

An abstract painting serves as the background for the top half of the page. It depicts a couple in a forest setting. The man, on the right, has a beard and is wearing an orange shirt. The woman, on the left, has long dark hair and is wearing a dark blue patterned top. They are embracing. The background is filled with dark, expressive brushstrokes representing trees and foliage, with patches of green, orange, and purple. The overall style is expressive and painterly.

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February '06

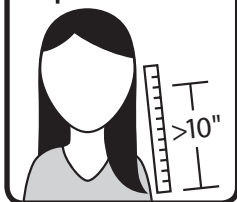
## Art 's Valentine's Day

5 local artists give us their take on  
February's celebration of love.

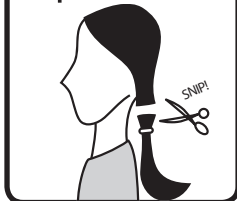
A smaller abstract painting is visible at the bottom of the page. It features warm tones of orange, yellow, and red, with some green and blue accents. The style is similar to the top painting, with expressive brushstrokes and a sense of light and color.

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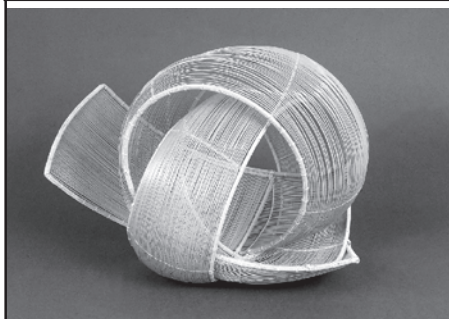
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Left: Yamaguchi Ryuun, *Crashing Wave*, 2001. Bamboo. Collection of Matthew and Kay  
Bucksbaum. © Lois Eilan Frank 2001.

Right: Christian Menn, *Roadway of the Sunniberg Bridge*, Landquart River Valley, Switzerland,  
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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



# Towers, Forests and Roads, Oh My!

Sprawling into the new year with the changing face of the Iowa Corridor

**H**appy New Year! As the calendar turns to the latter half of the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, let's stop and take an optimistic look at the coming year in our community. Far be it from me to be a Pollyanna, however. For each bit of good news, there are plenty of questions, so let's put some of those on the table, too.

**PLAZA TOWERS IS OPENING.** This is certainly good news for the bean counters in city hall and the chamber of commerce. But it's good news in a lot of ways for downtown, too. Plaza Towers is bringing in more permanent non-student residents to downtown. This is not to denigrate students—they are essential to our community. But our central city needs to be diverse, and it needs a critical mass of permanent residents. The positive after-effect of this new influx of “downtownies” is a stabilizing landscape of locally-owned retail stores.

Still questions arise: The Plaza Towers crowd is affluent and urbane. And the new downtown retail popping up is, too. That's fine. However, the questions come back to the diversity issue. Is our city paying attention to affordable housing for permanent residents in the downtown area, let alone throughout the rest of town? Our population continues to increase, and our demographics continue to diversify. Are *all* of our new neighbors able to live within the heartbeat of our community? Despite new homegrown businesses, will downtown retail continue to lose the broad-based economic character of pre-Coral Ridge days?

**THE RAINFOREST HAS GONE AWAY (PROBABLY).** I offer nothing new when I say that this was a bad idea from the get-go for all kinds of reasons. The failure to find anyone to come on board with private support only confirms that. I won't rehash the arguments against it, but while the rainforest seems to have gone away from Coralville, it still could end up in our back yard if Tiffin or Riverside fails to come to its senses.

Even presuming that the rainforest is a dead duck, totally, a big new question arises: What will happen to the former Coralville industrial area off of I-80? A number of people have suggested that the basic idea of building an environmental education center was a good one, and that the community should pursue an innovative center focusing on the environments of Iowa. That's place-based, that's sensible, and that's the best idea I've heard.

**THE NEWPORT-RAIRIE DU CHIEN CONNECTOR ROAD HAS GONE AWAY (FOR NOW).** Despite road plans and public rhetoric about the need to contain sprawl,



Iowa City's Plaza Towers

much of greater Johnson County fails the duck test. Take a drive outside the city environs, especially north of Iowa City, and it simply walks and quacks like sprawl, no two ways about it. The connector road, aside from the private property/eminent domain issues, would have been merely the *sine qua non* of sprawl-enabling. The board of supervisors' decision leaves open the possibility for the road to be built in the future, and it moves “improvements” to the two roads forward. Sprawl is unhealthy environmentally, socially and aesthetically, and despite arguments to the contrary, in many ways economically. Sprawl requires more infrastructure, which, in the end, is more expensive for everyone. We must admit that sprawl is not the result of natural, irresistible forces like “the market” and “progress.” It is a result of deliberate choices, and the board's decision enables further sprawl. (Kudos to Rod Sullivan as the lone voice to utter a frank “no.”)

Questions: Are we serious about containing, let alone eliminating, sprawl in our cities and county? To what extent is the county roads plan a sprawl-buster, and to what extent does it merely trim a few edges off of sprawl?

**NORTH LIBERTY HAS A NEW MAYOR AND TWO NEW CITY COUNCIL MEMBER WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPMENT.** Speaking of

sprawl, thank the powers that be that the silliest election debacle in recent area history is over (see page 15), and thank them also that the outcome puts some people who do not feed slavishly at the trough of development in power. (Note: Shortly before press time, challenger Matt Bahl filed an appeal to the contest court's ruling, so the controversy unfortunately appears to be still ongoing.) I'm sorry, but the only word I can find to describe North Liberty is “incoherent.” Sure, the robust business and residential development is the sign of good economic health. But what's happening to the physical landscape of North Liberty has nothing to do with a built environment that builds community. As I drive through the endless cookie-cutter subdivisions and strip malls in our booming neighbor to the north, I see nothing that allows for walkability, unique community

character, or central public gathering.

Questions: Will the new regime be able to backfill a community-oriented built environment into the borders of what is called “North Liberty”? Or will they just be able to slow the madness?

**IOWA CITY'S CITY COUNCIL IS LOOKING MORE PROGRESSIVE.** With

the addition of Amy Correia to the council and the selection of Ross Wilburn as mayor, Iowa City seems like it will be benefiting from a (functional) city council with a progressive flavor for the first time since I moved back to town in 1999. With Regenia Bailey also firmly ensconced on council, a substantial chunk of the group consists of people who demonstrate in their work, their statements and actions that Iowa City cares deeply about human services and social problems at least as much as it is interested in “increasing the tax base.” With Connie Champion as a swing vote, per-



## U R Here

haps we're in a new era when good ideas and programs for the benefit of all will actually be enacted and not relegated to only a couple of very small minority voices crying (often ineffectively) in the wilderness. Wilburn and Bailey have also shown that they understand that business is not inherently evil, that a firm tax base is important, and that a truly diverse, healthy community also includes develop-

Will the new council fulfill its promise reflecting wide support for progressive policies that characterize the will of Iowa Citians?

ers and robust retailers. I'm hoping we'll see some greater balance in Harvat Hall in the next two years, and that we won't be so willing to turn the keys to the city over to the likes of Sam Walton's ghost with merely a shrug of the shoulders and an anemic declaration of no power to do anything about it.

Questions: Will the new council fulfill its apparent promise of having our city government reflect the strong tradition of and wide support for progressive policies that has historically characterized Iowa City? And how will they do so with the great costs attendant upon such issues? Can the city afford a new fire station, an expanded homeless shelter and financial assistance for Procter and Gamble's expansion?

It's a new year. In a lot of ways, I think we're truly entering a new era in our community. Sure, questions and worries abound. But the outlook looks brighter to me now than it did nearly seven years ago when I returned home. I hope the realization of the promise comes through soon, and I hope that I am not simply awash in the afterglow of New Year's resolution fever. **lv**

*Thomas Dean rides the Court Hill bus every weekday from his eastside Iowa City home to Jessup Hall on the University of Iowa campus. There, as special assistant to the president, he writes and edits (speeches, reports, letters) for the president and sometimes helps head up special projects, like the current Year of Public Engagement.*

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# CHOPPED & SCREWED

Getting crunked on molasses beats

**B**rand new recombinant strains of popular music typically elicit three sorts of reactions. First, "Wow, it's so obvious, it was inevitable." The recent Mash-Up explosion is an example of this, where the vocals from one song are digitally spliced atop the instrumentation of another song. Second, "Did this really *need* to happen?" Such is the case with Christian Rap-Metal (or even plain old Rap-Metal), which was less a "You got chocolate in my peanut butter" pop confection and more a "You put beef jerky in my lemon poppy seed muffin" sonic disaster. And then there is Chopped & Screwed music, which prompts one to ask, "Who the heck thought of this?" Or, as they might say on the hot, humid streets of Houston, where this music emerged, "What the fuck?"

On a Chopped & Screwed remix, a hip-hop DJ lowers the pitch of a record that already has a sluggish tempo (think playing a 45 rpm sin-

ture. The molasses-slow beats that drip from Chopped & Screwed mixtapes were perfectly tailored for the effects of that particular drug. For anyone who has ever taken Robitussin with the intention of getting high—"Robo-tripping," as some refer to it—you might know that it creates a sensory effect that turns sound into a river of sludge that drips from the ears and onto the brain.

This feeling was approximated by Houston native Mike Jones on his 2005 hit "Back Then," whose chorus included infectious slo-mo vocals and a wobbly, hazy organ riff. But

to hear the Chopped & Screwed version of the same song is another matter entirely. Clocking in at about 38 beats per minute (a typical hip-hop song is about 100 BPMs), it's one of the most experimental pieces of music I've recently heard in a pop music context.

Okay, let's return to the aforementioned question, "Who the heck thought of this?" It was the brainchild of the now-deceased Houston hip-hop legend, DJ Screw, who cranked out dozens upon dozens of mixtapes during his lifetime and provided this unlikely genre with its name, as well as its sonic tem-

## FINELY CHOPPED

Kembrew's top ten stellar Chopped & Screwed tracks (in no particular order):

**"Still Pen Pimpin'"** from DJ Screw's *Screw Tape in the Deck* – The alpha and omega of Robo-tripping bliss, its cccrrrrraaaaaaawwwwwwwlll-liliiiiinnnnnnnggggg bass line and vocals will rewire your synapses.

**"Back Then"** by Mike Jones, from *Who is Mike Jones? (Screwed & Chopped)* – A head nodding anthem for those about to nod off in a codeine-drenched fog. Also notable because he gives out his personal cell number in the song: 281-330-8004. (When I called while writing this column, the phone number was disconnected. Lesson #1 for Mike Jones: Perhaps it's not a good idea to give out your digits on a platinum selling album. Just a thought...)

**"Da Blow"** by Lil Jon and the East Side Boyz featuring Gangsta Boo, from *Crunk Juice (Chopped & Screwed)* – Like Mike Jones' "Back Then," this song moved at a snail's pace even before it was screwed, but now its bass-heavy menace is all the more electrifying.

**"B.L.G. (Chopped & Screwed)"** by Rocky T.A. & Pretty Rick – Its ghostly, reverberating vocals sound like two guys rapping at the other end of a three-mile long sewage pipe.

**"Look Like U (Dragged & Chopped)"** by Lil Wyte, from *Phinally Phamous* – Imagine John Cage remixing Eminem.

**"Num Num Juice"** by Memphis Drama, from *Best of Memphis Drama, Vol. 1 & 2 (Chopped & Screwed)* – In case you were wondering, this cocktail contains one part rum, one part Bacardi, and one part pineapple juice. The song itself contains one part underwater vocals, one part woozy synthesizer, and one part rubber band beats.

**"Stop Trippin'"** 281 Boyz featuring Ludacris, Lil Jon, and DJ Slice, from *Chopped & Screwed 2003* – The aural equivalent of what it feels like to be a marshmallow cooking in a microwave oven.

**"White Meat"** by Lil Jon and the East Side Boyz featuring 8ball and MJG, from *Crunk Juice (Chopped & Screwed)* – Electric guitars, ominous synthetic strings, and sampled gunshots provide the foundation of this lethargic crunkadelic classic.

**"Right Here"** by Do or Die, from *D.O.D. (Chopped & Screwed)* – Nothing necessarily special, production-wise, but it demonstrates that even an average hip-hop track sounds crazy cool slowed down.

**"F\*ck\*d Up"** by Lil Boosie and Webbie – What's up with all these Lil's? And why does their music always sound so big? Isn't it ironic, don't you think?

## CHOPPED & SCREWED MUSIC EMERGED FROM HOUSTON'S OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUG CULTURE.

gle at 33 1/3). This is the "screwed" part. The "chopped" component occurs when the DJ uses two turntables playing the same record to cut up sections of the song, giving it a kind of stuttering repetition where a beat, word, or phrase is echoed once, twice—and sometimes more—at seemingly random moments within the song. The effect is psychedelic, or, if you'll indulge my obsession with coining ridiculous music critic jargon, crunkadelic.

Like the hippies who smoked weed while listening to the noodly-doodly Space Rock pounded out by groups like Hawkwind and Can, or the club kids who inhaled coke and/or poppers to enhance the 1970s Disco experience, Chopped & Screwed music emerged from a very specific drug culture. You see, cough syrup was reportedly the intoxicant of choice in the Houston hip-hop scene during the 1990s, creating less of a drug counterculture and more of an over-the-counter drug cul-



## Prairie Pop

plate. For years Chopped & Screwed music was a local anomaly, but it has slowly (pun intended) spread beyond the Houston city limits and into the mainstream. Last year, big time hip-hop acts like Lil Jon and The Game released screwed versions of their own albums, usually handing over remixing duties to the geniuses at the indie label of the hour, Swishahouse, which boasts that it is "major without a major deal."



Houston rapper Mike Jones

While the names Bun B, Lil Flip, Mike Jones, Paul Wall, and Slim Thug may mean nothing to the average music listener, the Swishahouse posse has been popping up all over the place on MTV, BET, and the radio lately, dragging their creepy-crawling audio aesthetic with them. This regional coup represents the latest sonic curveball thrown by hip-hop artists, yet another addition to the menu of possibilities that pop artists can now work with. This innovation is a good thing, even though not all Chopped & Screwed songs are necessarily brilliant, or even close. Album artists, these guys are not, nor are they groundbreaking lyricists. (Question: How many times can you hear a phrase like "pussy-ass bitches" before it gets a little stale? Answer: One and a half.) Also, like most hip-hop, especially in the genre's early days, this is music that's best consumed via singles or isolated album tracks. **lv**

*Kembrew McLeod lives and works in Iowa City, and when he is not practicing his popping and locking moves, he teaches Media Studies and Media Production classes in the University of Iowa's Department of Communication Studies. For kicks and giggles, you can visit his website [Kembrew.com](http://Kembrew.com).*

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**W**e baby boomers now constitute a plurality, if not an outright majority of the population, and we were the first people ever to grow up on a steady diet of television. So many of our ideas, opinions and tastes were influenced by it that, especially as children, it was often difficult for us to draw the line between our real world and that of the cathode ray tube. Ask anyone born between 1946 and 1964 to sing the theme song to *Gilligan's Island* or the Oscar Mayer Wiener jingle and they'll rattle it off as easily as their home address.

If boomers were influenced, though, the Gen X, Gen Y and what, Gen Z? kids have been overwhelmed. The powerful effects of mass marketing to children on television -- and now the countless other forms of media -- have been well documented in papers ranging from college theses to government funded studies by the National Institutes of Health.

In his recent hit documentary *Supersize Me*, Morgan Spurlock conducted interviews with a group of elementary school children. Far more of them were able to recognize Ronald McDonald than were able to recognize a King James-style representation of Jesus Christ. This influence, whether you feel it is a blessing or a curse, is undeniable. McDonald's controls 43 percent of the fast food market.

The deleterious effects of all the fat and sugar in fast food are equally well docu-

mented. Witness the epidemic proportions of childhood obesity, diabetes, and the epic proportions of our national waistline. Yet while our culture is well aware that smoking is bad for kids, we have yet to make the leap toward the belief that a Big Mac might be just as toxic. Massive class-action lawsuits have made it illegal for tobacco companies to market to children, yet in the fast food world, kids are the primary target demographic.

These foods are so widely acceptable that even our government funded public schools are perfectly willing to supply name brand, sugar and fat-laden foods and beverages to our youngsters. While there has been some progress here in the Iowa City schools to introduce some healthy alternatives, such as milk in vending machines, the sale of Coca-Cola, Tostitos and Twinkies continues unabated under the guise of offering the students "freedom of choice."

Television, the schools and now the Internet are all sounding the drumbeat of mass-marketed, slickly-packaged fat and sugar. KidsMarketing.com states that the number of kids on the internet in this country rose from 13 million in 2000 to 20 million in 2003. Judith Jewer, a columnist for that same Web site wrote, "It may be an unfortunate use of language to use the term 'target' in connection to marketing. A lot of paranoia and fear is focused on it. I've even seen an article where parents were urged to teach their children not to be a target. As if you can teach a child not to be a 7-year old girl."

Her fragmented logic aside, this demonstrates the long-held concept that it is difficult to get a person to understand something when their paycheck depends on not understanding it.

Just watch an hour of kids programming on television, flip through a teen-oriented magazine, or wander into a public school lunchroom

Public schools are perfectly willing to supply name brand, sugar and fat-laden foods and beverages to our youngsters.

sometime to see what I mean. The drumbeat is constant and inescapable. While "tort reform" legislation passes virtually unopposed, stopping lawsuits like the one that brought about the effective end of tobacco marketing to kids against the junk food marketers, our children continue like sheep down a path that leads to a future of fat, lazy, expedient mediocrity. **lv**

*Chef Kurt Michael Friese is co-owner, with his wife Kim, of the Iowa City restaurant Devotay and serves on the Slow Food USA Board of Governors. He lives in rural Johnson County. Questions and comments may be directed to devotay@mchsi.com.*



**PRESENTED BY:** Little Village, Iowa Project on Place Studies at The University of Iowa, the Standing By Words Center, the Iowa Cultural Corridor Alliance, and WSUI-AM public radio.

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# THE BUSH ECONOMY— A BOOM, OR A BOMB?

**D**esperate to change the subject after a year of bad news and plummeting public approval ratings, the Bush administration rang in the New Year with a full court media blitz on what they perceive to be their strongest selling point: the economy. Presidential surrogates were dispatched far and wide to tout the good news: 10 quarters of growth in the Gross Domestic Product, increased job creation, a decrease in the consumer price index for the first time in decades and increased home ownership and average net worth.

The administration and their cheerleaders in the mainstream press, were stunned to find that their attempt to lead a group song of "Happy Days Are Here Again" was met by complete silence from those of us relegated to the cheap seats. Despite the strong numbers, American attitudes towards the economy are far from sanguine, with over 60 percent of the populace rating the economy as "fair" or "poor" and likely to get worse.

So why the disconnect? The conservative media has weighed in on the question by declaring the majority of Americans complete idiots, but while this explanation can be tempting given the results of last year's elections, any look at the larger economic picture reveals it to be both unfair and unsatisfying.

A better answer is hinted at if one breaks the first rule of television viewing and ignores the actual content of televised business news in favor of the commercials. Here one can view a veritable wonderland of cruise ship vacations, luxury automobiles, and high-end consumer goods that the average American can afford only in their wildest dreams.

Knowing that advertisers spend much time and effort placing their commercials where they'll be seen by their intended customers, the conclusion becomes clear: the content of these business programs has as much to do with the experience of the average American as BMWs and luxury travel. In other words, it's a nice economy if you can afford it, but the chances are good that you can't.

This is not to say that the average American is entirely disconnected from the process; a closer look at the numbers suggests that their relationship to the great edifice of the American economy is roughly the same as the one between the Pyramids and the slaves that moved the rocks. While the economy has in

show a decrease in the fourth quarter of '05, this was entirely the result of energy prices moving off record highs in the third quarter - with energy prices removed, actual inflation showed a slight upward tick. Health care expenditures have increased by over 40 percent per household. The majority of the mortgages that financed the recent housing boom were "nontraditional" or adjustable rate mortgages, meaning that the low interest rates that attracted consumers are now being adjusted sharply upward. Foreclosures and bankruptcies are rising and so is the poverty rate.

That the average American could face such a bleak economic picture in the face of a statistically booming economy begs the question of

## It's a nice economy if you can afford it, but the chances are good that you can't.

fact produced ten strong quarters of growth, an estimated 90 percent of that growth has been the result of consumer spending and housing construction, nearly all of which has been financed by rising consumer debt.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, consumer and mortgage debt now account for 115 percent of American's after tax income, with the average consumer now paying 14 percent of income on the servicing of those debts. And when it comes time to pay those bills, Americans are relying on median household incomes that have actually fallen by four percent (adjusted for inflation) over the last five years.

Alarming, some strong winds seem to be headed for this particular house of cards. While the Consumer Price Index did indeed

what exactly a national economy is for in the first place. The idea, expressed by John Kennedy was that a rising tide could lift all boats. This seems very far away from a reality in which productivity and corporate profits rise while the average citizen faces decreased buying power, increased debt, and the very real possibility of complete economic catastrophe. Those of us in the cheap seats are all in the face of complete indifference by a national leadership too busy cheerleading the "boom" to notice.

At least the slaves who built the Pyramids were fed and sheltered. **lv**

*EC Fish is an Iowa City exile and veteran political columnist. He lives, works, writes and cooks pit barbeque in Northeast Minneapolis, because his sons live there.*



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# Can Ethanol Save The World?

Preparing for the upcoming legislative session and election season, Iowa's politicians are looking at energy issues to hang their hats on. High prices at the pump, high home heating prices and an increasingly costly and unpopular war in the oil-rich Middle East are all fueling a rush to move legislation ahead that will incent the use of ethanol and biodiesel. Everyone agrees that meaningful progress on the energy problem is necessary now, and it looks like biofuels time may have arrived. What could possibly stand in the way?

## Anti-ethanol groups latch on to study

Recently, studies by Cornell University entomologist and ecologist David Pimentel and geoengineering professor (and former Shell Oil engineer) Tad Patzek, have blasted ethanol as energy-negative. According to their most recent report, it takes 29 percent more energy to produce a gallon of corn ethanol than it contains and 27 percent more energy to make a gallon of soy diesel. Despite reports from the USDA and Argonne Laboratories to the contrary, this study has ignited a firestorm of anti-ethanol media reports. The study has reverberated with two groups: environmentalists who see ethanol as a major contributor to the continued move to unsustainable and environmentally damaging row-crop farming, and the petroleum industry which sees biofuels as an imminent threat and a competitor for massive energy subsidies from the federal government. For both groups, this report is one more reason to dislike ethanol.

Unfortunately for those who have chosen to embrace the Patzek/Pimentel report and despite its popularity in the press, the study appears to be heavily flawed. According to Michael Wang of Argonne National Laboratories Center for Transportation Research, the data in the Patzek/Pimentel report over-estimates farm energy usage by 34 percent, and Wang states that "energy balance calculations for individual energy productions in their isolations could be arbitrary; results are less meaningful or could be misleading." Of course this does not prevent Wang from quoting Argonne's own study, which shows corn ethanol as 26 percent energy-positive.

The argument over the energy balance of corn ethanol and soy diesel and the implications of the production system both distract from the real issue - can we use biofuel technology to reach our goal of finding an economical, environmentally friendlier, domestically produced alternative to crude oil?

## New Technology, High Oil Prices

The production of "cellulosic" ethanol from corn stalks, prairie grass or other plant fiber is the latest direction in ethanol development. By using an anaerobic digestion (biodegrading) or gasification (burning) process to release the alcohol from plant cellulose, these processes could hold the answer to our current

dependence on corn for ethanol and moving to new, more sustainably grown energy crops like switchgrass, sorghum and kenaf. As for biodiesel, there are many oilseed crops with a higher oil yield than soybeans - sunflower seeds, canola and hemp produce more oil per acre. These currently available technologies could greatly improve the production process for biofuels, improving the energy balance, reducing the environmental damage caused by the corn/beans monoculture, and diversifying the ag economy. The problem is that there is no support structure in place for any of the alternatives to corn/beans biofuels. As long as federal farm policy continues to focus on subsidizing large corporate ag operations and their goals of higher yields, lower prices, consolidation of production and corporate control of everything from seed stocks to distribution, there can be no room for honest competitive markets for alternative energy crops and production techniques.

With the onset of recent increases in energy prices, state policymakers are rushing to pass renewable fuels legislation with an eye on their stump speeches for the upcoming election more than on Iowa's long-term economic and environmental well being. One proposal includes mandating a 10 percent ethanol blend in all fuels sold in the state. Another would establish a Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS), which would ramp sales up to a 25 percent ethanol requirement by 2025. The second plan would rely on the increase use of "flexible fuel" vehicles - those cars and trucks capable of using E85. Regardless of the approach, legislators are flocking to get on board energy legislation that most had previously ignored. Economists credit a Minnesota ethanol mandate for the initial boom in Iowa's biofuels industry, and there is no question that Iowa's current plans will assist in growing it further. Still, both proposals support Iowa's agricultural status quo, as neither currently include provisions addressing the need to move Iowa's biofuels production into new energy crops and new production technologies.

## Increased Efficiency, Decreased Consumption

Biofuels can only serve one purpose: to replace a percentage of the fossil fuel we consume. They are far from being a "silver bullet" for our energy problem. By increasing

We are far from having a "silver bullet" for our energy problem.





the efficiency of the entire system, from the production of the crops grown to the design of the engines in which we burn the fuel, biofuels do have the potential to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, which has huge implications for air and water quality, human health, national security and the local economy.

Properly crafted legislation could potentially open up markets for "green" biofuels production. Researchers, farmers and engineers could make it a reality, but ultimately, the key to solving the world's energy needs can-

not be solved by legislators, farmers or even engineers. A market in which consumers understand and pay the true cost of their energy choices, and the cultural changes that take place when those economic forces come to bear, is the only solution to the long-term energy problem. Although most consumers don't think about the hidden costs of fossil fuel use reflected in their auto and health insurance and income tax bills, they do understand the pain of high prices at the pump. Only then will consumers drive the market by demanding more

efficient vehicles and domestically produced "green" fuels.

What is standing in the way of "braking" our dependence on fossil fuels? Is it the low energy balance of corn-based ethanol, or is it our nation's current policy of "corporate socialism" and our own culture of consumption? **lv**

*Rich Dana is a freelance cultural engineer who lives and works at a super-secret compound deep in Iowa County.*



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# Art 's valentine's Day

5 local artists give us their take on February's celebration of love.

## untitled

Lindsay Schuling

Lots of wine, red, flowers, chocolates, a time to kiss but also remembering the younger years of making paper heart cut-outs in grade school.

*Lindsay Schuling, from Des Moines, Iowa, is a recent graduate from the University of Iowa. She plans on attending graduate school in the fall of 2006.*



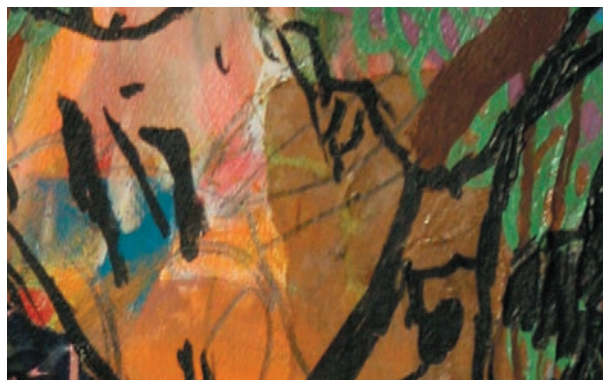
## Mannequin

Susan Junis

My animosity toward St. Valentine's Day has little to do with the sentiment of love; it's more the vapid consumerism around which the day was created. This piece revolves around the notion of love as a commodity. We are all blinded by the idea of love through consumption. Our mouths are smeared with the gluttonous but empty promises of eternal bliss. Our hearts are merely a product to trade for vacuous, insincere mass-produced sweet nothings. The chocolates may buy temporary contentment and adoration; however, the genetically modified roses eventually will die.

*Susan Junis is a 24-year-old graduate of the University of Iowa with a degree in Women's Studies. Her artistic proclivities include fiber arts, collage and multimedia. She thoroughly enjoys juxtaposing disturbing events and ideas with syrupy-sweet images. Junis and Grace Sinclair are currently displaying a quilt at Nemesis Studios in Iowa City.*





## Love at Psychedelic Velocity

Dustin Kelly

To Kelly, art is either about wish fulfillment or dissatisfaction. It provides a way of channeling negative feelings towards dominant culture into something that can be both visually and mentally appealing while still retaining its critical edge.

*Artist Dustin Kelly resides in Iowa City. He earned a BFA in Sculpture at the University of Iowa in 2000. Kelly recently finished illustrating his first children's book, *Sky All Around*, which has kept him above the poverty line this year.*

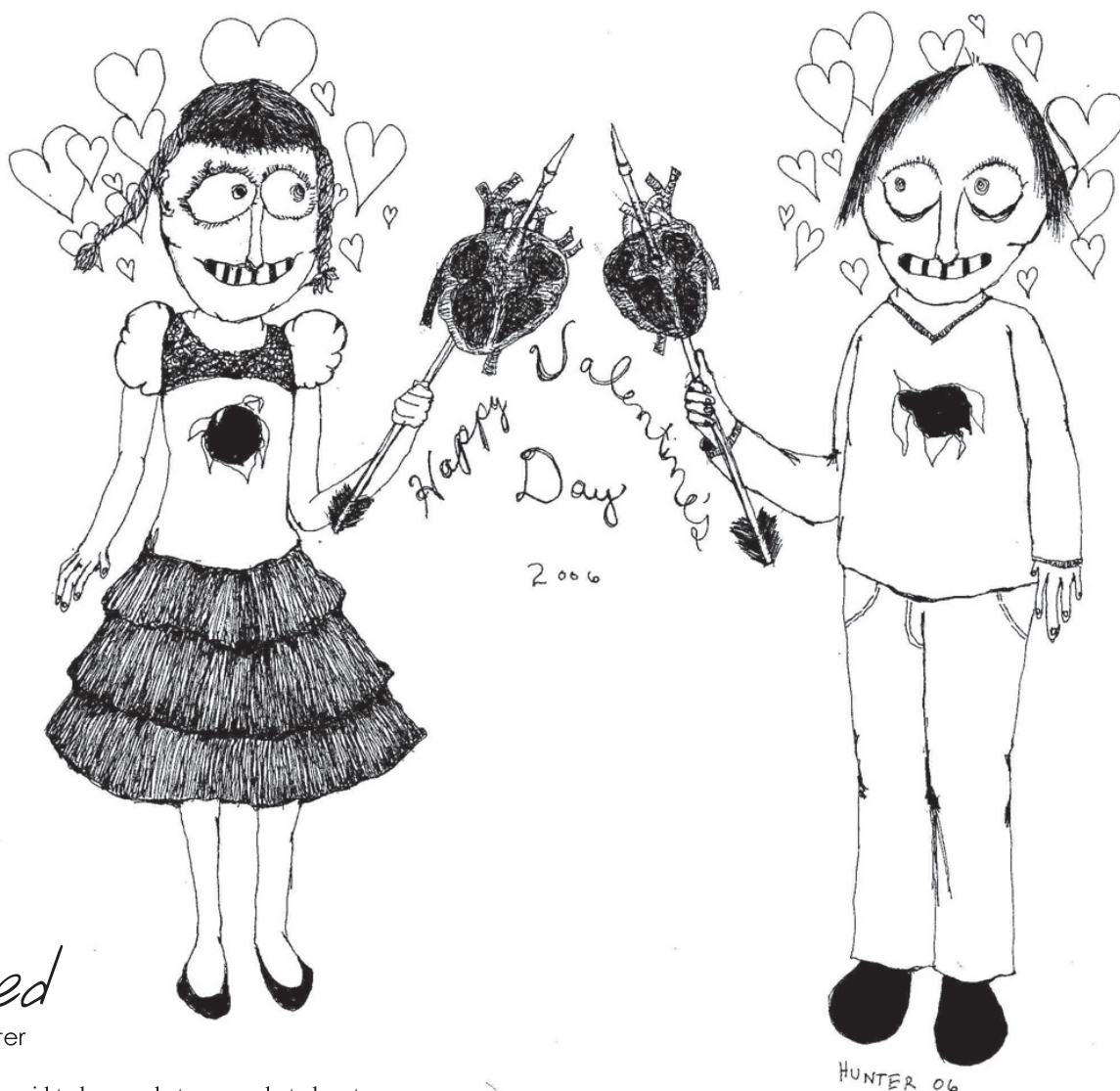
## Heart on Spit

Grace Sinclair

This painting is called "Heart on Spit". It's about how Valentine's Day is really cute, but it will turn on you and make you feel like shit. The boy and girl are from a Valentine card from the 1920s that I found in an old abandoned house.

*Grace Sinclair is 24 years old and currently lives here in Iowa City. She plays in two local bands, Petit Mal and Voodoo Kitten. She adores sewing and silk screening, as well as listening to Neil Diamond while she paints.*





*untitled*

Breanne Hunter

You don't need cupid to know what arrows do to hearts.

Breanne Hunter is a cartoonist currently working on a series about an aristocratic eccentric named Archibald Feldmann. Also an aspiring illustrator and puppeteer, she's been developing a project involving marionettes and music with her friend, Michelle Thompson, and local band Twelve Canons. Her favorite comic book at the moment is *El Borbah* by Charles Burns, due to its black humor. Other favorite graphic artists of hers include Junju Ito, Rob Sato, and Anne Feuchtenberger. Hunter's most recent work, *Feldmann's World*, can be found in the art gallery at the Glass Lodge. **lv**

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The proposed cut-through road that would have invaded four miles of private farmland was nixed. Instead, plans for road improvement will maintain the rural character of the area and reduce the threat of “leap-frog” development.

The group opposing the rural development north of Iowa City had grown large with the support of the press and public, including notable residents and their families like UI football coach Kirk Ferentz and 1972 Olympic wrestling gold medalist Dan Gable.

Harvey Henry, architectural press secretary for the North Corridor, has faithfully maintained the North Corridor “News and Views” Web site covering the battle at [www.jcnc-road-work.com](http://www.jcnc-road-work.com). Mark Wyatt of the Iowa City Bicycle Club said that the club would rather bike on rural Newport Road than on a larger, wider road with bike lanes such as Prairie du Chien. And then there’s Mike Dooley and his family, who orchestrated a display of Gadsden flags along Newport Road after his farm was threatened by the controversial cut-through road.

Voicing doubt shared by many of the residents about the recent board of supervisors’ vote, Dooley said, “The decision was nothing but them trying to save their political bacon.”

The updated road project now keeps most areas at a 35 mph speed limit and requires 15 feet or less right-of-way from residents’ homes or farmland instead of an originally planned 40 feet right-of-way. In many cases, the board said they will acquire no right-of-way property from land-owners.

The board of supervisors met Jan. 26th to discuss the Johnson County Land Use Plan that included a “penciled-in” cut-through road dissecting Coach Ferentz’s estate and Dooley’s Spin Drift farm. In the face of widespread public opposition extending far beyond the North Corridor, Johnson County board of supervisors might have to reconsider future decisions in relation to their responsibility as elected officials to serve the community and its voters.

“We feel the only way we’ll have preservation up here is to vote new people onto the board of supervisors,” said Dooley.

Among the issues discussed at the preliminary meeting on Jan. 26 were the width of Newport Road, the curve at Gable-Kemp corner, speed limits and the intersection at Prairie du Chien and Newports Roads.

No further plans were made for construction and, according to Sullivan, changes to Newport Road itself will remain close to the original design.

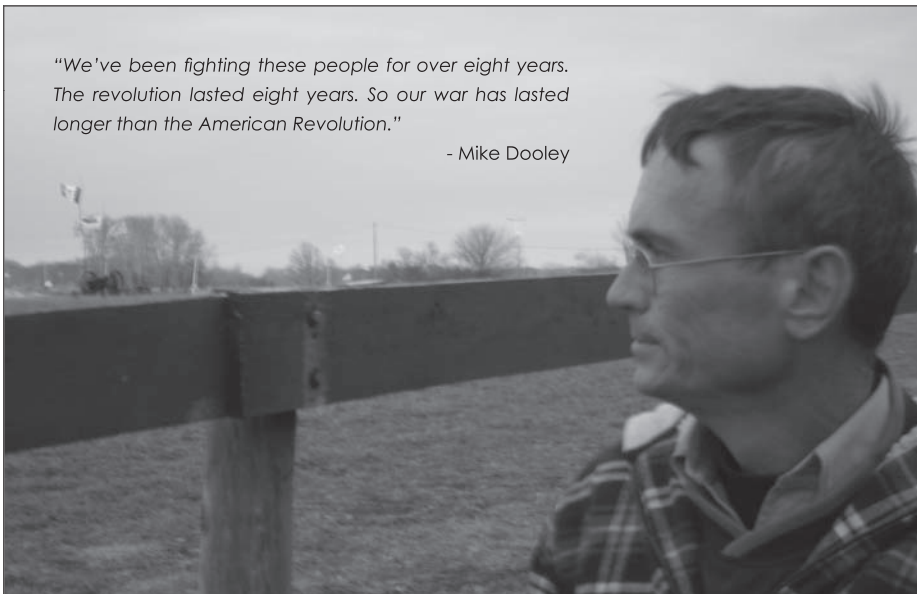
Yet, until someone can answer the question “When will construction begin?” The residents of Newport Township will watch and wait. **lv**

# round 2

The battle of Newport Road met a critical vote

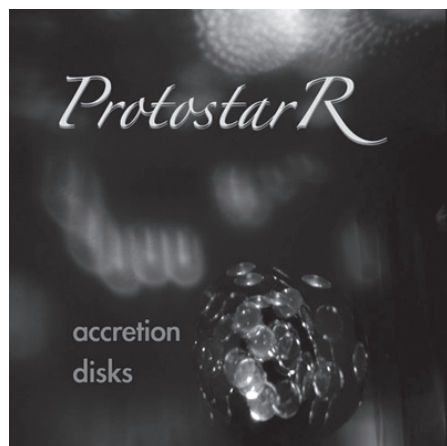
*“We’ve been fighting these people for over eight years. The revolution lasted eight years. So our war has lasted longer than the American Revolution.”*

— Mike Dooley



Mike Dooley's Spin Drift farm along with UI football coach Kirk Ferentz's estate are two properties that would be affected by a proposed cut-through road from Prairie du Chien to Newport Road, north of Iowa City.

Board of supervisor member, Rod Sullivan assures that plans for the cut through road “Have gone away for the foreseeable future.”



### ProtostarR *Accretion Disks* Vesuvius Records [www.protostarr.com](http://www.protostarr.com)

It's hard to get a handle on ProtostarR. Ringleader Payne (who was in '90s IC band Pompeii V) dove into his drum machines, samplers and keyboards head-first a couple years ago, and the ProtostarR CDs represent the occasions when he surfaces to look around. The rest of the time, he and his bandmates seem to be swimming around in a murky musical world of their own design.

2005's *Accretion Disks* comprises two CDs, *Dark Matter* and *From IO to Europa*. The former being a little poppier, the latter, a bit dancier, but the songs on both are cut from the same cloth; oblique lyrics, set in synth driven, harmonically attractive arrangements with tinges of '60s soft-rock. The songs, if they're about anything recognizable seem to be about romantic relationships that aren't working out. Perhaps it's because the singer can't help but describe his feelings in obscure, gnomic terms. Or perhaps the teetering, scaffolding of metaphors are caught in mid-collapse.

The salient quality of these songs is heard in their shiny, pretty surface. The amiable chord progressions and understated vocals are nothing if not lush and listenable. Certain songs draw your attention more than others, like "Dark Matter," redolent of '80s synth pop, a la Love and Rockets or New Order. It's a song about wanting to make friends with the dark matter in the universe, an absurdly attractive proposition.

Like most double CDs, it would probably have more impact if it was edited down to one, but it's hard to pick songs to jettison. Maybe my least favorite is "Space Cadet," which is a bit too obvious and twee harmonically, and "Pomme Frites" refrain of "Do you want that with fries" is a little too on the nose. But in the age of the iPod, we're always editing our own soundtracks, so I can't really fault "Dark Matter" for it's excesses. It's a CD that manages to be ambitious and laid back at the same time—and makes a virtue of its own fuzzy-mindedness. It's music to lose your train of thought to.

Kent Williams

*Kent Williams lives, works, makes music and writes in Iowa City. He has written for The Icon, Grooves Magazine and Alternative Press.*



### Bill Bryant *Drawn From Memory* BMI Records [www.BillBryantMusic.com](http://www.BillBryantMusic.com)

Bill Bryant's *Drawn From Memory* is a testament to nostalgia in all its forms. Best described as alt-country/folk-ish, *Memory* seeks to evoke the sentimental aspects of Bryant's past in an easy to swallow dose of sappiness that is sometimes just what the doctor ordered—like *Lady and the Tramp* on a rainy day or making snow angels in your backyard—kind of corny, but fun, you know?

There is something to be said for self-reflection and appreciating where you came from, and Bryant's serene guitar melodies are sincere, personal and heartfelt, but somehow stale for 2006. However, the songs flow together into a twangy style that demands nothing from

the audience—"easy listening," if you will. Bryant's delivery is soothing and lyrical and his themes are easy to identify with, in that Simon and Garfunkel, Carly Simon, 1970s, watching the sunset kind of way.

One track that stood out was Bryant's "The Rains Don't Fall"—a song to make me sit up and take notice, maybe even tap my foot a little and hum along. The electric guitar accompaniment adds an edgy quality that is otherwise lacking in Bryant's placid repertoire.

Overall, this record has a "soundtrack of your life" quality that qualifies it as perfect background music for whatever situation. As a singer-songwriter, Bryant's brand of mellow, folksy music and everyman persona are as comforting and familiar as a well-loved sweater.

Alison Feldmann

*Alison Feldmann loves winter, weiner dogs and werewolves. In addition to providing words for your enjoyment, she DJs the Lowlife Lounge dance party at Gabe's Oasis. Look for her forthcoming zine, Neon, in the near future. Contact Alison at [alison.feldmann@gmail.com](mailto:alison.feldmann@gmail.com).*



### ft(The Shadow Government) *The Guns of August* Scenester Credentials [www.geocities.com/mapashow](http://www.geocities.com/mapashow)

"The Shadow Government Is Real," declares a young boy over the crackling sound of a loose connection in a guitar amplifier. The opening manifesto, delivered in overlapping children's voices, is equal parts redneck libertarianism and anti-globalization ranting. This blends into "nobel flowers," a skeletal, drum



## Local CD Reviews

driven riff constructed over a raw, glitchy bass drone. When actual singing happens, it's a raw, desperate sing-song, about "time running out, and it will, 'cause the clock's bad."

The coiled snake on the CD cover, taken from the Revolutionary War era Gadsden flag sums up the outlook of ft(The Shadow Government). These guys are pissed. Of course, angry young rockers aren't thin on the ground, and it's hard to prove it's more than just a marketable pose. But they don't seem to care what you think and make no concessions to accessibility. The core of their sound is home-brew electronic knob box squealers and circuit-bent toys that sound raw, random and only occasionally under operator control

Of course, loud noise as a way to rock was old news 20 years ago, but ft(The Shadow Government) goes back to that well with angry glee. This is best represented by the song "House Of No Hope" which starts off as a Sonic Youth-style grinder, falls apart into glitched up free-for-all and then segues into "alright computer/digital christmas," which starts out almost pretty and trip hoppy before turning into a distorto-drum freakout, like someone mugging Boards of Canada.

With 13 tracks (13, like the 13 original states of the Union, get it?), and only a few tracks readily recognizable as songs, the 34 minutes of *The Guns of August* is a pithy, succinct sound assault. Their rage may be political, but it's never just cheap sloganeering. Like the kid said, "The Shadow Government Is Real."

Kent Williams



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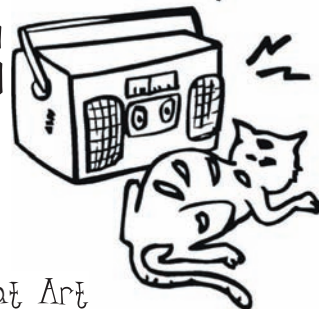
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## Art/Exhibits

**African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center,**  
55 12th Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 877-526-1863  
*African Americans in Iowa*, permanent exhibit.

### AKAR

257 E. Iowa Ave., Iowa City, 351-1227  
Peter Pinnell, Victoria Christen, Ruchika Madan, through Feb. 24.

### Barnes and Noble

1451 Coralridge Ave., Coralville, 337-3337  
Lila Rohrer, watercolors, through February.

### Brucemore

2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-7375  
*Mansion tours Tuesday through Saturday, 10am-3pm, Sunday, 12-3pm.*

### Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

410 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-7503  
*Art in Roman Life*, Ongoing • *The Abstract Impulse: Prints after 1950*, through Apr. 2 • *Inspired by Nature: American Landscape Painting, 1900-1945*, through Jun. 11.

### Chait Galleries Downtown

218 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 338-4442  
*Luminosity*, T. Watson Bogaard, watercolor works, through Feb. 9.

### Faulconer Gallery

Grinnell College, 1108 Park St., Grinnell, 641-269-4660  
*Hin: The Quiet Beauty of Japanese Bamboo Art*, through Mar. 19.

### Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum

210 Parkside Dr., West Branch, 643-5301  
*Women's Work: The Paper Doll Quilts of Rebekka Seigal*, through Apr. 2 • *Arts in Our Parks*, through Jun. 7.

### The History Center

615 1st Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-1501  
*Peace, Love, & Rock & Roll*, through Feb. 26.

### Hudson River Gallery

538 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 358-8488  
*Still Life Paintings*, Arbe Bareis, through Feb. 25.

### Lorenz Boot Shop

132 S. Clinton St., Iowa City, 339-1053  
*Magnificent-As Nature Intended!*, watercolors by Maggie Collins VandeWalle, through Mar. 1.

### Mythos

9 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 337-3760  
*Interloper*, Photography by Cammie Toloui, Opening Reception, Feb. 3, 5pm, throughout February.

### National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

30 16th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, 362-8500  
*Homelands: The Story of the Czech and Slovak People*, ongoing • *Silent Stones*, photographs by Lisa Feder, through Feb. 12 • *Tragedy of Slovak Jews*, through Feb. 26, tour Feb. 9 & 25, 2pm.

### Redhead Restaurant

240 S. Main St., Solon, 624-5230  
James Kaufmann, Mixed media, through Mar. 1.

### Riverside Theatre

213 N. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 338-7672  
*Peace, Solitude, and Beauty of Iowa*, Hans Eric Olson, through Feb. 19.

### Senior Center

28 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5220  
Corbin Bailey, paintings and collages, through Feb. 26.

### UI Hospitals and Clinics

**Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417**  
Patient and Visitor Activities Center, 8th floor John Colloton Pavilion, unless otherwise noted. Tom Langdon, photographs, through Apr. 24, Gallery 3 • John Richard, photographs, Feb. 3-Apr. 14, Gallery 1 • *Lost Nation*, Sandra Dyas, Feb. 6-Apr. 24, Gallery 2 • Brian Harper, ceramics, Feb. 15-May 15, First floor John Colloton Pavilion.

### UI Museum of Art

150 North Riverside Dr., Iowa City, 335-1727  
*Warm Occlusion*, Leighton Pierce, through Mar. 12.

## Music

### Clapp Recital Hall

**UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1160**  
Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza, American Guild of Organists, Feb. 4, 9am • Center for New Music, Feb. 5, 8pm • Honor String Orchestra Festival Concert, Feb. 25, 5:30pm • Maia Quartet & Andre Michele Schub, Feb. 25, 8pm • Philharmonia Orchestra, Feb. 26, 3pm • Scott Conklin, violin, Alan Huckleberry, piano, Feb. 28, 8pm.

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## Eagles Lodge

**225 Highway 1 West, Iowa City. 354-9805**

Do's and Don'ts, '50s and '60s Dance, Feb. 3, 7:30pm.

## Englert Theatre

**221 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 688-2653**

String Spectacular, Feb. 11, 8pm • California Guitar Trio, Feb. 23, 8pm • 1964: The Tribute, Beatles tribute, Feb. 25, 8pm.

## Gabe's

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

The Reputation, The Lucky International, Feb. 1, 9pm • Early show: Dead to Fall, Ion Dissonance, With Dead Hands Rising, Death to Your King, Torch the Morgue, Feb. 3, 5pm; Late Show: Lowlife Lounge Dance Party with Lady A, Feb. 3, 10pm • Early Show: Destrophy, Index Case, Final Escape, Renavera, Feb. 4, 5pm; Late Show: East 18, The Specimen, Hairline Fracture, Feb. 4, 9:30pm • An Angle, Make Way for the Uno Champion of the World, Feb. 5, 6pm • Battlerusa, Battle of the Bands featuring: Euforquestra, Public Property, Bambu, Dr. Z's Experiment, Letterpress Opry, Straiht Wikid Crew, Feb. 7, 7pm • Simon Joyner, Shelly Short, Ed Gray, Petite Mall, Jonathan Hansen, Feb. 10, 9pm • Patrick Brickel and Ghost of the Radio, Letterpress Opry, Ben Schmidt, Feb. 11, 9pm • Wheatus, Feb. 12 • Early show: City on Film; Late show: The Dog & Everything, Feb. 16 • Lucky Boys Confusion, Feb. 17 • Plastic Constellations, Feb. 18 • Since by Man, Feb. 19 • Fall of Troy, The Blackout Pact, Feb. 20 • Early Show: Catfish Haven; Late Show: GoGoGo Airheart, Feb. 24 • Bleeding Through, Everytime I Die, Between the Buried and Me, Feb. 27 • The Plot to Blow Up the Eiffel Tower, Feb. 28.

## Hancher Auditorium

**UI campus, 335-1160**

Mingus Big Band, Feb. 21, 7:30pm • North American Saxophone Alliance: UI Center for New Music, Feb. 16, 4pm & 8pm, Feb. 17, 5pm & 8pm, Feb. 18, 8pm • Honor Band, Feb. 19, 2:30pm.

## A-LIST



### Richard Buckner The Mill • Feb. 7

**www.richardbuckner.com**

Richard Buckner brings a passionate authenticity to the folk tradition through his ominous and emotionally profound songs.

Buckner songs are reminiscent of famed Texas singer-songwriter Butch Hancock, although his words are full of morose entanglements. His lyrics are all too fragile and determined to have been born out of that Nashville country scene.

The modest San Francisco native is intrepidly direct during a performance, allowing his songs to be fully exposed. His frank approach to these delicate songs is refreshing as it is heartbreaking. His desolation and honesty linger on his every word, even his desperate love songs end in sorrow.

Just a man with his guitar and some feedback, Buckner's words add a remarkably expressive throaty croon reminiscent of Bruce Springsteen circa *Nebraska*.

Buckner's most recent album, *Dents and Shells* (Merge, 2004) is one of his most mystifying, disillusioned and alluring albums to date. On his sixth studio album, Buckner sweetens his sound without losing his authentic vulnerability.

Richard Buckner is one of the most candid songwriters you will hear. He will be playing with Doug Gillard of the recently disbanded Guided by Voices and special guest, Andrew Caffrey.

### New York Doll

**Bijou Theatre • Feb. 16-22**

**www.newyorkdollmovie.com**

Just as former members of '70s radicals the Weathermen quit their orgies and bombings and settled comfortably into suburbia, so too did Arthur "Killer" Kane quit the punk-drugs and cross-dressing, settling comfortably into the Mormon faith. The former lead guitarist for the New York Dolls revolted from society, and then revolted from revolting. From February 16th to the 22nd, the Bijou is showing the film, *New York Doll*, documenting his journey from his new life to a reunion show of his band that broke up by 1975.



For 30 years, Kane dreamed of reuniting with the other Dolls and finally had the chance in 2004, when Morrissey (of The Smiths and former president of The New York Dolls fan club) requested that they play at the Meltdown Festival in London.

Paper magazine called it "pretty damn fabulous" and the Sundance Film Festival nominated the documentary for the 2005 Grand Jury Prize. Go to [www.bijoutheater.org](http://www.bijoutheater.org) for a list of show times and [www.newyorkdollmovie.com](http://www.newyorkdollmovie.com) for more info about the flick and proto-glam-punk photos of Kane from back in the day.

## Harper Hall

**Voxman Music Building, UI Campus, 335-1603**  
Midwest Viola Festival, Feb. 4, 1:30pm, 4pm, 8pm, Feb. 5, 11:30am • University of Missouri Chamber Ensemble, Feb. 6, 8pm • Susan Warner, Jonathan Keeble, Feb. 27, 8pm.

## The Java House

**211 E Washington St, Iowa City, 335-5730**  
*WSUI's "Iowa Talks Live from the Java House."*

Sarah and Claire Bowman, Feb. 3 • Rich Webster Band, Feb. 10 • SundayRunners, Feb. 17 • Spontaneous Combustion, John Rapson & Jim Drier, Feb. 24.

## Martini's

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

*Shows at 9 pm*

Throwback Fridays, DJ, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24 • In Letters, Feb. 4 • Dog on Skis, Feb. 11 • Brooke & Kyle, Feb. 18 • Johnny Kilowatt, Feb. 25.

## The Mill

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

*Open Mike Mondays, 8 pm • 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays Burlington Street Bluegrass Band, 7 pm • 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, Shinbone Alley Bluegrass Band, 7pm • All music 9 pm unless noted otherwise.*

The Great Lakes, Michael Morris, Rusty Buckets, Kevin Mahler, Feb. 2 • Lowry and the Bowmans, Matthew Wright, Feb. 3 • Backyard Tire Fire, Reclining Buddha, Feb. 4 • Richard Buckner, Doug Gillard, Andrew Caffrey, Feb. 7 • Dazy Had Mazy, Feb. 9 • Escape the Floodwater, The Glowing Glass, Kathryn Muselik, The Envy Corps, Feb. 10 • Sweethearts' Serenade: Mike and Amy Finders, more TBA, Feb. 14 • Fundamental Elements, Feb. 16 • Big Wooden Radio, Feb. 17, 8pm • Give Peace a Chance Benefit, Bob Dorr and the Blue Band, Feb. 18, 7:30pm • Oteil and the Peacemakers, Feb. 19 • Low, Feb. 22 • Starrunner, Fred Shaffer, Feb. 23 • Second Hand Poets, Down the Line Band, Feb. 24 • Kelly Pardekooper, Siderunner, Feb. 25.

## Paramount Theatre

**123 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888**  
Broadway Maybies, Feb. 3, 7pm • Metro Orchestra Festival, Feb. 4, 7pm • Go Fish, Feb. 5, 3pm • Broadway's Legendary Ladies, Feb. 12, 2pm • Masterworks V, Benedetto Lupo & Lawrence Loh, Feb. 18, 8pm.

## Sanctuary

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

Polutropos, Feb. 4 • Saul Lubaroff Quartet, Feb. 11 • UI Jazz Faculty, Feb. 16 • Paul Kresowik Quartet, Feb. 25.

## Trinity Episcopal Church

**320 E. College St., 335-1603**

Kantorei, conducted by Timothy Stalter, Feb. 27, 8pm.

## UI Hospitals and Clinics

**Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417**

*Colloton Atrium, noon*

Annie Gaines, Feb. 17.

## UI Museum of Art

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

North American Saxophone Alliance, Feb. 17, 5pm.

## Uptown Bill's Small Mall

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

*Open Mic, Fridays, 8-11pm.*

## Yacht Club

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

*No Rules Open Mic, Sundays; Hip-Hop Night, Tuesdays; Jam Band Jam, Wednesdays, 10 pm*  
Starrunner, Feb. 2 • Funkmaster Cracker, Caleb Ryder, Feb. 3 • TBA, Feb. 4 • Habitat for Humanity Benefit, Feb. 9 • Groovatron, Feb. 10 • Helping Friendly Band, Feb. 11 • Chicago Afrobeat Project, New Beat Society, Feb. 16 • Family Groove Company, Electric Junction, Feb. 17 • Bob Marely Birthday Bash featuring Public Property, Feb. 18 • Sublime Tribute, Feb. 22 • Woodbox Gang, Euforquestra String Band, Feb. 23 • Jensen Connection, Spare Parts, Feb. 24 • Nikki Lunden and the Heinous Cainus, Fly Mantel, The Record Low, Feb. 25.

## Dance

### Arts a la Carte

**20 E Market St, Iowa City, 341-7144**

International Folk Dance, Feb. 25, 7:30pm • Salsa Break, Tuesdays, 8:30pm-12am.

### CSPS

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

Latin dance class, salsa, merengue, taught by Darryl Carter and Gloria Zmolek, every

Saturday, 3:30-5:30pm • Tango Sunday, dancing instruction, irregular Sundays, 3-6pm.

## Englert Theatre

**221 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 688-2653**

Hip-Hop: America's Dance, Feb. 4, 3pm & 7pm.

## Hancher Auditorium

**UI campus, 335-1160**

Shen Wei Dance Arts, Feb. 1, 7:30pm • Royal Winnipeg Ballet, *The Magic Flute*, Feb. 11, 7:30pm.

## The Mill

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

Salsa Night, DJ Maestro Sabor, Feb. 28, 8pm.

## Space/Place Theatre

**North Hall, UI campus, Iowa City**

Graduate Concert, UI Dance Department, Feb. 9-11, 8pm • *Dancers in Company*, Feb. 23-25, 8pm, Feb. 25, 3pm.

## UI Hospitals and Clinics

**Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417**

*Colloton Atrium*

Call Dance Studio, Feb. 27.

## Theater/Performance

### Cornell College

**600 First St. W., Mount Vernon, 895-5189**

Sweeney Todd, musical thriller, through Feb. 2-4, 8pm.

### Dreamwell Theatre

**Old Capitol Town Center, 201 S. Clinton, Iowa City, 358-9092**

*Godot*, Feb. 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 8pm.

## Englert Theatre

**221 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 688-2653**

Kids! A Groundhog Day Special, Feb. 2, 7:30pm.

## Hancher Auditorium

**UI campus, 335-1160**

The Black Watch and the Band of the Welsh Guards, Feb. 16, 7:30pm • Cirque Éloize, *Rain*, Feb. 24-25, 7:30pm.

## Riverside Theatre

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

*Thursdays, 7 pm; Fridays & Saturdays, 8 pm;*



Sundays, 2 pm (unless noted otherwise)

*Death of a Salesman*, through Feb. 19 • Denim Gala, annual fundraising event, Feb. 24, 6pm.

## Theatre Cedar Rapids

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

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 7:30pm, Sundays, 2:30pm

*Underground Passages*, Feb. 3-5, 7, 9-12.

## UI Theatres

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

Ten-Minute Play Festival, University Theatres Gallery Production, Feb. 3-4, 8pm, Feb. 5, 2pm, Theatre B • *Love's Labours Lost*, William Shakespeare, Feb. 9-12, 16-18, 8pm, Feb. 19, 2pm, E.C. Mabie Theatre • *The Humanities Division*, Sean Lewis, Feb. 16-18, 8pm, Feb. 19, 2pm, Theatre B • *A Flickering*, Melissa Larson, Feb. 23-25, 8pm, Feb. 26, 3pm, Theatre B.

## Words

### Congregational Church

30 N. Clinton St., Iowa City, 335-0351

"Child Slavery in India," Luncheon and speaker, Lea VanderVelde, Feb. 1.

### The Java House

211 E Washington St, Iowa City, 335-5730

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

Iowa District Court Judge Douglas Russell, Feb. 3 • Barbara Robinette Moss, Feb. 10 • Steve McGuire's UI Storytelling class, Feb. 17.

### The Mill

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

Talk Art Cabaret, Writer's Workshop Readings, Feb. 1, 10pm, Feb. 15, 9pm • Poetry Slam, Feb. 8 & 21, 10pm.

### Prairie Lights

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

All 7 pm, broadcast live on WSUI (unless noted otherwise), International Writing Program reading, 5 pm.

Thomas O'Malley, Feb. 8 • Karla Kelsey, Susan Maxwell, Feb. 16 • Steve Semken, Feb. 17 • Dominic Smith, Feb. 20 • Marvin Bell, Feb. 22.

## UI Art Building

UI Campus, 335-1771

"Walter Netsch: Modernism at Midcentury in Iowa," Robert Brueggmann, "Walter Netsch: Modernism at Midcentury in Iowa," Feb. 1, 8pm, Rm. E109 • Lecture on the works of Gary Panter, Feb. 9, 7pm, Rm. E109.

## UI Museum of Art

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

Know the Score LIVE!, Feb. 10, 5pm • African Reinstallation lecture, John Monroe, Feb. 16, 7:30pm • Lecture by Michael Rush, Feb. 23, 7:30pm • Gallery Talk with Rachel Williams, Feb. 26, 2pm.

## Film/Video

### Bijou Theatre

UI Memorial Union

UI Campus, 335-3258

*Forty Shades of Blue* & Antonioni's *The Passenger*, Feb. 2-8 • *Ushpizin* & *Pulse*, Feb. 9-15 • *New York Doll* & *Elevator to the Gallows*, Feb. 16-22 • *The President's Last Bang* & Godard's *Masculine Feminine*, Feb. 23-Mar. 1.

### Uptown Bill's Small Mall

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

Movie Night, Sundays, 4-8pm.

## Misc.

### F.W. Kent Park

Highway 6 W., Oxford, 645-2315

Ice Fishing Clinic, Feb. 11, 3pm.

### Iowa Memorial Union

2nd Floor Ballroom, UI Campus

Dance Marathon, Feb. 3, 7pm through Feb. 4, 7pm.

### Paramount Theatre

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

Brian Regan, stand-up comedy, Feb. 11, 8pm.

### Quality Inn & Suites Highlander Convention Center

2525 N. Dodge St., Iowa City, 351-1042 ext. 112.

DVIP Souper Bowl, Ninth Annual Domestic Violence Intervention Program fundraiser, Feb. 2, 5:30pm.

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10 FEB Simon Joyner, Shelly Short

11 FEB Patrick Brikel and the Ghost of The Radio,  
Ben Schmidt, Letterpress Opry

16 FEB EARLY City on Film LATE The Dog & Everything

17 FEB Lucky Boys Confusion, 15 Minutes Late

18 FEB The Plastic Constellations, Bound Stems,  
Brian Jones, The Occasions

19 FEB Since By Man, Russian Circles EARLY, 6PM, ALL AGES

20 FEB Fall of Troy, Blackout Pact EARLY, 6PM, ALL AGES


24 FEB GoGoGo Airheart, Jai Lai Savant, Subtitle

27 FEB Bleeding Through, Everytime I Die, 6PM, ALL AGES  
Between The Buried and Me, Haste the Day

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# Best friends with benefits

*If KY can have commercials advertising personal "massage" lubricants on cable, the Iowa City area can have a sex column. "Pink Cashmere Kink" explores the emotional bondage—sometimes confused with "baggage"—as well as those leather ties that bind. Not every orgasm "comes" without consequence.*

So let's begin. Let's talk about sex, again and again and again. How many of us out there have made out with a best friend? They say you have to marry your best friend, but can you just have sex with them? Marriage doesn't make as much sense as it did 40 years ago, especially when it's not a legal option for everyone, and we all have needs. The decision—to boff, or not to boff—is a hard one, and it gets harder and harder as he does. However, these decisions could be made in the passion of the moment, although they might not yield the best results. Imagine it's getting warmer and your breath is getting heavier, it's slippery and wet, mouths are open, tongues are tied, and the rational thoughts are long gone. To boff or not to boff: Will she still love you tomorrow, or will he not be able to look you in the eye? And, more importantly, will [insert gender-neutral humanized pronoun here] think you're a good lover?

Worst case sex-nario: You do, it sucks, and neither of you discuss the matter again. Or talk to each other again, for that matter. Best case sex-nario: You do, it's wonderful, you understand each other a little more and prom-

ise to stay tight even after the vaginal or anal walls have loosened. But let's be honest here, there're lots of best-case sex-narios. It's a choose-your-own-adventure and several paths lead to orgasm. Getting to third can be just as exciting, sexually gratifying and emotionally satisfying to boot. This is how good Christians stay virgins. A 26-year-old evangelist friend of a friend of mine has publicly sworn off any penile penetration, but still sucks for love. Sucking, slurping, licking, touching, can all lead to guilt-free happiness.

The catch is, you gotta know what you're getting into and have an exit-plan that won't leave emotional lesions if you want to get out.

Here are some easier outs: "I don't want to ruin our friendship and we really don't know if this will change things for the better or worse"; "It just doesn't feel right"; or, "I'm sorry, I'm currently having a herpes outbreak, maybe next week after the cream kicks in?"

Remember, you have to deal with the consequences of anything you say or do. Try not to be too drunk when you attempt to break the friend-barrier, it could make dealing with the consequences difficult. Also, there's nothing sexier than control. It not only makes foreplay last longer, but also

leads to bigger orgasms all around. Control is essential to keeping your friendship and letting them do their thing outside your bedroom without getting jealous or needy. You can attach, as long as you can detach, and the KY only makes the physical attaching a little more frictionless. Although, I prefer Astroglide. **IV**



Burgess Smith



FORECAST FOR FEBRUARY 2006

**♈ ARIES**—The three most important things now are negotiation, adaptation and patience. Finances force you to re-think cherished plans. Youngsters, or older folks who are being childish, are placing 'undue burdens.' However, if you get an early start on the challenges, you will find a way around just about every obstacle. Others might prove more flexible later in the month. Play by the rules. Paint by numbers. There will be little chance to improvise. The stakes are too high to take chances. Keep a sharp eye on the budget.

**♉ TAURUS**—This could be a bittersweet month for Taurus. You must deal with some deep and maybe difficult realizations about a loved one and with significant changes in the relationship you have had with them. It will not help that you are just about powerless to prevent or change these events. Throwing money at the situation will not help. You may be tempted to flirt with a mischievous person or two. The stars suggest this would be harmless. Hold your temper if they turn out to be a little manipulative.

**♊ GEMINI**—Things will go from frustrating to almost too easy. Obstacles will clear as February progresses and paths will open up. When paths do emerge, be careful. You have some subtle and complex messages to communicate and it would be very easy for someone to hear it wrong. Also, your influence is running high, almost too high. People, including yourself, might overreact and try to do too much too soon. Overzealousness is an issue. Be mindful of the negative effect of behind-the-scenes scheming and manipulation. Motives could be questionable.

**♋ CANCER**—An issue at a distance is troubling you. It is emotionally demanding. Responding to it will consume valuable time and resources. The duration and the outcome are uncertain. It is an important issue and there is no way you can dodge it. But you might not realize that everyone involved is depending on your insight, your direction and your leadership. Your participation is key to emotional resolution for all concerned. You might not think so, but you have the power to ensure that the best possible outcome is achieved.

**♌ LEO**—Your role is becoming increasingly complex. In spite of the rapid, continuing changes going on in your life, you must still be the voice of reason and moderation. You must remain sober and sensible while everyone around you is carried away by idealistic and unrealistic notions. On top of that, you are the one who has to keep things running, day-to-day. Personal changes are in order. It might just be necessary to lighten your own load. Adopt a calm, polite but no-nonsense approach. Shun questionable financial dealings.

**♍ VIRGO**—You are being called upon and enabled to take a leading role in the change and transformation going on all around you. This will often mean that you must counter enthusiasm with common sense. Ensure that the rush to change doesn't bring chaos. Examine deeply held beliefs about yourself and your role in life. Many of your beliefs could be holding you back or causing psychological difficulties. Be mindful of manipulative or squirrely tendencies in you or in people close to you. Your financial foundations are growing more solid.

**♎ LIBRA**—The planets are helping you find an ideal lifestyle that is both practical and in tune with your deepest needs. The key is to balance your own most profound life concerns with an appropriate career. You are being hampered somewhat by random flirtations—with people, with activities, with hobbies—that distract you and obscure your true interests. An ailment that causes you to pull back from over-involvement might be a blessing in disguise. Be careful not to overspend as your income grows. However, a work- or career-related expense will pay dividends.

**♏ SCORPIO**—Take advantage of favorable conditions early in February. Things won't mesh so easily later. The impulsiveness of partners is putting a strain on finances and other resources. Involvement with innovative and independently minded people, especially younger people, will bring benefits. Soon, you will find innovative and younger people provide more and more of what you need in life. Frank, penetrating discussions will be necessary with such people, but these encounters will prove beneficial. Neurotic or squirrely 'influences' that frustrated and annoyed you in the past will prove less troublesome.

**♐ SAGITTARIUS**—Home, family and neighborhood issues are emphasized in February. People will, it seems, race around pursuing misguided ideas with way too much enthusiasm. They will need and want your support for ideas that seem highly questionable to you. So you must guide misdirected energies into safer and more worthwhile channels. Finding the strength to hold back the tide of foolishness will be tough. You will often be left with little but your faith in yourself and your own ideas to go on. The future will prove you right, though.

**♑ CAPRICORN**—You will find that everything important in everybody else's life manages to intersect with your life in February. People basically need to know how to manage their affairs and management is Capricorn's strong suit. Your own concerns this month are primarily financial. You must harmonize income and expenses, short-term and long-term. It would help if, in the process, you cut back impulsive, short-term expenditures for the sake of long-term comfort and fulfillment. Someone will help you understand the difference between folly and self-expression and between self-gratification and true contentment.

**♒ AQUARIUS**—Aquarians do not like being pushed, but circumstances are pretty much forcing you to make 'accommodations.' However, the pressure should ease toward the end of the month and more agreeable options will present themselves. Also, even though you feel a lot of pressure, you do have a great deal of influence over people and events and your native self-assurance remains strong. New and deeper understanding between yourself and loved ones will develop. In-depth conversations are in order. Underneath it all, February really emphasizes the need for deep personal transformation.

**♓ PISCES**—The planets are stimulating your personality and highlighting you in public. But things might also be upsetting you in ways you don't realize, causing reactions you aren't fully aware of and can't control. You feel especially sensitive to criticism. This is to the good if it motivates you to take advantage of the abundant opportunities to educate yourself and broaden your mind that are being made available to you. Despite insecurities, your influence over people and events remains great. Key associates might be indulging in manipulative and irrational behavior.

Contact Dr. Star at [chiron@mchsi.com](mailto:chiron@mchsi.com)

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