Terrorists: Stick to the oligarchs and autocrats

“A government of the people, for the people and by the people shall not perish from this earth.”

—a handsome Irishman, who was killed while visiting Texas, the place our current Great Communicator calls home.

This purports to who the people are. And just who are the people of our government? Who are they of and for and by? Well, anyone free of convictions (you choose which I mean). Those who buy car alarms. Hell, those who buy cars. Anyone with anything worth stealing, coveting or trading in for another chemical escape because those who seek pleasure are self-serving criminals who should be removed from a society that likes nice, clean, dandelion-free lawns and team victories.

You are born in this country and de facto you are governed. Yet I’ve never felt the government was me. It seemed to belong to the wealthy and pious. Anyone with enough power to exert their will and conscript a mercenary army of small-minded, violence-prone strongmen. When I read in the Christian Science Monitor about government reports of how the next expected rounds of “terrorism” may occur on buses and trains, it crosses my mind that I wish said anonymous terrorists would just stick to government targets and leave the ordinary citizen alone. Because in my head they are separate entities. The government goes on about its business making up new laws on a daily basis, favoring one entity while curtailing another. I sure wish I had such access to those lawmakers so I could get something passed that said “leave Dave alone” or “anyone connected with the government must work for free.” I’m willing to grant that the government does act in the interest of a few people. Let’s see the armed bears, the merchants, Yale, um, General Dynamics and let’s not forget the fuel companies. And they do hire a lot of people. I am reminded of the sheer joy that passed through a small community in Illinois when the state decided to build a penitentiary there. The lastless could now have jobs! Brutishness became fully employable. People and money would come to their town. The quiet rural community could begin to enjoy such worldly possessions as cable TV, SUVs, computers, cell phones and all that insubstantial crap that you can buy at a Wal-Mart. They could feel like a part of society, marching alongside others who proudly display their loyalty to brand names and the exhilarating status. I feel so happy for them! But not jealous. I’ve worked for the government before. And the fast food industry. And the automotive. And the factory. I noticed that the smaller the entity was the more I enjoyed the work and the less concerned I was for the degree of financial reward. I could believe in something and that suited me fine.

To be fair, I know some people in government and even some of them I would never wish a scratch upon their toe. They are “right honorable” perhaps because they subscribe similarly to my convictions. I realize that the monster I call government is composed of some of the very citizens I wish the anonymous, angry, vengeful downtrodden would not hate. Unfortunately, they end out the biggest targets, these good folk because they are not hiding away, sharpening their knives.

So this is my plea going out to those who seek violent recourse: Choose your targets carefully. You know a lot of foreigners and common laborers were killed in that Trade Center fiasco. Stick to the oligarchs and autocrats. Try for our vice president or attorney general. They won’t be missed.

David Murray
Iowa City

little village

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Why we don't fight

My first whiff of doom concerning the 2002 midterm elections—my first indication that their aftermath would find me sitting at this keyboard once again trying to sort through a very large dung heap, one turd at a time—came to me shortly after the death of Sen. Paul Wellstone. Unexpectedly, the feeling came not from the many gee-whiz eulogies delivered by Wellstone’s fellow Democrats describing the senator’s dedication to both public service and his own conscience as “rare” and “unique”—that is, as an example that none of the eulogizers would even momentarily consider trying to live up to—though in retrospect, a good portion of the resulting tale was told right then and there. Instead, it was the swift circulation of conspiracy theories positing the senator’s death as an assassination by the sinister forces of the Bush cabal that began to tear at the last threads of my optimism. “Oh, Christ,” I thought. “Here we go…”

While it came as no news to me that the left was capable of producing yahoos every bit as irrational as those right wingers who believe that Vince Foster was found with Hillary Clinton’s public hairs in his boxer shorts, I was nonetheless struck by how ludicrously beside the point such speculation seemed—damn it, there was an election on—and, for a kicker, just how much it had in common with mainstream Democratic thought. Conspiracy theory carries with it a connotation of helplessness, a feeling that the game has been rigged by a ruthless opponent and that the best efforts of the just have thereby been rendered meaningless. It is this same kind of fatalism that has marked the general attitude of Democrats both in power and at large for much of the last two years.

One of the popular explanations for the overall failure of the Democrats in 2002 casts them as a “divided party,” a theory that is only partially true. Almost to a person, the Democrats who have held or sought office thus far in the 21st century seem to have been united in the belief that the Bush presidency is a phenomenon that is somehow beyond the power of mere politics. What divisions do exist in the party seem to be between the centrist, DLC (or “Vichy”) Democrats—whose response to the president’s enviable poll numbers consists largely of attempts at co-option that all too often have amounted to outright collaboration—and the tattered remains of the party’s progressive wing, who seem to be operating on the theory that by maintaining a dignified silence in the face of the amazing collection of irrationalities that is the Bush phenomenon they are somehow giving the president enough rope to hang himself.

Given the dominance of these schools of thought (particularly the former) in Democratic leadership circles, it comes as no surprise that at their moments of greatest optimism before election day, national Democrats spoke not of their bold alternatives to the Republican foreign and domestic policy agendas—for indeed they had none—but of the fineness of their nuances and gestures. Voter anger over the outcome of the Florida presidential vote was to have driven a strong revenge vote for Democrats—at least according to those Democrats who failed utterly to realize just how much of the voter anger concerning Florida was in fact pointed at Al Gore, whose failure to stand up to Republican intimidation and insist on his and his supporters’ rights under the law handed the Republicans the executive branch and set the stage for all that has come after. Voter anger over Bush’s tax cuts and the resulting deficits was to have swept Democrats into office, without any of them having to do anything drastic like proposing that those cuts that have not yet taken effect (which will affect the average voter

Voter anger over Bush’s tax cuts and the resulting deficits was to have swept Democrats into office, without any of them having to do anything drastic like proposing that those cuts that have not yet taken effect (which will affect the average voter not at all) be suspended in a simple effort to stop the bleeding.

not at all) be suspended in a simple effort to stop the bleeding. And for good measure, the 2002 crop of candidates included a Vietnam veteran amputee, a Kennedy who was a woman, and a candidate for Florida governor who was neither Neil Bush nor Janet Reno. How could they lose?

How indeed? Democrats are still apoplectic over the 2000 Green Party assertion that there is no appreciable difference between the two major parties, and in fact there were many differences between the parties in 2002, many of which will make themselves known as soon as Trent Lott, Dennis Hastert and the president’s people get this show on the road. The problem is, apoplexy and Nader-bashing aside, few Democrats are willing to draw those distinctions, much less embrace them. Let’s hope that some time in the wilderness leads them to that conclusion, and that the ensuing body count in the meantime isn’t too high...*
Peace begins at home

As this holiday season approaches, the platitude "peace on Earth, goodwill to all people" takes on great depths of seriousness. The violence of the world has shown up on our doorstep (the only way that "the world has changed" since 9-11-01 is that the US has become more aware of what's been out there for years). We are returning this violence, in spades, to the Middle East. Regardless of the geopolitical debates that surround the current conflicts, the fact is that the world is engaged in apocalyptic violence—and the US is at the forefront. My greatest holiday wish is that the world would create a new paradigm of "peace on earth," and that our country be at the forefront of this cause. Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio is more than right in his efforts to create a Department of Peace. As a moral, free and prosperous nation, we must be proactive leaders in cultivating peace rather than perpetrating violence under the guise of defense. Let us be pre-emptive about peace, not war.

Peace begins at home. We need to flesh out that platitude into three dimensions as well. The aphorisms "all politics are local" and "think globally, act locally" also need to take on the weight of the real. Iowa City has a peace-loving tradition, which we need to nurture and re-invigorate in the face of global violence. At this holiday season, let us celebrate and be thankful for what we do well, and give ourselves gifts of improved peacefulness while the world at large tilts toward destruction.

First, here is what I think Iowa City does well in creating a peaceful community:

"Iowa City cares for its fellow human beings. The Free Medical Clinic, Emergency Housing Project, Wild Bill's Small Mall, the charity races and walks, the UI's Dance Marathon, the Women's Resource and Action Center, the Iowa City Human Rights Commission—these and many other projects, although always in need of more help, show Iowa City's compassion, an essential ingredient of peace toward our fellow beings.

Many Iowa Citians care deeply for the earth. Environmental Advocates, the local chapter of the Sierra Club, Friends of Hickory Hill Park—these and many other groups and individuals know that care must extend toward our natural world for us to be truly peaceful creatures.

Our city has a number of peace activist groups—Iowans for Peace, Iowans for Peace with Iraq, Campaign Against War, for example. And I am grateful that, for the most part, these groups are allowed to conduct their activities unmolested in Iowa City, as the First Amendment allows.

Iowa City has a strong public tradition—public spaces, public art, public festivals. The Pedestrian Mall allows citizens to gather—to speak their minds, to come together in enjoying music and art festivals, to merely sit and encounter each other. Public art says that we communally value creative and free expression. A spectacular public library gives one of the most important gifts freely to all—information and thought. Valuing and nurturing the commons is crucial for a peaceful society.

We are a diverse community. Oh, I know that we can't compare to New York or L.A. or Paris. But for Iowa, we have people from many different places, of many different minds, of many different affiliations and affections, and of many different backgrounds. We co-exist peacefully and respectfully, for the most part, and our exposure to each other's differences provides for understanding.

We can give ourselves some gifts that will make us an even more peaceful community.

We can provide ourselves with public representatives who value peace, cooperation and civility. Our current city council, I believe, does not always display those values. I would ask all council members to remove the motes from their eyes and view the rebroadcasts of council meetings on Channel 4. Mutual respect and cooperation are often in short supply. And Iowa Citians, in order to assemble the best public bodies, we all need to vote—not a paltry one-quarter of us.

We need to care more about our local environment. Our architectural heritage is being destroyed, and we are victimizing ourselves with sprawl. Without respect for our own cultural and natural environments, we surely will not respect others' as we contemplate conflict.

People who drink too much need to stop. Beyond all the arguments about prudery, individual rights and economics, each one of us who drinks or abuses other substances to excess not only must acknowledge the violence against self but also must look into his or her heart and know the consequences for others.

People who willingly lose control of their faculties volunteer to the possibility of committing violence, of many sorts, against other people and property. Sexual
assault, drunk-driving accidents, fights, public urination and vomiting, destruction of public and private property—these are the things that happen when people willingly drink too much. These are hardly elements of a peaceful community. Why would anyone want to inflict these harms so deliberately?

Voting, controlling excessive drinking and organizing jazz festivals—none of these will directly stop war in the Middle East. But we need to redirect our national priorities toward cultivating peace in the world, and away from instigating war and conflict through our economic, social and military policies. That will never happen until individuals and communities order their lives around peace. So here, today, in Iowa City, let's do what we can to create peace on Earth and goodwill to all people.

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Happy Holidays from the K family

The Holiday Update Letter is a great Christmas tradition that families have enjoyed inflicting on each other probably since before Christ was born. Here's the Holiday Update we'd like to see.

By Suke Cody

Hello Everyone and Happy Holidays!

It is time again for our annual Holiday Update Letter. I know how much you all look forward to it, especially those of you who we don't make any effort to contact during the rest of the year. So though things are pretty hectic right now I have managed to pull it together one more time. And what an exciting year it has been! First of all, you'll notice that this year we have bypassed the entire paper, envelopes and stamps route and gone completely electronic. This not only has saved a lot of time, but also effort and money. Isn't technology great?

As I said, it has been an exciting year in the K household. Most notably, Mr. K lost his job! And because of that unfortunate incident in August with the cat on the roof and the unstable ladder with the broken rung, he has been flat on his back for three whole months. Mr. K has been spending lots of time with Dr. Phil, the afternoon soaps, and catching up on current events. He is very dedicated to current events, often staying up until the wee hours of the morning to get the latest updates on everything that is going on. Some women complain about having their husbands at home, but I barely notice mine!

Little Julie has been keeping us on our toes. She has had a very noteworthy first few months at preschool and has, to date, been expelled from three! She has always been very high strung and we feel the structure is probably challenging for her. Thankfully, the little girl she had conflicts with at her last school suffered no permanent injuries! We are now considering home schooling her, especially since it looks like Mr. K will be home anyway (how lucky!).

Bobby has also had a very challenging year at school—but challenge does build character! It seems like not a day passes that he isn't coming home with a black eye or a sprain or a bruise. Oh, those school yard scraps! But he never complains and his father gave him some good manly advice about “sticking up for yourself” that I am sure was wonderful for Bobby's self-esteem. We know he can handle anything that comes his way. And he is becoming quite the technophile, spending hours and hours every day in front of his computer—other than going to school, he rarely leaves his room! I am sure he is learning a lot and taking advantage of all the educational opportunities the Internet has to offer.

Jimmy, on the other hand, has been the easiest kid lately. We almost never see him. He has become very social, which is a wonderful change after all those years of being such a "Lone Wolf." He even had to get a cell phone to keep up with all the incoming calls—quite the Mr. Popularity! And he barely gets in the door before someone is pulling into the driveway honking the horn, and he's gone again. At first we were afraid that all this going out might affect his grades, but he recently informed us that his school has done away with the grading system as well as report cards because they felt that placing that type of value judgment on a child's school performance could be damaging to self-esteem. I am so pleased that the public school system here is so enlightened; we do feel very blessed. Also, he seems to have found a part-time job somewhere—he never eats at home and he hasn't asked me for money in Lord knows how long. He has always been so enterprising! I bet all you other moms of teen-age boys are envying me right now!

As far as I am doing, well, it is the same old, same old! Get up in the morning, get everyone off to school, settle Mr. K and Julie in front of the TV and head off to my job. Yes, I am a career woman now! We do have Mr. K's severance package (thankfully, his company wasn't one of those that were so unpleasant to their ex-employees!), but with him taking a rest for the time being, I thought it would be wise to go out and start bringing in a little something—wise! I thought it would be wise to go out and start bringing in a little something—and fun and challenging as well! After so many years of being home with the children it took some time to find a job, but I find I really enjoy cleaning rooms at the Holiday Inn. It actually is quite quiet and restful compared to the hustle and bustle of being a full-time mother (you full-time mothers know what I am talking about). I am even thinking of picking up a second job once Mr. K can stand up long enough at a stretch to do a little of the housework. All in all, working has been excellent for my self-esteem.

Well, that's the news from our happy little corner of the world, and we sure hope you all had an exciting year, too. Wonderful Holidays to You and Yours from Us and Ours!

Love,
The K Family
Behind the wrecking ball

Is the UI destroying our past as it moves into the future?

Vicki Krajewski

Resentment, skepticism and resentment bubble beneath the surface of relationships between the University of Iowa and Iowa City proponents of historic preservation.

At the heart of the matter lies a fundamental contradiction between the goals of preservation and the ambitious growth initiatives being undertaken by the university.

Put simply, preservationists want to save things; the university wants to build.

It is difficult to walk or drive through much of the campus without bumping into a current or prospective construction site.

The city of Iowa City recently managed to delay construction on one such site through a series of administrative actions that UI Vice President for Finance Douglas True called "disturbing and difficult to understand."

The university had asked the city to vacate a portion of Grand Avenue Court to facilitate further construction on the new Gerdin Athletics Learning Center. The council refused, however, to give up the city property until it received a written, binding agreement that the 118-year-old Cannon-Gay-McCloskey House, a site on the National Registry of Historic Places, would either be left standing or appropriately relocated.
In late October, the university signed a contract to protect the house and the council called a special meeting to begin the approval process for vacating the street.

Shelly McCafferty, of the city's Historic Preservation Commission, said it is the university's long-term intent to acquire and demolish all the homes on Grand Avenue Court. The property will be used for the athletics center and the possible construction of a new residence hall.

Four houses in the area have already been demolished. Destruction of the house that accommodates the Latino Native American Cultural Center is also planned.

McCafferty said, "Particularly with the McCloskey house we wanted to set a precedent that the city expects the university to respect community interests, especially if they expand into old neighborhoods."

Bricks and mortar: examining preservationist philosophy

Ask Jeffrey Schabilion about the value of preserving an old neighborhood or a Victorian house, and he will ask about the value of air or light, trees—or sports.

"If I have to justify the value of a neighborhood which is aesthetically gorgeous and has wonderful old trees and evokes the best of a time and place...then there's no way I can explain it," he said.

Schabilion is the current president and founding member of Iowa City's Friends of Historic Preservation (FHP), a non-profit group born of a decades-long struggle to save the landmark building known as Old Brick.

McCafferty cites other virtues of preservation. In her view, conserving old buildings and neighborhoods improves quality of life, preserves culture and provides a physical record of history.

Many critics of preservation view the philosophy as a pretense for gentrification, arguing that the neighborhoods that are preserved can only be afforded by the wealthy, while lower income families and individuals are driven out of "historic" areas.

Any "socially unconscious" urban planning can create disparate neighborhoods segregated by median incomes and social cache. Historic preservation can be part of the widening gap between haves and have-nots in our society.

Conversely, preservation efforts can help maintain diverse neighborhoods with space for a variety of housing styles. Selective and planned preservation, said McCafferty, "makes for a more pedestrian-friendly, people-friendly place to live...and adds to the economic viability of the community as a whole."

A rallying cry and the birth of a movement

The abiding mistrust between the community and the university over matters of historic preservation dates back to the contentious struggle over Old Brick.

In 1973, the UI agreed to buy Old Brick from the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, planning to create "green space" for neighboring dormitory residents.

As part of the sale, the congregation agreed to demolish the church building, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Schabilion recalled, "What made it all the more interesting is that the money man on the Presbyterian side and the head of accounting for the university was the same man."

According to Schabilion, the university advanced the Presbyterians a considerable amount of money, which, presumably, would have financed the demolition. "It was always the premise of The Friends of Historic Preservation that this represented collusion; an attempt to circumvent the law and spirit that protected buildings on the national register," he said.

The ensuing crusade to save Old Brick enlisted the support of some of the city's most prominent citizens, including the Van Allen family, and motivated one couple to nail a list of grievances (a la Martin Luther) to the church door. Joseph and Tillie Baker's subsequent excommunication for "the sin of disruption" received national press coverage.

In an even more defiant gesture, one activist, James Julifo, took up residence in the church tower and lowered a basket on a rope to collect donations as wrecking balls were being readied.

After much legal jockeying and galvanizing publicity, a coalition of community groups raised enough money and secured matching funds from the Iowa Division of Historic Preservation to purchase the building in 1975.

The building is currently owned by the Old Brick Episcopal Lutheran Corporation, a non-profit foundation that uses the site for campus ministries and rents the sanctuary out for community events.

Since the university owns the rest of the block and is currently building a new honors center adjacent to the church, concerns are being raised once again about the prospective sale and destruction of the building.

According to Chuck Coulter, Episcopal Lutheran Corporation board member, there were some conversations regarding a sale of the building to the university about a year and a half ago, "but it never materialized."

Coulter hesitated to characterize Old Brick's future as secure: "Our intentions are certainly to preserve it. It's just a very expensive proposition. We are seeking grant money and donations for repairs."

Thanksgivings, misgivings and a mixed report card

Schabilion characterized the university's overall track record on historic preservation as "a very mixed bag." Overall, though, the former UI professor gives the university a "B or B+.

"I'm sure my colleagues, some of them, would be mildly horrified [at such a positive assessment]. They think of the university as the devil," he said, explaining that the antagonistic mindset formed out of the Old Brick controversy endures.

Indeed, there are suspicions about a recently demolished historic
house located to adjacent the UI president’s mansion. According to McCafferty, the owner of the house that used to stand at 530 N. Clinton St. planned to convert the structure into a bed and breakfast but, facing prohibitive restoration costs, found it more practical and profitable to demolish the structure and sell the property to the university, which plans to use the land for “green space.”

“There were rumors that the university was in on the whole process,” said McCafferty, “but they were unsubstantiated.”

“Clearly, if the university were to have blood on its hands or fangs, where it looks least good is the fact that they entered into that agreement with the Presbyterians to demolish Old Brick,” Schabilion said. “But they acquiesced. Old Brick is still there; the Old Capitol is still there despite the fire.” Schabilion recited a list of buildings and sites the university has gone to considerable cost and effort to save when demolition would have been “convenient, modern and expedient.”

In addition to Old Capitol, the university has invested in upkeep and restoration of the Dey House, the Shambaugh House, Calvin Hall, the president’s home and other sites.

Of course, other buildings on university property have not received the necessary maintenance and conservation that make their continued preservation practical or even possible.

Campus planner Larry Wilson said university decisions to preserve and remodel or demolish and build anew are driven by cost/benefit analyses. Planners consider whether a building is deteriorating and if the cost of restoration is larger than the cost of razing and rebuilding.

The building’s importance to the campus is also weighed. Wilson said, “We ask the question, ‘What are its campus values, and are they high enough [that] we shouldn’t demolish?’”

Wilson said investment in upkeep and remodeling of current structures is based in part on how much a department can raise in private funds, since facilities are only partially supported through a public capital replacement fund. Upkeep, remodeling and new construction are all funded under the same general umbrella.

Even fundraising-rich departments seemingly have more incentive to build new facilities, rather than restore or remodel. “Part of the issue is, to get a private donor to donate a substantial amount of money, they want to know what it’s for—and then there are naming opportunities,” Wilson explained.

True said the UI has undertaken “enormous and costly efforts to preserve the heritage of the community and the university.”

Still, Iowa City’s Historic Preservation Plan, drafted in 1992, lists several neighborhoods in jeopardy of losing historic sites due to encroaching university development.

Jackie Briggs, FHP’s executive director, said the bottom line is that “the university likes to see itself as preservationist, but they also like to be expanding whenever they fiscally can. This puts historic districts at risk.”

**Growing pains and redevelopment pressure**

The single most pressing issue facing historic sites on and off campus is the sweeping expansion of the university. Schabilion put the university’s overall “10 to 20-fold” growth into palpable terms: “Seashore Hall was the University Hospital, that little building on those two square blocks. Look across the river and see what that’s turned into, and you realize the incredible space needs.”

The Boyd Law Building used to be a small neighborhood of Victorian homes. A pre-Civil War brick house once stood on the current site of the nursing building.

The university has simply and urgently needed more room to house
its growing programs and, until recently, ballooning enrollment.

The pressure to bulldoze whole neighborhoods and build anew is made even greater by the continuing need for more student housing and the university's close proximity to historic districts.

According to McCafferty, the university policy of not significantly expanding dormitory capacity over the past several decades left the private market to provide nearby housing for students. Many historic homes within walking distance of campus were demolished in favor of large, boxy apartment buildings.

"The city lost a lot of single family dwellings, particularly on Lucas and Johnson streets," she said.

Schabilion noted that the city has not always been preservation's strongest advocate, either. "Twenty-five years ago, I would have given them a D-," he said, noting that a serious strategy for identifying and conserving historic districts was not enacted until 1992.

Schabilion remembers "really splendid homes" and "magnificent mansions" lining College and Clinton streets when he arrived in Iowa City 34 years ago. The Dey House, now home to the Writers' Workshop, represents one of the few remaining original structures on Clinton Street.

"The community needs to provide student housing, but this impacts neighborhoods... that have a history and a character that is irreplaceable," McCafferty said.

More and more of these neighborhoods are coming under the protection of zoning changes that prohibit developers from coming in and replacing older homes with apartment complexes. Still, the city only recently inventoried its historic structures in the downtown area, this after the Harmon Building and the UI's Eastlawn building were razed to make way for a parking ramp. And even after this study was completed, the Carnegie Library building nearly fell to the wrecking ball. While the 11th-hour intervention of local preservationists saved that structure, the historic Vogel House was lost when preservationists were occupied with saving the library.

Contentious boundaries: campus versus city

Preservationists face unique issues in Iowa City because of the competing jurisdictions of state and city.

Since the UI is a state institution, McCafferty explained, it does not have to follow land-use law and municipal codes that protect historic districts and sites.

"The university can pretty much buy property regardless of zoning and basically do whatever they want to, as long as they follow state building codes," she said.
The city and university are also at odds when it comes to identifying sites for preservation. Iowa City uses the procedures set out in its preservation plan.

Under that plan, architectural consultants survey an area or neighborhood to identify sites of particular historical interest and value. Then the city applies for historic designation.

The university has no overall preservation plan for the campus, preferring to work on "a case by case basis," according to Wilson.

Though the city's plan contains a list of goals, objectives and specific action steps for the UI, the university has not adopted those recommendations.

The plan asks the university to complete an inventory of historic resources as "a first step." Though this objective was identified in 1992, the UI has yet to take that first step.

"Part of the issue is timing," said Wilson. "With budget constraints, these studies are not of immediate need."

McCafferty pointed to a deeper problem, saying that, to date, there have not been effective communications or working relationships between the city and the university.

"My sense is that the university is very elusive about plans," McCafferty said. "They want the flexibility to do whatever they want to do. They also don't want to indicate where they are thinking of building because then the property values and asking prices would go up. So they do not commit to anything publicly."

Wilson said the university tries to work with the city on preservation issues: "I think over the last few years we've improved that working relationship."

McCafferty said she has talked with Wilson regarding preliminary surveys, "...but there really hasn't been a sit down at the table and work this out." She believes that the lack of cooperation on larger issues "...has to do with the direction the university is getting from the higher-ups: the board of regents, the vice president and others."

Still, McCafferty made clear that it is not the city's intention to impede or halt university building and expansion: "There are properties without historic value, and there is potential to build in several areas.... It's a matter of location and scale: How do new buildings fit into old neighborhoods?"

Up & over: the UI looks toward continued growth

The UI is currently in the midst of an unprecedented seven-year $850-million growth campaign called "Good. Better. Best. Iowa: The Campaign to Advance Our Great University."
photos by suke cody

trash art

(Use a #2 pencil)
Negativland vs. U2...again

There's only one record that I can honestly say changed my life. About 10 years ago, the sound collage collective Negativland released an EP titled, simply, *U2*. On the release, they sampled *U2*'s "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" and a pious speech by the group's frontman, Bono, making the group seem more than a little ridiculous. Oh yeah, they also sampled another familiar voice, but I'll get to that in a little bit. This satirical record incurred the corporate wrath of *U2*'s record label and publishing company, both of which tried to sue Negativland out of existence for violating their copyrights and trademarks.

This was 1991, in the days before Napster, when intellectual property law was primarily of interest to corporate lawyers, CEOs and freaks like me who had their eyes opened to the way copyright was increasingly being used to privatize every imaginable part of our culture. (I later found out that the phrase "home style" is owned by *Mrs. Smith's Foods, "Happy Birthday To You" is owned by AOL/Time-Warner, and pharmaceutical companies are patenting virtually every important gene in our bodies. These disturbing facts pushed me to trademark the phrase "Freedom of Expression," just to see if I could. And I got it—trademark no. 2,127,381.)

I was an undergrad when Negativland was sued, and, because of the lawsuit, I started researching and writing about intellectual property—and never stopped. When I finally published my book on the topic, *Owning Culture*, I made sure to give a nod to the group in the acknowledgements page: "Thanks to Negativland for getting sued in 1991 and sparking my interest in the topic."

Why am I writing about this now? Because—lawsuits be damned—Negativland has seen fit to reissue an expanded version of that release, now titled *These People Are From England and Who Gives a Shit?* (Seeland), which contains the original versions of the collages, plus multiple bonus tracks. On its website, Negativland announces: "Negativland has discovered what can only be described as the ultimate reissue of the music that made Negativland so (in)famous: the two-track EP originally released by SST Records featuring cover versions of a Very Famous Irish Rock Band's hit song. If you've gotten this far you undoubtedly know what we're talking about so we won't bore you with the details...."

But some of you probably don't know about this release, so I will bore you with the details (though they are far from boring).

The original CD contained two sound-collage versions of the *U2* song "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" that mix in eyebrow-raising out-takes from Casey Kasem's "American Top 40" radio show. On Negativland's single, the conge nial-sounding voice of Kasem can be heard saying things like: "That's the letter U and the numeral 2. The four-man band features Adam Clayton on bass, Larry Mullen on drums, Dave Evans—nick-named The Edge—wait, this is bullshit. Nobody cares! These people are from England and who gives a shit? Just a lot of wasted names that don't mean diddley-shit!"

The single was released on the small, independent record label SST with little fanfare, but within four days of its release SST and Negativland were sued by *U2*'s label, Island Records, and *U2*'s song publisher, Warner-Chappel. The lawsuit required SST to cease distribution of the single; recall all promotional copies sent out to radio stations and record stores; pay Island and Warner Chappel $25,000 and half the proceeds of all copies of the single that were sold; destroy all remaining copies in stock; and, finally, deliver the master tapes and Negativland's copyrights over to Island.

By the time the lawsuit became widely publicized, only 7,000 copies of the single had been sold, many of which were probably snapped up because the release became an instant collector's item. Recognizing that the band and their label were small fish compared to the multinational corporations they faced, the band stated, "Preferring retreat to total annihilation, Negativland and SST had no choice but to comply completely with these demands." When they gave in, they argued: "Companies like Island depend on this kind of economic inevitability to bully their way over all lesser forms of opposition. Thus, Island easily wipes us off..."
the face of their earth purely on the basis of how much more money they can afford to waste than we can. We think there are issues to stand up for here, but Island can spend their way out of ever having to face them in a court of law."

When the Edge, U2's guitarist, was interviewed over the phone for *Mondo 2000* magazine to promote their *Zoo TV* tour, unbeknownst to him, Negativland members Mark Hosler and Don Joyce were invited to conduct the interview. During their chat, the group members sucker the Edge into defending Negativland's own position regarding sampling and copyright infringement, the position that got them in trouble with U2's label in the first place:

**The Edge:** I mean, in theory, I don't have a problem with sampling. I suppose when a sample becomes just part of another work then it's no problem. If sampling is, you know, stealing an idea and replaying the same idea, changing it very slightly, that's different. We're using the visual and images in a completely different context. If it's a live broadcast, it's like a few seconds at the most. I don't think, in spirit there's any...

**Don Joyce:** So you think the fragmentary approach is the way to go.

**The Edge:** Yeah. You know, like in music terms, we've sampled things, people sample us all the time, you know, I hear the odd U2 drum loop in a dance record or whatever. You know, I don't have a problem with that.

**Don Joyce:** Well, this is interesting because we've been involved in a similar situation along these lines...

It was one of those great ambushes that peeled away the layers of irony, greed and bullshit that are so much a part of our culture—just like the Negativland record did. And now, after many years, it's available again, "new and improved." Get it before the lawsuits start flying again. ✪
House of Large Sizes

House of Large Sizes

What Are Records?

Everybody knows House of Large Sizes kicks ass. The Cedar Falls trio has regularly overcrowded local venues for years with music that combines hard-driving guitar riffs, pulsating drums and pounding bass lines.

The fact that all three band members sing, frequently at the same time, gives their sound a hard and ragged edge, all the while maintaining a harmony.

HOLS also has a psychedelic groove at its center. The band purposely distorts the music, making it more interesting and intense; not as an overlay or afterthought, but as an essential part of its being.

There's enough energy on HOLS's new disc to light up the state of Iowa for the holidays.

Barb Schilf (bass, vocals), Brent Hanson (drums, vocals) and Dave Diebler (guitar, vocals) have created a sonic document that explores the weirdness of everyday life at this moment.

For example, the throbbing “Do you Want to Go to a Movie” concerns a guy asking a girl for a date, except you know somehow the guy's a geek and the girl is gonna dis him, while pretending not to, but not too hard. Or the acerbically titled “Twelve Angry Reindeer,” led by Schilf's hypnotic bass line, about driving on a snowy country road looking for something that you know is not out there and ending up at the Kum & Go.

On “Stop Sign Malaria,” (the songs on the new disc have great titles like “Shovelful of Sparrows,” “The History of Camouflage, “Trees Make the Wind,” etc.) HOLS offers cogent advice for those who always complain there's nothing on the radio and there's nothing to do: “Why don't you go to a show/If you're always sitting at home/you'll never know.” HOLS have always been known as a great live band. This disc allows listeners to experience the feeling at home while waiting for the next show.

Steve Horowitz

Burn Disco Burn

I love you and what you've done with the place

When you first hear the name Burn Disco Burn you might think this Iowa City quartet has some serious anger-management issues and problems with de-tuned guitars. These guys and girl are far from that. In fact, they’re just the kind of people you’d wanna bring home to momma, with their heartfelt lyrics and leisurely paced, guitar-driven pop/rock.

In the liner notes they specify a few of their influences (Death Cab For Cutie, R.E.M. and early Radiohead…), all of which they proudly wear on their collective sleeves.

From the first chiming chords of “Ringing,” you know exactly what you’re getting into. The entire album is drenched with arpeggiated leads and emotional, soul-searching lyrics. Nick Burd’s wonderful voice is the primary and most adept instrument of this searching as he conveys a wide range of emotions with equal sincerity. I love you and... does run into a few problems, though, one being the band’s tendency to take these tight arrangements and drag them out for too long, especially for the customary solo (which seems not always necessary and tends to deviate too far from the song), and then the predictable repetition of the chorus ad nauseam. They also seem to have tacked on the last two tracks, primarily the weak and repetitive “The Optimist Club,” just to fill out the album.

When BDB is at its best, it would be hard for even the biggest skeptic to avoid singing along, however. For every “Hopeless” and “Optimist Club” there are at least four outstanding examples of what smart people can do when given instruments and amps.

If this trend continues, BDB will be a band to watch out for; they are already apparently a band to watch (I understand they put on a heck of a live show). The band performs this month at both The Green Room and Gabe’s (see calendar).

John Schlotfelt

DNA

Can Rock, I.O. What?!

creemStyle Visions

Cedar Rapids musician Roland Gibson, who creates hip-hop music under the name DNA, gives a clever nod to his Hawkeye home on this, his third release. DNA's voice has been heard plenty outside the confines of Iowa, however: He’s opened for Run-D.M.C. and worked with De La Soul and the Goodie Mob.

DNA works in the Old Skool vein. He lets the words carry the message over basic beats, and his trick is coming up with clever enough raps to keep the listener waiting for the next twist, the next rhyme.

After beginning “No, You Don’t” by speaking over a simple beat, DNA starts to pick up speed and gets into a phat groove where the listener doesn’t realize how fast the words are coming. DNA just lets the words go-go with stanzas like “Cats be illin’ like-baseheads be stealin’ like-hustlers be dealin’ like-creemStyle be buildin’ like-ken griff be fieldin’ like-do you see the light...” These lyrics are typical of DNA in their evocation of pop culture, spirituality and rap slang. Sometimes he goes over-the-top, flaunting his own talent as a rapper—a frequent ill of too many hip-hop artists—but most of the time he spends getting listeners into a serious party mood.

Gibson’s aided by several other rappers on selected cuts, including Michael Joseph, MRS, Marcelino, Melin and, most notably on “I Luv Hip Hop,” Aayin/Antagonist. The two rappers’ pleasure in making fun rhymes over steady beats is infectious.

Many out-of-staters believe Iowa is Hicksville, USA, a monoculture of white-bread plowboys and gingham girls whose musical tastes run to the bland. The next time you’re away from Hawkeyeland and some obnoxious creep mockingly says “I-O-What?” to imply Iowa is a place where nothing ever happens, let the words of DNA explain: “I.O. what? Nothing to no one, nowhere, no way, no how, no time, whatever not now” and walk on and let that fool stand there alone.

Steve Horowitz
The capital raised will be used largely for funding research, scholarships, professorships and new construction. There are plans underway for at least nine new campus facilities including a journalism and mass communications building, an art building, additions on the historic Dey House and the already in-progress athletics learning center.

Plans for the existing art and journalism buildings are less clear. Remodeling costs for the journalism building are considerable, and its future is uncertain. Wilson went on to say that, along with the planned expansions, the university is trying to look at long-term campus needs for space, even adding floors to plans for new structures, floors that currently have no planned use. Such planning obviously must perceive the school’s recent dip in enrollment as an aberration.

**The future of Iowa City’s past**

The symbiotic histories of Iowa City and the University of Iowa inextricably connect the two entities. But how they will continue to coexist and evolve to meet the changing needs of their populations is less defined.

“As long as the pressure for extreme growth exists, it’s going to be very hard to maintain historic areas,” Schabilion said. The university, with its persistent need for space and a private funding process that promotes new construction, has little motivation to restore and remodel old buildings. Clearly, there is a balance to be struck between growth and preservation needs.
Voice of the Dragon
Hancher • Dec. 10-11
In the absence of beloved perennials like Stomp or Blast this holiday season, lovers of tramp and circumstance will have to deal with something a little more, well...original. How does martial-arts spectacle meets Chinese-jazz fusion sound? Voice of the Dragon is that and more, the brainchild of Fred Ho, a hand-to-hand stealth-combat specialist, saxophonist, composer and leader of the adventurous Afro Asian Music Ensemble. Through music, theater and virtuoso martial arts, Voice of the Dragon tells the story of a young woman who betrays her monk benefactors by stealing the secrets of all martial arts and mutating into a sort of anti-superhero.

The music alone is an event unto itself. Downbeat magazine called Fred Ho’s style a “genre unto itself, a pioneering fusion of free-jazz and traditional Chinese music that manages to combine truculence and delicacy with such natural ease that it sounds positively organic,” and according to Neil Tesser, “Ho is a musical and sociological descendant of Charles Mingus; his compositions have a slashing energy.”

Positional Play
Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell • Through Dec. 20
Grinnell College’s Faulconer Gallery is, not unlike the school itself, a progressive treasure that deserves more recognition and credit from the people it happens by some happy accident to be located among. Faulconer curator Lesley Wright was half the reason for the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art’s epigrammatic rise to consequence a few years ago. Her current exhibition is a collaborative installation by Joe Mancuso and James von Minor that fills the entire 7,400 square-foot gallery with more than 130 sculptures. What makes the collaboration unusual is that Mancuso lives in Houston, Texas, and von Minor in Baltimore, Maryland. They’ve known each other since the ’70s, when they were both undergraduate art majors at Colorado State University. Despite the distance, they’ve kept in touch and use their long-distance conversations to shape and influence their art. For the Grinnell project, they each created some pieces in their respective studios and shipped them to Iowa. They worked together by telephone on plans for other pieces to be created together, and they planned a basic six-foot grid to structure the placement of the sculptures across the gallery floor. “In the final installation, the individual authorship of each piece disappears as the visitor sees, instead, a space that resembles a huge game board,” Wright said. As artists, Mancuso and von Minor prefer to use things they can buy at the local lumberyard: construction lumber, cement blocks, garden pavers and concrete. They are attracted by the fundamental qualities of those materials—color, texture, weight, shape—and how they can use those qualities to create sculptures that look nothing like the bricks, boards or pipes they started with. From these mundane materials they produce intriguing forms that are both elegant and ordinary, Wright said. Sounds like a good excuse for a road trip to us. Grinnell College, 1108 Park St., Grinnell, 641-269-4660.

ART

The Art Mission
114 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 646-1006
Sharon Burns Knutson: Cool New Work, through Dec. 8
Cedar Rapids Museum of Art
410 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-7503
Classic Images: From the Ansel Adams Archive, through Dec. 8
Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland: Painting a Story, artist Diana Lakes, through Jan. 5
Charles Biederman: A Retrospective Exhibition, through Jan. 17

Coe College
Marvin Cone and Eaton-Buchan galleries, 1220 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids, 399-3846
Senior Thesis Exhibitions, Dec. 6-13; opening reception Dec. 6, 5-7pm • Third Grade Clay, Jan. 17-20, opening reception Jan. 17, 5-7pm

CSPS
1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1580
Work by Gerald Guthrie and Eduardo De Sogaine; through Dec. 22

Faulconer Gallery
Grinnell College, 1108 Park St., Grinnell, 641-269-4660
Positional Play, Collaborative installation by Joe Mancuso and James von Minor; through Dec. 20 • Now and Brazilian

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art
538 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 358-8488
Contemporary ceramics by Akiko Kose, figurative oil paintings and intaglio by Katie Kiley, through Jan. 10

Iowa Artisans Gallery
117 E. College St., Iowa City, 351-8686
"Handmade for the Holidays," festival of ornaments, Judaica & unusual gifts, through Jan. 5

Iowa State Bank
538 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 358-8488
Recent Works by the Cae College Art Faculty, through Jan. 17

Iowa State Bank & Trust
102 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 351-8686
Iowa Artisans Gallery
117 E. College St., Iowa City, 351-8686
"Handmade for the Holidays," festival of ornaments, Judaica & unusual gifts, through Jan. 5

Iowa State Bank & Trust
102 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 351-8686
Landscapes/Dreamscapes, paintings by Alicia Brown, Catherine Jones Davies, Kim Hannah, Genie Patrick, Marcia Wegman, Laura Young and Deb Zisko.

Kirkwood Community College
Iowa Hall Gallery, 6301 Kirkwood Blvd SW, Cedar Rapids, 398-4956
Recent Works by the Kirkwood College Art Faculty, through Dec. 18.

Lorenz Boot Shop
132 S. Clinton St., Iowa City, 399-1053
Authentic Spices, photography by Robert Fox; A Beat's Eye View, photography by Cathmar Prange; Range of Motion, photography and drawing by David Trawick; Student Art, Jan. 31-April 13; opening reception Jan. 31, 5-7pm.

The Frame House
1103 1/2 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1580
Mandala Community Art Gallery
620 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City, 268-0338
domestic life, oil paintings and oil pastel works by Nancy Lincoln, Dec. 1-15; artist reception Dec. 1, 3-7pm • Jai 2Ve Make-Up Party with Bradley Adita, each person gets to create one page, refreshments and paper provided, you bring ideas and drawing materials. Dec. 3, 7-10pm • Benefit Day, 20 percent of all sales donated to Graffiti Theatre, Dec. 7 • Photographs, by Sarah Schroeder. Dec. 14-31; artist reception Dec. 14, with music by The Grace and Beauty Ragtime Trio, 7-9pm • Drawings, by Katy Obert, Dec. 15-31; artist reception Dec. 15, 7:30-9:30pm.

Senior Center
Old Post Office Gallery, 28 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5220
The Three Kinswomen, work by Cathmar Prange, Meg Prange and Amy Spencer, through Jan. 12.

The Space
120 E. Washington St. (lower level), Iowa City, 331-7147
Precious Discomposition—Painting and Assemblage, mixed medium wall and body pieces by UI senior Eleanor Smith; Dec. 12; artist reception Dec. 6, 5-7pm.

Viewpoints, work by UI art student Karlee Morehead

December 1-31

Little Village
Summit Street Gallery
812 S. Summit St., Iowa City
Eastside Artists Annual Winter Art Fair, Dec. 13, 5-8pm; Dec. 14-15, 10am-5pm.

UI Hospitals and Clinics
Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417
Paintings by Iowa City artist Alan Weinstein, Dec. 3-Jan. 30. Patient and Visitor Activities Center • Works by Davenport artist Don Muller, Dec. 2-Feb. 28, Boyd Towers West.

UI Museum of Art
150 North Riverside Dr., Iowa City, 335-1727

Hancher Auditorium
UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1160
University Symphony and Choruses, Dec. 4, 8pm • Coca and Cardos, Old Gold Singers, Dec. 7, 8pm; Dec. 8, 2pm • Sweet Honey in the Rock, Dec. 16, 8pm • Holiday Pops: Cedar Rapids Symphony, Dec. 17, 8pm • Urban Bush Women, Jan. 24, 8pm.

Iowa Memorial Union
UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1160
Missing Peace Galerie, Dec. 31, 7-8pm. (See related event listed under "UI Campus, Iowa City, 335-1160"").

Kirkwood Community College
Kirkwood Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids, 398-5578
Cedar Rapids Symphony, Holiday Pops Concert, Dec. 14, 2:30pm & 8pm, call 366-8203 • Meatloaf, Dec. 18, 7:30pm • Go Fish Christmas Concert, Dec. 19, 7:30pm • Cedar Rapids Symphony, Mozart and Brahms, Scott Dunn, piano, Dec. 18, 7:30pm; Broadway Mayibles, Jan. 31, 7pm.

Sanctuary
405 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 351-5692
Jazz Jam, Thursdays • Kelly Parkeurope, Nov. 29 • Iowa City Jazz Reunion, Nov. 30 • Tom Jessen, Dec. 6 • Tornadoes, Dec. 7 • UI Jazz Combos, Dec. 10 & 12 • Dave Moore, Dec. 13-14 • Gizmo Funk, Dec. 20 • THC Jazz, Dec. 21 • Saul Labrooff Trio, Dec. 27.

UI Hospitals and Clinics
Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417
John Colloton Pavilion Atrium, 12:15-1pm (unless noted otherwise)

Kol Shira: A Chanukah Celebration in Song, Dec. 2 • Howell High School A cappella Choir, Dec. 9 • Chameleons Band, UIHC Rehabilitation Therapies Group, Dec. 10 • Heartbeats, UIHC volunteer choir, Dec. 11 • Major Grooves, UI Medical Students, Dec. 13-20: 1:5pm, 8th Floor JCP, Patient Activity Center and Lounge • Czech Heritage Band, traditional Czech music, Dec. 13, 7-8pm • LaFosse Baroque Ensemble, strings holiday program, Dec. 11 • UIHC Brass Quintet, seasonal selection of Canadian brass, Dec. 17 • Tipton High School Choir, Dec. 18 • Bob and Kristie Black, seasonal folk music, Dec. 20.

UI Museum of Art
150 North Riverside Dr., Iowa City, 335-1727
Robert Dick, flute, Dec. 5, 7-30pm • KSUI Know the Score LVE! • Turkish folk musician and composer Bahri Karacay, Dec. 6, 5pm.

Uptown Bill’s small Mall
401 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 339-0401
The Unsung Forum, open mic for songwriters, Dec. 5, 8-10pm.

US Cellular Center
370 First Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888
Snoop Dogg, Daz, Souayahf, Bad Azz, Dec. 3, 8pm • Brad Paisley, Rascal Flatts, Tommy Shane Stein, Dec. 8, 7:30pm • Def Leppard, Dec. 21, 7:30pm • Sevendust, Cinder, RA, Closure, Dec. 20, 7:30pm.

Zion Lutheran Church
310 N. Johnson St., Iowa City, 338-0944
The Quire, annual holiday concert, Dec. 7, 8pm.

DANCE
Arts a la Carte
20 E. Market St., Iowa City
Iowa City Dance Jam, dance to eclectic music, every Friday except Dec. 25, 8pm-12am, 354-5814 for more info • Salsa Breaks, Tuesdays, 10pm-12am.

Space/Place Theater
North Hall, UI campus, Iowa City
Advanced Choreographic Design Concert, UI Dance Department, Dec. 13-14, 8pm.

UI Hospitals and Clinics
Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417
John Colloton Pavilion Atrium, 12:15-1pm, Arts A la Carte, Culture Dance Program, Dec. 12.

THEATER
Hancher Auditorium
UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1160
Voice of the Dragon, martial arts and jazz-fusion, Dec. 10-11, 8pm. (See related event listed under "University of Iowa, Iowa City, 335-1160").

Iowa City Community Theater
Exhibition Hall, Johnson County Fairgrounds.
Sanctuary

Live Music
Every Thursday
Jazz Jam
Fri 12/6 NO cover
Tom Jessen
Sat 12/7 da blues
Tornadoes
Tue & Thur Dec 10 & 12
UI Jazz Combos
Fri & Sat Dec 13 & 14
Dave Moore
Fri Dec 20
Gizmo Funk
Sat Dec 21
THC jazz
Fri Dec 27 jazz NO cover
Saul Lubaroff Trio

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A quiet Sunday dinner for two
Order a bottle of wine and two entrees
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405 S. Gilbert @ Court
351-5692 shows @ 9:30
Mon-Sat @ 4pm Sun @ 5pm

Iowa City, 338-0443
Fri. & Sat. 8pm. Sun. 2:30pm
One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Jan. 10-11, 17-19, 24-26.

Old Creamery Theatre
Price Creek Stage, 39 38th Ave., Amana,
800-352-6262
Wed., Fri. Sat. 8pm; Thurs., Sat., Sun. 3pm
1940's Radio Hour, through Dec. 22.

Owl Glass Puppetry Center
319 N. Calhoun, West Liberty, 627-248
Sal Fink, The Mississippi Screamers, Jan. 18-19, 2 & 4:30pm.
New Strand Theatre. 111 E. 3rd, West Liberty.

Paramount Theatre
123 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888
(unless noted otherwise)
Saturday Night Fever, Dec. 7, 7:30pm.

Riverside Theatre
213 N. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 338-7672
Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm
Proof, Jan. 24-Febr. 16.

Theatre Cedar Rapids
102 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-8592
Shows 7:30pm Thurs, Fri. & Sat. and 2:30pm Sun.
Over the River and Through the Woods, Jan. 31-Febr. 16.

WWRDS

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art
410 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-7503
"Through the Eyes of Ansel Adams: Local Discussion of a National Photographer," by Robert Campagna, Dec. 4, 12-1pm.

The Green Room
509 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 354-4350
Poetry Slam, Dec. 6.

IC Public Library
123 Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200
Public Forum: A Discussion on Marriage Promotion, Dec. 5, 7pm, Meeting Room A.

Iowa Memorial Union
UI campus, Iowa City
Bono, "Heart of America: Africa’s Future and Ours," Dec. 7, 7pm.

The Mill
120 E. Burlington St., Iowa City, 351-9529
Talk/Art/Cabaret, Dec. 4 & 11, 9pm.

Paul Engle Center
1600 Fourth Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1580
"A Paul Engle Christmas," excerpts from Engle’s books read by community and cultural leaders, local artists, students and neighborhood residents, Dec. 1, 2-5pm.

Prairie Lights
15 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City (unless otherwise noted), 337-2681
All 8pm (unless otherwise noted)

Riverside Theatre
213 N. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 338-7672
"How Political Values Shape Artistic Work: A Discussion with Fred Ho," moderated by Karen Kubly, Dec. 9, 7:30pm.

UI Hospitals and Clinics
Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417
John Collaton Pavilion Atrium, 12:15-1:15pm

UI Museum of Art
150 North Riverside Dr., Iowa City, 335-1727
KSUI Know the Score LIVE! Writers’ Workshop faculty member Ethan Canin talks about his short story that was the basis for the new film The Emperor’s Club, Dec. 6, 5pm.

Voxman Music Bldg.
UI campus, Iowa City, 335-1603
"Mozart and the Theater," John Rice, speaker, Dec. 13, 4:30pm, Rm 1027.

Zion Lutheran Church
310 N. Johnson St., Iowa City, 338-0944
"What You Need to Know About Your Muslim Neighbors," by Imam Taha Tawil, director of the Mother Mosque of America, Jan. 12, 2-4pm.

Events/Festivals

UI Museum of Art
150 North Riverside Dr., Iowa City, 335-1727
Snowflake Family Festival, Dec. 8, 12pm.

Classes/Workshops

Missing Peace Galerie
620 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City, 248-0338
Candle Making Class, Dec. 11, 6-8pm.

New Pioneer Co-op & Bakehouse
City Center Square, Hwy. 6 West, Coralville, 358-5513, call Theresa at 338-9441 to register (unless otherwise noted).

Theatre Cedar Rapids
102 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-8592
Audition Workshop, ages 15 & older, Dec. 1, 6-7pm; Methodology Acting Class, ages 15 and older, class sizes limited to 12, Jan. 5, 6pm.

Theatre Cedar Rapids
Audition Workshop, ages 15 & older, Dec. 1, 6-7pm; Methodology Acting Class, ages 15 and older, class sizes limited to 12, Jan. 5-6pm, Jan. 6-7pm.

The Java House
211 E. Washington St., 341-0012
KSUI’s "Iowa Talks Live from the Java House," Fridays, 10am


Author and musician Tom Lutz talks about his books and performs live with his band Blue Tuna, Dec. 13.

Oleg Timofeyev speaks about his experiences in Moscow as a Fulbright scholar, and Leonid Stepanov and Ruslan Dimitriev share folklore, actors from Stepanov’s Russian Children’s Theatre perform a piece from their holiday repertoire, Dec. 20.

UI Museum of Art
150 North Riverside Dr., Iowa City, 335-1727
KSUI Know the Score LIVE! Turkish folk musician and composer Bahri Karacay, Writers’ Workshop faculty member Ethan Canin talks about his short story that was the basis for the new film The Emperor’s Club; Ron Clark, of Riverside Theatre, presents selections from Small Miracles, Stories of Christmas, including music by Iowa City jazz musician Dan Knight; Patti Zwick, and speaks about her quilts; Daniel Klewneke, previews the Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre’s upcoming production of Engelbert Humperdinck’s Hansel and Gretel, Dec. 6, 5-7pm.
Northside Fitness and Tanning
Liberty Plaza, Hwy. 965 • North Liberty

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The Mill Restaurant
Bar • Music • Coffee
Sun Dec 1 Robert "Junior" Lockwood
Mon Dec 2 Mike & Amy Finders Band
Mon Dec 2 Murphy & Lake
Thurs Dec 5 Songwriters in the Round
Fri Dec 6 Larry Myer
Sat Dec 7 Big Wooden Radio
Sun Dec 8 Pieta Brown w/Bo Ramsey
Thurs Dec 12 Andrew Calboun
Fri Dec 13 Tom Jessen Band
Sun Dec 15 Greg Brown
Thurs Dec 19 Dave Zollo and the Body Electric
Fri Dec 20 Pat Hazell w/Mother Blues
Sat Dec 21 Rich Webster Trio
Sat Jan 4 Ben Eaton & the Dirt Cheap Band

Dec 9 & 16
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8pm • no cover

Dec 4 & 11
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9pm
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Curses, Foiled Again

Police in Jackson, Miss., charged Caleb Lafortest Pete, 41, with robbing a bank and bringing along his 3-year-old son. After leaving the bank with a duffel bag full of money, Pete prodded the boy to keep up, but the youngster slowed him down long enough for passersby to notice him hop into a waiting cab to make his getaway. Police quickly caught up with the cab, which was also carrying Pete's wife and their 5-month-old daughter.

Scapegoating

Theodore Maher, 44, admitted setting a fire that killed two people in Monaco but insisted that the deaths would have been averted if police had not blocked firefighters from trying to rescue the victims.

Kung-Fu Fighting

After several officers of Hong Kong's Food and Environmental Hygiene Department were attacked while trying to ticket litterbugs, the government offered a voluntary three-day course in Japanese aikido to sharpen the officers' self-defense skills. "We will be providing coaches," a government representative said, "and we hope all our enforcement officers will join the classes."

Bad Seed

Sidney Trimble, 42, pleaded guilty to holding his 68-year-old mother at knifepoint and forcing her to withdraw money from her bank account. A teller at a bank drive-through window in Largo, Fla., noticed Edith Trimble acting strangely and saw her turn toward her and mouth the words, "Call the police." Officers arrived moments later and arrested Trimble.

Number One with a Bullet

Marcos Vinicius dos Santos, 27, the vocalist for the Brazilian rock group ACC, held a gun on the disc jockey at a radio station in Porto Alegre and forced him to play the group's debut album, Phases of Life. The incident ended after about 70 minutes when dos Santos surrendered to police, who had evacuated the offices at Atlantida FM.

Medium Is the Message

Stray dogs are being used as mobile billboards in the Russian city of Penza. The Moloday Leninets newspaper reported that shopkeepers lure the animals with cutlets or sausages, then spray-paint them with their shop logo and the goods they stock. Workers of rival stores often catch each other's dogs and repaint them in their own colors.

Huge rocks in the Indian Himalayas are being defaced by hand-painted advertisements. Now Scientist magazine reported that some 300 ads are visible along a 35-mile stretch of the Manali-Rohtang Pass, touting a variety of international and local products, including Coca-Cola and Pepsi, a Punjab-based publisher and a local car repair shop. Scientists fear the paints are destroying the existing rich diversity of micro flora and fauna on the rocks, but they point out that removing the paints with thinners could do more harm than good. Local officials said there is no law against the ads, which businesses see as a cost-effective marketing strategy.

Sky-High Antics

Weeks after introducing its newest planes, the $200 million Airbus A340-600, Virgin Airlines said it is having to replace plastic tables intended for changing diapers in its "mother and baby room" because passengers have broken them while having sex on them. "Those determined to join the Mile High Club will do so despite the lack of comforts," a Virgin representative said.

D'oh

A German driver who got out of his car on a hill to relieve himself forgot to apply the parking brake, and the car rolled down the hill and into a river. "At first he tried to claim his car was stolen, but the police immediately found this wasn't the case," Birgit Hoehn of the Leipzig police said, adding, "He can expect a fine for parking on the sidewalk and not securing the car properly."

More Fallout from the Wright Bros.

After a new airport opened in Munich, Germany, children's scores on reading and memory tests improved near the old airport and went down near the new one, according to a study reported in the journal Psychological Science. After a Montana couple built a home directly in the flight path of a private airstrip, they filed a lawsuit in Park County District Court charging airport owner Duane Hodgkinson with harassing them. "Hodgkinson and his planes have continued to 'buzz' within 100 feet of the home, at all hours of the day, and numerous times daily," according to the suit by Brian and Chris Markey.

Is Your Couch on Your Porch?

Would you like it immortalized? I want to take a picture of your couch, and any other assorted porch furniture, maybe even with you on it. Call or email before it is too damn cold.

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Phone: (leave message) 936-2975

*click*
SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21) Sagittarians are due for a glorious stroke of luck in December. It could be a moment of profound spiritual enlightenment or a free trip to the Bahamas for two. Then why are Sagittarians feeling so deeply agitated and confined, and why are their neighbors and friends causing them such grief? The good fortune will be lasting; any agitation or friction in your environment will be passing. Big changes are in store. They will help calm anxieties and remove any source, or sources, of tension on local or neighborhood affairs.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19) What you would really like in life is eluding you at the moment and causing financial tensions of various kinds. The problem, in part, comes from deep within you. There is inner resistance to the personal changes that would reconcile your dreams with your present reality. A stroke of financial luck will ease your anxieties about the future. Many of the inner obstacles holding you back will soon disappear. Future developments will bring a satisfactory resolution. Meanwhile, be patient. Things will work out much better without added, self-imposed pressure.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18) Don't let impatience, anxiety or simple impulsive ness on your part, or on the part of anyone else, push you into an unwise financial commitment. Nor should you allow current problems with romance, children or investments and partnerships to hurt your dreams of a better life or make you cynical about the world in general. There is one course of action that will take you past all the risks and dangers toward a happy and mutually acceptable outcome. The advantages of taking this route will outweigh and outlast any potential downside.

PISCES (Feb 19-March 20) A combination of events in your work life, in your efforts at personal growth and development, including possible travel plans, will bring about substantial and lasting improvements in your life. But this sudden jolt, however positive, will send shock waves through your psyche and affect the powers that be, both at work and at home, with fits of anxiety. It will also resurrect memories of past difficulties. Providing you take proper care, the things you and others fear will not come to pass. This will take time to play out, though.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Aries has rarely felt so inspired, so determined or so lucky. You will have to act on your newfound confidence, and in a big way, and you will be up to the challenge. This is the moment you have been waiting for to break free of old limitations and to relieve yourself of old burdens once and for all. You will have to overcome some nagging doubts and ignore a chorus of naysayers. You will also have to risk your budget, but the force is with you and you sense that.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Despite the impatience and the panicky thinking of those around you, despite the sense of confinement and financial limitation that many are feeling, you know you can trust developments in your financial life. You know instinctively that they are taking you in a good direction. True. It is possible to overspend or overcommit. But neither the dangers nor the consequences of a mistake now are as serious as those around you want you to believe. The benefits to flow from present opportunities will also be greater than most imagine.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You might feel tempted to travel as an escape from troubles at work and/or as a cure for what ails you. However, travel at this time could easily lead to overspending or physical overexertion. You might also be feeling like the Grinch, as you bring the unrealistic hopes of friends and partners down to earth, again. But despite the challenges you face now, December will mark an important threshold for you, inaugurating a new, positive era in your financial life and in the area of friendship and partnership.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You are not getting the big brass ring and you are not at center stage and you are not getting the biggest piece of the pie. But the foundations of your life are solid and getting more so, day by day. Also, the really hard luck is striking elsewhere. The big waves that capsize the big boats rock your little boat very gently. Your responsibilities are humdrum, but you can also let other people do the worrying. Enjoy this time. Use it well. More challenging and eventful times lie ahead.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Leo is scheduled for a great leap forward in romantic and creative areas and, probably, a stroke of luck in speculative financial areas. However, an uproar of major proportions is scheduled at about the same time. Domestic and partnership matters will likely boil over. You might have to use your good fortune to restore peace and tranquility. Your efforts to restore calm will not use up everything you have gained, though. There will be plenty to go around. In fact, by sharing your good fortune, you will expand it considerably.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 22) Everybody else is getting the good stuff. The achievement of a dream. Promotions. Rewards they can take to the bank. Virgo's rewards are intangible. Their progress is inward. Virgo will have to settle for profound insight and psychological healing. You will overcome secret fears and build inner strengths. Problems that have troubled you for many years will ease significantly. These inward changes will help you overcome possible conflicts at work over new business and partnership initiatives. But more than that, you will never be troubled by certain personal limitations again.

LIBRA (Sept 23-Oct 22) An investment in romance, creativity or business will pay impressive dividends in December. These dividends will be long and they will help you make long-desired changes in your lifestyle. There is a definite possibility of overindulgence and you could easily spend a little too much money. Also, certain longstanding limitations could threaten to once again cramp your style. However, December's good luck will be substantial and lasting. You needn't fear that old limitations will cancel it out or that a little enjoyable excess will set you back much.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21) Initiative, aggressiveness, assertiveness are all standard issue Scorpio virtues. Scorpions are also pretty stubborn. You are feeling especially inclined to be this way right now. I wouldn't recommend your calling on any of these qualities, at the moment, however. Patience, circumspection, diplomacy, flexibility are more appropriate to the present situation. You are essentially but firmly urged to accept a change you aren't quite ready for, even if it would improve your financial outlook, and remove some burdensome and longstanding family responsibilities. Accept the change gracefully and don't rush the process.
Season’s Greetings from little village

We’ll be taking January off again this year, but watch for our February issue!

G Spot Hair Design reminds you to shop locally this holiday season.

Have a Harmonious Christmas

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