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ISSUE 226 AUG. 16-SEPT. 5, 2017

NEWS • CULTURE • EVENTS • CEDAR RAPIDS • IOWA CITY • MORALITY

LITTLE VII

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Bruce Campbell

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A local youth roller derby is one big happy family.

JAMES HIRSCH

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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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Two local business owners throw their first fest.

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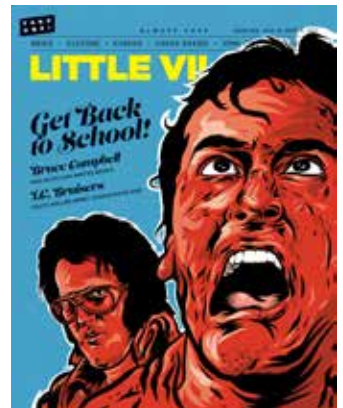
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Cover
Blair Gauntt

LETTERS

Have a score to settle? Save your rants for us. Send thoughts and letters under 500 words to Editor@LittleVillageMag.com.

FAIRGOERS EXPRESS CONCERNS ABOUT A LIVABLE FUTURE

The midway is cleared and still. The ice cream is gone. The barns and buildings are closed. It was another great year for the Johnson County Fair. And so it was for the ever popular annual Corn Poll of the People's Coalition (Iowa Physicians for Social Responsibility, 100Grannies for a Livable Future, Veterans For Peace and PEACE Iowa) in Building B. This year's fairgoers were questioned about their concerns for a livable future.

One thousand thirty seven adults, 16 years and older, many with young children at their sides, stopped by and shared their thoughts. Each person was given three corn kernels to

register their primary concerns among seven options. This gave fairgoers an opportunity to talk about a subject we rarely address publicly in anything but the simplest terms.

For Johnson County fairgoers, the top concern was air and water pollution, followed close behind by concerns about climate change.

People enjoyed the process. People talked to each other, the booth staff, their kids (even young ones) about the choices, explaining to them what each meant. Children and teens expressed to their parents their own concerns about the environment, clean air and water or violent conflict. Their

conversations demonstrated how members of the public hear and interpret daily reports from Iowa and around the globe about water crises, refugees, famine, nuclear war, violence and fear between nations and races.

For Johnson County fairgoers, the top concern was air and water pollution, followed close behind by concerns about climate change. These top concerns came through despite efforts by the current

administration to deny their importance. Environmental concerns were closely followed by concerns about poverty/inequality and nuclear war. Surprisingly, many also wanted to talk about the meaning and impacts of over-population and racism and prejudice as they too will affect everyone's future well-being.

Despite the light fair environment, people spoke passionately about the impacts of governance, corruption, religion and social disintegration on the environment, climate, risks of violence or nuclear war and how these concerns affected their ability to feel secure about the future for themselves and their children. Many declared, "I could vote for all of them, they're all important," or, "they're all so interrelated." Clearly these issues play out in the background of people's consciousness even as they labor to satisfy everyday needs and goals.

Then there were all the other topics discussed. While most were satisfied voting on the options offered, 35 other concerns made it into the conversations. These other threats ranged from Trump to socialism, deforestation and species extinction, to terrorism and despair.

As our climate continues to heat up and our environment becomes ever more degraded risking food production and our health, and as the global population grows and inequalities become greater, a new conversation about how we define and work toward a livable future is needed. LV/

—Maureen McCue, coordinator, Iowa Physicians for Social Responsibility

THIS MODERN WORLD



TOM TOMORROW © 2017

FUTILE WRATH



IS IT JUST ME OR DOES WHITE HOUSE ADVISER STEPHEN MILLER REMIND YOU OF THAT ONE BUTTHOLE WHO'S AT EVERY PARTY YOU'VE EVER BEEN TO WHO STANDS AROUND ARGUING ABOUT POLITICS WITH EVERYONE BUT JUST TAKES THE OPPOSITE OPINION OF EVERYONE ELSE JUST TO BE DISAGREEABLE? ... ALSO, AN ACTUAL REAL BUTTHOLE.



Sam Locke Ward

Never mind the pollution: EPA head Scott Pruitt visits Iowa to discuss making water regulations more industry friendly

It just keeps getting worse every day. —*Rita A. Fuller*

They're poisoning us a day at a time. —*Sandy Rosenberger*

Bike-friendly Tin Roost restaurant opens this month in North Liberty

Watching people fix bikes can be great patio entertainment! —*Gee Pickle*

New building for the University of Iowa Museum of Art approved

I heard they are building it south of the library, where the river overflows when we have floods. —*Connie Pierce*

2008 flood crested at 31.5 feet. It would have to crest at 34 feet to impact the new museum. —*Adam Tarleton*

Adding to the long list of UI ugly buildings! —*Peter Bachman*

And only 11+ years to get to this stage. Way to go. —*David Heffner*

U.S. Department of Agriculture says the right-wing radio rants of Iowa's Sam Clovis were based on solid research and data

Remember when Iowa used to be considered an educated state? —*Ryan Roenfeld*

The Foundry Forge brings a new theater vision to Cedar Rapids

Looking forward to seeing this show!! —*Robyn Calhoun*

Super interesting. —*Lila Rachel Becker*

UR Here: Iowa City in August is a tale of two cities

I'd rather go out of my way elsewhere than venture downtown, especially during the school year. —*Jessica Palmer*

I actively avoid downtown during the school year. UI boys drive me bonkers, and not in a good way. —*Sam Ray*

I know college kids can be really annoying, but it's also really annoying when people in Iowa City complain about college kids. We're a huge part of the reason why Iowa City is such a vibrant, diverse and awesome place to live. Please stop complaining about us, it's unjustified and unfair. Signed, a mature college student who loves Iowa City year-round. —*Melanie Meierotto*

It's not the people, it's the amount of people. I never said I disliked students, I was one just a few years ago. I just don't like crowds and the crowds during the school year are insane. There's no parking, the sidewalks are packed, the restaurants and bars are loud and packed. If I have a choice, I'm going to choose a less densely populated place to be/eat/shop/etc. —*Jessica Palmer*

To be fair though, I don't think the author is complaining about students in this piece. It's more of a comment on how different early August is compared to the rest of the year. Even when I was a student and stayed in IC during the summer I benefitted from the "downtime" too. —*Sara Bhat*

I made a similar post on my FB several years ago, but I was referring to when the students leave in May. Iowa City wouldn't be what it is without college students. I love the fact that we get the duality of both experiences through the year. —*Kate Halter*

Just as I am lulled into a sense of peacefulness and tranquility, August arrives and shakes me back to the frantic reality of the school year. It is always jarring. I need to practice flipping people off and using my car horn if I have any hope to be ready for the end of the month. —*Scott Drago* LV

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Baynard Woods

Democracy in Crisis

The Shattering of America

Terror in Charlottesville reveals a violent divide. • BY BAYNARD WOODS

Two middle-aged men, one black and one white, were walking up a street in downtown Charlottesville, Virginia yelling at each other. It was a moment of relative normalcy in a day otherwise defined by mayhem.

Both men use the phrase “born and bred” to define their relationship to the smallish Southern college town, nestled in the hills in the politically contested state of Virginia.

The white man, Ed Knight, was wearing a Confederate flag bandana around his head.

“You, with that stupid Confederate flag, talking about history,” the black man, George Steppe, said. “You don’t know nothing about no history. Only thing you know is hate.”

“This is our history and it should not be destroyed,” Knight said of the statue of Robert E. Lee in the park, where an alt-right Unite the Right rally had been scheduled.

Knight supported the rally that brought hundreds of armed racists and fascists to his home city on Aug. 12. It also brought

hundreds of anti-fascists, some of them armed with sticks and shields as well, pledging to defend the city from right-wing terror. Now, after hours of bloody battle during which they remained largely passive, riot police were breaking things up, pushing Steppe back, inching forward behind their shields. Knight walked alongside with a sign reading, “Make C-Ville Great Again.”

The two sides launched bottles and tear gas canisters back and forth as state troopers stood and watched, slack-jawed.

The chaos started the night before, as the neo-Nazis and other racists gathered for the 21st-century version of a Klan rally—a Klanclave of khaki and tiki torches. At one point, a group of the white supremacists

surrounded a group of counter-protesters, throwing punches and torches.

Within minutes of arriving in town on Saturday morning, I saw the first of many fights.

White supremacists with helmets—some German World War II-era—white polos, sticks, an assortment of flags and homemade shields marked with the insignia of the racist

group Vanguard America chanted at a smaller crowd of counter-protesters.

“You can’t run, you can’t hide, you get helicopter rides,”

they said, a reference to far-right governments in Argentina and Chile in the ’70s and ’80s that threw leftists from helicopters to “disappear” them.

The racists began to march forward and

GTFO Anti-racists protest a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. One protester was killed when a white supremacist drove his car into the crowd.



the counter-protesters tried to block them. After a swirl of violence and swinging sticks, three of the counter-protesters were left with bloody faces—the racists seemed to target women’s faces with their sticks—and the racists, who also took some heavy blows, ran away as the cops finally rolled in and began setting up a barricade.

Over the next several hours, this same pattern continued to play out: Another fight broke out every few minutes as a new faction of the right marched toward the park.

The park was filled with every variety of racist you can imagine, from the neo-Nazi biker to the fascist computer programmer. They were almost exclusively white and male. The anti-fascist activists who packed the streets were predominantly white but there were far more women and people of color opposing the neo-Nazis. Otherwise the two opposing armies seemed to be of roughly equal size. The fights were swift, chaotic and brutal.

The two sides launched bottles and tear gas canisters back and forth as state troopers stood and watched, slack-jawed. At one point, as a few bottles whizzed by him in quick succession, a trooper perked up enough to pull out his phone and record some of the mayhem.

When the police declared the assembly illegal before it even began and told everyone to leave, it forced these groups together. Right-wing militia types wielding assault rifles and wearing MAGA patches on paramilitary uniforms roamed through the crowd. Guys with pistols seemed to keep their hands on them, ready to draw at any moment. It felt like something horrible would happen.

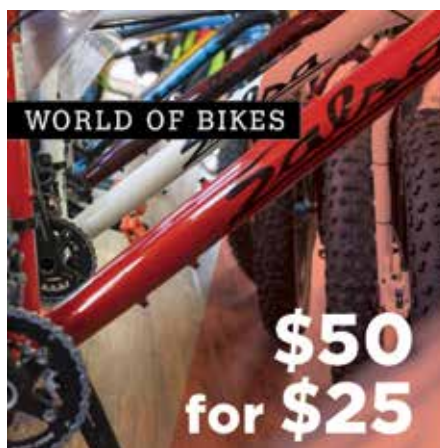
Then, as the various groups became separated, it seemed like the rumble had largely ended.

“I’m glad no serious gunshots rang out. I was threatened with a gun, though. Police wasn’t around when a guy pulled up his gun up on me, though,” Steppe said, around 12:30 p.m.

Steppe and Knight both seemed to think that it was the end of the day.

The racists, who had not been able to hold their rally, were trying to regroup at another park a little further from downtown. Eventually, as a state of emergency was declared, they decided to leave—some of them even suggested hiding in the woods.

Anti-fascists burned right-wing flags in a park and then marched through the city; two





groups converged on Water Street at around 1:35 p.m. It felt triumphant. They had driven the racists out of town—or at least those from out of town.

About five minutes later, as they marched through the streets, it sounded like a bomb exploded as a muscle car, which police say was driven by white supremacist James Alex Fields Jr., sped down the street and plowed through the march and into other cars. Fields then threw the weaponized car into reverse, fleeing from the scene of terror.

Bodies were strewn through the road. Street medics, marked by red tape, delivered first aid while waiting on ambulances to arrive. Activists held Antifa banners to block camera views of the injured.

The racists and fascists were nowhere to be found. Trump meandered through a speech in New Jersey in which he condemned violence on “many sides.”

He did not use the words “white supremacy” or “terrorism.” He did not offer support to those who were hospitalized or prayers for those who were still in critical condition. [It was later revealed that one woman, Heather Heyer, was killed in the attack and at least 19 people were injured.]

Fields, who was photographed earlier in the day with the same Vanguard America shield I saw when I first arrived in town, was arrested and charged with murder.

I am writing this later the same night as the attack and I won’t pretend to know what it means for our country. The racism is not new. The argument Stepe and Knight were having in their hometown could have happened any time in the last 50 years. But the way the battle over white supremacy was being waged around them was new, and Charlottesville was not ready for it. None of us are.

When that gray car slammed into those people, it shattered a part of America, or at least the illusion of it. I don’t know what that means yet, because it shattered something in me, too. LV/

Additional reporting by Brandon Soderberg

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



On a Roll

Inclusiveness has made the I.C. Bruisers a success. • BY JAMES HIRSCH

Kids of all genders and backgrounds gather at the center of the Grant Wood Elementary school gym, laughing and greeting their friends, only stopping when volunteers announce it is time to circle up. “Collide A Scope! Danimal! Bruz-A-Lot! Rainbow Assassin!”

Introductions before practice are necessary for the I.C. Bruisers junior roller derby league. Its free price tag and welcoming environment bring in new skaters from the Iowa City area each week.

The first step is picking a derby name. Cece Ferreira, whose family started the league in 2014, said derby names help skaters be who they want to be, free of outside pressures or expectations. Cece, whose pronouns are they/them/their, said they appreciate how the league provides a safe space for young people to be themselves.

“Once I go to practice or games, I don’t have to be Cecelia—I am Rainbow Assassin,” Cece said. “Most of my teammates actually just use derby names outside of derby.”

Roller derby is a contact sport played on an oval-shaped track where points are scored by lapping opposing team members. The I.C. Bruisers junior roller derby

league was founded by Brian (Beezer) and Veronica (Madame Paperwork) Ferreira after they moved to Iowa City. Both were officials in adult leagues and brought their kids to Old Capitol City Roller Derby games.

Cece, the youngest member of the Ferreira family, wanted to be involved in the sport after seeing women skating around hitting each other in glittery outfits. However, the closest junior roller derby teams to Iowa City were in the Quad Cities.

With more than 60 active skaters ranging in age from 5 to 17, the Bruisers are supported by donations and parent volunteers. The size of the group and range of skill levels have necessitated a three-way



Danforth Johnson

split. The Misfits are the most experienced and competitive, ready for full contact and playing with the same rules as professional leagues. The Black-Hearted Bruisers includes kids just learning how to participate in contact as well as those developing skills in full-contact play. The Bug Bites are no contact, instead focusing on honing fundamental skills like controlling skates and falling safely.

In an effort to eliminate bias the different groups are not based on age, gender or any other characteristic besides skill level. When determining who will skate in bouts (derby lingo for games) against other teams, Veronica said a rubric is used so things are fair and transparent.

While the Bruisers is free to join, that's not the case for most junior roller derby leagues. With startup gear costing a few hundred dollars, in addition to recurring league dues and other fees, Brian said

roller derby is normally more of a middle-class sport. The Ferreira family and the rest of the volunteers work to involve all interested young people in the league.

"We wanted to try something new, something different—to see if we could

"They really value your opinion here, and that just makes you a lot bolder."

—Nina "Bruz-A-Lot" Jakob

do it free," Brian said. "I was able to work with the city to donate some space just to see if we could make it work, and we have been able to make it work."

Veronica said most of the Bruisers' funding comes from their annual Skate-A-Thon, a crafts and vendor fundraiser

held early each spring, as well as grants and other small fundraisers throughout the year. Brian said the fundraisers are great because they showcase the community environment of roller derby.

"If we were to ever run out [of gear], then adult volunteers donate to make sure we have what we need," Veronica said. "It's not uncommon for us to run out of mouth guards and have somebody run to the store real quick and go, 'Oh, don't worry about it. They're only a buck a piece.'"

Brian estimates around 70 to 75 percent of the kids on the Bruisers would not be involved if it were not free.

Parents from all backgrounds said they felt derby improved their children's health, social sphere and, most importantly, confidence.

The confidence boost happens quickly. Nina Jakob (Bruz-A-Lot) said the team's structure improved her confidence from

COMMUNITY

the beginning. She was able to move up a level after only a month on derby skates.

"They really value your opinion here, and that just makes you a lot bolder to say your opinion in public," Nina said.

The abilities that Nina and the rest of the skaters are achieving are especially important during childhood, which is when kids develop a notion of competency, according to psychologist E.H. Erikson. Building on Erikson's theory, a study of team-organized sports published in *Psychology of Sport and Exercise* in 2009 indicated that an increase in how an individual views their athletic competency leads to an increase in self-esteem outside of the sport.

Many team parents said the Iowa City derby community provided a large support system and accepting environment for their kids, with fellow derby members becoming like family. Even inter-team camaraderie is not atypical of derby leagues.

"There's a team in the Quad Cities that I consider my derby family just as much as

I consider my own team," Cece said. "I'll sub in for them whenever they're short skaters, and I talk to them just as much as I talk to my own teammates."

This family aspect was especially important for Cece after moving to Kalona. As a 13-year-old with neon blue hair and multiple facial piercings, Cece said it is hard because people see their appearance and automatically think they are up to no good.

"When you get to know me I'm a really nice person and I have straight A's," Cece said. "I've always been super outgoing but I can only stick to this small group of friends that I have—and half of them are in derby."

Ileana Knapp (Collide A Scope), one of the skaters who has been on the Bruisers since the beginning, joined in the hopes that derby would be a positive outlet to channel and organize emotions.

"I'm a lot more outgoing in these settings because I know I'm not going to be judged for who I am or what I choose to



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dress like,” Ileana said.

Daniel Kenyon (Danimal), a freckled boy with shaggy hair, said his favorite aspect of derby is hitting.

“It’s cool to think that I’m not going to injure someone but I get to do something that looks like it could cause an injury,” Daniel said.

In practice, Daniel pays close attention to what his coaches tell him about his technique. In a bout, he takes on the position of jammer and darts through the pack with speedy dexterity. He takes care not to get too rough with anyone and checks in on an opposing skater when they wipe out.

Brian said seeing kids excel while having fun is one of the most rewarding parts of being a derby coach, and watching the derby community develop has made him happy.

Many volunteers join because that happiness is contagious, Veronica said. The community often spills over into the Ferreira home.

“Our house almost always has at least

half a dozen teenagers in it, which is awesome,” Veronica said. “Sometimes they’ll come over because things aren’t so cool at home, and it’s awesome to be that person for somebody.”

The league is a safe space for LGBTQIA kids, as well as those with different body types and abilities. Derby does not have an ideal type of athlete, Cece said. Skaters just need to stay active and go into it with a positive attitude.

“We have a really short, really skinny girl who’s like 8 or 9 who helps us because she’s really fast and people are afraid to hit her because she’s so small,” Cece said. “We also have a very large girl with a lot of body mass who loves the way she looks, and we’re so glad she does because people are afraid to be hit by her.” LV/

James Hirsch sprained his wrist the first time he tried roller derby. He is now considering giving it a second try.

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Prairie Pop

Grey Matters

Flat Black Studios and White Rabbit kick off their first music fest.

BY KEMBREW MCLEOD

Grey Area, a joint venture by Flat Black Studios and White Rabbit clothing store, is an unusual new festival taking place just outside of Iowa City on Aug. 18 and 19. Featuring live music and a diverse range of multimedia programming, it's a celebration of our local musical community. The festival will span Friday afternoon to late Saturday night, and is set outdoors (on-site camping is encouraged; bring plenty of water, bug spray and other necessities, as well as blankets or chairs to sit on).

"It is essentially in the woods, and definitely in the country," said Grey Area organizer Luke Tweedy, who also owns and operates one of the region's premier recording studios. "There will also be all types of people here. It will not just be the same types of folks seen at a lot of Iowa City shows. There will be doctors and lawyers here, and there will be blue-collar, dirt-farming hillbillies here, too,

and everything in between."

"Despite everybody's differences, it will be a positive, community-building experience where people are going to get a taste of a lot of different slices of society," Tweedy added, "while supporting the arts and hopefully becoming fans of some bands they might have heard of but not heard."

Tying it all together are the bands and solo acts that have recently recorded at Flat Black, including local favorites Elizabeth Moen, Dana T, Karen Meat, Brian Johannesen and many more.

Interspersed between live acts will be several DJ sets by Coolzey, Brendan Lee Spengler, DJ Feed Me Weird Things and DJ WEW—better known around these parts as the banjo-shredding musician William Elliott Whitmore.

"Of course I'm not really a DJ," Whitmore acknowledges, "I just like playing records. It will be fun to do it through such a large

sound system—and a chance to do something different than I normally do. I'll be spinning hip hop and country music."

"Luke is my cousin," Whitmore added. "I've known him my whole life. We've been working together on music for 18 years. Flat Black Studios is the culmination of a very large learning curve, and we hope to just keep pushing it forward. We work together well because we leave ego out of it and just try to make the music as good as we can. At Flat Black you can make any kind of record you want."

Tweedy and Whitmore's lives have long been entwined, but they grew even closer as friends and creative partners about 20 years ago, when the seeds of Flat Black Studios were planted. Whitmore had been playing in punk bands at the time when he lost his mother just three years after his father died, then moved back home to be with his brother and sister.

"About six months passed, and he came to Iowa City for a visit with a super cheap four-track in tow," Tweedy recalled. "He had recorded five songs and asked me if I'd give them a listen."

"By the end of listening to those tracks, I was shocked, amazed and extremely proud of where he'd put his heartache. The



songwriting wasn't just better, but truly world class. Soon after that we had a conversation where we agreed to partner up. You see, the songs were amazing, but the recordings, not so much. If he'd focus all his energy on songwriting, touring and playing shows, and generally honing his craft, I'd do the same—with a focus on the music-capture end of things."

The two young men started small. Tweedy had a Roland digital eight-track recorder and a used Shure 58 microphone, and Whitmore was playing an entry-level Fender acoustic guitar.

What a difference two decades make. Today, Whitmore is a nationally recognized artist and Tweedy runs a full-service hybrid analog and digital studio. He has recorded some of his favorite Iowa musicians, as well as artists from around the country—such as Cool Kids, a hip-hop act that recorded part of their upcoming album at Flat Black.

"It's like taking a trip to an island with a studio where you can create your own environment," said Cool Kids' Chuck English, "but still have access to all the instruments and technology you need."

Grey Area's 704-square-foot stage has been built off the back of Flat Black Studios—large, but not too large, and nestled among the trees.

"I am extremely proud of it," Tweedy said. "It is one of my dreams come true. With luck, there will be bands on this stage for years and years to come."

The festival will offer a bouncy house for the young 'uns (children under 16 get in free), and a motley assortment of other entertainment for kids and adults of all ages.

"I put all my experience into this celebration," said Tweedy. "You will also see some types of stuff I am into besides music, like a rural setting—on a double dead end with almost 10 wooded acres—camping, grilling, circus freaks, people of all races, religions (or lack of), genders, sexual orientations, etc. I want to celebrate the arts, especially music, out here in a positive open-minded environment, because it really means everything to me."

Iowa Public Radio's Lindsey Moon has assembled a crew of circus performers to do sets in between bands; as DJs spin, they will do aerial acrobatics, a fire show, stilts, juggling and so on. Sarah Driscoll from Breathing Room Yoga in Cedar Rapids is running a Saturday morning yoga class with ambient analog synthesis by Brendan Lee Spengler. And when the sun goes down, Ian MacMillan will project a light show from the stage onto the trees while the bands play.

**Grey Area Flat Black Studios,
Friday and Saturday, Aug. 18-19,
Free-\$25 Tickets and lineup info
at littlevillagetickets.com**

"I would be a fool if I did not mention that Miss Millie Guns was coming out of retirement for a set," Tweedy added. "Her deal cannot be properly put into words, so I will simply say: Don't miss it."

After the artists are paid and other costs are covered, the organizers plan to donate any excess profits to two charities: the Rape Victim Advocacy Program and American Civil Liberties Union.

"This festival will showcase a ton of local music as well as old friends and family coming from out of state," Whitmore added. "It's about building a musical community here, where there are so many talented folks. It's all people Luke has worked with in the studio. Also it will be fun as hell!" LV/

Kembrew McLeod plans to teach his fall semester classes entirely through the communication medium of interpretive dance.



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.

Hot Tin Roof: August

Wedding in Galena

We drive down blackjack road, thin and winding, hemmed by the woven trunks of trees and a sheer drop.

“It’s a beautiful town,” he says. “All these trees. The hills. The view.”

“I wonder if that’s why Nate and Matt picked it.”

No house lights. No streetlights. Only one working headlight on Fat Van.

(And it’s quiet. When was the last time we were anywhere quiet?)

He keeps his eyes forward.

It is so dark that the road is built before us as we drive. It comes from out of a void—comes only a few feet at a time, all serpentine curves. Blind corners jump before you. The road rearranges itself, just beyond your line of sight. It is not where you thought it would be—where it should be.

“What I wonder is how they found it.”

“Yeah,” I say. “I didn’t think places like this still existed.”

He is quiet, thinking.

“It’s the kind of town we all remember,” he says, “but that we stopped building a long time ago.”

We are only here for the weekend—for the wedding—and we drive slow.

A light appears behind us, flooding the road in pale gray.

We drive on. The light is close enough to blur out the back windshield, turn it into a smear of bright white.

I can feel him shifting in his seat. I know his eyes will be flicking back.

The road rises before us—a steep hill. The engine lets out a moan. I can hear air venting through the system—heating or cooling, I can’t tell.

He steps a little harder on the gas.

“Come on, come on,” he mutters.

The light behind us flares on the rearview mirror.

“You can do it.” I pat the dash. “You can do it, Fat Van.”

Then we are up, over the hill and barreling down the road. Light chasing. Unable to slow. The threat of being rammed imminent. And we turn a corner and suddenly there is no road.

He yanks the wheel.

My hands clutch the armrest. Eyes wide.

We careen to the right, tipping—

And stop.

Behind us there is a roar, and the light is gone.

We breathe.

“Sorry,” he says.

“It’s fine,” I say.

(We’re fine.)

He turns Fat Van around, makes his way back to the center of the fork and trundles down the left road. We are silent and, apart from the lone headlight, in utter darkness.

“At least that guy lit the road for us a bit,” he says.

“Still a jerk,” I say, and he nods.

My pulse is pounding in my neck. My chest expands and contracts, slowly, in an attempt at calm.

Massy shapes move past on either side. Houses and hills. Fields filled with corn, beans, and cows. Trees everywhere. All covered in a thick, black veil.

“You could live a good life here,” he says. “Good place to have a family. Could get a lot of work done.”

My heart, throbbing blood through my veins.

“I think you’d have a lot of fun,” I say. “It would be a nice place to live.”

(With you.)

We don’t look at each other, but at the road unspooling before us. The collected fear begins to dissipate. From out of the night, tiny lights emerge: White. Yellow. A few oddly green. They turn the air glittery with their winking, wandering presence. They go on and on forever.

“It feels like another dimension,” I say, voice hushed.

And he agrees. *LV*

Erin McInerney is a university student studying English and writing. She likes to garden.

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Family Dinners

An Act of Love

This summer, *Little Village* magazine is sitting down for family dinner. Through the lenses of five unique families, we're exploring the benefits (and challenges) that emerge when we eat together. We're considering modern interpretations of the word "family," and we're documenting—of course—the delicious foods families are cooking up. • BY HELAINA THOMPSON



Helaina Thompson / Little Village

An email from husbands Matt Van Maanen and Rob Lancaster reads, "We just finished making a huge pot of vegetable chowder that we sent home with some visiting friends this evening. Tomorrow night we have plans with our running group. We would be happy to have you over on Thursday evening."

Van Maanen and Lancaster—or "the Van Lancasters" as they're often called ("My mother sends mail to the Van Lancasters," says Lancaster)—are hosting dinner for the third night in a row this week in their Cedar Rapids home.

Earlier in the week, the couple received their weekly summer Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) share, including a bounty of summer squash, which prompted tonight's main dish: a zucchini-loaded pasta primavera with just-plucked basil and balsamic drizzled on top. On the side: kale salad with sliced almonds and a lemony emulsion, garnished with decorative-yet-edible nasturtiums.

"The food was picked hours ago," says Van Maanen. "That's why it's so good."

Songs by Imogen Heap and Frou Frou and MIKA travel from speakers in the living room to the dining area, which is adjacent to the galley kitchen where Lancaster prepares our summer-inspired meal.

Van Maanen, who works in international IT, and Lancaster, a nursing practice doctoral candidate, cleverly shape their meals around busy calendars and in-season produce. They drink kale smoothies for breakfast on summer mornings and cook mainly vegetarian recipes for lunch and dinner. They've learned to can and freeze food for the winter. Being members of a CSA—theirs is Local Harvest CSA located in Solon—is "like Iron Chef every week," says Lancaster, the avowed chef of the two. "The secret ingredient is: bok choy!"

Another tactic to manage the sheer abundance of summer vegetables? Van Maanen and Lancaster share dinner with guests at least two nights a week, they say.

Van Maanen, the youngest of eight brothers, says when he hears the word family, he thinks of friends. "I know it's a big cliché that your friends become your family, but it's true," he says.

"In the gay community, there's still a lot of

"The food was picked hours ago. That's why it's so good."

—Matt Van Maanen

people that aren't super close with their family," Van Maanen says. "And so that's why we have a very close-knit group of friends. And they are very much our family. We get together at least once a week."

Sometimes their recipes don't turn out, the husbands confess. "We have had people over and were like, 'We are so sorry!'" says Van Maanen, laughing. But Van Maanen and Lancaster agree the meal itself is secondary to coming together and cooking for family—whatever that may be.

"[Cooking] is an act of love, basically," says Lancaster. "And maybe this comes from my grandmother and my mother, but if I can feed people, then I am showing my love for them."

Van Maanen responds, "You are so Iowa." LV/



Helaina Thompson / Little Village

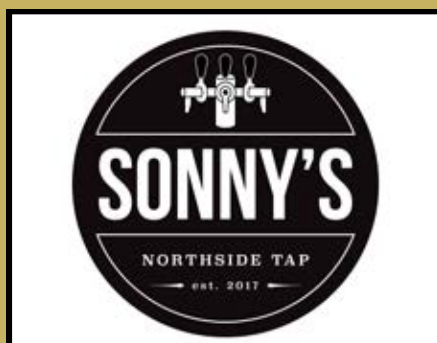
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A-List

This... Is My Sequel!

Bruce Campbell's back with a new book chronicling the second phase of his career. • **BY GENEVIEVE TRAINOR**

Actor, director and writer Bruce Campbell has crafted a career out of a certain kind of off-beat character. As an actor, he doesn't disappear into a role, but rather imbues each with an almost ludicrous uniqueness, a deeply specific sense of self. This kind of interplay between the fantasy and reality of his existence is a perfect precursor to his alternate career as a memoirist.

Despite the iconic nature of the roles he's played—the last defense against the forces of evil, a son of the Greek god Hermes, even a turn as Elvis—he manages to find the most honest humanity in each. His writing does the same, finding the humblest humanity in himself, self-effacing and unafraid of humor at his own expense.

Campbell will be in Iowa City on Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Englert Theatre, presented by

Prairie Lights, touring in support of *Hail to the Chin: Further Confessions of a B Movie Actor*, which was released Aug. 15. He spoke to *Little Village* ahead of his appearance. An excerpt from that conversation is below; you can read the full interview online.

You spoke a lot in your book about the value of solitude and I'm curious for you, writing specifically—is that a solo activity? Is it something you sequester yourself away for? Yeah—I have a nice place in the Oregon woods and I'm building a new office now. I like a nice quiet place to write. I usually do it in the morning, about five, six in the morning until about 11 o'clock in the morning, and then my brain is fried and I have to do something physical.

That makes sense—and it seems like

there's a lot out there physical to do. You seem to engage with the environment quite a bit. Yeah, there's no shortage of activities. We just—two days ago with my buddy Sam Raimi we went to look for the bigfoot trap that's out near where I live; about 45 minutes from my house is a trap they built in the '70s ... There's a lot going on out here.

Were you able to track that down?

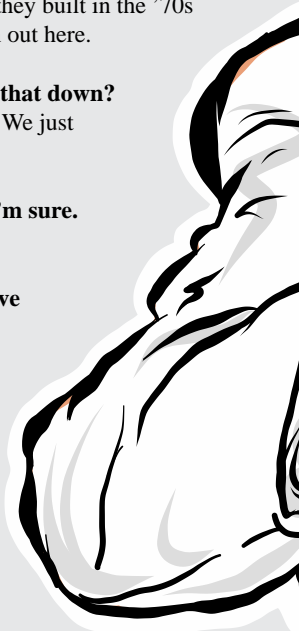
Yeah, we found the trap. We just didn't find Bigfoot.

That's disappointing, I'm sure.

It's alright.

You and Sam Raimi have been friends since high school, right? Yeah, a long time.

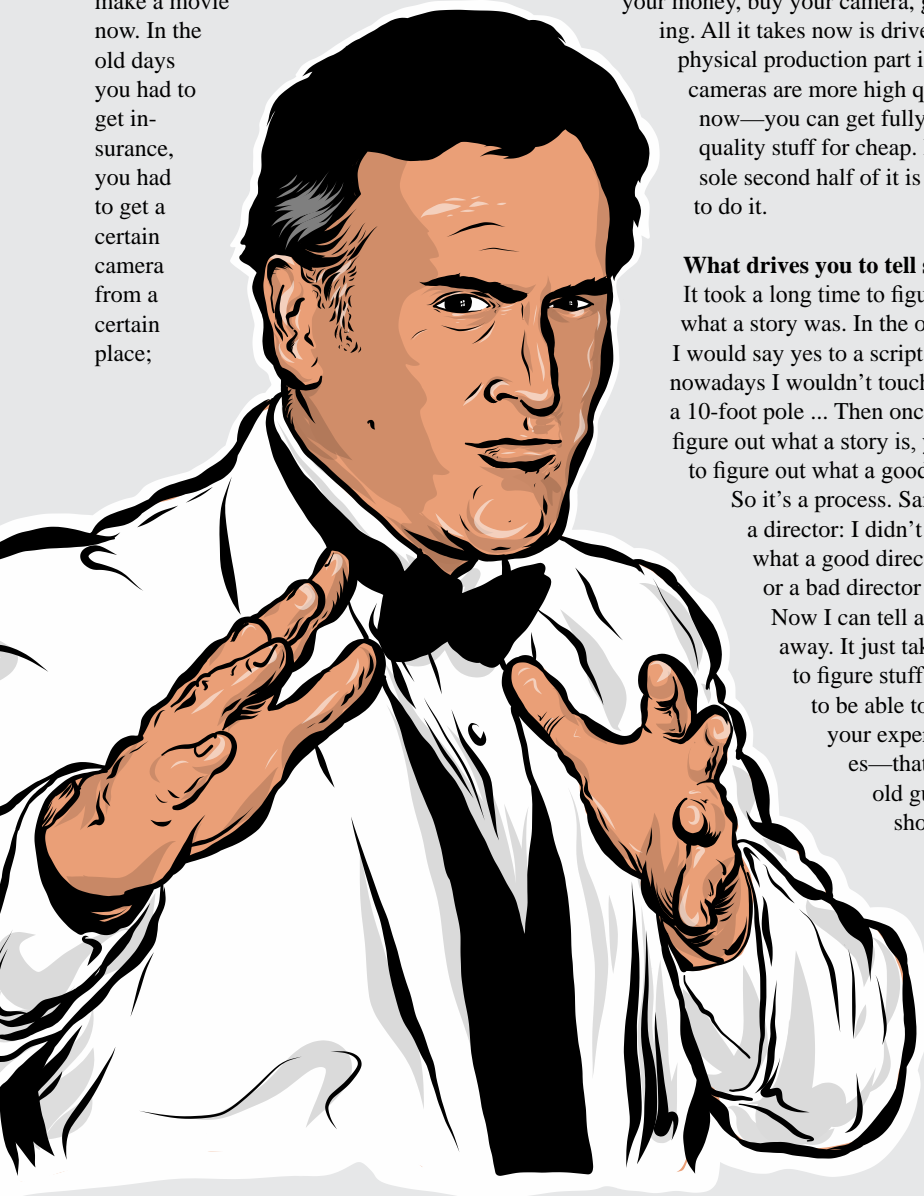
That's an amazing history of creativity together. It's 40-some-odd years I think—'75 is when I first met him.



Blair Gauntt

I was also one of those sorts of high school people who was just as interested in making movies as watching them. Clearly none of us turned out to be the next Bruce Campbell or Sam Raimi but my friends and I definitely enjoyed making cheesy films in our down time. It wouldn't have been possible if we didn't have examples like *Evil Dead* to inspire us. Especially with the emphasis nowadays on production value in film, where do you see that inspiration for other kids coming out? Well, my feeling is it's getting so easy now there's no excuse. You can go to Kmart and buy a terabyte of power in your computer, and you can buy After Effects and Final Cut Pro. About five thousand bucks

will fix you up to make a movie now. In the old days you had to get insurance, you had to get a certain camera from a certain place;



they would only rent it to you if you had a certain cameraman who was qualified to use it. It doesn't bother you now. You can score in your bedroom, you can take a thumb drive to your local theatre to show it, you don't have to get actual prints to carry around that were heavy enough to throw your shoulders out. It doesn't bother you now.

I'm pleased to have done a couple of movies under the old-fashioned drudgery method of editing negatives and work prints and ... editing machines—you know, analog. I'm glad to have done it, but I like the new systems now. I like how much easier it is to manage post-production and editing and all that. And word processing, that's all new. A filmmaker from Gary, Indiana has no excuse not to make movies. It's too cheap now. Save your money, buy your camera, get going. All it takes now is drive. The physical production part is easier, cameras are more high quality now—you can get fully HD quality stuff for cheap. But the sole second half of it is drive to do it.

What drives you to tell stories?

It took a long time to figure out what a story was. In the old days I would say yes to a script that nowadays I wouldn't touch with a 10-foot pole ... Then once you figure out what a story is, you have to figure out what a good story is.

So it's a process. Same with a director: I didn't know what a good director was or a bad director was.

Now I can tell a mile away. It just takes time to figure stuff out, to be able to use your experiences—that's why old guys, you shouldn't get rid of



Bruce Campbell 'Hail to the Chin: Further Confessions of a B Movie Actor' Englert Theatre, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 7 p.m., \$37. Presented by Prairie Lights Bookstore

them right away. Because they have experience.

So, other than the creative people that you've known since high school that you're still lucky enough to work with, how do you find those other everyday schmoes to create with? You just ask more questions now ... I'm sort of referring to this as the act three of my life. First act of your life you should do anything as an actor: any job, any thing, any script, any time, any place, any season. Act two you start to learn the difference between good script, bad script, lousy deal, good deal—picking out things that you don't want to do anymore, things that you want to do more of. So now act three is putting it all into play. You only work with directors who you know or you know can do the job. No more guess work. For me it's no more first time directors. There's a lot of stuff now that I'm crossing off my list. The criteria for doing work now is much harsher, much higher and much harder. Harder to get me up the mountaintop.

Do you see an act four, or is your vision of the story a three-act one? Three-act, just like the movies. I'm going to put the third book out in about 15 years, and that will be



The Final Confession: you have Confessions, Further Confessions, Final Confession. I'll be about 75 then—and that will pretty much wrap that up.

Do you believe in retirement? No. No, not at all. But I am retiring from certain *types* of work, certain types of acting. I'm definitely going to pull back on certain things. There's some stuff I just plain don't ever want to do again as far as being an actor. I'm phasing some stuff out and phasing other stuff in. But retirement is for squares. That's a really lousy—I wish it was a word we could get rid of. I've met so many people up here in Oregon, where I live, they retired and they either got divorced or became drunks—they didn't know what to do with themselves. You gotta have a reason to get out of bed in the morning. And as long as I can contribute—if I get too old to be an actor, I'll just be a director, whatever. I'm happy for whatever's coming next, but no. Retirement, no way. No way in hell.

And I didn't mean that offensively—clearly, you're far from ... No, no: I'm just being emphatic. Because I've learned that. Guys like William Shatner, I meet him on the road at conventions, Stan Lee—all these guys. Adam West, who just died. They all worked until their mid-80s, late-80s. Don't stop. That's my motto. For anybody. **LV**

Genevieve Trainor will swallow your soul.

EVENTS

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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.

AREA EVENTS PRESENTED BY FILMSCENE

LITERATURE

8/16

Art Lover's Book Club:
'The Anatomy Lesson' by
Nina Siegal, Cedar Rapids
Museum Of Art, 4 p.m.,
Free

8/18

Justin Allen, Public Space
One, Iowa City, 6 p.m.,
Free
Joe Brisben, Prairie Lights
Books & Cafe, Iowa City,
7 p.m., Free

8/20

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

8/22

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

8/23

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

8/28

Z.P. Dala, Prairie Lights
Books & Cafe, Iowa City,
7 p.m., Free

8/29

**Benjamin Percy: 'The Dark
Net,'** Prairie Lights Books
& Cafe, Iowa City, 7
p.m., Free

8/30

Inara Verzemnieks, Prairie
Lights Books & Cafe,
Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free

▼ 8/31

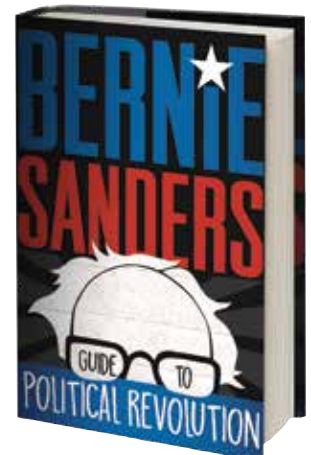
**Prairie Lights Presents
Bernie Sanders: 'Guide
to a Political Revolution,'**
Hancher, Iowa City, 7
p.m., \$10-30

9/5

**Prairie Lights Presents
Bruce Campbell, The
Englert Theatre**, Iowa
City, 7 p.m., \$37

Prairie Lights Presents Bernie Sanders: 'Guide to a Political Revolution,' Hancher, Aug. 31, 7 p.m., \$10-30

Former presidential candidate and eternal malcontent and rabble rouser Bernie Sanders is coming through Iowa City on his current book tour. 'Bernie Sanders' Guide to Political Revolution,' which releases Aug. 29, is aimed at youth audiences. It's a pragmatic lesson book on understanding current politics and learning how to organize for a cause and work to change the system. To encourage youth audiences, special tickets for ages 16 and under are available for just \$10. The \$25 ticket includes a copy of the book and, at the \$30 level, the copy of the book comes signed.



MUSIC

8/16

Lee DeWyze, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., \$16-19

The Evan Stock Band w/ Jaden Carlson Band, Iowa City Yacht Club, 8 p.m., \$8

The Redemption Tour w/ Tantric 2017, Spicoli's Rockade, Waterloo, 8 p.m., \$15

Evan Bartleson, Gabe's, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free

Dopeknife w/ Ion, Imperfekt, Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free

8/17

Preucil School of Music Presents:

'Music Together,' S.T. Morrison Park, Coralville, 10:30 a.m., Free

KCCCK's Jazz Under The Stars, Noelridge Park, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., Free

Ryne Doughty, Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., Free

Fresh Wax: Analog Afterlife w/

Benjihoicrabb, Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 9 p.m., Free

FMWT Vol. 2, Edition #1: Robert

Noyes w/ Alexander, Haunter, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 9 p.m. \$5-7

Blood Oak, Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free

Freakabout w/ Meowcaholics, 6 Odd

Rats, Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., \$6

8/18

Montu, Iowa City Yacht Club, 10 a.m., \$8

Grey Area, Flat Black Studios, Lone Tree, 5 p.m., Free-\$25/weekend

Uptown Friday Nights: Corey Cox, McGrath Amphitheatre, Cedar Rapids, 5 p.m., \$5

Rock the Block: Alisabeth Von Presley, NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 5:30 p.m., Free

Rolling Thunder w/ Toxic Blonde, Cedar River Landing, Cedar Rapids, 6 p.m., Free

Gregdon Cole National Cancer Society Fundraiser, Artisan's Sanctuary, Cedar Rapids, 6 p.m., Freewill Donation

The Agency, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 6 p.m., Free



Bloated Kat Records Presents: Bloated Saturday 2 Gabe's, Friday and Saturday, Aug. 25-26, 5

p.m., \$10-25 For the second year in a row, Dallas Center's Bloated Kat Records is bringing together a wildly impressive array of some of the best punk, pop punk and assorted tangential genre bands that the Midwest has to offer, along with a few from slightly farther off (New York, Texas) and one trekking in from all the way across the pond (Edinburgh's Fuck! (It's Pronounced Shit!)). Although maintaining the Bloated Saturday moniker, the festival now spans two days. A \$25 pass gets you into Gabe's for both Friday and Saturday; admission for Friday only is \$10; Saturday only is \$15. The music kicks off at 5 p.m. on Friday and 4 p.m. on Saturday. Image from Bloated Kat Records

8/19

Grey Area, Flat Black Studios, Lone Tree, All Day, Free-\$25/weekend

Bob Washut Trio, Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 7 p.m., \$5

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

Brad and the Big Wave, The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$8

Enemy Planes w/ the Fuss, Obelisks, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., \$6

Luxury Joints Presents: MC EIHT w/ Nonshaunlant, AWTHTKTS, DJ Ice,

Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$25-30

Shock Treatment: Ramones Tribute w/ April8, Spicoli's Rockade, Waterloo, 9 p.m., \$5

Back To School Bash: DJ Crespo, EDEN Lounge & Nightclub, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free

8/20

Kevin 'B.F.' Burt, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 1 p.m., Free

The Swingin' Doors, Sutliff Cider Company, Lisbon, 3 p.m., Free

8/21

Miserable Friend w/ the Cherry Tops, Hot Tang, Public Space One, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$5

8/22

Dance with Center for Worker Justice, The Mill, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$10-15

MUSIC

8/23

Laney Jones & the Spirits, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., \$13-16

Lydia Can't Breathe, Spicoli's Rockade, Waterloo, 8 p.m., \$5

Emily Davis & the Murder Police, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., \$6

Sinners & Saints, Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free

8/24

Preucil School of Music Presents:

'Music Together,' S.T. Morrison Park, Coralville, 6 p.m., Free

Remo Drive w/ McCafferty, Gabe's, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$10-12

KCCK's Jazz Under the Stars, McGrath Amphitheatre, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., Free

Making Movies, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., \$16-19

Shaman's Harvest w/ Strange Daze, Deselect, Spicoli's Rockade, Waterloo, 8 p.m., \$15

8/25

Bloated Kat Records Presents: Bloated Saturday 2, Gabe's, Iowa City, 5 p.m., \$10 or \$25/weekend

Rock the Block: Dr. Z's Experiment, NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 5:30 p.m., Free

Wooden Nickel Lottery, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 6 p.m., Free

The Curse of Hail w/ Green Death, Dogs Of Neptune, Pangaea, Signs Of Life, Wooly's, Des Moines, 6 p.m., \$10-12



Painbearer w/ Kayo Dot, Bask, Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$15-18

Friday Night Concert Series: Paa Kow, Downtown Pedestrian Mall, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., Free

Alternating Currents: Day 1, Daytrotter, Davenport, 7 p.m., \$15/weekend

Korby Lenker & Nora Jane Struthers, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$15-18

Pets With Human Names w/ Stereowide, One Of Us and Terrapin and the Wolves, Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 9 p.m., Free

Loud Sun w/ Meadowlark Valley, Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 9 p.m., \$5-10

Joe & Vicki Price, Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free

Paa Kow After Party w/ 6 Odd Rats, Karen Meat, Warick, Iowa City Yacht Club, 10 p.m., \$5

8/26

Bloated Kat Records Presents: Bloated Saturday 2, Gabe's, Iowa City, 5 p.m., \$15 or \$25/weekend

First Fleet Concerts Presents: Yung Pinch, Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$12-15

Alternating Currents: Day 2, Daytrotter, Davenport, 6 p.m., \$15/weekend

Paa Kow, Wooly's, Des Moines, 7 p.m., \$10

Ben Folds w/ Julien Baker, Adler Theatre, Davenport, 7:30 p.m., \$26-56

Evan Stock Band, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., Free

Bob Seger & the Silver Bullet Band w/ Larkin Poe, iWireless Center, Moline, 8 p.m., \$48-98

Joe Bonamassa, Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$102-152

Northern Parallels: 09, Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 8 p.m., Free

Charles Walker Band, Iowa City Yacht Club, 10 p.m., \$7

8/27

Justin Goodchild, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 1 p.m., Free

Charlie Liu—Benefit Concert for the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital and the Premie Project, Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 2 p.m., \$15-50

The Agency, Sutliff Cider Company, Lisbon, 3 p.m., Free

Dead Man Winter w/ Andrea von Kampen, Wooly's, Des Moines, 7:30 p.m., \$15-17

8/28

Octopus Jazz Jam, Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 7 p.m., Free

Gaelic Storm, Wooly's, Des Moines, 9 p.m., \$20-25



FAULCONER GALLERY

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Support for the exhibition and related educational and outreach programs has been made possible by a grant from the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation. Image: Roy Lichtenstein, *Explosion*, from the portfolio *Portfolio 9*, 1967. Lithograph, edition 85/100, © Estate of Roy Lichtenstein. Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer.

◀ 8/30

Boyz II Men & En Vogue, McGrath Amphitheatre, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$29.50-85

8/31

Hogan & Moss, Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., Free

Super King Reza w/ Handsome Ass Dan, Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$5-8

Lia Menaker, Joe's Place, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free

9/1

Live Music w/ the Magnetos, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 6 p.m., Free

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

FMWT Vol. 2, Edition #2: La Musa Trio, Public Space One, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$10-12

'90s Dance Party w/ Fool House, Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$7-10

Middle of Nowhere Music Fest, Various Venues, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$35/weekend

Arthur Lee Land Trio Mangos, Cafe Paradiso, Fairfield, 8 p.m., Free

The Plurals w/ the Port Authority, Dee Pretion, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$5

Tall Tall Trees, Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 9 p.m., \$8-12

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

9/2

Home Football Game w/ the Beaker Brothers, Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 3 p.m., Free

Middle of Nowhere Music Fest, Various Venues, Iowa City, 5 p.m., \$35/weekend

Elizabeth Moen w/ Annalibera, Karen Meat, Wooly's, Des Moines, 7 p.m., \$8-10

Soul Sacrifice, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., Free

Void Reunion w/ Chrash, Mountain Swallow, Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 9 p.m., \$5-10

Gloom Balloon Album Release Show w/ Christopher the Conquered, Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 9 p.m., Free

9/3

Live Music w/ Terry McCauley, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 1 p.m., Free

The Tornados, Sutliff Cider Company, Lisbon, 3 p.m., Free

The Pork Tornadoes—SOLD OUT, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 6 p.m., \$10

Mr Russia w/ Otros Outros, Remod, Gabe's, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$7

Shwervon! w/ Speaking of Secrets, Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 8 p.m., Free



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Youth Rising Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, Friday and Saturday, August 25-26, 7:30 p.m., \$15-25 Part of the summer-long Open Doors Dance Festival, *Youth Rising* is an ambitious collaboration between dancers and spoken word performers, featuring work written by young people in the community. Guided by Leslie Nolte (Nolte Academy) and Akwi Nji (The Hook), young dancers and writers explored their reactions to the current political climate in the local community and beyond and developed them into creative performance pieces. The event has a digital component as well, with a backdrop of videos. Photo courtesy of the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts

AREA EVENTS PRESENTED BY FILMSCENE

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

8/16

'Guys on Ice: The Ice Fishing Musical,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 2 p.m., \$10-31*
Break Dance Group, *Public Space One, Iowa City, 6 p.m., Free*
The Foundry Forge Presents: 'Men of Tortuga,' *Shores Event Center, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$10*

The Foundry Forge Presents: 'Men of Tortuga,' *Shores Event Center, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$10*
Cabaret in the Courtyard: 'songstress,' *Brucemore, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$20-30*

Special Event: Hypnotist Doug Thompson, *Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$15-17.50*
The Foundry Forge Presents: 'Men of Tortuga,' *Shores Event Center, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$10*
'Constellations,' *Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 8 p.m., \$15-120*

8/17

'Guys on Ice: The Ice Fishing Musical,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 2 p.m., \$10-31*
Tim Hawkins, *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., \$19-85*

8/18
Nolte Productions presents: 'James and the Giant Peach,' *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7 p.m., \$14-26*
Cabaret in the Courtyard: 'songstress,' *Brucemore, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$20-30*

'Guys on Ice: The Ice Fishing Musical,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 7:30 p.m., \$10-31*

8/19

Nolte Productions presents: 'James and the Giant Peach,' *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 2 & 7 p.m., \$14-26*
'Guys on Ice: The Ice Fishing Musical,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 7:30 p.m., \$10-31*

Cabaret in the Courtyard:
'songstress,' *Brucemore*,
Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m.,
\$20-30

New York Kings of Comedy
Tour, *Adler Theatre*,
Davenport, 8 p.m.,
\$17-27

Special Event: Hypnotist
Doug Thompson,
Penguin's Comedy Club,
Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m.,
\$15-17.50

The Foundry Forge
Presents: 'Men of Tortuga,'
Shores Event Center,
Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m.,
\$10

'Constellations,' *Giving*
Tree Theater, Marion, 8
p.m., \$15-120

8/20

Nolte Productions
presents: 'James and the
Giant Peach,' *Coralville*
Center for the Performing
Arts, 2 p.m., \$14-26

'Constellations,' *Giving*
Tree Theater, Marion, 2
p.m., \$15-120

'Guys on Ice: The Ice
Fishing Musical,' *Old*
Creamery Theatre,
Amana, 2 p.m., \$10-31

8/23

'Guys on Ice: The Ice
Fishing Musical,' *Old*
Creamery Theatre,
Amana, 2 p.m., \$10-31

8/24

'Guys on Ice: The Ice
Fishing Musical,' *Old*
Creamery Theatre,
Amana, 2 p.m., \$10-31
Octopus Comedy
Showcase w/ Ryan De La
Garza, *Octopus College*
Hill, Cedar Falls, 8
p.m., \$5

8/25

'Youth Rising'—An Evening
of Spoken Word and
Dance, *Coralville Center*
for the Performing Arts,
7:30 p.m., \$15-25

'Guys on Ice: The Ice
Fishing Musical,' *Old*
Creamery Theatre,
Amana, 7:30 p.m.,
\$10-31

'Constellations,' *Giving*
Tree Theater, Marion, 8
p.m., \$15-120

8/26

'Youth Rising'—An Evening
of Spoken Word and
Dance, *Coralville Center*
for the Performing Arts,
2, 4:30, & 7:30 p.m.,
\$15-25

'Guys on Ice: The Ice
Fishing Musical,' *Old*
Creamery Theatre,
Amana, 7:30 p.m.,
\$10-31

'Constellations,' *Giving*
Tree Theater, Marion, 8
p.m., \$15-120

8/27

'Guys on Ice: The Ice
Fishing Musical,' *Old*
Creamery Theatre,
Amana, 2 p.m., \$10-31

'Constellations,' *Giving*
Tree Theater, Marion, 2
p.m., \$15-120

9/1

'The Elephant Man,' *Giving*
Tree Theater, Marion, 8
p.m., \$15-120

Gabriel Rutledge w/ Shawn
Banks, *Penguin's Comedy*
Club, Cedar Rapids, 8
p.m., \$12.50-15

9/2

'The Elephant Man,' *Giving*
Tree Theater, Marion, 8
p.m., \$15-120

Gabriel Rutledge w/ Shawn
Banks, *Penguin's Comedy*
Club, Cedar Rapids, 8
p.m., \$12.50-15

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Random eclipse facts for the cheap and the curious

The sun, the moon and the number 400

The sun's diameter is 400 times larger than the moon's, but the sun is also 400 times further away from the Earth than the moon is. That's what allows the moon to block to the sun when the alignment is right.

It's been a long time

The last total solar eclipse to span the entire continental United States happened 99 years ago.

Totality belongs to Farmer Woltermath

The eclipse's path of totality barely grazes Iowa. Ivan Woltermath's farm in the extreme southwestern corner of the state will experience about 30 seconds of totality. The rest of us will have to settle for an almost total eclipse.

Premade holes are better than pin-holes

Just because you're too cheap to buy special glasses so you can look directly at the eclipse, doesn't mean you have to experience it like a third-grader by poking a pin-hole into shoebox or piece of paper. The holes in the bottom of a metal colander or a piece of pegboard are perfect for projecting multiple moons obscuring multiple suns onto a white background.

Don't wait till a total eclipse comes to you

The next total eclipse visible from Iowa will be June 16, 2178.

—Paul Brennan



Three Parisian women view the eclipse in 1921. Wikimedia commons

COMMUNITY & EDUCATION

8/16

Health & Wellness Festival, Robert A. Lee Rec Center, Iowa City, 3 p.m., Free

8/18

End Of Summer Ice Skating GLOW party, Cedar Rapids Ice Arena, 7 p.m., \$6

8/19

Tai Chi, Public Space One, Iowa City, 9 a.m., Free
5th Street Social, Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 4 p.m., Free

8/20

Blindfold Yoga, Zen Den Yoga, Iowa City, 11 a.m., \$25

8/21

Solar Eclipse Viewing Event, University of Iowa Pentacrest, 11 a.m., Free

Nature Strolls: Hike Up Bena Brook, Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 6 p.m., \$2-6

8/22

Octopus Team Trivia, Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 7 p.m., \$5

8/23

Break Dance Group, Public Space One, Iowa City, 6 p.m., Free

8/26

Tai Chi, Public Space One, Iowa City, 9 a.m., Free

8/28

OnDeck: 20 Slides, 20 Seconds, Unlimited Possibilities, Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 5 p.m., Free
Zach Wahls: 'The Green Room', The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free

8/29

Octopus Team Trivia, Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 7 p.m., \$5

8/30

Break Dance Group, Public Space One, Iowa City, 6 p.m., Free

9/1

Read on the Rug: 'Animal Feet', UI Museum of Natural History, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free
Night at the Museum: Navigating the Ancient Seas, UI Museum of Natural History, Iowa City, 6 p.m., Free

9/2

Tai Chi, Public Space One, Iowa City, 9 a.m., Free

9/5

Practice in the Prairie: Free Summer Yoga Series, Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 6 p.m., Free



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
12PM-3PM ON MARKET STREET



CELEBRATING THE
22ND ANNIVERSARY
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500 BEERS FROM AROUND THE BLOCK TO AROUND THE WORLD
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KEG TOSS, GIANT BEER SLIDE, HAMMERSCHLAGEN*

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TICKETS AVAILABLE AT JOHN'S GROCERY
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ARTS & EXHIBITION

8/17

School of Sewing pt. I—Session 4/4, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$85/course

Knitting: Fish Mittens—Session 2/2, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$25/course

8/18

Crochet and Drink w/ Crochet Her a River, KCoPear, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$30

8/19

Kid's Crafting—Draw Your Favorite Animal, KCoPear, Iowa City, 9:30 a.m., \$15-20

New Class: Crescent Earrings or Pendant-Twined Wire, Beadology, Iowa City, 10 a.m., \$128

Kick-It: Iowa City Sneaker Expo, RADinc., Iowa City, 11 a.m., \$5
All Ages Workshop: Fairy Garden, Moss, Iowa City, 11 a.m., \$30

8/20

Watercolors 101, Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, 1 p.m., \$10
Art History Class: De Stijl, Figge Art Museum, Davenport, 1 p.m., Free

Letterpress: Text and Image on the Proofing Press—Session 2/3, Public Space One, Iowa City, 1 p.m., \$115/course

Exhibition on Screen: 'Michelangelo,' The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 3 p.m., \$9-18

8/21

Mary Coats: 'FEVER DREAM,' White Rabbit, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free

Knitting: Mosaic Bag—Session 1/3, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$45/course

8/22

Knitting: Octopus Scoodie—Session 2/2, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$25/course

8/23

Sewing: Fen Dress or Shirt—Session 1/2, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$65/course

8/24

Knitting: Kid Cow!—Session 1/2, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$25/course

8/25

Wine & Design: Floral Arrangement, NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 6:30 p.m., \$45
Grand Opening: 'If Objects Could Talk,' African American Museum of Iowa, 6:30 p.m., Free

8/26

Jazzy Linked Wire Bracelet, Beadology, Iowa City, 10 a.m., \$68
IC Press Co-op Open Studio Hours, Public Space One, Iowa City, 12 p.m., Free
New Class: Wire Wrapped Ring, Beadology, Iowa City, 2 p.m., \$58

AN INTERNATIONAL BEER TASTING TO BENEFIT THE NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY

Friday, September 15, 2017 ■ 6:30–10:00 pm



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1400 INSPIRATION PLACE SW ■ CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52404

8/27

Quilting: Confetti Cushion, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 12 p.m., \$45

Letterpress: Text and Image on the Proofing Press—Session 3/3, Public Space One, Iowa City, 1 p.m., \$115/course

8/28

Knitting: Mosaic Bag—Session 2/3, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$45/course

8/29

Doodlebugs at the Marion Library: Painting the Night Sky, Marion Public Library, 10:45 a.m., Free

Sewing: Handmade Style Picnic Plaid Quilt—Session 2/2, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., \$45/course

Knitting: Find Your Fade Shawl—Session 1/3, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$45/course

8/30

Sewing: Fen Dress or Shirt—Session 2/2, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$65/course

8/31

Knitting: Kid Cowl—Session 2/2, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$25/course

Wine & Design: Macrame Hanging Planter, Moss, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$45

'Fashion as Fine Art: African Expressions', Art Building West, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., Free

9/2

Free First Saturdays for Students: Fun with Textures!, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, 9:30 a.m., Free

Peyote Stitch Techniques, Beadology, Iowa City, 10 a.m., \$58

Beaded Toggle, Beadology, Iowa City, 2 p.m., \$58

9/4

Laura Ingalls Wilder Remembered, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, West Branch, 9 a.m., \$3-10

9/5

School of Sewing Part I—Session 1/4, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$85/course

Knitting: Find Your Fade Shawl—Session 2/3, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$45/course

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FOODIE

8/17

Farm to Street Dinner, *Downtown Iowa City*, 6 p.m., \$75

8/18

La Calle Pop Up, *Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls*, 4:30 p.m., Free

8/19

Learning in the Garden: Tomato Tasting, *NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids*, 10 a.m., Free

Barks & Brew 2017, *NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids*, 3 p.m., \$20-225

8/21

#FroyoForACause Share the Profit with Yotopia, *Yotopia Frozen Yogurt, Iowa City*, 3 p.m.

8/23

Taste of Iowa City, *Downtown Iowa City*, 4 p.m.

8/26

Four Oaks Cuisine in the Corn, *Bloomsbury Farm, Atkins*, 5 p.m., \$85

8/27

Cedar Falls Food Co-op Celebration, *Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls*, 5 p.m., Free

9/3

Festival of Iowa Beers, *Millstream Brewing Company, Amana*, 1 p.m., \$12.50-25

CINEMA

8/16

New Release Films: 'Landline,' *Film Scene*, 5:30 & 7:45 p.m., \$6.50-9

New Release Films: 'Maudie,' *Film Scene*, 6 p.m., \$6.50-9

Autism Friendly Showing: 'Boss Baby,' *Iowa City Public Library*, 6 p.m., Free

GAHC x ROZZ-TOX: 'The Baader Meinhof Complex,' *Rozz-Tox, Rock Island*, 6 p.m., Free

New Release Films: 'Lady Macbeth,' *Film Scene*, 8:30 p.m., \$6.50-9

Late Shift At The Grindhouse: 'Effects,' *FilmScene, Iowa City*, 10 p.m., \$4

8/17

New Release Films: 'Landline,' *Film Scene*, 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m., \$6.50-9

New Release Films: 'Maudie,' *Film Scene*, 6 p.m., \$6.50-9

New Release Films: 'Lady Macbeth,' *Film Scene*, 8:30 p.m., \$6.50-9

8/19

CatVideoFest, *National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids*, 6:30 p.m., Free-\$10

365 Horror Films x Factory of Fear: Camp Horror Night, *Rozz-Tox, Rock Island*, 7 p.m., Free

Summer of the Arts Free Movie Series: 'Finding Dory,' *University of Iowa Pentacrest*, 8:25 p.m., Free

8/23

Late Shift At The Grindhouse: 'The Faculty,' *FilmScene, Iowa City*, 10 p.m., \$4

8/26

Summer of the Arts Free Movie Series: 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them,' *University of Iowa Pentacrest*, 8:25 p.m., Free

8/27

Rozz-Tox Animation Series: 'Persepolis,' *Rozz-Tox, Rock Island*, 8 p.m., Free

8/30

Late Shift At The Grindhouse: 'Bubba Ho-Tep,' *FilmScene, Iowa City*, 10 p.m., \$4

Bubba Ho-Tep FilmScene, Wednesday, Aug. 30, 10 p.m., \$4 Start getting pumped early for Bruce Campbell's visit to town with this 2002 classic horror-comedy featuring Elvis (Campbell) and black JFK as the ultimate buddy team up, joining forces to take on an evil mummy that's terrorizing their retirement home. In addition to Campbell, the film also stars the venerable Ossie Davis as the man who may be JFK and stuntman Bob Ivy in the title role. The film was directed by Don Coscarelli, of *Phantasm* fame.



Blair Gauntt



ONGOING EVENTS

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

Acoustic Music Club, *River Music Experience*, Free, 4:30 p.m. **Practice in the Prairie: Free Summer Yoga Series**, *Indian Creek Nature Center*, Free, 6 p.m. **Blues Jam**, *Parlor City Pub and Eatery*, Free, 7 p.m. **Underground Open Mic**, *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. **Karaoke Tuesdays**, *The Mill*, Free, 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

Food Truck Wednesday, *NewBo City Market*, 11 a.m. **Late Nights at NCSML**, *National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library*, 4 p.m. **Iowa City Farmer's Market**, *Chauncey Swan Ramp*, 5 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. **CSA Market**, *NewBo City Market*, 4 p.m. **Meet Me at the Market**, *NewBo City Market*, 5 p.m. **Green Drinks Cedar Valley**, *Octopus College Hill*, Free, 5:30 p.m.

Kids Meditation Class Iowa City, *Quaker Friends Meeting House*, Free, 5:45 p.m. **Iowa City Meditation Class: How To Transform Your Life**, *Quaker Friends Meeting House*, \$5, 6:30 p.m. **Novel Conversations**, *Coralville Public Library*, Free, 7 p.m. (3rd Thursday) **Thursday Night Live Open Mic**, *Uptown Bill's*, Free, 7 p.m. **Daddy-O**, *Parlor City Pub and Eatery*, Free, 7 p.m. **Live Jazz**, *Clinton Street Social Club*, Free, 8 p.m. **Karaoke Thursday**, *Studio 13*, Free, 8 p.m. **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*, \$5, 8 p.m. **SoulShake**, *Gabe's*, Free, 10 p.m.

SATURDAYS

Iowa City Farmer's Market, *Chauncey Swan Ramp*, 7:30 a.m. **Weekend Brunch**, *Atlas Restaurant*, 8 a.m. **Family Storytime**, *Iowa City Public Library*, Free, 10:30 a.m. **I.C. Press Co-op open shop**, *Public Space One*, Free, 12 p.m. **Saturday Night Music**, *Uptown Bill's*, Free, 7 p.m. **Elation Dance Party**, *Studio 13*, \$5, 9 p.m.

SUNDAYS

Weekend Brunch, *Atlas Restaurant*, 8 a.m. **North Liberty Farmers Market**, 11 a.m. **Pride Bingo**, *Studio 13*, 6:30 p.m. **Pub Quiz**, *The Mill*, \$1, 9 p.m.

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September 14, 6 p.m.

• **Healthy in a Hurry**
September 19, 6 p.m.

KCOPEAR

• **Henna Design Fridays**
August 18, 5 p.m.

• **Kids' Crafting**
Draw your Favorite Animal
August 19, 9:30 a.m.

• **Kids' Crafting - Origami**
September 9, 9:30 a.m.

• **Kids' Crafting**
Painting Bones
September 30, 9:30 a.m.

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6:00-7:00pm Grant Wood Elementary

Tuesday

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10:30-11:30am Oaknoll Retirement
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12:30-1:00pm Emerson Point
1:30-2:00pm Melrose Meadows
2:30-3:00pm Lake Ridge Mobile Home
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3:30-4:00pm Cole's Community,
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Wednesday

3:30-4:30pm Breckenridge Estates
5:00-6:00pm Iowa City Walmart

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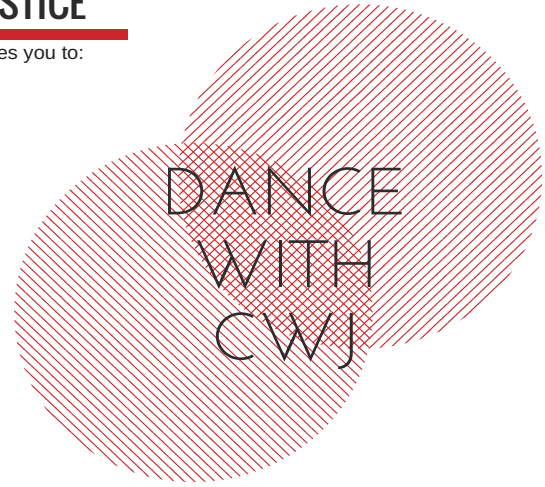
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DEAR KIKI

Dear Kiki,

If I've wanted to be a prostitute for over 15 years (since my early 20s), I should do it, right? I mean, it stands to reason that this isn't a phase since it's been so long. I feel like I've considered all potentially terrible outcomes and it still seems worth it. I don't think I'm naïve or over-glamorizing it or anything. I just think I'd be really fucking good at it. Please advise!

—Wannabe

Dear Wannabe,

Ever since I can remember, I have wanted to be a backup dancer on tour and in videos. I should do it, right? Well, now that I'm middle-aged, have kids and live in Iowa, the likelihood is nil, and unlike you, I wouldn't be really fucking good at it—any more.

In advising you on whether or not to become a prostitute, I will need to make some assumptions: You don't seem to be making this decision based on financial need, but because the idea of being a prostitute turns you on. Second, your relationship status must either be single or really open and honest. Third, you must not fear being murdered.

Obviously, you enjoy sex. I do, too. But the sex a prostitute has is not based on the prostitute's desire. The client is only paying for their own desire.

I still want to be a backup dancer, but now it's just a fantasy. I would suggest you explore your fantasies about being a prostitute before making it a reality. —xoxo, Kiki

Dear Kiki,

My grandmother (whom I love very much) went to the latest Fifty Shades movie with her gal pals recently, and since then she's expressed a gradually growing interest in the workings of BDSM and the BDSM community. Because we are gay, and

therefore presumably into every kink under the sun, my partner and I are her go-to source on the subject. She's always bringing it up, and it makes us very uncomfortable. What's more, my partner and I are actually very vanilla in the bedroom, so we aren't really much help to her anyway. We'd like her to stop asking about it. How can I crack the whip—Er, put the boot down—Er, find some way to put an end to the matter, without being rude to Nana?

—An Unsettled Grandson

Dear Unsettled,

First of all, let me just say, "Giddy up, Grandma!" However, I can relate to the awkwardness of knowing too much about a family member. It reminds me of the time I found a novella on bestiality while at my aunt and uncle's house. As a little girl, the realization that a woman would reward her Doberman by letting the dog lick peanut

butter from her pussy shocked and embarrassed me. I never looked at my aunt and uncle—or their pets—the same way again.

How can I find some way to put an end to the matter, without being rude to Nana?

While you and your partner can support her newfound sexual exploration, you do not have to be "in the position" of educating her. Grandma obviously trusts you, though; since she has witnessed you living with the cultural oppression of homosexuality, she now wants to find acceptance of her own desires with someone who can understand.

Personally, I am a fan of consensual deviant sexual behaviors, but there are hard and soft limits on who I want to share or discuss them with. Let her know that you are proud of her willingness to surrender and accept this growing interest, but you would like to refrain from knowing the nitty gritty.

When it's time to pull out your safe word, remind Grandma that yours is "vanilla." —xoxo, Kiki LV

 **KIKI WANTS QUESTIONS!**

Questions about love and sex in the Iowa City-Cedar Rapids area can be submitted to dearkiki@littlevillagemag.com, or anonymously at littlevillagemag.com/dearkiki. Questions may be edited for clarity and length, and may appear either in print or online at littlevillagemag.com.

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I was wondering if you could settle a dispute I'm having with a charming young lady. She insists that men, on average, think about sex every six seconds. Thinking about sex 10 times every minute just seems a bit much to me. Dubious, no? —Luke Robertson, Massachusetts

Six seconds, seven—some version of the “Men think about sex every X seconds” claim has been kicking around forever. The intended takeaway, clearly, is that human males are just naturally hornier than the females, but nobody knows where the alleged stat came from, and anyway all evidence suggests it's bunk. The most recent wisdom we have on this subject comes via a 2012 paper from Ohio State University, where researchers equipped 163 students, men and women, with golf counters—you know, the kind where you click a button to advance the number display—and asked them to tally how often they thought about nooky. (These devices are also known as “stroke counters,” a point that for some unimaginable reason the authors left out of their paper.) The most prolific sex-thinker in the group, a male subject, recorded an average of 388 amorous musings a day over the course of a week. Assuming this guy ever managed to get any sleep, that's something like one sex thought every two and a half minutes, and he's at the very top of the reported range. I think we can call this dispute settled.

How often did everyone else think about sex, though? Let's slow down a little first and consider some conceptual and methodological considerations here. For starters, what do we mean by men and women anyway? The OSU researchers reported that all in all (i.e., including control groups; see below) their subjects included 163 female and 120 male students, 96.1 percent of whom self-identified as heterosexual. Were any of them transgender? The authors don't say, but one could argue that the very existence of people who identify as something other than the gender they were assigned at birth would seem to complicate any firm binary pronouncements about what “men” and “women” think about.

And then there's the issue of how you get people to monitor their own thoughts without inherently skewing the numbers. On this topic I refer you to Fyodor Dostoevsky, who wrote: “Try to pose for yourself this task: not to think of a polar bear, and you will see that the cursed thing will come to mind every minute.” This is actually a methodological problem in psychology, named after Dostoevsky's challenge—the “white bear problem,” also called “ironic process theory.” Strictly the concept applies to thoughts you're trying to avoid, but the OSU authors acknowledged that simply toting a golf counter around may have effectively reminded the subjects to think about

sex more often than they otherwise might.

In short, I suspect the actual answer, to the extent there is one, may be the least interesting part of the how-often question. In the interest of keeping the customer satisfied, though, here's what the study found: The women reported rates of one to 140 sexual thoughts per day, with an average of 18.6. The men, meanwhile, showed both higher numbers and greater variability—their rates ranged between one and (as mentioned) 388 thoughts a day, with an average of 34.2. For men that's a sex thought every waking half hour, roughly, compared to once every 55 minutes for women.

We might note that 163 kids with clickers isn't many—a far smaller sample than (e.g.) a survey conducted in 1973 where 4,420 people were asked whether they'd thought about sex in the previous five minutes. (Results? For respondents 25 and under, 52 percent of men and 29 percent of women answered in the affirmative.) Rather than rely on subjects' notoriously unreliable memory, though, OSU researchers thought real-time recording might improve accuracy. They also had control groups count their thoughts about food and sleep, to make sure men weren't just generally more in touch with their various physical needs.

Anyway, their findings tracked with earlier work insofar as the study did identify a difference in the regularity with which men and women think about getting horizontal. What might account for that? There's the possibility, for instance, of research subjects complying with cultural stereotypes about sex-thought frequency, or that men might simply feel more comfortable than women in discussing sexual cogitation—an idea that won't sound crazy to any woman who's ever walked past a construction site. (But again, that's the apparent point of the every-X-seconds claim under review: providing scientific-sounding cover for guys' gross behavior. Hey, we just can't help it!)

However, in the control groups counting food and sleep thoughts, the men scored higher too. The researchers suggested these recurring splits could indicate men and women are conceptualizing thoughts differently: “Perhaps men have a lower threshold for the labeling or recognition of cognition.” Yep, we're down to thinking about how people think about thoughts, which puts me in mind of someone who once questioned what the definition of “is” is. Bill Clinton, man—now there's a guy who could skew a study like this. LV/

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VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In 1892, workers began building the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York. But as of August 2017, it is still under construction. Renovation has been and continues to be extensive. At one point in its history, designers even changed its architectural style from Neo-Byzantine and Neo-Romanesque to Gothic Revival. I hope this serves as a pep talk in the coming weeks, which will be an excellent time to evaluate your own progress, Virgo. As you keep toiling away in behalf of your dreams, there's no rush. In fact, my sense is that you're proceeding at precisely the right rate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In accordance with the astrological omens, I hereby declare the next two weeks to be your own personal Amnesty Holiday. To celebrate, ask for and dole out forgiveness. Purge and flush away any non-essential guilt and remorse that are festering inside you. If there truly are hurtful sins that you still haven't atoned for, make a grand effort to atone for them—with gifts and heartfelt messages if necessary. At the same time, I urge you to identify accusations that others have wrongly projected onto you and that you have carried around as a burden even though they are not accurate or fair. Expunge them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): How many countries has the United States bombed since the end of World War II? Twenty-five, to be exact. But if America's intention has been to prod these nations into forming more free and egalitarian governments, the efforts have been mostly fruitless. Few of the attacked nations have become substantially more democratic. I suggest you regard this as a valuable lesson to apply to your own life in the coming weeks, Scorpio. Metaphorical bombing campaigns wouldn't accomplish even 10 percent of your goals and would also be expensive in more ways than one. So I recommend using the "killing with kindness" approach. Be wily and generous. Cloak your coaxing in compassion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You know about the Ten Commandments, a code of ethics and behavior that's central to Christianity and Judaism. You may not be familiar with my Ten Suggestions, which begin with "Thou Shalt Not Bore God" and "Thou Shalt Not Bore Thyself." Then there are the Ten Indian Commandments proposed by the Bird Clan of East Central Alabama. They include "Give assistance and kindness whenever needed" and "Look after the well-being of your mind and body." I bring these to your attention, Sagittarius, because now is an excellent time to formally formulate and declare your own covenant with life. What are the essential principles that guide you to the highest good?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Here's a definition of "fantasizing" as articulated by writer Jon Carroll. It's "a sort of 'in-brain' television, where individuals create their own 'shows'—imaginary narratives that may or may not include real people." As you Capricorns enter the High Fantasy Season, you might enjoy this amusing way of describing the activity that you should cultivate and intensify. Would you consider cutting back on your consumption of movies and TV shows? That might inspire you to devote more time and energy to watching the stories you can generate in your mind's eye.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In 43 cartoon stories, the coyote named Wile E. Coyote has tried to kill and devour the swift-running flightless bird known as the Road Runner. Every single time, Wile E. has failed to achieve his goal. It's apparent to astute observers that his lack of success is partly due to the fact that he doesn't rely on his natural predatory instincts. Instead, he concocts elaborate, overly-complicated schemes. In one episode, he camouflages himself as a cactus, buys artificial lightning bolts and tries to shoot himself from a bow as if he were an arrow. All these plans end badly. The moral of the story, as far as you're concerned: To reach your next goal, trust your instincts.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You temporarily have cosmic permission to loiter and goof off and shirk your duties. To be a lazy bum and meander aimlessly and avoid tough decisions. To sing off-key and draw stick figures and write bad poems. To run slowly and flirt awkwardly and dress like a slob. Take advantage of this opportunity, because it's only available for a limited time. It's equivalent to pushing the reset button. It's meant to re-establish your default settings. But don't worry about that now. Simply enjoy the break in the action.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "To disobey in order to take action is the byword of all creative spirits," said philosopher Gaston Bachelard. This mischievous advice is perfect for your use right now, Aries. I believe you'll thrive through the practice of ingenious rebellion—never in service to your pride, but always to feed your soul's lust for deeper, wilder life. Here's more from Bachelard: Autonomy comes through many small disobediences: "at once clever, well thought out and patiently pursued, so subtle at times as to avoid punishment entirely."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Congratulations! I expect that during the next three weeks, you will be immune to what psychoanalyst Joan Chodorow calls "the void of sadness, the abyss of terror, the chaos of rage and the alienation of contempt." I realize that what I just said might sound like an exaggeration. Aren't all of us subject to regular encounters with those states? How could you possibly go so long without brushing up against them? I stand by my prediction and push even further. For at least the next three weeks, I suspect you will also be available for an inordinate amount of what Chodorow calls "the light of focused insight" and "the playful, blissful, all-embracing experience of joy."

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The coming days would be an excellent time to celebrate (even brag about) the amusing idiosyncrasies and endearing quirks that make you lovable. To get you inspired, read this testimony from my triple Gemini friend Alyssa: "I have beauty marks that form the constellation Pegasus on my belly. I own my own ant farm. I'm a champion laugher. I teach sign language to squirrels. Late at night when I'm horny and overtired I may channel the spirit of a lion goddess named Sekhmet. I can whistle the national anthems of eight different countries. I collect spoons from the future. I can play the piano with my nose and my toes. I have forever banished the green-eyed monster to my closet."

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your education may take unusual forms during the coming weeks. For example, you could receive crunchy lessons from velvety sources, or tender instructions from exacting challenges. Your curiosity might expand to enormous proportions in the face of a noble and elegant tease. And chances are good that you'll find a new teacher in an unlikely setting, or be prodded and tricked into asking crucial questions you've been neglecting to ask. Even if you haven't been particularly streetsmart up until now, Cancerian, I bet your ability to learn from uncategorizable experiences will blossom.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "If you love someone, set them free," goes the New-Age truism. "If they come back, they're yours; if they don't, they never were." By using my well-educated intellect to transmute this hippy-dippy thought into practical advice, I came up with a wise strategy for you to consider as you re-evaluate your relationships with allies. Try this: Temporarily suspend any compulsion you might have to change or fix these people; do your best to like them and even love them exactly as they are. Ironically, granting them this freedom to be themselves may motivate them to modify, or at least tone down, the very behavior in themselves that you're semi-allergic to. **LV/**



RAMONA AND THE SOMETIMES

Negative Space Is a Positive Thing
 ramonaandthesometimes.bandcamp.com

Ramona Muse Lambert—a visual artist, designer and teacher in addition to her notable performance art, music and emceeing career—is singer and songwriter for Ramona and the Sometimes, a Des Moines group just out with a new album, *Negative Space Is a Positive Thing*, recorded at Wabi Sound and self-released. The band members, all of whom contribute vocals, include Brian Brown on guitar, Katelyn Brown on keyboards, Dave Larsen on bass and Derek Muse Lambert on drums.

Derek (out with a new record himself this year) is Ramona’s husband and longtime collaborator, and the couple often creates with their 1-year-old son Melvin, who is also credited as a vocalist on the album. The band features another married couple, the Browns—indeed, making art and sharing life with loved ones is a theme of the album, and a familial feeling is somehow conjured up by the very sounds.

The arrangements are often guitar-oriented, but big doses of group vocals and organs make for a heart-touching setting for Ramona’s consistently bright and surprising lyrics, like on the beautiful track “Plant Mom.” All through the album, her lyrics constantly strike the mind with a cutting specificity. Her skill in scene-setting through memorable details makes for a multi-dimensional listen (eye-closing recommended). You’re gonna see all kinds of imagery as you listen—a testament to Ramona’s background in painting and visual arts.

A few of the songs have an especially sharp sensibility, like the on-the-nose “Talented Kids” which leads with a hint of children’s music (slide whistle and all) until a turn in the

chorus adds a knowing complexity that is a generation removed. Other tunes shine with a spirited sincerity. “Open Sky” easily calls up a golden summer feeling like Jonathan

It sounds like a classic you somehow missed.

Richman’s earnest celebrations of youth. “Negative Space” cooks up an empowering anthem about art-making; even when the refrain explodes the band sounds totally at ease—there is no sign of strain. It sounds like a classic you somehow missed.

Some of the record’s strongest moments come in segments of stirring a capella arrangements, which recur throughout the album, as in the opening track “Where Ya Been” and side B lead-off “Goth Girl.” In live performance, Ramona is sometimes accompanied by a large, choreographed choir of local singers, some of whose voices appear on the record alongside numerous other Des Moines artists. That deeply gracious act of joining in song with friends is imprinted on the record, which maybe is why it comes across as very loving. It’s an album about family that was audibly created by one.

—Nate Logsdon



KEITH REINS AND TARA MCGOVERN
Folk Songs You Never Sang In Grade School
 folksongsyouneversang.com

Some of the best musicians in Iowa City and environs are not chasing a career in music. Keith Reins, for example, is a player and collector of folk songs who also works as a professor

of English at Kirkwood Community College. After hours, you’re likely to find him at folk music sessions around Iowa City: at Hilltop Tap, Mickey’s or Uptown Bill’s Coffee

House. Reins is the guitarist at the ses-

sion who slips jazzy passing chords into traditional Irish and Scottish tunes—verging on folk heresy—but always in ways that deepen and add texture. Reins approaches the depth of virtuosity and artistry of performers as revered as Bert Jansch and Nic Jones. There’s a nonchalance and ease to his playing that comes from countless hours sitting in a circle, playing with others just for the joy of it.

Folk Songs You Never Sang In Grade School is accompanied by a website of essays written by Reins that comment on folk music in general and the songs on the album in particular.

He collaborates here with Coralville violinist Tara McGovern, a fellow member in Reins’ band the Beggarmen. McGovern is every bit his equal as a folk musician, and she plays with the refined technique of someone with classical training but without any of the stiffness of a classical musician ‘slumming it’ as a folk musician. Her singing—and Reins’—are in the folk tradition, but delivered with impeccable intonation and phrasing. Jon Cooper adds uilleann pipes to three tracks.

The album opener “Oh, The Wind And Rain” shows off Reins’ well-worn baritone. The middle part of the performance interpolates “The Quail it is a Pretty Bird,” a well-known fiddle tune, led by McGovern’s violin and Cooper’s pipes.

McGovern sings another standout “George Collins.” This song and “Oh, The Wind and Rain” are remarkable for the particular melodies chosen, which are different from any of the other recordings of the songs I could find. Asked where he found the melody for “George Collins,” Reins said, “I think I heard someone play it in the 1970s.”

There are also instrumental sets that stitch together traditional Scottish and Irish fiddle tunes, and songs like “The Twa Sisters” that segue without break into instrumental tunes. *Folk Songs You Never Sang In Grade School* gives the listener the sense of being at a traditional folk session, where each song is part of an ongoing conversation, changed and polished by the singing and playing. LV /

—Kent Williams

AVCX THEMELESS BY KAMERON AUSTIN COLLINS

The American Values Club Crossword is edited by Ben Tausig.

ACROSS

1. Divine collaborator, frequently
7. Words on a red street sign
15. Means of approach to a place or a problem
16. "Get over it!"
17. Did some business with
18. Giving the bully what he wants, probably
19. Crush the final
20. Beast that spits threateningly
21. With 25-Down, an admission
22. Clickable plug
24. "The ___ of the moral universe is long ..."
26. Oath in synagogue, say
27. Fred of Limp Bizkit
29. Good ol' boy
33. GoPro perspectives, briefly
35. Latin jazz pioneer Puente who also briefly taught at Springfield Elementary on *The Simpsons*
36. Really suck?
37. Foil alternative
38. Winter coats?
40. Do the mise en place
41. Made sick
43. Long schlep
44. Uptight

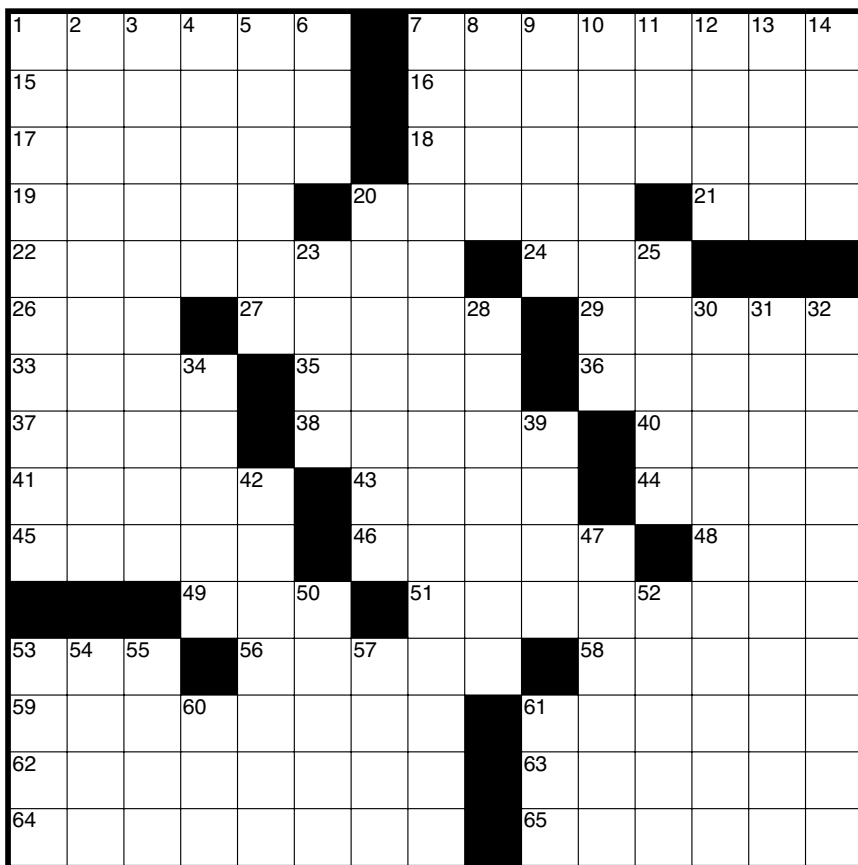
45. Certain secret police
46. Animated hit whose 2004 sequel competed at the Cannes Film Festival
48. Squeeze
49. Hill, in Hebrew
51. Fruit-bearing tree with fragrant flowers and a regional name
53. Forum leader, online
56. So much
58. Low-cut dress consideration
59. "Who wouldn't want me?"
61. Angry with
62. "See ya, pal"
63. Like atriums
64. All caught up (in)
65. Rank

DOWN

1. Crunchy snack with a kick
2. Inedible guacamole addition
3. Spanish soap
4. Conclude with
5. Like some dirt roads
6. Site admin's concern, briefly
7. Online outlet that premiered rapper Rick Ross's new video "Idols Become Rivals" in June 2017
8. Perlman of *Cheers*
9. Recent Sweet Sixteen celebrant Sasha
10. Dieter's credo, perhaps
11. Grasped
12. Fancy
13. Tops

14. Discipline with many positions
20. Six-day uprising in South Central
23. Big name in sexology
25. See 21-Across
28. Fighters in a ring
30. Prepaid evasive device
31. Chip one's clip, perhaps
32. Fruity baked dessert
34. Spot in the Bible?
39. Spin
42. Film with the line: "You Americans are all alike. Well, this time John Wayne does not walk off into the sunset with Grace

- Kelly."
47. It's a blast
50. Don't bother
52. Seize like Caesar
53. Béchamel need
54. Mideast monarchy
55. Frequent *Sex and the City* plot point
57. A lot, perhaps
60. 2.0, letter-wise
61. Christopher and Henry, in NYC



LV225 ANSWERS



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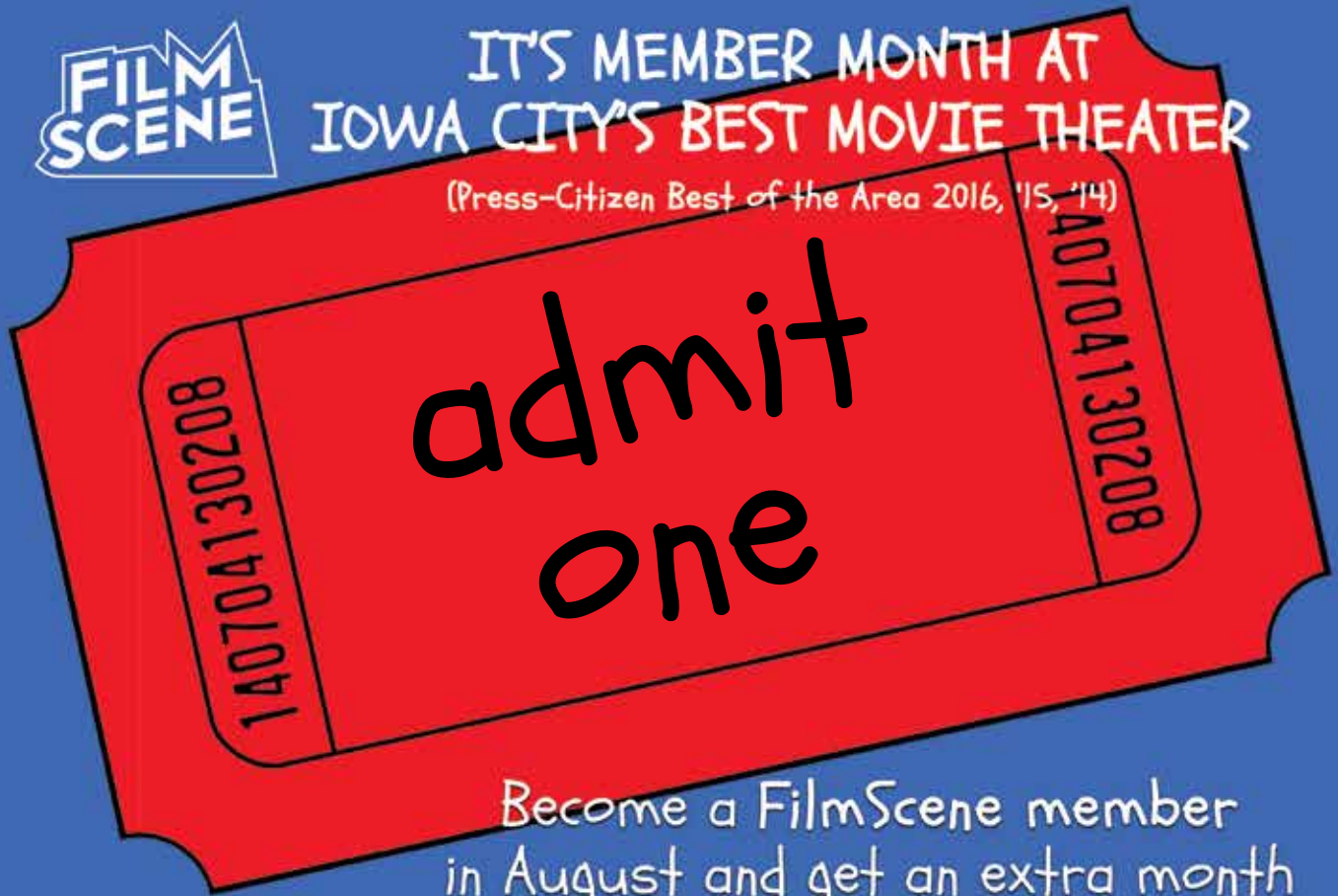


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