

June '08

little village

Iowa City's News & Culture Magazine

always
free

Boutin' not Poutin'

Iowa's queens of the roller scene

INSIDE: Summer of the Arts **6**

Final Rental Frontier **16**

Where It's At **23**



whitedog

Since 1975

**Saab Volvo
Subaru**

& other imports

Repair: 319.337.4616

Sales: 319.337.5283

424 Highland Court, Iowa City

www.whitedogauto.com

**SHOW
MOVED**

TO IOWA CITY
ALL CAPITOL THEATER TICKETS
WILL BE HONORED!

THURSDAY JUNE 12
ENGLERT THEATRE

220 E WASHINGTON IOWA CITY, IA

**IRON
AND WINE**

UPTOEVEN PRODUCTIONS

WWW.UPTOEVEN.COM | WWW.ENGLERT.ORG

Summer styles are in!

Om

gifts for body & soul

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

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



Gourmet Pizza & Slices
Salad • Calzones
Breadstix • Beverages

519 S. Riverside Dr., IC • 337-6677
Open Every Day • 11am to Midnight



DELIVERY
TO IC & CORALVILLE

337-6677

www.thewedgepizza.com

Local Checks



50¢ check & credit
card surcharge

NOW OPEN!



136 S. Dubuque St.
next to the fountain • 351-9400

Classic Wedge Favorites
+ Soups, Sandwiches and more!

NOW SERVING BREAKFAST!

7am-10:30 Daily
7am-2pm Sat & Sun

LUNCH & DINNER
10:30am-11pm Daily

LATE NIGHT SLICES!

Available until 2:30am Th, Fri & Sat

- 4 Profile | Harte School of the Arts
- 5 UR Here | Festival Preview
- 6 Summer of the Arts
- 8 Prairie Pop | Al Green
- 10 It's About the Food
- 11 Health/Food | Kombucha
- 12 Cover Story | Derby Rollers
- 15 Books | Go With Me
- 16 Arts Feature | The Rise and Fall of the Local Video Store
- 19 Talking Movies
- 20 Green Feature | Moving Guide
- 22 Music Scene | Live recordings
- 23 The Haps | Music To-do's
- 24 Dining Out | Lincoln Cafe
- 26 Calendar
- 27 A-List | This Month's Best
- 29 News Quirks
- 30 Straight Dope
- 31 Astrology

Letter from the Publisher

A community is a place. It is a people. It is a conversation. Since 2001, Little Village has been a part of that conversation in Iowa City. Recently, however, our voice has been absent due to a publishing transfer. Now, with our 69th issue, we're rejoining the collective consciousness.

Our return could not come at a better time, as we preview another summer-long celebration of the arts. Alongside

our Summer of the Arts preview, you'll find a feature on roller derby; old favorites like Kembrew McLeod, Thomas Dean, Paul Ingram, Kurt Friese, and Dr. Star; new additions like The Straight Dope; and our take on the people, events, music, art, movies, books, and food that influence our community.

As we embark on this next stage, we do it with renewed passion. As publisher and designer, I'm proud to have back on board three terrific editors, Alissa Van Winkle, Melody

Dworak and Andy Brodie. We're also happy to welcome back an extensive list of talented writers and contributors. To provide a broader look at the news, culture and arts of Iowa City we're expanding to 32 pages, adding more color

and building a new website that will launch in the coming months.

All of this monthly goodness is free to you, dear reader. But the success of this magazine depends on

two things: the support of the local businesses who advertise in these pages (be sure to tell them LV sent you!) and the input from friends like you. So, if you know something we need to hear, email us at Editor@LittleVillageMag.com.

In the long history of fabulous Iowa City summers, this one feels even sweeter than most. It's good to be back.

Andrew Sherburne



Photo courtesy of Chris Grebner

VOLUME | 7 ISSUE | 69 June '08

PUBLISHER | Andrew Sherburne
Publisher@LittleVillageMag.com

EDITOR | Alissa Van Winkle
Editor@LittleVillageMag.com

FEATURES EDITOR | Melody Dworak
Features@LittleVillageMag.com

ARTS EDITOR | Andy Brodie
Arts@LittleVillageMag.com

LAYOUT & DESIGN | Andrew Sherburne

ADVERTISING | Ads@LittleVillageMag.com

CONTRIBUTORS | Alicia Ambler, Cecil Adams, Kate Casper, Thomas Dean, Melody Dworak, Craig Eley, Kurt Friese, Paul Ingram, Brent Johnson, Kevin Koppes, Kembrew McLeod, Olga Petrova, Sara Pralle, Scott Samuelson, Tom Tomorrow, Roland Sweet, Kent Williams, Dr. Star

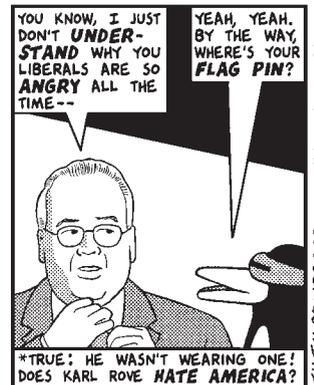
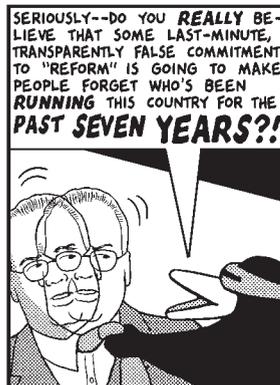
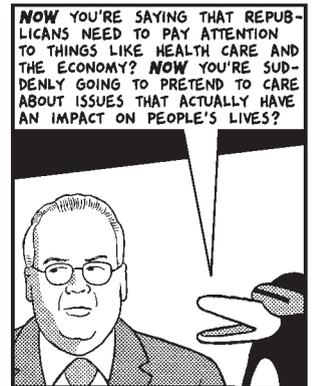
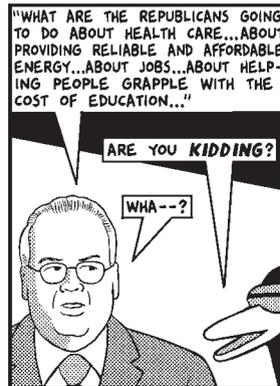
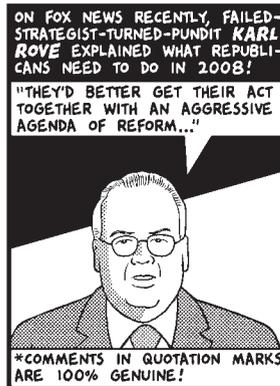
PHOTOS | Matt Butler, Jay Diers, Rachel Mummey, Chris Grebner, Jon Fravel, Olga Petrova

CONTACT | P.O. Box 736
Iowa City | Iowa | 52240
www.LittleVillageMag.com
Calendar@LittleVillageMag.com

Advertising and Calendar deadline is the 19th of every month. Contact Little Village for an ad rate card.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



© 2008 TOM TOMORROW. www.thismodernworld.com

From Russia, with Love

Lyudmila Harte teaches Iowa City children to hone artistic vision

I was overwhelmed with the irony of the situation. For the first 30 years of my life, I had lived in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), Russia, a unique cultural center which, among other treasures, houses the Hermitage, one of the richest art collections in the world. I had half my lifetime to learn about art. Yet here I was, 15 years later, far from my native St. Petersburg, getting my first lecture on art history.

As I was taking in the warmth and enthusiasm emanating from every word Lyudmila Harte was saying, I recalled our first encounter. It was eight years earlier, in Halsey Hall on the UI campus. Lyudmila emerged from one of the practice rooms, graceful, smiling, happy, her face flushed with exertion and excitement. That day, I found out that our toddler kids were in a ballet class together, that she was my compatriot, and that her American husband spoke better Russian than I did.

It was not until much later, at different points in our friendship, that I was discovering, each time with surprise, that Lyudmila graduated from one of the best ballet schools in Russia (Max Mixer School of Ballet in Vologda), that she holds a degree in Russian and Russian literature, that she is a professional seamstress, and that she has an M.F.A. in art history from the Russian Academy of Arts (located in my native St. Petersburg).

I also learned that for many years, Lyudmila worked as a senior preparator for the Vologda Art Museum, where she was responsible for design and installation of exhibitions in the renowned art museum in northern Russia, as well as for temporary exhibits in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and other major Russian cities.

She has incorporated those expansive experiences into an art school for Iowa City children.

As she moved to the United States and ended up in Iowa City, for several years she taught art and art history at the Montessori School of Iowa City, and then, after a two-year teaching experience in Eritrea, Africa, at the Asmara International Community School, she returned to Iowa City to set up her own art school.

Her unique background enabled her to devise a truly unique curriculum, which includes studying art theory and art history through carefully constructed art projects. The Harte

School of Art curriculum is based on two years of study. During the first year, the students cover the major artistic trends starting from Prehistoric Art through Neoclassicism; the second year focuses on Modern Art, from Romanticism and Impressionism through most recent Pop Art and Minimalism.



Lyudmila Harte

Here's a snapshot of Lyudmila's approach in her own words: "... students learn to use chalk and earth colors and to draw animals in cave art module. They study the philosophy of colors and the meaning of hieroglyphics in ancient Egyptian art; proportions of a human body and ideal faces in Greek art; mosaic, tapestry, and stained glass from St. George and the Dragon in Medieval Art, etc. Students can forget the difference between the Second and Third Pompeian Styles in Roman Art, but the general idea will stay in their mind and will give them a sense of orientation in a complicated timeline of art history.

"It is a good experience to do something you like not just for fun," Lyudmila says. "Art

is an intellectual process and hard labor. It requires a lot of patience."

She herself sets the pace in that regard. The amount of time and thinking that she invests in preparing for every class translates into classes where not a single second, let alone minute, would be wasted.

"Lyudmila Harte is just plain amazing; she is intelligent and artistic," said parent Jennifer Brands. "She teaches my daughter, Madigan, the history of art, as well as the techniques. It is not just about creating; it is about learning where and how art originated. Madigan enjoys her art class and Mrs. Harte immensely."

"Sharpen your vision!" is what Lyudmila keeps telling her students. "Cats through the Ages"—a March 2007 collection for the auction "Through Cat's Eyes," which benefited the Iowa City Animal Center—took my breath away (apparently, not just mine, since four of the works took top prize honors in the contest that preceded the auction). The last piece in the collection was done by Lyudmila's daughter Jocelyn, who was only two at the time.

According to the annotation that I read first, the piece represented polyrealism, one of the emerging artistic trends. "Inspired by an incident last Christmas Eve, Jocelyn here tells the story of being scratched across the forehead by her uncle's big black cat late at night after arriving by car from Iowa. The next morning, she found Thaddeus to be the most peaceful creature in the world, soaking in the winter sun by the warmest spot in the old Pennsylvania farmhouse."

Prepared to hide a bit of skepticism that was creeping in, I raised my eyes to the picture, only to realize there was nothing to be skeptical about. Jocelyn's drawing was a cat; there was no mistake about it. It was a drawing by a two-year-old who was blessed to be born with sharp vision and thus was able to capture the essence of a cat, something that I, with my unsharpened, dull, vision, have never been able to grasp. Let us sharpen our vision, friends! **IV**



"I never knew there were so many kinds of art: decorative, realistic and abstract," marvels Shirley Wang, a sixth-grader at Horn Elementary. "There are all different kinds of tools you can use to make art, not just a paintbrush, a pencil, paper, and paint!. Many of the tools of art you can find just in your house!"

Olga Petrova was born in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), Russia, on the day the first man flew into space. Since she graduated with a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Iowa in 2001, she has lived with her large family in Iowa City, teaching composition, grammar and sociolinguistics classes at Kirkwood Community College.

Community Rising

Feast yourself on
Iowa City Summertime

First, I'd like to welcome Alissa Van Winkle, Melody Dworak, and Andrew Sherburne back to Little Village, and thank Andy Brodie for also becoming part of the team. I am more than grateful that they have returned to the fold. LV has been an essential tradition in the Iowa City area for a good number of years now, presenting an eclectic mix of arts news, intriguing features, local stories, and just plain funkiness that is nowhere else to be found. As this column focuses on what creates place, I am a dedicated supporter of a publication that does just that—helping to create place. IC needs LV. Thanks again for bringing it back from its hiatus!

And what a great time to come back—the start of summer is in full swing, and in Iowa City, that means festivals! During the months in the center of the calendar, our city comes alive in a way unlike any other time of year. The festival has a long history as a cultural centerpiece. It is a communal gathering that expresses who and what we are, builds community bonds, and honors a collective character that transcends any one of us. The word “festival,” of course, has its origins in the word “feast.” There is a literal dimension to that etymology, but I also look on the word origin to mean that, in a community festival, we “feast” on what makes a place to which we are connected and which we love.

Over the years, Iowa City expressed its character during the summer in a lot of ways. We are a city of arts. So it was natural that the Iowa Arts Festival was born and flourished. One of the arts we love is music, and we knew we had a great venue for the entire community to enjoy it: the Pedestrian Mall. So the Friday Night Concert Series was born. And so was the Iowa City Jazz Festival. And then, not too long ago, the Saturday Night Free Movie Series came along, expanding the cultural pallet. As the most recent addition, the Landlocked Film Festival joined the lot! Soon, summers were so full of exciting events that the entire summer was one big cultural festival. We are a people who create culture with passion and enthusiasm, and we gave voice to that identity along the streets and sidewalks and public areas of downtown.

We all know that such undertakings, even if they are organically related to the soul of our community, do not happen spontaneously. People need to organize them, and people



Downtown streets swarm during Jazz Fest.

Photo courtesy of Chris Grebner

need to fund them. Iowa City had a great track record of civic-minded volunteers stepping forth to put these festivals together and generous community lovers who shared their

**We are a people
who create culture
with passion and
enthusiasm and we
gave voice to that
identity along the
streets and sidewalks
of downtown.**

treasure to make them possible. But the essence of community is interconnection, and isolated efforts usually wither. At least one or two of the Iowa City summer traditions were actually in danger of extinction. In 2005, the one thing happened that always makes a community sustainable—people cooperated for mutual benefit. The Summer of the Arts, as an organization, was an elegant solution, and one that defines what great communities are always about. City government, public institutions, private businesses, and nonprofit organizations came together to make life better for all of us. And the fact that the organization keeps growing, as with the addition of the Landlocked Film Festival, shows that true civic engagement—engaging with each other—is the path to community success.

Iowa City sometimes has a split personality. Because we are the location of The University

of Iowa, we are cosmopolitan. People from all over the country, indeed all over the world, visit here and come to live here, sometimes for a short while and sometimes forever. Because of the vibrancy of the accumulation of so many perspectives and experiences, we enjoy a diversity unusual for a city this size. So we are able to offer a broad spectrum of cultural experiences and actually have them supported, in a way most commonly found in places like San Francisco or New York or Chicago.

Because of who we are, we can bring the international favorite Paquito D’Rivera to the stage or an Icelandic director’s film to the screen. But we as Iowa Citians are also of this place, of Iowa. No matter how long or short we stay here, we must not forsake the indigenous character of our relationship to the community. I think it’s equally important that we not only wave our national and international credentials, but also our local spirit. So we are also just as much about Dave Moore singing his hysterical “Coralville” song and (former) Iowans Kelly and Tammy Rundle’s showing us the dark side of small-town Iowa in their *Villisca: Living with a Mystery* documentary.

So—it’s summer, and it’s festival time. As we build our bonds of common identity by sharing our expressions of culture, let’s feast just as richly at the family supper table as we do at the chabudai. After all, that’s who we are. **lv**

Thomas Dean likes to feast at Hamburg Inn No. 2, Thai Flavors, Dane’s Dairy, Atlas, Devotay, The Airliner, El Rancho. At Z’Marik’s, he’s just as happy with Mac and Cheese as he is with Udon.

HOT TOWN!

It's summer in the city...time for the sun—and the arts—to shine.

Summertime in Iowa City belongs to those troopers who trudge through the vomit-chunked sidewalks during the university calendar to make it through to the blissful absence of undergrads when it's warm. And then it truly begins to feel like a vacation hot spot, when you add in the entertainment this place has to offer. With the Iowa Arts Festival in June, the Toyota Scion of Iowa City Jazz Festival in July, the Landlocked Film Festival in August, and the Friday Night Concert Series and Saturday Night Free Movie Series all summer long, scores of people can just walk down the block for some free entertainment.

Friday Night Concert Series

Fridays, May 16 - September 5

Collectively known under the umbrella organization Summer of the Arts (SotA), the Iowa City warm weather events kicked off in the Ped Mall Friday, May 16, with the City High and West High Jazz ensembles playing the first Friday night concert of the series. Just as finals week came to a close, and as students started to breathe again, the ensemble played to both dedicated and inadvertent audience members, with those neighboring businesses smart enough to offer outdoor patio seating cashing in.

One band that's sure to rock in the summer sweetness is Samba Nosso, playing on August 22. Unless the weather plays yet another trick on us this year, it's sure to be hot, humid, and delightfully sweaty in the groove

of this sensuous bossa nova and samba band. Even though the bands members sound good enough to teach this music, they are by day a mix of graduate students on their way to doctoral degrees and talented motherfuckers who can capoeira your ass and pound the drum for beats. Interested bossa lovers can check out the band's MySpace page at www.MySpace.com/senome.

If interested, simply find your way down to bustling hordes hovering where the children dare the Weatherdance Fountain to catch them. Music, whether you like it or not, awaits. The series ends with Public Property on September 5, the Friday after Labor Day.

Complete concert schedule online at www.summerofthearts.org/concerts/schedule.

Iowa Arts Festival

June 6-8

The arts festival taking place in Iowa City accompanies other art and crafts festivals in Iowa to make the state still bearable for art lovers to live in. According to a study supported by the organization Americans for the Arts, non-profit arts and culture organizations contribute \$63.08 million to the local economy in what's being called the Iowa Cultural Corridor—i.e., where we're at. These organizations are reported to support nearly 2,000 "full-time equivalent jobs," and bring \$33.9 million to local residents' household incomes.



Come for the art, stay for the street food.

Events like the Iowa Arts Festival in Iowa City seem to play a role in this economic impact.

"The exposure is priceless," said Ofer Sivan, co-owner of Oasis Falafel. Sivan said that before Oasis was The Falafel Joint, they sold their falafel at the summer festivals to get the word out about their business opening the following October. Since then, he said they've

done both the arts fest and jazz fest because they are good for business.

"My staff loves working the festivals," he said, "and the public loves having us there."

So even if not all of the artists and artisans presenting their wares come from Iowa, the event brings out the flavor of these local small businesses so that festival go-ers can gobble up falafels, fruit smoothies, samosas, and meat-on-a-stick for omnivores. (And, yes, sometimes funnel cakes can be found!)

And although some might find the arts festival's culinary row the biggest draw to come into the crowds downtown that weekend, others might be enticed by the attractions of local music, a gallery walk, "Global Village" crafting booths, and, of course, the plethora of visual arts to meander around. For more details of the event, see www.summerofthearts.org/artsfest/schedule.

Toyota-Scion of Iowa City Jazz Festival

July 4-6

Either 40 percent of the Iowa City population comes out to see this thing or it draws a helluva lotta out-of-towners. This musical Sommerfest has an estimated draw of 25,000 people yearly, and just like the arts fest, those visitors will spend, spend, spend when the college kids have left for the summer.

This is the oldest summer festival Iowa City has, having its inception in 1991—zomg, that's 17 years ago! In August, half the new freshmen will be that old. Congratulations, ICJF, you are now old enough to go to college. Back in 1991, the Ped Mall was only about 10 years old, the Old Capitol Mall had yet to be trampled by Coral Ridge, and 14-story buildings didn't exist in downtown Iowa City.

For the complete schedule of get-down horn blowers, electric guitar blingers, and rat-a-tat drum bangers in the downtown Iowa City of 2008, go to www.summerofthearts.org/JazzFest/schedule.

Saturday Night Free Movie Series

Saturdays, June 14 - August 23

Oh, *Back to the Future*, how you wooed us in 1985 and kept coming back for sloppy seconds and profit-thirsty thirds! There comes that time while we're growing up that we realize sequels (and beyond) kinda kill the authenticity of a film that really did something new for its generation. Now that computers have gone mainstream, we know a gigawatt is really a gigawatt, but the nostalgia is sweet for the time when advanced technology was explored in the realm of imagination. Technology now has BTTF fans creating modifications for *Grand Theft Auto: Vice City* that allow users to experience the DeLorean time car with the wicked doors for themselves (mod found at www.btffhillvalley.co.uk.)

So eat it, '85, this is 2008!

Back to the Future kicks off this summer's

SNFMS on June 14, following a musical performance by Ryne Doughty. Other memory-lane inducers include *Jaws* (1975, featured on June 28), *Ghostbusters* (1984—more fancy light-works in the sky anyone?—featured July 26), and *Labyrinth* (1986—oh, Jennifer Connelly, you taught us we should pluck our eyebrows!—featured August 16).

All films will be shown on the old screen from the Englert Theater, which will hang from the columns at MacBride Hall. On the Pentacrest, downtown Iowa City. For the full schedule, check www.summerofthearts.org/movies/schedule.

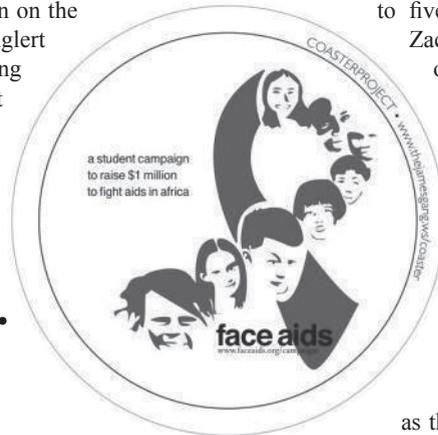
The Coaster Project

All summer long

One neat thing returning to SotA this year is the James Gang's The Coaster Project. The project puts out a call for artists to submit designs that advertise local non-profits. This year, six judges examined 18 entries from 10 different artists. Twenty-five hundred of each of the seven winning designs will be distributed to five downtown bars, said Zach Hoyt, current director of the project.

"It was harder to find support this year from bars," he said in an email. "Some bar owners cited the slowing economy

Helen O'Reilly designed one of the winners from 2007 for Face AIDS.



as the reason." Seven sponsors that supported the project will appear on the back of these designs, Hoyt said, citing Coldwell Banker, Summer of the Arts, Garage Mahaul, The Emma Goldman Clinic, Critical Hit Games, CorridorBuzz.com, and G-Spot Hair Design as the sponsors.

"Overall it was again a challenge to get off the ground, but it is very rewarding once those coasters are in hands, and even more so when you can get them out in the community," Hoyt said. "We've had great responses from participants and I'm optimistic it will happen again next year." Hoyt mentioned that The James Gang will be looking for a new director for the next year's coaster season.

The non-profits winning artistic exposure include the Domestic Violence Intervention Program, Earth Expo, Exodus Music Festival, Habitat for Humanity, Johnson County Humane Society, the Landlocked Film Festival and the Neighborhood Associations of Iowa City. To set a cold one on one of these coasters, visit Atlas, Deadwood, Saloon, Sports Column, or The Union. **IV**

Melody Dworak is *Little Village's* features editor. She used to want to conceive children to songs by the gospel-man in the next article. Now, she says, she just wants the feeling of conceiving children, without the actual children part.

Landlocked Film Festival

August 21-24

Ever growing along with the development of Iowa City, SotA events expanded last year to include the Landlocked Film Festival, which strives to bring great independent films to downtown Iowa City. Landlocked will be the August SotA feature, when the weather is perfect for watching films in the air conditioned indoors.

"In Iowa City, you can make a film festival and have it be a really big deal to the community," said festival co-director Mary Blackwood. "They [film festivals] can really make a difference."

Blackwood said she learned how to make films in San Diego, but that only New York and Los Angeles had viable job markets in the industry, and the creative and technical opportunities that people find within them. She said she was unexpectedly pleased to come back to the Midwest and find a welcoming audience.

And she found more than just an Iowan audience for Landlocked. She said she was surprised at the number of filmmakers that traveled to Iowa City for the event's first year. This year, Landlocked is planning ways for that audience of filmmakers to have a dialogue with the audience of audience members.

Several workshops have been planned, with the details about who, what, where, and when being released this month. Workshop topics will include film directing, screenwriting, self-distribution, and documentary filmmaking. Although SotA organizers are not releas-

ing the details until mid-June, Blackwood said the workshop being produced by Iowa will be the most fascinating one. So keep your ears perked.

Trends she's seen this year include some strong documentary contenders, narrative features—which she said were the hardest for independent filmmakers to make—and more than one zombie flick—seemingly a

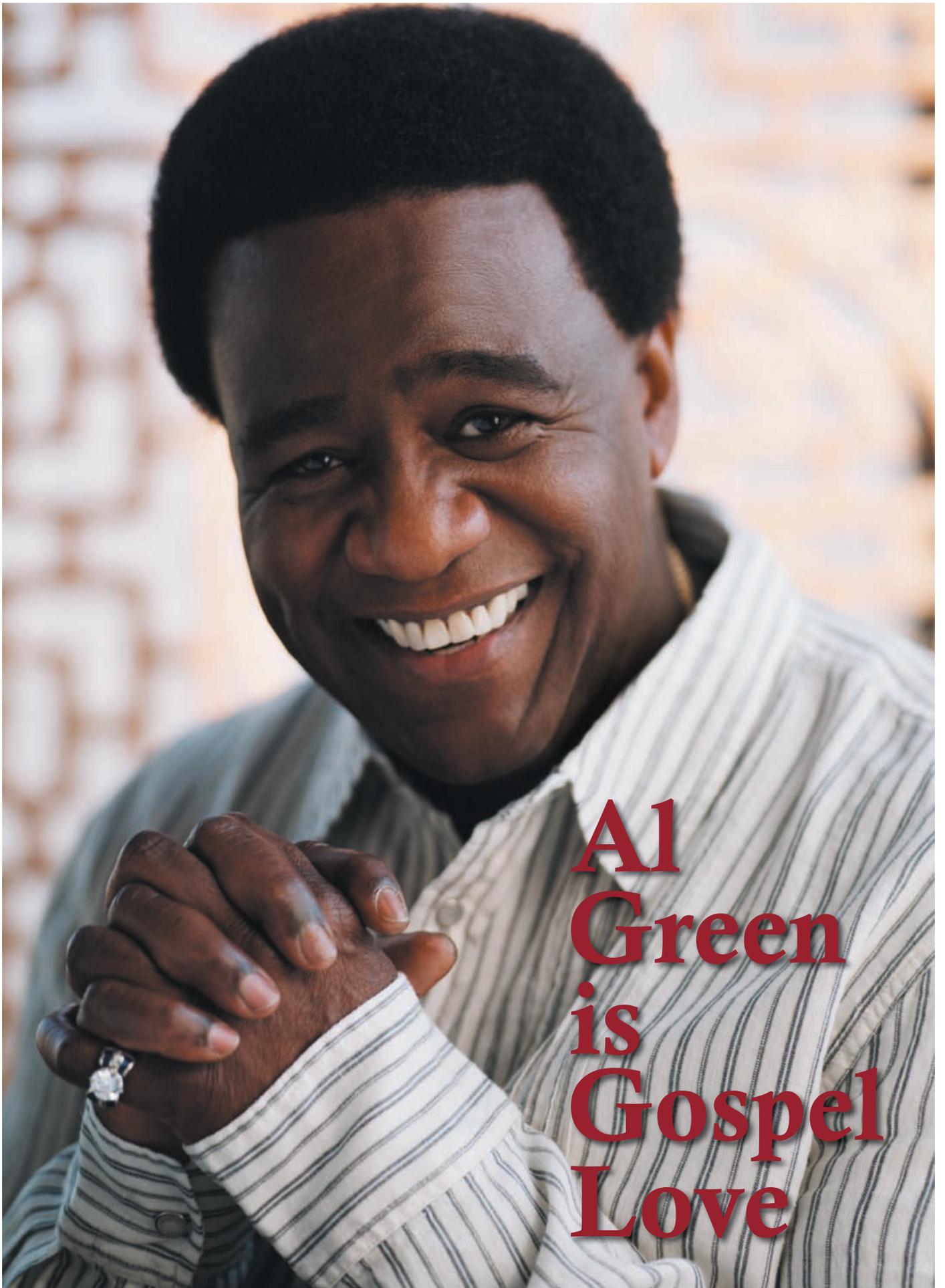


A Still from the Landlocked selection *The Cave: An Adaptation of Plato's Allegory in Clay*

compulsory project for some filmmakers, and one having endless imaginative potential (see *Dawn of the Dead*, page 16), they might as well have their own category.

Landlocked go-ers can expect to see some strong shorts, as well, and perhaps a well-done mockumentary, which at the time of this printing was a group that had yet to be whittled down to the best one.

For more information about Landlocked, visit www.landlockedfilmfestival.org.



**Al
Green
is
Gospel
Love**

Have you ever been in a room with a bona fide music legend? Of course you have, if by *room* you mean concert venue—but it's not the same thing as having Aretha Franklin give a command performance in your kitchen. I experienced the next best thing back in 2004, when I attended services at Al Green's church in Memphis, Tennessee. Over a quarter century ago, on December 19, 1976, this renowned soul man founded the Full Gospel Tabernacle Church, and a couple years later, he gave up on secular music entirely, living the Christian life 24-7.

Although I made the trip down South to check out Graceland, I was far more motivated by the prospect of catching the Reverend Al Green in his native habitat. It was an act of faith to drive eight hours with nothing more than hope, because I had no idea if he regularly preached. I was surprised to find that Al Green Drive is an unassuming narrow residential street—right off of the seedy, strip-mauled Elvis Presley Blvd.—that leads to an even more unassuming church. I was astounded to find that there were no more than 50 people in the audience, or, congregation. Only 50 people? What the hell does it take to fill a church

is on the Main Line.”

The good Pastor—who was dressed in his Sunday best, and Al Green in his Sunday best is a sight to see—spontaneously began singing after a congregation member's tearful public confession that she was addicted to marijuana. “Jesus is on the main line,” Green soothingly sang with a voice untouched by the wear and tear of time, “Tell Him what you want/ Oh, call Him up and tell Him what you want.” After a fairly low-key beginning, it quickly turned into a full-on Southern Pentecostal whirling dervish of Lord-praising, shouting, jumping, screaming and singing. The choir settled down as Green began preaching again, though the band never really stopped. Throughout most of the service a warm musical blanket wrapped itself around us all as the band played on, softly.

Things quickly turned riotous again, especially after Reverend Green began shouting about “the demon of marijuana,” and promised to exorcise it from this woman. He shouted, with hands placed on her forehead, “YOU DEMON OF MARIJUANA, I COMMAND



Al Green and Questlove in the studio at work on Green's new album, *Lay It Down*.

YOU TO LEAVE THIS WOMAN'S BODY!” Jesus is on the mainline... “OUT!” She fainted—wouldn't you pass out if Al Green just purged the weed demon from you?—and as her motionless form lay on the floor beneath him, everyone kicked out the gospel jams. *Oh, call Him up and tell Him what you want.* It was awesome, pun intended.

A few months before my pilgrimage, Al Green released his first secular album in 25 years—and through divine intervention it didn't suck the big a-hole like most “come-back” albums do. *I Can't Stop* and the follow up *Everything's OK* turned out to be worthy additions to his catalog, thanks in no small part to the fact that his producer Willie Mitchell, who helmed all his classic albums, didn't try to update Green's aesthetic. Green's new album, *Lay It Down*, was produced by The Roots' Questlove, who does an even better job of channeling the classic sound of Green's 1970s classics. It's a great record, and I highly recommend it.

Al Green is even touring again. I thought about seeing him, but doing so would ruin this very special moment that has been branded in my brain. Most of us never get to hear iconic voices in an unmediated setting, like when Rev. Green walked up and down the aisles, singing into our ears. Instead, we inevitably hear these voices amplified by home stereo or concert speakers. To hear Al Green vibrate the same air I breathed with his trademark falsetto was quite simply—to use that word again—awesome. **IV**

Kembrew McLeod loves unicorns, rainbows, and carnage. He lives in Iowa City with his wife and two cats.

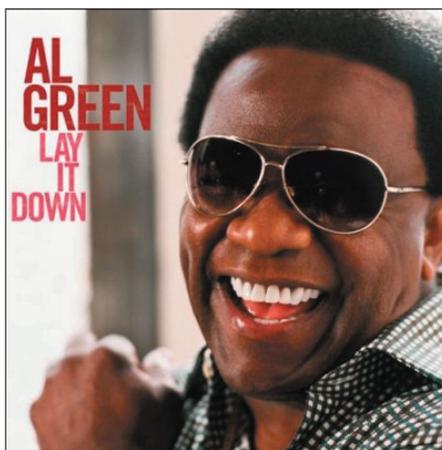
This column was reprinted and updated from the July 2004 issue of Little Village.

If there's one thing Al Green's church doesn't skimp on, it's the sound system—throttling roughly 100 decibels of raw gospel-funk on your Jesus worshipping ass.

in Memphis these days?

Pull quote: Everything about the church seemed unbecoming of a cultural titan like Al Green. However, if there's one thing the church doesn't skimp on, it's the sound system—throttling roughly 100 decibels of raw gospel-funk on your Jesus worshipping ass. Two gigantic P.A. speakers loom above the dozen-strong choir, which rides a musical wave produced by the band's rhythm section. It shakes the building's foundations, not to mention the soul.

They played gritty, mighty funk that recalled the early-1970s heyday of George Clinton's Funkadelic, back when they fancied themselves both a funk *and* rock band. I had never been to a church where an electric guitar wielding musician bursts into an acid-rock-washed solo, not to mention a high-speed Recessional that sounds like Jimi Hendrix fronting the Ramones. I practically had to scrape my jaw off the pew the first time the trio kicked in with a resounding WHOMP, swooping underneath Green's impromptu *a capella* version of “Jesus



Al Green midwest tour dates:

7/11 Sterling Heights, MI
7/12 Chicago, IL
7/13 Saint Louis, MO

info at www.algreenmusic.com

Slow motion

Chef Friese dishes on the positives of a Slow Food Nation

America wrestles every day with the pressing concerns of health, security, education, poverty, and human rights. As the name of this column might suggest, I contend that these issues are all intimately tied to food. Throughout human history most wars have been fought either directly or indirectly over food, and each culture's identity is inextricably linked to the food they produce and consume (or don't, as the case may be).

Seeking, as all people do, to leave for our grandchildren a world that is better than the one we inherited, we would do well to address the food system, locally, nationally and globally, and consider whether it provides quality food for everyone, free of pollutants and chemicals, and in a just manner. Our current system does none of these things. Fresh, organic, healthy produce, meat and dairy is the purview primarily of the wealthy classes, while the rural and inner city poor are left to contend with insecure food deserts, eating primarily heavily processed, nutritionally devoid edible food-like substances.

In our schools, even in those of the wealthier school districts, the food provided is chosen to meet budgetary restrictions first, followed by woefully inadequate nutritional guidelines. The system is an upside-down absurdity that is designed to benefit a bloated conglomerate

of agribusiness and chemical interests by providing them with a place (read: our children) to dump their overproduction. The health, wellbeing and happiness of the students are, at best, tertiary considerations.

Meanwhile we are bombarded every day with marketing that suggests that price is the primary concern when selecting food, that quantity is quality, and that feeding ourselves and our families should be handled in much the same way we fuel our cars—pull in, fuel up, take off.



This in turn brings to mind the small matter of the oil we eat. The industrial world's agricultural system is wholly and entirely reliant on easy access to cheap oil, something that has been plentiful for almost 100 years. Now cheap oil's corpulent chickens are coming home to roost. With most conservative estimates telling us that we are at or perhaps even past the point of peak oil production, population and the concomitant demand for energy will continue to rise as world oil stocks dwindle to 19th century level, and prices soar to previously unimaginable heights.

There has to be a better way.

This coming Labor Day weekend, Slow Food USA will convene and event in San Francisco that is part congress, part seminar, part festival. Dubbed Slow Food Nation, it envisions a food system that is Good, Clean, and Fair. One that provides delicious, healthy food, free of petroleum and other chemi-

cal pollutants at a price that is fair to eater and grower alike.

Slow Food Nation will deliver a transformative food experience, based on enjoyment and pleasure, which will lead to a greater understanding of the role of food choices in environmental wellness and sustainability. Slow Food Nation will speak as a peer to its visitors, serving as an approachable and friendly docent [knowledgeable guide] who shares insights into food, but sits back and lets each person enjoy their personal experience.

This event will endeavor to be will be a platform for the food movement, providing information and resources and leveraging expertise that already exists, while broadening the outlook of all participants. It will engage leaders from the fields of agriculture, retail, food service, the arts, environmentalism, social justice, energy, immigration rights and sustainability in a "Changemakers Day," an opportunity to collaborate and share best practices across a wide array of related areas.

A vast majority of the activities are free and open to the public, and a crowd in excess of 80,000 is expected to flow through over the four days of the event. Artisanal food and beverage from all 50 states will be represented, along with art and music with the lovely city of San Francisco as a backdrop.

Subsequently food, and the food system, will begin to get the attention it has been lacking.

Learn more at www.SlowFoodNation.org. **lv**

Chef Kurt Michael Friese is the founding leader of Slow Food Iowa City. He is chef and owner, with his wife Kim McWane Friese, of the Iowa City restaurant Devotay.

Exotic India
Authentic Indian Cuisine

Delicious Lunch Buffet

Open Daily for Lunch and Dinner

319-354-4710
102 2nd Ave, Coralville
Next to El Dorado

Dine In or Carry Out

You're reading this.
(so are 10,000 other people)

little village
advertise with us
and reach new customers

Ads@LittleVillageMag.com or
319/331-0791

Lots of Life (with a Touch of Drunk*)

The craze of the probiotic health tea

*kombucha has .05% alcohol—drivers beware!

Kom-bu-cha (*kām-'boo-sha, -cha*) *n.* A tea, either black or green, that has been fermented with a culture composed of yeasts and bacteria. Kombucha was introduced in the United States in the 1990s, and has been gaining in popularity in Iowa City as the new somewhat caffeinated beverage of choice. The tea smells like apple cider vinegar with a hint of sweetness.

The kombucha culture eats sugar mixed into the tea and turns it into a variety of acids. These include glucuronic, lactic, acetic, usnic, oxalic, malic, gluconic and butyric acids, according to kombucha writer James Roche. Most of these acids help cleanse the digestive system and fight against harmful bacteria in the intestines.

The tea is also probiotic, meaning it contains a variety of healthy bacteria, which are also found in food products like yogurt, sauerkraut, kimchi, tempeh and miso. The body needs enough healthy bacteria to overpower harmful bacteria in the intestines so as to prevent imbalances that may lead to illness.

Which is what G.T. Dave, owner of G.T.'s Kombucha and Synergy, said he was inspired to make and sell in his product.

"Probiotics are essential to our bodies," he said.

Dave explained that kom-

bucha simply has a high concentration of enzymes and probiotics. These substances occur naturally in fruits and vegetables.

"Food is supposed to be super, super simple," he said after noting that unfortunately, genetically modified crops, frozen dinners and fast food have become standard in the American diet. What kombucha does, Dave said, is help restore balance in our bodies.

Kombucha websites claim the tea does everything from cure cancer to restore hair color. Other attributes include cleansing internal organs, increasing immunity, assisting weight loss, restoring youth, lowering cholesterol, increasing circulation and detoxifying the body. Regular users say kombucha gives them energy, helps their digestion and makes them feel rejuvenated overall.

Kim Petersen, the perishable foods buyer at New Pioneer Co-op, said she often sells more than 200 bottles of kombucha in a week. Having started carrying kombucha a couple of years ago, she said sales have picked up within the past year, thinking word-of-mouth advertising and media attention on antioxidants have influenced increased sales.

"I know a lot of people have made it part of

their daily routine," she said.

Petersen often recommends kombucha for customers looking for probiotic foods.

"You can feel it when you're half way through the bottle," she said. "No one's ever said they don't feel the effects."

The beverage gained some notoriety when, in 1995, it was thought to be linked to the death of an Iowa woman. Dr. John B. Stokes, Director of Nephrology in Internal Medicine at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, reported on the incident for the Centers for Disease Control. Stokes explained that the woman had extreme acidosis but that her death was not likely a result of drinking kombucha.

"The acids in kombucha are fairly easily consumed," he said.

Dr. Nicole Nisly, director of the Complimentary and Alternative Medicine Clinic in Internal Medicine at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, said she wouldn't recommend the drink to immune suppressed patients, as they may be vulnerable to the consequences of contamination.

Kombucha beverages can be found at the new Bread Garden Market in the Ped Mall, and New Pioneer Co-op, both the Iowa City and Coralville locations. **lv**

Kate Casper is a freelance writer in Iowa City, Iowa. She graduated with bachelor's degrees in Journalism and International Studies from the University of Iowa and works as a production assistant at Iowa Public Radio. Her home-brewed kombucha jug is dressed in a blue and green handkerchief.



kom·bu·cha DIY

In order to brew a batch it's best to follow some ground rules. First, sanitation is essential. Be sure to wash your hands, use only clean utensils and brew in a clean space. Second, after boiling the tea water, the brew is not to touch metal because its acidic quality could leach toxins from the metal.

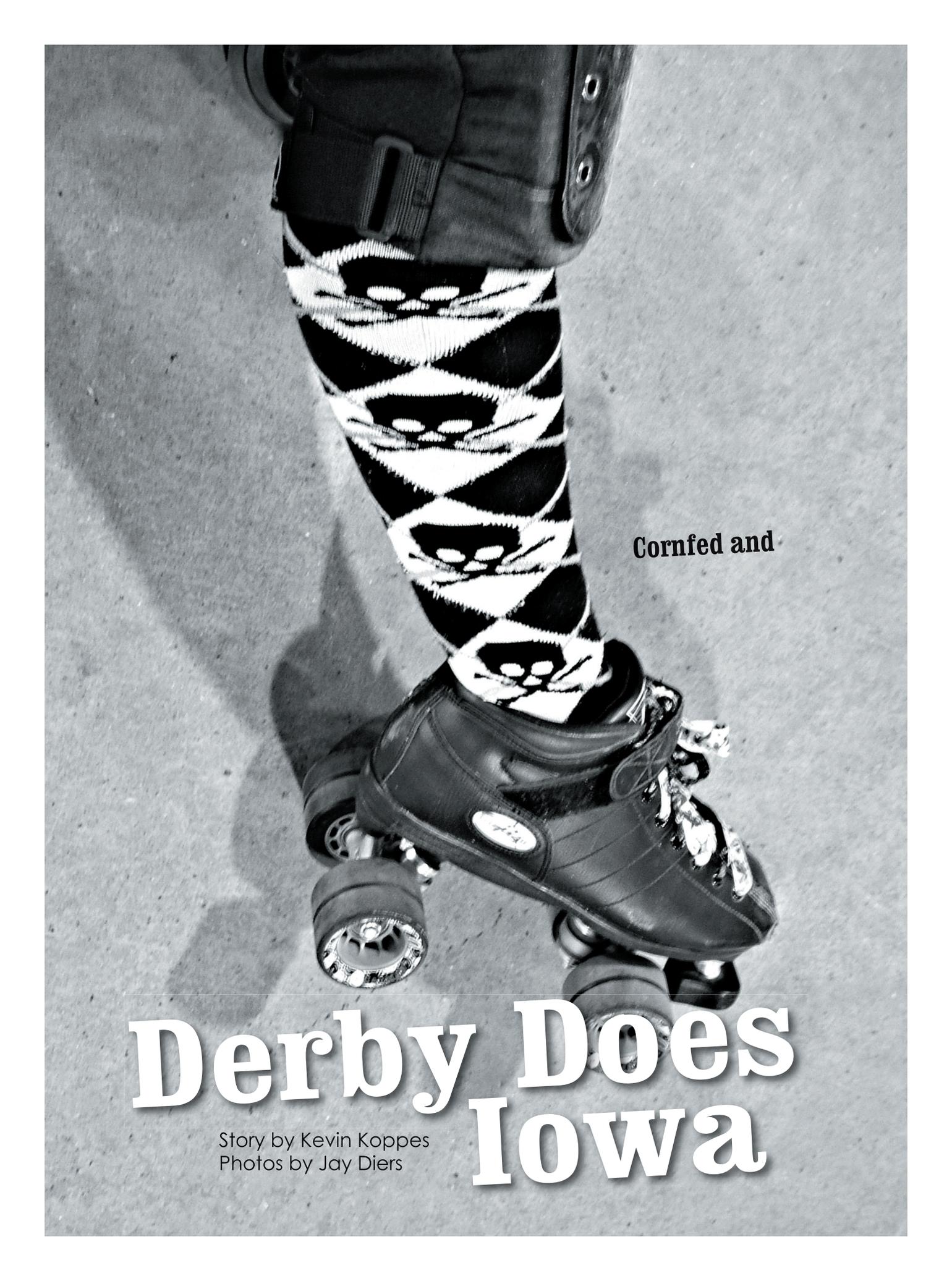
Begin by boiling water, but be sure to use bottled water. Water in Iowa City contains chlorine and fluoride, according to Water Department spokesperson Carol Sweeting, which may inhibit the culture. Add four to six black or green tea bags to the boiling water in a gallon-sized glass jar. Allow the tea to steep for 10 minutes and add one-fourth to one-half cup sugar.

Let the brew cool to room temperature; add a splash of already fermented tea, either from a previous batch or from store-bought kombucha, and finally, the kombucha culture itself. Cover the jar with a piece of cloth, and secure it with a rubber band. Store the brew in a warm, quiet place, and let it rest for seven to 10 days. In the hot summer months, the fermentation time speeds up, giving you a finished batch in four to five days.

If this process seems daunting, you don't have to brew your own kombucha at home. Dave said many of his customers choose to buy bottled kombucha because brewing it at home "is a little too much of a science project."

New Pioneer Co-op and the Bread Garden carry G.T.'s original kombucha as well as a rainbow of Synergy flavors such as Cosmic Cranberry, Mystic Mango, Divine Grape, Raspberry Rush and Gingerberry. Prices range from \$3.59 to \$3.79 per bottle.

My own kombucha culture has birthed two babies, so my roommates are helping me nurture three jars of tea. They sit perched on top of our refrigerator like lab specimens or Sci-Fi experiments. We just have a few more days before the sweet-'n-sour potion is perfectly fermented and ready to drink.

A black and white photograph of a person's leg from the knee down. The leg is wearing a dark-colored sock with a white geometric pattern of triangles and diamonds. The person is wearing a dark roller skate with four wheels. The background is a plain, light-colored concrete floor. The text "Cornfed and" is printed in a serif font on the right side of the leg.

Cornfed and

Derby Does Iowa

Story by Kevin Koppes
Photos by Jay Diers

While ominous monikers, flashy attire, and the brutality of sport might conjure up notions of professional wrestling and “patriotic gladiators” for most, a growing collection of athletes around the country are steadfastly committed to bringing such an activity to the national forefront in a major way: women’s roller derby. Not surprisingly, such committed individuals are found throughout Iowa’s cities and towns, showing no signs of letting their beloved sport fall by the wayside.

Also known as “flat track derby,” women’s roller derby is a full-contact, five-on-five sport drawing from sports as diverse as hockey and rugby. When combined with a good-natured intensity, a flair for performance, a lean toward the aesthetics of satire, and a hearty dose of DIY ethic, it’s certainly not difficult to see why the sport has grown in leaps and bounds over the past several years.

In other states, it’s fairly common for a league to be centered in a major metropolitan area like the Windy City Rollers out of Chicago and the Brewcity Bruisers from Milwaukee. In Iowa, however, such large cities are not to be found. Nevertheless, Iowa currently boasts fully-formed or rapidly developing leagues in Cedar Rapids, Sioux City, the Des Moines area, and the Quad Cities area.

A member of the Quad City Rollers, Doom Kitty has been involved in her particular league

“Aside from the names, everything is real. We have real injuries just like any other full contact sport, only we do it on wheels.”

since its humble inception. Like many women who get into the sport, Kitty got started with little more than a lot of interest and even more commitment.

“I personally got started in derby in late 2006 when there were just a few of us trying to start things,” Kitty said, referring to the skaters, practice locations, and other organizational necessities involved in forming a league. “I had actually found something on a MySpace

group before I went to my first open skate. I could barely skate (at the time).”

There are also those in the Iowa derby circuits who have been involved in the sport for much longer. Motley Cruel, veteran member of the Cedar Rapids Rollergirls, played in Indiana before coming to Iowa and picking up where she left off. Naturally, Cruel was quick to note the huge appeal derby can have for women of all different shapes, sizes, ages, and

with geography and much more to do with gumption and desire.

“We skated around at open skates for 9 months before we started getting enough committed girls,” Kitty said. “If you stick with it, anything is possible and here we are.”

With the names, outfits, and other slightly “over the top” aspects of the sport, some casual observers of women’s roller derby might be inclined to think that anything calling itself a “sport” in the truest sense ought not have need

for such pomp and circumstance. An actual roller, however, would very quickly jump to the defense of the sport, its fans and participants, and the way in which the sport is presented. When asked if some considered women’s roller derby to be staged or fake, Kitty was very prepared for such an inquiry.

“We get that a lot, and all we say is ‘it isn’t anymore,’” Kitty said. “There are many rules and regulations that we must follow. It’s not the way it used to be anymore, just go to a bout and see for yourself.”

Cruel, having played for a number of teams in a number of leagues, was also more than familiar with the public perceptions related to women’s roller derby, many of which tend to be quite negative initially.

“Once people get past the stereotype, then they lighten up a bit,” Cruel said.

Even Cedar Rapids Rollergirls referee, Derik Daubenmier—who first got involved in derby through a background in skating and an introduction to Cruel—had a number of preconceived notions about the sport before actually seeing it in action.

“I remember seeing it when I was younger,” Daubenmier said. “I thought it would be more like how it is on TV.”

On the topic of roller derby “not being fake,” Kitty was also quick to point out how much work goes into the sport and how the pageantry surrounding the sport is for show, but the sport itself is certainly not.

“We practice at least 4 hours a week, travel to skate with and learn from other teams, and study lots of info about the sport,” Kitty said.



levels of ability.

“Derby has a place for everybody,” Cruel said, going on to add that the Cedar Rapids Rollergirls have players ranging in age from 19 to mid-40s.

Now one year into official activities, the Quad City Rollers started slowly and focused primarily on holding open skates (skate sessions open to the public) and getting the word out about the formation of a roller derby league

in the area. A league in the official sense, the Rollers also hope to eventually form distinct

teams within their league, while expanding competitive horizons elsewhere.

“Normally leagues bout other leagues in other cities or states, but within leagues are teams that just bout each other,” Kitty said. “The travel team is usually the best girls out of all the teams in each particular league.”

As far as the seemingly high number of leagues within the state of Iowa go, Kitty thought the phenomenon had much less to do

“Aside from the names, everything is real. We have real injuries just like any other full contact sport, only we do it on wheels.”

Despite the intensity of the matches, the occasional outbreak of fisticuffs, and the snarly face most women put on their characters and the sport overall, the national, regional, and local networks of leagues is nothing if not highly supportive of other developing groups. Even outside



So happy together: The Cedar Rapids Roller Girls don't roll without their elbow pads and helmets. Rule #1: Always bring protection.



Derby practice is not as easy as this athlete-on-wheels makes it look.

of the national organization, the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA), individual leagues around the country are, according to Kitty, very willing to lend advice or direction, especially when it comes to getting something new off the ground.

“Just ask other leagues if you need help and they will help,” Kitty said. “This is a big sisterhood where, for the most part, everyone helps

everyone. We all have a common goal.”

The “big sisterhood” Kitty described can also be seen in the appeal roller derby has for those who are currently feeling out the possibility of joining a league. Katie James and Molly Sanders, recent spectators of a Cedar Rapids Rollergirls practice, noted both the camaraderie and community aspects of the sport as having major appeal.

“It’s a way to get in some ‘chick time’ without joining a dance class,” James said. Sanders concurred, noting the completely “open door” policy of the league.

“They’ve all been really welcoming and really glad I’m here,” Sanders said.

While it might seem odd that a sport as grassroots-oriented and organically evolved as women’s roller derby is has a national organization above it, the WFTDA—which formed in 2004—serves as both a plateau of development for leagues in existence and pro-

vides a body of rules and regulations for them to follow. When asked about the possibility of the Quad City Rollers becoming members of the WFTDA, Kitty was decidedly in favor.

“Yes, in the future we want to be WFTDA-certified, and these are the rules generally followed by other non-WFTDA leagues in our area,” Kitty said.

Cruel echoed the sentiment, noting that the structured guidelines of the WFTDA are not to be taken lightly and not to be rushed into, even if the organization itself still has a place in her league.

“It’ll be awhile before we apply, but we do play by WFTDA rules,” Cruel said.

Certifications, bout scheduling, and all else aside, the women who comprise Iowa’s various leagues have a pretty clear set of priorities: working hard, staying committed, and—above all else—letting the good times roll. **lv**

Kevin Koppes is nimble. Like a cat. Chasing a mouse. In a creepy old amusement park. He lives wherever he is, and will happily respond to messages at kevitronic@gmail.com

Jay Diers was born and raised in Iowa. He started his career at the ICON newspaper in Iowa City and then Little Village, before publishing two books internationally and contributed to art magazines, like BLUE, AXN and reFRESH. After a hiatus, Jay has returned to his first love: photojournalism.

A Brief History of Roller Derby

1914

The *New York Times* reports on a 24-hour banked-track roller skating race held at Madison Square Garden. The crowd loves the sprints and spills.

1950

Leo Seltzer’s male/female Roller Derby league enjoys nationwide TV appearances on CBS and ABC.

1973

Roller Derby ceases operations due in part to the oil crisis and the high cost of travel.

1977-2001

Numerous attempts at roller derby revivals fail. Despite the involvement of USA Networks, ESPN and even MTV, the sport cannot draw enough TV viewers.

1922

The *Chicago Tribune* uses the term “roller derby” to describe a flat-track race.

1954

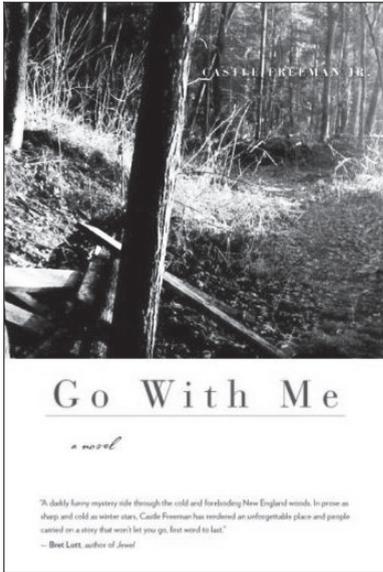
The San Francisco Bombers are established. The longtime champs are perhaps Roller Derby’s most well-known team of all time, featuring Joanie Weston, and Ann Calvello.

2001-now

Bad Girl Good Woman Productions creates the first grassroots all-female league in 2001, ushering in a new era of roller derby. The league expands to hundreds of teams in a few short years and even lands a reality TV show, *Rollergirls*.

Country for Old Men

So hot, he read it twice.



Castle Freeman Jr.

Go With Me

Steerforth

It's a little book, a hundred and sixty pages. The cover draws little attention, a patch of scrub around a tree. I'd never heard of the author, Castle Freeman Jr. and could draw no conclusions from the title, *Go With Me*, as to the book's contents. I looked at the spine and it said Steerforth. At that point I knew I'd read it, like it, and try to get other people to do the same.

Steerforth publishes a few books a year; the best Canadian stuff you've ever read and extraordinary fiction from the states by authors who fly under the radar and are known only locally if at all. Castle Freeman Jr. is such an author. *Go With Me* is a nearly perfect novel.

Midsummer: The long days begin in bright, rising mist and never end. Their hours stretch, they stretch. They stretch to hold everything you can shove into them; they'll take what ever you've got. Action, no action, good ideas, bad ideas, talk, love, trouble, every kind of lie—they'll hold them all. Work? No. Nobody works and longer. To be sure they did. The farmers worked. The midsummer days were the best working time of the year for the farmers, but the farmers are gone.

So begins *Go With Me*, a jolly tale of good and evil, a maiden in distress, old farts with memories that stretch way back, and Vermont's version of Yoknapatawpha County. The maiden in distress (Lillian) tells the sheriff, Ripley Wingate, she's being stalked by a horrible man, a man who killed her cat, and wants to hurt her in horrible ways. The sheriff, who knows everyone within a couple of hundred miles of his office knows who it is. It's the appropriately named bad guy, Blackway, whom most everyone fears.

Wingate can't help because legally Blackway would have to hurt Lillian before he could be arrested. He directs her to an ancient mill full of old farts who talk endlessly and drink beer when they have it. Here she is connected with a very crafty old fart named Lester and a muscle bound kid called Nate the Great for his huge biceps.

Lillian is not at all sure Lester and Nate can handle a bad guy of Blackway's reputation and the surly gang he hangs with, but it

Go With Me is the best piece of fiction I've read this year.



Castle Freeman, Jr.

becomes clear they're the best she's going to manage. In alternate chapters we see our heroes going after Blackway and our old farts at the mill talking like old farts will talk, wondering if Lester and Nate are Blackway's match, reminiscing over great events that have taken place in their mutual history. Arguing. Joking. Reconstructing a fading past.

Freeman is funnier than you can imagine. The dialogue is as perfect as country dialogue gets. Each character etched sharply and wisely. Lillian the heroine is able to shame at least two of them—one 80, one 18—into testing themselves against the region's legendary evil. Lester, the oldest fart, is smart as a fox. Nate is up for fisticuffs. You, dear reader, simply can't wait to see what will happen as

Also from Steerforth

America and the Islamic Bomb
Written by David Armstrong and Joseph J. Trento

The Book of Getting Even
A novel by Benjamin Taylor

Can Asians Think?
Understanding the Divide
Between East and West
Written by Kishore Mahbubani

Confluence: A River, The
Environment, Politics and the
Fate of all Humanity
Written by Nathaniel Tripp
Foreword by Howard Dean

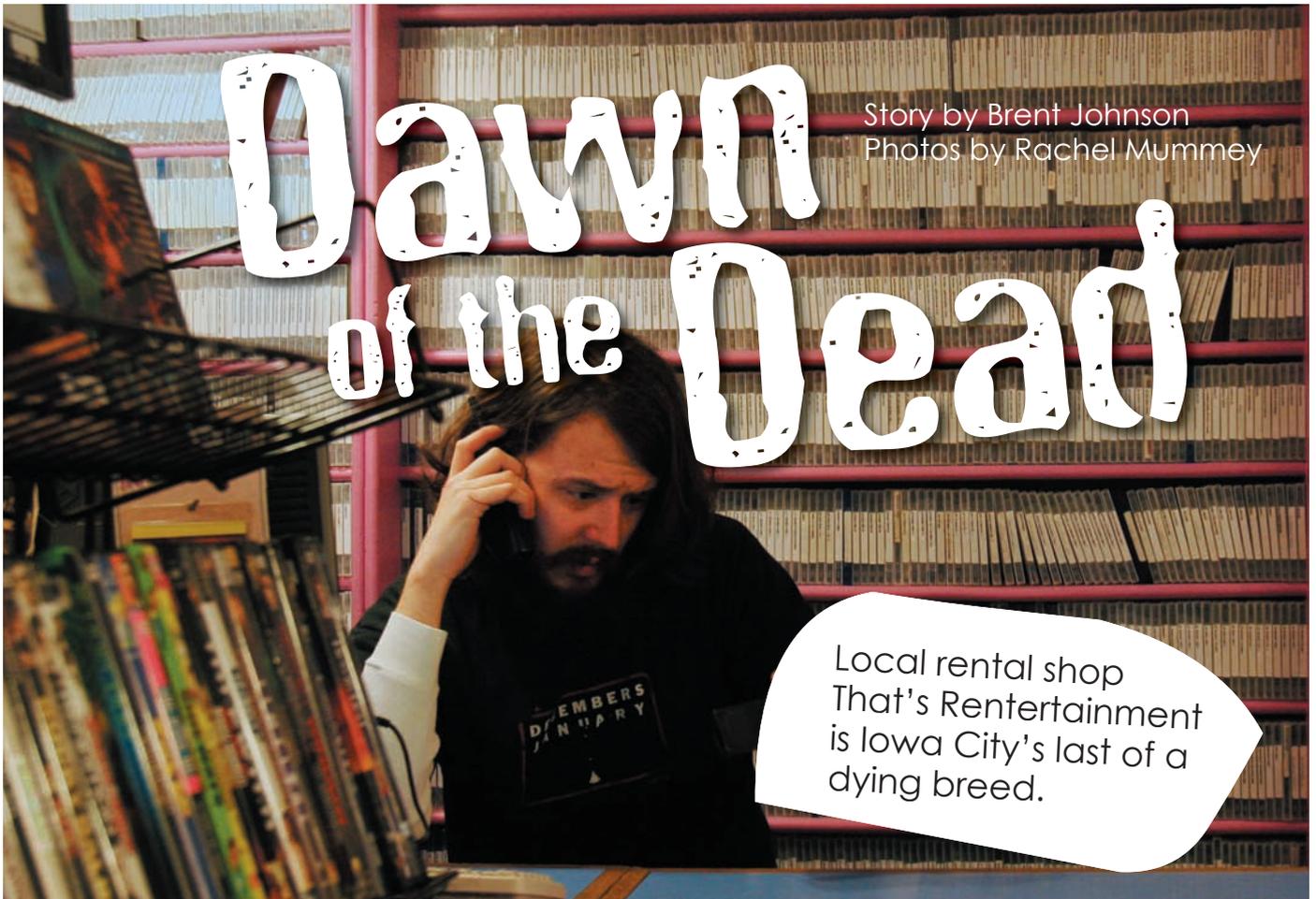
our posse nears Blackway's hideout.

I read this book in a few hours and then read it again, marking it as a book not to let out of my library. Castle Freeman Jr. as far as I can tell, is known in New England but has yet to see a national market for his work. *Go With Me* is the best piece of fiction I've read this year. Good like Charles Portis is good; good like Ring Lardner was good; good that makes you want to tell everybody you know about it. Let's hope the Coen Brothers get hold of it and film it. *Go With Me* is made for their goofy kind of regionalism. **IV**

Paul Ingram is a short man who lives in Iowa City. He has an overbite caused by his mother's fear of orthodontia. She has since died, leaving him with no chance to confront her about the effect this has had on his life. Most people see him as an introspective low-testosterone male, who has been known to make them laugh. All the rest is books.

Dawn of the Dead

Story by Brent Johnson
Photos by Rachel Mummey



Local rental shop That's Rentertainment is Iowa City's last of a dying breed.

Joe Kapp was grinning behind the counter at video store That's Rentertainment, making meat-cleaver motions in the air.

"Every job I've worked at, I've tried to find the easiest zombie hand-to-hand weapon. Working in kitchens was really easy because there was always something heavy around."

He dug below the counter and pulled up one of those huge-ass paper cutters found in just about any middle-school classroom.

"Now if I could somehow get this blade off, it'd be the perfect zombie hand-to-hand weapon."

It was something of a joke question at first after the conversations about the disappearance of video rental outlets became too grim. What would you do if a zombie apocalypse were to break out in Iowa City? What would you do if they tried to bust into the store and rip you apart?

Every clerk had a clear-cut plan for a zombie outbreak. But when it came to the slow onslaught of digital downloads and mail rentals by corporations like Netflix, shoulders shrugged, heads were scratched, and sentences started and stopped abruptly, trailing off into fragmented vernaculars of ums, ahs and wells. Optimism eventually gave way to realism.

Outside the timbered building, it was another cold, gloomy April evening during a string of cold, gloomy April evenings. Inside, wearing a black Lipstick Homicide shirt and a seemingly store-issued beard, Joe went about the day-to-day duties of a clerk, answering telephones and bullshitting with the customers.

At first he downplayed the rise of Internet film, which has steamrolled places like Rentertainment, and the beating it's unleashed on places like Rentertainment.

"Honestly, I don't think that in the future independent video stores will disappear."

Then came the cancer in his idealism.

"I try not to have a grim outlook for the future, but I also try to be realistic...I really want to be wrong."

For years Rentertainment has been one of the best outlets in Johnson County to rent thousands of films nearly impossible to find elsewhere. Low budget splatter-horror. Hardcore gay porn. Foreign documentaries. Anything to satisfy the obscure tastes. No questions asked. These places have been a celebration of equality because they don't discriminate between Hollywood blockbusters and no-budget art-house cinema, between the

wholesome and the trashy.

And across the country, they're disappearing in droves.

Joe put on Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now Redux* for background noise while customers trickled in, looking for copies of *Saw IV* and the sixth season of *Buffy*. An occasional burst of gunfire and death screams exploded from several TVs within the cramped space.

"Everyday this store is open makes me really happy because it's proving big business wrong. It's proving Wal-Mart wrong. It's proving Blockbuster and Netflix wrong that we're open. And Ross [Meyer, owner] is always talking about how this store is run like a punk rock band. And I think that's absolutely true. Everyday we're open is a fuck-you to the system."

"Every job I've worked at, I've tried to find the easiest zombie hand-to-hand weapon."

The home-movie industry has been a mercurial one, ever since Sony introduced the first commercial VCR back in 1975, using the smaller one-hour Betamax cartridge. A year later, another Japanese warhorse, JVC, introduced the VHS format, quickly igniting one of the fiercest rivalries in modern technology.

In October '77, Detroit-based Video Club of America began distributing videos through the mail, and soon VCR owners could watch whatever they wanted on TV, broadcast be damned. One of the company's first customers, George Atkinson, set up shop in West Los Angeles, renting Betamax videos for 10 bucks apiece, effectively launching the nation's first video rental store.

In '82, the VCR finally hit mainstream. Early adopters preferring VHS's longer recording capability over Betamax's superior quality, and a clear victor soon emerged. Betamax, soon to be forever pop culture's

West Branch to Cedar Rapids and as far away as Champaign, employing upwards of 80 people. Meanwhile, they distributed films to over 100 convenience stores throughout Iowa and neighboring states. (If you've ever grown up in a small town and rented from the one rack of outdated videos near the beer cooler, you get the idea.)

And nationwide, throughout the '80s and '90s, the American video store had become as much of an institution as the movie theatre.

The beardless Adam Protextor had just finished his Saturday shift at That's Rentertainment. The neighborhood smelled like rainwater and cedar chips, freshly lain around saplings, planted during yet another movement to revitalize the Northside Marketplace.

"I've thought about this a lot," Adam deliberated from the second floor of the video store among thousands of outmoded VHS cassettes. "Well, for a zombie attack, I have a samurai sword and an axe at my place. I always thought that I'd go to Coral Ridge Mall and try to get guns from Scheels, but I don't know if that's such a good idea. I'd probably just take my girlfriend and drive out into the country somewhere and find a farmhouse. I don't know. I'd probably just drive at that point."

For someone wearing a black *Nightmare on Elm Street* shirt and talking about a zombie apocalypse, Adam approached these questions thoughtfully with an academic

background, fine-tuned at UI's Cinema & Comparative Literature department. But his passion for film has unfurled from his engagement with it. Next October, he plans to start post-production for the film trilogy he's directed, *Resist Evil*, written by coworker, Louie Doerge.

But if all goes as planned and Adam can land a distribution deal with a company like Lion's Gate or Troma Entertainment, *Resist Evil* might be distributed through channels like Netflix—in direct competition with the store where he's worked for four years. Even he struggled with this predicament—that places like Netflix can offer 100,000 DVDs through the mail and 8,000 downloads. Online, everyone has access to nearly every film, legally and illegally, from foreign to independent cinema to the woefully obscure.

Adam explained, tilting back in his chair, "There is the democratization that comes with digital media, and I think that's valuable. But I don't think that it should replace what we have. I think it should augment it, I guess."

But where does that leave the local store? If people are getting any film they want through



Laramie Wall rifles through a box of new releases at That's Rentertainment Video. Ross Meyer, owner of the lone video rental store near downtown, is selling much of his inventory to make room for new merchandise.

whipping boy, lost spectacularly and fizzled into obsolescence by the late '80s.

In the trenches of these format wars, Iowa City's That's Rentertainment opened in April 1983. It was a risky venture, though, because only five-and-a-half percent of American households with TVs owned VCRs. But that number would double the next year, then double again in 1985, and by 1988, nearly 60 percent of all U.S. homes would have VCRs, according to Aaron Foisi Nmungwun's Video Recording Technology.

Terri Miller Chait and husband, Benjamin spoke about their 20 years as owners of Rentertainment from their art gallery, Chait Galleries Downtown, the location of their first video store, now whitewashed and filled with expensive regional art. For them, the real threat wasn't corporate competition but from perennially changing trends, beginning with Betamax and VHS, followed by the advent of pay-per-view and cable, and later, from fads like Laserdisc.

Despite the volatile industry, the Chaits would eventually boast 10 to 12 Rentertainments—from the Iowa City area to

BIJOU THEATER

A non-profit, student—run cinema screening independent, art house, foreign and classic films since 1972.

CARMEL

Directed by Nadine Labaki | France/Lebanon
Friday June 6 - Thursday June 12

RUN FAT BOY RUN

Directed by David Schwimmer | US/UK
Friday June 13 - Thursday June 19

THE BAND'S VISIT

Directed by Eran Kolirin | Israel/France/US
Friday June 20 - Thursday June 26

THE COUNTERFEITERS

Directed by Stefan Ruzowitzky | Austria/Germany
Friday June 27 - Thursday July 3

ADMISSION ALWAYS ONLY

\$5

BIJOU THEATER | 319-335-3041
IOWA MEMORIAL UNION, IC
SHOWTIMES & TRAILERS AT
www.BijouTheater.org

Be famous.
(kinda)

little village

is looking for Writers
and Photo Essays

Editor@LittleVillageMag.com or
319/339-0939

The Framers' Intent
Professional custom framing made personal

361 E College St 248-3199
Open 10am - 6pm Tues - Sat

the mail and the Internet, why should anyone care about places like Rentertainment?

Scanning over the clutter of VHS tapes, weeded out from the store's inventory, Adam wrestled with these questions like any insider facing the decline of their industry. It was like asking a small-town grocer about the benefits of a Wal-Mart Supercenter.

"Online technologies create these illusions that we're closer together while it's actually separating us," he said. "And that's kind of what I see with video stores, everyone in the community goes out to this place to get their entertainment. And it's a place where you build social capitol and see each other. I think with Netflix, which delivers straight to your home, you're probably not going to end up exposing yourself to as much. You're separate from your community; you're part of this artificial digital community."

By 2002, the Chaits began downsizing their video chain. They moved the last Rentertainment into a squat, unremarkable building once home to Pearson's Drug Store before it unceremoniously disappeared from the neighborhood. Although Benjamin Chait said that sales jumped 50 percent after the move, in 2006, he and his wife sold the business to Ross Meyer to pursue other interests.

Then online rental services like Netflix had begun metastasizing, overtaking the mediascape from out of nowhere. And millions were illegally downloading through websites like Pirate Bay without paying anything to anyone.

This December even Movie Gallery, the second largest rental chain in the country, succumbed to the sea change and filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and announced the closure of nearly 1,000 stores. Meanwhile, according to its annual report, Netflix posted record profits in 2007, adding nearly 2.5 million customers in the last two years.

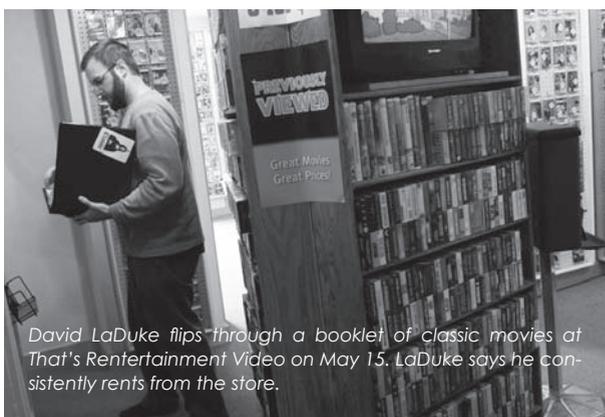
The Internet's impact has been unmistakable. The same fate that has befallen the music industry and decimated CD sales now seems to be taunting the film industry and, by association, wrecking small mom-and-pop video stores throughout the country.

One Wednesday in late April, Sam Locke Ward paced behind the blue-topped counter within the last Rentertainment store, from time to time turning to a Simpsons DVD.

"Oh, you gotta hunker down outside of the city, man. You gotta get out of the city or you're

fucked. You gotta go somewhere safe location that's remote. But don't get me wrong—I'm not a conspiracy theorist about zombies."

Broken occasionally by laughter, Sam's energetic ranting was less neighborly than Joe



David LaDuke flips through a booklet of classic movies at That's Rentertainment Video on May 15. LaDuke says he consistently rents from the store.

"The reason not to rent at Netflix is because Netflix is evil."

and less academic than Adam, but he spoke from the gut.

"Yeah, you know, the reason to rent here instead of Blockbuster is because we don't edit content like they do. And we have the indie stuff you can't get at Blockbuster."

He leaned over the counter.

"And the reason not to rent at Netflix is because Netflix is evil."

Sam spoke about the risks of pirating Hollywood movies and about the need to support smaller filmmakers by renting their works, which creates a demand for independent filmmaking. But he also seized upon a telling detail about the change to DVDs and digital formats. Because VHS is nearly obsolete--except at places like Rentertainment--films that have never made the format transfer are disappearing.

"Right when DVDs came out, you could go to the dumpsters outside of any dorm or frat or apartment building, and people were just throwing away their entire VHS collections. And it was like 'what are you freaking doing?' I'm sure they're gonna put Mrs. Doubtfire on DVD, but not that weird, old shit."

Outside That's Rentertainment in April, snow flurries came down during one of the coldest springs on record.

Inside, the store's newest, and perhaps last, owner Ross Meyer stared despondently at a TV screen watching *The Chosen One: Legend of the Raven*. In it, a woman wearing blue lin-

gerie lay covered in blood, dead on a polyurethane sheet. Every now and again, when Ross spoke, god-awful actresses would shriek while getting stabbed by psychotic rednecks.

Several years ago he purchased the store from the Chaits and moved it across Linn Street to a smaller space, raising nearly \$20,000 on his own to do it. The Chaits helped him out by cosigning the loan. Unfortunately the customers disappeared with the old location—upwards of 50 percent, he estimates. Some customers simply thought Rentertainment went out of business.

"Realistically," Ross said, strangely pragmatic, "and I don't know when, whether it'll be five years, 10 years, 15 years, or what—I don't think you'll be going to a store to hand over cash for a disc anymore. At some point the technology is just going to be pushing buttons on your remote control. And movies are just gonna come on your TV and probably show up on your phone bill or cable bill or whatever."

Although at first he blamed the move for the loss of customers, Ross eventually and reluctantly admitted that companies like Netflix were indirectly hurting his store. He said the students, who come and go every year, now grew up with online services and not independent video stores, which has been a part of American culture for nearly 30 years.

And there's really no way to reverse it.

At some point after the last woman had been stabbed, after the customers trickled in less and less, and after Ross said his peace about video rental, the final question returned. What would you do if a zombie apocalypse were to break out in Iowa City? What would you do if they tried to bust into the store and rip you apart?

"I probably wouldn't be in the video rental business anymore," he said. "I don't know if I'd be that guy with a baseball bat or a chainsaw or whatever. I might be the get-the-heck-out-of-Dodge-type of guy, but then again maybe it would be worth sticking around and fighting for." **lv**

Thanks to the Catholic Church's bizarre and fanatical contempt of birth control, Brent Johnson was conceived one cold afternoon in February to a Doobie Brothers record, and having beaten 100 million other spermatozoa to his mom's ovum, he won the ontological jackpot for a sound start to a good life.

Within the tiny frame of Rachel Mummey's favorite painting, a fat parasol-holding panda balances himself on a unicycle. His rolling tummy awkwardly hangs forward and his legs too short to reach the pedals. Nevertheless, he continues his balancing act high above the ground under hot circus spotlights

Missing: Iron Grace

The ancient Athenians had the goddess Athena whom they worshiped in the Parthenon. We have superheroes with names like Captain America whom we worship increasingly in temples like the Marcus Sycamore Cinema 12.

Superheroes, of course, aren't gods: they're humans endowed with god-like powers through technology, either by accident, like Bruce Banner, soon to be the Hulk again; or by design, like Bruce Wayne, who will continue to use his technical prowess and immense wealth to fight lunatic clowns in *The Dark Knight* in about a month. Superheroes worry about using their powers responsibly to save the world, whereas we mere mortals fret over things like global warming.

If asked why they go to a superhero movie, most people would say escapism. In *Iron Man*, the latest blockbuster from Marvel, we escape to a strange and distant world where American greed empowers evil dictators and terrorists in the Middle East, where large corporations dominate geopolitics, and where waterboarding not only doesn't reveal secrets but curiously comes back to haunt the torturers in the end.

Robert Downey Jr. plays Tony Stark, a rich weapons designer, who is captured by nondescript Middle Easterners. (In the original comic, dreamed in the age of Vietnam, he is captured by nondescript Southeast Asians). Saved by one of the nice, apolitical Middle Easterners, Stark is left with a strange hole in his chest fitted with a battery-powered mechanism to keep him ticking. Asked to build the terrorists a bomb, he instead designs a metal suit that responds to his every whim to throw fire. Thus Iron Man, clunking and burning terrorists alive, is born: he has all the beauty and grace of a Black Sabbath melody.

Too bad the comic possibilities of the actor who played Charlie Chaplin aren't put to better use. The makers of *Iron Man* grasp that man in



Iron Man is about reclaiming one's heart from greed and technology.

This is a powerful wish in a time when our "smart bombs" lead to "collateral damage" — that is, slaughtered civilians.

machine is a recipe for humor; but their few attempts at it are pretty crude. Nonetheless, what makes *Iron Man* a reasonably enjoyable movie is getting to see the relish with which

Robert Downey Jr. plays a man who begins as a world-weary bad boy, crumbles under his own self-absorption, and then makes a touching comeback. How do actors get into their parts?

Come to think of it, sadly, the smirk of Robert Downey Jr. represents a lot of what we've been, just as his struggles to break free of his irony say a lot about where we are now. *Iron Man* is about reclaiming one's heart from greed and technology. This is a powerful wish in a time when being encased in metal and surrounded by bleeping screens is hardly a

metaphor. It is a powerful wish in a time when our "smart bombs" lead to "collateral damage"—that is, slaughtered civilians.

There is a strong sense in the air that America has faltered as a superpower and must recover a sense of justice and purpose. In fact, the preview for the upcoming *Hancock* introduces us to a reckless, drunk superhero played by Will

Smith, who needs to clean up his act and present a new face to the world.

In the end, aren't superheroes for children? *Iron Man* sure isn't made for them. I have my doubts that *The Dark Knight* is, either. I remember *Spider-Man 2* being described as "existential." Either we grownups haven't outgrown believing ourselves on the righteous side of a stark line between good and evil, or we're pathologically nostalgic for that belief. But even as kids, isn't what really touched us about superhero movies neither special effects nor the triumph of justice, but what still touches us about the movies in general, their seemingly inadvertent moments of grace?

Two of my favorites have always been when Superman leisurely flies Lois over a night-lit Metropolis, and when Clark Kent running calmly amid the mayhem opens his Oxford to reveal the red S. But all too often, despite their myths and symbols, the movies have, like *Iron Man*, a hole where the heart should be. **IV**

Scott Samuelson teaches philosophy at Kirkwood Community College. He is also sometimes a moderator on KCRG's "Ethical Perspectives on the News" and sometimes a cook at Simone's Plain and Simple, the French restaurant in the middle of nowhere.



Curbing it?

Consult LV's green guide for moving season

Summer is finally coming to Iowa City! The birds are chirping, the flowers are blooming and downtown area curbs will soon be sprouting abandoned furniture. As I walk out my front door each morning admiring the leafy trees and dandelions that signal the end of a long, long winter, I'm jarred out of my warm weather euphoria by the sight of an old kitchen stove and a full-size dresser looking lonely and unwanted further down the block. Before you add to this ugly spectacle, you should know there is a "green" approach to used furniture that will help preserve the natural beauty of the season.

While getting rid of unwanted furniture might not give you the same green glow as planting a tree or adopting a mile of highway, reuse groups keep an estimated 300 tons of waste out of landfills every day, according to a study done by The University of Iowa. With numbers like those, you can feel very proud of extending the life of your furniture or other household items and passing them on to someone who wants them.

Living in a college town means enjoying the energy of the campus and surviving the annual migration of students and their belongings. While the area does have the requisite Goodwill and Salvation Army locations, Iowa City also offers several creative options for both residents with unwanted furniture and industrious shoppers looking to turn trash to treasure.

CLEARING OUT THAT OLD COUCH?

Before you leave that old couch on the curb outside your apartment, consider the consequences. Because of its bulk, furniture adds several tons of waste to Iowa City's landfill every year. Also, in these uncertain economic times, there are a number of families out there who may need the very piece of furniture you're discarding. Giving your unwanted items to charity is an alternative to "curbing" that you can feel good about.

But if environmental awareness or altruism won't motivate you to change your ways, maybe money will. Did you know that the City of Iowa City charges property owners a minimum \$100 clean-up fee for the unscheduled pickup of special items such as large pieces of



Photo courtesy of Matt Butler

In a typical Iowa City scene, unwanted furniture sits by a dumpster after university students move out.

Living in a college town means surviving the annual migration of students and their belongings.

furniture? If you're renting, don't be surprised if your landlord passes these fees on to you while considering your rental deposit. (FYI: The fees for the scheduled pickup of large items are very reasonable if the items are too far gone to save.)

CONSIGNMENT SHOPS

Instead of hurting the environment or losing money, you could even profit from your gently used belongings. Iowa City offers several consignment shops that will sell your items and pass on a portion of the asking price to you. With merchandise ranging from couches and desks to kitchen supplies and clothing, they're a great alternative for you bargain shoppers

out there trying to furnish your new place.

ONLINE OPTIONS

These days there are several online networks available for people wanting sell or purchase used household goods. If the item in question is a rare find, Ebay is your best bet. This site can help you find interested buyers or that sought-after collectable. For larger, more general items, Craigslist is a natural choice. Iowa City has had its own Craigslist page for more than a year now, and the site is a simple, user-friendly way to connect to your local community.

Iowa City's Freecycle group is yet another option that boasts more than 3,400 members. This gifting website is very reminiscent of Craigslist, only it's a non-profit organization and all items must be donated, not sold. The difference is evident in Freecycle's mission "to build a worldwide gifting movement that reduces waste, saves precious resources and eases the burden on our landfills while enabling our members to benefit from the strength of a larger community." Because of Freecycle's non-profit status, the group has more structure than other online networks and members are asked to follow specific rules when they post items.

Green Feature

LOCAL CITY SOLUTIONS

The City of Iowa City is very aware of the influx of abandoned furniture in that hectic week between July and August.

“We do see a lot of furniture that is still usable and just needs a good cleaning or a leg that needs to be replaced,” says Jen Jordon, Iowa City Recycling Center.

Because of the unnecessary landfill space such items consume, local officials are proactively organizing programs and services to minimize the damage.

The Furniture Project is a non-profit organization that matches your reusable furniture with needy families in the Iowa City area. The Furniture Project will see to it that your surplus furniture is matched to a local household in need. The project is currently on hiatus for reorganization, but it will be up and running again by July 1. The drop-off facility is located a mile and a half south of the Highway 6 and Gilbert Street intersection on Sand Road.

Reuse groups keep an estimated 300 tons of waste out of landfills every day.

Last year, the city partnered with local non-profits and organized the first Rummage in the Ramp. This giant garage sale took donations for 10 days in the downtown Chancey Swan parking ramp and sold everything from furniture and household items to clothes, hygiene products and nonperishable food for the rock-bottom prices of \$1, \$5 or \$10. The event won Iowa Recycling Association's Recycling Project of the Year Award and diverted 19 tons of furniture and household items from the landfill. Fortunately, the city is planning its second annual Rummage in the Ramp for July 24 through August 2.

Fifteen local groups have already volunteered to help facilitate this massive event. Donations will be accepted at Chancey Swan parking ramp each afternoon and the sales will run every evening. They're also hoping to offer pick-up services for people who want to donate their furniture but don't have the means to haul it. For more information about local Iowa City programs, visit www.icgov.org.

With all these options, Iowa City makes it easy for you to do your part to help the environment and your community. Remember the word “re-use” the next time you clear out your unwanted furniture or fill the rooms of your new apartment. With a little imagination, you can save money, reduce your impact on the environment and support your local community. Whether you're remodeling your house or lightening the load for your upcoming move, odds are that funky coffee table of yours is exactly what someone across town or across the street has been looking for. **lv**

Sara Pralle is a Midwest farmer's daughter from a beautiful spot in the-middle-of-nowhere Kansas. She now lives in Iowa City and works as a full-time writer for The Whetstone Group, Inc., a growth planning marketing firm in Marion. Her interests include the KC Chiefs, yoga and knitting.

Over a dozen options for giving your unwanted a second life:

Artifacts

(319) 358-9617
331 E Market St., IC

The Can Shed

(319) 887-7055
611 Hollywood Blvd, IC

City Carton Recycling

(319) 351-2848
3 East Benton, IC

Crowded Closet

(319) 337-5924
1213 Gilbert Ct., IC

Good Find Consign

(319) 351-3315
140 Stevens Dr., IC

Goodwill Industries

(319) 337-3548
985 Highway 6 E, IC

Granny's Home

(319) 351-6328
1725 Boyrum St., IC

Houseworks

(319) 338-4357
1800 Stevens Dr., IC

Kidworks

(319) 337-3921
111 Stevens Dr., IC

Kit'N Kaboodle

(319) 354-5459
2425 2nd St., Cvl

Revival

(319) 337-4511
117 E College St., IC

Salvation Army

(319) 339-4984
1719 2nd St., Cvl

Savvy Boutique

(319) 354-2565
320 E Benton St., IC

Second Act

(319) 338-8454
538 Olympic Ct., IC

Stuff Etc

(319) 338-9909
1027 Highway 6 E, IC
(319) 339-4984
2818 Commerce Dr., Cvl

Uptown Bills Small Mall

(319) 339-0401
401 S Gilbert St., IC



SHOP
THE
northside
NEAR LINN AND MARKET

Hummus Where the Heart is.



www.oasisfalafel.com

206 N. Linn St, Downtown IC | 358-7342

WE CATER.

THE
PIT
SMOKEHOUSE & BBQ

All of our barbecue is slow smoked with hickory.

130 N DUBUQUE ST IOWA CITY IA
319.337.6653
thepitsmokehouse.com



OPEN
EVERY
DAY!

artifacts

331 Market St, IC | 319-358-9617

No boring stuff allowed!

For great food and shopping,
HEAD TO THE NORTHSIDE!

THE SOUND OF THE UNDERGROUND

Kent Williams gives us an audio tour of Iowa City's thriving local music scene

Werner Heisenberg earned his stripes in physics by being the man to prove at a fundamental physical level that observation modifies the observed. I only bring that up here because I am not only writing this article, I am going to describe recordings of live musical performances that I recorded, by musicians who I mostly know personally. In some cases, the recordings were made at the request of the musicians being recorded. On occasion they bought me drinks, or vice versa. So let's throw any pretense of journalistic objectivity out the window. I shall try to keep this from becoming, as they call it, a thumb-sucker, but hey, all I can do is try.

Live music happens every night of the week in Iowa City, in a variety of venues, from dank basements, to the un-dank basement the Yacht Club, to the second-story basement known as the Picador. Since I acquired the Zoom H4 "Handy Recorder" a few years back, I've made it a point to record as many live shows as I can. It is partly a technical challenge, to see if I can successfully capture an event with sufficient fidelity to make later listening enjoyable, partly a collector's greed--to have music no one else has--but mostly it is to try and preserve something unique and ephemeral. If I've done nothing else in writing reviews of local music in LV, I hope I've documented the musical history of Iowa City over the past few years. Recording shows (and taking pictures of those shows) is a natural extension of that project.

But enough meta- and meta-meta-commentary. I have set up a web page at www.cornwarning.com/Live_In_Iowa_City that contains the recordings described below. All the mp3 files are downloadable, or (on most browsers) clicking a link will start playing the files directly.

Family Van @ The Picador 6/17/2007—Family Van is what Dave H. likes to call his "funk band." As funk, Family Van is a complete failure, but in an interesting way, an idea of what funk might sound like refracted through the shattered mind of a schizophrenic. Dave is famous for breaking up his bands if they start getting too good, and this recording captures Family Van before they jump the shark of competence.



Liberty Leg @ The Picador 6/17/2007—Liberty Leg is roots-rock done right. Ethan Richeson's piercing baritone recalls Jim Morrison but this is nothing like the Doors. Ethan's live performances are rivetingly intense, and he attacks every song like it is his last chance on earth to sing it.

Lwa Live @ The Picador 10/29/2007—Lwa is Chris & Mike, both bartenders at The Picador, and they're experimental noise musicians. They set up their ragtag gear in the middle of the audience, and the Beltone hearing tester holds pride of place in their sonic pal-

LIVE MUSIC HAPPENS EVERY NIGHT OF THE WEEK

ette. They purposely inhabit the outer suburbs of what can be considered music, but their performances always have a deeply meditative ambiance. This recording picks up significant crowd noise, and it becomes a twittering counterpoint to the actual sound of the band.

Yellow Swans @ The Picador 10/29/2007—Yellow Swans are from Oregon, and are highly respected purveyors of experimental noise. I'd liken this performance to the sound of Sigur Ros being mugged at the mouth of a blast furnace.

Ed Gray @ The Picador 3/10/2007, 1/19/2007—I record Ed every chance I get—he is an unpredictable performer who sometimes caresses his songs lovingly, and sometimes beats them (and the audience) senseless. These two shows, two months apart, represent Ed solo and Ed with band, respectively.

Amorphos @ 411 E Davenport 5/05/2007—Amorphos is a short-lived collaboration between Ed and Susan Nehring and Hagen M. Ed is a legendary free improvisationalist, and Amorphos was among other things, an object lesson for his drum students at West Music in how music doesn't need to

be amplified to be intense. After this basement show, Ed told me that he only planned for Amorphos to perform where they were neither invited nor expected. High concept stuff, but great music all the same.

Airto Live @ Jazz Fest 6/29/2007—Percussionist Airto Moreira is a veteran jazz performer, who has worked with Miles Davis, Weather Report, and in the 1970s, released several crucial albums of Brazilian jazz. This is a bona fide bootleg, recorded without permission, so I don't know how long I'll be able to leave it on my website, but it sounds great, and includes some of his signature songs. Not to mention a fair amount of Airto's mischievously incomprehensible stage patter.

Escape The Flood Water Jug Band @ The Picador 2/23/2007—Who isn't in love with Banjo Kelley in her prairie gingham dress, singing her heart out about whiskey and tulips? These guys represent the sound of the Memphis street corners circa 1923, and manage to work in a Rod Stewart cover. More fun than a pocketful of pennies to pitch and a hip flask of Dickel Brothers.

Evan Miller @ Hall Mall 2/27/2007—Evan Miller plays fingerstyle acoustic guitar in the grand tradition of Leo Kottke and John Fahey. His performances display the dazzling technical facility and peaceful flow of someone for whom the guitar is a conduit for meditation.

Weather Is Happening @ The Picador 3/04/2008—Jon Landau famously said of Bruce Springsteen, "I saw rock and roll's future." This show of Omaha's Weather Is Happening may have been my Jon Landau moment. WIH combines the turned-up-to-eleven electric intensity of heavy metal with some of the most nuanced and elegant song writing I've ever heard from a loud rock band. They're moving to Iowa City this summer, so you'll have no excuse for sleeping on these guys.

Stewart Walker @ The Picador 4/20/2008—My old friend Stewart Walker of Berlin, by way of Madison Wisc., IS one of the top live performers of Electronic Dance Music. He added Iowa City to his April U.S. Tour because of the good experience he's had here in the past. The sweaty, tipsy crowd he brought out egged him on to do one of his hardest and most electrifying sets of the tour. **lv**

Kent Williams came to Iowa City to go to college the year he voted in his first presidential election—for Carter, who won. He has outlived two generations of Gabe's alcoholics.

Hear no Evil

Craig Eley on music must-sees for June

With June comes the real start of summer, which I understand means the real start of awesome in Iowa City: ample parking, sunny days, and, this year, the long-awaited return of Little Village. The LV folks have asked me to do a monthly rundown of upcoming shows and various goings-on, and since you are cooler than me, I'll certainly leave out some events that deserve to be written about.

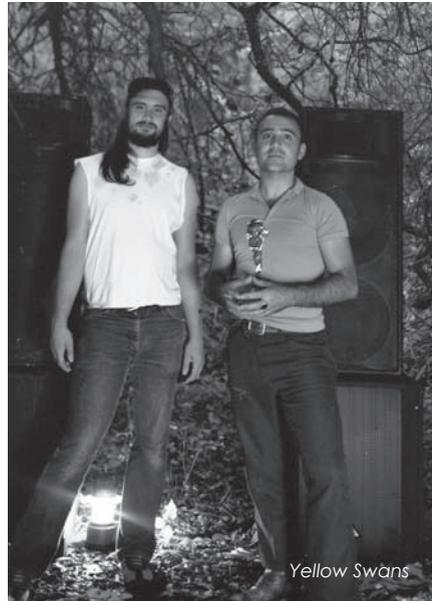
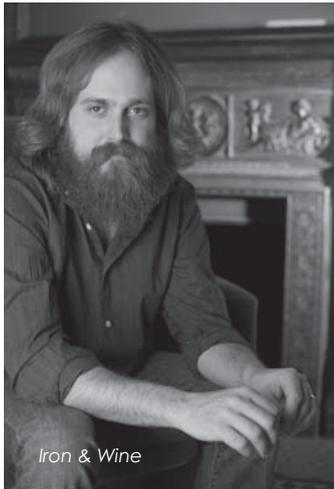
Here are some things I'm planning on seeing in June.

It seems like you can't turn your head recently without seeing a flier for an upcoming Liberty Leg show, and that trend continues as they bring their dirty blues-rock to the Mill on June 3. It's a packed bill, with Iowa City mastermind Sam Locke-Ward's Miracles of God opening, along with everyone's favorite grl punkers, Lipstick Homicide. Locke-Ward recently played 30 songs in 30 minutes and fronted a 12-piece band, cementing the fact that any of his performances are not to be missed. As for Lipstick, no one writes catchier pop in town, and their Josie and the Pussycats cover is cheeky as hell and just plain awesome. You might have to mosey over to the Picador, as well, where Russian Circles will be playing with Daughters. Expect, heavy, heavy, music there.

Two local bands who couldn't be more different in style will make a great double-bill at the Yacht Club on June 6: Escape the Floodwater Jug Band and the Diplomats of Solid Sound. Featuring the Diplomettes on hip-swayin' lead vocals, the Diplomats are all soul and sass. It's music at its swankiest, without resorting to the kitsch of most cheese-lounge revivalists. Escape the Floodwater are reviving something, too, though their music would be more at home on a front porch than a well-lit stage. If it works, they could go together like spit and polish. Both bands released

new records out in May.

On the national level, perhaps the most exciting event in June is on June 8 at the Picador, where Yellow Swans will be play one of their finalshows ever. The noise duo from



Portland has received some praise in mainstream media outlets like Pitchfork when they announced their breakup. Sad. Bring earplugs and expect to be moved—physically and emotionally. Open Goat is opening.

The big news for June 12th is the moving of Iron and Wine concert from Davenport to the Englert in Iowa City. How many Quad City fans will make the drive? My bet is that there will be beards, vests, and a lot of hand-holding in the audience. That said, it will also be awesome. If you missed Spoon and the Walkmen, the Old Capital Theatre is a gorgeous, fully restored movie palace that will be the perfect place to see Sam Beam whisper.

On June 15 at the Mill, Wye Oak is playing with Pontiak and Ames favorites, the Poison Control Center. Wye Oak's debut, *If Children*, came out on Merge Records in April, and it's great, filled with a kind of hazy folk sound that reminds me of Azure Ray and Hem with more oomph. The PCC will lay on the ground and kick their legs up and incite sing-alongs. Why? Because they always do.

Keeping it weird and awesome will be a band whose name I don't know how to say out loud—dd/mm/yyyy—playing with Austin's The Weird Weeds at the Picador on June 28. Awesome noise band Wolf Eyes plays with locals Lwa the night before. Also of note: Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise (Picador, June 10), Mayflies with Monads and Sam Knutson (Mill, June 12), Sara Mannix's Birthday Party, featuring Renminbi (Mill, June 20); and a slew of shows going on all month long at Huckleberry's Pizza in Rock Island, Ill., thrown by the good folks at Daytrotter (www.daytrotter.com). See you at the shows. **lv**

Craig Eley is a music writer, promoter, and American Studies grad student, usually in that order. Write to him at craig@missionfreak.com.

If you have something coming up—especially house parties, smaller gigs, cassette releases, art shows, and other things that are otherwise seeping through the cracks of the system of tubes known as the Internet—then drop me a line. I'll be happy to type some words about your alt-whatever here in the pages of this alt-monthly. And yes, while I am one of the producers for Mission Creek, I'm planning on covering all kinds of musical mischief, no matter who is affiliated.

It Does a Palate Right

Among the antique dealers, boutiques, and coffee shops that line the main street of sleepy Mt. Vernon, there is a dining experience unexpected for rural Iowa. This small town, home to the private Cornell College, has been drawing regular visits from residents of surrounding Cedar Rapids, North Liberty, Iowa City and beyond, due in no small part to Chef Matt Steigerwald and his two latest endeavors: Lincoln Café and the Lincoln Wine Bar. Steigerwald opened the café in 2001 and, six years later, acquired the wine bar just a few doors down the street.

The wine bar serves as a laid-back hang out for wine lovers and college students alike, as well as a temporary waiting space for customers of the café. The café charges a corking fee for outside beverages, but this fee is waived for beverages purchased at the wine bar. Seating at the café is very limited, and reservations are not accepted for parties of less than seven. Nevertheless, plenty of people always seem to be willing to wait.

During one's first trip to Lincoln, it's normal to order from the menu. It's full of delicious and reasonably priced options, mostly sandwiches, including a BBQ pulled pork sandwich, hummus and pita, a grilled veggie sandwich, and a fantastic basic burger, all priced below seven dollars and served with chips. (That said, it is sacrilege to have a sandwich at Lincoln without upgrading to their amazing homemade fries for an extra \$1.50.)

Yet, with all due respect to the basics, the real reason to make the drive to Lincoln for dinner is to order from the specials which are found on a big chalkboard at the front of the restaurant. These specials change weekly, if

not more often, according to the season and the chef's whims.

It should be noted that the specials are based almost exclusively on an animal protein. This night, we chose dishes based on quail and pork tenderloin. Unfortunately, a misunderstanding between the waitresses resulted in us waiting approximately 20 minutes to place our order.

Happily, the restaurant made good by offering us the night's featured appetizer for free. Thus we started with four slices of medium rare chili-rubbed yellow fin tuna. The seared fish was served with a delicious lime chili horseradish aioli (garlic mayonnaise) and a refreshing salad of thinly sliced marinated radishes and red onion, both of which complemented the rich, firey fish nicely.

Entrées, which are usually priced around \$30, are served with either a spring mix salad or a small bowl of soup. The soup was an excellent mushroom tarragon purée, garnished with pistachios. It was fragrant and light, despite being a cream-based soup.

The menu listing for each entrée details only a portion of the dish's ingredients. So, some of the chef's most creative and insightful combinations come as a surprise once the dish is served. For example, the roasted pork tenderloin included, "braised pork belly, Vietnamese caramel, broccoli spring roll, and firey kimchi."

Unmentioned on this list were green onions, boiled potatoes, and grapefruit slices, which, for me, were a strong highlight of the dish. The promise of braised pork belly was enough to make me jump for the dish, and the combination of it and the Vietnamese caramel was absolutely dreamy. I took two tiny bites of this ultra-rich combination before handing it over to my eating partner, who proceeded to con-



The Lincoln Café

117 1st St W, Mt Vernon
(319) 895-4041

Lunch & Dinner: Tues.-Sat.

Brunch: Sun. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

www.foodisimportant.com

sume the entire piece of pork belly and then inquire, "The tenderloin is great, but where's the belly?"

I drowned my sorrows at the lost belly in the quail dish, served with a morel and crimini risotto and an apple and red onion salad. Both meats were perfectly cooked.

We finished the meal, as one always should, with dessert and a cup of hot coffee. Carrot-zucchini cake was served with salted caramel ice cream and pecans. The caramel ice cream was absolutely delicious, especially when served next to the steaming-hot moist cake.

Sitting back, reflecting on the ruin that had become our plates, our waistlines, and our wallets, we were both left with satisfied smiles. **IV**

Alicia Ambler lives with her husband in Iowa City, IA, where she teaches English as a second language at the University of Iowa. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, reading, and crafting. She also maintains a food blog at www.culinarybliss.blogspot.com.

The Comedy of Errors
Directed by Kevin Harris

riverside theatre
SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL IOWA CITY, IOWA
JUNE 13 — JULY 13, 2008

WWW.RIVERSIDETHEATRE.ORG • (319) 338-7672

The Winter's Tale
Directed by Mark Hunter

RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL STAGE • LOWER CITY PARK, IOWA CITY

ART / EXHIBITS

AKAR

257 E. Iowa Ave., Iowa City, 351-1227
Matt Metz & Linda Sikora

Bella Joli

125 S. Dubuque St, Iowa City, 341-4562
James L. Schoenfelder, June

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

410 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-7503
Mothers Day in Art: Mother's Day at 100, through July 6 • All-Stars: American Sporting Prints from the Collection of Reba and Dave Williams, through August 31

The Douglas & Linda Paul Gallery

Englert Theater, 221 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 688-2653, www.englert.org
Janice S. Koerner Bell, The Nature of Things, through August 14

Faulconer Gallery

Grinnell College, Grinnell,
www.grinnell.edu/fulconergallery
Works in Progress: Prints from Wildwood Press, June 13 - August 10

Iowa Artisans Gallery

207 E. Washington, Iowa City, 351-8686
Maureen Bardusk: New Works in Fiber, June 6–July 20 • Marcia Wegman (pastels), June 6 Opening Reception, 5-8pm

Iowa Arts Festival

Downtown Iowa City, www.summerofthearts.org/artsfest
Festival takes place June 6-8. All events are free
More than 100 local and national visual artists, June 6-8 • Gallery Walk, self-guided walk of downtown Iowa City galleries, participating venues include: AKAR, Iowa Artisans Gallery/D.J. Rinner Goldsmith, Chait Galleries Downtown, Bela Joli, The Englert Theatre, ARTS Iowa City, Iowa State Bank & Trust, M.C. Ginsberg, RSVP, the Old Post Office Gallery at the Senior Center, Mythos, The Cottage Bakery, The Art Mission, US Bank, United Action for Youth, Meta Home, Dawn's Hide & Bead Away, West Bank and the Sheraton Iowa City Hotel, June 6, 5-8pm

Grant Wood Art Festival

Main Street, Anamosa
Juried art exhibits, demonstrations, sales and more, June 8

Legion Arts / CSPS

1103 Third St SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1580,
www.legionarts.org
Molly Landreth, Embodiment: A Portrait of Queer Life in America, June 5-July 6 • Out Here, Iowa's Gay & Lesbian Artists, June 5-July 6

National Czech & Slovak Museum

30 - 16th Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, 362-8500
1968: Twelve Volatile Months that Changed the World, through January 25, 2009

Public Access Television of Iowa City

206 Lafayette Street, Iowa City, 338-7035
Nature's Logic, Holly Berkowitz, through June 30

UI Museum of Art

150 North Riverside Drive, Iowa City, 335-1727
MFA 2008, through June 8 • African Ceramics, opened May 31 • The Power of Line: European and American Etching Revival Prints from the Lee Collection and Master of Fine Arts 2008, through September 28

MUSIC

Beckster Fest

Amana Colonies Event Center, Amana, 319-622-7622
Beckster Polka Fest, May 30-June 1

Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival

302 3rd Av SE, Cedar Rapids, 319-393-1450,
www.freedomfestival.com
The Glenn Miller Orchestra Concert, Free, June 15, 6pm

Clapp Recital Hall

UI Campus, Iowa City, 335-1160
All music at 8pm and free unless otherwise noted
Iowa Summer Music Camp Faculty Recital, June 10 • Iowa Summer Music Camp Talent Show, June 11 • Iowa Summer Music Camp Large Ensembles, June 14, 1pm • Iowa Summer Music Camp Piano Faculty, June 17 • Iowa Summer Music Camp Percussion All-Stars, June 19, 7pm • Iowa Summer Music Camp Percussion Concert, June 20, 7pm

Englert Theatre

221 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 688-2653,
www.englert.org
The Giant Jam Sandwich - Concerts for Families, June 7, 9:30 and 11am

Exodus Music Festival & Earth Expo

www.exodusmusicfestival.com for location and details
All-day festival, June 7
Public Property, Skye Cielita Carrasco, Cuticle, Velvet Davenport, Howel, The Puritanicals, Eben Louis, Miracles of God, The Nikki Lunden Trio, The Gglitch, The School of Flyentology, The Roseline, Kevin BF Burt, MC / VL, June 7

Friday Night Concert Series

Downtown Iowa City, Pedestrian Mall
All concerts 6:30-9:30pm, Free
Iowa Arts Festival, June 6 • Grooveship, June 13 • The Recliners, June 20 • Jazz Camp Combos & UI Faculty Jazz Ensemble, June 27

Harper Hall

Voxman Music Building, UI Campus, 335-1603
All music at 8pm and free unless otherwise noted
Iowa Summer Music Camp Piano Concert, June 20, 7pm • Iowa Summer Music Camp Jazz Faculty, June 23 • Iowa Summer Music Camp - Sand-tet and Odd Tones Brass Band, June 24 • Iowa Summer Music Camp Jazz Combos, June 26

Iowa Arts Festival

Downtown Iowa City, www.summerofthearts.org/artsfest
Festival takes place June 6-8. All events are free
Boomer Bash with Beaker Brothers Band, June 5, Hosted by the Iowa City Senior Center • Mike and Amy Finders Band, Tom O'Brien, Sam Bush Band, June 6 • Dollars for Scholars Band Winners, Emma Rocks Winners, Turkana, Dave Zollo, Public Property, Amelia White and Her Band, Eddie from Ohio, CJ Chenier and the Red Hot Louisiana Band, June 7 • And more on side stages.

Iowa Children's Museum

1451 Coral Ridge Ave, Coralville, 625-6255
Freedom Festival FUN!, School house Rocks concert, June 30, 10am-6pm

Iowa City Piano Lounge

217 Iowa Ave, Iowa City, 351-1797,
www.thepianolounge.com
Mark Andert, June 20 & 21

Iowa Memorial Union

UI Campus, 335-1160, imu.uiowa.edu
The Diplomats of Solid Sound featuring The Diplomettes, River Terrace, June 12, 11am

First United Methodist Church

85 N. Jones Blvd., North Liberty, 626-7323
North Bend Blue Grass Festival, June 1

The Mill

120 E. Burlington St, Iowa City, 351-9529,
www.icmill.com
Shows at 9pm unless otherwise noted
Sunday Night Pub Quiz, Sundays, 9pm-Midnight
Open Mic with J. Knight, Mondays, 8pm (call 338-6713 to signup)
Liberty Leg, Miracles of God, June 3 • Mad Monks, Emily Frerichs, The After School Specials, June 4, 6:45pm (all ages) • Jascat, Nordy, June 5 • Nifty Mountain Pow Wow, Sam Locke Ward, 12 Canons, June 6 • The Pines, Seth and Dustin, June 7 • Mayflies, Monads, Sam Knutson, June 12 • Nikki Lunden's 30th Birthday Party - The Trollies, Shame Train, June 13 • Grooveship, 3 page 5s, June 14 • Wye Oak, The Poison Control Center, The Botticellis, Pontiak, June 15 • Songwriters in Residence, June 18, 7-10pm (Free) • Matthew Grimm and the Red Smear, Cellar Door, June 19 • Billy Hoake and the Hoax, Mannix, June 20 • Whitman, Treasure Mammal, Samuel Locke Ward, June 24 • Burlington Street Bluegrass Band, June 25, 7-10pm, • High Concepts Poetry Slam & Open

Mic, June 25, 10pm • Zibra Zibra, Bear Wether, June 26 • The Salsa Band, June 28

St. Morrison Park

1513 7th St, Coralville, 248-1750, www.coralville.org

Music in the Park Concert Series, All shows free starting at 6:30pm

Morning After, June 5 • IC Community Band, June 12 • The Gilded Bats, June 19 • American Pie, June 16

The Picador

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

Shows are 19+ with doors at 9pm unless otherwise noted

Buckethead, That One Guy, June 2, 6pm (all ages) • Russian Circles, Daughters, Paria, Datagun, June 3 • The Lonely H, June 4 • The Teddy Boys, Emerge Again, Birth Screams, Racing Exit 13, June 6 • MC Chris, Age of Rockets, June 7, 6pm (all ages) • Yellow Swans, Open Goat, June 8 • Church Burner, Snow Demon, Identity Crisis, Cranial Decay, June 9 • Hometown Heroes Tour featuring TGL (Lobster Records), My Hidden Track, Dreams of University, Saving Litchfield, June 10, 6pm (all ages) • Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise, June 10 • Roman Numerals, Shores of the Tundra, June 11 • Makeout Party, June 12, 6pm (all ages) • 999 Eyes Freakshow, June 12, 10pm • Alan Bishop & Richard Bishop Present: The Brothers Unconnected - A Tribute to Charles Gocher & Sun City Girls, June 13, 10pm • Cobra Starship, We The Kings, The Secret Handshake, June 13, 5pm (all ages) • Ferret Records Tour - See You Next Tuesday, Elysia, A Girl A Gun A Ghost, Knight of the Abyss, The Banner, June 14, 5:30pm (all ages) • Sadat X, Coolzey, June 14, 10pm • Rosehill Drive, The Whigs, June 15, 7pm (all ages) • Diesto, The Envy Corps, Javelins, Pomegranates, June 18 • Physical Challenge Dance Party, June 19, 9pm • Cotton Jones Basket Ride, Bad Flirt, Chrash, June 20, 9pm • Something Underground, Concrete Moon, Simulacra, June 25, 9pm • I Hate Kate, Monte Negro, Luna Halo, June 26, 6pm (all ages) • Somewhere Conscious, June 26, 10pm • Wolf Eyes, Lwa, Trash Dog, June 27, • Weird Weeds, dd/mm/yyyy, June 28 • RTX, Imaad Wasif, June 29

The Yacht Club

13 S. Linn St, Iowa City, 337-6464, myspace.com/iowacityyachtclub

The Brutal Dildos, Trash & The Timebombs, The Knuckleheads, June 2, 6pm (all ages) • 2 Sweet, The Appreciation Post, June 3, 5pm • Love Me Electric, Backdrop, Inept, June 6, 5pm (all ages), Diplomats of Solid Sound, Escape the Floodwater Jug Band, June 6, 9pm • Dennis McMurrin & the Demolition Band, June 7, 9pm • Say When, June 8, 5 pm (all ages) • Camp Euforia Battle of the Bands II, June 12, 7pm • Kent Burnside & The New Generation, Jonathan Bock, June 14, 9pm

A-LIST

**“A Friend Indeed—
The Bill Sackter Story”
Hancher Auditorium
June 7, 7:30pm**

A feature-length documentary on Iowa City icon Bill Sackter will have its premiere screening on June 7 at Hancher Auditorium. The film is directed by Iowa filmmaker Lane Wyrick, who will be on hand for a post-screening Q&A.

Using photos, film and video footage and interviews with associates, the film explores the friendship between Sackter and Barry Morrow, who was only a college student when the pair met.



When Sackter, who couldn't read or write and had spent much of his life in a state institution after being left there by his family, became threatened with the prospect of having to return to the institution, Morrow made the decision to become Sackter's legal guardian. When Morrow moved to Iowa City for a position at the UI, Sackter came with him and quickly became a fixture in Iowa City, running the nonprofit "Wild Bill's Coffee Shop" during the 1970s and early 80s in UI's North Hall in an arrangement with UI School of Social Work.

Morrow had documented much of Sackter's life in Iowa City, which led to the made-for-TV movie "Bill," starring Mickey Rooney as Sackter and Dennis Quaid as Morrow. But Morrow's desire for a Sackter documentary was put on hold until years later. Now, on the 25th anniversary of Sackter's death, the documentary is finally done.

Tickets are \$10, and the screening with benefit the Extend the Dream Foundation, which works to create employment opportunities for people with disabilities. For more information, visit www.billsackter.com.

I love lamp. I love to go to...

PHYSICAL CHALLENGE
...AND DANCE!
w/ FAT FREE and the BEAN!

THURSDAY NIGHTS!!!
13 AND OVER!

Mon. June 2 -- ALL AGES 6PM
Buckethead That One Guy

Tues. June 3 --
Russian Circles Daughters Paria Datagun

Wed. June 4 -- The Lonely H

Fri. June 6 --
The Teddy Boys
Emerge Again Birth Screams Racing Exit 13

Sat. June 7 -- ALL AGES 6PM
MC Chris Age Of Rockets

Sun. June 8 --
Yellow Swans Open Goat

Mon. June 9 --
Church Burner
Snow Demon Identity Crisis Cranial Decay

Tues. June 10 -- ALL AGES 6PM
TGL My Hidden Track Dreams of University Saving Litchfield

Tues. June 10 --
Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise

Wed. June 11 --
Roman Numerals Shores of the Tundra

Thurs. June 12 -- ALL AGES 6PM
Makeout Party

Thurs. June 12 --
999 Eyes Freakshow

Fri. June 13 -- ALL AGES 5PM!!
Cobra Starship
We the Kings The Secret Handshake Delux

Fri. June 13 -- Alan and Richard Bishop present:
The Brothers Unconnected
A tribute to Charles Gocher and the Sun City Girls

Sat. June 14 -- ALL AGES 5:30PM!!
Ferret Records Tour with:
See You Next Tuesday Elysia A Girl A Gun A Ghost
Knights of the Abyss The Banner

Sat. June 14 -- Sadat X Coolzey

Sun. June 15 -- ALL AGES 7PM
Rosehill Drive The Whigs

Fri. June 20 --
Cotton Jones Basket Ride Bad Flirt Chrash

Fri. June 27 --
Wolf Eyes Lwa Trash Dog

Sat. June 28 --
Weird Weeds dd/mm/yyyy

Sun. June 29 --
RTX Imaad Wasif

Wed. July 2 --
Three Inches of Blood

Sun. July 6 -- ALL AGES 6PM
mewithoutYou Maps and Atlases

THE PICADOR
330 E. Washington www.thepicador.com

A-LIST

All in a Day Theater Festival United Action for Youth, 355 Iowa Ave., Iowa City Show on June 21, 8pm

On Friday, June 20, six writers, six directors and a group of local actors will meet to create six original plays in only 24 hours. The plays will then be performed at 8pm on Saturday, June 21.



The group effort is a joint project of the City Circle Acting Company and Dreamwell Theatre.

If you'd like to help in creating the plays, drop an e-mail to dreamwell@citycircle.org; to be in the audience for the big premiere, just show up Saturday night. Doors open at 7:30pm, and tickets are \$5.

Iowa City Pride Festival Upper City Park Shelters 2 & 3 June 21, 2-6pm

Last year's Pride festival featured primary season political campaigns hustling candidate stickers to the nation's earliest caucus-goers. This year, democrats will be lucky to have a nominee with a couple



of months to go before the general election, and Pride fest revelers will have fewer stickers to choose from to cover their nipples from the hot sun. (To be fair, this was not a commonly observed practice last year—just an impossible-not-to-observe practice.) Iowa City's Pride festival is enjoying its second year in City Park, which has a little more parking and a lot more swimming than its previous home of College Green. Kids get free swimming passes, dog owners get to bring their best friends, and everyone gets to flirt!

Here's to building community, one wink at a time.

THEATER / COMEDY / PERFORMANCE / DANCE

All in a Day Theater Festival

United Action for Youth, 355 Iowa Ave., Iowa City
Six original plays created in 24 hours, creation, June 20, performances, June 21, 8pm

Cedar Rapids Opera

102 3rd Street S.E., Cedar Rapids, 319-365-7401, www.cr-opera.org
Aida, June 20, 8pm & June 22, 2pm • The Gondoliers, Bruce more mansion, June 27-29, 8pm

Hancher Auditorium

UI Campus, 335-1160, hancher.uiowa.edu
Rubberbandance Group, June 14, 2pm

Iowa Summer Repertory Theatre

E.C. Mabie Theatre, UI Theatre Building, Iowa City, 335-1160, www.uiowa.edu/~theatre
Wonder of the World, June 26-July 5 • Rabbit Hole, July 1-20

Old Creamery Theatre

39 38th Ave, Amana, www.oldcreamery.com
The Nerd, June 1-29 • Henry and Ellen, June 19-July 20

Riverside Theatre

213 N. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 338-7672, www.riversidetheatre.org
Riverside Theatre Shakespeare Festival presents: The Comedy of Errors and The Winter's Tale, June 13-July 13, Riverside Festival Stage in City Park

Space/Place Theatre

North Hall, UI Campus, Iowa City
Summer Dance Concert, UI Dance Department, June 5, 6 & 7, 8pm

Summit Restaurant

10 S. Clinton St, Iowa City, 354-7473
Comedy Night, Wednesdays, 9pm
Mike Smith, June 4 • Tim Costello, June 11 • Scot Shields, June 18 • Bill Blank, Chris Schlichting, June 25

WORDS

Iowa Summer Writing Festival

Becker Communications Building Auditorium, UI campus
Elevenses Literary Hour, Weekdays June 9-27, 11am

Prairie Lights

15 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City, 337-2681, www.prairielightbooks.com
All readings at 7pm unless otherwise noted
Michael Martone, June 2 • John Bowe, June 3 • Jeff Shaara, June 9 • Nam Le, June 10 • Jennifer Banash, June 11 • Rebecca Stott, June 12 • Judy Polumbaum, June 13 • Juliette Patterson & G.E. Patterson, June

16 • David Wroblewski, June 17

FILM / VIDEO

Bijou Theater

Iowa Memorial Union, UI Campus, 335-3258
Check www.bijoutheater.org for showtimes
Summer 2008 Film Schedule: *Caramel*, June 6-12 • *Run Fat Boy Run*, June 13-19 • *The Band's Visit*, June 20-26 • *The Counterfeiters*, June 27-July 3 • *Twisted: A Balloonumentary*, July 6-10 • *Planet B-Boy*, July 11-17 • *Surfwise*, July 18-24 • *Love Songs*, July 25-31

Englert Theatre

221 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 688-2653, www.englert.org
Riff Raff Theater-League Of Extraordinary Gentlemen, June 27, 8pm

Hancher Auditorium

UI Campus, 335-1160, hancher.uiowa.edu
A Friend Indeed-The Bill Sackter Story, June 7, 7:30pm

Legion Arts / CSPS

1103 Third St SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1580, www.legionarts.org
Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin, June 11, 7pm • *Freeheld: The Laurel Hester Story*, June 18, 7pm

Saturday Night Free Movie Series

Outdoors, University of Iowa Pentacrest, Iowa City
Live music at 7:30pm, with movie at dark, unless otherwise noted, Free
Back to the Future, June 14 (Music by Ryne Doughty) • Double Feature: *Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein* and *Frankenstein Meets the Wolfman*, June 21 (Music by Iowa City Community Band) • *Jaws*, June 28 (Music by Matt Skinner)

St. Morrison Park

1513 7th St, Coralville, 248-1750, www.coralville.org
Park it at the Movies, movie at dark, Free Superman Returns, June 20

MISC

Amana Heritage Museum

4310 220th Trail, Amana, 319-622-3567
Amana Wine Tour, June 26, 3pm

Iowa City Pride Festival

Upper City Park Shelters 2 & 3, Iowa City
Festival, swimming and more, June 21, 2-6pm

Plum Grove

1030 Carroll St., Iowa City
UI Archaeological Field School, June 1



Curses, Foiled Again

- The day after police in Waterville, Maine, charged Connecticut visitor Darryl Copeland, 25, with assault, nine packets of heroin were found near where he was arrested. Suspecting Copeland had tossed the drugs, detectives waited until he returned for his court appearance a month later. While arresting him for the drug charge, they found 98 bags of heroin in his front pocket.
- British police investigating a burglary in Lancashire said the culprit was careful not to show his face to surveillance cameras. DNA found at the scene led them to question John Rigg, 35, whom they subsequently identified as their suspect after first noticing that his short, bowed legs and swaggering walk matched those of the burglar on the video and then calling in Ian Linane, a podiatrist who specializes in gait analysis. When Linane concluded it was the same man, Rigg pleaded guilty.

From Bad to Worse

Community smoking bans increase drunken driving, according to a two-year study by Wisconsin researchers that attributes the rise in fatal accidents to some people driving to places without a ban and others driving farther to find a place within a ban area that accommodates outdoor smoking. "The increased miles driven by drivers who wish to smoke and drink offsets any reduction in driving from smokers choosing to stay home after a ban," the study concluded.

Second-Amendment Follies

- Jorge Espinal, 44, told police in Fort Worth, Texas, he accidentally shot himself when he used a loaded revolver to scratch his itching back. Police Lt. Kenneth Dean said Espinal explained he "grabbed the first thing he could get a hold of."
- Authorities in Sheboygan, Wis., accused Angeliq Vandeberg, 28, of shooting her 8-year-old daughter in the leg with a BB gun after her boyfriend bet her \$1 she wouldn't do it. The BB didn't break the skin but bounced off her leg and struck the girl's 7-year-old brother.

The Honeymoon's Over

Police arrested a newlywed couple at a reception in a suburban Pittsburgh hotel who got into a fight that started when the husband knocked the wife to the floor with a karate kick. As the brawl intensified, she attacked two guests from another wedding party who tried to help her. The melee moved from the seventh-floor hallway to an elevator and then the lobby, where the couple threw metal planters at the two guests. Police arrived to find the groom, David W. Wielechowski, 32, lying on the lobby floor and his bride, Christa Vattimo, 25, screaming.

Get a Life

Roy L. Pearson Jr., whose failed \$54 million lawsuit against a Washington, D.C., dry cleaner he accused of losing his pants earned him international attention and ridicule, sued the D.C. government for not reappointing him to his post as administrative judge. Pearson charged the commission overseeing administrative law judges with illegal retaliation and cited "emotional pain, embarrassment, humiliation, mental anguish, loss of professional reputation and loss of enjoyment of life." Declaring the suit to be "without merit," interim D.C. attorney general Peter J. Nickles said Pearson "needs to stop filing lawsuits."

Paying Attention

- Japanese scientists at the Tokyo University School of Information Science and Technology have developed glasses with a memory to help locate lost items. The glasses feature a tiny camera that constantly records everything the wearer sees; a built-in display identifies what is being scanned, and a small readout instantly announces what the computer thinks the object probably is. When the wearer can't find something, it queries the glasses, which retrieve and play a video of the last few seconds the wearer saw it.
- Japan's Fujitaka Co. has developed a system to determine people's ages by studying facial features as a way to check that people buying cigarettes from vending machines are old enough to smoke. Starting in July, the government requires that the country's 570,000 tobacco vending machines ensure buyers aren't underage. Fujitaka official Hajime Yamamoto said that by having the customer look into a digital camera attached to the machine, the system compares facial characteristics, such as wrinkles surrounding the eyes, bone structure and skin sags, to a facial data bank of more than 100,000 people. Yamamoto explained that "minors that look older and baby-faced adults" would be asked to insert their driver's license.

Way to Go

- Ronald Smith, 52, died after his 94-year-old mother accidentally ran over him with an all-terrain vehicle. Authorities in Livingston, Mich., said Smith was opening a gate when his mother apparently lost control of the vehicle she was riding and hit the gate, then caromed off the gate and struck her son.
- Edward Harrison, 50, died after he was thrown from his car at his home in Southbury, Conn. Police said Harrison wasn't wearing a seatbelt when he lost control of the Mercedes-Benz convertible in his long but straight driveway and struck several objects, including a tree.
- Isaiah Otieno, 22, was killed while walking to a mailbox in Cranbrook, British Columbia, when a helicopter fell on him. Eyewitnesses reported that the college student from Kenya didn't notice the plunging chopper because he was wearing headphones.

If Only They Paid Taxes

- Robots could fill the jobs of 3.5 million Japanese people by 2025, helping to avert worker shortages as the country's population declines. According to the think tank Machine Industry Memorial Foundation, robots could make time for people to focus on more important things and save \$21 billion in elderly insurance payments in 2025 by using robots to monitor the health of older people so they don't have to rely on human nursing care. Robotic duties could include reading books out loud and helping bathe the elderly.
- O'Terrill's pub in downtown Atlanta began using a 300-pound, waist-high robot to patrol the neighborhood after dark. Hand made by bar owner Rufus Terrill, 57, to deter vagrants and vandals, the rolling robot, dubbed the "Bum Bot," has bright red lights, a spotlight, an infrared video camera and a water cannon on a spinning turret. Terrill operates the Bum Bot by remote control, standing about 10 feet behind it, and uses the robot's loudspeaker to warn troublemakers. "I don't like being here every night," said Terrill, who built the Bum Bot after police told him to stop patrolling the neighborhood with an assault rifle on his shoulder. "But I have to spend all my time being the sheriff."

Compiled from the nation's press by Roland Sweet. Submit items, citing date and source, to P.O. Box 8130, Alexandria VA 22306.

It takes money to make money

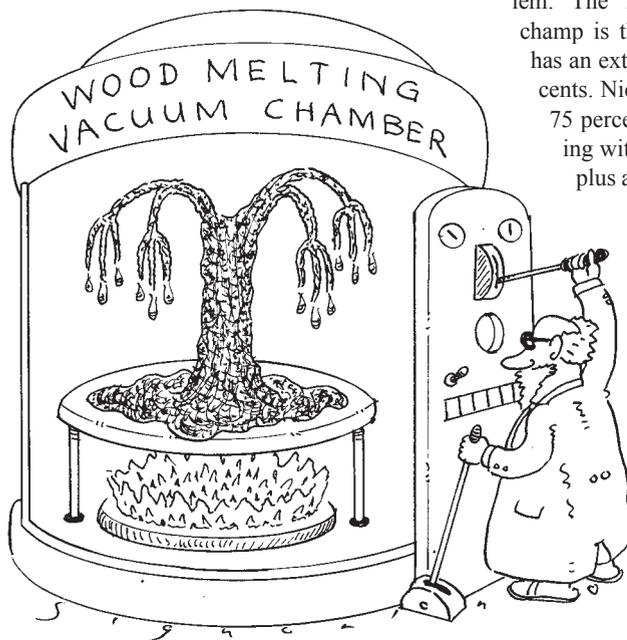
Dear Cecil: I thought I was smart and all until my son asked me, "Why doesn't wood melt?" —Murli

The simple answer is that wood doesn't melt because it burns first. If that seems a little like giving your son the brush-off, we can go into some more detail.

Typically substances go through two phase transitions as they're heated up: solids melt into liquids, liquids boil into gases. There are plenty of exceptions to this basic pattern, though, and in some cases a chemical reaction transpires before the phase transition can take place. Here the reaction we're talking about is combustion: anything with a combustion temperature lower than its melting temperature will burst into flames before it starts getting gooey.

So say you're heating up a hunk of wood. Up through 500 degrees Fahrenheit or so, mostly what you're doing is driving off moisture. As the temperature increases, though, the wood starts to break down chemically, liberating the lighter organic compounds (methane, methanol, etc) into the surrounding air in a process called devolatilization. Somewhere north of 1,000 degrees these compounds will start to burn, and the resulting heat will ignite the final, least volatile portion of the wood: the stuff, largely carbon, that combustion pros refer to as char. After the char burns, what's left is the ash, which consists of wood's inorganic components—most often calcium, potassium, and magnesium compounds. And these minerals will in fact melt, usually at between 1,900 and 2,200 degrees. My assistant Una reports seeing huge wood-fired industrial furnaces where the molten ash runs down the walls like honey.

OK, someone pipes up from the back, but what if you heated the wood in a vacuum, so it couldn't burn? Sigh. Well, the water and volatile matter would evaporate off in the early going, leaving behind the char. The inorganic stuff would then melt as described above, and finally, if you cranked the temperature way up to 6,400 degrees or so, the carbon itself would liquefy—which I guess is as close to melting wood as you're going to get.



Long ago you determined that it still cost less than a penny to mint a penny. It's a far different world today, and I find it hard to believe that the cost of minting a penny is less than the face value. —Westerr No flies on you, Westerr. It's true that as of 1998, when last we discussed this topic, minting pennies wasn't a losing proposition. Each one then cost about four-fifths of a cent to manufacture, giving them a low but still positive profit margin—or seigniorage, as

Who's going to take a radioactive nickel?

it's known in the currency biz—of 20 percent. But that was then. Stamping out a one-cent piece now costs about 1.25 cents. Given pennies' vestigial role in the economy, the government's insistence on minting them has gone from pointless atavism to expensive hobby.

What happened? Well, copper's gotten a lot pricier in the intervening decade—75 cents a pound on the London Exchange in '98, \$3.84 as of deadline—but a penny is only 2.5 percent copper. The rest is zinc, and thanks to

greatly increased demand from China, that's been in short supply for a while now, sending the price up from 47 cents a pound to as much as \$1.50. Zinc production is catching up, creating some relief, but it's doubtful that making a zinc-copper penny will ever cost less than a penny again.

And the penny's not even the big problem. The reigning negative-seigniorage champ is the humble nickel, which now has an extravagant price tag of about 7.7 cents. Nickels are 25 percent nickel and 75 percent copper, so here we're dealing with the big price hike for copper plus a similar one for nickel: \$2.10 a

pound ten years back, \$11.92 now. As demand for nickel has gone way up (China again being a major consumer), America has stopped supplying it: we had no nickel mines in operation last year, and we sold off the last of our strategic reserves in 1999. (According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the Energy Department's got maybe 14,000 tons of nickel lying around that's been "contaminated by low-level radioactivity,"

but that's little help. Who's going to take a radioactive nickel?)

Concerned about coins disappearing from circulation, the mint introduced a regulation last year levying a \$10,000 fine against anyone who melts down pennies or nickels for the metal. Great, but they'll have to catch a lot of melters to put a dent in the many millions we're losing annually by making the coins at all. Amid general resignation that neither the penny nor the nickel is going away anytime soon, the House just passed a bill requiring that henceforth both be made from less-expensive steel. The Treasury Department opposes it, but something's gotta give. A country that's \$9.4 trillion in the hole could clearly stand to quit throwing so much good money after bad.—CECIL ADAMS

Copyright 2008 Chicago Reader, Inc.

Comments, questions? Take it up with Cecil on the Straight Dope Message Board, straightdope.com, or write him at the Chicago Reader, 11 E. Illinois, Chicago 60611. Cecil's most recent compendium of knowledge, Triumph of the Straight Dope, is available at bookstores everywhere.

FORECAST FOR JUNE 2008

♈ ARIES—Children, creative projects, friendship and romance, recreation--all are in expansive mode. But money isn't. In fact, you are in a tight financial cycle. Relationships of all kinds can easily turn troublesome, too. Take advantage of the protective and supportive aspects present this month. You don't have to make any commitments, financial or otherwise. Be patient and be careful. You can wait for clarification, or just wait for a better deal. Hasty actions or actions that make you uncomfortable could upset the peace and stability you have worked to create.

♉ TAURUS—I know it is tough right now to see how you can fulfill your expanding hopes and dreams with present resources. The planets will provide the peace and security you need as you pause to get new projects off the ground and reimagine your future. The things you are beginning now will bear abundant fruit and take your life to a new level. Let intuition and creativity be your guide. Your visions of the future will not betray you. The present is not a plateau. It is a launch pad.

♊ GEMINI—June is the beginning of the beginning of a dynamic new phase for you and everyone in your life. You are well and powerfully placed to influence unfolding events. At times, it might seem that you are losing some of the protection and security you've enjoyed. But your situation is merely opening up, allowing dramatic new possibilities to develop. Don't worry about the risk. There is a safety net under your situation. You can do a lot of good and the planets will limit the effects of any mistakes.

♋ CANCER—The resolution of old work issues will continue to play out as troublesome fellow workers and incompetent superiors get their due. This will be gratifying. But put your attention on the really important stuff. An improving work situation, growing bonds of support in the community and increasing economic security are creating a solid foundation. This combination of favorable things will let you improve your skills and explore important opportunities for personal and professional growth. Patience may be required as complicated issues work out slowly in the background.

♌ LEO—Your present economic situation is gratifyingly stable and provides a reasonably comfortable and secure living--for now. But you should devote some time and effort to overcoming any economic hurdles that might stand between you and the lifestyle you hope to enjoy in the future. Balancing short-term and long-term economic needs is always a tricky business. But current planetary conditions provide the security and flexibility you need to make necessary economic adjustments, trade offs, and reallocations comfortably. Wise moves made now will set things going in the right financial direction.

♍ VIRGO—Finally, circumstances are coming together to provide a comfortable, secure and enjoyable life. But a tangle of stubborn, complex, important and unanticipated challenges are arising. To realize the full potential of your new situation and avoid slipping backward you must meet these challenges. You will likely have to exert yourself more than you would want and more than is strictly comfortable. However, with an extraordinary effort now, you can achieve a quantum improvement in your personal and professional status. It's a big commitment, but the rewards will be correspondingly large.

♎ LIBRA—Concerns about what is practical compete with idealistic visions of the future as you cope with changing circumstances. This change is bringing opportunity within reach. If you play your cards right, you can leverage your present situation to guide the forces of change. A little risk, a little overexertion is probably inevitable. You might be surprised at how stable and resilient your present situation is, though, and how much weight it can support. Take advantage of this unique and fortunate set of events. Opportunity might not knock again for awhile.

♏ SCORPIO—Communication with others might be your best tool, or resource, right now. There is a lot going on, but you seem kind of stuck on the sidelines as others take center stage. Also, bureaucrats are working their slow way through decisions that are important to you. But your communications with others will have special value and lasting benefits. Also, time and energy spent on enjoyable and creative pastimes, activities with children and loved ones will be rewarding. Sometimes it really is best to relax while others do the heavy lifting.

♐ SAGITTARIUS—Sometimes, it will be your luck or your own resourcefulness. Sometimes, it will be outward circumstance that protects and supports you. In general, things are stable and secure. You are leading a charmed life right now. But events are pushing you to adjust to changeable events. The right adjustments will remove old limitations, bring you profit from new opportunities and significantly improve your lifestyle. A mix of financial tweaks, training and personal development, and consultation with influential people can help you realize the potential. The first move is yours.

♑ CAPRICORN—There are situations in everyone's life that create pressure. Lately, such situations have an especially large role in Capricorn's life. There's pressure from family, your immediate social circle and the community. And you also want to get on with your own life as you begin a cycle of personal growth and expansion. These competing pressures can be very frustrating. In June, the planets will help you make some very effective and helpful adjustments. You will have additional time to prepare for any crunches coming up in the immediate future.

♒ AQUARIUS—A mix of good things and not so good things are putting pressure on long-term assets. There are health issues and a certain lack of motivation, or restlessness. On the upside, you are strongly drawn to activities that bring healing, spiritual growth and self-nurture. That costs money, too, and absorbs other personal resources. All this comes as you are feeling the need to expand your long-term assets. June's aspects will help you make workable compromises. A whole new financial cycle begins in January.

♓ PISCES—Pisces are pushing change in other lives as well as their own, nowadays. That might not be going over so well in some quarters. However, these changes are necessary and desirable and the planets are providing the resources people need to make the changes. For Pisces personally, the center of concern is on partnerships and relationships, which have been under strain lately, or the cause of extra outlays. June will bring you an opportunity to make adjustments in your own life that significantly ease any relationship concerns.

Emma Goldman Clinic



- birth control
- STI/HIV testing
- free pregnancy tests
- gynecological exams
- safer sex supplies
- well-male exams
- confidential abortions
- therapeutic massage
- emergency contraception

* 8 for \$1 condoms! *

Emma Goldman Clinic
A Feminist Approach to Health Care
227 N. Dubuque St.
Iowa City
319.337.2111

www.emmagoldman.com

You're reading this.
(so are 10,000 other people)

little village

advertise with us
and reach new customers

Ads@LittleVillageMag.com or
319/331-0791



www.river-city-housing.org
319-337-5260

Rooms available in historic co-op houses!
Home-cooked meals, environmentally friendly

Iowa Summer Rep 2008

Three Plays by David Lindsay-Abaire

Wonder of the World

June 26-29, July 3, 4 (6 pm), 5

When Cass discovers a shocking secret about her husband, she flees her marriage and heads to Niagara Falls for the madcap adventure of a lifetime.

Rabbit Hole

July 1, 2, 6, 8-13, 15, 16, 20

The winner of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize, this bittersweet and exquisitely written play tells of a couple's struggle to cope with a life-shattering accident.

Fuddy Meers

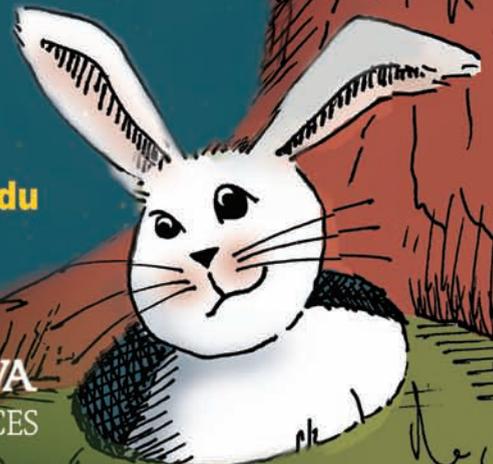
July 17-19, 23-26

This rollicking comedy combines humor, mayhem and humanity as we witness a day in the life of Claire, a young housewife with a rare form of amnesia.

All performances in the UI Theatre Building. Join us for dinner on the patio before the show Wed-Sat. Call 335-3105 for dinner reservations.

For tickets, call **335-1160** or **1-800-HANCHER** or visit www.boxoffice.hancher.uiowa.edu

Down the Rabbit Hole



THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES