



# LITTLE VILLAGE

IOWA CITY'S NEWS & CULTURE MAGAZINE

VOL. 17 | ISSUE 169  
JAN. 21 - FEB. 3, 2015



## BACK IN SESSION

LEGISLATORS RETURNED TO DES MOINES THIS MONTH WITH PLENTY ON THEIR PLATE. PAGE 4



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CLEVELAND RAPPER KING CHIP COMES TO BLUE MOOSE. PAGE 24

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IOWA CITY'S NEWS & CULTURE MAGAZINE

VOL. 17 | ISSUE 169  
JAN. 21 - FEB. 3, 2015

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# IOWA'S 2015 LEGISLATIVE RUNDOWN

Medical marijuana, red light cameras and flag burning, oh my! Here are some of the hot-button topics our state legislators plan to tackle in 2015.

BY ADAM B SULLIVAN

**A**nother year, another legislative session.

State lawmakers head back to Des Moines this month, fresh off last November's legislative races. State government is once again split between a Republican House, a Democratic Senate and a Republican governor. Here are a few of the issues on which leaders will try to hammer out compromises.

## MEDICAL MARIJUANA

An Iowa City lawmaker says he'll push again this year for a workable medical marijuana law.

Iowa Sen. Joe Bolkcom (D-Iowa City) says he and allies will try to pass a "comprehensive medical cannabis bill" that goes beyond the bill passed in the 2014 session: It would cover more medical conditions; allow for production, processing and dispensing within the state; and establish an advisory board that could approve new conditions.

Bolkcom led the effort for last year's medical cannabis bill, but says the narrow rules are unworkable. Under the law signed by Gov. Terry Branstad last spring, Iowans with severe epilepsy and a neurologist's recommendation can get permission to use cannabidiol oil, a derivative of the cannabis plant.

The Iowa Department of Public Health tells patients on its website that they can't apply for patient cards yet because the rules haven't been finalized. Even when the state does start issuing cards, though, you can't produce or purchase the substance here in Iowa. There are states where one can buy it, but it's difficult for out-of-staters, and it would be illegal to take it on an airplane or drive it through a state where it's prohibited.

"It was an important first step for the legislature to recognize that cannabis is medicine. Beyond that, it hasn't helped a single person," Bolkcom said. "I'm hopeful the legislature will get back to work and respond compassionately to help suffering Iowans."

Additionally, marijuana is still a schedule 1 drug in Iowa, meaning it has no medicinal value, according to the law. The Iowa Pharmacy Board has recommended that lawmakers re-schedule the drug.

Some observers give the proposals long odds—the *Des Moines Register* said its prospects "appear dim"—but the same was said

this time last year. The limited bill eventually passed the Democrat-held Senate and Republican-held House, but only after a huge lobbying effort by epilepsy patients' families. Branstad said when he signed the bill that it "shows the power of people talking to their legislators and to their governor about important issues to them."

Some of those same advocates have vowed to return to Des Moines this year to push for broader legislation.

"We've had a ton of feedback from the people this was supposed to help. No one has been able to get the medicine they need," Bolkcom said.

## FLAG DESECRATION

The anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church and the American Civil Liberties Union may be unlikely allies, but the two groups' recent legal win is stirring discussion about free speech rights.

A federal judge ruled late last year that Iowa laws against flag desecration are unconstitutional. The case came about after Westboro used American flags during protests of soldiers' funerals in Iowa. The Kansas-based activist church had support in the case from the ACLU.

Iowa Rep. Bobby Kaufmann (R-Wilton) took issue with the ruling and said he'll try to work on a legislative response in the coming session. Kaufmann's district includes the eastern portion of Johnson County.

"I value our first amendment rights, but just like you cannot shout 'fire' in a crowded theatre, you should NEVER, EVER be allowed to spit and stomp on our flag while protesting the funeral of someone who died fighting for our freedoms," Kaufmann wrote in an email to constituents shortly after the ruling came down. "I do not know what I can do specifically at this point, but count on me to fight with

a fiery passion to defend the honor of our flag and our fallen soldiers."

## RED-LIGHT CAMERAS

Traffic-enforcement cameras have been a hot topic in Iowa City and across the state for a few years, and the issue could get another look from lawmakers this year.

The surveillance devices—meant to catch speeders and those running red lights—have been installed in various Iowa communities over the last decade, generating millions in annual revenue for cities like Cedar Rapids.

Iowa City's interest in installing red-light cameras was foiled in 2013 when citizen activists gathered thousands of signatures in favor of an ordinance banning automated traffic cameras, license plate readers and drones. The City Council adopted the ordinance, but they're only required to keep it in place for two years.

The common criticisms of traffic cameras are various: They enrich private camera vendors; there isn't an opportunity for proper due process when a machine is issuing tickets; and they infringe on drivers' privacy, potentially allowing authorities to piece together detailed accounts of motorists' movements.

Iowa Sen. Brad Zaun (R-Urbandale) is introducing legislation this year that would ban the devices throughout the state and require existing cams to be removed. Zaun has sponsored similar legislation in recent years, attracting a handful of co-sponsors, but not enough support to clear the legislature.

## EDUCATION FUNDING

Education funding at various levels is likely to be a sticking point between lawmakers this year.

Primary and secondary school leaders across the state have staked out the same priorities they've had for the past few years—

**STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER** | Iowa Rep. Bobby Kaufmann (R-Wilton) wants Iowa to protect the flag. Illustration by Adam Burke



per-pupil funding for school districts by more than a couple percentage points, and fully fund preschool for all of the state's four-year-olds. Iowa has slipped below the middle of the pack nationally in terms of spending per student, and educators say some sizeable increases are needed in order to keep pace.

**BOLKCOM LED THE EFFORT FOR LAST YEAR'S MEDICAL CANNABIS BILL, BUT SAYS THE NARROW RULES ARE UNWORKABLE.**

And at the higher education level, some lawmakers will look to retool the new funding system approved by the State Board of Regents last year.

The so-called performance-based funding model calls for funding allocations to be based to a greater extent on how many in-state students are enrolled at the state's three public universities: The University of Iowa, Iowa State University and University of Northern Iowa.

Critics say the new scheme puts colleges in a race against each other to attract students, while proponents say it rightly rewards colleges for educating Iowans. The University of Iowa, which draws many out-of-state and international students, could be negatively impacted by the change. **iv**

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



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## COMMUNICATION GAP

Despite the UI's attempts to connect with students of color, some on campus feel their message isn't getting through. • **BY AMY MATTSON**



**S**omething is wrong in Hawkeye heaven, and advocates and community leaders are crying foul.

From the appearance of a Ku Klux Klan-esque sculpture on the Pentacrest, to an increased number of sexual assault reports and a viral video featuring the arrest of a seemingly harmless—if not perhaps intoxicated—pedestrian: Students and locals have plenty of reasons to voice concern over campus safety.

**CAMPUS SECURITY** | *At the center of the debate on campus safety has been the UI's Department of Public Safety. Photo by Adam Burke*

"I think you have to be willfully ignorant not to see there are serious problems," said Chelsea Bacon, a University of Iowa graduate and local activist.

For Bacon, one of those problems includes a lack of understanding surrounding the experiences of black residents. She notes that it

took the UI four hours to remove the divisive art installation, created by visiting professor Serhat Tanyolacar, from the Pentacrest.

While Tanyolacar has said publicly that the sculpture, a seven-foot Klansman statue decked in newspaper articles depicting race riots and hate crimes, was intended to promote awareness of racism and prejudice, many black students expressed feelings of terror—fearing an actual KKK presence on campus. That, says Bacon, was the result of what she and others dub "impact over intention."

She explains that though the artist wanted to allude to racism, his actual impact was to invoke fear.

"Say you run a red light and accidentally hit someone," Bacon said. "Your intention was to get to work faster, not cause harm, but the victim's legs are just as broken."

While some debate whether the UI recognized the inherent complexities of such an issue, it did respond to backlash by organizing a dialogue regarding the statue, and the Office of Strategic Communication condemned the display as "offensive" and "intolerant." Yet questions remain about the competency of university officials when it comes to cross-cultural interactions.

Many of those questions are directed toward the University of Iowa Police Department (UIPD). UI undergraduate Yasmin Elgaali notes that when the group of black students marched peacefully to Sally Mason's office and gathered in the corridor; they were seeking answers to why the KKK statue had appeared on campus. Instead, she says, they

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were met by five to seven armed officers.

“When you go to the president of your university to peacefully ask a few questions regarding a situation that made you uncomfortable and the response is armed police, it contributes to the feeling that as a minority, your status as a student is reduced,” Elgaali said. “Instead of the UIPD being here to protect you, they’re here to protect others from you.”

**WHEN YOU GO TO THE PRESIDENT OF YOUR UNIVERSITY TO PEACEFULLY ASK A FEW QUESTIONS REGARDING A SITUATION THAT MADE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE AND THE RESPONSE IS ARMED POLICE, IT CONTRIBUTES TO THE FEELING THAT AS A MINORITY, YOUR STATUS AS A STUDENT IS REDUCED.**

—YASMIN ELGAALI

But the college sophomore says that the UIPD is only one component of a much broader issue. She and others believe that when it comes to the campus community at large, there is a dearth of “cultural competency,” an ability to interact effectively with persons from different cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

“The administration wants to gloss over the problem,” Elgaali said. “More often than not, we are silenced, and our feelings are invalidated because the campus is a ‘welcoming environment’ or ‘racism does not exist anymore.’”

Compare her sentiments to President Mason’s response to student grievances, and one can sense the cogency of her argument. In December 2014, Mason—who earlier this month announced that she plans to retire on Aug. 1—said, “All of us need to work together to take preventive action and do everything we can to be sure that everyone feels welcome, respected and protected on our campus and in our community.”

While there may not be anything inherently wrong in fostering such a campus milieu, it doesn’t address the many differences that make the UI diverse—and divisive.

“Racism is real. Sexism is real,” said Kendra Malone, Diversity Resources Coordinator at the University of Iowa. “We need to be able to name those things. We need to have people

COMM. >> CONT. ON P. 43

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**W**hen the lights are shining, and it's filled with diners, I am thankful for Orchard Green Lounge. On a recent

evening, my dining partner and I nabbed a parking spot outside the back entrance of Orchard Green Restaurant (521 S. Gilbert St.). Upon entering, we were greeted by a host stationed at the desk at the bottom of the stairs that separates the less formal Lounge from the fancier main dining floor upstairs. The fireplace was crackling, which was very warm and inviting, and the friendly staff were in good spirits.

The Lounge opens daily at 3 p.m. and diners can order off the lounge menu, which features charcuterie boards and simple pub fare, or the upstairs menu, which features larger entrees. The restaurant's full bar has a carefully selected wine list, as well as noteworthy Belgian and Bavarian-influenced beer available in bottles and on draft.

The cured fish and charcuterie boards are especially notable. Wooden boards (handmade by the chef and owner, according to a bartender) come piled, literally, with enough goodies to make a dinner for two, and both feature a regularly changing selection.

**LOADED WITH OPTIONS** | Orchard Green Lounge's charcuterie board includes cured meats, pickled vegetables and mustards. Photo by Adam Burke

On our last visit, the charcuterie board included slices of salami and prosciutto, honeyed chutney with sliced almonds, discs of spicy chorizo and Varzi salami, a mound of crisp pickles, preserved cabbage, a quenelle of duck pâté, sun-dried tomato tapenade, cornichons and banana peppers. Altogether there were five meats; seven vegetable and fruit (including pomegranate seeds!) accoutrements; slices of crostini and fresh baguette; and Dijon and stone ground mustards.

The Lounge's smoked fish board also stands out among Iowa City's selection of pub fare. The spread, which also features a rotating selection, included slices of cold-smoked and spice-cured salmon; chunks of smoked whitefish and trout; a delicious, creamy salmon mousse; salted roe, preserved lemon, avocado and caper berries. Like the charcuterie board, the smoked fish came with vegetables that had been pickled in house: coriander-spiced sauerkraut and tangy red cabbage, crunchy pickled cucumber, carrot and onion. Paired with

a bottle Petrus, of the Belgian sour ale, the Lounge's smoked fish spread is my favorite dinner in town.

Also of note on the lounge menu are the fish 'n' chips: crispy, tempura-battered Atlantic cod served with steak-cut fries and a sweet mango rémoulade. The fish 'n' chips are good for a late lunch or simple dinner, and during happy hour—Mondays through Thursdays, from 4-6 p.m.—they are featured as a \$6 “sandwich basket.”

**PAIRED WITH A BOTTLE OF PETRUS, THE BELGIAN SOUR ALE, THE LOUNGE'S SMOKED FISH SPREAD IS MY FAVORITE DINNER IN TOWN.**

Salads and soups from the upstairs dinner menu are fresh and tasty. Try the romaine hearts “Caesar” with delicious white anchovies, or the autumn salad, served with pears, endive and radish sprouts.

The artisan cheese board was underwhelming, featuring white cheddar, orange cheddar, slightly stale smoked gouda and a bit of what appeared to be double crème brie. The garnishes of fruit preserves, chutney and honeycomb were a nice touch, but I found the selection to be uninspired, especially considering the availability of more exciting cheeses made and aged in Iowa.

Although the duck pâté and most of the smoked fish offerings are made in house—and they're lovely—according to a bartender, the other cured meats (Varzi, salami, prosciutto and chorizo) are purchased. While they were delicious, it would be exciting to see more from this kitchen in terms of house-made charcuterie.

The restaurant seems to close a little early on the weekends for my taste. Regardless, I'll be recommending Orchard Green Lounge all winter long. **IV**

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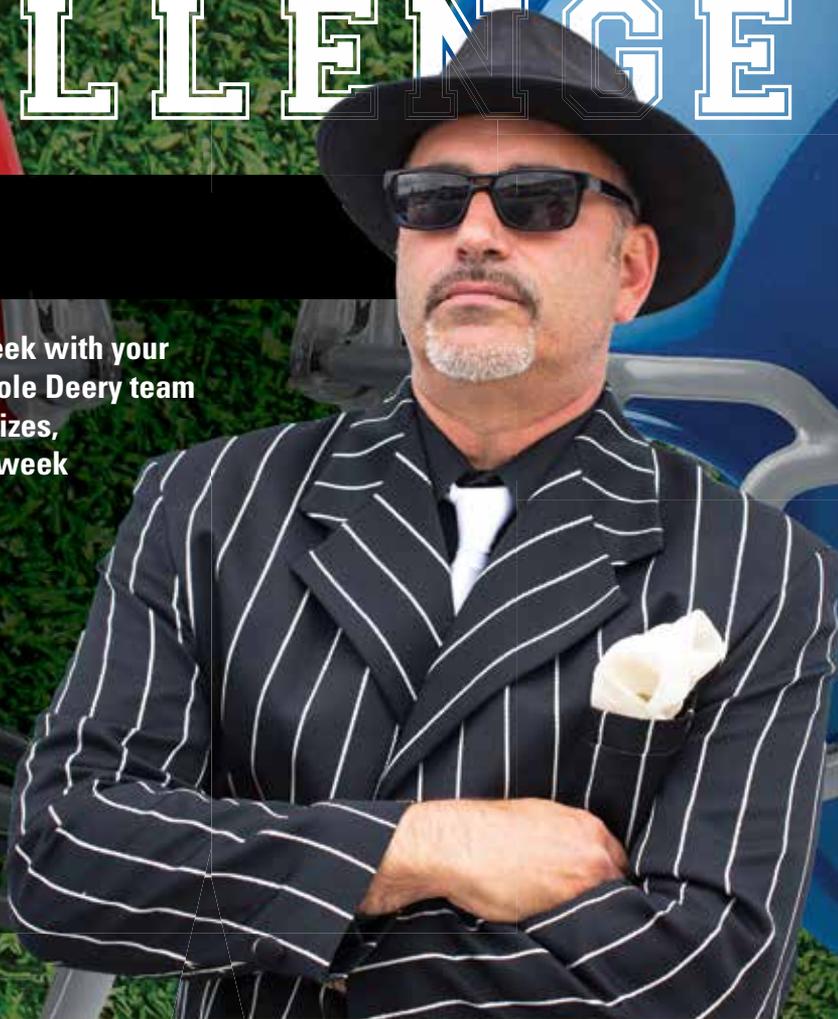
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# MY RIP TORN EROTIC FANFICTION

BY WILLIAM G. LANTTA

Hot Tin Roof is a program to support new literary work produced in Iowa City. Each month one writer is published and granted a \$100 honorarium. The series is supported by the Englert Theatre, UNESCO City of Literature USA, M.C. Ginsberg Objects of Art and *Little Village*.

**A**cademy Award Nominated Actor Rip Torn stumbles around my living room like an orangutan. He's younger than he is now, roaring off his small role in Columbia Pictures smash 1997 hit, *Men In Black*. He flicks on the fan to its highest setting, it seems like it will rip free of the ceiling. He grips the multiple glass blown miniatures that rest on my mantle, as if he is blind, and must feel to see. He looks at the sixty-six-year-old man in the mirror, and doesn't marvel at the chest-forward bravado in which he carries himself. He's a man, and that's how men walk.

He turns, and catches eyes with my seven-year-old bullmastiff, Herc. They don't break until I come down the stairs.

Academy Award Nominated Actor Rip Torn is drunk in my car. Wafting off his un-tucked button-down, I can taste Jim Bean Honey, Johnny Walker Red, Jameson Irish Whiskey, and Franzia boxed wine. I'd be lying if I said this wasn't somewhat expected, but the disappointment is still there. I begin to drive to the lunch I have planned for us at NoNuya, the premiere Mexican-Japanese fusion lounge in my area. Much like my date, it has received critical acclaim and multiple awards. I had reserved a coveted outside table five weeks prior. Rip Torn immediately becomes irate, stating that he wants to go to In-N-Out. I calmly try to explain to him that NoNuya is the premiere Mexican-Japanese fusion lounge in the area, and like him, has won many awards. I try to act calm, but my voice cracks and my palms become clammy.

We sit at an outside table and he inhales a basket of fries, animal style. I don't touch my burger, instead, I watch the way he devours the meal, as if it will be his last. Thousand island dressing drips down from his quivering lip, dark and slow.

Academy Award Nominated Actor Rip Torn is yelling at the sea otters for hiding in their plaster cave. We're at the local aquarium and things are going poorly. I manage to get him away from the small mammal enclosure, and I sit him on a bench near the Japanese Spider Crabs. We're silent for some minutes. It's 4:17 pm when tries to small talk me.

"You're at dinner with any celebrity, who'd it be?"

"I don't know, maybe Bradley Cooper. He seems pretty nice. Well dressed."

He rubs his swollen knees, and I can tell that he's upset I didn't say him, but he likes being difficult so he just pouts.

"I just had lunch with you." I say. I think about rubbing his back, but decide against it.

"Yeah." He says.

He's older now, a few years past his acclaimed cameo role of Patches O'Houlihan in the 2004 20th Century Fox comedy hit, *Dodgeball*. His chest has sunk in, his stomach close to overtaking it. His back curves harshly, and his head hangs low. We stop talking, and watch an eerily thin crab bludgeon a smaller one with his claw. A young actor once attacked his director with a hammer, until he stopped moving, but the faded thing next to me exists so far away from that moment. I believe he's thinking the same thing, the thin hairs on his

head flutter about like crustacean antenna. The smaller crab falls limp into the sediment. The large crab stilt-walks into the rising dust, until we can't see it anymore.

Academy Award Nominated Actor Will Smith, who costarred with a man named Rip Torn in Columbia Pictures smash 1997 hit, *Men In Black*, walks by us with his son, star of Columbia Picture somewhat-profitable 2013 movie, *After Earth*.

They don't stop.

I don't blame Will Smith; why would he notice us? Rip needs help walking now. He's a shambling old man. His age has caught up with him and he is light and fleshy. His hair twists and distends in all directions and his jowls slowly push from the wind. He looks back at his old friend, and his heir, with panicked muttering. For the first moment in his life, he is afraid of death. Not because he will float in hell, but because if he is gone, who will be here to say he even existed? That he wasn't just some man who needed help walking. A flutter of wind. After a minute, he finally forms words.

I don't hear him. And when I look to my left, I don't see anyone, and when I get home, I ask myself why I was walking alone, and when I go to bed, I wonder why the faint shadow of Jim Bean Honey, Johnny Walker Red, Jameson Irish Whiskey and Franzia boxed wine had followed me home. **lv**

*Gray Lantta is an Austin, Texas, native studying at the University of Iowa. His work can be found in Ink Lit Mag and the earthwords Literary Review.*



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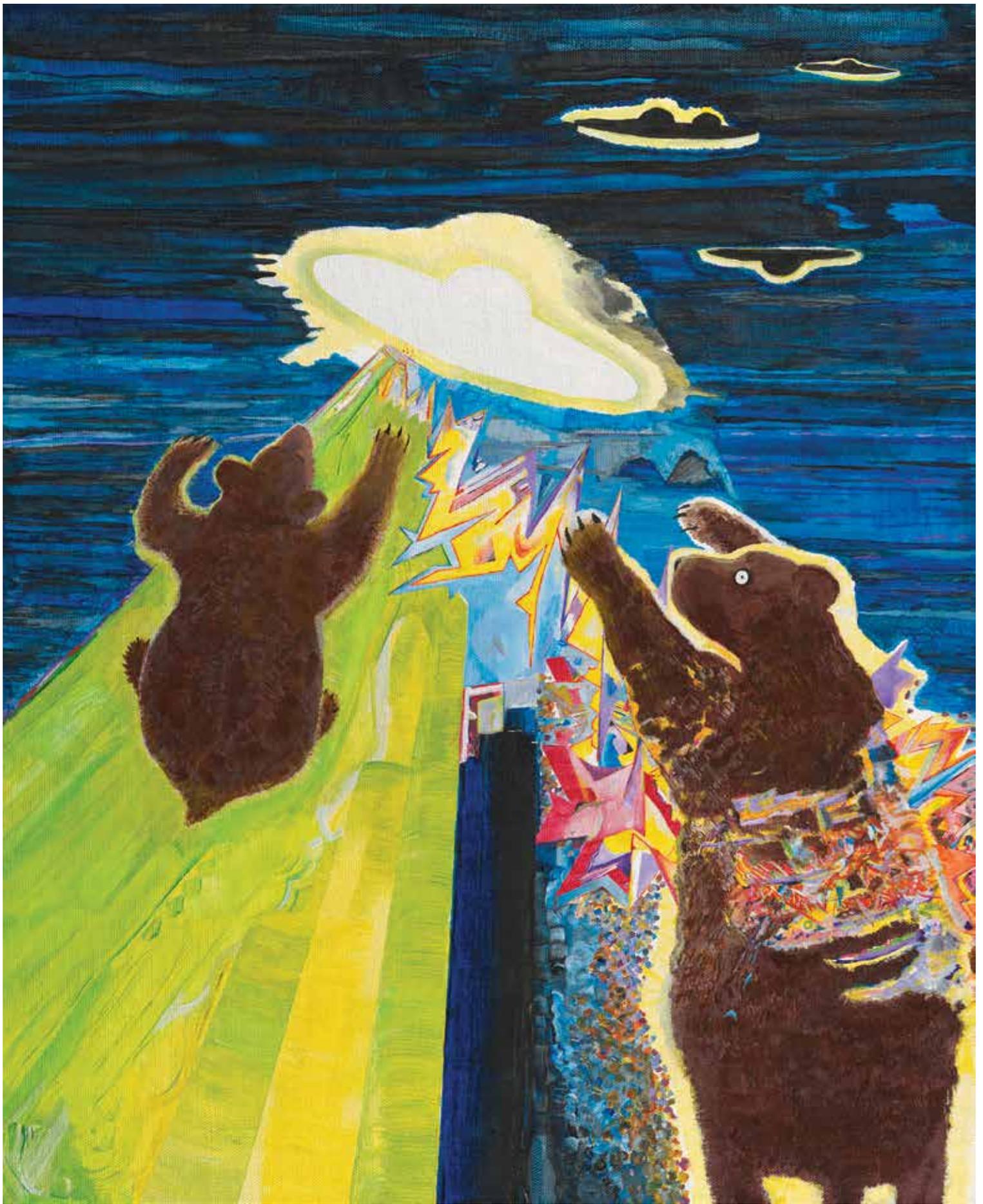
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**MATTHEW FOSTER** | *Sidesaddle and Disbevr* (opposite), acrylic on canvas



## LAST EXIT

Cabbie Vic Pasternak returns with the final episode of "Business as Usual," a series of excerpts from his novel *All the Help You Need*, forthcoming from Slow Collision Press. • BY VIC PASTERNAK



*After the robbery of Leon Bath (cf. Ep. 6), it is revealed the cabdrivers have been targeted by a Local Drug Gang. It is also revealed that this gang has been getting robbed by an unknown third party, which is what provokes the taxi robberies. This scene immediately follows with our heroes ditching work to plot retaliation.*

**W**hen we arrive to my garage, Billy gets out and lifts the roll-up door. I drive the Jeep inside, and he chains the door shut.

"So now what?"

"We're still working on that," Billy answers. "But we got to outfit my rig.

He opens the rear gate and takes out a maroon bomber jacket, a folded plastic sleeve and a black gear bag.

I ask what's in the bag.

"I'm using this table," he says, taking over my workbench.

From inside the black bag he pulls a license plate which he replaces on the Jeep. With pride, Billy shows how the registration sticker is stuck on a magnet which he pries from the original plate and plunks on the new.

"Like Leon said," says Billy, "Somebody's hitting these guys. Robbing this drug gang. And it's caused them to send shorties out to rob taxis. And why them? Who knows, don't care. But the dude that's been hitting them is me."

Billy lets that sink in before telling me he has a burning need to do something right about that. He says, "I am personally responsible, you feel me. And I could use your help."

My words come out dry and quiet.

"So what the fuck're we going to do?"

"We're going over there and getting our shit back. For all of us. We can't let anybody fuck us like that."

Billy yanks out of his sweatshirt and unfolds the big plastic sleeve, which I now see is body armor. He straps in the armor and flops the maroon bomber over his shoulders. Next out of the black bag, he shows off a balaclava and ski-mask, hunting for my suggestion.

I recommend the ski mask. "Go for menac-ing."

He stuffs the mask and black gloves in his bomber pockets.

"This gear is hot and we got to split," he tells me. "But there's something else. I need a piece."

He means one of the guns out of my Liberty Collection on the mantle.

"No fucking way."

"I'm a felon, bubba," he says. "I can't keep guns in my possession, so I don't. I'd go straight to the pen if I were to be caught with one just so you know I understand what risk I'm asking you to take. But I need a piece. I can't get in there and out without one."

Incredible.

"How do you rob these dudes without a

**A LOADED RESPONSE** | *The crew takes matters into their own hands after being targeted by a local drug gang. Illustration by Josh Carroll*

pistol?"

"I'm a good sneaky-pete. I got a slingbilly and a good sap. I'll threaten with knives if I have to. But I only hit their dudes one at a time. There's bound to be more up in there. Could be a lot more."

"Go ahead," I give in. "Make somebody's day."

Billy lifts the .870 off the mantle.

"I won't shoot nobody, because I'm not even going to load it. This is only Worst Case Scenario, you feel me."

"And what if you have to shoot somebody?"

Billy concedes to a Just-in-Case Clause, scooping handful of buck shells into his pockets. "And if I have to, I'll make sure nobody's left breathing to sue you for letting me shoot them, 'kay? I've done this a whole lot of times, and I ain't ever shot nobody."

"You been collared."

"I been collared, because being alive and in jail was better than being out and in the ground. Think on that and trust me on this."

\* \* \*

Two minutes later, we're in the Jeep with the fake plates roaring across Hwy 6 into the south side. Billy feeds shells into the shotgun until its belly is full.

"No way can I go in there unloaded," he says. "There could be ten dudes up in there and all of them strapped."

Billy says the stash house is up in the Coronet Apartments. His plan is to bang in through the back door.

The Coronets are joyless three-risers squatting on a big grassy plaza south of the highway, out where the city has congregated the majority of our low-income renters. Like downtown, another square mile, but this one does not gleam. Lots of cheap housing that looks good in the dark where poor folks, black and white, gather apart by the dozens. The streets need asphalt, the curbs need done.

Billy stares out at apartment blocks drifting past like it's Paris to marvel.

He asks me: "You notice how nobody ever

gets killed 'round here?"

"People get killed plenty enough."

"I'm saying that it's no gangland murders. There're no fools gunning kids to the bricks. And there's nobody running the show for brothers up in prison. What that tell you?"

"What do you want it to tell me?"

"This is Partytown U.S.A., bubba. Either Barney Fife is doing fine keeping out hardcore actors or what I think is a whole bunch of deals have been struck with the big bad wolves."

**"I WON'T SHOOT NOBODY BECAUSE I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO LOAD IT. THIS IS ONLY WORST CASE SCENARIO, YOU FEEL ME."**

We draw around the block where the back-side of the Coronets looms over the neighborhood like a crown.

"I need ten minutes," he says

Billy reaches in back of the Jeep and snatches a light wool blanket that he wraps around my shotgun.

"Look at the clock. In exactly ten minutes, you're going to pick me up right back here. Go buy a pack of smokes, or something. But get your ass back here. ten minutes."

"Fuck, man. You got to be careful."

"Easy as a cake."

Billy pries the cover off the domelight and pinches out its bulb, slips it in the ashtray. "Slow up here but don't stop."

Then he falls out running, cuts between cars, disappears across the grass among the houses.

The door swings closed as I drive off.

Soon as he's gone, I realize I might as well be at work. At least I'd be getting paid. Ten years I've been a cab driver, ten years a man of routine tasks odd and dangerous, stupid and unlawful.

T-minus nine minutes, 40 seconds to the 'what's next,' and it cannot come soon enough. **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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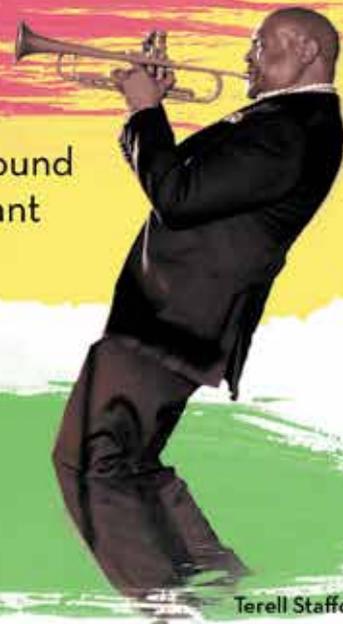


Kronos Quartet

**Kronos Quartet**  
*Beyond Zero: 1914-1918*  
February 7 | The Englert Theatre

**Terell Stafford Quintet**  
February 13 | Club Hancher at The Mill

**Roseneath Theatre, *La Maleta***  
February 27 | The Englert Theatre



Terell Stafford



Roseneath  
Theatre

**Pacifica Quartet**  
March 6 | Riverside Recital Hall

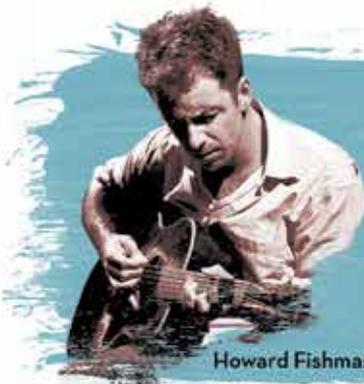
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## MOCKERY AND TERROR

Of course *The Interview* deserves to be protected as free speech, but does it deserve our laughter? • BY SCOTT SAMUELSON

**"D**o you know what's even more destructive than a nuclear bomb?" Kim Jong-un (Randall Park) asks Dave Skylark (James Franco) as they bond over their disapproving fathers in *The Interview*. "Words." It's meant to be funny (much is meant to be funny in *The Interview*—the Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg movie that the real Kim Jong-un, in his attempt to suppress it, has made famous), but he has a serious point. Words, cartoons and movies do seem to be getting people in big trouble.

In recent incidents like North Korea's cyberattack of Sony and the terrorists' massacre of the staff at *Charlie Hebdo*, we're witnessing not just the perennial duel between the pen and the sword, but a sickening globalized duel between people who can't take a joke and people who can't do anything but joke.

Nobody cares to be mocked or to have deeply held commitments mocked. People of good will wish that viciously racist humor would disappear from the face of the earth. Kim Jong-un feels the same about a movie where Seth Rogen and James Franco blow him up to the soundtrack of Katy Perry's "Firework." Fanatical terrorists feel the same about *Charlie Hebdo's* satirical cartoons depicting Islam and Mohammed.

But the mental world inhabited by Kim Jong-un and radical islamic terrorists is very different from ours. I've heard it said that we'd have a similar reaction to North Korea's if they made a movie about the assassination of Obama. That's absurd. Sure, most Americans would find such a movie offensive (my guess is that others would get a naughty kick out of it), but we wouldn't launch an attack to shut it down.

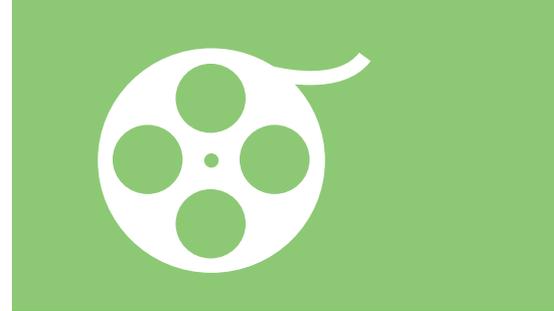
Our worldview is almost the total opposite of the fanatic's: It's a given that we make fun of our leaders. Not only do our comedians mock them, our presidential vetting process requires appearances on *Jon Stewart* and

*Saturday Night Live*. Our highest leaders have to prove that they can take a joke.

Don't expect Kim Jong-un, a good old-fashioned evil dictator, to spoof himself on *The Daily Show* anytime soon. I'm sure he laughs a lot, just not at himself. The problem with him is the stupid desire to control what people say and think—in other words, to control when and at what people laugh.

**I DON'T PARTICULARLY WANT *THE INTERVIEW* TO EPITOMIZE A FREE SOCIETY, EVEN THOUGH I FIRMLY BELIEVE A FREE SOCIETY SHOULD TOLERATE CRASS, STUPID MOVIES.**

The reason that terrorists kill cartoonists has little to do with sincere religious belief: People of genuine conviction, religious or otherwise, aren't bothered by those who mock or disagree with them. If real believers deem a criticism valid, they amend their ways. If the criticism or mockery is wrong-headed, they ignore it. As the Koran itself says, "Let not a people's enmity incite you to act otherwise than with justice." The substance of the terrorists' version of Islam is little more than sour grapes about living in a raucous secular world.



Since the *Charlie Hebdo* killings, it's been de rigeur to adopt the motto, "Je suis Charlie." A dutiful commitment to free speech has also led many Americans to sit through a bumbling, take-nothing-seriously bromance of Seth Rogen and James Franco. I'm glad to see solidarity with the slain cartoonists and commitment to free speech. But are we really Charlie? More horrifyingly yet, are we James Franco?

I've been thinking about the horror of living in two different worlds—one where nothing's mocked, the other where everything's a dumb joke. Thank God we don't live under the rule of Kim Jong-un or ISIS, but I don't particularly want *The Interview* to epitomize a free society, even though I firmly believe a free society should tolerate crass, stupid movies.

It was a combination of curiosity and duty that got me to watch *The Interview* and peruse back issues of *Charlie Hebdo*. The French cartoonists at their best—not always, or even often—are gloriously raunchy and biting satirical. *The Interview* at its best scrapes in somewhere below *Pineapple Express* and *This Is the End*. Its minor satirical ambitions get lost in a wash of unfunny jokes and an irritatingly over-the-top ending.

We are Charlie. We are even James Franco. But we are a lot more. As I was enduring *The Interview*, after shelling out \$4.99 to download it, I kept thinking that surely there's a better way of exercising freedom than by helping a big corporation recuperate its losses. **IV**

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

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# SUIS-JE CHARLIE?

## SUIS-JE JAMES FRANCO?!



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Photo: Jay Blakesberg

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**KING CHIP**

**BLUE MOOSE | JAN. 31 | PAGE 24**

**WINTERFEST**

**AMANA COLONIES | JAN. 24 | PAGE 28**

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**RIVERSIDE THEATRE | OPENS JAN. 30  
PAGE 30**

## KING CLEVELAND

Known mostly for his collaborations with fellow Cleveland rapper Kid Cudi, King Chip has stepped out into rap limelight in recent years, poised to ascend to his own hip-hop throne. • **BY PETER BASEL**

It was inevitable that King Chip's rap success, which includes high-profile collaborations with Freddie Gibbs and Big Sean, would eventually lead him out of Ohio to pursue bigger and better things. But as the names of his latest releases make transparently clear, *CleveLAfornia* and *44108* (Cleveland's zipcode), his roots in East Cleveland, where he first came up as the battle rapper known as Chip the Ripper, are a defining feature of his music.

King Chip's loyalty to Cleveland and its rap scene is endearing, but it has perhaps been double-edged in terms of his success. Though his greatest exposure has probably come from his collaborations with fellow-Clevelanders Kid Cudi, Chip's contributions have been overshadowed by Cudi's fame, often coming across as something something of a sidekick.

However, the fault isn't so much with King

Chip here as it is with the packaging and politics of musical success, and the Chip-Cudi collaborations have lead to some great rap songs

**THAT'S NOT TO SAY HIS MUSIC SOUNDS IN ANY WAY LIKE A THROW-BACK TO '90s RAP, BUT IT DOES FEATURE THE KIND OF LAID-BACK TOUGHNESS OF MIDWESTERN RAP WHICH BONE THUGS PIONEERED.**

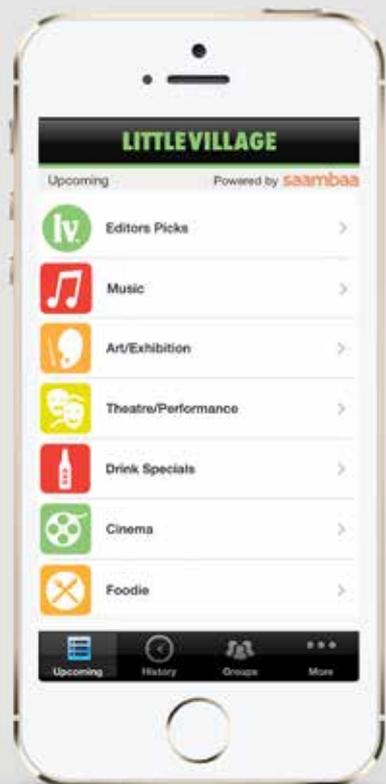
("Just What I Am" to name just one), as well as some interesting, even bizarre opportunities to reach the broader public. For instance,

the track "Afterwards (Bring Yo Friends)" features Kid Cudi and King Chip alongside Michael Bolton. Yes, that Michael Bolton.

King Chip's unique lyrical style has also found him audiences in unexpected places. He achieved a degree of internet notoriety when his song "SLAB Freestyle" became something of an internet meme: The lyrics "Interior Crocodile Alligator / I Drive a Chevrolet Movie Theater" were posted on music blogs as humorous image macros, and videos featuring the looped lyrics became popular on YouTube and Vine. The lyrics aren't a one-off joke, but rather a standard feature of King Chip's rap style, one where serious verse doesn't flinch at all against the use of absurd punchlines.

What most sets King Chip's music apart is how infused it is with the spirit of Cleveland, both in its texture and lyrical content. Often his most striking songs are dark and claustrophobic in a way that seems to evoke the city itself. For those that are somehow unaware, Cleveland hasn't exactly been experiencing an economic renaissance, and like many Rust Belt cities, opportunities for the future are perpetually bleak.

King Chip doesn't really dwell on any of



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this, and his *44108* mixtape is hardly a mournful ode to the fall of a once-great city. But the realities of growing up in this environment are always there beneath the surface. It's not that he's making anything as simple as straight gangsta rap either. He celebrates his hometown and how it created the person he is today, but he doesn't glorify a life of crime or wallow in former hardship.

Predictably, the influence of legendary Cleveland rap group Bone Thugs-n-Harmony looms large over King Chip's music. That's not to say his music sounds in any way like a throw-back to '90s rap, but it does feature the kind of laid-back toughness of Midwestern style pioneered by Bone Thugs. His music also finds inspiration from across the modern hip-hop landscape. What makes King Chip so compelling is that he is able to meld all of this together in a way that speaks authentically to his own origins while still creating a sound that is all his own. **iv**

*Peter Basel enjoys listening to music.*

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**KING CHIP** | Jan. 31, 6:30 p.m., Blue Moose Tap House (211 Iowa Ave.). Photo by Dana Beveridge

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## WED., JAN. 21

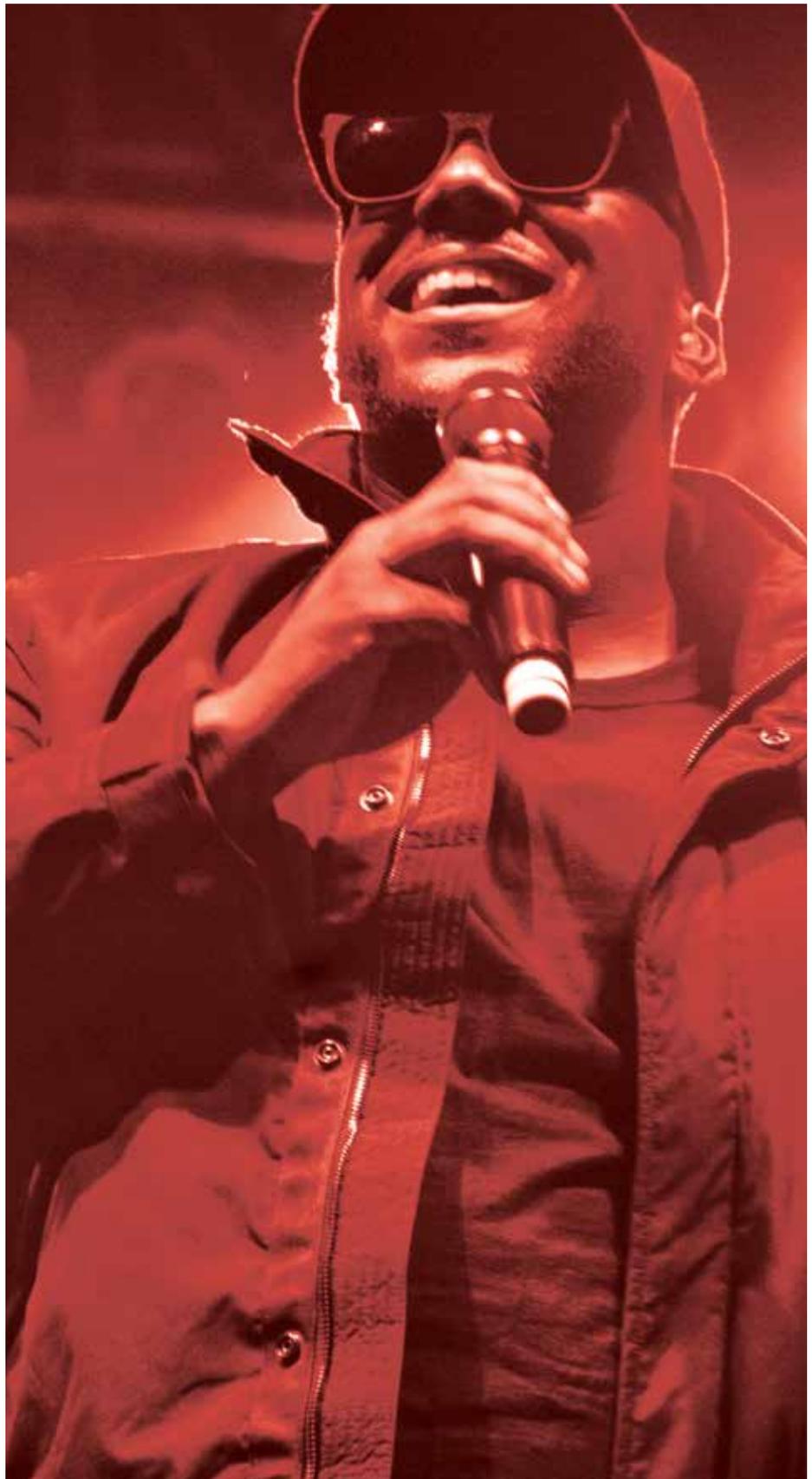
**/ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** *Dr. Sketchy's in Wonderland*, \$6 - \$8, 8 pm | *Dr. Sketchy's* heads back to *The Mill*. This time art monkeys will watch Alice in Wonderland-themed performances before sketching or painting a white rabbit or queen of hearts!

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** *Anything Goes*, Paramount Theatre, \$48 - \$63, 7:30 pm | See Cole Porter's classic musical, featuring songs like "I Get a Kick out of You," and "You're the Top."



**/CINEMA:** *A Measure of Sin*, FilmScene, \$4, 10 pm | When orphaned Meredith moves in with a sinister old man and his household of

- women and children, she begins to have hallucinations about a vicious bear. She realizes she must escape, but has doubts that she'll be able to survive.
- Director Jeff Wedding will make an introduction and present a dialogue on the film. —Shauna McKnight





**/CINEMA: Selma, FilmScene, 5 pm & 7 pm, \$6.50 - \$9** | Watch the true story of how Martin Luther King, Jr. secured voting rights for millions of Americans.

**/COMMUNITY: Iowa City Cohousing/Prairie Hill Informational Meeting, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 6 pm** | Get more info on 30 planned cohousing units to be built in Iowa City.

**THU., JAN. 22**

**/MUSIC: Particle, Gabe's, \$15, 10 pm** | Particle is as essential as it gets when you consider the growth and popularity of the "live-tronica" scene and sound over the last decade. Coming up with the likes of STS9 and Disco Biscuits, Particle have long cemented themselves as a staple with the "festival kid" crowd, but their sound transcends simple electronic and jam rock experimentation. Leagues away from the boiled-down "they just push play" approach to electronic music, expect a well-rounded, polished live experience from Particle—one that will have both purists and plebs alike salivating for festival season. —Josh Messer

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: Cheech & Chong w. War, Paramount Theatre, \$47 - \$81, 8 pm** | Dance to classics by War, like "Lowrider," and "Why Can't We Be Friends." Then watch stoners Cheech and Chong perform stand-up comedy.

**/CINEMA: Mary Poppins, FilmScene, \$2.50, 3 pm** | Bring the kids to see this new restoration of the classic musical.

**/LITERATURE: Timothy Williams, Prairie Lights, Free, 7 pm** | Award-winning crime author Timothy Williams reads from The Honest Folk of Guadalupe.

**/FOODIE: Indian Butter Chicken Dinner, Coralville New Pioneer Co-Op, \$15, 6 pm** | Learn how to prepare authentic, healthy Indian dishes under the instruction of Pramrod Sarin. Make traditional butter chicken, with aloo gobi and rice pulao. Also sample chai with the menu. —SM

**/COMMUNITY: Guided Meditation, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, \$10, 6 pm** | Noelle Holmes of Illuminations Healing Arts Center will guide guests through meditation.

**FRI., JAN. 23**

**/MUSIC: Chloe Hillard, Public Space One, Price TBD, 9 pm** | CAB presents this singer-songwriter.

**MC Animosity, Yacht Club, \$5, 9 pm** | A veritable smorgasbord of music, also featuring DJ XXL, Rahland K, Imperfekt, Felix the Thunda Cat and B-Tho.

**Winterland, Gabe's, \$8, 10 pm** | Grateful Dead tribute band.

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: Dogs of Rwanda, Englert Theatre, \$10, 7 pm** | This play is a part of Working Group Theatre's "In the Raw" series. It shows how one young man's life changes forever when he follows the girl of his dreams into the woods to help a small, Rwandan boy.

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**Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**, Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, \$12 - \$24, Various Times | See over 100 performers and a full orchestra in this production of Snow White (Through Jan. 25)



Photo by Von Presley Studios

**Dreamgirls**, Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$21 - \$33, 7:30 pm | If you are in the mood for a 1960s girl-group groove, check out Dreamgirls, a 1981 musical that is experiencing a comeback thanks to the 2006 movie, starring Jennifer Hudson and Beyoncé. The story documents the ups and downs of a fictional singing group (that bears absolutely no similarity to the Supremes, wink wink.) (Through Feb. 14.)—JS

**Love & Marriage**, Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$8 - \$16 7:30 pm | Four one-act plays explore different aspects of romance (Through Jan. 25)

**Dr. Gonzo**, Penguin's Comedy Club, \$20, 7:30 pm | Dr. Gonzo's musical stand-up career peaked in the mid-'80s, touring as the opening act for Huey Lewis and the News on their world tour.

**Christine Lavin and Don White**, CSPS Hall, \$17 - \$21, 8 pm | These two performers bring a mix of folk music and comedy to the stage.



**Foxcatcher**, FilmScene, \$6.50 - \$9, Various Times | See the psychological drama starring Channing Tatum, Steve Carell and Mark Ruffalo. Foxcatcher tells the true story of Olympic Gold Medal-winning wrestler Mark Schultz.

SAT., JAN. 24

**MUSIC:** Jack Lion, The Mill, \$7, 9 pm | Listen to Jack Lion's latest album.

**Manic Focus**, Blue Moose Tap House, \$12 - \$15, 9 pm | Dance to EDM music.

**CINEMA:** The Buxtrolls, FilmScene, \$2.50, 10 am | An adorable children's movie about mischievous trolls and the young, human boy they've raised named Eggs.

**National Theatre Live: John**, Englert Theatre, \$15 - \$18, 7 pm | Watch an HD movie screening of a live production of John. Suitable for 18+.

**Idiocracy**, FilmScene, Free - \$5, 11 pm | A late night film series, free for UI students.

**FOODIE:** BrrrFest, Coralville Marriott and Convention Center, \$5 - \$45, 12 pm | Warm up with winter beers from over 50 breweries!

**Food and Wine Pairing**, White Cross Wine Cellars, \$10, 6 pm | Learn food and wine pairing basics with seven White Cross wines.

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**/COMMUNITY:** Winterfest in the Amanas, Amana Colonies, Free - \$25, 8:30 am | Run in the 5K or sit back and enjoy the day a different way. Bring the kids to make your own snow globes, munch on chilli cooked on an open fire, or participate in the wine walk. —SM

**Spiritual Awareness Day, Illuminations Healing Arts Center, Free, 11 am** | Explore spiritualities you may not be familiar with. Listen to speakers or participate in demonstration booths.

**Paddle Day, Indian Creek Nature Center, \$8 - \$12, 12 pm** | Learn more about paddling, whether you're an expert or a beginner.

**/EDUCATIONAL: Make Two Bracelets, Beadology, \$55, 10 am** | Make two bracelets using glass and Swarovski crystal beads.

**Make Three Pairs of Earrings, Beadology, \$55, 1 pm** | Learn wire techniques to make earrings.

## SUN., JAN. 25

**/LITERATURE: Dr. Lud Gutmann, Prairie Lights, Free, 4 pm** | UIHC Professor of Neurology reads from his collection of short stories about rattlesnake sacking, The Sunken Fang Society.

**/FOODIE:** Winter Farmer's Market, Johnson County Fairgrounds, Free, 11 am | Purchase local foods and products.

**/COMMUNITY:** Knit and Crochet, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 1 pm | Get advice and work on personal projects with other enthusiasts.

**/KIDS:** Super Hero Night, Iowa Children's Museum, Free, 6 pm | For families with special needs, with a quieter play environment and inclusive activities.

## TUE., JAN. 27

**/MUSIC:** Bahamas is Afie, The Mill, \$13, 8 pm | Listen to unique pop hooks and orchestral melodies.

**/LITERATURE:** Library-Community Writing Workshop, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 4 pm | Tutors from UI will offer help for adults and teens.

**/FOODIE:** Hands-On Tamale Party, Coralville New Pioneer Co-Op, \$15, 6 pm | Learn to make tamales from home chef Bill Schintler.

**/EDUCATIONAL: Make Glass Beads, Beadology, \$95, 6 pm** | Use a torch to melt glass rods into shapes to create beads.

## WED., JAN. 28

**/MUSIC:** Burlington Street Bluegrass Band, The Mill, \$5, 7 pm | IC's finest bluegrass.

**/CINEMA:** *The Girls from Thunder Strip*, FilmScene, \$4, 10 pm | Late Shift at the Grindhouse screens a drive-in disaster about a motorcycle gang versus three bootlegging sisters.

**/LITERATURE:** *Ink Lit Mag No. 7* Launch Reading, Prairie Lights, Free, 7 pm | Hear first-year literature students at the UI read from the newest edition of Ink Lit.

**/EDUCATIONAL:** Soldered Pendant, Beadology, \$70, 12:30 pm | Learn two soldering techniques.

## THU., JAN. 29

**/MUSIC:** Six Appeal, Clear Creek Amana Performing Arts Center, \$5 - \$15, 7 pm | A capella music from the twin cities. Molly Conrad, Uptown Bill's, \$3, 7:30 pm | The singer-songwriter gives her last performance before moving to Nashville.

**/CINEMA:** *The Boxtrolls*, FilmScene, \$2.50, 10 am | An adorable children's movie about mischievous trolls and the young, human boy they've raised named Eggs.



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**4. Exercise 101 & 401:** Simple techniques and how to avoid common mistakes in training.

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**/LITERATURE:** Tim Johnston, *Prairie Lights*, Free, 7 pm | *IC* native reads from his novel, *Descent*.

**/FOODIE:** Veggie Sushi, Coralville New Pioneer Co-Op, \$15, 6 pm | Learn to make vegetarian sushi from chef David Burt.

**/EDUCATIONAL:** Intercultural Communication in the Workplace, IC Co-Lab, \$20, 8 pm | Learn about the importance of cross-cultural communication at work.

Filibusta, Blue Moose Tap House, \$8 - \$10, 9:30 pm | Dancey rock music from small-town Illinois.

Firesale, Yacht Club, \$5, 10 pm | If you missed them at the Java House, catch them with the Weathered Heads and Duology.

**FRI., JAN. 30**



Photo by Adam Burke



**/MUSIC:** NE-HI w. Younger (pictured), The Mill, \$8, 9 pm | Chicago band Ne-Hi visits Iowa City this month after an impressive year.

In 2014 they went from playing sweaty basement shows, to packing sizeable Chi-town venues, to successfully touring the country. Much of their reputation has been built on the raw energy of their live performance. They released their self-titled debut album in spring which was met with resounding critical praise. It is a brisk nine song record packed with smart, polished, guitar-driven indie rock. Ne-Hi takes the stage at The Mill with local acts Younger and Bull Black Nova. —Steve Crowley

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 23  
Intimate at the Englert Series

**JOHN**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24  
HD Broadcast - National Theatre Live

**MARK BITTMAN:  
THE FUTURE OF FOOD**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2  
Food for Thought Theme Semester Spring 2015  
& University Lecture Committee

**THE PEKING ACROBATS**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4  
Englert Family Series

**DAVE MASON'S  
TRAFFIC JAM**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

**OF MICE AND MEN**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10  
HD Broadcast - National Theatre Live

**GAELIC STORM**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

**THE SECOND CITY**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 &  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

**PEDRITO MARTINEZ**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14  
The Englert Presents at The Mill

**BÉLA FLECK &  
ABIGAIL WASHBURN**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

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Photo by Bob Goodfellow



**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** *Lucky Me*, Riverside Theatre, \$18 - \$30, 7:30 | Meet Sara Fine, a young woman who is unlucky in love—and just about everything else, for that matter. She's all but given up on love until she meets a handsome TSA agent who sets out to find the source of her troubles.

Riverside Theatre presents *Lucky Me*, a new comedy written by University of Idaho theatre professor Robert Caisley. During opening weekend, attendees can stick around after the performances on Friday, Jan. 30 and Sunday, Feb. 1 for a talkback with Caisley. An additional dialogue with the Caisley and the actors will be held after the performance on Feb. 6.

As a member of the National New Play Network (NNPN), Riverside Theatre presents *Lucky Me* as part of the network's Rolling World Premiere program. The play also has productions this year at theatres in New Jersey, Colorado and Oregon. Each year, NNPN selects several plays that will be produced by multiple theatres across the country over a one-year period. The goal of the program is to not only help playwrights get their new plays into theatres, but also to shorten the amount of time it takes for a new play to become a part of contemporary American theatrical canon. Caisley's previous comedy, *Happy*, had a Rolling World Premiere during the 2012-13 season. (Through Feb. 22.)—Jorie Slodki

**ONGOING EVENTS**

**MONDAYS:**

**Stories for Scooters** Cedar Rapids Downtown Library, Free, 9:30 am **Toddler Storytime** Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10:30 am **Alcoholics Anonymous** Uptown Bill's, Free, 12 pm & 6 pm **Starlight Story Time** Cedar Rapids Downtown Library Free, 6:30 pm **Open Mic** The Mill, Free, 8 pm **Catacombs of Comedy** Yacht Club, \$5, 10 pm

10:30 am **Alcoholics Anonymous** Uptown Bill's, Free, 12 pm **Children's Meditation** Quaker's Friends Meeting House, \$30, 5:45 pm **Buddhist Meditation** Quaker's Friends Meeting House, \$5 - \$10, 6:30 pm **Open Mic** Uptown Bill's, Free, 7 pm **Karaoke** The Vault/Penguin's Comedy Club, Free, 0 pm **SOULSHAKE** Gabe's, Free, 10 pm **Mixology** Gabe's, \$2, 10 pm **Twerk It Thursday** Studio 13, Free, 10 pm

**TUESDAYS:**

**Toddler Storytime** Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10:30 am **Alcoholics Anonymous** Uptown Bill's, Free, 12 pm **Scott Barnum Trio** Motley Cow Cafe, Free, 5:30 pm **Play & Learn** Cedar Rapids Downtown Library, Free, 6 pm **Blues Jam** Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 7 pm **Upper Deck Dance Party** Yacht Club, Free, 10 pm **Comedy and Open Mic** Studio 13, Free, 10pm

**FRIDAYS:**

**Book Babies** Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10:30 am, 1:30 pm **Alcoholics Anonymous** Uptown Bill's, Free, 12 pm **Weekend Comedy Showcase** Penguin's Comedy Club, Price TBD, 7:30 pm

**WEDNESDAYS:**

**Story Time** Cedar Rapids Downtown Library, Free, 9:30 am **Preschool Storytime** Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10:30 am **Alcoholics Anonymous** Uptown Bill's, Free, 12 pm **Theology Brewed** Journey Church, Free, 7 pm **Open Jam and Mug Night** Yacht Club, \$5, 10 pm

**SATURDAYS:**

\***Community Folk Sing** Uptown Bill's, Free, 3 pm (\*Once a month) \***Ukulele Social Club** Uptown Bill's, Free, 4 pm (\*Every third Saturday) **Saturday Night Music** Uptown Bill's, Free, 7 pm **Weekend Comedy Showcase** Penguin's Comedy Club, Price TBD, 7:30 pm

**SUNDAYS:**

\***Winter Farmer's Market** Johnson County Fairgrounds, Free, 11 am (every other Sunday) **Open Lab** Beadology, Free, 12 pm **Community Worktime** Public Space One, Free, 1 pm **GLBTQ Community Pot Luck and Bingo** Studio 13, Free, 6 pm **Pub Quiz** The Mill \$1, 9 pm

**THURSDAYS:**

**Preschool Storytime** Iowa City Public Library, Free,

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Jimmie Walker (pictured), Penguin's Comedy Club, \$14 - \$16, 7:30 pm | Made famous by his catchphrase, "Dyno-mite!" on the popular '70s television show Good Times, see Walker perform stand-up comedy.

**/LITERATURE:** Annual Reading of *Wapsipinicon Almanac*, Prairie Lights, Free, 7 pm | Local authors read from the 21st edition of the *Wapsipinicon Almanac*, a collection of fiction, essays, poetry and musings printed using antique letterpress technology. —SM



**/CINEMA:** *Matilda*, FilmScene, \$2.50, 10 am | See the children's classic about a girl who discovers she has telekinetic powers and takes down her nasty principal.

*Clue*, FilmScene, \$0 - \$5, 11 pm | Classic murder mystery based on characters from the popular board game.

**/COMMUNITY:** Chicken Chatter, Indian Creek Nature Center, \$5 donation, 1 pm | Discuss common problems with poultry keeping.

**SAT., JAN. 31**

**/MUSIC:** King Chip, Blue Moose Tap House, \$15, 6:30 pm | Rapper from Cleveland, Ohio.

Aaron Kamm & the One Drops, Yacht Club, \$7, 10 pm | Roots reggae and Mississippi river blues.

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** The Janice Ian Experience, Public Space One, Price TBD, 7 pm | Local, all-girl improv group.

**SUN., FEB. 1**

**/EDUCATIONAL:** Conscious Birth Summit, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 12:30 pm | Learn about natural births.

Introduction to Relief Printing, Public Space One, \$10, 2 pm | Learn relief printmaking techniques from Zenic Press.

**MON., FEB. 2**

**/LITERATURE:** Allan Kormblum Memorial, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 6 pm | Celebrate the life and works of Allan Kormblum.

Rainbow Reading Group, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 7 pm | Discuss *Suddenly Last Summer* by Tennessee Williams.

Sustainable Systems, Iowa City Senior Center, Free, 6:30 pm | Dr. Jerald Schnoor from the Department of Civil Engineering at the UI presents a lecture on reversing climate change through sustainable systems. Sponsored by 100 Grannies.

**TUE., FEB. 3**

**/MUSIC:** Ice Hockey, Public Space One, Price TBD, 7 pm | Screamo band from the Quad Cities.

**/FOODIE:** Pizza from Scratch, Coralville New Pioneer Co-Op, \$15, 6 pm | Learn to make homemade pizza dough and sauce using excellent ingredients.



Photo Courtesy of CRMA

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** *Love & Marriage* Iowa City Community Theatre, \$8 - \$16 (Through Jan. 25) *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, \$12 - \$24 (Through Jan. 25) *Dreamgirls* Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$21 - \$33, 7:30 pm (Through Feb. 14) *Lucky Me* Riverside Theatre, \$18 - \$30, 7:30 (Through Feb. 22)

**/ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** *Do You Belong Here?* Public Space One, Free (Through Jan. 30) *Andrew Brehm* CSPS Hall, Free (Through Jan. 31) *UI 3D Design Students* CSPS, Free (Through Feb. 1) *Adam Burke Video Drawings* CSPS, Free (Through Feb. 1) *Jeni Reeves' Illustrations for Voice of Freedom* Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Free - \$5 *Celebration! Rituals and Revelries of Life* National Czech and Slovak Museum, Free - \$10 *Faces of Freedom: The Czech and Slovak Journey* National Czech and Slovak Museum, Free - \$10 *Peter Sis: Cartography of the Mind* National Czech and Slovak Museum, Free - \$10 *Shadows of History: Photographs of the Civil War* Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Free - \$5 *Guardians of Grain: Bamana and Dogon Door Locks* (pictured) Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Free - \$5



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Riverside Theatre** 213 N. Gilbert Street, Iowa City [riverside-theatre.org](http://riverside-theatre.org)

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

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

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## CEDAR RAPIDS

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

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

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

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

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**Legion Arts CSPS Hall** 1103 3rd St SE, (319) 364-1580, [legionarts.org](http://legionarts.org)

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

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**McGrath Amphitheatre** 475 1st St SW, (319) 286-5760,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## CORALVILLE

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

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

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

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

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

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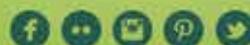


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## IS PAPER MONEY DIRTY? PLUS: DO HAND SANITIZERS CAUSE SUPERBUGS?

*My mother always asked us to wash our hands after touching money whenever possible. But is money really so out-and-out filthy that you risk serious illness every time you hand over cash at a drive-thru and then eat your burger? And: do hundred-dollar bills really have measurable amounts of cocaine on them? —Bruce, Castro Valley, California*

**G**et ready for a deluge of I-told-you-so email from vindicated mothers everywhere—in Bangladesh, for instance, where a 2006 study found that about one in eleven paper banknotes tested were contaminated with *E. coli* or similar bacteria. This isn't to say that Bangladeshis are literally wiping their butts with money (practically speaking, that's more likely to happen on Wall Street) but rather that bacteria are everywhere, including on currency. And unlike public toilets, twenties don't get hosed down every so often.

Lest you think Bangladesh particularly unhygienic, 103 different fungal colonies were found on 60 randomly selected Egyptian banknotes—some of which were producing toxins. Some Philippine currency notes carried the cysts and ova of intestinal parasites, and were subsequently eliminated from use. Topping the list of diseased and potentially hazardous currency is Nigeria, where 90 percent of paper money is a home for bacteria. (Nigerian bills that were retired after heavy circulation proved to be so contaminated they were deemed a risk to treasury workers' lung function.)

American money might be slightly cleaner. A 2002 study in Ohio that collected and cultured 68 one-dollar bills produced a total of 93 bacterial samples; while 88 of these could pose

a threat to people with compromised immune systems, five would be considered dangerous even to the healthy. For context, a similar experiment in Kentucky in 1972 turned up 26 of



the scarier bacteria after swabbing 50 low-denomination bills, a rate more than seven times higher—evidence that in some limited ways American life may have become less disgusting over the last 40 years.

And yes, roughly four out of five American bills bear cocaine residue—but only because the powder is so fine that one patient-zero bill in an ATM can easily and quickly spread it to thousands. Don't get too excited, though: these amounts are so small that no one's getting high off the U.S. Mint's supply.

While I'm no more a fan of parasitic cysts than the next guy, let's reiterate: pretty much everything has germs on it, and most of them won't kill you. Gas-pump handles, kitchen sinks, your date's mouth—you name it, it's probably coated with invisible bugs. Furthermore, we couldn't find any specific studies that tied illness incidence to handling money. If you're really paranoid I suppose you could stick to coins, whose copper content seems to suppress their bacteria load. On the other hand, this will limit your cash purchases to gumballs, and may lead to even more awkwardness than usual when visiting strip clubs. Your mom probably warned you against those too, but we'll keep our noses out it.

*I am curious about the use of antibacterial hand gels that are commonly used to disinfect hands. Does excessive use of this substance (say, 40-plus times a day) somehow increase the risk of developing resistant bacteria, much in the same way as prescription of antibiotics has? —Felix*

Heh. One of my little researchers used to deride Purell users as germ wussies. It took one trip to Thailand, three hand-sanitizer-less days and many, many trips to the bathroom before she saw the light. That said, worrying about Purell resistance suggests some possible apples/oranges confusion on your part.

Antibiotics work by disabling certain specific functions of a bacterial cell. For example, penicillin weakens cell walls. Occasionally

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some rogue bacillus will have some genetic variant rendering its walls penicillin-proof. Usually, your immune system can handle one or two of these guys. But when you take antibiotics needlessly, or incompletely, or off schedule, you may wind up wiping out the nonresistant bacteria and thus selectively breeding the resistant ones, which can then become the main source of infection. A recent example is every college student's nightmare: a drug-resistant strain of gonorrhea.

Alcoholic hand sanitizers, on the other hand, kill germs by first dissolving their lipid-based outer membranes and then dehydrating the proteins inside. Since nearly all bacteria have lipid membranes, ten-second submersion in alcohol can destroy all sorts of deadly and otherwise unpleasant bugs, from *E. coli* to staph. (The exceptions are bacterial spores like anthrax, which are basically the cockroaches of the bacterial world: they've got extremely thick outer coats and can survive extreme temperatures, chemical damage, and probably nuclear warfare if it came down to it.) For most bacteria, alcohol does such sweeping damage that becoming resistant to it would require a monumental structural leap—it would be like humans developing the ability to breathe without oxygen. It's not evolutionarily impossible, I guess, but so far the survival rate is zero.

So why don't we cure tuberculosis with alcohol? You try soaking your lungs in 190-proof ethanol—not only would you die, but they might burst into flame. Cool, perhaps, but ultimately ineffective.

—CECIL ADAMS

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



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## THE HUNGER

Dan Savage responds to readers about the sexual concerns eating at them. • BY DAN SAVAGE

**I**'m a straight 18-year-old girl in my first sexual relationship. Things are a little awkward, and I could chalk it up to inexperience, but here's what I feel conflicted about: I have a vore fetish. It was a fascination for me as a young child and became a sexual thing around the time I hit puberty. I'm wondering now whether this is something I need to get off. It works well when I'm on my own, but I always thought "regular stuff" would work too once I was actually getting some. I've told my boyfriend about it, and he's more than willing to role-play with me. But these fantasies are in-my-head-only, as they rarely feature human beings (think anthropomorphic monsters and dragons, strange as this may seem), so I don't know if I could actually do this. Maybe we just need to hold out a little until we know what we're doing and regular stuff will cut it after all? I have a mounting suspicion that it won't, and I'm having trouble coming to terms with what seems to be a really warped, messed-up fetish. What if this is the only thing I can get off to? Am I doomed to solo sex forever?

*Vore Only Really Excites*

A quick dip into Wikipedia for readers who aren't familiar with the term "vore": "Vorarephilia (often shortened to vore) is a paraphilia wherein an individual's sexual arousal occurs in response to a fantasy of themselves, another person, or an object eating or being eaten... The fantasy sometimes involves the victim being swallowed whole, though on some occasions the victims are chewed up, and may or may not include digestion."

Makes you wonder how many of the people who were furious with the Discovery Channel after that guy wasn't "eaten alive" by a snake were secretly vore fetishists.

Anyway, VORE, you're not the only person on earth whose sexual fantasies revolve around or are completely dominated by something impossible or unrealizable. The lady centaur fetishist is not and never will be a lady centaur, the guy into giant women has not met and will

never meet a 50-foot-tall woman on the subway, you are not and never will be a monster capable of swallowing another monster whole. While most people with unrealizable fetishes or fantasies enjoy "regular stuff" all by itself, a great many do not. The latter type—kinksters who can't get off to regular stuff—allow their impossible/unrealizable fantasies to play out in their heads while they enjoy the intimacy and physical sensations of non-vore/centaur/giantess stuff. Most aren't "checked out" during sex: They're enjoying regular stuff and irregular stuff simultaneously—they're fully present, getting into and getting off on their partners, all while their impossible/unrealizable fantasies play on a loop in their heads, sometimes in the background, sometimes in the foreground.

So while you may be "doomed" to go through life with this fetish, VORE, you are not doomed to solo sex. You can have your



fantasies and partnered sex too.

But I don't think you've been at this sex stuff long enough to conclude that you're incapable of enjoying regular stuff on its own. Everyone has their go-to fantasies, and years of solo masturbation can carve a deep groove in a person's erotic imagination. Since vore was where you always went when you were aroused prior to your boyfriend coming along, your brain may have automatically gone there when you got aroused with your boyfriend. Don't mistake what may have been force of habit for complete dependence, or what you seem to fear most—complete dependence on your vore fantasies—could become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

As for your shame about your kink ("a really warped, messed-up fetish"), you gotta shake that shit off. Take it from Tynan Fox, a kinkster and public speaker: "We don't choose our kinks—our kinks choose us." You didn't

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choose your kink, VORE, your kink chose you. So give yourself a break, okay? Stick with sex- and kink-positive partners (like your current boyfriend), incorporate your kinks carefully and consensually, and don't neglect your partner's interests and possible kinks. You also might want to explore the furry/scalie community, a space where you can be (or meet) the anthropomorphic monster and/or dragon of your dreams.

**TAKE IT FROM TYNAN FOX, A KINKSTER AND PUBLIC SPEAKER: "WE DON'T CHOOSE OUR KINKS—OUR KINKS CHOOSE US."**

*You said you can't respond to questions that are too long, so I'm going to keep it short: I'm a 44-year-old divorced woman. An 18-year-old man who seemed attractive and confident approached me online, and I was intrigued. We hooked up for a one-night stand. We have now been together three times, and we're talking and texting about doing it again. The sex is amazing, the best I have ever had, and he says the same (I know—he's only 18). Is this bad? Am I bad? Should I stop seeing him? Acting Young Again*

My answer in brief: If he's actually 18 (did you card him?), if you're honoring the campsite rule (you will leave him in better shape than you found him), if he intends to honor the Tea and Sympathy rule after it's over (when he speaks of this in the future, and he will, he will be kind), then it's not bad, you're not bad, and you don't have to stop fucking him.

*I live in a small city in a semirural area. I'm a single woman and am attracted to the idea of an underground swinger scene, or something similar, as a way to get some attachment-free action. But everyone around here knows each other or knows of each other, and something like this would be buried way underground. I'm convinced a swinging scene exists here, but I have no idea how to find it. Those who*

*strike me as the people who'd know are people I wouldn't want to ask. So aside from Craigslist, which I do not trust, how does one go about finding the swinging scene in a small town?*

*Small-Town Girl*

"It's a shame none of the 'swinger identifiers' that have been proposed—like white rocks in the front yard or a black ring worn on the right hand—panned out, because they would make finding swingers easier," said Cooper S. Beckett, author of *My Life on the Swingset: Adventures in Swinging & Polyamory* and host of the *Life on the Swingset* podcast ([lifeontheswingset.com](http://lifeontheswingset.com)). "But the swinger scene isn't as underground as it seems, so she shouldn't have to dig too deep to find it—even in her small town."

Beckett recommends—and I hope you're sitting down for this—going online, STG, where you have options other than Craigslist. "The wonders of the internet make this far easier than it used to be," said Beckett. "She should sign up for one of the many swinger dating websites, like Kasidie or Lifestyle Lounge or Swing Life Style—but NOT Adult Friend Finder, which is full of fakes and cheaters (and they nickel-and-dime you for everything). She can get a free trial and search for swingers in her area. If there aren't many people, try the closest bigger city. Whichever site has the most locals, buy a month and go to town. Another great alternative is Meetup.com, which has been a real boon for kinky people—and it's free! She can sign up under a pseudonym if it helps. Then search for nonmonogamy or swinging meet-ups in her town or the nearest big city." Follow Beckett on Twitter @swingsetlife. **lv**

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## CURSES, FOILED AGAIN

- Fugitive Jacob Moore, 25, tried to divert police attention from his home, where officers were preparing to execute a warrant, by calling in a bomb threat to an elementary school in Hayden, Idaho. Moore forgot to turn off his caller ID, however, allowing authorities to trace the call to his phone and confirm that he was at home. They arrested him and added making a false bomb threat to the original felony charge against him. (Spokane-Couer d'Alene's KXLY-TV)
- Sheriff's deputies who placed burglary suspects Daniel Gargiulo, 39, and Michael Rochefort, 38, in the back seat of a patrol car in West Boynton, Fla., confirmed their guilt when a camera pointed at them in plain view recorded their conversation about the stolen goods and concocting an alibi. (South Florida Sun Sentinel)

## SLIGHTEST PROVOCATION

Cornelius Jefferson, 33, moved from Georgia to Kentucky to be with a woman he met online but wound up assaulting her, the Laurel County Sheriff's Office reported, because he "didn't think she was like she was on the Internet." Deputy Gilbert Acciardo Jr. didn't say how the woman failed to match her online persona, only that Jefferson choked her, threw food on her and then left with his suitcases. (Lexington Herald-Leader)

## CLARIFICATIONS OF THE WEEK

- After Gail McGovern, CEO of the American Red Cross, repeatedly declared that 91 cents of every \$1 donated goes toward disaster relief efforts, the organization abruptly removed the claim from its website. "The language used has not been as clear as it could have been," the Red Cross announced, "and we are clarifying the language." The subsequent official clarification was that 91 cents of every \$1 the Red Cross spends goes for disaster relief. (NPR)
- A witness in the London trial of African preacher Gilbert Deya testified for more than an hour before anyone realized the Sierra Leone native wasn't speaking English. During the 38-year-old woman's testimony, lawyers blamed the courtroom's poor acoustics for their inability to understand her, and repeatedly told her to speak more slowly and stand back from the microphone. Finally, court clerk Christiana Kyemenu-Caiquo, also from Sierra Leone, informed Judge Nicholas Madge that the witness was speaking a native Creole

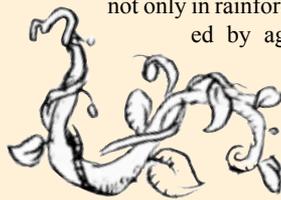
dialect. Kyemenu-Caiquo was sworn in to translate the testimony, which consisted of "I can't remember" to every question. (London Evening Standard)

## NEW AND IMPROVED

New York officials selected a consortium of advertising, technology and telecom companies to install thousands of pay phones throughout the city. The new versions will offer 24-hour free Wi-Fi connections; touch-screen displays with direct access to city services, maps and directions; and charging stations for cellphones and other mobile devices. Sophisticated digital advertising is expected to fund the system, to the tune of \$500 million over the next 12 years, providers said. The city expects additional revenue to come from auctioning off some of the 6,500 old-style pay phones that the 10,000 new machines will replace. (The Washington Post)

## WOE IS WE

Vines are proliferating, thanks to rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that allow them to hog more light and water than the slower-growing trees they twine around, according to Australian biologist William Laurance. Noting that up to half of all plant species in a typical rainforest are vines, he warned that vines are advancing not only in rainforests fragmented by agriculture and logging, but even in undisturbed forests. (Sierra)



## DRINKING-CLASS HEROES

- Police arrested Richard Curzon, 57, in Omaha, Neb., after observing him straddling the centerline while driving with four flat tires and a deployed airbag. An officer tried to stop Curzon, but he refused to pull over and led the officer on a brief, low-speed chase. Blood-alcohol level: .253. (Omaha World-Herald)
- Vermont State Police said Dwayne Fenlason, 48, was drunk when he drove his pickup off the road in Pomfret and when he went home and got a second truck to pull out the first truck but drove the second truck off the road. He went home again and got his all-terrain vehicle to pull out both trucks but this time

was arrested for drunk driving. Blood-alcohol level: .30 (Burlington's WCAX-TV)

- Authorities arrested a 39-year-old woman for drunken driving in Paw Paw ("located in the heart of Michigan's wine country," the village website proclaims) after she pulled into the parking lot of the Van Buren County Jail and told the sheriff's deputy who confronted her that she believed it was a bar. Blood-alcohol level: .17 (Kalamazoo Gazette)
- Responding to a complaint that a man was shooting a gun at a can in the street in Blair Township, Mich., while he was "wearing camo pants and a clown mask and at one point was playing a trombone," sheriff's deputies found the 54-year-old man aiming at surrounding houses, determined he was drunk and arrested him. (Michigan's MLive.com)

## THE HEAT IS ON

The nation's second-biggest tobacco company introduced a cigarette that uses a carbon tip to heat tobacco rather than burn it. Unlike e-cigarettes, which use liquid nicotine, Revo contains real tobacco, which Reynolds American hopes will make it more attractive to cigarette smokers. Heat-not-burn technology "needed the mass presence of vapor products to open up an experience-base that smokers understood," said J. Brice O'Brien, Reynolds's head of consumer marketing. He added the company will inform smokers that Revo is different and harder to use than traditional cigarettes but encourage them to "stick with it, because it's totally worth it." (Associated Press)

## JUSTICE JUST ISN'T

After a British coroner ruled that Dr. Daniel Ubani unlawfully killed David Gray by giving him an overdose of diamorphine, the victim's sons, Rory and Stuart Gray, confronted Ubani at a medical conference in Germany. They called him a "charlatan," a "killer" and "an animal." He sued the sons, who were told by a German court that they could describe him as a charlatan and a killer, but not an animal. Ubani subsequently sued Rory Gray for calling him "an animal." This time, the Amtsgericht civil court in Lindau ordered Gray to pay 75 percent of the case's legal costs ("in the thousands" of euros, Gray estimated) and asked him to write to the doctor. Gray called the ruling "utterly grotesque." (BBC News) **IV**

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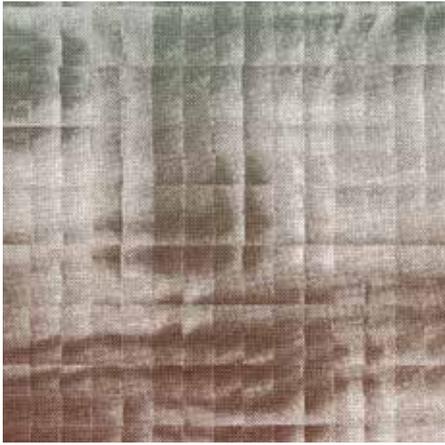
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## LOCAL ALBUMS



### CUTICLE

*Mind Holding Pattern*  
notnotfun.com

Techno originated in Belleville, Mich., and was invented by middle-class black teenagers with ties to Detroit. Techno brought together the influences of disco, James Brown and Parliament-Funkadelic and combined them with the paler European electronic styles of Kraftwerk and Giorgio Moroder, which

embraced a dreamy futurism born out of comic books and science fiction paperbacks.

Iowa City's Brendan O'Keefe, or Cuticle, is a member of the latest wave of techno pro-

**CUTICLE'S MUSIC WANDERS AWAY FROM THE RAVE TO STARE AT THE STARS. THE RESULTS IS A SYNTHESIS OF THE COMPLETELY ABSTRACT AND THE SENSUAL.**

ducers, though he's abstracted his melancholy, moody music away from the club. In the description for his album *Mind Holding Pattern*, his label characterizes his music as "asteroid techno shrapnel formations." Rather than forsaking the dance floor, it seems to have risen up from it, to where the heaving bodies below become an abstract pattern.

These songs are comprised of minor chords and pentatonic melodic fragments, grounded

in plodding, four-on-the-floor beats. The rhythm is relentless in more club-oriented techno; Cuticle's beats drop in and out—the steady pulse is at turns overt and covert. Every groove fades into shimmering cascades of echoing notes that fall out of time. When the beat sneaks back in later, it reels the music back down to earth.

Techno music may have roots in Detroit and sweaty dance clubs, but Cuticle's music wanders away from the rave to stare at the stars. The result is a synthesis of the completely abstract and the sensual—a hypnagogic techno to fall asleep and dream to. Also of note: The hand-silkscreened cover makes the vinyl record both a visual and auditory treat. **IV**

—Kent Williams

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## &gt;&gt; COMM. CONT. FROM P. 9

in leadership recognize them and seek input from persons affected by those forms of oppression.”

**NEW LEADERSHIP**

And while many parts of the university seem a long way from fostering this type of communication, small efforts are being made. David Visin, Interim Director of UI Department of Public Safety, noted via email that officers receive “annual training to address bias in policing, cultural diversity and LGBTQ issues,” a fact of which he says most constituents are unaware.

Visin, who took his position on Jan. 9 following the retirement of longtime director Chuck Green, also says that an immediate goal is enhancing communications to the community through social media and multimedia. A start perhaps, that one hopes can eventually lead to a more productive dialogue.

“It is our responsibility as individuals to tell our leaders what we want in ways that are respectful and that build bridges,” Malone said.

Of course, reaching those leaders and other influential persons is the first, and arguably hardest, step. But according to Malone, there are measures everyone can take to create a safer, more thriving community.

“People need to turn their anger into righteous action,” Malone said. “You can write a check, make phone calls, send letters to the editor. Support folks that do equity work, and find resources so those efforts can be expanded.”

Malone points to organizations and collectives such as the Dream Center, the Center for Worker Justice, the Black Voices Project and the UI Center for Diversity and Enrichment as examples of the many opportunities for involvement in Iowa City.

“If people are aware of issues and don’t do anything about them, they are perpetuating the problem,” said Bacon. “There is always more work to do.” **lv**

*Amy Mattson is a feminist, writer and freelance editor. She loves hugs and freedom of expression. Get in touch with her at amy.e.mattson@gmail.com.*

**RHYME TIME’S FIFTH SYMPHONY**

Happy New Year, Rhyme Timers! This month's puzzle is dedicated to famous composers. As always, listed below are two synonyms for two words that rhyme followed by the number of syllables in each of those rhyming words. Your challenge is to figure out what those rhyming words are based upon the clues provided.

As an example, Tricked Glenn (1, 1) would be "Fooled Gould."

Make sense? Then compose yourselves, and enjoy Rhyme Time's Fifth.

BY LUKE BENSON

**J.S.'s Stockings (1, 1) Bach's Socks**

**Benjamin's Gloves (2, 2)** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Antonin's Hydraulics (3, 1 1)** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Richard's Forts (2, 1 2)** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Debussy Composition (1, 2) Claude,** \_\_\_\_\_

**Johannes Comforts (1, 1)** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Mozart Crooned (2, 1)** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Awesome Show, Beethoven (1 1, 2)** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Baroque Cause Célèbre (2, 2)** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Angry German (1, 1)** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Frantic Ragtimer (1, 1)** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Christoph Snub (1, 2)** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenger:**

***The fickle fan who praised his virtuosic sparkling pianism one minute, maligned his "monotonous texture and artificial, gushing arpeggios" the next was (Phrase, Composer).***

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