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ISSUE 239 MAR. 21–APR. 3, 2018

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

LITTLE VILLAGE

Flower Power

Fashion from Iowa City's hip-hop corner. Pg. 14

Dessa checks in ahead of Mission Creek

Pg.25

Frozen Motion

University Camera is shutting its doors after almost 50 years Pg. 8

Brian Stokes Mitchell

with the University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra

Dr. William LaRue Jones, conductor
Wednesday, March 28, 2018, 7:30 pm

"The last leading man" comes to Hancher Auditorium to perform with University of Iowa student musicians under the baton of Dr. William LaRue Jones. A star of the Broadway stage (*Man of La Mancha*, *Ragtime*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Shuffle Along*) and screen (*Trapper John, M.D.*, *Frasier*, *Glee*, *The Blacklist*), Brian Stokes Mitchell possesses what the *New York Times* calls "a singularly thunderous baritone." He and his trio will join the UI Symphony Orchestra, which will provide a lush setting for Stokes's luscious voice.

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

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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.

AN OPEN INVITATION TO IOWA CITY RESIDENTS

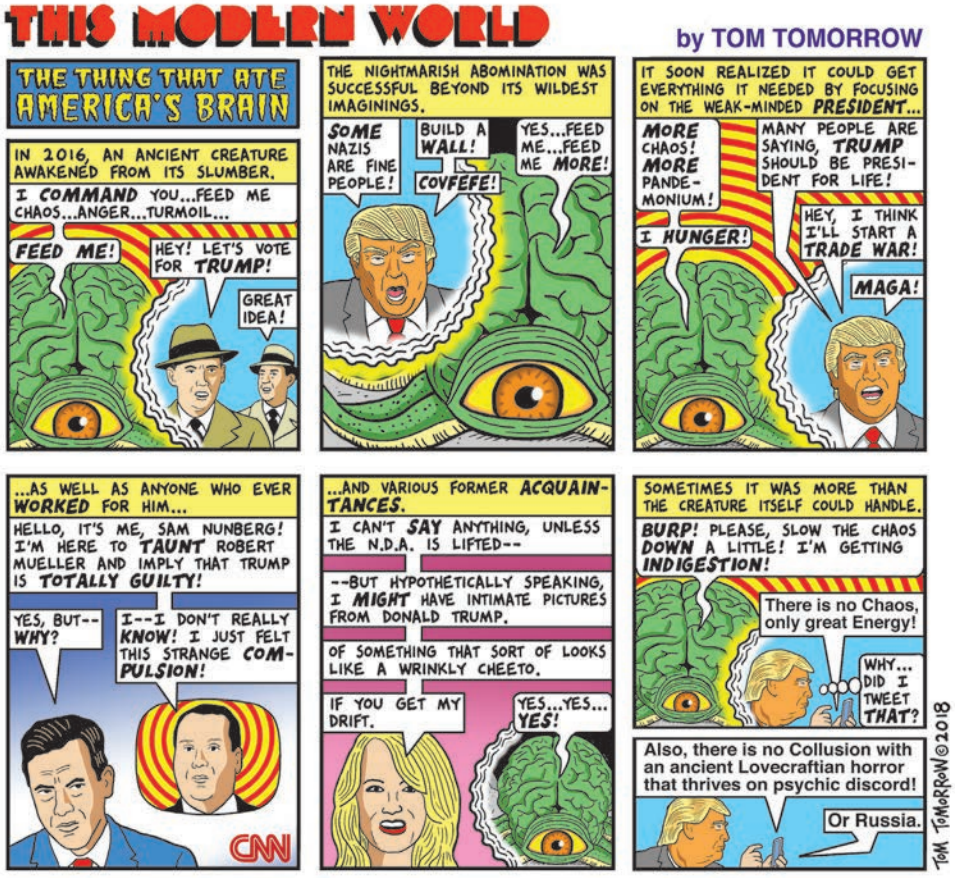
Students have a lot to deal with. Building a resumé isn't exactly a cakewalk, and those entering the workforce likely already have jobs. I for one work as an aide at the Iowa City Public Library so I can live on my own during a gap year.

One Saturday evening, while I was shelving in my favorite section (science fiction and fantasy), I heard someone had been shot on the corner of Linn and College Street, just in front of the library, and that the shooter was still active. The aides were told to watch for patrons acting strangely or carrying firearms. The image of a shooter in a would-be safe public place, my second home, is devastating. I don't want to see this image come to life anywhere, whether it be in the library, my school or any other public facilities.

That's why I march. I'm not the only one; hundreds of thousands of students across the U.S. walked out on March 14, united under the same message: not one more.

It might seem like we've already done a lot in protest, but we still haven't seen significant changes—or even any attempts at reasonable, logical change—on a state or federal level.

The Iowa State Congress hasn't taken any action on passing reasonable gun legislation. If anything, the 2017 legislative session saw it get worse. The support of the Republican-dominated state congress allowed HF 517 and HF 2281 to pass in Iowa. These two bills allow permit owners to carry in the state capital, enhance stand-your-ground laws, permit



HAVE AN OPINION?

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children to use handguns, reduce regulation of short-barrelled shotguns and rifles and more.

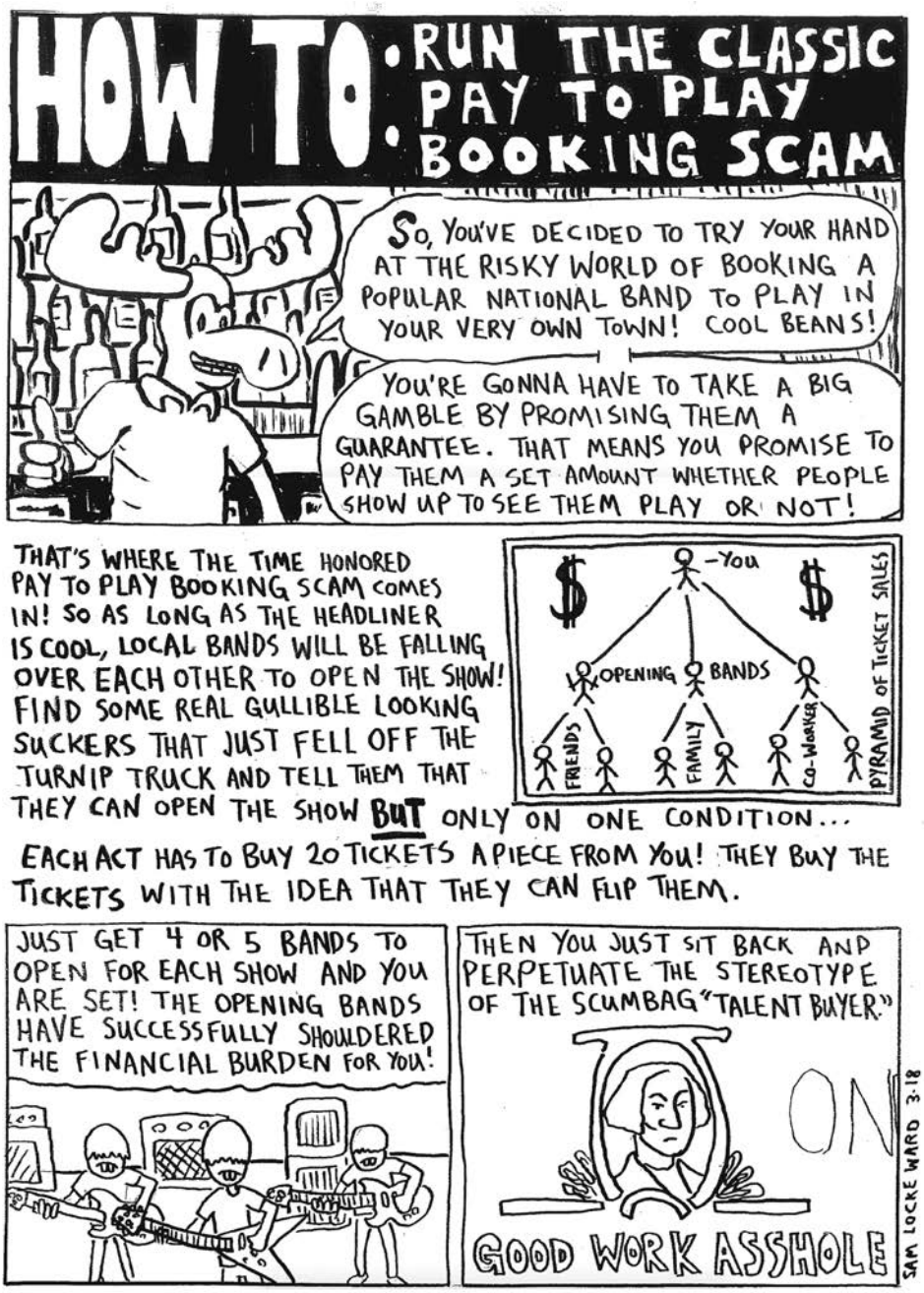
On the national level, Sen. Chuck Grassley refused to give a straight answer when asked if he would stop taking money from the NRA, even when pushed by the crowd during a town hall in Manchester. Grassley and Sen. Joni Ernst have voted along the Republican party line, supporting gun control across the board. The day after Parkland, they both voted in favor of HJ Res 40, a step by Congress to reduce gun control laws further.

It might seem like we've already done a lot in protest, but we still haven't seen significant changes—or even any attempts at reasonable, logical change—on a state or federal level.

That's why we're holding another rally, open to the entire community, on March 24. The only way to achieve logical action on guns is to keep fighting for it, to keep calling our representatives, to keep yelling at those who choose to represent NRA money rather than their constituents that we're watching them, and we will be voting against them this election cycle.

These congresspeople (mainly Republicans in my experience) appear to value the money they get from the NRA over the opinions of their constituents. Unfortunately for them, money doesn't elect them. We do. These representatives would have you think that we students aren't organized; that we're being manipulated by our parents; that we only walk out to get out of class; but the truth is that we're united, motivated and will be voting as soon as we can. It's time for change. Not one more.

— Theo Prineas, Iowa City High School student, representing Students Against School Shootings (SASS)

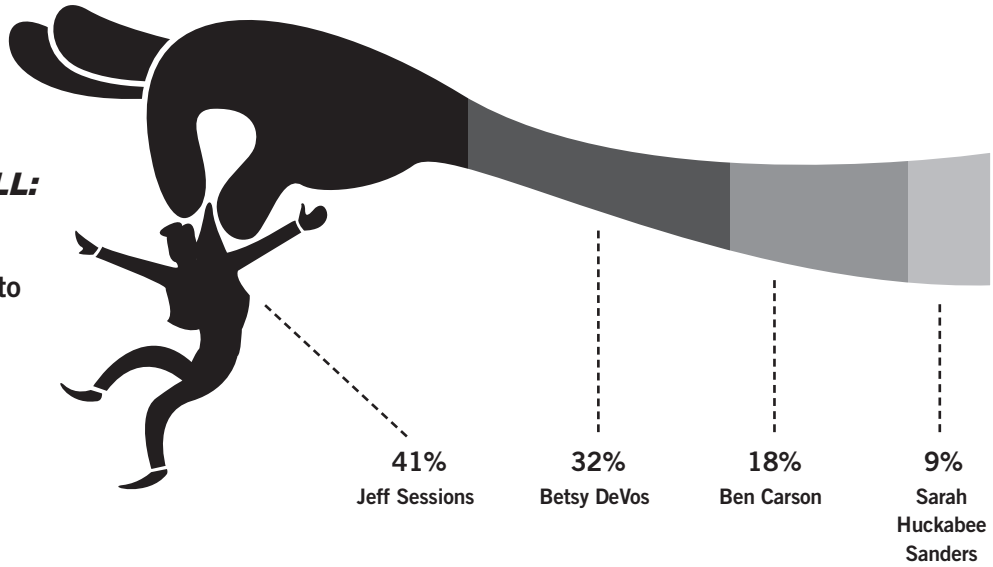


IN THE WAKE OF the Florida school shooting, it is interesting to note that one of the last official acts by former Governor Terry Branstad, before he left for China, was to sign into law a NRA-sponsored bill to lower the age Iowa children could have weapons (from 16 to 14 years of age). Kim Reynolds (then Lt. Governor and now Governor) strongly supported the measure.

— Tim Negro, Iowa City

/LittleVillage **READER POLL:**

Which member of the Trump administration will be the next to hear "you're fired"?



Dix out: Senate Majority Leader Bill Dix resigns after video of him kissing a lobbyist surfaces

I didn't watch the video, was he kissing her on the lips or kissing her ass like the usual politician's approach to lobbyists? —*Edward K.*

That is a super ballsy headline. Uh, pun not intended —*Devin D.*

Exactly whose family did he value? —*Janet G.B.*

An open letter to Emma González and those who doubt her

They need to put her on the covers of girls' magazines. She's such a great role model for girls. —*Jennifer H.*

Your comments on Emma also apply to you, Maya. I'm proud to know you. —*Sal B.*

Yes, Maya! And you too are a leader of this and all generations. —*Caroline D.*

Report: CBS 2, Fox 28 and other Sinclair stations will broadcast news promos echoing Trump talking points

One reason I refuse to watch news on those stations. They started years ago with ultra conservative opinion sections during the news. That, or even liberal opinion, has no place in the news. —*Ronda K.*

Hello KCRG. —*Peter B.*

En Español: 'Fighting for a better future' in Iowa

Could only read the English but good for you. I used to run the ESL program at the Princeton Adult School so I know what good work they do. Great that you made a friend connection and that you told his story in a time when immigrants are being demonized as violent. Love, Grandma Sue —*Suzanne L.*

'A San Francisco right here in Iowa': Iowa House committee approves bill to punish Iowa City over immigration

So concerned about "the rule of law" that they would use such underhanded tactics to bar the public from a *legally* public meeting??? I smell something rotten

Jordan Sellergren

coming from the direction of Des Moines! —*Michael B.*

I used to live in Iowa City and now live in San Francisco, one of the world's greatest cities. There are worse things than aspiring to be like San Francisco, for sure. —*Chris S.*

Pretty much every Republican in the legislature would like to punish Iowa City just for *being* Iowa City. They will make stuff up to do it, if they have to. —*Shelley R.*

Thanks, small government Republicans. Way to leave things up to local government. —*Tyler W.*

WTH are they talking about? What data do they have to show that Des Moines and Iowa City are any more sanctuary cities than anywhere else? Truthfully there are several small towns throughout Iowa that have a high immigration population. This isn't about that. This is about trying to look tough before an election [to] get the conservative crazy base all excited by going after the real blue areas in the state. Very low and disgusting truthfully. —*Ardalia W.*

Dumpling Darling, Banh Mi Amore take home Top Chef: Downtown 2018 top savory honors

Thanks for giving the absent farmers a shoutout! —*Molly S.*

Your Village: What's happening to the empty building at the corner of Linn and Market?

I am glad to hear that Ross Nusser is still planning to incorporate design components that encourage senior living downtown. It is too bad that HUD restrictions are not a bit more flexible, to allow developers more latitude in marketing to seniors in a residential building. Not every senior wants to live in a senior-only building (or even 80% senior). —*Evelyn W.*

Looks like commercial on the first floor, which fits with the neighborhood, but is it one space or two? What's the square footage? Any new thoughts on creating a condominium style store-below, apartment-above live-work space for sale—an under-explored model? What about creating apartment arrangements so that a family apartment can be next to a senior/senior couple apartment, maybe even sharing a dining area? Offering reduced rent for someone who could provide essential services to seniors, such as transportation, household chore help, etc.? I have no idea if any of these things are legal/possible, but it seems like creating *different* living spaces might attract different people and contribute to that good old "vibrant" concept. —*Nialle S.*

We are are lucky to have a local developer who has gone above and beyond to serve our community and specifically this neighborhood. Ross has conducted good neighbor meetings and is truly all-in for making the Northside Marketplace even better with unique design in a (hopefully) five-story building. The build-out is going be high-quality design and will have room for some great new businesses in the neighborhood. I'm hoping we see another retail store (maybe a jeweler or kitchen store) and a dry cleaner. —*Quentin*

Cedar Rapids seizing income tax returns for nonpayment of traffic camera tickets

Let's cut the bull, Cedar Rapids. Speed cameras were never about safety but rather you bought a slick sales pitch from an out-of-state company about how much revenue you could siphon from the people with the least amount of effort. Surprise, now the citizenry is rebelling against your profiteering micro-management of their daily commutes. You had a good run Cedar Rapids, and now it's time to drop this Orwellian assault on the people of this city. This issue errodes away at the morale of our city residents and only hastens their desire to move away. —*Alex S.*

Traffic cameras are well known to reduce speeds and accidents. —*Ofer S.*

It also reduces the risk of unnecessary profiling in traffic stops. If you're speeding, you're speeding. —*Christopher G.* LV/

Zak Neumann/Little Village

Death by a Thousand Cuts

University Camera, the last Iowa City retailer of its kind, is closing up shop.

BY PAUL BRENNAN

Little Village's interview with Roger Christian started late. He was on the phone with someone in Solon whose remote-controlled trigger for her camera flash wasn't working. Christian slowly walked her through all the possible solutions to her problem, before saying, "I'll just send you a new one."

"That's what people are going to lose when this place closes," Christian said, hanging up the phone.

Christian and his wife Chris have owned University Camera in downtown Iowa City since 1984, and for all that time both amateur and professional photographers have relied on Christian's expert advice.

University Camera, which opened in 1970, is the last full-service camera store in Johnson County and one of a handful of such stores still remaining in the Midwest. When it closes its doors for the last time on April 15, a wide range of photographic services will disappear in Iowa City.

"We're the last place in Iowa City that develops film in-house," Christian said. "When we close, black-and-white processing is gone. Color processing is gone. Slide scanning is gone. Large format flatbed scanning is gone. Memory card recovery is gone."

Most importantly, the store's staff, who collectively have well over a century's worth of experience in photography, will be gone.

Christian, an intense man with a compact build and a booming voice, has been a constant presence in the store. And despite spending most of his adult life working in camera stores, he doesn't really consider himself a photographer.

"If you want to talk about artistic composition, I'm not your man," Christian said. "But if you want to know technical stuff—how to do lighting, close-up photography, film processing, slide film processing, color printing, black-and-white printing, how to set up an enlarger or set up a darkroom—I've done it all." He shrugged, and added, "That's because I could never afford to pay anyone to do these things for me. So by design, by bullheadedness, I've learned to do it all."

Christian has been interested in the technical aspect of photography since he was a young boy. Although he doesn't have a trace of a Southern accent, Christian was born and raised in Alabama. His parents were both Midwesterners, but Christian's father, an attorney, was transferred to Alabama while working for the U.S. Department of

Agriculture during World War II. After the war, he went into private practice but stayed in Alabama.

Christian came to Iowa City in 1964 to study physics and astronomy at the University of Iowa.

"I had a miserable time in physics and astronomy," Christian said with a laugh. "So I got out of that and ended up with a degree in radio, TV and film."

He got his first job in a camera shop, Times Photo, while he was an undergraduate.

"When we close, black-and-white processing is gone. Color processing is gone. Slide scanning is gone. Large format flatbed scanning is gone. Memory card recovery is gone."

—Roger Christian

In 1969, he went into the army and served in Vietnam. "I learned inventory control and accounting in the Army," Christian said. "I learned it in a warzone."

Christian returned to Iowa City in 1971 and got a job at the recently opened University Camera.

"There were four camera stores in the city at the time," he said. "It was a good time for camera stores; they were all doing well."

After three years, he quit to take a job at a radio station. In 1975, he returned to University Camera, this time as manager.

"That lasted until 1980, when I got annoyed about a bunch of stuff and quit," Christian said. He took a job selling cars. "Jiminy Christmas, the money was so much better. If I'd stayed selling cars I'd be somewhere between $1.5 million and $3.5 million ahead of where I am now."

But in late 1983, Christian learned that the owner of University Camera wanted to sell. He and his wife bought the store for $32,000 and took over on Feb. 1, 1984.

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"'I own my own store. I'm king of the world,' I thought," Christian recalled. "The honeymoon lasted until about 1986, when the farm crisis hit."

The economy of Iowa and the rest of the Midwest collapsed.

"We were just scraping by," Christian said. It took 10 years for the store to get back on a solid footing. But during all that time, University Camera remained a vital part of Iowa City.

"The store was a real community builder," Steve Shriver said. Shriver, now the owner of Eco Lips and one of the leading businessmen in the I-380 corridor, worked at University Camera in the mid-'90s.

The artistic community counted on the store for photography-related services and the staff's technical expertise. But University Camera's reach went well beyond the arts.

"There was a lot going on in a little space; it was like a beehive. And it all worked," Shriver said. "It was great to be a part of a real entrepreneurial environment. Seeing Roger manage everything from processing to camera repair to doing work for the hospital and working with the sheriff's office on crime scene photos. It was an amazing experience."

But it wasn't long after the store was starting to thrive that the market began to shift again, this time under the internet.

"It was probably in the early 2000s [that] we really began to feel an effect," Christian said. "Of course, we'd always had competition from mail-order, but eventually the internet was a sea-change that began to bite."

The camera business is a natural fit for online retailers, according to Christian.

"I wouldn't order clothes on the internet, because I've got weird shapes. But you order a piece of camera equipment on the internet, and you'll get the same thing you can get in a store."

"Realistically, am I happy about this? Hell, no. But on the other hand, I've benefited from it," Christian said. "If I place an order with Canon before 1 p.m., that item is on my desk by 10 a.m. the next day. That means that I don't have to stock as much."

University Camera has been facing more challenges than competing with low-price online retailers. Christian described it as "death by a thousand cuts."

"Besides the internet, there's sales tax, rising wages, pressure from manufacturers, whose rebate structures provide us a pretty minimal gross profit margin," Christian explained. "Because the rebates, there is no profit in cameras, there is no profit in lenses. You're lucky if you make 2 or 3 percent off a sale."

Top: the inside of University Camera at 4 S Dubuque St., March 2018. Bottom: Howard Horan in the shop basement.
Photos by Zak Neumann

"For years, I've been making $200 to do the work of $500," he said. Recently, he and his wife have been putting more of their own money into the business. "We're not going to keep doing that."

Christian doesn't think there will be a new shop to take University Camera's place.

"Two people have approached me about buying the store, but the banks won't lend them money for a camera store," he said.

Christian isn't just pessimistic about camera stores in Iowa City, he's also pessimistic about the survival of small, independent retailers downtown.

"Based on sitting here for 48 years observing things, I really see Iowa City turning into a service-based downtown," Christian said. "I see almost no small retail existing in downtown Iowa City in two to five years."

Retail in all of Iowa City has had a difficult time since the sudden onset of the Great Recession in 2008. A study from Iowa State University found that in fiscal year 2016, average sales per retail business in Iowa City

were $580,942. That's up from the low point reached in 2010, when average sales per retailer were $522,741, but is still well short of the recent high point in 2005 of $824,515.

But Nancy Bird, executive director of the Iowa City Downtown District (ICDD), sees downtown as a bright spot in the Iowa City retail landscape. She notes the vacancy rate for commercial space downtown, consistently around three percent.

"We know that we're top heavy with food and beverage," Bird said of the downtown business scene. A 2014 report on downtown retail prepared for the ICDD found that retail shops only made up 31 percent of downtown consumer businesses.

Bird said that successful downtown retail businesses are ones that make the most of their setting. Not just by targeting the foot traffic downtown—the ICDD has a program that helps businesses develop signs that stand out to pedestrians—but also by recognizing that the people shopping downtown enjoy the experience of living in an urban setting.

"Retail is all about enjoying the experience these days," Bird said. She added that the urban experience downtown has been improving in recent years. The ICDD has spearheaded efforts to clean up the alleys downtown, which pedestrians are increasingly using as walkways, and, most recently, launching an improved free wifi service for the Ped Mall.

As for Roger Christian, he's looking forward to new experiences after University Camera closes.

"I'm 71 years old, I had a triple bypass last year and I haven't had a vacation in 20 years," he said, laughing. "I have hobbies I'd like to spend more time trying. Right now, I'm here 70 hours a week."

Asked what he is going to miss about University Camera, Christian grew serious.

"It won't be any one thing that happens here. It'll be the people I've worked with," he said, with a slight catch in his voice. "By and large, the people we've had here have pretty much been outstanding examples of human beings."

"That's what I'll miss." LV/

> **"By and large, the people we've had here have pretty much been outstanding examples of human beings. That's what I'll miss."**
>
> ***—Roger Christian***

Paul Brennan didn't take any of the photos for this story. If you've seen his photos, you understand why.

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LV Recommends

The Map Room

416 3rd St SE, Cedar Rapids

Crossing through the purple entrance curtain into the Map Room is a rewarding experience. Once inside, the modern patron is transformed by the little, nondescript, Cedar Rapids building into a world traveler from another age. The atmosphere at the Map Room is cozy with an old-world feel, the walls lined with world maps from periods when the contents lay only partially discovered.

The menu is suitably diverse, fitting the theme of the restaurant, and neatly combines modern American pub food with world flavors. Platters of fries offer a list of poutine-style options, ranging from the homegrown—beer cheese, chili, chipped

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beef—to the more exotic, such as the lomo saltado gravy.

An adventurous traveler can explore flavors from multiple continents over naan, from the Italian-themed Campania to the Agra, which is delicious naan smothered in garam masala, paneer, mango chutney and spiced peas.

The main attraction at the Map Room is without doubt the world-themed burgers. Thick, hearty, locally sourced beef is topped with ingredients from all across the globe: goat cheese and hummus on the Marrakesh Burger; green chili, braised pork and queso fresco atop the El Paso; kimchi and aioli on the Seoul. I thoroughly enjoyed the Saigon Burger: mortadella, ham, salami, cucumber cilantro, pickled jalapeños, carrots and radishes—a delicious flavor combination. An expansive list of build-your-own burger options exists as well, for those who desire to create unique, continent-spanning, fusion burgers.

Thick, hearty, locally sourced beef is topped with ingredients from all across the globe.

One would not expect a tiny burger pub to provide a great deal of variety, but the Map Room does just that: flavorful combinations from around the globe, tastefully crafted into a (mostly) burger-and-fries platform, all in a cozy, serene setting. Add daily drink specials to the mix and one can experience a wide array of flavors in a single venue. LV

—K. Michael Moore

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hip hop powe

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BY EMMA MCLATCHEY
PHOTOS BY ZAK NEUMANN

"My style can't be duplicated or recycled/This chick is a sick individual," raps Missy Elliott in the 2005 track "We Run This." "It don't matter where you from it's where you at/and if you came to freak-a-leak you better bring your hat."

Famous for flaunting bedazzled denim and black garbage bags, Elliott is an icon to University of Iowa student and DJ Mariah Dawson. Along with Queen Latifah, Dawson calls Elliott one of her "mommies."

"No matter what video or performance, I just know she stresses her fashion designers out because everything has to be perfect and different each time, and unexpected," Dawson said.

From Elliott's innovative looks to Run-DMC and Yeezy's Adidas to the Afrofuturistic fashions of *Black Panther* and Janelle Monáe, hip-hop fashion has taken many forms. Still, Dawson said the hip-hop aesthetic is specific, unmistakable to those who know it well.

"Black people have a certain style, a certain poise, a certain soulful spirit of love and happiness that we were able to produce from our struggle," she said. "To be a part of the hip-hop scene, you have to understand where it comes from; you have to understand where we're going. Those people that are able to identify with that, you can see it in their walk, you can see it in their clothes."

Dawson and four fellow UI students will take their style from the street to the stage for the 2018 Walk It Out Multicultural Fashion Show. Dawson has headed the hip-hop group since the first Walk It Out event three years ago, selecting the outfits, music, choreography and overall performance.

Hip hop is the youngest of the seven identities showcased by Walk It Out, which also includes African, Latin American, East Asian, South Asian, Middle Eastern and LGBTQA groups. "Our culture is less than 40 years old, compared to all the other cultures in the show that have 200, 300, thousands of years of culture, of citizenship, of birthright," Dawson observed. "We make sure the audience is getting the biggest dose of hip hop they can. It's not just music, it's not just fashion, it's not just disc jockeys, it's not just about the lyrics. It's everything all into one."

Even though hip-hop culture has entered the mainstream and fused with other styles, Dawson said it still represents empowerment and a defiance of the status quo. In fashion, this can be expressed in everything from the unapologetically sexy wardrobe of Lil' Kim and Cardi B to a hoodie worn in grief and solidarity after the shooting of Trayvon Martin.

"A lot of times the black struggle doesn't get attention and doesn't get to be fronted, so we have to front it. We have to wear it every day," Dawson said. "We have to make sure it's in our music. We have to make sure it's in our clothes."

Iowa City's hip-hop artists—at least those that represent the scene at Walk It Out—said they wear flowers to project a message of love, growth and knowledge. "It reminds another black person 'OK, we on the same court,'" Dawson said. "'I see you, sista, with your flower in your fro.' There's a connection there."

> **"Black people have a certain style, a certain poise, a certain soulful spirit of love and happiness that we were able to produce from our struggle"**
>
> ***—Mariah Dawson***

This message of love is something Dawson and her models sense in all true hip hop, from the highly commercial stuff to the performances at Gabe's, RADinc. and other centers of what Dawson calls Iowa City's "strong li'l hip-hop corner." If outsiders see a culture of misogyny and homophobia, that's only because they're choosing to focus on that, Dawson said. There are no more bigots in hip hop than there are in the larger society—and the majority of artists are fighting the same oppressive forces as the genre's founders.

"In the midst of a black person loving themselves, we go through a cycle of energies: It's positive energy, negative energy. We get told what to do, we get told what not to do. It's a lot—we get a lot, before we're able to process what we want for ourselves," Dawson said.

"Hip hop did get bought," Dawson said. "And so in the midst of a culture being bought and picked apart, there are little pieces that stay the same, and those flowers will be watered. We change a little bit, but the morals, the purpose, will never change."

Even in its most mainstream forms—in those club songs all about "booty," in mumble rap and in Marvel's hit *Black Panther*, the last a focus of the 2018 Walk It Out show—model Jasmine Kargbo said there's at least one hip hop element that remains.

"Representation. Even though it's mainstream, it's showing us what we could be, or showing us that there's someone like us," she said.

At the end of the day, the best hip hop look—like the best track, dance or mix—is brand new, reproaches convention and raises eyebrows in the process.

"It doesn't help when people tell us not to do it," Dawson said. "That does make us want to wear it a lot more." LV

Emma McClatchey's wardrobe consists mainly of old crew neck sweaters passed down from her dad.

Keona C. Williams

Style inspiration: Beyoncé

"I'm always the bright one in the room. I'm light-skinned, so I go for the dark outfit but the highlighted makeup. I always go over-the-top with the lashes, the earrings, the headwraps … You can wear sweatpants, as long as your shoes look cute, girl, you can make a statement."

Isaiah Hodges

Style inspiration: Dwayne Wade and Fabulous

"Because I'm bigger, it's coats, jackets, blazers, things like that. It gives me more confidence because people aren't paying attention to me being bigger, they're paying attention to this bomb-ass blazer I got on. Anything that's going to make me bolder, make me brighter, make me better."

Mariah Dawson

Style inspiration: Missy Elliott and Queen Latifah

"As another big person, I like tutus. It hides all my bottom and still allows me to be bold and casual—tutus are casual to me. I want to add bright colors to my [Walk It Out] show: colors and boldness and rainbows and unicorns."

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Jasmine Kargbo

Style inspiration: Her group of friends

"I love denim. Denim on denim—it's always a yes from me. YouTube is my best friend because that's where I learned to distress all my own denim."

Amari Smith

Style inspiration: Chicago fashion

"Usually you can see me with hoops, a cute little necklace and some bomb-ass heels. I think what inspires me is where I'm from. In Chicago, everyone comes to show out, no matter what. You can't go out anywhere in Chicago and not look great. I think for me it's always making sure I look the best in whatever I feel comfortable in." LV

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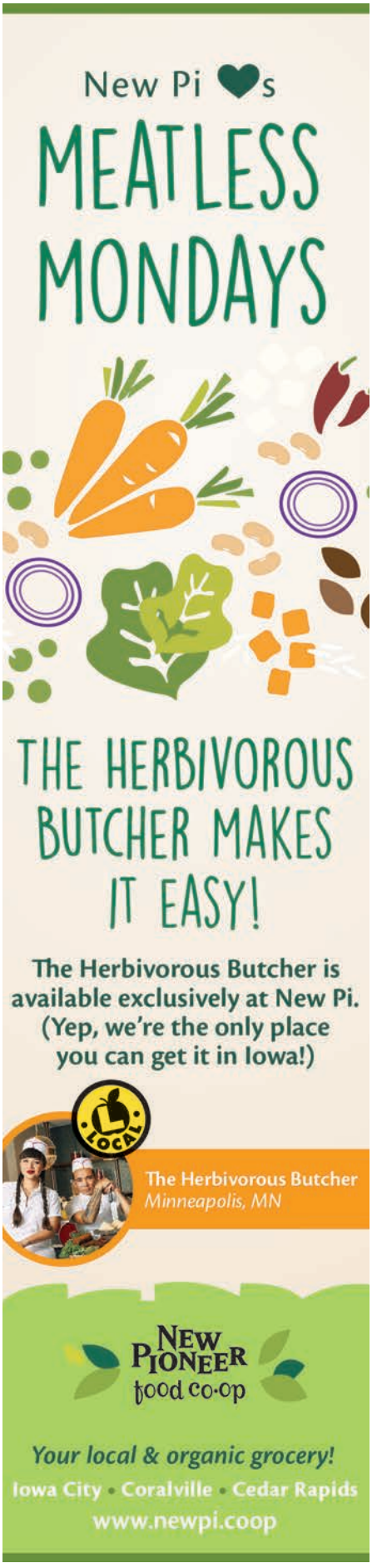


Prairie Pop Mission Creek

Can't-Miss Shows from Mission Creek Festival 2018

BY KEMBREW MCLEOD

Despite having attended Mission Creek Festival every year since it began, I often suffer from option paralysis when faced with the plethora of musical choices. Of course, part of the festival's appeal is blindly stumbling across new musical discoveries while bouncing from venue to venue, but it also helps to plan ahead. Below are my must-see acts for the 2018 Mission Creek Festival (festival passes $75-150), each day of the week, Tuesday through Sunday. For the diehard Mission Creeker, there is no rest for the wicked.

Photos courtesy of Mission Creek Festival

Dessa

MCF Dessa w/ MONAKR, ION, Gabe's, Tuesday, April 3, 8 p.m., $15-18

Dessa embodies Mission Creek Festival's border-crossing spirit—a quadruple threat who can seamlessly alternate between her roles as emcee, singer, essayist and public intellectual (she has, for example, contributed to *New York Times Magazine* and delivered a keynote presentation for the Nobel Peace Prize).

Perhaps best known for "Congratulations"—her contribution to 2016's *The Hamilton Mixtape* that has racked up over five million plays on Spotify—she is both a solo artist and a member of the Minneapolis-based hip-hop collective Doomtree. Dessa's new album *Chime* is an expansive mix of hip-hop grime, pop hooks and pretty indie rock that defies easy categorization. (See A-List, pg. 25, for more on Dessa.)

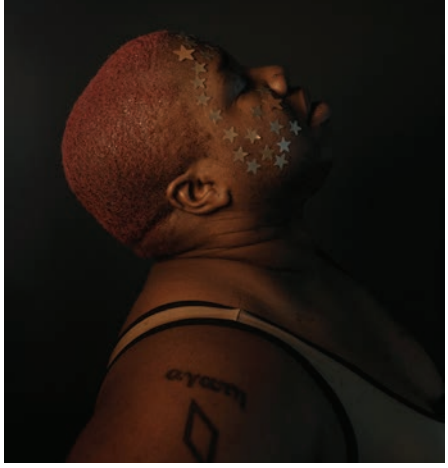
Younger

MCF Current Joys w/ Younger, Hot Tang, Gabe's, Wednesday, April 4, 8:30 p.m., $8

Younger's energy, intricate arrangements, barbed lyrics and catchy choruses have secured the trio's status as one of Iowa City's best homegrown rock bands. Many of their songs contain verse-chorus-verse-defying breakdowns and changes, though without sounding busy or proggy, such as their self-titled debut album's lead track, "Street Rat." The album continues similarly, with "Clash," which begins with a lilting guitar riff and rumbling bass line that prop up the first two verses before switching gears halfway through, slowing the tempo and descending into a spiral of three-part harmonized, interlocking *bah-bah-baaaah* vocals.

Another standout song from that record, "Trenca," features fuzzed-out guitars, layers of vocal harmonies, pedal-to-the-metal tempos and badass lyrics ("I saw the needle spinning by on the 'table last night/and we drank a couple beers and we got into a fight"). I'm looking forward to hearing Younger perform the new songs they have been developing for their sophomore release, which can't come soon enough for my impatient self.

Counterfeit Madison



MCF Horsefeathers w/ Counterfeit Madison, Dana T, The Mill, Thursday, April 5, 8 p.m., $15

Hailing from Columbus, Ohio and fronted by Sharon Udoh, an innovative pianist with a formidable voice, Counterfeit Madison's new album *Opposable Thumbs* is an absolute delight. Udoh's powerful, versatile vocals shift with ease and grace from the melancholic balladry of "Song for the Loyals" to the boogie-woogie sassiness of "I Hope It's Alright," leaving room for some gospel-infused art rock during the album closer, "Slow as Molasses."

Funny, strange, moving and (at times) cell-phone-waving anthemic, the group's aesthetic is as eclectic as it is eccentric—and by all accounts their live show is not to be missed.

Wye Oak

MCF Wye Oak w/ Margaret Glaspy, Sister Wife, Englert Theatre, Friday, April 6, 7 p.m., $20

Jenn Wasner's voice is a thing of beauty, as are the folky, atmospheric soundscapes conjured up by multi-instrumentalist Andy Stack, the other half of Wye Oak. After this Baltimore-rooted group released their breakthrough sophomore album, *Civilian*, the two have lived on opposite sides of the country—a move that freed the duo to take their songwriting and production into new realms. Wye Oak's 2015 follow-up, *Shriek*, added electronic flourishes that have fully flowered on their newest album, *The Louder I Call, the Faster It Runs*, the group's strongest release yet.

Julien Baker

MCF Julien Baker w/ Squirrel Flower, Gabe's, Saturday, April 7, 8 p.m., $20

Sprained Ankle, Julien Baker's 2015 debut, is a quiet masterpiece whose spare production and simple songcraft prompted listeners to lean in and listen closely. 2017's *Turn the Lights Out* fleshed out the skeletal voice-and-guitar framework of her first solo album by adding more layers of instrumentation and atmospherics, wrapping Baker's lovely vocals in a warm blanket of sound. She is a purveyor of what I call "pretty sad" music—pretty, as in beautiful, and also pretty goddamn sad—ensuring there will be a tear in every beer Saturday night at Gabe's.

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Jamila Woods

MCF Jamila Woods w/ Psalm One, Ancient Posse, Englert Theatre, Sunday, April 8, 7 p.m., $15

This Southside Chicago native made a big splash in 2017 with her remarkable debut, *HEAVN*, an ambitious album that refuses to be pinned down, stylistically. Veering from shit-hot rhyming to heart-melting singing, Jamila Woods is a formidable talent who is steering R&B music into fresh, interstellar directions.

She appeared on the closing track of Chance the Rapper's *Coloring Book*, "Blessings," and he returns the favor with a guest verse on *HEAVN*'s "LSD" (a sly homage to her native city that refers to Lake Shore Drive, in which she sings, "My city, like my skin, it's so pretty … you gotta love me like I love the lake"). The spare, minimalist soul of "Holy" makes it another standout; it is reprised for album's final track, closing it on an emotional and spiritual high. LV/

Kembrew McLeod is currently practicing a plate-spinning act with his trained mammal sidekick, Ralph Waldo Emerseal.

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

Hot Tin Roof: March

On Being Ghosted

You recall, above all, the time he tried to convince you that he grew up with Tourette's. This is the type of story that, although you know it happened long ago, the sting still sticks with you. You knew, you "really knew" a man with Tourette's, who had terrible difficulty holding back punching bystanders, and who would interrupt himself with profanities. You remember the fundraiser that all of his friends at the dive bar hosted, collecting jars of pennies, raised in the air with frothing mugs of beer that spill their foam on the gummy, brown, thinly carpeted floor. Staring at this pretender, at his albeit-handsome face from across the shoddy metal table, over damp coffee cups, across the Haligonian humidity between you, into his unfortunate moustache, you know then that he is a liar. But you do not care. You are desperate.

Halifax, you punctuate to yourself, as you thrust your finger toward it on the map. People there might have funny accents, you think, and certainly there'd be a museum or something even a little beautiful to see. You board a plane, because it's cheap, and because the books you read paint it as some kind of paradise—a place worth a peek.

When you initially meet, he is not as anticipated. You see him racing, thin and nimble, across the street from you, standing stunned on your opposite sidewalk—almost comically overdressed as if he were a cyclist who leapt from the Tour de France on his way to a business interview. You imagine he might smoke a cigarette and manifest a bidon of wine, a woolen jersey, a sick attitude. A pastiche of eras, his bangs hang into his eyes, his French nose adorned by this surprising and strange moustache. He untangles himself from his steel frame, clacking all the way, as he towers over you like a warhorse, clopping in his cycling shoes. He immediately reveals his arrogance by insulting American health care. He snorts when he laughs. He has already won you.

Over ciders and ciders and ciders, you listen to him rant about the military and international politics. You nod, because you know, oh whatever, he is a man with stick and poke tattoos, he wants to take you places, to show you donair, superior coffees, his herbs, movies, and you are on vacation. You never expected that you could win a man with your knowledge of the Algerian War, but here you are, grinding against him in the dark of your bed for the night, staring down his tattoos, watching him look panicked by the confidence that you have in your body. You insist you are both having fun. You laugh all night and the girl in the room next to you leaves a passive aggressive note for your joy and obvious fortune. You still laugh every time you read it.

The next day, after coffee and some level of deception, he leaves you asleep on his buckwheat hull pillows, in the daylight of his apartment, touting again his beliefs in the superiority of Canada, and you feel warm and content against the mattress, staring at all his plants, the boots in his apartment on the shelf by the door, his books, his duck paintings. You think to yourself, "I could get used to this," but the echoes of his lies tell you that you won't. You won't ever. But he will see you after work.

You knock on the door with a careful face of makeup. In his workclothes, boots, and wooly socks he is an Acadian wonder, a modern Beausoleil, a brush of a bristle on his lip. You decide to watch *The Lobster*, not realizing that your choice is ironic for the development of your relationship. You order hot Italian sandwiches, and while you eat you stare around you into the mess of his room, his bed on the floor, the jerseys and shirts he hangs from ropes and rods that reach across his ceiling. He falls asleep on and off, having worked the whole day, and because, truthfully, he does not have much time for you. It is strange because you know you don't really want him, but you want something about him, maybe just all the good he has to offer, or maybe you just desperately want him inside of you. You watch him in the stark contrasts of his character, in the innocence of his dreams, and as he passes in and out of sleep, you converse or you watch the movie alone, gawking and sighing and sobbing, and he snubs the doodles you present him from his bedside notebook.

At the suggestion that he be inside you, he is beside himself, and like a mad pair of sex-driven lunatics, you hurriedly undress each other, you grabbing his cock, pumping it intensely and looking him dead in the eyes, saying "Do you like that?" You are seeking his approval, and his jaw drops; you have it. Atop him, you come four times, unbridled, and he covers your mouth to silence you. It is unlike anything you've felt before. You are confused, but overjoyed.

As you kiss him goodbye in your galoshes at five in the morning, you have learned that he will try to suck your upper lip, and you place your face on his accordingly. You don't know if you will see each other again. You resist feelings. You try to just think about the plane. Under an umbrella, you are soaked, and you try to make pleasant conversation with the taxi driver, who seems perplexed by you and your strange effervescence. You figure he suspects something.

The messages trickle in, although, you know, this time you tried not to get attached. He likes you. You talk for weeks. He plans to visit. You offer to go see him. You buy your ticket. He grows distant. You crumple into a ball on your floor, erupting in deep and foreboding heaves of sobs. He disappears. Your heart fills with vitriol. You scheme and you abandon plans.

A month later, it is sunrise at the Halifax airport. You nurse a hangover from a bar you had gone to with him once before, afraid he might come, but excited if he did, and you nearly sleep through boarding your plane. You dared not go to his house, to his work, but you dared come to his city, and you dared be alone. That orange sun peeks up over the horizon, magnificent, burning you in the crevices of your eyes. It's okay. You're going home. LV

Djea (the d is silent, the vowels are long) relishes writing highly personal nonfiction about womanhood and taking empty photographs. She once got a job in Bordeaux but turned it down for love. You might say she's kind of a romantic.

Photo by Bill Phelps

A-List Mission Creek

Text and Context

Doomtree's Dessa talks language, love and meaning ahead of Mission Creek.

BY GENEVIEVE TRAINOR

Music fans worldwide have come to know Dessa over the past year from "Congratulations," her track on the wildly popular *Hamilton Mixtape*, which debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 when it was released in December of 2016. However, Midwest music fans have long known and loved her both for her solo work and as a member of Doomtree, the Minneapolis hip-hop collective she has belonged to since 2005. A talented rapper and singer, Dessa has also published collections of poetry and essays; her first hardcover collection, *My Own Devices: True Stories from the Road on Music, Science, and Senseless Love*, is out on Dutton in September.

What ties this broad and successful career together, Dessa said, is love of words.

"For me the through line is language—since I was tiny, I've been captivated and compelled by words," Dessa said in an email. "Whether I'm writing a ballad or a rap song or a short story or an essay, it's almost always the compositional style that I'm most excited about—more so than plot or character development or a thesis statement. I'm a sucker for a well-turned phrase."

> **"I'm a sucker for a well-turned phrase."**
> ***—Dessa***

Those well-turned phrases are in full effect on her most recent solo album, *Chime*, which dropped late last month. "I'm the phoenix and the ash/Red eyes shining in the camera flash," she sings on the chorus of track two, "5 out of 6," her sleek cello voice sliding seamlessly into tune from her rapping on the verses. "My secret is I don't keep none, see/Something go ahead and say something/I ain't afraid of it." It's true—the album is her heart on her sleeve, no secrets kept and nothing held back.

Chime had its genesis in neuroscience. Dessa was stuck in something of an emotional and psychological Chinese finger trap—the more she tried to escape the effects of a relationship that had ended, the more she sunk into it. She learned about neural research looking into where love sits in the brain, and found herself incurably curious.

"So much of our subjective experience can be expressed or investigated physiologically—and that continually blows my mind," Dessa said. "When I learned that the brain demonstrates predictable patterns of activity

MCF Dessa w/ MONAKR, ION
Gabe's, Tuesday, April 3, 8 p.m., $15-18

Photos by Bill Phelps

when a person contemplates someone with whom they are in love, I thought, 'Now here is a novel, interesting lens through which I might be able to examine a feeling that looms large in most of our lives.'"

Soon after, she was working with the University of Minnesota's Dr. Cheryl Olman and clinician Penijean Gracefire on what she calls a "passion project." Dessa lay on her back in an fMRI machine and looked at photos of an ex-boyfriend, all in the service of science and art.

"Romantic love gets quite a bit of coverage in the arts—a good reason to respect and admire artists who work in less trafficked themes. In my lived experience, though, I've spent a lot of time and energy trying to make love work; I was compelled to express the challenges of forging lasting connections, because that's the particular wrestling match I was in," Dessa said.

That's not all *Chime* centers on, however. Family stories weave through as well ("I Hope I'm Wrong" leans into her grandmother's death); she digs headily into philosophy with "Velodrome;" and on "Fire Drills," the album's spitfire track three, she talks about "navigating the world as a woman." A powerful contribution to the Time's Up conversation, the songs lyrics—"I beg to differ with it/I think a woman's worth/I think that she deserves/A better line of work/Than motherfucking vigilance/Don't give me vigilance"—are unrelenting.

For all her examinations of love and more on the record, she said she never found a resolution. She doesn't expect anything to feel truly settled for any length of time. "You just get hit sometimes—by new love, or a medical bill, or a windfall, or oncoming traffic," Dessa said. "I think I'll know my next fascination when it stumbles into the room to say hello."

That's an appropriate philosophy for someone who is constantly pushing herself into new areas. Dessa has taught at McNally Smith College of Music, spoken on ethics and hip hop as part of the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize Forum, written for *New York Times Magazine* and, last year, performed arrangements of her work and a prose story with the Minnesota Orchestra.

She keeps herself open when it comes to artistic exploration—a phrase or image will come to her, and she'll decide based on the scope of it whether it's best suited for a poem, or a song, or a story. "If this thing is gonna take 10,000 words to convey—well, that's just too damn long for a song," she said.

Dessa gives credit to her work with Doomtree in driving her growth creatively.

"I was pretty damn green when I joined Doomtree: P.O.S taught me what a snare was," Dessa said. "I'm not entirely sure I would have ended up in music if I hadn't found those guys. They balance aggression, humor and kindness in a really unusual way—and they made a cultural space in hip hop that I could see myself fitting into."

She gives a shout out to Lazerbeak, Andy Thompson, Paper Tiger and Cecil Otter at Doomtree, too, who she calls "major collaborators." But she's certainly given back to the collective, both collaboratively and in her own work. *Chime*, for example, which was released on the Doomtree Records label, has skyrocketed. As Lazerbeak wrote on the Doomtree website, "We run this operation about as bare bones as you can get, and to have a release crack the Billboard Top 200 and #3 on the Independent Albums chart is no small feat."

> **"So much of our subjective experience can be expressed or investigated physiologically—and that continually blows my mind."**
>
> ***—Dessa***

"I still often find collaborating with other lyric-writers challenging," Dessa noted. "I write more slowly than most rappers and it can be difficult to find a cohesive spot of intersection between varied voices."

"But," she said, "sometimes a challenging process can make for great work." LV

Genevieve Trainor was once taught that a poet gets a maximum of five times in their career to use the word love. As a concept, however, she thinks the sky's the limit.

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'My Lai:' Kronos Quartet, Rinde Eckert, Vân-Ánh Vanessa Võ, *Hancher, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., $10-50*

Jou$ka w/ Mountain Swallower, Piss Exorcist, Rozz-Tox, *Rock Island, 8 p.m., $5-10*

Natural Velvet w/ Babydoll, Loving Creature, *Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $5*

Datsik 2018 Ninja Nation Tour w/ Space Jesus, Riot Ten, SWAGE, *Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $30-40*

Bark Bark Disco, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free*

3/22

Open Mic Night, *Artisan's Sanctuary, Marion, 7 p.m., $5*

Barely Civil, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., $8*

Parsonsfield, *The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $10-12*

Tapwater Shrimp, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free*

3/23

Live Music w/ Jon Marco, *Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 6 p.m., Free*

Little Big Town, *US Cellular Center, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $29.50-78*

Horseshoes and Hand Grenades w/ Head for the Hills, *The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $12-15*

Graham Nash: An Intimate Evening of Songs & Stories, *The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $65-395*

Grateful Dead Experience: The Schwag, *Spicoli's Rockade, Waterloo, 8 p.m., $10*

Charlie Hunter Trio, *Legion Arts CSPS Hall, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., $18-22*

Yetta w/ Glass Femur, *The Port Authority, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $5*

Peas And Carrot w/ Lavender Daughter, the Fuss, *Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 9 p.m., $5*

Egi and Chachuba w/ the Tripp Brothers, *River Music Experience Redstone Room, Davenport, 9 p.m., $10-12*

Bassline Entertainment Presents: The Upside Down w/ GodZelle, Million Dollar Hippies, Sound Trooper, TrvpSquad, *Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $5*

Ryne Doughty Trio, *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free*

Lunar Ticks w/ Slackmaster Smooth, Natural Oil, *Iowa City Yacht Club, 8:30 p.m., $7*

Coolzey DJ Set, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free*

Cofresi w/ Jim Swim, Blookah, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., $10*

3/24

Old Time Gospel Music Jam, *Uptown Bill's, Iowa City, 4 p.m., Free*

Brad Paisley w/ Dustin Lynch, Chase Bryant, Lindsay Ell, *TaxSlayer Center, Moline, 7 p.m., $29.99-129.99*

Old Capitol Chorus Presents: Musical Monopoly ft. guest quartet, After Hours, *The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 7 p.m., $5-15*

Rock Baby Rock, *Ohnward Fine Arts Center, Maquoketa, 7 p.m., $13-25*

Kathy Maxey, Larry Mossman and Friends, *Uptown Bill's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., suggested donation $5-10*

MUSIC

3/24

Vein & Homewrecker w/ Chain of Command, Closet Witch, B*lue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 7 p.m., $10-12*

Des Moines Symphony—Masterworks 5: Beethoven 7, 'Apotheosis of Dance,' *Des Moines Civic Center, 7:30 p.m., $15-65*

LilFest Presents: Chuck Mitchell, *First Street Community Center, Mount Vernon, 7:30 p.m., $5-50*

Chris Duarte w/ Scarlet Runner, *Spicoli's Rockade, Waterloo, 7 p.m., $10-15*

Paul Lichty Sextet presents 'The Social Media Suite,' *Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 8 p.m., $5*

Pieta Brown: This Land Is Your Music w/ David Huckfelt, *The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $15-18*

Mike Jones, *Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $15-20*

Lavender Daughter w/ The Flips, Pelafina, Hex Girls, Hep Cat, *Iowa City Yacht Club, 8:30 p.m., $7*

Lakenheath w/ TJ Wilt, In the Attic, *Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $5*

3/25

Des Moines Symphony - Masterworks 5: Beethoven 7, 'Apotheosis of Dance,' *Des Moines Civic Center, 2:30 p.m., $15-65*

4 On The Floor w/ The Vandoliers, Death Valley Welcome Center, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $10-12*

3/27

Crystal City, *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 6 p.m., Free*

University of Iowa Jazz Performances w/ Combos, *The Mill, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., $3-5*

Steve Earle: 30th Anniversary of Copperhead Road, *The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $37.50-57.50*

Negative Gemini w/ George Clanton, Bold Little Airwave, Rozz-Tox, *Rock Island, 8 p.m., $10*

Rocky Bottom, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free*

3/28

Brian Stokes Mitchell w/ UI Symphony Orchestra, *Hancher, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., $10-45*

Nils Frahm, *The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $15-25*

3/29

Live @ Five feat. Powell, *River Music Experience Redstone Room, Davenport, 5 p.m., Free*

Overtime, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., $8*

An Evening with Foreigner & The Dave Eggar Orchestra, *US Cellular Center, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., $39.50-85*

Dylan LeBlanc w/ The Artisanals, *The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $12-15*

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MUSIC

Americature w/ Bain Marie, TV Cop, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free*

3/30

Friday After Work w/ Elliot Graber, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 6 p.m., Free*
Live Music w/ Molly Conrad & John Franco, *Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 6 p.m., Free*
Novet Album Release Party, *Iowa City Yacht Club, 7 p.m., $5*
The Halfloves w/ Towncrier, Mystery Friends, *Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $10*
Greg Brown, *The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $33.50*
Meadowlark Valley w/ Inasmuch, Lewis Knudsen, Rozz-Tox, *Rock Island, 9 p.m., $5-10*
The Muckrockers, *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free*
The Candymakers w/ the Maytags, Blue Mud, *River Music Experience Redstone Room, Davenport, 9 p.m., $10-12*
Nonconnah / Haunter (Tape Release!), *Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $5*
The Ex-Girlfriends w/ Starry Nights, Dee Pretion, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $7*

Alexander Schneider

Nils Frahm, The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, Wednesday, March 28, 8 p.m., $15-25 The Englert, Mission Creek Festival and Feed Me Weird Things joined forces to bring celebrated German avant garde musician Nils Frahm to Iowa City. Frahm began studying piano early in childhood, learning from the protege of the protege of Tchaikovsky. He is known for his work combining classical and electronic music, but has a style that draws as much from early jazz as it does from anything older or more contemporary. He is currently touring in support of his ninth solo album, *All Melody*, which was released in January. His stop in Iowa City falls just one day before Piano Day, a worldwide celebration he established in 2015 that falls on the 88th day of the year.

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2018 Summer Camps

Little Big Kid Fiber ART Camp – June 11-15
Horse Camp – June 11-15
Sewing: Patchwork Camp – June 18-22
Puppets, Plays, and Improv! – June 25-29
Sewing: Four Winds Quilt Camp – June 25-29
Little Big Kid Craft Camp – July 2-3
Back to School Camp – July 5-6
Print, Dye, Sew Camp – July 9-13
Your Room, Your Way – July 16-20
Teen Fashion Camp – July 16-20
Tiny Doll and House Making – July 23-27
Little Big Kid Fiber Art Camp – July 23-27
Fiber Fun Camp – July 30-August 3
Quilting Camp – August 6-10
"Sewtastic" Sewing Camp – August 6-10
Back(PACK) to School Camp – August 13-17

MUSIC

The Rumours CD Release Party w/ the Funky Pretty's, Hex Girls, *Spicoli's Rockade, Waterloo, 9 p.m., $5*

3/31

Alissa Hunnicutt, *Uptown Bill's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., suggested donation $5-10*

Anthony Gomes w/ Winter Blues All-Stars, *River Music Experience Redstone Room, Davenport, 8 p.m., $12-15*

Guilty of Treason w/ Leighton, High Point, Jim Jones, *Spicoli's Rockade, Waterloo, 8 p.m., $7*

Winterland & Cardinal Sound, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $10*

Coolzey Record Release w/ Piss Exorcist, Accident Time, *Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $5*

Sires w/ Honeycreeper, Doc Miller, *Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 8 p.m., $5*

Anthony Worden Disco Party, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free*

The Coven w/ Miss Conduct, Leslie Jean, *Iowa City Yacht Club, 10 p.m., $5*

4/1

Windborne, *Legion Arts CSPS Hall, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., $13-16*

Majority Rule w/ Lifes, Closet Witch, Artorias, Rozz-Tox, *Rock Island, 8 p.m., $5-10*

4/2

Billie Eilish w/ Reo Cragun, *Iowa Memorial Union 2nd Floor Ballroom, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $20-25*

4/3

Karla Bonoff, *Legion Arts CSPS Hall, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., $25-30*

Flaw w/ Co-Op, the Crowned, *Spicoli's Rockade, Waterloo, 7 p.m., $10*

Mission Creek Festival: Dessa w/ MONAKR, Ion, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $15-18*

ARTS, CRAFTS & EXHIBITIONS

3/21

Wonder Wednesdays: 'A is for Art,' *Iowa City Public Library, 4 p.m., Free*

Knitting: The Window Cat—Session 1/2, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 5 p.m., $50/course*

Knitting: Basic Hat—Session 1/2, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., $35/course*

3/22

Paint By The Glass: Wine & Watercolors, *Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 6 p.m., $30*

Adult Art Nite—Embroidered Tees, *UI Museum of Natural History , Iowa City, 6 p.m., $30*

Quilt Start to Finish: Four Winds Quilt—Session 3/3, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $85/course*

3/23

Egg Decorating with Master Czech Folk **Artist Marj Nejdl,** *National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, 9 a.m., $35-60*

Doodlebugs: Beach Day, *Hiawatha Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free*

Byzantine Chain Maille Bracelet through Kirkwood Community College, *Beadology, Iowa City, 1 p.m., $68*

Friday Night Craft Party: Petal Pouch, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $25*

Mixed Media Mantras Workshop: 'What Is Your dream?,' *Hiawatha Public Library, 6 p.m., Free*

3/24

Wire Wrapping Stones, *Beadology, Iowa City, 10 a.m., $58*

Iowa City Press Co-op—Kids Workshop: Japanese Stab Binding Journal with Orizomegami Cover, *Public Space One, Iowa City, 1 p.m., $30*

Peyote Stitch Basics, *Beadology, Iowa City, 2 p.m., $58*

Knitting: Summer Lace Scarf, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 2 p.m., $20*

SOLD OUT—Wine & Design: Succulent Garden, *Moss, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $45*

3/25

Beginning Metal Working: Copper Pendant, *Beadology, Iowa City, 10 a.m., $128*
At the Intersection of Art + Science Closing Event, *Public Space One, Iowa City, 3 p.m., Free*

3/26

Iowa City Press Co-op: Intermediate Mokuhanga, Session 1/3, *Public Space One, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $135/course*
Sewing: Geranium Dress—Session 2/2, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., $60/course*

3/27

Doodlebugs: Sail Away, *Marion Public Library, 10:45 a.m., Free*
Sewing: School of Sewing (part 1)—Session 3/4, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., $85/course*

3/28

Knitting: The Window Cat—Session 2/2, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 5 p.m., $50/course*
Knitting: Basic Hat—Session 2/2, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., $35/course*
Sewing: Wool and Wax Tote—Session 1/2, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $55/course*

3/29

Sewing: Wiksten Baby/Child Smock—Session 1/2, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., $60*

3/31

Twisted Fringe Earrings, *Beadology, Iowa City, 10 a.m., $58*
Side-Stitch Bookbinding And Wraparound Case, *Public Space One, Iowa City, 10:30 a.m., $80*
Wine & Design: Houseplants 101, Moss, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $35

4/1

Climate for Change: Nature Photography with Ty Smedes, *Old Capitol Museum, Iowa City, 2 p.m., Free*

4/2

Intro to Making Botanical Ink, *Public Space One, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $35*

4/3

Sewing: School of Sewing (part 1)—Session 4/4, *Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., $85/course*

3/22

Farm, Food and Fun: Agritourism in Johnson County, *Coralville Community Library, 5 p.m., Free*
7 Solutions for Mindful Eating with Health Coach Alina Warner, *New Pioneer Food Co-op Coralville, 6 p.m., $15*

3/24

35th Annual Maple Syrup Festival, *Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 8 a.m., Free-$10*

3/25

35th Annual Maple Syrup Festival, *Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 8 a.m., Free-$10*
Bourbon, Sausage & Bluegrass, *Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 6 p.m., $10*

3/27

Springtime in Italy with Chef Baroncini, *New Pioneer Food Co-op Coralville, 6 p.m., $30*

3/29

Bread & Butter 2018 releas Party, *281 N. Linn St. (formerly Lululemon), Iowa City, 5 p.m., Free*

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

Art Lasovsky

Fringe: True Stories from Outsiders, Old Brick, Iowa City, Thursday, March 29, 7 p.m., $15 This live storytelling event, modeled after popular storytelling series The Moth, is a collaboration between Flyover Fest and Iowa Watch. Flyover rebranded this year with a goal of taking the under out of representation. (The 2018 fest is April 27-28.) Fringe is a wonderful example of its focus on inclusion and equal representation. Hosted by Iowa Public Radio producer and Eastern Iowa Circus Collective founder Lindsey Moon, Fringe aims to explore the fringes of society, featuring outsider stories and lifting up voices that are seldom amplified.

3/21

Salsa Practice Group, *Iowa City Senior Center, 6:30 p.m., Free*

Octopus Comedy Night, *Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 8 p.m., Free*

3/23

Lady Laughs Comedy Tour, *Iowa City Yacht Club, 6 p.m., $10*

Young Footliters Youth Theatre Presents: 'Winnie the Pooh,' *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7 p.m., $10-15*

'Bent,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $19-24*

'Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery,' *Washington Community Center, Washington, 7:30 p.m., $6-12*

'The Diary of Anne Frank,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $22-33*

Dreamwell Theatre Presents: 'Steve Got Raped,' *Public Space One, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., $10-13*

Greg Warren w/ Sean O'Brien, *Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., $15-17.50*

The Heartland Bombshells: 'Night of 1,000 Britneys,' *Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $10-25*

3/24

'Shh! We Have A Plan,' *The Temple Theater, Des Moines, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., $5-12*

Ballet Quad Cities: 'Alice in Wonderland,' *Adler Theatre, Davenport, 2 & 8 p.m., $10-31*

Young Footliters Youth Theatre Presents: 'Winnie the Pooh,' *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 2 & 7 p.m., $10-15*

Follies: Dancin' Through Life, *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2 & 7:30 p.m., $22-42*

Murder Mystery Dinner: 'We're Off To Kill The Wizard,' *Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 6 p.m., $50*

'The Diary of Anne Frank,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $22-33*

'Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery,' *Washington Community Center, Washington, 7:30 p.m., $6-12*

Dreamwell Theatre Presents: 'Steve Got Raped,' *Public Space One, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., $10-13*

'Bent,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $19-24*

Greg Warren w/ Sean O'Brien, *Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., $15-17.50*

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THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

3/25

Follies: Dancin' Through Life, *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2 p.m., $22-42*
'The Diary of Anne Frank,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., $22-33*
'Bent,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., $19-24*
Tainted Cabaret Burlesque, Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 7 p.m., $10-25
Three Short Plays + a Drinking Game, *The Mill, Iowa City, 8:30 p.m., $10*
Miss Pickle, *Studio 13, Iowa City, 10 p.m., $5*

3/26

Opera Iowa Presents: 'The Barber of Seville,' *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7 p.m., $7-15*

3/28

Cirque D'Or, *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., $33-53*

3/29

Bubble Guppies Live!, *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2 & 6 p.m., $20-65*
Fringe: True Stories from Outsiders, *Old Brick, Iowa City, 7 p.m., $15*
'Bent,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $19-24*
'Hunks' The Show: All Male Revue, *Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., $20-25*

3/30

Dreamwell Theatre Presents: 'Steve Got Raped,' *Public Space One, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., $10-13*
'Bent,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $19-24*
'Noises Off,' *Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 8 p.m., $15-120*
SPT Theatre Tales from the Writers' Room: 'Top 10,' *Legion Arts CSPS Hall, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., $20-25*

3/31

Ballet Des Moines: 'Cinderella,' *Des Moines Civic Center, 1 & 6:30 p.m., $19-58*
'Fancy Nancy The Musical,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 1 p.m., $10*
National Theatre Live: 'Yerma,' *The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $15-18*
'Bent,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $19-24*
Dreamwell Theatre Presents: 'Steve Got Raped,' *Public Space One, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., $10-13*
'Noises Off,' *Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 8 p.m., $15-120*
SPT Theatre Tales from the Writers' Room: 'Top 10,' *Legion Arts CSPS Hall, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., $20-25*

4/3

Willis Broadway Series: 'The Humans,' *Des Moines Civic Center, 7:30 p.m., $35-110*

Kelly (right) has lived with HIV since 2010.

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PAOLA MENDOZA
Artistic Director, Women's March

CUPCAKKE
Sex Positive Hip-Hop Artist

RANDALL JENSON
Artist, Activist & Youth Organizer

MONICA BEVERLY HILLZ
Trans Activist & Reality TV Personality

CORISSA ENNEKING
FatGirlFlow, Blogger

HANNAH BEACHLER
Production Designer, Black Panther

MOMO PIXEL
Art Director & Game Designer

SHE'S ALL FAT
Radical Self-Love Podcast

JESSICA ANDREWS
Digital Fashion Editor, Teen Vogue

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FATTITUDE
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LITERATURE

3/21

Chris Glomski & Geoffrey Hilsabeck, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*
Paul's Book Club/March, *Iowa City Public Library, 7 p.m., Free*

3/22

Art Lover's Book Club: 'The Empress of Art: Catherine the Great and the Transformation of Russia,' *Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, 4 p.m., Free*

3/23

You Can't Do It Alone: The Writing Relationship—Session 1/3, *Iowa Writers' House, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $265/course*
Michael Perry, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

3/24

Autism-Friendly Special Access Browsing, *Iowa City Public Library, 9 a.m., Free*
You Can't Do It Alone: The Writing Relationship—Session 2/3, *Iowa Writers' House, Iowa City, 9:30 a.m., $265 course*
Ina Loewenberg—Signing, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 2 p.m., Free*

3/25

You Can't Do It Alone: The Writing Relationship—Session 3/3, Iowa Writers' House, Iowa City, 9:30 a.m., $265/course

3/26

Geoffrey G. O'Brien, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m.*

3/28

Patrick Nathan in conversation with Joseph Cassara, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

3/29

Nan Cohen & Lan Samantha Chang, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*
Writers In The Storm, *Artisan's Sanctuary, Marion, 7 p.m., Free*

3/31

Tara Westover, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

Photo courtesy of Iowa Writer's House

You Can't Do It Alone: The Writing Relationship—Session 1/3, Iowa Writers' House, Iowa City, Friday, March 23, 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, March 24-25, 9:30 a.m., $265/course The newest offering from the Iowa Writers' House centers on abolishing the myth of solitary writers honing their craft in seclusion. In You Can't Do It Alone, instructor Keith Lesmeister will explore the two-way relationships necessary to the writing process, including the relationship with readers, with peers and with authors and works in each writer's own reading list. The class is open to both fiction and nonfiction writers and will involve in-class exercises and traditional critique. Participants are asked to submit a 12-18-page original narrative at least one week prior to the workshop.

CINEMA

Photo courtesy of Zeitgeist Films

Women's March—Science On Screen: *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story*, FilmScene, Iowa City, Tuesday, March 27, 7 p.m., $6.50-9 The 2017 documentary *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story*, directed by Alexandra Dean, is part of FilmScene's Women's March series. It's also a perfect selection to do double duty as the second offering under the mantle of the Science on Screen grant that FilmScene announced last month. The film tells the story of Lamarr, an accomplished Hollywood actress with a second life as a skilled inventor. Among other work, Lamarr, a Jewish immigrant from Austria, collaborated with composer George Antheil on work that paved the way for Bluetooth technology. Dean wrote and produced as well as directed the film, which is her debut as both writer and director. A panel discussion titled "Breaking Down the Boys Club: Women in STEM" will follow the screening.

CINEMA

3/21

7th Annual LUNAFEST hosted by Girls on the Run of Eastern Iowa, *The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $20-45*
Women's March: 'Daughters of the Dust,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $6.50-9*
Late Shift at The Grindhouse: 'Pet Sematary w/ Street Dykes,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 p.m., $4*

3/22

Advance Studio Screening: 'Blockers,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free*

3/23

Friday Flick: 'Enchanted,' *Iowa City Public Library, 5:30 p.m., Free*
Fridays @ Newbo: The Sandlot, *Roasters Coffeehouse in NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 6 p.m., Free*

3/24

Viral Dog Video Festival, Iowa City Public Library, *1 p.m., Free*
Women's March: 'I Wish I Was More Like You,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 3:30 p.m., Free-$5*
Women's March—Bijou After Hours: 'Daisies,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 11 p.m., Free-$6.50*

3/25

Women's March: In Conversation w/ Ann Hornaday, *FilmScene, Iowa City, 4 p.m., $30*
Nordic Film Series: Kitchen Stories, Rozz-Tox, *Rock Island, 8 p.m., Free*

3/26

Women's March: 'Oh Lucy,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $6.50-9*

3/27

Women's March—Science On Screen: 'Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 7 p.m., $6.50-9*

3/28

Women's March: 'Jeanne Dielman, 23 Quai de Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 5 p.m., $6.50-9*
Women's March—Late Shift At The Grindhouse: 'Viva,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 p.m., $4*

3/29

Women's March Closing Reception, *FilmScene, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $20*

3/30

Friday Flick: Mary Poppins,' *Iowa City Public Library, 5:30 p.m., Free*

3/31

Women's March: 'Garry Winogrand: All Things Are Photographable,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 3:30 p.m., Free-$5*
Women's March—Bijou After Hours: 'Clueless,' *FilmScene, Iowa City, 11 p.m., Free-$6.50*

COMMUNITY & EDUCATION

3/21

History at the Grove: 'The Usual: Drinking with James Joyce,' *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., Free*
History on the 8s Lecture: 'The Emperor and the Peasant: Two Men at the Start of the Great War and the End of the Habsburg Empire,' *National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, 6 p.m., Free*

3/23

Cedar Rapids RoughRiders vs. Green Bay Gamblers, Cedar Rapids Ice Arena, *7:05 p.m., $12.75-25*
Quad City Steamwheelers vs. Bismarck Bucks, *TaxSlayer Center, Moline, 7:05 p.m., $10-30*

3/24

Faces of Iowa: Introducing Mr. Wetherby, *Old Capitol Museum, Iowa City, 2 p.m., Free*
Cirque Session: Learn to Juggle!, *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 3 p.m., Free*
Cedar Rapids RoughRiders vs. Green Bay Gamblers, *Cedar Rapids Ice Arena, 7:05 p.m., $12.75-25*
Cedar Rapids Titans vs. Iowa, *US Cellular Center, Cedar Rapids, 7:05 p.m., $8-40*

3/25

Bend & Brews w/ Breeze Cates, *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 9:30 a.m., Free*
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar: 'From Kareem to Kaepernik: A History of Political Activism in Sports,' *Hancher, Iowa City, 3 p.m., Free*
Super Hero Night, *Iowa Children's Museum, Coralville, 6 p.m., Free*

3/27

Big Grove for Good with Girls on the Run, *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 5 p.m., Fundraiser*

3/28

IDA East: Meet the Doulas, *Zen Den Yoga, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

3/29

Science on Tap—Metabolism: What it is and How to Keep that Youthful Bounce, *Hancher, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., Free*

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The National Tour of *Kinky Boots*. Photo credit: Matthew Murphy.

Lance Bordelon in the National Tour of *Kinky Boots*.
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Jos N. Banks and Adam du Plessis in the National Tour of *Kinky Boots*.
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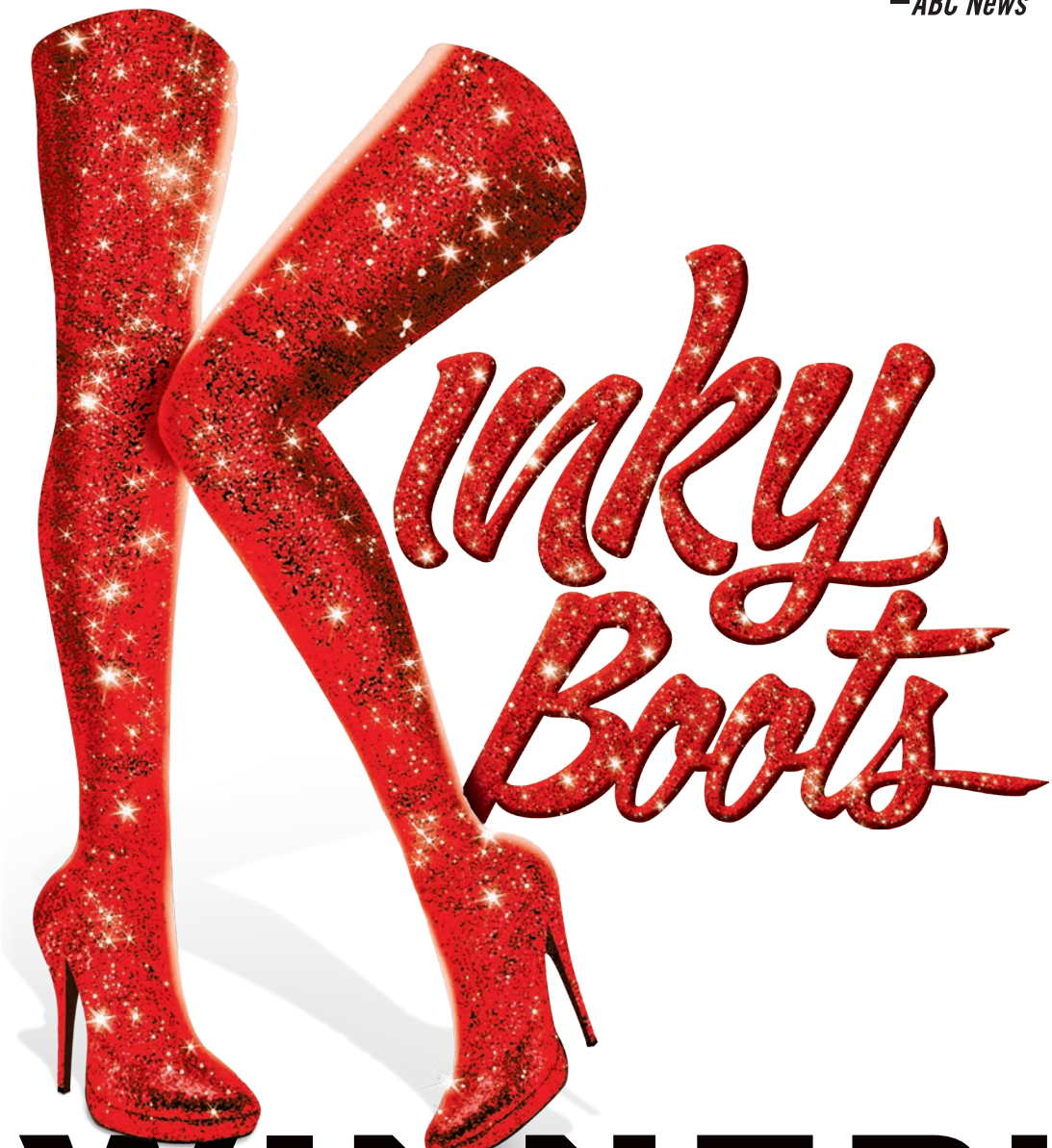

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Old Capitol Museum History Club—The Titanic, *Old Capitol Museum, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., $30*
SILT Spring Thaw Benefit Concert, *The Mill, Iowa City, 7 p.m., $15-20*

3/31

Cedar Rapids RoughRiders vs. Chicago Steel, *Cedar Rapids Ice Arena, 7:05 p.m., $12.75-25*
Run of the Mill's Second Variety Show Fundraiser, *The Mill, Iowa City, 7 p.m., $5 suggested donation*
Quad City Steamwheelers vs. Kansas City Phantoms, *TaxSlayer Center, Moline, 7:05 p.m., $10-30*

4/2

Inconceivable! Movie Trivia Night, *FilmScene, Iowa City, 8 p.m., $40*

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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*
Yahoo Drummers, *Public Space One, Iowa City, 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

Gentle Yoga, *Public Space One, Iowa City, 5 p.m., $5-10*
Break Dance Group, *Public Space One, Iowa City, 6 p.m., Free*
Burlington Street Bluegrass Band, *The Mill, Iowa City, 6 p.m., $5 (2nd & 4th Wednesdays)*
Bluegrass Jam, *The Mill, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free (3rd Wednesday)*
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-O, 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 Fük, *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

Pop-Up Market, *NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 10 am*
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*
Elation Dance Party, *Studio 13, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $5*

SUNDAYS

Pub Quiz, *The Mill, Iowa City, 9 p.m., $1*

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Hey Kiki,

I met this girl and she's amazing. I wasn't sure if she was into me, but we slept together. Thing is, she has a lot of friends and suitors and I don't know if I make the cut. I don't have the money to take her out and I felt bad when she paid last time. Now I'm thinking I have lost her because the only time we communicate is when I text her and she seems like she's being nice. The old school model says to swoop in and try to win the girl, but it's 2018—should I just let it go?

Signed, Stuart Smalley

Dear Smalley,

As much as I don't want to say this, it seems she's just not that into you. Sorry. I completely understand how you must be feeling: falling for someone amazing, having sex, wanting to be with her, yet having feelings of inadequacy—not being cool enough, not having enough money, too much competition. Here's the thing though, no matter what you bring or don't bring to the table, if she really wanted to be with you, she'd be texting, calling and asking to see you. At least, that's how I've behaved with men I've wanted, sometimes successfully.

But—more times than I'd like to admit—I've also tried way too hard with guys who don't want me. I would suggest *not* persisting if she isn't reciprocating, especially because this isn't the old school days when if a little boy was bugging a little girl, it was because he liked her. Since you haven't revealed your gender identity, I do not want to presume you are a man and discuss the sexual politics of Me Too, Time's Up and the pervasive sexual harassment, assault, rape and countless experiences of heterosexual sex without her explicit consent that women have dealt with throughout history and still today. I am not implying you are harassing her or that it's only men who harass women; however, it's important to raise the question of flirting versus harassing.

Regardless though, no one likes to be rejected. I suggest that you lay low. By doing so, you'll seem mysterious and probably get her attention, which means she'll think about you. Then you might hear from her, and who knows? She could become your girlfriend, or a friend with benefits, or just a friend. Any of those are worthwhile if done well, and you are good enough. Good luck! *xoxo, Kiki*

Dear Kiki,

I am getting tired, frustrated and increasingly disappointed by how little my husband does compared to how much I do to keep our household functioning. As much as I love the man (and I really do), the next time I come up the stairs (which really need to be swept) with a full basket of laundry to find him napping or playing video games, I'm going to fucking lose it. But God forbid I try to manage tasks or ask for his help! If I do that, I'm some nagging woman encroaching on his autonomous manhood. I'm sick of asking and I'm sick of being told I'm nagging, but most of all, I'm sick of cleaning this neverending goddamn mess. I work full-time and I don't have time to do everything. And I can't just sit back and let the house get filthy and leave chores undone to teach him a lesson—I'd be miserable living that way. So what should I do?

—Dishwater Hands

Illustration by Jav Ducker

Dear Hands,

There isn't anything I miss less about marriage than those feelings. It seemed my (ex) husband expected me to be the keeper of the house and the schedules of our family living within it. Women's work is so rarely recognized, let alone compensated for. No matter how far feminism has come, strong and smart women cannot and should not deny that the patriarchy is still alive and well—and it still really sucks. Although you do not mention children, if you have or plan to have them, their messes and caretaking exacerbate the issue exponentially.

No matter how far feminism has come, strong and smart women cannot and should not deny that the patriarchy is still alive and well—and it still really sucks.

In trying to achieve a shift in duties and maintain a loving and working union, your expectations about housework need to be communicated and the logistics figured out. It's possible your partner does not value a tidy house as much as you do. This can be OK if your duties are lightened elsewhere. For instance, I did not cook, but my ex did. I appreciated every bite and cleaned up more afterwards. He took out the garbage and mowed the yard while I made appointments and did the laundry. Blah blah. Now I live alone and am responsible for it all, which has its own frustrations. Mostly sexual. Anywho—I hope the love between you prevails! *xoxo, Kiki* LV

KIKI WANTS QUESTIONS!

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

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THE STRAIGHT DOPE BY CECIL ADAMS

How did the gavel end up in American courtrooms? What is the significance of the gavel in a courtroom, and how did it originate? —Adams

This is an oddly tricky one you've stumbled upon. We're not too sure where the word gavel comes from, much less the path by which the implement became a symbol of the American judiciary. Among the few things we can safely say here is that, like so many of our foundational mysteries, it probably involves the Masons.

It's not just in courtrooms but at various other formal gatherings where the gavel turns up, including auctions, board meetings and legislative sessions—notably those of the U.S. Senate, where a gavel opens and closes the proceedings. All the more striking, then, that the academic literature on the subject is so thin: in recent memory, it's chiefly two articles. The more important for us is a 2001 piece in *Massachusetts Legal History* entitled "Of Gavels and Maces in the Modern Courts," by Stephen C. O'Neill, then the curator at the Social Law Library in Boston.

An immediate question one might ask on scanning this title: *maces*? Sure. Maces are ceremonial staffs that stand as symbols of authority in certain of your more solemn official locales, including some American courtrooms. O'Neill plausibly calls maces and gavels "two of the least considered components of the American legal profession." To those few who care, though, they're apparently inseparable, as evidenced by our other source, "The Mace and the Gavel: Symbols of Government in America," published in 1997 by the Smithsonian historian Silvio Bedini. Of the two, it's only O'Neill who explores where the gavel (maybe) came from.

Short answer: he figures it's the Freemasons. George Washington, Ben Franklin and many of the country's other founders were members of this group, a fraternal organization that had taken off in Europe circa 1700, then made the jump across the pond—a way for professional types to pass the time before golf took over. The Masons were big on symbolism and ritual (the tinfoil-hat crowd will be happy to elaborate on this), and, as part of claiming their ancestry in stoneworkers' guilds of the Middle Ages, they worked various appurtenances of the lowercase-M mason's trade into their shtick. The gavel began its career, O'Neill tells us, as a setting-maul, a mallet used to knock stones into place; in European Masonic lodges, the working tool became a token of authority granted to the presiding officer.

As O'Neill writes, early Americans' "familiarity with Masonic ritual and forms provided procedures for pre-Revolutionary committee meetings, and [these] were continued during the early republic in both legislative bodies, public ceremonies and courtrooms." The most high-profile of such institutions was, again, the Senate, which adopted a symbolic gavel of its own; the House of Representatives went with a mace.

You'll notice we still haven't made it to court. Here the best O'Neill can do is that judges' gavels "probably came into use because of the Senate's and other early examples." In other words, our country was set up by guys who generally liked to dress up their affairs with a little Masonic-style pomp, and next thing you know, judges have gavels.

O'Neill calls this the "most plausible explanation," but you can see the material's a bit thin. As we said up top, even the etymology's foggy. The use of gavel to refer to the hammer can't be traced beyond the early-19th-century U.S.; in medieval England the word was used for certain kinds of rent or fee, but lexicographers have never managed to conclusively connect the dots.

Our other historian, Bedini, remains silent about Masonic influence on the Senate gavel, and on gavelry in general—they must've gotten to him. The gavel's role in the Senate isn't hugely different than in those old lodge meetings: It's kept locked in a drawer until the body convenes, when the sergeant-at-arms uncases it and sets it on the rostrum for the presiding officer's use. What the Senate calls its gavel is actually a handleless ivory block, or "knocker;" at auction houses, O'Neill notes, you'll find both handled and handleless gavels, so such a thing's not unheard of. Auctioneering is an example of a profession that really relies on the gavel to get business done, in contrast to the mostly ceremonial function it performs in the legislature. Certainly it's not the only useless tool ever spotted on Capitol Hill.

And even in the courtroom, the gavel mainly just gathers dust—according to a 2011 article in the *New York Daily News* plenty of judges don't even bother bringing it out of chambers. Our legal system has court officers to keep things ruly, and the image of the judge banging a gavel and shouting "Order!" is largely a cinematic convention. It's a dogged one, though: To the periodic annoyance of UK judicial experts, gavels will pop up in British-made movies and TV shows portraying domestic legal proceedings. What's the gripe? They don't use the gavel in British courts; they never have. **LV**

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ASTROLOGY BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The School of Hard Knocks is an old-fashioned idiom referring to the unofficial and accidental course of study available via life's tough experiences. The wisdom one gains through this alternate approach to education may be equal or even superior to the knowledge that comes from a formal university or training program. I mention this, Aries, because in accordance with astrological omens, I want to confer upon you a diploma for your new advanced degree from the School of Hard Knocks. (P.S.: When Ph.D. students get their degrees from Finland's University of Helsinki, they are given top hats and swords as well as diplomas. I suggest you reward yourself with exotic props, too.)

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Europeans used to think that all swans were white. It was a reasonable certainty given the fact that all swans in Europe were that color. But in 1697, Dutch explorer Willem de Vlamingh and his sailors made a pioneering foray to the southwestern coast of the land we now call Australia. As they sailed up a river the indigenous tribe called Derbarl Yerrigan, they spied black swans. They were shocked. The anomalous creatures invalidated an assumption based on centuries of observations. Today, "black swan" is a metaphor referring to an unexpected event that contravenes prevailing theories about the way the world works. I suspect you'll soon experience such an incongruity yourself. It might be a good thing! Especially if you welcome it instead of resisting it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Crayola is one of the world's foremost crayon manufacturers. The geniuses in charge of naming its crayon colors are playful and imaginative. Among the company's standard offerings, for example, are Pink Sherbet, Carnation Pink, Tickle Me Pink, Piggy Pink, Pink Flamingo and Shocking Pink. Oddly, however, there is no color that's simply called Pink. I find that a bit disturbing. As much as I love extravagant creativity and poetic whimsy, I think it's also important to cherish and nurture the basics. In accordance with the astrological omens, that's my advice for you in the coming weeks. Experiment with fanciful fun, but not at the expense of the fundamentals.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): According to *Vice* magazine, Russian scientist Anatoli Brouchkov is pleased with the experiment he tried. He injected himself with 3.5-million-year-old bacteria that his colleagues had dug out of the permafrost in Siberia. The infusion of this ancient life form, he says, enhanced his energy and strengthened his immune system. I can't vouch for the veracity of his claim, but I do know it's an apt metaphor for possibilities you could take advantage of in the near future: drawing on an old resource to boost your power, for example, or calling on a well-preserved part of the past to supercharge the present.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Booze has played a crucial role in the development of civilization, says biomolecular archaeologist Patrick McGovern. The process of creating this mind-altering staple was independently discovered by many different cultures, usually before they invented writing. According to *National Geographic*, McGovern believed the buzz alcohol provides has "fired our creativity and fostered the development of language, the arts and religion." On the downside, excessive consumption of alcohol has led to millions of bad decisions and has wrecked countless lives. Everything I just said is a preface to my main message, Leo: The coming weeks will be a favorable time to transform your habitual perspective, but only if you do so safely and constructively. Whether you choose to try intoxicants, wild adventures, exhilarating travel or edgy experiments, know your limits.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The astrological omens suggest that the coming weeks will be favorable for making agreements, pondering mergers and strengthening bonds. You'll be wise to deepen at least one of your commitments. You'll stir up interesting challenges if you consider the possibility of entering into more disciplined and dynamic unions with worthy partners. Do you trust your own perceptions and insights to guide you toward ever-healthier alliances? Do what you must to muster that trust.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you want people to know who you really are and savor you for your unique beauty, you must be honest with those people. You must also develop enough skill to express your core truths with accuracy. There's a similar principle at work if you want to know who you really are and savor yourself for your unique beauty: You must be honest with yourself. You must also develop enough skill to express your core truths with accuracy. The coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to practice these high arts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your journey in the coming weeks may be as weird as an R-rated telenovela, but with more class. Outlandish, unpredictable and even surreal events could occur, but in such a way as to uplift and educate your soul. Labyrinthine plot twists will be medicinal as well as entertaining. As the drama gets curiouser and curiouser, my dear Scorpio, I expect you will learn how to capitalize on the odd opportunities it brings. In the end, you will be grateful for this ennobling respite from mundane reality!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Love is the only sane and satisfactory answer to the problem of human existence," wrote philosopher Erich Fromm. I would add a corollary for your rigorous use during the last nine months of 2018: "Love is the only effective and practical way to graduate from your ragged, long-running dilemmas and start gathering a new crop of fresh, rousing challenges." By the way, Fromm said love is more than a warm and fuzzy feeling in our hearts. It's a creative force that fuels our willpower and unlocks hidden resources.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): My goal here is to convince you to embark on an orgy of self-care—to be as sweet and tender and nurturing to yourself as you dare to be. If that influences you to go too far in providing yourself with luxurious necessities, I'm OK with it. And if your solicitous efforts to focus on your own health and well-being make you appear a bit self-indulgent or narcissistic, I think it's an acceptable price to pay. Here are more key themes for you in the coming weeks: basking in the glow of self-love; exulting in the perks of your sanctuary; honoring the vulnerabilities that make you interesting.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): One day, Beatles' guitarist George Harrison decided to compose his next song's lyrics "based on the first thing I saw upon opening any book." He viewed this as a divinatory experiment, as a quest to incorporate the flow of coincidence into his creative process. The words he found in the first book were "gently weeps." They became the seed for his tune "While My Guitar Gently Weeps." *Rolling Stone* magazine ultimately named it one of "The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time" and the 10th best Beatles song. In accordance with the astrological omens, I recommend you try some divinatory experiments of your own in the coming weeks. Use life's fun little synchronicities to generate playful clues and unexpected guidance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Millions of you Pisceans live in a fairy tale world. But I suspect that very few of you will be able to read this horoscope and remain completely ensconced in your fairy tale world. That's because I have embedded subliminal codes in these words that will at least temporarily transform even the dreamiest among you into passionate pragmatists in service to your feistiest ideals. If you've read this far, you are already feeling more disciplined and organized. Soon you'll be coming up with new schemes about how to actually materialize a favorite fairy tale in the form of real-life experiences. LV

PEANUT RICKY

I Think I am Not Okay

https://peanutrickyisabadbadman.bandcamp.com/

MCF Xylouris White w/ Paul Cary, Peanut Ricky & the Fiends, The Mill, Wednesday, April 4, 8 p.m., $10-12

A self-described sententious high school student, Jordan Adams (Conetrauma, Jailbus) was frequently skipping class and finding herself in Saturday detention, where she would spend her time in the art room. One day, when sorting through stacks of art prints as she usually did, a particular picture caught her eye. The dark photograph was of a blank wall that read "Peanut Ricky as a thunderbolt." Adams, now 20 years old, has since released all of her solo music under the namesake.

Her latest effort, *I Think I Am Not Okay*, was released last month. Her first solo project, it depicts feelings of cynicism cobbled with resentment, while attempting to pursue and prove righteousness. As Adams put it simply in an interview: "All of my music is about a bad person trying to be better."

Most of the tracks were written and recorded in 30-40 minute intervals, and the stream-of-consciousness lyrics combine with a minimalist post-punk sound to mirror that spontaneity and raw emotion. The EP opens with "Thurston Moore," named for the frontman of Sonic Youth, a band from which Adams draws a lot of influence. Like an anxious heartbeat, the percussion throbs as her pensive voice drones and cries, "I want you to smell the sweat on my skin/to see the blood and know I'm still a living thing."

The religious imagery that adorns most of Adams' demo artwork seems to emulate her desire for piety, which interestingly juxtaposes with the blood and honey tones of her sultry murmurs. She paints images of gory bathtubs and "black mass on floral print," then pleads, "Please don't leave me with all these dead animals, because I swear I'm a good person" ("Dead Animals").

"Houston Red" is a brief moment of anger that erupts in a near-startling way in comparison to the rest of the EP's brooding croons. It concludes with a high-pitched vibration that goes on just long enough to elicit discomfort before an energetic beat introduces the final track, "Good Hurt."

I Think I Am Not Okay brings to mind the tiny oil slicks that form on top of puddles on a rainy day. On the surface, it generates feelings of palpable tension that leave a lasting, lonely memory. Just the right amount of light, though, releases beautiful bands of iridescent color and ultimately, promise.

—Amanda Bartlett

MIDDLE WESTERN

When Your Demons are Underground and You've Got to Dig Them Up

https://www.facebook.com/MiddleWestern1/

When long-time Iowa City scene staple Dave Zollo and Lee County troubadour William Elliott Whitmore started performing together a couple years ago as Middle Western with members of Zollo's band The Body Electric and Chicago guitarist Stevie Doyle, it seemed a natural fit.

"Those guys and I have done dozens of shows on the same bill, and after a while we started doing songs together on stage," Whitmore explained in an email. "We'd been scheming to start a band that was separate from our solo gigs for a long time and it finally jived up."

The record is eight captured-in-the-moment tracks of seasoned barstool blues.

Their debut album, *When Your Demons are Underground and You've Got to Dig Them Up*, was tracked with Luke Tweedy at Flat Black Studios and comes out on limited-edition vinyl on March 20. The record is eight captured-in-the-moment tracks of seasoned barstool blues. The driving boogie of "Off The Rails" is a take-no-shit finger to the chest: "Just because you're young don't mean you're innocent/From the mouths of babes/I heard outlandish tales."

The freightcar of Stones-y swagger in "Wasn't For Nothing" seems dangerously close to jumping the tracks in its all-too-short three minutes. Whitmore's signature whiskey-and-cigarettes voice turns to a rockin' hoarse yelp on "You know it wasn't for nothin'!/It wasn't no stupid game!/Every road leads to somethin'/I know I have my own damn self to blame!"

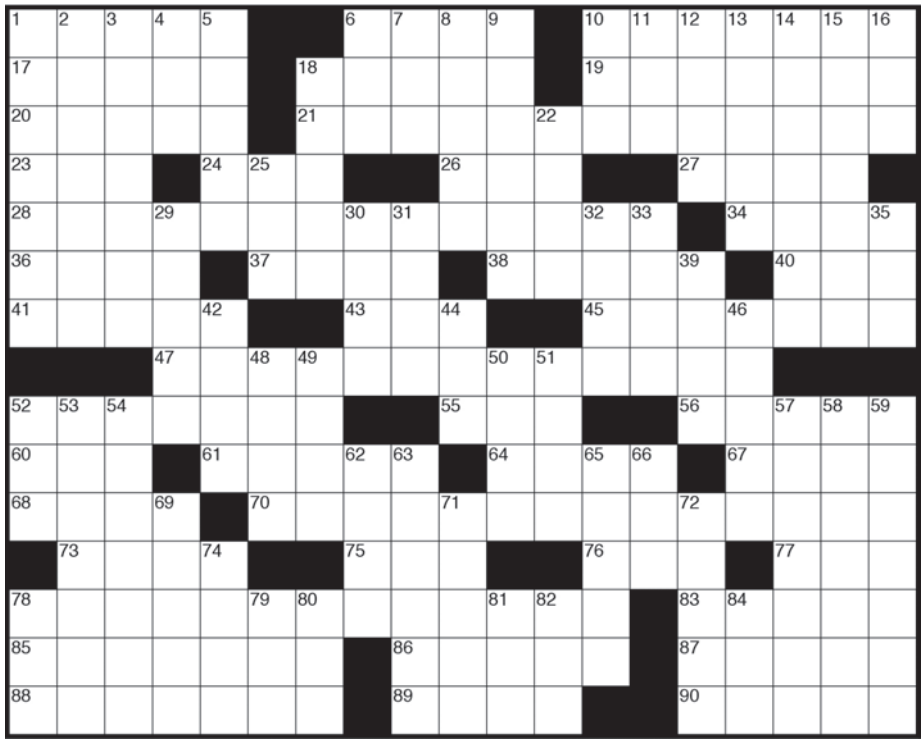
But, more than the blistering slide and lead guitars and the driving rhythms sure to spill a few pints on the dance floor, the album has an honest soulfulness. It wraps up with "Byron Leftwich" an epic eight-minute masterpiece of regret, loss and hope. The building harmony vocals singing "falling down again" coupled with Zollo's impassioned, "Gonna get back up and make my way to you/I'm gonna get back up and try to make amends" are guaranteed to bring a lump to the throat.

The mantle of "super group" is often overused, but in this case the proof is documented on *When Your Demons* … The combined singing and songwriting efforts of Zollo and Whitmore—each wrote and takes lead on half the tunes—mixed with one of the best bands around show what can happen when you get the formula right. Super group, indeed. LV

—Michael Roeder

IN THE LOOP BY NATE CARDIN AND PAOLO PASCO

The American Values Club Crossword is edited by Ben Tausig. Some clues are intentionally left blank.



ACROSS

1. Camera action that might damage artwork
6. Rebate req., often
10. O. Henry's titular gift givers
17. Student of Marcus Garvey's teachings
18. Hashtag first popularized in late 2017
19. Touch up, as a faded photo
20. Yearns
21. Tasty pastries tha— COVER SEWER OPENINGS. I SAW THEM WHEN I WAS IN CANDY LAND
23. Gp. with skeletons in the closet, in a Jeannie Riley song
24. One way for a gay man to identify
26. Doubled, a hip-hop dance move
27. ACLU, HRC and PFLAG, e.g.
28. Asking for chang— ACTUALLY THIS REFERS TO BEING RECKLESS WITH COOKWARE
34. *The King and I* locale
36. NAACP Image Award hall of famer James
37. Barry Humphries's drag alter ego Dame ___
38. Punk expression
40. Upstate New York engineering sch.
41. Grab
43. Presently, in text-speak
45. Part of a codependent relationship
47. Romantic arrangement for fou—NO, THIS HAS TO DO WITH OBAMACARE WHICH IS REALLY CALLED THE ACA LET ME EXPLAIN ...
52. Critically acclaimed Donald Glover FX show (which came back for Season 2 in March!)
55. Something that may need stroking
56. Marsh bird
60. *The Jungle Book* snake
61. Maker of kings and queens, but not jacks
64. Bond girl Kurylenko in *Quantum of Solace*
67. Itty-bitty bit
68. Guns
70. Biblical story wher—A SERIAL KILLER RETURNS AFTER AN ABSENCE; A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T KNOW IT'S REALLY ABOUT THAT
73. Thing that may be shed
75. Occasional blower of hot air
76. "So relaxing!"
77. The S in SOHCAHTOA
78. What each of the theme answers in this puzzle suffers from
83. *Into the Wild* star Hirsch
85. Excited about measles, I guess
86. Set straight
87. "Li'l" one
88. Helps with a score
89. Anti-DUI group
90. Star Wars actress Ridley

LV238 ANSWERS

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

DOWN

1. Mushy drinks at ice cream shops
2. React to a baby crying, maybe
3. Singer who sang a duet with Ja Rule in the *Hamilton Mixtape* version of "Helpless"
4. Sault ___ Marie
5. Non-English word seen on AFI's "100 Years... 100 Movie Quotes" list
6. ___ Speedwagon
7. Cigarette-smuggling qty.
8. Scottish scratch
9. Far more than dings
10. Nonsense singing syllable
11. Brooding figure
12. Canyon effect
13. Invaders of Spain in the 8th century
14. Like Destiny's Child
15. Loses it
16. Gp. known for forms
18. Certain researcher's combined degree
22. Word after "chow," or words after "count"
25. *Ready Player* ___ (2018 Spielberg movie)
29. "Driving Matters" sloganeer
30. Likely to point out this clues' typo, say
31. Rapper ___ Dogg
32. Want's cousin
33. Rowlands of *The Notebook*
35. Station until 2001
39. Give a star, maybe
42. Time it takes for that guy at the bar to finish his story about a *New Yorker* article he read
44. Gallic gal, for short
46. Get cracking
48. The Miners of the NCAA
49. Roseanne of *Roseanne*
50. Far from disinterested
51. *She's Gotta Have It* she
52. Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta, ___ Lady Gaga
53. Highland plaids
54. Certain Twitter rants, essentially
57. *The Thieving Magpie* composer
58. Stars at the Moulin Rouge?
59. Hide-ing place?
62. Turkey substitute makeup, maybe
63. Turns into a screenplay, say
65. Secretive part?
66. Internet Q&A session that our very own Brendan Emmett Quigley did in 2011
69. Advanced H.S. exam
71. What the first letter of 81-Down stands for
72. In store
74. Guns
78. Billy goat's grunt
79. Animal carrying pizza in a viral video
80. Pharm. things
81. Birth control option, for short
82. Ref. whose 2017 Word of the Year was "youthquake"
84. GWB degree

Feathers of Fire: A Persian Epic

Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 7:30 pm

Created by Hamid Rahmanian, a Guggenheim fellowship-winning filmmaker and visual artist, *Feathers of Fire* is an ambitious shadow play recounting the fates of star-crossed lovers. The magical tale of Zaul and Rudabeh is drawn from the tenth-century Persian epic *Shahnameh* (*The Book of Kings*). Casting shadows on a cinema-size screen, puppets, costumes, masks, scenography, and digital animation will bring the story to life. With techniques conceived by shadow master Larry Reed and an original score composed by Niyaz, *Feathers of Fire* is epic entertainment for the entire family.

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