



LITTLE VILLAGE
IOWA CITY'S NEWS & CULTURE MAGAZINE

VOL. 17 | ISSUE 163
OCT. 1 - 14, 2014

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A L W A Y S F R E E

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LITTLE VILLAGE

IOWA CITY'S NEWS & CULTURE MAGAZINE

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OCT. 1 - 14, 2014

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Photo by Juan Carlos Herrera at the UI Center for the Book



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COURTHOUSES, TAXES AND BALLOTS

As the November election draws closer, a number of ballot items have left Johnson County residents divided. • **BY ADAM B SULLIVAN**



A few heated federal races and the impending Iowa caucuses have earned the lion's share of media attention as this November's elections grow closer, but politicians here in Iowa City also will sound off on a handful of important local contests this fall. Here's a look at a few of the down-ballot items in the Nov. 4 election.

COURTHOUSE BOND REFERENDUM

For the third time in two years, voters will weigh in on a proposal to fund expansion of Johnson County's justice facilities. This time around, the county is asking voters to sign off on borrowing \$33 million to build an annex adjacent to the historic South Clinton Street courthouse. The proposal calls for a three-story building to house the clerk of court's office, courtrooms and storage space.

The latest pitch from the Johnson County Board of Supervisors comes after voters twice narrowly rejected plans for a much larger "justice center," a \$40-million-plus project that would have housed courtroom spaces as well as hundreds of jail beds. The November 2012 and May 2013 referendums both had support from most voters, but fell short of the

THIRD TIME'S A CHARM? | Voters will once again weigh in on an expansion of the Johnson County Courthouse. Photo by Adam Burke

60 percent needed to approve bond borrowing. The second proposal was scaled back somewhat from the first, but the "no" side improved its position—inching up from 44 to 46 percent.

All of this comes more than a decade after the county first tried to expand its jail capacity back in 2000.

Supporters of those projects say our aging courthouse and jail aren't fit for a community Johnson County's size, leaving the county to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to house prisoners elsewhere, as well as clogging up the system due to a lack of courtroom space. They also say the courthouse, more than 100 years old, has weak security, leaving open the possibility of attacks on witnesses, judges and other personnel.

This time around, the plan doesn't include a jail, which seemed during the 2012 and 2013 campaigns to be a more controversial venture than courthouse expansion. Critics highlighted a slew of criminal justice issues in their opposition to jail expansion—disproportionate minority incarceration, the huge rate of

pre-trial subjects being locked up and local department's enforcement of drug prohibition laws.

The left-right coalition that organized the campaigns against the last two justice center referendums is split on this November's ballot measure. Some are prepared to support the courthouse, sharing county leaders' concerns about failing infrastructure and employee safety. Others, though, say the courthouse project is too costly, unneeded or a sneaky precursor to a beefed up jail.

Local activist Sean Curtin, who leads the reform groups Free Johnson County and ICPDWatch, is one of the community members vocally opposing the courthouse referendum. For one, he says he's not sure the renovations and extra space are necessary. But he also says he's concerned because a floor plan rendering of the proposed building refers to a future connection to a new jail.

Supporters don't deny they might try to build more jail cells eventually—they've been trying to do it for more than a decade, after all. But they say the items should be dealt with separately—when a proposal to borrow money for a new jail comes along, voters will get their say.

"My response to that would be, we can't do it without the voters. There's no way to stealthily go about this without people knowing," Johnson County Supervisor Rod Sullivan said.

Curtin, though, says the issues are one and the same.

"The political class wants everything they propose to be debated on their terms, but that's not how democracy works," Curtin said.

SALES TAX REFERENDUM

Johnson County is in sparse company as one of only a few areas in the state without a local option sales tax in place.

Local voters approved a local tax after the 2008 flood to cover the cost of some recovery projects. Since that tax expired last year, however, Iowa City Council members are pushing for voters to reinstate the one-percent tax.

State law dictates that the whole county must entertain the referendum and that contiguous communities—Iowa City, Coralville, North Liberty, University Heights and Tiffin

in this case—are treated as a single voting bloc. The six other communities and unincorporated Johnson County, meanwhile, will each vote the tax up or down independently. If any or all of the communities approve the tax, the revenue is pooled and distributed to the participating municipalities according to a state-mandated formula—75 percent based on population and 25 percent based on tax dollars collected.

That last bit is a big hang-up for some Coralville residents in particular. The Coralridge Mall and other business hubs in Coralville mean the town's commerce outweighs its population. In other words, plenty of sales tax would be collected in Coralville, but because it's much smaller than Iowa City, a disproportionately low cut of the revenue would end up back in Coralville.

Each community has put forth ballot language for how their sales tax revenue would be used. Iowa City's plan includes 10 percent for affordable housing support, 40 percent for property tax relief and 50 percent for infrastructure projects. The property tax portion is meant to curb the effects of last year's

statewide property tax reform package, which reduced tax rates on apartment buildings, potentially costing rental-heavy Iowa City millions in coming years. Coralville would designate its revenue for "any lawful purpose." North Liberty would split it between streets, utilities and parks. And Johnson County would use the revenue for roads and courthouse expansion.

JOHNSON COUNTY IS IN SPARSE COMPANY AS ONE OF ONLY A FEW AREAS IN THE STATE WITHOUT A LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX IN PLACE.

COUNTY AND STATE OFFICE

Three candidates are competing for two seats on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors. Incumbent Democrat Janelle Rettig is seeking her second full term, in addition to serving one partial term. Incumbent Republican John Etheredge is looking for his

second win after he won a special election last year to replace Sally Stutsman, who left for a seat in the Iowa House. The challenger, Democrat Mike Carberry, is making his second attempt at a Board of Supervisors seat after he lost the Democratic nomination leading up to last year's special election.

There are also two contested legislative races covering parts of Johnson County.

In House District 73 (Cedar County, a sliver of Muscatine County, and an easterly chunk of Johnson County), first-term Iowa Rep. Bobby Kaufmann, R-Wilton, faces a challenge from West Branch Democrat David Johnson.

And in Senate District 39 (Keokuk County, most of Washington County and the southern and western portions of Johnson County), Iowa Sen. Sandy Greiner, R-Keota, is retiring, leaving a wide open opportunity in a district with nearly equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans. Democrat Kevin Kinney of Oxford faces Republican Michael Moore of Washington. **lv**

Adam B Sullivan is an activist and freelance journalist living in Iowa City.

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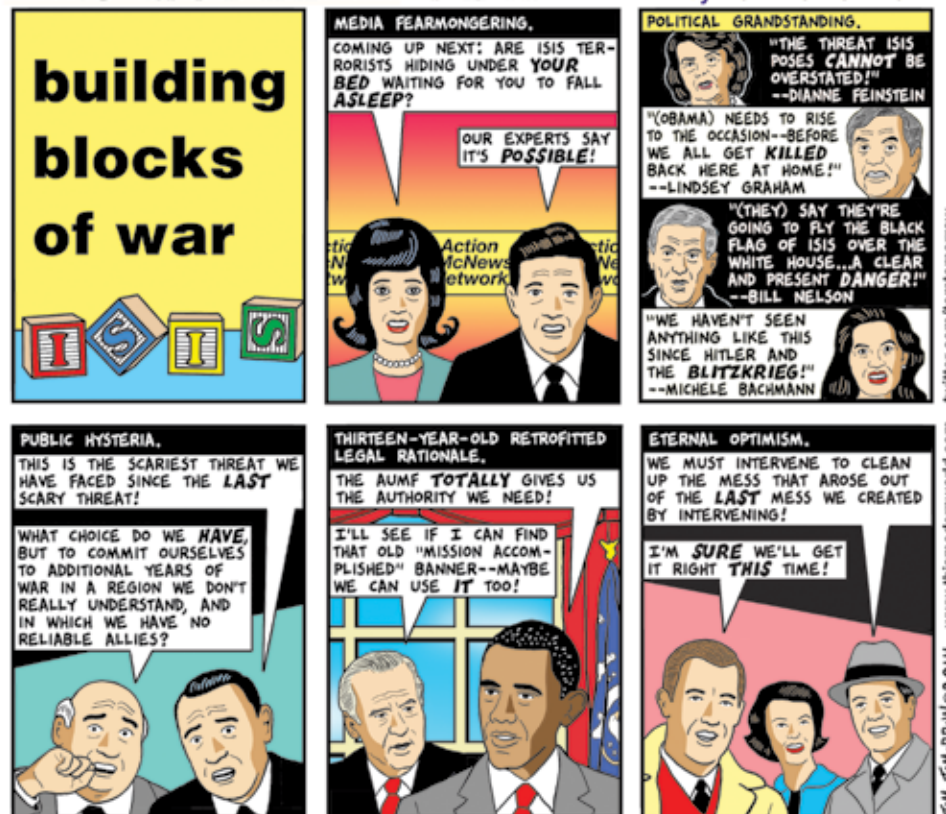
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by TOM TOMORROW



INSTAGRATIFICATION

The engineering print will make a blank wall pop with very little effort or money. • BY FRANKIE SCHNECKLOTH



For many, it happens every year beginning in August: the packing of boxes and the shuffle to a new home or apartment. If you were one of those who moved, chances are that by now most of your boxes have been unpacked, allowing you to focus on the fun stuff, like decorating and enjoying your space. For many renters, painting and nailing into walls is off limits, but that shouldn't mean that your walls stay a blank slate.

Enter the engineering print: A cheap art project that requires very few tools. Up close, the engineering print looks a bit pixelated—you can pick out dots in shades of gray, black and white. From a distance you'll get the whole picture as things blend into one another. Engineering prints can be printed up to 36-by-48 inches at most copy shops and will run you about \$7. Other sizes are available for less, but since it's so cheap, you might as well go big.

STEP ONE | FIND AN IMAGE

Start by looking through your own catalogue of digital images. If you don't have one or can't find something that you like, take a gander on Flickr Creative Commons, where plenty of images are available. Another option is to find an old printed photo or something pulled from a magazine or book. Scan your image at high resolution, 300 dpi, and size it to 38-by-48 inches. If you've got access to Photoshop or another photo-editing software, convert your photo to grayscale. To avoid printing in a lot of gray tones, bump up the contrast in your photos so the blacks and whites pop.

STEP TWO | BRING YOUR IMAGE TO LIFE

When you are happy with your image, it's ready to go to the printer. At some printing shops, like Zephyr Printing, you can upload



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your image file to the copy shop's website and describe the details of your order. Make sure to specify that you want your image printed on 24-pound bond paper.

STEP THREE | GIVE YOUR PHOTO SOME STRUCTURE

Once you have your image, it's time to give it some structure so that it hangs nicely and will stay flat.

First, decide how you want the image to look on your wall. I like the idea of a full-bleed (printing to the edge) print without a border, so I trimmed the white margins.

Now it's time to make the structure. I adhered strips of foamcore on the back side to maintain its shape. If you wanted something lightweight but more sturdy, use a solid sheet of foamcore to glue to the back of the print. You can also use strips of balsa wood (available at most hardware stores) for a slightly more substantial framework. Both materials are easy to cut with scissors or an exacto knife.

To create the foamcore frame, measure two strips of foamcore the length of your top and bottom edges and cut them to be two inches wide. Spray the strips with spray adhesive and place along the length of the print at both the top and bottom, making sure the corners line up and the paper lies flat.

STEP FOUR | HANG YOUR PHOTO

Once the glue has set, you can attach a plastic picture hanger on the top length of foamcore. Decide where you want to hang your print; hammer in a nail or adhere a damage-free hanging strip; and place the picture hanger on top of the nail.

The end result is a very casual, inexpensive way to dress up a blank wall. **lv**

Frankie Schneckloth lives and works in Iowa City.



BREW OF THE MONTH: OCTOBER ZOMBIE MONKIE PORTER

Tallgrass Brewing Company | Manhattan, Kansas

Tallgrass Brewing's Zombie Monkie is a fantastic, robust porter that the brewery says is "carefully brewed for the post-apocalyptic world to come." Sold in cans that feature a tactical grip, it is ideal drinking when fleeing zombie hordes.

For those enjoying Zombie Monkie while not on the run, pour into a favorite imperial pint glass to hold all 16 ounces at once. The color is a nearly opaque black. A finger of dense, light-brown head will dissipate slowly and evenly, leaving a little lacing stuck to the sides of the glass.

Scents of roasted malts are most prominent in the aroma and give the beer an espresso-like smell. Dark chocolate, a little dark fruit and a hint of pine are also noticeable.

The mouthfeel is smooth and creamy, and the flavor is rich and marked by characteristics imparted by the roasted malts. While Zombie Monkie is not as coffee-like as the aroma might suggest, there are flavors of dark chocolate, plum, dark cherries and pine. Bitterness from the roasted malts is prominent and lingers on the taste buds. A touch of floral hops is noticeable, and the floral flavor lingers in the aftertaste alongside the roasted bitterness.

Much like other Tallgrass beers, the "approximately true events" that inspired the brewing of Zombie Monkie are outlined in fun, short videos that can be viewed on the brewery website and YouTube.

SERVING TEMPERATURE: 50°F.

ALCOHOL CONTENT: 6.2 percent ABV.

FOOD PAIRINGS: Tallgrass sales manager Jake Voegeli said Zombie Monkie is tricky to pair with food because it is both robust and bitter, yet clean and crisp at the end with no lingering sweetness. He said chefs find it very intriguing. Nonetheless, Voegeli recommends pairing Zombie Monkie with meaty main courses of grilled beef or steak to match the roasted flavors of the beer. Beef dishes served with mole sauce, pot roasts, coffee-rubbed pork chops and grilled autumn vegetables like squash are also good pairings.

WHERE TO BUY: Zombie Monkie is available at most local beer retailers.

PRICE: \$9 per four-pack of 16-ounce cans **lv**

Casey Wagner works in Iowa City.



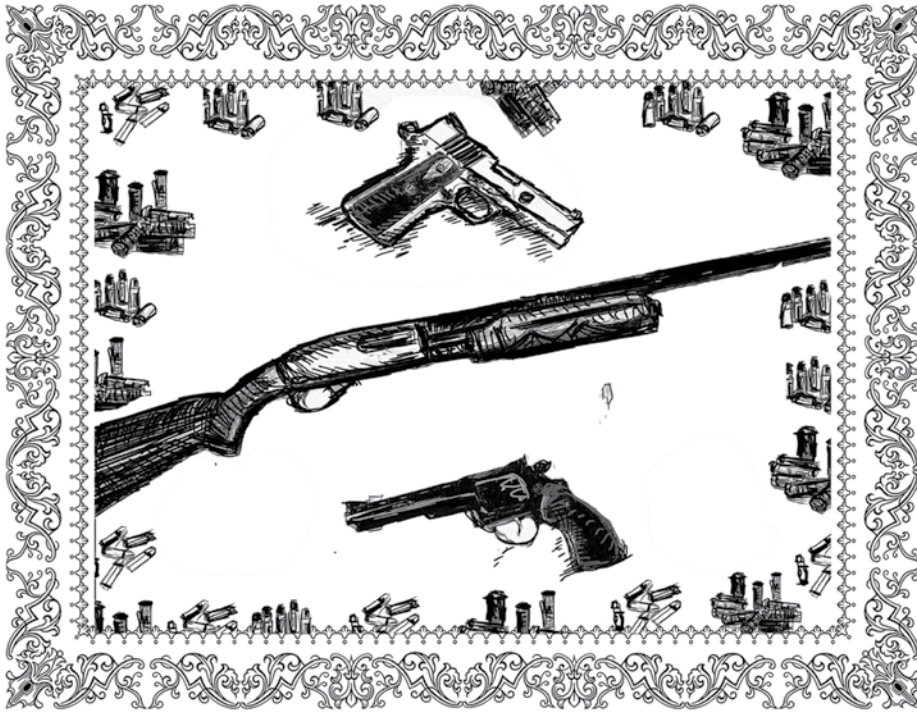
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PARTYTOWN U.S.A.

The following is an excerpt from *All the Help You Need*, a novel about "Business as Usual" cabbie Vic Pasternak that explores his final dark days in Iowa City. • BY VIC PASTERNAK



Over the summer, some witch ran the drum circle out of the Ped Mall. Now every Football Saturday I laugh my ass off at her, trapped in her tower. I wonder if that's not her giant alabaster face staring down on where the party throbs on like a forgotten Cold War beacon, and taxicabs, like big motley colored roaches, wheel out of the corners fast and dangerous as the meat wagons pinballing across downtown.

Vomit sprayed on shop glass. Young men cockfighting and young women going half-naked, and vice versa. Casual drug use and occasional bi-curious sex. Drunk driving; foot chases with cops; plants vandalized; women shitting in your doorway. How bout them Hawks, lady! And you pay how much to live in the heart of Partytown U.S.A.?

I myself occupy a southtown commercial garage and host afterhours every night we work. This greasy cave befits the charmless like of us folk on the ground. Plus, no wives or kids to rattle out of bed, and after the nights we've had, all of us could spend more time with screaming drunks.

HOME ON THE RANGE | A .45 Ruger and Brazilian .357 are part of the gun collection at Vic's home, Freedom Cove. Illustration by Josh Carroll

"Welcome to Freedom Cove, everybody!"

On these last warm nights, I drag open the big roll-up door and turn on the factory overheads like we've come to make the donuts. I've got a Discman harnessed to a 500-watt PA and Black Sabbath sounds killer in here. Me and Quiet Chuck and Dr. Bob drink beers on the couch and others trickle in as their shifts end; Zina Schram arrives with Joe Vega, then Leon Bath right away squeezes into my dad's skid loader, shutting himself inside as if we don't know he's shooting up.

That creeper Billy Kinross has tagged along, and he browses my stuff with hands driven in pockets as if he was afraid of stealing something. And he'd better be.

I offer the tour to anybody who wants it, showing them where to piss and how I've rigged my shower stall. Breezing past the display of firearms, I walk them into the rear office that I've turned into a bedroom, thumbing on the trouble lamps to show the sleeping area

dressed like the cabin of a ship and explaining how the garage's previous tenant had left behind enough teak paneling for a yacht. I point out the bunk beds and narrow captain's desk and how I've put aquariums in the two windows to keep with the seafaring theme.

THAT CREEPER BILLY KINROSS HAS TAGGED ALONG, AND HE BROWSES MY STUFF WITH HANDS DRIVEN IN POCKETS AS IF HE WAS AFRAID OF STEALING SOMETHING. AND HE'D BETTER BE.

Quiet Chuck asks, "You got any fish?"

Zina is impressed with the mantle of firearms.

"The Liberty Collection," I tell her while letting her grip the .45 Ruger. My collection also has a Brazilian .357 and the classic Remington .870 pump-action shotgun. Their corresponding ammunitions are rowed along the mantle's edge neat as soldiers.

Dr. Bob shows his dislike with crossed arms. "You know what they say about guns on mantles, brother. You'll end up using this shit."

I don't know how his kind, caring soul can stand in the fire of our work without cracking.

"Maybe I am a fucking jerk," I argue with him, "But how else do you want that I guarantee my liberty? Are you gonna ward the wolves off my door with your ponytail, or what?"

Billy Kinross takes from his pocket an electronic cigarette, and I whiff that peculiar funk from his clothes. When he offers the e-cig, I wave him off. "That's like a Virginia Slim, bro."

"Suit yourself."

As he puffs on the thing, the tip glows blue, and he blows out hash smoke. I've never seen anything like this, and I clutch my head. "Far out!"

Among my boxes of junk, I've rediscovered a white Culpeper flag and the striped Navy Jack. I fly one at the wash sink and the other over the sitting area of yard chairs and an ugly couch salvaged from the roadside. This is where we gravitate.

Vega casually tosses a crack bundle onto the

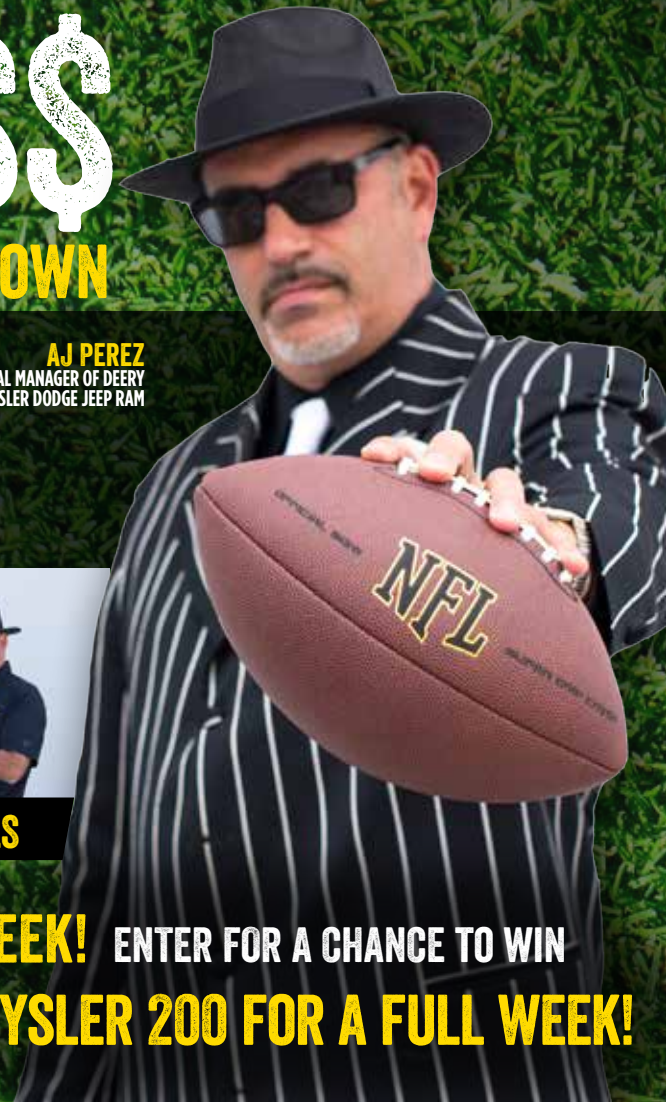
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plastic yard table and gives me a look.

“It’s cool?”

“I don’t touch that shit. But this is Freedom Cove.”

I drag down the roll-up doors, and Leon hustles out of the skid loader like a dog on scraps. He and Vega are the only two fools that mix with that shit, and they smoke until laughing themselves green on the ugly couch, the fat man tamping foot, bending his elbow and making round observations, “It evens them out, man. It evens them out.”

Vega meanwhile flashes puke in a garbage drum.

Billy pokes at their colorful bindle wrap. “Where’d you get this?”

“You a cop, bruh?”

“I recognize the wrap,” counters Billy. “That striped paper’s proprietary to the seller, you know.”

Dr. Bob complains: “That shit smells like plastic melting on a lightbulb.”

“Tastes like raspberries,” says Vega, waving the pipe at him. “You want a baby taste?”

Joe Vega was born for sales. Slick and intrusive, wearing a wormy-thin mustache—even his billboard name feels like a wanting hand-shake.

Before the night ends Quiet Chuck will take the shotgun down to rack the slide. Leon Bath next wants in on this fun, and he racks it over and over. Chuck checks me with sorry eyes as he departs. Vega next takes the gun in attempt to blow smoke through the ejection port and down the barrel. Zina frowns as she pushes the barrel from her face.

Put off by the antics, Billy snatches away the shotgun. “Shit’s not a toy.”

He carefully returns the shotgun to its place on the mantle. But his outburst has busted the party, and everyone stands to hike up trousers.

I still have no reasons to like Billy, though his verve and seriousness are appreciated. I’m usually the one accused of being the tight-wound son bitch. I shake Billy’s hand as he goes and tell him to come back any time.

Taxi driving builds camaraderie with the enthusiasm of cancer, even if true friendships are rare. And I wonder if I’ve meant what I said to Billy, or if I’m drunk. **lv**

Vic Pasternak has been driving a taxi in Illinois City, Ohio, for over a decade, ruining his chances for a solid career and shortening his lifespan. He enjoys fishing, preying, chain-sawing and long walks alone.

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-Michael Pollan, *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*

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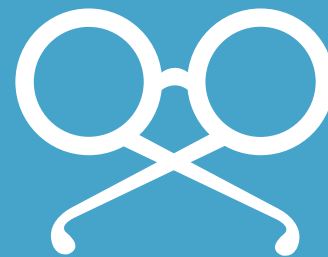
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ENDURING MIGRATIONS

Critically acclaimed author and Iowa Writers' Workshop graduate Ayana Mathis takes the stage for a conversation with Marilynne Robinson at this year's Iowa City Book Festival. • BY MELODY DWORAK



Literary celebrities come to town for the sixth annual Iowa City Book Festival, Oct. 2-5. Among the greats gracing our fair flyover state is Ayana Mathis, author of Oprah's Book Club 2.0's pick, *Twelve Tribes of Hattie*.

"The spirit of sacred truths just leaped through the pages," Oprah Winfrey said in while announcing her book club pick. The *New York Times* reported that this endorsement prompted the *Twelve Tribes*' publisher, Knopf, to increase the print run two-and-a-half fold.

Since it was published in December 2012, the book has been translated into nine

AYANA MATHIS & MARILYNNE ROBINSON | Oct. 3, 3:30 p.m. at Englert Theatre.
Illustration by Marcus Parker

languages, and Mathis recently discussed her work on a European book tour.

John Kenyon, executive director of the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature organization, says Mathis's novel is a rare thing: a critical and commercial hit.

"What that means, of course, is that many, many people have read this great work of literature, and that it has broad appeal," Kenyon wrote via email. "That makes her ideal for the festival, where we try to introduce attendees to

the very best writers and expose them to important new work."

Mathis will take the stage at the Iowa City Book Festival along with Marilyn Robinson, who began as a teacher and mentor and grew into a colleague by the end of Mathis's time at the Iowa Writers' Workshop. At the event, Robinson will also read from her latest novel, *Lila*.

Kenyon expects the conversation to "will elicit details that only can come from a conversation between two writers of this caliber."

"I also am hoping to get a glimpse into the teacher-student relationship, and to learn how that has evolved now that they are peers," Kenyon said.

Twelve Tribes of Hattie is not a light read, referencing both the heaviness of the biblical tale of the Twelve Tribes of Israel and the Great Migration—where blacks moved north to escape the Jim Crow South, a period that continues to affect American demography. The book explores family members as they psychologically grapple with their turbulent pasts and persevere through daily challenges.

Another book festival author will be discussing migration in a contemporary context. Robert (Ted) Gutsche received his doctorate in journalism from the University of Iowa after submitting his dissertation research on the movement of blacks from Chicago to Iowa City, as well as the reaction documented through comments on the *Iowa City Press Citizen* website. He will be discussing his book *Transplanted Chicago: Race, Place and the Press in Iowa City* on Saturday, Oct. 4 at 2:30 p.m. at the downtown Java House.

"There isn't any part of the [migration] story that is old, I don't think," Mathis said.

"History is a river ... it's forward moving but still itself, rather than a straight line. Migration and what happens in the lives of migratory people changes in terms of the particulars, but the larger narrative stays the same: Questions of assimilation, the reception migrants receive from the inhabitants in the new place, the daunting task of creating a new life in a new place are always fresh and relevant."

Some of Mathis's characters plant roots and others remain their own kind of wanderers. Regardless of—and perhaps due to—their

migratory status, Hattie and her children struggle with one tribulation after another, with each of the characters having his or her own battle with love and belonging, and each character having a chapter to explore beauty and suffering.

THE STORIES IN THIS BOOK MAKE MOST MODERN AMERICAN LIVES SEEM DULL. THEY DESCRIBE SITUATIONS WHERE PNEUMONIA AND TUBERCULOSIS ARE MORE COMMON THAN ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE HASHTAG #FIRSTWORLDPROBLEMS.

Criticisms of the book highlight the put-downable aspect of the collection of short stories and the relentless characterization of black males as lacking in moral integrity. Readers

who require a cliffhanger to drive them on to the next chapter might be disappointed by the nonlinear storytelling structure in this book.

“The gaps between chapters function, in some ways, like the silences in a piece of music—they are as necessary as the notes that are played,” Mathis said. “I suppose that with that structural choice I risk losing the reader, but at the end of the day, readers are smart and want to be engaged—I know I do when I read—they want to have something more than a passive experience.”

The stories in this book make most modern American lives seem dull. They describe situations where pneumonia and tuberculosis are more common than arguments about the hashtag #firstworldproblems.

Those who know financial, emotional or familial struggle—who feign resilience and strive to persevere—will identify with bits and pieces and hang on for the big payoff in the book’s final chapters. And yes, it does get into that tear-jerking territory; however, the book strives for renewal and rebirth. For each

broken relationship, there’s the beautiful autumn leaf that becomes the memory’s emblem of love.

Twelve Tribes of Hattie may seem like a lesson in fatalism, where the pain each child bears with them into adulthood is because of the circumstances at birth, or the coldness felt from their mother, hardened after the unnecessary loss of her firstborn.

Mathis was a visiting instructor at the Iowa Writers’ Workshop for the summer of 2013, and she is faculty at the Writer’s Foundry, the Creative Writing Master of Fine Arts program and at St. Joseph’s College in Brooklyn, New York. As far as her writing ambitions go for 2015, she said she is working on a new novel.

“May the force be with me!” she said. **lv**

Melody Dworak works at the Iowa City Public Library. She dedicates this article to Barbara Davidson, who retained her curiosity throughout life's struggles.

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ELLROY'S ELEGY FOR L.A.

L.A.'s hard-boiled historical novelist, James Ellroy, will host two events at this year's Iowa City Book Festival. • BY SEAN PRECIADO GENELL

James Ellroy is author of 19 books, including a singular body of historical fiction that encompasses his first "L.A. Quartet" (*The Black Dahlia*; *The Big Nowhere*; *L.A. Confidential*; *White Jazz*) and the "Underworld U.S.A. Trilogy" (*American Tabloid*; *The Cold Six Thousand*; *Blood's a Rover*). Ellroy returns to L.A. noir in the recently released, inaugural title of his second L.A. Quartet, *Perfidia*, a 700-page novel told in real-time over 23 days in December 1941 on the eve of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On Oct. 2 at 7:30 p.m., Ellroy will be at Old Brick as part of the Iowa City Book Festival to discuss *Perfidia* with fellow novelist Craig McDonald. Then on Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m., he will appear at FilmScene for a book signing for *Perfidia*, as well as a screening of *L.A. Confidential*, the film adapted from his novel.

In anticipation of his visit, Ellroy answered some questions for *Little Village* by email.

Little Village: "The Underworld U.S.A. Trilogy" focused on American criminal life circa 1958 to 1972. What made you return to Los Angeles of 1941?

James Ellroy: I decided to unify my entire career as a historical novelist. To begin with, I'm not a thriller writer. I'm not a crime writer. I'm not a mystery writer. When I began the original "L.A. Quartet"—four books set between 1946 and 1958—I merged the crime novel and the historical novel.

With the "Underworld U.S.A. Trilogy"—three books set between 1958 and 1972—I merged the crime novel, the historical novel and the political novel. I decided to go back and write the second "L.A. Quartet," which would be set in Los Angeles with characters, real-life and fictional, from the first two extended bodies of historical fiction and render them as younger people during World War II.

The grand design is to create a seamless 31-year fictional history of Los Angeles, my hometown, and America, my country. It's a seamless continuation. For example, Kay Lake is feminine lead of *The Black Dahlia*, set between 1946 and 1949. She's the feminine lead and writes in the first person diary format in *Perfidia*. And the construction behind this is that we're never in Kay's mind. We don't

know her thoughts in the earlier written but latter set book. Thus, you have to believe that she is withholding that information from the principal people in her life.

I LOVE REWRITING HISTORY TO MY OWN SPECIFICATIONS, JUXTAPOSING LARGE HISTORICAL EVENTS WITH THE PASSIONATE LIVES OF MEN AND WOMEN IN DURESS. —JAMES ELLROY

What is your attraction to historical fiction?

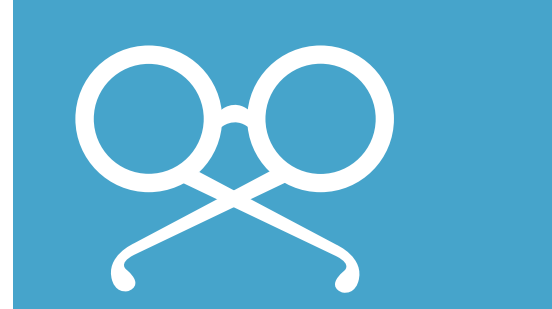
I've loved history since I was a little boy. I've loved American history from 1935 on up, Los Angeles history from 1940 on up. My early cognizance in the 1950s up through the sociopolitical strife of the 1960s and into the '70s. It died for me with Watergate, the death of J. Edgar Hoover. And I love living what I call the "secret human infrastructure of history." I love rewriting history to my own specifications, juxtaposing large historical events with the passionate lives of men and women in duress.

The larger public events are points of extrapolation. They affect the lives of my principals, some of whom are actual players in the events, some who get caught up innocently or inadvertently in the events. They are moved by the events. They are appalled by the events. And the events ramify and force my characters into moral quandaries wherein they change as the result of interaction with and embracing the world at large.

This is not something of which I uphold. I admire people who go to the forefront of history. And I'm not one of them. It's not my job. I have no agenda. My job is to view past history, retreat from the current world, live within myself and write these books.

You handwrite your books from massive outlines. Can you illuminate your writing process?

I start out having ideas—fictional, actual. I know I will merge them. I hire researchers



who compile fact sheets and chronologies. I'm not looking for any kind of secret information. I am looking for explicative flashpoints. For example, in *Perfidia*—largely a novel of the grave injustice of the Japanese internment—upon receiving newspaper clippings for the entire month of December 1941, I was gratified to see there was no clear narrative of the early roundups of alleged Japanese subversives. This gave me greater latitude to fictionalize.

I follow the outline down to the most minute details, and I extrapolate only scene-by-scene within the construction of the outline as it exists. The outline for *Perfidia* was 700 pages. Having that detailed diagram to work from—all plotlines, all character arcs, all milieu inextricably linked from the gate—allows me to extrapolate with the confines of the individual scenes. That's what gives the books their overall density.

That's my method in a nutshell. Hundreds of pages of notes, facts, outlines, and then the fictionalizing.

You've employed experimental writing styles for three of your novels. As you return to the earlier age of *Perfidia*, do you utilize a similar type of syntactical play?

The "Underworld U.S.A. Trilogy." The extremely abbreviated style of the central volume. The middle volume. *The Cold Six Thousand*. That was then, this is now.

Perfidia is my most explicated prose style since *The Black Dahlia*. It's more emotionally resonant. It's more factually detailed. It's entirely concise. But no abbreviation of text for dramatic flare. There are no syntactical tricks. It is the language of 1941. *The Cold Six Thousand*, the most extreme example of concision in my work—secondary volumes would be *White Jazz* and *L.A. Confidential*—all three of those styles were calibrated to fit the historical periods that I was writing in. **lv**

Sean Preciado Genell lives in Iowa City. His first novel, All the Help You Need, is forthcoming from Slow Collision Press.

ELLROY AT THE IOWA CITY BOOK FESTIVAL | Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m. at Old Brick, Oct. 3, 6:30 pm at FilmScene. Illustration by Jacob Yeates



A PLAYWRIGHT'S LABORATORY

Theatre Cedar Rapids' Underground New Play Festival brings new talent and vision to the Iowa stage. • BY JORIE SLODKI



This year marks Theatre Cedar Rapids' (TCR) fifth year hosting its Underground New Play Festival—quite an achievement considering the festival's humble origins.

Leslie Charipar, Artistic Director for TCR, said that the festival began about six years ago to showcase directors who wanted to direct shorter plays. Originally, community members could submit original or established works. Many of the plays submitted were original works Charipar said, so the festival transformed into a space for writers to showcase new plays.

Since then, the festival has grown every year, with 13 new plays this fall, all of them fully staged in TCR's Grandon Studio. The members of the selection panel read all 30 play submissions, then worked together to choose the final list. They also cast each play—a daunting task this year due to auditions that were three times larger than previous ones.

Charipar says some writers in the area even look to the festival as a deadline for producing new work.

That is true for Erica Hoye, the playwright of *No Safe Refuge*. She envisions her play as the first in a trilogy about the civil war in Syria, and she's already started on the second

IN THE SPOTLIGHT | *The Underground New Play Festival gives playwrights a chance at seeing their work on stage. Photo by Jen Rouse*

play in the series.

Hoye also believes that the festival serves a necessary role in exposing audiences to cutting-edge work.

"The tried and true plays and musicals are great, and they have stuck with us for a reason," said Hoye, "But I think experiencing new art that provides us with a statement of where we are, here and now, is incredibly important."

While some submit full-length works, author Emma Drtina submitted a 10-minute one-act play. *Tinderella* is about a young woman using the Tinder dating app to look for love and is the first play Drtina has ever written.

"I finally felt like it was time to get my work out there and to get some feedback on it," Drtina said. She added that she was very happy with her last-minute decision to submit her play.

Brian Tanner has had three of his original works accepted to the Underground New Play Festival. Tanner is a bit of a play festival veteran; he has also had plays accepted into festivals at City Circle Acting Company

of Coralville, Mt. Vernon/Lisbon Theatre and Riverside Theatre. His submission to this year's festival, *Bus People*, is a dramedy about a man riding the bus for the first time.

"One thing about the TCR Underground is that submissions are read blind by the selection committee, so there's no influence based on who wrote the play," Tanner said. "It's all about the quality of the script, so I think that adds to the prestige."

Playwrights have varying levels of involvement during the rehearsal process of their plays. Tanner prefers to minimize his level of participation.

"While I like being a part of the rehearsal process, I also know that if any of my plays are picked up elsewhere, I'm not really going to have much control about what's done with it," Tanner explained. "I've learned to let things go and trust the directors and casts."

Other playwrights use the comments from the actors and director as an opportunity to make revisions. Hoye rewrote parts of her play after discovering that the actors disliked one character.

"I always liked [the character] and had great empathy for the situation that she was in, but a lot of my rewrites stemmed from people's dislike of her," Hoye said. "I had to make her more likeable, and the actor is an integral part of that."

"No matter how something sounds in your head or even when you read it aloud to yourself, it sounds different when it has someone else's brain and life experience behind it," explained Hoye.

Many actors are grateful for this opportunity to converse with the playwright. Hannah Spina, who is acting in the play *Reluctance*, can reach St. Louis-based playwright Elizabeth Breed through the play's director.

"I've never experienced that before, getting to talk to the playwright," Spina said. "You can't just call up Shakespeare and ask, 'What does this line mean?'"

Spina finds this especially helpful as she becomes the first actor to portray the play's main character, Juliana. As the play begins, Juliana is taking a walk on a bridge the night before her wedding when she comes across a man about to jump off, and she tries to stop him before it's too late. "It's remarkable to think I



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am the world premiere of this character, and I hope people see her the way I see her," said Spina.

The festival is also a great opportunity for directors to work with a variety of material. Local actor Kevin Michael Moore decided to take the opportunity to try his hand at directing once again, taking on two short plays: *Peepers*, a comedy about a young man introducing his girlfriend to his family, and *The Woman and the Frog*, a mature and semi-musical modern update of *The Frog Prince*. It is one of two plays to incorporate music, a first for the festival. "I believe this is also the first festival show to have a puppet as a main character," Moore explained.

In the future, Charipar would like the festival to evolve into a year-round process. "I hope it creates a laboratory feel," Charipar explained. "It could be a resource to help playwrights develop their work."

The writing talent is one of the reasons why the festival is one of Charipar's favorite TCR projects.

"I don't know if people are aware of how many good writers are here," said Charipar. "At least in eastern Iowa, we have some pretty professional writers, and that is exciting to know about our community." **lv**

Jorie Slodki earned her MA in Theatre Research from University of Wisconsin. She has experience in acting, directing, playwrighting and dramaturgy, and has presented work at the Midwest Pop Culture Association Conference.



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THE FAST AND THE FABULOUS

A new book explores the history of the Zone brothers, the NYC punk and glam fixtures who made up The Fast. • BY KEMBREW MCLEOD



For every hitmaker that emerged from the mid-1970s New York punk scene, like Blondie or Talking Heads, there were several more obscure groups like The Fast. Well, actually, no one was quite like The Fast.

This is the story of three brothers—Miki, Mandy and Paul Zone—who grew up bisexual in a working-class Brooklyn neighborhood, then became *Zelig*-like figures within

A BLAST FROM PUNK'S PAST | Paul Zone's new book *Playground* is a collection of photos of *The Fast* in its heyday.

the 1970s glam rock and punk movements. Along the way, they experienced twists, turns and emotional roller coasters that were at times unintentionally funny and, ultimately, tragic (Miki and Mandy Zone both died of AIDS-related illnesses in 1986 and 1993,

respectively).

History is usually written by and about the winners, which is why Paul Zone's new photo book *Playground: Growing Up In the New York Underground* is so refreshing. Co-authored with prolific music writer and *Roctober* publisher Jake Austen, *Playground* helps set the musical record, um, straight.

"As long as I remember coming of age," Paul said, "Miki was already playing guitar." Beginning in the mid 1960s, Miki immersed himself in music magazines, collected records, practiced his guitar and developed an unusual fashion sense.

Mandy—the middle child—followed his brother's lead, joining in on vocals. Paul helped out by sewing costumes, designing stage props and running lights and sound for his older brothers. "It was probably 1970," Paul recalled. "They would play at some battle of the bands or high school dances and block parties—and things like that."

The Fast was certainly not your average suburban high school band. "We had a girl dressed as Alice in Wonderland, and four other girls dressed as nuns with ripped stockings and crazy makeup handing out cookies. You know, we just tried to do so many different things to make it more theatrical."

They also incorporated glitter, giant candy canes and strobe lights into their shows. A couple years before David Bowie brought the glam aesthetic into the mainstream, the Zone brothers had already been there, done that. (A bold claim, but the photos in *Playground* back up their story.)

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Zone brothers' mom taught Paul how to use the family sewing machine. "So it would be like going to the fabric store and picking out some fabric that no one would ever think in their wildest dreams to use and making a blazer, or making satin pants," Paul recalled.

"At 13 or 14—even in eighth grade and ninth grade—I was already wearing clothes that were just completely not accepted in a Brooklyn suburban neighborhood," he said. "I had platform shoes on. I was wearing satin pants."

A COUPLE YEARS BEFORE DAVID BOWIE BROUGHT THE GLAM AESTHETIC INTO THE MAINSTREAM, THE ZONE BROTHERS HAD ALREADY BEEN THERE, DONE THAT.

The Zone brothers had no idea where to purchase the platform shoes they saw in English rock magazines, so they employed a DIY approach. Paul recalled that "my brother was cutting out pieces of plywood and two-by-fours and nailing them onto the bottom of boots and painting them silver and putting jewels on them. ... It was such a shoestring image."

Imagine growing up looking like that in Borough Park, a largely Hasidic Jewish and Italian part of Brooklyn. "People would obviously just think you're some sort of flamboyant homosexual, and that never even dawned on us," he said. "It was like, 'this is what musicians dress like.'"

Perhaps the oddest part of this strange story is how normal it all seemed to their mom and everyone else in their household. The kids were just being artists, and that was that. "We never had the misfortune of relatives or family members being so against children that are outcasts," Paul said. "Our mom was very very supportive, and it didn't seem like anything out of the ordinary." (What an awesome mom!)

"Of course," he added, "we learned very quickly that what we were doing and how we looked was not meshing very good in Brooklyn. It wasn't working out, believe me. The band definitely never won the battle of the bands."

Around 1971, the Zone brothers began leaving Brooklyn in the evening and roaming the streets of lower Manhattan—where they eventually made their way into the inner sanctum of downtown cool: Max's Kansas City. It was a restaurant-bar where the Velvet Underground played their final shows with Lou Reed, future Blondie vocalist Debbie Harry worked as a waitress and bohemian debauchery prevailed.

Max's infamous back room served as a hangout for downtown artists, writers, musicians, underground theater freaks and Warhol's "superstars." There, the three brothers crossed paths with the likes of Iggy Pop, Lou Reed, Alice Cooper and the New York Dolls. Paul Zone eventually became Max's house DJ, sharing record-spinning duties with glam-punk pioneer Wayne County (now Jayne County).

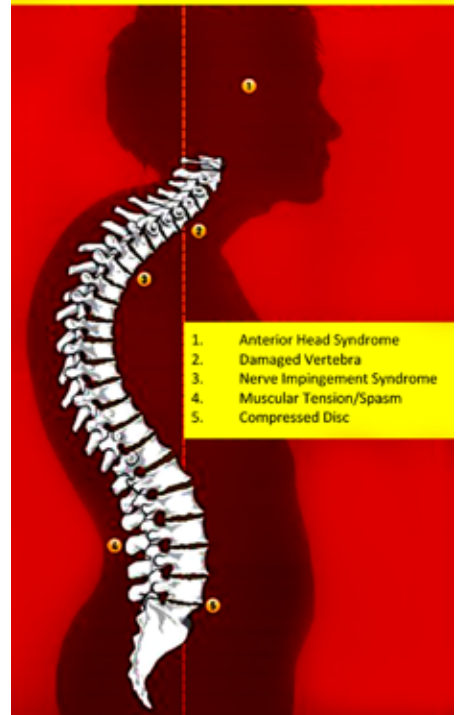
Soon after Paul joined The Fast in 1976 as lead vocalist, they became one of the most popular bands on the punk scene—playing their catchy brand of power pop with the Ramones, Suicide, Blondie and other luminaries. Stardom beckoned, but fate intervened.

Through a combination of bad luck and even worse management, their career faltered until, finally, the brothers struck gold. After going through a goth and synth-pop phase in the early 1980s, Miki and Paul rechristened themselves Man 2 Man and became a successful gay dance act in 1985.

Man 2 Man even had a number one hit in Mexico, of all places, where they spent six months on the morning talk show circuit, lip-syncing double-entendres like, "Your love is like a lubricant/it soothes the soul inside." It was like a page ripped straight out of a *VH1 Behind the Music* episode—on acid. **IV**

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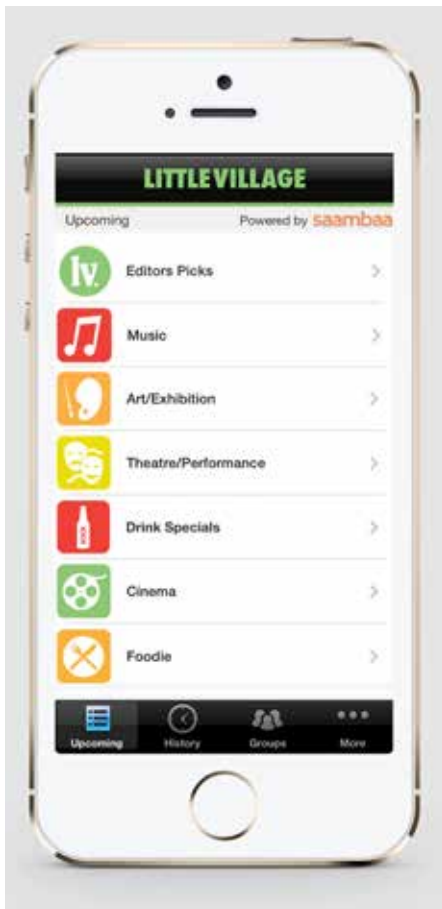
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Spiritual Drum Circle *Journey Church, Donation, 5 pm*
Dave Zollo *Orchard Green Restaurant & Lounge, Free, 6 pm*
Jekyll & Hyde *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$43-\$63, 7 pm*
Alloy Orchestra - Live with 'Son of the Sheik' *Englert Theatre, \$15-\$20. \$15 for seniors, students, children \$20 for general public, 8 pm*
Rubble Bucket Body Language *Blue Moose Tap House, \$15, 8 pm*
Little Ruckus *Gabe's, Free, 9 pm*

THU. OCTOBER 2

Orchestra Iowa's Pied Piper Concert *Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am*
University of Iowa Jazz Performances *The Mill, \$3 students, \$5 non-students, 6pm*
Mountain Standard Time *Yacht Club, \$8-\$10, 10 pm*

FRI. OCTOBER 3

Har-di-Har *Campbell Steele Gallery, \$15, 12 am*

Mighty Shady @ IPR's Java Blend *Java House, Free, 2 pm*
BrewNost *Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 6 pm*
DICKIE w. Eric Pettit Lion *The Mill, \$15, 8pm*
Kip Moore *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$34.50, 8 pm*
Mark Avery Band *Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 8 pm*
Doug Foster *High Ground Cafe, Free, 8 pm*
Pieta Brown *Legion Arts CSPPS Hall, \$17-\$21, 8 pm*
Ben Saltau Band *Yacht Club, \$5, 10 pm*

SAT. OCTOBER 4

Beginning Group Guitar *West Music Coralville, \$60, 12 pm*
Irish Sessions *Uptown Bill's, Free, 4 pm*
Dennis McMurrin The Mill, \$7, 8 pm

SAT. OCTOBER 4

Metro Mix Presents: Magic Tonight! *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, \$20, 7 pm*
8 Seconds *Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon, \$0-\$10. Cover, 8 pm*
Gayla Drake at Mendoza *Mendoza Wine Bar, \$3, 8 pm*
Evergreen Grass Band *Yacht Club, \$6, 10 pm*
The Get Down Vol. 1 *Gabe's, Free, 10 pm*

SUN. OCTOBER 5

Casey Abrams *Legion Arts CSPPS Hall, \$16-\$19, 7 pm*
Earthwords *Public Space ONE, See Website, 8 pm*
Sunsquabi Mr. Whiskerz *Gabe's, \$7, 9 pm*

MON. OCTOBER 6

Molly Conrad *High Ground Cafe, Free, 7 pm*
Home Free *Englert Theatre, \$20-\$25, 8 pm*
Tauk *Gabe's, \$10, 9 pm*
The Ditchrunners *Gabe's, Free, 9 pm*

TUE. OCTOBER 7

Brillz *Blue Moose Tap House, \$15-\$18, 9 pm*

WED. OCTOBER 8

Dave Zollo *Orchard Green Restaurant & Lounge, Free, 6 pm*
Kalin And Myles Chase Dreams Tour *Blue Moose Tap House, \$15-\$60, 7 pm*
Burlington Street Bluegrass Band *The Mill, \$5, 7 pm*
Nahko and Medicine For The People *Dustin Thomas Gabe's, \$15-\$20, 8 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, on the free calendar app Best of I.C. (iOS, Android) and in *Little Village Magazine* (on a space-available basis).

To add or edit events, visit littlevillagemag.com/calendar. Download the Little Village Best of I.C. app to find thousands of additional listings, bookmark your favorite events, and invite friends via SMS text.

DETAILS: littlevillagemag.com/bestofic | **QUESTIONS:** calendar@littlevillagemag.com





Photo by Tim Bugbee

OM w. Watter | Gabe's—Oct. 9, 8 p.m. (\$12-\$15, +19)
 Stoner metal is always 'sort of' in vogue—just strange enough to be a perennially overlooked genre. Yet it's often adventurous and technically proficient enough to be worthy of more attention. San Francisco's OM is possibly the best entry point into the world of stoner metal, taking a more than a fair share of cross-cultural religious iconography to communicate a sense of spiritual transcendence rather than chemical transcendence. That they aren't afraid to include tablas, tamburas and orchestral instruments into their drone journeys is proof they've reached some sort of musical transcendence as well. —MJ



Peter Walker | Trumpet Blossom—Oct. 4, 8 p.m. (\$12, +19)

It's a testament to Peter Walker's skill as a guitarist that coming back to life is merely one of the most amazing things he's accomplished. Having been an active musician in the Greenwich Village folk scene of the mid-'60s, Walker retreated from public life after recording two albums of fluid, dextrous, flamenco-inspired folk guitar pieces. Forty years later he was rediscovered, and instead of being dead like some suspected, he had, in fact, been practicing his craft. Walker's performance in Iowa City is a can't-miss event. —Max Johnson

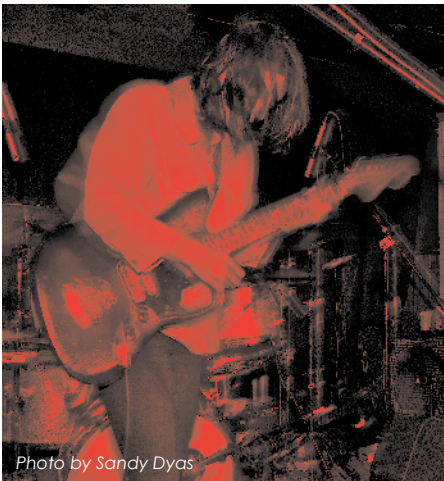


Photo by Sandy Dyas

Sharon Van Etten w. Tiny Ruins | Gabe's—Oct. 13, 7 p.m. (\$15, +19)

Sharon Van Etten requires little introduction to Iowa City—she's played here a handful of times, most recently at The Mill with Bowerbirds during Mission Creek 2012. Her intimate, confessional, indie-folk songs are powerful and perfect for Iowa City in mid-October. Make sure you show up early though as New Zealand's Tiny Ruins are set to open the show. After a terrific performance at Trumpet Blossom in July, this three piece lead by Hollie Fullbrook is just about guaranteed to charm Van Etten's fans with their sparse and muted folk songs. —MJ



Photo by Bek Andersen

o'death w. Al Scorch, Stone Jack Jones | The Mill—Oct. 14, 9 p.m. (\$10-\$12, +19)

Not a lot of bands can comfortably share bills with acts as diverse as Battles, Old Time Relijun and Dr. Dog, but o'death is not like a lot of other bands. With a predilection for dark, gothic folk, the Brooklyn-based five piece smudge their antique Americana sound with touches of metal and punk. Fans of the Avett Brothers and William Elliott Whitmore will certainly appreciate o'death's twisted, modern folk. —MJ

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Music (cont.)

THU. OCTOBER 9

Food-for-Everyone *Trumpet Blossom Cafe, \$40, 6 pm*

THU. OCTOBER 9

OM Watter *Gabe's, \$12-\$0, 9 pm*

Hancher Presents: Susan Werner, "The Hayseed Project" *The Mill, \$10-\$20, 7 pm, 9:30 pm*

Sunpilots *Yacht Club, \$5, 10 pm*

FRI. OCTOBER 10

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

The 100s *Campbell Steele Gallery, \$15, 7 pm*

David Bromberg *Englert Theatre, \$35, 8 pm*

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

Walker McGuire *Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon, \$0-\$10.*

Cover, 8 pm

Uniphonics *Iowa City Yacht Club, \$5, 10 pm*

SAT. OCTOBER 11

Beginning Group Guitar *West Music Coralville, \$60, 12 pm*

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

Born Of Osiris Thy Art Is Murder, Betraying The Martyrs,

Within The Ruins, Erra *Blue Moose Tap House, \$16-\$18, 5 pm*

JC Project *Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 8 pm*

North of 40 *Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon, \$0-\$10.*

Cover, 8 pm

Shade of Blue *The Mill, \$12, 9 pm*

SUN. OCTOBER 12

The Murphy Beds & The Ruth Moody Band *Legion Arts CSPS*

Hall, \$16-\$19, 7 pm

Leradee *Gabe's, Free, 9 pm*

MON. OCTOBER 13

Sharon Van Etten w. Tiny Ruins *Gabe's, \$15, 8 pm*

TUE. OCTOBER 14

Blues Jam *Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 7 pm*

O'Death w. Al Scorch, Stone Jack Jones *The Mill, \$12, 9pm*

Art / Exhibition

ONGOING

Carl Van Vechten: Photographer to the Stars *Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, \$0-\$5, All Day*

Wonderful Preserve: A Century of Recovery on Laysan Island *Museum of Natural History at UI, Free, All Day*

Opening October 3: 30 Years of Art & Artists *Iowa Artisans Gallery, Free, 10 am*

Elegance: New Collection of Work by Mary Merkel-Hess *The Chait Galleries Downtown, Free, All Day*

Closing October 26: America's First Ladies *Herbert Hoover National Historic Site, \$0-\$6, All Day*

Closing Oct 31: Images Gone With Time *National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library, \$3-\$10, All Day*

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

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

Peter Sis Cartography of the Mind *National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library, \$0-\$10, All Day*

Closing Nov 2: Tea Time: Going Dutch *UIMA@IMU, third floor, Iowa Memorial Union, Free, 10 am*

Closing Nov 4: Marvin Cone on my Mind The Ceramics of Dean Schwartz *Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, \$0-\$5. Free - \$5, 12 pm*

Larry Welo as Painter: en Plein Air *Iowa Artisans Gallery, Free, All Day*

VENUE GUIDE

IOWA CITY

Blue Moose Tap House 211 Iowa Ave, (319) 358-9206, bluemooseic.com

Chait Galleries Downtown 218 E Washington St, (319) 338-4442, thegalleriesdowntown.com

Englert Theatre 221 E Washington St, (319) 688-2653, englert.org

FilmScene 118 E College St, (319) 358-2555, icfilmscene.org

First Avenue Club, 1550 S 1st Ave, (319) 337-5527, firstavenueclub.com

Gabe's 330 E Washington St, (319) 351-9175, icgabes.com

Iowa Artisans' Gallery 207 E. Washington St, (319) 351-8686, iowa-artisans-gallery.com

Iowa City Community Theatre 4261 Oak Crest Hill Rd SE, (319) 338-0443, iowacitycommunitytheatre.com

Iowa Memorial Union 125 N Madison St, (319) 335-3041, imu.uiowa.edu

Lasansky Corporation Gallery 216 E Washington St, (319) 337-9336, lasanskyart.com

M.C. Ginsberg Objects of Art 110 E Washington St, (319) 351-1700, mcginsberg.com

Old Capitol Museum 21 N Clinton St, (319) 335-0548, uiowa.edu/oldcap

Prairie Lights Bookstore 15 S Dubuque St, (319) 337-2681, prairielights.com

Public Space One 120 N Dubuque St, (319) 331-8893, publicspaceone.com

Riverside Theatre 213 N. Gilbert Street, Iowa City riverside-theatre.org

Steven Vail Fine Arts 118 E College St, (319) 248-9443 stevenvail.com

The Mill 120 E Burlington St, (319) 351-9529, icmill.com

Trumpet Blossom Cafe 310 E Prentiss St, (319) 248-0077, trumpetblossom.com

University of Iowa Museum of Art 1375 Iowa 1, (319) 335-1727, uima.uiowa.edu

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

Uptown Bill's 730 S Dubuque St, (319) 339-0804, uptownbills.org

Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon 4919 Dolphin Dr SE, (319) 338-2211, wildwoodsaloosn.com

Yacht Club 13 S Linn St, (319) 337-6464, iowacityyachtclub.com

CEDAR RAPIDS

African American Museum of Iowa, 55 12th Ave SE, (319) 862-2101, blackiowa.org

Bruccemore Mansion 2160 Linden Dr SE, (319) 362-7375, bruccemore.org

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, 410 Third Avenue SE, (319) 366-7503, crma.org

Daniel Arthur's 821 3rd Ave SE, (319) 362-9340, danielarthurs.net

Hawkeye Downs Speedway and Fairgrounds 4400 6th St SW, (319) 365-8656, 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

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

National Czech and Slovak Museum 1400 Inspiration Place SW, ncsml.org

Opus Concert Cafe 119 Third Ave SE, (319) 366-8203, orchestraiowa.org

Paramount Theatre 123 3rd Ave SE, (319) 398-5211, paramounttheatre.org

Parlor City Pub & Eatery 1125 3rd St SE, (319) 247-0000, parlorcitypub.com

Penguin's Comedy Club 208 2nd Ave SE, (319) 362-8133, penguinscomedyclub.com

Shores Event Center 700 16th St NE, (319) 775-5367, shoreseventcenter.com

Sip N Stir 1119 1st Ave SE, Cedar Rapids., (319) 364-3163, sipnstir.com

Tailgators 3969 Center Point Rd NE, (319) 393-6621, tailgatorslive.com

US Cellular Center 370 1st Avenue NE | (319) 398-5211, uscellularcenter.com

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

WED. OCTOBER 1

Exhibition Lecture: Dutch Tea Time and Beyond *Art Building West at UI, Free, 7 am*

Art Bites ~ Carl Van Vechten *Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, Free, 12 pm*

THU. OCTOBER 2

Indian Printmaking: Rediscovery, Revolution, and Renewal *Art Building West at UI, Free, 7 am*

FRI. OCTOBER 3

P Buckley Moss Art Show *Kalona Chamber of Commerce, Free, 1 pm*

Downtown Iowa City October Gallery Walk *Downtown Iowa City, Free, 5 pm*

First Friday UIMA Reception *FilmScene, Free, 5 pm*

SUN. OCTOBER 5

Book as Art/Art as Book Iowa City Book Festival *University of Iowa Main Library, Free, 11 am*

Community Worktime *Public Space ONE, See website for pricing, 1 pm*



Theatre/Performance

ONGOING:

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

Open Mic Penguin's Comedy Club, Free, 8 pm

Fridays: Weekend Comedy Showcase *Penguin's Comedy Club, TBD, 7 pm*

Oct 3 - 5: Into the Woods *Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$20-\$37, 7 pm*

Opening October 9: A Mighty Fortress is our Basement *Old Creamery Theatre, \$18.50-\$28. \$18.50-\$28, 7 pm*

Opening October 10: Toby's Cornstussle News *Iowa Theatre Artists Company, \$10-\$22.50. \$22.50 Adults, \$20 Ages 60+, \$10 Students, 7 pm*

FRI. OCTOBER 3

Iowa City's Laughapalooza Comedy Show *Gabe's, \$10, 7 pm*

Paperback Rhino *Public Space ONE, \$2, 10 pm*

SAT. OCTOBER 4

Capitol Steps *Englert Theatre, \$35, 8 pm*

Bill Cosby Far From Finished Tour *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$50-\$87, 8 pm*

SUN. OCTOBER 5

5th annual Roast of Iowa City *The Mill, Free, 5 pm*

TUES. OCTOBER 7

Comedy Showcase: hosted by Daniel Frana *The Mill, \$5, 10 pm*

WED. OCTOBER 8

National Theatre Live: A Streetcar Named Desire *Englert Theatre, \$15-\$18, 7 pm*

THU. OCTOBER 9

Great White Narcs *Public Space ONE, TBD, 6 pm*

Crescendo *Theatre Building at UI, \$5-\$18, 8 pm*

SAT. OCTOBER 11

Disney Live! Mickey's Music Festival *US Cellular Center, \$15-\$60, 1 pm, 4 pm*

Theatre Cedar Rapids 102 3rd St SE, (319) 366-8591, theatretr.org

CORALVILLE

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

Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 1900 Country Club Dr, (319) 248-9370, coralvillearts.org

Coralville Recreation Center 1506 8th St, (319) 248-1750, coralville.org

Iowa Children's Museum 1451 Coral Ridge Ave, (319) 625-6255, theicm.org

Mendoza Wine Bar 1301 5th St, (319) 333-1291, mendozawinebar.com

NORTH LIBERTY

Bobber's Grill 1850 Scales Bend Rd NE, (319) 665-3474, bobbersgrill.com

MT. VERNON / LISBON

Lincoln Winebar 125 First St NW, Mt Vernon, (319) 895 9463, foodisimportant.com

Sutliff Cider 382 Sutliff Road, Lisbon, (319) 455-4093, sutliffcider.com

RIVERSIDE

Riverside Casino & Golf Resort 3184 Highway 22, (319) 648-1234, riversidecasinoandresort.com

FAIRFIELD

Cafe Paradiso 101 N Main St, (641) 472-0856, cafeparadiso.net

Orpheum Theater Fairfield, 121 W Broadway Ave (641) 209-5008, orpheumtheatrefairfield.com

GRINNELL

The Gardener Lounge 1221 6th Ave, (641) 269-3317, grinnellconcerts.com

The Faulconer Gallery 1108 Park St, (641) 269-4660, grinnell.edu/faulconergallery

QUAD CITIES

Adler Theatre 136 E 3rd St, Davenport, (563) 326-8500, adlertheatre.com

Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse 1828 3rd Ave, Rock Island, (309) 786-7733, circa21.com

Figge Art Museum 225 W 2nd St, Davenport, (563) 326-7804, figgeartmuseum.org

Isle of Capri Casino 1777 Isle Parkway, Bettendorf, (563) 359-7280, isleofcapricasinos.com

River Music Experience 129 Main St, Davenport, (563) 326-1333, rivermusicexperience.com

iWireless Center 1201 River Dr, Moline, (309) 764-2001, iwirelesscenter.com

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General Store Pub 12612 Stone City Rd, (319) 462-4399, generalstorepub.com

MAQUOKETA

Ohnward Fine Arts Center 1215 E Platt St, (563) 652-9815, ohnwardfineartscenter.com

Codfish Hollow Barnstormers 5013 288th Ave, codfishhollowbarnstormers.com

DUBUQUE

The Bell Tower Theater 2728 Asbury Rd Ste 242, (563) 588-3377, belltowertheater.net

Diamond Jo Casino 301 Bell St, (563) 690-4800, diamondjodubuque.com

Eronel 285 Main St, eroneldbq.com

Five Flags Center 405 Main St, (563) 589-4254, fiveflagscenter.com

The Lift 180 Main St, 563-582-2689, theliftdubuque.com

Matter Creative Center 140 E 9th St, (563) 556-0017, mattercreative.org

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

Mystique Casino 1855 Greyhound Park Rd, (563) 582-3647, mystiquedbq.com

CLINTON

Wild Rose Casino 777 Wild Rose Dr, (563) 243-9000, wildroseresorts.com/clinton

Showboat Theater 303 Riverside Rd, (563) 242-6760, 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, desmoinesperformingarts.org

El Bait Shop 200 SW 2nd St (515) 284-1970 elbaitshop.com

Gas Lamp 1501 Grand Ave (515) 280-3778, gaslampdsm.com

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

Vaudeville Mews 212 4th St, (515) 243-3270, booking@vaudevillemews.com

Woolys 504 East Locust (515) 244-0550 woolysdm.com

Whiskey Dix 215 4th St (515) 288-8678

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- OCT 4** } **DENNIS McMURRIN**
doors @ 7 | show @ 8 | \$7
- OCT 5** } **LITTLE VILLAGE**
ROAST OF IOWA CITY
doors @ 4 | show @ 5 | FREE
- OCT 9** } **CLUB HANCHER PRESENTS:**
SUSAN WERNER
shows 7 & 9:30 | \$10 - \$20
- OCT 11** } **SHADE OF BLUE**
doors @ 8 | show @ 9 | \$12
- OCT 14** } **O'DEATH**
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Cinema

WED. OCTOBER 1

Gone With The Wind Rave Motion Pictures, \$5.50-\$9.50, 2 pm

Alive Inside FilmScene, \$6.50-\$8.50, 6 pm

Gone With The Wind Rave Motion Pictures, \$5.50-\$9.50, 7 pm

The Trip to Italy FilmScene, \$6.50-\$8.50, 7 pm

Video Violence FilmScene, \$4, 10 pm

THU. OCTOBER 2

"It Gets Better Project" Screening Iowa Memorial Union,
Free, 11 am

Alive Inside FilmScene, \$6.50-\$8.50, 4 pm

The Trip to Italy FilmScene, \$6.50-\$8.50, 6 pm

"Twitch" Documentary Screening Seamans Center at UI, See
Website, 6 pm

The Name is Bond... James Bond Iowa City Public Library,
Free, 7 pm

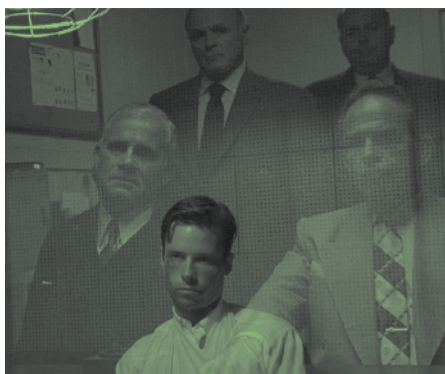
Alive Inside FilmScene, \$6.50-\$8.50, 8 pm

22 Jump Street Iowa Memorial Union, \$3 - \$5, 8pm

Jersey Boys Iowa Memorial Union, \$3 - \$5, 8 pm

TUE. OCTOBER 7

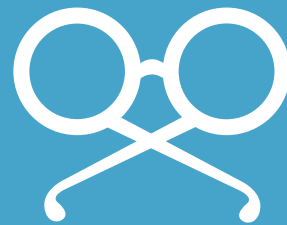
Moon Zero Three Screening The Mill, Free, 7 pm



L.A. Confidential | Directed by Curtis Hanson | Film
Screening and Book Signing with James Ellroy
FilmScene—Oct. 3, 6:30 p.m. (\$40)

Iowa City may not be a "city of angels" or a "city of light," but it is a "city of literature," and FilmScene is paying tribute to that fact by showing the 1997 adaptation of James Ellroy's *LA Confidential* with a appearance by Ellroy himself. He will speak before the movie and sign copies of his new book, *Perfidia*, afterwards.

—Warren Sprouse



WED. OCTOBER 8

National Theatre Live: A Streetcar Named Desire Englert
Theatre, \$15-\$18, 7 pm

Dirty Business - Film Screening & Panel Discussion
University of Iowa Main Library, Free, 7 pm

THU. OCTOBER 9

The Name is Bond... James Bond Iowa City Public Library,
Free, 7 pm

Literature

WED. OCTOBER 1, 2014

Merrit Tierce Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 pm

THU. OCTOBER 2, 2014

Panel: World Novel Today Gerber Lounge - UI Philosophy
Building, Free, 12 pm

Fyodor Dostoyevsky's Notes from the Underground Dublin
Underground, Free, 1 pm

Border Issues Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, Free,
7 pm

James Ellroy Interview and Reading Old Brick, Free, 7 pm



Gone Girl | Directed by David Fincher | Coral Ridge
Cinema—Opening Oct. 3

From the director of *Fight Club*, *House of Cards* and some of Madonna's early music videos comes *Gone Girl*, a film about a wholesome, loving husband who may actually have killed his wife. Starring Ben Affleck and Rosamund Pike, *Gone Girl* imagines traditional social relationships in the darkest possible ways —WS

FRI. OCTOBER 3, 2014

Kirkwood English Conversation Club *Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am*

Panel: Writing in a Country at War *Iowa City Public Library, Room A, , Free, 12 pm*

LA Confidential with James Ellroy *FilmScene, \$40, 6 pm*

An Evening with Marilynne Robinson *Iowa City Book Festival Englert Theatre, Free, 7 pm*

SAT. OCTOBER 4, 2014

Iowa City 175th Anniversary Ceremony *Old Capitol Senate Chamber, Free, 9 am*

FW75: Celebrating 75 Years of Finnegans Wake *FilmScene, Free, 10 am*

Scott Phillips and Jon McGoran *Iowa City Public Library, Room A, , Free, 10 am*

Peyton Marshall and Marcus Burke *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 10 am*

Breaking In, Breaking Out *Midwest One Bank, Free, 10 am*

Irish Writers at the International Writing Program: A Celebration *Old Capitol Senate Chamber, Free, 10 am*

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

Glory of the Senses: Paul Engle Essay Contest ceremony *Old Capitol Senate Chamber, Free, 11 am*

Sean Strub and Terrence Holt *Iowa City Public Library, Room A, Free, 11 am*

Marlon James *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 11 am*

Levi Stahl and Craig McDonald *Java House, Free, 11 am*

Panel: Writing as Recovery *Midwest One Bank, Free, 11 am Paul Engle Prize ceremony Old Capitol Senate Chamber, Free, 1 pm*

Irish Poetry Reading *Iowa City Public Library, Room A, , Free, 1 pm*



Found Footage Festival | FilmScene—Oct. 6, 9 p.m. (\$10)

Like true love, interesting film sometimes shows up in places where you least expect to find it. This, anyway, is the fervent belief of the 2014 Found Footage Festival Tour, stopping in Iowa City on Oct. 6. Film recordings in the form of commercials, home movies and detritus of all varieties are presented mostly without context, scrupulously without judgment and mostly in VHS. —WS

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Fall Calendar 2014

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"Lonesome"

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Co-presented by FilmScene

MARILYNNE ROBINSON

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

Part of the Iowa City Book Festival

CAPITOL STEPS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

JANE SMILEY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Part of the Iowa City Book Festival

200th Anniversary of Sir Walter Scott's

WAVERLEY NOVELS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Part of the Iowa City Book Festival

HOME FREE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

LENA DUNHAM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Sold Out

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

HD Broadcast - National Theatre Live

DAVID BROMBERG

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

MARIA'S VOICE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Presented by the Domestic Violence
Intervention Program

SHARON VAN ETTEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

Co-presented by SCOPE Productions - at Gabe's

LOS LOBOS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

25th Anniversary of *La Pistola* Tour

(319) 688-2653 | englert.org
221 E. Washington St., Iowa City

Literature (cont.)

Marilyn Chin *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe*, Free, 1 pm

Edward Carey *Iowa City Public Library, Teen Room*, Free, 1 pm

SAT. OCTOBER 4, 2014

Jane Melby *Java House*, Free, 1 pm

Panel: A Sense of Place *Midwest One Bank*, Free, 1 pm

Poetry Embroidery Workshop *Home Ec. Workshop*, \$8, 1 pm

A Tribute to Donald Justice *Iowa City Public Library, Room A*, Free, 2 pm

Kathleen Founds and Heather A. Slomski *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe*, Free, 2 pm

Jessie Ann Foley *Iowa City Public Library*, Free, 2 pm

Robert Gutsche Jr. *Java House*, Free, 2 pm

Panel: Loyalty and Betrayal *Iowa City Senior Center*, Free, 2 pm

Panel: Irish-American Cultural Connections *Old Capitol Senate Chamber*, Free, 2 pm

Paddy Woodworth and Jeff Biggers *Iowa City Public Library, Room A*, Free, 4 pm

Hubert Pedroli *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe*, Free, 4 pm

Panel: A Sense of Place II *Iowa City Senior Center*, Free, 4 pm

Reyna Grande-One Community One Book *Pomerantz Center*, Free, 7 pm

Brian Switek *Java House*, Free, 10 pm

SUN. OCTOBER 5, 2014

Book as Art/Art as Book *University of Iowa Main Library*,

Free, 11 am

Reading Aloud Group Reading *Iowa City Senior Center*, Free, 11 am

Mary Potter Kenyon *Coralville Public Library*, Free, 12 pm

Paul Ingram *Devotay*, Free, 12 pm

Aileen Stewart *Dulcinea*, Free, 12 pm

Jane Smiley *Englert Theatre*, Free, 1 pm

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

John Ira Thomas *Daydreams Comics*, Free, 2 pm

Citizen Scholars Kembrew McLeod *Iowa City Public Library, Room A*, Free, 2 pm

Mike Young, Gene Kwak, Mike Schlesinger, Delaney Nolan and Alice Gribbin *RSVP*, Free, 2 pm

Claudia McGehee *Museum of Natural History at UI*, Free, 2 pm

SUN. OCTOBER 5, 2014

200th Anniversary of Sir Walter Scott's Waverley Novels *Englert Theatre*, Free, 3 pm

Bart Yates *High Ground Cafe*, Free, 3 pm

Panel: At Language's Edge *Iowa City Public Library, Room A*, Free, 3 pm

Lauren K. Alleyne *Beadology Iowa*, Free, 3 pm

Assaf Gavron *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe*, Free, 3 pm

Rescue Press Reading *RSVP*, Free, 3 pm

Ice Cube Press Reading *University of Iowa Bookstore*, Free, 3 pm

Little Village Hot Tin Roof Reading *Trumpet Blossom Cafe*, Free, 3 pm

Poets and Writers from the MFA in Spanish Creative Writing



Programs *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe*, Free, 4 pm

Panel: Religion and Writing *Iowa City Public Library, Room A*, Free, 4 pm

Sarah Kosch and Brendan Lee Spengler *White Rabbit*, Free, 4 pm

Roast of Iowa City *The Mill*, Free, 5 pm

TUE. OCTOBER 7, 2014

A Conversation with Lena Dunham *Englert Theatre*, Sold Out, 7 pm

WED. OCTOBER 8, 2014

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

SAT. OCTOBER 11, 2014

Ladd Library Book Club *Cedar Rapids Public Library*, Free, 3 pm

Foodie

ONGOING:

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

THE STRAIGHT DOPE

WHAT'S THE LATEST ON WHETHER ZINC CURES COLDS?

Okay, Cecil. Sixteen years ago, at the end of a column about whether zinc lozenges cure the common cold, you wrote: "Today you don't hear much about vitamin C as a cold cure. I'll bet you a jumbo box of Contac that the same thing happens to zinc." Did you win the bet? Did you lose? We're left hanging here. —sbunny8, from the Straight Dope Message Board

You were left hanging because I was left hanging—nobody took my bet. Too bad; I could have used that Contac. The zinc vs. colds controversy, while it hasn't petered out altogether, hasn't made much progress, and is nowhere near a firm conclusion one way or another.

But you know me: I like to bring closure to the great questions of our time. While that's not easy in a field as squishy as medicine, I've come up with a methodology to get things off the dime. You've heard of meta-analysis? I take it to the next level: meta-meta-analysis.

Meta-analysis may be crudely described as the study of studies. Meta-meta-analysis is studying studies of studies. Meta-analysis uses sophisticated statistical techniques to tease out

conclusions from a confusing mess of data. Meta-meta-analysis is simpler: it relies on eye-rolling, wisecracks, and snark.

Enough buildup. Let's get to work.

1. To recap: The claim, first bruited by George Eby in 1984, was that a zinc lozenge held under the tongue would alleviate cold symptoms in as little as two hours. Eby is an interesting individual. He's not a physician, but rather is head of the George Eby Research Institute in Austin, Texas. His home page, at coldcure.com, displays a GIF of a rippling American flag and a photo of himself holding a bottle of the zinc lozenges he sells. Zinc isn't the only metal he's taken an interest in; he also believes



magnesium will cure depression.

2. Despite his lack of marquee cred, Eby and his zinc claims have been taken seriously by the medical research establishment. By his own reckoning, as of 2010 there had been "14 double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized clinical trials" of zinc cold cures, which "produced widely differing results with ... one-half showing success and the remainder showing failure."

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*

FRI. OCTOBER 3

Field Recordings Wine Tasting *Brix, \$20, 6 pm*

SAT. OCTOBER 4

Statewide Conference Addressing Celiac Disease *Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, \$45, 7 am*

TUE. OCTOBER 7

Make Every Bite Build Health with Jackie Fetter *New Pioneer Food Co-op Coralville, \$15, 6 pm*
Cabernet Merlot Wine Class Brix, \$30, 6 pm

SUN. OCTOBER 12

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

North Liberty Famers Market *Pacha Parkway, Free, 12 pm*

MON. OCTOBER 13

Sherry Wine Tasting *Devotay, \$30, 6 pm*



Educational

WED. OCTOBER 1

Yuen Method Demonstration *Travelodge, Free, 7 pm*

Sheep to Yarn - on the Cheap *Home Ec. Workshop, \$35, 7 pm*

THU. OCTOBER 2

Indian Printmaking: Rediscovery, Revolution, and Renewal *Art Building West at UI, Free, 7 am*

Affordable Housing Workshop *St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Registration Required, 8 am*

SAT. OCTOBER 4

Statewide Conference Addressing Celiac Disease *Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, \$45, 7 am*

Assignment Design Institute *University of Iowa Main Library Learning Commons, Free, 9 am*

SUN. OCTOBER 5

Bart Yates Iowa City Book Festival *High Ground Cafe, Free, 3 pm*

Pub Quiz *The Mill, \$1, 9 pm*

MON. OCTOBER 6

Meeting God Through Icons *Iowa City Public Library, Room A, Free, 7 pm*

TUE. OCTOBER 7

Library-Community Writing Center *Iowa City Public Library, Free, 4 pm*

WED. OCTOBER 8

A Historical Tour of the Longfellow Neighborhood *Iowa City Public Library, Free, 7 pm*

Free Days at Jazzercise *Jazzercise Fitness Center, Free, All Day*

THU. OCTOBER 9

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

Upholstery Class *Regeneration Factory, \$195, 10 am*

Exhibition Lecture: Still Life and Life in the Dutch Golden Age *Art Building West at UI, Free, 7 pm*

SAT. OCTOBER 11

Spiritual Class Marathon Illuminations *Healing Arts Center, \$25, All Day*

3. You or I might be discouraged by results like that. Not Eby. He drew a distinction between ionic—that is, chemically reactive—zinc and chemically bound, nonreactive zinc. His conclusion? We'll get to that. First an aside.

4. From what I can make out, the ionic-vs.-bound business arises largely from a drawback of ionic zinc: it tastes unbelievably gross. (Remember: you're supposed to hold the lozenges under your tongue.) My assistant Una, who has tried them—I assure you I didn't put her up to this—offers the following testimony: "The kind with ionic zinc taste so dreadful I can't use them due to nausea." To improve the taste, many formulations on the market now bind the zinc to glycine or citric acid. As we'll see, this may not be the best idea.

5. Mere experimentation having proven little, researchers then turned to meta-analysis and other methods of reviewing multiple studies. The idea, to oversimplify: trends not apparent in numerous small studies may jump out when the numbers are viewed in aggregate. Obvious problem: many small piles of crap pushed into one big one don't thereby become research

gold. Various techniques are used to winnow junk data, but the outcome can be like the late Bowl Championship Series: you can see what they were going for without necessarily buying the result.

On to those reviews:

6. Caruso et al (2007) started with 105 zinc studies and pruned them down to 14 the team deemed scientifically valid. Conclusion: zinc lozenges and nasal sprays did nothing; zinc nasal gel couldn't be ruled out.

7. Back to Eby. Based on his 2010 review of 14 studies (mostly the same ones; you'll recall seven said aye, seven nay), he claimed the deciding factor was the proportion of ionic zinc: the more a given dose had relative to total zinc, the better it fought colds. Eby is (unsurprisingly) big on lozenges, but he thinks the ones using bound zinc, which include most of those currently out there, are worthless. Corollary, based on Una's experience: for zinc to cure what ails you, it has to make you sick.

8. Hemilä (2011) looked at 13 of the

studies—seven *oui*, six *non*. But Hemilä proposed his own explanatory variable: the effective zinc preparations had a dose of at least 75 milligrams.

9. Singh and Das (2011) performed what's known as a Cochrane systematic review of 15 studies. They offered no judgments about dosage, formulation, or other such minutiae. They just declared (well, not "just"—the Cochrane method is quite rigorous): zinc is effective.

10. Zinc advocates may now chirp: multiple reviews (sorta) agree—zinc (maybe sometimes) works! My meta-meta-conclusion: When reviewers looking at the same basic data come up with three different ideas about the right way to use the stuff (more zinc! ionic zinc! possibly zinc nasal gel!) ... well, let's be charitable. There's plenty of room for doubt.

—CECIL ADAMS

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



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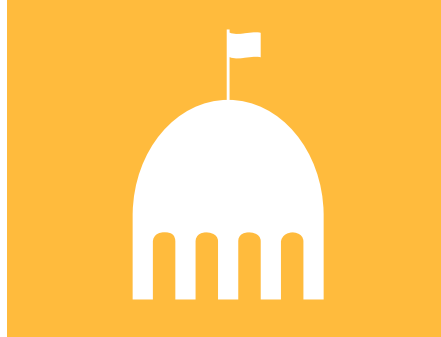
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Community

ONGOING

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

Thursdays: Karaoke *Penguin's Comedy Club, Free, 8 pm*

October 3 - 5: Oktoberfest in the Amana Colonies *Millstream Brewery, Free, All Day*

October 5 - 10: American Craft Week *Iowa Artisans Gallery, Free, All Day*

WED. OCTOBER 1

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

1 Million Cups *Iowa City Public Library, Free, 9 am*

FRI. OCTOBER 3

First Friday *FilmScene, Free, 5 pm*

SAT. OCTOBER 4

Homecoming: Volunteer Day *Iowa Memorial Union at UI, Free, 9 am*

SUN. OCTOBER 5

Iowa City Miles For Myeloma - 2- or 4-Mile Walk/Run *Terry*



Photo by Courtney Johnson

The Va Va Voom! Burlesque Troupe: Libation Titillation Lion Ridge Brewing Company—Oct. 4, 10 p.m. (Free)

Get a sneak peek at the Va Va Voom Burlesque troupe. This performance features performers Vivi Phoenix and Whiskey Jones, as well as plenty of shaking and shimmying. The group mixes the nostalgia of vaudeville glamour with modern-day self expression and kink. They will thrill your senses artfully and engage the audience with dance, humor, striptease and music.

—Sarah Driscoll



Photo by Adam Burke

Prairiewoods Wild Edible Plants class and Nature Fest | Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center | Wild Edible Plants class—Oct. 4, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. (Free) | Nature Fest—Oct. 5, 1 - 3:30 p.m. (Free)

Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center is a space for personal transformation located on 70 acres of land on the north side of Cedar Rapids that offers yoga and meditation classes and other events. On Oct. 4, walk the land while learning how to recognize, collect and prepare wild fall edibles on Prairiewoods' foraging expedition. On Oct. 5, attend their annual, pet-friendly Nature Fest features live music from Deep Dish Divas, as well as family activities like face painting, games, family photos with your pet, beach volleyball and an animal blessing ceremony. Prairiewoods encourages guests to bring pets on a leash, as well as chairs and blankets for comfortable outdoor seating. —Sarah Driscoll

Trueblood Recreation Area, \$15-\$25. \$25 with T-shirt/\$15 without T-shirt, 10 am

WED. OCTOBER 8

Cork N Canvas White star ale House, \$30, 6 pm
Trivia Night Mendoza Wine Bar, \$5, 8 pm

THU. OCTOBER 9

Local Government Affairs Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce, Free, 7 am
Education Committee Meeting Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce, Free, 7 am
Coffee & Chat Indian Creek Nature Center, Free, 9 am

FRI. OCTOBER 10

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

SAT. OCTOBER 11

Indiana v Iowa Hawkeyes - Homecoming Kinnick Stadium at UI, \$49.50, 11 am

TUE. OCTOBER 14

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

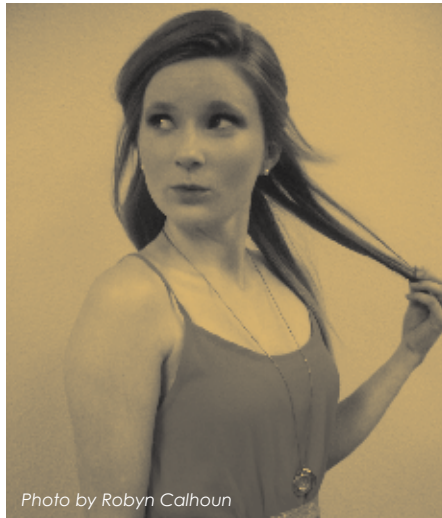


Photo by Robyn Calhoun

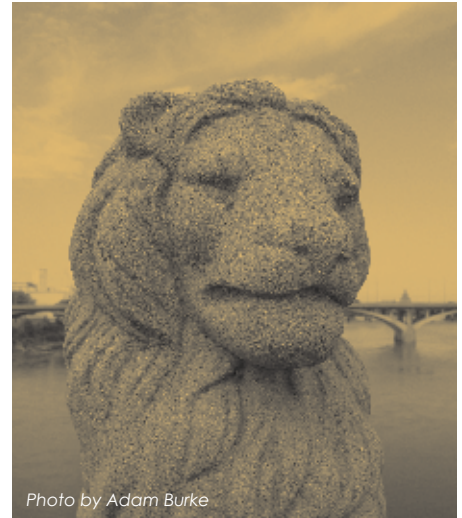


Photo by Adam Burke

Xanadu I City Circle Acting Company I Coralville Center for the Performing Arts—Oct. 10-19, times vary visit citycircle.org (\$12-\$27)

Break out the roller skates and dust off your disco duds! Gods and mortals collide as Ancient Greek muses inspire a down-on-his-luck chalk artist to open a roller disco. See this musical adaptation that has surpassed the original 1980 Olivia Newton-John movie, both critically and financially. —Jorie Slodki

NewBo PoJam I Lions Bridge Brewing Company—Oct. 11, 8 p.m. (Free)

The NewBo PoJam is the inaugural poetry performance supported by SPT Theatre Company. The event offers poets an opportunity to showcase their talents and also features music and visual art. Tickets can be purchased at the Lion Bridge Brewery where the event is being held. —SD

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ONGOING

Mondays: Play & Learn at Ladd Library Cedar Rapids Public Library-Ladd Library, Free, 9 am

Stories for Scooters Cedar Rapids Public Library-Downtown, Free, 9 am

Toddler Storytime Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am

Starlight Story Time Cedar Rapids Public Library-Downtown, Free, 6 pm

Tuesdays: Mother Goose on the Loose Cedar Rapids Public Library-Downtown, Free, 9 am

Toddler Storytime Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am

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

Wednesdays: Story Time Cedar Rapids Public Library-Downtown, Free, 9 am

Preschool Storytime Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am

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

Fridays: Story Time Cedar Rapids Public Library-Ladd Library, Free, 9 am

Play & Learn Cedar Rapids Public Library-Downtown, Free, 10 am

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

Sensory Storytime Iowa City Public Library, Free, 1 pm

Sundays: Clay Play Iowa Children's Museum, \$0-\$7. \$0-\$7, 2 pm

THU. OCTOBER 2

Orchestra Iowa's Pied Piper Concert Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10 am

SAT. OCTOBER 4

Cinderella Old Creamery Theatre, \$9, 1 pm

SAT. OCTOBER 11

Drop-In Crafternoon: Scranimals! National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library, Free, 12 pm

Disney Live! Mickey's Music Festival US Cellular Center, \$15-\$60, 1 pm, 4pm

TUE. OCTOBER 14

Scarecrow Invasion Brucemore, \$15-\$25, 9 am

Pita Sandwiches

FALAFEL PITA: Plain or whole wheat pita filled with hummus, babba ganoush, mediterranean salad and falafel. ... \$5.45 (\$3.90/half)

ADD chicken, beef kafta, gyro, grilled vegetables or chicken shawarma ... \$7 (\$5.66/half)

ADD lamb ... \$7.95 (\$6.66/half)

SABICH: Moroccan eggplant, hard-boiled egg and hummus in pocket pita. ... \$5.45 (\$3.90/half)

PREMIUM FILLINGS (\$0.75): Pickles, Tabbouleh, Feta, Couscous, Moroccan Eggplant, Hard-Boiled Egg (\$1)

Entrées

KEBAB PLATE: Choose Two: Chicken, Beef Kafta, Grilled Vegetables, Chicken Shawarma, Gyro or Lamb (Lamb add \$1) + any two sides & pita. ... \$9.81

SULTAN'S PLATE: Choose any four sides + pita. ... \$7.95

GENIE'S PLATE: Choose any three sides + pita. ... \$6.50

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RICHARD MIDDLETON**

**Legal Update on the CAFO Threat to
Jefferson County and Southeast Iowa**

**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 15 • 7:30 pm**

**Fairfield Arts &
Convention Center
200 N. Main Street, Fairfield, Iowa**




Wenonah Hauter addresses the heavy influence agribusiness has on US agricultural policies and what Iowans must do to create a fair and sustainable food system.

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1213 Gilbert Ct., Iowa City**CURSES, FOILED AGAIN**

• Police accused Ryan Mullins, 22, of breaking into a pharmacy in Swansboro, N.C., and stealing a safe containing prescription drugs. He made his getaway by tying a rope around the 100-pound safe and dragging it behind his vehicle for two miles before he passed a police cruiser. The officer noticed the safe being dragged and pulled him over. (New Bern's WCTI-TV)

• Robert D. Haught Jr., 42, aroused police interest by leaving an unattended van running in a handicapped parking space at a shopping mall in Burlington, Mass. An officer ran the license plate and learned it belonged to a different vehicle. As the officer approached the vehicle, Haught got in and drove off, leading police on a high-speed chase. He rammed two cruisers that tried to stop him and hit two other vehicles before abandoning the van. Police arrested him and found evidence in the van suggesting he was involved in a credit card fraud operation. Police charged Haught with multiple violations, including attempted murder, but not unauthorized use of a handicapped parking space. (Boston's WCVB-TV)

MUSIC HATH CHARMS

Kyra Kopestonsky said she was stalked by a mountain lion while hiking alone in Placerville, Colo., before she figured out how to shake it. "I don't know why, I just started singing opera really loud," Kopestonsky said, noting it got as close as 8 feet. "It kind of put its ears down and just kept looking at me, and it sort of backed away." (Denver's KUSA-TV)

SLIGHTEST PROVOCATION

• British baker Shane Thompson, 22, damaged a computer-operated sausage roll machine by head-butting it after it stopped working properly. "He admits he became frustrated with the equipment," defending solicitor Robert Vining told a Yorkshire magistrates court, which ordered Thompson to pay \$1,125 towards the cost of repairing the \$42,000 machine. (Britain's York Press)

• Brothers Anthony Kelly and Ted Kelly injured each other with sticks when they got into a fight after Anthony accused Ted of stealing okra from his garden in Spartanburg, S.C. Police who arrested the pair said they were too intoxicated to give written statements. (Greenville's WHNS-TV)

VEGETARIANS REJOICE

Tick bites are causing victims to become allergic to beef, as well as pork, venison, rab-

bit and some dairy products. The culprit, researchers said, is the Lone Star tick, which is spread throughout the South and the eastern half of the United States. Its bite transmits a sugar, called alpha-gal, that triggers an immune-system response that sets the stage for a severe allergic reaction the next time the person eats red meat, which contains the same sugar. In some cases, eating a burger or a steak has hospitalized people. Dr. Erin McGintee, an allergy specialist on New York's Long Island, has seen nearly 200 cases in the past three years and said few patients seem aware of the risk. "Why would someone think they're allergic to meat when they've been eating it their whole life?" she said. (Associated Press)

"I DON'T KNOW WHY, I JUST STARTED SINGING OPERA REALLY LOUD," KOPESTONSKY SAID, NOTING [THE MOUNTAIN LION] GOT AS CLOSE AS 8 FEET.

WHEN GUNS ARE OUTLAWED

• Philadelphia police said a man entered a convenience store, waited in line, took a banana from the counter next to the cash register, stuck it in his sweatshirt pocket to simulate a gun and demanded cash and cigarettes from the clerk. Surveillance video of the incident shows the robber escaping on a bicycle. (Associated Press)

• Malissa Robert, 18, admitted burning a 20-year-old woman on the left buttock and lower back with a lit cigarette and hitting her on the right buttock with a cooking spatula, according to police in Westfield, Mass. The victim was passed out at the time of the attack. (Springfield's The Republican)

• Jimmy Morgan Jr. called police to report someone had broken into his home in Wichita Falls, Texas, and that he had stabbed the intruder with a spear. "I don't have a firearm, so I have a short spear, very quick, very agile and very deadly," Morgan said after police arrested Thomas McGowan, 25, who suffered hand and shoulder injuries. (Wichita Falls's KFDX-TV)

NOTHING TO SEE HERE

• Carl Cannova invented a portable screening device that can be set up at accident scenes to prevent passing motorists from rubbernecking. The SRN 1000 privacy, safety and secu-

rity barrier system comprises a 6-by-12-foot weather-resistant screen and three folding tripods that fit in a portable bag. Cannova said he has sold more than 400 of the \$2,299 SRN 1000s to law enforcement agencies, medical coroners, hospitals, airports, hotels and even filmmakers to screen scenes from view. "It's easy to put up, easy to put away," Sarasota, Fla., Police Chief Bernadette DiPino said. "You can't see anything. You can't begin to pay attention to what's going on." (Tampa-St. Petersburg's WTSP-TV)

• When Florida's Department of Transportation set up reversible express lanes on a 9.5-mile stretch of Interstate 595 in Fort Lauderdale in March, it installed 34 warning gates and five barriers intended to keep motorists from entering in the wrong direction. Each entrance has signs warning drivers to keep out if the lanes are closed. In the first five months, drivers plowed into the gates 105 times. "It sounds like maybe people aren't paying attention and veering to the left a bit and smacking into the gates," Highway Patrol Sgt. Mark Wysocky said. The warning gates cost \$3,000 to replace; the barrier gates, \$7,000. (*South Florida Sun Sentinel*)

RETURN OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Surveillance cameras at a home in Fairview, Ore., showed a woman stealing footstools from the front porch. (Portland's KPTV-TV)

HARD LESSON TO LEARN

Christina Jahnz admitted she was texting and driving when she hit a guardrail pole that went through the front of her pickup truck and pierced her thigh and buttocks. Firefighters in Elizabeth, Colo., had to saw off the front and back ends of the pole to get the woman out of the vehicle before they could rush her to the hospital to have the rest of it removed. She was released after four days and is expected to make a full recovery. "I'm truly a miracle," she said. "They said if it had gone just a little bit the other way, I would have bled out." (Denver's KUSA-TV)

BAN THE BAN

Mayor Kent Guinn of Ocala, Fla., wants the city council to repeal a ban on saggy pants on city property, even though he signed it into law. He said he meant to veto it, but there were too many papers on his desk, and he mistakenly approved it. (Orlando's News 13)

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PIETA BROWN

Paradise Outlaw
pietabrown.com

During her show at CSPA in October 2013, Pieta Brown mentioned that she was working on her next album at Justin Vernon's April Base studios in Fall Creek, Wis. As a fan of Vernon—better known as the frontman and songwriter of Bon Iver—I was anxious to hear the results.

I had concerns that the signature sound that Vernon assembled for his Grammy

Award-winning 2011 album would be too heavy-handed for the delicate sound of Brown. But, aside from providing some backing vocals, Vernon doesn't seem to leave any fingerprints.

Paradise Outlaw is Brown's sixth full album since her self-titled debut in 2002 and a diversion from the classic country-blues heard on her last album, *Mercury*, which was recorded with Nashville studio musicians.

EVERY FEATURE—EVERY SHIMMERING ELECTRIC GUITAR NOTE, QUIETLY BUBBLING PERCUSSION, RINGING ACOUSTIC STRUMS AND SHY PLUNKING OF THE BANJO—IS AUDIBLE ON CLOSE LISTEN.

"I was thinking a lot about freedom, experimentation, poetry, folk songs, bending forms and voices," said Brown in a statement about her new album. "I also wrote and delivered half the songs on the banjo, which was completely new for me."

It's this approach—coupled with the focus that resulted from recording at a studio where

Brown was also staying while making the album—that seems to provide listeners with a bracingly fresh and expressive blend of folk and otherworldly ambience. *Paradise Outlaw* may be the most distinctly Pieta Brown-sounding record to date.

The presence of banjo on *Paradise Outlaw*, while new for Brown, is not overbearing and provides counterpoint plucking that helps add movement to the songs. Her remake of Mark Knopfler's song, "Before Gas and TV," the lonesome vocals and banjo on Brown's version feel like a dusty Folkways field recording from Appalachia.

The production on *Paradise Outlaw* is expansive. Listening to the songs reveals the rich composition in each song. Every feature—every shimmering electric guitar note, quietly bubbling percussion, ringing acoustic strums and shy plunking of the banjo—is audible on close listen. Floating over it all is Brown's breathy soprano holding court with a mix of despair and hope.

On Friday, Oct. 3 at 8 p.m., Brown will have an album release show for *Paradise Outlaw* at CSPA in Cedar Rapids. Tickets are \$17 and \$21 at the door.

—Mike Roeder

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FRIENDS IN NEED

This week, a nurse seeks a sounding board for a patient's questions.
BY DAN SAVAGE

A straight male friend practices sounding and has for years. I am pretty sure he does other things that he isn't telling anyone about—not even his wife. He has some medical questions about sounding. I am a pediatric nurse, so he brought his concerns to me, but the questions are totally outside my area of expertise. Nothing emergency-room-worthy is going on, but he needs answers and refuses to speak with his regular MD about sounding. I am wondering how to find an MD in his area who would be knowledgeable and nonjudgmental.

Needs Useful Referral Soon

P.S. Thank you for your advice over the years. Because of you, I am comfortable with the questions he asked me even, if I did not have the answers.

The National Coalition for Sexual Freedom maintains a “Kink Aware Professionals Directory” on its website: ncsfreedom.org. The doctors, counselors, lawyers, real-estate agents, etc. aren't vetted by the NCSF, so inclusion on the list isn't a recommendation. But it would be a good place for your friend to start looking for an irregular MD, someone he can open up to about sounding and whatever else he's doing. In the meantime, I asked a doc for some thoughts about the risks and rewards of sounding.

“Sounding refers to the insertion of foreign bodies into the urethra,” said Dr. Stephen H. King, MD, a board-certified urologist. “Under controlled medical conditions, urethral sounds, which are typically curved and sterilized metallic or plastic rods, are gently inserted onto the urethra [pee hole] in order to dilate a stricture [narrowing] that blocks the flow of urine out of the bladder. The lining of the urethra is typically very sensitive and delicate, and this procedure can be quite uncomfortable for most people.”

But not everyone with a metallic or plastic rod sticking out of their urethra right now is experiencing discomfort. “Some people, likely a significant minority, derive sexual pleasure from urethral stimulation,” said Dr. King. “This includes both men and women. Sounders [not to be confused with Seattle's soccer players!] have been known to insert a

wide variety of objects, including but not limited to catheters, tubes, beads, pencils, batteries, drill bits and even the head of a decapitated snake. Yes, the latter has been reported.”

I think we all need a moment to process that last detail. Someone found the head of a decapitated snake—or someone found a snake and decapitated it—and thought: “You know what? I'm going to stick this in my urethra.” This probably wasn't something anyone who hasn't shoved the head of a decapitated snake into their urethra even though human beings were capable of before Dr. King shared this with us. And now we'll never be able to forget it. Deep breaths, everybody. Let our shared trauma bring us closer together, not drive us apart.

Okay! On to your question, NURS: Your friend is a self-sounder and has been for years. So just how dangerous is sounding?

“Some sounders end up in emergency rooms to remove a stuck object, leading to interesting X-rays and many good party conversations for us urologists,” said Dr. King. “But there is very limited medical literature on this topic beyond mostly case studies. However, one recent survey study associated recreational sounding with general high-risk behaviors and increased risk of STIs. Additional complications can include bleeding, infection, urethral stricture, perforation, and erectile dysfunction. Some of these issues may cause long-term impairments or require surgical correction.”

A couple qualifiers from a nonmedical non-professional (me): Sounding by itself doesn't lead to higher rates of STIs. While an inept sounding session could leave a person with a raw and bloodied urethra, and this rawness would place a person at higher risk of contracting an STI should they be exposed to one, it's the propensity toward high-risk behaviors generally that places sounders at greater risk of contracting STIs, not the sounding itself. Dr. King agrees with me on this point.

Also, people who don't get objects stuck in their urethras—sounders who don't progress to larger and larger objects before finally moving on to heads from decapitated snakes—don't make appearances in emergency rooms, the medical literature, or urologists' party conversations. So the sample here is skewed, with sounders who are shoving only sterilized,



well-lubricated, and reasonably sized metal rods into their urethras underrepresented in the medical literature, cocktail party convo, etc.

So while shoving a metal rod into your urethra is more dangerous than not shoving a metal rod into your urethra, it's not as dangerous as the limited medical literature would seem to suggest. “My guess is there are many people who sound without significant problems,” said Dr. King. “If performed in a very clean (ideally sterile) fashion with minimal trauma to the urethral lining, sounding maybe be relatively safe. The sounder, however, should be aware of these risks.”

On this week's Lovecast, Dan and Ann Landers's daughter face off on tantric sex: savagelovecast.com.

Contact Dan Savage: mail@savagelove.net, [@fakedansavage](https://twitter.com/fakedansavage) on Twitter

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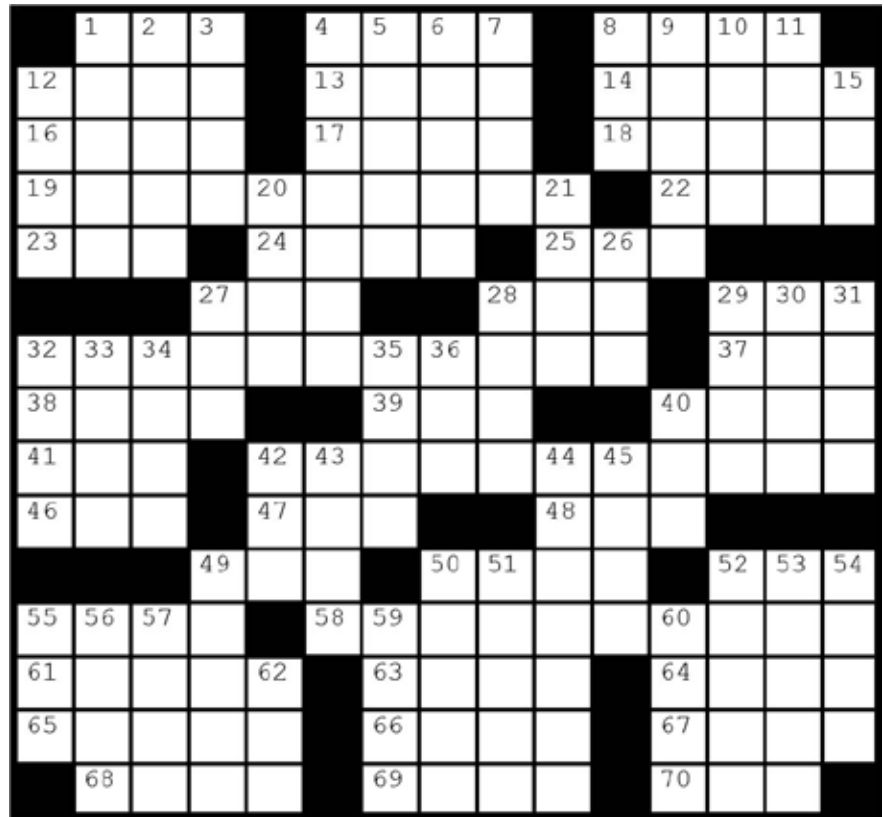
FROM GRAY TO BLACK

SPOOKY SQUARES

BY JULIA LIPPERT

ACROSS

1. Start to most everything
4. Appear in (two words)
8. Clueless saying
12. Side _____
13. _____ English 800
14. See 61 Across
16. Chemical abbreviation for an emmy winning TV show
17. Deep-voiced actor Schreiber
18. This person's gonna hate
19. She found out that the call was coming from inside the house (AHH!)
22. What caused the Black Death and also what people said when they contracted it.
23. "Deep rivers run quiet" type people
24. All the good holidays have these
25. To choose
27. Dorothy portrayer
28. Doctors org
29. Nope
32. When it was finally removed, the brides head fell off (OH NO!)
37. Football chant
38. Religious act
39. A little of this will do ya
40. "A rose by any other _____ would smell as sweet."
41. "_____ it's easy as 1-2-3."
42. He appears after you say his name five times (RUN!)
46. Ooh _____ ooh ah ahh ting tang walla walla bing bang
47. Socioeconomic stat.
48. "_____, drink and be merry!"
49. _____ lingus
50. Poet Silverstein
52. AKA little piggy
55. Collection home relocated after the '08 flood, abbreviated
58. Chant her name while looking in a mirror and she will appear (Yikes!)
61. With 14 across, best told this time of year and a clue to this puzzle's theme answers.
63. Often worn with henna and a bindi
64. "An Irishman, a turtle and and Hillary Rodham Clinton walk into _____."
65. Lines done at a party
66. Domed area for the clergy
67. Commonly fried white fish
68. Area of Manhattan north of Houston
69. Russian ruler
70. There are 60 mins in one each of these

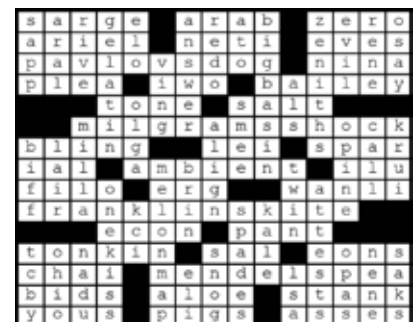


DOWN

1. Sacred text in a synagogue
2. Overtly religious Lobby
3. Place to buy and sell action figures
4. Leader of South American independence
5. They would rule in an oligarchy
6. Jewish-American playwright, Clifford
7. Scream's Campbell
8. Soot
9. Silicon Valley _____-up
10. The slightest amount
11. Semitone Strip
12. Mentoring org.
15. There are 10 in a dec.
20. ... and they were never _____ or heard from again.
21. Jones's quarterback
26. Surname of the forever young
27. Honey or Queen
28. Swedish pop group
29. Linguist Chomsky
30. _____ mater
31. Brothers Gene and Dean's band
32. Wrapper Jean
33. Denmark's oldest town
34. _____ A Sketch
35. Saint of 40's
36. One of the world's largest investment banks on the NYSE
40. The grey lady, casually

42. Twice, an infectious fly
43. Sometimes medicinal sometimes tasty plants
44. More wanting
45. Satirical reviewer Andy
49. An annoyed pirate's utterance
50. Afternoon dramas
51. World War II Glider
52. Biblical Mount
53. Portion of a PhD's prelims
54. Literary character Jane
55. Pac-12 Trojans
56. Madonna was one
57. Hand in Mexico
59. Poly Sci Test
60. Fortune telling kids game
62. Super tall Ming

SEPTEMBER ANSWERS





LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): When Jimmy Fallon was a senior in high school, he received a weird graduation gift: a troll doll, one of those plastic figurines with frizzy, brightly colored hair. Around the same time, his mother urged him to enter an upcoming comedy contest at a nearby club. Jimmy decided that would be fun. He worked up a routine in which he imitated various celebrities auditioning to become a spokesperson for troll dolls. With the doll by his side, he won the contest, launching his career as a comedian. I foresee the possibility of a comparable development in your life: an odd blessing or unexpected gift that inspires you to express one of your talents on a higher level.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Dear So-Called Astrologer: Your horoscopes are worse than useless. Mostly they are crammed with philosophical and poetic crap that doesn't apply to my daily life. Please cut way back on the fancy metaphors. Just let me know if there is money or love or trouble coming my way — like what regular horoscopes say! -Skeptical Scorpio." Dear Skeptical: In my astrological opinion, you and your fellow Scorpions will soon feel the kind of pressure you just directed at me. People will ask you to be different from what you actually are. My advice? Do not acquiesce to them.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Tomatoes are a staple of Italian cuisine now, but there weren't any tomatoes in Europe until the 16th century, when Spanish explorers brought them from Central and South America. Likewise, Malaysia has become a major producer of rubber, but it had no rubber trees until seeds were smuggled out of Brazil in the 19th century. And bananas are currently a major crop in Ecuador thanks to 16th-century Portuguese sailors, who transported them from West Africa. I foresee the possibility of comparable cross-fertilizations happening for you in the coming months, Sagittarius. Do you have your eye on any remote resources you'd like to bring back home?



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Years ago, you experienced an event that was so overwhelming you could not fully deal with it, let alone understand it. All this time it has been simmering and smoldering in the depths of your unconscious mind, emitting ghostly steam and smoke even as it has remained difficult for you to integrate. But I predict that will change in the coming months. You will finally find a way to bring it into your conscious awareness and explore it with courage and grace. Of course it will be scary for you to do so. But I assure you that the fear is a residue from your old confusion, not a sign of real danger. To achieve maximum liberation, begin your quest soon.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This is prime time to do things that aren't exactly easy and relaxing, but that on the other hand aren't actually painful. Examples: Extend peace offerings to adversaries. Seek reconciliation with valuable resources from which you have been separated and potential allies from whom you have become alienated. Try out new games you would eventually like to be good at, but aren't yet. Get a better read on interesting people you don't understand very well. Catch my drift, Aquarius? For now, at least, leaving your comfort zone is likely to be invigorating, not arduous.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your oracle is built around the epigrams of conceptual artist Jenny Holzer. From her hundreds of pithy quotes, I have selected six that offer the exact wisdom you need most right now. Your job is to weave them all together into a symphonic whole. 1. "It's crucial to have an active fantasy life." 2. "Ensure that your life stays in flux." 3. "I have every kind of thought, and that is no embarrassment." 4. "Animalism is perfectly healthy." 5. "Finding extreme pleasure will make you a better person if you're careful about what thrills you." 6. "Listen when your body talks."



ARIES (March 21-April 19): As I hike through the wilderness at dusk, the crickets always seem to be humming in the distance. No matter where I go, their sound is farther off, never right up close to me. How can that be? Do they move away from me as I approach? I doubt it. I sense no leaping insects in the underbrush. Here's how this pertains to you: My relationship with the crickets' song is similar to a certain mystery in your life. There's an experience that calls to you but forever seems just out of reach. You think you're drawing nearer, about to touch it and be in its midst, but it inevitably eludes you. Now here's the good news: A change is coming for you. It will be like what would happen if I suddenly found myself intimately surrounded by hundreds of chirping crickets.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In three years, you will comprehend truths about yourself and your life that you don't have the capacity to grasp now. By then, past events that have been confusing to you will make sense. You'll know what their purpose was and why they occurred. Can you wait that long? If you'd rather not, I have an idea: Do a meditation in which you visualize yourself as you will be three years from today. Imagine asking your future self to tell you what he or she has discovered. The revelations may take a while to start rolling in, but I predict that a whole series of insights will have arrived by October 15.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The journey that awaits you is succinct but epic. It will last a relatively short time but take months to fully understand. You may feel natural and ordinary as you go through it, even as you are being rather heroic. Prepare as best as you can, but keep in mind that no amount of preparation will get you completely ready for the spontaneous moves you'll be called on to perform. Don't be nervous! I bet you will receive help from an unexpected source. Feelings of *deja-vu* may crop up and provide a sense of familiarity — even though none of what occurs will have any precedents.



CANCER (June 21-July 22): In the wild, very few oysters produce pearls — about one in every 10,000. Most commercial pearls have been induced by human intervention. As you might expect, the natural jewel is regarded as far more precious. Let's use these facts as metaphors while we speculate about your fate in the next eight months. I believe you will acquire or generate a beautiful new source of value for yourself. There's a small chance you will stumble upon a treasure equivalent to the wild pearl. But I suggest you take the more secure route: working hard to create a treasure that's like a cultivated pearl.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In June 2012, a U.S. Senator introduced a bill that would require all members of Congress to actually read or listen to a reading of any bill before they voted on it. The proposal has been in limbo ever since, and it's unlikely it will ever be treated seriously. This is confusing to me. Shouldn't it be a fundamental requirement that all lawmakers know what's in the laws they pass? Don't make a similar error, Leo. Understand exactly what you are getting into, whether it's a new agreement, an interesting invitation, or a tempting opportunity. Be thoroughly informed.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Oliver Evans (1755-1819) was a prolific Virgo inventor who came up with brilliant ideas for steam engines, urban gas lighting, refrigeration, and automated machines. He made a radical prediction: "The time will come when people will travel in stages moved by steam engines, almost as fast as birds fly, 15 or 20 miles an hour." We may be surprised that a visionary innovator like Evans dramatically minimized the future's possibilities. In the same way, I suspect that later in your life, you might laugh at how much you are underestimating your potentials right now. In telling you this, I'm hoping you will stop underestimating.

Homework: Make nonsense noises for a minute straight every day this week. Report results to Truthrooster@gmail.com.

SUSAN WERNER

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