

ACCENT

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THIS WEEKEND'S BEST BETS

Teddy bear sleeper

When: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. today
Where: Clark Pleasant Library, 530 Tracy Road, Suite 250, New Whiteland
What's there: Bring your favorite bear for some stories, a video and craft, plus snacks
Cost: Free
Registration: Requested by calling 535-6206 or visiting www.jcpln.org. Click on "Programs and Events," then click on "Clark Pleasant" and select the event on the calendar.



Library matinee

When: 2 p.m. Saturday
Where: White River Library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood, off State Road 135 just north of Smith Valley Road
What's there: "Sky High," the Disney action adventure/comedy about a teen who tries to balance a normal life with extraordinary powers. Rated PG.
Cost: Free
Registration: Requested by calling 885-1330 or visiting www.jcpln.org. Click on "Programs and Events," then click on "White River" and select the event on the calendar.

Comedy night

When: Saturday; doors open at 6:30 p.m. The show starts at 8 p.m.
Where: Franklin American Legion Post 205, 1200 Park Ave.
Entertainers: Dan Davidson, Dennis Venable, Matt Holt and Jeff Bodart
Admission: \$15; includes appetizers. A cash bar will be available.
Proceeds: Benefit area veterans and children's programs
Information: 738-9934

VIDEO GAMING

'Electroplankton'

"Electroplankton," Nintendo's newest game for its DS, has so much going on you'll only rack your brain if you search for a deeper meaning than gaming. Of course, calling "Electroplankton" a videogame is something of a stretch because it's more like an experience than a game. You won't find any bosses to defeat, no guns or aircraft or explosions, and you won't find any levels to conquer, either. The game is about creating a mood, a feel.

It begins and ends with various kinds of plankton that exist for you to interact with. "Interaction" is the key word, because how you touch the screen with the stylus determines the kind of movement and sound that each kind of plankton makes.

There are 10 different kinds of plankton, and each has its own way of producing sound based on how you tap the screen and interact with it.

"Electroplankton" is severely limited by the inability to save your creations, share your creations with others, and, most, by not being able to create music with other people.

The presentation of the game is a 180-degree shift from typical games on the market, emoting an aqua-inspired feel. You can sit back and chill with "Electroplankton," but it's a shame the enjoyment can't be shared and produced with others.

Platform: Nintendo DS
Genre: Puzzle
Rating: E for Everyone
Grade: Three stars out of five
Scripps Howard News Service

TOP TOURS



Mick Jagger performs during a Rolling Stones concert Tuesday in Montreal. The group has the top-grossing tour.

Stones make top dough

Artists 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**; \$3.75 million; \$152.46
- (3) **Paul McCartney**; \$2.68 million; \$135.17
- (2) **U2**; \$2.6 million; \$96.86
- (4) **Eagles**; \$2 million; \$117.46
- (5) **Aerosmith**; \$1.08 million; \$87.12
- (6) **Neil Diamond**; \$831,935; \$64.75
- (9) **Bruce Springsteen**; \$792,759; \$80.21
- (7) **Dave Matthews Band**; \$770,296; \$52.19
- (8) **Depeche Mode**; \$715,389; \$63.73
- (10) **Gwen Stefani**; \$604,822; \$54.87

Band takes alternative rock route

Reconfigured Korn wants to break new ground with latest work

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

In the rock world, a band that has been together more than a decade is almost middle-aged. So it's not surprising that as Korn entered its 11th year last year, the rap-metal pioneers were deep in the throes of a mid-life crisis.

Korn's co-founder and guitarist, Brian "Head" Welch, left the band that stood as a shining example for debauchery and deviance to devote his life to Jesus Christ.

Meanwhile, Korn left its long-time record label and started producing an album by working with The Matrix, a trio of producers best known for making hits for pop princesses like Hilary Duff. The move disturbed some Korn fans.

If those looking at the band from the outside didn't know what to make of Korn's future, for a time, it wasn't a much different view from the inside.

"For about a week, it kind of felt like the band was very fragile," says guitarist James "Munky" Shaffer, speaking of the period after Welch's departure last winter. "There was kind of a moment where we didn't know what we were going to do and how we were going to continue."

The moment was short-lived, however.

"We kind of decided, 'OK, we can just sit back and we can put out a greatest hits album and end this or we can use this opportunity and instead of looking at it as a loss, reinvent what we do,'" Shaffer said.

Korn's latest, *See You on the Other Side*, marks the first album without Welch, who along with Shaffer anchored the band's guitar-crunching sound and shaped the direction of the band along with vocalist Jonathan Davis, drummer David Silveria and the bassist known as Fieldy.

Welch has said Korn has sold out its distinctive style in a quest for commercial success.

Their latest album could be seen as evidence of that criticism, since the band sought out mainstream pop producers before settling on The Matrix and Nine Inch Nails producer Atticus Ross.

But Shaffer and Davis say it wasn't an attempt to "go pop" but an attempt to update their decade-old sound.

"We kind of felt like we had experienced that genre of rock producers," Shaffer says. "We didn't feel there was anything exciting



Members of music group Korn, from left, David Silveria, Jonathan Davis, James "Munky" Shaffer and Fieldy, are pictured in New York. The group's latest album is *See You on the Other Side*.

for us. So we wanted to try and turn to someone who was in a different genre of music to kind of bring out something in us, to kind of push us in a different direction."

Some Korn fans where outraged when the band produced an album with pop producing team The Matrix.

While the album doesn't find Davis warbling like Duff — as some fans had feared — it does add a bit more of a melodic vibe to the band's signature screeching, metal, hip-hop influenced sound.

"It was more atmospheric, a lot of just different sounds and everything going on that they brought into the picture," says Davis, fiddling with his signature dreadlocks. "It's still a Korn sound, but it's different."

Korn starts a nationwide tour in February, the group's first tour without Welch onstage.

Both Davis and Shaffer say his departure brought the band closer and made it a better musical unit.

"It forced me to become a better musician, it forced the band to become stronger for it. It's almost like a gift," says Shaffer. "That's the irony of him leaving."



Mike Redmond

Fortune cookie not quite on the money

I'm about to become rich beyond my wildest dreams. As you can probably imagine, I'm pretty excited about that. Woo-hoo.

See, I got this e-mail the other day from a woman in Russia who says she'll give me 20 percent of \$46 million if I partner with her to stash the money in a U.S. account.

Well, I did some figuring on the back of an envelope and you know what? Twenty percent of \$46 million is \$9.2 million, a pretty good pile of rubles.

I can add that \$9.2 million to the \$9 million, another nice chunk of change, some guy in Nigeria wants to throw my way so he can set up an American bank account. too.

What is it with these people and American bank accounts, anyway? Do they not have toasters, electric blankets and free checking in Russia and Nigeria?

All right, so I'm up to about \$18 million now. It's not exactly Bill Gates money. Heck, it isn't even Jed Clampett money, but then again I'm not all that interested in moving to Beverly Hills anyway. Sorry about your luck, Mr. Drysdale.

Wait, it gets better. I got both of these e-mail offers the same week the Publishers Clearing House package came in the mail, and you know what that means: I may already be a wiener. I mean, winner.

So, like I said, I'm pretty excited.

Not. I had a relative who bought all sorts of magazines through Publishers Clearing House. She was just certain the Prize Patrol would notice her act of fealty and reward her with a visit.

You'll notice I said she bought the magazines. I didn't say she read them.

I thought about mentioning her case to the authorities, back when they were looking into Publishers Clearing House for deceptive prize claims, but then I decided there must be millions of 80-year-old women who read Sports Illustrated and Field and Stream.

That leaves the foreign money e-mails, which anyone should recognize as modern variations on the old pigeon drop scam. That's where someone approaches you and offers to split a small fortune in found money if you'll just put up a few thousand in good faith.

Same thing here. The Nigerian and Russian riches can be yours if you agree to put up a few grand to get the legal machinery running.

Just deposit the money and send them the account number and someone will soon be on the path to riches, all right. It just won't be you.

Now, here's the ridiculous part: People fall for it.

All the time. They must. Cons are a business, a rotten one, and no con artist is going to waste time on something that doesn't work.

The Internet offers a chance to cast an extremely wide net, and my guess that in these times, when everybody's looking for a shortcut (lottery tickets, anyone?) every throw hauls in more than a few suckers.

But not me. No sir. I'm too smart for them.

Besides, I don't need them. Exactly two weeks ago, you see, I got a fortune cookie that said I would become fabulously wealthy this year.

Compared to scams and sweepstakes, that's practically a sure thing.

See you out by the cee-ment pond.

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.

Gore, Nader, Aniston line up as stars at Sundance

By DAVID GERMAIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARK CITY, Utah

Actors are directing. Singers are acting. Drama directors are making concert films. Former presidential rivals Al Gore and Ralph Nader are hitting the big screen.

And Hollywood's much-maligned system of rating movies stars in its own film.

The Sundance Film Festival, the country's foremost showcase for independent cinema, gets under way Thursday with an intriguing mix of role reversals among its cast.

Gore and Nader lead what's shaping up as a powerhouse year for documentaries, always a strong suit at Sundance.

Director Davis Guggenheim's "An Inconvenient Truth" chronicles former Vice President Gore's dogged campaign to convince a reluctant society of fossil-fuel profiteers and consumers about the dangers of global warming.

Nader, viewed by critics as



Joan Cusack, Catherine Keener, Jennifer Aniston and Frances McDormand, from left, star in Nicole Holofcener's "Friends With Money." The film opened the Sundance film festival Thursday in Park City, Utah.

the spoiler whose campaign kept Gore out of the White House in the 2000 election, is the subject of Henriette Mantel and Stephen Skrovan's "An Unreasonable Man," a portrait of the crusader for consumer rights and safety.

Sundance opens with writer-director Nicole Holofcener's

"Friends With Money," starring Jennifer Aniston as a woman in limbo about her future after quitting her job and taking up temporary work as a housecleaner.

It's a return engagement for Holofcener, who premiered her feature-film debut "Walking and Talking" at Sundance in 1996 after developing the story in the

Sundance Institute's writing and directing labs.

Back then, Holofcener was an unknown who made a splash at Sundance. How does she feel about kicking off the festival with a star-driven flick?

"Thrilled and petrified. Equal measures of both," Holofcener said. "Thrilled because I have a history with Sundance, which made this feel special and like a real honor."

"Petrified, I guess, because I think it's never good to go into a film with really high expectations."

An institution of the movie industry takes its knocks in Kirby Dick's "This Film Is Not Yet Rated," a study of the Motion Picture Association of America's rating system.

The ratings board has come under frequent fire as overly prudish on sex and permissive on violence, with some critics and filmmakers likening it to a censorship panel.

This year's festival presents 120 feature-length films and dozens of shorts.