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PARTS AND PATTERNS ROSE OAKS

An exercise in close observation reveals the value in seeking out connections.

Renovations at 400-unit apartment complex leave residents in lurch



Cover photo by Adam Burke Editing by Jordan Sellergren

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Little Village is an independent, community-supported news and culture publication based in lowa City. Through journalism, essays and events, we work to improve our community in the lowa City, Coralville and Cedar Rapids area according to a few core values: environmental sustainability, affordability and access, economic and labor justice, racial justice, gender equity, quality healthcare, quality education and critical culture.

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N E X T S T E P F O R W A R D

HOW DO YOU DEFINE SUCCESS? Some

people set short-term, measurable goals: Run one minute longer than yesterday. Save five dollars out of every paycheck for a year. For others, the goals are more grand, more career-based: Make partner by 40. Perform on Broadway. For still others, the objectives are more nebulous, more goals of being than of doing: Become the person my mother always thought I was. Laugh more. Fear less.

In this issue, we celebrate an lowa City mainstay as it reaches 30 years in business. We rejoice with a local poet whose latest book was a finalist for one of the country's most prestigious prizes.

We talk with a family whose definition of success is keeping a little boy's memory alive and saving lives in the process. And we hear from some of the most disenfranchised members of our community, whose goal is simply to have a place to live tomorrow, and from those who are trying to ensure that they have hope.

Our goal, as echoed and clarified in a column by Thomas Dean, is to pull together all of these "loose parts" into a complex and meaningful picture. All of these strivings toward success are things that resonate with us, and we hope with you—we grieve, we fight and we rejoice together, as a community.

What's your next step forward?

—LV Editors

UR HERE

UNFRAMING NATURE

Taking time to organize the "loose parts" of the natural world unlocks our creativity. • BY THOMAS DEAN

s I was driving home recently from the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge near Prairie City after finishing my first-ever

nature photography workshop, my cam-

era-obsessed eye could not help but see everything outside my car's window as a picture. The principles of perspective, line, shape, pattern, texture, echo, visual flow and weight that I had learned from Minnesota photographers Bryan Hansel and John Gregor continued to beam out of my eyes. After thirty-six hours of instruction and field work, tying hills to fields, connecting trees to windmills, linking land and sky in layers and tones,

I was seeing in pictures. And as my mind also turned back to the class I was to teach the next day on Richard Louv's *The Nature Principle*, I realized that what I was doing was enacting the theory at the core of the author's work: the theory of "loose parts."

Louv, who became well known for his book *Last Child in the Woods* and coined the phrase "nature deficit disorder," asserts that our children have lost much in perceptual skill, understanding, creative play and well-being. Children have become more and more disconnected from the natural world, claims Louv. In his more recent book, *The Nature Principle*, he extends that argument out to the lives of adults as well.

The theory of "loose parts" harkens back to architect Simon Nicholson's 1970s idea that working with "loose parts" in our environment—materials that can be moved around, redesigned, taken apart, put back together without preset directions—can drive and

enhance our creativity. Child development and education experts have since applied this idea to creative play. "Loose parts"—including everything you can find in nature—are virtually infinite and infinitely combinable,



Photo by Thomas Dean

whereas the "parts" of, say, a computer game, which admittedly can be vast, are nonetheless predetermined and finite.

but related parts of nature can encourage a greater sensitivity to patterns that underlie all experience, all matter, and all that matters." Louv extends his line of thinking even further: "Creative genius is not the accumulation

> of knowledge; it is the ability to see patterns in the universe, to detect hidden links between what is and what could be."

Now, I am not claiming to be any kind of creative genius, and certainly not a photographic genius in my amateur fumblings with f-stops and shutter speeds. But I've very much enjoyed the symbiotic relationship I have found between my interest in photography and my love of the natural

world. When I take a photo, because I want to compose a good image of the world I see in front of me, I am compelled first to stop,

"Creative genius is not the accumulation of knowledge, it is the ability to see patterns in the universe."

—Richard Louv

Louv brings this notion to nature play, saying, "In a tree, a woods, a field, a mountain, a ravine, a vacant lot, the number of loose parts is unlimited," and "exposure to the loose

and intent.
The relationships
among the
flowers,
the grasses,
the trees,
the water,
the rises
and swales,
the clouds,
the birds,

to be still,

purpose

to look with

the moths, even the duff beneath my feet all slowly reveal the beauty and pattern to my eyes as I pay deeper and deeper attention. I hone in on what I think will make an aesthetically pleasing image, determine what I think will be the best camera settings and snap the shutter—and my apperception of the "loose parts" before me has allowed for what I hope is a good creative expression.

But much more is also happening, surpassing my seeing of patterns that I hope will resolve into an attractive combination of megapixels. My concentration on my environment does not end when I capture a composed image. My photographic mission has focused my attention, but my immersion in the natural place has yielded discernment much deeper than what I hope the camera has apprehended. Nature is not something to be framed; the patterns and interconnections extend infinitely past a photograph's borders. Making a picture is only a doorway, a first step through to the infinite beauty and meaning of the living world.

After the shutter snaps, the colors and tones of tree bark and sky deepen further for me. The lines of bluestem and still-bare spring oak branches extend infinitely beyond my vision. Visual echoes of horizon line and prairie burn's edge redound, and audible echoes of wind brushing brittle grasses still standing from last year merge with meadowlark song—"spring of THE year." My nostrils take in the scent of softening topsoil, connecting me to the deep roots quickening below. All my senses open. Everything becomes one, the interdependent web of the biotic community inviting me to acknowledge my own living presence in this particular place, at this precise moment in time, grounding me in the larger extension and expanse of this earth—and universe beyond my senses.

Yes, I get all that from taking a picture. I could never have this experience of the living world from any screen—from a phone, a computer, a television, or even a camera's LCD screen, despite their millions, even billions and trillions, of bits, bytes and megapixels. Taking nature photographs helps me start perceiving and connecting the endless "loose parts" of the natural world—the real world. Whatever helps you do so—hiking, biking, singing, painting, writing, playing, meditating in nature—the world is opening and enlivening now that it's spring. It's time to loosen ourselves from our screens and merge with the infinity possibilities of reality. IV

Thomas Dean's first camera was a 126 Kodak Instamatic.







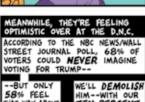






by TOM TOMORROW







RENTAL SHAKEUP AT ROSE OAKS

Community reacts to Rose Oaks renovations. BY ADAM BURKE & CALEB RAINEY



bout two months ago, Mankato, MN-based developers College Fund Properties took over the rental complex known as Rose Oaks, formerly Lakeside Point and Dolphin Lake. The new owners have been embroiled in a rental shakeup since.

Many renters left immediately after receiving a letter in late March that read, "If you are willing to move out now, you will not be penalized for breaking your lease ... we are encouraging you to move as soon as possible."

A few days later, a second letter quickened the push for an exodus of Rose Oaks tenants with an offer of \$500 plus a full security deposit return, even for apartments left unclean. Shelter House has since set up an office at Rose Oaks to assist residents. They are offering financial help with security deposits, as well as locating new places to live.

At a press conference on Apr. 19, Pastor Anthony Smith of New Creations International Church said that members of his congregation had moved to the Quad Cities to live with family.

"They immediately vacated ... They moved out of town before the community got involved," he said.

Some tenants are still weighing their options or haven't found a place to live—but

SPEAKING OUT Pastor Anthony Smith spoke at a press conference with tenants and supporters on Apr. 19 for residents of Rose Oaks. "Do what's right at Rose Oaks," he said. Photo by Adam Burke

those residents with existing leases have now been given until Aug. 1 to leave. The extension came after activists in the Iowa City community, largely through the efforts of the Iowa Black Liberation Action Collective (BLAC), met and organized protest and opposition to the non-renewal of leases, including a loud demand for help at the Apr. 5 city council meeting.

In council chambers, demonstrators shouted their demand for answers while waving signs that read: "Stop the Gentrification!" and "Fact: These evictions are ILLEGAL. Stop the construction!"

A sign held by Mamano Kabahandelua read, in French, "We are refugees, this reminds us of home."

Mazahir Sailh, director of the Center for Worker Justice (CWJ), asked the council to deny the permit for Rose Oaks' renovation and give more time to the residents.

Following lengthy testimony from many residents and neighbors, acting city manager Geoff Fruin explained the renovation process and schedule for the developer. The apartments will be fully gutted and rebuilt, keeping only the "building envelope." He said



College Fund Properties planned a late 2017 finish date for the project.

Venson S. Curington II is an organizer and the executive director of Iowa BLAC. The group brought dozens of protesters to the council meeting. At the end of the meeting, he demanded answers from the city council.

At the Apr. 5 meeting, mayor Jim Throgmorton directed the city manager to contact the property owner, College Fund Properties, and have them "connect with the individual renters who remain at Rose Oaks."

In the weeks following the city council meeting, Rose Oaks residents have been filled with consternation. Kossigan Amouzou, known as Carlos, has lived in Rose Oaks for four years. His lease ends Sep. 1.

"I plan to move out, but some places denied my application. I don't know how to get a new place ... Next year my son and wife will be coming here. We'll have to be homeless," he said, adding, "I don't feel good at all. I'm on medication too, because I had a mental health problem before this happened, so I feel really bad."

Another resident, Ester Maisonet, originally from Puerto Rico, has lived in Rose Oaks with her boyfriend and two children for a year. She is moving out.

"I was desperate because I didn't have the money to rent a place and I didn't have any place to move," she said.

The process of moving forced Maisonet to seek help: "I had to ask my brother-in-law for money ... we had to get loans."

"We are all the same. We are all human ... It's not even fair, what they did," she said.

The Iowa City Council came up with \$15,000 for Shelter House, to assist with relocations. For its part, College Fund Properties tried to give \$15,000 to CWJ, but their members refused and asked to that the funds be given directly to the residents. Eventually, the developers donated \$30,000 to Shelter House for relocation services.

Unfortunately, many families left when they thought they had a month or less to move. By the end of April, out of Rose Oaks' 400 units, only 125 rentals were filled.

At a joint cities meeting on Apr. 25, in Harvat Hall—with representatives from Tiffin, North Liberty, Coralville and county supervisors in attendance—Fruin reported to the council that of the 125 remaining, some 50 renters were ready to sign agreements to end leases and receive the \$500 for relocation assistance.

Residents have described the emptying apartment complex as "scary," "empty" and a "ghost town." Four buildings plus the clubhouse will be demolished, and renovations on the 16 remaining apartment buildings in the complex have already begun.

University "should provide sufficient housing to accommodate students in their first and second years of college."

She and supervisor Rod Sullivan said inclusionary zoning should be required for all new housing projects.

"Let the people who are benefitting from development pay more of the cost. I would like to see every city in Johnson County adopt an inclusionary zoning policy," Sullivan said. "Affordable housing is a crit-

ical human need."

Sally Scott is the chair of the Johnson (JCAHC).

County Affordable Homes Coalition

She said her

group was caught off-guard by the Rose Oaks events.

"We were all really taken by surprise ... the city was too," she said.

JCAHC will present some policy ideas for the council's June 21 work session, where the city council will present their preliminary Affordable Housing Action Plan, part of the strategic plan they approved in March.

"We're just starting to dig into what those policies could be and to come up with realistic options; it's going to take a few weeks," Scott said. "Whatever we come up with, we have to work very hard to prevent this scenario from happening again. It's just been too traumatic for the tenants," she said.

Jason T. Lewis is running for county supervisor; the primary is June 7. He wants to draft a Housing Bill of Rights for tenants to make sure they're not being displaced without due course.

"If property owners aren't led by their values to provide affordable options for residents, then we need leadership from every level of local government to require that those units are available," he said. "This crisis is one of the dangerous side effects of living in a thriving community ... [but] We can't allow those with the most need to become victims of our success." Iv

Adam Burke is an Iowa City renter.

Caleb Rainey is a third-year student at the University of Iowa pursuing an English major with a specialty in creative writing.

"This is classic gentrification."

—Venson S. Currington II

Newly elected City Councilor Rockne Cole said he wants "to push a policy change so that it doesn't happen again."

"We need to have regulatory tools, especially where it involves [the] most vulnerable residents in the community," he said. But, "We don't have the regulatory mechanisms" in city code to address tenants' concerns in the Rose Oaks renovations and upgrades or future proposals from developers.

"When a developer gets a permit, you have to have a plan for stormwater runoff and a bunch of other physical things," he said, "but it doesn't measure the human impact."

Cole called the Rose Oaks situation "a major crisis in the community."

Curington called it something else.

"This is classic gentrification. What we are trying to do with residents is say that this situation is not inevitable, and it is not something that is okay, and it is something that we can fight. We are trying to build a long-term, deep relationship with anybody who sees the world in the way we see it. We are not concerned about the short-term, immediate, band-aid fixes. We're calling for the city council to live up to the good progressive name that is Iowa City and the good progressive county that is Johnson County, and to say gentrification is not going to happen in this city," he said in late April.

County supervisor Lisa Green-Douglas said one solution could come from the biggest employer in the area. The University of Iowa, she said, puts "stress on the housing market in Johnson County." She thinks the



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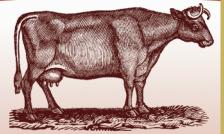
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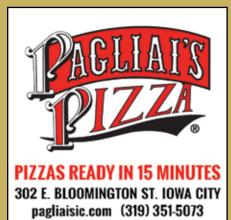


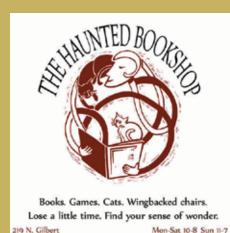


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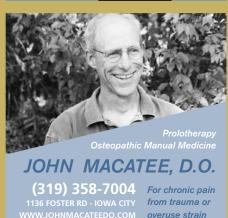


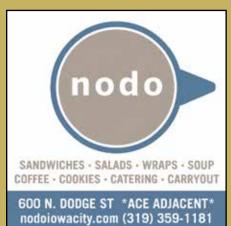




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LV RECOMMENDS

BASHU'S TWICE-COOKED PORK

121 N Linn St, Iowa City



e sat down to lunch at the newly opened traditional Chinese restaurant Bashu. The waitress brought us a pot of oolong and my buddy, a native Iowan, said, "How do you know if somebody is from New York?" "I don't know, how?" I said, pouring him some tea. "Oh, don't worry," he said. "They always tell you."

I will tell you, I am from New York, and one surefire way I know to identify a New Yorker is that we can find a good Chinese restaurant. And the mark of a good Chinese restaurant, I feel, is the quality of their twicecooked pork. There's been a growing legion of traditional Chinese eateries sprouting up around town, so when we popped in to the latest, Bashu, we ordered their twice-cooked pork as a litmus test.

What is twice-cooked pork? Take uncured pork belly, simmer it in water and then place it in the fridge. This is the first cooking. After the pork has cooled, thinly slice it into bacon-like strips, and fry it in a wok with bean paste, chili oil and leeks. Voila, twice-cooked pork.

In a few minutes, the dish arrived, reeking of peppers and onions, passing the initial smell test. Twice-cooking pork can render the meat rubbery, which is the fate of many

DID YOU KNOW?

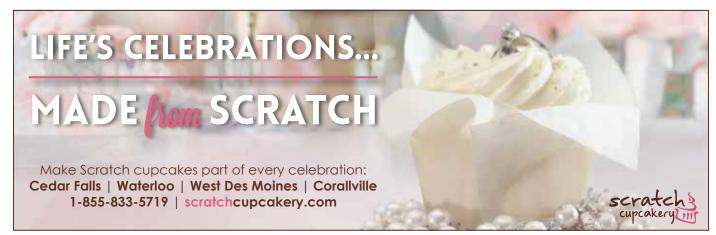
Twice-cooked pork is traditionally served during Chinese lunar festivals in the southwestern province of Sichuan as an auspicious dish.

ill-cooked attempts at this dish, but the pork belly at Bashu was perfectly tender and fried to a delicate crisp. The dish also runs the risk of being too oily, another hurdle that the chefs at Bashu deftly leaped. Their dish had plenty of sauce for late meal rice-sopping without being an oily mess. Bashu's twicecooked pork was top-notch and worthy of a New Yorker's (or anyone's) attention.

The mark of a good Chinese restaurant is the quality of their twice-cooked pork.

Owner and University of Iowa graduate Sue Zheng mentioned in a previous interview with LV that their signature dish is a spicy crab pot. By the measure of their twicecooked pork, I'll be sure to return for the crab. IV

—Tim Taranto



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BEER OF THE MONTH: MAY

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ocated just outside the heart of downtown, Iowa City
Brewlab has a spacious and inviting taproom that serves
a continuous rotation of excellent guest taps and beers
brewed on-site—individual batches of which often run out
in less than a month. With its ever-changing line-up, our recommendation this month is to stop by the Brewlab and try whatever's on tap.

After opening in November, the Brewlab served its first beer brewed on-site, Faversham's Finest Bird, in December. Since then, the father-son brewing team of Drew and Nathan Letcher have released an array of their own beers, including barrel-aged rye porter, Lithuanian-style farmhouse ale, tripel, dunkel bock and Dortmunderstyle lager. The Brewlab's recent West Coast IPA, Seminiferous Tubloidial Bitternoid, was on par with those being brewed blocks from the Pacific Ocean. (Curious about the name? Drew Letcher says it was inspired by Beavis and Butt-Head.) Session X, a series of single-hopped pale ales that

On top of brewing beer, the Brewlab collaborates with local brewers Wild Culture to produce an in-house kombucha, and offers yeast strains for homebrewing. The taproom serves as a meeting place for local homebrewers and fermenting enthusiasts, hosts painting and stein-making classes and has trivia night every Wednesday.

are brewed with a different hop each time, puts Mikkeller's single-hop series to shame.

On the Brewlab beer schedule for May are Elder Wand, a hefeweizen brewed with elder-flowers and elderberries; Rorschach, a schwarzbier; a batch of Session X brewed with Cascade hops; and Shane, an American IPA brewed with Yerba Mate. A couple of beers from April may carry over into May, such as Cookies, a Belgian tripel, and Red Planet, an imperial Irish red ale aged in Cedar Ridge bourbon and whiskey barrels.

PRICES: \$1.75–2 for 4.5-ounce pours; \$4–5 for 12-ounces; and \$5–6.50 for 16-ounces. Select beers are available in 13-ounces for \$7. A flight of four 4.5-ounce samples is available for \$7.50.

GROWLERS: The Brewlab offers two sizes—32 ounces (\$4) and 64 ounces (\$6). Growlers can be filled for \$8–12 (32 ounces) and \$14–20 (64 ounces), depending on the beer. **Foop:** Available in the taproom are sandwiches, meat and cheese boards, dips, pretzels, chips and nuts. Popcorn is available at night. **IV**

—Casey Wagner





THE EARLY TEARS WITH VIC PASTERNAK

LESSON 4: ALWAYS GET PAID

Would this bullshit be worth it otherwise? • BY SEAN PRECIADO GENELL



Illustration by Josh Carroll

ou're the cabdriver and you're going to do as I say."

Like that.

He was tanked, babbling on how he didn't want the cab in the first place but his friends—"And aren't they assholes!" ...

Two minutes on our way to Lakeside and already I wanted to fork out his eyes like the yolks of eggs. It would be fair to say we both started out twisted up.

He pounded on the headrest. "You're over the limit? That's it—I'm not paying for this."

Those words out of his mouth sounded like magic to my ears, and I felt the shift, instant and meaningfully brutal, as if I had lurking within me Astaroth waiting for this summons: I pounced on the e-brake, pedal crunching underfoot and causing the cab to pitch into a howling forward slide as I turned sharply left, up from the bottom of the wheel.

This was out on the bypass at Sycamore, back when they'd just put in those funky turn lanes. The lighting had been updated with harsh halogen white, and the paint was fresh. No one was out that late on a Tuesday as my cab swept in a rainbow arc around the divider island, while in the rearview my passenger clutched both headrests to keep from tumbling ass over teakettle, the spring zinging in my hand as I released the brake.

I wasn't always this quick on the draw. In

the beginning, there were times I never drew. Back when I was yet a healthful sport, meeting every tumbledown halfway shitbag with a grin, letting them carry on with bad behavior, letting them infect me with their tales of woe,

There were later nights I spent hating myself for not taking a stand.

really believing that any helpful action on my part would somehow better their plight.

Unfortunate for that part of me, this job forces a lot of hard left turns.

"Take us home now."

They were three college bros out at the end of South Lucas where, instead of turning around before my fares showed up, I was parked facing the short part of the dead-end, probably wondering about my bright future. And here came the fine fellows, thick-necked and plodding as crabs, their leader peeled out of his shirt and waving it like a flag.



"I said take us home," the shirtless leader shouted before telling his bros we were hitting up Hardees.

Somebody had illegally parked down in South Lucas so I had to make a million-point turn to get out, with my three riders jeering the entire time, the leader winding up his shirt and swatting his friends, even snapping me on the ear. I laughed right along—why not!?

I had turned onto Burlington to head for Coralville and was passing through the light at Dodge when the t-shirt came over my face, and my head was yanked back into the headrest, BAM BAM BAM, three hard raps on the back of my skull that caused me to see stars.

To my credit, I brought it to the roadside without hitting the curb.

"Knock it off," I scolded once I got my head out of the t-shirt, incredulous of what just happened.

"What're you going to do, bitch?"

The shirtless dude was seething and sweating, undoubtedly high on cocaine, though I've only since realized it, and mad-dogging

me with his watery blue eyes.

I warned them firmly, pouring fuel: "You hit me again and I'll throw you the hell out of here."

"You won't do that because you're a pussy."

He again slapped the back of my head.

"I just think you're a goddamned homo," said the one in front.

"Fuck off, alright?"

That sealed it: My blood was in the water and they came after me, relentless.

"Poor fucking moron. Bet if you work hard enough you can go to school and get a real job."

"Fucking poor-on."

This was early enough on that I hadn't realized I had any powers. I was too worried about getting paid. "Always get paid, #22," because this bullshit was only worth it if you get paid.

"I bet you suck dicks for money too, you scumbag. I'll fill your asshole for ten bucks, how about it?"

14 MAY 4 – **17**, **2016** LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM/LV198

I just kept driving, knuckles white on top of the wheel all the way to Coralville with my face burning and my heart pounding in my neck and my eyes swelling like they'd pop.

"Did I say the drive-thru? Pull up to the fucking door."

I just let it bear out, a suffering to be endured, watching them grabass in the Hardees lobby, knocking shit out of the soda kiosk. Why did I keep driving? And why did I wait at Hardees? Why had I not already thrown them out and made meaningful attempts to hit them?

I have two older brothers that were absolute cocks so I suppose that burn of brotherly love had something to do with it. Or the softness that hadn't yet been cured of me. There were later nights I spent hating myself for not taking a stand. Wondering, if I didn't know any better, didn't I deserve the abuse?

It was a broken feeling, as if a bit of rib had snapped off and was floating dangerously inside me.

The ruckus died after Hardees, replaced by the slurp and gnash of pigs taking down supper, until one of them ordered that I halt at the bottom of Valley and Hwy 6.

I'd done the math in the Hardees lot, and said, "This ride is fifteen bucks."

And as I dropped into PARK, just like a rookie would, my three bros split out every door to run in three directions, leaving me with their trash and no money and a hundred nights of wondering if they hadn't pegged me dead-on.

Back to the bypass and Sycamore, back to that other one hanging on the headrests.

Actually, back to the dozens of times I've retold the glory: "And I came sweeping around the divider island like fucking Steve McQueen," showing it with my hand, "and he's screaming that I'm a maniac. That son bitch wanted to fight."

I tell how I pulled right over and let dude out in the shoulder then plunged the throttle to shower him in a fan of gravel, laughing away with my fuckface as I tell the tale, cackling despite not having taken any money on the fare.

Yet all these miles later it still stings. So, "Always get paid, #22." Because everything costs. •

Sean Preciado Genell is author of the Vic Pasternak novel 'All the Help You Need,' available now at Prairie Lights.



COLORBLIND COMICS

HOW IOWA CITY DAYDREAMS

Zach Power reflects on his business' 30 successful years downtown. BY ROB CLINE



e has a name worthy of a superhero, and Zach Power has been using his powers for good as the owner of Daydreams Comics in downtown Iowa City since 2010. The store is celebrating 30 years in business in 2016. To mark the occasion—and in the run-up to Free Comic Book Day (May 7)—Power answered questions about the store's past, present, and future.

Free Comic Book Day is also celebrating an anniversary, as 2016 is the 15th year of the event. Comics creators Skottie Young, Kat Leyh, Phil Hester and Eric Gapstur will be at Daydreams Comics on Free Comic Book Day, meeting fans, signing their work and just generally celebrating one of the best days of the year for comics lovers.

Give me a quick outline of the history of the store. I know it's been in a few different spots over the years. How many owners have there been and what made you decide to dive in and become an owner? Daydreams Comics was opened in fall 1986 in the Hall Mall (114 1/2 E. College St.). It started out in the large room at the top of the stairs and eventually expanded to include a back issue room at the end of the hall. In summer of 1993 it moved downstairs to what is currently TCB (114 E. College St.). Summer 1999 brought another move, this time next door, where The Saloon currently resides (112 E. College St.). Finally, in summer 2005, it moved to its current location at 21 S. Dubuque St.

Michael Zeadow was the original owner of Daydreams Comics. He eventually sold the

business to Adam Mix (who started working here in February 1995 and would spend two decades here) in summer 2000. Adam in turn sold it to Don Hughes, another Daydreams employee, when he intended to move away from Iowa City. Plans changed and Adam then bought back 50% of the business. I started working at Daydreams Comics in November 2004 and purchased Don's stake in the business in 2010, and eventually Adam's stake in 2015. So through the 30 years of business, Daydreams has always stayed "in the family" so to speak. Which I think goes hand in hand with the success we've maintained. When you're learning how the business works from the person you are buying it from, it makes it a lot easier to see what works and what doesn't and keep things consistent.



My sense of things is that the comics industry has been up and down over the last 30 years. What has allowed Daydreams to survive through all of that? A big reason Daydreams has existed as long as it has is because of Adam. He was able to keep the shop going when the industry took a nosedive in the late '90s thru early 2000s ... While they weren't the best years business-wise, he figured out how to keep the store profitable and was able to keep the ship afloat until things began to pick up in the mid-2000s.

But the main reasons we have survived are simple: our customers and our location.

Without a solid, loyal customer base, we aren't anything. We still have customers who come in every week that have been shopping here for 25+ years. That's impressive on a lot of levels. And with customers comes customer service. I've been working here over a decade and from day one it was driven into my brain: It's all about good customer service ... I want to have a diverse selection for people to choose from. I want to have something that appeals to anyone who walks in the door. I'm happy to order something if we don't have it in stock. I want people to browse through (but not read) something that looks interesting.

The move to Dubuque St. was the best decision in the history of the store, hands down. I worked at the Saloon location for a year before the move, and there was an immediate increase in sales just from moving basically two blocks ... And in a city of landlords galore, we couldn't have asked for a better one in Anne Rizzo. She's been a big supporter of us and is always open minded and willing to help out with anything. You don't find that much in Iowa City. And you can't talk location without talking about Iowa City as a whole. There is so much support for literature in this place. It's also amazing to look around this town and see so many locally owned and operated businesses that are thriving. It's an amazing town and I'm glad to be a part of it.

Can you talk about the schedule for Free Comic Book Day, and why these particular writers/artists exciting? 2016 marks 30 years in business for Daydreams Comics, so

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

DAYDREAMS COMICS

SKOTTIE YOUNG, KAT LEYH, PHIL HESTER AND ERIC GAPSTUR

Sat., May 7, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Photo by Britt Fowler

I wanted to have a diverse lineup of creators who cater to our customers, as well as bring back ... people who have been great supporters of our shop over the years.

Skottie Young will be in attendance this year. He's been in twice before, but his career has really taken off in the past couple years, so I'm really excited to see what kind of a response he gets this time around.

bring in female creators to interact with. It's a growing part of comics and is great to see!

Phil Hester and Eric Gapstur will be stopping in for the afternoon as well. Phil went to school at UI and has been supporting Daydreams for a very long time! I even got my hands on an advertising poster he drew for Daydreams from back in the Hall Mall days. Eric has been a customer for some time now and works with Phil. He's also been doing his own comic strip projects over the years. So I feel like we have a good mix of creators who can provide insight into both the writing and artistic sides of comics, as well as both male and female perspectives on the industry.

How important is FCBD to your shop in particular? Does FCBD bring you new customers? We would be doing well even if FCBD wasn't around, but it's still a crazy

we ordered close to 3000 and ran out of 90 percent of the titles before the day ended. I ordered even more for this year. It's a significant investment on our part to do this each year, because while the books are free for people coming in, we still have to pay for each comic we give away. But it's also turned into our biggest sales day every year, so it more than pays for itself. It's a lot of work and makes for an extremely long day, but I'm fortunate enough to have a great staff who keep things running smoothly.

As far as bringing in new customers, I don't feel like it makes that much of an impact. I look at it as more of an event to give people a good reason to drop by who aren't regulars or who live out of town ... We want people to want to come to our shop on FCBD because we go above and beyond and try to have some cool things going on that we don't always have. For instance, this year we are planning to have multiple cosplay heroes on hand to take pictures with, which is something we hadn't considered before last year.

We will also have a pretty cool exclusive item for sale that you can only get from us. We teamed up with Skottie to produce a variant cover edition trade paperback of his new Image Comics series I Hate Fairyland. It will have a different cover than the general release and will feature our logo on it, as well. It will be limited to 300 copies, so make sure you get here early! The cover is a nice play on our logo, so it's pretty awesome. I'm really excited to be able to offer something like this to our customers, and to have Skottie on hand to sign copies for everyone. I'm really excited to see what people think. Iv

Rob Cline seeks out the good and bad across the comics landscape as the Colorblind Comics Critic.

"It's ... amazing to look around this town and see so many locally owned and operated businesses that are thriving."

—Zach Power

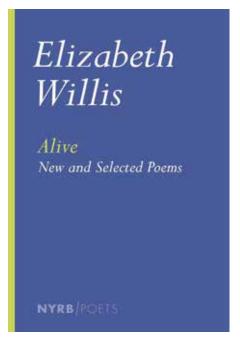
Kat Leyh, who is originally from Ames (now living in Chicago) is currently writing Lumberjanes for Boom Studios, and has also done art on comics like Adventure Time and Bravest Warriors. We had an awesome response from our female customers last year when Brooke Allen (artist on Lumberjanes) was in for FCBD, so I want to continue to

good time. It's been really fun to watch it grow every year. I can remember the first few years I worked here, we didn't participate, and no one really questioned why. But after moving to Dubuque St. and streamlining what we did as a business, we decided to give it a shot ... First year we did it was 2007, and we ordered a total of 423 comics to give away. For 2015



SHIPWRECKED: AN INTERVIEW WITH ELIZABETH WILLIS

The 2016 Pulitzer Prize finalist reflects on the "unacknowledged legislators." • BY TIM TARANTO



oet and Iowa Writers' Workshop instructor Elizabeth Willis is the author of the collections *Turneresque* (2003), *Meteoric Flowers* (2006) and *Address* (2011). She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and teaches at the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Willis talked with *Little Village* regarding her newest collection, *Alive: New and Selected Poems* (2015, NYRB), and its nomination for the Pulitzer Prize. She discussed Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson and how poetry could help humankind love better and surpass its idiocy.

I heard a funny story about how you discovered you were a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for your collection *Alive*. I was returning to Iowa on an early morning flight, and my connector got canceled in Chicago, so I was stuck at O'Hare. I didn't want to miss my class that afternoon, so I figured I'd skype them. Anyway, the connection was so bad we decided to reschedule the class, but before we hung up, they kept saying something I couldn't understand, and we all started laughing, which only made it harder to understand. Finally it sounded like someone said "you're a finalist

for the Pulitzer," at which point I figured either I was mishearing them or they had gotten the information wrong, so they texted me a link. My phone was dying and I wasn't sure what time my flight would get in, but I told them I would stop by George's on my way home. Five or six hours later, they were all there with a drink waiting for me. It was incredibly sweet. And it was great to get the news from them. They're an amazing group of poets who are smart and kind, and they've been really important people in my life this year.

The collection is organized chronologically. Did this reveal some ordering logic? Each book I've published has its own logic, so I wasn't sure about the idea of creating a selected volume in the first place. And I didn't know if there would be any clear movement from start to finish. I considered putting the new poems first since they are the closest to what I'm thinking about right now and that's what I most want people to read, but it turns

"Language is something human, something we've made. It teaches us something about how the mind works."

—Elizabeth Willis

out there's more of a narrative and developmental arc than I thought there would be, and I didn't want to force some other pattern on it. There are tropes or ideas that are there in the beginning that I'm still working out. There's a going-to-hell moment at the beginning of the book, and a going-to-hell moment at the end, and I liked the way that bookended the collection.



These aren't your collected, they're a selected—how did you decide? It was a mix. I wanted the book to cohere as its own thing, and I wanted it to be representative of my work, but I also wanted it to function practically, so I tried to include the poems I'm most likely to turn to if I'm giving a reading. The poems I feel compelled to read are the ones I'm still learning from, the ones that seem relevant to me in ways that are often different from when I wrote them, and that doesn't necessarily mean they're the most polished. But then I don't really like the idea of polish—of shining up a poem. Poems are living things ...

I'm sorry our conversation keeps getting interrupted!

I was at a seder last night and a friend said our experience of the divine was in interruption. I would say that too. And it's so true for poetry. I mean, I try to allow myself to be interrupted when I'm working. But in a more general sense, so much of the pleasure we

> experience with language is the pleasure of surprise.

What do you think we can learn about humans by looking at our language, our poetry? Language is something human, something we've made. It teaches us something about how the mind works. What is possible with human consciousness; what you can hold in the

mind? Language evolves, as the rest of the world does, and poetry is a way of both tracking and shaping that evolution. It is not just about invention or play or self-representation. It carries you. It takes you someplace else.

So much can be learned in life and in art when we relinquish control. Yes, and artmaking is a combination of intentionality and improvisation. By allowing yourself to not completely control it, you get to be surprised in the process.

And your surprise will be the reader's surprise. Right, and in that act you and the reader are closer. The poem is talking to both of you. You make a leap, hopefully.

I love the leaps in "The Young Blake." "The Young Blake!" Do you want to know where that poem began?

Please. In California, my next door neighbors named their baby Blake. I love William Blake, and I kept thinking about the fact that Blake was living next door. Crying in the car, doing whatever. Who is to say he wasn't having visions or forming opinions about innocence and experience? I love the pleasure of that subject rhyme, though I wasn't sure if it would make sense to anyone else. The leaps can be mysterious, and sometimes they remain mysterious. May I borrow your book?

It's your book. "Primeval Islands" is the poem I was looking for. There are a couple of poems where I felt I was being addressed, where something was talking and I was taking it down.

Like automatic writing? Yeah sorta. Okay, the poem says, "I, Walt Whitman." I'm not Walt Whitman, but there it was. And then the next line, "with Texas in my mouth." He's someone who could have had a senator from Texas in his mouth and he also had something as expansive as Texas in his mouth. He had Leaves of Grass in his mouth. And then it moves to, "Dismiss this fantasy"—in other words, "Don't be speculating about my sex life," as people so often do with Whitman. It has nothing to do with my experience, but that is where the line led, to Whitman at midnight, cruising in Washington D.C. Telling me what he was doing, then telling me not to stare.

And then to Robinson Crusoe. Robinson Crusoe on Mars—which is actually the title of a B movie. I was kind of obsessed with that story, which is problematic in so many ways. But I think it has something to do with the poet's experience. You're part of the world but also a stranger to it. Whitman was, in a way, stranded in his vision, walking around the capital as George Oppen later walked Manhattan, writing a poem in which Whitman appears, on the island that had been his city too, and we're





back to Crusoe. We're shipwrecked.

The space the artist occupies. Yes, though we experience the wreckage differently. "I'm walking through this wall of air to comfort my senate," says the Whitman in the poem. Percy Shelley said poets were unacknowledged legislators, and wasn't that Whitman? Legislating something about the American language, the American sound

Emily Dickinson, another unacknowledged legislator. That is where poetry, to me, at its best, is like a sacred text. Every time I read Dickinson I understand something new. Lately I've been struck by how political her poems are. She was writing during the civil war, and you can hear how much she is thinking about the violence of the imagination and the violence around her, including the violence of the slave trade—which was also a violence of the imagination.

It makes me think of the grackles in New York. They'd sing like the ambulance sirens and the car alarms. Poetry has as much to do with listening as it does with writing, maybe more. The sound of our physical environment, our political environment affects our language. It shows us our limitations. Those grackles are telling us something by mimicking.

But art is more than mimicry. Of course! If all we are doing is representing what we see around us, the view is limited. Recognizing that we don't know what's ahead leads us to more interesting places. A poem is an intervention into human consciousness. How can we think better, how can we do better?

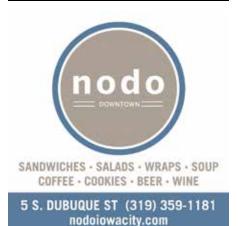
Love better. Love better! Perceive better. What can we learn from the world, learn from other forms of life, that can help us surpass the idiocy of our species?

Some of the *Turneresque* poems feel like an encounter with not knowing. That's true. In the poem "September 9," I was taking a walk and this incredible sky appeared. It was like being interrupted by a Turner painting. I'm thinking, "This is Turneresque." And it goes from there. It collided with me as if it were an oncoming car. It was announcing itself. Iv

Tim Taranto is a fiction writer and managing editor of Little Village.







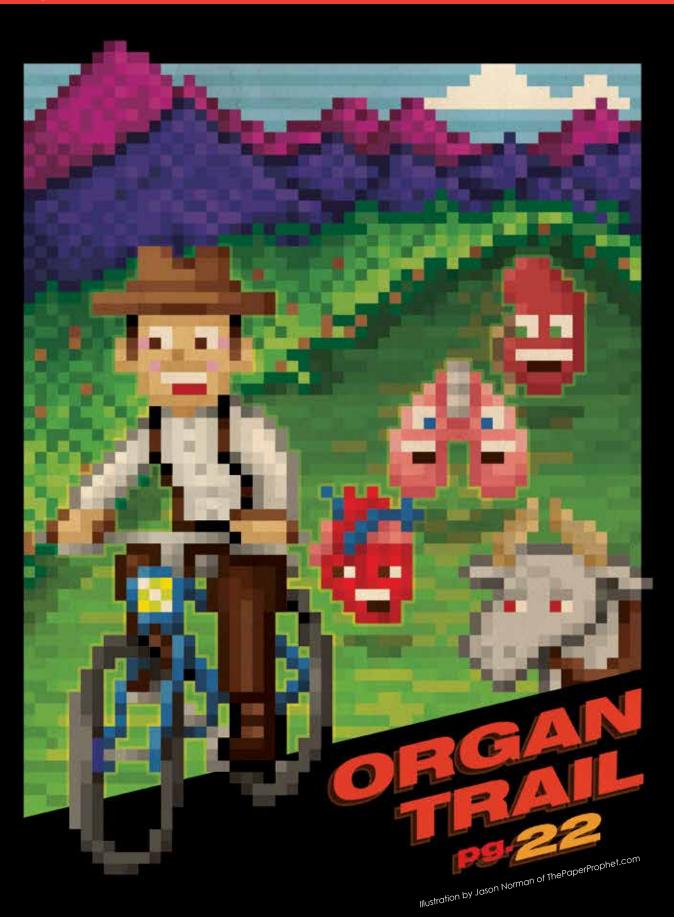












RIDING THE ORGAN TRAIL

A family faces tragedy by building a tradition of hope and giving. **BY LUKE BENSON**

n Saturday, May 14, beginning at 10 a.m. in North Liberty, Pedal for Life will host its second annual Organ Trail bike ride. Registration is \$40. The event will have all the standard trappings of a cycling event: scenic routes, comfort stations with water, trail mix and fruit. At home base, there will be live music from Iowa City band Extra Credit Project, barbecue and a beer tent from Cedar Rapids' soonto-open Iowa Brewing Company. But what sets this ride apart from others is the reason it's being hosted.

The Organ Trail is one of several annual cycling events hosted by Pedal for Life with the express purpose of raising awareness for organ donation. Pedal for Life was founded in 2014 by Dave Full, owner of Planet X in Cedar Rapids and a cycling enthusiast. The reason it was founded, though, goes back to Feb. 24, 2013. On that day, Full and his wife Jan received a phone call from their niece and nephew, Tiffany and Bruce Brockway: Their son Garrett was being airlifted from Burlington to Iowa City—would they please be at the hospital for his arrival?

"Cycling is just like being an organ donor. There aren't any prerequisites; all it takes is an open attitude and a willingness to say yes."

—Bruce Brockway

"Dave and Jan were the first people we thought of," says Bruce Brockway. "We weren't thinking very clearly at the time, but we knew we wanted family there."

The couple immediately drove to the hospital and were by Tiffany and Bruce's side when they heard the news that Garrett would not survive his injuries. Despite being wracked with grief, the couple say they didn't think twice when asked if they were willing to donate his organs, corneas and tissues.

"Obviously we'd never discussed this sort of thing with Garrett—it's just not a conversation you have with a ten year old—but there was no doubt in our hearts that it was what he would have wanted," Brockway says. "Organ donation fit his spirit and personality. He was the kind of kid that always made sure that other people

were involved, and if people were being picked on, he would stand up for them. That's just the kind of kid he was. So organ donation fit him to a T."

"I'd never given organ donation much thought before seeing my niece and nephew go through this," says Full. "But seeing the impact of Garrett's donation—how one little 10 year old boy saved the lives of five people, and with his cornea and tissue donation, impacted the lives of 125 people in 33 different states and Canada—seeing how he lived on in that way made me want to help other people understand what an impact they can have."

"So in 2014," he continues, "me and four of my friends decided we'd ride our bikes from Washington D.C. to Iowa City to help raise awareness for this cause. And the average age between us was old and older! But

we did it—us old farts rode 1,000 miles in 10 days. And last year we road from Kinnick Stadium to New Orleans in 12 days and ended up [there] just in time for the Donate Life Conference. And that year, Bruce rode with us."

"I went because I wanted to educate people misinformed about organ donation," adds Brockway. "In my experience, there



A-LIST

ORGAN TRAIL

STARTING POINT: 390 HERKY ST., NORTH LIBERTY

Sat., May 14 at 10 a.m., \$40

Illustration by Jason Norman of ThePaperProphet.com

are two types of people who are not organ donors. The first simply want nothing to do with it, and with those people, I don't push. But the second have false impressions, and almost always about the same two things. The first: 'It goes against my religion.' Well it does not. Organ donation is an act of charity, and there is no world religion that is against acts of charity. The second myth is that doctors won't try as hard to save your life. I'll tell you—as parents who saw their son in the most difficult of circumstances, those doctors did everything in their power to save our son."

"There's a third type," adds Full. "When we were in Memphis, the director of the children's hospital was not a registered donor! And it wasn't for any specific reason. She'd just let it get away from her, which happens more than you would believe. But she registered right there on the spot—and that's why we host these events."

Pitching a scenic bike ride that comes with beer, food and music on a Saturday morning is an easy sell to cycling enthusiasts—the fact that it's for a worthy cause is just icing on the cake. But what about the kind of person whose favorite weekend activity is a post-brunch nap?

Brockway chuckles at my concern and replies, "I get that. Last year when I decided to ride with Uncle Dave I had plenty of hesitation. I wasn't a cyclist—I didn't even own a bike. But I started small—first 5 miles, then 10—and by [the] next year I'd dropped 39 pounds and ended up pedaling 3900 miles. Trust me: If I can do that, you can do 10 miles. Cycling is just like being an organ donor. There aren't any prerequisites; all it takes is an open attitude and a willingness to say yes." Iv

Luke Benson hasn't been on a bike ride for over a decade. If he can do this, you can do this.

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Russian Guitar Festival, various venues and costs, May 5-8 Celebrating it's 10th anniversary this year, IARGUS—the International Annual Russian Guitar Seminar—will once again be bringing some of the world's foremost performers to lowa City and the surrounding communities in a series of concerts. Events kick off on Thursday, May 5 with a concert at the UI Hillel House, and close on Sunday, May 8 with the Concluding Gala Concert at The Englert Theatre. The opening event, "Jewish Music of All Kinds," features renowned klezmorim Kurt and Annette Bjorling and others. In addition to Cedar Rapids and lowa City, there will be a

RUSSIAN GUITAR FESTIVAL Various venues Thu., May 5 - Sun., May 8 Photo via Legion Arts

matinee concert on Saturday, May 7 at 2 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Dubuque.



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WED., MAY. 4

/EDUCATION: Weber Days: Realizing Stephen Smith: His Conscience and Conflict, Iowa City Public Library, Free. 12 p.m.

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: 'Steeple People,' Old Creamery Theatre, \$30, 2 p.m.

Funniest Person In Iowa, Penguin's Comedy Club, Free, 7:30 p.m.

/SPORTS-N-REC: Low Cost Yoga, Public Space One, \$2, 5 p.m.

/FOODIE: IPR Battle of the Chefs, NewBo City Market, \$30, 5:30 p.m.

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: The Art of Pencil Drawing Class, Artisan's Sanctuary, \$80, 6 p.m.

/COMMUNITY: Discover Volunteering at the Nature Center, Indian Creek Nature Center, Free, 6:30 p.m. /MUSIC: Chris Pureka, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, \$15-

Goosetown, Gabe's, Free, 9 p.m.

/LITERATURE: Spoken Word Night: Poetry And More, Uptown Bill's, Free, 7 p.m.

Carl Skoggard, Translator of The Sonnets of Walter Benjamin, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 p.m. /CINEMA: Late Shift At The Grindhouse: 'Mommy,' FilmScene, \$4, 10 p.m.

THU., MAY 5

/FAMILY: Doodlebugs at CRMA - Tangled Expressions, Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, Free, 10:30 a.m.

Paiama Storvtime at CRMA - Hot Off the Press. Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, Free, 7 p.m.

/MUSIC: Steve and Michaela McLain, Cafe Paradiso, Free, 6 p.m.

UI Jazz Performances w/ Jazz Dance, Jazz Repertory Ensemble, Latin Jazz Ensemble, Johnson County Landmark, The Mill, \$3-5, 6:30 p.m.

Russian Guitar Festival: Opening Concert - "Jewish Music of All Kinds," UI Hillel House, \$10-12, 7 p.m.

Dancepocolypse ft. Olivia Outrage, Blue Moose Tap House, \$15-20, 8 p.m.

My Unknown Brother w/ The Native, Jack The Coax, Gabe's, Free, 9 p.m.

Sidewalk Chalk w/ Soap, Iowa City Yacht Club, \$8,

The Cult Of Lip w/ Alex Body, The Mill, \$5, 10 p.m.

/CRAFTY: Gems of Hope Workshop, Beadology Iowa, Free, 6 p.m.

/CINEMA: Movies Under the Dome: 'Better This World', Old Capitol Museum, Free, 6:30 p.m.

/EDUCATION: Mary Beth Tinker Lecture, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 6:30 p.m.

Kathy Kelly and Ann Wright: 'War and Refugees: Peace is Possible,' Van Allen Hall, Free, 7 p.m.

/LITERATURE: Tony Tulathimutte, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 p.m.*

/SPORTS-N-REC: Cedar Lake Walk, Indian Creek Nature Center, Free, 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY: FlyOver Fashion Fest: Form and Function— Stephanie Knutson Fashion Photography Exhibit, FilmScene, Free, 7:30 p.m.

FRI., MAY 6

/CRAFTY: String Art: Love You More, Home Ec. Workshop, \$40, 6 p.m.

/FAMILY: Read on the Rug, Museum of Natural History at UI, Free, 10 a.m.

/FASHION: FlyOver Fashion Fest: Fashion & Technology Panel, Neumann Monson, 15, 4:30 p.m.

FlyOver Fashion Fest: Opening Reception, *MidWest One Bank, Free,* 4:30 p.m.

FlyOver Fashion Fest: Matthew Christopher Fashion Show featuring MAIDS, Downtown Iowa City, Free, 7 p.m.

FlyOver Fashion Fest: lowa's Top Designer Showcase, HotelVetro, \$25, 9 p.m.

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: 35th Anniversary Senior Center Member Art Show, Iowa City Senior Center, Free, 4 p.m.

Tiona McClodden: Gallery Opening, *Public Space One, Free,* 6 p.m.

/MUSIC: Rock the Block: Brass Transit Authority, NewBo City Market, Free, 5:30 p.m.

Russian Guitar Festival: Two Centuries of the Russian Guitar, Congregational Church, \$10–12, 7 p.m.

Ballroom & Latin Dancing Lesson and Social, Old Brick, \$4-8, 7:30 p.m.

Orchestra Iowa Presents: Missa Solemnis, Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$19-49, 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer Hall, Cafe Paradiso, Free, 8 p.m.

Fire Sale w/ Jive Coulis and Almost Heroes, *lowa City Yacht Club*, \$6, 10 p.m.

FlyOver Fashion Fest Presents: Le Youth, The Mill, \$15, 10:30~p.m.

/EDUCATION: Night at the Museum: Diggin' Up Dinos, Museum of Natural History at UI, Free, 6 p.m.

/SPORTS-N-REC: CRMA: A Hike with Grant Wood 2016, Sac and Fox Trail City Park, \$5-8, 6:30 p.m.

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: RHCR Theatre Presents:

'A Few Good Men,' Artisan's Sanctuary, \$18, 7 p.m. Uncle Larry Reeb, Penguin's Comedy Club, \$12-15, 7:30 p.m.

'Steeple People,' Old Creamery Theatre, \$30, 7:30 p.m.

City Circle Presents: '1776,' Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, \$12-27, 7:30 p.m.

'The Diary Of Anne Frank,' Giving Tree Theater, \$16-26, 8 p.m.

Paperback Rhino, Public Space One, Free, 9:30 p.m.

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LUNCH SPECIAL: Single Topping Metro Slice + Soda for \$5

EDITORS' PICKS



Benz Beer Festival, Benz Beverage Depot, \$25-40, Sat., May 7 at 1 p.m. For the twelfth year in a row, beer enthusiasts from across eastern lowa will gather at Benz, a store renowned throughout the area for its broad selection of beers, for an afternoon of sampling and camraderie. The festival this year includes 70 breweries and distributers, dispensing more than 300 different beers. There will also be food available for purchase. \$40 VIP tickets get you in at 1 p.m.; general ticket holders start the afternoon at 2 p.m. The event benefits the American Heart Association. Cedar Rapids band The Strays will perform.

/LITERATURE: Alexander Chee, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 p.m.

SAT., MAY 7

/FASHION: FlyOver Fashion Fest: Panel: Entrepreneurial Essentials: Make Your Great Idea a Business Reality, Raygun, Free, 9:30 a.m.

FlyOver Fashion Fest: Outdoor Fashion Market, Black Hawk Mini-Park, Free, 10 a.m.

FlyOver Fashion Fest: Future of Retail, Revival, Free.

FlyOver Fashion Fest: Emerging Brands Fashion Show, Downtown Iowa City, \$15, 2:30 p.m.

FlyOver Fashion Fest: Politics of Personal Style, Beadology, Free, 4 p.m.

FlyOver Fashion Fest: Broadcast Your Brand, Neumann Monson, Free, 4 p.m.

FlyOver Fashion Fest: Iowa Retail & Streetstyle Showcase, Blackhawk Mini Park, Free, 6 p.m.

/COMMUNITY: Free Mansion Tours for Preservation Month, Brucemore, Free, 10 a.m.

/CRAFTY: Mala Bracelet and a Guided Practice, Beadology Iowa, \$48, 10 a.m.

Letterpress: Image/Type/Color/Texture, Public Space One, \$92, 1 p.m.

/FOODIE: Families Helping Families Silent Auction and Tasting, NewBo City Market, Free, 11 a.m.

Benz Beer Festival, Benz Beverage Depot, \$25-40, 1

FlyOver Fashion Fest: FlyOver Keynote Luncheon, The Englert, \$20, 12:30 p.m.

FlyOver Fashion Fest: 'The Truth Will Dessert You' Jason Smith & Deluxe Bakery Debut, \$5, 2:15 p.m.

Break into Wine 2016: Rosé Edition, Bread Garden Market, \$10, 4:30 p.m.

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: 'Wild Kratts Live!,' Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$29.75 - \$99.75, 1 & 4.30 n m

RHCR Theatre Presents: 'A Few Good Men,' Artisan's Sanctuary, \$18, 2 p.m.& 7 p.m.

RHCR Theatre Presents: 'Disney's Aladdin Jr.' Dance Audition Clinic, Prestige Dance Studio, \$15, 2 & 5

The Gordy & Debbie Show, Ohnward Fine Arts Center, \$13-25, 7 p.m.

'Steeple People,' Old Creamery Theatre, \$30, 7:30 p.m.

Uncle Larry Reeb, Penguin's Comedy Club, \$12-15, 7:30 p.m. \$12-15

City Circle Presents: '1776,' Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, \$12-27, 7:30 p.m.

'The Diary Of Anne Frank,' Giving Tree Theater, \$16-26, 8 p.m.

/EDUCATION: Superheroes of History Day, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Free, 1 p.m.

/MUSIC: Performance: Orchestra Iowa School Advanced Harp Ensemble, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Free, 2:30 p.m.

FlyOver Fashion Fest: DJ Smooth Grooves, Tailgate, Free, 3:30 p.m.

FlyOver Fashion Fest: Christopher The Conquered, White Rabbit, Free, 5 p.m.

Miles Nielsen and The Rusted Hearts w/ Amasa Hines, Way Down Wanderers, Codfish Hollow Barn, \$20-30, 7 p.m.

FlyOver Fashion Fest: Mansion On The Moon, Downtown Iowa City, Free, 7:30 p.m.

Russian Guitar Festival: Gala Concert, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, \$10-12, 8 p.m.

Brass Transit Authority, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 8 p.m.

FlyOver Fashion Fest: Jerreau Performance, The Mill, Free, 9 p.m.

Dead Larry w/ Uniphonics, Iowa City Yacht Club, \$10. 10 p.m.

Flannel Season w/ Zuul, Knubby, Gabe's, \$6, 10 p.m. FlyOver Fashion Fest Presents: Neon Indian w/ Caleb Condit, The Mill, \$15, 10:30 p.m.

/LITERATURE: Jennifer Black Reinhardt, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 3 p.m.

SUN., MAY 8

/CRAFTY: Letterpress: Image/Type/Color/Texture, Public Space One, \$92, 1 p.m.

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Free Mansion Tours for Preservation Month, Brucemore, Free, 1 p.m.

/MUSIC: Live Music with Drew Hurn, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Free, 1 p.m.

Cimarron, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, \$17-21, 7 p.m. Russian Guitar Festival: Grand Concluding Gala Concert, The Englert Theatre, \$15-20, 7 p.m.

Haunted Summer w/ Rugged Little Thing, Gabe's, \$6, 9 p.m. /THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: 'The Diary Of Anne

Frank,' Giving Tree Theater, \$16-26, 2 p.m. City Circle Presents: '1776,' Coralville Center for the

Performing Arts, \$12-27, 2 p.m.

'Steeple People,' Old Creamery Theatre, \$30, 2 p.m. This Is Only A Test Comedy Showcase, The Mill, Free, 7:30 p.m.

MON., MAY 9

/EDUCATION: Home School Program - Native Pollinators, Indian Creek Nature Center, \$5, 10 a.m.

/CRAFTY: Sewing: Fen Dress or Top part I, Home Ec. Workshop, \$65, 6 p.m.





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WORK BY JEREMY CHEN, MARY COATS, ANDREW KAUFMAN, MATTHEW KLUBER, EVAN MCLAUGHLIN, ANDREW ORLOSKI, LEE EMMA RUNNING, AND JILL DAVIS SCHRIFT. Image: Andrew Kaufman, Untitled (Shatter Series), 2016, paint on canvas, 72 x 105 in. Courtesy of the artist.

BAX: BACHELOR OF ARTS EXHIBITION APRIL 8 - MAY 1, 2016 ALL HANDS ON DECK MAY 13 - JUNE 19, 2016

For a full listing of events and programs, visit grinnell.edu/faulconergallery or call 641.269.4660

AREA EVENTS



Immortal: Warhol's Last Works, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, opens May 14, Free-\$15

This show, on loan from private collectors Wesley and Missy Cochran through Oct. 2, is made up primarily of work from two of Warhol's last collections: 'Myths' (1981) and 'Cowboys and Indians' (1986).

/LITERATURE: Writers Gone Public, *Prairie Lights Books* & *Cafe, Free, 6:30 p.m.*

TUE., MAY 10

/MUSIC: Duane Mark w/ Jon Emery, Gabe's, Free, 9 p.m. /LITERATURE: David O. Dowling, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 p.m.

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: Chonda Pierce: Focus on the Funny Tour, Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$34-39, 7:30 p.m.

WED., MAY 11

/LITERATURE: Community Bookmakers Project, *Public Space One, Free, 9 a.m.*

/CRAFTY: Bobbin Lace Making Demonstration, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Free, 11 a.m. Soldering and Bezeling, Beadology Iowa, \$100, 5:30 p.m.

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: The Art of Pencil Drawing Class, Artisan's Sanctuary, \$80, 6 p.m.

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: 'Steeple People,' Old Creamery Theatre, \$30, 2 p.m.

/MUSIC: Whitechapel w/ The Plot in You, Fit For A King, Enterprise Earth, ROYAL'Z, Doppelganger, Gabe's, \$20-25, 5 p.m.

Harry Connick, Jr., Adler Theatre, \$45-85, 7:30 p.m. /COMMUNITY: Garden Party, Indian Creek Nature Center, Free, 5:30 p.m.

/LITERATURE: December Magazine Release Event,
Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 p.m.

THU., MAY 12

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: 'Steeple People,' Old Creamery Theatre, \$30, 2 p.m.

/SPORTS-N-REC: Yoga By The Glass, Cedar Ridge Distillery, \$25, 6 p.m.

/CRAFTY: Sew Good! Sew Fun!, Public Space One, Free, 5:30 p.m.

Free Soft Glass Tutorials, Beadology Iowa, Free, 5:30 p.m.

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Art Through Alz, Old Brick, \$5, 5:30 p.m.

Iowa City Press Co-Op: Critique Night, Public Space One, Free, 6 p.m.

/MUSIC: Iowa Women's Archive Fundraiser w/ Tom Mason & HomeBrewed, The Mill, \$5-10, 6:30 p.m.



Tom Hamilton's American Babies, Gabe's, \$10, 10 p.m.

FRI., MAY 13

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Gallery Retrospective, The Chait Galleries Downtown, Free, 5 p.m.

Allen TenBusschen Exhibit Reception, *Public Space One, Free, 6 p.m.*

ALITERATURE: Magid Center Certificate In Writing Capstone Reading, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 5 p.m.

MUSIC: Rock the Block: Slewgrass, NewBo City Market, Free, 5:30 p.m.

Friday Night Live Music with The Flaming Camaros, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Free, 6 p.m.

Orchestra Iowa: Tricksters & Troubadors, Opus Concert Cafe, \$19-49, 7:30 p.m.

Chris DuPont and Frances Luke Accord, Cafe Paradiso, Free. 8 p.m.

Scarlet Runner, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 8 p.m.

Jack Lion w/ Cubits, Subatlantic, The Mill, \$8, 9 p.m. /EDUCATION: Night at the Museum: Diggin' Up Dinos, Museum of Natural History at UI, Free, 6 p.m. **Ancient Roman Curses,** Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, \$5, 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY: Backyard Chickens Workshop, Indian Creek Nature Center, \$10-12, 6:30 p.m.

/LITERATURE: Carol Steingreaber Reading, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, Free, 7 p.m.

THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: 'This Is My Brave,'
Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, \$20-25, 7 p.m.
'Steeple People,' Old Creamery Theatre, \$30, 7:30 p.m.
Brian Hicks, Penguin's Comedy Club, \$12-15, 7:30 p.m.
'Disney's The Little Mermaid,' Theatre Cedar Rapids,
\$24-39, 7:30 p.m.

'The Diary Of Anne Frank,' Giving Tree Theater, \$16-26, 8 p.m.

Naomi Smalls of RPDR, Studio 13, \$5, 10:30 p.m.

SAT., MAY 14

/EDUCATION: Girl Scout Junior Workshop, Iowa Children's Museum, \$14, 9:30 a.m.

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Opening Day: 'Immortal: Warhol's Last Works' Exhibit, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Free-\$15, 9:30 a.m.

Ladies of the Club: Female Portraits from the Collection, Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, Free, 12 p.m. Wonderful Warhol Family Art Workshop: #Selfie Portraits, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Free, 1 p.m.

/CRAFTY: Bojangles Bracelet, Beadology Iowa, \$98, 10 a.m.

Carnival Float Workshop, Iowa Children's Museum, Free, 11 a.m.

Natalie D'Or Czech Jewelry Trunk Show, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Free, 11 a.m.

One-on-One Bead Crochet Tutorials, Beadology Iowa, \$38.4 p.m.

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: Brian Hicks, Penguin's Comedy Club, \$12-15, 7:30 p.m.

'Steeple People,' Old Creamery Theatre, \$30, 7:30 p.m.

'Disney's The Little Mermaid,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$24-39, 7:30 p.m.

'The Diary Of Anne Frank,' Giving Tree Theater, \$16-26, 8 p.m.

/MUSIC: State Champs, Gabe's, \$17-20, 6 p.m.

Orchestra Iowa: Tricksters & Troubadors, Opus Concert Cafe, \$19-49, 7:30 p.m.

Pieta Brown, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, \$17-21, 8 p.m. Blue Oyster Cult with April Wine, Riverside Casino and Golf Resort, \$29-54, 8 p.m.





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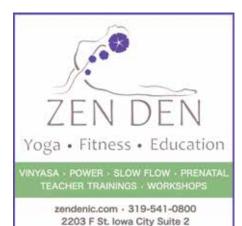




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EDITORS' PICKS



'This Is My Brave,' Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, \$20-25, Fri., May 13 at 7 p.m. This year marks the second annual lowa City This Is My Brave presentation. The event is a collection of stories, poems, songs and essays written and performed by people living with or affected by mental illness. Events are held all across the U.S. in conjunction with This Is My Brave, Inc., a nonprofit based in Virginia that believes in the power of storytelling to bring communities together. Writers and performers from across eastern lowa will be sharing their personal stories at this show.

Tommy Emmanuel, The Englert Theatre, \$39.50, 8 p.m. **Zeta June,** Gabe's, \$8, 10 p.m.

/LITERATURE: Iowa City Electric Writers' Open Mic, The High Ground Cafe, Free, 7 p.m.

SUN., MAY 15

/MUSIC: Live Music with Kiley & Brook Peterson, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Free, 1 p.m.

Orchestra lowa: Tricksters & Troubadors, Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, \$19-49, 2:30 p.m.

Parker Millsap w/ The Grahams, The Mill, \$12-15, 7 p.m.

The Beach Boys, Des Moines Civic Center, \$50-125, 7:30 p.m.

/EDUCATION: Nature Play: The Power of Wind, Iowa Children's Museum, Free, 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Scott Talks Dinosaurs!, The Englert Theatre, \$25, 1:30 p.m.

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: 'Steeple People,' Old Creamery Theatre, \$30, 2 p.m.

'The Diary Of Anne Frank,' Giving Tree Theater, \$16-26, 2 p.m.

'Disney's The Little Mermaid,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$24-39, 2:30 p.m.

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Artifactory's Life Drawing Drop-In, Beadology Iowa, \$8, 5 p.m.

MON., MAY 16

/MUSIC: Sex Knuckle w/ Divinion, High Five Sinners, Gabe's, Free, 9 p.m.

TUE., MAY 17

MUSIC: Heart, iWireless Center, \$25-69.50, 7 p.m. Edward Sharpe and The Magnetic Zeros, Codfish Hollow Barn, Free, 7 p.m.

Disturbed w/ Rob Zombie and Pop Evil, US Cellular Center, \$49.95-69.99, 7 p.m.



MONDAYS

Open Mic, The Mill, Free, 8 p.m. Honeycombs of Comedy, Yacht Club, \$3, 10 p.m.

TUESDAYS

lowa City Farmers Market, Mercer Park, 3-6 p.m. Acoustic Music Club, River Music Experience, Free, 4:30 p.m. Tuesday Evening Jazz, Motley Cow Cafe, Free, 5:30 p.m. Tom's Guitar Show, Uptown Bill's, Free, 6 p.m. (last Tuesday) Karaoke Tuesdays, The Mill, Free, 10 p.m. Blues Jam, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 7 p.m. Underground Open Mic, The Yacht Club, Free, 8 p.m. Weekly Old-Timey Jam Session, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Free, 8:30 p.m. Comedy & Open Mic Night, Studio 13, Free, 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

Iowa City Farmers Market, Chauncey Swan Ramp, 5-7 p.m. Music is the Word: Music on Wednesdays, lowa City Public Library, Free, 12 p.m. Low Cost Yoga, Public Space One, \$2, 5 p.m. Honest Open Mic, Lincoln Wine Bar, 6 p.m. Burlington Street Bluegrass Band, The Mill, \$5, 6 p.m. (2nd & 4th Wednesdays) Open Mic Night, Penguins Comedy Club, Free, 6:30 p.m. Spoken Word, Uptown Bill's, Free, 7 p.m. (1st Wednesday) Open Mic, Cafe Paradiso, Free, 8 p.m. Karaoke Wednesdays, Mondo's Saloon, Free, 10 p.m. Open Stage, Studio 13, 10 p.m. Open Jam and Mug Night, Yacht Club, Free, 10 p.m. Late Shift at the Grindhouse, FilmScene, \$4, 10 p.m. Talk Art, The Mill, Free, 10:30 p.m. (2nd & 4th Wednesdays)

THURSDAYS

I.C. Press Co-op open shop, Public Space One, Free, 4 p.m. Thursday Night Lineup: Nooks and Crannies Tour, Brucemore Mansion, \$10-15, 5:30 p.m. Thursday Night Lineup: Hired Help Tour. Brucemore Mansion. \$10-15, 5:30 p.m. Novel Conversations, Coralville Public Library, Free, 7 p.m. (3rd Thursday) Thursday Night Live Open Mic, Uptown Bill's, Free, 7 p.m. Daddy-O, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 7 p.m. Live Jazz, Clinton Street Social Club, Free, 8 p.m. Karaoke Thursday, Studio 13, Free, 8 p.m. New Tribe, The Bar'ber Shop Tavern, Free, 8 p.m. Gemini Karaoke, Blue Moose, Free, 9 p.m.

FRIDAYS

Music is the Word: Music on Fridays, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 12 p.m. Friday Night Out, Ceramics Center, 6:30 p.m. FAC Dance Party, The Union Bar, 7 p.m. Sasha Belle presents: Friday Drag & Dance Party, Studio 13, 8 p.m. SoulShake, Gabe's, Free, 10 p.m.

SATURDAYS

Iowa City Farmers Market, Chauncey Swan Ramp, 7:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Family Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10:30 a.m. I.C. Press Co-op open shop, Public Space One, Free, 12 p.m. Saturday Night Music, Uptown Bill's, Free, 7 p.m. Elation Dance Party, Studio 13, 9 p.m.

SUNDAYS

Live Music, Sutliff Cider Company, 3 p.m. Drag U, Studio 13, 8 p.m. Pub Quiz, The Mill, \$1, 9 p.m

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: 'A Few Good Men,' Artisan's Sanctuary, \$18, (open May 5-7), '1776,' Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, \$12-27, (through May 8), 'Steeple People,' Old Creamery Theatre, \$30, (through May 22), 'The Diary of Anne Frank,' \$16-26, Giving Tree Theater, (opens May 6), 'Disney's The Little Mermaid,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$24-39, (opens May 13)

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Tiona McClodden: Gallery Opening, Public Space One, (through May 6), Free Mansion Tours for Preservation Month, Brucemore Mansion, (May 7-8), Grant Wood and Marvin Cone: Barns, Farms, and America's Heartland, Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, (through May 15), Allen TenBusschen, Public Space One, (opens May 14), Mikel Rouse, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, (through May 29), Jen P. Harris': 'Ghost Prairie,' Legion Arts CSPS Hall, (through Jul. 3), Tori Lawrence: 'Man and Woman with Plants,' Legion Arts CSPS Hall, (through Jul. 3), Katy Collier: 'Sampler,' Legion Arts CSPS Hall, (through Jul. 3)



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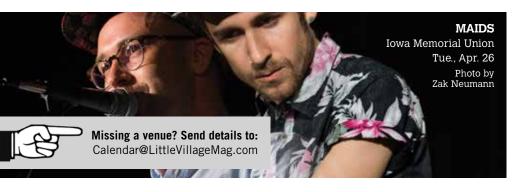
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- FLYOVER FASHION FEST PRESENTS: TRUE LOVE WILL DESSERT YOU 2:30 P.M. / \$5
- 73 NEON INDIAN 10:30 P.M. / \$15
- THIS IS ONLY A TEST COMEDY SHOWCASE 7:30 P.M. / FREE
- WRITERS' WORKSHOP PRESENTS: 113 TALK ART - 10:30 P.M. / FREE
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lowa Memorial Union 125 N Madison St, (319) 335-3041. imu.uiowa.edu

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

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

Prairie Lights Books & Cafe 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 riversidetheatre.org

Sycamore Cinema 1602 Sycamore St, (319) 358-6773, marcustheatres.com

Taag Studios and Art Expressions 1041 Arthur St, (319) 855-4755, taagstudios.org

Terry Trueblood Recreation Center 4213 Sand Rd SE, icgov.org

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

CEDAR RAPIDS/MARION

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

Brucemore Mansion 2160 Linden Dr SE, (319) 362-7375, brucemore.org

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

Cedar River Landing, 301 F Ave NW, Cedar Rapids, IA, (319) 364-1854, cedar-river-landning.com

Cocktails and Company, 1625 Blairs Ferry Rd, Marion, IA, (319) 377-1140, cocktails-company.com

Giving Tree Theatre, 752 10th St, Marion, IA, (319) 213-7956, givingtreetheater.com

Hawkeye Downs Speedway and Fairgrounds 4400 6th St SW, (319) 365-8656, hawkeyedownsspeedway.com Indian Creek Nature Center 6665 Otis Rd SE, (319) 362-2876, indiancreeknaturecenter.org

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

Newbo City Market 1100 3rd St SE, (319) 200-4050, newbocitymarket.com

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Coralville Public Library 1401 5th St, (319) 248-1850, coralvillepubliclibrary.org

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

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

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6262, oldcreamery.com MT. VERNON / LISBON

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THE INTERNET'S PROMISE FULFILLED (FOR MEN, ANYWAY)

Japan's Tenga toy company appears to be first on the market with a virtual reality bodysuit (for use with the Oculus Rift "Sexy Beach Premium Resort" 3-D game) containing a genital stimulator and the sensation of "groping" breasts—sending "impulses all over the wearer's body to make it feel like another human being is touching them," according to one reviewer (who expressed dismay that the bodysuit might put sex workers out of business). Said Tenga's CEO, "In the future, the virtual real will become more real than actual real sex." Because of societal pressures, women are expected to be a less-robust market for the device than men.

GROWN-UPS

- In March, one District of Columbia government administrative law judge was charged with misdemeanor assault on another. Judge Sharon Goodie said she wanted to give Judge Joan Davenport some files, but Davenport, in her office, would not answer the door. Goodie said once the door finally opened, an enraged Davenport allegedly "lunged" at her, "aiming" her thrust at Goodie's neck.
- Tennessee state Rep. Jeremy Durham has such a reputation as a "dog" around women working at the capitol that the house speaker issued a directive in April relocating Durham's office to a less-populated building across the street. Further, Durham is allowed access only to certain legislative meetings and to certain staff (i.e., no free-ranging among female staff members). After interviewing 34 people, the state attorney general said he believed that Rep. Durham's unwanted sexual approaches and commentaries were impeding legislative business.

AWESOME GOVERNMENTS!

- Chinese courts (according to figures reported by Amnesty International in March) dispense justice so skillfully that more than 99.9 percent of cases result in convictions (1,039 acquittals in 1.2 million cases last year).
- During its first 33 years (through 2012), the U.S. government's applications for secret search warrants to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court have been approved all but 11 times out of 33,900 cases. (FISC defenders say that is because all requests are finely honed by guidance from the judges,

but of course, both the Chinese and U.S. numbers, and reasoning, are, by designation, unverifiable.)

LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

- "Who's a Good Dog?"/ "Yes, You Are": Some are just blessed with doggy charisma, say owners who showcase their pet's charm on "personal" social media accounts, and now specialized marketers scour those sources to match the most popular pooches with advertisers seeking just the right fourlegged companion for their image. As The Wall Street Journal reported in April, entrepreneurial dog owners have rushed to create popular Instagram accounts and Facebook posts (and now, even to put their photogenic pups on a live-streaming app called Waggle) to catch agents' eyes (and, they hope, lead to four- and five-figure paydays from such advertisers as Nikon, PetSmart, Residence Inn and Heinz).
- New Jersey is a big state, but when just one man decided to move away, the state legislature's budget office director warned that the loss of that man's taxes might lead to state revenue problems. Billionaire hedge-fund manager David Tepper evidently pays a bundle, and the budget office director pointed out that the state's reliance on personal income taxes means that even a 1 percent drop in anticipated tax could create a gap of \$140 million under forecasts.

THE JOB OF THE RESEARCHER

Researchers already knew that masked birch caterpillars "rub hairs on their rear ends against a leaf to create vibrations," according to an April National Geographic report, but a forthcoming article by Carleton University biologists describes that "drumming" as actually part of their "sophisticated signaling repertoire" to attract others—not for mating but for assistance in spinning their protective silk cocoons. The researchers' "laser vibrometer" detects sound likely inaudible to humans, but when the caterpillars feed, it's clearly, said one researcher, "Chomp, chomp, chomp, anal scrape. Chomp, chomp, chomp, anal scrape."

Police Report

Micro-Crime: (1) According to surveillance video, a man broke into a Five Guys restaurant in Washington, D.C., in the middle of the night on March 18, cooked himself a cheeseburger and fled. (2) Ellis Battista, 24, was arrested for the February break-in at

Bradley's convenience store in Las Cruces, New Mexico, in which he took only a pack of cigarettes—for which he left \$6 on the counter. (However, he also damaged the door getting in.)

Undignified Deaths

- A 69-year-old man was killed on March 17 while awaiting emergency care at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, North Carolina. He had been seriously injured in an earlier accident and was in the waiting room when a 59-year-old driver's car crashed through the hospital doors and fatally struck him.
- A 55-year-old man was killed in Memphis, Tennessee, on March 23 when a 15-foot trailer came loose and crashed into him on a sidewalk. The deceased, who had a lengthy criminal record for sexual assault, might have avoided the trailer if he had not been distracted by watching pornography on his phone as he walked.

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

Amanda Schweickert, 28, was charged with a felony and three driving offenses in March in Springville, New York, when deputies noticed that her rear license plate was just a piece of cardboard painted to sort of resemble a New York plate (but more likely suggesting the work of an elementary school art class). (New York also requires a front plate, but Schweickert had not gotten around to that yet.)

You've Got Mail

Britain's annual Boring Conference (this year, July 5 at Conway Hall in London) brings together those who celebrate the mundane (previous topics include sneezing, toast, vending machine sounds, yellow lines, barcodes), and in anticipation, a BBC News commentator interviewed Peter Willis of the Letter Box Study Group, Willis, 68, was excited at having recently acquired access to a database of all 115,000 mailboxes served by U.K.'s Royal Mail and hopes, with the help of "splendid" mapping software, to visit and photograph each one, to examine the different styles. No doubt speaking for all members, Willis said the lay version of "boring" implies inactivity, but the obsessives in his study group (and in attendance at the Boring Conference) lead active lives, with a wide range of interests. (The conference, by the way, is sold out.) Iv

-Chuck Shepherd

musicistheword is the lowa City Public Library's nine-month musical celebration to welcome the **University** of lowa School of Music to downtown lowa City. Join us for free weekly programs focused on all things musical.



may events

- 4 7:00-8:00pm | Meeting Room A
 Weber Days Event History of the
 UI School of Music
 Special guest Katie Buehner, Head Librarian,
 Rita Benson Music Library.
- 5 10:30-11:00am | Meeting Room A
 Preschool Storytime Regina Orchestra
 Learn about the string family and participate in the
 instrument petting zoo!
- 11 12:00-1:00pm | Lobby Music on Wednesdays – Crystal City 7:00-8:00pm | First United Methodist Church Weber Days – First United Methodist Church Organ Concert
- 12 7:00-9:00pm | Meeting Room A

 Movie: Troubadour Blues

 A journey into the world of well-traveled singer-song-writers. (2011) 93 min.
- **15** 2:00-4:00pm | Meeting Room A **Sing-Along** *Aladdin*
- 21 6:30-8:30pm | Pedestrian Plaza (rain location ICPL Meeting Room A)

Music is the Word Celebrates with Catfish Keith

25 12:00-1:00pm | Lobby Music on Wednesdays – Weber Days Event: Old Post Office Brass Quintet



XOXODEARKIKIXOXO



ear Kiki,

I recently spent the night for the first time at the home of the person I've been seeing. In the morning, we were rudely awakened by their kids! We are both divorced with young kids ... So far we've only spent time out, and at my house when my kids are gone half the week. To make matters worse, their ex has been crashing at the house ... and was upstairs in the kitchen fixing breakfast! Kiki, I had no idea anybody would be around, and I totally freaked out. To me, it's a really big deal to bring anyone around my kids and this just seemed so casual ... My sweetheart acted like everything was fine ... I got out of there ASAP, and now I'm avoiding spending time with them. I really like this person and we have great chemistry, but I was so uncomfortable ... Am I being a prude, or a jerk, or something? ... Isn't there something wrong with this picture?

—Parent Trapped

Dear Trapped,

Whoa, Nellie! There are so many things going on here. First of all, you're right that dating while parenting young kids is no picnic. You're dating for the usual reasons, but maybe somewhere in there you're also vetting your partner to see how suitable they

Sometimes these utopian, post-picket-fence situations really do exist.

would be to merge into some kind of Brady Bunch with you and yours. It seems like you and your sweetie have wildly differing expectations that you didn't totally communicate about. If you like this person a lot, it's up to you to make your boundaries known and try to reach some middle ground with them about if, when and how the kids enter the picture.

Little ones aside, it sounds like you're really uncomfortable with the ex being around. Certainly, even the most libertine

among us would rather not meet an ex in the post-lovemaking, morning-after zone. But believe it or not, in these modern times, some folks manage to marry, have children and break up, while still getting along really well as friends. It's far from a majority, but

my point is, maybe everything is cool with this particular ex. Maybe the ex is on your side, and wants their co-parent/roommate/buddy to be happy and in love. People are capable of all kinds of emotional gymnastics and sometimes these utopian, post-picket-fence situations really do exist.

Do you trust your sweetheart? Do you trust their choices and their morals and ability to function in the world as a responsible mature

person? It sounds like this situation really did throw you for a loop, waving red flags that may point at one big giant red flag in the middle: the T-word. Dig deep on these questions. If this romance is to continue and get serious, you'll need to put on your big grown up communication hats and be willing to make some adjustments to keep things going smoothly between you.

Meanwhile, maybe you just keep having dates at your place for now, OK doll? *xoxo*, *Kiki* lu

Questions about love and sex in the city of Iowa City can be submitted to dearkiki@littlevillagemag.com, or annonymously at littlevillagemag.com/dearkiki. Questions may be edited for clarity and length, and may appear either in print or online at littlevillagemag.com.

ARE POLITICIANS DUMBER THAN THE REST OF US?

Most politicians seem dumb as doorknobs and the current lot even more than usual. But are they really? Have there been any serious studies comparing politicians' personality traits or intelligence to that of the common population? —Knut Borge, Oslo, Norway

urely no discussion of dumb politicians can be complete without reference to dearly departed George W., who left behind not just a tanked economy and one or two intractable military misadventures but volumes worth of great lines—you'll recall "Is our children learning?," etc. Bush also memorably described looking into Vladimir Putin's eyes and

getting, quite romantically,

"a sense of his soul."

I bring it up because we'd need to give a lot of lawmakers some very thorough eye exams to even begin to answer your question. Are politicians dumb? Who the hell knows? I suspect you'd find that results vary, as with most folks, but that what expresses itself in politicians as apparent dumbness might often reflect a certain kind of savvy. Sure, we had a good laugh when Oklahoma's Jim Inhofe brought a snowball onto the Senate floor last February as evidence that global warming is a hoax—but keep in mind that Inhofe is well funded by the fossil-fuel industry, and represents a constituency notable for climate-change skepticism. You think he's dumb? He's too busy counting campaign money to care.

It's important to consider not just politicians' public statements, which may be pure theater, but the whole "fruit salad of their life," as Ben Carson recently and so perfectly put it. And there's another knock on your theory, Knut—Carson seemed like a blathering idiot during the debates, but the guy was a brilliant neurosurgeon by every account. He's as good a demonstration as you'll find of the theory of multiple intelligences, originated by Harvard professor Howard Gardner: Carson would seem to have what Gardner calls visual-spatial and bodily-kinesthetic intelligences by the bushel, but far less of the verbal-linguistic kind. So:

• Intelligence is a hazy, multifaceted construct that can be tracked in any number of

ways.

- There's not exactly a surfeit of meaningful data on intelligence as regards politicians as a class.
- Let's not put too much stock in their public behavior, which can't be assumed to reflect their actual beliefs.

Of course it's still tempting to speculate. One guy who's succumbed is psychologist Dean Keith Simonton, who in a 2006 study endeavored to estimate IQs for all American presidents, up to and including W. For most presidents Simonton worked from personality assessments by their biographers; he anonymized the data and submitted it to a panel of independent judges, using various analytical tools to validate the results. Now, let's keep in mind that (a) to the extent IQ scoring is meaningful, it's mainly as a diagnostic of intellectual or emotional impairment, not a system for ranking healthy people's intelligence, and (b) the guy is essentially guessing what the presidents' IQs were anyway.

That said: Simonton found Bush to be "definitely intelligent"—with an estimated IQ around 125, or "in the upper range of college graduates in raw intellect"—but below average relative to other presidents. Compared to all 20th-century presidents (and I'll note I suggested as much in a 2001 column), "only Harding has a lower score." The rest were markedly above the national average, which hovers around 100; twenty-eight presidents were given a "genius"-level score, typically defined as anything north of 130.

What else could one use as a proxy for brain power? Educational attainment obviously doesn't equate to raw intelligence, but at the very least it seems like an OK thing for a politician to have some of. Modern American legislators do well by this standard: current members of Congress have pretty much all achieved bachelor's degrees—94

percent of representatives and 100 percent of senators, as compared to just about a third of the population at large. More than half of senators hold

law degrees, 82 members of the House have MAs, etc.

But does this even matter?

Scholars have historically assumed a link between political leaders' education and their effectiveness, but in a paper last year in the *Journal of Politics* researchers looked at the track records of 20th-century U.S. congresspeople and found that the ones with college degrees didn't have any more success—in terms of getting bills passed and holding onto their seats—than the ones without. "The idea that education is a marker of leader quality," the authors concluded, "is far from the empirical regularity it is made out to be."

You also asked about personality traits. Here I'll point you toward a 2012 piece in the *Atlantic* that described certain people marked by "lack of remorse and empathy, a sense of grandiosity, superficial charm, conning and manipulative behavior, and refusal to take responsibility for one's actions." Politicians, right? Well, the author was talking about psychopaths; one neuropsychologist quoted here identifies former British prime minister Tony Blair, for instance, as a perfectly "plausible psychopath." By this estimation, far from being an impediment to a career in politics, psychopathy could in fact optimize one for it. But then I guess we already knew that. Iv

-Cecil Adams



F L Y O V E R F A S H I O N



FESTIVAL PASSES @



TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your ability to accomplish magic is at a peak, and will continue to soar for at least two more weeks. And when I use that word "magic," I'm not referring to the hocus-pocus performed by illusionists like Criss Angel or Harry Houdini. I'm talking about real feats of transformation that will generate practical benefits in your day-to-day life. Now study the following definitions by writer Somerset Maugham, and have faith in your ability to embody them: "Magic is no more than the art of employing consciously invisible means to produce visible effects. Will, love, and imagination are magic powers that everyone possesses; and whoever knows how to develop them to their fullest extent is a magician."

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): According to author Vladimir Nabokov, the Russian word *toska* means "a dull ache of the soul, a longing with nothing to long for, a sick pining, a vague restlessness." Linguist Anna Wierzbicka says it conveys an emotion that blends melancholy, boredom, and yearning. Journalist Nick Ashdown suggests that for someone experiencing *toska*, the thing that's yearned for may be "intangible and impossible to actually obtain." How are doing with your own *toska*, Gemini? Is it conceivable that you could escape it --maybe even heal it? I think you can. I think you will. Before you do, though, I hope you'll take time to explore it further. *Toska* has more to teach you about the previously hidden meaning of your life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "Gandhi's autobiography is on my pillow," writes Cancerian poet Buddy Wakefield. "I put it there every morning after making my bed so I'll remember to read it before falling asleep. I've been reading it for 6 years. I'm on Chapter 2." What's the equivalent phenomenon in your world, my fellow Crab? What good deed or righteous activity have you been pursuing with glacial diligence? Is there a healthy change you've been thinking about forever, but not making much progress on? The mood and the sway of the coming days will bring you a good chance to expedite the process. In Wakefield's case, he could get up to Chapter 17.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In the 16th century, European explorers searched South America in quest of a mythical city of gold known as El Dorado. Tibetan Buddhist tradition speaks of Shambhala, a magical holy kingdom where only enlightened beings live. In the legends of ancient Greece, Hyperborea was a sunny paradise where the average human life span was a thousand years and happiness was normal. Now is an excellent time for you to fantasize about your own version of utopia, Leo. Why? First, your imagination is primed to expand. Second, dreaming big will be good for your mental and physical health. There's another reason, too: By envisioning the most beautiful world possible, you will mobilize your idealism and boost your ability to create the best life for yourself in the coming months.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Anytime you're going to grow, you're going to lose something," said psychologist James Hillman. "You're losing what you're hanging onto to keep safe. You're losing habits that you're comfortable with, you're losing familiarity." I nominate these thoughts to serve as your words of wisdom in the coming weeks, Virgo. From an astrological perspective, you are in a phase when luxuriant growth is possible. To harvest the fullness of the lush opportunities, you should be willing to shed outworn stuff that might interfere.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): On Cracked.com, Auntie Meme tells us that many commonly-held ideas about history are wrong. There were no such things as chastity belts in the Middle Ages, for example. Napoleon's soldiers didn't shoot off the nose of the Sphinx when they were stationed in Egypt. In regards to starving peasants, Marie Antoinette never derisively said, "Let them eat cake." And no Christians ever became meals for lions in ancient Rome's Colosseum. (More: tinyurl.com/

historicaljive.) In the spirit of Auntie Meme's exposé, and in alignment with the astrological omens, I invite you to uncover and correct at least three fabrications, fables and lies about your own past.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Poet Charles Wright marvels at the hummingbird, "who has to eat sixty times his own weight a day just to stay alive. Now that's a life on the edge." In the coming weeks, Scorpio, your modus operandi may have resemblances to the hummingbird's approach. I don't mean to suggest that you will be in a manic survival mode. Rather, I expect you'll feel called to nourish your soul with more intensity than usual. You'll need to continuously fill yourself up with experiences that inspire, teach and transform you.

SAGITARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Anybody can become angry," said Greek philosopher Aristotle. "That is easy; but to be angry with the right person, and to the right degree, and at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way, that is not within everybody's power and is not easy." I'm pleased to inform you, Sagittarius, that now is a time when you have an exceptional capacity for meeting Aristotle's high standards. In fact, I encourage you to honor and learn all you can from your finely-honed and well-expressed anger. Make it work wonders for you. Use it so constructively that no one can complain.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): To celebrate your arrival at the height of your sex appeal, I'm resurrecting the old-fashioned word "vavoom." Feel free to use it as your nickname. Pepper it into your conversations in place of terms like "awesome," "wow" or "yikes." Use a felt-tip marker to make a temporary VAVOOM tattoo on your beautiful body. Here are other enchanted words you should take charge of and make an intimate part of your daily presentation: verve, vim, vivid, vitality, vigor, voracious, vivacious, visceral, valor, victory and VIVA!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): When he was a boy, Mayan poet Humberto Ak'ab'al asked his mother, "What are those things that shine in the sky?" "Bees," she answered mischievously. "Every night since then," Humberto writes, "my eyes eat honey." In response to this lyrical play, the logical part of our brains might rise up and say, "What a load of nonsense!" But I will ask you to set aside the logical part of your brain for now, Aquarius. According to my understanding of the astrological omens, the coming days will be a time when you need a big dose of sweet fantasies, dreamy stories and maybe even beautiful nonsense. What are your equivalents of seeing bees making honey in the night sky's pinpoints of light?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "Sometimes, a seemingly insignificant detail reveals a whole world," says artist Pierre Cordier. "Like the messages hidden by spies in the dot of an i." These are precisely the minutiae that you should be extra alert for in the coming days, Pisces. Major revelations may emerge from what at first seems trivial. Generous insights could ignite in response to small acts of beauty and subtle shifts of tone. Do you want glimpses of the big picture and the long-range future? Then be reverent toward the fine points and modest specifics.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "Silence is not silence, but a limit of hearing," writes Jane Hirshfield in her poem "Everything Has Two Endings." This observation is apropos for you right now. There are potentially important messages you're not registering and catalytic influences you can't detect. But their apparent absence is due to a blank spot in your awareness, or maybe a willful ignorance left over from the old days. Now here's the good news: You are primed to expand your listening field. You have an enhanced ability to open certain doors of perception that have been closed. If you capitalize on this opportunity, silence will give way to revelation. IN —Rob Breszney



SUSPECT

Faux Empath

www.raccoo-oon.org/np

uspect (AKA Ryan Beck, Iowa City to Chicago transplant) is part of the ever-growing group of artists—many with recordings released on former Iowa Citian Shawn Reed's Night People label—who are seeking to find a new musical path based on techno music, but outside the club/dancefloor/rave world from which techno arose. As an old-school proper techno fan I'm fascinated by this idea; like Iowa City's Giant Question Mark, the inspiration comes not so much from Jeff Mills or Adam Beyer, but from the machines themselves.

On his most recent release, Faux Empath, Suspect uses the steady four beat rhythm as an anchor to explore sound and mood. Having that grid—as rectilinear and confining as Mondrian's black lines—gives Beck license to layer and combine melodic ideas in the form of lush filtered chords, echoing wood block hits and snatches of heavily processed vocal samples.

"Club Cop" in particular has a lovely ambient haze to it, anchored by a repeated single note synth pattern, which drifts and wavers slightly in pitch. That trick, borrowed from Boards of Canada, takes something monotonous and subtly adds tension.

"Net Prosthetic" starts out sounding more like horror movie sound design, with vague, hard to place noises fading in and out within cavernous reverberations. At the halfway point, a more conventional techno track gradually spins up, again using an unsteady pitch to destabilize the listener.

Beck included an artist's statement with the music, saying, "This album addresses the ideological complication that begins to arise as technology continues to function as a prosthetic for our consciousness."

Instrumental music, without the narrative binding of lyrics, can't really carry the freight of ideas like that, even if they informed its creation. This music may have been built with specific concepts in mind, but to a listener it is purely sensory. To me, it gives the

Ardent Studios (where many of the hot Stax Records came from) brought forth a well of R&B gold. Heavy on big piano, horns and choral harmonies and hooks galore, this album is working off of a musical template not often drawn from these days.

Even more striking is Christopher's ex-

pressive tenor which covers the vocal ground from gentle whisper to gospel belting—sometimes in the course of one song. He uses this range to both complement and ironically counterpoint the lyrics.

On his website

bio page Christopher lists his influences, and two of them stick out to me: Randy Newman and John Darnielle (of The Mountain Goats). I hear it in the self-deprecating humor; the smart turns of phrase show that even as early as Christopher the Conquered is in his career, he has the chops lyrically as well as musically—making *I'm Giving Up on Rock & Roll* a rich tapestry of music, vocals and lyrics, one that the listener can wrap themselves in, one that reveals itself in layers on each listen.

I found myself replaying "Be A Good Person" a few times in a row after I caught the musical quote of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." The song is a reflection of how "good" is defined internally and externally. He sings, "I'm going to be less like Saul and more like Paul," referring to Saul of Tarsus' conversion to become Paul the Apostle on the road to Damascus, in The New Testament. It's a strong image delivered in a small phrase: move from the darkness of hatred to the light of love. Not willing to leave what might appear to be overtly religious without some balance, he also sings: "I won't use the Lord's name in vain; I won't use it at all just to be safe."

If I'm Giving Up On Rock & Roll has a theme to it, it's one of a man taking a look at himself and his place in the world. A message so universal might, in less skilled hands, not speak to the listener where they are, nor be nearly so entertaining or compelling.

-Mike Roeder

It gives the sensation of ... a blurry, hallucinogenic nostalgia for a future that never happened.

sensation of walking through *Blade Runner*'s Los Angeles, or experiencing a blurry, hallucinogenic nostalgia for a future that never happened. But you can choose your own adventure with *Faux Empath*; it's a soundtrack for a movie that happens in your own mind.

—Kent Williams



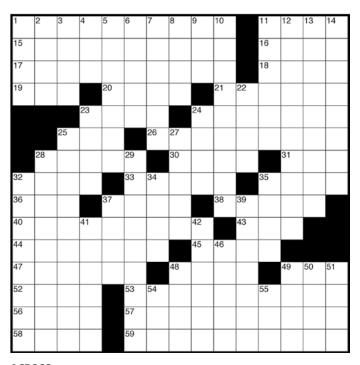
CHRISTOPHER THE CONQUERED

I'm Giving Up on Rock & Roll www.christophertheconquered.com

istening to Christopher the
Conquered's new album I'm
Giving Up On Rock & Roll, I can't
help but compare the epic, theatrical sound of the album to Springsteen's Born
to Run and Meat Loaf's Bat Out of Hell. The
pilgrimage that Christopher and producer
Patrick Tape Fleming (of Poison Control
Center) took to Memphis, to divine some
of the magic that comes from the legendary

SUBMIT ALBUMS FOR REVIEW

LITTLE VILLAGE
623 S DUBUQUE ST, IOWA CITY



ACROSS

- 1. "Could you be less relevant? Get out!"
- 11. Goo Goo Dolls hit with the specious claim that "I'd give up forever to touch you" (how???)
- 15. Kind of
- 16. Camp digs
- 17. Rapper apparently jilted by her fiancé, the Lakers' Nick Young
- 18. The Twilight __
- 19. Just put out there, maybe
- 20. Bear cry?
- 21. Many a mystic
- 23. Master in film, perhaps
- 24. Removing, as undesirables from a political party

- 25. 36-Across, when out of order
- 26 Barcelona's home
- 28. Brewer of Champale and Colt 45
- 30. Slick scheme
- 31. Motel offering
- 32. Common disadvantage of living above a restaurant
- 33. Like Old Norse
- 35. Lech
- 36. Heist target
- 37. Inglourious Basterds villain
- 38. Certain building blocks
- 40. Historically suspect regimen
- 43. Tool that "ain't loyal," in memes
- 44. Splits
- 45. Words in a football/frat/dudebro chant

- 47. Shoes in an old-school style, slangily
- 48. Since
- 49. Topic of a sad tale
- 52. A Visit from the Goon Squad scribe Jennifer
- 53. Practice that definitely wasn't required of dudes in '70s porn
- 56. Hip-hop star who shares a name with a corduroy ridge
- 57. Sexual delusion about a celebrity, perhaps
- 58. It tends to go downhill
- 59. Cycle length for a one-gigahertz processor

DOWN

- 1. Figs. targeted by Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" program
- 2. ____ pants (common attire in butt selfies)
- 3. Experimental
- 4. Mean Girls screenwriter and costar
- 5. They may get rid of characters
- 6. Sat by the pool sipping margs like a G, maybe
- 7. Biased type?
- 8. *Chicago* number "____ Block Tango"
- 9. Suffix with infant
- 10. Tea in some Amazonian rituals
- 11. Green light at Cape Canaveral
- 12. Trump's is widely assumed to be smaller than he suggests
- 13. Clever as hell
- 14. Portal for Kurt Russell
- 22. Mystery writer ___ Stanley Gardner
- 23. Bout options
- 24. Watermelon seed spitter's ejaculation

- 25. Snitch
- 27. Schwarzenegger, as a bodybuilder
- 28. Erin Brockovich, for one
- 29. Crafty dudes?
- 32. A\$AP Mob, the Dungeon Family, et al.
- 34. Some burp guns
- 35. Aussie springers
- 37. Big pharma's ____ Nordisk
- 39. Debut that Little Monsters went "Yaaas Gaga!" over
- 41 Made
- 42. Target, in catch
- 46. Batty people, in Spanish
- 40. batty people, in spanish
- 48. Author of quite a few great quotes, briefly
- 49. Lush
- 50. "Come ____"
- 51. "Sweet Jesus!," quaintly
- 54. Coach Parseghian
- 55. Campaign group outside the campaign itself

LV197 ANSWERS

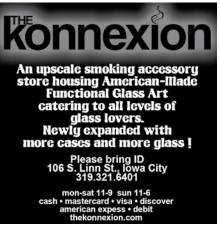


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