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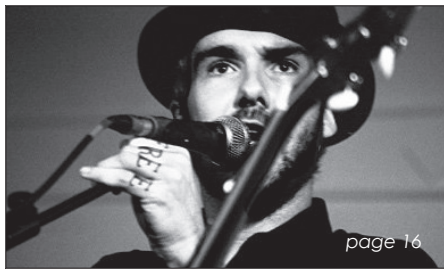
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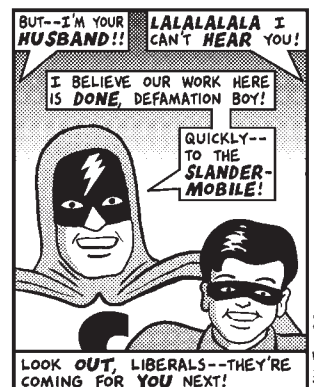
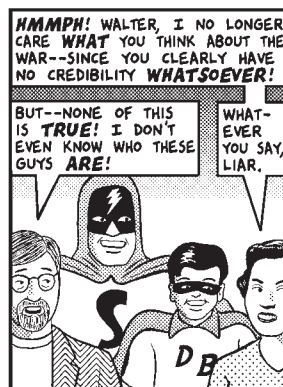
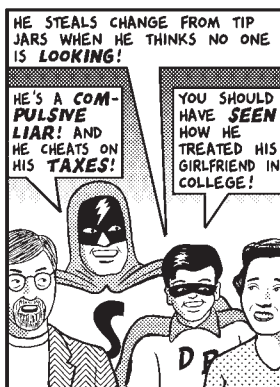
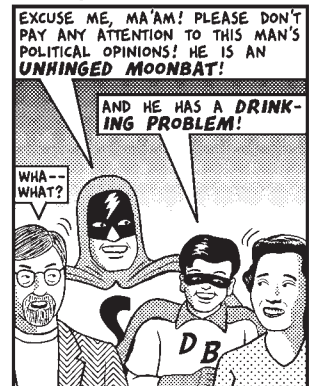
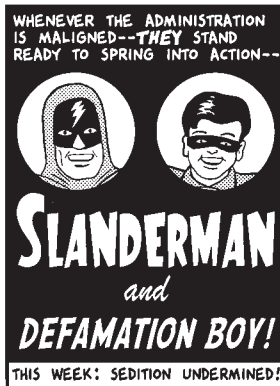
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**THIS MODERN WORLD**

by TOM TOMORROW



TOM TOMORROW © 2006 ... www.thismodernworld.com



# A fond farewell

**T**his November, our local communities say some farewells many probably would rather not make.

Here in Iowa City, Pak and Cherry Nurack, owners of one of our best restaurants and community institutions, will be turning over the keys of Thai Flavors Community Restaurant to friends. Pak and Cherry will be returning to their native Thailand, in part to care for elderly parents. Of course, no one can fault this wonderful couple for moving on to a new phase in life, particularly to return to their home country and care for their elders. But many here in Iowa City will miss them greatly, including me and my family.

In the last two or three years, Thai Flavors has become our favorite family restaurant. The first time we went was to support a fundraising initiative of a service group in which our 6<sup>th</sup>-grade son was involved through his Lucas Elementary classroom, at the inspiration of that greatest of activist teachers, Alisa Meggitt. Pak and Cherry take the “community” in their restaurant’s name very seriously. Once a week, 10 percent of their profits go to nonprofit organizations. For a long time, dinner at Thai Flavors

was accompanied by a survey of local, national and international issues, and patron responses were regularly posted. The small, informal restaurant is peppered with a mélange of telling wall hangings, including the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights, signs condemning the corrupt prime minister of Thailand, posters urging tolerance and respect of all people, and autographed photos of the many political candidates (yes, overwhelmingly Democratic) who have visited the place. You never knew who is going to walk into Thai Flavors. A few weeks ago, while my family and I were having dinner there, Congressional candidate Dave Loebsack walked in to help support that evening’s Johnson County Democrats community night, and he made the rounds to most of the tables. The Nuracks’ vision of combining hospitality, good food, locally based business and activism has won Thai Flavors the Iowa City Human Rights Award.

The civic engagement of Thai Flavors is a bit heady to maintain our kids’ enthusiasm for the place. It’s the food that keeps us coming back—and the family atmosphere. When you walk into the small establishment on Burlington St., its plain and unpretentious décor, the smell of noodles and spices filling the air, and the sincere beam of welcome on Cherry’s face as she points you to a

table make it feel like you’re coming home to Mom’s for dinner. Despite the novella-length menu, it didn’t take Cherry long to remember the grooves of our habits, and our orders for Country Noodles, Hawkeye Rolls, Tofu Satae and sweet rice were being written down on her pad practically before we uttered our regular litany. The delight on Pak’s always beaming face when he comes out to the dining room for a break from the kitchen, his chef’s hat tilted to the side of his round head, punctuates dinner with good cheer and hospitality. Even when the place was overrun with sixth graders from Lucas on that particular community night I mentioned before, Pak could find nothing but joy in the chaos, cajoling all the kids to hug the large round post in the middle of the floor for good luck while snapping their pictures.

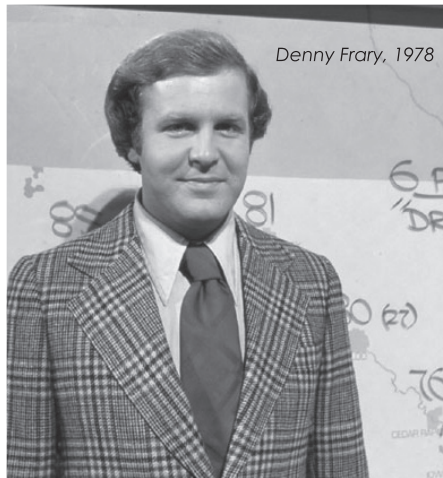
I know that the Nuracks were careful to leave Thai Flavors in the good hands of trusted friends who are dedicated to continuing the community traditions, personal warmth and great cuisine that they have established. Their successors, in fact, have been working with the Nuracks for several months now, learning the recipes and the traditions. I’m grateful this great restaurant will continue here in Iowa City, and I wish the new owners all the best. We’ll still be regulars. But just as you can’t replace Mom and Dad, we’ll miss Pak

and Cherry tremendously, at the same time we wish them the best of luck and happiness as they return home.

On the heels of learning of the Nuracks' departure, I also learned that longtime KCRG Channel 9 weathercaster Denny Frary will also be leaving us this November. I have always been a "weather geek." I have written often about the significance of atmospheric to our life in place. The rain, snow, sunshine, temperature, humidity, tornadoes, subzero temperatures—all of these are part of who we are as Midwesterners and Iowans. So I've always felt a special relationship with the weather folks on the local news. They are among our most important ministers of place.

There are many perfectly competent TV meteorologists out there. But once in a while, someone comes along who becomes more than just an information dispenser or a familiar face. The weathercaster becomes someone with whom you feel kinship, who becomes more like a favorite uncle. After all, there really isn't anyone on the news who just keeps you in the immediate moment and immediate place, and whose main message to you, very often, is "tomorrow you're going to have a beautiful day." This weathercaster connection happened to me early in life. Growing up in Rockford, Ill., I loved to watch Channel 13 weatherman Rollie Sponberg. Back in those days, TV stations didn't especially care about professional meteorological credentials, so I doubt Rollie had ever studied an atmospheric chart in his life. But he knew weather, and this very short older man with thinning hair, large lips and gentle, avuncular ways inspired me to get out of bed, even as a three-year-old, to watch him with my parents on the 10 o'clock news if I wasn't able to sleep. Knowing what Rollie thought the weather was going to be tomorrow, for some reason, was just as good as a bedtime story.

I discovered that I hadn't really outgrown my quest for a Rollie Sponberg when I attended graduate school at The University of Iowa in the late 1980s and early '90s. Very quickly, I became a Denny Frary fan. His white hair, impish smile, jocular relationship with the rest of the news team and infectious love for the weather made me know right away that he was "my" weatherman. Even when I first saw Denny in 1986, he had been at Channel 9 for some time, a stalwart, dedicated figure in a local news environment that, even then, saw on-air faces come and go with amazing frequency. Although a fellow native Illinoisan, it was clear that Denny Frary was an eastern Iowan through and through. His Weatherspotter Network—the conglomeration of housewives, elderly folks and others who called in temper-



Denny Frary, 1978

There really isn't anyone on the news who often tells you "Tomorrow, you're going to have a beautiful day."

atures and rainfall amounts—was more like an extended virtual community, even before the innovations of Facebook and MySpace. Through daily mentions, I almost thought I got to know Mrs. Ekhart in Waukon and the boys at the fire station in Oelwein. I felt a connection to those communities and to the region through their trusty attention to what was happening in the world outside their back door, overseen by our common link, Denny.

Like listening to familiar old favorite songs, I found comfort in the predictable pet phrases that Denny regales us with—the "liquid gold" of much-needed rain, for example, or "the three c's (clear, calm, and cold)" that let us know we should make sure the furnace is turned up a notch on a bitter winter night. When nasty weather threatened—the dark clouds that portend tornadoes—I have to admit that watching Denny chart the progress of the storm cells lent to the excitement and anxiety of such dramatic hours a structure and famil-

ilarity that helped create a sense of collective experience. And I really did learn things from Denny, too. I have always been tickled by his special interest in tight pressure gradients, and I know what those are now—isobars bunched together closely so that air moves quickly "from the mountain of the high to the valley of the low"—during dramatic shifts from low to high-pressure systems. On particularly windy days, I always knowingly announce to my wife, "Tight pressure gradient."

During the eight years between leaving graduate school and returning to Iowa City, I never found another Denny Frary on the airwaves of the communities in which we lived. I looked for one, but no one could measure up or capture my affection in the same way. I sincerely missed Denny a lot, and I came to realize how significant a role he played in my sense of place here in Iowa. I visited Iowa a few times during those years, and if Channel 9 came through on the motel or hotel cable selection, I always checked to make sure Denny was still kicking around his old weather magic. When we moved back to Iowa City in 1999, I basked in Denny's continued presence, and he played a big part in my sense of coming home.

But all good things must come to an end. Denny has been at Channel 9 for over 30 years, and it's time for us to let him go and enjoy retirement. I wish it weren't so, and, like Thai Flavors, Channel 9 will never be quite the same. Because of these departures, our place will never be quite the same, either. New torchbearers will carry on, and they'll probably be wonderful people. But in mid-November, I will be sad on that evening when my family leaves the warmth of Pak and Cherry's place, bellies full of Country Noodles and sweet rice, and later when I turn on the news to see Denny make his final forecast. The Nuracks' friends will make us Country Noodles again, and Joe Winters will still tell me my tomorrow will be beautiful, but a part of me will always wish our old friends could come back. Best of luck to you, Pak, Cherry and Denny. May your new lives be full of good food and camaraderie, and may all your tomorrows be beautiful. **IV**

*Thomas Dean writes a lot about the weather. The autumn is his favorite season, though he loves them all for how they define our place. Dean has to admit, though, that he finds late winter tiresome. His first book of collected essays, Under a Midland Sky, will be published by the Ice Cube Press in 2007.*

# Serving up thanks

*Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others.*

—Cicero

**N**ovember is the time of our best, most important holiday. Celebrations of the harvest have existed for as long as civilization, for indeed it was agriculture that necessitated both, but this particular holiday is uniquely American. Or at least it was, until other former British colonies started having a festival called Thanksgiving, too.

There are those who enjoy pointing out the tragic irony of the American Thanksgiving, that it was originally a celebration of the bountiful harvest provided by the native inhabitants of this land, who were subsequently slaughtered by the beneficiaries of that kindness. But post hoc ergo propter hoc does not apply here, and the tragedy of one action does not undo the beauty of another.

The beauty of that original day of Thanksgiving rests in their acknowledgement of their good fortune, divine grace, spiritual enlightenment or karma, call it what you will. Those pilgrims, and the indigenous, saw the bounty before them and had the dignity, respect and intelligence to be thankful.

Today, as is so often said, our holidays are debased by crass commercialism and lose their meaning in a flurry of planning, worry and family frenzy. Christmas becomes a day about Santa Clause and shopping; Easter, about a rabbit; Independence Day, about fireworks; and Thanksgiving, about football and a four-day weekend. We forget that the original

point is to wallow in the unique emotion called gratitude.

Lacking gratitude for the bounty we enjoy demonstrates not just a lack of respect for nature and God but also a lack of self-respect as well. While Judeo-Christian prayers before a meal give thanks to God, and American Indians thank the very animal on which they feast, each ritual is also recognition of our own place in the world. To sit at a table, with great food in front of you and the people you love all around you and yet not feel thankful demonstrates not only a lack of self-respect, but a certain degree of foolishness as well.

And so, while gratitude should be acknowledged, felt and practiced every day, we set aside one particular day each fall to celebrate the harvest and pay special attention to that which makes it possible for us to do everything else we do in this life. Food transforms us even as it is transformed into us. No truer cliché ever existed than “You are what you eat,” but if it is so, then most Americans are fast, cheap and easy. Thanksgiving is the one day of the year that most people actually practice the ideals of Slow Food.

Next time you eat, whether around the dinner table or behind the wheel at the drive-thru, stop for just a moment to consider what makes you truly thankful.

I am thankful for my family more than anything else, for they are my true sources of sustenance and joy. I am thankful for my aware-



**No truer cliché ever existed than “You are what you eat,” but if it is so, then most Americans are fast, cheap and easy.**

ness of the importance and impact of my food. I am thankful for crisp autumn mornings, rain and my dogs. I am thankful that I am still on the right side of the grass.

And bacon. I am very thankful for bacon. **lv**

*Chef Kurt Michael Friese is the founding leader of Slow Food Iowa City and serves on the Slow Food USA National Board of Governors for the Midwest region. He has been chef and owner, with his wife Kim McWane Friese, of the Iowa City restaurant Devotay for 10 years. Friese's forthcoming book, Slow Food in the Heartland: A Cook's Tour will be published by UI Press in the spring of 2007.*

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# Out of the race

Chris Kim panics sometimes at night, as he lies awake in bed worrying about finding someone to spend the rest of his life with. The UI alumnus is frustrated with women who look at Asian American men and walk right past.

William Liu, UI assistant professor of counseling psychology, attributed this phenomenon to three conditions: negligent inclusion of Asian Americans in Western pop culture, “fetishization” of Asian women and—as exacerbated by Iowa’s 95-percent white population—geographic convenience.

It’s this scarce local population of Asian Americans in Iowa City itself (less than 6 percent) that causes many of Kim’s dating woes.

Kim is one of almost 4,000 Iowa City residents classified as being of Asian ethnicity, based on figures from the 2000 U.S. Census. The 1980 census showed that there were three times as many marriages between Asian American women and Caucasian men as there were marriages between Asian American men and Caucasian women. In 2000, there were only twice as many. Although the gap has decreased, it may never completely fade.

Kevin Liu, a UI senior, has dated mostly Caucasian women because Iowa—where he has lived most of his life—lacks a substantial Asian population. Liu is a first-generation American and has no connection to Taiwan, his parents’ country of origin. His parents have no impact on whom he dates, and his approach to dating is relatively unique.

“When it comes to dating, I really don’t pay attention to race,” Liu commented. “I’m a big believer in the Golden Rule. I don’t expect others to treat me differently, so I don’t seek out a certain race or ethnicity.”

Assistant Professor William Liu explained that intermarriage is a result of a vast scattering of Asian Americans after being released from internment camps following WWII. Families relocated across the country to remote locations such as Montana to prevent becoming targets of post-war animosity. Intermarriage rates are high in rural areas because of these geographic gaps, but in urban communities with larger Asian American populations, these rates are much lower.

Demographics are not the only issues Asian American men must fight when finding a mate, the enormous chasms that exist between



In a typical portrayal of Asian men in pop culture, Harold (John Cho) is awestruck by the site of a beautiful woman in *Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle*.

types of media depictions of people of Asian ethnicity affect these men’s chances, as well. Two extremely opposite stereotypes are portrayed commonly in American pop culture: the hypersexual deviant and the asexual overachiever.

In the foreword of *On a Bed of Rice: An Asian American Erotic Feast*, a fiction anthology of stories regarding the Asian American romantic experience, UCLA professor Russell Leong notes that actors such as Jackie Chan and Chow Yun Fat kick a lot of butt in movies but never get kissed. UI alumnus Chris Kim agrees.

“I think Asian American males are completely desexualized in the media,” Kim asserts. “When was the last time you saw an Asian American character in a movie who had a normal sex life? They’re either virginal nerds, or their sexuality is mocked.”

A 1999 study, published in *The Journal of Men’s Studies* and conducted by Peter Chua, found that women view Asian American men very differently from white men. Asian men and Caucasian men have very different perspectives of themselves, as well.

Immigrant Asian women, U.S.-born Asian American women and Caucasian women all saw Caucasian men as being more attractive and more powerful than Asian immigrant and U.S.-born Asian American men. Women in general saw Asian men as being polite, nurtur-

ing and traditional; Caucasian men were seen as masculine, independent and dominant.

Interestingly, Caucasian men viewed themselves as being much more attractive than Asian American men saw themselves, and both ratings were higher than the ones assigned by women in any ethnic group.

Discrepancies between Caucasian and Asian American men as seen by themselves and by women could be a result of minimal depictions of Asian Americans in media. Professor Liu noted that in America, masculinity has historically been defined based on the exclusion of men of color, causing men in minority groups to struggle to be viewed as masculine in Western society.

“How are you seen as a man in a society where, to be a man, you can’t be a man of color?” Liu asked.

Liu also noted that prior to industrialization and the Civil War, masculinity in the U.S. was very feminine and aristocratic; machismo did not come about until after industrialization and war had occurred.

After Asian American men contend with navigating geographic matters and defining their own masculinity, and before winning over their female counterparts, they have

RACE & ROMANCE cont. on page 22

Story by Louis-Georges Schwartz  
Photos by Emily Palmer-Dunham

# OUT SOUND

Iowa City has become a place to hear some of the most unusual, fragile and harshest sounds in the Midwest due to the efforts of Outsound—a booking team made up of Bret Szymoniak and Chris Wiersema (a veteran of the IC music scene and author of LV's recent Picaodr feature). Since early this spring, a few times a month, small groups of people gather in a shotgun hallway above Iowa City's downtown pedestrian mall resonating sounds at limit of what most people call music. These shows in the Hall Mall feature bands booked by Outsound. Some Nights, like the show at the beginning of September headlined by Portland Oregon's Yellow Swans, the narrow hallway is filled with kids dressed in last century's cast-off clothes, throbbing to deafening pulses

coming from the performers. Other nights, a sparse group clusters intimately around a trollish performer like Hive Mind hidden behind a pile of old, home-modified keyboards and pedals, their arms folded on their chests, occasionally pumping their fists in mock-metal enthusiasm.

Outsound books experimental performers with small core audiences who otherwise would be confined to playing locally in their hometowns without such bookings agents and Internet distribution.

"We saw an area that was not represented by the bars around town, for various reasons—mostly that these sorts of acts are not profitable, and have very limited exposure in mainstream music media and thusly attract smaller audiences—normally those who have gone out of their way to find it. So we thought we'd offer something different, something a little closer to a real experience rather than a performance," said Wiersema on his and Szymoniak's efforts to start Outsound.

Real experiences are harder to come by than packaged performances because they are harder to sell. A real experience is by definition something new and hard to name, but the music industry is built around selling familiar sounding acts whose style is easy to name and brand. Wiersema says he is most drawn to the element of surprise involved in noise. He adds, "Nobody is coming to these things to hear hit singles, but they're coming to hear something that hasn't been played before, and probably won't again. It plays to the fleeting moments, rather than the reproduction and commodity aspects of modern music."

Over the past two years, experimental rock bands have been roaming the country, playing micro-venues like the Hall Mall and larger spaces. The shows usually feature opening

**Every outsider noise project brings us closer to the day when "artist" will be another word for human, instead of a privileged job description.**

acts from Iowa City and headliners from out of town. Local performers have included Twelve Canons, Evan Miller and Lwa to name a few.

Many of the local performers have been playing outsider music in Iowa City since the days when the Picador was still Gabe's, but now they have found a set of venues, including the Hall Mall, the Picador and private homes, where Outsound regularly programs shows that provide a focused context for their art. Often Iowa City performers play with bands from elsewhere, like the surprisingly soft and sweet summer night when members of Raccoo-oo-oon joined Scarcity of Tanks, a performance collective whose key players live in Boston, Portland, San Francisco and Cleveland.

In part, Wiersema teamed up with Szymoniak to cut down on the workload of booking, promoting and housing the bands, who often sleep at one of their houses. Flinging alone is

## Upcoming shows:

Nov. 9, 2006 9:00pm  
Thrill Jockey Artist Pit er Pat /  
Opera Glove Sinks In the Sea  
The Picador, Iowa City

Nov. 19, 2006, 9:00pm  
Charalambides / Evan Miller /  
Twelve Canons  
The Hall Mall, Iowa City

Feb. 9, 2007, 9:00pm  
Rhys Chatham Guitar Trio  
The Picador, Iowa City

Feb. 27, 2007, 9:00pm  
Matt Valentine and Erika Elder /  
Evan Miller  
The Hall Mall, Iowa City



almost a full time job if done correctly, and Outsound's fliers are an important part of the collective's artistic output. The shows are advertised with gorgeous posters designed and printed locally. The posters are made at Flat Black Studios, an Iowa City printing and recording company run by artists Cortnie Widen and Luke Tweedy.

Many Outsound shows feature performers who use feedback and electronics to compose thick waves of caterwauling sound and move large amounts of air. Known as noise, or the annoyingly new skool "noyze," the sounds almost force audience to ask themselves what music is. Unlike traditional, more or less radio-friendly, unit-shifting musicians, these performers avoid melodic and harmonic

structures, playing blocks of auditory sensation instead. They use a variety of sounds that are hard to bear, because they are so loud, so dissident or so repetitive. Noise hits the body as much as the ear, but not so much by way of a call to shake you ass, more in the form of waves of pressure almost strong enough to physically push the audience back.

The best bands at Outsound feel like distant memories not only of rock, punk and folk but also '80s noise music. The '80s style developed so fully that some of its master practitioners presided over its death, declaring along with The Swans' Michael Girra that "quiet is the new noise," and going on to make more saleable music, or to careers in other industries.

Part of the joy of an Outsound show is the volume. Always loud enough to leave one's unprotected ears ringing by the end of the night, the noise often reaches levels loud enough to drive some of the crowd to the back of the room. At the recent USAISAMONSTER show at the Picador, the band made full use of the club's new P.A., when the guitar player's sick, metal-virtuoso riffs forced almost the entire audience into the bar area at the back. Recent efforts to educate rockers about hearing loss have been effective, and a lot of people at Outsound shows wear earplugs, a new technology at noise shows. In the 1980s, audi-

ences would step up to the challenge of trying to take what the band was dishing out unprotected, consequences be damned.

Long before the '80s, noise entered early 20th century avant-garde music, when composers began to incorporate the sounds of the industrial revolution into their compositions. When home recording equipment became affordable in the 1970s, people outside classical music circles began to make noise. The spread of cheap audio recorders allowed both artists and non-artists to experiment with sounds.

When punk rock started to spread, increasing numbers of people started seizing control of their artistic destinies by making it on their own. Noise by people who don't think of themselves as musicians or artists is political as well as aesthetic since it teaches by example that creativity isn't the special purview of people with training or an agent—it's the potential and right of everyone. Every outsider noise project brings us closer to the day when "artist" will be another word for human, instead of a privileged job description.

Outsound and the bands they book share a Do-It-Yourself aesthetic. Outsound builds the shows by getting access to the worn-out spaces of Iowa City, nurturing long friendships

*OUTSOUND continued on page 22*

About the Art >



Iowa locals Luke Tweedy and Cortnie Widen started Flat Black Studios in 2004, and since have designed and printed posters for hundreds of shows, including Outsound events. Tweedy and Widen said that because poster printing is a "labor of love", they only work for bands and artists they feel they can get behind. Flat Black has also printed shirts for businesses such as The Buzz and Oasis the Falafel Joint, as well as designing cover art for albums from Ten Grand and William Elliott Whitmore.

"Unlike other local 'print shops,' we do not outsource the actual printing and just mark it

up," they said. "We are our own slave labor."

In addition to printing posters, Flat Black runs a digital, 32-track studio, working for local and internationally touring musicians. Most recently, the studio recorded *Hallways of Always* (page 16), the latest musical incarnation by Jenny Hoyston (Erase Errata, Paradise Island) and William Elliot Whitmore, Tweedy's cousin.

Widen, a.k.a. Miss Prints, prints her own artwork and will be opening a shop in the Hall Mall called White Rabbit in December. White Rabbit will carry a variety of D.I.Y. art including screen printed t-shirts, hand-bound books and purses.

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# Gnawing a dangerous bone

**Daniel Woodrell**

*Winter's Bone*

**I**t gets cold in the winter in Arkansas. Daniel Woodrell will tell you as much, having grown up in small town, low-rent Arkansas himself. In his new novel *Winter's Bone*, he'll take you to a cold Ozark winter, to introduce you to some very cold, very poor, very dangerous folks. It's not a trip you'd want to take by yourself. You'd want someone along who spoke the language, knew the customs, and could keep you out of trouble along the way. Woodrell is blessed with one of the finest literary voices around today, and listening to it is like climbing Mount Everest with the most reliable of Sherpas.

He will show you incredible beauty in the least likely of places, and he will look straight on with you as dreadful things happen before your eyes.

The valley where the action of *Winter's Bone* takes place is small and isolated, settled more than a century ago by a 19th century version of David Koresh and his personality cult of earnest and somewhat frightening religious zealots. Something mysterious happened in the past and the single group fractured into more than one group. Over the

years the communities hung uncomfortably together, living in poverty and stealing the occasional luxury from wealthier communities nearby. The valley today contains Dollys, Tankerslys, Lockrums, Boshells and a few—a very few—other patronymic groups.

Woodrell has chosen 16-year-old Ree Dolly as his protagonist. She lives with her father, a dangerous criminal on the outs with the law for cooking crystal meth; her mother, once a beauty, now losing her mind, sitting in her chair and muttering; and her two younger brothers, Sonny and Harold, one tough, the other gentle.

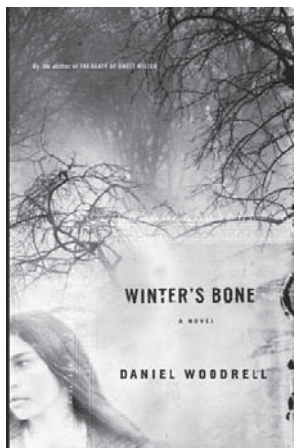
“Ree’s grand hope was that these boys would not be dead to wonder by age 12, dulled to life, empty of kindness, boiling with mean. So many Dolly kids were that way, ruined before they had chin hair, groomed to live outside square law and abide by the blood-soaked commandments that governed lives led outside

square law.” They have nothing. Ree assumes the role of responsible adult in the little family, and she takes her job seriously. The circumstance that sets the action going is the disappearance of Ree’s father, who has jumped bail on a charge of cooking meth. With a trial date looming, the family will lose their house and few belongings to the bond company if Ree cannot locate her father and get him to court.

Ree knows everybody in the valley and is related, at least distantly, to most. Valley resi-



Daniel Woodrell



Woodrell is blessed with one of the finest literary voices around today, and listening to it is like climbing Mount Everest with the most reliable of Sherpas.

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## Book Review

dents are picked on by the local police, often with good reason. Because of this, Dollys and Boshells and the like do not speak to the police and tend to kill each other if they do. Ree is brave. Ree will take risks for those she loves. She does not know, however, the deep feuds that have rent the local families over more than a century, made enemies of relatives, kept family grudges burning like slow fires, inspiring mindless atrocity.

So Ree Dolly trudges into the Ozark snow to find her father. She is beaten badly by the wives of patriarch Thump Milton. All askers of questions are enemies in the valley. A tooth is broken off, but Ree's heart and courage remain powerful. She looks for her father during the day and returns to care for her family at

Happy ending, sad ending—I'm not telling. Woodrell's prose has the power to pull off either one perfectly.

night. She gets help from unexpected sources and some bad shit from people she trusts. Happy ending, sad ending—I'm not telling. Woodrell's prose has the power to pull off either one perfectly.

A tragedy to me is that his seven other novels are all out of print, even after having been ecstatically reviewed. *The Death of Sweet Mister* and *Tomato Red* are two of his finest novels, and *Winter's Bone* may be his best yet.

Ree's character has often been compared to Matty Ross, the tough-as-nails 13-year-old heroine of Charles Portis' Pulitzer Prize winning *True Grit*. Portis is also from Arkansas, is also brilliant, and likewise has trouble keeping his books in print. What is wrong with American readers? Don't they want to read with the deepest pleasure available to them? Read *Winter's Bone*. Give it to your high school daughter. A tough heroine—really tough—is hard to come by. **lv**

*Paul Ingram has lived in Iowa City for 40 years, during which time he has seldom been spotted not reading a book. He's worked in all the independent bookstores in Iowa City and has served as a personal book consultant for many of the brightest lights in town. His reviews reflect his personal taste and his desire that others get as much pleasure from absorbing the richness that literature can give to one's life.*

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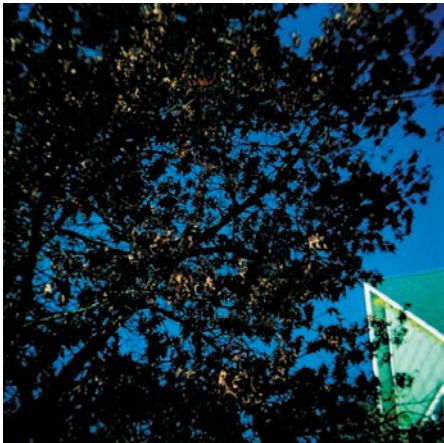
105 S. Linn, Iowa City 319-358-1282

jewelry (22k gold, silver, gemstones)  
clothing, arts, home decoration  
statues, incense, singing bowls

The weather this autumn has taken many an Iowa Citian by surprise since the trend of a warmer and longer fall season has been a typical feature in recent years. Photographer Patrick Reed opens the discussion of how climate change can turn a beautiful world into a barren one.

# Cold Comfort

A photo essay by Patrick Reed



**Fact:** Over the last century, the average temperature has climbed about one degree Fahrenheit around the world. The Climatic Research Unit (CRU) reports that in 2005 the global air temperature reached the second hottest point in record-keeping history.

On Tuesday, October 3rd, a convertible full of girls in bikini tops drove past a roadside bank thermometer that read 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The Chinese restaurant nearby propped open its doors to let warm, dry and unseasonable air breathe inward. A block and a half north, deeply tanned bikers removed their shirts, revealing even more deeply tanned skin. This used to be called an "Indian summer," but now it's a typical fall and the once imminent fact of dormancy is called into question.



**Fact:** The Marine Conservation Society, a charity organization in the England, reports that a non-oxo-biodegradable plastic bag takes between 450 and 1000 years to break down.

The plastic bag in the gutter is a permanent tomb for the deceased squirrel trapped in it, and though its body will biodegrade over time, it will be self-contained for eternity.



**Fact:** The CRU, based at The University of East Anglia in England, also documented that the 1990s was the hottest decade since record keeping began in 1861. What kind of climate changes will we see by the end of this first decade of the 21st century?

Summer drags on through September and dangles a little into October, to be taken over by an autumn of unpredictable length. Many rejoice in this balmy climate of extended transition where the trees belatedly change color and maintain their saturated leaves for far too long. This climate is welcomed, for it keeps at bay the onslaught of winter, when we lounge desperately under sun lamps and cocoon ourselves in layers of wool.





**Fact:** A 2004 National Geographic article reports, "Studies show that many European plants now flower a week earlier than they did in the 1950s and also lose their leaves five days later."

However, these lovely days of a seemingly forever fall are indicative of something far more devastating and far more lethal than a bleak winter day. Though they lead us to believe the collective discomfort of winter is postponed a few more weeks, one cannot ignore the disturbing disparity between the now barren, skeletal trees, and the green grass upon which their leaves lie like torn vellum.



**Fact:** The same article reports that two-thirds of a study of non-migratory butterfly species fly up to 150 miles farther north than they did about 30 years ago.

The landscape begins to resemble a bizarre wasteland of tree pierced skies and sun-heated concrete traversed by daisy duke shorts and populated with insects who will survive the tepid winter and cause a pestilence the following spring. Erupting from a ground softened by too much rain and a deleted permafrost, our houses and lives will be overrun by minute, winged disasters. Creeping into our food and our sleep, peace of mind will only begin to be disturbed by the incessant crunch of an exoskeleton.



**Fact:** A 2004 article in the journal *American Geophysical Union* documented that the ice caps in the Canadian Arctic—from between 1995 and 2000—lost six miles of ice each year.

As the downstairs neighbor ends his second 25-minute shower of the day, polar bears are drowning and cannibalizing one another amid glaciers retreating like defeated soldiers of war.

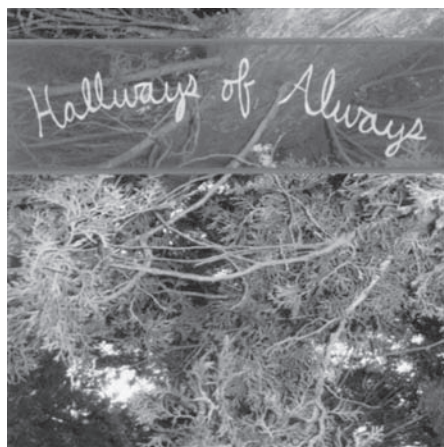


**Fact:** In a 2002 article titled "Skin cancer and ultraviolet-B (UVB) radiation under the Antarctic ozone hole," Jaime F. Abarca and Claudio C. Casiccia found—in a seven-year period—a 56 percent increase of melanoma skin cancer experienced by the people in Punta Arenas at the southern tip of Chile. The study found decreased ozone and increased UVB levels, as well.

And all of the tanning salons will be run out of business by the ever growing, gaping orifice in the ozone layer...but at least we'll all be bronze. **iv**

*Patrick Reed is an Iowa City native. He likes long showers.*





## William Whitmore and Jenny Hoyston

*Hallways Of Always*

Southern Records

[www.southern.com](http://www.southern.com)

On the heels of William Whitmore's third full-length album for Southern Records (*Song Of The Blackbird*) comes this surprising collaboration with Erase Errata's Jenny Hoyston. Although not entirely dismissing the gutbucket style that Whitmore fans are familiar with, the addition of synthesizers and Hoyston's sparkling, hesitant vocals take him in some unexpected directions.

If there's a weakness to Whitmore's solo releases, it's that his foot-stomping, punky blues hollers can seem somewhat similar on the surface, varying in tempo and his choice of guitar or banjo and little else. It's that very recipe that's making Whitmore a familiar name in Europe and America with punk rock fans and roots music fans alike, but hearing his tunes presented in this new framework is thrilling. Not only do Whitmore and Hoyston's voices blend well, their songs fit together side by side

like matching pieces of a puzzle. Hoston's beautiful song about her father's death, "We Miss You," doesn't seem like it should work right next to Whitmore singing about putting Iowa dirt on his biscuits, but they sound like perfect neighbors.

*Hallways Of Always* is ostensibly an EP (six tracks), but it feels like a full-length, clocking in only a few minutes shy of Whitmore's usual album length of 30-something minutes. The pair let the ballads take their time, building layers of vocals and droning chords to great effect. It's satisfying to hear how the simplest elements can add up to such a soundscape in talented hands, particularly on what's essentially a home recording (made in the living room of Whitmore's cousin, Luke Tweedy).

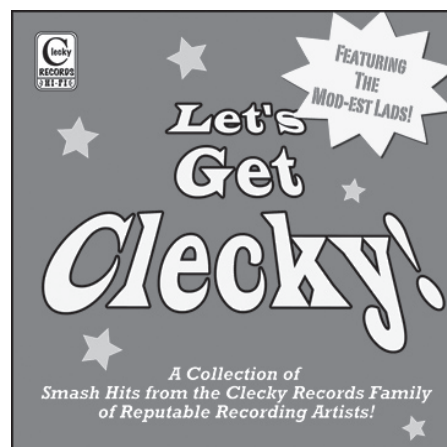
Although Hoyston's presence balances some of Will's grit, *Hallways* remains gorgeously morose. When Whitmore finally kicks up his heels on "Black Iowa Dirt," a rousing crowd favorite from his live shows, it still feels like a fall record, including that pinch of sadness that accompanies its arrival.

*William Fare works and lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, pretending that rock music will someday provide a career. Like Lester Bangs, he mostly thinks that pop culture peaked with punk rock and has been coasting since Reagan took office. His friends find him reclusive and self-defeating, but they're wrong.*

### Get it First

*Hallways of Always* will be released Nov. 7 by Southern Records but you can get it now at the Record Collector.

If you like this album, check out *Keep the Fuzz Off My Buzz* CD/DVD (LV 58, review by Kent Williams) with music from Will Whitmore, Jenny Hoyston's solo project *Paradise Island*, ft (the Shadow Government) and artist/comedian Let's Be Active a.k.a. Jarret Mitchell.



## Clecky Records

*Let's Get Clecky*

[www.cleckyrecords.com](http://www.cleckyrecords.com)

At first glance, this is a compilation for the Clecky Record Label, but take a slightly closer look and it's clear that *Let's Get Clecky* is an elaborate prank: The featured artists are all impersonated by the same group of musicians, which includes Iowa City editorial cartoonist Joe Sharpnack. Maybe I'm spoiling the joke, but a humorous musical CD should have more going for it than the initial ha-hah moment.

The songs by "The Mod-est Lads" are done in the '60s British Invasion style, with an attempt at Herman's Hermits-style Cockney cute. "She Didn't Say" is the most successful track because it's more rockin' and less poppy than "Birthday Suit," and "She's Not Yours, She's His." All three are fun, and celebrate a narrow slice of time between the advent of the Beatles and when the Beatles started taking drugs.

"You Can't Hurt a Polack by Hittin' Him on the Head" raises the question of whether you can actually parody polka music. In a genre

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## Local CDs

where the “She’s Too Fat For Me Polka” is an enduring classic, “You can’t hurt a Polack...” isn’t the least bit outlandish. Maybe that’s the point. “Jet Turbo Theme” is supposed to be an Anime theme song, from a band called “Danger Can.” “Ted” is a Slim Whitman-esque country waltz, complete with yodeling.

All of these songs are competently written and performed. They’re also consistently mildly amusing. The one track that rises above the nominal is the last track “When My Baby Walks.” The setup is that the singer “Narcoleptic ‘Sweet Potato’ Johnson” is a Barry White style crooner who can hardly stay awake. But this simple track of basso muttering over bass guitar has a wonderfully minimal infrared soul to it. If Clecky Records came up with a whole CD worth of tracks this weird and compelling, they’d really have something.



**Otar**  
 Rebel Record  
 Fat King Records  
[www.otar.org](http://www.otar.org)

Aristotle’s “Rhetoric” catalogs the various means of persuasion, including a few archaic ones, like reasoning from the sound of someone’s name. The name “Otar Taktakishvili” invites this line of argument. I’m sure it’s a solid Georgian surname, something like “Jones” or “Miller,” but it sounds exotic and a little tricky. The same goes for *Rebel Record*, which rolls together disparate influences like Radiohead, Frank Zappa and ‘70s arena rock.

*Rebel Record* is a good showcase for Otar’s (of Iowa City’s rock/funk band, Ggltch) various talents—he has an appealing, flexible voice, considerable facility on the guitar and keyboards, and the compositional skill to go way beyond three chords and a backbeat. The opening track “Kid Klash” starts out with electric piano chords that recall Radiohead’s

“You Can’t Hurt a Polack by Hittin’ Him on the Head” raises the question of whether you can actually parody polka music.

“Everything In Its Right Place.” Otar drops in an electronic beat for the verse, before going into a bridge section involving guitar shredding and hard rock wailing. With lyrics like “what I’d give to be an elf” you’re not sure where the hell Otar has taken you musically, but you definitely know you’ve been somewhere.

The problem with this CD is that Otar is all over the place. Does a beautiful song like “Supersonical” need a loud guitar rock-out section in the middle? I know Zappa said “Loud, Soft, that’s Entertainment!” but “Supersonical” sounds a bit like Elton John and Black Sabbath fighting for control of the stage. My favorite track, “Alone,” coheres better. It’s a structurally complex song, with harmonic turns worthy of Randy Newman, but it holds together in a way some other tracks do not.

I’m not so big a fan of Otar’s lyrics: “Everyone knows, that all you’ve got to do, is find your place under the sun ...” and “Take me crystal queen, on your silver unicorn/launch me across celestial emotions” are unintentionally humorous — I think. “Tsunami 2004” lyrics are just plain weird, and—given the subject matter—unfortunate. I don’t expect pop lyrics to be great poetry, but either they work in the context of the song, or they don’t. In the case of Otar, I enjoy this CD a lot more when I don’t listen to what he’s saying at all.

At the same time *Rebel Record* is beautifully composed, performed and recorded. Mr. Taktakishvili (not to be confused with Otar Taktakishvili, the Georgian composer famous for composing the national anthem of the Georgian Republic) writes emotionally engaging music that make you want to hear it again. If he could just rein in his more outlandish lyrical and musical tendencies, he’d be irresistible.

*Kent Williams writes the software that makes the whole world sing. Or at least, the software that helps psychiatrists classify anatomic features of the brain. He also produces his own electronic music and writes for various publications. Turn ons: creative use of a ring modulator and cooking with garlic. Turn offs: Meat nuggets, CNN and Fox News.*

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 Sun. Nov. 5 -- Shotgun Monday  
 Mon. Nov. 6 -- Ouija Radio  
 Tues. Nov. 7 -- The Chariot (early)  
 Wed. Nov. 8 -- Against All Authority (early)

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Fri. Nov. 10 -- **CURSIVE**  
 Mon. Nov. 13 -- Alesana (early)  
 Tues. Nov. 14 -- Drive By (early)  
 Wed. Nov. 15 -- Quietdrive (early)

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Fri. Nov. 17 -- **The Nadas**  
 Sun. Nov. 19 -- Ellison (early)  
 Sat. Nov. 25 -- Holiday Karaoke  
 hosted by Bil Francis

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Sun. Nov. 26 -- The God Damn Doo Wop Band  
 Wed. Nov. 29 -- Boyskout

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## Art/Exhibits

### African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center,

55 12th Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 877-526-1863  
*Scrapbook of Memories: African American History in Cedar Rapids, Iowa*, through Jan. 2 • Africans in Iowa, ongoing.

### AKAR

257 E. Iowa Ave., Iowa City, 351-1227  
Chris Staley, Oct. 27 through Nov. 16 • 30 x 5, Nov. 17 through Dec. 7.

### Arts Iowa City

103 E. College St., 337-7447  
*Common Ground*, Jessica White & Cody Gieselman, through Nov. 30.

### Art Mission

114 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 466-1006  
Small Advertising Posters, through Dec. 31.

### Bella Joli

125 S. Dubuque St., 341-4562  
Lonna Keller, various designs, through Feb. 1.

### Brucemore

2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-7375  
*The Families of the Brucemore*, ongoing.

### Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

410 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-7503  
*Rembrandt Magnified*, through Dec. 31 • *Art in Roman Life*, through Dec. 31 • *Cedar Rapids: Day into Night*, through Jan. 7, 2007 • *Midwestern Visions: Grant Wood, Marvin Cone and Beyond*, through Sep. 2, 2007.

### Chait Galleries Downtown

218 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 338-4442  
*Femininity Personified*, Jennifer Swoboda, through Nov. 13 • Ulfert Wilke, through Nov. 20 • *Unparalleled Pastels*, Tarlochan Oberoi, through Nov. 28.

### The Cottage

14 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 351-0052  
Angela S. Tornabane, through Dec. 30 • Brian Mass, black and white photographs, through Dec. 30 • Corbin Bailey, abstract paintings, through Dec. 30.

### Faulconer Gallery

Grinnell College, 1108 Park St., Grinnell, 641-269-4660  
*Left Behind*, Angela Strassheim, through Dec. 10 • *Portraits from Asia*, Marco van Duyvendijk, through Dec. 10.

### The History Center

615 1st Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-1501  
*Living Along the Tributaries*, ongoing • *Timequest*, ongoing.

### Iowa Artisans Gallery

207 E. Washington, Iowa City, 351-8686  
*Narrative Paintings*, Les Bell, through Nov. 12.

### M.C. Ginsberg

110 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 351-1700  
*Organic Form meets Geometric*, Minato Nakamura, through Dec. 31.

### Mythos

9 S Linn St., Iowa City, 337-3576  
*Buddhas of Compassion*, through November.

### Old Capitol Museum

Pentacrest, UI Campus  
*Animals Among Us*, animal photography, through Jan. 14.

### National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

30 16th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, 362-8500  
*Works by Warhol from the Cochran Collection*, through Mar. 11 • *Homelands: The Story of the Czech and Slovak People*, ongoing.

### Room Service

117 E. College St., Iowa City, 248-4848  
Jackson Timothy, watercolors, through Nov. 30.

### Science Station

427 1st Street SE, Cedar Rapids, 363-IMAX  
*Hunters of the Sky*, through Dec. 10 • *Whodunit? The Science of Solving Crime*, through Dec. 30 • *Fossil Lab*, Iowa fossils and a T-Rex, through Dec. 30 • *Lights at Night*, ongoing.

### Senior Center

28 S. Linn Street, Iowa City, 356-5222  
*An Uncommon Eye*, paintings by Louic Picek, through July 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.*  
Wilford Yoder, photographs, through Nov. 27, Gallery III.

### UI Main Library

100 Madison St., Iowa City, 335-5299  
*As Long As Condition Permit: Science Fiction Fanzines During World War II*, through Jan. 31, third floor.

### UI Museum of Art

150 North Riverside Dr., Iowa City, 335-1727  
*The Need to Dream of Some Transcendent Meaning*, Jules Kirschenbaum, through Dec. 10 • *Animal Expressions*, International Perspectives from the Collection, through Dec. 31.

### United Action for Youth

410 Iowa Ave., Iowa City, 338-7518  
Large-scale Expressive Portraits, through Nov. 15.

### West Bank

229 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City, 351-4121  
Gregg Hoogerwerf, photography, through Nov. 30.

## Music

### Clapp Recital Hall

UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1160  
*All music 8pm unless noted otherwise.*  
Musicians from Marlboro, Nov. 1, 7:30pm • Kenneth Tse: saxophone, Kazuo Murakami: piano, Nov. 3 • Iowa Percussion, Nov. 5, 3pm • Zoran Jakovic: violin, Elizabeth Oakes: violin, Hannah Holman: cello, Nov. 8 • Alan Huckleberry, Nov. 10 • Hans-Ola Ericsson: organ, Nov. 11, 3pm • Johnson County Landmark, Nov. 12, 3pm • Composers Workshop, Nov. 12 • Iowa Brass Quintet, Nov. 15 • Electronic Music Studio, Nov. 16 • Maia Quartet, Nov. 30.

### CSPS

1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1580  
*All music 8pm, except Sundays, 7pm.*  
Fruit, Nov. 5 • Brian Vander Ark, Garrison Starr, Nov. 7 • The Clumsy Lovers, Nov. 27, Tribute, Nov. 30.

### Englert Theatre

221 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 688-2653  
BEAUSOLEIL, Nov. 3, 8pm • Bettye Lavette, Nov. 11, 7:30pm • Maura O'Connell, Nov. 17, 8pm • Iowa City Community String Orchestra, Nov. 19, 3pm.

### First Presbyterian Church

2701 Rochester Ave., Iowa City  
*Messiah*, Chamber Singers of Iowa City, Saturdays, 7:30pm & Sundays, 3pm, through Nov. 5.

### The Hall Mall

114 1/2 College St., Iowa City  
Charalambides, Evan Miller, Twelve Canons, Nov. 19, 9pm.

### Hancher Auditorium

UI campus, 335-1160  
Band Extravaganza, Nov. 8, 7:30pm • *Don Quixote*, Miami City Ballet, Nov. 10, 7:30pm • *Peter and the Wolf*, Nov. 12, 2pm • *Classical Savion*, Nov. 15, 7:30pm • *Verdi's Requiem*, UI Symphony Orchestra and Choruses, Nov. 29, 8pm.

### Harper Hall

Voxman Music Building, UI Campus, 335-1603  
*All music, 8pm unless noted otherwise.*  
Carol lei Breckinridge: clavichord & fortepiano, Nov. 12, 3pm • Michelle Crider: soprano, Nov. 15, 5pm • Latin Jazz Ensemble, Nov. 16 • John Daniel: trumpet, Nov. 30.

### Iowa Memorial Union

Wheelroom  
UI Campus  
The Dog and Everything, Epic Hero, Nov. 8, 7:30pm.

**The Java House**

211 E Washington St, Iowa City, 335-5730  
*WSUI's "Talk of Iowa Live from the Java House,"*  
 Fridays, 10 am.  
 Matthew Clay, Nov. 3 • The Capitol Steps, Nov. 10  
 • Coriander, Nov. 17.

**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.*  
 Alejandro Escovedo, Nov. 1 • Jake Dille and the  
 Color Pharmacy, Nov. 2 • Sleeping Planes, Why  
 Make Clocks, Nov. 3 • The Tombstones, Nov. 4 •  
 Funkmaster Cracker, Nov. 9, 10pm • Big Wooden  
 Radio, Nov. 10, 8pm • Great American Taxi, Vince  
 Herman, Nov. 12 • Songwriter Swap Shop, Nov. 14  
 • Great Bluegrass Herons, Nov. 15, 7pm • Justing  
 Krippin, Revival, Brian Troester, Nov. 16 • Lazy Boy  
 and the Recliners, Nov. 18, 8:30pm • Becca Sutlive,  
 Nov. 24 • University of Iowa Jazz Ensemble, Nov.  
 30, 7pm.

**Paramount Theatre**

123 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888  
 Cedar Rapids Symphony Masterworks III, Nov.  
 18, 8pm • Presidio Saxophone Quartet, Nov. 21,  
 7:30pm • "Can't Stop Loving You- The Music of  
 Ray Charles," Nov. 22, 7:30pm.

**The Picador**

330 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 354-4788  
*Physical Challenge Dance Party, Thursdays, 9pm.*  
*All music, 9pm unless noted otherwise.*  
 Pretty Girls Make Graves, Night Canopy, Nov. 1  
 • Coolzey, The Slats, P-Tek, Generic, King Toad,  
 Lipstick Homocide, Nov. 3 • Public Property,  
 Homemade Headtrip, Nov. 4 • Copeland, Appleseed  
 Cast, Acute Owen, Nov. 5, 6pm • Shotgun  
 Monday, Swing by Seven, Miracles of God, Terra  
 n' Thunderhawks, Nov. 5, 10pm • Glowing Glass,  
 Ouija Radio, Casados, Errie, Nov. 6, 9:30pm • The  
 Chariot, August Burns Red, Destroy the Runner,  
 12 Gauge Valentine, Inhale Exhale, Nov. 7, 5pm •  
 Against All Authority, Time Again, The Know How,

**A-LIST**

**Writer-in-Residence  
 Reading**

**Lan Samantha Chang,  
 Cole Swensen, Matt Davis**  
 UI Museum of Art • Nov. 9, 7:30pm

Matthew Davis is a second-year MFA  
 candidate, an Iowa Arts Tuition Fellow  
 and Stanley Fellow. He won first prize  
 in the 2005 Atlantic Monthly Student  
 Writing Competition for an essay about  
 Chinggis Khan.

He is currently at  
 work on a book  
 about Mongolia  
 and his time in the  
 country.

Joining Davis  
 will be Lan  
 Samantha Chang,  
 director of the UI Writers' Workshop,  
 and poet Cole Swensen, a faculty mem-  
 ber in the UI Writers' Workshop, who has  
 been selected to be a 2006 Guggenheim  
 Fellow.



Chang

**Holiday Farmers Market**

**Iowa City Recreation Center**  
 Nov. 18, 9am-4pm

Do your holiday shopping at Iowa  
 City's first ever Holiday Farmer's Market  
 where 24 Iowa City Farmers Market  
 Vendors will present their homemade  
 crafts and foods. There will be baked  
 goods, spices, sauces, candy, coffee,  
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Other items will include candles, pet  
 treats and pet toys, jewelry, greeting  
 cards and paper products, woodcrafts,  
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 Qing Dynasty  
 (Qianlong 1736-95)

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 10-6 DAILY

The Flatliners, Philli Fakeouts, Nov. 8, 5pm • The Matthew Clay Band, Brian Troester, Everwonder, Nov. 8, 10pm • Pit er Pat, Opera Glove Sinks In the Sea, Nov. 9, 9pm • Cursive, The Cops, Nov. 10, 8pm • The Mayflies, others TBA, Nov. 11 • Alesana, The Bleeding Alarm, Nov. 13 • Moonrats, Nov. 14 • Drive By, Arms of Orion, With Arms Crossed, Secret Weapons, Nov. 14, 5pm • Quietdrive, A Change of Pace, Paulson, In Letters, Nov. 15, 6pm • The Nadas, Glossary, Nov. 17 • Burnout, On a Pale Horse, Supersonic Death Machine, Nov. 24 • Boyskout, The Tanks, Roman Numerals, Nov. 29 • Greely Estates, Drop Dead Gorgeous, Alesana, Nov. 30, 6pm.

**Record Collector**

125 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 337-5029  
Green Music, Nov. 3, 5pm • Shotgun Monday, Nov. 5, 3pm.

**Sanctuary**

405 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 351-5692  
*All music, 10pm.*  
Polutropos, Nov. 4 • Rick Stone, Quartet of Happiness, Nov. 11 • Israel Neuman's Sonovox, Nov. 18 • Kelly Pardekooper, Nov. 25.

**Trinity Episcopal Church**

320 E. College St., Iowa City, 335-1603  
Loretta O'Sullivan, Nov. 2, 8pm.

**UI Hospitals and Clinics**

Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417  
*John Colloton Pavilion Atrium, 12pm.*

**Uptown Bill's Small Mall**

401 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 339-0401  
*Open Mic Night, every Friday, 8-11pm.*

**Yacht Club**

13 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 337-6464  
*Blues Jam, Sundays, 9pm; Throwdown: Free Dance Party, Tuesday nights; Open Jam, Wednesdays, 10pm. All music, 9pm, unless noted otherwise.*  
Ernie Hendrickson & the Make Believe, Shake Down, Nov. 3 • Dennis McMurrin and the Demolition Band, Nov. 4 • AC/DC Tribute: Hells/

Bells, Voodoo Kittens, Nov. 9 • Groovatron, Catfish Jenkins, Nov. 10 • Electric Junction, Broke Out Steppers, Nov. 11 • Euforquestra, Hunab Ku, Nov. 16 • New Beat Society, Happy Birthday Annie, Nov. 18 • Funkmaster Cracker, Nov. 24.

**Theater/Performance/  
Dance/Comedy**

**Englert Theatre**

221 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 688-2653  
Capitol Steps, Nov. 9-10, 8pm • *The Nutcracker*, Nov. 3- Dec. 2.

**4-H Fairgrounds**

4265 Oak Crest Hill Rd Se, Iowa City, 338-0443  
*Stage Door*, Iowa City Community Theatre, Nov. 3-4, 10-11, 8pm, Nov. 5 & 12, 2:30pm.

**The McAuley Theater**

Mount Mercy Campus, Cedar Rapids, 368-6475  
*The Importance of Being Earnest*, Nov. 9-11, 7:30pm.

**Old Brick**

26 E. Market St., Iowa City  
Nate Staniforth, magician, Nov. 2, 8pm.

**Paramount Theatre**

123 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888  
*Camelot*, Nov. 3, 8pm • Friends of the Bob & Tom Show, Nov. 4, 7pm • Jerry Seinfeld, Nov. 16, 7pm.

**Riverside Theatre**

213 N. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 338-7672  
*The Lonesome West*, through Nov. 19.

**Space/Place Theatre**

North Hall, UI campus, Iowa City  
Graduate Concert, UI Dance Department, Nov. 30, 8pm.

**UI Theatres**

Theatre Bldg., UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1160  
*Twitch*, Nov. 2-4, 8pm, Nov. 4, 2pm • No Shame

Theatre, Nov. 3, 10, & 17, 11pm, Theatre B • *The Exhibitionists*, Nov. 9-11, 8pm, Nov. 12, 2pm, Theatre B • *Tall Grass Gothic*, Nov. 30, 8pm.

**Words**

**Dey House**

UI Campus  
"Writing by Imitating the Great Masters," Nicholas Delbanco, Nov. 28, 11am.

**Hancher Auditorium**

UI Campus, 335-1160  
*Breathless: Dance Gala 2006*, Nov. 3-4, 8pm.

**Iowa City Public Library**

123 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200  
*International Writing Program panel discussion*, Fridays, 12pm.

**Iowa Memorial Union**

UI Campus  
Frank McCourt, Nov. 9, 7:30pm.

**The Java House**

211 E Washington St, Iowa City, 335-5730  
*WSUI's "Talk of Iowa Live from the Java House,"* Fridays, 10 am.  
Michael Perry, Nov. 3 • The Capitol Steps, Nov. 10 • Chuck Denniger, Chris Klug, Nov. 17.

**The Mill**

120 E. Burlington St., Iowa City, 351-9529  
Poetry Slam, Nov. 8, 22, 10pm • Talk Art Cabaret, Writer's Workshop readings, Nov. 15, 10pm.

**Prairie Lights**

15 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City, 337-2681  
*All reading 7pm unless noted otherwise.*  
Michael Perry, Nov. 3 • Francine Prose, Nov. 6 • Tim Miller, Nov. 9 • Doug Bauer, Sue Miller, Samantha Chang, Nov. 10 • Sandi Wisenberg, Nov. 13 • Steve Hendricks, Nov. 14 • Robin Hemley, Nov. 15 • Kevin Moffett, Nov. 16 • Nicholas Delbanco, Nov. 27 • Katherine Fischer, Nov. 29 • Ashley Capps, Nov. 30.

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**Shambaugh House**

**UI Campus**

*International Writing Program, 5pm.*

**UI Art Building West**

**Rm. 116, UI Campus**

"Machine-Age Fascism: Philippe Lamour and the New Vision Photography of Germaine Krull," Mark Antliff, Nov. 8, 8pm • "'A Rationale of Ugliness': Primitivism at the Interface of Cubism and Its Audience, 1908-1913," Patricia Leighton, Oct. 9, 5pm • Elizabeth Peyton, lecture on her work, Nov. 9, 7:30pm.

**UI Museum of Art**

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

*Know the Score LIVE!*, Nov. 3, 5pm • Writer-in-Residence Reading, Lan Samantha Chang, Cole Swensen, Matt Davis, Nov. 9, 7:30pm • Galley Talk, Thomas Worthen, Nov. 16 • Robert Rosenblum, Nov. 30, 7:30pm.

**Film/Video**

**Bijou Theatre**

**UI Memorial Union**

**UI Campus, 335-3258**

*Shortbus & This Film is Not Yet Rated*, Nov. 3-9 • *The Motel & The Heart of the Game*, Nov. 10-16.

**CSPS**

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

Rural Route Film Festival, Nov. 24-25, 8pm, Nov. 26, 2pm.

**Uptown Bill's Small Mall**

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

*Movie Night, Sundays, 6pm.*

**PATV**

**206 Lafayette St., 338- 7035**

Premiere, *Going to Tromadance*, Nov. 7, 9-11pm.

**Misc.**

**Iowa City Recreation Center**

**220 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 356-5210**

Holiday Farmer's Market, Nov. 18, 9am.

**U.S. Cellular Center**

**370 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids, 398-5211**

Huge Arts and Crafts Show, Nov. 24, 25, 9am-6pm.



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### RACE & ROMANCE from page 7

one large obstacle to overcome: what Asian American women want. Due to the fetishization of Asian American women in the media, their dating options seem to extend across a wider racial spectrum, and so they have more choices.

Liu explained that Asian American men and women have varying perceptions of the acceptability of dating outside of one's race. He described a former class, mostly composed of Asian American students, as being essentially divided along gender lines as far as people's opinions on the matter.

"The women thought interracial dating was perfectly fine," Liu recalled. "The men hated it, abhorred it—just thought it was terrible. They had different reasons and different experiences about why interracial dating was good or positive."

## When was the last time you saw an Asian American character in a movie who had a normal sex life?

The men felt that Asian American women were selling out, which made them feel less attractive and essentially pitted them against Caucasian men. They felt that women did not view them as manly or attractive, and were frustrated and angry because they had few other options to date.

"They felt like they were being left alone together," Liu explained. "For some of the Asian American women, they didn't perceive that 'fetishizing' as objectification or as a barrier. They felt it was a kind of currency that they could use, so they felt more mobile than Asian American men did. It allowed them more social mobility."

Many Asian American women are simply attracted more to Caucasian men, or else they seek interesting men who usually happen to end up not being Asian.

"I tend to date whoever I find the most interesting, but I find myself dating white guys more than anyone else," Khanh Tran, a UI senior, explained. "I've dated three Asian guys in my life and the first two ended up being the biggest jerks in the world. The last one, I didn't want to date because he was everything my mother has ever wanted for me in a husband: attractive, charming, polite, chivalrous, intel-

lectual, respectful and spoke Vietnamese."

It all works out to probability, according to UI alumnus Alex Boyce.

"If there are only five Asian girls and five Asian guys in a lecture of 300 people, the chances that those 10 people would match up as opposed to them making connections with the other 290 are very slim."

Several theories attempt to explain the trend of outmarriage among Asian Americans, specifically of Asian women to Caucasian men.

One theory, according to Asian-Nation.org, posits that marrying a white person is the ultimate form of assimilation and signifies full acceptance by white society. This theory is considered by some to be condescending because it presumes that the sole reason an Asian American would marry a white person would be to fulfill a need for acceptance.

Another theory, hypergamy, suggests that Asian Americans marry Caucasians to increase social status. This happens more often in Asian countries than in the U.S., and it is difficult to determine whether these marriages occur because Asian women want increased status or if Caucasian men want Asian women for fetish objects.

"It's interesting...[that] Asian American women are hypersexualized in the media," commented Kim. "Whenever people call Asian women exotic, I think of my sister and my mother. They're not exotic. My sister cries when she hears 'The Luckiest' by Ben Folds."

In the end, outmarriage is a result of Asian American families being isolated in Caucasian communities, media portrayals of Asian American men as sexual deviants and nerds that create prevailing stereotypes of them as unattractive, and the fetishizing by Caucasian men about the Asian exemplar of femininity. But when it comes right down to it, the stereotypes bug student Kevin Liu more than anything else.

"If you are trying to get at the underlying view in society that Asian women are considered exotic and desirable and Asian men are not... it doesn't bother me THAT much," Liu explained. "Yes, it does suck that people have certain notions of you... and it's not just dating. I've had people sit next to me in class and ask me what the answer is because they think I'm super smart based on how I look. What's most gratifying for me is when people tell me that I'm really a completely different person than what they expected. Then I know I've shattered some stereotypes." **lv**

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

### OUTSOUND from page 9

with local performers, loading equipment even when they have broken toes, charming their friends into acting as doormen and publicity-hounds, and drinking lots of Pabst Blue Ribbon. The bands make their own equipment from discarded guitars, scrap metal and circuits, pile into used vans, and hope to



**"We thought we'd offer something different, something a little closer to a real experience rather than a performance."**

sell enough albums and vinyl to be able to afford some Taco Bell for dinner and gas to the next gig.

Perhaps the idea shared by all noise-makers was best summed up in 1983's self-titled release by The Haters, a vinyl LP of silent grooves that the listener has to scratch before playing in order for it to produce sound. Executives have a hard time turning a profit on an idea like that, and it takes an intelligent, active and autonomous audience to keep it alive. As someone in the crowd at a show featuring Moth Dracula and Corpse In Drag screamed in my ear, "It's amazing that this even happens!" **lv**

*Louis-Georges Schwartz was born into a Cathar family in 1964. Today he mostly rolls himself around and worries reification.*

FORECAST FOR NOVEMBER 2006

**♈ ARIES**—You are highly motivated and well positioned to make important changes in your financial arrangements. This month you will have the stimulus and the psychological resources to do so. You also have an influence and a freedom of movement that might have been lacking previously. In fact, a whole new cycle of growth and development will shortly begin for you. However, caution is advised. There's a lot of fine print that won't become obvious for a while yet. Only the passage of time will reveal it, so go slow.

**♉ TAURUS**—A once important part of your life no longer holds your interest or presents the challenges and opportunities that it once did. But conditions are right to transform an inspiring sideline into something major. Use resources gained from this sideline in new, expansive ways. Years of careful financial preparation are beginning to pay off, too. Your long-term investments will soon begin to grow at a faster pace. Your resources will provide the confidence and freedom you need to move in this new direction, but take things slow. Complexities abound.

**♊ GEMINI**—Your current work situation just isn't the best fit. Those in power are making changes that seem attractive to some, and these changes might solve some problems for the organization as a whole. However, the changes aren't necessarily helpful or attractive to you. The wisest thing would be to go along with the changes for the now. If you are patient and determined, you can slowly but surely take the situation in a direction that you find appealing. You can build a new and lasting social and professional network.

**♋ CANCER**—Many might think that you have landed in a tough spot without many good choices and lots of problems. Things are moving fast and they are indeed a bit chaotic. However, you are sensitive to the subtle currents and can see pathways invisible to others. So you see advantages and opportunities in your new situation that others miss. Your new circumstances provide a rare opportunity to satisfy your boss while you aggressively pursue a personal goal near to your heart. You can turn the obstacles into advantages almost magically.

**♌ LEO**—Circumstances have thrown a monkey wrench into important plans. But you are compelled by long-term financial goals and family concerns to stay the course. Examining your long-term financial goals and family responsibilities might provide the insight needed to shape your current situation wisely. Within the limits set by these obligations, great creativity is possible. If you put these obligations first, you will avoid lots of trouble just down the road. Special achievements are possible in your creative life and where children and loved ones are concerned.

**♍ VIRGO**—You need to harmonize family, work and community responsibilities now. Resolving tensions between local responsibilities and responsibilities in distant places is also key. Positive developments at home will help significantly. An inventive and independent-minded partner can provide invaluable and lasting assistance. Contributions from this person will significantly alleviate challenges you may be facing. There will be plenty left to do in coming months, however, you can establish a lasting and constructive dynamic. Accumulating assets should be a continuing focus. You must adjust strategies and tactics before finances will flow.

**♎ LIBRA**—Nearly every aspect of your financial affairs is pushing you to make major adjustments. You must re-examine your notions about the ideal lifestyle. You should also devote time to partnership issues. With a little effort, you can bring conflicting needs and goals into greater harmony. Humanitarian service and community involvement will provide a welcome and valuable opportunity. But don't neglect core job responsibilities. The key to everything is your work situation. It is providing the flexibility and resources needed to deal comfortably with many different and potentially difficult issues.

**♏ SCORPIO**—Right now, Scorpios feel like they are living between a rock and a hard place. Home, family and work responsibilities are weighing heavily. And there don't appear to be easy answers. An unexpected combination of things will provide at least temporary relief: young people, alternative religious or spiritual pursuits, hobbies and recreation can help you put things into perspective and relieve stress. However, planetary help is also on the way. You will soon find it easier to harmonize your obligations and responsibilities with the resources available to fulfill them.

**♐ SAGITTARIUS**—You either sensed or hoped that things would soon come together into a harmonious whole. You were right, and it will start soon. Patience will be required because the transition will be tricky and somewhat drawn out. However, you should notice a significant, positive difference by the end of November. You are beginning a new cycle of growth and expansion. You will soon be able to develop the many difficult lessons you have learned into marketable skills. A challenging planetary influence is on the way out of your sign.

**♑ CAPRICORN**—It seems like too many important Capricorn decisions are being made for financial reasons rather than personal preferences, desires or ideals. But financial considerations are no longer providing a clear indication of which way to go. Perhaps the key is connecting better with your local roots—with people in your community—and making choices that serve the greater good. The planets suggest that a little genuine idealism and community spirit will go far to bring about a constructive and practical resolution of your difficulties. Self-confidence will rebound shortly.

**♒ AQUARIUS**—Things are looking up for Aquarius. You are confronting a set of serious obstacles that, paradoxically, presents an opportunity to successfully transform your whole situation. You are also well placed to help others transform their own tricky situations for the better. The finances to support your desires for a better life will soon become available, too. Partnership issues, which might have been problematic or laced with tensions, will soon achieve a new and lasting harmony. Even where the goal isn't clear, you know you are on the right path.

**♓ PISCES**—Inspiration, guidance and connections with those near and far will help Pisces turn a set of obstacles into an opportunity. Various powers and authorities seem to be placing hurdles in your way. But your personal qualities and a willingness to experiment will help you past any obstructions. A stubborn barrier to self-fulfillment, professional advancement or simply finding a good job will be lifted, opening the way to economic betterment. Personal healing will help you overcome self-doubts that might be holding you back, also. Finances could tighten, though.

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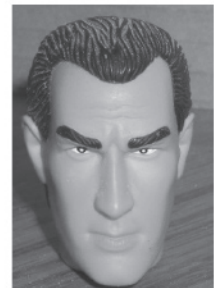


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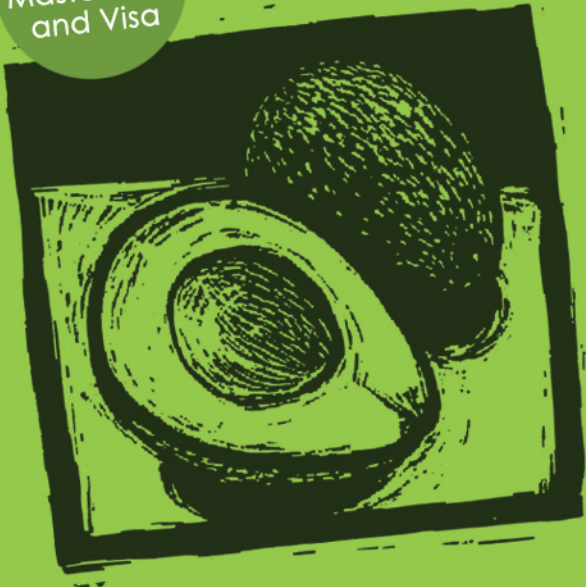
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