

THE FOOD

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TONY HICKS
And Another Thing

Selling the Pepsi? Provide the can

AS YOU MAY already know, we here at the newspaper had to take a week of furlough to provide some economic relief to the company.

I opted to take mine in small chunks. Unlike other furlough days, which I spent with my kids, I decided to take the last one all to myself. Which meant a highly productive schedule consisting of lying around, playing on the computer, avoiding hygiene and eating really bad food that could eventually kill me.

In other words, leading the good life.

I also found the inner strength to briefly pull my attention from my archnemesis, the shower, to go to a movie.

Going solo

I'm one of those oddballs who enjoys going to movies alone. It started in the early '90s when I shared a small house with four other guys and frequently needed a place to go for a few hours, lest our physical proximity cause me to commit a violent crime that would send me to prison.

I waited to see "Watchmen" because, not wanting to hurt my feelings, my wife hedged on whether she wanted to see it, which, I finally figured out, meant "No, I don't want to see a confusing movie about a bunch of psychotic and violent freaks when I haven't read the confusing graphic novel."

So this day was perfect. No need to spend four hours trying to explain the story to someone. I could laugh at the gore and violence (and sex, which was unintentionally hilarious) without worrying that the person next to me would think I'm a psychotic and violent freak. Even if she already suspects as much.

I purchased the obligatory pony keg of Pepsi beforehand, so about halfway through, I could no longer ignore the barking in my pants. Now, one of the unique things about Concord's Brenden Theatres, other than the endless parade of pre-film Johnny Brenden-is-awesome ads, is the location of the restrooms, which seem to have been added as an afterthought. That's fairly obvious by the one male and one female restroom, located upstairs. Which you don't think about until you drink a pony keg of Pepsi in the last theater on the other side of the building and down a ramp about a half-mile long. In fact, I'm pretty



Who will go home next?

Our 'American Idol' panel is betting on Scott or Megan/PAGE 3



SARA KUNITAKE samples a bacon French toast cupcake during the recent Bacon Camp, an open-source meeting for bacon lovers in San Francisco. More than 300 bacon lovers came to the event.



JUDGE Cal Henderson bites into bacon wrapped dates, shown below.



SABRINA FROWISS, left, receives an exorcism from "The Rev." Tex B. Acon, who passed out more than 200 bacon lollipops.

SEAN DONNELLY/STAFF

Green Day musical to debut at Berkeley Rep

By Pat Craig
STAFF WRITER

TICKETS WENT on sale Monday for five preview performances of the musical theater version of Green Day's album "American Idiot," which will have its world premiere at Berkeley Rep beginning Sept. 4. The new musical will be directed by Michael Mayer, creator of the hit coming-of-age musical "Spring Awakening." In "American Idiot," Mayer will collaborate with choreographer Steven Hoggett and Green Day on the script of the musical, which will feature tunes from Green Day's upcoming album, "21st Century Breakdown."

"American Idiot" will tell the story of working-class suburbanites who go to city and then the Middle East in search of "redemption a world filled with frustration." The musical will feature a 19-member ensemble along with an onstage band that will help spin tales of Jesus of Suburbia, his pal Jimmy and a girl known as Whatshername, all of whom are "struggling to express their individuality in a media culture," according to a Time magazine story from the album.

Mayer said when he first heard the multi-grammy-winning album, which sold 13 million copies, he was immediately "struck by its naive theatricality."

"Here was a new musical drama begging to be staged," Mayer was quoted by Berkeley Rep as saying. "We would have thought that of the most brutally honest, eloquent, passionate, funny, poetic theatrical responses to the post 9/11 world would be Green Day records?"

Debuting the show Berkeley Rep is somewhat of a full circle for Green Day, which got its start at Berkeley punk nightclub Gilman Street Project, not far from Berkeley Rep's theater.

It was at that club and in Berkeley punk rock scene that the band honed its skills; developed the performance sensibility that has evolved from punk-pop subculture commentary to outspoken political commentary.

"American Idiot's" official run is Sept. 16 through Oct. 11. Ticket sales for those performances will be announced closer to the official opening. Tickets are currently on sale for only five preview performances, Sept. 4, 5, 9, and 13. Seats are priced at \$32-\$54 and are available at www.berkeleyrep.org.

Reach Pat Craig at pcraig@bayareanewsgroup.com.

Sizzlin' bacon

By Laura Casey
STAFF WRITER

NO MATTER how solid your recipe is, it is difficult to impress the inventor of the Turbaconducken, a chicken stuffed in duck stuffed in a turkey, all wrapped in bacon.

I found this out at the recent inaugural "BaconCamp, San Francisco," a meeting and bacon recipe judging competition popularized by the strangest and most vocal bacon lovers of the Bay Area.

These are not your ho-hum "Let's have some bacon for breakfast" types of guys and gals. These are the people who buy pillows that look like bacon and who spend hours in the kitchen dreaming up something new to do with bacon. They were wearing stickers with pigs on them, and so many of them wanted silk-screened shirts with a slice of bacon printed on them that the T-shirt maker broke his gear

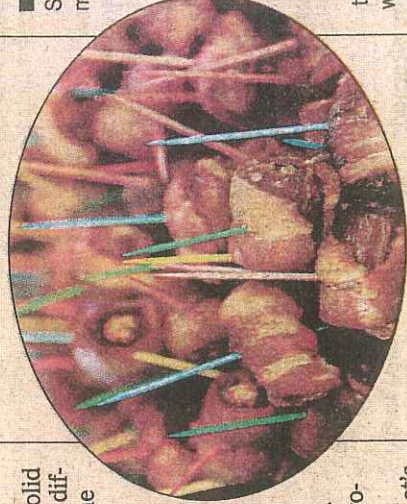
Bacon Finds

■ Bacon-of-the-Month Clubs: Several Web sites offer bacon-of-the-month clubs that send artisan bacon to bacon lovers for a fee. Joining the clubs can be expensive, about \$150 to \$200 for a year, but many bacon fans report enjoying a new pack of bacon each month. www.gratefupalate.com, thebignextdoor.com, www.baconfireak.com

■ Bacon scarves: Why not wear what you love? Order a bacon scarf that's either felted, printed or hand-woven. www.etsy.com (search "bacon scarf"), www.shopsingeneralstore.com or knit your own. www.monstercrochet.com/Patterns.html

■ Bacon salt: Now you don't have to worry about getting splattered with grease to have everything taste like bacon! www.baconsalt.com

■ Bacon-infused booze: Add some bacon to your Bloody Mary with bacon-infused vodka, which you can make yourself. www.instructables.com/id/Bacon_infused_Vodka



For some, the pork product isn't just food — it's an obsession

See BACON, Page 2

Water

FROM PAGE 1

the "Water + Color" show, which features detailed, photorealistic paintings alongside more abstract images. Although entries into the competition were received from as far away as France, there are several other Bay Area painters with works in the show and various scenes of the Bay Area depicted.

"Crossword Puzzle" by Karen Frey of Oakland shows a man enjoying what

seems to be typical Sunday afternoon with the newspaper, while "Night Crawlers" by Alamo's Ruth Miller depicts a dark and moody scene in what appears to be an alleyway.

Ruth Koch of Piedmont captures a windswept Arizona canyon masterfully in "Wind Water Time" while Walnut Creek's Leslie Wilson's "The Other Side of the Mountain" scene looks like a backpacking trip that any of us could enjoy.

"Water + Color" is also an interactive show. Visitors

are given ballots to vote for their three favorite paintings. A people's choice winner will be chosen once the show closes. In its first week, more than 1,500 people strolled through the gallery and voted.

"This is one of the nicest shows I've ever seen us do," the association's Maggie Metcalf said. "We hope people really enjoy it."

Reach [Laura Casey at 925-952-2697](mailto:Laura.Casey@bayareanewsgroup.com) or [lcasey@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:Laura.Casey@bayareanewsgroup.com).

Bacon

FROM PAGE 1

midvent.

They are part of an increasing number of people who think of bacon as more than a source of protein — it's a lifestyle. Unlike other pork products, this "meat candy" has a ravenous following.

The Turbaconducken inventor, slightly built Corey James, was a judge along with five other self-professed bacon "experts."

James' resume is the most impressive of the bunch — the Southern California resident publishes Bacon Today (www.bacontoday.com), an online bacon news site that offers up at least one new bacon story a day. More are published on what he calls a "heavy bacon news day," such as when the New York Times published the legendary "Bacon Explosion" — a recipe made of bacon wrapped around sausage and even more bacon — or when a woman with the last name Bacon won a pig-calling contest.

His Web site, which reports more than 100,000 unique visitors per month, is fueled by an absolute passion for the pork product with a popularity online and in real life that doesn't appear will be waning anytime soon.

'Sinful and delicious'

"Bacon is both sinful and delicious," James says. In an increasingly health-conscious society, he adds, bacon is for the rebels, the James Deans of foodies. "There's a shock value to the fact that people are eating so much bacon."

"Seduced by Bacon" is a top-selling 2006 cookbook that author Joanna Pruess says is so popular it went into its fourth printing within months of publication.

Her book includes bacon poems ("For us the pig's the means, while bacon is the end/ Providing gustatory heights to which we can ascend") and bacon photos along with stories of the history of bacon.

"They say with vegetarians, bacon is the one thing they miss the most," Pruess says, citing a much-rumored legend among bacon lovers. "You need so little of it to add so much flavor."

Bacon confession

I am a big fan of bacon. I have bacon art on my walls and for at least two years, my birthday presents have primarily been bacon in na-

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- THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG-13)
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- DUPLICITY (PG-13)
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- I LOVE YOU, MAN (R)
11:45, 1:10, 2:25, 3:45, 5:00, 6:20, 7:35, 8:55, 10:05
- KNOWING (PG-13)
11:05, 12:25, 1:50, 3:15, 4:40, 6:00, 7:30, 8:50, 10:25
- THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R)
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- RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG)
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- WATCHMEN (R)
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ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE
- MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG)
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- THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG-13)
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- 12 ROUNDS (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:15
- I LOVE YOU, MAN (Open caption) (R)
2:45, 10:10
- DUPLICITY (PG-13)
12:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20
- KNOWING (PG-13)
12:30, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
- I LOVE YOU, MAN (R)
12:15, 5:10, 7:40
- RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG)
12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

PIEDMONT THEATRE

4185 Piedmont Ave. (510)643-5980
Call Theatre For Discount Info
Purchase Tickets by Phone 777-FLIX #520

- SUNSHINE CLEANING (R) Dolby SR
1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:25
- SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) Dolby Digital
1:20, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30
- TWO LOVERS (R) Dolby SR
1:35, 4:20, 7:10, 9:45

OAKLAND

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Friday May 1 at 8pm

NOTORIOUS

Friday May 8 at 8pm

AUNTIE MAME

6 - MATERIAL SUITABLE FOR GENERAL AUDIENCES
PG-13 - PARENTAL GUIDANCE IS ADVISED
R - UNDER 17 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT
NC-17 - PERSONS UNDER 17 WILL NOT BE ADMITTED

Reach [Laura Casey at 925-952-2697](mailto:Laura.Casey@bayareanewsgroup.com) or [lcasey@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:Laura.Casey@bayareanewsgroup.com).

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- 12 ROUNDS (PG-13)
11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
- MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG)
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- I LOVE YOU, MAN (R)
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- KNOWING (PG-13)
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- RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG)
11:50, 4:20, 7:20, 9:55

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- CROSSING OVER (R)
2:15, 4:40, 7:00
- GRAN TORINO (R)
2:30, 7:10
- PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)
5:00

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- MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D (PG)
11:50, 12:50, 2:00, 3:00, 4:10, 5:20, 6:30, 7:30, 8:40, 9:40
- THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG-13)
12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:05, 9:20
- I LOVE YOU, MAN (R)
12:15, 1:10, 2:40, 3:35, 5:00, 6:35, 7:20, 9:00, 9:40
- KNOWING (PG-13)
12:20, 1:40, 3:15, 4:30, 6:20, 7:15, 8:10, 9:50
- DUPLICITY (PG-13)
12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:35
- RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG)
12:05, 1:05, 2:20, 3:20, 4:40, 5:40, 7:00, 8:10, 9:15
- 12 ROUNDS (PG-13)
1:20, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30
- TAKEN (PG-13)
12:40, 2:50, 5:10, 7:25, 9:45
- WATCHMEN (R)
12:00, 3:30, 7:00

ALAMEDA

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- MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG)
11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00
- MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D (PG)
11:00, 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
- THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG-13)
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- KNOWING (PG-13)
11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
- DUPLICITY (PG-13)
11:10, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:10
- I LOVE YOU, MAN (R)
11:20, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:05
- RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG)
11:15, 1:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:35
- WATCHMEN (R)
11:05, 8:00
- SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
2:20, 5:00

W - S Wheelchair Access
H - F Hearing Impaired

For pass information, call theatre
- ANG Newspapers is not
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changes in these listings

REGAL PALM JENDA CROSSINGS

STADIUM 20

1-50 Hacienda Dr. (925)860-9600
(800)FANDANGO #892

Senior Mondays \$6.00
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www.cinemark.com

- HANNAH MONTANA: THE MOVIE (G)
ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE
- FAST & FURIOUS (PG-13) ADVANCE
TICKETS AVAILABLE
- MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D (PG)
10:30, 12:45, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:10
- MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG)
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- THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG-13)
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- 12 ROUNDS (PG-13)
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- DUPLICITY (PG-13)
10:40, 11:15, 1:25, 2:10, 4:20, 5:05, 7:15, 7:55, 10:20,
10:55
- KNOWING (PG-13)
10:55, 11:40, 12:30, 1:45, 2:35, 3:40, 4:35, 5:25, 6:35,
7:25, 8:15, 9:20, 10:15, 11:00
- I LOVE YOU, MAN (Open caption) (R)
1:30, 9:35
- THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R)
11:30, 3:00, 5:35, 8:10, 10:45
- RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG)
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 7:40, 9:30, 10:00
- WATCHMEN (R)
11:10, 2:55, 6:25, 9:55
- CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG)
12:10, 5:15
- TAKEN (PG-13)
12:35, 3:05, 5:20, 7:45, 10:05

REGAL IMAX THEATRE

1800 E Hacienda Dr. (925)860-9600
(800)FANDANGO #190

- MONSTERS VS. ALIENS: AN IMAX 3D
EXPERIENCE (PG)
11:45, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:10

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- FAST & FURIOUS (PG-13) ADVANCE
TICKETS AVAILABLE
- MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG)
12:00, 12:40, 2:20, 3:00, 4:40, 5:20, 7:00, 7:40
- I LOVE YOU, MAN (R)
12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:50
- DUPLICITY (PG-13)
1:40, 4:30, 7:15
- KNOWING (PG-13)
11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30
- RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG)
11:45, 2:00, 4:20, 6:45

UNION CITY

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- 12 ROUNDS (PG-13)
10:45, 12:10, 1:30, 3:10, 4:15, 5:55, 7:00, 8:35, 9:45
- MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG)
11:00, 11:35, 1:05, 2:15, 4:15, 5:55, 6:55, 7:35, 8:35, 10:15,
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- THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG-13)
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6:20, 7:00, 7:50, 8:50, 9:30, 10:10
- CORALINE (PG)
10:40, 1:10, 3:40
- DUPLICITY (PG-13)
10:25, 1:55, 2:55, 4:25, 6:00, 7:25, 9:00, 10:25
- HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13)
10:50, 1:45, 4:40, 7:40
- I LOVE YOU, MAN (R)
10:45, 12:10, 1:35, 3:00, 4:25, 5:50, 7:15, 8:40, 10:05
- KNOWING (PG-13)
10:30, 11:10, 1:50, 1:30, 2:20, 3:00, 4:30, 5:20, 6:00,
7:30, 8:20, 9:00, 10:30
- THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R)
11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40, 10:35
- MISS MARCH (R)
6:20, 8:35, 10:50
- PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)
11:30, 1:55, 4:20, 7:05, 9:35
- RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG)
10:15, 11:20, 12:50, 1:55, 3:20, 4:30, 5:55, 7:05, 8:30, 9:40
- STREET FIGHTER: THE LEGEND OF CHUN-LI (PG-13)
10:30
- TAKEN (PG-13)
12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35
- TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13)
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00
- WATCHMEN (R)
12:40, 4:20, 8:00, 11:40