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Video still from the PBS/Frontline documentary *A Class Divided*

14
DAPL in Iowa

The oil is flowing, but that hasn't stopped the fight.

PAUL BRENNAN

20
Don't Black Out!

Your guide to low-alcohol Iowa craft beers.

EMMA MCCLATCHEY

26
Opening Eyes

Jane Elliott's lesson on racism still reverberates today.

CARLY MATTHEW

6 - Letters
8 - Interactions
10 - Democracy in Crisis
12 - UR Here
14 - Pipeline
18 - En Español
20 - Bread & Butter
26 - A-List
28 - Event Calendar
43 - Ad Index
45 - Dear Kiki
47 - Straight Dope
49 - Astrology
50 - Local Albums
51 - Crossword

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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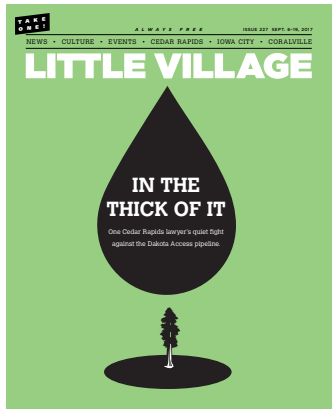

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Dylan McConnell

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Photo: Jérôme Delapierre

Niyaz

The Fourth Light Project

Saturday, September 30, 2017, 7:30 pm

Niyaz—known for its contemporary electroacoustic trance music that blends Sufi poetry with folk music from Iran and surrounding countries—embraces the collision of the old and new as a means to create the unique and affecting. The *Huffington Post* calls Niyaz "an evolutionary force in contemporary Middle Eastern music." The band's collaboration with visual artist Jérôme Delapierre is another step forward. *The Fourth Light Project* is a multimedia experience, combining live music and sacred dance (a dervish) with advanced projection techniques that respond to sound and music in real time. *The Fourth Light Project* focuses on the life and work of Rabia al-Basri, an eighth-century Muslim saint and the first female Sufi mystic.

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This project is made possible in part by a grant from the Association of Performing Arts Professionals – Building Bridges: Arts, Culture, and Identity, a component of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.

APAP

Photo © Amber French

G. Willow Wilson

FREE

A Superhero for Generation Why

Sunday, October 8, 2017, 2:00 pm

G. Willow Wilson is a superhero who employs her literary powers to address pressing issues including religious intolerance and gender politics. In fiction, nonfiction, and comics, the American convert to Islam has distinguished herself as a writer of remarkable originality and insight. In her lecture, Wilson uses the challenges Ms. Marvel—a Pakistani-American Muslim teenager—faces as a parallel for the challenges of a misunderstood generation: the millennials. She'll discuss the genesis of Ms. Marvel, her roots in the historical science fiction/fantasy tradition, and the significance of writing a superhero for a millennial (and wider) audience.

Wilson's memoir, *The Butterfly Mosque*, which recounts her life in Egypt during the waning day of the Mubarak regime, is the 2017 selection for the One Community, One Book program sponsored by the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights.

This event is free and unticketed.

Additional support for Wilson's lecture and residency has been provided by the University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop, International Writing Program, and Nonfiction Writing Program and also from Daydreams Comics. The Iowa City Book Festival is a program of the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature Organization. The UI Center for Human Rights organizes the One Community, One Book program.

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LETTERS

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

I'M SICK OF TALKING ABOUT *13 REASONS WHY*.

After Netflix released *13 Reasons Why*, the show instantly produced record internet buzz—over 11 million Twitter mentions in the first month after its release. Increasing the visibility of suicide is important and, when done correctly, makes a difference. The show, with its millions of viewers, had potential to bring suicide prevention into public consciousness, bringing about positive change. Instead, the show produced a negative effect.

I do not support censorship, but I do support media owning its responsibility to help suicide prevention advocates like the Crisis Center of Johnson County provide a coherent message for people who are thinking about suicide. Producers skirted the topic of suicide prevention, half-heartedly publicizing suicide prevention resources only after facing public backlash.

Because of their apathy, crisis centers (whose resources are already stretched thin) are left to face the consequences.

The Crisis Center is one of many agencies across the country tasked with helping people continue this conversation about suicide. Our mission is to put ourselves in spaces where clients are. We teach. We reach out. We try to support people, whether they find us or we find them.

But despite what may appear a fresh opportunity to spread awareness, I am concerned with our ability to meet the demand created by this one show.

13 Reasons Why dominates the mental space of the suicide prevention professionals I regularly engage with. At a sociology conference I attended in April, the show came up

at almost every session. And the show's damaging messages affect Iowans too. Here in Johnson County, the Crisis Center answered calls from local schools and student groups concerned by the effects they saw in their youth. We presented information about suicide to kids, teens, teachers and advisors in a frank, non-sensationalized way.

We cannot reach everyone who viewed the show, yet we must continue trying.

I am sick of talking about *13 Reasons Why*.

Our trained, non-judgmental staff is here to help 24-hours a day, by phone at 855-325-4296 or chat at iowacrisischat.org. We're here for you.

Since *13 Reasons Why* first became available on Netflix, searches for "How to commit suicide" increased by 26 percent, according to research by the *Journal of the American Medical Association.*

This finding scares me.

The rallying cry of media types defending these kinds of pieces is that it "starts a conversation" about suicide for the greater good. But there is no greater good when someone who has suicidal thoughts sees media like *13 Reasons Why* and looks up how to complete the act.

I often wonder about the people who never find us. Those who, after seeing a young girl kill herself in her bathtub during a graphic three-minute-long scene, turn to Google and start reading whatever they may find on the vast, cultural wilderness of the internet.

After watching their highly problematic depiction, viewers receive no information about where they can turn to continue the conversation. And despite 13 episodes worth of content, some of the most important questions about suicide remain unanswered: What is the right way to talk about suicide? What are the warning signs? What can the public do to prevent the millions of other suicides that will happen in America in 2017?

I am writing this to make you aware that the Crisis Center is here to help you answer some of those questions. Our trained, non-judgmental staff is here to help 24-hours a day, by phone at 855-325-4296 or chat at iowacrisischat.org. We're here for you.

No matter where you are in your mental health journey, the Crisis Center is here to keep this conversation going. All you have to do is reach out. Even if you haven't struggled with mental health and just want to learn what you can do to help others, we hope you will help us continue the conversation by attending *The S Word*, a free documentary screening, Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Englert Theatre in Iowa City. LV

Beau Pinkham, Director of Crisis Intervention Services at The Crisis Center of Johnson County

Submit comics to: **Comics@LittleVillageMag.com**

Sam Locke Ward

Trump's Justice Department drops its support for an Americans with Disabilities Act lawsuit

The current Education Department has closed more than 1,500 civil rights complaints at the nation's schools, including dismissing more than 900 outright in the first two months since acting civil rights chief Candace Jackson took office. In June Jackson told the department's investigators to narrow focus the merits of a particular claim, rather than probing systemic issues. We are screwed. —*NVAdvocate*

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

Sam Clovis is a bad choice as chief scientist for the USDA because he is not a scientist. The other choices Trump made are also bad. This is a circus to distract from real issues, like climate change, the pukey tax breaks for the 1 percent while the rest of us fight over the lowest stakes imaginable, various imaginary corners in half pint bottles of bitter truths we, we can't even recognize anymore! Our country has been stolen and stripped clean. Our eyes are bloody wounds. And we're left pining, aye, pining for the fjords. —*Joseph Phillips*

Steve King makes the eclipse weird and possibly racist

If it's Steve King it's safe to assume you can drop the "possibly." —*Matt Keasler*

So sad that this repulsive man represents the lovely state of Iowa. —*Alice Lopez*

Democracy in Crisis: Charlottesville and the Shattering of America (photos)

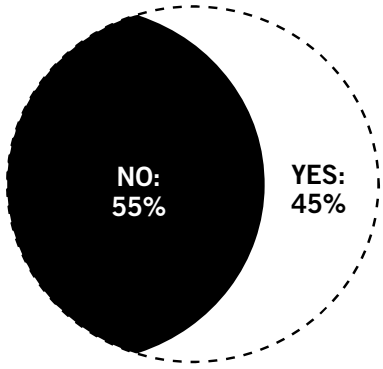
If we want to stop this, it's going to require white folks joining the fight to actively be anti-racist and anti-fascist. We can't sit on the sidelines in our bubble of white privilege any longer because that is exactly what has precipitated this nonsense. We must be actively against it and that means getting out there and providing people power to the orgs already fighting these battles. Join BLM, SURJ, DSA, or whatever but show up and act! Solidarity! —*Bill Harshbarger*

These shameful bigots will never shatter America. They only hurt their movement this past weekend. —*Jennie Vinson Hlavacek*

READER POLL:

Did you look at the eclipse without using glasses or goggles?

We're a little disppointed in you.



More initiatives will kick in to reduce waste going into the Iowa City Landfill

This is great, but I wonder when Iowa City will start picking up glass. Every other city I've lived in, including North Liberty, picks it up with everything else. I wonder how much glass ends up in the landfill because it is inconvenient to recycle it here. —*Jill Rice*

Anti-white nationalist protest at Iowa City Farmers Market

Boycott. Sadly, he has the right to spout off his idiocy. We all do. But now I know not to give him my money. Shine the light on it, and don't match darkness with more darkness. If no one buys his merch, he'll move on. —*Kevin Moore*

The city can't just take away his right to vend because of his political views. If it were shown that he's using his booth to push his stupid ideas, that would be different. Letting people know who they're doing business with is fair game. Same with Trump's little storm troopers marching in the street. Don't get in the mud with them, take their pictures, publish it widely and let their communities decide if they want to hire them and such. And hopefully some of these people can be talked back off the ledge. —*Randy Kauper*

Glad there was a protest.
—*William Brinkman*

Me too. Free speech in action!
—*Andrew Bentler*

Me too. This conversation needs to happen. It is 50 years overdue.
—*Jeff Pierce*

Iowa cuts protection for people in nursing homes, Trump administration may make it even worse

Wow. I seriously hope these jerks wind up in a nursing home and find out exactly what they have done.
—*Ronda Kinsinger*

Your Village: Why was a pro-Trump parade float driving through Iowa City?

I saw it. I actually didn't care, except he was blaring two verses of a song on repeat at like a million decibels. If he would have turned his radio down I would have figured he was just a standard overzealous Trump supporter. But with the deafening radio, I got the impression he was some kind of militant or whatever. I didn't say any "sour comments," but was certainly thinking them. —*Jason Agne*

Transgender prison nurse sues the state of Iowa for discrimination

I hope he loses against the insurance company. The rest, IDGAF.
—*Heidi Thompson*

I hope Jesse wins! —*Ian Moriarty*

Livestream: The Green Room presents Zach Wahls on Monday, Aug. 28

His mom, Terry, grew up near where I did. He strikes me as an amazing young man. —*Marie Lemka*

She was one year behind me in school. An awesome woman and mom.
—*Ann Allen*

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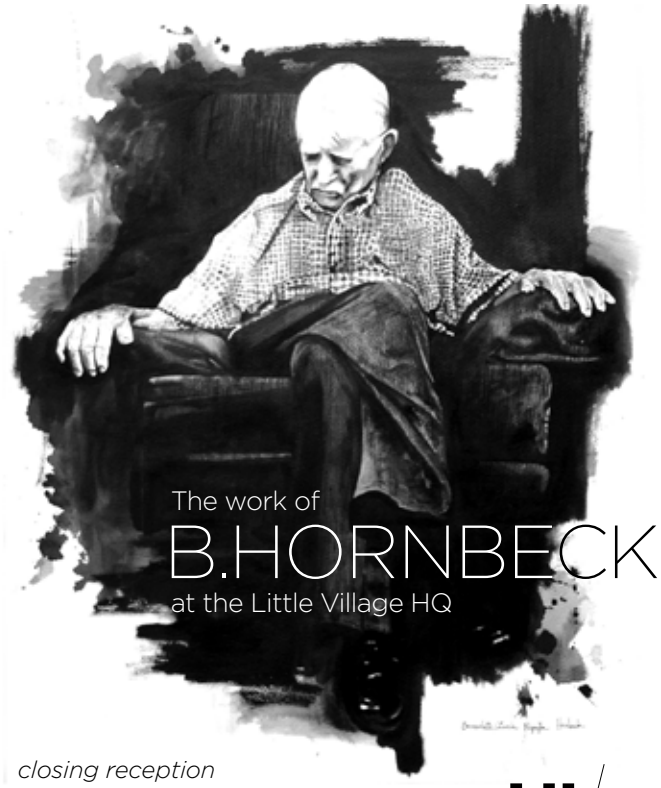

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Democracy in Crisis

Click Bait

D.C. courts protect government data while ruling against protection for private citizens. • **BY BAYNARD WOODS**

In two recent rulings, District of Columbia courts sent confusing signals about individual privacy in a world of mass surveillance and digital information. Both of the decisions address the J20 case—more than 200 defendants charged with rioting, conspiracy to riot, inciting riot and destruction of property on Inauguration Day.

On Aug. 24, the District's top judge ruled in favor of a search warrant that will allow police and federal prosecutors to obtain all of the data attached to a political website—and later determine what part of that data could be evidence of an alleged crime. [The federal government amended a previous search warrant to exclude digital addresses of visitors to the site and material like draft blog posts that were written on the site but not posted.]

DreamHost, the company that hosted disruptj20.org, fought the warrant, arguing that the District of Columbia did not have jurisdiction to execute a warrant directed at data stored in Oregon, and that the government could not use a single warrant to gain the contents of multiple email addresses.

"It appears that what the government is saying [is] that just because it is under the same domain they can use one search warrant to obtain content from numerous specific email accounts," said Raymond Aghaian, a lawyer for DreamHost, who likened it to searching all Gmail accounts with a single warrant.

"The Judge who issued the Warrant in July 2017 correctly found probable cause to believe that evidence relevant to the government's criminal investigation into the riot that occurred on January 20, 2017, would be found," the government argued in a written brief.

"You are providing all the data to the government," Chief Judge Robert Morin said to lawyers for DreamHost, which was fighting the warrant as a violation of the First Amendment.

Blair Gauntt

"People don't want the government to have their information if they didn't do anything wrong."

—Paul Levy

Morin provided a paltry protection for innocent individuals whose data was swept up in the warrant. The government would, he said, review all the information, and whatever was not evidence of criminal conspiracy would be placed under seal, to be retrieved under judicial supervision.

But this is after the Trump Department of Justice has had the chance to view personal information from thousands of people who did no more than send an email to an address associated with the site.

"That's problematic. People don't want the government to have their information if they didn't do anything wrong," said Paul Levy, who argued for anonymous "Doe" citizens for Public Citizen, a public interest advocacy group. "And what the judge's order fails to do is to take adequate steps to protect the interests of those Doe users."

A week earlier, Judge Lynn Leibovitz granted a protective order to the state prohibiting the release of any discovery material in the case "to include but not limited to photographs, body worn cameras, non-public video … radio runs, and police paperwork."

This means that the police body camera video footage previously obtained and released by Democracy in Crisis would no longer be legal to distribute—and that material we already possess may not be able to be released to the public. More importantly, it means that defendants in the case are no longer able to share the evidence being used against them to file a civil suit against the Metro Police Department (MPD) or individual officers.

In agreeing to the order, Judge Leibovitz noted that "no oppositions have been filed to date," even though the deadline for filing opposition had not yet come. It is also striking that the judge did not even mention the personal and perhaps embarrassing information taken from the cellphones of the individual defendants—whose privacy was supposed to be one of the reasons for the order. One defendant I spoke to recently received all of the contents of his

phone, printed out in more than 4,000 pages.

While the contents of individual cell phones should be protected, police body cameras are public property allegedly deployed in service of the public good. This information should be available.

Since Inauguration Day, Democracy in Crisis has been fighting to determine precisely what weapons were used by the MPD and other agencies on Inauguration Day. The American Civil Liberties Union, in its civil suit against the department, its chief and several individual officers, has been able to put together a list of suspected military-style weaponry deployed that day but the department has released no list itself.

Democracy in Crisis filed a Freedom of Information Act request seeking this information. The MPD denied the request. We appealed. The MPD stated that it is "currently conducting criminal and civil investigations related to the protests and riots that occurred on January 20, 2017 … [R]elease of the requested documents would inform persons involved of facts that could permit them to fashion their statements or testimony in order to escape culpability for wrongful actions."

We questioned this rationale.

The office of the mayor, which reviews petitions, agreed with us. "It is difficult to comprehend how the information, regarding equipment alone, would interfere with enforcement proceedings. We find that MPD has not sufficiently described the potential interference to enforcement proceedings to allow withholding of the responsive records in their entirety under Exemption 3(A)(i)."

As of Aug. 25, the MPD was given 10 days to comply with our request and either turn over the records or turn over a specific exemption for every record requested, with an explanation of how it will interfere with criminal proceedings.

The Trump administration has moved to overturn an Obama-era order prohibiting the purchase of military-style weapons by police departments, making the availability of such records even more important.

It is also part of an ongoing war of information in which the state and the Trump administration attempt to keep the activities of its officers and agents as secret as possible, while laying bare the lives of citizens through mass surveillance and prosecution.

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

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The Rituals of Autumn

Something happened recently that hasn't happened to me in 33 years. I began the fall semester without a class to teach.

For nearly all of us, at some point in our lives, fall carries an academic connotation. When summer ends, school begins. For me, since I started my master's in English at Northern Illinois University in 1984, that has included teaching. Even when I left the tenure-seeking ranks of the professoriate and returned to the University of Iowa, where I still hold a writing and editing position, I remained fortunate to keep my finger in the teaching pie as an adjunct.

But due to a chain of circumstances, this semester I did not walk into a classroom full of bright, eager faces of college students, at last some of them ready to learn. On top of that, one of our children is finished with college, and the other, while entering her senior year at the UI, is living on her own, so we had no household denizens stepping out the door this year for the first day of classes.

Of course, living in Iowa City and maintaining a job at the university, I was still surrounded by the activity and trappings of the first day of school. The Pentacrest was full of students marching back and forth to class (punctuated this year by a massive gathering at midday to watch the eclipse). My writing at work has shifted significantly to "welcome to the new academic year" types of assignments. And on my bus ride to work on the Iowa City Community School District's first day, I delighted in watching out the window as the procession of elementary students with their moms and dads streamed down Friendship and Court streets toward Lucas and Hoover Elementaries.

These are the rituals of autumn in an education-oriented community. For me, these have typically been no mere atmospherics but also very real actions that require preparing the way—writing syllabi, ordering books, assembling coursepacks, preparing first discussions and then walking into that room with the group of learners with whom I will traverse the path of learning and knowledge over the next four months. These have been not just regular but also defining activities for me.

This is not a lament. I will have a fall class to teach again. But for me, thanks to their absence, this year has carved in stark relief how the rituals of life can so profoundly shape our sense of self, our sense of purpose and our sense of place. But with loss always comes gain. And this year, thanks to no classes to teach, I am more in tune with the rhythms of nature at this time of the annual journey than ever before.

The beginning of the "fall" semester, to be honest, has also always been rather disorienting for me. That psychic link between the start of school and the beginning of autumn can be a huge mismatch. Sure, there are hints of yellow and red on some trees, and the sun is setting noticeably earlier. But it's still summer. The equinox is a month away, and Labor Day—the unofficial end of summer—is our first break in the academic calendar, not the overture to the semester. Those few weeks at the end of August and beginning of September have always been perplexing to my sense of rhythm in the seasonal changeover.

But not so much this year. While our academic activities swirl around me and still do affect much of my life, they have not slammed down the artificial barrier that comes with being consumed by a new semester. It's still summer out here in the real world—the world of nature. The cicadas are still buzzing, the heat and humidity are still rising and swirling, the tomatoes are still growing.

Often, when I'm teaching, those manifestations of summer life are suddenly thrust into the background of my consciousness because "fall" has started. But this year, they flow on in their natural stream in my mind and senses. I am fortunate since this year I am also in the midst of a project that involves taking seasonal photographs of the prairies of our midland home. On the prairie, summer, while waning, is in full bloom, and luckily I'm still psychically and physically right there with it.

I know that most people have jobs that rarely if ever align with the seasons, and the traditional academic position in fact does follow the rhythms of nature's changes more than most. But the disruption in my typical teaching activity this year has given me the shock of recognition that our artificial work and life constructs can easily divert us from our relationship with the natural world. I know that when responsibilities call our attention, they can easily consume us. But we also have a responsibility to live amidst the inescapable interconnections we have with the natural world, which leads to the care and respect it so desperately needs from us.

Summer's still here. Live in its moment.

Thomas Dean is ready for autumn, but in its own time.

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FORTY YEARS AND STILL FIGHTING

Wally Taylor's latest legal battle is against the Dakota Access pipeline.

BY PAUL BRENNAN

Based on first impression, Wally Taylor doesn't seem like a lawyer anyone would describe as a pit bull. But first impressions can be misleading.

Sitting in the small, book-lined office of his one-man law practice in Cedar Rapids, Taylor has a genial, upbeat demeanor as he discusses his four-decade-long career practicing environmental law. But even though his demeanor never changes, the level of detail with which Taylor speaks about his cases, and his clear determination to keep fighting until all options are exhausted, show why his colleague Carolyn Raffensperger calls him a pit bull.

"Wally is soft-spoken, but he's relentless," Raffensperger said. "He's not going to let go of an issue. He's going to look for every angle."

Raffensperger, an Ames-based environmental lawyer and the executive director of the Science & Environmental Health Network (SEHN), met Taylor while working to oppose the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). The pipeline cuts across four states, including 18 Iowa counties, to carry crude oil from the Bakken oilfields in North Dakota to a hub outside Pakota, Illinois.

Taylor is representing the Iowa chapter of the Sierra Club in its fight against the pipeline, just as he has represented the chapter in other legal battles for almost 40 years.

The Sierra Club's opposition to the DAPL is based on concerns that pipeline accidents may pollute the state's waterways, injure people and property, destroy farmland and harm wildlife and sensitive natural areas. The nonprofit also sees the pipeline as furthering America's dependence on fossil fuels.

> **"They have used bluster and bullying and arrogance all the way through. That's how they expected to get by."**
>
> ***—Wally Taylor***

Approximately half of Taylor's legal practice is dedicated to environmental issues, the other half is criminal defense work. It's not a career he planned.

"In the mid-1970s, I had a friend who was a Sierra Club member and he encouraged me to join. I did," Taylor said. "When I moved to Cedar Rapids in 1979, there was a new group forming."

The new group, which is now called the Cedar Wapsie group, needed legal advice. Taylor volunteered.

"I had no idea at all before that of getting involved in the environmental law," he said. "In fact, really until 1970-71, there wasn't any such thing as environmental law. But in the early '70s, the Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act—all of those were

Doin' Earth's work **Wally Taylor in his Cedar Rapids office** Photo by Zak Neumann

passed, and that created environmental law, so to speak.

Taylor was fresh out of law school when those acts started being enforced.

"I grew up in Maquoketa, which is east of here a ways," he recalled. "I went to college at Iowa State, then law school at Drake and I practiced a few years in Boone, Iowa, before I moved here." Taylor and his wife of 41 years, Pamela, have lived in Cedar Rapids ever since.

Wally isn't the only Taylor helping the Sierra Club. Pamela Taylor recently stepped in to serve as acting director of the statewide Iowa chapter until a new director is chosen.

Working with Wally Taylor against the DAPL also influenced Raffensperger to become more involved with the Sierra Club.

"I ran for the Sierra Club executive committee, because I wanted to figure out how he approached issues," Raffensperger said. "Wally has a knack for sifting through endless details, and crafting careful arguments."

The lawyers for Dakota Access, LLC, the subsidiary Energy Transfers Partner created for the pipeline, have a less favorable assessment of Taylor. This is perhaps in part because, although oil started flowing through the DAPL on June 1, Taylor has continued challenging the permit granted by the Iowa Utilities Board in 2016.

"The fact that the oil is flowing, I don't think makes much difference," Taylor said. "Because Iowa case law is pretty clear that if a party moves ahead when litigation is still pending, it's at their own risk. If they eventually lose, they have to undo what they've done or at least stop doing what they are doing."

On June 15, Taylor, on behalf of the Sierra Club, and Raffensperger, representing SEHN, filed a motion to revoke the DAPL permit with the utilities board. The response by the lawyers for Dakota Access was unusually aggressive for a filing with a regulatory agency.

The Dakota Access lawyers called the argument by Taylor and Raffensperger "a knowing and intentional misrepresentation" that "destroys the credibility of the Activist Groups." They concluded by asking the utilities board to consider taking some sort of punitive action: "The Board should, however, consider whether it is appropriate to take any steps to deter litigants, particularly those represented by counsel, who have obligations to the tribunal, from making such knowingly, demonstrably unsupportable statements in pleadings."

Asked about the aggressive tone of the Dakota Access reply, Taylor shrugged.

"It's their modus operandi," he explained. "They have used bluster and bullying and arrogance all the way through. That's how they expected to get by. We've held them off for a long time. Iowa put up more resistance than any of the other three states through which the pipeline goes. We've caused them more trouble than they expected."

That trouble hasn't been as dramatic as the confrontation Dakota Access has with Native Americans and other protesters at Standing Rock, North Dakota, but that doesn't mean the corporation hasn't felt it.

According to Raffensperger, "Dakota Access and Energy Transfer Partners have spent a fortune on lawyers. And our side, Wally and the rest of us have been donating our time."

On July 21, the utilities board denied the motion to revoke. In its decision the board ignored the claims of misrepresentation and the request for action against the environmental groups by Dakota Access.

Dakota Access' parent company has launched an even more aggressive legal pushback against opponents of the pipeline. On Aug. 22, Energy Transfer Partners filed a federal lawsuit claiming the opponents, including such well-established environmental groups as the Sierra Club and Greenpeace, are criminal organizations, pretending to care about the environment in order to get rich by bilking unsuspecting donors out of

contributions by manufacturing unwarranted concerns about the fossil fuels industry.

"First, I had to stop laughing," Taylor said, when asked about the lawsuit. "I can certainly assure you, this has not been a money-making venture for the Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club, and not the national Sierra Club either."

Taylor said that much of the lawsuit seems to address a divestment campaign, which encourages banks and other financial institutions to stop investing in the pipeline.

"I think that Energy Transfer Partners and Dakota Access might be in financial trouble, and that the disinvestment campaign is working."

"This is obviously what is called a SLAPP suit—a strategic lawsuit against public participation," Taylor continued. "It's meant to intimidate the defendants into stopping their opposition to the project."

Taylor isn't intimidated and he isn't finished with Dakota Access yet. After the DAPL permit was granted in 2016, Taylor appealed the decision to the Polk County District Court arguing that the utilities board hadn't established that the pipeline would "promote public convenience and necessity" as state regulations require.

"Public convenience and necessity has never really been defined, but it's always been applied in the context of whether the proposed project—whether it's a pipeline or whether it's a public railway or whatever it might be—is something that is necessary and is needed to serve the public," Taylor said. "In this case, the board simply said that it would provide temporary construction jobs. That was their basis for saying it would promote public convenience and necessity."

In February, the district court sided with the utilities board. Taylor has appealed the decision to the Iowa Supreme Court.

"I think we have a decent shot with the Iowa Supreme Court," Taylor said.

Taylor may be optimistic, but he's also realistic. He understands that the pipeline has the backing of both state and federal officials. And that backing has only solidified with the election of Donald Trump, a former Energy Transfer Partners stockholder, and the consolidation of the Republican Party's control of state government.

So why does he keep on fighting?

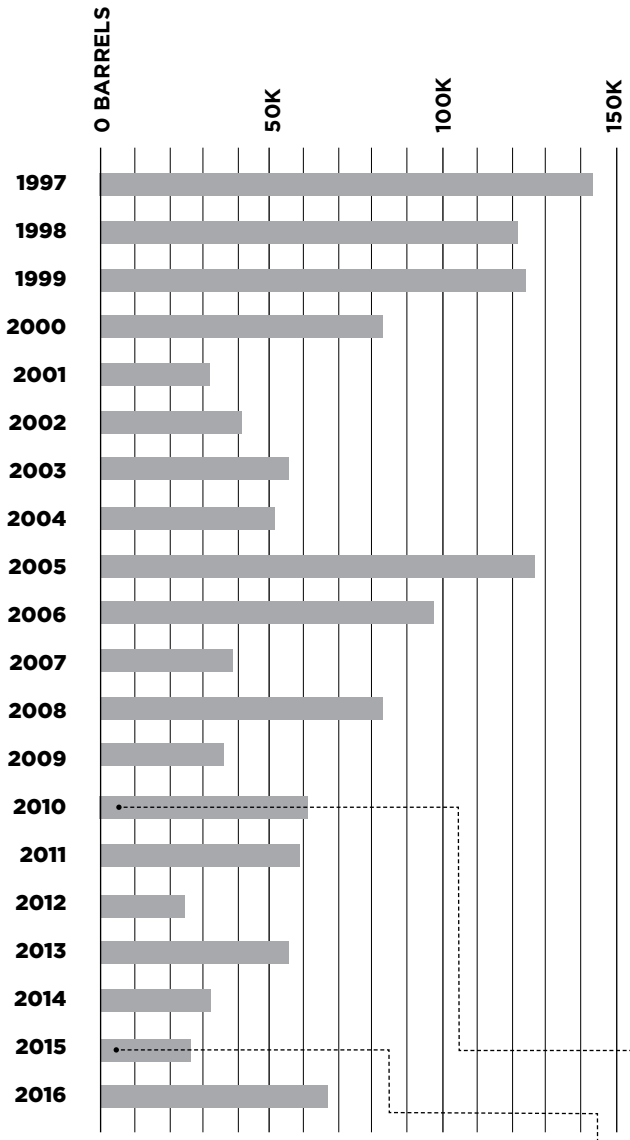
The question makes Taylor laugh. "Because we have to," he said, as if that was only answer possible.

For him, it is.

LV

Paul Brennan grew up in Louisiana, where the oil flows freely and spills frequently.

CRUDE OIL / REFINED PETROLEUM PIPELINE INCIDENTS SINCE 1997



Total pipeline incidents involving crude oil/refined petroleum since 1997:

5,508

Total 20-year cost reported:

$3.5 BILLION

21 pipeline incident deaths since 1997

Highest reported cost in one year:
$1,064,415,672

Highest number of incidents in one year:

392

Data from USDOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

En Español

Morena xingona bilingüe

Reclamando mi español salvadoreño. • **POR SAMARIA PARADA**

Nací en Los Ángeles, California en 1996. Mi familia y yo nos mudamos a Iowa cuando tenía 3.5 años y me crié en la pequeña ciudad de Osceola. La población de la ciudad era de aproximadamente 5.000 personas, la mayoría de las cuales eran blancas. De niña, nunca estuve expuesta a la diversidad racial, con excepción de la pequeña cantidad de latinx allí. Mi padre inmigró de El Salvador a Los Ángeles cuando tenía 9 años, y mi mamá en sus veinte años debido a la guerra civil en El Salvador. El español era la única forma en que podíamos comunicarnos, ya que Mamá no hablaba inglés.

Empecé a aprender inglés en kindergarten. Me pusieron en ELL, el programa de Aprendices del Idioma Inglés, y un asistente entraba a mi clase todos los días, a ponerme a un costado para ayudarme con los materiales que luché por entender. Quería negarme a aprender inglés, pero la respuesta era un "solo puedes hablar inglés" casi ladrado. En ese momento, yo no sabía que eso no era una cosa apropiada para decirle a una niña de 5 años. Entiendo que el inglés es necesario porque es el idioma principal en los Estados Unidos, pero eso no significa que los niños deban ser despojados de su lengua materna. Tenía miedo; no tuve opción, así que me asimilé.

A medida que pasaron los años, comencé a hablar bien el inglés. En casa, tuve conversaciones con mi hermano y papá en inglés, pero mi mamá nos gritaba que habláramos en español. Porque mi madre no podía hablar inglés, tuve que traducir para ella dondequiera que fuimos. Me sorprendió cómo la gente asumía que ella hablaba inglés debido al color claro de su piel. No podía hablar español en voz alta con ella en público sin sentir que me miraban fijamente. Esas miradas me hicieron sentir que no se me permitía hablar un idioma que no fuera el inglés. Mi mamá siempre me decía que nunca debía sentirme menos, sino siempre más, porque yo puedo hablar dos idiomas.

Ser parte de la hermandad latina ... me ha dado una comunidad de hermanas con las que puedo conectarme e identificarme.

No fue hasta que empecé la universidad en la Universidad de Iowa, que me di cuenta de que no tenía nada que temer ni esconder, sino que debería estar orgullosa de quién soy. Ser parte de la hermandad latina, Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Inc., en el campus me ha dado una comunidad de hermanas con las que puedo conectarme e identificarme.

Sin embargo, asistir a una institución predominantemente blanca me ha hecho más consciente de lo ignorante que puede ser la gente. A menudo me preguntan: "¿De dónde eres?," como si mi nombre fuera raro, como si significara que no soy de los Estados Unidos. También me han etiquetado como "mexicana," como si fuera el único país

Speaking the dream **Samaria Parada finds strength in her Salvadoran heritage.** Photo courtesy of the author.

latinoamericano que existe.

Constantemente me enfrento a microagresiones y he aprendido a superar mi miedo de estar en silencio cuando me enfrento a ellos. No dejo caer mi guardia cuando me niego a dejar que la gente asuma nada, es una oportunidad para educarlos. Ahora, cuando hablo español, abrazo el idioma nativo de mis antepasados. Abrazo la sangre salvadoreña que corre por mis venas. Mi corazón se siente lleno cada vez que me comunico con mi gente en español. Seguiré hablando el hermoso español salvadoreño que conozco donde quiera que voy, porque soy una latina orgullosa. Me niego a dejar que la gente ignorante me diga lo contrario. LV

Brown Badass Bilingual

Reclaiming my Salvadoran Spanish.

WRITTEN AND TRANSLATED BY SAMARIA PARADA

I was born in Los Angeles, California in 1996. My family and I moved to Iowa when I was 3.5 years old, and I was raised in the small town of Osceola. The town's population was approximately 5,000 people, the majority of whom were white. Growing up, I was never exposed to racial diversity, other than the small amount of Latinx there. My dad immigrated from El Salvador to Los Angeles when he was 9 years old, and my mom in her twenties due to the civil war in El Salvador. Spanish was the only way we could all communicate, since Mom did not speak English.

I began to learn English in kindergarten. I was put in ELL, the English Language Learners program, and an assistant came into my class every day to pull me aside to help me with the materials I struggled to grasp. I wanted to refuse to learn English, but "you can only speak English" was the answer that was lashed back at me. At the time, I did not know that that was not an appropriate thing to tell a 5-year-old. I understand that English was required because it is the main language in the U.S., but that does not mean children must be stripped away from their native tongue. I was afraid; I did not have a choice, so I assimilated.

As the years passed, I began to speak English well. At home, I had conversations with my brother and dad in English, but my mom would yell at us to speak in Spanish. Because my mom could not speak English, I had to translate for her everywhere we went. I was amazed by how people would assume she spoke English because of her light features. I could not speak Spanish aloud with her in public without getting stared at. Those eyes made me feel as though I was not allowed to speak a language that was not English. My mom always told me that I should never feel less, but always more, because I was able to speak two languages.

It was not until I started college at the University of Iowa that I came to realize I have nothing to fear or hide, but rather that I should be proud of who I am. Being part of the Latina-based sorority, Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Inc., on campus has given me a community of sisters I can connect and identify with.

However, attending a predominantly white institution has made me more aware of how ignorant people can be. I am often asked, "Where are you from?," as though my name is rare, meaning I am not from the U.S. I have also been referred to as a "Mexican," as if it is the only Latin American country that exists.

I constantly face microaggressions and have learned to overcome my fear of being silent when facing them. I do not let my guard down and I refuse to let people assume anything, because I have an opportunity to educate them. Now when I speak Spanish, I embrace the native language of my ancestors. I embrace the Salvadoran blood that runs through my veins. My heart feels full every time I am able to communicate with my people in Spanish. I will continue to speak the beautiful Salvadoran Spanish I know everywhere I go, and be a proud Latina. I refuse to let ignorant people tell me otherwise. LV

Samaria Parada is a senior at the University of Iowa, where she studies enterprise leadership with a minor in Spanish and Latinx studies.

Drink More, Drunk Less

Don't settle for one and done. Try these low-ABV Iowa craft brews when you want to enjoy your beer but keep your head.
BY EMMA MCCLATCHEY

Iowans love beer. And for the past decade, Iowans have loved craft beer. A new beer snob is born every day after sitting down to their first pint of Peace Tree's Blonde Fatale or Toppling Goliath's HOPSMACK!

Iowa's microbrewery renaissance began in earnest after March 2010, when new state legislation changed the alcohol-by-volume (ABV) cap for Iowa brewers from 7.6 percent to 15.3 percent. Local beer became hoppier, wheatier and, most of all, stronger.

But as our newfound craft beer taste collides with the bar-hopping, tailgating, backyard-barbecue rituals of Eastern Iowa, unsuspecting social drinkers may find themselves stumbling after just one or two of their favorite brews.

While they might not offer much in the taste department, Bud and Busch and Miller and Coors Lights are easier to portion out. These domestics contain around four percent ABV, meaning you can drink several cans of PBR and not completely make a mockery of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism's recommendation to consume no more than two five-percent-ABV drinks a day.

But unlike corporate breweries, most local brew houses don't have the storage capacity required to craft lagers and pilsners, which tend to be less alcoholic. And for the ales, porters and wheat beers they can brew, it is often equally expensive, if not cheaper, to brew a beer with twice the strength.

In fact, many microbreweries have hung their hat on Imperial and Double India Pale Ales, which have ABVs as high as 14 percent. Customers may be getting more bang for their buck when beers are stronger, but they're more likely to bang into something when they stand from their bar seat.

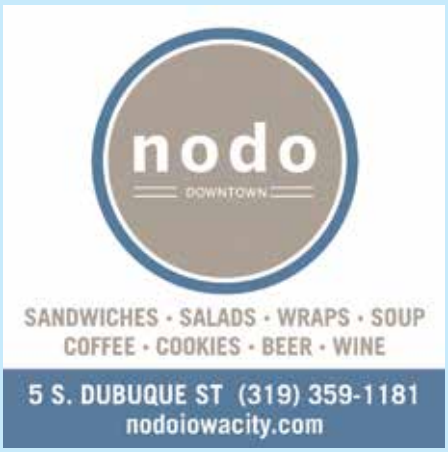
After some backlash from consumers, breweries recently began to brainstorm session beers—beers with an ABV lower than six percent, of which you can drink several over a long period of time. Many are summer seasonal beers, but a choice few are available all the livelong year.

If you want to keep up with your Bud-guzzling comrades—or simply enjoy a few craft brews and still keep your head—we'd recommend sticking to beers under five percent ABV, session or not.

Here are some great, local, low-ABV craft beers for session drinking. They may be rare, but these local breweries have your back.

Rachel Jessen

IOWA CITY DOWNTOWN



KEEP YOUR COMPOSURE: LOW-ABV IOWA CRAFTS

Pucker Up Right Meow *3.8 percent ABV (Backpocket Brewery, Coralville)* A tart cherry rhubarb sour beer with a Raygun-designed label. Was re-released on Aug. 25 for Backpocket's fifth anniversary. *On tap throughout eastern Iowa*

Kalona Classic *4.1 percent ABV (Kalona Brewing Company, Kalona)* An American Pale Lager with a light, toasty flavor. *On tap and in cans throughout Iowa*

Sidehill Sour, *4.2 percent ABV (Big Grove Brewery, Solon and Iowa City)* A Berliner-Weiss-inspired sour made with raspberries, blackberries and cherries. *On tap throughout eastern Iowa and Des Moines*

Vintage Blonde *4.2 percent ABV (Great River Brewery, Davenport)* A crisp and slightly dry German-style Kolsch Ale. *On tap and in cans throughout eastern Iowa*

Boomtown *4.5 percent ABV (Big Grove Brewery, Solon and Iowa City)* A Golden Ale with a delicate malt character and hints of citrus, grass and floral. *On tap throughout eastern Iowa and Des Moines*

John's White Ale *4.5 percent ABV (Millstream Brewing Company, Amana)* Belgian-style White Ale—or Wit—with a classic, spicy taste and citrus tones. *On tap and in bottles throughout Iowa*

ZOINKS! *4.5 percent ABV (Iowa Brewing Company, Cedar Rapids)* A session India Pale Ale that blends Citra, Mosaic and Cascade hops. *On tap and in bottles throughout eastern Iowa*

Zoltan Session IPA, *4.8 percent ABV (Exile Brewing Company, Des Moines)* A tropical session India Pale Ale brewed with hops, passion fruit, grapefruit and mandarin oranges. *On tap, in cans and in bottles throughout Iowa*

BONUS: CIDERS!

Cherry Crush Hard Cider *4.5 percent ABV (Rapid Creek Cidery, Iowa City)* Brewed at Wilson's Orchard, this hard cider utilizes tart cherries. *On tap and in bottles throughout Iowa*

Peach Fizz Hard Cider *4.5 percent ABV (Rapid Creek Cidery, Iowa City)* Another Wilson's Orchard cider combining sweet peach and apple. *On tap and in bottles throughout Iowa*

Thanks to Doug Alberhasky of John's Grocery for lending his expertise. LV

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D.J. SPOOKY *presents*
EXPLORER I REMIX
(WORLD PREMIERE)

Paul D. Miller (aka DJ Spooky) is a composer, multimedia artist and writer whose work immerses audiences in a blend of genres, global culture, and environmental and social issues. His written work has been published by *The Village Voice*, *The Source*, and *Artforum*, among others, and he is the Editor of *Origin Magazine*.

Miller's work has appeared in the Whitney Biennial; The Venice Biennial for Architecture; the Ludwig Museum in Cologne; Kunsthalle, Vienna; The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, the Miami/Art Basel fair, and many other museums and galleries. Miller's award-winning book "Rhythm Science" was published by MIT Press 2004, and was followed by "Sound Unbound," an anthology about electronic music and digital media, in 2008. "The Book of Ice", an experiential visual and acoustic portrait of the Antarctic, was published in 2011 by Random House.

EXPLORER I REMIX is a musical journey inspired by the newly restored and digitized data from the historic 1958 satellite mission by physicist James Van Allen, which lead to the discovery of the earth's radiation belt. An original electronic score performed by DJ Spooky on his custom-designed iPad DJ app, and featuring the local string ensemble Red Cedar Chamber Music, EXPLORER I REMIX is a musical collage at the intersection of art and science, seen through DJ Spooky's unique perspective as a composer, DJ, and conceptual artist.

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APARNA NANCHERLA

Aparna Nancherla is delighted you are here. She's usually in New York herself. She's a comedian of the stand-up variety, but can often be seen sitting. Last year, she released her debut album, *Just Putting It Out There*, on Tig Notaro's new label, Bentzen Ball Records, as well as recording a half hour special for Comedy Central.

Currently, you can see her on HBO's *Crashing*, and the new seasons of both *Master of None* and *Love*, both on Netflix. She also popped up on the most recent season of *Inside Amy Schumer*. You can also catch Aparna on the upcoming Comedy Central show, *Corporate*. Aparna was named one of "The 50 Funniest People Right Now" by *Rolling Stone*, as well as one of the "25 Best Comedians of 2016" by *Paste Magazine*.

Aparna most recently wrote for *Late Night with Seth Meyers* on NBC, as well as *Debate Wars* on Seeso. In addition, she currently hosts the long-running popular underground New York comedy show, Whiplash at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theater on Monday nights at 11 p.m.

She also made an absurdist web series with comedy diamond parade Jo Firestone called *Womanhood* for *Refinery29*, as well as a comedic self-help podcast called *Blue Woman Group* with the funniest and most transcendent depresso maven around, Jacqueline Novak.

Aparna's sense of humor tends toward the dry, observational variety, but do be warned, her act runs rampant with absurdism and premeditated whimsy.

HARI KONDABOLU

Hari Kondabolu is a Brooklyn-based comedian and writer who the *New York Times* has described as "one of the most exciting political comics in stand-up today." Hari has appeared the *Late Show with David Letterman, Conan, Jimmy Kimmel Live*, John Oliver's NY Standup Show, @midnight, *The Nightly Show* and has his own half-hour *Comedy Central Present*s special. His critically-acclaimed debut album *Waiting for* 2042, which was released on legendary indie label Kill Rock Stars was one of the Top 10 Standup Albums of 2014 according to *Paste Magazine*. *The Portland Mercury* wrote that "the marriage of careful joke structure and fiercely intelligent commentary elevates this album from a collection of solid progressive punchlines to a work of art." He has since released *Mainstream American Comic* and the self-released *Hari Kondabolu's New Material Night Volume One*.

Hari was a writer and correspondent on the Chris Rock produced *Totally Biased with W. Kamau Bell* on the FX network. Kamau has described his long-time friend and collaborator as "the comedy equivalent of a punk rock concert that breaks out at a human right's rally." The duo are currently co-hosting a weekly political podcast through First Look Media called *Politically Reactive*.

A public radio regular, Hari has been interviewed on *Fresh Air* with Terry Gross and has also been heard on *Morning Edition, All Things Considered, Studio 360, Bullseye* with Jesse Thorn, *Marketplace* and *The Moth*. He has also been profiled by *The New York Times, The Washington Post* and *PBS NewsHour*. On the podcast front, he has made appearances on *WTF* with Marc Maron, *Death, Sex and Money*, *You Made It Weird, Too Beautiful to Live* and *2 Dope Queens*. He is also a rotating co-host for *The Bugle* with Andy Zaltzman.

NADIA SIROTA

Violist Nadia Sirota's varied career spans solo performances, chamber music, and broadcasting. In all branches of her artistic life she aims to open classical music up to a broader audience. Nadia's singular sound and expressive execution have served as muse to dozens of composers, including Nico Muhly, Donnacha Dennehy, Bryce Dessner, Richard Reed Parry, Missy Mazzoli, and Marcos Balter. Recently, Nadia won a 2015 Peabody Award, broadcasting's highest honor, for her podcast *Meet the Composer*, from Q2 Music, which deftly profiles some of the most interesting musical thinkers living today.

Nadia is a member of the chamber sextet yMusic and the chamber orchestra Alarm Will Sound, and has lent her sound to recording and concert projects by such artists and songwriters as Anohni, Jónsi and Arcade Fire. In 2013 she won Southern Methodist University's Meadows Prize, awarded to pioneering artists and scholars with an emerging international profile.

This season she releases two new records, one featuring Nico Muhly's Viola Concerto with the Detroit Symphony under Leonard Slatkin, and one featuring Donnacha Dennehy's groundbreaking work for viola and microtonal viola da gamba consort, Tessellatum, featuring gambist Liam Byrne.

"If the ancient and unassuming viola is having a renaissance in contemporary music, it's thanks largely to Nadia Sirota, who specializes in, well, anything a composer can throw at her." (New York Magazine)

Her performance will feature music by Nico Muhly, Richard Reed Parry, Marcos Balter and more. Selections will be announced from stage. The performance will incorporate audio segments related to her work on the *Meet The Composer* podcast which bring background and insight into the pieces.

TALIBAM! *pres.* ENDGAME OF THE ANTHROPOCENE

Talibam! has made a geopsychic prediction: after it expires in 2048, the Antarctic Treaty System will be rejected. As the rest of the planet will have been rendered uninhabitable due to wars rooted in overpopulation, global warming, and the relentless exploitation of diminishing resources, human interference and the failure to ratify will lead to international war over the sovereignty and control of Antarctica's vast resources. Endgame of the Anthropocene is Talibam!'s first cinematic album of through-composed ecogothic geosonics.

PERFORMANCES

Aparna Nancherla; Audrey Chen presents: Stag Song; Beach Fossils; DJ Spooky presents Explorer I Remix; Hari Kondabolu; Jak Knight; Karen Meat; Kweku Collins; Meka Jean; Nadia Sirota; New Voices in Comedy; Philip Rabalais; Talibam! presents: Endgame of the Anthropocene; Younger; Yves Tumor

PRESENTATIONS

Tymika Lawrence presents Kaleidoscope: A Decolonization; Tameka Norris presents Somewhere Is Here: Sumter County, Alabama; Tom Tommorrow (This Modern World) presents 25 Years of Tomorrow; Tameka Cage Conley presents Freedom is a Feeling in the Tongue; Cey Adams presents Def Jam and Beyond; Paulina Mena presents Honey & Mass Extinction: What every Iowan should know about the state's bee population; Susan Patterson Plank (Iowa Newspaper Association) presents Local Media: Rising from the Dead?; Will Hunt presents The Burrowers

Passes on sale now at WITCHINGHOURFESTIVAL.COM

BEACH FOSSILS

Beach Fossils will perform music from their new release *Somersault*, which Pitchfork called "an acrobatic leap for Beach fossils," hailing band leader Dustin Payseur's "best songs to date." The Brooklyn band's self-titled 2010 debut established a sound that was both minimal and enveloping. With *Somersault*, the group's first release since 2013's *Clash the Truth*, Beach Fossils have channeled years of experimentation into expansion and reinvention. It's beautiful and layered, a refined, sweeping creation that threads together numerous styles, textures, and themes into a refreshing, singular vision. Presented in collaboration with SCOPE Productions.

YVES TUMOR

Yves Tumor is the inspired, enigmatic and conflicted persona of Tennessee-raised producer/performer Sean Bowie, a conduit for a distinctly bold personal aesthetic that has wrought the entrancing *Serpent Music* LP (out now on PAN), and a burgeoning reputation for bruising, invigorating live performance. Evolved from a diverse and prolific creative history under an expansive plethora of covert aliases, plus strong ties with forward-thinkers such as NON and Mykki Blanco, Yves Tumor emerges as Bowie's most personal and matured incarnation to date, with *Serpent Music* his strongest recorded statement.

READINGS

Danez Smith; It Devours: Joseph Fink & Jeffrey Cranor (Welcome to Night Vale); Kiese Laymon; Writers of Color Reading Series; Baynard Woods

SCREENINGS

Brimstone & Glory; Adam's Run: A video opera by Baltimore's Rhymes with Opera; #ToTheTop: Two Iowa Designers Crash NYC Fashion Week; Empowering the Next Generation to Flourish: Reimagining early elementary education (Janet Hilary and Chuck Peters)

WORKSHOPS

Doorway to Intuition: Gong Bath and Sound Healing Meditation w. Doug Mills; Risk Taking & the Authentic Self w. Saffron Henke & Kristy Hartsgrove; Finding Honey in the Rock: A Workshop of Obsession w. Danez Smith

PANELS

Invisible and Ignored: The Power of Centering the VOICES and EXPERIENCES of Women of Color through Art, Written Expression, Film and Leadership; Broad Perspectives II: The Sankofa Outreach Connection; Composing a Career: Nadia Sirota with David Gier, UI School of Music

PASSES

2-day pass: $60 ($65 after Sept. 12)

1-day pass: $40 (available after Sept. 12)

Purchase passes at the Englert Box Office or (221 E. Washington St., Iowa City) or online at witchinghourfestival.com

Presented by THE ENGLERT THEATRE and LITTLE VILLAGE MAGAZINE

Jane Elliott conducts her Blue Eyes/Brown Eyes exercise with her third grade class. Still from the PBS/Frontline documentary *A Class Divided*

A-List

The Green Room Presents: Jane Elliott

An Iowa teacher turned an exercise based on eye color into a broader discussion on seeing race more clearly. • **BY CARLY MATTHEWS**

Jane Elliott, 85, has spoken out against racism since April 5, 1968, the day after Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in Memphis, Tennessee. Elliott worked as a third grade teacher in an all-white classroom in Riceville, Iowa. She had considered performing the experiment before, but decided she needed to enact it that Tuesday. She divided her class into two groups, treating them differently based on the color of their eyes—the birth of her famous Blue Eyes/Brown Eyes exercise.

"The first time I did the exercise, I told my dad about it. He said, 'Are you sure you're right?' I said yes. He said, 'Then by God, go ahead,'" Elliott recounted, her clear blue eyes shining.

Elliott's father influenced her life tremendously. After she graduated high school, she said, her dad told her she could choose to "make a dollar or make a difference." Again and again, Elliott decided to make a difference.

She's performed the exercise on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and been featured in major ABC and PBS documentaries; companies have invited her to diversity trainings all over the country. At the same time, she has also received criticism, especially from those in her hometown.

Elliott hosted this interview at her home in Osage, Iowa—17 miles from Riceville. She moved there several years after beginning the annual classroom demonstration to protect her own children.

> **"If you do something different that works, the people doing the wrong thing aren't going to like you."**
>
> ***—Jane Elliott***

"If you do something different that works, the people doing the wrong thing aren't going to like you. My philosophy will keep me from being accepted anywhere I go," she said. "It is not my aim in life to be loved."

Around her neck, on a long, thin golden chain, swayed a nazar—a pendant shaped like a blue eye—that her daughter bought her while visiting in-laws in Saudi Arabia. Blue eyes are rare among Saudis, Elliott said, and when carried as a talisman, they ward off evil. Elliott wears it regularly, including to her speaking events, where she said her audacity often attracts death threats.

"It's worked so far," she said.

The blue marble rolled from one corner of the golden eyelid to the opposite as she brought her hand to her forehead in mock despair. She laughed at the foolishness of the snickering students she encounters during talks at college campuses. She confronts them, warning that if they make her a martyr, they'll have to celebrate "Jane Elliott Day."

After nearly 50 years of fighting racism, she was deeply disappointed though not surprised by the recent neo-Nazi gathering in Charlottesville, Virginia. Instead, she said that Charlottesville was a tiny bump on the long road of racism.

"We have never lived in a post-racial society," she said.

Elliott said the United States is a fairly young country and the fact a man with childish tendencies has taken the presidency seems fitting, in a comic but mostly tragic way. She criticized Trump using another of her father's turns of phrase: "a boy grown tall."

Elliott blames the current education system, which presents history from a white-centric, racist perspective, she said. She said teachers reinforce what she calls colorism or pigmentocracy, creating "educated idiots."

"The longer you stay in school, the more bigoted you become," she said.

As a former teacher, Elliott holds a steadfast belief in the importance of education, but disagrees with the current system, based on

The Green Room Full Series

Nate Staniforth **Monday, Sept. 11, Englert Theatre, 7 p.m., Free**
Magician and champion of wonder

Jane Elliott **Monday, Sept. 18, Englert Theatre, 7 p.m., Free**
Former schoolteacher and lifelong educator

Lisa Lucas **Monday, Sept. 25, Englert Theatre, 7 p.m., Free**
Executive Director of the National Book Foundation

Khizr Khan **Monday, Oct. 2, Englert Theatre, 7 p.m., Free** Gold star father

Peter Aguero **Monday, Oct. 9, Englert Theatre, 7 p.m., Free**
Professional storyteller

Livestream each class on facebook.com/littlevillagemag

indoctrination of white superiority instead of a realistic understanding of history.

Despite the current political climate and education system, Elliott retains some sense of hope racism will be defeated one day. She said progress tends to move in a pattern: two steps forward and one step back.

She remains unsure when this better future will arrive but is confident it will.

Cheryl Graham

Something that needs to change in order for this to happen, Elliott said, is the discussion of white privilege—because while privilege cannot be changed, ignorance can.

She holds a belief, also from her father, that a day without learning something new is a day wasted. She said she reads two to three books every week and has an extensive list of recommended reading on her website. (Elliott is currently reading *The Myth of Race* by Robert W. Sussman and *Insults and Comebacks for All Occasions*.) Elliott believes that there is no excuse for ignorance past the age of 12, so long as a person can read.

"Nothing can stop an idea whose time has come," she said, paraphrasing writer Victor Hugo. "The idea of one race—the human race—is an idea whose time has come. Nothing is going to be able to stop it. Make no mistake, I will push that idea for as long as I live."

Elliott believes that a good person leaves the world a better place than they found it, no matter how small their impact. She doesn't believe any major change happened as a result of of her Blue Eyes/Brown Eyes exercise but is content with the difference she's made during her lifetime.

At this point, her biggest dream, she said, would be for Trump to rename the White House, calling it instead the President's Residence.

"Now *that* would be a plus for him in history," Elliott said. LV

Carly Matthew recently graduated from The University of Iowa and is a freelance writer for 'Little Village.'

GREEN ROOM PRESENTS: NATE STANIFORTH **The Englert, Monday, Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m.** Nate Staniforth is the second featured speaker in the Green Room series, Dave Gould's innovative honors classroom designed to bridge the college and the community. Staniforth will be speaking about wonder, a topic that he has become intimately familiar with through his grasp of magic and illusion—and those who have seen his act in person will understand why he has become increasingly in demand as a master at his trade.

Beyond performance, he has been busy traveling as an advocate of the craft: He has lectured at Oxford, given a TED Talk, and written a memoir (due out in 2018) that describes the relationship of magic and illusion to the human desire for mystery and wonder. He will be joined by Joe Tiefenthaler of FilmScene, Iowa City's nonprofit art house cinema. The evening promises to be an awe-inspiring discussion of one of the most basic and most neglected components of our existence.

The class is hosted by the Englert on Monday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m., with an informal after-class conversation hosted at MERGE immediately afterward. All events are free and open to the public.

EVENTS

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SEPT. 6–19, 2017

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

COMMUNITY & EDUCATION

9/6

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

Gardening with Spirit, *Gaia's Peace Garden, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., Free*

Iowa City Sangha Meditation, *Trinity Episcopal Church, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

9/7

Greece and the Persian Wars: The Good, the Bad and the "Other," *Hickok Hall at Coe College, Cedar Rapids, 11:30 a.m., $12-35*

Embracing Complexity Series: KJ Sanchez, *Hancher, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., Free*

9/8

The Role of Transformative Education in Successful Reentry: A Community Discussion, *UCC 2520D (Old Capitol Mall), Iowa City, 9 a.m., Free*

Night at the Museum—Navigating the Ancient Seas, *UI Museum of Natural History, 6 p.m., Free*

Lecture: James Wines, *Art Building West, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

9/9

The Role of Transformative Education in Successful Reentry: A Community Discussion, *UCC 2520D (Old Capitol Mall), Iowa City, 9 a.m., Free*

Amazing Space Anniversary Celebration, *Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 10 a.m., Free*

Immigrant Foodways: Czech Your Bees!, *National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, 1 p.m., Free*

9/10

Cedar Rapids Heart Walk, *McGrath Amphitheatre, Cedar Rapids, 8 a.m., Free*

Community Cleanup, *Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 4 p.m., Free*

9/11

The Green Room Series Presents: Nate Staniforth, *The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

9/12

Trail Trekkers: Meadow Magic, *Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 10 a.m., Free*

9/13

Trail Trekkers: Meadow Magic, *Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 10 a.m., Free*

Iowa City Sangha Meditation, *Trinity Episcopal Church, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

The 2017 Levitt Lecture w/ Cokie Roberts: An Insider's View of Washington, D.C., *Hancher, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., Free*

9/14

Social Brand Forum 2017, *Iowa Memorial Union, 7:30 a.m., $245-575*

Greece and the Persian Wars: The Good, the Bad and the "Other," *Hickok Hall at Coe College, Cedar Rapids, 11:30 a.m., $12-35*

9/15

Jingle Cross Cyclocross Festival and Deschutes Brewery Beers and Gears, *Johnson County Fairgrounds—Building C, 10 a.m., Free*

Naturalization Ceremony, *Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, West Branch, 1:30 p.m., Free*

Old Capitol Museum History Club—Immigration, *Old Capitol Senate Chamber, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., Free*

9/16

Jingle Cross Cyclocross Festival and Deschutes Brewery Beers and Gears, *Johnson County Fairgrounds - Building C, 8 a.m., Free*

North Texas Mean Green vs. Iowa Hawkeyes, *Kinnick Stadium, 2:30 p.m., $43-173*

DIY VIP PS1 Member Party, *RADinc., Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

9/17

Telenet UCI Cyclo-Cross World Cup, *Johnson County Fairgrounds - Building C, 10 a.m., $5*

Festival Latino de Cedar Rapids, *McGrath Amphitheatre, Cedar Rapids, 11 a.m., Free*

Yoga Triathlon!, *Zen Den Yoga, Iowa City, 12 p.m., $25*

9/18

The Green Room Series Presents: Jane Elliott, *The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

9/19

Hike It Baby! Outdoor Classroom Tour & Hike, *Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 9:30 a.m., Free-$5*

MUSIC

GARP 2017 **Codfish Hollow Barnstormers Maquoketa, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 8-9, 5 p.m., $30-55** Codfish Hollow's fall festival, presented jointly with Moeller Nights, is back for a second year with great music and free camping. The event is $55 for the weekend or $30 for either day on its own. Grounds open at 5 p.m. on Friday night and at noon on Saturday. Denver's Nathaniel Rateliff headlines both nights of the festival. Friday night, he plays a full solo folk set (his first in years, the event website notes); Saturday things get more soulful as he fronts Nathaniel Rateliff and the Night Sweats. Other acts on the impressive lineup include JE Sunde, Bully, Vera, Clarke and the Himselfs and Israel Nash.

9/6

Banjoy, *The Mill, Iowa City, 7 p.m., $5*

Tribal Seeds w/ Aloha Radio, *Wooly's, Des Moines, 7 p.m., $17-20*

Chris Watts, *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., Free*

Downtown Animals, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free*

9/7

John Till, *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., Free*

Sub Conscious Productions Presents: Mielo—Illusory Tour, *Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $8-10*

Clusterpluck w/ High Water Mark, *Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., $7*

Nate D. w/ Adam Jensen, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free*

▲ 9/8

Tony Brown, *RiverLoop Amphitheatre, Waterloo, 5:30 p.m., Free*

GARP 2017, *Codfish Hollow Barnstormers, Maquoketa, 5 p.m., $30-55*

Faster Pussycat w/ Lyin' Heart, October Rage, *Spicoli's Rockade, Waterloo, 8 p.m., $15*

The Feralings, *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free*

Catfish Keith, *The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $15*

The Cadillac Three, *First Avenue Club, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $17*

The Host Country Album Release Party w/ Foxholes & Brother Trucker, *Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 9 p.m., $7*

Outlet Presents: Auscultation w/ Tippy, Terrae, Memorywerks, *Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 9 p.m., $8-12*

Glass Femur w/ the Jumbies, The Voluptuals, Yetta, *Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., $6*

9/9

GARP 2017, *Codfish Hollow Barnstormers, Maquoketa, 12 p.m., $30-55*

Taste of the Fiddler's Picnic, *Uptown Bill's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*
Yesterday & Today, *Ohnward Fine Arts Center, Maquoketa, 7 p.m., $13-25*
Brucemorchestra X, *Brucemore Mansion, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., $15-30*
Alan Jackson Honky Tonk Highway Tour w/ Lee Ann Womack, *US Cellular Center, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $42-125*
Michael Cantafio Trio, *Cafe Paradiso, Fairfield, 8 p.m., $5*
Lunatix on Pogostix w/ Grosso Brothers Band, *Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., $7*
EGi w/ 6 Odd Rats, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $10*
Sires, *Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 9 p.m., $5*
Tatsuya Nakatani w/ Kali Yuga, *Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 9 p.m., $8-12*

9/10

Piano Sundays: Ksenia Nosikova and Studio, *Old Capitol Senate Chamber, Iowa City, 1:30 p.m., Free*
Tony Brown, *Sutliff Cider Company, Lisbon, 3 p.m., Free*
Mac Lethal w/ Pharaoh, Tay Yung, Zeek The Rapper, *Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 7 p.m., $17-20*
Brett Netson w/ Clarke & the Himselfs, *Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 8 p.m., $10-15*

9/12

Yestival 2017: YES with Special Guest Todd Rundgren, *McGrath Amphitheatre, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., $49.50-85*
The Cactus Blossoms w/ Jack Klatt, *The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $10-12*
An Evening with Aqueous, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $10-12*

9/13

Wood Chickens & the Hex Girls, *Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 8 p.m., $5*
The Mountain Goats, *The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $23-26*
Time w/ Nonnie Party, *Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 8 p.m., $5-10*

9/14

Paul Cary, *Lion Bridge Brewing Company, Cedar Rapids, 6 p.m., Free*
Whiskey Autumn—In-Store Performance, *Analog Vault, Cedar Rapids, 6 p.m., Free*
Get the Led Out: The American Led Zeppelin, *Paramount Theatre, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., $34-49*
Froggy Fresh Live Tour 2017, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $15-200*
J Roddy Walston & the Business w/ Sleepwalkers, *Codfish Hollow Barnstormers, Maquoketa, 8 p.m., $20-25*
Downtown Boys, *The Mill, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $10-12*

9/15

Good Morning Midnight w/ the Port Authority, Wood Chickens, Forever Nap, *The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $5*
Useful Jenkins w/ Some Friends, *Wooly's, Des Moines, 8 p.m., $10-12*
Cedar Crossing Casino Presents: Bret Michaels, *US Cellular Center, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., Free-$33*
Zeke's Night Out Vol. 2, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $10*
Motherlode, *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 8:30 p.m., Free*
White Mystery w/ BStar, Paisley Bible, *Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 8:30 p.m., $8*
Cubits w/ Aqualife, Centaur Noir, *Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 9 p.m., $5-10*
Halfloves w/ Whosah, Centerpiece, ARIIAS, *Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $8-10*
Land of Blood and Sunshine, *Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 9 p.m., $5*
Sub Conscious Productions Presents: Yheti w/ DMVU, Toadface, *Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $12-15*
Aaron Kamm & The One Drops, *Iowa City Yacht Club, 10 p.m., $10*
DJ EXCEL, EDEN Lounge & Nightclub, *Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free*

9/16

Northern Parallels: 10, *Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 2 p.m., Free*
Ballroom Bash IV: 'We Wanna Dance,' *Clarion Hotel Highlander Conference Center, Iowa City, 2:15 p.m., $18-90*
Ramblin' Fever, *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 5 p.m., Free*
Cubits w/ Boat Motor, Audrey Robinson, *Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 9 p.m., $5*
Solar Flare Sunset, Bad Authority, Of the Monks, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $5*
The Enz, Denny Richards, Adam Montgomery and Lauren Humphrey, *Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., $6*

9/17

Nathan Carter, *Adler Theatre, Davenport, 3 p.m., $45-75*
The Swingin' Doors, *Sutliff Cider Company, Lisbon, 3 p.m., Free*
Outlet Presents: Reaches, *Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 8 p.m., Free*
Rainer Maria w/ Olivia Neutron John, *The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $15-18*
FMWT Vol. 2, Ed #3: Tashi Dorji & Tyler Damon w/ CJ Boyd, Midwife, *Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $7-10*

9/19

ZZ Top, *Adler Theatre, Davenport, 7:30 p.m., $59.50-99.50*

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THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

Dis/Unity: A Service **The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 7-9, 7:30 p.m., $10-50** In June of 2016, the Englert Theatre commissioned a multi-disciplinary work that involved choreographer Esther Baker-Tarpaga, dancer Duane Lee Holland, trumpeter Courtney Jones and others. That well-received workshop production is now back for a full three-night run, co-produced by the Englert and the Baker and Tarpaga Dance Project. Part performance, part immersive installation, Dis/Unity: A Service draws on song, dance, visual art, ritual and more to engage the audience in questions of race, gender, transgression and transformation, community and healing. Lead artists on the project include Baker-Tarpaga, Jones, Lamar Barber, Heidi Wiren Bartlett and Raquel Monroe. Photo by Adam Burke

9/7

'Footloose,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 2 p.m., $12-31*

Dis/Unity: A Service, *The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., $10-50*

9/8

Dis/Unity: A Service, *The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., $10-50*

Young Footliters Youth Theatre Presents: 'Charlotte's Web,' *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7 p.m., $7-12*

Reader's Theatre: 'Over the River & Through the Woods,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $18*

'Bakersfield Mist,' *Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., $18-30*

'Footloose,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 7:30 p.m., $12-31*

Jiggy w/ Brett Terhune, *Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., $12.50-15*

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

9/9

Young Footliters Youth Theatre Presents: 'Charlotte's Web,' *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7 p.m., $7-12*

'Bakersfield Mist,' *Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., $18-30*

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

'Footloose,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 7:30 p.m., $12-31*
Dis/Unity: A Service, *The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., $10-50*
Reader's Theatre: 'Over the River & Through the Woods,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $18*
Jiggy w/ Brett Terhune, *Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., $12.50-15*
Eternal Cult: 'Caveman Play,' *Public Space One, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $10*
'The Elephant Man,' *Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 8 p.m., $15-120*

9/10

Young Footliters Youth Theatre Presents: 'Charlotte's Web,' *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 2 p.m., $7-12*
'Footloose,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 2 p.m., $12-31*
'The Elephant Man,' *Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 2 p.m., $15-120*
'Bakersfield Mist,' *Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 2 p.m., $18-30*
Reader's Theatre: 'Over the River & Through the Woods,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., $18*

9/13

'Footloose,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 2 p.m., $12-31*

9/14

'Footloose,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 2 p.m., $12-31*
'Bakersfield Mist,' *Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., $12-30*

9/15

Rodney Carrington Live, *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., $44.75-179.75*
'Footloose,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 7:30 p.m., $12-31*
'Bakersfield Mist,' *Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., $18-30*
The Curtain Raiser Season Kickoff Gala: Opening Night of 'Grease,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $75*
'The Elephant Man,' *Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 8 p.m., $15-120*
Adam Hunter w/ David Tobey, *Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., $12.50-15*

9/16

'James and the Giant Peach,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 1 p.m., $10*
'Bakersfield Mist,' *Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., $18-30*
'Footloose,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 7:30 p.m., $12-31*
City Circle Acting Company's New Play Festival, *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m., $10-15*
'Grease,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $31-40*
Burlesque Fest, *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., $28-38*
Adam Hunter w/ David Tobey, *Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., $12.50-15*
'The Elephant Man,' *Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 8 p.m., $15-120*

9/17

'Footloose,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 2 p.m., $12-31*
'The Elephant Man,' *Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 2 p.m., $15-120*
'Bakersfield Mist,' *Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 2 p.m., $18-30*
'Grease,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., $31-40*

9/19

Maze Magic, *Iowa Memorial Union, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

Shakespeare Behind Bars **Voxman Music Building, Iowa City, Thursday, Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m., Free**
The University of Iowa Center for Human Rights is offering a free screening (registration is recommended) of this 2005 documentary as the kick-off event to its weekend-long conference, The Role of Transformative Education in Successful Reentry. Curt Tofteland, founder and director of the 22-year-old program that's the subject of the film, will participate in a Q&A session after the screening. The conference runs from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sept. 8-9; guests include Daniel Karpotwitz, author of *College in Prison: Reading in an Age of Mass Incarceration*, and representatives of Grinnell College's Liberal Arts in Prison program. Video still from *Shakespeare Behind Bars*

CINEMA

9/6

GAHC x RozzTox: 'The Bloom of Yesterday,' *Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 8 p.m., Free*
Late Shift at the Grindhouse—Rooftop: 'The Howling,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 p.m., $15*

9/7

'Shakespeare Behind Bars,' *Voxman Music Building, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., Free*

9/16

Special Event: 'Swimteam,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 12 p.m., $8*

9/19

'The S Word' Free Screening, *The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

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LITERATURE

9/6

Spoken Word Night: Poetry & More, *Uptown Bill's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*
Robert Madrygin, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*
College Students Create, *Mount Mercy University, 7 p.m., Free*

9/7

Camille Dungy, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

9/8

Frank Meeink, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

9/9

Daniel Karpowitz, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

9/10

IWP Reading: Kristian Sendon Cordero, Julienne van Loon, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 4 p.m., Free*

9/12

Susan Futrell, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

9/13

Lori Erickson, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*
Talk Art, *The Mill, Iowa City, 10:30 p.m., Free*

9/14

Anu Vaidyanathan, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

9/15

Seeing Is Believing: Crafting Great Characters from Real Life, *Iowa Writers' House, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $265/weekend*
Josephine Rowe, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

9/16

Seeing Is Believing: Crafting Great Characters from Real Life, *Iowa Writers' House, Iowa City, 9:30 a.m., $265/weekend*

9/17

Seeing Is Believing: Crafting Great Characters from Real Life, *Iowa Writers' House, Iowa City, 9:30 a.m., $265/weekend*
IWP Reading: Ubah Cristina Ali Farah, Esther Dischereit, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 4 p.m., Free*

9/18

Brendan Wolfe, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

9/19

Craig Pearson, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

Iowa Writers' House Fall/Winter Class Schedule:

Iowa City

Developing Your Story in Depth—Jennifer Fawcett. Sept. 29-Oct. 1, $265
The Fundamentals of Fiction—Keith Lesmeister. Oct. 20-22, $265
Our Available Wilderness: Using Personal Experiences and Narratives to Elevate Fiction and Nonfiction—Robert James Russell. Dec. 1-3, $265

Des Moines

Exploring Narrative Journeys: Heroes, Heroines and Coming of Age—Wendy Delsol. Oct. 6-8, $265
Short Fiction: From Conception to Publication—Mathieu Cailler. Oct. 27-29, $265
The Craft of Fiction—Calla Devlin. Nov. 3-5, $265
Revision Strategies for Novels and Memoirs—Kali VanBaale. Nov. 10-12, $265
Go There: Fierce Writing from Exactly Where You Are—Jennifer Wilson. Dec. 1-3, $265

READER PERKS
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Seeing Is Believing: Crafting Great Characters from Real Life **Iowa Writers' House, Iowa City, Friday-Sunday, Sept. 15-17, 6 p.m., $265** Learn the skills and strategies necessary to develop deeply compelling characters in this three-day workshop led by University of Iowa professor Inara Verzemnieks. The class, which kicks off the Iowa Writers' House fall programming schedule, begins with a brief 6-7:30 p.m. meeting on Friday night and then runs 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday, with breaks for lunch at noon each day. Verzemnieks' recently released *Among the Living and the Dead: A Tale of Exile and Homecoming on the War Roads of Europe* dives deep into the characterizations of her grandmother and great-aunt. The workshop will focus on using tools drawn from literary journalism to add richness and complexity to characters. Illustration by Bernadette Hornbeck

FOOD & DRINK

9/14

I Love Vegan! A Hassle-Free Vegan Meal Plan for Success, *New Pioneer Food Co-op Coralville, 6 p.m., $20*

9/15

BrewNost! 2017, *National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, 6:30 p.m., $60-125*

9/17

Bend & Brunch, *Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 8 a.m., $30*

8th Annual Chili Challenge, *Cascade Riverview Amphitheater, Cascade, 12 p.m., $5*

9/19

Healthy in a Hurry—Healthy Choices for Busy Families with Dr. Sharon Collins & Coach Heather Rittgers, *New Pioneer Food Co-op Coralville, 6 p.m., $15*

ARTS & EXHIBITIONS

AREA EVENTS PRESENTED BY FILMSCENE

9/6

Handmade Style: The Market Bag—Session 1/2, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., $40/course*
Art Boxes: A Tribute to Joseph Cornell—Session 3/3, *Artisan's Sanctuary, Marion, 6 p.m., $75/course*
Wine and Watercolor with Elinor Krieger, *KCoPear, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $30*
Knitting: Marley Shawl—Session 1/3, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., $45/course*
Chihuly Guided Tour: Venetians from the George R. Stroemple Collection, *National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, 6 p.m., Free with admission*

9/7

Jazon Lea Tie-Dye Classes—Session 3/7, *Artisan's Sanctuary, Marion, 5 p.m., $65/course*

9/8

Fred and Velga Easker: Recent Works Reception, Gilded Pear Gallery, *Cedar Rapids, 5 p.m., Free*
Fair Grounds Presents: The Hayley Wilson Collection Reception, *Fair Grounds Coffeehouse, Iowa City, 6 p.m., Free*

9/9

Kid's Crafting Origami, *KCoPear, Iowa City, 9:30 a.m., $15-20*
Bead Bezel a Swarovski Crystal, *Beadology, Iowa City, 10 a.m., $68*
Page-Turner Art for Kids, *Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, 1 p.m., Free*
Pearl Knotting, *Beadology, Iowa City, 2 p.m., $58*

9/10

Prairie Yarn Over Knit and Wine, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 12 p.m., Free*
Fundamentals of Borosilicate Glass Work, *Beadology, Iowa City, 1 p.m., $98*

9/11

Knitting: Mosaic Bag, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $45*

9/12

Jazon Lea Tie-Dye Classes—Session 4/7, *Artisan's Sanctuary, Marion, 5 p.m., $65/course*
School of Sewing Part I—Session 2/4, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $85/course*

9/13

Handmade Style: The Market Bag—Session 2/2, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., $40/course*
Knitting: Marley Shawl—Session 2/3, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., $45/course*
Aeroponic Tower Gardening Seminar, *Artisans' Sanctuary, Marion, 7 p.m., Free*

9/14

Introduction to Cubed Right Angle Weave Through *Kirkwood Community College, Beadology, Iowa City, 10 a.m., $58*
Makerspace—Alka Seltzer Rockets, *UI Museum of Natural History, 3 p.m., Free*
Jazon Lea Tie-Dye Classes—Session 5/7, *Artisan's Sanctuary, Marion, 5 p.m., $65/course*
Sheep to Yarn, on the Cheap—Session 1/3, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 7 p.m., $145/course*

9/15

Gyrls Night Out: Bezel a Rivoli with Two-hole Beads, *Beadology, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., $58*

9/16

Intro to Lampworking: Make Glass Beads, *Beadology, Iowa City, 10 a.m., $98*
Make 3 Pairs of Earrings: Intro to Wirework, *Beadology, Iowa City, 3 p.m., $58*

9/17

Embroidery: The Original Sampler, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 12 p.m., $45*
Next Steps in Boro: Marble Making, *Beadology, Iowa City, 1 p.m., $98*
Artifactory's Life Drawing Drop-In Session, *Beadology, Iowa City, 5 p.m., $8*
Make Your Own Stein, *Lion Bridge Brewing Company, 2 p.m., $35*

9/18

Tips & Tricks to Creating Asymmetrical Jewelry, *Beadology, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $68*

9/19

Jazon Lea Tie-Dye Classes—Session 6/7, *Artisan's Sanctuary, Marion, 5 p.m., $65/course*
School of Sewing Part I—Session 3/4, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $85/course*
Knitting: Find Your Fade Shawl—Session 3/3, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., $45/course*

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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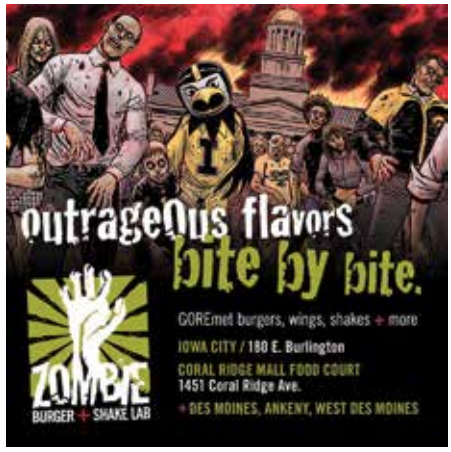

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ADVERTISER INDEX

ARTIFACTS (52)
BIG GROVE BREWERY (48)
BREAD GARDEN MARKET (39)
CACTUS (44)
THE CENTER FOR AFROFUTURIST STUDIES (40)
DAI GWILLIAM (47)
ENDORPHINDEN TATTOO (44)
THE ENGLERT THEATRE (38)
FILMSCENE (49)
HANCHER (4-5, 46)
IOWA CITY DOWNTOWN (20-21)
- BEADOLOGY
- MASALA
- NODO
- MICKY'S
- PRAIRIE LIGHTS
- DEADWOOD
IOWA CITY JOB FAIR (37)
IOWA CITY NORTHSIDE MARKETPLACE (42-43)
- DESIGN RANCH
- SONNY'S NORTHSIDE TAP
- NODO
- OASIS
- ARTIFACTS
- HIGH GROUND
- HAMBURG INN
- DEVOTAY
- BLUEBIRD
- THE HAUNTED BOOKSHOP
- GEORGE'S
- JOHN'S GROCERY
- RUSS' NORTHSIDE SERVICE
- PAGLIAI'S PIZZA
- EL BANDITOS
IOWA CITY OLD TRAIN DEPOT (30-31)
- THE CLUB CAR
- TRUMPET BLOSSOM CAFE
- PATV
- EPIC FUNCTIONAL MEDICINE CENTER
IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY (44)
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (44)
JENNY'S SALON & SPA (44)
KCCK JAZZ 88.3 (47)
KRUI 89.7 FM (38)
MOSS (39)
NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY (48)
NEW PIONEER FOOD CO-OP (45)
NORTHSIDE OKTOBERFEST (33)
OASIS (11)
OBERMANN CENTER (39)
OLD CAPITOL SCREEN PRINTERS (51)
OLD CREAMERY THEATRE (19)
RIVERSIDE THEATRE (27)
SCRATCH CUPCAKERY (12)
SOCIAL BRAND FORUM (13)
TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES (44)
THAT CELLULAR PLACE (2)
VORTEX BUSINESS SOLUTIONS (39)
WATERLOO CENTER FOR THE ARTS (9)
WORLD OF BIKES (41)
ZOMBIE BURGER (40)

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Regan (left) has lived with HIV since 1996.

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Midlife Sex Woes

Dear Kiki,

My sex life is dead and I'd like to revive it! I'm middle-aged and married for more than 15 years. My husband's sex drive has been waning for years, but the past couple of years have brought things to a screeching halt. I mean, we are literally getting it on one to two times a year at this point. He seems totally unconcerned by this and is uninterested in trying the little blue pill. I've talked with him many times about my frustration with the status quo and even mentioned the idea of an open marriage if he is done with sex, but I might as well be talking to a wall! Help!!!

Sincerely, Sexless on the Southside

Dear Sexless,

Excuse me while I sigh—a long, deep sigh. I was in your exact passionless position during my mid-to-late thirties. Living like roommates with your spouse is not a pleasurable position to be in. After going years with only a handful of notches on our bedpost, the marriage fizzled. Although there were more issues than the lack of sex, not having it was a giant downer. Your concern is prudent and reaching out shows a desire for change—which, if achieved, could preserve your marriage, alter it or end it.

A good start would be to do some research and some soul-searching. If you haven't already, find some online forums; even if you do not participate, the discussions could provide you with camaraderie and advice. It's estimated that 15-20 percent of couples are not getting it on, and the number is probably higher because it's not an easy issue to admit, so you will easily find similar stories and lots of lonely people.

The next step is not an easy one. You need to be completely honest with yourself and explore why your relationship devolved to this. Yes, long-term monogamy, stress in a marriage and children are intrinsically buzz kills to sex. Scheduling in quickies and date nights where children aren't present can make sex seem like a chore. Long gone are the days and nights of multiple, marathon fucking sessions. Are you or your partner involved with someone else in such a way that it would distract you or him from the marriage? You mentioned the blue pill: Would his increased interest in sex be the magic elixir?

If this dry spell is not just about him getting his mojo back, you both might be able to fulfill your sexual needs in an open marriage, but that brings about a host of complicated issues: boundaries, infidelity, jealousy, multiple sexual partners who may or may not be known to all involved. Here again, research nonmonogamy and have clear communication in your marriage and other relationships if this is the sex you choose to explore.

You need to be completely honest with yourself and explore why your relationship devolved to this.

Finally, would you be willing to admit your marriage might be over? For me, my best sexual experiences have happened since getting divorced. However, getting a divorce was the most difficult thing I've done, especially since we were great partners and parents otherwise. But in the last five years as a single MILF (lol), I have had the best sex of my life. Did I sacrifice a traditional family and financial stability for it? Fuck yes, I did.

You know you deserve a hotter sex life. Go get it, girl! *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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Thursday, October 5, 2017, 7:30 pm

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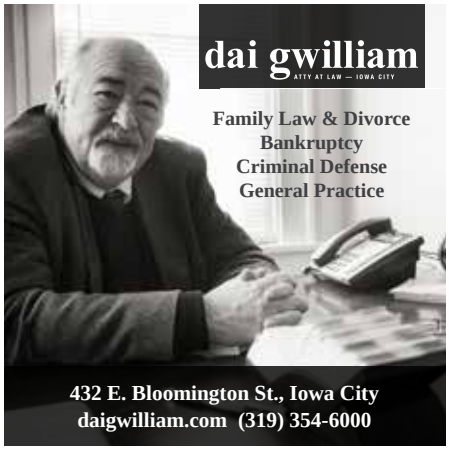

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THE STRAIGHT DOPE BY CECIL ADAMS

Coffee: Let's grow this plant, pick the berries, take the seeds out, roast and then grind the beans, pour hot water through the grounds and throw the beans away. Drink the water! How did we get there? —Old Blue Eyes

Remember Solomon, OBE? Wise and just, son of David, king of Israel, etc? He's who did it, according to one 17th-century Arab writer. The story goes that Solomon encountered a plague-struck village and was counseled by the angel Gabriel to roast coffee beans—anticipating the single-origin craze, Gabriel specified beans sourced from Yemen—and soak them in hot water. He gave the resulting beverage to the villagers, curing them. Despite coffee's proven miraculous qualities, this version of history has it then falling off everyone's radars for a couple millennia, till about the 16th century.

OK, maybe not the most convincing. But Yemen and the 16th century, or thereabouts, are where coffee actually begins to show up in the (non-scriptural) record. We pause to note, first, that these folks certainly weren't the first to come up with the idea of immersing vegetable matter in water and consuming the results. I'd propose that's just one of those things humans wind up thinking of over time, if only because they're bored; when the coffee craze first swept the Gulf of Aden, the Chinese had been brewing tea for centuries. You could similarly look at the practice of grinding grain, adding water, and exposing the resulting dough to heat—i.e., making bread, which I wrote about back in July. An unlikely process at first glance, but if you've got a sheaf of wheat and a need for nutrition, you'll figure it out eventually.

Coffee is nutritionally useless, though—what need could it have been filling? This is where the era and locale come into play: Some convincing histories place coffee's emergence in Yemeni communities of Sufis, members of a Muslim sect, who allegedly discovered that drinking it helped them stay awake during long religious ceremonies. There are a number of competing stories here and no small amount of lore, but if you squint hard enough you can see the rough outline of a narrative: Coffee trees grow wild in this part of the world; somebody decided to see how their seeds tasted and realized that, taste notwithstanding, they make you feel good; thus are caffeine addictions born. It probably didn't hurt that this was a region famous for the stimulant khat, which are leaves people chew on; there pre-existed a local enthusiasm for getting a buzz off plants.

Various of these stories are laid out in the 1985 book *Coffee and Coffeehouses: The Origins of a Social Beverage in the Medieval Near East*, by historian Ralph Hattox. Hattox doesn't even mention the first tale you'll likely come across if you do any searching: one about an Ethiopian goatherd named Kaldi, who observed his flock becoming particularly animated after nibbling on a certain bush. After trying it himself, Kaldi shared his find with a local imam, who dried the beans and took to steeping them in hot water whenever he needed to pull an all-nighter down at the mosque.

Apocryphal for sure, but the accounts Hattox relates support the idea of coffee being an agrarian discovery embraced by Sufi Muslims; He finds one story, for instance, of a notable Yemeni Sufi known as al-Dhabhani, who sometime in the 1400s traveled to Ethiopia and, there discovering coffee, brought some back to Aden and shared it with his co-religionists. This story also contains "more than a bit of legend," Hattox concedes, and is complicated even by the language employed: al-Dhabhani is said to have encountered people in Ethiopia "using" (i.e., not "drinking") what the 16th-century writer recounting these events called qahwa, leaving it unclear whether they were brewing it or chewing on it, a la khat. Evidence on the side of brewing is provided by the word qahwa itself, a term that previously had sometimes referred to wine, another mood-altering drink.

Still, that or something like it is about as close as we're going to get: Though we don't know the play-by-play, we know roughly where coffee drinking caught on (Yemen, perhaps running with an Ethiopian concept) and when (the mid-15th century), as well as the religious tradition that midwifed it. A little note on that: In Yemen, the drink ran into early contention over whether it was even acceptable by the standards of the Quran. The prophet Muhammad, you'll recall, forbade his followers from getting intoxicated, and when coffee made its way to Mecca, in the early 1500s, it sparked a debate: Was caffeine an intoxicant? In 1511 a local religious leader "literally put coffee on trial," writes Tom Standage in *A History of the World in 6 Glasses* (2005): "He convened a council of legal experts and placed the accused—a large vessel of coffee—before them."

After talking it over they decided coffee was indeed an intoxicant, and therefore haram, and the drink was banned—burned in the streets, Standage reports, its vendors beaten. Within months, though, a higher council overturned the ruling. Apparently cooler heads had prevailed in the interim; maybe everyone switched to decaf. LV/

LV / CS

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RYAN JOSEPH ANDERSON
THURS 5 | 8:00PM

HOME FOOTBALL GAME
TWINS
SAT 7 | RIGHT AFTER THE GAME

THE LUCKY DUTCH
THURS 12 | 8:00PM

BETH BOMBARA
FRI 20 | 8:30PM

SEPTEMBER

JOHN TILL
THURS 7 | 7:30PM

THE FERALINGS
FRI 8 | 8:00PM

MOTHERLODE
FRI 15 | 8:30PM

HOME FOOTBALL GAME
RAMBLIN FEVER
SAT 16 | RIGHT AFTER THE GAME

BEN MILLER BAND
FRI 22 | 8:30PM

HOME FOOTBALL GAME
THE BERNEMANN BROTHERS
SAT 23 | RIGHT AFTER THE GAME

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ASTROLOGY BY ROB BREZSNY

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Will a routine trip to carry out an errand take you on a detour to the suburbs of the promised land? Will you worry you're turning into a monster, only to find the freakishness is just a phase that you had to pass through on your way to unveiling some of your dormant beauty? Will a provocative figure from the past lead you on a productive wild-goose chase into the future? These are some of the possible storylines I'll be monitoring as I follow your progress in the coming weeks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Let's meet in the woods after midnight and tell each other stories about our origins, revealing the secrets we almost forgot we had. Let's sing the songs that electrified our emotions all those years ago when we first fell in love with our lives. Starlight will glow on our ancient faces. The fragrance of loam will seep into our voices like rainwater feeding the trees' roots. We'll feel the earth turning on its axis, and sense the rumble of future memories coming to greet us. We'll join hands, gaze into the dreams in each other's eyes, and dive as deep as we need to go to find hidden treasures.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): I don't usually recommend giving gifts with strings attached. On the contrary, I advise you to offer your blessings without having any expectations at all. Generosity often works best when the recipients are free to use it any way they see fit. In the coming weeks, however, I'm making an exception to my rule. According to my reading of the omens, now is a time to be specific and forceful about the way you'd like your gifts to be used. As an example of how *not* to proceed, consider the venture capitalist who donated $25,000 to the University of Colorado. All he got in return was a rest room in a campus building named after him. If you give away $25,000, Scorpio, make sure you at least get a whole building named after you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Now that you're getting a taste of what life would be like if you ruled the world, I'll recommend a manual. It's called *How To Start Your Own Country*, by Erwin Strauss. (Get a free peek here: tinyurl.com/YouSovereign.) You could study it for tips on how to obtain national sovereignty, how to recruit new citizens and how to avoid paying taxes to yourself. (P.S.: You can make dramatic strides toward being the boss of yourself and your destiny even without forming your own nation.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There was a time when not even the most ambitious explorers climbed mountains. In the western world, the first time it happened was in 1492, when a Frenchman named Antoine de Ville ascended to the top of Mont Aiguille, using ladders, ropes and other props. I see you as having a kinship with de Ville in the coming weeks, Capricorn. I'd love to see you embark on a big adventure that would involve you trying on the role of a pioneer. This feat wouldn't necessarily require strenuous training and physical courage. It might be more about daring creativity and moral courage.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Science fiction proposes that there are alternate worlds alongside the visible one—hidden, yes, but perhaps accessible with the right knowledge or luck. In recent years, maverick physicists have given the idea more credibility, theorizing that parallel universes exist right next to ours. Even if these hypothetical places aren't literally real, they serve as an excellent metaphor. Most of us are so thoroughly embedded in our own chosen niche that we are oblivious to the realities that other people inhabit. I bring these thoughts to your attention, Aquarius, because it's a favorable time to tap into those alternate, parallel, secret, unknown or unofficial realms. Wake up to the rich sources that have been so close to you, but so far away.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I'm always in favor of you cultivating a robust relationship with your primal longings. But I'll be rooting extra hard for you to do that during the next eleven months. I hope you will dig deep to identify your primal longings, and I hope you will revere them as the wellspring of your life energy, and I hope you will figure out all the tricks and strategies you will need to fulfill them. Here's a hint about how to achieve the best results as you do this noble work: Define your primal longings with as much precision as you can, so that you will never pursue passing fancies that bear just a superficial resemblance to the real things.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You're half-intoxicated by your puzzling adventures—and half-bewildered, as well. Sometimes you're spinning out fancy moves, sweet tricks and surprising gambits. On other occasions you're stumbling and bumbling and mumbling. Are you really going to keep up this rhythm? I hope so, because your persistence in navigating through the challenging fun could generate big rewards. Like what, for example? Like the redemptive transformation of a mess into an asset.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "Free your mind and your ass will follow," sings funk pioneer George Clinton in his song "Good Thoughts, Bad Thoughts." And what's the best way to free your mind? Clinton advises you to "Be careful of the thought-seeds you plant in the garden of your mind." That's because the ideas you obsess on will eventually grow into the experiences you attract into your life. "Good thoughts bring forth good fruit," he croons, while "bullshit thoughts rot your meat." Any questions, Taurus? According to my astrological analysis, this is the best possible counsel for you to receive right now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): James Loewen wrote a book called *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*. He said, for instance, that during the Europeans' invasion and conquest of the continent, it wasn't true that Native Americans scalped white settlers. In fact, it was mostly the other way around: Whites scalped Indians. Here's another example: The famous blind and deaf person, Helen Keller, was not a sentimental spokesperson for sweetness and light, but rather a radical feminist and socialist who advocated revolution. I invite you to apply Loewen's investigative approach to your personal past, Gemini. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to uncover hidden, incomplete and distorted versions of your history, and correct them.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Roger Hodge writes books now, but when he worked for *Harper's* magazine, he had an unusual specialty. He gathered heaps of quirky facts and assembled several at a time into long sentences that had a nutty poetic grace. Here's an example: "British cattle have regional accents, elephants mourn their dead, nicotine sobers drunk rats, scientists have concluded that teenagers are physically incapable of being considerate, and clinical trials of an 'orgasmatron' are underway in North Carolina." I'm offering Hodge as a worthy role model for you in the coming weeks, Cancerian. Be curious, miscellaneous and free-flowing. Let your mind wander luxuriantly as you make unexpected connections. Capitalize on the potential blessings that appear through zesty twists and tangy turns.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In Japan you can buy a brand of candy that's called The Great Buddha's Nose Snot. Each piece consists of a rice puff that resembles the Buddha's nose filled with bits of brown sugar that symbolize the snot. The candy-making company assures customers that eating this treat brings them good luck. I invite you to be equally earthy and irreverent about your own spiritual values in the coming days. You're in prime position to humanize your relationship with divine influences—to develop a more visceral passion for your holiest ideals—to translate your noblest aspirations into practical, enjoyable actions.: LV

Submit albums for review: Little Village, 623 S Dubuque St., IC, IA 52240

MATTHEW JAMES & THE RUST BELT UNION

"Impromptu Musicals For the Skeptic"

sumppumprecords.bandcamp.com/album/impromptu-musicals-for-the-skeptic

Trust a joker like Matthew James to open *Impromptu Musicals For the Skeptic*, his album with the Rust Belt Union, with a song titled "Goodbye." Like Groucho Marx's song "Hello, I Must Be Going," it's ironic but shows a restlessness mirrored in the lyrics: "But it's just like before I'm always heading out a door and I never quite get where I'm supposed to go."

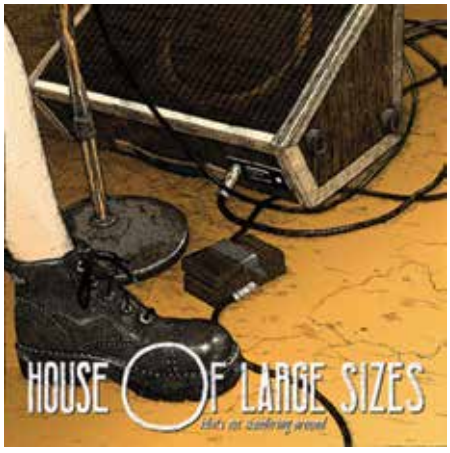
Originally from Michigan, James has settled in Des Moines and found a like-minded group of musicians to play with in an east side garage. "Little Light in the Big Rust" describes Detroit as "... a big lonely city North between the lakes where they break their backs working on their graves." James' rough, phlegmy singing voice and his lyrical themes of the hard-living working class make Tom Waits comparisons inevitable. But James has a different take than Waits that he calls "Midwest Junk Soul."

The music banged out by the Rust Belt Union is joyously at cross purposes with the bleak words of working-class toil and frustration of James' lyrics. Nathan Emerson's pedal steel adds a country sweetness to the rootsy chugging of the rest of the band. The Rust Belt Union seems like an old Buick with bad tires, always on the verge of missing the next turn, but Wrex Hill's drumming is in the driver's seat, keeping it between the ditches. There is one ballad, the romantically titled "Dying Dogs in South Carolina" but the natural pace of the band is a pell-mell rave up two step.

It's hard to find joy in a lyric like "Oh it's all gone to Hell, we're just living in the same damn noose," but damned if James doesn't manage it. This isn't blues music per se, but it does what the blues is supposed to do: make you feel good about feeling bad. *Impromptu Musicals For the Skeptic* is the perfect soundtrack for midnight in a working-class bar, when everyone's drunk enough to laugh at the hangover they're going to take to their dead-end job in the morning.

This isn't blues music per se, but it does what the blues is supposed to do: make you feel good about feeling bad.

—Kent Williams



HOUSE OF LARGE SIZES

Idiots Out Wandering Around (Reissue)

whatarerecords.com/hols/discography.html

It's impossible to talk about the history of Iowa modern rock without talking about Cedar Falls band House of Large Sizes. During their 17-year run (1986-2003) they released eight albums, including a very brief stint on Columbia Records and a bunch of singles. Since 2003, HOLS has sporadically come out of retirement to play shows in the area to eager fans, but guitarist/vocalist Dave Deibler and his wife, bassist and vocalist Barb Schilf, primarily focus their attentions on the Octopus bar and Mohair Pear apparel and accessories store in Cedar Falls. This month HOLS put out its first release since 2003's self-titled album—a gorgeous, expanded, two-LP color vinyl reissue of their 1999 live album *Idiots Out Wandering Around*.

When HOLS hit the scene in '86, they were (and still are) a band difficult to comfortably classify. The huge guitars and explosive percussion (by Brent Hanson on this album and since) put the band precariously close to metal or hardcore punk. Deibler's vocal delivery is a staccato shouting rap that lands somewhere between Iggy Pop and Frank Black. His messages are urgent, adrenalized recitations of dadaist proclamations. But Barb is a secret weapon. Her disarmingly sweet duets, harmonies and schoolyard chants provide a contrasting support to the songs, reminding me of Kim Deal's role in the Pixies. I'm excited to report that all of this is captured within the grooves of *I.O.W.A.*

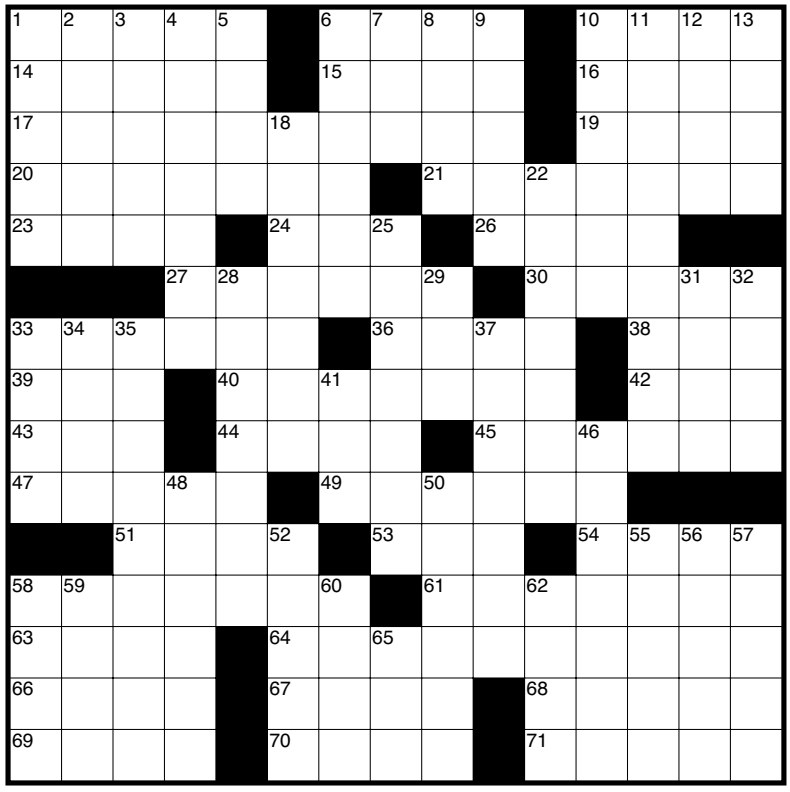
In an interview with the music blog *In Music We Trust* in 2000 when the CD version was released, Deibler said, "We are known as a live band. We try really hard to capture our sound on record, but people are always coming up to us and telling us that what we do in the clubs is better than what we do on record. And, when you've been around as long as us ... it makes sense to do a live record."

For the uninitiated, then, I heartily recommend *I.O.W.A.* Some of the best known tracks are represented here: "What If There's A Fire," from their 1989 album *One Big Cake*; "Death Buggy," from *Heat Miser*. The majority comes from their major label release *My Ass-Kicking Life* and the following *Glass Cockpit*. The music comes roaring off the record player at breakneck speed and is just as exciting as I remember. LV

—Michael Roeder

CROSSWORD BY AUTHOR

The American Values Club Crossword is edited by Ben Tausig.



ACROSS

1. LGBT rights group (whose motto is Silence = Death)
6. Biblical figure slain for masturbating (sheesh)
10. Exam given on a Saturday morning (to H.S. juniors)
14. Not just that
15. Commercial lead-in to "wear" or "Fella"
16. Provoke
17. Sit around for 20 minutes with a stopwatch, waiting for some arboreal mammals to finish the 100-yard dash?
19. Jazz's Jones (or James)
20. Nirvana song with a black-and-white video
21. Aural proximity
23. Dative, e.g.
24. Something to surf, in dated parlance
26. Pickup sites?
27. 1954 doo-wop hit for the Chords
30. She had two roles in the remake of *The Parent Trap* (and later trashed a lot of hotel rooms)
33. Dennis Hopper character in the live-action Super Mario Bros. movie (and another name for King Koopa)
36. Gutter site
38. ___-de-France (immigrant-heavy area)
39. Here, in Haiti
40. Subject of a deleted *Empire Strikes Back* scene in which AT-AT walkers are shown mating after the big battle?
42. Annoy
43. League for Blues but not Jazz, Devils but not Angels
44. Declaration after drawing the third of three consecutive X's
45. Blacken, as sensitive sections of a document
47. Beckett character who never shows
49. Cheapen
51. Units of resistance
53. Harry and Hermione's pal
54. Congratulatory touch on the butt, as in baseball
58. Not equilateral or isosceles
61. What articles exist to help fill, for some publications
63. Kansas pup (or the band that wrote "Africa," but not the band that wrote "Dust in the Wind;" that was Kansas)
64. They make things easier (as in some of this puzzle's clues) or, read another way, a description of how this puzzle's theme answers were formed
66. Interactive Amazon device (that speaks back to you)
67. "Zounds!"
68. Knotted scarf (worn, notably, by Fred on *Scooby-Doo*)
69. Lazy person's Oct. 30th purchase
70. Hits from the bong
71. Bucks, but not bulls

DOWN

1. Storage area (at the top of the house, not the bottom)
2. Whence Ai Weiwei
3. The Taj Mahal and Egyptian pyramids, essentially
4. Like the Juicero, notably
5. Currency in the Zócalo (Mexico City's central square)
6. Juliet's first two words from a balcony
7. "This is ___ a drill ..."
8. Yearn (for)
9. Like some annoying voices
10. Magician's outburst
11. Mourning ritual after Darth Maul's death, e.g.?
12. Range for some flutes
13. Nipple
18. Bawdy and over-the-top, perhaps
22. Patek Philippe alternatives
25. Speaker of the House under Obama
28. Sibling's charge
29. Some advanced degrees (before PhDs)
31. "Watched *Saturday Night Live* hit job on me.Time to retire the boring and unfunny show. ___ Baldwin portrayal stinks. Media rigging election!"
32. Word to waiters?
33. Certain sweet cherry (or a Google competitor)
34. Number above siete
35. Swearing-in ceremonies that get out-of-control?
37. Portico or lanai (or porch)
41. Director Browning whose pseudonymous first name means "death" in German
46. Abhor
48. "Check that out!"
50. Gets on the plane
52. Villain's smile
55. Renaissance Faire weapon
56. Bale or Peck
57. Thorns in one's side
58. Disposable bit of weed
59. Chewed stimulant (that is a source of both drugs and soda)
60. Army vet
62. Kind of roe
65. Keg attachment

LV226 ANSWERS

W	A	T	E	R	S		W	R	O	N	G	W	A	Y
A	V	E	N	U	E		O	H	B	O	O	H	O	O
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