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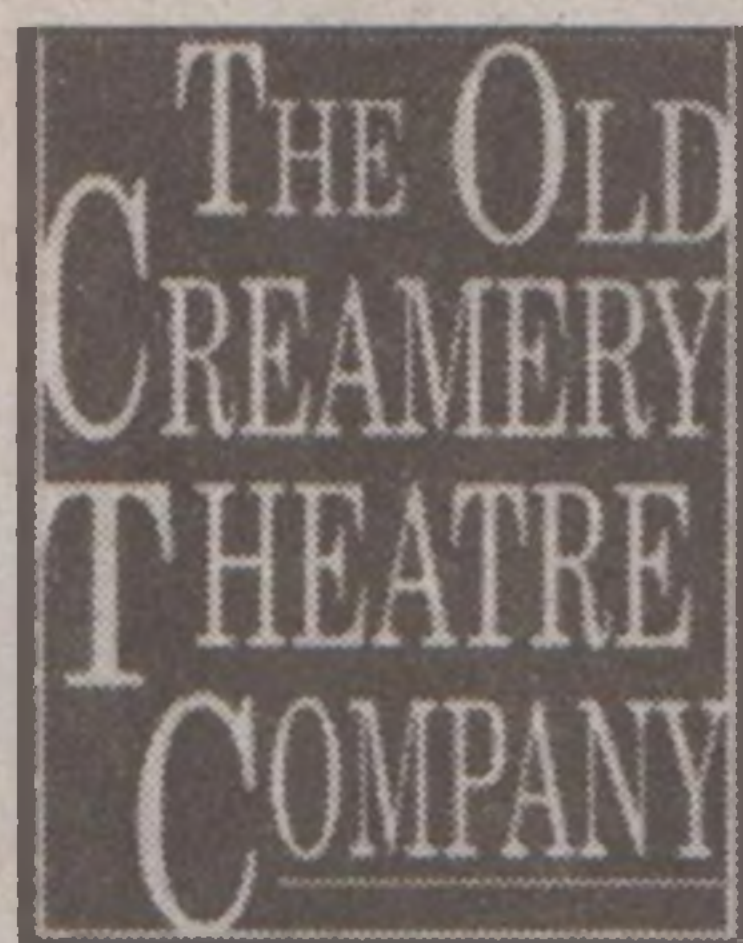
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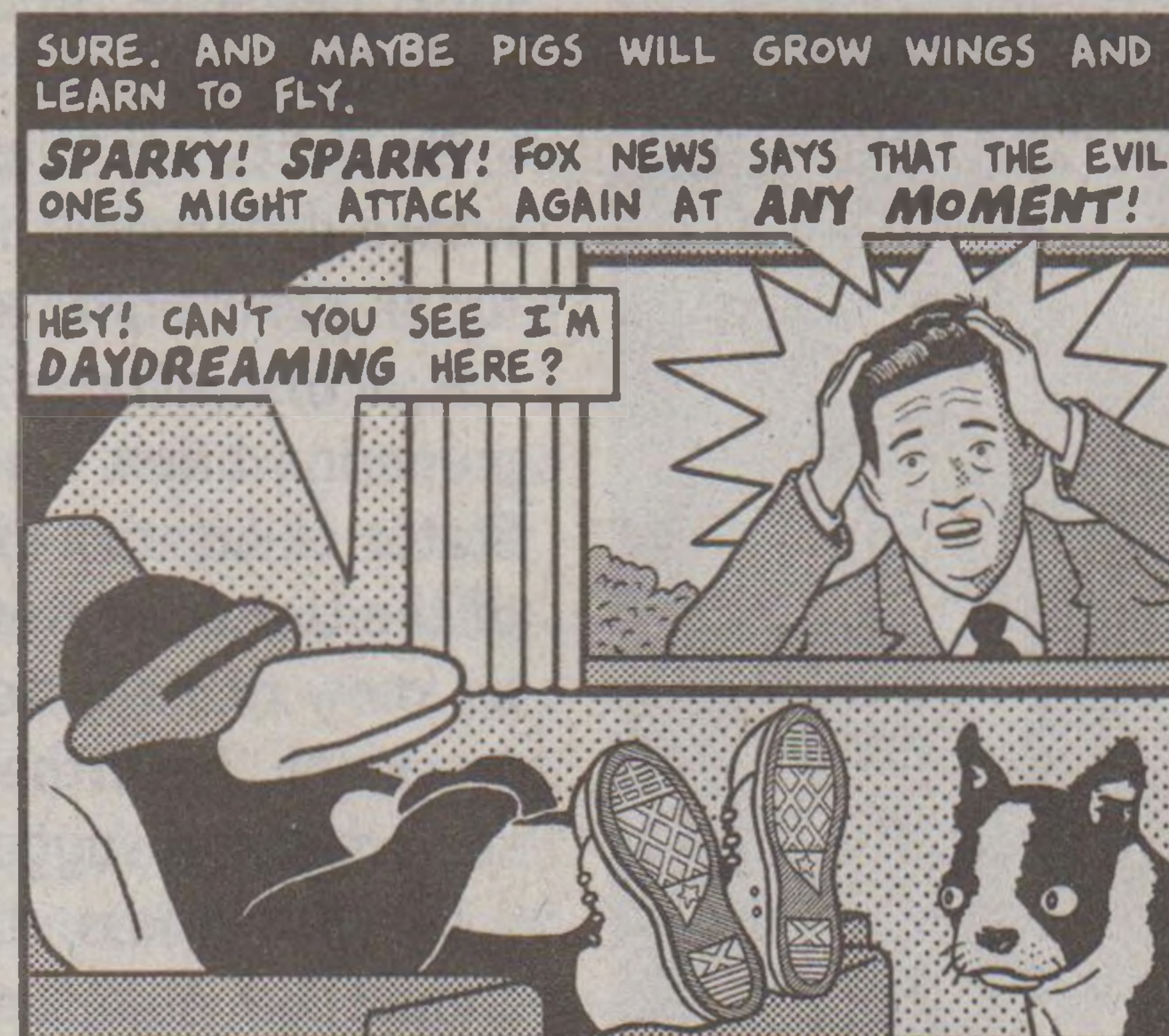
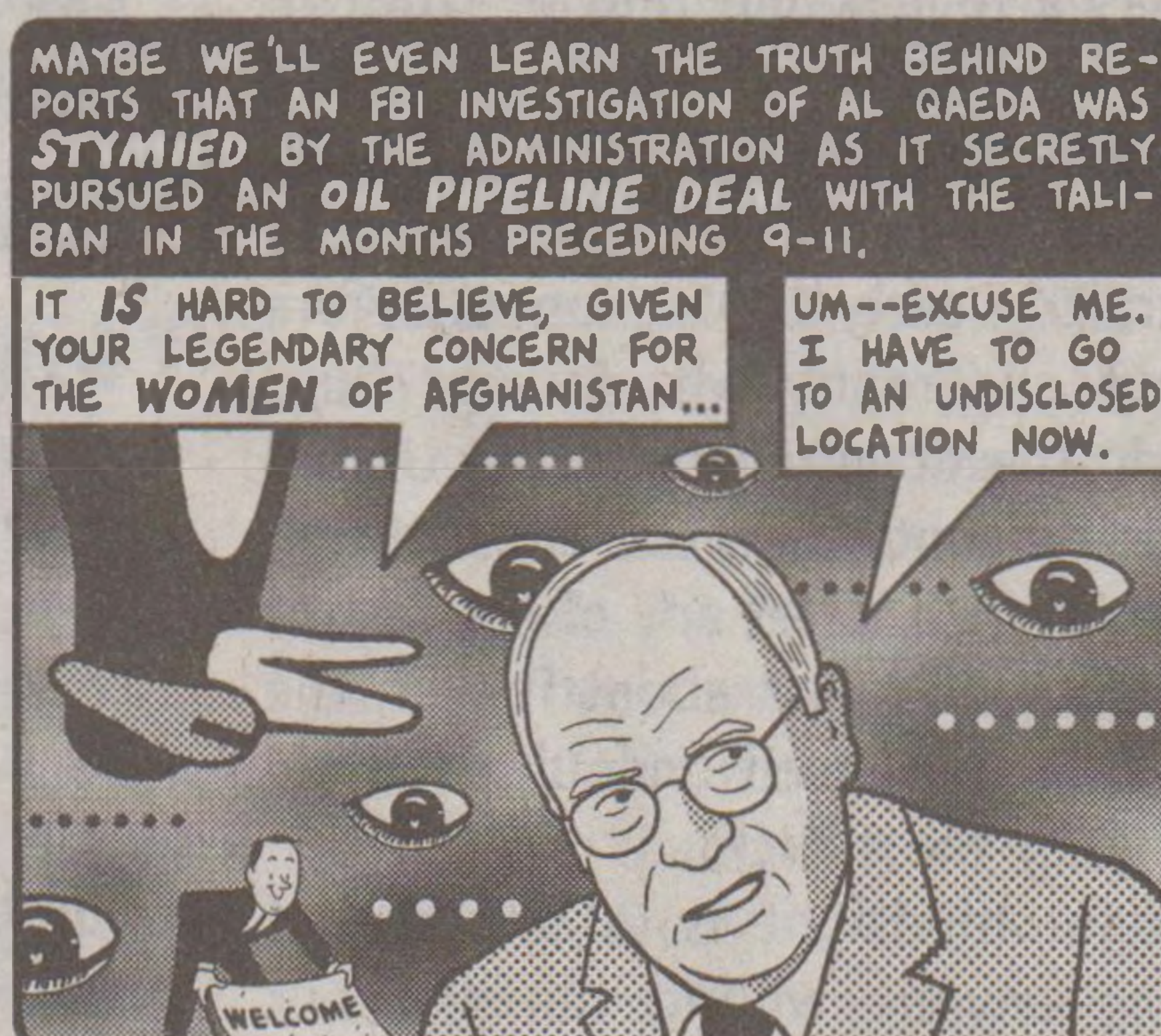
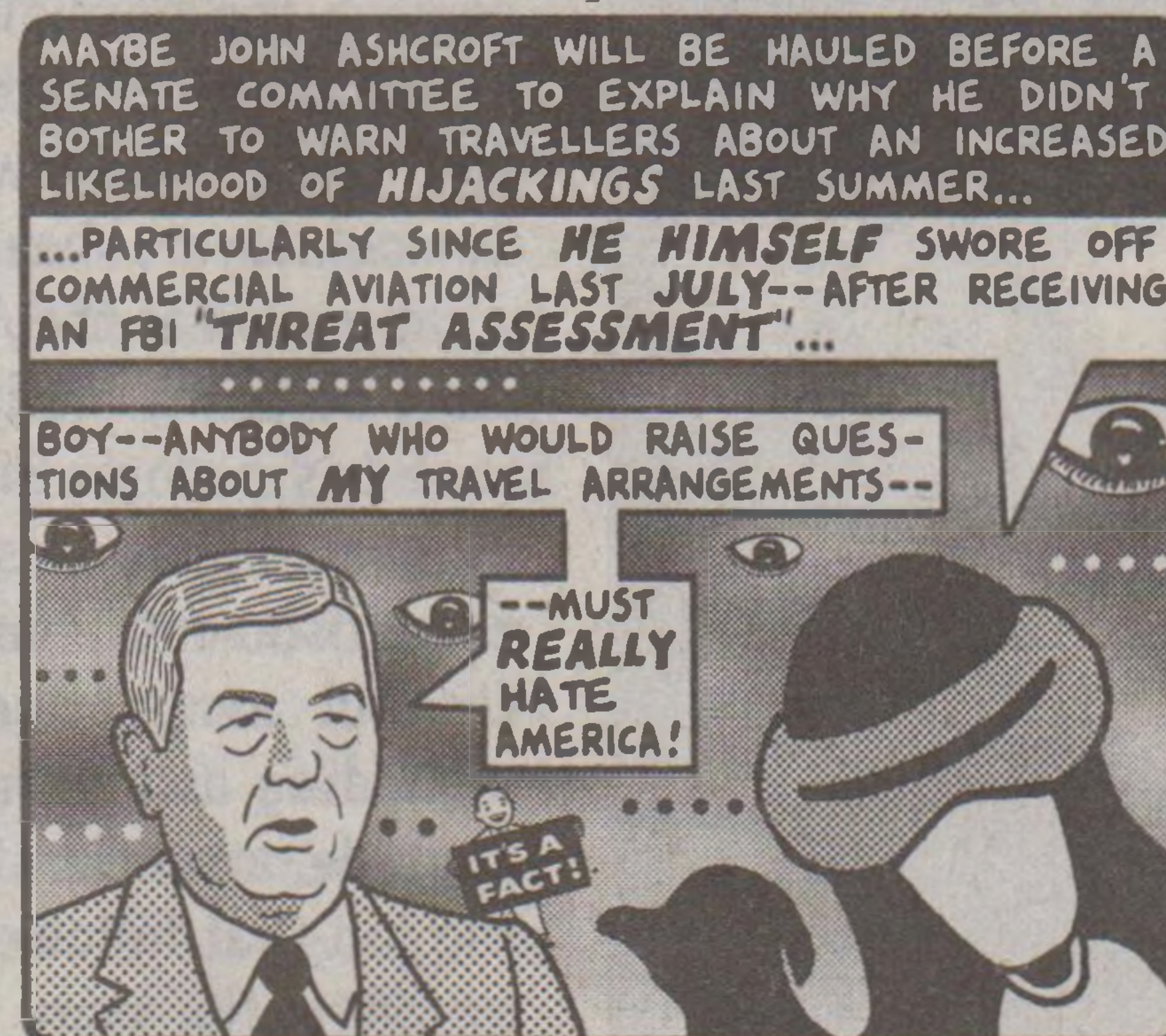
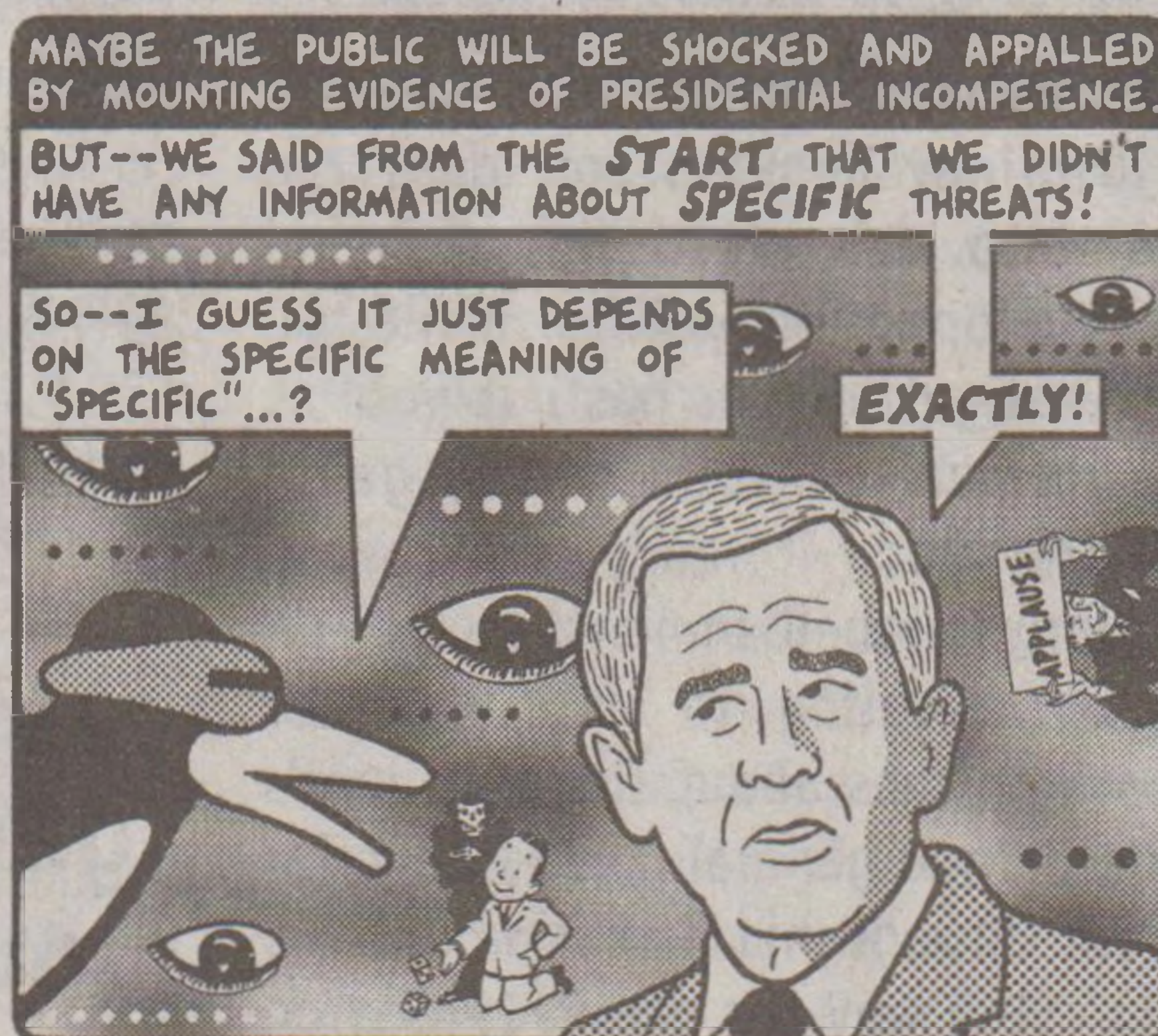
if you're out there



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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



little village

P.O. Box 736 • Iowa City, IA 52244
VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 16 • JUNE 2002

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GO Fish

E.C. Fish



Two wrongs make a column

Two wrongs certainly don't make a right, though right seems to be the direction things are moving in (not to be confused with things moving in the right direction). Still, I'm hoping two wrongs can make a column...

WRONG #1: As much as I hate George W. Bush and all that he stands for, I have cringed at some of the primitive sophistry coming out of the Democratic Party concerning the possibility that Bush had prior indications of the Sept. 11 attacks and did nothing about it. For one thing, it shows just how bankrupt of ideas the Democrats are heading into this election cycle, and what a tin ear they've developed for politics. While the story certainly merits investigation—as nasty a word as that has become since its near constant demagoguing by the Republicans in the '90s—it really requires no embellishment, particularly embellishment based on fanciful assumptions. In revealing to us (or rather reminding us of) the assumptions about the president's attitude, attention to detail and general competence for the job that followed him through his first nine months in office, the story is in every way the pre-9/11 George Bush narrative, and has a remarkable ring of truth in and of itself.

The facts are these: Attorney General John Ashcroft, whose department includes the FBI, was advised not to fly on commercial aircraft in early 2001, months before the actual attacks, but apparently was far too busy preparing briefs wherein the Government of the United States of America explicitly contradicts the Constitution of the United States of America to let any of the rest of us know or make too much of a fuss about it with the president. Nevertheless, Bush himself undoubtedly had seen material suggestive of the attacks.

In all fairness, though, hindsight is 20/20, and it should be admitted by anyone willing to fight but unwilling to take a cheap shot that whatever information Bush may have been exposed to pre-9/11 was presented, along with a mountain of other information, to a man with a notoriously short attention span, who is probably even now calling up his trusted advisors to find out what he knew and when he knew it. The equivalent task in the real world would be taking four 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzles, shaking them up in a paper bag and presenting that bag to a 4-year-old with the expectation that he produce a seascape, the *Mona Lisa*, the Tower of London and an Escher print. Most adults, including the candidate for president in 2000 who actually got the most votes, would have a hard time of it.

The 9/11 attacks were effective acts of terrorism pre-

cisely because they were unexpected. Bewailing the failure of a presidential administration—however reviled and deserving of being taken down a peg or two—to predict the future is just plain unfair. In a word, **WRONG**.

And yes, the Republicans are deserving of comeuppance for wasting vast amounts of tax dollars, public attention and political capital in their unceasing hounding of Bill Clinton. But the reason that they deserve that comeuppance is because they were **WRONG**. As much as the Democrats get chided for not playing rough enough, I'd rather they didn't start winning ball games by flagrantly fouling their opponent. Why they can't catch on to the fact that they can simply tell the truth and still score points on Bush is beyond me. With so many obvious openings, why take a cheap shot?

As much as the Democrats get chided for not playing rough enough, I'd rather they didn't start winning ball games by flagrantly fouling their opponent.

WRONG #2: The president's recent endorsement of continuing the Cuban Embargo after 40 long and fruitless years. The Democrats, wrong as they may be on the above, have nothing on George the Second in the primitive sophistry and political tin-ear departments. Not only is he supporting a bankrupt policy—we are alone in the developed world in our lack of diplomatic and trade ties with Cuba, and they genuinely don't need us as an export market—but he is doing so while standing beside, in the first iteration, Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia, who is exactly the sort of tin-pot dictator he was accusing Castro of being, and in the second, a bunch of rabid Cuban expatriates who would like to see the current regime overthrown so they can tie the country up in little knots with pre-revolutionary property claims, and whom Bush's brother relies on utterly for any hope in hell of keeping the Florida governorship. Bush has at last shown himself to be beyond parody. How a person who had been elected to the presidency with a minority of the popular vote by way of an extremely questionable court decision can stand up with a straight face and demand free and fair elections in Cuba completely boggles the mind. It's beyond **WRONG**. *

How We Can Learn to Stop Worrying and Love the Old Capitol Mall

UR Here

Thomas Dean



OK, let's get one thing straight before we go any further: The Old Capitol Mall, as we knew it, is dead. Finito. Gone to that great retail-chain corporate headquarters in the sky (or, more likely, a little farther south). I come not to praise the mall, but to bury it.

Well, good. Now we have an opportunity to create something unique, exciting and healthy for our civic culture. In its original conception, the Old Capitol Mall was a barn for mostly national chains. As such, most of its tenants had no *raison d'être* except the bottom line. A chain's parent corporation will simply pull the plug when profits go south. Thus, the Old Capitol Mall was doomed before the first store opened in it. Chain retail has inevitably fled to Sprawlville, and it won't come back.

Let me get one other thing out of the way, too. If this were a perfect world, we would demolish the Old Capitol Mall and build a four-square-block green commons, replete with gardens and a bandshell, surrounded by architecturally beautiful buildings full of interesting local retail shops and public buildings.

OK, I've come to my senses now. I won't claim to be so naive as to believe that this would happen—though one can dream. No doubt many will find what I'm about to suggest kooky enough. But, it is time to dream about something better for our community than a dead mall, and vision must come before the nuts and bolts.

So here's a first crack at proposing something new:

Reclaim local ownership of the mall. The cheery bromides surrounding the former Pennsylvania-based owner's renaming of the mall to "Old Capitol Town Centre," with the stated intention to make it an old-fashioned town center, were absurd. You don't live here, folks. From over 1,000 miles away, your slogan-speak ain't gonna create no civic core—and it didn't. We need local owners who understand what Iowa City is all about.

Reclaim local retail. Moreso than national chains, indigenous retail is more likely to have affection for and obligation to its home community, which motivates it to stick out tough times. And locally owned profits are much more likely to stay in, and continue to circulate in, our community. Keep bringing in folks like Wilson's Sports, T-Spoons, China Star, Sweets and Treats and Touch of India (without cannibalizing the non-mall storefront retail downtown).

Think entertainment, arts and culture. Even an aggressive campaign to attract local retail will never fill up the mall. Today, downtown is much about leisure and culture. So let's continue going that route. And let's

keep it family friendly, as well as student-friendly. Let's get an Arts Iowa gallery in there maybe. Let's make sure the Johnson County Historical Society can stay there. Let's all support Planet X. Let's make the long-awaited Iowa City Science Center happen at Old Capitol Mall. Let's build a kiddie playland up by the theaters. Let's open a huge, cool, no-alcohol music and dance place in the downstairs section of the old Penney's store. Here would be your chance, students, to show that you mean it when you say you'd do something else besides go to the bars if another option were available.

We have a huge captive lunch crowd downtown, and more entertainment and culture could create even more demand. But if we continue down the restaurant route, let's remember a few things—keep it local, keep it interesting and, for goodness' sake, no more bars.

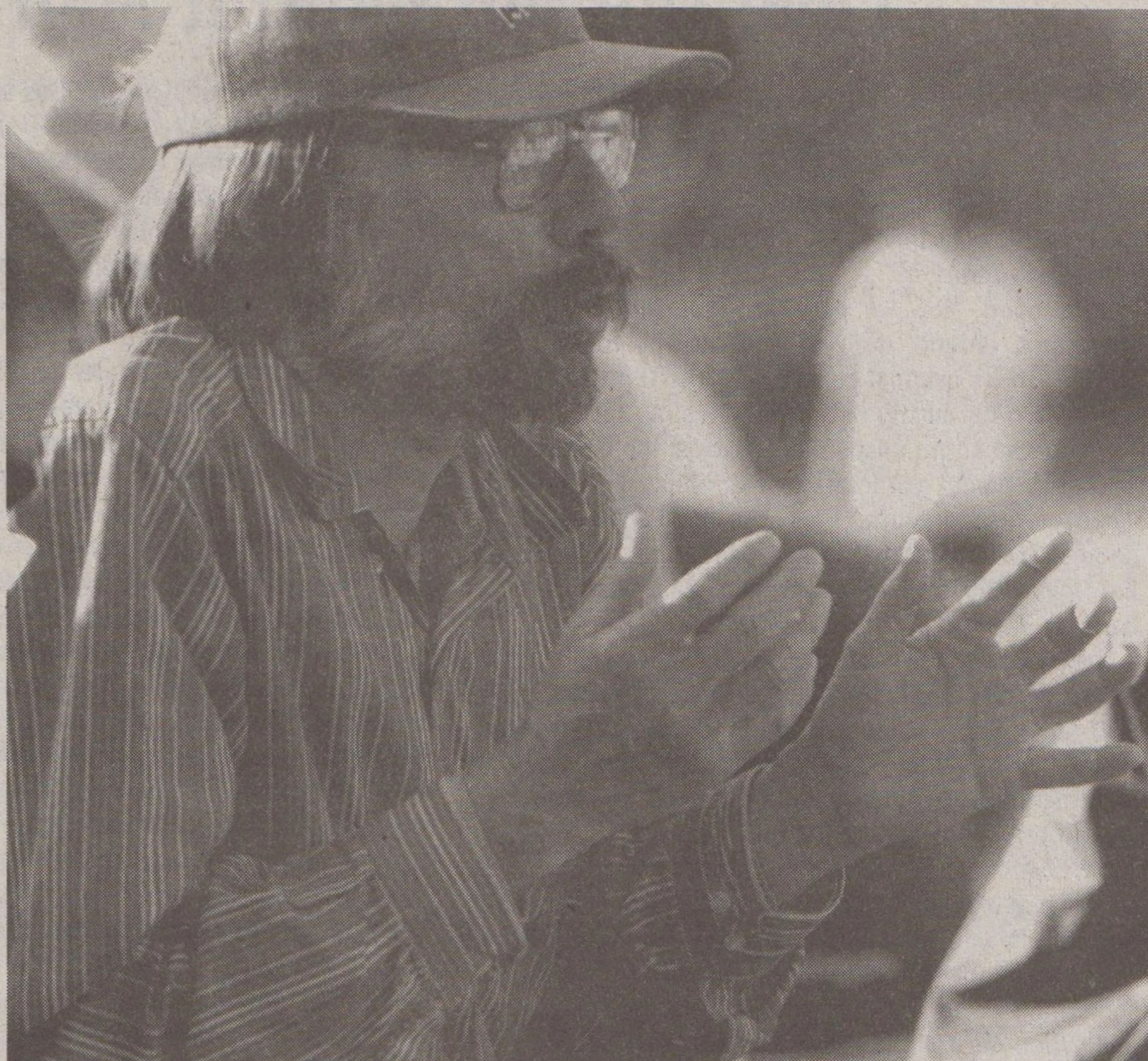
Make the mall an entrepreneurial center. The University of Iowa has some great programs allowing students to develop their entrepreneurial skills. Let's dedicate a chunk of space in the mall to an entrepreneurial incubator, with office and retail space. Let our students—and anyone else who wants to give it a whirl—experiment with their creative business ideas, see if they can fly in the "real world," with a little help and support from their community. Maybe they'll even stay in Iowa.

Reclaim the commons. Let's make this thing a town center, for real. A healthy, vibrant community needs a core public space, a place for friends and neighbors to gather, for cultural festivals, and for free political voices to speak. The Ped Mall provides that. But more is better, and, heck, we're in Iowa. At least half the year, cold and snow and ice cast a chill on outdoor community gathering. Wouldn't it be great to have an indoor Ped Mall? The problem with a shopping mall is that its innards are private, not public. Iowa law upholds the right of mall owners to kick out pesky people, like those who might want to publicly question the war in Afghanistan, play the guitar and sing, or "annoy" the mindless flow of "respectable" consumerism with games of hacky sack. But what if the city owned that big open space at the center of the mall by the old J.C. Penney space, and decorated it as an indoor town square? We could have jazz concerts on Friday night, even in January. We could have a mini Iowa Arts Festival, winter style. (Isn't it a shame that all that cool stuff on the Ped Mall starts when most of the students leave, and stops when they come back?) Heck, we could even encourage free expression when it's 20 below.

continued on page 11

The ups and downs

Devoted follower of City High sports, Dan Fracassini, mellows with age and the love of his own fans.



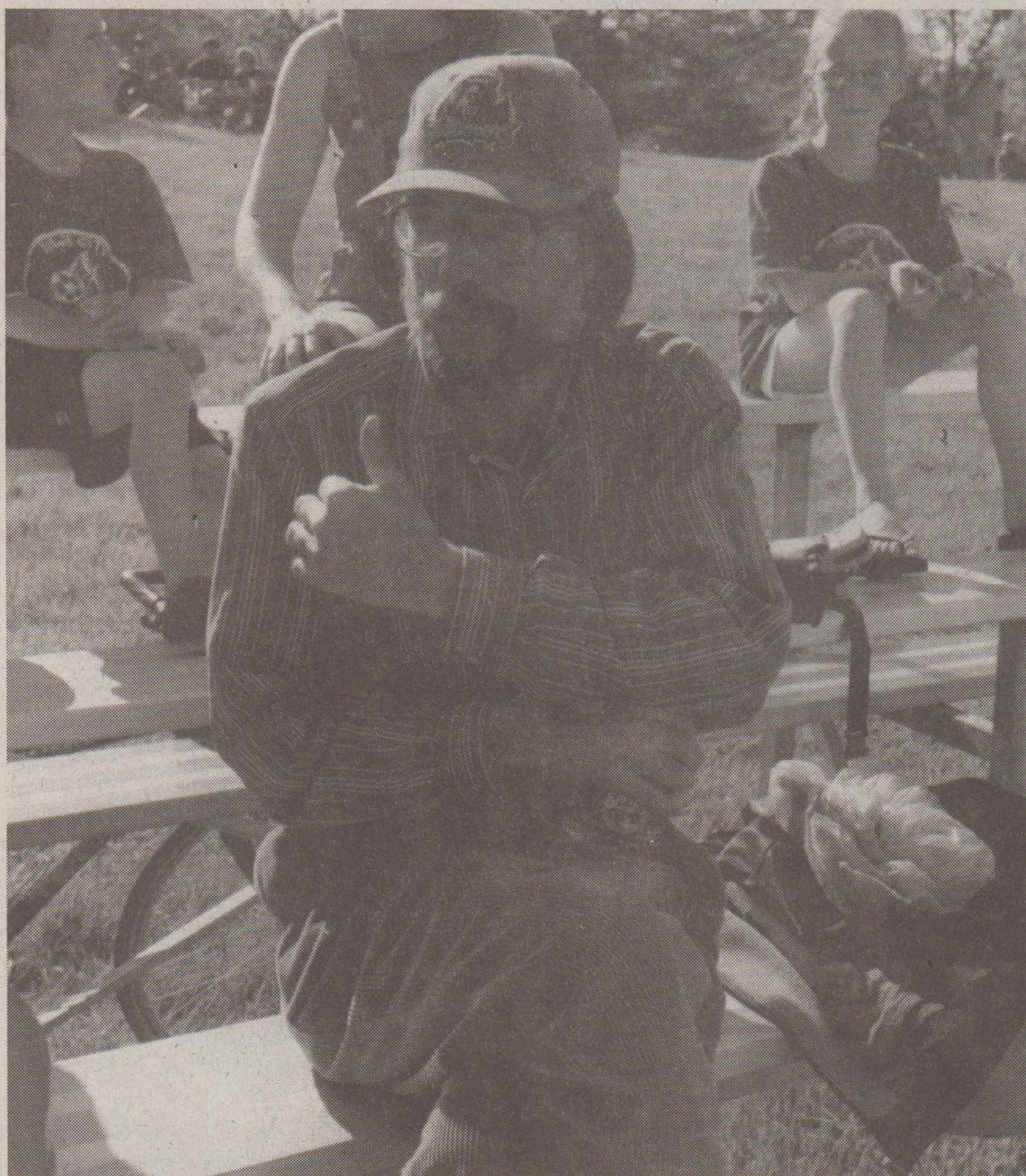
of Dan the Superfan

Liz Carpenter
photos by Mike Breazeale

A few years ago, you may have seen Dan Fracassini sitting at a downtown bus stop or at the First Avenue Hy-Vee deli, mute and watchful, or muttering to himself—until you asked him a question, that is. Then you'd shrink back as his reply grew from a low monotone to an increasingly heated monologue, railing against Iowa City, the Ped Mall, his family. For me, friend and listener over several years, his greetings were always warm, and my innocent-seeming interjection could abruptly defuse his angry crescendo. Still, it made a person hesitant to ask.

These days, however, if I told Dan that he is like a well-aged wine—a bright voice embodying reason, hope and indignation in one bottle—he would probably nod respectfully, narrow his eyes to slits behind his big, square-frame glasses and declare, "That's right, come on!" then throw back his head and guffaw.

Iowa-born, 47-year-old Dan "the Superfan" Fracassini has become recognized as a devoted follower of City High sports. More recently, a senior boys basketball player commended him as "the best Recreation League coach of the century." Another player, Zach



Hammes, calls Dan, affectionately, "Supe."

Nobody seems to know exactly where the "Superfan" nickname came from. My guess is that one day, alongside a broad, bright field, Dan threw both hands in the air and shouted, "Go, Little Hawks—DO it. I'm serious, play it right! Let's act like civilized human beings..." Not an unusual Fracassini outburst, it probably made people giggle, or made the players play harder, and someone said what came naturally: "Dan the Superfan." It must have been that simple.

I imagine he would have absorbed the title quickly. He would have thrown up his hands and laughed. He would have written it down somewhere later. "I need to hear it, I really do. I take life ser-i-ous-ly," he emphasizes to me when we meet for a lunch of Hy-Vee salads. Dan works at being a "real serious" role model. "You've got to be patient with these kids," he explains. "You've got to know what to say, when to say it. I'm a very patient person and kids need that. They have to learn to focus."

Dan is a lanky man, with a thickening beard and straight, graying hair grown long in

back, his eyes enlarged by the lenses of his glasses. Typically he dresses in corduroys and a striped, button-down shirt and a blue NBA baseball cap.

"Bobby Knight..." Dan says, tapping his head, "now there's a guy that's undiagnosed."

At a City High soccer game, versus Waterloo West, a boy reaches across the bleachers, holds out his hand. "Hey, how ya doin', Dan?" he says. Another young man, a square-shouldered player out of uniform, glances back as he saunters to the players' bench. "We'll take 'em at districts," he vows to Dan, smiling. This player is

Nobody seems to know exactly where the "Superfan" nickname came from. My guess is that one day, alongside a broad, bright field, Dan threw both hands in the air and shouted, "Go, Little Hawks—DO it. I'm serious, play it right! Let's act like civilized human beings."

Mike Landers, one of Dan's "true friends" from Rec League, not suited up today because of yellow-card penalties. "That's him, see? We connect," Dan informs me and grins, slaps an enthusiastic hand to a fist.

When I phone Zach Hammes to talk about Dan and Rec League basketball, he stops me to inquire, firmly: "What paper is this for, ma'am?" This is just one example of how these athletic, cool, "genuine" boys who have adopted Dan as a local cause and friend watch out for him. Zach and his

teammates had noticed Dan hanging around the Recreation Center and asked him to coach their senior boys basketball team, the Courtney Scott All-Stars. Rec League teams, of course, don't usually have coaches. Dan showed up and did what he does. "He's there," Zach tells me. "That's the main thing." The team went 8-0 and won their division's platinum award. One of the best moments of the year, Zach says, came when "Supe" received his own trophy and a majority of the basketball net when they cut it down.

Dan's story has not always been so sweet. One of his worst moments occurred in 1999 at the end of the City High basketball season. Dan so admired City High athletic director Larry Brown that he bought a plaque and had it engraved with a dedication. He borrowed a microphone to present Brown's award at halftime of a game, facing one of his biggest fears: speaking in public. "The kids got me through it," he tells me. "They were my fans." Afterward, a couple administrators, explaining that "unauthorized personnel were not allowed to be at center court," sent the Superfan out of the building.

Students and parents alike were dismayed. At the time, parent Tricia Stiles wrote a letter to *Icon* in passionate defense of Dan's actions: "Dan was made to leave the game before the second half," she wrote. "A game he paid admission to see. A game his Little Hawks won. A game where all he wanted to do was show his appreciation and support to his favorite Little Hawk, Larry Brown.... A plaque he paid for himself. Was this fair and just treatment of a fan?... What an example they set for our kids tonight."

When Dan first told me this story in 1999, he wiped away tears—not, I understood, in distress over being kicked out, but in appreciation of the students who called his name that night, and for the outcry of protest. "Nobody can take it away from me," he says now. "If they do have authority—so what? I'm not into revenge, I'm into reality. I mean, where do they find these bozos? Don't they screen these guys? The administration..." he laughs, gives a decisive thumbs down. "Hey, I'm OK with it. I am. I'm a hero! I'm a legacy."

"I've done very well," he continues. "Look where I am now! I give myself a great deal of credit. I have to. There were times I didn't, but I've grown a lot as a person.... I've



got a great life here now. I do, come on. There's no way I'm getting out of here. No way. NO WAY. And it's going to continue. I'll tell you that."

Like half the people I know, Dan has had depressive episodes—probably beginning in high school, he told me—and is familiar with the ups and downs of mania; he mentioned a doctor in New Mexico who warned him solidly away from suicide. After graduation from City High in 1973, he attended Kirkwood for just over a year, which, he says, helped—"At least I tried. I'm not ashamed of myself at all, I mean that. You have to keep life even."

"I've tried jobs," he says. "Nobody can say I haven't tried. I had a paper route, a dishwashing job, another one cleaning up the arena. I liked that job, it was low-stress. Some people can't take much stress. Dealing with people, you have to have the right friends in your life, true friends. Nobody tells me how to choose my friends."

He moved to California and New Mexico with his parents but left them after a stressful accident involving his father, the late Silvio Fracassini, or "Frac," a UI professor emeritus who died three years ago at age 90, and an artist best known for his nude figure drawings. At age 87, in New Mexico, Frac fell off the sofa and broke his hip. Dan was with him and called 911.

The resulting hubbub was upsetting to both father and son, with strangers, nurses and relatives coming in, old bones that wouldn't heal, Dan feeling blamed and disrespected. It became so stressful that he left, returned to Iowa City, spent a year living roughly in rooms, motels, with friends and at the shelter—until he settled into his own place in Coralville. (He's in Lakeside now and gives it a thumbs-up.)

"How would they like to be in my shoes?" he says of adversaries everywhere. "They couldn't, man. They could not."

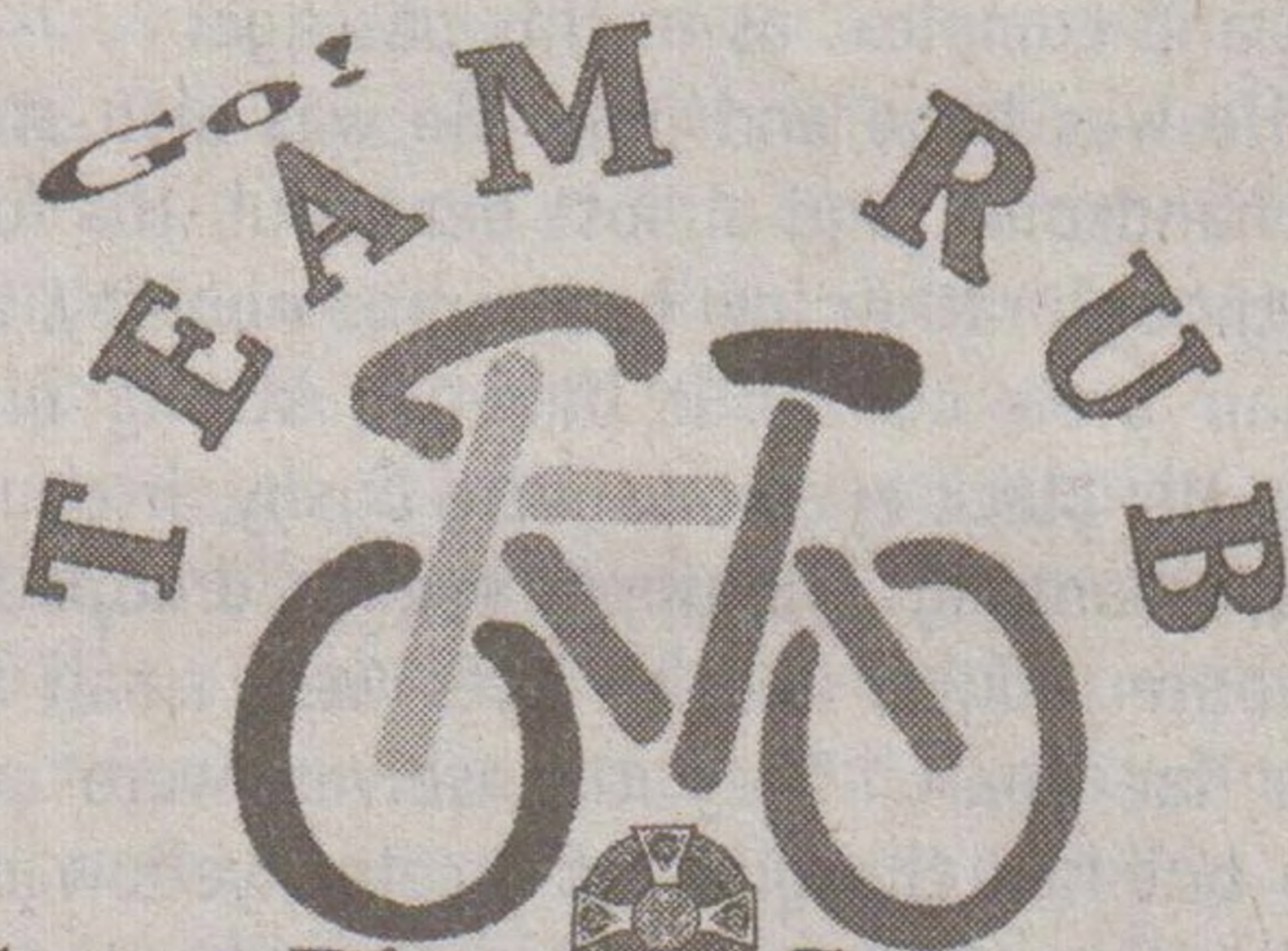
"There are weird things going on in the world, terrorists and weird happenings, people killing each other every day," he continues. "Come on. I am not going to let anyone insult my intelligence, that's one thing they can't do. I live my life one day at a time, I mean that. I'm focused. A genuine person with a good heart, that's what I look for. It's important to me." Done with our salads, he laughs in sudden mirth. "Woo!" he says. "But it's fun." *

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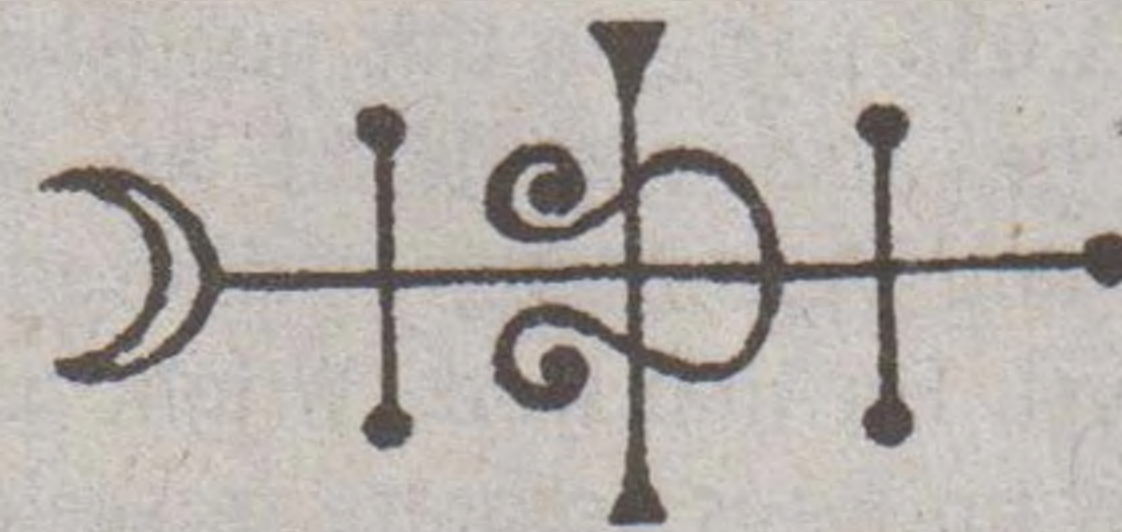
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Kent Williams

When obsession becomes art

Austin Tappan Wright's Islandia constructs a mythical country in prose

For some rare individuals, a deeply personal, idiosyncratic obsession transcends the merely odd, and results in a completely unique work of art. Howard Finster's garden of sacred art, Los Angeles' Coit towers, J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle Earth, Detroit's Heidelberg Project, and Austin Tappan Wright's *Islandia* are all examples of this process. Wright was a Harvard-educated lawyer and professor for whom the creation of the fictional country Islandia was a life-long avocation. The novel *Islandia* was published to some acclaim in 1942, 10 years after his death. In print again in a fat, lovely trade paperback, it deserves the loving attention of a new generation of readers.

Wright sought to construct an entire mythical country in prose: 1,013 pages in this published volume. But he didn't stop there; he also completed an as-yet-unpublished *Islandia: History and Description*, attributed to M. Perrin, a character in the novel. For that work, Wright had his brother, a cartographer, draw up maps accurate in scale to the distances described in the novel. Wright also wrote Petrarchan sonnets in the voices of his characters. His attention to backstory and detail went beyond normal authorial care and became something close to a life-long piece of performance art.

whaling in *Moby Dick*, yet never becomes as tiresome. Wright's physical descriptions, both of nature and people, are at once straightforward, artful and complex, as in this passage:

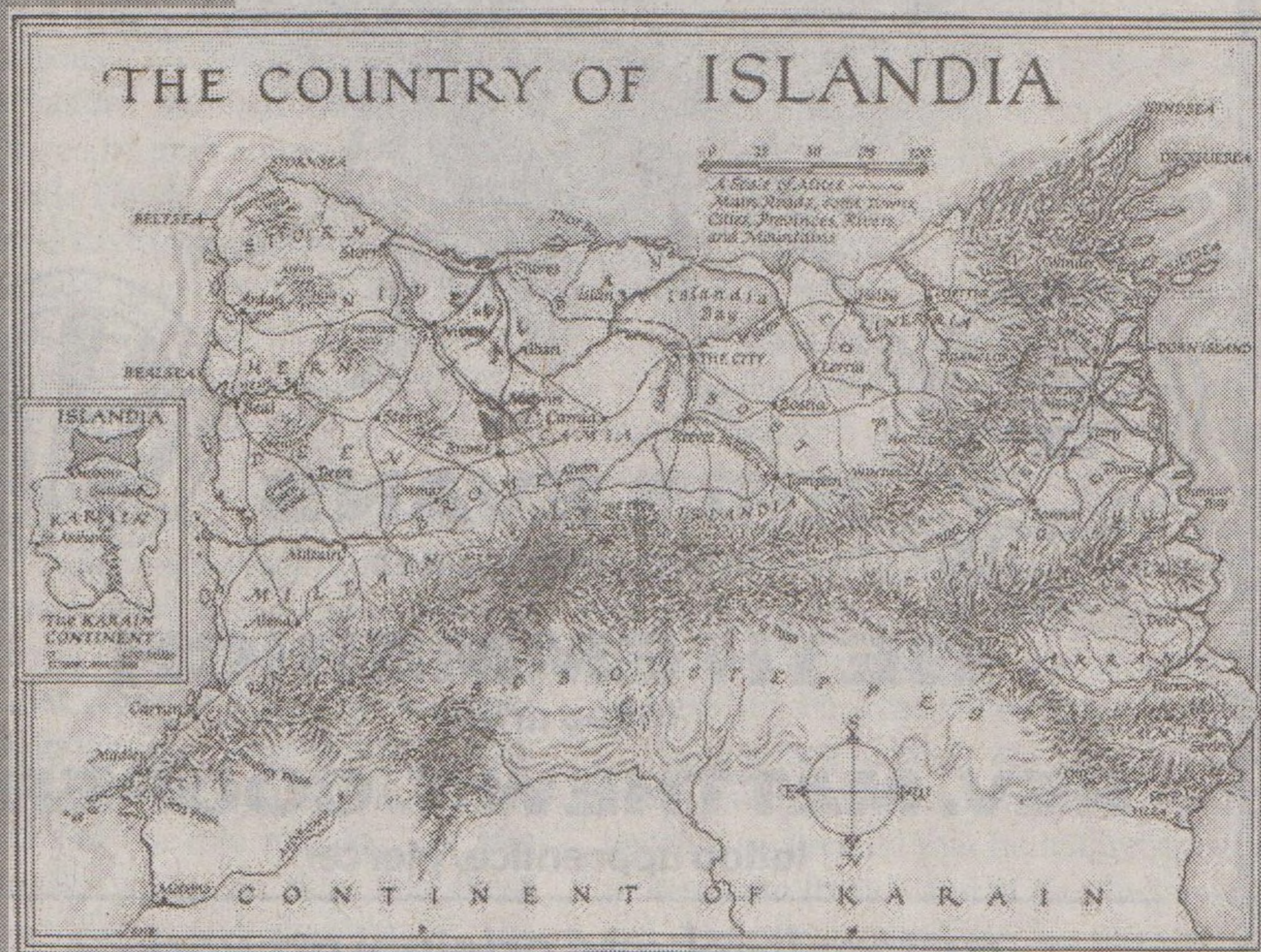
"...He was huge and ugly. He was also strikingly handsome, and almost beautiful. His forehead though rather low had serene nobility, and his hair grew out of it like two strong black wings. His black eyebrows were bushy, irregular, and overhanging. His upper eyelids drooped at their outer edges, and his eyes were small and rather far apart. They themselves were pale green but had the glint of faceted yellow diamonds. His nose was short with wide nostrils, but well cut. All the rest of his face was hidden in a black beard."

Set pieces of such description litter the book, along with passages describing Islandic history, folklore, botany and handcraft. Wright drops these into the narrative always as natural digressions in the narrator's story. He uses the novelist's only luxury—the cheap price of paper—without taxing the reader's patience.

Wright surpasses fabulists like Tolkien in his handling of conflict, in *Islandia*, between the modern commercial world and Islandia's agrarian, semi-feudal society. Where Tolkien concerns himself with elemental battles of good and evil carried on by fantastic beings, Wright writes in a naturalistic, sophisticated way about conflicts between a rustic, traditional country and the capitalist outside world keen to exploit it. The political battle central to the novel wages between those who would open Islandia to foreign trade, and those wishing to maintain the country's traditional isolation. This is reflected in the first-person narrator's own conflict between his position as consul, bound to encourage the opening, and his friendship with and admiration for the Islanders.

The protagonist, John Lang, starts out as a callow young man who becomes the American consul to Islandia through family connections. The story of the book is the process of Lang "going native," and is a critique of modern mercantilism. It is a bit like Ayn Rand's books, in that Wright evinces a philosophy of life through the story at hand.

The book's 1,000-plus pages are commodious enough to include some of Lang's love affairs, which are marvelous in their passion and restraint. Lang's first love, unrequited, is



While Wright's contemporaries, Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, attempted similar projects that have become well-loved classics, their themes of magic and fantasy have placed them outside the domain of high art—fairly or unfairly. Wright's *Islandia* is entirely a different proposition. His lucid, fluent prose is as fine and inviting as any 20th-century American author's. His exhaustive attention to detail recalls Melville's digressions on

recalled repeatedly with the image of her crossed bare ankles. This detail is quaintly Victorian and yet, as described, is so deeply felt as to pack erotic punch even with modern readers. Wright's sympathy for the Islandian women in the book is remarkable; through Lang's eyes they shine as self-possessed, independent and intelligent.

Above all, *Islandia* is a vast, ripping yarn, that for all its length never fails to entertain. Wright sought to build in words a world of convincing reality, detail and vitality, and he succeeded. Where some modern novels may fly over their subject at high speed and altitude, *Islandia* proceeds at the pace of a long journey on foot; the reader can savor every step. *

old capitol mall (continued from page 5)

To reclaim the mall, and make it a vibrant, culturally healthy place once again (or perhaps for the first time ever), we need a lot of creative thinking, and it needs to be done in partnership between the private and public sectors. Some community leaders may intone the mantra of "tax base" over and over, scared off by the idea of turning some private space over to public. But, come on, the mall's property value, its private business potential and its tax base are in free fall. Iowa City has always prided itself on its civic character, its public amenities, its progressive and creative thinking. The Old Capitol Mall was a bad concept for downtown Iowa City to begin with, and its inevitable fate has come to pass. Let's now build on our town's strengths, and turn that echoey, empty barn into a multipurpose, vibrant and creative "town center"—through a public/private partnership that can be a model for urban cores gasping their dying breaths everywhere. *



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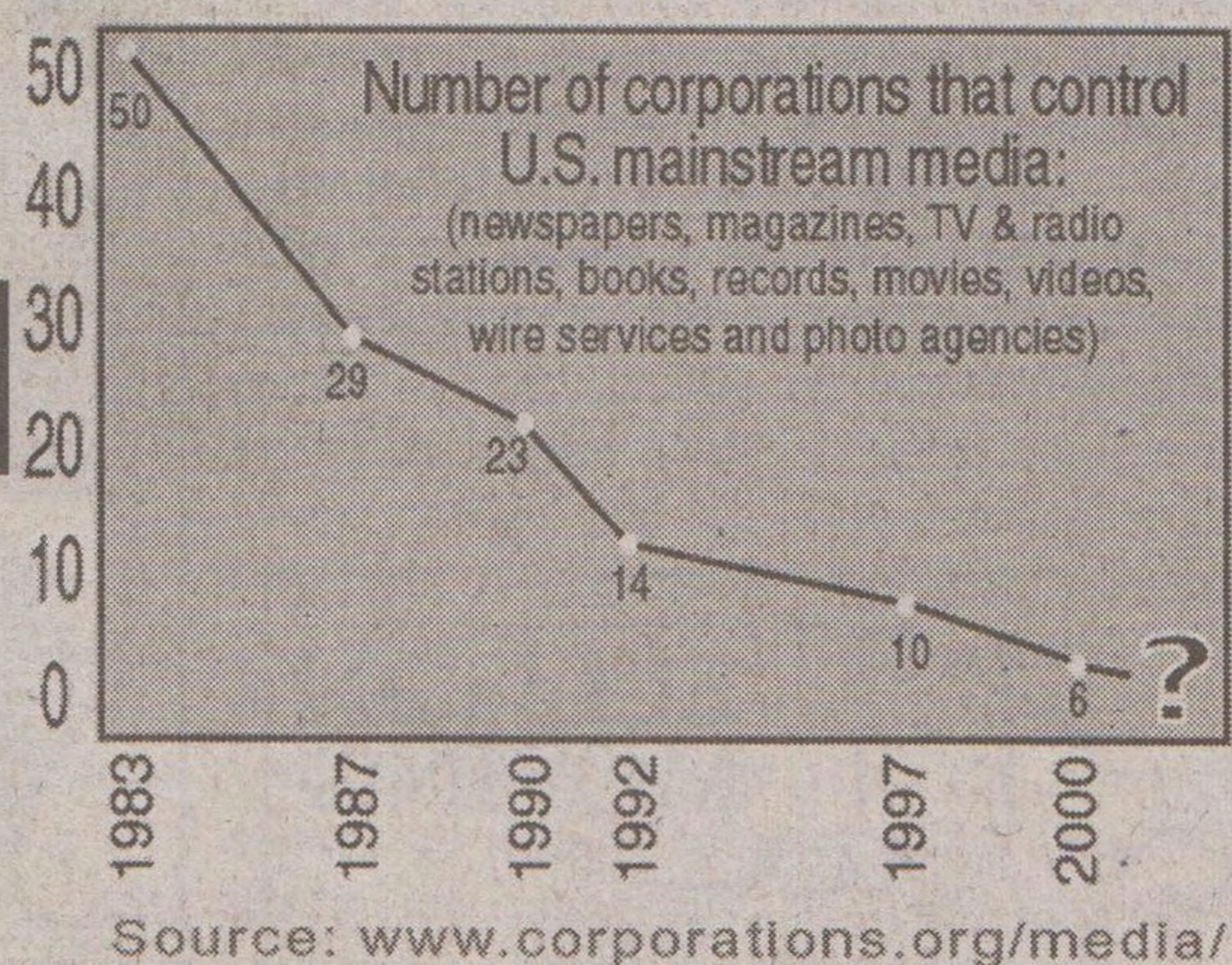


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**Channel
18**



Studiolo to close

Location and small population base listed as reasons

After nearly five years of hard work on behalf of artists and art lovers, you might expect the owners of Studiolo to express a bit of bitterness about the imminent closing of the Iowa City gallery. But Louise Rauh, who co-owns Studiolo with Justine Zimmer and John E. Rauh, is quite philosophical about the upcoming shuttering of one of the city's most unique venues for the visual arts, revealing at most a melancholy acceptance tempered by a healthy collection of great memories. That's not to say that she would encourage anyone else to jump in to fill the gap left by the gallery's closing, however.

"I don't think I would open another [gallery] in Iowa City," Rauh says, "at least not for several years or until the businesses downtown settle down. If the Englert can go through and downtown can become a specialty retail spot focusing on the arts, it might be possible."

The creation of four "art junkies" and UI graduate students, Louise Rauh and Zimmer among them (John Rauh joined the partnership when two of the founders left after a year), Studiolo opened its doors on Nov. 1, 1997, at 415 South Gilbert St., sharing a wall with an Asian grocery store and standing some distance from most of Iowa City's well-known art outlets. Rauh blames location for some of Studiolo's woes but also points to the opening of the Coral Ridge Mall six months after the gallery's opening, as well as Iowa City's relatively small population base and lack of a consistent tourist trade.

"People tend to buy art when they're on vacation," Rauh explains. "That's when they have money set aside and know they can't visit a piece 20 times to look at it. Regulars bringing in friends and visitors has been very good for us."

Not good enough, however, to keep the doors open. While Studiolo will take part in the June 7 Gallery Walk with an exhibition of work by local artist Anne Perkins, by the end of June the gallery will be closed. All of the work currently on display is on sale and artists have begun the process of picking up their work, as well.

As for the owners, the two Rauhs are contemplating a move to Saratoga, N.Y.—"They have good art galleries, good food and great scenery"—while Zimmer will continue her work with the Englert Theater. And both women will continue their



Studiolo artist Diane Naylor's *Coffee Tea or Me*

careers as working artists, creating new work and displaying it in shows and at galleries. Just not at Studiolo.

"There will be some teary farewell moments," admits Rauh, "because we get emotional, but all in all it's been a fabulous experience." *



Rob Cline

cd reviews



Urbana Youth Outreach VS Stunt Rock

We're not assholes, we're just smarter than you (Split CD)

CLFST

If you ever wondered what kind of music it takes for a teen to upset his punk-rock fan parents, you've come to the right place. Stunt Rock and Urbana Youth Outreach are two young men warped by growing up in the suburban sprawl between Chicago and Milwaukee. They make music of frightening intensity, humor and violence.

Obvious jumping off points for these guys are drum 'n' bass, drop-bass-style hard-acid techno, and noise artists like Merzbow. But that's just the beginning—the two use their computers to take the raw building blocks (breakbeats, synths and vocal samples) and maim them. They don't feel constrained to build grooves—quite the opposite; whenever a groove threatens to take hold, they drop into a sort of digitally cut up free jazz, layered with distortion.

If you're a Greg Brown fan it's safe to say this stuff is anathema. But even Greg Brown would acknowledge there's more to music than Greg Brown. These guys and their homies Venetian Snares and Dan Dormouse do what artists are supposed to do—find whatever is rough, inelegant and ugly in the previous generation's music and magnify it into a new concept of beauty.

Well, "beauty" is probably stretching it. This is deliberately offensive, grating, annoying music, infused with juvenile perversity and naughty-boy obscenity. What's brilliant in these tracks, though, is a relentless drive to make every new phrase unlike what came before it. Instead of economy of means, they're into wasteful extravagance. They want to take whatever dross they find—stolen drum loops from the Internet, Christian ballads, movie dialog—and deface them. It's the dented dumpster aesthetic in action.

Some people will love this stuff, and most will hate and fear it. Which in my book is high praise.

Kent Williams



Patty Griffin

1000 Kisses

ATO Records

I'd trucked down to SXSW for something like five years and this spring things were finally starting to wear a little thin: lookalike boys with lookalike haircuts in bands that all sounded alike. Most of them never even crack a smile. Then we got over to an out-of-the-way Mexican joint called Jovitas where someone I'd never heard of was set to play. The place was packed, what looked like a bunch of friends and family set shoulder to knee around the stage, as if to hear a whisper from Christ. The woman who took the stage was tall, with red hair. I remember thinking she looked like a younger version of my Aunt Cleo. In her vintage black dress she seemed out of time but not at all out of place. From the moment she swung the guitar around her thin waist and ripped into the first song, I knew that I was in the presence of star power; not Madonna, or even Shakira, star power, but star power that's just plain, pouring talent, like fresh strawberry jam on a piece of toast. Backed by a cello and button accordion, Patty Griffin soared through selections off her then forthcoming CD. This included a song where she easily takes on the persona of a grey-haired woman who makes pies all day ("Making Pies") and another where she assumes the life of a woman traveling home from her husband's funeral, reflecting bitterly, "Forty years go by with someone laying in your bed/Forty years of things you say you wish you never said" ("Long Ride Home"). The stark images and emotions Griffin conjured were nicely extended by her rendition of Springsteen's (also on the CD) "Stolen Car," extended beyond her own sex and songwriter self. Somehow Griffin maintains a startling level of intimacy while trying on one new skin after the next. When it was over, we shared a cab with one of Patty's fellow Austin songwriters, a guy who's probably seen her show a hundred times—maybe even dated her, who knows? He summed it up pretty good when he just shook his head and sighed, "She breaks my bones."

Todd Kimm

concert reviews

Glenn Tilbrook

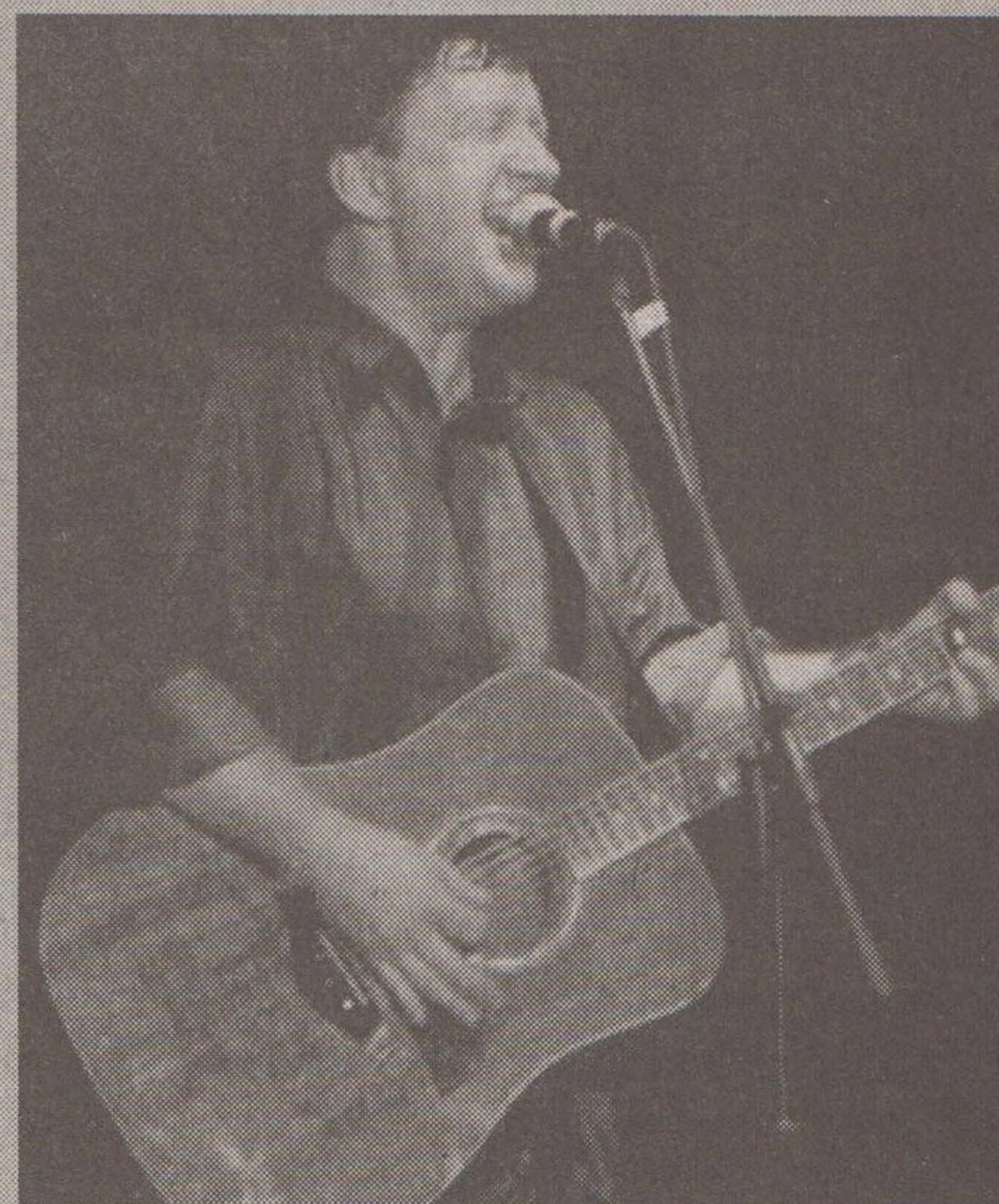
Gabe's Oasis • May 2

There wasn't much of a crowd for Glenn Tilbrook's Thursday night early show. And one might have thought the former frontman for the English band Squeeze would be disappointed or a little ticked off. After all, at its height, Squeeze sold millions of records with songs like "Tempted," "Goodbye Girl" and "Pulling Mussels from a Shell." Tilbrook and his compadre Chris Difford were hailed by fans and critics alike as the new coming of Lennon and McCartney and regularly sold out large arenas like Wembley Stadium and Madison Square Garden.

Remarkably, Tilbrook seemed nothing but tickled by the whole affair. The solo performer came on stage with an impish smile and guitar and never stopped grinning. He seemed happy just to be playing his music live before an audience of strangers. Tilbrook performed a song he co-wrote with Aimee Mann from his new solo CD, *The Incomplete Glen Tilbrook*, chatted with members of the audience, asked for requests and then commented that it was such a lovely day that we should all go outside for a walk. He led the crowd outside, down Washington Street and up Dubuque Street—where he stopped at the Deadwood and performed a song for a table full of surprised patrons—back outside, up Iowa Avenue, down Linn Street, up Washington Street and back to Gabe's, all the time singing and strumming with a grin on his face.

While the outdoor trek was not as impromptu as it initially appeared—he does it often—Tilbrook's good humor seemed real and was infectious. Once back inside,

continued on page 21



Glenn Tilbrook



Wilco

Wilco's 'commercial suicide'

Kembrew McLeod

Wilco's recent record company troubles—having their excellent *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* rejected by Reprise—epitomizes a depressing trend I've followed over the past 10 years: free-standing labels being snatched up by the oligarchic tentacles of media giants and the musical homogenization that ensues. In fact, I found myself sufficiently irritated to make a documentary on the subject.

Why does this stuff anger me? Quite simply, music means the world to me, and I feel that these trends have a damaging effect on popular music. I will admit popular music and how it is marketed and sold occupies my mind more than the average American's, but I think it is time for all of us to pay a little more attention. Hence my happiness at seeing Wilco's plight get some ink—splattered everywhere from the *New York Times* to Britain's best music magazine, *Mojo*.

Music is the most democratic of mediums—far more so than television and films—primarily because it is relatively cheap to record and distribute, making it possible for diverse ideas to be widely heard. Popular music has played a vital role in every crucial moment of American history. The civil rights movement is just one example, music inspiring a movement, the movement creating inspired music (Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind" or Sam Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come"). But for music to have an impact, it has to be heard. Before the passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act and the record-company merger frenzy of the last decade, there were simply more opportunities for more artists to get their music distributed by labels and played on the radio.

The Telecommunications Act radically altered the rules governing media ownership. It helped create the radio behemoth Clear Channel, which now owns more than 1,200 radio stations throughout the country. To cut costs, Clear Channel centralizes its already-narrow

playlists, which means that no matter where you live, you hear the same songs, in the same order, announced by same-sounding DJs. An even creepier new Clear Channel strategy entails piping into smaller markets the voices of its DJs who often don't even live in the cities from where they claim to be broadcasting. And while you consider that Orwellian construction, don't forget who actually owns the airwaves Clear Channel uses: you and me.

Then we have the record company mega-mergers of the past five years. Wilco's plight is a good example of how the music business operates in America today: The band was essentially dropped by their label, Reprise (part of the AOL/Time Warner "group"), for recording an unconventional album. Read: beautifully written, packed with the sorts of thoughtful, evocative words that call on you to stretch out on the floor, stare at the ceiling and just listen and feel connected to it all. The funny thing is, the record just isn't all that weird. Yes, the album's lead track, "I Am Trying to Break Your Heart," begins with an oblique layering of sounds (strange tones, alarm clocks, random piano keys) and the even more oblique line, "I am an American aquarium drinker." But within a minute the song's lovely melodies envelop you, caressing you with as much compelling and catchy charm as, say, a Britney Spears ballad. This isn't to say "I Am..." in any way resembles the output of this recently down-and-out teen pop star, but the pretty melodies pull the heartstrings as much as the legally blonde's "Not a Girl, Not Yet a Woman." The following song, "Kamera," leaps from the speakers with a perky rhythm and a pure pop jolt that renders the "commercial suicide" claims by the Reprise execs completely absurd.

The irony to this tale is that Reprise carved out its identity as an artist-friendly major label that took chances on artists and stuck by them through unpredictable artistic turns—witness Neil Young as an example of this. Now, as a subsidiary of AOL/Time-Warner, quarterly reports dictate who stays and who gets the toe. Under today's new music-industry regime, any artist who sells less than 500,000 albums just ain't making it.

Hence the plight of hardworking Wilco. Geez. Their last album, *Summerteeth*, sold 162,000 copies. That they sell out mid-size venues and theaters with an enthusiastic and

continued on page 21

THE A LIST

Calendar listings are free, on a space-available basis. Mail PO Box 736, Iowa City, Iowa 52244 or e-mail little-village@usa.net



Untitled, Gianna Commito

Gallery Walk

Various locations in and around downtown Iowa City •
June 7, 5-8pm

The June Gallery Walk coincides agreeably with the Iowa Arts Festival June 6-9. Fifteen "downtown" Iowa City locations join in hosting joint opening receptions. The self-guided event features refreshments and is free and open to the public. If you haven't participated in a Gallery Walk before, you should take the opportunity; this installment is full of good work and surprises. The Hudson River Gallery, located at 538 S. Gilbert St., features work by Peter Feldstein's graduate photography students, and at least one offering by the master himself. Feldstein is an eminent and innovative artist who once took on a project that involved photographing every single resident of Oxford, Iowa, where he makes his home today. It will be fun to see how his students incorpo-

rate and build on the influence of their mentor. More photography by up-and-coming artists will be on view at RSVP, 114 E. Washington St. *Fresh Female Photography* features work by Brenda Salat, Shera Shrago and Rachel Hicks. The City High String Quartet will provide music for Suzanne Aunan's opening at the Senior Center, 28 S. Linn St. Aunan is a self-taught artist from Iowa City. The centerpiece of the show is "The Big Game," a bird's-eye view of the Iowa vs Iowa State football game at Kinnick Stadium, that should be interesting. Design Ranch Store, corner of Davenport and Dodge streets, features 12 Alessi Archival tea kettles, with tea and biscotti served alongside. An intriguing exhibit at ARTS Iowa City, 129 E. Washington, features the work of a mother and her two daughters. Cathmar Prange and daughters Meg and Beckie had worked independently for years until they noticed that their work shared certain similarities. Their collaboration, integrating visual and verbal art in three media, includes the contributions of writer Amy Spencer. *Four Kinswoman* runs through June 9. See calendar section for more.



Iris Dement

Iowa Arts Festival Main Stage • Friday, June 7, 7pm

Iris Dement sings with a lack of self-consciousness and affectation that you'd have to go back in a time machine to fetch. This is country music at its most earnest, sweet and sad. Dement hasn't put out a fresh release since 1996's *The Way I Should*—maybe that's because a person can't be in the presence of angels for long. But as with speaking in tongues, the gift of singing like an angel is not diminished by a dirty world.

ART

Adagio

325 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 339-4811
Fund-raising exhibition of work by artist members of Arts Iowa City, sales benefit the purchase of the Deborah Burger Elevator at the Englert Civic Theatre, through July; opening reception June 7, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Akar Architecture and Design

4 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 351-1227
Michael Simon, recent ceramics; quilts from India; both June 1-July 15; opening reception June 7, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

The Art Mission

114 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 466-1006
Kathleen Rash: *Recent Work*, pastels in tightly composed still life and other representational subjects; opening reception June 7, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Arts Iowa City

Lower level of Jefferson Bldg., 129 E. Washington St., Iowa City
Four Kinswomen: Painting, Poetry & Fiber, highlights work by painter Cathmar Prange (mother), writer Amy Spencer, and artists Meg Prange and Beckie Prange (daughters), June 6-9; opening reception June 7, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

410 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-7503
Iowa 2002: New Art, the first CRMA Triennial Summer Exhibition features the work of 20 Iowa artists in four galleries; featured artists include Angela Battle, Mary Snyder Behrens, Bradd Brown, Karen Chesterman, Tony Crowley, Fred Easker, Amze Emmons, Laurel Farrin, Mike Guldbeck, Thomas Jackson, Louise Kames, Sally Kuzma, Carol Macomber, Julie McLaughlin, Theresa Paschke, William Pergl, Kristen Quinn, Priscilla Steele, Daniel Weiss and Margaret Whiting, June 14-Aug. 25 • *From Paper to Stone: Grant Wood Drawings and Lithographs*, a selection of Wood's lithographs from the museum's permanent collection along with preliminary drawings borrowed from private collections, through Aug. 25 • Recent Acquisitions 2000-2001, includes a pair of wrought iron gates designed by Grant Wood, through August • *Grant Wood's J.G. Cherry Company Commission, 1925*, seven-painting series by Wood depicting workmen and their tools, through August. (See Words for more events)

CSPS

1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1580
Unknown/Infinity: Culture and Identity in the Digital Age, artists from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the US explore life in the digital age, includes computer animation, web-based artworks, interactive video installations and digital photography, through June 9.

Design Ranch Store

Corner of Davenport and Dodge streets, Iowa City, 354-2623
Tea for Twelve: An Exhibit of Twelve Alessi Archival Tea Kettles, tea and biscotti will also be served; opening reception June 7, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

The Frame House & Gallery

211 N. Linn St., Iowa City, 338-0988
The Iowa Connection, featuring artists with Iowa ties.

Hudson River Gallery & Frame Co.

538 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 358-8488
Work by Peter Feldstein's graduate photography students: Leo Lee, Jon Lee, William Donovan, Gianna Commito, Jared Sprecher, Nathan Haenlein, Jason Urban, Amzee Emmons, Tealia Ellis, Matt Hopson-Walker, Abel Ortiz, Denis Roussel, Jody Boyer; opening reception June 7, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Iowa Artisans Gallery

117 E. College St., Iowa City, 351-8686
Painted furniture and home accessories by STICKS, the Iowa-based art business founded 11 years ago by Sarah Grant-Hutchison and Jim Lueders; opening reception June 7, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Iowa State Bank and Trust

102 S. Clinton St., Iowa City, 356-5800
Marjorie Hayek: A Retrospective in Oil, Hayek is a long-time

Iowa City resident who left an extensive legacy of drawings and paintings portraying still life, portrait and landscape subjects, June 7-July; opening reception June 7, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk • Iowa State Bank is also sponsoring a reception for Iowa Arts Festival attendees, June 7, 6-9pm, Sponsorship Tent, Iowa Avenue near Dulcinea.

Lorenz Boot Shop

132 S. Clinton St., Iowa City, 339-1053

Abstracted Figure, mixed water media on paper by RK Courtney; *Dwellings*, pottery by Alisa Holen; *House to House*, watercolors and wood-cuts by Philip Kirk; *Portraits and More*, pastels and oil by Beppie Weiss; all June 7-September; opening reception June 7, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Many Facets

125 S. Dubuque, Iowa City, 341-4562

Who Am I?, works in foil by Kimberlee Rocca, through June 1 • *Abstract Harmony: Oil Pastels & Mixed Media* by Kathy Nelson, June 7-September; opening reception June 7, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

M.C. Ginsberg Objects of Art

110 E. Washington St., Iowa City

A Project of Minimalism: European Collection by Niessing; opening reception June 7, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Mythos

9 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 337-3760

Jim Ochs: Recent Watercolors, psychological profiles exploring the mythos current in America, June 7-20; opening reception June 7, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk • Ethnographic art, antiquities and museum copies; specializing in African, Mayan Indian from Guatemala and Asian, ongoing.

RSVP

114 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 337-4400

Fresh Female Photography: Brenda Salat, Shera Shrago & Rachel Hicks; opening reception June 7, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Ruby's Pearl

13 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 248-0032

Love Art, work by Elaine, Kymbyrly, Travis and Vivian, through June; opening reception with wine and treats TBA, call for details.

Salon

119 E. Washington, Iowa City, 351-0508

Mixed media collage by Alicia Brown-Matthes, June 7-30; opening reception June 7, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Senior Center

28 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5220

2002 Senior Art Show, through June 2 • *Suzanne Bowen Aunan: Recent Works*, self-taught artist from Iowa City paints detailed compositions using water media and pencil or ink, June 7-July 14; opening reception June 7, 5-8pm, City High String Quartet provides music, part of Gallery Walk.

Studiolo

415 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 341-8344

"Thank you...Goodbye!" Studiolo's final exhibition, highlighting the abstract pastel work of Iowa City artist Anne Perkins as well as other favorite gallery artists; opening reception June 7, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

UI Hospitals and Clinics

Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417

Ceramic art by Jennifer Otis, through June 3, Main Lobby Gallery • Prints by Wanda Ewing, through June 28, Center for Disabilities and Development by the Remboldt

Conference Rm. • Gerry Eskin, digital photographs of the Grand Canyon, through July 1, Boyd Tower West lobby • Alicia Brown, mixed media, through July 2, Boyd Tower East lobby • Lillian Beranek, woven canvases and brush paintings, through August, Hospital Dentistry Gallery, Fifth floor Pomerantz Family Pavilion • Mary McMurrer, prints, May 31- July 31, Patient and Visitor Activities Center • John Coyne, sculpture, June 3- Aug. 1, UIHC Main Lobby.

UI Museum of Art

150 North Riverside Dr., Iowa City, 335-1727,

MFA 2001-2002, works by recent MFA graduates of the UI School of Art and Art History, through June 2 • *Jose Guadalupe Posada: My Mexico*, prints by the renowned Mexican artist, through July 21 • *NO!art and the Aesthetics of Doom*, retrospective of artist collective that responded to the Holocaust and atomic crisis, through June 23 • *Gerry Eskin: Recent Ceramics*, June 6-July 28; opening reception June 6, 7:30pm.

Uptown Bill's small Mall

401 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 339-0401

Dress and Memory: Recent Works, ceramics by Cherine Bishara, June 1-15; closing reception, June 14, 6-8pm.

US Cellular Center

370 First Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888

P. Buckley Moss Convention, June 7, 5-9pm; June 8, 8am-5pm; June 9, 9am-2pm.

MUSIC

Adagio

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Saturday
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DENNIS MCMURRIN &
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9PM

Sunday
June 9

PIETA BROWN with
BO RAMSEY CD release party

7PM

Thursday
June 13

Soul Sauce

9PM

Friday
June 14

The Dave Olson One-Timers

9PM

Saturday
June 15

CATFISH KEITH

9PM

Sunday
June 16

GREG BROWN

7PM

Thursday
June 20

CHRIS SMIT BAND

9PM

Friday
June 21

Larry Myer

9PM

Saturday
June 22

BROTHER TRUCKER

9PM

Friday
June 28

BOB & KRISTIE BLACK

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In the Vein, jazz trio, June 1, 8pm • OddBar Trio, June 13, 20, 27, 8pm • Brave New Now, jazz/hip-hop, June 21, 8pm.

Clapp Recital Hall

University of Iowa campus, Iowa City, 335-1160

All-State Music Camp Faculty Recital, June 11, 8pm • UI Summer Orchestra, June 13, 8pm • Percussion Camp Final Concert, June 21, 7pm • Oftensembles, June 25, 8pm • Night of Trios: Standard AIR, OddBar Trio and Richmond/Thomas Trio, June 26, 8pm • Jazz at the UI Summer Ensemble, June 27, 8pm • Jazz Camp Final Concert, June 29, 10am.

Gabe's

330 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 354-4788

9pm doors unless noted otherwise

The Meat Purveyors, Jack Norton, Ben Weaver, May 30 • The Mayflies of Johnson Co., Dave Olson's One-Timers, Tom Jessen, May 31 • Dixie Witch, Kita, Burnout, Terminus, June 1 • The Naysayer (featuring members of Retsin, Ruby Falls), June 2 • This Bike is a Pipe Bomb, Devil's Electric, You Just Drive This Thing Kid, Miss Lonelyhearts, June 3, 8pm doors • The International Playboys, Black Milk, The Egnogs, Riddle of Steel, June 4, 8pm doors • Single Malt, Lonesome Bob, June 5 • Poles Apart, Ed Gray, Making Hey, the Girls of Camanche, June 6 • The Ghost, The Exit, Troubled Hubble, Faultlines, Boy with Stick, June 7, 7pm doors • DJ Uplift presents an all-star line-up of techno DJs featuring Maddgroove, Frankie Vega and Lance Sheldon, June 8 • The Cripples, the Load Levellers, the Crosstons, June 10 • Brian Jones, Caught in the Fall, Sutter Cane, June 11, 8pm doors • Culture, reggae, June 12 • Racecar Radar, June 13 • The Queers, The Briefs, The Independents, June 14 • Breaking Pangaea, Billy, June 16 • Rasputina, June 17 • Mates of State, The Applesed Cast, June 18 • Hudson Falcons, June 19 • The Slat, June 20 • The Pimps, Leven, June 21 • Fear of Falling, June 23 • Mad Happy, Polkacide, June 25 • New Grenada, June 26 • Ten Grand (AKA The Vida Blue), Off Minor, June 27 • Orquesta de Jazz y Salsa Alto Maiz, June 28 • The Gadjits and Squad, June 29.

The Green Room

509 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 354-4350

Blues Jam Mondays, Latin Night Tuesdays

Clean Living, The Diplomats, May 30 • The Trollies, Forgiving Iscariot, May 31 • Johnny Kilowatt, Blues Jam, June 3 • Dave Olson Singer/songwriter Night, June 5 • Skunk River Bandits, Mylow, June 7 • Blue Tunas, Blues Jam, June 10.

Hancher Auditorium

UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1160

All-State Music Camp Concert with Chorus, Orchestra, Senior Band, Black Band and Gold Band, June 15, 2pm.

IC Public Library

123 Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200

"Coming Together for Peace in the Middle East: An Evening of Chamber Music, Discussion, and Reflection," June 12, 7pm, Room A.

Martini's

127 E. College St., Iowa City, 358-2833

Shows at 9:30pm

Brother Trucker, June 29.

The Marketplace

511 P St., South Amana, 622-3750

All 7:30-11:30pm

BillyLee Janey, May 31 • Dave Olson, June 1 • Radoslav Lorkovic, June 6 • Ben Schmidt, June 7 • Scott and Michelle Dalziel, June 8 • Carl Hudson, June 14 • Greg Clyma, June 15 • Merrill J. Miller, June 21 • Mike and Amy Finders, June 22 • Steve Price, June 28 • Mad River Band, June 29.

The Mill

120 E. Burlington St., Iowa City, 351-9529

Friends of Old Time Music acoustic jam session Tuesdays, 9pm; Open Mic, Mondays, 8pm; all shows 9pm unless otherwise noted

Dave Zollo & the Body Electric, May 31, 9pm • New Venue Big Band, June 1, 9pm • The Trollies, June 6, 9pm • Bob & Kristie Black, June 7, 6-8pm • Mike & Amy Finders Band, June 7, 9pm • Dennis McMurrin & the Demolition Band, June 8, 9pm • Pieta Brown with Bo Ramsey CD-

release party, June 9, 7pm • Soul Sauce, June 13, 9pm • The Dave Olson One-Timers, June 14, 9pm • Catfish Keith, June 15, 9pm • Greg Brown, June 16, 7pm • Chris Smit Band, June 20, 9pm • Larry Myer, June 21, 9pm • Brother Trucker, June 22, 9pm • Bob & Kristie Black, June 28, 6-8pm • Kelly Pardekooper Band CD-release party, June 28, 9pm.

Northside Books

203 N. Linn St., Iowa City, 466-9330

Sunday Live!, all 2-3pm

Howard Weinberg, local singer/songwriter, June 2 • Dan Rohde, fingerstyle acoustic guitar instrumentals, from Muscatine, June 9 • Bill Peterson & Michael Reardon, blues, June 16 • Jeffrey Morgan and Mark Chorpene, guitar, piano & harmonies on new and old classics, June 23.

Paramount Theatre

123 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888

(unless noted otherwise)

Natalie Merchant, June 3, 8pm.

Red Avocado

521 East Washington St., Iowa City, 351-6088

6:30-9:00pm

Reality Trio, jazz, Wednesdays • Mad River Duo, clarinet and guitar, June 13 & 27.

Sal's Music Emporium

624 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City, 338-7462

6pm

David Rogers and Grace Sinclair, from Mr. Blandings Dreamhouse, June 1 • Jack Norton and Ben Weaver, June 7 • Wax Cannon CD-release party, June 22.

Sanctuary

405 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 351-5692

Jazztet, June 1 • Dave Zollo, June 7 • Tom Jessen, June 8 • John Cord Trio, June 14 • Tornados, June 15 • Robert "One-Man" Johnson, June 21-22 • Sam Knutson, June 28.

Senior Center

28 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5220 (unless noted otherwise)

Silver Swing Band and New Horizons Band Concert, June 1, 6pm, Ped Mall • "Creatures and Classics," Carol Horton, mezzo-soprano; Richard Johnston, piano; Loren Horton, narrator; songs about animals, classical art songs and a song composed by Jon Spong especially for this program, June 5, 2-3pm, Assembly Room • New Horizons Band and Iowa City Community Band, June 22, 2pm, Ped Mall.

Theatre Cedar Rapids

102 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-8591

The Bartered Bride, Bedrich Smetana's opera presented by the Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre, June 7, 8pm; June 9, 2pm.

Third Street Live!

1204 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 365-6141

Days of the New, May 31 • SupaFuzz, Destrophy, June 14.

UI Museum of Art

150 North Riverside Dr., Iowa City, 335-1727

KSUI "Know the Score" program, Joan Kjaer, host, June 7, 5pm • "Artistic Celebration for the 21st Century," Red Cedar Chamber Music's piece for flute and guitar by seven composers who each used a piece of art as inspiration; IC Jazz Festival organizers Steve Grismore and Brent Sandy talk about what festival-goers are in for this year (with CD samples of artists' work; live jazz by the Oddbar Trio, June 7 • Standard AIR (Anton Hatwich, bass; Ira Rapson, trombone; Robert Paredes, clarinet), June 14, 7:30pm.

Uptown Bill's small Mall

401 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 339-0401

Half Fast, Celtic music, Mudriver Co-op Benefit, May 30, 7-9pm • Mary Talcott, poetess and guitarist, June 7, 7-9pm • David R. Miller Benefit Concert, proceeds go to Extend the Dream Foundation, non-profit sponsor of Uptown Bill's small Mall, June 15, 7-10pm • John Watkins, singer/songwriter, June 16, 1-3pm • Nic Arp, singer/songwriter, June 20, 7-9pm • The Finders, local folk, June 23, 2-4pm • The Trollies, June 26, 7-9pm.

FESTIVALS/SERIES

Friday Night Concert Series

6:30-9:30pm, Weather Dance Fountain Stage,

CHRIS OFFUTT NO HEROES

A MEMOIR OF COMING HOME



states, the Offutt of this memoir is no hero. He has many flaws, which he tries to understand but never excuses.

Offutt has made it clear that he now wants Iowa to be his home and that he loves it here in the Hawkeye state. His name is even etched in the Iowa Avenue writers walk of fame. His reading is certain to be one of the literary highlights of the summer. 15 S. Dubuque Street, Iowa City, 337-2681.

Steve Horowitz

Chris Offutt

Prairie Lights • Friday, June 14, 8pm

What does an Appalachian hillbilly have in common with Holocaust survivors? More than one might initially think, as Chris Offutt learns. When Offutt comes home to the Kentucky hills to teach at his alma mater, Morehead State University, he expects to be somewhat of a local hero. He came from a land of rural poverty and managed to grow above his raisin'. What he discovered was something different, something his Polish-Jewish parents-in-law had learned many years ago after surviving the Shoah: You can't go home again.

In his new memoir, *No Heroes: A Memoir of Coming Home*, Offutt intertwines his story with that of his in-laws to offer a meditation on the idea of home and its opposite, the concept of alienation. His experiences reveal what his father-in-law tells him: "Home is a feeling, nothing more. Home is illusory, like love, then it disappears. Once you leave, you become a stranger." Offutt's romantic notions about serving as a local hero dissolve into disappointment, then redemption, as he realizes why he left and why he cannot be happy moving back to bluegrass country.

While the chutzpah of comparing one's own American life with people who lived through Hitler's death camps initially seems embarrassing, Offutt manages to pull it off by sticking to the facts. He doesn't claim to be ennobled by his suffering or consider his experiences in any way equal to those of his in-laws. What he claims is love, for his in-laws, his wife, his children, and for the people with whom he grew up. This empathy for others allows him to honestly examine his feelings, even when he comes off badly. As the title

Downtown Iowa City

City High & West High Schools, May 31 • Amy & Mike Finders, June 14 • BF Burt & the Instigators, June 21 • Too Much Yang, June 28.

Iowa Arts Festival

June 6-9, Downtown Iowa City

Main Stage (additional music on Family Stage and in Blackhawk Mini Park)

Friday, June 7

Iris DeMent, 7pm • Greg Brown, 8:30pm.

Saturday, June 8

Mike and Amy Finders Band, 11am-12pm • Mad River Band, 12-1pm • City High Orchestra, 1:30-2:30pm • Big Wooden Radio, 2:30-3:30pm • Too Much Yang, 3:30-4:30pm • Andrew Bird, 7:00-8:30pm • Steve Riley and The Mamou Playboys, 8:30pm.

Sunday, June 9

The Iowa Arts Festival Orchestra, 1-2pm • Stuart Davis Band, 2:30-3:30pm.

Morman Trek Heritage Festival

June 9, Hawkeye Intramural Fields, Iowa City, 466-1802

Bob & Kristie Black, The Drollingers, The Murphys, The Nauvoo missionary "Pitt's Brass Band," 4-7pm.

Music in the Park

6:30-8pm, Morrison Park, Coralville

New Horizons Community Band, May 30 • John Hermann, June 6 • The Billion Dollar Blues Band, June 13 • Mad River Band, June 20 • B.F. Burt and the Instigators, June 27.

North Liberty Fun Days

June 7-9, North Liberty

Dogs on Skis, June 7, 9pm • Black Diamond, June 8, 9pm.

"Just Jazz" Concert Series

6:30-9:30pm, Weather Dance Fountain Stage, Downtown Iowa City

Saul Lubaroff, June 15 • James Kennedy, June 22 • Majimba Band, June 29.

Uptown Friday Nights

5-8pm, Greene Square Park, Downtown Cedar Rapids

Mackie Blue, May 31 • Bohemian Soul Tribe, June 7 • Flat Cat, June 14 • Large Midgets, June 21 • The Swing Crew, June 28.

West Branch Concert Series

7-8:30pm, Downtown Gazebo, West Branch

West Branch High School Jazz Band, May 31 • Daugherty McPartland Group, June 7 • Iowa City Community Band, June 14 • Big Wooden Radio, June 21 • Dale Thomas Band, June 28.

DANCE

Paramount Theatre

123 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888 (unless noted otherwise)

Studio Dance Recital, May 30-31, 7pm • Dance of Iowa Recital, June 1-2 • Janet Long Dancers Recital, June 8, 7pm.

THEATER/ PERFORMANCE

Brucemore

2160 Linden Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-7375

1776, musical by Sherman Edwards, June 27-July 3, 8pm.

Campbell Steele Gallery

1064 Seventh Ave., Marion, 373-9211

Liars Holographic Radio Theatre, music and original skits, June 21-22, 8pm; June 23, 7pm.

Old Creamery Theatre

39 38th Ave., Amana, 800-352-6262 (unless noted otherwise)

The Cemetery Club, comedy by Ivan Menchell about three widows who gather for tea once a month before visiting their husbands' graves, through June 23, Wed., Fri., Sat. 8pm; Thurs., Sat., Sun. 3pm • *The Elephant Man*, by Bernard Pomerance, May 30-June 23, Thurs. 3pm & 8pm; Fri., Sat. 8pm; Sun. 3pm, Depot Theatre, one-block south of Millstream Brewery, Amana • *Once Upon a Mattress*, musical retelling of *The Princess and the Pea*, June 28-Aug. 11, Wed., Fri., Sat. 8pm; Thurs., Sat., Sun. 3pm.

Riverside Theatre Shakespeare Festival
Riverside Festival Stage, lower City Park, Iowa City, 338-7672

Improvisation-based "Green Show" one hour before each

performance, "Warm Up to Will," a 20-minute discussion with the director or dramaturg one-and-a-half hours before the Saturday and Sunday performances

The Comedy of Errors, June 6-8, 19, 21, 27, 29, July 3, 8pm; June 9 & 23, 6pm • *Romeo & Juliet*, June 14-15, 20, 22, 26, 28, July 5-6, 8pm; June 16, 30, July 7, 6pm.

Senior Center

28 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5220

SSRO Sees STARS!, Senior Standing Room Only Theater Troupe's Fourth of July performance honoring our US stars-historical figures who contributed to this country, June 28, 1:30-3pm.

Theatre Cedar Rapids

102 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-8591

Shows 7:30pm Thurs., 8pm Fri. & Sat. and 2:30pm Sun. *The Complete History of America (abridged)*, three performers reenact 500 years of American history in 90 minutes, through June 2 • *The Bartered Bride*, Bedrich Smetana's opera presented by the Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre, June 7, 8pm; June 9, 2pm.

UI Theatre

Theatre Bldg., UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1160

Blues for an Alabama Sky, by Pearl Cleage, Iowa Summer Rep 2002, June 26-29, 8pm; June 30, 2pm & 8pm, David Thayer Theatre.

AUDITIONS, CALLS, ETC.

Art wanted for website, Lucidity Lab is dedicated to promoting the creations of Midwestern artists, free service is open to all, but not all that submit work will be included, send five images no larger than 150 pixels tall at 72 dpi to info@luciditylab.com, visit the gallery at www.luciditylab.com/lucid.html.

Riverside Theatre seeks volunteers for Shakespeare Festival June 6-July 7, see Shakespeare for free, call box office for details, 338-7672

Theatre Cedar Rapids

102 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-8591

Auditions for *Anything Goes*, May 31, 7pm, and June 1, 10am, Johnson School for the Arts, 355 18th St. SE, Cedar

Rapids, call-backs 3pm June 1, performances July 12-28.

WORDS

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

410 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-7503

Gallery talk with Iowa artists Bradd Brown, Fred Easker, Thomas Jackson and Priscilla Steele, part of Art Sandwiched In, June 19, 12-1pm • Area artists Jane Gilmore and BJ Krivanek talk about art project designed for Wilson-Sinclair/Farmstead Meatpacking Plant, part of Thursdays on Third, June 20, 5:30-6:30pm • Kim Dryer, glass bead demonstration, June 29.

IC Public Library

123 Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200

United in Pride panel discussion, Iowa City Pride Committee, June 3, 7pm, Meeting Room A • "Yards for Kids: Reducing Pesticide Usage," Environmental Advocates program, June 5, 7pm, Meeting Room A • DCA Cultural Workers as Entrepreneurs, June 5, 4pm, ICN Meeting Room D • "Coming Together for Peace in the Middle East: An Evening of Chamber Music, Discussion, and Reflection," June 12, 7pm, Room A.

Prairie Lights

15 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City (unless otherwise noted), 337-2681

All 8pm (unless otherwise noted)

Ron Carlson reads from *At the Jim Bridger*, his latest book of stories, June 10 • Poet Anne-Marie Cusac reads from her new collection of poems, *Mean Days*, June 11 • Iowa City novelist Thisbe Nissen, with co-author Erin Ergenbright, reads from their novel, *The Ex-Boyfriend's Club*, June 13 • Chris Offutt, reads from *No Heroes: A Memoir of Coming Home*, June 14 • Peggy Vincent reads from *Baby Catcher*, June 17 • Richard Russo reads from his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *Empire Falls*; Julia Glass reads from her first novel, *Three Junes*, June 18, Shambaugh Auditorium • Sands Hall reads from her novel, *Catching Heaven*, June 20 • Timothy Schaffert reads from his novel, *The Phantom Limbs of the Rollow Sisters*, June 21 • Poet Bruce Bond, director of creative writing at North Texas University, reads from his fourth collection, *The Throats of Narcissus*, June 24 • Virgil Suarez, Ryan Van Cleave, Robert Dana and Bruce Bond read from *Like Thunder: Poets Respond to Violence in America*, June 27.

Ruby's Pearl

13 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 248-0032

Erotic Poetry Night, bring your juicy words and celebrate the erotic, benefit for Ruby's Pearl, June 28, 7:30pm, call with questions.

Senior Center

28 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5220

Open to the general public unless noted otherwise
"A Thumbnail Sketch of Hobo History," with Alvin Schroeder, May 31, 10-11am • Dr. Judith Conlin, director, Iowa Department of Elder Affairs, discusses the mission of the IDEA, its organization, its accomplishments, recent issues and what is planned for the future, June 3, 2:30-4pm, Assembly Room • Computer Conversation, June 5, 7, 12, 12-1pm • Genealogy Conversation, June 7, 12:30-2pm

• "The Changing Faces of Iowa: Ethnicity," talk by Loren Horton on immigrants to Iowa, June 10, 2-3:30pm • "Assisted Living Programs in Iowa," information on assisted living in Iowa, especially for low income and very low income elders and disabled individuals, speakers Steve Young, director, Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals; Carla Berg Pope, coordinator of Affordable Assisted Living, Iowa Department of Elder Affairs; June 10, 2:30-4pm, Assembly Room • "Iowa Nursing Homes: The Resident Advocate Program," speaker Debi Meyers, long-term care ombudsman, Department of Elder Affairs, June 17, 2:30-4pm, Assembly Room • "Three Short Comedies," Yates Literary Reading Series, readers John Raffensperger and Janie Yates, *Noah and the Bureaucrat* by Mark Twain, *The MacBeth Murder Mystery* by James Thurber and *A Sunny Morning* by Serafin and Joaquin Quintero, June 21, 2-3pm • "Caring for Your Back with Gardening and Lawn Work," presenter Michael Lanaghan, physical therapist, June 26, 1-2pm.

UI Museum of Art

150 North Riverside Dr., Iowa City, 335-1727

IC ceramist Gerry Eskin talks about his work; Horace Porter on Ralph Ellison's *Juneteenth*, June 7.

MEETINGS

Affirmationist Toastmasters, Mondays, 6-7pm

All welcome, Gilmore Hall, Room #4, UI campus, 353-0765.

City of Iowa City

Civic Center, 410 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 356-5000

Special Council Work Session, June 10, 6:30pm, Harvat Hall • Special Council Formal, June 11, 7pm, Harvat Hall.

IC Public Library

123 Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200

Iowa Civil Liberties Union committee meeting, June 1, 10am, Meeting Room B • Iowa City Genealogical Society Board Meeting, June 3, 7pm, Meeting Room B • Department of Human Services Meeting, June 4, 11am, ICN Meeting Room D.

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Senior Center

28 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5220

Open to Johnson County Seniors, registration required
Ochs Painting, Wednesdays, June 5-July 24, Section 1, 9:30am-12pm; Section 2, 12:30-3pm • Gentle Yoga, Wednesdays, June 5-July 31, 10-11:15am. • Tai Chi, Wednesdays, June 5-Aug. 21, 3:30-4:30pm • Writing Your Biography or Personal Memoirs, June 12, 10-11:30am • *The Way We live Now* by Anthony Trollope, literature class, Wednesdays, June 12-Aug. 14, 3-4:30pm, no class July 10 & 17 • Popular Genealogy Internet Sites, June 19, 9:30-11am • 55 ALIVE Mature Driving Program, if interested contact program specialist Julie Seal at 356-5222 or julie-seal@iowa-city.org, if enough are interested, the class will be offered later this summer or early fall.

Theatre Cedar Rapids

102 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-8591

Youtheatre Summer Performing Arts Camp, four camps where students, ages 7-13, spend three hours each morning or afternoon immersed in theater-based activities, culminating in a performance at the end of the three-week session, June 10-28; Session 1: 9am-12pm (ages 7-10), "Aesop's Hop," Aesop's fables with a twist; Session 2: 1-4pm (ages 10-13), "The Hobbit Musical," JRR Tolkien to music; register by calling the TCR office at 366-8592.

MISC

Brucemore

2160 Linden Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-7375

Garden Walks, Wednesdays 4:30-6:30pm, Saturdays 10am-12pm, through June • Children's High Tea, Mondays 1-3pm, through June.

Summer Day Camp

Robert A. Lee Community Recreation Center and City Park, Iowa City

Children having completed grades K-6 may participate in one or more of four, two-week sessions; swimming, field trips, arts and crafts, sports and games, theme days, movies, special visitors and more; June 17-28, July 1-12 (no camp July 4), July 15-26, July 29-Aug. 9; call the IC Recreation Division at 356-5100 for info on how to obtain a registration packet, space is limited.

Farmers Market

Chauncey Swan Parking Ramp, corner of Washington and Gilbert streets, Iowa City

Fresh, locally grown produce, baked goods, plants and handicrafts, Wednesdays 5:30-7:30pm and Saturdays 7:30-11:30am, through the end of October.

Ruby's Pearl

13 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 248-0032

Stitch 'n' Bitch, bring your sewing, knitting or whatever and bitch or gab, every Wednesday, 6-7pm.

Senior Center

28 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5220

Senior Center Cyclists: June 3, meet at parking lot of St. Mary's Church in Solon, 9:30am for 10-mile ride; June 10, meet at Napoleon Park on Sand Road, 9am, for 12-28-mile ride; June 17, meet at the North Liberty Rec Center, 9am, for a 10-mile ride; June 24, meet at Senior Center, 9am, for a two-mile ride; call Tom Conway, 338-4880 for more information; rides cancelled in case of rain • Nature Walks: Mondays, 12:45pm; June 3, Kent Park; June 10, Woodpecker Trail; June 17, Veterans Trail and Cottonwood; June 24, Sherwood Forest • Senior Bowling, June 4 & 18, 2-4pm, Colonial Lanes, 2253 Old Hwy. 218 S. • Senior Hiking: Wednesdays, June 5, 12, 19, 26, 8am, Lower City Park parking lot, for more info call Jill at 354-9569.

Uptown Bill's small Mall

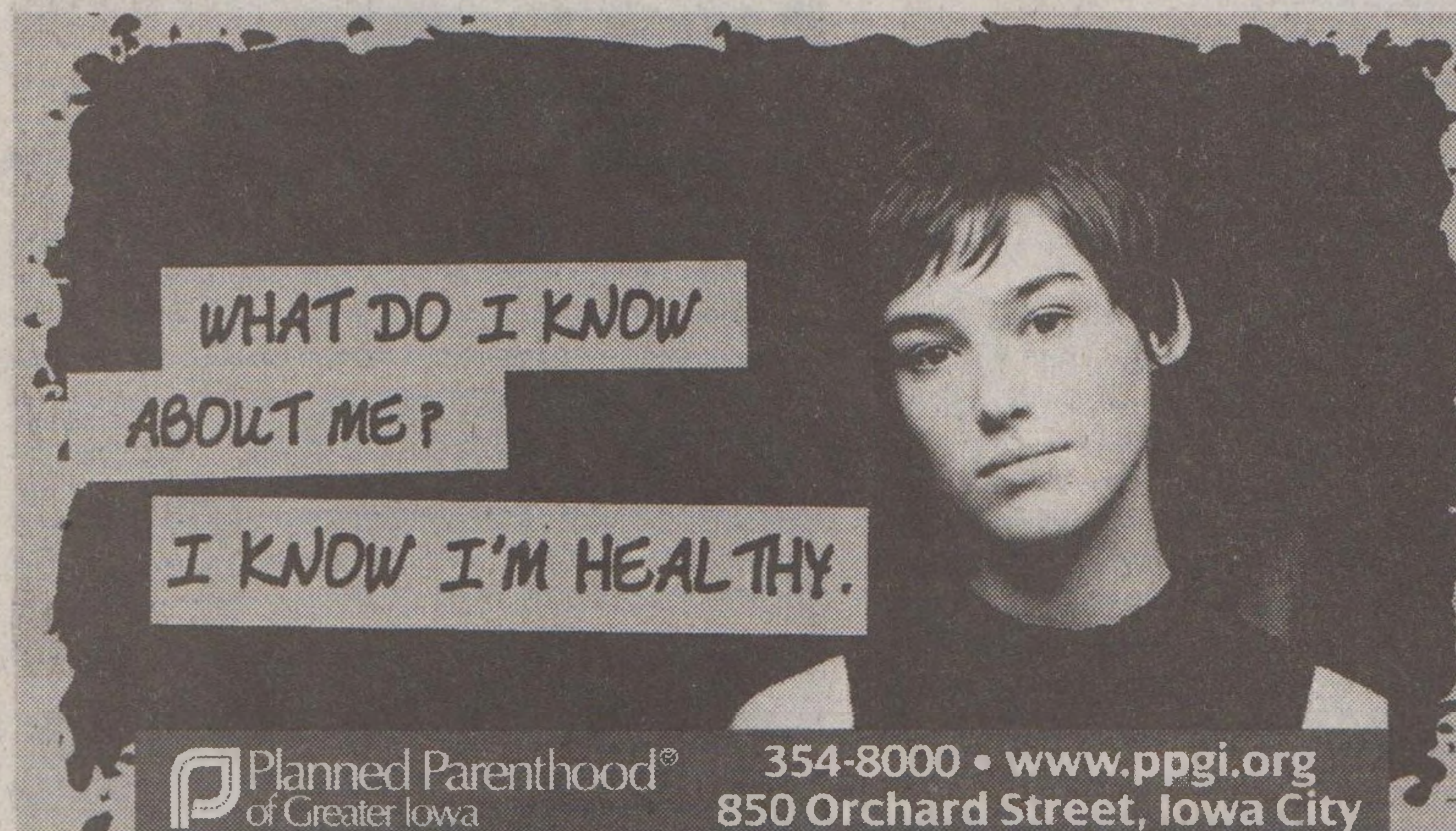
401 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 339-0401

Bill's BookMart Book Sale, June 29-30, 8am-8pm.

US Cellular Center

370 First Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888

2002 Republican Party of Iowa Convention, June 21-22, more information at iowagop.org.



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ABOUT ME?

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EVENTS/ FESTIVALS

Adoptathon 2002

June 7, Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center, 111 Kirkwood, Ave., Iowa City, 356-5295

Event to encourage the adoption of homeless dogs, cats, puppies and kitties; includes displays by local vendors, veterinarians, pet stores, pet sitters, groomers and trainers; flea market offering new and used animal products; demonstrations of fly ball, agility and obedience; food and kid activities; Friday, June 7, 10:30am-8pm; Saturday, June 8, 10am-5pm.

Brucemore

2160 Linden Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-7375
Celebration, live music, classic car show, garden tours, June 16, 4-9pm • Balloon Glow, June 28, 7:30-10:30pm.

Cedar Rapids BBQ Roundup

June 27-30, 11am-12am, Downtown Cedar Rapids (across from US Cellular Center)
Live music and BBQ.

Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival

June 27-July 7, various locations, Cedar Rapids
freedomfestival.com for details.

Cedar Rapids Pride Festival

June 8, 10am-6pm, Greene Square Park, Cedar Rapids
Entertainment, food, activities

City of Coralville, 351-7999

Kids Fishing Derby, June 8, 9-11pm (registration 8:30-9am), ST Morrison Pond • Kick-off Carnival, open house and carnival to debut plans for the new Coralville Outdoor Family Aquatic Facility, June 8, 1-4pm, ST Morrison Outdoor Pool • Coralville Boat Regatta, June 26, 6:30pm, ST Morrison Pond, register boat by June 24 • Coralville 4th Fest 5K Run, June 29, 6:30-7:30 registration at Coralville Rec Center, followed by a Kids Firecracker Mini-Marathon at 9am, call 345-3006 for info.

Iowa Arts Festival

June 6-9, Downtown Iowa City

Art Fair with 100 regional artists, two stages of music and entertainment, ethnic food, learn about five countries in the Global Village; ICARE Pancake Breakfast, June 9, City Plaza; Children's Day, hands-on art activities and events, June 9, 12-5pm, Ped Mall.

Morman Trek Heritage Festival

June 9, 4-7pm, Hawkeye Intramural Fields, Iowa City, 466-1802

Music, Ocean Waves Square Dance Club, barbecue dinner, pioneer games, replica wooden handcars will be provided for people to pull across a patch of Iowa prairie at the Handcart Park.

North Liberty Fun Days

June 7-9, North Liberty

Parade (Friday, June 7, 7pm), music, car show, pancake breakfast (Saturday, June 8, 7-11am, Methodist Church) truck and tractor pull (Sunday, June 9, 11am), fireworks (June 9, dusk).

Iowa City Gay & Lesbian Pride Festival
June 15, 12-4pm, College Green Park, Iowa City
Parade, activities, entertainment.

Ruby's Pearl

13 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 248-0032

March with Ruby's Pearl at Pride Festival on June 15, wear a costume as your ultimate expression of super-shero feminism, positive sex or queerness, call for details.

Sidewalk Sales

June 20-22, Downtown Iowa City

glenn tilbrook
(continued from page 14)

he pleasantly continued taking requests of old Squeeze material (including the aforementioned hits and others) and even did a version of Elvis Costello's "From a Whisper to a Scream," which he and Costello had sung on Costello's *Trust* album. Tilbrook sang a few more tunes from his new CD, including the strange but true story song, "Interviewing Randy Newman," which concerns a disaster of a radio interview Tilbrook did with the Oscar-winning songwriter, and the heartfelt ditty Tilbrook co-wrote with Ron Sexsmith, "You See Me." Tilbrook did a quick encore, but left the crowd both hungry for more and satisfied that they had seen the troubador perform enthusiastically well.

Steve Horowitz

wilco
(continued from page 15)

devoted fan base is not part of the model. Instead, the model is about gross numbers of units sold. Period. Now, Wilco's story ends happily. They put the dismissed album on their web site and it has since been picked up by Nonesuch. Critics are giving the album rave reviews. But most artists who don't toe the musical line in today's hyper-commercialized media ecosystem find themselves unceremoniously dropped from major labels, with few or no places to turn. And the few adventurous artists who do remain find it harder and harder to get airplay.

As Chuck D, the renowned hip-hop artist, said in my documentary, "The songs you hear on the radio are there because they are paid for—big business does business with big business." As Fats Domino once sang, ain't that a shame. *

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ZOLLO**

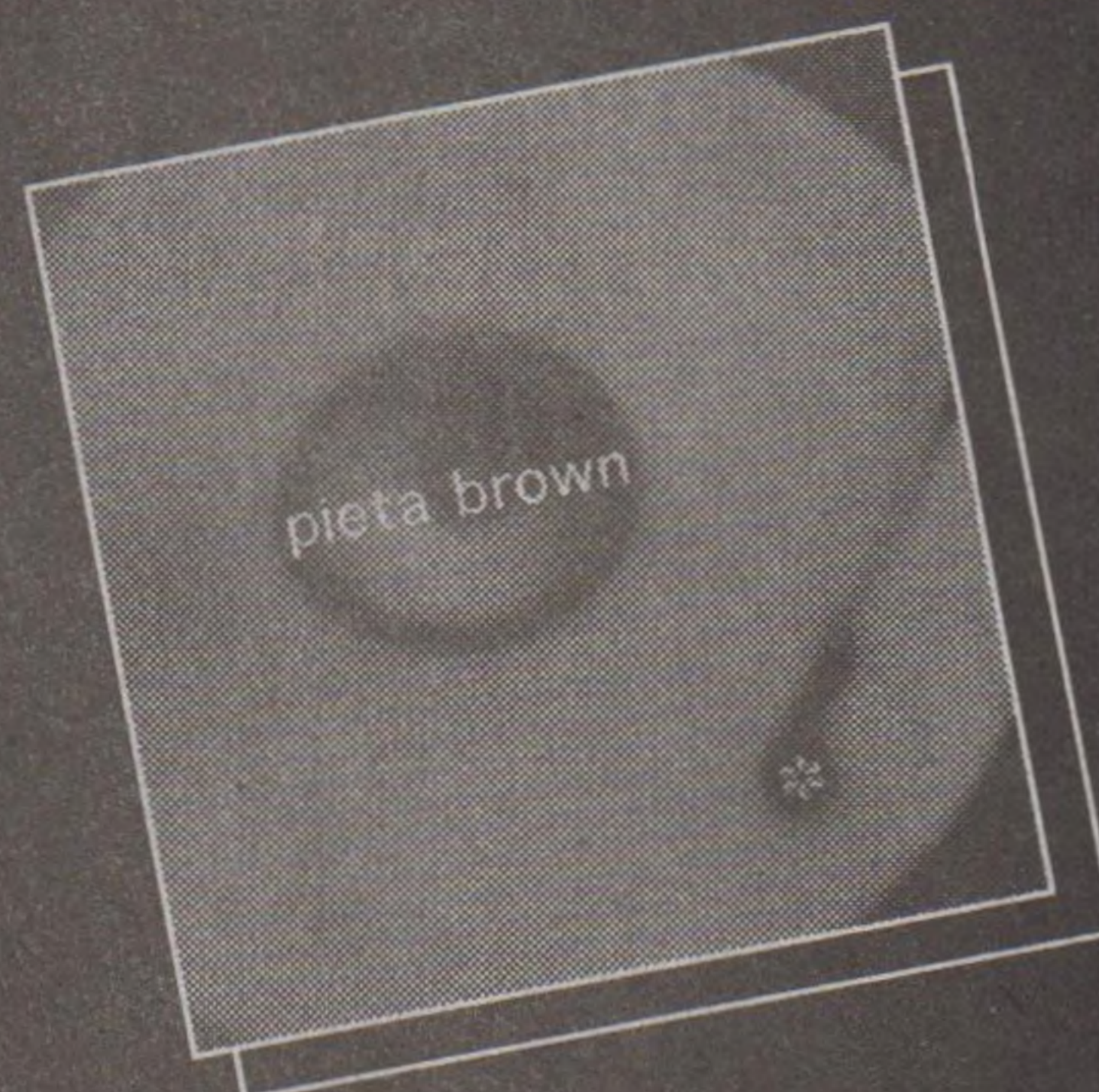
The
Big Night

In Stores April 16

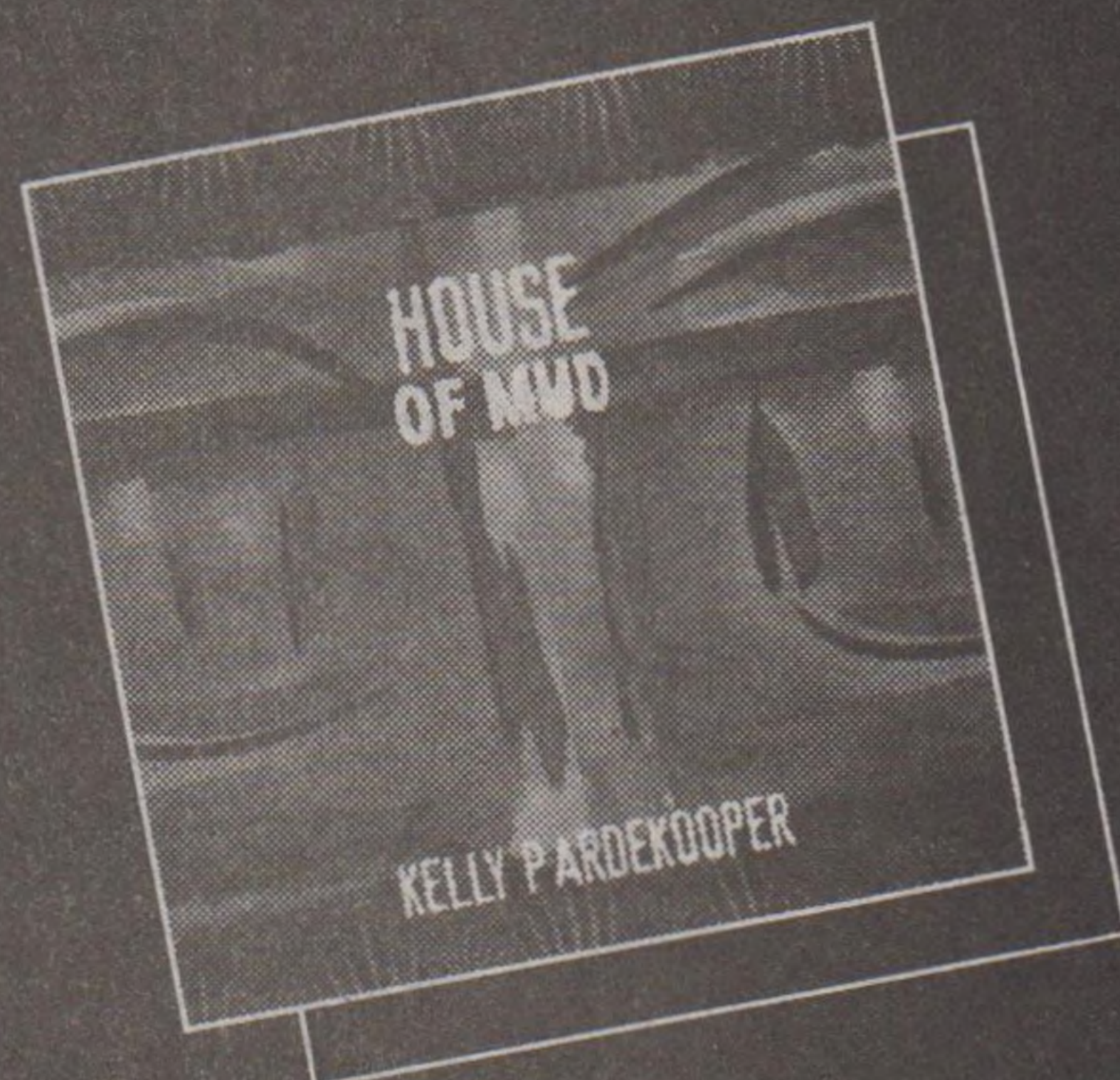
ALSO OUT NOW

Brother Trucker "Regulars"
Jennifer Danielson "Fallin' in"

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Pieta Brown



Kelly Pardekooper
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Fri Jun 7

Dave Zollo

Sat Jun 8

Tom Jessen

Fri Jun 14

Club Jazz NO Cover

John Cord Trio

Sat Jun 15 da bluz

Tornadoes

Fri & Sat Jun 21-22

the world blues of

Robert

'one man'

Johnson

Sat Jun 28

Sam Knutson

over 100 Beers

30 Wines

DRINK BETTER

Dinner til MIDNIGHT

(11pm Mon & Tues)



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stars over iowa city

FORECAST FOR JUNE 2002 • BY DR. STAR • Write Dr. Star at doctorwinkler@home.com



GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Gemini is in for some major changes. A great deal about you and around you will soon start getting better. Events will move you a big step closer to what you want to be and what you want to do. Things could be confusing, but don't worry about a misstep. Don't worry about going in the wrong direction. There will be a cosmic gyroscope at work keeping you on course. Much that once limited you will now start working for you, too, including all of your occasionally over-the-top associates.



CANCER (June 21-July 22) The last 12 months taught you to disregard bad advice, resist coercion, avoid pointless confrontations, ignore deliberate insults, overlook intentional provocations, rise above double-dealing superiors, listen patiently to astonishingly stupid opinions, remain confident despite withering and unfair criticism, side-step responsibilities that weren't yours, avoid being entangled in other people's self-imposed problems, and remain calm while everyone else stressed out. It was a tough year, but your new emotional skills are priceless. Their value will become apparent as you pursue the opportunities that emerge in June.



LEO (July 23-Aug 22) In the last year or so, you have had too many options and too many obligations. There wasn't enough money and there wasn't enough of you to go around. Worse, you couldn't eliminate any of the options, even the bad ones, and you couldn't eliminate any obligations, even the burdensome ones. In June, many of the options will remove themselves, including the bad ones. Many of the obligations will remove themselves, too, including the burdensome ones. Only the most realistic and promising will remain by the time June ends.



VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 22) While you are clearly the victor, many unpleasant and worrisome reminders of past struggles and past limitations remain. Old enemies aren't completely defeated. They still have the power to annoy you—mightily. June should see the beginning of the end of that, too. The power of old enemies will wane. Old limitations will fall away fast. It will become increasingly clear which path you must take and that path will become increasingly clear of obstructions. You will be reassured at how quickly new work and financial opportunities develop.



LIBRA (Sept 23-Oct 22) You have been tantalized and sorely tempted by possibilities for travel, creative activity and for mind-expanding, spiritually nourishing studies. Good things have happened in these areas and they continue to happen. However, pursuit of the really serious opportunities was always blocked by tight finances. It has also been hard to reconcile everyday needs and obligations with the more expansive opportunities. Things just wouldn't mesh. June will clear many obstacles to involvement in these more expansive and alluring projects. Money does remain scarce, but your financial outlook is definitely improving.

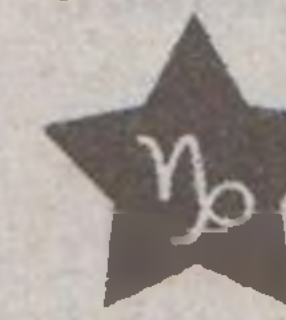


SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21) Scorpios will get one more reminder of how uncertain their financial situation is and just how complicated and precarious their family relations are—as if they really needed one more reminder. However, these reminders will not start another round of crises. Instead, they will usher in a time of greater simplicity, security and stability in both financial and family matters. The decisions you must make will become obvious and the road

ahead will become clear. Events will work with you rather than against you in resolving the many outstanding issues.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21) Just how much Sagittarians need a change in their important partnerships and associations will become obvious once more this month. However, this is only a reminder to stiffen your resolve. You already know you can't go backwards. You might not know that you have to start going forward right now. Things are going to move faster than you had expected. Obstacles, including financial complexities, will melt away. You'll need all your emotional resources to deal with rapidly developing opportunities. The planets don't want you hampered by regrets or second thoughts.



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19) Capricorns are in for a roller coaster ride in June—a roller coaster ride into their future. If you have hopes of clinging to the past, forget them. If you have fears or doubts about the future, forget about them, too. Staying on course in June won't be hard, though. Just stay on your feet and keep moving. Circumstances, events, opportunities, coincidences, the decisions of other people, as well as inspiration, strong hunches and irresistible impulses from your own subconscious, will keep you moving quickly in the right direction.



AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18) Aquarians have been struggling to absorb a continuous, overwhelming flow of inspiration and drive, to balance personal needs with the needs of others, to chip away at the many obstacles that, nowadays, seem to slow every effort you make. June will bring a fresh reminder of why you have been working so hard and the obstacles you've had to overcome, but this reminder will not mark the return of hard times. Prepare yourself to help shape and direct the many rapid and positive changes that are about to start taking place.



PISCES (Feb 19-March 20) You might, just briefly, think you are in for a replay of all the turmoil you have survived in the last year. You might also think, briefly, that all the personal demons you just conquered have regrouped for another major attack. However, you can relax. This is just nature's way of reminding you why you do not want to move backwards and how lucky you are to be where you are now. Soon, also, the road ahead will open up more and forward movement will become easier, steadier and faster.



ARIES (March 21-April 19) Personal decisions will have little place in June. You will have no choice but to pursue your dream of a better and more fulfilling life. You will be given the inspiration, the drive and the opportunity to do what you dearly want and need to do. If you can't get off the dime or you make a wrong turn, circumstances will conspire to point you in the right direction and get you moving. You might be starting from scratch, but the foundations you can start building now will be solid.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Taurus is facing a rare and unique situation. You have established a good foundation for your financial future. It is time for the next stage. What you need to do, what you want to do, what circumstance will make you do and what opportunity will allow you to do will converge. All will propel you in the same direction. You might feel at a disadvantage right now, but a powerful combination of forces will eventually bring you greater stability, security and more freedom than you think possible given your starting point.

Strange but True!

News Quirks

Compiled by Roland Sweet

Curses, Foiled Again

Susan Aeschliman-Hill, 59, of Kent, Wash., admitted using a department store mannequin dressed in women's clothing so she could drive illegally in the car pool lane on Interstate 405, which requires cars to have at least one passenger. Her ruse was uncovered after the woman caused an accident involving two tour buses and five other cars.

Honest Mistakes

Sheriff's deputies in Arapahoe County, Colo., placed a 16-year-old girl awaiting a court appearance in a jail cell with a 34-year-old man charged with sexual assault. Undersheriff Grayson Robinson called the incident an "unfortunate error," explaining that the deputies thought the cell was empty because suspect Gerald DeWayne Lewis had crawled under a bed. The girl accused Lewis of fondling her before jail officials noticed the mistake.

Gov. Lincoln Almond of Rhode Island issued a proclamation declaring April "Confederate History and Heritage Month." A spokesperson for the governor explained that the proclamation was "processed in error" in response to a request from a southerner.

A street vendor who answered 16 straight questions on Thailand's version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" and won 1 million baht (\$23,100) was denied the money when producers realized that a computer had shown her the answers, which were intended for display on the host's computer. On a replay—the version that was televised—she answered six questions, winning 25,000 baht (\$577.50).

Irony Illustrated

Susie Stephens, 36, regarded as the world's leading expert on road safety, was attending a conference in St. Louis on how to cut road deaths when she left her hotel to get some photocopies, dashed across a street and was killed when a tour bus struck her.

Hot Heads

When a fire broke out at the 31st Girls Middle School in Mecca, the 800 pupils inside found their escape hindered because the school was locked to keep males from entering the all-girl school. In addition, 15 of the girls died in the smoke-filled building when Saudi Arabia's religious police—the Committee for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice—blocked rescue attempts by male firefighters and paramedics because the girls were not wearing the long robes (abayas) and head coverings required in public. One witness told the newspaper *al-Eqtisadiyah* that he saw three of the religious police "beating young girls to prevent them from leaving the school because they were not wearing the abaya."

Men Behaving Sadly

Scientists have identified a new condition called irritable male syndrome. Caused by a lack of testosterone, it leaves men bad-tempered, emotional and depressed, according to Gerald Lincoln of the Medical Research Council's Human Reproductive Sciences Unit in Edinburgh. "It has an amusing side because we realize the frailties of men and how hormones do affect their behavior," he said. "But there is a serious side in that men's behavior can be compromised by their hormone state."

Can't Help Myself

Police in Nagoya, Japan, arrested Masami Matano, 69, for making hundreds of silent phone calls to a 73-year-old woman who spurned his advances. "I couldn't stop," Matano told police. "I was desperately in love."

Gotta Kill Something

Authorities in Gainesville, Fla., said that Donald Ray Bussey Jr., 20, became frustrated after he failed to bag a deer while hunting last fall, so he killed a horse with a bow and arrow and wounded another horse and a dog with a shotgun.

Biological Penalty

Marilyn Churley, a member of the Ontario parliament, called on the Canadian government to eliminate the sales tax on feminine hygiene products. Pointing out that women buying tampons, sanitary pads, menstrual sponges and cups pay \$60 million in taxes each year, Churley declared, "Government has no business taxing women for being women."

Land of the Setting Sun

Japanese electronics maker Matsushita Industrial Co. showed reporters a test model of a cordless vacuuming robot that it hopes to put on the market in two or three years for \$4,000. During the demonstration, the machine crashed into chair legs and failed to clean the corners of the room.

Brand USA

Dismissing criticism surrounding the appointment of advertising executive Charlotte Beers to help bolster America's image abroad, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell declared, "She got me to buy Uncle Ben's rice. So there is nothing wrong with getting somebody who knows how to sell something. We are selling a product. We need someone who can re-brand American foreign policy, re-brand diplomacy."

This Spud's for You

Last year, the city of Pawtucket, R.I., sent its sister city in England, Belper, a 7-foot fiberglass statue of Mr. Potato Head as a goodwill gesture. Pawtucket is the headquarters for Hasbro Inc., the toy's manufacturer. The statue was placed in the center of Belper but was moved when residents complained it was an eyesore that had no place among the town's historic buildings. The giant toy was relocated to a children's playground, then a Wild West theme park. Next, it was moved outside a school in nearby Heanor, where a group of children attacked it, ripping off one of its arms and breaking its hat. After being repaired, Mr. Potato Head was placed in front of a supermarket, where, employee Julie

Arkwright said, "He causes quite a commotion."

Your Move

During an argument between two handicapped men over which one was entitled to a parking space at a hospital in Spring Hill, Fla., police said Lee Damron, 48, unsheathed a sword from his cane and approached Richard Cavalier, 59. Cavalier, who uses a wheelchair, responded to the threat by producing a 9mm handgun. Damron turned and ran through the hospital's sliding doors.

An O. Henry Story in the Making

Hundreds of impoverished Argentines have turned to selling their hair to a wig company to survive the country's economic crisis. The G.A. Peluca factory in Rosario began paying \$11 for 5 ounces of hair after the peso plunged and it could no longer afford to buy synthetic-hair wigs from Russia.

Extracurricular Activity

Police in Rankin County, Miss., said Christopher Williamson, 15, sneaked off from school, robbed a bank and returned in time for lunch. They arrested Williamson in the school cafeteria at Northwest Rankin High after finding a book bag belonging to him filled with money and clothes matching the description of those the robber was wearing.

Compiled by Roland Sweet from the nation's press. Send clippings, citing source and date, to POB 8130, Alexandria VA 22306.

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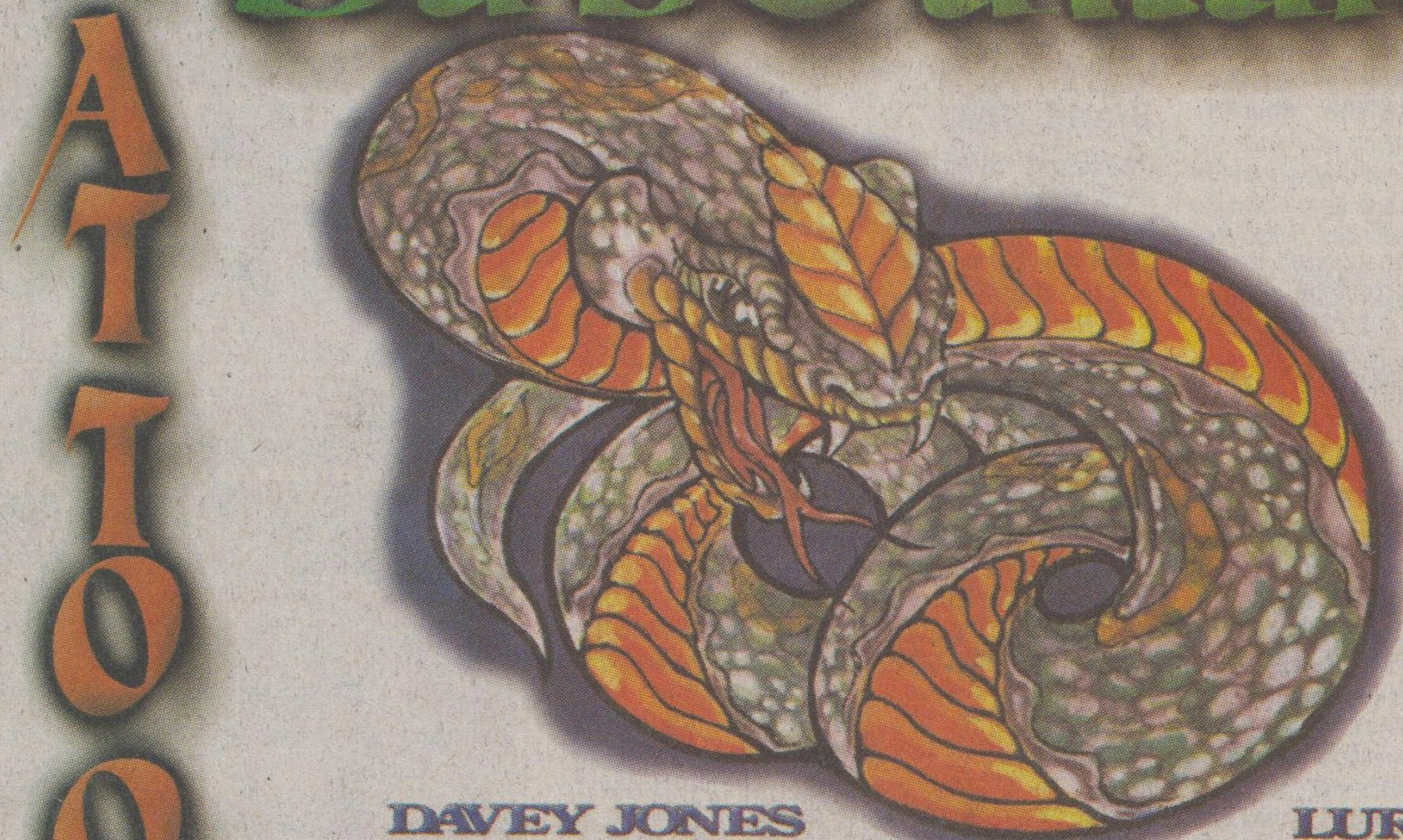
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