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ISSUE 215 FEB. 15-28, 2017

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LITTLE VILLAGE



HEAR NO SCIENCE

Data can't seem to put an end to conspiracy theories about climate change.

**Books,
Not Walls:**
Gene Luen Yang

**Antics and
Anti-Art:**
Andrei Codrescu



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LITTLE VILLAGE

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PUBLISHER MATTHEW STEELE
PUBLISHER@LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM

DIGITAL DIRECTOR DREW BULMAN
WEB@LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM

ART DIRECTOR JORDAN SELLERGREN
JORDAN@LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM

ARTS EDITOR GENEVIEVE TRAINOR
GENEVIEVE@LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM

NEWS DIRECTOR LAUREN SHOTWELL
LAUREN@LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM

STAFF EDITOR CHRISTINE HAWES
CHRIS@LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM

VISUAL REPORTER ZAK NEUMANN
ZAK@LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM

FOOD & DRINK DIRECTOR FRANKIE SCHNECKLOTH
FRANKIE@LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER TREVOR LEE HOPKINS
DISTRO@LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM

VENUE ACCOUNT MANAGER JOSHUA PRESTON
JOSHUA@LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM

OFFICE & PRODUCTION MANAGER NATALIA ARAUJO
NATALIA@LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM

EDITOR & PRODUCTION MANAGER ELEANORE TAFT
ELEANORE@LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM

ADVERTISING ADS@LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM

LISTINGS CALENDAR@LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM

CONTRIBUTORS CECIL ADAMS, ROB CLINE, WAYNE DIAMANTE, KATHRYN B. JACKSON, NATE LOGSDON, KEMBREW MCLEOD, K. MICHAEL MOORE, BAYNARD WOODS, KASRA ZAREI

IMAGERY GRETCHEN CLEVE, BLAIR GAUNTT, JARED JEWELL, BRYAN ALLEN LAMB, ROB MERRITT, KATE RUNNING, GENE LUEN YANG

SUBMISSIONS EDITOR@LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM

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From 'American Born Chinese' by Gene Luen Yang

10 Hot in Herre

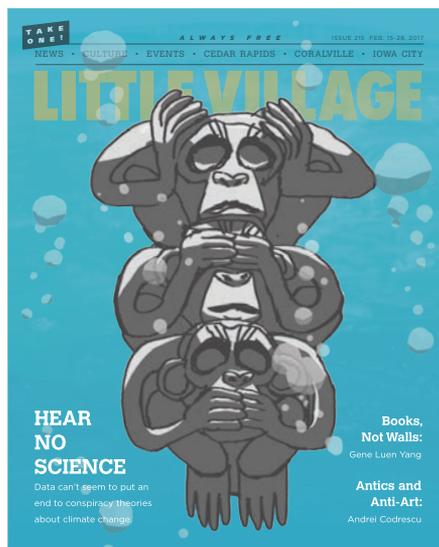
The climate change debate blazes as fiercely as ever.

KASRA ZAREI

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Gene Luen Yang challenges kids to read without walls.

ROB CLINE



HEAR NO SCIENCE

by Jared Jewell

MEMBER:



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LISTEN UP. That sound you don't quite hear is millions of people around the world talking past each other and never quite connecting.

Every day, between "fake news" and Facebook walls, critical conversations get eaten up in that rush of noise.

We can find a better way.

In this issue, we sit down with climate scientist Peter Thorne, who debunks—again—the myths surrounding his line of work.

The Colorblind Comics Critic engages author Gene Luen Yang, who offers children concrete steps for understanding people different from themselves through literature.

And our Prairie Pop column, along with poet Andrei Codrescu, digs into the origins of an anti-art that relied on nonsense to make its point, when reason just didn't make it through.

Girls Rock! opens up a conversation about gender in music. We preview a benefit concert for the the group, which is dedicated to giving young female, trans and gender nonconforming kids a place to speak about music in their own language.

There are so many different ways for conversations to move forward, but there's one big stumbling block in the way of them all: our inability, or unwillingness, to listen.

What gets through to you? Do you listen best to reason? To passion? To art? Which do you use when trying to convince others?

The conversations in this issue remind us that, in order to be heard, we must also be willing to listen.

—LV Editors

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The Game Still Goes On

Dadadadadadadadadada

KEMBREW MCLEOD

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

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The Heart of Rock and Roll

Girls Rock! keeps the beat going.

ELEANORE TAFT

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IN MEMORIAM

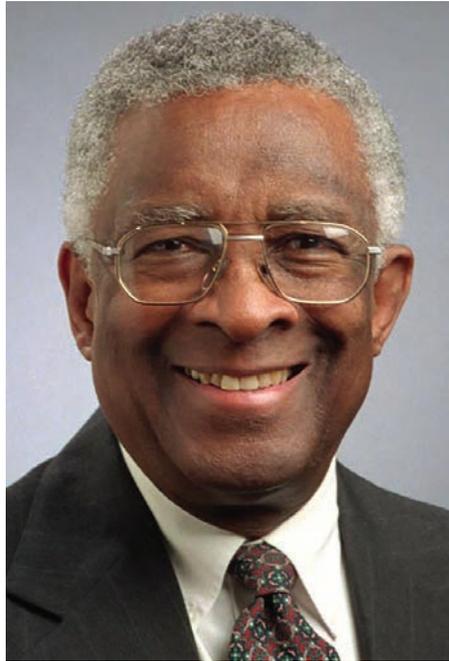


Photo courtesy of the Harris family

EVERY NOW AND AGAIN it seems the universe bestows upon humanity one of those ethereal and affable personalities that end up changing the world for the better. Here in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, we had one of those personalities in Dr. Percy Harris. As far as heroes go, he was the exemplar.

Born during America's Jim Crow era in 1927 in Durant, Mississippi, Percy Harris lost his father at the age of 2 and his mother at 12. He

spent two years of his life in a tuberculosis sanitarium before finding his way to the home of his aunt who lived in Waterloo, Iowa. He graduated from East High School and went on to attend the Iowa State Teacher's College, which later became the University of Northern Iowa. He completed his bachelor's and M.D. degrees at Howard University in 1957, serving as class president for all four years of medical school.

Most people know that Dr. Harris went on to become one of the preeminent physicians in the state of Iowa, but few know of the

struggles he and his family endured along the way. When he began his private practice Dr. Harris struggled because, despite his impressive credentials, many companies refused to hire a black doctor, and most would-be white patients would not dare to be treated by him. His office was damaged by rocks thrown through the windows, and his life was threatened on more than one occasion. But still he pressed on, refusing to let the hatred of the times get in the way of the care he could provide the few citizens of his town who would see him.

With a growing family, Dr. Harris tried to purchase a larger home, but realtors refused to sell to him. After hearing about this a wealthy citizen donated property to St. Paul's United Methodist Church, where the Harrises were members. After hours of debate that continued past midnight, the church voted to approve the sale of the property to Dr. Harris. This controversial vote split the congregation in half and caused many members to leave the church. Dr. Harris was the first African American to integrate the Bever Avenue neighborhood on the southeast side of town. He remained in this home until his death, raising 12 kids there with his wife Lileah.

Dr. Harris practiced the kind of medicine that healed the soul, and in these trying times that we face, it is my hope that everyone seek his prescriptions. His very legacy encourages

us to stare injustice in the face and stand together for what we know to be right. He gave his life over to curing a community afflicted by

the menace of racism. He did it with grace and compassion, and he stayed at it, breaking down one barrier after the other.

A true prince of a man who will always stand out in the pantheon of African American pioneers, Dr. Harris' impact reached far beyond his grasp. He was the best of humanity and taught us all about the virtues of good citizenship. And while he was never my doctor, I am better off because he lived, as are we all.

—Stacey Walker

He was the best of humanity and taught us all about the virtues of good citizenship.

I LOVE IOWA! Did you know that over 70 percent of Iowans registered to vote turned out in the recent election? As Iowans we should be proud of this; voting is part of who we are as a state. That said, I have to admit that the Iowa election process could benefit from a technology upgrade. To this end, Secretary of State Paul Pate has recently introduced a bill to improve the integrity of Iowa elections. Mr. Pate proposes increased funding for electronic poll books. If the money can be found in the budget this could be a positive step for Iowa voters, and I support this. However, Mr. Pate also included a couple items I do not support: voter ID restrictions and a signature verification process. These items will not improve voter turnout and I oppose any barriers between the voter and the ballot.

Let me start with the voter ID requirement. It is well-established that in-person voter fraud is exceedingly rare with one study finding only about 30 cases out of every billion votes. The issue of voter IDs is a solution without a problem, and it can prevent taxpaying citizens from exercising their most basic democratic right. When faced with budget shortages, is this the way you want your tax dollars spent? I don't. If we must go down this road a non-photo ID card is an option that would be less of a barrier. But even this adds unnecessary costs to Iowans and the state.

Requiring signature verification is also a major concern. This introduces an amount of subjectivity into the process that opens Iowa up to many potential issues. This verification process could result in conscious or unconscious profiling. This verification process could result in increased training costs for our poll workers. This verification process could result in honest mistakes that could turn away hard-working Iowans when they arrive to participate in their fundamental right to vote. If we could automate the verification process some of the unconscious mistakes could be avoided. However, this is a cost that is hard to justify in a tight budget.

I wholeheartedly support a non-partisan effort to improve the voting process through technology and automation so we can drive our participation rate up. But, let's be cost-conscious and skip the barriers of a voter ID and signature verification process. **lv**

—Cindy Altmaier Riley

Proposed legislation centered on voting and elections raises concerns

Why would anyone wait until election day to register to vote? They can register all year long, whenever they move, so they are in the system. ID, photo ID is required to do so many things where requirements are needed to verify. Anyone eligible to vote (legal U.S. citizens) should produce photo ID to register. That would solve both parties who claim there is illegal or fraudulent voting occurring. —*Connie Pierce*

That Rep. Zaun is an especially dangerous extremist. The Republican-controlled legislature is going to do everything they can to make Iowa a shitty state, from attacking collective bargaining to eliminating arts funding to sticking a knife even deeper in public higher ed's back to legislation such as this which aims to restrict voting rights. Thanks, LV, for covering it. —*Jason Livingston*

Letter to the Editor: The curious case of Hancher, the cashless auditorium

It says, on every U.S. bill, "This note is legal tender for all debts, public and private." —*Rob Bohlke*

Photos: Massive crowd turns up to support immigrants and refugees

The guy with the "Anti-fascists' are anti-free speech" sign forgets that in a fascist regime, free speech isn't a thing! If you say something that's against the regime, you get punished. If you don't agree with what the regime said, you're punished. Like, oh say, getting fired because you won't uphold an unconstitutional ban—or getting called "fake news" to try to discredit you because you're not putting the regime in the greatest light. Hmm.

I was very thankful for the leaders of the rally who praised everyone at the rally's free speech—even those who were for the ban. Because what's the United States without free speech? —*JR*

Protest planned today at Eastern Iowa Airport following recent executive order

Considering there are no international flights. Why? —*Darin Long*

People want to stand in solidarity with other protesters. —*Patrick Albrecht*

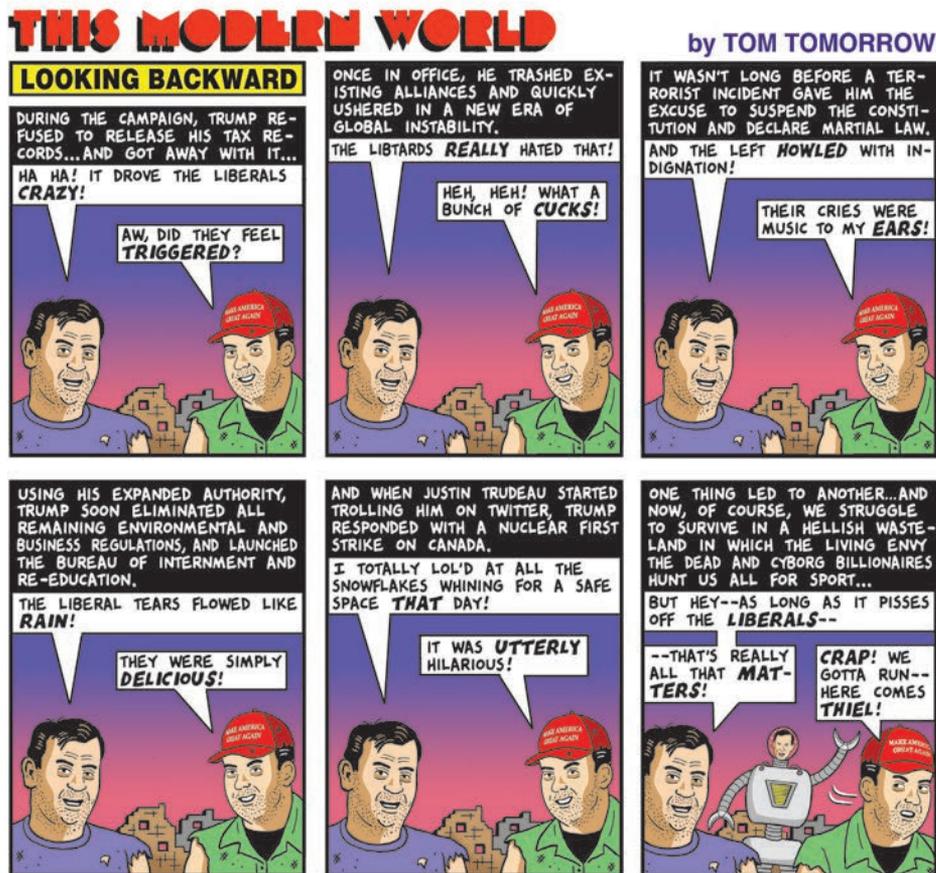


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THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW



LOOKING BACKWARD
DURING THE CAMPAIGN, TRUMP REFUSED TO RELEASE HIS TAX RECORDS... AND GOT AWAY WITH IT... HA HA! IT DROVE THE LIBERALS CRAZY!
AW, DID THEY FEEL TRIGGERED?

ONCE IN OFFICE, HE TRASHED EXISTING ALLIANCES AND QUICKLY USHERED IN A NEW ERA OF GLOBAL INSTABILITY. THE LIBTARDS REALLY HATED THAT!
HEH, HEH! WHAT A BUNCH OF CUCKS!

IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE A TERRORIST INCIDENT GAVE HIM THE EXCUSE TO SUSPEND THE CONSTITUTION AND DECLARE MARTIAL LAW. AND THE LEFT HOWLED WITH INDIGNATION!
THEIR CRIES WERE MUSIC TO MY EARS!

USING HIS EXPANDED AUTHORITY, TRUMP SOON ELIMINATED ALL REMAINING ENVIRONMENTAL AND BUSINESS REGULATIONS, AND LAUNCHED THE BUREAU OF INTERNMENT AND RE-EDUCATION. THE LIBERAL TEARS FLOWED LIKE RAIN!
THEY WERE SIMPLY DELICIOUS!

AND WHEN JUSTIN TRUDEAU STARTED TROLLING HIM ON TWITTER, TRUMP RESPONDED WITH A NUCLEAR FIRST STRIKE ON CANADA. I TOTALLY LOL'D AT ALL THE SNOWFLAKES WHINING FOR A SAFE SPACE THAT DAY!
IT WAS UTTERLY HILARIOUS!

ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER... AND NOW, OF COURSE, WE STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE IN A HELLISH WASTELAND IN WHICH THE LIVING ENVY THE DEAD AND CYBORG BILLIONAIRES HUNT US ALL FOR SPORT... BUT HEY--AS LONG AS IT PISSES OFF THE LIBERALS--
--THAT'S REALLY ALL THAT MATTERS!
CRAP! WE GOTTA RUN-- HERE COMES THIEL!

TOM TOMORROW © 2017 - TMW-1706

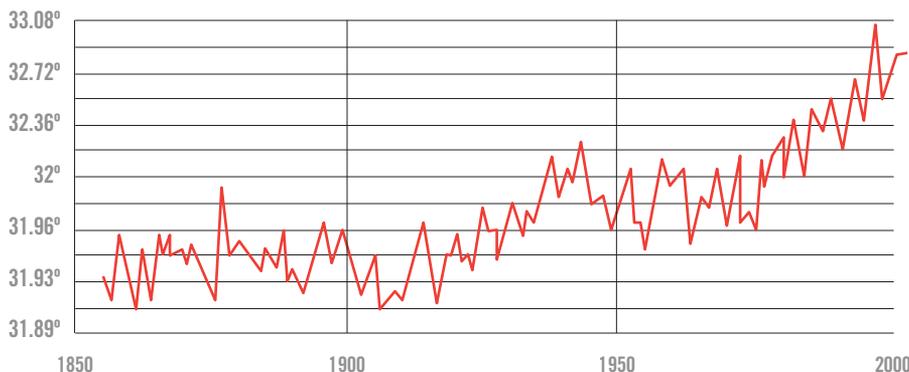
A Snowball's Chance

UI Professor Peter Thorne challenges the criticisms of climate change.
BY KASRA ZAREI

Of the 17 record-setting hottest years, 16 have occurred since 2000. This year, 2017, is expected to continue the trend—although it's not expected to top 2016, which took the gold for hottest year on record. Despite this increasing urgency, 2016 marked another year of disconnect between science and politics. The current president of the United States has repeatedly stated that climate change is a hoax—although he has issued contradicting statements—and listed pulling out of the Paris Climate Agreement as part of his 100-day plan for his first days in office.

Although a page about climate change was removed from the White House website under the new administration, climate change remains a worldwide issue rigorously being pursued by the scientific community. One leader in this community is Peter Thorne, Ph.D., a University of Iowa professor and head of the UI College of Public Health's Department

of Occupational and Environmental Health. Thorne also serves as chairman of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board. Thorne sat down to discuss some of the key arguments swirling around about climate change.



Data from the National Climate Data Center and the Climate Research Unit

Conspiracy Theory

“When a person makes an effort to look at the scientific information, they will see that climate change is a phenomenon as real as gravity,” Thorne said. “The problem is when people do not make the effort to look at the science, or get information from sources that are not reliable.”

He said there are some individuals who, after looking at the science, remain skeptical of climate change. Some have argued that climate change research findings are part of a conspiracy theory. One article published last year by *Breitbart* (which Donald Trump's top adviser, Steve Bannon, used to run) called climate change “the greatest-ever conspiracy against the taxpayer.”

“This minority has a large vested interest in denying the science, believing that research findings are all part of a conspiracy, or honoring another conflict of interest that opposes the concept of global warming,” Thorne said.

Along these same lines, there are arguments

that scientists are getting rich over the climate change discussion. However, Thorne noted that scientists who work for organizations studying climate data, like NASA and the National Oceanic Administration (NOAA), draw their regular salaries, while, for academics, research grants

go to the university.

“Many people don't understand that when a professor gets a federal research grant, it goes to the institution,” Thorne said. “There are people who may write a book about climate change, but making the point that climate scientists are getting rich over this worldwide discussion is a ludicrous argument.”

Thorne did cite one case of questionable

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Photo by Zak Naumann

“We don’t have to talk about two decades from now. We can talk about today.” —Peter Thorne

funding, but on the other side of the climate change discussion. A scientist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Wei-Hock “Willie” Soon, gained prominence publishing papers denying climate change and arguing that global warming is driven by changes in the sun’s energy. It was later discovered that he had accepted more than \$1 million from the fossil fuel industry, which he did not disclose in his scientific papers.

Validity of Models

Some critics of man-made climate change also question the validity of the models used in climate change research, arguing, for example, that they fudge to fit with past observations but don’t necessarily predict future temperatures. However, according to Thorne, the science surrounding climate change has advanced to the point where researchers have many direct measurements of global temperatures that support the veracity of the models.

“Where the models might have some challenges is the geographical scale. For instance, you may not be able to predict the climate of Iowa City, but you can for the Midwest or the nation as a whole,” Thorne said.

However, deniers of man-made climate change constitute a small proportion of climate scientists. Depending on what study you look at, the number of climate scientists who believe humans contribute to climate change can be as high as 97 percent, but it is always an overwhelming majority.

“In any scientific discourse, there is always someone who is going to challenge the status quo, and it’s good to have some people who take the other side,” Thorne said.

Science Has Been Wrong in the Past

Some climate change deniers point to the historic example of the previously-held geocentric model of the solar system—the sun revolving around the earth—as support for the argument that global warming may be false even if most scientists believe in it. However, Thorne pointed to the many advances in science since the age of Galileo.

“The technical level of the science currently

conducted is above the level of science multiple centuries ago. At that time, there was a complete melding between religion and science,” Thorne said. “So much of that historical discourse was a religious argument. With climate change, we are talking about a different plane.”

The evidence in support of the existence of global warming is only increasing, with noticeable signs worldwide, including the trend of rising global temperatures, melting glaciers, rising sea levels and extreme weather events.

Accuracy of Measurements

Critics have also raised questions over temperature measurements, with some claiming that the earth has stopped warming in recent years, and others citing slight discrepancies in data. But Thorne said the scientific methodology used is comprehensive and unbiased.

According to the NOAA’s National Climatic Data Center, the earliest records of temperature measured by thermometers are from the late 17th century. Although there are some variations in the data from the two often-cited climate research programs (the National Climatic Data Center and the U.K.-based Climate Research Unit), those variations are attributed to slightly different ways of processing the data. The overall warming trend matches up.

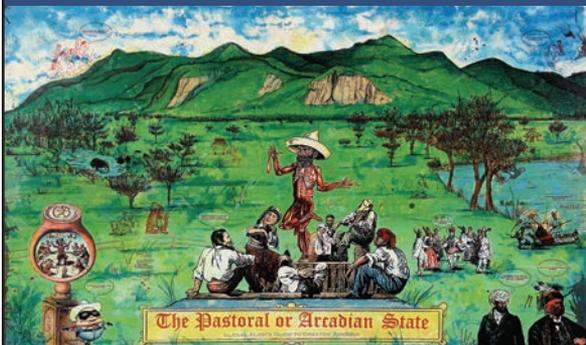
“There is a worldwide network of reporting stations—in the U.S. it’s part of the National Weather Service. Other countries have similar entities, and there is a national consortium,” Thorne said. “The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has several programs that are responsible for collecting this data, [including] one called Argo that has



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Image: Enrique Chagoya, *The Pastoral or Arcadian State: Illegal Alien’s Guide to Greater America*, 2006. Lithograph, © 2006 Enrique Chagoya. Falconer Gallery, Grinnell College Art Collection. Image courtesy of Shark’s Ink., Lyons, Colorado

over 3,000 probes that are moving through the ocean.”

These probes float on the service and then dive down 2,000 meters into the sea. Beyond these probes, there are sophisticated satellite systems that monitor temperature and other metrics, such as greenhouse gas levels.

What’s at Stake?

The present and future consequences of man-made global warming can be catastrophic.

“We don’t have to talk about two decades from now. We can talk about today,” Thorne said.

Warmer air can hold more moisture. That, along with changes in weather patterns, means that rainstorms can be more severe and cause more flooding, Thorne said.

Global warming will also affect insect populations and vegetation, boosting the growth of plants like ragweed and poison ivy, and spreading the incidence of diseases like malaria, dengue fever and the Zika virus.

“There are public health aspects that become important—individuals with allergies, for instance, will suffer longer,” Thorne said. “Diseases from ticks and mosquitoes will be traveling northward. Worst of all, when a disease expands to a new area, the incidence can become a lot higher.”

Moving Forward: Mitigation and Adaptation

To address the causes of global warming, the discussion is focused on mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation refers to reducing the global carbon footprint and reducing dependence on energy sources that release greenhouse gases. Adaptation is how the world adapts to changing ecosystems, like rising sea levels.

“Research in the mitigation area is focused on renewable energy systems, and changing towards solar, wind and geothermal and moving away from coal,” Thorne said.

There are some almost sci-fi concepts being researched, like solar umbrellas to block

sunlight. The idea is that reducing the amount of sunlight that reaches the Earth could offset global warming from increasing greenhouse gases. However, ideas such as this would not address carbon dioxide problems and the loss of biodiversity. Solutions require broad, far-reaching changes.

“Resilience is one of the key words we use in adaptation research,” Thorne said. “This is part of the landscape of city planning and urban land reform.”

That resilience may be tested. Looking at the records of some of the appointees of the current White House administration—including Trump’s pick to head the EPA, Scott Pruitt, who has a track record of suing the agency—it is easy to believe that this administration could lead a reduction in efforts to address man-made global warming. **lv**

Kasra Zarei is a graduate student in engineering at the University of Iowa, and an avid writer about wide-ranging topics in science and medicine.

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Confirmation Bias BY BAYNARD WOODS

Senators shuffle by the desk on Tuesday to cast their votes on the confirmation of Betsy DeVos as secretary of education, chattering like kids returning from summer break to find that everything has changed. Somehow even the victors seem confused. None of them really expected the world to look like this.

Except, maybe, Sen. Jeff Sessions. He is standing toward the front of the Senate chambers, his hands behind his back, at ease. There is a grin on his face. He has just cast what will be his final vote as senator—to confirm DeVos.

Sessions was instrumental in planning the flurry of authoritarian executive orders marking Trump's first weeks in office, including the now-contested Muslim ban. Sessions wanted to go even harder, hoping for a "shock and awe" approach, overwhelming the opposition with the dramatic pace of change.

In a *Washington Post* story that called Sessions the "intellectual godfather" of "Trump's hard-line actions," the director of a conservative immigration think tank compared the Republican senator to a "guerrilla in the hinterlands preparing for the next hopeless assault on the government" who suddenly learns that "the capital has fallen."

With his dark suit, white hair and wrinkled white peach of a face, Sessions does not look like he's spent much time training in the jungle. But he does seem surprised—stunned almost—that the next vote his colleagues cast will make him attorney general of the United States.

He walks slowly to his seat. Sitting down, he bows his head. His eyes seem to be closed, as if praying. He brings the tips of his fingers together, facing upward, on his lap.

A few moments later he takes out a silver object and holds it gingerly between the first two fingers and thumbs of each hand, almost as if unwrapping foil on a stick of gum.

But it doesn't seem to be gum—it's impossible to tell what it is from the press gallery above the Senate floor—and he does not

unwrap it, he just fingers it, his head bowed.

Then the vote is called. He puts away the silver object. It is 50 to 50.

As expected, Vice President Mike Pence confirms DeVos with a historic tie-breaking vote. It is a huge blow to anyone who cares about competency, public education or ethics in government. The Democrats spent the last 24 hours complaining about all of these issues, but that doesn't matter now. They have no control. The whole process demonstrated that the new regime can do as it wishes on the Hill.

Across the room, Sen. Al Franken acts like he is charging someone with a podium, making a clear reference to Melissa McCarthy's *Saturday Night Live* skit satirizing Sean Spicer, the president's communications director and press secretary.

Sens. John McCain and Lindsey Graham sit beside each other talking quietly, as if conspiring or gossiping. McCain says something and sucks his bottom lip. Graham scans the room from left to right.

Sessions gets up and looks around the room again before he heads toward the door.

When he returns to the Senate later that day, Sessions is the nominee under consideration. He sits behind Majority Leader Mitch McConnell

while Sen. Elizabeth

Warren quotes the late Sen. Ted Kennedy, who called Sessions a "disgrace to the Justice Department" during a 1986 confirmation hearing, when Sessions was denied a federal judgeship because of allegations of racism.

Now Warren reads from a letter that Coretta Scott King, the widow of Martin Luther King Jr., sent to the Senate during that same failed confirmation.

"Mr. President. Mr. President," McConnell interrupts, defending Sessions. "The senator has impugned the motives and conduct of our colleague from Alabama, as warned by the chair. Senator Warren said, 'Senator Sessions has used the awesome power of his office to chill the free exercise of the vote by black



Blair Gauntt

CONT. >> ON PG. 36



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I love a restaurant that doesn't need a gimmick: one where the food is good and you can hear the person you're speaking with—and it's always nice when you can get a good beer or a milkshake with whiskey in it.

Beer Burger in North Liberty is just such a joint. No pretense, just tasty American fare with a quick nod to southern cookin', and a second and longer nod to an upscale bistro.

Burgers are, of course, the "meat and potato" of the Beer Burger menu. And they are tasty, well-made, smashed Iowa beef. They range from a straightforward cheeseburger to unusual toppings, including teriyaki pineapple or deep-fried mac & cheese. Each comes on a pretzel bun and, with upcharge, one can add anything from a fried egg to guacamole to beer cheese and more.

Beer Burger also provides upgrade options for their delicious fries—marshmallow fluff, traditional chili-cheese, truffle oil and parmesan, bacon and bleu cheese and even poutine. (Yes, my poutine-loving friends! Yes.)

Despite the name, the menu does provide more expansive options—including grilled chicken, gluten-free and vegetarian versions of their signature burgers, a

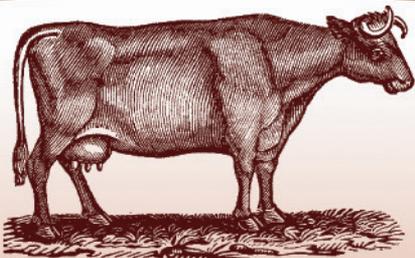
Photo by Frankie Schneekloth



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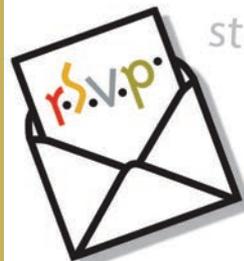
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salmon sandwich, tenderloins, a bluefin tuna salad, chops and steaks and an appetizer menu which includes a flight of Bavarian pretzels in different flavors.

I opted for the dry rub pulled pork (and bacon!) burger and the signature Beer Burger fries, generously topped with truffle oil, garlic and parmesan. It was a flavorful and inventive meal. The dry rub pork was tender and delicious, a terrific and unexpected topper to the burger. I coupled the meal with Boulder's Shake Chocolate Porter, which was a good pairing, and is a smooth and rich nitro brew in its own right.

Which brings me to the other half of the Beer Burger brand. The tap list is impressive and has many delicious choices—though it is by no means as extensive as some eastern

Iowa brew market options. You can, however, get a self-serve beer pass. The cocktail and wine menu is also fun and provides ample choices for non-beer drinkers.

Then there's the milkshakes and floats.

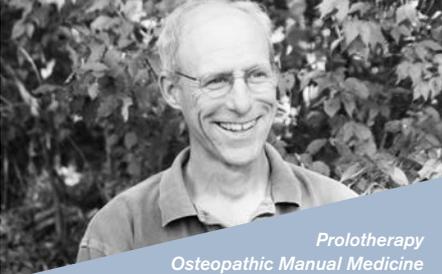
Available in traditional and "Bam-Boozled" for the over-21 crowd, Beer Burger shakes and floats, like the rest of the menu, are customizable to your individual taste (choose, for example, Rumchata or Fireball to complement your Cinnamon Toast

Crunch shake, or Godiva in your Toasted S'mores shake!).

Beer Burger offers much more than the name implies. It's a great choice for families, after work with the crew or a fun and laid-back date night. **lv**

—K. Michael Moore

It's always nice when you can get a milkshake with whiskey in it.



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Colorblind Comics

Breaking Down Walls

MacArthur Fellow Gene Luen Yang swoops into the One Book Two Book Children's Literature Festival. • BY ROB CLINE

Gene Luen Yang remembers the first comic he ever bought: DC Comics Presents #57 Superman & the Atomic Knights.

"That comic book blew my mind," Yang said in a phone interview. "Pretty soon after buying that comic, I was making comics of my own."

Yang was in fifth grade at the time, and he and his best friend, Jeremy, collaborated on stories, with Yang handling the writing and the pencils and Jeremy doing the inks. They would make copies and sell them to classmates.

"It was the '80s, and the dividing line between who was a comics creator and who was a comics reader was very thin," he said.

Yang has come a long way since those fifth-grade comics. He'll be featured during the 2017 edition of the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature's One Book Two Book Children's Literature Festival Feb. 24-26.

In 2006, Yang's book *American Born Chinese* became the first graphic novel to be nominated for a National Book Award and the first to win the American Library Association's Printz Award. It also earned Yang an Eisner Award.

His work includes the acclaimed historical graphic novel *Boxers & Saints*, which was also nominated for a National Book Award; *The Eternal Smile* with Derek Kirk Kim;

Level Up with Thien Pham; *Secret Coders*, a series for young readers with Mike Holmes; *The Shadow Hero*, a reimagining of the first Asian American superhero with Sonny Liew; *Avatar: The Last Airbender*; and—to bring things full circle—a ten-issue run on *Superman* followed by an ongoing DC series called *New Superman*, featuring the first Asian character in the Superman family.

Yang was recently named a MacArthur Fellow, and, in January 2016, he was named the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature by the Library of Congress, which co-sponsors the program with Every Child A Reader and the Children's Book Council.

Much of Yang's work—from *American Born Chinese* to his *Superman* run, during which the Man of Steel was depowered

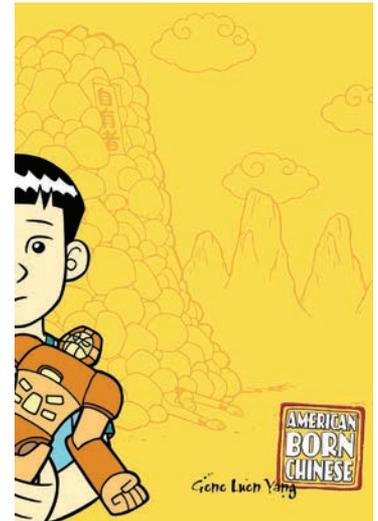
and estranged from most everyone—features characters who are outsiders.

"Throughout my life, I've often felt like an outsider in different contexts," Yang said. "The outsider experience is actually very common. It's almost something that ties us all together." Yang notes the irony, but also suggests that is why stories of outsiders resonate with so many readers.

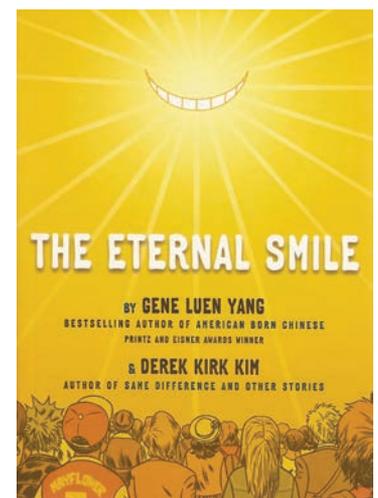
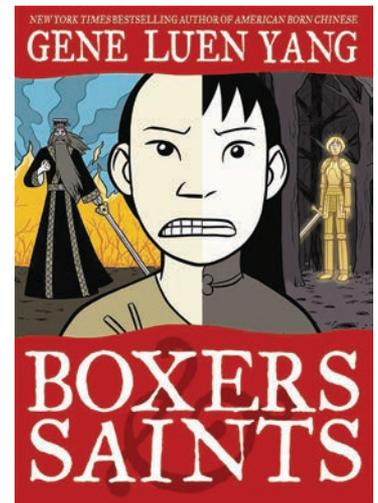
Yang's work is notable for its narrative complexity. *American Born Chinese*, for example, features three storylines that seem distinct until they come together in a powerful and creative way. The two-volume *Boxers & Saints* explores China's Boxer Rebellion of 1900 from two different perspectives without making judgments

"The outsider experience is actually very common. It's almost something that ties us all together."

—Gene Luen Yang



One Book Two Book Children's Literature Festival Gene Luen Yang Friday-Sunday, Feb. 24-26



One Book Two Book

about who was right and who was wrong. To craft these stories, Yang has a strategy.

“Oh, I’m a big outliner,” he said. Early in his career, he tried making things up as he went along. “I just was not satisfied with how my stories were turning out.”

So now he starts with a plan. “The way the different stories weave in and out of one another is all figured out.”

Yang doesn’t shy away from complexity even when writing for younger readers. His *Secret Coders* series, which teaches the basics of computer science through an interactive adventure, features the same sort of fully-realized, outsider characters found in his other work.

“That book really comes out of my teaching experience,” Yang said, explaining that he spent 17 years teaching computer science to high schoolers. “What I was interested in was experimenting with how to weave together educational content and narrative. I’m still trying to figure it out.”

The challenge, he said, is in creating three-dimensional characters within a plot that is also trying to teach something. He argues that most characters in educational materials are two-dimensional and “serve as avatars for the readers.”

“It could be that three-dimensional characters actually get in the way of the learning,” he said.

His interests in education and storytelling make him an excellent selection to serve as the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature. He’s pleased to serve.

“The goal of the whole program is to get more kids reading and kids reading more,” he said.

He hopes to encourage kids to stretch themselves with a new program scheduled to roll out in April.

“The Reading Without Walls initiative challenges kids to read outside their comfort zones,” he said.

Yang’s website (geneyang.com) expands on the goals of the program: “I want every kid—every reader, really—to

explore the world through books. Books have played a vital role in getting me outside my comfort zone. I believe they can do the same for you.”

He goes on to challenge young readers to “read without walls” by exploring books in three different categories: books about characters who don’t “look like you or live like you,” books on “a topic you don’t know much about” and books “in a format that you don’t normally read for fun” (chapter books, graphic novels, verse, etc.).

“If you really want to go for the gold star,” Yang writes, “read a book that fits all three criteria!”

While in Iowa City, Yang will give a presentation—“Most likely about *Secret Coders* and Reading Without Walls”—followed by a signing, and a workshop with kids (already full). Details

are available at onebooktwobook.org.

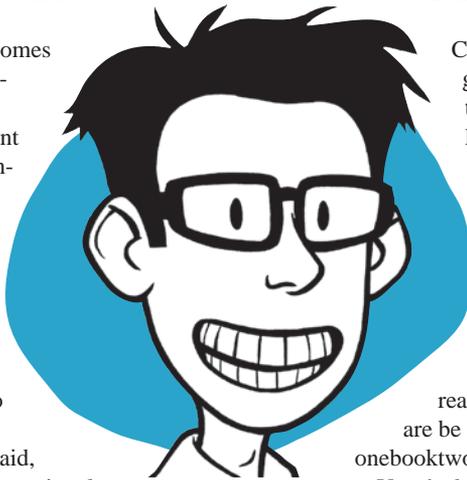
Yang’s duties as ambassador aren’t slowing him down creatively. He’s currently finishing up the

Secret Coders series and his *Airbender* run, as well as working on *New Superman*. He’s also working on his first nonfiction graphic book, called *Dragon Hoops*. Yang followed a high school basketball team throughout its 2014-2015 season, and *Dragon Hoops* will tell the team’s story.

Don’t expect it too soon, however.

“That’s going to take forever,” Yang said with a laugh. “I’m drawing it, too ... I’m a very slow artist.” **lv**

Born colorblind and therefore convinced he’d never enjoy graphic forms of storytelling, Rob Cline was first bitten by the comics bug in college. The resulting virus lay dormant for many years before it was activated by the inscrutable work of Grant Morrison. Now Cline seeks out the good and bad across the comics landscape as the Colorblind Comics Critic.



Self portrait by
Gene Luen Yang

Friday, Feb. 24

INVITATION ONLY—Friday Once Upon A Time, hotelVetro, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 25

The Little Engine That Could, hotelVetro, 10 a.m., Free

Comic Book Confidential w/ Franky Frances Cannon, hotelVetro, 10 a.m., Free

Darrin Crow: Talespinner & Troubadour, hotelVetro, 10:30 a.m., Free

Gene Luen Yang, hotelVetro, 11 a.m., Free

Book Character Meet & Greet, hotelVetro, 11:30 a.m., Free

Young Author Autograph Session, hotelVetro, 12 p.m., Free

Jr. High Writing Jam!, The Mill, 12 p.m., Free

FULL—Illustration Workshop with Gene Luen Yang, hotelVetro, 12:30 p.m., Free

Darrin Crow: Talespinner & Troubadour, hotelVetro, 12:30 p.m., Free

Absolute Science, hotelVetro, 1 p.m., Free

Creative Conversations with Animal Puppets, hotelVetro, 1:30 p.m., Free

Book Character Meet & Greet, hotelVetro, 2 p.m., Free

Read to the Bump, hotelVetro, 2 p.m., Free

Never Say Never with Sofia the Dragon, hotelVetro, 2:30 p.m., Free

‘Cordelia’ by Michele Nelson-Schmidt, hotelVetro, 2:45 p.m., Free

Sunday, Feb. 26

Out Loud, MacBride Hall Auditorium, 1 p.m., Free



Hot Tin Roof: February

Mirrored Room

Hot Tin Roof is a program to showcase current literary work produced in Iowa City. The series is organized and juried by representatives of three IC-based cultural advocacy organizations: The Englert Theatre, Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature and Little Village magazine, with financial support from M.C. Ginsberg Objects of Art.

Your intuition might fail you. Your sniffing-dog sense for the perils of men—your extra-sensory radar for the false love of fathers in particular, having known your own father's false love—you could, at any instant, go noseblind, and get it wrong. There is always room for your human error.

You may detect danger where there is no danger. Conversely, you may, for many years, remain oblivious to a danger beneath your snout. This is to say, the men who touch their children may arrive in the guise of the father you have always wanted. The men who touch their children, in fact, may appear as the father-ideal.

The men who touch their children may listen to David Bowie. They may even revere Leonard Cohen, though less relentlessly than your own father. Unlike your father, perhaps they do not dwell unceasingly in the same Juno Award-winning Leonard Cohen record from 1992. Perhaps they know, after the tenth or eleventh consecutive listen, to cut the power from the dual cassette/compact-disc player, to stop the spinning of the vinyl record on the player they have had since they were nineteen, twenty, twenty-five. Perhaps the men who touch their children are—ironically—more immediately conscious of the fragile sensibilities of their daughters, more enlightened to the fact that such endless rotation of such grim lyricism might provoke a soft anxiety in the daughter. That years later, having listened so to the deft, elegiac, driving title track of that same 1992 record, the very word repent will send Catholic shivers through the daughter's stiffened spine. A tremble in the hands. Low tension in the gut.

The men who touch their children, with their filthy hands, will share their noontime food with you. They will open their pantries, their ancient ovens, microwaves stained by years. They will drive you to the Jewish

delicatessen on the far-west side of town; from the neighborhood iteration of the regional chain-supermarket, they will provide fresh lox for your scallion-schmear bagel.

In winter, you will sleep in the room left unoccupied by the daughter who no longer speaks to them. In summer, they will share their six-pack of low-calorie beer, and you will sit drinking with them on the concrete porch in hot afternoon. Summer bugs will bother at your ears, your sweating neck.

This is to say, that what you read about the stranger in the children's park, the dirty granduncle, criminal babysitter, will not protect you from your own fearsome idealism. Your fearsome idealism, seeking out the father-ideal, will interpret cold guilt as the sheer warmth of love. You will admire the paternal fervor of the men who touch their children, mistaking it for a passion which eluded your ancestry. You of the mother who sought to shuffle off her motherhood, like a binding around the ribs. Mother who found the mothers of your classmates to be loathsome and dreary—those dreadful-dull mothers who speak of nothing but their children, your mother would say, to you. You, of the father of few words and fewer demonstrations of love. Father who spilled dinner wine on your fourth-grade homework, circled the stain with a pencil, and wrote, red wine spill: accident, an arrow directed towards that violet splatter.

You of shameful, shirking parentage. Mothers who dress younger than their years; fathers who fail to answer the ringing telephone. The emotion may even make you cry, when it happens: the convergence of your childhood's reality with its seeming opposite. Fathers who speak in sing-song and dear petnames, tender abbreviations of the names they gave their daughters. Men who do not swear; men of specialty recipes. Men who cannot cook, but try earnestly, with heart. You will absorb the gently paternalistic abbreviations, taste the spaghetti with ground-venison

sauce, and you will be enchanted. So enchanted, you will neglect the taste of stale dread in the air.

You will neglect the unspeaking daughter. You might even think her mad.

Pitifully curled on a cold-leather living room couch, far from the aridity and seductive ornamentation of your home state, you might even leak tears, cursing that daughter's name. Snotnosed and livid, you will mourn those blessings she had squandered, the privilege of a father who did not dwell in song, who did not spill, who always answered the ringing telephone.

Years later, she will tell you. You will be in a kitchen of Lazy Susan cabinets and ceramic figurines of tropical fauna. She will be slicing angel food cake, or squeezing half-limes into sugar and heavy cream. Later, you will sleep uneasily beside her under dry-smelling quilts, the fabric weighty and stiff.

She will tell it indirectly, so that the horror seeps into you slow, like a gas into an enclosed room. She will regret the telling, audibly, almost instantaneously. She will apologize for the burden she has placed upon you, in the telling, and you will answer, honestly, that you are wholly unburdened. You hope to be a neutral party in this house of raising voices, antique figurines, the peculiar yet familiar forces of a family which is not yours. You tell her that you hope she feels she can share anything with you, safely. You are not invested; you will never tell.

And sure, you are unburdened, but in an hour or even three you will lie unsleeping beneath the quilts of grandparents who are not your own, beside a sister who is not yours. And you will think about her long, pale hands, stinging of lime juice, and you will think about her as a young child, being woken in the dark. You will think about her sister, too, a dear friend to you, and wonder if she was ever forcibly woken. You will wonder. Think about the beer on your lips in summer and your own dumb snout and the cruel and stifled shame of being very, very wrong. **lv**

Kathryn B Jackson was born in Los Angeles, CA, and, nowadays, lives and works in Iowa City, IA.

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Andrei Codrescu Documenting Dada/ Disseminating Dada Shambaugh Auditorium Saturday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.

From Tristan Tzara's *Vingt-Cinq Poemes*. Etching by Hans Arp.

From the collection of the International Dada Archive, Special Collections, University of Iowa Libraries

early Dadaist Hans Richter in his book, *Dada: Art and Anti-Art*. “We laughed at everything. We laughed at ourselves just as we laughed at Emperor, King and Country, fat bellies and baby-pacifiers ... Pandemonium, destruction, anarchy, anti-everything, why should we hold it in check? What of the pandemonium, destruction, anarchy, anti-everything, of the World War?”

“Dadaists said their NO by mocking all Western art and philosophy,” echoed Codrescu. “They saw that only the creation of new forms of art, thinking, living and creative resistance would demonstrate the absurdity of war.” As the author of *The Posthuman Dada Guide*, he will speak in Shambaugh Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18 as part of the University of Iowa Main Library Gallery exhibition, Documenting Dada/ Disseminating Dada.

“I discovered Dada in high school, in my birthplace, Romania, which was a communist country,” Codrescu recalled. Coming to Dada through the poetry of Tristan Tzara, it “opened the door” for him, making it possible to use his imagination to survive Romania’s police state. “I’m familiar with dictatorship and its silencing of dissent,” Codrescu added. “We are now on our way to authoritarian rule in the U.S.”

The Posthuman Dada Guide’s subtitle—*Tzara and Lenin Play Chess*—serves as the book’s framing device: a hypothetical chess game that pitted Tzara against Russian communist revolutionary Vladimir Lenin. “Tzara played chess on the side of art, anarchy, freedom, the unexpected and the end of war. Lenin played for ideology, class war and an orderly police state. For a while in the 20th century it looked like Lenin won the war. In the 21st, it looks like Tzara did. We will see. The game still goes on.”

Codrescu hopes Dada tactics can help win a game whose stakes have been raised by sadistic chess masters like Donald Trump. “Spontaneous action is the only activity that the police don’t understand. They understand ideologies like communism, fascism, etc., but they have trouble with poetry. ‘First thought, best thought,’ Allen Ginsberg said. Organizations understand organizations, but no one expects spontaneous dance, song or a sudden seizure by a pagan god. Dada is a constructive destruction party that lets the future in.”

When asked about his favorite historical moment in this constructive destruction party, Codrescu mused, “The first night at Cabaret

Prairie Pop

NO.

Poet Andrei Codrescu on Dada’s enduring philosophy.

BY KEMBREW MCLEOD

Dada was a volatile artistic, social and political movement that exploded in 1916 from the Zürich club Cabaret Voltaire, creating reverberations that can still be felt today. Its fuse was lit by refugees from World War One who decamped to Switzerland, a neutral country that became a magnet for artists, bohemians and other radicals.

As poet and NPR contributor Andrei Codrescu observed, “The Dadaists had the bad luck to live during a World War yet unmatched for stupidity” (though he was quick to add, “Not that there are any ‘smart’ wars”). “We are living in a similar world, but it is still only 1913,” he told me, drawing parallels between the dawning days of the Trump administration and the lead-up to WWI’s bloodbath. “So, in a scientifically more advanced time, we are in the same position the Dadaists were: The only answer to the insanity of our war-hungry leaders is a resolute NO.”

The Dadaists were contrarians; they were artists who wanted to abolish art, and were serious about their jokes. “We destroyed, we insulted, we despised—and we laughed,” reminisced

Voltaire must have been something: Poets invented simultaneous readings, there were dances invented on the spot, fantastic masks by Marcel Janco, Tristan Tzara's antics, Hugo Ball's nonsense poems, several languages in performance. There was a drunken audience of heartbroken, wounded soldiers, deserters and spies. It was the start of modern art in the 20th century. One evening that changed everything."

Dadaists mocked and molested bourgeois society with prankish acts that attempted to dismantle the museums and turn the streets into galleries. The first shot fired from Dada's anti-art machine gun was Marcel Duchamp's first ready-made, *Bicycle Wheel*, in 1913. According to Duchamp, a ready-made is just an everyday object that can be turned into "art" by someone audacious enough to call it that. "As early as 1913," Duchamp deadpanned, "I had the happy idea to fasten a bicycle wheel to a kitchen stool and watch it turn."

With *Fountain*, his most notorious ready-made, Duchamp bought a mass-produced urinal, signed the name "R. Mutt" on its white porcelain surface and then placed it in a gallery. On another occasion, he drew a mustache and goatee on a store-bought reproduction of Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, naming it *LHOOQ*. When the letters in Duchamp's title are read aloud in French — "Elle a chaud au cul" — it's a pun on a phrase that translates colloquially as "she is hot in the ass."

For a group that embraced irreverence and chaos, it's no surprise that Dadaism quickly imploded by the early-1920s. But its anarchic legacy lives on and continues to serve as an antidote to today's post-truth era that is swimming in "alternative facts." Reflecting on this, Codrescu said, "The non-facts of people in power are dangerous lies. The disorder of distracters is not Dada: it's brain-washing propaganda based on salesmanship and deliberate confusion. Dada undoes those with an overt sense of the absurd that puts the spotlight squarely on the contradictions of power."

"Dada is flexible," he concludes, "when the power lies, it reacts with an absurd but true transparent gesture. When power pretends to be of the people, Dada proclaims its aristocracy. Dada is a perpetual NO to whatever is being proposed by the manipulators in power." **lv**

Kembrew McLeod marches to the beat of his own Dada drummer.

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MY BRIGHTEST DIAMOND

The sheer force of Sara Haines' live vocal range and emotional intelligence is what is meant by *My Brightest Diamond*. Haines is a member of *Brooklyn Society* and *Sober Women's Filmmakers*, and has collaborated with Laurie Anderson, Daniel Barenboim, and a variety of Iowa-based and international acts or David Lang.



FREE READING BY KELLY LINK

Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 6-7 pm, Strauss Hall

Short story writer Kelly Link is a member of the *Brooklyn Society* and a member of the *Brooklyn Society*. Link has published a *Magnum Opus*, *Three Men on a Bench*, and a *Magnum Opus*. Her most recent collection, *Get in Trouble*, was a finalist for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize. She is the author of several of today's most thrilling pieces of fiction.

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A-List

Get Schooled in Rock

A stellar slate of female musicians raise funds for Girls Rock! Iowa City.

BY ELEANORE TAFT

Local bands take the stage at Trumpet Blossom on Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. to raise money for Girls Rock! Iowa City, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that teaches female, gender non-conforming and trans kids ages 8-16 how to rock and roll.

In addition to the benefit's seven-band lineup, representatives of Girls Rock! Iowa City will provide information about the organization. Trumpet Blossom will offer regular food and drink service during the event.

Girls Rock!, according to its Facebook page, is "a community organization dedicated to fostering girls' creative expression and self-esteem through musical expression." The primary focus of Girls Rock! is a week-long summer camp.

Campers learn musical basics and a little rock history, form a band and work on DIY

projects like screen-printing logos and making 'zines and flyers for their band. Each band composes an original song, which they perform at a showcase at the end of the week. The final day of camp is spent in the recording studio, where campers lay down their new tracks.

Campers also take part in activities that aren't directly related to creating a band, but instead are designed to build confidence and encourage critical thinking about girls' role in society.

"We do a lot of non-musical exercises aimed at empowerment; in the past we've had yoga, self-defense, bystander intervention, the history of women in music and portrayal of women in advertising and the media," Merit Bickner, Iowa City camp founder (and personal family friend of this author) said. "We talk to the kids at camp about the

imbalanced distribution of power and how we're working to reclaim it."

Piper Kriz, a 10-year-old camper, said, "I think it's important because girls usually are left out in a lot of things like sports and all that, and people think that girls can't do it. And I think that it's nice to have a camp just for girls, and that girls can express their feelings."

The Iowa City camp was founded in 2012, and is one of many similar programs that have sprung up in cities worldwide. The Girls Rock Camp Alliance, also a 501(c)(3) non-profit, links 87 member camps on five continents, including Girls Rock! Iowa City. The alliance was founded in 2007, under the leadership of Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls in Portland, Oregon.

"As the first girls rock camp, Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls became a source of

Girls Rock! Fundraiser

Trumpet Blossom Cafe,
Saturday, Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m.

Megan Buick and KT Hawbaker-Krohn teach a bass guitar lesson in 2014. Photo by Gretchen Cleve

inspiration for other initiatives around the world,” according to the alliance website. Bickner was inspired by the five years she spent volunteering at Girls Rock! Chicago, another member of the alliance.

Before punk rock exploded in the late 1970s, women and girls in music were mostly relegated to the role of singer, if included at all, among major rock and pop acts. Female instrumentalists are still under-represented today among headlining bands, but from the lineup at the Trumpet Blossom show, you wouldn't know it.

The night will feature mostly female performers ranging from pianist-singer-songwriter Hadiza to punk rockers Cone Trauma and the dreamwave, poppy Hot Tang. Also on the lineup are

lo-fi experimental folksinger Loaf, who describes her music as “heartfelt, confessional and sometimes catchy,” and Iowa City indie

rock singer and acoustic guitarist Bri.

Bri cites Kimya Dawson of the Moldy Peaches as a powerful female influence on her songwriting, and fans can likely expect a cover of at least one of Dawson's tunes during Bri's set.

“I really like how genuine she is with all of her lyrics. Her guitar playing is very simple, but it's the lyrics that are the most important part of her songs, and I try to make that the focus of my stuff as well,” Bri said.

Local musician Kate Kane will perform with her pop-punk queercore band Starry Nights. Kane books shows at Trumpet Blossom and was the primary organizer of the fundraiser.

“[Girls Rock! Iowa City] is important because it's empowering to girls and demonstrates to them that playing music isn't just for boys,” Kane said in an email.

Sarah Mannix of Iowa City will perform at the benefit with her lo-fi rock band Younger. “We all agreed that we really loved working with Girls Rock! in the past and wished that there would have been a program like it when we were growing up,” Mannix said of her all-female bandmates and the group's choice to do this benefit. “We really like working with kids in a creative setting and seeing them work as a group and find their voice.”

Tuition for the camp is based on a sliding

scale—about 30 percent of campers attended for free in 2016. No musical experience is necessary to attend the camp, and most of the kids are beginners. Each camper picks an instrument to study for the week.

This summer will be Kriz's fourth visit to Girls Rock! Iowa City's camp. In years past she has learned to play the piano, drums and bass. This year she's looking forward to picking up the guitar, and said the camp provides an educational environment she can't get anywhere else.

“I prefer to hang out with cool, rockin' girls and have fun instead of just having a music lesson and that's it,” she said.

In addition to the camp, Girls Rock! hosts Saturday morning workshops at United

Action for Youth that range from journaling to self-defense.

Girls Rock! has also collaborated with other

local organizations including Iowa Women's Music Festival, Iowa Youth Writing Project and Public Space One on productions and education that further the goal of female empowerment.

“I learned how to play the bass and I've learned a lot of cool stuff; some stuff wasn't even related to music but it was really important, like standing up for your friends,” said Penelope Wilmoth, 10, a camper.

Wilmoth said that camp was amazing and she would definitely do it again because she enjoys playing in a band.

“It makes me feel kinda like I'm part of a team, and it makes me feel really special and cool,” Wilmoth said.

For the event on Feb. 25, attendees can pay at the door with a \$5 minimum donation or a \$10 suggested donation.

Can't make it but want to support Girls Rock! Iowa City? Make a donation at squarespace.com/store/girls-rock-iowa-city.

Interested in volunteering? Girls Rock! needs counselors, band coaches and instrument instructors for the June 26-July 2 camp. To volunteer, sign a kid up for camp or for more information, check out girlsrockiowacity.org. 

Eleanore Taft is from Iowa City and too busy to tell you about herself.

“I prefer to hang out with cool, rockin' girls and have fun ...”

—Piper Kriz



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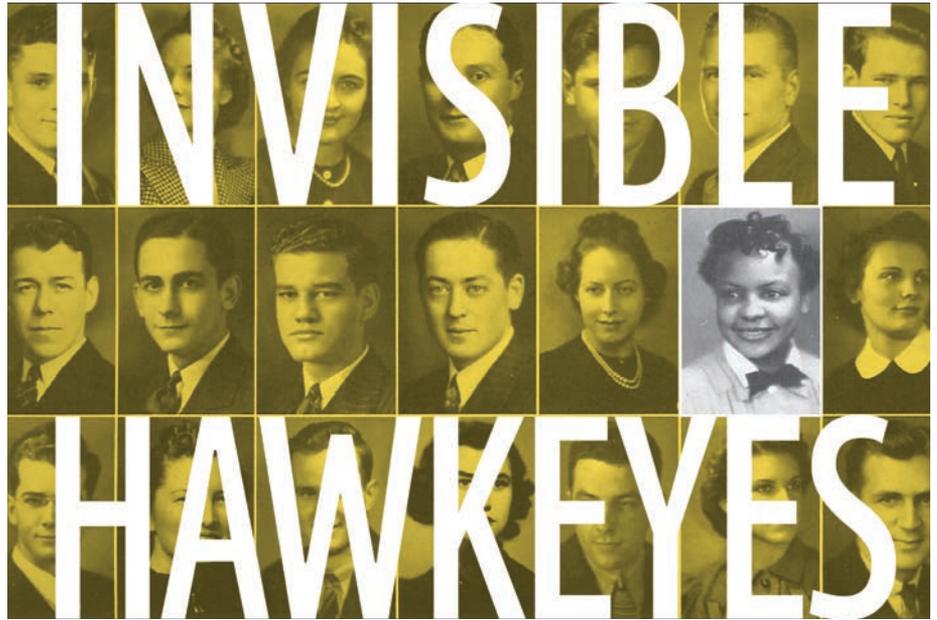


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AREA EVENTS PRESENTED BY CROWDED CLOSET



'Invisible Hawkeyes:' African Americans at the UI During the Long Civil Rights Era, Iowa City Public Library, Sunday, Feb. 19 at 2 p.m., Free

The League of Women Voters of Johnson County hosts Drs. Lena and Michael Hill for the second installment of its Sunday Speaker Series. The pair co-authored 'Invisible Hawkeyes: African Americans at the University of Iowa During the Long Civil Rights Era.' The book, published by UI Press last September, blends testimonial and scholarly analysis to examine the intersection of a university that was attempting to be progressive and modern and the bold African American students from Iowa and beyond helping to take it there. The Hills are University of Iowa faculty who previously co-authored 'Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man:" A Reference Guide.' Cover from 'Invisible Hawkeyes'

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WED., FEB. 15

LITERATURE

Junot Díaz Q&A, Dey House, 10:30 a.m., Free

Mark Z. Danielewski, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

Jack Hatch Reading, Next Page Books, 7 p.m., Free

The Hook Presents: Drop the Mic, Parlor City Pub & Eatery, 7:30 p.m., \$8

COMMUNITY

Garden Party: Calling All Nature Lovers, Indian Creek Nature Center, 3 p.m., Free

EDUCATION

Obermann Conversations: Successfully Aging in Place, Iowa City Public Library, 4 p.m., Free

Know Your Rights: Standing Up Safely to the Police, Iowa City Public Library, 4 p.m., Free

Lifelong Learning: A Geologic Story of Decorah, Indian Creek Nature Center, 6 p.m., \$8-10

Introduction to Meditation Class, Milarepa Buddhist Center of Iowa, 7 p.m., Free

ART & EXHIBITION

'Futured' Open Studio Hours w/ Vero Rose Smith, Public Space One, 4 p.m., Free

CRAFTY

Sewing: The Beatrix Top, Home Ec. Workshop, 5:30 p.m., \$65

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

'42nd Street,' Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$53-73

Spectra: Local Lovers Open Mic V, Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., Free

CINEMA

2017 Oscar Shorts: Live Action, FilmScene, 2:45 p.m., \$6.50-7.50

2017 Oscar Shorts: Animated, FilmScene, 8 p.m., \$6.50-9

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

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.

THU., FEB. 16

FAMILY

All that Jazz: Music Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

EDUCATION

TED Talks: Celebrate Black History Month, Iowa City Public Library, 12 p.m., Free

Public Lecture: Playful Data, Empowered

Publics, Iowa Memorial Union, 3:30 p.m., Free

Explorers Seminar Series: Simulating Plasmas in Space with the Iowa Planeterrella, Old Capitol Museum, 6:30 p.m., Free

LITERATURE

Art Lovers Book Club: Effie—The Passionate Lives of Effie Gray, John Ruskin and John Everett Millais, Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, 4 p.m., Free

Wapsipinicon Almanac Reading, Next Page Books, 7 p.m., Free

Christopher Merrill, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

SPORTS & REC

Workout Of The Week, NewBo City Market, 5 p.m., Free

Yoga By The Glass: A Night In Paris, Cedar Ridge Distillery, 6 p.m., \$40

Cedar Rapids Rampage vs. Harrisburg Heat, US Cellular Center, 7:05 p.m., \$9-40

FOODIE

Third Thursday Public Tasting Party, Harvest Oil & Vinegar, 6 p.m., Free

CRAFTY

Quilt Start to Finish: Double Star Quilt, Home Ec. Workshop, 6 p.m., \$85

MUSIC

The Cantafios, Cafe Paradiso, 6 p.m., Free

Tanya Tagaq in concert with Nanook of the North, Hancher, 7:30 p.m., \$10-25

GC Nu Gruv Society, Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., Free

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

Underground New Play Festival, Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$14

'Doing Well Together', Theatre Building at UI, 8 p.m., Free-\$5

Great White Narcs, Public Space One, 9 p.m., Free

CINEMA

2017 Oscar Shorts: Live Action, FilmScene, 8 p.m., \$6.50-9

2017 Oscar Shorts: Animated, FilmScene, 10 p.m., \$6.50-9

MUSIC

Ron White, iWireless Center, 7:30 p.m., \$49.50-59.50

GAMING

Grown Ups' Night: Trivia, Iowa Children's Museum, 7:30 p.m., \$12

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AREA EVENTS

FRI., FEB. 17

EDUCATION

Workshop: Creative Data Storytelling 101, Van Allen Hall, 9 a.m., Free

Kirkwood English Conversation Club, Iowa City Public Library, 10 a.m., Free

ART & EXHIBITION

'Nasty Women in Iowa' Exhibition, Near Future, 10 a.m., Free

MUSIC

'In a Woman's Voice: Musical Readings by American Women,' Voxman Music Building, 1:30 p.m., Free

Mielo w/ Paradiice, Align, Nave, Blue Moose Tap House, 5:30 p.m., \$5-7

Friday Night Live Music w/ Layton White, Cedar Ridge Distillery, 6 p.m., Free

Doug and Gayle Elliott: 'He Said, She Said' w/ Gerard Estella, Greg Kanz and Jason Wright, Opus Concert Cafe, 7:30 p.m., \$27

Tish Hinojosa, Legion Arts CSPA Hall, 8 p.m., \$14-17

David Zollo & the Body Electric w/ Brian Johannesen, The Mill, 8 p.m., \$10

Eric Paslay, First Avenue Club, 8 p.m., \$20

Arthur Lee Land Trio, Cafe Paradiso, 8 p.m., Free
Sam Vicari & Joe Kopel, Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., \$5-10

Circle of Heat w/ Meowcaholics, Iowa City Yacht Club, 10 p.m., \$7

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

Diamonds or Denim 2017 Gala, Riverside Theatre, 6 p.m., \$12-75

Dreamwell Theatre Presents: 'Antigone,' Public Space One, 7:30 p.m., \$10-13

Underground New Play Festival, Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$14

'Assassins,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$24-33

Old Capitol Opera Presents: 'The Last Five Years,' An Iowa City Shelter House Benefit, The Englert Theatre, 7:30 p.m., \$25-30

'Doing Well Together,' Theatre Building at UI, 8 p.m., Free-\$5

Nathan Timmel, Penguin's Comedy Club, 8 p.m., \$12.50-15

'Peter and the Starcatcher,' Giving Tree Theater, 8 p.m., \$15-30

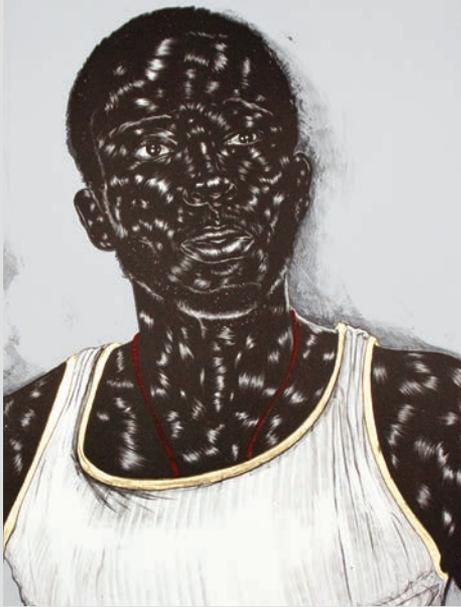
The Janice Ian Experience, Public Space One, 10:30 p.m., Free

LITERATURE

Ed Skoog & Juliet Patterson, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

COMMUNITY

Distinguished Young Women 2017, Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7 p.m., \$7-12



Toyin Ojih Odutola, (American, born in Nigeria, 1985-) Birmingham (middle), 2014
Four-color lithograph with gold leaf
Museum of Art Purchase Fund, 2016.114a-c
©Toyin Ojih Odutola. Courtesy of the artist, and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

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Funding for this exhibition was provided in part by the Richard V.M. Corton, M.D., and Janet Y. Corton Exhibition Fund, the John S. and Patricia C. Koza Art Exhibition Fund, and the UIMA Members Special Exhibition Fund.

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MONUMENTAL BUSTS



John Martinek



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FilmScene
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SAT., FEB. 18

FAMILY

Juniors Workshop: Animal Adventure, Indian Creek Nature Center, 12 p.m., \$5-10

SPORTS & REC

Freeze Fest, Terry Trueblood Recreation Area, 1 p.m., Free

CRAFTY

New Class: Bead Embroidery with Cabochons, Beadology Iowa, 10 a.m., \$78

Puppet Workshop, Near Future, 11 a.m., Free

Sewing: Handmade Style Carry-all Pincushion, Home Ec. Workshop, 1 p.m., \$35

Knitting: Knit 101, Home Ec. Workshop, 1 p.m., \$35

Knitting: Intermediate Treads Fingerless Gloves, Home Ec. Workshop, 3 p.m., \$35

ART & EXHIBITION

'Nasty Women in Iowa' Exhibition, Near Future, 10 a.m., Free

'Nasty Women in Iowa' Closing Reception, Near Future, 4 p.m., Free

Black History Living Museum, Robert A. Lee Rec Center, 5:30 p.m., Free

LITERATURE

Writing from Start to Finish, Iowa Writers' House, 10 a.m., \$245/weekend

Ayana Mathis, African American Museum of Iowa, 12 p.m., Free

COMMUNITY

Lularoe Childserve Fundraiser, Cedar Ridge Distillery, 11 a.m., Free

Rally for Targeted Minority Communities, 1st Av SE & 6th St Cedar Rapids, 3 p.m., Free

Mission Creek Fundraiser Party, The Englert Theatre, 5 p.m., \$100

FOODIE

Backyard Maple Syruping Workshop, Indian Creek Nature Center, 1 p.m., \$12-16

THEATRE & EXHIBITION

Des Moines Symphony Family Concert with Enchantment Theatre Company Presents: 'Mother Goose,' Des Moines Civic Center, 1 p.m., \$10

Underground New Play Festival, Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m., \$14

Old Creamery Theatre Presents: 'A Killing at Codswallop Castle,' Ashton Hill Farm, 6:30 p.m., \$50

Dreamwell Theatre Presents: 'Antigone,' Public Space One, 7:30 p.m., \$10-13

'Assassins,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$24-33

'Doing Well Together,' Theatre Building at UI, 8 p.m., Free-\$5

'Peter and the Starcatcher,' Giving Tree Theater, 8 p.m., \$15-30



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ASSASSINS

FEBRUARY 17 - MARCH 4

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'NASTY WOMEN IN IOWA,' Near Future, Friday and Saturday Feb. 17-18 at 10 a.m.; Closing Reception Feb. 18 at 4 p.m., Free *The new Near Future (323 E Market St, Iowa City)—a temporary collaborative exhibition space open Fridays and Saturdays through March 3—is hosting the Iowa City contingent of the broader worldwide Nasty Women Artists and Art Organizers initiative. IC-based artists Jen P. Harris and Heidi Wiren Bartlett spearheaded the Near Future exhibit, which accepted submissions from self-defined “nasty women” through Feb. 1. The show runs Feb. 17-18 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. each day. At the closing reception, 4-6 p.m. on Feb. 18, all artwork exhibited will be for sale, for under \$100, with all proceeds split equally between Planned Parenthood and Iowa City’s Emma Goldman Clinic. ‘Wool Shit’ by Kate Running (one of several pieces that will be available for purchase on Feb. 18)*

Nathan Timmel, Penguin’s Comedy Club, 8 p.m., \$12.50-15

FOODIE

Nutrition Workshop Series: Cooking with Herbs and Spices, Iowa City Senior Center, 1 p.m., \$15

MUSIC

Saturday Night Live Music w/ Wooden Nickel

Lottery, Cedar Ridge Distillery, 6 p.m., Free

Family Folk Machine Concert for PEACE Iowa, Old Brick Church, 7 p.m., Freewill Donation

Uptown Bill’s Saturday Night Live Music: The

Feralings, Uptown Bill’s, 7 p.m., Free

Dierks Bentley w/ Cole Swindell, Jon Pardi, US Cellular Center, 7:30 p.m., \$54.75-65

Doug and Gayle Elliott: ‘He Said, She Said’ w/ Gerard Estella, Greg Kanz, and Jason Wright, Opus Concert Cafe, 7:30 p.m., \$27

Belinda Carlisle, Riverside Casino and Golf Resort, 8 p.m., \$40-70

Eclipse Entertainment Presents: Natche Raho, Blue Moose Tap House, 8 p.m., \$12

Craig Erickson Expedition, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 8 p.m., Free

Evergreen Grass Band, Iowa City Yacht Club, 10 p.m., \$7

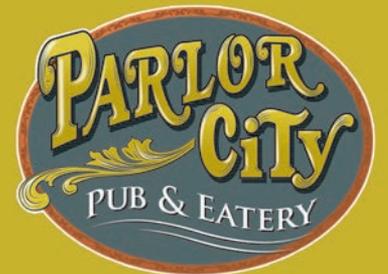
CINEMA

Bijou After Hours: ‘Lifeforce,’ FilmScene, 11 p.m., \$5



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AREA EVENTS

EDUCATION

'Documenting Dada/Disseminating Dada:' Andrei Codrescu's Post-Human Dada Guide, *Art Building West*, 7:30 p.m., Free

SUN., FEB. 19

LITERATURE

Writing from Start to Finish, *Iowa Writers' House*, 10 a.m., \$245/weekend

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

CRAFTY

Crocheting: Crochet 101, *Home Ec. Workshop*, 1 p.m., \$35

Intro To Screenprint, *Public Space One*, 1 p.m., \$48

Knitting: Daina Mittens, *Home Ec. Workshop*, 3 p.m., \$60

School of Sewing Part I, *Home Ec. Workshop*, 7 p.m., \$85

COMMUNITY

Community Worktime, *Public Space One*, 1 p.m., Free

Sunday Fun Day: Presidents' Day Party!, *Iowa City Public Library*, 2 p.m., Free

EDUCATION

'Invisible Hawkeyes: African Americans at the UI During the Long Civil Rights Era,' *Iowa City Public Library*, 2 p.m., Free

MUSIC

NewBo Cafe: Washington High School Alternative Strings, *NewBo City Market*, 1 p.m., Free

Lil' Smokies w/ Flash In A Pan, *Gabe's*, 7 p.m., \$10-12

Korby Lenker, *Cafe Paradiso*, 8 p.m., Free

ART & EXHIBITION

Art in the Afternoon with Marcia Wegman, *Iowa City Senior Center*, 1 p.m., Free

Artifactory's Life Drawing Drop-in Session, *Beadology Iowa*, 5 p.m., Free

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE 'Doing Well Together,' *Theatre Building at UI*, 2 p.m., Free-\$5

JCHS Presents: 'Harriet Tubman—A Portrayal by Portia Byrd,' *Johnson County Historical Society*, 2 p.m., Free

Underground New Play Festival, *Theatre Cedar Rapids*, 2:30 p.m., \$14

'Assassins,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids*, 2:30 p.m., \$24-33

National Theatre Live: 'Amadeus,' *The Englert Theatre*, 3 p.m., \$15-18



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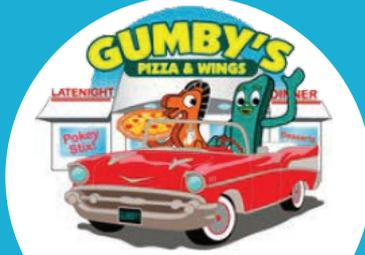
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MON., FEB. 20

CINEMA

Afternoon Movie: 'Trolls,' Iowa City Public Library, 1 p.m., Free

ART & EXHIBITION

'Futured' Open Studio Hours w/ Vero Rose Smith, Public Space One, 4 p.m., Free

CRAFTY

Flame II: Next Steps in Making Glass Beads, Beadology Iowa, 5:30 p.m., \$98

TUE., FEB. 21

ART & EXHIBITION

'Futured' Open Studio Hours w/ Vero Rose Smith, Public Space One, 4 p.m., Free

FOODIE

Mardi Gras Menu with Chef Ben Halperin, New Pioneer Food Co-op Coralville, 6 p.m., \$30

CRAFTY

Museum Standard Matting and Framing for Artwork On Paper, Public Space One, 6 p.m., \$62

COMMUNITY

Preserving Your Crown: Hair Maintenance for Women of Color, Iowa City Public Library, 6 p.m., Free

CINEMA

Bijou Horizons: 'Land And Shade,' FilmScene, 6 p.m., \$5

MUSIC

Son of Town Hall, Legion Arts CSPA Hall, 7 p.m., \$7-10

Minihorse w/ US Mode, GFP Feature, Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., Free

Sub Conscious Productions Presents: Black Tiger Sex Machine w/ Dabin, Kai Wachi, Blue Moose Tap House, 8 p.m., \$20-25

Fruition w/ The Feralings, Gabe's, 8 p.m., \$12-15

LITERATURE

Eleni Sikelianos, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

Rainbow Room Write-In, Iowa City Public Library, 6 p.m., Free

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

Annabelle Gurwitch: 'I See You Made An Effort,' The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., \$25-43

WED., FEB. 22

ART & EXHIBITION

'Futured' Open Studio Hours w/ Vero Rose Smith, Public Space One, 4 p.m., Free

LITERATURE

Paul's Book Club, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

Talk Art, The Mill, 10:30 p.m., Free

Scarlet Room Write-In, Coralville Public Library, 6:30 p.m., Free

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

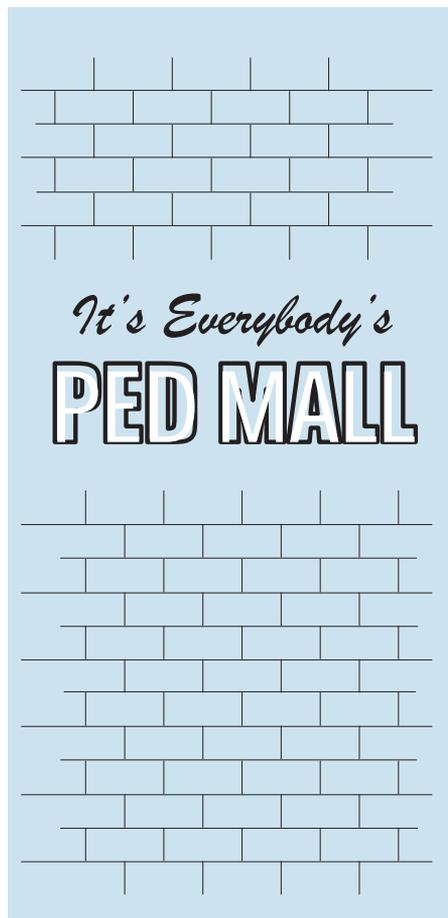
Annabelle Gurwitch: 'I See You Made An Effort,' The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., \$25-43

MUSIC

An Acoustic Evening with Lyle Lovett & John Hiatt, Adler Theatre, 7:30 p.m., \$39-69

CINEMA

Late Shift At The Grindhouse: 'Get Out,' FilmScene, 9 p.m., Free



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BLACK HISTORY TALENT SHOW FEATURING NONAME, Iowa Memorial Union, Friday, Feb. 24 at 6 p.m., \$12-15 *The University of Iowa Black Student Union is holding its annual Black History Month Talent Show, and this year they're partnering with SCOPE Productions to bring Chicago rapper Noname to the stage. The talent show is a celebration of what they call the "self-identified talents" of students on campus, and seeks to promote diversity and inclusion while acknowledging black culture. Noname, who kicked off her career on the slam poetry scene, rose to prominence with an appearance on Chance the Rapper's 'Acid Rap.' Her own mixtape, 'Telefone,' was released in July of last year. Photo by Bryan Allen Lamb*

AREA EVENTS

THU., FEB. 23

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

A 1940's Musical Revue: 'In The Mood,' Adler Theatre, 2 & 7:30 p.m., \$26.50-46.50

The Heartland Bombshells, Blue Moose Tap House, 7 p.m., \$10-25

Revival Theatre Company Presents: 'Grey Gardens,' Legion Arts CSPS Hall, 7:30 p.m., \$35

Annabelle Gurwitch: 'I See You Made An Effort,' The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., \$25-43

SPORTS & REC

Workout Of The Week, NewBo City Market, 5 p.m., Free

COMMUNITY

The Cedar Rapids Gazette Presents: Pints & Politics, The Mill, 5 p.m., Free

MUSIC

Introduction to Met Live: 'Rusalka,' Voxman Music Building, 5:30 p.m., Free

Black Atlass w/ Blookah, Gabe's, 10 p.m., \$8

FAMILY

STEM Family Free Night, Iowa Children's Museum, 6 p.m., Free



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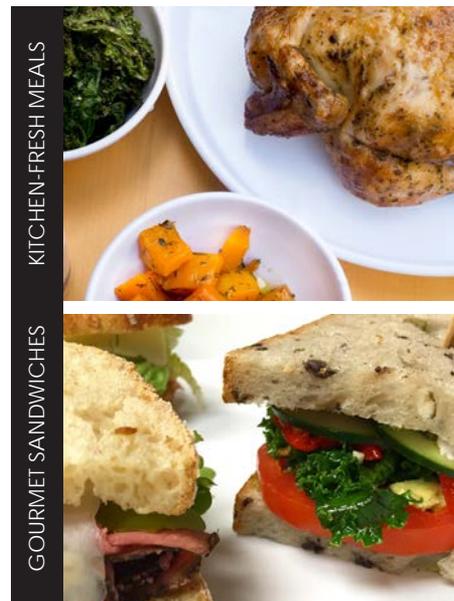
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>> CONT. FROM PG. 11

citizens in the district he now seeks to serve as a federal judge.”

“I call the senator to order under the provisions of Rule 19,” McConnell says.

The crazy thing about Rule 19, in this context, is that it was created in 1902, after the notorious white terrorist and senator “Pitchfork Ben” Tillman beat up a colleague who had defected to the other side of a debate. Tillman was a member of a group called the Red Shirts, which terrorized African Americans as Reconstruction bled into Jim Crow. He was an early mentor of white supremacist Strom Thurmond, who, as the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, was the guy who both smashed Sessions’ hopes of becoming a federal judge and the guy who kept King’s 1986 letter out of the Senate record. When Warren read the letter, she was correcting Thurmond’s 30-year-old error.

So it is grimly fitting that McConnell, who has learned to manipulate the Senate in order to grab control of the judiciary for his party, cites Rule 19 to defend Jeff Sessions, the old-school law-and-order white supremacist who stuck around long enough to make it mainstream again.

During the exchange (in which McConnell now famously uttered the iconic sentences “She was warned. She was given an explanation. Nevertheless, she persisted”), Sessions picks his nose, rubbing it with a handkerchief, making sure he gets it all, blowing again.

Nearly 24 hours later, McConnell uses the last few minutes of debate to offer a cornpone encomium to his departing colleague, calling Sessions a “true Southern gentleman,” like that’s an unquestionably good thing, eliding the difficult history connecting Sessions’ home state and the fight for civil rights.

Finally, in a Thursday morning ceremony, Pence swears in Sessions, who cites a “dangerous permanent trend” of increasing crime and pledges to end “lawlessness.”

Like Sessions, Trump regularly exaggerates the increase in violent crime. Trump uses the occasion of Sessions’ swearing in to sign three executive orders that further empower the already vast police state, now overseen by Sessions.

Neither man mentions the epidemic of African Americans shot and killed by police.

“A new era of justice begins, and it begins right now,” Trump says. **lv**

Baynard Woods is editor at large at the Baltimore City Paper.



Like a Clown Rodeo

Examining the current state of American Exceptionalism.

BY WAYNE DIAMANTE

Holy Cats! As many of you now know, I’ve spent the last several months as a guest of the Cuban government for reasons that are cloudy at best. Anyhoo, I’m back! I was alarmed to see my column was briefly commandeered by President Trump. (Wow—it’s even gross to type. It feels like eating a wet-hair sandwich, or something. Instant gag reflex. YUCK! SAD!) So, yeah. The Donald. President. That was a BIG surprise. Congratulations, Americans. I didn’t know it was possible to actually shit through the bed and box spring, but I guess that’s the current state of American Exceptionalism.

I’m still being debriefed, but it looks like things are going pretty well for Donaldo Rivera and his Trumper Pumpers—if by “pretty well” one were to mean “like a clown rodeo.” I do have to hand it to Darth Bannon, though. Secretly slipping onto the National Security Council while Don was figuring out which drapes went best with his Muslim ban took a lot of chutzpah. Kudos to you, Dark Lord. In any case, this is the new reality: Get used to it, or create your own!

Dear Wayne,

I understand President Trump is personally overseeing the redecorating of the White House. Do you know any of the changes he’s made or plans to make?

Sincerely, Fabreezio

Dear Fabreezio,

He’s updated some televisions and carpets in the West Wing, but the best is yet to come. I understand this spring he’ll be painting the White House orange to accentuate his personal hue.

—WD

Dear Wayne,

I am appalled that, by all counts, we have entered a post-fact era. To have to indicate reportage as fact-based journalism, directly giving credence to the very concept of non-fact-based journalism, is outrageous! Fake news? The Onion is fake news. Weekend Update is fake news. The stories promulgated and referred to as fake news are not fake news, but propaganda appealing to the lowest levels of human cognition. Calling this garbage “fake news” is an

insult to actual fake news, which we used to be able to refer to as satire. Can you explain how we’ve come to this horrible state of affairs?

Sincerely, Martha

Dear Martha,

For all its splendor, the internet is largely an unregulated and dangerous place, at least for those who are used to taking things at face value. The old adage “knowledge is power” is only provisionally true—actual power is controlling what people know (or, rather, what they believe they know), and the internet is the perfect tool for that sort of manipulation. If I were to create a news blurb saying Webster’s Dictionary

officially removed the word “mouth” from the English language and inserted “tongue-hole” in its place, and if I were able to sufficiently circulate it on Facebook, I have no doubt it could take hold in our new, glorious future. On the bright side, if you don’t think about it too hard it will all be normal soon enough. **lv**

—WD

AREA EVENTS

FAMILY

Owl Prowl, Indian Creek Nature Center, 6 p.m., \$4-6

Pajama Storytime: 'No Grant!', Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, 7 p.m., Free

CRAFTY

Quilt Start to Finish: Double Star Quilt, Home Ec. Workshop, 6 p.m., \$85

LITERATURE

Launch Party for 'Breakfast at the Good Hope Home' by Mike Bayles, Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., Free

FRI., FEB. 24

LITERATURE

Kirkwood English Conversation Club, Iowa City Public Library, 10 a.m., Free

Rachelle Chase, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

FAMILY

STEM Family Free Night, Iowa Children's Museum, 5 p.m., Free

GAMING

Gamicon Iron, Cedar Rapids Marriott, 12 p.m., \$10-60

MUSIC

Jazz After Five: Koplant No, The Mill, 5 p.m., Free

Friday Night Live Music w/ Solemn Vow, Cedar Ridge Distillery, 6 p.m., Free

Black History Talent Show featuring Noname, Iowa Memorial Union, 6 p.m., \$12-15

Blue Ribbon Entertainment LLC Presents: 2017 Hip Hop Jam ft. King Louie, Blue Moose Tap House, 8 p.m., \$30-40

Jacob Metcalf and The Society of Broken Souls, Cafe Paradiso, 8 p.m., Free

Split Lip Rayfield CD Release w/ Porchburner, Gabe's, 9 p.m., \$10-15

Gosh w/ Sister Wife, The Port Authority, Iowa City Yacht Club, 10 p.m., \$5-8

COMMUNITY

The Main Event 2017, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 6:30 p.m., \$30-35

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

Annabelle Gurwitch: 'I See You Made An Effort,' The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., \$25-43

'Assassins,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$24-33

Studio Cabaret: 'What You Don't Know About Women,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$20

Revival Theatre Company Presents: 'Grey Gardens,' Legion Arts CSPS Hall, 7:30 p.m., \$35

'Lady MacBeth and Her Pal, Megan,' Riverside Theatre, 7:30 p.m., \$12-30



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AREA EVENTS

'Peter and the Starcatcher,' Giving Tree Theater, 8 p.m., \$15-30
Jeff Dye, Penguin's Comedy Club, 8 p.m., \$20-22.50

SAT., FEB. 25

CRAFTY

New Class: Victorian Lace Wire Bracelet, Beadology Iowa, 10 a.m., \$98

LITERATURE

ICPLFF Book Sale, Iowa City Public Library, 10 a.m., Free

One Book, Two Book, Various Venues—See sidebar, pg. 17, 10 a.m., Free

EDUCATION

Willow Workshop, Indian Creek Nature Center, 10 a.m., \$30-35

GAMING

Gamic Iron, Cedar Rapids Marriott, 8 a.m., \$10-60

MUSIC

Old Time Gospel Music Session, Uptown Bill's, 3 p.m., Free

Iowa City Girls Rock! Camp Benefit Show, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, 6:30 p.m., \$5-10

Uptown Bill's Saturday Night Live Music: Sweet Cacophony, Uptown Bill's, 7 p.m., Free

Mni Wiconi Benefit w/ Mr. Blotto, Winterland, Tony Brown, Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon, 7 p.m., \$20-25

Nasty Women and Bad Hombres Dance, Mexico Lindo Grill & Cantina, 7 p.m., Free

An Intimate Evening with Kristin Chenoweth & The Des Moines Symphony, Des Moines Civic Center, 7:30 p.m., \$99-175

Orchestra Iowa Presents: 'Faithfully'—A Symphony Tribute to the Music of Journey, Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$18-54

GGOOLDD w/ Naked Giants, Sister Wife, Daytrotter, 8 p.m., \$8-12

Northern Parallels: Parallel 03 w/ Mike Derer & Higgy, Zavala, Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., Free
Terry McCauley, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 8 p.m., Free

Lunatic on Pogostix w/ In The Attic, Hex Girls, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9:30 p.m., \$5

Thrill Jockey's Aseethe Record Release w/ Highgraves, Acoustic Guillotine, Ralston Creek Ramblers, Gabe's, 10 p.m., \$7

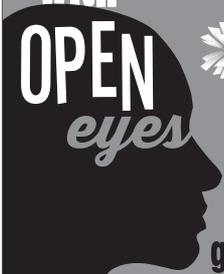
THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

Annabelle Gurwitch: 'I See You Made An Effort,' The Temple Theater, 5 p.m., \$25-43

'The Niche,' The Grand Theatre, 6 p.m., Free-\$7
Murder Mystery Dinner: 'It's My Party and I'll Die If I Want To,' Cedar Ridge Distillery, 6 p.m., \$50

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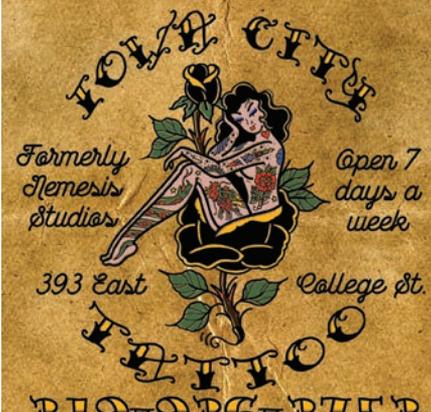
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Old Creamery Theatre Presents: 'A Killing at Codswallop Castle,' Ashton Hill Farm, 6:30 p.m., \$50

Medical Students for Choice Presents: 'The Vagina Monologues,' The Mill, 7 p.m., \$12

'Lady MacBeth and Her Pal, Megan,' Riverside Theatre, 7:30 p.m., \$12-30

Revival Theatre Company Presents: 'Grey Gardens,' Legion Arts CSPS Hall, 7:30 p.m., \$35

'Assassins,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$24-33

Studio Cabaret: 'What You Don't Know About Women,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$20

Let's Do This! Comedy Show Featuring Kil Theodrick w/ Lyndsey Harney, Jake Harney, Blue Moose Tap House, 8 p.m., \$5

Annabelle Gurwitch: 'I See You Made An Effort,' The Temple Theater, 8 p.m., \$25-43

Jeff Dye, Penguin's Comedy Club, 8 p.m., \$20-22.50

'Hasan Minhaj: Homecoming King,' The Englert Theatre, 8 p.m., \$26.50

'Peter and the Starcatcher,' Giving Tree Theater, 8 p.m., \$15-30

COMMUNITY

Community Critique Night, Public Space One, 6 p.m., Free

CINEMA

Bijou After Hours: 'Train To Busan,' FilmScene, 11 p.m., \$5

SUN., FEB. 26

COMMUNITY

Community Worktime, Public Space One, 1 p.m., Free

Sunday Fun Day: Celebrate Black History, Iowa City Public Library, 2 p.m., Free

GAMING

Gamicon Iron, Cedar Rapids Marriott, 12 p.m., \$10-60

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

Benny Andersson & Björn Ulvaeus' 'Mamma Mia!,' Hancher, 1 & 6:30 p.m., \$40-75

'Peter and the Starcatcher,' Giving Tree Theater, 2 p.m., \$15-30

'Lady MacBeth and Her Pal, Megan,' Riverside Theatre, 2 p.m., \$12-30

'Assassins,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., \$24-33

Studio Cabaret: 'What You Don't Know About Women,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., \$20

Revival Theatre Company Presents: 'Grey Gardens,' Legion Arts CSPS Hall, 2:30 p.m., \$35



'LADY MACBETH AND HER PAL, MEGAN,' Riverside Theatre, opens Friday, Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m., \$12-30 Iowa City's own force of nature, Megan Gogerty, bloodies her hands with a new one-woman show at Riverside Theatre. In it, Gogerty, directed by Saffron Henke, explores her deep desire to play the dark and twisted role of Lady MacBeth, and what her examinations of that role mean for her as a woman and as a comedian. Who is Lady MacBeth, really? Who is Megan, really? Can and do the two intersect? 'Lady MacBeth and Her Pal, Megan' is Gogerty's fourth solo show at Riverside. It runs Feb. 24 through March 12, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and at 2 p.m. on Sundays. Photo by Rob Merritt

Annabelle Gurwitch: 'I See You Made An Effort,' The Temple Theater, 3 p.m., \$25-43

Tim Hawkins Comedy Show w/ Daren Streblov, Des Moines Civic Center, 7 p.m., \$19-35

LITERATURE

One Book, Two Book: Write Out Loud, MacBride Hall Auditorium, 1 p.m., Free

Mindy Mejia, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 4 p.m., Free

SPORTS & REC

Iowa Startup Games Final Pitches, Kinnick Stadium at UI, 2 p.m., Free

MUSIC

Orchestra Iowa Presents: 'Faithfully'—A Symphony

Tribute to the music of Journey, Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., \$18-54

Red Cedar Chamber Music: Hussite Fantasy, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 3 p.m., \$10-18

CRAFTY

Knitting: Daina Mittens, Home Ec. Workshop, 3 p.m., \$60

School of Sewing Part I, Home Ec. Workshop, 7 p.m., \$85

FAMILY

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

CINEMA

The Blue Carpet Bash—An Awards Night Celebration, FilmScene, 6:30 p.m., \$15

Rozz-Tox Animation Series: Fantastic Planet, Razz-Tox, 8 p.m., Free



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AREA EVENTS

MON., FEB. 27

ART & EXHIBITION

'Futured' Open Studio Hours w/ Vero Rose Smith, Public Space One, 4 p.m., Free

FOODIE

Top Chef: Downtown Iowa City, hotelVetro, 5 p.m., \$50

LITERATURE

John Darnielle, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

Combined Efforts Theatre: 'Leap! 2017,' Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m., \$10-15

TUE., FEB. 28

ART & EXHIBITION

'Futured' Open Studio Hours w/ Vero Rose Smith, Public Space One, 4 p.m., Free

Iowa Arts Council—Meet the Artist Series, Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 5 p.m., Free

CRAFTY

Sewing: Handmade Style Zip-top Tote, Home Ec. Workshop, 5:30 p.m., \$40

Make 2 Bracelets: Intro to Stringing through Kirkwood Community College, Beadology Iowa, 5:30 p.m., \$58

CINEMA

'Major!' Screening, Public Space One, 6 p.m., Free

MUSIC

Fat Tuesday w/ The Dandelion Stompers, The Mill, 6 p.m., Free

FOODIE

Ramen Obsession with Serina Sulentic, New Pioneer Food Co-op Coralville, 6 p.m., \$20

LITERATURE

Violet Realm Write-In, Iowa City Public Library, 6 p.m., Free

A Reading: Three Authors, Next Page Books, 7 p.m., Free

Lena & Michael Hill, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

Annabelle Gurwitch: 'I See You Made An Effort,' The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., \$25-43

ONGOING EVENTS

MONDAYS Moeller Mondays, Daytrotter, \$5-10, 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 Music on Wednesdays, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 12 p.m. **Honest Open Mic**, Lincoln Wine Bar, Free 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. **Open Mic**, Cafe Paradiso, Free, 8 p.m. **Karaoke Wednesdays**, Mondo's Saloon, Free, 10 p.m. **Open Stage**, Studio 13, Free, 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. **Novel Conversations**, Coralville Public Library, Free, 7 p.m. (3rd Thursday) **Thursday Night Live Open Mic**, Uptown Bill's, Free, 7 p.m. **Daddy-O**, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 7 p.m. **Live Jazz**, Clinton Street Social Club, Free, 8 p.m. **Karaoke Thursday**, Studio 13, Free, 8 p.m. **Gemini Karaoke**, Blue Moose, Free, 9 p.m. **Retrofit Vinyl w/ DJ Slimpickens**, Dick's Tap & Shake Room, Free, 9 p.m.

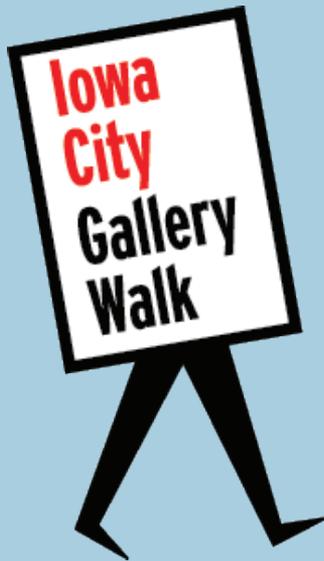
FRIDAYS Friday Night Out, Ceramics Center, \$40, 6:30 p.m. **FAC Dance Party**, The Union Bar, 7 p.m. **Sasha Belle presents: Friday Drag & Dance Party**, Studio 13, 8 p.m. **SoulShake**, Gabe's, Free, 10 p.m.

SATURDAYS 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 Pride Bingo, Studio 13, 6:30 p.m. **Pub Quiz**, The Mill, \$1, 9 p.m.

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE Underground New Play Festival, Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$14 (Feb. 3-19), Dreamwell Theatre Presents: 'Antigone,' Public Space One, \$10-13 (Feb. 10-18), Old Creamery Theatre Presents: 'A Killing at Codswallop Castle,' Ashton Hill Farm, \$50 (Feb. 11-Mar. 11), 'Peter and the Starcatcher,' Giving Tree Theatre, \$15-30 (Feb. 17-Mar. 5), 'Assassins,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, \$24-33 (Feb. 17-Mar. 4), Annabelle Gurwitch: 'I See You Made An Effort,' The Temple Theatre, \$25-43 (Feb. 21-Mar. 12), Revival Theatre Company Presents: 'Gray Gardens,' Legion Arts CSPA Hall, \$35 (Feb. 23-26), 'Lady MacBeth and Her Pal, Megan,' Riverside Theatre, \$12-30 (Feb. 24-Mar. 12)

ART & EXHIBITION 'Mightier Than The Sword,' African American Museum of Iowa (Aug. 26, 2016-Jul. 29), The Fourth Iowa Metals Guild Exhibition, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art (Oct. 22, 2016-Aug. 6), Travel Posters from the Lowry, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (Nov. 5, 2016-Mar 5), 'Cicmianske Domy: The Houses of Cicmany Village' Exhibit, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (Feb. 4-May 7), America on Paper: Prints from Associated American Artists, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art (Feb. 4-May 14), Come Together: Collaborative Lithographs from Tamarind Institute, Iowa Memorial Union (Feb. 18-May 17)



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left to right: Gordon Kellenberger (Iowa Artisans), Aaron Moseley (Glassando), Patti Zwick (Textiles)



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What does it take to get charged with manslaughter when your negligent driving kills someone? Last year the driver of a semi entered a bike lane and killed a Chicago bicyclist. He was issued tickets for driving in a bike lane and failure to take due care with a bicyclist. Why mere tickets instead of a more serious charge? —Alan G. Thomas

Accidents happen, and when they do the person enclosed in a big metal box has a pretty clear advantage over anyone walking around or rolling by on non-motorized wheels. Our laws mostly acknowledge this imbalance—drivers are supposed to be extra careful not to run anyone down—but we're still reluctant to criminalize auto-inflicted deaths. As with most criminal matters, prosecutors have the discretion to choose how to proceed, and they're not only constrained by the laws on the books, but discouraged by their odds in the courtroom.

With bicyclists on the streets in ever greater numbers—as of 2012, bike commuting was up by 60 percent over the decade prior—incidents like the one you cite (involving the 20-year-old rider Lisa Kuivinen) have predictably become more common. There are now more than 700 bicycle deaths in the U.S. annually and upward of 40,000 injuries, nearly a third of which involve cars—more than any other single factor. The stats for what happens to the party at fault after these collisions are trickier to track. One look at the D.C. region found that less than half of at-fault drivers were prosecuted. In New York City, which sees 10 to 20 cycling deaths each year, motor vehicles caused more than 14,000 pedestrian and cyclist injuries in 2012, but only 101 citations were issued for careless driving. Surely reckless bike behavior was a factor in some cases, but by any estimate, prosecution rates are certainly low, requiring the injured (or the family of the deceased) to bring private criminal complaints or pursue civil suits.

And that's baked into the system. As a society—one that drives too much, many would argue—we've made choices about allocating the risk that ensues when people get behind the wheel. Our traffic laws are basically designed on the assumption that collisions occur even when drivers exercise a reasonable amount of care. Unless one driver clearly hasn't done this, the state generally opts not to pursue a criminal conviction, leaving the parties to duke it out in court themselves. And gauging negligence—legally, the failure to take reasonable care—is a slippery matter. Just as driving laws vary by state, so do definitions of negligence (thanks a bunch, federalism). This isn't a law school torts lecture, though, so let's just say there are differing degrees of it, and at the tippy top is criminal negligence: what you'd have to show to support a charge of vehicular homicide.

Since negligence is tough to demonstrate

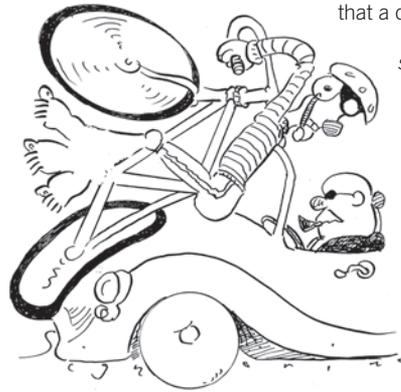
to a jury, prosecution becomes way likelier when the driver's behavior is notably egregious. A DUI is the gold standard here, but a hit-and-run incident also helps a struck cyclist's chances at obtaining a guilty verdict. Hit a biker while committing some obvious traffic infraction, like running a red light, or violating a new distracted-driving law, and a prosecutor's likely to come after you. So for many cycling-safety advocates the idea is to make more laws, bike-specific or no, and so create more ways to establish that a driver was negligent.

There have always been some laws looking out for non-drivers in the roadway. Due-care statutes protected even the least attentive farmer's wagon from being sideswiped by a shiny new Essex or Packard on an unlit country lane. And drivers have long been required to maintain a "safe distance" when passing bicyclists, but just try and make a case in court based on that vague standard. More recent state laws

have set a minimum passing distance of three feet, though this functions mainly as a deterrent—it'd take an eagle-eyed officer indeed to notice if you'd given a biker only 2 feet, 11 inches. In 2007 Oregon passed a "vulnerable user" law, modeled after a Dutch regulation, and eight states have followed suit: these laws increase penalties when a driver strikes anyone who's not in a car—pedestrians, cyclists, skateboarders, et al.—typically setting a minimum fine around \$1,000.

But norms govern our everyday behavior far more than laws do—it's hardly the fear of being locked away that keeps most of us from becoming cat burglars or hit men. Legislation alone won't deter drivers from driving aggressively around bikes, or even guarantee enforcement, much less prosecution—a common complaint among cycling activists is that the legal system, from cops and DAs to judges and juries, identifies too readily with drivers. Advocates thus try to gently nudge the debate in their direction, using the term "bike crash" rather than "bike accident" to imply the cause is driver error rather than mere chance. Meanwhile, recent research suggests that the biggest boost to bike safety might simply be more bike use: a 2014 Colorado study found that per-rider crash rates were lower at intersections with heavier bike traffic. The more often drivers have to share the road, seemingly, the better they get at not running everyone else off it. **lv**

—Cecil Adams



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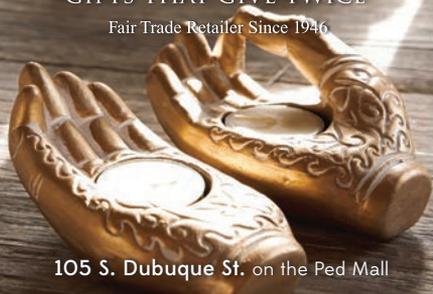
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PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "We cannot simply sit and stare at our wounds forever," writes Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami. "We must stand up and move on to the next action." That's your slightly scolding but ultimately inspirational advice, Pisces. According to my astrological analysis, you have done heroic work to identify and investigate your suffering. You have summoned a tremendous amount of intelligence in order to understand it and further the healing. But right now it's time to turn your focus to other matters. Like what? How about rebirth?

ARIES (March 21-April 19): By my estimates, 72 percent of you Aries are in unusually good moods. The world seems friendlier, more cooperative. Fifty-six percent of you feel more in love with life than you have in a long time. You may even imagine that the birds and trees and stars are flirting with you. I'm also guessing that 14 percent of you are weaving in and out of being absurdly, deliriously happy, sometimes without any apparent explanation. As a result of your generosity of spirit, you may be the recipient of seemingly impossible rewards like free money or toasted ice cream or unconditional tenderness. And I bet that at least ten percent of you are experiencing all of the above.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): I am launching a campaign to undo obsolete stereotypes about you Bulls. There are still backwards astrologers out there who perpetrate the lie that many of you are stingy, stolid, stubborn slowpokes. As an antidote, I plan to heighten everyone's awareness of your sensual, soulful sweetness, and your tastefully pragmatic sensitivity, and your diligent, dynamic productivity. That should be easy in the coming weeks, since you'll be at the height of your ability to express those superpowers. Luckily, people will also have an enhanced capacity to appreciate you for who you really are. It will be a favorable time to clarify and strengthen your reputation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Will Giovanni surreptitiously replace Allesandra's birth control pills with placebos? Will Camille take a hidden crowbar to her rendezvous with the blackmailer? Will Josie steal Jose's diary and sell it on eBay? Given the current astrological omens, you may have an unconscious attraction to soap opera-type events like those. The glamour of melodrama is tempting you. But I'm hoping and predicting that you will express the cosmic currents in less toxic ways. Maybe you'll hear a searing but healing confession after midnight in the pouring rain, for instance. Perhaps you'll break an outworn taboo with ingenious grace, or forge a fertile link with a reformed rascal, or recover a lost memory in a dusty basement.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): All naturally-occurring matter on earth is composed of 92 basic elements arranged in various combinations. Since some of these appear in trace amounts, they took a long time for humans to discover. In the 18th and 19th centuries, chemists were exuberant when they tracked down seven of the 92 in a single location: an underground mine on the Swedish island of Ytterby. That small place was a mother lode. I'm predicting a metaphorically similar experience for you. Cancerian: new access to a concentrated source that will yield much illumination.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The next four weeks will be an excellent time to upgrade your understanding of the important characters in your life. In fact, I suspect you will generate good fortune and meaningful synchronicities whenever you seek greater insight into anyone who affects you. Get to know people better, Leo! If there are intriguing acquaintances who pique your curiosity, find out more about them. Study the oddballs you're allergic to with the intention to discern their hidden workings. In general, practice being objective as you improve your skill at reading human nature.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In 1787, English captain Arthur Phillip led an eight-month naval expedition to the southeastern part of the continent now known as Australia. Upon arrival, he claimed the land for England, despite the fact that 250,000 Aboriginal people were living there, just as their ancestors had for 2,000 generations. Two hundred years later, an Aboriginal activist named Burnum Burnum planted the Aboriginal flag on the White Cliffs of Dover, claiming England for his people. I encourage you to make a comparably artful or symbolic act like Burnum's sometime soon, Virgo—a ritual or gesture to assert your sovereignty or evoke a well-deserved reversal or express your unconquerable spirit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The ancient Roman rhetorician Quintilian authored a twelve-volume textbook on the art of oratory. As ample as it was, it could have been longer. "Erasure is as important as writing," he said. According to my reading of the astrological omens, that counsel should be a rewarding and even exciting theme for you in the coming weeks. For the long-term health of your labor of love or your masterpiece, you should focus for a while on what to edit out of it. How could you improve it by making it shorter and more concise?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do you know about the long-running kids' show *Sesame Street*? Are you familiar with Big Bird, the talking eight-foot-tall yellow canary who's one of the main characters? I hope so, because your horoscope is built around them. In the *Sesame Street* episode called *Don't Eat the Pictures*, Big Bird solves a riddle that frees a 4,000-year-old Egyptian prince from an ancient curse. I think this vignette can serve as a model for your own liberation. How? You can finally outwit and outmaneuver a very old problem with the help of some playful, even child-like energy. Don't assume that you've got to be relentlessly serious and dour in order to shed the ancient burden. In fact, just the opposite is true. Trust blithe and rowdy spirits.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your lessons in communication are reaching a climax. Here are five tips to help you do well on your "final exam." 1. Focus more on listening for what you need to know rather than on expressing what you already know. 2. Keep white lies and convenient deceptions to a bare minimum. 3. Tell the truth as strong and free as you dare, but always—if possible—with shrewd kindness. 4. You are more likely to help your cause if you spread bright, shiny gossip instead of the grubby kind. 5. Experiment with being unpredictable; try to infuse your transmissions with unexpected information and turns of phrase.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The meaning of the Latin phrase *crambe repetita* is "cabbage reheated, twice-cooked." I urge you to avoid partaking of such a dish in the coming weeks, both literally and figuratively. If you're truly hungry for cooked cabbage, eat it fresh. Likewise, if you have a ravenous appetite for stories, revelations, entertainment and information—which I suspect you will—don't accept the warmed-over, recycled variety. Insist on the brisk, crisp stuff that excites your curiosity and appeals to your sense of wonder.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Here's your mantra for the next three weeks: "I know what I want, and I know how to glide it into my life." Say this out loud 11 times right after you wake up each morning, and 11 more times before lunch, and 11 more times at bedtime. "I know what I want, and I know how to glide it into my life." Whenever you do this little chant, summon an upflow of smiling confidence—a serene certainty that no matter how long the magic might take, it will ultimately work. "I know what I want, and I know how to glide it into my life." Don't let any little voice in your head undermine your link to this simple truth. Lift your heart to the highest source of vitality you can imagine. **lv**

Night Pits



Last Night Forever

NIGHT PITS

Last Night Forever

nightpits.bandcamp.com

Writing a punk anthem is a fundamentally communitarian act. The idea is that anyone—whether they think they can sing or not—can and will be screaming along in one joyous voice. If only for 20 sweaty minutes in a darkened basement, everyone can participate, everyone is equal, the crowd is the band.

Night Pits' music is anthemic to the core.

Night Pits' self-released debut record, *Last Night Forever*, is a sharp, catchy and pounding set that easily blends pop-punk, rock and roll and power pop tendencies into a quick, addictive listen that is pure pleasure but is ultimately bracing, too.

Set within distorted tones and attitude-laden delivery, the tracks often deliver surprisingly tender, vulnerable lyrics. That sense of sincerity is nicely mirrored by tight, melodically-coherent guitar leads by Dominic Rabalais and a pocket rhythm section in drummer Jason Burkhardt and bassist Miles Billington.

Rabalais, also the Fairfield-based trio's lyricist and singer, is a prolific musician, filmmaker and visual artist, and veteran of numerous iconic Iowa bands since his teens—including Coyote Slingshot, Utopia

Park, Little Ruckus and Real Dom. If you've been going to shows in Iowa in the last 10 years you've probably seen him jump off a speaker stack or hang upside down from the rafters. Maybe he's even sweated or vomited on you at some point.

Confronting demons, apologizing for past wrongs and coming to terms with mental health struggles are recurring themes early on the album. On the tune "I Get It, I Get It Alright," Rabalais wails, "Woe is me from morning to night/I won't be alright anymore./I get it, I get it alright, but I cannot change!" This sets up avant saxophonist Curt Oren for a brief, wild guest solo that ties into the tune's rock'n'roll feel before taking it over the top.

The addictive track "Again and Again" features a brightly-toned, earworm guitar melody that recalls the manic hook-mongering of Rabalais' classic synth-punk act Little Ruckus. The climactic gang vocals that close the song provide one of the record's most galvanizing moments.

But the album really reaches a peak on the standout song, "True Thunder." Here we see the band transitioning from the empathetic early songs to a fist-raising sense of solidarity that echoes Springsteen. "When you say you're giving up, that's the only thing

that makes me scared," Rabalais sings. We're led to a rallying cry: "Gotta fight for something and it's always you!/ Gotta fight for something that I know is true!"

Last Night Forever feels

classic but also directly relevant, even important. We hear the band continuing punk's storied history of using music to cement a sense of community. Though not explicitly political in their lyrics, Night Pits are a band that rallies live crowds between songs to stand up for one another and transfer the magnetic energy of the pit into a sturdy fellow-feeling. They back it up by donating a portion of their merchandise sales on tour to Planned Parenthood and the ACLU. Their anthems carry their message: We're in this together no matter what.

—Nate Logsdon



ASEETHE

Hopes of Failure

aseethe.bandcamp.com/album/hopes-of-failure

Iowa City trio Aseethe—Brian Barr, Danny Barr and Eric Dierks—broke last summer when they signed to Chicago's Thrill Jockey Records (Future Islands, the Fiery Furnaces, Trans Am). The band drops its first album on that label on Feb. 24, and returns to Iowa City for a \$7 record release show at Gabe's on Feb. 25.

Hopes of Failure is savage from the first notes. Each track teases multiple stories within tale-spinning rises and falls and false endings, but with a fraught continuity throughout. The band's sound, crystallized on their 2012 debut *Reverent Burden*, explodes with even deeper and more distinct tension-and-release cycles. Their drone is downplayed some, for better or worse, in favor of a more clarified doom metal that nevertheless maintains an unrelenting demand on the listener's attention.

The album's four tracks span almost 43 minutes. Not a second is wasted. The shortest, the instrumental "Towers of Dust," is also the most aggressive; while not fast by any means, it has a drive that seems to say, "What were we thinking?! Eight and a half minutes is not enough!"

Echoes of the mixing preferences of doom granddaddies Black Sabbath can be heard here—but even the earliest work of the boys from Birmingham could have been on speed, compared to the exquisite, precise restraint on *Hopes of Failure*. A preschool teacher could learn lessons on patience from drummer Dierks. **lv**

—Genevieve Trainor

Their anthems carry their message: We're in this together no matter what.

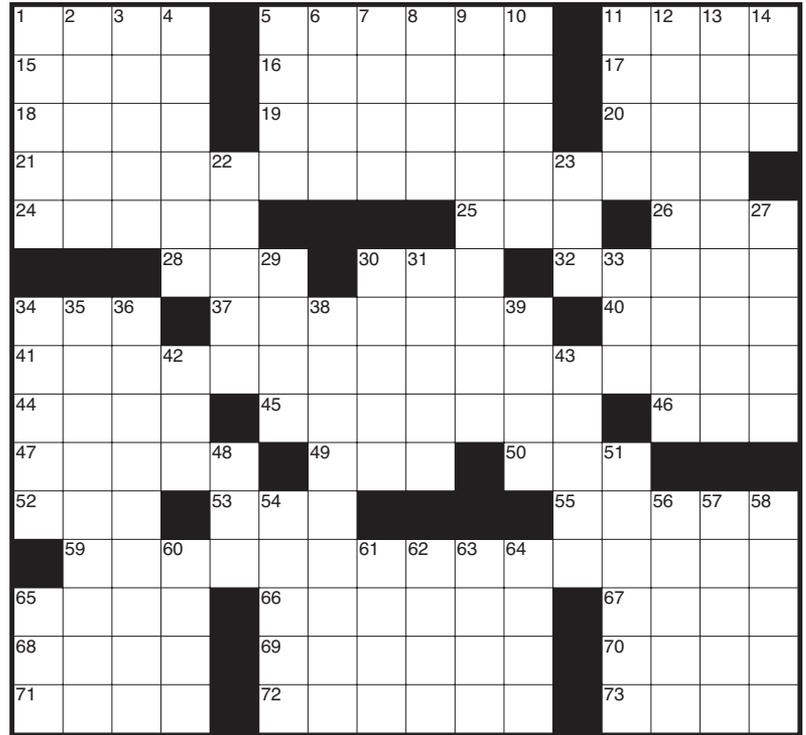
TANDEM BIKES BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

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

ACROSS

1. Facebook action
5. ___ shower
11. "How could this be happening?"
15. God's representation
16. Like reasonably high-quality bonds
17. Jobs successor
18. Decoration on a necklace
19. "Cheers" alternative
20. Sings along without knowing the words, say
21. Civet's cousin in the North Carolina statehouse?
24. Modern phone feature
25. "___ So Bad" (single from Tom Petty's *Full Moon Fever*)
26. Have a heart, say?
28. Place to get shellacked
30. President from Illinois (well before Barry)
32. Spots you can't reach?
34. Frequent dot follower
37. Crests
40. Outcome of every Vikings, Bills, Eagles, Bengals and Panthers Super Bowl appearance
41. Fifty-foot person who does one thing, and does it well?
44. "Darkest" country from which Paddington Bear comes

45. Satiric Roman poet
46. Holiday wish list thing
47. Perdita's owner in *101 Dalmatians*
49. Blind swamp ___
50. Keystone Film Company law enforcement officer
52. ___ Rocknroll (Kate Winslet's husband)
53. Financial advisor's suggestion: Abbr.
55. Hairstyles
59. Long journey to the East Coast, say, for an Arizona baseball player?
65. Excited audience's noise
66. Lizard with a dewlap
67. U.K. museum name
68. Hit that doesn't go far
69. Allows entry, as to the club
70. Modified, as the bass and treble, briefly
71. Very tiny
72. Hardest to catch
73. ___ track (gauntlet-laying song)



LV214 ANSWERS



Down

1. Zodiac scales
2. Like the perfect mate
3. Marsupial with a pouch
4. Ordained churchgoers
5. Make oneself look big
6. You might get one from nickel or sun-screen
7. One may be bulleted
8. Ohio new wave band
9. Red Sea port
10. Coffee size, when the day ahead is long
11. Number of tentáculos on a pulpo
12. Bathrobe alternative
13. "Never, and that's final!"
14. Approves
22. Architect chosen by Jackie Kennedy to

- design her late husband's library
23. Bauble shaped like the moon
27. Irritable
29. Key of 30-Down: Abbr.
30. Pearl Jam song that begins "'Son,' she said, 'Have I got a little story for you'"
31. Rim that holds a watch crystal
33. *Moonlight* actor Mahershala
34. Channel that provides gavel-to-gavel coverage
35. Unfolded
36. Qi's pathways in Chinese medicine
38. Plane in the U.S. Navy's flight demonstration squadron
39. St. where the Black Hills are found
42. No longer on the team
43. Handgun maker
48. Number one asset?
51. Like indoor plants
54. Muddies, as the waters
56. Mosul resident
57. Parties that honor someone
58. Short calendars?
60. Like movies for select audiences
61. Tax
62. Military headquarters
63. Blackbirds
64. Lean
65. Nat stat

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OASIS—The Falafel Joint

Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 5:00-8:00 pm
Stanley Café in Hancher Auditorium

Hancher Culinary Arts Experience presents a special evening with a local favorite, Oasis Falafel. Owners and friends Naftaly Stramer and Ofer Sivan created Oasis—The Falafel Joint in the summer of 2004 when they noticed a lack of falafel and Mediterranean food in the Iowa City community.

Join us at 5 pm for a social hour with Mediterranean hors d'oeuvres, followed by a decadent meal featuring all of your favorites – plus some exclusive, one-night-only, special additions – from the chefs at Oasis.

The “Chickpea bar” will feature Oasis’ signature salads, real feta cheese, and split pea soup. On the buffet you will find meatballs, kebabs and couscous. And the “Oasis table” will feature Moroccan eggplant, babba ganoush and tabbouleh. Tables will be set with pickled vegetables, labneh, mango curry, tahini and pita, and dessert will feature a chef’s favorite rice pudding parfait.

*Tickets must be purchased in advance through the Hancher Box Office.
Ticket price includes dinner, non-alcoholic beverages, tax, and gratuity.
Capacity is limited.*

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