

little village

iowa city's news & culture magazine

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photo essay!**

Life's a drag

June Cleaver stand aside!

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accidents
on purpose**

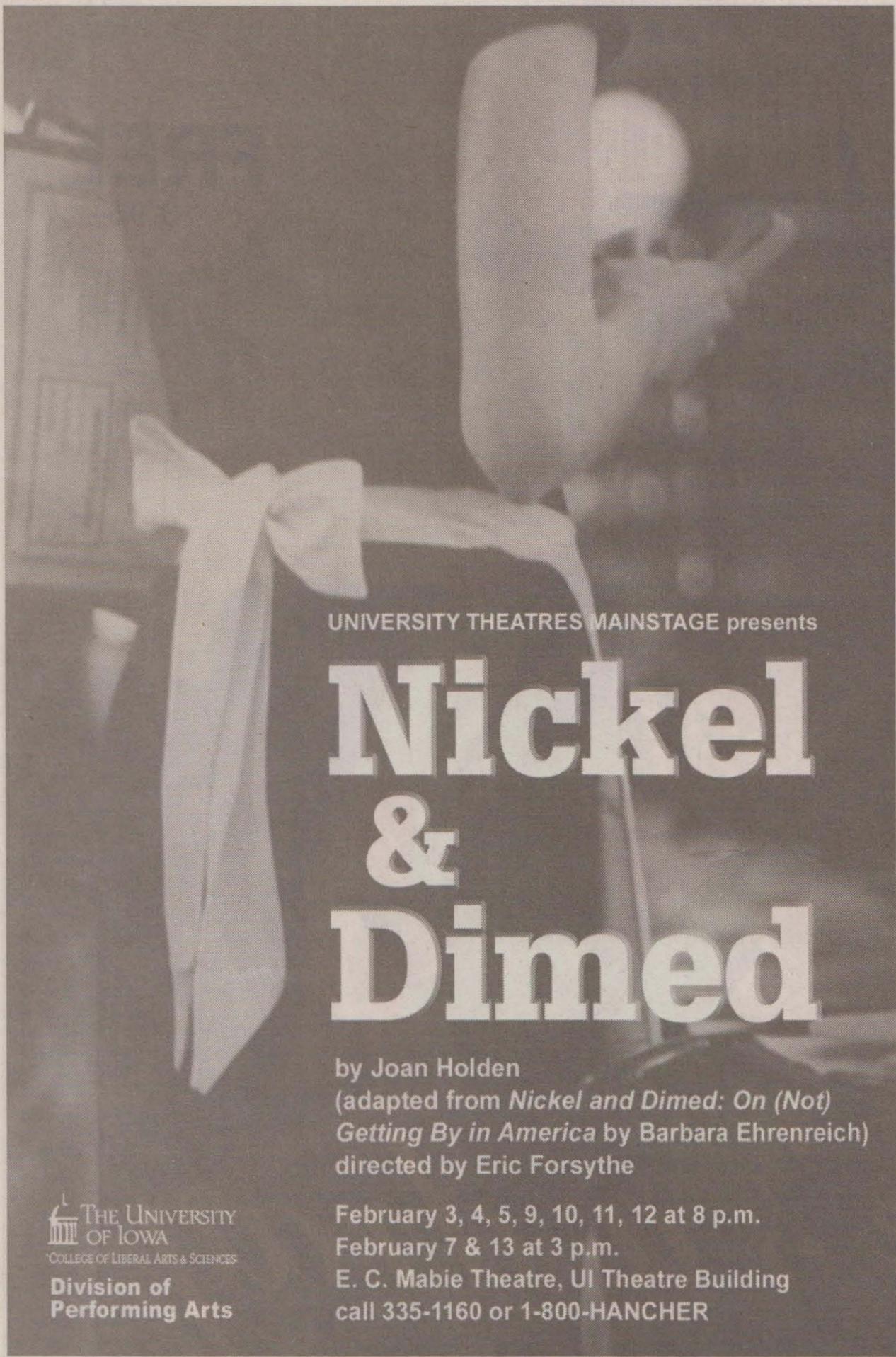
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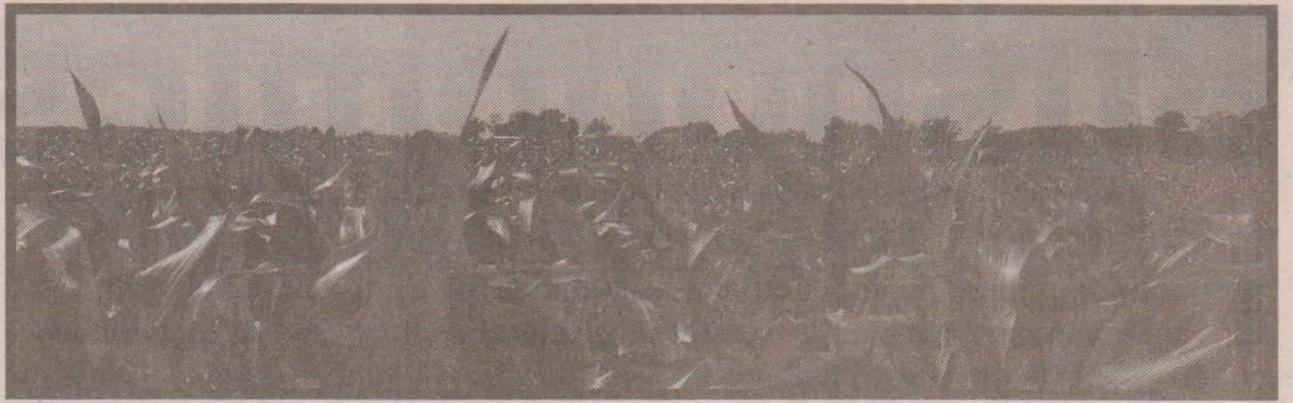
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VOLUME | 5 ISSUE | 46 Mar | 05

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Advertising and Calendar deadline
is the 3rd Friday of every month



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

NOTHING TO SEE HERE

MOVE ALONG, MOVE ALONG

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT A CONSERVATIVE REPORTER ASKING A FEW QUESTIONS AT WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFINGS?

SCOTT, WHY DO LIBERALS STUBBORNLY REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PRESIDENT'S SHEER GREATNESS AND OBVIOUS INFALLIBILITY?

WHY, I'M GLAD YOU ASKED THAT QUESTION, JEFF!

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

WHO CARES IF HE WAS ACTUALLY A PRETEND JOURNALIST WORKING WITHOUT PAY FOR A PARTISAN REPUBLICAN WEBSITE?

JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE DOESN'T HAVE A "JOB" OR ANY "WRITING EXPERIENCE"---

--IT DOESN'T MEAN HE CAN'T BE A BIG-TIME "REPORTER"!

WHAT DOES IT MATTER THAT HE APPEARS TO HAVE GAINED REGULAR ACCESS TO THE WHITE HOUSE UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME AND WITHOUT A STANDARD BACKGROUND CHECK?

THAT SORT OF THING HAPPENS ALL THE TIME!

WHITE HOUSE SECURITY PEOPLE ARE VERY EASY GOING!

AND SO WHAT IF A BACKGROUND CHECK WOULD HAVE REVEALED WHAT LIBERAL BLOGGERS SOON DISCOVERED--THAT HE APPARENTLY HAD A SECRET LIFE AS A TAX-DELINQUENT, PORN-SITE-OPERATING MALE PROSTITUTE?

IT'S OUTRAGEOUS--THE WAY THESE BLOGGERS VIOLATED HIS PRIVACY, I MEAN!

IT'S GETTING SO A MAN CAN'T EVEN POST NAKED PICTURES OF HIMSELF ON THE INTERNET ANYMORE!

THERE'S ONLY ONE EXPLANATION FOR THE LIBERAL OBSESSION WITH THIS STORY--

--THEY HATE GAY PEOPLE! LEFT WING INTOLERANCE IS THE ONLY REAL SCANDAL HERE!

OTHER THAN THAT--NO SCANDAL WHATSOEVER!

NO, SIREE! NONE AT ALL!

OKAY, THEN.

YEP.

TAM TAPARR©2005 ... www.thismodernworld.com

Bushonomics accidents on purpose

Federal budgets are notoriously complex things, published in multiple volumes containing literally millions of line items, and brimming with enough economic models, assumptions and formulae to confuse a roomful of PhDs. So it comes as no surprise that the word on the budget that actually filters down to the street tends to be a vague description of the forest that doesn't in any

particular mention the trees. Reporting on the latest budget released by the Bush administration has thus focused on the truly astonishing depth of the president's proposed domestic budget cuts and the howls of protest they have elicited from those whose oxen he proposes to gore. From these reports, one might glean that the president, in the tried and true tradition of Republican

grants (which the president actually promised to increase), the Head Start program, vocational training and even full funding for No Child Left Behind. Defense gets a big boost—veterans' benefits get the knife. Homeland Security funding is dramatically increased, while federal support for local police, fire and EMT first responders—the real heroes of 9/11—will be all but eliminated.

And in the grand tradition of the GOP's "the rich get rich and the poor get rained on" philosophy, a nice chunk of the savings the government will glean from cuts in food stamps, housing subsidies, infant nutrition programs and childcare will be offset by a brand spanking new set of deductions, exemptions and tax shelters—

So strong is this anti-government bias that once in power, the anti-government conservatives are, in fact, duty bound to screw things up as badly as possible, manifesting their belief that government can't possibly work by governing in ways that can't possibly work. Proving their point with their own failures, they press on.

Specific to economics, Reagan's budget director David Stockman described this particular game to a tee 20 years ago—run up huge deficits through tax cuts and defense spending, declare those deficits a crisis, use that crisis to go after domestic and social spending. Repeat until government can be, as conservative activist Grover Norquist puts it, "drowned in the bath tub."

Thus robbed of the opportunity to judge the president's budget on its ends, we are left to judge it on its means, which are very mean indeed.

97 percent of which will be available only to those with incomes over \$200,000 annually.

That this budget has been met with almost universal scorn by both sides of the Congressional aisle—even members of the Republican leadership have deemed it "dead on arrival"—is no great cause for comfort. While some of the more egregious cuts to the promotion of the general welfare might be patched over or softened, the general shape of the budget that emerges from Congress is likely to be roughly the same as the ball of crap the president just rolled down Pennsylvania Avenue, only bigger: strong on defense, weak on the social safety net, with large wads of pork appended for good measure, all paid for by ever mounting deficits.

Those of you who find this ridiculous should know that while it in fact is, it is also entirely in keeping with the mainstream of current conservative ideology, the basis of which isn't prudence or fiscal responsibility but a virulent hatred of activist government, the belief that, as conservative icon Ronald Reagan put it, "Government is not the solution to the problem, government is the problem."

Where does this leave society? In the words of Reagan's distaff British counterpart Margaret Thatcher, "There is no such thing as society." Like all classic sociopaths, they simply don't care.

Meanwhile, a growing number of economists have gone on record with concerns that our mounting budget and trade deficits, combined with the falling dollar and rising energy prices, have put our nation on the road to a fiscal crisis of devastating proportions. Nowhere in the budget, or in any other policy or proposal of the current regime, will you find any suggestion of how to alleviate any of these mounting problems. Nor will you find any indication that they particularly give a rat's ass. Why should they? Like their leader, who said he found dictatorship entirely acceptable as long as he was the dictator (and news flash, folks, he wasn't joking), they're likely to find nothing wrong with the United States deteriorating into a third world oligarchy so long as they're the oligarchs.

As for the rest of us—I dare say the vast majority of us—we should start proving our existence to these people as soon as possible, preferably by getting them as far away from power as we can. **lv**



fiscal discipline, has taken decisive action to address the burgeoning deficit by reining in government spending.

One would, of course, be wrong. Bush's 2006 budget is, in fact, 7 percent larger than his 2005 budget and doesn't include a single budgeted penny for the ongoing war in Iraq, the transition to Social Security "private accounts" or the extension of the president's tax cuts. (For those of you just emerging from five-year comas, this in no way means the president doesn't intend to prosecute the war, "reform" Social Security and make his tax cuts permanent—it just means he doesn't intend to tell you what it will cost.)

Thus robbed of the opportunity to judge the president's budget on its ends, we are left to judge it on its means, which are very mean indeed. Forget every word about education and healthcare that left the president's mouth on the campaign trail last year—federal spending on both is being slashed, including health insurance subsidies for indigent children, Pell

What we own in common

The umbrella that George W. Bush has cast over his domestic agenda is emblazoned with the word “ownership.” “The Ownership Society.” It does have a nice ring to it. Maybe not quite the grandiose simplicity of such stalwarts as “The New Deal” and “The

Great Society,” but serviceable as a catchphrase. That is, if it weren’t so insidious.

Today we toss around the word “own” like candy, mostly to project upon our desires and accomplishments a comforting, or thrilling, sense of achievement. A football player running like the wind

on a 50-yard touchdown “owns” the field. Music teachers tell us to “own” the piece we’re trying so hard to learn. Self-help psychobabble books tell us to “own” our feelings. It seems when we use the word “own” these days, we mean “command,” “put an individual stamp on” or “take responsibility for.”

George W. Bush, his cronies and his puppeteers are playing upon these modern connotations of “ownership” in their new catch-phrase of an “ownership society” to conjure images of control, individuality and responsibility. They hope “The Ownership Society” will inspire visions of American bootstrap individualism, comforting middle-class materialism, pride of accomplishment and personal mastery over destiny. They don’t really mean any of those things. They are simply trying to deflect our attention from and mask the deliberate dismantling of the civic core of the great American collective achievement. You can bet that those who will eventually “own” more from “The Ownership Society” don’t live on Main Street, or even Maplewood Lane in the suburbs.

I have nothing against private owner-

ship. I own my own home and many other things that I like a lot. I do believe that, often, people take care of things better when they own them. But that applies to things like houses and cars, not schools, parks and the public good. And here is where George W. Bush’s “Ownership Society” becomes a rapacious, hypnotic lie.

Recently, I heard an administration flack on a radio interview (on NPR, just for the record). While the main topic of conversation was the “privatization/personalization” scheme the administration is trying to foist upon Social Security, the interviewee tried to sweep many other aspects of American life under the “ownership” umbrella. He was using some of the same and similar language I used above—pride of ownership, vested interest, personal responsibility, control over one’s life. This not only applied to Social Security in the mouthpiece’s cant, but also to our children’s education, for example. Through school vouchers, we are able to choose the best school for our children and then “own” our kids’ education. Just as we look for the best value of cereal or automobiles, apparently we will similarly “purchase” our commonwealth through the beneficent hills and dales of supply and demand. But how can that be? How can a “grab the best I can afford and let the rest rot” attitude do anything to raise the collective knowledge and wisdom of a functioning democratic society?

It doesn’t take much interrogation before the universal application of the concept of “ownership” starts to fall apart. As I said earlier, private property is wonderful, and much of our American society’s greatest achievements were, and continue to be, built on private enterprise. But our country has always had a counterbalancing commitment to the public as well as private good. In our wisdom over the decades and centuries, we have come to realize that there are some things best “owned” by us all in common, not through particularized market forces. When we wake up with 10 inches of snow on the ground, as we did a couple

months ago, wasn’t it a lot better that we had all paid taxes and agreed to “own,” in common, a street department that would plow everyone’s thoroughfare? What would it be like to be dependent on private purchase of plowing services for the stretches of roads in front of our houses? Some of us could get to work, or to the store, or to school, and some of us couldn’t. In such an instance, private ownership is a very bad idea.

But we need not dwell in such quotidian examples to make the point. Thomas Jefferson articulated for us the fundamental philosophy of public education, for example. Without an educated populace, everything else—a free press, a responsible government—is practically moot. So it was incumbent upon us as a people to provide an equally accessible, fundamentally strong education for all. That is what we have striven, and should continue to strive, to “own” as a society: a universal, and free, education to all, held in common as a public trust.

What about “owning” free and open access to information and speech, not as a people but as private consumers? What happens when access to the library is privatized, available only to those able, or even willing, to pay for a fee card? What happens when the elderly gentleman standing on the public pedestrian mall at Dubuque and Washington each Friday at noon holding a sign protesting the war in Iraq is either kicked off or charged a fee for expressing his opinion? (You can bet he’d be shown the exit door to the privately owned Coral Ridge Mall pretty quickly, and the exit door to Wal-Mart even faster.) What happens when the natural beauty and quiet of Hickory Hill Park is available for purchase to members only?

My point here is not to investigate the specific failings of George W. Shrub’s Social Security privatization scheme, or even the relative merits and demerits of school vouchers. There are many others much more qualified than I to make



**UR
HERE**
THOMAS
DEAN

such arguments. My point is to send up a red flag over the deceptively soothing bromide of an "ownership society" that is being touted as a prima facie, empirically obvious good. It is not.

I am not touting universal collectivization. The Soviet Union showed us that doesn't work. And heaven knows our own government has been guilty of bureaucratic inefficiency and hegemony in social programs. But the strength of our American society has always been that balance between the private and the public, the personal and the commons, the benefits of individual ownership and the wonders of the commonwealth. Bush's "Ownership Society" isn't so much attacking our future retirement benefits as it is undermining the social capital that holds us together as a people. Don't be fooled. Don't be lulled by the smooth tongues of corporate-owned government officials. Don't be tricked into giving up the best of what makes us a good society. We need to strengthen the commonwealth, not break our civic covenants. **lv**

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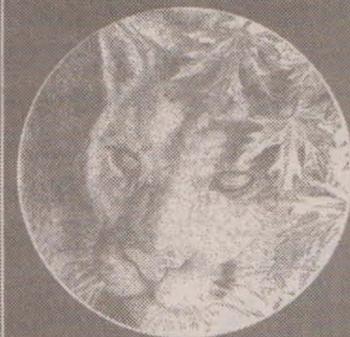
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Renewing America's food traditions

The Chinese philosopher and academic Lin Yutang once said, "What is patriotism but love of the food we ate as children?"

Dr. Lin's transcendent idea cuts across



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cultural boundaries and demonstrates that food, as the clearest material example of a parent's love, forms our earliest understanding of home. The location of your family when you were born, to a large extent, determines what foods provide comfort for you and are a culinary metaphor for your mother's arms.

What a tragedy it would be to lose such intimate personal identifiers,

to take the idea that "you can never go home again" to obscene, even cruel lengths. Yet, that is precisely what is happening.

MacArthur Fellow and director of the Center for Sustainable Environments at Northern Arizona University, Gary Paul Nabhan notes that two-thirds of the distinctive seeds and breeds that fed America when the first European settlers arrived has vanished. He continues, "One in 15 wild, edible plant and animal species has diminished to the degree that it is now considered at risk. These declines in diversity bring losses in traditional

ecological and culinary knowledge as well. Consequently, we have suffered declines in the food rituals which otherwise link communities to place and cultural heritage."

This tragic downward spiral must not be permitted to continue. There are many individuals and organizations that have done their part to stem this tide, and many of them have recognized the need to coalesce, to coordinate their efforts in a broad coalition. The resulting organization, Renewing America's Food Traditions (RAFT), was created in the fall of 2003 and consists of the

Renewing America's Food Traditions tells the story of Chapalote Corn, the first corn ever grown in what became the United States; the story of the forgotten flavor of the Marshall Strawberry; and the legacy and uncertain future of the Seminole Pumpkin.

American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, Nabhan's own Center for Sustainable Environments, Chef's Collaborative, Cultural Conservancy, Native Seeds/SEARCH, Seed Savers Exchange and Slow Food USA. One year later, they were prepared to release a self-titled publication detailing some of the most jeopardized foods in America—and some of the great success stories.

Nabhan and his research associate, Ashley Rood, compiled the information with the help of dozens of experts throughout the US, including Deborah Madison, Winona LaDuke, Kent Whealy, Patrick Martins, Tami Lax, Barbara Bowman and many more. *Renewing America's Food*

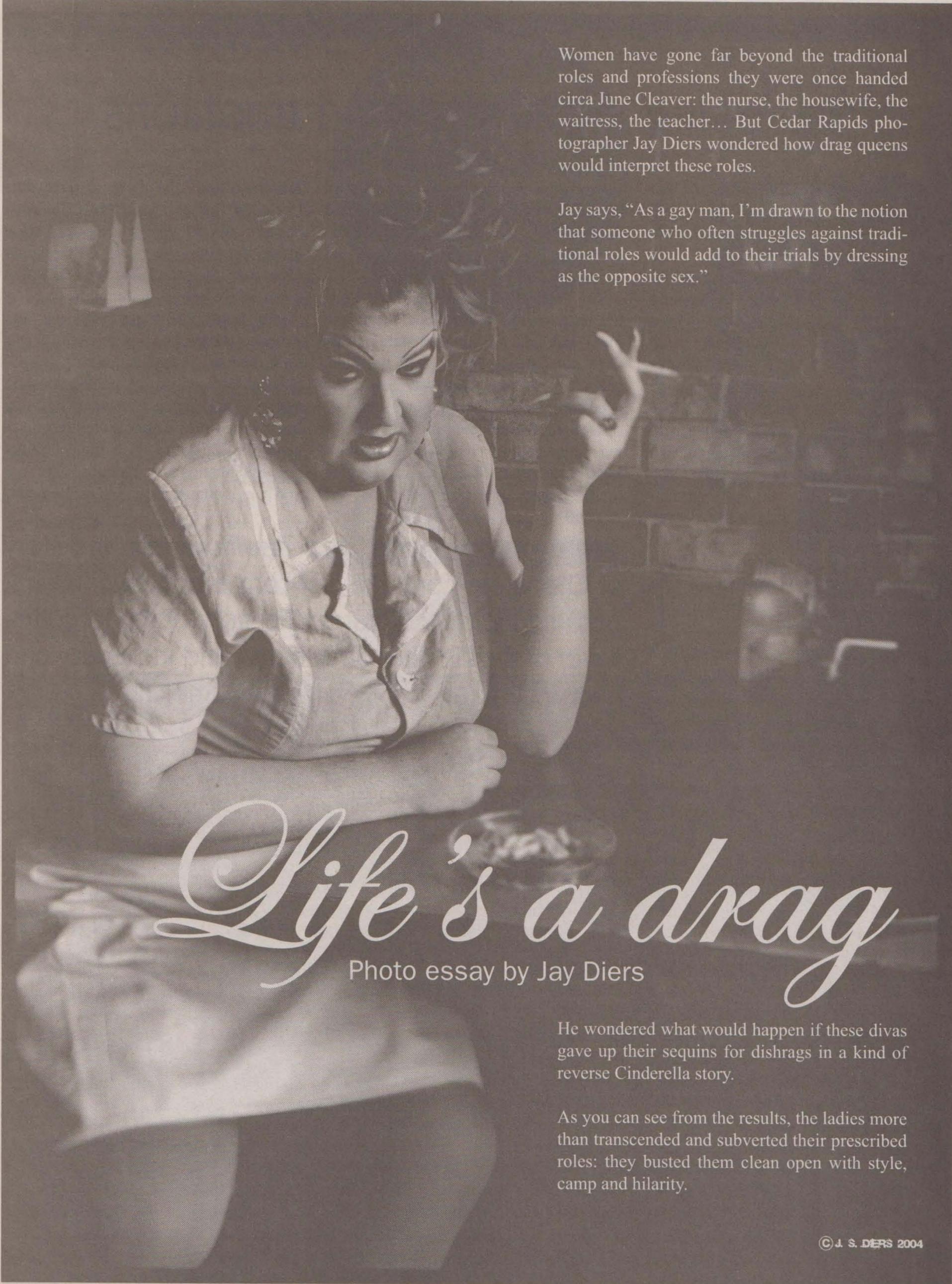
Traditions tells the story of Chapalote Corn, the first corn ever grown in what became the United States; the story of the forgotten flavor of the Marshall Strawberry; and the legacy and uncertain future of the Seminole Pumpkin.

Our food determines who we are. America takes righteous pride in its cultural diversity, but that diversity is seriously threatened by the homogenization and industrialization of flavors and food. Imagine a world where there are only a handful of things to eat. You needn't tax your imagination too strenuously, because you are living in one. Today 30 plants

feed 95 percent of the earth's population. In the last 100 years, 250,000 plant varieties have gone extinct, and another vanishes every six hours. In that same time period, the US has lost 93 percent of its crop species diversity. Fully one-third of native cow, pig and sheep breeds has gone extinct or is on the verge.

What a dull and worthless place to live where every burger tastes the same (like fat and salt) every apple looks and tastes alike (bred to ship, all crunch and no sweetness) and every beer tastes the same (like carbonated water). We're far too close to that world now. Bravo to RAFT and its efforts to stave off the bland and the boring. **IV**





Women have gone far beyond the traditional roles and professions they were once handed circa June Cleaver: the nurse, the housewife, the waitress, the teacher... But Cedar Rapids photographer Jay Diers wondered how drag queens would interpret these roles.

Jay says, "As a gay man, I'm drawn to the notion that someone who often struggles against traditional roles would add to their trials by dressing as the opposite sex."

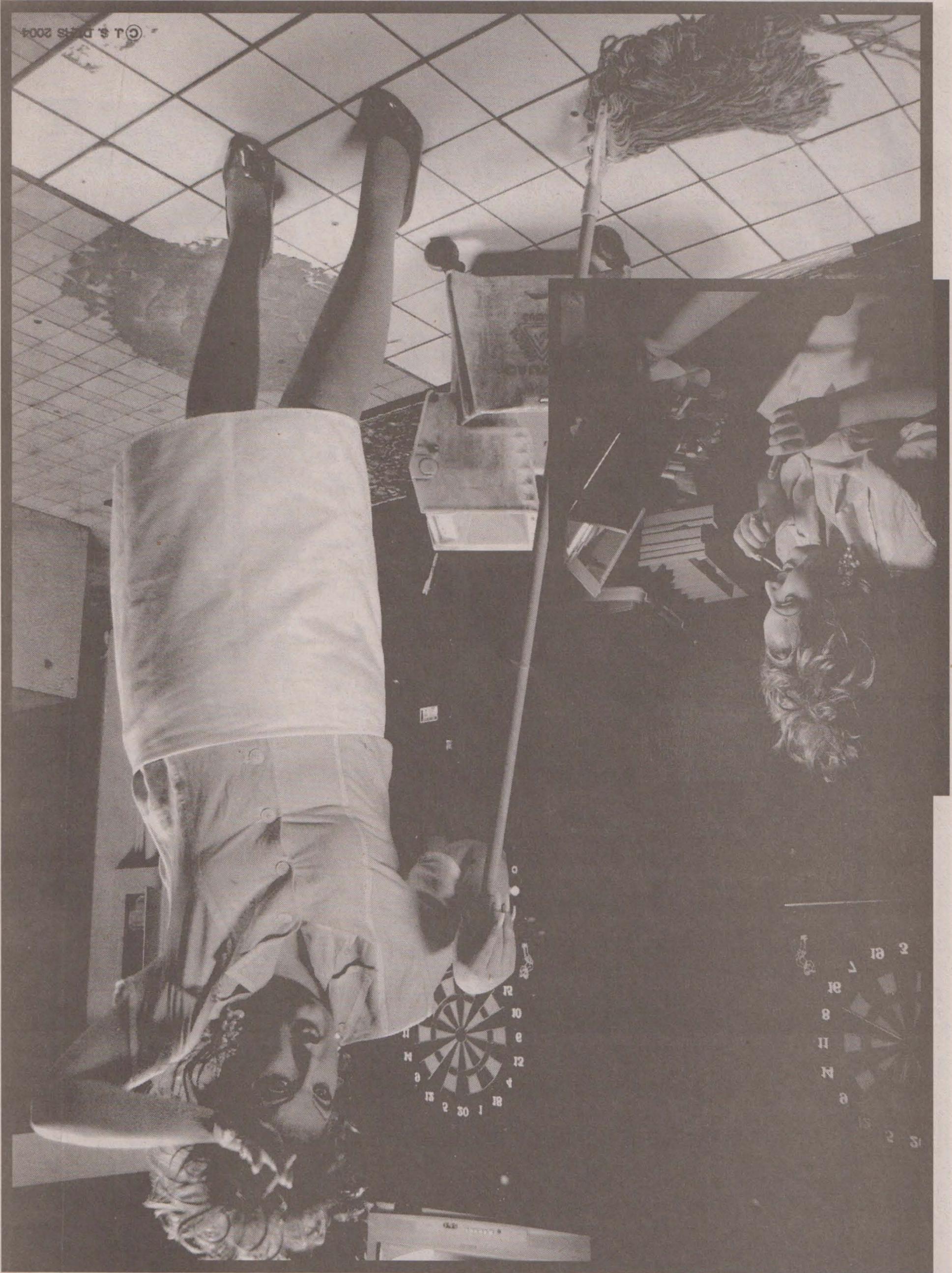
Life's a drag

Photo essay by Jay Diers

He wondered what would happen if these divas gave up their sequins for dishrags in a kind of reverse Cinderella story.

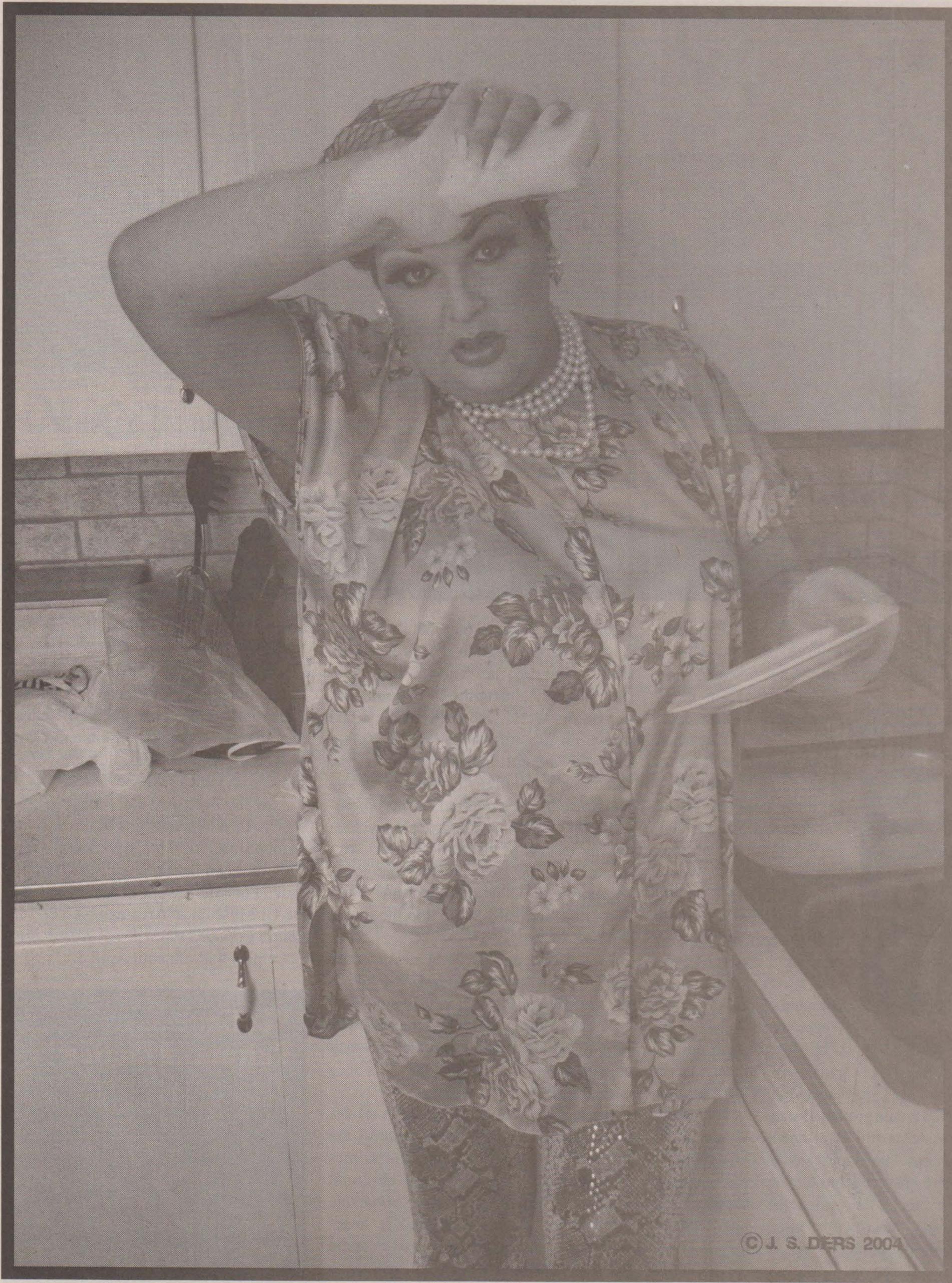
As you can see from the results, the ladies more than transcended and subverted their prescribed roles: they busted them clean open with style, camp and hilarity.

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If the sound collage collective Negativland hadn't been sued—in 1991, when I was 21—I never would have written my recent book, *Freedom of Expression®: Overzealous Copyright Bozos and Other Enemies of Creativity*. During a skirmish between Island Records and Negativland, the corporate goliath took aim at the group's record (titled, simply, *U2*) and blew it off the face of the earth. A nerdy, motley crew of San Francisco Bay-area artists, weirdoes and computer programmers, Negativland wasn't even a blip on the pop culture radar—an unlikely target for a major lawsuit. So

what would prompt a huge record company to use its full legal and economic might against an insignificant band? As you may have guessed from the band's album title, they made the mistake of sampling U2's music, the crown jewel in Island Records' multi-platinum crown.

As a teen-age hipster-doofus, I admired

Negativland because they held funhouse mirrors to the media-saturated culture that surrounded me. Their collage aesthetic seemed a natural way of commenting on the world, especially since I had grown up listening to hip-hop. In titling their 1987 album *Escape from Noise* (the same year Public Enemy released "Bring the Noise"), they referred to the ubiquitous pop culture cacophony that blankets us. But instead of literally escaping—living off the grid, so to speak—the group engaged with the world by putting something new and subversive into the media mix.

At the ripe age of 21, I never could have imagined I'd become a University of Iowa professor (!?!?!) who would play a part in inviting to campus members of Negativland and another wonderful sound collage group, The Tape-beatles. It's been a long, strange trip.

During the weekend of March 24-26, English prof. Ruedolf Kuenzli and I are running the 2005 Obermann Humanities Symposium, "Collage as Cultural Practice," which will mix academic scholarship, performance and a head-scratching array of subversive sonic flotsam. Featured speakers include a diverse range of filmmakers, cultural

theorists, lawyers and other assorted weirdoes, such as Craig Baldwin, Lloyd Dunn, Philo Farnsworth, Patricia Zimmermann, Rosemary Coombe, Pierre Joris, Steev Hise, Ximena Cuevas, Joshua Clover, Douglas Kahn and Carrie McLaren, who curated the *Illegal Art* show, with which I was involved.

Also involved in UI's collage conference is Tom Forsythe, one of the most notorious artists included in McLaren's traveling (both on land and online) *Illegal Art* show. Forsythe's work is also included in the UI Museum of Art's exhibit *Interventionist Collage: From Dada to the Present*, which will run until April 3.

"Collage as Cultural Practice"

What: Symposium on practice of collage, featuring Negativland's Mark Hosler and The Tape-beatles

When: March 24-26

Where: UI campus, Iowa City
More info: www.uiowa.edu/obermann/collage

It was Forsythe who waged a high profile battle against Mattel when the company sued the artist over his photographic series *Food Chain Barbie*, which variously featured the beloved icon in a blender, stir fry and more.

"I put them in a blender," says Forsythe, "with the implication they're going to get

land recordings," Mark Hosler tells me, "the television set was mixed in, we played tapes from game shows and interview talk shows, and I'd have a mike outside recording what was going on in our neighborhood."

He elaborates, "You see, I'm a kid, I've grown up in a media-saturated environ-

"I grew up watching Captain Kangaroo, moon landings, zillions of TV ads, 'The Banana Splits,' 'MASH' and 'The Mary Tyler Moore Show.' When I started messing around with sounds, there was no conceptual pretense at all."

- Mark Hosler

chewed up, but no matter what, they just kept smiling. That became an interesting commentary on how false that image is."

Amidst the academic papers and visual collages will be performances by Iowa City's own Tape-beatles, as well as Negativland's Mark Hosler, whose March 26 performance in Shambaugh Auditorium at 8pm is titled "Adventures in Illegal Art: Creative Media Resistance and Negativland."

When Negativland first started out, Hosler and some of the other group members had little knowledge of the rich history of avant-garde sound collage. They were just teen-agers making noise.

"When we were doing early Negativ-

ment and I'm just tuned into it. I was born in 1962; I grew up watching Captain Kangaroo, moon landings, zillions of TV ads, 'The Banana Splits,' 'MASH' and 'The Mary Tyler Moore Show.' When I started messing around with sounds, there was no conceptual pretense at all."

And that reflects the attitude of a great many sound collage artists who use collage as a tool to create their art. Not many people consciously say to themselves, "I'm going to deconstruct texts from the media barrage in order to undermine the dominant culture's ideology." They just do it because it feels natural.

Negativland's Don Joyce, on the other hand, knew his art music history. He says

from his darkened recording studio, "I went to art school, studied painting, so that's my whole background. I'm thinking *musique concrete*, John Cage, those kinds of people."

Also aware of the avant-garde collage tradition are The Tape-beatles—whose logo is the AT&T "globe" trademark with Mickey Mouse ears. On March 25 at 8pm, the Tape-beatles will give a rare performance (rare, because two members now live in Prague), also in Shambaugh Auditorium.

"We were influenced by the French *Concrete* musicians," says founding member Lloyd Dunn, "such as Pierre Henri and Pierre Schaeffer, and a few other modernist composers like Edgar Varese and John Cage." In fact, the title of their performance piece is quite Cageian: "Good Times: An Expanded Cinema Presentation for Three Projectors and Sound."

While it's all in good fun, it's fun with a critical edge. As more and more of what we look at, where we stand and what we hear is privately owned, it becomes increasingly difficult for artists to reflect on and interpret our world.

"We're living in this commercial culture," says Carrie McLaren, whose *Illegal Art* show featured Forsythe's Barbie photographs. "It's all privatized. It really hampers your ability to be able to talk about what's going on in the world if you can't talk about things that are privately owned because, well, that's just about all there is." Will the copyright cops try to shut us down? Come and see. **lv**

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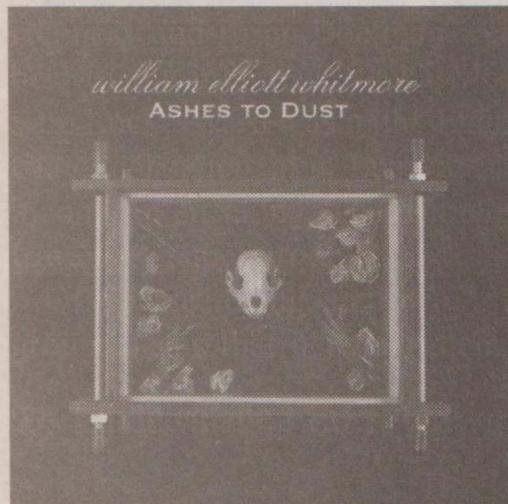
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William Elliot Whitmore

Ashes to Dust
Southern Records

Iowa's Will Whitmore isn't your usual sort of folk singer. A bright-eyed guy in his 20s, he sings in the voice of a hoarse old man. He performs solo on acoustic guitar and banjo, but frequently appears on the same bill with punk and hardcore bands. He writes his own songs, but they sound like country blues from the 1930s, or old-timey gospel.

The songs on Whitmore's second release on Southern Records seem to come from a world outside of time. Except for the electric light in "Porchlight" and the autos in "Gravel Road," they could have been written in the 19th century. But there's no nostalgia or feeling of archival re-creation to them. The themes of death, loneliness and sin are evergreen.

"Digging My Grave" is a simple country tune—simply devastating. Whitmore sings, "My road to hell is surely paved with all the love I never gave," and finds no hope of redemption. In "The Buzzards Won't Cry," he says, "you'll pray for a candle when the darkness falls."

You could say Whitmore is bleak and morbid, but if so, he's in good company—folk ballads like those collected by Francis Child are if anything bleaker and bloodier.

The simplicity and deftness of Whitmore's lyrics is such that I'd do better to quote them whole rather than try and explain them—they're already distilled to

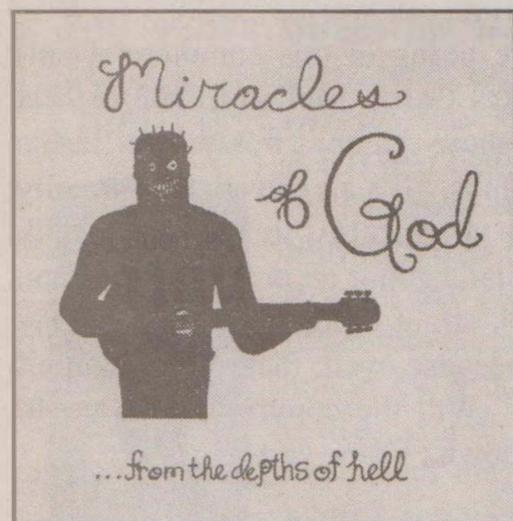
an irreducible simplicity and clarity.

Whitmore's voice is one of those unique instruments that's instantly recognizable once you know it. It's a sweet baritone with just enough gravel to give it weight, and it perfectly suits his songs. His guitar and banjo playing are simple and unornamented but sufficient unto the task.

Ashes To Dust has occasional touches of primitive, skeletal percussion, but most of the songs are presented as he plays them for audiences, accompanied mainly by his stomping left foot.

In its modest, plainspoken, barebones way, *Ashes To Dust* is a masterpiece. Every song sounds inevitable and self-sufficient, as though Whitmore found them fully formed in the Mississippi mud. I hate to gush in a review, but damn him, Will Whitmore leaves me no choice. If you have any love for acoustic music, you need this record.

Kent Williams



Miracles of God

...from the depths of hell
www.miraclesofgod.net

The Miracles of God are a bunch of guys who have been around Iowa City and environs for several years. Jason Hennesy and Brian Boelman were members of the infamous Sucka MCs, while Sam Locke-Ward was in the Egnogs and Clayton Thuneman in Lucy Star. So, in a manner of speaking, The Miracles are an Iowa City super group.

Of course, being an Iowa City super group means that between them they've

been thrown out of ever bar in town. Suffice it to say, these guys have achieved renown for acts of drunken misbehavior not fit to print in a family newspaper, and at the same time, learned a thing or two about making the rock 'n' roll.

Now that they've recorded a CD of obscene, hilarious, sloppy, brilliantly perfect songs, perhaps they can redeem themselves in the eyes of the general public, or at least in those of their moms and parole officers. The Miracles of God play loud, curse a lot and occasionally scream, but it's all in the service of surprisingly tuneful pop music. They might be compared to Pavement; but where Pavement is obtuse, the Miracles of God are direct. Their lyrics are funny, weird and bloody minded.

Standout tracks include "Harm"—dark tale of doom wrapped up in a memorable tune that in other hands would be almost pretty; the Miracles manage to mess it up to where it's beautiful. "Those F*cking Guys" uses the F verb as the only verb and adjective, lasts 47 seconds and sounds like the Everly Brothers getting beat up by Sonic Youth. "Nixon's Brain" is a

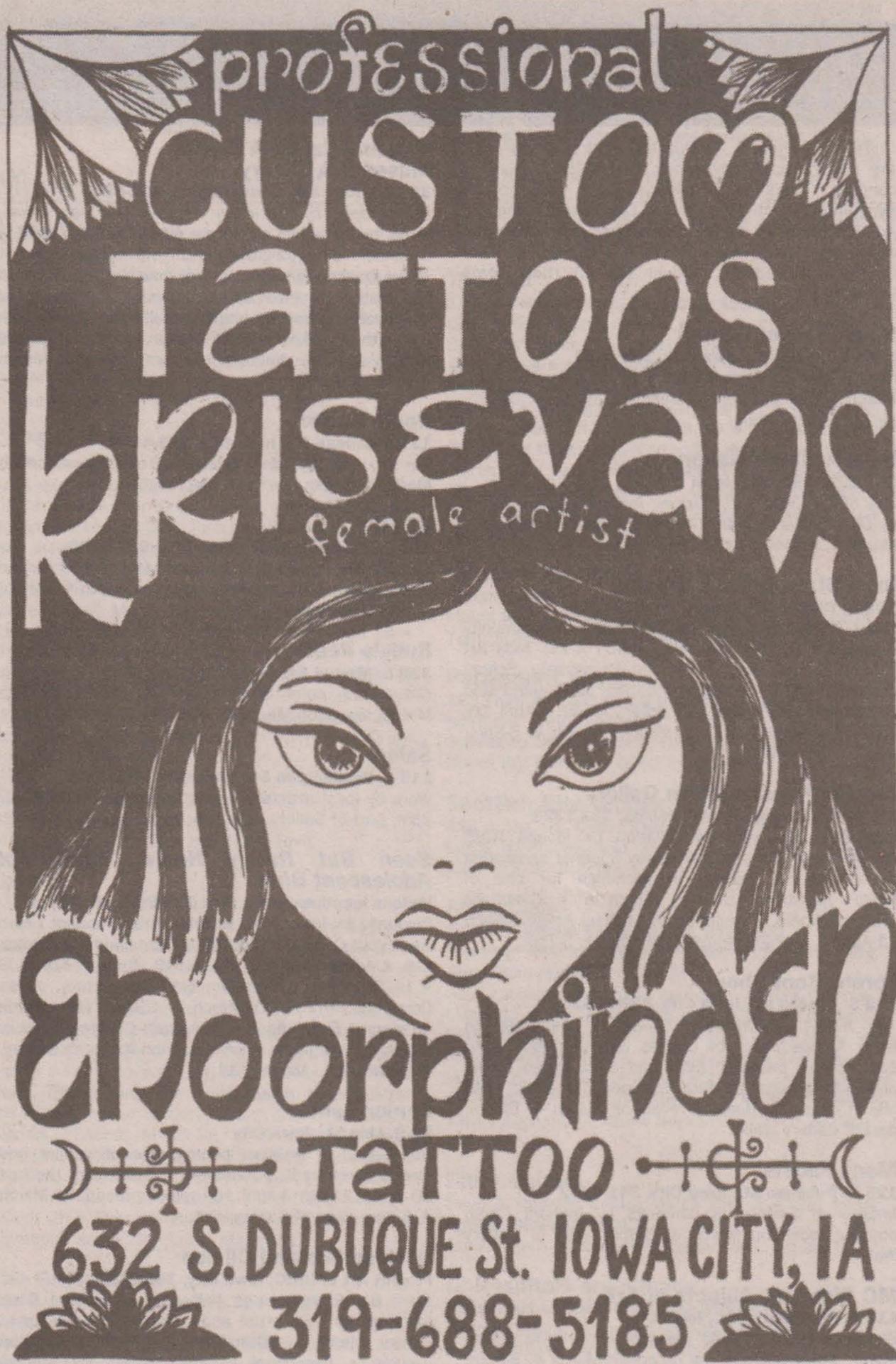
thrashy song about...apparently Nixon's Brain. "Hayride To Hell" has the catchy verse "Hayride to hell/everything is going well/now everything is shot to hell/now everything is f*cked." It's a tale of teen love where the guy loves the girl so much he wants her to come with him to hell, on...a hayrack.

The Miracles of God are the quintessential Iowa City band—perfectly brilliant and completely without commercial potential. This CD, recorded to a cassette 4-track, is decidedly lo fi, but that only adds to the appeal. You need to get *...from the depths of hell*—they know how to write songs, they know how to rock and they know that a pitcher of beer is a single serving.

By the way, the Miracles were involved in a car accident (not their fault) in Missouri while on tour, and Sam Locke-Ward was seriously injured. He's on the mend, but like most musicians, has no health insurance, so watch the calendar for news of upcoming benefit concerts. And by all means check them out live once Sam's back on his feet.

Kent Williams

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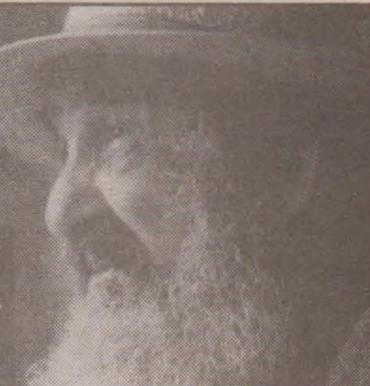
Models Wanted

Iowa City photographer seeks female amateur or semi professional models to pose for Fine Art Nudes. Models chosen will be compensated. Set up an appointment today to see how easy it could be to earn some extra cash.

Call Mike at 319-331-0161 for more info.

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 Every Sunday at 2pm -
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All shows at 7 pm with \$3 cover,
 unless otherwise indicated.

- Sat. 3/5 - LARRY SIEVERS
- Sun. 3/6 - CHARLIE KING and
 KAREN BRANDOW,
 \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door
- Thurs. 3/10 - NATALIA
 ZUKERMAN
- Sat. 3/12 - KALIMBAMAN
 w/ NANCITA WERNETT
- Thurs. 3/17 - MATT BAR (7:30 pm)
- Sat. 3/19 - HAIRLINE FRACTURE
- Sat. 3/26 - KING TOAD
- Sat. 4/2 - SHOELESS

For more information, call 339-0401.

GABES 330 E. Washington Ave.
 Iowa City 354-4788
 WWW.GABESOASIS.COM

- 5 Mar. Les Georges Leningrad,
 Marah-Mar, Sword Of Exactly
- 8 Mar. The Legendary Shack Shakers
 The Flesh
- 10 Mar. Troubled Hubble, The Reputation
- 11 Mar. **Mahjongg,**
 Bobby Conn & The Glass Gypsies
- 13 Mar. early: Catch 22, Spitalfield (all ages)
 late: Bottom, Burnout, Kita
- 15 Mar. The Minus Story.
 Thunderbirds are Now!
- 20 Mar. **SCATTER THE ASHES,**
ALBINO SPIDERS (all ages)
- 22 Mar. NEHEMIAH, SIGNALS OF SILENCE
 (all ages)
- 23 Mar. **Against Me, Smoke or Fire,**
The Loved Ones (all ages)
- 24 Mar. early: Little Brazil, The Slats (all ages)
 late: Sound of Urchin, Infant Death
- 25 Mar. Xiu, Xiu, On! Air! Library!, The Dead Science

Beer Garden
 Tuesdays 7-11pm
 25 cent tap
 Wednesdays 7-11pm
 \$1.50 tall boys

Bookings at:
 WWW.GABESOASIS.COM

CALENDAR

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

Art/Exhibits

African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center

55 12th Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids

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

AKAR

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

New Space: New Artists: New Work, ceramic works by Jason Hess of Arizona, Matt Kelleher of Connecticut and Simon Levin of Wisconsin, March 4-17; opening reception March 4, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

The Art Mission

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

Contemporary woodblock prints using traditional techniques by master printmaker Keiji Shinohara, March 4-April 1; opening reception March 4, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

ARTS Iowa City

Jefferson Bldg., 129 E. Washington St.

International Collage Research & Production Team, Basel, Switzerland-based group of artists devoted to collage as an art form, cultural phenomenon and modern lifestyle, March 4-April 23; opening reception with artists in action, March 4, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

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

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 • *Joan Luffring-Zug Bourret: From a Life of Photography*, works by this Iowa photographer, through May 22 • *20th Century American Prints*, through May 29. (See *Words* listing for more)

Chait Galleries Downtown

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

Artists of Eastern Europe, work by Ludmila Barkalova and Alexander Bojadschan, Russia, and Constantin Motoc, Romania, through March; reception and open house March 4, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

CSPS

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

The Paper Sculpture Show, interactive exhibit, opens March 16 • New work by Michelle Acuff, Emily Martin, Milton Pagan and William Quast.

Falconer 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.

Get Real

Location TBA, Iowa City, 354-2623

Classic modern furniture by Herman Miller, a Michigan-based furniture company, mid-March through mid-April. (See *Words* listing for more)

The History Center

615 1st Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-1501

Christian Tiemeyer: A Quarter of a Century with the Cedar Rapids Symphony, traces the history of conductor Christian Tiemeyer's years with the CR Symphony, March 22-May 8 • *Lebanese Among Us: Americans for A Century*, examines the Lebanese experience, beginning with their migration to Linn County in 1895-1930, through July 10. (See *Words* listing for more)

Hudson River Gallery

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

Black and white photography by Jon Stuckenschneider, March 4-April 9; opening reception March 4, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Iowa Artisans Gallery

207 E. Washington, Iowa City

Day of the Dead and Mexican Tattoos: Original Prints by Charles Barth, March 4-April 17; opening reception March 4, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Iowa State Bank & Trust

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

Artist Educators, works by 11 Iowa City Community School District art teachers, March 4-31; *Kids Art Exhibit*, works from Iowa City Community School District, Regina, Heritage Christian, Willowwind and Solon elementary school children, March 4-April 30; opening reception for both exhibits March 4, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Janalyn Hanson White Gallery

Mt. Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, 363-1323

Serenade One, video installation by Joseph Whitt documenting how pop star Casey Spooner serenaded Whitt and his partner in exchange for one of Whitt's paintings, through March 8 • *Cinematic Claustrophobia*, installation by Michael Arrigo, March 11-April 7; opening reception March 11, 5-7pm.

Lorenz Boot Shop

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

The Rabbit in Concrete Shoes, oil paintings on black Arches paper by Sharon Burns-Knutson (also *Landscapes*, pastels); *Body and Soul*, mixed media and photographs by Rita Svoboda Tomanek; both March 4-June 1; opening reception March 4, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Many Facets

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

Images of Spring, oil paintings by Richard Cone; opening reception March 4, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

MC Ginsberg Objects of Art

110 E. Washington St., Iowa City

Works by Finnish textile designer Anne Kyyro Quinn, March 4-May 31; opening reception March 4, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Mt. Mercy College

Cedar Rapids

Tabletops on the Hilltop, tabletop designs from interior designers and community members, March 12, 10am-4pm, Betty Cherry Heritage Hall, Lower McAuley Hall • *Children's Art Exhibit*, artwork of Eastern Iowa elementary, middle school and high school students, March 29-April 8, Mt. Mercy Art Department, Fourth Floor Warde Hall.

Mythos

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

And What are Artists for in a Missshapen Age?, answers on canvas by Rick Dysart; Recent Photographs by David Heffner; both March 4-31; opening reception March 4, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

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 • *Uprka Selections*, series of more than two dozen framed bookplates by Joza Uprka depicting quintessential prints of pilgrims in kroje, Czech and Slovak folk dress, through April 17 • *Bohemian Garnets: Exquisite Artistry from the National Museum in Prague*, March 4-September.

Room Service

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

Recent work by Alan Weinstein; opening reception March 4, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

RSVP

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

Current work by book artists from UI's Center for the Book, March 4-31; opening reception March 4, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Ruby's Pearl

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

Girl Colors, color drawings by Liz Reese, through March; reception March 19, 6-8pm.

Salon

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

Work by local artists; opening reception March 4, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

Seen But Rarely Heard: Voices of Adolescent Girls

Various locations, Iowa City, 335-6001 (RVAP)

Paintings by Iowa artist and Lutheran minister Laura Gentry; UI College of Education Curriculum Resources Lab, Lindquist Center, Rm. N140, through March 3 • UI College of Education, Lindquist Center, Jones Commons, Rm. N300, March 3, 4:30pm (see *Words* for more) • Eighth floor, UI Hospital's Colloton Pavilion, March 4, 10am-2pm • United Action for Youth Gallery, 410 Iowa Ave., March 7-11.

Senior Center

28 S. Linn St., Iowa City

30 Years, 30 Images, photographs of people and places taken by IC's Jonathan D. Sabin over the last 30 years, March 4-April 10; opening reception March 4, 5-8pm, part of Gallery Walk.

UI Hospitals and Clinics

Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417

Seen But Rarely Heard: Voices of Adolescent Girls, paintings by Iowa artist and Lutheran minister Laura Gentry, March 4, 10am-2pm, Eighth floor, Colloton Pavilion • Functional ceramic pottery by Samuel Johnson, through April 20, 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 • *Interventionist Collage: From Dada to the Present*, selection of more than 100 works by more than 30 artists of a range of 20th-century collages, through April 3 • *Tohm Judson: Syzygy/Synchronicity (10 minutes later)*, site-specific sound piece by

composer Tohm Judson combines sound from events happening simultaneously around the world that are partly controlled by the movement of visitors through the gallery, March 24-April 24.

Music

Clapp Recital Hall

UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1160

Maia String Quartet with guest violinist Stephane Tran Ngoc and pianist Uriel Tsachor, March 4, 8pm • University and Concert Bands, March 7, 8pm • Christine Rutledge, solo Baroque viola, March 8, 8pm • Johnson Country Landmark presents "An Evening of Women Jazz Composers," March 9, 8pm • Iowa Woodwind Quintet, March 10, 8pm.

CSPS

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

8pm, except Sundays (7pm)

Liz Carroll and John Doyle, March 4 • Fiddler Randy Sabien and bassist Brian Torff pay tribute to legendary jazz artist Stephane Grappelli, March 6, 7pm • Rosheen, Celtic band from Quebec, March 8 • Celtic Fiddle Fest with Kevin Burke, Christian Lemaitre and Andre Brunet, March 10 • Richard Shindell, March 11 • Cheryl Wheeler with Kenny White, March 16 • Tracy Grammer with Jim Henry, March 18 • Singer-songwriter Edie Carey, March 20, 7pm • A night of electronic and experimental music featuring Abinadi Meza, Eric Carroll and The Tape-beatles, March 23 • Songwriter Lucy Kaplansky, March 25 • Drum Drum from Papua New Guinea, March 30.

Englert Theatre

221 E. Washington St., Iowa City

UI Symphony Orchestra, March 22, 8pm.

Gabe's

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

Charm School Dance Party, March 4 • Les Georges Leningrad, Marah-Mar, Sword Of Exactly, March 5 • Legendary Shack Shakers, The Flesh, March 8 • Edi Okri and the Afro-Centrics, March 9 • Troubled Hubble, The Reputation, March 10 • Mahjongg, Bobby Conn & The Glass Gypsies, March 11 • Early: Catch 22, Spitalfield; Late: Bottom, Burnout, Kita; March 13 • Victory at Sea, March 14 • The Minus Story, Thunderbirds Are Now!, March 15 • Scatter the Ashes, Albino Spiders, March 20 • Nehemiah, Signals of Silence, March 22 • Against Me, Smoke or Fire, The Loved Ones, March 23 • Early: Little Brazil, The Slats; Late: Sound of Urchin, Infant Death, March 24 • Xiu, Xiu, On! Air! Library!, The Dead Science, March 25 • Ever We Fall, Voice in the Wire, Drake Equation, March 29 • Ludo, March 31.

The Green Room

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

Blues Jam Mondays

Bockman, The Meek, March 3 • Railroad Earth, Mr. Baber's Neighbors, March 4 • Damon Dodtsen, March 5 • Funkmaster Cracker, March 8 • Euforquestra, Free Space, March 10 • Mr. Blotto, Starrunner, March 11 • Lonnie Brooks, Billy Satterfield, March 12 • Funk and Jazz Jam, March 16 • BJ Jagger and the Jagoffs, March 17 • Ensalada, March 18 • East Eighteen, Rude Boy, Inner Element, March 19 • Billy Howke, March 22 • Drew Emmitt, March 24 • The Big Wu, March 25 • Bled the Multitude, March 29 • New Monsoon, March 30 • Melvin Sparks, March 31.

Hancher Auditorium

UI campus, 335-1160

Soweto Gospel Choir, March 6, 2pm • Prague Symphony Orchestra, with pianist Navah Perlman, March 9, 8pm • Natalie McMaster, March 31, 7:30pm.

The Java House

211 E. Washington St., 341-0012

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

Iowa singer-songwriter Matthew Wright, March 4. (See Words for more)

Martini's

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

Shows at 9:30pm

Soul Patrol DJ, March 4 • Bryce Janey, March 5 • Soul Power DJ, March 11 • Girl DJs, March 12 • The Johnny Rawls Blues/Soul Band from Milwaukee, March 18 • TBA, March 19 • LKBT DJs, March 25 • Bryce Janey, March 26 • Soul Power DJ, April 1 • The Diplomats, April 2.

The Mill

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

Open Mike Mondays, 8pm • 2nd & 4th Wednesdays Burlington Street Bluegrass Band, 7pm • All music 9pm unless noted otherwise

The Jensen Connection, March 3 • Ben Schmidt Trio, March 4 • Foolhardy, Matt Bar, March 5 • UI Johnson County Landmark Jazz, March 10 • The Letterpress Opry, Dave Olsen, March 11 • Benefit for Sam Eggnog, March 12 • Paul Geremia, March 18 • David Zollo, Jason Reeves, March 19 • Wandering Sons, Scotty Long Trio, March 24 • Firewood Revival, March 25 • The Salsa Band, March 26.

Mt. Mercy College

Cedar Rapids

Mount Mercy College Spring Choir Concert, March 17, 7pm, Stello Performance Hall, Warde Hall.

Paramount Theatre

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

Wartburg Wind Ensemble, March 20, 3pm • CR Symphony Masterworks Concert, Mozart's Mass, March 26, 8pm, 366-8203 for tickets.

Scottish Rite Temple

616 A Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids

Lukás Vondráček, solo piano concert, March 7, 7pm, 362-8500 for tickets.

Siren Club

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

Thursday Nights, Jacqueline Krain and The Ringers, 8pm-12am (except March 17)

Saul Lubaroff, March 5, 9pm-1am • Kurt Crandall, March 11 • Kris Lager Band, 8:30-10pm; JR's Rockin' Blues Band, 10pm-1am; March 12 • Celtic Music w/ Robert Hensley, March 17, 9pm-1am • The Spread, March 18, 9pm-1am • Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, March 19 • Bob Dorr and The Blue Band, March 25, 9pm-1am • Apocalypso Tantric Boys Choir, March 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.

UI Hospitals and Clinics

Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417

Colloton Atrium, noon (unless noted otherwise)

Major Grooves, medical student a cappella group, March 11, 12:45pm • The Beggarmen, violin, accordion, mandolin/flute and guitar arrangements of traditional and modern Celtic music, March 25.

UI Museum of Art

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

IC pianist Dan Knight and Iowa guitarist Don Blew, March 4, 5pm • "WOW! Family Day," IC guitarist Tom Nothnagle performs a preview of a "Vaudeville-esque" show, March 6, 2:30pm • "Know the Score," live radio program, with Peter Schickele, also known as PDQ Bach and the host of "Schickele Mix" on KSUI, March 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

Larry Sievers, March 5 • Charlie King and Karen Brandow, March 6 • Natalia Zukerman, March 10 • Kalimaman with Nancita Wernett, March 12 • Matt Bar, March 17, 7:30pm • Hairline Fracture, March 19 • King Toad, March 26 • Shoeless, April 2.

A-LIST



Jack Kerouac Celebration March 12 • Iowa City

"During a 20-day stint in 1951, Jack Kerouac hunkered down in front of a typewriter at a friend's New York apartment. Hopped up on coffee and Benzedrine, he began retelling the tale of the aimless trek he made across America. In a spontaneous, stream-of-consciousness burst, Kerouac typed away on long sheets of tracing paper, taping each finished page to the previous one to form one continuous, rolling text."

If *On the Road* came into your life at the right time to change it, then seeing the scroll unrolled in public at the UI Museum of Art for the first time anywhere should be homage to a sacred manuscript. If, like Truman Capote, you thought *On the Road* was just a bunch of typing, then it's still a great opportunity see every word, edit and smudge (except for the ending, allegedly eaten by a dog) of one of the most influential manuscripts of our time.

But that's not all. Kerouac would have turned 83 on March 12. To celebrate his birthday, Doug Sharples will show his acclaimed film, *Go Moan for Man*, at 7:30pm at the Wesley Center. This will be the first Iowa City showing of a work that has been called "the definitive Kerouac documentary." Not new to Iowa City, Sharples picked up his first Kerouac book, a 35-cent copy of *The Subterraneans*, at the old Paper Place as a 15-year-old attending the Iowa Drama Workshop at the University of Iowa. He also shot a number of the film's scenes across Iowa. And don't miss Sharples' lecture about his two-decade odyssey making the film at 3pm at the Iowa City Public Library.

Wesley Center, 120 N. Dubuque St., Iowa City, 337-5187. IC Public Library, 123 Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200.

Voxman Music Bldg.

UI campus, Iowa City

Harper Hall

Nathalie Cruden, principal violist of the Cedar Rapids Symphony, with cellist Adam Satinsky and pianist Patrice Ewoldt, March 5, 8pm • Clare Southworth, flute; Tim Carey, piano, March 8, 8pm.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

1285 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids

Red Cedar Chamber Music and D. C. Taylor Co. present "Bass-ed on Bach," concert of music for flute, guitar and double bass, March 5, 8pm.

Yacht Club

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

No Rules Open Mic, Sundays; Hip-Hop Night, Tuesdays; Jam Band Jam, Wednesdays, 10pm Mer, Scottie Long, Catch Stone, March 3, 9pm •

Jensen Connection, Wonderful Smith CD release, Jake Dilley Band, Jefferson Bergey, March 4, 8pm • Dennis McMurrin & The Demolition Band, March 5, 9pm • Bad Fathers, Stark Machete, March 10, 9pm • Kelly Pardekooper, March 11, 10pm • One Love Sounds Reggae Jam Session, March 12, 9pm • Yacht Club St. Patrick's Day Massacre, March 17; Brian St. Patrick John, 4:30-5:30pm; The Beggermen, 5:30-7pm & 9-11:30pm; The Mad Irishman Emmett Sheehan, 7-8pm; Sam Guinness Knutson, 8-9pm; Nikki Lunden Green Leprechaun Band, 11:30pm-1:30am • Funkmaster Cracker, March 18, 10pm • DJs, March 19, 9pm • BJ Jagger & The Jagoffs, March 24, 10pm • The Pines, Euforia String Band, March 25, 9pm • BF Burt & The Instigators, March 26, 9pm • Jake Dilley Band, Freshwater Collins, March 31, 9pm.

Dance

Clapp Recital Hall

UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1160

Dancers in Company, UI Dance Department, March 5, 3pm.

CSPS

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

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

Iowa Memorial Union

UI campus, Iowa City

Nachte Rahon, annual Indian dance competition, admission includes Indian dinner catered by Taj Mahal Restaurant, March 5, 5pm, Main Ballroom, 335-3876.

Paramount Theatre

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

International Dance Challenge, March 19, 9am-10pm

Space/Place Theatre

North Hall, UI campus, Iowa City

Dancers in Company, UI Dance Department, March 3-6, 8pm.

Auditions/Opportunities

Riverside Theatre

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

Auditions for the Young People's Company, summer training program in classical theater, and interviews for the Young People's Company Design Team, March 5 & 7, by appointment only.

Theatre Cedar Rapids

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

Auditions for *Man of LaMancha*, March 13-14, 7pm (read-through March 7, 7pm).

Theater/Performance

Hancher Auditorium

UI campus, 335-1160

National Acrobats of Taiwan, March 3, 7:30pm.

Iowa City Community Theatre

Exhibition Hall, Johnson Co. Fairgrounds, Iowa City, 338-0443

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

Hedda Gabbler, by Henrik Ibsen, March 4-5, 11-13, 18, 29, 20.

Mt. Mercy College

McAuley Theater, Lower McAuley Hall, Cedar Rapids

Enchanted April, two proper Englishwomen, determined to get away from their drab lives and inattentive husbands, find paradise among the serene countryside of Italy, March 10-12, 7:30pm.

Old Brick Aud.

26 E. Market St., Iowa City

"Daughters of Shahrazad Face to Face: Cultural Encounters Through the Expressive Arts of Middle

Eastern Women," day-long conference and evening dinner/performance, March 5; conference/workshops, sample and learn to cook foods from Persia, Morocco, Lebanon and Turkey; learn drumming, vocal traditions, dance traditions; listen as folk tales and history open up greater understanding of women's experiences and traditions; listen as panelists discuss their experiences and personal perspectives; 9am-4:30pm. Gala dinner and performance featuring the Salaam World Music Ensemble and Kahraman Near East Dance Ensemble, 7pm, pre-registration required, 335-1486.

Paramount Theatre

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

Let Us Entertain You, Follies 2005, March 5 & 12, 2pm & 7:30pm; March 6 & 13, 2pm; March 11, 7:30pm • *contact*, Tony Award-winning musical, three stories told entirely through dance about people in the wild pursuit of love, March 24, 7:30pm.

Riverside Theatre

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

Thursdays, 7pm; Fridays & Saturdays, 8pm; Sundays, 2pm (unless noted otherwise)

Yuba City, new play by IC's Michael Sokoloff about a small town invaded by miners and the band of misfits who fight back, part of the late-night series "Cannonball," March 4-5, 10pm. • *Big Love*, Charles Mee's explosive update of *The Suppliant Women* by Aeschylus is as much vaudeville as tragicomedy, March 24-April 10.

Theatre Cedar Rapids

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

7:30pm Thurs.- Sat (and March 8.); 2:30pm Sun. (unless noted otherwise)

rEvolutioN: 1963-1973, world premiere of work that incorporates surround sound, video and still imagery to help performers reveal the battles fought and dreams born in one of the most turbulent, yet idealistic periods in US history, March 4-13 • "7 after 10," volunteer-directed evening of 10-minute plays, March 11-12, 10:30pm.

UI Museum of Art

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

"WOW! Family Day," storyteller Deanne Wortman and guitarist Tom Nothnagle present "Picture Story Theatre," March 6, 12:30pm.

UI Theatres

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

Metamorphoses, by Mary Zimmerman, stages the great transformation myths of the Roman epic poet Ovid, augmented with other sources, including poet Rainer Maria Rilke, University Theatres Mainstage production, March 3-5, 9-12, 8pm; March 6, 3pm.

Comedy

The Mill

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

Comics in Action, improv, March 15, 9pm.

Siren Club

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

Tracy Jones, March 4, 7-9pm.

Words

Brucemore

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

The Grapes of Wrath Book Club - Part I, discussion of John Steinbeck's themes and narrative style in the first half of the novel, March 6, 6:30-8:30pm, call to register • *The Grapes of Wrath* Book Club - Part II, discussion of the end of the novel and critical analysis of its legacy, March 13, 6:30-8:30pm, call to register • "From Page to Stage: Turning a Pulitzer Prize-winning Novel into a Tony Award-winning Play," panel discussion, March 20, 6:30-8:30pm.

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

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

"Beyond the Villa: Rome in the Mediterranean," Dr.

Edmund Burke, Coe College professor of humanities, March 2, 12-1pm • *Governing the Republic: Part I and Part II*, Professor Garret G. Fagan's DVD lecture series explores the history of Rome from the Etruscans to the "fall" of the Empire, March 12, 1pm • "Alexander the Great: Icon and Enigma," Dr. Peter Green, U of Texas emeritus professor of classics, March 17, 7-8pm • "The Virgins are Coming, The Virgins are Coming!," discover the differences between the myriad of virgin olive oils and balsamic in this lecture, demonstration and tasting conducted by California-based olive oil expert Betty Pustarfi, March 19, 5pm, 366-7053 ext. 207 for reservations • "The Dye Is Cast: Using Plants to Create Color," with Judy Bemer, Linn County master gardener, March 26, 1pm.

Collage as Cultural Practice

March 24-26, various locations, UI campus, Iowa City
www.uiowa.edu/obermann/collage.html for info and schedule.

Crowne Plaza Hotel and Convention Center

350 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids

"Czechoslovakia Behind the Iron Curtain: 1948-1970," conference sponsored by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, featuring Emmy-award winning film director, screenwriter and producer Zuzana Justman and Dr. Jaroslava Moserova, president of the Czech Commission for UNESCO, March 11-12, 362-8500, www.NCSML.org for info. (See *Film* listing for more)

CSPS

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

Noble Pen Writers' Group, March 3, 7pm • Reading by Timothy Fay and writers of *The Wapsipinicon Almanac*, March 13, 2pm.

304 English-Philosophy Bldg.

UI campus, Iowa City

Ben Marcus, Fiction Workshop director contender, fiction reading, March 7, 8pm.

Get Real

Location TBA, Iowa City, 354-2623

Eames Demetrios, grandson of furniture designer Charles Eames and a renowned designer in his own right, discusses the importance of protecting unsuspecting buyers and the intellectual property rights of the original designer, March 28-29, time TBA. (See *Art/Exhibits* listing for more)

The Green Room

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

Poetry Slam, March 9 & 23, 9pm.

The History Center

615 First Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-1501

"Lebanon Today," travelogue by Jeanne Amosson, March 6, 2pm • "Our Youth Tell Stories from History," participants in National History Day present history projects with skits and exhibits, March 13, 2pm • Trolley Tour of Historic Lebanese Sites, with historian Mark Hunter, March 19, 10am • "Sowing Wild Oats: A History of Quaker Oats," introduction by Captain Crunch followed by Steve Jensen's history of the local connection to the Quaker Oats company, March 22, 12pm.

IC Public Library

123 Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200

Teen Writer's Club, grades 7-12, March 3, 10, 24, 31, 3:30-4:30pm, Meeting Rm. B, 356-5200 option 4 to register • "Big Brain" radio show, March 10, 10-11am, Meeting Rm. A, cablecast live on The Library Channel, cable channel 10 • "A Kerouac Odyssey," lecture by filmmaker Doug Sharples about the making of *Go Moan for Man*, his two-hour documentary about the life and literature of Jack Kerouac, March 12, 3pm, Meeting Rm. A (see Wesley Center *Film* listing for related event).

Iowa Memorial Union

UI campus, Iowa City

Former *Washington Post* columnist Bob Levey on the political climate in the nation's capital, March 3, 7pm, Richey Ballroom.

Java House

211 E. Washington St., 341-0012

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

Four former Peace Corps volunteers share their experiences from around the world and discuss the Corps' post-9/11 role, March 4. (See *Music* for more)

John Pappajohn Business Bldg.

UI campus, Iowa City

"'America' in the World: Discourses on Americanization and Anti-Americanization," symposium exploring the concept of "America" as an idea, a political entity and a cultural imaginary, March 4-5, 9am-5pm, Rm. S401, www.uiowa.edu/~ifuss/symposium.htm.

The Mill

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

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

Montgomery Hall

4-H Fairgrounds, 4265 Oak Crest Hill Rd. SE, Iowa City

Annual Prairie Preview, featuring Daryl Smith, UNI professor, "America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie," March 8, 6:30pm.

Mt. Mercy College

Cedar Rapids

"The Human Genome Project: Promise Versus Reality," panel discussion, March 8, 7pm, Betty Cherry Heritage Hall, Lower McAuley Hall • "How Dads Make a Difference," Mt. Mercy social work professor Rick Zingher, March 15, 7pm, Flaherty Community Rm., Basile Hall • "Cyberterrorism," computer science professor Charles Ashbacher, March 31, 7pm, Flaherty Community Rm., Basile Hall.

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

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

Life Long Learning and Gallery Tour, March 5, 2pm • "Commies, Crooks, Gypsies, Spooks & Poets," with Jan Novak, March 14, 7pm • "Good-bye Winter, Hello Spring: Welcoming a Warmer Season," Czech and Slovak springtime traditions, March 17, 12pm • Bohemian Garnets Curator Tour, March 19 & 24, 2pm • Walking Tour of Historic Czech Village, March 19, 3:15pm.

Old Brick Aud.

26 E. Market St., Iowa City

Treasure Island, presented by School for the Performing Arts, March 4, 7pm • "Daughters of Shahrazad Face to Face: Cultural Encounters Through the Expressive Arts of Middle Eastern Women," day-long conference and evening dinner/performance, March 5; conference/workshops, sample and learn to cook foods from Persia, Morocco, Lebanon and Turkey; learn drumming, vocal traditions, dance traditions; listen as folk tales and history open up greater understanding of women's experiences and traditions; listen as panelists discuss

their experiences and personal perspectives; 9am-4:30pm. Gala dinner and performance featuring the Salaam World Music Ensemble and Kahraman Near East Dance Ensemble, 7pm, pre-registration required, 335-1486.

Prairie Lights

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

All 8pm, broadcast live on WSUI

Workshop grad Aimee Phan reads from her first collection of stories, *We Should Never Meet*, March 3 • Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards talk about their new book, *Grassroots: A Field Guide for Feminist Activism*, March 7 • Poets Dan Beachy-Quick and Sally Keith read from their newest collections of poems, March 8 • Lynne Cox reads from *Swimming to Antarctica*, March 10 • Tom Gass reads from his nonfiction, March 21 • Marilyn Abildskov reads from her nonfiction, March 22 • Erin Hart reads fiction, March 24 • Mei-mei Bersenbrugger reads poetry, March 29, Rm. 101, Biology Bldg. East • George Pelecanos reads fiction, March 30 • Sarah Gridley reads poetry, March 31.

302 Schaffer Hall

UI campus, Iowa City

"Conservative Model or an Artwork of the Future? Two Views of Rossini's *Guillaume Tell* from 1860," Jesse Rosenberg, Northwestern University, March 25, 4:30pm.

Seen But Rarely Heard: Voices of Adolescent Girls

Various locations, Iowa City, 335-6001 (RVAP)

"Children of Change Presentation," presentation, headed by UI assistant professor of art education Rachel Williams, features girls from the Iowa Juvenile Home sharing their personal stories, March 3, 4:30pm, UI College of Education, Lindquist Center, Jones Commons, Rm. N300 (see *Art/Exhibits* listing for more).

Senior Center

28 S. Linn St., Iowa City

"Egypt Revisited," Ruth Williams discusses Pharaonic Egypt and the archaeological sites associated with the rule of the pharaohs, March 2 & 9, 1:30-3pm • Three Role-playing Workshops for Finding the Right Solutions, March 5 (living wills) & 26 (universal design), April 2 (Medicare drug cards), 12:30-1:30pm, Rm. 202, 356-5220 to register • "Ancient Ruins of Arizona and Colorado," color slide travelogue by Ron Tyree, March 11, 1:30-3pm • "Haunted Houses," with Virginia Joslin, March 18, 2-3:30pm • *Origins: A Two Part Series by Dr. Loren Horton*; Part 1: "The Origins of Iowa Place Names," March 21, 2:30-3:30pm; Part 2: "The Origins of Common Surnames," March 28, 2:30-3:30pm • "Heartburn Awareness," March 21, 1-2:30pm.

Shambaugh Aud.

UI Main Library, UI campus, Iowa City

Caribbean, Diaspora and Atlantic Studies Program Film and Lecture Series

"The Whole World is Creole and so are Diasporas: In Defense of an E-Bay Imaginary," Michaeline Crichlow, UI Africa American World Studies Program, March 31, 4:30-5:50pm.

Siren Club

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

Iowa Writers' Workshop Open Mic, March 6 & 27, 8pm-12am.

UI Art Bldg.

UI campus, Iowa City

Rm. E109

"Refugee Architecture and Other Systems of Daily Experience," with Amze Emmons, visiting professor in printmaking at the UI, March 3, 7pm • Ceramicist John Balisteri on his works, March 24, 7:30pm.

UI Museum of Art

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

Gallery Talk and tour of the exhibition, *Interventionist Collage: From Dada to the Present*, with Rudolf Kuenzli, UI professor in the departments of Cinema and Comparative Literature and English and curator of the exhibition, March 10, 7:30pm • "Know the Score," live radio program, with Peter Schickele, also known as PDQ Bach and the host of "Schickele Mix" on KSUI, March 11, 5pm.

Van Allen Hall

UI campus, Jefferson and Dubuque streets, Iowa City All 4-5pm, Lecture Rm. 1

Science program for children ages 7-14, experiments, videos and displays: "The Energy from Fusion in Galaxies, in Stars and on Earth," March 5; "The Physics of the Extremely Small and Extremely Big: Yin & Yang," March 12; to register: 335-3294 or www.iowalum.com/lifelonglearning/register/index.html.

Film/Video

101 Becker Communication Studies Bldg.

UI campus, Iowa City

Caribbean, Diaspora and Atlantic Studies Program Film and Lecture Series

Rabbit-proof Fence, March 25, 3-5:30pm.

The Proseminar on Arab Cinema, all 7pm

Chronicle of the Years of Embers, Algeria, March 3 • *Living in Paradise*, Algeria, March 10 • *The Dupes*, Syria, March 24 • *Once Upon A Time*, Beirut, Lebanon, March 31.

Collage and Found Footage Film Series

UI campus, Iowa City

Films by Ximena Cuevas, presented by Claire Fox, UI associate professor of English, March 3, 7-9pm, Shambaugh Aud. • Bill Morrison's *Decasia*, presented by Jen Proctor, UI graduate student, March 31, 7-9pm, Bijou Theater, IMU.

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

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Crowne Plaza Hotel and Convention Center

350 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids

A Trial in Prague, documentary about the Communist Show Trials of the 1950s by Zuzana Justman, part of "Czechoslovakia Behind the Iron Curtain: 1948-1970," conference sponsored by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, March 11 following 7pm dinner, 362-8500, www.NCSML.org for info.

CSPS

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

Rural Route Film Festival, March 12, 7 & 9:30pm; March 13, 7pm.

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

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

The Joke (Jaromil Jires), March 6, 2pm • *Voices of the Children* (Zuzana Justman), March 10, 7pm • *Prague '68 Summer of Tanks: The Lost Film of the Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia*, Oratorio for Prague (Jan Nemecek), March 13, 2pm.

Phillips Hall

UI campus, Iowa City

Contemporary films from Central and Eastern Europe, all films 7pm

The Cow (Karel Kachyda), Czech Republic, March 8 • *Getting in Gear* (Janez Burger), Slovenia, March 23 • *Everything I Like*, (Martin Sulik), Slovakia, March 30.

Wesley Center

120 N. Dubuque St., Iowa City, 337-5187

Go Moan for Man, first Iowa City showing of acclaimed two-hour Jack Kerouac documentary by Doug Sharples on the occasion of Kerouac's 83rd birthday, including birthday reception and intro by the filmmaker, March 12, 7:30pm. (See IC Library *Words* listing for related event)

Misc.

Brucemore

2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-7375

Easter Egg-stravaganza, children ages 2-8 hunt for treasure-filled eggs on the historic lawn, face painting and a visit from the Easter Bunny, March 25, 11am & 2pm; March 26, 11am • Holiday House Tours, through Dec. 31, Tues.-Sat., 10am-3pm; Sun, 12-3pm.

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

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

Roman Scavenger Hunt, children's activity, March 5, 1pm.

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

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

St. Joseph's Day, March 19, parade, 2pm.

UI Fieldhouse

UI campus, Iowa City

Special Olympics Iowa Basketball, Gymnastics, Power Lifting and Cheerleading Tournament, March 19, 8am-4pm.

UI Museum of Art

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

"WOW! Family Day," art, activities and refreshments for the entire family, March 6, 12-3pm; storyteller Deanne Wortman and guitarist Tom Nothnagle present "Picture Story Theatre," 12:30pm; Nothnagle performs a preview of a "Vaudeville-esque" show, 2:30pm.

Ushers Ferry

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

Candlelight dinner followed by entertainment and dessert at the Grange Hall, March 19, 6pm.

Classes/Workshops

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

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

"The Art of Trompe L'Oeil," adult workshop with Nicola Vignini, March 19, 10am-3pm, 366-7503 ext. 203 to register.

Monster Design Studio

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

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

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

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

Egg Decorating Classes, with master folk artist Marj Nejd, March 19, 1-4pm or 6-9pm, enroll by March 11.

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 Youtheatre sessions for children ages 6-11, meet Saturdays, 12:30-3pm, March 5-26.

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Strange but True!

News Quirks

Compiled by Roland Sweet

Curses, Foiled Again

Police investigating a robbery in Euless, Texas, found a wallet that the suspect left on the store counter after taking \$200 from the cash drawer. A detective notified Joseph Fahnbulleh, 22, that someone had found his wallet and that he could claim it at the police station. When he showed up, officers arrested him.

Swedish police reported that someone broke into a hospital cafeteria in Karishamn. The thief fled after failing to find anything of value but left behind his false teeth with his social security number engraved in them. Using dental records, investigators identified the 43-year-old suspect, who confessed when confronted with the evidence.

A sheriff's deputy tried to pull over Jerry Wayne Till for speeding outside Monroe, La., but Till drove away. After leading deputies on a high-speed chase, Till abandoned his vehicle and ran into the woods. While deputies were searching for him, Till called the sheriff's office from his cell phone to report that he was lost. A nearby resident who heard Till crying for help guided deputies to him.

People, Who Needs People?

University of Florida scientists extracted 25,000 neural cells from the brain of a rat embryo to create a "live computation device" and taught it to fly an F-22 fighter jet simulator. "When we first hooked them up, the plane crashed all the time," said Thomas DeMarse, 37, an assistant professor of biomedical engineering, who developed the technique. "But over time, the neural network slowly adapts as the brain learns to control the pitch and roll of the aircraft." DeMarse pointed out that his research could lead to scientists building living elements into traditional computers.

Japanese researchers announced that they have transformed a robotic device used at construction sites into a master of Japanese traditional dance as a first step toward using the robot as a guardian of cultural heritage. The slow-paced dance is rapidly losing ground in 21st-century Japan, according to Katsushi Ikeuchi, an engineering professor at Tokyo University,

who recorded the movements of a human dance master, then programmed the 5-foot-tall robot to replicate them. "It was very difficult," Ikeuchi pointed out. "The robot can easily flip just by imitating human moves."

A Japanese software designer introduced a robot programmed to chat with lonely old people to keep them from going senile. The 18-inch Snuggling Ibot, which sells for \$5,600, comes dressed in an astronaut suit with a glowing face and has the conversational ability of a 5-year-old, the language level its programmer said is needed to stimulate the brains of senior citizens. "By talking with this robot," said Takao Ohsuga of Dream Supply, which developed Snuggling Ibot's software, "seniors who are often alone can stimulate their brains and avoid becoming forgetful." Ohsuga added that work is under way to program the robot to speak English to teach the language to Japanese children.

United I Stand

Mayor L. Douglas Wilder of Richmond, Va., ordered metal detectors removed from city hall as a cost-cutting measure, then announced that a team of eight to 10 bodyguards was being assigned to protect him. Although the switch from metal detectors will save \$200,000, the security officers will be responsible only for the mayor's safety, not that of other City Hall workers.

Lucky, Up to a Point

Daniel Berk, 31, of San Mateo, Calif., was scheduled to go to Sri Lanka over Christmas to finish his SCUBA certification wound up instead snowboarding with three friends in the Austrian Alps, where he died in an avalanche.

Persistence Pays

A Bank of America branch in Prince George's County, Md., had been robbed so many times that it stopped letting customers inside, directing them to the drive-up teller or the automated teller machine. The precautions failed to deter one robber. "There were two tellers inside of the bank," police Cpl. Diane Richardson said. "One of the tellers left to run over to the drugstore, and as she was walking back, a suspect wearing dark clothing produced a gun and forced her inside the bank."

Friends Through Thick and Thin

Brendan Walsh, 27, pleaded guilty in a British court to repeatedly stabbing a long-lost friend, Noel Duff. Walsh and Duff had been close in school but lost touch until Walsh traced Duff using the "Friends Reunited" web site. After introducing Duff to his sister, Walsh mistakenly believed that Duff had attacked her, prompting him to stab Duff seven times in a drunken rage. Walsh immediately became full of remorse and called an ambulance. "The

victim is no longer angry at you," Judge David Paget told Walsh, who was cleared of attempted murder, "and the remarkable fact is that (he) even gave evidence on your behalf and said he would like to be friends with you again."

Homeland Insecurity

Baggage screeners at Newark Liberty International Airport spotted a fake bomb planted in luggage by a supervisor during a training exercise but then lost it. Despite an hours-long search, the bag containing the device eluded Transportation Security Administration agents and wound up on a flight bound for Amsterdam, where airport security officials recovered it.

Elsewhere in New Jersey, after two bomb threats at Bridgeton's Broad Street School, the Salem County Sheriff's Department conducted a training exercise at the school for bomb-sniffing dogs but left behind a stick of dynamite. "They have to put something out there for the dog to find," Cumberland County Sheriff Michael Barruzza explained after a kindergarten teacher found the fuseless dynamite in her classroom, and the school was evacuated. School superintendent H. Victor Gilson said the sheriff's department wasn't to blame; instead, he insisted that the incident was the fault of a 15-year-old student who made the bomb threats, which prompted the training exercise.

My Bad

Washington state troopers arrested Theresa M. Wilson, 43, after they said she overtook a vehicle and rammed it three times, pushing it partially off the road. She explained that she thought the car belonged to her ex-boyfriend, whom she had found with another woman. "We have an innocent party minding his own business, and next thing you know, you have some wild woman trying to run him off the road." Trooper Garvin March said, attributing the attack to mistaken identity and "an anger management issue on her part."

Police in Warren, Mich., reported that Michael Lonsway, 43, spotted a robbery at a gas station and used his vehicle to try to pin the robber as he exited the building. Instead, Lonsway plowed through a window, shattering the glass and scattering merchandise. The robber fled, and Lonsway gave chase, using his cell phone to alert police that the suspect had driven off in a Cadillac. Police who stopped the vehicle said it was the wrong man.

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

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.

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To dominate or not to dominate

Dear Ruby,

I don't have much money and would like to be able to earn more. On more than one occasion, wealthy, white, conservative men have offered to pay me hundreds of dollars to tie them up, cuss them out and beat them on a regular basis. I am a pacifist and don't particularly care for these guys, but I could really use the cash. I'm not even sure if it's legal. Ruby, what do you think?

Signed,
Black Beauty

Dear Beauty,

Many a saucy tart fantasizes about getting paid for whooping privileged butts. Likewise, many powerful men have a deep desire to reverse their normal roles and roll over for a sharp-tongued mistress. It's called power exchange and is far more common than you might think. Most sex gurus agree that 10-15 percent of adults are into kinky, consensual activities such as bondage and humiliation.

First I'll address the question of legality, because Ruby thinks it's really safest to keep it legal and wouldn't advise you any other way. It is against the law in the state of Iowa to exchange sex for money. The dirty details are this: as long as there is no actual touching of genitals or penetration of orifices, sex is not occurring (word to Bill Clinton).

Hitting someone with intent to harm is also against the law. The cat o' nine tails is something I would not want to find myself trying to explain to a law enforcement officer. So think about creating a contract with each potential client. As with any business transaction, it is always a good idea to have a written and signed agreement for your own protection and clarity.

OK, with that said, let's address the question of violence. You identify yourself as a pacifist, which I take to mean that you don't want to harm anyone. So it's important to check yourself on this issue. You say you don't like these guys. Are you considering playing along because of a motivation to make them feel bad, or to fulfill some revenge fantasies at their expense? Or are you willing to give them the experience they want in exchange for being paid fairly for your time and effort?

Ruby does not endorse violence, harm or non-consensual anything. Absolutely no one deserves to be humiliated, re-

strained or battered against their will. Everyone, however, deserves to have all the pleasure they want. And if someone is offering to pay you to flay them like a side of beef, it's because they enjoy the sensations of stinging flesh and nasty words. Much negotiation is needed to ensure the emotional and physical safety of you and your would-be boy toys. Can you hold your own, clearly state and honor boundaries and call the shots with a clear conscience?

Beauty, I also want to acknowledge the reality of poverty. It isn't getting any easier to survive on a low income. Minimum wage has been the same since 1997. Jobs are harder to find and compete for. With our current government, the cash flows steadily upward, out of the reach of those who need it most. I used to know a woman who made \$300 an hour ordering a high-profile attorney to eat potato chips out of a doggie bowl. If someone is trying to hand you the spare hundreds spilling out of their wallet, perhaps you can help them put those Benjamins to good use.

Some books that might help with understanding the whys and hows of professional domination are: *The Mistress Manual* by Mistress Lorelei, *The Sexually Dominant Woman* by Lady Green, *The Topping Book and The Bottoming Book* by Dossie Easton, *Sensuous Magic* by Patrick Califia and *Turning Pro* by Magdelene Meretrix. Learn skills, techniques and safety guidelines by checking out Greenery Press' excellent selection of books on these topics. The National Coalition for Sexual Freedom provides legal advice and support for folks who choose alternative lifestyles: www.ncsfreedom.org

While I have addressed the practical aspects of this question, only you can decide whether this type of work is right for you. By trusting your instincts, and honoring your own values, you will make the right choice.

Yours truly,
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 MARCH 2005 • BY DR. STAR

ARIES - Everybody is feeling warm and fuzzy about their new alliances and they expect your help in starting up their new joint ventures. It will be your job, however, to say that the money and other resources aren't really in place. This will probably result in an awful lot of discussion. But, when you come right down to it, you know better than anyone: People are just going to have to roll up their sleeves and create some good, old-fashioned "sweat equity" if they ever want things to work out.

TAURUS - Very strong positives, rather strong negatives, too. Inspiration is strong and morale is high. But there are too many important things over which you have zero control, including a few fairly immature co-conspirators. Some important ingredients are simply lacking, like money. I can't see a Taurus wanting to move very fast in these conditions. To make progress, to figure out how to develop the needed resources, the planets want you to dig deeply into your store of inner, psychological wealth. It is a good month to heal old wounds.

GEMINI - Please don't get carried away too easily this month with plans to save the world. You are being stimulated intensely by a lot of exciting ideas and very excited people. The immediate obstacles to these plans are obvious and they will grow more serious before the way opens up. Your special contribution to this birthing process is to help others break out of old patterns of thought, speech and action. This is probably one of the most important things anyone can do at this time. Luck is riding with you.

CANCER - There are some tantalizing possibilities. However, realizing these possibilities would not be as easy as it seems. It would take a lot of effort to define the problems standing in the way and much more to solve them. It might be better to go back to the drawing board and rethink your situation. This might seem hard but, in the end, it will release the greatest potential. Besides, more realistic and satisfying possibilities will emerge in coming months. These developments, which you might not foresee, will change the whole picture.

LEO - Surrounded by highly stimulated, impulsive people, you have little choice but to go along for the ride—at least long enough to get a handle on things. However much they need it, these people might not accept your guidance until they understand how deeply you share their feelings and respect their goals. Providing effective leadership now requires that you be deeply sympathetic to others despite their immaturity. Reflect back to them the good things you know are in their hearts, not the craziness you think they might be up to.

VIRGO - Several major areas of your life—work, partnerships, key associations, long-term finances—require, decisions, adjustments and commitments. Do the small things that can be done. It is best to settle for modest but real progress. Do not take the path of least resistance or finesse the obstacles that block your more ambitious plans. These obstacles are keeping you from making ill-advised commitments or following through on faulty ideas. Avoid burdensome financial commitments. Leave yourself free to pursue new and better opportunities that will emerge as summer approaches.

LIBRA - Your vision of what is possible in work and professional areas is indeed grand. The situation on the ground is promising. Your input is absolutely essential. The projects will need your blessing and guidance to succeed. Also, time is very much on your side. All this is true. But a few big obstacles refuse to budge. You must rely on your partners for insight and direction to overcome those big obstacles. Progress will elude you if you depend entirely on your own ideas and opinions. Trust and cooperation are essential.

SCORPIO - I think your greatest temptation this month will be to throw up your hands, sit down and act completely frustrated. Don't do it. It is a new beginning masquerading as a dead end. It is a time to build, from scratch if you have to. You will quietly gain the initiative as March goes on. Also, your motivation and drive will eventually reach new heights. The larger trends favor your interests. Real estate or financial affairs in distant places, in which you might have an interest, will turn out well.

SAGITTARIUS - Change seems to be creating obstacles to your goals and conflicting with your ideals and expectations in life. You are a little less sure of what you stand for everyday. This month, patience is the key. Time and natural processes are working wonders for you behind the scenes. Economic magic is taking place, too. Showing affection and revealing your faith in unseen but benevolent forces is the path for you to take now. Deep psychological healing is under way, also. Rest and recreation will strongly facilitate healing and personal growth.

CAPRICORN - I know Capricorns love their power and influence, and I can't promise them much of that this month. However, I can promise them something Capricorns enjoy almost as much: knowing that when all is said and done, Capricorns will come out on top; their plans will succeed. You can afford to take a little time off to tend your garden. Personal healing is accented. Ironically, time spent in recreation and personal reflection will help your cause. A friendship or a new or existing romance could prove especially healing this month.

AQUARIUS - Getting people to listen to your ideas is not the problem suddenly. You are now in the unusual position of trying to slow people down. Even opponents will inevitably find themselves drifting into line with your ideas. The big pieces won't fit together yet. Highly impulsive people with tiny budgets make poor allies, however. Deep, penetrating discussions are the order of the day. Building and strengthening local networks promises the quickest progress. An innate and abiding optimism should help sustain you through this building period and help you motivate others.

PISCES - Expectations are running high this month, but a great deal must be built from scratch if everyone's hopes are to be fulfilled. Your own most secret thoughts, be they positive or negative, are having a big influence on your affairs and the affairs of those around you. Skip the drama. Respond with patience and tolerance to all resistance. Reconciliation and healing are required if your fondest hopes are to be realized. An optimistic and encouraging attitude is your strong suit. Lead by example and the necessary work will get done.



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