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A'n'E

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Ames vegetarians are welcomed with open arms at Iowa State’s only club designed specifically for those lovable herbivores.

So you’ve got a hankerin’ for lentils and don’t know what to do about it? Well, the good people behind the vegetarian club have all the answers.

“The vegetarian club?” you may ask. “Why have I not heard of this delightful little jewel?” I hadn’t either until I saw a poster up on the doors of Kildee Hall advertising the first meeting—right next to a poster plugging the Iowa State Fur Harvesters club meeting (which I thought was pretty funny). Also, some of the more observant of you may have seen the humble half-booth the vegetarian club shared with the Humane Society at Club Fest in September.

“I was actually surprised at how many students want to get involved,” said John Opsomer, assistant professor of statistics and advisor for the club. “We’ve already had about 80 people express interest.”

Founder Sarit Sharma, a graduate student in electrical engineering and computer science, had a hunch there were other vegetarians at Iowa State. Sharma decided since a club didn’t exist for them, it was reason enough to start one.

Though Iowa is known as an agriculture state in which many people make their livelihoods producing meat for the masses, vegetarian awareness is slowly increasing.

“[Ames is] not like the east coast, but it’s definitely improving,” Sharma said. And—chalk one up for Iowa—at least it’s easier to get meatless food here than in Belgium, from which Opsomer hails. He mentioned Lucullan’s Restaurant’s pasta and The Pizza Kitchens’ calzones as some fabulous food for vegetable lovers. Sharma cites the various “ethnic restaurants” as good
places for vegetarians to find the goods.
Sharma formed the club in the name of good, clean fun.

“You don’t even have to enjoy vegetarian food.”
— Sarit Sharma

Everyone is welcome. “You don’t have to be a vegetarian to join. You don’t even have to enjoy vegetarian food,” he said. Apparently, blatant curiosity and an open mind are the only prerequisites. The main purpose of the club is to provide a place for vegetarians (and others) to get to know each other, be social, and trade ideas and recipes.

The easiest way to get involved in these meatless orgies is to e-mail the club at: veggi@iastate.edu. Since it is still shiny new, the vegetarian club has no established meeting place. However, it is set to meet at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month.

Fleetwood Mac's new CD, The Dance, marks the first time the popular supergroup's core members Lindsey Buckingham, Stevie Nicks, Christine McVie, John McVie and Mick Fleetwood have recorded together since 1987.

Recorded for an MTV Unplugged special, The Dance features 17 songs in all, combining a mix of new and classic Mac sounds. The raspy voiced Stevie Nicks weaves her magic throughout the set. Nicks' presence is immense, from the standout "Rhiannon," about a promiscuous female that every man desires, to "Dreams," when Nicks contemplates her life without a serious relationship. And the new songs seem to showcase Nicks at the top of her game.

Christine McVie's songs and voice represent the band's lighthearted side. In the Beach Boys-esque "Everywhere," she can't imagine her life without her mate.

Finally, from Lindsey Buckingham, we get to hear the most musically ambitious member of the group. The 1970's radio hit, "Tusk," is predominately a percussion track that builds to a wallopin finale with the University of Southern California marching band. The newest standout Buckingham song is the mid-tempo "Bleed To Love Her," a sweeping composition that finds him writing about an obsessive love.

In all, The Dance reflects and expands on the group's remarkable talent. The cohesive chemistry of the band is so undeniable, it's as if they never disbanded. They are magic together and I hope it isn't another 10 years before fans hear from them again!

- David Small -

Surfacing is the excellent new CD from Canadian musician Sarah McLachlan. It's a surprising departure from her previous album, Fumbling Toward Ecstasy.

The surprise of Surfacing is that McLachlan explores the darker sides of facing adult relationships and unexpected romantic involvement.

Like Fumbling Toward Ecstasy, female sensuality still remains, but there is a greater focus on uncertainty throughout her new CD because of its mysterious overtones.

Its opening track, "Building A Mystery," is about an evolving relationship of "woman meets man, man grows to love woman, but woman is scared to death over having romantic feelings toward man." She reveals her truest feelings toward the male figure on this track by declaring he is "a beautiful f*cked-up man."

Because Surfacing's other tunes come with their own sets of surprises, you find yourself frequently wondering about McLachlan's journey through life and love.

A final surprise is "Last Dance," a haunting minuet that closes this adventurous exploration from McLachlan.

Warning: You will become lovingly attached to this CD and it will never leave your CD player (as I have already learned).

- Adrian DeVore -
Every other Wednesday night, students can take a study break and scoot to the Maintenance Shop for a few laughs provided by an increasingly popular comedy routine known as Grandma Mojo's Moonshine Revival.

Mojo's brief history dates back several years to a witty Cyclone clan that wanted a chance to get up on stage and perform comedy. These students founded a program they named the Mighty Monkey Power Hour, and they began doing shows at the M-Shop. Starting with audiences of 15, the group grew successfully. It had spawned quite a following by the time its reign ended, when nearly all the Monkey cast members graduated. After May 1996, the only Monkeys remaining were Becky Witt, Josh Bryner and Mark Leiknes.

The three members made the decision to continue this great laugh-generating show.

"There's no way we could just let this die," Witt, a senior in psychology, said. "It's such a great thing for students to go to."

The three remaining Monkeys started fresh. The trio held auditions and found themselves a cast. At long last, Grandma Mojo's Moonshine Revival was born. But it wasn't Mojo yet.

Jason Taylor, an inaugural member of the Mojo crew, said the group knew it had to come up with an exciting title for the show before it could begin producing good comedy skits.

He said that finding the name the entire cast was looking for involved three meetings of hard work. Finally, after shooting down "The Green Berets of Comedy" and "Karma Comedians," the team came to a consensus that it wanted to implement the words "grandma" and "mojo" into the name. They were then Grandma Mojo's Moonshine Revival.

"We thought it sounded like a really entertaining show," Taylor, a senior in English, said. "With 'moonshine' and 'grandma' in there, it's got to be fun."

The audience also thought the routine was fun. Last year, the group's following grew immensely and it even had a few sold out shows. This year, its success is even greater. More and more members of the Iowa State community are showing up to see what Mojo is all about.

Unfortunately, many are being sent home laughless because the program has been sold out.

"It's insane," Witt said. "We never expected it to get this out of control."

And out of control it is. When the doors open at 10 p.m. to let Mojo-goers in, 200 some people start showing to make their way into the Mojo's comedy chamber for an hour of live entertainment. In recent weeks, as many as 50 people have left the show before it started because they couldn't get a seat.

But Witt said she believes the M-Shop atmosphere provides the perfect setting for the show, so they are going to work out a more fair admission system.

"[The M-Shop is] comfortable, low-key and very casual. It lends to what Grandma Mojo is all about," she said.

This year the comedy team has focused on its wilder character creations and audience participation.

Group members Darcy Horton, Becky Witt and Carrie Seim rehearse for an upcoming Grandma Mojo's Moonshine Revival show.

Taylor said when Mojo asks the audience for suggestions, sex is always the subject it selects for the impromptu scene.

Joanne Roepke, a Mojo regular, said, "I'm always interested to see who will be involved in the standard sex scene..."

Roepke said she likes to go because the show is a "guaranteed laugh."

In addition to her laughing loyalty to the Mojo characters—namely MacDonald the Scotsman—Roepke said she enjoys watching the skits that involve her younger brother, David Roepke. David joined the cast this fall.

"It's quite an amazing thing to see your little brother on stage dressed in a short, black, lingerie-like outfit and know that he's doing it willingly," she said.

The audience-embraced show has been compared to television's Saturday Night Live, but team member Taylor said the group is not crazy about the comparison.

"We try to push the envelope a lot further, and we localize stuff," he said.

Taylor said they don't poke too much fun, unless they are sure the audience agrees with them.

He said the students in the audience are like children with a short attention span, which forces the cast to keep doing wild stuff. Taylor said that this keeps the cast on its toes and allows cast members to bombarding the audience with joke after joke.

Mojo has zestful plans for the rest of the year. It has a band, Medulla Oblongata, and hopes to recruit visiting bands for future programs. The comedy clan also wants to bring back the more popular characters from last year and fix the crowd problem created by their unanticipated success.

Pop a buck to see the cast of Grandma Mojo strut its stuff on the M-Shop stage every other Wednesday evening at 10 p.m. Some advice: arrive early with boxing gloves on and prepare to giggle.