

# What would you do if I sang (way) out of tune?

By STEVE CRUSE and ANN RILEY

*The Daily Iowan, U. of Iowa*

Now you can achieve what Milli Vanilli couldn't: a live performance before a live audience.

All you need is a stage and the nerve to sing in front of strangers.

Karaoke, the latest high-tech diversion for American youth, enables the user to sing lead vocals of hit records on which the original vocals have been removed. The device, which originated in Japan, is becoming increasingly popular in the United States — particularly in college-town bars.

Chad Bugos, a junior at the U. of Iowa, has performed twice in a local bar and said he plans to go back for more.

"I'm always singing at work, so my friends always wanted me to do it," he said. "After I went out and broke the ice, they started doing it too."

In his most recent performance, Bugos sang "Love Shack" by the B-52s and Bachman-Turner Overdrive's "Taking Care of Business."

Erin Reagen, a UI senior, said she likes karaoke nights because they allow people to interact with each other, and it is better than just sitting around and drinking.

"I've seen a variety of people get up there and do it," Reagen said. "Anybody who is gutsy enough to get up there is usually pretty well-received. People who aren't gutsy enough are usually the ones who go up there drunk."

The karaoke device consists of two components, a compact disc player that plays the vocal-free music and a television facing the performer that displays the lyrics.

The karaoke machines have some built-in effects to enhance a singer's voice, such as a slight echo and time-lapse. The emcee can also digitally alter the pitch of a song to match the singer.



MICHAEL WILLIAMS, THE DAILY IOWAN, U. OF IOWA

Heading down the Atlanta highway...U. of Iowa seniors Kelly Anderson and Jenny Hall join their friend Teresa Michel to do the cosmic thing with a "Love Shack" rendition.

## Halloween

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140 people, mostly for failure to disperse, Morris said.

The incident has put the annual street party in limbo.

He said what used to be "the biggest thing in North Carolina" has fizzled out almost completely in recent years.

The Greenville authorities may have put an end to the Halloween party at ECU, but the town of Athens, Ohio, has approached the problem a bit differently. A majority on the City Council voted to sanction the party, putting an end to 14 years of illegal street takeovers.

The party itself didn't change much. The streets were closed voluntarily, and a group called the Clean and Safe Halloween Committee began organizing the festival.

Mayor Sara Hendricker, an outspoken critic of the event, said making it official doesn't stop out-of-towners from "turning the town into a cesspool." She warned that even with the city's sanction, which was renewed for this year, laws are backed up by hefty fines.

"People seem to think that if the street is closed it's no holds barred, but all laws will continue to be enforced," she said, adding that most problems are caused by outsiders. "If it was confined to a community event, I'd have an entirely different attitude."

OU Student President Elliot Elliot Ratzman, who is also co-chairman of the Clean and Safe Halloween Committee, already has a different attitude.

Ratzman, a senior, said having the event sanctioned took a little of the fun out of the party, but it didn't keep the crowds away. Police estimated the 1990 turnout at 12,000 while organizers said about 35,000 people showed up for the event.

Stu Williams, a junior at Lehigh U., was taking a year off from school in 1989 when he and a friend decided to embark on the nine-hour journey to Ohio from his home in Williamsburg, Va.

"I don't know if anything's worth 20 hours of driving, but I guess the costumes came pretty close," he said.

## The great hangouts: Too cool for school

Every college town has one — a place where students go just to hang out. None are exactly alike, but a few stand out from the crowd. Here's a look at some of the most unique places where students around the country are spending their time and money.

### The Varsity

Few Georgia Tech students would think twice about eating a "naked dog walking."

This naked (usually pronounced "nekkid") dog walking is actually a plain hotdog to go ordered at The Varsity.

Adjacent to the Georgia Tech campus, The V, as it is commonly called, has been an Atlanta institution for more than 50 years.

The V draws a big crowd during lunch and dinner hours. Even the die-hard regulars have trouble finding anything that can pass for a line in the ordering area, let alone find an empty chair.

On game days, most consider themselves lucky if they can get on the Varsity side of the street, much less get inside to place an order for strings and an F.O. (french fries and a Frosted Orange).

Midnight V runs are an everyday occurrence for some Tech students, especially during Dead Week and finals, when everyone is up studying, or at least thinking about studying for finals. ■ Amanda Buskill, *The Technique*, Georgia Tech

### Valhalla

For some, 13 is a lucky number. It means they get to take off all their clothes, cover their private parts with shaving cream and run through public places.

Club 13, a coed group of streakers at Rice U. that runs on the 13th and 26th of each month, descends on a graduate student bar called Valhalla to receive free drinks and lots of applause.

Valhalla, a loud music-filled room under the chemistry lecture hall, is one of the final stops on the group's hour-long run around campus. The concrete walls of the bar feature photographs of Rice's past and such esoteric graffiti as the tricarboxylic acid cycle, drawn complete with molecular structures, by an anonymous biochemistry grad.

Before making their way to Valhalla, the club members visit almost every occupied building (and often run through evening

### Atlanta, Ga.

exams), leaving body prints on any accessible window. Other students, "the hosers," try to douse the runners with water to wash away the shaving cream.

"Running is a naughty feeling like when you're 10 years old and sneak out of the house," said John, the president of the group. "Club 13 reminds Valhalla (patrons) of their youth. It's one of the few remaining traditions at Rice."

Neil Arnwine, Valhalla manager, said most people are very enthusiastic about the runners.

"Most clap, and some even take off their clothes, don shaving cream and join in," he said. ■ Ann Zitterkopf, *The Rice Thresher*, Rice U.

### Muddy Waters

*Minneapolis, Minn.*

Remember when you were a kid and Mom made you Pop Tarts or Fruit Loops for breakfast?

And if you stayed out of trouble until lunch you got Spaghetti-O's?

Students at the U. of Minnesota relive those carefree days at the Muddy Waters Cafe.

The restaurant specializes in pop culture delectables designed to bring childhood



ERIC HAHN, THE RICE THRESHER, RICE U.

Members of Rice U.'s Club 13 drink their beer in the buff in Valhalla, an on-campus bar.

right to your table.

"I'm not sure why we started serving that stuff," said Gail Phwaits, who co-owns the cafe with Kristi Berkvam.

"My partner and I just put foods on the menu that we grew up with, that were easy to fix," Phwaits added.

Muddy Waters is a candy-colored beacon on the otherwise drab Lyndale Avenue in south Minneapolis.

Its pastel pink lights gleam well into the dark when diligent students from both the U. of Minnesota and the Minneapolis College of Art and Design are still quaffing Waters' brew and devouring Rice Krispie treats.

The decor is as eccentric as the menu. The tables, chairs and silverware are a hodgepodge of different styles from Deco to 1950s Populuxe.

Phwaits said she thinks Muddy Waters' popularity is due to its diverse clientele.

"We get such a wide variety of people...people from uptown, businessmen on the way to work, artists and musicians," she said. "We get lots of students from both the UM and MCAD." ■ Jon Hunt, *The Minnesota Daily*, U. of Minnesota