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## Convergence Zone

The NWsource weblog

Notes on music, drinking, eating, shopping, art shows and a whole lot of other cool stuff to do around Seattle.

Shopping, Theater & arts  
November 29, 2005

### Greenwood's new Space Travel Supply store sells imagination

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Forget for a moment that nonprofit writing center 826 Seattle helps young writers between ages 6 and 18 master the mechanics of written expression. Forget that 826 Seattle provides a fun and relaxing environment for kids to do their homework and be tutored in grammar and creative writing. Forget that 826 Seattle is a chapter member of 826 National, a nonprofit group dedicated to teaching kids how to write, and was founded by bestselling author and McSweeney's editor Dave Eggers. Put all that aside for just a moment, because 826 Seattle's latest project, Greenwood Space Travel Supply Co. is very close to liftoff.



Similar to 826 chapters in New York and San Francisco — a superhero supply store and a pirate boutique respectively — the Greenwood Space Travel Supply Co. is the kind of novelty shop that sells imagination. Some of its wares are undeniably nifty. (I'm partial to the freeze-dried astronaut meals and the ray gun that fires cherry-scented smoke rings.) But what makes this beautifully realized shop work is its unflinching devotion to theme. As far as I'm concerned, this truly is a space-travel supply store, my first stop for rocket fuel, stun guns and do-it-yourself intergalactic treaties. The fact that humankind has gone no farther into space than our own solar system is but a quibble. We'll get to those far-away stars soon enough, and the Greenwood shop will be ready to outfit the trip.

Now, remember all that stuff I asked you to forget? I need you to remember it again, because this is the really cool part: Only a portion of the massive Greenwood operation is devoted to deep-space goods. The majority of 826 Seattle's storefront is devoted to the young person's writing center I previously described. Students enter through an "atomic teleporter" (actually a revolving door) at the rear of the shop, and are immediately transported to a literary zone where instructors, local and national authors, artists and musicians will visit and share the knowledge that will help 826 Seattle's young charges to change their world. And the profits from the retail shop up front will help keep this very worthy satellite in high orbit.

Greenwood Space Travel Supply Co. officially opens at noon on Saturday, Dec. 3, with readings by George Saunders and Ryan Boudinot, readings by 826 Seattle's Youth Advisory Board and performances by a variety of other Earth-based musical and literary personages. Even if you stop by only to buy a sticker or a T-shirt emblazoned with the shop's very fine logo, you'll be helping to guide a generation of writers into the future. And the future, as the Great Criswell once so sagely observed, is where we'll live the rest of our lives.

— Geoff

**More links**  
Greenwood Space Travel Supply Co.  
826 Seattle  
826 Valencia (The Pirate Store)  
Brooklyn Superhero Supply Co.

Shopping

### Build your own Krakatoa with Java-Logs

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My residence has a fireplace, which almost makes up for the fact that it is "heated" — yes, we're talking very loosely here — by wall-mounted electrical units that make really interesting, soul-rattling noise but produce very little real warmth. The fireplace has kept the place warm through many a winter evening, and for that I'm grateful to whomever designed and built my home — probably the same person who installed those useless heaters, but never mind.

For a while I burned wood, because while it was tough to light and produced voluminous amounts of smoke, I felt better about wood than I felt about using processed fireplace logs, which smelled like a pharmaceutical plant set aflame, and disgorged God-knows-what into my lungs. Then, late last winter, I discovered [Java-Logs](#), and I've been using them ever since.

Made of coffee grounds and paraffin wax, Java-Logs don't burn as hot as wood fires or as colorfully as other processed logs, but they are more environmentally sound (they produce 85 percent less carbon monoxide than wood and leave very little ash) and they smell sweet and vaguely nutty, not at all how you'd expect burnt coffee grounds to smell. They're easy to light — even more so than other "firelogs" — and a single Java-Log burns for a little over two hours, which ain't bad at all. It's just long enough to heat the place up, but not so long that I have to wait for the damn thing to snuff itself out so I can go to bed.

Java-Logs are worth trying out, even if you don't get a caffeine buzz from sitting near one (I've done extensive research on this). They're available at most Seattle markets, as near as I can tell.

**More links:**

[Java-Log](#)

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**Theater & arts**

November 28, 2005

## Dave Gorman's "Googlewhack Adventure"

[Comments \(0\)](#) | [Post a comment](#)

"Who's afraid of Google? Everyone," said a recent story in [Wired](#). That's not entirely true. Though Microsoft, craigslist and Comcast may have reason to be wary of the ever-expanding Web company, British comedian and author [Dave Gorman](#) has probably blessed the day he first pressed the "I'm Feeling Lucky" button. A few years back, Gorman became obsessed with "Googlewhacking", the practice of entering two disparate words into Google's search engine with the objective of getting one single result, and decided to track down the authors of some of the more interesting "Googlewhacks," who are located all over the world.



That "Googlewhack Adventure" earned Gorman a hit one-man show, which comes to the [Moore Theatre](#) on Nov. 29 and runs through Dec. 10. According to Gorman's Web site, it's a wild journey that leads to "mini-drivers in North Wales and hippies in Memphis," as well as "some snakes in L.A.," with which he wishes he'd been less familiar.

While I haven't seen the show myself, I've read almost universal [rave reviews](#) of Gorman and his "Adventure." Jason Zinoman of The New York Times calls Gorman "a David Sedaris-like storyteller with uncanny timing," and the Chicago Tribune's Chris Jones says of the show, "If there's a funnier, smarter piece of comedy about the Internet ... then I haven't seen it." If that's not enough to convince you to see "Googlewhack Adventure," consider this: It may be your last chance to see a piece of theater that doesn't somehow involve elves before the year is through.

— Geoff

**More links:**

["Googlewhack Adventure" at the Moore](#)  
[Dave Gorman](#)

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**Movies**

November 22, 2005

## Phoenix, Witherspoon exceptional in "Walk the Line"

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This may not sound like the strongest of endorsements, but the best thing about the Johnny Cash biopic "Walk the Line" isn't the

