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Column:Kendra Meinert

This party animal needs a new hangout
Kendra Meinert

Wanted: Loving and spacious home for a Loch Ness Monster. Low maintenance. Loves late nights, live music and beer. A real people monster. If you've ever tipped a few back in the beer garden at {dcBdc}IQ's{dc/Bdc}, 715 S. Broadway, you've probably already bumped into Nessy. Or, depending on just how many you tipped, maybe even tripped over him.

The 23-foot long sculpture of the Loch Ness Monster has become a fixture at IQ's, which is why owners {dcBdc}Bill {dc/Bdc}and {dcBdc}Sandy Hickey{dc/Bdc} have decided not to leave him behind when they move their bar to the {dcBdc}Microswitch {dc/Bdc}location, 2105 University Ave., in July.

{dcBdc}Jerry Fournier{dc/Bdc}, the local artist who created the monster, came up with the idea to adopt Nessy out to the highest bidder and donate the money to the {dcBdc}Multicultural Center of Greater Green Bay{dc/Bdc}.

Bids are being accepted until June 27 at IQ's. Write your bid, name and phone number on a piece of paper and drop it off at the bar or mail it to: Loch Ness Monster, IQ's, 715 S. Broadway, Green Bay, WI 54304.

And just who (besides Joey on "Friends") might be in the market for a monster?

"That's a good question," Bill Hickey says. "It's a nice piece. You never know."

The winning bid will be announced June 29 during what will be the farewell bash at the current IQ's location.

The Hickeys have cultivated a faithful following, a laid-back, hippie vibe and a strong commitment to open mikes and live music since opening IQ's in the out-of-the-way location on Broadway in October 1998.

"We're happy with what we accomplished here, but it's a bit limiting," Bill Hickey said. "We're kind of crowded here."

The Microswitch location will provide more room for IQ's weekly live music (no more patrons bumping into musicians on stage) and a full kitchen. The Hickeys plan to expand their menu to include gyros and Italian beef.

While they'll miss things like the beer garden and the charm of their massive antique back bar, they're taking everything else with them -- the artwork on the walls, the eclectic jukebox and most of their regulars.

Moving day is slated for July 1, with the opening tentatively planned for later that week. In the meantime, it's business as usual at IQ's with Nessy eyeing prospective new owners out in the garden.

Korn{dcBdc}{dc/Bdc}

A big next couple of days ahead for Korn fans ...

Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. Saturday for the band's July 26 concert with {dcBdc}Puddle of Mudd{dc/Bdc} and {dcBdc}Deadsy{dc/Bdc} at {dcBdc}Brown County Veterans Memorial Arena{dc/Bdc}. They're \$39.50 at {dcBdc}Ticket Star{dc/Bdc} outlets, www.ticketstaronline.com, the arena box office and by phone at (920) 494-3401.

Then, at midnight Monday,{dcBdc} The Exclusive Co.{dc/Bdc}, 423 Dousman St., opens up for the new Korn release, "Untouchables."

Gigs{dcBdc}{dc/Bdc}

After you do {dcBdc}Bayfest{dc/Bdc} Saturday night, swing by {dcBdc}Rock City Pub{dc/Bdc}, 1279 Main St., on your way back to catch the headlining set by punk quartet the {dcBdc}Gaza Strippers{dc/Bdc}. Support acts start at 10:30 p.m. \$5 cover.

{dcBdc}Eric Noden{dc/Bdc} plays old-school blues, ragtime and roots music Friday night at {dcBdc}Luna Cafe{dc/Bdc} in De Pere. The Chicago singer/ guitarist/blue historian is a regular at {dcBdc}Buddy Guy's Legends{dc/Bdc} and {dcBdc}The House of Blues{dc/Bdc}.

The sixth annual {dcBdc}Farmapalooza {dc/Bdc}has {dcBdc}Dark Star Orchestra, Jazz Mandolin Project, Keller Williams, John Brown's Body, Ekoostik Hookah {dc/Bdc}and {dcBdc}Willy Porter{dc/Bdc} among its 25 bands on two stages June 14-16 at {dcBdc}Jamboree Campground{dc/Bdc} in Black River Falls.

The lineup is a mix of jam, bluegrass, funk, reggae and rock acts. Tickets are \$70 for two days of music and camping. Check out the full slate at farmapalooza.com.

'Big Fat' and fun{dcBdc}{dc/Bdc}

A whopping four people attended Tuesday's screening of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" at {dcBdc}Bay Park Cinema{dc/Bdc}, but here's hoping more turn out when the film opens Friday.

It's one of those sweet little films that's big on heart and laughs. Think "Full Monty" or "Billy Elliot."

It's the kind of romantic comedy you should gather up the gal pals for and then laugh together at all the bad hair, bad lamps and bad bridesmaids dresses, the father who's convinced a squirt of Windex will cure any ill and some particularly comic scenes involving a bundt cake, a zit and a vegetarian.

It's funny and touching and not as obnoxious as the TV trailers make it out to be.

Plus ... {dcBdc}Tom Hanks{dc/Bdc} and {dcBdc}Rita Wilson{dc/Bdc} produced it, {dcBdc}Joel Zwick{dc/Bdc} ("Bosom Buddies") directed it, and {dcBdc}Ian Gomez {dc/Bdc}(Javier on "Felicity") pops up in it.

"About a Boy" was good, but "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" is better.

Etc.{dcBdc}

George Strait{dc/Bdc} announced earlier this week plans for U.S. arena tour this fall. There's no {dcBdc}Resch Center{dc/Bdc} date listed among the September-November stops, but there should be. An easy sellout.

One of three dates listed as TBA on the 2002 {dcBdc}Pavilion Nights{dc/Bdc} schedule is June 15. That's next week and still no word on who that act will be, but {dcBdc}Meat Loaf{dc/Bdc} on June 22 is sold out.

Congratulations to {dcBdc}Barb Bazaldua{dc/Bdc}, a recent graduate of the {dcBdc}University of Wisconsin-Green Bay{dc/Bdc}. With all that book time behind her, here's hoping the singer/songwriter will return to the local music scene.

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