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Seven of us dive deep into our twin passions: booze and books!

LV Staff

My Drunk Library

An angsty high school art project turns existential.

Kembrew McLeod

All About Soul

Days of Auld Lang Syne

The year 2016 is finally coming to a close. If words like “harrowing,” “frenetic” and “ruthless” come to mind when you think back on the past year, know you are not alone. We’re right here picking up the pieces with you.

Many people are desperate to move forward, but for this issue, we take one more look back and also revel for a moment in the tangible pleasures of the current season.

We look back deep into Iowa City history, with a profile of an apartment building with an academic past. Our UR Here column examines its foundational identity, and our yearly Elite 8 highlights some of 2016’s greatest contributions to the music scene.

In preparation for the December festivities, this issue’s Bread and Butter column offers some fresh tastes for your holiday table, our LV staff chooses book and booze combos for curling up in an easy chair on a winter weekend and the Field Trip column returns with an exploration of cold weather outdoor fun. Our A-List is dedicated to New Year’s Eve options to take you beyond watching the ball drop.

We also have an En Español column that explores the latest release from University of Iowa Spanish creative writing MFA Giuseppe Caputo and a Prairie Pop column that will leave you asking how much money your soul has made for you lately.

We hope your year winds down peacefully, with warmth and joy, and we wish you all the best in 2017.

—LV Editors

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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LETTER TO THE FUTURE

I f President-elect Donald Trump actually believes all the warnings he issued during the election about the threats of immigration, he should be talking about ways to slow global warming as well. Rising sea levels, caused by the melting of the Antarctic and Greenland ice caps, will probably displace tens of millions of people in the decades ahead, and many may come to North America as refugees.

Climate change will cause a suite of other problems for future generations to tackle, and it’s arguably the most pressing issue of our time. A year ago, world leaders gathered in Paris to discuss strategies for curbing greenhouse gas emissions, and scientists at every corner of the globe confirm that humans are facing a crisis. However, climate change is being nearly ignored by American politicians and lawmakers. It was not discussed in depth at all during this past election cycle’s televised presidential debates. And, when climate change does break the surface of public discussion, it polarizes Americans like almost no other political issue. Some conservatives, including Trump, still deny there’s even a problem.

“CO2 molecules and infrared photons don’t give a crap about politics.”

—Peter Kalmus

Scientists have warned for decades that greenhouse gas emissions have put the earth on track for calamitous storms, floods, droughts and rising oceans. Last year, before the Paris climate summit, writers, scientists and artists were invited to write “Letters to the Future” predicting what success or failure in combating climate change might mean. Now, one year later, this Letter to the Future reevaluates the fight against climate change in light of the election of Donald Trump. Read the full letter online. • BY ALASTAIR BLAND

ROSE says progress cannot be made in drafting effective climate strategies until national leaders agree there’s an issue.

“We have such strong scientific evidence,” he said. “We can disagree on how we’re going to solve the problems, but I would hope we could move toward an agreement on the basic facts.”

That such a serious planetwide crisis has become a divide across the American political battlefield “is a tragedy” to Peter Kalmus, an Earth scientist with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Caltech in Pasadena, who agreed to be interviewed for this story on his own behalf (not on behalf of NASA, JPL or Caltech).

Kalmus warns that climate change is happening whether politicians want to talk about it or not.

“CO2 molecules and infrared photons don’t give a crap about politics,” Kalmus said. Slowing climate change will be essential, since adapting to all its impacts may be impossible. Governments must strive for greater
resource efficiency, shift to renewable energy and transition from conventional to more sustainable agricultural practices.

America’s leaders must also implement a carbon pricing system, climate activists say, that places a financial burden on fossil fuel producers and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. But there may be little to zero hope that such a system will be installed at the federal level as Trump prepares to move into the White House. Trump has actually threatened to reverse any commitments the United States agreed to in Paris. According to widely circulating reports, Trump has even selected a well-known skeptic of climate change, Myron Ebell, to head his U.S. Environmental Protection Agency transition team. Ebell is the director of the Center for Energy and Environment at the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

Steve Valk, communications director for the Citizens’ Climate Lobby, says the results of the presidential election come as a discouraging setback in the campaign to slow emissions and global warming.

“There’s no doubt that the steep hill we’ve been climbing just became a sheer cliff,” he said. “But cliffs are scalable.”

Valk says the American public must demand that Congress implement carbon pricing. He says the government is not likely to face and attack climate change unless voters force them to.

“The solution is going to have to come from the people,” he said. “Our politicians have shown that they’re just not ready to implement a solution on their own.”

**After Paris**

There is no question the earth is warming rapidly, and already this upward temperature trend is having impacts. It is disrupting agriculture. Glacial water sources are vanishing. Storms and droughts are becoming more severe. Altered winds and ocean currents are impacting marine ecosystems. So is ocean acidification, another outcome of carbon dioxide emissions. The sea is rising and eventually will swamp large coastal regions and islands. As many as 200 million people could be displaced by 2050. For several years in a row now, each year has been warmer than any year prior in recorded temperature records, and by 2100 it may be too hot for people to permanently live in the Persian Gulf.

World leaders and climate activists made groundbreaking progress toward slowing
Iowans will have wider access to opioid overdose medication naloxone

"Naloxone is not a cure for an opioid overdose, however it can buy critical time until emergency treatment is available and long-term treatment can be provided." Oh, right. Long term treatment ... like at one of the many mental health facilities your policies have closed this year? Better to line the pockets of big-pharma instead... —Ann Ewoldt!

After 64 years, family-owned Pleasant Valley’s closing is bittersweet

That’s depressing. What will happen to this property? Does that mean Iowa City will no longer have a home-owned garden center/greenhouses year-round? I don’t want to go to Menards for my garden supplies and succulents. :("I LOVE THIS STORE!!! I LOVE Pleasant Valley! —Jamie Elizabeth

Anti-Trump protest rallies through the streets to I-80

To set the record straight... the protesters complied with the police when they were convinced their actions would endanger drivers, not themselves. That wasn’t the message they wanted to send and they didn’t want anyone getting hurt, so they agreed to leave. —Anastasia Blue

Anti-hate protest orchestrated by City and West High students gathers on Pentacrest.

I’m glad to see Iowa City finally stepping up in the protest department. —Deborah Bollinger Woodburn

Stay awesome IC. Love you and miss you! (Iowa alumni) —Jessica Glezer

Murals welcome people to the Catholic Worker House

Dorothy often repeated the phrase from Dostoyevsky, “The World will be saved by Beauty” The good folks at the Iowa City Catholic Worker are giving expression to this. —David

these effects at the Paris climate conference. Here, leaders from 195 countries drafted a plan of action to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and steer the planet off its predicted course of warming. The pact, which addresses energy, transportation, industries and agriculture—and which asks leaders to regularly upgrade their climate policies—is intended to keep the planet from warming by 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit between pre-industrial years and the end of this century. Scientists have forecasted that an average global increase of 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit will have devastating consequences for humanity.

The United States pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 26 percent from 2005 levels within a decade. China, Japan and nations of the European Union made similar promises. More recently, almost 200 nations agreed to phase out hydrofluorocarbons, extremely potent but short-lived greenhouse gases emitted by refrigerators and air conditioners, and reduce the emissions from the shipping and aviation industries.

But in the wake of such promising international progress, and as 2016 draws to a close as the third record warm year in a row, many climate activists are disconcerted both by United States leaders’ recent silence on the issue and by the outcome of the presidential election. Mark Sabbatini, editor of the newspaper Icpeople in Svalbard, Norway, believes shortsighted political scheming has pushed climate change action to the back burner. He wants to see politicians start listening to scientists.

“But industry folks donate money and scientists get shoved aside in the interest of profits and re-election,” said Sabbatini, who recently had to evacuate his apartment as unprecedented temperatures thawed out the entire region’s permafrost, threatening to collapse buildings.

Short-term goals and immediate financial concerns distract leaders from making meaningful policy advances on climate.

“In Congress, they look two years ahead,” Sabbatini said. “In the Senate, they look six years ahead. In the White House, they look four years ahead.”

The 300 nationwide chapters of the Citizens’ Climate Lobby are calling on local governments and chambers of commerce across America to voice support for a revenue-neutral carbon fee. The hope is that leaders in Congress will hear the demands of the people. This carbon fee would impose a charge on producers of oil, natural gas and coal. As a direct result, all products and services that depend on or directly utilize those fossil fuels would cost more for consumers, who would be incentivized to buy less. Food shipped in from far away would cost more than locally grown alternatives. Gas for heating, electricity generated by oil and coal and driving a car would become more expensive.

“Bicycling would become more attractive, and so would electric cars and home appliances that use less energy,” said Kalmus, an advocate of the revenue-neutral carbon fee. Promoting this fee system is essentially the Citizens’ Climate Lobby’s entire focus.

“This would be the most important step we take toward addressing climate change,” Valk said. —Alastair Bland
I live in a female seminary. It’s an apartment building now, mostly remodeled, but I can imagine the history trapped between the brick walls. I sleep in the same rooms where some of the first young girls in our nation were allowed to educate themselves. I make coffee in the same spot where I imagine a nun once stood, teaching algebra to her class. I eat breakfast at a shaky wooden dining table, where a female student gazed out the windows onto Iowa City 150 years ago. I wonder if those students at the female seminary had a clear view of the Capitol building, with nothing to obstruct the sight of its golden dome.

As the education of women grew into a staple of society, Iowa City evolved as well. Today, I look out the window and see stunning university buildings, paved roads and crowds. While the city has grown, the exterior of 130 E. Jefferson St. remains mostly unchanged from its days as a female seminary. I found a picture from around 1910, taken from across the street when both Jefferson and Dubuque were still dirt roads and the seminary was the tallest building around. Now, Van Allen Hall dwarfs it on the opposite corner. However, the building looks the same, with a white, decorative balcony outside the second floor windows, red bricks forming the first three stories and grey roofing encasing the fourth story. The building is capped by a single turret, a bell tower when it operated as a seminary.

St. Agatha’s Seminary opened in the 1860s. Female seminaries in the 19th century weren’t seminaries in the way we understand them today, as schools of theology. Instead, female seminaries functioned much like modern boarding schools. This system was a staple in male education, but was unprecedented prior to the 19th century for women.

The female seminary movement can be traced back to a single school, which opened in 1792. The classroom of Sarah Pierce at Litchfield Female Academy in Connecticut educated women under the belief that women were intellectually equal to men. The underlying goal of this first school was to educate proper wives. However, several of her students, including Catherine Beecher and Emma Willard, would go on to found female seminaries of their own with curriculums that included logic, chemistry and mathematics. This movement was monumental, and not only because it was the first standard education for women. It was also the first time women played an active role in their own education. Schools for women, founded by women, began to open all over the country, beginning around the 1820s.

The Catholic Church in particular helped foster the female seminary movement. It was in the midst of this movement, around the 1840s, that Ferdinand Haberstroh and his wife, Mary, journeyed from Baden, Germany to Johnson County, Iowa. They saw an opportunity in a budding Iowa City, which had become home to a Catholic community. They became members of St. Mary’s Church, settled in Iowa City and helped with several projects around town, some still standing to this day.

One of these projects would eventually become St. Agatha’s Seminary. However, when Haberstroh built it in 1852, he opened it as a hotel. Iowa City was named the capitol of Iowa in 1847, and Haberstroh likely planned to profit from the traffic visiting the capitol. Unfortunately, the capitol moved to Des Moines in 1857, shortly after the hotel opened. The hotel fell into debt, and Ferdinand Haberstroh passed away in 1860, leaving the building to his wife.

Joseph Fuhrmann, another member of St. Mary’s Church, wrote a history of the church for its diamond jubilee in 1916. He paints Mary as a devout Catholic, a woman with “zeal and religious fervor … who thus virtually gave all she possessed to the Lord.” She opened her home for worship while St. Mary’s was still being constructed. When Rev. William Emonds from St. Mary’s Church approached Mary, he intended to rent a single room of the hotel in the hopes of opening a classroom. Mary instead offered him the entirety of the building for educational purposes, telling him he could buy the deed to the hotel, as long as it would be used to help others.

There were three conditions on their deal, however. First, the building had fallen into debt from its days as a failing hotel—the
church would have to pay off the $2,000 debt. Second, they would pay $500 to Mary personally. The final condition was for Emonds to give her a place to live in the building for as long as she stayed in Iowa City. The church’s congregation raised the money through fairs and collections, and Emonds purchased the building from Mary for $2,600. It was valued at $18,000. Through Mary’s generosity, a female seminary would open in Iowa City. In symmetry with the movement around the country, an Iowa City woman played a role in advancing women’s education.

Mary never used the third condition of her deal, choosing to leave Iowa shortly after selling the building. She returned to family in Pennsylvania, and passed away soon after. While Mary opened the possibility for a female seminary, Rev. Terence Donaghoe—the co-founder of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which still exists in Dubuque today—made it a reality. Donaghoe approached Emonds with interest in the recently purchased hotel. Donaghoe pitched the idea of a female seminary at 130 E. Jefferson, Iowa City.
and Emonds agreed. The final deal came with its own stipulation. The Sisters of Charity could operate a female seminary in the building, as long as they also operated a free school 80 feet west of the seminary. This free school is now torn down, but once stood on the corner where Newman Catholic Student Center now stands. Both reverends accepted this deal, and St. Agatha’s Seminary opened in the 1860s.

Based on education surveys by both the United States government and the Catholic Church, the seminary operated as both a day school and a boarding school for women. A 1894 report for the Commissioner of Education indicates the nuns taught algebra, geometry and physics to the young women at the seminary. The curriculum seemed to be more academic, in contrast to some of the early schools that also focused partly on manners. The school grew quickly, with a student count of 156 by 1883. The building served as a female seminary until 1911.

When the University of Iowa bought the building in 1911, the connection to serving women in education continued; the university used the former seminary as a female dormitory named Svendi Hall. The building was sold in 1927 to Albert Burkley, who remodeled it into apartments. I imagine this is when the old-fashioned fleur-de-lis wallpaper that still hangs in the entry hall was put up. The decorative balcony survived remodeling in both 1927 and the 1990s, when it was modernized once more.

I have lived on the third floor for the past three years, looking out over Jefferson Street. After this research, I have an image of a student at St. Agatha’s doing the same. From her window, she would have seen dirt roads, churches and a small town with a fascinating future ahead. Now, I see a large campus, filled with both men and women attending class together. In the same building where nuns once taught young girls, today men and women share laundry rooms. While there is still work to be done, tremendous strides have been made in education equality between genders since that time. Mary Haberstroh played a silent role in bringing women’s education from gender-specific boarding schools to forming a 52 percent majority at the University of Iowa.

Jordan Archer has lived at 130 E. Jefferson St. for three years and studies physics at the University of Iowa.
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UR HERE

BEING “HERE” IN A TIME OF CRISIS

It’s a matter of principals. • BY TOM DEAN

Now what?” asks the cover of Little Village’s last issue. The same question resounds across the country and even around the globe. In the wake of an election that was an eruption of deep cultural fissures in our society and that has created perhaps the most uncertain future I have ever known, the often-asked question of how to move forward has rarely, if ever, been more significant.

Fifteen years ago, I started this column based on a set of principles. For me, those principles have remained steadfast and have guided my decisions regarding what to write about, how to live and how to understand the world. I believe that those principles provide the best hope for our world, and, especially now, they are worth revisiting.

Local

At the heart of “UR Here” is the belief that our most important commitments and best field of action are in our locality. “Here” is where we best build relationships because “here” is where we live in direct community with others. “Here” is where our care is most needed and most powerful, and where our understanding is deepest. In a globalized world where borders are becoming both more meaningless and more contentious, building a compassionate, sustainable and resilient locality creates the best ground for thriving, inspiration and resistance.

Concentric Circles

A focus on locality does not mean insularity. In fact, the opposite is the case. Many who write about place emphasize a concentric circle model. We are not to build walls around our locality, but rather root ourselves deeply in the ground we know and love. Doing so, we best interconnect with the ever-widening spheres in which we are all implicated and must participate. At the center is our dwelling place, widening out to our neighborhood, our community, our region, our country, our world and even into the realm of spirit.

Community

At the heart of community is social capital: the networks of mutual support and reciprocity that sustain and enhance our society and power human flourishing. Both bridging and bonding social capital are critical. Bonding social capital brings us together in our commonalities—we feel a sense of unity in our common characteristics and like-mindedness. Of course, if all we have is bonding social capital, we can easily end up with the racism, xenophobia, nationalism and hatred of the other that so threatens our country at this moment. That is why we also need bridging social capital—the reaching out to each other across differences of all sorts, the building of linkages that promote understanding and facilitate broad social cohesion.

Rarely in our country’s history have we suffered such yawning cleavages, fueled by increasing geographical sorting and wealth inequality. We need the warm, tribal “fraternité,” but balanced with the more generalized mutuality of “égalité.” We cannot have “liberté” without both. Bridging social capital is harder to build than bonding, requiring more intentionality and more reaching outside ourselves. But it has never been more important than now to bring everyone to the big table that is our culture and society.

Nature

Our social relationships are obviously essential and inescapable. But in the end, our most important relationships are with the natural world. All we are, all we have and all we can become ultimately comes from the abundance of nature. We are in the midst of a catastrophic environmental crisis caused by human hubris and willful ignorance. We cannot care for each other unless we also care for the world
that births and nurtures us. And that ethic of care is most potently cultivated and applied in our local places.

**Commons**
The only way to heal our social and cultural fissures is by finding common ground. The only way to heal our planet is to understand how our mutual obligations and mutual fate lie in caring for the earth together. The core of the commons is knowing what we share and making sure all have equal control over and access to it. Clean air, water and soil are the most typically understood commons and indeed are the most foundational. But good health, economic opportunity, cultural expressions and celebrations, social power and much more are also commons that require fair governance and access, and that sustain and enrich our lives. To find common ground, we need to start with the commons.

**Home**
The concept of “home” has been a more recent addition to my lexicon that underlies the principles for this column. Granted, the idea of “home” can come with its own baggage, but I have become interested in deepening, not changing, the concept of “place” from the perspective of “home,” which better captures the rich human element of our interdependencies and obligations. “Home” encompasses the idea of belonging, of membership, and it carries with it the responsibility of care in a ready way. All of the principles I’ve articulated above—from the commitment to the local to our broader global interconnections—are inherent in the concept of home. A sense of belonging in the world must be available to all, and our care—of each other, of our communities, and of our natural world—is what fosters and nurtures it.

“UR Here” is not a political column. If I have tread into the realm of politics, it has usually been as an avenue to discuss and apply the principles I’ve articulated above. I acknowledge that our current moment has unleashed cultural, social and political forces that are antithetical to nearly everything I’ve said here, and I in no way downplay the grave threats we face. And I know that national and global action are critical, too. At the moment, I’m not entirely sure how “what now?” should be answered. But I do know that our best hope is in the strongest possible recommitment to being here. 

Thomas Dean is here.
Giuseppe Caputo, graduado del MFA de escritura creativa en español de la Universidad de Iowa, publica en Colombia su primera novela Un mundo huérfano. • POR HELENA GARCÍA MARÍÑO

Un padre y un hijo viven en un barrio sin luces en una ciudad costeña, en una casa mínima, vacía de muebles y comida. El padre recrea pinturas rupestres en las paredes, el hijo empeña la cama para comprar arroz y frijoles. Un poco más allá de la cuadra está la Luna, un bar de alterne, el epicentro de la matanza homófoba e impune que sacude al barrio. Un mundo huérfano (Random House Mondadori, 2016) es una reflexión brillante sobre la ternura y el horror, sobre cómo la única forma de sobrevivir en un contexto de violencia extrema, la única manera de no partirse en pedazos, es agarrarse al amor y no soltarlo.

La realidad creada por Caputo está desnuda. El autor rescató de la masa de los olvidados a sus personajes para darles un rostro y una voz, una oportunidad para dejar huella. No hay trabas, no hay rodeos lingüísticos, no hay eufemismos detrás de los que ocultarse. El padre parece vivir en una verdad diferente: el hambre pasará, la violencia pasará, sólo hay que esperar, ser paciente. El hijo ha entendido que cuando la realidad es atroz sólo queda crear un mundo propio que reproduzca el mundo que ve el padre, el lugar al que volver y olvdarse de todo lo que hay fuera: olvidar las cuencas sin ojos, olvidar el rechazo de otro hombre, olvidar la brutalidad de la policía, la ceguera del Estado, olvidar las deudas y el “sigan bailando, mariposas” escrito con la sangre de los muertos. La ternura combate la violencia, la generosidad hace el hambre más llevadera: el hogar es el único lugar en el que ambos pueden continuar viviendo sin corromperse.

Cada acción en Un mundo huérfano sucede de noche, como si la oscuridad hiciese un poco menos visibles, un poco menos crueldad, el hambre, la amenaza constante de la muerte, la soledad, la miseria. El autor escribe sobre la noche, pero todo en la novela deslumbra: hace caminar el lenguaje, manteniendo el equilibrio, sobre la línea finísima que separa la brutalidad y la belleza; busca la palabra precisa pero no la contención. Las páginas no esconden la ferocidad de la ciudad, del deseo, Caputo habla igual de metafísica y de cruising, del amor infinito de un padre y de follar con 20 hombres en una misma noche, de soledad y de popper. Todo es igualmente significativo e igualmente carente de sentido.

Giuseppe Caputo, graduate of the University of Iowa’s MFA in Spanish creative writing, publishes his first novel, An Orphan World, in Colombia. WRITTEN AND TRANSLATED BY HELENA GARCÍA MARÍÑO

A father and son live in a lightless neighborhood in a coastal city, in a tiny house, devoid of furniture and food. The father recreates cave paintings on the walls; the son pawns off the bed to buy rice and beans. A little bit past the block is the Luna, a strip club, the epicenter of the unpunished homophobic killing which rocks the neighborhood. An Orphan World (Random House Mondadori, 2016) is a brilliant reflection on tenderness and horror, on how the only way to survive in a context of extreme violence, the only way not to fall to pieces, is to take hold of love and never let it go.

The reality created by Caputo is bare. The author rescues his characters from the mass of the forgotten in order to give them face and voice, an opportunity to leave their mark. There are no obstacles, no linguistic rodeos, no euphemisms to hide behind. The father seems to live in a different reality: The hunger will pass, the violence will pass, the only thing is to hope, to be patient. The son has understood that when reality is atrocity the only thing remaining is to create his own world that reproduces the one his father sees, a place to return to and forget about everything that’s outside: to forget the empty eye sockets, to forget being rejected by another man, to forget police brutality, the blindness of the state, to forget the debts and the “keep dancing, fairies” written with the blood of the dead. The tenderness combats the violence, and the generosity makes the hunger more manageable: Home is the only place where both can continue living without becoming corrupted.

Every action in An Orphan World occurs at night, as if the darkness made a little less visible, a little less cruel, the hunger, the constant threat of death, the solitude, the misery. The author writes about the night, but everything in the novel shines: He makes the language walk, balancing on the thin line that separates brutality from beauty; he searches for the precise word but not for containment. The pages don’t hide the ferocity of the city, the desire; Caputo speaks in the same way about metaphysics and cruising, about infinite love and fucking 20 men in one night, of solitude and poppers. Everything is equally significant and equally trifling.

Helena García Mariño is a second year MFA in Spanish Creative Writing.
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Spice up your holiday meal • BY ARI ARIEL

Millions of Muslims, Christians and Jews will be observing holidays this month. Mawlid an-Nabi, the holiday commemorating the Prophet Muhammad’s birthday, is on Dec. 11, and Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights, begins on the 24th, which is also Christmas Eve. Whatever you’ll be celebrating, make your food a bit tastier this December with some Middle Eastern flavor. Here are three simple and delicious recipes that are familiar enough to be comfort food but also include a spice or two to kick things up.

**Roasted Rack of Lamb with Cumin and Coriander - Serves 4**

Rack of lamb is one of my favorite foods. Its rich, slightly gamey flavor is the dictionary definition of meat. Luckily it is also one of the easiest things to cook. Brown it quickly in a hot pan, roast it in the oven for twenty to thirty minutes and you are good to go. Once the meat is cooked, be sure to let it rest for 10 minutes before you slice into it. If you cut too soon, juices will run out of the meat, making it a bit dry. Honestly, it’s so good, it really doesn’t need any other ingredients, but to make it even better, we’re rubbing it with cumin and coriander and serving it with a cilantro-lime sauce that will take less than five minutes to make in a blender.

**FOR THE LAMB:**
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Juice of 1 lime

**FOR THE LAMB:**
- 4 tablespoons whole cumin seeds
- 2 tablespoons whole coriander seeds
- 2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 2 racks of lamb
- 2 tablespoons olive oil

**FOR THE CILANTRO-LIME SAUCE:**
Place all of the sauce ingredients in a blender and puree until smooth. If needed, add a touch of water to get the process started. Taste the sauce and add more salt if necessary.

**FOR THE LAMB:**
- Preheat your oven to 400 degrees.
- In a small sauté pan, with no oil, toast the cumin and coriander seeds over medium-high heat for about 5 minutes, moving them constantly to be sure they don’t burn. (You can skip this step, and the spices will still be delicious, but they’ll be a bit more vibrant if you toast them.) Let the spices cool a bit before moving to the next step.
- Place the cumin and coriander in a spice grinder and grind them very briefly. You don’t want a fine powder. Leave the spices a bit chunky. Then move the spices to a bowl and add the kosher salt.
- Dry the racks of lamb with paper towel. Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a large sauté pan. When the oil is hot, add the racks of lamb, meat side down, and let them brown. Then flip over and brown the second side briefly. Remove the lamb from the heat and let racks cool slightly so you can handle them. Keep the pan for the next step.
- Place the cumin and coriander in a spice grinder and grind them very briefly. You don’t want a fine powder. Leave the spices a bit chunky. Then move the spices to a bowl and add the kosher salt.
- Season the lamb with the spice-salt mixture and return it the pan, meat side up. Put the pan in the oven and let the lamb roast for 20 to 25 minutes.
- Move the lamb to a plate and cover it loosely with foil. Let it rest for 10 minutes.
Slice the lamb and serve it with the cilantro-lime sauce.

**Okra in Tomato Sauce** - Serves 4

We usually associate okra with the American South, but it is one of the most beloved vegetables in the Middle East, where it is called bamiya. American cooks above the Mason-Dixon Line are often intimidated by okra’s reputed sliminess. Cooked properly, that is not a problem. I suggest stewing it with tomatoes and garlic, and a bit of cumin to echo the flavor of the lamb.

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ½ large onion, thinly sliced
- 1 pound okra
- 2 cloves garlic, sliced
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 14.5-ounce can whole peeled tomatoes, chopped or crushed
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- ¼ cup chopped flat-leaf parsley

Trim a small amount off of the stem end of the okra, being careful not to expose the inside of the vegetable. (Not exposing the inside will prevent the okra from becoming slimy during cooking.)

- Heat the olive oil in a large casserole or Dutch oven.
- Add the onions and cook over medium heat for about 5 minutes.
- Add the okra to the pan and continue to cook over medium heat for about 5 minutes.
- Add the garlic and cumin and cook for another minute. Then add the canned tomatoes, lemon juice and salt.
- Cover and simmer over low heat for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Stir in the parsley and enjoy.

**Zalabiya** - Makes 20-30

Jews traditionally eat fried foods during Hanukkah. For Middle Eastern Jews, that means zalabiya, the Arab world’s answer to the beignet. Mix flour, water and yeast, let the dough rest for about an hour, and fry away. The traditional way to finish the zalabiya is to soak the fritters in a sugar syrup, but that makes them a bit soggy for my taste. Instead, I sprinkle them with powdered sugar and cinnamon. Be careful, they’re addictive.

**For the Cinnamon Sugar:**
- ¼ cup powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

**For the Fritter Batter:**
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 package (or 1 tablespoon) instant dry yeast
- 2 ½ cups warm water
- Vegetable oil, for frying

**For the Fritters:**
- In a large bowl, mix the flour, salt and yeast. Then whisk in the water and continue to stir until the batter is completely smooth. Then cover the bowl and let the batter rest in a warm place for an hour.
- Place three inches of oil in a deep pot and heat to 375 degrees.
- Using two tablespoons, scoop the batter into the oil and fry, turning occasionally until crispy and golden brown. Do this in batches so you don’t overcrowd the pot.
- Using a slotted spoon, remove the fritters from the oil and transfer them to a plate lined with paper towels.
- Dust the fritters generously with the cinnamon sugar and enjoy.
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BEER OF THE MONTH: DECEMBER

YOU BE YOU

Kalona Brewing Company, Kalona, Iowa

It’s cold—or at least it’s supposed to be cold in December. Regardless, it’s not an ideal time of the year for citrusy and tropical IPAs. They’re still drinkable, sure, but much less fitting (double IPAs are a different story, however.) Stouts, including imperial stouts, are a much better fit for the cold temperatures and early, long nights.

The beer of the month for December, You Be You, is a fantastic imperial stout. Released this year on a limited, draft-only basis on Dec. 1, You Be You is like drinking a liquefied chocolate cake complete with 10 percent alcohol.

According to Kalona’s Nic Sabatke, the beer’s name honors a 92-year old local who has been telling folks “you be you” for decades. The man is even featured on the beer’s bottle labels.

You Be You is an opaque black color. A finger and a half of dense, dark tan-colored head settles slowly, leaving a bubble-spotted skim and a trail of lacing stuck to the glass. The aroma is sinister, featuring roasted and toasted malt, dark chocolate, molasses, toffee and caramel. There are also scents of black licorice, plum, raisin and a hint of dark cherry. It is very reminiscent of chocolate cake with a chocolate syrup glaze and layers of ganache.

The mouthfeel is thick and creamy, and the taste is delicious! The prominent flavors include roasted malt, caramel, toffee, dark chocolate, and molasses. Plum and dark cherry are also present. Though the ABV is higher than normal, the alcohol is well masked.

• ALCOHOL CONTENT: 10.2 percent ABV.

• FOOD PAIRINGS: As an imperial stout, You Be You will pair well with roasted and smoked food, barbecue, sausages and chocolate desserts. If you are enjoying You Be You at the brewery in Kalona, try it with the fried pork belly ravioli, pork belly alfredo lasagna (they apparently like pork belly in Kalona) or a pizza or flatbread featuring Italian sausage.

• WHERE TO BUY: You Be You can be enjoyed at the Kalona Brewing Company brewery (405 B Ave, Kalona, IA 52247), and other establishments that serve Kalona beer.

—Casey Wagner
Book: *Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble, and Coming of Age in the Bronx* by Adrian Nicole LeBlanc

Booze: Old Fashioned
- 1.5 oz Bulleit Rye
- 3 dash Angostura Bitters
- 1 sugar cube (1 tsp sugar)
- 1 orange slice

Muddle sugar cube, Angostura bitters and a splash of water until sugar is dissolved. Muddle in orange slice, paying attention to rind to release oils. Place block of Old Fashioned ice in glass and pour Bulleit Rye over top. Give it a quick stir and enjoy.

My first nonfiction writing class introduced me to Adrian Nicole LeBlanc’s *Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble, and Coming of Age in the Bronx*. LeBlanc’s commitment to following one family over 10 years completely envelops me in a harsh life I have never known.

I recommend finding a warm corner, an Old Fashioned, and giving in to LeBlanc’s overwhelming attention to detail as she rebuilds 10 years of drugs, heartbreak and family around you.

—Natalia Araujo

Book: *In The Company of Women* by Grace Bonney

Booze: Negroni
- 1.5 oz Campari
- 1.5 oz gin
- 1.5 oz sweet vermouth
- Orange twist

Stir all ingredients with ice. Strain into a rocks glass filled with fresh ice. Garnish with orange twist.

As a longtime follower of Design*Sponge (Grace Bonney’s design blog), this new release of hers has been on my radar for a while. Over the past weeks, I’ve been enjoying reading a few profiles a night with a cocktail. The book focuses on female entrepreneurs-makers-designers and their communities while providing unique insight into their creative evolution as artists and sources of inspiration for their work.

Honestly, this book could be paired with any creative concoction from your home liquor cabinet (like those profiled in the book, be inspired by what’s around you!) but I’ve found a Negroni to be a good match—a refreshing, bittersweet palate-cleanser that commands your attention while it goes down but makes room for future possibilities with its clean citrus-y finish.

—Frankie Schneckloth

Book: *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert

Booze: Cedar Ridge’s Iowa Bourbon.

This was on my “To Read” list for a while. The book, which nabbed the Pulitzer Prize in nonfiction last year, takes readers all over the world to document the quiet disappearance of species in the ongoing extinction event that scientists predict will upend the current order of things on a scale not seen since the dinosaurs were wiped out.

The book is laid out in a series of stories based on Kolbert’s travels: deep into the Andes Mountains, to remote scientific outposts on the Great Barrier Reef and to Iceland, where the last of the flightless, penguin-like great auks were killed in the 1800s.

It’s not an uplifting read, so keep your glass handy. The book makes readers consider the impact mankind has had—often unwittingly—on this planet. Humans play the bumbling, short-sighted antagonist to the survival of countless living creatures. But it has stuck with me since reading it months ago, and Kolbert’s easy writing style meant I chowed through the pages in one lazy weekend.

I read this with a glass of whiskey in hand,
preferably Cedar Ridge’s Iowa Bourbon.
—Lauren Shotwell

Book: Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas by Rebecca Solnit and Rebecca Snedeker

Booze: Vieux Carré
- 0.75 oz brandy
- 0.75 oz rye whiskey
- 0.75 oz sweet vermouth
- 1 barspoon Benedictine
- A dash each of Angostura and Peychaud’s bitters
- Lemon peel

Pour into a mixing glass. Add ice and stir. Strain into chilled glass, rub lemon peel around the rim and drop in the glass.

Solnit and Snedeker combine data and storytelling to paint a multifaceted picture of the physical and human landscape of New Orleans. Sharing the past and keeping it alive is a way of life for the city’s residents, who fiercely preserve their traditions while welcoming newcomers. The uneven streets fill the senses with striking visuals, constant music, unrivaled hospitality and the weight of a beautiful but troubled past.

Strength of community and openness to individual expression coexist with deep-seated corruption, oppression and violence. History is layered on the buildings, and sometimes the paint peels and it’s hard to distinguish the layers, but there’s always someone nearby who can explain. Unfathomable City gathers a multiplicity of voices and maps for a sample of New Orleans’ infinite stories.

The Vieux Carré is complex, boozy and bittersweet like its namesake, the French Quarter.
—Eleanore Taft

Book: Touch Me I’m Sick by Charles Peterson

Booze: Cheap Beer

Charles Peterson is a humble human being and a quality photographer. This comes across in one of my favorite books, Touch Me I’m Sick, with its 90+ grainy black and white photos that document the rise of grunge, featuring many musicians who would become full-fledged rock stars.

There is no pretense accompanying these images—it’s simply the view of someone who was there when bands like Nirvana, Mudhoney and Soundgarden were still playing club shows. This book was a huge inspiration to me when I got my hands on it 13 years ago and a big reason why I wanted to photograph live music.

I suggest an ice cold beer to go along with this one: the cheaper the better, because you already paid cover to see the bands, and you’re probably going to want to buy a t-shirt.
—Zak Neumann

Hochschild does what a lot of my peers seem unable to do: dares to explore the conservative right population of America, not to condemn or even to forcefully educate, but explicitly to humanize. Diving into the anger and disenchantment of the “red” working class, she finds commonality and nuance in people, often revealing a lack of villainy without forgiving many cases of ignorance or reactionary behavior. Honestly, for an empathetic person living in the current political climate, this is a must-read, albeit a difficult one.

That being said, this Bourbon Stout cocktail goes perfectly. Bourbon is a strong, rough liquor but this mix is palatable and comforting.
—Kelli Ebensberger
Scott Snyder is one of those authors you have to line up for hours ahead of time for his signings at comic conventions. Mostly, that’s due to his work on Batman for the past five years—but Snyder’s heart and soul are tied irrevocably to my own favorite: horror comics. Any fan of the genre knows his truly beautiful series American Vampire.

The work I keep coming back to, though, is his incredible short series Severed. Written with childhood friend Scott Tuft, with perfectly unsettling visuals from Attila Futaki, Severed is a breathless horrors-of-humanity story of a 12-year-old runaway in the early 20th century who takes up with the wrong traveling companion. It eschews excessive gore for a subtler dig at your psyche.

Although I usually tend toward the hoppiest of IPAs when it comes to beer, 1554 is a comfortable companion to this tale. It’s heavier than a typical lager, which would be too light for the weight of this story. It’s less dependent on temperature than many other beers, too, which comes in handy when I forget I’m holding it for several pages. It’s less complex than an IPA, which might pull me out of the moment. It’s simple, sweet and safe—the antithesis of this book, and the perfect security blanket while reading it.

—Genevieve Trainor
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We count down our key albums of the year. • By Andre Perry

This year’s Elite 8 presents another list of great albums to consider. As always, these records are just the beginning of a conversation, and we encourage you to create and share your own inspiring shortlist of albums that entered the world this year.

8. Jagwar Ma, Every Now & Then
Channeling elements of Britpop and the legendary Manchester dance scene, Jagwar Ma’s sophomore record achieves the kind of amped-up fever rock you’d expect to catch at a classic ‘90s UK festival. Their core assets are the crossed wires of guitars and drum machines, big rock hooks that suddenly descend into four-on-the-floor propulsion and a general proliferation of good vibrations. At some junctures their psych leanings go as far as to recall Animal Collective in their jubilant form. At other times, it’s difficult to assess whether you’re listening to Jagwar Ma or if these are old Primal Scream tracks that New Order reixed. The reference points, however, remain impeccable, and the spirit of Madchester is worth reviving for a younger generation.

7. Wye Oak, Tween
Tween is Wye Oak’s best studio album since their 2007 debut If Children. Comprised of outtakes from the sessions for Civilian (2011) and Shriek (2014), Tween captures the band’s transition from raw guitar rock to atmospheric, synth-pop. What Tween uncovers in the middle is a remarkable flashpoint: aggressive, noisy guitar work tempered by electronic experimentation. On either extreme “Too Right” burns with dirge-like insistence, unfolding like a lost anthem, while “On Luxury” finds the duo with dirge-like insistence, unfolding like a lost anthem, while “On Luxury” finds the duo.

5. Kanye West, The Life of Pablo
Kanye’s ever-evolving album, The Life of Pablo, questions what it means to call a piece of art “finished.” Yeeyz has routinely updated the album since its release, changing and remixing bits of songs. Ironically, it still feels like Pablo could use a tight edit, a trimming of the excess ideas here that don’t deserve to make it into rotation. But this is Kanye—the most existential rapper in the game—and you have to take the record on its terms. In between the noise he delivers 2016’s best gems: the triumphant gospel crescendos of “Ultralight Beam,” the eerie loneliness of “Real Friends” and the celebrity regret of “No More Parties in L.A.” The album as a whole feels like the end of a cycle that began with My Beautiful Twisted Dark Fantasy (2016), a journey that ultimately finds our narrator both more and less at peace with himself and the world around him—but brilliant contradiction has always been his most startling (and frustrating) attribute.

4. Mitski, Puberty 2
Part punk attitude, part bedroom rock aesthetics, Puberty 2 is an album that is so invigorating and devastating it’s difficult to know what to hold onto and when. It offers a bold look at how we struggle to find balance in our lives as we concern between states of happiness and depression. Songwriter Mitski Miyawaki personifies this mortal struggle through the lens of tense relationships, all of them volatile and shocking in their temporary euphoria and inevitable letdown. Her stark revelations vacillate from uncertainty (“Your mother wouldn’t approve of how my mother raised me/But I do, I think I do”—“Your American Girl”) to apathy (“And when I find a knife is sticking out of my side/I’ll pull it out without questioning why”—“Firecracker”) to a grim embrace of doomed reality (“How’d you be over me looking in my eyes when I cum? Someone to watch me die”—“I Bet on Losing Dogs”).

3. A Tribe Called Quest, We Got It From Here… Thank You 4 Your Service
So much rested on the release of this Tribe album, in particular the legacy of one of our generation’s best bands on what would be both their return to music after a near 20-year hiatus and their last record due the death of founding member Phife Dawg earlier this year. What arrived is a document of the ever-evolving lyrical and textural skills of a group that is as relevant as they are classic. The interplay between Q-Tip and Phife remains untouched, their interlocking bars driving up the intensity from verse to verse. The less vocal MC Jarobi White drops in only sporadically but every time he raps, it’s gold. The production is advanced—split between organic sounds created in the studio and warm samples pulled from a multitude of old records and unlikely sources. What makes this album stick, though, isn’t that these guys can still rap, can still make great music and can set a tone that is utterly their own—it’s that they still have something to say. While the prevailing mood is positive (it does sound like they’re having fun) the messages remain political. Q-Tip opens up with a firm indictment of the establishment: “Put so much in this muthafucka, feel like we shouldn’t leave.” And later, his resolve caves under the weight of racism: “Cops killing us niggas everywhere/Maybe we should get some guns too?” And while Tribe wouldn’t want to leave you on a downbeat, they’ve never shied from telling it like they see it.

1 & 2. Blood Orange, Freetown Sound / Solange, A Seat at the Table
It is uncanny how artists can work in parallel formation, pulling from similar creative and spiritual cues while still crafting their own unique visions. More coincidental than planned, Solange’s A Seat at the Table works in wonderful companionship with Blood Orange’s Freetown Sound. These albums wrestle with the social and political turmoil that hasn’t so much emerged in 2016 as it has inevitably boiled over after years of tension. America’s pain and division are now public. What you could once discard as mere shadows of discontent are now in your face daily,
via your newspaper, your blogs and your Facebook feed. We are not getting along and, even worse, many of us feel woefully oppressed by the systems that govern us.

Solange Knowles’ artistic approach to the current state of life is cleaner, sharper than that of Blood Orange; she prefers studio perfection over grittiness and her music elicits a deep, pure rhythm and blues built upon exquisitely curated beats and gospel melodies. For an artist in the throes of pointing out her country’s fissures, she is in absolute control. She catalogs her own difficulties in coping with pain early on in “Cranes in the Sky”—“I tried to drink it away/I tried to put one in the air/I tried to dance it away/I tried to change it with my hair”—and that stain remains throughout, turning slowly to frustration and anger: “When you feeling all alone/And you can’t even be you up in your home” (“F.U.B.U.”)

Like Knowles, Devonte Hynes, aka Blood Orange, offers a creole of personal history and deep reflection on the current political moment. He culls sounds from various palettes—’90s R&B, early rap and ’80s new wave—ultimately constructing his own brand of soul. As important as the music is the constant stream of voices—found sound, samples from speeches—stitched between the tracks. (Knowles, too, applies this same approach, segueing between her songs with interludes from a number of people, most frequently Master P.) These voices, these critical reactions to life become part of the album’s pastiche. A woman speaks poetry at the top of Freetown Sound—“I will tell you that right now/There a million black girls just waiting/To see someone who looks like them”—and it feels like she is picking up a line right off A Seat at the Table.

Foremost it seems that both Knowles and Hynes have offered us hymns for the marginalized: for black voices, women’s voices, LGBTQ voices and everyone else at the edges of American culture. And yet these songs also seem like testaments to be absorbed and considered by the mainstream white American perspective. Both artists remind us that this country is made up of all its varied parts, that no single cultural heritage represents what America is about. You have to take all of it or none of it. And in this realization, perhaps the healing can begin.

Andre Perry lives and works in Iowa City.
Whether you’re an Iowa native or a temporary resident, winter weather is something none of us can escape. As the mercury begins to drop in the coming weeks, we can hunch down deep into our downy coats and avoid the outdoors for the next few months, or we can dig our activewear out of storage and suit up: It’s time to play!

While plenty of well-groomed trails and recreation sites exist close to home (Terry Trueblood: Love you! See you soon!), we’re getting out of Iowa City to truly embrace the cold weather by heading north. Decorah, originally settled by Norwegian immigrants, is nestled among the steep bluffs hugging the Minnesota-Iowa border. With its Nordic heritage, it’s no surprise that an abundance of winter activities exist for all activity and adventure levels.

FIELD TRIP

EMBRACE THE WINTER WEATHER IN DECORAH

Make the most of these shortened days. • BY FRANKIE SCHNECKLOTH

Whether you’re an Iowa native or a temporary resident, winter weather is something none of us can escape. As the mercury begins to drop in the coming weeks, we can hunch down deep into our downy coats and avoid the outdoors for the next few months, or we can dig our activewear out of storage and suit up: It’s time to play!

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Maybe you prefer just to appreciate winter’s beauty. Dug Road Inn makes it easy, with a cozy fireplace, inviting bathtubs and a luxurious three-course breakfast. If, after a little R&R, you decide you’re up for some activity, you’ll find skiing and hiking options right outside your door.

HIKE

Decorah boasts one of the largest ice caves in the Midwest, topping out at three acres and situated in the Barbara Barnhart Van Peenen Memorial Park. Ice caves (any natural caves with substantial amounts of perennial ice) are typically dry during the fall and very early winter months, but by January or February, expect to see ice layers forming that will become several inches thick by May and last until late August.

SNOWSHOE

If you can walk, you can snowshoe! The learning curve for snowshoeing is much less intense than other winter sports, making it the perfect introduction to winter play. Hit up any of the outdoor recreation areas in town and go for a low-impact hike on top of the snow.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI

While a small town, Decorah boasts 10 dedicated areas for ski-related recreation. Whether you’re looking for something easy and accessible as a beginner or something a little more challenging and technical, there are options for everyone. Tracked (with guides for your skis), groomed (cleared of debris and obstacles) and un-groomed trails all exist in the area and offer varying levels of difficulty.
DECOrah, IOWA
Distance from Iowa City: 133 miles
Nearby: Minnesota

Ice Skate
Visit Carl Selland Wayside Park to live out your secret Ice Capades fantasy. During warmer weather, this area sees many a basketball game, but in the colder months it’s flooded to create a skating rink complete with warming hut.

Fat Bike
Mount up on a fat bike and tackle the trails on two wheels. The tires are bigger, so they roll over obstacles more easily, and squishier, which provides extra traction. The rental bikes come equipped with bar mitts to keep your hands toasty.

All winter equipment—snowshoes, skates, skis and fat bikes—can be rented from Decorah Bicycles on a daily basis.

Frankie Schneckloth is Little Village Magazine’s unofficial winter advocate.

THE ENGLERT THEATRE

Winter 2016

NOLTE ACADEMY’S THE NUTCRACKER
12/9 - 12/11
Sponsored by Hills Bank & Trust Company

EUFORQUESTRA’S HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
12/22 | 8:00PM

ART GARFUNKEL:
IN CLOSE-UP - sold out
1/14 | 8:00PM

SCOTT BRADLEE’S POSTMODERN JUKEBOX
1/25 | 8:00PM

YMUSIC
1/28 | 8:00PM

DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS
1/29 | 7:00PM
Sponsored by Kim Schillig, Realtor and City Revealed

AN EVENING WITH DAWES
2/4 | 8:00PM
Sponsored by Kim Schillig, Realtor

THE SECOND CITY
2/10 - 2/11 | 8:00PM
Sponsored by James Investment Group of Iowa City

ENGLERT.ORG
221 East Washington Street, Iowa City
(319) 688-2653
Before Bart Simpson did it, though long after Faust, I sold my soul. This prank permanently cemented my status as a vaguely remembered factoid: “The guy who sold his soul on eBay.” I orchestrated the prank at the height of the late-1990s dot-com era, when eBay was the hot new auction website of the moment. This provided a great hook for media outlets to spread the word about the sale of my soul (soon after, other imitators also offered up their souls—and even their virginity—for sale on eBay).

But first, I’ll start from the beginning. In 1989, I was an anxious 18-year-old who was worried about compromising my principles when I graduated from high school, so I poured my angst into a piece of art called Kembrew’s Soul. It resembled a cereal box, and the silk-screened design featured my screaming face on the front.

The back sported a “find your way out of the bureaucracy” maze game and a mail-away offer for Reality Shades (“Reality Shades offer an alternative for those of us who can’t deal with modern life. Enjoy a variety of mind-numbing visuals that are created by the makers of American sitcoms”). I sold 50 boxes at $4.95 a piece—which helped me pay for my senior prom.

And improved” edition of my soul.

That version contained ten screwy slogan stickers, a certificate of ownership signed by me, a note to distributors, an advertising page and wacky plastic toys like the ones found in 25-cent vending machines. (A quote from my note to distributors: “Kembrew’s Soul is packaged in a 4 oz. glass jar and is filled with gimmicky contents sure to entertain even the most cynical member of the demographic group he is targeting.”)

I had some extra inventory left over in the late-1990s, so I decided to sell my soul on eBay. Because the press was salivating over all things Internet at the time, I knew the then-novelty of eBay would prove irresistible. I enlisted friends to bid on it, driving up the price to $666 until it finally sold for over a thousand dollars.

I ripped up the check written by the winning bidder, my friend Kennan, but several other people I did not know bid on it as well. Here’s an excerpt from an article in the Springfield Union-News (now The Republican):

In all, McLeod’s soul elicited 28 bids by 13 different bidders, starting at $15 by a T. M. McLeod. Two bidders offered $666. Jack Martin of Philadelphia said last night he bid $150 and, “to be quite honest, I’m sort of relieved I got outbid.” Martin, 32, a musician, said he usually buys records and was looking for albums by soul singer Al Green. When

I got into theological arguments with people over whether or not my soul was a renewable resource.

About four years later I updated the packaging. This time it came in a four-ounce glass jar filled with plastic toy prizes, stickers and a certificate of ownership. I made 300 bottles and sold most of them, primarily to friends and others who I accosted on the streets. Then, in 1994, I introduced the third, “new

Details magazine noted:

EBay madness has reached absurdist
Iowans. People are now putting their souls up for sale online. And getting bids on them. It’s a sad day when the Internet makes Satan obsolete.

After the story broke, I spent my days on talk radio shows—where I got into theological arguments with people over whether or not my soul was a renewable resource. When talking to reporters, I played it straight, though I also tossed out plenty of clues about my motives.

During interviews, I played a greedy capitalist who was prone to say things like, “The great thing about America is that you are rewarded for selling your soul. That’s what makes this country great. I’m sure Jesus was a free market capitalist.” Or, “I may not have a soul, but I have a new car, and I’m doing great.” It was my cheeky comment on the late-1990s era of irrational exuberance, when people were selling their souls left and right during the go-go Clinton years.

Leading up to the 2016 holiday shopping season, I realized that Kembrew’s Soul was long overdue for a reboot. The fourth edition of my soul is being merchandised as a die-cast metal keychain inside a plastic acorn vending machine capsule, offered at the low price point of $6.66! (Unlike my previous souls, this sturdy keychain is quite practical; it’s important to have a useful, functional soul.)

Kembrew’s Soul debuted locally at an art auction fundraiser for Public Space One, and is now being offered to the general public at White Rabbit—as well as, of course, on eBay. Join the hundreds who have consumed Kembrew’s Soul, which has been transforming an intangible life force into a material commodity for over a quarter century, entertaining and satisfying customers every step of the way.

Kembrew McLeod has been offering his soul for sale for 27 years, and its price has only risen from $4.95 for the 1989 version to $6.66 for the most recent edition—a fantastic deal for a soul, when adjusting for inflation. Kembrew’s Soul makes for a great stocking stuffer!
“SPARKLING, FRESH AND LIVELY.”
- Los Angeles Times

RODERS & HAMMERSTEIN’S
The Sound of Music
Book By Lindsay & Crouse
Directed by Jack O'Brien

ZONE I
$85
$51
$51
$60
$36
$36

ZONE II
TU / W / TH
$100
$60
$60
$75
$45
$45

ZONE I
F / SA (EVE)
$100
$100
$100
$75
$75
$75

ZONE II
SA (MAT) / SU (MAT)

ADULT
COLLEGE STUDENT
YOUTH

TICKETS:
ORDER ONLINE: hancher.uiowa.edu
CALL: (319) 335-1160 or 800-HANCHER
ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES: (319) 335-1158

“SPARKLING, FRESH AND LIVELY.”
- Los Angeles Times
The hills are alive! A brand new production of THE SOUND OF MUSIC, directed by three-time Tony Award® winner Jack O’Brien, is now on tour across North America. The beloved musical story of Maria and the von Trapp Family will once again thrill audiences with its Tony®, Grammy®, and Academy Award® winning Best Score, including “My Favorite Things,” “Edelweiss,” and the title song.

TICKETS:

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HERBERT A. AND JANICE A. WILSON
A-LIST: NEW YEAR’S EVE
OUT WITH THE OLD

Breathe a collective sigh of relief: This year is almost over!

BY GENEVIEVE TRAINOR

This has, for many of us, been a long, troubling, frustrating year. There’s been near-universal grief and heartache as one after another, beloved cultural icons passed away: David Bowie and Alan Rickman nearly back-to-back in January, Umberto Eco and Harper Lee in February, Phife Dawg in March, Prince in April, Morley Safer in May, Muhammad Ali in June, Elie Wiesel in July, University of Iowa alum Gene Wilder in August, Edward Albee in September, Steve Dillon in October, Leonard Cohen and Robert Vaughn and Florence Henderson and Ron Glass and Sharon Jones all just last month. Those are just a scattered sampling; they, along with countless others over the course of the year, inspired the phrase that feels like this year’s unofficial motto: the less-print-friendly version of “screw you, 2016.”

There’s been fear and dismay and anger following a deeply confusing and vitriolic presidential election cycle that exposed a dark underbelly in our country, and gave courage and voice to an element in our society that we thought we had evolved past. A spike in hate crimes, racially-charged vandalism and demands that citizens of color “go back to [their] country” have led many in our community and beyond to feel unsafe and unwelcome. Racist and neo-Nazi groups have rallied in support of president-elect Donald Trump, as he continues to name cabinet members with troubling histories and associations. It’s enough to make all of those influential deaths feel like a sort of cultural rapture—an exodus of greatness before the dark times hit. Are you depressed yet? Angry? Despairing? Good. Because I’m about to bring it back around.

It’s almost over! We’re just a few short weeks from bidding farewell to this dumpster fire of a year. Fin. Kaput. The end. Donzo. Eighty-sixed. Don’t let the door hit you on the way out, 2016. This is an ex-year. All that’s left to do is to dance on its ashes.

Which, of course, is where New Year’s Eve comes in! There are many opportunities across eastern Iowa to ring out the old, ring in the new, but I wanted to highlight some of the less conventional events—because I have a feeling that the old, conventional methods will not be sufficient to get the bad taste of this year out of our mouths. With that goal in mind, here are five spectacular ways to consider spending your Dec. 31.

**IniPi (Sweat Lodge) Ceremony**
1-5 p.m., suggested $10 offering, Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center

Prairiewoods hosts regular sweat lodge ceremonies in the Lakota tradition throughout the year, but this one at the cusp of a new year carries extra weight. “We have asked for this special iniPi ceremony on New Year’s Eve day to invite healing and humility into our new year,” program coordinator Rodney Bluml said in an email, “especially at Prairiewoods, as we strive to protect the land, and to pray good energy for the Water Protectors at Standing Rock, among other things and peoples.”

If your goal is to put the toxicity of 2016 behind you, a sweat is a great place to start. “When water, m’ni, is poured on the stones, it becomes life medicine (pejuta wiconi), drawing us back to our essence in connection with all creation,” Bluml said.

In addition to pouring water on the heated stones, the ceremony involves four rounds including singing sacred songs. A light potluck meal is shared afterward. Space is limited; you can register at www.prairiewoods.org. Full rules and instructions are available at the event’s Facebook page.

**Shakespeare Community Play Reading: Twelfth Night**
2 p.m., Free, Uptown Bill’s Coffee House

Send off a year that has seemed as farcical and ludicrous as it was depressing by joining in a reading of one of Shakespeare’s most zany comedies. *Twelfth Night* is a raucous homage to the now-classic tropes of cross-dressing and mistaken identities. Twins Viola and Sebastian are separated in a shipwreck and, as was necessary at the time...
Viola dresses as a man to make her way in the new society where she finds herself stranded. The fun of participating in these readings is that they are as storm-tossed and full of confusion as the play itself. You won’t just read one role; chances are, at one point or another, you’ll read every role. Some speeches are read in unison, others read round robin line-by-line and still others read in whatever silly accent you can muster up on a whim. No theatre experience needed—just a willingness to play!

**The Murder at the Four Deuces, by CR Mystery Dinners**

*5:30 p.m., $50, Butcher Block Steakhouse*

Prefer your theatrical action with food in hand? CR Mystery Dinners serves up a murder mystery set at the opening extravaganza of the Four Deuces speakeasy. This marks the one-year anniversary of founder Jen Walser’s first public murder mystery event; this year, they’re running two events in different rooms at Butcher Block to accommodate demand.

The ticket price includes unlimited appetizers and two drink tickets. This is an interactive, conversation-based game; attendees receive a packet with information about their character, and are encouraged to participate as little or as much as they want (up to and including dressing up as their character). Chat with the other guests to attempt to solve the murder that will happen sometime in the night. The ticket link is available via their Facebook page.

**Doug Thompson, Hypnotist**

*7 and 10 p.m., $20-22.50 and $35-37.50 respectively, Penguin’s Comedy Club*

If it feels like you just won’t be able to shake the misery of 2016 of your own volition, perhaps a hypnotist can help! Doug Thompson started studying hypnosis after several years as a stand-up comedian, as part of his quest to build a better show. He’s a fixture of the college and corporate worlds, and has toured with the likes of Pauly Shore and the Impractical Jokers. The late show on New Year’s Eve includes party favors, a midnight champagne toast and a breakfast buffet afterward. Both shows are 21+ with a two-drink minimum.

**Masquerade Party**

*9 p.m., $5-$10, The Mill*

Even though it’s really 2016 that should be hiding its face, a masquerade is a great way to reinvent yourself for the year ahead. The Mill is offering that chance! Presented by Little Village Mag, Flyover Fashion Fest and The Mill, the event features music by The Rapperchicks with DJ Johnny Sixx. The Rapperchicks include Psalm One and Angelena, familiar faces now at that venue after bringing down the house twice already this year during Mission Creek and Witching Hour. Tickets are $5 if you arrive in a mask of your own. If you arrive maskless, one will be provided, bumping your entry cost to $10.

Genevieve Trainor is a lifelong fan of rituals of re-beginning.
SPECIAL EVENT: Headroom series w/ Sky Hopinka FilmScene, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., Free

The University of Iowa Headroom Series presents the final event of its season: this series of short films by filmmaker Sky Hopinka, including 2014’s ‘wawa,’ exploring the Pacific Northwest-based Native American language chinuk wawa, and 2016’s ‘I’ll Remember You as You Were, Not as What You’ll Become,’ an elegy to Native American poet Diane Burns. Hopinka, a national of the Ho-Chunk nation, will be in attendance for a dialogue about his work. Hopinka has been awarded several recent festival prizes, including the Tom Berman Award for Most Promising Filmmaker at the 54th Ann Arbor Film Festival.

WED., DEC. 7

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Brucemore, 10 a.m., Free-$7

Art Bites: New Gallery ft. Grant Wood, Marvin Cone, and Iowa Artists, Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, 12:15 p.m., Free

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: Winter Wonderettes, Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., $30

‘Triple Espresso,’ The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., $36-46

‘Beautiful: The Carole King Musical,’ Des Moines Civic Center, 7:30 p.m., $35-85

/CRAFTY: Winter Wednesdays: KJK Jewelry Trunk Show, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 4:30 p.m., Free

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

/EDUCATION: Ink to the Natural World: An Evening of Science Readings, Museum of Natural History at UI, 5:30 p.m., Free

Reiki, Reflexology Restorative Yoga Practice Registration, Indian Creek Nature Center, 6 p.m., $30

Open Spaces: Music, Movement, and Wellness, River Music Experience, 6 p.m., $5

PluggedIn: Where the Music Community Connects, River Music Experience Redstone Room, 7 p.m., Free

/FOODIE: Copper Cane Wine Dinner, Joseph’s Steakhouse, 6:30 p.m., $95

LITERATURE: Spoken Word Night: Poetry and More, Uptown Bill’s, 7 p.m., Free

Theresa L. Geller, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

/MUSIC: Tribute, Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., $33-38

Cocoa and Carols, Old Brick, 7:30 p.m., Free

First Fleet Concerts Presents: Cody Jinks, Blue Moose Tap House, 9 p.m., $15-75

/CINEMA: Special Event: Headroom series w/ Sky Hopinka, FilmScene, 7:30 p.m., Free

Late Shift At The Grindhouse: ‘The Expendables,’ FilmScene, 10 p.m., $5

Area Events

Are you planning an event? Submit event info to calendar@littlevillagemag.com. Include event name, date, time, venue, street address, admission price and a brief description (no all-caps, exclamation points or advertising verbiage, please). To find more events, visit littlevillagemag.com/calendar.
THU., DEC. 8

/COMMUNITY: Coffee & Chat, Indian Creek Nature Center, 9 a.m., Free
BSU Holiday Extravaganza, IMU Main Lounge, 6 p.m., Free

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Brucemore, 10 a.m., Free-$7
Thursday Night Lineup: Holiday Evening Mansion Tour, Brucemore, 5:30 p.m., $10-15

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: Winter Wonderettes, Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., $30
‘Every Brilliant Thing,’ Riverside Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $18-30
‘Triple Espresso,’ The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., $36-46
‘Beautiful: The Carole King Musical,’ Des Moines Civic Center, 7:30 p.m., $35-85
‘Disney’s Beauty and the Beast,’ Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $26-40

Pro-Am Comedy Series featuring Joe Fernandez, Penguin’s Comedy Club, 8 p.m., $5

/CAB Presents: Last Comic Standing, IMU Main Lounge, 10 p.m., Free

/MUSIC: New Horizons Band, Iowa City Senior Center, 2-30 p.m., Free
The Cantafios, Cafe Paradiso, 6 p.m., Free
Trans Siberian Orchestra, iWireless Center, 7:30 p.m., $35-66

/Paper Bird w/ Dan Tedesco, River Music Experience Redstone Room, 8 p.m., $13.75-17

University of Iowa: Jazz Performance, The Mill, 8 p.m., $3-5

Glassmen w/ The Passes, Counting Trees, Gabe’s, 9 p.m., Free

/CINEMA: The Picture Show: ‘Home Alone,’ FilmScene, 3 p.m., Free-$5
Ken Burns’ ‘Prohibition: Part 2,’ Old Capitol Museum, 5:30 p.m., Free

/CRAFTY: Sewing: Crossback Apron, Home Ec. Workshop, 5:30 p.m., $35

/FOODIE: Pairings by HyVee & The Gazette, Lion Bridge Brewing Company, 6 p.m., $30

/Sports-N-Rec: Yoga By The Glass, Cedar Ridge Distillery, 6 p.m., $25
Wine & Yoga, Zen Den Yoga, 6 p.m., $25
Guided Meditation: Sliding into the Silvery Silence, Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, 6 p.m., $10

FRI., DEC. 9

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Brucemore, 10 a.m., Free-$7
Curator Guided Tour of ‘Amadeus: Costumes for the Obsessed and Vengeful,’ National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 1 p.m., $3-10
Dan Bern Legion Arts CSPS Hall, Friday, Dec. 9 and 10, 8 p.m., $16-19

Mount Vernon’s own Dan Bern settles in to CSPS Hall for a two-night stint of lyrical folk delight. The extremely prolific Bern released his 25th recording in less than 20 years, ‘Adderal Holiday,’ earlier this year. He’s been called “the voice of a new generation of folk music by NPR’s ‘All Things Considered,’” and compared to Bob Dylan and John Lennon by ‘Stereophile magazine. His specialty is in heady, thoughtful tunes with an emphasis on his observations of the world. Tickets are $16 in advance, $19 at the door.
FAMILY: Tiger Workshop: The Sky is the Limit, Indian Creek Nature Center, 6:30 p.m., $10
CRAFTY: Glass Ornaments—SOLD OUT, The Ceramics Center, 6:30 p.m., $30
THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: Perforgy, Artisan’s Sanctuary, 7 p.m., $5
‘The Nutcracker,’ The Englert Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $18-30
‘Disney’s Beauty and the Beast,’ Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $26-40
‘The Carole King Musical,’ Des Moines Civic Center, 7:30 p.m., $35-85
City Circle Acting Company Presents: ‘Fiddler On The Roof,’ Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m., $10-27
Iowa City Community Theatre Presents: ‘George Washington Slept Here,’ Johnson County Fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m., $9-17
‘Triple Espresso,’ The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., $36-46
Dreamwell Theatre Presents: ‘Dead Man’s Cell Phone,’ Public Space One, 7:30 p.m., $10-13
‘Every Brilliant Thing,’ Riverside Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $18-30
Mark Poolos featuring Joe Fernandez, Penguin’s Comedy Club, 8 p.m., $15-17.50
‘Little Women,’ Giving Tree Theater, 8 p.m., $15-30
Ralphie May’s White Trash Christmas, First Avenue Club, 8 p.m., $45
‘Strawberry Fields,’ Theatre B, UI Theatre Building, 8 p.m., Free
Best of No Shame Theatre, Theatre B, UI Theatre Building, 11 p.m., $3

SAT., DEC. 10
FAMILY: Brownies Workshop: Nature Series, Indian Creek Nature Center, 9 a.m., $10
Scouts: Junior Musician in the Making, Iowa Children’s Museum, 9:30 a.m., Free
Family Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free
ICDD Santa Saturdays, FilmScene, 11:30 a.m., Free
Reindeer Day at the Museum, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 12 p.m., Free
ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Brucemore, 10 a.m., Free-$7
CRAFTY: Ornament Personalization by Master Czech Folk Artist Marij Nejdl, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 10 a.m., Free
New Class: Swarovski Wire Earrings, Beadology Iowa, 10 a.m., $68
Downtown Holiday Market/Beadology Iowa Bazaar, Beadology Iowa, 10 a.m., Free
Knitting: Knit 101, Home Ec. Workshop, 1 p.m., $35
Children’s Knitting 101, Home Ec. Workshop, 2 p.m., $55
THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘The Elves and the Shoemaker,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 10 a.m., $10
‘The Elves and the Shoemaker,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 1 p.m., $10
‘The Nutcracker,’ Adler Theatre, 1:30 p.m., $10.50-36
‘The Nutcracker,’ The Englert Theatre, 2 p.m., $18-30
‘The Carole King Musical,’ Des Moines Civic Center, 2 & 7:30 p.m., $35-85

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AREA EVENTS

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: "Triple Espresso," The Temple Theater, 5 & 8 p.m., $36-46
Iowa City Community Theatre Presents: "George Washington Slept Here," Johnson County Fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m., $9-17
"The Nutcracker," Adler Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $10.50-36
Winter Wonderettes, Old Creamery Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $30
City Circle Acting Company Presents: "Fiddler On The Roof," Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m., $10-27
"Disney's Beauty and the Beast," Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $26-40
"Every Brilliant Thing," Riverside Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $18-30
"The Nutcracker," The Englert Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $18-30
Dreamwell Theatre Presents: "Dead Man's Cell Phone," Public Space One, 7:30 p.m., Free-$13
"Little Women," Giving free Theater, 8 p.m., $15-30
"Strawberry Fields," Theatre B, UI Theatre Building, 8 p.m., Free
Mark Poolos featuring Joe Fernandez, Penguin's Comedy Club, 8 p.m., $15-17.50
/LITERATURE: First Words, Iowa City Public Library, 10 a.m., Free
/CINEMA: The Picture Show: "Meet Me In St. Louis," FilmScene, 10 a.m., Free-$5
365 Horror Films X Factory of Fear Present: Xmas Horror Night, Rozz-Tox, 7 p.m., Free
/COMMUNITY: Bear Workshop: Fur, Feathers, and Ferns, Indian Creek Nature Center, 12 p.m., $10
/MUSIC: Community Folk Singing, Uptown Bill's, 3 p.m., Free
Bill Chrastil, Riverside Casino Show Lounge, 6 p.m., Free
Voices of Soul Gospel Concert, IMU Main Lounge, 6 p.m., Free
Spoken & Dayshell w/ 3 Pill Morning, After Within, The Most of Me, What Lies Within, Gabe's, 6 p.m., $15-18
Saturday Night Concert, Uptown Bill's, 7 p.m., Free
Graduate/Undergraduate Concert, Space Place Theater at UI, 8 p.m., $8-14
Dan Bern, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, 8 p.m., $16-19
The Maytags w/ John June Year, Blue Moose Tap House, 8 p.m., $5
Grammy Award Winner Michael Bolton: Greatest Hits and Holiday Favorites, Riverside Casino and Golf Resort, 8 p.m., $40-75
Jonas Magram's Children's Benefit Concert, Cafe Paradiso, 8 p.m., Free
Passion, Riverside Casino Show Lounge, 8:30 p.m., Free
Wanyama w/ ClusterPuck, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., $6
Bad Bad Hats w/ Flint Eastwood, The Mill, 9 p.m., $10-12
Surf Zombies, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 9 p.m., Free

SUN., DEC. 11
/CINEMA: “The Eye Opener,” FilmScene, 11 a.m., Free-$35
/Winter Wonderettes, Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., $30
/‘George Washington Slept Here,’ Iowa City Community Theatre, 2 p.m., $9-17
/‘Little Women,’ Giving Tree Theater, 2 p.m., $15-30
/‘The Nutcracker,’ The Englert Theatre, 2 p.m., $18-30
/‘Every Brilliant Thing,’ Riverside Theatre, 2 p.m., $18-30
City Circle Acting Company Presents: ‘Fiddler On The Roof,’ Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 2 p.m., $12-27
/‘Disney’s Beauty and the Beast,’ Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., $26-40
/‘Triple Espresso,’ The Temple Theater, 3 p.m., $36-46
/CRAFTY: Knitting: Daina Mittens, Home Ec. Workshop, 1 p.m., $60
/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Brucemore, 1 p.m., Free-$7
/MUSIC: Jim McDonough: Holiday Grande, Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., $29-45
/The Dawn, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 4 p.m., Free
/Newboys w/ Hawk Nelson, Ryan Stevenson, US Cellular Center, 6 p.m., $23-48
/COMMUNITY: A Candlelight Christmas, First United Methodist Church, 3 p.m., Free-$17
/FOODIE: Murder Mystery Dinner: A Christmas Gory, Cedar Ridge Distillery, 5 p.m., $58
/FAMILY: Santa, Snacks, and Stories, Brucemore, 5:30 p.m., $5-10

MON., DEC. 12
/EDUCATION: ICPL Tech Help, Iowa City Public Library, 10 a.m., Free
/FAMILY: Toddler Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free
/Story Play, Iowa City Public Library, 11:30 a.m., Free

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A Print in Process
January 6, 2017
5:00-7:00 p.m.
FilmScene, 118 E. Washington St., Iowa City
MUSHROOMHEAD, W/ FAR FROM FEARLESS AND BROTHERHOOD OF THE MUDKAT

Wednesday, Dec. 14, Gabe's, 5 p.m., $20-25  Cleveland, Ohio's Mushroomhead tears into downtown Iowa City for a Wednesday night all-ages show at Gabe's. Formed in 1993, the metal masters are known for their experimental style (incorporating electronica, industrial, hip hop and more) and their theatricality, performing a wild stage show complete with fantastically off-putting costumes and masks. Their off-the-wall antics were noticed from early on—within days of playing their first ever concert, they were opening for the similarly-performative GWAR. Cedar Rapids bands Far From Fearless and Brotherhood of the Mudkat open for Mushroomhead at Gabe's.

TUE., DEC. 13

/FAMILY: Preschool Trail Trekkers: Treats for the Animals, Indian Creek Nature Center, 10 a.m., Free

Toddler Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

Santa, Snacks and Stories, Brucemore, 5:30 p.m., $5-10

/MUSIC: The Blenders, Des Moines Civic Center, 7:30 p.m., $45

/EVENT: New Horizons Band, Iowa City Senior Center, 2:30 p.m., Free

Acoustic Music Club, River Music Experience Community Stage, 4:30 p.m., Free

Blues Jam, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 7 p.m., Free

Home Free, Adler Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $27.50-150
LITERATURE: The Violet Realm by the Iowa Writers’ House, Iowa City Public Library, Room B, 6 p.m., Free

WED., DEC. 14

EDUCATION: ICPL Tech Help, Iowa City Public Library, 10 a.m., Free
FAMILY: Preschool Trail Trekkers: Treats for the Animals, Indian Creek Nature Center, 10 a.m., Free
Preschool Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free
Story Play, Iowa City Public Library, 11:30 a.m., Free

ART-AND-EVENT: Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Brucemore, 10 a.m., Free-$7
THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: Winter Wonderettes, Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., $30
‘Triple Espresso,’ The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., $36-46

CRAFTY: Ornament Personalization by Master Czech Folk Artist Marj Nejdl, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 4:30 p.m., Free
Winter Wednesdays: Lion Bridge Brewing Company on Tap, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 4:30 p.m., Free
Sewing: The Beatrix Top, Home Ec. Workshop, 5:30 p.m., $65

MUSIC: Mushroomhead w/ Far From Fearless, Brotherhood of the Mudkat, Gabe’s, 5 p.m., $20-25
Goran Ivanovic, Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., $10
Exile Brewing Presents: Ben Miller Band w/ Cedar County Cobras, Iowa City Yacht Club, 8 p.m., $10

THU., DEC. 15

ART-AND-EVENT: Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Brucemore, 10 a.m., Free-$7
Thursday Night Lineup: Holiday Evening Mansion Tour, Brucemore, 5:30 p.m., $10-15
EDUCATION: Senior Tech Zone, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free
ScienTweens, Iowa City Public Library, 3 p.m., Free

THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: Winter Wonderettes, Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., $30
‘The Elves and the Shoemaker,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 7 p.m., $10
‘Disney’s Beauty and the Beast,’ Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $26-40
‘Triple Espresso,’ The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., $36-46
Pro-Am Comedy Series featuring Jeff Bodart, Penguin’s Comedy Club, 8 p.m., $5
I LOVE THE ‘90S TOUR US Cellular Center, Friday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m., $30-85 Feeling waves of nostalgia for the first time a Clinton ran for president? Unable to let go of your baggy overalls and your skate shoes? Well, head on down to your hairstylist and ask for the Rachel so you can arrive in style to the I Love the ‘90s tour! A who’s who of R&B pop radio from the era, this tour features Salt N Pepa, Vanilla Ice, Coolio, Tone Loc, Young MC and All-4-One. If you have a special someone who you want to dedicate “I Wanna Sex You Up” to, be sure to snag them tickets for this “Gangsta’s Paradise” before they tell you that you’re “Just a Friend”—we’re sure you’ve got enough money in your chain wallet.

FRI., DEC. 16

/MUSIC: Voices of Experience Concert, Iowa City Senior Center, 2:30 p.m., Free
Steve and Michaela McLain, Cafe Paradiso, 6 p.m., Free
Sleeping Jesus, Rocc-Tox, 8 p.m., $5-10
/CINEMA: The Picture Show: ‘Meet Me In St. Louis,’ FilmScene, 3 p.m., Free-$5
/COMMUNITY: UAY Job Shop, Iowa City Public Library, 3:30 p.m., Free
/LITERATURE: Art Lover’s Bookclub: ‘The Yellow House’ by Martin Gayford, Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, 4 p.m., Free
/CRAFTY: Makerspace Thursdays: Wonderful Weaving, Museum of Natural History at UI, 6 p.m., Free
Paint By The Glass: Santa Pants, Cedar Ridge Distillery, 6 p.m., $40

/MUSIC: Jazz After Five, The Mill, 5 p.m., Free
Friday Night Live Music w/ Billy Heller, Cedar Ridge Distillery, 6 p.m., Free
One Voice Cross Culture, iWireless Center, 7 p.m., $22-25
I Love the 90s Tour featuring Vanilla Ice, Salt N Pepa, US Cellular Center, 7 p.m., $30-85
Adam Beck, Riverside Casino Show Lounge, 7:45 p.m., Free
The Pale Moons Holiday Show, Cafe Paradiso, 8 p.m., Free
Terry McCauley, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 8 p.m., Free
Parranderos Latin Combo, River Music Experience Redstone Room, 9 p.m., $11.50

The Pale Moons Holiday Show

Cafe Paradiso

8 p.m., Free

Parranderos Latin Combo

River Music Experience

Redstone Room

9 p.m., $11.50

One Voice Cross Culture

iWireless Center

7 p.m., $22-25

I Love the 90s Tour featuring Vanilla Ice, Salt N Pepa, US Cellular Center, 7 p.m., $30-85

Adam Beck, Riverside Casino Show Lounge, 7:45 p.m., Free

The Pale Moons Holiday Show, Cafe Paradiso, 8 p.m., Free

Terry McCauley, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 8 p.m., Free

Parranderos Latin Combo, River Music Experience Redstone Room, 9 p.m., $11.50

FRI., DEC. 16

/FAMILY: Members Only Hour, Iowa Children’s Museum, 9 a.m., Free
SAT., DEC. 17

/CRAFTY: New Class: Spiral Bracelet, Beadology Iowa, 10 a.m., $68

Upcycled Gift Wrapping, Indian Creek Nature Center, 10 a.m., $5

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

Children’s Knitting 101, Home Ec. Workshop, 2 p.m., $55

/LITERATURE: First Words, Iowa City Public Library, 10 a.m., Free

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Brucemore, 10 a.m., Free-$7

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘The Elves and the Shoemaker,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., $10

Iowa Dance Theatre Presents: ‘The Nutcracker,’ Des Moines Civic Center, 2 & 7 p.m., $17.50-52.50

Combined Efforts Theatre Presents: ‘A Carol For Our Time,’ Johnson County Fairgrounds, 2 p.m., Free-$15

‘Triple Espresso,’ The Temple Theater, 5 and 8 p.m., $36-46

City Circle Acting Company Presents: ‘Fiddler On The Roof,’ Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m., $10-27

Combined Efforts Theatre Presents: ‘A Carol For Our Time,’ Johnson County Fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m., Free-$15

‘Disney’s Beauty and the Beast,’ Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $26-40

Dreamwell Theatre Presents: ‘Dead Man’s Cell Phone,’ Public Space One, 7:30 p.m., $10-13

Winter Wonderettes, Old Creamery Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $30

Pete George featuring Jeff Bodart, Penguin’s Comedy Club, 8 p.m., $15-17.50

Shane Mauss Presents: A Good Trip w/ Arish Singh, The Mill, 9 p.m., $12-15

/MUSIC: Jim McDonough, Adler Theatre, 2:30 p.m., $10-27

Night at the Children’s Museum, Iowa Children’s Museum, 6 p.m., $20

/CINEMA: Family Film: Three Nuts for Cinderella, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 2 p.m., $2-5

The Picture Show: ‘It’s A Wonderful Life,’ FilmScene, 10 a.m., Free-$5

/MUSIC: Shane Mauss, The Mill, Saturday, Dec. 17, 9 p.m., $12-15

Comedian Shane Mauss, host and creator of the “Here We Are” podcast, brings his Good Trip tour to The Mill. Sponsored by the Multidisciplinary Association of Psychedelic Studies, the tour expands on the science focus of Mauss’ podcast with an exploration of the effects of hallucinogens. Billed as “Comedy + Science + Psychedelics,” the show is part stand-up, part experience sharing, and part Ted Talk-style examination. He’s joined at The Mill by former LV staffer and local favorite Arish Singh. Tickets are $12 in advance, $15 at the door.

/FOODIE: Wings and Whiskey w/ Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery, Theatre Cedar Rapids, 5 p.m., $15

/CRAFTY: New Class: Gyrls Night Out - Diamond Shaped Earrings, Beadology Iowa, 5:30 p.m., $68
‘IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE’ FilmScene, Saturday, Dec. 17 and 24 at 10 a.m. and Thursday, Dec. 22 at 3 p.m., $5 This timeless classic has been captivating both young and old since 1946. Cinematic superstar Frank Capra directs James Stewart and Iowa native Donna Reed in this tale of regret and redemption. If you’ve ever felt like the world would be better off without you, this movie is here to bring you back to life. If you’re feeling cold and cynical about the holidays and the world, this movie is the antidote to cynicism. It restores George Bailey to childlike joy and wonder, and can do the same for you. It plays for three showings as part of FilmScene’s Picture Show, presented in conjunction with MidWestOne Bank.

MUSIC: Orchestra Iowa Presents: A Holiday Spectacular, Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., $18-54
English Country Dance, Iowa City Senior Center, 7 p.m., $3-6
One Voice Cross Culture, iWireless Center, 7 p.m., $22-25
Studio’s 12 Days of Christmas Party, Studio 13, 7 p.m., Free
Orchestra Iowa Presents: A Holiday Spectacular, Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 and 7:30 p.m., $18-54
Jody Watley and Shalamar Reloaded, Riverside Casino Show Lounge, 8 p.m., Free
Northern Parallels: D1, Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., Free
Black Christmas featuring: The Gentle, Gabe’s, 9 p.m., $6
The Hotrods, Riverside Casino Show Lounge, 9:45 p.m., Free
FOODIE: New Belgium Brewery Beer Tasting and Dessert Pairing, Theatre Cedar Rapids, 5:30 p.m., $12
Ugly Sweater Holiday Party, Cedar Ridge Distillery, 6 p.m., $40

SUN., DEC. 18
/CRAFTY: Knitting: Daina Mittens, Home Ec. Workshop, 1 p.m., $60
/ART-AND-EVENT: Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Brucemore, 1 p.m., Free-$7
/ART: Sculpture & Collage Artist—The Art of Found Objects, Iowa City Senior Center, 1 p.m., Free
Artifactory’s Life Drawing Drop-in Session, Beadology Iowa, 5 p.m., $8
/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: Iowa Dance Theatre Presents: ‘The Nutcracker,’ Des Moines Civic Center, 2 p.m., $17.50-52.50
City Circle Acting Company Presents: ‘Fiddler On The Roof,’ Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 2 p.m., $12-27
Combined Efforts Theatre Presents: ‘A Carol For Our Time,’ Johnson County Fairgrounds, 2 p.m., Free-$15
Winter Wonderettes, Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., $30
‘Disney’s Beauty and the Beast,’ Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., $26-40
‘Triple Espresso,’ The Temple Theater, 3 p.m., $36-46
Christmas Pride Bingo and Drag Show, Studio 13, 9 p.m., Free
/MUSIC: A Very Special Holiday(ish) Cabaret, Giving Tree Theater, 2 and 8 p.m., $22

MON., DEC. 19
/EDUCATION: ICPL Tech Help, Iowa City Public Library, 10 a.m., Free
/FAMILY: Toddler Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free
Story Play, Iowa City Public Library, 11:30 a.m., Free

TUE., DEC. 20
/FAMILY: Toddler Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free
/EDUCATION: ICPL Tech Help, Iowa City Public Library, 12 p.m., Free
/MUSIC: Acoustic Music Club, River Music Experience Community Stage, 4:30 p.m., Free
Blues Jam, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 7 p.m., Free

Great Blue Grass Herons and Friends Christmas Concert, Ainsworth Community Center Opera House, 2 p.m., Free
Wooden Nickel Lottery, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 4 p.m., Free
/LITERATURE: Free Generative Writing Workshop, Public Space One, 5:30 p.m., Free
/CINEMA: Arthaus Film Series: ‘La Vie de Bohème,’ Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., Free
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**IN THE PRAIRIE STYLE**

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**LITERATURE:** The Great Green Room by The Iowa Writers’ House, Iowa City Public Library, Room B, 6 p.m., Free

**CRAFTY:** Alterations: Pants, Home Ec. Workshop, 6 p.m., $30

**THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Triple Espresso, The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., $36-46

**WED., DEC. 21**

**EDUCATION:** ICPL Tech Help, Iowa City Public Library, 10 a.m., Free

**ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Brucemore, 10 a.m., Free-$7

**FAMILY:** Preschool Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

Story Play, Iowa City Public Library, 11:30 a.m., Free

**MUSIC:** Songs of the Season, Iowa City Senior Center, 2 p.m., Free

**COMMUNITY:** Winter Solstice Party, Indian Creek Nature Center, 5:30 p.m., $2-5

Iowa City Climate Advocates September Meeting, Iowa City Public Library, Room B, 7 p.m., Free

**THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Triple Espresso, The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., $36-46

Divapalooza Presents: Youth is Temporary, Diva is Forever, Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $33

**THU., DEC. 22**

**FAMILY:** Wearable Art Camp, Iowa Children’s Museum, 9 a.m., Free

Preschool Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

**ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Brucemore, 10 a.m., Free-$7

Thursday Night Lineup: Holiday Evening Mansion Tour, Brucemore, 5:30 p.m., $10-15

**EDUCATION:** Senior Tech Zone, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

**CINEMA:** The Picture Show: ‘It’s A Wonderful Life,’ FilmScene, 3 p.m., Free-$5

**MUSIC:** The Cantafios, Cafe Paradiso, 6 p.m., Free

Euforquestra’s Home for the Holidays w/ Meteorcat, The Englert Theatre, 8 p.m., $15-20

**THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Divapalooza Presents: Youth is Temporary, Diva is Forever, Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $33

‘Triple Espresso,’ The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., $36-46

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FRI., DEC. 23

/FAMILY: Members Only Hour, Iowa Children’s Museum, 9 a.m., Free
Sculpture Spectacle Camp, Iowa Children’s Museum, 9 a.m., $7-25

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Brucemore, 10 a.m., Free-$7

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: “Triple Espresso,” The Temple Theater, 2 & 7:30 p.m., $36-46

/MUSIC: Friday Night Live Music w/ Hunter Dumped Us Here, Cedar Ridge Distillery, 6 p.m., Free
Christmas Drag & Dance Friday, Studio 13, 8 p.m., Free
Jade Martin Band, Riverside Casino Show Lounge, 8:30 p.m., Free

SAT., DEC. 24

/CINEMA: The Picture Show: “It’s A Wonderful Life,” FilmScene, 10 a.m., Free-$5

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: Christmas Eve Karaoke, Studio 13, 7 p.m., Free

/MUSIC: Hold On Band, Riverside Casino Show Lounge, 8:30 p.m., Free

SUN., DEC. 25

/FOODIE: Free Christmas Dinner, Studio 13, 6 p.m., Free

MON., DEC. 26

/FAMILY: Story Play, Iowa City Public Library, 11:30 a.m., Free

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: “Triple Espresso,” The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., $36-46

TUE., DEC. 27

/FAMILY: Winter Detective Camp, Indian Creek Nature Center, 9 a.m., $150
Computing Unplugged Camp, Iowa Children’s Museum, 9 a.m., $7-25
Toddler Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

/SPORTS-N-REC: Snowshoe Rentals, Indian Creek Nature Center, 9 a.m. & 1 p.m., $5-8

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Doodlebugs: Listen To The Forest, Marion Public Library, 10:45 a.m., Free
/EDUCATION: ICPL Tech Help, Iowa City Public Library, 12 p.m., Free
Hi Topping,

There are a few ways to slice this question. Are you trying to meet a long-term partner who already enjoys pegging? Or are you trying to find hookups to practice on? Are you willing to put in the time and effort to convert your men to a life of taking it up the butt from ladies? Your strategy here will depend on your goal.

If hooking up or dating is the idea, there’s no need to hold back on your intentions. Plenty of men share this interest and you can shake the man-tree of the internet and watch the bums fall out of the sky. Tinder, Feeld (formerly 3nder), Craigslist or FetLife would all be suitable options. When meeting guys IRL, as you’ve probably been doing, it is more difficult to put things on the table up front.

Finding a seriously compatible partner who shares this interest off the bat may be a bit more challenging, so you may have to play a longer game to get exactly the kind of man, and ass, that you want. But the advice is the same for any kind of kink, or any kind of person. If you fall in with a fellow who is not immediately intrigued with the pegging thing, take it easy. Let your interest be known, and work with your lover to get to an agreement on how this will go down.

For many straight guys, conditioning is strong to divert any attention away from their ass, so learning about anal pleasure is a long, slow road—albeit one with obvious benefits for many of them. You probably won’t get many straight guys to agree outright to being pegged on the fourth date, but you’ll probably find that lots of them are willing to experiment with toys and rimming, given time and the correct circumstances. If you can get them feeling good and sexy about you touching their butt hole, in a loving and patient and lubed up finger-sized way, it’s far more likely that you’ll get to peg them proper down the road. xoxo, Kiki

Thanks, Topping Him

Shake the man-tree of the internet and watch the bums fall out of the sky.

Kiki

I am a straight, cisgender female who likes pegging men. How can I meet guys who are into it, rather than dating someone for a month only to find out their butt is off limits?

Thank you for writing to us! We hope you find the advice helpful.

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.
AREA EVENTS

SAT., DEC. 31

/FAMILY: Noon Year’s Eve, Iowa Children’s Museum, 10 a.m., Free
Family Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

/COMMUNITY: Inipi Sweat Lodge Ceremony, Prairiewood, 1 p.m., $10 suggested donation

/CRAFTY: Beads and Beer, Beadology Iowa, 10 a.m., Free

/CINEMA: The Picture Show: ‘The Secret Life of Pets,’ FilmScene, 10 a.m., Free-$5

/SPORTS-N-REC: New Year’s Eve Snowshoe Hike, Indian Creek Nature Center, 2 p.m., $5-8

/MUSIC: Cherry Gun, Riverside Casino Show Lounge, 9:30 p.m., Free
Winterland w/The Feralings, Gabe’s, 9:30 p.m., $10
‘Triple Espresso,’ The Temple Theater, 3 p.m., $36-46

CR Myster Dinners Presents: ‘The Murder at the Four Deuces,’ Butcher Block Steakhouse, 5:30 p.m., $50
Doug Thompson: Hypnotist, Penguin’s Comedy Club, 7 and 10 p.m., $20-37.50

SUN., JAN. 1

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘Triple Espresso,’ The Temple Theater, 3 p.m., $36-46

TUE., JAN. 3

/LITERATURE: The Rainbow Room by The Iowa Writers’ House, Iowa City Public Library, Room B, 6 p.m., Free

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ONGOING EVENTS

**MONDAYS**  Moeller Mondays, Daytrotter, 7 p.m. Open Mic, The Mill, Free, 8 p.m. Honeycombs of Comedy, Yacht Club, $3, 10 p.m.

**TUESDAYS**  Iowa City Farmers Market, Mercer Park, 3-6 p.m. Acoustic Music Club, River Music Experience, Free, 4:30 p.m. Tuesday Evening Jazz, Motley Cow Cafe, Free, 5:30 p.m. Karaoke Tuesdays, The Mill, Free, 10 p.m. Blues Jam, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 7 p.m. Underground Open Mic, The Yacht Club, Free, 8 p.m. Weekly Old-Timey Jam Session, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Free, 8:30 p.m. Comedy & Open Mic Night, Studio 13, Free, 9 p.m.

**WEDNESDAYS**  Music is the Word: Music on Wednesdays, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 12 p.m. Low Cost Yoga, Public Space One, $2, 5 p.m. Honest Open Mic, Lincoln Wine Bar, 6 p.m. Burlington Street Bluegrass Band, The Mill, $5, 6 p.m. (2nd & 4th Wednesdays) Open Mic Night, Penguin’s Comedy Club, Free, 6:30 p.m. Spoken Word, Uptown Bill’s, Free, 7 p.m. (1st Wednesday) Open Mic, Cafe Paradiso, Free, 8 p.m. Karaoke Wednesdays, Mondo’s Saloon, Free, 10 p.m. Open Stage, Studio 13, 10 p.m. Open Jam and Mug Night, Yacht Club, Free, 10 p.m. Late Shift at the Grindhouse, FilmScene, $4, 10 p.m.

**THURSDAYS**  I.C. Press Co-op open shop, Public Space One, Free, 4 p.m. Thursday Night Lineup: Nooks and Crannies Tour, Brucemore Mansion, $10-15, 5:30 p.m. Thursday Night Lineup: Hired Help Tour, Brucemore Mansion, $10-15, 5:30 p.m. Novel Conversations, Coralville Public Library, Free, 7 p.m. (3rd Thursday) Thursday Night Live Open Mic, Uptown Bill’s, Free, 7 p.m. Daddy-O, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 7 p.m. Live Jazz, Clinton Street Social Club, Free, 8 p.m. Karaoke Thursday, Studio 13, Free, 8 p.m. Gemini Karaoke, Blue Moose, Free, 9 p.m.

**FRIDAYS**  Music is the Word: Music on Fridays, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 12 p.m. Friday Night Out, Ceramics Center, 6:30 p.m. FAC Dance Party, The Union Bar, 7 p.m. Sasha Belle presents: Friday Drag & Dance Party, Studio 13, 8 p.m. SoulShake, Gabe’s, Free, 10 p.m.

**SATURDAYS**  Family Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10:30 a.m. I.C. Press Co-op open shop, Public Space One, Free, 12 p.m. Saturday Night Music, Uptown Bill’s, Free, 7 p.m. Elation Dance Party, Studio 13, 9 p.m.

**SUNDAYS**  Live Music, Sutliff Cider Company, 3 p.m. Pride Bingo, Studio 13, 6:30 p.m. Pub Quiz, The Mill, $1, 9 p.m.


VENUER GUIDE

Ticketing partners are eligible for half-price ads and free websites. For information, contact Tickets@LittleVillageMag.com

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Beadology Iowa 220 E Washington St, (319) 338-1566, beadologyiowa.com
Blue Moose Tap House 211 Iowa Ave, (319) 358-9206, bluemoosecom
Clinton Street Social Club 18 S Clinton St, (319) 351-1690, clintonstreetsocial.com
Engel’s 221 E Washington St, (319) 688-2653, engel.org
Filmscene 118 E College St, (319) 358-2555, filmscene.org
First Avenue Club 1550 S 1st Ave, (319) 337-5527, firstavenueclub.com
First Avenue Club 1550 S 1st Ave, (319) 3a37-5527, icfilmscene.org
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First Avenue Club 1550 S 1st Ave, (319) 3a37-5527, icfilmscene.org
Gabe’s 330 E Washington St, (319) 351-9175, icgabes.com
Iowa Artisans’ Gallery 207 E. Washington St, (319) 351-8686, iowa-artisans-gallery.com
Iowa City Community Theatre 4261 Oak Crest Hill Rd SE, (319) 351-9529, icmill.org
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Iowa City and the people here have nurtured my professional career, expanded my interests artistically and provided me with a core support network independent of my hometown circles.

But the difference in weather and humidity between here and Phoenix, Arizona could not have been starker. This was supposed to be a fresh start into a new chapter of my life, but I didn’t expect it to be tarnished by an unexpected condition, something that I hadn’t even heard of back home—Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). With a predisposition to depressive symptoms, I soon realized the move to Iowa would affect me more than a typical milestone.

College towns attract people from across the country and the world each year, offering cultural experiences and professional opportunities with fleeting impermanence and welcoming reception unlike any other space. While these areas can foster growth in students and liveliness for the families around the campus, it can be an unnerving and uncertain space to those dealing with the transitions in social and physical landscapes.

This year’s mild transition to winter has been a cause for worldwide concern ecologically and economically, but on a personal level, I can’t quell my sense of relief. The delay of bitter winds, textureless gray skies, the inevitable mountains of snow covering the muted, dead landscapes—it’s a life raft. I haven’t had a major depressive episode since the winter of 2014 but as the weather changes each year, the possibility of slipping back becomes frighteningly real.

Toward the close of fall semester that year, I was living alone, taking 21 semester hours (a mistake made in attempt to finish school in three years) and working two part-time jobs. The daily schedule usually went as follows: wake up, run to class, run to work at the restaurant, get home around 1 a.m., finish work on the literary magazine, do homework until passing out, repeat.

My partner at the time tried his best to support me and be around enough without being a burden, and for all of my attempts at reassurance, he saw our relationship becoming burdensome for us both.

Hospital notices from my therapist were piled among Christmas cards from friends and family and academic probation notices. My apartment had five windows, all with southern and eastern exposure straight into alleyways, quelling any hope of revitalizing sunshine. My potted ball cactus was sole recipient of the sunlight that broke through for an hour each morning—so long as it wasn’t overcast. Saturday and Sunday mornings were reserved for sleeping between anxiety attacks over how many responsibilities were piling up. My phone would ring constantly with texts or calls from my parents.

“You seem down.” “This seems worse than the last time.” “Do you think it would be good for you to come home?” I’d let my phone die
regularly to avoid their worry. “Hopeless” was the word I kept resting on. There was no point in answering anyone or attempting the ever-growing mountain of assignments and projects. My interactions with people felt hollow and worthless.

SAD is a mood disorder that displays many symptoms of depression and recurs at the same time each year, usually during the winter months. The levity of its acronym and its colloquial name—“the winter blues”—has given the condition a lack of gravitas among the general public. However, SAD affects 6 to 20 percent of the nation to varying degrees, primarily women and young people, and the condition can cause severe detriment to people’s relationships and decrease their quality of life.

My symptoms fit almost to a T. A cycle of lost motivation, hypersensitivity to conflict and rejection, oversleeping when I could and weight gain. Adding a history of depressive episodes and the increased access to substances in a college town, and I was set down a bad path.

Because SAD can be rooted in the effect of daylight on circadian rhythms and hormone regulation as well as cognitive perception that can be triggered by changes in the season, people with additional mental health issues such as dysthymia, Major Depressive Disorder, General Anxiety Disorder or Bipolar Disorder can become easily susceptible to SAD in cases of geographic transition and can have symptoms of their existing disorder aggravated. Treating people with compounded disorders can become complex, so seeking a mental health professional is advisable.

Generally speaking, I’m very content with my life. With my college days behind me, the world is full of promise and mobility. My family is supportive, my roommate and I have created a welcoming space, my friends form a dynamic network and my jobs are fulfilling. Logistically, there is nothing wrong about my daily life. But conditions like this don’t function in logic or awareness. It can afflict anyone.

And as the leaves turn and days grow short, the worry builds. As I write this, it has been four days since the sun has broken through the overcast. The holidays distract from the gloom and offer a manufactured warmth, but it isn’t enough to entirely stave off the dread. I’m fortunate enough to return to the desert for winter holiday—my haven where there are 350 days of sun a year and we run the air conditioner on Christmas Day so we can keep the lights lit on the tree—but not everyone affected by SAD has that.

For those who are primarily affected by the limited light exposure in the winter, there are options for special light boxes designed specifically as a therapy treatment for people affected by SAD, but access to such treatments can be difficult and it still may not work for everyone, especially those who experience SAD in the spring or summer. Studies have shown that people with SAD regulate serotonin differently than the general population, so selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) are also an option. Other possibilities without adverse side effects are cognitive behavioral therapy or testing micro-nutrients, as many individuals that suffer from SAD are deficient in Vitamin D, the “sunshine vitamin.” Some studies have shown these to be a long-term solution because it provides the patient with proactive coping strategies and overall health.

These methods can lead to comprehensive treatment after the fact. But was there a way I could have avoided the onset of these symptoms? After all, people move to different states, across time zones, and even traverse continents without incident all the time. And if this was rooted in something as organic as sunlight and hormones, was there a way I could consciously regulate this as a means of mitigating the external causes?

The functional medicine approach has offered a look at all aspects of my physical and mental health—diet, fitness, lifestyle, mental stressors—and opened the door to reclaiming my health care options. Not everything can be solved with prescription medication alone. And with functional medicine, like the services provided by EPIC Medicine Center, the goal is for optimal health and wellness for a lifetime, not just for the season. For revolutionary and optimal healing or inquiries about other physical and mental health issues, please email the EPIC professionals at info@epicfmc.com. They are eager to assist you on your path to optimal wellness.

Knowing about SAD has drastically changed my experience with the symptoms. I no longer feel like I’m being lazy, or overdramatic, or childish. Knowledge has been the first step toward managing my short-term symptoms and my mental health as a whole, and a step toward sending out more empathy to those who are struggling as well.
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW IF A NUCLEAR WAR STARTED?

With the Russians getting cocky and the Chinese itching to sow their expansionist oats, I’m starting to have The Day After dreams again. I live about two hours from a primary target; if a nuclear exchange took place one morning while I was at the office, what signs would let me know that something horrible had happened, and in what order would they take place? —Chris Blair

It would have been easy to read this question as merely a dark but diverting hypothetical until, oh, about the time the results started rolling in on election night. In January we’ll hand the nuclear codes over to a guy who’s said he’s OK with an Asian nuke race and who couldn’t explain the nuclear triad if you drew him a picture. Meanwhile his autocratic idol Vladimir Putin has just previewed a new fall line of ICBMs [intercontinental ballistic missiles] that [the Russian News Agency] TASS says can flatten Texas in record time. We can only hope some sage advisor will steer the president-elect back toward the conventional wisdom on using nuclear weaponry, namely, “Don’t.” Me, I’m already nostalgic for the days when civilization seemed less likely to end with a bang than a whimper.

But let’s press on. I take it you’re asking about the whole enchilada here: not some piddly North Korean warhead with just enough oomph to cross the Pacific, but a full-on thermonuclear conflict like Reagan used to joke about. For old times’ sake, we’ll assume our adversaries are the Russians and that their plan is, as in the ’80s, to achieve maximum devastation by detonating a one-megaton warhead about a mile and a half above the target—which (working from your two-hours figure) we’ll say is a population center a little more than 100 miles away from where you’ll be watching the show.

Taking some of the zing out of this scenario is the existence of the Wireless Emergency Alert system, which in a high-stakes situation enables the White House to send out a geographically-targeted heads-up via the cell network. Assuming the scary new Russian missiles are still trackable by radar, and that @real-DonaldTrump doesn’t tweet the news first (“BIG mistake from loser Russians. Launching nukes? Sad!”), you’d become aware of the incoming warhead when the official POTUS-issued message showed up on your phone.

So let’s further imagine you’re off the grid when the missiles are launched. If you’d gone camping for the weekend and weren’t getting any signal, how soon would you begin to suspect there might be a lot less civilization for you to eventually return to?

Well, from 110 miles out, anything less than around 8,000 feet up—i.e., about a mile and a half off the ground—would be hidden by the curvature of the earth, meaning you might or might not see a flash right at the horizon. (Ideally you wouldn’t be looking with binoculars, or your retinas could get zapped.) You’d be at the very edge of the range covered by a tech-disabling electromagnetic pulse (discussed here a few years back when EMP was the terror du jour for ninnies like Newt Gingrich); if you were in a running car, the dash lights would maybe flicker a bit. So you might have a feeling something big was going on, but you wouldn’t be able to tell just what.

The next few seconds would clear up any ambiguity. A fireball would rapidly expand to a diameter of maybe 6,000 feet, continuing to grow as it rose into the air from the point of detonation—clearly visible above the horizon, in other words. Within a minute or so, a cloud of hot gases, water vapor and atomized debris would reach a height of about four miles and begin to flatten into the characteristic mushroom shape, confronting even the most optimistic of viewers with the severity of the situation.

What would make the experience particularly eerie, though, is that none of the effects of the blast would reach you. At ground zero, the drastic change in air pressure would level buildings, and winds of hundreds of miles per hour would flay human flesh already scorched by third-degree radiation burns. But the blast wave and associated winds would peter out within 15 miles or so, sound waves would probably be damped down beyond detection en route and an aerial explosion wouldn’t trigger any kind of tremor you might feel out in your neck of the woods. The apocalypse you’d witness would be still and silent.

The big question is: What do you do next? You can’t stay out in the wild forever (depending on prevailing winds at various altitudes, fallout could be drifting your way within 16 hours in any case), and there’s no imagining the chaos that awaits you back in town. The human aftermath would likely hit your area hard, with busloads of refugees from the ruined city taxing medical and social services. And that’s not even to mention the long-term effects of radiation, or the skies darkening with soot in an early hint of the possible nuclear winter to come. Sweet dreams, Chris.

—Cecil Adams
**ASTROLOGY**

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A journalist dared composer John Cage to “summarize himself in a nutshell.” Cage said, “Get yourself out of whatever cage you find yourself in.” He might have added, “Avoid the nutshells that anyone tries to put you in.” This is always fun to attend to, of course, but I especially recommend it to you Sagittarians right now. You’re in the time of year that’s close to the moment when you first barged out of your mom’s womb, where you had been housed for months. The coming weeks will be an excellent phase to attempt a similar if somewhat less extravagant trick.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Hundreds of years ago, the Catholic Church’s observance of Lent imposed a heavy burden. During this six-week period, extending from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, believers were expected to cleanse their sins through acts of self-denial. For example, they weren’t supposed to eat meat on Fridays. Their menus could include fish, however. And this loophole was expanded even further in the 17th century when the Church redefined beavers as being fish. (They swim well, after all.) I’m in favor of you contemplating a new loophole in regard to your own self-limiting behaviors, Capricorn. Is there a taboo you observe that no longer makes perfect sense? Out of habit, do you deny yourself a pleasure or indulgence that might actually be good for you? Wrangle free of the constraints.

**Aries** (March 21-April 19): “I frequently tramped eight or 10 miles through the deepest snow,” wrote naturalist Henry David Thoreau in his book *Walden*. “There was no place to put it.” he continued. “It was so large, wild and blue that it didn’t fit anywhere. That’s why it was left in front of my window.” This passage is a lyrical approximation of what your life could be like in 2017. In other words, lavish, elemental, expansive experiences will be steadily available to you. Adventures that may have seemed impossibly big and unwieldy in the past will be just the right size. And it all begins soon.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20): “I have a deep fear of being too much,” writes poet Michelle K. “That one day I will find someone, and they will realize that I am a hurricane. That they will step back and be intimidated by my muchness.” Given the recent astrological omens, Pisces, I wouldn’t be shocked if you’ve been having similar feelings. But now here’s the good news. Given the astrological omens of the next nine months, I suspect the odds will be higher than usual that you’ll encounter brave souls who’ll be able to handle your muchness. They may or may not be soulmates or your one-and-only. I suggest you welcome them as they are, with all of their muchness. They might have added, “Avoid the nutshells that anyone tries to put you in.” This is always fun to attend to, of course, but I especially recommend it to you Sagittarians right now. You’re in the time of year that’s close to the moment when you first barged out of your mom’s womb, where you had been housed for months. The coming weeks will be an excellent phase to attempt a similar if somewhat less extravagant trick.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): “The Pacific Ocean was overflowing the borders of the map,” wrote Pablo Neruda in his poem *The Sea*. “There was no place to put it,” he continued. “It was so large, wild and blue that it didn’t fit anywhere. That’s why it was left in front of my window.” This passage is a lyrical approximation of what your life could be like in 2017. In other words, lavish, elemental, expansive experiences will be steadily available to you. Adventures that may have seemed impossibly big and unwieldy in the past will be just the right size. And it all begins soon.

**Aries** (March 21-April 19): “I frequently tramped eight or 10 miles through the deepest snow,” wrote naturalist Henry David Thoreau in Walden, “to keep an appointment with a beech-tree, or a yellow birch or an old acquaintance among the pines.” I’d love to see you summon that level of commitment to your important rendezvous in the coming weeks, Aries. Please keep in mind, though, that your “most important rendezvous” are the thrills of beginnings. Magnify your appreciation for natural wonders that you usually take for granted. Be seduced by the thrills of beginnings. Magnify your appreciation for natural wonders that you usually take for granted. Be seduced by sources that emanate light and heat. Gravitate toward what’s fresh, blossoming, just-in-its-early-stages.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20): For you Tauruses, December is “I especially recommend it to you Sagittarians right now. You’re in the time of year that’s close to the moment when you first barged out of your mom’s womb, where you had been housed for months. The coming weeks will be an excellent phase to attempt a similar if somewhat less extravagant trick.”

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20): Are your collaborative projects (including the romantic kind) evolving at a slower pace than you expected? Have they not grown as deep and strong as you’ve wished they would? If so, I hope you’ve perturbed about it. Maybe that will motivate you to stop tolerating the stagnation. Here’s my recommendation: Don’t adopt a more serious and intense attitude. Instead, get loose and frisky. Inject a dose of blithe spirits into your togetherness, maybe even some high jinks and rowdy experimentation. The cosmos has authorized you to initiate ingenious surprises.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22): I don’t recommend that you buy a cat-o’-nine-tails and whip yourself in a misguided effort to exorcize your demons. The truth is, those insidious troublemakers exult when you abuse yourself. They draw perverse sustenance from it. In fact, their strategy is to fool you into treating yourself badly. So, no. If you hope to drive away the saboteurs huddled in the sacred temple of your psyche, your best bet is to shower yourself with tender care, even luxurious blessings. The pests won’t like that, and—if you commit to this crusade for an extended time—they will eventually flee.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22): Nobel Prize-winning novelist Gabriel García Márquez loved yellow roses. He often had a fresh bloom on his writing desk as he worked, placed there every morning by his wife Mercedes Barcha. In accordance with the astrological omens, I invite you to consider initiating a comparable ritual. Is there a touch of beauty you would like to inspire you on a regular basis? Is there a poetic gesture you could faithfully perform for a person you love?

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): “For a year I watched as something entered and then left my body,” testified Jane Hirshfield in her poem “The Envoy.” What was that mysterious something? Terror or happiness? She didn’t know. Nor could she decipher “how it came in” or “how it went out.” It hovered “where words could not reach it. It slept where light could not go.” Her experience led her to conclude that “There are openings in our lives of which we know nothing.” I bring this meditation to your attention, Virgo, because I suspect you are about to tune in to a mysterious opening. But unlike Hirshfield, I think you’ll figure out what it is. And then you will respond to it with verve and intelligence.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A reporter at the magazine Vanity Fair asked David Bowie, “What do you consider your greatest achievement?” Bowie didn’t name any of his albums, videos or performances. Rather, he answered, “Discovering morning.” I suspect that you Libras will attract and generate marvels if you experiment with accomplishments like that in the coming weeks. So yes, try to discover or rediscover morning. Delve into the thrills of beginnings. Magnify your appreciation for natural wonders that you usually take for granted. Be seduced by sources that emanate light and heat. Gravitate toward what’s fresh, blossoming, just-in-its-early-stages.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): According to traditional astrology, you Scorpions are not prone to optimism. You’re more often portrayed as connoisseurs of smoldering enigmas and shadowy intrigue and deep questions. But one of the most creative and successful Scorpios of the 20th century did not completely fit this description. French artist Claude Monet was renowned for his delightful paintings of sensuous outdoor landscapes. “Every day I discover even more beautiful things,” he testified. “For a year I watched as something entered and then left my body,” testified Jane Hirshfield in her poem “The Envoy.” What was that mysterious something? Terror or happiness? She didn’t know. Nor could she decipher “how it came in” or “how it went out.” It hovered “where words could not reach it. It slept where light could not go.” Her experience led her to conclude that “There are openings in our lives of which we know nothing.” I bring this meditation to your attention, Virgo, because I suspect you are about to tune in to a mysterious opening. But unlike Hirshfield, I think you’ll figure out what it is. And then you will respond to it with verve and intelligence.
Crowes and finally minted by King of the Tramps. On the record, King of the Tramps offers anthemic songs with a mixture of swagger, attitude and honest-to-goodness road-seasoned grooves that I usually have to dig deeper in my record collection to find, and even further back in the dusty recesses of my memory.

Partridge, who also serves as the band’s lyricist, has a small-town perspective that reminds me of my own—growing up in a town with nothing much going on but drinking and raising a little hell. In his raucous tribute to this lifestyle, “Last Man Standing,” he sings “Spent half of my life in South Sac County, with that barbed wire and ditch weed all around me.”

The best way to listen to this record is by spinning the transparent vinyl version—the turntable needle tracing the spiral scratch recreates the heat of the recording sessions. The minimalist cover art looks great at 12 inches, too. It’s nice to have the lyric sheet handy while it spins. The only bummer is that the digital bonus track, “89 Cutlass”—a love song to a first car—isn’t on it.

I haven’t heard an album that so perfectly paints the pent-up frustrations of the Midwest since Mellencamp’s 1985 album Scarecrow. “I’m Iowa honest, not Iowa nice,” Partridge shouts in “Last Man Standing,” he sings “Spent half of my life in South Sac County, with that barbed wire and ditch weed all around me.”

The best way to listen to this record is by spinning the transparent vinyl version—the turntable needle tracing the spiral scratch recreates the heat of the recording sessions. The minimalist cover art looks great at 12 inches, too. It’s nice to have the lyric sheet handy while it spins. The only bummer is that the digital bonus track, “89 Cutlass”—a love song to a first car—isn’t on it.

Karen Meat’s deadpan brings to mind Sarah Vowell, if Sarah Vowell sang, and was a character in a Todd Solondz movie.

KAREN MEAT
She’s Drunk Like the Rest of Us EP
www.karenmeat.bandcamp.com/album/shes-drunk-like-the-rest-of-us

Karen Meat is a pop genius. Karen Meat sings a lot about barf. Karen Meat is not her real name—Arin Eaton is. If you peruse her music on Bandcamp, you’ll hear someone with an impeccable ear for pop music, and an appealing voice, which has a bit of Miley Cyrus’ nasal edge, the better to cut through lush keyboard & Omnichord arrangements.

She’s Drunk Like the Rest of Us is the product of her first recording sessions at Flat Black Studio, produced by Dana Telsrow. The songs are still based around programmed drums and software synths, but the album is filled out with Telsrow’s guitar & bass. “Doowop” is a full band track featuring Curt Oren on saxophone, Justin LeDuc on drums and Brendan Spengler on keyboards. The song sounds a bit like ’50s rock & roll, but updated with Eaton’s lyrical weirdness: “I’ve dismissed from my mind/What it is like to feel alive.”

Karen Meat’s deadpan brings to mind Sarah Vowell, if Sarah Vowell sang, and was a character in a Todd Solondz movie. In “Sad,” she sings, “I want to barf on you/I hate what you put me through,” which is emotionally direct and inappropriate. In “6-12-16” she sings, “I probably should seek some professional help. Instead I will medicate myself.”

I’d be worried about Eaton, but she combines an almost cinematic artifice with her surprising bluntness. Karen Meat is a character, a girl with no filters and a bit of a drinking problem, a regular Dawn Weiner. The perfectly damaged pop music of her previous releases is still present, but more fully realized in Telsrow’s ambitious production and arrangements. At the end of “Sad,” she sings, “I’ll admit I’m sad,” trailing off into rattly vocal fry. It feels like it’s over too soon and you want to hear more.

—Kent Williams

KING OF THE TRAMPS
Cumplir con el Diablo
www.kingofthetramps.com

Amidst the storm of internet reaction the day after the elections last month, I received an email from Todd Partridge, frontman for Auburn, Iowa band King of the Tramps, with the download for their latest album. He said, “It’s an apolitical protest and love record perfect for a day like today.”

Cumplir con el Diablo, which, according to the band, translates to “meet the devil,” is another collection of their aptly named “whiskey gospel”—an amalgam of blues and rock mined by Southern giants like The Allman Brothers, refined by The Black Crowes and finally minted by King of the Tramps. On the record, King of the Tramps offers anthemic songs with a mixture of swagger, attitude and honest-to-goodness road-seasoned grooves that I usually have to dig deeper in my record collection to find, and even further back in the dusty recesses of my memory.

Partridge, who also serves as the band’s lyricist, has a small-town perspective that reminds me of my own—growing up in a town with nothing much going on but drinking and raising a little hell. In his raucous tribute to this lifestyle, “Last Man Standing,” he sings “Spent half of my life in South Sac County, with that barbed wire and ditch weed all around me.”

The best way to listen to this record is by spinning the transparent vinyl version—the turntable needle tracing the spiral scratch recreates the heat of the recording sessions. The minimalist cover art looks great at 12 inches, too. It’s nice to have the lyric sheet handy while it spins. The only bummer is that the digital bonus track, “89 Cutlass”—a love song to a first car—isn’t on it.

I haven’t heard an album that so perfectly paints the pent-up frustrations of the Midwest since Mellencamp’s 1985 album Scarecrow. “I’m Iowa honest, not Iowa nice,” Partridge shouts in “Last Man Standing” and that is the overall M.O. for Cumplir con el Diablo. It’s an album that is starkly honest with no agenda other than to represent the heart and soul of small town Iowa life.

—Mike Roeder

SUBMIT ALBUMS
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**ACROSS**

1. Pencil ___
6. Really tried
13. Not sitting idle
15. Fair, e.g.
16. Get down
17. Echo an earlier vowel sound, in poetry
18. Game in which winners get less exposure
20. Tone of the Borowitz Report
22. Rural deities
23. Up in the air, briefly
26. Narrow arm
27. Mark for later
28. Like red diamonds
30. Diggs of Rent
31. Abercrombie's partner
33. Shade near jet
34. Drops, as pounds
36. De ___: A Life (2014 biography)
37. Busch Gardens setting
39. Lena who was Gary Oldman's costar in Romeo Is Bleeding
40. Through the uprights
41. Winning responses, in the 2014 Scottish independence referendum
42. Wave amplifier in physics (that preceded its rhyming cousin)
44. “Straight Outta Compton” group
45. Squawks
47. Punk
49. Speech after some pints
50. Defense gp. founded in 1949
51. Food and drink
52. “Get off my lawn” types, slangily
54. New York-to-Nova Scotia dir. (hmmm ...)

**DOWN**

1. “Big” mentors, briefly, as on campus
2. Muscle issue
3. Hunch about a castle?
4. Kelly's former cohost
5. Island metropolis of East Asia
6. Off-the-radar destination
7. So-called “evil empire”
8. Bygone muscle model
9. Rather thinly veiled term of innuendo in a Chuck Berry hit
10. Rating
11. Walking back an error
12. Little people
14. Takes the advice of a street preacher, perhaps
15. Covergirl extensions
19. Thunder home
22. Loud notation
23. Easy pace
24. Dried fruit snack
25. Classic cocktail
26. Dispatched with speed
27. Kotb of Today
28. Bygone muscle model
29. Island metropolis of East Asia
32. Walking back an error
33. Rather thinly veiled term of innuendo in a Chuck Berry hit
34. Through the uprights
35. Winning responses, in the 2014 Scottish independence referendum
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**AVCX THEMELESS #11 BY KAMERON AUSTIN COLLINS**

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

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**LV209 ANSWERS**

(missing from previous issue)

**LV210 ANSWERS**

CASED  ABCS  PSST  BALMS  AJar  MOCK  CADA  TRAP  ATTY  ACHET  MAGA  ECHAN  OCUR  TAPA  COUP  PIE  SHARPE  PEN  DUPE  OMT  OF  SIGHT  MLLE  EME  ION  SAS  AR  MELEE  ESSIE  LET  LAVOIS  JOHNS  LIVERS  MIS  LUDYLIJ  FLON  COBI  ERT  ON  PARE  ARNETT  BLESS  SCINTO  DRANO  ELF  EDDIE  EEE  WOODY  CLA  SILE  LADY  BON  JOUR  YAKS  MIR  URL  MAKES  DO  LOS  PADD  DRA  NER  PARL  ARAD  PIG  MYN  ON  OKAYS  BIT  RET  MINI  REI  EISON  BAR  SEMI  JOINE  MEDE  EYNA  NUDE  USING  ELON  INKS  ENNU  STET  SPAR  PATSY  ASTRO

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