

# media

## **making a bigger 'splash'**

The summer 2004 edition of "Splash" is out and available free to pick up just about everywhere in Jackson. One glance and you can see how this quarterly newsletter of the Art Association is getting better and better, perhaps poising itself to be the official publication of the nascent Center for the Arts.

Edited and designed by Travis Walker, who is the Art Association's programs and publications director, and printed by Ink on Paper out of Alpine, Wyo., this latest issue is clean, bright, easy to read, and full of information anyone who is interested in the valley's arts scene needs to know. Of course, the 32-page magazine is heavy on Art Association stuff – shows, classes and other Art Ass goings-on (I can't wait for the Sari Staggs show in May) – but other arts groups are given a page or more to outline their summer seasons, too.

There's a progress report from the Center for the Arts, news from Dancers' Workshop and the Off Square Theatre Company, an opening salvo from the new Jackson Hole Film Festival, an overview of the 2004 Grand Teton Music Festival, and a short preview of the National Museum of Wildlife Art's summer (two words: Alexander Calder). I also liked Curtis Olson's "Road Trip" to Burning Man, and even the bright, well-designed and excellently reproduced ads. It's amazing how informative an attractive advertisement can be.

I keep my issue of "Splash" on my desk for ready access to arts information. I imagine, sometime in the not-too-distant

future, it growing into a monthly all-arts magazine that includes comprehensive calendars and other listings. Jackson could use such a periodical right now; imagine how necessary it will be when the Center for the Arts is up and swinging.

– Richard Anderson

## **comics imitate life**

"Doonesbury" and I go way back. I used to read it when I was a kid, barely aware of who was in the White House much less all the skullduggery taking place there. The characters are like old friends, and what great friends! Thoughtful, smart, politically active, and oh so human, with plenty of faults and foibles as well as loveable traits.

So imagine my shock and surprise when, at the beginning of this week's story line, I found out that B.D. had been gravely wounded in action in Iraq! Imagine my angst at having to wait day-by-day for each little four-panel serving of information about the nature of his wounds and his prognosis.

I know, I know: It's only a comic strip, for God's sake. It's not like it's TV or something. But "Doonesbury" artist Gary Trudeau has kept pace with the news throughout the 36 years of his creation, and here he is, doing it again. It may sound silly, but B.D.'s injury helps bring the news from Iraq home, helps me appreciate the state of suspension in which hundreds of thousands of American moms and dads and wives and husbands live as they wait at home each day, each night, waiting for word

from their loved one, be it good news or bad. For god's sake, bring B.D. home safely! Along with all of his comrades, real and cartoonish.

– Richard Anderson

## **wilson tribune**

What, another newspaper in Jackson Hole? How many does this place need?

Actually, Wilson probably could have used a publication of its own years ago. Now, at last, it has one. Published by the Wilson Advisory Committee, "The Wilson Tribune" is a little emailed newsletter packed with some good tidbits, the kind of stuff the other newspapers in the valley choose to ignore.

Its first issue came out this month. The publication's editor is Peter Pilafian. Some of the pressing topics facing Wilson include: a crosswalk, so residents don't have to fear for their lives every time they cross the highway; 1,000 square feet of Fish Creek Interiors converting to a bank office, to the ire of residents who say Wilson already has enough "money machines"; and a sign contest for the east and west entries into town, giving Wilson the proper introduction it deserves.

Kudos to the Wilson folks for getting information out there to the people who are as much a part of Teton County as everyone who lives in Jackson. You can download the Trib at the Wilson Advisory Committee's website, [www.wildsonadvisory.org](http://www.wildsonadvisory.org). They are also seeking writers, stories and layout help for their next issue.

I particularly like the committee's motto: "Dedicated to maintaining a small-town, friendly atmosphere where people smile instead of frown."

– Melissa Davidson