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Critics' Picks



WEDNESDAY 11/8

7 p.m. at the
Tennessee State
Fairgrounds,
Saturday, 10

Music

THE COATHANGERS It's odd to think we may already be living in a post-Black Lips indie-punk milieu. But that seems apparent when newbies such as Montreal's *Demon's Claws*, England's *The Hipshakes* or this Atlanta batch of gals start coming on like the first record they ever heard was a Black Lips 7-inch at a party where someone's delinquent parents were passing out Pabst. The Coathangers' recently released self-titled debut on Rob's House is snotty and silly like any 17-year-old ought to be, though the gals do harbor serious feminist angst. The music kicks along with no-fi frazzle, cheap synth slams and toddler-tantrum riffs in the volatile vein of post-Slits grrrl rock. Live, they're still in the charmingly inept phase, but that'll change soon enough, should they keep up the drinking/touring regimen that rivals their hometown heroes. 9 p.m. at *The Basement*
—ERIC DAVIDSON

Books

GARY SLAUGHTER *Cottonwood Winter*, the third book in Gary Slaughter's Cottonwood series, is billed as both a Christmas story and a novel. In actuality, it's mostly social history, aided by several fictional overlays relating to valor on the Western Front in the last winter of World War II. There's a villainous Nazi, two Michigan fourth-graders who capture him and a shadowy Santa Claus stand-in—who miraculously plays a minor role in both storylines. Most of the chapters focus on the boys—Jase, the narrator, and his buddy Danny—using them to illuminate life in Middle America during the 1940s. Through their heroism, they meet Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt, J. Edgar Hoover, Winston Churchill and other notables. It's an upbeat portrayal of a simpler nation united around common goals—bring on the nostalgia! 6 p.m. at *Davis-Kidd Booksellers*; 7 p.m. Nov. 14 at *Brentwood Barnes & Noble*; 6 p.m. Nov. 29 at the *Green Hills Branch Library*
—RALPH BOWDEN

Fundraiser

ART FOR ANIMALS This event promises a good time in the service of a great cause. Work in a variety of media by local artists, gourmet gifts, boutique pet baskets and spa and dinner packages will be offered up in a silent auction sponsored by EZ Gallery and *NashvillePAW* magazine. Participating artists include Joanna, Anne Blair Brown, Anne Carter Brothers, Bryan Adams, Toni Swarthout, Arthur Kirkby, Anthony Billups, Donna Randall Binkley, Christine Head, Margaret Krakowiak, Karina McDaniel, Victoria McGowen, Jodi Reeves, Beth Seiters, Heide Browne and Brian Cantrell. Proceeds from the auction and a \$15 donation at the door benefit local animal welfare efforts. 6-9 p.m. at *EZ Gallery* —JOE NOLAN

