

# Oxford Town

Issue #853 • Dec. 17-23, 2009

Your Free Weekly Entertainment Guide

## SCROOGE IN CONCERT

December 18 • Ford Center



# inside



## CARROLL COUNTY PICTURE SHOW TO ROCK ROOSTER'S 6

By Jeff McVay

The band with the coolest name in rock is set for a smoking hot show at Rooster's Blues House tomorrow night (Friday, Dec. 18). Turn to Page 6 for full coverage of Carroll County Picture Show's upcoming performance at Rooster's. Also on Page 6, be sure to check out other great shows listed in *Oxford Town's* "Town Sounds" calendar.



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## also in this issue ...

### on the cover

The New York Stage Originals production of "Scrooge in Concert" is set for 8 p.m. Dec. 18 at the Gertrude Castellow Ford Center for the Performing Arts. Turn to Page 9 for full details on the remake of this heartwarming holiday story.

—Cover design by Bruce Newman

### CULTURAL EVENTS CALENDAR

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The students are gone for the most part but our local events roll on. Turn to Page 4 and check out two weeks of cool events happening around town. On the same page be sure to check out submission guidelines in order get the word out to the community about all of your upcoming events.

### JACK PENDARVIS ON MPB TONIGHT

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Author Jack Pendarvis will be featured tonight (Thursday, Dec. 17) on MPB's rebroadcast of "Writers: First Novels." Turn to Page 10 to read about the upcoming television feature on Pendarvis and two of his colleagues.

### FANS BLOW INTO THE FORD CENTER

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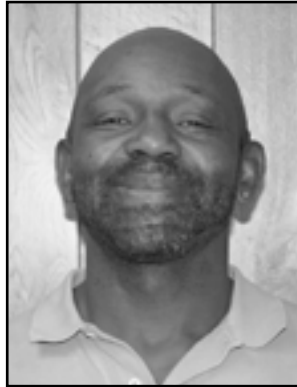
Fans from the University Museum collections are on display in the Ford Center's Rehearsal Hall through Friday, Dec. 18. The exhibit will be open 8 a.m.—5 p.m. and is free to the public. You'd better hurry and turn to Page 16 and read about this ultra-cool exhibit that lasts only two days.

[oxfordtown@oxfordeagle.com](mailto:oxfordtown@oxfordeagle.com)

# Oxford Town

## Q&A

### What's your New Year's resolution?



**Greg Campbell**

"To be a better father and family man."



**Kate Anthony**

"To start my New Year's resolutions from last year."



**Whitney Moore**

"To end this sparkly vampire fad."



**Jeff McVay**

Editor, 234-4331  
jeff@oxfordeagle.com

"To figure out how to keep my 21 pound cat from chasing and eating my cockatiels but not the mice that are taking over my house."



**Brian Roy**

Advertising Director, 234-4331  
brian@oxfordeagle.com

"Think before speaking."



**Sarah Brooke Gober**

ad sales, 234-4331  
sbgober@oxfordeagle.com

"To stick to all my other New Year's resolutions longer than a week."



**Charlotte Jefferies**

ad sales, 234-4331  
charlotte@oxfordeagle.com

"My New Year's resolution is to eat fewer fruits and vegetables, be less productive and spread negative tidings throughout 2010."



**Kim Godwin**

ad sales, 234-4331  
kim@oxfordeagle.com

"New Year's Day ... now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual." —Mark Twain"



**Kathy Conaway**

graphic designer, 234-4331  
kathyconaway@oxfordeagle.com

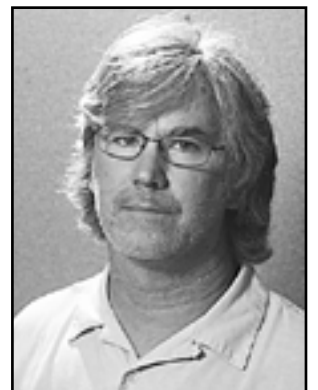
"Be frugal yet not miserly."



**Wade Griffin**

graphic designer, 234-4331  
wade@oxfordeagle.com

"Same as it always goes — eat better, and be more active."



**Bruce Newman**

photographer, 234-4331  
brucenewman@oxfordeagle.com

"New Year's Resolution? I haven't even bought Christmas presents yet."

# Cultural Events Calendar

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



Stephen Hunter will be at Off Square Books to read and sign copies of "I, Sniper" on Jan. 6 at 5 p.m.



American Spiritual Ensemble Preserving Voices Friday, Jan. 29, 8 p.m. Ford Center

Classically-trained singers keeping the American Negro Spiritual alive by performing spirituals, classical, jazz and Broadway selections.

Submissions for placement consideration in **Oxford Town's Cultural Events Calendar** should be received by Tuesday at 5 p.m. Events will be placed on a first come first serve basis as room permits. Submit your information and images to: [jeff@oxfordeagle.com](mailto:jeff@oxfordeagle.com) or [oxfordtown@oxfordeagle.com](mailto:oxfordtown@oxfordeagle.com). You may also drop off your photos and information for Jeff McVay at **The Oxford EAGLE** office located at 916 Jackson Ave. just off the Square.

December 17-19

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Jack Pendarvis



• Jack Pendarvis discusses the angst of writing a first novel with authors John Hart and Pia Ehrhardt on "Writers: First Novels" on Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) at 9 p.m. See Page 10 for details.

• 19th century fans from the University Museum collections are on display in the Ford Center's Rehearsal Hall through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., FREE to the public.

• Rebellion Bootcamp: 101, Powerhouse, 6 a.m., \$8

• Faulkner Room, JD Williams Library Exhibition: "Still Got the Blues: A Silver Anniversary Exhibition," open Mon.- Fri.

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• "Scrooge, in Concert," Gertrude Ford Center, call 915-7411 for ticket information, 8 p.m. See Page 9 for more information.

• Special Collections/Archives, JD Williams Library, Art Exhibit: "Walter Anderson and World Literature," Library hours: 1 p.m.-2 a.m. Sunday, 7 a.m.-2 a.m. Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday

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• The University Museum, 5th & University Ave., Museum Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m., Closed Monday and most university holidays. E-mail [museums@olemiss.edu](mailto:museums@olemiss.edu) or call 662-915-7073.

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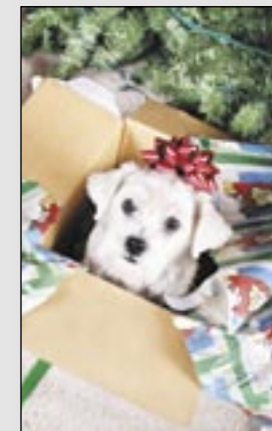
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• Rebellion Bootcamp: 101, Powerhouse, 6 a.m., \$8

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December 20-26

# around town

## 2010 DOUBLE DECKER ARTS FESTIVAL

### 2010 Double Decker Arts Festival offers exhibit options to artists

The 15th Annual Double Decker Arts Festival is approaching. The daylong festival of food, music and art is set for April 24, on the historic Courthouse Square.

The festival booths and juried shows are a fantastic opportunity for YAC members and local artists to exhibit their work.

This year, the festival will feature 115 spaces for artists of all kinds. The juried show will be

a separate exhibit option at the festival this year with its own location and will be open to all artists.

The Arts Council encourages everyone to apply and participate in this popular annual arts event.

Visit [www.oxfordarts.com](http://www.oxfordarts.com) or [www.oxfordcvb.com](http://www.oxfordcvb.com) to download applications for booths and/or the juried shows at this year's festival.

[www.oxfordcvb.com](http://www.oxfordcvb.com)

## POWERHOUSE/REBEL BODY FITNESS

### 'Rebellion Bootcamp: 101' meets four days weekly

"Power up" your Monday-Thursday mornings at the Powerhouse with Rebel Body Fitness. "Rebellion Bootcamp: 101" is a community aerobics class offered by Rebel Body Fitness and is open to the public.

The classes now meet at 6 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and at 8 on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Class participation is \$8. For more information, contact Lawrence Muruako at 662-380-1136 or e-mail [getfit@rebelbody.com](mailto:getfit@rebelbody.com).



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## FORD CENTER

for the Performing Arts

**Scrooge, in Concert**  
December 18 | 8 p.m.



**American Spiritual Ensemble**  
January 29 | 8 p.m.

**Raggs LIVE Dance Party!**  
January 30 | 3 p.m.



Tickets available at the UM Box Office 662.915.7411  
[www.olemiss.edu/fordcenter](http://www.olemiss.edu/fordcenter)

### No Time to Cook for Christmas? We Can Help!

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# Dec. 17-26



THURSDAY

17

FRIDAY

18

SATURDAY

19



**Rooster's:** Carroll County Picture Show (See below)

**Proud Larry's:** Live Donkey Show

**Two Stick:** Cadillac-funk

**Rooster's:** Kent Burnside

**Proud Larry's:** Tackie Townie Christmas featuring; Dickey Do & The Don'ts, Cap'n Crunch and the Cereal Killers, The Posey's of Rocket 88, Adrian Dickey, Tate Moore, Jay Lang and Alice Walker (among others), \$10 cover, music starts at 9 p.m.

**Proud Larry's:** An evening of Johnny Cash music featuring David Shirley, Maybelle's Lovers, Real Riders of the Ramblehorse, Jay Lang and Tyler Keith

**Rooster's:** TBA

**Two Stick:** Stork and Nick B with Oso Negro Hip Hop Explosion

SUNDAY

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MONDAY

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TUESDAY

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WEDNESDAY

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THURSDAY

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FRIDAY

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SATURDAY

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**Irie:** Christmas party

**Rooster's:** Karaoke



Gina Sexton and her band, Carroll County Picture Show, are headed to Rooster's on Friday, Dec. 18.

## Carroll County Picture Show set to rock Rooster's

By JEFF McVAY  
Oxford Town Editor

With UM's exodus of literally thousands of students, Oxford has mellowed a bit in the last couple of weeks. But, at a time when most local venues grind to a halt as the students roll out of town in droves, Rooster's Blues House continues its music ferocity by featuring a smoking hot show from one of Oxford's favorite bands, Carroll County Picture Show. The band, formed in 2004 by musicians Gina Sexton and J.D. Mark, has created a playlist of original music that traverses several musical genres. Some of those genres include garage punk, pop, psychedelic rock and soul.

Carroll County Picture Show is fronted by singer/guitarist Sexton who also

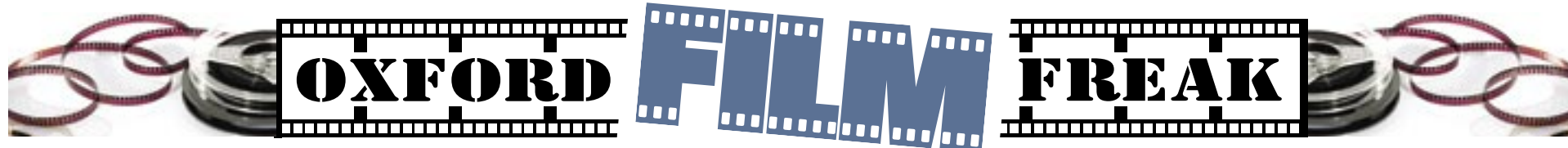
leads local band, Maybelle's Lovers. Other members of the band include drummer Frank Cutch who played in Blue Mountain and the Preachers Kids, singer/guitarist Mark who also plays guitar for Wiley and the Checkmates, and the band's latest member, bass player Bo Gipson, who hails from Tuscaloosa, Ala., and plays in several bands there.

Wake up from your long winter's nap and head to Rooster's this Friday night (Dec. 18) as Gina and the boys fan the holiday flames for a serious end-of-week warm up.

For more information on the band with the coolest name in rock (thank you Bobbie Gentry), visit [www.myspace.com/carrollcountypictureshow](http://www.myspace.com/carrollcountypictureshow). For more information on Rooster's Blues House, their menu and other music listings, visit [www.roostersblueshouse.com](http://www.roostersblueshouse.com).

Oxford Town -  
SEE WHAT  
THE BUZZ  
IS ALL  
ABOUT





# OXFORD FILM FREAK

## Behind the movie 'Avatar' is an Ole Miss graduate

By MELANIE ADDINGTON  
Oxford Film Freak

With James Cameron's "Avatar" coming out in theaters on Friday, Oxford Film Freak sat down with Ole Miss graduate Greg Philyaw, the visual effects superstar with Giant Studios. The Huntsville, Ala., native and former biology major at Ole Miss, Philyaw and his company have been behind some of the most intense visual effects to hit the big screen in the past few years.

Yesterday (Wednesday, Dec. 16), I conducted an e-mail interview with Philyaw and he filled me in on his latest accomplishment.

Q: When did you graduate from Ole Miss?

A: I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1994.

Q: What brought you into the film industry?

A: I started with Giant Studios in the fall of 2001 developing business in motion graphics for television, commercials, sports graphics, things of that nature. Previously I had been a producer at CNN so that's where my background was centered.

At the time, Giant was a finalist to provide motion capture for a movie called "The Polar Express." Ultimately we were awarded the project and they moved me from Atlanta to LA to work on the film. I've been here with the company ever since.

Q: You have worked on some of the most visually spectacular films in recent memory, from "Polar Express" to "I Am Legend" and now "Avatar," tell me more about your company Giant Studios and their technology you all use?

A: Yes we've been fortunate to work on fantastic projects with some of the most innovative

people in film making. To your question, I would attribute that to the capabilities of our proprietary software and the experience of our production crew. The development team that wrote the software is still with us which allows us to adapt to the specific needs of a production quickly and effectively. Even during shooting which has served us well. Developing our technology to meet the needs of directors like Peter Jackson, Steven Spielberg and James Cameron has given Giant a significant competitive edge in the industry.

Q: Explain what motion capture technology means?

A: Essentially, motion capture is tracking and digitizing a live, physical performance then translating that onto a 3D, computer-generated model. From there we can manipulate and enhance the data much in the same way that you can with digitized music

or video. That performance can then be used to animate CG humans like in "The Polar Express," humanoid creatures like Gollum, King Kong and the infected in "I Am Legend" or more complex creatures like the Centaur in "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe."

Q: Explain your role in the movie making process?

A: Specifically, my role at Giant Studios is director of business development. As a company, we can become involved at any stage of a production. Our technology is being used more often now in character development and previsualization so we're now getting more work in pre-production. Conversely, we also capture digital characters against film plates that have already been shot so we're coming in during post-production. It just depends on the project.

Q: How have new technolo-

gies enhanced what you do?

A: Well, in this industry, technology is changing so rapidly we just move forward accepting that every new project will involve a gag that hasn't been done before.

Q: Giant Studios is not just doing effects but producing "Avatar." What can you tell us about what to expect with Avatar?

A: I have seen 18 minutes of finished footage from "Avatar" in 3D and can tell you, the film will blow your mind. I liken it to the first time I saw the original "Star Wars," it ended and I couldn't wait to see it again.

Q: What is the best part about your job?

A: First I would say the people, both my colleagues at Giant and our client base but I also enjoy the sheer challenge of the job. With technology, production models and budgets changing so quickly, you're constantly adapt-

ing to stay ahead of the game.

Q: Worst part?

A: See the last sentence of the best part of my job ;)

Q: Does your degree from Ole Miss come into play ever?

A: You know, I've been asked this before and I suppose the degree itself doesn't have a direct affect, however as my focus at Ole Miss was admittedly more on the social aspect than in the classroom, I can say that part of my experience has served me quite well.

Q: What are your favorite special effects you have seen that you were not involved with?

A: I was really impressed by the subtle effects in "Children of Men" and was blown away by what they were able to accomplish in "District 9" with the budget they had. On the grand scale, the first "Transformers" movie was just incredible.

—melanie@oxfordeagle.com

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# Lies and Other Truths

## Better Watch Out

*Don't get trapped in an uncool Yule*

By JIM DEES

*We're havin' a Reggae Christmas  
— down in Jamaica. We'll be havin' a  
good time too — Oooo. Hey mon — we're  
havin' a Reggae Christmas. Merry  
Christmas and a Reggae New Year to you.*

—Jim Vallance, Bryan Adams,  
“Reggae Christmas” (1984)

While sitting in the waiting area of the car repair place on a recent afternoon, idly flipping through Golf Digest (back when Tiger still wore pants), the tranquility was shattered by the Muzak coming from the ceiling speaker: Jingle Bells. A glance over to the wall calendar revealed a buxom blonde in bikini and boots astride a Harley Davidson and below her picture the date: Oct 29. Oy. Shouldn't there be some sort of reverse statute of limitations on this? Shouldn't there be a ban on Christmas music until at least, say, after Thanksgiving? Haven't we earned that much “peace on earth?”

Apparently not; though it wasn't always so. My dear departed dad, gone to that great insurance agency in the sky, once remarked that in his childhood, in the dark Depression days of the late 1920s, there were no

Christmas carols.

“We had “Silent Night” and “Jingle Bells” and that was about it,” he recalled. No chestnuts roasting over an open fire, no red-nosed reindeer, no halls to be decked with holly. No fa-la-la-la? Sounds wonderful doesn't it? Sure, they had Mandel's Messiah, but that doesn't lend itself to caroling. In the years since, our culture has been blanketed with a paralyzing array of substandard fizzle that is on heavy rotation ad nauseum until Dec 26. As an old pal once observed, “Christmas music is to music what wine coolers are to alcohol.” So true. Most Christmas tunes are cheap, tart, imitations of real music; all bells and whistles and jingle jangle meant to go down easily without a second thought or true meaning, let alone connoting the Savior.

In the 1960s, the Goodyear and Firestone Tire Companies (through Columbia Records) released a series of Christmas LPs that featured a lineup of easy listening Idols: Robert Goulet, Julie Andrews, Mitch Miller, 101 Strings and of course, Mr. Chestnuts Roasting himself, Mel Torme. The music was so syrupy it could raise your blood sugar. I remember my mother collecting these albums, and during the season, playing them on our old sofa-sized stereo, 10 platters at a time.

See CHRISTMAS MUSIC on Page 11



“Christmas music is to music what wine coolers are to alcohol.”

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# 'Scrooge, In Concert' dazzles Oxford this Friday night

*Ford Center hosts New York Stage Originals production at 8 p.m., Dec. 18*

BY KATE ANTHONY

The Gertrude Castellow Ford Center for the Performing Arts will host "Scrooge in Concert", a Philip David Stern production from The New York Stage Originals, this Friday, Dec. 18, at 8 p.m.

According to the American Theatre magazine, Charles Dickens' novel "A Christmas Carol" is the most produced play in the U.S.

However, "Scrooge in Concert" is sure to stand out from other adaptations of Dickens' novel because it is unlike traditional musicals.

Kate Meacham, assistant director of marketing for the Ford Center, said that despite its name, "Scrooge in Concert" is not a concert.

"Instead of a more traditional musical, Scrooge is more like a movie in that the music is almost like another character," said Meacham.

The orchestra will be comprised of the core members as well as several leading musicians from Oxford and professionals from Memphis.

Robert Riggs, a local violinist and associate professor of music at the University of Mississippi, said the music will feature some challenging and colorful fiddle-style playing for the violinists.

Complete with dialogue, elaborate Victorian costuming, set pieces, jubilant choreography, a snow machine, backdrops and an orchestra that will play alongside the cast on stage,

"Scrooge in Concert" will have something to entertain everyone.

The narrated performance follows Ebenezer Scrooge, a greedy workaholic who dampens the Christmas spirit with his "bah, humbug" attitude of both the holiday and humanity.

A turning point is reached when symbolic ghosts take the apathetic old man on a journey to explore his own past, present and future in an attempt to revive the more charitable, joyous qualities he possessed before the death of his only friend, Jacob Marley.

In the end, humankind triumphs over the original Grinch, and Christmas traditions of charity and joy are revived when Scrooge announces his zest for life.

While the morals are inspiring for all ages, keep in mind that Scrooge can be a bit scary to young children. The depiction of human misery may also be a mood dampener, but there is inspiration and hope at the end of the play.

Tickets range from \$30 for balcony seating to \$37 for orchestra seating. University of Mississippi faculty and students enrolled in the Cultural Passport program can purchase tickets from \$10 to \$15. All tickets can be purchased at the UM Box Office in the Student Union from noon to 4 p.m. weekdays or at the Ford Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. Tickets can also be purchased at [www.olemiss.edu/depts/tickets/order](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/tickets/order).

For future discounts and more information about the Cultural Passport program visit <http://olemiss.edu/culturalpassport/>.



"Scrooge, In Concert" features a cast of 30 singers, dancers and musicians in lush Victorian costumes in a holiday show for the entire family. The classic Charles Dickens spirited tale of a miser's redemption at Christmas is remade with jubilant choreography and uplifting music. The production takes place this Friday at the Gertrude C. Ford Center (left) on the Ole Miss campus.



BRUCE NEWMAN



[www.olemiss.edu/fordcenter](http://www.olemiss.edu/fordcenter)

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## The Oxford Town will publish Early Editions December 23rd and December 30th

### DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS WE HAVE EARLY DEADLINES

Oxford Town-Wednesday, December 23rd  
Ad deadline, Friday, December 18th - 5p.m.  
Contributor deadline, Monday, December 21st - Noon.

Oxford Town-Wednesday, December 30th  
Ad deadline, Wednesday, December 23rd - 5 p.m.  
Contributor deadline, Monday, December 28th - Noon.



## AND HE SINGS, TOO



BRUCE NEWMAN

Author Jack Pendarvis will be featured tonight (Thursday, Dec. 17) on MPB's rebroadcast of "Writers: First Novels." The versatile author is also quite the singer — shown above at a 2008 Thacker Mountain Radio broadcast at the Gertrude Ford Center singing Elvis Presley's "My Way."

## Oxford resident and author Jack Pendarvis featured on "Writers"

Segment airs on Mississippi Public Broadcasting Thursday, Dec. 17

Oxford resident and writer Jack Pendarvis discusses the angst of writing a first novel with authors John Hart and Pia Ehrhardt on "Writers: First Novels." *Mississippi Public Broadcasting* (MPB) is rebroadcasting the "First Novels" episode on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 9 p.m.

"Writers" takes an in-depth look at the writing talent of Southern authors by examining a variety of authors, topics and genres.

"It's just tremendous to have a book that has your name on it and that people can actually buy," said Ehrhardt.

"I've never taken a writing class," best selling author Hart said. His first novel, "King of Lies," was a huge success but writing it was "...hard knocks. The learning curve is so steep."

Although he finished his third book, Hart admits to "still learning and making mistakes."

Pendarvis commiserates. After a colleague critiqued the draft of his first novel — about a giant, Pendarvis began what he thought would be an easy write. "It was tough," he remembers. "It was almost sentence by sentence. If I have a fleeting phobia or a stray thought that seems odd, rather than push it to the back of my mind as most of us have been trained to do in the normal human world, I try to take it out and let it fester and sort of push it and imagine the most extreme version. People who get it done, treat it like a serious job."

For Web-specific content, photos, lesson plans, and more information regarding each episode of MPB's "Writers," visit [www.mpbonline.org](http://www.mpbonline.org).

# Christmas music: 'Ho, ho, ho y'all'

Continued from Page 8

One record would finish and another would plunk down and the old fuzzy needle would mechanically reset itself. After the 34th Jack Jones version of "Frosty the Snowman," the sounds all ran together, becoming one continuous, over-produced glop of sterile orchestration and kitschy sentiment. How did we go from the birth of Christ to tire company dreck?

Somewhere along the way, things changed. Elvis released "Blue Christmas." R&B artists such as Charles Brown and Amos Milburn came out with stacks of soulful Christmas tunes. However, for every cool Yule tune, there is the abominable ("Jingle Bells" by the Singing Dogs, anyone?) Nowadays, Christmas music has become delightfully varied. (See Snoop Dogg's "Night Before Christmas," complete with percolating bong water.) Indeed, the Internet reveals sprawling genres of Christmas music, a genre within a genre. Reggae, ("Natty and Nice") punk, ("I Want an Alien for Christmas") country ("Santa Has a Mullet") even sexual, 'Horny Christmas' ("Back

Door Santa," "I've Got a Present for Santa.")

Perhaps it's curious there isn't a sub-genre of Thanksgiving songs or Easter tunes. Halloween and Valentine's Day are represented but no season so brings out the weird and wonderful as Christmas. A Bob Dylan Christmas album? You bet, but you'll need a hit off Snoop's pipe and some high-octane eggnog to sit through it.

*It was Christmas in prison  
and the food was real good, we  
had turkey and pistols carved  
out of wood. And I dream of her  
always even when I don't dream,  
her name's on my tongue and her  
blood's in my stream.*

—John Prine, "Christmas in Prison" (1973)

Bing Crosby was Mr. Christmas and seemed like a swell guy (if you weren't kin to him, according to biographers). His version of "White Christmas" is one of the most popular songs of all time. And yet, for all der Bingle's cool croon, the song and sentiment have

no resonance for Mississippians. I personally don't know a single person who can remember when it snowed on Christmas in our state. We've come close over the years (pre-Al Gore), but in my small sphere of experience, the song is pure science fiction.

So just what is the best Christmas song? What is the worst? After much research (applying ample Snoop and eggnog), I can say the best Christmas song of all time is Robert Earl Keen's, "Merry Christmas From the Family." Aretha's "Joy to the World" and Ray Charles' "What Child is This?" are luminescent, honorable mentions. I think Jesus would dance to both. And the worst Christmas song of all time is... (little drummer boy drum roll)... "What Can You Give a Wookie for Christmas When He Already Has a Comb?" from the Star Wars Christmas album. Strictly interplanetary ashes and switches for that one. In the meantime, I'll take Ray, Prine and, yes, even Bryan Adams.

Ho, ho, ho, y'all.

(Special thanks to [hipchristmas.com](http://hipchristmas.com) for their incredible array of Christmas tunes).

RUN WILD!



BRUCE NEWMAN

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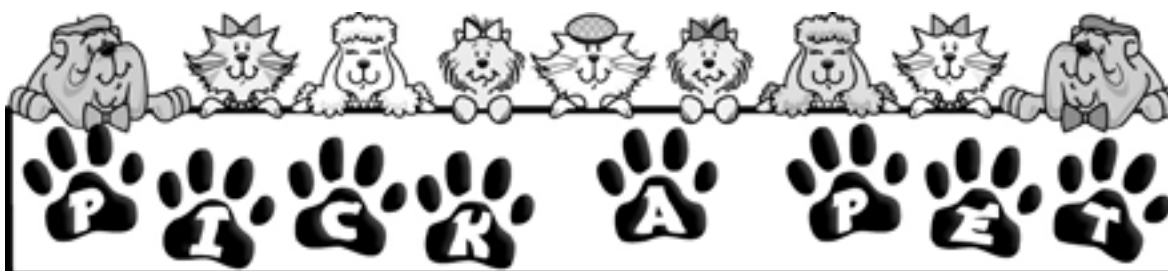
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- You have baby gates permanently installed at strategic places around the house, but no babies.
- The trash basket is more or less permanently installed in the kitchen sink, to keep the dog out of it while you're at work.
- You refer to yourselves as Mommy and Daddy.
- Your dog sleeps with you.
- You can't see out the passenger side of the windshield because there are nose-prints all over the inside.
- You have 32 different names for your dog. Most make no sense, but she understands.
- You like people who like your dog.
- You carry dog biscuits in your purse or pocket at all times.
- You talk about your dog the way other people talk about their kid.
- You sign and send birthday/anniversary/Christmas cards from your dog.
- You put an extra blanket on the bed so your dog can be comfortable.
- You'd rather stay home on Saturday night and cuddle your dog than go to the movies with your sweetie.
- You go to the pet supply store every Saturday because it's one of the very few places that lets you bring your dog inside, and your dog loves to go with you.
- You open your purse, and that big bunch of baggies you use for pick-ups pops out.
- You get an extra-long hose on your shower-massage just so you can use it to wash your dog in the tub, without making the dog sit hip-deep in water.
- You and the dog come down with something like the flu on the same day.
- Your dog sees the vet while you settle for an over-the-counter remedy from the drugstore.
- Your dog is getting old and arthritic, so you go buy lumber and build her a small staircase so she can climb onto the bed by herself.
- Your license plate or license plate frame mentions your dog.
- You don't think it's the least bit strange to stand in the back yard chirping "Meg, pee!" over and over again, while Meg tends to play and forget what she's out there for (but what your neighbors think of your behavior is yet another story).
- You have your dog's picture on your office desk (but no one else's).
- You lecture people on responsible dog ownership every chance you get.



If you are interested in any of these pets, please contact: Oxford-Lafayette Humane Society  
 559 Hwy. 7 South • P.O. Box 1674, Oxford, MS 38655 • 236-7631 • Open Monday-Saturday, noon to 5:00 p.m.

**CANADA**

Hi, my name is Canada and I am a 4 month old Persian mix. I am a simply gorgeous and loving guy. I was brought to the shelter because my owner could not keep me. Now, I am looking for a wonderful home where I can be your best friend and companion.

**FIGGY**

Merry Christmas! My name is Figgy and I am a 1 1/2 year old ferret. I am a very sweet and loving little girl. I was brought to the shelter because I was found abandoned in a house. Now, I am looking for a wonderful, loving home where I never have to fear being left behind again.

**MACEY**

Hi, my name is Macey and I am a 6 1/2 week old Domestic Medium Haired mix. I am a very friendly, playful and loving little kitty. I was brought to the shelter because my owner could not keep me. Now, all I want for Christmas is you!

**SHADOW**

Merry Christmas! My name is Shadow and I am a 2 year old Maine Coon mix. I am a very beautiful, sweet, and loving girl. I was brought to the shelter because my owner could not keep me because of allergies. How sad that makes me this holiday season. I want to spend Christmas with you!

**WISEMAN**

Merry Christmas! My name is Wiseman and I am a 3 1/2 month old Hound mix. I am just a very sweet, playful, and adorable little guy. I was brought to the shelter because I was found homeless. Now, I'm looking for a bright and happy future with you!

**SCROOGE**

Happy Holidays!! My name is Scrooge and I am a 6 1/2 week old American Staffordshire Terrier/Labrador Retriever mix. I am a very sweet and loving baby. I was brought to the shelter because my owner could not keep me. Now, I'm looking to make your holidays merry and bright! What could be better than having a loving friend and companion to keep you company? Me, cause I am the best friend you could ever want!

**SOUFLE**

Hi, my name is Soufle and I am a 2 year old Terrier mix. I am a very friendly and easygoing girl. I was brought to the shelter because my owner could not keep me. Now, I am looking for a wonderful forever home where I can go for walks and hang out with you!

**NORTH POLE**

Hi, my name is North Pole and I am a 2 1/2 month old Blue Heeler mix. I am a very sweet, playful, and loving guy. I was brought to the shelter because I was found abandoned. Now, I'm looking for a bright and happy future with you!

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**Help control the pet overpopulation problem. Please have your pet spayed or neutered! For more information call the shelter at 236-7631.**

# news of the weird

## Lead Story

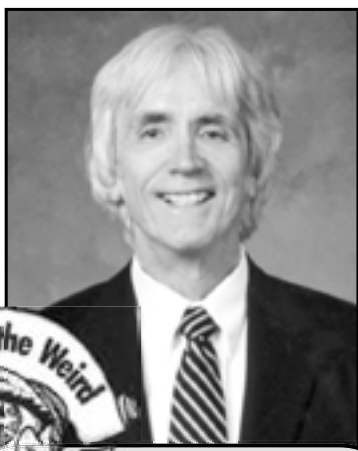
– Spare the Rod: In September, engaging in a 300-year tradition of the Dussera holiday in India's Tamil Nadu state, Hindu priests ritually whipped 2,000 young women and girls over a five-hour period as penance for a range of sins, from insufficient studying to moral impurity. Said one sobbing yet inspired lash recipient, to an NDTV reporter, "(W)hen we are whipped, we will get rid of our mental and physical ailments and evil spirits." (And in November, Pope John Paul II was revealed to have periodically atoned for sins by privately whipping himself, according to a nun who worked with him and who was cited in the Vatican's ongoing consideration of John Paul II for sainthood. The nun said she heard him distinctly several times from an adjacent room.)

## Compelling Explanations

– From a police report in the North Bay (Ontario) Nugget (Nov. 7): An officer in line at a traffic light, realizing that cars had not moved through two light changes, walked up to the lead car to investigate. The driver said she was not able to move on the green lights because she was still on the phone and thus driving off would be illegal. The officer said a brief lecture improved the woman's understanding of the law.

– The inspector general of the National Science Foundation revealed that on-the-job viewing of pornography Web sites was so widespread at the agency that the resultant ethics investigations hindered his primary mission of investigating fraud on grant contracts. The agency report, obtained by the Washington Times in September, said the heaviest user was a senior executive who logged on to pornography at least 331 days in 2008. He subsequently retired, but before leaving defended his habit, claiming that his Web site visits actually helped impoverished women in Third World countries to earn a decent living (by posing for pornography).

– Fine Lawyering: Jacob Christine, 21, acting as his own lawyer at an October hearing, denying charges that he severely slashed a fellow inmate at an Easton, Pa., prison, offered his own view of whoever the perpe-



by Chuck Shepherd

trator was: "Whoever attacked (the victim) had a high regard for life," said Christine, because the cut "isn't deep at all. It's on his neck. It's not on his face."

## Ironies

– When Minnesota's Riverview Community Bank opened for business in 2004, founder Chuck Ripka claimed divine inspiration — that God had told him to "pastor the bank" and, in exchange, that He would "take care of the bottom line," leading Ripka to use "prayer" as a theme in the bank's promotions. In October 2009, Riverview became only the sixth bank in the state to be shut down by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Riverview acknowledged that it had invested aggressively in real estate.

– Dr. Hulda Clark, 80, passed away in September of multiple myeloma, an advanced cancer of the plasma cells. Before she was stricken, she had authored three books touting her eccentric remedies as cures, first, for "all diseases," and then, especially, cancer. In her books "The Cure for All Cancers" and "The Cure for All Advanced Cancers," she urged those diagnosed to immediately stop chemotherapy and embrace her quixotic regimens, to subdue the "parasites" that cause cancer.

## The Litigious Society

– Albert Freed's lawsuit for defective underwear against Hanes was dismissed in October by a Pensacola, Fla., judge, even though Freed had complained that the briefs had caused severe pain and ruined his vacation. Freed said the garment's flap had inexplicably failed to close, allowing his penis to protrude

and rub against swim trunks that contained sand from the beach, irritating the sensitive skin. However, Freed delayed diagnosing the problem -- by declining to inspect his organ. He explained that he cannot easily peer over his "belly" (and wouldn't even consider, he said, examining his naked self in a mirror or asking his wife to inspect). Consequently, he had endured increased irritation before recognizing the source of the chafing.

– According to a November Chicago Sun-Times report, county officials in Chicago have agreed to pay a \$14,000 injury claim to janitor Mary Tait, of the sheriff's department. The amount covers two incidents, in 1997 and 1998, in which she hurt her back in the same way — while "reaching around to pick up a piece of toilet paper."

## Latest Human Rights

– In November, a judge in Somerville, N.J., overruled a local police chief who had rejected a firearms license for hunting enthusiast James Cap, 46. The judge ordered the chief to grant the license, even though Cap is a quadriplegic and will need to mount the gun on his wheelchair and fire it by blowing into a tube. (Cap was an avid hunter before a football injury incapacitated him.)

## Smooth Reactions

– (1) In July, Charles Diez was charged with attempted murder for his angry reaction to a bicyclist who was carrying his 3-year-old son on the bike unsafely, on a busy Asheville, N.C., street. According to police, Diez was so anguished that he pulled his gun and fired at the bicyclist, grazing the man's helmet. (2) In October, just as Pennsylvania federal judge Lawrence Stengel was launching into his explanation for the sentence he was about to impose, bank robber Trammel Bledsoe grew impatient. "Can you hurry this up? I don't have time for this. Just sentence me. ..." ("You'll have all the time in the world," responded Stengel, who gave Bledsoe 41 years.)

## People Who Went Too Far

– Great Expectations: (1) Charles Hersel, 39, was arrested in Thousand Oaks, Calif., in November after police investigators overheard him offer \$31 to

a Westlake High School boy to spit in Hersel's face. Several boys had complained to police that a man (allegedly Hersel) had approached them, offering money for expelling saliva and other bodily fluids on him. (2) Also in November, Patrick Girard, 29, a member of the City Council in Plattsburgh, N.Y., apologized to the constituent in whose face Girard had spit at the height of a barroom argument about the Boston Red Sox. Said the constituent, "It got in my eye, on my face, on my jacket."

## Least Competent Criminals

– Could've Planned Better: (1) Vincent Salters, 46, was arrested in East Knoxville, Tenn., in November after having shoplifted shoes the day before from the Shoe Show store. He had dashed out hurriedly with several display shoes, but an employee said they were all for the left foot. Salters was arrested outside the store the next day, perhaps having come to pick up right-foot shoes. (2) Travis Himmler, 22, was charged with burglary in November after allegedly stealing the cash register from the Golden Wok restaurant in Bloomington, Minn., and carrying it away on his bicycle. He was found down the street, injured, after taking a bad tumble when the dangling cash register cord got caught in the bike's spokes.

## A News of the Weird Classic (December 2000)

– Las Vegas body modifier Nathan McKay, 24, complained in November 2000 about the difficulty of getting proper medical care, namely, further surgery to prevent his already surgically forked tongue from fusing back together and removal of all teeth (and replacement with platinum implants). Said McKay, who also has 1-inch-stretched holes in his earlobes (for holding ebony disks): "I want my tongue split ... as far back as possible, to the uvula, so I have two separate strands in my mouth." The original surgeon was a family friend, but he has balked at any follow-up. Said McKay, "I'm not trying to turn myself into anything except someone to remember."

(Editor's note: Read News of the Weird daily at [www.weirduniverse.net](http://www.weirduniverse.net). Send items to [weirdnews@earthlink.net](mailto:weirdnews@earthlink.net).)

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# etc

	1	2			3
4	3				5
	6	7			8
5		1		3	4
9					1
6	1		8		5
8			6	1	
	7			2	6
	5		3	9	

## Sudoku

Puzzles courtesy of American Profile Hometown Content  
— Answers on page 15 —

### ACROSS

- Scaled back
- Bra's talk
- "The Purple Cow" rhyme scheme
- "Butterfield 8" author John
- Cocoon's content
- Repetitive routine
- Some denims
- Genesis locale
- Petri dish filler
- Ride in a country bar
- Bring to a halt
- Seating option
- Reroute, as traffic
- Mel Lazarus comic strip
- Blue-pencil
- First Lady after Bess
- PC's "brain"
- Lightning producer
- Plaines, Ill.
- Shoot-'em-up
- On the peak of
- Fictional champ Apollo
- Cause of burnout
- Back forty's forty
- Gulped down
- Fe, for iron
- Home with hexagonal cells
- Run \_\_\_ (go wild)
- Left Bank locale
- In a dead heat
- Regal address
- Send to seventh heaven
- Shoulder muscle, for short
- Had down cold
- CSA notable

### DOWN

- Campaign pro
- "Beg pardon ..."
- Talk like a psycho

### Corps of Engineers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14												
17												
20												
25	26	27	28		29	30	31					
32												
37												
41												
47	48	49										
51												
58												
62												
65												

- |                                       |                                       |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 4. Hoss Cartwright's given first name | 27. Is in contention                  | 46. It's easily lost when short |
| 5. One of Santa's team                | 28. "Yada yada yada"                  | 47. Had a yen                   |
| 6. Act the high roller                | 29. Sprayed, or clubbed, in a way     | 48. Potato skin garnish         |
| 7. Car with a four-ring logo          | 30. General Bradley                   | 49. Party hearty                |
| 8. On ___ (with no guarantee)         | 31. "Cool" sum of money               | 50. Out of whack                |
| 9. Yemen's capital                    | 32. Dust critter                      | 51. Vintner's barrel            |
| 10. Yemen's peninsula                 | 33. Dove's home                       | 52. Despot played by Whitaker   |
| 11. Like a \$3 bill                   | 34. Thumbs-up voters                  | 53. Passed-on tales             |
| 12. "Any Time ___" (Beattles tune)    | 35. Mgr. ejectors, at times           | 54. Barn bundle                 |
| 13. Early TV's "Uncle Milb"           | 36. Upper bodies                      | 55. Like much testimony         |
| 21. Carpenter ___                     | 37. Northwest Passage seeker John ___ | 56. Lo-cal                      |
| 22. Glittery fabrics                  | 38. Feathers adhesive                 | 57. "I told you!"               |
| 25. Scout's action                    | 40. Dental adhesive                   |                                 |
| 28. Off the job                       | 44. Porker's place                    |                                 |

## Community Rants 'n' Raves

Who can recall the canopy of colored lights on the Square? Are the gaily decorated trees with their multicolored lights a suitable substitute?

I think it is ridiculous that Ole Miss only received 12,500 tickets to the Cotton Bowl. Seriously??!!

Why is it necessary for OPD and MHP to leave their vehicles running while they dine-in at local restaurants? And cops, don't forget you aren't allowed to speed unless it is an emergency and you have your siren on.

WHAT'S BUGGING YOU? SEND YOUR "RANTS" TO [oxfordtown@oxfordeagle.com](mailto:oxfordtown@oxfordeagle.com)  
No more than 100 words please

### ZIPPY

#### "HUNTING THE WILD HO HO"

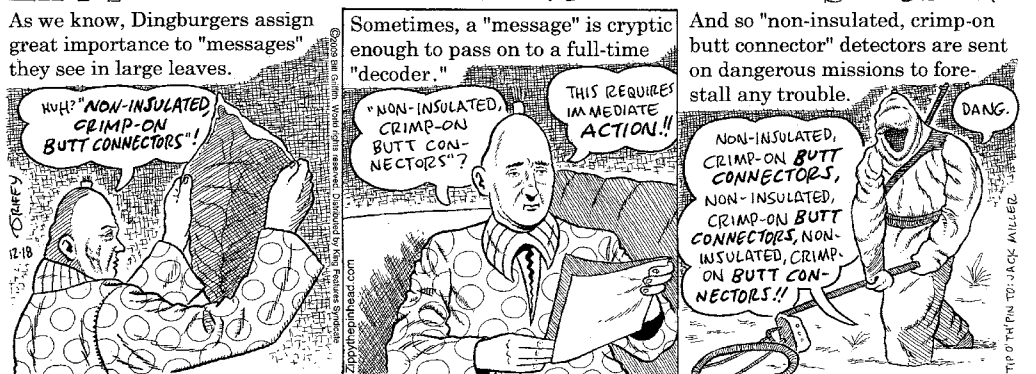
Bill Griffint



### ZIPPY

#### "N.I.C.O.B.C."

Bill Griffint



### ZIPPY

#### "NO COUCH, NO POTATO"

Bill Griffint



Friday Evening December 18, 2009. Table listing TV channels and programs for Friday evening, including stations like WPTV, WISN, and WISN HD.

Saturday Evening December 19, 2009. Table listing TV channels and programs for Saturday evening, including stations like WPTV, WISN, and WISN HD.

Michael McDonald This Christmas. The new album of holiday favorites and Christmas classics including "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "White Christmas," and many more! On sale now at Target \$9.99.

Table listing TV channels and programs for Michael McDonald's Christmas album, including stations like WPTV, WISN, and WISN HD.

Michael McDonald This Christmas. The new album of holiday favorites and Christmas classics including "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "White Christmas," and many more! On sale now at Target \$9.99.

Table listing TV channels and programs for Michael McDonald's Christmas album, including stations like WPTV, WISN, and WISN HD.

Sunday Evening December 20, 2009

Table listing TV channels and programs for Sunday evening, including stations like WPTV, WISN, and WISN HD.

Michael McDonald This Christmas. The new album of holiday favorites and Christmas classics including "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "White Christmas," and many more! On sale now at Target \$9.99.

Table listing TV channels and programs for Michael McDonald's Christmas album, including stations like WPTV, WISN, and WISN HD.

BZAR By Jeff Curtis. A cartoon illustration of a sheep thinking about a math problem (10.9...8) and a clock showing 6:00 AM. The sheep is looking thoughtful.

Puzzle solutions From Page 14

Crossword puzzle grid with solutions. The grid contains words like PHARA, PUPA, ABAB, ROTTE, EDEN, AGAR, MECHANICALBULL, END, AISLE, DIVER, MOMMA, EDIT, MAMIE, CPU, ELECTRICALSTORM, DES, OATER, ATOP, CREED, STRESS, ACRES, ATE, CHEMICALSYMBOL, HIVE, AMOK, PARIS, EVEN, SIRE, ELATE, DELT, KNEW, RELEE.

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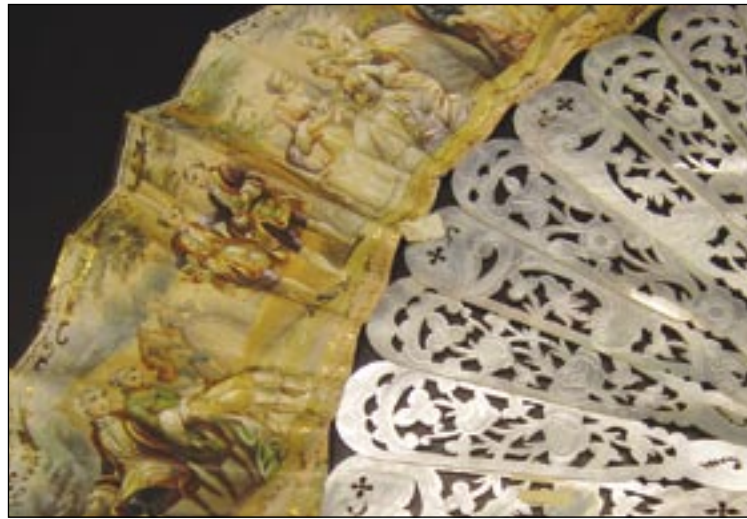
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## 19th century fans on display at the Ford Center



PHOTOS BY KATE MEECHAM

Fans from the University Museum collections are on display in the Ford Center's Rehearsal Hall through Friday, Dec. 18. The exhibit will be open 8 a.m.–5 p.m. and is free to the public.

The fan collection at the University Museum is a gift of museum founders Mary Buie and her sister Kate Skipwith. Several of the fans on display are scenic fans which are decorated with scenes from myth, religion or popular culture. Floral designs and nature scenes were also popular design elements on the fans of the 19th century.

Many of the fans are made of a silk-like material called organza. Organza is often stiff and sheer and the preferred material for scenic fans. The ribs can be made of a variety of materials, but the rare and highly collectible fans have mother of pearl or ivory ribs. Wooden ribs are also common and can be painted to mimic ivory. Asian fans often incorporate bamboo ribs and a heavier silk material. Embroidery is also found on fine fans and typically included a silk tassel with a metal ring. The ring was used with an attachment on the wrist to keep the fan from falling or getting lost.

Fan shaped pottery, ceramics and jewelry are also popular accessories of the time period. The University Museum has over four hundred fans and fan related items in their collection.

For more information, call 662-915-2787.



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-or- 6-8 lb. Spiral Sliced Ham  
Plus: 2.5 lb. Cornbread Dressing  
1 qt. Gravy  
Total \$29.99

#### PACKAGE 2

Choose: 10-12 lb. Roasted Turkey -or-  
6-8 lb. Spiral Sliced Ham  
Choose 1 Casserole:  
Broccoli & Rice  
Green Bean  
Sweet Potato  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Choose 1 Pie:  
Apple, Cherry,  
Peach, Sweet Potato,  
Pumpkin, Pecan  
Plus: 2.5 lb. Cornbread Dressing  
1.5 lb. Mashed Potatoes  
1 qt. Gravy  
1 qt. Cranberry Relish  
12 Dinner Rolls  
Total \$44.99

#### PACKAGE 3

Choose: 10-12 lb. Roasted Turkey -or-  
10-12 lb. Cajun Fried Turkey -or-  
10-12 lb. Smoked Turkey  
Choose 1 Casserole:  
Broccoli & Rice  
Green Bean  
Sweet Potato  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Choose 1 Pie:  
Apple, Cherry, Peach,  
Sweet Potato, Pumpkin, Pecan  
Plus: 2.5 lb. Cornbread Dressing  
1.5 lb. Mashed Potatoes  
1 qt. Gravy  
1 qt. Cranberry Relish  
12 Dinner Rolls  
Total \$49.99

#### INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

10-12 lb. Roasted Turkey	\$24.95
2.5 lb. Cornbread Dressing	\$6.99
10-12 lb. Smoked Turkey	\$24.95
4 lb. Cornbread Dressing	\$9.99
10-12 lb. Cajun Fried Turkey	\$31.95
2 lb. Green Bean Casserole	\$6.99
6-8 lb. Spiral Cut Ham	\$24.95
2 lb. Broccoli & Rice Casserole	\$6.99
10-12 lb. Whole Roast Prime Rib	\$109.99
2 lb. Sweet Potato Casserole	\$6.99
1 qt. Turkey Gravy	\$2.49
12 Dinner Rolls	\$2.99
24 oz. Mashed Potatoes	\$2.99
1 qt. Cranberry Relish	\$4.50
2 lb. Macaroni & Cheese	\$6.99
Apple, Cherry, Peach, Pecan, Pumpkin, or Sweet Potato Pie	\$11.95

#### PACKAGE 4

10-12 lb. Whole Roasted Prime Rib  
Horseradish Cream Sauce  
Choose 1 Casserole:  
Broccoli & Rice  
Green Bean  
Sweet Potato  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Choose 1 Pie:  
Apple, Cherry,  
Peach, Sweet Potato,  
Pumpkin, Pecan  
Plus: 24 Dinner Rolls  
1.5 lb. Mashed Potatoes  
1 qt. Gravy  
Total \$149.99

Hot Orders Add \$10.00  
Carved Orders Add \$15.00

Last Day to Order is Monday,  
December 21 at Noon!

662.915.7041