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LITTLE VILLAGE

ISSUE 204
AUG. 17 - SEPT. 6, 2016



OPEN SEASON!

KINNICK GOES COUNTRY P. 22

BIG dreams in C.R. – p. 8

IYWP en Español – p. 12

First Folio on tour – p. 18



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LITTLE VILLAGE

VOL. 21 | ISSUE 204
AUG. 17 – SEPT. 6, 2016

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Photo courtesy of Iowa BIG

8

BIG AND BOLD

Cedar Rapids exploratory program gives teens a chance to grow.

ERIN TIESMAN

12

¡ESTRENAMOS!

Nueva columna explora el IWYP y la biblioteca móvil “Antílope”.

ALBA LARAGRANERO
TRANSLATED BY SPENSER SANTOS



KINNICK GOES COUNTRY

By Lev Cantoral

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18

ANOTHER DEATHDAY IN THE BOOKS

Shakespeare's First Folio tours on the 400th anniversary of his death.

JAMES E. TRAINOR III

- 6 - Interactions
- 8 - Iowa BIG
- 10 - Notes from the Inside
- 12 - En Español
- 14 - LV Recommends
- 16 - Hot Tin Roof
- 18 - First Folio
- 22 - Kinnick Concert
- 28 - A-List

22

GET DOWN ON THE GRIDIRON

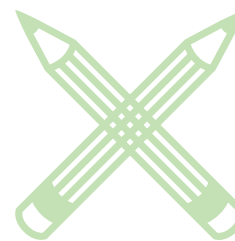
Kinnick Stadium explores a new use for its famous field.

KENT WILLIAMS

- 30 - Area Events
- 41 - Open Calls
- 44 - Venue Guide
- 45 - Ad Index
- 46 - Straight Dope
- 47 - Dear Kiki
- 48 - Astrology
- 49 - Crossword
- 50 - Local Albums

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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CHANNEL YOUR ENERGY

THIS SEASON IS INSANE. There is a frenetic pace pervading it—we desperately try to squeeze as much activity as possible into the last fading days of summer, even as we race to ready ourselves for the fuller schedules of our falls. It can be hard to take a moment to breathe.

The people and organizations covered in this issue are finding ways to actively lean into that wild race. They represent a whirlwind of bold goals and grand ideas.

A lot of that energy centers around heading back to school. In this issue, we look at Iowa BIG, a Cedar Rapids program that's been honing and nurturing the energy and ambition of teenagers for the past three years by pairing them with real-world projects for half of their school day.

We also explore two huge undertakings at the University of Iowa—the flurry of events put together by the UI Libraries in conjunction with their historical opportunity to host the only Iowa stop on the tour of a First Folio of William Shakespeare's works, and the exciting efforts to outfit Kinnick Stadium to host its first ever concert.

And our newest column, En Español, takes a look at the start of the elementary school year by chatting with Mallory Hellman of the Iowa Youth Writing Program about her group's efforts to engage kids in writing in multiple languages.

Whether you're energized or exhausted by the whirling dervish of late summer, we're glad you took a moment to rest with us in these pages. We hope you're inspired to go BIG in this busy time.

—LV Editors

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COMMUNITY DINING CULTURE AREA EVENTS

iv. INTERACTIONS

How can Iowa City be sex-positive without locally-owned, feminist sex stores?

Yes, yes, yes. I've been saying this for years. There is a real need for a place like this.
 —Kate Connell Potts

What the author is describing isn't a business, it's a unicorn. —Jim DeSchinckel

An erotica writing group in Iowa City? YES PLEASE! —Eliza David

As someone who used to live in a very nice apartment next to Romantix, "near some railroad tracks," in the SoBo district so many of your advertisements promote, I'm confused by the implication that it's particularly inconvenient and somehow far flung from anywhere convenient despite being on Gilbert Street. Tons of things I enjoy (non-sex related) aren't available in one location. If I enjoy them enough I go out of my way. Why would sex items be any different? Not EVERYTHING has to be easy access all of the

time. The essentials for safe sex can be found at any local pharmacy—lots of it 24 hours at a gas station. That's pretty damn wonderful. If, however there were to be a locally owned business as

What a way to characterize a perfectly respectable part of town.

described in the article, I can't think of a better location than where Romantix is, considering the efforts to revitalize the business traffic through that part of town. That railroad tracks line kills me though. We have railroad tracks running by the English Philosophy building and the University's Main Library for goodness sake. Tongue-in-cheek or not, what a way to characterize a perfectly respectable part of town. —Lindsay Gingerich



Over 100 Iowa educators sign letter rebuking Steve King's comments

Only 100? —*San Fernando Curt*

Album Review: Nora Petran & Curt Oren — 2%

This recording is ridiculously good and unique. —*@LewinCatherine*

Return of the roadhouse: Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon re-opens

Noooooo. Why can't it be open right now? That just means I'll have to make another trip! —*Megan Powell*

Just announced: Sacramento hip hop duo Blackalicious to land at Gabe's Iowa City

Oh Christ take my money. —*Jensina Endresen*

Ready to tell us how you really feel? Send a letter to Editor@LittleVillageMag.com



TEEN DREAM Readers and staff celebrate *Little Village's* 15th anniversary with tacos, beer and live music in the back lot at LV HQ (623 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City), July 2016.



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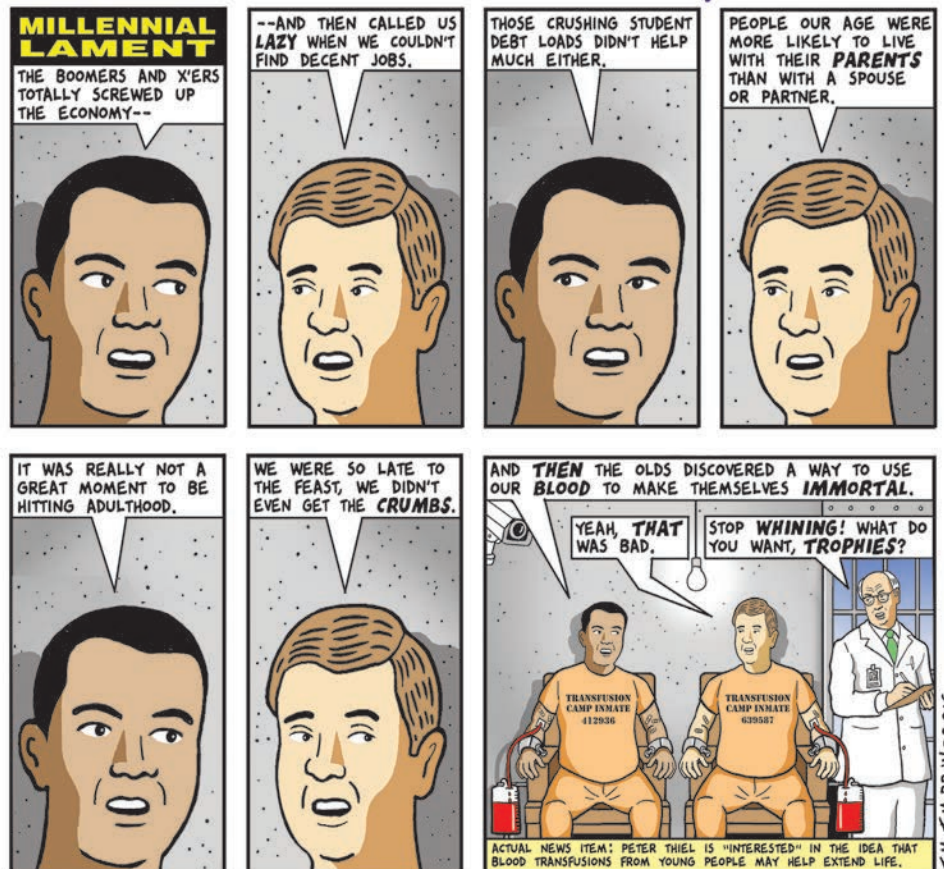
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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BIG AMBITION

Students explore project-based learning—and real-world applications—in Cedar Rapids. • BY ERIN TIESMAN



Photos courtesy of Iowa BIG



Imagine the countless hours spent in high school classrooms: blackboards, textbooks, lesson plans. Now imagine if you could spend half of that typical day in real-world offices, solving real-world problems.

20 students from the Mt. Vernon, Cedar Rapids, College Community and Linn-Mar school districts. But it has grown in big ways, with the 2016-2017 class attracting around 130 students.

“Iowa BIG is about slowing the brain

The program has three core tenets: Students must be passionate about the project, projects must be interdisciplinary and cross multiple courses and each project must have an audience, which is why Miller’s role is so vital—he partners the students with local business leaders.

“We’ll use our experiences and learning to try and make Cedar Rapids an even better place for our kids to grow up in.”

—Kyle Scheer

“I enjoyed working on a real-world issue with teachers that had a passion for helping students unlock their potential,” said former Iowa BIG student Kyle Scheer, who is applying what he learned as a paid intern in data analytics at Van Meter Inc. “It’s made my education more exciting, more in-depth and more diverse.”

That’s exactly what the students in the Iowa BIG program get to do every school year.

Iowa BIG began as a collaborative effort between area business leaders and the Cedar Rapids Gazette Companies to begin to reimagine the typical approach to education. Its pilot kicked off in 2013, with fewer than

drain,” said Troy Miller, director of strategic partnerships at Iowa BIG, adding that over a century of standard education practices may need an update to keep students engaged.

With the program, high school students can spend half their school day with Iowa BIG, working on initiatives chosen from a project pool at the beginning of the year.

Scheer said that one of BIG’s major benefits is its ability to open doors to the world to provide opportunities to make a difference. Some day, he said, he’ll return to Cedar Rapids to start a family. “We’ll use our experiences and learning to try and make Cedar Rapids an even better place for our kids to grow up in,” Scheer said.

But for now, its students are focused on

solving problems here at home.

Prairie High graduate Kinzie Farmer focused her 2013 initiative on improving the self-esteem of women through her now-established brand, Success to the Power of She. With her initiative, Farmer helped run successful social media campaigns and coordinate a 2014 Cedar Rapids women's conference with 150 attendees and guest speakers including University of Iowa women's basketball coach Lisa Bluder and Iowa Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds.

In 2014, high school sophomore Abby Murdock began perusing information about the adverse childhood experiences study, or ACEs. ACEs is a test that focuses on physical, emotional and sexual traumas in childhood, as they correlate to struggles in adulthood, including health issues, violence, economic hardship and substance abuse.

Since the project began, 30 students have joined Murdock in the ACEs initiative; as a senior this fall, Murdock will continue leading the team. "[The students] attended conferences for school counselors and teachers; they traveled the state sharing their message," Miller said, adding that some teachers and counselors knew little about ACEs initially.

Aren Buresh, a recent Kennedy High graduate and former Iowa BIG student, discovered her love of marketing and creative storytelling through the program.

"I had a chance to have my writing published on community-wide platforms. My writing, for the first time, had a real, authentic audience," Buresh said, adding that she's using what she learned at BIG as an intern for Flow Media, a creative marketing company.

While Miller said the class sizes get bigger every year, Iowa BIG has only impacted about two percent of the students at partner high schools.

"We've just scratched the surface," said Miller.

But at the end of every school year, the initiatives that the students drive forward and into their community never cease to amaze him or the other BIG faculty.

"High school kids can do a whole lot more than we give them credit for." **lv**

Erin Tiesman is a content strategist and writer in Cedar Rapids. When she's not living all things content, you'll find her running, reading or listening to the Beatles.

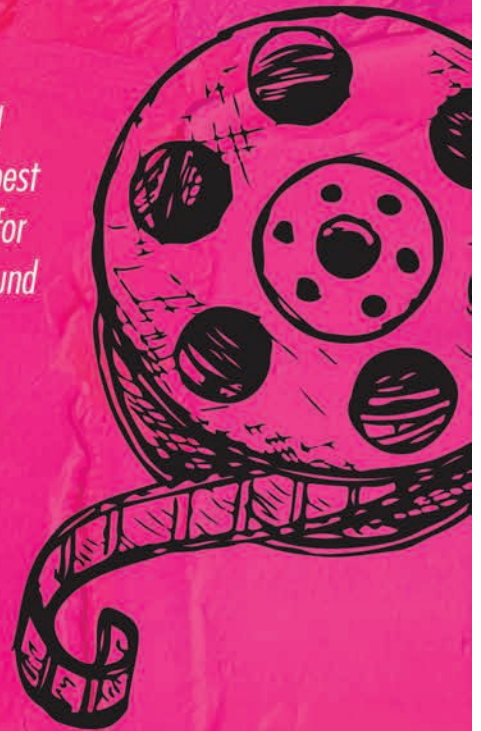


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NOTES FROM THE INSIDE

NAMASTE • BY JOSÉ R.

“Notes from the Inside” features writing by inmates serving time in Iowa prisons. *Little Village* editors have made only minor adjustments for style.

Namaste: a Hindu greeting which loosely translates into, “The good that is in the deepest part of me, greets the good that is in the deepest part of you.” This greeting, this mind state, is the basis upon which Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) is built.

In 1975, a maximum security prison in New York was in the midst of a violent race war. Many men had been killed on all sides with no end in sight, but from that soil of death and despair a miracle was born.

Several older convicts, united by the desire to end the violence, came together and decided that something had to change. They knew that they didn’t have the tools to talk about non-violence so they reached out to a local community of Quakers, and, together, Quaker and convict, they formed a group called the Alternatives to Violence Project. The group began small, as all change does, but in time the idea began to take hold that just because you’ve spent your whole life walking one path doesn’t mean that you can’t choose a different one.

Namaste became a guiding light. Many people have asked how such a simple word in a foreign language could become so impactful in people’s lives. The beauty of the word is not just that we “greet the good in others,” but that we begin to acknowledge the good that exists with ourselves.

An unfortunate fact is that we have hurt many people as a result of the crimes we committed; obviously the victims themselves, but also their families as well. Crime itself is selfish, and, as we chose to engage in a crime or crimes, many people paid the price for our choice and were exposed to a very bad part of us—but only one part. That’s the key.

In acknowledging that good exists with you, you acknowledge that as ugly as your crime was, it’s not all that you are. This isn’t about minimizing the action or justifying it, but it’s the first step in making different choices, taking different paths. If I embrace the idea that good exists within me, then I have no excuse for not letting that be the part of me with which I greet others. The best me.

That group, which began almost 50 years ago as a last ditch effort to save lives in one prison, has since grown to 48 states and several countries around the world, including some very war-torn regions like Rwanda and the Gaza strip. The program itself has also changed.

Initially the workshops were focused almost exclusively on violence itself and why finding alternatives was necessary, but now each workshop is focused on a different theme, from communication and empathy to conflict resolution, trauma and power. Different themes, but all aimed at the same goal and rooted in a fundamental principle of AVP: We are all more than the worst thing we have done. Each workshop is a step in working on what can help each of us discover that best version of ourselves.

The other day I was talking to someone about AVP and they said that they were told the group “doesn’t count” with the parole board. Some of you may also be thinking the same thing, so I’ll tell you what I told them.

AVP is not a group that you will ever be mandated to take. It is not a treatment class and will not satisfy the requirements of parole board treatment recommendations.

But it counts.

It counts in the way that matters most, and with the people that matter most. All the people who stood with us at so many crucial periods in our lives, and who loved us in spite of the many reasons we gave them not to. It counts with those beautiful women who nurtured us in their wombs for nine months as they dreamed of who we would become, and it counts with the children we brought into this world—the sons and daughters who we’ve left to fend for themselves as we watch them grow up in pictures. The children who miss their daddy and love us anyway. It counts because becoming the best us we can be is the only gift these people have ever wanted.

Change isn’t easy, but nothing worth attaining will ever come without a struggle. The question you must start with is: Are you worth it? I think you are. **lv**

Ed. note: The Alternatives to Violence Project sponsors prison, community and school-based groups around the world. Visit avpiowa.org for information on the Iowa City community group, which meets quarterly.



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SACAR A PASEAR EN ESPAÑOL

En Iowa City, existen opciones para desarrollar la lengua materna más allá del hogar. • BY ALBA LARAGRANERO



Adam: ¿También hablas español?
Me: Sí. Y tú, ¿hablas algún idioma además de inglés?

Adam: Ojalá.

Adam tiene doce años, pero ya intuye los beneficios del bilingüismo. Para decenas de niños hispanohablantes de Iowa City, sin embargo, el español sigue siendo una lengua privada, que se usa apenas en el ámbito familiar. Muchos de ellos entienden, pero casi no hablan. Lo bueno es que en IC hay oportunidades para que los jóvenes practiquen su español fuera del hogar. El Iowa Youth Writing Project, una organización sin ánimo de lucro fundada en 2010 por estudiantes graduados del Iowa Writers' Workshop, provee algunas de esas oportunidades. La coordinadora de verano del IYWP, Lisa Roberts, cuenta que sus voluntarios acuden cada martes de diez a doce a Cole's Mobile Home Court (donde conocí a Adam) y cada jueves a Forest View, dos comunidades con numerosa población hispanohablante.

No van solos: durante esas dos horas, la biblioteca móvil *Antilope* presta libros, en español y en inglés, a gente de todas las edades. Los niños, bilingües o monolingües, juegan, corretean, realizan actividades de lectura y escritura con monitoras como Alison Edwards, o meriendan gracias a la comida donada por *Table to Table*. Molly Kelly, voluntaria, perfecciona además su español mientras acompaña a los jóvenes y sabe que “ser bilingüe es un desafío en el ámbito educativo en los EEUU, especialmente cuando a los niños se les habla sólo en una lengua en la escuela”. Conseguir voluntarios que hablen español es vital para que las actividades puedan hacerse en la lengua materna de un alto porcentaje de los niños que acuden a estas citas semanales.

La directora del IYWP, Mallory Hellman, explica que ellos ofrecen más recursos para la promoción del bilingüismo. Durante el curso académico, por ejemplo, imparten semanalmente un taller de escritura creativa en español para niños en el colegio Lemme. Además, el IYWP planea seguir creciendo en esta dirección. Y no sólo en castellano, sino también en otros idiomas con importante representación en Iowa. “Queremos colaborar con la mezquita para hacer un

taller bilingüe árabe-inglés”, dice con orgullo Hellman. Celebremos el privilegio de hablar idiomas. Y, Adam, ojalá tú también seas bilingüe algún día.



Photo by Molly Kelly

GOING FOR A WALK IN SPANISH

In Iowa City, there are options for practicing the mother tongue away from home. BY ALBA LARAGRANERO; TRANSLATED BY SPENSER SANTOS

Adam: Do you speak Spanish, too?
Me: I do. Do you speak another language besides English?

Adam: I wish.

Adam is twelve years old, but he already understands the benefits of bilingualism. For dozens of Spanish-speaking children in Iowa City, however, Spanish continues to be a private language, used only with family. Many of them understand it, but they almost can't speak it. The good thing is that in IC there are opportunities for children to practice their Spanish away from home. The Iowa Youth Writing Project, a nonprofit organization

founded in 2010 by graduate students from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, provides some of these opportunities. The IYWP Summer Programming Coordinator, Lisa Roberts, says that in this season the volunteers meet every Tuesday from ten to noon at Cole's Mobile Home Court (where I met Adam) and every Thursday at Forest View, two communities with large Spanish-speaking populations.

They don't go alone: The mobile Antelope library lends books in Spanish and English for those two hours, which children can borrow to take home for the week. Children of all ages, bilingual and monolingual, do reading and writing activities with volunteers like

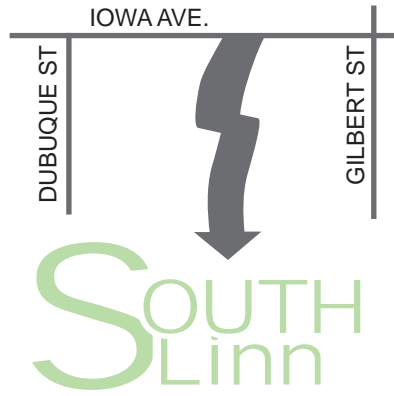
Alison Edwards, play, run and snack on fresh foods donated to the IYWP by Table to Table. Molly Kelly, another volunteer, improves her Spanish while accompanying the children and knows that, "Being bilingual is a challenge in the American educational setting, especially when the children are only speaking one language in school." Getting volunteers who speak Spanish is vital so that the activities can be done in the mother tongue of a high

Para decenas de niños hispanohablantes de Iowa City, el español sigue siendo una lengua privada.

percentage of the children who go to these weekly meetings.

The IYWP director, Mallory Hellman, explains that the IYWP offers more resources for the promotion of bilingualism. During the academic year, they give weekly workshops in creative writing in Spanish for children at Lemme Elementary, and the IYWP plans to continue growth in this direction. And not only Spanish, but other languages with significant representation in Iowa too. "We want to collaborate with the mosque to make a bilingual Arabic-English workshop," Hellman says with pride. We celebrate the privilege of speaking languages. Adam, you can be bilingual too. **lv**

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LE GOURMET

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Photo by Tim Doran

went over the phrases I would say in Korean, double-checking for any blatant errors in how I addressed the owner or how I pronounced the words. But when it was my turn to order, my carefully constructed phrases were instantly replaced with nostalgia when I suddenly noticed the row of pastries behind the ordering counter.

breakfast. All the practiced professionalism flew out the window as I eagerly pointed at the soboro bread. I instinctively called it “soboro ppang” (ppang means bread in Korean), and the Korean woman looked up, slightly confused.

“Are you Korean?” she asked cautiously. I nodded, and excitedly said in Korean that

When it was my turn to order, my carefully constructed phrases were instantly replaced with nostalgia when I suddenly noticed the row of pastries behind the ordering counter.

Red bean buns, green tea sticks, milk buns, cream buns and my favorite: soboro bread. Immediately I remembered how my family would stock up on Asian pastries. We rarely had them accessible to us, so whenever we found soboro bread, we’d grab enough for

it was my favorite type of pastry. Her eyes lit up. She slipped into her mother tongue and started up a brief conversation as she wrapped the ppang for me. When she handed it over, she also took out a small cookie and said that it was “servicesuh” (in Korea,

servicesuh are freebies that restaurants or stores give out to establish a relationship and make a good impression on their customers). I bowed as I thanked her in Korean and she did likewise, wishing me a good day.

Iowa City now has three Korean restaurants, including Le Gourmet, until recently known as Tic Tac Toe, which of the three is the only to offer Asian pastries. The shop’s location is ideal, as it is by Iowa City’s bus interchange and one of the first places people see as they get off the bus. The Korean owners have brought a different angle to the store. They slightly changed the menu, adding in a mango smoothie with bubbles and other items, and showcased Asian pastries behind the counter.

It didn’t take long for the Korean community to discover Le Gourmet. When I sent out a group chat to my Korean friends to tell them about the store, some of them had already tried the pastries. As I talked to other Koreans, even if they hadn’t tried the pastries yet, they knew about the store. They talked to the owners in Korean comfortably, as it was one of the few places they could speak in their mother tongue.

What, exactly, is the phenomenon of Le Gourmet? It is where a businessman can grab a breakfast, a student in Hawkeye gear can

order a quick lunch, a Korean person can try pastries from home, and a Korean language student can try ordering in Korean. I hope that as more American customers try the Asian pastries and as more Korean language students visit the store maybe they’ll want to know how to make the pastry and then they’ll find a video of a

Korean cooking show and then they’ll discover Korea. And when they trace their interest back, it will all start at Le Gourmet with a taste of Korea in the shape of a pastry. **lv**

—Ashley Chong

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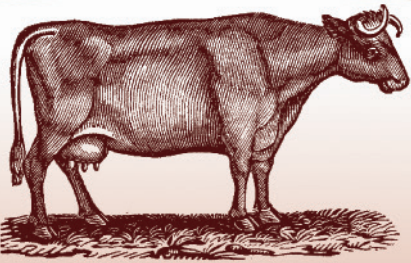
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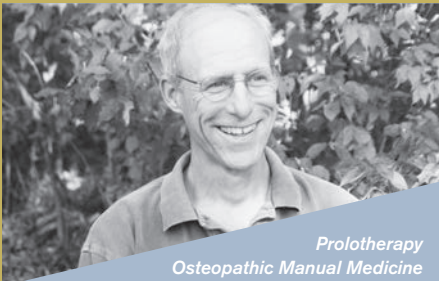
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HOT TIN ROOF: AUGUST

TRAIN ROOM • RACHEL YODER

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*.

What affable children these boys are. See how the clean one plays with the one who's dirty. See how each of them is down on his knees—equals, they are—pushing the small wooden trains along the small wooden tracks. The room is silent save for their play, their horn-like grunts, their heehaws of delight.

The clean one I must admit I gently despise for his evident wealth, for the ways in which I imagine his mother spoils him, purchasing on-trend, full-price clothing, inculcating him to the way of the consumer, to the hierarchy of stuff. He will grow up with a desire to be fully laundered, to have his nails trimmed. He will use the word “product” when discussing his hair. He will “discuss” his hair. But, see: this isn't the boy's fault, and of course **I still can love him, as mothers love children, even those who aren't their own.**

The dirty boy I have more of an affinity for, yet still I question the mental health of his parents. Who lets their child leave the house with those dreads in his hair? Those yogurt-splashed pajamas? The unmatched socks? The unwiped face? A smear of snot near the temple and crumbs ringing the mouth? Yet still, he is kind and gentle, quiet. He offers toys to the clean one, and the clean one takes them without thanks. There are so many small wooden trains here, so many pieces of wooden tracks.

More children arrive, all of them boys, all of them toddlers. They come running, and falling, walking shyly, babbling, all of them unattended. Some fight. Others share. Trains are thrown. Trains are hoarded. The trains and boys multiply mysteriously. I do my best to maintain order, mediate disputes, offer praise, but soon, I am overtaken. The boys

play, or fight, or pull at my clothes. They sign for “more,” or yell “more,” or ignore me altogether and build train tracks around and over my feet. They demand snacks, and soon my small container of dried fruit has been entirely depleted. They rage. They spit milk (though where they procured such milk is still unclear). They build entire civilizations of railroads around my legs until they have built me into a permanent place. I love these children. I scream “I LOVE YOU.” But they are hard at play. They crawl over each other. They *choo choo*. “GENTLE,” I scream, to no avail.

The air has grown moist and warm and smells of yeasty bodies, the rich compost of poop, Cheerios, old socks. The room is filled with toddlers to its very edges and so, with the coming of more (it is as though they are emerging, fully formed, from the very air itself), they begin to fill up instead of out. They cling to my waist, my shoulders. They shout for cookies. I am holding five of them without understanding the physics of this accomplishment. A big boy bangs me in the head with a locomotive. Others, far below the fray, bite at my thighs or else drive the tiny, hard wheels of their trains against my shinbone. I fall—I want to say to the floor, but I fall *to the toddlers*, and they wiggle from beneath me, they bring with them trains and tracks, they swarm over me and build intricate systems of rails, and at first I laugh, I say, “What clever children,” I say, “Please be gentle,” I ask for hugs, but their only response is *mama!* and *cookie!* and *uh uuuuuuuuuuh!* and I am overtaken as ants overtake the carcass of a succulent meal, I am crushed beneath their tiny bones, punched with feet and hands, layered with train tracks, and sooner than one might think the air is pressed from my lungs

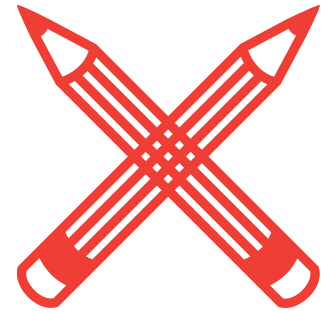
and does not return.

This is the moment of decision, as I lay there suffocating. We might call it The Mother Moment. We might call it The Moment To End All Moments. Either way, it is me or them. I've worn flammable clothing in the event such a scenario might arise, my best polyester throwbacks, other gauzes that ignite at merely the thought of flame. And that's what I do: I think *flame*. I think *conflagration*. I think *mother and creator and destroyer* and *I love you and shut up*. I grow four more arms and my skin turns blue as I ignite and consume the children. I imagine it is very beautiful as they blaze though I cannot see it since I am the source. You might imagine there are screams, but there are only naps as the boys lie down and go to sleep. You see, I am a mother and my warmth is comforting.

Afterward, I awake among ashes. That I have destroyed an entire generation of men becomes apparent. That I let the toddlers get the better of me is clear. But still, my impulse toward flame seems correct, seems cosmically sanctioned. I cough and a gray cloud wafts from my body and into the murky air.

I've destroyed them all. I begin to mourn. But then I remember: my very own son. He is safely in another room with his father, eating vegetables and cheese. As I remember him, this son, I grow big, bigger. I multiply and expand and crush the walls of the room, rip through space-time itself, until I am the entire black universe and everything, even you, is contained inside. **lv**

Rachel Yoder lives in Iowa City and hosts The Fail Safe podcast (thefailsafepodcast.com), produced by 'draft: the journal of process' and The Iowa Writers' House.



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SOMETHING WICKED AWESOME THIS WAY COMES

A national tour of the First Folio edition of the Bard's work makes its only Iowa stop at the University of Iowa Main Library. • **BY JAMES E. TRAINOR III**

Shakespeare: You've probably heard of him. You most likely had to read his work in high school or college. You've doubtless seen a film, or live performance, or modern adaptation, of one of his famous plays. If I told you he was the be-all and end-all of English literature, and sent you on a wild goose chase to find evidence of his influence all the live-long day, you might even realize I was quoting Shakespeare (he introduced those and other clichés into the English language). There's a chance you wouldn't know about any of that, however, if Shakespeare's bibliography had been left in the state it was in when he died in 1616, at the age of 52.

At that time, only about half of his dramatic work had been published, and the quality of that was inconsistent at best.

These were circulated individually, in "quarto"

form—a thin booklet about the size of a worksheet packet you might get in school, and equally as durable—and while some of these were above the board, many of them were riddled with errors and omissions. Modern scholars call the latter "bad quartos," and surmise that they were probably scribbled down hastily by opportunistic scoundrels in the audience, or recalled afterwards by low-paid actors trying to make a quick buck.

Something had to happen in order for us to have most of Shakespeare's work (we're still missing a couple) in the literary canon: That's where the First Folio comes in. John Heminges and Henry Condell, members of the King's Men (Shakespeare's acting company), decided they needed to produce a definitive edition to cement their colleague's legacy and prevent others from pirating his work.

The publication of this book, technically known as *Mr. William Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies*—and now one of the most valuable antique books in circulation—is an



SHAKESPEARE AT IOWA—A SELECTION

Thursdays, Aug. 18 and 25; Sep. 1, 8, 15 and 22, 7 p.m., Iowa City Public Library (Meeting Room A, except where noted): Weekly screenings of Shakespeare

and Shakespeare-related films—Kenneth Branagh's *Much Ado About Nothing*, Laurence Olivier's *Henry V*, Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Meeting Room B), Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo and Juliet*, Tim Blake Nelson's *O* and Al Pacino's *Looking for Richard*.

Aug. 29, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., UI Main Library

Gallery: Grand Opening celebration—Brief remarks will precede a ribbon cutting ceremony; tours of the exhibit also available. Drop-ins encouraged!

Aug. 29, 6–8 p.m., Schambaugh Auditorium

Main Library: Grand Opening lecture—UI professor Adam Hooks presents a lecture entitled *The Past, Present and Future of Shakespeare and the First Folio*.

September 3, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Iowa City Public Library (Meeting Room

A): Shakespearean Stage Fighting—A workshop with UI student Lukas Brasherfons, for children aged 13–18.

September 7, 4pm–

5:30pm, UI Main Library Gallery: *Play the Knave*—Prof. Gina Bloom speaks on the educational value of her Shakespeare video game, and audience members have a chance to give it a try!



Photo by Elliott Brown

important moment in literary history. It was the first collection of plays to be published in folio form: Plays, to the Elizabethans, were not serious literature. They'd probably raise an eyebrow if they saw American school-children hard at work analyzing *Romeo and Juliet*, as we would if future generations were required to study the comic stylings of George Carlin (actually, that sounds like a good idea; can we get on that, Board of Education?) It's also an important relic of the early days of printing, when technology and procedures were still being developed.

Plays, to the Elizabethans, were not serious literature.

It is this book (or, rather, one of several surviving copies of it), that is currently touring the 50 states in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. The tour, billed as "First Folio! The Book That Gave Us Shakespeare" is sponsored by the Folger Shakespeare Library, which has 82 copies of the First Folio preserved in its collection. In August, it comes to Iowa. The University of Iowa Library is planning a number of events in conjunction with the volume's display. These include lectures, film screenings, public readings, workshops, a chance to try out Gina Bloom's educational game *Play the Knave* and demonstrations of contemporary Elizabethan life, such as uses of flowers and methods of bookmaking. Most importantly, of course, curious parties will get to peek into the past by seeing the First Folio itself.

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The book is very important to scholars, as having access to a primary source is always valuable. But its influence on theatre practitioners—actors and directors—cannot be overstressed. In a sense, it really is “the book that gave us Shakespeare,” because without its existence, Shakespearean tragedy would probably not even be a genre. Consider the big four—*Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *King Lear* and *Othello*—often cited as the height of Shakespeare’s accomplishments. Of these four very popular tragedies, which are constantly being produced in theatres across the world, three of them suffered from multiple contradictory “bad quartos” and the fourth (*Macbeth*) had never been published prior to the Folio.

The problem of producing a *Hamlet* or a *Lear* is difficult enough as it stands, but without a definitive text to refer to it’s enough to make one throw up one’s hands and try something less complicated. Like *Wicked*. As for *Macbeth*, the horror fan in me cringes to imagine a world without what is quite possibly the creepiest story even set down on paper. The theatre world is daily enriched by having these plays, which have now been reprinted countless times, captured for the first time in 1623.

For those not involved in academia or the-
atrics, the events of “First Folio!” offer a lot of opportunities for fun and enlightenment. The events are family-friendly and many encourage children to participate. What better way to get ready for the Iowa City Book Festival in the City of Literature than to gather downtown and discover the legacy of a man so influential to the English language that he coined many of the words we use today, from “assassination” to “zany?” **lv**

James E. Trainor III could be bounded in a nutshell and count himself king of infinite space, but he’d much rather be in the studio teaching youth theatre at places such as Theatre Cedar Rapids and Northwest Junior High



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RAISE THE ROOFLESS

As former Hawkeye and NFL great Dallas Clark spearheads an effort to reimagine The University of Iowa's Kinnick Stadium as a concert venue, one question remains: Will it rock? • **BY KENT WILLIAMS**

Can the University of Iowa's 87-year-old Kinnick Stadium go beyond sporting events to become a concert venue? We're about to find out on Aug. 27, when the Back Porch Revival will take over the arena for a seven-hour-long country music concert, starring Blake Shelton, Thomas Rhett and Big & Rich. Tucker Beathard, brother of Iowa Quarterback C.J. and son of country legend Casey Beathard, will also perform. Family connections aside, Beathard is hitting his stride as a relevant draw in his own right: At the time of this writing, his 2016 debut single "Rock On" is #22 on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart.

The concert was envisioned by former NFL and Iowa football player Dallas Clark as a fundraiser for the Native Fund, a nonprofit he set up to provide disaster relief and benefit military veterans and children with life-threatening illnesses. Clark's connection to University of Iowa Athletics no doubt helped him convince the University and Athletic Department to try this out.

ARE WE READY TO ROCK?

There's a logistical challenge to building the large stage needed for a stadium concert. The temporary stage structure has towers as tall as 50 feet with cross-beams for lighting and sound. It has to be built in just a few days. There are companies that specialize in this, but Kinnick doesn't have gates and ramps large enough to allow semi-trailer

70,000 country music fans can drink a lot of \$10 cups of beer on a hot August night.

trucks to drive down to the field. Instead, everything needed for the event, from stages to Kybos, will be lifted into the stadium by giant cranes, adding another potentially entertaining element for neighborhood on-lookers to enjoy.

The sound system for an event like this is the result of 50 years of experimentation and acoustic science. Line array speakers—the curved lines of speakers hung over the stage—are designed to beam their sound into the audience, each speaker in the array covering a small area of the audience. Line arrays require careful tuning, including a digital delay for each speaker so that their sound arrives at a listener's ear at the same moment.

HOW'S THE VIEW?

For the "cheap seats" at the back and side of the stadium, the public address speakers can be used to fill in, using digital delays to keep the sound in sync with the main speaker arrays. Though computer modelling of the acoustics are essential to design such a system, concert sound is still an art, and involves careful listening by experienced engineers to

get it right. The bowl shape of the stadium will reflect much of the echoes upwards, but there's a trade-off between keeping the direct sound

signal loud enough to overpower the echoes and deafening the audience.

The size of the stadiums means that the performers are little more than dots to fans in the far reaches of the stands. The giant screens in the stadium will bring the stage closer. Shelton and other performers will be playing as much to cameras as the fans down front, making it as much a television show as a live concert.

Kinnick Stadium, which was constructed on the edge of town in the 1920s, is now surrounded by residential streets. As with football games, nearly everyone on the west side of Iowa City will be a member of the audience whether they like it or not.



THE BACK PORCH REVIVAL

SAT., AUG. 27

KINNICK STADIUM

\$39-239



Country star Blake Shelton will headline Kinnick's first Back Porch Revival. (Photo by Daniel Hughes)

LINEUP

3-3:30 P.M.

Hunter Smith Band

3:45-4:30 P.M.

Morgan Frazier & David Ray

5-5:45 P.M.

Tucker Beathard

6:15-7:15 P.M.

Big & Rich

7:45-9:00 P.M.

Thomas Rhett

9:30-11:00 P.M.

Blake Shelton

CAN WE DRINK?

Another Kinnick tradition will be in full effect for this event: tailgating. The parking lots open at 10 a.m., but the concert begins at 3 p.m., allowing time for snacking, socializing and adult beverages. A big difference between the concert and a football game will be that beer will be sold inside the stadium. It's unknown whether country music fans will be rowdier than football fans, though the two groups probably overlap broadly. Local police departments' experience in keeping order at football games will come in handy.

WHO'S GETTING BIG & RICH?

Whether the concert actually makes money is an open question. With a capacity of roughly 70,000, and tickets ranging in price from \$39 to \$239, a sold out event could gross over three million dollars. The Back Porch Revival ticketing site shows most of the \$39 and \$79 tickets have already sold. Blake Shelton's fee is between \$250,000 and \$400,000, though he may give the promoters a break since it is a charity event. Big & Rich normally charge around \$100,000. Other overheads—the fee paid to the University for the use of the stadium, security, sound system rental—have not been publicized. One thing for certain is that 70,000 country music fans can drink a lot of \$10 cups of beer on a hot August night.

Kinnick's future as a concert venue will depend in large part on how well this event goes. But there are limiting factors that mean it will never be an every-weekend thing. The biggest is Iowa's notoriously changeable and dramatic weather. The stage area will be roofed, but as with football games, if there's significant rain—or worse, lightning and high winds—the concert-going experience could be miserable, even dangerous. And will the stadium's neighbors appreciate seven hours of loud music rolling over their homes? Despite similar annoyance, football is somewhat grandfathered in to life on Iowa City's west side. It will be interesting to see if the Back Porch Revival can make future music events just as welcome. **lv**

Kent Williams has been working & writing in Iowa City since the Carter Administration.



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Friday, September 9, 2016

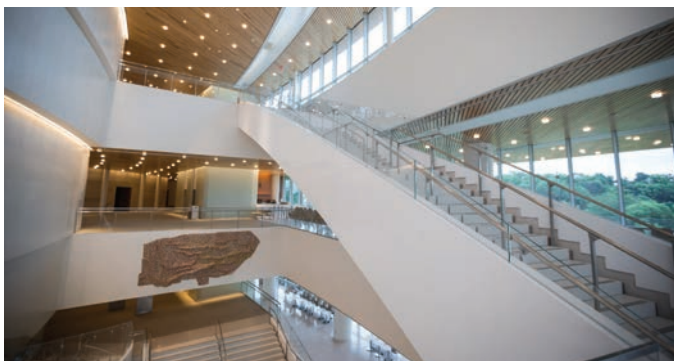
Ribbon-Cutting 3 pm | Open House 4-7 pm

HANCHER OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, September 11, 2016

2-5 pm

We can't wait to welcome you inside the new Hancher Auditorium! Join us on September 9 for a ribbon-cutting at 3:00 pm followed by the first opportunity for the public to explore the new facility. Or visit Hancher Auditorium on Sunday, September 11. The new Hancher Box Office will be open for the first time during these open houses.



Photos: Bill Adams

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact Hancher in advance at (319) 335-1158.



TROMBONE SHORTY & ORLEANS AVENUE PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND

FREE!

Friday, September 16, 7:30 pm
Hancher Green (Outside of Hancher Auditorium)

The music of New Orleans—both old school and of the moment—comes to Iowa City in this free outdoor event.

The **Preservation Hall Jazz Band** opened the original Hancher Auditorium in 1972, and it's only right that the band heralds the opening of the new Hancher facility. Led by Ben Jaffe, son of the band's cofounders, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band will share the traditional sounds of the Crescent City.

The party will roll on when **Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue** takes the stage. The band serves up the funk, spicing it with hip-hop, rock, and jazz inflections. This is some of the hottest music around, and it will have you up and dancing.

EVENT SPONSORS

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Great Artists. Great Audiences. **Hancher Performances.**
Discover more at hancher.uiowa.edu.







LUCIUS performs at Codfish Hollow in Maquoketa, IA on Thursday, Aug. 11. Find more shots from this show at littlevillagemag.com. Photo by Zak Neumann.

A-LIST

HARMONIOUS HOMECOMING

Iowa City's own Bridget Kearney swings through town with her band-on-the-rise, Lake Street Dive • **BY CHELSEA PFEIFFER**



Photo by Danny Clinch

Lake Street Dive saw a mercurial rise to fame after their mellowed-out, soulful cover of the Jackson Five's "I Want You Back" went viral. They continued to earn critical acclaim with their seamless vocal melodies and throwback style. They are a nationally-known band with a local influence in Bridget Kearney, who provides bass and vocals for the harmonious quartet. Kearney, born and raised in Iowa City, formed the musical group after heading to the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music with a background in jazz. The four are growing into musical success, touring the US and Europe, but have not outgrown familiar places. Bridget Kearney spoke with *Little Village* on Lake Street Dive's upcoming hometown show at the Englert (Monday, Aug. 22 at 7 p.m.; tickets are \$33.50), their recent album and their evolution as a band.

Are you excited to be back in Iowa City?

Well, I was just back in July, visiting for about a week—but I love Iowa City. I love being there; I know so many people from over the years, and I'm just excited to share what I've been doing with the band with the people I know and love.

How is playing at home different from playing elsewhere?

It's kind of more real in a way. Especially the size of places we're playing now, it's easier to just turn off the part of your brain that knows there's two thousand people there watching you. But when some of those people are your school teachers or your parents or classmates or

people you went to church with, those are like real people, so you sort of tally up in your brain the real people you know. It goes up and up, and it makes me nervous (laughs). **You were classically trained in bass with a background in jazz, but Lake Street Dive is known for its old-school pop melodies and vocal harmonies. When you formed, how did this sound come about?** I think, for all of us in the band, we studied music a lot, but what we studied isn't necessarily what we're playing now. But it gave us an education not only in playing an instrument but understanding music and getting inside it and figuring out how it works. So the same techniques I use as a jazz musician



EDITORS' PICKS

SAT., AUG. 20

Evan Taylor Jones, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9:30 p.m., \$6

Meat Wave w/ Lifestyles and Younger, Gabe's, 10 p.m., \$7

SUN., AUG. 21

Kurt Vile and the Violators w/ Your Friend, Codfish Hollow Barnstormers, 7 p.m., \$25-30

MON., AUG. 22

Lake Street Dive, The Englert Theatre, 7 p.m., \$33.50

TUE., AUG. 23

Big Eyes w/ Dishwater Blonde, Starry Nights, The Mill, 9 p.m., \$7

THU., AUG. 25

John Till w/ Bree Nettie, The Mill, 8 p.m., \$8

FRI., AUG. 26

Jethro Tull's Martin Barre Band, Paramount Theatre, 7:30 p.m., \$35

Ron DeWitte w/ Lynne Rothrock, Julia West, Danny Oline, Greg Kanz, Opus Concert Cafe, 7:30 p.m., \$28

SAT., AUG. 27

Back Porch Revival featuring Blake Shelton, Kinnick Stadium, 3 p.m., \$39-239

Sweet Cacophony, Uptown Bill's, 7 p.m., \$5-10

Surf Zombies, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 9 p.m., Free

FRI., SEP. 2

Friday Night Concert Series: Christopher the Conquered, Downtown Pedestrian Mall, 6:30 p.m., Free

Magnetos, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 9 p.m., Free

★ JOIN THE PARTY! ★

to transcribe Charlie Parker's improvised jazz solos and figure out, "Oh, that's why it sounds so cool," you can use that same skill to get inside a Paul McCartney or a James Jamerson bassline. You know, you're able to listen to a recording and pick out the notes that they're playing and sort of analyze how that works within the song. Even though it's not the same style I grew up learning, it's definitely still used every day.

In the last year there has been a lot of evolution with the band's operations, with you signing to Dan Auerbach's Nonesuch Records in Nashville and your newest album *Side Pony* produced by Dave Cobb. How do you feel about the changes, and what's the best thing to come out of it?

The great thing about developing or getting some success in the music industry is it helps you to make more music (laughs). When we were just doing everything ourselves, when we were doing our own booking, driving ourselves everywhere and setting up our gear, that was just so many more hours in the day that we were occupied with tasks other than music. Now that we have a bus and do all of the travel overnight. Like for example, today I woke up and I was already in St. Louis, and I'm sitting right now in front of my keyboard and my guitar and I'm just working on writing music. That's really the best thing about growing in the industry, the way you can continue to make music and be sustainable. And on the other side it's also a lot of time on the road, which is hard in some ways. It's hard on your body and your social life.

***Side Pony* has more instrumentation than your past records, and there's funk and disco vibes to it. How was it created?** We were touring a good deal after finishing *Bad Self Portraits*, so there was a chunk of time before *Side Pony* where we had a chance to do a lot of writing—I think we came into the studio with thirty or forty songs. And we had more time in the studio than we've ever had. That allowed us to be a little more intricate with the choices we made on the record. One of the more out-there tracks, "Can't Stop," that was one where we got to the end of the session and we'd already recorded a bunch of songs we were happy with but we still had time left. We decided, "Let's just do something brand new," and we wrote the song in the studio together. [It was] partially inspired by some dollar bin record store



MEMBER

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Nonprofit Cinema

A-LIST

shopping throughout the session. We'd take a break, grab a record we didn't know, and drop the needle on it and see what it was. And a lot of those happened to be 70s funk records. We were just in this moment of being inspired by these tracks and thought, "Let's take a sample from one of these," so "Can't Stop" actually contains a sample of a Major Lance song, and that's how it came about.

Do you normally write together? That was an anomaly. In the past, we'd always written separately, and then come to band rehearsal with basically a complete song. Each of us has our own process. But most importantly we're all big fans of music, we buy a lot of records, see a lot of shows. That's what keeps the fire going for me: just constantly consuming music and seeing what's exciting to me.

What are your current musical interests or up-and-coming musicians you're into?

There's a couple records out this summer that I really like. Margaret Glaspy, who's a really good friend of mine in New York; a great songwriter and lyricist. They're just a trio and they get so much funky sound out of it; I'm really into it. There's a band called Big Thief that just put out their first record; they're amazing. And I've been super into Kendrick Lamar. I think his records are so thoughtful and layered and complex. I really admire the confidence that he puts in the listener to dig deep and really get what he's saying. It's stunning. **lv**

Chelsea Pfeiffer works as a researcher, writes in her spare time and is always looking for new music. Anne Ventullo, who completed the phone interview for this piece, a fellow Iowan, can often be found at local live music shows.

AREA EVENTS



'RAIDERS! THE STORY OF THE GREATEST FAN FILM EVERY MADE'

THURSDAY, AUG. 18 AT 7 PM., FILMSCENE, \$20. *'Raiders of the Lost Ark' holds a special place in the heart of a generation of movie-goers—but some became more attached than others. This documentary follows the story of three 11-year-old boys who set off from Mississippi on a seven-year mission to pay tribute to their favorite movie by filming a shot-by-shot remake. They finished all but one particularly daunting scene: the exploding airplane. After more than twenty years, they came together again to finally finish. Eric Zala, one of those three boys, made a documentary of their experiences, and will be appearing in person at FilmScene to screen both the documentary and the full-length remake he and his friends made in a spectacular double-feature that pays tribute, in equal parts, to great art and to fan culture.*

WED., AUG. 17

/SPORTS-N-REC: Aquacise, Coralville Recreation Center, 7:30 a.m., \$5-50

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Clay: Traditions in Shards, Figge Art Museum, 10 a.m., Free

Teen Museum Takeover Day: Learning to Create Exhibits, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 1 p.m., \$10

/FAMILY: Preschool Storytime with Casey, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

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

/COMMUNITY: Mission: Iowa City Presents Social Exchange - Campaign Zero and Black Lives Matter, Merge, 6 p.m., Free

/MUSIC: Market Music w/ Ryne Doughty, Iowa City Farmers Market, 5 p.m., Free

Metro Concerts Live Presents Ice Nine Kills w/ ROYAL'Z, Switchblade Saturdays, False Humans, Gray Skies Above, Gabe's, 6 p.m., \$13-15

Are you planning an event? Submit event info to calendar@littlevillagemag.com.

Include event name, date, time, venue, street address, admission price and a brief description (no all-caps, exclamation points or advertising verbiage, please). To find more events, visit littlevillagemag.com/calendar.



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JULY 1 – SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

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AND

Tim Berg and Rebekah Myers: On the Bright Side...

Image: Tim Berg & Rebekah Myers, *Here today, gone tomorrow (lime)*, 2010. Urethane paint, maple, steel, tintable glaze, 72 x 80 x 11 inches. Courtesy the artists and DEAN PROJECT, Miami.

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

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TRANSCENDENTAL SUNSHINE

Donovan celebrates the potential for peace in each of us with a tour to honor his fans and a fund to teach meditation to children.

BY GENEVIEVE TRAINOR



Photo by MK Feeney

In 1966, the U.S. was in turmoil. Race riots rocked the streets. War with Vietnam was escalating—more young men were drafted than during any other year of that war. Demonstrations erupted across the country. Into all of this mayhem and strife, increasingly familiar to us lately, came the record *Sunshine Superman*. It was no accident.

Donovan believes in the intense power of music to heal a broken world. That's part of the reason that this year, he's touring to celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Sunshine Superman*, and of his first world tour, and of his first number one single, the album's title track, which, he told *Little Village*, was "very special for me."

"What the '60s did," he explains, "was open the door wide, really wide, to Bohemian ideas and culture, which the world needs right now."

He is hoping to fill that need in a variety of ways. In part, he says, "I wanted to come back on the 50th to celebrate, but also to connect my fans." That connection is at the core of Donovan's dream for the world. "There is a place inside us that unites us," he maintains—and music, particularly psychedelic music, which he has been credited with ushering in with *Sunshine Superman*, is one path towards that unity.

Another? Transcendental meditation. Donovan was at the forefront of introducing that form of exploration to the U.S. as well, and his current aim is introducing it to schoolchildren. A portion of tour proceeds will go toward the Donovan Children's Fund, a division of fellow TM practitioner David Lynch's Foundation, headquartered in Fairfield, Iowa. The fund provides access to TM for at-risk students in underserved U.S. schools.

The singer is passionate about the benefits children gain from practicing TM. He speaks with enthusiasm about the idea that "sleep is not the deepest form of rest." Children who are introduced to TM find a refuge from the tension and friction of the world. Through TM, he says, they "will feel a great sense of unity with all things, and compassion will arise." He's not expecting an immediate panacea, but, he notes, "These tiny beginnings create enormous things."

Donovan is pleased to be returning to Fairfield with this tour for two shows, as part of the city's three-day roots music festival Fairfest. He performs twice on Sunday, Sep. 4—first, at the Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m., which requires a \$24 ticket purchase on top of Fairfest admission, and again at 9:30 p.m. on the outdoor Main Stage, as part of the Fairfest finale. Fairfest passes range from \$10 student day passes to \$50 at-the-door full weekend passes. Children 13 and under are admitted to the festival free, and VIP packages are also available. **lv**

/MUSIC: See Through Dresses w/ Archeress, Effie Afton, Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., \$5-10

Melt Like Clouds w/ Groggadokka, Houzatosis, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, 8:30 p.m., \$5

Pullman Standard w/ Trapdoor Social, Gabe's, 9 p.m., Free

/FOODIE: Adult and Child Chinese Cooking: Fried Wontons and Egg Drop Soup, NewBo City Market, 6 p.m., Free

/CINEMA: Late Shift At The Grindhouse Presents 'Scarewaves,' FilmScene, 10 p.m., \$5

THU., AUG. 18

/CINEMA: The Picture Show: 'The Looney, Looney, Looney Bugs Bunny Movie,' FilmScene, 10 a.m., Free-\$5
Shakespeare on Film: 'Much Ado About Nothing' (Kenneth Branagh, 1993, 110m), Iowa City Public Library, 7 p.m., Free

Special Event: 'Raiders! The Story of the Greatest Fan Film Ever Made,' FilmScene, 7 p.m., \$6-10

Movies on the Beer Garden: 'Ferris Bueller's Day Off,' Backpacket, 8 p.m., Free

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Clay: Traditions in Shards, Figge Art Museum, 10 a.m., Free

4 Handed Art Studio, Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, 3 p.m., \$10-15

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

/FAMILY: Preschool Storytime with Mari, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

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

Cabaret in the Courtyard - Broadway, BruceMore, 7:30 p.m., \$20-30

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

/FOODIE: Farm to Street Dinner 2016—SOLD OUT, Downtown Iowa City, 5 p.m., \$75-450

/MUSIC: Uptown Getdown: Alisabeth Von Presley, City Square Park, 6 p.m., Free

Sounds of Summer, S.T. Morrison Park, 6:30 p.m., Free

The DuPont Brothers, River Music Experience Redstone Room, 7 p.m., \$9.50-12

Hemmingbirds w/ US Mode, Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., \$5-10

Death To Zero w/ Nirvomit, Gabe's, 10 p.m., Free

/CRAFTY: School of Sewing (Part 1), Home Ec. Workshop, 7 p.m., \$85

/LITERATURE: Novel Conversations, Coralville Public Library, 7 p.m., Free

FRI., AUG. 19

/SPORTS-N-REC: Aquacise, Coralville Recreation Center, 7:30 a.m., \$5-50

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Clay: Traditions in Shards, Figge Art Museum, 10 a.m., Free

Doodler's Drop In for Teens, Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, 3 p.m., Free

/CINEMA: The Picture Show: 'The Looney, Looney, Looney Bugs Bunny Movie,' FilmScene, 10 a.m., Free-\$5

/GAMING: Tween Minecraft (Hour 1), Iowa City Public Library, 2 p.m., Free

Tween Minecraft (Hour 2), Iowa City Public Library, 3 p.m., Free

/MUSIC: Fresh Fest Hip Hop Festival, Des Moines Social Club, 3 p.m., \$20-55

Live @ Five: Natty Scratch, River Music Experience Courtyard, 5 p.m., Free

Uptown Friday Night: Jake McVey, McGrath Amphitheatre, 5 p.m., \$5

DoltForState.com Presents Party Gras, Gabe's, 6 p.m., \$5

Friday Night Concert Series: The Beaker Brothers, Downtown Pedestrian Mall, 6:30 p.m., Free

Jim Buennig, Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., \$5-10

Schag Karpit // THICK // Milk Duct Tape, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, 9 p.m., Free

Sarah Borges, The Mill, 9 p.m., \$10-12

/CRAFTY: Chenile Stitch Beaded Bracelet, Beadology Iowa, 5:30 p.m., \$58

/LITERATURE: Spanish Book Club: 'Contigo en la distancia' by Carla Guelfenbein, Iowa City Public Library, 6:15 p.m., Free

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: Cabaret in the Courtyard - Broadway, BruceMare, 7:30 p.m., \$20-30

'Shear Madness,' Old Creamery Theatre, 7:30 p.m., \$30

Dwight York, Penguin's Comedy Club, 8 p.m., \$12-15

Neil Simon's 'The Odd Couple,' Giving Tree Theater, 8 p.m., \$15-30

/COMMUNITY: Mothing: Nighttime Big Game Hunting, Indian Creek Nature Center, 8 p.m., \$2-6

SAT., AUG. 20

/COMMUNITY: Iowa CCI 2016 Convention "People Powered Politics: We're Unstoppable!" First Christian Church, Des Moines, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Free

/MUSIC: Market Music w/ Larry Mossman and Kathy Maxey, Iowa City Farmers Market, 9 a.m., Free

Fresh Fest Hip Hop Festival, Des Moines Social Club, 3 p.m., \$20-55

Bill Anderson, Ohnward Fine Arts Center, 7 p.m., \$30-35

The Recliners, The Mill, 7 p.m., \$7

Pigs and Clover with Greg & Jean Thompson, Uptown Bill's, 7 p.m., \$5-10

The Jets, Riverside Casino Show Lounge, 8 p.m., Free

The Beaker Brothers, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 8 p.m., Free

Matthew & the Arrogant Sea, Rozz-Tox, 9 p.m., \$5-10

Evan Taylor Jones, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9:30 p.m., \$6

Joe Maz, EDEN Lounge & Nightclub, 10 p.m., Free

Meat Wave w/ Lifestyles, Younger, Gabe's, 10 p.m., \$7

THE ENGLERT THEATRE

Fall 2016

HOT TUNA: ACOUSTIC
8/12 | 8:00PM

BEACH HOUSE - sold out
8/14 | 7:00PM

LAKE STREET DIVE - sold out
8/22 | 7:00PM

**HASAN MINHAJ:
HOMECOMING KING**
9/9 | 8:00PM

THE MOUNTAIN GOATS
9/26 | 7:00PM

DARK STAR ORCHESTRA
9/27 | 7:00PM
Co-presented with Iowa City Yacht Club

CAPITOL STEPS
9/30 | 8:00PM
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JOHN WATERS
10/1 | 7:00PM
Co-presented with FilmScene

SHOVELS & ROPE
10/3 | 7:00PM

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AREA EVENTS



MEAT WAVE, WITH LIFESTYLES AND YOUNGER SATURDAY, AUG. 20 AT 10

P.M., GABE'S, \$7. Chicago punk trio Meat Wave (Chris Sutter, Joe Gac, Ryan Wizniak) bring their frenetic and addictive sound to Iowa City. Fellow Chicagoans Lifestyles support, along with Iowa City's own Younger. Meat Wave's latest record, 'Delusion Moon,' came out last September—as promised by its warped but reverent Pink Floyd-homage cover image, the album features the band's compelling ability to diffract a punk sound through a weird psychedelic haze. Video still from 'Brother.'

- /ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** Iowa City Press Co-Op: Body Drawing, Public Space One, 9:30 a.m., \$35
Clay: Traditions in Shards, Figge Art Museum, 10 a.m., Free
- /CINEMA:** The Picture Show: 'The Looney, Looney, Looney Bugs Bunny Movie,' FilmScene, 10 a.m., Free-\$5
Free Movie Series: 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens,' University of Iowa Pentacrest, 8:30 p.m., Free
- /CRAFTY:** Flat Right Angle Weave (RAW), Beadology Iowa, 10 a.m., \$58
Dragonfly Pendant, Beadology Iowa, 3 p.m., \$48
- /FOODIE:** Four Oaks' Cuisine in the Corn, Bloomsbury Farm, 5 p.m., Free-\$85
- /THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** 'The Curtain Raiser,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, 6 p.m., \$50-2500
Cabaret in the Courtyard - Broadway, BruceMore, 7:30 p.m., \$20-30
'Shear Madness,' Old Creamery Theatre, 7:30 p.m., \$30
Dwight York, Penguin's Comedy Club, 8 p.m., \$12-15
Neil Simon's 'The Odd Couple,' Giving Tree Theater, 8 p.m., \$15-30
Blue Moose Tap House Presents The Va! Va! Voom!, Blue Moose Tap House, 9 p.m., \$15-20

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AREA EVENTS

SUN., AUG. 21

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Clay: Traditions in Shards, Figge Art Museum, 10 a.m., Free

Artifactory's Life Drawing Drop-In, Beadology Iowa, 5 p.m., \$8

/CRAFTY: Sewing: Linden Sweatshirt, Home Ec. Workshop, 12 p.m., \$55

Sunday Fun Day: Back to School Crafts, Iowa City Public Library, 2 p.m., Free

/COMMUNITY: Community Worktime, Public Space One, 1 p.m., Free

Stream Walking, Indian Creek Nature Center, 1 p.m., \$2-6

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: Neil Simon's 'The Odd Couple,' Giving Tree Theater, 2 p.m., \$30

'Shear Madness,' Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., \$30

/MUSIC: Live Music: The Swingin' Doors, Sutliff Cider Company, 3 p.m., Free

Art of ILL Fusion, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 4 p.m., Free

We Were Sharks w/ Charlie Siren, Gabe's, 5 p.m., \$7

Codfish Hollow Barnstormers Presents: Kurt Vile and the

Violators w/ Your Friend, Codfish Hollow Barnstormers, 7 p.m., \$25-30



RON DEWITTE WITH JOE SAVAGE AND OTHER GUESTS FRIDAY AND

SATURDAY, AUG. 26 AND 27 AT 7:30 P.M., THE OPUS CONCERT CAFÉ, \$28. Iowa Blues Hall of Famer and guitar master Ron DeWitte first played with Prairie Home Companion's Joe Savage in Minneapolis, and it was a magical musical match. DeWitte was determined to bring Savage and his pedal steel guitar back home to meet the fans—this is that show. The pair will be joined for the two-night engagement by Cedar Rapids musical royalty Lynne Rothrock, Julia West, Danny Oline & Greg Kanz. Photo via Ron DeWitte's facebook page.

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MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD GRAND OPENING FRIDAY, AUG. 26 AT 6:30

P.M., AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM OF IOWA, FREE. *The African American Museum of Iowa celebrates the opening of their newest exhibit. Mightier Than the Sword is an exploration of African American literature from the 18th century forward, touching on slave narratives, the Harlem Renaissance, the Black Arts movement and more. The public is invited to explore at no charge; light snacks will also be available. Starting at 7 p.m., the silent films of early 20th-century novelist, homesteader and filmmaker Oscar Micheaux will run in Celebration Hall. Guests are encouraged to dress up as their favorite author or literary character for the event, which runs through 8 p.m. Photo courtesy of the African American Museum of Iowa.*

AREA EVENTS

/MUSIC: Dozer w/ Liv Carrow, Def Kittie Blindogg, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, 8 p.m., Free

Dana T w/ Psychic Temple, Eamon Fogarty, Trippers and Askers, The Mill, 8 p.m., \$7

/LITERATURE: Free Generative Writing Workshop, Public Space One, 5:30 p.m., Free

MON., AUG. 22

/SPORTS-N-REC: Aquacise, Coralville Recreation Center, 7:30 a.m., \$5-50

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Clay: Traditions in Shards, Figue Art Museum, 10 a.m., Free

/COMMUNITY: Minecraft Jr., Iowa City Public Library, 1 p.m., Free

/FOODIE: Lake Street Dive Cocktail Party, Pullman, 4 p.m., \$20

/CINEMA: Dinner & A Movie Showing 'City of Gold,' Trumpet Blossom Cafe, 7 p.m., \$35-40

/MUSIC: Lake Street Dive, The Englert Theatre, 7 p.m., \$33.50

Stumblesome w/ Community The Centaur, Sage The 64th Wonder, Aeon Gray, PrettyGirlHateMachine, Gabe's, 8:30 p.m., \$5

Blaire Alise and The Bombshells, Gabe's, 9 p.m., Free

OUT OF THE DARKNESS

Community Walks

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Iowa City Walk

Sept. 11, 2016

Registration at 5:00 pm

Walk begins at 6:00 pm

Terry Trueblood Rec Area

Register at: afsp.org/iowacity



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afsp.org/walk

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WALK TO FIGHT SUICIDE

TUE., AUG. 23

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Clay: Traditions in Shards, Figge Art Museum, 10 a.m., Free

/COMMUNITY: League of Women Voters of Johnson County Registration Campaign, Iowa City Public Library, 10 a.m., Free

/LITERATURE: Iowa Writers' House Presents: The Violet Realm, Iowa City Public Library, 6 p.m., Free
Heather Gudenkauf, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

/CRAFTY: Knitting: The Thoughtful Afterthought Heel, Home Ec. Workshop, 6 p.m., \$45

/MUSIC: Kevin Burke, Cafe Paradiso, 8 p.m., Free
Weekly Old-Timey Jam Session, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, 8:30 p.m., Free

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

Big Eyes w/ Dishwater Blonde, Starry Nights, The Mill, 9 p.m., \$7

WED., AUG. 24

/SPORTS-N-REC: Aquacise, Coralville Recreation Center, 7:30 a.m., \$5-50

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Clay: Traditions in Shards, Figge Art Museum, 10 a.m., Free

Warhol Wednesdays: Mozart & Pop Art, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 5 p.m., \$5-10

/FAMILY: Preschool Storytime with Casey, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

/LITERATURE: Otessa Moshfegh, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

/MUSIC: Market Music w/ Young Ramblers, Iowa City Farmers Market, 5 p.m., Free

Live Music: Dogwood Tales, Lion Bridge Brewing Company, 5 p.m., Free

QC Nu Gruv Society Presents: The Nu Gruv Jam, Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., Free

Naughty Professor, Gabe's, 9 p.m., Free

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

'Magic Men Live!,' Adler Theatre, 8 p.m., \$28-103

/CINEMA: Late Shift At The Grindhouse Presents 'The Astrologer,' FilmScene, 10 p.m., \$5

THU., AUG. 25

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Clay: Traditions in Shards, Figge Art Museum, 10 a.m., Free

4 Handed Art Studio, Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, 3 p.m., \$10-15

/FAMILY: Preschool Storytime with Mari, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

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

I.C. Kings, Studio 13, 8 p.m., Free

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AREA EVENTS

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

School of Sewing (Part 1), Home Ec. Workshop, 7 p.m., \$85

/MUSIC: *Uptown Getdown: 8 Seconds*, City Square Park, 6 p.m., Free

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

BMAI 3rd Annual Central City Bluegrass Festival, Linn County Fairgrounds, 6 p.m., Free-\$35

/MUSIC: *An Evening With Walter Trout*, River Music Experience Redstone Room, 7:30 p.m., \$19-22

John Till w/ Bree Nettie, The Mill, 8 p.m., \$8

Justin Purtill, Gabe's, 10 p.m., Free

/CINEMA: *Shakespeare on Film: 'Henry V'* (Laurence Olivier, 1944, 137m), Iowa City Public Library, 7 p.m., Free

/LITERATURE: *Blair Braverman*, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

FRI., AUG. 26

/SPORTS-N-REC: *Aquacise*, Coralville Recreation Center, 7:30 a.m., \$5-50

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: *Doodlebugs at Hiawatha Library*, Hiawatha Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

Doodler's Drop In for Teens, Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, 3 p.m., Free

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

/LITERATURE: *Mightier Than the Sword Grand Opening*, African American Museum of Iowa, 6:30 p.m., Free

/MUSIC: *Friday Night Concert Series: Shade of Blue*, Downtown Pedestrian Mall, 6:30 p.m., Free

BMAI 3rd Annual Central City Bluegrass Festival, Linn County Fairgrounds, 7 p.m., Free-\$35

Jethro Tull's Martin Barre Band, Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$35

Ron DeWitte w/ Lynne Rothrock, Julia West, Danny Oline, Greg Kanz, Opus Concert Cafe, 7:30 p.m., \$28

Terry McCauley, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 8 p.m., Free

The Spazmatics, Riverside Casino Show Lounge, 8:30 p.m., Free

Earth Ascending, Rock Island Brewing Company, 10 p.m.

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: *'The Flick'*, Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$18-24

'Shear Madness', Old Creamery Theatre, 7:30 p.m., \$30

Homegrown Comedy Special!, Penguin's Comedy Club, 8 p.m., \$12-15

Neil Simon's 'The Odd Couple', Giving Tree Theater, 8 p.m., \$15-30, Free

SAT., AUG. 27

/SPORTS-N-REC: *UnityPoint Health 5k Walk/Run*, NewBo City Market, 7 a.m., Free

/MUSIC: Market Music w/ Jeff Stagg, Iowa City Farmers Market, 9 a.m., Free

BMAI 3rd Annual Central City Bluegrass Festival, Linn County Fairgrounds, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., Free-\$35

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

Back Porch Revival—Blake Shelton w/ Thomas Rhett, Big and Rich, Tucker Beathard, Morgan Frazier, David Ray,

Hunter Smith Band, Kinnick Stadium, 3 p.m., \$39-239

Sweet Cacophony, Uptown Bill's, 7 p.m., \$5-10

Ron DeWitte w/ Lynne Rothrock, Julia West, Danny Oline, Greg Kanz, Opus Concert Cafe, 7:30 p.m., \$28

Jumbies w/ Alto Mais, The Mill, 8 p.m., \$10

Surf Zombies, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 9 p.m., Free

Aaron Kamm & The One Drops, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9:30 p.m., \$8

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Brucemore Garden and Art Show, Brucemore, 9 a.m., Free

Wonderful Warhol Family Art Workshop: Simple Stamping!, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 1 p.m., \$5

Standing Wave by Justus Roe: Closing Reception, Public Space One, 5 p.m., Free

/FAMILY: Farmers Market Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 9:30 a.m., Free

/CRAFTY: RAW Rubber Gasket Necklace, Beadology Iowa, 10 a.m., \$78

/FOODIE: Fall Friends Dinner, The Englert Theatre, 6 p.m., \$100

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: 'Shear Madness,' Old Creamery Theatre, 7:30 p.m., \$30

'The Flick,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$18-24

Neil Simon's 'The Odd Couple,' Giving Tree Theater, 8 p.m., \$15-30

SUN., AUG. 28

/COMMUNITY: Community Worktime, Public Space One, 1 p.m., Free

Local Video Game Developers Exhibition, The Mill, 7 p.m., Free

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

Neil Simon's 'The Odd Couple,' Giving Tree Theater, 2 p.m., \$30

'The Flick,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., \$18-24

/MUSIC: The Awful Purdies Lecture and Performance, Johnson County Historical Society, 2 p.m., Free

Live Music: Shade of Blue, Sutliff Cider Company, 3 p.m., Free

Goose Town, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 4 p.m., Free

Metro Concert Live Presents: Gemini Syndrome w/ 9Electric, Sinister Theory, SURRENDER DOROTHY, Gabe's, 5 p.m., \$15-18

/LITERATURE: IWP Reading, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 4 p.m., Free

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

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CHRISTOPHER THE CONQUERED FRIDAY, SEP 2 AT 6:30 P.M., WEATHERDANCE FOUNTAIN STAGE, FREE. Iowa City's 2016 Summer of the Arts winds to a close with their final installment of the free Friday Night Concert Series. Des Moines-based artist Christopher Ford, better known as Christopher the Conquered, sends the series out on a high note this Labor Day weekend, with his engaging, endearing one-of-a-kind musical milieu. Christopher the Conquered's first full-length album, 'I'm Giving Up on Rock & Roll,' dropped earlier this year, showcasing both his joy and his introspection, his poppy hooks and his lyrical acuity. He is the perfect choice to usher Iowa City from the fun and fervor of summer into the thoughtful calm of fall. Photo by Zak Neumann.

AREA EVENTS

/CINEMA: Arthaus Film Series-Volume 6: 'Conspirators of Pleasure,' Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., Free
Rooftop: 'Major League,' FilmScene, 8 p.m., \$15

MON., AUG. 29

/SPORTS-N-REC: Aquacise, Coralville Recreation Center, 7:30 a.m., \$5-50
/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Shakespeare's First Folio! Grand Opening, UI Main Library Gallery, 10 a.m., Free
/COMMUNITY: Nature Stroll: Hike Around Amazing Space, Indian Creek Nature Center, 6 p.m., \$2-6
/LITERATURE: The Past, Present and Future of Shakespeare and the First Folio - Grand Opening Lecture, Shambaugh Auditorium, 6 p.m., Free
 Hannah Pittard, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free
/MUSIC: Clay Hughes w/ Young Valley, Gabe's, 9 p.m., Free

TUE., AUG. 30

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



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/COMMUNITY: League of Women Voters of Johnson County Registration Campaign, Iowa Memorial Union, 11 a.m., Free

/LITERATURE: Jeffrey Wasserstrom, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

/MUSIC: Steel Cranes w/ The Insinuators, Gabe's, 9 p.m., Free

WED., AUG. 31

/SPORTS-N-REC: Aquacise, Coralville Recreation Center, 7:30 a.m., \$5-50

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: Ole & Lena: 'Ole Plays Nursemaid - Dial 911!,' Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., \$15-25

Shakespeare Live!, The Englert Theatre, 7 p.m., \$15-18

/MUSIC: Market Music w/ SnakeChasers, Iowa City Farmers Market, 5 p.m., Free

Kait Berreckman w/Erin Moore, Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., \$5-10
The Unincorporated, Gabe's, 9 p.m., Free

/FOODIE: History on Tap: From Abolition to the Clubs of Harlem, Millstream Brewery, 5:30 p.m., Free

/CINEMA: LitFlicks Movie Night, Coralville Public Library, 6 p.m., Free

Late Shift At The Grindhouse Presents 'All Hell Breaks Loose,' FilmScene, 10 p.m., \$5

/LITERATURE: Rick Barot, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

THU., SEPT. 1

/COMMUNITY: League of Women Voters of Johnson County Registration Campaign, Coralville Public Library, 10 a.m., Free

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

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

/LITERATURE: IOWA REVIEW Reading, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

/MUSIC: Kiam Marcelo Junio: Elections From Sacred Skin, Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., Free

Triathlon, Gabe's, 10 p.m., Free

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: CAS: Krista Franklin in Residence, Public Space One, All Day, Free

OPEN CALLS

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

THEATRE:

Iowa City Community Theatre: Auditions for the Stephen Dietz adaptation of 'Dracula,' directed by Christina Patramanis, will be held at the Iowa City Public Library in Meeting Room B, on Sunday, Aug. 21 at 2 p.m. and Monday, Aug. 22 at 6 p.m. Callbacks will be immediately after auditions on Monday, at 8 p.m. The play opens Oct. 21.

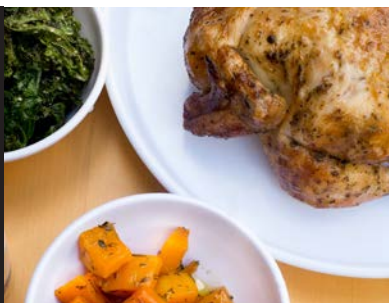
Theatre Cedar Rapids: Director David Schneider will be holding auditions on Sunday, Aug. 28 and Monday, Aug. 29, at 7 p.m. each night, for 'Tribes,' opening Oct. 21 in the Grandon. 'Tribes' is the second play from British playwright Nina Raines. The story centers on Billy, a deaf man who seeks to be understood.

Dost Thou Speak Masterly?: Shakespeare at Iowa is celebrating the departure of the First Folio from the UI Library by gathering Iowans to perform scenes from Shakespeare on the Riverside Festival Stage in Lower City Park on Sep. 24 at 1 p.m. Register for a five-minute slot at shakespeare.lib.iowa.edu/events. All ages welcome.

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AREA EVENTS



THE MAGNETOS FRIDAY, SEP 2 AT 9 P.M., PARLOR CITY, FREE. *It's been over two years since Cedar Rapids rockabilly favorites the Magnetos last graced a stage, and their fans are well past ready for their return. Hep cats Joey Bravo (guitar), Joe "PegLeg" Nelson (bass) and Todd Brown (drums) cemented their lineup in 2010, bringing a time capsule of '50s style, sound and attitude to eastern Iowa until Bravo's move from the area in 2013. Now he's back, and so are the Magnetos. This long-awaited concert comes on the heels of a recording trip the band made to Blackbird Studio in Nashville in late July. Photo by Julie Griffin.*

FRI., SEPT. 2

/MUSIC: Fairfest, Downtown Fairfield, 5 p.m., Free-\$50
Friday Night Concert Series: Christopher the Conquered, Downtown Pedestrian Mall, 6:30 p.m., Free
Candymakers w/ The Maytags, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., \$8
/MUSIC: Magnetos, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 9 p.m., Free
DCTV, The Mill, 9 p.m., \$8-10
Pets With Human Names w/ Zuul, Dueling @ Dawn, Ghost Bummer, Gabe's, 10 p.m., \$5
/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: **The Flick,** Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$18-24

SAT., SEPT. 3

/SPORTS-N-REC: Shakespearean Stage Fighting Workshop For Teens, Iowa City Public Library, 11 a.m., Free
UI Football Opening Day - Home, vs. Miami (OH) Redhawks, Kinnick Stadium, 2:30 p.m., \$25-55
/MUSIC: Market Music w/ Ron Hillis, Iowa City Farmers Market, 9 a.m., Free
Fairfest, Downtown Fairfield, 5 p.m., Free-\$50
Brass Transit Authority, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 8 p.m., Free
Brian Johannesen, The Mill, 9 p.m., \$5
Grateful Dead Experience: The Schwag, Gabe's, 9

p.m., \$10

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: **The Flick,** Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$18-24

/COMMUNITY: Ralston Creek Fair & Uptown Bill's 15th Anniversary, Uptown Bill's, All Day, Free

SUN., SEPT. 4

/COMMUNITY: Community Worktime, Public Space One, 1 p.m., Free
/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: **The Flick,** Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., \$18-24
Brett Erickson, Penguin's Comedy Club, 7:30 p.m., \$10-12
/MUSIC: Live Music: Jasmin, Sutliff Cider Company, 3 p.m., Free
Wooden Nickel Lottery, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 4 p.m., Free
Fairfest, Downtown Fairfield, 5 p.m., Free-\$50
The Lennon Sisters, Riverside Casino and Golf Resort, 7 p.m., \$20-40
Donovan, Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts, 8 p.m., \$24

TUE., SEPT. 6

/FAMILY: Preschool Storytime, Coralville Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free
/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: Manifest(ation) pro/con DADA performance, Public Space One, 6 p.m., Free

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AUG 25 } JOHN TILL W/ BREE NETTIE
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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-0, 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. 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. Studio Survivor & Pride Bingo, Studio 13, 6:30 p.m. Pub Quiz, The Mill, \$1, 9 p.m.

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: 'Shear Madness,' Old Creamery Theatre, \$30 (through Aug. 28), 'The Odd Couple,' Giving Tree Theater, \$15-30 (through Aug. 28), 'The Flick,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$18-24 (Aug. 26-Sept. 11)

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Justus Roe: 'Standing Wave,' Public Space One (through Aug. 27), Pursuit of Happiness, CSPS Legion Arts (through Oct. 2), Mightier Than The Sword, African American Museum of Iowa (Aug. 26-Jul. 29, 2017), Shakespeare's First Folio, University of Iowa Main Library (Aug. 29-Sep. 25), CAS: Krista Franklin in Residence, Public Space One (Sept. 1-30)



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Riverside Theatre 213 N Gilbert Street, Iowa City riversidetheatre.org

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

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

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

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CEDAR RAPIDS MUSEUM OF ART (37)

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CROWDED CLOSET (52)

CZECH VILLAGE NEW BOHEMIA CO-OP (10)

- PARLOR CITY

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- NEWBO MERCANTILE

- MAGGIE'S FARM PIZZA

- SAUCE BAR & BISTRO

A DAY OF DANISH FILM (48)

THE ENGLERT THEATRE (33)

ESSENTIAL TRANSFORMATIONS (39)

FAULCONER (30)

FEEDER (7)

FILMSCENE (6, 29)

FULL KIT / THOMPSON & CO. (51)

HANCHER (24-25)

THE MILL (43)

MAESTRO EMPANADAS (42)

MILLSTREAM BREWING CO. (35)

NEW PIONEER FOOD CO-OP (19)

NORTHSIDE MARKETPLACE (15)

- R.S.V.P.

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- ARTIFACTS

- HIGH GROUND

- BLUEBIRD

- THE BROWN STREET INN

NORTHSIDE OKTOBERFEST (4)

OUT OF THE DARKNESS COMMUNITY WALKS (36)

PED MALL CO-OP (40-41)

- JOSEPH'S STEAKHOUSE

- RAGSTOCK

- YOTOPIA

- BREAD GARDEN MARKET

- REVIVAL / REVIVAL 119

- RAYGUN

- FORBIDDEN PLANET

REUNION BREWERY (34)

RICARDO RANGLE JR., REALTOR (47)

SCRATCH CUPCAKERY (49)

SECOND ACT (42)

SOBO CO-OP (20-21)

- THE BROKEN SPOKE

- GOODFELLOW PRINTING, INC.

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- IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

- THE KONNEXION

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- RECORD COLLECTOR

SUMMER OF THE ARTS (6, 47)

SUSHI KICCHIN (48)

THAT CELLULAR PLACE (2)

THEATRE CEDAR RAPIDS (9)

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SERIOUSLY—WHY DO SO MANY PEOPLE DISLIKE HILLARY CLINTON?

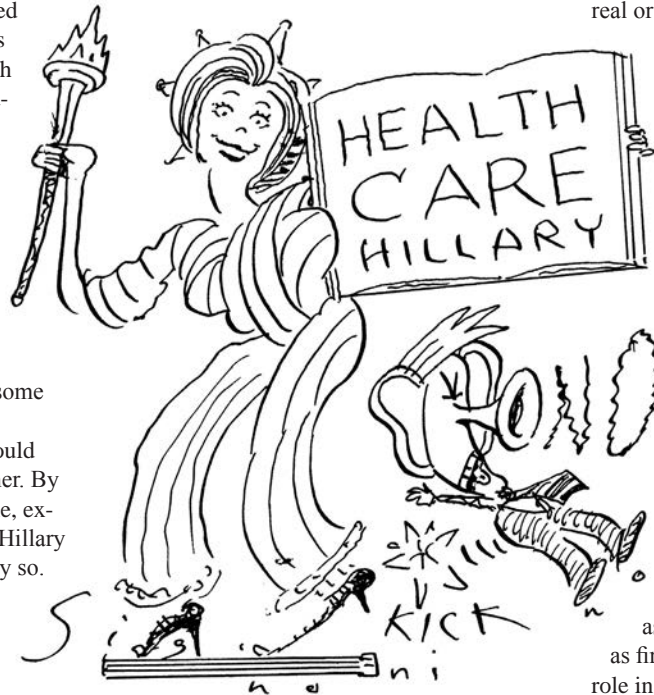
Why do so many Americans dislike Hillary Clinton? It seems to predate her time as secretary of state or even as senator. Does it have something to do with her husband's two terms in the White House? —Jonathan Pearce

In 1964, Barry Goldwater quipped about nuking the Kremlin men's room and equated Medicare with giving old folks free resort vacations, cigarettes and beer. Just before Lyndon Johnson strolled to victory that November, Gallup found that 46 percent of Americans viewed his Republican opponent unfavorably, with 26 percent of respondents into the "highly unfavorable" camp. For five decades, Goldwater has been the most unpopular major-party presidential candidate ever, a record that some deemed unbreakable.

Well, they used to think nobody would ever hit 62 home runs in a season either. By Gallup's latest reckoning, back in June, exactly half the American public views Hillary Clinton unfavorably, 33 percent highly so. But Hillary Clinton and mass unpopularity are old pals. The first major attempt to suss out the source of the antipathy, Henry Louis Gates's "Hating Hillary," appeared in the *New Yorker* in 1996—meaning this idea is now old enough to vote.

The thing is, though, Clinton's popularity numbers have never stayed put. She wrapped up her secretary of state gig in 2013 with a 64 percent favorability rating, and even that wasn't peak Hillary—in 1998, at the kickoff of Bill's impeachment, 67 percent of Americans were on her side. Now, we're a polarized people. A third of Americans will always approve of Hillary Clinton, while another third forever will be ready to holler, "Lock her up!" But what's with that middle that can't make up its mind?

Clinton's spin on her fluctuating favorability is that she's a wooden campaigner whose numbers dip during the election cycle, but a hard worker who forges her way back into our hearts with her sturdy competence. As she said at the Democratic convention of her career in public service, "The service part has always come easier to me than the public part." Fine, she's no natural politician. But a charisma deficit alone isn't enough to turn



half a nation against you.

What about ethical concerns? Knowing full well the scrutiny they're under, the Clintons have often seemed oddly unworried about appearing too chummy with big donors to their campaigns and charitable work, and a fog of impropriety clings to Hillary even when specific claims are disproven. Certainly no presidential candidate has faced so much congressional scrutiny immediately prior to an election: Republican-controlled committees have been hammering away at Clinton for three years now, first on Benghazi, then on her usage of email. And that kind of shelling from the opposition is nothing new—in the '90s, Bill and Hillary Clinton were accused of everything from real-estate shenanigans to outright murder.

Hillary might have chosen a less dramatic-sounding phrase to describe the well-financed network of conservative operatives who had coordinated their messages against the Clintons than her much-ridiculed "vast

right-wing conspiracy." But their detractors—whether politicians, news commentators, or your relatives on Facebook—have shared a singleness of purpose that's unquestionable even if you believe its cause is righteous. And it's come from both sides: Mainstream liberals like the *New York Times'* Howell Raines and Maureen Dowd were dogged critics of the Clintons' ethical lapses, real or perceived.

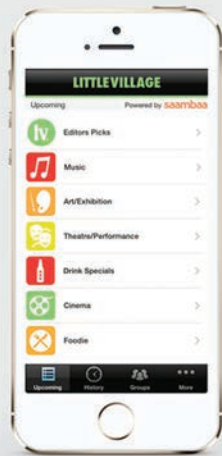
And yet Bill Clinton has emerged from the battles of the past unscathed: As recently as 2014, his favorability polled at 64 percent. Meanwhile, Hillary suffers the scorn of a reinvigorated left that's retroactively critical of her support for her husband's policies—adopted in the aftermath of the Reagan years, when Democrats were stumbling over each other in their efforts not to appear too liberal. How did Hillary get stuck holding the bag?

Let's not dance around the obvious: Hillary Clinton is a woman. Surely it's a double standard that allows Bill to seem like a charming rapsallion who just cuts a few corners while Hillary is cast as a shady crime boss. Back in the '90s, as the first working woman to serve as first lady, Clinton initially took a lead role in healthcare policymaking but hit massive turbulence from D.C. traditionalists who thought she'd misread her job description. Such paleo-anti-feminist rancor—and an accompanying rap as presumptuous and pushy—is something that more recently-prominent female politicians, like Elizabeth Warren, have largely been spared.

None of this is to make excuses for her—politics is a tough game, and a better operator might have handled things more deftly. As that 1996 *New Yorker* piece suggests, Hillary's always just rubbed plenty of people the wrong way. Then again, "Why doesn't anyone like you?" is a hell of a question for even the savviest politician to field continuously for 25 years.

However, friends, we live in wondrous times, and in 2016 Hillary's not even our least popular presidential candidate. Gallup again: 59 percent of Americans don't like Donald Trump, including 42 percent who can't stand him. Fortunately, nobody's writing in to wonder why—I'd never get it all in a single column. **lv**

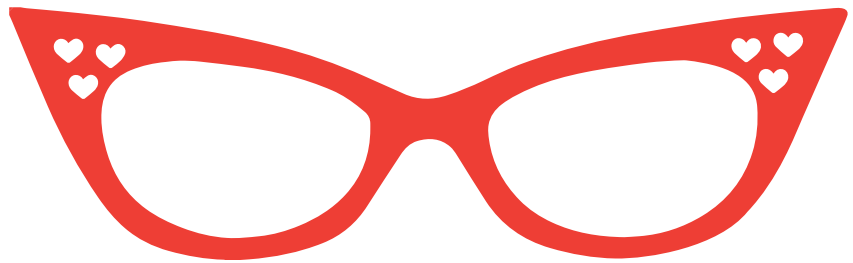
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DEAR KIKI xoxo



Dear Kiki,
The woman I've been seeing since December broke up with me. She concluded that having a cis-het white partner was not right for her at this time in her life. I'd been feeling her discomfort when we were out in public and I've been expecting this for a few months, but it was still a blow. In the most recent conversations, which dealt with her need to spend more time with queer women of color and her interest in opening up the relationship, she said that in an ideal world she wouldn't have to let me go, and I would say, "Isn't it a shame that we live when and where we do?"

I know that she loves me. I know that it isn't about me, but it hurts very much and a significant amount of that pain comes from knowing that on some level, that's all I was able to be to her. I loved her and she was the first person I've thought about planning a life around. I had issues with white fragility, male fragility and straight fragility, and never felt that I knew how to react appropriately when she talked about personal, political things. I would get anxious and shut down.

At this point in my life, I really do want a relationship, and I want to be in love, but I don't think that ending the relationship was a mistake for either of us. So I got back on "the apps." In general it feels pretty shitty, both because it doesn't feel like a genuine, wholesome or good way to connect to people. I'd like to meet someone in real life, but I'm not always sure how that works. I'm sorry for venting, though I guess that's something that you get as a romantic advisor.

Sincerely, Squished Heart in New York

Dear Squished Heart,

First let me just offer that we live when and where we do for a reason. Now is all we have, and it's all there is, even if you're from New York. You deserve love and respect just like anyone else. And I'll add that your chances of finding love on the internet are shockingly high. (Old Kiki here found her beloved sweetie online, "Midlife_Crisis_Hotline69". A few U-Hauls, some legal paperwork and 7 rescue cats later we're still going strong.)

Squished, let me get this straight. After raking you over coals and eggshells, placing impossible demands on you (that you be something other than a monogamous cis-het white man) and negating/belittling your feelings (which you've described as "white/straight/male fragility"), the person you loved ended the relationship. She didn't even bother with the "it's not you, it's me" schtick. She told you that it's not only you, but factors of your core identity that you have no control over. So no matter how much people-pleasing and molding

yourself you could have done, it would never have been enough.

So you're a cis-het white male, and you've always been one. But Squished, you're a cis white hetero man who is really sad because you got dumped in an unkind and maybe abusive way by a very confused person, and I think you have a right to feel those squishy fragile sad angry feelings without being gaslighted into some kind of twisted funhouse mirror.

So my suggestion for you, Squished: When you've had enough time to focus on what is good in your life, and build your confidence back up from this unfortunate encounter, you fire up those apps, and find yourself someone who doesn't need to be socially validated by dating the correct kind of body. Use those apps to look for a person who will see you and maybe love you for who and what you are now, not who and what they wish you could be. *xoxo, Kiki tv*

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LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In my opinion, you need to bask in the glorious fury of at least one brainstorm—preferably multiple brainstorms over the course of the next two weeks. What can you do to ensure that happens? How might you generate a flood of new ideas about how to live your life and understand the nature of reality? Here are some suggestions: Read books about creativity. Hang around with original thinkers and sly provocateurs. Insert yourself into situations that will strip you of your boring certainties. And take this vow: “I hereby unleash the primal power of my liberated imagination.”

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): When you were a child, did you play with imaginary friends? During your adolescence, did you nurture a fantasy relationship with a pretend boyfriend or girlfriend? Since you reached adulthood, have you ever enjoyed consorting with muses or guardian angels or ancestral spirits? If you answered yes to any of those questions, you are in a good position to take full advantage of the subtle opportunities and cryptic invitations that are coming your way. Unexpected sources are poised to provide unlikely inspirations in unprecedented ways.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): When you were born, you already carried the seeds of gifts you would someday be able to provide—specific influences or teachings or blessings that only you, of all the people who have ever lived, could offer the world. How are you doing in your quest to fulfill this potential? Here’s what I suspect: Your seeds have been ripening slowly and surely. But, in the coming months, they could ripen at a more rapid pace. Whether they actually do or not may depend on your willingness to take on more responsibilities—interesting responsibilities, to be sure—but bigger than you’re used to.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): I suspect that you will soon be culminating a labor of love you’ve been nurturing and refining for many moons. How should you celebrate? Maybe with some champagne and caviar? If you’d like to include bubbly in your revels, a good choice might be 2004 Belle Epoque Rose. Its floral aroma and crispy mouth-feel rouse a sense of jubilation as they synergize the flavors of blood orange, pomegranate and strawberry. As for caviar: Consider the smooth, aromatic and elegant roe of the albino beluga sturgeon from the unpoluted areas of the Caspian Sea near Iran. But before I finish this oracle, let me also add that a better way to honor your accomplishment might be to take the money you’d spend on champagne and caviar, and instead use it as seed money for your next big project.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Some species of weeds become even more robust and entrenched as they develop resistances to the pesticides that are designed to eradicate them. This is one example of how fighting a problem can make the problem worse—especially if you attack too furiously or use the wrong weapons. I invite you to consider the possibility that this might be a useful metaphor for you to contemplate in the coming weeks. Your desire to solve a knotty dilemma or shed a bad influence is admirable. Just make sure you choose a strategy that actually works.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your assignment, if you choose to accept it, is to compose an essay on at least one of the following themes: 1. “How I Fed and Fed My Demons Until They Gorged Themselves to Death.” 2. “How I Exploited My Nightmares in Ways That Made Me Smarter and Cuter.” 3. “How I Quietly and Heroically Transformed a Sticky Problem into a Steek Opportunity.” 4. “How I Helped Myself by Helping Other People.” For extra credit, Capricorn—and to earn the right to trade an unholy duty for a holy one—write about all four subjects.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I suspect that in the coming months you will be drawn to wandering through the frontiers

and exploring the unknown. Experimentation will come naturally. Places and situations you have previously considered to be off-limits may be downright comfortable. In fact, it’s possible that you will have to escape your safety zones in order to fully be yourself. Got all that? Now here’s the kicker. In the coming weeks, everything I just described will be especially apropos for your closest relationships. Are you interested in redefining and reconfiguring the ways that togetherness works for you?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you’re playing the card game known as bridge, you’re lucky if you are dealt a hand that has no cards of a particular suit. This enables you, right from the beginning, to capture tricks using the trump suit. In other words, the lack of a certain resource gives you a distinct advantage. Let’s apply this metaphor to your immediate future, Pisces. I’m guessing that you will benefit from what may seem to be an inadequacy or deficit. An absence will be a useful asset.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Can you imagine feeling at home in the world no matter where you are? If you eventually master this art, outer circumstances won’t distort your relationship with yourself. No matter how crazy or chaotic the people around you might be, you will remain rooted in your unshakable sense of purpose; you will respond to any given situation in ways that make you both calm and alert, amused and curious, compassionate for the suffering of others and determined to do what’s best for you. If you think these are goals worth seeking, you can make dramatic progress toward them in the coming weeks.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): As I tried to meditate on your horoscope, my next-door neighbor was wielding a weed-whacker to trim her lawn, and the voices in my head were shouting extra loud. So I decided to drive down to the marsh to get some high-quality silence. When I arrived at the trailhead, I found an older man in ragged clothes leaning against the fence. Nearby was a grocery cart full of what I assumed were all his earthly belongings. “Doing nothing is a very difficult art,” he croaked as I slipped by him, “because you’re never really sure when you are done.” I immediately recognized that his wisdom might be useful to you. You are, after all, in the last few days of your recharging process. It’s still a good idea for you to lie low and be extra calm and vegetate luxuriously. But when should you rise up and leap into action again? Here’s my guess: Get one more dose of intense stillness and silence.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): My readers have a range of approaches for working with the counsel I offer. Some study the horoscopes for both their sun signs and rising signs, then create do-it-yourself blends of the two. Others prefer to wait until the week is over before consulting what I’ve written. They don’t want my oracles to influence their future behavior, but enjoy evaluating their recent past in light of my analysis. Then there are the folks who read all 12 of my horoscopes. They refuse to be hemmed in by just one forecast, and want to be free to explore multiple options. I encourage you to try experiments like these in the coming days. The moment is ripe to cultivate more of your own unique strategies for using and interpreting the information you absorb—both from me and from everyone else you listen to.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Have you been drinking a lot of liquids? Are you spending extra time soaking in hot baths and swimming in bodies of water that rejuvenate you? Have you been opening your soul to raw truths that dissolve your fixations and to beauty that makes you cry and to love that moves you to sing? I hope you’re reverently attending to these fluidic needs. I hope you’re giving your deepest yearnings free play and your freshest emotions lots of room to unfold. Smart, well-lubricated intimacy is a luxurious necessity, my dear. Stay very, very wet. **lv**

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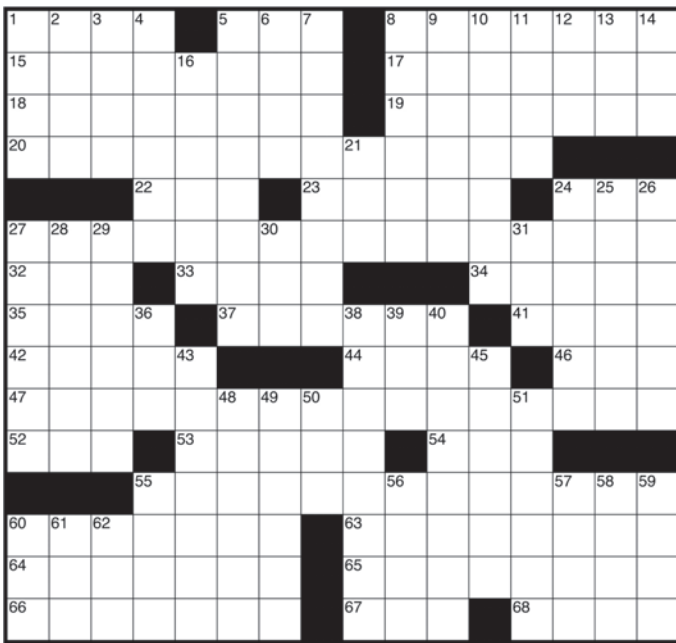
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ACROSS

1. Alternative to a rope tow
5. Some graphing calculators
8. Show starring Kerry Washington as Olivia Pope
15. "how to erase ___ history" (tweet from @RikerGoogling)
17. Long medieval weapon
18. One may be on retainer
19. Friendly
20. "Pick a category, Jerry Seinfeld." "Games for \$200, Alex." "Five cards per player, in draw poker." "___?"
22. Night before
23. *Awake and Sing!* playwright Clifford
24. Needs a Narcan injection, perhaps
27. "Felix Buxton, I don't actually know who you are." "I'm in Basement Jaxx, and I'll take Anatomy for \$400." "On top of the cervical vertebrae." "___?"
32. Actor McShane who I could've stood to see in more episodes of *Game of Thrones*, but he's starring in *American Gods* so I guess it's fine

33. Capital of Greenland
34. Sci-fi novelist ___ S. Tepper
35. "Dah" counterparts, in Morse code
37. "He's angry, she's ___" (double standard from Jessica Valenti's *He's a Stud, She's a Slut*)
41. *Clueless* comeback
42. Hulking monsters
44. Utters sweet nothings
46. Show featuring commentary from Drunk Uncle, for short
47. "Pick a category, Winona Ryder." "Dungeons & Dragons for \$600, please." "The amount by which hit points are reduced." "___?"
52. Motor oil brand
53. Swiss ___ (salad green)
54. Unfortunate outcome for a QB
55. "We're back, and Enrico Colantoni of *Veronica Mars* is in control." "Let's try *All in the Family* for \$400." "George Trebek." "___?"
60. Filmmakers with distinctive styles
63. Was physically imposing

64. Be earlier than, historically
65. Made back, as one's investment
66. Kind of pale lager
67. Didn't join the ovation
68. ___ lily (Utah's state flower)

DOWN

1. Drop in warm water for a while, maybe
2. All the things, if there are only two things
3. Wasatch Mountains ski resort
4. Roto-___ (plumbing company, or a spinning fan?)
5. Clenches one's neck muscles, say
6. Tracy Lauren Marrow, more familiarly
7. Tough-to-defend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar shots
8. The *Blacklist* star James
9. Hath an orgasm
10. A career criminal may have many
11. Beatnik icon Cassady
12. Gently apply
13. Rose who toured as AC/DC's vocalist
14. Denim company headquartered in Kansas
16. Highly motivated
21. Part of a student's email address
24. ___ steps (*Battleship Potemkin* sequence)
25. Unafraid of danger
26. Quash
27. Paragraph-ending lines that sit alone at the tops of pages
28. ___-Ashbury
29. Illegally coax into doing something illegal
30. "Delish!"
31. Understanding sound
36. Those who "gotta catch 'em all" want a complete one
38. Stretchers may pass through them
39. Neither's counterpart

40. Fly nonstop
43. Cuisine that might make your tongue tickle
45. Botticelli's first name
48. Pet sound?
49. He shared a Nobel Peace Prize with Shimon and Yitzhak
50. Trombonist Kid ___
51. Certain NYC public transit vehicle
55. Makes it official
56. Layer of the eye
57. Drugs
58. Unpalatable leftover bit
59. "Alas, my love! ___ me wrong ...": "Greensleeves"
60. Droid download
61. Coll. with campuses in Providence and Narragansett
62. Abbr. before a ten-digit number

LV203 ANSWERS



The American Values Club Crossword is edited by Ben Tausig. Subscription information can be found at avxword.com.

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DEVIN FRANK



THE VANISHING BLUES

DEVIN FRANK

The Vanishing Blues

www.facebook.com/thevanishingblues

Poison Control Center’s hiatus in 2011 gave Devin Frank time to explore new projects. He formed Mantis Pincers with Jordan Mayland and Eric Moffitt of Volcano Boys and released one cassette. He moved to Columbia, MO in 2012 and, while writing a bunch of songs and demos, he joined the music scene there as part of heavy psych rock band Flüight and country psych band Jowlz. In 2014, he formed the Vanishing Blues Band with members from both of those bands and Steph Foley, also from Columbia.

Those songs form the basis for Frank’s debut solo album *The Vanishing Blues*, on Cartouche Records. The album is a swirling loose-knit haze of psychedelic folk with flute, harmonica and percussion. At times the tracks are lazy hallucinations. With lyrics like “mermaids, harpies, the covetous whispers, arthropod tentacles, the catfish whispers” from “Moonlight of the Night,” there are no helpful signposts to guide you, so it’s best to go along for the ride, enjoying the alliterative poetry.

By far, the song I play most on repeat is track 3, “The Bitter Tears,” the standout rocker on the album, infused with vibes of Robyn Hitchcock’s the Soft Boys and a little of the paranoid desert punk of the Meat Puppets. The song charges like a runaway train, the instruments and vocals rushing the beat in this fever dream about conflicted love. “But you don’t understand and you don’t even try, It’s like a hook in the mouth when you look into my eye. I get so sad I just can’t believe it, I get so sick I start to think of leavin’, maybe I should just turn that ship around” (or “... turn that shit around;” I hear it both ways). By the guitar solo, the song is threatening to fly off

the tracks—but, eventually, it comes to a rest, allowing the listener to mop their brow and continue the trip.

These songs are real, though they can feel a little hallucinatory.

With *The Vanishing Blues*, Frank has made a refreshing stylistic statement by using a sonic palate derived from psychedelic rock’s dawning era—using bits of Syd Barrett, Donovan and the Zombies. This makes the album a delightfully unique and compelling standout in the landscape of releases this year. It will be interesting to see where Frank takes his music next.

—Mike Roeder



SAMUEL LOCKE WARD

Dunwich Piano Recital

samuellockeward.bandcamp.com/album/dunwich-piano-recital

Samuel Locke Ward hasn’t had an album reviewed in *Little Village* in over a year. Given that he released 12 full-length albums in 2014, it may be reviewer exhaustion to blame. But if we’re going to end this critical shutout, *Dunwich Piano Recital* is a great place to start.

Central to this album is the acoustic piano. Sam told me that he “was going to take a

break from making music,” but that he would sit down at the piano “to blow off steam,” and invent songs extemporaneously. “I kept a four track on top of the piano and recorded them, because if I walked away I’d instantly forget them.” Lyric and melody were added after the fact. “I shouldn’t have told you they’re not real songs, you won’t review it.”

These songs are real, though they can feel a little hallucinatory. “Just Don’t” is a hazy, creepy bummer; The piano chords signal drama and majesty, but the ragged tone of his voice sounds as though he’s ready to collapse. He sings “I’m perfect today, I’m a sight for short eyes, I’m in love with myself, because I’m such a prize,” dripping with irony and dread.

“Bad Christians” tells the story of Mary, whose anguish is palpable: “I could never be Christian enough, I could never be what you want to me to be, I could never be good ... I could never be gold, I have never been gold.” The bare accompaniment of organ and cheap drum machine beats just enhances the desolation.

Songs like “Fall In Line” and “Goons” live in a warm, vague bed of piano chords. Locke Ward uses an old upright piano in need of a tuning and repair, recorded with a cheap microphone to cassette tape, but the low fidelity recording just enhances the atmosphere. “Fall In Line” plays distorted voice against falsetto cooing, and reminds one of Radiohead. “Goons” has a Beach Boys vibe, with tambourine recalling “God Only Knows,” but tells the story of a botched robbery, from the point of view of a “goon” following an obviously incompetent boss.

There a certain willful crudeness to *Dunwich Piano Recital*. Where Thom Yorke uses his choir-boy voice to take some of the venom out of his more mean-spirited lyrics, Locke Ward uses a nasal snarl to underline the lyrics’ desolation and hopelessness. The most effective songs, like “Bad Christians,” are sung with no trace of ironic distance, and are stronger for for its absence. But like the H.P. Lovecraft story “The Dunwich Horror,” after which it is named, the pervasive gloom and dread is transmuted into something delicious and absorbing. **lv**

—Kent Williams

SUBMIT ALBUMS FOR REVIEW

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