J-san & the Analogue Sons

The Redstone Room

Friday, January 5, 9 p.m.

Everyone and their mother seems to have a blog these days (my three-month-old niece has one, for Pete's sake), so being skeptical about blog raves is understandable. For instance, T. Stoddard of (http://blogcritics.org) calls J-san & the Analogue Sons "the next level of reggae" and "a perfectly blended tribute to every reggae artist who came before." So why should I believe some random blogger? Who *is* this guy? Well, based on the *other* raves this New York-based group has amassed, I'm guessing he's a very *astute* guy. For the past decade, J-san & the Analogue Sons - performing at the Redstone Room on January 5 - has blended classic sounds of the '70s with hip hop, funk, and reggae, and the results have certainly impressed music critics. The *Ithica Journal* tells us that "J-san drips soul with virtually every note he sings." *Vice Magazine* praised the band's "Jamaican sound system blended with shotgun backwoods soul music." And *Time Out New York* exclaimed that the group's recent, self-titled debut CD

featured "mighty, heartfelt songs sure to land college radio and the clubs internationally." So blog away, Mr. Stoddard. I'll never doubt you again. For more information on the group, visit (http://www.jsanmusic.com).

Jeanne Tamisea Tribute Exhibition

Midcoast at Bucktown

Wednesday, January 3, through Friday, February 23

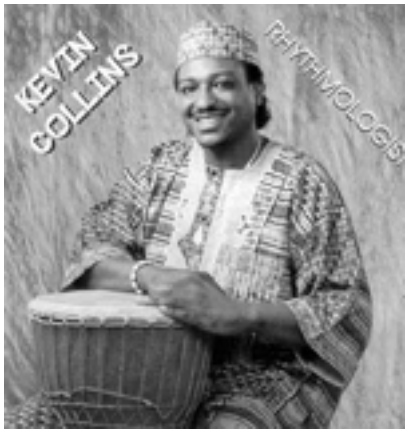
This past July, the Quad Cities lost a vital member of its artistic community with the passing of Jeanne Tamisea, who taught art at Black Hawk College for 18 years, and whose own works in airbrush, oils, and computer illustration - among other media - were inspirational to students and peers alike. At this autumn's Riverssance festival, Tamisea was the posthumous recipient of the prestigious Harley Award, and her local legend is sure to grow further with MidCoast at Bucktown's tribute exhibit of Tamisea's works, on display from January 3 through February 23.

The artist's passionate, vibrant offerings run the gamut of styles and subject matter - everything from the literary ("The Miller from Chaucer") to the lunatic ("The Seven-Legged Flying Roller-Skating Pig") - yet her talent and soulfulness remains a constant, and will likely inspire artisans for years to come. In a September *Reader* article, local artist Bill Hannan said of Tamisea, "Her influence probably won't be known for another 20 years," but it's heartening to know that organizations such as MidCoast are ensuring that her
works
, at least, will be. For more information on the exhibition, call the Bucktown Center for the Arts at (309) 737-2066.

Explore the World: Africa

The Family Museum of Arts & Science

Saturday, January 6



For the venue's new program in the "Explore the World" series, the Family Museum proudly hosts a noted celebrity from Flint, Michigan. No, not Michael Moore. "Explore the World: Africa" features percussionist Kevin Collins, a Flint native who, on January 6, will enthrall Family

Museum guests with a day's worth of entertaining, educational, and interactive presentations. The museum's program will introduce kids to the history and culture of such African nations as Mali, Ghana, Guinea, and Senegal, with hands-on activities and art projects scheduled throughout the day. But kids of *all* ages should thrill to the talents of Collins, who will demonstrate his skills on such African instruments as the djembe drum, and who has developed a national following for his spirited percussive stylings; Collins has toured with musical legends Ronnie Laws and Allan Barnes, owns and operates his own production company, and has released two CDs. And to think it all started at age six, when Collins practiced his skills on the pots and pans in his mother's kitchen. Remember when your own mother used to
yell
at you for that? Turns out she was preventing you from having a great career. For more information on the "Explore the World" series, visit (
http://familymuseum.org
).

Little Marsh Overflow

Bent River Brewing Company

Saturday, January 6, 10 p.m.

http://www.littlebearthworld.com

http://www.lossano.com/toomey