



**LITTLE VILLAGE**  
IOWA CITY'S NEWS & CULTURE MAGAZINE

VOL. 15 | ISSUE 148  
FEB. 5 - 18, 2014

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# LITTLE VILLAGE

IOWA CITY'S NEWS & CULTURE MAGAZINE

**VOL. 15 | ISSUE 148**  
**FEB. 5 - 18, 2014**

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**Landlord Stories:** In this special issue, Little Village opens its pages to local dwellers with stories to tell. As you navigate the crazy Iowa City rental season, we hope this issue will help you make a more informed decision.

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Artwork by Ben Mackey

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## HOW THE 2013 CITIZEN SURVEY GOT IT WRONG

In the city's strategic planning survey, only a privileged few had a chance to be heard. • BY CAROL DEPROSSE AND CAROLINE DIETERLE

Last August, our city conducted a staff-initiated survey of a select group of Iowa Citizens: 95 percent were white, 93 percent homeowners and 74 percent had a household income of \$50,000 to \$150,000 or more. The purpose of the so-called Citizen Survey was to assess the general level of community satisfaction regarding various city services and undertakings. Despite the survey's intended purpose to serve as one part of long-term strategic planning, elected representatives made no effort to assert any authority over the survey. All control was ceded to city staff, which selected the questions to be asked and provided the appropriate letterhead and signatures for mailing. The survey cost taxpayers \$12,000.

The National City Survey (NCS), who was hired by Iowa City to conduct the Citizen Survey, is a collaborative effort between the National Research Center, Inc. and the International City/County Management Association. Iowa City staff provided NCS a list of 19,225 residential utility customers after eliminating those living in UI dorms and fraternities, Bon Aire Mobile Home Court, Hilltop Mobile Home Court, Forest View Mobile Home Court, the large apartment buildings around Lakeside and Highway 6 and in the vicinity of Benton and Melrose, and other enclaves of lower income addresses.

Of the 504 respondents, two percent considered themselves to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino and one percent defined themselves as

Black or African American. When you contrast these figures against the 2010/12 U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts for Iowa City, you find that white, higher-income homeowners were heavily overrepresented in the 2013 City Survey, and that minority, lower-income and student renting populations were greatly underrepresented. It is not surprising that the Iowa City Human Rights Commission made the following recommendation to the city council at its Nov. 19, 2013 meeting:

*The Iowa City Human Rights Commission finds the City of Iowa City Citizen's Survey 2013 to be of questionable validity and in need of inclusion of all community constituents. The Commission recommends the Council not use it at all. If used, it should not be used as the*



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Given the city's control of the survey recipients, one could surmise that city staff had an institutionalized bias against conducting a survey that might produce results that could lead to discussions about and possible solutions to race relations, law enforcement practices and affordable housing (all problematic issues facing Iowa City and about which city leaders and staff speak only in soothing murmurs). Our local media superficially reported the survey results along the lines that "Iowa City residents are generally pleased with city services." However, when the tabulated responses to the survey are examined closely, not all is well in Tooterville and the city council might want to consider some of the following as it makes its

Additionally, 63 percent said the availability of affordable housing was fair to poor; 63 percent felt that street repair was 'fair' or 'poor'; 59 percent thought cable services were 'fair' or 'poor'; 59 percent rated land use, planning

City staff, who greatly influence development, are no doubt pleased that 62 percent of respondents 'strongly' or 'somewhat' agree with the expanded use of economic development incentives to broaden the tax base, but what does the city mean by "economic development incentives?" If that phrase meant Tax Incremental Financing (TIF), why not be honest and just say so? TIFs have become much less popular locally because of the increasingly well-documented negative side effects they have; even though many people would have a hard time defining exactly how they work, they are coming to understand how TIF

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# THE AGE OF DISCRIMINATION

Finding a clean, well-kept rental was the least of one couple's worries.  
BY JOHN COCHRAN

**T**his past April, my partner and I decided to live together. Both of us work at the University of Iowa and our jobs are in proximity to the downtown area, so we hoped to find a place within walking distance.

We started by viewing at least two-dozen apartments, houses and duplexes. More than half of the units we visited were cramped, dirty and poorly kept. They reeked of pot or cat piss, lacked adequate amounts of air and sunlight, or were sad remnants of once-splendid family homes.

**AGE, IN OUR OPINION AND AS THE OLD SAYING GOES, IS JUST A NUMBER AND HAS NO BEARING UPON WHAT A MAN AND A WOMAN ARE CAPABLE OF FEELING FOR ONE ANOTHER.**

After staring at Craigslist until our eyes went numb, and driving ourselves dizzy around the city calling numbers on rental signs, it was a tremendous consolation to discover a few habitable, even neat and spacious, residences. However, to my anger and bewilderment, the seemingly ceaseless sifting through decrepit apartments was only an introduction to what would become our true rental troubles.

I am a late middle-aged man—however young at heart I may be—and my partner is in her mid-20s. I consider her my best friend and

the one great love of my life. Age, in our opinion and as the old saying goes, is just a number and has no bearing upon what a man and a woman are capable of feeling for one another.

Unfortunately, the various landlords of Iowa City disagreed, and in our search for a home together, we were eyeballed, grilled about our relationship and subsequently dismissed with Byzantine or patronizing comments. If we were lucky, we escaped with just a smirk and an “equal opportunity” residency application.

We are far from uncleanly miscreants and take pride in keeping a well-maintained and—I will add—tastefully decorated home. When we approached landlords that had explicitly stated in advertisements or over the phone that they were seeking tidy, more mature tenants, we were repeatedly turned down and told that the properties had been let to younger students.

As we toured apartments, we felt as though we were being paraded about as a curiosity, guided through homes by rote obligation since our candidacy as tenants seemed to have already been decided. We were probed with insulting questions about “what our families thought” and even asked to put out up-front sums that had not been earlier disclosed. We fled, disgusted and demoralized, growing more despondent about finding a clean—or even any—reasonably priced home.

I have always been comfortable living in Iowa City, and am proud to have been raised in the area—its reputation for openness, acceptance and an educated populace always made it somewhat of a Midwest oasis. As long

as I can remember, there has always been toleration, and in the more recent years, more genuine respect and consideration for people regardless of color or sexual orientation.

Toleration and respect, I realized through my rental search, did not extend to heterosexual partners of “discongruent” ages. As our frustrations mounted, we turned once more to Craigslist, posting an ad for a professional couple seeking housing.

After receiving several responses, we visited a few beautiful properties. Once again, after introducing ourselves as dedicated partners, we sensed an uneasiness and apprehension in our would-be landlords. It was not until we were contacted by a wonderful property owner on the west side that we were put at ease.

For the first time in our search for home, after viewing nearly 40 rentals, we were not treated with suspicion or prejudice, but warmly welcomed as Iowa City denizens and respectable renters. We were greeted with trust and sent a lease in the mail. How refreshing to at last find a landlord who saw past our age disparity and embraced a friendly, healthy and considerate couple. She personifies what Iowa City landlords should be. **IV**

*John Cochran lives and works in Iowa City, and has been an Iowa boy all his life.*

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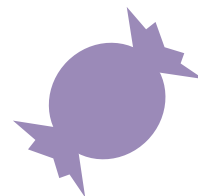
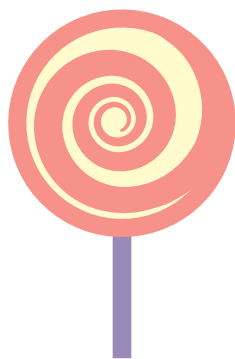
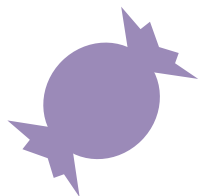
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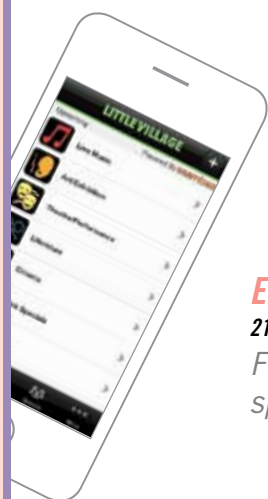
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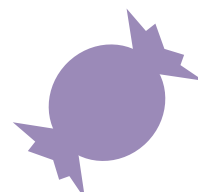
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## A LANDLORD'S STORY

What can we learn from a property owner's point of view?  
BY RAQUEL BAKER

**A**s a grad student attempting to make some extra money on the side, I work part time at Iowa City-based ProofreadingPal. My boss there, Brian Kaldenberg, owns a few rental properties in Coralville and North Liberty, and the majority of his tenants are University of Iowa students, families and recent university graduates. We recently chatted about what it's like being a landlord—what opportunities property ownership created for him, and what challenges are involved in keeping up with Iowa City's hard-partying student population.

**LITTLE VILLAGE:** *What is the hardest part about being a landlord in the Iowa City area?*

**BRIAN KALDENBERG:** I would say the hardest part so far is making sure you have good tenants and dealing with complaints of loud music and pot smoke.

**LV:** *When I told my friends I was doing this, they all pretty much unanimously had negative things to say about Iowa City landlords.*

**BK:** The problem is, landlords have a lot of the power, and if they want to charge you a couple hundred dollars for something, really, it's not worth your time and effort to go fight it. Vice versa, if you want to get away with more damage than your security deposit, but only, like, a couple hundred more (*laughs*)—to be honest, for the landlord, it's the same thing: It's not worth it for him to go chase down the extra three hundred bucks ...

Iowa City rents are pretty high, and that's

just because we know you have to live here. We know everyone wants it, especially when you get closer to campus. And we know you have student loans or mommy and daddy'll pay for it.

**LV:** *I would think it would be hard to rent to college students. I see what you are saying about student loan money, but it's maybe their first time living away from home. This is the number one party school in the country, so that's kind of a hard population to have to deal with.*

**BK:** That's why I try to price my apartments a certain way. I try to attract a certain type of tenant. Certainly, I am not trying to attract parties. Now landlords downtown that have the five-bedroom house, they're charging a ton of money, but they also know what they're getting. They're getting parties who are going to break things, who are going to have disorderly conducts. Then, when that happens, those tenants are going to pay for the damage.

I know one of my friends who lived in a downtown house—a three-bedroom—the owner was a painter who had taken really good care of his house. He and his family moved to another house, and he was going to rent this house out. The guy leaves some furniture around, and some of my friend's roommates burned the furniture (*laughs*). In the house. There were burn marks on the nice wood floor. I remember some huge parties in this house. So that guy, he was nice, he was a hard-working guy and kept a really nice place, and these kids just came in and just destroyed it ...



## TENANTS' PROJECT

**Renting in the Iowa City area is not easy.**

The city has unfortunately been labeled a hot bed for "tenant and landlord wars," according to Christopher Warnock, chief counselor for the Iowa City Tenants' Project, which aims to represent both sides of the coin and to educate lessees and lessors in terms of their rights and responsibilities. Still, he says that tenants do not want to get evicted and landlords have no desire to go this route either; both parties lose if one is forced to move and the other is left without getting paid.


As a transient university town, short-term tenants are faced with landlords and large-scale property managers who ultimately call the shots. The Iowa City Tenants' Project wants tenants to step up and empower themselves when they are taken advantage of, but to be ready for a potentially long and rocky deliberation. The project works to bring class action lawsuits to the surface by concentrating on cleaning up illegal clauses within the terms of leases. They also try to encourage individuals to speak up in small claims court, all with the goal of creating a more fair and just system for all parties involved.

To learn more about small claims processes, rental and rating guides, fair housing, what to know before signing a lease, the Iowa Uniform Residential Landlord Tenant Law (Code 562.A) and other useful information, go to: [ictenantsclassaction.com](http://ictenantsclassaction.com), [iowalegalaid.org](http://iowalegalaid.org) or [legal.studentlife.uiowa.edu](http://legal.studentlife.uiowa.edu).

Additional tips for current and future Iowa City tenants can be found at [littlevillagemag.com](http://littlevillagemag.com).

—Natalia Espina

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And then there's some good tenants. I think there's a give and take, but if you really step back and look at it, I think the landlords, at the end of the day, are pretty responsible in Iowa City. Most of them are probably not trying to screw you too bad (*laughs*).

**LV:** *What do you think is a solution to students destroying nice properties?*

**BK:** I have rented to a lot of students, and I have had only one instance in which the property was somewhat damaged beyond reasonable wear and tear. But by no means was the property ruined. The majority of students will take decent care of the properties. Not perfect care, but decent care. I think it is a very few minority that actually ruin properties or cause severe damage.

The best solution is to keep your properties nice so you can charge somewhat of a premium for rent. Most people who are going to severely damage properties are also looking for cheap places to live or do not appreciate the condition of the property because it is not in that great of condition to begin with.

Another form of protection is a strict rental application. Typically, people with solid references from previous landlords and a high credit score are going to be more responsible. The final form of protection is the security deposit. If the damage goes beyond the security deposit, there is also small claims court.

I do not think there are any sure-fire ways to prevent properties from being damaged, but there are not a lot of sure-fire guarantees in any business. You do what you can to minimize risk.

**LV:** *What do you wish tenants would do that they don't?*

**BK:** Let us know right away about water leaks,

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**LV:** *So the ideal tenant is someone who pays the rent and lets you know about issues as soon as they come up. Anything else?*

**BK:** For me, a college graduate.

**LV:** *Why does that matter?*

**BK:** Because I think typically they'll have higher income, and higher income just means less chance that they're going to not pay their rent. For me, I like [tenants that are] still in college because it makes them more predictable. They are not going to just get up during the middle of the semester and leave; whereas someone out of college might get a job offer or they are getting married now. So, I really like people who are in academia for predictability.

**LV:** *Final thoughts?*

**BK:** I hope money continues to flow to student loans.

**LV:** *That's really interesting, the relationship you bring up between our education policy and the local rental markets.*

**BK:** And our interest rates, too. Most loans are on a five-year arm, so if interest rates go up, in five years when you have to renew your loan, the payment goes up a lot. And if the interest rates go up for loans, they're going to go up for student loans, too. And we certainly don't want a decrease in the amount of students coming to major universities. So I hope we keep money flowing to students who want to go to college, and hopefully we can keep interest rates somewhat low for the near future because I think interest rates have a bigger effect on a community like Iowa City than a lot of people think. **lv**

*Raquel Baker is a PhD candidate in literary studies at the University of Iowa and works part-time as a customer service representative, editor, and proofreader at ProofreadingPal.*

# PRO TIPS

**IF YOU'RE READING THIS, I CONGRATULATE YOU ON SURVIVING JANUARY 2014, THE COLDEST MONTH IN THE HISTORY OF EVERYTHING.** Your prize, you hearty few, is the warm glow you get in your innards when reading *Pro-Tips* with Wayne Diamante! February has a lot going for it, at least celebration-wise. We've got Black History Month going on, National Bird-Feeding Month, Presidents' Day and don't forget the feast of St. Valentine. However, if this February turns out like it should, it's probably pretty shitty outside. Thus, I officially designate February "National Sweatpants Month." Everyone gets the month off to stay inside and sit around in sweatpants, focus on some African-American history, plan out a bird-feeding schedule and send valentines to loved ones.

If you don't have a special someone, take the opportunity to spark up a new romance! A jaded few might consider the confines of a sofa and sweatpants as a hindrance toward that end: My advice is to fire up the old internet dating machine and turn that couch into a love seat. No matter who—or what—you fancy there's an internet dating site for you. Head on over to [ChristianSingles.com](http://ChristianSingles.com), or [FarmersMaybe.com](http://FarmersMaybe.com), or, for those of you in areas of particularly low diversity and wishing to kill two birds with one stone, [MeetBlackPeople.com](http://MeetBlackPeople.com). However you choose to spend your February, if you find yourself with a question, need advice or have a problem that medical professionals can't—or won't—solve, email me at [askwaynediamante@gmail.com](mailto:askwaynediamante@gmail.com) and I'll do my best to tell you what your problem is.

*Dear Wayne,*

*I have some friends who have taken the liberty of setting me up on a blind date. Any ideas as to what I should do or say to make things go smoothly?*

*Thanks,  
Randy*

Randy,

I'm going to assume the "friends" you speak of are almost certainly a couple. How do I know? Because couples are assholes. Only assholes would think that combining the anxiety of a job interview with the prospect of romance—along with the pressure of wanting to make a good impression on a total stranger you supposedly have "a lot in common with"—is a good idea. Here's my advice: Talk about what huge assholes your mutual friends are. Nothing brings people together like hating the same things.

*Good Luck,  
Wayne*

*Dear Wayne,*

*This may come across as premature, but I'm wondering if there's anything I can do now to prepare for the impending gnat and mosquito explosion. Last spring was so terrible; when the time comes, I want to be ready.*

*Sincerely,  
Claire*

Claire,

I do recall last year's gnat infestation, and like you, I've been thinking about how to deal with it this spring. In 2013, I spent over \$3,000 on box fans that I then placed strategically around my yard hoping they would blow the bugs away. It worked OK, but it was loud and the neighbor's kid lost a few fingers due to careless behavior. I've had all winter to do some fine-tuning, and I think you'll be impressed.

The BugJuicer Mk V operates on existing box fan and juicer platforms, yet incorporates novel technologies in innovative ways, creating a synergistic approach to insecticide. Essentially, the Mk V is a 400 HP, 11-foot square, mirror-bladed bug chopper. I'm still in the testing phase, but I can tell you this: For as far as you can throw a bowling ball, bugs and other curious animals weighing less than 25 lbs stand absolutely no chance against the Mk V. The results are both impressive and appalling. It's open source; I'll send you the plans.

*Best,  
Wayne*

## DEAR LANDLORD

One family refuses to give up on its appliances, even if their landlord already has. • BY SCOTT WILSON



It saddens us to know that one day, possibly soon, our garbage disposal will leave its earthly bonds, becoming another in a long legacy of appliances whose souls this house has claimed. Last month the George Foreman Grill jumped off the counter to its death. The weather radio and the boom box met a similar fate on a dark night some days later. Lovers, they leapt off the shelf together, leaving smashed bits of plastic and silicon in the carpet to remind any barefoot passerby of their sacrifice. We replace what we can but no warranty covers a broken heart.

**TONIGHT, A TRAVELING REPAIRMAN IS SUPPOSED TO VISIT. WITH HIM MAY BE OUR LAST CHANCE AT SOLACE.**

The garbage disposal has not lived an easy life. He came into our stewardship, the poor thing, with a bit of an addiction. He craves that which he should never have: glass. We can't leave a tumbler, shot or mug in the sink for more than a few seconds before he tries to suck them down to his spinning jaws.

We assume he developed this trait from his previous guardians. We know they were

a questionable lot by the condition in which they left the refrigerator: It went insane on our third week at the house and began drooling incessantly, ruining all the food inside. Maintenance had to take it away.

Sadly, the garbage disposal is forever altered by his cravings and subsequent imbibings. His teeth are badly dented and, if he is working too hard, a smoke rises from beneath the sink and the scent of ozone mixed with dishwasher gags whoever is within sniffing range. Only after a few seconds of warm-up is he able to suck anything more substantial than ramen noodles, but once he gets going the kitchen counter will shake with his vigor.

We've been trying to guide him to a more productive lifestyle and he is making progress. He especially likes to watch celery sticks spin and writhe while he slowly sucks them down the drain. But they say glass is a gateway drug. We've caught him taking small hits of fork and butter-knife when he thinks we aren't paying attention. We're afraid that he may one day want to try a sniff of can opener, or worse, Pyrex. If he meanders down these paths then surely he is lost.

We aren't prepared to bury another appliance, but with every passing moment our wayward garbage disposal slips closer to the abyss. Tonight, a traveling repairman is supposed to

### A GARBAGE DISPOSAL'S DOWNWARD SPIRAL | Illustration by Josh Carroll

visit. With him may be our last chance at solace. Until he comes, the hours and minutes pass like boulders down an eroding hillside. These troubling times have put immense strain on our household; however, we are a family and will hold together to see our garbage disposal through to whatever conclusion the fates decide.

*This letter was originally written to my landlord to remind him of the house-care issues he'd been ignoring. IV*

*Scott Wilson graduated from the University of Iowa where he studied being nice and reading quietly by himself. His work has been featured in Chinese in-flight magazines, Canadian music blogs and strange one-off literary journals. In the past he has dabbled in black magic, voodoo and human sacrifice—but it was a phase. Scott's a good boy now. Read more of his stuff at Quipmag.com.*



## &gt;&gt; YOUR TOWN NOW CONT. FROM P. 5

negatively affects tax revenues while subsidizing private developers with public funds.

It's also quite likely that had the survey been more inclusive regarding income, race and property, such survey responders would likely favor the diversion of tax dollars not to more business development, but to affordable housing. Despite the sample bias in favor of upper income respondents, 57 percent said affordable housing was important to them. A survey dedicated entirely to the issues of housing in Iowa City—availability, cost, adequacy of inspection, effect of zoning decisions, public/university funding, landlord-tenant ordinance etc.—would be justifiable.

In fact, a survey addressing fair housing was recently undertaken. On Jan. 6, the University of Iowa Public Policy Center (UIPPC) submitted a report of a fair housing study that was commissioned by the city for \$11,664. In sum, the UIPPC report concluded that fair housing is not accessible to all Iowa Citizens. Even though this survey's methodology appears more inclusive, and its results have the ring of truth, the city is refusing to finish paying for the UIPPC survey (a more civilized response than "shooting the messenger"). In contrast to the UIPPC survey, the NCS Citizen Survey ignores major constituencies within Iowa City and should be acknowledged as a waste of time and money, relegated to the dustbin of history and not repeated. **IV**

*Carol deProsse and Caroline Dieterle—85+ collective years of trying to shake up the system; we want to thank Bob Thompson for his research that led to the writing of this article.*

### Note of Interest

Since our article on the Emerald Ash Borer appeared last month, the beetle has been found in Union County in southwestern Iowa. Presently there is a 25-county area under quarantine to try to slow the beetle's rapid advancement. Residents should not take firewood out of the quarantined area, nor should they bring in firewood from areas outside the quarantine area. A Jan. 12 *Press Citizen* article about the beetle's looming presence and devastation indicates that the City is ill prepared to deal with what lies ahead.

## SPACE INVASION

After their landlord was convicted of invasion of privacy, some renters may never feel safe at home again. • BY RUTH LAPOINTE



**O**n Dec. 31, 2013, Iowa City landlord Gene Miller was convicted of six counts of invasion of privacy—nudity for peeping on six female tenants in two of the rental properties he owns in Iowa City.

He was caught in the act on Halloween day, Oct. 31, 2012, when my neighbor across the hall was exiting the shower and saw him shuffle above her through a peephole in her bathroom ceiling.

**I WAS ON MY WAY TO A HALLOWEEN PARTY WHEN I WAS INFORMED THAT OUR LANDLORD, THE MAN I HAD LOOKED IN THE EYE MANY TIMES OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS, HAD ADMITTED TO THE POLICE THAT HE HAD BEEN WATCHING ME.**

Following the incident, Miller admitted to the police that he had peeped on his tenants. One of my other neighbors, Jane (whose name has been changed), found out that he had been looking at her and three other women in my building. I was on my way to a Halloween party that night when I saw Jane and her boyfriend in the hallway. It was then that I was informed that our landlord, the man I had looked in the eye many times over the past two months, had admitted to the police that he had been watching me.

**THE CATCH** | Following her landlord's admission of guilt, Ruth Lapointe took to the streets with flyers warning others of potential wrongdoing.

After I heard the news, I began to get to know my neighbors. Eight of us in total—six women and two men—had been peeped on. We were all so scared after it happened, and no one had any information about what our lives were going to look like in the near future. Was our landlord in jail? If not, was he allowed on the property? We didn't know if the other tenants were aware of what had just happened, and if we would continue living in our apartments. Even mundane concerns entered our minds: Would we pay November's rent? Did we have the right not to?

The trial against Miller was held on Sept. 24, 2013, and it was an experience that many of the victims, including myself, found degrading. Miller's lawyer, Mark Brown, asked us questions that implied that our accusations against the defendant were based on hearsay or that our memories of specific details were fabricated.

Each of us seemed to have a story about a specific incident that, in hindsight, clearly indicated that our landlord had been engaging in some sort of suspicious activity. After we relayed these stories in court, the defense attorney criticized the fact that we didn't act on

our suspicions, implying that if they had been significant, we would have done something. Ultimately, we were all asked whether or not we had any evidence of Miller spying on us—whether we heard or saw him do so—and all

**AFTER I HEARD THE NEWS, I BEGAN TO GET TO KNOW MY NEIGHBORS. WE WERE SO SCARED, AND NO ONE KNEW WHAT OUR LIVES WOULD LOOK LIKE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.**

but one of us were forced to say no. Luckily the county attorney, Anne Lahey, was able to include a few final questions that convinced the judge that the psychological effects of the incident were made worse by the fact that it never occurred to us this activity had been going on: It has been hard not to think of myself as a fool, a naive college student, who can remain blind to being watched in such a blatant manner.

The worst part of the trial experience was having to prove that Miller violated a law that is archaic and sexist at best and does not

properly address the problem we were all faced with. Invasion of privacy under Iowa code can be described in short as someone viewing an at least partially nude person without his or her knowledge, in a place where there is an expectation of privacy, for the purpose of his or her arousal.

I am utterly shocked that evidence of arousal is required to prove violation of the law—as if spying on us while nude was not a crime enough. We were asked a question about what evidence we had to show how “aroused” Miller may have appeared when we saw him at the property. This was the most degrading question by far during the trial.

Iowa’s invasion of privacy law is inherently sexist, as it assumes that because the perpetrator is heterosexual, none of the males who were spied on while in the shower have any claim against Miller in criminal courts. Ultimately, the two men with peepholes in their residences were excluded from the counts against Miller for invasion of privacy.

When the defense attorney asked victims if Miller was ever aroused, I don’t know what kind of response he was expecting. It was hard to know what to say. There was little possible



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## PRIVACY ON TRIAL

evidence to obtain, and the disgusting nature of these possibilities made us very uncomfortable. Still, the worst part of this question was that, though it was clear to us as victims what the lawyer wanted, it was humiliating to be forced to imagine again being spied on, while nude, for someone else's pleasure, after trying for a whole year to erase it from memory.

**THE WORST PART OF THE TRIAL EXPERIENCE WAS HAVING TO PROVE THAT MILLER VIOLATED A LAW THAT IS ARCHAIC AND SEXIST AT BEST AND DOES NOT PROPERLY ADDRESS THE PROBLEM WE WERE ALL FACED WITH.**

After the incident in the fall of 2012, Miller replaced the tenants who moved out, including myself. I am sure that very few of them knew anything about what went on at their residence just before they arrived. I feel sorry for the new tenants, and for any of Miller's future tenants, because they don't have the right to know about any of Miller's activities according to Iowa City law: He has all the same rights as a

landlord that he did before, so I can't help but think he might just peep on his tenants again.

I wrote this article, in part, because I believe Iowa's invasion of privacy law should be changed, not only because of its inherent sexism, but also because the law does not effectively deter landlords, including Miller, from repeating the act after conviction. I also feel it is my duty to continue to bring attention to this incident, because I want as many people to know about this as possible—not only so the current tenants at 1024 Burlington St., 639 S. Lucas and Miller's two other properties at 641 and 637 S. Lucas can be more informed, but also so more incidents like this can go reported. I hope that you read this story and feel it's your duty to pass it on as well. Let this story be a lesson to you, and don't let it escape your mind. **lv**

*Ruth Lapointe was born and raised in Mason City, Iowa and recently graduated from the University of Iowa with a B.A. in Philosophy. She has ambitions to be a successful singer/songwriter and a politician. She is currently living in Des Moines, working on political campaigns and writing songs.*



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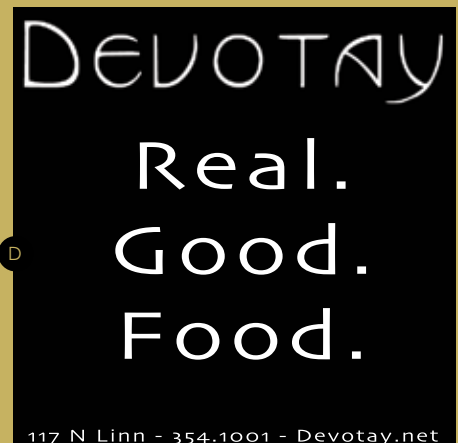
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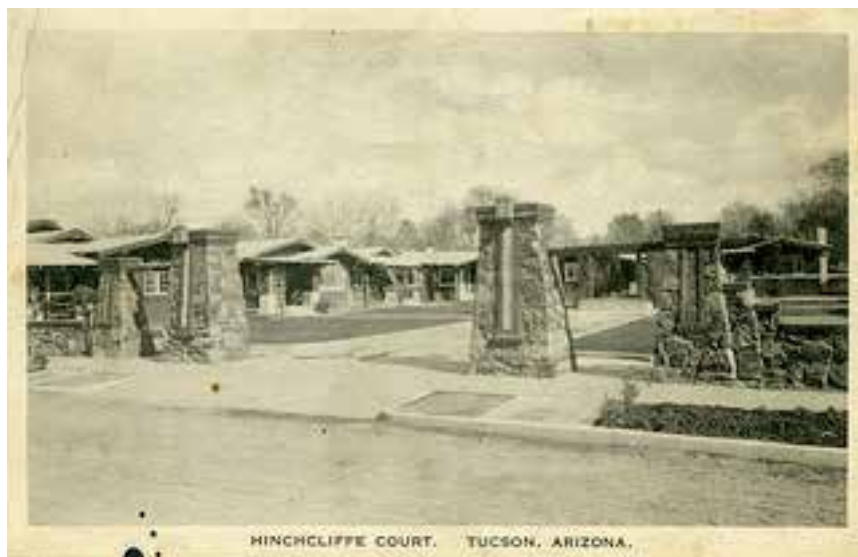
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# I USED TO BE A LANDLORD

One Iowa Citian recounts salvaging his grandma's Tucson rentals.  
BY JOSH CARROLL



HINCHCLIFFE COURT. TUCSON, ARIZONA.

**T**he past few years, I went from being a married homeowner to a divorced apartment-dweller—the tired old story all too familiar to you fans of George Jones. During this time, I've had two landlords and they couldn't be more different, but they agree on one thing: I am a hell of a great tenant. Not only do I pay my rent on time, I seem to have a natural empathy for their position, a genuine understanding of what it's like to be (in the case of my first landlord) a guy who rents a place so rundown that everything has been repaired once and broken twice, and also what it means to be (in the case of my current landlord) a guy who rents a nice place to nice people.

I come by this empathy honestly. See, I used to be a landlord in Tucson. My grandmother and her sister-in-law bought these adorable little bungalows back in the '60s, a motor court of 10 tiny buildings arranged in a circle around a concrete fountain. They were built in 1910 and originally came fully equipped with cutlery, linen and even a maid.

By the time my grandma owned them, they had slid into serious disrepair—what we jokingly called "tenant improvements" that included terrifying modifications of wiring and plumbing, innovative uses of paint and even, in one dreadful case, the addition of a partial room. Granny's idea of maintenance was to ignore everything, so

## PRESERVING THE PAST

1920s photo of Hinchcliffe Court

by the time I came on the scene the houses were teetering on the brink of collapse.

There was one benefit to the lack of maintenance, namely the accrual of a fair amount of money in the kitty despite the low rents. My grandmother loved artists and was famous around Tucson for being a soft touch, so all variety of deadbeat ne'er-do-well tenants were the standard. Rents would sometimes go unpaid for months, and the sweet little old lady just let them right on living in their tenant-improved hovels.

This all went on until the new sheriff came to town—Sheriff Me. The dick. The tyrant.

See, I loved these little buildings. They were unique in Tucson and one of the only bungalow courts left in the U.S. Around 1920, these places were as common as dirt and you'd see them everywhere: 10 or 12 Arts and Crafts bungalows grouped together, often ordered in kits from Sears, so they're sometimes referred to as Craftsman houses. The '50s and '60s were cruel to these places, and almost all of them were torn down. I felt ferociously protective of these remaining bungalows, plus I was angry that these folks were taking advantage of my grandma. I launched a strategy.

First up was the introduction of a novel concept: the one-year lease. Granny had a breezy

style, with business conducted over cookies and tea in her kitchen. She came from the sort of fallen gentry where it is deemed impolite to discuss money, so the idea of rent was encouraged, but no more than that. Tenants would move in and out, and sometimes she would have no idea the names of the actual occupants. The bungalows were close to downtown and convenient to the University of Arizona, as well as several of the shadier bus lines, so full occupancy was the norm. Every so often, somebody would come by with a post-dated check or an incomplete sum accompanied by receipts from some improvement they had done that month. My great-aunt, Granny's business partner, had once been very good about keeping books but had been afflicted with creeping Alzheimer's and now had no idea of the state of things.

Suffice it to say, accounting was a mess. I remember looking at the disaster that was her record books and balance sheets, appalled at the inaccuracies of dates, amounts and even people involved. Weirdly, there was a pretty good balance in the bank, a balance that greatly exceeded what the check register showed.

So I talked to Granny and drew up a standard lease for a standard amount per month, payable on the first. I raised the rents by 25 bucks a month, but they were still far lower than average for the time. I did not demand

**GRANNY'S IDEA OF MAINTENANCE WAS TO IGNORE EVERYTHING, SO BY THE TIME I CAME ON THE SCENE THE HOUSES WERE TEETERING ON THE BRINK OF COLLAPSE.**

deposits, back rent or any of the other things Granny was owed in common fairness. But Jesus, you should have heard the uproar. Excuses, demands, threats and even, in one sorry example, a plea for clemency based on character. I stood firm, told them to sign on the line and pay on the first. No exceptions. And then the fun started.

You see, these places were just about to fall down. I went around with a buddy of mine, a contractor who specialized in historic preservation. We dug around in the cellars, looked at the floors and windows, checked the wiring. What we found was chilling. In one of the bungalows, the original knob-and-tube wiring had been tapped to install more outlets. They

had botched it every step of the way, too.

Knob and tube, if you haven't seen it, is where you have these twin fabric-wrapped copper wires that run parallel to one another, separated by non-conductive porcelain knobs two feet apart. It was cutting-edge technology for 1910, and remains safe so long as you don't cut into it. Once you slice open the fabric, as this tenant had done in their attempt to "modernize," the old thread just unravels like a sweater, exposing the live copper wires beneath. These tenants had been hanging their winter coats from these live wires on metal hangers. But the worst part was that somebody had replaced the two 10-amp fuses with enormous solid metal fuses designed for mining machinery. It was a fire waiting to happen, and it wasn't the worst we saw.

Though we had some money, it wasn't endless. We needed to budget, so we worked out a repair triage to fix things in the following order:

Things that should have long ago destroyed the houses (mostly wiring)

Things that were actively destroying the houses (termites, roof leaks and plumbing)

Things that would soon destroy the houses (everything else)

The tenants were now prohibited from improving their houses. In the past, they had been allowed free rein resulting in such things as the "sculpture garden" kitchen, the plywood waterbed platform screwed through the oak floor, the guy who painted his windows black so he could sleep during the day and so on. All that was over. We expected an exodus, but it was more like the slow leak of a tire with a nail in it. We didn't need to evict anyone, but there were some heated discussions about consequences that usually involved me saying "Aren't you ashamed of yourself for hustling a little old lady?" or something similar.

In the end, it was worth it. The tenants were better, my grandmother and aunt had steady income and, best of all, the Hinchcliffe Court in Tucson is still standing today despite the tenants' "improvements."

My lessons from Tucson are ones I take to heart. I never improve anything in my rented house. **lv**

*Josh Carroll came to Iowa City because his wife wanted to go to the Workshop. When she graduated, she divorced him and he's been here ever since. He does illustrations for this magazine and wrote The Englert Theater: an Illustrated Century. He's working on a novel about a WWII bombardier. [joshcarrollcomics.com](http://joshcarrollcomics.com)*

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## BOTTOM DWELLERS

A so-called “noisy neighbor” recounts her unpleasant experiences with the landlord downstairs. • BY ANONYMOUS

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2010: 8:30 P.M.

I have been in town a little over two months, having moved to Iowa to take a new job. My closest friends are a three-hour drive away, and the weather forecast convinces me to stay put. Lonely and isolated, I think about unpacking some of the boxes I've stacked in this cramped apartment. It was one of the few left to choose from when I went apartment-hunting in Iowa City in September, not knowing that all the choice dwellings would have already been snapped up months ago by savvy university students and anyone else familiar with the vagaries of the rental situation in this community.

As a single woman long out of college, I had been looking for something safe, fairly quiet (i.e., away from the university) and close to work. Something more spacious—and with a sane apartment manager—would have been ideal.

But we can't win all our battles in life. And as the economy continues to crumble, I'm glad to have a stable job in the largest, most vibrant community I've been pleased to call home.

**FOR SOMEONE SUFFERING FROM ANXIETY, THE WORST REALIZATION IS THAT YOUR FEARS AREN'T IN YOUR HEAD. TONIGHT THEY ARE BELOW ME, EMBODIED IN THE PERSON WHO HAS THE POWER TO THROW ME OUT, WHO ALREADY MAKES ME FEEL LIKE A FUGITIVE IN MY OWN DWELLING, WHILE I CREEP AROUND TRYING NOT TO GIVE OFFENSE.**

Rather than moping in my loneliness on this New Year's Eve, I turn to the few mundane distractions left to a 30-something single woman. The first involves my cats; the quality time I spend teasing them with toy mice and string while basking in their affection helps assuage my solitude. I then vow to wake up to a clean—if not entirely unpacked—apartment in the new year. I vacuum the floors and put a load of clothes in the washer, which—wonder of wonders—is located in my own

apartment. For the first time, I don't have to share a washer and dryer with anyone! No more gum cemented to my clothing from the previous launderer, or ink stains on my sheets from someone else's errant pen, or load of whites turned pink.

With the apartment in reasonable shape, I decide a small reward is in order before the ice and snow blow in. I start out to my car to seek some Indian takeout, something of a novelty as I've never lived near an Indian restaurant. As I back out of my parking space, the apartment manager comes running out the main door, waving his hands to get my attention and calling out, “It's way too late at night to be vacuuming and doing laundry.” His apartment is directly below mine. Though he said there'd be another apartment available later, he insisted that I take the one above him because, as he put it, “You seem like you live a quiet life.”

I look at the clock in my car: 8:30 glows back at me in green from the dash. I shift into park as the manager continues scolding me. “Laundry and vacuuming are things you should be doing when you get home from work. And you can't leave the apartment when you've got laundry going. What if something happens?”

A cold, white rage floods my vision—an emotion so strong I'm frightened of what I might be capable of doing. It's an all-consuming feeling. I bite off the words, “I'll be back in 20 minutes!” then shift my car into gear and drive off, no longer savoring the thought of ringing in the new year with a plate of vegetable kofta and naan.

A FEW MONTHS LATER: 2 A.M.

Months drag by punctuated by anxiety, stomachaches and a lack of sleep as I worry that I will be chastised yet again—or worse, that I'll get myself and my cats evicted—simply for living. Everything I do is quiet, muted even. I no longer listen to music or turn on the television at anything other than a low volume. When one of my cats meows, or I inadvertently laugh too loudly on the phone, or accidentally drop a dish, I cringe.

The boxes remain packed. I've put nothing on the walls. This isn't home, which is unfortunate because the west-facing windows offer

a breath-taking view of the sunsets. Sleep has become fitful, and I often read a book late into the night, taking my mind elsewhere as I pet a cat, seeking calmness and peace. Invariably, the book drops from my hands onto the bed covers as I drift off.

In the middle of the night I roll over and I hear a thud. My book has fallen to the floor. Beneath my apartment, sounds spring to life: cursing; a sudden, steady spray of water from the shower; and then the sound of a washing machine turning on.

This goes on until 5 a.m.

For someone suffering from anxiety, the worst realization is that your fears aren't in your head. Tonight they are below me, embodied in the person who has the power to throw me out, who already makes me feel like a fugitive in my own dwelling, while I creep around trying not to give offense.

I try to keep my crying silent as I sneak into the next room, get online and search Craigslist once again for more suitable housing.

JULY: MOVING DAY

As the truck pulls up, the apartment manager hails me jauntily with a big, fake smile: “Moving out today?”

My rent check has never been late. And if he'd bothered to check with my previous landlord—the one listed on my references, the one who rented to me for nine years and returned my deposit in full—he'd realize he's managed to force out a model tenant.

I can barely look at him. I feel the rage build, but I nod and say “Yes.” But not with relief—not until I've moved every bit of my belongings safely two blocks over, where my new apartment is more spacious, cheaper and closer to work. Most importantly, the apartment manager there appears to be a much saner woman with a family, a dog, a cat and generous views on proper times to do housecleaning. I don't even mind that I'll be sharing the laundry facilities with everyone else in the building.

A FEW MONTHS LATER: A LOCAL GROCERY STORE

I bump into a neighbor from the old apartment building in the greeting card aisle of the

DWELLERS >> CONT. ON P. 27

ILLUSTRATION BY BEN MACKEY





FOR  
RENT

# ANIMAL HOUSE

A harrowing tale based on true events. • BY LISA SKRIVER

**M**y father has been a landlord in Iowa City for as long as I can remember. Over the years, I've met and heard about some of his very interesting tenants.

He is a relaxed and easygoing man. He learned early on that when it comes to renting property, he should only do as many fix-ups as city code demands, because tenants seem to have a special talent for destroying carpets and anything one considers nice. For example, one set of dickheads took every condiment out of the fridge and covered the living room carpet Jackson Pollock-style prior to moving out. They squirted bottles of mustard, ketchup and barbecue sauce onto the floor and left nasty heaps of lumpy, curdled and rotting mayonnaise in front of the doorway.

**HE ENTERED THE HOUSE THROUGH THE BACK DOOR WHERE A SET OF STEPS LED TO THE BASEMENT. THE TENANTS LEFT A NOTE WRITTEN IN BLACK SHARPIE ON THE BASEMENT DOOR THAT SIMPLY READ, "BEWARE OF HERCULES."**

Every time something like this happens, my dad replaces the carpet with the cheapest, bottom-rung sale carpet that Menards has to offer. He hauls load after load of forsaken trash to the dump whenever tenants move out. These tasks have to be completed very quickly as there is usually very little time to make the house livable (yet again) for new occupants.

A few years ago, a seemingly normal and

bright grad-student couple nearly wrecked one of his houses in Iowa City. While working through the particulars of the lease, the normal and bright 20-somethings had asked casually about pets—particularly if it would be okay to adopt a dog from the shelter. Being a dog lover, my dad saw no reason for them not to have one; of course he agreed.

\*

A good tenant is one who doesn't call too often and pays the rent on time. Early in the lease, though, dad also listens to the daily police reports on the radio, hoping they never mention any of his properties. Not having heard of any drug busts or domestic assaults at any of them, he hoped this would mean smooth sailing with his new tenants.

But one day, dad got a call from the normal and bright 20-somethings saying that the water heater was broken. He went over to take a look at it, entering the house through the back door where a set of steps led to the basement. The tenants had left a note—black sharpie on the basement door—that simply read, "Beware of Hercules."

He pondered the note for a moment before opening the door and heading down. As he fiddled with the water heater, he noticed something curled up in the darkened corner behind it. As he walked closer, he shined his flashlight into the corner and learned that "Hercules" was in fact an 8-foot boa constrictor that slithered around the basement as it pleased.

Shaken up from seeing the enormous snake, he went back upstairs and opened the door to

go inside the house. There, the unmistakable stench of cat piss hit him hard. A loud chorus of incessant and inquisitive meowing roared and whined as cats of all kinds appeared from every nook and cranny. Dry cat food covered the kitchen table where there was a feeding frenzy in process. Dad's eyes watered uncontrollably as he entered the bathroom, covering his nose and mouth to keep out the the scent of ammonia. The tub had been transformed into a giant litter box; layers of old crusty cat shit and kitty litter filled it to the brim.

Fighting back the urge to vomit, he exited the bathroom abruptly and started to make his way out of the house. Another note caught his eye, this one taped to the bedroom door: "Do not let the cats into the bird sanctuary."

Furious, he cautiously opened what used to be the master bedroom. The flapping wings and screeching of birds greeted him, along with walls and floor covered in thick, dried white bird shit and feathers. The overhead light fixture was now a nest complete with parakeet chicks chirping in it.

He stood there, shocked. A few cats enthusiastically made their way into the sanctuary for some play time before he backed out slowly and shut the door. A loud barking was coming behind the door to the second bedroom. He feared whatever was pounding on it from the inside. He opened the door slightly and a warm wet slobbery nose emerged. Peeking inside, he counted no fewer than five big dogs,

**ILLUSTRATION BY RACHEL WILLIAMS**



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## CRITTER CONTROL

scratching the wood floor and chewing on the windowsills.

Exasperated, he walked through the living and dining rooms to find cages housing various reptiles, hamsters and ferrets. He wasn't sure where the humans of the house lived because animals occupied every space. Noah's probably had fewer species aboard his Ark than these occupants had living in my dad's house.

I earned the lovely privilege of helping to clean up the house. Hundreds of cat food cans still filled the fridge along with bags of frozen mice for Hercules. The corner of the living room was warped and rotted, where gallons of cat piss had soaked through the carpet all the

**AFTER SPRAYING NEARLY SIX BOTTLES OF AIR FRESHENER THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE, YOU ALMOST COULDN'T EVEN SMELL THE CAT PISS—OK, YOU COULD STILL SMELL IT, BUT IT DIDN'T MAKE YOU WRETCH AND TEAR UP ANYMORE, WHICH WAS A MARKED IMPROVEMENT!**

way to the sub-flooring. I hauled out an entire bathtub full of cat excrement one bucketful at a time. I especially enjoyed scraping the hardened bird shit off of the walls and floor of the bedroom.

We persevered, cleaning up the house as best we could in just a few days' time. Dad put in a partial new sub-floor, slapped down a new roll of cheap carpet, sanded the scratch marks on the floor and replaced the windowsills. Voila! After spraying nearly six bottles of air freshener throughout the house, you almost couldn't even smell the cat piss—ok, you could still smell it, but it didn't make you wretch and tear up anymore, which was a marked improvement!

A new tenant re-rented the house, none the wiser that just a few days before it was a stinking cesspool of animal filth. When he asked if he could have a small pet, my dad said 'no' without hesitation. **lv**

*Lisa Skriver lives near Iowa City. She spends her days doing taxes and her nights twirling fire.*

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## LEASE ON LONELY

### >> DWELLERS CONT. FROM P. 22

grocery store. He's the only neighbor I miss. We chat for a while, and he asks why I left the apartment even though I'm obviously still living in the area. I tell him.

"Man!" he exclaims, exhaling and rolling back on his heels. He tells me that the previous tenant, "a stocky little dude," moved out because the apartment manager told him that he walked too heavily. Another complaint against the stocky guy was that he got up at 6:30 every morning.

"Know what else?" my old neighbor says. "My washing machine's been squeaking for months. It's a loose belt, inexpensive to fix. I asked if he'd replace it, but he says it's not a problem."

We both shook our heads in amazement.

### THOUGHTS ON RENTING

We are a peripatetic nation. Jobs are not as stable as they once were. In the past 15 years, I've had three excellent jobs in my field, but each necessitated a 60 to 100-mile move, and when a company downsizes—or folds—I've had to act fast to find the next career move. Though I have an advanced degree, am not in debt, and have been—thankfully—steadily employed, the dream of owning a home seems as elusive to me now as it did 15 years ago. I might have a stable job now, but next year I may not. And we have all known someone who has had to take a new job and then struggled to sell a home from halfway across the country.

I don't have a solution to the problem of home ownership for myself nor for others, but I do know that landlords and apartment managers could improve the tenor of our daily lives by treating tenants as responsible adults rather than lesser creatures to be patronized, scolded or worse. At the risk of waxing Frank Capra-esque, I write merely this: It's no small feat to treat people with the dignity they deserve. **lv**

*This piece was submitted anonymously through an open call for entries to Landlord Stories.*

## MUSIC

### ONGOING:

**MONDAYS: Open Mic with J. Knight** *The Mill*, Free, 8 pm

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

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

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

**THURSDAYS: Open Mic** *Uptown Bill's*, Free, 7 pm  
**Acoustic Set** *The Vault-Cedar Rapids* Free, 8 pm  
**Free Jam Session and Mug Night** *Iowa City Yacht Club* Free, 10 pm

### WED., FEBRUARY 5

**Pages from Opal Whiteley's Diary** *Legion Arts CSPA Hall*, Free, 5 pm

**The Old 57s** *Rusty Nail*, Free, 6 pm

**Robert Ellis** *The Mill*, \$12, 8 pm

**Open Mic** *The Vault-Cedar Rapids*, Free, 8 pm

**Ms. Pat** *Diamond Jo Casino*, \$10, 8 pm

**Dopapod** *Iowa City Yacht Club*, \$8, 10 pm

### THURS., FEBRUARY 6

**Ryan Schmidt** *Kirkwood Training and Outreach Services*, Free, 11 am

**Daddy-O** *Parlor City Pub and Eatery* Free, 7 pm

**Griffin House** *RME - River Music Experience*, \$15-\$20, 8 pm

**Becca Stevens** *The Mill*, \$15, 8 pm

**Dueling Pianos** *Diamond Jo Casino*, Free, 8 pm

**First Fleet Concerts Presents: The Floozies** *Blue Moose Tap House*, \$12, 9 pm

**Archnemesis, Mr. Whiskerz** *Gabe's*, Free+, 10 pm

### FRI., FEBRUARY 7

**First Friday Jazz** *Opus Concert Cafe*, \$12, 5 pm

**Jazz After Five** *The Mill*, Free, 5 pm

**Fifth of Country** *Rusty Nail*, \$3, 5 pm

**Hunky Newcomers** *Public Space One*, Free, 6 pm

**First Fleet Concerts and Funk Volume Presents Hopsin's Knock Madness Tour** *Blue Moose Tap House*, \$22.50-\$25, 6 pm

**North Scott Jazz Choir** *RME - River Music Experience*, Free, 7 pm

**Dance Marathon 2014** *Iowa Memorial Union at UI*, Free, 7 pm

**Sinfonia Shostakovich** *Iowa City West High School*, Free, 7 pm

**Hancher Presents: Naturally 7** *The Englert Theatre*, \$10-\$35, 7 pm

**The Curtis Hawkins Band** *RME - River Music Experience*, \$5, 8 pm

**Jason Stuart Cobalt Blue** *Parlor City Pub and Eatery*, Free, 8 pm

**Classical Blast** *Diamond Jo Casino*, Free, 8 pm

**R Factor** *Riverside Casino & Golf Resort*, Free, 8 pm

**Funktastic Five** *Rusty Nail*, Free, 8 pm

**New Trick** *Chrome Horse Saloon*, Free, 9 pm

**11th Annual Bob Marley Birthday Bash** *Iowa City Yacht Club*, \$10, 10 pm

**Etnik, Dustin Oxford** *Gabe's*, \$10-\$12, 10 pm

### SAT., FEBRUARY 8

**Bobaflex, Black Star Alliance** *Chrome Horse Saloon*, \$10-\$30, 6 pm

**Doctors in Concert 2014** *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts*, \$15-\$25, 7 pm

**Keith Anderson** *Wild Rose Casino and Resort*, \$15, 7 pm

**Saul Lubaroff Jazz Duo** *Trumpet Blossom Cafe*, Free, 7 pm

**Laura Ingalls Wilder Night with Marc & Brandi Janssen** *Uptown Bill's*, Free, 7 pm

**Gathe Raho** *The Englert Theatre*, \$10, 7 pm

**Sinfonia Shostakovich** *Iowa City West High School*, Free, 7 pm

**Modern Life is War, Land of Blood and Sunshine** *Gabe's*, \$13-\$15, 7 pm

**Switchback** *The Capitol Theater*, Free, 7 pm

**Deja Vu Rendezvous Featuring The Neverly Brothers** *RME - River Music Experience*, \$10, 8 pm

**Jo Dee Messina** *Diamond Jo Casino*, \$20-\$45, 8 pm

**Hip Hop Unites One Six Seven**, \$5, 8 pm

**BJ Thomas** *Riverside Casino & Golf Resort*, Free, 8 pm

**Brass Transit Authority** *Parlor City Pub and Eatery*, Free, 9 pm

**Keith Anderson** *Wild Rose Casino and Resort*, \$15, 9 pm

**Crazy Delicious** *Chrome Horse Saloon*, Free, 9 pm

**Dennis Wayne Gang** *Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon*, \$5, 9 pm

**Brother Bagman** *Iowa City Yacht Club*, \$6, 10 pm

**Pressure Drop Dance Party** *Gabe's*, Free, 10 pm

### SUN., FEBRUARY 9

**Arts Share Percussion Concert** *Riverside Recital Hall at UI*, Free, 3 pm

**The Ragbirds** *Legion Arts CSPA Hall*, \$15-\$18, 7 pm

**Keb' Mo'** *The Englert Theatre*, \$35-\$50, 7 pm

### MON., FEBRUARY 10

**U.S. Marine Corps Brass Quintet** *Riverside Recital Hall at UI*, Free, 7 pm

### TUES., FEBRUARY 11

**First Fleet Concerts Presents Attila, I See Stars** *Blue Moose Tap House*, \$16-\$18, 5 pm

**Slices: Performance and Pie** *Uptown Bill's*, Free, 6 pm

**FAB Five Show Choir Extravaganza** *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids*, \$18, 7 pm

**The Legacy of Floyd Cramer** *Williams Center for the Arts Iowa*, \$20, 7 pm

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

**Ultra Bide** *Gabe's*, Free, 9 pm

### WED., FEBRUARY 12

**Royce Wolf in Grinnell** *Grinnell College-Bucksbaum Center for the Arts*, Free, 12 pm

**Man Man, Xenia Rubinos** *Gabe's*, \$13-\$15, 6 pm

**Midnite Riders** *Rusty Nail*, Free, 6 pm

**Gaelic Storm** *The Englert Theatre*, \$35, 8 pm

**Burlington Street Bluegrass Band** *The Mill*, \$5, 8 pm

### THURS., FEBRUARY 13

**Jim Brickman** *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids*, \$28+, 7 pm

**Daddy-O** *Parlor City Pub and Eatery* Free, 7 pm

### FRI., FEBRUARY 14

**Cheap Thrill** *Riverside Casino & Golf Resort*, Free, 6 pm

**Night People** *Rusty Nail*, Free, 6 pm

**Curtis and Loretta** *Uptown Bill's*, Free, 7 pm

**Jam-E-Time** *Parlor City Pub and Eatery*, Free, 8 pm

**Bret Michaels** *Riverside Casino & Golf Resort*, \$28-\$48, 8 pm

**The Candymakers** *RME - River Music Experience*, \$10, 8 pm

**Dueling Pianos** *Diamond Jo Casino*, Free, 8 pm

**Les Dames du Burlesque Present: The Big V** *The Mill*, \$8, 8 pm

**Betty Calling** *Chrome Horse Saloon*, Free, 9 pm

**Crazy Delicious** *Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon*, \$5, 9 pm

**BB Secrist** *Riverside Casino & Golf Resort*, Free, 9 pm

**IndigoSun** *Iowa City Yacht Club*, \$6, 10 pm

**Friday After Class Dance Party** *The Union Bar*, Free, 6 pm

### SAT., FEBRUARY 15

**Powell** *Riverside Casino & Golf Resort*, Free, 6 pm

**Eric Paslay** *First Avenue Club*, \$12, 7 pm

**The Beggarmen** *Uptown Bill's*, Free, 7 pm

**Skeeter Louis & The Cedar Rapids Allstars** *Parlor City Pub and Eatery*, Free, 8 pm

### SAT., FEBRUARY 15

**Symphony Band and Iowa Honor Band** *Iowa Memorial Union at UI*, Free, 7 pm

**QC Symphony Orchestra** *Adler Theatre*, \$12 - \$57, 7 pm



**Iowa Composers Forum Festival** *Riverside Recital Hall at UI, Free, 7 pm*

**The Pines** *Legion Arts CSPA Hall, \$13-\$16, 8 pm*  
**Skeeter Louis & The Cedar Rapids Allstars** *Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 8 pm*

**David Cassidy** *Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, \$25-\$45, 8 pm*

**Rachel Ries** *Cafe Paradiso, Free, 8 pm*

**Rooster Alley Brothers** *Pub, Free, 8 pm*

**Smooth Jazz Valentine's Concert** *RME - River Music Experience, \$70-\$150, 8 pm*

**Atlanta Rhythm Section** *Diamond Jo Casino, \$15-\$35, 8 pm*

**Natty Scratch** *Rusty Nail, Free, 8 pm*

**Delorean** *The Mill, \$12, 9 pm*

**Tallgrass, Zeta June** *Gabe's, \$7, 9 pm*

**Lonesome Road** *Chrome Horse Saloon, Free, 9 pm*  
**Stampede** *Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon, \$5, 9 pm*

**BB Secrist** *Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, Free, 9 pm*

## SUN., FEBRUARY 16

**Love That Big Band** *Elkader Opera House, \$15-\$18, 2 pm*

**John McGrosso** *Riverside Recital Hall at UI, Free, 3 pm*

**Horn Choir** *Riverside Recital Hall at UI, Free, 7 pm*

## MON., FEBRUARY 17

**Rachel Ries** *Public Space One, Free, 7 pm*

**Eclectic Tuba** *Gabe's, Free, 9 pm*

## TUES., FEBRUARY 18

**Carrie Rodriguez** *Legion Arts CSPA Hall, \$16-\$19, 7 pm*

**Organized Rhythm** *Herrick Chapel, Grinnell College, Free, 7 pm*

# Theatre/ Performance

## ONGOING:

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

**WEDNESDAYS: Spoken Word** *Uptown Bill's, Free, 7 pm*

**THROUGH FEBRUARY 15: Monty Python's Spamalot** *Theatre Cedar Rapids \$20-\$35, 7 pm*

## THURS., FEBRUARY 6

**Good People: A Dark Comedy** *Riverside Theatre Iowa City \$15-\$27, 7 pm*

**Iowa Partnership In the Arts-Makeover**

*Theatre Building at UI \$5-\$17, 8 pm*

## FRI., FEBRUARY 7

**StarQuest Dance Competition** *Adler Theatre, Free, 5 pm*

**UIMA February First Friday** *Hotel Vetro, \$5, 5 pm*

**Friday After Class Dance Party** *The Union Bar, Free, 6 pm*

**Good People: A Dark Comedy** *Riverside Theatre Iowa City \$15-\$27, 7 pm*

**Brian Haner** *Penguin's Comedy Club at The Vault, \$12.50 - \$15, 7 pm*

**Iowa Partnership In the Arts-Makeover** *Theatre Building at UI \$5-\$17, 8 pm*

**Opal** *Legion Arts CSPA Hall \$25-\$30, 8 pm*

**Local on the 8's** *The Mill, \$10, 9 pm*

## SAT., FEBRUARY 8

**StarQuest Dance Competition** *Adler Theatre, Free, 5 pm*

**Good People: A Dark Comedy** *Riverside Theatre Iowa City \$15-\$27, 7 pm*

**Brian Haner** *Penguin's Comedy Club at The Vault, \$12.50 - \$15, 7 pm*

**Sinfonia Shostakovich - Orchestra** *Iowa Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$19-\$49, 7 pm*

**Opal** *Legion Arts CSPA Hall \$25-\$30, 8 pm*

**Iowa Partnership In the Arts-Makeover** *Theatre Building at UI \$5-\$17, 8 pm*

## SUN., FEBRUARY 9

**StarQuest Dance Competition** *Adler Theatre, Free, 2 pm*

**Good People: A Dark Comedy** *Riverside Theatre Iowa City \$15-\$27, 2 pm*

**The Irish Comedy Tour** *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$20-\$25, 7 pm*

**Sinfonia Shostakovich - Signature Symphonies** *Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts, \$19-\$35, 7 pm*

**Iowa Partnership In the Arts-Makeover** *Theatre Building at UI \$5-\$17, 8 pm*

## TUES., FEBRUARY 11

**The Addams Family** *Adler Theatre, \$37-\$57, 7 pm*

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

## TUES., FEBRUARY 18

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

## WED., FEBRUARY 12

**Open Mic - Comedy** *The Vault-Cedar Rapids, Free, 7 pm*

**Iowa Partnership In the Arts-Makeover** *Theatre Building at UI \$5-\$17, 8 pm*

## THURS., FEBRUARY 13

**Good People: A Dark Comedy** *Riverside Theatre Iowa City \$15-\$27, 7 pm*

**Faculty/Graduate Concert** *Space Place Theater at UI, \$12, 8 pm*

**Iowa Partnership In the Arts-Makeover** *Theatre Building at UI \$5-\$17, 8 pm*

**The Janice Ian Experience** *The Mill, Free, 9 pm*

## FRI., FEBRUARY 14

**Frankly Scarlett, You're Dead** *Old Creamery Theatre, \$47, 6 pm*

**Friday After Class Dance Party** *The Union Bar, Free, 6 pm*

**Good People: A Dark Comedy** *Riverside Theatre Iowa City \$15-\$27, 7 pm*

**Love, Loss, and What I Wore** *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, \$12-\$22, 7 pm*

**Bob Zany** *Penguin's Comedy Club at The Vault, \$15-\$17.50, 7 pm*

**Iowa Partnership In the Arts-Makeover** *Theatre Building at UI \$5-\$17, 8 pm*

**Rock of Ages** *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$48-\$63, 8 pm*

**Faculty/Graduate Concert** *Space Place Theater at UI \$12, 8 pm*

## SAT., FEBRUARY 15

**Frankly Scarlett, You're Dead** *Old Creamery Theatre, \$47, 6 pm*

**Good People: A Dark Comedy** *Riverside Theatre Iowa City \$15-\$27, 7 pm*

**Love, Loss, and What I Wore** *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, \$12-\$22, 7 pm*

**Bob Zany** *Penguin's Comedy Club at The Vault, \$15-\$17.50, 7 pm*

**Iowa Partnership In the Arts-Makeover** *Theatre Building at UI \$5-\$17, 8 pm*

**Faculty/Graduate Concert** *Space Place Theater at UI \$12, 8 pm*

## SUN., FEBRUARY 16

**Good People: A Dark Comedy** *Riverside Theatre Iowa City \$15-\$27, 2 pm*

**Love, Loss, and What I Wore** *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, \$12-\$22, 2 pm*

**Iowa Partnership In the Arts-Makeover** *Theatre Building at UI \$5-\$17, 2 pm*

**Hancher Presents: Spencers - Theater of Illusion** *The Englert Theatre, \$10-\$30, 3 pm*

**Spencers - Theatre of Illusion** *The Englert Theatre, \$10-\$30, 3 pm*

## Art/Exhibition

### ONGOING:

**THURSDAYS: Open Lab** *Beadology Iowa* \$15-18, 4 pm

**SUNDAYS: Open Lab** *Beadology Iowa* \$0-\$18, 12 pm

**THROUGH FEBRUARY 15:**

**From Anthropology Through Zoology** *Augustana College Art Museum, Free+*

**THROUGH FEBRUARY 16: The Virgin Mary in Art** *Figge Art Museum, Free*

**THROUGH MARCH 9: Eye on University of Iowa Faculty** *Figge Art Museum, Free*

**THROUGH MARCH 16: Quality Uncertainty: The Market for Lemons** *Faulconer Gallery, Free*

**THROUGH APRIL 6: A Legacy for Iowa** *Figge Art Museum, Free*

**THROUGH MAY 4: Katja Loher: Videoplanet - Orchestra** *Figge Art Museum Free-\$7, 10 am*

**THROUGH MAY 11: Conger Metcalf** *Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art \$0-\$5*

**THROUGH MAY 25: Landscape: Ingalena Klenell and Beth Lipman** *Figge Art Museum, Free-\$7*

### MON., FEBRUARY 3

**Jill Davis Schrift: Works In Clay** *Faulconer Gallery Free, All Day*

### THURS., FEBRUARY 6 - 8

**5th Annual Craft Crawl: For the Love of Craft** *Beadology, \$10, All Day*

### FRI., FEBRUARY 14

**Papier Francais** *Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, Free - \$5, 4:30 pm*

**Opening Reception: Benjamin's Buttons Juried Art Show** *The Chait Galleries Downtown, Free, 5 pm*

**Opening Reception: Papier Francais: French Works on Paper and Conger Metcalf** *Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, free, 4 pm*

## Cinema

### ONGOING:

**THROUGH FEBRUARY 5: Jason Bernagozzi** *Legion Arts CSPA Hall, Free, 5 pm*

### WED., FEBRUARY 5

**Oscar Shorts - Live Action** *FilmScene \$6.50-\$8.50, 6:30 pm*

**Oscar Shorts - Animated** *FilmScene \$6.50-\$8.50, 8:45 pm*

### THURS., FEBRUARY 6

**Oscar Shorts - Documentary** *FilmScene \$6.50-\$7.50, 5:45 pm*

**Elmore Leonard in Film** *Iowa City Public Library, Free, 6 pm*

**The Ender's Game** *Iowa Memorial Union at UI, \$3, 8 pm*

**Oscar Shorts - Animated** *FilmScene \$6.50-\$8.50, 9:15 pm*

### FRI., FEBRUARY 7

**The Great Beauty** *FilmScene, \$6.50-\$7.50, 4 pm*

**Oscar Shorts - Animated** *FilmScene \$6.50-\$8.50, 6:45 pm*

**Oscar Shorts - Live Action** *FilmScene \$6.50-\$8.50, 8:45 pm*

### SAT., FEBRUARY 8

**Oscar Shorts - Animated** *FilmScene \$6.50-\$8.50, 11 am & 1:15 pm*

**Oscar Shorts - Live Action** *FilmScene \$6.50-\$8.50, 3:30 pm & 8:45 pm*

**The Great Beauty** *FilmScene, \$6.50-\$7.50, 6 pm*

### SUN., FEBRUARY 9

**The Great Beauty** *FilmScene, \$6.50-\$7.50, 12 pm*

**Love in the Animal Kingdom** *Museum of Natural History at UI, Free+, 3 pm*

**Oscar Shorts - Documentary** *FilmScene, \$6.50-\$7.50, 3 pm*

**Oscar Shorts - Documentary** *FilmScene \$6.50-\$7.50, 3:15 pm*

**The Great Beauty** *FilmScene, \$6.50-\$7.50, 6 pm*

### MON., FEBRUARY 10

**Oscar Shorts - Animated** *FilmScene \$6.50-\$8.50, 6:30 pm*

**Oscar Shorts - Live Action** *FilmScene \$6.50-\$8.50, 8:45 pm*

### TUES., FEBRUARY 11

**American Promise** *The Englert Theatre, Free, 6 pm*

**Oscar Shorts - Animated** *FilmScene \$6.50-\$8.50, 6:30 pm*

**Oscar Shorts - Live Action** *FilmScene \$6.50-\$8.50, 8:45 pm*

### WED., FEBRUARY 12

**Oscar Shorts - Documentary** *FilmScene \$6.50-\$7.50, 5:45 pm*

**Oscar Shorts - Animated** *FilmScene \$6.50-\$8.50, 9:15 pm*

### THURS., FEBRUARY 13

**LitFlicks** *Coralville Public Library, Free, 6 pm*

**Oscar Shorts - Live Action** *FilmScene \$6.50-\$8.50, 6:30 pm*

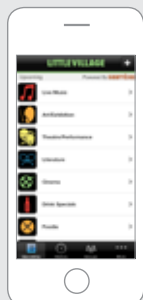
**Elmore Leonard in Film** *Iowa City Public Library, Free, 7 pm*

**HOLD Political Prisoner Film Series** *Public Space One, Free, 7 pm*

**Oscar Shorts - Animated** *FilmScene \$6.50-\$8.50, 8:45 pm*

### FRI., FEBRUARY 14

**Much Ado About Nothing** *Iowa City Public Library, Free, 7 pm*



## ABOUT THE CALENDAR

THE *LITTLE VILLAGE* CALENDAR serves hundreds of area venues and reaches 150,000 readers per month. Listings are published free of charge at [littlevillagemag.com/calendar](http://littlevillagemag.com/calendar), on the free calendar app **Best of I.C.** (iOS, Android) and in *Little Village Magazine* (on a space-available basis).

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## Literature

### WED., FEBRUARY 5

Elizabeth Graver *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 pm*

### THURS., FEBRUARY 6

Women's Studies Reading Group *Cedar Rapids Public Library-Downtown, Free, 7 pm*  
Chinelo Okparanta *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 pm*

### SAT., FEBRUARY 8

Acie Earl *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 12 pm*

### THURS., FEBRUARY 13

Live from *Prairie Lights: Richard Kenney & Carol Light Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 pm*

### SAT., FEBRUARY 15

Marian Clark *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 2 pm*

### MON., FEBRUARY 17

Timothy Schaffert *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 pm*

## Educational

### WED., FEBRUARY 5

Journalist Masha Gessen to Speak on Putin's Russia *Grinnell College - Joe Rosenfield Center (Room 101), Free, 12 pm*  
Beginning Group Guitar Lessons *West Music Coralville, \$60, 7 pm*

### SAT., FEBRUARY 8

Introduction to Cubed Right Angle Weave *Beadology, \$55, 10 am*

### SUN., FEBRUARY 9

Boro Marbles & Pendants *Beadology, \$98, 1 pm*  
Sunday Night Bead Club: Cupped Copper Earrings *Beadology, \$45, 5 pm*

### TUES., FEBRUARY 11

Sandage Lecture Series featuring Terry Rich *Hotel Vetro, Free, 3 pm*

### SAT., FEBRUARY 15

Winter Gardening Fair *Kirkwood Community College, \$49, 8 am*  
BronzClay Beads *Beadology, \$75, 3 pm*

## Foodie

### THURS., FEBRUARY 6

Wine and Art *Figge Art Museum, \$20, 6 pm*

### SAT., FEBRUARY 8

Iowa City Winter Farmers Market *Iowa City Market Place/Sycamore Mall Free, 10 am*  
Growing the Local Food Movement in Johnson County *New Pioneer Food Co-op Coralville, Free, All Day*

### SUN., FEBRUARY 9

Farmers Market *Johnson County Fairgrounds, Free, 11 am*

### TUES., FEBRUARY 11

That's Amore! A Romantic Italian Dinner for Two with Julie Parisi *New Pioneer Food Co-op Coralville, \$20, 6 pm*

### WED., FEBRUARY 12

Trivia Night *Mendoza Wine Bar, \$5, 8 pm*

### THURS., FEBRUARY 13

Valentine's Eve: Lobsters in Love *New Pioneer Food Co-op Coralville, \$25, 6 pm*  
Wine and Chocolate Tasting *Cedar Falls Library, Free, 7 pm*

### SAT., FEBRUARY 15

Iowa City Winter Farmers Market *Iowa City Market Place/Sycamore Mall Free, 10 am*

### TUES., FEBRUARY 18

Homemade Butter, Yogurt, & More with Pam Evans *New Pioneer Food Co-op Coralville, \$20, 6 pm*

## Kids

### ONGOING:

TUESDAYS: Play & Learn *Cedar Rapids Public Library-Downtown Free, 6 pm*  
WEDNESDAYS: Stories for Scooters *Cedar Rapids Public Library-Downtown Free, 9 am*  
THURSDAYS: Wee Read *Coralville Public Library Free, 10 am & 11 am*  
SATURDAYS: Family Story Time *Coralville Public Library Free, 10 am*

### WED., FEBRUARY 5

Kids Design Glass *Figge Art Museum Free-\$7, 10 am*  
Story Time *Cedar Rapids Public Library-Downtown, Free, 10 am*

### THURS., FEBRUARY 6


Kamber Club Begins: Time Machine! *Iowa Children's Museum, Free-\$7, 9 am*

### FRI., FEBRUARY 7

Kamber Club Begins: Time Machine! *Iowa Children's Museum, Free-\$7, 9 am*



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FOR MORE EVENTS, VISIT [LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM/CALENDAR](http://LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM/CALENDAR)

**P-P-Penguins** Sterling Public Library, Free, 10 am

**Friday February 7, Friday 14 Play & Learn** Cedar Rapids Public Library-Downtown Free, 10 am

**Toddler Time** Cedar Rapids Public Library-Downtown, Free, 2 pm

**Puppet Show** Cedar Falls Library, Free, 4 pm

**It's a Small World** Museum of Natural History at UI, \$25, 6 pm

**Monkey Business** Museum of Natural History at UI, \$25, 6 pm

**Family Fun Night** Mercer Park, \$0-\$1, 6 pm

### SUN., FEBRUARY 9

**Kids Design Glass** Figge Art Museum Free-\$7, 12 pm

**Art Adventure: Clay Play!** Iowa Children's Museum Free - \$7, 2 pm

**Read to Therapy Dogs** Cedar Rapids Public Library-Downtown, Free, 2 pm

### MON., FEBRUARY 10

**Kids Design Glass** Figge Art Museum Free-\$7, 10 am

### TUES., FEBRUARY 11

**Mother Goose Nursery Rhyme Time** Drake Community Library, Free, 10 am

### WED., FEBRUARY 12

**LEGO League** Drake Community Library, Free, 3 pm

### FRI., FEBRUARY 14

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

**Buddies & Pals** Sterling Public Library, Free, 10 am

### SAT., FEBRUARY 15

**Rockwell Engineering Day** Iowa Children's Museum, Free, 10 am

### SUN., FEBRUARY 16

**Read to Therapy Dogs** Cedar Rapids Public Library-Downtown, Free, 2 pm

**Kids Design Glass** Figge Art Museum Free-\$7, 12 pm

**Art Adventure: Clay Play!** Iowa Children's Museum Free - \$7, 2 pm

### TUES., FEBRUARY 18

**Kids Design Glass** Figge Art Museum Free-\$7, 10 am

## Community

### ONGOING:

**MONDAYS:** Hatha Way Yoga Prairiewoods \$60-\$99, 9 am

**TUESDAYS:** Coralville CoLab Jelly IC CoLab Free, 10 am

**WEDNESDAYS:** Wednesday Women Prairiewoods Free, 10 am

**Six-Week Start-Up** BioVentures Center, University of Iowa Research Park \$149, 6 pm

**THURSDAYS:** Hatha Way Yoga Prairiewoods \$60-\$99, 4 pm & 6 pm

**FRIDAYS:** Hatha Way Yoga Prairiewoods \$60-\$99, 9 am

**Winter Walk-Abouts** Prairiewoods Free, 12 pm

**SATURDAYS:** Qi Gong Mindul Movement Drake Community Library Free, 9 am



## LOVE, LOSS, AND WHAT I WORE

CITY CIRCLE ACTING COMPANY OF CORALVILLE

**WOMEN HAVE AN INTENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR WARDROBES.** An article of clothing can present the wearer's psychology, politics, culture and phase of life. In *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*, writers Nora Ephron and her sister Delia capture the complex reasons for why women wear what they do. A cast of 12 women presents monologues about items of clothing that range from funny to sentimental to cringe-inducing.

This show ran for two years in New York's Westside Theatre and won the 2010 Drama Desk Award for Unique Theatrical Experience. From Brownie uniforms to bras to track suits, audiences are guaranteed to see parts of themselves onstage. See it with a group of girlfriends and allow the performance to spark a discussion of what your wardrobe says about you.

The performance runs Feb. 14-16 at the Coralville Center for Performing Arts. For more information, visit [citycircle.org](http://citycircle.org). —Jorie Slodki

VIEW EVENTS IN THE LV APP: TEXT IOWA TO 77948

### WED., FEBRUARY 5

**Iowa City Open Coffee** Iowa City Area Development Group, Free, 8 am

**1 Million Cups** IC CoLab, Free, 9 am

**Robert Ellis** The Mill, \$12, 8 pm

**Talk Art** The Mill, Free, 10 pm

**Dopapod** Iowa City Yacht Club, \$8, 10 pm

### THURS., FEBRUARY 6

**Women, Land, and Legacy** Johnson County Fairgrounds, Free, 2 pm

**Men's Prayer Group: Getting Perspective on Life** Prairiewoods, Free, 7 pm

### FRI., FEBRUARY 7

**First Friday Jazz** Opus Concert Cafe, \$12, 5 pm  
**Friday After Class Dance Party** The Union Bar, Free, 6 pm

**World's Toughest Rodeo** US Cellular Center, \$11.50-\$53, 7 pm

**Jason Stuart Cobalt Blue** Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 8 pm

### SAT., FEBRUARY 8

**World's Toughest Rodeo** US Cellular Center, \$11.50-\$53, 7 pm

### TUES., FEBRUARY 11

**Knitter & Stickers** Prairiewoods, Free, 9 am

**Tuesday February 11, Tuesday 18 Lectionary-Based Faith Sharing** Prairiewoods Free, 10 am, 6 pm

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

### WED., FEBRUARY 12

**1 Million Cups** Vault Coworking & Collaboration Space, Free, 9 am

**Iowa Tech Chicks** Old Capital, Free, 6 pm

**Open Mic - Comedy** The Vault-Cedar Rapids, Free, 7 pm

**Trivia Night** Mendoza Wine Bar, \$5, 8 pm

### THURS., FEBRUARY 13

**Bingo** Kirkwood Training and Outreach Services, Free, 11 am

**Valentine's Eve: Lobsters in Love** New Pioneer Food Co-op Coralville, \$25, 6 pm

### FRI., FEBRUARY 14

**New Bo Open Coffee Club** Brewed Cafe, Free, 8 am

### TUES., FEBRUARY 18

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

**Coralville CoLab Ribbon Cutting** IC CoLab, Free, 10 am

For full listings or to add/edit events, go to [littlevillagemag.com/calendar](http://littlevillagemag.com/calendar).



## COOLZEY

*Dark Mantras*

coolzey.bandcamp.com

Coolzey must be very wicked, since it's clear he gets no rest. Sandwiched in between all the other musical activities he's dropped *Dark Mantras*, which contains 13 short hip-hop instrumentals. This is more a beat tape than an album proper; each track is a live performance on his Akai MPC1000 Sampler. As such, the tracks have a 'Music Minus One' feel to them—they'd be perfect for a beat-poor MC to use as the basis for writing rhymes to. The skeletal tracks on *Mantras* don't feel incomplete, they just require a different kind of listening than pop or hip-hop songs with big egos front and center, demanding attention.

**MORE A BEAT TAPE THAN AN ALBUM PROPER, EACH TRACK ON *DARK MANTRAS* IS A LIVE PERFORMANCE ON COOLZEY'S AKAI MPC1000 SAMPLER.**

Coolzey's funky minimalism is perfect for setting a background mood. My favorite track is "Ghost Party" which is just drums, a single organ chord and a spooky "oooh!" vocal sample. After a few repetitions, the "oooh!" takes on the aspect of an unconventional melody. Each of the tracks explores the possibilities of repetition in that way, as when you repeat the same word over and over until it's

drained of meaning. It turns into a pure sound, worthy of contemplation as a context-free sequence of vibrations. It's like meditation you can dance to, a perfect soundtrack for falling asleep.

## SPEAKERWIRE COLLINS

*The Boy Said My Name's Johnny*  
Cassette

unreadrecords.bandcamp.com

Speakerwire Collins is Brian Boelman of the Miracles Of God and Iowa City's most unpredictable guitarist, bassist and songwriter, Ed Gray. They're the third bass and drum duo I've reviewed in recent months, and they're completely different from Acoustic Guillotine and the Post Mortems. For *The Boy Said My Name's Johnny*, Gray sings at the bottom of his range and lapses into a comically exaggerated country twang. Gray picks out nimble, swinging electric bass lines, which Boelman meets with simple, laid-back drumming on a small kit.

The song "The Biggest Pose" opens the album with lyrics that dismantle the po-faced earnestness of the underground band scene. "The biggest pose I know is authenticity ... we play in our work clothes ... we're plugging in our guitars like punching a clock." There's humor, bitterness and Gray's trademark goofy surrealism ("The moth is the mirror, your face is the flame"), making a self-reflective mess of any clear meaning. In a good way.

As with every Ed Gray project, the songs are chock-full of memorable lines, but the sparse arrangements are arrestingly different



from anything he's done before, while cleaving to familiar styles like the country waltz. "Disinfectant" is less than a minute, but has a great chord-heavy bass part. "Dog Years"

**AS WITH EVERY ED GRAY PROJECT, THE SONGS OF SPEAKERWIRE COLLINS ARE CHOCK-FULL OF MEMORABLE LINES, BUT THE SPARSE ARRANGEMENTS ARE ARRESTINGLY DIFFERENT FROM ANYTHING HE'S DONE BEFORE.**

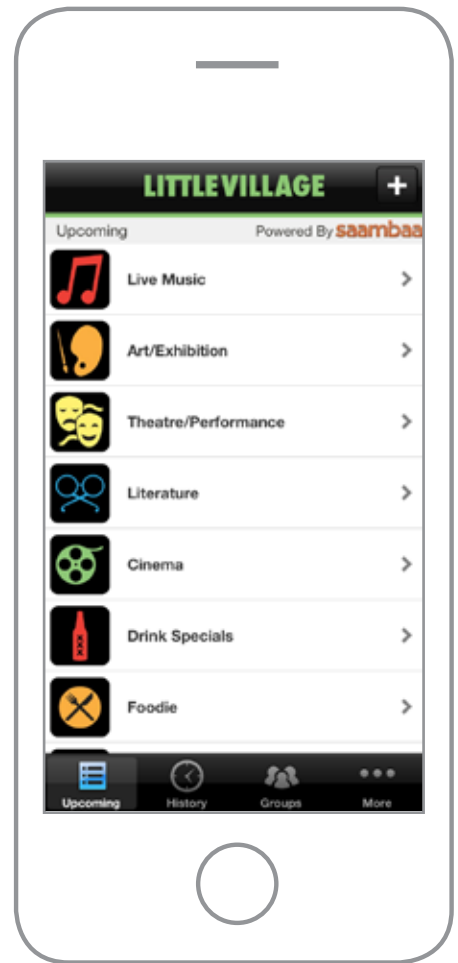
is on the surface something I can imagine George Jones singing, but Jones would probably balk at lines like "Speak to me in dog years." "Hunger Artist" namechecks a Franz Kafka short story: "The secret to starving is a good memory." The greatest gift to a singer is a drummer who listens, and on this album, you can really hear that Boelman's listening: His drumming is quiet and sparse, yet follows every twist of the bass and lyric.

Gray is truly a great songwriter, both as a lyricist and musician. He's a unique, radical guitarist and, now, bassist. But his is not the name on everyone's lips—locally or in the wider world—which may come down to not enough glad-handing or self-promotion, or his shy demeanor. All the local musicians know and respect Gray; maybe it's time for the rest of the world to follow suit.

*Kent Williams is a test of the Emergency Broadcast System. He is only a test.*



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## DID CECIL ERR IN EXPLAINING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ZERO FAHRENHEIT?

*I came across your column on what zero means on the Fahrenheit scale. You blew it. You said that, unlike 32 or 212 degrees, zero degrees corresponded to nothing in nature—it was merely an arbitrarily assigned number. It isn't. It's the temperature at which seawater will freeze. Of course it's an approximation, because the freezing point of saltwater varies based on salinity, but zero degrees is a rule of thumb. I'm not playing gotcha here—just battling misinformation wherever it rears its ugly head. —Richard Forte*

Then let me assist you in your battle, Richard: you're wrong.

I admit you've got a lot of company. Wikipedia takes your side, as does at least one college physics textbook. But close examination makes it reasonably clear the seawater explanation derives from a misreading of the evidence.

In my 1989 column I explained that Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit, the father of the Fahrenheit scale, based his system of temperature measurement on an earlier scale devised by Danish astronomer Ole Roemer. Roemer, I said, had set zero arbitrarily—his main consideration was that it was colder than the temperature ever got in Denmark, because he didn't like using negative numbers in his weather logbook.

Roemer's scale had  $7\frac{1}{2}$  as the freezing point of water and  $22\frac{1}{2}$  as body temperature, in those days called "blood heat." To get rid of the awkward fractions, Fahrenheit did some multiplication, eventually winding up with 32 as the freezing point and 96 as body temperature. (Boiling point initially didn't figure in his scheme.)

I said that when Fahrenheit was set to demonstrate his system to London's Royal Society in 1724, he worried it would look odd if zero on his scale was untethered to reality, and thus had to concoct a rationale. Here's what he wrote in the paper he presented:

"The division of the scale depends on three fixed points, which can be determined in the following manner. The first is found in the uncalibrated part or the beginning of the scale, and is determined by a mixture of ice, water and sal ammoniac [ammonium chloride], or even sea salt."

The "or even" part (the original Latin phrase is *vel etiam [salis] maritimi*) is a giveaway—the freezing point of seawater was an afterthought. Fahrenheit underscores this as he continues:

"If the thermometer is placed in [the water-ice-ammonium chloride] mixture, its liquid

descends as far as the degree that is marked with a zero. This experiment succeeds better in winter than in summer."

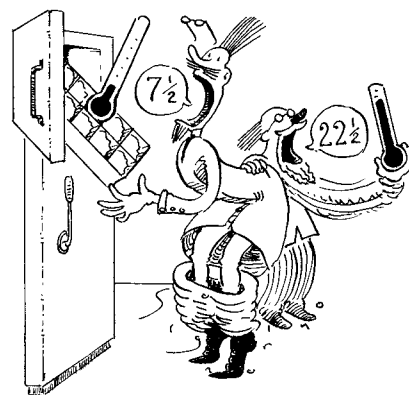
Think what this means: the method supposedly used to determine zero on Fahrenheit's scale *doesn't always work*. Who would be foolish enough to invent a temperature scale that wouldn't permit thermometers to be reliably calibrated? In contrast, the freezing point of fresh water, as manifested in an ice/water mixture, is constant for practical purposes, making it a dependable benchmark. It seems obvious the ammonium chloride/seawater procedure had been invented after the fact to provide a physical correlative for a point originally chosen for other reasons.

But you needn't take my word for it. In a letter Fahrenheit wrote to a patron on April 17, 1729, he says that when he visited Roemer in 1708, he found several thermometers being calibrated by standing in water and ice. These thermometers were then heated to body heat, and "after [Roemer] had marked these two points on them all, half the distance found between them was added below the point of water and ice, and this whole distance was divided into  $22\frac{1}{2}$  parts, beginning at the bottom with 0, arriving thus at  $7\frac{1}{2}$  for the point of water mixed with ice, and  $22\frac{1}{2}$  for the point of blood heat."

There you have it. Fahrenheit, following Roemer, simply determined the distance between the marks for the freezing point of water and body heat on his glass thermometers (64 degrees, in the scale he would ultimately develop), measured off half this distance (32 degrees) below the freezing point, and called that zero.

Recounting this story in a 1991 article, R.J. Soulen of the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory writes:

"The zero on this scale had no fundamental meaning, following the tradition of others who preceded him. Fahrenheit chose to define a zero below the coldest temperature likely to



be encountered by everyday use of his thermometers."

As I said.

To be fair, Fahrenheit wasn't the only early scientist to come up with quirky calibration procedures:

- Robert Boyle proposed that thermometers should be calibrated to the temperature of congealing aniseed oil.
- Joachim Dalencé suggested pegging thermometers to the freezing point of water and the melting point of butter.
- The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* thought a useful temperature reference point was "water just hot enough to let wax, that swims upon it, begin to coagulate."

At least these benchmarks were practical. Try calibrating your thermometer using the standard proposed by 19th-century Scottish astronomer Charles Piazzi Smith, who nominated a scale set to "the mean temperature of the King's Chamber at the center of the Great Pyramid of Giza."

Um, great idea, Chuck. On the other hand: road trip!

—CECIL ADAMS

*Send questions to Cecil via [straightdope.com](http://straightdope.com) or write him c/o Chicago Reader, 350 N. Orleans, Chicago 60654.*

## CURSES, FOILED AGAIN

- Police investigating a burglary in Iowa City, Iowa, identified Carlross D. Sanders, 20, as their suspect after they found a debit card issued to him at the scene and then followed a set of distinctive footprints from the back door through the snow to Sanders' residence. (*Cedar Rapids' KCRG-TV*)
- Surveillance video of an attempted break-in at a Chicago bar showed the would-be burglar removing the lock on the front door. He got no further, police Officer Jose Estrada said, because instead of obeying the sign on the door that read "PUSH," he kept aggressively pulling. He finally left in frustration. (*Chicago's DNAInfo.com*)

## BRAIN FREEZE

- After two men got lost driving on rural roads east of Pincher Creek, Alberta, they ran off the road and into a ditch. Fearing they might freeze to death in the sub-zero weather, they removed the crashed vehicle's seats and set them on fire, along with all of their personal belongings. As that fire died out, the men decided to burn the car. "They actually had two fires going," RCMP Cpl. Jeffrey Feist said. "Their car was completely consumed by fire." In the morning, the men, both of whom had cellphones, discovered they were within walking distance of a nearby house and headed there to find help. Authorities who responded took the men to the hospital for treatment for minor burns and frostbite and arrested one for outstanding warrants. (*Canada's QMI Agency*)
- Police reported that a man who built a fire to keep warm outside a house in Sisters, Ore., decided to stoke the fire by pouring gasoline on it. The resulting explosion severely burned four people. (*Portland's KPTV-TV*)

## BLAME HIPSTERS AND THE BOSTON RED SOX

Trendy facial hair is hurting the bottom line at Gillette, whose owner, Procter & Gamble, reported "seeing a slight decline in wet shaving incidence in the U.S. right now driven by fashion." P&G Chief Financial Officer Jon R. Moeller also blamed sagging razor sales on Movember, an annual charity event whose participants raise awareness of prostate cancer by growing mustaches. Meanwhile, noting "increased shaving below the neck, particularly among younger men," ages 18 to 24, P&G has begun marketing its new Gillette Body razor to meet "guys' holistic shaving needs." (*Los Angeles Times*)

## VEHICULAR CABARET

After two women having car trouble pulled into a gas station near Albany, Ore., police said that a barefoot woman approached and dropped her pants. She ran off but returned shortly, climbed onto the car's hood and began jumping up and down until she caved in the windshield. She then jumped down and ran across Interstate 5. The occupants called 911, and a state trooper arrested Victoria Dawn Lohmann, 24. (*Portland's KPTV-TV*)

## SECOND-AMENDMENT FOLLIES

- A man told police in North Charleston, S.C., that an unknown man shot him in the foot. When witnesses said they had seen the victim playing with a gun when it fired, the man admitted accidentally shooting himself. (*Charleston's WCIV-TV*)
- David Counciller, 60, police chief of Connersville, Ind., accidentally shot himself in the leg at a gun shop while examining a handgun similar to the one he carries. He had compared the two Glocks and was putting his back into its holster when "it got tangled in my clothing" and fired, he explained, adding, "I need to pay more attention." (*Indianapolis Star*)
- Chicago police said Joeann Smith, 52, accidentally shot and killed a 65-year-old relative during an argument about whether the weapon would fire when she pointed it at his face and pulled the trigger. (*Chicago Sun-Times*)
- Dean Buckley, 59, was shooting at a water tower from his backyard target range in Paso Robles, Calif., but two shots missed and went into his neighbor's house. When the neighbor complained, Buckley reportedly declared, "I can do anything I want on my own property" and fired three more rounds from his .45-caliber revolver. Police charged Buckley with felony discharge of a firearm with gross negligence. (*San Luis Obispo's The Tribune*)

## STRANGE CARGO

U.S. customs agents searching a vehicle belonging to a 56-year-old Arizona man crossing the border from Mexico at the Port of Nogales unzipped one of the man's suitcases in the backseat and discovered a 48-year-old Thai woman hiding under his clothes. Their relationship was unclear. (*Phoenix's KNXV-TV*)

## PERILS OF PROGRESS

- Kaveh Kamooneh spent more than 15 hours in jail after authorities arrested him for plugging his Nissan Leaf into an electrical outlet at

a middle school in Chamblee, Ga., and drawing about a nickel's worth of power. "He stole something that wasn't his," said police Sgt. Ernesto Ford, who ticketed Kamooneh 20 minutes after he admitted plugging in without the school's permission. "A theft is a theft." (*Atlanta's WXIA-TV*)

- Electric cars are sparking "charge rage" in California's Silicon Valley, where the number of electric vehicles being driven to work far exceeds the number of charging stations. As a result, some employees are unplugging other cars so they can charge theirs, creating animosity. "Having two chargers and 20 electric cars is worse than having no chargers and 20 electric cars," said Pat Romano, CEO of ChargePoint, which operates an EV-charging network. (*Associated Press*)

## UNSAFE SAFES

- Police released surveillance footage showing a man enter a restaurant in Weymouth, Mass., and walk out carrying a 250-pound safe. "I've never even heard of something this brazen," said Kevin Hynes, owner of Stockholders, after buying a new, heavier safe and bolting it to the concrete floor. (*Boston's WBZ-TV*)
- Jamal al-Jamal, 56, the Palestinian ambassador to the Czech Republic, was killed when he tried to open an old safe and it exploded. Embassy officials said the safe door appeared to have been booby-trapped. Foul play wasn't suspected because "no one had touched it for 20 to 25 years," Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki explained, adding that Jamal had just moved the safe from an old embassy building used by the Palestinian Liberation Organization in the 1980s. (*BBC News*)

## GLUTEN-FREE LIVING

Students at Montreal's McGill University won the \$1 million Hult Prize to fund their project to produce insect-based, protein-rich flour to feed malnourished people in other countries. "We will be starting with grasshoppers," team captain Mohammed Ashour said, noting that ingredients will vary to accommodate local dietary customs. He added that in order to research the feasibility of their five-year plan to develop Power Flour, all team members have consumed "kilos" of insects, even one who identifies himself as a vegetarian. (*ABC News*)

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



# FREE WILL ASTROLOGY: FEBRUARY 2014

## BY ROB BREZSNY



**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Back in 2002, three young men launched YouTube, in part motivated by a banal desire. They were frustrated because they couldn't find online videos of the notorious incident that occurred during the Superbowl halftime show, when Janet Jackson's wardrobe malfunction exposed her breast. In response, they created the now-famous website that allows people to share videos. I foresee the possibility of a comparable sequence for you, Aquarius. A seemingly superficial wish or trivial interest could inspire you to come up with a fine new addition to your world. Pay attention to your whimsical notions.



**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): "I believe more in the scissors than I do in the pencil." That's what 20th-century author Truman Capote said about his own writing process. Back in that primitive pre-computer era, he scrawled his words on paper with a pencil and later edited out the extraneous stuff by applying scissors to the manuscript. Judging from your current astrological omens, Pisces, I surmise you're in a phase that needs the power of the scissors more than the power of the pencil. What you cut away will markedly enhance the long-term beauty and value of the creation you're working on.



**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): "You know it's Saturday when you are wiping off vodka stains from your face with a marshmallow," testifies the woman who writes the Tumblr blog "French Fries Absinthe Milkshakes." I really hope you don't even come close to having an experience like that anytime soon, Aries. But I'm worried that you will. I sense that you're becoming allergic to caution. You may be subconsciously wishing to shed all decorum and renounce self-control. To be clear, there's nothing inherently wrong with relaxing your guard. I hope you will indeed give up some of your high-stress vigilance and surrender a bit to life's sweet chaos. Just please try to find a playful and safe and not-too-insane way to do so.



**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): One of the chapter titles in my most recent book is this: "Ever since I learned to see three sides to every story, I'm finding much better stories." I'm recommending that you find a way to use this perspective as your own in the coming weeks, Leo. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, it's crucial that you not get stuck in an oppositional mode. It would be both wrong and debilitating to believe that you must choose between one of two conflicting options. With that in mind, I will introduce you to a word you may not know: "trilemma." It transcends a mere dilemma because it contains a third alternative.



**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In 1984, Don Henley's song "The Boys of Summer" reached the top of the Billboard charts. "Out on the road today / I saw a Deadhead sticker on a Cadillac," Henley sings wistfully near the end of the tune. He's dismayed by the sight of the Grateful Dead's logo, an ultimate hippie symbol, displayed on a luxury car driven by snooty rich kids. Almost 20 years later, the band The Ataris covered "The Boys of Summer," but changed the lyric to "Out on the road today / I saw a Black Flag sticker on a Cadillac." It conveyed the same mournful contempt, but this time invoking the iconic punk band Black Flag. I offer this tale to you, Virgo, as an encouragement to update the way you think about your life's mythic quest . . . to modernize your old storylines . . . to refresh and refurbish the references you invoke to tell people about who you are.



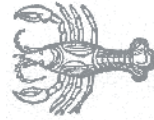
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Food aficionado Michael Pollan says that Americans "worry more about food and derive less pleasure from eating" than people in other countries. If you ask them what their association is with "chocolate cake," they typically say "guilt." By contrast, the French are likely to respond to the same question with "celebration." From an astrological perspective, I think it's appropriate for you to be more like the French than the Americans in the coming weeks—not just in your attitude toward delicious desserts, but in regards to every opportunity for pleasure. This is one of those times when you have a license to guiltlessly explore the heights and depths of bliss.



**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): What is the single best thing you could do to fulfill your number one desire? Is there a skill you should attain? A subject you should study? A special kind of experience you should seek or a shift in perspective you should initiate? This is a big opportunity, Taurus. You have an excellent chance to identify the specific action you could take that will lead you to the next stage of your evolution. And if you do manage to figure out exactly what needs to be done, start doing it!



**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): When songwriters make a "slant rhyme," the words they use don't really rhyme, but they sound close enough alike to mimic a rhyme. An example occurs in "The Bad Touch," a tune by the Bloodhound Gang: "You and me baby ain't nothing but mammals / So let's do it like they do on the Discovery Channel." Technically, "mammals" doesn't rhyme with "channel." I suspect that in the coming weeks you will have experiences with metaphorical resemblances to slant rhymes. But as long you don't fuss and fret about the inexactness you encounter, as long as you don't demand that everything be precise and cleaned-up, you will be entertained and educated. Vow to see the so-called imperfections as soulful.



**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): "Almost," writes novelist Joan Bauer. "It's a big word for me. I feel it everywhere. Almost home. Almost happy. Almost changed. Almost, but not quite. Not yet. Soon, maybe." I'm sure you know about that feeling yourself, Cancerian. Sometimes it has seemed like your entire life is composed of thousands of small almos that add up to one gigantic almost. But I have good news: There is an excellent chance that in the next 14 to 16 weeks you will graduate from the endless and omnipresent almost; you will rise up and snatch a bold measure of completeness from out of the ever-shifting flow. And it all kicks into high gear now.



**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In the Inuktitut language spoken among the Eastern Canadian Inuit, the word for "simplicity" is \*katujjiqatigiittiarnirlu.\* This amusing fact reminds me of a certain situation in your life. Your quest to get back to basics and reconnect with your core sources is turning out to be rather complicated. If you hope to invoke all of the pure, humble clarity you need, you will have to call on some sophisticated and ingenious magic.



**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "What is the purpose of the giant sequoia tree?" asked environmentalist Edward Abbey. His answer: "The purpose of the giant sequoia tree is to provide shade for the tiny titmouse." I suggest you meditate on all the ways you can apply that wisdom as a metaphor to your own issues. For example: What monumental part of your own life might be of service to a small, fragile part? What major accomplishment of yours can provide strength and protection to a ripening potential that's underappreciated by others?



**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "To burn with desire and keep quiet about it is the greatest punishment we can bring on ourselves," wrote the poet Federico García Lorca. I urge you to make sure you are not inflicting that abuse on yourself in the coming weeks, Capricorn. It's always dangerous to be out of touch with or secretive about your holy passions, but it's especially risky these days. I'm not necessarily saying you should rent a megaphone and shout news of your yearnings in the crowded streets. In fact, it's better if you are discriminating about whom you tell. The most important thing is to not be hiding anything from yourself about what moves you the most.



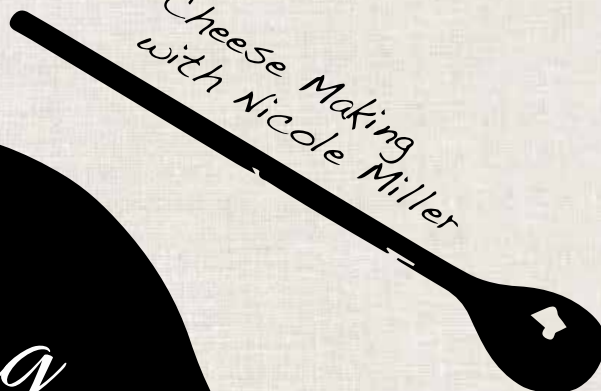
*Pasta with a Rolling Pin  
with Roxane Mitten*

*Veggie Sushi  
with David Burt*

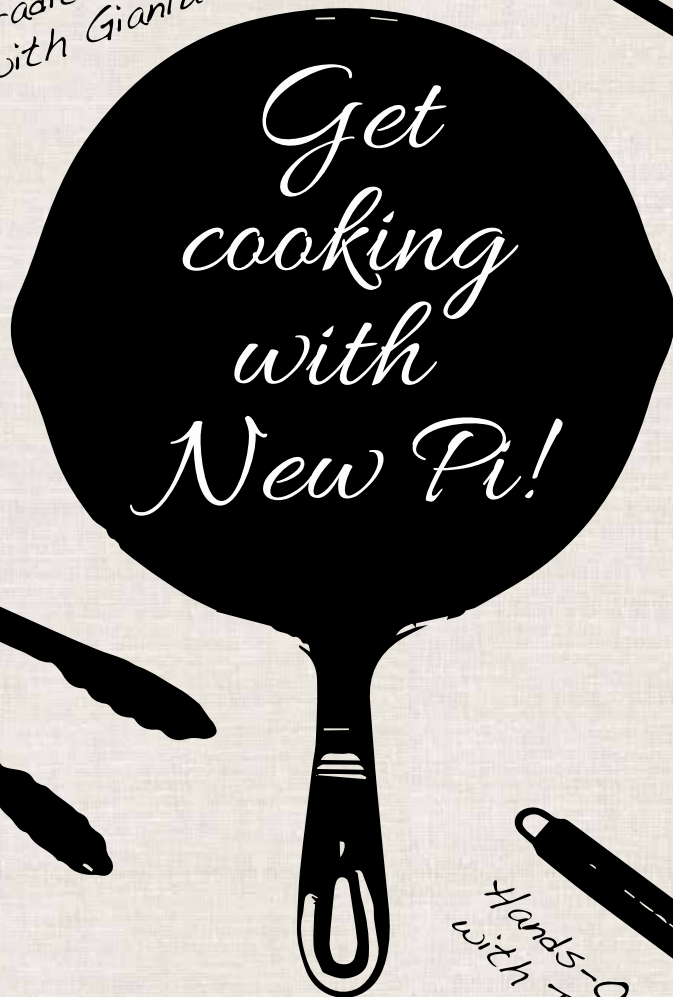


*Traditional Italian Meal  
with Gianluca Baroncini*

*Cheese Making  
with Nicole Miller*



*Boeuf à la Mode  
with Valérie Martin*



*We Love Bacon  
with Bob Newell*

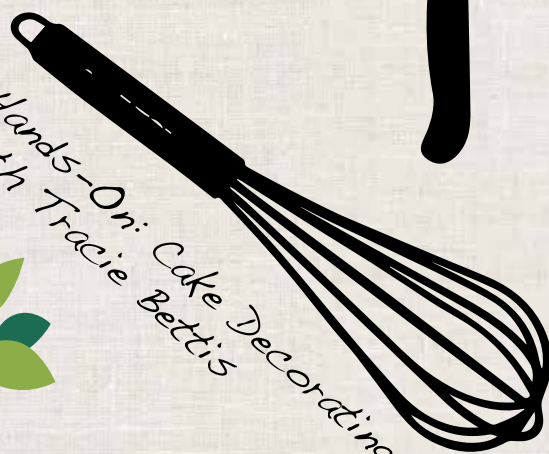


*Chocolate Ribs  
with Genie Maybanks*



*Make Kombucha  
with Todd Tomkins*

*Hands-On: Cake Decorating  
with Tracie Bettis*



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