

LITTLE VILLAGE

FULL BLOOM:
 it's farmers
 market season!
 pg. 12



PLUS:
 endangered librarians pg.8
 radio clash pg.18
 the jayhawks pg.22



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Photo by Naomi Hofferber

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SHHHHHH!

State budget cuts mean lost librarians for Cedar Rapids Schools.

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SPRING BOUNTY

Where to get your fresh fruit and veggie fix in eastern Iowa



FARMERS MARKET SEASON!

Illustrations by Greta Songe

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PIRATE RADIO

Former FCC Commissioner Nicholas Johnson dishes on his past.

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Little Village is an independent, community-supported news and culture publication based in Iowa City. Through journalism, essays and events, we work to improve our community in the Iowa 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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NEW SOUNDS

Seminal alt-country band the Jayhawks shake up their lineup.

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RISKY BUSINESS

WHEN IS THE LAST TIME you took a risk?

When you look at your life, is it a series of safe choices, or bold leaps forward? Safety can be soothing, but risks are far more rewarding. Of course, sometimes they don't pay off—but that failure teaches us more than caution ever did. No matter how big or how small, each risk we take helps us to grow.

In this issue, we meet students, parents and educators stepping up and speaking out, taking risks to defend what they believe is right. We hear the story of a former FCC commissioner and the history of risk-taking as a child that paid off big as an adult. And we learn about a band that's moving boldly forward, taking the risk to trust each other again after years of turmoil.

Then there's the small but valuable risk of trying new things—we learn what's fresh at the Iowa City Farmers Market and explore the world of locally made kombucha. We also find a fictional risk-taker in our Hot Tin Roof winner. In our local album reviews, we take a risk by including, for the first time, a review of a new local podcast all about embracing the possibility of failure.

Summer is a wonderful time for taking risks. School is ending—graduates from both college and high school are being thrown into a new world without a safety net, ready to take a risk on a new job, a new city, a new life. Other students are facing a wide open summer and a choice: to maintain the status quo, or take a risk on something new.

We all face that choice every day, in both large and small ways. Be bold. Take a risk! Take another one tomorrow.

—LV Editors

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**PLEASE SAVE,
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THE DAILY IOWAN RECENTLY INTERVIEWED BRUCE HARRELD and posed a question about hate speech. Harreld replied that the university would not be looking to take any policy stances about hate speech, even saying that “sometimes hate speech for one person is love speech for somebody else.” He went on to conflate hate speech with the fact that people ask him hard questions and he feels hated. The problems here are numerous.

Let’s begin with the fact that the *Daily Iowan* was timely in asking these questions, though they were not aware of it. The prior Saturday a hate crime occurred on campus. Marcus Owens was assaulted on Saturday, Apr. 30, and the attack was clearly motivated by race. His three attackers, all white, repeatedly called him the n-word during the assault. Owens would report the crime on Monday night, and the *Daily Iowan* interviewed Harreld the following day. And yet, the crime was not made known to the broader university community until shortly before noon on that Wednesday, thirty-six hours after the crime was first reported to campus police and then to city police after the campus police refused to act because the assault occurred just off campus. Surely Harreld does not rely on the crime alert emails to learn about campus goings-on. If nothing else, Harreld’s flippant attitude toward hate speech (a key component of the crime) is even more troubling when we consider that he was sitting on the information that a hate crime had occurred within the past few days.

Hate speech, we ought to remember, is a term for speech that attacks persons based on identity attributes, all of which are legally protected. Among these are race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

As if that weren’t bad enough, Harreld then turns the question of hate speech into a chance to talk about himself. Hate speech, we ought to remember, is a term for speech that attacks persons based on identity attributes, all of which are legally protected. Among these are race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. Harreld describes himself as the victim of speech which “has been hateful” to him, but he is unable to claim that any of this speech attacks him for any aspect of his identity. What people seem to hate about Harreld is not his identity, but the cronyism inherent in his hiring and his remarkably tone-deaf remarks. This is the difference between hateful speech and big H Hate speech. Harreld is not encountering the latter, and is easily confused about the difference.

But I think I can make the difference clearer as well as elaborate on Harreld’s point about love speech. Harreld’s almost right that hate speech for one is sometimes love speech for another. Hate speech is never love speech toward the receiver of the speech, toward the person being hated. Hate speech is love speech for the hater, love speech for the speaker. Hate speech is love speech for bigots. Bigots are the ones who feel the love, who feel a sense of solidarity over speaking hate speech. Hate speech strengthens bigotry, and can become quite physically violent as well, as Marcus Owens can attest. Harreld does not wish to enact policy regarding hate speech, but that only allows the bigoted love fest to grow. Or fester.

*Spenser Santos
Recording Officer for COGS*

Center for Worker Justice files complaint against superintendent after family resource coordinator put on leave

“Be sure to remind Mr. Murley (did he ever get that PhD he was going to have by December of his first year here that thousands of dollars in General Funds have paid for instead of going towards more teachers in the classroom?) that, contrary to what he may think, poor people in Iowa City DO vote. Then remind him he might hear from lots of them when he wants their votes in his next megamillion bond move.

Sandy Boyd knew lots of things better than Murley. One of the more prominent ones was that people are more important than buildings ... even shiny new ones built in wealthier neighborhoods. Yes, do vocally remind him that poor people vote. In a phone conversation with him the night he and Marla Swesey tanked at a meeting I’d arranged at Lakeridge they should have done better at, he laughed at me and essentially told me, if I remember correctly, that poor people don’t vote.” —*Julie VanDyke*

“Thank you CWJ and Van Housen for lodging this complaint. So sad this district does not care about high risk students and their families.” —*Jennifer Babcock*

“Our schools belong to this community. The rules for use related to community activities need to be reviewed.” —*Jane Shetzer Zukin*

Grassley team responds to poll dip

“Funny that they blame a “partisan” group with a “partisan” agenda for “manufacturing interest;” one could say the same thing about a Senator and his cronies who refuse to hold a hearing for a position that is supposedly non-partisan. The cognitive dissonance in this out-of-touch sell-out is laughable.” —*Geoffrey Geezee*

“The defined issue is Grassley is not doing his job and remains an obstructionist. Hopefully his time as a Senator representing the State of Iowa is now limited.” —*Ron Pardekooper*

Sullivan question prompts walkout at Harreld forum

“One of the reasons Sullivan gets my vote June 7.” —*Brendan O’Keefe*

Ernst favors selective service registration for women

“Hopefully this will make all voters more cautious about the US entering into armed conflict, and more engaged in choosing representation who will truly use the military as a last resort.”
—John Flaherty

“No way. I won’t be equal in registering as long as I am unequal in pay, the boardroom, my medical decisions, governmental representation etc etc. no no no.” —Rosemary Sixt Roelf

Jimmy Jack’s Rib Shack is expanding (at two locations!)

“Jimmy Jacks and Zombie Burger” 🍔🍔🍔
—Iry Eicher

Big Grove Brewery to put roots down in Iowa City

“Gosh I hope it’s a restaurant too! The Korean BBQ sandwich is amazing; could really use a few more good restaurants on this side of town”
—Melinda Ragona

“That will keep the riffraff out of Solon.”
—Carl Christensen

“Just what Iowa City needs, another bar! SMH! More drunk drivers on the road and more public intox ... I’m disappointed!!”
—Jennifer Goldstein-Grendahl Kolder

UI asked to explain delayed crime alert with #ExplainIowa campaign

“They want to disassociate themselves with the hate crime because it would reflect the school. Momonymoproblems” —Caiti Spradlin

“Wouldn’t it be because the assault didn’t happen on campus?” —Brice Horton

Take Back the Night #IowaCityTBTN

“Not one word about male privilege and it’s connection to male violence. Lots of erasing the reality that this is overwhelmingly an issue of men’s power over women. I went to the first TBTN marches in the 70’s. Lots of angry women shouting, AT NIGHT, in the dangerous parts of the city. Gender-identity politics is erasing women and the stark reality of asymmetry between the sexes.” —Jeanne Smith

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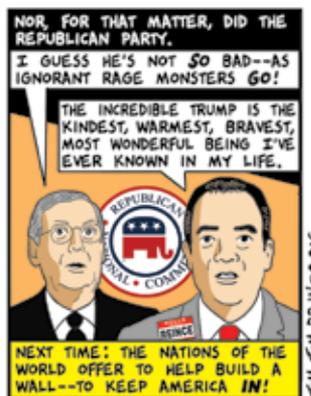
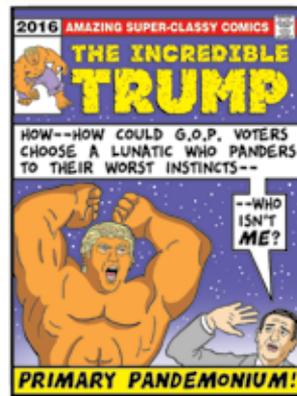


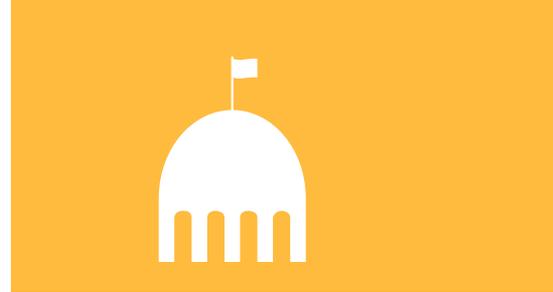
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NO GOOD TRADE-OFFS

Issues of equity are at the heart of passionate opposition to school librarian cuts. • BY SUSAN BLIND



The board room at the Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCS D) ’s Educational Leadership and Support Center overflowed into the lobby at the Apr. 25 Board of Education meeting. Students, parents and educators from around the state came to voice their concerns over the elimination of the teacher-librarian positions at Jefferson and Kennedy high schools.

Because of budget cuts to education at the state level, Cedar Rapids Schools needed to reduce their budget by \$2.3 million, or approximately 1.6 percent of the total budget for teacher salaries. Each of the three high school principals were asked to eliminate the equivalent of four full-time employees going into the 2016–17 school year. Jefferson and Kennedy chose to cut their school librarians (called “media specialists” internally), leaving Washington as the only comprehensive high school in the district with a librarian

next school year. Declining enrollment was also a factor in the diminished budget.

Budget cuts are not new to any district in Iowa, and Dr. Brad Buck, Superintendent of the Cedar Rapids Community Schools, told

CEDAR RAPIDS KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY Photo by Naomi Hofferber

2011, roughly a 50/50 mix of certified staff and support staff. Speaking toward library

“We’re losing so many things. It’s scary, as a student, knowing how that’s going to affect us.”

—Mason Koelm

those gathered that the district’s budget has been reduced by \$20 million over the last five to six years. Buck said in terms of personnel, 150 positions have been eliminated since

staffing in particular, Dr. Buck said eight years ago the district had a teacher-librarian in every elementary school. Now, elementary media specialists are covering two,

sometimes three, schools. Media associate support has also been reduced in the middle schools.

Emmy Lane Palmersheim, a senior at Jefferson High School, spoke first and acknowledged: "Each high school in the district needs to cut four full-time employees. That's the reality of the situation: four people, four friends, four people we know. Who then do we cut?" she asked the board, citing the increased class sizes and less individualized attention that would come with cutting core teacher positions.

Palmersheim mentioned options presented as part of the "Don't Cut Cedar Rapids School Librarians" petition, which was introduced in reaction to this decision by everylibrary.org, a national organization that helps public, school and college libraries with funding issues. Their motto is, "Any library initiative anywhere matters to every library everywhere."

Included in the petition were suggestions such as eliminating fine arts or coaching positions. "Jefferson is home to a lot of at-risk students who need this individualized attention to stay on track and feel their teachers care and invest in them as students and as people," Palmersheim said, addressing the bigger picture. "The choice to get rid of our librarian was not a choice made at Jefferson. It was made in Des Moines." She encouraged the audience to vote in elections at all levels and to realize the huge impact of local and state elections.

Gary Anhalt, Vice-President and Director, At-Large, stated earlier, before allowing comments, that board members could not respond to the speakers per the code of Iowa. As Palmersheim left the podium, Dr. Buck asked, "Don't you think she should drop the mic? That was awesome." Mr. Anhalt recognized, "I'm proud of the product of our district. She did a marvelous job. I guess I'll get in trouble if I go any further." The levity from the board alleviated some tension in the room and the board appeared revitalized as they prepared to listen to additional statements.

Val Ehlers, a teacher-librarian shared by the Gladbrook-Reinbeck and Grundy Center school districts, presented a letter from the American Library Association and the American Association of School Librarians to the board and urged the board to block the librarian cuts. "Now more than ever, school librarians play a vital role. [They are] information experts who curate a collection of resources tailored to the students' needs,



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technology specialists who develop ethical and capable digital citizens. They are essential partners to their colleagues.” Ehlers concluded, “It’s an equity issue,” and asked the board to weigh the long-term costs versus the short-term savings.

Mason Koelm, a junior at Jefferson, spoke in support of retaining librarian Becky Johnson, who was recognized as Iowa’s top school librarian in 2010. “This is going to ripple through all of Cedar Rapids,” Koelm said. He recalled reading a children’s almanac when he was younger and learning “Iowa has a literacy rate of 99 percent. To me, that was astounding. I was so proud to live in a state that valued education that much.” Koelm showed the group his public library card. “Other students don’t have that. Cutting librarians, cutting teachers, is taking away from the kids who don’t.”

He continued more generally, “We’re losing so many things. It’s scary, as a student, knowing how that’s going to affect us, because we rely on that. We rely on our teachers as role models, as supporters, as people we can turn to. And we’re being told we can’t turn to them now. There’s a gap that needs to be filled. And it belongs to all of us—the responsibility to fill that gap, to go and write to Congress, to vote, to see what changes we can make before it’s too late.”

Jan Anderson, teacher-librarian at Hiawatha and Viola Gibson elementaries, serving as spokesperson for teacher-librarians in the district, said, “First, taking away the librarians is not a good long-term solution to budget issues. It will have lasting negative impacts on a school library program that was once recognized as the best in the nation. Additionally, equity is another issue. How can we deny students full access at some buildings and not at others?”

At the end of the open comments, the board thanked those who spoke and closed the meeting without further conversation.

Though no students or parents from Kennedy High School spoke publicly at the meeting, Kennedy freshman Mackenzie Patridge said later that she fears that “cutting funding for the school librarians would have many negative consequences on the student body.” She values the fact that they “have the knowledge necessary to locate any books I may need and also operate all of the technological devices which are in use all of the time.”

CONT. >> ON PG. 20



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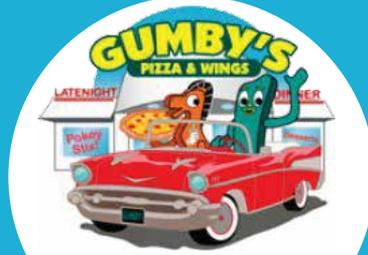
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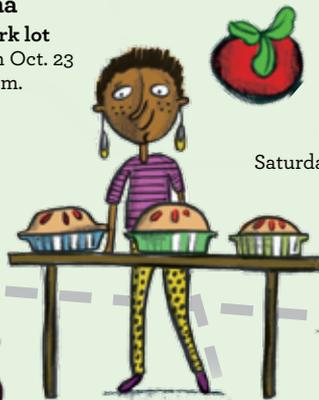
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Ely

Ely Community Center
Tuesdays through Sep., 4-6:30 p.m.
Saturdays through Sep., 8 a.m.-noon



Mt. Vernon

First Street Community Center
Thursdays through Oct. 27
4-6 p.m.



North Liberty

Penn Landing
Sundays through Oct. 30
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

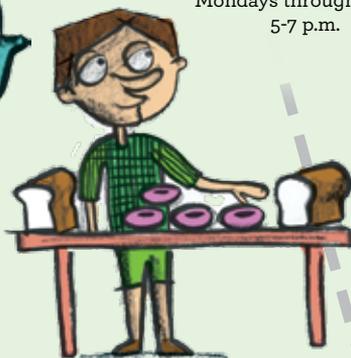
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6



Coralville

Coralville Community Aquatic Center
Mondays through Oct. 3
5-7 p.m.



University Heights

University Club Parking Lot
First Tuesdays through Oct. 4
4-7 p.m.



1

FARMERS MARKET SEASON

It's springtime in Iowa City. The asparagus are up, and the Iowa City Farmers Market is back! I strapped my toddler on my back on the first Saturday at

I strapped my toddler on my back ... and headed off to see what was new this year.

Chauncey Swan, and headed off to see what was new this year. Right at the gate was Serena James, of Delish Dips. James has a



Iowa City

Chauncey Swan Ramp

Wednesdays through Oct. 26, 5-7 p.m.
Saturdays through Oct. 29, 7:30 a.m.-noon

Mercer Park

Tuesdays through Aug. 29, 3-6 p.m.

wide selection of dips to compliment all of your market veggies, as well as any crackers or chips you might have. I sampled a few, and can tell you, they are in fact delish! She is very excited to be at the market this year, and is looking forward to sharing her dips with Iowa City.

Going further into the market, I was enthusiastically greeted by the good folks at Great River Maple. Great River Maple is not exactly new to the Iowa City area, as their products are currently carried at New Pioneer Co-op; however, they are new to the market. I sampled the maple cream, and this

product alone is worth a trip to the market. It's spreadable syrup, people. Spreadable. Syrup. It's so good.

If you're looking for fresh pasta at home, and want gourmet quality, you'll be pleased to know that Baroncini has a booth this year. Gianluca Baroncini was nearly sold out of pasta at 9 a.m., so plan to come early if you need a fresh pasta fix.

La Reyna has a food truck this year, and I saw a large crowd gathered there. I love their grab and go tamales, so this will be a much welcomed addition. Banh Mi Amore, owned by Greg Millsap of Davenport, is also new on the market schedule. I'm all for a bánh mi food truck! Pizza vendor Onion Grove of Clarence, Iowa will be on hand to satisfy your artisan pizza needs.

The big news at the market this year, though, will be the inclusion of local favorite, Backpacket Brewery. I have sampled Backpacket brews a number of times. They haven't been to the market yet, but I'm sure they will be welcomed with open arms. They are a part-time vendor; expect to see them soon. When there, they will be offering samples, with bottles and growlers available for purchase.

This market season looks fantastic, and I hope you can make it several times this summer. **lv**

—Darcie Hutzell

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Iowa poet Cole Highnam muses upon Wild Culture's fermented teas in the form of a lyric essay, "I will not spoil my health with lesser brightness."

How long have you been in the kombucha game? It wasn't that long ago that this mysterious bevy went mainstream. Example: the word is a spelling error according to this word processor.

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When kombucha mothers (the fungus used in fermentation) circulated underground?

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Kombucha is obviously a metaphor for community, reinforced with every iteration.

A lovely paradox of kombucha:

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Such are the Wild Culture Kombucha flavor combinations:

I tried Jalapeno-Pineapple: round and spicy, sweet and smooth.

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There I was, drinking kombucha draughts at the Iowa City Brew Lab.

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Yes, probiotics can help with your microbiome (also a spelling error). Look that up and see how vitally important it is.

Get it right.

Get cultured.

Get community.

Get it from your neighbors. **lv**

DID YOU KNOW?

The acronym SCOBY, used to refer to the kombucha mother (the bacteria and yeast used in kombucha fermentation), stands for symbiotic colony of bacteria and yeast. But the inclusion of "colony" is actually a misnomer since it implies a genetically identical group of organisms living together, which a kombucha mother is not.

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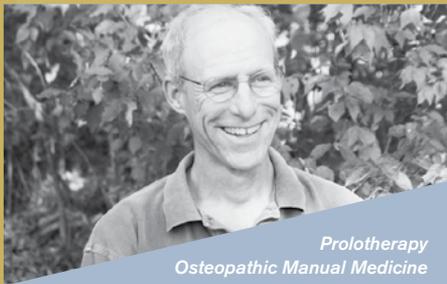
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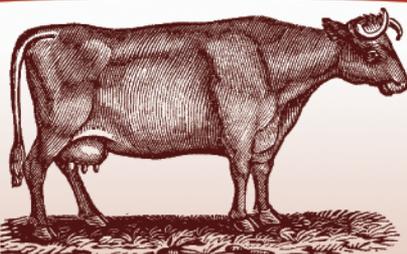
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HOT TIN ROOF: MAY**TALE OF THE TWISTER • DAVID DUER**

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

The sky was a bruise the color of my wife's arms after a tough day with the combatives at the nursing home. It was July, when the vegetation grows rank and you don't even pretend to control it anymore. I'd left early from work, but by the time I got home, Pat had already been on the phone with our neighbor Helen and heard about the sightings. I'm sure the tornado sirens in town were wailing to god-almighty-heaven, but unless the wind's blowing just right, their mechanical scream won't carry across the interstate and the two miles farther as the crow flies to our place. Pat and the kids were already hunkered down in the basement—sitting on a pile of blankets between the furnace and the fuel oil tanks, tuning in the staticky weather-eye-spotter reports and playing a desultory game of Monopoly.

Like I said, the sky was a bruise and the wind was picking up. I joined the vigil in the basement, candles and flashlights ready for the inevitable power outage. The weatherman interrupted Bob Seger's whiskey-soaked wail to announce that a funnel cloud had been sighted five miles west of West Liberty moving in a northeasterly direction. Toward us.

While Pat was sidetracked by the weather report, I crept upstairs and stepped outside. I wanted to see it coming across the fields, ploughing up the corn, twirling a barn or two in the air.

Nothing.

The wind whispered mild obscenities into my ears—Pigsausage! Beefcake! Kittendeath! Sodomy!—and sprinkled me with a parsimonious aspergillum of rain. Nothing more.

Back down in the basement, no one wanted Baltic Avenue. I'll take it, my own little piece of the pie, my purple corner of heaven, that place just beyond GO. Tornado Alert was being downgraded to Tornado Warning. We went around the board a few more times; Pat and I told tales about the twisters that had gotten away—the ones our granddaddies had tried to outrun, racing up from the barn three leaps in front of a funnel cloud with two pails of milk exploding either side of them—all the famously wacky things that tornadoes do—the telephone pole impaled by the ubiquitous piece of straw, the rowboat firmly moored in the topmost branches of an oak tree. The radio hadn't given the all-clear signal yet, but heck, they didn't know where we were. The world seemed quiet outside.

I climbed the stairs to the kitchen and started doing the lunch dishes, watching the rain outside, washing cups and plates, measuring the angle of the rain, the sway of the trees in the windbreak, then the rain flattening out, going horizontal, the trees doing a hula dance, leaves flying by, twigs, then whole green branches, small trees, sheet metal pig sheds tumbling across the fields, billboards from the interstate. Wild absolutions! Hullabaloo! All the summer's accumulations

swept off the back porch. Great day in the morning! The mighty Rock Island Line roaring by. A large moment standing still all around us. Whirling dervishes! The Wicked Witch of the West in drag! Hail Mary, full of grace! There went Miles Davis and John Coltrane! Eric Clapton and Ginger Baker! Janis Joplin and Joan Jett! Shake, Rattle, and Rock this Joint! . . .

When it was all over, we wandered out of the house, mouths agape, wearing the blank stares of survivors striving to comprehend. It was a total mess. The aftermath of some hellacious party. The small garage that'd been built unattached to the house had been picked up, folded into parts, shuffled, and dealt out into a stand of black locusts about fifty yards east of where it had previously stood. All the kids' bikes that had been in the garage—they were left untouched, still resting on their kickstands. Of the twenty boxes of used books being stored there for the next Friends of the Library book sale, just one had been emptied out, all romance novels. Those bodice busters now littered the cornfield. Tender Harvest, Ripe for the Picking, Rapture in the Hayloft—all these titles will be ploughed under next spring before planting.

The farm a half mile to the east was virtually unscathed. We were just lucky, I guess. **lv**

David Duer is an English language arts teacher at Cedar Rapids Washington High School and advisor for the Washington Literary Press.



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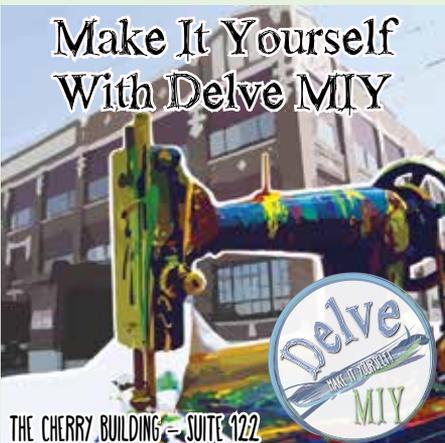



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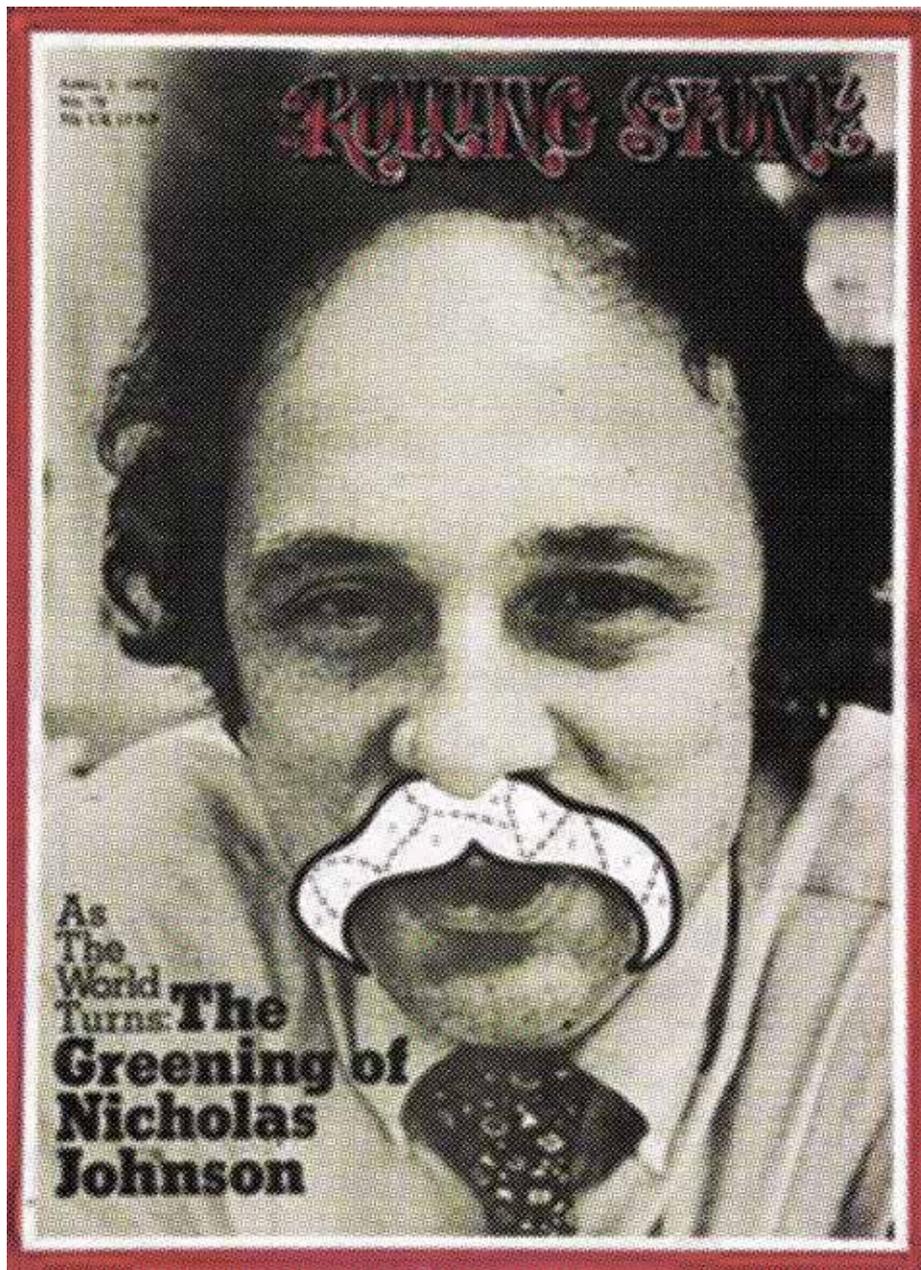
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PRAIRIE POP

RABBLE-ROUSING INSIDE THE FCC

Media's mischief maker started subverting paradigms as a kid right here in Iowa City • BY KEMBREW MCLEOD



Nicholas Johnson—who is likely the only Iowa City native who ever appeared on the cover of *Rolling Stone*, in 1971—fore-shadowed his career as a troublemaking FCC Commissioner when he was an adolescent boy in the mid-1940s.

“My first experience with radio was Allied

ST. NICK? *Ulowa Law professor Nicholas Johnson served on the FCC from 1966-73. Image via Rolling Stone, Issue #79, Apr. 1, 1971.*

Radio in Chicago,” Johnson recently told me. “This company had something called 10-in-1 Kit, and you could build a receiver or you could build a garage opener and all kinds of

stuff. One of the things you could build was called a Phono Oscillator.” By connecting a record player to this device, one could broadcast a low-power AM signal to a family radio in the living room.

“It said you should not use more than *six feet* of antenna,” Johnson recalled. “Well, that’s not something you tell a twelve- or thirteen-year-old boy.” Across the street lived Willie Weber, son of Iowa City historian Irving B. Weber, and these two mischievous playmates went downtown and bought a *five hundred foot roll* of braided copper wire. “We strung it around the roof of my house, in the trees and whatever, down into where we had our little Phono Oscillator.” They set their supercharged broadcasting device to the frequency allocated to WSUI, which is now an Iowa Public Radio station.

Willie Weber had a learner’s permit, so he tuned the car radio to AM 910 and drove around to test out their new toy—only to discover that they were drowning out WSUI’s signal across Iowa City. The next day, a classmate told Johnson that he had seen an FCC truck rolling around town. “I went home right fast after school, and I turned it back into a radio receiver,” he said. “That was the end of our Phono Oscillator broadcasting.”

So began Johnson’s iconoclastic career in media and law. “I was born here in 1934,” he said. “Both my father and mother were graduates at the University of Iowa.” Nicholas Johnson’s father was Wendell Johnson, the famous and controversial University of Iowa professor for whom the university’s Speech and Hearing Clinic is named. Soon after graduating from law school (University of Texas–Austin) in 1958, Nicholas Johnson took a job at the venerable Washington, D.C. law firm Covington & Burling.

While living in D.C., he was called into the White House for a meeting, where he met future Motion Picture Association of America president Jack Valenti (who worked for the Johnson administration). “Valenti opened the door, told me sit in his chair, and I did. I looked up and the room looked kind of familiar. I’m going, ‘Son of a bitch! This is the Oval Office.’ There I looked, and it’s Lyndon Johnson sitting there.”

LBJ wanted to recruit him as the head of the Maritime Administration, a job Nicholas Johnson had never heard of, and definitely did not want. “The more I protested, the more interested he was in having me serve,” he said. “And I came to realize later why that would be—because you would reasonably be suspicious of anybody who would want to be Maritime Administrator.”

He relented and took this government job, which led to Johnson’s appointment to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 1966, where he served until 1973. “I some-

creativity, a lot of stuff was going on. I was kind of identified with it because I chose to be identified with it.”

“We were inspired by Nick Johnson and those other authors who were challenging the status quo,” said Skip Blumberg, a member of the pioneering DIY video collective The Videofreex. “Nick Johnson was part of a group of people like Marie Winn, who wrote the Plug-In Drug and did boycotts of watching TV. These people were heroic because they were smart, they were tough, and they worked inside the system, but they

FCC didn’t seem to care,” Cain told me. “They knew about it, but they didn’t do anything.”

“The FCC was just vicious about pirate stations,” Johnson recalled. “They would go out with sledgehammers and destroy their equipment and all that kind of stuff ... I just thought it was a little heavy-handed and over-reaching.” He added, “In general, I’m always going to come out on the side of the person who I think is illegitimately being harassed or suppressed.”

“I think he helped create some credi-

“I looked up and the room looked kind of familiar. I’m going, ‘Son of a bitch! This is the Oval Office.’”

—Nicholas Johnson

how had, from the very beginning, a notion of the power and importance of the mass media in a democratic society, and that’s ... kind of been my focus all my life,” he told me. “I was interested in technological ways to bring about a more real public service to a democratic society, through media.”

Johnson was a self-described “hippie federal official,” which attracted a lot of media attention. “I was outspoken. I was doing the late night network television shows. I was traveling around the country making speeches.” He added, “More than anything, I was just a part of the times, because there was the black movement and women’s movement and antiwar movement—a lot of artistic

were doing something entirely different than us,” Blumberg continued. “We were making a new world. We were creating a new world and we were having a lot of fun doing it.”

After a screening of the new documentary *Here Come the Videofreex*, Johnson echoed this sentiment to Videofreex member Nancy Cain, who joined him via Skype during the Bijou’s Film Forum series at FilmScene. “I was just running interference, trying to make space for you all,” he told her, “and you were doing the heavy lifting.” Cain recalled that he had their back when the Videofreex set up America’s first pirate television station in Upstate New York, during the early 1970s. “We were a little disappointed because the

bility for what we were doing,” said Skip Blumberg, referring to Johnson’s advocacy of public access television and DIY video-making. “Here’s a guy who’s an FCC commissioner who is saying, ‘Go for it. You got the right idea.’” As Johnson observed, “I was kind of Paul Revere, going around the country saying, ‘The communications revolution is coming. The communications revolution is coming!’” **lv**

Kembrew McLeod’s first experience with wireless radio technology was as a twelve-year-old, when he hacked his Kmart home stereo using RadioShack gear—creating a DIY speakerphone.

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>> CONT. FROM PG. 10

Jeff Weissenberger, a 1993 Kennedy graduate, former educator and father of two current Kennedy students, shared later, “As a parent, I’m disappointed. We should be encouraging students to read. Explore. Grow. Not every student has access to resources. Libraries are equalizers.”

Indeed, the school libraries are a great equalizer across a district with three high schools serving students from widely varied socioeconomic backgrounds and levels of preparedness. At Kennedy High School, 10 percent of students overall and 28 percent of those on free and reduced lunch do not meet reading proficiency per the Iowa Department of Education’s Iowa School Report Card for 2015. Jefferson High School was ranked as “needs improvement,” with 25 percent of students overall and 41 percent of students on free/reduced lunch failing to meet proficiency.

The everylibrary.org petition states that, at the elementary level, studies conducted over the past 20 years have shown that students in schools with a full-time certified teacher-librarian perform better on state tests. They cite a 2015 study in which “the authors reviewed a multitude of studies which consistently show that students who have a full-time librarian in their schools perform better on their reading and writing scores than those who don’t have one.”

The CRCSD’s media specialists’ duties include managing their library’s collection, teaching media literacy and working with teachers on special projects. More than that, they prepare students for the challenges of college, teaching them to research and obtain usable, vetted information. They encourage critical thinking skills and share real-world wisdom.

Principals Jason Kline and Charles McDonnell of Kennedy and Jefferson high schools, respectively, declined to comment about the situation. However, lack of education funding across the state means difficult decisions must be made in all districts, by all administrators. As school board president John Laverty stated, “There are no good trade-offs.” **lv**

Susan Bednar Blind is a Cedar Rapids native and University of Iowa graduate. She enjoys writing, cult television shows and embarrassing her nine-year-old, and volunteers extensively in the community.

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the
Jayhawks
pg. 22

“TWO HEARTS”—THE DUAL PERSONAE OF THE JAYHAWKS

A seminal Americana band survives the rift between its frontmen to produce one of its most engaging records to date. • BY MIKE ROEDER



2016 marks 30 years since the release of the Jayhawks' self-titled debut album. Formed in 1985, the band is often credited as being an early—if outsider—band in the genre once known as alternative country (today it's called Americana), along with artists like Uncle Tupelo and fellow Minnesotans the Gear Daddies. The story of the Jayhawks is often overshadowed by the rocky relationship of two of its founding members, Gary Louris and Mark Olson—also the principal vocalists and songwriters. The latest album, *Paging Mr. Proust*, marks the latest change in the band's lineup—the culmination of those decades of tension—and a change in sound.

The Jayhawks' third album—and major label debut—*Hollywood Town Hall* (1992) gave the band its first widespread exposure. The album opener “Waiting For The Sun” would become their signature song, exhibiting the combined strength of the songwriting skills of Louris and Olson as well as their vocal harmonies—often compared to The Everly Brothers.

After 1995's *Tomorrow the Green Grass*, with the beautifully pining “Blue” pushed as a single, it seemed for a minute like the band was poised for widespread success. Then, Olson left for California abruptly at the end of 1995 to marry singer-songwriter Victoria Williams, leaving Louris and the band to fill any remaining obligations, and to soldier on.

From 1997 to 2003 Louris released three more albums under the Jayhawks name, with original bassist Marc Perlman and drummer Tim O'Reagan; keyboard player Karen Grotberg stayed on for the first two. These

Louris took a step away from the Jayhawks name for his first solo album in 2008, titled *Vagabonds*. Recorded in Laurel Canyon with Chris Robinson of the Black Crowes, the album's sound echoes the low-key vibe the area was known for in the seventies. Robinson was tapped again for the Louris and Olson reunion album in 2009. Titled *Ready for the Flood*, it recalled the strengths of the vocal harmonies and the songwriting of the two, but lacked the punch of the Jayhawks. The live shows in support of the album showed a familiar Louris and Olson taking playful jabs at each other, but at the same time seeming a little cautious. It was this collaboration that opened the door for the reunion of the *Green Grass* lineup of the Jayhawks, bringing Perlman, O'Reagan and Grotberg back into the fold. In 2011 that lineup of the Jayhawks released *Mockingbird Time* and toured in support of it, to the delight of fans everywhere.

Being a fan of the Jayhawks is as complicated as the history of the band. Kim Schultz, a longtime fan and member of an internet forum dedicated to the band, spoke to me about the debate that exists in the fanbase. “Fans have divided since *Sound of Lies*,” she said, referring to the first album without Olson, “over which is the ‘better’ era, sometimes pitting the two guys against each other as artists (ugh) and that topic has been so beaten up!” Aside from those disagreements, she believes most fans agree at least that the union of Louris and Olson resulted in a canon of music greater than the two have achieved

“[T]hat was the old me talking ... always thinking the grass was greener somewhere else or with someone else.”

—Gary Louris

albums would be a marked departure from the established country rock sound of the previous four albums. In a 2015 interview with Kevin Cole for KEXP, Louris notes, “I didn't grow up listening to country rock music.” These albums would be compared to the similarly-experimental albums by Wilco, a band at the time also moving away from their alternative country roots, but they didn't enjoy the same recognition.

individually.

But their reunion was not to last. Olson left the band again in 2012, citing personal differences as well as band business; one contributing factor was Louris' addiction to painkillers, which he sought treatment for. When Louris returned to work on his next album, he chose to work again with the Jayhawks minus Olson.

When asked via email why he chose to

A-LIST

THE JAYHAWKS W/ FOLK UKE

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Photo by Heidi Ehalt

record another Jayhawks album instead of pursuing more solo work, Louris told me, “I think it took me getting clean and sober to appreciate what I had, which included the Jayhawks. In the back of my mind I thought that I could find someone new to help me explore new territory but that was the old me talking ... always thinking the grass was greener somewhere else or with someone else. But I realized after some time that the only person holding me back was myself ... maybe I was the weak link in the band!”

Indeed, with the Jayhawks’ 9th studio album, *Paging Mr. Proust*, we find Louris collaborating with the band more than with any previous effort. Three of the songs on the album are whole band co-writes. In a recent interview with *Rolling Stone Country* he compared their vocal work to Fleetwood Mac, adding, “I had a mission to feature the fact that we have three good vocalists in the band ... It makes it less of an Everly Brothers thing, with two guys in front, and more of a communal sound.”

If you don’t get hung up on whether it’s a “real” Jayhawks record, its merits stand on their own—it’s remarkably strong. Transcendent and timeless songs are packed with melodic hooks and a palate of sound wider than I would have given them credit for previously. Without Olson, the band returns to a dramatically less country sound, continuing the arc of the previous three records without him—a kind of retro power pop album at times, a little sixties psychedelia and some R&B. The album shows Louris growing as a lyricist and composer and, in doing so, he’s redefining the sound of the Jayhawks yet again. **lv**

Mike Roeder remembers the summer of 1993 as one that, aside from the widespread flooding, was carefree. One where he hung out with friends, drinking a lot of beer and listening to a soundtrack that included the Jayhawks’ ‘Hollywood Town Hall.’

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VANG: A DRAMA ABOUT RECENT IMMIGRANT FARMERS
Sat., May 21, 2 p.m., Free

'Vang': A drama about recent immigrant farmers, Saturday, May 21 at 2 p.m., Hillel House, Free. Iowa's Poet Laureate Mary Swander has partnered with Pulitzer prize-winning photographer Dennis Chamberlin and Kennedy Center American College Theatre festival award-winner Matt Foss to create 'Vang' (which means "farm" in Hmong), a play about the experiences of immigrant farmers in Iowa—Hmong, Mexican, Sudanese and Dutch. A total of eight immigrant voices are featured; two actors play all parts: well-known Iowa Citizens Rip Russell and Erin Mills. This free performance kicks off the tour of the show; a talk-back follows.



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WED., MAY 18

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

Kathy Griffin, Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$39-89, 8 p.m.

/COMMUNITY: Historic Scavenger Hunt, Old Capitol Museum, Free, 10 a.m.

Weber Days: The Secret Lives of Houses: How to Research your House's History, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 12 p.m.

The Center's Annual Meeting Coordinated by the Membership Committee, Iowa City Senior Center, Free, 2:15 p.m.

Jason T. Lewis for Supervisor Fundraiser, The Mill, \$20, 5 p.m.

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

/CRAFTY: Sewing: The Moneta Dress Part I, Home Ec. Workshop, \$60, 5:30 p.m.

/FOODIE: Kirkwood Culinary Kitchen: Kitchen Basics; Introductory Training for the Home Chef, NewBo City Market - Kirkwood Kitchen 6 p.m. Free

/MUSIC: Parker Millsap w/ The Grahams, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, \$13-16, 7 p.m.

L-I-A-R, Rozz-Tox 8 p.m. \$5 - \$10

Paul Simon Live In Concert, Des Moines Civic Center, \$64.50-134.50, 8 p.m.

/CINEMA: Late Shift At The Grindhouse: 'Night Of The Living Dead,' FilmScene, \$4, 10 p.m.

THU., MAY 19

/COMMUNITY: Historic Scavenger Hunt, Old Capitol Museum, Free, 10 a.m.

Meet Me at the Market, NewBo City Market, Free, 5 p.m.

Thursday Night Lineup: Nooks and Crannies Tour, BruceMore, \$10-15, 5:30 p.m.

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:

'Steeple People,' Old Creamery Theatre, \$30, 2 p.m.

/LITERATURE: Art Lover's Book Club, Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, Free, 4 p.m.

Anaís Duplan Book Launch, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 p.m.

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

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KUDDE\$ w/ 1996, Nxbel Price, YNTU, Jim Swim, Tee Jay, Gabe's, \$5, 7 p.m.

Daddy-O, Parlor City Pub and Eatery 7 p.m. Free

Laura Gibson w/ The Lonelyhearts, Alexis Stevens, The Englert Theatre, \$10-12, 7:30 p.m.

Tough Old Bird w/ Ren Edstrand, Rozz-Tox, \$5-10, 8 p.m.

Shannon and the Clams w/ Samuel Locke Ward, Karen Meat, The Mill, \$12-15, 9 p.m.

/CRAFTY: Paint By The Glass, Cedar Ridge Distillery, \$35, 6 p.m.

Knitting: Infinitude Cowl Part II, Home Ec. Workshop, \$40, 6 p.m.

FRI., MAY 20

/CRAFTY: Puffy Earrings through Kirkwood Community College, Beadology Iowa, \$58, 1 p.m.

Craft Party: Mitered Corner Cloth Napkins, Home Ec. Workshop, \$25, 6 p.m.

/COMMUNITY: Historic Scavenger Hunt, Old Capitol Museum, Free, 10 a.m.

Active Learners, Public Space One, Free, 3 p.m.

Orienteering Class, Indian Creek Nature Center, \$5-15, 6 p.m.

Houby Days, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Free, All Day

/MUSIC: Uptown Friday Night: The Pork Tornadoes, McGrath Amphitheatre, \$5, 5 p.m.

Quad City Homeschool Band Spring Showcase, River Music Experience Community Stage, Free, 5 p.m.

Rock The Block: Summertown, NewBo City Market, Free, 5:30 p.m.

Friday Night Live Music with Funkdaddies, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Free, 6 p.m.

Jeffrey C. Capps & Tara McGovern, with The Fritters and Jasmine Michaelson, The High Ground Cafe, Free, 8 p.m.

Jack Lion w/ The Curly, Rozz-Tox, \$5-10, 9 p.m.

The Nadas w/ Eric Pettit Lion, River Music Experience Redstone Room, \$15, 9 p.m.

The Maytags w/ The Candymakers, Iowa City Yacht Club, \$8, 9:30 p.m.

Hand Practices w/ In The Mouth of Radness, Acoustic Guillotine, Speakerwire Collins, Gabe's, \$5, 10 p.m.

/FOODIE: NCSML Museum Guild's 15th Annual Taste of Czech & Slovak, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Free-\$15, 5 p.m.

/LITERATURE: Spanish Book Club - 'Crímenes que no olvidaré' by Alicia Giménez, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 6:15 p.m.

Joe Brisben, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 p.m.

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: 'Now. Here. This.,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$18-26, 7:30 p.m.

Michael Thorne, Penguin's Comedy Club, \$12-15, 7:30 p.m.

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Summer 2016

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6/10 | 8:00PM

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6/22 | 8:00PM

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/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: 'Steeple People,' *Old Creamery Theatre*, \$30, 7:30 p.m.
 'Disney's The Little Mermaid,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids*, \$24-39, 7:30 p.m.
 Cirque Italia: *Italian Water Circus*, *Hawkeye Downs Speedway*, \$10-50, 7:30 p.m.
 'The Diary Of Anne Frank,' *Giving Tree Theater*, \$16-26, 8 p.m.
 SPT Theatre, *Legion Arts CSPS Hall*, \$20-25, 8 p.m.

SAT., MAY 21

/SPORTS-N-REC: Marion Arts Festival 2016 Half Marathon & 5K Run and Fun Walk, *City Square Park*, Free, 7 a.m.
 Join the Movement: *Iowa City Bike Boulevard*, *Iowa City Farmer's Market*, Free, 8 a.m.
 Cedar Rapids Titans vs. Iowa Barnstormers, *US Cellular Center*, Free, 7:05 p.m.
/COMMUNITY: Corridor Cars & Coffee, *NewBo City Market*, Free, 8 a.m.
 Marion Arts Festival 2016, *City Square Park*, Free, 9 a.m.
 Historic Scavenger Hunt, *Old Capitol Museum*, Free, 10 a.m.

Monarch Fest, *Indian Creek Nature Center*, Free, 1 p.m.
 Blue Moon Views, *Indian Creek Nature Center*, \$2-6, 8 p.m.
/CRAFTY: Sunflower Drop Earrings, *Beadology Iowa*, \$78, 10 a.m.
 Ice Dyeing Part I, *Home Ec. Workshop*, \$40, 1 p.m.
 Intro to Screenprint at the IC Press Co-op, *Public Space One*, \$32, 1 p.m.
/MUSIC: Hard Times Come Again: Songs of Struggle and Hope, *The Englert Theatre*, Free, 2 p.m.
 Ukulele Social Club, *Uptown Bill's*, Free, 4 p.m.
 Music is the Word Finale: Catfish Keith, *Iowa City Public Library*, Free, 6:30 p.m.
 Kevin Eubanks, *The Temple Theater*, \$34-44, 7:30 p.m.
 Des Moines Symphony Masterworks 7: Season Finale: All Tchaikovsky, *Des Moines Civic Center*, \$15-60, 7:30 p.m.
 Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids*, \$19-49, 7:30 p.m.
 Verskotzi w/ Greyhounds, *Foxholes*, *Daytrotter*, \$8-12, 8 p.m.
 Society of Broken Souls, *Cafe Paradiso*, Free, 8 p.m.
 Wellstrung, *Parlor City Pub and Eatery*, Free, 8 p.m.
 Lily & Madeleine w/ Shannon Hayden, *Hand Drawn Hearts*, *The Mill*, \$10-12, 8 p.m.

Mayday Madness feat. Mc Squar3d, Boogie Get'em, Grewsum, Cattacombs, Crush, *River Music Experience Redstone Room*, \$7, 9 p.m.
 Highgraves w/ Old Gold, Last Will & Testament, Otros Outros, *Gabe's*, \$7, 9 p.m.
 Circle of Heat w/ Meteor Cat, *Iowa City Yacht Club*, \$8, 10 p.m.
/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: VANG: A Drama about Recent Immigrant Farmers, *UI Hillel House*, Free, 2 p.m.
 Cirque Italia: *Italian Water Circus*, *Hawkeye Downs Speedway*, \$10-50, 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.
 'Disney's The Little Mermaid,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids*, \$24-39, 7:30 p.m.
 Michael Thorne, *Penguin's Comedy Club*, \$12-15, 7:30 p.m.
 'Steeple People,' *Old Creamery Theatre*, \$30, 7:30 p.m.
 'Now. Here. This.,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids*, \$18-26, 7:30 p.m.
 'The Diary Of Anne Frank,' *Giving Tree Theater*, \$16-26, 8 p.m.
 SPT Theatre, *Legion Arts CSPS Hall*, \$20-25, 8 p.m.
/FOODIE: Kirkwood Culinary Kitchen: Date Night - Pizzeria Napoletana, *NewBo City Market - Kirkwood Kitchen*, \$89 per couple, 5 p.m.

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/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Mom's Night Out with Strung by Shawna, *Tiny Feet BOUTique & Playspace*, \$50, 5 p.m.
/CINEMA: 365 Horror Films & Factory of Fear Present: 'Vampire Night,' *Rozz-Tox*, Free, 7 p.m.

SUN., MAY 22

/CRAFTY: Ice Dyeing Part II, *Home Ec. Workshop*, \$40, 11 a.m.
/COMMUNITY: Historic Scavenger Hunt, *Old Capitol Museum*, Free, 12 p.m.
/FOODIE: Kirkwood Culinary Kitchen: Bratwurst Workshop, *NewBo City Market - Kirkwood Kitchen*, \$69, 1 p.m.
/MUSIC: Live Music with Solemn Voy, *Cedar Ridge Distillery*, Free, 1 p.m.
Des Moines Symphony Masterworks 7: Season Finale: All Tchaikovsky, *Des Moines Civic Center*, \$15-60, 2:30 p.m.
Southeast Iowa Chamber Symphony, *United Methodist Church - Washington*, Free-\$15, 3 p.m.
Local On The 8's, *Parlor City Pub and Eatery*, \$15-60, 4 p.m.

The Jayhawks w/ Folk Uke, *The Englert Theatre*, \$30, 7 p.m.

Learn Fest, Rozz-Tox, \$5-10, 7 p.m.
Cheryl Wheeler, *Legion Arts CSPA Hall*, \$16-19, 7 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.

'Now. Here. This.,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids*, \$18-26, 2:30 p.m.

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

Cirque Italia: Italian Water Circus, *Hawkeye Downs Speedway*, \$10-50, 2:30 & 5:30 p.m.

/LITERATURE: Craig Johnson, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe*, Free, 4 p.m.

Joe Hill, *Coralville Public Library*, Free, 5 p.m.

MON., MAY 23

/COMMUNITY: Funeral Preplanning, *Iowa City Senior Center*, Free, 1 p.m.

Weber Days: Introduction to Genealogy, *Iowa City Public Library*, Free, 4 p.m.

Nature Stroll: Wetlands Exploration, *Indian Creek Nature Center*, \$2-6, 6 p.m.

Money Mondays, *Downtown Cedar Rapids Library*, Free, 6:30 p.m.

/FOODIE: Kirkwood Culinary Kitchen: Classic Cocktails, *NewBo City Market - Kirkwood Kitchen*, \$59, 6 p.m.

/MUSIC: Wolves & Wolves & Wolves & Wolves, w/ Brother Moses, *Gabe's*, Free, 9 p.m.

TUE., MAY 24

/CRAFTY: Learn to Build a Rain Barrel, *Indian Creek Nature Center*, \$10-12, 8 a.m.

Make 3 Pairs of Earrings: Intro to Wirework through Kirkwood Community College Continuing Education Program, *Beadology Iowa*, \$58, 6 p.m.

/COMMUNITY: Historic Scavenger Hunt, *Old Capitol Museum*, Free, 10 a.m.

/MUSIC: Live Lunch w/ Sedgewick, *River Music Experience Community Stage*, Free, 12 p.m.

Blues Jam, *Parlor City Pub and Eatery*, Free, 7 p.m.

Casey Abrams, *Legion Arts CSPA Hall*, \$16-19, 7 p.m.

Moodie Black, *The Mill*, \$7, 9 p.m.

/LITERATURE: Iowa Writers' House Presents: *The Violet*



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Realm, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 6 p.m.

B.Y.O.Book - 'The Black Count,' The Mill, Free, 6 p.m.

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: In My Life: A Musical Theatre Tribute to the Beatles, Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, \$37-57, 7:30 p.m.

WED., MAY 25

/COMMUNITY: Historic Scavenger Hunt, Old Capitol Museum, Free, 10 a.m.

Weber Days: Making Sense Out of Iowa City Streets, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 7 p.m.

/MUSIC: Music on Wednesday @ICPL/Weber Days: Old Post Office Brass, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 12 p.m.

WebsterX w/ Trapo, Ion of AWTHTKTS, TodotA10, Nathan Hawley, Blue Moose Tap House, \$8-10, 8 p.m.
John Davey w/ Bedroom Shine, Erin Moore, Rozz-Tox, \$5-10, 8 p.m.

/CRAFTY: Free Metal Work Tutorials, Beadology Iowa, Free, 5 p.m.

Sewing: The Moneta Dress Part II, Home Ec. Workshop, \$60, 5:30 p.m.

Knitting: Topsy-Turvy Toys: Hedgehog/Squirrel Part II, Home Ec. Workshop, \$40, 6 p.m.

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

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Warhol Wednesdays: Punk Rock & Pop Art, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, \$8-10, 6 p.m.

/FOODIE: Kirkwood Culinary Kitchen: Kitchen Basics; Introductory Training for the Home Chef, NewBo City Market - Kirkwood Kitchen, Free, 6 p.m.

/LITERATURE: Kevin Boyle, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Free, 7 p.m.

/CINEMA: Late Shift At The Grindhouse: 'Creepshow,' FilmScene, \$4, 10 p.m.

THU., MAY 26

/COMMUNITY: Historic Scavenger Hunt, Old Capitol Museum, Free, 10 a.m.

Thursday Night Lineup: Brucemore in Bloom, Brucemore, \$10-15, 5:30 p.m.

Garden Party, Indian Creek Nature Center, Free, 5:30 p.m.

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:

SSRO Presents: Love and War, Iowa City Senior Center, Free, 2 p.m.

The Amazing Tour Is Not On Fire, Des Moines Civic Center, \$38.50-113.50, 7:30 p.m.

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

/SPORTS-N-REC: Meet Me at the Market, NewBo City Market, Free, 5 p.m.

/CRAFTY: Sew Good! Sew Fun!, Public Space One, Free,

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5:30 p.m.

/MUSIC: *Apocalypse Tantric Noise Choir, Cafe Paradiso, Free, 6 p.m.*

Daddy-O, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 7 p.m.

O'Brother, Gabe's, \$12, 8:30 p.m.

KO w/ Blues Movies, Eraser Eraser, Sex Funeral, Rozz-Tox, \$5-10, 9 p.m.

/FOODIE: *A Shaken Not Stirred Affair, Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, Free, 6:30 p.m.*

FRI., MAY 27

/COMMUNITY: *Historic Scavenger Hunt, Old Capitol Museum, Free, 10 a.m.*

/EDUCATION: *Doodlebugs: Portrait Constellations, Hiawatha Public Library, Free, 10:30 a.m.*

Apple iCloud Basics, Iowa City Senior Center, Free, 2 p.m.

Active Learners, Public Space One, Free, 3 p.m.

Hoot Goes There?, Indian Creek Nature Center, Free, 7:30 p.m.

/MUSIC: *Uptown Friday Night: Vicebox, McGrath Amphitheatre, \$5, 5 p.m.*

Rock The Block: Surf Zombies, NewBo City Market, Free, 5:30 p.m.

Friday Night Live Music with Dogs On Skis, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Free, 6 p.m.

Festivus Presents: Funtcase w/ Dirty Phonics, Habstrakt, Blue Moose Tap House, \$20, 8 p.m.

The Sea, The Sea, Legion Arts CSPA Hall, \$15-18, 8 p.m.

The Milk Carton Kids, The Englert Theatre, \$25-40, 8 p.m.

Chrash w/ Subatlantic, Jeff Beam, Rozz-Tox, \$5-10, 9 p.m.

Arbor Labor Union w/ Hot Tang, BStar, The Mill, \$8, 9 p.m.

Memphis Dives w/ Cedar County Cobras, The Fowler Brothers, The Texas Toothpicks, Gabe's, \$6, 9 p.m.

Plastic Relations w/ Romeo Dance Cheetah, Iowa City Yacht Club, \$5, 10 p.m.

/FAMILY: *STEM Family Free Night, Iowa Children's Museum, Free, 5 p.m.*

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: *Allen TenBuschen & GRIT Closing Reception, Public Space One, Free, 6 p.m.*

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: *'Now. Here. This.,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$18-26, 7:30 p.m.*

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

Andrew Rivers, Penguin's Comedy Club, \$12-15, 7:30 p.m.

SAT., MAY 28

/CRAFTY: *Soldering Sampler, Beadology Iowa, \$78, 9 a.m.*

/CRAFTY: *Woodcut Technique, Public Space One, \$52,*

POMPOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

Oh, the places you'll go? • BY WAYNE DIAMANTE

Graduation March plays; assembly stands; Wayne mounts the podium and, after a pause, indicates that everyone remain standing)

Greetings, class of 2016. I have a number of these keynote thingydingys to deliver today, so you'll have to excuse the parsimonious nature of my remarks. Note, however, that their brevity should in no way indicate a lack of intellectual weight, or indifference toward the noteworthy achievement on the part of you, the student body that we have gathered here to fête. It

Seriously, what are you going to do with a B.A. in philosophy, anyway? Write an advice column?

has been a great honor mentoring you these past four years, and you will always hold a special place in my heart as the first class to matriculate having had received four full years of Pro Tips. Congratulations! You've earned it. While some of you may dread the prospect of heading out into the world without Wayne standing right behind you, offering sage council, snappy comebacks and the occasional unverified social security number, know that, and I quote: "Though we're far apart, you're always in my heart, you are not alone." Anyone know who said that? Anyone? No history majors out there, huh? LOL. Seriously though, it was the Rev. Martin Luther King, M.D. Jr. You guys should know that. But we're not here to talk about the past, we're here to speculate on your future. And frankly, it's looking pretty, well ... medium. Medium well, rather. As in "nearly overcooked." The Middle East is in flames, China's economy is all but dried

up, the wolves of Europe are devouring one another while Russia licks its chops, and global emerging markets are only "emerging" in the sense that a turd you're desperately prairie-dogging en route to the toilet is emerging. Look kids, no one hates to say it more than me, but this might be a good time to start thinking about grad school. Seriously, what are you going to do with a B.A. in philosophy, anyway? Write an advice column? Please. I know my assessment of your dismal future probably isn't what you were hoping to hear today, but if I sent you out there and said, "Everything

is going to be just fine! Don't worry about it!"—what kind of mentor would I be? The fact of the matter is you need to arm yourselves. Not with knowledge and thick skin, but actual armaments. Armageddon is coming and woe unto those who face the whirlwind unprepared.

I'm looking at you, Pooter, and you too, Madison. You two know what I see when I look at you? Roast turkeys, like the ones that appear in a thought bubble in the cartoons. Can you see it above my head? Because I can practically smell it. I'm not advocating cannibalism here, but let's be totally honest: There's almost certainly going to be a nontrivial amount of cannibalism in your future. Oh nuts! Look at the time ... I need to jet. It looks like we burned through the Q and A portion, but you guys know where to find me: askwaynediamante at gmail.com. Thanks again for having me and break a leg—you'll be easier to catch! YaYa class of 2016!

(Wayne turns to President Harreld, kisses him with a dramatic dip, then unplugs the mic and tosses it into the assembly; exits stage with arm high in the air, making the symbol for "peace") —Wayne Diamante **lv**

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EDITORS' PICKS

**SAM MOSS, LIV CARROW,
BROOKS STRAUSE,
MILK & EGGS**
Danforth Chapel
Sat., May 28, 7 p.m., \$10
Photo by Adam Burke



Sam Moss, Liv Carrow, Brooks Strause, Milk & Eggs, Saturday, May 28 at 7 p.m., Danforth Chapel, \$10 suggested donation. Boston's Sam Moss headlines a stellar collection of Iowa singer-songwriters dedicated to the folk and "old time" traditions. Liv Carrow is a deeply narrative East Coast export; Brooks Strause, who released 'The Chymical Wedding of Brooks Strause' last October, is steeped in wild Midwest mysticism, and Milk & Eggs was last seen on the Mission Creek Festival Songwriter's Circle panel/performance. Together, they are the keenest peek into what eastern Iowa has to offer the genre of Americana. The show is co-sponsored by UI Women's Action and Resource Center (WRAC).

1 p.m.

Swarovski Wire Earrings, Beadology Iowa, \$68, 1 p.m.

/COMMUNITY: Historic Scavenger Hunt, Old Capitol Museum, Free, 10 a.m.

Bohemian Boudoir: An Unofficial Museum Tour, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, \$5-15, 11 a.m.

GRASP Autism Support Group, Uptown Bill's, Free, 1 p.m.

Spies, Assassins, and Smurfs: An Unofficial Museum Tour, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, \$5-15, 1 p.m.

Queer Prom, The Mill, \$5 - \$15, 7 p.m.

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

/MUSIC: Community Drum Circle, River Music Experience Community Stage, Free, 11 a.m.

IC Classical Guitar Society, Uptown Bill's, Free, 2 p.m.

Musco Bash: YNTU w/ Rexyreckie, Tyler Yates, Pearl City Records, Uncontrol & Pistol, BUCK, Kid Fresh, Iowa City Yacht Club, \$5, 6 p.m.

Saturday Night Live: Bob Fest - A Birthday Tribute to Bob Dylan, Uptown Bill's, \$5-10, 7 p.m.

Fairhaven, Rozz-Tox, \$5-10, 7 p.m.

Sam Moss w/ Liv Carrow, Brooks Strause, Milk & Eggs, Danforth Chapel, Free, 8 p.m.

Ramblers, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 8 p.m.

Skunk River Medicine Show, Cafe Paradiso, Free, 8 p.m.

Shook Twins, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, \$16-19, 8 p.m.

Riohorse Royale, Daytrotter, \$8-12, 8 p.m.

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

'Now. Here. This.,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$18-26,

7:30 p.m.

Andrew Rivers, Penguin's Comedy Club, \$12-15, 7:30 p.m.

SUN., MAY 29

/CRAFTY: Perfect Picnic Blanket Part I, Home Ec. Workshop, \$45, 12 p.m.

/COMMUNITY: Historic Scavenger Hunt, Old Capitol Museum, Free, 12 p.m.

/MUSIC: Brook Hoover's Rockabilly Throwdown, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Free, 1 p.m.

SnakeChasers, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 4 p.m.

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

'Now. Here. This.,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$18-26, 2:30 p.m.

/FAMILY: Super Hero Night, Iowa Children's Museum, Free, 6 p.m.

/CINEMA: Arthaus Film Series: 'Daisies,' Rozz-Tox, Free, 8 p.m.

TUE., MAY 31

/COMMUNITY: Historic Scavenger Hunt, Old Capitol Museum, Free, 10 a.m.

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Doodlebugs: Tangled Expressions, Marion Public Library, Free, 10:45 a.m.

/MUSIC: Live TV Broadcast: Tom's Guitar Show, Uptown Bill's, Free, 6 p.m.

Blues Jam, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 7 p.m.

/FOODIE: Grill Skills: Pork Tenderloin, NewBo City Market, \$59, 6 p.m.

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Moeller Mondays, Daytrotter, 7 p.m. Open Mic, The Mill, Free, 8 p.m. Honeycombs of Comedy, Yacht Club, \$3, 10 p.m.

TUESDAYS

Iowa 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. 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, Iowa 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, Penguin's 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.

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: 'Steeple People,' Old Creamery Theatre, \$30 (through May 22), 'The Diary of Anne Frank,' Giving Tree Theater, \$16-26 (through May 22), 'Disney's The Little Mermaid,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$24-39 (through Jun. 5), 'Now. Here. This.,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$18-26 (May 22-Jun. 11)

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Allen TenBusschen, Public Space One (closes May 27), **CAS:** Kameelah Rasheed in Residence, Public Space One (May 27-Jun. 2), Mikel Rouse, Legion Arts CSPA Hall (through May 29), Jen P. Harris: 'Ghost Prairie,' Legion Arts CSPA Hall (through Jul. 3), **Tori Lawrence:** 'Man and Woman with Plants,' Legion Arts CSPA Hall (through Jul. 3), **Katy Collier:** 'Sampler,' Legion Arts CSPA Hall (through Jul. 3)

Have an audition or submission deadline coming up? Email details to arts@littlevillagemag.com.

THEATRE:

Theatre Cedar Rapids: Auditions for 'American Idiot' will be held Monday, May 23 and Tuesday, May 24 at 7 p.m. each night. There are roles for four men and three women, in addition to a mixed ensemble. Leslie Charipar directs, with musical direction by Janelle Lauer and choreography by Aaron Canterbury. For more details, visit <http://www.theatre.org>.

RHCH Theatre: Auditions for 'Disney's Aladdin Jr.' will be held Saturday, May 21 at Prestige Dance Studio, during two sessions: 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. Performers aged 7-18 are welcome to audition. All auditioning should come with a Disney song prepared. Specific songs from the show will be assigned if a callback is needed. For more, see www.rhcrtheatre.com.

LITERATURE:

'The Iowa Review': Submissions are being accepted through June 1 for the Veterans' Writing Contest. The Jeff Sharlet Memorial Award for Veterans is offered every two years; winners will be published in the Spring 2017 issue of the magazine. First place award is \$1,000. Full contest details are available at www.iowareview.org/veteranswritingcontest.

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

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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

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6667, qdogsbbqcompany.com

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Iowa Theatre Artists Company, 4709 220th Trail, Amana, (319) 622-3222, iowatheatreartists.org

Old Creamery Theatre, 38th Ave, Amana, (319) 622-6262, oldcreamery.com

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GOOGLE SEES THE FUTURE

Google filed a U.S. Patent Office application on Apr. 28 for a vision-improvement device in liquid form that, once inserted (i.e., injected directly into the eyeball!), solidifies into not only a lens replacement for the eye but an instrument that carries its own storage, radio and wireless power supply. The idea, according to inventor Andrew Jason Conrad, is to better focus light onto the retina. (The patent process does not assure that the device will ever come to fruition, but it might indicate that Google's parent, Alphabet, is concerned that other inventors might be doing similar work.)

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT!

- Before new parents ruin their baby daughter's chances of future success by giving her "weak" names (such as Polly), they should consult one of several services that recommend more powerful ones (such as Elizabeth). A New York City woman offers personalized naming research for fees starting at several hundred dollars, but a Swiss agency whose primary work is helping to name product brands now offers parents suggestions on their offspring's "brand" (for corporate-like fees beginning at around \$29,000). (Parents in South Korea and India traditionally seek baby-naming recommendations from priests, who review religious text, culture and astrology—in exchange for modest offerings.)
- Entrepreneur.com reported in April the surprising success of "Ship Your Enemies Glitter," in which, for about \$10, the startup sends an envelope full of glitter that, when opened, scatters, irritating (or enraging) the recipient. The concept was an overnight sensation, but quickly petered out and was seemingly worthless—until a prescient businessman offered \$85,000 for its two assets: (1) a valuable list of customers who might buy similar pranks (such as a cupcake that's really horse manure) and (2) an opportunity at additional waves of customers newly discovering the original glitter product. The \$85,000 purchaser now reports sales "in the high six figures."

COMPELLING EXPLANATIONS

- Peter Jensen of Athol, Idaho, filed a lawsuit against the state transportation department in April after his driving privileges were revoked because his car had no license plate. For the inconvenience, he believes he deserves \$5.6 million in damages (gold and silver only, please) because, for example,

there is nothing about "license plates" in the Ten Commandments.

- Simple As That: (1) Bingham County (Idaho) Sheriff Craig Rowland told reporters in March that the state legislature had no reason to improve the statewide administration of "rape kit" evidence because the majority of local rape accusations are, he is certain, consensual sex. (2) Scout Hodge, 20, angry at his mother, was charged with arson in Austin, Texas, in January for setting fire to her rug. He told police he did it as a "political" statement (unexplained) and to prove he isn't a "loser."

LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

- As China's real-estate construction boom fades, tempers have flared, and according to a local government officer in Hebei province, two companies' officials angling for a contract wildly dueling each other in their bulldozers in an incident captured on video. The losing driver was seen running from his toppled machine.
- Italy's top appeals court ruled in April that a homeless man stealing cheese and sausage from a grocery store in Genoa, and who received a six-month jail term for it, was actually not guilty of criminal behavior at all. The court set him free using a traditional Italian legal principle that no one is required to do the impossible—which, the court surmised, would be to allow himself to starve.

LEAST COMPETENT COPS

Motorist Rebecca Musarra was stopped for speeding in October 2015 by state troopers in New Jersey, and dutifully handed over her license, insurance and registration, but declined to answer the troopers' "Do you know why we stopped you?" questions. Annoyed at her silence, troopers Matthew Stazzone and Demetric Gosa threatened several times, with increasing aggressiveness (according to dashboard video obtained by NJ Advance Media), to arrest Musarra for "obstruction." Musarra pointed out that—as nearly every American knows—she has the right to remain silent. The troopers nonetheless arrested her (then recited, of course, her "right to remain silent"). After nearly two hours back at the station, a supervisor offered a weak apology and released her. Musarra, an attorney, unsurprisingly has filed a federal lawsuit.

CAVALCADE OF WEIRD ANIMALS

The species *Acanthonus armatus* first showed up in waters near Vancouver, British

Columbia, 10 years ago, generating ichthyological excitement—in that it is widely known as the assfish. The Royal BC Museum in Victoria, British Columbia, put one on display in January with its bulbous head and flabby skin resembling a "glorified tadpole," said a museum curator, who declined to guess at the origin of the assfish name (bypassing a chance to link it to the fish's large mouth and tiny brain).

CLICHES COME TO LIFE

- The British broadcast censor Ofcom declined to punish a January edition of "The Jeremy Kyle Show" on which a guest used a "well-known swear word"—because the speaker has a Scottish accent and, Ofcom said, probably no more than two or three people thus comprehended what he was saying.
- The body of Peter ("Petey Crack") Martinez, 28, who had a long rap sheet, washed up on a beach in Brooklyn, New York, on May 2—with his feet encased (up to his shins) in a bucket of hardened cement. It was the first time veteran New York detectives could ever recall seeing actual "cement shoes" (though they have, of course, been icons of true crime stories for decades).

CHUTZPAH!

- New York City police rounded up 39 people on Apr. 26 suspected as part of a massive credit-card-scramming operation targeted at customers of high-end retailers such as Saks Fifth Avenue—and whose members are affiliated with the rap-music group Pop Out Boyz, which makes reference to the scams in its songs. (One number, "For a Scammer," features the lyric, "you see it, you want it, you have it," while another voice repeatedly brags, "I'm cracking cards cause I'm a scammer." A *New York Post* report describes "cracking cards" as a scheme paying a bank customer a fee to accept a phony deposit into his account to be later withdrawn—but the scammer removes much more money than the phony deposit.)
- Ricardo Ruiz, 26, was arrested in March on complaints from women that he had groped them at parks in Davie and Cooper City, Florida, but the case got easier afterward when police were tipped to a YouTube video that they believe is of Ruiz, addressing the camera while driving a car and extolling his groping habit. "Man, today was a good ... day, touching ass," he says. "If you don't touch ass, you're crazy. That's all I got to say." **lv**

—Chuck Shepherd

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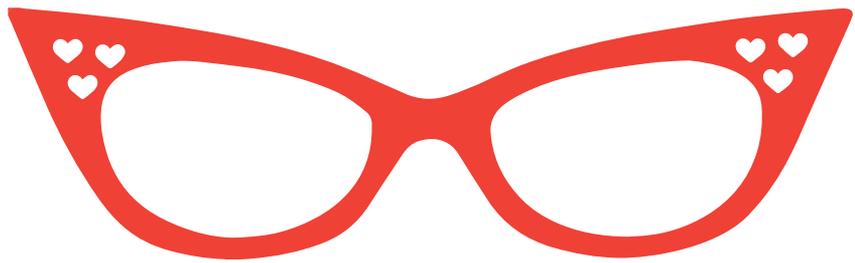
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XOXO DEARKIKI XOXO



Kiki,
One question: What if I am a better lover when I smoke weed?
 —Pot Lover

Dear Pot Lover,

It's common for people to feel like better lovers when they are under some kind of influence. Your guard is down, inhibitions are low and you can feel physical pleasure more acutely. (Unless you're like old Kiki here, and smoking grass makes you feel like you are being eaten by fire ants!) Make sure you ask your lover(s) what they think about this theory of yours. They may agree, but they may also enjoy a sober you being more emotionally present during your lovemaking. They may enjoy a variety of states. If you enjoy being high, and they enjoy you being high, I say mazel tov. May we all be laid well and often. One word of caution, though: Bad habits are more easily made than broken, and they can grow to become serious addictions. If you must get stoned in order to have sex, or you must be stoned every time you have sex, I'd raise an eyebrow and start mixing it up a little.

Dear Kiki,

Both my partner and I smoke weed pretty much every day. We both smoked recreationally before, but since getting together and moving in we smoke more. We have a lot less sex than we used to, though; both of us initiate a lot less. Could it just be the evolution of our relationship and the honeymoon ending, or is it the weed? Is it actually a problem if we're both okay with it?

—Weedy

Hi Weedy,

It sounds like you've both gotten pretty comfortable with sex, with the weed smoking, and with each other, which certainly isn't a problem. It sounds lovely! Most people do tend to taper off the supercharged sexing after

the initial passionate "honeymoon" wears off. How much sex you're having (or who initiates it) doesn't worry me as long as nobody is harboring any frustration about it.

What does worry me is that it sounds like your relationship has incubated a more serious kind of pot use than either of you were into previously. Recreational smoking can be a blast, and stimulate social, creative and sexual

Do you do fun things together while you're stoned?

energy. But if you use pot constantly, every day, you are checking out of reality constantly, every day. Is the reality of your relationship and your home life with your partner something you both need to constantly check out of, dull, blur and obscure? Is smoking pot fun for you, and do you do fun things together while you're stoned? Is smoking a way of never confronting each other, or working on individual projects or issues you're having outside the relationship? What happens if one person wants to cut back or stop for a while?

One way to test some of these theories out is to take a dedicated amount of time off from smoking at all (a week, a month, etc.) See what happens! See how much sex you have, what you do to keep busy, what you talk about, and how your relationship looks and feels when you're both straight for a few days. A little experimentation never hurt anyone, did it? xoxo, Kiki ♪

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DO CIGARETTE FILTERS DO ANYTHING?

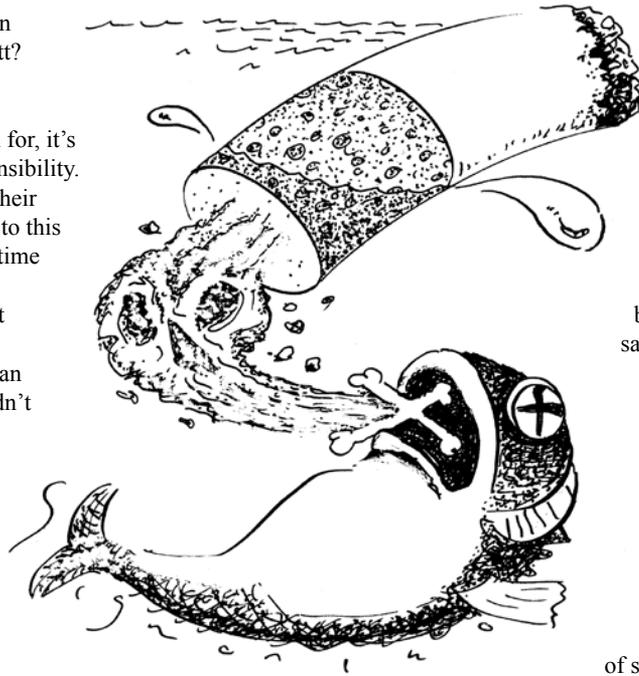
Do cigarette filters provide any benefits to the smoker, or were they simply created by the tobacco companies to make customers think they were addressing the health risks of smoking? Filters seem to trap something, as evidenced by the discoloration noticed on any discarded butt. While I'm on the topic, why don't manufacturers make filters out of something that actually decomposes when exposed to the environment, rather than something that litters our beaches, parks, and sidewalks forever? —Tom M.

Why don't they design a biodegradable butt? Yeah, that's a real puzzler—if there's one thing cigarette makers are known for, it's their deeply felt sense of social responsibility. Probably just nobody's brought it to their attention yet. We'll come back round to this in a minute, but let's talk in the meantime about part one of your question.

The short answer is no, filters don't really do anything. They're about the illusion of a lighter cigarette rather than the fact of one. This revelation shouldn't exactly be shocking, but you *may* be interested to learn that manufacturers didn't set out to make a deceptively useless filter—early on, cigarette manufacturers appear to have actually wanted something that would remove some of the harmful materials their products contained.

You old enough to remember the 1950s, Tom? Americans had by then been puffing happily away on their mass-manufactured smokes for half a century, while at the same time lung cancer—previously quite rare—was becoming epidemic. It was only after the Second World War that scientists started putting the pieces together. As we know now, cigarette-industry players—Philip Morris, Lorillard, et al—were soon well aware of the link between their products and lung cancer; they just didn't feel like sharing this info publicly. Manufacturers did, however, put some cash behind a project to mitigate, in earnest, some of the malign side effects of smoking: the cigarette filter. And they appealed to textile and chemical companies for help.

An early result was the Kent Micronite filter, designed by Lorillard; it used asbestos fibers to trap, uh, harmful substances. The fact that it was literally full of carcinogenic matter



wasn't what made it unpopular. Rather, the thing worked too well: the Micronite, which removed 30 percent of tar particulate, also removed the cigarette's flavor, and forced smokers to pull harder on their draw. It also proved excessively tricky for mass production, as did filters using natural materials like cotton and wool, which have a nonuniform structure. What manufacturers needed was something that could be made in volume and at low cost—Americans at the time were, after all, going through about 400 billion cigarettes a year.

The answer turned out to be a filter made of cellulose acetate. This did, indeed, block a little tar and toxic gas, but smokers, ever resourceful, responded by changing their behavior—smoking more, taking deeper puffs, etc—thereby making the practical effect of

the cellulose-acetate filter approximately nil. At this point cigarette makers basically threw up their hands, yielding to the intractability of what was known as the “filter problem.” As a 2011 paper in the journal *Tobacco Control* put it, researchers had “confronted an engineering contradiction: to design a cigarette filter that would appreciably reduce the health hazards imposed by smoking (caused by tar, nicotine and gases) while preserving the taste and ‘satisfaction’ that smokers craved (provided by tar, nicotine and gases).”

Accordingly, the industry did something that conformed much more to our expectations for its behavior. One chemist discovered that if you adjust the pH in cellulose-acetate filters, you can get them to change color during the smoking process, making it look like some really bad stuff is being screened out. Thus does the filter story take its ghoulishly cynical left turn: Hoping to keep concerned smokers on board but unable to actually make cigarettes safer, manufacturers settled for tricking the smokers into *thinking* the cigarettes were safer.

Where does that leave us? The fact that filters change smokers' MO has produced one observable public-health effect: a shift in the type of cancer you get from smoking. A 2011 study in the *International Journal of Cancer*, based on 30 years of research, suggested that while declining rates of squamous cell cancer can be attributed to cigarette filters, so can increasing rates of another type of cancer, adenocarcinoma, which occurs in parts of the lung that smoke reaches through deeper inhalation. You can't win for losing.

Anyways, getting to your other question: cellulose-acetate filters are photodegradable, meaning UV in sunlight breaks them down somewhat. This might be OK but for the fact that so many of them—globally about 4.5 trillion butts become litter every year, out of 6 trillion cigarettes annually smoked—end up in the environment. We don't yet know what damage this is doing, though; (for instance) under lab conditions, one cigarette butt in one liter of water is enough to kill both salt- and freshwater fish. The tobacco industry's position? It's smokers' responsibility not to litter—full stop. You can expect to be waiting on your better filter just a while longer. **IV**

—Cecil Adams



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GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "There are situations in life when it is wisdom not to be too wise," said Friedrich Schiller. The coming days may be one of those times for you. I therefore advise you to dodge any tendency you might have to be impressed with your sophisticated intelligence. Be suspicious of egotism masquerading as cleverness. You are most likely to make good decisions if you insist on honoring your raw instincts. Simple solutions and uncomplicated actions will give you access to beautiful truths and truthful beauty, especially if you anchor yourself in innocent compassion.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): To prepare you for the coming weeks, I have gathered three quotes from the Bulgarian writer Elias Canetti. These gems, along with my commentary, will serve you well if you use them as seeds for your ongoing meditations. Seed #1: "He would like to start from scratch. Where is scratch?" Here's my addendum: No later than your birthday, you'll be ready to start from scratch. In the meantime, your task is to find out where scratch is, and clear a path to it. Seed #2: "All the things one has forgotten scream for help in dreams." My addendum: Monitor your dreams closely. They will offer clues about what you need to remember. Seed #3: "Relearn astonishment, stop grasping for knowledge, lose the habit of the past." My addendum: Go in search of the miraculous.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "There are friendships like circuses, waterfalls, libraries," said writer Vladimir Nabokov. I hope you have at least one of each, Leo. And if you don't, I encourage you to go out and look for some. It would be great if you could also get access to alliances that resemble dancing lessons, colorful sanctuaries, lion whisperers, prayer flags, and the northern lights. Right now you especially need the stimulation that synergistic collaborations can provide. The next chapter of your life story requires abundant contact with interesting people who have the power to surprise you and teach you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Perfection is a stick with which to beat the possible," says author Rebecca Solnit. She is of course implying that it might be better not to beat the possible, but rather to protect and nurture the possible as a viable option—especially if perfection ultimately proves to have no value other than as a stick. This is always a truth worth honoring, but it will be crucial for you in the weeks to come. I hope you will cultivate a reverence and devotion to the possible. As messy or maddening as it might be, it will also groom your powers as a maker.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An invigorating challenge is headed your way. To prepare you, I offer the wisdom of French author André Gide. "Through loyalty to the past," he wrote, "our mind refuses to realize that tomorrow's joy is possible only if today's joy makes way for it." What this means, Libra, is that you will probably have to surrender your attachment to a well-honed delight if you want to make yourself available for a bright new delight that's hovering on the frontier. An educational blessing will come your way if and only if you clear space for its arrival. As Gide concludes, "Each wave owes the beauty of its line only to the withdrawal of the preceding wave."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "How prompt we are to satisfy the hunger and thirst of our bodies; how slow to satisfy the hunger and thirst of our souls!" Henry David Thoreau wrote that, and now I'm passing it on to you just in time for a special phase of your long-term cycle. During this upcoming interlude, your main duty is to FEED YOUR SOUL in every way you can imagine. So please stuff it with unpredictable beauty and reverent emotions. Cram it with mysterious adventures and rambling treks in the frontier. Gorge it with intimate unpredictability and playful love and fierce devotions in behalf of your most crucial dreams. Warning: You will not be able to rely solely on the soul

food that has sustained you in the past. Be eager to discover new forms of nourishment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Here's how every love letter can be summarized," says Russell Dillon in his poem "Past-Perfect-Impersona": "What is it you're unable to surrender and please may I have that?" I bring this tease to your attention because it may serve as a helpful riddle in the coming weeks. You're entering a phase when you will have an enhanced ability to tinker with and refine and even revolutionize your best intimate relationships. I'm hoping Dillon's provocation will unleash a series of inquiries that will inspire you as you imagine how you could supercharge togetherness and reinvent the ways you collaborate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Fifth-century Christian theologian St. Jerome wrote that "it requires infinite discretion to look for gold in the midst of dirt." Ancient Roman poet Virgil on one occasion testified that he was "searching for gold in dung." While addressing the angels, nineteenth-century French poet Charles Baudelaire bragged, "From each thing I extracted its quintessence. You gave me your mud, and I made gold out of it." From what I can tell, Capricorn, you have been engaged in similar work lately. The climax of your toil should come in the next two weeks. (Thanks to Michael Gilleland for the inspiration: tinyurl.com/mudgold.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "At this time in my life," says singer Joni Mitchell, "I've confronted a lot of my devils. A lot of them were pretty silly, but they were incredibly real at the time." According to my reading of the astrological omens, Aquarius, you are due to enjoy a similar grace period. It may be a humbling grace period, because you'll be invited to decisively banish worn-out delusions that have filled you with needless fear. And it may be a grace period that requires you to make strenuous adjustments, since you'll have to revise some of your old stories about who you are and how you got here. But it will also be a sweet grace period, because you'll be blessed again and again with a visceral sense of liberation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): More than halfway through her prose poem "A Settlement," Mary Oliver abruptly stops her meandering meditation on the poignant joys of spring's soft awakening. Suddenly she's brave and forceful: "Therefore, dark past, I'm about to do it. I'm about to forgive you for everything." Now would be a perfect moment to draw inspiration from her, Pisces. I dare you to say it. I dare you to mean it. Speak these words: "Therefore, dark past, I'm about to do it. I'm about to forgive you for everything."

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "An oar moves a boat by entering what lies outside it," writes poet Jane Hirshfield. You can't use the paddle inside the boat! It's of no value to you unless you thrust it into the drink and move it around vigorously. And that's an excellent metaphor for you to keep in mind during the coming weeks, my friend. If you want to reach your next destination, you must have intimate and continual interaction with the mysterious depths that lie outside your known world.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The short attention span is now enshrined as the default mode of awareness. "We skim rather than absorb," says author James Lough. "We read Sappho or Shakespeare the same way we glance over a tweet or a text message, scanning for the gist, impatient to move on." There's a problem with that approach, however. "You can't skim Shakespeare," says Lough. I propose that we make that your epigram to live by in the coming weeks, Taurus: *You can't skim Shakespeare*. According to my analysis, you're going to be offered a rich array of Shakespeare-level information and insights. To get the most out of these blessings, you must penetrate and marinate and ruminate. **IV** —Rob Breszney



FIRESALE

Furry Noises

firesale.bandcamp.com/album/furry-noises

FireSale is a band made up of players currently finishing bachelor's degrees at the University of Iowa College of Music. They share that musical pedigree with alumni Euforquestra, whose frontman Matt Grundstad joins with them on their song "Don't Ya," on their 2015 album, *Furry Noises*. Their music is an amalgam of funk, jazz and rock not too far away from that of Euforquestra.

Individually, they're all accomplished players. (Apparently, going to college for music and practicing like fiends for years pays off.) Their songs succeed best when they lock into solid grooves like "Roads," which is driven by Joe Verstraete's drumming and saxophone harmonies by Brady Stender. The extended instrumental break in "Roads" is great writing, with a sly unison bass & guitar line that lopes along like a cat out for its evening constitutional.

FireSale are a band that could totally kill on a Friday Night at the Yacht Club, which is both an asset and a liability. Their song-writing often goes down the well trod path laid down by jam bands of the past—some blues, some 70s-style funk, with an occasional hint of reggae. At their best, as on "Keep In Touch," they achieve lift off, with close falsetto harmonies and tricky, almost Zappa-esque composed sections.

Sometimes, though, a groove can become a rut. FireSale are skilled technically and make music that can please an audience. That is a big accomplishment; most people try really hard and still suck. But Average White Band were doing this kind of funk 40 years ago, and just because white people can play reggae, doesn't mean they should. They're very

good at what they're doing, but what they're doing seems a little too easy sometimes.

artist."

Where another interviewer might have felt like they needed to reign their subject in, Yoder helped Greenwell explore the niches of his opinions and make eccentric yet poignant connections

They can rest assured that their podcast is not a complete disaster from the start—far from it.

FireSale are capable of a lot more. Being able to play anything demands finding personal, original things to play. They're young and promising, and I look forward to what they'll accomplish when they're a little older, wiser and less groovy. **IV**

—Kent Williams



'THE FAIL SAFE'

A Podcast for Writers

www.iowawritershouse.org/fail-safe

Failure might seem like a binary state—you are or are not a failure. But wait: *The Fail Safe*, a podcast that is the result of a collaboration between the Iowa Writers' House and *draft: the journal of process*, wants to challenge that notion by exploring the failures of today's most successful writers.

On Apr. 28, in downtown Iowa City, on the second floor of the Clinton Street Social Club, host Rachel Yoder was preparing to wrap up the live taping of the first episode of *The Fail Safe* when her guest, the recently world-renowned Garth Greenwell, author of *What Belongs to You*, remarked: "The most powerful force in popular success is chance." He said that artists must "... give ourselves as many chances to be lucky as possible. That's sort of what it means to live the life of an

between failure and success, or the often blurry line separating the two.

For this listener, the most surprising moment came when Yoder asked Greenwell about his writing life now, in the wake of success (the book tours, the signings, the readings). He first admitted that he's terrified by the prospect of never feeling like he's writing in a space of unimportance again. And of success he said, "It's amazing and profoundly disturbing." But then—and one could be forgiven for not anticipating this catch-22 of popular success—he said, "I feel further away from writing now than ever in my life."

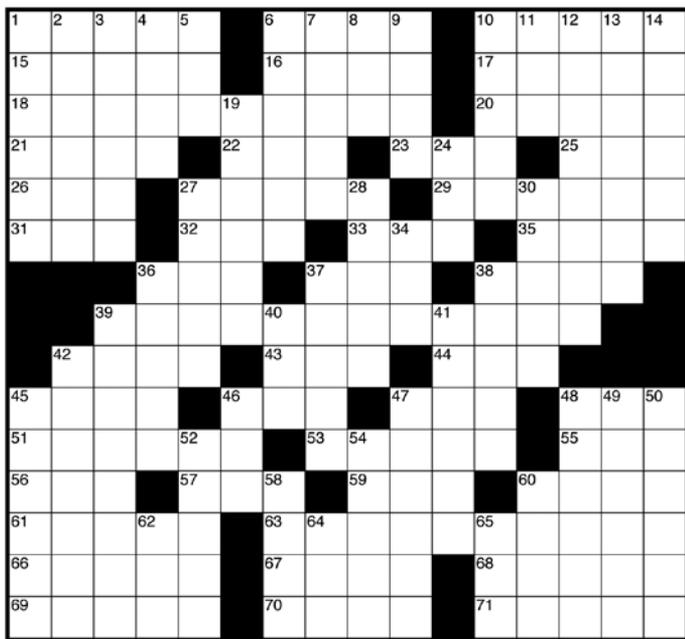
Earlier in the conversation, Greenwell said, "I have to feel like I'm writing in a space of unimportance." For context, he spoke to how he wrote the middle section of his debut novel. Greenwell said the single unbroken paragraph was written on scraps of paper and on napkins, and that "treating the paper like trash" allowed him to feel like, "this is a complete disaster from the start." Feeling as though, from the beginning, he was failing, allowed him the space to take risks that ultimately gave him a chance to be lucky.

For *The Fail Safe*, with this first episode, they can rest assured that their podcast is not a complete disaster from the start—far from it. To hear more about sudden success, failure that leads to success and the failures of success—to realize how nuanced the idea of failure really is—check out *The Fail Safe*. The first episode of the podcast will be released in late May at iowawritershouse.org/fail-safe. **IV**

—Jared Krauss

SUBMIT ALBUMS FOR REVIEW

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ACROSS

- 1. Secret police with the motto "Shield and Sword of the Party"
- 6. ___ of Slytherin (subject of speculation in "Chamber of Secrets")
- 10. Hustle outside a stadium
- 15. Great Lake with the longest shoreline
- 16. Soul singer Blacc with a soothing-sounding name
- 17. "My Cousin Vinny" Oscar winner
- 18. People's rival
- 20. Baker who sang with the band Chapter 8
- 21. Naturalist for whom an island, a mountain, hundreds of animal species, and an Australian city are named (dude!)
- 22. "___ Huguenots" (Meyerbeer opera)
- 23. Historic women's gp.
- 25. Emulate America under Donald Trump, per Donald Trump
- 26. Joke (around)

- 27. Book perhaps obviated by Google Maps
- 29. Intimate with
- 31. "Lord of the Rings" actor who was in the whole trilogy, has directed, has done a ton of voiceover work, and is now working in politics (bruh!)
- 32. "God's Son" rapper
- 33. Fancy cigarette holder
- 35. Corporate drudges
- 36. "Pimp My Ride" canvas
- 37. "Something Under the ___ Is Drooling" ("Calvin and Hobbes" collection)
- 38. What boxed zinfandel may be called, facetiously
- 39. Public act of self-entitlement ... and what the figures in 21-, 31-, 46-, and 56-Across are doing
- 42. It launched with the tagline "it's not just a search engine, it's a decision engine"

- 43. Mr. Potato Head part
- 44. On the ___ (routinely, casually)
- 45. "Trap House" artist Gucci
- 46. Rapper with 22 million Twitter followers (leave some for the rest of us!)
- 47. Tree sacred to druids
- 48. Boston hrs.
- 51. Supplements
- 53. Some stars
- 55. Part of a fault line?
- 56. "Six Feet Under" actor who's appeared on more than 100 TV shows (other people need roles!)
- 57. "Oops" key
- 59. Disk memory acronym
- 60. Sound
- 61. Cookies in some ice cream
- 63. Experimental artistic milieu
- 66. Blazing again
- 67. "Ali" director Michael
- 68. Oldest city in Greece
- 69. "Alas ..."
- 70. "The Missile Crisis" author Abel
- 71. Note above F?

DOWN

- 1. "I dunno, but that's awful kind of you to say ..."
- 2. Something to put on a potty
- 3. Naval fleet
- 4. Get super high
- 5. Multinational bank that once sponsored the New York City Marathon
- 6. Shrubs with edible nuts
- 7. Salma's role on "30 Rock"
- 8. ___ cannon (Rebel Alliance weapon in "The Empire Strikes Back")
- 9. Saxophonist's need
- 10. One may be blank
- 11. Crook
- 12. "Eh? Eh?"
- 13. 2014 Academy Award winner for Best Original Song
- 14. Challenges for movers
- 19. Sites for rites
- 24. ___ Taylor Loft

- 27. They Might Be Giants hit with the line "and her voice is a backwards record"
- 28. Be in charge, so to speak
- 30. About to get 100 on, perhaps
- 34. "Princess ___" (Gilbert and Sullivan operetta)
- 36. University of Miami athletes, familiarly
- 37. ___ awareness (marketer's goal)
- 38. Instagram video tally
- 39. Telepathic link, on "Star Trek"
- 40. "Once Upon a Mattress" prop
- 41. "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio / Than are ___ of in your philosophy": Shakespeare
- 42. District that feels post-apocalyptic, perhaps
- 45. English and French, for two
- 46. Daily ___ (political blog)
- 47. Batgirl player Craig
- 48. Come out from underwater, say
- 49. Rarely
- 50. "Thy Neighbor's Wife" author Gay
- 52. Apt to snap
- 54. Like most characters in Jon Stewart's "Rosewater"
- 58. Made the trip
- 60. Merchandise
- 62. Energy trader's commodity
- 64. Batman player Kilmer
- 65. Energy trader's commodity

LV198 ANSWERS



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