

little village

iowa city's news & culture magazine

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One T-shirt at a time

Conventional cotton
production isn't healthy
for you or the environment.
What can you do?

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letters

Bush and Dr. King

Hearing Bush speak in "honor" of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday was like seeing Hitler commemorate the anniversary of the closing of the concentration camps. What an insult to the memory of Dr. King to have this war monger use this holiday in a pathetic attempt to gain African-American support for the power hungry Republican party. Bush, in he and his party's willingness to kill unlimited numbers of people to gain a socioeconomic stronghold in the Middle East, could not be more a polar opposite of Dr. King's ideals. King was a man who lived and gave his life in a search for peace and equality; everything Bush and the Republicans stand for goes against King's ideals. Bush should stick to speaking at functions where his attributes shine best, such as NRA gatherings and cockfights!

In pondering the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr's birthday, I thought of the extent to which white male privilege still saturates social institutions today. Neither Bush nor any Republican could ever have "won" in a society that was focused on equality for all.

Recently John McCain appeared on the Tucker Carlson show. Carlson is a small component of the Republican media machine who promotes his party's socioeconomic power-seeking agenda on a PBS news-interview show. McCain is the Bush "Yes Man," 'Nam vet sellout whose mission is to gain/maintain the support of liberal Republicans and conservative Democrats by pretending he differs from Bush on certain issues.

On this day they were discussing illegal immigration, with a focus on Mexicans. They cited this as a vast problem, though both agreed that the country would shut down if the "illegal" citizens left the workforce. This because conservative businessmen take advantage of the Mexicans' desperation to feed their families by paying them much less than "real" Americans. McCain stated he felt that it's OK to bring in Mexican immigrants to work underpaid in sweatshop jobs that "Americans" won't work in, provided they have legal citizenship. This contradiction implies an Orwellian hierarchy of citizenship status in which some "Americans" are more equal than others. But then this is no surprise to non-whites and women who already experience this daily in this country. I imagine that next Republicans will be promoting Affirmative Action as long as those who qualify are willing to pick cotton and shine shoes.

Carlson added he believes "Americans" like himself should have the right to stop allowing immigrants to enter "our" country. I guess the ownership he is implying occurred after we came over here as immigrants ourselves and proceeded to slaughter and colonize the "native" Americans and Mexicans whom were here before us, and steal their country.

Open your eyes folks, there's a four-year bad moon on the rise! Next stop, Bush uses the fear tactics that got him "elected" to privatize social security.

Marv Hain Jr.
Coralville

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



YOU'LL QUAKE WITH MIRTH AS HE EXPLAINS ANOTHER OF HIS WACKY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES!

YOU SEE, LADIES, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE LOGICAL FOR YOU TO MARRY AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE--DEVOTE YOUR TIME TO RAISING BABIES--AND THEN START YOUR CAREERS AT THE AGE OF FORTY!

HECK, WE'LL EVEN THROW IN A TAX CUT SO YOU CAN BUY YOURSELVES SOMETHING NICE!



YOU'LL CHUCKLE AT HIS ZANY ANTICS AS HE MIS-INTERPRETS EVERYTHING HE SEES!

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IN BLUE STATES, PEOPLE SIP CHAR-
DONNAY!

RED STATERS ARE FILLED WITH VIR-
TUOUS JOY!

BLUE STATERS NEED TO TURN THEIR FROWNS UPSIDE DOWN!

IT'S ALL SO SIMPLE--WHEN YOU SEE THINGS AS CLEARLY AS I DO!

Exceptions make the ruler

While reactions to George W. Bush's second inaugural address have predictably split between pro-Bush observers hailing it as a profound expression of American ideals and anti-Bush commentators panning it as an empty rhetorical smokescreen for a bellicose foreign policy agenda, the main underlying theme of the address seems to be so widely accepted as to have engendered no comment whatsoever. While it's easy to dismiss Bush's address as another

in a continuing series of repetitive speeches on abstract themes—most of the commentary on it, both pro and con, featured a word count—it is somewhat more instructive to note that the speech was, in fact, another in a series of strong assertions by the president of the doctrine of American exceptionalism.

This doctrine—which states that America, founded on a set of ideals rather

than on mere coincidences of geography and ethnicity—is unique among nations and thus holds a special responsibility to further those ideals worldwide.

From this perspective, both the pro- and anti-Bush takes on the address have a certain validity. Bush's speech was indeed an expression of American ideals—freedom, liberty, democracy—and a commitment to foster those ideals in the world at large. But unless the president's speech counts as a wholesale repudiation of his administration's behavior in its first term—a possibility completely counter-indicated by recent statements as to actual US policy—it was also largely a rhetorical exercise. As befits a presidency that was founded on exceptional circumstances (a defeat in the popular vote and a Supreme Court decision that contradicted

all precedent) and claimed unprecedented executive powers based on continued assertions of unique conditions (the idea that “everything changed” on Sept. 11, 2001), the president's take on American exceptionalism comes with a number of exceptions attached.

Take the president's main assertion, that “It is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world.” Except, of course, those nations and cultures whose tyrannical regimes are our partners in trade (China, Saudi Arabia) or the “War on Terror” (Pakistan). And except those democratic movements and institutions, such as the popularly elected governments of Chile and Brazil, who take an

House leadership. Except in nation after nation, one man's freedom fighter is another man's terrorist.

To the rest of what is accepted as the free world, the president stated that “we honor your friendship, we rely on your counsel and we depend on your help.” Except when that counsel is contrary to unilateral US action. Don't get ideas, France and Germany.

As a concept, American exceptionalism is so completely ingrained in the fabric of our political discourse as to be a habit of mind rather than a well understood notion, and indeed there is much that is admirable about American ideals and the desire to share them with the rest of the world. Our tendency to act on this concept unthinkingly, however, leads us to a unique sort of political narcissism. Our contributions

Bush's speech was another in a series of strong assertions by the president of the doctrine of American exceptionalism.

overtly leftist stance.

The president further specified that his message was intended for “outlaw regimes.” One would almost take this as some kind of assertion of the primacy of international law and standards of conduct, except that the administration's prosecution of the Iraq war clearly indicates no respect whatsoever for such “quaint” concepts as national sovereignty and ethical treatment of prisoners.

The president further asserts that rights “are secured by free dissent and the participation of the governed.” Except, of course, when that dissent is directed at the policies of our “war president,” in which case it will be roundly denounced as aid and comfort to the enemy by high ranking administration members and their spokesmen and confined to specified “protest zones.” Except when the governed are minority voters in Florida and Ohio. Except for the participation of those unlucky or unwise Americans represented by Democrats in the House, whose representatives have been systematically excluded from the legislative process by the Republican

to the tsunami relief efforts, for example, were touted as an example of “American values” without regards to the fact that several other countries contributed more both proportionately and in actual aid. The idea that Americans were somehow participating in, for example, Australian values, is completely unthinkable.

This tendency to view the world and our actions in it as a reflection of ourselves is the root of both our profound misunderstanding of the rest of the world's citizens, and their impression of us as arrogant and unheeding. As expressed by an American administration that has shown a clear tendency to assert an exception whenever the rules prevent the unfettered exercise of its power, this is why a large percentage of the people on the planet consider us to be a danger to world safety.

At face value, there is much to admire in what the president said on inauguration day. In the context of the current world situation and the prior behavior and stated goals of his regime, however, the message is a far less admirable one—“Do as we say, not as we do. Or else.” **lv**



A valentine for home

Ah, February, when the Feast of St. Valentine is upon us. When love is in the air (who needs spring?) and the reds of passion abound in flower and candy shops, when paper hearts are passed to and fro and we so readily say, "I love you."



**UR
HERE**
THOMAS
DEAN

Yet what if we were to turn to our homes—to our dwellings, our communities, our regions, the land about us—and burst forth with a heartfelt "I love you"?

I can imagine a lot of raised eyebrows, quizzical expressions, maybe a finger or two twirling "cuckoo" about the ear.

But why not? So much is in distress: community bonds are frayed, many towns are dying, our land is being polluted and destroyed at an alarming rate. What happens when a person is suffering from alienation, illness or self-destruction? A huge dose of love is often the prescription.

The writer Wendell Berry would tell us that our communities and our land suffer because we no longer love them. As he so often says, in these times of crisis, we need to "give affection some standing." We do not misuse, let alone abuse or destroy, what we love, if we love rightly and well. For Berry, the continuity of sharing a history of, a knowledge of and a feeling for a place are essential for it (and us) to survive. "The pattern of reminding," he says, "implies affection for the place and respect for it, and so, finally, the local culture will carry the knowledge of how the place may be well and lovingly used, and also the implicit command to use it only well and lovingly" ("The Work of Local Culture," *What Are People For?*, p. 166).

I have experienced this love of place. It does not diminish my love for family and friends. In fact, such deep feeling enhances it. The bonds of affection and connection extended beyond the individuals I care about, to the place that we share, tie us closer together. Yet the love I feel for this place—whether it be our community or a middle land region somewhat larger—stands on its own, too. It is not simply contingent upon the human affections and commitments I share with other loved ones.

I first knew of this love for Iowa and Iowa City when I left them. Not surprising. My heart ached for them. I felt an emptiness from their absence in my life. The sense of loss was not unlike the phys-

When I thought of Iowa City after the years I left it—when pictures of the small spots that were meaningful to me entered my mind, when thoughts of the cultural vibrancy that is palpable in our community caught me off-guard, when memories of past times walking by the Iowa River trundled into reflective times—the sudden rush of warmth in my chest that I think we all understand as love was unmistakable.

Rather than push those feelings aside, bury them in the bottom of a closet marked "nuts," I acted on them. We decided to make an intentional effort to live where we wanted, to commit to a community we loved, to raise our children in a place full of meaning for

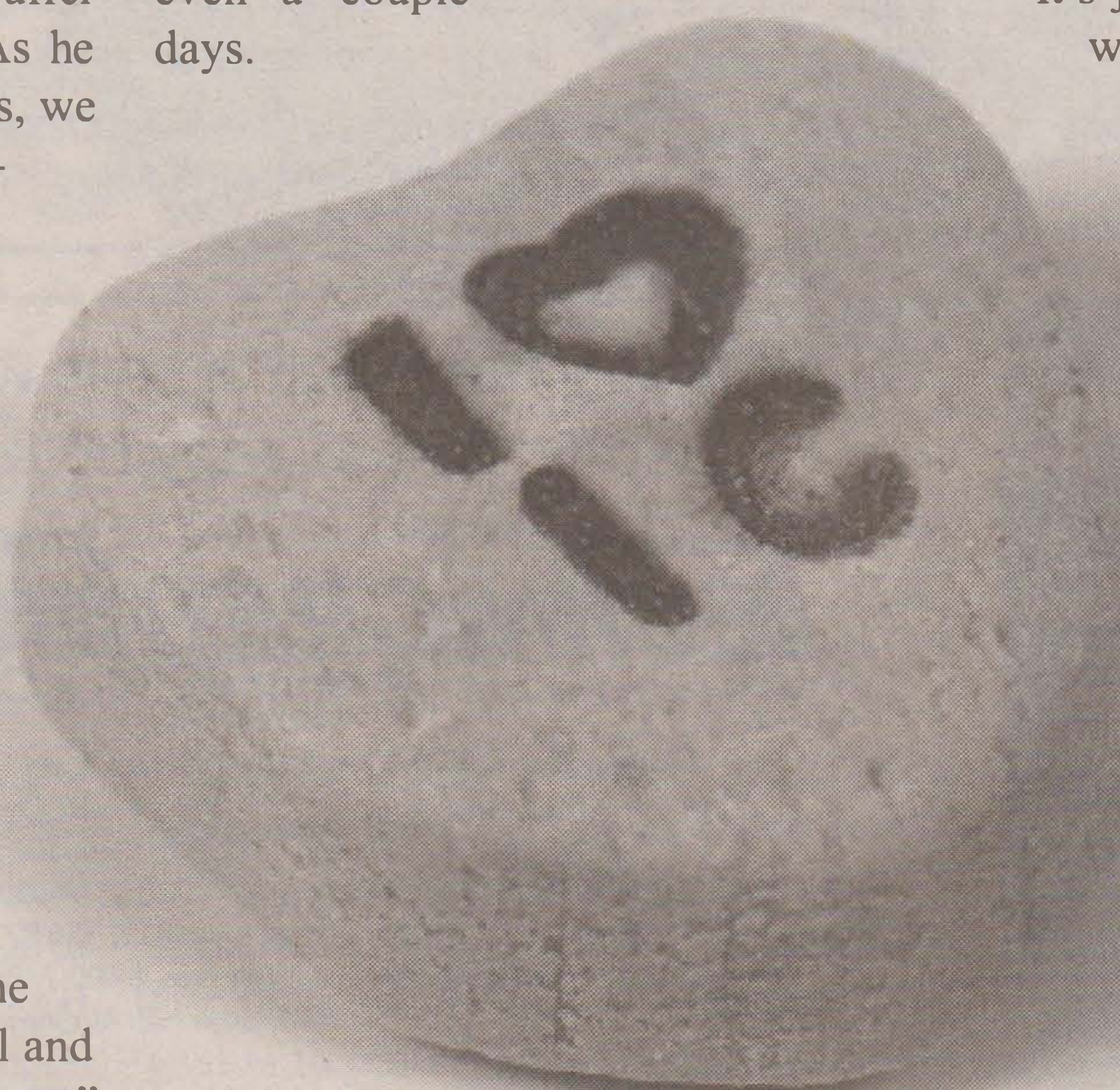
What if we were to turn to our homes—to our dwellings, our communities, our regions, the land about us—and burst forth with a heartfelt "I love you"?

ical and emotional feelings I got when my wife and I were apart during the year we were engaged because we were attending different schools, or the pain of absence I now feel for my entire family—including children, and greyhounds, too—when I am away on a trip for even a couple days.

us. We took some risks and endured some difficulties—emotional, physical and financial—to make the move back to Iowa City over five years ago now, but it has been worth it. We can't escape the love and affection we feel, even though we can't always explain or rationalize it.

It's just there, and life is so diminished when we don't drive in the grooves of the path these powerful forces have laid for us.

Iowa City has a lot going for it: an educated, imaginative, culturally dynamic populace; vibrant and well-supported public cultural institutions; and excellent and highly valued educational institutions at all levels. There is also great beauty in our town and region, from a lot of compelling architecture to the rolling landscape whose gentle essence Grant Wood and others captured so



well in the visual arts. But that stuff alone can't cause someone to fall in love.

And there certainly is plenty about our community and region that is not attractive: especially for its size, there is way too much traffic; along with the intellectual and political liberality and enlightenment of our community there are often surprising instances of short-sightedness and retrograde thinking; and the suburbanization of our region is not doing a heck of a lot for the aesthetic pleasures of our visual spaces. Yet these things do not make me dislike our community.

While all of this matters, and matters greatly, in many ways—in ecological, in social, in economic ways—it all, good and bad, matters little, at least as a mathematical equation that might explain love.

So on Valentine's Day, I just have to say to Iowa City and our greater community and region, "I love you." I love you even when you build stupid malls and more and uglier roads to increase the traffic. And I love you even when you're pompous and smug. And I love you even when you turn down opportunities to make our city leadership more representative, and when you opt for more "economic development" than human or ecological good. And I love you when you come together to build a magnificent new public library and save a wonderful theater for the betterment of our community's culture and heritage. And I love you when you stay blue when much of the rest of the state goes red. And I love you when you talk about important things in life in intelligent ways, and you create magnificent art and literature. But most of all, I just love you. Happy Valentine's Day. **lv**

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Preserving the tradition of raw milk cheese

In Italy this fall I helped a group of American cheesemakers run a booth at Slow Food's enormous *Salone del Gusto* food show. Hundreds of producers showed up with every imaginable type of food.



it's about the
FOOD

Chef Kurt
Michael
Friese

Cheesemakers brought varieties from all over the world. To give you an idea, the booth across from ours peddled a cheese from Tibet made out of yak's milk (it was fantastic, by the way).

Large signs above each booth explained in Italian and English who was there and where they came from. But no one cared; they were really only interested in all the free

samples. Don't get me wrong; these folks were no mere scavengers on the hunt for free grub. On the contrary, they were 150,000 of the most dedicated chowhounds in the world—and they knew their food. After sampling some of our wares, these people would inevitably ask where the cheese was made; we'd answer, and invariably their eyes would widen in disbelief, "Si? Americano!?"

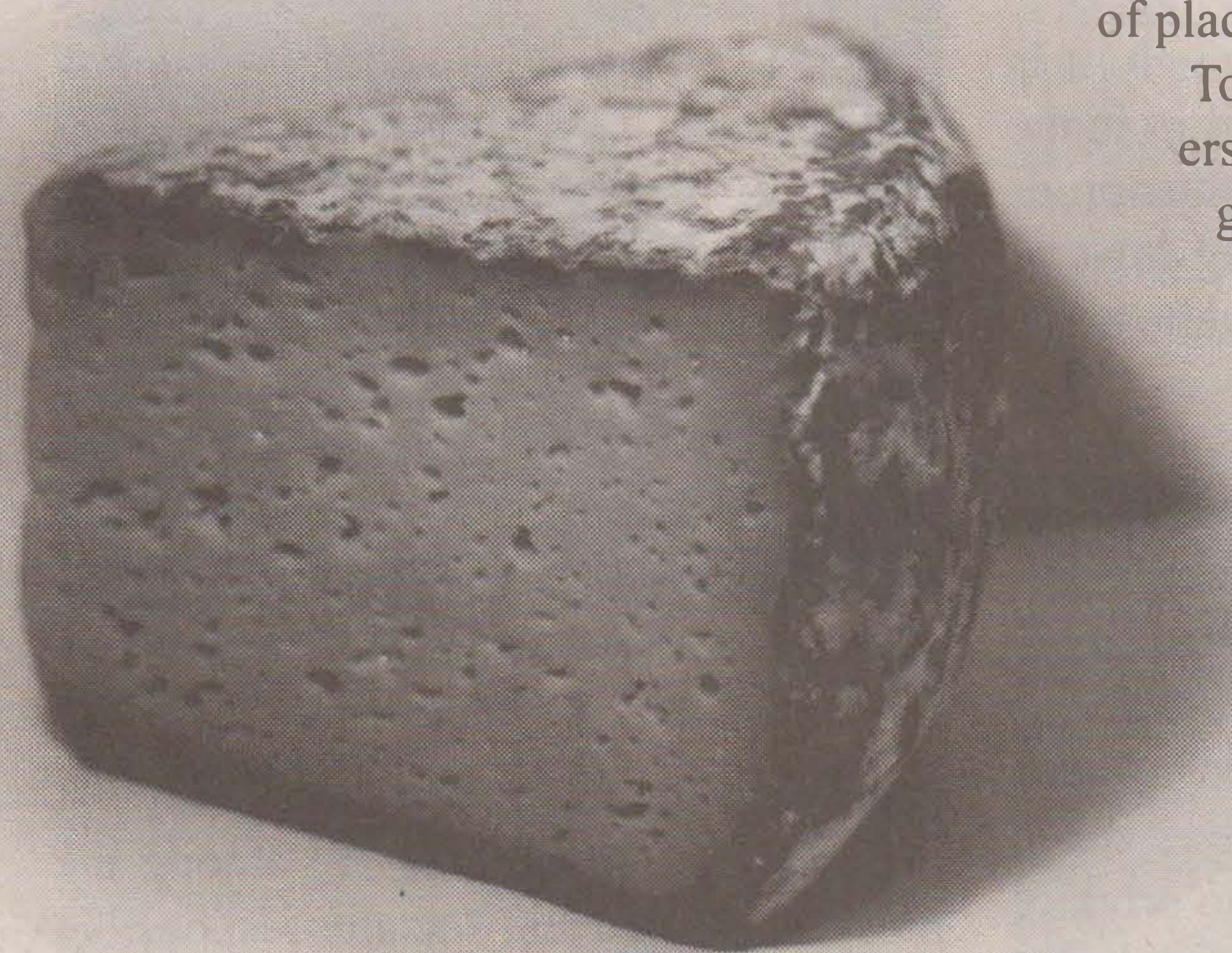
"Si, signore," I would say; then using what remained of my Italian, "*In tutto Americano, e in tutto latte crudo.*" This is where they became totally amazed. "100 percent American, and 100 percent raw milk."

It was not only the fact that these deeply delicious cheeses came from the land of Velveeta that amazed them, but also that each was made from unpasteurized milk. In Europe, the purists have been having quite the ongoing battle with the EU sanitation police, who are trying to

ban the practice outright due to concerns over food-borne illnesses. Europeans are arriving at the same compromise we've reached in the US: allowing raw milk cheeses to be sold if they have been aged under the proper conditions for at least 60 days.

Thirty cheesemakers from all over the US came to *Salone del Gusto*, representing a consortium organized by Slow Food USA to promote the culinary value and cultural importance of these artisanal cheeses. Artisans came from Blythedale Farm in Corinth, Vt., and 1797 Farm in Auburn, Maine. They came from

Contrary to the perception created by the likes of Cheez Whiz and Kraft Singles, America has an old and very rich tradition of cheesemaking.



Lovetree Farmstead Cheese in Grantsburg, Wis., The Point Reyes Farmstead in Point Reyes, Cal., and Sweet Home Farm in Elberta, Ala., to name but a few.

Slow Food takes no money for its work promoting these (and many other) foods; the organization is simply fulfilling its mission to "invigorate and proliferate regional, seasonal culinary traditions." The goal is to preserve these great flavors by promoting their consumption; raising demand to protect supply.

Cheese history

Contrary to the perception created by the likes of Cheez Whiz and Kraft Singles, America has an old and very rich tradition of cheesemaking. The first cheeses made in America were English style, and as more immigrants arrived, they brought their traditions from Italy, Germany, Spain and elsewhere. American classics like Dry Jack, Teleme and Brick are simply adaptations of their European ancestors (Parmesan, Taleggio and Limberger, respectively). These cheeses have developed their own identities (though, much like you, are quite different from their

great-grandfathers) and their own sense of place.

Today's farmstead cheesemakers are a strong, determined, new generation of artisans who love their land, their livestock and their work. Their only desire is to continue their way of life and produce these luscious cheeses.

As things stand today, selling raw milk is illegal, as is selling raw milk cheese aged less than 60 days. Cheesemakers may soon lose the right even

to sell the aged varieties. In addition, these producers often feel alone in the wilderness, with likeminded artisans sometimes hundreds of miles away, so it is difficult to rely on the support of others in facing the daily challenges. With the help of Slow Food's Farmstead Cheese Consortium promoting these wonderful cheeses to the wide world, these artisans can count on preserving their traditions for generations to come. **lv**



One T-shirt at a time

Conventional cotton production isn't healthy for you or the environment. What can you do? Organic, fair trade cotton is gaining a foothold locally and across the country. Try starting with one organic T-shirt.

by Susan Futrell

Cotton—the fabric of our lives.™ There's such a comforting, domestic, wholesome feel to that slogan. Wrap yourself in cotton, scrub yourself clean and dry with it, sleep in it, dress yourself up in it, make a statement with your favorite T-shirt in it. Cotton threads its way through many parts of our lives.

Before cotton is a fabric, though, it is one of the largest commodity crops in the world. About half of all global fiber products are made from cotton: long rows of cotton plants with their fluffy white bolls, stretching to the horizon.

Conventional cotton production covers only 3-to-5 percent of the world's cultivated land but uses 25 percent of the world's insecticides (more than any other single crop) and 10 percent of all pesticides; it competes with coffee, corn and tobacco for the top spot as most heavily sprayed crop on the globe. The cotton to produce one T-shirt requires about one-third of a pound of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers, according to the Sustainable Cotton Project. A pair of cotton jeans takes about three-fourths of a pound. A stack of T-shirts and a few pairs of jeans in the closet of the average American can add up to quite a few pounds of pesticides.

Several Iowa City businesses offer an alternative: fabric and clothing made from organic cotton. New Pioneer Co-op, Active Endeavors and Clothworks have all developed a loyal following for the prod-



Sewing a shirt at the Nueva Vida co-op

ucts they offer and say the companies that produce organic clothing are among the most innovative and socially responsible around.

What exactly is organic? Organic farming is based on soil fertility, biodiversity and avoiding the use of toxic chemicals that harm the environment. Organic food production is regulated by USDA guidelines prohibiting the use of synthetic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, as well as the use of irradiation, sewage sludge and genetically modified organisms in production. Organic fiber production is based on the same system of farming, and although only food products are currently covered by the federal law, last year the

US fiber industry voluntarily adopted guidelines for organic fiber production that have been hailed as the most comprehensive and stringent in the world.

Clothworks

Iowa City's Clothworks is part retail store, part workshop. The walls are lined with soft rolls of gorgeous fabric, and the floor is speckled with bits of cloth and thread that have found their way from behind the counter where owner Sally Bowers is pinning together a garment. The place has a comfortable feel.

Bowers first became interested in organic fabric and clothing 10 years ago as a college student. Her involvement in the Rainforest Action Network led to an awareness of the environmental damage caused by pesticides and herbicides, as well as an appreciation of the benefits of organic food. "I began to realize that environmental values could apply to every aspect of life," she says. When Bowers opened her fabric store and sewing business six years ago, she carried only organic fabrics, mainly cotton and hemp. She has since expanded to other natural fibers such as silk and wool, but still carries a selection of organic cotton.

While Bowers notes that few people know how to sew anymore, organic fabric is hard to find. This fact has brought her customers from throughout eastern Iowa as well as many who buy via her website. "Grandmas sewing for babies seems to be very popular," she says with a smile. Bowers also makes clothing for several customers who are chemical-sensitive and have sought out organic fabric.

Bowers buys fabric from several distributors, and most of it is produced by the same mills. The fabric industry has experienced so much transition in recent years, she says, that finding consistent sources is difficult. The cotton is usually grown in the US, but may be shipped to Portugal or India to be made into fabric, then shipped back to the US for sale. Bowers is thrilled

ing from sunny Nicaragua the day before. She turned proudly like a model to show off her stylish fitted top. Not only is Yadira strikingly lovely, she is also an owner and president of the women's cooperative that sewed and helped design the organic cotton garment she wore that day.

"We have succeeded because we are very determined," she said, her eyes flashing. She spoke with obvious pride as she

Trade Zone in the world, allowing them to compete on a level playing field with sweatshop garment factories. The organic spinning mill is next.

Maggie's Organics

Maggie's Organics was launched in 1992 when founder Bena Burda, who was working for a company that produced organic corn chips, learned that the farmers raising organic corn were rotating their

Just three T-shirts made from organic instead of conventional cotton will make a 1-pound dent in the over 84 million pounds of pesticides and over 2 billion pounds of synthetic fertilizer used each year on the 14 million-plus acres of conventional cotton grown in the US.

photo by Mike Breazeale



Clothworks owner Sally Bowers

with the superior quality of organic fabric and the variety in weave and design, but she says the colors are just beginning to branch out beyond natural hues. She holds up a bright pink tropical print made using low-impact dye as proof. Organic fiber is still a relatively new industry, she explains; as demand goes up more options become available.

Meet Yadira Vallejos

When Yadira Vallejos stood up to speak to the after-dinner crowd gathered upstairs at trendy all-organic Restaurant Nora in Washington, DC last October, she looked timid and a bit out of place. That is until she smiled, began to speak in clear, deliberate English and took off the bulky cardigan she'd been wearing most of the time since arriv-

described the stable employment, money for schools and healthcare and restored sense of dignity devastated by Hurricane Mitch in 1998. The women in the small village of Nueva Vida own the co-op, built the building themselves and provide input into design and production of new items. After many obstacles, the co-op expects to reach \$1.5 million in sales in 2005.

Yadira's audience, members of the socially responsible business network Co-op America, was readily impressed by her story. Afterwards, though, the question most of them crowded around to ask was, "Where can I buy that fantastic shirt?"

"Our goal is to sew as much with organic fiber as possible, and this year we hope to begin construction of an organic cotton spinning mill," Vallejos said. A small, struggling co-op has plenty of challenges in the international garment industry without taking on the added commitment of environmental, organic production methods. But thanks to a partnership with Michigan-based clothing company, Maggie's Organics, the women are in on the ground floor of a fast-growing new market for organic cotton clothing, one that promises to have an impact far beyond their village in Nicaragua.



Yadira Vallejos

The co-op shipped its first order of 50 organic cotton T-shirts to Maggie's Organics in 2001. One year later, they followed with a shipment of 26,000 organic shirts, a full container-load. In December 2004, they were certified as the first worker-owned Free

fields with cotton but had no market for the organic fiber. Committed to providing simple, basic goods, Maggie's established its reputation with socks but soon branched out into T-shirts and other items.

For Burda, learning the ins and outs of fiber and clothing production has been a crash course in the challenges presented by globalization. In the years since the company began production, thousands of US garment manufacturers have gone out of business or moved offshore. A conversation about her search for alternatives at a conference five years ago led Bena and her company to a partnership with Vallejos' co-op in Nicaragua. Support from

It's a start

Organic cotton is now produced in over a dozen countries, including the US, Turkey, Peru, China and India. While this represents only one-tenth of 1 percent of total global cotton production, an estimated 14 million pounds was produced in 2000-2001—and demand continues to grow. The Organic Trade Association (OTA), which represents the US organic food and fiber industry, reports US sales of organic fiber-finished products, predominantly made from organic cotton, grew 23 percent in 2003, to reach \$85 million.

Maggie's helped start the women's cooperative, which now sews a variety of garments for Maggie's and other customers. Burda says the experience has taught her "there is no environmental sustainability without social responsibility."

Jan MacDonald, wellness manager at New Pioneer Co-op's Iowa City store, says the co-op has carried Maggie's Organics line of socks and tights for as long as she can remember. MacDonald says the fair trade practices and support of the Nicaraguan women's sewing cooperative are big reasons behind customers' loyalty to Maggie's products, and in general, customers "are excited to find an organic option for clothing as well as food." Some are attracted by the fit and color, others by the irresistibly cute baby socks. The line has done well enough that New Pioneer has expanded display space and added other brands.



Bena Burda

The fabric of our lives

Some of the most hazardous pesticides on the market are commonly used on cotton, including aldicarb, methyl parathion, malathion, endosulfan and a number of

broad-spectrum organophosphates—the same family of pesticides originally developed as toxic nerve agents during and after WWII, such as Agent Orange.

In 1995, some 240,000 fish were killed by pesticide-contaminated runoff from cotton fields in Alabama. The chemicals threaten not only air, water and soil but also the health of farm workers. In California, one study ranked cotton third among the state's crops for total number of worker illnesses caused by pesticides.

The world's top cotton-producing countries are the US (primarily California, Texas, Arizona and other southern states), China, India, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Turkey. Along with a number of South American and African nations, there are over 60 cotton-producing countries in all. Because pesticide use in these countries is often much less strictly regulated than in the US, levels of pesticide use and worker exposure can be much worse. Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Yadi-ra's home country of Nicaragua are just some of the places where cotton production has resulted in widespread damage to the environment and public health.

Taking the risk

Patagonia, an outdoor gear company, already had a solid reputation for quality and integrity before converting to organic cotton in the mid-'90s, according to Iowa City Active Endeavors store manager Dave Nerad. "They are the most environmentally conscious company in just about any industry," Nerad says. He cites the company's invention of post-consumer recycled fleece (now an industry standard) and a program that directs 1 percent of total sales (not just profits) to grassroots environmental programs, including watershed clean-up efforts in Iowa.

In 1995, after a company-wide review made it aware of the impact of conventional cotton growing, Patagonia converted all of its T-shirts to 100-percent organic cotton and went to work on the rest of the product line. By 1996, the company

had made a full commitment to use only organic cotton, and to stick with that decision come what may. It was a risk requiring a significant investment over the next several years to help organic cotton farmers develop and expand, but the company has maintained its 100-percent organic commitment. It now offers hundreds of items, including sports and casual clothing for men, women and children made with organic cotton. No products contain conventionally produced cotton.

According to Nerad and Mic McKillip, an Active Endeavors employee who worked for Patagonia before moving to Iowa City, the company's decision to go organic has helped make loyal customers even more dedicated. "You see people develop loyalty to brands in this business, but the people who know about Patagonia's organic program are extremely com-



The first run of organic T-shirts at the Nueva Vida co-op

They just did it

Whether or not a product contains organic cotton isn't always made obvious by the label. Nike, a company that has had its own challenges in addressing fair trade issues, began a significant organic program in 1998. The company chose a strategy of blending a small percentage of organic cotton into many of its conventional cotton items, in part because the enormous volume meant that switching completely to organic could have wiped out the existing supply of organic cotton at the time. Nike has continued to increase the use of a 3-to-5-percent blend, and in 2002 launched a separate line of 100-percent organic items. According to industry reports, Nike is now the world's largest purchaser of organic cotton.

mitted," says McKillip, "and they buy the products for their family and friends." Both agree that one reason for this loyalty remains quality—the clothes are softer, tougher and last longer. "And I'm definitely not giving my laundry special care," laughs McKillip.

The power of a T-shirt

A typical cotton T-shirt, maybe with the name of a favorite team, a slogan or just a favorite color, is in almost everyone's closet. Because T-shirts are everywhere, they don't seem to be of much consequence. But simply because they are so common, the opposite is actually true. Just three T-shirts made from organic instead of conventional cotton will make a 1-pound dent in the over 84 million pounds of pesticides (5.85 lbs./acre) and over 2 billion pounds of synthetic fertilizer (roughly 142 lbs./acre) used each year

covers only 3-5 percent of the world's cultivated land but uses 25 percent of the world's insecticides (more than any other single crop).

on the 14 million-plus acres of conventional cotton grown in the US.

Patagonia and Maggie's Organics are among companies that manufacture what are known as T-shirt "blanks": plain shirts ready to be custom-printed with a slogan, logo, sports mascot, etc. T-shirt blanks are used by a wide variety of non-profits, businesses, schools, sports teams...just about anybody who wants to promote their cause or product. Only a fraction of these T-shirts are made from organic cotton, and the organic fiber industry is making progress targeting companies and organizations that promote organic products or environmental causes.

The Organic Trade Association (OTA) and the Organic Center for Education and Promotion, with funding from the Martin-Fabert Foundation, launched a program this year to help non-profit organizations shift to using organic T-shirts for fundraising. According to OTA's Barb Haumann, the multi-year project is currently reviewing proposals from a number of organizations, such as the National Wildlife Federation. Active Endeavors' Nerad says his shop is also looking into printing its next batch of store logo-embossed shirts on organic cotton.

In 2001, California State University (CSU) Chico students working with the Oroville-based Sustainable Cotton Project led a push to introduce a line of 100-percent organic cotton clothing at the school's bookstore, making it the first in

the country to offer such merchandise. In 2004, students at CSU San Marcos passed a resolution to purchase only organic cotton T-shirts for their organization and are now pushing to have organic cotton clothing sold at the university bookstore.

Ned Bertz of Students Against Sweatshops (SAS), a UI student group active in pressing the university to address fair labor issues for university-sponsored clothing, said the group has not specifically considered organic apparel. The university purchases clothing primarily from large companies, which may include items with Nike's part-organic blend. However, SAS may look at environmental factors in the future as it works with the UI on purchasing guidelines.

Purchasing just one garment made from certified organic cotton rather than conventional cotton means less synthetic pesticide and fertilizer getting into the air, water and soil, not to mention the skin and lungs of workers who tend, harvest and process the cotton, and the communities of people who live nearby. A single campus organization or national environmental group's decision to print a thousand T-shirts on organic cotton means 330 pounds less pesticides and chemicals in the soil and water. It may not sound like a lot, but it could be a start toward making the "fabric of our lives" just a little bit softer on the earth. **lv**

For more information on organic cotton clothing visit these websites:

Organic Trade Association:

www.ota.com

Sustainable Cotton Project:

www.sustainablecotton.org

www.AboutOrganicCotton.com

www.Organiccottondirectory.net

www.organicexchange.org

Maggie's Organic/Clean Clothes:

www.maggiesorganics.com

Nueva Vida Women's Cooperative:

www.fairtradezone.jhc-cdca.org

Patagonia: www.patagonia.com

Organic cotton clothing companies:

American Apparel:

www.americanapparelorganics.net

Birdland Ranch:

www.birdlandranch.com

Blue Canoe: www.bluecanoe.com

Earth Creations:

www.earthcreations.net

Earth Speaks:

www.earthspeaks.com

Indigenous Designs:

www.indigenousdesigns.com

Nike: www.nikebiz.com

Under the Canopy:

www.underthecanopy.com

Wildlife Works:

www.wildlifeworks.com

Books by Iowa Author
Mike Palecek

www.iowapeace.com

Palecek is a former federal prisoner for peace and Iowa newspaper reporter.

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



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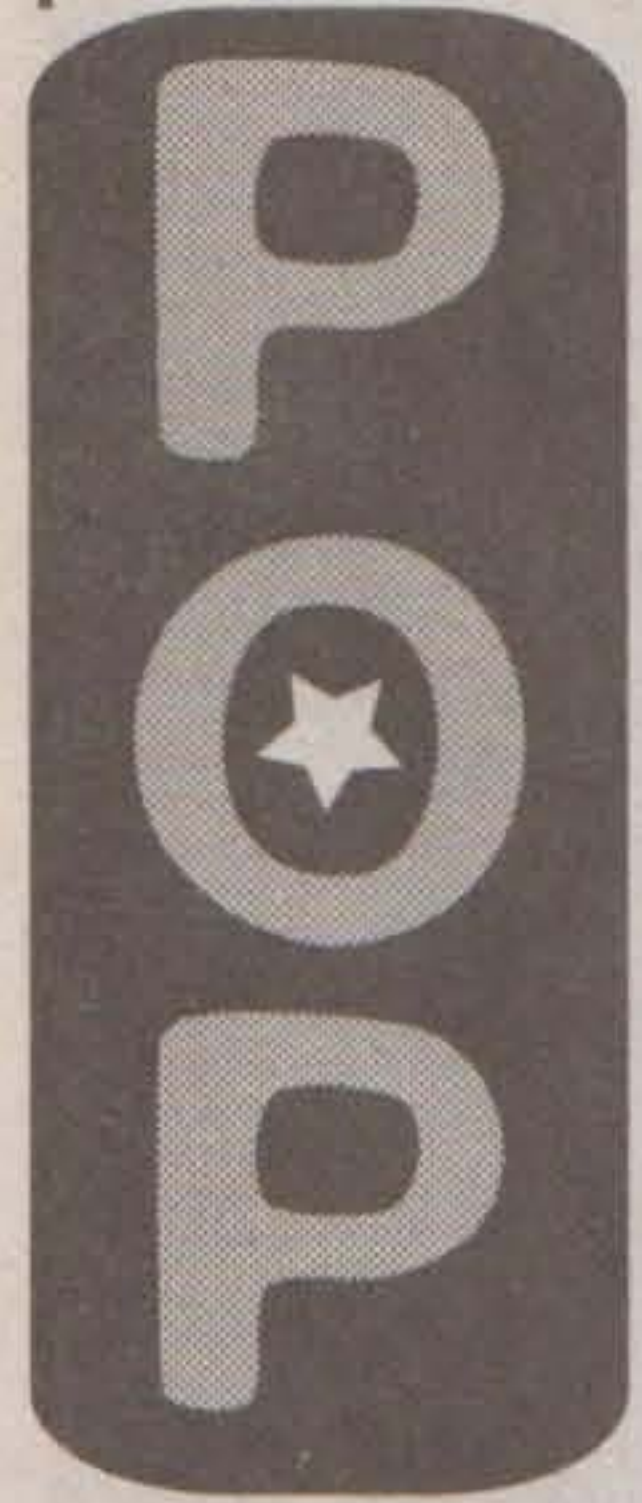
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Kembrew McLeod will read from his new book, Freedom of Expression®: Overzealous Copyright Bozos and Other Enemies of Creativity (Doubleday), Tuesday, Feb. 22, at 8pm on "Live From Prairie Lights." Kembrew's column this month is an edited excerpt from the new tome. By the way, the term "freedom of expression" carries a trademark sign here because Kembrew devilishly copyrighted the phrase a couple years back. As of this writing, he has not brought suit against anyone for unauthorized use.

In 2003, Fox News sued Al Franken (and his publisher, Penguin) for naming his book *Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right*. The veteran satirist, who

prairie



Kembrew
McLeod

had publicly quarreled with Fox News host Bill O'Reilly in the months leading up to the book's release, appropriated the news channel's slogan, "Fair and Balanced," in the book's title. Fox News claimed this use trespassed on its intellectual property. Associating Al Franken's name with Fair and Balanced®, the Fox lawyers argued, would "blur and tarnish" the good reputation of the trademark. The suit went on to state that Franken "appears to be shrill and unstable." He was also described in the lawsuit as "increasingly unfunny," a charge Franken responded to by saying that he had trademarked "funny" and was considering a countersuit.

Later that week on his daily radio talk show, O'Reilly grew testier, lashing out at Franken and his alleged theft. Despite O'Reilly's bluster and the earnest legal arguments of Fox's lawyers—who drew laughter from the courtroom when they advocated their indefensible position—US District Judge Denny Chin dismissed

the injunction against the book. "There are hard cases and there are easy cases," Chin stated. "This is an easy case in my view and wholly without merit, both factually and legally." The O'Reilly-Franken dustup was the prelude to an increasingly aggressive trademark rampage. That year, Fox threatened to sue a website outfit selling a satirical T-shirt that mimicked the news station's logo with the words "Faux News" and tweaked its motto: "We distort, you comply." The suit also targeted "The Simpsons" (which, ironically, airs on Fox News' sister network) for parodying the news channel's right-wing slant. During one episode, the cartoon imitated the Fox News ticker, running crawling headlines such as "Oil slicks found to keep seals young, supple" and "Study: 92 percent of Democrats are gay."

Fox News eventually backed down, opting not to file a lawsuit against the show. "We called their bluff," said Matt Groening, "The Simpsons" creator, "because we didn't think Rupert Murdoch would pay for Fox to sue itself. So we got away with it." This was probably the first

can Civil Liberties Union intervened. The ACLU sent Fox a "'get stuffed' letter," as the site's operator Richard Luckett put it.

"Blur and tarnish," the choice of words used by Fox's lawyers in the Franken case, might sound absurd to the average person, but that's the language of trademark law. Unlike copyright law, which protects creative works such as books and movies, and patent law, which covers inventions and the like, trademark law is designed to prevent consumer confusion and unfair competition. In other words, you can't place the Coca-Cola logo on your own newly minted soft drink or use the company's trademarked advertising slogans to trick people into buying your product. It also protects companies from having their trademarks associated with something unsavory, which is where the blurring and tarnishing comes in. The problem—at least as far as freedom of expression® is concerned—is when trademark holders go too far in trying to protect their property. The Fox News v. Franken case is but one of many examples of this kind of overkill.

Clear Channel bought the rights to the practice of selling recordings of concerts immediately after a performance, something that has recently become popular with fans who want to take home live CDs.

time that media consolidation has actually enabled freedom of expression®. Still, "The Simpsons" writers got a slap on the wrist when the parent company imposed a rule that the cartoon could no longer imitate news crawls. "It might confuse the viewers into thinking it's real news," Groening dryly noted. As for the website that sold the "Faux News" T-shirt, Fox News dropped its threat after the Ameri-

By wielding intellectual property laws like a weapon, overzealous owners erode our freedoms in the following ways: (1) we, or our employers, engage in self-censorship because we think we might get sued, even if there's no imminent threat; (2) we censor ourselves after backing down from a lawsuit that is clearly frivolous; (3) worst of all, our freedoms are curtailed because the law has expanded

to privatize an ever-growing number of things—from human genes and business methods to scents and gestures. (Donald Trump not only trademarked “You’re Fired” but also his hand gesture that accompanied the phrase on “The Apprentice.”)

In the instance of #1, the makers of the anti-Fox News T-shirts didn’t back down and instead brought in the ACLU, which forced Fox News to call off its attack dogs. Victory for freedom of expression®. In the instance of #2, Penguin Books fought Fox’s lawsuit and easily won because the law allows us to parody or criticize intellectual properties. Franken’s publisher didn’t make him change the title or cower from what was obviously a lawsuit that was “wholly without merit.” Another victory for freedom of expression®. These two instances remind us that we can fight back and win, especially because many recent court decisions have upheld free speech rights in the age of intellectual property. The problem is that lots of individuals and companies either don’t know this or don’t want to take a risk.

Number 3 is far more troubling, because in some important respects the law *does* curtail our rights. The rise of the Internet has served as a wonderfully effective boogeyman used by intellectual property owners to legitimate the same one-dimensional arguments they’ve been asserting for years. Those claims go something like this: Anyone who does anything to any of their properties is a “pirate” (such as VCR owners and music fans who made cassette tape copies of works in the 1980s). Courts and Congress fortunately rejected

this line of reasoning 20 years ago, giving consumers far more options—including the option not to be sued. However, Internet-fueled fears have changed the legal and cultural landscape in dramatic ways.

Patents not only allow companies to have monopoly control over human and plant genes, but also business methods, such as Amazon’s “one-click” procedure. US Patent No. 5,960,411 gives Amazon the right to extract money from any business that wants to let customers purchase items on the Internet with only one click of the mouse. The online retailer exercises the monopoly right that this patent gives it, bullying small and large companies into purchasing a license for this “technology.” For instance, Amazon won a court order that prevented barnesandnoble.com from using this feature for two holiday shopping seasons before the two parties reached a settlement. Today, every company from Apple’s iTunes to the smallest of businesses that Amazon’s lawyers can shake down are compelled to license the “one-click” feature. Otherwise, they’ll be sued.

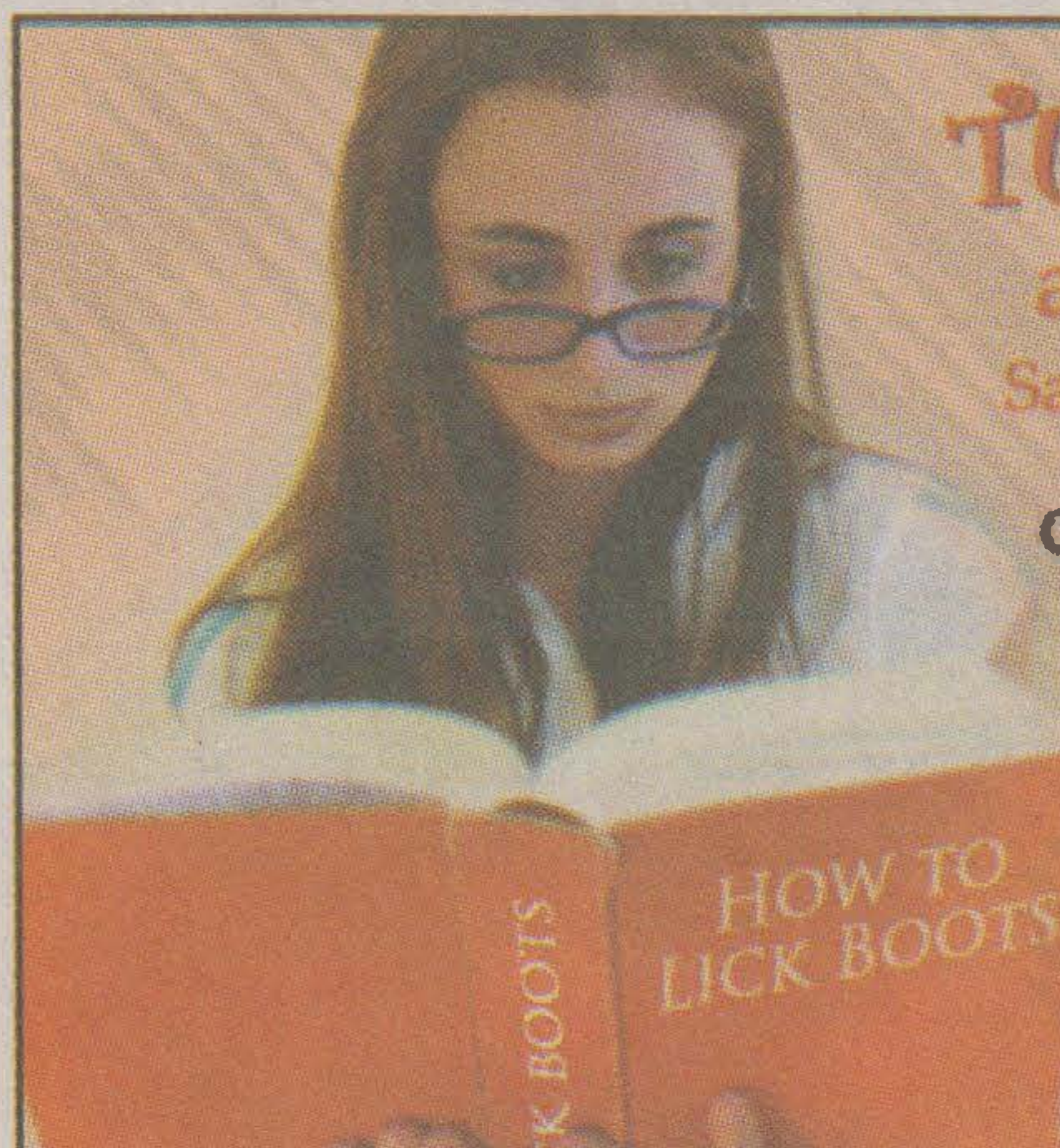
Clear Channel Communications, which controls more than 100 live venues and over 1,300 radio stations in the United States, bought what is considered in the music industry to be an important patent. It covers selling recordings of concerts immediately after a performance, something that has recently become popular with fans who want to take home live CDs. Other companies had been providing this service, but Clear Channel intends to enforce its patent to squeeze licensing fees from other small businesses

and bands and to eliminate competition in this area of commerce. “It’s one more step toward massive control and consolidation of Clear Channel’s corporate agenda,” says Mike Luba, manager of the jam band String Cheese Incident, which was prevented by the corporate Goliath from using CD-burning equipment. Pixies manager Ken Goes grumbled, “I’m not fond of doing business with my arm twisted behind my back.”

In my book, I don’t argue for the abolition of intellectual property laws. Nor do I believe that those who think their intellectual property is worth protecting are automatically “overzealous copyright bozos.” But I do contend that we need to roll back the recent restrictions that have been imposed on us in the digital age. Today, copyright and trademark owners repeatedly invoke the Internet as something that will surely devastate them.

Jack Valenti, the recently retired Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) CEO, has claimed that Hollywood would be brought to its knees by the digital anarchy perpetrated by “12-year-olds.” Valenti has argued, “If the value of what [movie studios] labored over and brought forth to entertain the American public cannot be protected by copyright, then the victim is going to be the American public.” He went on to assert that allowing people to freely copy and watch movies whenever they wanted would lead to a “lessened supply of high quality, expensive high budget material where its investment recoupment is now in serious doubt.”

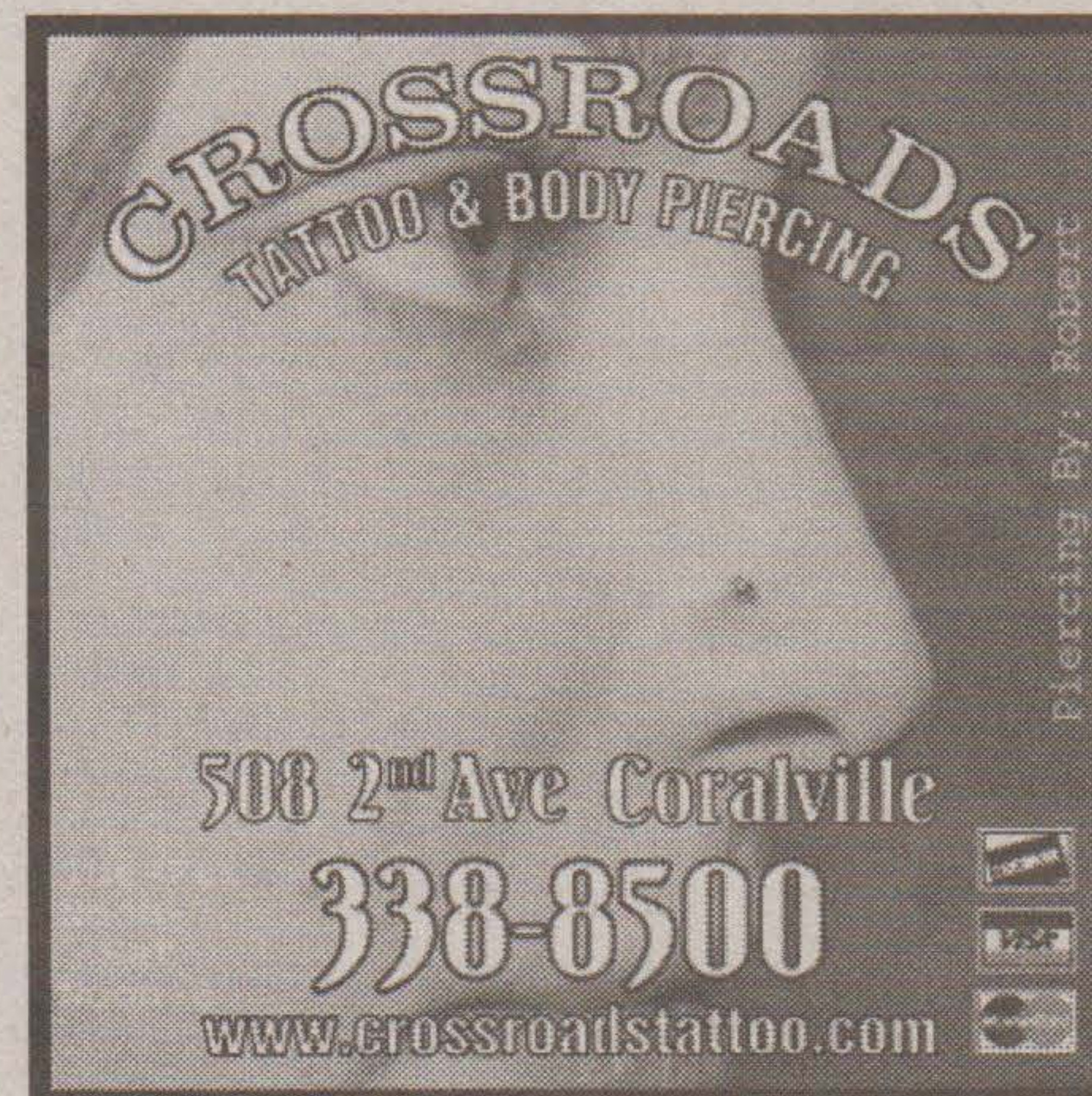
Valenti said this over 20 years ago, and he was talking about the VCR. **lv**



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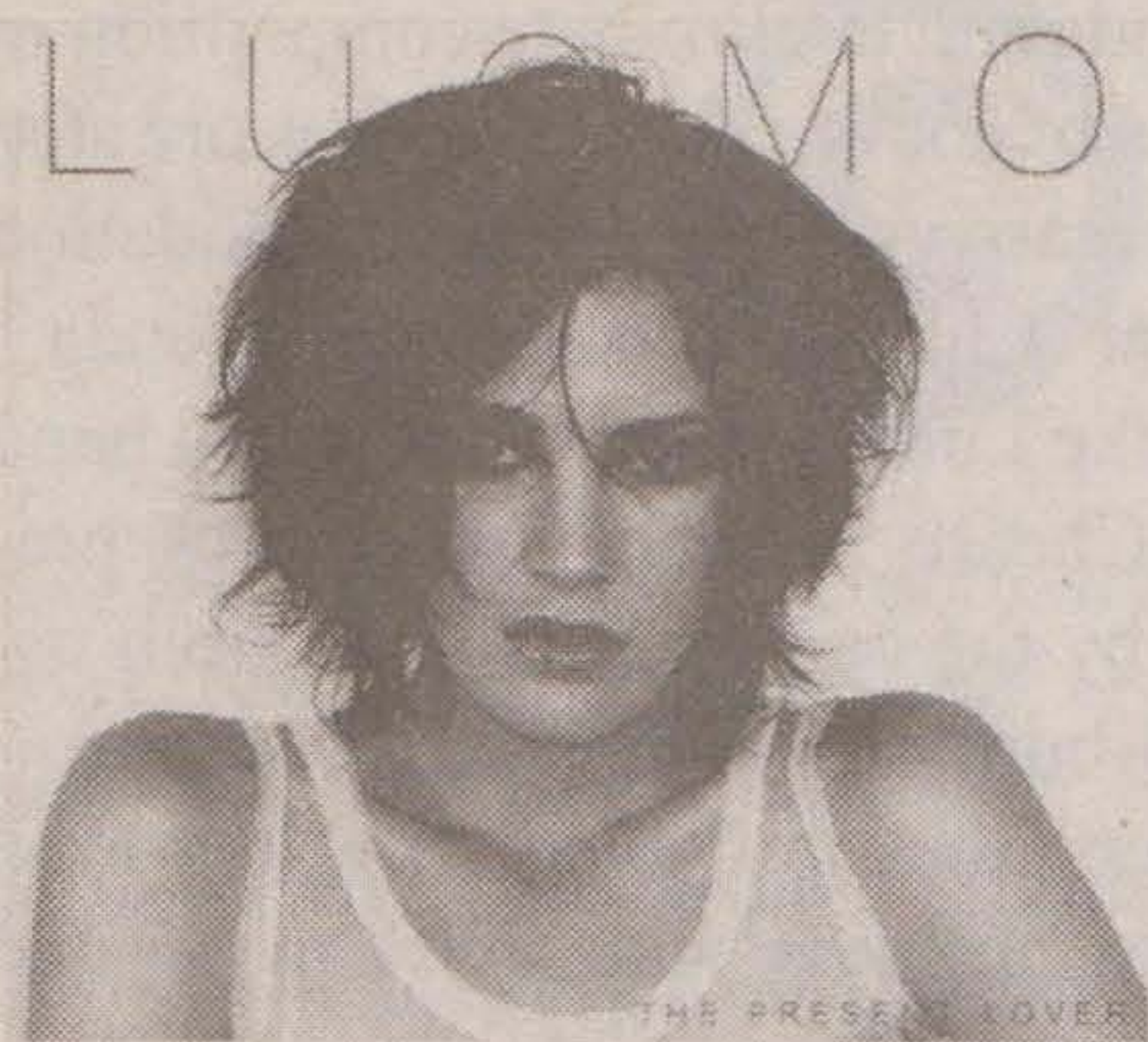
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Luomo

The Present Lover - Kinetic Records

As a fan of house and techno—who also interacts with regular citizens—I know in what low regard most Americans hold dance music. It sounds like “car commercials,” “porno soundtracks,” “video game music” they say. There’s obviously more to it than that—in the rest of the western world, it’s mainstream music, after all. They get it in Europe and Japan, even if they don’t get George W. Bush. To Americans, there’s no foreground to it—no attractive singer at least simulating human emotions, no context for the syn-

thetic whirs and bleeps. No guitars!

Vladislav Delay—the prolific Finn who also goes by the name Luomo—brings the human voice back into the mix on *The Present Lover*. Uncredited male and female voices coo and croon over the skittering, swinging house beats, singing lyrics from the baldly romantic “can you feel my body speaking?” to the oblique “I’m cleaning up coffee and feta cheese.” The vocals engage in a dialectic with the electronics, the lyrics giving a bare schematic for the emotions acted out by the beats and deep basslines.

Most of the tracks flirt with membership in the deep house genre, which originated in Chicago as a more percussive fusion of soul music and post-disco. But Delay, like Groucho Marx, is not entirely comfortable with any club that would have him as a member. Luomo’s music might mix with deep house, but the vague, swirling chords and fractally deconstructed rhythms make the music uniquely his own. The monumental track “Tessio,” which starts out echoing the stutter-stop rhythms of current R&B, incorporates a

female voice, first bare of computer trickery, then gradually taken apart into individually distorted and echoed syllables. The purely “natural” sounds fit into the whole simply as themselves and as fragments to be recombined into bricolage with the computer-controlled funk. Plus, there’s even some acoustic guitar!

The Present Lover manages to be an unabashedly pop CD without compromising Delay’s more insular experimental instincts. It might even make your mom’s head nod.

He’s further blessed us by putting a generous selection of his works on the Web for free download. The main site, www.vladislavdelay.com, is a bit obtuse—opening with a gigantic close-up of a dog, the music is hidden by a baffling menu system. Go straight to www.huumeclothing.com/nohuume and www.huumeclothing.com/huume to start downloading. Buy the CD for something you can hum along with, and check the free downloads to go a little further out on a limb with Vladislav Delay.

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Steve Horowitz

The diversity of primo discs released during 2004 reveals we are in the midst of a musical renaissance. Newcomers and veterans from across the globe who worked in a variety of genres created a wealth of wonderful material. The following top 10 list, submitted as my *Little Village* entry into *Village Voice's* 2004 Pazz and Jop poll, reveal only the tip of the iceberg. Many other exciting discs worth cherishing did not make the list, but still get played regularly on my iPod.

1 Kanye West

The College Dropout - Roc-A-Fella
West uses the studio to playfully twist music to fit his lyrical needs, like channeling a chipmunk version of Chaka Khan's "Through the Fire" as the background for the tale of his almost fatal car accident on "Through the Wire." (His jaws were wired shut as a result.) West's raps are funny and smart.

2 Nellie McKay

Get Away From Me - Sony
McKay's record company hypes her as Doris Day meets Eminem, which in light of her show-music-meets-rap style, seems an appropriate description. Whether she's singing about a boyfriend or her dog, McKay charismatically expresses herself with pizzazz.

3 Madvillian

Madvillainy - Stones Throw
Strange grade b science fiction music chopped with pulp comic lyrics make for a delicious mix of street-smart swagger and social criticism. Ethereal tunes from the land of Nod.

4 The Streets

A Grand Don't Come for Free
Vice/Atlantic
From across the pond, England's Michael Skinner combines stylish electronica and

first-rate storytelling to make songs that tug at both the heart and mind.

5 Caetano Veloso

A Foreign Sound - Nonesuch
This Brazilian pop artist sings his favorite songs in English and covers a range of material from artists as diverse as Irving Berlin, Bob Dylan, David Byrne and Kurt Cobain with class and style.

6 Sam Phillips

A Boot and a Shoe - Nonesuch
Phillips makes music that is simultaneously simple, sophisticated, sexy and spiritual, whether she's singing about a red silk dress or the meaning of life.

7 Sufjan Stevens

Seven Swans - Sounds Familyre
Stevens makes deceptively plain acoustic music that suggests the rich, quiet life of the soul in reflection.

8 Patty Griffin

Impossible Dream - ATO
Griffin has a beautiful voice that complements her literate tales of a girl's life in these United States, where the boundaries of human relationships tend to shift in unexpected ways.

9 Alison Krauss & Union Station

Lonely Runs Both Ways
Bluegrass musicians Krauss and company have made beautiful music together for years, but this is the first time they've been able to sustain it for an entire record. Every cut is a gem.

10 Omara Portuondo

Flor de amor - Nonesuch
Cuban diva Portuondo has put together a sultry collection of love songs whose passion can be understood even if one doesn't understand the Spanish and Portuguese lyrics. The Latin rhythms heighten the sensual intensity of her voice. **lv**

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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 • Exhibit honoring two alumni of the UI College of Engineering: Dr. Lilia A. Abron, the first African-American woman to earn a doctorate in chemical engineering, and Luther Smith, one of the original members of the Tuskegee Airmen, who earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1950, through February.

AKAR

257 E. Iowa Ave., Iowa City, 351-1227

Earthenware, stoneware and porcelain by Peter Pinnell, associate professor of art at the University of Nebraska, Feb. 11-24.

Brucemore

2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-7375

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

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

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

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 • *Joan Luffring-Zug Bourret: From a Life of Photography*, works by this Iowa photographer, Feb. 5-May 22. (See *Words* listing for more)

Chait Galleries Downtown

218 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 338-4442

UI Metals and Jewelry program exhibit, Feb. 4-15; opening reception Feb. 4, 5-8pm.

CSPS

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

New work by Michelle Acuff, Emily Martin, Milton Pagan and William Quast.

Faulconer Gallery

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

Scandinavian Photography 1: Sweden, works by Swedish photographers active in the 21st century, through March 18. (See *Words* listing for more)

The History Center

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

Lebanese Among Us: Americans for A Century, examines the Lebanese experience, beginning with their migration to Linn County in 1895-1930, Feb. 11-July 10.

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.

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.

Mt. Mercy College

Janalyn Hanson White Gallery, Cedar Rapids, 363-1323

Social Consciousness, work by Midwest artists Tim Dooley, Dusty Herbig, John Hitchcock and Kristin Powers Nowlin, through Feb. 8.

Mythos

9 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 337-3576

Terra cotta of China from the Han and Tang dynasties.

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

30 16th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, 362-8500

Photographs by Alexander Hammid and Jan Lukas, works by these two significant figures of 20th century Czechoslovak photography and film, through May 1.

Ruby's Pearl

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

Sharing a Dream, mixed media exhibit by Cat Moore, through February; opening reception Feb. 4, 6-8pm.

Senior Center

28 S. Linn St., Iowa City

Lois Wiedernecht-Finke's *Taking Down the Barn* and Gilbert Glandorf's *The Recycling Station*, through Feb. 27.

UI Hospitals and Clinics

Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417

Functional ceramic pottery by Samuel Johnson, Feb. 4-April 23, Main Lobby, First Floor John Colloton Pavilion • *Contamination Series*, photographs by Dennis Kowalski examining the effects cultures have on one another, through March 21, Patient and Visitor Activities Center, Eighth Floor John Colloton Pavilion • Photographic artwork by Sabine Golz, through March 25, Patient and Visitor Activities Center, Eighth Floor John Colloton Pavilion.

UI Museum of Art

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

Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* scroll manuscript, through March 13.

Music

Clapp Recital Hall

UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1160

Tsunami Relief Benefit Concert, Feb. 5, 8pm • Katherine Eberle, mezzo-soprano; Alan Huckleberry, piano, Feb. 6, 3pm • Maia Quartet, Feb. 11, 8pm • Iowa Brass Quintet, Feb. 13, 3pm • Center for New Music, Feb. 13, 8pm • Natalya Antonova, piano, Feb. 15, 8pm • Tamara Thweatt, flute; Alan Huckleberry, piano, Feb. 17, 8pm • World of Percussion Ensemble, Feb. 19, 3pm • Katie Wolfe, violin; Shari Rhoads, piano, Feb. 20, 3pm • James Giles, piano, Feb. 22, 8pm • David Kosevaar, piano, Feb. 24, 8pm • Kantorei, Feb. 25, 8pm • Bass Day concert, Feb. 26, 8pm • Philharmonia Orchestra, Feb. 27, 3pm • John Ellis, piano, Feb. 27, 8pm • Anthony Arnone, Katie Wolfe and Ksenia Nosikova, pianos, March 1, 8pm.

CSPS

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

8pm, except Sundays (7pm)

Willy Porter, Feb. 4 • Ellis Paul, Bob Hillman, Feb. 19 • Buckwheat Zydeco, Feb. 22 • Eddie from Ohio, Feb. 24.

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221 E. Washington St., Iowa City

Dan Moore, percussion, Feb. 4, 8pm.

Gabe's

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

Faultlines, The Reputation, My Electric Heart, Red Letter Casino, Feb. 3 • Triptii, Treaty of Paris, Coy, B-Line, Feb. 4 • Ricky Fitts, Brian Jones, Shadow Government, Feb. 5 • Propaganda industrial/goth DJs, Feb. 6 • Early show: Race The Sun, Madison, Hit The Lights, September Fallout, Feb. 8 • Devil To Pay, Kita, Burnout, On a Pale Horse, Feb. 10 • Dick Prall CD-release party, A is Jump, Breaking Even, Feb. 11 • Detroit legend DJ Terrence Parker, Feb. 12 • Little Brazil, Clair De Lune, The Show is a Rainbow, Feb. 13 • Early show: Eighteen Visions, Emery, Remembering Never, Misery Signals, Feb. 15 • Early show: Clarity Process, Bosio, The Forecast, Feb. 16 • Early show: Waking Ashland, The Snake, The Cross, The Crown, StillPictured, Farewell Cadence; Late Show: Keepers of The Carpet, The Box Social, Juiceboxx; Feb. 17 • Martian Waters, Inspector Owl, Feb. 18 • Early show: The Scene, Hit The Lights; Late Show: The Slats, The Bent Scepters, Amino Acids; Feb. 19 • Early show: Steel Train, Limbeck, Small Towns Burn A Little Slower, New Atlantic, Feb. 22 • Split Lip Rayfield, The One Night Standards, Feb. 23 • Tsunami Benefit local hip-hop showcase presented by Tack Fu, Feb. 25 • Early show Felix Culpa, Five Star Sequel; Late show: The Frogs; Feb. 26.

The Green Room

S09 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 354-4350

Blues Jam Mondays, Funk and Jazz Jam Tuesdays

Guilt by Association, Feb. 3 • Jazz Mandolin Project, Feb. 4 • Nikki Lunden Band, Feb. 5 • The Ggltch, Feb. 8 • Jensen Connection, Franky Malloon, Feb. 10 • Reclining Buddha, Euforia String Band, Feb. 11 • Benefit for Sam Eggnogg and bandmate Clayton, Feb. 12 • Acoustic Syndicate, Feb. 15 • Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey, Funkmaster Cracker, Feb. 17 • Euforquestra, Jensen Connection, Feb. 18 • Billy Howke, Tell Julia, Feb. 19 • Spackleberry, Bent Wookie Breakdown, Feb. 24 • Public Property, Feb. 25 • Jeff Coffin Mu'tet (from Bela Fleck and the Flecktones), Diplomats, Feb. 26.

Hancher Auditorium

UI campus, 335-1160

Symphony Band, Feb. 19, 8pm • Honor Band, Feb. 20, 2:30pm • University Symphony, Feb. 23, 8pm • Brad Mehldau Trio and Joe Lovano Nonet, March 1, 8pm.

Iowa Memorial Union

UI campus, Iowa City

Ingram Hill, Feb. 15, 7pm, Wheelroom • Umphrey's McGee, Feb. 16, 7:30pm, Ballroom • G Love and Special Sauce, Feb. 20, 8pm, Ballroom • Modest Mouse, sold out, Feb. 24, 8pm, Main Lounge • Keller Williams, March 2, 7:30pm, Ballroom.

The Java House

211 E. Washington St., 341-0012

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

Kelly Pardekooper, Feb. 4. (See *Theater* and *Words* for more)

Martini's

127 E. College St., Iowa City, 351-5536

Shows at 9:30pm

Soul Patrol DJs, Feb. 4 • Johnny Kilowatt Blues, Feb. 5 • LKBT DJs, Feb. 11 • TBA, Feb. 12 • The Girl DJs, Feb. 18 • McMurrin/Johnson Trio, Feb. 19 • Soul Power DJ, Feb. 25 • Merrill J. Miller, Feb. 26.

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
Jake Dilley Band, Feb. 3 • Steppin' In It, bluegrass, Feb.

4 • Kelly Pardekooper CD-release party, Feb. 5 • The Clumsy Lovers, bluegrass, Feb. 8 • Bella Lea (Maura Davis of Denali) w/ Tight Phantamzzz, Feb. 10 • Pieta Brown and Bo Ramsey, Feb. 11 • David Zollo and the Body Electric, with special guest Jennifer Danielson, Feb. 12 • Sweethearts' Serenade, bluegrass for lovers, Feb. 13, 6pm • Faris Family, bluegrass, Feb. 18 • William Elliot Whitmore CD-release party, Feb. 19 • Shame Train and Noah Earle, Feb. 24 • Stuart Davis, Feb. 25 • Wyld Nept, Feb. 26, 8pm.

Mt. Mercy College Cedar Rapids

Ray Blue, saxophone, Feb. 15, 7:30pm, Stello Performance Hall, Warde Hall.

Paramount Theatre

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

Go Fish Superstar Tour, Feb. 13, 3pm • *Bjorn Again*, Abba music, Feb. 14, 7:30pm • Slavic Festival, Cedar Rapids Symphony Masterworks Concert, Feb. 19, 8pm, 366-8203 for tickets.

Sanctuary

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

Music at 9:30pm

Steve Grismore Trio, Feb. 5 • Matt Wilson's Arts and Crafts, Feb. 24.

Senior Center

28 S. Linn St., Iowa City

Dinner Dance featuring Jim Hall Trio, Feb. 24, 5:30-6:30pm, dinner; 7-9pm, dance • William "Bill" Johnson, piano recital, Feb. 28, 2pm.

Siren Club

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

Thursday Nights, Jacqueline Krain and The Ringers, 8:30-11:30pm

Just Brewed Jazz w/ Mike Moynihan, Doug Langbehn, featuring Anna Rybicki on vocals, Feb. 3, 8pm-12am • Big Al and The Heavyweights, zydeco blues from Louisiana, Feb. 5, 9pm-1am • Big Fish Jazz, Chris Mertz, Janet Parrish, Feb. 11, 8pm-12am • Ben Schmidt, Feb. 12, 9pm-1am • Sarah Sharpe, 7-9pm; Lynn Rothrock Cabaret, 9pm-1am; Feb. 18 • Jen Gloeckner, Feb. 19, 9pm-1am • "Songs of the Great Lady Singers" Jazz Showcase, Feb. 20, 7-10pm • John Resh and The Detroit Blues, Feb. 25 • The Drivers, Feb. 26, 9pm-1am.

Stars Guitars

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

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

St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church Cedar Rapids

Jitro, girls concert choir from Czech Republic, Feb. 17, 7pm, 362-8061 for more info.

UI Hospitals and Clinics

Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417

Colloton Atrium, noon (unless noted otherwise)

Evelyn Dias, pianist, Feb. 18 • Lael Stander, pianist, Feb. 24.

UI Museum of Art

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

IC pianist Dan Knight, Feb. 4, 5pm • Patrick Brickel, Feb. 10, 7:30-8:30pm (See *Words* listing for more) • "Know the Score," live radio program, music of Turkey and the Near East by Turkana, Shari Rhoads and friends play music they can't live without, Feb. 11, 5pm.

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

Kalimbaman, Feb. 5 • The Unsung Forum, Feb. 10 • Patrick Brickel, Feb. 12 • Potluck Dinner and Jam, Feb. 17, 5-9pm • Brandon Ross, Feb. 19 • Brace for Blast, Feb. 24 • Central Standard Time, Feb. 26.

Voxman Music Bldg.

UI campus, Iowa City

Harper Hall

John Vana, saxophone, Feb. 3, 8pm • William McMullen, oboe, Feb. 12, 1:30pm • Carol Lei Breckenridge, pianoforte, Feb. 20, 3pm.

Yacht Club

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

No Rules Open Mic, Sundays; Hip-Hop Night, Tuesdays; Jam Band Jam, Wednesdays, 10pm Public Property Bob Marley Birthday Bash, Feb. 4, 9pm • Dennis McMurrin & The Demolition Band, Feb. 5, 9pm • Josh Holmes, Feb. 10, 9pm • Shame Train, Feb. 11, 10pm • Band Appreciation Party with The Spectacles and Chubby, Feb. 12, 9pm • Gglitch, Wu Li Masters, Feb. 17, 9pm • David Haack Band, Whitsend, Feb. 18, 9pm • The Goodyear Pimps, The Van Dammits, Feb. 19, 9pm • Future Rock, King Solomon's Grave, Feb. 25, 10pm • Cozy Dope, The Spread, Feb. 26, 9pm • Mer, Scottie Long, Catch Stone, March 3, 9pm.

Dance

Arts Ala Carte

20 E. Market St., Iowa City

Winter fundraiser dance class sampler, ballet to breakdancing, Feb. 5 & 12, 1-4:30pm.

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

Ronald K. Brown/Evidence Dance Company, Feb. 4, 8pm • Moiseyev Dance Company, Feb. 16, 7:30pm • Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, Feb. 26, 8pm • National Acrobats of Taiwan, March 3, 7:30pm.

Space/Place Theatre

North Hall, UI campus, Iowa City

Graduate Concert, UI Dance Department, Feb. 10-12, 8pm • David Berkey Memorial, UI Dance Department, Feb. 19, 11am.

UI Hospitals and Clinics

Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417

Colloton Atrium, noon

Noopur Dance Troupe, North and South Indian classical dance, Feb. 11.

Auditions/Opportunities

Rape Victim Advocacy Program (RVAP)

offering volunteer training session, Feb. 7, interested volunteers call or email volunteer coordinator: 335-6001, volunteer-coordinator-rvap@uiowa.edu.

Riverside Theatre

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

Auditions for 2005 Shakespeare Festival, auditions and interviews will also be held for the acting and technical positions in the RTSF Intern Company, Feb. 5, call to schedule an appointment.

Theatre Cedar Rapids

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

Auditions for *Steel Magnolias*, Feb. 6-7, 7pm.

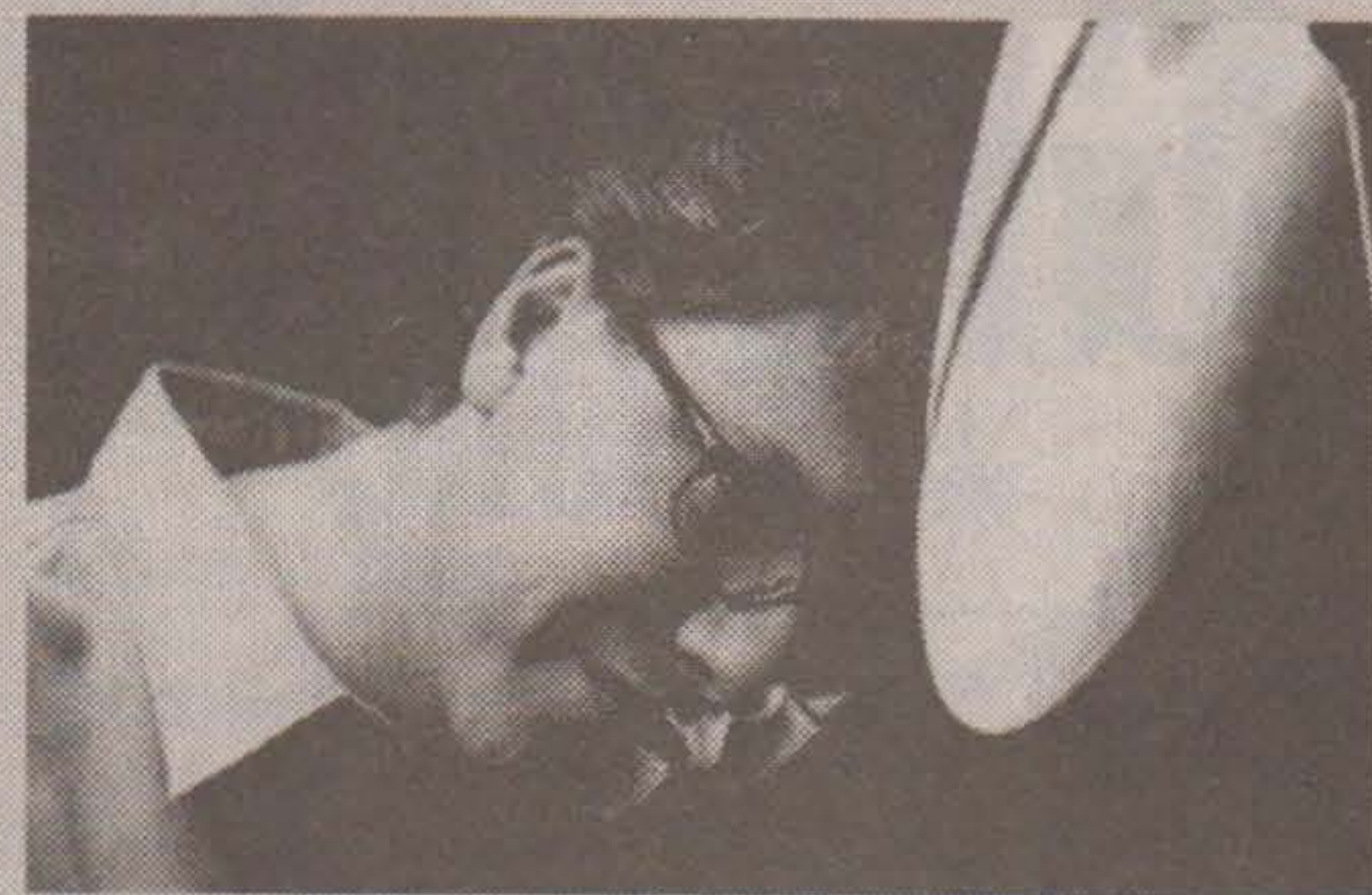
Theater/Performance

Brucemore

2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-7375

Collected Stories, play by Donald Margulies about a college professor and well-known author who mentors a promising young writing student, presented by the new theater company, Urban Theater Project of Iowa, Feb. 3-5 & 10-12, 7:30pm, limited seating, call to reserve tickets.

A-LIST



Matt Wilson

Sanctuary • Feb. 24

Ok, music lovers...February is your chance to enjoy and support that genre you may not otherwise think about until Jazz Fest comes around—if at all. Two of the best, most innovative jazz acts hit town the same week and same street! First, there's drummer Matt Wilson's awesome quartet Arts and Crafts. Though Matt remains one of the most underappreciated jazz artists of our day (can't even get a nibble on Gnutella), several critics in-the-know did list the quartet's 2004 recording *Wake Up!* as one of the year's best. Wilson's stuff is all over the map—from bop to swing—but you can count on each foray bearing his unique personality: beaming and loose. Joining Matt on drums are Larry Goldings on piano, Dennis Irwin on bass and the great Terell Stafford on trumpet. 405 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 351-5692.

Jeff Coffin Mu'tet

Green Room • Feb. 26

Next up is the Jeff Coffin Mu'tet. Jeff is the saxophone behind Bela Fleck's eccentric Flecktones. With his own ensemble, Coffin is just as eclectic as Wilson, dipping into both avant-garde squawks and more mainstream wail-outs. Both Wilson and Coffin pen killer originals, too. Do not miss these shows. Live music venues like the Sanctuary and the Green Room (and yes, Gabe's, the Siren Club and all the rest) are some of the most adventurous, brave clubs in the Midwest. Support them or see them become karaoke bars. Or screw your civic duty...live music is fun! 509 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 354-4350.

CSPS

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

Angela Kariotis in *Reminiscence of the Ghetto & Other Things That RaiZed Me*, Feb. 10-12, 8pm.

Dreamwell Theatre

Wesley Center, 120 North Dubuque St., Iowa City, 541-0140

Someone Who'll Watch Over Me, play by Frank McGuinness exploring the daily crises of three hostages imprisoned in the Middle East, Feb. 4-5, 11-12, 19-20, 8pm (discussion following Feb. 11 performance).

Java House

211 E. Washington St., 341-0012

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

Program focusing on working poor features excerpts from UI Theatre's production of *Nickel and Dime*d,



③ **Guilt by Association**

④ **Jazz Mandolin Project**

⑤ *Nikki Lunden Band*

⑧ **THE GGLITCH**

⑩ **Jensen Connection**
Franky Malloon

⑪ **Reclining Buddha,**
Euforia String Band

⑫ **Benefit for Sam Egnogg**
and bandmate Clayton

⑮ **ACOUSTIC SYNDICATE**

⑰ *Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey*
Funkmaster Cracker

⑱ **Euforquestra**
Jensen Connection

⑲ **Billy Howke, Tell Julia**

⑳ *Spackleberry*
Bent Wookie Breakdown

㉔ **PUBLIC PROPERTY**

㉔ **Jeff Coffin Mu'tet**
(from Bela Fleck and the Flecktones)
Diplomats

open daily 5pm-2am
509 s. gilbert, iowa city

354-4350
greenroomic.com

discussion with Eric Forsythe, UI production's director, Feb. 4. (See *Music* and *Words* for more)

Paramount Theatre

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

Broadway Maybies, Feb. 4, 7pm • *Crazy for You*, Feb. 8, 7:30pm.

Riverside Theatre

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

Thursdays, 7pm; Fridays & Saturdays, 8pm; Sundays, 2pm

The Drawer Boy, Michael Healey's play about two Canadian bachelor farmers whose lives are comically disrupted when a young actor arrives to work with them as "research" for a play about country life, through Feb. 13.

Theatre Cedar Rapids

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

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

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Feb. 4-13.

UI Theatres

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

Nickel and Dimed, by Joan Holden, University Theatres Mainstage production, E.C. Mabie Theatre, Feb. 3-5 & Feb. 9-12, 8pm, Feb. 6 & 13, 3pm • Ten-Minute Play Festival, University Theatres Gallery production, Feb. 10-12, 8pm; Feb. 13, 3pm, Theatre B • *Circus Tracks*, by Sarah Hammond, University Theatres Gallery production, Feb. 17-19, 8pm; Feb. 20, 3pm, Theatre B • *Metamorphoses*, by Mary Zimmerman, University Theatres Mainstage production, Feb. 24-26, 8pm; Feb. 27, 3pm.

US Cellular Center

370 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888

Disney On Ice's *Mickey & Minnie's Magical Journey*, Feb. 24-26, 7pm; Feb. 26-27, 11am.

Comedy

Englert Theatre

221 E. Washington St., Iowa City

Second City, Feb. 17-18, 8pm.

The Mill

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

Comics in Action, improv, Feb. 15 & 22, 9pm.

Paramount Theatre

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

Bill Engvall, Feb. 10, 7:30pm • Tim Conway and Harvey Korman, Feb. 20, 2pm & 5pm.

Words

101 Becker Communication Studies Bldg.

UI campus, Iowa City

"The Liberation of Israel in Luke-Acts: Intertextual Narration as Countercultural Practice," colloquium and seminar featuring Bible scholar Richard B. Hays; Marilynne Robinson, UI Writers' Workshop; Kenneth Kuntz, UI Department of Religious Studies, Feb. 11, 12:30-2pm.

Brucemore

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

"A Nation in Crisis: The Depression and Dust Bowl as Backdrop for The Grapes of Wrath," lecture and discussion by Dr. John Raeburn, UI professor of American Studies and English, Feb. 27, 6:30-8:30pm.

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

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

"A Life of Photography," Iowa photographer Joan Liffing Zug-Bourret on her work, Feb. 9, 12-1pm • "The Colossal Colossus," local artist Joe Messner on the Roman Coliseum, Feb. 12, 1pm • "Building Caesar's Bridge: Classical Architecture in Virginia and Early America," Barbara Burlison Mooney, UI assistant professor in the School of Art and Art History on the origins and development of the fascination with classical motifs in America, Feb. 24, 7-8pm • "Explaining the Rise of the Roman Empire," *The Captured Conqueror: Rome and*

Hellenism, DVD Lecture Series, Feb. 26, 1pm.

CSPS

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

Noble Pen Writers' Group, Feb. 3, March 3, 7pm.

Faulconer Gallery

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

"From Different Viewpoints: Dreams and Desires, Reality and Fiction in Contemporary Swedish Photography," gallery talk on the exhibit *Scandinavian Photography 1: Sweden* by the curator of the Liljevalchs Konsthall in Stockholm, Feb. 15, 4:15pm.

The Green Room

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

Poetry Slam, Feb. 9 & 23, 9pm.

The History Center

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

Surviving in a New Land: Where are They Now?, descendants of families who emigrated from the Middle East to Linn County share their stories, Feb. 13, 2pm • *Lebanon: East Meets West*, Nick Abou-Assaly and Sam Hemaiden host historic tour of Lebanon, Feb. 15, 12pm • *Celebrating the B-29*, Lawrence Robinson leads a discussion on the importance of the B-29 and the Collins radios it used to help end World War II, Feb. 20, 2pm • Lebanese Cooking Demonstration, learn how a variety of appetizers, main dishes and desserts from Lebanon are prepared, Feb. 26, 11am-2pm.

IC Public Library

123 Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200

Jazz at the brary, jazz education program, Feb. 3, 7:30-9pm, Meeting Rm. A • FAIR! Budget Teach-in, City Council member Regina Baily will go over the proposed Iowa City budget and take questions, Feb. 5, 1-3pm, Meeting Rm. D • Iowa City Spells, adult spelling bee, Feb. 8, 6-9pm, Meeting Rm. A.

Iowa Memorial Union

UI campus, Iowa City

"Faith in the Contemporary University," with UI College of Law professor Stephanos Bibas, UI biochemistry professor Alice Fulton, UI English professor Lori Branch, Finding God at Iowa Lunch Forum, Feb. 4, 12pm, River Rm. #1.

International Center Lounge

UI campus, Iowa City

"Art History's New Frontier II: Art Geography," John Onians, Feb. 25, 1pm.

Java House

211 E. Washington St., 341-0012

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

Program focusing on working poor features excerpts from UI Theatre's production of *Nickel and Dimed*, discussion with Eric Forsythe, the UI production's director, and State Representative Vicki Lensing, who hopes to increase Iowa's minimum wage, Feb. 4. (See *Music* for more)

2189 Medical Education and Biomedical Research Facility

UI campus, Iowa City

"Art History's New Frontier II: Art Geography," John Onians, Feb. 24, 5:30pm.

The Mill

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

Talk Art Cabaret, UI Workshop readings, Feb. 9 & 23, 10pm.

Mt. Mercy College

Cedar Rapids

Flaherty Community Rm., Basile Hall

Li-Young Lee, poet, Feb. 24, 7pm.

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

30 16th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, 362-8500

Coffee and Books, *The Main Enemy* by Milt Bearden & James Risen, Feb. 14, 7pm • "How Cedar Rapids Czechs Worked to Free the Czech People during the Years of

1914-1918," with Rollie Raim, Feb. 17, 12pm.

**Pappajohn Business Administration Bldg.
UI campus, Iowa City**

"Practicing Resurrection: The Ethics of Hope," Bible scholar Richard B. Hays, Feb. 11, 7:30pm, Buchanan Aud.

Prairie Lights

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

All 8pm (unless noted otherwise), broadcast live on WSUI

Maria Doria Russell reads from *Thread of Grace*, Feb. 8 • Christopher Merrill, director of the UI International Writing Program, reads from *Things of the Hidden God*, his new book about the Greek Orthodox monks of Mount Athos, Feb. 9 • Pam Houston reads from her new novel, *Sighthound*, Feb. 10 • Antonino D'Ambrosio reads from his new collection of essays, *Let Fury Have the Hour: the Punk Politics of Joe Strummer*, Feb. 11 • Poets Stephen Healey and Bill Waltz read from their recent collections, Feb. 15 • Aaron Lansky reads from his new book, *Outwitting History*, the story of how he nearly single-handedly saved Yiddish literature from oblivion, Feb. 16 • Writers' Workshop professor Marvin Bell reads from his newest collection of poetry, *Rampant*, Feb. 17 • Andrew Greer reads from his new novel, *Confessions of Max Tivoli*, Feb. 18 • Curtis Sittenfeld, Workshop grad and former Prairie Lights employee of the year, reads from her first novel, *Prep*, Feb. 21 • Poet Rae Armantrout reads from her work, Feb. 22, 6pm • Kembrew McLeod, UI professor of communications studies and rock critic, reads from *Freedom of Expression: Overzealous Copyright Bozos and Other Enemies of Freedom*, Feb. 22 • Historian Suzanne Lebsock reads from *Murder in Virginia*, Feb. 23 • Workshop graduate Nick Arvin reads from his first novel, *Articles of War*, about a young man from Iowa who serves in World War II, Feb. 28.

Senior Center

28 S. Linn St., Iowa City

"Travelogue: Visiting Copenhagen," with James Scheib, Feb. 4, 1:30-3pm • "College Planning Strategies: Helping Your Grandchildren," with Chad Andrews, Feb. 8, 1-2:30pm • "When In Doubt, Don't Throw It Out!," with UI archivist David McCartney, what curators are (and are not) interested in collecting with respect to materials of historical interest for archives and manuscript repositories, Feb. 9, 2-3pm • "Travelogue: Visiting St. Petersburg, Russia," with James Scheib, Feb. 11, 1:30-3pm • "So I Saved It: Now What?," with UI preservation librarian Nancy Kraft, how to handle and store paper items, documents and photographs as well as keeping them from deteriorating, Feb. 16, 2-3pm • "Travelogue: On Safari in Eastern Africa," with Ruth Williams, Feb. 18 & 25, 10-11:30am.

Shambaugh Auditorium

UI Main Library, UI campus, Iowa City

Caribbean, Diaspora and Atlantic Studies Program Film and Lecture Series

"Identity and Diaspora: Cuban Culture at the Crossroads," by UI Spanish and Portuguese professor Adriana Mendez, Feb. 3, 4:30-5:20pm • "Modernity, Tran nationalism and the Haitian Revolution," by New York University professor Michael Dash of the French and Africana Studies Program, Feb. 24, 4:30-5:20pm.

Siren Club

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

Iowa Writer's Workshop Open Mic, Feb. 13, 8pm-12am • Reading by Marilyn Robinson of her novel *The Gilead*, fundraiser for Iowa Women's Foundation Showcase and Philanthropy, Feb. 20, 6-7pm.

UI Art Bldg.

UI campus, Iowa City

Rm. E109

Randall Exon lectures on his work, Feb. 3, 7:30pm • Corey Creekmur discusses the "culture" of the post-war road, Feb. 10, 7:30pm • Leslie Wayne lectures on her work, Feb. 24, 7pm.

UI Museum of Art

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

Corey Creekmur, UI professor of Cinema and Comparative Literature, discusses the "culture" of the

post-war road (See *Music* listing for more) • Docent/curator tours of the collections, Feb. 13 & 27, 2-3pm • Family Tours, short tour followed by a hands-on activity and refreshments, Feb. 6, 2-3pm • Pam Trimpe, UIMA curator, presents American sculpture, Feb. 20, 2-3pm.

**Women's Resource & Action Center
Iowa City, 335-1486**

"Body Positive!", discussion group addressing issues of body image, mind/body connection and political, social and emotional aspects related to eating issues, Tuesday evenings beginning Feb. 8 • "Sharing and Reflecting on Food, Family and Self," journaling group focusing on how food shapes identity and reflects individuals' backgrounds, Wednesday evenings beginning Feb. 9 • "The Winter Blues," support group focusing on depression, Tuesday evenings beginning Feb. 8 • "He's Just Not That into You," discussion

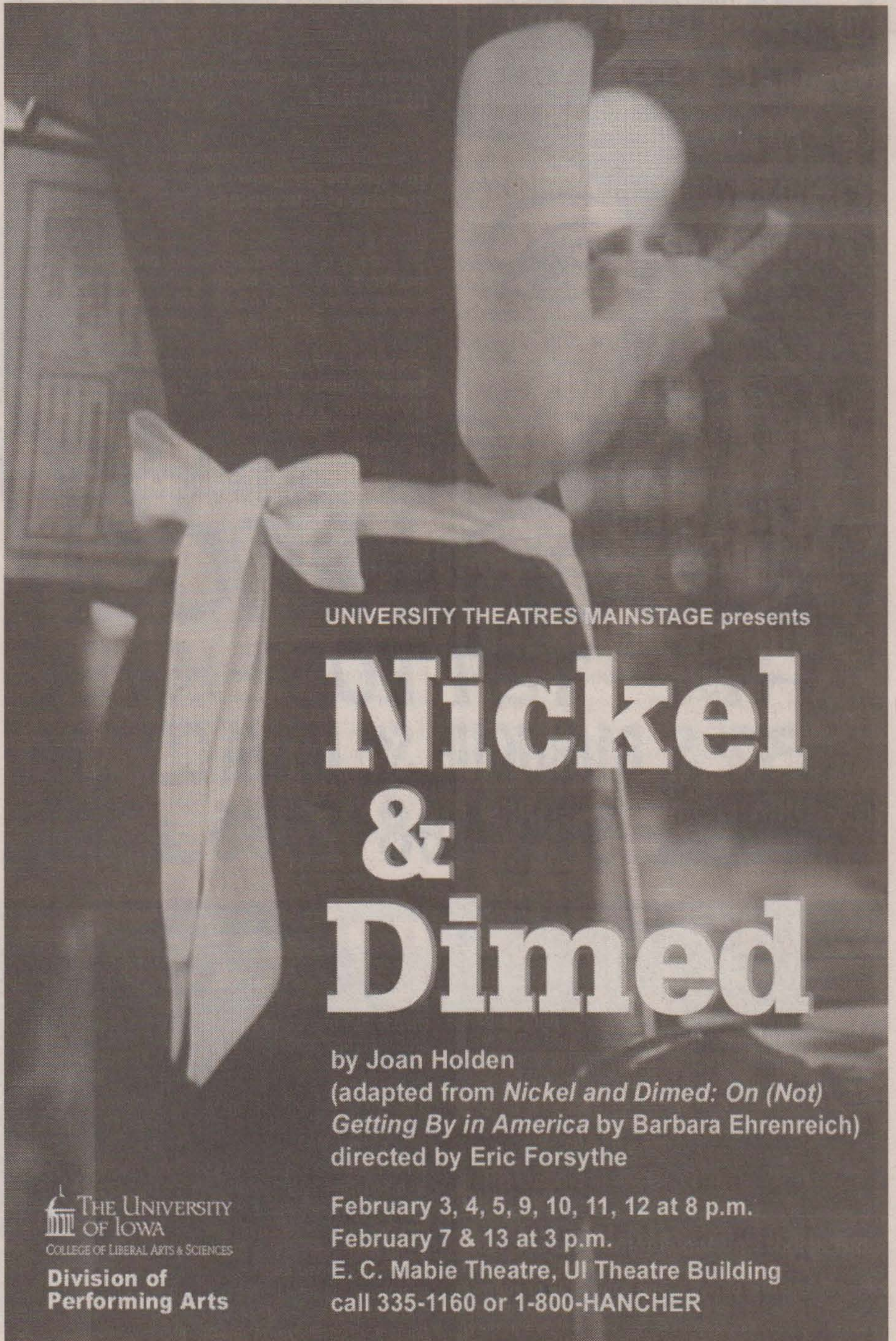
group based on the popular book of the same name, which seeks to empower women to avoid unsatisfying relationships, Tuesday evenings beginning Feb. 8 • "SMART: Single Mothers Achieving and Reflecting Together," offers single mothers an opportunity to network, share resources and socialize with peers, Monday evenings beginning Feb. 7 • The Feminist Fiction Reading Group, first Wednesday evening of each month, beginning Feb. 2.

Film/Video

**101 Becker Communication Studies Bldg.
UI campus, Iowa City**

Caribbean, Diaspora and Atlantic Studies Program Film and Lecture Series

Westside Story, Jan. 28, 3-5:30pm • *The Last Angel of History*, Feb. 11, 3-4:15pm.




UNIVERSITY THEATRES MAINSTAGE presents


Nickel & Dimed

by Joan Holden
(adapted from *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich)
directed by Eric Forsythe

February 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12 at 8 p.m.
February 7 & 13 at 3 p.m.
E. C. Mabie Theatre, UI Theatre Building
call 335-1160 or 1-800-HANCHER

 THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES
Division of Performing Arts

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Euphorphindes
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 632 S. DUBUQUE St. IOWA CITY, IA
 319-688-5185

Models Wanted

Earn some extra cash this summer!

Iowa City photographer seeks female amateur or semi professional models to pose for fine art nudes. Models chosen will be compensated and will get a copy of all images. Set up a time for an appointment **to see how easy it could be** to earn extra money for the summer.

Call Mike at 319-331-0161 for info.

JOBS@ little village

delivery person

**Good money
for small time commitment**

Must have car

Call 325-1238

The Proseminar on Arab Cinema, all 7pm

A Glass and a Cigarette, Egypt, Feb. 3 • *The Open Door*, Egypt, Feb. 10 • *The Land*, Egypt, Feb. 17 • *Alexandria, Why?*, Egypt, Feb. 24 • *Chronicle of the Years of Embers*, Algeria, March 3.

French Film Fest

Carnages, Feb. 6, 3pm • *Hop*, Feb. 13, 3pm • *La Trilogie 1 Cavale*, Feb. 20, 3pm • *La Trilogie 2 Un Couple Epatant*, Feb. 26, 7pm • *La Trilogie 3 Après la Vie*, Feb. 27, 3pm.

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

30 16th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, 362-8500

All 2pm

The Unbearable Lightness of Being, Feb. 13 • *The Competition*, Feb. 19 • *Murder Czech Style*, Feb. 20 • *All My Good Countrymen*, Feb. 27.

UI Museum of Art

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

Collage and Found Footage Film Series

"Films from the Illegal Art Exhibition," presented by Kembrew McLeod, UI assistant professor of communication studies, Feb. 3, 7pm • Collage films by Craig Baldwin, presented by Sasha Waters, UI assistant professor of cinema and comparative literature, Feb. 17, 7pm • Collage Film Festival—locally made collage films, presented by IC Microcinema, Feb. 26, time and location tba • Films by Ximena Cuevas, presented by Claire Fox, UI associate professor of English, March 3, 7pm.

Misc.

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

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

Roman Scavenger Hunt, children's activity, Feb. 19, 1pm.

Holiday Inn and Conference Center

Coralville

Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) "Souper Bowl" fundraiser, Feb. 3, 5:30-7:30pm.

Senior Center

28 S. Linn St., Iowa City

Red Hat Public Valentine Party, entertainment, refreshments, hat contests and more, Feb. 14, 2:30pm • Dinner Dance featuring Jim Hall Trio, Feb. 24, 5:30-6:30pm, dinner; 7-9pm, dance.

Sheraton Hotel

Downtown Iowa City

Diamonds or Denim Riverside Theatre fundraiser, raffle, auctions, food, entertainment, Feb. 25.

UI Museum of Art

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

Art After Hours celebrates Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* scroll, entertainment and refreshments, Feb. 18, 6-9pm, RSVP by calling 335-3676 or email uima-artafterhours@uiowa.edu.

Classes/Workshops

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

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

Marvelous Mosaics, children's workshop, Feb. 5, 1pm, call for reservations.

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.

Theatre Cedar Rapids

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

Spring SPLASH Youth theatre sessions for children ages 6-11, meet Saturdays, 12:30-3pm, Feb. 5-26 & March 5-26.

Strange but True!

News Quirks

Compiled by Roland Sweet

Moral Values

Police in Fontana, Calif., accused Michael T. Spearman, 31, of causing his girlfriend to crash her car because he left his Bible at home, and she refused to return so he could get it. The woman's sister, who was a passenger in the car, told officers that Spearman threatened to kill both women, then grabbed the steering wheel and caused driver Akima Carolina, 36, to lose control, and the vehicle rolled several times.

Keeping Their Campaign Promises

Complaining that a state ban on cockfighting wiped out a \$100-million business, Oklahoma State Sen. Frank Shurden proposed reviving the sport by having the roosters wear tiny boxing gloves on their spurs instead of the traditional razor blades and using lightweight chicken-sized vests with electronic sensors to record hits and keep score. "It's like the fencing that you see on the Olympics, you know, where they have little balls on the ends of the swords, and the fencers wear vests," the Henryette Democrat explained. "Who's going to object to chickens fighting like humans do? Everybody wins."

State Sen. Leticia Van de Putte introduced a bill that would require Texas school districts to include the body mass index of students as part of their report cards. The Democrat, who describes herself as "fat and 50," explained that when the measurement of body fat indicates that a student is overweight, the school would provide parents with information about links between increased body fat

and health problems. Arkansas enacted a similar measure last year.

North Dakota legislator Bette Grande proposed letting college students withdraw from classes taught by any instructor who doesn't speak English well enough to be understood and get a tuition refund. What's more, if 10 percent of the students in any class decide that their instructor's English skills significantly impede their learning, the instructor must be reassigned to a non-teaching position. "You come across it most in the computer sciences and math," the Fargo Republican said. "Some of the dialects or accents are just not diluted with English enough."

Courtroom Follies

A mistrial was declared in a drug and gun case in District of Columbia Superior Court after the prosecutor handed a police officer who was testifying a paper bag full of bullets that were part of the evidence. The officer dropped the bag on the ground, the bullets fell out, and one of them exploded. According to the US Marshals Service, which is responsible for building security, the bullet might have been damaged and went off when it caught a jolt from a surge protector on the floor. "That type of accident probably couldn't be duplicated in a million intentional attempts to make it happen," Deputy Robert Brandt told the *Washington Times*.

Put on an Unhappy Face

The State Department began discouraging citizens from smiling for passport and visa photographs. According to the new guidelines, "The subject's expression should be neutral (non-smiling) with both eyes open, and mouth closed. A smile with a closed jaw is allowed but is not preferred." The reason for the change in policy is to meet international requirements for machine-readable passports that rely on computers to confirm people's identities, State Department official Angela Aggeler told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, explaining that smiling "distorts other facial features."

Root Cause

When Patrick Lawler complained of a toothache, the dentist who treated him in Littleton, Colo., discovered that the cause was a 4-inch nail embedded in his skull. Lawler walked around with the nail for six days, not realizing that he had shot himself on a construction job when a nail gun backfired, sending one nail into a piece of wood nearby. Unknown to Lawler, a second nail plunged an inch and a half into his brain. After surgeons removed the nail, Lawler decided to change jobs, declaring, "I'll make pizzas."

Potty All the Time

Hoping to make the Thai city of Chiang Mai a more presentable tourist attraction by eliminating elephant droppings, handlers began toilet training their elephants. According to the *Nation* newspaper, the handlers, known as "mahouts," installed giant human-style concrete commodes at a camp beside Chiang Mai Zoo and are teaching the seven elephants to flush after going by pulling on a rope with their trunk.

Tough Love

When a 6-year-old boy broke a picture frame in the principal's office at a Miami elementary school and threatened to hurt himself with a piece of the broken glass, principal Maria Mason notified Miami-Dade County police. Officers responded by using a stun gun that shocked the boy with 50,000 volts.

Random Acts

Police in Fuquay-Varina, N.C., charged Abdullah El-Amin Shareef, 25, with running down five pedestrians with stolen vehicles in separate hit-and-run incidents. In one attack, the driver beat a pedestrian after failing to run him over a second time. Noting that authorities had no information about a motive, Fayetteville police Lt. Katherine Bryant said, "It looks like he pulled into neighborhoods looking for people."

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

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5 Feb. **Ricky Fitts, Brian Jones, Shadow Government**

11 Feb. CD Release Party for Dick Prall
with A is Jump, and Breaking Even

13 Feb. **Little Brazil, Clair De Lune, The Show is a Rainbow**

15 Feb. all ages **Eighteen Visions, Emery,
6pm Remebering Never, Misery Signals**

19 Feb. early all ages: The Scene, Hit The Lights
late show: **The Slats, The Bent Scepters,
Amino Acids**

22 Feb. all ages Steel Train, Limbeck, New Atlantic
6pm Small Towns Burn A Little Slower

23 Feb. **Split Lip Rayfield w/ The One Night Standards**

26 Feb. early all ages show:
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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.

Men-O-Pause

Dear Ruby,

I have recently gone through menopause and my sex drive is less than it used to be. I'm not really bothered by it, but my partner is. He suggested that I try some "female viagra." Is it safe and effective for women?

*Signed,
Slowin' Down*

Dear Slowin',

Let's just take a minute and break this down! Men-O-Pause! Men. Oh?! Pause. Hallelujah! This may be the first time in my life that I understand what "men" have to do with menopause. Are you following me? Honey, I am going to tell you what I would tell anyone, no matter what they're packing in their pantaloons. Listen to your body. Listen to yourself! This is a time that's all about you, you and you! So congratu*#@lations, you've made it through/into another life change. Many women celebrate their cronehood as a new freedom from hormonal highs and lows or a long-awaited freedom from having to think about pregnancy. Yee-haw!

That said, not all women hootin' holler all the changes that result when their bodies stop producing the female sex hormones. In our youth-obsessed culture, physical aging can be accompanied by depression. Culture aside, you have choices about how you want to deal with this. Some women choose hormone replacement therapy to delay those changes or ease the transition. But, couldn't you guess it, recent medical research has shown that these prescription drugs are not as safe as previously thought. (Not so subliminal message: Warning! Do not trust the medical industrial complex. You pay to be their guinea pig.)

There are two types of "female viagra" products that seem to be a spammer's wet dream. One type is an herbal supplement that promotes blood flow, relaxes muscles, "normalizes" estrogen levels and tonifies the womanly organs. The ingredients are safe, although because women are so vastly different from each other, I would guess that they work better for some than others.

The second type is a topical lotion or cream that gives you tinglies down below to get you revved up for action. It is an intense experience that some women enjoy. Products with the fewest chemical ingredients are the least likely to give your love blossom a bad experience.

I do want to stress that almost half of women experience a lack of sexual desire at some time in their lives. So really, your decreased libido is quite normal. If you are truly comfortable with less of the bump and grind, then why take risks to change something that is perfectly natural? Isn't quality more important than quantity?

Just be real with your dude, and if he's a quality partner he will respect your differences and take care of himself. Perhaps you can try some different types of intimacy, like taking dancing lessons or learning couples massage or yoga. Kundalini yoga is all about opening the passageways! Coming straight from a cowgirl, the bedroom rodeo isn't everything to a great love life.

Yours, Ruby

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

FORECAST FOR FEBRUARY 2005 • BY DR. STAR

♈ ARIES - You'll have to dig to get to the bottom of present difficulties. And you'll have to push hard if you want to get things moving toward a solution. Indeed, many crucial situations in your life are so delicate and changeable that you might just want to ease up altogether for a while, even when you clearly know you are right. In many cases, patience might be your only realistic option. Despite the pressure and uncertainty, the trends favor you. You'll lose little and gain much by being patient.

♉ TAURUS - The situation in your immediate environment is one of frustration and lack of direction. However, you have a clear, intuitive sense of what people want and how to motivate them. By month's end, you should be able to get things moving in a good direction. However, you'll be exerting your influence from inside the shadows of those higher up. While you will see your ideas realized, you will not necessarily derive a sense of empowerment, or receive any credit whatsoever. Be careful not to lose your sense of who you are.

♊ GEMINI - Areas of your life related to distant places, education and spiritual aspiration are being very strongly stimulated. Those in charge are also making rather heavy demands. Indeed, just about every important person in your life is now pushing an ambitious agenda. It would be good to remind yourself and everyone else that these are early days and it will take much time to achieve such ambitious goals. In fact, it will take quite awhile to just lay the groundwork. Don't go into debt out of frustration over current financial limitations.

♋ CANCER - You will be much relieved when the general inclination changes from one of rapid change to in-depth discussion. Problem is, the discussion lacks focus and direction. It could also be too energetic and wide-ranging—and unrealistic. And then there are the power plays and the personal obsessions. And how about those budget-busting proposals? Tempers and impatience could further complicate. Don't let the confusion trigger self-doubt or pointless navel-gazing on your part. Stay safely behind some well-established authority figure until order returns. Hold your ground financially.

♌ LEO - Order seems tantalizingly close. An end to chaos seems tantalizingly near. But neither is actually the case: You are right in the thick of it. Be careful not to kid yourself about anything important. Tend carefully to all details. Check your facts. Confusion comes with the chaos. Your psychological renovation is slowly coming to completion. Continue to let go of old patterns and limiting beliefs and attitudes. This is a time when inner, personal achievements will have a magical affect on the world around you. Long-term financial arrangements are sound.

♍ VIRGO - Don't panic if you're hit with about 20 times more than any Virgo can reasonably be expected to handle. Things will even out considerably by month's end. You are well positioned to inspire others and guide events, come the full moon. Your own overwhelming desire for change, especially in job and professional areas, is driving events. Personal ambition is also behind potential disruptions in key partnerships. Everything will go better if you set up a realistic plan to stabilize long-term financial matters. Long-term partnership matters are favored.

♎ LIBRA - Life seems full of creative possibilities and overflowing with good reasons to do things. However, it's much more important to know what you want to do than to actually do anything, right now. It will require drive to shape emerging possibilities and—before you can develop the required drive—you will have to decide what you want out of events. Allow key partners to help develop a plan. Impatience, yours or anyone else's, will hinder. Tempers could flare. Don't let the tail wag the dog, especially if you're the dog.

♏ SCORPIO - Scorpions might be feeling empowered, but others won't see it that way. Efforts to produce immediate results can misfire and strike dangerous sparks. Watch your temper as you cope with inertia and the slights others dish out. Don't fret overly. All Sun signs are having a tough time getting things done anyway. Still, February will bring many opportunities to quietly shape and steer events. Use your ability to influence things quietly from behind the scenes to further your goals. Take the long view. February will provide many chances for enjoyment.

♐ SAGITTARIUS - Your big objective, which underlies all your activity nowadays, is to put love into everything you do and uplift everyone around you. But obstacles to your uplifting work abound. Everyone near you is involved in way too much. Overstimulation and hyperactivity are the order of the day. Fortunately, you can pull back, rethink and regroup in order to come up with the best strategies. Games, recreation, playfulness, flirtation...all these indirect approaches might prove more fruitful now than serious, direct, high-minded approaches. In fact, preachiness could very easily backfire.

♑ CAPRICORN - Capricorns like options, but there are too many right now. Capricorns also like flexibility, but things are too fluid. You are not without resources; the situation just lacks any clarity. You could easily get stuck in a dead end or vicious circle. You don't hold enough good cards, yet. This is a good month to tend to your own knitting. Understanding your own needs and desires is the key. Spend some quality hours deciding what you really want out of all this.

♒ AQUARIUS - It's too easy for Aquarius to make things happen this month. While your influence is at a peak, it could bring about much more confusion and disorder than anything else. It will take time for people to absorb your message and produce the results you desire. Above all, keep it simple. Grand, complex schemes will backfire. Be careful that things do not end up costing you more than you can afford. The lure of travel is deceptive, so stay close to home. Expect some surprises in partnership areas.

♓ PISCES - You feel the importance of the big issues and you want to fight the big battles. Better yet, the world around you is responding to important ideas. However, confusion reigns. You are right and you do have influence. Things just aren't ready. To lay a foundation for future achievement, it's best to straighten out your financial affairs. Check on insurance policies, pension plans, mortgage agreements, investments and such. Consolidate and protect assets. Make sure you are getting the best deal. More debt will hold you back. Budget carefully.

Contact Dr. Star at chiron@mchsi.com



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