

# 365ink

100th Issue

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MAGAZINE

Paul  
Hemmer

## SIGNING OFF

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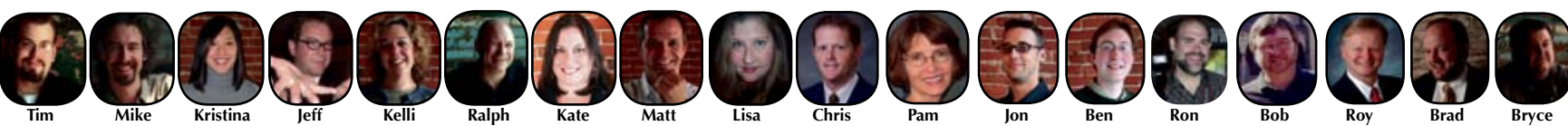
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# Bryce's inkUbator

Notes from the Publisher... Fostering ideas, conversations and arguments.

100 issues of 365ink. It seems like it's been 10 issues and at the same time 10,000. I wonder for how many issues you've been reading? I know this crazy ride has gone on long enough that I've written Inkubators which, Tim points out, I've already written about three years earlier. And some of those cover stories that happen every year get harder and harder to write about without telling the same story again. So we find ourselves digging harder and getting more creative with the stories we tell in our pages. We take a lot of pride in taking the time to get a real story, not just rehashing a press release and augmenting it with picture that takes up a whole page just to introduce the article. Yeah, it's pretty, but then you lose the story you could have been telling in that lost page. And if I've learned one thing about our readers over the years, it's that they actually DO read the stories.

I was trying to think of some work stories that stick with me from our years in existence. I think the hard part about that is that our office is probably quite different from many office organization structures. What is a normal day for us probably would stick out like a sore thumb in many offices. I mean, to some degree, our job is to socialize professionally. You wonder how that can be hard work. I assure you it is. Because every perk has a dark side.

For example, by the nature of our work and the free promotion we give to a lot of people, we get access to a lot of stuff for free. Aside from this being very handy for a bunch of broke writers, it's also a unique and interesting level of access to have for the many great cultural events that come to Dubuque every year. But we can't just go enjoy ourselves. We always have to take along a camera and remember to photograph everything to put online the next day. And then, when everyone goes home from, say, a concert ... say ... half in the bag, we on the other hand have to come back and download all those photos, edit them, and put them online 'til the wee hours. Not an easy thing to do inebriated, though I know a few of us have tried. At 365, we get more done between midnight and when you get up than, well, you get the idea.

But seriously, my people work their butts off. Yeah we get to do cool stuff, but I think we earn it. For example, it's now Tuesday night. I know Tim and Mike are still hard at it and will be into the wee hours of tomorrow morning finishing up stories and then Tim has to still lay out the last pieces of the issue. It's already 11:30 p.m. as I write this and, for a change, I'm getting done with my part early, though I was up until almost 5 a.m. last night and back up at 8:15 this morning. This happens on a two-week cycle and does not rest for holidays. We can't go on vacation for two weeks. We'd miss a paper cycle and there aren't enough of us to drop the whole issue on the others in the office. So we're a little tied down. But as hard as it is, in so many ways, it beats working for a living, if you know what I mean.

So what exactly does it mean to be 365? What kind of odd and special situations do we find ourselves in? I'll try to recall a few instances to make my point.

Years ago we had an intern named George. If I say his name is G.T., then many people out there probably know exactly who he is. Now he's married with kids and taking on the management world. Back then he was a scrappy Web content go-getter. One day I was pulling out of Eagle on Locust and I looked up and saw the Saturn blimp. I don't think there's ever been a blimp in Dubuque. Turns out I was right. I called G.T. right away and said, "Get the camera, there's a blimp over town." G.T. started laughing and retorted, "I'm in it, bi#h!" Of course you are, I said. I still have no idea how he managed that. That pretty much sums up the kinds of odd opportunities that come to 365.

One other day I got a call from Jim Rix, who was opening the new Grand Harbor Resort in a few weeks. He said to get the camera and get down there ASAP. A few minutes later I was talking to Bono. Yes, *that* Bono. While the media were kept outside as a special meeting was held with area doctors, I got to go in as the "official hotel photographer." I remember he said to me, as we inexplicably had about 30 seconds together, alone, outside while everyone else was gathering their stuff, that a frozen Dubuque reminded him of Dublin and then he called the Mississippi "the river Jordan" in some kind of magical Bono verse -- and then, as everyone came out, we got a photo together. I'm pretty sure he treasures it and has it on his fridge at home. I should mention Ashley Judd was there too. I mean, how could I forget? Yeah, way hotter in person.

From punk kids 10 years ago to older punks today. Governors and Senators know our names. We've met a lot of presidential candidates, and Kevin Bacon too. We go backstage for big rock stars we love and for country music stars that we have no idea who they are (so we shoot photos of the guys holding the Sharpie markers as they're the ones signing autographs). We get calls for advice and input from people way above our pay grade and we appreciate the respect for our insights. We've been knee deep in most of the biggest cultural, civic, and economic development related happenings in Dubuque in the last decade; it's been both rewarding and challenging. And for the most part, a blast. But I gotta admit, I think I'm getting too old to keep up the "Midwest distributor of involved" pace. Looks like it might be time to pass the torch. No, we're not quitting. We're just sending someone younger to take photos of the country music guys so we can sleep.

So thanks for reading. I mean really, really thanks for reading and letting us almost make a living doing this thing we love to bring a little entertainment and culture into your lives. We love it and we hope you love 365ink too. We're not sure what the future holds, but rest assured we'll be up at 2 a.m. writing about it.



JAN 21 - FEB 3

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## Where's WANDO?

We've hidden 365's WANDO somewhere in this issue of Dubuque365ink. Can you find the master of movies buried within these pages? Hint: He's tiny and could be anywhere. In a story? In an ad? On the cover? Good Luck!

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## In his own words, a Dubuque legend signs off.

My earliest memories of radio are sitting in our little family room at 1264 Mt. Loretta listening to programs like Abbott & Costello, Ozzie & Harriet and Bergen & McCarthy. Late afternoon always brought The Lone Ranger, Sgt. Preston, and other adventure shows to my imagination. And Saturday morning was time for No School Today with Big Jon and Sparky and Space Patrol. I liked the stories, but, what impressed me most were the exciting introductions provided by the announcers. "High adventure in the wild vast reaches of space. Missions of daring in the name of interplanetary justice. Travel into the future with Buzz Corey, Commander in Chief of the "Space Patrol."

Wow! That was exciting stuff.

I was about 10 years old when the music programs hosted by announcers like Bill Thomas and others started to interest me. I had a little phonograph and some 78rpm records that I would announce and play on an imaginary radio station. I'd even cut advertisements out of the TH and read them. Dad noticed my fascination, and one day presented me with a microphone that he had built from part of a broomstick mounted on a round board with a Ball fruit jar lid covered by a piece of window screen.

I had a little kit-built crystal radio in my bedroom and would spend many late night evenings listening to programs that would come miraculously into the little headset. Every evening was a different experience. Sometimes it was KOTH's "Stairway to the Stars." Other

times KAAY in Little Rock would come blaring in with the pop tunes of the day. WGN came in regularly with big band broadcasts from Chicago hotels and ballrooms.

A job carrying the Dubuque Buyers Guide and later, the Telegraph Herald and delivering Fuller Brush catalogues through most of the north end of Dubuque helped me save for my ultimate goal: a tape recorder and real microphone. I finally had enough when I was about 12 years old. That's when the real practice for my radio career began.

Hours of recording, listening and self critiquing followed. With one of my school buddies, Denny Oeth, a wired radio station (KHOS - The Hemmer-Oeth System) was created using heavy electrical wire stretched between our homes. I suppose it was the original cable radio station. Denny was the engineer. I did the programming, which included my disk jockey show, some original comedy routines, and live piano music played on our old Cable upright. Eventually we added another neighbor to our network of listeners. It was great fun.

During those same years, me and a few of my friends discovered that we could visit the local radio stations during the daytime hours to watch the announcers from observation rooms. We spent many hours observing Bob Gribben, Bill Thomas, and others from the KOTH studios. WDBQ had a large observation room above the old First National Bank at 5th & Main. And, when

we visited on weekends, the college age part time DJs would invite us into the studio to watch them.

That was it. My fascination with the radio business was incurable.

I was 15 and determined to get a real radio job. So, I sent a sample tape to Phil Kelly, General Manager of WDBQ. Much to my surprise, he called me for an interview and offered a part-time

event of a rain-out, I became a deejay. I prayed for rainouts.

Soon I was given a Sunday evening 6 p.m. - 12 midnight shift of my own. In those days there wasn't a playlist of tunes, so I could program whatever I wanted. Consequently listeners heard everything from pop tunes of the day to big bands, and comedy routines. It was great fun. The tough part of the job was reading the sponsored 10 p.m.



job. Because I was tall and looked older, he didn't ask my age. Within a few weeks I was operating a real radio control board during the stations broadcast of White Sox baseball. My duties included sweeping the floor, emptying the wastebaskets, answering the phone, and reading the local news when the game ended. And, in the

newscast. Management was never too thrilled about my newscaster abilities, but it was late Sunday night, so I got by.

The next few years became a learning experience with guidance from men-

**Continued on Page 20.**



## NOW Heroes of the Tri-States Nominations

Do you have an important teacher or coach in your life? Would you like to honor area service men and women? Have you always wanted to thank the law enforcement and fire department officials who save lives every day? The American Red Cross of the Tri-States is currently accepting nominations from now until the end of January for its 7th annual Heroes of the Tri-States awards on April 13, 2009. To nominate a deserving individual, in one of many categories, please visit [www.dupaco.com](http://www.dupaco.com) or call the Red Cross office at 563-583-6451.

## NOW Text 52000 and Send \$10 for Haiti

One of the best ways to help the people of Haiti is through cash donations. The Salvation Army pledges that 100% of donations received for disaster relief will be used for that purpose. Donations may be made by phone: 1-800-SAL-ARMY (1-800-

725-2769), by internet: [www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org) or by mail at P.O. Box 416, Dubuque, IA 52004-0416. Donations may also be made by cell phone. A donor can send the word "Haiti" to the number 52000 via text message. A \$10.00 donation will appear on their next cell phone bill. The donor's cell phone carrier may charge them standard text messaging rates.

## JAN 23 Dubuque Little League Team Registration

Dubuque Little League is currently accepting registrations for the 2010 youth baseball season. Register online at [www.dllb.org](http://www.dllb.org), or in person at the Dubuque Sports and Recreation Festival January 23 at the Grand River Center. Dubuque Little League is open to children between the ages of 5 and 15 and is a chartered affiliate of Little League Baseball. Additional information can be found online at [www.dllb.org](http://www.dllb.org). It's time to play ball!

## NOW Wu Style Tai Chi Classes

The Leisure Services Department is sponsoring a Wu Style Tai Chi class for ages 18 and older. Classes are offered on Monday evenings from 5:30-6:30 p.m. through February 22nd, and Wednesday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m. through February 24th. Classes will also be offered on Monday evenings from 5:30-6:30 p.m. from March 1st through April 19th, and Wednesday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m. from March 3rd through April 21st. All classes will be held at the Allison-Henderson Center, upper level. Fee is \$40 per session. For further information, please call the Leisure Services Department at 589-4263.

## JAN 26 COPD Educational Seminar at Mercy

Learn about COPD (Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) on Tuesday, January 26, with Medical Associates Clinic Pulmonologist Mark Janes, MD, and Mercy Cardiac/Pulmonary Rehab Coordinator Elaine Thier,

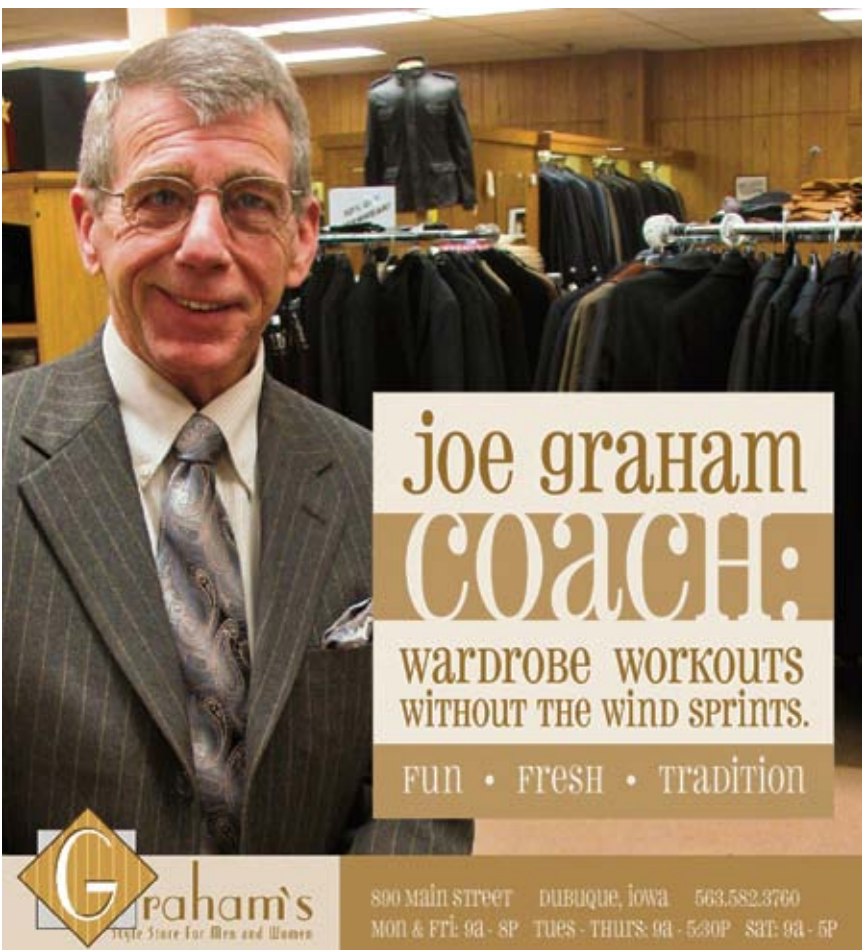
RN, MSN. Seminar is from 2:00pm - 3:30pm at Mercy Medical Center, Sixth Floor Auditorium. No fee. Register online at [www.mercydubuque.com](http://www.mercydubuque.com) or call 563-589-9600.

## JAN 29 Library Children's Book Discussion

The Dubuque County Library will be hosting a Children's Book Discussion at the Farley Branch (205 1st St. NE) on January 29th from 3:45 to 4:45pm. The group will focus on the 2009-2010 Iowa Children's and Teen Choice Award books. This activity is intended for youth in grades 3rd-9th. Snacks provided, please call 563-744-3577, or any Dubuque County Library branch to register.

## JAN 31 Broadway for Brandon

Broadway for Brandon is Sunday, January 31, 2 p.m. in the Clarke College Janzen Music Hall. Enjoy music and comedy with dessert and a silent auction. All proceeds benefit Brandon Mueller and his family in his recovery from a recent liver transplant. Tickets are \$17.




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With the ridiculously low temperatures we've been having recently, some people might have a slightly different opinion of winter, but the guys from Road Crew Entertainment think that "Winter Roxks." The production company behind last autumn's "Rocktoberfest: Music for a Cause" concert at Courtside returns with a mid-winter event, another multiple-band, two-day concert

on the expansive courts at Courtside. Scheduled for Friday and Saturday, January 29-30, Winter Roxks will feature a slate of area bands performing in a fundraising benefit for Riverview Center.

Moving in a slightly more hard rock direction as compared to Rocktoberfest, Winter Roxks will feature Jabberbox,

Half Fast, and Bad Habits on Friday, January 29, beginning at 6 p.m. (doors at 5 p.m.), with Menace, Johnny Trash, Madison-based band Fedora, and Clam Hammer & the Blonde Tsunami (featuring the ever-popular Laura McDonald) on Saturday, January 30. Saturday's show begins in the afternoon at 1 p.m. Cover for each day is just \$5, with proceeds benefiting Riverview Center.



In addition to the entertainment, the event will feature a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle with all proceeds directly benefiting Riverview Center. Riverview will have volunteers on-site to help with the event and provide information about the non-profit's program and range of services. For those who might not be familiar with the organization or who missed our feature in the last issue of 365ink detailing Hogue-Made Productions' benefit "Women On Fire," Riverview Center provides free services for people who have been affected by sexual assault, including

## 365 QUIZ?

Answers on Page 26!

- How many cell phones are in use in the US?  
A. 50 million      B. 100 million  
C. 300 million      D. 500 million
- How many expired cell phones does the average cell phone user own?  
A. 1      B. 2  
C. 3      D. 4
- How long does the average person use their current cell phone?  
A. 6-12 Months      B. 12-18 Months  
C. 18-24 Months      D. 3 Years
- What percentage of cell phones get recycled?  
A. 2.3%      B. 9.5%  
C. 19.3%      D. 41.1%
- Which precious metal is not found in average cell phones?  
A. Aluminum  
B. Silver  
C. Gold  
D. Platinum
- By the end of 2011, Smartphone sales will eclipse the sales of...  
A. Landline Phones  
B. Televisions  
C. PCs  
D. Hot Pockets
- Nearly a year ago, what percent of on-line consumers were already using Web-enables smartphones?  
A. 28%  
B. 44%  
C. 58%  
D. 91%

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Like people all around the world, our hearts go out to the people of Haiti in the wake of the January 12 earthquake. As the Tri-State area begins to rally to support the victims of this horrific tragedy, we wanted to highlight some opportunities that area residents have to lend a helping hand.

In an effort to raise relief funds, McCoy Jewelers will accept donations for the American Red Cross, and in exchange, a customer can get 50 percent off any one purchase.

"This is a time of year when people are shopping for Valentine's gifts, and with the devastating earthquake in Haiti, we felt that we could raise money and awareness," said Jonathan McCoy, designer and marketing manager. "Our event is very simple: Select any item in the shop and we will take half off the item, with half of the sale being written by the customer to the American Red Cross - Haiti Relief Program. Not only will they get a great piece of jewelry but they will also know that their donation is helping those in need." Visit [www.netgold.com](http://www.netgold.com) for further details.

Tom Rauen, of Envision Sports Designs, is also stepping forward, with sales of the T-shirts you see above this article. 100 percent of the proceeds will be donated to the Red Cross. Rauen also notes that he will be selling the shirts at this weekend's Dubuque Sports & Recreation Festival.

Understanding that recovery efforts

will require ongoing support and that Dubuque area residents might feel more comfortable in giving to a local fund for Haitian relief, the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque has established a Haiti Relief Fund.

"We want donors to have a high level of confidence that their philanthropic dollars will go to the people and organizations most impacted," said Nancy Van Milligen, foundation president and chief executive officer, in a statement on the foundation Web site. Not intended to interfere or compete with agencies providing immediate, emergency assistance, the Community Foundation fund will support continuing recovery efforts.

"The people of Haiti will need help long after immediate needs are addressed," she said. "This fund will take the long-term view."

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque is a member of the Council on Foundations, which provides the organization with access to experts to provide counsel concerning the immediate needs in Haiti, the variety of organizations responding to the tragedy, and opportunities for long-term assistance. Contributions may be mailed to: Haiti Relief Fund, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, P.O. Box 902, Dubuque, Iowa, 52004-0902. Donors may also contribute in-person at the Community Foundation office at Suite 195 in the Roshek Building (Mezzanine level), 700 Locust Street, or online at [www.dlbqfoundation.org](http://www.dlbqfoundation.org).

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## FidoFit

**A new fitness center for your four-legged friends**

by Mike Ironside

While beginning a New Year always offers people an opportunity at a fresh start, it seems more people are tending to shy away from "official" New Year's resolutions. The common perception is that declaring resolutions are an even greater opportunity to fail, especially if one has decided to undertake a fitness program that requires jogging outside at a time of year in which the thermometer often dips into the sub-zero zone.

Well, what about your dog? No, not his New Year's resolutions. (Except for the extra mooching opportunities provided by the passing holidays, I doubt your dog has noticed anything different that would indicate a new year.) But your dog could probably use a new fitness plan, especially when cold weather allows little more than a quick stroll around the block or a few minutes in the back yard to do his business.

Undoubtedly, there are many of our canine companions that suffer the same boredom and inactivity that we do if we allow ourselves to be cooped up inside during the cold winter months. If only there was a place to take dogs to get some exercise in a fun, safe environment. There is and it's called FidoFit, a new exercise gym and dance studio for dogs and their people. Yes you read correctly – dance studio. We'll get to that in a bit.

"A dream of mine has always been an indoor gym for people and pets," explains Mary Erschen, who together with her husband Mark Erschen has founded FidoFit. "I've always been enthusiastic about exercise myself and I've incorporated that into my love for animals."

More than just a dream, Mary Erschen brings a background in animal husbandry and years of experience to FidoFit. The business grew out of her natural love of animals and understanding dogs' need for regular exercise and mental stimulation. Already operating a holistic dog grooming business out of her home (using natural and organic products), Erschen began FidoFit as a mobile business last year. With a need to supplement family income in a challenging economy, it made sense to invest in the hobby she loved.

"With the economy I needed to be creative and find a way to do what I do everyday which was exercise with my own dogs and find a way that we could actually help ourselves as well as others," she explains. "So I started FidoFit in 2008 as a mobile business."

Erschen added to her knowledge base by working with area veterinarians and trainers like Tory Topping of Stone Hollow Dog Training in Cascade. "He would go with me on long walks, sometimes (with) up to five dogs on a lead at a time like you would see in New York City," she relates, "and he perfected my skills at conditioning dogs on hills, and he taught me a lot about working with dogs at different temperatures and the equipment that we would use for that – cooling collars and cooling backpacks – pretty much perfecting the style."

She also worked with nationally known dog trainer and doggie dance (also known as canine musical freestyle) pioneer Sandra Davis. Doggie dance is an extension of other canine agility training, incorporating a variety of movements synchronized to music. It really has to be seen

to be believed. (Look them up on youtube if you want to see dogs having ridiculous fun with their trainers).

Erschen began the area's first nine-member doggie dance team in October, performing at Christmastime for Dubuque Nursing and Rehab.

"There are different dance steps that are done to music," she explains, "so it's all synchronized and you can do performances. We want to do volunteer performances. We want to go into nursing homes, special needs situations, wherever we might be needed to perform or to do benefits."

The group also has a doggie drill team

which performs different tricks, utilizing agility work and other aspects of the fitness programs incorporated into a synchronized drill. It's all part of the FidoFit plan to make exercise fun for both pets and people.

"There's another lady in Arizona that has a dog gym as well as people gym, and she is helping me right now put together an indoor aerobics and walk-fit program so we can actually work out with people and their pets on lead, so the people are also getting a workout as well. We're really promoting health and wellness," says Erschen. "Our target market is the working class family, we want to make this a safe environment and an affordable environment."

With a small but functional space at 1464 Central Avenue, the Erschens now have a place for dog lovers to bring their pets to exercise, practice agility training, and interact with other dogs, all in a safe, structured environment. The first dog gym in the state of Iowa (The state will model their licensing requirements on the facility) FidoFit will soon be opening a swimming pool in the basement of the building.

"There's a real need for it, because in the winter we have very cold temperatures, so we need a place indoors where people can continue to exercise with their pets and meet," Erschen explains. "In the summertime as well, we have fairly hot summers here."

**Continued on Page 13.**

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## The BANK Bar and Grille

### ENTERTAINMENT ROUNDUP

by Mike Ironside

Alt-country, folk, metal, roots rock and more. You can take that to The Bank. Better yet, go get some.

#### **Martin Zellar, Friday, January 22**

Legendary singer-songwriter Martin Zellar returns for what promises to be another standout show Friday, January 22. Austin, Minnesota-based Zellar is of course best known as the songwriter and leader of the Gear Daddies, the late-'80s band that was making country-tinged roots rock before most people had even heard of the term alt-country. Reservations for limited seating at tables up near the stage can be made by calling The Bank at (563) 584-1729.

#### **Big Blue Sky Saturday, January 23**

Songwriter Jon "Hawkman" Stravers brings his latest incarnation of his band Big Blue Sky to The Bank Saturday, January 23. Described by sometime band member Denny Garcia as "eco-folk-rock" the music of Big Blue Sky is a mix of original folk, blues, and bluegrass, most often with an environmental theme. In addition to Stravers and Garcia, Big Blue Sky has featured a range of local and regional players, including (but not limited to) vocalist Kristina Castaneda, drummer Jimmy Berg, Folko Landvoght on guitar, Mike Ombascher on 12-string bass, Kevin Dohse on mandolin and harmonica, and Jay Anderson on percussion. Which of those talents will be floating through the Big Blue Sky on Saturday? We'll just have to go check it out.

#### **2-West, Bull Dyke Rodeo, Mutilated by Zombies, and Acoustic Guillotine Friday, January 29**

Des Moines-based Bright Giant has apparently been displaced on Friday, January 29, for what would appear to be a rather extreme metal-on-metal ... uh, metal show. The evenings festivities will feature the Battle of the Band winning hardcore of 2-West, who recently opened for Lamb of God and Gwar; the detuned prog-sludge crafted by Bull Dyke Rodeo; the speedcore of Mutilated by Zombies

and even more metal by Acoustic Guillotine. You have been warned.



#### **The Mississippi Band Saturday, January 30**

About a year and a half ago, we published a series of articles on the roots of the Tri-State Music scene. It was fun to look back at all those great bands and the many musicians who played in them. Many of those guys are still playing, but there are very few bands from "back in the day" still around - except one. The Mississippi Band first came together in 1972, and while Bill "Cricket" Davis is the only original member still in the band (there have been many, many members over the years) the band continues to play regularly. As DubuqueFest director I hired them in 2002 to celebrate their 30th year. That was 8 years ago! I live next door to one of the drummers who have been in the band (Jay Tigges) and play in a band with another (Jimmy Berg, who I think was their 14th and maybe 17th and then, well, we kinda lost count). The point is, the Mississippi Band is part of the fabric of the local music scene. Dave Hummel, who first joined in '74, still sings and plays guitar, and Mark Oberfoell, who first played in the band from '77 to '83, rejoined a few years ago. I don't know what number in the progression he might hold, but Mark Schmidt is the drummer these days. These guys just keep rockin' it.

#### **Mark your brand-new 2010 calendars for...**

Friday, February 5, for the keyboard-driven rock of Minus Six, Saturday, February 6, for the return of the Pimps with special guests Bucket House Hooligans, Saturday, February 13, for the Minneapolis Battle-of-the-Band-winning power pop of The Melismatics, and a special Fat Tuesday night, February 16, for the Lonely Goats Mardi Gras party.

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It's easy enough for us to say that we want winter to go away. In fact, I bet that no one at 365 World Headquarters would disagree, especially after more than twenty inches of snow in December. However, our friends at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium are just getting started with winter thrills. For the sixth year in a row, the Museum is just about ready to host its annual IceFest, a three-week festival scheduled for its final weekend this coming January 22 - 24. John Sutter, the Museum's marketing and sales director, was able to take some time out of his schedule to sit down with us and discuss this year's happenings.

"IceFest started as a way to get people to enjoy the Museum in the winter-time," he says. "There's a lot of winter history in this area with the river -- in years past, it was used for many purposes. For example, the Ice Harbor was used to protect boats during the winter months. There's a lot of heritage with the Mississippi River."

"We have so much to offer, there are several opportunities, so it's really key for us to run the full three weekends," Sutter explains. "That way, if a family can't make it during one weekend, there are still two others that they can hit."

So, what is IceFest, exactly? There are a multitude of different activities scheduled for the three weekends, meaning that there's something for everyone. Throughout IceFest, the Museum will

hold a wide variety of winter-related programming, including historic film footage of harvesting ice from the Mississippi River and polar exploration, indoor exhibits, snow and ice sculpting and more.



Specifically, the final weekend of IceFest will feature bald eagle viewing, the Dubuque ThunderBirds meet-and-greet during which the players will be available for photos and autographs, as well as demonstrating how to fire off the perfect snapshot, the Chill Out Chili Cook-Off, snow sculpting and arctic bowling. (And if you can't find something in that list to enjoy, you're positively un-American.) All events will be held at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium. For more information, visit the museum's Web site at [www.rivermuseum.com](http://www.rivermuseum.com).



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# Sorry, But I Can't Critique Your Poem

I'm a poet. I write poetry, I read poetry, I have a master of fine arts in writing poetry. My husband even introduces me, every so often, as a poet. Words are important to me – not only what they mean, but their rhythm, how they sound when they're strung together into lines. So I guess it should be no surprise that sometimes people send me their own poems and ask what I think of them.

Oh, if they only knew. I must confess, my heart sinks when I open my inbox and find another poem from another nice person who just wants me to tell him or her if it's any good. Because, let's face it, that's not what they really want. They want me to fall to my knees and cry, "My God! This is the best thing I've ever read!" or at least not tell them to keep their day job.

I'm sorry. I feel guilty revealing this, but I believe I am speaking for many writers when I say: The next time you read something you admire, please, please, resist the urge to send that author your own work.

Why? Why in the world can't I just spare a few minutes to give a fledgling writer a few tips, a crumb of encouragement?

I'll tell you why, and I hope I don't sound harsh. I mean, you see this all the time in the movies, don't you? Starving writer, waitressing at some L.A. dive, encounters famous screenwriter at her table, slips him the script she's been working on for years along with the bill, and before you know it, her name is in lights.

But we're talking about poetry here, where only a few make it big, like Maya Angelou or one of the poet laureates. But even Billy Collins, a two-term laureate, peppers his poems with snide references to "the intolerable poetry" (his words! not mine!) of others. If he's insecure, how can I be expected to be kind and helpful?

So why won't I critique your poem?

Let me count the reasons:

1. Done well, critiquing a poem is hard work. There are entire books that dissect one poem by T.S. Eliot. Granted, "The Wasteland" is long and a masterpiece to boot, but I could write ten pages on one line of verse. It's exhausting!

2. If it's good, I'm just going to be jealous. There are so few places for a poet to be published these days (The Iowa Review prints only 100 of the 5,000 poems it receives annually), why in the world would I want to encourage yet another bright star to compete with me for column space?

3. If it's terrible, how can I tell you without breaking your heart? And losing sleep over having done so?

4. People pay good money to take courses in poetry. My MFA degree cost more than a hybrid car, and that's with leather seats and heated outside mirrors. Why should I hand out for free the kind of education other people pay for? I'd be suspicious of any advice that doesn't cost an arm and a leg.

5. Critiquing a poem requires a workshop. In a writers' workshop, a bunch of wordsmiths sit around a table, coffee and snacks at hand. The poet whose work is under discussion is required to shut up and listen while the rest of the gang have at it. Every line break, every comma, every word choice is up for grabs. A workshop leader once told my group that, in her considered opinion, every poet should get a lifetime limit of five colons, and we're not talking body parts here. I disagreed vehemently, but kept it to myself because she was the one with the literary prizes and the agent and the contract for her third hardcover book. What did I know?

6. I didn't go to grad school to become a teacher. Many people do, but I just wanted to learn to write better.

7. Telling you what I think of your poem is like telling you what I think of your favorite child. Oh, sure, you may say, "Be honest! I really want to know your opinion!" but believe me, you do not. I don't want to make you cry.

8. On the other hand, I don't want to pump you up so far you think your writing doesn't need any work. One of my favorite writing teachers was Our Lady of Perpetual Revision, and that's a compliment. A poem is never done. When you think it is, put it in a drawer and forget it for six months, at which point you might, just might, be able to encounter it the way a reader would. With a cold eye and a hard stare and not a lot of time.

9. Critiquing requires trust. I used to be in a writing group, five women poets who met in each other's

homes. We created a safe space for the hard work of appraisal. It's not wise to hand over your newborn poems to a stranger.

10. Wonderful you may be, but you're not Jennifer. Jennifer is the only person, these days, to whom I show my work for judgment. We met in the MFA program, and hit it off at once. Now we exchange one poem each month, flinging them back via email all marked up with questions and suggestions. It can be grueling work, but each of us wants the other's poems to be great.

Here's my free advice, worth every penny: Take a class! Form a group! Send it out for publication! And by all means, keep writing (and revising). Poetry rules!

**Pam Kress-Dunn**  
[pam2617@yahoo.com](mailto:pam2617@yahoo.com)

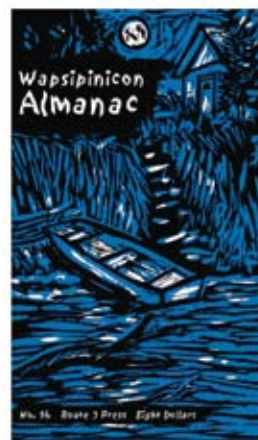
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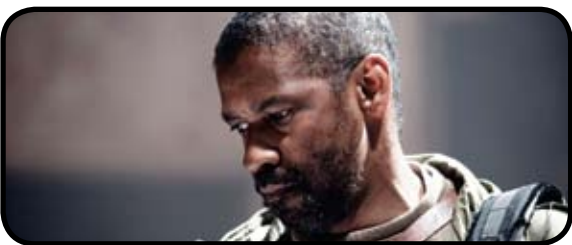
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**The Book of Eli - A Film by The Hughes Brothers (Menace II Society, From Hell)**

In the not-too-distant future, some 30 years after the final war, a solitary man (Denzel Washington) walks across the wasteland that was once America. Empty cities, broken highways, seared earth--all around him, the marks of catastrophic destruction. There is no civilization here, no law. The roads belong to gangs that would murder a man for his shoes, an ounce of water... or for nothing at all. But they're no match for this traveler. A warrior not by choice but necessity, Eli seeks only peace but, if challenged, will cut his attackers down before they realize their fatal mistake. It's not his life he guards so fiercely but his hope for the future; a hope he has carried and protected for 30 years and is determined to realize. Driven by this commitment and guided by his belief in something greater than himself, Eli does what he must to survive--and continue. Only one other man in this ruined world understands the power Eli holds, and is determined to make it his own: Carnegie (Gary Oldman), the self-appointed despot of a makeshift town of thieves and gunmen.

The Book of Eli is something of a schizophrenic film, not unlike Mad Max without all the fancy car chases. Its timing is unfortunate, too, given the glut of post-apocalyptic movies we've been seeing lately, most notably The Road. That said, however, the movie oozes style, thanks to the direction of the Hughes Brothers. Denzel Washington, charismatic as always, does the best with what he has in the underwritten role of Eli, alternating between heavy-handed preaching and old-time religious moralizing, and kicking lots of ass. Gary Oldman is his usual entertaining self, as well. Unfortunately, the aforementioned preaching ultimately dominates the film, which drags it down from its full potential. It might be worth a rental, but not full price at a theater.



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**Extraordinary Measures (Jan. 22)**  
From his working class roots, John Crowley has finally begun to taste success in corporate America. Supported by his beautiful wife Aileen and their three children, John is on the fast track. But just as his career is taking off, Crowley walks away from it all when his two youngest children, Megan and Patrick, are diagnosed with a fatal disease. With Aileen by his side, harnessing all of his skill and determination, Crowley teams up with a brilliant, but unappreciated and unconventional scientist, Dr. Robert Stonehill. Together they form a bio-tech company focused on developing a life-saving drug. This unlikely alliance eventually develops into mutual respect as they battle the medical and business establishments.

**Legion (January 22)**  
An out-of-the-way diner becomes the unlikely battleground for the survival of the human race. When God loses faith in Mankind, he sends his legion of angels to bring on the Apocalypse. Humanity's only hope lies in a group of strangers trapped in a desert diner and the Archangel Michael. Starring Paul Bettany and Charles S. Dutton.

**Tooth Fairy (January 22)**  
"The Tooth Fairy," also known as Derek Thompson, is a hard-charging hockey player whose nickname comes from his habit of separating opposing players from their bicuspid. When Derek discourages a youngster's dreams, he's sentenced to one week's hard labor as a real tooth fairy, complete with the requisite tutu, wings and magic wand. At first, Derek "can't handle the tooth," --bumbling and stumbling as he tries to furtively wing his way through strangers' homes.

**Edge of Darkness (January 29)**  
Thomas Craven is a veteran homicide detective for the Boston Police Department and a single father. When his only child, 24-year-old Emma, is murdered on the steps of his home, everyone assumes that he was the target. But he soon suspects otherwise, and embarks on a mission.

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Tooth Fairy . . . . .	17% Rotten	🍌
Did You/Morgans . . . . .	18% Rotten	🍌
Sherlock Holmes . . . . .	68% Fresh	🍅
Up in the Air . . . . .	89% Fresh	🍅
Book of Eli . . . . .	45% Rotten	🍌

**THE BUZZ**  
Spider-Man 4, which has had a troubled cycle of pre-production (to say the least), has now had the ultimate curveball thrown at it: Director Sam Raimi and star Tobey Maguire are off the project, and a new script by James Vanderbilt, which will "reboot" the franchise and move Peter Parker back to high school, in essence completely starting over from scratch. No word on casting yet, but Marc Webb, who directed (500) Days of Summer, has signed to direct.

**HAPPY FEET**  
Brad Pitt and Matt Damon, who of course worked together on the Ocean's Eleven franchise, are re-teaming on Happy Feet 2. The pair started doing voice work for the sequel last week under the helm of director George Miller. The pair's roles are unknown at this time. The pair join returning cast members Elijah Wood and Robin Williams.

**KID**  
Entertainment Weekly reports that upcoming remake of The Karate Kid, starring Jackie Chan and Jaden Smith, which many have been suspicious of, achieved the second highest test screening score in Sony's history. A score said to be in the '97th percentile' (essentially the entire audience loved it). Then again, the highest-testing film was Hitch.

**THE HURT LOCKER**  
Directors Kathryn Bigelow (The Hurt Locker) and Terrence Malick (The New World, The Thin Red Line) are said to be circling the Afghanistan-themed Held by the Taliban, about journalist David Rohde's experience as a captive of the Taliban in Afghanistan for seven months. He and two Afghan colleagues were kidnapped as they traveled to an interview in Kabul.

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**The Book of Eli**

(R)

11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50



**The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus**

(PG13)

11:55, 2:25, 4:55, 7:30, 9:55

**Up in the Air**

(R)

11:45, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30



**Tooth Fairy**

(PG)

12:30, 3:20, 7:00, 9:40

**The Lovely Bones**

(PG13)

12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 9:45



**PLEASE NOTE THE DATES ABOVE**

Confirm showtimes at [mindframetheaters.com](http://mindframetheaters.com), or by calling 563-582-4971.

## FidoFit

Continued from Page 8.



Currently, sessions can be arranged by appointment by calling Erschen at 563-582-5160, which can include transportation to and from the facility (within the city of Dubuque). "It can also be used as a doggie daycare, but it's a structured doggie day care," she warns, "which means the dogs are going to be in a learning environment the whole time that they're here. We've kept the fees very low for people. It's \$10 an activity pass. You can come in, you and your family and your pet can work in the swimming pool, you can work with agility (training), you can work on the treadmill (they train dogs to run on treadmills!), you can take a fitness class. We want something that with this economy, families can afford to do that's fun and also promotes health and wellness."

FidoFit also hosts a regular Saturday morning "Agility Fun Day" Humane Society benefit at the Central Avenue location from 9 to 11 a.m. Any dog

can participate regardless of size, breed, age, or experience. The fee is just \$10, with proceeds from the Saturday morning sessions going to support the Humane Society. Last Saturday, the assembly included people from a mastiff rescue group. "I just think that it's great for any type of dog, but mastiffs are more of a generally shy dog," explained Kari Tilton, a member of the mastiff rescue crew, "this kind of helps bring them out and it develops that bond."

In addition to the work Erschen and her group of dedicated volunteers does with the Humane Society and rescue groups, the FidoFit team works with area nursing homes and is developing a program to work with kids who suffer from autistic spectrum disorders. In the future, the gym plans to host workshops targeting specific issues or areas of learning, such as socialization, responsible pet ownership, canine good citizenship, and dog training from puppies and other

beginners through intermediate levels.

Another program in the works, probably for sometime in late winter or early spring, is a workshop in self-defense for both dogs and their owners. Working with an instructor with experience in both military and police canine training, participants will first learn basic human self-defense training, followed by a workshop for both people and their pets. "He's going to teach how to react to confrontation," explains Erschen, "whether it would be an aggressive dog or possibly a person who's acting aggressive." The third workshop is an advanced program teaching participants and their dogs how to disarm an assailant with a weapon.

The opportunities for people to interact, learn, and play with their pets seems to resonate with dog lovers.

**Continued on Page 19.**

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### Thursday, Jan. 21

Dueling Pianos  
Diamond Jo, 8 PM

Tiffany Christopher/  
Jimmy Berg  
Cornerstone, 9 PM

### Friday, January 22

Chuck Bregman  
Mystique, 6 PM

Jake Bender  
Stone Cliff, 6:30 PM

Rosalie Morgan  
TAIKO, 7 PM

Paddy Homan  
Irish Cottage, 8 PM

Bonkerz Comedy  
Mystique, 8 PM

Midnight Ramble  
Potter's Mill, 8 PM

The Wundo Band  
Fried Green Tomatoes, 8 PM

### Friday, January 22

3 in the Trees  
DBQ Drvng Range, 8 PM

Wundo Band  
Red N Deb's, 8:30 PM

Okham's Razor  
Cornerstone, 8:30 PM

Tony Walker  
Budde's, 9 PM

The Headliners  
Mystique, 9 PM

Martin Zellar  
The Bank, 9 PM

Enemies of Confusion  
180 Main, 9 PM

Stumble Bros.  
Sandy Hook, 10 PM

### Saturday, January 22

Fever River String Band  
New Diggings, 5:30 PM

Chuck Bregman  
Mystique, 6 PM

### Saturday, January 22

John Moran  
Stone Cliff, 6:30 PM

Denny Troy/Rick Hoffman  
Asbury Eagles, 7 PM

Paddy Homan  
Irish Cottage, 8 PM

Johnnie Walker/Kevin Beck  
Spirits, 8 PM

Just Cuz  
Courtside, 8 PM

Apple Dumplin's  
Potter's Mill, 8 PM

Andrew Houy  
Cornerstone, 8 PM

Country Tradition  
DBQ Drvng Range, 8 PM

Guyz in Ties  
Bell Tower, 8 PM

Bonkerz Comedy  
Mystique, 8 PM

### Saturday, January 22

Tantrym  
Doolittle's, 9 PM

Hard Salami  
Budde's, 9 PM

Zero 2 Sixty  
Luz Club, 9 PM

Renegade  
Holiday, 9 PM

Jabberbox  
Jumpers, 9 PM

Impulse Band  
Pit Stop, 9 PM

Adobanga  
180 Main, 9 PM

Headliners  
Mystique, 9 PM

Big Blue Sky  
The Bank, 9 PM

Bad Habits  
Dirty Ernie's, 9 PM

### Sunday, January 24

Denny Garcia  
New Diggings, 3:30 PM

Meat Paddle  
Sandy Hook, 4 PM

### Wednesday, Jan. 27

Laughing Moon Comedy  
Diamond Jo, 8 PM

Trivia Night  
Courtside, 8 PM

### Thursday, January 28

Dueling Pianos  
Diamond Jo, 8 PM

Maureen Kilgore  
Monk's, 8 PM

### Friday, January 29

Laura/Long Hairs  
Spirits, 6 PM

Chuck Bregman  
Mystique, 6 PM

Winter Roxs  
Courtside, 6 PM

Two Classic Guys  
Stone Cliff, 6:30 PM

Blue Willow  
Potter's Mill, 7:30 PM

Jeff Ward  
Irish Cottage, 7:30 PM

Just Cuz  
Mystique, 8 PM

Jobless  
Cornerstone, 8 PM

Stumble Bros.  
Dirty Ernie's, 9 PM

Lonely Goats  
Sandy Hook, 9 PM

Track a Tiger  
180 Main, 9 PM

Heavy Metal Night  
(Four Bands)  
The Bank, 9 PM



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**Saturday, January 30**

John Moran  
Sundown, 2 PM

Winter Roxks  
Courtside, 5 PM

Chuck Bregman  
Mystique, 6 PM

Mary Mabusth  
Stone Cliff, 6:30 PM

Rosalie Morgan  
TAIKO, 7 PM

Terry Lee Goffee  
Mystique, 7 PM

**Saturday, January 30**

Jeff Ward  
Irish Cottage, 8 PM

Renegade  
DBQ Drvng Range, 8 PM

Lenny Wayne  
Cornerstone, 8 PM

Just Cuz  
Mystique, 8 PM

Horsin' Around  
Budde's, 9 PM

Stumble Bros.  
Knicker's, 9 PM

Mississippi Band  
The Bank, 9 PM

Backlash  
Dirty Ernie's, 9 PM

Mutilated By Zombies  
180 Main, 9 PM

BuzzBerries  
Bulldog's, 9 PM

Reddoor  
Jumpers, 9 PM

Shock Johnson  
The Hub, 9:30 PM

Jabberbox  
Eichman's, 9:30 PM

Six Nights Alone  
Sandy Hook, 10 PM

**Sunday, Jan.31**

Fever River Band  
New Diggs, 3:30 PM

**Sunday, Jan.31**

Aseethe  
180 Main, 5 PM

**Wednesday, Feb. 3**

Laughing Moon Comedy  
Diamond Jo, 8 PM

**Thursday, Feb. 4**

Dueling Pianos  
Diamond Jo, 8 PM

Maureen Kilgore  
Monk's, 8 PM

**Friday, February 5**

Chuck Bregman  
Mystique, 6 PM

Marty Koppes  
Stone Cliff, 6:30 PM

Ian Gould  
Irish Cottage, 7:30 PM

Take 2  
Potter's Mill, 8 PM

Kevin Beck/Johnnie Walker  
Mystique, 8 PM

Artie / Pink Catillacs  
DBQ Drvng Range, 8 PM

Lonely Goats  
Jumpers, 9 PM

Shock Johnson  
Sandy Hook, 10 PM

Minus Six  
The Bank, 9 PM

**Saturday, February 6**

Chuck Bregman  
Mystique, 6 PM

Marty Koppes  
Stone Cliff, 6:30 PM

Ian Gould  
Irish Cottage, 8 PM

Pirate Over 50  
Asbury Eagles, 8 PM

Kevin Beck/Johnnie Walker  
Mystique, 8 PM

Jammer  
Jumpers, 9 PM

Outta Control  
New diggings, 9 PM

ClamHammer/  
Blonde Tsunami  
Bulldog's, 9 PM

Dert Tones  
Corner Tap, 9 PM

BuzzBerries  
Dagwood's, 9 PM

The Pimps  
The Bank, 9 PM

Strange Arrangement  
180 Main, 9 PM

**Sunday, February 7**

Flatfoot 56  
180 Main, 9 PM

Super Bowl Party  
New Diggs, All Day

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- **Cornerstone**  
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- **Dirty Ernie's**  
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## DUBUQUE AREA WRITERS GUILD CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Each year in conjunction with the DubuqueFest arts festival in May, the Dubuque Area Writers Guild publishes an anthology of writing by area authors and poets. Writers Guild is now accepting submissions from both published and unpublished writers for this year's publication which will celebrate nature, specifically here in the Midwest. Both DubuqueFest and Writers Guild are affiliates of the Dubuque County Fine Arts Society.

ies) via email to [Dubuqueareawritersguild@gmail.com](mailto:Dubuqueareawritersguild@gmail.com). Written work is requested in Microsoft Word files in the .doc or .docx format. Along with each submitted piece, writers and artists are asked to include a brief biography as well as contact information, including name, address, email, and telephone number on each submitted page. The deadline for submissions to the anthology is April 1, 2010.

A variety of work will be accepted for the 2010 anthology, including creative fiction, nonfiction, and poetry exploring themes of nature like landscape, environment, preservation, conservation, and the general celebration of the great outdoors. In addition to written work, black line drawings will be accepted for publication in the anthology, again in the theme of nature in the Midwest.

The 2010 Writers Guild Anthology is set to be released in coordination with DubuqueFest 2010, scheduled for the weekend of May 21-23. Writers selected for publication in the anthology will be invited to read their work aloud at a public book release reception hosted Friday, May 21 at the Dubuque Museum of Art. Each published writer will receive a complimentary copy of the anthology with additional copies available for purchase at the reception. For more information, contact 2010 Writers Guild Anthology editor Jamison Kuhle at [Dubuqueareawritersguild@gmail.com](mailto:Dubuqueareawritersguild@gmail.com).

In embracing a theme of nature and conservation, all writing and artwork should be submitted in digital form (avoiding the need for printed cop-

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DUBUQUE 24-7-365

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## Bonkerz Comedy

**Mike Allen**

**January 22-23, 8 p.m.**

A regular on XM/Sirius satellite radio, comedian Mike Allen has appeared on both HBO and Comedy Central as well.

Once a professional baseball player with the Minnesota Twins, Allen gave it all up for the glamorous life of being a comedian on the road (or so he jokes). A veteran of the comedy circuit, Allen employs a high-energy, physical style and animated delivery in his stories that draw unique observations out of universal, everyday experience. Sometimes subtle, sometimes shocking, but always funny – that's Mike Allen. Allen will be performing with Josh Alton in this free Bonkerz Comedy Club show.

## Terry Lee Goffee

**Johnny Cash Tribute**

**Saturday, January 30**

**7 and 9 p.m.**

Johnny Cash Tribute artist Terry Lee Goffee brings memories of "The Man in Black" to life in two special performances on Mystique's Cabaret stage Saturday, January 30, at 7 and 9 p.m. "I have been a fan of Johnny Cash since I was about 8 years old," Goffee writes on his web site. "He and Elvis were my first two musical influences."

Performing over 30 of Cash's classics in the show, including "A Boy Named Sue," "Sunday Morning Coming Down," "I Walk The Line," "Ring Of Fire," "Folsom Prison Blues," and "Hurt," Goffee completely inhabits the persona of Johnny Cash. "I wanted to make my show a little differ-

ent and unique by portraying Johnny Cash in the first person, rather than just standing there singing the songs," he said. "Like an actor in a play I literally become my character, in this case Johnny Cash, from the moment I walk onstage until the end of the show." Goffee portrayal is so good, nailing Cash's unique vocal style and mannerisms, that he was recently recruited to provide voiceover and motion capture moves for Guitar Hero. Advanced tickets for both the 7 and 9 p.m. shows are on sale now for \$10. They will be \$15 the day of the show.

## Bonkerz Comedy

**Grandma Lee**

**February 12-13**

A finalist in the 2009 season of "America's Got Talent," 75-year-old comedian Grandma Lee found a huge national following and kept

the show's judges in stitches. Her sometimes suggestive jokes caused many a jaw to drop (followed by outrageous laughter of course), hearing one-liners about geriatric dating and sex coming out of what appeared to be a sweet little old lady. A retired telephone operator, Grandma Lee (Strong) began her second career as a comedian at age 60 after attending a local comedy workshop where she found her true passion. Now touring the comedy circuit Grandma Lee spreading laughs and her message that it's never too late to follow your dreams. Tickets for Grandma Lee's three shows (Friday, February 12 at 8 p.m., Saturday, February 13 at 7 and 9 p.m.) are just \$10, and only \$5 for Allure Club members. Also performing will be comedian Tiffany Ellen.

## Karen Durrant's Dreamgirls

**Saturday, February 20**

Imagine Tina Turner, Diana Ross, The Supremes, Donna Summer, and Martha Reeves & the Vandellas all in one concert over the course of an evening. That's what you get – well almost – with Karen Durrant's Dreamgirls, a tribute to the above-named divas. Ranked as the number one Tina Turner look-alike and impersonator, Karen Durrant brings the sound and look of the "Queen of Rock-n-Roll" to Mystique's Cabaret stage. Durrant has performed her Dreamgirls revue for thousands across the United States, recreating the performances of classic singers like Gladys Knight & The Pips and The Pointer Sisters. Karen Durrant will perform two Dreamgirls shows on Saturday, February 20, one at 7 and one at 9 p.m.



# SUNDOWN

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Skiing and snowboarding are fun at any age, so grab your friends, family, or co-workers and get moving... **See you on the slopes!**





Now that we finally received some significant snowfall, I think we can agree that winter has officially arrived. No worries, the Mississippi Moon Bar at the Diamond Jo Casino has just the antidote for that cabin fever that is about to set in. Whether dancing at DJ Double J's no cover Spin Fridays or catching a concert by one of the nation's premier entertainers, the Mississippi Moon Bar is the place to escape

the winter doldrums.

**America**  
**Saturday, January 30**

A seemingly perfect antidote to the mid-winter blues, the acoustic rock of America will fill the air of the Mississippi Moon Bar with a sound that recalls the shimmering summers of the 1970s and AM radio gold. Scheduled for Saturday, January 30, America

will perform a concert presented by the Diamond Jo Casino in partnership with American Trust and Savings Bank.



First coming to popularity in 1972 with their hit song "A Horse with No Name," America helped to define a style of folk-influenced, vocal harmony-rich acoustic rock throughout the 1970s and into the '80s. A phenomenal success from the beginning, America had three Top Ten hits in '72,

"A Horse with No Name," "I Need You," and "Ventura Highway," earning the group the Grammy Award for best new artist that year. With a string of hit songs like "Tin Man," "Lonely People," and "Sister Golden Hair," through the '70s and scoring another major hit with "You Can Do Magic," in 1982, America became a multi-platinum selling recording artist and built a loyal following for whom their sunny harmonies recall the carefree days of youth. America continues to entertain that audience, touring nearly non-stop over a career that is approaching four decades in length.

Tickets for America's concert at the Mississippi Moon Bar are still available at the \$30, \$50 or \$60 level. Tickets can be purchased at Diamond Jo Casino's Diamond Club or on line at [www.diamondjo.com](http://www.diamondjo.com).

Stay tuned to the pages of 365ink Magazine for more information about other exciting Mississippi Moon Bar events, including the Monsters of Mock '80s tribute show on February 6, and Jennifer Coolidge on February 17!

**365**

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## FidoFit

Continued from Page 13.

Becky Echtenkamp, an independent pet trainer who also works with PetSmart will be working with FidoFit on both workshops and individual training sessions. She sees the potential FidoFit has in the community.

"There are lots of dog lovers in Dubuque and FidoFit is going to succeed because of those people," expressed Echtenkamp. "I think that training is important for dogs. Training helps build bonds, teaches your dog how to learn new things, exercises their mind and body, teaches them to be good citizens in a people-minded world, teaches responsible pet ownership, enriches their lives by allowing them to be dogs and be around other good dogs. FidoFit is just starting but they have definitely hit the ground running and they have many, many more great things to come."

Eschen is the first to admit that things have come together through the support of many likeminded groups and individuals. "The support that we have received from the community, especially the area pet stores, has actually energized me," she reports. "It has been phenomenal! Positively Pets helped us get dogs fitted with different sizes of life jackets. PetSmart has been brilliant with our dancing harnesses, our uniforms for our Christmas pageant. Petco has put together a program where if we come out there and do any type of demonstration, they will send any proceeds to the Dubuque Regional Humane Society and also Jackson County. So they're going to have the dogs there from the Humane Society on the days that we perform and promote adoption. ... It's been incredible. We've had individuals, as well as a church donate

money so that we could have radio advertising. Everything has pretty much been donations and volunteer work because there's so much support for this idea – a safe environment, a structured environment."

In fact, the opportunity to host the gym in an indoor space came about from a chance meeting with building owners Julie and Jim Gross who fully support the venture. "I was in the process of dog walking when I ran into Jim and Julie Gross on their street and that is how this relationship came to be," recalls Erschen. "They said, 'We have a place, it's not big, but it might give you the start that you need,' and that's how that actually came to be." She added, "I want to thank Julie and Jim Gross, because they actually have allowed us this space to work in and promote the business and have been very instrumental in supporting this idea."

It's clear from watching Erschen interact with the dogs on a recent Saturday that she truly loves the animals she works with. FidoFit is a way for her to share that love with other dogs and their owners. "It's important to me, because not all dogs know how to act socially in a group, so this is a safe environment," she says. "There's structure, but yet there's activity and fun, and I guess that's a concept that I'm really trying to get out there and promote. If you're not a candidate for a dog park setting, there are gyms and now we have one."

FidoFit located at 1464 Central Avenue and is open by appointment by calling 563-582-5160. The Humane Society "Agility Fun Day" is hosted every Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m.

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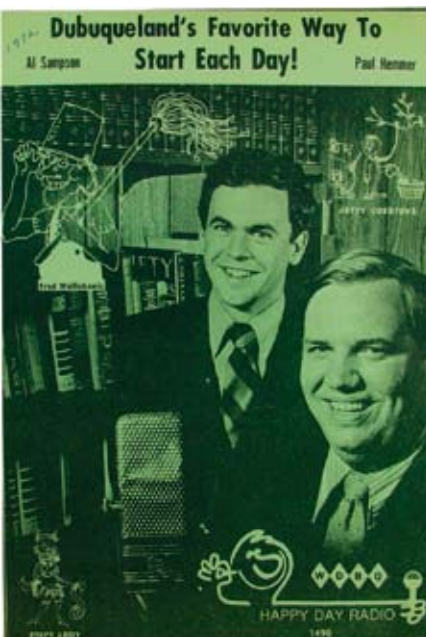
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tors like Kevin Doran (Kevin O'Keefe), Terry Dorsey, Vaughn Gayman, Pat Fleming, Bill and Betty Thomas and many others.



During my college years I continued working vacation shifts on WDBQ and began recording some late night music programs for the new WDBQ-FM. Program Director Terry Dorsey liked what I did and worked me more than 40 hours a week all summer. As I recall the pay was \$1.25 per hour. I supplemented that with Friday-Sunday evenings playing organ with the Timmerman Club Trio at that popular East

Dubuque restaurant.

After college graduation I chose to stay another year to get my Masters in Music Education and continued part time work in radio. In mid-summer of 1967, Bill Mason, the morning personality at WDBQ announced his intention to retire from the booth to devote fulltime to radio sales. I was offered the job and accepted. I sincerely appreciate Phil Kelly's faith in me and the job he provided for the next 34 years.

I'll never forget that first morning show on August 15, 1967. I had to be at the station by 5 a.m. to turn on the transmitter and be ready to go by 5:30.

The day always began with our National Anthem followed by a hymn (usually something from a Tennessee Ernie Ford album of religious favorites), a march (mostly Sousa) and the weather forecast. The newsman would take over for 15 minutes at 5:45 and then it was into "adult" popular music - no rock and roll. There were many live commercials, a few jokes, music, etc. And, slowly I began to try to emulate the style of my idol at the time: Wally Phillips of WGN-Chicago.

The years rolled on and I enjoyed the company of so many wonderful individuals including Dave Lange, Al Sampson, Bill Alfredo, Larry Cramer,

**Continued on Page 24.**

# SUPER Celebration WEEKEND

FEBRUARY 6TH & 7TH

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## 365's RECURRING NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

ENTERTAINMENT YOU CAN SET YOUR WATCH TO!

### Tuesdays

Bubblz Karaoke, Bammer's, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

### Wednesdays

WJOD Wild West Wed - (Country Dancing), Fairgrounds, 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Karaoke - C-Sharp, A&B Tap, 8 p.m. - 12 a.m.

Karaoke - Becky McMahon, Denny's Lux Club, 8:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

Karaoke - Rainbow Lounge, Canfield Hotel, 7:30 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Karaoke - Dave Lorenz, Player's Sports Bar, 9 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

Karaoke/DJ - Good Times, Bootlegger's, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

### Thursdays

Live Music - Maureen Kilgore, Monk's 8 p.m.

Y-105 Party Zone - Dbq Co. Fairgrounds, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Open Mic Showcase, Silver Dollar Cantina, 9 p.m.

Karaoke - Rainbow Lounge, Canfield Hotel, 7:30 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Karaoke - Becky McMahon, Ground Round, 9 p.m. - midnight

Karaoke - Flyin' Hawaiian, Shannon's Bar, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Karaoke - Soundwave, Bulldog Billiards, 9:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

Karaoke - Dave Lorenz, Player's Sports Bar, 9 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

DJ Music - DJ Brian Imbus, Jumpers, 8:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.

### Fridays

Karaoke - C-Sharp, A&B Tap, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Karaoke - Rainbow Lounge, Canfield Hotel, 7:30 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Karaoke - Flyin' Hawaiian, Sublime, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Karaoke - Dave Lorenz, Player's Sports Bar, 9 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

Karaoke - Becky McMahon, Jumpers, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. (Every Other Friday)

Karaoke - Brian Leib's Essential Entertainment, Aragon Tap, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Karaoke - Sue B's, The Other Side, 11 p.m. - 3 a.m.

DJ Music - Main Event DJ, Gin Rickeys, 8:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

DJ Music - Sound Ideas DJ, Timmerman's Supper Club, 8 p.m.-12 a.m.

DJ Music - DJ Brian Imbus, Jumpers, 8:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.

### Saturdays

Live Comedy - Arthur House Restaurant, Platteville, 9 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Karaoke - Rainbow Lounge, Canfield Hotel, 7:30 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Karaoke - C-Sharp, A&B Tap, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Karaoke - Flyin' Hawaiian, George & Dales, (East Dub.) 9p.m. - 1 a.m.

Karaoke - Dave Lorenz, Player's Sports Bar, 9 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

Karaoke/DJ - Good Times, The Other Side, 11 p.m. - 3 a.m.

Karaoke - Starburst Karaoke, w/Dave Winders, Instant Replay, 9 p.m.-1a.m.

DJ Music - Main Event DJ, Gin Rickeys, 8:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

DJ Music - Sound Ideas DJ, Timmerman's Supper Club, 8 p.m.-12 a.m.



It's been a while since we heard from our friends at Fly-By-Night Productions ... so it only makes sense that the long-standing theatrical troupe has its next play right around the corner! Miss Witherspoon, a comedy about "living and the afterlife and living and..." (we won't ask), by Christopher Durang, will take the stage at the Bijou Room in Dubuque's historic Five Flags

Center in the coming weeks.

The show revolves around the titular Miss Witherspoon, Veronica, who doesn't like her life ... so she opts out of it. (We can only guess.) Maryamma, her unconventional spiritual guide, however, is hellbent on getting Veronica back onto this mortal coil so she can learn the lessons she's supposed to pick up along the way ... except it takes several twisted attempts to get everything on the right track. Veronica finds herself re-incarnating into a variety of very odd lives, surrounded by some rather strange characters guiding her along the way. The cast includes Cathy Goodman, Sunil Malapati, Eva Ressler, Rhonda Anderson and Andrew Fuerste-Henry, and the show is directed by Lenore Howard.

Miss Witherspoon will be shown Fridays and Saturdays, January 29 - 30 and February 5 - 6, at 8 p.m., with Sunday matinees on January 31 and February 7 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15, and are available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), by phone at 563-557-8497, and at the Five Flags Box Office, open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Cash-only tickets will be on sale at the Bijou Room door one hour prior to performances. For more information, visit [www.flybynightdubuque.com](http://www.flybynightdubuque.com), or e-mail [info@flybynightdubuque.com](mailto:info@flybynightdubuque.com).

## Budweiser MIDWEST CONCERTS & SPECIAL EVENTS



### Everclear

House of Blues, Chicago • January 27

### Mariah Carey

Chicago Theatre, Chicago • February 13

### Tim McGraw

Wells Fargo, Des Moines • February 13

### Killswitch Engage

House of Blues, Chicago • February 15

### Gary Allan

Wisconsin Dells • February 20

### Ralphie May

Barrymore Theater, Madison • February 28

### REO Speedwagon

Wisconsin Dells • April 10

### AC/DC

Wells Fargo, Des Moines • February 17

### Mark Knopfler

Chicago Theatre, Chicago • April 23

### Taylor Swift

Wells Fargo, Des Moines • May 6





# Bob's Book Reviews

## Poo-Tee-Weet?

by Bob Gelms

I am profoundly conflicted at the publishing of 14 previously unpublished stories by Kurt Vonnegut Jr., titled *Look At the Birdie*. One the one hand Vonnegut let these stories sit in a drawer for 50 years with no apparent desire or intention of ever having them published but on the other I'm deeply grateful to have something new to read from one of my favorite authors.

One of Vonnegut's friends, Sidney Offit, wrote a foreword to the book. In it he says, "Unpublished is not a word we identify with a Kurt Vonnegut short story. It may well be that these stories didn't appear in print because for some reason or another they didn't satisfy Kurt. He wrote and rewrote, as his son, Mark, as well as agents and editors testify. Although Kurt's style may seem casual and spontaneous, he was a master craftsman, demanding of himself perfection of the story, the sentence, the word."

**KURT VONNEGUT**



UNPUBLISHED SHORT FICTION

Well, Mr. Offit seems to have a firm grasp of the obvious in more ways than one. Any number of other great authors, Thomas Pynchon, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mark Twain, Tom Wolfe,

or even the celebrated writer of simple words and short sentences, Ernest Hemingway could have taken the idea of Cat's Cradle and easily turned it into a 400-page tour de force. It is a mark of Vonnegut's genius that he chipped away all the unnecessary words and ended with a 192-page masterpiece.

He was an incredibly discerning and meticulous writer; which leads me to the reason I'm intensely angry this book has been published. From all information I have been able to gather, it is evident that these stories come from early in Vonnegut's career. More than likely, then, they were written and shelved by Mr. Vonnegut in the 1950's. There is absolutely no evidence either verbal or written by Mr. Vonnegut that he wanted any of these stories to see the light of day. There was nothing in his will about his unpublished writings. He had 50 some odd years and countless opportunities to have these stories published and any number of publishing outlets both book and magazine would have jumped at the chance and paid big money to publish them. It is very difficult to come to any other conclusion than Mr. Vonnegut did not want these stories published. Another big clue referring to that conclusion comes from the copyright information. All of the stories were copyrighted by the Kurt Vonnegut Jr. Trust. In other words, they were copyrighted AFTER Kurt Vonnegut died when he, presumably, would have had a somewhat difficult time expressing his opinion. These stories should have never been published and I'm very afraid that we might not have seen the last of the unpublished short fiction of Kurt Vonnegut Jr.

When reading them there were two things that were very clear to me. One, these stories could not have been written by anyone else. They

have Kurt Vonnegut's fingerprints all over them. Two, they are very early in Vonnegut's career. Instead of blowing with a force five Vonnegut hurricane they puff with a gentle summer breeze.

Having said all of that, I was waiting at the bookstore before it opened the day *Look At The Birdie* was published. I rushed home like an addict carrying his last fix. This isn't Vonnegut writing at the peak of his powers. This is a very good writer writing clever, interesting and entertaining stories. They would still be worthwhile reading even if we didn't know they were written by Kurt Vonnegut Jr. Without sounding too pandering, a mid level, mediocre, Kurt Vonnegut story is worth a top of line story by any writer working today. They are interesting from the critical standpoint of seeing how some of Vonnegut's writing techniques were developed and grew.

Vonnegut was famous for his "Rules For Fictional Composition" and the most important one for him was "Use the time of a total stranger in such a way that he or she will not feel the time was wasted." In that sense *Look At The Birdie* was very well done indeed.

Considering however, that it is unambiguous to me he never intended that these stories be published I think it's fitting to give the birdie the last comment.

"Poo-tee-weet?"

**365**

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## 20 in 2010

Do you have written goals? Or just the verbal resolutions you professed at 12:01 a.m. January 1st? The vast majority (over 95%) of people do not have written goals. Having written goals is integral to success, and so I've decided to get you started. I've compiled a list of 20 things to do in 2010. Take 5 minutes to read and fill out the check boxes below. Next, add a few of your own, cut them out and join the minority of people who have written goals. That wasn't so hard, now, was it? You can download a copy at [www.mattbooth.com](http://www.mattbooth.com) if you'd like.

9. I have moved on Y / N
10. I can focus Y / N
11. I am doing something I love Y / N
12. I am improving myself Y / N
13. I don't gossip Y / N
14. I am responsible for my life Y / N
15. I have a family plan Y / N
16. I make good decisions Y / N
17. I am reading a book Y / N
18. I am learning from mistakes Y / N
19. I'm working on my communication skills Y / N
20. \_\_\_\_\_ Y / N



## 20 Things to do in 2010

1. I have written goals Y / N
2. I have an exercise plan Y / N
3. I have a degree Y / N
4. I don't smoke Y / N
5. I'm teaching a class Y / N
6. I know my credit score Y / N
7. I have a financial plan Y / N
8. I have a career plan Y / N

### Mattitude Improvement Tip Can You Hear Me Now?

Speak carefully when your cell phone dies or drops a call. During such conversations, it is common for one person to be able to hear perfectly while the other person can't hear at all. I recently overheard a cell conversation that went something like this – "Hello, hello, can you hear me now?" and then that person let loose some furiously foul language. He informed his phone what a piece of crap it was and how everything was going wrong for him that day. I wonder if the person on the other end of the phone heard everything I did? Speak carefully when your phone dies or drops a call; just because you can't hear them does not mean they can't hear you.

Sign up today for Matt Booth's Goal Coaching Program – Monthly personal goal coaching sessions to help you identify and achieve your goals. Inquire about a free introductory session. "If you don't have written goals, you're working to achieve someone else's goals." Call 563-773-6288.

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

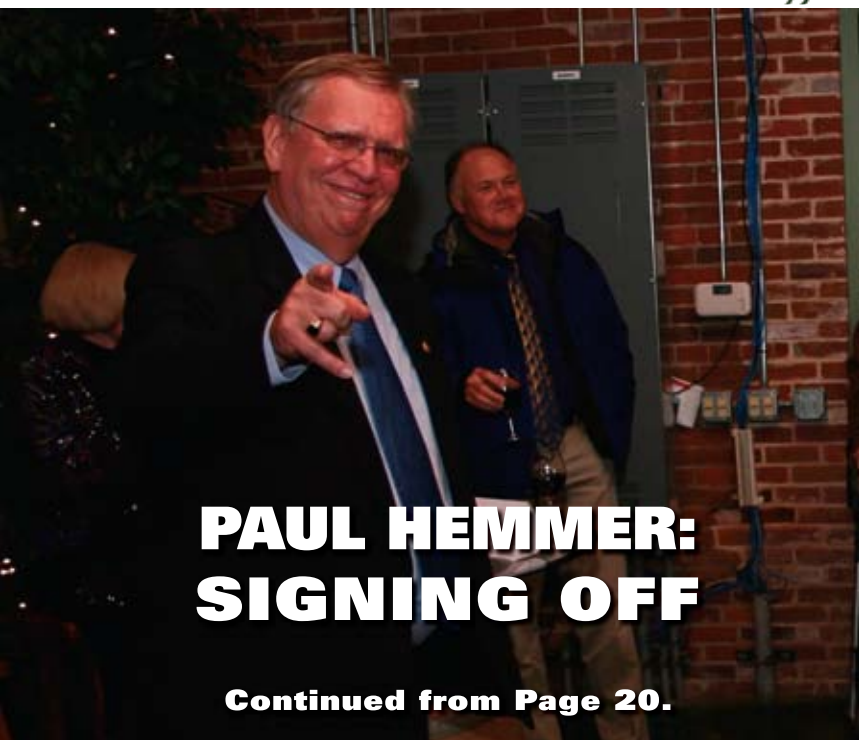
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## PAUL HEMMER: SIGNING OFF

Continued from Page 20.

Tom (Mack) McDonough, Jack & Jolene Kilcoyne, Tom Brenner, Tom Christensen (T.C.), Denny Schreefer, Mike Kenneally, Bob Bateman, Bill Zwack, Bob Welch, Paul Kemp, Bob Anthony (Rob Kundert), Julie “East of Midnight”, Jim Hauber, Gary Olsen, Nadine Marchesi, Ron McCarthy, Mike Ferrin, Gary Edwards (Wendt), Johnny Rhodes, Jeff Heitzman, Tim Russell, Tom Berryman, the incomparable Henry Marcotte, my pal Bob Collins and countless others including my contemporary friends at KDTH, KAT-FM, and WVRE-FM.

My children grew up observing the broadcast business and both entered it while still in high school. Michelle spent 15 years in the corporate programming office of Saga Communications, one of America’s most successful broadcast chains. Steve became an integral part of the creation of KGRR as both Program and Music Director. His creative mind and communication skills should have taken him on to major markets, but, like me, he chose to stay in the hometown that he loves.

And my wonderful wife Jan has not only endured 42 years of my early morning routine, but became the practical, financial and business mind that made KGRR a success from the start. Without her skills we wouldn’t have made it happen.

For 12 years I’ve been blessed each morning with a wonderful broadcast companion. Lisa Bennett Pearce has

added immeasurably to the KGRR morning show. The stories of her young family -- her quick wit and sense of humor -- and her genuine warmth are obvious to everyone who listens. I’m sorry that I’ve hooked her on caffeine, but it’s an essential ingredient in surviving a relentless 4:30 a.m. alarm clock. I’ll miss our daily conversations and the fun we’ve had in the studio when the music was playing and the microphone was off.

The business has changed a great deal since my first experiences in 1960. Gone are the 16” transcriptions, reel-to-reel tape recorders, cartridge tape players, 45 and 33 1/3 turntables, AP teletype machines, hourly transmitter readings, printed program logs, and “play what you want” programming.

The computer does most of the physical labor now. The job of announcers today is to provide a human element that communicates with the listener and provides something that CD players, iPods or satellite radio doesn’t do. And, most important of all, our job is being of service to our community

And, I’ll miss the loyal listeners who’ve tuned in for any of the past 50 years. Words can’t express my appreciation for the years we’ve spent together. I’m honored that you’ve considered me a friend and I will miss the time we’ve spent together over this incredible medium called radio.

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## SUDOKU

	3		6			5	1	
7				2	5			3
8		5		1			4	
	1			9	4		3	
9			5					2
	2	6			7	9		
	7	8		6			2	
		2	3			4		8
4			8		2	7		

## CRYPTOQUIP

Clue: F equals O

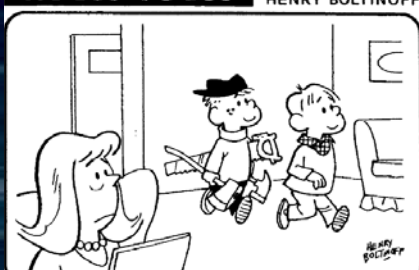
SDZS MQL

IZGOFBFXONS ON SFF  
XFFG-MZSEIQG. O GFM'S  
EMGQINSZMG LDZS DQ  
NQQN OM TQFTBQ.

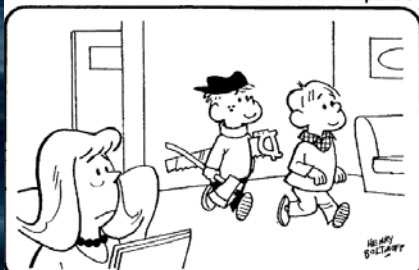
## HOCUS FOCUS

### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



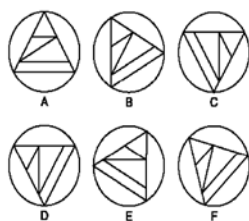
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Necktie is different. 2. Hammer is missing. 3. Chair ruffie is missing. 4. Boy's left arm is visible. 5. Extra page added to paper. 6. Boy's nose is different.

## STICKELERS

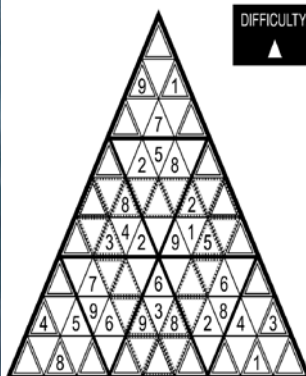
Can you determine which figure does not belong with the others?



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## TRI DOKU

A triangular Sudoku challenge



DIFFICULTY:  
▲

- The numbers 1-9 must be placed in each of the NINE LARGE triangles.
- The numbers 1-9 must be placed in the three legs of the OUTERMOST triangle.
- The numbers 1-9 must be placed in the three legs of the INVERTED INNER triangle.
- No two neighboring (touching) cells may contain the same number.

For more information about this puzzle, go to [www.tridoku.com](http://www.tridoku.com)

## SUPER CROSSWORD

### Super Crossword

### DELAYED REACTION

#### ACROSS

- Writer Susan
- AAA handout
- Explorer Tasman
- Checker move?
- Carry too far
- Winter hazard
- Creme — creme
- Kunta — ("Roots" character)
- Start of a remark by Steven Wright
- Patrician
- Canadian prov.
- Victim
- Wool gatherer?
- Roll-call reply
- Level
- Entire range
- Put up with
- Thick stick
- Put aside
- Blind part
- See 11 Down
- Part 2 of remark
- It may get flipped

- Connecticut town
- Summit
- Live and breathe
- Mighty mite
- Sausage segment
- Long Island resort
- Tel Aviv teacher
- Out of the way
- Beak
- One way to park
- Tranquil
- Part 3 of remark
- Kukla or Lamb Chop
- Ill will
- Cherbourg chapeau
- Glee
- "— a Symphony" ('65 song)
- Submarine finder
- Competitors
- Facilitate a felony
- Tin Tin
- Paradise
- Merchant
- Cal. page
- Part 4 of remark
- Over
- Jai —
- Sounds the tocsin

- Ullman or Gold
- Goatish gamboler
- Bar hop?
- Dr. Scholl's concern
- Source
- Cardinal
- Flynn Boyle
- Mil. training ctr.
- African capital
- End of remark
- Jazzman
- Chick
- Forehead
- Organ of equilibrium
- Steak or lobster
- Abrasive substance
- "— forgive those ..."
- Be too interested?
- Arid area

- Pixie and Dixie
- "— Breaky Heart" ('92 hit)
- Princess bruiser
- Orthodontists' org.
- With 44 Across, salad veggie
- "Silas Marner" author
- Endure
- Ring stat
- Kansas city
- "The Lady —" ('79 film)
- Gawk
- French bean?
- Fancy vase
- A Muse
- Inflatable item?
- Sell
- Continue
- Circle section
- "Mal de —"
- Impoverished
- Fountain order
- Carthaginian queen
- Book part
- Travel with Spock?

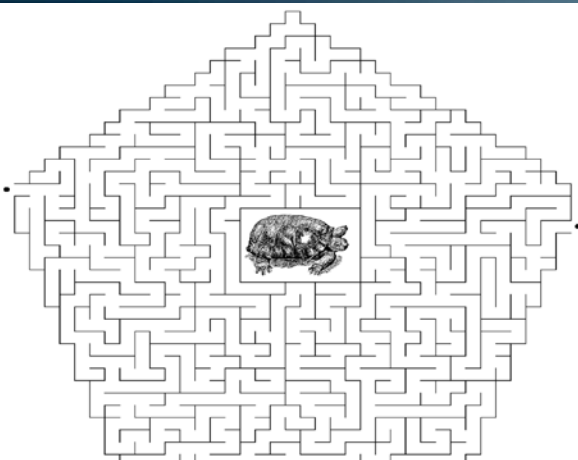
- aerobics
- Rotisserie part
- Defer
- NASA lap
- Equine accessory
- Skirt shape
- Coney Island attraction
- Ballet's Tallchief
- Actress Stevens
- Santa's problem
- Destiny
- Dominant, as a dog
- On the sly
- Doris Day refrain
- Handbag
- Master, in Madras
- '85 John Malkovich movie
- Barnyard belle
- Mottled
- Sorvino or Nair
- fide
- Complains
- Big rig
- feature
- Coll. hotshot
- Roof part
- Playing card

- TV's "— & Greg" Watts
- "Comin' — the Rye"
- Half-baked?
- More squalid
- Heavenly sight
- Alphabet sequence
- Network
- Try for a hit
- Provoked
- Biblical city
- Pianist
- Fishermen, frequently
- Auber's "— Diavolo"
- Confront
- Swedish rockers
- Last name in limericks
- Crooked
- Grimm creature
- "Moon-struck" star
- Dele a dele
- Utter
- Blow away
- Drill sergeant's shout
- Compass pt.
- "— Not Unusual" ('65 hit)

#### DOWN

- Manhattan district
- Hot spot?
- Frog's kin
- Singing syllable
- They may be personal
- Mahalia's music

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9		10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18
19							20				21					22				
23							24				25					26				
27							28				29					30				
							31	32			33	34	35			36	37			
38	39	40					41	42							43					
44							45								46			47	48	49
50							51	52	53						54					55
56							57		58						59	60	61		62	63
							64	65							66				67	
							68	69							70				71	
72															73				74	
75															76				77	
82							83	84							85				86	87
88							89								90	91	92		93	94
							95								96				97	
							98	99							100				101	
102															103	104			105	106
110															111				112	113
116															117				118	119
120															121				122	123



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**TRIXIE KITSCH**

BAD  
ADVICE  
FOR THE  
STUPID

Dear Trixie:

How long do I have to talk to a girl before she'll have sex with me? I spent 2 hours talking up this chubby chick at the Corner

Tap and she left with someone else. I figured a fat chick would be so happy to have any dude pay her some attention, she'd be a cinch. What am I doing wrong?

--Larry On Locust

Dear Larry:

*Just because someone is overweight doesn't mean they are desperate. And even if they are desperate it doesn't mean they are desperate enough to date you.*

Dear Trixie:

My husband never lifts up the toilet seat when he has to urinate. He just does his best to hit the bowl and not the seat. His aim is almost always compromised by alcohol, sleepiness or laziness. He says touching the seat disgusts him and he doesn't want germs on his hands. Sitting on a toilet seat covered in his urine is disgusting to me! Before you suggest adding a second toilet to our bathroom--we can't. It's too small. Help!

--Dripping Mad

Dear Dripping:

*You should install a Brill Electronical toilet seat which automatically replaces its hygienic seat covers. Or you could just make it a family rule that the seat should always remain in the up position. This should take care of the problem for the most part and when your husband forgets (and they always do) simply clean off the seat with his toothbrush and a favorite tee shirt. Ah, the joys of marriage.*

Dear Trixie:

My new boyfriend has been acting strangely. We used to see each other or at least talk every day but now he disappears for hours or days and won't answer his phone. When I reach him he is vague about where he's been. I've even gone by his house and his car is there and I can see him moving around inside but he won't answer the door. Do you think he's seeing someone else? I could just die!

--In Agony In Epworth

Dear Agony:

*Maybe he's not cheating. Maybe he just has a secret drug problem. Hang in there.*



## Dr. Skrap's completely useless HOROSCOPES

**Aries 3/21-4/19** You post explicit instructions on how to stop the broken toilet at the office from continuing to run after it's flushed and post it where it can not be missed next to the toilet and yet you find yourself going into the bathroom every 30 minutes because either your entire office is illiterate, lazy or just plain dumb. The biggest problem is that none of the options are good.

**Taurus 4/20-5/20** If you're going to attempt to have sex with students or provide them with drugs, be smart and think before you act. Going for both is just getting greedy.

**Gemini 5/21-6/21** Now that Haiti has been devastated by a Earthquake, Sean Hannity was quick to start referring to every action of the Obama administration as an "earthquake"-type event. Next up is the Obama administration's hurricane season, but things will get weird when an odd STD wave hits the country and Shawn begins preaching about the massive herpes healthcare.

**Cancer 6/22-7/22** You know it's getting bad when the bank knocks you for an overdraft fee before you even overdraft because they just had a feeling you were going to do it. You'll want to start banking locally, my friend.

**Leo 7/23-8/22** At some point the volume of bacon bits WILL eliminate the benefits of choosing that salad for lunch today. We call that crossing the Bacon-Dixon line. It's a glorious place to visit.

**Virgo 8/23-9/22** If you have to see that ad with the guy asking if it's okay to get the deal on the 89 cent burrito one more time, someone is going to die.

**Libra 9/23-10/22** Hey, college kids, it's back to the grind again, and you know what that means. Time for the semi-annual washing of the dorm room sheets. That pain in your neck accompanying the illness is probably meningitis.

**Scorpio 10/23-11/21** They say chewing ice is a sign of sexual frustration. But you've got that slushy maker for Christmas. Now your pathetic personal life is well-masked.

**Sagittarius 11/22-12/21** If the Jets win the Super Bowl, you should be able to demand your money back on the season. Who gives a crap about the Jets?

**Capricorn 12/22-1/19** You saw the StreetJaw commercial with the giant pins dropping on the map all around that girl. It was cool so you tried it but you don't see anything dropping from the sky at all when you go outside. What's wrong? I'll tell you what, StreetJaw doesn't work on your geriatric Jitterbug phone.

**Aquarius 1/20-2/18** It's not so bad that you haven't yet turned in that Christmas gift certificate to the workout place yet. What's bad is that you got french fry grease all over it and you're now embarrassed to turn it in.

**Pisces 2/19-3/20** Thank God everyday that you don't live anywhere near the Jersey shore. Or Gary Busey. Either one.

## PUZZLE ANSWERS from page 25

### Sudoku

2	3	9	6	4	8	5	1	7
7	4	1	9	2	5	6	8	3
8	6	5	7	1	3	2	4	9
5	1	7	2	9	4	8	3	6
9	8	4	5	3	6	1	7	2
3	2	6	1	8	7	9	5	4
1	7	8	4	6	9	3	2	5
6	5	2	3	7	1	4	9	8
4	9	3	8	5	2	7	6	1

### Sticklers

#### Sticklers Answer

Figure C does not belong with the others.  
The triangle in each figure contains a Z shape  
Figure C contains a backward Z.

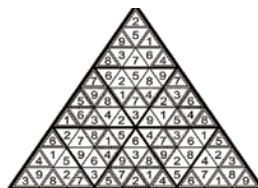
### Cryptoquip

That new radiologist is too good-natured.  
I don't understand what he sees in people.

### Crossword

S	O	N	T	A	G	M	A	P	A	B	E	L	T	W	I	S	T		
O	V	E	R	D	O	I	C	E	D	E	L	A	K	I	N	T	E		
H	E	W	A	S	S	U	C	H	A	A	R	I	S	T	O	C	R	A	T
O	N	T	P	R	E	Y	M	O	T	H	H	E	R	E					
			E	V	E	N	G	A	M	U	T	A	B	I	D	E			
C	U	D	G	E	L	S	T	O	R	E	D	S	L	A	T				
O	N	I	O	N	P	R	O	C	R	A	S	T	I	N	A	T	O	R	
L	I	D	D	A	R	I	E	N	P	E	A	K	A	R	E				
A	T	O	M	L	I	N	K	I	S	L	I	P	R	A	B	B	I		
			A	S	I	D	E	S	N	O	O	T	P	U	L	L	I	N	
	S	E	R	E	N	E	H	E	G	O	T	P	U	P	P	E	T		
M	A	L	I	C	E	B	E	R	E	T	M	I	R	T	H				
I	H	E	A	R	S	O	N	A	R	F	O	E	S	A	B	E	T		
R	I	N	E	D	E	N	T	R	A	D	E	R	M	A	R				
A	B	I	R	T	H	M	A	R	K	W	H	E	N	A	B	O	V	E	
			A	L	A	I	A	L	E	R	T	S	T	R	A	C	E	Y	
	S	A	T	Y	R	L	I	M	B	O	F	E	E	T					
F	O	N	T	M	A	I	N	L	A	R	A				O	C	S		
A	D	D	I	S	A	B	A	B	A	H	E	W	A	S	E	I	G	H	
C	O	R	E	A	B	R	O	W	E	A	R	E	N	T	R	E	E		
E	M	E	R	Y	A	S	W	E	P	R	Y	D	E	S	E	R	T		

### Tri Doku



### Mega Maze



## 365 Quiz?

THE ANSWERS Questions on Page 6

1. C) There are about 300 million cell phones in use in the U.S.
2. C) 3 old cell phones
3. B) 12-18 Months
4. A) 2.3%
5. D) Platinum
6. C) PCs
7. C) 58%



## EATING HEALTHY



### New Foods for the New Year

What new foods can we expect to see in the supermarket in 2010? With more Americans focusing on health and wellness, many of the new foods combine health and good taste. Fiber, protein, probiotics, omega-3 fats and convenience are the latest health trends that have influenced a number of the new products on the list this year. These foods on the list are proof that healthy foods can and do taste good. Add new tastes, textures and health benefits to your life with the Top 10 New Foods for 2010 from the Hy-Vee Dietitians.

1. Earth Grains Thin Buns or Arnold's Select Sandwich Thins: Guilt-less sandwiches with fewer calories and carbs - plus a great source of fiber. A great sandwich choice for diabetes and weight loss. They have a soft texture and subtle whole-grain taste.

2. Chia seeds: Looking for ways to control blood sugar or hunger when trying to lose weight? You must give chia seeds a try! Great source of fiber, omega-3 fat and protein. Easy to use; simply add to yogurt, oatmeal, salads or tomato juice.

3. SlimCado Avocado: This avocado has up to half the fat and a third fewer calories than a regular avocado. Another difference is the skin remains green and does not turn black, and yields to gentle pressure when ripe.

4. Cocktail Grapefruit: So sweet you can eat without added sugar! For those who find grapefruit too acidic, try the cocktail grapefruit. Not a true grapefruit, they are a cross between a mandarin and pummelo and taste similar to a grapefruit, but are sweeter and less acidic.

5. Frozen vegetables that steam in the bag: Just microwave and eat. Green Giant, Birds Eye and Hy-Vee offer several new sizes and flavors of frozen vegetables that steam right in the bag, including just-for-one serving size. The veggies are already seasoned, making them super-tasty. No more excuses to not eat veggies.

6. Kashi Heart to Heart Whole-Grain Crackers with Plant Sterols: A new snack cracker your taste buds and heart will love! The added plant sterols may help lower cholesterol. Also low in sodium.

7. Flatout Artisan Fold It Flatbread - 5-Grain Flax variety: A new flatbread product that folds into a sandwich. Each Fold It flatbread contains only 100 calories and 8 grams of fiber, making it a smart sandwich choice for weight loss and diabetes.

8. Barley: Let the old be new. Economical and easy to use. Health benefits include soluble fiber, which may help lower cholesterol and control hunger. Holds its shape well in soups & stews, can be eaten for breakfast instead of oatmeal, or used in pilafs.

9. Dove Miniatures Ice Cream Bars: An ice cream treat to satisfy the sweet tooth for only 60-70 calories. Dark chocolate or milk chocolate.

10. Greek Yogurt: Greek yogurt has an extra-creamy texture. Higher in protein and lower in carbs than conventional yogurt; also contains probiotics. Great substitute for dips and sauces.

And let's not forget the kids. Here are a couple new great-tasting, kid-friendly foods.

1. Jif Omega-3 Peanut Butter: One of kids' favorite foods now has omega-3 fats. An excellent source of omega-3 fats - DHA and EPA.

2. Full Circle Organic Fruit Strips: Kids on-the-go will love this portable fruit snack. Contains 100% vitamin C and only 45 calories per strip. Available in pomegranate, strawberry and wild berry flavors.

Talk to a Hy-Vee dietitian or go to [www.hy-vee.com](http://www.hy-vee.com) for more information. The information is not intended as medical advice. Consult a medical professional for individual advice relating to your diet and overall health.

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