



# LITTLE VILLAGE

IOWA CITY'S NEWS & CULTURE MAGAZINE

VOL. 16 | ISSUE 159  
JULY 30 - AUG. 19

## HITTING HOME

WHY ARE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTS  
SO HIGH THIS YEAR IN JOHNSON COUNTY?  
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## CONTAINING MULTITUDES

ENTER THE STUDIO OF PAINTER, PHOTOGRAPHER  
AND DRAFTSMAN THOMAS C. JACKSON. | PAGE 12

## PICTURING AMERICA

HARDACRE'S TWO FEATURE DOCS SHOW  
AN EVOLVING U.S. CULTURE. | PAGE 24

A L W A Y S   F R E E



New Royal Investment Contract with Royal Dutch/Shell signed. Financing terms are 55 short 181 APR, 14 monthly payments of \$27.1M.

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# LITTLE VILLAGE

IOWA CITY'S NEWS & CULTURE MAGAZINE

**VOL. 16 | ISSUE 159**  
**JULY 30 - AUG. 19, 2014**

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Park @201 illustration by Lev Cantoral



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## IOWA'S WET LAND

The state is experiencing extreme weather on a more frequent basis, raising concerns about food production. • **BY ADAM B SULLIVAN**



**T**he Iowa River surging over its banks and the reservoir north of town threatening to breach its emergency spillway in early July marked the second major flood in Iowa City in two years, six years after a so-called 500-year flood, 21 years after a so-called 100-year flood. Luckily, this year's flood appears to have fallen short of devastation, though areas and some buildings along the river remain under water and thoroughly soggy.

While environmental activists are usually careful not to attribute specific weather events to climate change, this isn't normal. The floods have caused billions in damage to the area's infrastructure, businesses and homes, in addition to millions more spent to fill sandbags and hoist flood walls during almost-devastating

**TROUBLED WATERS** | How will Iowa's crops be affected if flooding becomes a yearly event? | Photo by Adam Burke

floods like this summer's.

But if Iowa and our neighbors—America's breadbasket—are repeatedly ravaged by weather like this, the impacts are likely to be worse than wet basements and buckled concrete: The storms could someday threaten our ability to feed ourselves.

"You can't look at any particular storm and say 'climate change,' but if you look at the pattern, the pattern is clearly in view," said Ed Fallon, a liberal Iowa activist and the organizer of the cross-country Great March for Climate Action, happening now. "You're on solid ground when you look at the plethora of



weather events and say this is climate change due to our impact on the climate.”

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources puts it plainly on its website: “Among the climate changes Iowa is already experiencing: Increased frequency of precipitation extremes that lead to flooding.”

**SOME PLACES AROUND THE WORLD HAVE ALREADY SEEN MAJOR FOOD INSECURITY RELATED TO EXTREME WEATHER.**

Climate change affects food production in several ways. Some years, abnormally long growing seasons can be a boon for growing. But in other years, climate change means extremes: too hot or too cold; too rainy or too dry. Those events can disrupt planting and harvesting, damage or kill a portion of crops and also accelerate land erosion, washing some of the planet’s richest soil down rivers and streams.

Last fall—following a summer that turned from a flood to a drought in a matter of weeks—dozens of Iowa scientists signed an open letter warning that volatile weather is a threat to the state’s capacity to grow food.

“Our state has long held a proud tradition of helping ‘feed the world.’ Our ability to do so is now increasingly threatened by rising greenhouse gas emissions and resulting climate change,” the researchers wrote. “... Iowa’s soil and agriculture remain our most important economic resources, but these resources are threatened by climate change. It is time for all Iowans to work together to limit future climate change and make Iowa more resilient to extreme weather. Doing so will allow us to pass on to future generations our proud tradition of helping to feed the world.”

Some places around the world have already seen major food insecurity related to extreme weather. The ongoing violence in Syria that had widespread attention earlier this year, for instance, was stirred in some part by water and food shortages caused by years of extreme drought. And more of the same could be on the way: A 2012 report from the U.S. National Intelligence Council suggested that both floods and water shortages will grow more common over the next decade and eventually “will increase the risk of instability and state failure.”

People overseas may be bearing the brunt of extreme weather, water problems and food insecurity, but Americans aren’t immune.

Food insecurity is a widespread problem across the United States as food prices rise faster than wages. According to the national nonprofit Feeding America, some 13 percent of Iowans sometimes lack access to enough healthy food. Nationally, the portion of Americans who are food insecure has held steady in recent years, even as the economy has improved and unemployment has shrunk. According to a recent analysis by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, food prices have outpaced general inflation, meaning even people who earn a decent paycheck sometimes can’t keep up with their grocery bill.

Even if we stopped emitting harmful gases today, wild weather would likely continue for some time. So activists are not only calling for less pollution, but also a plan to deal with extreme weather and its agricultural and ecological impacts.

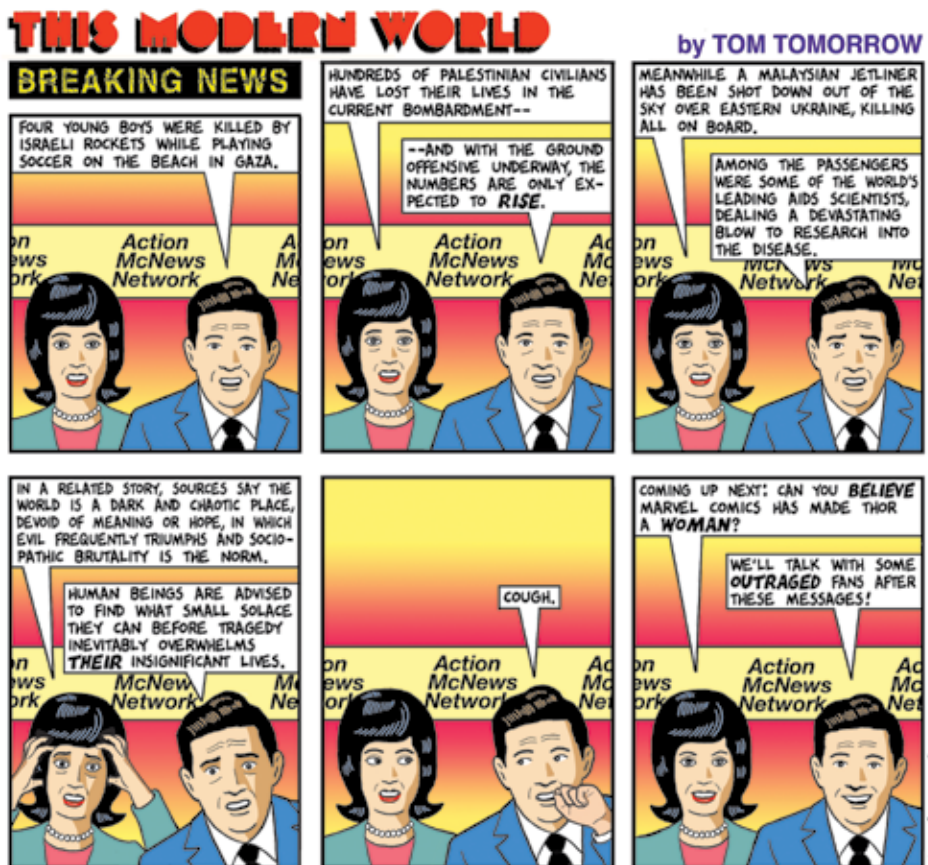
“I think we’ve taken some real baby steps in the right direction, but there’s a Mack truck coming at us and I don’t think we’re acting like that,” said Iowa Sen. Rob Hogg, a Cedar

Rapids Democrat who has made climate change his top priority. “... These are real consequences, but where are the large-scale programs? This is one of the central things we need to be dealing with in public life.”

Fallon—whose 3,000-mile Great March for Climate Action, from California to Washington D.C. is snaking through Iowa right now—said he sees people in traditionally conservative rural areas who have become concerned with climate change.

“Some of the people out here may be conservative, but they understand our weather is not what it used to be and that we’ve got to do things differently in order to keep things from going totally off kilter,” Fallon told me last month during a phone interview from a highway somewhere in Nebraska. “... The bigger challenge is how do we adapt? That’s a tough one because we don’t know what all the impacts will be. Are we ready to feed lots of New Yorkers and Floridians when they come here? You can only build a sea-wall so high around Manhattan.” **IV**

*Adam B Sullivan is a writer, activist and Iowa City native.*





## ENVELOPE ENVY

Make colorful lined envelopes for your thank-you notes or invites.  
BY FRANKIE SCHNECKLOTH



Photos by Frankie Schneckloth

**T**he summer party prep series concludes with instructions for making your very own lined envelopes. Even if you never plan to host a dinner party, you've probably been invited to someone's barbecue or pool party. I won't go all Emily Post on you, but handwritten thank-yous are always correct and appreciated. Just about everyone loves to receive something in their mailbox that's not a bill. Have some plain-Jane envelopes hanging around? By making a liner, you can dress 'em up in no time flat to make your thank-you note pop.

**STEP ONE** | We'll start by making an envelope liner template. Open the flap of your envelope and arrange on plain paper. With pencil, lightly trace around the edges of the envelope. Cut along the pencil outline.

**STEP TWO** | The paper cut-out we just created will eventually be our envelope liner template, but not just yet. We need to adjust the top of the template to account for the envelope's adhesive strip and also take in each edge to give the liner a little breathing room when it's inserted into the envelope. Using a ruler, measure the height of the envelope's adhesive strip. Then measure the same amount down from the top of your template, align your ruler parallel to the top edge and draw a line. Measure half a centimeter in from each remaining edge, and draw lines parallel to each. Trim along the lines.

**STEP THREE** | Insert the liner template into

the envelope to be sure it fits, looks clean and is even on both sides. If necessary, make any adjustments now.

**STEP FOUR** | Remove your liner template from the envelope and arrange on decorative paper. I had one sheet of nice paper and two beautiful paper wrappers from chocolate bars. The paper from the chocolate bars had a label and printing on it, so I strategically placed my template so that the printing would be hidden towards the bottom portion of the envelope. Trace the outline of the template onto the paper and cut out what will be your envelope liner.

**STEP FIVE** | Insert liner into envelope making sure to center it from left to right, and slide it down as far as it can go. Be sure the top of your liner doesn't overlap with the adhesive strip on the envelope flap. If you have a bone folder, you can use it here to score the liner where the envelope folds. Fold liner flap over and crease.



## SUPPLIES

**ENVELOPES (I USED A2, INVITATION-SIZE.)**

**ENVELOPE TEMPLATE (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT RSVP—OR FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE YOUR OWN.)**

**PLAIN PAPER, PREFERABLY HEAVIER STOCK**  
**DECORATIVE PAPER, MAPS, COLLAGE OR OTHER PRETTY PAPER**

**PENCIL**

**RULER**

**SCISSORS**

**GLUE**

**BONE FOLDER (NOT TOTALLY NECESSARY, BUT MAKES FOLDING EASIER)**

Open liner flap and use a bit of glue to secure the liner flap to the envelope flap.

**STEP SIX** | Close the envelope's flap and set under a stack of heavy books to dry.

**STEP SEVEN** | Write a handwritten invitation or thank-you note to your besties and drop it in the mail in your fancy envelopes. **IV**

*Frankie Schneckloth loves to check the mailbox.*



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## BREW OF THE MONTH: AUGUST SÁGA IPA

Summit Brewing Company | St. Paul, Minn.

**B**rewed by the Summit Brewing Company of St. Paul, Minn., Sága IPA is named after the Norse goddess of poetry and drinking companion of Odin.

Sága IPA is an excellent West Coast-style IPA. Though it is a little maltier than some versions of the style, Sága features that hallmark burst of tropical fruit, citrus and bitterness.

While Summit recommends serving in a nonick pint glass, a trusty shaker pint will do just fine. The color is hazy, deep gold. A finger-width of dense, off-white head will dissipate slowly, leaving an even skim and a collar of foam around the edge. The aroma is a bouquet of flowery, earthy hops, light citrus and fruit, including kiwi, passion fruit, grapefruit and apricot. Caramel and pale malts provide balance and there is also a hint of pine.

The flavor mostly mirrors the smell, though the beer's 80 IBUs are noticeable on the tonsils and tongue. But it is far from a hop bomb, as the malts provide a tasty balance. Built on the malt foundation are flavors of kiwi, apricot, passion fruit, earthy hops, a little citrus and pine.

**SERVING TEMPERATURE:** Summit recommends serving at 45°F.

**ALCOHOL CONTENT:** 6.4 percent ABV.

**FOOD PAIRINGS:** Summit recommends spicy cuisines, sharp cheeses, hearty meats and seafood.

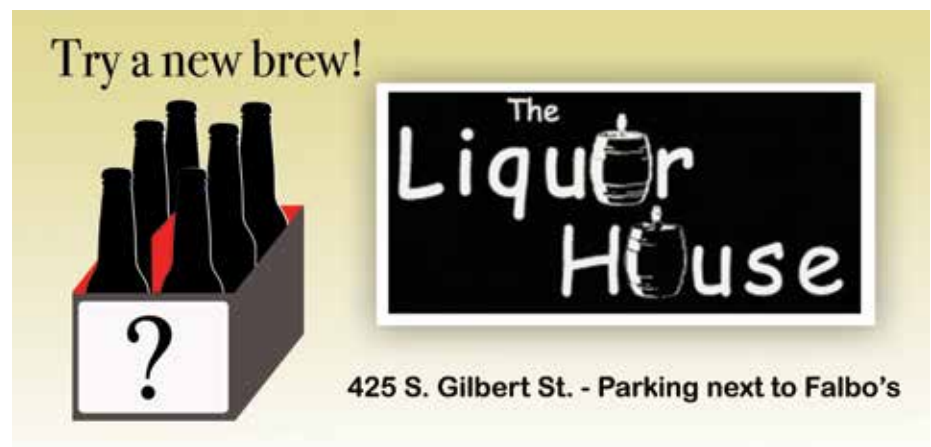
**WHERE TO BUY:** Sága IPA is widely available in cans and bottles, though to be honest, I think it tastes better out of the can. It is also on tap at many local bars, including 2 Dogs Pub.

**PRICE:** \$7.50–\$8 per six-pack; \$13 per 12-pack. **lv**

*Casey Wagner lives in Iowa City.*



Try a new brew!



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## OUT OF CONTROL

Domestic violence reports in Johnson County for 2014 are already nearing their yearly average. Why are these numbers so high?

BY AMY MATTSON

It can happen with any couple, in any relationship, to persons of any gender. And lately it's been happening in overwhelming numbers to those in Iowa City.

From Jan. 1 to July 14 of this year, there were 301 domestic violence-related calls and 133 associated arrests reported by the Iowa City Police Department (ICPD). To put those numbers in perspective, in just over six months, the department is already nearing its yearly average.

According to ICPD detective and domestic violence investigator Scott Stevens, a traditional year yields between 300 and 450 domestic violence calls and 90 to 130 corresponding arrests. But the cause for the recent increases in intimate partner violence reports is unclear.

**OPPRESSING SOMEONE CAN MAKE YOU FEEL IN CONTROL WHEN OTHER PARTS OF YOUR LIFE ARE SEVERELY OUT OF CONTROL. YOU CAN'T TAKE IT OUT ON THE ECONOMY, SO YOU TURN TO THE PERSON CLOSEST TO YOU.**

—ANNIE VENTULLO

For Stevens, it is an indication that his department is getting "better at recognizing situations where it is beneficial to victims' safety to make an arrest." He also notes that it is possible friends, neighbors and the victims themselves are becoming less reluctant to call and report physical and verbal abuse.

And while that may well be, licensed master of social work Annie Ventullo, a family child therapist based in Iowa City, points to a different theory. "Most studies show that when the economy isn't doing well, individuals encounter more stressors and are more likely to lash out at others in their lives," she said.

Ventullo explains that when a poor economy results in a job loss or decrease in income, it can cause family providers to feel a sense of helplessness as they are no longer able to put food on the table or continue in their role as

caretaker. That can accentuate existing pressures, and bring an already volatile situation to the boiling point.

"Oppressing someone can make you feel in control when other parts of your life are severely out of control. You can't take it out on the economy, so you turn to the person closest to you," Ventullo explains.

In many cases, that happens to be a woman or child. ICPD statistics indicate that of all domestic violence-related arrests to date, 123 suspects, or around 92 percent, were categorized as male. However, domestic violence advocates are quick to point out that anyone can be a victim or abuser.

"Intimate partner violence happens across the board," said locally based Rape Victim Advocacy Program education coordinator Mary Perdermo. "It can happen in relationships between same sex couples. It can be verbal or emotional. And anyone can be a perpetrator."

Indeed, ICPD reports indicate officers were dispatched to seven same-sex domestic disputes this year. And of all domestic violence related calls, police officers categorized 26 females as suspects. Still, intimate partner violence is overwhelmingly characterized by male abusers.

"We don't often talk about how gender impacts violent crime," said Kristie Doser, executive director of the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) in Iowa City. "But our society teaches men and women very different lessons when it comes to problem solving. We tend to teach violence as a tool that's acceptable for men."

Ventullo adds that this issue can be particularly salient for immigrant families, whose culture may condone violence as a socially appropriate response or view women as possessions. And along with Doser, she notes that income also plays a role.

Though specific income and demographic information was not available for Iowa City domestic violence incidents, as Stevens does not currently keep those statistics, by Ventullo's estimates the crime is reported more often in lower income families.

Lower income victims are more likely to



## LOCAL RESOURCES

**Domestic Violence Intervention Program**  
| [dvipiowa.org](http://dvipiowa.org) | 1105 S. Gilbert Ct., Suite 100 | (319) 351-1043, (800) 373-1043

DVIP provides free, confidential 24-hour crisis intervention services to victims and their families. This includes support and shelter services, as well as counseling and help accessing community services.

**Rape Victim Advocacy Program**  
| [rvap.org](http://rvap.org) | 332 S. Linn St., Suite 100  
(319) 335-6000, (800) 228-1625

RVAP provides free, confidential counseling and 24-hour referrals and advocacy for victims/survivors of all types of sexual abuse, including rape, incest, stalking and harassment. This includes assistance and support navigating the medical, legal and university systems.

**Iowa City Police Department**  
(319) 356-5275

## STATE RESOURCES

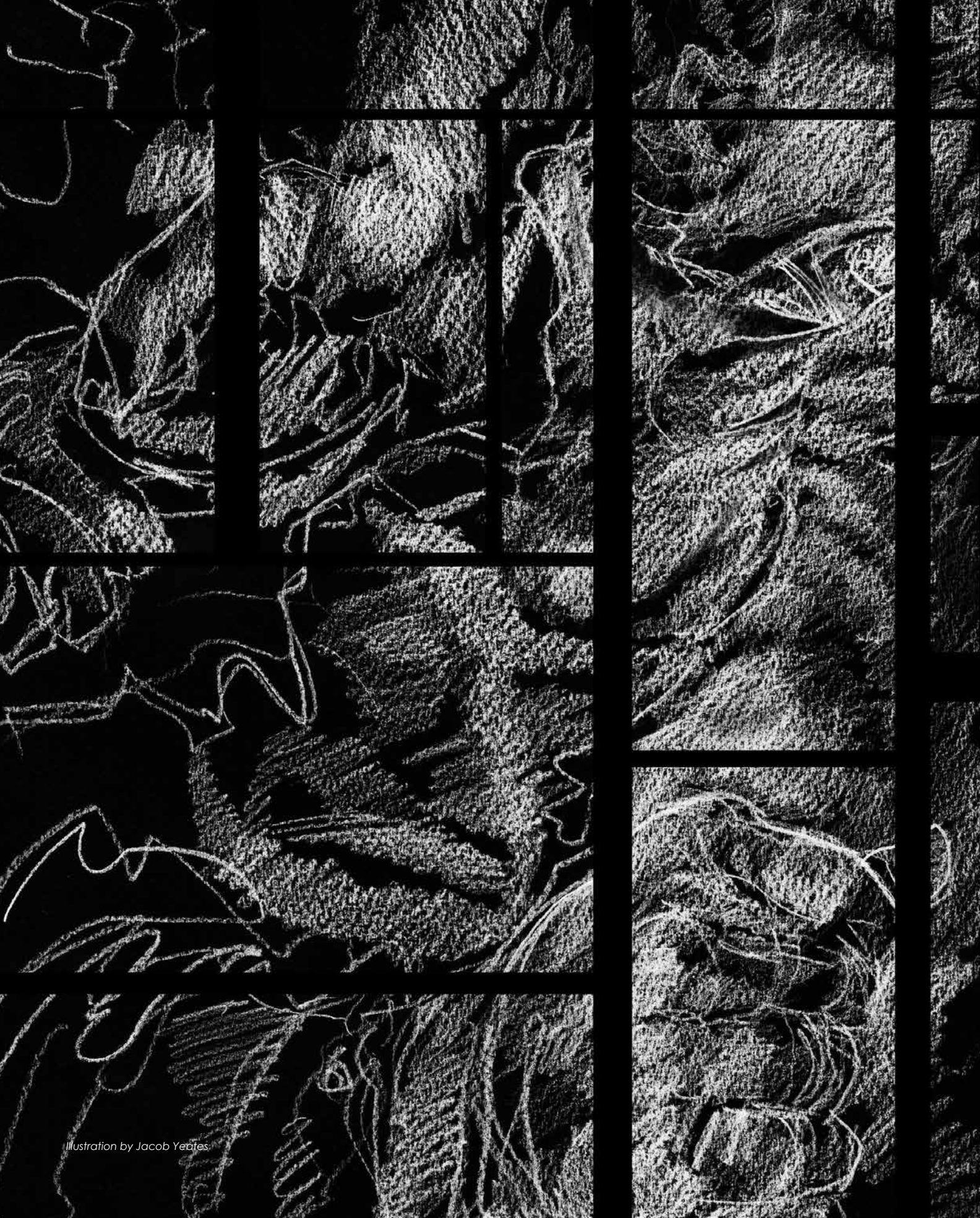
**Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence** | [icadv.org](http://icadv.org) | (515) 244-8028  
ICADV provides legal assistance to victims and supports locally based programs like DVIP.

**Crime Victim Assistance Division**  
[state.ia.us/government/ag/helping\\_victims/index.html](http://state.ia.us/government/ag/helping_victims/index.html) | (515) 281-5044, (800) 373-5044

CVAD provides financial resources for victims of violent crime and operates free systems that provide information and notification about the status of no contact orders and incarcerated offenders.

**Iowa Domestic Violence Hotline**  
(800) 942-0333





be referred to services, simply due to the fact they are already receiving unrelated assistance, she says. Unlike a middle or upper class person, they may be sitting in the Department of Human Services office, where they are exposed to signs or pamphlets about domestic violence, or have the opportunity to disclose their abuse to a social worker.

"Oftentimes, it is harder for higher income persons to come forward and admit they are not part of a picture-perfect family," Ventullo notes. Furthermore, those in higher income brackets can be prone to increased financial or emotional abuse, rendering it more difficult for others to notice.

But why don't victims just leave? "That question is so prevalent in the national conversation," said Doser, "and it is so inappropriate to ask."

Say your wallet was stolen, or a bank was robbed, she explains. We blame the thief, not the unsuspecting pedestrian or the teller. But when it comes to domestic violence, society puts the onus on the victim, asking "why didn't they do x, y or z and escape or prevent what happened?"

This type of thinking implies that victims

should leave and embraces the idea that this is the only way to solve the problem, Doser said. "In reality, we should be holding perpetrators accountable and in a way that creates safety for the victim."

But until that becomes common practice, safety for victims rarely goes hand in hand with running from their abuser. According to Doser, victims are stalked by their batterer for an average of 21 months—or nearly two years—after they leave. And often their departure only serves to escalate the level of abuse, as perpetrators emotionally cripple, intimidate and even kill their partners who have fled.

Victims often face racial, physical, geographical and class barriers that can also complicate matters. For example, if they live and work in rural Johnson County and the closest shelter is in Iowa City, how will they provide for their children or elderly parents? Will they be able to find affordable housing? Can kids handle the upheaval of transferring schools?

Regardless of victim demographics, one trend is clear: Cases of domestic violence in Iowa City are becoming more lethal. Doser reports that her agency has seen a surge in physical injuries to victims and the use of weapons

by batterers for around the past five years.

Though she can't pinpoint the reasons behind the troubling trend, she does note that perpetrators typically escalate their abusive actions and resort to violence when other tools—like put-downs, guilt trips, sexual pressure, isolation and threats—don't work to help gain control of the relationship.

Since January, ICPD has handled 54 serious misdemeanors, five aggravated misdemeanors and 20 felonies related to intimate partner violence, numbers that are up from previous years.

According to the Iowa Code, a serious misdemeanor in connection with domestic abuse is one that causes bodily injury or mental illness. An aggravated misdemeanor involves intent to inflict serious injury, the display of a weapon or prior convictions on the part of the abuser. A felony can include choking or strangulation that causes injury and three or more prior convictions.

These definitions are important because in 2012, the Iowa Code changed to require mandatory arrests in cases involving strangulation. While such instances were previously classified as simple misdemeanors if no bruising or

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trauma was evident, they can now be reported as aggravated misdemeanors.

This change is critical, says Assistant Johnson County Attorney Kristin Parks, because many times when someone is strangled, the injuries are internal and not visible. Thus, the new law helps recognize that not all victims show outward signs of abuse.

Parks believes this amendment may be contributing to the apparent rise in more serious domestic abuse charges. However, she emphasizes that in all cases, her office takes a two-fold approach. "We want to hold the defendant accountable, but also assist the victim," she said.

"It takes a woman, on average, seven times to leave her abuser. We tell police to treat each time like it's the seventh." **lv**

*Amy Mattson is a talented and personable writer in search of work, like-minded feminists and a good cup of coffee. Contact her at amy.e.mattson@gmail.com.*

fg FAULCONER GALLERY



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Reservation/Suburb, Scottsdale, Arizona, USA, 2011. Chromogenic print, 48 x 64 in. Photograph © Edward Burtynsky, courtesy Nicholas Metivier Gallery, Toronto / Howard Greenberg Gallery, and Bryce Wolkowitz Gallery, New York.

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## AN AMERICAN AESTHETIC

Through his work with various media, Cedar Rapids artist Thomas Jackson offers a distinct vision of the 21st century. • **BY JIM DUNCAN**



**W**ith his aesthetic breadth and varying use of media, Cedar Rapids-based artist Thomas C. Jackson's work

has gained an audience across the state and the country. His photo-realistic oil paintings and photographic montages have been featured in Des Moines' Moberg Gallery, and a recent joint exhibit with Priscilla Steele at the Waterloo Center for the Arts showcased the artist's depth, touting moody and slightly surreal figure drawings and gestures.

"What astonishes me is how Thomas can be so good at so many different media—photography, oil on canvas, ink brush, charcoal, watercolor and bronze sculpture—I probably left something out too," said TJ Moberg, Jackson's gallery representative in Des Moines. "The amazing thing is it's all of the highest quality."

As an artist, Jackson is as prolific as he is versatile. He has exhibited in 100 shows since 1980, on both coasts and in many states between them. And he has accomplished his

**MIXED MEDIA** | Thomas C. Jackson creates photographs that often juxtapose disparate or conflicting subjects. Photos by Kirsten Kumpf Baele

work without a staff or even an artist's assistant.

Jackson works in a rural Mount Vernon studio that overlooks 50 acres of virgin prairie; provides natural light from northern, southern and overhead windows; and occupies some 1,500 square feet on a hilltop above a four car garage and a kitchen. Three rooms provide different kinds of light and considerable room for storing his art books—which range from the classics to 21st century art—and just about every art magazine available. For him, this is his dream studio.

Jackson's studio is big enough to archive much of his decades worth of artwork, including a collection of 1,400 drawings all done in the last six years. Jackson draws directly from life without any preliminary pencil sketching. His single lines are final: There is no layering

or erasure, which he refers to as "working without a net."

His drawings scuttle nervously between control and spontaneity, as well as between light and shadow. Sometimes he randomly adds color to emphasize the abstract quality of his observations.

A montage of watercolors based on Thomas Eakins' portraits of Walt Whitman hang in the studio's entrance. Jackson began these paintings in the 1970s and explains that he continues to work on them to this day. For Jackson, Whitman is a perfect role model as he feels they both wandered about, "looking for America."

Jackson's unique vision of America was captured in the 2009 exhibit, *American Narratives*, at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art (CRMA). The show consisted mostly of photographic images that Jackson took throughout the United States and then sliced and spliced over, under and between other images of contrary subject matter—a style that has been his trademark for many years now.

CRMA Executive Director Sean Ulmer, who curated *American Narratives*, thinks Jackson is a modern version of Robert Frank, the mid-20th century French photographer whose seminal work, *The Americans*, chronicled everyday life.

Jackson's subjects are often ragged people and things and can be darkly funny and cynical.

"Peeled billboards, bleached-out bones,

**WHAT ASTONISHES ME IS HOW THOMAS CAN BE SO GOOD AT SO MANY DIFFERENT MEDIA—PHOTOGRAPHY, OIL ON CANVAS, INK BRUSH, CHARCOAL, WATERCOLOR AND BRONZE SCULPTURE—I PROBABLY LEFT SOMETHING OUT TOO.**

**—TJ MOBERG**

dried-up creek beds—these things speak to me," he explains. "So does lost Iowa: century-old meat markets gone with floods, abandoned gas stations and faded signs."

Ulmer admires the way Jackson presents





different images together. Some subjects explored in the images have clear thematic connections: a tree's exposed root system with an image of a Washington D.C. underground subway station; an abused motel room bed and the torso of the Virgin Mary; a dilapidated parking ramp with abandoned toys and an armchair left roadside in a soybean field; guns and playing children, two subjects that Jackson has explored extensively alongside each other.

In some of his other images, the connections between Jackson's subjects are less obvious. This spring, a photographic triptych included in an exhibition at the Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition displayed Jackson's more subtle connections. Jackson was one of 14 (out of 1,400) finalists whose work was selected for inclusion in the exhibit, and his triptych, "American Slice 37," contrasted a beach shot with the hood of a car.

For Jackson, he leaves the interpretation of his subjects to each viewer.

"I love it when different people see different

things in my art," he said. These differences in perception are integral to both the artwork's appeal and the artist's intentions.

"Jackson evokes certain times and places. Exactly what those are depends upon the viewer's involvement in the process. He understands that each viewer brings with him or her the sum total of their remembered life experiences," Ulmer wrote in the museum catalogue for *American Narratives*.

Jackson's prolific portfolio and success as an artist working with various media points to his endless drive to depict America today.

"I think that I try to reflect a sense of time," he said. **lv**

*Freelancer Jim Duncan has been the art and food critic for Cityview Des Moines for 20 years.*

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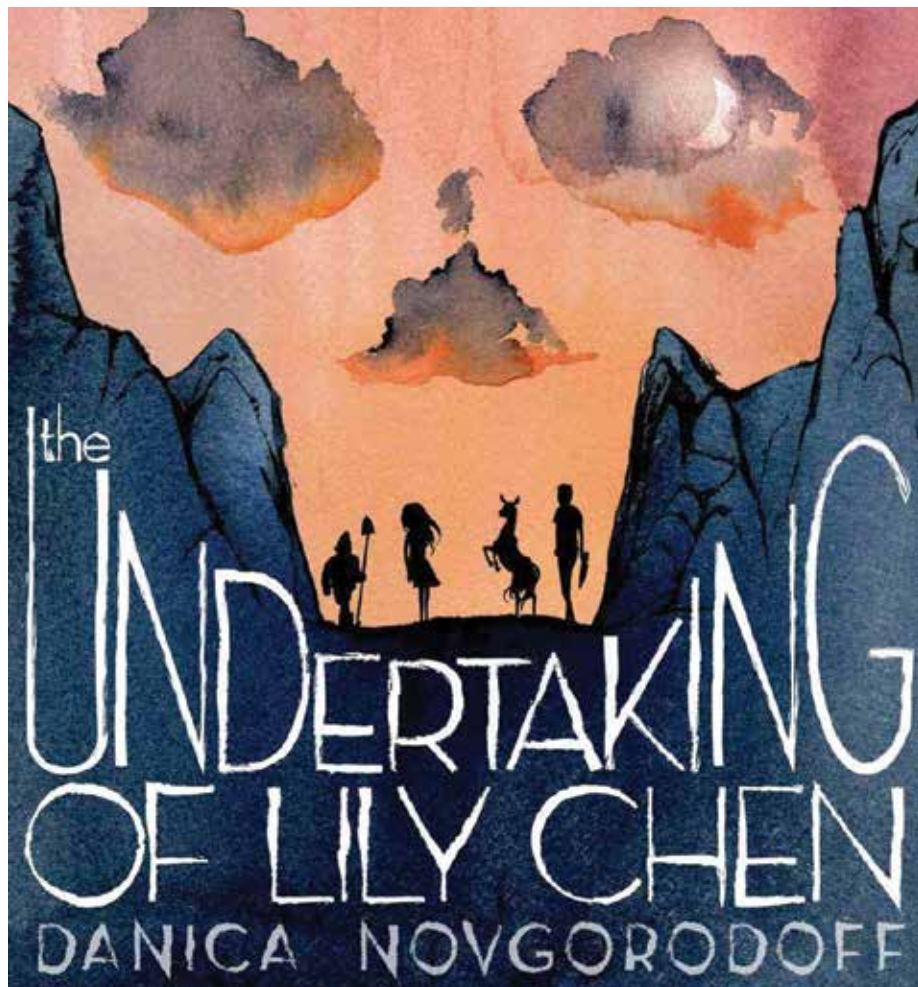
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# DEATH QUEST

*The Undertaking of Lily Chen* chronicles the adventure of Deshi as he struggles with a family obligation to find a corpse bride.

BY ROB CLINE



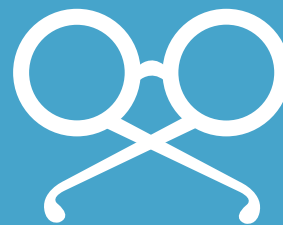
**D**anica Novgorodoff's latest graphic novel, *The Undertaking of Lily Chen*, takes as its jumping-off point an old Chinese practice known as "ghost marriage." In the opening pages of the book, Novgorodoff includes a snippet from a July 2007 article in *The Economist* detailing the practice of arranging marriages for men who die unwed. It reads, in part, "A black market has sprung up to supply corpse brides. Marriage brokers—usually respectable folk who find brides for village men—account for most of the middle men. At the bottom of the supply chain come hospital mortuaries, funeral parlors, body snatchers—and now murderers."

**HEARTBREAK ADVENTURE** | In *The Undertaking of Lily Chen*, Deshi and Lily team up in what becomes a journey of self-discovery.

As the story begins, military pilot Deshi Li tussles with his brother Wei, who has illicitly come to see Deshi on base. Wei suddenly dies in an accident, and Deshi runs, finding his way home.

We learn that Wei is the favored son, and Deshi's devastated parents insist that he find his brother a corpse bride so that he will not be alone in the afterlife.

On his gruesome quest, Deshi soon encounters Lily Chen, a young woman from an impoverished rural home with big dreams



## BOOK PLUG

This back-to-school season, put off that dreaded school supply shopping and bask in your last chance for leisure reading. The following books have earned top marks for their moving stories and binge-reading potential:



**Landline** | By Rainbow Rowell

Rainbow Rowell's new novel engages readers with a dynamic plot, a smart supernatural element and relatable, down-to-earth characters.

An always-on television writer in L.A. has the opportunity to make it big—if she skips the family's Christmas travels to her husband's hometown. As a result of her decision, she feels like both her marriage and mental health are slipping away from her. Then a landline telephone transports her into her past and offers another opportunity to understand her relationships and the chance to save her marriage.

Rowell shapes even her minor characters with depth and intention, making readers empathize with each one. She is an expert at writing anguished, true-love stories, complete with gut-felt longing and believable grand romantic gestures.



**Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant?**

By Roz Chast

Roz Chast, a cartoonist known for her work in the *New Yorker*, writes and draws a graphic novel memoir about what it was like managing her parents' aging and end-of-life care as an only child. You'll read how her stern, school-administrator mother would give people a "BLAST from CHAST!," see touching images of a life's worth of stuff being moved out of a Brooklyn apartment and witness the real-life difficulties of dealing with dementia. Best book I've read all summer.

—Melody Dworak



of improving her life in the city. Lily is determined, resourceful and hopeful—all traits Deshi seems to lack. While Deshi wears a drab gray shirt, Lily is garbed in a bright yellow dress, which highlights her role in the story as a symbol of hope and new beginnings.

Lily implores Deshi to take her with him so that she may escape a marriage she doesn't desire (though she knows it would help her family out of some dire financial straits). She sees Deshi as a solution to her problems. More menacingly, Deshi sees Lily as a potential solution to his problem. Can he bring himself to kill her and make her his brother's posthumous bride?

**ON HIS GRUESOME QUEST, DESHI SOON ENCOUNTERS LILY CHEN, A YOUNG WOMAN FROM AN IMPOVERISHED RURAL HOME WITH BIG DREAMS OF IMPROVING HER LIFE IN THE CITY.**

Novgorodoff shows us Deshi's resolve as it ebbs and flows. Steeliness comes into his eyes, only to be replaced by doubt or more tender feelings. The intentions of his mind and his heart are at war—as are his loyalties. He desires to please his parents and atone for his brother's death; he also finds himself falling for Lily even as he considers murdering her.

The center of the story is the tension between superstition, spirituality and everyday experience. Several memorable scenes highlight this tension. Lily and Deshi take advice from sketchy fortune tellers (who have something to tell Lily about her love life), have an encounter with some monks under the influence of drink or drugs and look for signs in their dreams. Novgorodoff depicts these scenes in hauntingly beautiful paintings. She devotes whole pages to ghostly faces, letting the rest of her world fall away.

Novgorodoff doesn't confine herself to realistic physical portrayals of her characters. She exaggerates or downplays features for

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effect and seems largely unconcerned with conventional proportion. Her landscapes, in contrast, while sometimes portrayed impressionistically, can also be lushly detailed and rich in color. The overall effect is a space both familiar and slightly strange—highlighting again the tension between belief and evidence, as well as between tradition and contemporary attitudes.

Novgorodoff excels at dialogue. Lily and Deshi's conversations—in which she rambles on excitedly while he attempts to remain closemouthed—are perfectly rendered. You can hear them speaking to one another.

The scene featuring the two fortune tellers—part comedy, part foreshadowing and part thematic development—is particularly delightful as Deshi and Lily bicker, and the pair of fortunetellers haggle, gaze into the future and drop the dialogue's mystical tone for a more streetwise voice. Throughout the book, Novgorodoff doesn't attempt to recreate or suggest Chinese speech patterns: The characters speak like contemporary Americans, and we are left to imagine their native tongue.

In the end, Deshi finally takes decisive action, but it is Lily who eventually devises a plan to resolve everyone's problems. It's a predictable solution, but Novgorodoff carries it off well, including a final confrontation between Deshi and Lily's father, a character who has largely been used for comic relief throughout the book but is treated with great sympathy in the closing chapters.

The story cycles through a number of tones ranging from the purely comedic to the dark and troubling. Novgorodoff renders each scene skillfully and can also blend tones—both in her watercolors and in her text—to add layers to a situation.

With its lovely art and engaging story, *The Undertaking of Lily Chen* is highly recommended. **lv**

*Born colorblind and therefore convinced he'd never enjoy graphic forms of storytelling, Rob Cline was first bitten by the comics bug in college. The resulting virus lay dormant for many years before it was activated by the inscrutable work of Grant Morrison. Now Cline seeks out the good and bad across the comics landscape as the Colorblind Comics Critic.*

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## BLONDIE'S SUPERNATURAL SCHOLAR

Gary (Valentine) Lachman talks about his early days in Blondie and how it led him to a lifelong study of the occult. • BY KEMBREW MCLEOD



**THEOSOPHIC FRIENDS** | Lisa Jane Persky and Gary Valentine (Lachman) realized that they were having the same dreams. Photo courtesy of Lisa Jane Persky

**F**or a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, Gary Lachman has had an unusual career trajectory. In the mid-1970s he joined Blondie as their boy wonder bassist and wrote some of the group's classic early songs—"X Offender" and "(I'm Always Touched By Your) Presence, Dear"—before quitting just as they were becoming a well-oiled hit machine.

Today, Lachman is the author of over a dozen books on the occult and esoteric thought, an interest that began during his Blondie days (back when he was known as Gary Valentine). While living in a three-story loft near famed New York City club CBGB's with lead singer Debbie Harry and guitarist Chris Stein, Lachman's curiosity was initially piqued by the spooky, kitschy detritus strewn about their living quarters/rehearsal space. "Debbie and Chris had occult bric-a-brac around their flat," he told me, "and it also covered the walls when we were living on the Bowery."

"It was probably more Chris than Debbie," Lachman added, "he and I shared some interests, like horror films and comic books. He was keen on voodoo and pentagrams; actually, he was kind of a goth in the beginning, wearing eyeliner and silver skulls. That sort of thing was also a leftover from the previous generation. They were both older than me and had been involved in that; I just watched it on television."

These influences filtered into his songwriting. Lachman wrote, "(I'm Always Touched By Your) Presence, Dear" after he and his then-girlfriend, actress/photographer/writer Lisa Jane Persky, realized they were having the same dreams. It is surely the only hit song to mention theosophy. "While I was on tour we would know when each one was going to call," he said, "and we would find out that we were both thinking of the same kind of thing at the same time, even though many miles away ... that sort of thing, which is not unusual with couples."

"As for navigating psychic frequencies," Persky told me, "we really were one, knew the other, had that sense of completion at all times. It was empowering. There comes a time when you have to be two people again and as lovers, we didn't survive that. The rock'n'roll/showbiz life did come between us. That initial



connection though, it remains true and it's why we're still close friends."

"Gary always said that I was his muse and that he couldn't write songs anymore after our split," she continued. "I'm not sure that's true and it spooks me to think about it. I was and am glad that he's writing books—*Turn Off Your Mind*, *Dead Letters*, his shorter books on Steiner and Jung, there are so many great ones."

**MY GIRLFRIEND NEVER QUITE GOT USED TO MY STANDING UP IN A HOLLYWOOD CAFÉ, TURNING TO THE SOUTH, AND SAYING 'HAIL UNTO THEE AHATHOOR IN THY TRIUMPHING.'**

—GARY LACHMAN

Lachman's latest book is *Aleister Crowley: Magick, Rock and Roll, and the Wickedest Man in the World*, which serves both as a biography of this gadfly and a survey of his influence on contemporary popular culture. Born in 1875, Crowley was a mystic, writer, drug addict and all-around creep who promoted himself with the nickname "The Great Beast 666" (however, "The Great BS-er" might be a more apt title).

Crowley still sends the religious right into apoplectic fits, even though he was just a self-promoting P. T. Barnum-like character with a warped wit. "He is too often too clever for his own good," the Lachman said, "as when his remarks about child sacrifice in *Magick in Theory and Practice*—really about his ejaculations—were taken seriously."

His conservative Christian critics can be forgiven for their credulity because the only clear indication Crowley wasn't serious about killing babies was buried in the footnotes.

"There is a traditional saying that whenever an Adept seems to have made a straightforward, comprehensible statement," he wrote, "then is it most certain that He means something entirely different."

A snob, he used shock tactics to separate the cool kids from the gullible, uptight squares.

Lachman argues that Crowley "was too often too clever and too eager to show the British reading public what fools they were. So he is inclined to add some facetious remark to a serious discussion about some arcane point, just to have a chance to show the conventional nit-wits up. Sadly, for my taste it often makes it difficult to take him seriously, mostly because he didn't himself."

Two decades after Aleister Crowley's death in 1947, he became more infamous than ever. "Crowley in particular was picked up by the counterculture and later rockers because of his supersized lifestyle, his philosophy of 'excess in all directions,' as his friend Louis Wilkinson called it," Lachman said. "That was tailor-made for rock and roll."

In the late-1970s, this budding rocker fell under the mystic's spell—acquiring a robe, practicing magick rituals and polishing his astral vision skills. Lachman recalled, "My girlfriend never quite got used to my standing up in a Hollywood café, turning to the south and saying 'Hail unto thee Ahathoor in thy triumphing.'"

While Lachman outgrew his fixation with Crowley by 1980, his interest in the occult and esotericism continued to grow, eventually leading him down a more scholarly path. "I work harder as a writer than I ever did as a musician, even including touring," he told me. "I can't wait to be inspired now—I have to meet deadlines—and I've learned that two or three hours forcing myself to write can usually do the trick."

"You do get to wear better clothes as a musician though." **IV**

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## SASSY PANTS

Punk iconoclast Ian Svenonius talks about the state of music making and the music he makes about it. • BY MAX JOHNSON

Ian Svenonius, founder and lead singer of minimalist garage-meets-art-rock act Chain and the Gang, is about as self-contradictory as his body of work suggests. Throughout a half-hour phone discussion in which he delivered highly detailed and verbose treatises on advanced capitalist societies, music journalism and the history of 7-inch record culture, Svenonius would habitually trail off for a few seconds and sheepishly say, "...well, uh, you get what I mean." For every time he became particularly enthused, he would hedge, "I probably sound like a crank, sorry."

But self-contradiction was at the heart of Svenonius' most well-known act, the hugely influential hardcore punk band, The Nation of Ulysses. "The Sound of Jazz to Come," from their second record, *Plays Pretty For Baby*, opens with a spoken word piece that both mythologizes and eulogizes the group: "There is only one Nation of Ulysses: the seriously unserious, reverently irreverent, amoral moralists."

In a sea of leather-bound, grungy punks, Ulysses opted to perform wearing three-piece suits, yet they were just as violent as any other punk groups at the time. Svenonius, in particular, was known for his on-stage antics, which lead to numerous broken arms, legs and even an instance when he cracked his head open while performing.

For all of his contributions to the last two and a half decades of punk music, Svenonius first entered the spotlight not for his work in Ulysses, but because he was declared the "Sassiest Boy in America" by *Sassy*, a '90s teen-culture magazine and spiritual predecessor to *Rookie* magazine. In recent years, this award has resurfaced in nearly every article about Svenonius.

"Maybe it's because of *Rookie* magazine now, but people didn't talk about it for years and years," said Svenonius. "Or maybe it's just one writer who writes something, then that becomes a reference."

"Writing is more meme-like nowadays. You used to send out a one-sheet, which would be a guide to what the articles would be about [in terms of] your band or you, but now it's the top hit on Google. Anybody Googling me will first find the Chris Richardson piece for the *Washington Post*," said Svenonius, referring to a piece entitled *How the "Sassiest Boy in*

*America" became the most interesting man in rock-and-roll.*

It's telling that Svenonius knows the top Google search returns for his own name. His opinion of the internet and its effects on the current musical climate seem to oscillate between cautious optimism and full-blown skepticism. Chain and the Gang's latest record, *Minimum Rock N' Roll*, focuses on lyrical themes of gentrification, consumer culture and the effects of instant gratification, with an eye toward the constant online interaction between buyers and sellers.

Of course, Chain and the Gang takes part in the same marketplace that they critique—their discography is available on Bandcamp, Spotify and other platforms. However, the cover art for *Minimum Rock N' Roll* is plastered with fake discount sale stickers, jabbing at the devaluation of music made constantly available and accessible on the internet. This side effect of consumer culture, Svenonius argues, tends to drown out new and eclectic acts.

"There's no room for experimental stuff, because you have to make your case so quickly. When someone wants to explore your group, they're listening for a split second. If it's not immediately satisfying, it's just something nobody will stick with," Svenonius said.

"Rock and roll has become very reductionist. There was lots of pure pop in the '80s, but there was also lots of ambitious art music. There was a period in the '80s when it seemed like you just needed to be banging on a big sheet of metal on stage all the time. There was an idea where it wasn't enough to do, like, Ramones-style rock over and over again, or you had to include poetic or political stuff, too. So there's a real reduction to immediacy. A group has to be more like an advertisement, or reduced to a jingle. It's a weird climate to make music in."

In addition to his work as a musician, Svenonius is the author of two books: *Psychic Soviet*, a collection of essays released by Drag City, and *Supernatural Strategies for Making a Rock 'n' Roll Group*, a tongue-in-cheek instructions manual celebrating the weirder parts of starting a rock and roll band. In the latter, Svenonius subscribes to the idea that a band doesn't need to be particularly talented with their music to be good, but that every great

rock group needs to have one simple, stylized concept, a notion that Nation of Ulysses espoused for years.

How, then, does a highly-stylized concept not also function as a sort of advertisement for a band?

"That's the paradox," Svenonius said. "The rock group as I inherited it was like a radio jingle. The internet is a return to singles and 45 [rpm] culture. And all of us as rock aficionados love that. In one sense this might be a triumph for pure art, I mean, as long as you don't wanna listen to the *Tommy* 'Overture' ever again. It's not all bad, of course. I'm a big fan of garage rock, even Chain and the Gang is fairly garage-y. I mean, I'm just whining. But I'm just thinking of this kind of modern aesthetic and what's informing it. I mean, garage rock has always been around. So, why, in the 2000s, does it seem so prevalent and unshakeable?"

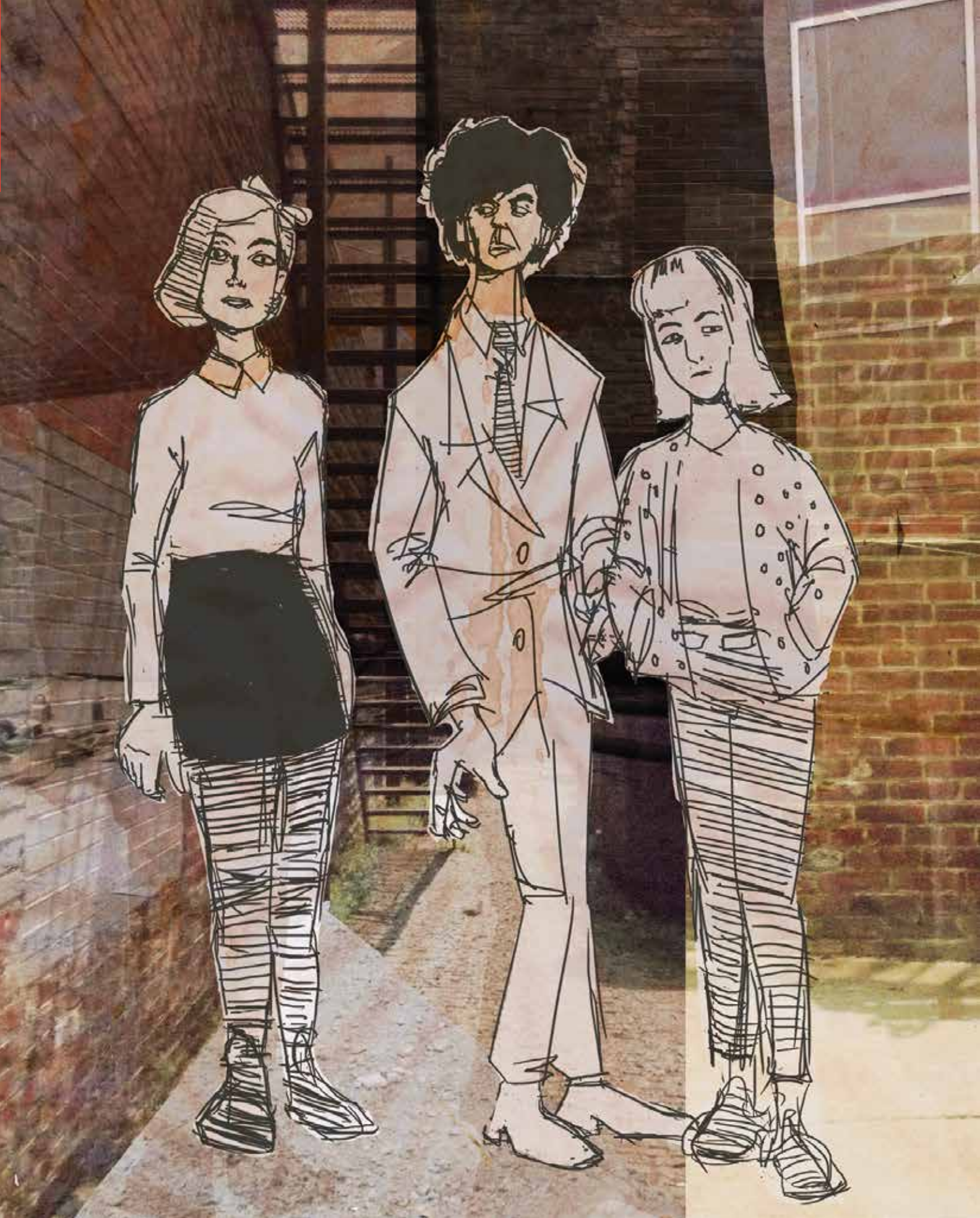
The best answer might be in the lyrics from *Minimum Rock N' Roll*'s first track, "Devalitize." Built on a simplistic, off-kilter jungle beat, Svenonius sneers about his desire to return decay to modern cities and turn away from the idealization of constant growth: "I wanna peel the paint / Rust the rails / Close everything so nothing's for sale / I want the middle class to feel alone / Like strangers in their own home."

"Now because of, like, *Seinfeld* and other pop-culture propaganda, living in a big city is an accoutrement and it's having a palpable effect on people who make art," said Svenonius. "It's turning artists into little business people. You have to be a business person to make art now; this 'bottom-line' idea has permeated the culture. If I were a reverend, I would urge the parishioners not to expand and reintroduce a kind of aesthetic where we can admire decay and inefficiency. Maybe efficiency is not the best thing for quality of life." **IV**

*Max Johnson lives in Iowa City and is a contender for "Sassiest Boy in Iowa City"*









## FINDING AMERICA AT HARDACRE

At this year's Hardacre Film Festival, two feature documentaries provide moving reflections of contemporary life in the United States.

BY SCOTT SAMUELSON



**T**his year the Hardacre Film Festival will not be located in the lovely Hardacre Theater, which is currently undergoing renovation.

Instead, three feature-length docs and various shorts will play on Aug. 2 at a one-day event in the newly renovated Tipton High School auditorium.

Though the Hardacre Theater has always been a big part of the festival's draw, the movies showing this year are too good to pass up. Like the theater itself, the documentaries are lovely pieces of Americana, especially *The Overnights*, a wrenching tragedy about a fracking boom town in North Dakota, and *Meet the Patels*, a sharp comedy about Indian-American dating.

Jesse Moss, who directed and shot *The Overnights*, could have focused on any number of things about Williston, one of the small North Dakota towns radically transformed by fracking: the environmental devastation, the wild-west sideshows of prostitution, the conflicted emotions of long-time residents, the new money, the sudden sprawl. Instead, Moss zeroes in on what turns out to

**CROSSING CULTURES** | In the comedic documentary, *Meet the Patels*, Ravi enters the American subculture of Indian dating.

be an absolutely fascinating character at the margin of all these transformations, pastor of Williston's Lutheran church.

Though many in the town are fearful of the drifters who come in search of work, Pastor Reinke welcomes these "overnights" and offers them the church floor and parking lot as places to sleep. As much as you warm to Reinke's authentic Christian spirit of serving the poor, you worry from the outset if the church and the town can hold up against the ceaseless flood of the unemployed.

Karl Marx famously calls religion "the opium of the people." You could forgive Marxists for criticizing Reinke's charitable mission as simply enabling the injustices of our economic system, which exploits not only those who search in vain for gainful employment but those who find it. Marx, in the same passage, also calls religion "the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, the soul of a soulless situation."



## NOW SHOWING



*Boyhood*

Directed by Richard Linklater

FilmScene—Opening Aug. 15

In 2002 Linklater began working with Ethan Hawke, Patricia Arquette, a seven-year-old boy by the name of Ellar Coltrane and Linklater's own eight-year-old daughter Lorelei to make a movie that would unfold, both in scripting and shooting, over the next 12 years. The result is a unique portrait of growing up, alive to the zigzags of time and fate. With the slow-fast speed of youth itself, 12 whole years feel like two and a half hours.



*Napoleon Dynamite*

Directed by Jared Hess

FilmScene—Aug. 21 and 23 (Free-\$5)

Deb: "What are you drawing?" Napoleon: "A liger." "What's a liger?" "It's pretty much my favorite animal, like a lion and a tiger mixed, bred for its skills in magic." It's hard to believe that it's been 10 years since Jared and Jerusha Hess's unlikely indie hit came out. Like the liger, *Napoleon Dynamite's* mix of absurdity and pathos doesn't seem quite possible, and yet it's bred for magic.



Reinke's open-hearted—at times more than open-hearted—embrace of the unemployed and homeless, even if it does tamp down the discontents of exploitation, reinvests Williston with something other than selfishness, something that glimmers with the same love that Jesus used to perform miracles on the broken.

When it comes out that some of the drifters sheltered at the church are not just felons but registered sex offenders, the already-skeptical community starts to turn against Reinke. As the tensions mount, Reinke's seemingly admirable character frays. *The Overnights* ends with a horrendous surprise, though one that makes complete sense in retrospect. The pastor's character takes on tragic proportions, and you'll be left desolate and yet strangely renewed in your sense of humanity.

**IF THE OVERNIGHTS UNLOCKS THE DARKEST ENERGIES OF OUR ECONOMY AND OUR MORALITY, MEET THE PATELS REMINDS US OF THE AMERICAN DREAM'S FRESH POSSIBILITIES FOR A HAPPY ENDING.**

If *The Overnights* unlocks the darkest energies of our economy and our morality, *Meet the Patels* reminds us of the American dream's fresh possibilities for a happy ending. Ravi Patel, the main character and co-director with his sister Geeta Patel, blends animation and real-life documentation to tell the hilarious story of how he broke up with his American girlfriend (whom he was embarrassed to introduce to his traditionalist family) and decided to put his dating in the hands of his Indian-born parents, who still believe in arranged marriages.

It turns out that Indian-Americans have an entire network for arranging marriages. The process begins with "bio-data," a picture coupled with important facts, like the precise darkness of your skin and the caste of your family. After careful perusals with his parents, the 29-year-old Ravi travels across the country

in search of the perfect mate.

The best thing about *Meet the Patels* is Ravi's interactions with his charming, exasperating parents. His sleek mom and frog-faced dad berate him lovingly and love him beratingly. They don't see why he's so picky about things like looks and personality. You want to fault them, but their own happy arranged marriage, to say nothing of their sharp wisdom, eats into your convictions about the value of 20-something-year-olds choosing a lifetime mate for themselves.

*Meet the Patels* brims and spills over with the humor of those who grow up in two very different cultures. People like Ravi and his sister often have the ability to see the total absurdity of humanity, for they've had to shuttle constantly between mutually opposed, yet equally workable ways of living. My favorite scenes are simply of Ravi's face, blending horror and fascination, love and disdain, as his father lectures him about some crucial aspect of Indian tradition. But even when the sibling team shows alternating clips from Indian and American romantic movies, you can't help but see through their eyes the hilarity of both cultures' rituals. *Dirty Dancing* will never be the same again.

Though *Meet the Patels* explores the weird subculture of Indian dating with bounciness and jokiness, it's more than a fluffy rom-com. It's often a moving exploration of American identity. Ravi's journey to find a wife turns into the universal pursuit of happiness, one that simultaneously breaks with and recuperates age-old traditions.

Watching *Meet the Patels* and *The Overnights* on the same day is a marvelously disorienting experience. You feel not only the confidence and despair of the American dream but the sense that its beauty and tragedy are inextricable.

And where better to find America in all its strange glory than in the Tipton High School Auditorium at Iowa's oldest film fest? **lv**

*Scott Samuelson teaches philosophy at Kirkwood Community College. His new book is The Deepest Human Life: An Introduction to Philosophy for Everyone.*

## Got Art?



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Dean Schwarz, *Gunnar Racing Chester*, 2013. Stoneware, 7 3/4 x 7 inches. Photo: Bob Remme, Milwaukee, WI.

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flavor of the month  
August:  
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## WHAT'S SIZZLING IN CEDAR RAPIDS

Grab some cowboy boots, pack a picnic and hit the town in Cedar Rapids this month. • BY SARAH DRISCOLL



**N**ow that August is here, summer feels like it's slipping away. Make the most of these sunny days by attending a festival or taking an adventure to a quirky Cedar Rapids shop.

### CRAIG ERICKSON AND PLANET PLUTO AT JAZZ UNDER THE STARS

NOELRIDGE PARK—AUG. 14, 7 P.M. (FREE)

Jazz Under the Stars is a free concert series that happens every Thursday night in August at Noelridge Park. Shows start at 7 p.m. and while they have food trucks on site, I often take a little picnic basket with some snacks and lots of wine. If there is one performance not to miss in this series, it's Cedar Rapids' guitar hero Craig Erickson and Planet Pluto playing on Aug. 14.

### SIRUS FOUNTAIN PAINTS AT THE 2013 NEWBO ARTS FEST | Photo courtesy of Jim Jacobmeyer

### GREEN DRINKS CR MEETUP

LOCATION TBD—AUG. 28, TIMES VARY,  
FACEBOOK.COM/GREENDRINKSCR

Did you know that Cedar Rapids has a Green Drinks, too? On Aug. 28, clean up your act at the Green Drinks CR meetup, an informal networking opportunity where environmentally conscious people can talk sustainability and innovation and share ideas with like-minded people.

Green Drinks happens on the fourth Thursday of every month, and each time there is a guest speaker to get the ball rolling. In June, the guest speaker was Steve Shriver of the Cedar Rapids-based lip balm company Eco Lips, and last month the city's arborist Todd Fagan spoke. Check out the Green Drinks CR

Facebook page to find out where the next one will be, as they change venues from month to month.

### NEWBO ARTS FEST

NEW BOHEMIA—AUG. 31, 10 A.M. - 6 P.M. (FREE)

The hippest art festival of the summer is the NewBo Arts Fest on Aug. 31 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Now in its eighth year, the festival features an arts fair in NewBo park, music stages in seven nearby bars and restaurants, a half marathon, sculpture and ceramic shows in the Cherry Building and an emerging artists gallery in NewBo City Market.

The art at NewBo Arts Fest is the kind that you'll want in your home, and it's affordable. The artists are progressive, edgy and approachable. I would compare it to the caliber of creativity at What a Load of Craft but with less gifts. There's also great food, street performers, kids activities and live music all day. Headlining the concerts is folk singer Jim Post of Friend and Lover who will play the Market Stage beginning at Noon. Afterwards, check out the introspective tunes of Bree Nettie and her new band Two Three Four, playing at 1 p.m. on the Market Stage.

### COUNTRY CORNER WESTERN STORE

4398 MOUNT VERNON RD. SE, CEDAR RAPIDS,  
COUNTRYCORNERWESTERN.COM

Shopping in Cedar Rapids can be quite the adventure, especially if you're looking for unique pieces for your wardrobe. At the Country Corner Western store on Mount Vernon Road you can find a new pair of boots or explore their legit cowboy gear. They have saddles, spurs, whips and chaps for riding or rodeo. You can also peruse their collection of Western wedding attire, from wedding, bridesmaid and flower girl dresses, to hats and men's frock coats. **lv**

*Sarah Driscoll lives in Cedar Rapids with her husband and dog. Sarah put out CRAM (Cedar Rapids Art & Music) magazine from 2002-2006.*



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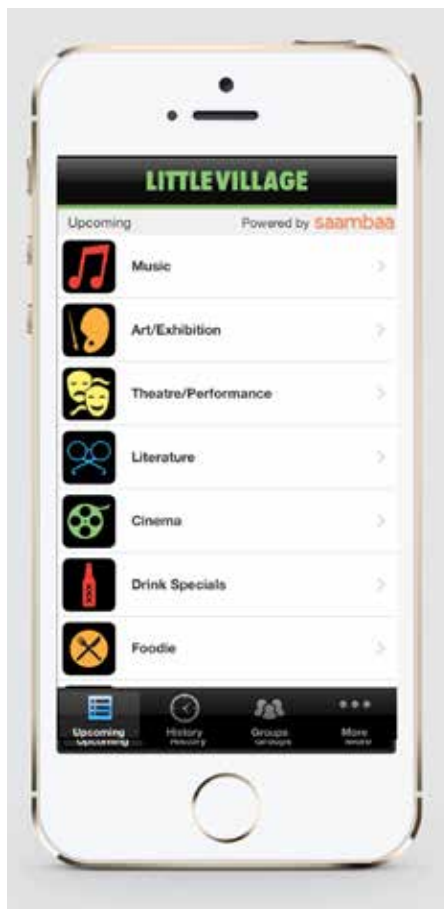
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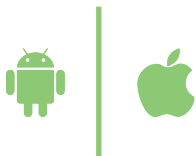
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## AREA EVENTS

### Music

#### ONGOING:

**Mondays: Open Mic** *Uptown Bill's, Free, 7 pm*  
**Tuesdays: Blues Jam** *Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 8 pm*  
**Open Mic w. Corey Wallace** *11th Street Precinct Bar & Grill, Free, 9 pm*  
**Wednesdays: Acoustic Open Mic Night** *River Music Experience, Free, 6 pm*  
**Open Mic at Cafe Paradiso** *Cafe Paradiso Free, 8 pm*  
**Open Jam Wednesdays** *Brady Street Pub Free, 9 pm*  
**Karaoke with Emerald Johnson** *11th Street Precinct Bar & Grill, Free, 9 pm*  
**Free Jam Session & Mug Night** *Yacht Club, Free, 10 pm*  
**Thursdays: Open Mic** *Uptown Bill's, Free, 7 pm*  
**Open Mic** *Long Shot Sports Bar and Grill, Free, 7 pm*  
**Daddy-O** *Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 7 pm*  
**Open Mic** *Starlights Theater & Lounge, Free, 8 pm*  
**Soulshake** *Gabe's, Free, 10 pm*  
**Mixology** *Gabe's, \$2, 10 pm*  
**Open Mic** *Starlights Theater & Lounge, Free, 8 pm*  
**Fridays: Live Band** *Penguin's Comedy Club, TBD, 8 pm*  
**Saturdays: Irish Sessions** *Uptown Bill's, Free, 4 pm*  
**Live Band** *Penguin's Comedy Club, TBD, 8 pm*  
**Sundays: Karaoke w. Emerald Johnson** *11th Street Precinct Bar & Grill, Free, 9 pm*  
**Open Mic** *Charlie's Bar and Grill, Free, 4 pm*

### WED. JULY 30

**Lyle Lovett and His Large Band** *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$43-\$128, 8 pm*

**Rising Lion** *Gabe's, Free, 9 pm*

### THURS. JULY 31

**Marc and Brandi Janssen** *University of Iowa, Free, 12 pm*

**Becca Sutlive** *Lincoln Winebar, Free, 7 pm*

**Gaelic Storm** *River Music Experience, \$5-\$30, 7 pm*

**Blues and R&B Jam Session** *Starlight's Theatre and Lounge, Free, 8 pm*

**Country on the River** *Diamond Jo Casino, Free, 8 pm*

**Tiny Ruins, Douglas Kramer Nye, Max Evan Johnson** *Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Free, 9 pm*

**Jason Carl** *11th Street Precinct Bar & Grill, Free, 9 pm*

**Electric Rag Band** *Yacht Club, \$5, 10 pm*

**C.J. the D.j.** *Ribco, Free, 10 pm*

**Bix Jazz Festival** *The RiverCenter, \$20-\$180, All Day*

### FRI. AUGUST 1

**Rock & Roll Rewind** *Diamond Jo Casino, \$10, 5 pm*

**Mercury Brothers Band** *River Music Experience, Free, 5 pm*

**ConeTrauma, Adam Balbo w. Savage Hacks** *Public Space ONE, \$3, 6 pm*

**Brass Transit Authority** *Fireside Winery, TBD, 7 pm*

**Mokoomba** *Legion Arts CSPS Hall, \$17-\$21, 8 pm*

**Future of Rock** *Showcase Ribco, TBD, 8 pm*

**Free Live Music** *High Ground Cafe, Free, 8 pm*

**Jason Clothier** *Mendoza Wine Bar, \$3, 8 pm*

**Jerry Garcia's Birthday Celebration** *with Old Shoe River Music Experience, \$8-\$10, 9 pm*

**Bradford Lee Folk & The Bluegrass Playboys** *The Mill, \$10, 9 pm*

**Strays** *Catfish Bend Casino, Free, 9 pm*

**Funktastic 5** *11th Street Precinct Bar & Grill, TBD, 9 pm*

**El Dub** *Yacht Club, \$5, 10 pm*

**The Olympics, All Dogs Invited** *Gabe's, \$5, 10 pm*

**Bix Jazz Festival** *The RiverCenter, \$20-\$180, All Day*

### SAT. AUGUST 2

**Rock & Roll Rewind** *Diamond Jo Casino, \$10, 2 pm*

**RME Guitar Circle** *River Music Experience, Free, 2 pm*

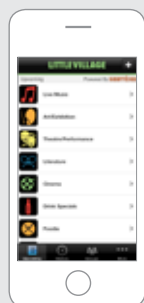
**Big Hair Days** *Millstream Brewery, Free, 5 pm*

## 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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**Caught in the Crypt** *Catfish Bend Casino, Free, 5 pm*  
**River Prairie Minstrels** *River Music Experience, Free, 6 pm*  
**Fate Revealed** *Catfish Bend Casino, Free, 6 pm*  
**Dave Moore** *Uptown Bill's, Free, 7 pm*  
**One w. The Only Tribute to Metallica** *Blue Moose Tap House, \$5, 7 pm*  
**Alan Jackson** *Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, TBD, 8 pm*  
*Cross Country Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon, Cover, 8 pm*  
**Tripmaster Monkey w. Dylan Sires & Neighbors and the Last Glimpse** *Ribco, TBD, 8 pm*  
**Cosmic River** *House Bar & Grill, Free, 8 pm*  
**Jason Stuart's Colbalt Blue** *Starlights Theater & Lounge, \$5, 8 pm*  
**Gayla Drake** *Mendoza Wine Bar, \$3, 8 pm*  
**Members Only** *Catfish Bend Casino, Free, 9 pm*  
**Caught in the Act** *11th Street Precinct Bar & Grill, TBD, 9 pm*  
**The Killigans** *Yacht Club, \$5, 10 pm*

## SUN. AUGUST 3

**Unplugged Music Series** *Fireside Winery, \$3, 2 pm*  
**Heath Alan Band** *Tabor Home Vineyards and Winery, TBD, 3 pm*  
**Bonnie Koloc** *Legion Arts CSPA Hall, \$17-\$21, 7 pm*  
**Chris Schlarb, Curt Oren** *Public Space ONE, \$3, 8 pm*

## MON. AUGUST 4

**Trapdoor Social** *Gabe's, Free, 9 pm*

## TUES. AUGUST 5

**Arkham w. Motives, Easy Mark** *Gabe's, \$10, 5 pm*  
**Everclear, Eve 6, Soul Asylum, and Spacehog** *US Cellular Center, \$22.50-\$37.50, 7 pm*  
**Dave Mason** *Englert Theatre, \$35, 8 pm*

## WED. AUGUST 6

**Spiritual Drum Circle** *Journey Church, Donation, 5 pm*  
**Victory Heights** *Gabe's, \$10, 6 pm*

## THURS. AUG. 7

**City Mouse, Rational Anthem** *Public Space ONE, \$3, 7 pm*  
**All Night Kitchen** *Mendoza Wine Bar, \$3, 7 pm*  
**Dailey & Vincent** *Englert Theatre, \$30, 8 pm*  
**Bret Michaels** *Diamond Jo Casino, \$35, 8 pm*  
**Buoyant Sea, Alex Body** *Gabe's, Free, 8 pm*  
**Dandelion Stompers** *Clinton Street Social Club, Free, 8 pm*  
**Sidewalk Chalk w. Ion** *The Mill, \$8, 9 pm*  
**Jordan & Jef** *11th Street Precinct Bar & Grill, TBD, 9 pm*  
**River Glen** *Yacht Club, \$5, 10 pm*

## FRI. AUGUST 8

**The Manny Lopez Big Band** *The Speakeasy, \$13-\$16, 6 pm*  
**Friday Night Concert Series** *PedMall, Free, 6 pm*  
**Hot Rod Chevy Kevy** *Elkader Opera House, TBD, 7 pm*  
**Let It Ride** *Fireside Winery, Free, 7 pm*  
**Funktastic 5** *River House Bar & Grill, Free, 8 pm*  
**Live Music** *High Ground Cafe, Free, 8 pm*  
**Missbehavin** *Diamond Jo Casino, Free, 8 pm*



Photo courtesy of The Milk Carton Kids

**The Milk Carton Kids** | Aug. 10, 7:30 p.m.—Englert Theatre (\$20-23, all ages)

The latest folk revival, with its focus squarely on boot-stomping four-on-the-floor pop structures and anthemic (albeit cliché-ridden) lyrics, is in full force. Bands like Mumford & Sons, The Lumineers and Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros have essentially cornered the market on modern-day folk music, and artists that actually share some musical DNA with folk heroes like Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan or Joan Baez have by-and-large forfeited the spotlight.

The Milk Carton Kids, thankfully, have had to make no such compromises. Across three full-lengths, the California-based duo (comprised of Kenneth Pattengale and Joey Ryan) have been effectively carrying the torch for folk traditionalists in the 21st century. Folk legends like T. Bone Burnett and Billy Bragg have sung their praises, with Bragg calling their latest album, 2013's *The Ash & Clay*, his favorite release of last year.

Ryan and Pattengale's sound is exceptionally simple, with just their two acoustic guitars (both built in the '50s) and their singing voices. Their performances are reserved and patient, a quality highlighted by their refusal to attach pickups to their acoustic guitars. They opt to mic their guitars, for a quieter, more natural sound, which emphasizes their excellent, close vocal harmonies.

Notably, the duo have made their first two records available for free download, tallying up an impressive 330,000 downloads, proving that there's still room for a traditional folk to gain a foothold in mainstream music space. —MJ



Photo courtesy of Chris Schlarb

**Chris Schlarb w. Curt Oren** | Aug. 3, 8 p.m.—Public Space One (\$5, all ages)

Whether he's working with pop-indebted free jazz songs or solo ambient guitar, avant-garde musician Chris Schlarb's work is notable for how reserved and patient it can be. Having collaborated with countless artists, including Dave Longstreth (of the Dirty Projectors) and Sufjan Stevens, Schlarb is one of the indie world's greatest musician's musicians. —Max Johnson



Photo courtesy of Fastball

**Fastball w. American Youth, Martin Carpenter and the Souvenirs, The Olympics** | Aug. 15, 9 p.m.—Blue Moose Tap House (\$13-\$15, +19)

Fastball, from Austin, Texas, owes their initial success to the '90s alt-rock craze (which led to their sophomore, platinum album, *All the Pain Money Can Buy*), but it's their ear for hooks and their expansive sound that has sustained them for more than 20 years. They've only gotten better since leaving their major label for the indies—you may even find yourself digging their new songs more than their hits. —MJ



## AREA EVENTS

### Music (cont.)

**Sam & Steve Price** *Mendoza Wine Bar, \$3, 8 pm*

**Kevin Gates** *The RiverCenter, \$27-\$42, 9 pm*

**Justin Morressy** *11th Street Precinct Bar & Grill, TBD, 9 pm*

**Aaron Kamm & The One Drops** *Yacht Club, \$8, 10 pm*

### SAT. AUGUST 9

**Community Folk Sing** *Uptown Bill's, Free, 3 pm*

**Live Music** *Millstream Brewery, Free, 5 pm*

**Jennifer Danielson** *Uptown Bill's, Free, 7 pm*

**Rock River Jazz Band** *Grandon Civic Center Gazebo, Free, 7 pm*

**Davina and the Vagabonds** *Legion Arts CSPS Hall, \$16-\$19, 8 pm*

## VENUE GUIDE

### IOWA CITY

**Blue Moose Tap House** 211 Iowa Ave, (319) 358-9206, [bluemooseic.com](http://bluemooseic.com)

**Chait Galleries Downtown** 218 E Washington St, (319) 338-4442, [thegalleriesdowntown.com](http://thegalleriesdowntown.com)

**Englert Theatre** 221 E Washington St, (319) 688-2653, [englert.org](http://englert.org)

**FilmScene** 118 E College St, (319) 358-2555, [icfilmscene.org](http://icfilmscene.org)

**First Avenue Club**, 1550 S 1st Ave, (319) 337-5527, [firstavenueclub.com](http://firstavenueclub.com)

**Gabe's** 330 E Washington St, (319) 351-9175, [icgabes.com](http://icgabes.com)

**Iowa Artisans' Gallery** 207 E. Washington St, (319) 351-8686, [iowa-artisans-gallery.com](http://iowa-artisans-gallery.com)

**Iowa City Community Theatre** 4261 Oak Crest Hill Rd SE, (319) 338-0443, [iowacitycommunitytheatre.com](http://iowacitycommunitytheatre.com)

**Iowa Memorial Union** 125 N Madison St, (319) 335-3041, [imu.uiowa.edu](http://imu.uiowa.edu)

**Lasansky Corporation Gallery** 216 E Washington St, (319) 337-9336, [lasanskyart.com](http://lasanskyart.com)

**M.C. Ginsberg Objects of Art** 110 E Washington St, (319) 351-1700, [mcginsberg.com](http://mcginsberg.com)

**Old Capitol Museum** 21 N Clinton St, (319) 335-0548, [uiowa.edu/oldcap](http://uiowa.edu/oldcap)

**Prairie Lights Bookstore** 15 S Dubuque St, (319) 337-2681, [prairielights.com](http://prairielights.com)

**Public Space One** 120 N Dubuque St, (319) 331-8893, [publicspaceone.com](http://publicspaceone.com)

**Jesse Stewart** *Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon, Cover, 8 pm*

**Lynn Allen** *River House Bar & Grill, Free, 8 pm*

**David Gerald Band** *Starlights Theater & Lounge, \$5, 8 pm*

**Lynn Hart Trio** *Mendoza Wine Bar, \$3, 8 pm*

**Cosmic** *11th Street Precinct Bar & Grill, TBD, 9 pm*

**Paa Kow's By All Means** *Yacht Club, \$8, 10 pm*

### SUN. AUGUST 10

**Unplugged Music Series** *Fireside Winery, Free, 2 pm*

**Acidic** *Blue Moose Tap House, \$8-\$10, 6 pm*

**Trish Bruxvoort Colligan w. Jonathan Rundman & Jake**

**Armerding** *Legion Arts CSPS Hall, \$16-\$19, 7 pm*

**Milk Carton Kids** *Englert Theatre, \$20-\$23, 7 pm*

**Spoken Nerd** *Gabe's, Free, 9 pm*

### MON. AUGUST 11

**Chain & the Gang w. ex-Nation of Ulysses, The Make Up**  
*The Mill, \$6-\$8, 9 pm*

### TUES. AUGUST 12

**Twins, Crystal City, Midwest Charm** *Gabe's, Free, 9 pm*

### WED. AUGUST 13

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

**The Devil Makes Three** *River Music Experience, \$17.50-\$20, 8 pm*

**Kristen Ford, Geoffrey Koch** *Gabe's, Free, 9 pm*

### THURS. AUGUST 14

**Carlos Nez** *Legion Arts CSPS Hall, \$17-\$21, 7 pm*

**1950's & 1960's Sock Hop** *Diamond Jo Casino, Free, 7 pm*

**Scott Helmer Support Your Cause Tour** *The Capitol Theater, TBD, 7 pm*

**Soul Storm** *11th Street Precinct Bar & Grill, TBD, 9 pm*  
*Mixology Gabe's, \$2, 10 pm*

### FRI. AUGUST 15

**Friday Night Concert Series** *PedMall, Free, 6 pm*

**Holiday Road Band Footloose Friday Nights** *Fireside Winery, \$3, 7 pm*

**Chasin' Grace** *Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon, Cover, 8 pm*

**The Holmes Brothers** *Legion Arts CSPS Hall, \$17-\$21, 8 pm*

**Live Music** *High Ground Cafe, Free, 8 pm*

**Buzz Berries** *Diamond Jo Casino, Free, 8 pm*

**Two Bit Maniac** *Mendoza Wine Bar, \$3, 8 pm*

**Fastball** *Blue Moose Tap House, \$13 - \$15, 9 pm*

**Corporate Rock** *11th Street Precinct Bar & Grill, TBD, 9 pm*

**Slamabama** *The Cooler, Free, 9 pm*

**Dark Time Sunshine** *Gabe's, \$8 - \$10, 9 pm*

**Ben Soltau's Big Funk Guarantee** *Yacht Club, \$5, 10 pm*

**River Roots Live Festival** *Le Claire Park, \$10, All Day*

**Steven Vail Fine Arts** 118 E College St, (319) 248-9443  
[stevenvail.com](http://stevenvail.com)

**The Mill** 120 E Burlington St, (319) 351-9529, [icmill.com](http://icmill.com)

**Trumpet Blossom Cafe** 310 E Prentiss St, (319) 248-0077, [trumpetblossom.com](http://trumpetblossom.com)

**University of Iowa Museum of Art** 1375 Iowa 1, (319) 335-1727, [uima.uiowa.edu](http://uima.uiowa.edu)

**University of Iowa Museum of Natural History** 17 N Clinton St, (319) 335-0480, [uiowa.edu/mnh](http://uiowa.edu/mnh)

**Uptown Bill's** 730 S Dubuque St, (319) 339-0804, [uptownbills.org](http://uptownbills.org)

**Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon** 4919 Dolphin Dr SE, (319) 338-2211, [wildwoodsaloon.com](http://wildwoodsaloon.com)

**Yacht Club** 13 S Linn St, (319) 337-6464, [iowacityyachtclub.com](http://iowacityyachtclub.com)

### CEDAR RAPIDS

**African American Museum of Iowa**, 55 12th Ave SE, (319) 862-2101, [blackiowa.org](http://blackiowa.org)

**Brucemore Mansion** 2160 Linden Dr SE, (319) 362-7375, [brucemore.org](http://brucemore.org)

**Cedar Rapids Museum of Art**, 410 Third Avenue SE, (319) 366-7503, [crma.org](http://crma.org)

**Daniel Arthur's** 821 3rd Ave SE, (319) 362-9340, [www.danielarthurs.net](http://www.danielarthurs.net)

**Hawkeye Downs Speedway and Fairgrounds** 4400 6th St SW, (319) 365-8656, [hawkeyedownsspeedway.com](http://hawkeyedownsspeedway.com)

**JM O'Malley's** 1502 H Ave NE, (319) 369-9433

**Legion Arts CSPS Hall** 1103 3rd St SE, (319) 364-1580,

[legionarts.org](http://legionarts.org)

**Little Bohemia** 1317 3rd St SE, (319) 366-6262

**Mahoney's** 1602 E Ave NE, (319) 364-5754

**McGrath Amphitheatre** 475 1st St SW, (319) 286-5760, [mcgrathamphitheatre.com](http://mcgrathamphitheatre.com)

**National Czech and Slovak Museum** 1400 Inspiration Place SW, [ncsml.org](http://ncsml.org)

**Opus Concert Cafe** 119 Third Ave SE, (319) 366-8203, [orchestraiowa.org](http://orchestraiowa.org)

**Paramount Theatre** 123 3rd Ave SE, (319) 398-5211, [paramounttheatreocr.com](http://paramounttheatreocr.com)

**Parlor City Pub & Eatery** 1125 3rd St SE, (319) 247-0000, [parlorcitypub.com](http://parlorcitypub.com)

**Penguin's Comedy Club** 208 2nd Ave SE, (319) 362-8133, [penguinscomedyclub.com](http://penguinscomedyclub.com)

**Shores Event Center** 700 16th St NE, (319) 775-5367, [shoreseventcenter.com](http://shoreseventcenter.com)

**Sip N Stir** 1119 1st Ave SE, Cedar Rapids., (319) 364-3163, [sipnstir.com](http://sipnstir.com)

**Tailgators** 3969 Center Point Rd NE, (319) 393-6621, [tailgatorslive.com](http://tailgatorslive.com)

**US Cellular Center** 370 1st Avenue NE | (319) 398-5211, [uscellularcenter.com](http://uscellularcenter.com)

**Veterans Memorial Stadium** 950 Rockford Rd SW, (319) 363-3887

**Theatre Cedar Rapids** 102 3rd St SE, (319) 366-8591, [theatreocr.org](http://theatreocr.org)





## AREA EVENTS

### Art / Exhibition

#### ONGOING

**Carl Van Vechten:** *Photographer to the Stars* Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, Free-\$5, 12 pm

**Celebration! Rituals and Revelry of Life** National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library, \$3-\$10, All Day

**Edward Burtnysky** *Water* Faulconer Gallery, Free, All Day

**Faces of Freedom: The Czech and Slovak Journey** National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library, \$3-\$10, All Day

**Images Gone With Time** National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library, \$3-\$10, All Day

**Two Americans in Paris** Figge Art Museum, \$4 - \$7, 7 pm

**Through July 31: Jefferson Henshaw Exhibit** Cedar Rapids Public Library-Downtown, Free, All Day

**Marvin Cone on My Mind The Ceramics of Dean Schwarz** Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, Free - \$5, 12 pm

**Opening Aug. 3: Berlin: Made in America** German American Heritage Center, \$3-\$5, All Day

**Berlin: Divided Past United Future** German American Heritage Center, \$3-\$5, All Day

**Through Aug. 3: A Moveable Museum: Works from the UIMA School Programs Collections** Figge Art Museum, \$4 - \$7, All Day

**Stuart Klipper** *Legion Arts CSPPS Hall*, TBD, All Day

**Through Aug. 5: Home: 10th Annual Catich Exhibition** Saint Ambrose University, Free, All Day

**Through Aug. 8: Olio: Collages by Sharon Beckman** Englert Theatre Gallery, Free, 5 pm

**Through Aug. 10: The Iowa State Fair: A Photo Exhibit by Kurt Ullrich** Museum of Natural History at UI, Free, 10 am

**Opening Aug. 15: Big Turnings: Liam O'Neill** Figge Art Museum, \$4-\$7, All Day

**Opening Aug. 16: Living Proof Exhibit: Cancer Survivor Art** Figge Art Museum, \$4-\$7, All Day

**Through Aug. 17: Spotlight: Gallery Artists** Iowa Artisans Gallery, Free, All Day

**Rising Above** Kosek Building in Czech Village, Free, All Day

**Through Aug. 25: Bill Voxman's Photo Portraits of Nepal: People, Landscape, Mountains & Glaciers** Iowa Artisans Gallery, Free, All Day

**Through Aug. 29: Hang 10** Quad City Arts, Free, All Day

**Through Aug. 30: Nature Center Scenes Photo Exhibit**

*Indian Creek Nature Center, Free, All Day*

**Through Aug. 31: Greater Amana Area Art Show** Amana Arts Guild, Free, All Day

**Laura Goldman Weinberg and David Gregory** *Quad City Botanical Center*, \$2-\$6, All Day

**Through Sept 7: Local Threads** Figge Art Museum, \$4 - \$7, All Day

**Innovators and Legends: Generations in Textiles and Fiber** Figge Art Museum, \$4 - \$7, All Day

**Through Sept. 14: From Pencil to Printed Page: Arthur Geisert's Thunderstorm** Figge Art Museum, \$4 - \$7, All Day

**Through Sept. 21: Grant Wood: American Impressionist** Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, Free - \$5, 12 pm

#### WED. JULY 30

**Drop in and Draw** Faulconer Gallery, Free, 1 pm

**Exhibition of Young Artists** Faulconer Gallery, Free, 4 pm

#### THURS. JULY 31

**Two Americans in Paris** Lecture Figge Art Museum, \$4-\$7, 7 pm

#### FRI. AUGUST 1

**Reception: Nature Center Scenes Photo Exhibit**

*Indian Creek Nature Center, Free, 7 pm*

#### CORALVILLE

**Cafe Crema** 411 2nd St, (319) 338-0700, [www.facebook.com/cafecrema.us](http://www.facebook.com/cafecrema.us)

**Coralville Center for the Performing Arts**, 1900 Country Club Dr, (319) 248-9370, [coralvillearts.org](http://coralvillearts.org)

**Coralville Recreation Center** 1506 8th St, (319) 248-1750, [coralville.org](http://coralville.org)

**Iowa Children's Museum** 1451 Coral Ridge Ave, (319) 625-6255, [theicm.org](http://theicm.org)

**Mendoza Wine Bar** 1301 5th St, (319) 333-1291, [mendozawinebar.com](http://mendozawinebar.com)

#### NORTH LIBERTY

**Bobber's Grill** 1850 Scales Bend Rd NE, (319) 665-3474, [bobbersongrill.com](http://bobbersongrill.com)

#### MT. VERNON / LISBON

**Lincoln Winebar** 125 First St NW, Mt Vernon, (319) 895-9463, [foodisimportant.com](http://foodisimportant.com)

**Sutliff Cider** 382 Sutliff Road, Lisbon, (319) 455-4093, [sutliffcider.com](http://sutliffcider.com)

#### RIVERSIDE

**Riverside Casino & Golf Resort** 3184 Highway 22, (319) 648-1234, [riversidecasinoandresort.com](http://riversidecasinoandresort.com)

#### FAIRFIELD

**Cafe Paradiso** 101 N Main St, (641) 472-0856, [cafeparadiso.net](http://cafeparadiso.net)

**Orpheum Theater** Fairfield, 121 W Broadway Ave (641) 209-5008, [orpheumtheatrefairfield.com](http://orpheumtheatrefairfield.com)

#### GRINNELL

**The Gardener Lounge** 1221 6th Ave, (641) 269-3317,

[grinnellconcerts.com](http://grinnellconcerts.com)

**The Faulconer Gallery** 1108 Park St, (641) 269-4660, [grinnell.edu/faulconergallery](http://grinnell.edu/faulconergallery)

#### QUAD CITIES

**Adler Theatre** 136 E 3rd St, Davenport, (563) 326-8500, [adlertheatre.com](http://adlertheatre.com)

**Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse** 1828 3rd Ave, Rock Island, (309) 786-7733, [circa21.com](http://circa21.com)

**Figge Art Museum** 225 W 2nd St, Davenport, (563) 326-7804, [figgeartmuseum.org](http://figgeartmuseum.org)

**Isle of Capri Casino** 1777 Isle Parkway, Bettendorf, (563) 359-7280, [isleofcapricasinos.com](http://isleofcapricasinos.com)

**River Music Experience** 129 Main St, Davenport, (563) 326-1333, [rivermusicexperience.com](http://rivermusicexperience.com)

**iWireless Center** 1201 River Dr, Moline, (309) 764-2001, [iwirelesscenter.com](http://iwirelesscenter.com)

#### ANAMOSA / STONE CITY

**General Store Pub** 12612 Stone City Rd, (319) 462-4399, [generalstorepub.com](http://generalstorepub.com)

#### MAQUOKETA

**Ohnward Fine Arts Center** 1215 E Platt St, (563) 652-9815, [ohnwardfineartscenter.com](http://ohnwardfineartscenter.com)

**Codfish Hollow Barnstormers** 5013 288th Ave, [codfishhollowbarnstormers.com](http://codfishhollowbarnstormers.com)

#### DUBUQUE

**The Bell Tower Theater** 2728 Asbury Rd Ste 242, (563) 588-3377, [belltowertheater.net](http://belltowertheater.net)

**Diamond Jo Casino** 301 Bell St, (563) 690-4800, [diamondjodubuque.com](http://diamondjodubuque.com)

**Eronel** 285 Main St, <http://www.eronelbq.com>

**Five Flags Center** 405 Main St, (563) 589-4254, [fiveflagscenter.com](http://fiveflagscenter.com)

**The Lift** 180 Main St, 563-582-2689, [theliftdubuque.com](http://theliftdubuque.com)

**Matter Creative Center** 140 E 9th St, (563) 556-0017, [mattercreative.org](http://mattercreative.org)

**Monks** 373 Bluff St, (563) 585-0919, [www.facebook.com/MonksKaffeePub](http://www.facebook.com/MonksKaffeePub)

**Mystique Casino** 1855 Greyhound Park Rd, (563) 582-3647, [mystiquedbq.com](http://mystiquedbq.com)

#### CLINTON

**Wild Rose Casino** 777 Wild Rose Dr, (563) 243-9000, [wildroseresorts.com/clinton](http://wildroseresorts.com/clinton)

**Showboat Theater** 303 Riverside Rd, (563) 242-6760, [clintonshowboat.org](http://clintonshowboat.org)

#### CASCADE

**Ellen Kennedy Fine Arts Center** 505 Johnson St. NW, (563) 852-3432

#### DES MOINES

**Civic Center** 221 Walnut St (515) 246-2300, [www.desmoinesperformingarts.org](http://www.desmoinesperformingarts.org)

**El Bait Shop** 200 SW 2nd St (515) 284-1970 [elbaitshop.com](http://elbaitshop.com)

**Gas Lamp** 1501 Grand Ave (515) 280-3778,

[gaslampdsm.com](http://gaslampdsm.com)

**House of Bricks** 525 E Grand Ave (515) 727-437

**Vaudeville Mews** 212 4th St, (515) 243-3270,

[booking@vaudevillermews.com](mailto:booking@vaudevillermews.com)

**Woolys** 504 East Locust (515) 244-0550 [www.woolysdm.com](http://www.woolysdm.com)

**Whiskey Dixx** 215 4th St (515) 288-8678



## Art/Exhibition (cont.)

### SUN. AUGUST 3

**Community Worktime** *Public Space ONE, Free, 1 pm*

### WED. AUGUST 6

**Art Bites - The Nation Votes** *Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, Free, 12 pm*

### THURS. AUGUST 7

**Wine & Art** *Figge Art Museum, \$20/student; all supplies provided, 6 pm*

### SUN. AUGUST 10

**Community Worktime** *Public Space ONE, Free, 1 pm*

### WED. AUGUST 13

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

### SAT. AUGUST 16

**Monotype and Watercolor Monoprint** *Public Space ONE, \$60, 12 pm*

### SUN. AUGUST 17

**Community Worktime** *Public Space ONE, Free, 1 pm*

## Theatre/Performance

### ONGOING:

**Wednesdays: Open Mic** *Penguin's Comedy Club, Free, 8 pm*

**Fridays & Saturdays: ComedySportz** *The Establishment Theatre, \$12, 7 pm*

**Weekend Comedy Showcase** *Penguin's Comedy Club, Free, 7 pm*

**Through Aug. 10: Snoopy! The Musical** *Old Creamery Theatre, \$18.50-\$28, 2 pm*

**Through Aug. 6: Love, Lies and the Lottery** *Circa '21 Dinner Playhouse, \$29.26-\$49.12, 1 pm*

**Aug. 7 - 16: Cabaret in the Courtyard** *Brucemore, \$18 - \$25, 7 pm*

**Aug. 8 - 16: Oklahoma!** *Quad City Music Guild, \$11-\$64, 7 pm*

**Aug. 8 - 24: Waist Watchers the Musical** *Bell Tower Theater, \$9.50-\$19, 8 pm*

**Through Aug. 9: Toys in the Attic** *Lampost Theatre Co, \$18, 7 pm*

# intersections

PART 2 OF 12



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[www.facebook.com/BiotestPlasmaCenterIowaCity](https://www.facebook.com/BiotestPlasmaCenterIowaCity)



Photo by Jackie Blake Jensen

**Hair I** City Circle Acting Company, Aug. 1-3—Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, [citycircle.org](http://citycircle.org)

Turn on, tune in and drop out of your house to see a concert version of this time capsule of a musical. Hear all of the hit songs that topped the charts, including the title track, "Aquarius," as well as "Let the Sunshine In," "Good Morning Starshine" and "Easy to Be Hard." This production is rated PG-13. —Jorie Slodki

## Theatre/Performance (cont.)

**Aug. 14 - 31: Tuna Does Vegas** Old Creamery Theatre, \$18.50-\$28, 2 pm

**Aug. 15 - 17: Chicago** Englert Theatre, \$15-\$35, 7 pm

### WED. JULY 30

**John Bush** Diamond Jo Casino, \$10, 8 pm

### FRI. AUGUST 1

**Viva La Diva's** The Speakeasy, \$10, 8 pm

### SAT. AUGUST 2

**Aristophanes w. Plutus** Augustana College, TBD, 8 pm

**Open City Pop Up Performance** Ped Mall, Free, 12 pm, 7pm



### SUN. AUGUST 3

**Aristophanes w. Plutus** Augustana College, TBD, 8 pm

### WED. AUGUST 6

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

**Mike Toomey** Diamond Jo Casino, \$10, 8 pm

### THURS. AUGUST 7

**Open City Pop Up Performance** Ped Mall, Free, 7 pm

**Blame it on the Movies** Circa '21 Dinner Playhouse, \$49.12, 7 pm

### FRI. AUGUST 8

**Open City Pop Up Performance** Ped Mall, Free, 12 pm

### SAT. AUGUST 9

**The Blacklist** The Speakeasy, \$10, 9 pm

### WED. AUGUST 13

**Elliot Threatt** Diamond Jo Casino, \$10, 8 pm

### THURS. AUGUST 14

**Blame it on the Movies** Circa '21 Dinner Playhouse, \$49.12, 7 pm

### FRI. AUGUST 15

**Open City Pop Up Performance** Ped Mall, Free, 12 pm

**The Speakeasy Laugh Hard** The Speakeasy, \$3, 8 pm

## THE STRAIGHT DOPE

### DEVIANT DOLPHINS?

*A friend of mine supposedly saw an instance of a dolphin attempting to rape a human on National Geographic. While I'm not accusing NG of faulty research, they aren't nearly the font of knowledge you are. So, are there are confirmed occurrences of dolphin-human rape? —Nate*

Well . . . "rape" would be an exaggeration, not to mention a questionable choice of words. However, there definitely have been cases of dolphins behaving badly.

- The *National Geographic* channel Nat Geo Wild aired a video segment showing a dolphin at an aquatic park jumping on a woman in a pretty suggestive manner: the dolphin pops up out of the pool between the woman's legs, flops on top of her, and starts humping away, although there's no clear indication he's sexually aroused.

- But dolphins do get sexually aroused, and their sexual apparatus is such that rape can't be ruled out solely on grounds of mechanical impossibility. Evidence: a much-viewed YouTube video showing a dolphin with an unmistakably erect penis trying persistently

and aggressively to nose into the crotch of a female snorkeler while another diver tries to fend the critter off.

- In 2002 authorities warned swimmers in Weymouth Harbor, England, about the predations of Georges the dolphin. "This dolphin does get very sexually aggressive," a dolphin trainer was quoted as saying. "He has already attempted to mate with some divers. When dolphins get sexually excited, they try to isolate a swimmer, normally female. They do this by circling around the individual and gradually move them away from the beach, boat, or crowd of people."

- A lab assistant named Margaret Howe claims to have repeatedly allowed a dolphin named Peter to rub himself on her legs and hands while doing research on dolphin



communication in 1963. She describes the relationship as "sexual on his part . . . not sexual on mine. Sensuous, perhaps."

- Finally we have writer Malcolm Brenner, who claims to have had, back in the 70s, a six-month affair with a dolphin named Dolly.





Photo by Adam Burke

**Chicago** | *Old Capitol Opera*, Aug. 15-17—Englert Theatre, [oldcapitolopera.com](http://oldcapitolopera.com)

There's a new opera company in town, and they want you to find out what "all that jazz" is about. Old Capitol Opera (OCO) is making its debut with a production of the classic John Kander and Fred Ebb musical, *Chicago*.

The original 1975 musical production was choreographed by Bob Fosse and nominated for 10 Tony Awards, losing the "Best Musical" award to *A Chorus Line*. It has been a favorite for Broadway revivals—which are so frequent and run so long that it is often difficult for regional theatres to get the rights for their own productions.

Set in the Second City during prohibition, the musical follows the exploits of murderess Roxie as her trial becomes top entertainment. The musical features show tune standards like "Cell Block Tango," "Mr. Cellophane" and "Razzle Dazzle." And for those familiar with the Catherine Zeta-Jones and Renee Zellweger version of the musical, the OCO production includes songs that were cut from the 2002 film.

OCO was founded by Megan O'Brien, a UI alumna who returned to Iowa City to open her own studio for voice and music lessons. The new company hired local professionals for the production. They also have an apprentice company for older teens that want intensive musical theatre training. With such high standards, this theatre company provides a new venue for Iowa City "triple threat" actors to display their talents and for local arts patrons to enjoy world-class entertainment. —JS



Photo by Patrick Gouran

**Tuna Does Vegas** | Aug. 14-31—*Old Creamery Theatre*, [oldcreamery.com](http://oldcreamery.com)

In this two-actor comedy, the colorful citizens of the fictional small town Tuna, Texas, head to Sin City when a local radio host decides to renew his vows with his wife. This production is rated PG-13. —JS

Brenner, who's also admitted to sexual relations with a dog, says it was Dolly's idea. One press account says the two had "interspecies intercourse," which I gather means he rubbed himself on her. Brenner believes Dolly was so distraught after she was moved to another water park she committed suicide.

The last two examples of course involve allegedly consensual sex, and the sex in question was of the high school variety. Full-on intercourse isn't out of the question, but the challenges of human-dolphin docking aren't trivial, so something like rape in the strictest sense sounds unlikely. The fact remains that dolphins can be sexually aggressive and have been known to go after humans, creating a risk of injury or drowning.

Many would contend dolphins are incapable of rape because like all nonhuman creatures they can't grasp the idea of consent and are simply doing what comes naturally. The term "forced copulation," seen regularly in scholarly contexts, might better be used instead. Whatever you call it, this kind of thing isn't rare in the animal kingdom:

- Gangs of male dolphins may isolate a female, slap her around with their tails, and forcibly

copulate with her for weeks.

- Ducks are notorious for forcing themselves on apparently unwilling females, often due to a dearth of females to pair up with. At least 38 different species of ducks have been witnessed attempting forced copulation. Possibly as an evolutionary response, female ducks are able to manipulate the shape of their vaginas to encourage fertilization only with drakes they fancy.

- Spider monkeys occasionally engage in forced copulation, but it's more common among orangutans, primarily among young adult males, leading the females to pair up with adult orangutans to reduce sexual harassment.

- During sex the male garter snake lies on top of the female and presses down rhythmically on her lungs, preventing her from breathing. The stress evidently forces the female's cloaca to open, allowing the male to deposit his sperm.

Finally the gruesome question—if dolphins haven't been forcibly penetrating humans, are there animals that have? Zoophilic porn aside, the only reliable reports we have involve orangutans under study at the research camp

run in Borneo by the primatologist Biruté Galdikas. One scientist who spent time there has described an attempted sexual attack on a female colleague by a male orangutan named Apollo Bob. The woman was saved only when another human chased off the attacker with a stick.

But a worse case was recounted by Galdikas herself. While she was out in the jungle one day with her female cook, a crazed male orangutan named Gundul attacked the cook and mounted her. The women were unable to fight the beast off, and the orangutan proceeded to mate with the cook as she lay in the arms of the helpless Galdikas. Rape? No, and the distinction isn't hairsplitting. Galdikas thinks the cook, though shaken, may have viewed the incident as an animal attack, not a sexual assault, and of course pregnancy wasn't a possibility. But forced copulation, beyond a doubt. **IV**

—CECIL ADAMS



## AREA EVENTS

### Cinema

#### ONGOING

Opening Aug. 1: **Venus in Fur** FilmScene, \$6.50-\$8.50

Opening Aug. 15: **Boyhood** FilmScene, \$6.50-\$8.50

#### WED. JULY 30

**Obvious Child** FilmScene, \$6.50-\$8.50, 6 pm

**Texas Chainsaw Massacre (1974)** FilmScene, \$6.50 - \$8.50, 8 pm

**Carnival of Blood** FilmScene, \$4, 10 pm

#### THURS. JULY 31

**Movie at the Library** Scott County Library Eldridge Branch, Free, 1 pm

**The Muppets Take Manhattan** FilmScene, \$2.50, 4 pm  
**Life Itself** FilmScene, \$6.50-\$8.50, 6 pm

**Field of Dreams** Backpacket Brewery, Free, 8 pm

**Snowpiercer** FilmScene, \$6.50-\$8.50, 8 pm

#### SAT. AUGUST 2

**Hardacre Film Festival** Tipton High School, \$20, 9 am

**Free Movie Series** University of Iowa Pentacrest, Free, 8 pm

#### WED. AUGUST 6

**Oscar in the Afternoon** Davenport Public Library Eastern Avenue Branch, Free, 2 pm

#### THURS. AUGUST 7

**Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory** Grandon Civic Center Gazebo, Free, 7 pm

**Shaun of the Dead** Backpacket Brewery, Free, 8 pm

#### SAT. AUGUST 9

**Free Movie Series** University of Iowa Pentacrest, Free, 8 pm

#### THURS. AUGUST 14

**Wayne's World** Backpacket Brewery, Free, 8 pm

### Literature

#### WED. JULY 30

**Gary Paul Nabhan** Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 pm

#### THURS. JULY 31

**Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton** Prairiewoods, \$5, 6 pm

**Heather Gudenkauf** Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 pm

#### SAT. AUGUST 2

**Kurt Ullrich Book Signing** Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 1 pm

#### SUN. AUGUST 3

**Spiritual Book Discussion** Journey Church, Donation, 9 am

**Sit, Stay, R.E.A.D.** Iowa City Public Library, Free, 2 pm

#### WED. AUGUST 6

**Rainbow Reading Group** Iowa City Public Library, Free, 7 pm

#### SAT. AUGUST 9

**Mike Morsch** Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 1 pm

#### WED. AUGUST 13

**Between the Lines Book Club** Davenport Public Library Eastern Avenue Branch, Free, 7 pm

### Foodie

#### ONGOING

**Mondays: Coralville Farmers Market** S.T. Morrison Park, Free, 5 pm

**Tuesdays: Iowa City Farmers Market** Iowa City Marketplace, Free, 3 pm

**Wednesdays: Iowa City Farmers Market** Ground level of Chauncey Swan Ramp & Chauncey Swan Park, Free, 5 pm

**Thursdays: Coralville Farmers Market** S.T. Morrison Park, Free, 5 pm

**Saturdays: Iowa City Farmers Market** Ground level of Chauncey Swan Ramp & Chauncey Swan Park, Free, 7 am

**Sundays: GLBTQ Community Pot Luck and Bingo** Studio 13, Free, 6 pm

#### THURS. AUGUST 7

**Wine & Art** Figge Art Museum, \$20/student; all supplies provided, 6 pm

#### SAT. AUGUST 9

**Food and Wine Pairing** White Cross Cellars, \$10, 6 pm

### Educational

#### ONGOING

**July 30 - Aug. 1: Agile Corridor Scrum Training** Vault Coworking & Collaborative Space, \$1,895, 9 am

**Tuesdays: TED on Tuesdays** Iowa City Public Library, Free, 12 pm

**Line Dancing Lessons** Robert A. Lee Recreation Center, Free, 1 pm



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# A+



## WED. JULY 30

**Fleet Management Seminar** *Elmcrest Country Club, Free, 9 am*

**Kirkwood Cork N Canvas** *NewBo City Market, \$45, 6 pm*

## SAT. AUGUST 2

**Cubed Right Angle Weave Pendant** *Beadology Iowa, \$55, 10 am*

**Curved Cubed Right Angle Weave Techniques** *Beadology Iowa, \$55, 2 pm*

## SUN. AUGUST 3

**Intro to Hollow Glass** *Beadology Iowa, \$98, 1 pm*

**Rain Barrel Workshop** *The Salvage Barn, Free, 4 pm*

## MON. AUGUST 4

**Leadership Through People Skills** *Saint Ambrose University, \$1295, 8 am*

## TUES. AUGUST 5

**Venture School Creative Corridor: Info Session** *Thinc Innovation and Collaboration Lab, Free, 9 am*

**Soldered Pendant** *Beadology Iowa, \$65, 5 pm*

## WED. AUGUST 6

**Education Committee Meeting** *Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce, Free, 7 am*

**Art Bites - The Nation Votes** *Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, Free, 12 pm*

## SAT. AUGUST 9

**Tiny House Workshop** *Iowa City, Iowa, \$125, 8 am*

## SUN. AUGUST 10

**Blown Glass Sphere** *Beadology Iowa, \$98, 1 pm*

## THURS. AUGUST 14

**Coffee & Chat** *Indian Creek Nature Center, Free, 9 am*

**Venture School Creative Corridor: Info Session** *Thinc Innovation and Collaboration Lab, Free, 5 pm*

## FRI. AUGUST 15

**Perseid Party** *Indian Creek Nature Center, \$2-\$6, 9 am*

## Community

### ONGOING

**Through Aug 16: Walking tour of Herbert Hoover National Historic Site** *Herbert Hoover National Historic Site, Free, 6 pm*

## WED. JULY 30

**Women's Sexual Violence Support Group** *Rape Victim Advocacy Program Offices, Free, 6 pm*

**Obvious Child** *FilmScene, \$6.50-\$8.50, 6 pm*

**Theology Brewed** *Journey Church, Free, 7 pm*

## THURS. JULY 31

**Yoga in the Gallery with Jackie Hutchison** *Faulconer Gallery, Free, 12 pm*

**Party in the Park** *Reno Park, Free, 6 pm*

## SUN. AUGUST 3

**Cars & Coffee** *NewBo City Market, Free, 8 am*

## WED. AUGUST 6

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

**Women's Sexual Violence Support Group** *Rape Victim Advocacy Program Offices, Free, 6 pm*

**Theology Brewed** *Journey Church, Free, 7 pm*



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## Summer Calendar 2014

### DAILEY & VINCENT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7  
8pm | \$30 reserved seating

### MILK CARTON KIDS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10  
7:30pm | \$20 advance / \$23 day of show

### CHICAGO

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, AUGUST 15-17  
\$15/\$20/\$35 reserved seating | Presented by Old Capital Opera

### THE HANDSOME FAMILY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20  
8pm | \$20 general admission | Intimate at the Englert

### LANDLOCKED FILM FESTIVAL

SUNDAY-TUESDAY, AUGUST 21-23

### MARY GAUTHIER & SAM BAKER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16  
8pm | \$22 advance / \$25 day of show

### LOUIE ANDERSON

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19  
8pm | \$35 reserved seating

### AFTER ANA

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21  
7pm | \$10 general admission | In the Raw - Intimate Theater Series  
Co-presented by Working Group Theatre | Intimate at the Englert

### MARK KOZELEK of Sun Kil Moon

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22  
8pm | \$20 advance / \$22 day of show

### POKEY LAFARGE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23  
8pm | \$22 advance / \$25 day of show | Central Time Tour

### AMOS LEE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26  
8pm | \$46.50 reserved seating • \$1 for musicians on charity

### CAPITOL STEPS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4  
8pm | \$35 reserved seating

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## Community (cont.)

### THURS. AUGUST 7

**Low Vision Support Group** CASI Center for Active Seniors, Free, 10 am

**Party in the Park** Ned Ashton House, Free, 6 pm

**Yoga, Massage, & Live Music** Soul Centric Healing, \$40, 6 pm

### FRI. AUGUST 8

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

**Come View the Night Sky** University of Iowa, Free, 9 pm

### SAT. AUGUST 9

**Back Road 5K/Half Marathon Run** Millstream Brewery, TBD, 7 am

**Red Fern Farm Tour** Red Fern Farm, \$10-\$20, 8 am

**Yoga in the Market** Ground level of Chauncey Swan Ramp & Chauncey Swan Park, Free, 10 am

**Grant Wood's Indian Creek** Indian Creek Nature Center, \$5-\$8, 6 pm

### SUN. AUGUST 10

**Perseid Meteor Shower** German American Heritage Center, \$3-\$5, 2 pm

### MON. AUGUST 11

**Caregiver Support Group** CASI Center for Active Seniors, Free, 11 am

### TUES. AUGUST 12

**Agribusiness/Bioscience Committee Meeting** Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce, Free, 7 am

### WED. AUGUST 13

**Theology Brewed** Journey Church, Free, 7 pm

### THURS. AUGUST 14

**Coffee & Chat** Indian Creek Nature Center, Free, 9 am

**Yoga in the Gallery with Jackie Hutchison** Faulconer Gallery, Free, 12 pm

### FRI. AUGUST 15

**Perseid Party** Indian Creek Nature Center, \$2-\$6, 9 am



## AREA EVENTS

### Kids

#### ONGOING

**July 28 - Aug 1: Ancient Worlds: Near East Camp** Iowa Children's Museum, \$105-\$210, 9 am

**July 30 - 31: Solve It! Buxton** African American Museum of Iowa, \$25, 9 am

**Aug. 4 - 8: Animal Camp** Iowa Children's Museum, \$105, 9 am

**Through Sept 14: Dora & Diego** Family Museum Bettendorf, \$4-\$7, All Day

**Mondays: Play & Learn at Ladd Library** Cedar Rapids Public Library-Ladd Library, Free, 10 am

**Toddler Storytime** Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am

## NEWS QUIRKS

### CURSES, FOILED AGAIN

• After a camera was found secretly recording in the women's locker room at a fitness gym in Seekonk, Mass., police examined the video and named a club member as their suspect because it shows the man setting up the hidden camera. (Associated Press)

• A burglar who stole two cash registers and three plasma TVs from a pub in Accrington, England, stashed the items in his car. When he returned to the pub for more, two thieves snatched his loot. Authorities said surveillance video of the parking lot showed the burglar, identified as David Douglas Greaves, 43, with a "look of confusion" when he found the items missing. Police arrested Greaves and the two thieves, whom they also identified from surveillance video. (Britain's *Accrington Observer*)

### SPEED KILLS MEANING

Speed-reading apps thwart comprehension, according to researchers at the University of California at San Diego. Their study found that by converting text to a fast-moving sequence of individual words and phrases, the apps deny readers the opportunity to "regress," or

go back and reread a word or sentence. "Our ability to control the timing and sequence of how we intake information about the text is important for comprehension," the researchers concluded. (*Washington Post*)

### SEX IS ITS OWN PUNISHMENT

British authorities said an 18-year-old man and a 19-year-old woman died after falling from a sixth-floor balcony where they were observed "frolicking." Police Inspector Shaun Carre-Brown said the students were attending a party in London, and resident of a neighboring apartment building witnessed them "trying to have sex." (BBC News)

### NO-SEX IS ITS OWN PUNISHMENT

The four World Cup teams that banned their players from having sex during the tournament — Russia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile and Mexico — all made early exits from the competition, according to the news outlet Quartz. Players on champion Germany's team were allowed to have sex. Restrictions varied from team to team. Brazil allowed players to have sex but no "acrobatics," for example, while Costa Rica said players could have sex but "not all night." (*The Moscow Times*)

### SECOND-AMENDMENT FOLLIES

• Geoffrey Hawk, 44, a vendor at a gun show in Bloomsburg, Pa., accidentally shot a 25-year-old woman in the leg while demonstrating a gun and a concealed-carry wallet holster. Hawk told police he thought the gun was unloaded. (Associated Press)

• Gene Kelley reported that a 105 mm howitzer shell blew through the wall of his home in Wyandotte, Okla., hit the ceiling and damaged another wall. Ottawa County sheriff's investigators said the 14.5-by-3.5-inch shell came from a historic artillery canon fired at a gun show three miles away. (Pittsburg, Kan.'s KOAM-TV)

• The Ignite Church in Joplin, Mo., encouraged attendance at its Father's Day service by raffling off two AR-15 rifles. To attract males age 18 to 35 — "the biggest black hole in our society," pastor Heath Mooneyham said — Sunday services start later than many other churches and feature loud rock music. "We're just dudes," said Mooneyham, who sports tattoos and a short Mohawk, noting that churchgoers got excited about the firearms raffle "because that speaks our language." (*The Joplin Globe*)



**Tuesdays: Toddler Storytime** Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am

**Preschool & Toddler Storytime** Scott County Library - Eldridge Branch, Free, 10 am

**Tweens on Tuesday** Iowa City Public Library, Free, 2 pm  
**Kid Creations** Davenport Public Library Fairmount St. Branch, Free, 3 pm

**Wednesdays: Preschool Storytime** Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am

**Story Time at Ladd** Cedar Rapids Public Library-Ladd Library, Free, 10 am

**Preschool Storytime** Bettendorf Public Library, Free, 10 am

**Thursdays: Preschool Storytime** Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am

**Preschool Storytime** Bettendorf Public Library, Free, 10 am

**Lil' Chicks Club** NewBo City Market, Free, 11 am

**WOW Wednesday** Felix Adler Children's Discovery Center, \$3-\$4, 1 pm

**Lil' Chicks Club** NewBo City Market, Free, 11 am

**Fridays: Fun Time Friday** Felix Adler Children's Discovery Center, \$3-\$4, 10 am

**Preschool & Toddler Storytime** Scott County Library - Eldridge Branch, Free, 10 am

**Saturdays: Family Day** Moline Public Library, Free, 10 am  
**Family Storytime** Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am

## WED. JULY 30

**Little Scientists Storytime** Cedar Rapids Public Library - Ladd Library, Free, 9 am

**The Muppets Take Manhattan** FilmScene, \$2.50, 4 pm

## SAT. AUGUST 2

**Sensory Storytime** Iowa City Public Library, Free, 1 pm

## MON. AUGUST 4

**Putnamology** Putnam Museum, \$150-\$160, 9 am

## TUES. AUGUST 5

**Kid Creations** Davenport Public Library Fairmount St. Branch, Free, 3 pm

## THURS. AUGUST 7

**Doodlebugs at the CRMA: Fauvism** Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, Free, 10 am

**Book Character Crafts!** Scott County Library - Eldridge Branch, Free, 6 pm

## FRI. AUGUST 8

**Animals Amok** Indian Creek Nature Center, \$2-\$5, 7 pm

**Dora & Diego** Family Museum Bettendorf, \$4-\$7, All Day

## SAT. AUGUST 9

**Night at the Children's Museum** Iowa Children's Museum, \$20, 8 pm

## SUN. AUGUST 10

**Playtime with Mimi** Iowa Children's Museum, Free, 10 am

- Police in Albuquerque, N.M., charged John Ruiz, 41, with child endangerment after he left his loaded .22 pistol with his 11-year-old daughter to protect herself while he went to get a tattoo. (*Albuquerque Journal*)

- A woman unloading groceries with her mother in Dolan Springs, Ariz., was shot in the stomach by a .22-caliber rifle hidden in the back seat of her station wagon that accidentally fired. Police said the victim's husband had stolen the rifle during a home burglary earlier that day. (Phoenix's AZfamily.com)

- A 51-year-old woman who said she slammed the butt end of a shotgun on the floor during a family dispute "to make a point" accidentally shot herself in the face, according to police in Fremont Township, Mich. (Michigan's MLive.com)

## No-Fun City

- New York City police are cracking down on underground acrobats: pass-the-hat performers who flip, somersault and pole dance among subway riders on trains. Police made more than 240 arrests in the first six months of 2014, compared with fewer than 40 during the same time a year ago. (Associated Press)

- Officials want to limit the number of costumed characters in New York's Times Square. "In the last 10 days alone, we've seen two Statues of Liberty arrested, a Spider-Man convicted of harassing a tourist, and now a third character arrested for groping a woman in Times Square," said Tim Tompkins, president of the Times Square Alliance, a coalition of government officials and local business owners. Tompkins doesn't seek a complete ban, just a licensing system involving background checks. "Quirky in Times Square is OK," he explained. "Creepy is not." (New York's WCBSTV)

## No-Fun Country

- Bus riders in Winnipeg, Manitoba, who play a musical instrument, sing or offer a live musical performance on a city bus risk a \$100 fine, according to a new transit bylaw approved by the city's executive policy committee. (CBC News)

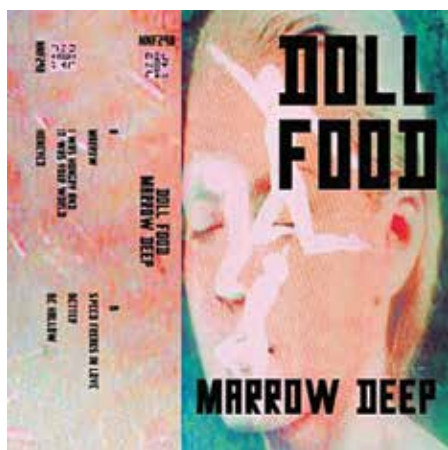
- Lawmakers in Mississauga, Ontario, voted to limit the height of clotheslines to 3 meters. The new bylaw stems from a complaint by Steve and Joanne DeVoe, who offered "hundreds" of photos of more than 15

clotheslines on neighboring property, some "at heights exceeding 20 ft." The couple's objections began five years ago, after they knocked down their existing house and built a bigger one with a view into their neighbors' yards. (*Toronto Star*)

## LACTATION FOLLIES

Hoping to encourage more mothers to breast-feed, health officials in Mexico City launched a campaign that featured posters showing topless actresses and the slogan, "Don't turn your back on them ... Give them your breast." Women's groups and health advocates promptly objected. "It's not only a very terrible campaign in terms of how it looks, but its' also the message that if you don't breast-feed, you are a bad mother," said Regina Tames of the reproductive rights group GIRE. After removing the pictures of the topless actresses from the city's website, Mexico City's health director said the campaign would focus on opening 92 lactation rooms and two milk banks. (NPR) **lv**

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



## DOLL FOOD

*Marrow Deep*

[midheaven.com/item/marrow-deep-by-doll-food-mc](http://midheaven.com/item/marrow-deep-by-doll-food-mc)

**D**oll Food, a former Iowa City improvisational noise duo (now based out of Chicago), has been crafting zonked-out and eerie soundscapes for about a year now. Brandon Volz and vocalist Bri LaPelusa's compos-

**EACH SONG BEGINS WITH LAPELUSA LAYERING VOCAL LOOPS INTO A JULIANNA BARWICK-ESQUE, ONE-WOMAN CHORUS, FOLLOWED BY VOLZ CREATING A DECAYING SOUNDSCAPE WITH AN ARRAY OF PEDALS AND SYNTHESIZERS.**

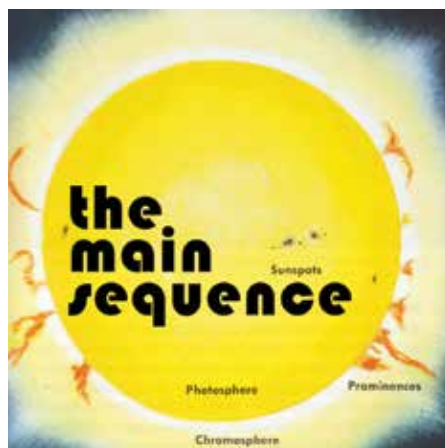
ing process is deceptively simple: Each song begins with LaPelusa layering vocal loops into a Julianna Barwick-esque, one-woman chorus, followed by Volz creating a decaying soundscape with an array of pedals and synthesizers. The two then add warped samples from sources such as hypnosis tapes, weight loss videos and Catholic mass recordings to finish the songs. It's a very narrow palette to be working with, but it's clear that the duo's greatest achievement on their debut release, *Marrow Deep*, is the amount of sonic territory they manage to cover within 35 minutes.

The bulk of the tape sticks to a mossy, corroded sound steeped in creepy weirdness. Each song finds its identity when different sonic elements stick their head out of the lo-fi

muck. For instance, album opener, "Marrow," hangs its nearly 7-minute length on a single vibrato synth tone that alternates between either burying or being buried by the rest of the song. Side B's "Better" takes this approach to the limits and eschews the synths and samples found on the rest of the tape, instead building itself entirely out of LaPelusa's vocal loops.

"Speed Freaks in Love," the first track on Side B, is easily the best song on the tape and a perfect example of what Doll Food does well. Walking the tight rope between "harsh" and "hypnotic," the track balances an id-like wall of distorted noise with a sweetly melancholic omnichord loop and a soulful baritone sax sample. For a relatively heady and difficult release, this is the perfect introductory track to Doll Food. It's a Midwestern answer to Flying Lotus' most bleary-eyed, 4 a.m. after-party tracks; the perfect make-out jam for the post-apocalyptic crowd or a torch song for, well, speed freaks. **IV**

—Max Johnson



## THE MAIN SEQUENCE

*Self-Titled LP*

[themainsequence.bandcamp.com](http://themainsequence.bandcamp.com)

**A**mbient music generally has no narrative, no frontman and sometimes no recognizable foreground. This is a genre where practitioners may outnumber the total audience, at least in the U.S. where Americans like celebrity, attitude and a human focal point in their music. Ambient music doesn't just lack

those things, it's an active rejection of them.

The Main Sequence's Joel David Palmer and Joshua Alan Weiner make improvised ambient music. Their band name, a term from astronomy, ties these guys to space, a familiar theme in ambient music. Luckily they don't use clichéd samples of astronauts chatting with mission control—they use guitars and effects to explore a slowed-down realm inhabited by echoes and ghosts of echoes.

The opening song "Camelopardalis" is named for the faint Giraffe constellation near

**IF YOU TAKE THE MAIN SEQUENCE ON THEIR OWN TERMS, IT IS A FASCINATING EXPLORATION OF SOUNDS AND HARMONIES.**

the Little Dipper. It is based mostly on sustained guitar notes, played so slowly that each seems to hang suspended in its own space. It's not so much a song as an extended sound sculpture sprawling over 22 minutes. This will infuriate some listeners, but if you take The Main Sequence on their own terms, it is a fascinating exploration of sounds and harmonies—from the marimba-like plinking at the start, through the long middle section of sustained drones that wanders around a minor tonal center—which create and resolve dissonances.

Of the four tracks on this album, "Camelopardalis" is the most successful. It is an improvisation that maintains focus and forward momentum. The other tracks are anchored—weighted down even—by repetitive rhythmic loops that wear out their welcome. They're not bad, but "Camelopardalis" weightless by comparison. The album closer, "Noon to Evening, Dome Sector 4," does break free after 10 minutes of a busy guitar loop. It slows down and finishes with sustained buzzing guitars that carry a mood of nervous expectancy.

Like Iowa City's experimental droners, LWA, the appeal of The Main Sequence is that they've improvised together enough to find their own unique musical space. Within that space, anything is possible: happy accidents, startling juxtapositions, sustained sequences of almost telepathic unity. They may not know where they're going when they start playing, but the journey is the destination. **IV**

—Kent Williams



## TAKING ADVANTAGE

Tips to make the most out of your sex life, for fuck's sake.

BY DAN SAVAGE

*I am wondering when the best time is to mention being in an open relationship to new girls. I'm a 27-year-old straight guy who's been in an open relationship for six years. I often seek out extracurricular activities, but I am unsure of how to bring up my situation without doors closing. I wrote to a seduction blogger who often writes about open relationships, and his advice was to not mention it until I've had sex with the girl a few times and to not bring them to my apartment that I share with my girlfriend. This feels contrary to my nature, which is very straightforward, but is it perhaps the better method? Indeed, many of my "potentials" have been scared away when they learn of my relationship status. What are your thoughts on the matter?*

*Straightforward Honesty Offends Potentials*

If your goal is to maximize the amount of pussy in your life without any regard for the feelings of the women who happen to be attached to those pussies, SHOP, then you should definitely take the advice of the PUA ("pickup artist") blogger. But that's only if you wanna be a huge asshole who gets tons of pussy. If you wanna be a decent dude who gets more than enough pussy—and "enough is as good as a feast," as Mary Poppins says—then you'll listen to me.

Tell "potentials" after the third hang/date/whatever. Let them get to know you a bit, then spill—before fucking but after they've made a small emotional investment in you. They'll be more likely to reconsider prejudices they may have against guys in open relationships after they've gotten to know a semi-straightforward one and perhaps be less quick to slam the door. But unless it's a clear case of drunken-one-night-stand/NSA encounter, no lying by omission—no matter what the PUA/POS blogger says. Most single people up for fucking a new person not once, not twice, but a few times are seeking someone with long-term potential. There are lots of single people out there seeking sex for sex's sake, of course, but a majority of sex-for-sex's-sake types are hoping to leverage it into something more at some point. And most single people make the quite reasonable if not always accurate assumption that the people they're fucking are also single—otherwise they wouldn't be fucking them, right? If

you neglect to inform the women you fuck that you're not single (you've got a girlfriend) or emotionally available (you're in an open relationship, not a poly one), you are knowingly taking advantage—and needlessly! There are plenty of women out there who are in open relationships and/or poly relationships, as well as women who are looking only for sex. And while you might have to work a little harder to find these women, SHOP, you'll have better sex with a lot less drama—and you'll spend fewer millennia in purgatory burning off your sins.

*I'm a 30-year-old straight woman, and I've been with my male partner for four years. Here's the thing that's been bugging me: After four years, the sex has gotten predictable. But it's also gotten better in the sense that I orgasm a much greater percentage of the time, now that he knows my body and what I like. More orgasms for me are great, but in the service of that, we've fallen into a "tried-and-true" rut, which I don't think is good. I try to switch it up sometimes, and I surprised him with some sexy lingerie last night... and I got self-conscious, started to worry about whether I'd get off, and then didn't come. I know he really likes it when I get off, but I don't want for us to have such a limited repertoire. My feeling is that I should not worry about my orgasms and focus on spice and variety, but I think that if we go too many times without me coming, it might be a downer for his boner, too. So which do we give preference to: variety or orgasms? Rutting Or Undertaking Totally Interesting New Experiences?*

Your "tried-and-true" repertoire may feel like a bit of a rut, ROUTINE, but it's a successful rut. You both enjoy the sex you're having, and you come way more often than you used to. There are worse problems—and all you need to solve your repertoire problem is perspective and patience.

You have two competing and conflicting interests: You want to come regularly (because of course you do) and you get off consistently when you stick to your routine, but you also want to shake up your routine and try new things. But trying new things—even something as low-stakes as fucking in



Illustration by Joe Newton

frillier underpants—makes it difficult for you to come. My advice would be to relax and give yourself permission to not come when you're trying something new. To stave off frustration and/or self-consciousness, ROUTINE, constantly remind yourself that new things you both enjoy will be incorporated into your routine. And when things that work for you both join the ranks of the tried-and-true, you'll be able to come while you're doing them. This is a problem that solves itself.

And remember: You don't have to stop doing the shit that works now. Let's say you try something new on Wednesday night—new kink, new locale, new hole—and you enjoy yourself but you don't come. So the next time you have sex, ROUTINE, stick to the already "tried-and-true" stuff that gets you there consistently. **lv**

*On the Savage Lovecast, hear Dan and YouTube sensation Arielle Scarcella go full lesbian: [savagelovecast.com](http://savagelovecast.com). Contact Dan Savage: [mail@savagelove.net](mailto:mail@savagelove.net) and [@fakedan-savage](https://twitter.com/fakedan-savage) on Twitter*

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## COMICAL LADIES

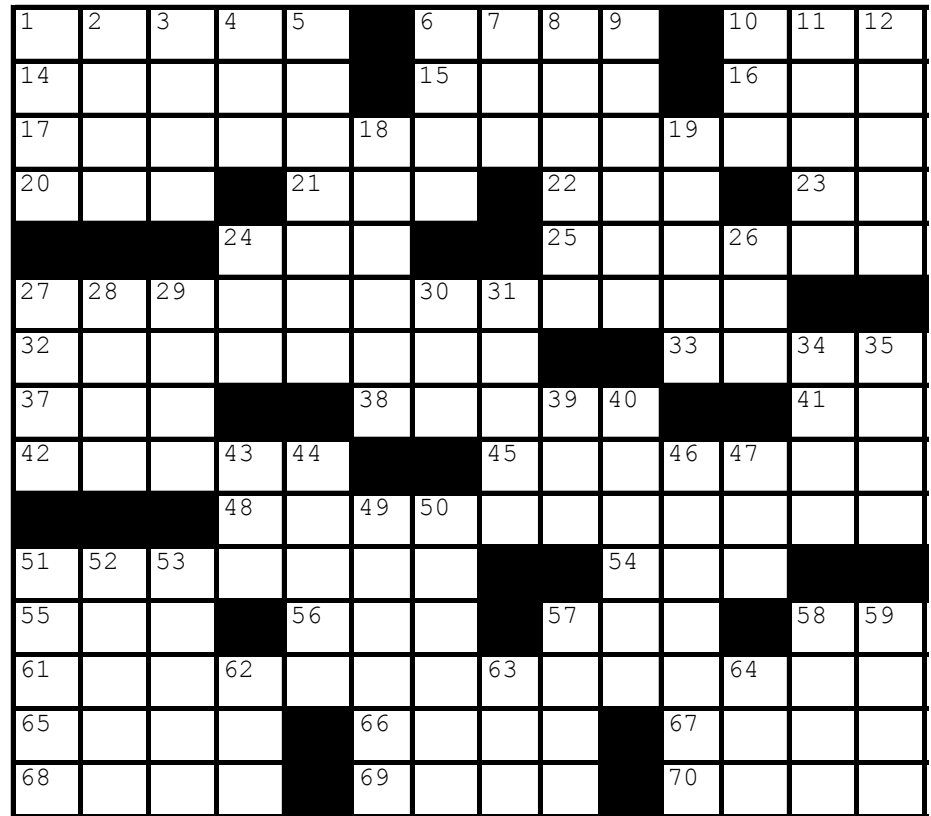
BY JULIA LIPPERT

### ACROSS

1. A record of an event
6. Sound that is made in pleasure and pain
10. Highly trained team
14. Our favorite George's Buffet bartender
15. Where Wile E. Coyote should have a customer appreciation card
16. They're often underfunded
17. Badass Russian spy's distinct hairline? (Before & After)
20. \_\_\_\_\_ carte
21. "The Janice \_\_\_\_\_ Experience"
22. Parks and \_\_\_\_\_
23. Where the Wild Things \_\_\_\_\_
24. JT is its best host
25. Child living in Lebanon
27. Telekinetic teacher that is the ghost of Ravenclaw? (Before and After)
32. How one would describe their martial art hobby
33. Cosmic jazz artist
37. Standard cell phone technology
38. Where gazpacho and chowders are taught?
41. Up in the air company, on NASDAQ
42. Belief
45. Student Loan Reform to legislators
48. Armored vehicle driver avoiding zit stickers? (Before and After)
51. A boat that could go either way?
54. A Manning
55. Bandeau, sports or miracle, e.g.
56. Ending for the feds
57. A sure sign of a good vacation
58. Human-like ruler of the Earth, in literature
61. Toxic botanist that graduated from Harvard? (Before and After)
65. City in the center of Sicily
66. Where we're moving?
66. Frowned upon punishment
68. Putin doesn't take this for an answer
69. Mystic guru of the '80s
70. What one does after they don't get their way

### DOWN

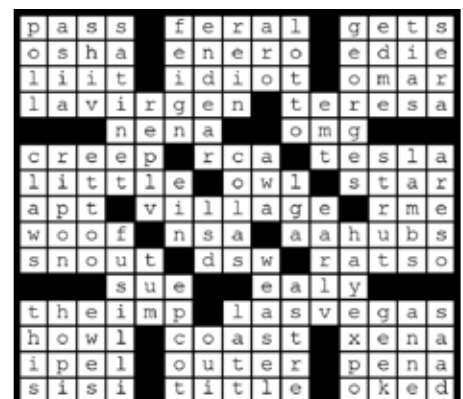
1. Band featured in *Muriel's Wedding*
2. Titular gibberish speaking character
3. Exploitative organization that, unfortunately, puts on a great Spring tournament
4. Home to the Tobacco Road rivalries
5. 2014 champions
6. Intersects with State
7. Ironically, Marc Summers suffers from this



8. Indifference to right and wrong
9. Often signified by a big change
10. Syrup origin
11. Goes with havoc
12. Subject of many an early '80s sibling battle
13. Sound a judgy mother might have made
18. Endangered arctic lounge
19. Heaps
24. \_\_\_\_\_-cone
26. School for the church of LDS
27. Leave at the altar
28. Spanish suffix
29. Hottie's rank
30. Shogazer style
31. \_\_\_\_\_, Wild and Free
34. They travel far for the benefit of all mankind
35. Fidel's hermano
36. Sudanese model, Wek
39. Fire dancing
40. Like this sunset off the coast of Oaxaca
43. Texted approximation
44. T at Norfolk?
46. Mental or chronic
47. HS health class topic
49. Teletubby vacuum
50. McDonald and Bacon

51. Gun made from a Bic, a rubber band and a metal ball
52. The millennial hipster's fashion ethos
53. Say "my cocaine" out loud (that's his name)
57. htis or thta?
58. Keffiyeh holder
59. Steam \_\_\_\_\_
60. Mouse sighting sounds
62. Junior's worry
63. Mayan creation story, Popol \_\_\_\_\_
64. Squishee and Duff seller

### JULY ANSWERS







**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): The Earth has been around for almost 4.6 billion years. But according to scientists who study the fossil records, fire didn't make its first appearance on our planet until 470 million years ago. Only then were there enough land-based plants and oxygen to allow the possibility of fires arising naturally. Do the math and you will see that for 90 percent of the Earth's history, fire was absent. In evolutionary terms, it's a newcomer. As I study your astrological omens for the next ten months, I foresee the arrival of an almost equally monumental addition to your life, Leo. You can't imagine what it is yet, but by this time next year, you won't fathom how you could have lived without it for so long.



**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In the nights to come, I expect you will dream of creatures like fiery monsters, robot warriors, extraterrestrial ghosts, and zombie vampires. But here's the weird twist: They will be your helpers and friends. They will protect you and fight on your behalf as you defeat your real enemies, who are smiling pretenders wearing white hats. Dreams like this will prepare you well for events in your waking life, where you will get the chance to gain an advantage over fake nice guys who have hurt you or thwarted you.



**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It's fine if you want to turn the volume all the way up on your charisma and socialize like a party animal. I won't protest if you gleefully blend business and pleasure as you nurture your web of human connections. But I hope you will also find time to commune with the earth and sky and rivers and winds. Why? You are scheduled to take a big, fun spiritual test in the not-too-distant future. An excellent way to prepare for this rite of passage will be to deepen your relationship with Mother Nature.



**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You are hereby excused from doing household chores and busywork, Scorpio. Feel free to cancel boring appointments. Avoid tasks that are not sufficiently epic, majestic, and fantastic to engage your heroic imagination. As I see it, this is your time to think really big. You have cosmic authorization to give your full intensity to exploring the amazing maze where the treasure is hidden. I urge you to pay attention to your dreams for clues. I encourage you to ignore all fears except the one that evokes your most brilliant courage. Abandon all trivial worries, you curious warrior, as you go in quest of your equivalent of the Holy Grail.



**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Broadway is one of New York City's main streets. It runs the length of the island of Manhattan. But hundreds of years ago it was known by the indigenous Lenape people as the Wickquasgeck Trail. It was a passageway that cut through stands of chestnut, poplar, and pine trees. Strawberries grew wild in fields along the route. Is there a metaphorical equivalent in your own life, Sagittarius? I think there is: a modest, natural path that you will ultimately build into a major thoroughfare buzzing with activity. Part of you will feel sad at the loss of innocence that results. But mostly you'll be proud of the visionary strength you will have summoned to create such an important conduit.



**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The heavenly body known as 1986 DA is a near-Earth asteroid that's 1.4 miles in diameter. It's packed with 10,000 tons of gold and 100,000 tons of platinum, meaning it's worth over five trillion dollars. Can we humans get to it and mine its riches? Not yet. That project is beyond our current technology. But one day, I'm sure we will find a way. I'm thinking there's a smaller-scale version of this scenario in your life, Capricorn. You know about or will soon find out about a source of wealth that's beyond your grasp. But I'm betting that in the next ten months you will figure out a way to tap into it, and begin the process.



**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "I just sort of drifted into it." According to author Gore Vidal, "That's almost always the explanation for everything." But I hope this won't be true for you anytime soon, Aquarius. You can't afford to be unconscious or lazy or careless about what you're getting yourself into. You must formulate a clear, strong intention, and stick to it. I don't mean that you should be overly cautious or ultra-skeptical. To make the correct decisions, all you have to do is be wide awake and stay in intimate touch with what's best for you.



**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Members of the industrial band Skinny Puppy are upset with the U.S. military. They discovered that an interrogation team at America's Guantanamo Bay detention camp tortured prisoners by playing their music at deafening volumes for extended periods. That's why they sent an invoice to the Defense Department for \$666,000, and are threatening to sue. Now would be a good time for you to take comparable action, Pisces. Are others distorting your creations or misrepresenting your meaning? Could your reputation benefit from repair? Is there anything you can do to correct people's misunderstandings about who you are and what you stand for?



**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): If a farmer plants the same crop in the same field year after year, the earth's nutrients get exhausted. For instance, lettuce sucks up a lot of nitrogen. It's better to plant beans or peas in that location the next season, since they add nitrogen back into the soil. Meanwhile, lettuce will do well in the field where the beans or peas grew last time. This strategy is called crop rotation. I nominate it as your operative metaphor for the next ten months, Aries. Your creative output will be abundant if you keep sowing each new "crop" in a fertile situation where it is most likely to thrive.



**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Maybe your grandparents are dead, or maybe they're still alive. Whatever the case may be, do you have a meaningful or interesting connection with them? Is there anything about their souls or destinies that inspires you as you face your own challenges? Or is your link with them based more on sentimentality and nostalgia? In the near future, I urge you to dig deeper in search of the power they might have to offer you. Proceed on the hypothesis that you have not yet deciphered some of the useful messages you can derive from how they lived their lives. Explore the possibility that their mysteries are relevant to yours.



**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): The prolific American author James Fenimore Cooper (1789-1851) wrote 32 novels. In those pages, he crammed in almost 1,100 quotations from Shakespeare. What motivated such extreme homage? I suspect he regarded Shakespeare as a mentor, and wanted to blend the Bard's intelligence with his own. I invite you to do something similar, Gemini. What heroes have moved you the most? What teachers have stirred you the deepest? It's a perfect time to pay tribute in a way that feels self-empowering. I suspect you will benefit from revivifying their influence on you.



**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Was there an actual poet named Homer who wrote the ancient Greek epics the *\*Iliad\** and the *\*Odyssey\**? Or was "Homer" a fictitious name given to several authors who created those two master works? Whatever the case may be, we know that Homer plagiarized himself. The opening line of Book XI in the *\*Iliad\** is identical to the opening line of Book V in the *\*Odyssey\**: "Now Dawn arose from her couch beside the lordly Tithonos, to bear light to the immortals and to mortal men." So should we be critical of Homer? Nah. Nor will I hold it against you if, in the coming days, you imitate some fine action or brilliant move you did in the past. It was great the first time. I'm sure it will be nearly as great this time, but in a different way.

—Rob Breznsky

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