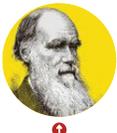


Insider

THING TANK

A REVIEW OF THE WEEK IN THINGS



TRACK CHANGES

Local information design firm Fathom has posted an amazing interactive project called **"The**

Preservation of Favoured Faces, which sorts and color codes the text of each iteration of Charles Darwin's "The Origin of the Species," and in doing so charts the evolution of "evolution." Fathom has also issued beautiful book and poster editions, with all proceeds going to charity. It's a gift for Uncle Ted that's highly unique, and just passive aggressive enough.



ZEROS AND VILLAINS

Piping hot yam and presidential candidate **Donald Trump**

reminds me of something, but what? Is it a freshly hammered thumb? An apricot Danish dropped on a barbershop floor? A mung bean granted a single wish? Yes to all three, but more so than any of those: Darth Vader. Right? No? Well, if you don't see the resemblance immediately, check out "Darth Trump," a new Auralnauts production on YouTube. You'll see. It's uncanny.



BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS

Officials in Sycamore Township, Ohio, have ordered haunted house proprietor and recurring Internet hero **Jasen Dixon** to remove the elaborate **zombie nativity** he has once again erected in his front yard. According to a newly posted Generosity.com page, he now faces fines and legal fees if he fails to bring his yard to code by removing the "accessory structure" — i.e. ixnay the ombezias esusjay. I can't help but notice that we're all so concerned about the sanctity of Christmas, but no one says a word about the sanctity of "Jason." SMH.



BIG BUSINESS

Many people view **Google** with a level of trepidation, concerned that the tech behemoth (itself now a subset of the even larger holding company Alphabet) is growing more and more invasive in its thirst for our most personal information. Boy oh boy, some people need to relax! It's a search engine, not some nefarious comprehensive inventory of humanity that will one day be turned over to our technofascist overlords. Jezz! Oh and speaking of Google, they just patented a new needle-free blood extraction technology. I'm sure it's nothing. It's fine. *We're fine.*

MICHAEL ANDOR BRODEUR

Photos from Auralnauts, Jasen Dixon, and Globe wire services



SHANE TIMM

HIGH FIVE

WHAT COUNTS IN MUSIC TODAY

Most professions don't allow for work and personal matters to cross over, but the members of **Good Old War** are welcome to bring their metaphorical baggage to the office every day. A trio-turned-duo after drummer Tim Arnold took time off for his newborn daughter, Keith Goodwin and Dan Schwartz (pictured above, from left) excel at using their personal connection to fuel the band's creative energy. Introduced by Arnold in 2007, the pair have since formed a strong friendship, in and outside the band. Their return to Boston's Brighton Music Hall is a special one: It's where Good Old War the trio played its first concert, back when the venue was Harpers Ferry. In advance of Tuesday's show, we asked Schwartz to list the five best things about working and writing music with a close friend.

Being a part of Keith's family

Keith has kids, and I love visiting them every day. So that's a cool thing for me; I'm just part of the family because I'm there so much. He's got two little boys, 4 and 2, and they are just awesome little dudes. When he started saying, "I'm going to have kids," we

were a touring band, and we didn't know how it was going to turn out... but it's a great work environment.

Knowing what the other person is going through

Since our lives are so intertwined — we're close enough that we know what each other might be going through. Helping each other with lyric and music ideas is easy, with both of us being in the same room together.

It's not competitive

The competitiveness is just basically trying to impress each other. I know Keith is going to sing and he knows I'm going to play guitar, so there's not much competition there. Like any relationship, there are going to be heated moments. But since we both have the same idea in mind and we're both trying to do the best possible, we try to never let those other things get in the way.

Letting Keith have the final say

One thing that I don't think a lot of bands do is

give someone the final say. Keith gets the final say, since he's the singer. And that's a really good thing for a band to have. Keith has always been that kind of guy. Usually when he brings in a song or whatever, I'll play it and he'll push me to get it to where he wants it.

Knowing the band is complete with just two people

One tour, Tim had to leave in the middle of the show, and we were kind of just forced into it. When we [go] up there as just the two of us in a room full of people, and our music sounds so full because everyone's singing along, I think that's been our goal all along. We get up on stage and it doesn't feel empty, because we know we're going up there with songs we're proud of.

MALLORY ABREU

Good Old War performs at Brighton Music Hall on Tuesday at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$18. 800-345-3000, www.ticketmaster.com

TV CONFESSIONS

PETER GURALNICK



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

The Massachusetts-based music historian is the author of acclaimed biographies of Elvis Presley and Sam Cooke. His latest book is "Sam Phillips: The Man Who Invented Rock 'n' Roll."

Favorite show of all time, and why?

"Howlin' Wolf on 'Shindig!'" in 1965, will always be No. 1 (Wolf's music is, as Sam Phillips said, where the soul of man never dies) — but so is "The Wire," which, like all of David Simon's shows, embodies many of the same qualities, including the raw expression of emotion, genuine idealism, and an educative humanism in which choices are never easy.

Favorite show right now, and why?

"Late Night With Stephen Colbert" for its generosity of spirit, fundamental decency, and willingness to forsake fashionable irony in pursuit of a higher comedic (and humanistic) truth. Of course if "The Colbert Report" were still on the air...

Favorite bad TV, and why?

"Ray Donovan" — not really bad, just guilty. Great ongoing action, not to mention Boston accents.

What's at the top of your Have-to-Watch list?

Oh, I don't know. The next season of the BBC's "W1A"? Is there another season of the Scandinavian "The Bridge" coming up? Re-watching the Nina Simone documentary, "What Happened, Miss Simone"? How about a new season of "Frank's Place" after nearly 30 years? Oh, and let me throw in another season of "Curb Your Enthusiasm" — and "Louie," too.

Which show's world would you want to live inside?

"The Newsroom," once again for its humanism, in which good-hearted people do their idealistic, maybe not so realistic, but stirring best — and more or less prevail by remaining staunch in their beliefs. MATTHEW GILBERT

LAUGH LINES

JIM GAFFIGAN

"I was with a friend last week, I was like, 'You wanna get a doughnut?' He was like, 'I'm not hungry.' I'm like, 'What does that have to do with it?' As if there's ever been a good reason to eat a doughnut. Well, doctor says I need more powdered sugar in my diet. Doughnuts are bad for you. And according to my health-nut wife, they're not appropriate for a trail mix. I'm just on a different trail, right? Mine leads to the emergency room."

Gaffigan plays two sold-out shows at the Wilbur Friday.

NICK A. ZAINO III

