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Iowa City's News & Culture Magazine

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July '08

## Surviving the Flood

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A new chapter

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Buried Books



# 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.

Due to the flooding on the UI arts campus, all performances have been moved to West High School, 2901 Melrose Ave., Iowa City.

For tickets, call 1-800-HANCHER or [www.boxoffice.hancher.uiowa.edu](http://www.boxoffice.hancher.uiowa.edu)

Down the Rabbit Hole



THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

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VOLUME | 7 ISSUE | 70 July '08

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

## Lift Your Voice

Like almost everyone in Eastern Iowa, Little Village has had to rearrange its plans as the floods hit. With the publisher's newly purchased home under water and disaster preventing writers from executing their community-conscientious ideas, the publication has had to cut back to 24 pages for planning this issue. Also, like everyone, we are striving to make the best of it. Dear readers, within this issue you'll find personal flood stories—including one from a Katrina survivor—a review of the most interesting ballooning you can find on DVD, and the good-bye memories of a fine public servant, Ron Prosser, whose untimely passing is much mourned.

The good news about this issue is that after all the plans had been carried out, we had too *much* content, forcing us to get our Web site in action. LittleVillageMag.com will not only help us expand our content but also act as our vessel for creating an online community to complement the physical one we love so much. This venture is a new challenge, and we welcome feedback on what you like and what you'd like to see next. Let us know what you love, let us know what you hate, or just let us know how your day's been. Everyone has a place in this little village.

While you're at it, send us your new *Melody Dworak*



studio recordings too. Local CD reviews are back and we welcome all material.

In August's issue, Little Village would like to give a special shout-out to those local businesses affected by the flooding, and so we are offering a special advertising opportunity to those businesses as they rebuild. Even though all the sandbag levees have been built, we need to continue to come together as a community, and Little Village wants to help, too. If you would like to take advantage of the offer (it won't cost you a thing), contact our publisher, Andrew Sherburne, at [Publisher@LittleVillageMag.com](mailto:Publisher@LittleVillageMag.com).

This last month has been a trying one for Iowa City, but the adventure is just beginning. As we clean up and rebuild our battered city, we ought to remember the words of a generation of heroes that came before us: Goonies never say die.

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**A FEW RECENT EXAMPLES OF AWESOMELY NON-RACIST POLITICAL DISCOURSE**

WHEN TALK RADIO HOSTS DRAW PARALLELS BETWEEN THE MIDWESTERN FLOODS AND HURRICANE KATRINA--  
 YOU DIDN'T SEE **MIDWESTERNERS** WHINING FOR HELP, THE WAY THOSE PEOPLE IN **NEW ORLEANS** DID!  
 WHATEVER COLOR THEY WERE. I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE!  
 --THEY'RE SIMPLY MAKING AN INTERESTING **OBSERVATION**--WHICH HAS **NOTHING** TO DO WITH **RACE**!

WHEN FOX NEWS USES A SLANG TERM SYNONYMOUS WITH "UNWED MOTHER" IN REFERENCE TO MICHELLE OBAMA--  
 OBAMA'S BABY MAMA  
 --IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A SLY POP CULTURAL **REFERENCE**--WITH **NO RACISM INVOLVED**!

WHEN FOX ANCHORS SPECULATE ABOUT THE POSSIBLE MEANING OF AN INNOCUOUS HAND GESTURE--  
 WAS IT A **TERRORIST FIST JAB**?  
 A **GANG SIGN**? A SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION OF THEIR **SECRET HATRED** FOR **WHITE PEOPLE**?  
 --THEY'RE ONLY DOING THEIR **JOB**S AS THOROUGH, RESPONSIBLE, NON-RACIST **JOURNALISTS**!

WHEN A VENDOR AT THE TEXAS GOP CONVENTION SELLS THESE BUTTONS ALL WEEKEND--  
 If Obama is President... will we still call it The White House?  
 --WELL, IT'S JUST A HARMLESS POST-RACIAL JOKE AND **LIBERALS** ARE THE **REAL RACISTS**. OR, UM, SOMETHING.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT--WE LIVE IN AN **AWESOMELY COLORBLIND SOCIETY**!  
 I BELIEVE WE SHOULD JUDGE OBAMA AND HIS WIFE BY THE **CONTENT** OF THEIR **CHARACTER**!  
 FOR INSTANCE-- DOES MICHELLE HATE "WHITE" OR NOT? AND WHAT'S UP WITH THAT **TERRORIST FIST JAB**?  
 INQUIRING NON-RACIST MINDS WANT TO **KNOW**!  
 \*THE RIGHT'S FAVORITE M.L.K. QUOTE!



# Farewell, Mr. Higgins

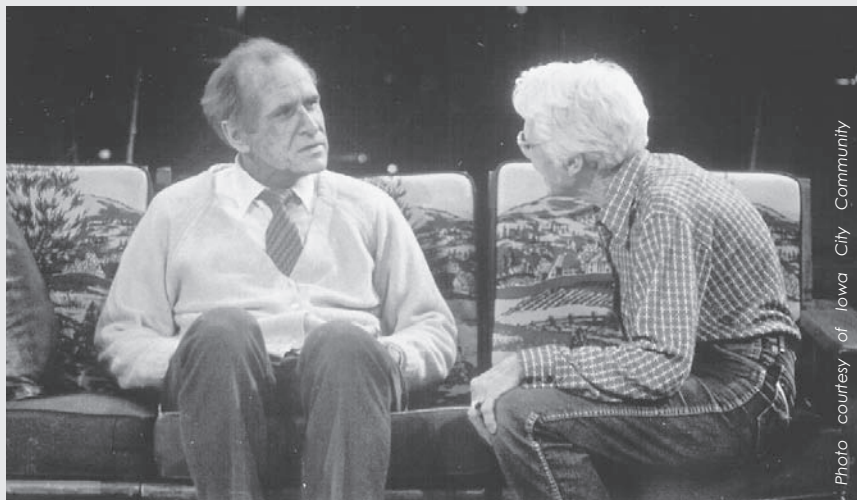
Remembering  
Ron Prosser

If you were in the Iowa City Public Library any time before a few months ago, you know who I'm talking about. There's a good chance he checked out some materials for you, or you at least saw him sitting behind the new library card desk, helping a patron acquire their magic passport to a world of wonderful books and other media marvels. He was the tall guy. No, not really "guy"—gentleman. The tall gentleman who looked kind of like a college professor, with slightly unkempt graying hair, big glasses, a big smile, a sonorous yet gentle voice, and, if you talked to him at all, you knew a big brain and a big heart. That was Ron Prosser, perhaps the greatest circulation clerk who ever lived.

Sadly, we lost Ron Prosser a few weeks ago. He passed away unexpectedly only a few short months after his retirement from the library. Many, many people in the Iowa City community are mourning the loss of Ron. He was truly an Iowa City original—and in being so, he was the quintessential Iowa Citian.

Ron came to Iowa City well over 30 years ago from Minnesota. Like many new community members, he was attending graduate school at The University of Iowa. He received a master's degree in history in 1970, and he then began a Ph.D. in history. His mistake—Ron himself said he "should've learned his lesson"—came when he worked as a circulation library assistant in the UI library. The intellectual and cultural stimulation of the Iowa City community combined with his new-found love for library circulation led Ron to take a similar position at the Iowa City Public Library. As with so many Iowa Citians, Ron's time here in our community and his new job were "temporary." Nearly four decades later, he completed his life journey with us, here at home.

Now, it may seem odd to devote one's life and career to library circulation when one has had graduate training in history. But think about it. You spend your days living with mounds of books moving swiftly past you, you are organizing materials in a minutely fastidious manner (anyone who loves academic scholarship knows what I mean), and you help put those desired materials into the hands of eager patrons who want them. Through his many years of experience and his deep love for the library, Ron knew the collection inside



Ron Prosser and Elizabeth Young in *On Golden Pond*.

"Ron Prosser was in the first play I directed for Iowa City Community Theatre," said Gerry Roe. "He played Crouch, an elderly lecherous skinflint in a play called *Sly Fox*. For some reason, Ron was unable to attend the first few rehearsals, but he made his first entrance before I could even begin to tell him where to come in or where to go. He shuffled on with his elderly lecherous gait and cracked curmudgeonly voice—without consulting his script—and I realized how lucky I was to have him in my cast."

Ron is probably best remembered as Iowa City's quintessential Henry Higgins from *My Fair Lady*, a role he gifted us with twice, but

was also a wonderful Leontes in Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale*, Henry II in *The Lion in Winter*, Norman Thayer in *On Golden Pond*, and Clarence Day in *Life with Father*. Ron had a wonderful sense of humor about his dramatic forays, and he even played the role of unappreciated thespian in everyday life.

Library colleague Beth Daly says, "He complained that no one ever threw him roses after his stage performances, so, one day, my husband and I 'borrowed' some roses and threw them at him backstage. I think he wanted to joke about not getting roses more than he wanted the actual flowers, because I heard him make the same claim sometime after."

and out and was probably the most valuable resource in the building—if you look up "institutional memory" in the dictionary, you'll see a picture of Ron. But Ron's true passion, I think, and certainly his greatest skill, was that last part of his job I mentioned—the patron service part, making people happy by making sure they had books and CDs and movies that they would enjoy and learn from.

I didn't get to know Ron very closely. When I was in graduate school at the UI in the late 1980s, I knew he was that friendly big guy at the library. When I returned to Iowa City in 1999, I was more than delighted to see that That Friendly Big Guy was still at the library. When I started serving on the board of trustees of ICPL, I got to know Ron a little better. All throughout the years, it was a distinct pleasure

to be checked out by Ron, who at the very least always had a radiant smile for you and a very polite, "Thank you, sir." It didn't take much to get an even better interaction, though, with a little bit of informed, and often humorous, discussion of what you were checking out, and you might even get some great tips from Ron on other books he thought you'd like.

But Ron's circulation powers manifested a special magic with children. Kids were drawn to That Friendly Big Guy like a magnet, his warmth and compassion exuding from those hands reaching out to you to help you check out the books you wanted to take home. Innumerable preschoolers and older kids, too, insisted that Ron be the only one to check out their books. One young admirer, for unknown reasons, named him "Mr. Pumpkin"

and brought him Halloween treats. My best memory of Ron, the image I will take with me as I remember him, is his very tall torso hunched down onto the new library card desk, his head inclined toward the eager young boy or girl getting a first library card ever, rapt in quiet, secret conversation with the little one who, hopefully, will love libraries forever. With Ron initiating you, how could you not?

**His job led to some interesting experiences: being cursed at, spat upon, bitten (by an adult), and urinated on.**

Perhaps Ron will also be best remembered by those closest to him as a man of exotic tastes and refined acquisitiveness. He was a world traveler and a collector of antiquities. His special interest was jade, even commissioning a Hong Kong shopkeeper to make lined boxes for storing his precious items. Ron also had a penchant for tin toys and meteorites. And he shared. He was forever bringing in fascinating items for "show and tell" at the library. When Beth Daly's daughter expressed amazement at a meteorite, Ron gave her a piece. When Ron was selling some jade to his friends for next to nothing close to his last day on the job before his retirement, Heidi Lauritzen wanted something to remember him by but passed on the jewelry since she doesn't wear it. The next day, Ron brought Heidi a little jade cup, which still sits on her desk. Mike Brenneman loved to bring in Indian artifacts he had found, vases, rocks, or anything interesting he had discovered at a yard sale and show it all to Ron. Mike will dearly miss the fascinating conversations that ensued and all that he was able to learn from this wonderful man he grew to admire greatly.

Ron's life as The Greatest Circulation Clerk in the World was not a bed of roses, however. By the time of his 30th anniversary as an ICPL employee, he had succeeded to the title of "Senior Library Assistant, Customer Relations Representative." As such, he was also responsible for handling disputed patron accounts and damaged materials (as Circulation Services Director Heidi Lauritzen says, "sometimes by unspeakable substances"), and he worked with the library's collection agency. Ron was also the liaison with the police department and earned the distinction of "most subpoenaed library employee." These aspects of his job, by his own admission, led to some interesting

MR. HIGGINS continued on page 11



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Above: View of Wildwood Press with prints by Michael Berkhemer.

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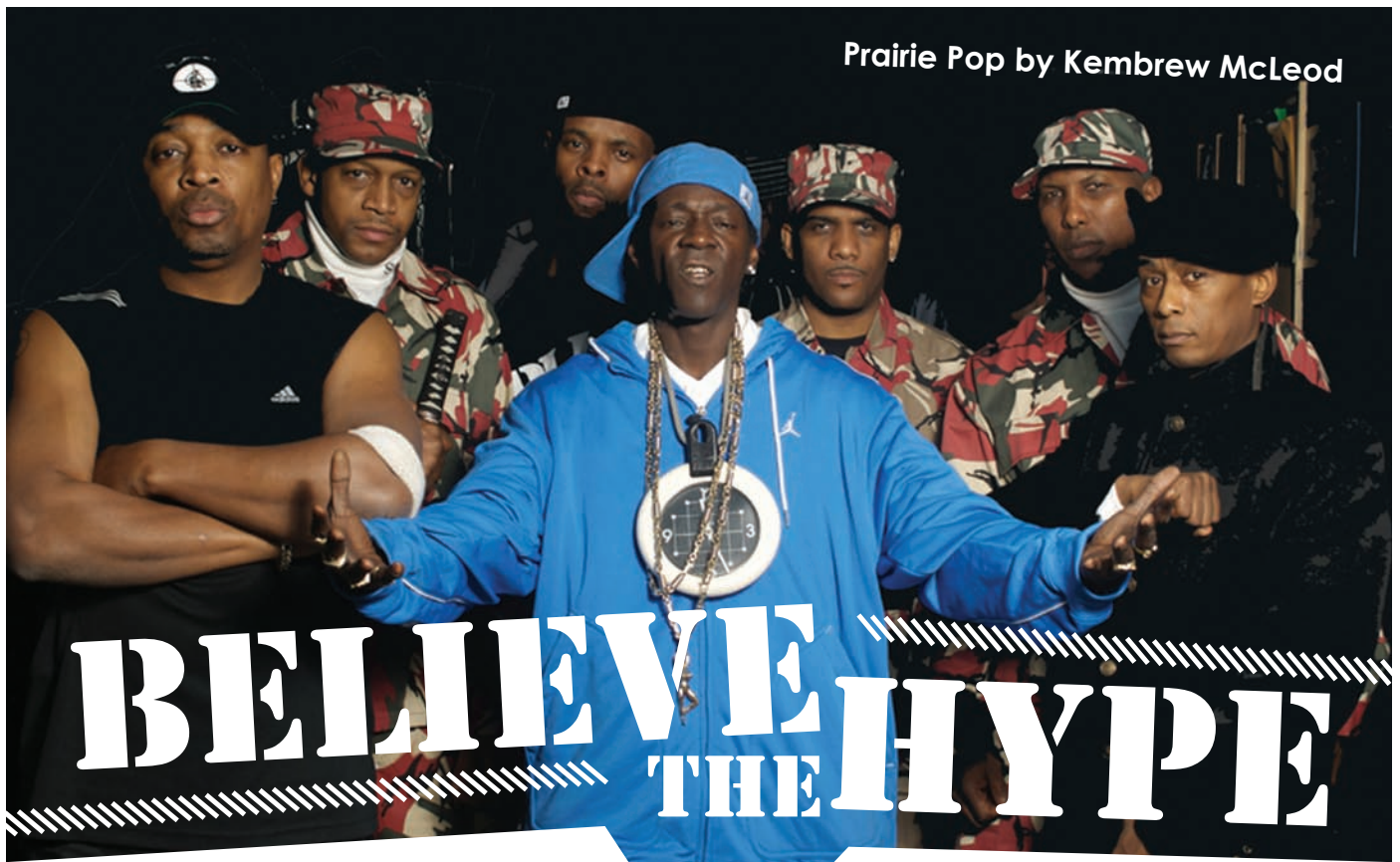
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**W**hen Public Enemy released *It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back* in 1988, it was as if it had landed from another planet. The album came front loaded with sirens, squeals, and squawks that augmented the chaotic, collage backing tracks over which PE frontman Chuck D laid his politically and poetically radical rhymes. He rapped about white supremacy, Black Nationalism, Sonny Bono, Yoko Ono, and everything else in between. Public Enemy's music was both agitprop and pop, mixing politics with the live wire thrill of the popular music experience.

For those of us who heard the album the first time around, it's hard to believe that this year marks the twentieth anniversary of its release. The album will be honored this July; Public Enemy performs the album in its entirety at this year's Pitchfork Music Festival in Chicago, which will be preceded by a public panel on the making of the album (see info box).

Even though Public Enemy was working with equipment that by today's standards would be considered antiquated and primitive, they made the most of the existing technologies, often inventing techniques and workarounds the manufacturers likely never imagined.

"I remember when 'Rebel Without a Pause' came out," says Matt Black, of the British electronic duo Coldcut—which emerged

around the same time as Public Enemy. "Rebel Without a Pause" was one of the many tracks on the record that featured repetitious, abrasive noises, something that simply just wasn't done in popular music at the time, though today the practice is common. Black tells me, "That noise—what some people call it the 'kettle noise'—it's actually a sample of the JB's 'The Grunt.' It was just so sort of avant-garde and exciting, and heavy."

De La Soul's Posdonus says, "They really put sound and noises together and made it into incredible music."

Public Enemy's production team, the Bomb Squad—comprising Hank Shocklee, Keith Shocklee, Eric "Vietnam" Sadler, and Chuck D—took sampling to the level of high art while still keeping intact hip-hop's populist heart. This seminal hip-hop group collaged together dozens of fragmentary samples to create each song.

"Public Enemy reminded me a lot of what we were doing," says De La Soul's Posdonus, a contemporary of Public Enemy who also hailed from Long Island. "Obviously in a different way, but you can listen to their music and hear something else for the first time."

Both Public Enemy and De La Soul took a wide range of sounds and blended them together in ways that reflected how a new generation heard popular culture. Records like Public Enemy's *It Takes a Nation* and De La Soul's *3 Feet High and Rising* were two important seeds that gave rise to today's remix culture.

"My vision of this group," says Hank Shocklee, "was to almost have a production assembly line where each person had their own particular specialty." He elaborates, "I'm coming from a DJ's perspective. Eric [Sadler] is coming from a musician's perspective. So together, you know, we started working out different ideas. For instance, our song 'Don't Believe the Hype' was one of the strangest ways we made a record. We were looking for blends in particular records; so I might be on one turntable, Keith on another and Chuck on another turntable at the same time."

Chuck D tells me, "The Bomb Squad's live rehearsals—we would get into a recording session and just play records with three or four turntables set up. We would go through a session of just playing records, and beats,

### CHILLIN' WITH CHUCK

The panel on the making of *It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back*, moderated by Kembrew McLeod, will feature Public Enemy. This free event will take place at the Chicago Cultural Center, Claudia Cassidy Theatre on Thursday, July 17, 2008, 3 p.m. To RSVP, e-mail [rsvp@pitchforkmusicfestival.com](mailto:rsvp@pitchforkmusicfestival.com). It is sponsored by Pitchfork Media, the Future of Music Coalition, the Chicago Cultural Center, and The University of Iowa.

## Prairie Pop

and getting snatches, and what Hank would do is record that whole session. You know, ninety-five percent of the time it sounded like mess. But there was five percent of magic that would happen in the spur. That's how records like "Don't Believe The Hype" were made. You would listen to 60 minutes of this mess on a tape, and then out of that you would be like, "Whoa! What happened right here?" ... So that was the closest thing to a jazz band with a whole bunch of different instruments, just going at it. Maybe not a conventional jazz band, maybe somebody like Sun Ra [laughs], or Cecil Taylor, ya know."

**"Ninety-five percent of the time it sounded like mess. But there was five percent of magic in the spur."**

"If you were to come into our studio," says Shocklee, "you'd think it's the worst noise." He demonstrates with his hands and mouth. "There would be a time when we have a nice little groove where Keith Shocklee is going [turntable scratching sound effects with mouth] and Chuck is going [sound effects with mouth]. We're all together and there's one little moment when it all meshes together in a nice little vibration. That little moment is what we snatched and sampled, and that became the music to 'Don't Believe the Hype.'"

One example of how Public Enemy mixed sound with history can be found in their classic song "Fight the Power," written the following year for Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*. "'Fight the Power' has so many different layers of sound," Chuck D tells me, explaining that the song is embedded with sampled loops of melodies, vocals, speeches, and other noises—all going backwards and forwards. He characterizes "Fight the Power" as an assemblage of a quarter-century of sounds that represent the Black experience.

"That song contains a great deal of black music history from a 25-year period," Chuck D observes. "You listen to it, and it's like [mock announcer's voice], 'This 25-year period black music is brought to you by Public Enemy.'"

From the beginning to the end, it's filled with musical and political history—a history lived through sound, a phrase that nicely sums up Public Enemy's revolutionary aesthetic. **lv**

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

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# Rise of the Locavore

Ask anyone, from local and national media to the average customer in Orscheln's, and you'll hear how Iowa farmers have taken a hard hit this year. Because of heavy spring rains many never had a chance to plant their corn or soybeans. And the subsequent flooding has ruined many crops already in the ground.

However, Iowa City and Coralville residents can rest assured that a vital part of Iowa agriculture is still alive and well: the local farmers market. We've come to rely on these markets for the ripest tomatoes and the freshest green beans all summer long. In fact, the Iowa City/Coralville area sustains three different farmers markets, giving you the chance to buy fresh, local produce five days a week.

Iowa City Farmers Market Coordinator Tammy Neumann admits that some harvests were certainly delayed by the wet growing season, especially the sweet corn. And Coralville Farmers Market Manager Matt Hibbard warns that the abundant rains have stunted produce such as strawberries and spinach. However, they both agree that local shoppers will still have plenty of produce to choose from.

"As far as I know, none of our vendors has suffered a significant loss in produce," says Neumann.

## Downtown Iowa City Farmers Market

Wednesday 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Saturday 7:30-11:30 a.m.

A downtown institution more than 35 years old, the Iowa City farmers market held in the Chauncey Swan parking ramp infuses the downtown area with life even after the majority of university students have vacated for the summer. This event is by far the largest market in town. On Saturdays, 81 vendors fill 112 stalls in the parking ramp; on Wednesdays the number's about half that (due to the need for extra consumer parking space on week nights).

These vendors sell a variety of local fruits and vegetables, naturally raised meat, flowers and potted plants, and handmade jewelry and soap. The one rule all vendors must obey is that their wares "are grown or made by them." This limitation guarantees a unique experi-



Photo by Jon Favel

Vendors display plentiful veggies at the Downtown Iowa City Farmers Market.

ence for farmers market shoppers and, along with the wide range of items for sale, offers consumers an excellent resource for thoughtful gifts and household items, in addition to local produce.

In recent years, the market has become quite a community event. With the addition of live music from local musicians on Saturday (new this year) and grilling vendors, the area adopts a very social atmosphere, and shoppers often stop to talk to friends and neighbors. To coincide with the market, the city also offers Art in the Park, a drop-in arts program for children. Taught by recreation division art instructors, this program runs from 9 to 11:00 a.m. every Saturday through July and August. Adults can also learn something new with once-a-month cooking demonstrations by area chefs.

## Coralville Farmers Market

Monday & Thursday 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Instead of being the main attraction, the Coralville Farmers Market is only a part of the community activities. It's not that the produce is any less desirable. However, there are fewer vendors due to the smaller space. Although vendors have been small in number recently – due to the difficulties of traveling in and around Coralville – Hibbard expects 10-12 vendors to return soon. As the summer progresses, the number increases to as many as 20 vendors, just the right amount for the space allotted.

Coralville's farmers market is a combination of quick and easy shopping and family fun, offering something for everyone. Its central location near the Community Aquatic Center caters to the after-work crowd swinging through on their way home to put dinner on the table.

However, the proximity to the pool and the pastoral setting of S.T. Morrison Park also lend a relaxed air to the market for other attendees. The market features acoustic music by local performers for those that want to linger over their purchases. The Thursday night Music in the Park enhances the family-friendly atmosphere. People come with blankets and lawn chairs, prepared to enjoy the free concert series and lazy summer evening.

## Sycamore Mall Farmers Market

Tuesday 3:00-6:30 p.m.

While the downtown Iowa City and Coralville farmers markets have developed into larger events with prepared food and entertainment, the Sycamore Mall farmers market is just that: a market. It boasts at least a dozen vendors selling a wide variety of wares from meat and produce to potted plants, baked goods, and arts and crafts.

This is the ultimate market for a shopper looking for a quick stop after work. Its location in the parking lot of the Sycamore Mall provides ample parking and very few traffic headaches, even during the busy five o'clock hour.

Throughout the year, Iowa City residents can rely on the New Pioneer Coop, The Bread Garden and even Hy-Vee and Fareway to carry some local produce. However, only at farmers markets are you guaranteed food by area farmers. While these retail options all supply an assortment of organic food, studies estimate that processed food in the United States travels over 1,300 miles, and fresh produce travels over 1,500 miles, before being consumed. **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.*



# Drowning Fields

Iowa experienced the flood of the century 15 years ago. That, of course, was a different century.

Last month Iowans saw floods unlike any in living memory. Then, that water moved south, breaching levees in Missouri and Illinois, infecting groundwater, flooding fields, ruining lives.

All this will have lasting impact on our state and its neighbors, but the larger impact may be felt across the country and around the world. Somewhere between two and three million acres of freshly planted farmland went underwater. Statewide, about 20 percent of soybeans and 10 percent of all corn grown is either lost or at risk of being lost, according to the Iowa Department of Agriculture.

The smaller sustainable family farms of the region are hit particularly hard because they lack many of the federal protections afforded the large commodity growers, but those big corporate farms grow roughly a third of the corn and soy in this country and the ripple effects on our already weakened economy will spread just like the floodwaters. Even the stockpiles left from last season's bumper-buster harvest (those that were not themselves ruined by floodwaters) could not be shipped to market because railroad bridges are closed or washed out completely and the Mississippi River was closed to barge traffic along Iowa's entire eastern border.

Closer to home, my dear friend Susan Jutz, director of the area's largest Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) group, lost her 102-year-old barn to the storms. Restaurant owner Jim Mondanaro's flagship restaurant Mondo's Tomato Pie went underwater, with all its equipment, furniture, and a \$12,000 inventory of food. Scott McWane's Dairy Queen, in the family since 1951, survived a Packard through its front window in 1958, six feet of water in the basement in 1993, and a tornado that opened it up like a pizza box in 2006. When the Iowa River Crested on Father's Day there were eight feet in that same basement.



While some CSAs have lost entire crops and acres of land, the CSAs that went unhurt are trying to get their food to families who have lost their homes.

Eighty-three of Iowa's 99 counties are state and/or federal disaster areas. Whole towns are evacuated. Family businesses lost. Restaurants underwater. The rebuilding process will take years and be in the billions of dollars.

Slow Food Iowa City is heading up a nationwide movement to assist the affected farmers, wineries and restaurants. Called the Terra Madre Relief Fund, it was first launched in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, where it raised more than \$40,000 and helped, for example, Kay and Ray Brandhurst get their shrimp trawler's engine repaired so they could get back to their livelihood. It was intentionally not referred to as the Katrina relief fund because its purpose was to be an ongoing fund as other disasters affected sustainable and artisanal food producers around the country in the years to come. The name Terra Madre (Mother Earth), is a reference to Slow Food's international network of growers, artisans, and food makers of every kind.

Donations are currently being accepted to assist in recovery for farmers and food producers connected to the Slow Food community. Please consider making a donation at [www.SlowFoodUSA.org](http://www.SlowFoodUSA.org). In the meantime, please shop at the farmers markets and dine at the restaurants that were not directly affected, and when those that were reopen, show them your support by frequenting them. We're all in this together. **lv**

*It's About the Food is a monthly feature of Little Village. Chef Kurt Michael Friese is co-owner, with his wife Kim, of the Iowa City restaurant Devotay and serves as editor-in-chief of the local food magazine Edible Iowa River Valley. His forthcoming book, A Cook's Journey: Slow Food in the Heartland will be released in August. He lives in rural Johnson County. Questions and comments may be directed to [devotay@mchsi.com](mailto:devotay@mchsi.com).*



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IN TIME TO UNCOVER THE ORIGINAL (AND  
THE NOT SO ORIGINAL) SINS OF IOWA'S  
FOREFATHERS AND MOTHERS. CAN I  
GET AN AMEN? OUR SERMON COMES  
FROM THE GOSPEL OF IOWA CITY'S  
FIRST (AND MOST SCANDALOUS) PRES-  
BYTERIAN MINISTER: MICHAEL HUMMER.

**IA Confidential**

REV. HUMMER

HIRED IN 1841, HUMMER'S  
FIRST JOB WAS TO  
RAISE MONEY TO BUILD  
IOWA CITY'S FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
TOPPED WITH A  
CROWNING JEWEL: THE  
FIRST CHURCH BELL  
WEST OF THE  
MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

NO ONE IN IOWA CITY HAD THAT  
KIND OF MONEY, SO ALMOST AS  
SOON AS HE'D BEEN HIRED,  
HUMMER TRAVELED EAST TO  
RAISE MONEY FROM OLDER  
CONGREGATIONS—AND RAISE  
MONEY HE DID (MOTIVATED  
BY THE FACT THAT HIS SALARY  
WAS 10% OF THE DONATIONS)

IN 1844, HUMMER PAID  
\$500 TO ANDREW MCNEELY  
OF EAST TROY, NEW YORK TO  
FORGE A BELL, AND SOON  
AFTER RETURNED TO IOWA.

IDEAS THAT DIDN'T  
SIT WELL WITH THE  
PLAIN-SPOKEN FOLK  
OF THE FRONTIER.

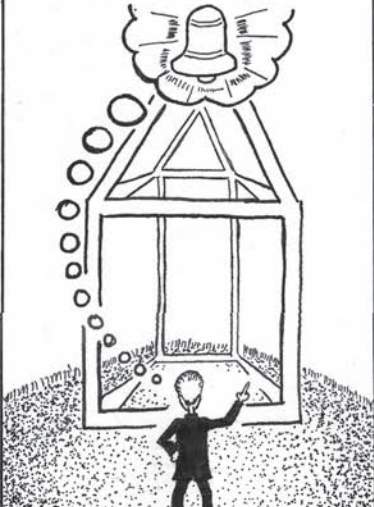




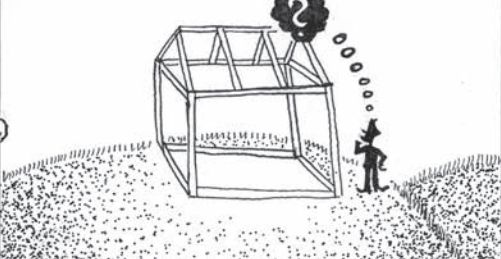

MONEY WAS NOT THE  
ONLY THING HE BROUGHT  
BACK. OUT EAST, REV.  
HUMMER EMBRACED  
"SWEDENBORGIANISM"  
AND RETURNED TO  
IOWA BRIMMING  
WITH EXCITEMENT  
OVER IDEAS LIKE  
CLAIRVOYANCE,  
PROPHECY, AND  
"SPIRIT-RAPPING".

TENSIONS MOUNTED UNTIL, IN  
1847, HUMMER WAS KICKED  
OUT OF THE PULPIT. ALWAYS  
FIERY-TEMPERED, HUMMER  
CURSED THEM AND LEFT.

HUMMER AND HIS FEW LOYAL  
FOLLOWERS MOVED TO KEOKUK  
TO BUILD THEIR "SPIRITUALISTIC  
TEMPLE", BUT IT LACKED A  
CERTAIN SOMETHING...

SO, ONE SUMMER NIGHT IN 1848,  
HUMMER RETURNED TO IOWA  
CITY WITH A LADDER, A  
HORSE, A WAGON, AND A PLAN.

NEXT ISSUE: CAUGHT RED-HANDED



**MR. HIGGINS'** from page 5

experiences: being cursed at, spat upon, bitten (by an adult), and urinated on. Library circulation, especially at advanced levels, has its occupational hazards.

Not surprisingly, the images of Ron that many carry with them are aural: his booming "Good Morning!" (every day) to all his colleagues, his uplifting humming and singing, his whistling on his many walks through town.

"I always enjoyed hearing his voice on the phone or in a voice mail telling me that the much-anticipated book or movie I put on hold was ready to be picked up," said Meredith Rich-Chappell, my colleague on the board of trustees. I bet his testimony about stolen library materials was amazingly effective.

Ron also was a master horticulturist. He grew three dozen varieties of orchids—and you could sometimes see his circulation station delicately appointed with a lovely bloom. He grew over a hundred different cacti, and he nurtured some Bonsai, too. He wrote books. He pursued genealogy, and he was thrilled to learn that a supposedly saintly ancestor was hanged for stealing. He served on the board and various committees of Iowa City Community

Theatre. Ron was fully engaged—with the community, and with the world.

Ron was totally, and wonderfully, what Iowa City was all about. He showed us that finding your bliss was more important than fame, ambition, wealth, or an enviable address. Ron could have gone so many places and done so many things, but he found the place, the work,

### One young admirer, for unknown reasons, named him "Mr. Pumpkin"

and the people he loved, and he stayed with them—and lived a very rich life, and a life that enriched ours. Ron didn't build any skyscrapers or have thousands and millions to give to admittedly worthy causes. He didn't engineer a rise in the political landscape. He didn't open a bunch of popular restaurants. But, as Library Director Susan Craig says, "He was so 'Iowa City.'" He was smart and inquisitive, and he shared generously what he knew and loved learning from others. He was immersed in the cultural life of our community. He knew and created beauty. He was hilarious. He was odd. He was boisterously loving of his

friends, family, people he served, animals, and strangers. He knew what a good thing his life in Iowa City was and stuck with it for a long, long time.

Farewell, Henry Higgins, Mr. Pumpkin, Jade Master, Father of Orchids, That Friendly Big Guy, The Greatest Circulation Clerk in the World. We have missed you, and we will continue to miss you, dearly. And, for the last time, thanks for checking me out, Ron.

I offer my deepest thanks to those who shared their memories of Ron with me and helped me put this tribute together: Susan Craig, Elyse Miller, Beth Daly, Heidi Lauritzen, Mike Brenneman, Meredith Rich-Chappell, Jody Hovland, Rachael Lindhart, and Gerry Roe. **lv**

A memorial fund has been set up in honor of Ron Prosser. Contributions can be sent to Lensing Funeral Home or brought to the Iowa City Public Library.

*Thomas Dean serves as president of the Iowa City Public Library Board of Trustees.*



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# Home is Where the Flood is

**O**n my first trip to Normandy Drive, four months ago, I marveled at the stately old trees and the modest well-kept homes that lined the wide streets. I thought it was the perfect place to buy my first home.

When I drove out of my new neighborhood one recent night—only four weeks removed from sinking my savings into that first house—the streets were filled with water, the curbs piled high with debris, and the gentle light from backyard patios had been replaced by the intense blue-red flash of emergency vehicles.

The wreckage of the Parkview Terrace neighborhood (and much of Iowa City) has left many searching for answers. Despite the obvious role played by Mother Nature, it seems only natural to look for someone to take the blame. After all, the end result of everything truly American is a lawsuit, right?

Much has been said about the human causes of the flood damage. The Army Corps of Engineers kept the water higher than their target levels leading up to the flood. Farms have been tiled over, speeding the flow of water into the rivers. Monocrops and parking lots have replaced deep-rooted prairie grasses which once sucked up the rainwater. Increases in carbon output have resulted in more precipitation in the Upper Midwest. Developers pushed city councils to approve building on grounds perhaps better left uninhabited.

The unfortunate reality is that there doesn't seem to be an easy scapegoat. The floods in Iowa City were a fierce blend of manmade and natural phenomena, where no single cause can shoulder all the blame and yet so many factors played a role.

It pains me to think that I should have been smarter about where my wife, Liz, and I bought our first house. We knew about 1993. Our eyes are open to climate change. Perhaps we could have saved ourselves so much trouble.

Still, there's no going back. My fate now firmly rests on the shoulders of our city leaders who are saddled with the unenviable task of deciding the fate of entire neighborhoods. Buyouts? Flood walls? Something else? Nothing?

Their answers can't come soon enough for those of us whose fates are twisting in the wind. If the buyout comes, we must say goodbye to our homes and start anew. If there is no buyout we have to make the uneasy decision to pour money into rebuilding our still

flood-prone neighborhoods.

On a recent trip back, I walked through the streets watching long-time residents pitch 20 years of life out onto the curb. My thoughts inevitably turned to my own future on Normandy Drive. My house now sits in wait—an empty canvass of two-by-fours yearning for another chance at being called home.

I want to return. I want to drive past the old trees again, to step out of my front door and greet the many friends I made on the sand-

bag lines. I want to return to a normal life—to sleep under my own roof again.

But instead, like my house, I wait. **lv**



Watch a video home tour on [www.LittleVillageMag.com](http://www.LittleVillageMag.com).

*Andrew Sherburne is publisher of Little Village. He is also a filmmaker, recently completing Pond Hockey, a documentary on our modern sports culture. He likes to travel, but right now, his own bed would be nice.*



(left) Furniture sits in Andrew Sherburne's flooded living room. (right) Sherburne checks the water level on the front door of his flooded home. The water would rise another foot. (bottom) Elizabeth Graf surveys the damage to her flooded garage.



Photos by Elizabeth Graf and Andrew Sherburne.



Even worse, the great cruelty of the perfect storm that hit Iowa City this summer is that it could happen again. The Coralville Reservoir has lost 10 percent of its capacity (by conservative estimates) and continues to fill with silt. The cornfields are far too profitable to be left to nature. The U.S. Global Change Research Program estimates an increase of 25 percent in annual rainfall due to climate change. My house still sits just one road removed from the Iowa River.



# To Protect Through Fear

From Hurricane Katrina to the Iowa floods, one survivor gives a little piece of advice.

The call came at 1:30 in the morning—from a friend in distress. Earlier in the evening we had developed a plan. Anyone could see by that point that the six days of sandbagging would not pay off. He was to box a few valuables tonight to facilitate the move in the morning. The city had been telling the residents they still had a day or so, and the water was clearly visible, still below the berm upon which the sandbag levee sat. No imminent danger, so I went to sleep not expecting to be called, though I had told my friend not to hesitate to do so.

Unfortunately, the city had decided in an extemporaneous panic to evacuate everyone at 1:30, giving them a half hour to leave everything behind to flee. The police were adamant: “You only had five minutes left five minutes ago.” We stayed two hours under the threat of arrest with a dozen officers milling outside the house while we packed. We watched, while we loaded boxes of photo albums, computers, and artwork into trucks, the other neighbors roused, fearful, leaving in the prescribed

half-hour, abandoning everything to the flood. Meanwhile, the water remained below the berm upon which the levee sat. In the morning, the water still remained low, though surely enough, by early afternoon, the street was flooded.

Because I experienced Katrina firsthand, I was asked to write an essay comparing this flood, and the response to it, to the flooding after Katrina, and the fiasco that followed.

Instead, I will offer advice.

Katrina came with little warning. The evacuation order was ignored by many, those who could not leave and those who did not want to leave. I was among the latter. In a few cases, not mine, good citizens refused to leave even to the point of armed standoff with police. Thankfully.

When the winds subsided and the water began to fill the city, there was an urgent need to rescue the people who could not leave. Those who stayed were the first responders. In fact, by the time the authorities arrived back in the city, the citizens who had stayed had already cleared the streets of debris, and were

already rescuing people with their own boats. The authorities quickly moved them out to set up their own rescue operations, described by many as “totally inept.”



“Yet I for one am perfectly willing to take on some risk to save my community.”

I don’t want to lapse into anecdote, but here I cannot resist. As I was riding my bicycle, I stumbled across a line of official Department of Wildlife and Fisheries trucks, each towing a flatboat. The line was blocks long, literally fading into the distance. I rode up to the first truck of the armada. The leader got out of his truck holding a map of my city. He had only been to the French Quarter before, never any-

*PROTECT continued on page 15*

## Kirkwood’s Ark

In the foyer of Kirkwood’s Animal Health building, it is a scene of day-glo gridlock, a menagerie of humans and animals, all swirling in tightening circles. The plastic-coated official badges meld with hastily written paper name tags. Faces of all ages, sizes and backgrounds move in a busy bustle. The common denominator of this unlikely band is animal rescue. On this Monday afternoon, the pace is picking up.

Scratch the surface of this T-shirted lot and you’ll find Cedar Rapids Animal Control officers, a local firefighter and dozens of Kirkwood Animal Health and Vet Tech students. Amid it all is a calming presence in the controlled chaos. A lithe, close-cropped brunette in a white lab coat directs the caring choreography.

Animal Health Professor Anne Duffy alternately pats backs and points fingers, gathers data and directs traffic. On a “normal day” at Kirkwood she would counsel a few dozen students, attend to a few dozen animal questions.

This is no normal day. Her hometown is the subject of world-wide attention and a torrent

of sympathy and support directed to her concrete animal education bunker. Cedar Rapids, Iowa is the lead story on the news networks, above-the-fold copy for USA Today and the New York Times. The floods of 2008 have come, outstripping 100 and 500-year theories of where a river would call home. There was no stopping a wall of water a dozen feet higher than any hydrologist’s nightmare, uprooting railway bridges full of boxcars and inundating 1300 blocks of Iowa’s second largest city.

Duffy’s world is now swollen with the homeless creatures of Cedar Rapids. Clutched next to her white coat is today’s tally, written in black, overwritten in red. Arrows point to the rising tide of the new animal homeless:

Monday, 6/16—309 canines, 222 felines, 15 birds, 18 rodents, 4 lizards, 4 ferrets



A rescued dog is photographed at the Kirkwood Animal Rescue area.

Photo by John Schafer, Kirkwood Media Services.

Her saved animal tally now approaches 600, the incoming numbers easily overtaking the few joyous reunions from relieved humans with their pets. **lv**

 Read more on [www.LittleVillageMag.com](http://www.LittleVillageMag.com).

Steve Carpenter is public information director at Kirkwood Community College and lives in rural Bertram, just outside Cedar Rapids.

# Waders of the Lost Art

Compiling this month's Little Village calendar of events and seeing so many flood-related closures provided a somber reminder of the serious blow suffered by many of our beloved arts and cultural venues. Much hard work and rebuilding lies ahead. Below is an overview of where some of these organizations stand now that flood waters have receded. As a community publication that supports local arts and business, Little Village encourages any help our readers are able to offer.

## IOWA CITY

### University of Iowa Arts Campus

UI Arts Calendar:

[www.uiowa.edu/artsiowa](http://www.uiowa.edu/artsiowa)

Hancher Auditorium blog:

[www.hancher.typepad.com](http://www.hancher.typepad.com)

Bijou Theater:

[www.bijoutheater.org](http://www.bijoutheater.org)

Iowa Memorial Union:

[imu.uiowa.edu](http://imu.uiowa.edu)

By foot or on bike, a trip along the riverside pathways of the Iowa Arts Campus has always provided a lovely view and a comforting reminder of the importance of art at The University of Iowa and in Iowa City. Sadly, it's proximity to the Iowa River also means the Arts Campus fell victim to some of the most severe UI flooding.

With cleanup and recovery underway, the full extent of damage and the impact on arts programming during the upcoming academic year remains to be seen. The UI has made it a top priority to maintain full academic offerings in the arts, but many classes and performance/work spaces will need to be relocated.

At the **Museum of Art**, the good news is that most of the collection—artworks representing 99 percent of the value of the UIMA's collection, according to interim director Pamela White—was packed and moved to secure off-site storage, the bulk of it in Chicago. It's still unclear when the artwork will return home.

On the east side of the river, lower-level flooding closed the **Iowa Memorial Union**, which houses the **Bijou Theater**. The Bijou is dry, but the IMU also hosts other entertainment during the year, and it's unknown when the building will return to full capacity.



Floodwaters engulf UI Theatre Buildings.

### Riverside Theatre

[www.riversidetheatre.org](http://www.riversidetheatre.org)

Although its primary home on north Gilbert Street is high and dry, the flooding couldn't have come at a worse time for Riverside Theatre, which was set to open its annual Shakespeare festival at the outdoor Riverside Festival Stage in City Park. When the stage flooded, Riverside moved this year's productions (*The Comedy of Errors* and *The Winter's Tale*) to Opstad Auditorium at City High School. The move has caused a dip in attendance at the otherwise popular festival, and Riverside would love to see you in the seats before the shows close on July 13. Donations are also being solicited to help cover lost ticket revenue and to replace some equipment lost due to flooding of Riverside's shop in Coralville.

## CEDAR RAPIDS

If you've seen the jaw-dropping photos and aerial footage (who hasn't?), you know just how devastating the floods were to Cedar Rapids, with the core of the city built on and around the Cedar River. Home to the much-loved Czech Village and diverse neighborhoods and arts organizations, Cedar Rapids took a direct hit to the heart of its cultural life.

### Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

[www.crma.org](http://www.crma.org)

The museum was able to move most of its collection before flooding and estimates only five percent of the collection was affected by water or high humidity. The building itself suffered flood damage and is being professionally cleaned. The exhibition preparation area was

destroyed and tools, equipment and supplies were unsalvageable. All summer events at the museum have been canceled, and the museum hopes to reopen in a limited capacity around Labor Day. **The Grant Wood Studio** was not affected and will reopen in July. Donations can be made online.

### National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library / Czech Village

[www.ncsml.org](http://www.ncsml.org)

Astonishing early photos of the Czech & Slovak Museum showed its building drowning in more than 15 feet of exterior water (10 feet inside). Fortunately, two semis of artifacts were moved before the flood, and other items made it to higher ground before evacuation was required. Staff and conservationists are now working to preserve damaged material as much as possible. The building has suffered severe damage, but as NCSML president Gail Naughton has said, "a museum is more than a building, it exists in the hearts and souls of people." A flood relief fund has been setup online. Also uncertain is the fate of flooded homes and businesses in the Czech Village neighborhood, as the Cedar Rapids City Council faces tough decisions on how to rebuild. If you feel it's important to protect the area's rich history and diversity, let them know.

### African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa

[www.blackiowa.org](http://www.blackiowa.org)

About five feet of water soaked materials at the African American Historical Museum. It'll take completion of salvage and cleanup efforts to know how much of its collection will be



saved. Updates on recovery and programming can be found online, where donations can also be made.

### Legion Arts / CSPS & New Bohemia

[www.legionarts.org](http://www.legionarts.org)

Providing some of the most eclectic music and arts programming in the state, Legion Arts is a cornerstone of the **New Bohemia** arts district. Fortunately, the upper floors of its building (which house gallery and performance space) suffered minimal flood damage and the structure appears sound. Unfortunately, the ground level businesses of CSPS and the rest of the New Bohemia district didn't escape the devastating floodwaters. Many local artists have been impacted by the flood, and Legion Arts has set-up an Iowa Artist Relief Fund to help.

### Theatre Cedar Rapids

[www.theatreocr.org](http://www.theatreocr.org)

A longtime Cedar Rapids arts staple, Theatre Cedar Rapids recently launched a capital campaign for improvements to its home, the century-old Iowa Theatre Building. Now TCR is faced with flood damage and recovery, which they'll need to overcome while also looking to the future. Updates and news on alternate venues for productions in the upcoming season will be posted online, where donations can also be made. TCR also houses productions by **Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre**, whose programs will be impacted by flooding; details at [www.cr-opera.org](http://www.cr-opera.org).

### Paramount Theatre

September marks the 80th anniversary of the historic Paramount Theatre, which opened as the Capitol Theatre before being bought by Paramount Pictures in 1929. It was gifted to the City of Cedar Rapids in 1975, and two restorations have helped it remain a spectacular venue. The anniversary will still come, but the Paramount suffered extensive flood damage and will need some serious TLC to recover. Over eight feet of water rose above stage level and upended the Paramount's historic (1,000-pound) Wurlitzer Organ, which is maintained by the **Cedar Rapids Area Theatre Organ Society**. Parts of the organ are being salvaged, but the console didn't survive; a rarity, it will need to be rebuilt or replaced. Thankfully, no water entered the pipe chambers, giving hope that the organ will be played again in its original home. To help the cause, visit [www.cr-atos.com](http://www.cr-atos.com). The Paramount is home to the **Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra**, also in need of financial support; donate online at [www.crsymphony.org](http://www.crsymphony.org). **IV**

*Andy Brodie is the Arts Editor for Little Village. He also loves movies.*

### PROTECT from page 13

where else in New Orleans. "You're in the Quarter now," I said, pointing at a sidewalk littered with beer cans and plastic cups. He recognized the signs. He was lost and not sure where his forces were even supposed to be. I pointed to a spot on the map and told him that people I knew were rescuing others and using the expressway ramp as a boat ramp. He should join their effort.

He was skeptical, not sure if that was his spot. It seemed so as not to step on each other's toes, each enforcement division had been given their own turf. As they u-turned in a very organized manner, I wondered, if they'd had so much trouble following a street map while on the street, how they would fare in the miles and miles of flooded parts of the city. I asked him if he wanted me to come along as a guide. He thought about it, then: it's not allowed, he said.

It is very difficult for me to write about these things without bitterness.

In the aftermath of Katrina, citizens with boats drove from all over the country to help the rescue effort. Most were turned away at the city gates, or were marginalized. Yet the effort caught both the public imagination and the political one. Other citizens, as mentioned, cleared the city streets within a day or so, before even the National Guard arrived, allowing the flow of traffic without which the rescue effort would have been a disaster unto itself. The first road cut through the fallen trees led from the downtown to the only operating hospital left for many, many miles.


During this, flood, I watched a similar phenomenon as the nation's imagination was swept away by the efforts of the volunteers sandbagging. People came from all over to lend a hand. Even the President thanked them, and to the volunteers was attributed the best of what makes the American People the greatest ever seen.

It was only on-the-scene, out of the light of the cameras, that those same people could have been swept away without a murmur.

I wonder what that 1:30 a.m. call would have been if our leadership had been as resourceful, and as community-minded as the citizens themselves. What if the police, after an emergency meeting with the council and the mayor, had handled the evacuation in a different way? What if they had awoken a few neighbors, and begun to ask for volunteers to help wake others? What if the police, with their radios and up-to-date information, had been trained to organize and facilitate, in addition "to protect and to serve?" What if the city had brought in expert advice in the form of engineers (who certainly would volunteer their efforts), and the police had utilized them to monitor the

water level, and sound an alarm if things began to move more quickly than anticipated. What if the police had begun to organize the neighbors into groups, some to wake others, some to write down lists of people in the area who were infirmed or especially needy, some to call friends with trucks and boxes. What if the police had organized the neighborhood, instead of disbanding it?

Could we train police to do this? Why not? They had done it with the sandbagging effort. Why is it that in this great country, where self-reliance, hard work, and sacrifice are of paramount importance, why is it that in this same country fear and control are used as weapons



What if the police had organized the neighborhood, instead of disbanding it?

to bend people to authority? I was told, many times both here and after Katrina, that it was for my own good. "Its too risky." Yet I for one am perfectly willing to take on some risk to save my community. I do not expect the police to shoulder the entire load. The place I would look for expert help willing to risk everything in the best spirit of America is not in the government, at least, not only there. The government's role should be to facilitate the use of these wonderful resources that are already here and aching to help any way they can.

We the people are not criminals for wanting to help protect what is ours. I am willing to brave a few floodwaters (and unfortunately some police) to help my neighbor. So let me!

My promised advice is this: in order to protect and to serve our communities, our leaders should first get to know them. The government at all levels should learn to coordinate, not just among themselves, but the efforts of the citizenry, a vast resource of know-how and can-do that is largely ignored. The sandbagging efforts should be a wake up call. We should look at that effort, how it was organized and facilitated, and extend that mode of thought to other aspects of dealing with natural disasters. **IV**

*John Wells, a transplant from New Orleans, lives in Iowa City with his wife and pets. He devotes his time to farming the local free-range organic mosquitoes, a breed he finds much superior to the Southern Louisiana mosquito in buzz and rapaciousness.*



## The Horde

### From Empire To Ashes

Scenester Credentials

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

[www.myspace.com/hordemetal](http://www.myspace.com/hordemetal)



online at [www.LittleVillageMag.com](http://www.LittleVillageMag.com)

Heavy Metal long ago descended irrevocably into self-parody. It's a genre that for me has always been hard to love, and yet impossible not to love a little. Especially if the band is in on the joke, and more important, if they can play. The Horde wins on both counts. How seriously can you take a song where the chorus is "Unleash The Dogs Of War," or a song called "Throne Of Skulls?" This is cartoonish. Pure Comedy. And yet, it rules.

The Horde members are dead serious as musicians. They are incredibly tight, to the point where the band sounds on these songs like a single instrument. But they're not robotic—quite the reverse. Guided by Paul Deschepper's manic drumming, every prog-rockish filigree is rendered with grace and muscle. These guys may rock, but they also swing. And while their general approach is to turn everything up to eleven and stay there, they seem to always find a way to get even louder and heavier to push a song to its peak. It's hard to pick a favorite track, but "Bleeding Into Eternity" hits me hard in all the right ways—ridiculous Teutonic lyrics, machine-gun drumming, wailing dual guitar leads. It brings out the

inner 13-year-old headbanger, replete in Chucks, ripped jeans and Megadeth tee shirt.

It may seem like an odd compliment, but I also really appreciate lead singer Duncan's excellent enunciation. It's hard to growl and shout and still make every word heard, but Duncan pulls it off. It goes along with the perfect articulation of every thrashed bar chord and cymbal crash. I don't generally listen to this sort of music, because there's so much really awful metal bands in the worlds. They screech and wail and give me a migraine. But The Horde really delivers. They bring grace, wit, and dare I say good taste to bear on this CD. 'Tasteful Heavy Metal' may be an oxymoron, but The Horde seems to rise above the rancid excesses of the genre, even as they celebrate them.



## Escape the Floodwater Jug Band

### Wrong Doings and Done Wrongs

Whiskey for Breakfast Records

[myspace.com/escapethefloodwater](http://myspace.com/escapethefloodwater)

It's perhaps apt that Escape the Floodwater Jug Band's new album comes out just in time for the great flood of 2008. The band photo on the back of the CD is set on the Sutcliffe Bridge, which just got partially swept away by the Cedar River. The new CD has a slight majority of original songs to go along with covers of classic jug band tunes,

but it is a testament to their dedication to the form that the originals fit right in alongside the classics.

The instrumental "Stomp Rag" features a surprisingly tender ensemble of jug, musical saw, glass harmonica and echoey banjo. "Is It Hard Being In A Jug Band" is a call-and-response verse paired with a chorus couched in a chord progression stolen from 50's rock and roll. The combination of the go for broke lead vocal and background harmonies manages to sound punk rock and traditional at the same time. "Little Red Hen" is graced by the hysterical chicken Sprechgesang stylings of guest vocalist Gene-Patrick Mahoney. "Bat Sandwich" is a ridiculous novelty song replete with Spike-Jones bicycle horns. "Death of The Jug Band" prematurely commemorates the death of the band. It is a surprisingly gentle, wistful coda to the CD.

Jug band music was the original DIY punk rock. A disreputable street corner entertainment, it was DIY from the start, based on instruments made from objects common to even the poorest household. ETFW has been playing long enough to add a bit of professionalism to their arsenal, but they know enough to leave a few edges rough. They sing a lot about whiskey, but it's not just because it's a traditional Jug Band Subject—they keep it real, and I suspect have played some shows a little drunker than strictly necessary. But part of what makes their music exciting is the way it's on the edge of falling apart. There's six people in the band and they're mostly all playing or singing all the time. What keeps it from sounding busy is the simplicity of the songs. The road is wide, and they wander out of their lanes but they know where they're going, and they arrive mostly together. At any rate it can be a hell of a ride.

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

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# At Least the Shows Will Be Smokin'

As I write this, July 1 is creeping up like doomsday for many local smokers, and depending on your daily nicotine needs, shows are either going to be a lot more comfortable or a mild pain in the ass. The Mill has been experimenting with nonsmoking shows for some time now, on nights where the demographic leans a bit older and the music leans a bit more acoustic (folk and bluegrass, especially). Still, it's difficult for me to imagine many of the bands and fans of the Yacht Club and the Picador embracing a smoke-free lifestyle, but laws are laws. So since actually walking inside a club is now a strange burden for many, you won't want to waste your time or your money when you could be out on the patio. Here's who makes not lighting up worth it for the month of July.

The arrival of July means festival season is in full swing, and you'll have two to choose from for your soundtrack to America's birthday. I'll be headed to Des Moines on July 4 for the 80/35 Festival, a two-day event featuring The Flaming Lips and The Roots. Besides other nationally renowned and middle-aged acts like Black Francis (awesome) and Cracker (wtf?), the festival deserves high praise for its commitment to local music. I've been increasingly frustrated by the rise of the profit-driven mega-festivals that seem divorced from the very places they take place, so kudos to 80/35's promoters for booking some of Iowa's best: The Poison Control Center, The Diplomats of Solid Sound, Dirty Little Rabbits, Dave Zollo, The Envy Corps, and Pieta Brown. If you prefer jazz with a big helping of jam, they you'll want to stay in town for Medeski, Martin and Wood, among others, at this year's jazz fest.

For a party on a much smaller scale, come to 805 E. Washington for a house show featuring Olympia's Sewn Leather on July 3. Touring

with the appropriately named Joey Casio, these bands make retro electronic blips into dance music. It's like less polished Hot Chip with five times the aggressiveness. Ed Bornstein, local drummer of Foul Tip and the Tanks, has a new project called T'bone that will open. Bring your own booze, and a lot of it.

The Lonelyhearts are made up of Iowa City's Andre Perry and the Bay Area's John Lindenbaum, which means touring is infrequent and therefore always worth catching. They'll be playing their brand of indie folk



The Apples in Stereo will appear at the Picador July 21.

Depending on your daily nicotine needs, shows are either going to be a lot more comfortable or a mild pain in the ass.

with Lawrence singer Suzannah Johannes on two dates in our area. The first is on July 10 at Huckleberry's Pizza in Rock Island, where they'll be opening for one of my favorite revelations of this year, The Dodos. The following night, Lonelyhearts and Johannes will play at

SMOKIN' continued on page 18

Bummed about the smoking ban? Come to...

## PHYSICAL CHALLENGE

...AND DANCE! (and smoke in our huge beer garden!)  
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**THURSDAY NIGHTS!!!** 15 AND OVER!

**Tues. July 1 --**  
**Flood Relief Benefit**  
with Holy Roman Empire Ed Gray Open Goat Grism

**Wed. July 2 --**  
**Three Inches Of Blood**  
The Horde Nethervoid

**Thurs. July 3 --**  
**The Diplomats of Solid Sound**

**Sat. July 5 --**  
**Coolzey and the Ghostbusta's**

**Sun. July 6 --** ALL AGES 6PM  
**mewithoutYou**  
Maps & Atlases Gasoline Heart Caleb Engstrom

**Tues. July 8 --**  
**Devon Allman's Honey Tribe**

**Wed. July 9 --** ALL AGES 6PM  
**The Gay Blades** Dr. Manhattan Damiera

**Thurs. July 10 --** ALL AGES 6PM  
**Emerge Again** Canyons Outclassed

**Sat. July 12 --** ALL AGES 6PM  
**Trash and the Timebombs**  
Dylan Shiv and The Shanks KTP

**Sat. July 12 --**  
**Johnny Nobody**  
Lipstick Homicide The Wheelers

**Sun. July 13 --**  
**Slipperey Slopes**  
Pee Pee's Johnny and the Limelights The Black Slacks

**Wed. July 16 --**  
**Bob Log III** Scott H. Biram Possessed by Paul Jones

**Fri. July 18 --**  
**The Horde**  
Supersonic Death Machine Ancients Biorhythm Men From Nowhere

**Sat. July 19 -- The Uniphonics**

**Sun. July 20 --** ALL AGES 6PM  
**Lower Class Brats**  
Time Again Wednesday Night Heroes Streetlight Fight Dylan Shiv and The Shanks

**Mon. July 21 --**  
**The Apples in Stereo** Colour Revolt  
Poison Control Center Javelins

**Thurs. July 24 --** ALL AGES 6PM  
**Shai Hulud** Full Blown Chaos Elysia Wee Of Tyrants

**Mon. July 28 --** ALL AGES 6PM  
**Finding the Warren** Funks G

**Thurs. July 31 --** ALL AGES 5PM  
**A Change of Pace** Houston Calls

**Thurs. July 31 --**  
**Jesse Lacey** Kevin Devine Brian Bonz

**THE PICADOR**  
330 E. Washington www.thepicador.com

# Under the Radar

It's time to highlight a few paperbacks that are unlikely to receive much national attention. Some are published by small publishers, which can't buy expensive lunches for The New York Times reviewers. Others have been out of print for a while and are being republished on the chance that they might find their audience on the second go-round. At any rate they are books I love and would hate to see disappear from bookstore shelves.

*Mister Sandman* by Barbara Gowdy was published first in 1996 and never found a market. Gowdy is one of Canada's great writers and *Mister Sandman* features a cartoony dysfunctional family from the days when dysfunctional was not a word (mid-fifties). Each character carries a shame with them that they hide fiercely. Joan, the youngest child, is albino, mute, and musically and artistically gifted. Today we'd call her autistic. She stays up at night and watches her peculiar family and one by one becomes aware of the secrets they hide. Gowdy is a very funny writer who is capable of breaking your heart in a few sentences. The song "Mr. Sandman" seems always to be playing in the background like the movie "Brazil" seems to throb with its title song, throughout. A book of rare sensitivity and humor. Keep it in print.

Finnish children's writer, Tove Jansson, author of the famous Moomintroll series, wrote wonderful books for adults. *The Summer Book*, first published in 1974 and long out of print, is a lovely grandmother/granddaughter novel reprinted by the New York Review of Books. Six-year-old Sophia visits her grandmother, over the short Scandinavian summer. Grandmother lives on a tiny island in the Gulf of Finland and the two

form a world of their own. The reader and the grandmother suspect what Sophia has no way of knowing—that this might be their last summer together. If you have grandchildren as I do you might weep through most of Jansson's exquisitely brief novel. It's good crying. The best kind.

Israeli writer Etgar Keret spent one fall in Iowa City as a part of the International Writing Program. He is a master of the short story and has published three volumes of them in the States. His current collection is called *The Girl on the Fridge* and features VERY short stories. The first one is called "Asthma Attack" and goes like this:

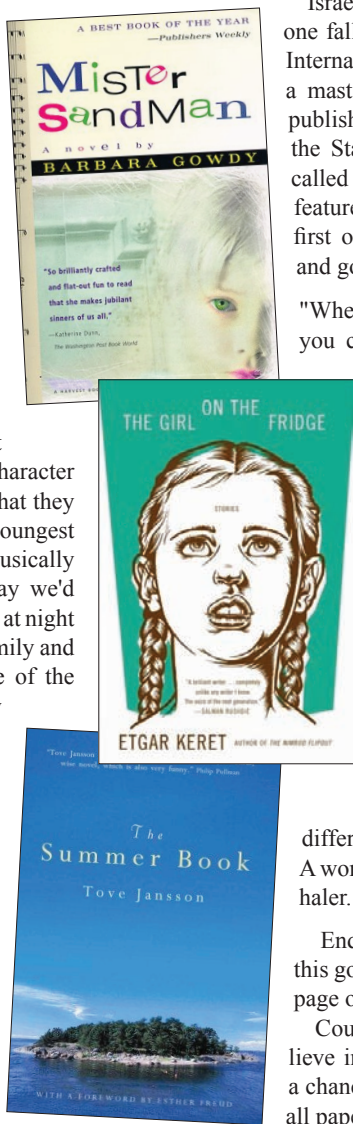
"When you have an asthma attack, you can't breathe. When you can't breathe, you can hardly talk.

To make a sentence all you get is the air in your lungs. Which isn't much. Three to six words if that. You learn the value of words. You rummage through the jumble in your head. Choose the crucial ones—those cost you too. Let healthy people toss out whatever comes to mind, the way you throw out the garbage. When an asthmatic says "I love you" and when an asthmatic says "I love you madly" there's a difference. The difference of a word. A word's a lot. It could be stop, or inhaler. It could even be ambulance."

End of story. Keret's stories are all this good, though some of them are a page or two longer.

Courageous publishers who believe in fine literature have given us a chance to read these books. They're all paperbacks under \$15. **lv**

*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.*



## The Haps

**SMOKIN'** from page 17

Public Space One, which is now in the basement of the Jefferson Building downtown. Miguel Soria, ex-local guy who performs under the name Monadnoc, will open that show.

Later on the night of the 11th, the aforementioned School of Flyentology will be throwing a rare Friday night show at the Yacht Club, featuring Fairfield's own Porno Galactica and Zap Rowsdower. One of the surprise acts of this



Porno Galactica and Zap Rowsdower will play the Yacht Club July 11.

year's Mission Creek Music Festival, brothers Porno and Zap make innovative and dance worthy beats while flailing around on stage and generally causing pandemonium. It's the kind of genuine excitement that so many electronic musicians are generating right now in a live setting, and I have no problem mentioning these high-schoolers in the same breath as Dan Deacon and Girl Talk.

Three shows of particular note round out the month, all at the Picador. On July 21, the Apples in Stereo bring their Beatles-esque pop melodies to the Picador, and might even play "Stephen, Stephen," which was recorded for the Colbert Report and appears on their recent rarities album, *Electronic Projects for Musicians*. Front man Robert Schneider is eccentric, awesome, and talented; besides his own brand of lush, sonic, indie pop, he produced Neutral Milk Hotel's classic *In the Aeroplane Over the Sea*. Roommate, who has quietly made one of 2008's best albums with *We Were Enchanted*, play on the 26th. And emo fans get ready: July 31 sees the Jesse Lacey rolling through town, and the man behind Brand New will certainly bring plenty of angst and sing-alongs with him.

See you there. **lv**

Craig Eley is a music writer, promoter and American studies grad student, usually in that order. Got news on the music scene? Write to him at [craig@missionfreak.com](mailto:craig@missionfreak.com).



# Doc. Doc. Who's there?

We are in the midst of a rage—well, a quiet rage—for “docs,” as documentary films are lovingly called. The material condition behind it is the digital camera, which is highly portable and relatively easy to acquire and operate. The spiritual conditions are more elusive. One, perhaps, has something to do with how people have grown accustomed to filming and being filmed. Another pertains to the narrow scope of the media: documentaries draw attention to those snatches of life that we generally ignore or turn away from, or that are in danger of becoming extinct. In such a highly mediated age as our own, when it seems everything is on a screen, docs expand our definition of everything.

Yes, the Bijou, which is scheduled to screen docs this month, should be up and running; no, it's not going to be located in the swamped IMU at least through the summer. I'm told that they've secured a nice, temporary spot in the Siemens Center: check the Web site to keep up to date on when and where things will play.

First up is *Twisted: A Balloonumentary*, about the craft of twisting elongated balloons into dogs, giant squid, geishas, or obscene body parts. Before seeing it, I assumed it was just another in a string of real-life mockumentaries—last year at the Bijou I saw one in which air-guitarists ruminated on their art with the authority of Segovia. But it's as if the filmmakers Naomi Greenfield and Sarah Taksler woke up and realized the kind of thing Christopher Guest would send up is precisely where the real fun is. *Twisted* is full of characters who have to be seen to be believed: a girl who uses balloon art to escape her trailer-park destiny, an ex-con who preaches the gospel without irony with a balloon liturgy, a bride dressed in a gown made entirely of white balloons—her groom wielding a giant safety pin. But in the end the weirdos feel deeply human; and their balloons, strange to say, embody the essentials of democratic art. The footage isn't always what it could be, and the subject is silly. But *Twisted* is airy and delightful as the crazy creations it serves. Moreover, you may be inspired to learn a new trade when you hear the “godfather of balloon art,” himself a multimillionaire, declare that anyone really serious



about balloons should be able to pull down at least six figures annually.

*Planet B-Boy*, about the international breakdancing scene, is the weakest of the bunch as a made thing, but it should nevertheless attract anyone who loves crazy breakdancing—and who doesn't? It follows various dancing crews—from a Parisian suburb, Las Vegas, Osaka, and Seoul—as they compete in the Battle of the Year, the world's premiere b-boy competition. Though the filmmaker Benson Lee fumbles what are meant to be the heartwarming moments, and the editing strains to achieve some of the art of its subjects when it should simply be letting us watch the dancing, there is enough of the awesome break-dancing to carry the movie and make it appealing.

The last and best of the three docs is *Surfwise*, a smoothly-made, mesmerizing film about Dorian Paskowitz and his family. Dorian spends his early years, in the 1930s and '40s, fluctuating between surfing and becoming a successful doctor from Stanford. Finding respectability oppressively mediocre, he embarks on several sexual experiments,

which culminate with his meeting the love of his life and having nine children with her. It's not so much that they drop out of society: they never plug in. No school, no money, often no clothes, all eleven putter around the world in a 24-foot camper, surfing and pursuing what Dorian calls a “superior state of well-being.” The first part of the movie is so high-spirited it

almost entices you to drop everything and seek the grace you see in the 82-year-old Dorian calmly standing up on his board as the surf swells and foams around him. But the filmmaker Doug Pray soon complicates the situation, revealing the tyrannical impulses that almost invariably accompany the utopian drive and that estrange the chil-

dren from Dorian and his ideals. I think some will come away from the movie hankering to ride the rushing floods of life; but many, like myself, will begin to see the immense, accumulated wisdom in our mediocre respectability. The conclusion of the movie is a little too easily achieved, but overall it brims with fascinating characters and humane feeling, and leaves you ruminating seriously on the pursuit of happiness.

The Bijou has always been a place for what's good in the movies. What with the demise of the Astro long ago, then the Englert, and more recently the Campus Theater, it's the only reliable screen in Iowa City to show the real deal. This summer's docs examine ways of life that resist bland commercialism; likewise, the Bijou is a holdout for authentic pleasures and provocations. It's not going to be in the IMU this summer; but the Bijou shouldn't be forgotten (big pops and bags of candy no more than a dollar each!).

Expand your everything. **lv**

Full reviews for *Twisted: A Balloonumentary* and *Surfwise* available at [www.LittleVillageMag.com](http://www.LittleVillageMag.com).

*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.*

## ART / EXHIBITS

### African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center

55 12th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, 877-526-1863  
[www.blackiowa.org](http://www.blackiowa.org)  
 Closed due to flood.

### Amana Heritage Museum

4310 220th Trail, Amana, 319-622-3567  
[www.amanaheritage.org](http://www.amanaheritage.org)  
 The Community of True Inspiration: Pacifism and Patriotism, through December.

### AKAR

257 E. Iowa Ave., Iowa City, 351-1227  
[www.akardesign.com](http://www.akardesign.com)  
 Recent Ceramics (Bede Clarke, Jil Franke, J. Daniel Murphy), through July 18 • New ceramic work by Michael Kline & Jenny Mendes, opens July 25.

### Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

410 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-7503  
[www.crma.org](http://www.crma.org)  
 Closed due to flood.

### The Chait Galleries Downtown

218 E Washington St., Iowa City, 319-338, 4442  
[www.thegalleriesdowntown.com](http://www.thegalleriesdowntown.com)  
 Paintings of Brad Krieger and Nancy Lindsay, plus creations by Diane Naylor, through July 18.

### The Douglas & Linda Paul Gallery

Englert Theater, 221 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 688-2653  
[www.englert.org](http://www.englert.org)  
 Janice S. Koerner Bell, The Nature of Things, through August 14.

### Fair Grounds Coffeehouse

345 S. Dubuque St, Iowa City, 338-2024  
[www.fairgroundscoffeehouse.com](http://www.fairgroundscoffeehouse.com)  
 Queer Art Show: Brittany M. Noethen, ink & colored pencil; Jonathan English Jackson, acrylic; Christian Dubya Right, acrylic, mixed media; Greg Frieden, smoke photography; Leah Mills, photography, mixed media; Marc Nelson, oils and mixed media.

### Faulconer Gallery

Grinnell College, Grinnell  
[www.grinnell.edu/fulconergallery](http://www.grinnell.edu/fulconergallery)  
 Works in Progress: Prints from Wildwood Press, through August 10 • Selma and Lowndes Count 1965/1966, photography, through July 31 • Boschian Imagery Five Centuries Later and a Few Time Zones to the East, prints, ongoing.

### Iowa Artisans Gallery

207 E. Washington, Iowa City, 351-8686  
[www.iowa-artisans-gallery.com](http://www.iowa-artisans-gallery.com)  
 Maureen Bardusk: New Works in Fiber, through July 20 • Michael Kehoe: "Digital Montage," opens July 25.

### Iowa Children's Museum

1451 Coral Ridge Ave, Coralville, 625-6255  
[www.theicm.org](http://www.theicm.org)  
 School House Rock, opens July 4.

### Legion Arts / CSPA

1103 Third St SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1580  
[www.legionarts.org](http://www.legionarts.org)  
 Check Web site for flood-related updates • Iowa Artist Relief Fund, See A-List for details.

### National Czech & Slovak Museum

30 - 16th Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, 362-8500  
[www.ncsml.org](http://www.ncsml.org)  
 Closed due to flood.

### Old Capitol Museum

Pentacrest, UI Campus, 335-0548  
[www.uiowa.edu/~oldcap](http://www.uiowa.edu/~oldcap)  
 From Prairies to Cornfields: Iowa's Childrens Book Authors, through July • A Community of Writers: Creative Writing at the University of Iowa, through October 12 • The World Comes to Iowa: Portraits of the International Writing Program, through October 12.

### Science Station

427 1st St SE, Cedar Rapids, 363-4629  
[www.sciencestation.org](http://www.sciencestation.org)  
 Closed due to flood.

### UI Museum of Art

150 North Riverside Drive, Iowa City, 335-1727  
[www.uiowa.edu/uima](http://www.uiowa.edu/uima)  
 Closed due to flood.

## MUSIC

### Brucemore

2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, 319-362-7375  
[www.brucemore.org](http://www.brucemore.org)  
 Bluesmore featuring Bernard Allison, Nick Moss and the Flip Tops, and Matt Woods and the Thunderbolts, August 2, 4-9:30pm.

### Clapp Recital Hall

UI Campus, Iowa City, 335-1160  
 Closed due to flood.

### Englert Theatre

221 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 688-2653  
[www.englert.org](http://www.englert.org)  
 Jason Reeves and Friends, July 1, 8pm • The Wailin' Jennys, July 29, 8pm.

### Friday Night Concert Series

Downtown Iowa City, Pedestrian Mall  
[www.summerofthearts.org](http://www.summerofthearts.org)  
*All concerts 6:30-9:30pm, Free*  
 Toyota-Scion of Iowa City Jazz Festival, July 4 • The Beaker Brothers, July 11 • Lake Street Dive, July 18 • The Rod Pierson Big Band with Craig Boche, July 25.

### Harper Hall

Voxman Music Building, UI Campus, 335-1603  
 Closed due to flood.

### Iowa City Jazz Festival

Downtown Iowa City  
[www.summerofthearts.org/JazzFest](http://www.summerofthearts.org/JazzFest)  
*July 4-6, Free*

Main stage: United Jazz Ensemble, Sam Salomone Trio, Medeski Martin & Wood, July 4 • Euforquestra, Garaj Mahal, Bonerama, John Scofield Trio and the ScoHorns, July 5 • Rod Pierson Big Band, Brent Sandy Quartet, Jenny Scheinman, Joshua Redman Trio, July 6 • Plus 3 side stages

### Java House

211 E Washington St., Iowa City, 335-5730  
*All shows 8pm, Free*  
 Wrestling with Wolves, July 11 • Nikki Lunden Trio, July 18 • Scott Cochran, July 25

### The Mill

120 E. Burlington St, Iowa City, 351-9529  
[www.icmill.com](http://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 sign up)*

F Yeah Fest with Monotonix, Team Robespierre, School of Flyentology, Crystal Antlers, Puritanicals, July 1 • Sexual Buddha Allstars, David the Saint, July 3 • Jerry Joseph and the Jack Mormons, Matthew Grimm, July 4, 10pm • Public Property, Fresh Heir, July 5 • Burlington St. Bluegrass Band, July 9, 7pm • Johnson County Democratic Fundraiser, Various Artists, July 10 • Dave Zollo & the Body Electric, Skye (ex Skursela), July 11 • Wylde Nept, July 12 • Stuart Davis, July 18, 8pm • The Salsa Band, July 19 • John Lakes Rock n Roll Recital, July 20, 6-9pm, Free • Benji Davis Project, Hightide Blues, July 22 • Funkmaster (Going Away Party), July 24 • Dave Olson, Patrick Bloom, July 25 • The Rich Webster Band, July 26, 8pm • John Lakes Rock n Roll Recital, July 27, 6-9pm, Free • Charlie Parr, July 31.

### Music in the Park Concert Series

S.T. Morrison Park, 1513 7th St, Coralville, 248-1750  
[www.coralville.org](http://www.coralville.org)  
*All shows 6:30-8pm, Free*  
 Central Standard Time and Gayla Drake Paul, July 17 • Diplomats of Solid Sound, July 31.

### The Picador

330 E. Washington St, Iowa City, 354-4788  
[www.thepicador.com](http://www.thepicador.com)  
*Shows are 19+ with doors at 9pm unless otherwise noted*  
 Flood Relief Benefit with Holy Roman Empire, Ed Gray, Open Goat, Grism, July 1 • Three Inches of Blood, The Horde, Nethervoid, July 2, 8pm • The Diplomats of Solid Sound, July 3 • Coolzey and the Ghostbusta's, July 5 • mewwithoutyou, Maps & Atlases, Gasoline Heart, Caleb Engstrom, July 6,



6pm (all ages) • Devon Allman's Honey Tribe, July 8 • The Gay Blades, Dr. Manhattan, Damiera, July 9, 6pm (all ages) • Emerge Again, Canyons, Outclassed, July 10, 6pm (all ages) • Trash and the Timebombs, Dylan Shiv and The Shanks, KTP, July 12, 6pm (all ages) • Johnny Nobody, Lipstick Homicide, The Wheelers, July 12, 9:30pm • Slippery Slopes, Pee Pee's, Johnny and the Limelights, The Black Slacks, July 13, 8pm • Hillgrass Bluebilly Presents: BOB LOG III, Scott H Biram, Possessed by Paul Jones, July 16 • Physical Challenge Dance Party, July 17 • The Horde, Supersonic Death Machine, Ancients, Biorthym, Men from Nowhere, July 18, 8pm • The Uniphonics, July 19 • Lower Class Brats, Time Again, Wednesday Night Heros, Streetlight Fight, Dylan Shiv and the Shanks, July 20, 6pm (all ages) • The Apples in Stereo, Colour Revolt, Poison Control Center, Javelins, July 21, 8:30pm • Shai Hulud, Full Blown Chaos, Elysia, Woe of Tyrants, July 24, 6pm (all ages) • Finding The Warren, Funks G, July 28, 6pm (all ages) • A Change of Pace, Houston Calls, July 31, 5pm (all ages) • Jesse Lacey, Kevin Devine, Brian Bonz, July 31 • A Day To Remember, August 1, 6pm (all ages).

### Public Space One

**115 East Washington St., Iowa City**

The Lonelyhearts with Suzannah Johannes, Monadnoc, July 11.

### Redstone Room

**129 Main Street, Davenport, 563-326-1333**

**www.redstoneroom.com**

Devon Allman's Honeytribe, Ernie Hendrickson, July 11 • Andrew Landers, Matt Podschweit, July 12 • Charlie Musselwhite, July 17 • Walter Trout & The Radicals, July 22 • Blind Melon, July 30 • Flash Cassidy, The Dawn Retreat, July 31, Orquesta de Jazz y Salsa Alto Maiz, August 1.

### Riverside Casino

**3184 Highway 22, Riverside, 648-1234**

**www.riversidecasinoandresort.com**

Gary Lewis & the Playboys with Herb Reed & the Platters, July 11 • REO Speedwagon, July 19.

### Uptown Bill's Small Mall

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

**www.uptownbills.org**

*Open Mic, Fridays at 8pm.*

### The Yacht Club

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

**www.iowacityyachtclub.org**

*Shows at 9pm unless otherwise noted*

Samba Nosso, July 4 • Dennis McMurrin & The Demolition Band, July 5 • Samuel Locke Ward, Teddy Boys, Family Van, Escape The Floodwater, July 10 • School of Flyentology, July 11 • Trash & The Timebombs, July 12 • Kinetix, July 17 • Rediscover, Baumer, Breathe Electric, Backdrop, July 19, 5pm • Unknown Component, Eric & The Happy Thoughts, Gussied Down, July 24 • Red Hot Chili Peppers Tribute with Lunatix on Pogostix, July 25, Euforquestra (Going Away Party), July 26.

## THEATRE / COMEDY / PERFORMANCE / DANCE

### Brucemore

**2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, 319-362-7375**

**www.brucemore.org**

Moving Home, July 10-12, 8pm nightly, See A-List for details • Outdoor Children's Theatre, Puss in Boots, July 23-26, 5:30 & 7:30pm.

### Iowa Summer Repertory Theatre

**Relocated due to flooding: West High School, 2901 Melrose Ave, Iowa City**

**Showtimes at [www.uiowa.edu/~theatre/](http://www.uiowa.edu/~theatre/)**

Wonder of the World, July 3-5 • Rabbit Hole, July 1-20 • Fuddy Meers, July 17-26.

### Old Creamery Theatre

**39 38th Ave, Amana**

**www.oldcreamery.com**

Clue: The Musical, July 23-August 24.

### 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, through July 13 (see showtimes at [riversidetheatre.org](http://riversidetheatre.org)). Shakespeare Festival relocated to Opstad Auditorium at City High School, 1900 Morningside Drive, due to flooding in City Park.

### Summit Restaurant Comedy Night

**10 S. Clinton St, Iowa City, 354-7473**

*Comedy Night, Wednesdays at 9pm*

John Bush, Ted Vincent, July 9 • Roy Haber, TBA, July 16 • TBA, July 23 • Bill Hildebrandt, Johnny O, July 30.

### Theatre Cedar Rapids

**102 Third Street SE, Cedar Rapids, 319-366-8591**

**www.theatreocr.org**

*Performances relocated to Linn-Mar High School, 3333 North Tenth Street, Marion, due to flooding.* Disney's High School Musical On Stage, July 11-27 • Dear Edwina Jr (Summer Youth Production), July 19-22.

## WORDS

### Iowa Summer Writing Festival

**Becker Communications Building Auditorium, UI campus**

**[www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/iswfest/](http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/iswfest/)**

Elevenes Literary Hour, Weekdays July 11-25, 11am.

### Prairie Lights

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

**www.prairielightsbooks.com**

*All readings at 7pm unless otherwise noted*

Deborah Crombie, July 7 • Elizabeth Winthrop, July

8 • John T. Price, July 10 • Gregory Johnson, July 11 • Charles Leerhsen, July 14 • Katie Ford, July 15 • Michael Pritchett, July 16 • Charles Holdefer, July 22 • Brett Anthony Johnson, July 24 • Nana Horan, July 25.

## FILM / VIDEO

### Bijou Theater

**Iowa Memorial Union, UI Campus, 335-3258**

**www.bijouthheater.org**

Check Bijou Web site for special flood location and schedule.

### Park it at the Movies

**Outdoors, North Ridge Park, Coralville, 248-1750**

*Movies begin at dark*

Open Season, July 18.

### Public Access Television of Iowa City

**206 Lafayette Street, Iowa City, 338-7035**

**www.patv.tv**

*Screenings start at sunset*

Bike-In Theater 2008: Bicycles, July 10; Local Band Videos, July 31.

### Saturday Night Free Movie Series

**University of Iowa Pentacrest lawn, Iowa City**

**www.summerofthearts.org**

*Live music at 7:30pm, with movie at dark, unless otherwise noted, Free*

National Treasure, July 12 (Pre-show music: Area dancers) • Remember the Titans, July 19 (Hawk All-Star Cheerleading) • Ghostbusters, July 26 (Nate Jenkins).

## MISC

### Amana Farmers Market

**Midtown Amana**

Fridays 4-8pm.

### Amana Wine Tour at Amana Heritage Museum

**4310 220th Trail, Amana, 319-622-3567**

July 24, 3pm.

### Coralville Farmers Market

**1513 7th St., Coralville**

Monday and Thursday, 5-8pm

### Iowa City Farmers Market

**Chauncey Swan Ramp. Across from City Hall, 410 E. Washington St., Iowa City**

Wednesdays 5:30-7:30pm; and Saturdays 7:30-11:30am



### Curses, Foiled Again

Police said the father-and-son burglary team of Randall Popkes, 41, and Joshua Williams, 22, broke into Iowa's Des Moines Golf and Country Club and used a reciprocating saw to cut into the safe. When they couldn't get it open, they left a note that read, "(Expletive) you and your safe."

"Apparently, they were upset that they couldn't gain access to the safe," West Des Moines Police Lt. Jeff Miller said. He added the burglars settled for tennis rackets and shoes. As they sped away, however, some of the gear fell from their vehicle, attracting the attention of a security guard, who jotted down the license number, which led to their identification and arrest.

### Homeland Insecurity

- Gen. George W. Casey Jr., the Army chief of staff, acknowledged the military is reviewing soldiers' complaints that their ammunition is inadequate for the type of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Current and former soldiers interviewed by the Associated Press said the military's M855 rifle rounds, which were designed decades ago to puncture the steel helmets of Soviet soldiers from hundreds of yards away, aren't powerful enough for close-in fighting in cities and towns.

- The Department of Homeland Security has awarded \$381,948 in anti-terrorism grants to a private Colorado Springs shuttle-bus service that transports gamblers to casinos in three Colorado mountain towns. A Federal Emergency Management Agency official told the Colorado Springs Gazette the most recent grant of \$184,415 to Ramblin Express is to provide vehicle security and GPS systems.

### Peek-a-Boo

- David Joe Limones, 27, cut a hole in a woman's couch and hid in the carved-out space until she came home, according to police in Newburgh, N.Y., who said the woman sat on the couch and felt a bump in the cushions

move. She jumped up, and Limones emerged from his hiding place, knocking a cell phone from her hand. The woman had been talking to a friend, who called police.

- A 57-year-old Japanese man who became suspicious after food began disappearing from his kitchen in Fukuoka installed security cameras that sent images to his cell phone. When one of the cameras showed someone moving inside his house, he alerted police, who found the door locked and windows closed. "We searched the house, checking everywhere someone could possibly hide," police official Hiroki Itakura told the Asahi newspaper. "When we slid open the shelf closet, there she was, nervously curled up on her side."

The 58-year-old woman explained she had no place to live and sneaked into the man's house a year earlier when he left it unlocked. She had moved a mattress into the small closet space and even took showers, Itakura said, describing the woman as "neat and clean."

### Identity Crises

- Czech Republic soccer federation official Vaclav Tichy resigned and his deputy was fired after a match in Prague at which the Latvian flag and a photo of the Latvian national soccer team were featured in the game program and the Latvian national anthem was played. The Czech team's opponent was Lithuania.

- A man police chased and arrested for trying to grope a woman in Lowell, Mass., gave his name as Martin Walsh, who is the state representative from Dorchester. He told the officers they were ruining his life. "I can't believe this is happening," he said, according to the police report. "She was flirting with me, I was flirting with her."

The man later revealed he was state Sen. J. James Marzilli Jr., 50, and "began to cry," prosecutor Richard M. Mucci read from the police report at Marzilli's arraignment. "He said they could not arrest him, that his life was over."

### Pump Runs Dry

Nevada brothels began offering gas cards and other incentives to stem the decline in business by long-haul truckers, who Geoffrey Arnold, president of the Nevada Brothel Owners' Association, said account for 75 percent of the revenue at the state's 16 rural brothels, located along Interstate 80 and U.S. Highway 95. Arnold said business at his two I-80 brothels has dropped 19 percent this year. Meanwhile, the state's 12 other legal brothels, which are closer to Reno and Las Vegas and rely more on tourists and conventioners, reported this year's business is up.

### Un Ami de Dick Cheney

Sixteen people, including children, were wounded while watching a military shooting demonstration in southeastern France when one of the soldiers opened fire with real bullets instead of blanks. A Defense Ministry official said the incident at the Laperrine military barracks occurred during a demonstration of hostage-freeing techniques and that the soldier who fired the shots has been detained.

### Neck Chops

Rabbinical authorities in Israel declared that giraffes are kosher. According to the newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth, veterinarians treating an adult female giraffe at the Safari Park in Ramat Gan noticed its milk clotted in the way required for kosher certification and submitted a sample for verification. Noting that the giraffe is a grazing animal with cloven hooves and chews its cud, Rabbi Shlomo Mahfoud said, "The giraffe has all the signs of a ritually pure animal, and the milk that forms curds strengthened that."

### Excrement Adventure

Rescuers responding to reports of a man stuck in a portable toilet in Lebanon, Pa., found Shannon P. Hunter, 31, drunk, naked and wedged up to his waist. Deputy Fire Commissioner Chris Miller told the Lebanon Daily News Hunter had been trapped for about 30 minutes and suffered scrapes and abrasions around his hips. "I'm not sure what exactly was taking place inside the port-o-pot," Miller said. "He would only say he needed to use the bathroom, and he claimed he fell in the toilet. When I asked him why he was naked, he just shrugged his shoulders."

### Stretched to the Limit

A South African man claimed to have made the world's first bungee jump using an elastic rope made from condoms. Jumpmaster Carl Dionisio, 37, who plunged 100 feet at the Wavehouse at Gateway, said he and his assistant, Michael "Sniper" Xaba, worked on the idea of the condom rope for more than a year. Making the rope took four months and 18,500 condoms. "It was difficult as the condoms are slippery," Dionisio said. "When we tied knots they would just slip out." He then cut the tips off the condoms and made loops. Dionisio said he was never concerned that the rope would be strong enough. "Latex is latex," he explained.

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



## FORECAST FOR JULY 2008

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

**For Everyone**—This month brings a combination of flux and stability. We achieve a new and relatively secure status quo. This will lessen our concerns about the future. However, we will also find ourselves grappling with some things. We have a safe place to stand, but we will have difficulty integrating other people or needed resources into our situation. The important thing to remember is that we succeeded in achieving our new situation by observing certain principles. We must gain a deeper grasp of these principles and not be quick to abandon them for the sake of achieving short term personal, financial or romantic goals. Doing so could cause real difficulties.

♈ **Aries**—Sometimes stalemate isn't bad. If you feel overwhelmed and blocked, don't worry. It's going around. Family, professional and community relations are all in flux. There's a lot of discussion but it isn't always helpful and it isn't always amicable. Also, the groundwork hasn't been laid for the next stage. The thing is, you've arrived at a major turning point. Lots of new things are going down. Be patient. Study the issues. Make careful decisions. Your situation is actually stable and secure. You also have lots of flexibility. Expect significant progress.

♉ **Taurus**—Share your insights. Be persuasive. The situations in which people find themselves now are very complex and there just are no quick and easy solutions. But Taureans do have special insight into current conditions. Other people would profit considerably from your advice. It may take some convincing, though. People aren't in the mood to listen to reason and much of what you have to offer might seem new and unfamiliar to them. You should also reassure people. Despite appearances, conditions are fairly stable and no one is at immediate risk.

♊ **Gemini**—Stay on your toes. You will probably have to make a lot of quick decisions for others. To succeed, people need to keep things on track in the midst of flux. Many who you depend on for a living will need your active assistance in a situation that no one really understands yet. And your continued success will depend on their continued success. You must help people decide quickly what goes and what stays and how to make it all fit into workable patterns. Things will stabilize as June progresses.

♋ **Cancer**—Be yourself. Need, confusion and change are making people panicky. You're standing near the source of the hassles and some will mistake you for the problem. You're also standing close to the source of the answers and some will mistake you for the solution. Both are problematic. Remember what you stand for and gently hold your ground. Things will settle down mid-month. The difficulties caused by the misconceptions of others is a taste of things to come. Start concentrating on how to make others understand who you really are.

♌ **Leo**—Don't upset the economic applecart. A lot of stuff is going on that you can't get a handle on. It is threatening to gum up your financial plans. The important thing is how you respond to this situation. Make gradual adjustments to your finances until you get just the right fit. Guard against impatience and recklessness born of impatience or you could find yourself with a totally out of control financial situation. Mid-month will bring calm. But your tendency toward reckless or impatient financial decisions won't go away completely.

♍ **Virgo**—Be careful with your new found power. Confusion will run high in July as so many people make so many changes so fast. The stars are providing some cover but there is still risk. Despite the confusion, it will be almost too easy to get your way. Where others find obstacles, you will find a path. Where others find rejection, you will find acceptance. Where others are ignored, you will have influence. Take extra care so that you don't unwittingly short-change others or simply steam roll over their legitimate claims.

♎ **Libra**—Keep your work-life balance. Work demands will increase significantly, threatening to take over your life. The chaotic, undefined nature of these demands will make them hard to contain. Pressing financial needs will make it tough to turn down the increased work. Also, these demands will come from high places and be re-enforced by community expectations. The effect could be disruptive of your lifestyle. Fortunately, the disturbance will be temporary. Take advantage of a mid-month lull to make changes that will help you accommodate future spikes in activity.

♏ **Scorpio**—Bide your time. It might be hard to get your point across, at least in the early part of July. You might be moodier than usual. Also, your ability to communicate will be somewhat overwhelmed by the complexities of the situation. You need to think things through and rethink some things you thought were settled. Things will improve by mid-month. The strong forward momentum you were feeling and which seems to have slowed will return soon. Meanwhile, profit from this chance to gain deeper insight into complex personal situations.

♐ **Sagittarius**—Be diplomatic. July's action is at the other end of the playing field from where you stand. Key associates and authority figures may be closer to the action than you, also. Because of the direct impact on your affairs, you can't afford to ignore what's going on. However, none of them have as good a handle on things as they might think. The risks are greater than they realize, too. If you bring up your issues politely, they will be open to suggestion. Be tactful despite the urgency you feel.

♑ **Capricorn**—Insist on being included. People are very busy with their own issues and you're far from the scene of the action. They might think your opinion is irrelevant. They might also be feeling a bit testy, even panicky. However, your perspective is valuable. You also have the experience to understand what is going on. And you can make things happen for people. Later in July, when conditions are calmer, you can contribute more easily. Even so, you will probably need to hone your communication skills to get your message across.

♒ **Aquarius**—Take the long view. You might be getting impatient with long-term financial matters or complex financial dealings. Flux and uncertainty on the job complicate things further. Avoid impulsive decisions to remedy these situations. Haste now could lead to big regrets later. You will probably just have to bide your time until things calm down on the work front and you've had time to think the financial stuff through. New developments will soon change your ideas about what is possible. And your inspiration will return to its usual high levels.

♓ **Pisces**—Money isn't always the answer. Home, family and romantic issues are causing a lot of confusion and frustration. It can be very difficult to integrate a new person into your close circle of friends and relations, especially when tight finances limit what you can do to strengthen your new relationship. Don't ignore or underestimate the importance of spiritual or psychological insights. Using deeper inner resources will prove more effective than spending money. The present stalemate is temporary. New directions and promising new options will eventually emerge. Meanwhile, look more deeply.

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Food donations may be dropped off at our Iowa City location during business hours July 14-25

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