On the Eve of Election

INSIDE:
- Thanksgiving cranberry recipe pg. 6
- New local music pg. 15
letters

Our ‘New Pearl Harbor’

GW Bush exposed his real motives in the blueprint of this Bush administration, the once-covert 2000 Project for a New American Century (PNAC) that claimed in September, 2000, a year before 9/11, that we needed a “new Pearl Harbor” for global military “supremacy” (PNAC, 2000). “New Pearl Harbor”? “Supremacy”? For profit? At all costs? For “unending war” for profit?

GW Bush’s Paul Wolfowitz wrote the 2000 PNAC, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld signed it, exposing their real motives for profit, to use 9/11 as an excuse to invade Afghanistan, Iraq and other nations in “unending wars” for profit, to crush other nations with negative force that challenge the stated goal of the 2000 PNAC, global military “supremacy” of the United States (PNAC, 2000). For oil? Ripping apart the fragile web for all life for cash?

Urgent Alert: Will this secretive Bush administration try to cause another “terrorist attack” to a) blame the Democrats, to b) cancel the election of November, 2004, to c) cause martial law to nullify the US Constitution and to d) cause a “new Pearl Harbor” to cause war for private profit of some secretive few?

Does private profit justify all? No.

Stand up, speak out. Dig beyond the obvious. Vote, if it’s not too late.

– Holly M. Berkowitz
Iowa City

I have a confession...

It’s time I confess to my sins during the Vietnam war. It’s time because Sinclair is showing its attack on John Kerry for supposedly betraying our soldiers during the Vietnam war.

My confession? That I was not as brave as John Kerry. In 1967, I was supporting my small family in Heidelberg, Germany working for a contractor to the US Army in Europe. When soldiers who had served in Viet Nam started telling me about what they had done to the Vietnamese, I was slow to react, very afraid for my job. Not until a soldier finally showed me the ring he wore, made from the skull of a Viet Cong, and told me detailed stories of our soldiers wearing necklaces of ears, did I finally act.

What did I do? I began to join demonstrations against the war, against my employer, against my country, in a foreign nation while we were at war. I felt scared, miserable, yes, treasonous. But unlike John Kerry, I did not go public, did not reveal my name, and in fact donned a disguise during the protests. I have always been ashamed of my own behavior, both for demonstrating and for doing it in such a cowardly way. I have chosen not to judge the behavior of the soldiers who confided in me. Will they start to come forward now and confess? I doubt that. I wouldn’t if I were they. But then again, I’m not as brave as John Kerry.

– Roberta Till-Retz
Iowa City

PS. I have a photo of me in my “disguise.” Funny, I’m still scared of repercussions from telling this!
Better luck next time...

Due to an unfortunate accident of deadline timing, the column you are reading is a pre-election artifact, written in the cold final days of October in the face of a dead heat presidential race by a commentator whose crystal ball lies cracked and broken at the bottom of his waste basket. As such, the headline refers not to the outcome of that election, but to the campaign that preceded it. The race for the presidency in 2004 has been the longest, most expensive, most contentious campaign in our country’s history. It has also been one long, extended slap in the face to the ideals of representative democracy. Regardless of result, any honest analysis of the campaign itself leads inevitably to the conclusion that ours is a broken political culture, and that the concept of informed consent of the governed that underlies our system has been systematically trivialized to the point of irrelevance.

If there is one cultural keynote moment on the subject of informed consent—one universally recognized statement on the subject—that moment comes during the climactic scene of the ’90s military courtroom drama A Few Good Men, wherein the military commander played by Jack Nicholson responds to the demand of earnest young JAG Tom Cruise for “the truth” by bellowing, “You can’t handle the truth!” While the power of Nicholson’s performance (especially as compared to the bare adequacy of Cruise’s) has etched this line into the national consciousness, it should be remembered that, strictly speaking, Nicholson was the villain of the piece. Nonetheless, it would appear that in contemporary political culture the emphasis has been placed not on our ability to handle the truth, but on the powers-that-be handling our perception of it.

One big reason for the marginalizing of informed consent in the 2004 campaign might be the fact that the campaign follows directly the campaign of 2000, the inevitable lesson of which was that, under our electoral college system, consent, informed or otherwise, is not strictly necessary for a candidate to rise to power. The historical fact of the 2000 election was that the “winner” (as determined by the courts) was consented to by half a million fewer voters than the “loser,” a result that was in all likelihood determined by the active suppression of minority voters by the Florida state government. As a result, the right to vote, and the right to have that vote count for something, were shown to be niceties rather than necessities, secondary to the exercise of power.

As damaging as 2000 was to the concept of consent, the way the topic has been handled in the course of this election provides an excellent example of the state of the notion that consent be informed. As a result, the right to vote, and the right to have that vote count for something, were shown to be niceties rather than necessities, secondary to the exercise of power.

One big reason for the marginalizing of informed consent in the 2004 campaign might be the fact that the campaign follows directly the campaign of 2000, the inevitable lesson of which was that, under our electoral college system, consent, informed or otherwise, is not strictly necessary for a candidate to rise to power. The historical fact of the 2000 election was that the “winner” (as determined by the courts) was consented to by half a million fewer voters than the “loser,” a result that was in all likelihood determined by the active suppression of minority voters by the Florida state government. As a result, the right to vote, and the right to have that vote count for something, were shown to be niceties rather than necessities, secondary to the exercise of power.

As damaging as 2000 was to the concept of consent, the way the topic has been handled in the course of this election provides an excellent example of the state of the notion that consent be informed.

As damaging as 2000 was to the concept of consent, the way the topic has been handled in the course of this election provides an excellent example of the state of the notion that consent be informed. Despite what the record shows, and what we all know about the 2000 result, newspaper commentators, television talking heads and campaign representatives have “handled the truth” of 2000 largely by ignoring it, presenting instead a narrative wherein George W. Bush ran a “winning campaign” in 2000 and Florida constituted a “battleground state” because the results (ignoring completely the aforementioned evidence of manipulation) were “so close” last time.

Indeed, whatever the topic, the people that we count on to relay the information we need to cast an informed ballot have, in the course of this campaign season, proven themselves to be woefully inadequate to the function, due largely to their commitment to other agendas. This fact that they were campaigning against an administration that gave them ample factual ammunition, the Democrats in 2004 instead embarked on the fool’s errand of attempting to beat the Republicans at the perception game, allowing the preset Republican agenda to determine the content of the campaign, from the embarrassing militarism of the Democratic national convention on out.

Certainly, the complaint that political campaigns fail to focus on the issues is an old and oft repeated one. That our entire political culture, from the candidates to the commentators to the people in the streets, could conduct themselves as if the campaign were occurring in a mythical never land where perception trumps reality every time, however, is relatively new, a triumph of a kind of professional, consultant-driven political postmodernism that views issues of informed consent, political legitimacy and public accountability as mere stumbling blocks to the exercise of government power. Whatever the result of this election, its legacy is this: For all intents and purposes, the role of the American people in the political process has been downgraded from active citizens to passive consumers. The next four years should offer us some valuable lessons on the subject of what we’re buying, provided anyone’s willing to tell us about it.

Better luck next time...

As damaging as 2000 was to the concept of consent, the way the topic has been handled in the course of this election provides an excellent example of the state of the notion that consent be informed.
November opening

It’s November. The crops are in, lawns are dormant. The storm windows are up, the screens down. Gloomy gray clouds slow us down, hold us down. It’s time to hunker down and wait it out until spring. Things are closing in and closing down.

Although this may be a typical vision of November, my eyes are seeing something different. While November is in many ways a time of closing, it is also a wondrous time of opening.

The green beauty of summer leaves and the multihued splendor of autumn leaves have fallen away. But the trees have opened to us the vision of their intricate maze of branches and twigs, strong and sturdy as well as fragile and delicate. The Byzantine geography of limbs and fingers cohere to a lovely whole. These branches and twigs, in November, are now open to receive the snow that will limn their wandering patterns in stark gray, brown and white.

As bare trees open their branches to our sight, they also open to us larger vistas beyond and through them. The fingers of creeks scored through the gentle hills and swales of Iowa come into relief after being hidden by foliage for months. The bare brown earth of harvested fields lies still to the horizon, dried tan detritus of cornstalks scattered across their surfaces. The lost foliage of November also opens to us, as we drive north on Prairie du Chien Road or North Dubuque Road, for example, the vistas of sprawl, the mad unribboning of development, the endless growth of cul de sacs, three-car garages and trophy homes.

November opens to us the realities behind threatened farmland, the water table and wild places.

November opens the flyways, the migratory climax. Winged visitors from faraway places, going to faraway places, connect us here in the middle land to the strands of the earth web north and south of us. A sight that thrills me almost more than any other is the undulating V-formation of Canada geese languidly crossing a gray sky above the rolling brown plain below, a distant honking cutting through sharp, cold air.

Here in town, in our central city, the festivals have packed it in, the restaurant owners have secreted away their sidewalk café tables, the municipal workers have turned off the fountain, the lunch crowd has abandoned the pedestrian mall benches. But November opens to us the quiet geometry of our community plaza. The straight sight lines from the jazz sculpture down to the gleaming architecture of the new public library let us take in the symbolic wholeness of our community’s cultural riches.

The improvisational dance of dry leaves being blown across the brick by sharp winds speaks its own special, lonely beauty we can never get in the heat of summer.

November opens the hearth. At my house, we have made sure the chimney is clear, a clean throat to carry the smoke of fireplace blazes upward. Soon special evenings at home will be warmed by the elemental crackling of yellow and orange, my son and daughter peering with fascination into the hissing flames as warmth gradually surrounds us.

Throughout the country, November opens to us the promises of democracy and the possibilities for change. As I write this, the election has not yet occurred. As you read this, I hope that our nation has found and secured the wisdom to lead ourselves out of the darkness of recent years. No matter what has happened, November will come again. The ongoing renewal of democratic choice will continue to open to us opportunities for reform, justice and new vision in all the halls of leadership, from our own Washington Street to Washington, D.C.

If we remain open—open in our minds, our hearts, our visions, our perspectives—the world is a constant unfolding of beauty and possibility. If November is a time of closing, it is only because we make it so. If November is a time of opening, it is because we are people who greet the world with open arms. November reveals our failures and possibilities as a people, exposes splendor in washes of gray and brown, and encourages us to find within ourselves warmth and light in a time of cold and dark. Welcome, November. iv

We are here for you and we can help.

Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa
354-8000
850 Orchard St., Iowa City
Visit our clinic on the web at www.ppgi.org

- Pregnancy testing and full options information
- Confidential abortion services including the “early option” abortion pill
- New, comfortable setting
- Latest birth control options
- Female health care providers
November is the time for my favorite holiday. It's a time for families to bring in the harvest of another hard year and count the blessings of the bounty. Thanksgiving is a day set aside for gathering around the table with wonderful, seasonal food and the people we love.

We Americans are fond of designating such days. We have one to honor our fallen veterans, one during which we acknowledge that we are (or wish we were) in love with someone, another to note the fact that the labor movement invented the weekend, and still another to jog our memories that there was once an active civil rights movement in this country. In and of themselves, these are all noble pursuits, worthy memorials to important people and moments in our national narrative. Sadly, the law of unintended consequences dictates that we will then find ourselves ignoring these important aspects of our culture and history during the other 364 days of the year.

Happily though, Thanksgiving hasn’t fallen victim to the same degree of crass commercialization that has mangled the modern idea of Christmas since the first “bah humbug” was uttered. There is some of that, no doubt. Witness the Butterball hotline, the Detroit Lions game, the Macy’s parade and the so-called biggest shopping day of the year to announce, “Gentlemen, start your wallets!” Still in all, the day continues to be about family and food, the two most important things in life.

This has been an especially tough year in my family. I have witnessed too many of my friends and family suffer rejection, illness and loss. My country, which I also love dearly, has squandered the good will of the world and seems bent on fighting symptoms rather than causes. Still in all, as this year’s day of thanks approaches and I begin my plans for the feast, I cannot help but dwell on all the marvelous things in my life for which I am so grateful.

First and foremost, I am blessed with a lovely wife and two brilliant children, each of whom is far more than I could ever deserve. I have broken the stereotype and love my mother-in-law dearly as well. I have a successful career (thanks in part to you, dear reader), and my little corner of the world, at least, is at peace. This is why I say that the most important ingredient in any dish is love. If I had none of these blessings, my food would lack life and be of use to no one. The freshest meat and the finest spices will not avail the passionless cook.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “To laugh often and much, to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave the world a little bit better, whether by a healthy child or a garden patch, to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded!”

As you prepare your Thanksgiving table, cook with the love that is rekindled when you realize just how grateful you truly are to have accomplished even one of the things Emerson listed as the ingredients for success.

To help you along, here is my grandmother’s recipe for cranberry sauce (no, it does not slide out of a can). Grandma was famous in our family for writing out recipes that began with things like, “Take a bottle of cream…” without any indication, for those of us who grew up in the post-milkman era, what the size of a “bottle” might be. And so here, in her own words, is my Grandma Friese’s recipe for “Whole Cranberries”:

1 cup water, 1 cup Port wine, 1 cup sugar, 2 cinnamon sticks, lemon rind, all together to a boil for about 10 minutes. Then add 1 lb. whole cranberries. Cook slowly so berries do not burst too much. After mixture looks about right, add one more cup of wine and let cool.

That’s the whole thing. She used to make it way ahead of time and let it ferment; it had quite a kick.
There's nothing like Hijinks for the holidays!

Holiday Hijinks, 2004
by Thomas P. Johnson

A hilarious holiday variety show sure to have the whole family in stitches.

~Buy one $22 ticket, get one FREE when you mention this ad~
(Valid for November performance dates. Good only for new orders. One free ticket per order. Cannot combine with DTPs or other offers.)

oldcreamery.com
1-800-35AMANA

Come for a fine mediterranean experience.

Fresh seafood, steaks, vegetarian and chicken dishes prepared for your culinary delight with the fresh flavors of the mediterranean.

Many locally grown food items served

Afterwards, browse the Prairie Lights annex, enjoy the art work displayed throughout, stay the night and take home some fine wines and food for your next meal.

Phoenix Café & Inn

Restaurant • Catering • Coffee Bar
Local Foods • Market • Wine Shop • Art Gallery • Priced Right Books
Open 7 days: lunch—M-F @11am, dinner @ 5pm every day
all else—M-Sat @ 10am, Sun @ 4pm

834 Park, Grinnell, IA 50112 • 641.236.3657
Visit us on the web at www.thephoenixcafe.com
A few days before the “historic” election, we asked a handful of locals to pose for portraits, then add a few words about who they planned to support. Not a snapshot (this is portrait photography), nor a scientific sample, the following pages reveal a few brave souls willing to bare both their persons and opinions.

Photos by Jay Diers
One of the most difficult things for me to admit is that I voted for Bush in the 2000 elections. The worst part about it is that I did so because of greed; I wanted a tax cut. If only life came with a rewind button.

My reasons for voting for John Kerry go far beyond the fact that I have a French girlfriend (I’ll give you one guess who she’d vote for). I fundamentally disagree with President Bush on more issues than I can count, but here are a few: abortion rights, gay marriage, stem cell research, the “No Child Left Behind” educational laws, the automatic weapons ban, the Patriot Act, and Iraq. For a candidate who was elected on the platform of being a “uniting force,” I believe that no president has been as divisive since Nixon.

The cavalier cowboy swagger that President Bush uses for virtually every occasion has lowered our world standing to horribly low levels, and, as much as the Bush administration would like us to all believe that it doesn’t, the rest of the world matters. It certainly matters to me.

One of the other reasons that I voted for Bush in 2000 was that I felt that the nation needed a change from the eight years of the Clinton administration. Now, another change seems even more important.

I am voting for John Kerry for president.
Virgil “Scooter” Hare

This photo represents my independence from both parties. I don’t think either party has all the answers and that the best course is somewhat of a blending of the two. I detest the far left as much as I detest the far right. Granted, with this election, I have no choice. However, I have lived under two terms of Reagan and two terms of Clinton and am none the worse, so I can live under Bush or Kerry. I have voted in every election since I turned 18 and will do so until the day I die. That says a lot more than most people in this so called, “Athens of the Midwest.”

Rob Wilkie

I will be casting my vote for George W. Bush on Nov. 2. When asked why I am voting for President Bush, my response is simply that I trust him. I trust his leadership capabilities. Now more than ever this country needs a leader who will do “whatever it takes” to prevent another catastrophe like 9/11. I am a firm believer in the Bush Doctrine for fighting terrorism. President Bush is truly a compassionate conservative, who believes that the government should have a limited role in people’s lives, but is there to provide help in times of need. I, like President Bush, am a strong believer in the individual. I believe a person can achieve amazing things, if only given the opportunity to do so. I believe that the Republican Party embraces this ideal. A majority of my votes will be going to Republican candidates this year, because these candidates most accurately reflect my views on the role of government. I have faith that President Bush, Sen. Grassley, and Rep. Leach will continue to make our country stronger at home, and more respected in the free world.

Everyone always says how liberal the University of Iowa is. While the institution indoctrinates liberal ideology, the student body seems to be fairly split. The College Republicans are the second largest student organization on campus behind Students Today Alumni Tomorrow. I have been criticized more for my conservative values in the classroom, than I have been in the dorm or walking around campus. The criticism doesn’t bother me, in fact, it motivates me, but I know there are many students who are afraid to express their political views.
Chris Warren

I am voting for John Kerry because I, too, do not believe in this war. In my three-person household we pay $450 per month in health insurance; this is double what we paid just four years ago. Our prescription medications cost us an additional $120 per month, and that is just our co-pay!

Justin Glasgow

There are certainly a number of issues facing this country both nationally and internationally. Clearly, not every single person in this country can place their vote on every single issue, and this is why we elect representatives to our state governments and national governments. During this campaign, Sen. John Kerry has been accused of flip flopping on many of the issues facing our country. However, in my observations his votes have been a reflection of the constituents he represents. At the time President Bush proposed declaring war on Iraq, a deep sense of nationality pervaded this country directing our national legislators to vote in favor of declaring war. As the war unfolded, public opinion changed and Sen. Kerry’s remarks and votes concerning the war reflected the constituents that he represents.

I will be voting for Sen. Kerry in this election because I believe he embodies the true spirit of a representative government. He will tackle the issue of Iraq, bringing greater democracy and autonomy to the Middle East while balancing the interests of our country and our soldiers. He will also protect the liberties of Americans, protecting many of the liberties threatened by the Patriot Act and the impending retirements of Supreme Court Justices. While a Kerry/Edwards presidency isn’t perfect for the country (medical liability is one issue that comes to mind), for the next four years they are, to me, clearly the package that will protect everything that our country has fought for and is fighting for.
When did the election become a gross display of stupidity? I thought the debates were to show who has the best ideas or who is able to...what is that word again...oh yes, DEBATE. I only say these two men because we, the “Informed,” never hear about Ralph Nader. Corporate America would never let a man like him into the White House. I alternately watch Bush and Kerry, Cheney and Edwards point fingers at each other like little children during recess. These are the men we want to run the country?

We, the American people, walk through life with our blinders on, only seeing and hearing what we want. If the information contradicts what we believe, we say it is a lie! It has to be liberal or conservative propaganda. When did we lose sight of what is important? I wonder what our founding fathers would say if they could witness this feeding frenzy.

The voting process has become a dirty game of deceit, with scandals already popping up. We have only about one week before we vote, then we can sit back and watch our once glorious democratic process unfold into ugliness. We will once again get to re-live the hanging chads, and voters being discouraged to vote because of their ethnic backgrounds. Why are we soiling something we claim to be so proud of? We’re one of a few countries in the world that let the people decide who will be our next leader. I just shake my head and ponder the question we should all be asking: Why would we ruin something that others desire or would love to have the chance to experience? Why are we tarnishing a process so many have died to establish and protect? By the way, I’ll be voting for John Kerry, like it matters.
Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater
Live at THE SIREN
Nov 19, 9pm

124 S. Dubuque, Iowa City | 319.248.2840 | www.theSirenClub.com

Transcending the boundaries of theatrical convention.

University Theatres Mainstage
November 4-6 & 10-13 at 8 p.m.
November 7 & 14 at 3 p.m.
David Thayer Theatre, UI Theatre Bldg.
call 335-1160 or 1-800-HANCHER

This project is made possible with a University of Iowa International Programs Major Research Project Grant.

The University of Iowa
Division of Performing Arts
Janet Desaulniers’ short stories allow the differences and confusion between women and men to reveal and unite.

**Further confusion**

**Steve Horowitz**

Janet Desaulniers writes sensitive tales of mothers, daughters, sisters and wives engaged in the domestic, emotional worlds of living and loving. What does a woman do when her mother calls for help with a younger sister at home who starts acting wild after the death of her father? How does a woman communicate freely with her husband after the death of a child has come between them? How should a woman react when seeing her husband passionately kissing another woman? Desaulniers’ fictions deal with such situations, but the Iowa Writers’ Workshop graduate doesn’t reach for easy answers or even offer solace. Instead, as the title of her debut collection, *What You’ve Been Missing*, suggests, the co-winner of this year’s UI Press John Simmons Short Fiction Award leaves the gaps in the relationships between characters sit there and reveal what’s going on through what’s left out.

Desaulniers’ women are strong, but self-conscious creatures who wonder how they should act. The men in her 10-story collection are more confident of their actions, even when behaving badly.

“There are absolute differences between women and men,” Desaulniers explained over the telephone from her Evanston, Ill., residence. “Men can be merciless when they have to.” Switching emphasis, she added, “The differences create the wonderful, awful dance that women and men do when they love each other, the shimmering, pulsating moments born out of our separate identities.” Desaulniers’ poetic language was surprising considering the fact that her prose is so terse, containing the sparsest of description and commentary mixed with short bits of elliptical conversations. Were it not for the feminine themes, one might describe it as Hemingway-esque. Maybe this is because both writers hail from the same region of the country?

“I grew up and live in the Midwest,” Desaulniers said. She currently teaches writing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. “[Midwesterners] understand that there are things we don’t know and accept that fact more easily than people do in New York City or San Francisco. We let facts have their way with us—even when it’s bad news, and we say OK and go to the next step.”

The quality Desaulniers describes matches that of her characters, who when faced with problems don’t deny but address them head on. Consider the story “Where We All Should Have Been,” which begins, “The last time my mother called she did not say hello. She said, ‘This is not a discussion, Ellen. I need you here. It’s Diana. She drinks. And God knows what else.’ This morning she came in near dawn.” The author sticks to the facts and the characters speak frankly, even if at times they can be eccentric or idiosyncratic.

And at times, the straight facts can be downright upsetting, as Nora, the young protagonist of “Never, Ever, Always,” learns from a nun at her Catholic school. Nora asks Sister Mary Benedict, “Suppose I had committed a sin, but then I was deeply sorry in my own heart. And suppose I was on my way to church to confess when a milk truck ran me down… God would still welcome me, wouldn’t he Sister,’ I asked…. ‘God would not welcome you, Nora,’ she spoke quietly, lowering her eyes when she said my name. Then she looked at me again. ‘You would die alone and outside His love.’”

Of course, the God in the story is a man, one of the merciless ones Desaulniers mentioned earlier. Desaulniers acknowledges this gender trait and does not apologize for it.

“Good intentions don’t matter,” she explained. “Men know that—that’s part of their stature and calling, and it’s even heavy and comforting.” The friction and frisson of her stories lie in the fact that sometimes life can be hard and cruel.

As a whole, the tales in *What You’ve Been Missing* are depressing, even when the endings offer glimpses of hope. Desaulniers didn’t plan it that way, nor does she see her narratives from that perspective.

“‘I see my artistic activity as an act of inquiry,’” she said. “‘I open the seeds and let the stories go. I use the things I experience and observe to start and then just let things develop. For example, ‘Never, Ever, Always’ began after hearing enough people say, ‘What’s wrong with you?’ Not to me necessarily, just that phrase took me on a journey to where I had a character, who lived in one world with her mother at home and another with the nuns in school. The story went through an allusive process. One moment alluded to another that alluded to another, and then…”

Desaulniers didn’t continue, but the implication is clear when you read the story. The narrator begins with Nora as a child questioning the morality of the world and ends with the character as an adult, having caught her husband cheating on her, speaking hoarsely from a hospital bed, telling a stranger that she’s not dying (which is true). The author takes us there through a sequence of Nora’s mental associations.

“One kind of confusion always leads to another,” Desaulniers said. “In terms of gender relations, that can be a good thing. It’s our confusion about each other that brings us together.”

---

**Janet Desaulniers**

**What:** Reading from her new 2004 John Simmons Short Fiction Award book of short stories (with co-award winner Merrill Feitell)

**Where:** Prairie Lights, 15 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City

**When:** Monday, Nov. 15, 8pm
American roots music lovers consider The Band’s first album, Music from Big Pink, a landmark record. Fresh from jamming with Bob Dylan, the group’s debut release mined the heart and soul of country and folk traditions to forge a new kind of rock that sounded old as the hills and wide open spaces. The Band purposely sounds mushy for effect, as if the members are performing drunk and sloppy. Brickel’s new solo disc, (Songs from) The Pink Sofa, evokes the spirit of The Band’s seminal record. It’s unlikely the similarity of titles is simply coincidental, evoking the spirit of The Band’s seminal record. Fresh from jamming with Bob Dylan, the group’s debut release mined the heart and soul of country and folk traditions to forge a new kind of rock that sounded old as the hills and wide open spaces. The Band purposely sounds mushy for effect, as if the members are performing drunk and sloppy. Brickel’s new solo disc, (Songs from) The Pink Sofa, evokes the spirit of The Band’s seminal record. It’s unlikely the similarity of titles is simply coincidental.

Still, one doesn’t want to make too much of the connections. Brickel’s music mostly pays homage, with a nod and a wink to his influences. The tenor-voiced, acoustic guitar-playing songwriter has a distinctive, crisp, clean style. Sometimes The Band purposely sounds mushy for effect, as if the members are performing drunk and sloppy. Brickel’s songs feature more space and resonance to create a sparser and more sober audio landscape. Brickel has vast studio expertise and has worked as a recording engineer on folk music star Greg Brown’s last two Trailer Records releases. Brickel is ably backed here by many of Iowa City’s best acoustic musicians, including Marty Letz on pedal steel, Bob Black on banjo, Dave Zollo on piano, Al Murphy on fiddle, Nate Bassinger on organ, and Amy Finders on vocal harmonies.

Brickel has always been a fine songwriter who deals with dark themes. He continues this tradition on (Songs from) The Pink Sofa. The aforementioned Hollis Brown tune takes the title character, who in real life and Dylan’s song, killed himself and his family in desperation as bad luck and worse weather took his farm and livelihood. Brickel’s exorcism has Brown’s ghost on the run, filled with “love and loss and yearning.”

The stoic “Coal Dust Flowers” concerns the slow death by gas of a miner trapped underground. The narrator of the loping “Vermillion Trees” compares his love to “a willow weeping but for you.” Several songs are more jaunty and bittersweet, such as the playful “Possoms,” the Beatlesque “Juliana” (think “Julia”) and the melodic “Martha Falling Down.”

Every tune shines brightly with Brickel’s fine singing, creative writing and deft performing talents. He knows how to phrase lines to understate deep emotions, whether he’s telling someone to “get the fuck out of my place” or evoking a complex sentiment for a boozy lover (“mercy is as mercy does/and mercy always goes”). He uses his guitar to explore the nuances of thought and feeling the words suggest. The record rarely gets loud, but Brickel’s quiet intensity always keeps things sonically and lyrically interesting.

Steve Horowitz

The difference between Nolan and its above-mentioned precursors is that this music seems to lack the idiosyncrasies and quirks that made said precursors distinctive. Nolan’s songs seem generic—though it pains me to condemn them as such, because they are very good on their own terms. My favorite is “My Morning Waitress,” for its loping, slow beat and quiet, intimate tone: “There are some waitresses/who know I haven’t been drinking/they don’t care who I’ve been sober in weeks/They don’t care what I’ve been doing/they don’t care what I’ve been hanging with/...They can’t see me trying really hard/to believe in what I’m looking for.” I know that a lot of people would really like this CD, and that I’m probably going to hell for damning it with such faint praise. Oh well. So ignore me, go to www.nolanmusic.net and check it out for yourself.

Kent Williams
CALENDAR

Calendar listings are free, on a space-available basis. Mail entries to Little Village, P.O. Box 736, Iowa City, Iowa 52244 or email little-village@usa.net

Art/Exhibits

African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center
55 12th Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids
Iowa in Ghana: Dr. D. Michael Warren and the Bono of Takoradi, photographs of the Bono people of Ghana, through March 10.

AKAR
4 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 351-1227
Space: Captured: Ceramics by Maren Koppman. Nov. 12-26 • 30 x 30, 30 artists—including Robert Archambau, Dan Anderson, Sam Chung—contribute five pots each, Nov. 19-Dec. 10.

Arts Iowa City/The Galleries Downtown
218 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 337-7447
Landscape Abstractions, mixed media work by Marcia Wegman, through Nov. 12 • Subtle Explorations, photographs by Lily Michaud, through Nov. 18.

Brucemore
2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-7375
Animal House, honoring the exotic and local animals that have called Brucemore home, through May.

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art
410 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-7503
The Naked Truth: 2004 International Juried Wood Fire Exhibition, selection of teapots, bowls, vessels and other ceramic objects, through Jan. 9 • From Surreal to Abstract: 20th Century European Prints, through Feb. 13 • Villa to Grave: Roman Art and Life, 150 Roman objects—sculpture, frescoes, jewelry, furniture, coins and other decorative art objects—displayed in a recreated Roman architectural setting, through Aug. 25, 2005. (See Words listing for more)

CSPS
1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-2580
Off the Wall, art by area artists for sale to benefit CSPS, through Oct. 30 • The Billboards of My Mind, paintings and drawings by Bill Herl, through Nov. 21 • Tectonic Industries: Recent and New Works, through Nov. 21 • In Progress, paintings by Becky Danielson, through Nov. 21 • Sculpture by Chile’s Ivan Navarro, opens Nov. 24.

Faulconer Gallery
Grinnell College, 1108 Park St., Grinnell, 641-269-4660
William Kentridge Prints, 120 prints by this South African artist, through Dec. 12. (See Words listing for more)

Hudson River Gallery
538 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 358-8488
Preview of Faculty Art, the Annual Benefit Auction for the UI Museum of Art, through Nov. 13 • Shannon Kennedy, paintings and drawings, Nov. 19-Dec. 31; opening reception Nov. 19, 6-8pm.

Iowa Artisans Gallery
207 E. Washington St., Iowa City, 351-8686
20th Anniversary Exhibition: Rowen Schussehl-Anderson: Tapestry & Fiber Constructions and Recent Works by members of the Woodworkers Studio, through Nov. 8.

IC Public Library
123 Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200
Life in the Ice Age, artifacts and fossils from Iowa Ice Age finds, through October.
26 • Funkmaster Cracker, Nov. 27 • The Greyhounds, Family Groove Co., Nov. 30.

Hancher Auditorium
UI campus, 335-1160
Thomas Hampson, Oct. 29, 8pm • Band Extravaganza with Symphony Band, Johnson County Landmark, Hawkeye Marching Band, Nov. 16-17, 7:30pm • Kremerata Baltica and Gidon Kremer, Nov. 18, 8pm.

IC Public Library
123 Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200
School for the Performing Arts Voice Studio Seminar, voice students of Rachel Walker practice performing in front of others in a master class setting, Oct. 29, 4:45-5:30pm, Meeting Rm. A.

Iowa Memorial Union
UI campus, Iowa City
Howie Day, Nov. 7, 8pm, Main Lounge • The Ropeadope New Music Seminar, featuring Charlie Hunter, Matt Haimovitz, Sex Mob, Bobby Previte, DJ Olive, Lyrics Born, Ctrters Buggin’, Benevento/Russo Duo, DJ Rich Medina, and more, Nov. 11, 8pm, Second Floor Ballroom.

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

Martinis
127 E. College St., Iowa City, 351-5536
Shows at 9:30pm

The Mill
120 E. Burlington St., Iowa City, 351-9629
Open Mike Mondays, 8pm • Wednesdays, Burlington Street Bluegrass Band, 7pm, Bluegrass Jam, 10pm • All music 9pm unless noted otherwise

Paramount Theatre
123 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888
CR Symphony Masterworks Concert, Bartok and Beethoven, Nov. 13, 8pm, 366-8203 for tickets • African Dance Class led by Madou Dembele, Nov. 11, 7-9pm • Line Dancing for Fun and Fitness, basic line dancing steps as well as the waltz, cha-cha, salsa and others, Mondays, through Nov. 29, 12:30-2pm, 26 • Funkmaster Cracker, Nov. 27 • The Greyhounds, Family Groove Co., Nov. 30.

Sanctuary
405 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 351-5692
Music at 9:30pm

Siren Club
124 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City, 248-2840
Tuesday Nights, Jacqueline Krain and The Ringers, 8-11pm; Wednesday Nights, jazz, 7-11pm • Tony Nickle, classical piano, Sundays

Stars Guitars
Town & Country Center, 3639 First Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 866-362-1881
Acoustic jam session every Friday Night, 7-9pm.

UI Hospitals and Clinics
Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417
Colloion Atrium, noon (unless noted otherwise) Heartbeats, UI Hospitals and Clinics choir, Oct. 29 • UI’s Martha-Ellen Tye Opera Theatre performs selections from Amahl and the Night Visitors, Nov. 12 • Kremerata Baltica and Gidon Kremer, classical ensemble, Nov. 16, 12:30pm, Eighth Floor Solarium • Major Grooves, a cappella group comprised of UI medical students, Nov. 19, 12:30pm.

UI Museum of Art
150 North Riverside Dr., Iowa City, 335-1727
IC pianist Dan Knight Trio, tribute to Modern Jazz Quartet, Nov. 5, 5pm • “Know the Score,” live radio program, Oct. 30, 5-7pm, Walter Thompson discusses and demonstrates his “soundpainting,” with UI faculty member Jeff Agrell and musician Evan Mazunik, also songs of Edith Piaf; Iowa Woodwind Quintet, Nov. 12, 5-7pm.

Uptown Bill’s small Mall
401 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 339-0401
Mud River Open Mic, Fridays, 8pm • Irish Slow Session, Celtic jam (for more info contact Tara Dutcher, talars@hoopperformingarts.com), Sundays, 2-4pm • All shows 7pm unless otherwise indicated

Yacht Club
13 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 337-6464
No Rules Open Mic, Sundays, Hip-Hop Night, Tuesdays; Jam Band Jam, Wednesdays, 10pm Rent Party Open Mic with DJ Commando, Gravity and DJ O-Mattic, proceeds to Crisis Center and the Iowa City Anti-Violence Project, Oct. 28 • David Haack Band, Oct. 29 • One Love Sounds Bob Marley Tribute, Oct. 30 • Funkmaster Cracker, Nov. 4 • Joe Price, Nov. 5 • Dennis McMurrin & The Demolition Band, Nov. 6 • Brother Trucker, The Red Smeare, Nov. 12 • J BJappers & The Jagoffs, Nov. 13 • Jay Farrar, featuring Mark Spencer (Blood Oranges), Anders Parker, Nov. 17, 8pm • Euforquesta, Nov. 19 • Future Rocker, Nov. 20 • Kelly Pardekooper, Nov. 27.

Dance
Arts Ali Carte
20 E. Market St., Iowa City
African Dance Class led by Mado Dembele, Nov. 11, 7:30-9pm • Sock Hop Dance, Nov. 13, 10pm-12am.

CSPS
1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1890
Latin dance classes, Saturdays, 3:30-5:30pm, 364-2188.

Hancher Auditorium
UI campus, 335-1160
UI Dance Company’s 2004 Dance Gala, “aLIVE In Concert,” Nov. 12-13, 7:30pm.

Paramount Theatre
123 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888
Ropeadope New Music Seminar
Nov. 11 • IMU

UI’s Martha-Ellen Tye Opera Theatre performs selections from Amahl and the Night Visitors, Nov. 12 • Kremerata Baltica and Gidon Kremer, classical ensemble, Nov. 16, 12:30pm, Eighth Floor Solarium • Major Grooves, a cappella group comprised of UI medical students, Nov. 19, 12:30pm.

UI Museum of Art
150 North Riverside Dr., Iowa City, 335-1727
IC pianist Dan Knight Trio, tribute to Modern Jazz Quartet, Nov. 5, 5pm • “Know the Score,” live radio program, Oct. 30, 5-7pm, Walter Thompson discusses and demonstrates his “soundpainting,” with UI faculty member Jeff Agrell and musician Evan Mazunik, also songs of Edith Piaf; Iowa Woodwind Quintet, Nov. 12, 5-7pm.

Uptown Bill’s small Mall
401 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 339-0401
Mud River Open Mic, Fridays, 8pm • Irish Slow Session, Celtic jam (for more info contact Tara Dutcher, talars@hoopperformingarts.com), Sundays, 2-4pm • All shows 7pm unless otherwise indicated

Yacht Club
13 S. Linn St., Iowa City, 337-6464
No Rules Open Mic, Sundays, Hip-Hop Night, Tuesdays; Jam Band Jam, Wednesdays, 10pm Rent Party Open Mic with DJ Commando, Gravity and DJ O-Mattic, proceeds to Crisis Center and the Iowa City Anti-Violence Project, Oct. 28 • David Haack Band, Oct. 29 • One Love Sounds Bob Marley Tribute, Oct. 30 • Funkmaster Cracker, Nov. 4 • Joe Price, Nov. 5 • Dennis McMurrin & The Demolition Band, Nov. 6 • Brother Trucker, The Red Smeare, Nov. 12 • J BJappers & The Jagoffs, Nov. 13 • Jay Farrar, featuring Mark Spencer (Blood Oranges), Anders Parker, Nov. 17, 8pm • Euforquesta, Nov. 19 • Future Rocker, Nov. 20 • Kelly Pardekooper, Nov. 27.

Dance
Arts Ali Carte
20 E. Market St., Iowa City
African Dance Class led by Mado Dembele, Nov. 11, 7:30-9pm • Sock Hop Dance, Nov. 13, 10pm-12am.

CSPS
1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1890
Latin dance classes, Saturdays, 3:30-5:30pm, 364-2188.

Hancher Auditorium
UI campus, 335-1160
UI Dance Company’s 2004 Dance Gala, “aLIVE In Concert,” Nov. 12-13, 7:30pm.

Paramount Theatre
123 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888
Ropeadope New Music Seminar
Nov. 11 • IMU

The Ropeadope New Music Seminar is a live show featuring artists on the Brooklyn-based independent record label Ropeadope. SCOPE Productions was lucky to snag a date for a show that is mainly stopping in large cities. And you can’t get much more diverse than this lineup: from classical music’s brightest youngest star cellist Matt Haimovitz to underground hip-hop hero Lyrics Born; from jazz guitar virtuoso Charlie Hunter to beat master DJ Olive; from the jazz of downtown New York City (Sex Mob) to the purveyors of impro in downtown Seattle (Critters Buggin’); from the organ and drums rock duo of Russo/Beanevento to Philly’s most respected poet, Big Rich Medina. And they’re promising even more acts, all playing together over the course of the evening in a no-rules, impromptu-heavy set. The musicians will also be meeting with students during the day about everything from a career in the music biz to the effects of illegal downloads. For more info, call Scope: 335-3395.

Dr. Keyzom Bhutti
Nov. 11, 7:30pm • Senior Center
Dr. Keyzom Bhutti practices Tibetan medicine and is world-renowned for her herbal remedies. Not your run-of-the-mill HMO-approved practitioner, Bhutti should be of curiosity to anyone fed up with an American medical system that relies so heavily on overpriced, synthetic drugs and turns such a blind eye to prevention. Tibetan medicine’s central tenet is that an imbalance of a person’s wind, bile and phlegm causes disease. Whether you’re looking for a medical cure or just curious, Keyzom Bhutti should be just what the doctor ordered.
Dreamwell Theatre
Wesley Center, 120 N. Dubuque St., Iowa City, 541-0140
The Book of Liz, Amy and David Sedaris’ satirical farce about the culture clash that ensues when a woman from an isolated religious community goes out into the wide world, Nov. 12-13 & 19-20, 8pm (discussion following Nov. 19 performance).

Old Creamery Theatre
Price Creek Stage, 39 38th Ave., Amana, 800-352-6262 (unless noted otherwise)
Price Creek Stage: Wed., Fri., Sat. 8pm; Thurs., Sat., Sun. 3pm
Out Of Order, comedy by Ray Cooney involving a philandering couple who find a body in their hotel room, through Nov. 7 • Holiday Hijinks, 2004, holiday variety show by Thomas P. Johnson, Nov. 12-Dec. 19.

Paramount Theatre
123 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 363-1888
Fosse, musical highlighting the work of legendary dancer, choreographer, director Bob Fosse, Oct. 28, 7:30pm • Pink Floyd Laser Spectacular, Nov. 19, 8pm • Skeletons in Your Closet, Nov. 21, 4pm.

Riverside Theatre
213 N. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 338-7672
Wed, Sept. 22 & Thursdays, 7pm; Fridays & Saturdays, 8pm; Sundays, 2pm
Still Life with Iris, adventure drama by Steven Dietz, Nov. 12-28.

Space/Place Theater
North Hall, Ui campus, Iowa City
Columbus: A Soundpainting Opera, by Walter Thompson, Oct. 29-30, 8pm; Oct. 31, 3pm.

Theatre Cedar Rapids
102 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-8592
7:30pm Thurs., Sat. • 2:30pm Sun.
Rave On!, revamped version of musical featuring songs by Buddy Holly, Nov. 5-6, 7:30pm; Nov. 7, 2:30pm & 7:30pm • Home for the Holidays: A TCR Christmas, Nov. 21-23 & 28-30; Dec. 4-7 & 11-13.

UI Hospitals and Clinics
Project Art of UIHC, Iowa City, 353-6417
Collaton Atrium, noon (unless noted otherwise)
With Lars, play by Chris Leyva, romantic comedy about how a strange woman named Lars changes one man’s life, Main Lobby, Nov. 5 • UI’s Martha-Ellen Tye Opera Theatre performs selections from Amahl and the Night Visitors, Nov. 12.

UI Theatres
Theatre Bldg., Ui campus, Iowa City. 335-1160
Solo, by Marnie Glazier, University Theatres Gallery production, Oct. 28-30, 8pm; Oct. 31, 3pm, Theatre B • Shadows of the Reef, by Anton Juan, University Theatres Mainstage production, Nov. 4-6 & 11-13, 8pm; Nov. 7 & 14, 3pm • God’s Little Lambies, by Ralph Hall and ensemble, University Theatres Gallery production, Nov. 11-13, 8pm; Nov. 14, 3pm, Theatre B.

Uptown Bill’s small Mall
401 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 339-0401
Catherine Moore, performance art, Nov. 30, 7pm.

Ushers Ferry Historical Village
5925 Seminole Valley Trail NE, Cedar Rapids, 286-5763
Mobird Curiosities, Parlour Theater Series, 19th century creepiness from HG Wells’ The Red Lodge to Dracula’s missing chapter, Oct. 30, 7pm, reservations required.

Comedy
The Green Room
509 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 354-4350

The Mill
120 E. Burlington St., Iowa City, 351-9529
Lightning in a Bottle, comedy improv, Tuesdays, 8pm.

Faulconer Gallery
Grinnell College, 1108 Park St., Grinnell, 641-269-4660
“Eye Play,” family workshop, explore the gallery together and create simple animation; grades K-4 with adult, Oct. 30, 10-11:30am, call 641-269-4663 to register • “From Flipbooks to Flash,” workshop, explore simple animation techniques in three sessions, grades 5-9, Nov. 6-Dec. 4, 10-11:30am, call 641-269-4663 to register • “Learning to Look,” discussion group, plus one out-of-town museum day-trip, see more when you view art with others, high school-adult, through Dec. 7, every other Tuesday, 7-8pm, call 641-269-4663 to register • Jenny Anger, Grinnell College assoc. professor of art, shares perspectives on work by William Kentridge, Nov. 16, 4:15pm • Gallery Talks, Nov. 20, Susan Stewart, writer, 10am; William Kentridge, artist, 2pm; discussion, 3pm.

The Green Room
509 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, 354-4350
Poetry Siani, Nov. 10 & 24, 3pm.

The History Center
615 1st Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-1501
Downtown Architectural Walking Tour, with historian Mark Hunter, Nov. 7, 2-3:30pm, begins and ends at the History Center • “The B-29 Bomber,” Lawrence Robinson on Collins Radio’s contributions to non-atomic weaponry in WWII, Nov. 14, 2-4pm • Bells Are Ringing – Church Centennials, *historian Mark Hunter

Words
101 of Biology Building East
UI campus, Iowa City
Poet James Galvin and fiction writer Elizabeth McCracken, UI Writers’ Workshop faculty members, Nov. 3, 8pm.

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art
410 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 368-7503
“The Beginnings of the Republic: The Struggle of the Orders,” DVD lecture series by Professor Garrett G. Fagan, Oct. 30, 1-2pm • “Roman Ceramics: Why Did the Romans Take Pottery for Granted?” lecture by Glenn Storey, Nov. 3, 12-1pm • “Who Says Latin Is Dead? How to Speak Like a Roman in One Easy Lesson,” Latin workshop with Ui Classics Department, Nov. 6, 1pm • “What the Romans Talked About at Dinner Parties: Poetry, Gossip and Lampoon,” Roman literature readings, with Cornell College Classical Studies, Nov. 13, 1pm • “The Doctor and the Emperor,” lecture by Susan Lawrence, University of Iowa, Nov. 18, 7-8pm • “Make a Lasting Impression,” Roman coin reproductions, family workshop, Nov. 20, 1pm • “Roman Expansion in Italy; The Roman Confederation in Italy,” film and lecture, Nov. 27,1-2pm.

CSPS
1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 364-1580
Reading by poets James McKeen and Jan Weissmiller, Nov. 14, 2pm.

18 | little village | calendar
SXSW Music celebrates its 19th edition, with hundreds of musical acts from around the globe for five nights on forty stages in downtown Austin. By day, registrants will visit the Trade Show and hear hundreds of speakers present timely and provocative topics.

Final Showcase Application DEADLINE: NOV. 8th

SXSW USA HEADQUARTERS P.O. Box 4990 • Austin, TX 78706
512/407-7979 • Fax 512/651-0754 • sxsw@sxsw.com • www.sxsw.com

Live Music at Uptown Bill's Small Mall
401 S. Gilbert St.
319-339-0401
Every Friday at 8pm - OPEN MIKE
Every Sunday at 2pm - IRISH SLOW SESSION (Celtic Jam)

All shows at 7 pm with $3 cover, unless otherwise indicated.

Sat. 11/6 • The Mad River Duo
Thurs. 11/11 • The Unsung Forum (songwriters’ workshop)
Sat. 11/13 • Kalimbaman with Nancita Wernett
Tues. 11/16 • Anne Heaton & Frank Moretta Jr.
Thurs. 11/18 5-9 pm • Potluck Dinner and Jam
Sat. 11/20 • Teddy Goldstein
Tues. 11/30 • Catherine Moore (performance art)

For more information, call 339-0401.

GABES 330 E. Washington Ave.
Iowa City 52242-4738
WWW.GABESOASIS.COM

Nov. 3 • The Close, Reverend Glasssey 9pm
Nov. 5 • Plebald, Trippli, Humans 6pm
Nov. 6 • Local/Regional Hip-Hop Showcase 9pm
Nov. 8 • The High Strung, Sars Hide Fire 5:30pm
Nov. 9 • The Western Front, The Escape Engine, Prom Night Tornado 9pm
Nov. 11 • Anything But Sexy, Jupiter Sunrise 6pm
Meatjack, Kill It 10pm
Nov. 12 • Brother Ali, Psalm One 6pm
The Motelikes 10pm
Nov. 13 • The Plastic Constellations, Ricky Flits, Frankenken, Manah-Mar 9pm
Nov. 15 • Buy Your Dead, Sacs of Tomorrow 6pm
Nov. 16 • The SHAPESHIFTERS 9PM
Nov. 17 • Troubled Bubble, Old Canes, Chin Up Chin Up, The Gomboy 9pm
Nov. 19 • East Eighteen, All But Screaming, Sea of Miranda 9pm
Nov. 20 • Local Pipes, 5 Foundlings, Crematorium 8PM
Nov. 22 • Me Without You, Owen, Despairado, Failures 6pm
Nov. 23 • The Arcade Fire 9pm
Nov. 27 • Thanksgiving 9PM

Beer Garden
Tuesday 7-11 pm
$1.00 cans
Wednesdays 7-11 pm
$1.50 tall boys

Bookings at:
WWW.GABESOASIS.COM
on the history of four local churches celebrating the 100th anniversary of their buildings., Nov. 16, 12-1pm • “If I Were Elected President,” area fifth graders present their versions of campaign speeches from the past, Nov. 21, 2-4pm.

Holiday Inn Conference Center
1220 First Ave., Coralville
Diabetes Awards Banquet and Health Fair, Oct. 29, health fair, 5-7pm; dinner, 7pm, keynote speaker Vivian Murray, executive director, Camp Hertko Hollow, 337-8628 for info. Educational Seminar on Epilepsy, UI Health Care experts discuss epilepsy and seizures, Nov. 8, 6:30-8pm. 384-8442 to register • Midwest Rural and Agricultural Safety and Health Forum, Nov. 18-19, Thursday keynote by Chuck Fluharty, director of the Rural Policy Research Institute, “Community-Based Rural Policy,” www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/ for info.

IC Public Library
123 Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200
Educational Program for Mental Illness Awareness Month, Oct. 28, 7-9:30pm, Meeting Rm. A • Kerry MeetUp, Oct. 28, 7-8pm, Meeting Rm. E • Discussion of The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini, Nov. 1, 7-9pm, Meeting Rm A • Community Reading Month Book Talk Lunch, books for grades 7-adult, Nov. 3,12-1pm, Meeting Rm. A • “Images of America,” International Writing Program participants reflect on their experiences in Iowa and the United States, Nov. 3, Meeting Rm. A • Johnson County Choice Action Team action planning meeting, Nov. 3, 7:30-9pm, Meeting Rm. E.

Iowa Memorial Union
UI campus, Iowa City
Linda Snetselaar, associate professor of epidemiology, Finding God at Iowa lunch series, Nov. 5, 12pm • “Innovations in Tobacco Control Policy—We Can Move the Mountain,” Dr. Michael C. Fiore, professor of medicine and director and founder of the Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention, University of Wisconsin, Nov. 16, 12:30pm, Main Lounge.

Java House
211 E. Washington St., 341-0012
WSUI’s “Iowa Talks Live from the Java House,” Fridays, 10am

Macbride Hall
UI campus, Iowa City
Mark Anderson, Office of the State Archaeologist, Oct. 30, 1pm, 2pm & 3pm, Auditorium.

The Mill
120 E. Burlington St., Iowa City, 351-9529
Talk Art Cabaret, UI Workshop readings, Nov. 3 & 17, 10pm.

Monster Design Studio
716 Oakland Rd. NE, Cedar Rapids, 365-1844
CR Poets Poetry Slam, Oct. 1, 15 & 29, 8pm.

Mt. Mercy College
Cedar Rapids
Flaherty Community Rm., Basile Hall
“Understanding Islam,” Anisa Mehdi, award-winning journalist, Oct. 28, 7pm • “Work of Shirin Neshat,” art panel discusses this Iranian artist, Nov. 11, 7pm • “Understanding the Islamic Religion,” Imam Ahmed Elkhadly, Islamic Center of Cedar Rapids, Nov. 22, 7pm.

Prairie Lights
15 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City, 337-2681 (unless noted otherwise)
All 8pm, broadcast live on WSUI (unless noted otherwise)
Russell Banks, Oct. 28, Shambaugh Auditorium • Novelist Chuck Rosenthal reads from his memoir, Never Let Me Go, which describes the sexual abuse he endured as a young athlete, Oct. 29 • Sulkhan Zhordania (Georgia) and Vivienne Plumb (New Zealand) fiction, International Writing Program/Writers’ Workshop reading, Oct. 31 and each Sunday, 5pm • Poets Jennifer K. Dick and Julie Carr read from their debut collections, winners in the Contemporary Poetry Series Competition, Nov. 2 • Nancy Reisman reads from her Iowa Short Fiction Award-winning novel, The First Desire, Nov. 4 • Patricia Foster, Workshop grad and UI nonfiction writing program faculty member, reads from Just Beneath My Skin: Autobiography and Self-Discovery, Nov. 5 • Iowa City’s Barbara Robinette Moss reads from her new novel, Pierce, Nov. 8, Shambaugh Auditorium • Joyelle McSweeney reads from her verse play, Commandrine and Other Poems, Nov. 9 • IC’s Larry Baker reads from his new novel, Athens, America, Nov. 10 • Afghan writer Khaled Hosseini reads from Kite Runner, Nov. 11, Buchanan Aud., John Pappajohn Business Bldg. • Poet and filmmaker Bradley Paul reads from his first collection of poems, The Obvious, Nov. 12 • Des Moines teacher Charles Newton and Gretchen Cauffman sign copies of A Disgrace to the Profession, their hard-hitting expose of malfeasance in the public schools, Nov. 13, 12-1pm • Janet Desaulniers reads from her 2004 John Simmons Short Fiction Award-winning collection, What You’ve Been Missing, Nov. 15 • Jeff Shaara reads from his novel, To the Last Man, Nov. 17 • Poet Mark Irwin reads from his fifth collection, Bright Hunger, Nov. 18 • Chuck Richards signs his full color picture book, Jungle Gym Jitters, Nov. 20, 2pm • Lisa Reardon reads from The Mercy Killers, Nov. 22 • Ruth Garrett reads from Born Amish, Nov. 29 • Peggy Gish reads from Iraq: A Journey into Hope and Peace, a personal story of her time with the Christian Peacekeeping Teams in Iraq, Nov. 30.

Ruby’s Pearl
323 E. Market St., Iowa City, 248-0032
Erotica Reading, Nov. 4, 7-8:30pm.

Schaeffer Hall
UI campus, Iowa City
Saturday Scholars program, 10am, Rm 40 “Immigrants’ America: Then and Now,” Shelton Stromquist, department of history, Oct. 30.

Senior Center
28 S. Linn St., Iowa City
with historian Loren Horton, Nov. 8, 2pm • “Stock Investing Strategies,” with Chad Andrews, Edward Jones, Nov. 9, 12:30pm, registration required • A Celebration for America’s Veterans, Nov. 10, 2:30pm • Dr. Keyzom Bhutti, Tibetan medicine, Nov. 11, 7:30pm • “A Colonial Williamsburg Christmas,” computer slide show by Jim Scheib, Nov. 12, 2:30pm • “Transitions: Senior Center to Postal Center. A Photographic Review of the Building at 28 S. Linn Street,” with Linda Kopping, Nov. 17, 2pm • “Our Veterans: A Tribute,” with Janie Yates, Nov. 19, 2-3pm • “The Iowa City Flood of 1993,” with Rick Fosse, Nov. 19, 2-3pm • “An Inside Look at the Press Citizen,” with PC editor Jim Lewers, Nov. 18, 1-2:30pm

Shambaugh House

UI campus, Iowa City, 335-0128

Pakistani poet and scholar Alamgir Hashmi reads from his work, Oct. 29, 5pm.

UI Art Bldg.

UI campus, Iowa City

Alex Brown, lecture on his work, Nov. 11, 7pm, Rm. E109.

UI Museum of Art

150 North Riverside Dr., Iowa City, 335-1727

Gallery Talk, Sue Hettmansenperger, Oct. 28, 2pm • Gallery Talk, Khee Ho Yuen, Oct. 28, 7:30pm • “Know the Score,” live radio program, Walter Thompson discusses and demonstrates his “soundpainting,” with UI faculty member Jeff Agrell and musician Evan Mazunik, also songs of Edith Piaf, Oct. 30, 7-7:30pm • “Transitions: Senior Center to Postal Center. A Photographic Review of the Building at 28 S. Linn Street,” with Linda Kopping, Nov. 17, 2pm • “Our Veterans: A Tribute,” with Janie Yates, Nov. 19, 2-3pm

Women’s Resource & Action Center

Iowa City, 335-1486

Feminist Fiction Reading Group, The Female Man, by Johanna Russ, Nov. 17, 8pm • Feminist Art Circle, resource sharing, field trips and workshops, Thursdays, 5:30pm.

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

410 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-7503

“Roman Expansion in Italy; The Roman Confederation in Italy,” film and lecture, Nov. 27, 1-2pm.

Misc.

Brucemore

2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, 362-7375

Holiday House Tours, Nov. 26-Dec. 31, Tues.-Sat., 10am-3pm; Sun, 12-3pm.

IC Public Library

123 Linn St., Iowa City, 356-5200

Rotaract Halloween Party, Rotaract is a local and national service organization for people ages 18-30, Oct. 31, 2-4pm.

Monster Design Studio

716 Oakland Rd. NE, Cedar Rapids, 365-1844

Kids Halloween Party and Costume Parade, Oct. 30, 12-2pm.

Public Space One

6 1/2 S. Dubuque St, Iowa City

Stitch ‘n’ Bitch, knitters, Tuesdays, 4-6:30pm, emily-maloney@uiowa.edu for more info.

Ruby’s Pearl

323 E. Market St., Iowa City, 248-0032

“Drag Out Yer Best,” drag workshop for kings, queens and in-betweens, experts teach make-up, moves and style, Nov. 13, 7-9pm.

Theatre Cedar Rapids

102 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, 366-8592

TCR Costume Blow-Out, costumes for sale, Oct. 28-29, 9am-5pm.

Ushers Ferry Historical Village

5925 Seminole Valley Trail NE, Cedar Rapids, 286-5763

Harvest Dinner, Nov. 13, 6pm, reservations required • Thanksgiving Candlelight Tour, Nov. 26-27, 4-8pm.

Veterans Memorial Coliseum

Second Avenue Bridge, Cedar Rapids

Friends of CR Library Book Sale, Nov. 5, 6-10pm; Nov. 6, 9am-5pm; Nov. 7, 12-5pm.

Classes/Camps

Macbride Hall

UI campus, Iowa City

“Art! It’s Natural.” art classes for children first through third grades, 10:30am-12pm: Oct. 30, “Sculpt a Reptile”; register at 335-0481.

Monster Design Studio

716 Oakland Rd. NE, Cedar Rapids, 365-1844

Kids Art Classes, Saturdays, 11am-12pm.

New Pioneer Co-op

Coralville

Pizza from Scratch with Chad Clark, Nov 9, 6-8pm, register by calling 338-9441, ext. 36.

School for the Performing Arts

209 N. Linn St., Iowa City, 341-0166

Acting and music classes and lessons for all ages and abilities. Scene study, Kindermusik, group guitar and more. No audition necessary. Call, or visit www.schoolofperformingarts.com to register or for more info.

Senior Center

28 S. Linn St., Iowa City

Learn to Play a Band Instrument, Mondays, through Dec. 6, 5:30-6:30pm; pre-register, open to the public.

Spooky Sprint 5K Charity Fun Run

Oct. 31, 10am, Seaman Center, UI campus

Prizes and breakfast, dress in costume, proceeds to Emergency Housing Project (EHP) of Iowa City.
Dear Ruby,
I recently bought a personal vibrator, but when I opened the package, it felt kind of slimy and had a serious chemical smell to it. I tried washing it with soap and water, but the stinky slime did not go away. I’m not sure I want it anywhere near me. What should I do?

Skeptical

Dear Skeptical,
I can understand why you would not want to play with a toy that has an unpleasant texture and smell. Your instincts are right on! Just say no to nasty toys.

Recently, the staff at Ruby’s has become aware of some materials used in manufacturing sex toys that are less than appealing in many ways. Toys that are made of “jelly rubber” or “jelly vinyl” often have an unpleasant chemical odor and an oozy texture that doesn’t quit. Some folks who have used these types of toys have reported burning sensations or other unpleasant side effects.

Turns out these playthings may not be very good for your health. A German research team has been studying consumer products for years and found that unsafe chemicals are “off-gassing” from many popular items. Toys made from these materials contain up to 10 unsafe chemicals, the most serious of which are known as phthalates. Consumer protection groups have gotten baby toys, teethers and rattles made with these chemicals taken off retail shelves because they are clearly harmful to vital organs.

Speaking of vital organs, the sex toy industry is huge these days, as the popularity of intimate playthings continues to grow. There are no controls currently placed on manufacturers regarding the materials they can or cannot use in their products. For that reason, here is how you can recognize these toys and avoid their use if you so choose.

Jelly toys are typically translucent bright colors, or clear. They may be thin and stretchy, or thick and semi-rigid. Invariably, they have a slightly slimy texture and chemical odor that does not go away with washing. These toys are also porous, and therefore cannot be disinfected and cannot be used safely with casual acquaintances. The old maxim “You get what you pay for” rings true here—they are among the cheapest toys on the market. For more information about phthalates and health, check out these websites:

www.nottoopretty.org/
www.chemicalbodyburden.org/
www.noharm.org/pvcDehp/phthalatesDehp

So Ruby says choose carefully, do a sniff test and consider paying a little extra for the toys that won’t harm your body. To keep all your parts healthy and happy, use only hard plastic, silicone or non-jelly types of vinyl.

Smiles,
Ruby
**FORECAST FOR NOVEMBER 2004 • BY DR. STAR**

**ARIES** - This month, dreams of a better life will arise, stirred by positive developments in partnership areas. However, caution is strongly advised. Do not be carried away by reckless impulses or overactive hormones, or personal obligations impose legitimate restraints. Also, new partnership arrangements could put long-term financial holdings at risk. If you give in to temptation or act without sufficient safeguards, there will be consequences down the line. Take the high road—when appropriate, admit your mistakes graciously, and politely hold your ground, as your partners and rivals seem to be holding all the cards. March is the time to carefully consider your future actions on your part.

**TAURUS** - There are mixed signals all month. You will not see eye to eye with authority figures and, some days, you won't see things clearly at all. Your personal influence will peak early in November, leaving you somewhat exposed by month’s end. Your partners and rivals seem to be holding all the cards. However, if you can fulfill your obligations graciously, and politely hold your ground, you will succeed nicely. Take things slowly and carefully. Your financial and work situations might seem out of the loop. The various ties that are sending mixed messages. If your love of excitement, new possibilities for future, you will also probably be very anoyed as someone—an older, wiser person, or perhaps someone in authority over you—sets strict terms, limits and conditions. The thing of it is that, right now, if you totally had your way, you wouldn't get it right. Things are more complicated than you can imagine. Trust the course of events. There is magic in that.

**GEMINI** - You could well find yourself surrounded by nervous, impatient and confused people this month, but it is Gemini’s turn to coast. While others swim hard just to stay afloat, Gemini will find things working smoothly. You can observe events and manage your affairs from a comfortable, protected niche. However, a tight budget will still impose limitations. Establish a solid foundation so you can expand later, when finances ease further. If you watch your reflexes are good and you will be able to curate the rambunctious and reckless impulses of youngsters over whom you might have old work habits that keep you on the job longer than necessary. Schedu le some quality time with your own thoughts.

**CANCER** - You might feel at a disadvantage for most of November, subject to circumstances beyond your control. Forced decisions. Hard choices. You might have to deliver unwelcome news or stern advice to those you hold dear. Set some boundaries anyway. Things are not at all as bad as they might seem. If you look closely, you will see that your positive attributes are taking shape in important areas of your life. Speaking hard truths or establishing firm limits with others is essential to building a better future for yourself.

**LEO** - This is a lot of turmoil this month. The situation at home and with important associates might be especially troubling and confusing. And you will have to exert yourself to curb the rambo tious and reckless impulses of youngsters over whom you might have old work habits that keep you on the job longer than necessary. Your reflexes are good and you will be able to impose your will as needed. You might feel too much at the mercy of random events during November, but you will emerge very much in charge by month’s end. Romance and creativity are especially well aspected.

**VIRGO** - Your business and personal lives are rearranging themselves more in keeping with your hopes and aspirations. Many personal and business relationships will end, as new, more enduring and productive relationships take shape. The expansion of personal and professional activity you hope for won’t be possible until unproductive ties are broken. Immature, unreliable, impulsive people come into your life. Watch the big picture or try to influence it, it will probably make you dizzy. Try to keep your eye on the details as they fall into place. Trust the outcome.

**LIBRA** - Creative and romantic activities are powerfully stimulated and positively aspected in November. Good things will happen and they will have lasting effects. Early November is the best time to exert your considerable influence, but you know when it’s time to stop. Power plays could backfire. You could find yourself walking a pretty fine line by month’s end. Gracefully accept the guidance of older and wiser heads throughout the month, even when they impose limits. Impulsive actions, especially in romance, could have unfortunate consequences. Coming changes could catch you up short. When partying, don’t overdo.**

**SCORPIO** - I fear Scorpio will find November frustrating. The impulse to act will be constant and strong and you can practically taste your potential influence over events. The problem is that your hands are tied. You can’t depend on your partner, with whom you feel especially close now. Their hands are tied, too. That is probably just as well, since, if either of you were free to act, you wouldn’t get it right. Things are more complicated than you can imagine. Trust the course of events. There is magic in that.

**SAGITTARIUS** - You will have a hard time not being swept away in the glamour of exciting, new possibilities for future. You will also probably be very annoyed as someone—an older, wiser person, or perhaps someone in authority over you—sets strict terms, limits and conditions. The thing of it is that, right now, if you totally had your way, you would live to regret it. This person is doing what is needed to ensure your emotional, physical and financial wellbeing, long term, and they are doing it well.

**CAPRICORN** - This month, Capricorns might feel out of the loop. It seems like their input is being ignored and their contributions slighted. The problem could be that Capricorns are the ones who have to say, “No.” Or it might be that the best developments are in unglamorous areas like home, family, emotional health, insurance, pensions—all the invisible but vital underpinnings of your lifestyle. But many things are moving in Capricorn’s favor, and you will often get the last word. You just won’t get everything you want; but who does?

**AQUARIUS** - Aquarians must take special care not to live in their own little dream worlds now. Your uplifting spirit is needed in these uncertain and troubled times. Your ability to inspire is peaking, too. Those responding to today’s troubling world events need much guidance. Other authorities are sending mixed messages. If your love of life and humanity doesn’t draw you out, economic and health issues might. Your lifestyle support system needs attention. One way or another, you should leverage your profound optimism into cash and expanding your personal support network.

**PISCES** - Your desire to explore distant places and new ideas is being effectively blocked by financial and other kinds of practical hassles on the local level. You are probably entertaining unrealistic thoughts about what such adventures could bring you. Also, you cannot venture away now without shortchanging those around you and undermining your own security. Get your mind off things for a while. The various ties that presently hinder you will unravel themselves in time. If you let matters run their course, you will be more than satisfied with the results.

Contact Dr. Star at chiron@mchsi.com

**Leicester City Council**

**Green Room**

**Public Property**

**Family Groove Co. + Deuce**

**Euforquestra**

**Sam Knutsen**

**Matt Grimm + Jen Glocercker**

**Bockman Euphio**

**Bent Wookie Breakdown**

**Tony Furtado**

**SWING CREW**

**Damen Dotson Band**

**Tell Julia**

**Poetry Slam**

**Oteil Burbridge and the Pecos Band**

**The GetItch**

**Bottom Feeder + Breakdance**

**Miracles of God + Hoopride**

**UNITED NATIONS**

**Hot Buttered Rum String Band**

**+ Euphoria**

**Important People and Meetings**

**Railroad Earth**

**Mr. Baber’s Neighbors: The Solar String Band**

**Lucky Boys Confusion**

**PERPETUAL GROOVE**

**Korey Bassett & Kevin Bassett DJ**

**Funkmaster Cracker**

**THE GREYHOUNDS**

**FAMILY GROOVE Co.** No cover

**open daily 5pm-2am**

**509 s. gilbert, iowa city**

**354-4350 greenroom.com**

astrology | little village | 23
Motley Cow Cafe

dinner, fine wine and beer
5-10pm mon-sat
327 E. Market 319.688.9177

On Market Street
$1 off a Treatzza Pizza
Open 11am-11pm Daily
354-1992

KRU:TV

... Music Television Done Right.
Premiering Friday, November 5th, 9 P.M., Channel 17.
Same time, same channel, every Friday.

Shop the Northside in Iowa City

Motley Cow Cafe
327 E. Market
319.688.9177
5-10pm mon-sat

GUITAR FOUNDATION
Buy • Sell • Trade • Lessons • Repairs • Rentals
209 N. Linn Street
319-351-0932
Open 7 days

Scholarly Used Books in the Liberal Arts
Philosophy • History • Literature
Women's Studies • Psychology • Art • Music • Anthropology
Mon-Sat 11am-6pm
219 N. Gilbert 338-3077

Dairy Queen
On Market Street
$1 off a Treatzza Pizza
Open 11am-11pm Daily
354-1992

Oasis
THE FALAFEL JOINT
Now Open!
$5 Lunch Special
Falafel Sandwich • Any Soft Drink
206 N. Linn St., Downtown Iowa City

LOCATOR MAP
Linn St.  Market St.