

'Futurama' app tops the Pop 10, 'Bachelor Pad,' Midnight Syndicate round out list

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[View full size](#) 20th century fox Caesar (Andy Serkis) becomes the leader of a simian revolution in "Rise of the Planet of the Apes."

1. HEADS ABOVE THE REST

"In the future, we'll all be heads in jars," says "Futurama" creator Matt Groening, referring to a running visual gag on the animated series. But we can live the fantasy now with the "Futurama Head-in-a-Jar Creator" app. It allows fans to create a customized character. Users can upload their head-in-a-jar to Facebook or Twitter, or use it as wallpaper. Available for download on iPhone and iPod Touch; new episodes of "Futurama" air 10 p.m. Thursday on Comedy Central.

2. TWO RAPPERS, ONE 'THRONE'

Jay-Z and Kanye West. The hip-hop world is wild with anticipation over their new album, recorded in London, Abu Dhabi, Paris and New York. Monday, the collaboration "Watch the Throne" will be available on iTunes; the album, \$18.95, goes on sale Friday.

3. MURDER AND SECRETS

Former Columbus Dispatch crime reporter Robin Yocum celebrates his fiction debut, "Favorite Sons," with a signing at the [Learned Owl Book Shop](#). Yocum's mystery takes readers from a fictional Ohio river city in 1971 to the streets of Akron. 6 p.m. Thursday, at 204 N. Main St., Hudson.

4. LAUGHS ON EARTH AND IN SPACE

Mars doesn't need just any Earth females -- it needs moms. And when families from different backgrounds are united in marriage, there are sure to be laughs. If there's any doubt, pick up the animated "Mars Needs Moms" and "Jumping the Broom" starring Angela Bassett. Each costs \$24.91 and both are available Tuesday.

5. AKRON GOES ARTY

You've got to love an art fair that features a gypsy jazz trio called Moustache Yourself. Catch the group, visit with Akron Aeros mascot Orbit, see stilt walkers, and peruse art by more than 100 artists at the [University Park Arts Fair and Food Fest](#) in Akron. It's 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday at Grace Park, which is at Perkins and Prospect streets. Free.

6. HUMANS FIGHT BACK

I can't be the only viewer who's annoyed by the schizophrenic nature of TNT's "Falling Skies." One minute it's a rip-roaring action thriller, and the next it's a tear-jerker about a single dad doing his best by his boys. Even the one who has been stolen by aliens and hooked up to a spinal contraption that controls minds. "Falling Skies," starring Noah Wylie, gets a two-hour finale at 9 tonight on TNT.

7. REALITY-SHOW REJECTS

It shouldn't take three hours to introduce a new season of "Bachelor Pad," featuring rejects from "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette" in a competition for \$250,000. But apparently it does when the cast includes Jake Pavelka and Vienna Girardi, who got engaged on "The Bachelor" and broke up on television

a few months later. Bonus drama: Pavelka is now dating another "Pad" contestant. Tune in 8 p.m. Monday on WEWS Channel 5.

8. BACKSTAGE HIGH JINKS

Mix an inebriated leading man with mishaps, tranquilizers and love triangles, and you've got the comedy "Lend Me a Tenor." The farce opens Friday at [Rabbit Run](#) Theater and runs through Sunday, Aug. 28. Performances are 8 p.m. 5648 Chapel Road, Madison. \$17-\$19.

9. CUE THE SCARY CLOWNS

Midnight Syndicate's 14th studio album, "Carnival Arcane" (\$11.99) sweeps listeners away to a turn-of-the-century traveling circus with a few skeletons in its cages. Intricate sound design paired with voice-overs from actor Jason Carter ("Babylon 5") and other actors lend to the creepy atmosphere. Available through [this site](#), the Exchange and iTunes; available Thursday at select Hot Topic locations.

10. MONKEY REVOLUTION

All props to Andy Serkis, but Kim Hunter and Roddy McDowall were just as convincing in old-school rubber chimp masks when they filmed the original "Planet of the Apes" movie in 1968. Serkis, with help of performance-capture technology, plays the intelligent chimp Caesar in "Rise of the Planet of the Apes," in theaters.