

ACCENT

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THIS WEEKEND'S BEST BETS

Indianapolis Home Show

When: 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. today, 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday

Where: Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 E. 38th St., Indianapolis

Admission: \$9; \$4 for children; free for children 6 and younger. Coupons for \$2 off adult tickets available at Marsh Supermarkets.

Information and event schedule: www.indianapolisshomeshow.com

Exhibit celebrating African-American art

When: Opening reception, 5:30 to 8 p.m. today; display runs through Feb. 28

Normal hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday or by appointment.

Where: Art Columbus Art Gallery, 211 Washington St. in Columbus

What's there: Pen and pastel works by Bryce Armstrong; photography by Robert Anderson and Cleveland Stallworth, quilts by La Donna Armstrong and Paulette Roberts, acrylics by Nora Jiles, portraits by Jay Hutchinson and more

Live music for all ages

When: 7 p.m. today and Saturday

Where: Club Logos 154½ E. Jefferson St., Franklin (upstairs)

Who's there: Sentinel and Tempest, today; Sherman's March, Forgotten Tragedy, Blackheart Broken, Portrait of Betrayal and Gwen Stacy, Saturday

Admission: \$7

Information: 446-1503 or www.clublogos.com

AT THE MOVIES

'A Good Woman'

Fabulous clothes, luxurious settings and Oscar Wilde's bon mots dripping from the mouths of the idle rich. Sounds like all the makings for a delightful, devilish escape.

Unfortunately, some of Wilde's words land with a thud, as many of the film's stars are distractingly miscast.

Helen Hunt as a notorious femme fatale? Scarlett Johansson as an innocent newlywed? It's hard to accept all around.

Based on Wilde's play "Lady Windermere's Fan," the film moves the romance and scandal to 1930 on the Amalfi coast.

Hunt's Mrs. Eryllyne has traveled there in search of her latest wealthy man to latch on to, and finds the handsome, much younger Robert Windermere (Mark Umbers), who's recently married the idealistic Meg (Johansson).

Everyone sits around gossiping about everyone else because, as one character puts it, "My own business bores me. I much prefer other people's."

Tom Wilkinson is lovely and sad, though, as a rich older man who genuinely loves Mrs. Eryllyne for who she is.

Rating: PG for thematic material, sensuality and language

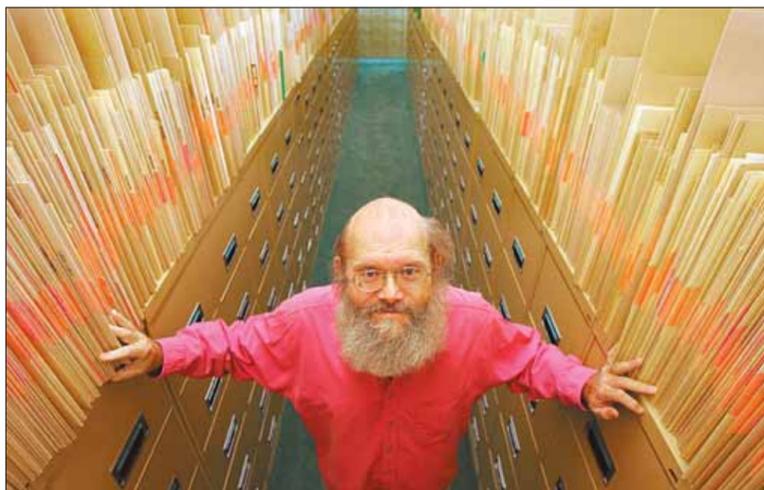
Stars: Two out of four

— The Associated Press

TOP TOURS

Tours are ranked by average box office gross per city and includes the average ticket price for shows in North America. The previous week's ranking is in parentheses.

- (1) **The Rolling Stones**; \$3.86 million; \$153.77
- (2) **Paul McCartney**; \$2.53 million; \$135.96
- (3) **U2**; \$2.49 million; \$96.56
- (New) **Bon Jovi**; \$1.51 million; \$77.70
- (4) **Aerosmith**; \$1.06 million; \$86.89
- (6) **Dave Matthews Band**; \$834,487; \$52.19
- (5) **Neil Diamond**; \$796,791; \$66.91
- (7) **Depeche Mode**; \$715,389; \$63.73
- (8) **Gwen Stefani**; \$586,751; \$55.75
- (10) **Andre Rieu**; \$380,558; \$51.75
- (11) **Mannheim Steamroller**; \$380,192; \$47.28
- (12) **Nine Inch Nails**; \$369,731; \$45.69
- (13) **Trans-Siberian Orchestra**; \$359,328; \$39.25
- (14) **Keith Urban**; \$302,834; \$39.33
- (15) **Brad Paisley**; \$237,664; \$39.79



Patrick E. Stockstill, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences historian, stands in the archives at the academy's Margaret Herrick Library in Beverly Hills, Calif. The library staff keeps track of who's who among Oscar nominees throughout history.

Nomination morning is prime time

By SANDY COHEN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.

Weathered plastic crates crammed with papers, books and binders cover the floor.

Cardboard boxes compete for space atop four large filing cabinets lining one of the walls.

Piles of manila envelopes and official-looking brown folders fill every visible bit of desk space, except for a tiny area around the computer mouse.

This is headquarters for the Oscars' most important research: finding factoids for the media to use in the endless stream of stories leading up to the March 5 awards show.

At 9 p.m. Monday, academy historian Patrick E. Stockstill and his team were locked inside the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' headquarters — their phones and e-mail capability shut off — and presented with the names of this year's Oscar nominees.

By 5:38 a.m. Tuesday, when the nominations were announced, they had transformed the mess of papers into a tidy collection of facts and figures for film fans to chew on.

It's a task Stockstill first dreamed of doing when he was 14 years old. That's when he started keeping track of Oscar stats.

He'd watch the Academy Awards and scribble the names of winners on index cards. When he'd amassed more than 10,000 cards, young Patrick decided to become Oscar's librarian.

Stockstill, now 56 and sporting a full white beard, got busy earning degrees in film and library science and was named academy historian in 1983.

After decades of immersion in movie stats, his mind is a database.

"Nobody even dares play Trivial Pursuit with me," he says.

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Oh, but we'll try.

How many films are eligible for the Oscars this year?

"Three hundred eleven," he says instantly. "It's the most in a long time. I had to put it in my statistics book."

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Stockstill and his staff could be asked to provide facts on any of those 311 films on nominations morning. And that takes a lot of research.

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The library staff at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences keeps track of who takes the prized golden statues home and who doesn't.

ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES PHOTO

Oscar historian has been on the job since he was 14

Working with fellow librarians Lucia Schultz and Libby Wertin, Stockstill compiles facts about each of the nominees, to be presented to the press on nominations morning. It's the most pressure-filled night of the year.

"We don't know what our nominations are going to be, so we have to consider as many things as possible."

■ ■ ■

Anyone know has won the most Oscars? "Katharine Hepburn has the most wins with four," Stockstill says.

"But Meryl Streep has the most nominations," Schultz adds. "She has 13."

"Katharine Hepburn and Jack Nicholson are tied at 12 nominations each," Wertin says.

Ah, The Three Musketeers.

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After the nominations were announced, the team began phase two of its Oscar research, because every nominee is a potential winner.

Schultz collects biographies and credits for each of the nominees, plus the spelling of any name a winner is likely to mention during an acceptance speech.

"Hilary Swank thanks her makeup artist (Tania McComas)," Schultz says, noting that Swank is in the two-trophy club.

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OK, what was the longest Oscar broadcast? "Four hours and 24, 25 minutes," Stockstill responds in a nanosecond. "Laura Ziskin was the producer." (The year: 2002.)

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Betcha don't know this one. Wait, let's not bet: What was the shortest screen time that led to an acting Oscar?

"Four and a half minutes," he says in less than four and a half seconds. "Supporting actress Beatrice Straight for 'Network.'" Never mind that the film came out in 1976.

Mother Nature can have you grilling in January, freezing in June

Why yes, that was me grilling hamburgers in the backyard in January.

What can I say? It was warm, I was hungry, I had the raw material on hand and, most importantly, I had the motivation.

And lest you think I am repeating myself, no, the motivation was not hunger.

The motivation was beating my brother P.D. in the 2006 Earliest Non-Holiday Charcoal-Fired Backyard Cookout of the Year competition.

You'll notice that the competition includes the words "non-holiday" and "backyard."

This serves to eliminate anyone gaining an unfair advantage by grilling out on New Year's Day or in the parking lot at a football game.

Those are fine pursuits, but this



Mike Redmond

competition is to see who first uses the grill to prepare a regular, no-special-occasion meal.

And the words "charcoal-fired" serve to eliminate the use of those sissy year-round gas grills.

It takes a real he-man or she-woman to brave the bitter cold trying to keep a feeble match flame alive long enough to ignite 36 half-frozen charcoal briquettes.

Not that this was a problem this year. This has been the

balmiest January I can remember for this latitude. Heck, my herb garden is already sprouting.

Frankly, this has me a little worried. Not about the herbs. I mean the payback. There's always a payback, and when the payback for all this nice weather comes, it is going to be a lulu.

You know that Indiana tradition of the blizzard during basketball sectionals? I wouldn't be surprised if this year we got one that lasted through semistate. In baseball.

Or maybe we're going to get a tornado season so busy that we might as well just pack our suitcases and move into the cellar between April and, oh, November.

See, it isn't just the burgers.

If there's payback for a January barbecue — in your shirtsleeves! — then you're really gonna get H-

E-Double-Hockeysticks for sleeping with the windows open. (As I have been doing.)

I think I inherited the feeling of some of my ancestors about winter: That it is supposed to be bitterly cold with snowfall measured by the yard to make us struggle and suffer, because struggling and suffering build character.

I guess it goes without saying that these were stern New England ancestors. I guess it also goes without saying that they were morons.

But I also am descended from people who stuck their thumbs in their ears and waggled their fingers at stern New Englanders, people who thought you suffered enough just getting through a day.

You know, the kind of people who welcome any opportunity for a party, people who would

have loved a cookout in January.

So you can see the conflict: Part of me — the part that fired up the charcoal grill in January — loves this weather. The other part is shaking a finger and warning that we shall pay, and pay dearly, for thinking we could rush the season.

No wonder I'm having trouble sleeping, window open or window closed.

Oh, well. At least I cooked out before my brother, and that's got to count for something.

I'm sure the memory will keep me warm during the long, cold blizzards to come. In June.

Mike Redmond is the author of "Six of One, Half-Dozen of Another" and "The Night the Wheels Fell Off." Send comments to letters@thejournalnet.com.