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THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

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WE’RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER, EXCEPT WHEN WE’RE NOT.

OUR VERY WAY OF LIFE IS UNDER ATTACK, GENTLEMEN! IF THE ADMINISTRATION FAILS TO HEAP LARGESS ON CORPORATE AMERICA NOW—

THEN THE TEACHERS HAVE ALREADY WON!

YOU SAID IT!
Free the fans at half-time

In times of danger and panic, human beings are conditioned to automatically obey when a person with power and position promises protection. Frightened people will do anything—salute, fall in line, whatever—becoming slaves to slogans from authority figures. In dangerous times, when people suspend critical thinking, constitutional values tend to be ignored, and individual liberties are in jeopardy of being lost. That is the situation now in this terrorized country. If we are not careful to ask why, our freedoms will be taken away and we may never get them back.

The Iowa football fans at Kinnick Stadium want to be able to access goods and services outside the stadium at half-time. Of course! Free enterprise on Melrose Avenue offers more variety, better quality, lower prices and faster service than the monopoly inside the stadium. So far, 1,740 people have already signed a petition calling for open half-times, but university officials have ignored this request. Why?

Chuck Green, head of security, says that after the start of the game they have to send their staff around the stadium to watch the crowd, and that they don't have the manpower to do this and check fans back in after half-time. Yet, that is exactly the situation they allow just before the game when most of the crowd is already inside. The guards are still at the gates and the crowd inside is not being watched. Why is this situation being permitted before the game but not at half-time?

Green says there could be a bottleneck situation, requiring extra security. How many extra guards would this take? Why doesn't the university make the sacrifice and hire more security? They are spending a lot more on security lately with all the changes in the normal routine. Yet, when it comes to this point, they expect the fans to sacrifice their freedom to go out and come back in at half-time—for which there is obviously a great demand. Why don't they just ask the fans to sacrifice some time instead of their freedom? Americans are willing to help and make sacrifices these days, but we should not be asked to give up freedom.

Could the university really be doing this to make more money from concessions inside the stadium? (40 percent of sales!) Or perhaps, as some people think, their real motive is to shut down the alcohol scene around the stadium, which they've been wanting to do for years. But this is still a free country, and alcohol is legal. The university should not be taking advantage of the situation to further their own agenda. Security officials should remember they are public servants hired to protect us, not dictators telling us how to live our lives. If we let this kind of abuse of power continue, we will have to change the words of our national anthem to "Land of the secure and home of the safe." I think "free" and "brave" sound better.

Al Risk
Iowa City
A typical summer day inside Iowa City's Revolt Skateboard Shop. What an inferno that glorified closet of a skate shop can be—yet it's even hotter inside the adjacent indoor skate park. Every 10 minutes a couple skater kids come into the shop to rest, "cool off" (as if that were possible) and get pumped back up by watching some pro performing tricks in the latest skate video playing in the shop's 1993 VCR, a relic that likes to eat tapes occasionally. Yet the 15-year-olds, their brows glistening with sweat and their faces smudged with masonite ramp dust, never really complain.

Considering why so many skater kids have taken turns working at Revolt without pay boggles the mind at first, but the reason becomes apparent when you see them glow with pride at successfully landing a trick they have been working on for days and receiving the well-deserved recognition of their peers. There's satisfaction in seeing that they have found a place where they can be "cool" without using substances—a difficult task for anyone who is underage in a town where entertainment is so tailored toward beer-minded college students with plenty of money to burn.

William De Souza, a Paraguayan/Brazilian immigrant, first rented this warehouse in the summer of 2000 to realize his life-long dream of opening a skateboard shop. The owner of the building, at 1805 Stevens Drive, had been using it to store old office furniture and a hideous brown El Camino. Within a month, De Souza and his friends had built a few ramps, wired a Diskman to an amplifier and put up some lights. All was funded by an unlikely benefactor: an Iowa City doctor who De Souza had given rides to while he was working as a driver for Old Capitol Cab.

The usual kids (rompers, as they are called) keep streaming into the shop as the summer afternoon sun begins to show some mercy. Mostly ages 9 to 15, these "punks" lack the attitude many would stereotypically associate with skateboarders. They timidly buy candy bars with exact change, lend each other a buck or two when needed, and even watch the shop occasionally while De Souza drives to the Hy-Vee down the road to replenish the depleted Mountain Dew supply. Most of them have never dreamed of touching a penny of shop money and outrightly condemn the typically teen-age practice of shoplifting.

One might ask about the shop's name: "Revolt against what?" The answer might be revolt against the stereotype that skateboarding is a sport for alcoholic junkie hoodlums. In Iowa City, skateboarding seems to be an art for anyone who wants...
to see just what they can do with a toy consisting of a piece of wood and four wheels, but it has proven especially beneficial for kids who just want to be themselves. Today in Iowa City you can find more than a plastic skateboard at a supermarket or a generic board at a giant sports retailer. Revolt celebrated its first anniversary in September with a skateboardboarding contest that attracted over 40 participants and 70 spectators. The Hemp Cat, a small downtown business has helped to promote skateboarding (or, depending on who you talk to, cash in on it). A brand-new store dedicated solely to skateboarding, the Full Kit, opened downtown this summer. The city itself heeded the supplications of local skateboarders and built a temporary skatepark in the Mercer Park Aquatic Center parking lot—soon to be followed by a permanent facility in Terrell Mill Park. Iowa City’s skateboarding scene, though small, is very vibrant—yet, perhaps, still misunderstood by many. The only way to truly get a glimpse into this subculture is by enrolling in the Iowa City School of Skateboarding...

OLD SCHOOL
MARK PHILLIPS, a life-long Iowa City resident, was watching one of his 25 skate videos when I called him for this interview. His small stature and youthful Irish good looks have earned him the nickname The Leprechaun. Phillips has been skating since he was 13, when all an aspiring skateboarder could get hands on were monstrously wide boards with equally ridiculous, small-sized wheels to match. Despite his quiet manner, Phillips is an amazing skateboarder. He placed first in the advanced category at Revolt’s Cinco de Mayo skateboarding contest this past May. Phillips works as an electrical technician in Cedar Rapids.

MARK PHILLIPS, at age 12

AGE: 23
BEEN SKATING FOR: A decade
FAVORITE TRICK: “I don’t really think too consciously about tricks these days. I just kind of zip around and do whatever feels right ... But if there’s a big ledge and a bench at the bottom and a spiked pit and a Gila Monster growling at me, I’ll jump over it. My favorite trick to watch, as silly as it sounds, is the 360 kick flip, I can’t do them to save my life. I can maybe get one a day landed, but that’s my favorite trick to see people do.”
FAVORITE PRO: “Used to be Tony Hawk, or Matt Hensley, but nowadays I’m pretty much into the whole Black Label team. I mean, everybody on that team blows me away. I watched a lot of people on that team while growing up. I could watch that video three times a day and not get tired of it.” (In reference to the Label Kills 2001 video.)
HOBBIES: Working on cars, playing guitar, listening to music, collecting music, midget porn ... maybe not midget porn ...
WHEN HE GROWS UP HE HOPES TO: I always kind of wanted to run my own business; I like working on cars ... but we’ll just see what happens.
AVAILABLE? Yes.

Q&A
Eva: How much do you skateboard?
Mark: I’ve skated off and on over the years, but on average probably an hour a day—but nowadays, a bit more frequently.
Eva: Who do you skate with?
Mark: When I was a kid I skated with peers, people who went to high school with, since there weren’t a lot of college skaters at the time—maybe just a couple—but now it seems I mostly skate with a bunch of kids. The re a few peers that I skate with but there are a lot more young kids than there used to be skating everyday.

(Phillips’ statement reveals a truth of the skateboarding world: skateboarders of the same skill and/or dedication gravitate to each other regardless of age or other secondary factors. Skateboarders are like the members of a church; they seek one another in order to gain and give support and inspiration, but unlike church members, they do not usually host potlucks with marshmallow salads and quilt raffles.)
Eva: What got you into skateboarding?
Mark: I had a skateboard for a long time before I actually considered myself a skateboarder. I got the skateboard, I think, because skateboarding had gained a little popularity, so it seemed kind of cool. ... I never rode the thing. It sat in my garage and collected dust for years. Then around the time I was 12 or 13, I met a couple of kids who transferred to my school who skateboarded. ... I skateboarded around with them a little bit, got into it and actually thought that maybe this was more who I was, because at the time I was doing Little League and soccer, though I just wasn’t into it. Both of those two guys quit, but I stuck with it. I have no idea where they are today.

(Phillips illustrates how skateboarding is an identity. At a tender age he adopted it as a piece of himself. This is part of the reason why it is so important not to stifle your child’s desire to become a skateboarder, Mom and Dad.)
Eva: How would you define skateboarding? Most people think it’s a sport, but many skaters are insistent about it not being one.
Mark: I’ve always defined it as more of an art. There’s not really a right way or a wrong way. Obviously, if you watch me skate, you can see that I take it my own direction. You do it for yourself. It’s more of an expression, more of a representation of yourself. You don’t look in a rulebook that dictates how you skateboard. It’s more about how it feels to you and what you make of it. If you take it to a contest level, however, it’s more like they’re saying, “You’re right—you’re wrong” instead of “You’re having fun expressing yourself.”
Eva: What would you say about the stereotypes surrounding skateboarding?
Mark: It has definitely changed a lot over the years. It used to be the skateboarders were the outcasts, and I think they chose it that way—they didn’t
really want to fit in. These days, even if the skateboarders don’t want to fit in, they do, because now it’s “cool” to skateboard. I had
the privilege of shaking hands with Tony Hawk 10 years ago and people were like, “Who?” But then just a couple months ago
I saw him again and I got calls from people saying, “I heard you met Tony Hawk!”
Relatives are asking me about it: “I saw
to be this other identity ... that’s the main
difference I’ve seen over the years; that and
the fact that people have gotten incredibly
good. There used to be hope of someday
being pro, but these days you have to basi-
cally accept the fact that you’re skateboarding
for yourself and you’re never going to
make any money at it unless you’re some
superman.
(There are several theories behind the
“superskaterization” of skateboarding. Many

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it’s “cool” to skate-
board.”

-Mark Phillips

may attribute the nearly unimaginable skill
level that has been achieved by skateboarders
today to genetic mutation, but more widely
accepted is the theory that skaters freshly
arriving on the scene are introduced to it at its
highest level: watching videos of pro skaters,
being led to believe that such skill is “normal.”
Indeed, the pros make it look easy. The kids
then, attempting the same tricks without any-
one telling them the tricks can’t be done,
achieve a higher skill level at an ever younger

age and eventually surpass the level of the
 generation before them.)
Eva: How do you feel about the Iowa City
skate scene right now?
Mark: I’m fairly enthusiastic about it. Some
of the kids in this town are blowing me
away. Some of them have been skating for
just two years, yet I honestly think that if I
would’ve entered that last contest (the
Revolt Anniversary Contest), I would’ve
gotten my butt kicked. In a matter of
months these kids are just exploding. But at
the same time you got some of the older
guys who I’m also enthusiastic about—not
because they’re progressing a lot or are
going to go pro, but because they love the
art and they’re out everyday.
Eva: As a straight-edge person [straight
edge refers to a subculture that rejects
drugs, alcohol and tobacco], do you believe
that skateboarding is a positive force for
young people?
Mark: Oh, definitely. Skateboarding and
straight edge were both taking off at the
same time in the early ’80s. A lot of it was
crossing over, a lot of it was hand in hand.
Straight-edge bands were skateboarding and
skateboarders were going straight edge. I think that’s part of the reason why I
am straight edge: because I picked it up
from the whole skateboarding thing. It used
to be the old Tom Knox graphics on the
skateboards with the hand with the Xs on it
[a well-known straight-edge symbol].
Nowadays it’s kind of turned into a big
drunk fest, but I stay out of that. It’s a pos-
tive thing for me and I’m not gonna
change.

A FEW WORDS ON THE LOCAL INDUSTRY:
Mercer Park: I think it has kind of deterior-
ated but it’s cool. I never thought I’d see
the day that I could go down to a local park
and there would be ramps in the parking lot.
Scheels: I absolutely hate the idea of a
giant sports retailer ripping people off. It’s
ridiculous that people actually shop there

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for skateboards.
The future city skate park: Well, we got a pile of dirt now, so it must be underway. I'd say there's probably a 90-percent chance they're gonna seriously screw something up and the park is going to be no fun, and everybody is going to skate in the street anyway, and at that point the city is going to distrust skateboarders and say, "You made us build you this park and you're not even riding it!"

FINAL REMARKS: I'm proud that Iowa City has stayed pretty positive. You might go to skate a place and get kicked out, but people are still nice about it; they don't really yell. It's not like California where they pass out tickets just for not wearing a helmet. ... I'm pleasantly surprised that skateboarding culture is still around and flourishing like it is.

HOLLY APT is a rare creature in Iowa City: a girl skater. For some reason skateboarding has remained a male-dominated discipline, which makes the girl skater a unique find. While Holly, a thin blonde with a quick smile, is always eager to support other girl skaters, for her, being a "girl skater" really is a non-issue. Although Apt is originally from Macomb, Ill., she has made up an important part of the Iowa City skate scene for the past three years—since she started as an economics major at the University of Iowa. One might assume that a slightly mild-mannered girl like Apt would have to do double-time to "keep up with the guys," but that's not the case with Holly. She never appears out of place when you see her skat­­­­ing with the crew. Perhaps her fierce love of food helps her fit in with the boys. Apt was a judge at the Revolt Anniversary Contest this past September.

AGE: 23
BEEN SKATING FOR: A decade
FAVORITE TRICK: "The funnest trick for me is probably the front-side board slide. I think it's pretty stylish and it's fun to do, even though it's really not that difficult."
FAVORITE PRO: "Andrew Reynolds ... but Rick McCrank is a machine. There are so many great skaters out there that it's hard to pick one and say, 'Hey, this guy rules.'"
HOBBIES: "Skateboarding is my thing if I'm not doing homework. But otherwise I like to go out and have a few drunks with my friends. I like to go out and dance and have a good time. And during the summer I like to go swimming or read or watch movies."

WHEN SHE GROWS UP SHE HOPES TO: "I really honestly don't know what I'm going to do as far as a career. I'd like to move, hopefully, out west where the climate is a little warmer; I was not meant to be in the freezing cold. Maybe someday I'd like to

"It's something I gotta do. I feel it in my bones. I start getting antsy and grumpy if I don't get to skate for a few days. It's really like an addiction: I need it."

-Holly Apt
own my own nightclub. But I'm focusing on skating right now. It's sad to say—maybe since my priority should be school—but I just love skating so much! I'd like to stay involved in it as long as possible. Even if I can't skate any more, I'd like to somehow be in the industry.

**AVAILABLE?** Yes.

**Q&A**

Eva: What is it that got you into skateboarding?

Holly: When my mom remarried we moved to the country. We had one neighbor, and their kids skated. I saw one of the guys out skating and I wanted to try it. I went over there and I was like, "Hey, can I try your skateboard?" I was hooked, skating out in the country on country roads. We didn't live that far from town so I eventually did go into town to skate. ... Now I skate, if not every day, at least every other day. It's something I gotta do. I feel it in my bones. I start getting antsy and grumpy if I don't get to skate for a few days. It's really like an addiction: I need it.

(Don't get Apt wrong, she's not a freak: Most skateboarders are as obsessed as she is. Skateboarding trips become cross-country pilgrimages, red-eye flights and vacation adventures. There is definitely more than one Iowa City skater who sold everything and left everyone behind in order to chase after the golden Mecca of skateboarding, a.k.a. California.)

Eva: What did your parents think?

Holly: My mom was supportive; she was all down for it, but my dad was hoping it was a phase. He thought it was a "guy thing" to do. He thought I was a little tomboy—maybe I was. I liked to hang out with my brother and do sports and stuff like that. My mom was pretty supportive, though. She knows what a kick flip is.

Eva: Where do you most like to skate?

Holly: Anywhere on campus, like Pappajohn. Revolt Skateboard Shop, too, but I like to skate street the best. I feel more free. I can go wherever I want until I get kicked out. I love to be outdoors. I haven't been to Mercer in a while. It's a little beat up. I guess you could say I'm a picky skater.

Eva: What has kept you into skateboarding?

Holly: I love skateboarding and how it makes me feel. Almost everyone who I've met has been into skating and are just super cool. It's something that I know about and have been involved in for 10 years.

Eva: What do you think of the Iowa City skate scene?

Holly: The Iowa City skate scene is very small. It seemed like there was one crew and that was it, but I think it's growing now. I've seen more skaters around town, people I don't know. It's weird because I'm from a small town, and if I would see a skater I would know that person, but here ... now I see all these skaters skating down the street and I'm like, "I don't know him, why not?", because there's not that many skaters ... plus we're getting a public skate park next year. It's finally getting built so perhaps that will help the scene grow even more.

Eva: What are some advantages or disadvantages of being a girl skater?

Holly: The advantages ... sometimes cops and other authorities are a little easier on girls. I haven't been issued a ticket yet, which I probably shouldn't say or I'm going to jinx myself. There have been times when all my friends got a ticket and I didn't get one because the cop was like, "Oh, I didn't see her skating," even though I totally was skating, you know. ... You get noticed more, which isn't really a good thing for me because I don't like to be put on the spot. A lot of times I'll have little kids come up and say, "You're pretty good for a girl." I'm like, "What does that mean?" Around the Midwest there aren't that many girl skaters, but when I was on the West Coast in the beginning of June, they were everywhere and they were ripping! I talked to Amy Karen who rides for Dallas when she was out skating at Pier Seven. I started talking to her and I was all excited like, "Girl skaters! Wow! Awesome!" and she was like, "They're everywhere." When she sees a girl skater it's just another skater, for me ... I want to go meet that girl because I grew up skating with guys my whole life. I never really had girlfriends to hang out with ... it got to the point where I didn't even know how to act around girls. "What are they like?" But now there are a lot of girl skaters out there. They've got opportunities, like new skate parks growing up around them. I've been seeing more girls around here, but it's still very rare ... Personally, I never really had any problems with guys giving me crap for skating, but some of the other girls who I've talked to, like my friend Diana from Des Moines, grew up getting harassed by guys saying that she sucked and that she shouldn't skate and that they hope she breaks her neck or whatever. Sometimes I still get that stuff from little kids, but I just blow it off. I'm gonna skate whether they like it or not. Again, it can be flattering sometimes because you might show up at a park and a dad watching his kids might be like, "Hey, this is a girl skater! Right on!" Some people are really happy to see girl skaters. It's good to get that positive energy.

Eva: How many girl skaters would you guess we have in Iowa City?

Holly: I know five. And I saw one person who I think was a girl. It had boobs, but it didn't quite look like a girl. It could've been a fat kid with boobs. But that might make six. And there's one girl who rides around on a long board from what I hear. I haven't seen her but someone told me about her.

**FINAL REMARKS:** I wish it wasn't so illegal
to skate outside. It started out being a free thing to do, you could go out and get your mind off stuff. Instead, now you go out and you’re worrying more about how long you can skate there, how long is it gonna take for the cops to get there, are you gonna get a ticket and stuff—but I still go out and do it. You can’t stop us from going out and playing on our wooden toys.

It’s sad that Holly has to bring up the point that, indeed, skateboarding is ILLEGAL and considered a CRIME under many circumstances. Even in Iowa City, a town that prides itself on being “enlightened” and “liberal,” skateboarders are still prosecuted by the police for sharing their art with the community. Our society continues to push skateboarders into designated areas instead of allowing them to be the natural part of the urban landscape that they are. Skateboarding is considered illegal in some places because certain tricks involve sliding the board along ledges or hand rails, which in turn may chip the ledge or scrape off paint. This damage doesn’t fit into most cities’ definitions of everyday wear and tear, obviously, but rather as destruction of private property.

NEW SCHOOL
LESHUN DAVIS moved to Iowa City from Ocala, Fla., four years ago with his family because his parents found jobs here. Davis goes to City High and is in the 10th grade. He won first place in the advanced category at Revolt’s Anniversary Contest and is the only skater who is sponsored by Revolt. He is definitely a regular at the indoor skate park and a leader in the Iowa City New School Skate Scene. His sense of humor, style and general good vibe make him everybody’s favorite. Davis’ unbridled enthusiasm is an inspiration for skaters of all ages.

AGE: 15

BEEN SKATING FOR: A year and two months

FAVORITE TRICK: “Probably right now the nollie heel flip because that’s the one I most recently learned. It’s pretty sweet. But next probably would be the 360 flip; that’s also a pretty tight trick.”

FAVORITE PRO: Kareem Campbell. I first saw him in the Tony Hawk Pro Skater video, but I haven’t seen many videos with him in them recently. Steve Caballero is really good. And PJ Ladd … that dude is really good, too.

WHEN HE GROWS UP HE HOPES TO: “I’m trying to get better so that I can go pro. I go to contests and stuff. I’d like to travel around and skate the different areas in the United States. That would be sweet.

AVAILABLE? Yes.

Q&A
Eva: How did you get into skateboarding?
Leshun: William [the owner of Revolt] got me in. I used to roller blade, but I was watching all these people get all these tight tricks with skateboards and I was like, “I got to learn that,” so I started skating.

Eva: Are there other kids in your school who skate?
Leshun: There were a lot of ‘em, but most of them started smoking weed and barely even skate anymore … but there are still a lot of pretty good skaters out there. The newcomers, like the ninth graders, they’re pretty sweet.

Eva: What kind of people skate?
Leshun: All different kinds. Some of the little kids skate more than we do, actually, but most of the older guys [Leshun is referring to college-age people] I’ve been skating with basically influenced everybody I know who skateboards.

FINAL REMARKS: I think that Iowa City should have more skate parks. They’re always like, “Why you skating downtown?!” Because we barely got Mercer! That park was OK when it was first started, but you can only do so much stuff there until it gets boring after a while. Then you start skating street again. We need at least eight parks in Iowa City.

Leshun’s message to skateboarders: “Keep skating and don’t be no quitter.”

GRADUATING TO A HIGHER LEVEL
The skateboarding scene in Iowa City is small, but ever more diverse. Kids and young adults ski together, learn from each other and don’t segregate themselves according to age group or color. People of different races and nationalities can be found at Iowa City’s skate parks or on the street at any given time. Locals, immigrants, hippies and corporate giants all compete for the skateboarding market. One thing is clear: old stereotypes don’t apply to skateboarding in Iowa City any more. The more you find out about it the more you are surprised by how little of a deadbeat’s pastime it is, and how much of a positive activity it can be.

And there is even more good news. Revolt Skateboard Shop and Indoor Park has moved from its old location to a warehouse four times as large: the 6,000-square-foot ex-Hawkeye Weld Building out near the airport. William De Souza has recruited experienced ramp designer/builder and Planet Earth-sponsored amateur skater Jason Ranft from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., along with Robert Bebout and Paulo Firmo, to aid in the design and construction. Thus means that Iowa City will be host to Iowa’s largest indoor skate park dedicated solely to skateboarders. Iowa City will also host the one and only Cut and Paste Skateboarding Film Festival Feb. 1-2, 2002 at the Becker Communications Studies Building, University of Iowa. The festival is the brainchild of Dave Underhill, a UI film student and, of course, a longtime skater. Cut and Paste is a DIY (do it yourself) film festival dedicated to skateboarding and its culture. Special guest will be Helen Stickler, an Emmy-nominated writer, producer and director of documentary films. Stickler has curated several film exhibitions by and about skateboarders, including “Skate or Die” “Skate or Die Harder” and “Lone Star Skate.” Her current projects include the feature documentary, STOKED. For more information on this film festival, visit http://www.cutandpastefilmfest.org/
The art of a meaningful life

Biography and exhibit showcase the art and life of slain Reuters photographer Dan Eldon

A photo capturing the new American military—women soldiers in neon-colored bikinis, smiling and sprinkled with sand, jauntily hiking up a California-ized African beach, high-powered rifles swinging from their shoulders.

A collage with images of Somalia in 1993—the baked and cracked earth, a skeletal boy staring with vacant eyes, an African man leaning on a crumbling wall, the wall scrawled with graffiti that reads, "I hate what you think about my life."

These are just a few of the unforgettable images created by the late Dan Eldon. An exhibit of Eldon's work, Images of War. Celebrations of Life: The Photography and Collages of Dan Eldon, runs through Jan. 12 at the Mandala Community Art Gallery in Oxford, and features photographs Eldon took as a Reuters photographer on assignment in Somalia, as well as large reproductions of his collage-style journal pages. Eldon worked on the journals throughout his life, layering with black and white photos, slashes of paint, tiny ink drawings, quips and musings, and objects like feathers and playing cards.

The child of an American mother (Kathy Knapp Eldon, a Cedar Rapids native) and an English father, Dan grew up in Kenya. (He spent many childhood summers with his mother's family in Cedar Rapids as well and later attended Cornell College in Mt. Vernon.)

Eldon's journals chronicle a dramatic coming-of-age story, from his early days of leaping into a land rover on a moment's notice to head out on safari, through his years as an increasingly respected photojournalist covering the unrest and suffering in Somalia during the early '90s. While on assignment in the city of Mogadishu, where much of the violence was centered, Eldon was stoned to death at the age of 22.

Copies of Jennifer New's just-released biography, Dan Eldon: The Art of Life, are stacked unassumingly on a back shelf at the Mandala Community Art Gallery. New, of Iowa City, writes in the book that Eldon's journals are an "entryway to another world, a rabbit hole." She saw the experience of researching and writing the book as a chance to spend time with "a really great person."

"It was a pretty intense experience. It was kind of like living and breathing Dan for seven months," New says, adding, as if she really had known him, "It was hard when he died." It was so difficult, in fact, that she shied away from completing that part of the book and had to rewrite it because family members thought she hadn't gone deep enough. "It's like writing a novel, and you have these really great characters, and then you have to kill them off," she says.

New "met" Eldon in 1997 when she picked up The Journey is the Destination: The Journals of Dan Eldon, a thick book that displays a selection of his works. She approached the family and, within half a year, finished the biography. The book weaves interviews with Eldon's friends and family together with his artwork and writings—those writings including everything from a light-hearted story of losing a flip flop in the African bush to an account of his depression over seeing bodies "tossed into ditches like sacks."

The Oxford gallery, run as it is by students from Clear Creek-Amana High School, seems the ideal setting for Eldon's work—images and words ripe with youthful idealism, brashness and honesty.
up with the idea for the gallery and recruited students and community members to revamp an old, abandoned storefront in the tiny downtown of this small community located west of Iowa City. Andrew calls the gallery, which showcases student work as well as pieces by national and international artists, a “living classroom.”

“I like to think of it as their canvas,” he says, referring to the students. Jennifer and Andrew operate an educational consulting business. Both have used Eldon’s work in their lessons and seen students become immediately engaged. “It’s always just kind of struck me how accessible it is,” Andrew says, adding that Eldon dealt with “love, good and evil and all those things that teen-agers get obsessed with.”

“He was impatient with people who would just sit around and watch TV,” Jennifer says. “He learned early that there was this whole cool world out there—if you could get off your butt and go find it. When he found that out, there was no stopping him.”

After flipping through a book of Eldon’s collages and learning about the young photographer’s life, one of Jennifer’s students told her, “I wanna do that. I wanna be like that.” Jennifer asked the student, “What part of it?” And he replied, “I want to lead a meaningful life.”

In conjunction with the exhibit, Kathy Eldon, Dan’s mother, will speak at Clear Creek-Amana High School Nov. 21 and show a short documentary on her son. (Interested persons should email Mary Pat Hanson-Karstens at mandalaartgallery@cc­­amana.k12.ia.us.)

Mandala Community Art Gallery hours are Thursday-Friday, 4-7pm and Saturday, 12-5pm.

Images from Dan Eldon, The Art of Life
Somewhere there’s a box of jack shit ...

Iowa City’s best-kept secret, Sam Knutson, looks forward to a little success over the next hill

It was in the midst of fall’s first shove that I slipped into a booth at George’s and spoke face to face with the musician so many call Iowa City’s best-kept secret. “Hope I didn’t keep you waiting too long,” I announce as I unwrap my scarf. “Oh, just about that long,” he answers with a half smile, pointing to his glass of beer, a quarter inch skimmed from the surface. Embodying everything in his lyrics and music, Sam Knutson is no bullshit.

Since officially making his imprint with 1999’s Mudfence Turnaround, Knutson has joined the ranks of Iowa City’s musical heavyweights; the fact that only a handful have accepted this seems to be everyone else’s loss. The album’s 14 solo acoustic gems were recorded in dusty living rooms and empty dance halls—the lack of studio gloss lending each tune a hauntingly lonely, yet brutally honest overtone. Aside from a few choice overdubs by friends, the disc was the product of what Knutson calls “guerrilla-style recording,” where he set up his microphone and four-track recorder in random locations, pressed play and performed a couple of quick takes.

“In the house I used to live in there was a big, empty room that I used to practice in because it sounded different than any other place,” he explains. “I wanted to recreate that sound I was hearing in that room, so I’d set up in stairwells and abandoned one-room school houses in search of it.”

The album’s trick of making it seem as if Knutson is performing right in front of you is so convincing that once he sings the line “lookin’ under the hood on a backroad/No chance of thumbin’ a ride/Somewhere there’s a box of jack shit with a surprise inside,” you want to either congratulate him for turning such a sly phrase or wish you had been there with a tow truck. Having been in the habit of writing songs since the age of 16, the now 31-year-old Knutson pens up to four or five tunes a month yet deems most of them “crap”—a certain amount of modesty carried by a man with the potential to rival the mighty Greg Brown in both lyrical imagery and melodic originality.

“I write fiction, too, so sometimes an idea or line will catch me and I’ll just write along wherever that line starts to lead,” Knutson continues. “Then there are the situations that I can’t get out of me for one reason or another—so I have all of this swirling around in my head that I need to express in some way. I write songs all the time, and I feel like I’m getting better at it, but I don’t feel I’m developing any sort of formula.”

Having lived with, befriended and been surrounded by musicians since moving to Iowa City in 1993, the Decorah native didn’t let much time pass after the release of his solo debut to start experimenting with his songs in a full band setting. Enlisting the talents of longtime friends and local country-blues heroes Shame Train—Nate Basinger (organ, accordion), Randy Davis (electric guitar), Jon Crawford (drums) and bassist Marty Christensen—Knutson made the transition from solo performer to frontman seamlessly—although he’s quick to acknowledge the abilities of his cohorts played an enormous role.

“I love to play with a band because they’re all great musicians,” Knutson says. “A lot of times I’ll do four-track versions of the songs, introduce them to the band, and they’ll take on a whole different character when they take them over. I don’t want to tell them what to play because I feel like they’re so much better than I am technically and musically.”

With a steady string of gigs under its belt, the Sam Knutson Band (oftentimes billed as Sam Knutson w/Shame Train) began fusing its leader’s erratic, often jazzy time signatures with Shame Train’s earthy instrumentation, creating a distinctively warm, countrified swagger. Its niche slowly taking shape, the ensemble made frequent trips to John Svec’s Minstrel Studios to put its ideas to tape, the final product surfacing in June, over a year and a half after the band’s first session.

The resulting LP, Shame Train and the Devil’s Square Quilt, is not only a high-water mark for both Knutson and the band, but a roots-rock triumph on the local level and beyond. Elbowing itself onto the
of their career, Knutson has begun the arduous process of getting his record to the masses via college radio and alternative music publications; yet despite its steady stream of solid local performances, the band has received minimal press on its home turf. Regardless, Knutson presses on in the hope that his own vision of prosperity waits just over the next hill. 

“The reason I started doing this is because I want the freedom to be able to go out, play my music, sell my CDs and not have to work six days a week,” he says. “Yeah ... that would be success to me.” *
Jay Farrar
Sebastopol
Artemis Records

Jay Farrar’s first solo outing since the slow death of Son Volt paints barren-eyed landscapes of an increasingly bland and lifeless mid-America where farm homes are bulldozed to make way for blanched tract housing and bleak strip malls. But where Farrar, in his previous bands, always seemed to run to the relatable sanctuary of the romanticized “road,” he’s now recognized that there’s much to be gained in standing your ground, filling your own shoes and simply remaining true to yourself. Sebastopol’s Farrar is still forever wistful but more hopeful and notably less tortured. Recorded in Millstadt, Ill., the album unapologetically opens with Melodica on the appropriately titled “Feel Free.” Unusual instrumentation, slack-key tunings and decidedly fresh outlooks abound. As seen through Farrar’s “Different Eyes,” it’s really “more a question of different eyes/looking in the same old places.” Yes, Sebastopol is a new direction for Farrar, but one that explores the overlooked niches of familiar terrain. Welcome home, Jay.

Joe Derderian

The Appleseed Cast
Low Level Owl Volume I
Deep Elm Records

Boy oh boy, did I expect to hate this record, the most recent effort from the Lawrence, Kan., emo-core outfit The Appleseed Cast. The press kit alone nauseated me, with its hyperbolic invocations of “blossoming atmospherics” eventually “bursting into the tears of honest men.” Who writes this stuff?! An overly reverent attitude will never do when it comes to rock music.

I am here to tell you, though, that I was wrong. Wrong! Low Level Owl is a beautiful album, a recording that neither flinches nor pities itself.

“The Waking of Pertelotte” is a soaring opener awash in feedback and gently reverberating chords. On this song, and others throughout the album, an almost devotional introduction gives way to a kind of fluttering abandon. The album is full of peaks and lulls that don’t neatly correspond to the song divisions. For example, the second song, “On Reflection,” picks up with the opener’s rising arpeggio (very Edge-ish), only adding a few emphatic drum smacks before the arpeggio builds into the melody’s full realization in strings and impressionistic vocals.

Songs like “Messenger” capitalize on a contrast between light cymbals and echoey snare drums. Laid over an organ refrain, the rhythm rolls and taps its way through the sparse orchestration. “Steps and Numbers” and “Mile Marker” also go veer the emo-ly— I might even go so far as to call them jangly numbers. Though the lyrics on this album are, for the most part, best ignored, “Mile Marker” speaks of hope with something approaching eloquence: “Slow down a light-ed road/A broken sign states the mile/A broken code/A simple rhyme/A smile.”

Optimism is always more compelling when it is hard-won. With this album The Appleseed Cast come close to capturing that rare and complex mood: redemption.

Margaret Schwartz

Leonard Cohen
Ten New Songs
Columbia

Gravel-voiced, Canadian-born Leonard Cohen began his career in the ’50s as a poet. Like many of his contemporaries, Cohen frequently read his poems over jazz accompaniment, which eventually inspired him to seek a musical career. Cohen moved to New York City in the mid-’60s and became a staple of the burgeoning folk-rock scene. Even before he released his first record (Songs of Leonard Cohen), singers like Joan Baez and Judy Collins were popularizing his songs, including “Suzanne” and “Song of Isaac.” Cohen’s lyrics often feature Old Testament themes and language that highlight his spiritual concerns: sex and salvation, sin and redemption, etc. People generally have been divided into two camps where Cohen is concerned: those who find him boring and pretentious versus those who believe he’s a genius and a sage. And then there is the matter of Cohen’s voice. His low drawl and odd phrasing bother even those who enjoy the gritty vocals of, say, Bob Dylan or Neil Young.

Cohen’s American career hit bottom in the mid-’80s when his record label wouldn’t even release his album Various Positions, a record that spawned a hit single (“Dance Me to the End of Love”) in Europe, where Cohen has always been a bigger star. Cohen recorded only one album in the ’90s (The Future), an overproduced monster of sci-fi sermonizing.

Now enter Ten New Songs, a collection of, yes, 10 new songs that harken back to the Cohen of old. Even the title indicates its ties to his first recordings. Producer Sharon Robinson, also credited as the disc’s co-singer and songwriter, provides Cohen with big, open textures that allow the poet’s chafed voice to rub against silky grooves. He doesn’t rant but chants in a low voice that compels the listener to listen carefully. One can understand every word—and Cohen has written some of the best songs of his career.

The disc opens with the rhythmic “In My Secret Life,” featuring a solid, exotic percussive beat over which Cohen struggles with his conscience (“I smile when I’m angry/I cheat and I lie/I do what I do to get by/But I know what is wrong/And I know what is right”). The songs highlight the epic battles of life in glorious melodramatic language (“I fought against the bottle/But I had to do it drunk—

Took my diamond to the pawnshop/But that don’t make it junk” from “That Don’t Make it Junk”) and mythic, archetypal settings (“By the rivers dark I wandered on/I lived my life in Babylon” from “By the Rivers Dark”). Ten New Songs is a great pleasure from an old master.

Steve Horowitz
God, Curt Cobain, Hitler and Yoko Ono

Once a day the irony truck smashed into the sincerity van, and from the wreckage stumbled Mt. Vernon, Iowa-native Dan Bern, a guitar-toting oddball who just released his fourth full-length album, New American Language (Messenger Records). Avoiding the pitfalls of most singer-songwriters by not sugar-coating his songs of love and loss, Bern (who will play Gabe’s Nov. 27) has delivered another album of smart, lovely music that mixes idealism and the pleasures of everyday life. “I have a dream of a new pop music,” he sings on the title track, “that tells the truth/with a good beat/and some nice harmonies/I have a dream.” While his dreams may not tower in importance above those of MLK Jr., he nevertheless has a political streak that runs through him—that again, unlike other singer-songwriters—doesn’t come off as smug or condescending. Instead, he laces his songs with enough quirky wit and from-left-field fun that he can mention God, Kurt Cobain and Hitler in the same song and make it resonate, emotionally.

Although she began her professional career as a highly esteemed avant-garde artist, upon entering John Lennon’s life, Yoko Ono spent the rest of her career straddling the margins and the mainstream, with varying degrees of artistic success. Ono can’t carry a note in a bucket, and that’s fine, because she’s at her finest tossing the bucket’s musical contents across a canvas like an abstract impressionist, but she fails miserably when she sings within the confines of verse-chorus-verse structures. Unfortunately, she does both on her new album, Blueprint for a Sunrise (Capital), which features pleasant-sounding songs with moderately catchy melodies, as well as hell-raising tracks like “Rising II,” which builds from a quiet hush to a swelling burst of noise coming both from her throat and from her guitarist, collaborator and son, Sean Lennon. While 1995’s career-revitalizing Rising sounded like an electrifying, eloquent sonic manifesto, Blueprint seems more like a fragmented, sometimes-inspired first draft comprised of an eclectic mix of new songs, two reworkings of previous songs, and a couple live tracks tossed into this 45-minute album.

Speaking of fragmented messes, it’s unclear what exactly Aphex Twin’s new album title, Drukqs (Warp/Sire), refers to, but it nevertheless speaks volumes about the music that is contained inside: a drug-addled, obscurified collection of 1’s and 0’s recomposed to produce a dizzying, discomposing brand of music for cyber-sissies, techno-dudes and the occasional math major. First, the good news. “Mt. Saint Michel mix/St. michael’s mount” features electroboogified videogame sound effects blended into stereophonic, shifting breakbeats that whirl around and bounce off one’s ears. Another pleasant aural oddity is the spacey, ambient “54 cymru beats,” the kind of song one might imagine an ambidextrous eight-timed alien breakdancing to in fast forward—if you can imagine that. Now, of course, the bad news. At 30 songs and two discs, it’s just too long, with not enough substance and variety to carry such an ambitious project. In total, it amounts to a 30-car pile-up on the long-and-winding information superhighway. Directionless floats like “omgyiya switch 7” and the numerous incidental interludes (“Father,” “bit 4” and many others) are a bit too noodley and doodley to justify their existence. In sum, this is functional, yet far-out, post-millennial bachelor pad music that, at best, challenges the ears and, at worst, might be renamed Music to Get Headaches By.

Somehow, the Dungeon Family (a hip-hop supergroup that consists of so-fresh-and-so-clean-clean members of Outkast, Goodie Mob, Organized Noize and other Hotlanta, Ga., artists) conjures up all the weird and wacky electro-shocking beats that are incubating in, for instance, that Aphex Twin record, but the DF let them bake, rise and blow up on their debut album, Even in Darkness (Arista). The first song, “Crooked Booty,” and the first single, “Trans DF Express,” trade in gloryhalla-toopid P-Funk madness (after being dipped in Miami booty-bass, with a sprinkling of Detroit ghetto-tech). Outkast’s influence weighs heavily in the fantastic, elastic proceedings, though the first voice on the pounding “Trans DF Express” that we hear is Goodie Mob’s esteemed MC, Cee-Lo, who sets the song up for a series of slam bunks by Andre 3000, Big Gipp, Backbone, Big Boi and Sleepy Brown. “And the Beat Goes...” features a wired, weird two-time tempo that rocks and shocks us with its electric boogalo bounce and a generic TV-theme instrumental hook that just won’t stop. It’s the best use of such a device since Busta Rhymes released his “Fire It Up” remix, “Turn It Up,” which jacked the “Knick Rider” beat and reworked it in such an infectious way that even Our Lord David Hasselhoff had to bow to its supremacy. Once only available as a single, “Turn It Up” is one of the 18 tracks that appears on Busta’s The Best Of (Rhino), which answers the wishes of a certain lovable, hysterical friend of mine—just this summer—demanded to the air that “Busta must be anthologized.” Rhino Records answered this man’s prayers by delivering a package that spans Rhymes’ brief tenure with Leaders of the New School (the cheesy “Case of the P.T.A.”) to last year’s Anarchy, rescuing a number of awesome songs (“Woo-Hah!,” “Put Your Hands...” and “Gimmie Some More”) from the filer that plagues all of his albums. Because hip-hop features the highest wack-filler-to-dope-singles ratio of any musical genre, these kinds of anthologies (Rhino has been cranking out numerous hip-hop reissues of late) will answer more than a few prayers.
Olyabayo Olaniyi
UI Museum of Art & Studiolo • Friday, Nov. 16
Yoruba artist and performer Olyabayo Olaniyi has lived between the United States and Africa for the last nine years. "I live within two separate but overlapping worlds," he says. "This obliges me to place one foot in Nigeria, one foot in America; one foot in the Academy, one foot in traditional African arts; one foot in the bush, one foot in the concrete jungle. Reflective in my art is a continual exploration and blend of subjects, symbols and materials from the two cultures." Friday, Nov. 16, Olaniyi will perform at the openings of two separate exhibitions of his artwork. The Studiolo opening reception for his show, Socks, runs from 5-7pm, while the UI Museum of Art opening event for his installation, African in America, begins at 7pm. Also at the UI Museum, Sonya Clark will discuss her sculpted hats and coiffures, showing in African Inspirations: Sculpted Headwear by Sonya Clark. Socks, in which Olaniyi transforms everyday socks into sacred objects, runs through December, while the UI Museum exhibits continue through Jan. 13. Studiolo, 415 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 341-8344. UI Museum of Art, 150 North Riverside Dr., Iowa City, 335-1727.

M.C. Ginsberg Objects of Art
110 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 351-1700
Life as a Collaboration: A Marriage of the Arts for 28 Years, joint exhibition by sculptor Nancy Lovendahl and jewelry designer goldsmith Scott Keating.

Mandala Community Art Gallery
105 N. Augusta Ave., Oxford
Images of War. Celebrations of Life: The Photographs and Collage Art of Dan Eldon, Photographs and collages by Dan Eldon, photojournalist who was killed on the job in Somalia, through Jan. 12.

Mt. Mercy College
Janalyn Hanson White Gallery, 1330 Elmhurst Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, 363-8213
Post-Exile: The Word Room, collaborative installation by Iranian artists Gita Hashemi, Taraneh Hemami and Halseh Niazmand, intended as a space for inclusive dialog on current international concerns, through Dec. 12.

Mythos
9 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 337-3760
Ethnographic art, antiquities and museum copies; specializing in African, Mayan Indian from Guatemala and Asian, ongoing.

Red Avocado
521 East Washington St., Iowa City, 351-6088
Weathered, locally wood-fired ceramics.

Senior Center
28 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5220
Quiltz and dollz by patti z, Patti Zwick, through Dec. 2.

Studiolo
415 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 341-8344
Socks, sock-inspired work by Yoruba artist and performer Olyabayo Olaniyi, through December; reception/performance, Nov. 16, 5-7pm.

UI Hospitals and Clinics
Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417
Ceramic and metalwork by Chul Yee Tang, through November, Main Lobby Gallery • Digital images on canvas by Rachel Snir, through Dec. 2. Patient and Visitor Activity Center Gallery • Watercolor paintings by Sarah Sorensen, through Dec. 28. Boyd Tower East Gallery • Acrylic paintings by Barbara Jones
Leopold La Fosse and Paulo Sergio Alvares
Clapp Recital Hall • Sunday, Nov. 18, 8pm
The great Hungarian composer Bela Bartok wrote both of his sonatas for violin and piano for the famous violinist Jelly d’Aranyi. Like much of Bartok’s works, these sonatas combine traditional folk and Gypsy tunes with an absurd sensibility informed by the terrible losses suffered during the First World War. The Modernist works from the early ’20s, full of jagged edges and sweet tones, require virtuosi playing on both the part of the violinist and the pianist. The two instrumentalists frequently play counter to each other, passionately dueling for the soul of the listener.

Violinist Leopold La Fosse celebrates his 30th year on the University of Iowa faculty by taking on Bartok’s sonatas in a recital with Brazilian pianist Paulo Sergio Alvares (they will also perform Bartok’s rhapsody for violin and piano). “For a number of years I have considered the Bartok sonatas for violin and piano as being among the most significant works for violin and piano of the 20th century,” La Fosse said. “Years of listening and my own performing experiences have not changed my opinion.” In the past, LaFosse has performed the Bartok sonatas with John Simms, late piano faculty member at the School of Music. Simms had performed the piece with violinist Imre Waldbauer, who had played with Bartok, giving LaFosse a direct connection to the musical lineage.

LaFosse met Alvares in the 1980s when LaFosse was visiting Brazil as a Fulbright professor. They performed concerts together, often including the Bartok sonatas in their programs.

Alvares was born in Brazil and received his undergraduate degree in Sao Paulo and spent a short period of time at the UI as a student of visiting faculty member Caio Pagano. He currently maintains an intense schedule of contemporary music performances and participation in numerous festivals in Europe, South America and the United States.

Steve Horowitz

Clapp Recital Hall
University of Iowa campus, Iowa City, 335-1160
William Kuhlman, college organist at Luther College, Decorah, Nov. 17, 8pm • Philharmonia Chamber Orchestra, Nov. 18, 3pm • Leopold La Fosse, violin, and Paulo Sergio Alvares, piano, Nov. 18, 8pm • Electronic Music Studios, Nov. 27, 8pm • Joseph Wytko, saxophone, Nov. 28, 8pm • UI Percussion Ensemble, Nov. 30, 8pm.

CSPS
1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-4384
Moscow Boys Choir, Nov. 27, 7pm.

Gabe’s
330 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 354-4788
Rotation DJs, Nov. 16 • Dave Zollo and the Body Electric, Nov. 17 • Kelly Pardekooper with Teddy Morgan, Nov. 20 • Da Butta Ball, Nov. 22 • The Liars, Nov. 26 • Bernstein (Dan Bern), Nov. 27, 8pm • Kristle Stremel, Nov. 28 • The Juliana Theory, with The Movieliffe, Nov. 29 • The Committee, Nov. 30 • Rebecca Gates, Dec. 1.

The Green Room
500 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 354-4350
Blues Jam Mondays, Latin Night Tuesdays

Luca Brasi with Critical Gopher and Shoeless Joe, Nov. 15 • Hop on Johnny with Earthing, Nov. 17 • Electroniccult Productions presents jazz, soul, r-n-b, reggae and trip-hop, Nov. 21 • Bohemian Soul Tribe, Nov. 23 • Korey Basset (comedy and DJs), Nov. 24 • Kathryn Musilek with Dino Balocchi and Tyler Corbett, Nov. 29 • Dave Zollo and the Body Electric, Nov. 30 • Blue Tunes All-Star Jam with Tastes Like Burning, Dec. 1.

Hancher Auditorium
UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1160
University Symphony and Choruses, Nov. 17, 7:30pm • Lyrical Strings, Nov. 21 • SFDP, Nov. 24 • Kirkwood Community College Choirale Concert, Nov. 28, 7:30pm • Hancher Staff, Nov. 30

Kirkwood Community College
Ballantiney Auditorium, 6301 Kirkwood Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids, 398-4956
Vocal jazz concert with Jazz Transit and RSVP, Nov. 17, 7:30pm • “Adventus,” Chorale Concert, Nov. 30, 7:30pm.

Lou Henri’s
630 Iowa Ave., Iowa City, 351-3637
Randy Davis & Randy Henderson, Nov. 15 • Grismore Trio, Nov. 16 • Thompson, Hatwich, Cunliffe, Nov. 17 • Sall Lubarauf Trio, Nov. 23 • Ben Schmidt, Nov. 29 • Protostar, Nov. 30.
The Mill
120 E. Burlington St., Iowa City, 351-9529
Friends of Old Time Music acoustic jam session
Tuesdays, 5pm; all shows 5pm unless otherwise noted
Dana Robinson, Nov. 15 • Larry Myers, Nov. 16 •
Wooden Radio, Nov. 17 • Greg Brown, Nov. 18 •
Open Mike, Nov. 19, 8pm • The Blue Band, Nov. 23 •
Wylde Nept, Nov. 24 • Calle Sur, Nov. 25, 7pm •
Joe Price, Nov. 30 • Catfish Keith, Dec. 1

New Covenant Bible Church
1800 46th St. NE, 395-0021
Second Annual Interactive Messiah, Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale, Nov. 18, call 365-8221 for tickets.

Northside Books
203 N. Linn St., Iowa City, 466-9330, Sunday
Live!, all 2-3pm
Mike & Amy Finders, Nov. 18.

Paramount Theatre
123 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888
(unless noted otherwise)
Christmas with Warburg, Dec. 1, 7:30pm.

Paul Engle Center
1600 Fourth Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1580
Iowa Songwriter's Workshop, hosted by Gayla Drake Paul and Nick Stika, Nov. 25, 2-5pm.

Red Avocado
521 East Washington St., Iowa City, 351-6088, all 6:30-9:30pm
Reality Trio, jazz, Wednesdays • Acoustic Jazz, Thursdays • Annie Savage, harpist, Fridays • Mad River Duo, clarinet and guitar, Saturdays.

Sal's Music Emporium
624 E. Dubuque St., Iowa City, 338-7462
Morgan City General, Tyler Corbett, Nov. 17, 6pm.

Sanctuary
405 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 351-5692
Club Jazz with the Saul Lubaroff Trio, Nov. 16 •
UNI Faculty Quartet, Nov. 17 • Kelly Pardekooper & Marty Letz, Nov. 23 • Brad Ross, Nov. 30.

Scattergood Friends School
West Branch, 1951 Delta Ave., 643-7600,
Barn Dance, begins at 6pm
Acoustic Mayhem, Nov. 16.

Senior Center
28 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5220
Old Post Office Brass and Fearsome Four, Nov. 30, 2-3:30pm

Third Street Live!
1204 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 365-6141
The Large Midgets, Nov. 16 • The Starch Martins, with Charly Spooner, Grant Wood Area Chapter Red Cross benefit, Nov. 17, 9pm • Skin Candy, Nov. 21 • Lonnie Brooks, with Tommy Giblin and the Craig Erickson Band, Nov. 23 • Party Mix Specialists, Nov. 24.

UI Hospitals and Clinics
Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417
Living Proof, Nov. 30, 12-1pm, John Colloton Pavilion Atrium, by elevator F.

Iowa Memorial Union
UI campus, 363-1888
Nell McCoy, Nov. 28, Main Lounge.

UI Museum of Art
150 North Riverside Dr., Iowa City, 335-1727
"Really New Music for Horn and Piano," Jeffrey Agrell, horn, and Evan Mazunik, piano, Nov. 30, 7:30pm.

US Cellular Center
370 First Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888
Linkin Park, X-Ecutioners, (hed)pe, Nov. 30, 7:30pm.

The Union Bar
121 E. College, Iowa City, 339-7713
Better Than Ezra, Nov. 18 • Lucky Boys Confusion, Riddlin Kids, River City High, Nov. 30.

Uptown Bill's small Mall
401 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 339-0401
Sam Knutson, folk & blues, Nov. 15, 8-11pm • Odd Bar Trio, Nov. 29, 10pm-1am • Jasmine, blues, Nov. 30, 8-11pm.

ROVERS

Craig Erickson
O'Malley's, Cedar Rapids, Nov. 15, 9:30pm-1:30am •
Mahoney's, CR, Nov. 18, 4-8pm • Third Street Live!, CR, Nov. 23 • Eastside Maidrite, CR, Nov. 24, 9pm-1am • Mahoney's, CR, Nov. 25, 4-8pm.

Nick Stika
3rd Base, North Liberty, Nov. 17, 9pm.

DANCE

Coe College
Sinclair Auditorium, 1220 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids, 399-8600
The Nutcracker, by Ballet Jorgen/Canada, Nov. 26-27, 7:30pm.

Paramount Theatre
123 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888
Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker, Nov. 19-20, 7:30pm.

Scattergood Friends School
West Branch, 1951 Delta Ave., 643-7600,
Barn Dance, begins at 6pm
Acoustic Mayhem, Nov. 16.

Space/Place Theatre
North Hall, UI campus, 335-3041
Space/Place Concert, UI Dance Department, Nov. 30-1 Dec. 1, 8pm.

THEATER

Coe College
Dows Theatre, 1220 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids, 399-8600
Phaedra, by Jean Racine, Nov. 16-17, 8pm; Nov. 18, 2pm.

Old Creamery Theatre
39 38th Ave., Amana, 800-352-6262
Performances Wednesdays, Friday & Saturdays at 8pm;
Thursdays & Sundays at 2pm.

Riverside Theatre
213 N. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 339-7672
Performances Thursdays at 7pm, Fridays (except Sept. 28, no performance) and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm
Spinning Into Butter, by UI alum Rebecca Gilman, explores what happens when a series of racist notes appear on a student's door at a small liberal art college, Nov. 15-Dec. 9 • A reading of Boy Gets Girl, by Rebecca Gilman, Nov. 26, 7pm.

Theatre Cedar Rapids
102 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-8591
Shows Thurs., Fri., Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm
Cinderella, Rogers & Hammerstein, Nov. 23-Dec. 9.

UI Theatre
Theatre Bldg., UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1160
Dionysus, Suzuki Company, Nov. 17, 8pm; Nov. 18, 3pm, E.C. Mable Theatre.
AUDITIONS, CALLS, ETC.

Art wanted for "Art In the Lobby" Riverside Theatre exhibitions, call 338-7672.

COMEDY

The Green Room
509 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 354-4350
Korey Bassett (comedy and DJs), Nov. 24.

The Mill
120 E. Burlington St., Iowa City, 351-9529
I.C. Improvs, improvisational comedy, Nov. 29.

WORDS

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art
410 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-7503
"What was Regionalism? The View from Chicago, 1930-1947," lecture by Daniel Schulman, associate curator of modern and contemporary art at The Art Institute of Chicago, Nov. 15, 5:30-6:30pm.

Cedar Rapids Public Library
500 First Street, Cedar Rapids, 398-5123
"Keeping It Simple," Jay Shaffer, award-winning house designer and adjunct professor at the UI School of Art and Art History, discusses the art of simplicity, Nov. 20, 6:30pm.

Coe College
Kesler Lecture Hall in Hickok Hall, 1220 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids, 399-8600
"L.T.A., Hoffman and The Nutcracker," lecture by John Chaimov, assistant professor of German, Nov. 27, 11am • Mark Twain Symposium, Nov. 28, 7:30pm.

CornerHouse Gallery and Frame
2753 First Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 365-4348
"About Art Appraisals: Insurance, Estate, Donation," Janelle McClain, speaker, Nov. 17, 12-1pm, reservations required • "Conservation Framing for Your Valuables," Ray Carson, speaker, Nov. 28, 12-1pm, reservations required.

IC Public Library
123 Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200
Iowa City BI Group, Can Bisexuals be Monogamous?, discussion that is open to the public, Nov. 19, 7:30pm, Meeting Rm. A.

Prairie Lights
15 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City (unless otherwise noted), 337-2681
All 8pm (unless otherwise noted)
UI Chair of African-American and World Studies, Horace Porter, reads from and discusses his new book from the U of I Press, Jazz Country: Ralph Ellison in America, Nov. 15 • Husband-and-wife mystery writers Pete Hautman, author of Ray Mon, and Mary Logue, author of Glare Ice, Nov. 16 • Local writer and UI graduate Osha Gray Davidson reads from his new book, Fire in the Turtle House, Nov. 19 • Susan Skog signs copies of her new book, Radical Acts of Love, Nov. 24, 12-1:30pm • Jael Stillman, UI Assistant Professor of Women's Studies, reads from her memoir, Jewish Portraits, Indian Frames, Nov. 26 • Brian Bouldry reads from his new book, Monster, Nov. 27 • Iowa City's Jennifer New reads from her new biography, Dan Eldon: The Art of Life, Nov. 28 • Joan Oliver Goldsmith reads from her book, How Can I Keep from Singing, Nov. 29 • Grinnell's Tinker Marks reads from her new lesbian academic detective novel, Theoretically Dead, Nov. 30.

Senior Center
28 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5220
Current Events Discussion Group, Nov. 27, 12:30-1:30pm.
The Starch Martins
Third Street Live! • Saturday, Nov. 17, 9pm
We always knew Dick Prall had it in him. The release of 1998’s *Somewhere About Here* should have set him up as a roots-rock Matthew Sweet. Instead, he chowed away in obscurity for a few more years. Now he’s left Iowa City for Chicagoland, the Dick Prall Band for The Starch Martins—and things are finally starting to happen. After reaching #1 on Garageband.com’s top 200 in March with their single “Into The Shade” (off *Somewhere About Here*), the band has scored radio play and jettisoned to the top of many record industry lists of unsigned talent. One of the band’s highlights this year includes an upcoming spotlight in the prestigious International Pop Overthrow Festival in New York City. This year’s release, *Dressing Up The Failure*, showcases Prall’s maturing songwriting talents. This show, a benefit for the Grant Wood Foundation, will take place in the area this year. 1204 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids. 365-6141.

UI Museum of Art
150 North Riverside Dr., Iowa City, 335-1727
African Inspirations: Sculpted Headwear by Sonya Clark, gallery tour led by Clark; performance by Obaloyo Olaniyi, Nov. 16, 7pm.

Voxman Music Bldg
UI campus, 335-1436
Musicology and Theory Colloquium, Gregory Marion, speaker, Nov. 30, 1:30pm, Room 1027.

MEETINGS

IC Public Library
123 Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200
National Organization for Women, Nov. 18, 1pm, Meeting Room B.

Uptown Bill’s small Mall
401 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 339-0401
AA Meeting, all welcome, Nov. 26, 6-7pm.

CLASSES

IC Public Library
123 Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200
Consumer Health World Wide Web Class; a one-hour hands-on introduction to the World Wide Web, call ext. 125 to register, Nov. 17, 10am; Meeting Room D.

New Pioneer Co-op & Bakehouse
City Center Square, Hwy. 6 West, Coralville, 358-5513, call Theresa at 887-1147 to register
“Party Dips and Spreads from the Iowa Pantry,” Carol Hunt, Local Food Systems Coordinator with
the Johnson SWCD, will show ways to eat locally even during the winter holidays, Nov. 19, 6pm • “Chocolate Candy Sampling Heaven,” with New Pioneer education coordinator Theresa Carbery, Nov. 26, 6pm • “Natural Approach to Menopause,” with Terri Wiebold, RN, BSN, HNC and certified holistic nurse, Nov. 28, 6pm • “Beer Appreciation Class Two: British Tradition Darker Ales,” with masterbrewer Eric Nielsen, Nov. 29, 6pm.

Robert A. Lee Community Recreation Center
220 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 356-5100
Line Dance classes, through Dec. 18, Tuesdays, 7:15-9:15pm, fee is $3 at the door, pre-registration not required, for more information contact the IC Recreation Division, 356-5100 • Adult Art Classes, everything from magazine writing and guitar to printmaking and collaging, call for more info.

Senior Center
28 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5220
Creating Mailing Lists & Printing Labels, Section 1: Nov. 16, 12-1pm, registration required • 55 ALIVE Mature Driving Class, Nov. 28-29, 10am-3pm, registration required • How to Do a Search on the World Wide Web, Nov. 30, 9:30-11am, Room 209, registration required.

MISC

Brucemore
2160 Linden Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-7375
Holiday Tours, Nov. 23-Dec. 30, Tues-Sat., 10am-3pm; Sunday, 12-3pm; closed Dec. 24-25.

H.D. Youth Center
1006 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 363-5239
Thanksgiving Dinner, for homeless people and others who can’t afford a good dinner, anyone who would like to help serve or provide food or cash donations for the dinner should call the center or drop by any day after 2:30pm, Nov. 17, 11am-4pm.

IC Public Library
123 Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200
“Tax Management Strategies,” Women and Money Series, Nov. 15, 6:30pm, to register call 337-4222 • Popo’s Puppet Festival, registration required for the 3:30pm Make-it and Take-it Workshop, Nov. 17, 10:30am, call ext. 128 for information and registration • Hillside Christian School, Children’s Traditional Thanksgiving Program, Nov. 20, 7pm, Meeting Room A.

Ruby’s Pearl
13 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 248-0032
“Siltch ‘n’ Bitch, bring your sewing, knitting or whatever and bitch or gab, every Wednesday, 6-7pm.

Senior Center
28 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5220
Senior Strength Training, through Dec. 18, Tuesdays, 12-1pm; Sunday, 12-3pm; closed Dec. 24-25.

US Cellular Center
370 First Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888
Festival of Trees, Nov. 14-18 • Arts and Crafts Show, Nov. 23, 9am-9:00pm; Nov. 24, 9am-6pm; Nov. 25, 10am-5pm • WWF Live!, Dec. 1, 7:30pm.
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OPEN THANKSGIVING FOR ALL YOU TURKEYS

May I be the first to wish you Happy Thanksgiving!
ARIES (March 21–April 19) Humanitarian causes are a mainstay in your life. You will start a new, financially inconvenient round of activity in this area. This could cause temporary awkwardness with partners and a minor shift of loyalties. A generous family member will help you overcome any financial difficulties. Your selfless initiative will ease a tense situation locally and improve affairs transpiring at a distance. Many small changes resulting from this initiative will add up to an improved outlook generally.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20) Higher ups are making another round of changes to fix another round of almost-mortar changes. Little Village

Cancer (June 21–July 22) A lot of things are obvious to you. However, they are the subject of endless discussion and argument between other people. Unfortunately, the people having these pointless talks have a lot of leverage in your life. They want guarantees. You are waiting for permission. Neither will ever come at this rate. You must act without certainty or permission. You have the confidence and the determination. Clarity, certainty and approval will follow. If you get off the dime, everybody else will, too.

LEO (July 23–Aug 22) You’re brain-storming and networking like crazy with your friends and creative partners. This is inspiring, stimulating and genuinely worthwhile. Professional and family concerns have to work in a mutually supportive way, however. You will be inspired to do what is needed to get the family on board. You will also feel the determination and confidence to follow through successfully. This could involve a step you never thought you’d take, but it will move things quickly in the right direction.

VIRGO (Aug 23–Sept 22) You are in for some testing exchanges at work and you could be blindsided and upended by some abrupt changes. What else is new? Things are rigged to come out your way, though. Virgos are getting extra allotments of good luck. It seemed like you’d never be free of those two Herculean messes, one at home and one at work, but you are about to find the exit. You’re in for a boost in the love and money department, too.

LIBRA (Sept 23–Oct 22) Your delicate Libran antennae will pick up increased turbulence in your environment and feisty undertones in your communications. However, this unpleasantness will not distract you from important, positive developments. The powers that be are having a change of heart, offering you needed financial relief. That intensity on the local scene will also ease, leading to new creative and romantic possibilities. The geographical move you’ve been contemplating will come closer to reality, too. Follow-through will be easier than you think.

SCORPIO (Oct 23–Nov 21) That big stubborn family/financial problem is giving way to new round of changes. Members you never thought would rise to the occasion are rising to the occasion. Your own personal attitudes, which you never thought would change, are changing. Financial possibilities you thought would never develop are developing. Emotional barriers you never thought would dissolve are dissolving. It defies the odds, but it’s real. It won’t come together overnight, but effort spent to make it work will be well rewarded.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22–Dec 21) Your smooth-sailing and your tough-going have both been remarkable lately. They’ve stayed in separate areas of your life, though. The good luck didn’t change your life for the better, conditioned. But good luck is presently invading your whole life. In separate areas of your life are now working together mysteriously to enhance your successes, transforming any impending failures to victories. Everything is coming together to make a new, and really good, starting point.

CRAB (Dec 22–Jan 19) We don’t usually see progress in our personal lives translate directly into financial and professional progress. Right now, though, there is a powerful and positive synergy between your inner and outer lives. It is quickly turning positive personal change into concrete, real-world benefits. Events in separate areas of your life are now working together to enhance your success. You are in for a huge boost that you never thought would come.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20–Feb 18) You work hard to help others. You work hard to meet your own needs, too. Your desire and determination to do both have rarely been stronger. In a way, you have become trapped by other people’s expectations of you. To advance, you need to change those expectations. That’s hard because others have so much control over your working conditions right now. A burst of understanding and cooperation from workmates and superiors will soon help you move things in new directions.

PIES (Feb 19–March 20) Discussions with people who have a lot of control over your financial affairs are awkward and they are forcing some difficult attitude adjustments on your part. However, problems that have made your home and work life so difficult have eased significantly. Progress on these fronts is making those attitude adjustments easier. Friends, lovers and mentors are supporting you as never before, making possible what once seemed impossible. The overall effect: Some new and very attractive possibilities are emerging.
Strange but True!

News Quirks
Compiled by Roland Sweet

Curses, Foiled Again

The New York Post reported in September that police in Suffolk County, N.Y., were seeking Illdiko Varga, 25, a Hungarian woman who fled her job as an au pair in Long Island in May. The article said Varga was accused of locking the 6-year-old girl she was supposed to be watching in the bathroom and ransacking her employer’s Nesconset home. The day after the article appeared, the fugitive approached a police officer in New York City and asked if she could sue the paper for printing “something bad” about her. The officer told Varga she could sue the paper for libel if the story was wrong, then suggested she accompany him to the station to talk about the suit. Once there, the officer called Suffolk County police, who arrived and arrested her.

Slightest Provocation

David Monroe Baumann, 30, pleaded guilty in San Jose, Calif., to murdering his 34-year-old wife during an argument that began over what to have for dinner. “She was serving macaroni and cheese and Tater Tots, and he wanted something more healthful,” defense lawyer Richard Rosen said. “And it grew into an argument over everything in their lives. They fought off and on through the evening, and finally, shortly before midnight, he strangled her in the bathroom as she was getting ready to take a bath.”

Aftershocks

The US government announced it was changing the color of Humanitarian Daily Rations food packets being dropped in Afghanistan from yellow to blue so Afghan civilians wouldn’t mistake them for unexploded bomblets from cluster bombs, which are also yellow. “It’s unfortunate that the cluster bombs—the unexploded ones—are the same color as the food packets,” Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Gen. Richard B. Myers told the Washington Post before the switch, indicating civilians “get used to running to yellow.”

Officials in Dutchess County, N.Y., removed names from several prominent government buildings in Poughkeepsie to make them harder for potential terrorists to identify, although one expert in security and terrorism said the action wouldn’t be a significant deterrent. “If someone wants to do something,” said Philip Stern, who works for FTI Consultants in Manhattan, “they’re going to figure out which is the big building in Poughkeepsie.”

Two South Florida men, David Pitchford and David Bruner, filed a $1.1 trillion federal lawsuit against Osama bin Laden, charging he threatened them with personal injury and intentionally inflicted emotional distress. According to the suit, the plaintiffs had to build and refortify their bomb shelters because of bin Laden’s threats. They said the threats also caused them personal injury, including high blood pressure and stomach disorders.

Slovakia experienced a brief scare over a possible anthrax attack when tens of thousands of suspicious envelopes arrived in mailboxes. After receiving dozens of calls, police rushed to investigate but discovered the envelopes contained promotional samples of Procter & Gamble’s Maxi-Pad sanitary napkins.

A woman from Washington state, who had become frustrated with the red tape involved in proving her 25-year-old son dead to the company processing his student loans, sent a letter and a plastic bag containing some of his ashes to Sallie Mae’s offices in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., on Oct. 12. “We treated it as an anthrax scare. It was a gray, powdery substance,” said company vice president Joseph Bailey, noting the office handles more than 100,000 pieces of mail a day. “People were freaking out and going to the doctor thinking they had handled anthrax.”

Hours after the attack on the World Trade Center, fire fighters sweeping areas that had been placed off limits reported a person at an address a few hundred yards from the disaster site who refused to evacuate his smoke and debris-filled apartment. Robert Morgenthau, Manhattan district attorney, recognized the address as the site of a suspected drug ring and issued search warrants to police, who seized 3,000 ecstasy tablets, hashish, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, guns and ammunition from the apartment. “This guy had his priorities in mind despite the fact that the World Trade Center crumbled right across the street,” Bridget Brennan of New York’s special narcotics unit said. “He didn’t leave his post.”

Triumph International (Japan) Ltd. announced it is developing a new “free bra” in response to tighter airport security procedures. Instead of metal wires and hooks, the new Frequent Flyers’ Bra uses resinous wires and nonmagnetic metal hooks to avoid triggering airport security detectors. The company said the new bra would go on sale with matching panties for $31.40 in December.

Art, Schmart

The same night that British conceptual artist Damien Hirst assembled his latest work in the window of a Mayfair gallery, a cleaning man took it apart and threw it away because he thought it was garbage. The work consisted of half-full coffee cups, ashtrays with cigarette butts, empty beer bottles, a paint-smeared palette, an easel, a ladder, paintbrushes, candy wrappers and newspaper pages strewn about the floor. Heidi Reitmaier, head of special projects for the Eyestorm Gallery, put the work’s sales value at “six figures,” but the custodian disagreed. “As soon as I clapped eyes on it, I sighed because there was so much mess,” Emmanuel Asare, 54, told the Evening Standard newspaper. “It didn’t look much like art to me. So I cleared it all in bin bags, and I dumped it.”

British “media artist” Matt Rogalsky said he planned to spend 24 hours monitoring the BBC’s current affairs channel Radio 4 and collecting the gaps between words. He will transcribe the recorded silence onto 24 audio CDs, which he will sell in a limited edition boxed set for $426. Rogalsky said he got the idea after reading about US radio talk show hosts complaining about the new technology that allows radio station owners to edit out fragments of silence between words to increase the time available for advertising messages.

Compiled from the nation’s press by Roland Sweet. Send original clippings, citing source and date, to P.O. Box 8130, Alexandria VA 22306.
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