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Athens, America

The new book from
Iowa City author Larry Baker

page

8

INSIDE:

Why not Bush?
pg. 4

**Drive By
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Interview**
pg. 12

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pg. 22



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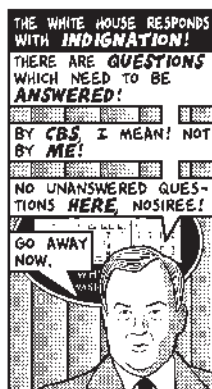
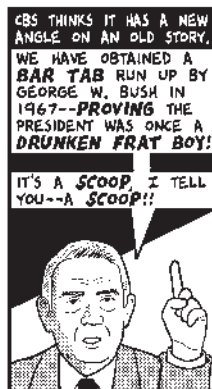
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— Phil Hey, English Professor, Briar Cliff University, talking about the novel *"The Truth"*

fish	4
ur here	5
food	7
cover	8
prairie pop	12
cd reviews	14
calendar	16
a-list	16
news quirks	21
ask ruby	22
astrology	23

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by TOM TOMORROW



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Why not Bush?—The list goes on

**“Oh Mammy dear
We’re all mad over here
Living in America...”** — Black 47

At this stage in the presidential campaign, there is one question above all others that I find most pressing: How on earth can this still be a contest?

The evidence against the continuation of the George Bush presidency has been amply, if often inadequately, reported in all forms of media for the last several

years, and while I don’t have the space here to rehash it all, I can offer a brief and incomplete recitation of conclusions that I can safely say are borne out by the public record.

The \$5.6-trillion federal surplus the president inherited is now a several-trillion-dollar deficit—and growing. The economy has lost over a million jobs, and the jobs being created

now are not sufficient to cover the number of new applicants entering the job market. Real wages are declining. Bush will be the first president since the Depression to preside over a net job loss. Exports and business investment are at historic lows. The balance of trade deficit is at an all time high. Millions more families are in poverty.

There was no connection whatsoever between Saddam Hussein and the events of Sept. 11. Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld charged one of his aides with the task of finding some way to blame Hussein for those events on the morning of Sept. 11, just minutes after the plane hit the Pentagon.

Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction and was not an imminent threat to US security. Over a thousand US service people have died in Iraq. Several

thousand more have been injured. Iraqi casualties are estimated at 10 times that number. The president has no plan to end the conflict. Casualties continue to mount.

Bush’s main education initiative, No Child Left Behind (AKA No Child’s Behind Left) has degenerated into an unfunded mandate. Port and airport security, border patrols and many other elements of Homeland Security not devoted to vague,

president, and by extension, hate America and all for which it stands. At its most extreme, this line of thought is extended to cast the mere raising of an opposing candidate for the presidency—as well as any criticism whatsoever of the incumbent “in time of war”—as a profoundly unpatriotic act.

There are several reasons why this state of affairs is not entirely these people’s fault. The president’s supporters

Some are genuinely frightened. 9/11 is a fresh wound, and all of a sudden everything else seems pretty scary, too.

color-coded charts have also been underfunded. There are fewer police, fire and paramedical personnel on the streets of American cities than there were on Sept. 10, 2001. Combat pay and veteran’s benefits have been cut.

The president’s plans for his purported second term? “Stay the course...” presumably off one of the numerous cliffs represented by the above.

Given space, I could go on...and on and on and on.

For reasons I can’t fathom, none of the above information seems to faze an approximate 50 percent of the electorate in the least. Even when you discount the very rich (which Bush laughingly referred to as “my constituency”), the very religious (who are henceforth referred to Commandments six and nine), the Republican hardcore, and the genuinely mentally ill, you’re left with a shockingly large percentage of Americans prepared to cast a vote next month demonstrably against their best interests and that none of them can explain via rational argument.

Not that any of them try. The main response by the president’s supporters to any attempt at real debate of the Bush record seems to consist of a mixture of denial, slander and the strong suggestion that the bearer of the above bad news move to France if he or she doesn’t like it. Their man, it would seem, is the victim of an insidious cadre of give or take half the American populace who hate the

have nothing on the president and his minions in the denial and slander departments when it comes to dealing with the administration’s record and any criticism thereof, and the media, seemingly content to play along with the contention that there are two sides to every story (even if one of those sides is completely unsupported by the available facts), have given the administration a free and uncritical forum. It’s certainly easier to ape those in power—the winners—than it is to challenge them. And it’s far easier to copy the media’s paper than to gather the facts needed to write your own. Has been since high school.

Some are genuinely frightened. 9/11 is a fresh wound, and all of a sudden everything else seems pretty scary, too. It’s easier to join in with the bully and his crowd when they laugh at the different kid than it is to stand up to them, even at the expense of your lunch money, and in this case that of your children and grandchildren. Has been since high school.

I have few illusions that this column will convert a single Bush voter, or sway a single undecided, to the Kerry column on Nov. 2. But as someone who loves America far too much to trust its presidency to a man of proven incompetence and questionable character, I have no excuse not to try. Neither have any of you. Put this paper down and go kick ass as you have never kicked ass before. The future of your nation depends on it. **lv**



**GO
FISH**

E.C. FISH

The harvest and the wild—a Q & A

A conversation between the harvest and the wild flows through my backyard. We have planted native trees, grasses and wildflowers. Although we aren't literally restoring the prairie, we are doing so psychically, honoring the natural, wild life that once defined our region.



**UR
HERE**
THOMAS
DEAN

In doing so, we are reducing our traditional grass lawn, one of the largest threats to the health of our land. But this "wilding" of our yard requires an awful lot of cultivation. Crabgrass, purslane and creeping Charlie invade our prairie patch mercilessly. In the earliest stages of our planting, such "invasive" opportu-

nists threatened to quash the establishing natives without our careful and persistent weeding. At the same time, even though such plants are not necessarily native to Iowa, wouldn't letting them take their natural course of growth be more in keeping with the spirit of the "wild"? Must point of origin define "wild"? After all, many of our "native" plants are immigrants from other regions.

Although thousands of people across Iowa—backyard enthusiasts, roadside management professionals, farmers, and conservationists and environmentalists—are making great efforts to turn much of our Beautiful Land back to its "natural" state, the fact is that the harvest remains the predominant and most compelling feature of what it means to be "Iowan." Today, most of Iowa's harvest is part of a centralized industrial agriculture. Iowans do not eat of most of the land's progeny, which is commodity rather than supper.

But the spirit of the harvest is strong in our state, and next to our wild patches in our back yard are our harvest patches. There are many goods in gardening—the physical and spiritual benefits of tending to crops of providence, the healthy freshness of food that goes straight from garden to table, the small optings-out from a chemi-

cally laden produce industry, and, as with our wild plantings, turning the insidious lawn over to better purposes.

Turning back to nature and bringing in the largesse of working the land—these are the processes that compete with and complement each other in our small patch of Iowa behind our house. In microcosm, we are playing the song of the land that is being sung every day across our state, sometimes in beautiful harmony, often in distressing discordance.

October is with us once again, the month, for me, when the questions and answers of nature are at their most vibrant and beautiful. As we celebrate the bounty of the harvest—the culmination of humanity and nature working together to provide sustenance and provenance—we also enjoy the natural cycles of the prairie displaying its

In microcosm, we are playing the song of the land that is being sung every day across our state, sometimes in beautiful harmony, often in distressing discordance.

most precious, wild beauties.

October, then, is a good month to participate in this conversation between the harvest and the wild. There are so many questions to be asked, to be wondered about, and maybe to answer. How does the rich topsoil of our natural home define us as people? How can we give the best thanks to the earth for its gifts to us? How can we conduct our planting, cultivating and harvesting in ways that are respectful of both the earth and humanity? How can we maintain the wild—so essential to our land and to our human essences—in balance with the needs of the harvest? How can we conceive of "the wild" in new (or reconceive in old) ways, especially here, in the most developed state in the nation? Does it matter that we have no national parks or wilderness areas? Is "wilderness" just another human management concept that interferes with "the wild"? What would a more "wild" Iowa look like, and what would its consequences—especially its positive consequences—be for us?

These are questions that are at the center of two programs this month that I hope you will participate in. (Full disclosure: I

What: "A Celebration of Wild Iowa"

When: Thursday, Oct. 7, 2:30-9pm

Where: Iowa Memorial Union, Iowa City

What: Harvest Lecture Series

When: Thursday, Oct. 21, 7pm

Where: IC Public Library

am organizing one and helping with the other.) On Oct. 7 (2:30-9pm in the South Room of the Iowa Memorial Union), join "A Celebration of Wild Iowa," honoring the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and focusing on the concept and reality of "the wild." The symposium will feature visual art by Mark Müller, Larry Mendenhall and Elizabeth Hill; a panel-led discussion featuring Cornelia F. Mutel of the UI, Robert Sayre of the UI and the Johnson County

Heritage Trust, Bob Sessions of Kirkwood Community College, and Elizabeth Hill, author of *Hiking Iowa*; music by Dave Moore; a reading by Steve Semken from his new book *The Great Blues*, a meditation on the great blue herons; and a screening of the new film, *America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie*, followed by a discussion with the producer, Daryl Smith of The University of Northern Iowa.

Registration is required and costs \$20, which includes a vegetarian dinner buffet. (The film screening is free and open to non-registrants.) A registration form is available at www.uiowa.edu/~ipops/wild Iowa. Questions can be directed to me at 335-1995 or thomas-k-dean@uiowa.edu.

Questions of the harvest will also be explored in this year's Harvest Lecture, the seventh in an annual series exploring spirit and landscape, and organized by Standing By Words Center and Ice Cube Press director Steve Semken. With the theme, "Living with Topsoil," the series will explore how we can live in place by "tending spirits and cherishing land." The Ice Cube Press is pub-

lishing a companion volume containing new and original essays by series participants, which this year include Mary Swander, Michael Carey, Cornelia F. Mutel, Timothy Fay, Patrick Irelan and Larry Stone.

The series will visit three different communities this year, and speakers will vary from location to location. The first is Oct. 21 at 7pm in the Iowa City Public Library, the second in Cedar Falls on Nov. 4 at 7pm at the James and Meryl Hearst Center for

the Arts at 304 West Seerley Blvd., and the third in Grinnell Nov. 18 at 4:15pm in the North Forum Lounge at Grinnell College. The events are free and open to the public, and the companion publication will be available for purchase at each location. For more information, contact Steve at icecube@inav.net.

The harvest and the wild—the two faces of our Iowa Janus. Please join the conversation. **lv**

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Who's got the food vote?



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Amid serious issues like terrorism, education and health-care—as well as goofy ones from 35 years ago concerning who served when, how and where—it's nearly impossible to discern whether any of the presidential candidates have firm positions on anything even vaguely related to food. With a little digging, though, one can find some hints as

to past and potential policy.

In assessing President Bush's position, there is a more visible track record of executive policy to review. Consider this statement from page one of the USDA's farm policy statement: "American consumers today have come to expect a great deal more of the food system, as well. And, there is no doubt that it delivers—more nutritious food with wider variety; improved safety, with less environmental impacts; and greater convenience than at any other time in the nation's history."

As you might expect, I have a couple issues with this statement. What the current

food system delivers is certainly "more," but it cannot seriously be called "more nutritious" or "with wider variety." Witness the epidemics of childhood obesity and early puberty, as well as the skyrocketing healthcare costs across the board as evidence against the idea of improved nutrition in our food supply. As for variety, the world loses a food species per day to extinction due to the industrialization and

It's nearly impossible to discern whether any of the presidential candidates have firm positions on anything even vaguely related to food.

standardization of agriculture. The phrase "less environmental impacts," ludicrous (and poorly worded) as it is, does not need to be dignified with a response. As for the "greater convenience" part, they seem to be mistaking frenzy for efficiency.

Sen. Kerry's legislative record on food and agriculture is somewhat murky. He didn't sponsor any agriculture legislation that I was able to find, and most of his food-related votes have been along these lines: "Vote to table (kill) an amendment that would provide that the term 'catfish' be considered to be a common or usual name for any fish keeping with the Food and Drug Administration procedures that follow scientific standards and market practices for establishing such names, including the importation of fish." (From Project Vote-Smart.org)

On his website, Kerry professes sup-

port for country of origin labeling, a ban on packer ownership of livestock, and an increase in funding for value-added agriculture. He wants to eliminate discriminatory pricing on livestock, in which smaller producers are paid less for their cattle or hogs, driving small family farms out of the market. Kerry favors funding for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and incentives for Community Supported

Agriculture (CSAs).

So take a guess at which presidential candidate said this: "We must challenge misallocation of resources caused by the growing concentration and wealth by agribusiness, chemical, biotechnology and financial corporations over the food and fiber economy. This entails shifting government policy to provide research and information relevant to independent food producers, organic farmers, insuring open and competitive markets, promoting new food infrastructures, and preventing pollution and degradation of natural resources."

I wish I could tell you the man responsible for these words was George Bush or John Kerry, but it was Ralph Nader. Looks like the truly progressive ideas will be shut out of the debate again. Well, we soldier on. **lv**

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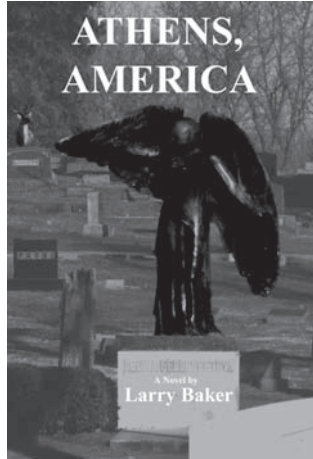
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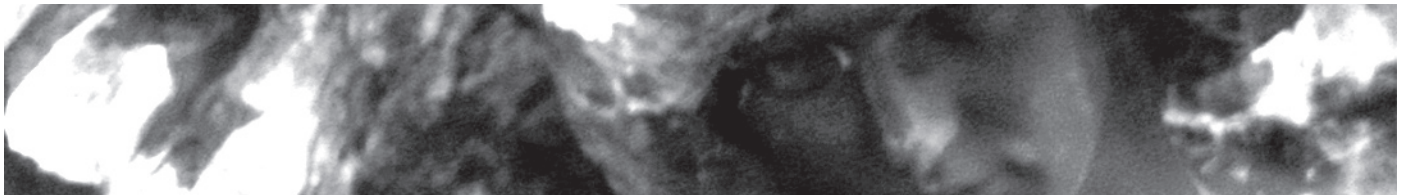
An advance look at the new novel by Larry Baker

Iowa City author and former city councilman Larry Baker has a new book out next month, *Athens, America with First Coast Books*. Baker, who last authored the Florida-based *The Flamingo Rising*, this time tackles a subject much closer to home: life in a small Midwestern college town. According to the book's synopsis, "*Athens, Iowa, is the best of small college towns: affluent, cultured, tolerant, safe, and insulated from a world that seems to lack all those advantages. But at the beginning of a long dry summer, Athens sheds its communal innocence as two teenagers are killed in a police chase gone bad.*"



According to Baker himself, "Iowa City readers will see a lot of humor in the book that non-IC readers will never catch. For example, the town next to Athens is named Coral Ridge. The independent bookstore is called *Prairie Schooner*. Campaign issues include cemetery expansion, neighborhood pigeon problems, killing deer; etc. And, of course, readers will think they recognize real local people manifested in some of the characters, but they would be missing the big picture, so to speak. This is, I hope, a book about a small town, which is emblematic of larger issues in the country."

We excerpt here Chapter 1 and part of Chapter 2:



Athens, America, Chapter 1

Begin with three: a driver, a runner and a cop. The cop is chasing the driver, and the runner is waiting for them at the corner of First and Court.

The driver is young, a teen-ager, and you would not want him living near you. He sells drugs and steals without hesitation. He is often high, and he is more often angry than calm. He has dark black skin and dresses in code. A few seconds before he dies, he is reaching for a gun on the seat next to him.

The white cop is also young, a few years under 30, but he has been old all his life. Old in the sense of having always known what he wanted to be, even as a child. He was always the cop, never the robber. There had been no other cops in his family, and his parents were mystified as to why he had chosen this career. But they loved their son,

and they were proud of him when he graduated from the police academy. They were immensely relieved when he got his first job in their town, where he had grown up. He did not tell them, but that was part of his plan too. When he was 30, he had told himself, he would think about marriage. Everything in order, under control. But his parents died in a plane crash, and his sense of control died with them.

The runner is the youngest of the three. She is black and white, and she is running toward her home when she sees the flashing red lights and hears the sirens. She stops to see what happens. A few seconds later, as the driver's car rolls toward her, she steps to her right. It is the wrong direction.

The cop and the driver have a history. On this warm evening, that history comes to an end. For months, the cop has been cruising the driver's neighborhood. For months, the driver has taunted the cop. But the cop is not innocent. He has gone out of his way to look for the driver. He would

drive slowly behind him, and he has given the driver two tickets for minor traffic violations. A rolling stop, failing to give a signal. If you had asked the cop—why this driver?—he would not have had a satisfactory answer.

The driver is an outsider, from a bigger city to the east, and he brought the big city's problems into the cop's small hometown. It is not that simple, not that clear, but the cop is not able to get beyond his feeling that his role in his hometown is to protect it from the driver.

The cop has worked eight straight days, filling in for other cops. He began his shift this morning going to a domestic disturbance in the driver's neighborhood. The husband had been warned. He was pounding on the door when the cop arrived. He resisted arrest, and the cop had to call for back-up. The husband took a swing at the cop and tried to get his gun, but the cop had him on the ground before things got out of control. As the cop put the husband in his patrol car, the driver cruised by and almost raised his middle finger toward him. A small gesture.

In the seven hours before the chase, the cop has answered a dozen calls, backed-up other cops, checked car tags, arrested a drunk downtown who had too much to drink at Happy Hour, and, a half hour before seeing the driver again, broken up a knife fight between two other drunks in an alley downtown. His uniform shirtsleeve had been ripped. The dispatcher tells him to call it a day, but the cop wants to swing through the driver's neighborhood one more time. He has begun the day already exhausted, but when he sees the driver run the stop sign he has a profoundly satisfying surge of energy.

It is supposed to be the same routine. The cop will stop the driver, and the driver will either smirk or sit sullenly while he is being lectured. But this warm evening, the driver does not stop. He keeps a steady speed, ignores the flashing lights, and then they reach First Avenue. The cop is talking to the dispatcher just as the driver begins accelerating. The driver has a minute to live. The cop will be gone from his hometown in 24 hours. The runner is waiting at the corner.

The cop thinks that he knows why the driver is racing away. This time, there is something in the car that the driver cannot be caught with. The driver will finally be sent away for a long time.

Fifty miles an hour in a 25 zone, then 60. Through red lights and stop signs in a straight line. Other cars swerving for self-preservation. The cop's window is open, and he feels the air swirl and roar inside his patrol car. He starts to scream at the driver ahead of him, and his screams drown out the other voice in the car with him, a static-laced voice calmly telling him to break off the chase. But the cop knows where the driver is headed—through the next stop sign and out to the highway, where he has no jurisdiction. Beyond his control.

The driver looks back, then looks forward to the next stop sign, but his brain is crossing wires, and two contradictory impulses collide. Get rid of the gun and turn the car, but he cannot do both. He does not see the runner.

The cop sees it all in slow motion. The driver's car lurches to the left at First and Court, the rear starting to spin faster than the front, and then the driver's side of the car begins rising so that the cop sees the black underside. Like a movie stunt, the car rolls once and then slides on its roof to rest on the green slope beyond the curb. The cop sees it all, but he

does not see the runner.

He has two minutes alone. Other patrol cars are already coming. He is out of his car and over to the driver's car, but the driver is pulpy and red and no longer human. Then he sees another form further up the slope, almost like it was sleeping. It is at this moment that the cop sees his own life go away. He kneels beside the sleeping runner and touches her crooked neck. Where did she come from?

The cop looks around for help, but he is still alone. He starts CPR, but he knows it is useless. The runner is dead. Who is she? The cop hears sirens, and he sits beside the sleeping runner, holding her hand. He knows that he has done something terribly wrong, and he will pay. He will



The driver is an outsider, from a bigger city to the east, and he brought the big city's problems into the cop's small hometown. It is not that simple, not that clear, but the cop is not able to get beyond his feeling that his role in his hometown is to protect it from the driver.

go away from his hometown and never come back. And, until the end of his life, he will keep two things to himself about this moment.

As a small child he had always dreamed about angels, in those dreams the angels had this girl's face. That was one thing, a feeling that might even be understandable if he ever chose to share it.

But the other memory will never be shared. As he sits there on that slope with the sleeping girl, he looks up to see an enormous blood-red deer standing over him, looking down at him and the girl.

From Chapter 3

Until the girl died, I had always thought that life was a joke. Not always funny, mostly never, but certainly not something to be taken seriously. If you took it too seriously, you had to go crazy. Too many things that make no sense to someone like me, who always wanted to believe in God but who kept getting proof to the contrary. My first baby dies in her sleep. My second, my boy, is born well and grows like a flower but now seems mindless. My wife was slowly killing herself with grief and rage and booze right in front of my eyes. Wouldn't I have to be ironic? Wouldn't you? Where's the sense in all this? So it must be a joke, right? Then I get a call telling me that a 15-year-old black girl is dead, a girl from another world, and a week later I go to one of those lunatic council meetings and listen to a mob scream that I killed her. That my hand was on the wheel of the car that propelled young Becky Hamilton into the hands of a god that does not exist.

I live in Athens, Iowa, a town that doesn't really exist either, except as a moral lesson in mass hysteria. North Carolina has Chapel Hill, the Athens of the South. Georgia has Athens, the Athens of Georgia. I have Athens, Iowa, the Athens of the Midwest. Iowa, more pigs than people, corn capital of the universe. The Heartland of America. Like all

college towns, an island of art and intellect and tax-supported affluence, a world safe from the crime and poverty and shameless hucksterism of the rest of America. Or so we tell ourselves. We're different. We're better. We live the life of the mind. Athens, a world of perpetual adolescence, a world in which half the population is engaged in preparing the other half for their future. Give us your young, we tell those nervous and loving mothers and fathers who want their children's lives to be happier and more comfortable than their own. Give us your sons and daughters, their hopes and fears, their insecurities and their student loans. Wrap them in an ACT or SAT score and pack them off to Athens.

I love this town. I really do. I fell in love with Julie here, buried my first child here and had always assumed I would die here. I just wish I had been able to save it from itself. Instead, here I am, turning all of us into a morality play. Changing the names to protect the guilty as well as the innocent. Don't misunderstand me. This isn't a story about academics or academia, about classroom politics or angst-ridden professors chasing firm-fleshed coeds, seeking the meaning of life as they realize that education guarantees neither intelligence nor happiness. Stories about "college" are a dime a dozen, full of sound and furious Francinian prose, signify-

ing nothing. I went to college in Athens. I met Julie in a classroom. She was my teacher even though I was older than her. But this is not about college. This is about trying to make sense out of tragedy. Trying not to take myself too seriously because, after all, life's a joke, right? This is a story with villains but not enough heroes, not even me, who should have been braver when I needed to be brave. Come down to it, this is just a story about my divinely precious son Danny, and my wife, whose breathing I study every night as she sleeps, afraid she'll just will herself into stopping. A story about my town and my family, and how I lost one. **lv**



I live in Athens, Iowa, a town that doesn't really exist either, except as a moral lesson in mass hysteria. North Carolina has Chapel Hill, the Athens of the South. Georgia has Athens, the Athens of Georgia. I have Athens, Iowa, the Athens of the Midwest. Iowa, more pigs than people, corn capital of the universe.

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The Drive By Truckers's Patterson [in the] Hood

prairie



Kembrew
McLeod

Let's say you've been transferred from Best Buy's Computer Software department to CDs. Not exactly a music aficionado, you come across a strange new album with a title that includes the widely invoked hip-hop phrase "Dirty South," and "Drive By" is a prominent part of the group's name. So you clearly should file their CDs under what?—southern rock, of course.

The Drive By Truckers, who will rock the IMU Wheelroom Oct. 28, are a ball of contradictions. In 2001, they successfully fenced off an irony-free zone on their breakthrough double-disc set, *Southern Rock Opera*, which could easily have been the title of an essay by Dave Eggers or any other post-Gen-X smart-ass. And Drive By Truckers is a band with a joke name that's taken very seriously by its fans; you could categorize them as a literary band of songwriters who plow in McMurtry and Steinbeck as fertilizer on their lighter-waving anthems, dueling guitar rockers and tear-jerking ballads. "Welcome to The Mythological South," singer/guitarist/songwriter Patterson Hood writes in the CD booklet. "Some of the stories we're telling here happened some time ago. Many are set in the mid-seventies and early-eighties. Don't really matter when or even if it happened."

Another contradiction: the Truckers are a self-proclaimed southern rock guitar band that loves hip-hop, as evidenced by album titles like 2000's *Gangstabilly* and their most recent release, *The Dirty South*.

"It's the name of an old Goodie Mob song that was kind of absorbed and spit out by every other southern hip-hop artist," says Patterson Hood, one of three—count 'em, three—talented lead singers/guitarists/songwriters in this Pabst Blue Ribbon-fueled power quintet. Hood and company have been on the road for a good, long stretch now, almost nonstop, with album blending into tour into album into tour. In 2001, they played the Green



Room and in 2002, Gabe's; they stopped off at The Mill earlier this year, and on this visit to Iowa City they're supporting a new album bearing that ubiquitous hip-hop phrase.

"Yeah," Hood tells me, "we're huge fans of a lot of southeastern hip-hop acts like Goodie Mob and Outkast, not to mention hip-hop, more generally. It's pretty much the only kind of music all of us can agree on listening to in the van." So, the title *The Dirty South* isn't a goof like 2000's *Pizza Deliverance*? Yes and no, says Hood: "The Dirty South is a

phrase that we were throwing around as a joke during recording, but as we got more into the record, it stuck. We like hip-hop a lot. I mean, there's certainly a connection between hip-hop songs and the songs we play."

Hmmm, is he putting me on? "Naw," he insists, drawling out his syllables with an easygoing Alabama drawl. "Certainly there are a lot of hip-hop songs about the downtrodden, and our songs on *The Dirty South* explore the social-political ramifications of the underclass, those hit hard by sons-a-bitches like Reagan and both Bushes."

Sure enough, in the Hood-penned first-person narrative, "Puttin' People on the Moon," he sounds like an angrier *River*-era Springsteen: "Mary Alice got cancer just like everybody here/Seems like everyone I know is gettin' cancer every year." Starting with a melancholy rasp, he ends up growling, seething, "Goddamned Reagan in the White House and no one there gives a damn." (Wow, when was the last time you heard Reagan name-checked in song, except maybe on a 1980s hardcore punk tune by the Dead Kennedys? Well, actually, last year Jay-Z compared the socially destructive policies of the Reagan White House to the physical destruction of 9/11: "...before bin Laden got Manhattan to blow," he rapped on "Beware of the Boys," adding slyly, "before Ronald Reagan got Manhattan to blow.")

"In the 1960s there were a lot of rock and roll bands that connected their art to politics," Hood explains, "but now the politics are in hip-hop." Still, what's the connection between hip-hop and a Lynyrd Skynyrd-inspired southern rock band?

"Yeah, why not? 'Buford' is our 'Cop Killer,'" Patterson says, comparing *The Dirty South*'s "The Buford Stick (The Legend of Sheriff Buford Pusser)" to Ice-T and *Body Count*'s "Cop Killer." (In "The Buford Stick," Hood declares,

"That son of a bitch has got to go," while in "Cop Killer," Ice-T howls, "I'm about to bust some shots off/I'm about to dust some cops off," which in the early 1990s set off a storm of controversy, eventually leading to Ice-T getting dropped from Warner Records.)

The great thing about the Drive By Truckers is that this identification with hip-hop music doesn't obviously translate into their music; the shared connection has more to do with storytelling. No

"We're huge fans of a lot of southeastern hip-hop acts like Goodie Mob and Outkast, not to mention hip-hop, more generally. It's pretty much the only kind of music all of us can agree on listening to in the van."

**- Patterson Hood,
The Drive By Truckers**

one in the group is fronting like a gangsta or dropping breakbeats into the musical stew. Not that Hood has anything against that.

"I'd love to do something like [the Run-DMC/Aerosmith collaboration] 'Walk this Way,'" he says, "with, like, Kanye West or Outkast. I think that kind of thing is really cool. That's far more interesting than, like, collaborating with a country artist."

I mention that country star Alan Jackson appeared on Nelly's most recent album, the really cheesy *Suit*.

"Well," Hood says diplomatically, "we have Nelly's last album, but I don't think I'll be getting this new one." He even graciously declines my suggested title for his next solo album: *Patterson in the Hood*.

For now, at least, the Drive By Truckers are content to keep on rocking in the sorta-free world. As Hood writes in *The Dirty South*'s liner notes, "Turn it up to 10 and rip off the knob." And as Flava Flav says, "Yeeaaaaah Boyeee!" **IV**

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CHRONICLE



The Fiery Furnaces Blueberry Boat Rough Trade

When you turn back to the CD case of the Fiery Furnaces' *Blueberry Boat* in the middle of your first listen—to confirm that, yes, you are a half-hour in and not even through the fourth track, to check an utterly beguiling lyric (what's a "tucktodo"?), or simply for the sake of a half-reverential stare at the

prismatic cover art of this frequently astonishing album, it's hard not to think of Violet Beauregard. Departing fairly early from Willy Wonka's factory tour, Violet was rolled off-stage after enthusiastically sampling a dinner-in-a-gumstick test sample and swelling up like an enormous blueberry. This sophomore effort from the brother/sister duo of Matt and Ellen Friedberger is a musical equivalent, bursting with ideas, hooks and sonic twists that are plucked up and discarded hand over fist, with songs frequently contorting and swelling into eight- and nine-minute prog-pop leviathans. This extended juicing of the Friedberger imagination results in an album that frustrates expectations as often as it charms, an ostentatiously ambitious effort that doesn't sound like anything else put out this year—or any other.

The album opens boldly, with two minutes of apprehensive, stair-stepping piano underlying a series of synthesizer oscillations and swirls before any singing begins. "Quay Cur" might be the most "challenging" track on the album, but it also serves as a general blueprint for the Furnaces' approach to composition. Amidst all the modulations, chromatic squawks and tem-

po changes, someone is almost always keeping watch on keyboards or guitar, holding things together with a two-chord spine while Ellen wheels through alliterative adventure tales that scroll by like towns seen from a train. Set everywhere from "Damascus computer café" to Mason City (Iowa?), these songs have an expansive, free-floating sense of place, language and fun, equal parts Kenneth Koch and the Hardy Boys.

Not simply an exercise in ADD song craft, the tracks on *Boat* reveal a certain skewed elegance after a few listens, as the half-dozen instrumental arrangements within "My Dog Was Lost But Now He's Found" and the bright disco-torqued drum machine melding with warped *White Light/White Heat*-inflected guitar on "Chief Inspector Blanchflower" take on a glimmering, singular logic all their own. If you're looking for something more immediately likeable, the duo's *Single Again* seven-inch is impeccably catchy, but it's upon *Boat*'s broader canvas that these two set themselves apart from the indie-schlock pack. Highly recommended.

Riley Hanick



Dan Bern & the IJBC My Country II Messenger

Mount Vernon, Iowa, native Dan Bern has always expressed strong, radical and imaginative political views. His latest EP has a special urgency, released to help influence and inspire voters for the forthcoming presidential election. There's no doubt where Bern stands. If the pointed lyrics of the first seven cuts aren't clear enough, Bern spells it out large on the eighth, the anthemic "Bush Must Be Defeated." The tune begins with a solo martial drumbeat followed by about a half-dozen repetitions of the title phrase. Bern then somberly

vocalizes, "His evil gang unseated/his base of power deleted/his energy depleted." But it doesn't take long for Bern to get back to his usual comic-surreal mode. Soon he's singing about taking the cleats off Bush's golf shoes and short sheeting the White House bed. This is quintessential Bern, mixing the humorous with the serious to make his intentions known.

Consider the CD's first song, "President," in which Bern imagines he's become the president of the United States. As our country's leader, President Bern starts with a 10-step program that includes granting Mexico and Cuba statehood, making citizens of all ages members of the armed forces, and abolishing the death penalty. He then declares national holidays that include Nude Day, Painting Day, Tennis Day and Sex with Impunity Day. Bern's sincere and creative mixture of so-called important political concerns with what some might consider trivial personal ones reveals the intimate connections between the two. The comic elements make one ponder, Well, why couldn't there be such a world? Making everyone part of the military makes as much sense as Bush's backdoor draft of the National Guard. Making a holiday where everyone plays tennis makes as much sense as having a Presidents' Day known mostly as the time of year when stores sell their white goods at a discount.

Bern puts Pete Seeger's protest poem "The Torn Flag" to music, and on other songs addresses the plight of veterans, the disenfranchised, the war in Iraq and a multitude of notable concerns. On "Ostrich Town," Bern puts the blame on the people themselves (and their chosen leaders), who would prefer to remain ignorant of the world's ills rather than try to resolve them. The image of those who willingly put their heads in the sand while bombs explode elsewhere seems an appropriate description of America today in light of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, not to mention the explosive Middle East, the genocide in Sudan and other global problems.

Always the gadfly, Bern stands up and recites our country's ills as he simultaneously announces his allegiance. This is especially true in the title song, where he says he's never burned an American flag, but he's never flown one either: "You won't find a flag on my doorstep/on the Fourth of July/Too many criminals try to wrap themselves inside of it/Stands for too many lies/but it's my country, too." He's our generation's Thomas Paine, someone whose common sense tells us that we can create a better world that would be more fun to live in, where life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are our shared goals.

Dan Bern will be at the Mill Oct. 17.

Steve Horowitz

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- ⑮ The Absurd
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CALENDAR

Calendar listings are free, on a space-available basis. Mail entries to Little Village, P.O. Box 736, Iowa City, Iowa 52244 or email little-village@usa.net

Art/Exhibits

African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center

55 12th Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids

Iowa in Ghana: Dr. D. Michael Warren and the Bono of Takyiman, photographs of the Bono people of Ghana, through March 10, 2005.

AKAR

4 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 351-1227

Ceramics by Karen Karnes; porcelain tableware by Japanese ceramic designer Masahiro Mori, Oct. 1-14; opening reception Oct. 8, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk • Maren Kloppmann, Minnesota, clay, Oct. 22-Nov. 4.

The Art Mission

114 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 466-1006

Kathleen Rash—Recent Work in Soft Pastel, opening reception Oct. 8, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Arts Iowa City

Jefferson Bldg., 129 E Washington St., 351-8266

Uncovered Downstairs, life drawings from the Arts Iowa City drawing group; opening reception Oct. 8, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Arts Iowa City/The Galleries Downtown

218 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 337-7447

The Melding of Art & Function, works in metal by UI art professor Kee-ho Yuen; opening reception Oct. 8, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk • Works by Iowa City artist Bekah Ash, through Oct. 15 • Mixed media work by Diane Naylor, through Oct. 22 • Works by Iowa City documentary photographer Joan Liffing-Zug Bourret, through Oct. 24 • The Molding of Magnificence, works by 12 students, residents and instructors of Penland School of Crafts, including IC's Justine Zimmer, through Oct. 8.

Brucemore

2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-7375

Animal House, honoring the exotic and local animals that have called Brucemore home, through May, 2005.

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

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

The Naked Truth: 2004 International Juried Wood Fire Exhibition, selection of teapots, bowls, vessels and other ceramic objects organized in conjunction with the International Wood Fire Conference at Coe College, through Jan. 9, 2005 • From Surreal to Abstract: 20th Century European Prints, through Feb. 13 • Villa to Grave: Roman Art and Life, 150 Roman objects—sculpture, frescoes, jewelry, furniture, coins and other decorative art objects—displayed in a recreated Roman architectural setting, through Aug. 25, 2005 • Mauricio Lasansky: The Nazi Drawings, through Oct. 3. (See Words listing for more)

CSPS

1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1580

Off the Wall, art by area artists for sale to benefit CSPS, Oct. 6-17 (see Misc. listing for more) • The Billboards of My Mind, paintings and drawings by Bill Heral, Oct. 20-Nov. 21 • Tectonic Industries: Recent and New Works, Oct. 6-Nov. 21 • In Progress, paintings by Becky Danielson, through Nov. 21.

Faulconer Gallery

Grinnell College, 1108 Park St., Grinnell, 641-269-4660

William Kentridge Prints, 120 prints by this South African artist, Oct. 1-Dec. 12; opening reception Oct. 1, 5-6:30pm. (See Words listing for more)

The History Center

615 1st Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-1501

Grant Wood's Arbor Day, painting that inspired the design of the newly minted state quarter, through Oct.

3; community events through Oct. 3.

Hudson River Gallery

538 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 358-8488

Preview of Faculty Art, the Annual Benefit Auction for the UI Museum of Art; opening reception Oct. 8, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Iowa Artisans Gallery

207 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 351-8686

20th Anniversary Exhibition: Rowen Schussheim-Anderson: Tapestry & Fiber Constructions and Recent Works by Members of the Woodworkers Studio, Oct. 1-Nov. 8; opening reception Oct. 8, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

IC Public Library

123 Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200

Exhibition Celebrating 20 Years of the Art Purchase Prize Competition, 94 original works by 77 artists; opening reception Oct. 8, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk • Life in the Ice Age, artifacts and fossils from Iowa Ice Age finds, through October.

Iowa State Bank & Trust

102 S. Clinton St., Iowa City, 337-8615

Works by Iowa City Branch of the National League of American Pen Women; poetry, watercolor and oil painting, paper and fiber, and photography by Joan Liffing-Zug Bourret, Patricia King, Mildred Lavin, Lois Muehl, Ruth Muir, Carole Ann Robey, Lila Borg Rohrer, Naomi Kark Schedl; opening reception Oct. 8, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Lorenz Boot Shop

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

The Natural World, prints by Janet Hart Heinicke; Twin Towers, photographs & frames by Laura Hobson; mixed media works in foil, ink & digital imaging by Alexandria Cmaylo; opening reception Oct. 8, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Many Facets

125 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City, 341-4562

Girlfriends, work by metalsmiths Lonna Keller, Dana Noble and Louise Rauh; opening reception Oct. 8, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

MC Ginsberg Objects of Art

110 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 351-1700

Japanese contemporary jewelry by UI metalsmith professor Yasuki Hiramatsu; opening reception Oct. 8, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Monster Design Studio

716 Oakland Rd. NE, Cedar Rapids, 365-1844

"Unspoke 'n' Heard: Taking Back Our Nation," juried graffiti competitions, freestyle emcee battle, DJ and break dancing competitions, spray paint workshop, Oct. 16, 9am-5pm.

Mt. Mercy College

Janalyn Hanson White Gallery, Cedar Rapids, 363-1323

Traditions: Apprenticeships in Wood-Firing, ceramics, through Oct. 12 • Rick Edleman and Friends, drawings by Mt. Mercy grad Rick Edleman converse with the constructions of Iowa artist Michele Buchanan, Oct. 15-Nov. 16.

Mythos

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

Dark Matters to Obscure Pleasure: Near Life Experiences of Liz Haven on Canvas; opening reception Oct. 8, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Room Service

117 E College St., Iowa City, 248-4848

A Method for Creating Clocks, work by Tomoki Ishizaki, Design Institute of Sapporo; opening reception Oct. 8, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

A-LIST

Get Out Bush

October * Iowa City

Tickets may be sold out to the fanciest Get Out Bush event, but there are plenty more where that came from. Iowa is, after all, one of three swing states being targeted by both candidates as most crucial territory. First, there's the big Iowa City Rocking the Vote music festival Oct. 10 at Mercer Park from 3 to 8pm. There will be B.F. Burt and Nikki Lunden plus



Nikki Lunden

Strangely Anonymous (a new group featuring children from the Mark Twain and Grant Wood after-school programs) and the Waterloo/Cedar Falls-based groups Minus One (hip-hop) and The Twe12ve (gospel). On a slightly smaller scale, there's Yo La Tengo's cavalcade Sept. 30 at the IMU Wheelroom. Then there's a couple singer-songwriter lasses making the swing state rounds, Danya River and Kristy Krüger, Oct. 10 at the Mill and a Voter Registration Party over at the Green Room Oct. 15 with The Absurd and Guilty by Association.

Bioneers Conference

Oct. 15-17, Fairfield

Fairfield is one of 15 satellite locations for the international Bioneers conference. Fairfield activities include live music, booths, tours and practical workshops on topics such as plant-based products, greenhouses, local foods, GMOs and prairie medicinals. Keynoters include local renewable energy expert David Osterberg and Ronnie Cummins, executive director of the Organic Consumers Association. The bioneer people are the visionary eco folk *Utne Reader* made a big fuss about a while back. Find out what it's all about. 641-472-6665, www.bioneers.org.

RSVP

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

Jazz Suite x 5, mixed media collaged works by Alicia Brown inspired by jazz greats Dave Brubeck, Charles Mingus, Miles Davis, Thelonius Monk and Art Tatum; opening reception Oct. 8, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Ruby's Pearl

323 E. Market St., Iowa City, 248-0032

Life Sentence, mixed media installation by Molly Duncan, through October; closing reception Oct. 29, 6-8pm.

Salon

119 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 351-0508

Foil prints by Lois Wiederrecht-Finke and paintings by Mark Stevenson; opening reception Oct. 8, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Senior Center

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

A Ruth Muir Retrospective: 20 Years of Painting & Printmaking; Jane Martin; *A Kaleidoscope of Shapes and Colors*, Oct. 8, opening reception, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

UI Hospitals and Clinics

Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417

quiltz and dollz, Patti Zwick, through Oct. 27, Boyd Tower West Lobby • Carol Carter, photography, through Oct. 29, Boyd Tower East Lobby • Jewelry and Metal, by graduate students in metalsmithing, through Nov. 30, Main Lobby • Trúc Deegan, paintings, Oct. 1-Dec. 31, Patient and Visitor Activities Center • Edward Herbeck, oil and acrylic paintings, Oct. 5-Dec. 31, Patient and Visitor Activities Center.

UI Main Library

UI campus, Iowa City

Exhibit of UI alum filmmaker Nicholas Meyer's papers, Special Collections, third floor, through October • *Velocipedomania: The Origin and Evolution of the Bicycle*, through November, North Exhibit Hall.

UI Museum of Art

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

School of Art & Art History Faculty Exhibition 2004, Oct. 15-Dec. 11; opening reception Oct. 16, 7:30-10pm (see *Misc.* listing for more) • *Pivot*, a video and sound installation by UI film professor Leighton Pierce, through Oct. 17 • *Vision and Views: Master Prints from the Collection*, early European prints from the museum's collection, through Oct. 17 • *The History of Iowa in the Art of Maps*, Oct. 29-Jan. 30 • *Beaded Rhythms: Women's Adornments from Northern Cameroon*, Oct. 29-Dec. 11.

Music

Carver Hawkeye Arena

UI campus, Iowa City

Bob Dylan, Oct. 29, 8pm.

Clapp Recital Hall

UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1160

Piano Extravaganza, Sept. 30, Master Class featuring UI piano faculty and area high school students, 6:30pm; Student Recital, 8pm • Volkan Orhon, double bass, chamber concert with UI faculty artists, Oct. 2, 8pm • OddBar Quartet, Oct. 3, 1pm • UI alum opera singer Katharine Goeldner, benefit concert for UI music scholarships, Oct. 4, 8pm • UI Symphony Band, Oct. 6, 8pm • "Choral Collage," featuring UI Women's Chorus, Kantorei, Camerata Singers and University Choir, Oct. 8, 8pm • Student Conductors lead UI Philharmonia Orchestra, Oct. 10, 3pm • Husband-and-wife cellists Hannah Holman and Anthony Arnone perform all six Bach suites for solo cello in new arrangements for two players, Oct. 10, 7pm • Maia Quartet, Oct. 13, 8pm • Uriel Tsachor, piano, Oct. 15, 8pm • Fall Festival, Old Gold Singers, Oct. 16, 8pm • UI Chamber Orchestra, Oct. 17, 3pm • David Greenhoe, trumpet, Oct. 18, 8pm • Kantorei, Oct. 22, 8pm • Womens' Choir, Oct. 23, 8pm • Iowa Brass Choir, Oct. 21, 8pm • Stephen Swanson, baritone, and David Gompper, piano, Oct. 24, 3pm • Electronic Music Studios, Oct. 26, 8pm • Claudia Anderson, flute, and Diane Burr, piano, Oct. 29, 8pm • Camerata, Oct. 30, 8pm • New Horizons Band, Oct. 31, 3pm • Scott Conklin, violin, and Alan Huckleberry, piano, Oct. 31, 8pm.

CSPS

1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1580

8pm, except Sundays (7pm)

Jane Monheit, jazz chanteuse, Sept. 30 • Tanglefoot, Oct. 1 • Bill Morrissey, Oct. 9 • Geoff Muldaur, Oct. 10 • Andrew Bird, Oct. 15 • Jake Armerding, The Pines, Oct. 19 • California Guitar Trio, Oct. 21.

Gabe's

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

Mike Watt and the Secondmen, Feeder, Kiriko, Sept. 30 • Tight Phantomz, Will Whitmore, Zzzz, The Vine and The Archer, International Waters, Oct. 1 • Kita, Oct. 2 • Damon Bosby and Friends, Winegarden, Stop at the Line, The Sound and The Fury, Oct. 3 • The Mendoza Line, Charles Bissel of The Wrens, Marah-Mar, Oct. 4 • Early show: Malady, Hugs, Prom Night Tornado; Late show: The Like Young, Viva Voce, Oct. 5 • Lucero, American Minor, The F-Ups, The Western Front, Oct. 6 • The Makers, The Jet Set, Oct. 7 • Early show: Everyday I Die, Zao, Misery Signals; Late show: Triptii, The Waiting Game, Oct. 8 • Brian Jones CD-release party, Oct. 9 • Early show: Crux Shadows, Oct. 10 • Oujia Radio, Oct. 11 • 7 Shot Screammers, Oct. 13 • Found Magazine Show, Oct. 14 • Crooked Fingers, The Winter Blanket, Oct. 15 • The Incredible String Band, Hot Cross, Oct. 18 • Legendary Shack Shakers, Oct. 20 • The Dirtbombs, The Ponys, Oct. 21 • DJs Kero, Derek Michael, Direct Jive, Oct. 22 • Early show: Armour for Sleep; Late show: Ming and FS, Oct. 24 • The Good Life, Neva Dinova, Oct. 25 • Lady of The Lake, Oct. 28 • Early show: Spitafeld, Oct. 29 • Bad Wizard, The Witnesses, Oct. 31.

The Green Room

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

Blues Jam Mondays, Funk and Jazz Jam Tuesdays
Funkmaster Cracker, Rebel's Advocate, Sept. 30 • Clean Livin', Firewood Revival, Oct. 1 • Cornmeal, Star Candy, Oct. 2 • Swing Crew, Oct. 7 • Nikki Lunden Band, Single Lane Ahead, Oct. 8 • Natty Nation, Public Property, Oct. 9 • Billy Howke CD-release party, Oct. 12 • Catalyst, Hoopride, Bled the Multitude, Dahkha, Oct. 14 • Voter Registration Party with The Absurd, Guilty by Association, Oct. 15 • Savage Aural Hotbed, Western Front, Martian Waters, Oct. 16 • Raq, Thee Shams, Oct. 19 • Triptii, Oct. 20 • Fareed Haque Group, Oct. 21 • Liquid Soul, Euforquestra, Oct. 22 • Melvin Sparks, Oct. 25 • Lotus, Oct. 26 • Mr. Blotto, Dancing Andy & the Sensitive Assholes, Oct. 28 • Public Property, The Diplomats, Oct. 29 • Family Groove Co., Duece, Oct. 30 • Euforquestra, Oct. 31.

Hancher Auditorium

UI campus, 335-1160

Wycliffe Gordon Quartet, Oct. 20, 8pm • University Symphony, with Katherine Wolfe, violin, Oct. 27, 8pm • Thomas Hampson, Oct. 29, 8pm.

Iowa Guitar Summit

Oct. 10, 1-5pm, Let's Dance, 4444 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids

Featuring Tom Bielefeldt, Mike Williams, BillyLee Janey, Rick McCarty, Don Blew and other veteran and up-and-coming guitarists, hosted by Gayla Drake Paul.

Iowa Memorial Union

UI campus, Iowa City

Yo La Tengo, Swing State Tour, also David Kilgour, Rick Rizzo, Damon & Naomi, Doug McCombs, Eugene Mirman, Sept. 30, 8pm, Wheelroom • Drive By Truckers, Oct. 28, Wheelroom.

Krapf Organ Studio

UI campus, Iowa City

Julia Harlow, organ and harpsichord, Oct. 3, 2 & 4pm • Christopher Stembbridge, organ and keyboards, Oct. 7, 8pm • John Chappell Stowe, organ, Oct. 8, 8pm.

The Mill

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

Open Mike Mondays, 8pm • Wednesdays, Burlington Street Bluegrass Band, 7pm, Bluegrass Jam, 10pm • All music 9pm unless noted otherwise
Habitat for Humanity Benefit with Seven Story Cory, Sept. 30, 6:30pm • Catfish Keith, Oct. 1 • Stuart Davis, Oct. 2 • Chris Whitley, Melissa Ferrick, Oct. 7 • Huntington's Disease Benefit, with Sam Knutson, Ben Schmidt and more, Oct. 8, time TBA • Brenda Weiler, Oct. 8 • Danya River, Kristy Krüger, Swing State Tour, Oct. 10, 7pm • Johnson County Landmark Big Band, Oct. 14, 8pm • The Salsa Band, Oct. 15, 8pm • Dan

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Bern, Oct. 17, 8pm • Stacey Earle, Mark Stuart, Oct. 21, 9:30pm • Tony Brown, Oct. 22, 8pm • The Pines (Huckfelt and Ramsey), Oct. 23.

Monster Design Studio

716 Oakland Rd. NE, Cedar Rapids, 365-1844

“Unspoke ‘n’ Heard: Taking Back Our Nation,” juried graffiti competitions, freestyle emcee battle, DJ and break dancing competitions, spray paint workshop, Oct. 16, 9am-5pm.

Mt. Mercy College

Cedar Rapids

Tribute, Oct. 2, 8pm, Chapel of Mercy, Busse Center, 368-6468 for tickets • Mt. Mercy College Choir and Jazz Connection, Oct. 14, 7pm, Stello Performance Hall, Warde Hall.

Paramount Theatre

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

CR Symphony Pops, “Broadway Bound with Lisa Vroman,” Oct. 9, 8pm; Oct. 10, 2:30pm, 366-8203 for tickets • *In the Mood*, 1940s musical revue, Oct. 11, 7:30pm • “One Enchanted Evening–Remembering Richard Rogers,” Oct. 12, 7:30pm, 363-6254 for tickets • CR Symphony Children’s Discovery Concert, Oct. 16, 9:30 • 11am, 366-8203 for tickets • Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Organ Concert with Donna Parker, Oct. 17, 2pm • CR Symphony Masterworks Concert, “Don Juan and De Falla,” Oct. 23, 8pm, 366-8203 for tickets.

Sanctuary

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

Jazz Jam hosted by bassist Israel Newman, *Thursdays • Music* at 9:30pm
Dave Moore, Oct. 1 • Saul Lubaroff Trio, Oct. 2 • John Cord Jazz Band, Oct. 8 • Bob Hillman, Oct. 9 • Steve Grismore Trio, Oct. 22 • Sam Knutson & Nate Bassinger, Oct. 29 • Chicken Shack with Stuart Wood, Oct. 30.

Siren Club

124 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City, 248-2840

Tuesday Nights, Jacqueline Krain and The Ringers, 8-11pm; Wednesday Nights, Jazz piano, 7-11pm
Evan Mazunik Trio, Sept. 30, 8pm-12am • BF Burt and The Instigators, Oct. 1, 9pm-1am • Bill Bryant, acoustic folk originals, Oct. 7, 7-11pm • John Shultz Organization, jazz, Oct. 8, 8pm-12am • Gizmofunk, Oct. 9 • Tony Nickle, classical piano, Oct. 10 • Andy Parrott Trio, Oct. 14, 8-11pm • Too Slim and The Taildraggers, Texas blues, Oct. 15, 9pm-1am • Apocalypse Tantric Boys Choir, funk from Fairfield, Oct. 16, 8pm-12am • Tony Nickle, classical piano, Oct. 17, 7-10pm • The Mad River Band, Oct. 22, 8pm-12am • Kevin BF Burt, Oct. 23, 9pm-1am • Tony Nickle, classical piano, Oct. 24, 7-10pm • Eddie Piccard Quartet, Oct. 28, 8pm-12am • The Spread, six-piece R&B and pop, Oct. 29 • Halloween Masquerade Party with Ernie Peniston Band, Oct. 30 • Witches Brew, Oct. 31.

Stars Guitars

Town & Country Center, 3639 First Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 866-362-1881

Acoustic jam session every Friday night, 7-9pm.

UI Hospitals and Clinics

Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417

Colloton Atrium, noon

Tom Hardesty, “Movie Magic Piano,” Oct. 8 • Eben Seaman, jazz piano, Oct. 22 • Heartbeats, UI Hospitals and Clinics choir, Oct. 29.

UI Museum of Art

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

The Dan Knight Trio plays Cole Porter, Oct. 1, 5pm • “Know the Score,” live radio program, Oct. 29, 5-7pm.

Uptown Bill’s small Mall

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

Mud River Open Mic, Fridays, 8pm • Irish Slow Session, Celtic jam (for more info contact Tara Dutcher, tara@schoolperformingarts.com), Sundays, 2-4pm • All shows 7pm unless otherwise indicated

Beth Ansel, Oct. 2 • Bejae Flemming, Oct. 9 • That’s When We Run, Oct. 13 • Mudriver Potluck Dinner and Jam, Oct. 14, 5-9pm • Bree Clime-White, Oct. 16 • Greg Klyma and Passalacqua, Oct. 20 • Sam Shaber, Oct. 21 • Kalimbaman, Oct. 23 • Bad Karma, Oct. 28 • Ben Schmidt, Oct. 30.

18 | little village | calendar

US Cellular Center

370 First Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888

Indoor Marching Band Classic, Oct. 25, 6:30pm.

Voxman Music Bldg.

UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1603

Cellist David Carter and pianist Esther Wang, Oct. 1, 8pm, Harper Hall • “Timbre, Temperament, and Personality in Early Italian Keyboard Music,” workshops and performances focusing on the keyboard instruments and music of 16th- and 17th-century Italy, Oct. 7-9; public performances: Christopher Stembridge, organ and harpsichords, Oct. 7, 8pm; organist John Chappell Stowe and mezzo-soprano Consuela Sanudo, Oct. 8, 8pm; 335-1630 for conference info • Michael Kimber, viola, Oct. 17, 8pm • Nina Gordon, cello, Oct. 22, 8pm • Lecture/demonstration of *Soundpainting* by Walter Thompson, Oct. 23, 7:30pm, Harper Hall • Oystein Baadsvik, tuba, and Jorgen Larsen, piano, Oct. 24, 8pm.

Yacht Club

13 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 337-6464

No Rules Open Mic, Sundays; Hip-Hop Night, Tuesdays; Jam Band Jam, Wednesdays, 10pm
Mer with Dave Tamkin & Scottie Long, Sept. 30 • Eufoquestra, Oct. 1 • Dennis McMurrin & The Demolition Band, Oct. 2 • Kill Bosby, Dillweed, Oct. 4, 6pm • Distinguished Gentlemen, Martian Water, Oct. 7 • Early Dinner Show: Martin Zellar; Late Show: Shame Train, Oct. 8 • Jensen Connection, Oct. 9 • Students For A Sensible Drug Policy Benefit Show, Oct. 14 • David Zollo & The Body Electric, Oct. 15 • The Its, Oct. 16 • Punsapaya, Reclining Buddha, Oct. 22 • The Love Handles, Oct. 23 • Rent Party Open Mic with Bad Fathers, Oct. 28 • David Haack Band, Oct. 29 • One Love Sounds Bob Marley Tribute, Oct. 30.

Music Festivals/Series

Iowa City Rocking the Vote

Oct. 10, 3-8pm, Mercer Park Aquatic Center, 2701 Bradford Rd., Iowa City

Nikki Lunden Band, Yahoo Drummers, Kevin B.F. Burt, Terrapin Isle, Real Life, Minus One, The Twe12ve, and more. Also voter education and registration tables; arts and crafts; refreshments and speakers.

Dance

CSPS

1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1580

Latin dance classes, Saturdays, 3:30-5:30pm, 364-2188.

Hancher Auditorium

UI campus, 335-1160

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, including world premiere of *Gimme* by Lucas Crandall, Oct. 9, 8pm • Lyon Opera Ballet, Oct. 13, 8pm.

Paramount Theatre

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

Lezginka Dance Company of Daghestan, Sept. 30, 7:30pm, 363-6254 for tickets.

Space/Place Theater

North Hall, UI campus, Iowa City

Afro/Cuban Drum and Dance Ensemble, Oct. 15-16, 8pm.

UI Hospitals and Clinics

Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417

Colloton Atrium, noon

Arts a la Carte, dance ensemble, Oct. 15.

Theater/Performance

CSPS

1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1580

Performance art by Marilyn Arsem and Jeff Byrd, Oct. 2, 8pm • Shenandoah Shakespeare: *Measure for Measure*, Oct. 6-7, 7:30pm; *Twelfth Night*, Oct. 7, 2:30pm; *She Stoops to Conquer*, Oct. 8, 8pm • *Target Audience*, New York playwright and performer Jim Neu, Oct. 28-30, 8pm.

Iowa City Community Theatre

Iowa City, 338-0443

Shows Fri & Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2:30pm

Little Shop of Horrors, Oct. 1-3, 8-10.

MoonGarden Acting Company

The Galleries Downtown, 218 E. Washington, Iowa City, 338-4442

Boston Marriage, by David Mamet, Oct. 1, 2, 9, 8pm; Oct. 10, 7pm.

Old Creamery Theatre

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

Price Creek Stage: Wed., Fri., Sat. 8pm; Thurs., Sat., Sun. 3pm

Out Of Order, comedy by Ray Cooney involving a philandering couple who find a body in their hotel room, Oct. 1-Nov. 7.

Paramount Theatre

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

Fosse, musical highlighting the work of legendary dancer, choreographer, director Bob Fosse Oct. 28, 7:30pm.

Riverside Theatre

213 N. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 338-7672

Wed, Sept. 22 & Thursdays, 7pm; Fridays & Saturdays, 8pm; Sundays, 2pm

Boy Gets Girl, UI alum Rebecca Gilman’s chilling look at a woman whose life is irrevocably changed by one blind date, through Oct. 3, Talkback discussion Oct. 1 (See *Words* listing for details) • *Blue Yonder*, a collection of monologues for women by Kate Aspengren, Oct. 15-16, 8pm; Oct. 17, 2pm.

Space/Place Theater

North Hall, UI campus, Iowa City

Columbus: A Soundpainting Opera, by Walter Thompson, Oct. 29-30, 8pm; Oct. 31, 3pm.

Theatre Cedar Rapids

102 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-8592

7:30pm Thurs.- Sat.; 2:30pm Sun.

Disney’s Beauty and the Beast, Oct. 1-24.

UI Hospitals and Clinics

Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417

Cell Cycle, play by Cristina Pippa takes place on the microscopic and human level with an investigation into cancer research, current events and spirituality, Oct. 1, 12-1pm, Main Lobby.

UI Theatres

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

Father Bob, by Chris Leyva, a young, progressive priest attempts to assist a girl whose sexuality is awakening, University Theatres Gallery production, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 8pm; Oct. 3, 3pm, Theatre B • *Desert Pepper*, by Arlen Lawson, University Theatres Gallery production, Oct. 7-9, 8pm; Oct. 10, 3pm, Theatre B • *The Good Person of Setzuan*, by Bertolt Brecht, Mainstage production, Oct. 14-16, 21-23, 8pm; Oct. 17, 24, 3pm, E.C. Mabie Theatre • Global Express, Oct. 16, 7pm, Theatre B • *Aunt Dan and Lemon*, by Wallace Shawn, University Theatres Gallery production, Oct. 21-23, 8pm; Oct. 24, 3pm, Theatre B • *Solo*, by Marnie Glazier, University Theatres Gallery production, Oct. 28-30, 8pm; Oct. 31, 3pm, Theatre B.

Ushers Ferry Historical Village

5925 Seminole Valley Trail NE, Cedar Rapids, 286-5763

“Morbid Curiosities,” Parlour Theater Series, 19th century creepiness from HG Wells’ *The Red Lodge* to Dracula’s missing chapter, Oct. 30, 7pm, reservations required.

Comedy

The Mill

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

Lightning in a Bottle, comedy improv, Tuesdays, 8pm.

Paramount Theatre

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

Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood from “Whose Line Is It Anyway?”, Oct. 7, 8pm.

Words

101. Becker Communications Studies Bldg.

UI campus, Iowa City

Poet D.A. Powell and British fiction writer/illustrator Edward Carey, UI Writers’ Workshop faculty members, Oct. 1, 8pm.

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

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

"Fine Writing: The Art of Calligraphy," calligraphy lecture and workshop, Oct. 2, 1pm • "Woodfiring As Tool, Aesthetic and History," Gary Hootman, international woodfire ceramics artist, Oct. 6, 12-1pm • "The Kings of Roman, Regal Society," DVD lecture series by Professor Garrett G. Fagan, Oct. 9, 1-2pm • "Make a Lasting Impression," family coin-making workshop, Oct. 16, 1pm, 366-7503 ext. 203 for reservations • "Julius Caesar, Caligula, Diana and the Gardens on the Shores of Lake Nemi," Dr. Irene Bald Romano, Research Fellow of the University of Pennsylvania Museum, Oct. 21, 7-9pm • "Where There's Smoke: Building a Woodfire Kiln," demonstration by ceramics artists Gary Hootman and James Kaper, Oct. 23, 1pm • "The Beginnings of the Republic; The Struggle of the Orders," DVD lecture series by Professor Garrett G. Fagan, Oct. 30, 1-2pm.

Congregational Church

30 N. Clinton St., Iowa City

"The Development Dilemma in Nepal," Prabha Thacker, chairperson of MANUSHI NGO, part of the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council luncheon, Oct. 7, 12pm, 335-0351.

Faulconer Gallery

Grinnell College, 1108 Park St., Grinnell, 641-269-4660

Pre-opening (*William Kentridge Prints*) gallery talk by master printer Randy Hemminghaus, Oct. 1, 4pm.

The Green Room

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

Poetry Slam, Oct. 13 & 27, 9pm.

IC Public Library

123 Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200

"Moving and Restoring a Historic Home," Jennifer Irsfeld James, senior writer for *Country Home Magazine* and a historic preservation specialist, and Larry James Jr., attorney and developer, Sept. 30, 7-9pm, Meeting Rm. A • "The Buddhist Way of Life," first of four parts, Oct. 2, 1-2:30pm, Meeting Rm. E, 248-2986 • "Managing Backyard Prairie and Wooded Areas," Oct. 3, 2-4pm, Meeting Rm. A • ICPL Intellectual Freedom Festival Brown Bag Lunch: Banned Youth Books of Yesterday & Today, Oct. 5, 12-1pm • Global Issues Network Forum on Sudan, Oct. 6, 7-9:30pm, Meeting Rm. A • International Writing Program panel discussion, Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30pm, Meeting Rm. A; "Writing in Dialogue: Criticism, Translation, Literature," with four IWP playwrights, Oct. 6 • "The Faith Community Living in the Community At Large," discussion of intellectual

freedom and its relationship with religion, Oct. 12, 12-1pm • *The Kite Runner* Panel Discussion, Oct. 19, 12-1pm • Harvest Lecture, readings from *Living with Topsoil*, Oct. 21, 7pm.

Iowa Memorial Union

UI campus, Iowa City

"Does Faith Have a Role in Informing Our Political Choices and If So, How?," panel discussion, Finding God at Iowa lunch series, Oct. 1, 12pm • "A Celebration of Wild Iowa," symposium on what the wild in Iowa is and could be with panel discussion, artwork, reading, music and film, Oct. 7, 2:30-9pm, South Room; register by Oct. 1, www.uiowa.edu/~ipops/wild Iowa.htm or 335-1995.

Java House

211 E. Washington St., 341-0012

WSUI's "Iowa Talks Live from the Java House," Fridays, 10am

Filmmaker Nicholas Meyer, Oct. 1.

Kite Runner Community Forums

"One Community, One Book-Johnson County Reads" series

Oct. 4, 3pm, Oaknoll Retirement Residence, 701 Oaknoll Dr., Iowa City • Oct. 4, 7pm, North Liberty Community Library • Panel, Oct. 19, 12pm, Iowa City Public Library, Meeting Rm. A • Oct. 19, 7pm, Coralville Public Library, E. Jean Schwab Aud. • Oct. 20, 2-4pm, Iowa City Senior Center, Rm. G08.

Macbride Hall

UI campus, Iowa City

"James Van Allen: From Explorer 1 to the Edge of Interstellar Space," Edward C. Stone, physics professor, California Institute of Technology, followed by reception in honor of Van Allen, Oct. 9, 4pm, Auditorium • "The Ice Age: World of the Giant Sloth," Don "The Fossil Guy" Johnson, Oct. 9, 1pm, 2pm & 3pm, Rm. 112 • "The Ice Age: Megafauna and People," Mark Anderson, Office of the State Archaeologist, Oct. 16, 1pm, 2pm & 3pm, Auditorium • "Top Cat: #1 Predator in the Ice Age," Don "The Fossil Guy" Johnson, Oct. 23, 1pm, 2pm & 3pm, Auditorium • "The Ice Age: Mammoths, Mastodons and Humans," Mark Anderson, Office of the State Archaeologist, Oct. 30, 1pm, 2pm & 3pm, Auditorium.

The Mill

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

Talk Art Cabaret, UI Workshop readings, Oct. 6 & 20, 10pm.

Monster Design Studio

716 Oakland Rd. NE, Cedar Rapids, 365-1844

CR Poets Poetry Slam, Oct. 1, 15 & 29, 8pm.

Mt. Mercy College

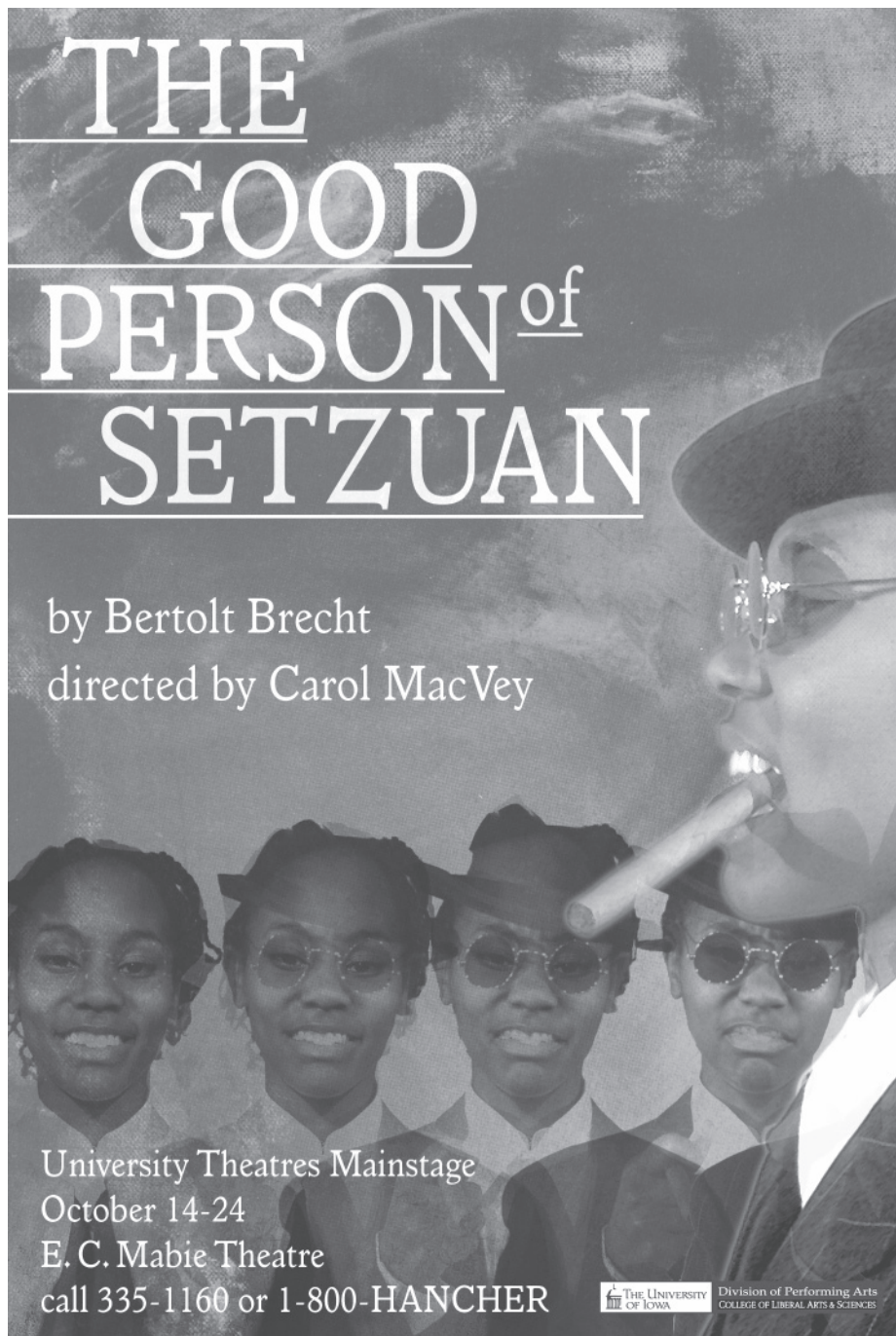
Cedar Rapids

"Tolkien and the Nature of Evil," Dr. Scott Davison, Oct. 6, 7pm, Chapel of Mercy, Busse Center • *Introduction to the End of an Argument*, film and moderated discussion on misconceptions about Islam, Oct. 12, 7pm, Flaherty Community Rm., Basile Hall • Mary Helen Stefaniak, fiction reading, Oct. 18, 7:30pm, Flaherty Community Rm., Basile Hall • "2004 Election: What's in it for You," panel of area political experts and observers, Oct. 26, 7pm, Flaherty Community Rm., Basile Hall • "Understanding Islam," Anisa Mehdi, award-winning journalist, Oct. 28, 7pm, Flaherty Community Rm., Basile Hall.

Prairie Lights

15 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City, 337-2681

All 8pm, broadcast live on WSUI (unless noted otherwise) Iowa City poet Curtis Bauer reads from his first book, *Fence Line*, Sept. 30 • Poets Timothy Liu and Bruce Beasley, Oct. 4, 8pm • Stephen Elliott reads from his political memoir *Looking Forward to It*, based on his experiences covering the Iowa-caucus and New Hampshire-primary campaigns, Oct. 5 • David Means reads from his second collection of stories, *The Secret Goldfish*, Oct. 6 • Poet, fiction writer and critic Peter Turchi reads from *Maps of the Imagination: The Writer as Cartographer*, Oct. 7 • Workshop grad Suketu Mehta reads from *Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found*, Oct. 8 • International Writing Program/Writers' Workshop readings, Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 5pm • Mona Smith reads from *Becoming Something: The Story of Canada Lee*, Oct. 12 • Ted Solotaroff and Frank Conroy



**THE
GOOD
PERSON_{of}
SETZUAN**

by Bertolt Brecht
directed by Carol MacVey

University Theatres Mainstage
October 14-24
E. C. Mabie Theatre
call 335-1160 or 1-800-HANCHER

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA DIVISION OF PERFORMING ARTS
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

discuss memoir writing and read from their own, Oct. 13, Shambaugh Aud., no radio • Poets Srikanth Reddy and Arielle Greenberg, Oct. 14 • Rick DeMarinis, Oct. 18 • David Gilbert, Oct. 19 • James Elroy, Oct. 20 • Denis Johnson, Oct. 21, Lecture Room I, Van Allen Hall • Tamara Pierce, Oct. 22 • Mary Vermillion, Oct. 25 • Gish Jen, Oct. 26 • Eric Baus and Noah Gordon, Oct. 27 • Russell Banks, Oct. 28.

Riverside Theatre

213 N. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 338-7672

Oct. 1, following performance of *Boy Meets Girl*, discuss contemporary dating culture.

Ruby's Pearl

323 E. Market St., Iowa City, 248-0032

Ruby's Reads reading group, Oct. 21, 7-8:30pm, call for this month's title, new members welcome.

Schaeffer Hall

UI campus, Iowa City

Saturday Scholars program, 10am, Rm 40

"100 Years and Counting: A 'Radical' View of the Science of Aging," Kevin Kregel, department of exercise science, Oct. 2 • "Broadway Starmaking at the Turn of the Last Century," Kim Marra, department of theatre arts, Oct. 9 • "Marketing Culture: Native Amazonians in the Public Sphere," Laura Graham, department of anthropology, Oct. 23 • "Immigrants' America: Then and Now," Shelton Stromquist, department of history, Oct. 30.

Shambaugh House

UI campus, Iowa City, 335-0128

International Writing Program readings, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 5pm; poets Asim Al Saidi, Oman, and Samson Oke Akombi, Cameroon, Oct. 8 • Alamgir Hashmi, poetry reading, Oct. 29, 5pm.

UI Art Bldg.

UI campus, Iowa City

Lecture by Japanese jewelry and metalwork artist Yasuki Hiramatsu, Oct. 7, 7:30pm, E109 • "The Artist as Hunter: Animals, Empiricism and the French Academy at the Turn of the Eighteenth Century," Sarah Cohen, speaker, Oct. 14, 8pm, E109 • Lecture by Margot Sawyer, Oct. 25, 8pm.

UI Museum of Art

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

"Time in Space," discussion by artist Leighton Pierce on his current works in progress, Sept. 30, 7:30pm • Gallery Tours, Sundays, 2pm • Gallery Talk, Sue Hettmansperger, Oct. 28, 2pm • Gallery Talk, Kee-ho Yuen, Oct. 28, 7:30pm • "Know the Score," live radio program, Oct. 29, 5-7pm.

Uptown Bill's small Mall

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

Catherine Moore, reading, Oct. 26, 7pm.

Voxman Music Bldg.

UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1603

Lecture/demonstration of Soundpainting by Walter Thompson, Oct. 23, 7:30pm, Harper Hall.

Women's Resource & Action Center

Iowa City, 335-1486

Feminist Fiction Reading Group, *The Well of Loneliness* by Radclyffe Hall, Oct. 13, 8pm • Feminist Art Circle, resource sharing, field trips and workshops, Thursdays, 5:30pm.

Film/Video

CSPS

1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1580

Speedo: A Demolition Derby Love Story, documentary, Oct. 11, 8pm • *Soldados, The Sixth Section*, documentaries, Oct. 20, 8pm • *Bill's Run*, documentary, Oct. 26, 8pm.

Nicholas Meyer Films

IMU Terrace Rm (unless noted otherwise)

8pm (unless noted otherwise), post-screening remarks by Meyer for all but Oct. 3
The Human Stain, Sept. 30, Bijou Theatre (Illinois Room), IMU • *Vendetta*, Oct. 1 • *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*, Oct. 2 • *Sommersby* (7pm), *The Day After* (9pm), Oct. 3.

Mt. Mercy College

Cedar Rapids

Introduction to the End of an Argument, film and moderated discussion on misconceptions about Islam, Oct. 12, 7pm, Flaherty Community Rm., Basile Hall.

Festivals/Celebrations

UI Museum of Art

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

"Oktoberfest," Art After Hours, food, beer and music by Central Standard Time, Oct. 8, 6-9pm, RSVP by Oct. 1, 335-3676.

Ushers Ferry Historical Village

5925 Seminole Valley Trail NE, Cedar Rapids, 286-5763

All Things Scottish: CelticFest 2003, highland games, traditional music, dance and food, Oct. 2, 11am-6pm.

Misc.

CSPS

1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1580

Off the Wall, gala fall fund-raiser and auction, Oct. 16, 7:30pm.

Monster Design Studio

716 Oakland Rd. NE, Cedar Rapids, 365-1844

First Avenue Wine House Wine Tasting Party, music by Bill Heller, Oct. 8, 5:30-10pm, RSVP 298-9463 • Kids Halloween Party and Costume Parade, Oct. 30, 12-2pm.

Public Space One

6 1/2 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City

Stitch 'n' Bitch, knitters, Tuesdays, 4-6:30pm, emily-maloney@uiowa.edu for more info.

Ruby's Pearl

323 E. Market St., Iowa City, 248-0032

Fashion Debut, Kymbyrly Koester's "Artfucker" clothing line makes its debut appearance, Oct. 15, 7-10pm.

UI Museum of Art

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

Fall Family Day, Oct. 24, 12-3pm • Fundraiser: *Faculty Exhibition 2004* Preview and Art Auction, Oct. 14, 6-9pm.

US Cellular Center

370 First Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888

Cedar Rapids Antique Show and Collector's Fair, Oct. 1, 11am-8pm; Oct. 2, 11am-6pm; Oct. 3, 11am-5pm • Eastern Iowa's Largest Garage Sale & Flea Market, Oct. 9, 9am-4pm • Lipizzaner Stallions, Oct. 10, 2 & 6pm • WWE presents: Raw Live, Oct. 24, 2pm.

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w w w . p a t v . t v

Ushers Ferry Historical Village

5925 Seminole Valley Trail NE, Cedar Rapids, 286-5763

Woodworkers Jamboree, Oct. 17, 1-4pm • Safe Halloween for Kids, trick or treating, games and costume contests, Oct. 24, 12-4pm.

Classes/Camps

Macbride Hall

UI campus, Iowa City

"Art! It's Natural," art classes for children first through third grades, 10:30am-12pm: Oct. 2, "Aquatic Wildlife Printmaking Using Stamping Techniques"; Oct. 9, "Bird Mobiles"; Oct. 16, "Drawing in Mammal Hall"; Oct. 23, "Insect Collage"; Oct. 30, "Sculpt a Reptile"; register at 335-0481.

Monster Design Studio

716 Oakland Rd. NE, Cedar Rapids, 365-1844

Kids Art Classes, Saturdays, 11am-12pm.

School for the Performing Arts

209 N. Linn St., Iowa City, 341-0166

Acting and music classes and lessons for all ages and abilities. Scene study, Kindermusik, group guitar and more. No audition necessary. Call, or visit www.schoolperformingarts.com to register or for more info.

Stars Guitars

Town & Country Center, 3639 First Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 866-362-1881

Breedlove Workshop by guitarist Richard Gilewitz, Oct. 20, 7-9pm.

Theatre Cedar Rapids

102 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-8592

"Using Movement to Develop Character," acting movement workshop with the LA's Actors' Gang, Sept. 8, 7pm, limited to 30 participants 16 and older, call to register • Acting 1 for Adults, ages 15 and older, through Oct. 24, Sundays 5:30-7pm • Actor's Process in Production, through Feb. 13, Sundays 7-8:30pm • Acting 1 for Young Artists, ages 12-15, through Oct. 25, Mondays 5-6pm • Scene Study 1 for Young Artists, ages 12-15, Sept. 20-Oct. 25, Mondays 6-7pm • SPLASH Classes, ages 6-11, Oct. 2-23, "Haunted Halloween," Saturdays, 12:30-3pm.

Happens All the Time

When Tony Cooper and Lisa Kingscott returned from having lunch in Herefordshire, England, to the field where they had parked their light aircraft, they found a herd of cattle eating it. "We were going back to the plane to fly home, and we could see several bullocks standing around it, and there were gaping holes in the body of the plane," Kingscott told the *Daily Mail*, estimating the damage to the canvas-covered fuselage of the 1946 Auster J1N at \$17,768.

Mensa Reject of the Week

When the manager of a trailer park in Barry County, Mich., told a 21-year-old woman to stay out of the mobile home she had just moved into because a stove he installed wasn't hooked up properly and was leaking gas, she started to leave but not before lighting a cigarette. The trailer blew up, badly burning the woman, her year-old son and 4-year-old daughter.

Take Your Pick

Police in Elmwood Park, N.J., accused online bookmaker Salvatore Teodoro, 46, of offering bettors the choice of collecting their winnings in cash or sex. Chief Don Ingrasselino said that Teodoro used prostitutes to provide payouts to gamblers in four states, pointing out that giving winners the option of taking sex instead of cash "brought up his profit margins a bit."

Can You Hear Me Now?

Cingular Wireless introduced an "escape-a-date" service to rescue customers willing to pay to bail out of bad encounters. The feature is part of Cingular's Voice Connect auto-call service, which costs \$4.99 a month. It calls at a pre-set time and provides eight randomly generated scripts, which prompt the customer's side of the conversation.

Talent Scouts

Foreign strippers intending to table dance in Canadian clubs must now provide nude photos of themselves to qualify for a visa for Canada, according to the *Toronto Sun* newspaper, which reported that immigration officials are obligated to sort through the photos to make sure the women are legitimate. "They can't be partially nude," immigration lawyer Mendel Green said. "If they don't have pictures in the nude, they are not going to wiggle their bottoms in Canada."

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

They say new ideas require old buildings.

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◀ 10.19 Jake Armerding
10.28 Jim Neu
11.9 Balfa Toujours
11.21 Disappear Fear
11.24 Iván Navarro
12.15 Kris Delmhörst



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Strange but True!

News Quirks

Compiled by Roland Sweet

Curses, Foiled Again

Boston police reported that Paul Michael Callahan, 32, thought he was robbing a bank when he handed an employee a note demanding money. Told he was in a copy shop, he asked directions to the nearest Fleet bank branch, where he got away with less than \$200. That afternoon, police said that he held up another bank, making off with \$2,500. While fleeing in his truck, however, a dye pack in the money exploded, then his truck got a flat tire. Covered in red dye, Callahan ran to a nearby gas station, where police found him hiding.

Way to Go

Hiroaki Nishiguchi, 20, died while talking to a friend in Nishinomiya, Japan, when a 30-year-old man leaped from the top of a high-rise building and landed on top of him.

Adding Insult to Injury

After arguing with a friend at a pub in South Yorkshire, England, David Walker, 28, went home to get his sawed-off shotgun, which he jammed into his trousers. While he was walking back to the pub to settle the dispute, the gun accidentally fired, shooting him in the testicles. After emergency surgery to remove what remained of his scrotum, Walker was sentenced to five years in jail for possessing an illegal firearm.

Should Have Seen It Coming

The St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association fired consultant David Levin, 64, because of concerns that his psychic powers were interfering with his work. Richard Fleming, president and CEO of the nonprofit economic development group explained that, even though it had paid Levin \$1.4 million since 1997, his claims to have supernatural powers became a credibility issue.

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ASK RUBY

The purpose of "Ask Ruby" is to give honest and accurate information regarding sex and sexual relationships and to promote mutual and consensual sexual practices. We believe strongly that censorship is a method of patriarchal control used to shut fiery, feisty folks down. This column is intended as a blow to barriers that keep people from experiencing good communication around sex.

We do not claim to have all the answers, but we do have extended experience, both personal and professional. Questions should be mailed to Ruby's Pearl, 323 E. Market St., Iowa City, IA 52240, 319-248-0032 or emailed to rubyspearl@excite.com

The Big Faux O

Dear Ruby,

What do you do when you have started faking orgasms with your partner and then you are stuck never having them?

*Help,
Faux O*

Dear Faux O,

This question makes the Ruby's staff squint, grit our teeth, shake our heads and say, "Uh oh!" First of all, know that you are not alone. We have talked with many women who say that they have faked an orgasm from time to time with the intent of enhancing their partner's ego or to get an unpleasant sexual experience over with faster. The deal is, you deserve the big O just as much as anyone else! So congratulations for being willing to take steps to make it happen.

Fessing up to faking can be devastating to a partner's trust. Please be sure you both have support systems that you can rely on to get you through if you decide to make a breakthrough to honesty. If it's an option, this is an ideal situation for couples counseling. Ruby doesn't recommend lying at any point in a relationship. But if revealing the whole truth seems too overwhelming and risky, perhaps stopping the lies and taking a new direction with your sex life can fix things up. In other words, it is entirely up to you if you want to cum clean.

You could try telling your partner that you would like to explore new ways of getting you both turned on. This is a sign of natural, healthy curiosity. Maybe it's time for some erotica or porn. Try looking at some together. If you don't like the

run-of-the-mill porn, where the women make all the noise, but the men have all the climaxes, try looking for women-produced, women-centered erotica or porn. Not only will it get you revved up, it may inspire you both to try something new.

Have you tried role-playing? G-spot searching? New positions? Is your partner willing to beg to please you? Exploration can create an opportunity to ask for the type of stimulation that really does get you off, and to discover some you don't even know about yet. If you're not sure what brings you the ultimate pleasure, spend some leisurely time alone getting to know your body. It's unrealistic to expect a partner to send you to the stars if you don't know how to get there on your own. It's important to be able to communicate what does and doesn't work for you.

All normal bodies undergo change, and our desires, needs and cravings may change as well. Maybe last week you wanted lots of cheesecake and deep thrusting, while this week you want to gorge on fresh mangoes and tongue flicking. The thing is, if you tell your Aunt Delores that you love devilled spam, then how can she know you actually prefer vegan hot dogs? Like Aunt Delores, your partner deserves to know how to really satisfy you. Don't leave them confused about why the same old same old just isn't putting a smile on your face anymore. It's time to stop pretending that ho-hum is zippity-doo-dah. Get the thrills you deserve!

*Peace and hot lovin',
Ruby*

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♈ ARIES - Much of the wealth coming your way now will be of the inner kind, which is good, considering the challenges coming up. Family, real estate, marriage and business partnerships all require close attention. You can depend on family and close associates for support in the decision process. Let your fondest hopes influence your choices, but keep a sharp eye on the budget, and be flexible. Unexpected developments will suddenly clear many of the obstacles that have blocked understanding between you and key associates. Helpful financial adjustments will be involved.

♉ TAURUS - You will have a lot to work with this month: inspiration, energy, enthusiasm, influence and an abundance of other intangible resources. That's good, because a lot needs to be done. But it could be hard to actually get off the dime. Decisions are much more complex than they appear and obstacles more stubborn. Conditions are deceptive, too. Seek the opinion of experts. Expect the unexpected on the work front. You might have to learn new skills or dust off old ones to realize opportunities. A new you will begin to emerge.

♊ GEMINI - Unexpected events will soon break down barriers for you, expanding possibilities at work, in romance and in recreational areas. You might find new opportunities working with the young, too. But it's best to go slowly until you know exactly what these changes will bring. It is too easy to set things in motion that you will eventually regret. Others could also get way, way ahead of themselves. Careful planning is needed to thread your way through present obstacles to new opportunities. Your access to people with influence will prove helpful.

♋ CANCER - Your lifestyle is starting to seem tedious. Maybe this routine is required for family, professional or financial reasons. But you yearn for a warmer, livelier home life and more rewarding social involvements. Perhaps even some travel or study. You are about to discover new, inner sources of optimism. Surprising developments will break down the invisible barriers that impose present limits. Your home life, professional life and your social life will soon merge into a more rewarding whole. Call on lessons learned from past experience when developing these new opportunities.

♌ LEO - You are feeling an intense yearning for broader horizons and greater joy and creativity in your family and community life. But it seems hard to make the desired changes without running smack into problems you'd rather not revisit. Not the least of your concerns is the risk of upsetting your hard-won financial balance. However, you can expect the unexpected to shake up the status quo and present new possibilities. There is risk. You must trust your heart and depend on the goodwill of others to make it all work.

♍ VIRGO - Virgoans are experiencing an exquisite tension between the desire to expand their financial base and worry about conserving financial resources. Enthusiasm could outstrip common sense. Impatience is high. The margin for error is narrow and risk is high. Err on the side of caution. Listen to more conservative advisors. However, there is a high probability that the steps you do take will produce a good outcome. Cautious initiatives will generate wide support. The planets are planning to remove a lot of the dead wood that might hinder your professional plans.

♎ LIBRA - That famous Libran poise will come in really handy this month. A tidal wave of major astrological influences sweeps right through your sign, affecting who you are, who you are perceived to be and how you earn your living. (Nothing too major.) It could all happen very fast and affect all your relationships in fundamental ways. Fortunately, the underlying aspects are positive and supportive. And you also begin a new 12-year cycle of growth and expansion, with Jupiter now in your sign. Take it slow, safeguard long-term resources.

♏ SCORPIO - Natives of other Sun signs might be disturbed by the month's events, or have their lives disrupted. However, for Scorpio, October will be a month of inner realization and transformation. Your standing in the world will change, too. The month's events will dispel self-limiting anxieties and fears and positively transform your understanding of yourself. You will find yourself crossing a threshold, going through a door you might not feel quite ready to enter. But now is as good a time as any. Others will notice and approve of these changes.

♐ SAGITTARIUS - Through a subtle alchemy of events within your own heart and mind, and events outside of you, you will be pushed in a new direction, personally and professionally, despite yourself. The ideas of volunteer work, community service and activism will become a more organic part of your makeup and your life activities. Or, if you are that kind of person already, you will experience a marked deepening and renewal of your commitments. Activism and service activities will become a more tightly integrated, more enjoyable and fulfilling part of your life.

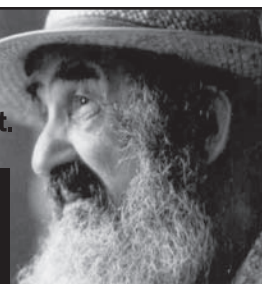
♑ CAPRICORN - If I were a Capricorn right now, I'd be thinking, "I've been fighting battles at home and at the office for a long time. I'd give anything for a truce and a fresh starting point, even if it means a compromise or two, a couple of trade offs or a few outright sacrifices. Anything. Whatever." Well, no sooner said than done. October is the month for you. You are also entering a time when you must decide what your life will be about. October will help clear away the dead wood.

♒ AQUARIUS - Decisions must be made to ensure continued health, well being and livelihood. There is plenty of inspiration and plenty of pressure, but not necessarily a clear path ahead. You can move the process forward and help ensure a good outcome by engaging in thoughtful discussions with experts and family members. Take good advice to heart. A little soul-searching is also in order. If things still seem a bit cloudy, perhaps fate will step in and offer a helping hand. Your luck and optimism will remain your most valuable assets throughout.

♓ PISCES - Pisceans are entering a cycle that encourages and supports a permanent change of basic habits. Current behavior and work habits might be causing strains in your health and/or your finances. You could also experience a big, sudden change affecting your work, health and your long-term finances. Be careful to respond wisely to his event. It could bring opportunities and resources that you definitely do not want to squander. Don't be carried away by attractive but unrealistic ideas. Discuss things with older and wiser people. Consult experts. Reorganize.

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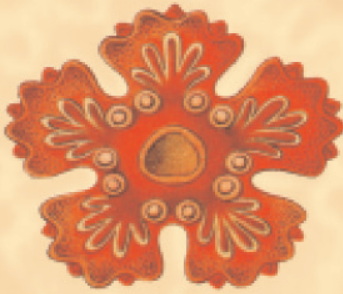
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- 7 Oct The Makers, The Jet Set
- 8 Oct Everytime I Die, Zao, Misery Signals (early)
- 9 Oct Brian Jones CD Release party
- 14 Oct Found Magazine Show
- 15 Oct Crooked Fingers, The Winter Blanket
- 20 Oct Legendary Shack Shakers
- 21 Oct The Dirtbombs, The Ponys
- 24 Oct Armour for Sleep (early) Ming and FS (late)
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- 29 Oct Spitafeld (early)
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