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ONE WILD RIDE
JOHN MUIR'S SEVEN-WEEK
JOURNEY IN SEVEN DAYS
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THE GOLF COAST

Mexico's sparkling Riviera Maya is fast becoming one of the sport's hottest destinations. But is it all style and no substance?

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COMPLIMENTARY COPY

Nerd Alert!

MATRIX "Dorky" events—from epic comic cons to magical masquerades—prove that you don't have to be part of the in crowd to have fun. So go on and geek out—you won't regret it.



NERD CADET

Bust out the fishtails and coconut bras for the 40-plus costume parties at **Key West's Aquatic Afrolic**-themed annual **Fantasy Fest**, which culminates with a parade that draws tens of thousands of spectators. Oct. 21-30. fantasyfest.net



I BUILT MY OWN BATCAVE

Space Invaders and Donkey Kong not obscure enough for you? **Nerdpow** hauls truly rare arcade games—like *Guitar Freaks* and *Drummania V8*—into **Columbus, OH**. Oct. 28-30. nerdpow.com




LORD OF THE NERDS

Thick, horn-rimmed glasses aren't hipster-chic but authentically nerdy at this über-fest, where **Wizard World** and **Comic Con** joined forces to bring the **Wizard World Mid-Ohio Comic Con** to **Columbus, OH** for tens of thousands of avid comic fans. Oct. 22-23. wizardworld.com/home-midohio.html



NERDS CAN BE LOVERS, TOO

The Atlanta Science Tavern series makes for a perfect date, combining social lubricants (read: beer) with science. Oct. 12, 20, 22 and Nov. 19. meetup.com/AtlantaScienceTavern



BEAM YOURSELF UP, SCOTTY!

Beam yourself up to **Away Mission: Orlando**, where Klingon is commonly spoken, the Vulcan salute more ordinary than a handshake and Spock-wannabes can meet *Star Trek* legends like Patrick Stewart. Oct. 28-30. vulcanevents.com




NERD CADET

At **Starbase Indy**, a convention with a mission (besides "to seek out new life and new civilizations"), you can help others live long and prosper by helping the *USS Gorkon* build a huge "Borg Cube" of non-perishable food items to donate to local charities. Dec. 9-11. starbaseindy.com



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NERD CADET

Don steampunk garb and step through a tear in the space-time continuum for **Atlanta's 2nd Annual Mechanical Masquerade**. The worlds of man and magic have collided here—magical creatures have melded with machines. Seriously. Nov. 12. theartificeclub.weebly.com



BEAM ME UP, SCOTTY!

If Cylons are your sworn enemies, come back to earth at the **EMP Museum** in **Seattle** for **Battlestar Galactica: The Exhibition** to see three full-size prop spaceships from the original and re-imagined series. Through March 4. empmuseum.org



NERD CADET

Pocket protectors abound at **Dallas Fan Days**, where die-hard sci-fi fans can meet the actors, voices and creators of the shows and movies they quote in their sleep. Oct. 8-9. fahdays.com




LORD OF THE NERDS


If this—0110001101—makes sense to you, then **METATOPIA** in **Morris-town, NJ** (33 miles from **New York**) is for you. Designers have their videogames tested, and players can say they've beaten games their friends haven't even heard of yet. Nov. 4-6. dexposure.com

TRAVEL TELL-ALLS


Take a trip when you crack open one of these soul-searching personal narratives.



THE BOOK: *Breakfast at the Exit Cafe: Travels Through America*
By Wayne Grady and Marilyn Simonds
Greystone Books, August 2011
PERFECT FOR: Fans of *Kids in the Hall*; owners of two-plus Barenaked Ladies (or k.d. lang) albums
PLOT IN FIVE WORDS: We like Canada better. Eh?
FIRST FAMOUS PERSON QUOTE: "As the soil is, so the heart of man." ~Lord Byron
BEST PROMOTIONAL OUTTAKE: "Part travelogue, part mid-winter love story by one of Canada's most engaging literary couples..." Promising stuff.



THE BOOK: *Amazing Adventures of a Nobody*
By Leon Logothetis
Bettie Youngs Books, October 2011
PERFECT FOR: "People of all ages, who are...experiencing a mid-life crisis." (from publisher)
PLOT IN FIVE WORDS: Disillusioned man finds self, America.
FIRST SENTENCES: "I admit it. This whole thing started because of...a subtitled foreign flick..."
FUNNIEST OUT-OF-CONTEXT CHAPTER TITLE: Wolfdogs and Balloons



THE BOOK: *Holidays in Heck*
By P.J. O'Rourke
Atlantic, November 2011
PERFECT FOR: Parents; potential parents; war correspondents considering retirement
PLOT IN FIVE WORDS: Family travel kills grizzled journalist.
BEST PROMOTIONAL OUTTAKE: "Instead, he embarked on supposedly more comfortable and allegedly less dangerous travels—often with family in tow—which mostly left him wishing he were under artillery fire again."