contain his problem naturally.

These individuals decided to make a change, dedicated themselves to it and accomplished their goals. We believe everyone is capable of achieving their goals of becoming healthier and more fit by approaching their goals the same they would anything else of importance in their life.

Good luck to you on your goals. We know you can do it. Life is too short to not live it in a way that makes you happy. ©

Get Going in the New Year

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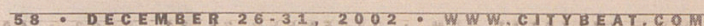
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MEN SEEKING WOMEN

Intelligent, sexy, fun-loving SWPM, 32, 6'1", 175 lbs, warm, witty, easygoing, with big blue eyes, looking for the "real deal!" A thin, fit SPF, 24-34, warmhearted, pretty, intelligent and (most importantly) dysfunction-free. Are you out there? **42195**

27-year-old SWM, spiritual, down-to-earth, versatile, young-looking, charming, witty, fun, seeks friendship, companionship from the right Woman. Personal enjoyments: having fun, keeping it real, outdoor urban activities, living life to the fullest, music, dancing, theater. Race open. **42315**

50-ish SBPM, handsome, fit, like traveling, movies, blues music, running, Sherlock Holmes and trying new things. Seeking attractive, intelligent, adventurous, fit Female to share life's adventures. It's getting cold and I have a nice fireplace. **42006**

37-year-old African-American Male, very open-minded and adventurous, enjoys a variety of activities. Seeking Female who is laid-back, enjoys sports and likes to have fun. **42020**

52-year-old dog, smart, does tricks, cleans up well, likes home-cooked meals. Needs a new owner for walks in the park, football and some long-term attention. **42359**

Handsome, sexy, dark WPM, early 40s, 6', 180 lbs, seeks thin, tall Female, 35-45, for friendship and intimacy. Must be into nonsensual therapeutic massages. Ideal way to know each other. **42394**

I am looking for a fun, real Woman. I love being with a Woman. I just want to have fun. Call or email me. **42292**

SWM, politically liberal, jumping to the far Left, 34, tall, athletically fit, artist, musician, well-educated, seeks intelligent, athletically fit Woman who shares the same values and is not afraid of physical, emotional and intellectual intimacy. **42018**

Female shape. SWPM, 30, 5'7", 135 lbs, 36A-27-34, very attractive, fit, financially secure, trustworthy, n/s, drug-free, healthy, adventurous. Interests: quality time, nature, music, movies, dressing up, cellophane games. ISO SPF, 18-40, same qualities, friendship, possible relationship. **42377**

Time is right. 53-year-old, 5'10", 185 lbs, good-looking, educated. All the rest needs discussion. **42385**

ISO discreet, creative, dominant, open-minded Woman, 25-40, to teach the pleasures of being dominated. Looking to be used and abused. **42363**

DWM, 37, 5'7", 180 lbs, blue eyes, brown hair. I'm a truly honest, nice and loving Guy. I'm seeking an honest and lovable Lady. **42380**

Open-minded SM, 30, 125 lbs, brown/brown, enjoys biking, hiking and snowskiing. Not a game player. Seeking young, attractive SF, age and weight unimportant. **42339**

50s Male, spiritual and down-to-earth, is seeking a Female as a live-in companion, who enjoys going out, socializing and traveling. **42387**

22-year-old SBM ISO 18- to 45-year-old SF who likes to have fun. I love to travel and (hopefully) you do, too. I also love sex. **42381**

32-year-old WM, 6'2", 315 lbs, big ole teddy bear with a big heart, shaved head, have two children. Variety of interests. Seeking S/Df, race and age open. Prefer voluptuous and full-figured. Must love children. **42391**

26-year-old, Latino and Native American, long dark hair, dark eyes, 6'2", 215 lbs, good-looking. Artist, writer, poet, intellectual, seeker. Seeking similar interests. Tired of dead-end streets... looking for the road to eternity. (KY) **42393**

Attorney, WM, youthful 54, 6', attractive, interesting, romantic, new to Cincinnati, enjoys books, music, hiking, running. Seeking WF, 40-54 preferred, casual but classy, reasonably fit, adventurous, who enjoys meeting people, outdoor activities, books and music. **42354**

20-year-old Black Male, 6'4", 180 lbs, short black hair, brown eyes and a medium complexion, seeks a fun, outgoing Female, 18+, who's looking for a true Gentleman, indeed. **42331**

SWM, 36, 5'10", brown/blue, 160 lbs, from Cincinnati, looking for Woman who likes to smile, laugh and have a good time. Age and race unimportant. Will respond to all calls. **42035**

18-year-old WM, blonde/blue, medium build, outgoing, smoker, likes camping, cookouts, going out, having fun, animals, concerts and music of all types. (KY) **42034**

Headlines today! Man seeking passionate Woman. Searching high and low. Where can she be? Must not give up! **444540**

Looking for a nice Woman who won't give up on me, 28-37, kids ok, to have a relationship with. I like kids and talking on the phone. **42366**

Patient, kind and a good listener. This 50-year-old physician seeks an articulate, athletic Female, 35-41, for conversations and possible LTR. **44160**

Tall, attractive, romantic "Ed Stevens" type, 32, 6'1", 180 lbs, looking for my "Carol Vessey." She possesses intelligence, class, great sense of humor... along with a fun-loving and goodhearted nature. Too much to ask for? **42194**

DWM, 41, with a good heart, seeking CF, any age, for possible marriage. I'm a quiet person who likes exercise, church, reading and home life. (KY) **42094**

Extroverted, educated, gentle, nice- and young-looking DWM, 51, seeks attractive Single Woman, 28-52, for dating, fun and who knows? Loves dining out, cooking, traveling, sports. Tall Women a plus. Sorry, no big beautiful Women. **42295**

Easygoing Male seeking my angel. Are you out there? I am fun-loving, hardworking, love to cuddle and watch movies. Love to have fun. (KY) **42352**

All-inclusive SWJPM, 6'1", 190 lbs, long brown/blue, handsome, sexy, secure, adventurous attorney, enjoys travel, rock 'n' roll, sports, humor, pets. Seeking bright, independent, communicative, trustworthy, earthy, pretty, passionate, sexy, sweet, spontaneous, 20-40. LTR. (IN) **42079**

Strong Single Russian Man, 37, looking for a nice Girl who wants to have fun and teach me English. I will teach you something, too. I am looking to make new friends in Cincinnati. **42372**

Energetic "10." Very "successful DWPM, 6', 190 lbs, 45, athletic, likes to travel, dine out or just sit by the fire, listen to music. Seeking SWF, 21-30. **42011**

Lady amputee wanted. Your grace, confidence and beauty make my heart pound! SPM, 35, no pets, no plants, no kids, no baggage, seeking fit, attractive arm or leg amputee, 18-99, for friendship, romance, fun. **42348**

Recently retired, warmhearted, honest, affectionate DWPM, 57, 5'11", 180 lbs, enjoys biking, golfing, walking, movies, good conversations. Seeking kind, funny, amorous Female, 35-62, friends, possible long-term relationship. (MI) **445584**

23-year-old PM seeking SWF, 18-30, to hang out with, for fun, movies, friendship, possibly more. Northern Kentucky area. **42340**

Fun-loving SWM, 40, Capricorn, enjoy reading, movies, dining out, dancing. Seeking SWF for friendship and romance. If you enjoy life, love and spirituality... I'm your Man. Very romantic. **42384**

Very distinguished Gentleman. DWPM, 60s, 5'10", 175 lbs, very good-looking, financially secure, ISO sensual, stylish, sophisticated, discriminating younger Lady who likes the finer things in life but has not been able to reach her goal. **45129**

Secure, fit, attractive, gentle Man, n/s, 5'8", enjoys dancing, art, music, good conversations, nature. Seeking petite Lady, 50s, who's free to enjoy the same interests. **42263**

DWM, 45, 6'2", 175 lbs, enjoys outdoors, music, reading, sports. Seeking DWF, no children at home, 35-47, H/W/P, with similar interests. **42002**

Younger Man seeking older Woman. Attractive White Male looking for fun with mature Woman in your 50s or 60s. I have varied interests and would like to spend time with you! **42272**

Smart, sexy, handsome Man seeks Woman who is not crazy and loves to go out on normal dates. Recently Divorced 32-year-old, highly successful, athletic, 6'2", homeowner in Mt. Lookout, financially secure, fun-loving. **45457**

WOMEN SEEKING MEN

SBF, 29, perfect combination of Southern charm and urban sensibility, intelligent, witty, attractive, true and obsessed Democrat, seeks SWM, 30-40, who's more urban than suburban, more Dennis Miller than Tom Green. **42019**

Synergy happens. Artist, professional, 39, peaceful, funny, dynamic, into live music, backpacking, running, nature. Desires Man of integrity. You: love friends and time alone, intensity and play, long talks and rich silence, rural and urban. **42287**

SWF, 49, cultural sponge, loves comedy, traveling, beaches, theater, dancing, art, writing, fine dining and romance. ISO BM counterpart, open-minded, n/s, to share life's better offerings and who can prove chivalry is still very much alive. **42389**

Winning personality! Very outgoing, warmhearted SWF, 39 (looks younger), 5'7", seeks well-established older Guy who enjoys the finer things in life. **42395**

SBF seeking a Man who's serious and sweet, intelligent, funny, race open. I'm a Scorpio, 5'5", 200 lbs, curvy, busty, silky-smooth figure, ISO stable, romantic Gentleman who is open to being friends or LTR. **42024**

DWF, 38, blonde hair, hazel eyes, 5'4", medium build, ISO similar interests, for LTR. Have a wide variety of interests... including sports, sporting events, movies, music, concerts, dining, anything outdoors, etc. Sound like you? Let's talk! **42369**

Wanted. SWF, 47, tall (5'9"), blonde, 125 lbs, smoker, seeks 6'1"+, nice-looking SWPM, 45-55, who will appreciate a decent person. **45161**

Hidden treasure. Attractive, intelligent, quality, fun-loving extrovert with varied interests. DWPF, slim, fit. Culturally aware 56-year-old enjoys traveling, gardening, reading, crafts, woodworking, volunteering and lively conversations. Searching for honest, warm, witty soulmate with integrity. **42273**

19-year-old WF, blonde/blue, medium build, muscular, outgoing, very spiritual, down-to-earth, smoker, likes camping, cookouts, going out, having fun, kids, animals, concerts, all types of music. **42313**

Intelligent, open-minded, easygoing SPF, 40, 5'7", brown/blue, affectionate, occasionally athletic, enjoys outdoors, antique hunting, gardening, music, traveling. Looking for SPM, 35-45, trustworthy, kind, sense of humor. Seeking LTR. **42027**

Attractive Pisces. SWPF, 31, 5'5", medium build, brown/blue, outgoing, well-educated, would like to settle down and start a family. Enjoys camping, waterskiing, whitewater rafting, comedy clubs, dining in and out. Seeking SWPM, 30-38, family-oriented. **45820**

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Live, love, laugh and sing. ISO tall mensch, medically and musically inclined, Torah, grounded and spiritual, for soulmate. SJF, 39, 5'6", reddish-brown/blue, Modern Orthodox and searching for you! **42325**

Sexy, sultry Scorpio Lady, 35, 5'5", 150 lbs, curvy, busty, silky-smooth figure, seeks unique, stable, romantic Gentleman with wide variety of interests, for dating and good times and to see where it goes from there. **42284**

In search of my counterpart. He is my best friend, my insatiable lover, my engaging teacher, my spiritual mentor, my fearless and courageous stronghold. **42400**

SBF looking for an upbeat, intelligent, smart, fun-to-be-around SBM. **42396**

Attractive (inside as well as outside), outgoing SBF, 42, 5'10", versatile, old-school to new, rap to rock, well-traveled, independent, seeks outgoing, tall, confident SM for a sincere honest relationship. **42382**

Energetic, playful, romantic, attractive, petite, 53-year-young DWF who loves life, seeks equal. Interests: dancing, music, walks, golf, rollerblading, motorcycles, movies, traveling and you. (IN) **42026**

Secure WWWF, 72 (look 55), own acreage. Looking for a soulmate to spend my life with. Have a lovely home. For romantic evenings. So, don't miss this one! Call for more information. **45825**

Juliet seeks Mercutio. Tall, thin, exotic-looking DWPF seeks SWPM, 35-45, n/s, n/drugs, who enjoys laughter, verbal sparring, dancing, baseball, theatre, skiing, sports cars, food with a view, ice cream by firelight and other serious nonsense. **42383**

I am seeking a Man who is sincere, sensitive, sweet, fun(ny) and intelligent. Please have ambition and a career. Being interested in theatre, arts, dancing, fitness, outdoors, romance and living life completely and passionately. No fears! **42362**

SJF, 32, seeking a bright, clever, unusual SJM at least 5'10" in height. I am attractive, thin, educated, adventurous, into skiing, traveling, camping, science fiction, card games, pubs, bantering and witty conversations. **42399**

27-year-old SBF, full-figured, short black/brown, medium brown complexion, ISO SWM, 25-29, slender to medium build, romantic, honest, has sense of humor, knows what he wants in life, takes care of himself. Friendship first, possible LTR. **42360**

Introverted SBF, 22, down-to-earth, enjoys being outdoors. ISO SW/HM, 25-35, for friendship and companionship. **42013**

SWPF, 24, blonde/hazel, dental professional, college grad, seeking honest SM, 5'9"+, for friendship, possibly more. Harleys are a plus! Bring your Harley and I will show you my wild side! **45662**

My ideal match! Widower, approximately 45 years old, children between 18 and 21. Love Tom Waits, The New Yorker and the Pacific Northwest. Are you out there? **42275**

MEN SEEKING MEN

37-year-old WPM, 5'8", 150 lbs, hazel eyes, Cross-dresser, seeks Man who believes in romance, dating, a little adventure. ISO stable Male, 25+, race unimportant, who would like to experience a new high with a feminine boyfriend. **45958**

Straight Male, 39, ISO TS. Must be very Female-looking. Will answer all calls. **42374**

African-American Male, 20, looking for African-American or Puerto Rican Male, versatile, hairy chest, masculine. No femmes. **42294**

Wanted: young Guy, Single and free, 18-35 only. Decent body a must. Young looks are preferred. I am a young BM with light goatee, brown skin and other nice physical features. Remember: 18-35 only! **45564**

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42-year-old African-American Male, clean-cut, educated, 5'8", 170 lbs, seeking Male, 35-50, for quality time, fun and friendship. I enjoy jazz, cooking and long drives in the country. I'm tired of eating alone. **42347**

GWPM, young 41, decent-looking, black/brown, 150 lbs, masculine, athletic build, various interests, closeted, seeks same, 35-44, for friendship, possible LTR. (IN) **44433**

50-ish Male looking for another lonely Male with similar tastes, who's down-to-earth, sincere, looking for honesty and truth. For friendship, fun, some good times and whatever else happens. **42291**

I'm a SGWM, 28, 5'7", 125-130 lbs, n/s, likes going out or staying in. Waiting to meet you. **42401**

Hi! I'm a GWM, 41, looking for an attractive, outgoing GM, 35-45, slender to medium build, who likes dining out, music and sports. Looking for LTR. **44775**

More than friends. Outgoing SBM, 6'3", n/s, likes going out or staying in. Waiting to meet you. **42401**

DW bi-curious Male, 41, 6'2", 210 lbs, brown/blue, considered very good-looking, ISO WM under 40, under 6' tall, H/W/P, discreet and healthy. Northern Kentucky area. **42008**

Masculine Man seeking same. I'm 29, biracial, attractive and nicely H/W/P. I love music, books and the outdoors. ISO straight-acting, good-looking Man, 25-35. If you're open-minded, fit and fun... please respond. **45054**

Dominant SGWM, healthy, 5'7", 190 lbs, 45, graying black hair, hazel eyes, glasses, short beard, seeks live-in, submissive Caucasian Gay or bisexual Man. Must be 18+, nonsmoking, healthy, disease-free, relocatable to eastern Ohio. **42388**

GWM, 6'1", 158 lbs, brown/hazel, HIV+, would like to meet another GWM, HIV+, for possible friends and relationship. Let's live life and be loved! **42351**

Single Black South American Transsexual (postop) looking for a SWM or BM, 20 or over, to have a relationship with. I'm very real-looking. **42083**

Single adult Male seeks real TS for a meaningful relationship. **42016**

42-year-old, clean-cut, educated African-American GM seeking the same, 35-50, for fun and friendship. I enjoy jazz, cooking, music, long drives in the country. **42349**

SGWM, 56, 5'11", 175 lbs, friendly and nice-looking, ISO masculine SGWM, 39-60, for a good friendship. I enjoy music, dining out, movies, theater and sports. **45038**

BiWM, 49 (looks younger), 5'9", 160 lbs, brown/green, enjoys music, reading, motorcycles and anything outdoors. **42017**

Single Gay White professional Male, 42, 6'3", 200 lbs, brown/hazel, n/s, n/drugs, social drinker, likes sports, dining out, movies, concerts, theatre, traveling. Seeking Single Male, 25-50, race unimportant, for dating, possible relationship. (KY) **42031**

SWM seeks SM for 40th birthday date. Please call immediately. **42296**

WOMEN SEEKING WOMEN

Younger seeks older. College Girl, 23, 119 lbs, 6', long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves to cook and drink wine. Seeking older Woman, 40-50, who loves life. Please be discreet. (LA) **42379**

SGWF, 36, seeks a blonde, thin, petite Female, 46-56, who enjoys NASCAR, camping, traveling, music, dancing, having fun and has a great sense of humor and a great personality. **42346**

Attractive SWPF seeks same, 37-43, who is also physically fit, intelligent, kind and caring. Must be adventurous, spiritual, honest and like to have fun. **42378**

Single White Female, 5'5", 175-180 lbs, ash blonde shoulder length hair, sexy dark brown eyes, pretty full lips and soft thick thighs. Bi-curious searching for a teacher. Open to suggestions for playtime. Can you help? **42392**

SWF, 24, geek goddess, seeking same. Enjoy computers, playing video games, acting, singing, playing cards, cats, snuggling and having fun. Seeking Female, 23-30. Friends first, maybe we can be more. Call me. **42341**

WF, pretty, intelligent, fit Woman, looking for same. If you are seeking a wild time with a fun Gal, I'm her. Expect you to be clean, discreet and disease-free. I am! **42367**

Femme, 55, full-figured, professional, searching for butch or soft butch, 50-65, to hang with, laugh and teach me about life. Intelligence a plus. Dayton area. **42308**

SWPF seeks the same, 35-45. Likes sports, the outdoors, animals and just hanging out. Seeking a no-game-playing, honest, hardworking Female for friendship, maybe more. **42222**

Lesbian White Female, 38, 5'5", 121 lbs, blonde/hazel, seeks Woman to share friendship, romance, possible long-term relationship. Loves nights out, music, candles, wining and dining, humor and quiet conversations over dinner (preferably by a fireplace). (KY) **42375**

New to area! Attractive, intelligent, humorous, faithful, no-game-playing Single White professional Gay Female seeks the same in a feminine Woman, 25-50. For friendship, maybe more. **42030**

SWF, bi-curious, 32, looking for a feminine, bi-curious, 25- to 30-year-old Female. No butch. **42003**

Looking for LTR but friends first. I'm 40 years old, blonde/blue, smoker, with one child. Enjoy sports. Looking for a Woman who is honest, sincere, not into playing games, who enjoys quiet family time. **42000**

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Sexy SWF who likes romantic walks, seeking a sexy SWF, 19-30, for companionship, love, who will be real to me. **42028**

My beautiful brown eyes are searching for a soulmate. Are you her? I'm an educated, professional, fun-loving, humorous, compassionate and kind Woman, late 30s, H/W/P. I'm looking for a friend, possibly more. Let's chat. (KY) **42397**

20-year-old Single bi-curious Female, 5'4", 120 lbs. Dark-skinned African-American Female ISO SF, 18-29. ISO fun, pleasure. Very discreet. **42297**

BiWPF, 24, 5'5", blondish-brown hair, athletic and average build, Capricorn. I enjoy the outdoors, nightclubs, traveling, artistic endeavors and more. Looking for soulmate or just a friend, 19-29, to enjoy good times with. **42299**

Female, 40, certified medical assistant, seeking Female, honest, sincere. I like walking, parks, movies, football, cuddling, going out with friends, being home with my mate. Friendship first, possible relationship. No games. (KY) **42025**

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50-year-old, full-figured BF, lots of interests, likes sports, loves jazz, highly educated, works for the state, out of town quite a bit. Would like to have some close friends when in town. Prefers Female. **42032**

SBF, 35, sexy, attractive, intelligent, outgoing, fun, seeking young 20s-30s, sexy, attractive bisexual Female for fun and LTR with me and older White boyfriend. **42373**

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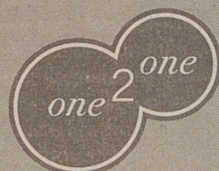
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