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ISSUE 236 FEB. 7-20, 2018

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#MeToo's Chain Reaction
p. 10



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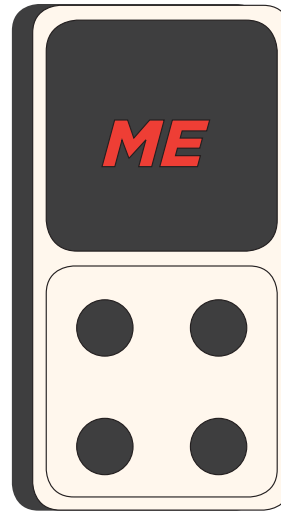
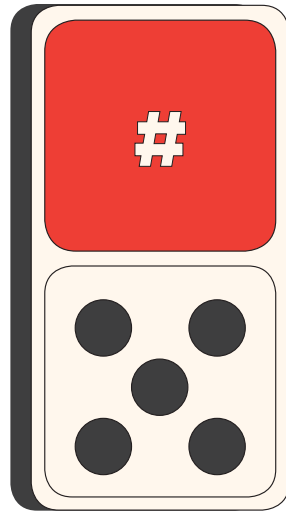
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Jordan Selligren

10 You Too?

The view of Me Too from Iowa City and Cedar Rapids.

LAUREN SHOTWELL

- 6 - Letters
- 9 - Interactions
- 10 - Me Too
- 14 - UR Here
- 16 - En Español

18 Puppy Love

Adorable pet adoption stories for Valentine's Day.

EMMA MCCLATCHEY

- 18 - Pet love stories
- 22 - Q & A
- 24 - Bread and Butter
- 26 - A-List
- 27 - Events Calendar

24 Adventures in Instant-Potting

Get out your flavor packets!

CHRIS WIERSEMA

- 45 - Ad Index
- 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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Motown The Musical is the true American dream story of Motown founder Berry Gordy's journey from featherweight boxer to the heavyweight music mogul who launched the careers of Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Smokey Robinson, and many more. Motown shattered barriers, shaped our lives, and made us all move to the same beat.



The Temptations in MOTOWN THE MUSICAL. © Joan Marcus, 2017

Featuring classic songs such as "My Girl," "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," and many, many more.



Nya Trysha (Martha Reeves) & Cast of MOTOWN THE MUSICAL. © Joan Marcus, 2017

The performance on Sunday, March 4 at 1 pm will feature an American Sign Language interpreter.



Kai Calhoun as Michael Jackson (center) with the Jackson 5 in MOTOWN THE MUSICAL © Joan Marcus, 2017

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- Chicago Sun-Times



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THE MUSICAL



**"YOU WILL BE
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- The Tampa Tribune

**"SUPREME
ENTERTAINING"**

- St. Louis Dispatch

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LETTERS

LV encourages community members, including candidates for office, to submit letters to Editor@LittleVillageMag.com. To be considered for print publication, letters should be under 500 words. Preference is given to letters that have not been published elsewhere.

Phone rings.

"Floral Shop, how may I help you?"

"Yes, I'd like a dozen roses delivered to my partner, please!"

"Sure, we'd love to send your partner flowers, but just so you know, I have purple hair."

SOUNDS A LITTLE SILLY

right? Unfortunately, every day those working in an environment with a strict dress code face this sort of scrutiny. Their professionalism, work ethic and employability are questioned because of dyed hair, visible tattoos and piercings, and the clothing and accessories they choose to wear.

I am one of these employees.

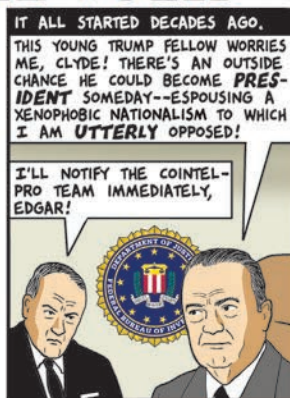
I love my job. I get to be creative by designing beautiful floral arrangements that

comfort people in times of tragedy and aid the celebration of life's most joyous occasions. Unfortunately, my creativity is limited by corporate dress code policy against unnaturally colored hair. It also expressly forbids facial piercings, visible tattoos and head coverings that are not worn for religious reasons. This has always been difficult to swallow. I see my purple (or blue or rainbow) colored hair as an extension of myself.

According to a Pew Research Center's 2010 survey of 18-29-year-olds, "Nearly four-in-ten have a tattoo (... about half of those with tattoos have two to five and 18% have six or more). Nearly one-in-four have a piercing in some place other than an earlobe — about six times the share of older adults who've done this." Because employers are not comfortable with people who "look

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



TOM TOMORROW © 2018

HAVE AN OPINION?

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different,” they are missing out on a huge potential workforce that would bring tremendous positive change and growth to their companies.

Where they see someone whose face resembles a tackle-box accident, I see someone who has designed and seen to every detail of their appearance. For those who might be missing body modification experience, it takes a great deal of care and work to

I see it as a violation of body autonomy.

healthily maintain piercings and tattoos. This includes personal hygiene, knowledge of sanitation and incredible attention to detail. Someone with a tackle-box face will know how to wash their hands, how important it is to keep work areas clean and would cause me no worry while preparing food or defending me in court.

So, my question is where does “self” end and job begin? Should employers have the right to tell their workers what they can and can’t do to modify their body? My answer is a resounding no. I see it as a violation of



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LETTERS

body autonomy.

Bodily autonomy means having control over who or what uses your body, for what and for how long. Telling an employee that they aren't allowed visible body modification is telling them how they can and can't use their body. Requiring employees to conform to an outdated dress code that enforces the social norm of the clean-cut, unmodified, "upstanding citizen" not only unnecessarily limits individuality in the workplace, but also affects what workers can do outside of work. One can't simply change their hair color before work and then back again after or take off tattoos and put them back on. Put on a wig, you say? Those are forbidden by dress codes as well.

This creates a totally new issue. I recently heard an anecdote from a friend who works in the Corridor. One evening a trans coworker was ordered to remove her wig at work because the dress code prohibits it. She did, but I can only imagine the amount of pain and possible dysphoria this may have caused her. It certainly doesn't make for a friendly work environment and outright defies body autonomy.

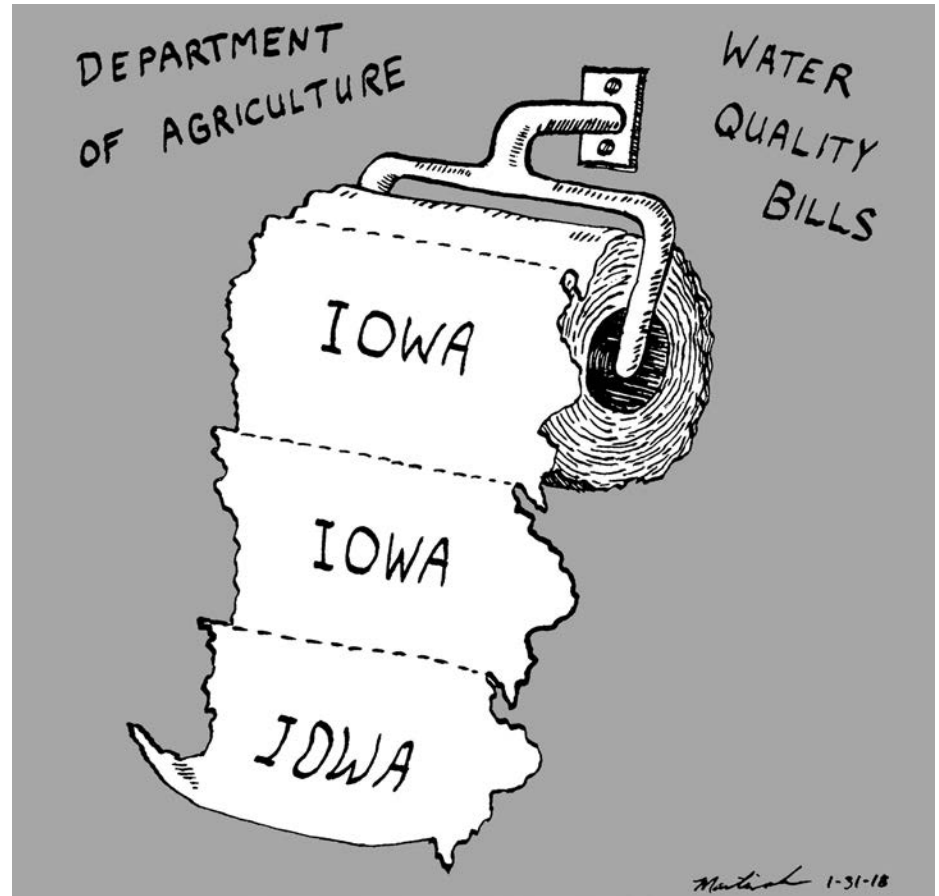
I recently went to work with dark purple hair. I intended to challenge our dress code by showing my boss first hand how my job performance is unaffected by the color of my hair. It even sounds silly to type. This should be a common-sense statement, but for many people it is a hard concept to grasp. Someone's outward appearance does not predict if they will be good at their job. End of story. To see this, companies with archaic dress codes will need to make crucial updates to their policies. Corporations need to move past physical appearance.

When they see my hair and tattoos do they see a deviant, a criminal, someone untrustworthy? I hope not. I still have a bright smile and an unwavering commitment to our customers' satisfaction. Hopefully through civil dialogue progress will be made. I encourage others working under outdated dress codes to open lines of communication with their employers, not only about why these rules are in place and how to work towards positive change, but also towards an understanding of what bodily autonomy is and why it is important.

—Rachel VanDorpe, North Liberty LV/



STRESS FRACTURES BY JOHN MARTINEK





Iowans disapprove of Trump, but Iowa Republicans in Congress keep voting for his policies

That's why we need to get everyone voting in 2018. We all have friends who think it doesn't matter, or that both parties are the same. Convince them otherwise!
—Samuel A.

Five UI student groups file a brief supporting Christian group's lawsuit against the university

No one is keeping these people from meeting. Recognition as an official university organization is a privilege, not a right. —Kyle M.

if you want private clubs don't put them with a public facility—just like if you don't want to serve all of your customers, have a private business! —Ronda K.

All of these university religious groups fighting for the right to exclude LGBT members and leaders, as if LGBT people lack faith or aren't capable of leadership. Maybe these LGBT people of faith should work to create a new campus faith group—one that's actually inclusive and affirming. —Jon T.

Man who put up pro-white stickers on the Ped Mall identified

So this convicted sex offender was working at MERGE and NO ONE did a background check before allowing him to use the space?? How long has he had access to the playground and library, where tons of kids constantly run around and play? So messed up. —Andrea C.

Good for MERGE by the way
—Christopher G.

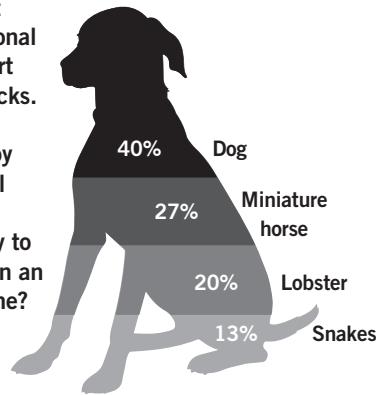
Disgusted to think this playground is one of my kids favorite places to play and this scumbag was lurking just on the other side of the wall. —Nathan K.

Federal judge orders UI to restore official status of Christian group suing the university

Well that's goofy as hell —Andrew D.

READER POLL:

Forget emotional support peacocks. What therapy animal would you try to take on an airplane?



Man arrested in Davenport carrying the same white supremacist fliers that were distributed in Iowa City

Felony weapon charges, eh? Well I'm sure he'll enjoy the racial demographics of Anamosa while he's rotting for five years.
—Ben C.

Root, the organic cosmetics store, is closing its Iowa City location

If it's where I think it is, nothing stays there for more than a few months. Is it a rent issue? Can't be lack of traffic.
—Vanessa E.

Lawmaker wants to slash salaries of Iowa State Supreme Court Justices

How do people get in office without a basic understanding of the checks and balance of the three branches of U.S. government???? —Diana M.

Apparently, filing time-wasting bills is also acting like a legislator —Travis L.

Who knew Iowa could pack this much stupid between its two rivers. —Michael K.

If Iowa lawmakers want to cut anyone's wages they should start with their own and also be held responsible for their own health insurance and be required to pay back the Iowa taxpayers for their unlawful use of taxpayer money for their insurance premiums and for the sexual harassment settlement and internal investigation and retraining! How about all those pay raises they gave themselves over the last 30

years as they lied to state workers that there was no money for anyone else to get raises?! —Roger B.

If legislators want to act like children they should get a weekly allowance if they do all their chores. And a juice box after nap time. —Gee P.

Zombie Burger in Iowa City is closing

Never been ... seemed a bit of a gimmick to me. What Iowa City really needs is a place that prepares dishes with no dairy, wheat/processed grains or sugar that is also reasonably priced. A growing number of people have food sensitivities and allergies and it would be nice to have a restaurant that accommodates that. —Ariane P.

Oh yeah the masses have been begging for that little joy factory. —Zach A.

Even as a vegan, that sounds like a depressing menu to me. —Robert D.

This got hyped to the point where it was never gonna do anything more than disappoint. The shakes were the best thing about it. —Beau P.

Business owners in Iowa City had the hardest winter in recent history—myself included. University Camera is closing/closed, as well as the pizza/arcade place (Forbidden Planet). —Kelly S.

Iowa City is pretty good about choosing good food over gimmicks. —Richard J.

Iowa City will be an overnight stop for RAGBRAI 2018

Awesome! Fantastic news for Iowa City and it's businesses!! Welcome back!! —Joshua K.

So sorry, service industry friends. May God have mercy on your souls. —Alison C.

Aha! So Ragbrai is not above politics; last year there were conversations about not participating because of the ride going through King country! Now that Grassley has put Iowa in an even more unfavorable light, the ride will stop in IC which is the most liberal spot in Iowa! —Tarrill A. LV |

The DOMINO EFFECT

Watching the progress of the Me Too movement in Iowa City and Cedar Rapids.

BY LAUREN SHOTWELL

The Me Too movement has taken down politicians and Hollywood A-Listers, but it also pops up in Facebook feeds and conversations with friends and community members. Sexual harassment and assault, and broader issues of gender inequality, are both systemic and immensely personal issues, and the Me Too movement has both created a sense of unity and purpose and underscored existing social divisions.

Now, months after the wave of #MeToo posts and a decade after the initial Me Too movement began, the focus has turned to ensuring that the movement provides lasting change.

“This fight is for all of us. It is not a fight for just survivors,” said Katryn Duarte, assistant director for sexual assault services at the Rape Victim Advocacy Program (RVAP). “If we really want to eliminate sexual violence, it is our responsibility to educate ourselves on what that means and how to stop it.”

Duarte described sexual violence as a system of oppression, a way of using sex as a violent tool to take away someone’s humanity, but said that it is just one part of a larger social justice movement.

“It’s just one branch. We need to eradicate the tree from the roots so it doesn’t sprout back up. We need to work on all the -isms—racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, all the tools used to oppress other individuals,” Duarte said.

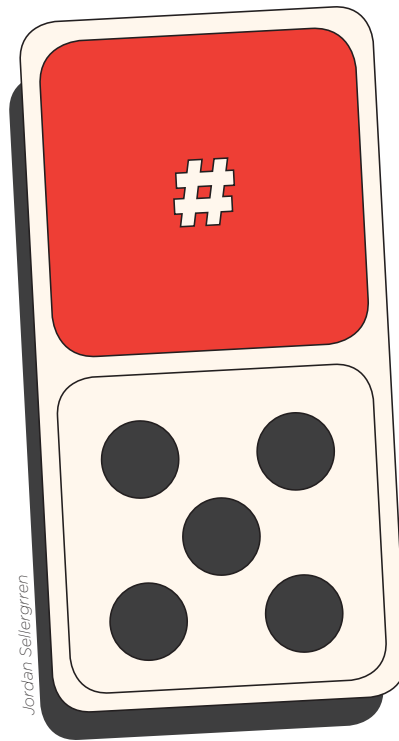
“Not to overly simplify, but it comes down to recognizing someone else’s humanity and being able to respect that individual.”

Duarte said a larger, long-term movement will require being present and holding each other accountable, and making sure that everyone has the opportunity to be present and to be heard.

“If we’re not doing anything to do that, we are also part of the problem,” Duarte said.

From Hollywood to Here at Home

Emmy Palmersheim, a theater enthusiast, cat lover and University of Iowa student studying creative writing and secondary education, said the Me Too movement is raising awareness of sexual assault, but it is nothing new.



“Something I’m very adamant about is that you have to look at something and you have to accept that it is happening,” Palmersheim said. “And right now, a lot of people, a lot of women, are sexually assaulted and harassed. So, we have to accept it, and then say, ‘Okay, how does it change?’”

Palmersheim shared her own Me Too post last year. It was the first time she had publicly

spoken out about a violent rape that happened that year, although she had spoken to family and friends about it, but it wasn’t the first time she had talked about her experience with an older man who groomed, harassed and assaulted her when she was in her teens.

For her, being open about those experiences has helped her cope.

“I think that reclaiming something that happened to you, and making it your story, and deciding how you want to tell it is an incredibly empowering thing,” she said, adding that although the movement can feel pressuring, no one needs to share their story if they are not ready.

“If you aren’t comfortable sharing, you don’t owe it to anyone. All we owe each other is to be there and to listen if someone is talking,” Palmersheim said.

For Mary Sullivan, an actor, writer and director living in Cedar Rapids, the Me Too movement brought back memories of her teenage years, when she was involved in community theater and was pulled into a relationship with an older man. It inspired her to post a message to a local theater-focused Facebook group warning parents and adults to keep a watchful eye on kids. She titled the post “Don’t go into the prop room alone with the director.”

“Looking back at it, I see the dynamics of that relationship and how the older man exploited my youth and my enthusiasm for theater, and just how easy it was for him to manipulate me because I was a teenager and he was a guy in his 30s,” she told *Little Village*, adding that the revelations about that relationship weren’t new, but rather something she’d been thinking about all her life.

She said most of the responses to her post were supportive and positive, but there were some responses in the vein of “not all guys.”

“Which prompted some pretty forceful responses from women talking about why the response is a problem because of the way it tries to derail the conversation, shifting it

RESOURCES

Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline: 1-800-284-7821, *Resource directory for local, state, national and cultural specific programs:* <https://isah.uiowa.edu/directory/>

Iowa Domestic Violence Helpline:

1-800-770-1650, or text "IOWAHELP" to 20121

SEXUAL ABUSE RESOURCES:

Rape Victim ADVOCACY Program (RVAP)

Local crisis line: 319-335-6000, Regional crisis line: 1-800-228-1625, <https://rvap.uiowa.edu>, Counties: Cedar, Des Moines, Henry, Iowa, Johnson, Lee, Van Buren, Washington

Riverview Center, Inc. Regional crisis line: 888-557-

0310, Counties: Allamakee, Benton, Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Chickasaw, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Howard, Jones, Linn, Winneshiek, www.riverviewcenter.org

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES:

Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) Crisis

Line: 800-373-1043, Counties: Cedar, Des Moines, Henry, Iowa, Johnson, Lee, Van Buren, Washington

Waypoint Crisis Line: 800-208-0388, Counties: Benton,

Blackhawk, Buchanan, Delaware, Dubuque, Jones, Linn

CULTURALLY SPECIFIC PROGRAMS:

Amani Community Services *Services for African American*

Survivors, Counties: Blackhawk, Linn, Crisis Line: 888-983-2533, Office: 319-804-0741, www.amani-cs.org

Deaf Iowans Against Abuse (DIAA) *Services for Deaf,*

Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind Survivors, Crisis Line—V/VP: 319-531-7719, Crisis Line—Text ONLY: 515-661-4015, <https://diaaiowa.org/>

Latinas Unidas por un Nuevo Amanecer (L.U.N.A.)

Services for Latin@ survivors, Crisis Line: 866-256-7668

Meskwaki Victim Services *Services for Native women,*

children and families, Crisis Line—Toll Free: 855-840-7362, Crisis Line—Call or Text: 641-481-0334, www.meskwaki.org

Monsoon United Asian Women of Iowa *Services for Asian*

and Pacific Islander survivors, Crisis Line: 866-881-4641, www.muawi.org

Nisaa African Women's Project *Services for African*

Immigrants and Refugee communities, Crisis Line: 866-881-4641, www.nisaa-afs.org

Transformative Healing *Services for LGBTQIA Survivors,*

Office Line: 319-389-8430, www.thiowa.org



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Amid the large national discussion centered on sexual violence, news reports and social media feeds can become a triggering experience for survivors. Katryn Duarte, assistant director for sexual assault services at the Rape Victim Advocacy Program (RVAP), said her best advice is for survivors to give themselves permission to take care of themselves, which can include a variety of different self-care practices including:

Mindful disconnect Giving yourself time and permission to remove yourself from things, places and individuals that might be triggering.

Discharge of energy Making sure that energy is flowing and not stuck within your body. That doesn't have to mean physical activity, it can also mean spirituality, such as praying or mindfulness exercises.

Connecting Finding people you feel comfortable connecting with, because trauma tends to be isolating. If other human beings are not safe, pets or animals can also be a good answer.

"Take care of yourself, make sure that you are eating, sleeping and asking for help when you need it, which is sometimes hard to do," Duarte said.

away from the person who is telling their story and bringing it back to men," Sullivan said.

Some of the headline-producing stories out of Hollywood also struck close to home for Sullivan. After the *Los Angeles Times* published an October story about sexual harassment and assault by filmmaker James Toback with corroborated stories from 38 women, the publication received an onslaught of emails and phone calls. By January, reporter Glenn Whipp had communicated with nearly 400 women with similar stories, all involving Toback (who has denied the allegations—as of January, the Los Angeles County district attorney was looking into at least five cases against the director).

"I'm one of those 400 that had a James Toback experience," Sullivan said. "He didn't rape me, but he used coercion, he exploited me, he manipulated me."

Her own experience dated to her time in Manhattan in the '80s, but stories of his abuses span four decades. Sullivan said seeing the number of women impacted by Toback's actions was horrifying, but also created a sense of unity.

"To hear that there are that many other women, that immediately lets you know that there's that many other women you can talk to about this who get it. I have met some amazing, talented, smart, incredible women because of this," she said.

Hearing Every Voice

Raven Maragh Lloyd, a UI Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Communication Studies, said that social media was practically made for social movements like Me Too.

"It was made for normal people expressing their experiences collectively," Maragh Lloyd



Jason Smith

said. "The risk is making invisible certain people in a movement, specifically women of color, black women, like Tarana Burke, who a lot of people don't know started the whole thing."

Burke, the founder of Just Be Inc., started her Me Too campaign a decade ago. After an Oct. 15 tweet by Alyssa Milano used the phrase, the hashtag #MeToo went viral. Milano later acknowledged Burke's earlier movement and Burke responded on Twitter saying that "it made my heart swell to see women using this idea."

"The point of the work we've done over the last decade with the 'me too movement' is to let women, particularly young women of color, know that they are not alone—it's a movement. It's beyond a hashtag. It's the start of a larger conversation and a movement for

radical community healing," Burke said over a series of tweets.

Maragh Lloyd, who is a digital media and critical race scholar, said that the issue isn't just about race and gender, but also class. The

"IT'S BEYOND A HASHTAG. IT'S THE START OF A LARGER CONVERSATION AND A MOVEMENT FOR RADICAL COMMUNITY HEALING"

—TAMARA BURKE

Me Too movement has been frequently criticized for its focus on celebrity.

"It's important that we're talking about working class women, who maybe can't afford to speak up to their boss because they'll lose their job and that's all they have," she said. "Although the experiences of sexual assault clearly resonate across hundreds of millions of women, the implications are different regarding different women and different classes, different intersections of oppression."

Maragh Lloyd's research has included speaking to a focus group of 20 black women in St. Louis about how they define and enact resistance online, and she said public social media spaces are not always viewed as useful or welcoming.

"For the women I spoke to, a lot of them found public use of social media unhelpful

because their words would be taken against them, for example, or they would be hugely trolled online in ways that they didn't necessarily see for other groups," she said.

Maragh Lloyd said that the silence on social media when women of color are attacked is a huge issue, citing Lupita Nyong'o, whose accusations against Harvey Weinstein were nearly the only ones he directly rebutted; the harassment faced by Saturday Night Live's Leslie Jones; and the suspension of ESPN's Jemele Hill over social media comments.

But people can take action.

"Let women of color speak for themselves," she said. "We don't ever need to say, 'This is their experience. This is how they feel.' What we can do is amplify those voices. It's about finding those spaces, following Ava DuVernay, following Patrisse Cullors, of Black Lives Matter. Find out what they're linking to and retweeting. Speaking up if you see a demographic that's not represented on, for example, a panel, and educating yourself on the issues."

Moving Forward

Maragh Lloyd said the success of a social media movement relies on having clear goals, like with the initial wave of Me Too: share your experience and add the hashtag. She pointed to other successful movements like Black Lives Matter, which moved from a hashtag to a website that points people to ways to get involved, merchandise to buy and stories about the movement.

One prominent effort to channel the Me Too movement into measurable change is the Time's Up movement, formed by over 300 prominent women in movies, television and theater. The undertaking includes a legal defense fund and initiatives to promote legislation. It also spearheaded the successful, if symbolic, effort to have celebrities wear black to the Golden Globes.

The Me Too movement has also inspired actions on a local level. Just days after the initial volley of #MeToo posts, a Google spreadsheet ranking girls with letter grades started making the rounds at Iowa City West High School.

"There were a lot of people posting on social media about how upset they were, and how angry, and they couldn't believe this happened," said Lucy Polyak, a West High junior. "But something I noticed was there wasn't a lot of anything being done to counteract the negativity that was going on, to try

to bring any sort of light to the situation."

So she posted to her Instagram and Twitter account with a hashtag: #EveryonesAnA. It took off, with people from around the community adopting the hashtag. Polyak said she was influenced in part by the Me Too movement.

"It definitely inspired me to see that talking about things on either a small or a large scale on social media can have a positive change," Polyak said. "It's a good place to start getting people involved, and then once people have begun getting involved in places like social media, it's a lot easier to convince people to do things in real life as well to counteract whatever may be negatively going on in the world."

Duarte, of RVAP, said the conversations sparked by Me Too have coincided with several groups and organizations reaching out to provide support or participate in the conversation about sexual violence or to seek training for things like intervention and improving reporting mechanisms for sexual assault and harassment.

The Me Too movement is also forcing communities to have discussions about sex culture, Palmersheim said. It urges people to examine at their own past actions and is encouraging people to hold friends and family more accountable by speaking up when their actions are unacceptable.

"People need to behave themselves better," she said. "If you're making people uncomfortable, you can't blame someone else for something you did to them, or for reacting in a certain way."

Palmersheim said it will take patience and a willingness to reach out and talk to people with different views, but change is possible—and necessary.

"I think people think about rape and sexual assault as an isolated act, but it affects you for the rest of your life. It will tear apart your sense of self. To do that to another person, consciously or unconsciously, is not okay," she said.

"We all need to hold each other more accountable. To act as though your actions don't affect the other people in your life is a very entitled way to behave and I'm not here for it." LV/

Lauren Shotwell is a writer and journalist living in Cedar Rapids. Much of her time is spent chasing after one rambunctious little girl.

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Fulcrum of Fear

Can we find common ground despite the anxieties that divide us?

BY THOMAS DEAN

The United States' stark political divide has many of us shaking our heads in bewilderment and frustration. Most of us seem to believe that the fractiousness of our society and culture has rarely, if ever, been greater in our lifetimes. Huge disparities in cultural values, economic livelihood and even geography are often fingered as major reasons for our current divisions. But are these more symptoms than causes? What is at the root of our seemingly insurmountable differences? Perhaps the wedge that divides us is as fundamental—and viscerally powerful—as fear.

We all have fears. They're part of our human nature and essential to our survival. But as individuals and as groups, we often fear differently and to varying degrees. It's a given that politicians often play on and to our fears, but a recent book suggests that, perhaps, there is hope for turning that fear-mongering away.

I have recently read several articles about Yale psychology professor John Bargh's 2017 book *Before You Know It: The Unconscious Reasons We Do What We Do*. I confess I have not yet read the book itself, but numerous reports and reviews of it summarize one of Bargh's most interesting arguments: that by manipulating people's fear response one way or another, they can, at least temporarily, become more conservative or liberal.

Long before Bargh's book appeared, oft-cited studies have shown how conservatives tend to be more fearful than liberals and less accepting of ambiguity. Conservatism bases many of its principles on reducing fear, anxiety and uncertainty, which is why the avoidance of change and the establishment of order are so powerful for its followers.

Some studies have even tried to demonstrate this physically: "Researchers have taken brain images of people with different political leanings and found that those who self-identify as conservative have larger and more active right amygdalas, an area of the brain associated with the expression and processing of fear," writes Hilary Brueck in the *Business Insider* article "A Yale psychologist's simple thought experiment temporarily turned conservatives into liberals."

It's not much of a leap, then, to connect this phenomenon to a number of conservative positions. Frequently, those who are the most

ardent gun rights supporters cite personal safety as among the most important reasons for their beliefs. It also could explain why conservatives tend to be more fearful of people who are different, seeing them as threatening certain values, ways of life, personal economic well-being and even personal safety.

Bargh moved this research one step further by seeing if he could actually change behavior. He and his team had subjects imagine that they were invulnerable like Superman and could not be harmed physically. Then they were asked to respond to some political statements, such as whether they "would be reluctant to make any large-scale changes to the social order" or "whether it's okay if some groups have more of a chance in life than others." Self-identified

By manipulating people's fear response one way or another, they can, at least temporarily, become more conservative or liberal.

conservatives started adopting more liberal views on social issues presuming their physical safety was guaranteed. Liberals did not change their views. (Nor did the control group, which was told merely that they could fly.) Other studies have shown, conversely, that liberals tend to become more conservative in their outlook when their own personal safety is threatened (and on a large scale, the broadly conservative turn after 9/11 can be cited as evidence).

While Bargh is hardly suggesting a magic wand to alter people's political, social and cultural perspectives, his experiment does suggest that alleviating fear can perhaps bring people closer together in their social views, though I'm sure many conservatives will balk at the idea that "coming closer together" means becoming more liberal.

For me, the idea of finding common ground in our fears ties directly into our sense of home and place. I have often invoked Daniel

Kemmis' idea of "communities of place" rather than "communities of interest" (see his 1990 book *Community and the Politics of Place*),

which acknowledges that we all live together in a place and what binds us together is our mutual desire for what is best for it (even though we will often disagree on what is best). I have found that even more universal agreement often comes about when we talk about home rather than place—which brings us back to the issue of fear and safety.

One of the most comprehensive definitions of home is in geographer and environmental behaviorist David Seamon's 1979 book *A Geography of the Lifeworld*. Running through many of the characteristics in his rubric of home—rootedness, appropriation, regeneration, at-easeness and warmth—are the establishment of stability and control. These are usually invoked to stave off threats so that we may best flourish under home's most nourishing characteristics.

I don't mean (and neither does Seamon) that we must have a fortress mentality when we think of home. But we must acknowledge that we all have fears over the violation of the home space, however narrowly or broadly we define that. If we are to believe social scientists such as John Bargh, some of us experience those fears to a greater degree, and certain political and social positions often grow out of that fear.

The issue here really isn't who is more fearful. My point is that fear drives wedges and I believe is a fulcrum that has opened up the yawning chasm between so many of us along the political spectrum.

I don't have a lot of specific remedies at this point, but if we can give the "big table" of Kemmis' community of place a try, we can maybe find enough common ground to alleviate some fears by understanding each other better, and build solutions together. If Bargh et al. are right, perhaps we can change some attitudes long enough to bring us closer together. Once we meet on that common ground of fear—when we come home to each other—perhaps we can move forward together with higher common aspirations and heal the social wounds that have left us broken. LV /

Thomas Dean is not fearless, but neither is he fearful.





Photo: © Liu Chen-hsiang

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Lin Hwai-min is the founder and artistic director of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan. He is also a University of Iowa graduate, earning his MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop in 1971. He received his first training in modern dance while he was a UI student. After studying at the Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance, he founded Cloud Gate in 1973. The company blends Asian traditions with a modern sensibility to create beautiful works performed to great acclaim around the world. *Formosa* is inspired by the landscape and history of Taiwan while also reflecting on universal human experiences.

This tour is made possible by the grants from the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan). Formosa was co-produced by The National Performing Arts Center - National Theater & Concert Hall, Republic of China (Taiwan); National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying), Republic of China (Taiwan); Sadler's Wells, London, UK; Theatre de la Ville, Paris, France; Carolina Performing Arts, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Movimentos Festwochen der Autostadt, Wolfsburg, Germany.

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En Español

Al menos tienes trabajo

Seis años de la última reforma laboral en España

POR ELISA FERRER MOLINA

Pasé unos días por Madrid aprovechando las vacaciones de invierno. Días que se llenaron de cafés, de cañas, de cenas con amigos—días de reencuentros y conversaciones, conversaciones en las que siempre aparecía un tema común: el trabajo. Me hablaban sobre subcontratas absurdas. Jornadas eternas. Recortes. Mientras en el aire flotaba esa frase que nos hemos acostumbrado a escuchar en los últimos años: “no te quejes, al menos tienes trabajo.”

M. no ha llegado ni una noche a tiempo para cenar conmigo. Aunque su jornada laboral acaba a las seis es raro el día que

sale antes de las nueve, las diez, las once. Tampoco cobra las horas extras. Pero al menos M. tiene trabajo: un trabajo cuyo sueldo es indigno si lo dividimos por las horas dedicadas en realidad, no las que figuran en el contrato. M. es informático y le contrata una consultora para que trabaje para una multinacional que, a su vez, ofrece sus servicios a un gran banco. Tres grandes empresas tras el puesto de M., un puesto que, sin duda, genera mucho dinero, pero, ¿quién se enriquece con su contrato? Claramente, no es él.

T. trabajó en “Correos”, la compañía pública de servicio postal, pero hace unos

días le despidieron. Dentro de unos meses, me cuenta, le volverán a llamar. Siempre hacen lo mismo. Le contratan seis meses, le despiden y medio año después le contratan de nuevo. T. me cuenta que si encadena contratos durante dos años, la empresa está obligada a hacerle indefinido; en cambio, si pasan meses entre un contrato y otro, no lo está.

R. también sabe de contratos temporales. Estudió arquitectura, pero trabaja en una estación de esquí en temporada alta y la despiden cuando termina el invierno. En sus contratos siempre figuran menos horas de las que en realidad trabaja: cotiza cuatro horas al día, pero hace más del doble.

Encuentra sueldos más bajos, condiciones peores.

Mi amigo J. es ingeniero, trabajaba para una multinacional aeronáutica y tenía varias personas a su cargo. La multinacional fue absorbida por otra mayor que colocó a su gente en puestos como el de J., mientras él y otros como él fueron despedidos. Después de haberse dejado la piel en cada uno de los proyectos para asegurarse un buen futuro en la empresa, J. está en el paro. Está pensando en emigrar porque desde que busca trabajo encuentra sueldos más bajos, condiciones peores.

La última reforma laboral de España cumple seis años este mes. El gobierno presume de que ha bajado el desempleo, de la creación de nuevos puestos de trabajo. Suena ideal, pero en esta página no caben las historias de amigos que con una formación excelente tienen empleos con condiciones injustas. No cabe la precariedad que esconde cada bajada del paro. Ni la temporalidad. Ni los peores salarios. Ni el abaratamiento del despido o las horas trabajadas en negro. Tampoco la degradación que han sufrido los derechos de los trabajadores tras esta última reforma por la que los miembros del gobierno se dan palmaditas en la espalda.

La crisis ha servido para respaldar esta reforma, ha sido la excusa perfecta para que muchas empresas justifiquen los recortes en los derechos de sus empleados, mientras estos deben dar las gracias porque al menos tienen trabajo. Porque sí, lo tienen, pero ¿a qué precio? **LV**

At least you have a job

A portrait of Spain, six years after the last labor market reform.

BY ELISA FERRER MOLINA; TRANSLATED BY NIEVES MARTÍN LÓPEZ

This winter break I took the chance to spend a few days in Madrid. Those days were full of meetings for a coffee, cañas of beer at the bars, dinners out with friends—days of homecoming and long conversations, where the same topic would always pop up: work. I kept hearing about absurd subcontracts, never-ending shifts, budget cuts. In the meantime, there was a statement in the air, invisible but present, the one we have grown used to hearing in these past years: “Some have it worse, at least you have a job!”

M. never makes it on time whenever we plan to meet up for dinner. Even though his shift ends at 6 p.m., it’s not usual for him to get off work before 9, 10 or even 11 p.m. On top of that, he doesn’t get paid for those overtime hours. But at least M. has a job;

Everything he finds has lower salaries and worse conditions.

one with an insufficient salary, if we divide it among the actual hours he invests in it, not the hours stipulated on the contract. M. is a computer expert, and he works for a consulting agency, which works for a multinational corporation which, in turn, works for a big bank. M.’s job depends on three big companies. There’s no denying that his position generates a lot of money, but who is getting rich with it? Clearly, not him.

T. worked for Correos, the Spanish public postal service, but he was fired a few days ago. He says that in a few months, they will call him back. It’s always the same: they hire him for six months, they kick him out and six months later they hire him again. T. tells me that if he were to renew his contract for more than two years in a row, the company would have to make him permanent; however, if the company hires him for six months and then leaves some time in between contracts, they are not legally required to do the same.

R. also knows about temporary contracts all too well. He studied architecture, but he works for a ski resort during peak season, and once winter is over, he is laid off. In his

contracts, the hours stipulated are always less than what he actually works: On paper, he works four hours a day, but in reality he works more than twice as many.

My friend J. is an engineer. He used to work for an aircraft company operating in multiple countries, and he had several people working for him. The multinational was absorbed by a bigger one, which took the jobs from J. and his employees and gave them to their own people. J. is unemployed, after bending over backward in each and every one of his projects so that he could secure his future in the company. He is considering moving to another country, because now that he is in the job market again, everything he finds has lower salaries and worse conditions.

This month marks six years since the current labor reform in Spain has been in force.

The Spanish government brags about lower unemployment rates and an increase in new contracts. Sounds good, right? But in reality, I couldn’t fit in here all the stories of friends who have had to endure outrageous conditions at their

jobs, in spite of their excellent education. I couldn’t fit in here all the job instability underlying that optimism for those lower unemployment rates, or the amount of temporary contracts and undeclared hours, or the shameful decrease in wages and dismissal fees. I couldn’t fit in here all the ways workers’ rights have been undermined since this last round of labor market reform, the same one for which members of our government smile and pat each other’s backs. The current economic crisis was the springboard for this reform, and it has served as the perfect excuse for many companies to justify abusing employees’ rights.

Meanwhile, those people have to be thankful, because “at least they have a job.” Indeed, they have a job, but at what cost? **LV**

Elisa Ferrer Molina is a current MFA student in Spanish creative writing at the University of Iowa.

Nieves Martín López is working towards an MFA in literary translation at the University of Iowa.



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My Fuzzy Valentine

Adopted pet love stories to warm your cold, cold heart.

BY EMMA MCCLATCHEY



Frankie Schneckloth

Doug Ongie + Seymour and Peabody

In a crisply restored 1920s house on Governor Street, a white and ginger cat named Seymour rests at the top of a cat tower next to a potted avocado tree. Hearing a crinkle from his treat bag, Seymour flings himself from the tower, sending it wobbling. Doug Ongie tosses treats into the kitchen and dining room, one by one. Seymour knows this game—he darts between rooms before the next treat is tossed.

“He’s just a good cat,” Doug says simply. “He’s part of the family.”

Seymour was a former Solon farm cat, then Iowa City Animal Center resident. Doug and his wife Sheila went to the shelter in 2012 with the intention to adopt a kitten, “but they were so spastic,” Doug said. “I looked over and saw Seymour. He had his paw up on the cage, and he wasn’t getting as much

“I looked over and saw Seymour. He had his paw up on the cage, and he wasn’t getting as much attention as the others. We thought we could give that to him.” —Doug Ongie

attention as the others. We thought we could give that to him.”

The Ongies kept Seymour’s shelter name. Doug is now fully familiar with his quirks, such as a tendency to run to the door when he or Sheila gets home and flop over for a belly rub, like a dog.

“He’s a funny cat. He’s very earnest,” Doug said. “He’ll move his tail when I’m talking to him.”

Seymour has a soft spot for Doug as well: He tends to curl up with Doug at night, while Peabody prefers Sheila.

Peabody was once a stray cat in the Ongies’ neighborhood, his long brown hair



Frankie Schneckloth

full of matts. The couple gave him shelter one night during a thunderstorm, and he’s been their cat ever since. It wasn’t exactly “happily ever after”—health problems had the Ongies rushing Peabody to the emergency room and syringe-feeding the cat five to seven times a day for months. Years later, Doug said Peabody’s happy and healthy.

“He doesn’t know how to meow properly,” Doug noted. “He just goes mmmm.”

Lola Hawkins + Bellatrix

At 10 years old, Lola Hawkins has already experienced love at first sight. She was browsing the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center website this November when she came upon a tan and black tabby kitten with a half-pink, half-black nose.

“I saw her picture online and I said, ‘That’s the one. I need her,’” the self-described “crazy

cat lady” said. “I knew she would be my perfect match.”

Lola’s mom Susan issued her daughter a challenge: finish an egg roll during one of their dinners at Thai Spice, and she could adopt the cat of her dreams.

“But I could only eat half,” Lola lamented. “I didn’t finish it in time, so I spent the night crying and crying. But we went to the shelter anyway to meet her, and I found out after we left that my mom had put in an application.”

Later that week, they took the new kitten home to North Liberty. Lola called her Bellatrix after the vicious and cunning Harry Potter villain.

“I was going to name her Ginny Weasley, but look at her.” Lola flicks a feather toy through the air, and Bellatrix springs to claw after it. “Does she look like a Ginny?”

Despite the kitten’s frisky nature, Lola said she initially bonded with Bellatrix over their mutual shyness. It wasn’t long before they became “best friends forever,” Lola said. She even lets Bellatrix plant kisses directly on her mouth. “It feels weird to have her sandpapery tongue on my lips. But it’s love.”

Caring for cats is nothing new to Lola, an active participant in the Iowa City Animal Center’s Read to the Paw program. The Van Allen Elementary student visits the shelter every Thursday to plop on a donated dog bed in one of the cat rooms and read Shel Silverstein, J.K. Rowling and Roald Dahl books to the residents. Hearing human voices works to calm and socialize shelter animals.



Zak Neumann

“They always open up to me,” Lola said. “I will hold the books up to the glass wall so they can see the pictures. Sometimes I feel like they’re laughing at the jokes.”

Lola plans to keep up with Read to the Paw until she’s old enough to be a full volunteer at 14. Someday, she wants to adopt an all-black cat named Sirius—“hopefully Bellatrix doesn’t kill him!”—and open a cat rescue. Or be an architect. For now, she’s enjoying life as a cat mom.

“Bellatrix definitely is my cutie patootie,” Lola said. “This is her forever home and I want her to love it forever.”

Tammy Bloomhuff + Wally

On any given day, Tammy Bloomhuff can be found walking with more than 400 pounds worth of dogs.

“I’ve been knocked down, dragged, had my eyes clawed,” Bloomhuff said. “It happens with big dogs.”

Bloomhuff is currently mother to Stella, a part-Pyrenees Mountain dog whose thick white coat makes even single-digit temperatures comfortable; bull mastiff/lab mix Maybelle, nicknamed “Lump the Destroyer”; and the newest super-sized rescue, Wallace, nicknamed Wally.

Bloomhuff has rescued dogs and cats from California to Iowa—from shelters, a Dollar General parking lot or families dropping them off at her Muscatine home.

“It just kind of snowballed,” she said. “People know you’re a sucker and they’ll bring them by. You start seeing the need. When you hear some of the reasons people give them up—they shed, they’re not housebroken, he loves me too much—that’s probably the craziest one I’ve heard. It’s just common sense: if you don’t want him, don’t take him home.”

Wally, called Parsons during his stay at the Iowa City Animal Center, is a yellow lab



Zak Neumann

Zak Neumann



mix with glowing yellow-green eyes. He and several other dogs were seized from a farm outside of Iowa City in March 2017, where they were kept on short outdoor leashes and had little to no interaction with humans. Bloomhuff adopted Wally in May 2017.

“The first time I brought him home he hid in the cupboard. Everything scared him,” she said.

Today, Wally loves to romp with his canine siblings in the field behind their house, go for a swim or take a ride in the tailgate of Bloomhuff’s truck. He’s still shy in public, but clings to his adopter’s side.

“He’s really smart; it’s a little scary,” Bloomhuff said.

When she’s not caring for her own pets, Bloomhuff works to liberate puppy mills with the organization Iowa Voters for Companion

Though she works harder than the average pet owner, Bloomhuff sees no downsides to pet ownership—save one.

“The only bad thing is they don’t outlive ya,” she said, rubbing Wally’s head.

Kenzie Gann + Duncan

On April 18, 2015, Kenzie Gann’s 9-year-old cavalier king Spaniel, Tobi, suddenly and tragically passed away.

“What happened next was a fast downward spiral of my mental health,” said Gann, a Cedar Rapids resident. “I was diagnosed as traumatized.”

that exactly three months after losing Tobi, Duncan would come home with me. It gives me chills to this day to think about.”

Gann said it was clear Duncan had experienced abuse and neglect in his past. He trusted her, but would hide from strangers, flee from other dogs and cower at loud noises. When Gann was out, Duncan would confine himself to his kennel so as to avoid her roommates.

That is, until Gann started taking the pup to work with her at Lucky Pawz.

“He went from screaming and running when a dog wanted to play to being the running pup who splashed in pools and jumped onto the playground,” Gann said. “He needed to trust that he was safe around people, which means not forcing them on him. Once he knows you, he’s the biggest dog I’ve ever

met who actually likes being held.”

“I’m not sure why he latched onto me so fast—we laugh that I’m

his emotional support human.”

Gann said she owes her happiness to the Iowa City Animal Center—and the second love of her life.

“[I’m] a girl who saved a pup who really saved her.” 🐕🐈

Emma McClatchey is celebrating Valentine’s Day with her love, a former shelter cat named Ludwig.

“We laugh that I’m his emotional support human.” —Kenzie Gann

Animals Against Puppy Mills. Nine Iowa puppy dealers were named in the Humane Society’s 2017 “Horrible Hundred,” an annual report of the most problematic dog breeding and selling facilities in the U.S. Bloomhuff said she and other activists have been working tirelessly to shut down even one mill.

“You can’t get anywhere,” she said. “But you just have to keep trying. It’s time.”

Not long after, a coworker at Lucky Pawz, the dog daycare at which Gann worked, tentatively recommended she meet an Iowa City Animal Center dog. It was an Australian shepherd mix named Calgary, who Gann would later call Duncan.

“He sat so nicely and put his head down when I pet him. I played with him that day and two more times before pulling the trigger,” Gann said. “Fate would have it

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Sex Talk

Why not ask an expert? • BY JORDAN SELLERGEN



Natalie Benway, a therapist at Seva Healing Center in Coralville, incorporates sex therapy into her practice and is currently pursuing licensure through the American Association of Sex Educators, joining only one other licensed practitioner in the state of Iowa.

Hi, Natalie! So, tell me about your practice. Well, I'm interested in talking about and having a safe space for people to talk about their sexual health. I chose to focus my research when I was in social work on working with kids who'd been sexually abused. In my career so far, I've done a lot of work with trauma and incorporating yoga. For a number of years I did a yoga group with RVAP, and then also did a group at the VA, specifically for women who had been through sexual trauma. I also did a yoga group for people who were in recovery for drug and alcohol addiction. That's not sexuality-focused, but it's a part of the sexual health discussion. What's your relationship with your body? What's your experience with trauma?

So... what is sex therapy? There was an

Opened up in the Seva Healing Center break room Photo by Jordan Sellergren

article that I just read, "Forbidden Words" from *Psychology Today*. In trying to set the record straight, the author says that sexual therapy is talk therapy, not, like, having sex in the office. Sometimes people have the idea that sex therapy is "I'm going to observe you having sex." And, you know, there are definitely folks out there who are exploring therapies that involve meditation and exploring tantra and orgasm. But in my practice, we're exploring issues relating to identity. It might be physical issues like erectile dysfunction, exploration of mental health issues that might be related to problems in the sexual experience. It can also be trauma and how trauma is impacting your sex life. I think sex therapy incorporates desire, erotic intelligence. What turns me on? What doesn't work for me? How do I communicate that to my partner? How do I even explore that with myself? How do I give myself permission? Is religion and spirituality a part of my sexual exploration?

Do you find that people feel conflicted about

their sexuality or desire because of religious upbringing? Absolutely. I see that come up a lot, and it's not specific to any religion, but there can be a lot of shame for having certain feelings that are perfectly natural. Helping people work through that and be right within themselves about how they can integrate that can be really, really hard, because people will build an entire life upon what they believe they should do and not what they feel.

So, on that, and on the heteronormative society that we've been led to believe is the standard, do you see that changing in your practice even among your more heteronormative clients? In my experience, we have a long way to go in understanding trans issues. I am committed to opening up my understanding of particular sexuality issues—and I've worked with multiple trans folks—and I've really had to do my homework. There's a long way to go, similar to any disenfranchised groups.

Is an education on the trans experience somewhat new? I think it's definitely getting more developed. I mean, I took a Lesbian Lives United States class in 1999 and it was the first time I understood that sexuality is on a continuum. It's not just like, you're gay or straight. I remember the first class I took in high school was a sociology of gender class, but it was gay, lesbian and bi issues. In my educational experience, I haven't run into trans issues until the last several years.

What would you say is the most common reason a client comes to you? Anxiety and depression is a huge part of my practice. And that certainly affects sexuality. In order to, most times, have a sexual experience, you need to be relaxed. If you have an anxiety disorder, that's a tall order. In my experience, mindfulness, yoga, meditation, breathing techniques, thought challenging and reframing and also learning how to communicate with your partner [are crucial]. Like, how the hell do I even create a safe space?

When you get past the contextual background reasons, do you think that people's issues with sexuality are kind of universal? No. I mean, there's such a wide range. Is there trauma or not? Are there substance abuse issues in there? What ideas did you learn ... in your past about sex and sexuality? There are a lot of contributing factors in there. If there's anything universal, I really think what

a lot of people want is to connect—learning to connect with themselves so they can connect with other people, with their higher power, greater understanding, whatever. I just learned about the power of vulnerability in a very real way. I have this spiritual teacher, a monk, who was talking to me and a group of women and shared this deeply personal thing—the kind of thing you don’t even want to admit to yourself. I was stunned by his willingness to be vulnerable with us. I felt like he was giving me permission to be vulnerable myself, which made me feel connected to myself and to everybody in the room—this sort of universal connection. Whenever I’m feeling that fear come up—and I talk to clients about this, about being vulnerable or admitting something shameful—once I’m willing to meet and acknowledge the fear and share anyway, I almost always feel connected.

And that transfers right over to sex therapy. Big time.

Are clients pretty bashful at first? Depends. Totally depends. Some people are way overt, in open relationships, open marriages. Some people have never had sex and don’t want anything to do with it. Some people initially start off kind of bashful and then it’s a joy to watch them become more confident in who they are.

Do you give homework assignments? Yes, I absolutely do. One that I’ll often do is called Sensate Focus. It’s an intimacy-building exercise, so it’s not about doin’ it, it’s not about the actual act of sex. Each person gets to experience being the giver and the receiver of

touch. For the first few days, you’re the receiver and you get to experience what it’s like. A lot of people will talk about being really uncomfortable being the receiver, you know? And so breasts and genitals are left out for the first part of it. It can also be kind of hot to build to eventually having sex, but for couples for whom that’s not the end goal, it’s really just about building communication. So you’re communicating afterwards, like, “I really liked it when you were touching my thigh, but I felt really uncomfortable when your hands were on my neck,” or something like that. Then, in the next few days or the next week, you add the ol’ genitals and the breasts, see how that feels and discuss it.

Do people go at different rates based on their personal experience? No, I’ll actually be pretty clear about what they should do, just so they have boundaries built in. And we’ll discuss it, like, “Does this feel ok to you?”

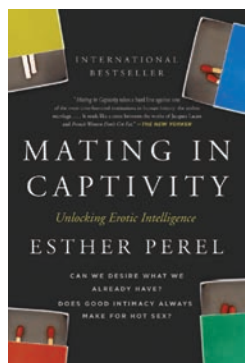
And so they don’t have to question what the method is. Yeah, so I’ll just send them this and say, “Try this; see what happens.”

Do you accept insurance? Yes, I’m a Wellmark provider. And I also have a sliding scale.

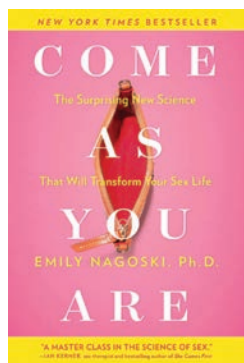
If somebody wants to make an appointment, what should they do? They can call the Seva Center at 319-351-7382 and make an appointment with me. **LV /**

Jordan Sellergren is Little Village’s art director.

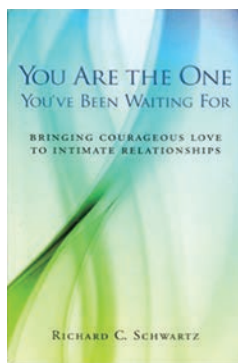
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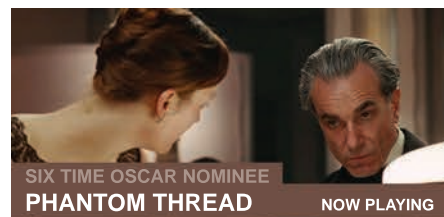
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Recipe:
INSTANT POT for TWO

BY CHRIS WIERSEMA

A romantic Instant Pot stay-in style sesame chicken for two (since you've both progressed long past fighting for elbow room in oversold, prix fixe seatings, but you don't want the local delivery since they've been to this address three times this week and it's only Wednesday and yes they totally notice hence the passive-aggressive number of plastic flatware sets they've been assuming with your order).

Or

A two-pound bucket of Instant Pot sesame chicken all for you (not that you deserve it, much like the company of others). Hell, why even bother with plates and forks? Just use those two meat scoops at the end of your wrist. It's not like anyone is watching. Ever.

By

Your married-with-children friend, whose career is somehow personally and financially fulfilling while allowing time to create direct-action social good on a local and global scale, who plays in several bands (each more beloved and respected than the last), and the crowds at their always near-capacity shows like to say, "It's less of a concert and more a family reunion" *whatever the fuck that means*, who's recently been "messing around with an idea" that's now a novella in verse being blurbed by Cynthia Cruz chronicling the multi-generational love affair between a dead language and a long forgotten religion, who has sent you this "so easy" Instant Pot recipe even though they make their family meals from scratch and from memory recalled from their days hosting a "speakeasy supper club" at their co-op in the Leith neighborhood in Edinburgh during grad school along with an encouraging note about how you'll be able to "throw this together with things around the house." (Ed. note: you'll need to go to the store, likely twice, for more than half of these items.)



Ingredients

- 4 large boneless skinless chicken breasts, diced (about two lbs.)
 - *Admit it, thighs taste better and are cheaper. Get the thighs.*
 - *No one cares what type of utopia the package assures you that the chicken came from. Especially not the murdered chicken you're holding. Not anymore.*
 - *Just put the chicken in the basket and be done with it already.*
- Salt and pepper
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup diced onion
 - *This is stupid. Onions are single use vegetables. Just use a smaller onion.*
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
 - *Your hands are going to smell like this for daaaaaays.*
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
 - *Or 112 of those soy packets that fill an entire drawer in your kitchen.*
- 1/4 cup ketchup
 - *Using similar math, 66 packets from the other drawer.*
- 1 tbsp of sesame oil
 - *You don't have it. Get your jacket on, you're going back to the store.*
- 1/2 cup honey
 - *You can microwave that chalky mess for 30 seconds and it will turn back into honey*
- 1 tsp red pepper flakes
 - *That's five packets of the pepper flakes that come stapled to the pizza box.*
- 2 tbsp cornstarch
- 3 tbsp water
- 2 green onions, chopped
- Sesame seeds, toasted
 - *Enjoy getting these out your teeth for the next week.*

Directions

SALT AND PEPPER CHICKEN. Preheat pressure cooking pot using the saute setting. Add oil, onion, garlic and chicken to the pot and saute, stirring occasionally until onion is softened, about three minutes. You think this recipe is only going to take three minutes, I understand, but between cutting all these ingredients and the time it takes the pot to reach optimal heat, you're looking at 30 minutes.

ADD SOY SAUCE, KETCHUP AND RED PEPPER FLAKES to the pressure cooking pot and stir to combine. Pressure cook on high for three minutes. When timer beeps, turn pressure cooker off and do a quick pressure release.

ADD SESAME OIL AND HONEY to the pot and stir to combine. In a small bowl, dissolve cornstarch in water, and add to the pot. Select "saute and simmer" until sauce thickens. Stir in green onions.

SERVE OVER RICE sprinkled with sesame seeds. Eat in front of Netflix. **LV /**



A-List

New Music, Same Fight

Feminist acoustic queen Ani DiFranco hits the Englert stage on the heels of a new album. • **BY LAUREN SHOTWELL**

With the release of her 20th studio album, *Binary* (2017), singer-songwriter Ani DiFranco brought a few new politically-prescient, strongly feminist songs into the world, but with a softer side than some of the frenetic albums from earlier in her career.

DiFranco, who started performing in bars at age 9, released her self-titled debut album

on her own label, Righteous Babe Records, in 1990 when she was 20. Since then, between tours and album production, she's been an outspoken activist for causes including workers' rights and voter turnout. She's published poetry, turned an historic church in her hometown of Buffalo, New York into an events venue and championed the careers of fellow artists like Anais Mitchell and Andrew Bird.

"I started out on my own and I'm still kind of on my own, inventing my job as I go and trying to guide myself through this life and this world according to my ideology and my

list) politics, feminism, sexuality, motherhood and her own personal life. DiFranco said she has "an aversion to the familiar, to the expected."

"I just don't want to keep writing the same song over and over again," she said. "Even the same song, I don't want to play it the same way. I want to play it from the me that I am now, not the me that I was when I wrote it. I want to change up the set list, and I want to be new in every moment. Maybe I'm stating the obvious, because I think all artists are trying to rekindle that sense of wonder, that

"The more we insist on exercising our right to vote, the more possible it will become, the more actual our democracy will be, the more representative our government will be." —Ani DiFranco

vision," the artist said in an interview with *Little Village* ahead of her Feb. 21 performance at Iowa City's Englert Theatre.

"I was thrust into this world early on, on my own as an emancipated teenager. And I had to kind of just figure it out. But now," she added, laughing, "in my old age, my main desire is community and company and comrades. I realized afterward that I did it by myself longer than I needed to. And now I'm like, geez, fuck that."

Over the course of her career, DiFranco's dynamic sound and genre-bending style have backed pointed lyrics about (and this is not an exhaustive

inspiration to create something new."

She said she challenges herself to approach the writing process in different ways, but added that many of the shifts in her music over the years have happened naturally, with each album coming from a distinct time and place.

"I find that, from year to year in my life, I'm in a different place. There are different people around me, or there's a different idea in the air, so they just sort of naturally get realized in a different way," she said. "I'm just following the moment, really, and the moment is always shifting around me."

In addition to hinting about upcoming changes to update her record label in the rapidly changing music industry, DiFranco, a mom to two kids with husband and producer Mike Napolitano, is currently writing a memoir.

"I'm really hoping that you can make a whole book in stolen moments," she said. "I've got 78,000 words, and I really have no idea what they are or what the big picture is, or what I am actually trying to create. I sit down and go bang, bang, bang, bang, and I have three sentences—and then a kid walks

Ani DiFranco with Gracie and Rachel The Englert, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m., \$31.50-\$51.50



up. I feel like I have yet to know if I'm really doing it or not, but I've been doing it in bits and spurts for a year."

Although *Binary* was written before the 2016 election, many of the songs could have been written about the political chaos today. The same could be said of her songs from over a decade ago.

"In some sense, things are grotesquely on repeat in this country so unaware of its own history, let alone the bigger picture," she said. "I find myself pulling out songs from 15, 20 years ago that I could have written tomorrow. And it's like, holy fuck, this is not a good feeling that I have the perfect song from 20 years ago. I thought the gun violence was at an untenable level then."

But she also credited the state of omniscience that art and music can tap into.

"We know things deep inside ourselves that are of the future as well as the past, because it's more complicated than that," she said. "When songwriting is good, for me, it comes from that place that is really beyond my own mind in any moment."

DiFranco said she's determined to see the current discord as a kind of necessary pain to unite people and spur into action those who were previously apolitical or passive.

"I have to believe that we can transform this moment," she said. "That when we get pushed so far in the wrong direction, we react ... We're going to keep going in the right direction, and we're going to organize ourselves despite the lack of leadership from the top. Those kinds of things are happening on many levels and could make this our transcendent moment. There's a lot of wise people who look at the Cheeto and see him as the shadow side of our awakening, and that's what I've got to believe too."

The Righteous Babe website includes a Resistance section, with links to activist organizations, information about protests and boycotts and voter registration and education—something she has promoted with frequent calls to "Vote, Dammit," including a 2016 tour by that name.

"I could talk about voting every day of my life until I'm dead and still my work would not be done," she said. "The more we insist on exercising our right to vote, the more possible it will become, the more actual our democracy will be, the more representative our government will be. We can make those incremental changes for all the systemic changes that need to happen, but first we have to start voting."

Still, DiFranco continues to be cited as a feminist icon and a queer icon, including a recent article by songwriter Justin Trantor celebrating her use of same-sex pronouns for Billboard's 30 Days of Pride last year.

DiFranco said comments from those who have been positively impacted by her music blow her mind.

"Those moments are what really give my life meaning. And I go, 'Whoa, I don't know what the hell I've been doing all these years, but it was not for naught, because look at that beautiful person,'" she said. "My self-love works in that way. I pour love into somebody else and they pour it into me, and then I'm loved. Then I'm happy. I can't really do any of it on my own. That's my new realization." **LV**

Lauren Shotwell has been pestered by certain Little Village staff to include a picture of her high school self—braces, awkward hairstyle and all—at a DiFranco concert. No one needs to see that.

EVENTS

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

MUSIC

2/7

Odds Of An Afterthought, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free*

2/8

Uptown Bill's Live: Sweetheart Serenade, *Uptown Bill's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$5-10*

Embracing Complexity Series: Amir ElSaffar and Rivers of Sound, *Hancher, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$10-35*

Purcha\$e w/ Todd McDonough, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free*

2/9

Higher Ground, *Spicoli's Rockade, Waterloo, 6 p.m., \$5*

Live Music w/ Justin Goodchild, *Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 6 p.m., Free*

Daimh, *Legion Arts CSPS Hall, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$19-23*

Trigga T & DJ Envision, *Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$5*

Finally Some Action w/ Closet Witch, Liv Carrow, Alysa Pearson, Rozz-Tox, Candy-makers, *Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., \$7*

Eric Petit Lyon w/ Sean Costanza, *The Mill, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$8*

Extravision w/ Sires, Audrey Robinson, Moss, *Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$5*

Cultured Calamity, *Spicoli's Rockade, Waterloo, 9:30 p.m., \$5*

Jason T. Lewis & Sad Iron Music, *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 9:30 p.m., Free*

90s Dance Party w/ Fool House, *Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 10:30 p.m., \$7-10*

2/10

Saturday Night Concert: Pete Seeger Tribute Night, *Uptown Bill's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

Orchestra Iowa Presents: 'Past as Prologue', *Paramount Theatre, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$16-54*

Eric Paslay and Maddie & Tae, *Riverside Casino and Golf Resort, 8 p.m., \$30-60*

Bacchanal! An International Mardi Gras-Carnaval Dance Party, *The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free*

MUSIC

Better Americas w/ Gnarly Davidson, Jeff Mannix & The Depressives, Leather Parachute, Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$7

Kuinka w/ High Water Mark, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., \$10

SOTR Emily Ian Graham, Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 9 p.m., \$5

2/11

Preucil School of Music Annual String Concert, Hancher, Iowa City, Iowa City, 2 p.m., Free

Postmodern Jukebox, The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$46.50-146.50

10 String Symphony, Cafe Paradiso, Fairfield, 8 p.m., Free

2/13

Fat Tuesday with The Dandelion Stompers, The Mill, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$10

House of Waters, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., \$17-21

Tommy Emmanuel w/ Rodney Crowell, The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$44.50

The Novel Ideas, Cafe Paradiso, Fairfield, 8 p.m., \$10

Jerry Folk & Saint WKND, Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$12-15

2/14

Vali's Blot/St. Valentine's Day, Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 5 p.m., Free

Red Cedar Chamber Music, United Church of Monticello, 7 p.m., \$10

The Sweetheart Saloon with Annie Savage & The Savage Hearts, Wildwood Saloon, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$10

Chad Elliott Valentine's Day Concert, Artisan's Sanctuary, Marion, 7 p.m., \$15

Turnpike Troubadours, US Cellular Center, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$26.50

Valentine's Day Variety Show: A Benefit for Planned Parenthood, The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$5



BIG GROVE + LITTLE VILLAGE PRESENT: Caroline Smith and Elizabeth Moen (solo performances) Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, Thursday, Feb. 15, 9 p.m., \$10-15 Minneapolis-born musician Caroline Smith, best known for fronting indie-folk darlings the Good Night Sleeps for over a decade, heads to town for a solo show in anticipation of new music coming out later this year. She'll be supported by Iowa City chanteuse Elizabeth Moen, also going solo and coming off of a busy 2017 that included a European tour, a second album and a spot on stage at the Roast of Iowa City. Tickets for the Feb. 15 show are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

Boogie T & Squinto Strike Back, Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 8:30 p.m., \$14-17

2/15

Red Cedar Chamber Music, J.C. Clegg Public Library, Central City, 7 p.m., Free

Kyle Park, First Avenue Club, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$13

Small Houses w/ Crystal City, The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$7

14th Annual Bob Marley Birthday Bash: Natty Nation w/ Fire Sale, Candymakers, Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$10

Big Grove Brewery & Little Village Present: Caroline Smith w/ Elizabeth Moen, Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$10-15

2/16

Artificial Motive, Spicoli's Rockade, Waterloo, 6 p.m., \$5

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MUSIC

Red Cedar Chamber Music, *Washington Community Center*, 7 p.m., \$20-25

Walker McGuire w/ Cody Hicks, *First Avenue Club*, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$12

John Raymond & Real Feels w/ The Blake Shaw Trio, *The Mill*, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$5-10

Outlet Presents: Year Of The Dog w/ Bitchin' Bajas, IDPYRAMID, Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 8 p.m., \$5-10

Lever w/ Trash Wizard, *Punch Drunk Fighter, Iowa City Yacht Club*, 9 p.m., \$7

J. Jeffrey Messerole & The Stone Horses, *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom*, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free

That 1 Guy, *Gabe's*, Iowa City, 10 p.m., \$15

Mike Conrad: A Post Tallcorn Jazz Fest Show, *Octopus College Hill*, Cedar Falls, 10 p.m., Free

2/17

Nachte Raho: Iowa's Bollywood-Fusion Dance Competition, *Hancher*, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$10-19

Saturday Night Concert: Scott Engledow, *Uptown Bill's*, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free

Red Cedar Chamber Music, *Mount Mercy University*, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., \$10-20

Ruptured w/ The Zealots, Path of Least Resistance, Mantra Nova, Death By Disaster, *Spicoli's Rockade*, Waterloo, 7 p.m., \$5

The American Emergency w/ Far From Fearless, Shattered Crown, Terrapin and the Wolves, *Gabe's*, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$10

The Pork Tornadoes, *Paramount Theatre*, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$15-20

Cedar County Cobras w/ Flash In A Pan, *The Mill*, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$8

Rockinfreakapotamus w/ Good Morning Bedlam, *Iowa City Yacht Club*, 9 p.m., \$7

Hex Girls w/ Greasy Strangers, Sister Wife, Haper's Jar, *Octopus College Hill*, Cedar Falls, 9 p.m., \$5

2/18

Red Cedar Chamber Music Presents: A Little Klezmer Among Friends, *The Englert Theatre*, Iowa City, 3 p.m., \$22

2/19

Valerie June, *The Englert Theatre*, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$26.50

Korby Lenker, *Cafe Paradiso*, Fairfield, 8 p.m., \$10

2/20

Kevin Burke, *Cafe Paradiso*, Fairfield, 8 p.m., Free

Gaelynn Lea, *The Mill*, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$8-10



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COMMUNITY & EDUCATION

2/7

Black History Month: Being Rendered Invisible—The Challenge of Hypervisibility for Women and Girls of Color in Historically White Spaces, Schools, and Universities, Iowa Memorial Union, 347 Minnesota Room, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free
Facebook: Embrace The Update - A Strategic Conversation for Your Business Page, Meld Marketing, Coralville, 11 a.m., Free

Backpacking 101, Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 6 p.m., \$6-8

2/8

Guided Meditation: When the Mind Meets the Heart, Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, 6 p.m., \$10

2/9

Read on the Rug: 'Camouflage,' Museum of Natural History at UI, 10 a.m., Free
Night at the Museum: Don't be a Dodo!, Museum of Natural History at UI, 6 p.m., \$30-35
Quad City Mallards vs. Indy Fuel, TaxSlayer Center, Moline, 7:05 p.m., \$10-80

2/10

Night at the Children's Museum, Iowa Children's Museum, Coralville, 6 p.m., \$20
Black History Month: Roll Bounce, Iowa Memorial Union Main Lounge, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$5
Quad City Mallards vs. Fort Wayne Komets, TaxSlayer Center, Moline, 7:05 p.m., \$10-30

2/11

The Big Grove Brerewery Ride, Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 9 a.m., Free
Bend & Brews w/ Emily Steines, Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 9:30 a.m., Free

2/12

Grant Wood Fellow Talk: Joe Osheroff, 'The Progressive Mask: Exploring the Future of Mask Work in the American Theater,' Art Building West, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., Free

2/15

Science on Tap: Freshwater Mussels to the Rescue, Hancher, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., Free

2/16

Quad City Mallards vs. Kalamazoo Wings, TaxSlayer Center, Moline, 7:05 p.m., \$10-30

Cedar Rapids RoughRiders vs. Muskegon Lumberjacks, Cedar Rapids Ice Arena, 7:05 p.m., \$12.75-25

2/17

Black History Month: Empowerment Summit 2018, University of Iowa Lindquist Center, Iowa City, 9:30 a.m., Free
UAY Pride Con: LGBTQIA+ Youth Summit, UAY Eastdale Plaza, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free
Teddy Bear Hospital, Iowa Children's Museum, Coralville, 10 a.m., Free
Advanced Beekeeping: Spring Management, Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 10 a.m., \$10
Air Play, Des Moines Civic Center, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m., \$5-12

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2/18

Iowa Raptor Project, *Old Capitol Museum, Iowa City, 2 p.m., Free*
LWVIC Sunday Speaker Series, *Iowa City Public Library, Room A, 2 p.m., Free*
Quad City Mallards vs. Toledo Walleyes, *TaxSlayer Center, Moline, 4:05 p.m., \$10-30*

2/20

Linn County STEM Festival, *Linn County Kirkwood Regional Center, Hiawatha, 4 p.m., Free*

2/22

DVIP 21st Annual Souper Bowl
Clarion Hotel Highlander Conference Center, *5:30 p.m., \$15-\$25*

2/23

Political Party Live Podcast: Deidre DeJear, *Cortado Coffee & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free*



UAY Pride Con: LGBTQIA+ Youth Summit United Action for Youth Eastdale Plaza, Iowa City, Saturday, Feb. 17, 10 a.m., Free United Action for Youth is holding their fourth annual Pride Con, a day-long summit for LGBTQIA+ youth. RSVPs are requested. The event is free and open to all area youth ages 12-18 (grades 7-12). Lunch will be provided and there will be a pizza party after the event. Pride Con features workshops on a variety of topics, including LGBTQIA+ history, health, student rights and a makeup workshop from Haus of Eden and I.C. Kings.

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THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

2/8

'Detroit,' Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$12-30

Underground New Play Festival, Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$15

'The Wild Party,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$28-36

2/9

City Circle Acting Company Presents: 'Chess: In Concert,' Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m., \$12-27

'The Wild Party,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$28-36

Dreamwell Theatre Presents: 'Nexus,' Public Space One, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$10

'Detroit,' Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$18-30

Underground New Play Festival, Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$15

Heywood Banks, Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$22-25

'Significant Other,' Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 8 p.m., \$15-120

2/10

Kevin Hart: The Irresponsible Tour, US Cellular Center, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., \$62-138

'Detroit,' Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$18-30

Dreamwell Theatre Presents: 'Nexus,' Public Space One, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$10

Underground New Play Festival, Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$15

City Circle Acting Company Presents: 'Chess: In Concert,' Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m., \$12-27

'The Wild Party,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$28-36

'Significant Other,' Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 8 p.m., \$15-120

Heywood Banks, Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$22-25

2/11

'Significant Other,' Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 2 p.m., \$15-120

City Circle Acting Company Presents: 'Chess: In Concert,' Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 2 p.m., \$12-27

'Detroit,' Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 2 p.m., \$18-30

Underground New Play Festival, Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., \$15

2/13

'Shen Yun,' Paramount Theatre, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$83-123

2/14

'LEAP!,' Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7 p.m., Free-\$10

'Shen Yun,' Paramount Theatre, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$83-123

2/15

Murder Mystery Dinner: Who Whacked Willy Wonka?, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 6 p.m., \$50

Underground New Play Festival, Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$15

2/16

Shopkins Live: 'Shop it Up!,' Paramount Theatre, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., \$29.50-100

Dreamwell Theatre Presents: 'Nexus,' Public Space One, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$10

Underground New Play Festival, Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$15

The Second City: 'Look Both Ways Before Talking,' The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$31.50-36.50

ForgetAboutIt Italian Comedy: Vincent Pastore & Gomba Johnny Sialiano, Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$23-26

SPT Theatre Tales from the Writers' Room: 'X's & O's,' Legion Arts CSPA Hall, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$20-25

2/17

Dreamwell Theatre Presents: 'Nexus,' Public Space One, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$10

Underground New Play Festival, Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$15

ForgetAboutIt Italian Comedy: Vincent Pastore & Gomba Johnny Sialiano, Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$23-26

The Second City: 'Look Both Ways Before Talking,' The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$31.50-36.50

SPT Theatre Tales from the Writers' Room: 'X's & O's,' Legion Arts CSPA Hall, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$20-25

2/18

Underground New Play Festival, Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., \$15

2/20

Eulenspiegel Puppets: 'The Amazing Adventures of Willy the Woolly,' Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7 p.m., \$10-15

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DAVE MOORE SAT 3 | 9PM

J. JEFFREY MESSEROLE +THE
STONE HORSES FRI 16 | 9PM

NICK DITTMEIER +THE SAWDUSTERS
FRI 16 | 9PM

WINTERLAND FRI 23 | 10PM

ANNIE SAVAGE +FRIENDS SAT 16 | 9PM

BRIAN JOHANNESSEN SAT 24 | 10PM

RYNE DOUGHTY TRIO SAT 23 | 9PM

THE MUCKROCKERS SAT 30 | 9PM

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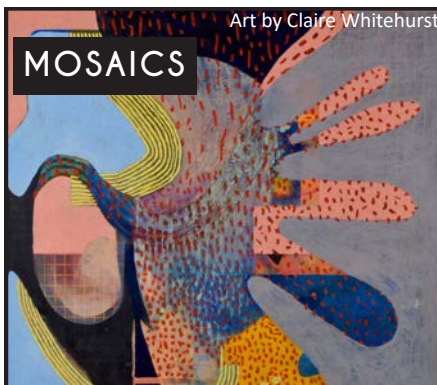
7PM DREWELOWE GALLERY, VAB

This event is sponsored by University of Iowa Student Government, the Department of Cinematic Arts, the Arts & Humanities Initiative, the Public Digital Arts Cluster, and Little Village Magazine. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all UI-sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact Vertical Cinema via email: studorg-vc@uiowa.edu.

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CINEMA



White Scripts and Black Supermen: Black Masculinities in Comic Books FilmScene, Iowa City, Wednesday, Feb. 14, 5 p.m., Free-\$7.50 Part of the University of Iowa's Black History Month—Black Superhero Week, this screening of the 2012 documentary by filmmaker Jonathan Gayles is presented by FilmScene in partnership with University of Iowa's Afro-American Cultural Center and co-presented by the Bijou Film Board. The film explores the roots of the black superhero in American comics, from Lothar (first appearance 1934) to current phenom the Black Panther (first appearance 1966) to Black Lightning (first appearance 1977) and others in between. Free for UI students.

2/8

The Picture Show:
'Animation Show of Shows,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 3:30 p.m., Free-\$5

2/9

2018 Oscar Shorts:
Live Action (12:15 & 8:15 p.m.)
Animated (2:30 p.m.)
Documentary (4:30 p.m.), FilmScene, Iowa City, \$6.50-9

2/10

The Picture Show: 'To Kill A Mockingbird,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free-\$5
2018 Oscar Shorts:
Animated (12:30 & 8:30 p.m.),

CINEMA

Documentary (2:30 p.m.), **Live Action** (6:15 p.m.),
FilmScene, Iowa City, \$6.50-9

Bijou After Hours: 'Cat People,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 11 p.m., Free-\$6.50*

2/11

The Picture Show: 'To Kill A Mockingbird,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free-\$5*

2018 Oscar Shorts: Animated (12:30 p.m.),

Documentary (2:30 p.m.), **Live Action** (3 p.m.),
FilmScene, Iowa City, \$6.50-7.50

Vino Vérité: '42 Grams,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$20-25*

2/12

2018 Oscar Shorts: Animated (3:30 & 7:45 p.m.),

Live Action (5:30 p.m.), *FilmScene, Iowa City, \$6.50-9*

FilmScene at Big Grove: 'Groundhog Day,' *Big Grove Brewery & Taphouse, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free*

2/13

2018 Oscar Shorts: Documentary (2:15 p.m.), **Live Action** (4 p.m.), **Animated** (9 p.m.), *FilmScene, Iowa City, \$6.50-9*

Bijou Film Forum: 'Professor Marston and the Wonder Women,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 6 p.m., Free-\$6.50*

2/14

2018 Oscar Shorts: Animated (2:30 p.m.), **Live Action** (7 p.m.), *FilmScene, Iowa City, \$6.50-9*

Special Event: 'White Scripts and Black Supermen,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 5 p.m., Free-\$7.50*

2/15

The Picture Show: 'To Kill A Mockingbird,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 3:30 p.m., Free-\$5*

2018 Oscar Shorts: Live Action (6 p.m.), **Animated** (6:30 & 8:15 p.m.), *FilmScene, Iowa City, \$6.50-9*

2/16

Special Event: Dada Futures, *FilmScene, Iowa City, 3 p.m., Free*

2/17

Special Event: 'Ex Libris,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 a.m., \$6.50-7.50*

The Picture Show: 'Stuart Little,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free-\$5*

Bijou After Hours: 'THX 1138,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 11 p.m., Free-\$6.50*

2/18

Special Event: 'Ex Libris,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 a.m., \$6.50-7.50*

The Picture Show: 'Stuart Little,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free-\$5*

2/20

'Girlhood,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 6 p.m., Free-\$6.50*



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CINEMA

Headroom Screening Series and Vertical Cinema Present: Shana Moulton Screening and Performance University of Iowa Visual Arts Building Drewelowe Gallery, Iowa City, Friday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m., Free The Headroom Screening Series kicks off its Spring 2018 programming with a visit from media artist Shana Moulton, co-presented with student group Vertical Cinema. Moulton has exhibited, screened her surreal, psychedelic art videos and performed across the U.S. and Europe. Her visit to the University of Iowa will include both a screening and a performance. The screening will consist of five shorts: "Swisspering" (2013), "The Undiscovered Drawer" (2013), "Restless Leg Saga" (2012), "The Galactic Pot Healer" (2010) and "Every Angle is an Angel" (2016). Moulton's performance, following immediately after, will run 24 minutes.

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ARTS, CRAFTS & EXHIBITIONS

2/7

Art Bites: Framing the World—The Photography of Linda & Robert Scarth, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, 12:15 p.m., Free

Caucho Craft Circle: Glass Painting, Caucho, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., \$25

2/8

School of Sewing: Part I—Session 1/4, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$85/course

2/9

Gyrls Night Out: Sterling Heart Toggle Clasp, Beadology, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., \$98

Knitting: Flax Pullover Sweater—Session 2/4, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$60/course

2/10

New Class: Baroque Cascade Earrings, Beadology, Iowa City, 10 a.m., \$98

Sewing: Hadley Top, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 12 p.m., \$55

'You Are Loved' Nature Photography, Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 12:30 p.m., \$12-15

Wine & Design: Plant a Succulent, Moss, Iowa City, 3 p.m., \$25

Wine & Design: Succulent Bar, Moss, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$25

2/11

Glass Owl Beads: What a Hoot!, Beadology, Iowa City, 12 p.m., \$98

2/12

Byzantine Chain Maille Bracelet through Kirkwood Community College, Beadology, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., \$68

2/13

Valentine's Day Activity Table, Old Capitol Museum, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free

Sewing: Wool and Wax Tote—Session 1/2, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$55/course

2/14

Valentine's Day Activity Table, Old Capitol Museum, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free

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

2/15

Art Lover's Book Club: 'The Figures of Beauty,' Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, 4 p.m., Free

School of Sewing: Part I—Session 2/4, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$85/course

2/16

Techniques and Strategies for Multi-Strand Pieces, Beadology, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., \$58

Knitting: Flax Pullover Sweater—Session 3/4, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$60/course

2/17

Herringbone Beaded Collar, Beadology, Iowa City, 10 a.m., \$78

Iowa City Press Co-op: Intro to Letterpress—Session 2/2, Public Space One, Iowa City, 1 p.m., \$102/course

Wine & Design: Airplant Orb, Moss, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$25

2/18

Twined Chrysalis Pendant, Beadology, Iowa City, 10 a.m., \$138

Iowa City Press Co-op: Intro to Letterpress—Session 2/2, Public Space One, Iowa City, 1 p.m., \$102/course

The Iowa Ceramics Center and Glass Studio Present: Make Your Own Face Stein, Lion Bridge Brewing Company, Cedar Rapids, 2 p.m., \$35

Artifactory's Life Drawing Drop-In Session, Beadology, Iowa City, 5 p.m., \$10

2/20

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

Sewing: Wool and Wax Tote—Session 2/2, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$55/course

LOOKING BAC: FERDINAND BAC, 1859-1952

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Support for the exhibition is provided by the Koza Family Fund, the Members Special Exhibition Fund, and the Richard V.M. Corton, M.D. and Janet Y. Corton Exhibition Fund.



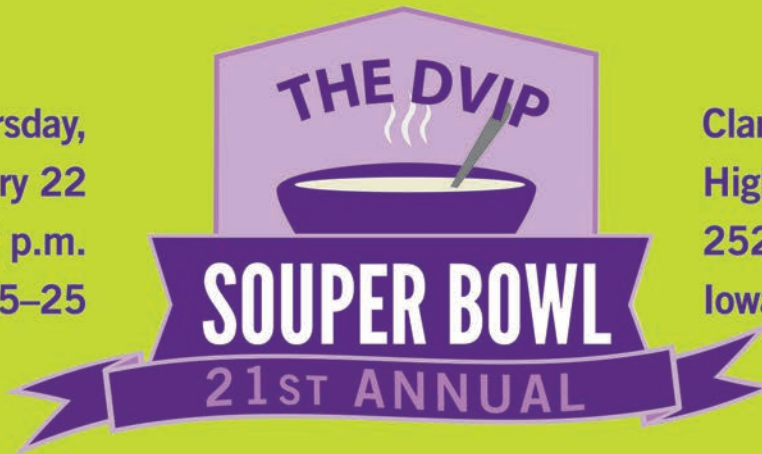
Ferdinand Bac (French, 1859-1952), *What are looking for in the sky, crazy old man?*, c. 1950, ink on paper, Collection of Madame Sylviane Jullian



Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa-sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact the UIMA in advance at 319-335-1727.

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Image: David Goodsell, *Influenza Virus Entry*, 2016, watercolor and ink on paper, 18 x 24 in. Courtesy of the artist.

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FOOD & DRINK

2/9

Coralville Food Pantry: Free Community Meal, Coralville Rec Center, 5:30 p.m., Free

2/11

Winter Wine Party: Chocolate & Cheese, Brix, Iowa City, 4 p.m., \$50

2/13

Kick the Sugar Habit: 7 Secrets to Fight your Sugar Craving with Coach Alina Warner, CHC, New Pioneer Food Co-op, Coralville, 12 p.m., \$10
Ferments For Health: Kombucha, Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 6 p.m., \$20-23

2/14

Valentine's Day Dinner, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 5 p.m., \$29.99
Beer, Cheese, Wine & Chocolate—Valentine's Day Tasting Event, Lion Bridge Brewing Company, Cedar Rapids, 5:30 p.m., \$25
SOLD OUT: Farm to Table Dinner w/ The Kitchen Counter, Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 5:30 p.m., \$100

LITERATURE

2/7

Joseph Cassara, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free

2/8

Winding Path Sangha Mindfulness Book Discussion Series, Wesley Center, Iowa City, 5 p.m., Free

February Green Drinks: Author Adam Hammes, Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., Free

Douga Chew-Bose, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free

2/9

Rhythm & Arc: Mastering the Art of Plotting—Session 1/3, Iowa Writers' House, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$265/course

Dale Mulfinger, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free

2/10

Rhythm & Arc: Mastering the Art of Plotting—Session 2/3, Iowa Writers' House, Iowa City, 9:30 a.m., \$265/course

2/11

Art of the Pitch, Iowa Writers' House, Iowa City, 1 p.m., \$75

Rhythm & Arc: Mastering the Art of Plotting—Session 3/3, Iowa Writers' House, Iowa City, 9:30 a.m., \$265/course
Jill Esbaum, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 3 p.m., Free

2/13

Mining the Story Within: The Bedrock of Narrative—Session 2/4, Iowa Writers' House, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$265/course
Eddie Moore, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free

2/14

Slam Poetry: Kyla Lacey, Iowa Memorial Union, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free

2/15

Winding Path Sangha Mindfulness Book Discussion Series, Wesley Center, Iowa City, 5 p.m., Free

Carey Gilliam, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free

2/16

Darcy Maulsby, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free

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ONGOING

2/17

Jocelyn Cullity,
Prairie Lights Books
& Cafe, Iowa City, 2
p.m., Free

2/20

Mining the Story
Within: The Bedrock
of Narrative—
Session 3/4, Iowa
Writers' House,
Iowa City, 6 p.m.,
\$265/course
Jeff Biggers, Prairie
Lights Books &
Cafe, Iowa City, 7
p.m., Free

MONDAYS Open Mic, The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m.,
Free Honeycombs of Comedy, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., \$3

TUESDAYS Blues Jam, Parlor City Pub and Eatery,
Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., Free Weekly Old-Timey Jam Session, Trumpet
Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., Free Karaoke, Studio 13, Iowa
City, 9 p.m., Free Karaoke Tuesdays, The Mill, Iowa City, 10 p.m.,
Free

WEDNESDAYS Burlington Street Bluegrass
Band, The Mill, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$5 (2nd & 4th Wednesdays) Open
Mic Night, Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., Free Open
Mic, Cafe Paradiso, Fairfield, 8 p.m., Free Open Stage, Studio 13,
Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free Late Shift at the Grindhouse, Film Scene,
Iowa City, 10 p.m., \$4 Talk Art, The Mill, Iowa City, 10:30 p.m.,
Free (2nd & 4th Wednesdays)

THURSDAYS I.C. Press Co-op open shop, Public
Space One, Iowa City, 4 p.m., Free Kids Meditation Class Iowa City,
Quaker Friends Meeting House, Iowa City, 5:45 p.m., \$5 Iowa City
Meditation Class: How To Transform Your Life, Quaker Friends Meeting
House, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$5-10 Novel Conversations, Coralville
Community Library, 7 p.m., Free (3rd Thursday) Thursday Night Live

Open Mic, Uptown Bill's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free Daddy-0, Parlor City
Pub and Eatery, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., Free Underground Open Mic,
Open Jam and Mug Night, Yacht Club, 8 p.m., Free Live Jazz, Clinton
Street Social Club, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free (1st & 3rd Thursdays)
Karaoke Thursday, Studio 13, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free Retrofit Vinyl w/
DJ Olaz Fik, Dick's Tap & Shake Room, Cedar Rapids, 9 p.m., Free

FRIDAYS NewBo Open Coffee, Roasters Coffeehouse
in NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 8 a.m., Free (2nd & 4th
Fridays) Friday Night Out, Ceramics Center, Cedar Rapids, 6:30
p.m., \$40 FAC Dance Party, The Union, Iowa City, 7 p.m. Sasha
Belle Presents: Friday Night Drag & Dance Party, Studio 13, Iowa City,
10:30 p.m., \$5 SoulShake, Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free

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

SUNDAYS Weekend Brunch, Atlas Restaurant, Iowa
City, 8 a.m. Pub Quiz, The Mill, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$1

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ADVERTISER INDEX

- ASPEN LEAF (7)
- BARONCINI RISTORANTE (36)
- BIG GROVE BREWERY (33)
- BIOTEST (6)
- BREAD GARDEN MARKET (49)
- DAI GWILLIAM (49)
- DELUXE CAKES & PASTRIES (52)
- DVIP (39)
- THE ENGLERT THEATRE (42)
- EPIC FUNCTIONAL MEDICINE CENTER (21)
- FAULCONER GALLERY (39)
- FILMSCENE (23)
- FLOODWATER COMEDY FESTIVAL (44)
- HANCHER AUDITORIUM (4-5, 15)
- HEADROOM SCREENING SERIES (34)
- HINTERLAND (2)
- IOWA CITY ARCHIVES CRAWL (43)
- IOWA CITY DOWNTOWN (40)
- MICKY'S
- NODO
- DEADWOOD
- PRAIRIE LIGHTS
- TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES
- BEADODOLOGY
- IOWA CITY EASTSIDE CO-OP (30)
- PRISMSSCAPE
- SHALA HOT YOGA
- EAST-WEST MASSAGE THERAPY
- SHAKESPEARE'S PUB & GRILL
- ENDORPHINDEN TATTOO
- JENNY'S SALON & SPA
- IOWA CITY NORTHSIDE MARKETPLACE (46)
- OASIS FALAFEL
- RUSS' NORTHSIDE SERVICE
- ARTIFACTS
- GEORGE'S
- HAMBURG
- DEVOTAY
- EL BANDITO'S
- PAGLIAI'S PIZZA
- THE HAUNTED BOOKSHOP
- SONNY'S NORTHSIDE TAP
- HIGH GROUND
- JOHN'S GROCERY
- NODO
- DODGE ST. TIRE
- IOWA CITY OLD TRAIN DEPOT (32)
- THE CLUB CAR
- TRUMPET BLOSSOM CAFE
- PATV
- IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (29)
- JAKOBSEN CONFERENCE (34)
- KIM SCHILLIG (39)
- KRUI 89.7 FM (34)
- MARION UPTOWN CO-OP (31)
- RAMSEY'S WINE BISTRO
- TREASURE CHEST COLLECTIBLES
- UPTOWN SNUG
- THE SAISY
- ARTISAN'S SANCTUARY
- M.C.GINSBERG (48)
- MERGE (39)
- MISSION CREEK FESTIVAL (41)
- MOLLY'S CUPCAKE (29)
- MOSS (42)
- NEWBO EVOLVE (33)
- NEW PIONEER FOOD CO-OP (17)
- ORCHESTRA IOWA (43)
- PUBLIC SPACE ONE (13)
- REVIVAL (8)
- RIVERSIDE THEATRE (28)
- SCRATCH CUPCAKERY (51)
- SECOND ACT (42)
- TALLGRASS (33)
- TURNPIKE TROUBADOURS (37)
- UNIVERSITY OF IOWA MUSEUM OF ART (38)
- WILLOW & STOCK (11)
- ZEPHYR PRINTING & DESIGN (45)

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THE STRAIGHT DOPE BY CECIL ADAMS

When a hurricane blows over an island, as Maria did in Puerto Rico, what happens to the birds? I'm pretty sure a bird can't just hunker down and wait it out. —J.C

That depends, J.C—what sorts of birds are we talking here? Migratory? Nonmigratory? Seabirds? Shorebirds? Cavity-nesting birds? It's a little like asking how humans fare during a hurricane. Broadly we can say it's not the greatest experience, but beyond that, it's all variables: whether we live inland or on the coast, in the hills or in the flats; whether we've got access to sturdy shelter; etc.

So it is with the feathered set. Mostly this breaks down along species lines, but it can be as simple as where one particular flock calls home. Case in point: the long-suffering Puerto Rican parrot. Here's a bird whose once-robust populations were reduced in the 20th century, via logging-related habitat loss, to the single digits—a 1975 count put the number of wild individuals at an unlucky 13. With help from conservationists the parrots staged a comeback only to be nearly eradicated again by 1989's Hurricane Hugo, which flattened the forest where they live.

In the intervening years the parrots managed to bounce back once more, so a lot of fingers were crossed during this latest, particularly brutal hurricane season. Results varied depending on locale: One flock's habitat on the eastern end of Puerto Rico was devastated, producing a number of post-storm parrot corpses. The flock in the hilly western region, by contrast, did just fine.

The bottom line is that these birds don't really go anywhere when they feel a storm coming—which, by the way, they're able to do. Birds are sensitive to changes in barometric pressure and temperature, and to some extent they'll adjust their behavior accordingly, eating in a hurry or seeking shelter before the onset of bad weather. Some migratory birds will reroute to avoid an approaching hurricane, but there's no evidence of island species fleeing en masse. Instead, they really do just hunker down and see it through. With no place to shelter, aquatic birds like pelicans and herons bear the brunt of a storm, accordingly suffering worse mortality rates; some land birds have it easier, though storm-related defoliation will cause problems for (e.g.) your woodpeckers, owls and parrots—birds that nest in the hollows of fragile older trees.

With a little bad luck, a bird population can take a serious hit. Check out the chimney swifts, a bunch of whom were migrating down the east coast in October 2005 when Hurricane Wilma showed up. The storm carried individual birds

as far off as Europe, and at least 727 flock members turned up dead. We don't know what fraction of total casualties that represents, but the next spring, chimney swift numbers were down by 50 percent in their Quebec roosting grounds.

Swept off to Europe, you say? That's one reason it's tough to track avian mortality in these situations. Hurricanes and tornadoes can deposit birds far away from areas we might look for them; small birds' remains might be eaten by scavengers before they can be tallied.

Meanwhile, even the birds that do the best hunkering don't always stick around for a head count. Again, think what humans often experience following a catastrophic storm: They emerge from the root cellar unscathed, only to discover a radically changed landscape, scarce food and water, etc. Ditto for the birds. Survivors may wander afield looking for food if their usual sources have dried up. (This yields its own mortality factor—outside familiar neighborhoods, the birds sometimes get shot by humans trying to keep them away.) In the worst cases their habitats have been destroyed; here too, the severity of this varies by species, with nectar drinkers and seed eaters (hummingbirds, doves, et. al.) being particularly vulnerable.

That's relative, anyway, to the insectivores and raptors, not that they're exactly on easy street. One Caribbean bug-eater of particular concern is the near-endangered Barbuda warbler, at least some of whom made it through the recent storms down there; there'd been worries that the species (pre-storm population: 2,500, tops) might get wiped out altogether. In the aftermath, conservationists had to scramble to get the birds some food—at the same time everyone on Barbuda was scrambling to deal with damage to 95 percent of the buildings on the island.

Admirable priorities, sure. But stepping up for the warblers was the least we could do, honestly, seeing as we're the reason they're having trouble to begin with—there's really no such thing as a "natural" disaster anymore. As plenty of ornithologists have pointed out, birds have weathered big storms for ages, or not; that's called natural selection. It's people who've ratcheted up the environmental pressures: shrinking avian habitats, disrupting food sources, putting in oil pipelines and chemical plants that rupture and leak and, of course, altering the climate such that more and stronger storms are increasingly inevitable. It's a good thing, I suppose, that the birds are getting so much practice battering down the hatches—they're going to need it. **LV**



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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Charles Nelson Reilly was a famous American actor, director and drama teacher. He appeared in or directed numerous films, plays and TV shows. But in the 1970s, when he was in his forties, he also spent quality time impersonating a banana in a series of commercials for Bic Banana Ink Crayons. So apparently he wasn't overly attached to his dignity. Pride didn't interfere with his ability to experiment. In his pursuit of creative expression, he valued the arts of playing and having fun. I encourage you to be inspired by his example during the coming weeks, Aquarius.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): According to ancient Greek writer Herodotus, Persians didn't hesitate to deliberate about important matters while drunk. However, they wouldn't finalize any intoxicated decision until they had a chance to re-evaluate it while sober. The reverse was also true. Choices they made while sober had to be reassessed while they were under the influence of alcohol. I bring this to your attention not because I think you should adhere to similar guidelines in the coming weeks. I would never give you an oracle that required you to be buzzed. But I do think you'll be wise to consider key decisions from not just a coolly rational mindset, but also from a frisky, intuitive perspective. To arrive at a wise verdict, you need both.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): British athlete Liam Collins is an accomplished hurdler. In 2017, he won two medals at the World Masters Athletics Indoor Championships in South Korea. Collins is also a stuntman and street performer who does shows in which he hurtles over barriers made of chainsaws and leaps blindfolded through flaming hoops. For the foreseeable future, you may have a dual capacity with some resemblances to his. You could reach a high point in expressing your skills in your chosen field, and also branch out into extraordinary or flamboyant variations on your specialty.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): When he was 32, the man who would later be known as Dr. Seuss wrote his first kid's book, *And To Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*. His efforts to find a readership went badly at first. Twenty-seven publishers rejected his manuscript. On the verge of abandoning his quest, he ran into an old college classmate on the street. The friend, who had recently begun working at Vanguard Press, expressed interest in the book. Voila! *Mulberry Street* got published. Dr. Seuss later said that if, on that lucky day, he had been strolling on the other side of the street, his career as an author of children's books might never have happened. I'm telling you this tale, Taurus, because I suspect your chances at experiencing a comparable stroke of luck in the coming weeks will be extra high. Be alert!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A survey of British Christians found that most are loyal to just six of the Ten Commandments. While they still think it's bad to, say, steal and kill and lie, they don't regard it as a sin to revere idols, work on the Sabbath, worship other gods or use the Lord's name in a curse. In accordance with the astrological omens, I encourage you to be inspired by their rebellion. The coming weeks will be a favorable time to re-evaluate your old traditions and belief systems, and then discard anything that no longer suits the new person you've become.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): While serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Don Karkos lost the sight in his right eye after being hit by shrapnel. Sixty-four years later, he regained his vision when he got butted in the head by a horse he was grooming. Based on the upcoming astrological omens, I'm wondering if you'll soon experience a metaphorically comparable restoration. My analysis suggests that you'll undergo a healing in which something you lost will return or be returned.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The candy cap mushroom, whose scientific name is *Lactarius rubidus*, is a burnt orange color.

It's small- to medium-sized and has a convex cap. But there its resemblance to other mushrooms ends. When dried out, it tastes and smells like maple syrup. You can grind it into a powder and use it to sweeten cakes and cookies and custards. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, this unusual member of the fungus family can serve as an apt metaphor for you right now. You, too, have access to a resource or influence that is deceptive, but in a good way: offering a charm and good flavor different from what its outer appearance might indicate.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A grandfather from New Jersey decided to check the pockets of an old shirt he didn't wear very often. There Jimmie Smith found a lottery ticket he had stashed away months previously. When he realized it had a winning number, he cashed it in for \$24.1 million—just two days before it was set to expire. I suspect there may be a comparable development in your near future, although the reward would be more modest. Is there any potential valuable that you have forgotten about or neglected? It's not too late to claim it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The U.S. Geological Survey recently announced that it had come up with improved maps of the planet's agricultural regions. Better satellite imagery helped, as did more thorough analysis of the imagery. The new data show that the Earth is covered with 618 million more acres of croplands than had previously been thought. That's 15 percent higher than earlier assessments! In the coming months, Libra, I'm predicting a comparable expansion in your awareness of how many resources you have available. I bet you will also discover that you're more fertile than you have imagined.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In 1939, Scorpio comic book writer Bob Kane co-created the fictional science-fiction superhero Batman. The "Caped Crusader" eventually went on to become an icon, appearing in blockbuster movies as well as TV shows and comic books. Kane said one of his inspirations for Batman was a flying machine envisioned by Leonardo da Vinci in the early 16th century. The Italian artist and inventor drew an image of a winged glider that he proposed to build for a human being to wear. I bring this up, Scorpio, because I think you're in a phase when you, like Kane, can draw inspiration from the past. Go scavenging through history for good ideas!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): I was watching a four-player poker game on TV. The folksy commentator said that the assortment of cards belonging to the player named Mike was "like Anna Kournikova," because "it looks great but it never wins." He was referring to the fact that during her career as a professional tennis player, Anna Kournikova was feted for her physical beauty but never actually won a singles title. This remark happens to be a useful admonishment for you Sagittarians in the coming weeks. You should avoid relying on anything that looks good but never wins. Put your trust in influences that are a bit homely or unassuming but far more apt to contribute to your success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A Chinese man named Wang Kaiyu bought two black-furred puppies from a stranger and took them home to his farm. As the months passed by, Wang noticed that his pets seemed unusually hungry and aggressive. They would sometimes eat his chickens. When they were two years old, he finally figured out that they weren't dogs, but rather Asian black bears. He turned them over to a local animal rescue center. I bring this to your attention, Capricorn, because I suspect it may have a resemblance to your experience. A case of mistaken identity? A surprise revealed in the course of a ripening process? A misunderstanding about what you're taking care of? Now is a good time to make adjustments and corrections. **LV /**



EXTRAVISION

Waking Up

www.extravisionmusic.bandcamp.com

If you're familiar with Ryan Stier's work, it's probably from regular plays of the theme music for the Iowa Public Radio shows *River To River* and *Talk Of Iowa* that his band the River Monks composed. That band enjoyed acclaim particularly for their 2014 album *Home Is The House*. The band went on hiatus over two years ago as members moved to other parts of the country, and Stier created his project Extravision, which he performs solo and as a band. He released two EPs on Bandcamp in 2015 and 2016 which contain the early beginnings of his debut album *Waking Up*, due out Feb. 16.

In an interview with Ben Kieffer on IPR's *Java Blend* he explained the motivation for the project and the name: "I was going through some changes and I started seeing the world in a new way. I started using [Extravision] as a songwriting tool to teach myself some things about the world and see more outside myself."

Indeed, the album sets the tone right away with the rallying, ebullient anthem "Heart Is A Nest of Snakes." "Yeah, I think you should come with me/if you're sick of sleeping just to dream," he sings. "Call me deconditioned I think it's reason to realize your release./ All I need is the water and the wind or the breeze through the leaves./A dark river runs through my veins/turning faster with each passing day." He continues, later: "Peel away all materials and who you thought that you should be."

Stier skillfully translates this expanded worldview into emotional, often jubilant, music. It's clear his heart is full. Soaring vocals and big guitar notes create large, expansive vistas. The use of gigantic reverb creates a

sense of space, as if it was performed in a large church or temple. The album is a sonic brother to the War on Drugs album *Lost In the Dream*, which he told me was an influence for him. In "Dark Where I Can Only Hear" he shouts a "WOO!" that recalls "Red Eyes" from that album.

In these times of many merely talking of

Stier skillfully translates this expanded worldview into emotional, often jubilant, music.

being "woke," we have in Extravision's debut album a wide-eyed account of one man's attempt to wake up and consider how he fits into his surroundings—a path everyone should take for themselves.

—Mike Roeder



COMMANDERS

Stones, Stooges and Spacemen

www.commanders.bandcamp.com

Although Iowa City band Commanders is already revving up some new tunes with a new bassist, their 2017 release *Stones, Stooges and Spacemen* is well overdue for attention in this space. With its brash title, the album invokes some of the greatest acts in '60s and '70s rock and roll and then evokes them throughout with a heavy dose of what Mick Jagger, Iggy Pop and David Bowie had

most in common: strut.

Stones, Stooges and Spacemen arrived at LVHQ in cassette form. The renegade red of the cassette tape, the on-point collage album art by jack-of-all-trades band member Dustin Kelly (he's credited with guitars, vocals, keyboards and percussion) and the interior liner notes that include all the lyrics all made me

feel like a kid again. The choices were all bold, especially for 2017, but they were lovingly built on a long history.

The tape, thank goodness, had a digital download code taped to the outside. I'm honestly not sure if I even own a cassette player that still works. And I wasn't at all sure if, in the modern push for constant

novelty, straightforward, '60s-and-'70s-style rock and roll would still work. Here, it does. To tell the truth, it probably wouldn't with any other band. But Commanders leverage equal parts homage and innovation to maneuver this music from the history books and classic rock stations into the here and now, thanks in no small part to the mix mastery of Flat Black Studios' Luke Tweedy.

Commanders kick off many of the tracks on the album with riffs that echo some of the great tunes that went before, but quickly spin off on an uncharted course. They tease some of the punkier and more psychedelic bents of their inspirations without ever truly veering into those genres. The album's greatest gift is, again, its unabashed strut.

Nowhere is that more evident than with singer Chris Burns. His voice is aggressive, extravagant and confident—the only possible sound for this album, and the glue that holds everything together. He is strongest on album closer "Under the Feral Spell," where a brief a capella interlude about halfway through lights the song on fire.

The album opener, "Go Back Down," comes across as a bit cautious (appropriately, perhaps, for lyrics that begin, "There's a damn good chance that we don't know what we're doin'"), but Commanders find their footing on track two, "She Don't Worry," with Shawn Haigwood's driving lead guitar laying a firm foundation that carries through the rest of the the album. All told, *Stones, Stooges and Spacemen* honors its namesakes with solid artistry and a lot of love.

—Genevieve Trainor LV/

IT'S TIME BY AIMEE LUCIDO

The American Values Club Crossword is edited by Ben Tausig.

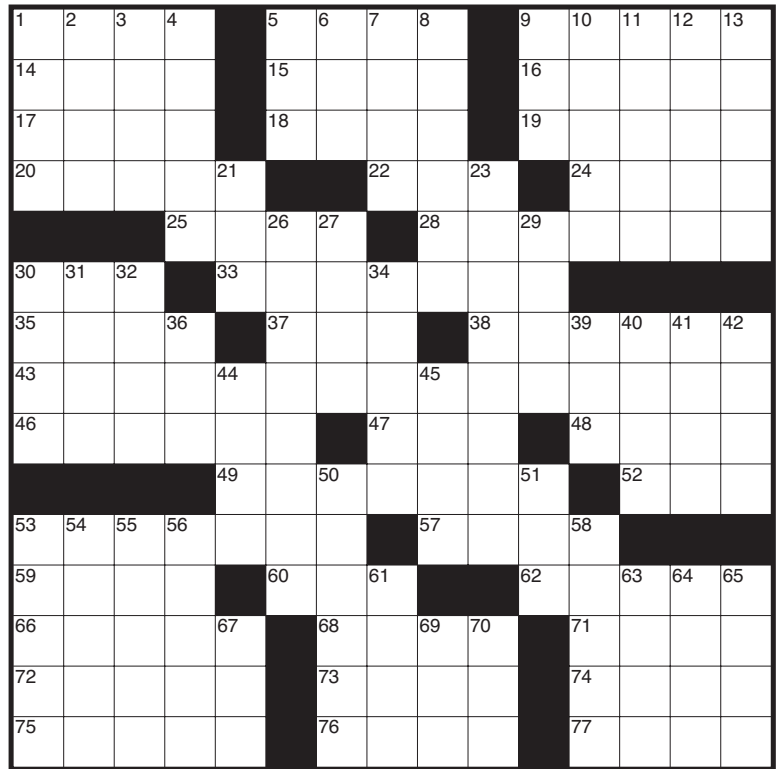
ACROSS

1. Red muppet whose birthday is February 3rd
5. The only state where the majority of the population belongs to one church
9. Branches, of body or tree
14. What you might need to wear outside for the next few months
15. Fancy annual Met event
16. Get amped for
17. Sub-rosa
- 18.
19. Toy sometimes designed to look like a banana
20. ___ Pops (frozen fruit treats)
22. Bumbler
24. Academic cluster with diversity issues
25. The next one will mark the start of 5779: Var.
- 28.
30. One who might answer the question "What time is your dentist appointment?" with "tooth-hurty"
33. Certain cattle hybrid
35. Sign
37. Coach Parseghian who passed away in 2017
38. Marinated shrimp preparation
43. Person of the Year, in a certain magazine, and this puzzle's theme
46. Person permitted to cut lines?
47. Rowing muscle, for short
48. Letters before Rocky, Ferguson or Yams
49. Assesses anew
52. Comedian Poehler
53. Oboe-like instrument whose name is, ironically, translated from the original French
- 57.
59. Only
60. "The Steadfast ___ Soldier"
62. Kinda a little bit
66. With eyes peeled
68. Period of gridlock
- 71.
72. "Nuh-uh!"
73. ___-Ball (Chuck E. Cheese's attraction)
74. Hotel chain whose L.A. branch has a 2,855-square-foot

in California in 10 days

DOWN

1. Reverberation ... ation ... ation
2. Bumbler
3. Sail support
4. None of the above
5. Reaction to a bad take, say
6. Greek T
7. In addition
8. L000000L
9. "Wee" boy
10. Recurring phrase from *Into the Woods*
11. Smallest member of the European Union
12. Joe who says "IMMA POINT AT 'EM!" in a meme
13. Leaf pore
21. Mug
23. Prince had an exceptional one
26. *American Idol* host Ryan who I don't THINK has been accused of ... OK, to hell with him, Pismo Beach hotel name
27. In this spot
29. Calypso offshoot
30. Antibiotic amount
31. In the thick of
32. Place for a quick lunch



LV235 ANSWERS

M	E	L	O	N		G	I	R	L		L	A	C	E			
A	L	E	U	T		A	C	M	E		I	Z	O	D			
X	U	P	T	H	E	B	A	N	D		L	I	O	N			
I	D	E	D		M	E	N		Z	S	A	Z	S	A			
M	E	R	I	N	O		T	H	E	W	B						
						D	E	J	A		O	P	I	N	E	R	S
T	O	M			W	I	T	H	T	I	M	E	T	O	/		
A	D	I	O	S		T	A	O		W	R	A	T	H			
O	I	N	F	I	N	I	T	I	V	E		L	E	E			
S	N	I	F	T	E	R		L	I	A	M						
						S	E	G	E	R		C	R	U	M	M	Y
A	S	T	H	M	A		A	U	K		G	A	I	A			
S	H	O	O			T	A	L	K	I	N	G	X	X	X		
A	U	T	O			E	L	L	E		A	L	I	C	E		
P	L	O	T			D	A	Y	S		H	E	E	D	S		

Presidential Suite
75. Tattooed lady, in a Groucho Marx signature song
76. Overflow (with)
77. Commodity that will become legal

34. Story with allegorical animals, often
36. Volleyball divider
39. Otherwise called
40. Arizona spring training city
41. William and Kate will need to save up for one before April 2018
42. Car backseat game
44. Sushi wrapper
45. Reaction to stress, perhaps
50. Terrible reason to drink vodka
51. Fourth yr. students
53. Service that, remarkably, some people still pay for
54. One who sells "papes"
55. Like some large pianos
56. "Vive ___!"
58. At all
61. Heat up, in a microwave
63. *When in ___* (Mary-Kate and Ashley classic)
64. Twist the pegs on a violin, say
65. Dry as the desert
67. Request from a friend who's picking you up at the airport
69. "We'll ___ ..." ("No," in parent-speak)
70. Bottom line?

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