

www.LittleVillageMag.com

little village

Iowa City's News & Culture Magazine

always
free

April 10

finding art

INSIDE

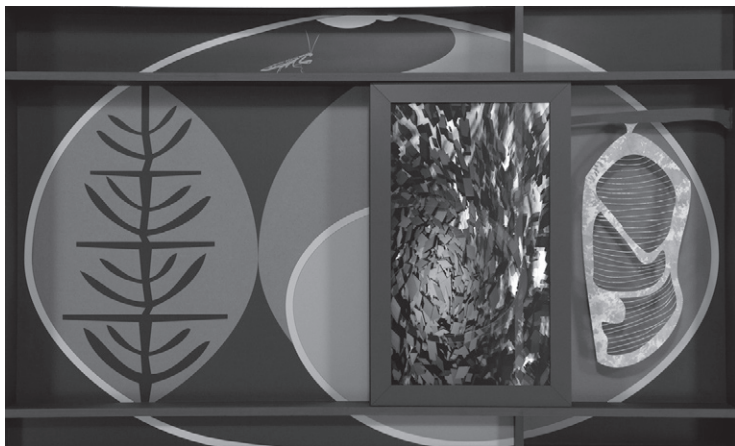
4 Bring It, Sun

5 Rainy Day Fun

20 Key Pain



FAULCONER GALLERY



9 APRIL TO 6 JUNE 2010

John F. Simon, Jr. & Matthew Kluber HYBRID MEDIA

Works hybridizing traditional media and technology.

ALSO ON VIEW: 6 APRIL TO 25 APRIL 2010

but here all dreams equal distance

Collaborative works by artist Cyriaco Lopes and poet Terri Witek.
Performance on April 22.

For gallery hours and a full program schedule,
visit www.grinnell.edu/fulconergallery or call 641.269.4660.

Image: John F. Simon, Jr., *Spiral*, 2007, software, LCD screen, Formica, acrylic plastic, gouache on paper, lacquered wood, 44 x 72 x 6 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

GRINNELL COLLEGE



SHOP THE
northside
NEAR LINN AND MARKET



OPEN
EVERY
DAY!

artifacts

331 Market St, IC | 319-358-9617

No boring stuff allowed!

WE CATER.

THE
PIT

SMOKEHOUSE & BBQ

All of our barbecue is slow smoked with hickory.

130 N DUBUQUE ST IOWA CITY IA
319.337.6653
thepitssmokehouse.com

Hummus Where the Heart Is™

Vegan, Vegetarian
& Omnivore Friendly

Falafel, Hummus, Soups,
Salads & Kebobs

Menu at www.oasisfalafel.com

Open 11am - 9pm Daily
Closed Sunday

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

Alexis Park Inn & Suites

A Romantic Winter Retreat
• FREE wireless!
• FREE in-suite breakfast!
• 16 jacuzzi suites!
+ Champagne service,
FREE DVDs and Godiva
chocolates available

HOT TUB ON A COLD NIGHT

JACUZZI SUITE + BREAKFAST ON YOUR DOORSTEP

2nd NIGHT FREE!

EXPIRES 4/30/10

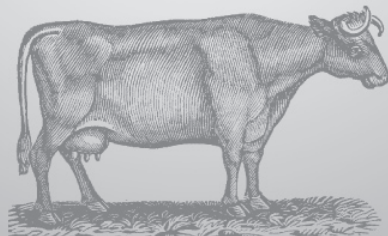
Not valid special event weekends.

Romance
relax and escape, right in town

319-337-8665 • WWW.ALEXISPARKINN.COM • 1165 S. RIVERSIDE DRIVE, IC

Motley Cow Cafe

dinner, fine wine and beer



160 North Linn Street | 319.688.9177

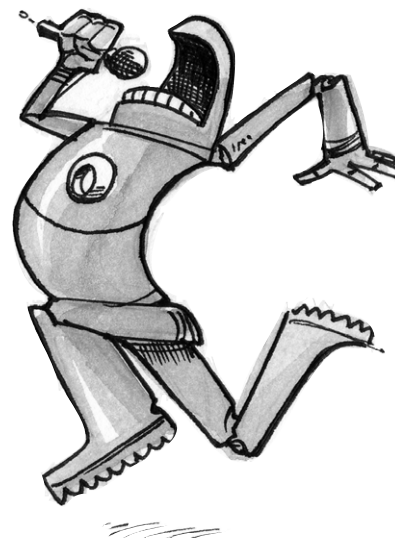
AT THE ART OF IT

Finding art deep in the bowels of IC

- 6 On Campus**
Noah's Art
- 8 Flesh Strokes**
Bodies are for art, too
- 14 Boundless**
Free your art
- 18 In da House**
Art for the basement

- 4 Nonfiction**
As the gingkos blossom
- 5 Active Life**
Rained in
- 20 Prairie Pop**
Brief history of hideous voco-trends
- 22 The Haps**
Looking down a post-Mission Creek month
- 24 Local Albums**
Rockin' in a free world
- 26 Calendar**
31 day flavors
- 27 A-List**
CSPS's installation inspiration
- 29 News Quirks**
News you can use...for a laugh

>>



- 30 Straight Dope**
Bohemian rhapsody
- 31 Stars Over Iowa City**
Hope springs eternal

Volume 10 | Issue 91 | April 2010

PUBLISHER | Andrew Sherburne
Publisher@LittleVillageMag.com

MANAGING EDITOR | Melody Dworak
Editor@LittleVillageMag.com

FEATURES EDITOR | Paul Sorenson
Features@LittleVillageMag.com

ARTS EDITOR | Kent Williams
Arts@LittleVillageMag.com

WEB EDITOR | Matt Steele
Matt@LittleVillageMag.com

LAYOUT & DESIGN | Andrew Sherburne

EDITORIAL INTERN | Kelly Ostrem

ADVERTISING | Kelsey Fritz
Ads@LittleVillageMag.com

CONTRIBUTORS | Cecil Adams, Yale Cohn, Craig Eley, Dawn Fray, Kembrew McLeod, Kelly Ostrem, John Schloffelt, Andrew Sherburne, Paul Sorenson, Dr. Star, Roland Sweet, Pamela White, Kent Williams

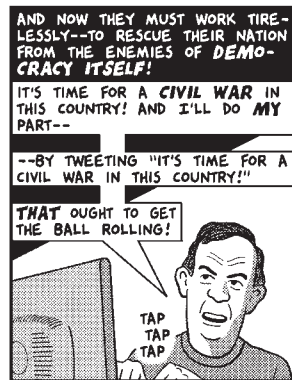
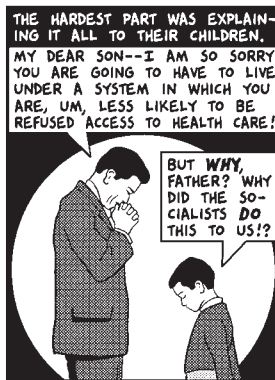
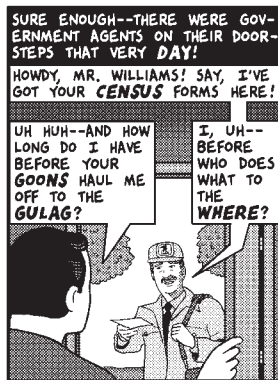
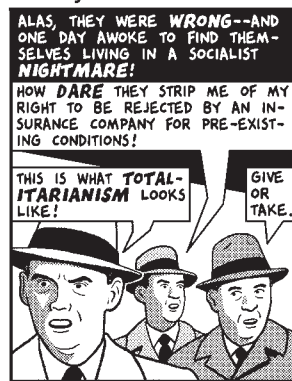
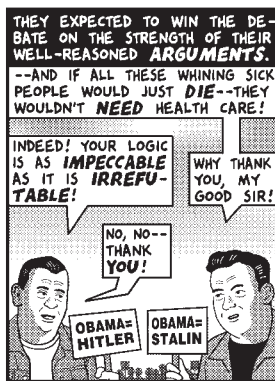
PHOTOS | Joe Alterio, Dawn Fray, Andrew Sherburne, Federica Silva, University News Service, Alan P. Van Dyke

CONTACT | P.O. Box 736
Iowa City | Iowa | 52244
www.LittleVillageMag.com

Advertising and Calendar deadline is the 19th of every month. For a list of ad rates, email ads@littlevillagemag.com.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



TOM TOMORROW © 2010... www.thismodernworld.com

fire up the grill

Springtime, when it truly arrives in earnest, is usually heralded by trees sprouting their first buds, gardeners gleefully getting their knees muddy for the first time in months, snow blowers and lawnmowers switching places in their owners' garages, and the rich, meaty "thwap" sound that baseballs make when they land true in leather gloves as pro baseball players head to spring training and their fans head outdoors to have a catch and talk about their hopes for the upcoming baseball season.

Locally, the farmers market vendors gear up to return from their wintertime hiatus, and the first fruits and vegetables of the season will be greedily picked over by folks who crave the kinds of fresh produce that can only be found here.

On particularly warm and sunny days, the first sunbathers might even take to College Green Park in their bikinis, and the first car accident usually follows shortly thereafter when a distracted driver lets their eyes wander just a little too long as they admire that seasonal beauty's first appearance.

Fraternities and sororities start having their first pub crawls, or at least the first ones a passerby can identify by the T-shirts worn commemorating them that are no longer hidden under bulky coats and sweaters. Shirts worn only once and then donated to second-hand clothing stores who—knowing they have no resale value whatsoever—will in turn donate them to aid agencies that distribute clothes to desperately impoverished and war-torn areas of Africa, where entire villages may wear nothing but third-hand pub crawl T-shirts. Surely something that will confuse anthro-

pologists several millennia from now as they puzzle over why bars in Iowa City were once such a popular destination for large swaths of that continent.

On the evening of the first 40-plus degree day in an almost-state-record 94-day span where the temperature didn't break the 40-degree barrier, I was walking downtown to meet some friends when I saw two college-aged

(or teeth) rattling test of endurance it would have been just a few weeks prior when the temperature could easily have been 20 or 30 or even 40 degrees colder.

Rather, the almost-balmy air acted as a sort of aerosolized mood-elevating drug and everybody waiting in line was more than happy just to be outside talking with old friends or making new ones.

The legs and shoulders and cleavage I saw peeking out from the stylish dresses worn by many of the women waiting in line (and one man too, if memory serves) were as sure a sign that spring had arrived as any of the trees just beginning to sprout their first leaves.

After I claimed my ticket from will call, I took a walk around downtown to kill some



Photo by Alan P. Van Dyke

guys wearing T-shirts and shorts who had climbed through a window and were sitting on the roof of their porch drinking beer.

They both looked a little cold from where I was, but they were out there nonetheless and seemed to be enjoying themselves quite a bit. This showed either a tremendous dedication to the *concept* of spring or a tremendous amount of faith that the mercury would soon rise even further. Of course, they could have just been drunk and locked out. I don't know for certain as I didn't stop to ask; I just kept walking, impressed by their faith and dedication to the season.

Once downtown, waiting in a long line on the stairwell of the Blue Moose to enter the wildly hyped and sold-out debut of Iowa City's new burlesque troupe wasn't the nerve

the almost-balmy air acted as a sort of aerosolized mood-elevating drug.

time before the show started. I saw clumps of smokers and their friends gathered outside of bars smoking cigarettes, sometimes even two or three in a row. Was it because their conversations were simply too interesting to cut short by going back inside a noisy bar? Possibly, but more likely because having the opportunity to see a lot of their friends all at the same time and place was just as big of a reason why they came downtown as the drinks being sold inside and—as long as it was so damn nice out and their friends were all there with them—what was the point of going back in? Their drinks would still be waiting for them whenever they did.

The show was a blast and the many contented smiles I saw on the faces of the folks ambling leisurely home afterward, drunk on the warm air (and, possibly, other things as well), were far more beautiful than any spring flower I've ever seen.

The next day my friends and I played our first game of Ultimate Frisbee at Happy

SPRING CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 >>

April Showers: Workout Edition

The snow has melted and the temperatures are rising slowly. Spring is definitely here, and with it comes that need to emerge from winter hibernation. That first nice day brings people outside in droves. Iowa City's bike trails are filled with a constant traffic of walkers, joggers and bikers. But just as we get that glimmer of hope, it starts raining. Oh April, you tease us so.

April showers can put a damper on that spring need to get outside, but instead of moping around on the couch, get active in your own house. Not everyone has a treadmill in their living room, but that shouldn't be a barrier to being more active! Using your own body and a few things around the house, you can

Spring is definitely here, and with it comes that need to emerge from winter hibernation.

get a workout in and be ready for action next time the sun is shining. Let's call it the 20-minute Rainy Day Plan (see sidebar).

There are four categories for activities: Power, Legs, Arms and Core. Power activities are meant to get your heart pumping, while the legs, arms and core activities are meant to be more strengthening.

Since the first activity is a Power activity, select one of the four Power activity options and do that activity for three minutes. Each time segment works the same way. For each activity category, pick your favorite activity from the ones listed or mix and match. For example, you can choose to do push-ups for the first Arms activity and Dips for the second Arms activity.

Power activities should be at a pace that you can maintain for the entire time segment and get the heart going. The shorter the time seg-

ment, the harder you should work during this activity. If you decide to run stairs, make sure to focus on running hard up the stairs and jogging back down (also, focus on your footing—don't slip!). Feel free to jazz up the other activities as well. For jumping rope, try different

To perform the arm activities, you may need a few props. Dips are best done on a sturdy chair, allowing you to hold onto it securely, while you lower your body up and down working your triceps. If you choose to perform either a bicep curl or a shoulder press, try holding soup cans for a little extra resistance. Performing push-ups on your feet is something that many people need to work up to, so if that's too tough at first, start on your knees. Just remember that it is very important to keep your body in a straight line when doing push-ups or the planks from the core exercises.

Core exercises are great for really strengthening your back and abdomi-

Instead of moping around on the couch, get active in your own house.

nals, key muscles for stability and balance in everyday life. Have a better workout by engaging your core throughout every activity (not just the core activities). This keeps them working throughout the workout, and they will help you get stronger and exercise safer.

Just like any workout, you will get out of it exactly what you put into it, so the intensity is up to the exerciser. Start slow and ease into it if you are just getting started. Ideally this workout would move seamlessly between activities, but it is important to listen to your own body and go at your own pace. Take breaks if you need to. And though it may be gloomy outside, have some fun with your workout indoors! **lv**

Kelly Ostrem recommends that you see a doctor before starting any exercise program. This workout is not meant to cure diseases, but to help you enjoy spring while it's here, even if it's rainy.

THE RAINY DAY PLAN

Time	Activity
3 min.	Power (easier, moderate effort)
2 min.	Legs
3 min.	Core
2 min.	Arms
1 min.	Power (hard effort)
2 min.	Arms
3 min.	Core
2 min.	Legs
2 min.	Power (moderate effort)

POWER

Jumping jacks
Jumping rope
Running stairs
Run/March in place

LEGS

Squats
Lunges
Side lunges
Wall sits

ARMS

Dips
Bicep curls
Shoulder press
Push-ups

CORE

Crunches/Sit-ups
Back extensions
Plank
Side planks

kinds of jumps like alternating a wide jump and a narrow jump. Do jumping jacks in a circle, and see how many revolutions you can get in a minute. Instead of running in place, run laps around a couch, or chase your dog around the house. Make it fun and the time will go quicker!

When performing a leg activity, never allow your knees to move in front of your toes. Aim to get your thighs parallel to the floor, not past that point. If you choose to do lunges, alternate sides or walk around the room doing lunges.

FLOODED EXPECTATIONS

The University of Iowa Museum of Art is still in need of a good, permanent home—in Iowa City.

Spring: sunshine, green grass, flowers, warmth—and rain. This year all of us who weathered the floods of 2008 are watching the rainfall amounts and the thawing rivers north of us with a trepidation we never felt before those fateful days in June. The flood decimated the arts campus of the UI, forcing the closing of the Museum of Art. Moving art back into the building is not a wise decision for several reasons—insurance chief among them. The museum is now dispersed, with most of its collection in the Figge Art Museum in Davenport, Iowa. In this brief writing I will share some reflections about our whereabouts and our future.

The University of Iowa Museum of Art was deliberately and scenically placed on the banks of the Iowa River in the late 1960s. The picturesque setting contrasted with the brutal architecture of the Abramowitz building, providing a wonderful backdrop for the world-class art collection contained within. In the nearly 40 years the museum occupied its river home, it presented innovative and original exhibitions drawn from the whole gamut of the history of art—from prairies to fairies to Africa, Mexico and beyond!

The collections grew and multiplied while the sophistication of the museum staff increased as the need for their expertise grew. And, it was the staff's professional acumen that made possible their assurance in tackling the almost impossible task of evacuating the collection. They removed nearly 80 percent of the collection in just three days before the National Guard locked the doors on June 13, and meticulously rescued the remaining objects after the building was reoccupied 10 days later. This achievement was due to the efforts of many—but most especially the devotion and commitment of all who were on staff at the UIMA. The damage and loss due to the flood was miniscule compared to the devastation

of what could have occurred without their courageous actions.

It seems that in two years, their efforts are all but forgotten—life has moved on stranding them in longing for their museum. The collection was saved, relocated at first to Chicago art warehouses, and last April moved to the

They found the courage to move the collection from distant and less-than-ideal storage in Chicago to a generous neighboring Iowa museum despite criticism of some that felt threatened by presentation of our art anywhere but in Iowa City. They dug deep in their souls to find the energy and stamina to endlessly catalogue the collection during its various moves.

Our collection manager, Jeff Martin, and preparator, Steve Erickson, led this



Photos courtesy UIMA and University News Service

Figge Art Museum in Davenport, Iowa, where it is now safely stored and on display for an expanded Iowa audience. A gallery and visual classroom were created on campus for student and faculty use, with regular public hours. All of these venues are free to UI students, faculty, staff and donors to the UIMA. Planning for a new building on University of Iowa soil, however, has not commenced.

During my tenure as interim director I have been impressed time and again by the tenacity, devotion, and creativity of the museum staff.

The picturesque setting contrasted with the brutal architecture of the Abramowitz building, providing a wonderful backdrop for the world-class art collection contained within.

process brilliantly, traveling countless times to Chicago, Davenport, and still made time to create breathtaking displays of our art both at the Figge and in the IMU. Dale Fischer, director of education, invented new ways to educate the public about art. Instead of classes visiting the museum, he, ably assisted by our docents, took art to the schools. Our chief curator created the exhibition at the Figge in record time. In addition, she met with faculty in order to select works of art for our on-campus gallery to enhance course requirements in a fraction of space compared to our former museum. The museum's efforts in fundraising for exhibitions and programs had to go on—UI support does not extend for these activities—and Buffie Tucker, membership and volunteer coordinator; Betty Breazeale, museum secretary; and Pat Hanick, UI Foundation representative,

along with volunteers, student assistants and many more made our Museum pARTy! fundraisers successful despite the drastic change in our mode of operation.

In the midst of all of this activity, the museum successfully defended against the possible sale of its prized Pollock, *Mural*—the UI administration embraced these arguments and steadfastly refused to consider such a destructive action. The National Art Press heralded our achievement and has become a strong ally supporting us in our leadership role. Iowa is now cited as a success story in the face of mounting collection sales spreading across the nation as museums everywhere face economic hardships and challenges to their very survival.

During the past two years, the UIMA achieved many remarkable accomplishments. Last April, a selection of major paintings, including *Mural*, was presented in the Figge Art Museum to great acclaim. The Richey Ballroom, the site for the "UIMA@IMU," opened in August due in large part to the collaborative vision of the IMU staff, transforming the Union into a cultural destination. The efforts of Risk Management, Facilities Management, and many others made this space come into being. The museum's first 40 years were chronicled in an award-winning book featuring the stories of our early founders and donors.

In January, an educational and insightful temporary exhibition was presented at the Figge Art Museum. Drawn primarily from the museum's permanent print collection, it features exquisite loans from dedicated museum

tion devoted to the work of the counter culture artist Lil Picard, opens at the Grey Art Gallery of New York University curated by our chief curator, Kathleen Edwards. This project would have posed serious challenges without

the disruption of the flood and the loss of our building, but is nothing short of a miraculous achievement given these circumstances. Future plans include a fall exhibition of an outstanding private collection of Yoruba twin figures in the Black Box space followed by the Iowa presentation of the Lil Picard exhibition in spring 2011.

From fall 2008 to the present, the UIMA continued to offer lectures, tours, programs and special events to its publics—without interruption. New sites were found for these events and museum patrons now enjoy the amenities of The University Athletic Club and IMU, where many museum programs are

accommodated. The *UIMA Magazine* continues to be produced, offering an overview of all of the museum exhibitions and programs to a broad audience. The museum has extraor-

UIMA CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 >>



Despite all of these astonishing efforts, no plans are forthcoming on when or where a new museum will be.

patrons. The Figge exhibitions have increased attendance at that museum, making the UIMA collection visible to a much wider public than ever before. In March, the museum opened the first temporary exhibition in another new space in the IMU—the Black Box Theater. Faculty-curated, the exhibition will appeal to students as well as the general public interested in popular culture and hip hop in particular.

On April 19, a major retrospective exhibi-



Exotic India

Authentic Indian Cuisine

Delicious Lunch Buffet

Open Daily for Lunch and Dinner

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

Dine In or Carry Out

TechniGraphics

Printing & Copying

Bring in this ad to receive
1/2 OFF
COLOR COPIES!

Up to 99 copies on 28# bond • Not valid with other special offers
Expires May 15, 2010

125 S. Dubuque Street • On the Pedestrian Mall
354-5950
www.techiowa.com



W

hether or not we realize it, we are each given a canvas at birth. This canvas is one we wear, one we carry with us wherever we go. Some people choose to journey through life with a blank canvas. Others, however, display their imaginations on the outside for the world to see. Ink, dye, dreads, threads—these are the mediums such body artists create with.

Within each of us lies the potential to be living, breathing works of art. Art, much like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. To behold beauty—and art—is to embrace it. And few people embrace it as thoroughly as those who wear their art like a crown, or as passionately as those who have it permanently etched into their skin.

The world is divided into two kinds of people: those who have tattoos, and those who are afraid of people with tattoos.

~AUTHOR UNKNOWN

I take pleasure in adorning my body with images I find beautiful and can constantly ogle and appreciate. Tattoos can hold very serious meaning for a person, help a person to heal or find closure after a difficult time in life, or can just be for fun.

~EMILY MUELLER
(OPPOSITE)

The hair models featured here were all styled by JoAnn Larpenter-Sinclair (who can be seen modeling her tattoos on page 10), master stylist at G-Spot Hair Design.

G-Spot is throwing its own arty hair show to celebrate its 10th anniversary on April 9, 7 p.m. at the Mill, fashioning their runway models in 1930s-60s silver screen style. According to a press release, the salon will be donating 100 percent of the profits from its ticket and raffle sales to the American Red Cross Haiti Relief and Development recovery effort.

Props and accessories for these photos were provided by Artifacts.



FEATURED MODEL:
Brittany Burggraaf

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF LATINO CHOREOGRAPHERS

Luna Negra Dance Theater

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 7:30 PM
THE ENGLERT THEATRE

Order tickets online at www.hancher.uiowa.edu
Or call 319/335-1160 or 1-800-HANCHER
TDD and access services call 319/335-1158

COLLEGE STUDENT TICKETS: \$10

HANCHER

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF IOWA



FEATURED MODEL:
Susan Junis



Tattooing is often a magical rite in the more traditional cultures, and the tattooist is respected as a priest or shaman.

~MICHELLE DELIO
*Tattoo: The Exotic
Art of Skin Decoration*

I think it can be intimidating to some people that I am so tattooed, because I am putting on display what most people choose to keep hidden about themselves.

~JOANN LARPENTER-SINCLAIR
(RIGHT)



Beauty is skin
deep. A tattoo
goes all the way
to the bone.

~VINCE HEMINGSON

I work in childcare.
Kids are amazing
because they don't
usually have preconceived
notions yet. So I would
like to help them form
a hopefully much more
positive idea of a tattooed
person.

~ASHLEY SHIELDS
(RIGHT)



Om

Green. Natural.
Earth Friendly.
Great gifts at Om!

gifts for body & soul

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

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



ॐ

The Framers' Intent

Professional custom
framing made personal

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



I think the skin as a canvas is a beautiful thing, especially due to the collaboration and relationship you build with your tattoo artist... I love my tattoos and the different reactions they create; art is supposed to illicit some sort of reaction and my tats definitely achieve that.

~HEATHER KRAMER

My tattoo is a reminder to myself to live my life everyday, as a dearly departed friend reminded me. I survived cancer. She didn't. But the entire time she was getting sicker and sicker, she lived her life to the fullest. I want to remember that.

~DANI LIN
(RIGHT)



FEATURED MODEL:
Nick Doucette



The right moment wears a full head of hair: when it has been missed, you can't get it back; it's bald in the back of the head and never turns around.

~FRANCOIS RABELAIS

BODIES CONTINUED
ON PAGE 16 >>



JEWELRY, BEADS,
AND INSTRUCTION
- SINCE 1987 -

Dawn's

Dawn's is changing its name!

Join us for the **Grand Reopening**
Friday, April 30 from 5-8pm
when the new name will be revealed!

338-1566 | www.dawnsbeads.com
220 E. Washington (across from the Englert Theatre)

MON-SAT 11-9
SUNDAY 11-6
PLEASE BRING ID

KONNEXION • 106 S. LINN STREET IOWA CITY

Art w/o Borders

Let's talk about frames.

Because if we start discussing “art,” many will picture rectangle frames bearing painted and processed works, stuck on the static walls of galleries or museums. A display, well defined. And in this part of a story about art, as we've learned to expect from journalism, the readers should get a distinct idea of what exactly they'll spend the next 1500 or so words dragging their eyes across. The story should be framed: subject matter, subjects, timeframe—the Ws in a drunken pyramid.

Free Art School—or Free (@rt) Sch001, or F@S, or whatever typography dictates—defies such framing. It hates it. Alas, some definition is required. So?

“Free Art School is not ‘art’—it happens to involve art, but I’m conflicted about calling it Free ‘Art’ School,” says Eric Asboe, a co-art director and gallery coordinator at Public Space ONE (PS1) at 129 E. Washington St. in Iowa City—F@S’s home base, maybe, if it needs one.

Or perhaps:

“Free Art School is an amorphous, fluid idea,” says Katie McGowan, an intermedia MFA student who is writing/performing her master's thesis on Free Art School. “We're more into the idea of spreading goodwill and fun and art. It's not anything rigid. I don't think it's a movement, but it's an idea, a name for the energy of the projects we're trying to do.”

Free Art School has ideas behind it that can transcend the space.

- John Engelbrecht

And also:

“Free Art School has been around for as long as there have been art schools,” says David Dunlap, an associate professor at The University of Iowa's School of Art and Art History. “It's an incredible, beautiful thing that bubbles up from the heart of art schools. Not something delivered on high,

largely open gallery space in the basement of the Jefferson Building downtown, topics are as diverse as its students' interests.

Sessions so far: A class on making a bicycle safety light turn signal shirt. (Yes: a shirt that had LCD turn signals.) Another class on fragile art making—using ephemeral materials, participants made armatures to hold eggs in which they tried sugar crystals (the crystals didn't quite crystalize). Future classes include

teaching the “lost” art of letter-writing to elementary school children, exotica record collecting, making and growing cultured food, and sushi making coupled with ping-pong. Because of the grant, all are literally free. For the details of future outings, visit publicspaceone.wordpress.com/free-rt-sch001.

“I want it to encompass anything and everything,” Asboe says. “If someone wants to teach a class on taxes, great, or building scientific glass—why not? I want it to be a place that people can teach and learn what-

ever they want. It may have something to do with ‘art’ or it may not.”

They're still trying to negotiate “what can fit under the umbrella of Free Art School”—a term that fluctuates to fit the spirit of its

members and whatever that they touch. “At a certain point everything blurs together when you're working with us,” Engelbrecht says.

Even the physical space of PS1 is only a gateway. Engelbrecht and Asboe took over the art side of the space last August, curating new exhibits each month from local and national artists. One of the March shows, Emily



but something that spontaneously bubbles up from students—the true art of any art school.”

So let's abandon frames and start talking about projects—which are, at least, corporeal. First would be the Free Art School classes, which have a substantial, \$3000-plus Johnson County Community Foundation grant to back them up. John Engelbrecht, and Asboe, the full PS1 coordinating team, won the grant earlier this year and have been holding these classes, or sessions (another nebulous term), a few times each month. Situated mostly in the

I've never been drawn into a flag before, so such notification was a strange surprise.

Barwick's "Stations of Her Undoing," features gold-painted barbie dolls arranged as if Toy Story's mutilating Sid constructed the Stations of the Cross; another exhibit lines the walls of the next room. PS1 is another community venue to hold art, if a little off-beat—though while the co-directors are excited to show work, that's not where their passions lay.

"One of our goals for Free Art School is propagating it as a thing beyond PS1," Engelbrecht says. "I like that it has given us this base to initiate it from, but Free Art School has ideas behind it that can transcend the space."

A paragraph, somewhat a mission statement included in any F@S publications, contains a key F@S doctrine: "Eric Asboe says Richard Wiebe says Andrew Peterson says...[insert 19 more names here]...says David Dunlap says Kay Miller says "FREE Love, FREE Art, FREE Money." We all thought she was using free as an adjective. We were all wrong. She was using it as a verb." The names collect and coagulate many of F@S's core members except the final entrance of Kay Miller, an artist Dunlap knew from decades before. F@S's interpretation of her words stray from the first read: art at no cost. Instead, F@S takes its mission to free art, to unleash it back into the arms of the community.

"As much as I enjoy making art and showing it, I'm also interested in who isn't interested in seeing art and why they wouldn't be," Engelbrecht says. "A lot of times people get set in their routines and their way of looking at the world. Art has been something that has constantly jarred that or broken that up for me, so I'm interested in confronting people, in some ways. I'm interested in how we define art as a cultural thing, and how art here is different than art in Africa."

He explained that if you look at art forms like African mask dancing, the art becomes an event that involves the whole community, that affects the whole community. Western art often, in contrast, stays confined in pre-established academic and gallery space. F@S, through all their efforts, want to break out of what McGowan calls "lame elitist art hierarchies."

Luckily for its adherents—and those of us who will stumble across their work—

F@S's mission isn't preachy, even if they identify themselves as "missionaries."

"The people that are drawn to this idea of free art school are people who are gentle and have kind hearts," McGowan says. "Our joy comes from making things, from reacting



against the negative energy that oftentimes exists around professional art making." In her MFA thesis project on F@S, McGowan goes further: "Embracing hypocrisy and laughing in the face of up-tightness, Missionaries work to highlight the joy of learning and making artwork and hopefully inspire others to do the same."

Missionaries are art students and former students, long-time community members and Iowa City newbies: anyone, really, who touts enthusiasm for F@S's inclusive artistic ideals. It's a big tent, so-to-speak, one that certainly resembles a creative circus.

Thus, F@S projects are birthed as odd, dynamic events that are bound together more by energy and idea than subject matter or form. Each, too, is likely worthy of its own story—though due to space constraints, a partial list will have to suffice: A Literal Letter Service, run by Asboe and Engelbrecht, who write letters to whomever one desires. The Gathering of the Gulls, hosted by the F@S-sparked Seagull Society—a monthly storytelling event held at PS1. A robot-making workshop and parade held as part of McGowan's thesis project. The Soup, a \$5 potluck and ideas-sharing event which helps provide small funds for a chosen art project (like Asboe's translation of book-into-semaphore. He used the money to buy the semaphore flags). The Writers' Cafe, a

twice-weekly impromptu coffee house hosted by workshop students. A mid-March missionary trip/happening at Nashville's Open Lot gallery/community. And more to come.

Perhaps the best illustration of how Free Art School operates is my personal experience with F@S's ever-present efforts to break down barriers, even between journalist and subject. After interviewing Dunlap and asking if I could access his Facebook profile for artwork, I receive this message: "Hello. Free @rt sch00! at Walnut Farms just drew you into a flag soon to be flying at Studio Arts. yr. pal., David." I've never been drawn into a flag before, so such notification was a strange surprise.

Sure enough, an hour later, an album entitled "Dear Paul Sorenson" appeared along with a flag announcing, "FREE @rt sch00! in Little Village by Paul Sorenson." Surrounding the words were multicolored shields, rays of yellow, intersecting triangles and what appears to be a skull on a podium on a black table. The flag was composed by artist Jesse Albrecht, part of the Paintallica Painting Club happening that "builds, performs, then cleans up, presents, some time Wednesday, April 14, 2010, morning," becoming part of F@S's cannon. Dunlap made clear that F@S's mission had little outward boundaries, even if it threatened my journalistic desire to appear unbiased.

Which brings us back to frames. Because this story tries to encapsulate whatever Free Art School wants to be about, it fails for the very fact that it wants to capture anything. Present a definition to its members/missionaries and they will retract, or add, or bend the definition to encompass more and more until even this *Little Village* article becomes part of F@S—which is exactly what Dunlap contends. Everything can be an organ.

"Free Art School is like a commune on fire," Engelbrecht says, and laughs. "I've been waiting the whole time to give you that quote." **lv**

Paul Sorenson believes in journalism for journalism's sake.

**FREE Love, FREE Art,
FREE Money. We all
thought she was using
free as an adjective.
We were all wrong. She
was using it as a verb.**



FEATURED MODEL:
Whitney Tripp

Your body is a temple, but how long can you live in the same house before you redecorate

~UNKOWN AUTHOR

Forget not
that the earth
delights to feel
your bare feet
and the winds
long to play with
your hair.

~KAHLIL GIBRAN



FEATURED MODEL:
Neo McAdams

Red Poppy
tea & hookah parlour

organic teas
handblown glass art
mya hookahs
flavoured shisha tobacco



319.351.9145

www.redpoppyiowa.com

341 E College St, Iowa City, IA 52240

VINTAGE & NEW
WOMEN'S
CLOTHING
Shop with Style!

REVIVAL

BUY
SELL
TRADE

ON THE PED MALL | 337-4511

Dine-In, Carry-out & Lunch Buffet 7 Days-a-Week

MASALA
the Best Authentic Indian Vegetarian Cuisine



MONDAY NIGHT
DINNER SPECIAL

\$7.99
ONLY

338-6199 | 9 S. Dubuque St, Iowa City
www.masalaiowacity.com

FEATURED MODEL:
Kevin Hansen

A man
without
tattoos is
invisible to
the gods.

~IBAN PROVERB



Michael Cooper, Masked Marvels & Wondertales

Order tickets online at www.hancher.uiowa.edu
Or call 319/335-1160 or 1-800-HANCHER
TDD and access services call 319/335-1158
COLLEGE STUDENT TICKETS: \$10



HANCHER

**MASTER
OF MASKS,
MIME,
AND
MUCH MORE**





The BS Gallery is not pretentious. “It’s a nice flexible space,” says co-curator Chris Reno. “But it doesn’t hide the fact that it’s a basement.”

Basements seldom do. And if you stopped at the top of the stairs leading down to the BS Gallery, you’d be forgiven for thinking that this basement was nothing special.

But, past the nondescript backdoor entrance, the kitchen and the rough wooden staircase is a surprisingly clean and well-lit art gallery.

While the BS Gallery still falls far short of a commercial space in the interior design realm, it makes up for it in mission.

Founded in the basement of their rented house (220 West Benton Street) in August of 2009 by UI M.F.A. students Caleb Engstrom, Josh Black and Reno, the gallery’s objective is to bring fresh art to Iowa City.

“We wanted to provide exposure for decent art,” explained Black. “To let people experience something they wouldn’t get in a commercial establishment.”

Certainly, the majority of the work displayed through the gallery’s first six shows would feel out of place at the established galleries downtown. From a video projection on a six-foot block of snow to a voodoo-inspired worship altar, the art is often high-concept and

“We’re leaking money left and right. As a pure business endeavor, it’s a failure. But as a social experiment, it’s a success.”

—BS Gallery’s Chris Reno

raw, a sharp contrast to the unobtrusive polish of mainstream commercial work. Black says that the absence of a commercial aspect is a blessing.

“There’s no pressure to sell,” he said. “It’s just a chance for artists to show and discuss their work with people who wouldn’t normally have a chance to see it.”

Part of the allure of the gallery is the curators’ commitment to bringing in artists from outside the region. The gallery has hosted artists from New York, Chicago, and, in April, northern California and Oregon. Impressive for a gallery with no outside funding.

The day I dropped by the BS Gallery was the last day of *Exoskeleton*, an installation by Chicago-based artists Laura Collins and Natalie Smith.

“It was great [to have] an opportunity to show in a different city,” said Smith. “And they went out of their way to make sure that I

got what I wanted out of the space.”

“We’re trying to identify artists that we like, that are willing to pay their way to Iowa City and set up a show,” said Reno. “They’re usually living hand to mouth. So what can we do for them with no money? We take care of them, give them a place to show, a place to stay and throw a big party. It’s a lot of fun.”

The ‘big party’ is the gallery’s semi-regular monthly opening, always coinciding with the city’s long-established first Friday gallery walks. The get together is scheduled after the other galleries close, because as much as the gallery is about art, it’s also about the party—a chance to let loose and talk art late into the night.

Art hits us in two ways: the visceral impact of a first glance and the slow burn that only comes from prolonged exposure. Too often, we judge art by its ability to please us immediately. So often, in fact, that the first words frequently uttered in any museum gallery are “I like this one” or “I don’t get it.”

But *Exoskeleton* was not created to please. At either end of the gallery hung Collins’ floor-to-ceiling black and white reprints of domestic dispute scenes from 1960s era movies, framed on the long side walls by Smith’s shades-of-gray drawings of empty spaces.

It was deliberately designed to match the

Big Money at Menarts

When Josh Black came from California to begin his M.F.A. in sculpture, he arrived to find the Iowa River busy wreaking havoc on his new studio.

Like many, he likely shook his fist at the sky before hunkering down and pouring his heart into rebuilding the school in its new home: an old Menards, out on Highway 1.

Now, nearly two years on, Black has come to think of the new "Menarts" campus as a major upgrade. How so? For the sculptor Black, it's simple: hundreds of thousands of dollars in brand new equipment, and a massive, private studio with no ceiling to speak of, just steps away from a huge loading dock.

Indeed, many prospective students view the

new studio arts facilities as an asset, and the current class of students is taking full advantage of having all departments under the same roof. There is more interdisciplinary study and play, which makes for great art and great art happenings.

The former big-box store houses two hyperactive galleries. A new B.F.A. show and a new M.F.A. show go up every week in the building's Ark and Drewelowe Galleries. A full calendar is available at art.uiowa.edu.

The biggest to-do is the annual ArtsFest at the Studio Arts Bldg (1375 Highway 1 West). Hundreds of artists of all disciplines will show off their work (and their building) on Friday, April 30, from 4-7 pm. The best part: most of it ain't even really for sale (but that doesn't mean you can't name a price!)

BS's bare environment. Collin's subjects ached to get free from their cramped frames and, standing alone in the gallery, I felt their discomfort. But as the slow burn set in, the appreciation came with it. This is the art that makes us think, but it is not the art to hang on our dining room walls.

The BS Gallery, and other non-commercial galleries, serve as covered wagons headed into that unknown artistic frontier.

"I think spaces like the BS Gallery are an important part of creating a network among young artists and a place to challenge and experiment with ideas," said Smith.

So why, in a town often lauded as "the Athens of the Midwest," is the art shown at the BS Gallery such a rarity?

Reno, co-curator of the BS Gallery with Black since Engstrom left for New York City, acknowledges that creating a lasting presence would be a major challenge.

"It would take a unique individual to make this work in Iowa City. And deep pockets," Reno said. "We're leaking money left and right. As a pure business endeavor, it's a failure. But as a social experiment, it's a success."

The BS hasn't been alone in their attempts to bring art to the people. But results have been a mixed bag of late.

Arts Iowa City recently closed its Underground Gallery off the ped mall. While the group will be opening a new space this summer, it won't feature the same kind of experimental work.

"The Underground Gallery featured edgier art," said Arts Iowa City secretary Linnell Phillips. "With the new space we're hoping to go a little more mainstream...more upscale and sophisticated."

Certainly, a gallery must cater to its patrons, and Arts Iowa City's future direction should come as no surprise given the more traditional leanings of its members.

The BS Gallery, and other non-commercial galleries like Public Space One, serve as covered wagons headed into that unknown artistic frontier. Funding, community engagement and the desire of their volunteers are all obstacles they'll have to overcome along the way to long-term viability. But like any good trailblazers, their primary goal is to keep moving forward.

"We'll keep the gallery open through our lease in August 2011," said Black of the BS Gallery's future. "Hopefully, somebody will keep it going after that."

Just as the BS picked up where other underground spaces left off, Reno is confident that even if the BS Gallery becomes just another basement, a new gallery will rise in its place.

"It's always been under the radar," he said. "But people who are connected will always find out." **IV**

Andrew Sherburne has an empty wall in his house that needs filling. Know a good place to buy art? Email him at andrew@littlevillageart.com

BIJOU THEATER

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

FRI, APR 9
WED, APR 14
THU, APR 15
SAT, APR 17
MON, APR 19
7PM
FRI, APR 16
THU, APR 22

MARY AND MAX

Directed by Adam Elliot | Australia

THE WHITE RIBBON

Directed by Michael Haneke | Germany/Austria

ICDOCS FILM FEST

Three days of documentary festivities at the Bijou. Great films to expand your cinema vocabulary. Best of all its FREE! Schedule at BijouTheater.org

FREE SNEAK-PEEK SCREENING! GET HIM TO THE GREEK

A free preview screening of the upcoming release featuring Russell Brand and Jonah Hill.

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGIN TATTOO

Directed by Niels Arden Oplev | Swe / Den / Ger

THE MIRROR

Directed by Andrei Tarkovsky | Soviet Union

\$1 POPCORN, SODA & CANDY!

ADMISSION
ONLY
\$5

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

GABES

IOWA CITY

Fri, Apr. 9 9pm

Cornmeal & Deadman Flats

Sat, Apr. 10 9pm

Johnny on Point

w/Die Sloe & DJ Smiley Price

Thu, Apr. 15 9pm

Austin Taft Soundtrack

w/Wiitala Brothers and Nebula Was

Fri, Apr. 16 9pm

Family Groove Company

Sat, Apr. 17 9pm

Earn

w/Infinite Body, Wax Blood and Cocoon

Sat, Apr. 23 9pm

Raw Mojo

w/Chew Toy & The Roadless

Sun, Apr. 25 9pm

That 1 Guy & Five in Hand

Thu, Apr. 29 9pm

Empires & Mr Gnome

THE BEER GARDEN IS OPEN!

330 E. Washington St, Iowa City
www.iowacitygabs.com

Pitch Imperfect

Apparently, the naked human voice isn't good enough. Whether we're talking about studio gimmickery or vocal tricks not aided by technology—Appalachian yodeling and Tuvan throat singing come to mind—we're often suckers for interesting oral freak-outs. Voice alteration gizmos soon began popping up in hit singles of the 1970s and 1980s—applying a robo-futuristic sheen to songs like Afrika Bambaata's hip hop classic "Planet Rock," Earth, Wind & Fire's funk manifesto "Let's Groove," and the frontal lobe-blasting "O Superman," by Laurie Anderson.

Even Neil Young got in on the action with his 1982 album *Trans*, which features such craptastic classics as "Transformer Man" and "Computer Love" (and just to be clear, for me, "craptastic" is a positive modifier). The most recent manifestation of this pop music trend is the ubiquitous use of Auto-Tune, which was originally designed to correct the pitch of singers like Ashlee Simpson, but when cranked up to eleven makes you sound like a singing machine, or T-Pain. Its first notable use was in Cher's 1998 hit "Believe," which is often mistaken for an earlier vocal synthesizer, the

vocoder (more on that in a bit).

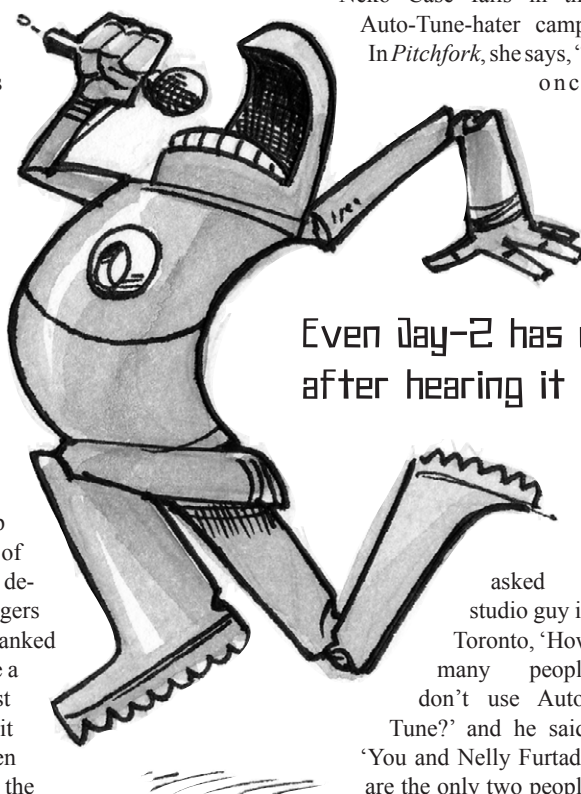
Auto-Tune has many uses, both good and ill—though many people believe for ill. It allowed rapper Kanye West to sing and has turned Katie Couric's highly inflected reading of the news into catchy R&B songs (check out the *Auto-Tune the News* series on Youtube).

Neko Case falls in the Auto-Tune-hater camp.

In *Pitchfork*, she says, "I once

who've never used it in here." Even Jay-Z has called for Auto-Tune's death after hearing it in a Wendy's commercial.

People regularly use "vocoder" as a catchall word for a voice that sounds robotic, but the term actually refers to a very specific device. The vocoder is a voice synthesis system developed in the 1930s by the telephone industry as a way of compressing speech. That way, more calls could be squeezed into one line. Basically, the idea was to pare down the human voice to the smallest number of frequencies so that lots of chatter could fit through the line. It lingered in development hell for decades because, well, it made you sound like a robot—which kinda weirded people out, especially when they wanted to talk to their mom. This technology



Even Jay-Z has called for Auto-Tune's death after hearing it in a Wendy's commercial.

wouldn't become widely known until it was put to use by pop musicians in the 1970s.

Thus far, the only comprehensive history of the vocoder is Dave Tomkins' soon-to-be-published *How To Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop*. The book's quirky title is a reference to Bell Lab technician Manfred Schoeder's failed attempts to make this voice synthesizer sound comprehensible. The discouraged researcher noted that when the vocoder tried to say, "How to recognize speech," it came out sounding like

asked a studio guy in Toronto, 'How many people don't use Auto-Tune?' and he said, 'You and Nelly Furtado are the only two people

SCOPE Productions Presents
Girl Talk
May 4th - IMU Main Lounge
Tickets available at the University Box Office where students can charge up to 8 tickets on their UBILLS, and any Ticketmaster location. For ticket information call 319.335.3041.



"how to wreck a nice beach."

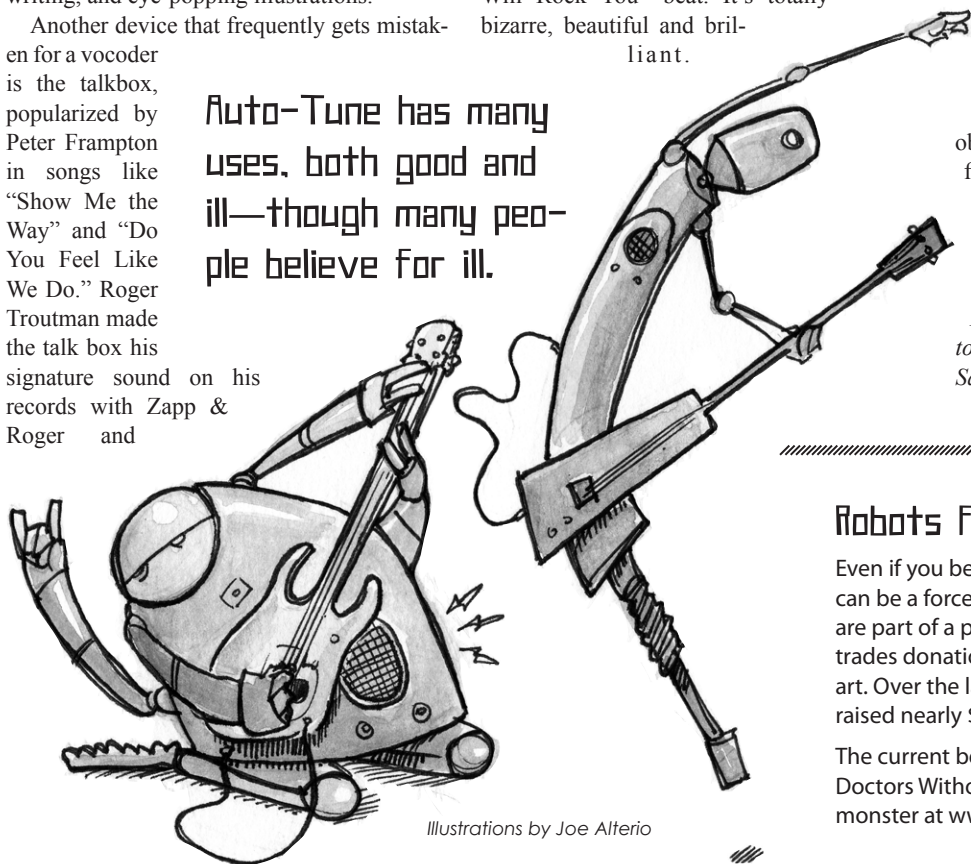
Tompkins, a well-known music critic, has obsessively worked on this book for years—not quite as long as Axl Rose crafted *Chinese Democracy*, he tells me, but close. (I've heard about "Tompkins' vocoder book" since the beginning of the previous decade; some friends in Brooklyn lived above him and said he rarely emerged from his apartment while writing it.) Like that Guns 'n' Roses album, *How To Wreck a Nice Beach* is finally getting a proper release and is due to be published later this month. It's a great book, filled with deep research, gonzo writing, and eye-popping illustrations.

Another device that frequently gets mistaken for a vocoder is the talkbox, popularized by Peter Frampton in songs like "Show Me the Way" and "Do You Feel Like We Do." Roger Troutman made the talk box his signature sound on his records with Zapp & Roger and

solo releases—lending a postmodern flavor to dancefloor numbers like "More Bounce to the Ounce" and a sprawling 10-minute version of "I Heard It Through the Grapevine."

One of my favorites by Roger Troutman is an obscure cover of the 1960s garage rock song "Superman," which R.E.M. later covered—with a much different vibe—on their *Life's Rich Pageant* album (which is how most people first heard the song). Beginning with three-part *a capella* talkboxed harmonies, Troutman's solo version of "Superman" then gets down with a future-funk interpretation of the "We Will Rock You" beat. It's totally bizarre, beautiful and brilliant.

Auto-Tune has many uses, both good and ill—though many people believe for ill.



Illustrations by Joe Alterio

Then tragedy. In 1999 he was shot to death by his brother Larry, who killed himself afterwards with the murder weapon. Roger's nephew Clet Troutman sang "Amazing Grace" through a talkbox at the funeral.

In *How To Wreck a Nice Beach*, Dave Tompkins sums up the vocoder's ambiguous legacy, one that Bell Labs couldn't possibly have conceived when the company began its development. "Auto-Tune, the pitch-correcting software popularized by the robotox of Cher and inflicted on the twenty-first century, is often misheard as a vocoder, giving the latter currency through a revival of misunderstanding," Tompkins writes. "Not as a technology, but a meme. In other words, it was what it isn't."


As Iowa City's resident RoboProfessor, I obviously approve of anything that androidifies the singing voice, though I promise never to use Auto-Tune. Well, perhaps at an academic conference presentation, but nowhere else. **IV**

Kembrew McLeod is waiting for Radiohead to cover "Me So Horny" by 2 Live Crew. Sadly, this has not happened yet.

Robots For a Good Cause

Even if you believe Auto-Tune is a force for evil, robots can be a force for good. Joe Alterio's robot drawings are part of a project called Robots + Monsters which trades donations to a good cause for custom-made art. Over the last three years, Joe's creatures have raised nearly \$20,000 for charity.

The current beneficiary of Robots + Monsters is Doctors Without Borders. Get your custom robot or monster at www.robotsandmonsters.org.



www.thewedgепizza.com

NOW WITH 2 LOCATIONS!

Iowa City's Gourmet Pizza Joint!

DOWNTOWN

136 S. Dubuque St.

319-351-9400

Dine In or Carry Out


RIVERSIDE

519 S. Riverside Dr.

319-337-6677

Delivery or Carry Out

Calzones
Breadstix &
Salads too!




LARGE 14" 1-topping Pizza

ONLY \$7.99

add a second for \$6.99


Valid at both locations. Carry out or delivery available to a limited campus delivery area. Expires 4/30/10



Two slices for

ONLY \$5.00


Valid at both locations. Expires 4/30/10



BREADSTIX add to any order

ONLY \$6.50

Valid at both locations. Expires 4/30/10




HOUSE SALAD add to any order

ONLY \$5.00 ✂

Valid at both locations. Expires 4/30/10

Calzones
Breadstix &
Salads too!



VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

local checks accepted. 50¢ check & credit card surcharge

Déjà Vu, All Over Again

Well, it's déjà vu all over again: The Picador has closed and Gabe's is back. 2010 is shaping up to be the year of the renamed and reopened business, as "new and improved" establishments have resurrected spaces from The Industry (Blue Moose) to the Prairie Lights Java House (Times Club). Will the same be true for new/old Gabe's (whose owners, for the record, had nothing to do with the original)? Their grand opening weekend started Thursday, March 25, with an old-fashioned Thursday night dance party. But don't expect miracles overnight. If you like Austin Taft, you're all set! But even if the new/old Gabe's ("Zombie Gabe's?") has some growing pains, there are plenty of other places to see great shows this month.

One of the major themes this month is guitar bands, so if axe-wielding, shredding, fretboard-tapping and the like is your thing, you have plenty of options. First among them is Akron, Ohio's own Black Keys, the blues-rock duo who is playing the IMU on the 8th. I still remember the first Black Keys song I heard—it was "10 a.m. Automatic"—and just thinking, "Jesus, these guys are for real." And they are. An ambitious and audacious kind of band, simultaneously purists and forward-thinking, the Keys covered the Beatles on their debut album, and then, some eight years later, made a hip hop record with Mos Def called *Blakroc*. In between they've managed to release some of the best guitar rock this decade, like 2004's *Rubber Factory* and 2008's *Attack and Release*.

Sometime in 2007, Dan Auerbach, guitarist and singer for the Black Keys, got his hands on a demo tape from a new band. He liked it so much he got them signed to a record label and recorded their debut album. The band? Radio Moscow. The relevance? They'll be in town

on the 23rd at the Yacht Club. And if Dan from the Black Keys likes it, it's probably good enough for you. This is future-Guitar Hero kind of music, with epic shredding at every turn, all on a foundation of blues, rock, metal and psych. Also on this tour is the Brooklyn band Naam, who I was turned on to a few months ago by a friend. Their self-titled debut is a perplexing but rewarding affair, a weird blend of doom, sludge and sounds of the Far East. It opens with a 16-minute jam, followed by a two-minute drum solo, and just when you

obviously, you'll want to be there.

Antlers, whose 2009 album *Hospice* has received almost universally great reviews, will be playing the Blue Moose on the 21st. They're not really a guitar band, because their music uses a lot of tinkling things, like pianos, but that's not to say it's soft. It's indie rock, and it's good. I think their album is cinematic, lush and kind of spooky, but also really driving at times. On the local guitar front, retro-rockers HOTT will be playing Public Space ONE on the 10th, and, yet again, I'll be out of town an unable to see them. According to our own Kent Williams, though,



Photo by Federica Silva

If you're making an all-time list of craziest live bands in the world, Tel Aviv's Monotix has to be near the top.

they're the best new band in Iowa City. If your preferred style of guitar is acoustic, you are also in luck this month, as Deer Tick, who I've praised several times in this column,

will be back at the Mill with Shame Train on the 10th.

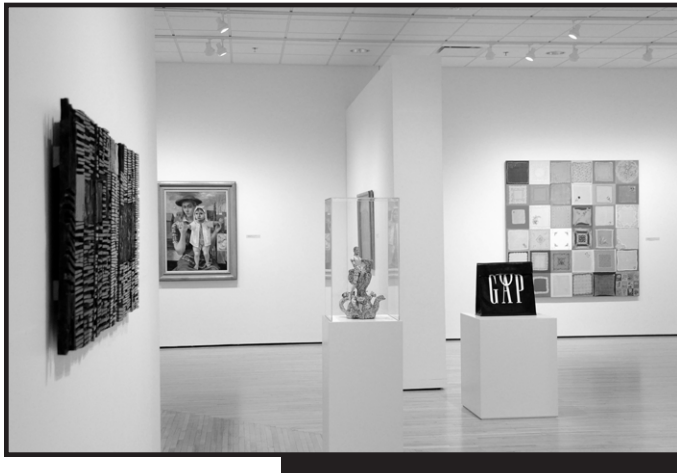
Finally, In the entire history of this column, I don't think I've ever written about shows happening out of town, but this month I would be remiss to not mention two bands I think are absolutely fantastic, in that kinda-grimy, kinda-girly pop-music way that is all the rage right now. The first is Sweden's Love is All, whose 2006 record *Nine Times That Same Song* is a modern masterpiece, filled with shouting, wailing saxophones, and songs about sex and love (what else?). They play the Vaudeville Mews in Des Moines on the 8th. And the second band is Dum Dum Girls, whose album *I Will Be* came out March 30. They play the Mews on the 12th. **IV**

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.

>> UIMA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

dinary student employees who write our press releases, stories and design our publications. Other incredible student assistants research museum collections, and one graduate assistant curated the beautiful print exhibition, "In the Footsteps of Masters: The Evolution of the Reproductive Print" at the Figue Art Museum. Throughout the museum's disruption, relocation and reinvention, museum donors and patrons remained steadfast—and without them none of the museum's efforts to bring art to the public would be possible.

Yet, despite all of these astonishing efforts,



no plans are forthcoming on when or where a new museum will be. UI President Sally Mason has publicly stated that there will be a new museum and is to be applauded for her commitment, but at the time of this writing, the university has not announced a timetable. An Envisioning Committee was convened to "imagine" what a new university museum could be—and produced a broad-brush report emphasizing the essential educational mission of the museum that must serve two publics—the campus as well as the broader community comprised of the state and beyond. Historically, the museum was the center piece of the visual art scene in Iowa City and the region. It supported the art activities of the various galleries as well as bringing artists and exhibitions to the attention of the community. It is important that the museum resume its physical status in order to provide the foundation for the arts in our area.

The UIMA is in need of a champion. A search is underway for a permanent direc-

tor for the museum—and hopes are high that this individual will be able to successfully fund raise for the new building. In addition, he or she must possess the vision to create a truly world-class facility equal to the marvelous collection. But the new director won't be able to act alone. The vigorous public debate and discussion over the location of Hancher and Voxman-Clapp evidences the passion our community has for the arts. While there are practical reasons why the UIMA was not included in this discussion, we are in need of tangible plans for a new museum now—even if its actualization is years away.

I am proud to have been the interim director during this difficult time. My nearly 19 years of experience at the UI, expertise as both an art historian and lawyer, as well as my academic teaching in the fields of art law and museum studies made possible my leading the transformation of the UIMA from a place-specific entity to its present emergency-imposed situation. The UIMA has accomplished much in the last two years. The support of volunteers and donors has been and will continue to be crucial to the museum's success.

The museum staff will continue to create amazing exhibitions, dynamic programs and stimulating artistic experiences. But the museum needs to move forward and once again have a permanent building to display its extraordinary collection, present cutting-edge exhibitions, and assume the flagship stature necessary to truly support and foster the visual arts in Eastern Iowa. As my term comes to a close, I would like to encourage public support for the concrete planning necessary to make a new museum a reality. **iv**

Pamela White is interim director of The University of Iowa Museum of Art. She received her J.D. from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and her Ph.D. in art history from the University of Kansas.

FREE DELIVERY
(319) 351-9529

**** DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS ****

THE MILL
EST. 1962
Entertainment **7** nights a week

UPCOMING SHOWS

APR 10 } DEER TICK
APR 16 } KEVIN GORDON
APR 17 } CATFISH KEITH
APR 18 } CAPTURED! BY ROBOTS
APR 21 } INFAMOUS STRINGDUSTERS
APR 23 } SARAH CRAM & THE DERELICTS

MENU & SCHEDULE ONLINE
www.icmill.com
120 E BURLINGTON

Englert

MAR 31 BOOKER T with JJ Grey
APR 1 PUBLIC ENEMY PANEL
APR 1 LES DAMES BURLESQUE
APR 2 DAVE ZOLLO & FRIENDS
APR 3 GREG BROWN
APR 4 ARABESQUE
APR 11 CHICK COREA
APR 13 LOUD & RICH:
LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III
& RICHARD THOMPSON
APR 18 WALL STREET
MAY 7 JOE BONAMASSA
MAY 9 THE PRINCESS BRIDE
MAY 16 REVENGE OF THE NERDS
MAY 23 RAISING ARIZONA
MAY 30 A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM



= M.C. Ginsberg Sunday Night Pictures

CALL 319.688.2653 . **CLICK** www.englert.org
VISIT 221 East Washington St, Iowa City
CONNECT facebook . twitter.com/englert



Idris Goodwin

Break Beat Poems

SGE Records

idrisgoodwin.blogspot.com

Back in the day—1979—Hawkeye basketball star Ronnie Lester was a hip hop ambassador. Ronnie took his boom box everywhere, playing “Rapper’s Delight” by The Sugarhill Gang nonstop. It was, to Iowa ears, something strange and alien, and yet irresistible. Idris

Goodwin also has the one thing you can’t fake in hip hop—a voice that makes you want to catch his flow.

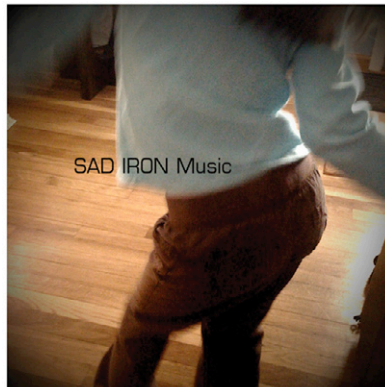
Goodwin’s track “Isiah Thomas Camp” took me back to that seminal B-Ball/hip hop connection. It’s my favorite sort of rhyme—one that tells a story. Idris reminisces about going to a basketball camp run by Isiah Thomas of the legendary 1988-89 Detroit Pistons. He recaps the events of the playoffs—“Boys in Red & Blue/World Class Wrecking Crew/elbows reaching in/eye-gouging bone breakers/made to the finals game 7 with the Lakers”—and ties it into his own, more modest, basketball skills. “I let the rock go now I’m a rhyme sayer,” he says, as he tells the story of the dashed hopes and eventual triumph of the Pistons in a few deft verses.

Idris’ rhymes put him in the backpack “conscious” rap camp, but I’m impressed by how he threads the needle between wordplay for its own sake and overly earnest “positive” rhymes. “Make No Mistake” uses repetition of “Give” and “Take” as a narrative trick—“Give a damn, Give thanks, Give a round of

applause, give up the glory, give praise, give the bleeding some gauze.” It’s clever, but like Professor Frink, he makes you laugh, and he makes you think.

Goodwin’s beats (produced by Anomaly, Lee Chest and Shotgun Start) deserve attention separate from his flows, drawing influences from electronica as well as hip hop and R&B beatmakers. “Slice” rocks raw sawtooth waves and 8-bit synth stabs, while “Burn Somethin’” makes something sweet from what sounds like the horns and strings soundtrack from a Lifetime Movie. The most sample-oriented track, “Madness,” bites a crazy-ass bit of Klezmer clarinet, turning it paradoxically into a laid-back, head-nodding beat, backing offhandedly polysyllabic shenanigans: “Insomniac Brainiac/Rambling Kerouac [...] Sometimes it feels like/Lunatic liberties/battling bigotries/scream at the big TV/distracted lollygagging, fell off the paddywagon...”

Idris Goodwin also has the one thing you can’t fake in hip hop—a voice that makes you want to catch his flow. With his righteous beats and elliptically clever rhyming, it makes this album something special—three points, nothing but net.



Sad Iron Music

Sad Iron Music

Self Released

www.sadironmusic.com

Sad Iron Music is the musical persona of Jason Lewis, originally from West Virginia, but living now in Iowa City and attending the Iowa Writers’ Workshop. He was in the alt-country band Star City that a few years back achieved some prominence, accompanied, unfortunately, by little financial success. After turning to writing of the quieter, literary sort, Lewis thought he was done with the music

business. Sad Iron Music is what snuck up on him while he was making other plans.

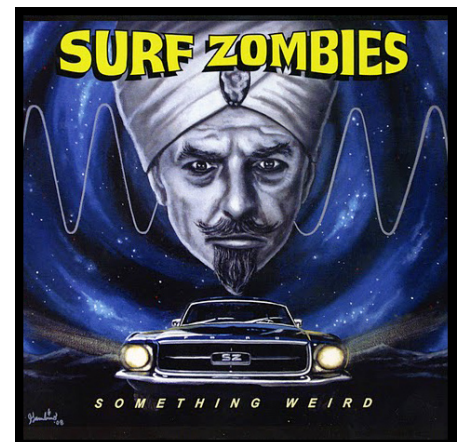
Sad Iron Music isn’t country music, exactly, or rather it’s what country music should be—exploring the folk music idioms codified in country to make listeners feel something genuine. Lewis’ songs lack the bathetic pandering to sentiment in which commercial country

Sad Iron Music isn’t country music, exactly, or rather it’s what country music should be

wallows. On “My Waterloo,” the Napoleonic metaphor is employed in so offhand a way to drain it of drama, and in the end the sound of the words is more important

than the historical reference. Elliptical lines like “is it true you can spin your arms, spin ‘em round like a Tilt A Whirl?” defy objective interpretation, yet the emotion of the song—a yearning that defies direct description—comes through loud and clear.

The up-tempo “Outta My Heart,” driven by layers of fuzz guitars, is a little more direct lyrically. But still has its wry lines, like “I don’t know if I can make this make sense without a little wine.” The close vocal harmonies and major chords are straight out of the country canon, but Lewis makes this break-up song fresh and exciting. And that’s Sad Iron Music’s central appeal—doing things that have been done a million times before, but making them compelling and new.



Surf Zombies

Something Weird

Self Released

www.myspace.com/thesurfzombies

Being of a ‘certain age,’ and having been a kid in 1960s California, surf music is totemic

to me. From listening to my uncle's Beach Boys records on a blonde-tolex-covered suitcase record player, to hearing "Wipeout" played by every garage band on my walk home from Booksin Elementary in San Jose, surf music is a part of me, like the sand that stays in your Chuck Taylors after a trip to the beach, no matter how much you shake them out. Listening to "Surf Zombies" brings it all back.

It helps that this is simple, elemental rock & roll, from back when you plugged your Fender Guitar directly into your Fender Amplifier, and only the singer got a microphone. Simplicity and adherence to the conventions of the genre can either produce

Surf music is a part of me, like the sand that stays in your Chuck Taylors after a trip to the beach, no matter how much you shake them out.

monotony or brilliant economy of means. *Something Weird* manages to stay fresh, song to song, without any pretense to innovation. The title track is a case in point, veering between loud and soft passages anchored around on a minor chord progression and tasty finger-picked rhythm guitar. The guitar solo in the last 40 seconds of the song is nearly perfect, starting with a low buzz, turning into atonal harmonics before morphing into perfectly whammy-bar bent wails.

Some of the tracks, like "Don't Let The Admiral Out" are more reminiscent of those awful Annette Funicello movies—you know, the ones where Buddy Hacket runs the Surf Shack and Stevie Wonder shows up out of nowhere to play harmonica?—but I'm willing to forgive them the occasional lapse into corny whimsy as long as they return to their core competencies. "Candy Cigarettes," for instance is a sweet little detour into what sounds like French Nouvelle Vague soundtrack music. On "Alien Eyes," the Surf Zombies retool the soaring Fender melodicism of Tornado's "Telstar" and make it their own. These guys played their first gig opening for the king of Surf Guitar, Dick Dale, and they throw in the occasional Dale-esque arabesque burner. But what makes these guys great is that they're keeping the faith without repeating the same damn prayers.

Kent Williams is an optimist who loves life, sport, and hates lies. He is Little Village's arts editor.

>> SPRING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Hollow Park in nearly four months. Someone driving by might have mistaken us for a very casually dressed team of forensic investigators as we walked 10 abreast the entire length of the field dutifully scanning the ground while pausing occasionally to delicately scoop things into plastic sandwich bags.

We weren't hunting for clues though, only the many well-preserved and now thawed-out piles of dog poop left behind over the course of the winter—buried out of sight and out of mind under the snow by people who rudely ignored the fact that while snow may be an effective alternative to personal responsibility, it doesn't last forever. Not around here anyway.

After our game, while washing down ibuprofen with water from the garden hose at one

their grill was only just barely bigger than the frisbee we had just tossed around.

player's nearby house, the subject of a post-game meal came up and various cheeseburger options were discussed. The merits of one establishment were weighed against those of another until the smartest person there simply said "Why go anyplace at all? We should just grill *here*."

And so we did. And even though their grill was only just barely bigger than the Frisbee we had just tossed around—I think it came attached to a keychain—and there were eight of us looking to eat, we cooked in shifts and made it work and we had a far better time and far better burgers grilling outside for the first time all year than we would have had we gone downtown and eaten indoors and not spent that time together preparing our own meals.

An impromptu, spur of the moment BBQ like that is just one of the many treats that you can find buried deep in the Easter basket of an Iowa City springtime. I expect that we're going to keep digging through it until every last morsel is devoured, as we build up our strength and whet our appetites for the arrival of summer just a few short months from now. **lv**

Just like the man who answered "because it feels so good when I stop" when asked why he was beating his head against the wall, Yale Cohn believes that spring is the reason we all suffer through Iowa winters because, really, is there anything that feels better or is more beautiful than Iowa City in the springtime?




community roots

NEW PIONEER food co-op

Iowa City & Coralville
www.newpi.coop

LOCAL ORGANIC FARMER ANDY DUNHAM
OF GRINNELL HERITAGE FARM



whitedog

Since 1975

**Saab Volvo
Subaru**
& other imports

Repair: 319.337.4616
Sales: 319.337.5283

424 Highland Court, Iowa City

www.whitedogauto.com

ART/EXHIBITS

African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa

55 12th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids

www.blackiowa.org

No Roads Lead to Buxton, thru May 2 • Endless Possibilities, ongoing

AKAR

257 E. Iowa Ave. Iowa City

www.akardesign.com

Yunomi Invitational, opens Apr. 9

Brucemore

2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids

www.brucemore.org

The View from the Back Stairs, Apr. 10, 17 & 24

BS Gallery

220 W. Benton St.

www.thebsgallery.com

Nathan Haenlein & Lori Gilbert, opens Apr. 2

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

410 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids

www.cрма.org

Grant Wood Studio and Visitor Center, Guided tours of Grant Wood's home and studio, Saturdays & Sundays, hourly 12-4pm

Art Bites "A Woman in a Man's World", Apr. 7 • Grant Wood Studio reopens, Apr. 10 • Drawn to Drawing, closes, Apr. 18 • SmArt Saturday...Get Smart About Art!, May. 1 • Less is More, ongoing • Norman Rockwell: Fact & Fiction, ongoing • Malvina Hoffman, ongoing • Mauricio Lasansky, ongoing • Art in Roman Life, ongoing • Grant Wood: In Focus, ongoing

The Chait Galleries Downtown

218 E Washington St., Iowa City

www.thegalleriesdowntown.com

Abstract Paintings, thru Feb. 26

CSPS/Legion Arts

1103 Third St SE, Cedar Rapids

www.legionarts.org

Selected Works, thru Apr. 11 • Slipstream, opens Apr. 17

Dawn's Hide & Bead Away

220 E. Washington St., Iowa City

www.dawnsbeads.com

Christopher Roy, African Bead Art Reception, Apr. 9, 5pm

Faulconer Gallery

Grinnell College, 1108 Park St., Grinnell

www.grinnell.edu/fulconergallery

Hybrid Media, opens Apr. 9

Herbert Hoover Presidential Museum

West Branch

www.nps.gov/heho

National Junior Ranger Day, Apr. 24 • Iowa A to Z, ongoing

Hudson River Gallery

538 South Gilbert St., Iowa City

www.hudsonrivergallery.com

Keith Achepohl, thru Apr. 10

Iowa Artisans Gallery

207 E. Washington, Iowa City

www.iowa-artisans-gallery.com

Michael Roberts, April

Johnson County Historical Society

310 5th St., Coralville

www.jchsiowa.org

A Century of Adventure, 100 Years of Scouting, ongoing

Old Capitol Museum

Pentacrest, Iowa City

www.uiowa.edu/~oldcap

WorldCanvas, Latin America, Apr. 9, 5-7pm • The U of I Through the Lens of Fred W. Kent, ongoing • Mysteries in the Valley of the Sloths, ongoing

Public Space One

129 E. Washington St., Iowa City

publicspaceone.wordpress.com

Lindsey Beal, Reproductions, opens April 2 • Isaac Sullivan, Iconoclasm, opens April 2

University Museum of Art

www.uiowa.edu/uima

Check website for locations

Lady Pink, Apr. 21, 7:30pm • Kembrew McLeod and Deborah Whaley, Apr. 29, 7:30pm • Two Turntables and a Microphone, ongoing • UIMA@IMU, ongoing

UI School of Art

Studio Arts, 1375 Hwy 1 West

www.art.uiowa.edu

Check website for galleries and hours
SAAH ArtsFest 2010, April 30, 4-7pm

MUSIC

Blue Moose Tap House

211 Iowa Ave, Iowa City

www.bluemooseic.com

Daddy's Brother Band, Apr. 10, 730pm • Matthew Ryan, Apr. 13, 7pm • Motion City Soundtrack w. Fun, A Rocket to the Moon, Sing it Loud, Apr. 15, 5pm • The Right Now w. Grey Street, Apr. 16, 9pm • Danger is My Middle Name, Apr. 17, 5pm • Fat Free w. The Bean Dance Party, April 17, 10pm • Dead Larry w. Insectoid, Apr. 20, 9pm • The Antlers w. Phantogram, Apr. 21, 6pm • Monotonix, Apr. 22, 9pm • Brighton, MA w. Track a Tiger, Apr. 24, 9pm

• Mike Posner w. Big Sean & Heatbox, Apr. 29, 7pm
• Miles Neilsen w. Brother Trucker, Apr. 30, 9pm • HOTT, May 1, 9pm • The Envy Corps w. Mynabirds, Cowboy Indian Bear, It's True, May 2, 9pm

CSPS

1103 Third St SE, Cedar Rapids

www.legionarts.org

Zemog, El GalloBueno, Apr. 9, 8pm • Bitch, Apr. 10, 8pm • April Verch, Apr. 14, 8pm • Baby Dee, Apr. 17, 8pm • Rahim Alhaj, Apr. 18, 7pm • Jimmy LaFave w. Joel Rafael, Apr. 22, 8pm • John McCutcheon, Apr. 25, 7pm • The Claire Lynch Band, Apr. 29, 8pm • Sonos, May 1, 8pm

Englert

221 E. Washington St., Iowa City

www.englert.org

Gathe Raho, Apr. 10, 7pm • Chick Corea, Apr. 11, 730pm • Loud & Rich, Apr. 13, 8pm

Gabe's

330 E. Washington St., Iowa City

www.iowacitygabes.com

All shows at 9pm unless otherwise noted

Cornmeal w. Deadman Flats, Apr. 9 • Johnny On Point, Apr. 10 • Austin Taft Soundtrack w. Wiitala Brothers, Nebula Was, Apr. 15 • Family Groove Company, Apr. 16 • Earn/Wax Blood/Infinite Body/Cocoon, Apr. 17 • Tim Stop Component w. Unknown Component, Apr. 22 • The Sound Thoughts w. Final Alibi, Geronimo, Midwest Trend Kill, Apr. 23 • Raw Mojo w. Chew Toy, The Roadless, Apr. 24 • That 1 Guy w. Five in Hand, Apr. 25 • Mason Reed w. Alan Sweet, Jarrod Gorbelt, Apr. 28 • Empires w. Mr. Gnome, Apr. 29 • Deadman Flats, Apr. 30

Hancher Auditorium

www.hancher.uiowa.edu

See website for temporary locations

Interpreti Veneziani, Apr. 10

The Mill

120 E. Burlington St., Iowa City

www.icmill.com

Shows at 9pm unless otherwise noted

Study Hall, the game, Sundays, 9pm-Midnight
Open Mic with J. Knight, Mondays, 8pm, call 338-6713 to sign up

Tuesday Night Social Club, Tuesdays

Mission Creek Hangover Social Club, Apr. 6 • The Half Hearts w. Oh! Kuso, Jettison Never, Apr. 7 • Deer Tick w. Those Darlins, Shame Train, Apr. 10 • Solid Attitude, Useless Children, Larry Sievers, Sister Midnight, Apr. 13 • Burlington Street Bluegrass Band, Apr. 14, 7pm • Collectible Boys, Songbird Beth-Ann, Diva Kai, Matt Skinner, Apr. 15 • Kevin Gordon, Apr. 16 • Catfish Keith, Apr. 17, 8pm • Captured! By Robots, Apr. 18 • Snow Demon, Superchief, Droids Attack, Apr. 20 • Infamous Stringdusters, Apr. 21 • University of Iowa Jazz Performance, Apr. 22, 8pm • Sarah Cram & The Derelicts w. Adobanga & Family Van, Apr. 23 • Sad Iron Music w. The Parlour Suite, Apr. 24 • Pee Wee Moore & TBA, Apr. 27 • Burlington St. Bluegrass



Legion Arts/CSPS
Selected Works, thru Apr. 11
Slipstream, Apr. 17-May 23
1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids
www.legionarts.org

What art issue would be complete without mentioning some local lovelies and visiting visionaries? CSPS continues to host noteworthy exhibits in its gallery space, this month featuring the following Eastern Iowa artists through April 11: John Beckelman, Jane Gilmor with Rick Edleman, Jamie Elizabeth Hudrlik, Thomas C. Jackson, Anthony Plaut, Dan Schuster and David Van Allen. New

Mexico artist William Stewart also shares the space with his The Taos Paintings, a series of landscapes that don't have to live only in Iowans' daydreams.

April 17th brings another nature-inspired artist to CSPS's gallery space. Louisiana's Brian Guidry is creating this installation, Slipstream, from items collected from the Cedar River, which he will then paint with a color sampled from the environment and arrange them in the space. His work's themes include issues of environment, technology and the manipulation of nature. The installation is a part of his Visual Arts Network residency here in Iowa. Visit BrianGuidry.com to see online samples of his work.

Band, Apr. 28, 7pm • Elsinore w. Chrash, Apr. 29 •
 Bad Fathers w. Andy Frasco, May 1 • David Davis
 Bluegrass Band, May 2, 1pm

Orchestra Iowa

www.orchestraiowa.org

Check website for locations

Queen: A Rock and Symphonic Spectacular, US
 Cellular Center, Apr. 10, 8pm • Signature Sounds,
 Englert Theatre, Apr. 18, 2pm • Signature Sounds,
 Sinclair Auditorium, Apr. 22, 8pm

Public Space One

129 E. Washington St., Iowa City

publicspaceone.wordpress.com

Hott, w. TBA, Apr. 10, 9pm • Idris Goodman:
 Breakbeat Poetics, Apr. 15, 730pm • Old Style
 Rock, May 1, 8pm

Riverfest Music Festival

Hubbard Park, Iowa City

www.uiowa.edu/riverfest

Glibe, Apr. 23, 5pm • Girl Repellent, Apr. 23,
 6:30pm • River and the Tributaries, Apr. 23, 7:45pm
 • Motion City Soundtrack, Apr. 23, 8pm • Joe Uker,
 Apr. 24, 12:15pm • Scott Cochran and Flannel, Apr.
 23, 1pm • Unknown Component, Apr. 24, 2pm • Slip
 Silo, Apr. 24, 5:30pm • Dead Larry, Apr. 24, 6:30pm
 • The Sonny Humbucker Band, Apr. 24, 7:30pm •
 Maxilla Blue, Apr. 24, 8pm • UI Breakers, Apr. 24,
 9pm

Riverside Casino

3184 Highway 22, Riverside

www.riversidecasinoandresort.com

Keb Mo, Apr. 10, 8pm

University of Iowa Music Dept.

www.uiowa.edu/~music

See website for locations/student performances
 Performances at 730pm unless otherwise noted
 Guest Piano Recital: Piet Swerts, Apr. 6 • Amy
 Schendel, Apr. 8 • Music of Belgian Composer Piet
 Swerts, Apr. 8 • Demondrae Thurmon, euphonium,
 Apr. 9 • Interpreti Veneziani, Apr. 10 • "An Evening
 with Noel Coward," by Gary Briggie, Apr. 12 • Maia

**Be
 Famous.**
 (kinda)

little village

is looking for
 writers.

Editor@LittleVillageMag.com



★ Live Bluegrass Music ★
DAVID DAVIS
and the Warrior River Boys

Sunday, May 2nd - The Mill, 2 pm

**Please join us for an afternoon of
 Bluegrass from an Alabama legend!**

\$10 Admission

daviddavisandwrb.com

gls strings



Quartet, Apr. 15 • Kenneth Tse, saxophone; Jason Sifford, piano, Apr. 19 • Nicholas Walker, bass; Gabriel Shuford, piano, Apr. 23

White Lightning Warehouse

www.myspace.com/whitelightinginc

MLU, Apr. 11, 9pm • Daughters of the Sun w. TBA, Apr. 16, 9pm • Centipede Eest w. TBA, Apr. 26, 9pm • Tiger Hatchery, Lechuguillas, Locals, May 2, 10pm

Yacht Club

13 S. Linn St., Iowa City

www.iowacityyachtclub.org

Shows at 9pm unless otherwise noted

Black Keys Post Show Party, Apr. 8 • Two Many Banjos + Aqua Marine Dream Machine + The Van Burens, Apr. 9 • Clean Livin' + Ben Ripani Music Co. + Emmett Sheehan, Apr. 10 • Uniphonics + Funkotron + Joe Booth, Apr. 16 • A Grateful Evening with Cosmic Railroad + The Workshop, Apr. 17 • Radio Moscow + Naam + Brutus and the Psychedelic Explosions, Apr. 23 • Public Property, Apr. 24 • Sublime Tribute with Second Hand Smoke, Apr. 30

THEATER/DANCE/PERFORMANCE

Hancher Auditorium

www.hancher.uiowa.edu

See website for temporary locations

Luna Negra, Dance Theater, Apr. 16, 7:30pm

The Mill

120 E. Burlington St., Iowa City

www.icmill.com

G Spot Hair Design Fashion Show, Apr. 9, 7pm

No Shame Theatre

Theatre B, UI Theatre Building

www.noshame.org

Fridays in April, 11pm

Penguin's Comedy Club

Clarion Hotel, 525 33rd Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids

www.penguinscomedyclub.com

Check website for showtimes

Jimmy Pardo, Chris Smith, Apr. 9-10 • Tim Sullivan, Apr. 15 • Todd Yohn, Matt Holt, Apr. 16-17 • Tony Boswell, Brian Hicks, Apr. 23-24 • TC Hatter, Richard Reese, Apr. 30-May 1

Riverfest Music Festival

Hubbard Park, Iowa City

www.uiowa.edu/riverfest

Paperback Rhino improv troupe, Apr. 24, 4pm • Brian Aldridge and Jim Flannigan, Apr. 24, 11:30pm

Riverside Theatre

213 N. Gilbert St., Iowa City

www.riversidetheatre.org

Check website for showtimes

Mary's Wedding, Apr. 1-18

Summit Restaurant Comedy Night

10 S. Clinton St., Iowa City

www.thesummitrestaurantandbar.com

Shows start at 9:30pm

Steve Sabo, Kate Brindle, Apr. 7 • Ray Pennetti, Darrin Meyer, Apr. 14 • Steven Moore, Tim Sullivan, Apr. 21 • Sparkmann, Tony Wendland, Apr. 28

Theatre Cedar Rapids

4444 1st Ave NE, Cedar Rapids

www.theatreocr.org

Proof, Apr. 9-18

The University of Iowa Dance

Space/Place Theatre, North Hall

www.uiowa.edu/artsiowa

Graduate Thesis Dance Concert, Apr. 8-10 & 22-24 8pm

The University of Iowa Theatre

Main Theatre Building, UI Campus

www.uiowa.edu/~theatre

Check website for showtimes

Voice of Tomorrow, Apr. 9-10 8pm • Madwoman of Chaillot, Apr. 16-18 & 21-25

WORDS

The Mill

120 E. Burlington St., Iowa City

www.icmill.com

Talk Art - Writers' Workshop, Apr. 8 & 14, 9pm

Prairie Lights

15 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City

www.prairielightsbooks.com

All "Live from Prairie Lights" readings at 7pm unless noted

David Shields, Apr. 7, • M. Thomas Gammarino, Apr. 12, • Camille Dungy, Apr. 16, • Peter Nelson, Apr. 19, • Edward Hirsch, Apr. 20, • Anche Min, Apr. 26, • Mary Kay Kushner, Apr. 28

University of Iowa Museum of Natural History

Macbride Hall, UI Campus

www.uiowa.edu/~nathist

Nelson Ting, Apr. 13 • Liz Christiansen & Brenda Nations, Apr. 22, 7pm

CINEMA

Alexis Park Inn

1165 S. Riverside Drive, Iowa City

www.alexisparkinn.com

Aviaton Movie Night, Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27, 6:30pm

Bijou Theatre

IMU, UI Campus, Iowa City

www.uiowa.edu/~bijou/

The Horse Boy, The Messenger, Apr. 1-8 • The White Ribbon, Mary and Max, Apr. 9-15 • ICDOCS, Apr. 15-17 • The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, The Mirror, Apr. 16-22 • Old Boy, The Secret of Kells, Apr. 23-30

Englert Theatre

221 E. Washington St., Iowa City

www.englert.org

Wall Street, Apr. 18, 9pm

Latin American Studies Program

Schaeffer Hall, Room 140

UI Campus, Iowa City

The Wall, Apr. 13, 7pm

University of Iowa Museum of Natural History

Macbride Hall, UI Campus

www.uiowa.edu/~nathist

King Corn, Big River, Apr. 4, 2pm • No Impact Man, Kilowatt Ours, Apr. 11, 2pm • Mad City Chickens, Apr. 25, 2pm

KIDS

Iowa City Public Library

123 South Linn St. Iowa City

www.icpl.org

Storytime at 10:30 Mon-Sat, 2pm Sun

University of Iowa Museum of Natural History

Macbride Hall, UI Campus

www.uiowa.edu/~nathist

The Fossil Guy, "Exposing Ancient Anatomy: A Look Inside Prehistoric Beasts," Apr. 10, 2pm • The Fossil Guy, "The World of Laura the Duck-billed Dinosaur," Apr. 17 • Storytime Explorers: Trees, Apr. 18, 3pm

MISC

Critical Hit Games

89 Second St, Coralville

www.criticalhitgames.net

Board Game Night, Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28

PATV

206 Lafayette St., Iowa City

www.patv.tv

The Smartest Iowan game show Wednesdays, contestants email smartestiowan@gmail.com

PATV Board Meeting, Apr. 15, 7pm

Curses, Foiled Again

- Police said Eugene Edward Palmer, 40, tried to rob a bank in Brunswick, Fla., but gave up after yanking futilely on the locked door, failing to realize the branch was drive-through only. Police Lt. Leon Tucker said Palmer was armed and wore a ski mask during the attempted robbery but took off the mask in frustration when leaving, giving witnesses a good look at his face. (Jacksonville's *Florida Times-Union*)
- After a car dealership reported a pickup was stolen, police in Lincoln, Neb., arrested a 39-year-old man who had taken the vehicle for a test drive earlier, having provided the dealership with photo identification and his address. After finding the truck parked near the man's home and arresting him, police said the suspect made a copy of the truck's key during the test drive and used it that night to steal the truck. (*Lincoln Journal Star*)

Nature's Bounty

The Utah Legislature approved a measure to allow citizens to collect rainwater for their personal use. The state has prohibited rainwater harvesting for decades. The bill requires Utahns collecting rainwater to register with the state and limits the collection to 2,500 gallons, which must be stored in an approved, standardized container. (*Associated Press*)

Wish Come True

A Florida judge sentenced Sylvester Jiles, 25, to 15 years in prison for violating his probation by trying to climb a 12-foot fence to break into the Brevard County jail. Jiles, who accepted a plea agreement on manslaughter charges before his release, had begged jail officials to take him back into custody because he feared retaliation from the victim's family. (*Associated Press*)

Emergency Parking

After the driver of a fire truck responding to an accident in Detroit parked the vehicle on a set of train tracks, a Chicago-bound passenger train crushed the vehicle, according to witnesses, like an aluminum can. The driver of the fire truck was injured when he ran back and tried to get the rig off the tracks after someone yelled, "Train coming!" No one on the train was seriously injured. "It was a \$600,000 truck," executive fire commissioner James Mack said, adding the incident was "not acceptable" and that "we'll do some training." (*The Detroit News*)

More Woes

Scientists warned that methane gas bubbling up from a long-frozen seabed north of

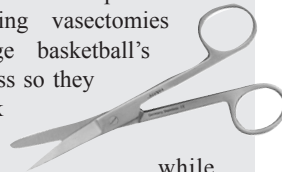
Siberia "could trigger abrupt climate warming." Their study, reported in the *Journal Science*, said about 8 million tons of methane a year—equivalent to the annual total previously estimated from all of the world's oceans—were seeping from vast stores long trapped under permafrost. "Subsea permafrost is losing its ability to be an impermeable cap," said Natalia Shakhova of the University of Fairbanks, Alaska, a co-leader of the study. She noted current methane concentrations in the Arctic are the highest in 400,000 years.

Downplaying the threat, Martin Heimann of Germany's Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, said the Arctic emissions have been occurring since the last Ice Age 10,000 years ago. He insisted that the release of 8 million tons of methane a year was "negligible," compared with current global emissions of about 440 million tons. (*Reuters*)

How Expanded Playoffs Thin the Herd

Urologists reported a spike in men scheduling vasectomies during college basketball's March Madness so they can avoid work

and chores to watch games while recovering. The American Medical News reported that some clinics have started giving vasectomy patients recovery kits that include pizza coupons and sports magazines. "We suggest the guys ice it and stay off their feet for 24 hours. Some will take it a little farther than that," said Dr. Bill Utz, whose clinic in Edina, Minn., gives patients a brochure showing a man recovering in a recliner while his wife waits on him. (*St. Paul's Pioneer Press*)



Irony Illustrated

Authorities investigating the death of Anthony Rankin, 26, said he was shot at his Atlanta, Ga., home during an argument with his wife of five days, Arelisha Bridges, 45, who is a registered lobbyist for a group fighting domestic violence. (*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*)

Driven to Distraction

A two-vehicle crash in the Florida Keys was caused by a man driving from the passenger seat while the woman driver was shaving

her bikini area, according to state police. "She said she was meeting her boyfriend in Key West and wanted to be ready for the visit," Trooper Gary Dunick said after charging Megan Mariah Barnes, 37. After her 1995 Ford Thunderbird slammed into the back of a 2006 pickup truck on Cudjoe Key, Barnes drove another half-mile, then switched seats with her ex-husband, Charles Judy, who claimed he was driving. Burns on Judy's chest from the passenger-side airbag disproved their story. (*Key West Citizen*)

In the U.S., He'd Get a Bonus

A North Korean firing squad executed Pak Nam-gi, 77, the ruling Workers' Party's finance chief, after currency reforms he implemented damaged the country's already ailing economy. He was accused of being "a son of a bourgeois conspiring to infiltrate the ranks of revolutionaries to destroy the national economy," a South Korean news agency reported. The reform wiped out the savings of well-off North Koreans who had managed to save money earned from international trading and caused widespread hoarding and even starvation as food prices soared. (Britain's *The Guardian*)

Guilty by Proximity

Authorities in Glendale, Ariz., charged Gabriel Aguilera, 19, with murder after he drove a stolen car through the gates at Luke Air Force Base, apparently by mistake while fleeing from law enforcement. A security guard opened fire on the vehicle as it drove through the base, wounding Aguilera and killing his 16-year-old male passenger. "They were probably just trying to get away," said police Officer Karen Gerardo, who explained Aguilera was charged with murder because his passenger died during commission of a felony. (*The Arizona Republic*)

Enemy of the Drinking Class

Announcing that anyone caught selling, drinking or brewing alcohol in Sudan would receive 40 lashes, President Omar Hassan al-Bashir declared, "I don't care about the U.N. or human rights organizations." The president, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court to answer charges of war crimes, spoke while campaigning for reelection. (*Agence France-Presse*)

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

Do U.S. Leaders Perform Satanic Rituals at Bohemian Grove?

A friend recently told me about something called the Bohemian Grove where supposedly the leaders of our country meet annually to hold bizarre satanic rituals including burning things in front of a 40-foot statue of an owl. As proof she had me examine a dollar bill where in the corner there appears to be a tiny owl. She went on to explain that if you look at the U.S. Capitol and grounds it looks like an owl. For the piece de resistance she sent me links to videos on YouTube "proving" all this is true. What in the world is going on?

—Bill Leahy

The claim is that U.S. leaders hold bizarre satanic rituals, and the proof is that there's an owl on the dollar bill? Call me picky, but that doesn't strike me as ironclad logic. Nonetheless, this isn't a story somebody just made up. In fact, if you replace "satanic" with "sophomoric," you've got a reasonably accurate description of what evidently goes on. Yes, big shots have been known to participate. Yes, there are robes, candles, and incantations. Yes, featured prominently is a grisly rite in which a victim is brutally sacrificed, then rises from the dead . . . oh, wait, that's not the Bohemian Grove, that's Easter. Well, you know how easy it is to get these cults mixed up.

The secrecy surrounding the Bohemian Grove hasn't been what you would call impenetrable. Truth is, short of rigging up webcams in the toilet stalls, we've extracted virtually every fact of interest about this shadowy establishment. The basic setup is: old white guys drinking around a bonfire. Not doing much for you? Let's see if we can goose it up: old white guys drinking around a bonfire *plus costumes and mumbo jumbo*. Hmm, now it sounds like summer camp with the Shriners. One more time: *rich* old white guys drinking around a bonfire plus costumes

and mumbo jumbo *they don't want anybody to see*. Ah, now we've got the basis of a first-class conspiracy theory.

The Bohemian Club, a men's club for artists and journalists, was formed in San Francisco in 1872. The group first headed north to the redwood forest camp now known as Bohemian Grove in 1878. They liked it so much they bought a 160-acre piece in 1899; this has now grown into a 2,712-acre retreat with more than 100 swank semiprivate campgrounds.

The latest information I could find indicates the club has about 2,400 members, most of them well-heeled.

The club's

see where the timid might get the creeps.

As to the other claims:

The club is a cabal of the rich and powerful. True, or at least truish. A 1991 study of members found 13 percent were on the boards of major companies. Several U.S. presidents have been either members or guests, as have Supreme Court justices, California officials, Henry Kissinger, and other heavy hitters. Richard Nixon belonged but was caught on tape in 1971 saying, "The Bohemian Grove, which I attend from time to time . . . it is the most faggy goddamned thing you could ever imagine." Bill Clinton once said of the Grove, "That's where all those rich Republicans go up and stand naked against redwood trees, right?"

The club engages in drunken debauchery. We know they drink. And the Grove is near San Francisco. So I'm marking this one down as true too.

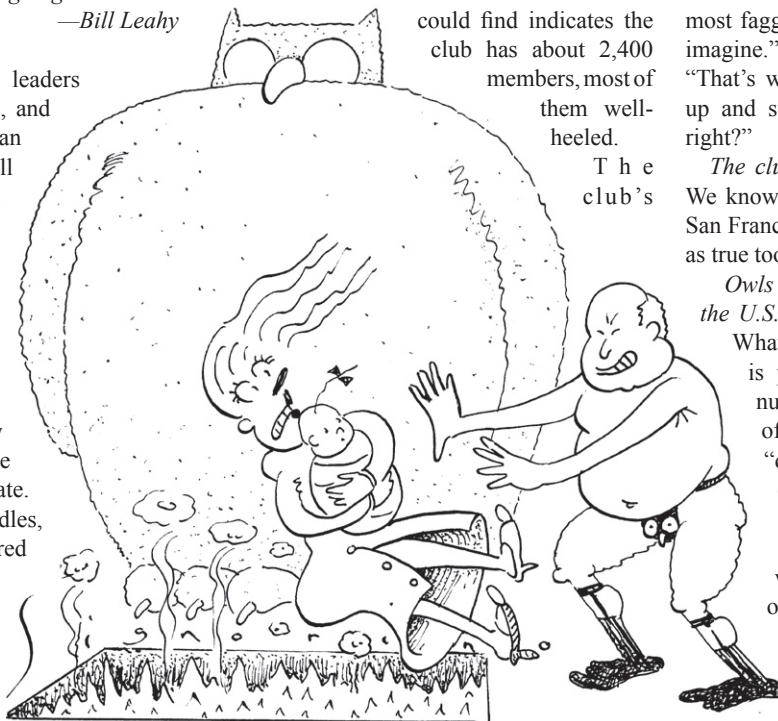
Owls hidden on the dollar bill and around the U.S. Capitol prove the club's influence.

What's supposedly a microscopic owl is perched on the scroll framing the numeral 1 in the upper right corner of the bill's obverse—google "dollar bill Bohemian Grove" for an enlarged view. The streets and paths surrounding the Capitol, meanwhile, form an arguably owl-like pattern when seen from above. Cynics point out that the grounds were designed by Frederick Law Olmsted in 1874, a scant two years after the club's founding.

But let's not get sidetracked. If you follow the news you know that any time the rich and powerful get together, chances are they'll be up to no good. And who knows, maybe the Bohemian Grove is one of the places where they hatch their nefarious schemes. But don't forget, to get any really serious dirty work done they have to fly back to D.C.

—CECIL ADAMS

Comments, questions? Take it up with Cecil on the Straight Dope Message Board, straightdope.com, or write him at the Chicago Reader, 11 E. Illinois, Chicago 60611. And now you can subscribe to the Straight Dope podcast—search for "straight dope" in the iTunes Store.



mascot is the owl, symbol of wisdom. Into frat-house theatrics from the start, members constructed the notorious 40-foot concrete owl and its accompanying shrine in the 1920s. This is the scene of an annual ceremony called the "Cremation of Care," where a "foul and pestilential demon" (apparently sometimes a human effigy) is exorcised with fire by "the avenging power of goodness and light." This was captured on video by an intrepid infiltrator; my assistant Una watched the footage on YouTube. Her review: "High on stilted symbolism, low on human sacrifice, and less threatening than the last time I saw Kiss in concert." However, once you realize those in attendance are largely Republicans, you can

ASTROLOGY FORECAST FOR APRIL 2010

FOR EVERYONE—Still on hold. April is yet another in a long string of months when events just simmer. Those in charge, those with responsibility, continue to issue mandates, based on the realities they see at their level. The rest of us continue to comply (I'm tempted to say scramble), and to protect our interests as best we may. At the same time, we all sense that we are crossing a threshold together into a new era. And although we are still dealing with the hard parts of change, we get a real sense of new and exciting possibilities. Still, it will remain clear to all, that a lot of tough choices and hard work still lie ahead.

♈ ARIES—Baby steps. You are involved in a complicated and rapidly changing situation. Events are affecting you more deeply than they used to and changing your perspective on life. Your mind is filling up with innovative and unusual possibilities. All this makes decision-making difficult. You should stick to tried and true principles even if it means you can only make a few small decisions at a time. Don't be distracted by non-essentials or give in to impatience, or frustration. Escape into an unconventional romantic involvement could bring a lot of complications.

♉ TAURUS—More options than most. Taurus might be in the same kind of situation that others find themselves in: tough, complicated, confusing and fast-changing. However, Taurus just seems to have more options. It's easier for you to make your voice heard. You have more room to maneuver. You are in greater harmony with the powers that be, too. Also, escape into tempting, romantic distractions is not recommended for others right now, but Taureans could find themselves involved in an unconventional relationship that leads to new and attractive possibilities. Wellness issues improve.

♊ GEMINI—Standoff. Orders from higher-ups conflict with everybody's expectations and inclinations. The authorities are mandating change. But everybody else is thinking it's business as usual. They like things the way they are—just fine. Be aware of the power you have to resolve the inevitable tensions, or to prevent unhelpful confrontations. Many are waiting for someone like you to put their thoughts into words. Choose your words carefully, though. Open conflict is a real possibility. Despite everything, rewarding new relationships and the renewal of old relationships, is a distinct possibility.

♋ CANCER—Realism. You are especially sensitive to the growing needs of those around you. You'll have to find a balance between what you want to give and what you can afford to give. Maybe the best thing is use your intuition and empathy to help others reconcile their expectations with the new reality. This is true on the home front as well. Those in charge can't afford to be flexible nowadays. But they can help clarify the options. Once past the initial shock, people will be surprised at the new possibilities.

♌ LEO—Reality check. Financial and personal limitations are an issue, again. Expectations might have outstripped reality. At the same time, people are pushing for new, innovative and expensive projects. The demands of higher-ups must also be met. Be as realistic, reasonable and charming as possible as you work through the complexities. Distant friends, relationships or well-informed colleagues might hold the key. Resist a tendency toward impatience, with yourself, with circumstances and with others. Channel unconventional romantic urges into safer, creative channels. Summer will bring significant relief from current limitations.

♍ VIRGO—Replay. For the next few months, Virgo will have to tolerate the return of certain burdens and limitations they thought had passed. You will find it especially difficult to make desired changes or to follow through on plans for expansion. Personal energies could be low. You will also have to sidestep quarrels and confrontations especially often. All this while changeable events are affecting your interests. The good news is that you are in basic harmony with the powers that be. A lot of things will just naturally go your way.

♎ LIBRA—Respite. Librans will get a leg up this month. You will certainly feel the pressures and understand the seriousness of events, but you'll find it comparatively easy to maneuver as needed. You'll also find it relatively easy to gain the understanding and cooperation of others and to attract the allies you need. You might also find yourself drawn into unconventional or experimental kinds of romantic situations or using your creative abilities in unusual ways. A tendency to fatigue that might have been slowing you down lately will ease up, for now.


♏ SCORPIO—Stirrings. You'll be very involved, and influential, on the fast-moving surface level of things. Others will respond to your charisma. However, you'll also have deeper, more important issues on your mind. You are partly responsible for making sure these issues are addressed properly. Your commitment to these issues will keep your mood serious and could easily lead to friction. Attractive but unconventional ideas might tempt you into unwise business decisions. Unconventional romantic involvements are possible, also. Don't let them lure you into unwise choices in other important areas of your life.

♐ SAGITTARIUS—Restlessness. Your current circumstances are getting a bit old. At the same time, unconventional and innovative ideas are pulling you in new directions. Events are loosening your ties to old, familiar surroundings. The unknown and mysterious beckon. However, a tight budget is putting a damper on your adventurous impulses and, truth to tell, something inside is holding you back. It's best to stand pat and figure some more stuff out, for now. Later this year, when clear, new trends emerge, you will be on better footing with more promising prospects.

♑ CAPRICORN—Keep a tight rein. Things will go more easily for awhile. Use this temporary easing to shore up your defenses. You must continue to lay down the law in many areas. Play your cards close to your chest, also, and deal firmly with the opposition. You will also have to curb the enthusiasm of others for appealing but unrealistic projects. Even so, if people will accept your guidance, and keep to the budget, you can achieve some pretty remarkable and innovative things. Opportunities abound, for the prudent, and the patient.

♒ AQUARIUS—Clearing. A difficult influence leaves your Sun sign in April. You should find that your moods are generally lighter, your spirit brighter and your health more resilient. It should now be easier to maintain emotional equilibrium. You should find this helpful as events slowly but surely maneuver you into a more active, public role in coming months. You'll still need to combat a tendency to brood unnecessarily and clear the occasional mental cobwebs so you can see the world more clearly. Higher-ups are more demanding and less flexible.

♓ PISCES—Be self-protective. Many positive things are happening for Pisces, planetarily. But another new influence requires caution. For the next four years, you might be more vulnerable than usual, emotionally and physically. You'll need to exert greater effort to maintain your well-being. Maybe you've depended on a thick skin to shield your ego, or protect you from disappointment, or ignored wellness issues because of your robust health or good luck. This new influence will find the chinks in your armor and teach you lessons you need to learn about true




PSYCHIC GALLERY

Psychic Readings • Tarot Cards • Palm Readings
~ Tells Past, Present, Future ~
Helps with Problems Natural & Unnatural

319 621-3662 | 357 E COLLEGE ST | DOWNTOWN IC

AVAILABLE
FOR PARTIES!



EAT WELL. DO GOOD.

Table to Table's
14th Annual Benefit Dinner
Thursday, April 29

\$50/plate

(a very delicious plate served up
by the area's best restaurants)

Featuring a Silent Auction of
Signed Hawkeye Memorabilia,
Local Art, and Much More!

Tickets available by calling 358-2767 or toll-free at 800-358-2767



www.table2table.org

Table to Table is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization
and charges no fee for our services.

The mission of Table to Table is to keep wholesome, edible food from going to waste by collecting it from donors and distributing to those in need through agencies that serve the hungry, homeless and at-risk populations.

Since we began in April of 1996, Table to Table volunteers have rescued and distributed over 6.5 million pounds of food.