

EDITOR'S LETTER



DALENE ROVENTINE
EDITOR

It's a miracle that I still have all my fingers and toes. Most of the year, I have a normal respect for fire, but when it nears July 4, like many Americans, I get a little crazy with explosives. I remember as early as second grade driving outside city limits to set off colorful fountains, Roman candles and assortments of noisy fireworks.

There were some close calls. (I don't suggest using a homemade mortar tube even if it is "welded together.") I have experienced singed hairs, shoes and clothing, even a couple burns on my hands, but luckily, no major injuries. In retrospect, it amazes me how freely my parents let me play with fireworks.

However, my pyro experience can't even hold a sparkler to Bob Gerau. He is this week's subject for *A Conversation With* (Page 13 and extended online). As a fireworks enthusiast and the owner of Bob's Fireworks south of Columbia, he helps other Columbians get their fireworks fix. For more than 40 years, he has been collecting and enjoying ornamental explosives. He says

that fireworks are no more dangerous than falling out of a bed. Although most people probably disagree with that, we can't deny that he helps make the CoMo skies colorful.

In addition to amateur fireworks shows, there are many events in Columbia this holiday weekend for those who want to avoid handling matches (See Calendar, Page 14). The city's Fourth of July celebration, *Fire in the Sky*, showcases fireworks choreographed to music.

And for those who want to avoid the blasts completely, Missouri Symphony's *Hot Summer Nights' Patriotic Pops* concert promises only the sounds of violins and trumpets from within the safety of the Missouri Theatre.

DEPARTMENTS

INSIGHT • 3

The green car movement is idling while local dealers wait for electric vehicles to start rolling in.

SCENE • 5

Miniature horses trot their way to Grand Champion at the Show Me Little Equine Club Celebration Show.

MUSIC • 6

of Montreal bassist Davey Pierce opens for his own band Saturday at The Blue Note with his brainchild, synthesizer- and sequencer-based Yip Deceiver.

ARTS • 7

Farmers and artisans combine produce and pottery (among other art) at a new weekly market in the North Village Arts District.

BOOKS • 12

It's human v. robot when the techno-apocalypse hits in *Robocalypse*.

ENDNOTES • 13

Pyrotechnics enthusiast Bob Gerau collects fireworks that go way beyond bottle rockets and sparklers.

CALENDAR • 14

FILM FARE • 15



WITHOUT A TRACE 8

Little information has surfaced since Nick Coppola disappeared in December, but his family and friends remain hopeful.

Photo courtesy of COPPOLA FAMILY

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Stretch it out

Use *Vox's* guide to yoga to find a new place to practice downward-facing dog.

of Montreal, Yip Deceiver recap

Relive this Saturday's concert at The Blue Note with *Vox's* recap of all the beats and melodies.

Movie review: Larry Crowne

See if Tom Hanks passes the class in his new film, which he also wrote and directed, about a middle-aged man who tries to reinvent himself by returning to college.



Photograph by JESSICA NIX

Weigh in on our poll. Visit VoxMagazine.com to vote.

What do you think of movie theater texters?

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