And the Oscar goes to...

By Rebecca Waterloo A&E EDITOR

As you may or may not know, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Oscars) announced in 2009 they were doubling the amount of 'Best Picture of the Year' choices, from five to ten. This happened after The Dark Knight was not in the list of nominees for Best Picture that year. Both Dark Knight and Wall-E

were highly acclaimed cinema blockbusters, but neither made the list. They've "returned to a practice it used more than a half-century ago, when the number of films released was much larger." (nytimes.com)

You've probably had your heart pumped by multiple movies in 2010. Now it's time to turn in the votes. The list is good, and the race will be more exciting now that there are ten choices. Who do you think will win?

Black Swan

A ballet dancer wins the lead in Swan Lake and is perfect for the role of the delicate White Swan - Princess Odette - but slowly loses her mind as she becomes more and more like Odile the Black Swan, daughter of an evil magician. (Natalie Portman, Vincent Cassel, Mila Kunis)

The Fighter

A look at the early years of boxer "Irish" Micky Ward and his brother who helped train him before going pro in the mid-1980s. (Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale, Amy Adams)

Inception

In a world where technology exists to enter the human mind through dream invasion, a highly skilled thief is given a final chance at redemption which involves executing his toughest job to date: inception. (Leonardo DiCaprio,

Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Ellen Page) The Kids Are All Right

Two children conceived by artificial insemination bring their birth father into their family life. (Annette Bening, Julianne Moore and Mark Ruffalo)

The King's Speech

The story of King George VI of Britain, his impromptu ascension to the throne and the speech therapist who helped the unsure monarch become worthy of it. (Colin

Firth, Geoffrey Rush and Helena Bonham Carter)

127 Hours

A mountain climber becomes trapped under a boulder while canyoneering alone near Moab, Utah and resorts to desperate measures in order to survive. (James Franco, Amber Tamblyn)

The Social Network

A chronicle of the founding of Facebook, the social-networking Web site. (Jesse Eisenberg, Andrew Garfield and Justin Timberlake)

Toy Story 3

The toys are mistakenly delivered to a day-care center instead of the attic right before Andy leaves for college, and it's up to Woody to convince the other toys that they weren't abandoned and to return home. (Tom Hanks, Tim Allen and Joan Cusack)

True Grit

A tough U.S. Marshal helps a stubborn young woman track down her father's murderer. (Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon and Hailee Steinfeld)

Winter's Bone

An unflinching Ozark Mountain girl hacks through dangerous social terrain as she hunts down her drug-dealing father while trying to keep her family intact. (Jennifer Lawrence, John Hawkes and Garret Dillahunt)

Go to http://oscar.go.com/ for a larger list of this years nominees.

(All descriptions from imdb.com)

what's playing on Justin White's playlist?



What's playing on *your* playlist? Email ae@technewsiit.com!

Kuma's Corner: heavy metal, brutal burgers

By Karl Rybaltowski

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Mastodon! (Photo courtesy Andrew Huff/flickr)



The exterior of Kuma's Corner is a bit misleading. The unassuming pub-like facade of the building conceals one of the most unique dining experiences in the city. Kuma's Corner is multiple things, but chief among them, two make it shine: it's a heavy metal bar and a gourmet hamburger restaurant, serving up some of the most inventive burgers in the city while blasting the music of metal groups such as Nile or Sleep.

Kuma's has been around on the Chicago scene for almost six years now, and since its inception, the buzz has been steadily building. This crossed the tipping point not too long ago when the restaurant was featured on the WTTW show Check, Please! and received a great deal of praise. Since that time, waiting times for a table at Kuma's Corner can hit two to three hours around the dinner hours - getting there around opening or after 10 p.m. might be the easiest way to ensure you'll get a table within a reasonable time. The policy for seating people can be somewhat unforgiving, too - no reservations, and no one's seated until your entire party arrives. If you're bumped down the waiting list because a friend is late... well, tough break.

Visitors can grab a drink and experience the ambiance while they wait, examining artwork ranging from ferocious bears to leatherclad dominatrices to fantasy themes, all while heavy metal plays in the background (during peak hours, the music tends to be more mainstream, but as the evening goes on, the music gets heavier and heavier). And a final rule: no minors are allowed in after 10 p.m. on any given night.

To metal fans, this may sound fantastic. To those of you who aren't quite convinced by the above, Kuma's Corner is worth a trip for the food alone, a flurry of gourmet concepts in gut-busting portions. Appetizers include waffle fries (topped with scallions, melted cheese,

and BBQ pulled pork) and jalapeño poppers (stuffed with cheese and chorizo, and served with a jalapeño raspberry jam), and could make for a full course in an of themselves. The main draw of the menu, of course, are the burgers, and these are a sight to behold.

The burgers all start as 10-ounce burger patties on pretzel buns, but the different types available are as varied as they are inventive and all are named after the proprietors' favorite metal bands. From the Neurosis (topped with cheddar and swiss cheeses, horseradish mayonnaise, sauteed mushrooms and caramelized onions) to the Slayer (a mountain of waffle fries, hamburger meat, chili, andouille sausage, onions, cheese, peppers and, as the menu states, "anger"), the burgers incorporate as much care in their design as they do sheer ridiculousness, with delicious results.

Personal favorites include the High on Fire (with prosciutto, sriracha sauce, a roasted red pepper, sweet chili paste, and pineapple) and the Lair of the Minotaur (dressed with pancetta, caramelized onions, a slice of brie, and bourbon-soaked pears). For those not inclined toward beef, every burger item can be made with chicken breast, chicken tenders, or a garden burger instead. It may not be the most vegan-friendly establishment, but Kuma's does try to accommodate. Prices are steeper than what one might be accustomed to for a hamburger, but well worth it - burgers go for \$10 - \$13, not including monthly specials.

For a truly unique (and delicious) hamburger experience, Kuma's is a must-try. Just make sure you plan it out, or you might find yourself caught in a long line.

Kuma's Corner is located at 2900 W Belmont Ave in Chicago, a short bus ride (or long walk) from the Belmont Blue Line. Open 11:30 a.m. - 2 a.m. Monday - Friday, 11:30 a.m. - 3 a.m. Saturday, and 12 p.m. - 12 a.m. Sunday.