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July/August '06

Iowa City's
Best Third Place
announced

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Hot town: summer in
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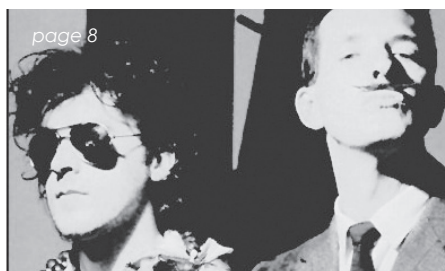
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE STORY OF THE LIBERAL COCKTAIL PARTY THAT CAUSED A LIFELONG DEMOCRAT TO BECOME A REPUBLICAN!

NOW THAT THERE ARE NO **CON-SERVATIVES** AROUND, WE CAN SAY WHAT WE **REALLY** THINK!

THANK **GOD**--WHO, OF COURSE, DOESN'T EXIST!

?

IT'S SUCH A **STRUGGLE** KEEPING ALL OF THIS AMERICA-HATRED BOTTLED UP **INSIDE** ALL THE TIME!

DOES THIS COUNTRY SUCK OR **WHAT?** I WISH THE TERRORISTS WOULD JUST **WIN** ALREADY!

AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES--WHAT A BUNCH OF **IM-BECILES!**

THEY'D RATHER GO TO A **NASCAR** RALLY THAN SPEND A QUIET EVENING AT HOME READING **PROUST!** HA, HA!

BUT YOU KNOW WHO I **REALLY** HATE? **GEORGE W. BUSH!** AND FOR **NO RATIONAL REASON--** I JUST **HATE** HIM!

BARBRA STREISAND IS MY PRESIDENT!

STOP! I CAN'T TAKE IT!

I'M NOT LEAVING THIS PARTY--

--THE PARTY IS LEAVING **ME!!**

WHAT'S **HIS** PROBLEM?

AS A SELF-INVOLVED LIBERAL ELITIST, I **REALLY** CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO CARE.

MORE **CHARDONNAY?**

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Kickin' it for free

The red bricks and benches that foster democracy

Photos by Molly Freeman

We here at *Little Village* are very excited to announce the winner of our "Iowa City's Best Third Place" contest. Many thanks to folks from the Iowa Project on Place Studies at The UI, the Standing By Words Center and the Iowa Cultural Corridor Alliance for helping us consider the nominees.

And the winner is...The Iowa City Pedestrian Mall! (Officially known as "City Plaza," by the way, but it remains the "Ped Mall" for most Iowa Citians.)

The idea of the "third place" was developed by Ray Oldenburg, author of *The Great Good Place*. According to Oldenburg, our "first" and "second" places are home and work or school. "Third" places are just as important as "first" and "second" places to our society. In its most essential terms, Oldenburg defines "third places" as "informal public gathering places." These "third places" are more than just entertainment or relaxation venues, though they certainly serve those important functions.

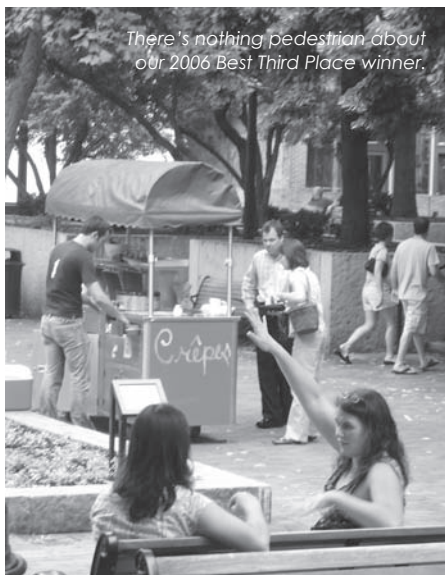
Within these third places, not only community but also democracy and culture are fostered. As Oldenburg's book says, third places are "the heart of a community's social vitality and the grassroots of a democracy."

The Pedestrian Mall fulfills all these characteristics wonderfully. The Ped Mall was nominated by Rod Sullivan, one of our current Johnson County Board of Supervisors. His nomination makes a great case, and I will let his eloquent and enthusiastic words speak to our winner:

I am firmly convinced that the Ped Mall is one of the finest third places in the whole State of Iowa, if not the whole U.S. Here is my reasoning:

The role of the individual in society has decreased tremendously over the past few decades. I think people in our society need to increase their public activities. The Ped Mall offers a tremendous number of opportunities to interact with others.

The Ped Mall is diverse. One lovely Friday last June, I had conversations



The Ped Mall is inherently democratic. It is a public place, open to anyone... The air is filled with smells, music and conversations.

-Rod Sullivan



with a former Olympic wrestler, a well-known author, a young woman battling schizophrenia, two Union laborers doing asbestos removal, a few 70-year-old anti-war activists, a local jeweler and a gentleman who teaches chemistry at the UI. That all happened between 11:45 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. And I wasn't even trying.

The Ped Mall is inherently democratic. It is a public place, open to anyone. It does not cost anything to be there. You need not feel guilty for occupying a seat or declining to purchase a \$3 beverage. Weather permitting, you can find it busy from 6:30 a.m. until 3 a.m. Seating is first come, first served. People are free to attempt to sell you their products and/or ideas, but you are free to politely decline. The air is filled with smells, music and conversations. Some people, sounds and smells agree with me, some do not, but we are free to coexist.

Interestingly enough, Dennis Kucinich and I had a discussion on the way in which the Ped Mall encourages democracy. He had traveled the country and felt the Ped Mall was one of the top couple locations for the exchange of ideas. I agree with him.

I'm sure most of you can think of additional reasons to love and celebrate the Pedestrian Mall. It is certainly the center of our arts community. We see that in full bloom during the summer with the various "Summer of the Arts" activities now under way: the Iowa Arts Festival, the Iowa City Jazz Festival, the Friday Night Concert Series and—nearby on the UI Pentacrest—the Saturday Night Free Movie Series. And the Ped Mall displays much of Iowa City's public art on a year-round basis.

As Rod notes, the Ped Mall is the cauldron of political activism in our town, from the Friday anti-war vigils to the Day Without Immigrants rally this past spring and many more. And the Ped Mall and its environs are the homes of many of our community's most significant cultural institutions, such as the Iowa City Public Library, the Englert Theatre and Arts Iowa City. And, as Rod notes, it's just the place for our community to gather—whether we be downtown workers at lunchtime, kids after school, University students after hours or any community members who want to come

to the heart of town for fun, visiting, hanging out, people-watching or shopping.

A couple of years ago, in this very column, I encouraged our readers to think about the Ped Mall as our “agora.” As I said then, “A community, if it is to be such, must have a core, a center, a nucleus that binds together all the people and activities orbiting about it. Whether you proudly wear Iowa City’s nickname of ‘Athens of the Midwest’ or scoff at it, we do have our agora, our ‘Ped Mall.’”

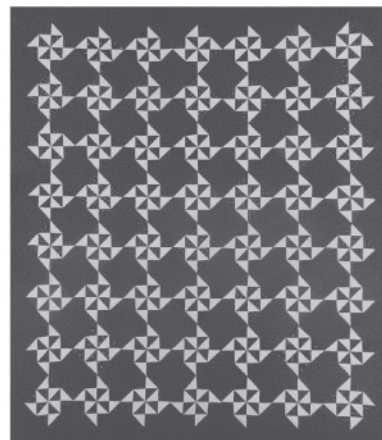
We would like to thank all those who to took the time and care to submit entries to the contest, as well as those institutions themselves for being important third places in our community. Those places include New Pioneer Co-op, The Iowa City/Johnson County Senior Center, the Iowa Memorial Union, The Apothecary Teas and Herbals, the Iowa City Farmers’ Market, the Iowa City Public Library and the Iowa City (City Carton) Recycling Center—quite an in-



teresting and varied list! If we continue this contest into the future, we hope that these—and many more—third places, both public and private, cause their boosters to champion their cause.

At press time, we are still hoping that we will be able to have a “Talk of Iowa” radio program about our winner and the idea of the “Third Place” on WSUI, sometime in July or August. And we hope that Ray Oldenburg himself will be able to join us as a call-in guest. So please keep your ears open for that. In the meantime, it’s summertime, and it’s the time when our Best Third Place comes spectacularly alive with activity. We’ve always had any number of excuses to pay a visit to our central city’s gathering place, and now we have another. Please join your fellow community members downtown as often as you can and keep the Ped Mall’s tradition of the U.S.’s best “agora” going strong! **lv**

Thomas Dean and his family are caretakers of four retired racing greyhounds. If you live on the far east side of Iowa City, you may have seen us walking our pack. We’re the ones with the greyhound who always carries a stuffed toy with him (his name is Wizard).



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Left: Frank Breuer, Untitled (1349 Lexington, MA), 2004. C-print. © 2006 Frank Breuer
Right: Maker unknown, Pinwheel, ca. 1880-1890. Made in the United States. International Quilt Study Center, Ardis and Robert James Collection (1997.007.0452)

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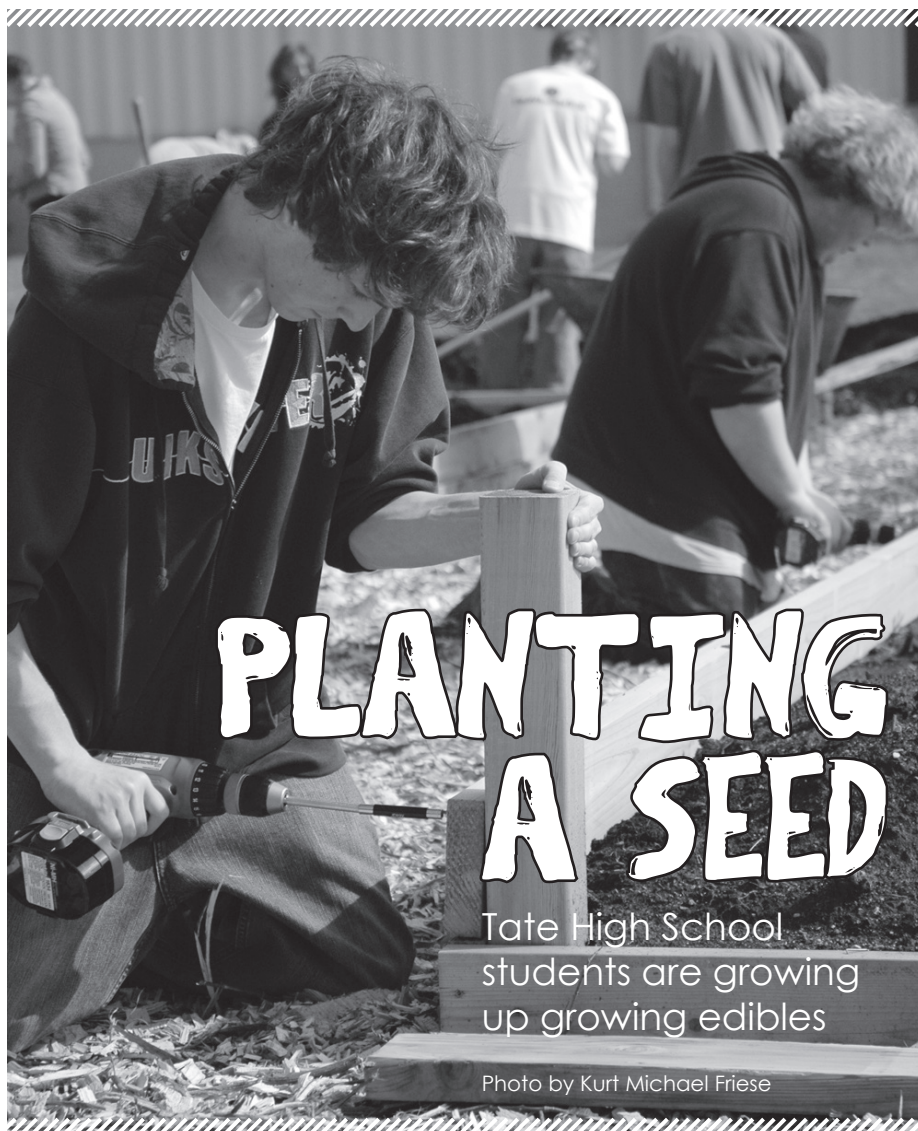
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PLANTING A SEED

Tate High School students are growing up growing edibles

Photo by Kurt Michael Friese

Several years ago, I was driving past a local high school, gazing at its enormous front lawn and thinking what a shame it was that all that space—about two acres of the richest soil on earth—had been given over to grass. It seemed sad to me that a state as firmly rooted in agriculture as Iowa would not be teaching agriculture to its children.

Then I remembered the efforts of Alice Waters and the kids at the Martin Luther King, Jr. middle school in Berkeley, California. They had turned an acre of blacktop into an organic garden where the kids worked the soil, raised the crops and even prepared the food in the kitchen. This was my Eureka moment, but it would take many years and a lot of convincing and cajoling to get from there to today.

Three years ago I wrote in my column:

The Iowa City Community has been given an historic opportunity, one we cannot afford to squander. With the recent passage of the School Bond referendum, the school district will be building three new schools and adding onto or refurbishing many others. One or more of these new schools should be built with gardens. From the Ground, UP! These gardens can be cared for by the students and supervised by willing teachers and community volunteers. An "edible schoolyard" can be interwoven with the school's curriculum, offering a multitude of learning opportunities. Not just Science and Health, but so much more: Math, History, Literature, Discipline, Communication, Self-Reliance, Understanding, Community, Cooperation, Inclusiveness, Problem Solving, Cause and Effect, Awareness and Stewardship.

In 2002, all the exceedingly wise and generous voters of Iowa City and environs had approved a school bond referendum by an overwhelming margin, allowing the district to build those three new schools and improve many others. I saw this as an opportunity and stuck my foot into Superintendent Lane Plugge's door. Why shouldn't we, I contended, build at least one of these schools with a garden as part of the design from the ground, up? Three years later, Elizabeth Tate Senior High School, on Mall Drive in Iowa City was built and has nearly 12,000 square feet of garden and orchard space.

Why shouldn't we, I contended, build at least one of these schools with a garden as part of the design from the ground, up?

Today the faculty and staff of Tate High School have created a beautiful garden using almost exclusively the heirloom varieties that were available to the natives of the area and to the pioneers who first settled here almost 200 years ago. Visit the garden and you will see potatoes and tomatoes, beans and lettuce, herbs, peppers and squash. Seed Savers Exchange and Slow Food USA donated most of the seeds. Tom Wahl at Redfern Farms in Wapello donated the pear, hazelnut, heartnut, pawpaw and chestnut trees. Construction materials came from Lowe's, Ace and Menard's. Slow Food volunteers and the students built the raised beds themselves.

Many of the students and faculty will continue to work the garden during the vital summer months, but volunteers are needed. If you would like to be a part of something special, please drop an email to slowfoodiowa@mchsi.com. There is nothing that is taught in school that cannot be taught in a garden. **lv**

It's About the Food is a monthly feature of Little Village. 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.

Coming distractions

Mid-term election brawls fog the real issues

No matter how many years I spend as an observer of the American political spin cycle, there are still times when I find the disconnect between the reality of the American experience and the Neverland counter-narrative of American political discourse. This has recently resulted in my spending painful uncounted hours trying to get my head around the fact that, in a country with a multitude of pressing problems both foreign and domestic, the number one political issue of the season has thus far been illegal immigration.

To be completely fair about it, the American immigration system is indeed broken, and previous attempts to address the issue have been almost completely ineffective. But the fact of the matter is that it has been for years. Why this, and why now? Why, in a nation facing a laundry list of acute crises, are we devoting so much attention and energy to a chronic problem?

Why? Check your calendar, and note that the year ends in an even number. Welcome to election year politics, 2006. With a large majority of the populace expressing disapproval for the performance and agenda of the ruling Republican majority, the need for that majority to change the subject is obvious. The immigration issue is ideal for this purpose—emotionally (and racially) charged, highly controversial, and at the end of the day almost entirely irrelevant. Indeed, the raging debate over immigration isn't really aimed at any real solution—with the House and the Senate intractably divided between an impossibly complicated and expensive mass deportation program and a "guest worker" program dependent on the ability of immigrants who have been carefully hiding their presence for years to document just how long they've been here, chances of any real government action on the subject is notably slim. Instead, the debate is an end in itself, a political sleight of hand designed to keep the voting public from concentrating on just how badly the current regime has screwed things up without actually taking any action that could be interpreted as another screw up.

The ruling majority has been aided immeasurably by members of the news media who have developed missing the point into a fine art. Thus the story of Al Gore's recent

activism on global warming has resulted in a very few stories on global warming itself and a slough of them speculating on his status as a candidate for President in 2008 (Side note, check out *An Inconvenient Truth* showing at Campus III). Meanwhile, a recent *New York Times* cover story on presumed '08 front runner Hillary Rodham Clinton concentrated not on her record as a Senator or her recent moves to position herself as a mainstream candidate, but on the burning question of whether or not she and Bill are still getting it on.

This is bound to get worse as the election approaches. If Republican campaign behavior in the last few election cycles is any indication, we can expect many long and fruitless hours contemplating gay marriage, gun regulations and abortion, along with attacks on the patriotism and—as appropriate—masculinity of various candidates. We can also expect a lot of plain old garden variety lying, with the Swift Boats already warming up for another cruise down the political sewer. And while the Bush White House may not be showing much in the way of political aptitude these days, they nonetheless still have the ability to blow things up at will—expect one doozy of an October surprise. Given the level of desperation on the part of the current leadership—a Democratic House majority with subpoena power could tear quite a few Republican playhouses down, and a plurality of political scientists are now asking not whether such a Democratic take over is possible, but how big the majority will be—this year's campaign cycle is likely to be a spectacle of unrelenting ugliness.

Those of you wondering what possible relationship the above behavior could have to the common good are advised to hold that thought, and hold it tightly, until you close the voting booth curtain next November. Polls show that by and large voters are dissatisfied with, and distrustful of, the current leadership and have an agenda that doesn't match the status quo in any particular. In this particular shell game, they are well advised to keep their eye on the ball. **lv**

German born, Minnesota raised and Iowa City educated E.C. Fish lives, works and takes daily offense in Minneapolis. He is currently working on a relationship memoir under the working title Bitch, Where's My Staple Gun?



A sign on the U.S.-Mexico border.

We can expect a lot of plain old garden variety lying, with the Swift Boats already warming up for another cruise down the political sewer.

rock n' ruse

The greatest pranksters of rock and roll

Remember the KLF? Most Americans don't, for on these shores they were more of a one- maybe two-hit wonder. However, you probably have one of their songs stuck in a cobwebbed corner of your brain, a faded memory from the early '90s. If you try really hard, you might remember the KLF's global smash hit "3 A.M. Eternal," or perhaps "What Time is Love?" and "Justified and Ancient," a catchy head-scratching piece of pop that featured country star Tammy Wynette singing over a dance beat about how we are "all bound for Mu Mu Land" and also uttering lines like, "They called me up in Tennessee/ they said, 'Tammy, stand by The JAMs.'"

Bill Drummond and Jimmy Cauty were a diabolical duo who used a variety of pseudonyms, including The Timelords, The Justified Ancients of Mu Mu, the above-mentioned JAMs and, of course, the KLF (which allegedly stood for Copyright Liberation Front). In case you don't know, and most well adjusted people have no need to know, the Justified Ancients of Mu Mu name was a reference to the fantasy/science fiction/conspiracy cult novel *The Illuminatus! Trilogy* from which the duo appropriated much of their cryptic cosmology. Their album cover art frequently included ominous pyramids and sometimes pyramids equipped with boom boxes—it's the kind of logo a Masonic break-dancer might wear on a vinyl zipper jacket.

Embedded in their lyrics were references to epic battles between the Illuminati and the

revolutionary Mu Mu organization to which the KLF supposedly belonged. Even more complicated was the fact that *The Illuminatus! Trilogy* stole a good chunk of its cosmology from a '60s prank religion that worshiped chaos, a "religion" named Discordianism, whose congregation also included the KLF. Given all this, it seems implausible that these jokers could get a country music legend to twang her way through lines like, "They're Justified and Ancient, and they drive an ice cream van." It was akin to convincing Mormon music legend/kitsch icon Marie Osmond to recite a Dada poem on national television—a mind-boggling event that actually occurred in 1984 on the ABC show *Ripley's Believe it or Not*.

At the beginning of their career, the KLF practiced an aggressive brand of creative plagiarism that helped kick start a briefly success-

ful career in a music industry they despised. Their debut album, 1987 (*What the Fuck's Going On?*), made extensive and provocative use of samples from the Monkees, the Beatles and ABBA, with the album's liner notes claiming that the sounds were liberated "from all copyright restrictions." After ABBA's song publishers, Polar Music, demanded that the samples be removed, KLF quickly released—almost as if the whole affair was planned from the beginning, which it probably was—an edited version of the album. They deleted or truncated all offending samples and included instructions for how consumers could re-create the original version of 1987 by using old records. In response to Polar Music's role in suppressing their album, the members of KLF took a trip to Sweden. As one story goes, while KLF's song "The Queen and I" played in the



Bill Drummond and Jimmy Cauty of the KLF

background, the group had a prostitute dressed as one of the women in ABBA receive a fake gold album that contained the inscription “For sales in excess of zero” outside Polar Music’s offices.

Under the moniker the Timelords, in 1988 they struck gold in the U.K. with “Doctorin’ the Tardis,” an unauthorized sampled mash-up of Gary Glitter’s “Rock and Roll (Part Two)” and the *Doctor Who* theme, with other British pop culture icons thrown into the mix. After fast becoming critics’ darlings, Drummond and Cauty focused their crosshairs on the British music press, which was repulsed by this weird, crassly commercial song. *Melody Maker* dismissed it as “pure, unadulterated agony,” and *Sounds* prophetically stated that it was “a record so noxious that a Top 10 place can be its only destiny.”

It went number one. The KLF used the pro-

Guy Debord in collaboration with *Idol* judge Paula Abdul.

“If you are already a musician, stop playing your instrument. Even better, sell the junk. It will become clearer later on but just take our word for it for the time being.” Drummond and Cauty continue, “Even worse than being a musician is being a musician in a band. ... So if in a band, quit. Get out. Now.” The book is packed with business addresses, phone numbers and other contact information, as well as ridiculously absurd and obvious instructions.

When the KLF were voted Best British Group at the Brit Awards, the British version of the Grammy’s, they bit hard into the hand that fed it. During a 1992 awards ceremony, the duo performed an ear-bleeding rendition of “3 A.M. Eternal” with the grindcore metal group Extreme Noise Terror (a *very* descriptive band name, I might add). While pummeling the audience with deafening decibels and distortion, Drummond fired on the audience with a machine gun filled with blanks. “The KLF have now left the music industry,” went the post-performance intercom announcement. After that, they retired the group forever, vowing never to reform or sell another record until world peace ruled the land. To prove this wasn’t just a publicity stunt to sell records, the KLF deleted their entire music catalog, a feat made possible by the fact that, in the DIY spirit of punk, they owned their own indie record label. After trying to subvert pop from the inside, and realizing it was a pointless, impossible task, they decided to go out in flames. Literally.

Soon after pulling their music from the market, Drummond and Cauty burned £1,000,000 earned during their reign as pop kings. After growing bored with the subject, Drummond and Cauty signed a contract in 1995 that stated they would not talk about the money-burning incident for 23 years (that’s November 5, 2018, for those of you keeping track). As the K Foundation, Drummond and Cauty directed their collective middle fingers at the professional art world by targeting the prestigious Turner Prize. In 1993, the winner of the Turner Prize was the same sucker who “won” the K Foundation’s award for “worst artist of the year,” which came with a monetary award that was double the amount of the Turner Prize. The winner/loser, Rachel Whiteread, refused to accept the award until she was informed that the cash would be incinerated, after which

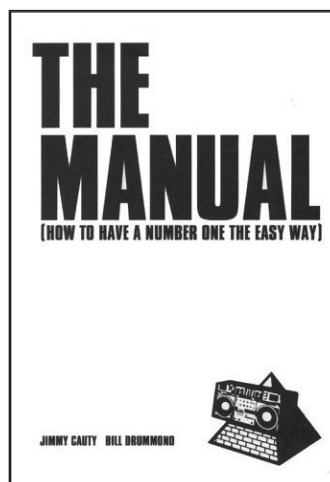


“ If you are already a musician, stop playing your instrument. Even better, sell the junk. ”

-*The Manual*

ceeds from this hit single to fund a variety of art projects, including a satirical book titled *The Manual (How to Have a Number One Hit the Easy Way)*.

The Manual even came with a money back guarantee “if you are unable to achieve a number one single,” though the catch was that you had to follow their instructions *exactly*. It’s unclear if a member of the public tried to get a refund, but the trashy Europop group Edelweiss did use *The Manual* to sell five million copies of their ridiculous ABBA sampling song “Bring Me Edelweiss.” Drummond and Cauty’s book reads like an *American Idol* quickie publication, albeit with a heavy dose of Situationist-inspired satire, which could easily have been written by French theorist



she reluctantly accepted—and then donated the £40,000 to charity.

Nearly 20 years after they first started collaborating, the duo recently entered the spotlight when they published a fictitious press release that took aim at their favorite target: the music biz. In it Drummond and Cauty claimed they were responsible for manufacturing Pete Doherty, the troubled, drug-addled rock ‘n’ roller who is widely known in his native U.K., though he’s also recognized in the U.S. as the

boyfriend of the troubled, drug-addled model Kate Moss. The devious duo claimed they found Doherty on the club circuit struggling as a Buddy Holly impersonator, and soon they were able to fully orchestrate his rise, turning him into the Next Big Thing.

“It was a meant to be a quick stunt to show the frailties of our celebrity-obsessed culture,” said Cauty, adding, “There are too many people who are famous despite their lack of talent, usefulness and basic intelligence. We wanted to do something that held a mirror up to that.”

And that, in a nutshell, sums up their *raison d’être*. **lv**

Kembrew McLeod is a music critic and a UI professor of Communication Studies. His primary advice to the youth of America is the following: While it is important to reserve the right to rock, one should never rock it hardcore 24 hours a day. It’s that simple.

Trading pants for pumps

One woman's journey from male-to-female

At the age of 12, Nathan Hainlin sat down and contemplated two recurring dreams. One dream involved wading across a river and becoming caught in the current. The other involved encountering an overtly feminine alter ego.

"[It] made me sit down and go, *okay, what's going on here?*" Hainlin reflects 25 years later. "There had been a feeling that I had always had that there was something that I had forgotten and I was like, *I have to find some sort of common thread that runs through all this*. It was like an epiphany. BANG. There it was. I should have been a girl."

In 2005, Nathan Hainlin legally became Susan Hainlin—the name change was just one of many steps in the journey of gender reassignment.

Iowa City is known for its GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender) friendliness. Few hard statistics can be found regarding the number of transsexuals in any area; census data only estimates the number of same-sex partner households, knocking Iowa City out of the top 10 with regards to a homosexual population per capita.

However, Iowa City was one of the first U.S. cities in 1996 to include gender and sexual orientation under discrimination protections.

According to an article published in *MacLean's* and written by Stanford University biologist Joan Roughgarden, herself a transsexual, male-to-female transsexualism occurs in one out of every 500 Americans. About one per every 30,000 adult males and one per 100,000 adult females seeks sex-reassignment surgery, a fact published in the *American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV*.

When Susan started college in the '80s, she tried to ignore her gender issues and became so depressed that on the night of her 21st birthday, she purchased liquor and sleeping pills with the intention of suicide. An hour after drinking the alcohol and swallowing the pills, she woke up vomiting. Two days later, she signed up for the military.

"I was hoping to go somewhere. Ideal solution: get killed," she explains bluntly. "I thought I had been depressed before, but it



Flawed and Incomplete by Susan Hainlin

was even worse [after] because it was like, *I am such a big fuck-up, I can't even kill myself right.*"

The military stint was brief. When Susan came home, her family began attending counseling sessions. Susan decided to start seeing a counselor on her own to discuss her gender issues, but it was 1991 and few people knew much about transsexualism. It would not be until 1996—when Susan gained Internet access—that she would finally start finding answers.

"It was like an epiphany. **BANG.** There it was. I should have been a girl"

"I really believe that the Internet, by allowing greater flow of information, has changed culture to the point where there is some degree of acceptance of gender-variant persons," she explains. Some of the friends supporting her through her transition are people she met online who have been through the gender reassignment process themselves.

Beyond the Internet, even pop culture has recently increased awareness of transsexualism. Most notably, Felicity Huffman's performance in *Transamerica* as a male-to-female transsexual garnered an Oscar nomination and

publicized the trans' community's struggle. Showtime's *The L Word* features Daniela Sea as Moira/Max, a character contemplating female-to-male sex-reassignment surgery. Alexis Arquette, sister of actors David, Rosanna and Patricia, is on the verge of stardom due to an upcoming A&E documentary on her impending male-to-female sex change, as well as a role on VH1's *The Surreal Life*.

Lili Elbe was the first known recipient of male-to-female sex-reassignment surgery that occurred in Germany in 1930. She went through five surgeries but passed away shortly after her fifth operation.

The first male-to-female surgery in the U.S. took place in 1966 at the Johns Hopkins University Medical Center.

On an unremarkable March day, Susan sat among stacks of books in the UI's main library to tell her story while unveiling the processes of undergoing male-to-female sex-reassignment surgery. A bright pink bandana perched atop a cascade of brown curls, which fell past her shoulders. Her legs are crossed and her hazel eyes contemplative as she sipped from an enormously large water bottle.

The first step she took was writing a letter to her mother, explaining her decision. Going back to college at the UI presented her with an opportunity to begin the gender reassignment process. Within a month of arriving in Iowa City, she began seeing a doctor in a private practice who told her that after she lowered her cholesterol and got a letter of recommendation from a psychologist, he would prescribe hormones for her.

Susan immediately began working on both tasks, in addition to getting a job as a driver for Cambus, the university's public transportation system. She had just completed her training at Cambus when she received the all-clear to start taking hormones.

"First, there was this nice, happy thing at work, and all of a sudden it was just like happy joy," Susan grins. "I still remember coming home that day. My car had been broken and I was walking everywhere. [The doctor's] office was way out and I missed the bus back downtown. I walked for an hour and it was really hot and I didn't care. I had my prescriptions in my pack and [the doctor] had given me some free samples and I was just like, *YAY!*"

Before submitting a letter to her coworkers explaining her ongoing transition, Susan's an-

nouncement was made during a couple of upper-management meetings. A large mixture of reactions occurred in the dispatchers' meeting.

At first, all of the dispatchers sat in stunned silence. Then, one leapt out of her seat, thrust her fist into the air and shouted "Yes!"

"When Susan was 'Nathan,' our interactions were scarce," said Jen Hunold, the dispatcher who reacted so enthusiastically to Susan coming out. "I felt that she was a little moody and easy to upset. When I found out she was undergoing gender reassignment, I realized that she was likely on hormones and going through a tremendous amount of changes."

Jen felt that it was necessary to be very positive about Susan's change so that other dispatchers could also be open about being comfortable with it. However, not all of the dispatchers were able to react so positively.

"Other dispatchers made comments about how they had been noticing changes, but I was oblivious to them," recalls Dan Sorce, the most tenured Cambus dispatcher. "I could sense that my fellow dispatchers were anticipating my reaction and comments because of my Christian faith. I believe that God made Susan as a man – Nathan – in His image. I find it saddening that she was so distraught over the way she was created. But ultimately, our

The Transgender Day of Remembrance is held in November to raise public awareness, stop hate crimes against transgender people and end anti-transgender violence.

The Day of Remembrance began nationally in '99 after the murder of Rita Hester (self-identified transgender) on Nov. 20, 1998.

duty as dispatchers is to both treat and protect Susan as she desired, just like any other employee."

The hormones, which Susan had started taking long before her coworkers found out, had done a great deal to change her physical appearance. Immediately, her body hair thinned and fell out. Her skin cleared, dried, and became softer and more sensitive. Her hair, which had previously been oily, dried out. The "backne" which had plagued her for years cleared up. Laser treatments have cleared her face of any facial remnants.

Susan has been saving money for many years for sex-reassignment surgery—the financial equivalent of a new car. Once the cost of

facial feminization surgeries are added in, she will have spent approximately \$50,000. These surgeries include forehead bone and mandibular jaw contouring, face and neck lifting, forehead lifting, blepharoplasty (eyelid surgery), and Trachea (Adam's apple) shaving.

"In one sense, hearing talk about [the surgery] is really interesting," Susan muses. "On the other hand, it's grisly. I'm just glad that when the time comes, they're going to knock me out."

Sex-reassignment surgery, in the words of *Transamerica's* Bree, requires turning an "outie" into an "innie." The testicles are removed, the penis is cut open on the bottom so that erectile tissue can be removed, and the penis is stitched back together and pushed into a natural cavity. A surgeon should have significant experience because the next part of the surgery (establishing the clitoris, labia, etc.) involves dealing with nerves and preservation of proper blood circulation.

"There are moments when I do look in the mirror and see the girl, but there are a lot of moments where I don't," she says wistfully. **lv**

Riva Geller is a senior at the UI, majoring in psychology and journalism. She enjoys nap-time and shoe shopping.

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Dave Zollo and his band play at a recent Friday Night Concert Series



Hot, blistering summers in Iowa City are quaint and loaded with enough calendar-filling activities to satisfy every Iowa Citian's palette. This summer offers traditional favorites like the newly-consolidated Summer of the Arts—Iowa Arts Festival, Iowa City Jazz Festival, Friday Night Concert Series and Saturday Night Free Movie Series—sure to bring the best of the best in music and film. It also offers off-beat fare like PATV's Bike-in Theater. If you're looking for a destination, you can visit one of the area's popular lakes for swimming or boating, or take your furry best friend down to the newly opened Thornberry Off-Leash Dog Park. The summer also gives us garage sales and thrift stores aplenty, all just waiting to be explored, and you can never go wrong with the fresh veggies and baked goods from your local farmers' market. As most long-time Iowa Citians will tell you, even as the population drops and the temperatures rise, there's nothing better than summer in the city.

The arts downtown

Summer of the Arts (SotA) in Iowa City brings us the Iowa Arts Festival, the Iowa City Jazz Festival, the Saturday Night Free Movie Series (SNFMS) and the Friday Night Concert Series (FNCS). To make the four festivals happen it takes SotA Executive Director Katie Roche, 11 interns, a board of 18 people and over 350 volunteers, as well as \$300,000 in fundraising from over 170 donors and sponsors.

"This is our first year working together," Roche said. "The idea of joining these festivals was brought up each year of the last five or so as these festivals struggled with funding and operations."

Yet even with combined resources, it takes an enthusiastic audience to make this cultural beacon a success.

"These [events] not only attract tourists, but give locals and people thinking of moving here

reasons to be in the Iowa City area," she said.

The regional music scene is a blossoming one, with local talent getting their stage time at the SNFMS and FNCS.

"I have a commitment to showcase as much of a variety of our local talent as we can on our stages. This brings out a more diverse audience and builds our sense of community," Roche said.

The FNCS is a free event held on the Pedestrian Mall in downtown Iowa City. The series features live music performed by local bands each and every Friday night from now until Sept. 15. Children can enjoy the playground equipment, and everyone can take in local talent such as gritty crooner and banjo player Will Whitmore, funk and soul quartet The Diplomats of Solid Sound, and other local faves like Euforquestra, Ben Schmidt and Sam Knudson.

The SNFMS, an outdoor film series, is held on the UI Pentacrest where the old screen from the Englert Theatre hangs from the columns of MacBride Hall. The grass and shade from the grand Oak trees make for a perfect sit-in theater. Each Saturday through Sept. 16, enjoy a

live pre-movie musical performance followed by a feature length film and/or an Iowa filmmaker short. Moviegoers can sit back, lounge in the grass and listen to spunky acoustic rocker Nikki Lunden and watch Jack Black in *School of Rock* or relax to passionate, singer/songwriter Sarah Cram followed by Woody Allen's romantic comedy, *Annie Hall*.

The Iowa City Jazz Festival, June 30–July 2, is a free gathering of jazz musicians and admirers with an emphasis on jazz education. The festival is nationally recognized as one of the top 10 Jazz Festivals nationally by *Downbeat* magazine. This year's festival features acts such as Orquestra Alto Maiz, the Mel Rhyne Trio, Bob Dorr and the Blue Band, Rachael Price and many more.

Roche says that Iowa City enjoys a much deserved reputation as a cultural muse in this state, partly because of its many festivals.

"For a town of 62,000—30,000 on a hot summer day—we have a ton of great music," said Roche. "Our reputation for a place to see a great show is golden."

Alissa Van Winkle is publisher of Little Village.

For many market patrons the Farmers' Market is a convenient stop on the way home from work.



Photos by Arna Wilkinson

Taste of the Farmers' Market

Aug. 31, 5pm

Regular market from 5:30pm–7:30pm

Visit the Iowa City market for free samples of veggies, fruits and baked goods and listen to music by Big Wooden Radio

7 days of fresh food

Farm fresh food in the Iowa City area is available every day of the week.

Iowa City Farmers' Market

Lower level of Chauncey Swan parking lot on Washington St. across from City Hall.

Wed. 5:30pm–7:30pm

Sat. 7:30am–11:30am

Sycamore Mall Farmers' Market

Tues. 3:00pm–6:30pm

Coralville Farmers' Market

S.T. Morrison Park

Mon. and Thurs. 5pm–8pm

North Dodge St. and

Ace Hardware Farmers' Market

Church St. parking lot

Fri. 5:00pm–7:30pm

Sun. 1:00pm–3:30pm

Farm fresh food

On the cusp of every summer comes the Iowa City Farmers' Market—a sensuous, locally grown feast for eyes, ears, noses and of course, taste buds. Ripe in its 34th year, the Market serves as a gathering place for the Iowa City community and an opportunity to ogle whatever surprises are in season from May to October. Although the pickings can be slim at first, the Market reaches its bursting point later in the summer as gardens bloom.

On a cloudy evening in late May, the lower level of the Chauncey Swan parking ramp was filled with a steady stream of people of all ages. Multiple languages could be heard floating around as the cement space was transformed by the alluring colors and smells of products from approximately 50 Iowa vendors. Soft brioche au chocolate, flaky croissants and pointed fougasse made by Simone Delaty of Simone's Plain and Simple and Regina Miller of Sweet Pea Catering were being sold across from Iowa City eatery Thai Flavors Restaurant's crisp, mint-laced spring rolls. Bright purple and yellow irises, brought by Pat Erbin of The Wooden Gate, were dazzling against the gray sky. The sticky scent of "kettle korn" being made on the spot by Jerry and Ruthanne Dill lingered, the sweet aroma melting over the Market.

"We come here to make an extra buck and to see the people—to see old friends and meet new friends," said Jerry Dill, who drove to the Market from Cedar Rapids.

Next to the Dill's giant vat of popped corn were piles of damp romaine lettuce, arugula and baby bok choy from the local Urb Garden and Catering. Leaning close, down from the sugared air, it was possible to smell the earth that the greens had come from. Nearby, food aficionados were mobbing around pillowy loaves of bread, as well as gleaming raspberry and cherry pies from a bakery in Kalona.

Continuing further down, close to the sharp spears of asparagus standing at attention and the punctuation of round red radishes, Kristina Arnold of North Liberty's Cocina Del Mundo Herbs & Spices was offering samples of fresh greens flavored with her concoctions. Arnold's table was crammed full of tiny bags with labels like Marrakesh Tagine—heady mixes of turmeric, cumin, cayenne, oregano, cinnamon that invoked the countries they were named after. A chef for 10 years, she comes to the Farmers' Market to talk to people about food.

"I don't want to be in a retail shop all day. This way I can be where the food is," said Arnold.



Iowa is famous for its kettle korn and the Dills' recipe doesn't disappoint.

After wading through the jars of jam and honey, bundles of yarn, shining strands of beads, pots of flowers and stacks of cookies, it is possible to take a rest from the sensory stimulation and observe the flow of buying and selling. Lanie Reel, who has been stopping by the Market for "three or four years", was hanging out with friends in the park adjacent to the parking ramp, surrounded by bags full of food.

"Look at everybody that is out here, you know, just running around and playing, enjoying summer," said Reel. "It feels like summer to me, that's why I like it."

Arna Wilkinson True/False: 1. Arna is not a lion tamer. 2. She loves wearing socks.

Hot Town: Summer in Iowa City

Sand and sun

Yup, you're in Iowa, where it's sunny and 90 degrees one summer day and drops 30 degrees and storms the next.

Before the temperature drops for good, be sure to visit these three hot sandspots: Sugar Bottom, Lake MacBride and the Coralville Reservoir, "the Rez" for short. These are not the ancient secrets of old-town Iowa Citians, everyone who actually stays in the area for the summer should get to know these relaxation jems.

Sugar Bottom and Lake MacBride surround the beachgoer with trees and sky all around. What the Rez lacks in enveloping trees, it makes up for in people-watching.

Last Memorial Day found the Rez's parking lot filled with pick-up trucks packed with coolers. On the beach, you'll find all types—fatties in bikinis, wannabe football players (and some real ones), the aspiring models, the twenty-something sandcastle architects and little girls

Photo by Melody Dworak



in pink fairy swimsuits that cry and cry and cry just because the water's wet.

Those who want a lifeguard to swim out and save them when the water goes over their heads should go to a pool. Those who think they can take care of themselves, have at it. The Iowa beaches have a no-alcohol-on-the-sand policy, but some still pour their 40oz into their Nalgene and suffer the consequences of extreme dehydration and drunkenness: naps in the sun, fried skin and possible drowning.

Bring a Frisbee, beach ball, volleyball and friends. Oh, and don't forget your floaties! They might be a hassle and an extra expense, but if you don't, you'll be roasting on the sand envying the women who remembered both their floating mattresses and their cigarettes.

If swimming and sunbathing are not your thing, boating is another option. "Iowa Parks were created to showcase and protect our natural resources," say the brochures. What better way to see such natural beauties than by gassing up the S.S. Freedom and cruising around for a day? The boatless can rent one at Lake MacBride's rental office (319-624-2315) or the Coralville Lake Marina (319-351-8343), through Labor Day.

After so much time in the sun, such relaxation can be exhausting, and it's time to recharge. There's no better way to end the beach-day than with ice cream or fried things. This brings the most difficult decision of the day: cheese curds or a snow cone?

Melody Dworak is assistant editor of Little Village.

Dog days of summer

Dogs are parts of our lives in a way that they have never been in the past," explains Johnson County Dog PAC President of the Board, Beth Shields.

It's been a long road for Shields and the rest of the JC Dog PAC, but a sigh of relief was heard as the Thornberry Off-Leash Dog Park, located in Peninsula Park at the west end of Foster Rd. in Iowa City, opened June 17.

The JC Dog PAC, an organization dedicated to making the community more accommodating for dog companions, has been working long and hard with the City to establish the park as a functioning area for dogs and their owners.

"We've been really fortunate to have City staff and Council who have been, for the most part, very supportive of our group, our concepts and our work," said Shields.

The JC Dog PAC is not the first group to try to organize the off-leash park effort in Iowa City. Previous groups have tried in the past but nothing became concrete until Thornberry.

The Thornberry Off-Leash Dog Park is de-

signed as a learning playground for dogs and humans. Dogs can learn about "dog language" from other dogs while learning how to play appropriately with them.

"We also know that people who have dogs want to spend time with them—and this park is created for that—for the people who have dogs, it gets us off the couch and outside into the fresh air, and for our dogs, gets them off the couch too," said Shields.



Celeste, and her owner Bob Beall, take it easy at Thornberry.

Owners can also meet other dog owners and swap stories, a good way to learn about dogs.

"We know that exercised, socialized dogs are happier and healthier and make better neighbors and citizens," Shields said.

The 11-acre park is open to any dog with an annual permit or daily pass. Permits are avail-

able at the Robert A. Lee Recreation Center or the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center. Yearly fees are \$25, with a \$5 discount for proof of spay/neuter and another \$5 off for proof of microchipping.

Lucky Pawz Playground, the main off-leash yard, is where most dogs and owners go to meet and greet.

Emma's Run, Agility and Training Yard provides a training area for dogs and serves as an off-leash option for dogs who don't play well with others.

The third yard is for small dogs under 18 inches at the shoulder. Small dogs are welcome to use any part of the park they want, but this provides them with a place where they can play with dogs of like size and temperament.

Although the ribbon cutting ceremony was June 17 the park is still taking shape. The JC Dog PAC is working hard to add more features for dogs and humans, such as a play pond, permanent shelters in each yard, more benches and other amenities.

Even as the site continues to develop, the most important thing is that the park is safe and ready to be used by the dogs.

"So, the benefits—it all comes down to this—it's good for the heart—both ours and theirs," said Shields.

Alissa Van Winkle

Bike-in theater

Summer in Iowa City is primed and ready for B-film enthusiasts' best summer yet. Not only do they get to watch their favorites, they get to watch them *outside*. Like a backyard barbecue gone awry, Iowa City Public Access Television (PATV) has chosen a roster of films for those inclined toward novel rarities. From a *Night Rider* rip-off involving Jack Black as the hero and the voice of Owen Wilson as the super-bot-motorcycle that guides him on his investigations, to random collections of junk TV insanities, the Bike-in Theater schedule set by PATV is sure to amuse all summer long—for free.

July 12th is an Errol Morris freak-out. Morris is the Spielberg of the documentary genre. He has an eye for the character behind every story and a tendency to flawlessly locate the story behind every character. And with a little help from his friend, composer Phillip Glass, and an extensive stock footage library, he's also developed a look all his own. Morris, famous for his knack for finding beauty in humanity and vice versa, has whittled the documentary genre down to a masterful formulaic system of divulging the narrative in a tightly constructed manner, to heighten the interest of his audiences.

The Bike-in Theater will screen excerpts from Morris' *First Person*, a series that aired on Bravo in 2000. Morris focuses on a unique personality in each segment, from a man obsessed with the giant squid (Worth checking out: Noah Baumbach's *Squid and the Whale*) to a man who lost his job over a disgruntled postal worker's tirade. One of the creepiest segments in Morris' first person narratives involves a woman obsessed with serial killers in *The Killer Inside Me* which ends with a keyboard ridden love ballad to the woman's imprisoned obsession.



It's the way Morris divulges the stories that makes him such an author of his craft. He interviews a man who runs a debt consolidation service, and somehow, that's a short film. Morris' first documentary, *Vernon*,

Florida, resonates with a tragically still, small-town stagnancy. It's a severely human tale of hopeless, droning old men, talking to whomever will listen on park benches and outside of local hardware stores. The subjects placed in front of the camera have a real allure to them, a certain beautiful country charm that is typically pointed out to me by young men who really get into the local homeless types and their toothless stories of trains and drugs. It's not bad, but I'd take *A Brief History of Time* over *Vernon* in a heartbeat. Stick around for some truth-seeking *Vernon, Florida* trivia after the show.

On July 26th, bring your best found-object to compete for prizes in the 2nd Annual State of Iowa Found Object Championship. Check out www.patv.tv to get a look at last year's winner. Not-to-mention a cache full of bizarre lost and found videos.



August 9th, *Heat Vision and Jack*, the failed TV pilot about Jack Black and his talking motorcycle will be screened. This is also Art Bike Night! Bring your bedecked bike and you could be the next winner of the Iowa City Art Bike Best in Show!

August 23rd, From the AV Geeks Archives, PATV picks those films nearest and dearest to their hearts from the AV Geeks 16mm archive such as: *Marijuana*, *LSD: Case Study*, *the Last Prom* and more.

If you feel you know what the worst three-minutes in cinematic history are, make sure to enter the Piece of Crap Film Festival hosted by the Iowa City Microcinema on September 6th (send your ideas to icmicrocinema@yahoo.com).

Lastly, on September 20th, Iowa City Microcinema will present a night of videos made by you, dear reader. Strap on your filmmaking shoes and hit the streets. Submissions must be in by September 13th.

If all of this sounds fun and summery, head to PATV's Parking Lot Movie Palace on 206 Lafayette Street.

Kathryn Musilek graduated from the UI with a double major in Cinema and Comparative Literature this May, and is currently writing from Boulder, CO where she works as an intern for a music management company.

Thrifty thrifting

What is that old proverb? Oh yeah, "A diamond with a flaw is worth more than a pebble without imperfections." If you are a thrifting addict in search of buried treasure this summer, then this phrase might become your mantra.

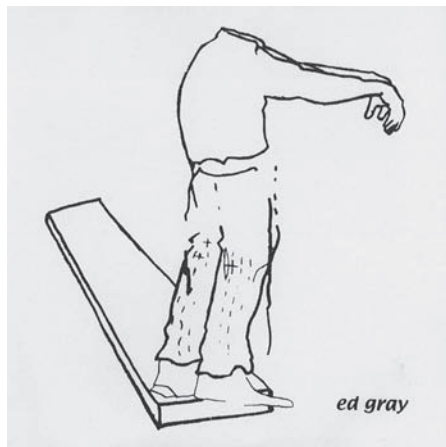
Guarantees for quality vintage and second-hand clothes include Second Act, 538 Olympic Ct., which is stuffed full of eclectic and practical threads—especially take note of the costume-themed racks for interesting attire. Revival, 116 S. Linn St., has a super-fab mix of fashion from local designers and second-hand, well-known brand names, as well as stellar new sunglasses and bags. Artifacts, 331 E. Market St., has a small selection of vintage clothes, but what they lack in quantity, they make up for in solid style. There is also a wicked selection of accessories—visualize a trunk full of costume jewelry, stacks of swanky retro high heels and piles of old-school purses.

For kitschy art, furniture or whatever else your thrifty heart desires, check out Artifacts again. Previous personal purchases there have ranged from a vintage bicycle to old black and white photographs of a baby sitting on a horse to a framed print of reclining Greek goddesses. Another cache you can comb through is Houseworks, 111 Stevens Dr., which has everything you could possibly need to deck out your digs—couches, tables, bookcases and an insane amount of kitchen supplies, along with the occasional goldmine of cassette tapes. More places for highly coveted decor include the spacious Granny's Antique Mall, 1725 Boyrum St., UI Surplus, 1225 S. Gilbert St., and Sharpless Auction, 5049 Herbert Hoover Highway, where the highest bidder can bring home the goods every Wednesday night starting around 5pm.

Another summer pleasure for thrifters is random garage sales, so keep your eyes open for homemade signs as the weather gets warmer. The typical moving in/out times around May and August can also yield curbside spoils and more adventurous types might go sniffing around the UI dorm dumpsters.

What are you waiting for? Go on, start thrifting for that elusive diamond find before someone else steals your loot. **lv**

Arna Wilkinson



Ed Gray

Fresh Coat on the Powder Keg

Unread Records/Sober Cannibal

Maybe it's all in the name, but when I hear "Ed Gray," I imagine something Magnetic Fields-esque, something overwhelmingly clever, but kinda gloomy, too, in an overcast, rainy sort of way. An album for finishing off a half-eaten tub of Rocky Road and sobbing off your latest disappointments. Ed Gray's *Fresh Coat on the Powder Keg* is not that album. Instead, it's yet another lilting, hesitant wallflower of an alt-country/folk record that does very little to distinguish itself from the quadrillion other albums that also fall into this category.

But maybe I'm being too harsh. In truth, the album's not half bad. There's a kind of "human emotion" appeal to it—you know, everybody hurts, loves, et al. On "Old Man, City," Gray exhibits the kind of stumbling, heartfelt crooning that makes you want to forgive all. However, I can't forgive all...there's just not

enough here. As an EP, the record rounds out at 17 minutes. Maybe with more time I could be convinced, but as of now, I'm left wondering why I should be listening to something kind of like Neil Young when I actually could be listening to the real thing. Ultimately, within the alt-country/folksy genre there's just got to be something to make you stand out from the crowd. I keep waiting for the punch line, but I'm just not getting the joke.

Alison Feldmann will be having a yard sale very soon. She can be reached at AlisonFeldmann@yahoo.com.



Bob Hillman

If You Lived Here You'd Be Home

Authentic Records

Bob Hillman? I'd never heard of him before receiving his new CD *If You Lived Here You'd Be Home*, but I realized that I'd heard his song "Another Country" in bumper ads for "Live From The Java House" on WSUI. No musi-

cian deserves to be lumped into a category, but I'll do it anyway—Bob Hillman's CD sounds like the WSUI morning show singer-songwriter music. Competent, tasteful folk-inflected playing, clever songwriting, but nothing too edgy that might upset Mom while she does the breakfast dishes.

Before Bob comes after me with a microphone stand, I should state that the above faint praise with which I've damned him doesn't do him justice. I'm enough of a music geek to appreciate the twists and turns he builds into his chord progressions, and his lyrics manage to balance an impish jokiness with wistful cynicism. "Something" starts by quoting the opening guitar flourish of "Hard Days Night" and then goes on to describe damaged relationships in terms of Beatles songs: "I sang 'All My Loving' and then 'I Want To Hold Your Hand', just another pleasant jog through the Beatles' catalog, but I should have sung 'We Can Work It Out.'"

That's some trick, writing a song this deliciously meta (how many songs have nested quotes in their lyrics?) while still carrying a sincere emotional charge. Hillman deserves a closer listen than the sort of Adult Contemporary stuff he's likely to get lumped with. He joins artists like Aimee Mann, Dan Penn and Dan Bern in the ghetto of intelligent singer-songwriters on the outskirts of commercial pop music. Hillman refuses to dumb things down and write great songs for grown-ups. After all, doesn't Mom deserve good music, too?

Kent Williams escaped from Cedar Rapids in 1980 but only made it as far as Iowa City. By day, he programs computers at the UI. By night, he makes electronic music which his wife has described as "what is wrong with the stereo?" He has been writing music reviews since the last millennium.



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Hwy 27 Revisited

Columbia, MO., is another Midwestern college town with a similarly thriving local music scene centered around a few funky, beer-soaked venues. The six-hour drive between the two cities has lately become well traveled in both directions. When Coolzey (reviewed in the last *LV*) and Shaffer the Dark Lord (formerly of Burmese) toured, they included the Columbia band Witch's Hat on several dates, even though their brand of Mad Magazine hip-hop had no obvious common ground with Witch's Hat's prog-tastic arena anthems. The Columbia show was a Highway 27 lovefest, adding IC's Miracles of God to the bill.



Kim Chee Kim Chee Music

Kim Chee's *Kim Chee Music*—which features Asia Wong as Kim, Mary Nguyen as Chi and Seth Ashley as DJ Bi Bim Bop, is nothing if not High Concept. None of them are Korean, yet the band's songs combine samples of Korean language learning tapes with laptop synth-pop. Kim and Chi sing lyrics lifted from the language tapes mixed with English translations. When they perform live, they have a PowerPoint Presentation that displays the lyrics, but it's not clear if that's for your edification or to reinforce the nerdy vibe. This CD is perhaps a comment on the experience of Asian Americans in America, but mostly it's just a lot of fun. Especially the monumental "Numbers" which teaches you to count in Korean. The uplifting chorus of "1, 2, 3, 4, 5" has the sort of hands-in-the-air portentousness of a Journey ballad, with a machine beat that harks back to Kraftwerk's "Numbers."



Rex Sharqi Songs To Fall In Love

Rex Sharqi's album *Songs To Fall In Love To* is an album made by an engagingly modest Iowa City/Columbia supergroup comprising Columbia's Asia Wong (of the Leah Quinelle All Stars Featuring Happy), and Iowa City musicians Zach Lint (a.k.a. Coolzey), Daren Ho (Racoooooon) and Pi Nuerenberg. Every song is in waltz time and sounds straight out of the American Popular Song tradition—Stephen Foster and Danny Elfman come to mind. With a song about the love affair between a wolf and a lamb ("Carnivorous Love"), cuttlefish ("Cuttlefish Waddle") and crabs ("Hermit Crab On the 59th Street Bridge"), these guys apparently dig *Aesop's Fables*, as well. The squeeze-box, violin, guitar and understated drums give these songs a front-parlor intimacy. It's literally home-made, and that's a good thing.



Witch's Hat Mastery of Steel

This CD is the band's attempt to bring Awesomeness back to rock music. With songs about a dragon-slayer ("Huzzah"), a vampire ("Glodyany 1972") and a love affair with a

space alien ("Space Baby"), you might think they're not being entirely serious. But WH loves artists like Freddy Mercury, Dio and Neil Diamond unreservedly for their razzmatazz and showmanship. It's a refreshing change from the po-faced gloom that pervades most indie-rock.

"Huzzah" isn't just a winking tribute to Heavy Metal's medievalists, it's also the best song ever about dragons, heroes and princesses. The chorus is the sort of triumph-alist hook that you'll never get out of your head. My only complaint about this CD is that it sounds like it was recorded with indie-rock sonics—the songs are wonderful, but Witch's Hat deserves to be pumped up with monumental, big-budget production values. This band is completely over the top, and as awesomely awesome as awesome gets.



Iowa City Yacht Club Live 2005

Iowa City Yacht Club (where, to keep up the IC/MO linkage, featured Kim Chi live recently) is not a place I can claim any objectivity about—I've always loved it as a venue. It's first incarnation in the '80s made it a favorite destination for live music, and current owner Scott Kading bought the building just to bring it back after several year's absence. ICYC's size, sound system and ambience make it my favorite place to hear live music, and for many musicians, it's also their favorite place to play. *Live 2005* collects performances by local heroes like Dave Zollo, Public Property, Euforquestra and Dennis McMurrin. The sound quality is remarkable for mixing board recordings—well balanced and clear. It's the best of both worlds—the live vibe is thick, and for once you can really hear it. If you have any love for the bands represented, you need this CD. And if you visit the Yacht Club for a show, you can buy the CD, drink a few Beachhouse Blondes and catch some live music the way it was supposed to be heard. **lv**

Art/Exhibits

African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center

55 12th Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 877-526-1863

Africans in Iowa, ongoing.

AKAR

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

Mary Barringer, Mark Shapiro, Jun. 23-Jul. 13 • Works by Laurie Shaman, Deborah Schwartzkopf, Don Reitz, Douglas Johnson, & Dan Anderson. Jul. 14-Aug. 3 • Works by Allison McGowan, Randy Johnston, Wayne Branum, Sandy Simon, & Sam Taylor, Aug. 4-24.

Alberhasky Eye Clinic

2346 Mormon Trek Blvd., Iowa City, 337-2220

Wilford Yoder, photography, through Jul. 10.

Arts Iowa City

103 E. College St., Iowa City, 337-7447

Sights of the Summer, through Aug. 31.

The Art Mission

14 S. Linn St., Iowa City

Ephraim Faience pottery, through Jul. 1.

Bruce more

2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-7375

The Families of the Bruce more, ongoing.

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

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

Material Girl, Cat Chow, through Sep. 3 • *Face to Face*, portrait prints, through Aug. 13 • *Art in Roman Life*, through Dec. 31.

The Cottage

14 S Linn St., Iowa City, 358-5533

Angela S. Tornbanc, through Aug. 15.

Faulconer Gallery

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

"All Alumni Art Show," through Jul. 2 • Frank

Breuer, photographs, Jul. 21-Sep. 17 • *Indigo Gives America the Blues*, Jul. 21-Sep. 17.

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

110 Parkside Dr., West Branch, 643-2541

The Sixties: The Time They Are a-Changin', through Oct. 29.

The History Center

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

Living Along the Tributaries, ongoing • *Timequest*, ongoing.

Hudson River Gallery

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

Mark John Hoffman, oil paintings, Jun. 2-Jul. 15.

Iowa Artisans Gallery

207 E. Washington, Iowa City, 351-8686

Through the Parks, pastel paintings by Marcia Wegman, through Jul. 17 • Akiko Edmondson, Raku vessels & wall pieces, Jul. 21-Aug. 27.

Iowa City Chamber of Commerce

325 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 337-9637

Oil paintings by Martha Fulton, Ceramics & Watercolors by John Siewert, Jun. 2-Jul. 29.

Meta Home

Old Capitol Town Center

Clinton St., Iowa City, 351-0508

Russian Streetscapes, oil paintings by Sabine Golz, through Jul. 15.

Mount Mercy College

1330 Elmhurst Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids

Lundy Commons

Summer Student Art Exhibit, through Sep. 13.

Mythos

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

From One Man's Folly: Meditations on the Aftermath of War, new work by David Dunlap, Gelsy Verna, David Hefner, Liz Haven and Marco Maisto, Opening Reception, Jul. 4, 5-9pm, exhibit through July.

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

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

Prague Between History and Dreams, through Jul. 16 • *Embellished Textiles—Absolutely Art!*, through Oct. 1 • *Homelands: The Story of the Czech and Slovak People*, ongoing.

Senior Center

28 S. Linn Street, Iowa City, 356-5222

A Roving Eye, Rod Strampe, through Jul. 30.

UI Hospitals and Clinics

Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417

All exhibits, Patient & Visitor Activities Center, 8th floor John Colloton Pavilion unless noted otherwise.

Stolen Dreams, through Jul. 17, Gallery 1 • The Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Tribute, photographs from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, through Jul. 21, Galley 1 • *The Recycle Bin*, Shaun Majid, through Aug. 22, 1st floor John Colloton Pavilion • Pam Ohnemus, paintings, through Sep. 1, Galley 3.

UI Museum of Art

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

The Ghost Elm and Other Views from Tenecre, Virginia A. Myers, through Jul. 9, Carver Gallery • Mauricio Lasansky: *The Nazi Drawings*, through Jul. 30, Carver Gallery.

West Bank

229 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City

Iowa Artists at the Marriott Public Spaces-Part II, through Jul. 15.

Music

Chauncey Swan Park

Gilbert and Washington Streets, Iowa City

All music, 5pm.

Kalimbaman, Jul. 5 • Ron Hillis, Jul. 12 • Alan & Aleta Murphy, Jul. 19 • Bob & Kristi Black, Jul. 26 • The Drollingers, Aug. 2 • Dave Moore, Aug. 9 • Mark Hartstack, Aug. 16 • The Gilded Bats, Aug. 23 • Robert Morey, Aug. 26 • Big Wooden Radio, Aug. 31.



GREG BROWN
AUG 26



NASHVILLE STAR
SEP 7



BIG 80s TRIBUTE
SEP 15



SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL
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IRIS DEMENT
OCT 28



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Clapp Recital Hall

UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1160

All-State Music Camp Jazz Concert, Jul. 1, 10am • UI Jazz Faculty Recital, Jul. 7, 8pm.

Emerald City

712 2nd Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids

All music, 7pm.

Damiera, Forth Effect, Cantus Firmus, Lakeshore Drive, Jul. 8 • the Felix Culpa, the Lovekill, Cantus Firmus, Lakeshore Drive, Jul. 9 • Cambridge, Jul. 24 • Eyes Like Aster, Aug. 3 • Hudson, Aug. 6.

Englert Theatre

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

The Music Man, Jul. 28-30, Aug. 4-6 • Of Montreal, Aug. 8 • Greg Brown, Aug. 26, 8pm.

First Presbyterian Church

2701 Rochester Ave., Iowa City

Messiah, Chamber Singers of Iowa City, Saturdays, 7:30pm & Sundays, 3pm, through Nov. 5.

Gabe's

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

Early show: Race to the Bottom, Breakdance, Requiem, Murder of Crows; Late show: The Plastic Constellations, FT (Shadow Government), Static Static, Jul. 2 • Deathships, The Diplomats of Solid Sound, The Bent Scepters, Rusty Buckets, Baron Von Ottomatic, Andy Caffrey, The Great Lakes, Boo Hiss, more TBA, Jul. 3 • Dale Watson, Jul. 4.

Harper Hall

Voxman Music Building, UI Campus, 335-1603

UI Jazztet, Jul. 26, 8pm.

Iowa City Jazz Festival

Downtown Iowa City, Main Stage

South Shore Youth Jazz Ensemble, UI Jazz Ensemble with Robin Eubanks, Mel Rhyne Trio, Immediate Left featuring Tim Hagans & Scott Kinsey, Bad Plus, Jul. 1, 2-10pm. • Bob Dorr and the Blue Band, Rachael Price, Andy Milne and Dapp Theory, Geoffery Keezer Trio, Mingus Dynasty, Jul. 2, 12-8pm.

The Java House

211 E Washington St, Iowa City, 335-5730

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

Any Finders with Four Feet High and Rising, Jul. 7 • Matthew Maybanks, Jul. 14.

The Mill

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

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

Nice Peter, Jul. 1 • Public Property, Jul. 3 • The Brakes, Jul. 6 • Tom Kinders Hands and Feet, Jul.



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Wed 07.12

Thu 07.13

Fri 07.14

Sat 07.15

Wed 07.19

Thu 07.20

Fri 07.21

Sun 07.23

Thu 07.27

Fri 07.28

Fri 08.04

Sat 08.12

Sat 08.19

The Mill Pub Quiz ! @ 9pm General knowledge quiz with prizes!

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David Haack Band w/ guest Sarah Woolover pop-rock

Catfish Keith world class acoustic blues

Nice Peter raunchy rock comedy

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The Brakes Smooth Philly soul-pop

Tom Kinders Hands and Feet funk-fusion wonder

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7 • Matt Bar, Jul. 8 • Stuart Davis, Jul. 9, 8pm • No River City, Deathships, Jul. 12 • NYCO, Jul. 13 • Pieta Brown & Bo Ramsey, Jul. 14, 7pm • Shame Train, Jul. 15 • Goran Ivanovic Group, Jul. 19, 8pm • Dave Alvin, Jul. 20 • The Pines, Jul. 21 • Carla Bozulich, The Dead Science, Jul. 23 • Big Sandy and His Fly Rite Boys, Diplomats of Solid Sound, Jul. 27 • Public Property, Jul. 28 • Myr. Babers Neighbor, Aug. 4.

Paramount Theatre

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

Iowa Ambassadors of Music, Jul. 2, 7:30pm.

Pedestrian Mall

Downtown Iowa City

Friday Night Concert Series

All music, 6:30pm.

William Elliott Whitmore, The Diplomats of Solid Sound, Jul. 7 • Mike and Amy Finders Band, Jul. 14 • Groove Ship, Jul. 21 • B.F. Burt and the Instigators, Jul. 28 • Ben Schmidt, Sam Knudson, Patrick Brickell, The Ghosts of Radio, Aug. 4 • Rock Lobster, Aug. 11 • Unyted Nationz, Dave Moore, Aug. 18 • Orquestra Alto Maiz, Aug. 25.

Pentacrest

UI Campus, Downtown Iowa City

Saturday Night Free Movie Series

The Iowa City Community Band, Jul. 8 • Highway Shelter, Jul. 15 • Nikki Lunden, Jul. 22 • Paleo, Jul. 29 • Yellow Notebook, Aug. 5 • Jesus Don't Like Killin,' Aug. 12 • Aaron Shafer, Aug. 19 • Greg Thompson & Emily Ginsberg, Aug. 26.

Q Bar

211 Iowa Ave, Iowa City, 337-9107

Public Property, Jul. 3 • Bad Fathers, Aug. 4.

Record Collector

125 E Washington St., Iowa City, 337-5029

Bonnie Prince Billy, Aug. 13

Sanctuary

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

All music, 10pm.

Friends with Benefits, Jul. 8 • Steve Grismore Trio, Jul. 22 • Polutropos, Jul. 29 • Lake Street Dive, Bridget Kearney & Rachael Price, Aug. 11-12.

S.T. Morrison Park

1512 Fifth St., Coralville, 354-3006

All music, 6:30pm.

Scott Cochran, Flannel, Jul. 6 • Groove Ship, Jul. 20 • Funk 101, Aug. 3 • Big Wooden Radio, Aug. 10 •

UI Hospitals and Clinics

Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417

Colloton Atrium, noon.

Kevin B.F. Burt, Jul. 6, 8th floor terrace • Patsy Wellman, Jul. 13, 8th floor terrace • Courthill Woodwind Quintet, Jul. 14 • Shinbone Alley, Jul. 20, 8th floor terrace • UIHC Brass, Jul. 21 • Nancy

Cree's Piano Students, Jul. 26 • Lazyboy and the Recliners, Jul. 27, 8th floor terrace.

Uptown Bills

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

Open mic, Fridays, 8pm.

West Music

1212 5th St. Coralville, 351-2000

Battle of the Bands, Jul. 15 • Fiddle Fest with the Mayflies, Jul. 22 • RAGBRAI Campfire, Jul. 28

Yacht Club

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

Blues Jam, Sundays, 9pm; Throwdown: Free Dance Party, Tuesday nights; Jam Band Jam, Wednesdays, 10 pm. All music, 9pm.

Dennis McMurrin and the Demolition Band, Jul. 1 • Hunab Ku, Minus Six, Jul. 7 • Carlos Johnson, Jul. 8 • Groovatron, New Beat Society, Jul. 14 • DJ Jason Heyland, Jul. 15 • Funkmaster Cracker, Spencenter in Prime Time, Jul. 20 • Nickelbagofunk, Rearview Mirror, Jul. 21 • New Beat Society, Jul. 27 • Jensen Connection, Jul. 28 • Jazzholes, Jul. 29 • Dennis McMurrin and the Demolition Band, Aug. 5 • Euforquestra, Bamboo, Aug. 26.

Theater/Performance/ Dance/Comedy

Brucemore

2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-7375

The Fantasticks, Jul. 13-16, 20-23, 8pm.

Chait Galleries Downtown

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

“Tango & Tapas,” music by Alan Swanson, dance by Habeas Corpus, Jul. 14, 7pm.

Englert Theatre

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

Beauty and the Beast, Jul. 1, 2pm & 7pm • *The Pirates of Penzance* Jul. 16, 2pm, Jul. 21-22, 8pm • Releve Dance Company, Aug. 18-19.

Old Brick Auditorium

26 E. Market St., Iowa City, 319-466-4245

Kahraman Dance Weekend, Jul. 28-29.

Penguins Comedy Club

209 First Ave. S.E., Cedar Rapids, 362-8133

Ty Barnett, Jul. 1, 7:30pm & 10pm • Flava Flav, Jul. 7, 7pm & 9:30pm • L.A. Hardy, Jul. 7-8 • “Uncle Lar” Larry Reeb, Nathan Craig, Jul. 14-15 • Robert Kelly, Jay Davis, Bob Bigerstaff, Jul. 21, 7:30pm & 10pm • Paul Frisbie, Bob Bigerstaff, Jul. 22 • Amateur Night, Jul. 27, 7:30pm • Scott Novotny, Jeremy Essig, Jul. 28-29 • Donny Baker, Brian Noonan, John Garrett, Aug. 4-5 • Bill Bauer, Matt Fugate, Aug. 11-12 • Kevin Bozeman, Marques Bunn, Aug. 18-19 • Sean Kent, Matthew Lumpkin, Aug. 25-26 • Amateur Night, Aug. 31, 7:30pm.

Riverside Festival Stage

Lower City Park, Iowa City

The Tempest, Jul. 1, 5, 7, 8pm, Jul. 2, 7pm • *Twelfth Night*, Jul. 6, 8, 8pm, Jul. 9, 7pm.

Theatre Cedar Rapids

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

Urinetown, Jul. 14-15, 18, 20, 7:30pm, Jul. 16, 2:30pm.

UI Theatres

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

The Artificial Jungle, Jul. 1, 5, 11-12, 16, 18-20, 8pm, David Thayer Theatre • *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, Jul. 5, 7-9, 8pm, Theatre B • *The Allergists Wife*, Jul. 13-15, 21-23, 8pm, E.C. Mabie Theatre • *Red Scare on Sunset*, Jul. 23, 2pm, Theatre B.

Words

The Java House

211 E Washington St, Iowa City, 335-5730

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

Michelle Edwards, Jul. 7 • Paula Morris, Douglas Goetsch, James McKean, Jul. 14.

Prairie Lights

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

All 7 pm, broadcast live on WSUI.

The University Club Writers' Group, Jul. 6 • Bob Leonard, Jul. 7 • Paula Morris, Jul. 10 • Anne Bauer, Jul. 11 • Hope Edelman, Jul. 12 • Greg Hewett, Ted Mathys, Jul. 13 • Marvin Bell, Jul. 17 • John McNally, Jul. 19 • Juliet Patterson, Jul. 20 • J.C. Hallman, Jul. 21 • Jason Roberts, Jul. 25 • Robin Hemley, Jul. 27 • Melissa Fraterrigo, Alicia Conroy, Jul. 28.

Senior Center

28 S. Linn Street, Iowa City, 356-5222

“Life Passages through Literature” class, Thursdays, through Jul. 13, 10-11:30am • Book Club, Tuesdays, through Aug. 15, 9:30-10:30am.

UI Museum of Art

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

Know the Score LIVE, Mozart & Shostakovich show, Aug. 25, 5pm.

Film/Video

Bijou Theatre

UI Memorial Union

UI Campus, 335-3258

2006 Oscar Shorts, Jul. 6-19 • *Brick* and other TBA, Jul. 20-26.

Iowa City Public Library

123 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200

Mtg. Rm. A

Winter Soldier, Jul. 13, 7pm.

Pentacrest

UI Campus, Downtown Iowa City
Saturday Night Free Movie Series

All films, 9pm.

Superman, Jul. 8 • *The Birds*, Jul. 15 • *School of Rock*, Jul. 22 • Silent Film TBA, Jul. 29 • *The Goonies*, Aug. 5 • *Casablanca*, Aug. 12 • *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, Aug. 19 • *The Raiders of the Lost Ark*, Aug. 26.

Public Access Television

Bike-in Theatre

206 Lafayette St., Iowa City, 338-7035

All films, 9pm.

Errol Morris Documentaries, Jul. 12 • Lost and Found Videos, Jul. 26 • *Wild Wheels*, *Heat Vision and Jack*, Aug. 9 • AV Geeks Archive, Aug. 23.

S.T. Morrison Park

1512 Fifth St., Coralville, 354-3006

Wallace & Grommit: *Curse of the Were-Rabbit*, Jul. 13, 9pm.

Misc.

Chauncey Swan Park

Gilbert and Washington Streets, Iowa City

Farmers' Market, Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30pm,
Saturdays, 7:30-11:30am.

Emma Goldman Clinic

227 N. Dubuque St., Iowa City, 337-2111

Dog Wash, Jul. 15, noon-3pm.

Englert Theatre

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

Iowa City Record Fair, Jul. 2, 10am-4pm.

Lamrim Buddhist Center

10 S Gilbert St, Iowa City, 331-1851

"How to Solve Our Human Problems," Mondays, 7:30pm.

North Dodge and Ace Hardware

600 N. Dodge St., Iowa City, 354-4112

Farmers' Market, Fridays, 5-7:30 pm & Sundays,
1-3:30 pm.

New Pioneer Co-op

1101 Second St., Coralville, 358-5513

All Cooking Events 6pm.

Summer Tapas with Liz Clark, Jul. 5, • Cooking with Salsa with Tim Palmer, Jul. 6, • Peach Party with Elizabeth Weinberg, Jul. 11.

Old Brick Auditorium

26 E. Market St., Iowa City, 319-466-4245

Alliance for Mental Health Sale, Aug. 18-19.

S.T. Morrison Park

1512 Fifth St., Coralville, 354-3006

Farmers' Market, Thursdays & Mondays, 5-8pm,

Sycamore Mall

Sycamore St. and Highway 6, Iowa City

Farmers' Market, Tuesdays, 3-6:30 pm.



MudRiver

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Hustle & Blow

..... The benefits to going oral

"The clitoris is not a doorbell."

—Nina Hartley

The difference between the porn-stars and the unhappy hubbies at home lies not within the man but on his leading ladies' faces. No, it's not that sticky white substance ubiquitous in porn films and egg-fertilization, but rather in her smile.

Partners at home can have such a smile, too, once they learn the pleasure of being a cock-pleaser. The same guidelines apply to pussy-pleasing, only with different tactics. The benefits of being a Sex Positive Feminist (SPF) include guilt-free sexual pleasure in consensual, adult play and an ever-growing self-confidence that comes from knowing you can both attract and fulfill.

The best oral sex is one part egotism and one part altruism—you do it both for yourself and your partner. After that, the formula has endless combinations. The popular 69, for instance, can take different bottom-top, side-sucking or limb-entangling positions. Imagination is the key. Recently, Queen Zelda herself discovered the orgasmic joy of sucking while being sucked (for the first time!). Yes, even us sexperts have not experienced it all, though believe me, we're trying.

The side-suck is probably the easiest to balance, perform and achieve equal suck-cess. I've always had issues receiving from the top, and I definitely have issues giving from the bottom. So the side-suck seems the most egalitarian, as well. Save the 69 for special occasions or just when it feels right. You don't want such an equal-opportunity orgasm to get boring.

I have to admit, although that aforementioned bed-adventure was rather exhilarating, the good ol' fashioned on-yeer-knees position is my preference for everyday encounters. One thing about getting hot 'n' heavy is that it gives the body the freedom to wriggle and jiggle in any direction it feels like. Take this opportunity to slide off the bed, call him over

to sit over your kneeling body, and boy, will he get excited.

SPF's know it's okay to be a bottom, to submit yourself to your partner's pleasure. Getting to know your partner's psychological desires is another benefit to going oral. Without the freedom of manipulating bodies and positions, or at least discussing the possibility, you might miss out on that mental bond established through sexual collaboration.

The best oral sex is one part ego-
tism and one part
altruism—you do
it both for yourself
and your partner.

A benefit of the on-yeer-knees position—besides having firmer ground from which to lick and suck—is being able to physically communicate your desire to serve someone you love and/or respect. Your partner will get the point that you're enjoying yourself on multiple levels.

For an SPF, one of the best benefits is getting to know the human body and all of its nuanced preferences. Surprises are certainly fantabulous, and going oral allows for far more creativity and inventiveness with the head and hands and mouth than straight-up sex. After all, without surprises, how would any relationship endure the long-term companionate coupledness that American culture calls for?

Just for those curious ones out there, Queen Zelda has a few initiating tips. Never ever begin by going for the gold—unless they ask for it, of course. Make them tremble, as *Rocky Horror*'s Dr. Frank-N-Furter said, "with antici...pation".

Wannabe cock-pleasers can lay their faces against his thighs, brush their lips along his head or play his shaft like a tiny, keyless pia-

no. The difficulty lies not within the ability to excite a guy—his body does that himself more often than not—but rather within the ability to vary the motions and sustain the salivation. (You need enough saliva to make that smacking sound they love.) Knowing you give better head than the sexually repressed is a benefit in and of itself.

For a complete set of instructions on how to blow a man, Queen Zelda recommends consulting pages 109-110 of Jenna Jameson's *How to Make Love Like a Porn Star* or Nina Hartley's *Guide to Oral Sex*. Jameson documents her "10 Commandments" of giving head and Hartley shows you how. *Guide to Oral Sex* also contains a segment on pleasing female genitalia, complete with an instructional pussy-puppet.

Wannabe pussy-pleasers must always start off slowly and work their fingers and mouths towards her pearl. Once the clit is hard, she can feel waves of vibrations from the tiniest movements. So, yes, less is definitely more. Hearing her oooh and ahhh over your mad finger-tongue combinations will boost not only your ego but also your sense of sexual self.

And the boosting doesn't stop there. Reaching orgasm in any situation increases oxytocin levels, the neurochemical that causes a woman to feel a bond with her child while breastfeeding. Oxytocin is the emotional nectar of the neurochemical gods. If serotonin makes you happy, oxytocin makes you love.

Scientists attribute the elation caused by oxytocin to the rhythmic vibrations of certain actions. An orgasm, they say, occurs with peaks beating 40 to 50 times per minute, the same rate at which an infant sucks its mother's nipple. Natalie Angier, author of *Women: An Intimate Geography*, suggested a connection between orgasms, perpetual motion machines and nirvana. Can oral sex lead to enlightenment? Queen Zelda cannot imagine giving head that fast... but scrotum-licking is another story. **lv**

Pink Cashmere Kink is a bi-monthly column written by sex-positive feminist, Queen Zelda. Queen Zelda wants everyone to get laid as much as possible. Her bottom line: enjoy yourself, respect your partner.

FORECAST FOR JULY 2006

♈ ARIES—For the next couple of years, the planets want you to delve into your deepest thoughts and feelings. Explore issues you hide from the public and even from yourself. Where job and other interactions with the work-a-day world are concerned, let others take the lead. Your ideas about such things are pretty well outdated. Success on the job will depend on the success of your inner quest to free yourself from old hang-ups. However, the planets are providing shelter, support, and guarantees to protect you from any fallout.

♉ TAURUS—It is time to start making some complicated choices. Who do you want to share your life with? Who do you want in your home? What do you require in return? How do you balance family and work? You are also being strongly urged to expand your horizons mentally and spiritually and to reach out to people at a distance. You have to start taking your personal and professional life to the next level. Through it all, keep the budget within bounds and preserve the sanctity of your home.

♊ GEMINI—You will be dealing with issues of affection and love in July. Trust strengthens love. Both parties must know that the other person will hold up their end of the bargain. The end of July should bring the opportunities you need and/or a chance to make necessary adjustments. Many of the issues affecting relationships stem from finances and work. Negotiations with higher ups, while tricky, should ultimately lead to better working conditions and more money. Big changes are coming. The planets will support and protect you during any transitions.

♋ CANCER—The planets are pushing you hard and fast in the direction of greater philanthropic and spiritual involvements. This is likely to include counter-cultural and New Age ideas, alternative healing and paranormal phenomena. If you are already interested in such things, that interest is likely to deepen considerably. Your life will tend to rearrange itself so you can comfortably and conveniently accommodate these new involvements. They might also start contributing to your income. Love and affection are strongly highlighted. Don't let fears left over from past relationship failures hinder you.

♌ LEO—There is a lot going on this month even by Leo's standards. Love and relationship issues are strongly stimulated. There is a lot of intensity, drama and some very stubborn obstacles. Add to that many private anxieties related to all these issues. But you don't quite have the energy to deal with all this stuff. Fortunately, the planets are also providing a big, strong safety net. In the end, it will all boil down to making some tough, smart, long-term financial decisions so that every one can be accommodated.

♍ VIRGO—It's tough to harmonize family and work responsibilities and sustain hope of achieving cherished personal goals especially during times of rapid change. Imagine your surprise, then, when, during a period of turbulent and thoroughgoing change, you avoid any serious problems and all the pieces fall in the right place. Keep work responsibilities within bounds and maintain balance in important relationships. Everything else should take care of itself. Let peace of mind be your barometer. If work or partnership issues undermine your peace of mind, it's time to do change.

♎ LIBRA—Your changing situation is bringing sobering realizations. However, being realistic about life doesn't mean settling for less. Seeing the limitations of people you love doesn't mean giving in to cynicism. These things mean finding a more realistic starting point and building on a more solid foundation. But keeping cherished dreams alive must always be part of the deal. Let your dreams be your touchstone. When the demands of work and romance threaten your fondest dreams, make changes in work and romantic relationships. The planets are looking after your interests.

♏ SCORPIO—The promise of change and growth endures, but so do certain obstacles to your progress. This month, there might not be a great leap forward. The basics will remain the same. However, things will change so that everything is easier to deal with and allows you greater room to maneuver. After July, doing what you must do won't conflict so strongly with doing what you want to do. If you communicate your needs and desires, others will achieve a deeper, intuitive understanding and respond more fully. Negotiation is key.


♐ SAGITTARIUS—You can play a very important part in bringing about beneficial changes. Help others act with hope and confidence. You won't have as much information as you'd like and there will be even less money than there is information. What you do know leads you to suspect further problems. And you know that these changes will only get you part way to your goal. However, you can be confident that the overall effect will be good. You are in a position to benefit directly and/or indirectly from whatever happens.

♑ CAPRICORN—The world is loosening up, generally speaking. People are willing to consider many possibilities they would have rejected before and so are you. Also, you are protected from any really bad outcomes. But money is an issue. Money is not so much tight as it is uncertain. So as you consider the various options and combinations of options, be sure to choose those that safeguard long-term savings and ensure a steady and adequate cash flow. Simpler is better and, for the time being, closer to home is better.

♒ AQUARIUS—Aquarians are certainly used to center stage. However, you will probably not be prepared for all the attention you'll get this month. You will play a key roll in a big transition. Many of the loose ends will fall right into your lap. People will need to understand how to move forward and you must provide directions. They will be very interested in your ideas and need to clearly understand what you are thinking. You must express your ideas fully and help others manifest the solutions that you envision.

♓ PISCES—The planets are being supportive and protective, but you could be put on the spot as people seek your insight and guidance. They could try to draw you in as they seek clear direction. You might not be able to maintain the distance, detachment and privacy that you very much prefer. You will probably have to think long and hard then follow up with some long, detailed conversations to achieve resolution. Issues of trust and empowerment will come up often in the midst of these complicated but manageable interactions.

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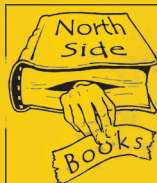
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