



LITTLEV
IOWA CITY'S NEWSPAPER MAGAZINE

VOL. 15 | ISSUE 143
NOV. 6 - 19, 2013



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HIGH TIME TO REFORM

WHEN WILL IOWA CATCH UP ON POT? P. 4

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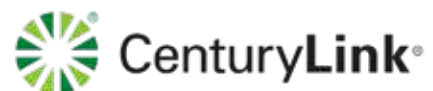
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STAFF

Publisher | Matt Steele
Publisher@LittleVillageMag.com
Managing Editor | Kate Conlow
Editor@LittleVillageMag.com
Digital Development | Drew Bulman
Web@LittleVillageMag.com
Photo Editor | Rachel Jessen
Photo@LittleVillageMag.com
Accounts Manager | Stephanie Catlett
Ads@LittleVillageMag.com

DISTRIBUTION REQUESTS

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SUBMISSIONS

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CONTACT

Little Village, PO Box 736
Iowa City, IA 52244
(319) 855-1474

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CONTRIBUTORS

WRITERS

Cecil Adams, Pat Brown, Thomas Dean, Carol deProse, Wayne Diamante, Caroline Dieterle, Russell Jaffe, Heidi McKinley, Randal O'Wain, Vik Patel, Mike Roeder, Scott Samuelson, Frankie Schneckloth, Jorie Slodki, Matt Sowada, Dr. Star, Roland Sweet, Casey Wagner, Elle Wignall, Kent Williams

EDITORS

Drew Bulman, Stephanie Catlett, Josh Miner, Amber Neville

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PHOTOGRAPHERS

Kaitlyn Busbee, John Engelbrecht, Juan Carlos Herrera, Jay Geisen, Russell Jaffe, Rachel Jessen, Heidi McKinley, Frankie Schneckloth

DESIGNERS

Natalia Araujo, Denzel Bingaman, Matt Steele, Jacob Yeates

COVER

Photo by Juan Carlos Herrera

SMOKE SCREEN

With marijuana arrests in the name of public safety, what does law enforcement really stand to gain?

BY CAROL dePROSSE AND CAROLINE DIETERLE



How long must we go on having our homes and private spaces invaded for the purpose of arresting marijuana users? The city's desired goal of community policing takes a step backward with every marijuana arrest, making more people feel threatened by the police.

On Oct. 7, the Iowa City Police Department (ICPD), in conjunction with the Johnson County Drug Task Force (JCDTF), went to the Iowa City home of a 64-year old woman, Dona S., and arrested her. She was charged with a serious misdemeanor for possession of 40 grams of marijuana, which carries a fine of up to \$1,875 and a year in jail, and a Class D felony for failure to affix a drug tax stamp. A Class D felony conviction in Iowa can result in up to five years in jail and a fine of \$7,500.

After her arrest, she was taken to the Johnson County jail, booked, strip-searched and released on her own recognizance the next morning, but her arrest and booking is now a statistic for the 2013 total jail population (those who take up beds). The numbers of beds being used is cited in arguments favoring the construction of a new jail.

MARIJUANA CRIMINALIZATION BLURS THE LINES BETWEEN ENFORCING THE LAW AND FUNDING IT. | *Photo by Rachel Jessen*

For many people the term "felon" implies a person who is a danger to the community—failure to affix a drug tax stamp or smoking marijuana in the privacy of one's home does not bring to mind an image of a threatening person.

Employed as a teacher at Kirkwood Community College (KCC), the modest income of Dona S. may be drained by legal expenses that could become financially crippling for her. KCC is at liberty to fire her, which could leave her unemployed as a teacher for the rest of her working years and possibly cause her to become dependent on various social services.

The Johnson County Attorney's Office is responsible for any leniency that might be granted, but having all charges dropped is unlikely. If her income and assets are low enough, she might be able to use the Public Defender's

Office for representation. Another possible option for her may be referral to the Johnson County Marijuana Diversion Program, although in an article by in *The Gazette* on April 16, 2010, Johnson County Attorney Janet Lyness said that 10 grams or less would be considered an amount for which referral to the program could be made.

Colloquially called "Marijuana School" by many locals, the Diversion Program allows participants to have the charges expunged upon graduation. Agreeing to and being accepted for this program requires paying for and completing an approved substance abuse evaluation and treatment plan, advance pay-

A PROGRAM ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO PUT MORE POLICE OFFICERS ON THE STREETS IN CITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAS NOW BECOME A MAJOR FUNDING SOURCE FOR THE MILITARIZATION OF THE POLICE AND FOR THE WAR ON DRUGS.

ment of all court costs associated with the filing and dismissal of the case, having a clean urinalysis and providing proof in writing that all the requirements have been met. These requirements, as well as two arraignments before a judge, must be completed within 120 days.

Doesn't it seem ridiculous to put a senior citizen through a substance abuse program for marijuana? Dona S. might very well have been using marijuana for its proven medical benefits. Because of these benefits, the Iowa Pharmacy Board recently recommended that marijuana should no longer be classified as a Schedule I drug (drugs which have no redeeming medical value), but the Legislature has not acted on the Board's recommendation.

Forty grams of marijuana is a trifling amount; but this small confiscated amount will be added to the others that are acquired by the ICPD and the JCDTF, and to the total amount seized for the year that will be recorded and submitted in the annual application to the Department of Justice in order to receive funding from the Edward J. Byrne Assistance Grant Program. Securing this grant money has become an incentive for vigorous and

aggressive efforts to find drugs to confiscate; and because marijuana is by far the most prevalent controlled substance used in Johnson County, it is largely what the JCDF collects.

The Byrne grants have been given to communities and states for over 25 years, since the program was established by Congress in 1988 during the presidency of George H.W. Bush. Edward Byrne was a young police rookie shot several times at point blank range, and his killing justifiably created outrage. However, more and more money has poured into the grants, and the original intent has become lost: A program originally intended to put more police officers on the streets in cities across the country has now become a major funding source for the militarization of the police and for the war on drugs. Overall the result has been a costly failure and a disaster for citizens' Fourth Amendment rights.

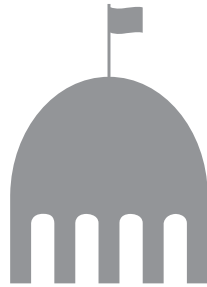
It's high time to stop rounding up local citizens of all ages for using marijuana; many would consider justice best served if the Iowa City city council would instruct the ICPD to make marijuana law enforcement its lowest priority and refuse to sign off on any future Byrne grant applications by the ICPD. Iowa City thus would deserve its widely held reputation for being a progressive community, and

FOR MANY PEOPLE THE TERM "FELON" IMPLIES A PERSON WHO IS A DANGER TO THE COMMUNITY, BUT FAILURE TO AFFIX A DRUG TAX STAMP OR SMOKING MARIJUANA IN THE PRIVACY OF ONE'S HOME DOES NOT BRING TO MIND AN IMAGE OF A THREATENING PERSON.



doing so would be in keeping with the fact that, according to an Oct. 2013 Gallup Poll, 58 percent of the American public now agrees that marijuana should be decriminalized. **lv**

Carol deProse and Caroline Dieterle: 85+ collective years of trying to shake up the system.



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

THIS WEEK: HEALTH CARE REFORM TALK--WITH YOUR HOST, DOCTOR HAND!
I'M NOT REALLY A DOCTOR--BUT I DRESS LIKE ONE, SO AS TO APPEAR IMPLICITLY TRUSTWORTHY!

AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE INVISIBLE?
NOBODY LIKES A PEDANT.

NOW, I UNDERSTAND THAT MANY OF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE SIGNING UP FOR OBAMACARE!
MY ADVICE IS--DON'T EVEN BOTHER TRYING! JUST GIVE UP!

YOU SEE, IF ENOUGH PEOPLE REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE, OBAMACARE WILL COLLAPSE--AND AMERICANS CAN KEEP THE MARKET-BASED SYSTEM THEY KNOW AND LOVE!
BUT ISN'T THIS A MARKET-BASED REFORM?

AND ISN'T THAT THE PROBLEM--THAT IT'S EXCESSIVELY COMPLICATED BECAUSE IT PRESERVES THE ROLE OF PRIVATE INSURERS?
WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE--COMMUNISTS?

UNDER THE TYRANNY OF OBAMACARE, INSURERS ARE FORCED TO COVER EVERYONE--EVEN PEOPLE WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS!
HOW CAN THEY STAY IN BUSINESS--IF THEY HAVE TO INSURE A BUNCH OF SICK PEOPLE?
BUT-- ZIP IT.

THE MARKET KNOWS BEST--AND THE MARKET SAYS AMERICAN HEALTH CARE SHOULD BE PROFIT-DRIVEN!
AND PREFERABLY BASED ON EMPLOYMENT STATUS.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE UNINSURED?

OH, THAT'S NO PROBLEM! THEY CAN ALWAYS GO TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM! IF THEY GIVE A FAKE NAME, THEY'LL NEVER EVEN SEE A BILL!
REALLY? THAT'S YOUR SOLUTION?
EXCUSE ME--ARE YOU THE ONE DRESSED LIKE A DOCTOR?

NEXT: MORE ADVICE!
OBAMACARE IS BROKEN! AND WHEN SOMETHING IS BROKEN, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO--
--SCRAP IT ENTIRELY AND NEVER SPEAK OF IT AGAIN!
BUT-- ZIP IT!

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THIS MAGAZINE CONTAINS



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TICK-TOK

A student's reflection, 22 years after the Gang Lu shooting
 BY JESSICA GRAFF



Tick-tok. He thought they didn't respect him. Tick-tok. He thought they didn't understand him. Tick-tok. He thought they didn't deserve him. Tick-tok. He would show them. Tick-tok. He'd been waiting for this. Tick-tok. He'd been practicing. Tick-tok. He had his gun. Tick-tok. It is time. Tick-tok. Tick-tok. Tick-tok. BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG. Tick-tok. Tick-tok. Tick-tok.

I stride across the University of Iowa campus on a summer day with my brand new roommate and her mother, who so graciously welcomed this city girl to all the Midwestern charm Iowa City holds. The culture shock and time change are still prevalent as I gaze at my new home. As we stroll down the T. Anne Cleary walkway, my roommate's mother turns to me, solemn for the first time today.

"Jessica, do you know who the T. Anne Cleary Walkway is named after?"

THE UNIVERSITY'S WALKWAY NAMED IN HONOR OF T. ANNE CLEARY | Photo by Rachel Jessen

"No, who?"

"It was named after a woman who died in a school tragedy."

"Mom!" my roommate interjects, "You can say shooting, it's been at least 20 years since it happened!"

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Her mom sighed and we kept walking to our dorm as if the whole conversation had evaporated like the humidity we were traveling in, but it kept me sweating in more ways than one.

He had come here to be successful, and here he thought he was sitting amongst lustful imbeciles, his ideas being looked past as if he was made of the papers they had him copy. He felt he was better than them, and certainly better than Linhua Shan who received the award. In China, he was at the top of his class at the prestigious University of Beijing, and it was an honor to be sent to America to study physics. He was supposed to make my family proud. He was supposed to win the Priesterbach Prize.

I WATCH NEWS CLIPS FROM 1991, FLINCHING AS THE NEWSCASTER ANNOUNCES THE VICTIMS, AND IT'S AS IF I WAS STANDING IN FRONT OF VAN ALLEN THAT FRIDAY MORNING 22 YEARS AGO MYSELF.

For months I ignored the unsettling feelings that surrounded the T. Anne Cleary walkway on my walks to class, but one day I grudgingly decide to address the looming history that surrounded the shooting. I start by asking my classmates, but very few have heard of a shooting. I am baffled by the idea that a school tragedy that so deeply affected the generations before us is hardly recognized by my peers. It's as if the school wants to forget everything, just as much as the students don't care to remember.

He writes his sister back home, Lu Huimin. He encloses money he made in America. He

regrets not studying a more practical subject, and the study of physics has become more disappointing than ever. He knows he is angry, and that his sister would not want him to be. But it is too late. He is going to kill himself and will not be alone in my journey to hell. He has, through careful selection, chosen some others to join him in death. He writes four other letters as the bloody dawn approaches.

My empty search now leads me to the internet. As I type into the search engine "University of Iowa 1991 shooting," headlines immediately pop up, plummeting me deeper into the tragedy. Like bodies, the names of the five victims pile up on my computer screen, Christoph K. Goertz, Robert A. Smith, Linhua Shan, Dwight R. Nicholson and lastly, T. Anne Cleary.

I learn the facts: Gang Lu was a physics graduate student at the University of Iowa. He felt unappreciated and after not receiving a desired honor, took revenge on those of whom he felt had wronged him. On Friday, Nov. 1, 1991, Lu attended a physics research group in Van Allen Hall, where he shot Goertz, Smith and his rival, Shan. He then proceeded downstairs and shot the department chair, Nicholson. After leaving Van Allen, he ran to Jessup Hall and shot his beloved academic advisor Cleary, whom he had complained to earlier that week, and also her assistant, Miya Rodolfo-Sioson, the only survivor of the massacre. Finally, he went up into an empty conference room and shot himself.

As much as I fill my mind with information, I still don't truly know and I find myself begging to understand the details of Gang Lu's descent into madness. I come upon Jo Ann Beard's essay *The Fourth State of Matter* and become encapsulated in the unraveling details.


Tick-tok. The clicking of his watch mimics the measured beating of his heart. Tick-tok. What if he misses? Tick-Tok. Then he will just shoot

them again. Tick-tok. And again. Tick-tok. And again. Tick-tok. It is time, he goes upstairs. BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG. Reload. He goes downstairs. BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG. Reload. He goes to Jessup Hall. BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG. Reload. He goes to an empty conference room. BANG.

I sit behind my desk, feeling heavy and weighed down with sadness. I watch news clips from 1991, flinching as the newscaster announces the victims, and it's as if I was standing in front of Van Allen that Friday morning 22 years ago myself. I can feel the chilly air sitting on my shoulders, the confused state of chaos, the anger bubbling for so long inside of the killer. I get up and take a visit to present-day Van Allen. I stop in front of the second floor room where a small bronze plaque signifies the fallen, and with the help of kindly professor I'm given access to the conference room itself. Everything is left the same from that fatal Friday afternoon, the creaky wooden chairs, the yellow-tinged books and the eerie silence that still hangs in the air.

On my way home I stop at the T. Anne Cleary walkway, dedicated in 1992 to the much-loved victim of the shooting. It's a peacefully warm day and the air wraps around me like a hand-woven blanket. I sit on a bench nearby, reflecting on everything I now know about the past of Iowa City and how the memory of this tragedy was fading away. Tick-tok. Tick-tok. Tick-tok. **lv**

Jessica Graff is originally from Washington D.C. and has just begun her writing career as a first-year student at the University of Iowa where she is studying English and working toward receiving the creative writing certificate. This is her first ever publication.



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ROMANCE OF A DARK TIME

Embracing autumn's long, smoldering twilights • BY THOMAS DEAN



I welcome the rhythm of the day's turn toward night. The sun lowers, oranges and purples intensify, time and breath stretch. Rest seeps in, and darkness caresses us to sleep.

The year has a similar rhythm, writ large. Autumn dissolves to winter. Samhain turns toward Yule. The dark descends, earlier and earlier. The sun makes its annual round, coaxing the land to rest in the sheltering darkness of year's end, to slumber toward new life and light to come.

I enjoy harmonizing with the shadows of autumn. Most of us celebrate the return of annual light, but I also welcome the lengthening shadows of earlier and earlier dusk in the waning months. Most of us welcome the darkness of nightly sleep; I also embrace the twilight of the year.

Many lament fall's earlier evenings: "It's dark when I go to work and dark when I come home!" People will count the days until spring's returning light. In doing so, they miss the gorgeous mahogany and obsidian of autumn and winter.

In the preface to *The House of Seven Gables*, Nathaniel Hawthorne says that the writer seeking "the truth of the human heart" needs to look to twilight, "to bring out or mellow the lights, and deepen and enrich the shadows, of the picture." In "The Custom House," the introduction to *The Scarlet Letter*, Hawthorne lauds an indoor fire's "smouldering glow," combining with "the white moonbeams on the floor" to create a "quality of strangeness and remoteness ... one remove farther from the actual, and nearer to the imaginative." In Hawthorne's twilight, which I always associate with autumn, the world becomes smoky, opening up wells of warm comfort and dark mystery, inviting us to peer into flickering hearth fires and the secrets of dark souls.

Several years ago, the U.S. Congress jimmed with daylight saving time so that by 2007 a return to standard time was moved from October to the first weekend in November. I regret the loss of earlier twilight in some of the most fiery orange days of the year. Some parents and public-safety-minded folks may welcome the longer daylight for trick-or-treaters.

THE SUN LOWERS, ORANGES AND PURPLES INTENSIFY, TIME AND BREATH STRETCH.

Artwork by Rachel Jessen

But the child in us knows that the true spirit of Halloween emerges only when the sun dips below the horizon, its fingers of twilight beckoning our dark transformations.

Nature's twilight has been set right by our clocks in the dull browns and spare branches of November. Now, as I step off my bus after work into the blackening evening, I enter my neighborhood's smoldering glow of romance, as Hawthorne might put it. I will celebrate the return of light in a few weeks, but for now, I embrace the strange comfort of late autumn's approaching darkness, a time for warm fires, shadowy stories and contemplative rest. No other time of year accords with fall's romantic shades. **IV**

Thomas Dean is a creature of light and darkness.

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

Green-thumb guidance for overwintering and propagating houseplants
BY FRANKIE SCHNECKLOTH



Over the last few years I've collected quite a few houseplants, even though I am by no means a master gardener. I have the strange ability to bring my houseplants to the brink of death and then slowly start to pull them back from the darkside for a full and healthy life. All my houseplants spent their summer vacation outdoors on my front stoop. In case you're wondering—they had a great time! They enjoyed the sunshine and stretched out a bit.

My plants have all come inside now and I am realizing I really am running out of room for these plants to live. Unfortunately, the space issue hasn't stopped me from eyeing my

strong, healthy plants and deciding which one to propagate from first. During colder months I have, with varied success, overwintered annuals and bulbs in my house, propagated succulents from little leaves and rooted new baby plants from snippets and cuttings off a parent plant. In the short time my plants have spent indoors this fall, I have pots scattered all over my house with tiny succulent leaves wedged in the dirt. There are already numerous jars with cuttings taking root in water. I'm prepared to add a whole new crop of plants to my home even as I run out of real estate. Why? Because who doesn't want to live in a jungle during winter? And because it's so damn easy!

PROPAGATING SUCCULENTS

Some succulents I've had luck propagating are echeveria varieties, jade, zygocactus and strand of pearls. The easiest way to go about growing new plants is by removing a leaf from the parent plant. You can wiggle a bottom leaf from left to right until it comes loose. You want as clean of a break as possible, so be patient and move slowly and carefully. I always take a few leaves at a time in case one doesn't end up taking off. When you've removed your leaves, you'll want to set them on the top layer of a pot of soil in indirect light where they will "cure" for a while. This could take one to three weeks. During this time, the cut end will callous over, helping to prevent rotting. When you notice the callous has formed you can begin to water sparingly to encourage growth. New roots will start to shoot out eventually. You can gently tuck the cut end of the leaf into the soil along with the roots to send it in the right direction.

OVERWINTERING

When it comes to annuals and bulbs, I don't really follow the rules. I dig up my trailing vinca vines from my summer window boxes and bring them inside for the winter. I also have a giant elephant ear plant that's now three years old that I have overwintered inside. Instead of digging up the bulbs or letting the plant die away, I try bringing it in the house. If it doesn't work, it's no big deal—I can always buy fresh annuals the next year.

CUTTINGS

My mom has a few interesting houseplants, and I frequently take a stem or cutting to see

CUTTINGS FROM PLANTS GROW

NEW LIFE | Photo by Frankie Schneckloth

if I can grow my own. It's best to carefully cut a stem or branch off the parent plant and place directly into a clean jar with fresh water. Change the water every few days until you start to see the roots develop. Let the roots develop a little more and then transfer from the water to a pot with soil. I have had success with spider plants (so easy!), ZZ plants and begonias, among others. **lv**

Soon there will be nowhere to sleep. Frankie Schneckloth has too many plants.

MADE IN A MICROWAVE

For these foreign visitors, writing isn't the only challenge
BY ELLE WIGNALL



While nobody is keeling over dead at the Iowa House Hotel's continental breakfast or fainting of malnourishment in workshop, the 34 fall writers in the International Writing Program are winding down their season at the university with a residency-adjusted diet. Iowa City prides itself on having a little of everything in the food scene, but sometimes having a little of everything just can't measure up to having a little slice of home.

"In the Philippines I normally eat fried eggs, garlic rice—fried rice—for breakfast," Mark Angeles tells me in the lobby of the Iowa House Hotel. "So that's what I'm trying to look for here."

Angeles, a talented multi-genre writer from the Philippines, opens his laptop and loads the Wiki page for "tapa," dried beef that is spiced and fried or grilled, then commonly served in the Filipino breakfast dish Tapsilog.

"Sinangag is the Filipino term for fried rice, and fried egg is itlog," Angeles says. The words combine to become the term used for a very popular breakfast plate—so popular that it's usually less than a dollar for the full meal at small tapsilog restaurants, he says. The wikipedia page shows a photo of the three components dished together: the rice ball and

MARK ANGELES SHOWS OFF HIS KITCHEN | Photo by Rachel Jessen

sprinkled with onion; the beef in thin, moist chunks. It's definitely not a bowl of Cheerios. And it's a far cry from a photo Angeles posted on his personal blog of his attempt to recreate the dish he missed so much from home—using only his hotel-issued microwave.

"I wasn't sure how I could survive with just the microwave. I tried to look for some things you can do in it," Angeles says.

The majority of the IWP residents spend their few months here living in the Iowa House Hotel, located on the west side of the Iowa Memorial Union, where they are granted several hotel amenities: nice rooms, a mini-fridge, a microwave, a common space, even a daily continental breakfast. But there is no kitchen beyond the bedroom set-up. There is no stove, no oven, no rice cooker. There are the writers and there are the microwaves.

The university gives writers a monthly stipend for grocery shopping—an endeavor which must take some careful planning and a lot of aisle exploration. University vans cart

MICROWAVE MEALS>> CONT. ON P. 14



Matt Gabel | Motley Cow Cafe cook

Little Village: Do you have any chef heroes?

Matt Gabel: My current boss, David Wieseneck. The [Motley Cow] is meant to be farm-to-table food which is what I like to do, too.

LV: How important are organic ingredients to you?

MG: Well, if they aren't "certified" organic, they're what Bob Braverman [of Friendly Farm] called "beyond organic." In a lot of ways state standards of organic are not even logical. Like, they can still use plastic and burn plastic. A lot of farmers are certified organic and they use plastic mulches over their dirt and plastic leaches into dirt and then they burn all their trash. The way I was always taught with Bob, it's not just how you're growing vegetables, it's how you're living.

LV: What would you cook for the president?

MG: Probably duck confit because it's the most delicious thing in the world, but my favorite thing to cook is roasted whole chicken. Brine it, and then let it sit overnight and then roast it in the oven at 300 degrees with all the vegetables—carrots, onion, potatoes—all in one pan.

Visit littlevillagemag.com for Matt's delicious beet recipe.

—Heidi McKinley

them to Hy-Vee—a stark contrast to the wet market in Manila where Angeles buys fish, vegetables and meat for his week’s meals.

For the writers, this isn’t an impossible lifestyle; but it is an added challenge to being abroad and concentrated on work.

“I bought the beef from the Korean restaurant in the mall, Seoul Grill,” Angeles says. “The nice thing is the big plates are enough for two people. I usually eat a small portion of the beef and the rice, then take the beef home.”

Angeles took the beef home and attempted to poach an egg in his microwave to create something like his favorite breakfast meal—it doesn’t have quite the same effect. And unless the writers want to eat out or eat raw, they have to get creative with the microwave.

“Here I bought big mushrooms—shiitake, maybe—and I poured the grease from sausage over them,” says Angeles. “I just invented something.”

According to Fall Residency Coordinator Joe Tiefenthaler, the two main reasons why the Iowa House, despite its limited household amenities, continues to be the frontrunner for writers in the IWP are the program’s inability to provide enough furnished apartments to meet the number of writers, and also the program’s incongruence with the 12-month lease calendar of Iowa City landlords. Tiefenthaler explained that for the purpose of the program, which is, of course, writing in a literary setting with incredibly talented peers, the Iowa House is a great fit.

“...It allows the group to live side-by-side, making the exchange we hope for readily available when they want it,” he wrote in an email. The convenience of it is unmistakable.

And yet, there is something about making food for friends and breaking bread together that feels so valuable and gets lost in this hotel shuffle.

“Everyone was planning to make food,” says Erez Volk, a translator, linguist and educated pastry chef from Israel. “We’ve basically been wandering the streets of Iowa City looking for a kitchen.”

Volk is exaggerating a little and says he definitely isn’t suffering. As a vegetarian on the trip, he has had the added task of finding satisfying meals on group outings and locating really fresh foods.

“It’s changed my diet a little bit. At home, I eat a lot of fresh vegetables and food and it’s kind of hard to get them here. Even though I have this microwave, I eat traditional Israeli salads—tomatoes, onions, olive oil and lemon

THOMAS BECK BLACK I.P.A.

CONFLUENCE BREWING COMPANY | DES MOINES, IOWA

Though October is my favorite month, I love November as well. The temperatures fall, the shadows lengthen and the sun sets earlier. It’s a time when coats, gloves and stocking hats become preferred attire in the stands at Kinnick Stadium, and also when I start craving darker, thicker, more malt-forward beers. Black I.P.A.s are darker beers that offer much more toasted and roasted malt character than traditional I.P.A.s. They feature citrus notes, without the bitter bombast. Confluence Brewing Company’s Thomas Beck Black I.P.A. not only quenches my cold-weather beer cravings, it also offers a nice bite and inviting notes of citrus.

Named after Thomas Beck, a prominent figure during Des Moines’ coal mining days, Thomas Beck Black I.P.A. is available in 32-ounce bottles that are perfect for sharing with friends. Serve in a trusty pint glass and consume within 24 hours after opening the bottle, as recommended by the brewery. The color is dark brown and a finger or two of thickish tan head will dissipate slowly, leaving a buttery ring around the edge and a mostly even skim.

Invigorating grapefruit and especially potent mango aromas greet the nose—woo! Pineapple and orange are present as well. Underneath the citrus are scents of roasted malts, dark chocolate and dark fruit and berries.

The flavor mostly mirrors the smell: mango, grapefruit, orange and pineapple followed by a base of lightly roasted malts, dark chocolate, caramel, dark fruit and berries. A pine-like aftertaste emerges when the beer warms.

The mouthfeel is smooth, creamy and reminiscent of what would be expected from a draft pour—which is exactly what Confluence head brewer John Martin’s intended. He says that bottling is done by using the same method as filling a growler: A tube attached to a tap is inserted into the bottle, filling it from the bottom in order to avoid excessive oxidation and preserve carbonation. **IV**

SERVING TEMPERATURE: 45-50°F. Do not be afraid to cap the beer and keep it in the fridge between pints.

ALCOHOL CONTENT: 6.8 percent ABV.

FOOD PAIRINGS: Sweeter, dark berry flavors in the beer pair well with creamy desserts.

WHERE TO BUY: Waterfront Hy-Vee, John’s Grocery and New Pioneer Food Co-op. Confluence brews are also on tap at a number of fine local establishments.

PRICE: \$9-10 for a 32-ounce bottle.

Casey Wagner lives in Iowa City.



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LITTLE VILLAGE

ON THE TABLE



>> MICROWAVE MEALS CONT. FROM P. 10

juice. I can make that here,” Volk says, “I feel like I’m eating a lot of bread for some reason.”

When the writers have parties, they share creative dishes like Volk’s berries with crème and chocolate, and later his experimental chocolate-based microwave crème. His interest in pastries and baking stems from hours of reading cookbooks that his parents stored in his childhood bedroom. He later took an intensive culinary course in Paris where he learned that baking requires precision and a perfect repetition of the recipe.

Volk says that he mostly misses his pure chocolate breakfast brownies, and even more than those—bold flavors.

“I am really, you might say, addicted to spicy food, and I haven’t been able to get ahold of really spicy food in Iowa City,” Volk says.

But, during a residency trip to New Orleans, Volk came back with a stockpile of Dave’s Hot Sauce—known for its fiery flavors—to dress up his meals.

On his residency trip to San Francisco,

KEY COMPONENTS OF EREZ VOLK'S IOWA CITY DIET | Photo by Rachel Jessen

Angeles discovered his favorite food on the trip: the cronut. Part croissant, part donut and not yet a trend in Iowa City, he told me it resembled a Krispy Kreme.

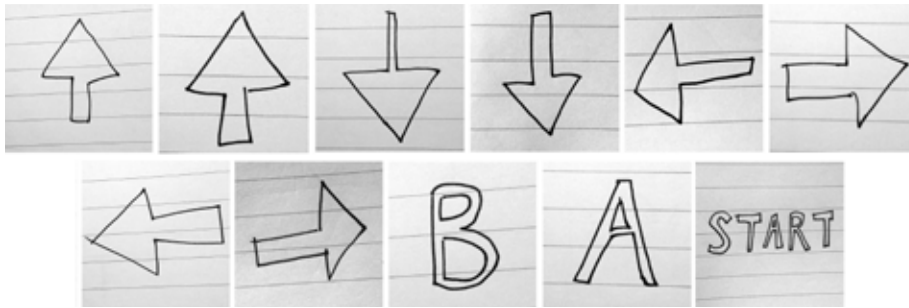
When there is so much creative talent and opportunity in one place for three months, it is definitely hard to complain about the circumstances. Before long, the writers will make their ways back to their respective countries with the literary experience in tow, but hopefully also a few exchanged recipes and fond Iowa City dining memories.

Until they find themselves in the warm embrace of home and normalcy, they have their microwaves and mini-fridges to stock. And Volk tells me what any good sport would. “We make do.” **lv**

Elle Wignall is on a quest to create the perfect whole wheat chocolate chip pancake.

BYGONE GAMING

Cheat codes were once an integral part of video games • BY PAT BROWN



There are some things missing from most games these days—elements of gameplay that were once essential parts of the home gaming experience.

Extra lives, for example, are a thing of the past, obviated by the ability to save one's game, and by the ubiquitous "autosave." With extra lives, so too goes the "Game Over," the lack of which basically guarantees that everyone will finish every game if they try hard enough. The decline of these elements has gone hand-in-hand with a higher complexity of both storytelling and gameplay: Nobody would play *Bioshock*, for instance, if when you died too many times you had to start all over from the beginning of the 12-hour narrative.

Alongside these now-passe components, another game element largely missing from contemporary games is the cheat code. Cheating has been around for the entire history of gaming. It was first practiced either on tape-based gaming computers on which savvy gamers could gain access to the game's code itself and enter instructions to give them extra lives at the outset. Later, in console games, cheats were programmed in by the developers in a game's testing stage. In the latter cases, codes developed as a way for testers to set certain elements of the game as controls while they tested other variables. If, for example, they wanted to test the animation of the final boss sequence in *Super Mario Bros.* (1985) but not the character's response to Bowser's fireballs, a code might be devised for invulnerability to help speed along the end of the game and to see how Bowser performed.

Such cheat codes would be entered via the console's controller, a particular sequence of rapid button-pushing with such results as extra lives, infinite ammo or a character with a comically large head. These cheats would

sometimes be left in the code of the game's final release—either by accident or on purpose—and the proper sequence for accessing them was either leaked or figured out and then shared by groups of fans.

The most famous code is probably the "Konami code"—so named because it appeared in many games developed by Konami—which has even appeared occasionally in our contemporary, cheat-impo- verished context. One might also remember it as the "Contra code," after the *Rambo*-esque Nintendo (NES) game from 1987: (Say it with me, now) "Up, up, down, down, left, right, left, right, b, a, start."

Cheat codes could serve many functions. In *Contra*, you got 30 lives. The blood in the *Mortal Kombat* series (1992-present)—eventually the subject of much '90s controversy—began as a cheat code. In *NBA Jam: Tournament Edition* (1994), a cheat code allowed you to play the game as the Beastie Boys, the Fresh Prince or Hillary Clinton (no, really).

Disney console games of the early '90s were inevitably both beautiful and impossible, as anyone who's tried to get past the third level or so of *The Lion King* for Super Nintendo (1994) can tell you. My sister and I pretty consistently used "pause, a, a, b, b, a, a, b, b, a" to skip levels in *Aladdin* (1993) on the Sega Genesis.

Cheat codes allowed users to get around some of the limits imposed on them by the game's rules so that new aspects of the game, previously hidden or inaccessible, could be experienced. In many ways, the impulse behind cheating is answered by contemporary gaming, which promises the average user a complete experience of the narrative and the more intrepid user a host of hidden achievements and "Easter eggs." Before this, though, a veritable industry grew up on the outskirts

of the video game market, an industry that provided cheats, hints, tips and tricks to users stuck in a game, or just looking to experience it in a new way. These took the form of magazines, 1-900 hotlines and eventually online forums—which had the advantage of being online, user-run and free.

The culmination of this side-industry was seen in the Game Genie and Game Shark devices, which attached to game cartridges on

THE CONTRA CHEAT CODE ALLOWED PLAYERS TO ALTER THE COURSE OF MANY GAMES | Artwork by Rachel Jessen

one side and the console on the other. The popular Genie or Shark allowed you to choose the cheats you wished to activate on your game from a menu that preceded the game. By the early '90s, "cheating" had become both an essential part of gameplay and a profitable arena for both video game companies and outsiders.

"Cheat" is thus something of a misnomer, preserving the notion that to cheat is a marginal practice, not a legitimate effect of and portion of the game experience. Indeed, if playing the game is enacting the code, then what we refer to as "cheating" might be seen as a more direct interaction with that code: When you enter the code, you're talking to the machine, not acting in the virtual world. You're playing the algorithm, not its visual representation. Cheating is gaming made honest.

Like extra lives and "Game Over," cheat codes make the most sense in this older form of gaming where forestalling your character's demise was imperative. They also made more sense before internet-connected consoles and online "leaderboards" made a level playing field across all owners of a given game necessary.

Importantly, there are still ways to exploit the systems: On last year's *XCOM: Enemy Unknown* I saved my game after every troop movement in order to ensure that none of my team would die while on a mission. This way, I played with a more experienced and powerful team, and was able to preserve my best soldiers for the final battle. Is this the intended form of gameplay? Probably not. But if a system gives you both rules and tools, I say exploit the latter to upend the former, whenever possible. **IV**

Pat Brown is a graduate student in Film Studies at the University of Iowa.



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Photo by Juan Carlos Herrera



AUCTION BLOCK AESTHETIC

Finding the art of Sharpless Auctions • BY RUSSELL JAFFE



There are two things to know about Sharpless Auctions when you enter, and they both have to do with art: The first is that you have to be prepared to know how unprepared you are, and the second is that the meaning of it all is abstract and pretty much entirely up to you, regardless of the fact that the roads to that meaning mean you're probably going to end up spending some kind of money.

Located at 5049 Herbert Hoover Hwy. NE on Interstate 80 (you can see the yellow and blue sign from the highway in either direction), Sharpless started in downtown Iowa City in 1972 but moved out to its current location in '88. The auction house is comprised of three warehouses that serve as massive showcases of products—new and old, personal and pragmatic—that have all been used. Very used. And inside it's like a numerically organized apocalypse where you can stay as long as you'd like between 5 and 9 p.m. on most Wednesdays.

Sharpless has four sections. The first two warehouses connect and are carefully littered with furniture, electronics, pop-culture ephemera and general household flotsam and jetsam.

TRASH OR TREASURE?

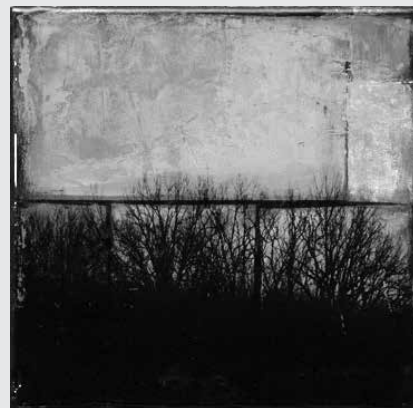
Photo by Russell Jaffe

The long tables of trash and treasure constitute a consistent salvo of caller noise and culturally iconic artifacts. People pick up books, touch stuffed animals, spin dishes and furniture around with the eyes of true collectors, their inner collection-procurer hard at work deciding what fits in their space, their inner decorator determining just the right spot (or pile) where every object belongs. The fourth section lies between the first two warehouses and the third. In this outdoor, no-man's-land area there are usually bikes, used vehicles like cars or campers, lawnmowers of all size and oversized metal or wood building materials.

It's the third warehouse that might be the strangest—the “not fucking around” warehouse—filled with tools that range from spades and rakes to chainsaws and augers; full-sized industrial kitchen equipment or the kinds of things that might be central to a build-your-own apocalypse bunker. There are many older men in hats and camo jackets or overalls out here.

At Sharpless, tired folk sit on soon-to-be-sold furniture and talk about screwjobs,

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DOIHAVETHREEblalabalblablabFOUR-DOLLARS” fast-speak associated with the traditional auction. There’s a communicative art to calling in the same way there’s one for yodeling or throat singing, or even calligraphy or cursive. Steve was a fantastic guy and he taught me a lot about the art of the speedy call—a way to get through auctions quickly with marked tension and drama to boot.

There’s something beautiful about this great repurposing, this veritable afterlife for objects that we understand in terms of love, things that were meaningful; things that served practical purposes in day-to-day life; things that were sublime. There’s a frequent link between a kind of zen living and living minimally, but what about living maximally? What about living amongst the energies of sometimes friendly, sometimes scary mountains of stuff that have characterized and flavored our memories? What about the chant-like drone of endless static? Isn’t there something socially evolutionary about our noisy, demanding culture and finding oneself standing at a kind of crossroads of blaring car horns, shining fast-moving advertisements or people talking into cell phones or staring at the glare of mobile

ART AMONG THE PILES OF STUFF

Photo by Russell Jaffe

maybe-prices, brimmed-hat frustrations, time. Time in how long the auction is taking, time in annoyance, time in weather patterns, time in fall’s darkening evening coming on faster than the cold creeping over the massive gravel driveway, wind whipping around the hanger-like doors of the warehouses. Obscenely massive sausages and tenderloins are available outside on a big grill, and inside tonight a tan, blonde teenager with a cross necklace sells slices of muted-colored pie and fried favorites like onion rings, fries and gizzards—of course, no art’s function is complete without gizzards—they’re like fried bits of chicken-rubbed tire.

The meaning of this all is more abstract than meets the eye. Sharpless serves a functional purpose provided you’re willing to buck the traditional purchase model of set prices in order to accept potentially decades-old used items. Every item ends up being sold to the highest bidder, even if bids sometimes don’t make it over a single dollar. There’s a socially lo-fi competition for everything, just like you might see at, well, an art auction. And simply watching the presentation and social spectacle of it all makes it worth the price of admission,

which, like many art galleries, is nothing.

As far as art goes, I have a special relationship to Sharpless. I’m a frequent attendee since I moved to Iowa City in 2009. Once, for \$2, I picked up an overstuffed but unsuspecting, unmarked, black three ring binder filled completely with magazine cut outs and articles of David Lee Roth. The Van Halen hair metal star stares back from under the glossy pages with intention after intention—crazy, goofy face here, stoic heartthrob face there. He wears pants with a lot of colors and fringe, and in almost every picture he’s within arm’s length of a woman’s boobs. When people see this binder I tell them that it’s a kind of love poem to the obsessive, to the collector, to the hanger-on to fringe narratives.

Electronics from Sharpless became the canvases I used in my debut art show, HELL-Ø-SCAPES, which led to that ridiculous bomb scare this summer when a portable TV I’d picked up in November ended up derailing the end of Arts Fest. For the show, I hired a Sharpless auctioneer, Steve, to come and call—that jibberish “babababablalababaaTWO DOLLARS DOIHAVETHREE-

screens? So it is all encapsulated at Sharpless, as functional a multi-layered performance space as there can be in 2013.

“Sure, Sharpless is a good place for art. It’s a good place for a lot of things,” says Sharon Dooley, one of the women who assigns numbers to auction-goers and rings up their purchases at the end of the night. We talk about the wooden, marble-topped bedroom dresser with a sink and faucet built into it within eyeshot of the front desk, and she says something that may as well be about going to an art gallery.

“You can always find something fantastic. The only things you won’t find here are animals, livestock. You’ll never know what you might find here—there aren’t many good surprises anymore.”

Behind me, no one bids on a ‘90s tube TV. “No value,” the auctioneer declares. “Move on.” **lv**

Russell Jaffe is a taciturn man doing taciturn things.

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flavor of the month: November
Apple Pie

PRO TIPS

WELCOME TO YOUR AUTUMN EDITION OF PRO-TIPS with me, Wayne Diamante! I can't get enough crisp country air and apple picking, leaf raking, duck hunting, gutter cleaning and preparing for winter. Pro-tip: If you have failed to prepare for winter and are on a last-minute sort of schedule, remember the following: There is almost nothing you can't accomplish with a nine-volt battery, pocketknife and vial of personal lubricant. That, friend, is wisdom you can take to the bank.

Based on the information above, many of you will have guessed, no doubt, that I spent my youth as a sweatshirt model in Canadian shopping malls. I am taking the opportunity to state publicly, in unambiguous terms, the aforementioned rumor is slanderous and scandalizes my name. If you have any questions you can reach me at askwaynediamante@gmail.com.

Dear Wayne,

I watch a lot of NOVA's Making Stuff specials on PBS, and I'm wondering if you think David Pogue looks like Butt-Head from television's Beavis and Butt-Head?

Sincerely,
Donald

Dear Donald,

Yes. He looks exactly like Butt-Head. The resemblance is uncanny, to say the very least. Yours truly,
Wayne

Dear Wayne,

I want to buy a shotgun, not only for protection against home invasions, but also for hunting. My wife is dead-set against the idea and I'm not sure where to turn. Help me, Wayne Diamante, you are my only hope.

*Gracias y Sayonara,
Juan Kenobi*

Sr. D. Kenobi,

At one point, or another, where to keep the firearms is going to be a point of discussion in any household. For instance, my wife hates Chinese food. I only order it when she's out of town. Nevertheless, she still gets mad at me for ordering it while she's away, despite the fact I'm doing her the favor of not eating it while she is around. Point is, you can't win. Just buy the gun/Chinese food/whatever, and run with it—she won't complain whilst your game-bag is full of meaty fauna and your property and home stand protected Charles Bronson style. You might even get laid in the bargain. I just want to stress we are still talking about Chinese food.

Sincerely,
Wayne

Dear Wayne,

I submit, at the outset, no one in the administration considered the possibility that Golden Corral (GC) could top their Chocolate Wonderfall, not even with with cottoned candy. Should GC continue to escalate their program, as all rhetoric suggests—what can we expect in the short to mid-term, policy-wise, from this administration?

*I'll take my answer off air,
Duane*

Duane,

Analysts presume GC is going to continue a trend toward limited yet focused sugar enrichment in their Wonderfall program. In the near term, many consider the greatest threat to be GC's pocket candy liquefaction process, while their ultimate focus likely remains on the aerosolization of Werther's caramels. Other respected fringe analysts feel GC's next move is a fully functioning American-cheese Wonderfall.

The U.S. needs to wake the fuck up. GC is taking advantage of cheap technology, and Americans are weak in the knees for new, faster ways to lard-up their necklines. GC will continue its fountain delivery methods until we remove their Wonderfall capabilities, down to the last bacteria-laden, fat-sputting blubber pump. We must stop this, or GC's food-like cheesy substance will be on American hands, pants and shameful parts unnamed.

Wayne



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GIVE THANKS FOR GREAT COMEDY

In November, comedic plays lighten the darkening days
BY JORIE SLODKI



This month, the stage offers a collection of amusing performances. Head to Theatre Cedar Rapids for two great plays: one that will get you in the holiday spirit and another that will make you laugh while portraying quirks of the human mind. In Iowa City, Dreamwell Theatre continues their season based on the theme “In Defense of Guilt” with a comedy about two friends and their injuries. Working Group Theatre opens up the stage to locals and University Theatre presents a comedy from the 17th century.

JAKE’S WOMEN

Theatre Cedar Rapids

In this Neil Simon comedy presented by Theatre Cedar Rapids, Jake is a frustrated writer with a disintegrating marriage. In order to gain some control over his life, he begins calling up visions of all the important female

relatives, psychiatrists and lovers in his life. As his visions continue, they begin to act outside of his control—and he can no longer keep track of which women are real and which are not.

The original run of *Jake’s Women* premiered in 1990 starring Peter Coyote. Simon gave the play significant rewrites before 1992, when it began a 245-performance Broadway run with Alan Alda. The play remains an incisive commentary on the fleeting nature of control, both in relationships and within one’s mind.

The play runs in Theatre Cedar Rapids’ Grandon Studio from Nov. 1-23. For more information, visit theatre.org.

GRUESOME PLAYGROUND INJURIES

Dreamwell Theatre

For its third show of the season, Dreamwell Theatre is presenting the 2009 play by Rajiv Joseph, *Gruesome Playground Injuries*.

STUFF YOURSELF WITH STORIES AT WAS THE WORD ON NOV. 24

Photo by Kaitlyn Busbee

Joseph uses biting humor to tell the story of two childhood friends, Kayleen and Doug, as they meet at intervals over the course of 30 years in order to compare their eponymous injuries and scars.

The playwright comes to the theatre from a nonlinear path: He spent three years with the Peace Corps in Senegal and had former ambitions to become a priest. Though his playwriting career is a relatively recent endeavor, his work has already gained critical acclaim, including a Pulitzer Prize nomination for his 2010 play *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*. His Catholic upbringing comes through in his focus on sin and redemption, making his work a valuable addition to Dreamwell’s theatrical season based around the theme “In

Defense of Guilt.”

The play runs at the Unitarian Universalist Society Nov. 15-16 and 22-23. For more information, visit dreamwell.com.

THE IMAGINARY INVALID

University Theatre

French comedic playwright Moliere has been a favorite of theatre audiences ever since his plays were first staged in the 17th Century. Now, Corridor theatre patrons have a chance to see *The Imaginary Invalid*, one of Moliere’s most popular plays as well as his last—in more ways than one: He died several days after collapsing onstage while playing the main character.

DOES SEEING THE WORD “STUFFED” MAKE YOU THINK OF A THANKSGIVING WITH A BELOVED RELATIVE OR A HILARIOUS TIME YOU STUFFED YOURSELF INTO A PHONE BOOTH?

Rich hypochondriac Argan` is spending his fortune on fraudulent medical treatments. When he demands that his daughter marry a doctor’s son so he can save on his medical costs, his family and servants hatch a scheme to allow the daughter to marry for love. Though medical advances like germ theory have dated some of the play’s criticisms of modern medicine, Moliere’s satire of quack doctors and obsessive patients who demand treatments (no matter how unnecessary) will always have a place in Western medicine.

The play runs at the University’s David Thayer Theatre Nov. 14-17 and 20-23. Visit theatre.uiowa.edu for more information.

WAS THE WORD—“STUFFED”

Working Group Theatre

Get in the mood for Thanksgiving with the next installment of storytelling series *Was the Word*, where local actors, poets and musicians will perform original works based on what comes to mind when they think of the word “stuffed.”

Admission is “pay what you can,” and all proceeds will go to an area nonprofit organization.

Does seeing the word “stuffed” make you think of a Thanksgiving with a beloved

relative or a hilarious time you stuffed yourself into a phone booth? This could be your chance to tell your story to an audience! After the performance, head over to Clinton Street Social Club for *Was the Word: AFTER DARK*—an open mic night where audience members can present original poems, stories and songs under 10 minutes long, and maybe even be asked to perform in future mainstage shows.

The mainstage event is at the Englert on Nov. 24. Visit wastheword.org for more information on *Was the Word* and *Was the Word: AFTER DARK*.

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

Theatre Cedar Rapids

The commercialism of Christmas has never been so heartwarming as in this theatrical adaptation of the 1947 holiday movie classic. When the event planners at Macy’s New York City department store must replace a drunk Santa actor, they replace him with a man who might just be the real thing. When Kris Kringle’s altruistic nature causes problems for the store, a chain of events leads to a trial to prove once and for all whether he is the genuine article.

Though *Miracle on 34th Street* is all about the Christmas season, the original movie was released in May because the studio believed that there would be higher movie attendance. Keep this in mind the next time you see a Christmas commercial on a 100 degree day during a September heatwave. The play not only inspires holiday spirit, but also brings back the grandeur of the mid-20th Century department store shopping experience. Bring the children to this family-friendly production and tell them of a time when shoppers and store workers did not have to fear for their lives on Black Friday.

The play runs Nov. 29 through Dec. 21 in Theatre Cedar Rapids’ Auditorium. Visit theatre.org for more information. **lv**

Jorie Slodki earned her MA in theatre research from University of Wisconsin, Madison, and has past experience in acting, directing and playwrighting.

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CASH VALUE

How can Johnny Cash's legacy bridge our country's divisions?

BY SCOTT SAMUELSON



Once again our country is proving that the Civil War isn't over. The representatives of our red states and blue states, which correspond neatly with the North and the South, are locked in a ghostly combat ostensibly over health care and budgetary issues, but really over visions of self and society. Don't worry: I have the solution to all our problems. Listen to Johnny Cash. Seriously.

Oh, also go to FilmScene, because on Nov. 8 they're putting on a special Cash extravaganza. The newly-opened theater is showing James Mangold's *Walk the Line* (2005), the biopic starring Reese Witherspoon, who gives a bright performance of June Carter, and Joaquin Phoenix, who manages insight into Johnny Cash, whose identity was forged, not unlike Phoenix's, under the shadow a much-loved brother's death.

John Carter Cash, the famous couple's son, will be at the screening. The current keeper of the Cash family flame, John Carter Cash is the writer of various books (including a memoir of his father), a music producer (of Elvis Costello, Mavis Staples, Ralph Stanley and his father in some of those final brilliant recordings) and a performer in his own right. He'll be on hand for discussion, book signing and an intimate music set afterward at the Clinton Street Social Club,

LOVE IS A BURNING THING

*Onstage sparks fly between Carter and Cash
Cas/Cash/Witherspoon and Joaquin Phoenix*

where, I understand, some Cash family recipes will be served.

So how will "Walk the Line" and *Walk the Line* mend our country's current divisions? We feel these divisions in our clashing aesthetic sensibilities: *The New Yorker* vs. NASCAR, lattes vs. Busch Light, rock vs. country music. Under these matters of taste lurk differences of urban and rural interests, reason and faith, individual rights and family values, modernity and tradition. Under these differences are even darker causes pertaining to old traumas and dreams. It's these darker causes that the Man in Black, with that voice, was able to reveal and make more understandable.

When Johnny Cash and Bob Dylan collaborated on *Nashville Skyline* in 1969, it shocked the country. Didn't the Jew from Minnesota belong to the sensibility of the blue states and the Christian from Arkansas to that of the red states? Neither of the musicians saw things that way. Cash admired not just Dylan's songwriting but his sense of brokenness and justice. And when Johnny Cash died, Bob Dylan wrote, "Truly he is what the land and country is all about, the heart and soul of it personified and what it means to be

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If you haven't been pulled in by *Gravity* yet, don't waste any more time--Emmanuel Lubezki's cinematography isn't meant to be seen on your iPad.



New Faces of Independent Film

NOV. 18, TIME | FILMSCENE

Nick Dawson, editor of *Filmmaker Magazine*, brings his traveling roadshow in celebration of the magazine's annual list "25 New Faces of Independent Film." Joining him are three of the new faces: Anahita Ghazvinizadeh with her short film *Needle* (21 min.), Scott Blake with his short anti-Western *Surveyor* (25 min.) and Mohammad Gorjestani with *Refuge* (30 min.). After the screenings, they'll talk about their films and the adventures of independent filmmaking.

**CASH'S MUSIC WALKED THE LINE
BETWEEN COUNTRY, GOSPEL AND
ROCK.** | Illustration by Jacob Yeates

here; and he said it all in plain English. I think we can have recollections of him, but we can't define him any more than we can define a fountain of truth, light and beauty."

It's not that Johnny Cash's music holds some key to crafting better laws, but it shows that when you push deep enough into Bible-inflected lyrics and the tones and rhythms of country music, you find something that both underlies and transcends our worries: the dynamics of sin and grace, suffering and redemption, injustice and justice, which aren't unique to any geography or political party.

Walk the Line—of which John Carter Cash was an executive producer—is framed by his father's performance at Folsom State Prison. Why do those prison concerts so capture our hearts and imaginations? In the thrills and dark beauties of the music is what I'd call a blues-understanding, an ability to approach our humanity without scorn or hatred and lift it up.

The movie roots this blues-understanding in Cash's struggle with his own demons. Though he was never sentenced to prison, he was frequently told by fans that their fathers or uncles had served time with him, probably because of the believability of songs like "Folsom Prison Blues." Maybe there's some truth in the urban legend: Cash seems to have been judged in his own spiritual courtroom, served hard time behind the bars of his psyche and come out a free man through his music.

We're always in need of blues-understanding, especially now, when watchers of FOX and watchers of MSNBC look at each other with such scorn and bafflement. Here's Dylan again: "If we want to know what it means to be mortal, we need look no further than the Man in Black. Blessed with a profound imagination, he used the gift to express all the various lost causes of the human soul. This is a miraculous and humbling thing."

I wonder how much of our sense of Johnny Cash is fact and how much is legend generated by the seductiveness of his singing voice and hagiography like Dylan's tribute and *Walk the Line*. Let's ask his son. **IV**

Scott Samuelson teaches philosophy at Kirkwood Community College and blogs about music with his son at billyanddad.wordpress.com



BEST SEEN LIVE

If you haven't been blown away by a live performance lately, get ready to get rocked this November. • BY A.C. HAWLEY



This month, Iowa City gets visits from an indie rock institution, a soulful British man and a band of misfits from Memphis led by a charismatic man who may or may not be allergic to pants. If the suggestion of a pants allergy can't get you to read on, I need you to check your pulse to make sure everything is cool. Everyone up and running? Great.

JAMES BLAKE // ENGLERT THEATRE //
Nov. 16 // 8 P.M. // \$25 STUDENTS,
\$27 PUBLIC; ALL AGES

If you aren't someone who spends a considerable amount of time listening to music from the underground, it's possible that you've missed the R&B movement happening right

now. It's been going on for about five years but just starting to hit its major stride. An important artist in this scene is James Blake—and, no, I'm not referring to the tennis player.

This James Blake hails from London and got his start making dubstep music. While it was good, the best parts of the tracks were Blake's vocals, which sound like the whisperings of a bedroom artist. Blake went on to focus on this aspect more, combining his high-pitched, crooning style with haunting pianos and sparse electronics. While it creates a strange physical sensation, the initial impression is the music's beauty and the musicianship of Blake: His music becomes both

BLAKE'S BRITISH BRAND OF R&B

Nov. 16 at the Englert

extremely personal—a result of the lyrics and singing style—and cold and distant—an effect created by the electronics.

Since his debut in 2009, Blake has sold out shows across the globe and appeared on various remixes and collaborations. The music-listening public, in addition to critics, caught onto the quality of his music, and he became a major

C A L E N D A R

FOR MORE EVENTS, VISIT LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM/CALENDAR

MUSIC
ONGOING:

MONDAYS: Open Mic *The Mill*, Free, 8 pm

Metro Mix Chorus Rehearsal *Clarion Hotel Highlander Conference Center*, Free, 7 pm

TUESDAYS: Blues Jam *Parlor City Pub and Eatery*, Free, 8 pm

Lower Deck Dance Party *Iowa City Yacht Club*, \$2, 10 pm

WEDNESDAYS: Free Jam Session & Mug Night *Iowa City Yacht Club*, Free, 10 pm

Spoken Word *Uptown Bills*, Free, 7 pm

THURSDAY: Open Mic *Uptown Bills*, Free, 7 pm

Mixology *Gabe's*, \$2, 10 pm

SUNDAY: Blues Sunday *Checkers Tavern*, Free, 8 pm

WED., NOV. 6

Hy-Vee Holiday Show *Millstream Brewery*, Free, 5 pm

Flutes for Food *Coralville Center for Performing Arts*, Donation, 6 pm

Works in Progress (Show Choir) *West High School*, \$5, 7 pm

The Devil Makes Three *Blue Moose Tap House*, \$12.50+, 9 pm

Joe Pug *Gabe's*, \$10-12, 9 pm

THURS., NOV. 7

Folk Night *Little Bohemia*, Free, 6 pm

Daddy-O *Parlor City Pub and Eatery*, Free, 8 pm

The Quick & Easy Boys *Iowa City Yacht Club*, Free+, 9 pm

FRI., NOV. 8

The Story So Far *Gabe's*, \$15+, 5 pm

Club Hancher: Wycliffe Gordon *The Mill*, \$10-\$20, 7 pm, 9 pm

John McCutcheon *Legion Arts CSPS Hall*, Free, 8 pm

SAT., NOV. 9

8 Seconds *Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon*, Free+, 9 pm

Michal Menert (Pretty Lights Music) *Gabe's*, \$10-15, 9 pm

Brighton Ma *Iowa City Yacht Club*, \$7, 10 pm

SUN., NOV. 10

Grieves *Blue Moose Tap House*, \$13-\$15, 8 pm

TUES., NOV. 12

The Alejandro Ziegler Tango Orchestra *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts*, \$12-\$23, 6 pm

Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy *Englert Theatre*, \$10-\$35, 7 pm

Carolina Chocolate Drops *Legion Arts CSPS Hall*, Free-\$24, 8 pm

WED., NOV. 13

Burlington Street Bluegrass Band *The Mill*, \$5, 7 pm

Jake Shimabukuro *Englert Theatre*, Free+, 8 pm

THURS., NOV. 14

Huey Mack *Blue Moose Tap House*, \$13-\$35, 5 pm

UI Jazz *The Mill*, Free, 6 pm

artist in both his home country and the United States. Currently, he's at the top of his game and the relaxed nature of his music, as well as his sit-down playing style, will be well-suited to the comfortable confines of the Englert.

NOBUNNY w/ GOOD HABITS & TBA
// THE MILL // Nov. 12 // 8 P.M. // \$6, 19+

While he is not allergic to pants, Justin Champlin does not wear them when he is NOBUNNY, his on-stage alter ego. While generally seen in briefs, NOBUNNY has also been caught in heels and pantyhose. Pantyhose or no pantyhose, NOBUNNY is rarely caught without his trusty rabbit mask. The Oakland-based Champlin started the NOBUNNY project in 2001. Over the years since its genesis, NOBUNNY has been entertaining audiences across the globe with live shows that are full of energy, vitality, thrills and an over-the-top stage persona.

NOBUNNY also thrills audiences with his music. Citing Hasil Adkins, The Ramones and The Cramps as influences on his sound, NOBUNNY is part psychobilly, part punk

rock and part bubblegum pop. The disparate influences come together to create an up-beat sound that is fun and chaotic; it's like Tullycraft if they went punk. From listening to both recording and live tracks, it is safe to say that NOBUNNY is best experienced live. Bands like these thrive off the energy they get when performing. When the crowd comes out at full intensity, the band will do the same. When they play at The Mill, encourage the band to go for it super hard, because those are the best types of shows to see.

BUILT TO SPILL w/ SLAM DUNK & GENERATORS // BLUE MOOSE TAP HOUSE // Nov. 18 // 8 P.M. // \$20, 19+

For most familiar with indie rock, the name Built to Spill is probably familiar. The Boise-based band is led by the talented Doug Martsch and has been playing its brand of guitar-led, anthemic indie rock since 1993. The band has been firmly ensconced in the indie rock underground with a continually growing, devoted fan base, and its music has grown with its fans over the years. Once a rough-hewn outfit, the five-piece band now clicks on

all cylinders, turning out songs that have an arena sound while simultaneously challenging and expanding that genre's boundaries.

This mentality most likely developed from the relentless touring of the band. The band's use of melody, its sonic inventiveness and Martsch's guitar heroics have made fans out of those who have seen them play a concert. Built to Spill plays with a passion that is greater than anything that can be heard on their records. The content of their sets can also change radically from night to night, making their shows fun and unpredictable. Although they may not be the band that started out two decades ago, they still bring a lot of intensity to the stage, and the reputation of their live shows only continues to grow. **IV**

A.C. Hawley runs the Chrysanthemum Sound System on KRUI 89.7 FM. It airs from 10 p.m. to midnight Thursday. More information can be found at <http://chrysanthemumss.tumblr.com>

C A L E N D A R

Lorie Line: Born in Bethlehem Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, \$48, 7 pm
Daddy-O Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 8 pm

FRI., NOV. 15

Robert Cray Band Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, \$30+, 8 pm
Jimkata Iowa City Yacht Club, \$7, 8 pm
Chase Garrett's 4th Annual Blues & Boogie Woogie Piano Stomp Englert Theatre, \$30-\$45, 8 pm
An Evening with Dueling Pianos First Avenue Club, \$5, 8 pm
Tim Kasher The Mill, \$10+, 9 pm
The Ramblers Blue Moose Tap House, \$5, 9 pm
Sena Ehrhardt in Concert Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, 9 pm

SAT., NOV. 16

Uke Can Do It! West Music Coralville, \$40, 12 pm
James Blake Englert Theatre, \$22.50+, 8 pm
Daddy's Brother Band Blue Moose Tap House, \$10, 8 pm

Stampede Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon, Free+, 9 pm
David Zollo & the Body Electric The Mill, \$8-\$10, 9 pm
Opiate Gabe's, \$7, 10 pm

MON., NOV. 18

Built to Spill Blue Moose Tap House, \$20+, 9 pm

WED., NOV. 20

Rob Zombie US Cellular Center, \$26.50+, 7 pm
For full listings go to littlevillagemag.com/calendar

Art/Exhibition

ONGOING

THROUGH NOV. 16: One Extraordinary Day/Digital Paintings The Chait Galleries Downtown, Free
THROUGH NOV. 30: Inaugural Exhibition: Art et Architecture Steven Vail Fine Arts - Iowa

City, Free
THROUGH DEC. 8: New Forms Iowa Memorial Union, Free
THROUGH DEC. 29: Cultures in Clay: Puebloan Vessels Old Capitol Museum, Free
THROUGH NOV. 16: Designer Zoo Exhibit Design Ranch, Free
NOV. 8 - JAN. 2, 2014: The Small Works Show The Chait Galleries Downtown
THROUGH MAY 25: People of the North Star Exhibit Old Capitol Museum, Free
TUESDAYS: Paper Making Creativity Studio, \$30, 5 pm
WEDNESDAYS: Drawing 101 Creativity Studio, \$35, 5 pm
THURSDAYS: Aartvaark Uptown Bills, 6 pm
Some Assembly Required: Collage and Assemblage Exhibition Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, \$5, All Day

WED., NOV. 6

Exhibition Lecture: The American Scene: Place in New Deal Art 240 Art Building West at UI, Free, 7 pm

MON., NOV. 11

Landscapes with Gloria *Creativity Studio, \$69, 6 pm*

TUES., NOV. 19

Bobbin Lace Making Demonstration *National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library, Free, 11 am*

**Theatre/
Performance**

ONGOING

THROUGH NOV. 10: Dial M for Murder *Old Creamery Theatre, \$18-\$27.50*

THROUGH NOV. 23: Neil Simon's Jake's Women *Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$10-\$25, 7 pm*

THROUGH NOV. 24: The Old Guy *Iowa Theatre Artists Company, \$10-\$22.50, 7 pm*

MONDAYS: Catacombs of Comedy *Iowa City Yacht Club, \$3, 9 pm*

NOV. 8 - 10

Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill *Englert Theatre, \$5-\$20*

THURS., NOV. 14

The Comedian Coalition *First Avenue Club, \$5, 7 pm*

NOV. 15 - 16

Gruesome Playground Injuries *Unitarian Universalist Society, \$10-\$13, 7 pm*

SUN., NOV. 17

Afro-Cuban Drum and Dance Ensemble *University of Iowa - Space Place Theater, Free, 2 pm*

WED., NOV. 20

Macbeth *Englert Theatre, \$15-\$18, 7 pm*

Cinema

FRI., NOV. 8

An Evening with John Carter Cash *FilmScene's Scene 1, \$50, 7 pm*

SUN., NOV. 10

Movies@MN: "Chimpanzee" *Museum of*

Natural History at UI, Free, 3 pm

WED., NOV. 20

Macbeth *Englert Theatre, \$15-\$18, 7 pm*

Literature

WED., NOV. 6

Joshua Weiner & Peter Campion Reading *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 pm*

THURS., NOV. 7

Jami Attenberg Reading *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 pm*

FRI., NOV. 15

Kate Lebo Reading *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 pm*

TUES., NOV. 19

Darcie Dennigan and Farnoosh Fathi Reading *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 pm*

For full listings go to littlevillagemag.com/calendar

Kids

ONGOING:

MONDAYS: Toddler Story Time *Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am*

TUESDAYS: Toddler Story Time *Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am*

Toddler Time *Marion Public Library, Free, 10 am*

Preschool Story Time *Coralville Public Library, Free, 10 am*

Toddler Time *Hiawatha Public Library, Free, 10 am*

Preschool Story Time *Marion Public Library, Free, 10 am*

WEDNESDAYS: Preschool Story Time *Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am*

Preschool Story Time *Marion Public Library, Free, 10 am*

Preschool Story Time *Hiawatha Public Library, Free, 10 am*

Stories for Scooters *Cedar Rapids Public Library, Free, 9 am*

THURSDAYS: Wee Read *Coralville Public Library, Free, 10 am & 11 am*

Preschool Story Time *Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am*

Play & Learn *Hiawatha Public Library, Free, 10 am*

Baby Time *Marion Public Library, Free, 10 am*

Scrabble Club *Marion Public Library, Free, 2 pm*

FRIDAYS: Toddler Time *Marion Public Library, Free, 10 am*

Toddler Time *Cedar Rapids Public Library, Free, 9 am*

Book Babies *Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am & 1 pm*

Preschool Story Time *Hiawatha Public Library, Free, 1 pm*

SATURDAYS: Family Story Time *Coralville Public Library, Free, 10 am*

Family Story Time *Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am*

SUNDAYS: Family Story Time *Iowa City Public Library, Free, 2 pm*

Art Adventure: Clay Play! *Iowa Children's Museum, Free, 2 pm*

WED., NOV. 6

Crafts with Ms. Tracy *Hiawatha Public Library, Free, 2 pm*

Mini Camp: Games & Puzzles *Cedar Rapids Public Library, Free, 2 pm*

THURS., NOV. 7

Kamber Club Begins: Happy Campers! *Iowa Children's Museum, Free, 9 am*

Kid's Club *Coralville Public Library, Free, 2 pm*

Wii Gaming for School-Age Children *Iowa City Public Library, Free, 3 pm*

FRI., NOV. 8

Kamber Club Begins: Happy Campers! *Iowa Children's Museum, Free, 9 am*

SUN., NOV. 10

Angelina Ballerina The Musical *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, \$15, 1 pm & 4 pm*

TUES., NOV. 12

Play & Learn *Cedar Rapids Public Library, Free, 6 pm*

Family Night *Coralville Public Library, Free, 6 pm*

THURS., NOV. 14

Art: Clay Play Day Camp *Iowa Children's Museum, \$25, 9 am*

Play & Learn *Hiawatha Public Library, Free, 10 am*

Baby Time Marion Public Library, Free, 10 am

Lego Club Marion Public Library, Free, 3 pm

SUN., NOV. 17

R.e.a.d. Coralville Public Library, Free, 1 pm

Art Adventure: Clay Play! Iowa Children's Museum, Free, 2 pm

MON., NOV. 18

Family Time Marion Public Library, Free, 6 pm

TUES., NOV. 19

Play & Learn Cedar Rapids Public Library, Free, 6 pm

WED., NOV. 20

Story Time Cedar Rapids Public Library, Free, 10 am

Sports

FRI., NOV. 8

Iowa vs. UNC-Wilmington - Basketball

Carver-Hawkeye Arena, \$5+, 8 pm

Iowa vs. UC Riverside - Basketball (Time TBA)

Carver-Hawkeye Arena

SAT., NOV. 9

Iowa vs. Nebraska Football 11 am

SUN., NOV. 10

Iowa vs. Nebraska-Omaha - Basketball

Carver-Hawkeye Arena, \$5+, 3 pm

Iowa vs. Dayton - Basketball (Time TBA)

Carver-Hawkeye Arena

WED., NOV. 13

Iowa vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff - Basketball

(Time TBA) Carver-Hawkeye Arena, All Day

THURS., NOV. 14

Iowa vs. Maryland Eastern Shore -

Basketball Carver-Hawkeye Arena, \$5+, 6 pm

FRI., NOV. 15

Jingle Cross Rock Johnson County Fairgrounds,

\$5-\$45, 3 pm

Wine and Beer Walk Millstream Brewery, Free,

5 pm

Iowa vs. Michigan Volleyball Carver-Hawkeye

Arena, \$5, 7 pm



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SAT., NOV. 16

Jingle Cross Rock Johnson County Fairgrounds, \$5-\$45, 8 am

Iowa vs. Michigan State Volleyball Carver-Hawkeye Arena, \$5, 7 pm

SUN., NOV. 17

Jingle Cross Rock Johnson County Fairgrounds, \$5-\$45, 8 am

Iowa vs. Stony Brook - Basketball (Time TBA) Carver-Hawkeye Arena, All Day

Educational

THURS., NOV. 7

Senior Tech Zone Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am

Teen Book Review Coralville Public Library, Free, 6 pm

FRI., NOV. 8

Intro to Python Workshop Bioventures Center, \$200, 4 pm

Intro to Python Workshop Pappajohn Business Building, \$200, 4 pm

SAT., NOV. 9

Intro to Python Workshop Bioventures Center, \$200, 8 am

Intro to Python Workshop Pappajohn Business Building, \$200, 8 am

Chinese Button Knotting Beadology Iowa, \$55, 10 am

Bezel a Swarovski Crystal Beadology Iowa, \$65, 2 pm

SUN., NOV. 10

Intro to Python Workshop Bioventures Center, \$200, 8 am

Intro to Python Workshop Pappajohn Business Building, \$200, 8 am

TUES., NOV. 12

Fresh Italian Pasta 101 New Pioneer Food Co-op, \$25, 6 pm

Special Populations Activity Time for Adults Cedar Rapids Public Library, Free, 6 pm

WED., NOV. 13

Lean Six Sigma Network Meeting Kirkwood Training and Outreach Services, 7 am

It's a Mystery! Coralville Public Library, Free, 10 am

Make 3 Pairs of Earrings: Intro to Wirework

through Kirkwood Beadology Iowa, \$55, 5 pm

THURS., NOV. 14

Senior Tech Zone Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am

Personal Finance Class Marion Public Library, Free, 6 pm

NOV. 15 - 16

Intro to Ruby (on Rails) Workshop Bioventures Center, \$200, 4 pm, 8 am

SUN., NOV. 17

Intro to Ruby (on Rails) Workshop Bioventures Center, \$200, 8 am

Introduction to Boro Glass Work Beadology Iowa, \$98, 1 pm

MON., NOV. 18

Children Reading to Dogs Hiawatha Public Library, Free, 6 pm

TUES., NOV. 19

Special Populations Activity Time for Adults Cedar Rapids Public Library, Free, 10 am

Byzantine Chain Maille Bracelet through Kirkwood Beadology Iowa, \$65, 5 pm

No Sew Tie Blanket Creativity Studio, \$10, 6 pm

For full listings go to littlevillagemag.com/calendar

Foodie

WED., NOV. 6

Wine Freak Out! New Pioneer Food Co-op, \$10, 5 pm, 7 pm

THURS., NOV. 7

Louisiana Jambalaya New Pioneer Food Co-op, \$15, 6 pm

FRI., NOV. 8

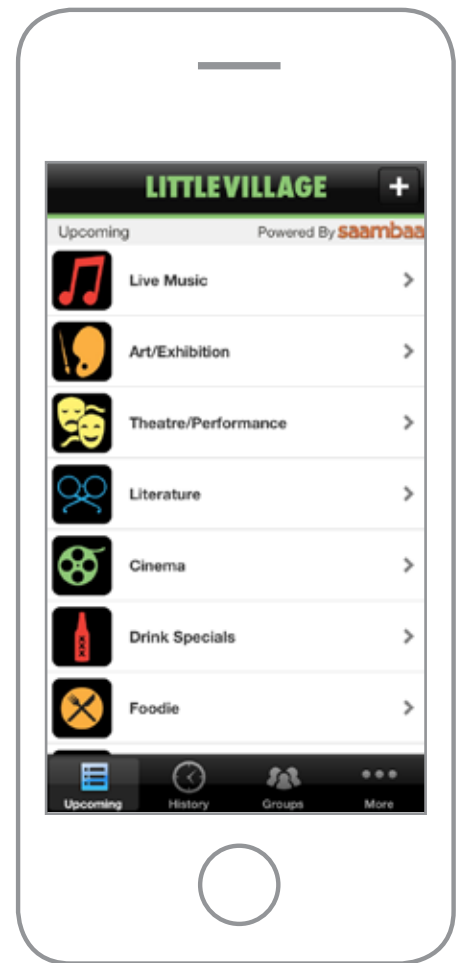
Guten Appetit Amana Colonies, \$25, 1 pm

MON., NOV. 11

Wine Tasting - Valencia, Alicante Devotay, \$30, 6 pm

TUES., NOV. 12

Fresh Italian Pasta 101 New Pioneer Food Co-op, \$25, 6 pm

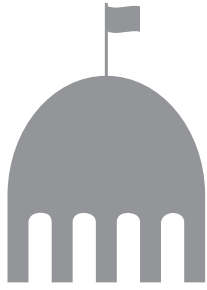


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WED., NOV. 13

Wine, Women & Wealth *Campbell Steele Gallery, 6 pm*

FRI., NOV. 15

Wine and Beer Walk *Millstream Brewery, Free, 5 pm*

SAT., NOV. 16

Vinter's Dinner *White Cross Cellars, 6 pm*

Community

WED., NOV. 6

CBJ Power Breakfast *The Hotel at Kirkwood, \$35-\$350, 7 am*

THURS., NOV. 7

Fine Art Sale to Benefit UI Women's Health
The Mansion, Free, 5 pm
The Salt Company *Englert Theatre, Free, 8 pm*

FRI., NOV. 8

New Bo Open Coffee Club *Brewed Cafe, Free, 8 am*
Fine Art Sale to Benefit UI Women's Health
The Mansion, Free, 10 am
TechBrew Cedar Rapids *Dublin City Pub, 5 pm*

WED., NOV. 13

Iowa City Open Coffee *IC CoLab, Free, 8 am*
Wine, Women & Wealth *Campbell Steele Gallery, 6 pm*
Kirkwood Training and Outreach Services
Kirkwood Training and Outreach Services, 7 pm

THURS., NOV. 14

The Salt Company *Englert Theatre, Free, 8 pm*

SAT., NOV. 16

Iowa City Holiday Market *Robert A. Lee Recreation Center, Free, 8 am*

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MARGARET ATWOODDR. CASSANDRA S. FOENS
LECTURE SERIES

MONDAY, NOV. 18

7:30 P.M. | ENGLERT THEATRE

ON MONDAY, NOV. 18, The Englert Theater and University of Iowa Lecture Committee welcome Margaret Atwood as part of the Dr. Cassandra S. Foens lecture series.

Margaret Atwood is a literary powerhouse. Besides winning countless awards, including the prestigious Booker Prize, Atwood boasts over 30 published works of fiction, nonfiction and poetry. She is best known for her speculative fiction—*The Edible Woman*, *The Robber Bride* and *The Blind Assassin*—and her books have been translated into over 40 languages including Farsi, Korean and Japanese.

The public and critics love Atwood—her most recent novel, *MaddAddam* (third book in the *Oryx and Crake* trilogy) was praised by *The Independent* as “an epic dystopian journey through a wasteland of high science and low deeds that ends in hope.” Her 300,000 followers on Twitter suggest that she is quite the online personality. And because of her keen political, cultural and environmental literary commentary, Atwood’s work is taught in universities across the world.

So, imagine this: A large Vaudeville theater; on stage, curtains draped to the side, Atwood stands in a dim spotlight. You are with a date, or comfortably alone seated in the first row of the balcony. There are things you notice: Atwood’s spread of wiry hair shadows across the hardwood, folks behind you whisper about female reproductive rights and *The Handmaid’s Tale*. But in the end it will be Atwood’s terrifying wit that sticks with you.

Margaret Atwood reads The Englert Theater at 7:30 p.m. on her birthday, Nov. 18.

—Randal O’Wain

<<MARGARET ATWOOD

Illustration by Jacob Yeates



WHY DID ONLY ONE INTELLIGENT SPECIES EVOLVE ON EARTH?

In sci-fi stories, alien planets often have multiple species of indigenous intelligent life forms, whereas Earth has only one species that is much more advanced than others. Why didn't multiple species evolve comparable upper-echelon intelligence at the same time? Is there something inherently unlikely with the alien-planet scenario? —Ken in Sherborn, MA

What makes you think having multiple intelligent species around at the same time is science fiction? On the contrary, some researchers believe, two intelligent species once competed to dominate the Earth. Much as today we have normal people duking it out with House Republicans, *Homo sapiens* not too long ago may have engaged in a long twilight struggle with *Homo neanderthalensis*—surely one of the more poignant conflicts in human history. One imagines a Cro-Magnon watching the Neanderthals flee after another doomed, pointless battle and thinking: Won't those dumb bastards ever give up?

The thing is, the Neanderthals may not have been all that dumb. Although the name has become a synonym for mouth-breathing dimwit, archaeological research suggests that, at least in terms of brain size, Neanderthals were comparable to us. In other respects, however, they were ill-adapted to the modern age.

To be sure, any discussion of the hominid family tree involves about three parts speculation to one part fact. Here's what we know:

- Neanderthals and modern humans diverged from a common ancestor perhaps 400,000 years ago, with Neanderthals living primarily in Europe while our forebears camped out mainly in Africa.
- *Homo sapiens* began spreading out of Africa around 60,000 years ago, and reached Europe maybe 45,000 years ago.
- A relatively short time after that, archeologically speaking, the Neanderthals were all gone. Just how short is a matter of debate—some researchers think it may have been as little as 5,000 years.

What happened? Some theories:

- *We killed them.* Author Jared Diamond among others suggests we may have wiped out the Neanderthals just as Europeans did with indigenous peoples, via war and disease. One never knows, but Neanderthals whatever

their other deficiencies were stocky and muscular and would have been formidable foes in close combat. (Then again, the same might be said of Goliath.) As for disease, European pathogens depopulated the New World catastrophically fast—the Taino culture encountered by Columbus in the 1490s was virtually extinct just six decades later. The fact that the Neanderthals hung on for 5,000 years suggests that, whatever the differences in mortality, this wasn't a case where we annihilated the natives primarily with our germs.

- *We assimilated them.* Also not likely. Genome studies suggest some interbreeding occurred, most likely between male Neanderthals and female humans, but probably not a lot. The amount of Neanderthal DNA in the genomes of most present-day Europeans and Asians is no more than around 4 percent, and it's even lower for Africans, whose ancestors stayed home and thus had less Neanderthal contact.

- *They couldn't adapt.* The trendy version of this line of thinking is that Neanderthals couldn't adapt to the changing climate, although climatic conditions at the time they disappeared from the fossil record were seemingly favorable. (Or so it was long thought; some question has since been raised about this.) The issue of timing aside, many have argued that Neanderthals lacked sophisticated social organization and hunting skills (they apparently never domesticated dogs, for example), were awkward and slow, and generally just couldn't cope with an evolving world.

- *We outcompeted them.* Here we get to the heart of your question. The maladaptation theory suggests Neanderthals would have gone extinct whether we'd been on the scene or not. The competition theory, in contrast, says that, even if we didn't necessarily destroy them in open warfare, by outgunning them in the battle for scarce resources we pushed them over the brink.

Granted the evidence is largely circumstantial, but come on. Neanderthals had survived for hundreds of thousands of years. Then we



show up, and 5,000 years later they're gone. Some cite this as an example of the competitive exclusion principle: two species can't occupy the same ecological niche; one will eventually drive out the other.

That's not to say you can only have one intelligent species at a time. Consider what some claim is the second-most intelligent animal on our planet: the dolphin. Dolphins have the second-largest brain-to-body-weight ratio of any terrestrial creature. They form large social groups, communicate, use tools, and exhibit altruistic behavior. Some researchers say they have so much on the ball they should be considered non-human persons.

The difference is that dolphins occupy a separate ecosystem from us. Unlike the Neanderthals, they don't compete with us for the same resources.

OK, we're dealing with an extremely small data set—until such time as the search for extraterrestrial intelligence pays off, this hypothesis is untestable. Still, it's tempting to conjecture that a planet has room for one intelligent apex predator, and we're Earth's. —CECIL ADAMS

Send questions to Cecil via straightdope.com or write him c/o Chicago Reader, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago 60654.

CURSES, FOILED AGAIN

- Police accused three men of breaking into a home near Palatka, Fla., photographing its contents and then posting the pictures on Facebook, offering to sell any and all pictured items. When a potential buyer asked about a refrigerator, the men said to meet them at the house. A suspicious neighbor saw the men enter the house and called police, who arrested Carlos Rivera, 27, Leandre Green, 25, and Jordan Green, 25. (*Orlando Sentinel*)
- Police investigating an armed robbery at a convenience store in Belleville, Ill., arrested a suspect after he returned to the store five hours later, and the clerk recognized him. (*St. Louis's KTVI-TV*)

NEVER FORGET

NBC Sports Network canceled "Under Wild Skies," a hunting show funded by the National Rifle Association, after animal rights groups criticized host Tony Makris for shooting a wild elephant in the face in Botswana from a can't-miss distance of 20 feet. While stalking the elephant with a .577 rifle, Makris declared the weapon was "made to shoot ivory." He responded to his critics by accusing them of "animal racism" because they didn't object to his shooting birds but protested that elephants are different because "they're so big and special and they're smarter," he told NRA News. "And I went, you know, Hitler would have said the same thing." (*Britain's The Guardian*)

SECOND-AMENDMENT FOLLIES

- Police investigating the death of Michael Babinsky, 49, who was shot multiple times in the neck and head at a Chicago shooting range, said they believed the man shot himself accidentally. (*Chicago Tribune*)
- Police investigating the shooting death of Amanda Mosley, 24, concluded that she died while embracing her 18-year-old boyfriend in Phoenix, Ariz. "We understand that she wanted to hug the 18-year-old," Sgt. Steve Martos said. "He had a gun in his waistband. It caused some discomfort while they were hugging. They started to remove the handgun, and that's when it accidentally went off." (*Phoenix's KTVK-TV*)

FIRST-AMENDMENT FOLLIES

- Popular Science announced a ban on online comments on articles in the magazine. "Comments can be bad for science," an editor explained in a website post, which stated that vicious, insulting or ignorant comments

can pollute otherwise intelligent online discussions, as well as undermine public understanding and appreciation of science itself. (*The New York Times*)

- The Los Angeles Times said it would no longer publish letters to the editor that deny the existence of man-made climate change. Pointing out that many letter writers insist "climate change is a hoax, a scheme by liberals to curtail personal freedom," letters editor Paul Thornton said, "Saying there's no sign humans have caused climate change is not stating an opinion, it's asserting a factual inaccuracy." (*The Washington Times*)

IT HAPPENS

• A commercial for Poo-Pourri air freshener had more than 12 million views on YouTube in its first month and so many orders that shipments were delayed up to two weeks, according to the company, Poo-Pourri Scentsible of Addison, Texas. Marketed to women, Poo-Pourri is designed to be sprayed into toilet bowls before sitting down. It leaves a protective film on top of the water that traps odors below and, with each deposit, releases "a refreshing bouquet of essential oils," the video promises, declaring, "Our business is to make it smell like your business never even happened." (*ABC News*)

• Panda poop might provide the fuel of the future, according to Mississippi State University researchers who are using dung samples collected from zoos to harness microbes from the efficient digestive tract of giant pandas. Once scientists have identified the microbes that are most effective at breaking down cellulose, they anticipate using them to create genetically engineered yeast cells on an industrial scale to turn corncobs, wood chips and grass into clean biofuels. (*The Washington Post*)

WE HARDLY KNEW YE

Kentucky wildlife officials have documented the first free-ranging wolf in the state since the mid-1800s—after a hunter shot and killed the 73-pound endangered gray wolf. The Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources isn't filing charges against James Troyer, 31, because he had no reason to expect a wolf to be in the state and thought it was a coyote. (*Louisville Courier-Journal*)

WHEN GERBILS ON TREADMILLS AREN'T ENOUGH

Retired ExxonMobil vice president Ben Markham has figured out how to provide

electricity to remote parts of Africa by harnessing children's youthful energy. Markham, who runs the renewable-energy nonprofit Empower Playgrounds, is installing merry-go-rounds in villages. Children playing on them generate energy that can be stored in battery packs, which the children can take home to power lamps so they can read. Each system costs \$10,000 to install, and one lantern charge will last 50 hours. (*Mother Nature Network*)

PAYING THE PRICE

Rogelio Andaverde, 34, and his wife were at home in Edinburg, Texas, when two armed men wearing masks forced their way inside and made off with Andaverde. Maria Hernandez immediately reported her husband's abduction, and authorities launched "an all-out manhunt," Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Treviño said. Lacking any leads or a ransom call, deputies called off the search after a few hours. The next morning, Andaverde returned home and told his wife he'd been released. When deputies interviewed him for details, he admitted he staged the kidnapping so he could "spend time with his friends and party," Treviño said, adding, "Well, he's going to party in jail now." (*San Antonio Express-News and McAllen's The Monitor*)

WHEN GUNS ARE OUTLAWED

Ophelia Neal, 53, pleaded guilty to robbing a bank with two cans of spaghetti sauce. Police said Neal entered the bank in Macomb County, Mich., and told a clerk she was carrying a bomb in her cloth bag. She fled with an undisclosed amount of cash but was later arrested with the bag, which contained the spaghetti sauce. (*United Press International*)

MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Authorities accused Quacheena Juett, 33, of ordering her 12-year-old daughter to beat a driver pumping gas at a station in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., who was taking up too much room at a gas pump, preventing Juett from getting gas. According to the police report, after Randa St. Cyr told Juett to wait until she finished, the mother told her daughter to "take care of it," and the girl punched the victim in the face. Juett and her daughter then hopped into St. Cyr's car, grabbed St. Cyr's iPhone and took off. Authorities used the gas station's surveillance system and the phone's GPS to locate Juett. (*South Florida Sun Sentinel*)

Compiled from mainstream news sources by Roland Sweet. Authentication on demand

LOCAL ALBUMS



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HAR-DI-HAR

Hard Parent/Thick Child EP

hardihar.com

In the laundry, shorts and t-shirts remind me that summer is over. After a brief mourning for the lost season, I banish them to wash not to be seen again until next spring. After much resistance, I resolve to switch the thermostat to “heat” as if it was the last defense of the impending colder weather.

“Rain makes me wet/won't you fall on me, fall on me, fall on me, fall on me, fall on me.”

This chant echoes in my head—an unplanned soundtrack as rain and leaves fall to the ground outside my window. This chant is from “Once Branches” off the husband and wife duo Har-di-Har's third EP titled *Hard Parent/Thick Child*.

During the time since their last pair of EPs in 2012, Har-di-Har has toured incessantly, giving new polish and confidence to their songwriting and performance. On the new EP, the pair once again brings their hair-raisingly stunning vocal arrangements—on par with the vocal harmonies of bands like Fleet Foxes. These harmonies are incorporated into a maturing selection of tonality and dynamicity. “We've



ACOUSTIC GUILLOTINE

Hurry Up and Finish Dying/Raw Meat and Gunpowder” 7

acousticguillotine.bandcamp.com

Billy Mackenzie and Peter Rohrbough of Acoustic Guillotine have been contributing members of the Iowa City rock scene for close to 30 years. Their 2011 self-titled album was an oddball masterpiece of hard music, and their uncompromising dedication to their sound—Billy's giant bass and Pete's pounding drums—means that their songs are instantly recognizable as their own: no mistaking them for anything else.

By limiting their sonic palette to drums and bass, Acoustic Guillotine jettisons everything extra or ornamental about metal music. I certainly don't miss over-the-top guitar histrionics, which make a lot of metal sound ridiculous to my ears. Billy's bass does triple duty as lead, rhythm and bass line, sometimes simultaneously. His bass owes as much to Bach's unaccompanied suites for the cello as they do Black Sabbath. Pete's drumming seems to come from some alternate universe where Art Blakey jams with Metallica. He can swing, and often his drumming sounds as though he's singing backup to Billy's growly vocals.

The lyrics on this record are a lot easier to understand than on their last album. At some point I'll actually listen to the words, but Billy's voice is more textural than textual; the sound and fury doesn't actually need to signify anything. Of the two tracks I prefer “Hurry Up and Finish Dying” which is instrumental, not because Billy doesn't sing, but because of its stripped down purity. You can't take anything else away from Acoustic Guillotine; all you'd be left with would be an empty room, holding the lingering feeling that someone was really angry there.

Kent Williams has been thinking a lot about snare drum sounds.

BY LIMITING THEIR SONIC PALETTE TO DRUMS AND BASS, ACOUSTIC GUILLOTINE JETTISONS EVERYTHING EXTRA OR ORNAMENTAL ABOUT METAL MUSIC.

Been Missing,” for example, has such dramatic swings in tempo and mood that it could be considered to have distinct musical movements.

The songs also show a maturing in production. It's easy allow myself to be surrounded by their rich wall-of-sound arrangements. I can see the Stereolab influence in “Move Over Forward”—if Stereolab hadn't concerned themselves with the bleeps and bloops of analog synths and relied only on drums, piano and guitars.

Har-di-Har is the band that I declared my 12th-hour dark horse contender of favorite releases for 2012 and *Hard Parent/Thick Child* is an easy pick for top releases of 2013. I find its bright, tightly woven percussion and warm vocal harmonies a relief from the cooler and more melancholy weather to come.

Michael Roeder is a self-proclaimed “music savant.” When he's not writing for Little Village he blogs at www.playbsides.com.

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ASTROLOGY FORECAST: NOVEMBER 2013

BY DR. STAR



SCORPIO (Oct. 22 - Nov. 20) The idea you've been having is simple and powerful, and it's spreading rapidly: It's time for average people to start speaking their conscience. Indeed, they won't be able to resist doing so. You might need to defend friends acting on this impulse against those who would try to silence them. You will resonate powerfully with their plight and your defense of these beleaguered friends will be spontaneous, sincere and effective. In time, you can relax, but your support is needed now.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 21 - Dec. 20) It's time to fulfill the promise you made to yourself. You can also relieve the increasingly obvious concerns of family and friends. Lay out a plan for achieving your long-term financial goals. Others in your life might have their own agenda, though. And you have a few unrealistic ideas of your own. It's time to be realistic about what you really owe to whom and which luxuries you can truly afford. Devise a realistic plan that puts your own future needs first.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 21 - Jan. 18) You have your own agenda, principles to guide you and a power base. But so do your rivals. You are fairly evenly matched, actually, but all sides are being pressured to accept a compromise dictated by a higher set of standards. It embodies ideals of fair play, integrity and good heartedness you all thought were passé. You'll all come much closer to achieving your goals if you accept this high-minded compromise than if all you hold out to the bitter end in order to get your own way.



TAURUS (April 19 - May 19) Important people in your life are coping with several serious challenges at once. You might wish it were more drama you could safely ignore, but it isn't. Active discussion is critical now. Engaging with your challenged friends will teach you things about their lives and plans you need to know. They could use your help and they would welcome it. Be especially careful to remain open to the unexpected. Projecting old, preconceived notions onto your friends' present situation would blind you to crucially important considerations.



GEMINI (May 20 - June 19) The expectations of higher-ups sharply conflict with the intentions of your subordinates. This time, the odds weigh heavily in your subordinates' favor; they'll most likely get their way. It's so obvious that, given half a chance, even your superiors are bound to figure it out. Even so, neither your superiors nor your subordinates are ready to let any issues slide, at least not yet. Let the facts sink in. With luck, you won't get caught between angry superiors and resentful subordinates.



CANCER (June 20 - July 21) Today's changes are so comprehensive and complex, no one person or group can dominate the discussion or control the outcome. In the end, though, the usual suspects will try to walk off with the lion's share. Cancerians have a special rapport with the disempowered and inarticulate. You also see all too clearly into the darker side of human nature. You can defend the disenfranchised and inoculate your audience against manipulation, and you can do so in a supportive and uplifting manner if you choose.

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WEEKLY SPECIALS

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FOR EVERYONE: If recent events have had a pattern, it's a variation on the old dog-eat-dog formula. Progress has nothing to do with it. But an invisible cosmic tide is about to shift. Justice, fair play and common decency will come back into fashion. Impassioned demands for a more humane way of life will overwhelm the soulless, self-serving rhetoric of the markets that we've become used to. More compassionate rhetoric will drive change in a kinder, gentler direction. It will start feeling like we're getting somewhere.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 19 - Feb. 17) Aquarians are standing at the end of a long line of falling dominoes. It's too late to do anything about the present situation, but you're well-positioned to influence the next round of changes, which is already starting. You couldn't control the whole next cycle of change, of course, but if you began now, you could very likely ensure an agreeable outcome. Many besides yourself would benefit from your efforts to bring reason and clarity to the process. Meanwhile, the new status quo isn't so bad.



PISCES (Feb. 18 - March 19) The call for fair play now being issued by the planets resonates strongly with Pisces. You won't have much direct control over changes brought about by this call to conscience, but you might be called upon to defend the principles involved. Some of the rhetoric could be fairly sharp and your understandable inclination will be to respond angrily. Instead, turn any such encounters into teachable moments. Your respectful explanations will dispel your own anger, enlighten your critics and leaven the overall process of change.



ARIES (March 20 - April 18) "Large-scale," "widespread," "long-term," "high level," "community-wide" ... These terms all apply to the changes you're seeing and the plans you're hearing about. It would be best to prepare for some big changes, but not only in financial areas. These changes will require that you grow spiritually, too. It's wise to be cautious, but don't be anticipating the worst. The good guys will start winning some battles soon. This time, they'll be looking out for the little guy, too.



LEO (July 22 - Aug. 21) You have felt deeper, more intense motivations stirring within. They are very different from those visible to casual observers. The forces you feel are really the basis of an entirely new you. Recently, they have begun driving your expectations and influencing your decisions, if in a tentative and somewhat confused way. In November, they will take over. Roll with it; there isn't much you can do about it anyway. Other people in your life are just going to have to deal with it.



VIRGO (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21) Virgos need to count their blessings. World and national events are problematic to the max and worrisome to the nth degree. They inspire apprehension in anyone who thinks about them. Things seem pretty much out of control. No one seems to have any leverage ... except maybe for Virgo. In fact, no one is better placed to weather these events than Virgo. So I am personally requesting that Virgos stop fretting, avoid adding to the gloom and do what they can to spread some cheer.



LIBRA (Sept. 22 - Oct. 21) At work you have to be one person, at home, another; socially, you have to be a different person for each set of friends. None of those versions of you are real. That's the opposite of a life and it's turning you into the opposite of a person. In November, real feelings will start flowing between people. To keep from having your identity washed away in this new flood of real emotions, start thinking now about who the real you is and what the real you wants.

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