

ACCENT

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THIS WEEKEND'S BEST BETS

Model train show and swap meet

When: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday
Where: Greenwood Knights of Columbus Hall, 695 Pushville Road
Admission: \$3, free for children

'The Little Mermaid'

What: Stage production performed by 60 Center Grove students in kindergarten through Grade 8
When: 1:30 and 5 p.m. Saturday
Where: Center Grove High School, 2717 S. Morgantown Road, Greenwood
Admission: \$6 adults and \$4 students in advance; \$8 adults and \$6 students at the door
Tickets: Available today at district elementary schools and at the door

'Pillow Talk'

When: 2 and 7:30 p.m. today, 7:30 p.m. Saturday
Where: Artcraft Theatre, 57 N. Main St., Franklin
Admission: \$5 for adults, \$4 for students and seniors, \$3 for children

WEB EXTRA: Find more events and activities at www.thejournalnet.com.

TAKE IF HOME ON DVD

'The Illusionist'

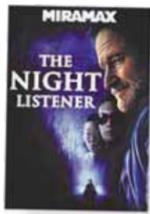
"The Illusionist" casts Edward Norton as a master magician arriving in Vienna around 1900 and rekindling his relationship with a childhood sweetheart (Jessica Biel), only to learn she's the betrothed of the crown prince (Rufus Sewell), who assigns a police henchman (Paul Giamatti) to debunk the sleight-of-hand artist.

The DVD has a making-of featurette and a segment focusing on Biel, along with commentary from writer-director Neil Burger.



'The Night Listener'

A timely tale in an era of authors whose purported memoirs about their harrowing lives have proven to be phonies. Adapted from the novel by Armistead Maupin, the film stars Robin Williams as a literary figure and late-night



radio talk show host who becomes obsessed with the tragic story of a physically and sexually abused teenager (Rory Culkin) dying of AIDS.

Yet questions about the boy's past and even his identity arise as Williams strikes up a long-distance telephone relationship with him and his adoptive mother (Toni Collette).

— The Associated Press

CELEB GOSSIP



Paris Hilton tied with Britney Spears for first place on the annual Mr. Blackwell's Worst-Dressed Women List.

Top 10 worst dressed

It's that time of year again: the annual compilation known as Mr. Blackwell's Worst-Dressed Women List.

For 47 years fashion designer Richard Blackwell has been chronicling, as he puts it, the follies, foibles and fashion flops of famous faces.

The 2006 ladies of dishonor:

10. Meryl Streep
9. Sandra Oh
8. Tori Spelling
7. Sharon Stone
6. Paula Abdul
5. Mariah Carey
4. Christina Aguilera
3. Lindsay Lohan
2. Camilla Parker-Bowles
1. (a tie) Britney Spears and Paris Hilton

As usual, Mr. Blackwell gives nods to celebrated women whom he calls fabulous fashion independents for 2006. They include Kate Winslet, Angelina Jolie, Helen Mirren, Barbara Streisand, Beyonce, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Princess Charlotte of Monaco, Heidi Klum, Katie Holmes and Marcia Cross.

— Sacramento (Calif.) Bee

Decorating without dirty socks, gaming wires

By SAM DOLNICK
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

You're out of Mom's house, you've left the dorms, you're off your friends' futons.

You're a young, single man with your own house or apartment, and it's time to start living that way.

Old towels can't double as curtains. Your laundry pile won't work as a bedside table. And that old Joe Montana poster doesn't count as art.

Here are some tips about how to class up your place while staying true to what you like (with the exception of the towels over the windows look).

Though the advice is directed at guys, much of it can apply to the first digs of women as well.



AP PHOTO

The ambience

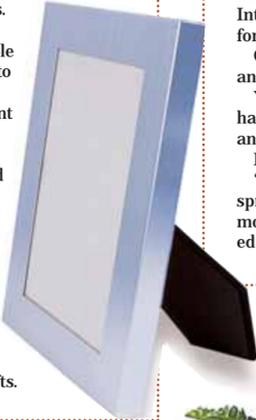
Your home says a lot about you, so take the time to make it nice.

"It's not just about having somewhere to sit," says Nate Berkus, host of a show on Oprah Winfrey's XM radio channel. "It's about expressing your personal taste and your aspirations and your style."

Make it unmistakably yours. "A new home doesn't need a new man," Berkus says. "People want to be adults and cut ties to where they came from, but I think that's a mistake. You want to bring things with you but present them in a new way."

Take pictures of friends and family, change them into black and white, and frame them. Bring an old chair from your parents' house and reupholster it.

Books are also a good way to add warmth to a room and to express your personality. Start collecting books and ask for them as gifts.



Get creative

Don't try to furnish the whole place in one day; collect things over time. Get a pair of vintage lamps from a flea market, bring back a rug from vacation in Mexico, get a table from a yard sale.

"It's more interesting if you mix things," says Dee Morrissey, owner of an interior-design company. "Find a great old trunk, put glass on top and there's a cocktail table."

The walls are blank canvases to fill with whatever you like.

Designer Nate Berkus suggests framing one piece of great art and hanging it in a place of honor. Then hang photos, inexpensive art prints or those college posters you can't part with. Frame as many pieces as you can, and get a mix of sizes and colors.

The bedroom

Don't treat the bedroom as a box to sleep in. Put some thought into how it's arranged, keep the room clean and make it comfortable.

You don't need a four-poster bed, but you shouldn't be sleeping on your old single bed and Super Mario sheets, either.

"You do not want to redo your first bedroom from when you were 8 years old," says Dee Morrissey, owner of Morrissey & Thompson-Ryan Interior Design in Colts Neck, N.J. "Big turnoff for the ladies."

Get a good mattress, either full-sized or queen, and buy at least two sets of nice sheets.

You can get away without a headboard if you hang an interesting piece of art above your bed and prop a pile of pillows beneath it.

But a man's first headboard is a milestone. "Order a headboard and an upholstered box spring, and all of a sudden you're not a child anymore," says designer Nate Berkus, who has created a line for the home at Linens 'n Things.

Men can make a statement with decor, says designer Nate Berkus. The bedding and accessories in this room are from a Berkus-designed line sold at Linens 'n Things. An interesting piece of art above the bed negates the need for a headboard, he says.

Paint

Painting a room is the easiest way to put your own stamp on the place. A surprising color can make an anonymous room feel dramatic, but don't go overboard; you don't want to recreate Peewee's Playhouse.

Most people will say that dark-colored walls make rooms look smaller and light-colored walls make them look bigger, but don't worry too much about that.

Navy-blue walls can make your home look unique, and a brightly colored sofa or comforter won't make the room feel claustrophobic.

A trendy strategy is to make an accent wall by painting a single wall a different color, but designer Nate Berkus cautions against it.

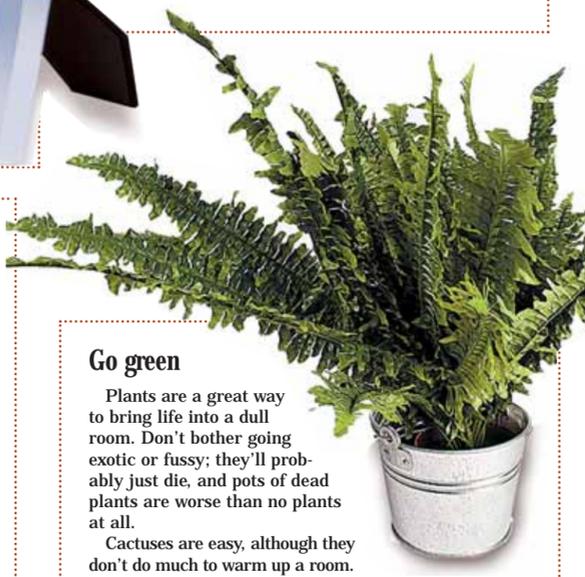
"It's a cheap trick," he says. "If you like something, just paint the room that color. It's much more surehanded."

Go green

Plants are a great way to bring life into a dull room. Don't bother going exotic or fussy; they'll probably just die, and pots of dead plants are worse than no plants at all.

Cactuses are easy, although they don't do much to warm up a room. A better bet would be an aloe plant, a rubber tree, or a ZZ plant, which grows shiny green leaves and doesn't need much direct sunlight.

Snake plants look interesting and can thrive even when you forget to water them.



CLIPART.COM PHOTOS

Laugh if you like, but it's no secret: I'm the one with the gradebook

That laughter you hear — the hooting, the guffawing, the gasping of people as they clutch their sides and turn blue because they can't catch their breath for all the hilarity — is coming from members of my family.

I just told them, "I can't wait for classes to start again."

I guess they never heard me say this before, especially not when I was a student scraping through school on double secret probation. But it's different now.

I'm a teacher. Excuse me. Maybe I shouldn't have said that. Now we have to wait for a new gale of laughter to die down.

Oh, well. While my family members are chuckling and wiping their eyes, let me explain:

I do a lot of things in an attempt to keep tomato soup in the cupboard and kibble in the



Mike Redmond

dog bowl. I write columns. I give speeches. I've even written a few greeting cards. Clean ones.

I love what I do but felt the need to get out of the house more, so when I was asked to teach history of American popular music at IUPUI, I said yes.

I was, after all, an eyewitness to some of it in my former role as a music critic for The Indianapolis News (although I

did not, as my niece suggested, cover John Philip Sousa concerts, with Sousa conducting).

For the past couple of years, then, I've spent Wednesday nights on the IUPUI campus, trying to lead a discussion on the development of American popular music from Stephen Foster to today and enjoying just about every minute of it.

The students are keenly interested in the subject, and they already have a great deal of knowledge in this area.

Of course, sometimes this keen interest means they don't want to unplug their iPods at the start of class, and their knowledge tends not to go back much more than five or 10 years, but hey, that's why I'm there: to get them to open up their ears, in more ways than one.

What I like about IUPUI students is their motivation. They're generally a bit older than traditional students, and most of them are paying their own way.

They want their money's worth, and in sharp contrast to my own academic career, they aren't afraid of a little work. Well, most of them.

I've noticed that the older the students, the more likely they are to take part in the classroom discussion.

I tell them at the outset of the semester that participation is a big part of their grade, so the best way to get good marks is to speak up, often. I'm always surprised at how many think I'm kidding.

Here's my theory: It takes a while for college students to get over what they grew up with in this era of education by stan-

dardized test and unfunded mandate.

They're used to "learning" not by discussion and thinking but by sitting and having someone drum test answers into their heads to satisfy the demands of some doofus in the legislature.

But I digress. When the students are engaged and the conversation sparks, teaching is as enjoyable and rewarding as any work I've ever done, and if the fact that I'm doing it strikes my family as funny, let them laugh.

If they keep it up, I'll put them on probation. Double secret probation.

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.