

cinema | dvd | music | games | words | savage love | calendar

madcalendar

thursday, july 28-wednesday, august 3, 2005

submit events two weeks in advance to: madcalendar@theonion.com

thursday | july 28

music

Neil Diamond: Alliant Energy Center Coliseum, 8 p.m.*

Though Neil Diamond has been the king of Vegas-style schlock for some time, his work in the '60s and early '70s will always ensure his reputation as a great, underrated songwriter. Thirty-odd years ago, he was pumping out such classics as "Kentucky Woman," "Solitary Man," "Cherry Cherry," "I'm A Believer," "Girl, You'll Be A Woman Soon," and "Red Red Wine." The past few decades have found Diamond doing cheesy soundtrack work (*Jonathan Livingston Seagull*, *The Jazz Singer*) and songs that sound like soundtrack work ("Heartlight"), but he could mount a Johnny Cash-like comeback when his new, Rick Rubin-produced CD drops later this year. On it, Diamond reportedly ditches the cheese in favor of a basic guitar-and-vocals approach.

Anne Heaton w/ Amelia Royko: Café Montmartre, 9 p.m.

Singer-songwriter Anne Heaton is originally from Chicago, though since her move to New York, she's become part of that city's thriving singer-songwriter scene. Her two solo albums, *Black Notebook* and *Give In*, earned rave reviews both for her voice and for her songwriting skill, and fans voted her into the opening slot for a Jewel tour.

Modern Machines w/ Straight To Your Brain, Sevenonfive & Funrod: High Noon Saloon, 9 p.m.

Milwaukee's Modern Machines continue to deliver DIY punk the way it used to be delivered on their latest release, *Taco Blessing*. With the same powerful combination of reckless abandon and dedication to rock as *Sorry Ma-era* Replacements, the band piles on walls of ferocious, raw guitar, razorblade vocals, and harmonies to sweeten the blast. For the most part, Modern Machines has graduated from Brewtown cellar-venues to street-level clubs, and relentless touring is at the heart of what they do. They'll spend practically the entire summer careening through punk dives in the East, South, and Midwest.

The Skintones w/ Envy & Sunspot: Memorial Union Terrace, 9 p.m.*

The Skintones prove that clever and heavy don't have to be mutually exclusive ideas in the rock vocabulary. The uninhibited trio combines Van Halen-ish metal with quirky power-pop to craft a catchy, loud, and unusually vibrant melee. Daring to be smart but not afraid to be stupid, the local band embraces thought-provoking screens on politics, history, and media, as well as run-of-the-mill idiocy. It inspires thinking and headbanging in equal measures.

- Kill Junior w/ Demento & Androgen: The Annex, 10 p.m.
- The New Crew Band: Babe's American Grill, 8 p.m.
- Trotter 1 w/ Cook John Might Play Bass: Brocach, 9 p.m.
- Con Sabor Latino w/ DJs Chamo Candela, Salsabor & El Macizo: Cardinal Bar, 9 p.m.
- Karaoke: Cheeseburger In Paradise, 9 p.m.
- DJ Triple X: Club Majestic, 9 p.m.
- Quarter Tap String Band: Crystal Corner Bar, 9:30 p.m.
- Band In A Box Karaoke: Dry Bean Saloon, 8:30 p.m.
- Tomek Miernowski: Fyfe's Corner Bistro, 7 p.m.
- Madison Red & The KGB: Great Dane Pub, 10 p.m.
- Burn: Inferno, 9 p.m.
- Gerri DiMaggio Trio: Kimia Lounge, 7 p.m.
- Sonic Sound DJs: Kimia Lounge, 10 p.m.
- DJ Nick Nice & VJ Stirling: King Club, 9 p.m.
- Society w/ Munkey Juice & Fermata: The Klinik, 9 p.m.
- Apparently Nothing w/ Sleepeater, Black Tie Affair & Patterns In Static: Lussier Teen Center/The New Loft, 6:30 p.m.*
- Cork 'N Bottle String Band: Memorial Union Terrace, 5:30 p.m.*
- Minglewood: Mr. Roberts, 10 p.m.
- Mama Digdown's Brass Band: Monona Terrace Rooftop, 6 p.m.*
- Jazz On The Deck w/ Michael Hanson Jazz Group: Otto's, 5:30 p.m.
- Groove Market w/ Red Chemist: Portal Music Café, 9:30 p.m.
- Capitol City Band: Rennebohm Park, 7 p.m.*
- Paul Lynch Trio: Restaurant Magnus, 9 p.m.
- Mad Cabaret Variety Show: The Slipper Club, 10 p.m.

comedy

• Kevin Bozeman w/ Kevin Williams: Comedy Club On State, 8:30 p.m.

misc.

Book Reading: Eventide w/ Kent Haruf: Borders West, 7 p.m.*

Colorado writer Kent Haruf earned national attention with 1999's *Plainsong*, a gorgeously detailed account of life in fictional Holt, Colorado that earned him a National Book Award nomination. Haruf takes up the story of the McPherson brothers and other characters from *Plainsong* again in *Eventide*—out now in paperback—a book that is every bit as accomplished as his last. Among Haruf's numerous strengths as a writer is an ability to create dialogue evocative enough that the reader can hear the cadences of the characters' speech, making scenes set at a livestock auction, a local bar, and an elementary school leap to life.

• Hoofers Scuba Club Meeting: Memorial Union Rathskeller/Terrace, 8 p.m.*

theater

- Tartuffe: American Players Theatre (Spring Green), 7:30 p.m.*
- University Theatre w/ The Mystery Of Irma Vep: Hemsley Theatre, 7:30 p.m.*

focus | august 3

AUGUST 3

The Knitters w/ Phranc: High Noon Saloon, 9 p.m.

Now that the Pixies and Dinosaur Jr. have eliminated the shock factor from all future it'll-never-happen-in-a-million-years reunions, the return of The Knitters is playing out like just another set of dates by a band supporting a new record. But don't be fooled: the countrified side project of seminal punk outfit X is worth more than a passing glance, especially considering John Doe,

Exene Cervenka, DJ Bonebrake, and Dave Alvin had the decency to actually get back into the studio and play like they meant it. *The Modern Sounds Of The Knitters*, which arrived 20 years after the group's debut, is full of energy and chops, and, like *Poor Little Critter On The Road*, includes originals, covers, and reworked X material. Lesbian folk icon/Tupperware peddler Phranc, who's celebrating the 20th anniversary re-release of her great, groundbreaking *Folksinger*, will open.



friday | july 29

music

The New Recruits (CD Release Party) w/ The Motorz & The Kites: High Noon Saloon, 10 p.m.

The New Recruits put an excellent spin on the drunken-rock-as-brilliant pop subgenre—one that was started and perfected by Guided By Voices. The band's new album, *Attila Sex Shock* (just out on local label Cancer Records) stays true to the slovenly, endearing gutter punk The New Recruits are known for. As long as the group—led by scene stalwart Mr. Shinky—continues its commitment to animated, dynamic barroom antics, rest assured that the kids will be alright.

Sugar Maple Traditional Music Festival w/ Foghorn String Band, Jack Norton And The Mullet River Boys, Sara Pace & Green Tea: Lake Farm Park, 5-10 p.m.*

The Four Lakes Traditional Music Collective gives fans of acoustic music something to crow about with their second annual Sugar Maple Fest on Lake Waubesa, just south of the city. The brilliance of the event comes not only in its rustic setting, but also in the diversity it embraces. No simple folk-fest, Sugar Maple presents touring and local talent representing styles as varied as honky-tonk flavored polka and Brazilian Pagode. The event will be capped by the source-friendly old-time sounds of Portland's Foghorn String Band on Friday, and clean-cut male-female harmony bluegrass from Art Stevenson And Highwater on Saturday. Other highlights include Appalachian tragedy and high harmonies from The Lonesome Sisters, gorgeous Americana from Madison's Sara Pace, and longtime local favorite Cris Plata. Local beer and food vendors will help

round out the good times. (Also July 30)

Benevento-Russo Duo: Memorial Union Terrace, 9 p.m.*

Sure, Marco Benevento and Joe Russo play events like "Jamcruise," and regularly jam with former Phish bassist Mike Gordon, but there's more to their sound than crunchy granola. The duo's unusual drums-and-organ lineup leaves plenty of room for stretching out—they've been known to cover Thelouious Monk and Elliott Smith in one set. A profile boost accompanied the recent *Best Reason To Buy The Sun*, the Duo's first album for the respected Ropeadope label. It includes guest spots by Lyrics Born, Charlie Hunter, Ween, and others.

Eyedeas, Carnage, Matza I, Kristof Krane, JT Bates & Casey O'Brien w/ Deploj, The Crest & Silent Army: Orpheum Stage Door, 9 p.m., 18+ Minnesota rapper Eyedeas won a Blaze Battle a few years back and was reportedly offered a fat sum to sign with Bad Boy, which no doubt looked at the prodigiously gifted white MC as a potential heir to Eminem. But Eyedeas chose to stick with mentor Slug (of Atmosphere) and the much smaller Rhymesayers label, which released his solo disc and two collaborative albums with DJ Abilities—the latest of which, *E&A*, is being distributed by punk mainstay Epitaph. Records aside, Eyedeas is a fantastic, fearless freestyler who appears almost possessed onstage.

- This Is The End w/ Forsake Ya To The Snakes & The Go-Devils: The Annex, 10 p.m.
- Headliners: Babe's American Grill, 8 p.m.
- Fine Line: Badger Bowl, 9 p.m.
- Cocktail Club w/ DJs Jeremy Thomas & Chuck Money: Café Montmartre, 6 p.m.
- Que Flavor: Capital Brewery, 6 p.m.*