

the arts



John Luttman's Joke of the Week

A. Santa! The other two don't exist.

Question on page 24

for the ARTS record

McMANIS AWARDED VERNEY FELLOW

Debra A. McManis has been awarded the Nantucket Historical Association's E. Geoffrey and Elizabeth Thayer Verney Fellowship for 2007.

Established in 1999, the program supports research in the collections of the Nantucket Historical Association and other Nantucket repositories and is open to academics, graduate students and independent scholars. Topics of research for recent fellows have included Maria Mitchell, health aboard whale-ships, women at sea, scrimshaw, samplers, local artists and prominent citizens, Nantucket's architectural heritage, Quakerism, and the African-American and Cape Verdean communities on Nantucket.

McManis holds an MTS in World Religions from Harvard and a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design; she is currently in the process of writing a book titled "Nantucket Rural Life: An Informal History." The content will be a visual encyclopedia about agrarian history and farm life on Nantucket. McManis will be on island for three weeks, complet-

ing her final research.

The E. Geoffrey and Elizabeth Thayer Verney Fellowship provides a modest stipend and housing in one of the NHA's historic properties, and the fellow is expected to produce an article suitable for publication in the NHA's publication, "Historic Nantucket."

KIDS SHOP

The Atheneum Weezie Library for Children's Holiday Shop is this Saturday, December 16, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. in the Atheneum Lower Gallery. This "gift shop" offers children (ages 4 to 10) the opportunity to purchase small gifts independently and with their own money.

Middle school volunteers will be on hand to assist younger shoppers. All gifts cost \$1 or less, and there is a limit of five gifts per shopper. Refreshments and reading material are provided for parents and caregivers while they wait. This is the fourth year of the Holiday Shop at the Atheneum.

LET YOUR HOUSE BE BRIGHT

The second annual Community Christmas Light Decorating Contest is open to all residences. Interested participants can pick up registration forms at the Visitor Services office at 25 Federal St. or the Chamber of Commerce office upstairs at 48 Main St. The deadline for registering is Monday, Dec. 17. Judging will only be for home exteriors in the following categories: Brightest Lights, Most Creative and Best Nantucket Themed. Winners will receive "Light" inspired prizes. Judging is Dec. 18 to 21, and the winners will be announced at the Chamber's Red Ticket Holiday Drawing on Monday, Dec. 24. Photographs of the winning residences will be published in the local newspapers. A listing of participating homes will be available to the public at Visitor Services and the Chamber. So, get into the Island holiday spirit and maybe you can be the next Clark W. Griswold.

Questions? Call Visitor Services at 228-0925 or the Chamber of Commerce at 228-3643. ■

Media you can Trust books cds movies

bibliography and essays by William H. Grass and John Updike. The real treat, however, is the surprise you find from page to page. Who could have guessed at the artistic talent of George Sand or John Dos Passos? Who knew that Sylvia Plath could paint like Cezanne or that William Faulkner could draw like Beardsley?

— Sarah Bishop, Mitchell's Book Corner

mythic world Bolaño has created.

—Dick Burns, Nantucket Bookworks

Nantucket Atheneum

1 India Street, 228-1110

"The Magic Rabbit" by Annette LeBlanc Cate



"The Magic Rabbit" is a sweet and simple story of friendship between magician Ray and his Bunny assistant. Bunny is lost following an accident during their sidewalk magic show. He wanders through the city, lonely and bewildered as night approaches, while Ray searches for him in the periphery of the illustrations. Finally, familiar golden stars lead him back to his friend, and they enjoy a walk home together under a sparkling sky. Cate's black and white illustrations capture the diversity and motion of city life, while skillfully revealing the emotions of both Ray and Bunny. This story will ring true with any young listeners who have ever experienced "lost."

—Maggie Head, Nantucket Atheneum

Since his editor feels that reporter Pierre Peders (Steve Buscemi) has lost his edge, he has been demoted to doing puff pieces. The first of these interviews that Pierre takes on is Katya (Sienna Miller). Katya, the one name acting sensation, is actually better known for her performances off screen than those in front of the camera. But Pierre is a reporter, so he conducts the interview. This wonderful little film centers on its two extraordinary actors who carry the screen alone for most of the film. What is most compelling is watching them try and regale each other with their own stories. Not even the viewer is sure if what the characters say is true, making them quite complex. In the season of big screen blockbusters making their way to DVD, this film will impress you with its lack of special effects and its emphasis on the simple interaction between two people.

—Kate O'Brien, Orange Street Video

Camera Shop & Nantucket Video

32 Main Street, 228-0101

"The Bourne Ultimatum" (Rated PG-13 for violence and intense sequences of action)

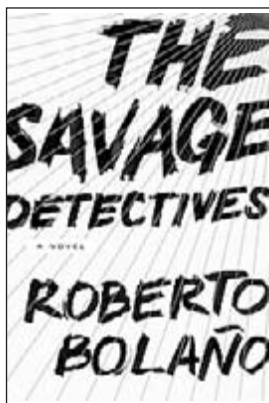
Bourne is back in the third installment of the series based on the Robert Ludlum novels, directed by Paul Greengrass and starring Matt Damon, Joan Allen and Julia Stiles, and some say it just might be the best. When a story is printed about Jason Bourne he travels to London to seek out the journalist to reveal his source and to get some answers. Under heavy surveillance both are targeted by the CIA for termination and it's not hard to figure out who doesn't make it. Leads take him to Madrid, Tangier and eventually New York, all while being stalked by death from practically every corner. Hugely entertaining but the vertigo camera work may bother some viewers.

—Laurie Donovan, Camera Shop & Nantucket Video

Nantucket Bookworks

25 Broad Street, 228-4000

"The Savage Detectives" by Roberto Bolaño



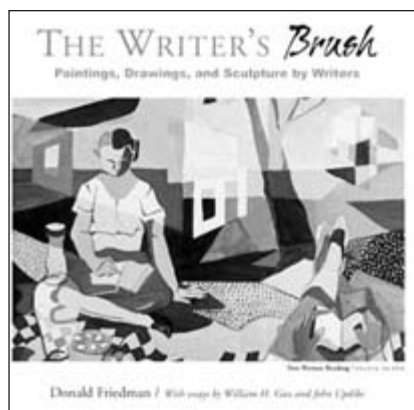
This novel gives us a picture of a small group of young poets and their friends living ragged lives in Mexico City in the 1970s, a number of whom are newly minted "visceral realists," bent on transforming Latin American literature. The opening section is the diary of an appealing, orphaned poet, 17-year-old Juan Garcia Madero, a brief, energetic coming-of age story covering two months in late 1975 when he joins the visceral realists and finds himself for the first time in a sea of women. It creates and immerses us in a strangely alluring, sometimes uncomfortable, world. We also become aware of the search for a mysterious woman poet, a search which we eventually learn is startlingly pivotal. The novel opens up in a long section with alternating narratives by about two dozen characters, speaking from the mid-'70s through the mid-'90s, from Mexico, France, Spain, England and Israel, some of whom we've met in the opening section, and these many voices explain some things, create new questions and draw us deeper into the

books

Mitchell's Book Corner

54 Main Street, 228-1080

"The Writer's Brush: Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture by Writers" by Donald Friedman



In his autobiography, Vladimir Nabokov described his ability to "hear" colors. "The long a of the English alphabet has...the tint of weathered wood, but a French a evokes polished ebony." He may not have been alone. In "The Writer's Brush," you'll meet your favorite authors all over again, this time as artists. You'll be astounded at the variety, skill and insight with which many well-known writers (and some not-so-well known) express themselves visually. As much a reference book as an art book, more than 200 biographical entries focus on individual writers' encounters with art (or lack thereof), supplemented by alphabetical and chronological listing of its subjects, cross-referencing, an extensive

videos

Orange Street Video

117 Orange Street, 228-5806

"Interview"

(Rated R for language including sexual references and some drug use)