

NEW YORK

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THE APPROVAL MATRIX *Our deliberately oversimplified guide to who falls where on our taste hierarchies.*

HIGHBROW

● The NYPD is busted (by the *Times* and an NYU Law project) in an **egregious series of lies** about an anti-Muslim training video.



● Obama continues pandering presidential tradition of **random tax credits for anyone it will sound nice to mention in the State of the Union.**



● Gagosian Gallery gift shops are selling **\$750 clocks** related to a Damien Hirst exhibit. What time is it? *Time to rethink your entire way of life.*

● Juilliard gets a **\$20 million gift for study of historical performance**, major news in the perpetually impoverished world of early music.



● **Giorgio the donkey** has been performing in Balanchine's *Union Jack* at City Ballet for 36 years.

● This is, somehow, true: President John Tyler, born in 1790, has **two living grandsons.**



● The Republican nominating mess could produce a **relevant N.Y. primary** in April. Still time to sign up as a Santorum delegate!



● Come on now, Stanton Street.



● The **Oscar-season actor's tradition** of humbly telling the press you slept through the nomination announcements.

● Leigh Stein's novel ***The Fallback Plan***, a masterwork of the postcollegiate-babysitting genre.



● The State of Florida may **claw back \$275 million in public-stadium funds** because teams supposedly ignored a law requiring arenas to double as homeless shelters.

● A thrilling, groove-heavy LCD Soundsystem concert film plays Sundance; **no one in the audience dances.**



● A **Weight Watchers** in Park Slope holds meetings in front of a big window on a busy street. Seems a little mean.



● Master Lock's Obama-touted U.S. job listings include an opening for a **"vibratory bowl builder."**



● **Torie & Howard** organic hard candy.

DESPICABLE

● **Joe Paterno memorial tickets** got scalped on eBay.



● Why are people making fun of **Newt Gingrich** for proposing an American moon base? That would be *incredible.*

● This theater, sitting around unused on top of a bodega on Avenue A, **might be demolished.**



● Headline for a *Washington Post* story about organizing collective neighborhood gift-giving: **"The Days of Multiple Lasagnas Are Over."**



● 92Y Tribeca screens ***Coogan's Bluff***, reminds us that Clint Eastwood wasn't always just a muddling director whose movies require night-vision goggles.

● Elmore Leonard inaugurates the **Crime Fiction Academy** at the Center for Fiction in midtown.



● Yo, Internet: Enough, enough. **ENOUGH** with the **Pop Culture Thing X Remixed in the Style of Pop Culture Thing Y** videos and Tumblrs.



● Still one week left of attempts to sell everything from flat-screen TVs to hospitals by **tying them to the Giants.**



● ***Attack on Memory***, by Cloud Nothings—up-tempo punk-grunge rock that successfully walks the line between anguished and self-pitying.

● The web series ***Submissions Only***, a half-hour soapy satire of life on the Broadway audition circuit.



● **"Pushin' Aside, Pushin' Along,"** the bouncy, glimmering single from De La Soul side project First Serve.



● The ***Shahs of Sunset*** reality show: doing even less for Iranians than that Ahmadinejad guy.



● Every male human notes with **vastly self-overrating excitement** that Heidi Klum is now on the market.



● The NBA's common-sense realization that **posting their highlights on YouTube** increases interest in the NBA.



● @KimKardashian tweets, "I hate when I get my tea perfectly sweetened then the waiter comes & fills it." @JennyJohnsonHiS responds: "My dad has cancer."

LOWBROW

BRILLIANT