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Iowa City Literary Figures

Tim Taranto

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Editor’s Note

We asked Tim Taranto—an artist, Iowa City resident, and Writers’ Workshop graduate—to create some sketches for us based on Iowa City literary lore. The results were fetching, and we were inspired to further celebrate our literary landscape by hosting the photography contest that led to Matthieu Biger’s shot, featured on the cover of this issue, of local used bookstore The Haunted Bookshop.

10:00 a.m.: Raymond Carver and John Cheever wait for the clerk to come open the liquor store.
Kurt Vonnegut and Andre Dubus picked up Ralph Ellison from the airport and took him straight to Dave’s Fox Head Tavern.

While living in Iowa City, Tennessee Williams waited tables at the doctors’ lounge of the University Hospital.
A devoted parishioner at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Flannery O'Connor attended daily mass.