

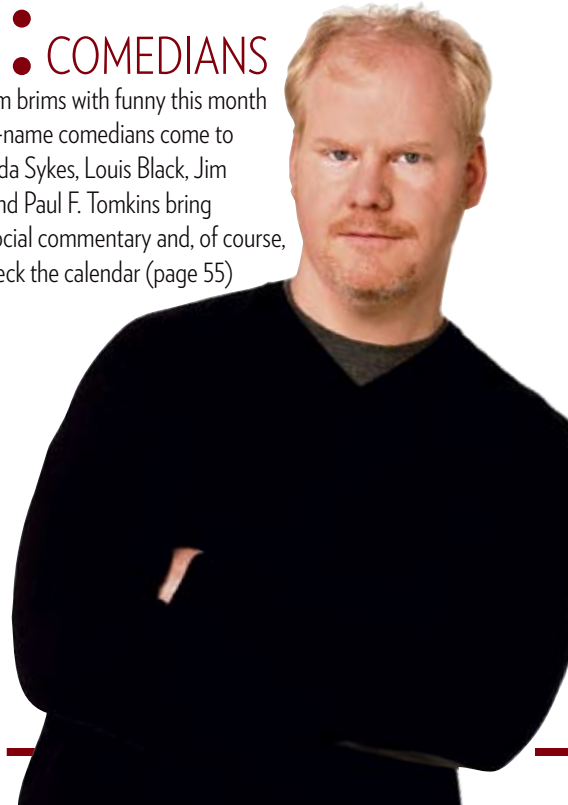
## A: AUBURN/ALABAMA

It may not be the oldest rivalry in college football, but its been around for ages, and true fans know that the trash-talking begins long before game day. Around now, we're tallying up wins and losses to see who'll have the edge going into this year's face-off. But the rivalry has proven itself to be stronger than statistics — it'll be anybody's game in Tuscaloosa on November 29th.



## C: COMEDIANS

Birmingham brims with funny this month as four big-name comedians come to town. Wanda Sykes, Louis Black, Jim Gaffigan and Paul F. Tompkins bring sarcasm, social commentary and, of course, laughs. Check the calendar (page 55) for dates.



## E: EVERY.

"Every journalist has a novel in him, which is an excellent place for it." J. Russel Lynes

**f. FRENCH, TANA.**  
Told with humor and perfectly paced suspense, the works of Irish novelist Tana French are a pure delight to read. Pick up her first novel, *In the Woods*, and her sophomore effort, *The Likeness*. A word to the wise, you might have to sleep with the lights on when you're done — just don't ever say we didn't warn you.



## b. BREAKFAST.

Sure, brunch with the girlfriends is lovely, but nothing beats starting the day with a belt-busting breakfast, Southern-style. Here are a few of our favorite breakfast stops:

- ANCHORAGE IN HOMEWOOD**
- Browdy's in Mountain Brook Village
- BOGUE'S ON CLAIRMONT AVENUE IN LAKEVIEW AND HOMEWOOD**
- City Hall Diner in Vestavia Hills
- DEMETRI'S BAR-B-Q IN HOMEWOOD**
- Klingler's in Vestavia Hills
- LAG'S EATERY IN HOMEWOOD**
- Lyric Hot Dogs on 3rd Avenue North, Downtown



## D: DITCH TOWN FOR THE WEEKEND.

Couldn't get away this summer? It's not too late. Plan a weekend trip to one of these locales, just a few hours away:

- MENTONE, ALABAMA FOR PEACE AND QUIET**  
(www.town-of-mentone-alabama.com)
- ATLANTA, GEORGIA FOR SOPHISTICATED NIGHTLIFE**  
(www.atlanta.net/nightlife)
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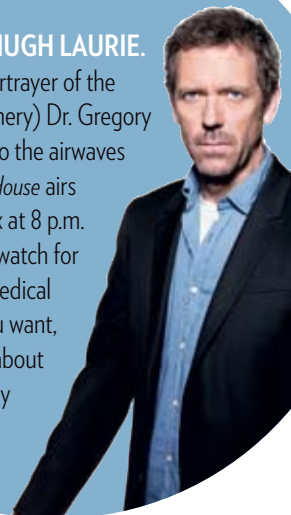
## G: GREAT DANES.

Great Danes are the world's tallest dogs and served as the inspiration for Scooby-Doo, Marmaduke and Astro from *The Jetsons*. Why are they on this list? Because we love dogs, and there's something about the Great Dane's dog-that's-almost-a-pony dynamic that sets our inner little girls' hearts a flutter.



## H: HUGH LAURIE.

Hugh Laurie, portrayer of the dreamy (and ornery) Dr. Gregory House, returns to the airwaves September 16. *House* airs Tuesdays on Fox at 8 p.m. Tell people you watch for the intriguing medical mysteries all you want, we know it's all about the piercing baby blues.



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## I.D.E.A.R.S.

The eight members of Intellectual Divas Eagerly Achieving Reading Stimuli (I.D.E.A.R.S.) meet once a month to discuss their book of choice. This month, they're reading *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia E. Butler. We're intrigued by the book, but we really love the matching handbags.

(From left to right) Stephanie Alexander, Moanica Caston, Cheryl Gary, DeValerie Williams, Nicole Jackson, Cotasha Wilson, Tanisha Marshall and Andrea Lewis



## J: JAM/JELLY.

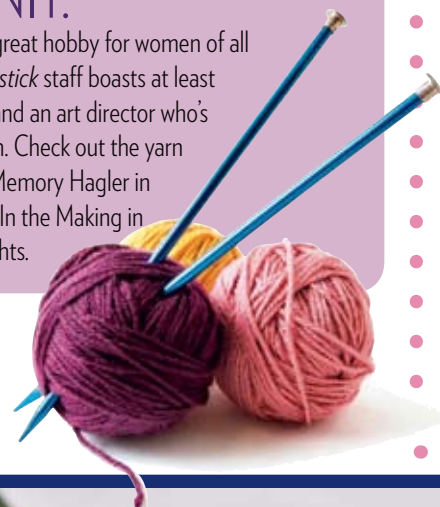
Got jelly in your fridge? How about cream cheese? Add them together, put out a plate of crackers and some wine and you've got a party. Obviously, plain ol' grape just won't do in this instance, so here are our suggestions:

- Pepper jelly (the classic)
- Hot mango chutney (Major Grey's is the best)
- Spiced pear jam
- Muscadine jelly



## K: KNIT.

Knitting is a great hobby for women of all ages. The *Lipstick* staff boasts at least two knitters and an art director who's eager to learn. Check out the yarn selection at Memory Hagler in Vestavia and In the Making in Cahaba Heights.



## L: LINGERIE.

Buy yourself a piece of outrageously gorgeous lingerie. Wear it under your power suit and smirk through those endless meetings.

## M: MENTALIST, THE.

Simon Baker stars in this new series on CBS about a detective with uncanny intuition and observation skills. The show airs on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Simon Baker. Sigh.



## N: NATIONAL BEHEADING DAY.

September 2 is National Beheading Day. No one seems to know why. Don't celebrate it. If you need something to get excited about, September 26 is National Pancake Day. We'll take ours with chocolate chips and a smiley face made of whipped cream please.



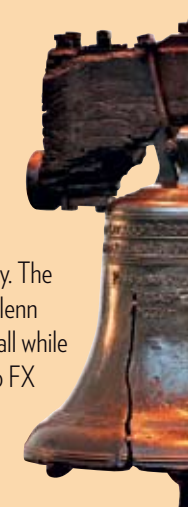
## O: ORIGAMI.

The ancient art of paper folding is a great way to pass the time on rainy days with the kids. Local bookstores have books to get you started and we've seen origami kits in places like Target and Costco. Or try these websites: [www.origami.com](http://www.origami.com) and [www.paperfolding.com](http://www.paperfolding.com).



## P: PHILADELPHIA, IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN.

Even less wholesome than *Arrested Development* and equally as funny, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* follows a group of friends and family as they run a failing pub in Philly. The gang, led by Danny DeVito and featuring Alabama-bred Glenn Howerton, faces serial killers, crack addiction and illiteracy, all while consuming copious amounts of beer. Season four comes to FX Thursday, September 18. TV-MA.



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# Q. QUESO.

This melted cheese dip dotted with peppers makes us lose all thoughts of calorie counting when we're eating Mexican. Everybody has a favorite, but informal polling in our office gave Cantina in Pepper Place and La Paz in Mountain Brook Village top honors.



# R: REEL.

Sidewalk, Birmingham's ever-growing film festival, returns for its 10th year this September 26-28.



# U: UAB FOOTBALL.

Our UAB Blazers are powering through their 17th football season. On September 13, UAB faces Tennessee in Knoxville, a televised match-up that pits the SEC heavyweight Volunteers against the Conference USA up-and-coming Blazers.

# X: XANADU.

The cult classic film starring Olivia Newton John is now a Broadway musical that takes audiences on a magical ride through 1980 California. Roller skates and legwarmers abound as the characters learn that true love is paradise. The traveling tour starts in 2009.



# Y: YETI.

There are many believers that Yeti (also known as Bigfoot and the Abominable Snowman) roam forests in this country and around the world. If you've seen something in the woods you can't quite explain, submit a sighting to Hawk Spearman of Ashville, Alabama, head of the Southeastern Bigfoot Research Organization: <http://www.fortunecity.com/roswell/poe/351/main2.html>.

# V: MISS VULCAN 1939.

The first and only Miss Vulcan pageant was held in 1939 as part of a nine-day festival to commemorate Vulcan Park. Evelyn Tully took the crown, and her win is dramatized in an annual stage production that features time travel, scheming debutantes and a lovesick inventor. September 12 and 13 at Vulcan Park.



# W: WORLD OF WINGS AND WHEELS.

In its 75th year, Birmingham Aero Club's Wings and Wheels Air Show and Car Show is back. Attractions include restored antique and custom cars, the U.S. Air Force Heritage Flight, skydiver Jamie Lynn, the Aeroshell Team's acrobatic formations and Suzanne Asbury-Oliver, the nation's only female professional skywriter. September 20 and 21 at the Bessemer Airport.

# S: SEPTEMBER.

September is National Chicken Month, Classical Music Month, National Piano Month, Baby Safety Month and Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. But, perhaps nearest and dearest to our hearts, September is Be Kind to Editors and Writers Month. (No, Mom, I did not make this up). Before you go getting all teary-eyed, you don't have to say it – we know how you feel about us. And you're welcome.



# T: TAILGATING.

- Pack up the cooler and the car with tips on
- tailgating accessories and treats (page 18).

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