A Level Playing Field?
The 2015 firing of field hockey coach Tracey Griesbaum could reveal a pattern of discrimination and has placed the UI at the center of a federal Title IX investigation. P.8
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THE MAN BEHIND THE ‘MYTHIC’

Phil Hester challenges the gods.

EXHUMING MCCARTNEY

Out from under his parents’ Wings.

WHERE DOES POWER ORIGINATE? Is it within us, or do we all draw from some external common source? Once we have it, how do we choose to use it?

When Muhammad Ali died earlier this month, the world was reminded of what it meant to wield power wisely. The Greatest was a professional fighter who refused to go to war. He fought with his words as often, and as successfully, as with his fists. On pg. 6, our photo editor, Adam Burke, offers up a lovely tribute to the power in Ali’s gentleness.

Also in this issue, we look on pg. 8 at the tempest that arose around the firing of a UI field hockey coach. Tracey Griesbaum’s case, and countless similar cases across the country, cause us to examine the ways that women in positions of power are treated differently from men in those same roles. And they ask us to consider whether or not those above them are using their power, or abusing it.

The story of San Francisco drag troupe the Cockette’s Lendon Sadler in this issue’s Prairie Pop (pg. 16) is a beautiful example of how the powerless can draw power and strength from unity. And, in a Colorblind Comics interview with artist and writer Phil Hester (pg. 18), we hear of the ragtag group of champions who reign in the most powerful forces in the universe from behind the scenes.

Whether you’re still discovering your power or you’ve grown accustomed to it, we encourage you to look at how you choose to wield it. What does it take to step back and use that power to raise others up? Can you be the Greatest, and still be humble in the face of your youngest fans?

—LV Editors
A boxer who refused to adopt the new name was famously taunted in the ring, “What’s my name?”

Today, when we think of Ali we remember his athletic accomplishments, his daring boxing strategies (who knew there was so much thinking in boxing?) and his political voice. In their time, Ali and figures like Martin Luther King, Jr. weren’t trusted by most whites. Ali had dodged the draft and given up his slave name to take a Muslim one, and he talked a lot of sass and bravado. He wouldn’t be called Clay by anyone. A boxer who refused to adopt the new name was famously taunted in the ring, “What’s my name?” as Ali punished his challengers. I was 10 and the few kids there at the event were running around the hotel. Word came that Ali had arrived. We cruised the hallways in search of the legendary figure. He came around a corner and I stopped dead to stare at him. With both fists up, he put one foot forward as if to spar with me. I stood in awe before the unsmiling heavyweight champion of the world and put up my little fists and took the proper stance. Would I have to spar with this 6’3” superstar in a business suit? Just as I put my fists up he took his down. Smiling, he said, “Hey, champ,” and reached out to shake my hand. Relieved not to have to go up against him, I didn’t say a word.

Later, we got his autograph (lost now) as he pestered my mom to bring him drinks (his religion forbids alcohol). After delivering two rum and cokes, she went back to the political work of standing around and talking, and, inexplicably to me, my sister and I didn’t let Ali out of our sight.

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State education officials visit ICCSD to check special ed compliance

It might seem the district is trying to kick people off their IEPs where they can, which may be some of what the GWAEA’s violations list is referring to, and they’re not exactly giving out new ones very easily from what I’ve heard, so why would their Special Ed expenses go up by half a million dollars in one year? That makes NO sense.

Also, remember they had 2-3 mass waves of para quits after deciding to have Durham lay off all their bus monitors and making the district paras ride before and after school instead. Did they have to pay the district paras any overtime? Did they include or change how they include the cost of additional paras, or ones with multiple hats like having the Special Ed paras do general, non-Special Ed specific lunchroom monitor work, or Gen Ed paras that occasionally support/partially support Special Ed kids, did they include all of those multi-hat people in the Special Ed Deficit they reported to the State to try to regain the ability to spend that amount, if approved, by including the entire salaries of any staff with mixed use efforts in that $500,000?

For them to just say they provide really good services doesn’t explain what made the deficit go up $500,000 in one year. This isn’t business as usual and I’ll be very curious to see the IDOE’s report and potential citations. —Julie VanDyke

Flood construction may mean the end for a Coralville bar, and an uncertain future for its employees

“How have I never been to this bar?!”
—Jen Volk

“Such a shame! Good food & good drinks”
—Rebecca Arnott

“Karma?” —Jennifer Babcock

“Very very sad!” —Ginny Antrim

Police: Armed Missouri man pulls out loaded magazine at Ped Mall bar, gets into scuffle with staff.

“We need to build a wall.” —Joel Adrian von Baumgärten

“But will Missouri pay for it?”
—Constantine Bristow

“#MakeIowaGreatAgain”
—Rebecca Summers Truszkowski
The story of Tracey Griesbaum, the University of Iowa field hockey coach who was fired in 2014 after a 90-day internal investigation found no policy violations, is one that can be heard across the country.

This year, at the University of Northern Florida, Mary Tappmeyer was awarded $1.25 million after winning her case against the school where she’d started coaching basketball in 1993. Women soccer players sued U.S. Soccer for equal pay. In May, the players’ union went to court and are threatening a strike ahead of the Rio Olympics. In Duluth, Minn., Shannon Miller, an ice hockey coach with five national championships, and two other coaches filed a discrimination lawsuit against the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

Griesbaum’s lawyer thinks he knows the reason for the recent wave of gender bias cases.

The official UI statement is that Griesbaum’s termination “had nothing to do with her gender.”

Newkirk said many of Griesbaum’s former and current players like her, respect her as a coach and wouldn’t say much to corroborate the complaint, but some players described a “team environment of fear and intimidation and/or mistreatment” by Griesbaum, according to investigators.

In fact, four UI players filed a 2015 complaint with the Office of Civil Rights about Title IX that supports Griesbaum’s case. Two current UI field hockey players, Chandler Ackers and Natalie Cafone, joined former players Jessy Silfer and Dani Hemeon to file a Title IX complaint alleging gender bias in the school. They listed several claims, including allegations of double standards in how coaches are evaluated and how complaints from male and female student-athletes are investigated and processed.

“There’s a complete double standard in the complaint, but some players described a ‘team environment of fear and intimidation and/or mistreatment’ by Griesbaum, according to investigators.

In 2011, for example, an extreme strength and conditioning football workout hospitalized 13 football players with exertional rhabdomyolysis, a condition that can lead to renal failure. Three years later the UI assistant coach who led the dangerous workout, Chris Doyle, was given a $99,000 raise.

Newkirk said he thinks Griesbaum’s case “will finally expose double standards that exist for female coaches around the country.” He receives frequent reports of gender bias from female college coaches around the U.S. “There is a systemic problem. Women are not permitted—across the country—to coach like men. They’re not permitted. We hold them to a double standard … We second-guess them. We undermine them. We apply double standards to them … And this case is going to expose it. It already has done a lot to expose it,” he said.

In 1971, before Title IX was passed, the percentage of women coaching women at the collegiate level was at its all-time high; 90 percent of women’s sports head coaches at colleges and universities were women.

Today, only 43 percent of women are coached by women at the college level, according to a recent 37-year study by Acosta/Carpenter on intercollegiate sports. Meanwhile, only three percent of men’s sports at the college level are being coached by women.

In 1971, women’s programs were underfunded; often, the coaches drove the bus to matches.

Coaches of women’s sports have seen increased pay and exposure, and that’s made it into a lucrative career for either sex.

Title IX guarantees equality for not only college athletes at federally-funded institutions, but any student or professor of any subject at a federally-funded institution. Disparities in sports still persist, just as they do for students and professors in STEM fields where women are also outnumbered and literally out-manned in higher education.

But some progress has been made since 1971. There are about 10,000 women’s NCAA teams today and women receive almost 43 percent of college athletic scholarships, up from near to nothing in 1970. The number of high school girls participating in sports has grown tenfold since the early 1970s to more than 3 million in 2014.

At the University of Iowa, after the departure of Women’s Athletic Director Dr. Christine Grant in 2000, the male and female...
athletic departments were joined. Hired in 1973, Grant’s program had thrived, with dozens of UI Big 10 conference championships and an expansion of women’s sports at Iowa.

In 2000, a memo written by then-president Mary Sue Coleman outlined how the school planned to maintain their commitment to women’s sports. One glaring departure from that plan is the recent creation of a new position, Deputy Director, who’s number two in charge of Iowa athletics.

If the Athletic Director (A.D.) is male, according to the memo, his number two is to be the Senior Women’s Administrator (SWA).

In 2014, Gary Barta, the A.D. at Iowa since replacing Bob Bowlsby in 2006, hired Gene Taylor, the A.D. from his alma mater, North Dakota State University (where Barta quarterbacked the Bison football team to three Div. II championships in the 1980s) into the newly-created Deputy Director role.

Taylor started work on Aug. 4, the same day Griesbaum was fired. By December, under the threat of lawsuit, Griesbaum’s partner, Jane Mayer, the UI’s SWA, was transferred out of the department to facility management. Mayer filed her lawsuit in November 2015.

Griesbaum and Mayer had reported their relationship to UI Human Resources years earlier, and it was not considered to be a hindrance to the operation of the field hockey program.

Although they had similar administrative experience, Deputy Director Taylor was hired at a salary of $245,000, nearly $72,000 more than that of Paula Jantz, who replaced Mayer as SWA. Jantz, hired at $173,154, is scheduled to retire in January of 2017.

At Iowa, the average annual salary for male head coaches is $750,180 while female head coaches make less than a third of that amount, $214,783.

Another former UI field hockey coach, Beth Beglin, now an attorney from North Liberty, has compiled a comprehensive record of questionable administrative decisions in the aftermath of Griesbaum’s dismissal.

From 2007-14, she found that “83 percent of female head coaches were fired compared with the firing of just 18 percent of male head coaches.” Iowa fired five of six women coaches who left during that time frame; one retired early. 11 men’s head coaches were lost in the same period—just two were fired, six resigned and found work elsewhere and three retired.

In 27 years under Grant’s leadership, Hawkeye women’s teams in all sports won a
total of 27 Big Ten titles. After a decade with Barta as A.D., UI women have won only four Big Ten titles and Griesbaum’s field hockey teams claim three of the four.

Under Title IX, to receive federal funding, Iowa’s ratio of men and women student-athletes must reflect the student body, so women’s sports can sometimes carry large rosters, even for sports that aren’t offered at the high school level in the state.

Coach Beglin (who was a three-time Olympian in her sport) said that the practice of keeping a large roster of female athletes to balance the large roster of football is called “roster packing.”

The largest women’s team at Iowa is also one of the cheapest to run per athlete: rowing. There are 89 rowers on the Iowa roster, making it the largest UI women’s team.

Rosters are counted at the first day of competition. Roster packing, Beglin said, is “a really common tactic for institutions to try to get around Title IX … instead of adding a women’s sport, which would add more scholarship opportunities for women, and it’s done across the country, you just basically pack a roster of a supposed members of a team in order to try to comply with Title IX.”

Newkirk said, “The rowing team is really important because … it makes it look like [UI women’s sports] have a huge roster so it covers up the participation gap between men and women.”

* * *

Coach Beglin’s predecessor, Judith Davidson, is still regarded as one of the top coaches of any sport in Iowa history, with a record of 185-50-16. Later, she was an athletic director at two other universities.

Davidson wrote about her radical coaching style of the time in an email to Little Village, and speculated that, because student athletes and their parents are different today, she wouldn’t be allowed to coach the way she did.

“One year in particular, the team was not responding to any coaching, so I made the decision to turn the practices over to the captains,” she writes.

Coaches sat on the sidelines as the players put themselves through the paces, even assigning fellow players push ups and laps for mistakes. After two days, players begged their coaches to come back.

Something worked and the Hawkeyes narrowly missed winning the national championship game that year. Two years later they beat the University of New Hampshire, 2–1, to become the first field hockey team from the midwest to win the national championship.
They remain the only UI women’s team in any sport to win a championship.

Davidson said she “was fortunate enough to coach at Iowa at the very beginning of Title IX.”

Starting in the fall of 1978, when the impact of Title IX was first being felt, in her first year as coach, the field hockey team shared uniforms with the women’s track team.

“I doubt any of the men’s teams had that pleasure,” she said.

By the second year, they had their own uniforms. Davidson noted that scholarship money that came into her program also changed recruiting; she was able to go after the best players in the country and build in earnest.

By 1982, the team went 21–2 and had a perfect conference record.

During her ten years at Iowa, Hawkeye hockey teams won five conference titles. Davidson credited Grant’s leadership as key to the women’s teams’ successes before 2000. After Iowa, Judith Davidson was an athletic director at Central Connecticut State and California State Sacramento. She was the first woman selected in a national search to be the A.D. of a joined men’s and women’s athletic program.

She said part of her thinks it was a mistake to combine Iowa’s athletic programs after Grant’s retirement, but “the practical and former A.D. side of me says that combining the programs was inevitable given the cost of intercollegiate athletics today.” She added later that she feared “the escalating cost of intercollegiate athletics is ultimately going to cause the entire enterprise to implode.”

* * *

On June 1, the Women’s Sports Foundation (WSF) released a report, “Beyond X’s and O’s: Gender Bias and Coaches of Women’s College Sports” (available in full online), that bolsters Newkirk’s case.

WSF President Deborah Slaner Larkin said her group recommends “the university itself, the president, the chancellor, the commissioners, the provost, to recognize that this is a campus-wide issue and not to separate it as being just part of athletics.”

Larkin said the fact that UI field hockey players stood up to complain about sports at Iowa was “extraordinary.”

“The risk is very great; it’s very hard for coaches to stand up … and the fear of an athlete is that she could lose her scholarship,”
she said.

“They didn’t have this problem at Iowa when Christine Grant was there,” Larkin said. UI field hockey is played at Dr. Christine H.B. Grant Field, named in 1989 and considered one of the finest facilities in the country for field hockey. Grant still lives in Iowa City but was visiting Scotland (where she was born) this summer. She said via email that she thought the situation at Iowa was “very distressing.”

“I am very concerned about the loss of so many female head coaches [at Iowa] in the last few years,” she said.

Little Village sent a version of this article to UI’s director of athletic communications Steve Roe who said, “The University is disappointed that the article focuses on the termination of a coach, which the court will evaluate, rather than on the welfare of the student athletes. The article ignores the student athletes who came forward to reveal the problems that her coaching presented and led to the investigation describing a team environment of fear, intimidation and/or mistreatment by Coach Griesbaum and students who felt pressured to play injured.”

We asked him if any other UI teams use “fear, intimidation or mistreatment” in their coaching methods or to motivate players and then we asked to confirm this with visits to practices and player interviews. We did not receive a response by press time.

As for replacing Jantz, Roe said some applicants are already inquiring about her job, “[W]e will launch a search for her replacement this summer, but we cannot limit candidates for Paula’s [primary] job to just female; the position is open to all qualified candidates ... The re-organization and structure of the Senior Staff that has been in process the past three years will remain the same.”

Once the position is filled, he said, a female member of the senior staff who meets NCAA requirements will be appointed as UI’s SWA. Roe did not respond to our question about following former UI President Coleman’s 2000 memo on the merger of the athletic departments.

Newkirk and Griesbaum will have their day in court in June 2017.

Adam Burke was a swimmer at Macalester College.
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Recently, my good friend suggested we venture away from downtown to find some good Vietnamese fare. Always the connoisseur of all cuisine, I trusted him. Sun Café didn’t disappoint.

The first thing I noticed was the display of perfectly roasted hanging ducks in the rotisserie case. Recently, there has been an explosion of good Pho in Iowa City and Coralville, but Sun Café is a cut above the rest.

Pho is truly soup for the soul. When done right, the stock should be simmered for hours or up to a day with any combination of beef cuts rich in connective tissue, marrow and tendon, and charred onion cooked down into a robust broth. While the soft rice noodle is a great stomach filler, the true magnificence of Pho is found in the spice combination that accompanies the stock: star anise, cinnamon, fennel and occasionally green cardamom, coriander and palm sugar (for those with a sweet tooth).

Being a chef in downtown Iowa City, and an avid soup lover, it is easy for me to spot when a restaurant covers up a weak stock with sugar and salt. Sun Café has no such issues. When the steaming bowls arrived, my friend couldn’t help but high five because of the rich medley of green onion, bean sprouts and cilantro that accompanied the dish, not to mention the clear, but deeply caramel-colored broth that signifies a well-simmered stock. We were also treated to shrimp spring rolls wrapped in tender rice paper that had none of the accompanying chewiness that one often finds in premade rolls.

However, what truly sets this restaurant...
apart from other Pho options in Iowa City is its menu—yes, I’ve been back several times to explore it. Sun Café’s Mi Vit Tiêm is unrivaled anywhere in the city (it’s not even attempted): a complex combination of shiitake mushrooms, roast duck, bok choy and egg noodle served with a whole duck thigh. They also offer whole hog and duck options, not to mention pork, rice and vegetable dishes for the less soup oriented. And though I haven’t gotten around to the entire menu, I intend to.

Sun Café is a half sit-down, half café-style restaurant with no frills, so don’t expect them. But if you like food for its flavor and not its appearance, then in the words of Terrance Hayes, “Never mistake what it is for what it looks like.” —Jeff Holmes

DID YOU KNOW? The 1859 conquest of Vietnam by the French was an atrocity, the effects of which were felt for over a century. However, the bánh mì, a signature Vietnamese sandwich, also reflects this collision of east and west. The sandwich combines a French baguette, mayonnaise and pâté with pickled daikon, cilantro and two kinds of Vietnamese-style pork.
Plenty of dicks have lived in Iowa City over the years, but only one Cockette. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Lendon Sadler was part of a notorious San Francisco drag troupe named the Cockettes, which filmmaker John Waters affectionately referred to as a bunch of acid freak bearded Marxist drag queens.

Since that time, Sadler has put down roots in many places—including Iowa City—though he now resides outside of Chicago, where I recently spoke with him.

Lendon Sadler was one of three African-American members of the group during the early 1970s, including the soon-to-be disco star Sylvester—who died in 1988 of AIDS, which also claimed the lives of many other Cockettes (as did drugs, cancer and suicide). Their loose membership hovered around three to four dozen, “but now you can count just barely over one hand the number of us, and Lendon is one of the few that is left,” Cockette Pam Tent told me, adding, “I adore Lendon. He is one of my favorite, favorite people.”

Sadler was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1950, and was inspired as a young teen by the peace movement and Martin Luther King, Jr., who he knew from his neighborhood. “Besides the hippies,” he told me, “the Civil Rights organizers were the most inspirational movement at the time, because they had so much energy.” He eventually ran away from home, traversing the 1960s on a long, strange bohemian trip that eventually took him to the West Coast.

“Flying into San Francisco,” he said, “for the first time in my life, I felt settled. Even before I got out the plane, just seeing the Pacific Ocean was incredible.” Sometime in the late 1960s, he met George Harris—the Cockettes’ ringleader—who had settled in a San Francisco commune, changed his name to Hibiscus, and began hanging out in the trees. Literally.

“One day I was in Golden Gate Park,” Sandler recalled, “and there was an area called Hippy Hill, and Hibiscus was in a tree and he was singing ‘Madame Butterfly’ in that high screechy falsetto he would do—and he was just so seductive.”

Tent met Hibiscus the same way. “I had been up all night on acid, and then in the morning I went to Golden Gate Park,” she said. “There is a little area and I was laying there sleeping in the ferns and I heard some people singing, ‘We’re having a heat wave, a tropical heat wave!’”

“In those days, everything was possible and everything happened. I saw these three people up in a tree, and this incredible creature was a display of golden hair and red lips, and this flowing cap—up in a limb of a tree,” Tent said. She added, “I went over there and they said, ‘Oh, come on up. Come on up.’ And so I did.” She never looked back. (The Cockettes were pansexual, featuring both male and female members doing their own gender-imploding take on drag)

“Hibiscus was a free spirit and he was all over the place,” Sadler recalled. “He would hitchhike in dresses. He had long blonde hair and a beard, and he’d wear makeup when he cared to. I mean, first of all, he freaked all the hippies out. We were obviously hippies, but..."
going to push it in your face and we demand to be ourselves’.”

The troupe regularly performed midnight shows at the Palace Theatre in North Beach, which also programmed underground movies—including early films by John Waters, which is how he entered the Cockettes’ orbit. “John Waters had just come to San Francisco for the first time and he was staying there,” Sadler said. “That began our friendship.” They were roommates for a time in San Francisco’s Mission neighborhood, and the director hipped Sadler and the rest of the Cockettes to his muse, Divine, well before he starred in the gross-out classic Pink Flamingos.

“When we heard that Divine was going to visit San Francisco,” Sadler continued, “we all got dressed up and went out to the airport. He didn’t know us from Adam, but we were wearing all this high finery and crazy drag. We went out there and turned the airport up. Of course, Divine arrived in Divine drag and we acted like kids greeting the Beatles. We were of course instant friends.”

These soul mates soon began collaborating on demented musicals at the Palace Theatre. “Journey to the Center of Uranus was the first show we did with Divine,” he recalled. “There were others, but that was the first one.” Divine was a huge hit with the Cockettes’ audience, especially during his show-stopping number, “A Crab on Uranus Means You’re Loved,” which always brought the house down.

“A lot of what we did has gone mainstream—with mainstream stars who drag now, straight stars that do drag. A lot of what was outrageous about us has been incorporated into popular culture,” Sadler said. “We took and recycled some of the basics of Hollywood and Vaudeville, and completely repackaged it and made it something else.”

“We were such a uniquely American phenomena, and that’s a crucial thing about the Cockettes. I mean, even the name, the name came from the Rockettes,” Sadler told me. “When the conversation went on about considering what we should call ourselves, the story goes that everybody was sitting around and somebody said, ‘Well, we’re like the Rockettes, except we have cocks.’”

The Cockettes were as American as apple pie—dosed with glitter and LSD. Kembrew McLeod’s is spending the month of June on a vision quest.
Phil Hester is arguably the most prominent Iowan in comics. Hester has written and drawn a wide array of titles since breaking into comics while still a student at the University of Iowa. His credits include acclaimed runs as the artist for Green Arrow with writers Kevin Smith and Brad Meltzer.

Hester’s current project is Mythic, an Image title he writes with art by John McCrea. Mythic images a world where all the mythical explanations for the operation of the universe are true. The first collected edition, which includes issues one through eight, is set for release on June 22.

“[W]e now live in a world where insurance salespeople know who Thanos is. No more pussyfooting around!”

—Phil Hester

which includes issues one through eight, is set for release on June 22.

Mythic is funny, action-packed and filled with gorgeously rendered mythological characters—some horrifying and some lovely. It’s a tale with philosophical foundation and a kinetic execution.

Tell me about the origins of Mythic. Did you and John McCrea come up with the idea and story direction together or did the idea originate with you (or him)? Mythic flips an old idea, suggesting that science—rather than religion—is an opiate for the masses. Was that the jumping off point for the whole series as you were first fleshing out the idea? I had the idea for Mythic floating around in my head for a while now. I’ve always been a fan of mythology and folklore, and after consuming a metric ton of it, I wanted to showcase my take on a few favorites. Also, I really enjoyed studying world religions and secular philosophies. I guess, in the end, I find the world as we know it to be a pretty bewildering place, but that bewilderment doesn’t have to be dispiriting. In fact, I find it kind of fun. I’m glad I’ll never really figure anything out about life. That sounds dreadful.

So, Mythic was my attempt to represent that kind of joyful cacophony of competing world views that are buzzing around us all and exempting science from that gentle chiding would be unfair. And so many fantasy books present magic as a kind of alternative avenue existing in the shadow of science, I thought it would be the ultimate “you know nothing” moment to say that science is actually the deviant avenue.

As for what kind of monsters, gods and myths wind up in the book, a lot of that is down to what John wants to draw, and who am I to argue with such results? He’s obviously got a gift for this kind of material and I’m not going to waste it.

One of the things that struck me right away is how quickly you manage to jump into the plot, using some cheeky, nigh-onto-fourth-wall-breaking exposition dialogue and an early and deep dive into the meat of the concept and plot. Did you set out to set a quick pace out of the gate, and, if so, what are the keys to pulling that off? Yeah. Comics is a weird animal in that your audience is predisposed to strangeness. Comic book readers are used to college students who can walk on walls and warrior-princesses with invisible jets, so most fantastical things are the norm to them. If you’re going to roll out something crazy, it’s best to get right to it and stop wasting your reader’s time. Also, we now live in a world where insurance salespeople know who Thanos is. No more pussyfooting around! Also, comic books both benefit and suffer from the serial format. While it’s operationally easier to tell your story in small chunks, readers tend to come and go pretty quickly between issues. Naturally, there is a huge drop off in readership between issues one and two of any series, so if you have a hook you want to land, it better be in issue one.

You, of course, have worn both the writer’s hat and the artist’s hat throughout your comics career. Which would you say comes more naturally to you? What’s different about your approach (or the collaborative process in general) when you’re writing vs. when you’re drawing? I see writing and drawing as just different points on the same continuum of storytelling. I guess it’s like a
sculptor who needs to carve out a figure from a solid block; writing is one chisel, art another, but I’m still just hewing a tale from the same block of raw imagination.

I will say that writing is certainly less physically taxing than drawing, so all my years of drawing have made me cognizant of when I’m asking a lot from my artist. I apologize to the artist in the script A LOT. I know firsthand how terrible it is to draw phone conversations or car chases. I try to reward required drudgery with show-off scenes later in the story. I’ve been there!

I was bred for comics. I always see each script I write as pictures—living on that storytelling continuum! I think in images, even when I’m hearing dialogue in my head. Sometimes I will go as far as to lay out an issue with simple drawings of each page that I will pass along to the artist as a guide, but most often I produce what looks a lot like a screenplay.

Specifically with Mythic, John and I work Marvel style, which means I hand him a plot with specific dialogue—almost like an audio play—let him lay out the actual scenes, then come back and tweak the dialogue to match the art. It’s more collaborative and more fun for John. We’re both old hands at comics, so our storytelling skills are well-oiled. Adjusting to each other’s improvisations is half the fun, like a jazz duo really clicking, I suppose.

You started working in comics while you were a student at the University of Iowa. Did your studies at the university contribute directly (or indirectly) to you work as a comics creator, either in terms of craft or in terms of themes you explore in your work? Certainly. I have a drawing BFA and, as anyone who has one knows, that means countless hours of life drawing. Comics art is mostly figure drawing, so having a ready lexicon of self-generated figure drawing at your fingertips is essential. I can thank Prof. Joe Patrick for that.

Also, I came into art school with Frank Frazetta as my favorite painter and left with Mark Rothko as my favorite. All of the stuff I was exposed to by my sculpture, printmaking, art history and multimedia profs expanded what I thought not only art could be, but comic art specifically.

I still love Jack Kirby and Frank Miller like I did when I was thirteen, but after art school I was ready to absorb all the alternative voices and techniques coming onto the comics scene.

The first arc of Mythic ends with a tidy and satisfying conclusion while also charting a path forward. Is issue nine on its way soon? What are your long term goals for the series? How much of the arc of the story do you have mapped out? Nowadays Image likes their ongoing books to come out as “seasons,” so once the trade collecting the first eight issue arc comes out, and John McCrea, our colorist Mike Spicer and letterer Willie Schubert catch their breath, we’ll get rolling on our next arc.

Issue nine will pick up where issue eight left off, with Nate now in charge of Mythic Lore Services, Inc. We’ll get to see how his mundane, human perspective both helps and hurts when it comes to running an organization dedicated to dealing with the impossible. We’ll also find out what happened to Killer of Enemies, learn the startling origin of the barely-seen Diana, join the hunt for Asha’s reincarnated spirit and see what married life is like for Waterson in Hell.

Rob Cline seeks out the good and bad across the comics landscape as the Colorblind Comics Critic.
SHEDDING LIGHT

James McCartney on the inspirational and comforting power of music.
BY CHELSEA PFEIFFER

James McCartney, although beginning his life surrounded by some of the most iconic music by virtue of familial ties, is not one to rely on this advantage. In fact, McCartney only began performing in his thirties the music he’d practiced for decades. In a deliberate shirking of what would otherwise be seen as inherited fame, he even performed for several years under a pseudonym, cutting his teeth as a thoroughly authentic artist and creator.

McCartney’s newest release, his sophomore full-length album, The Blackberry Train, was engineered by Steve Albini, whose work boasts a wide range of acclaimed punk and alternative rock musicians like Nirvana, Cheap Trick and The Pixies. In McCartney’s formative years, he lost his mother Linda to breast cancer. As he revealed in an interview in the Daily Mail in 2013, as he mourned her, he found emotional solace in music. McCartney was drawn particularly to Nirvana; in particular, he related to Kurt Cobain, and considered him a role model. Serendipitously, McCartney would go on to record with Albini on The Blackberry Train. The opportunity did not disappoint: “It was brilliant. A great experience to be working with Steve,” he told me.

Growing up, he was surrounded by music and artists in a very unique way. I asked McCartney if his perspective and relationship to music had changed since he began performing. “It changes all the time,” he replied. “That’s what makes music so beautiful and inspiring.” Listeners will occasionally hear echoes of his father’s work with the Beatles, but McCartney has built a solid foundation of indie-rock that’s at times psychedelic and at times grunge, with a clear voice, reminiscent of early power pop singers.

McCartney diverges from his father not only in musical style but in persona. Where Paul is long-known for his gregarious disposition, James is reserved and quiet, with a reputation of giving scant information on
interviews, a point that comes through in our email exchange. What details McCartney does provide show a promising and earnest young performer, who is sincere in his creative output.

One melancholic and dreamy track, “Waterfalls,” evokes the vulnerable and genuine sense that sets McCartney as an artist in his own right. At times, McCartney’s psychedelic tracks are reminiscent of the exploration of Transcendental Meditation, a practice his parents passed down to him. He told the Daily Mail that it’s integral to his identity; his daily routine includes meditation, and he has found ways to incorporate meditation in his life. Iowans may be surprised to learn this is not McCartney’s first trip to the state. In 2009 McCartney performed under the pseudonym Light at David Lynch’s Weekend for World Peace at the Maharishi Temple in Fairfield. It is no surprise his music incorporates this practice; McCartney concurs with the notion that, similar to meditation, music gives him a sort of therapeutic relief and comfort.

The Blackberry Train has a similar tone to his previous work, but with its own distinct growth, undoubtedly a result of the collaboration with Albini. “It’s all been an evolution,” McCartney notes. “This set of songs definitely has a harder edge, but it’s a continuation of the last album. The main thing for me is to not conform or compromise.”

Indeed McCartney has shown he has not compromised his creation on his unconventional route to music.

I asked McCartney what he was most looking forward to while touring the US this summer. “Stopping at some of my favorite vegan (restaurant) spots is always fun,” he replied. “I just get up on stage and play, same as I always do. It’s a great feeling to connect with the crowd, no matter what stage I am on.”

James McCartney will be performing at The Mill in Iowa City on Friday, June 24 at 8 p.m.

Chelsea Pfeiffer works as a researcher and writes in her spare time.

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.

A-List

James McCartney
The Mill

Friday, June 24, 8 p.m., $15-20

Photo by Mary McCartney

Black Mountain w/ Majeure, The Mill, 8 p.m., $15-18. Vancouver rockers Black Mountain take the stage as part of their summer tour promoting the band’s fourth studio album, ‘IV’ which dropped on April 1. Their psychedelic-tinged stoner rock has been going strong since 2005’s self-titled debut on Jagajuwar. The band’s delightfully experimental music has been heard everywhere from the ‘Spider-Man 3’ soundtrack to a J.C. Penney’s commercial to the soundtrack they wrote for the 2011 surfer documentary ‘Year Zero.’ Tickets are $15 in advance, $18 day-of-show. Majeure, a space rock project of Pittsburgh’s Anthony E. Paterra, supports.

WED., JUNE 15

/LITERATURE: UI Summer Writing Program Weekly Reading, Readology Iowa, 7:30 p.m., Free

/CRAFTY: Bobbin Lace Making Demonstration, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 11 a.m., Free

/Sewing: Lisette Dress, Home Ec. Workshop, 6 p.m., $65

/EDUCATION: Jim Leach, The Englert Theatre, 7 p.m., Free

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘Million Dollar Quartet,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., $30

/‘Oma Tales,’ Iowa Theatre Artists Company, 2:30 p.m., $5-10

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Warhol Wednesdays: Donuts & Pop-Art, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 5 p.m., $10

/NEW RELEASE FILMS: ‘Love & Friendship,’ FilmScene, 4:30 & 8 p.m., $6.50-9

/NEW RELEASE FILMS: ‘The Other Side,’ FilmScene, 6 p.m., $6.50-9

New Release Films: ‘The Lobster,’ FilmScene, 7:30 p.m., $6.50-9

Late Shift At The Grindhouse: ‘Bite Me,’ FilmScene, 10 p.m., $4

/MUSIC: The Doubleclicks, The High Ground Cafe, 7 p.m., $5-10

/Always...Patsy Cline, Ohnward Fine Arts Center, 7 p.m., $10-18

MusicIC ‘An Hommage to Haydn,’ University of Iowa Main Library, 7:30 p.m., Free

Black Mountain w/ Majeure, The Mill, 8 p.m., $15-18

Alexa Kriss w/ Justin Schneider, Gabe’s, 8 p.m., Free

T-Rextasy w/ Jailbus, Saturday Night Fever, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, 9 p.m., $5

THU., JUN. 16

/CINEMA: The Picture Show: ‘The Kid,’ FilmScene, 10 a.m., Free-$5

/New Release Films: ‘The Lobster,’ FilmScene, 1, 5:30, 8:30 p.m., $6.50-9

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New Release Films: ‘Love & Friendship,’ FilmScene, 4, 6, & 8 p.m., $6.50-9
/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘Million Dollar Quartet,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., $30
‘Oma Tales,’ Iowa Theatre Artists Company, 2:30 p.m., $5-10
RHCR Theatre Presents ‘The House Of Yes,’ Artisan’s Sanctuary, 7 p.m., $18
Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre: ‘South Pacific,’ Brucemore, 7:30 p.m., $15-25
IC Pride Week: IC King’s Pride Show, Studio 13, 9 p.m., $5
/SPORTS-N-REC: Meet Me at the Market, NewBo City Market, 5 p.m., Free
/MUSIC: Always...Patsy Cline, Ohnward Fine Arts Center, 7 p.m., $10-18
Dave Moore, Motley Cow Cafe, 7 p.m., Free
MusicIC ‘Beethoven’s Brilliance: The Difficult Resolution,’ University of Iowa Main Library, 7:30 p.m., Free
Dan DiMonte and the Bad Assettes w/ River Glen, The Mill, 9 p.m., $6
Hippo Campus w/ Oketo, Gabe’s, 9 p.m., $13-15
Medic w/ Paper Lights, Iowa City Yacht Club, 10 p.m., $10
/FOODIE: Baroncini Ristorante and Old Capitol Opera present a preview of ‘Leading Ladies,’ Baroncini Ristorante Italiano, 6 p.m., $69-85
Pooches on the Patio, Mosley’s Barbeque And Provisions, 6:30 p.m., Free
/COMMUNITY: Northwest Earth Institute: Reconnecting with Earth, Indian Creek Nature Center, 6 p.m., $50-60
IC Pride Week: LGBTQ Prom, Iowa City Senior Center, 6:30 p.m., Free

FRI., JUN. 17
/CINEMA: The Picture Show: ‘The Kid,’ FilmScene, 10 a.m., Free-$5
/CRAFTY: Gyrls Night Out: Herringbone Stitch Bracelet, Beadology Iowa, 5:30 p.m., $58
/MUSIC: Always...Patsy Cline, Ohnward Fine Arts Center, 2 p.m., $18
Uptown Friday Nights: Ty Bates, McGrath Amphitheatre, 5 p.m., $5
The Love Handles, Bobbers Grill, 6 p.m., Free
Leyla McCalla, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, 7 p.m., $16-19
MusicIC ‘Mendelssohn as Muse: A Storytelling Event,’ University of Iowa Main Library, 7:30 p.m., $12.50
Ragbirds w/ Plott Hounds, Reverb County Dusters, Natural Oil, Iowa City Yacht Club, 8:30 p.m., $10
Future Friday w/ Damn Juhl, OnO, Blue Moose Tap House, 9 p.m., Free
/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘Oma Tales,’ Iowa Theatre Artists Company, 2:30 p.m., $5-10
RHCR Theatre Presents 'The House Of Yes,' Artisan’s Sanctuary, 7 p.m., $18
Michael Palasack, Penguin’s Comedy Club, 7:30 p.m., $12-15
‘Million Dollar Quartet,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $18.50-30
Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre: ‘South Pacific,’ Brucemore, 7:30 p.m., $15-25
‘In The Heights,’ Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m., $12-27
Mendelssohn as Muse, The Englert Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $12.50
‘Pericles, Prince of Tyre,’ Riverside Theatre’s Festival Stage, 8 p.m., $17-39
‘School of Rock: The Musical,’ Giving Tree Theater, 8 p.m., $16-26
IC Pride Week: Candi Stratton & Crystal Belle, Studio 13, 10 p.m., $5

SAT., JUN. 18

/COMMUNITY: IC Pride Week: Iowa City Pride Parade and Festival, Downtown Iowa City, 12 p.m., Free
Pop Art is for Everyone: An Unofficial Museum Tour, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 1 p.m., $5-15
/CINEMA: The Picture Show: ‘The Kid,’ FilmScene, 10 a.m., Free-$5
/CRFATY: Make Glass Beads: Introduction to Lampworking, Beadology Iowa, 10 a.m., $98
Iowa City Press Co-op: Expressive Paper w/ Amy Richard, Public Space One, 10 a.m., $83
Iowa City Press Co-op: Intro to Relief Printing w/ Louise Fisher, Public Space One, 1 p.m., $48
/MUSIC: MusicIC Children’s Program ‘What Dvorak Did on His Summer Vacation,’ University of Iowa Main Library, 10:30 a.m., Free
The Bamboozlers, Bobbers Grill, 6 p.m., Free
Built to Spill w/ Troubled Hubbble, Love as Laughter--SOLD OUT, Codfish Hollow Barn, 7 p.m., $40
Irish District Music & Arts Festival Presents: Eric Gales, Downtown Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., $8-10
Harper and Midwest Kind, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, 8 p.m., $15-18
Dennis McMurrin, The Mill, 8 p.m., $7
The Boozy Movement Takes Over Free Bass, Blue Moose Tap House, 9 p.m., Free-$5
The Native w/ The Sons of Rome, The Shameless Pursuit, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9:30 p.m., $5
/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘The Emperor’s New Clothes,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 1 p.m., $10
RHCR Theatre Presents ‘The House Of Yes,’ Artisan’s Sanctuary, 2 & 7 p.m., $18
‘Oma Tales,’ Iowa Theatre Artists Company, 2:30 p.m., $5-10
‘Million Dollar Quartet,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $18.50-30
TURNIN’ UP THE HEAT

Welcome to your Fun in the Sun edition of Pro Tips, with me, Wayne Diamante! Summer is in full swing, and that means it’s time again for cookouts, park and backyard gatherings, summer camps and keepin’ cool at the swimmin’ pool. We here at Pro Tips have you covered with the information and sauces you’ll need to make sure your summer is a success.

Dear Wayne,
I’m concerned about the Zika virus. Any cautionary Pro Tips you can provide would be very helpful. —Hagar

Dear Hagar,
I’m glad you asked. The only surefire way to completely avoid the Zika virus is to move to Antarctica. Barring that, you should soak your backyard with DDT and drink as much DEET as you possibly can. A lot of “experts” will tell you to only apply it to your clothes, sparingly so, and avoid skin contact. However, my independent clinical trials show drinking it is nearly as effective as placebo, which is a word they use in science. —W

Dear Wayne,
I have a church potluck coming up and I’m new to the area, so I’d really like to make a good impression. Conversations can be a bit of a challenge for me, so I’m wondering if there are any topics or newsworthy tidbits I should brush up on? What do you think I should take to share? —Svetlana

Dear Svetlana,
I’ve got you covered on both fronts: While certain intellectual gigolos will tell you a casserole and hotdish are the same thing, don’t be fooled. Casseroles, like Mennonites, serve as the overarching genus whereas hotdishes, like the Amish, are a species within that genus. Hotdishes make use of potatoes, and casseroles use rice and other carbohydrates like noodles. Additionally, hotdishes will never include cheese as an ingredient. Here’s a handy saying to help you remember: “I love cheese; I’ll have the casserole please—but I do like rice so that hotdish looks nice, just like your mom!” ZING! You’ll be the life of the party. Take soup. —Wayne

Neighborhood Jell-O wrestling tournaments are one way you can beat the heat and have fun without breaking your pocketbook. Be careful and do a thorough clean-up when it comes to the Jell-O though; otherwise you’ll get ants. —W

Dear Gerald,
Everyone loves backyard games and friendly competitions, but you’ve got to stay cool too, right? Consider adding some water to the mix! Neighborhood Jell-O wrestling tournaments are one way you can beat the heat and have fun without breaking your

However, my independent clinical trials show drinking it is nearly as effective as placebo, which is a word they use in science. —W

Dear Gerald,
We’re heading into the summer cookout season and I’d love to hear your advice on orchestrating the perfect neighborhood get-together: Thanks! —Gerald

Dear Svetlana,
I’ve got you covered on both fronts: While certain intellectual gigolos will tell you a casserole and hotdish are the same thing, don’t be fooled. Casseroles, like Mennonites, serve as the overarching genus whereas hotdishes, like the Amish, are a species within that genus. Hotdishes make use of potatoes, and casseroles use rice and other carbohydrates like noodles. Additionally, hotdishes will never include cheese as an ingredient. Here’s a handy saying to help you remember: “I love cheese; I’ll have the casserole please—but I do like rice so that hotdish looks nice, just like your mom!” ZING! You’ll be the life of the party. Take soup. —Wayne

PRO TIPS WAYNE DIAMANTE

SUN., JUN. 19

/CRAFTY: Iowa City Press Co-op: Coptic Binding & Beyond w/ Kalmia Strong Public Space One, 10 a.m., $75
/MUSIC: Oddity w/ Arvia, Gabe’s, 9 p.m., $10
/BLUE HENRY, Parlor City Pul & Eatery, 4–8 p.m., Free
/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘Million Dollar Quartet’ Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., $30
/IC Pride Week: Miss Black & Gold USofA, Studio 13, 10 p.m., Free
/LITERATURE: Free Generative Writing Workshop, Public Space One, 5:30 p.m., Free

MON., JUN. 20

/LITERATURE: Juliet Patterson, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free
/SPORTS-N-REC: YOGA In The Gallery, Public Space One, 6 p.m., $2

TUE., JUN. 21

/LITERATURE: Iowa Writers’ House Presents: The Great Green Room, Iowa City Public Library, 6 p.m., Free
/Judy Polumbaum, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free
/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘The Emperor’s New Clothes,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 10 a.m., $10
/MUSIC: Jzac w/ Kovu, Triibe, Abarb, My Twin Sam, WallStreet, Culture Coup, Blue Moose Tap House, 5:30 p.m., $7-12
/Uptown Bill’s: Ben Cosgrove, Solo Pianist, Uptown Bill’s, 7:30 p.m., Free
WED., JUN. 22

/LITERATURE: UI Summer Writing Festival Weekly Reading, Beadology Iowa, 7 p.m., Free
Lon Lotto Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘The Emperor’s New Clothes,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 10 a.m., $10
‘Million Dollar Quartet,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., $30
‘Oma Tales,’ Iowa Theatre Artists Company, 2:30 p.m., $5-10

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Walking Tour of Historic New Bohemia, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 6 p.m., $5-7

/MUSIC: Peter Bjorn & John, The Englert Theatre, 8 p.m., $20-22
Whitewater Ramble w/ The Magpies, Flash In A Pan, Iowa City Yacht Club, 8:30 p.m., $10
Jabee w/ Jivin Scientists, Awthntkts, Gabe’s, 9 p.m., $8

/CINEMA: Late Shift At The Grindhouse: ‘Seven Dorms of Death,’ FilmScene, 10 p.m., $4

THU., JUN. 23

/CINEMA: The Picture Show: ‘The Adventures of Tintin,’ FilmScene, 10 a.m., Free-$5

/LITERATURE: Michelle Cruz Gonzalez, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘The Emperor’s New Clothes,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 10 a.m., $10
‘Million Dollar Quartet,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., $30
‘Oma Tales,’ Iowa Theatre Artists Company, 2:30 p.m., $5-10

/SPORTS-N-REC: Meet Me at the Market, NewBo City Market, 5 p.m., Free
Ride, Walk, Play CR, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 5 p.m., $3-16

/MUSIC: Ben Schmidt, Motley Cow Cafe, 7 p.m., Free
Jeremy Porter and The Tucos, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., $5

FRI., JUN. 24

/CINEMA: The Picture Show: ‘The Adventures of Tintin,’ FilmScene, 10 a.m., Free-$5

/LITERATURE: Judy Nauseef, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘Oma Tales,’ Iowa Theatre Artists Company, 2:30 p.m., $5-10
‘Million Dollar Quartet,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $18.50-30

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Make 3 Pairs of Earrings: Introduction to Wirework, Beadology Iowa, 1 p.m., $58

/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Pop Art is for Everyone: An Unofficial Museum Tour, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 11 a.m., $5-15

Wonderful Warhol Family Art Workshop: ‘Uncle Andy’s Cats,’ National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 1 p.m., Free

Bohemian Boudoir: An Unofficial Museum Tour, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 1 p.m., $5-15

/MUSIC: 4th Annual BrianFest, Downtown Pedestrian Mall, 12 p.m., Free

Don't Sleep Industries & Bonfire Present: Endless Summer, Blue Moose Tap House, 7 p.m., Free

Heartland Marimba Festival, Public Space One, 7:30 p.m., Free

Lynyrd Skynyrd, Riverside Casino and Golf Resort, 8 p.m., $35-70

Christopher the Conquered w/ Brooks Strause, The Englert Theatre, 8 p.m., $10-12

4th Annual Brian Fest, Iowa City Yacht Club, 8 p.m., $10

Ragelife Family Takes Over Free Bass, Blue Moose Tap House, 9 p.m., Free-$5

King of the Tramps w/ The Bernermann Brothers, The Mill, 9 p.m., $8

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: 'The Emperor’s New Clothes,' Old Creamery Theatre, 1 p.m., $10

Family Special: The Comedy Magic of Rick Eugene, Iowa City Public Library, 2 p.m., Free

‘Oma Tales,’ Iowa Theatre Artists Company, 2:30 p.m., $5-10

‘Million Dollar Quartet,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $18.50-30

Gayle Becwar, Penguin’s Comedy Club, 7:30 p.m., $12-15

‘Fair Maid of the West,’ Riverside Theatre’s Festival Stage, 8 p.m., $17-39

‘School of Rock: The Musical,’ Giving Tree Theater, 8 p.m., $16-26

/SUN., JUN. 26

/CRAFTY: Next Steps in Hollow Glass: Implosion Pendant, Beadology Iowa, 1 p.m., $98

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: 'Million Dollar Quartet,' Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., $30

‘School of Rock: The Musical,’ Giving Tree Theater, 2 p.m., $16-26

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘Fair Maid of the West,’ Riverside Theatre’s Festival Stage, 7 p.m., $17-39

/MUSIC: The Last Time Only, Gabe’s, 9 p.m., Free

/FAMILY: Super Hero Night, Iowa Children’s Museum, 6 p.m., Free

MON., JUN. 27

/CRAFTY: Flame II: Next Steps in Making Glass Beads, Beadology Iowa, 5:30 p.m., $98

Iowa City Press Co-op: The Public Platform—Techniques for the Street & More (A Stencil/Mural Workshop), Public Space One, 6 p.m., $40-60

/SPORTS-N-REC: YOGA In The Gallery, Public Space One, 6 p.m., $2

/MUSIC: Closet Witch w/ Obsidian Sword, Maiden Mars, In the Mouth of Radness, Public Space One, 9 p.m., $5

/FAMILY: Creek Camp 2016, Indian Creek Nature Center, All Day, Free

Preschool Trail Trekkers, Indian Creek Nature Center, All Day, Free
**AREA EVENTS**

**HISTORY ON TAP**
Turner Alley Brewing Company.
Wed., Jun. 29, 5:30 p.m., Free.
Little Bohemia Tavern, 1941
Marvin Cone

History on Tap: Strange Brew Turner Alley Brewing Company, 5:30 p.m., Free. The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library brings its History on Tap series to Turner Alley Brewing Company (2715 12th St SW, Cedar Rapids) for a look at Eastern Iowa’s earliest bars and taverns. Mark Stoffer Hunter of the History Center in Cedar Rapids leads this discussion of such classic institutions as The Foxhead, the Mandarin Inn and the Shake Your Booty Lounge. Hunter will regale the audience with stories about the favored establishments of the area’s first Czech and Slovak residents. The lecture is free; beer will be available for purchase.

**TUE., JUN. 28**

/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘The Emperor’s New Clothes,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 10 a.m., $10
‘Oma Tales,’ Iowa Theatre Artists Company, 2:30 p.m., $5-10
‘Pericles, Prince of Tyre,’ Riverside Theatre’s Festival Stage, 7 p.m., $17-39
/CRAFTY: Kitchen Creations Sewing Camp, Home Ec. Workshop, 12 p.m., $210
Iowa City Press Co-op: The Public Platform-Techniques for the Street & More (A Stencil/Mural Workshop), Public Space One, 6 p.m., $40-60
/LITERATURE: Iowa Writers’ House Presents: The Violet Realm, Iowa City Public Library, 6 p.m., Free
/MUSIC: Dave Matthews Band, iWireless Center, 8 p.m., $45-75

**WED., JUN. 29**

/CINEMA: Late Shift At The Grindhouse: ‘Uncle Sam,’ FilmScene, 10 p.m., $4
/EDUCATION: History on Tap: Strange Brew, Turner Alley Brewing Company, 5:30 p.m., Free
/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘The Emperor’s New Clothes,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 10 a.m., $10
‘Oma Tales,’ Iowa Theatre Artists Company, 2:30 p.m., $5-10
‘Pericles, Prince of Tyre,’ Riverside Theatre’s Festival Stage, 8 p.m., $17-39
/CRAFTY: Iowa City Press Co-op: The Public Platform-Techniques for the Street & More (A Stencil/Mural Workshop), Public Space One, 6 p.m., $40-60
/DORA MALECH, Karim Alrawi & Alisa Ganieva, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free
/MUSIC: Sinkane, The Mill, 9 p.m., $10-12

**THU., JUN. 30**

/CINEMA: The Picture Show: ‘Sita Sings The Blues,’ FilmScene, 10 a.m., Free-$5
/EDUCATION: 50 Years of ‘Star Trek’ Guided Tour, University of Iowa Main Library, 6 p.m., Free
/NORTHWEST EARTH INSTITUTE: Reconnecting with Earth, Indian Creek Nature Center, 6 p.m., $50-60
/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘The Emperor’s New Clothes,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 10 a.m., $10
Stage on the Page, Coralville Public Library, 10 a.m., Free
‘I’ll Eat You Last: A Chat with Sue Mengers,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., $30
‘Oma Tales,’ Iowa Theatre Artists Company, 2:30 p.m., $5-10
‘Fair Maid of the West,’ Riverside Theatre’s Festival Stage, 8 p.m., $17-39
/CRAFTY: Iowa City Press Co-op: The Public Platform-Techniques for the Street & More (A Stencil/Mural Workshop), Public Space One, 6 p.m., $40-60
Dora Malech, Karim Alrawi & Alisa Ganieva, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free
/MUSIC: Uptown Bill’s Live featuring Matthew Frantz, Uptown Bill’s, 7 p.m., Free
The Jumbies, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., $5

**FRI., JUL. 1**

/CINEMA: The Picture Show: ‘Sita Sings The Blues,’ FilmScene, 10 a.m., Free-$5
/ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Jump for Freedom-Dock Dogs, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 9 a.m., Free

28 JUNE 15 – JULY 5, 2016 LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM/LV201
EDITORS’ PICKS

THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘Oma Tales,’ Iowa Theatre Artists Company, 2:30 p.m., $5-10
‘Green Day’s American Idiot,’ Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $26-36
‘I’ll Eat You Last: A Chat with Sue Mengers,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $30
‘Pericles, Prince of Tyre,’ Riverside Theatre’s Festival Stage, 8 p.m., $17-39
‘School of Rock: The Musical,’ Giving Tree Theater, 8 p.m., $16-26

CRAFTY: Kitchen Creations Sewing Camp, Home Ec. Workshop, 12 p.m., $210

MUSIC: TWINS w/ Midnight Reruns, Volcano Boys, The Mill, 9 p.m., $8
Future Friday w/ Dan Juhl, OnO, Blue Moose Tap House, 9 p.m., Free

SAT., JUL. 2

ART-AND-CRAFT: Jump for Freedom-Dock Dogs, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 9 a.m., Free
CINEMA: The Picture Show: ‘Sita Sings The Blues,’ FilmScene, 10 a.m., Free-$5

THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘The Emperor’s New Clothes,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 1 p.m., $10
‘I’ll Eat You Last: A Chat with Sue Mengers,’ Old Creamery Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $30
‘Green Day’s American Idiot,’ Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., $26-36
‘School of Rock: The Musical,’ Giving Tree Theater, 8 p.m., $16-26

MUSIC: Saturday Night Concert: 15th Anniversary Celebration, Uptown Bill’s, 7 p.m., $5-10
Matt the Electrician w/ Ryanhood, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, 8 p.m., $15-18
Indigo Girls--SOLD OUT, The Englert Theatre, 8 p.m., $42
Brian Johanneson, The Mill, 8 p.m., $7

SUN., JUL. 3

ART-AND-CRAFT: Jump for Freedom-Dock Dogs, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 9 a.m., Free
CINEMA: The Picture Show: ‘Sita Sings The Blues,’ FilmScene, 10 a.m., Free-$5
THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE: ‘School of Rock: The Musical,’ Giving Tree Theater, 2 p.m., $16-26

MUSIC: 2 Buck Chuck, Bobbers Grill, 6 p.m., Free
Music at the Museum: Bob Dorr and the Blue Band, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 6 p.m., Free

MON., JUL. 4

MUSIC: KT Tunstall w/ The Kickback, Lawrence, Graveyard Club, Codfish Hollow Barn, 5 p.m., $35
SPORTS-N-REC: YOGA In The Gallery, Public Space One, 6 p.m., $2 Free

TUE., JUL. 5

CRAFTY: Iowa City Press Co-op: Drawing Experiments, Public Space One, 6:30 p.m., $20-35

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**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**

Iowa City Farmers Market, Chauncey Swan Ramp, 5-7 p.m. 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 Wire 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**

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

**Sundays**

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


/\ART-AND-EXHIBITION: Jen P. Harris: ‘Ghost Prairie,’ Legion Arts CSPS Hall (through Jul. 3), Tori Lawrence: ‘Man and Woman with Plants,’ Legion Arts CSPS Hall (through Jul. 3), Katy Collier; ‘Sampler,’ Legion Arts CSPS Hall (through Jul. 3), Postcards at an Exhibition, Iowa Artisan’s Gallery, $25 (Jun. 3-17), 50 Years of Star Trek, University of Iowa Main Library (through Aug. 5)

**Youth Camps**

**MON., JUNE 20–FRI., JUNE 24**

Writing Gone Wild IYWP Workshop, Public Space One, 9 a.m., Free Little Big Kid Fiber Arts Camp, Home Ec. Workshop, 9 a.m., $130 Camp Creamery: ‘Lights, Hollywood, Action!’ Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 9:30 a.m., $100-124 Mixed Media Drawing and Painting Camp w/ Codi Josephson, Home Ec. Workshop, 1 p.m., $185 An Adventure In Writing: Using History’s Mysteries to Inspire Fiction, Iowa Writers’ House, 2 p.m., $215

**MON., JUNE 27-FRI., JULY 1**

Animation Summer Camp, FilmScene, 8:30 a.m., $350 Superhero Gear Public Space One, 9 a.m., Free Camp Creamery: ‘Lights, Hollywood, Action!’ Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 9:30 a.m., $100-124 Kitchen Creations Sewing Camp, Home Ec. Workshop, 12 p.m., $210

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Clinton Street Social Club 18 S Clinton St, (319) 351-1690, clintonstreetsocial.com
Engelrt Theatre 221 E Washington St, (319) 688-2653, englert.org
FilmScene 118 E College St, (319) 358-2555, icfilmscene.org
First Avenue Club, 1550 S 1st Ave, (319) 3a37-5527, firstavenueclub.com
Gabe’s 330 E Washington St, (319) 351-9175, icgabes.com
Iowa Artisans’ Gallery 207 E Washington St, (319) 351-8868, iowa-artisans-gallery.com
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Iowa City Senior Center 28 S Linn St, (319) 356-5220, icgov.org
Iowa City Yacht Club 13 S Linn St, (319) 337-6646, iowacityyachtclub.com
Iowa Memorial Union 125 N Madison St, (319) 335-3041, umi.uiowa.edu
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Riverside Theatre 213 N. Gilbert Street, Iowa City riversidetheatre.org
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University of Iowa Museum of Art 1375 Iowa 1, (319) 335-1727, uima.uiowa.edu
University of Iowa Museum of Natural History 17 N Clinton St, (319) 335-0480, iow.edu/mnh
Uptown Bill’s 730 S Dubuque St, (319) 339-0804, uptownbill’s.org

CEDAR RAPIDS/MARION
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Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, 410 Third Avenue SE, (319) 366-7503, crma.org
Cedar River Landing, 301 F Ave NW, Cedar Rapids, IA, (319) 364-1854, cedar-river-landing.com
Cocktails and Company, 1625 Blairs Ferry Rd, Marion, IA, (319) 377-1140, cocktails-company.com
Giving Tree Theatre, 752 10th St, Marion, IA, (319) 213-7956, givingtreetheater.org
Hawkeye Downs Speedway and Fairgrounds 4400 6th St SW, (319) 364-8566, hawkeyedowns.com
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Lion Bridge Brewing Company, 59 16th Ave SW, (319) 200-4460, lionbridgebrewing.com
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National Czech and Slovak Museum 1400 Inspiration Place SW, ncsmi.org
Newbo City Market 1600 1st Ave SE, (319) 296-4050, newbohistory.org
Noon Concert Cafe 119 Third Ave SE, (319) 366-8203, orchestraiowa.org
Paramount Theatre 123 3rd Ave SE, (319) 398-5211, paramounttheatreiv.com
Parlor City Pub & Eatery 1125 3rd St SE, (319) 247-0000, parlorcitypub.com
Penguin’s Comedy Club 208 2nd Ave SE, (319) 362-8133, penguincomedyclub.com
Q Dogs BBQ 895 Blairs Ferry Rd, Marion, IA, (319) 826-6667, qdogsbbq.com
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Tailgaters 3969 Center Point Rd NE, (319) 393-6621, tailgatorslive.com
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Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 1900 Country Club Dr, (319) 248-9370, coralvillearts.org
Coralville Public Library 1401 5th St, (319) 248-1850, coralvilleepubliclibrary.org
Coralville Recreation Center 1506 8th St, (319) 248-1750, coralville.org
Iowa Children’s Museum 1451 Coral Ridge Ave, (319) 625-6255, theicm.org
Luxe Interiors 920 E 2nd Ave suite 110, (319) 354-9000, luxeinteriors.com
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NORTH LIBERTY
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AMANNA
Iowa Theatre Artists Company, 4709 220th Trail, Amana, (319) 622-3222, iowatheatreartists.org
Old Creamery Theatre, 38th Ave, Amana, (319) 622-6262, oldcreamery.com

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Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse 1828 3rd Ave, Rock Island, (309) 786-7733, circa21.com
Figge Art Museum 225 W 2nd St, Davenport, (563) 326-7804, figgeartmuseum.org
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WHO’S A GOOD BOY?
Life is good now for British men who identify as dogs and puppies, as evidenced by a BBC documentary (“Secret Life of the Human Pups”) showing men in body outfits (one a Lycra-suited Dalmatian, “Spot”), exhibiting sexual expressions (stomach-rubbing, ear-tickling and nuzzling their handlers), eating out of bowls, gnawing on chew toys, wearing collars and jumping in the air for treats. (However, decency demands that a Pup must only feign urinating against a lamp-post.) Said Spot (aka Tom), “It’s about being given license to behave in a way that feels natural, even primal.” Added “Bootbrush,” “(We) are trying to grasp the positive elements of the archetype of the dog.”

NEW WORLD ORDER
• As an alternative to the more costly in vitro fertilization, researchers at a Dresden, Germany, institute announced (in the recent Nano Letters journal) that they had developed a motorized device tiny enough to fit around a sperm’s tail and which could be commanded to propel it to “swim” faster toward the target egg, increasing the chances of fertilization. A prototype is still in the works.
• The Internet pornography behemoth Pornhub recently added to the glut of physical fitness “apps” with one designed to help users tone up sexual muscles. The BangFit’s routines include the “squat and thrust,” the “missionary press,” and other ways to practice what the company describes as the “one activity people are always motivated to do and (for) which they are never too busy.” (Imagine, for example, wrote Mashable.com, “quantify(ing) your dry humps.”)

THE CONTINUING CRISIS
As Libya’s central bank struggles to stabilize a halting economy, it could surely use the estimated $184 million in gold and silver coins that Moammar Gadhafi minted but left buried in an underground vault in the coastal city of Beyda, but the treasure is inaccessible because central bank officials don’t know the lock’s combination (as The Wall Street Journal reported in May). The latest plan is to have a locksmith squeeze through a 16-by-16-inch hole in the outer vault’s concrete wall and once inside to try his hand. If unsuccessful, the government’s bureaucrats likely cannot get paid, but even if successful, various anti-government factions may go to extremes to snatch the coins.

BRIGHT IDEAS
Argentina’s TV channels have many of the same taboos as U.S. broadcasting, including restrictions on women’s hands-on demonstration of how precisely to examine themselves for breast cancer. However, as AdWeek reported in March, the agency David Buenos Aires apparently solved the problem with an explicit TV public service announcement featuring a model (facing the camera, topless) showing exactly how such an exam should go, e.g., where to press down, where to squeeze. The secret? The model was an overweight man with generous-sized “man-boobs.”

WAIT, WHAT?
• Video surfaced in May of students at Winston Churchill High School in San Antonio, Texas, actually playing jump rope with the intestines of cats that had been dissected in biology class. Obviously, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals was not pleased, but school district officials called the exercise a valid demonstration of the “tensile strength of the organ” and only reluctantly agreed to investigate further.
• When Triston Chase, 20, missed his court date in April in Harnett County, North Carolina, on financial fraud charges, it was revealed that his arrest in December had come when he had been found “residing” illegally, as a civilian, in a barracks at Fort Bragg—in a facility housing the Army’s 3rd Special Forces Group. According to a prosecutor, Chase had been posing as an explosive ordnance disposal specialist “for months.” The official investigation of Special Forces’ barracks “security” was still underway at the time of Chase’s court date.

EVERYONE DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE
(1) Efrain Delgado-Rosales was sentenced to five years in prison in March for smuggling noncitizens into the country. (The Border Patrol had caught him 23 times previously, but had declined to file charges.) (2) Sean Pefrey, 38, told his judge in May that the two assault charges against him in Framingham, Massachusetts, do not make him a “threat to society,” even though the current arrest was his 38th. (3) Matthew Freeland, 29, was convicted of several home-invasion offenses in Kingston, Ontario, in May, and the judge, considering a proper sentence, found only two previous probation orders—but then, looking further, found 59 convictions and sentenced Freeland to more than two years in prison.

ANIMALS
Among the critics for which life is most difficult are male nursery web spiders that (according to May research in Biology Letters journal) instinctively “court” females with food wrapped in silk—offers that (a) increase the males’ chances of scoring and (b) decrease, by 84 percent, their chances that the female will spontaneously eat the male. The study also found that males sometimes try to mate using nonfood items wrapped in silk (with mixed results) and also that sometimes unscrupulous females accept food gifts but nevertheless immediately devour the male.

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS
South Carolina Chutzpah! (1) James Kinley III, 27, was charged in York County, South Carolina, in May with dealing marijuana. He apparently had the (unfounded) belief that York County deputies do not monitor Craigslist—because that is where Kinley advertised (“I Sell Weed”), in a notice with his photo, address and price ($200). (2) Grady Carlson, 58, went to the Carolina Title Loans office in Spartanburg, South Carolina, on May 25 to apply for a high-interest “payday” loan—and nervously paced while answering questions. The Carolina employee asked if anything was wrong, and Carlson allegedly disclosed that he needed money—fast!—to purchase methamphetamine. A subsequent police search turned up a glass container and drugs.

RECURRING THEMES (COW EDITION)
For years, India has been concerned about the gas-release problem posed by its nearly 300 million cows (and 200 million more gas-intensive animals), but researchers in Kerala state revealed a promising breeding answer in May: dwarf cows (about one-fourth the size, producing somewhat less milk but one-seventh the manure and one-tenth the methane). (Pound for pound, methane traps 25 times as much heat as carbon dioxide.) (Bonus: The New York Times Style Book apparently now accepts the word “farting” in formal copy—while reporting that “belching” is the far more serious methane problem.) —Chuck Shepherd
Dear Kiki,

When I met my partner a few months ago, xe said xe was looking for a non-hierarchical, non-patriarchal, non-co-dependent relationship. Xe also said xe was queer. I wanted to be with this person so I agreed with everything xe said. Fast forward to today; we are in a full-on co-dependent relationship.

Xe questions my moves (where were you? where are you going? who were you with?) and essentially wants me to move in with xem. We spend every night together as one singular entity. Xe wants what we have now even though it’s traditional and heteronormative.

I feel like xe was projecting xyr ideal self or a version of xemself that is different than the real life version. What happened? How do I get it back? Why is the idea of a perfect relationship so seductive? —Sincerely, Wet Blanket or Snuggly Blanket

Hi Blanket,

You say you are seduced by “the idea of a perfect relationship” with your lover. Who isn’t? You both wanted a serious relationship and were trying to impress and please each other—agreeing on everything, vibing each other in this delightful, sex-soaked, crushed out pink cloud. You’ve given into that urge to merge. Except it isn’t ideal, is it? So you wrote to old Kiki here.

Blanket, look. If we saw the totality of each person we fell in love with from day one, we’d all run far and fast. Committed relationships require a period of blissful idealization, with everyone on best behavior. Your partner said everything they thought you wanted to hear and you heard only what you wanted to hear. It works both ways.

The thing is that for some people in our pleasure-centered, patriarchal, consumer society, the work of relating to another person is where the fun ends. We think of love and relationships as attainable, fixed goals rather than evolving, messy processes. We may be trying to resist the norms, but most of us have been conditioned to want our relationships to progress with the pace and complexity of a Disney movie. But let Kiki remind you that “love” is both noun and verb.

Your partner is expressing some possessive and controlling behavior, and dragging you into a co-dependent rut. That may be all they know how to do. Going along with it while feeding your resentment and looking for the door may be all you know how to do. Your partner was likely being genuine in the beginning; they may also be wondering what the hell happened. They may also want something more exciting, progressive and enchanted than snooping your incoming texts while you fold each other’s laundry. Your work, then, is to start to do the exhilarating tightrope walk that is un-learning the relationship you don’t want, while you define, build and support the relationship that you do want.

I’d like to point out that this letter is largely about what your partner has been doing, or not doing, and what your partner wants. What the heck do you want, Blanket? All you have control over is your own part in this thing, your own words, your own tolerance or intolerance. It takes two people to be co-dependent. It takes two to agree, disagree, maneuver, argue, negotiate, get freaky and find the new roads that might work better than the worn-out pathways of missionary style, white picket fences and “Netflix and chill.”

If you truly want a loving queer partnership, it starts with the humility to admit that you’re lost, pull the damn car over and talk about it. Going off the map is never safe, predictable or controllable. Your partner’s overbearing behavior and poor boundaries don’t work in this new land; neither does your blame game, or old-school harboring of resentment. So, Blanket, welcome to the edge of the map, where you can have the relationship you want. Your Heteronormative Disney Princess GPS doesn’t work here anymore. xoxo, Kiki

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Questions about love and sex in the city of Iowa City 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.
CANNIBALISM—YEA OR NAY?

Your column of September 23, 1988, addresses whether cannibalism is routinely practiced anywhere and concludes it is not. But why not? One argument in favor of cannibalism is simply that it is food. Not every part of every dead human is going to be fit for consumption, but some are—perhaps enough to relieve a food shortage in some starving, drought-stricken region. —Johnny

Always nice to hear from a longtime reader: Johnny Swift, I presume, back with another modest proposal. Why not cannibalism? For some cogent reasoning along these lines—from an ethics standpoint, anyways—I point you to a 2004 paper in Public Affairs Quarterly by the philosopher J. Jeremy Wisnewski. If you want a good read, I’d put this one up against Eat, Pray, Love any day of the week. At the end, Wisnewski stresses that he hasn’t made a case for the practice, necessarily, but he feels he’s pretty handily dealt with the various arguments against it. We don’t need to walk through the whole thing, but here’s some highlights:

• As long as the cannibalized aren’t consumed alive or murdered for the purpose of being eaten, we can hardly claim that harm has been done to them. Indeed, “the decomposition of the body itself would be a harm,” Wisnewski suggests—so basically we can call it a wash.

• “Eating the flesh of a human being, the argument runs, would cause undue distress to the family of the cannibalized,” Wisnewski concedes. “Let us grant that it is wrong to cause undue distress.” So one would want to obtain consent from the cannibalized’s loved ones, presuming such people are around to consent—as in all things, it’s best to first ask nicely.

• Wisnewski then addresses the “formula of humanity,” part of Kant’s concept of the categorical imperative, which states that humans must always be viewed as ends, never merely as means. And what is cannibalism—at least in the sustenance context you propose—beyond the means to a full belly? But a corpse “is not a human being,” Wisnewski argues. It’s merely “flesh,” and therefore does not have dignity. Dignity, according to Kant, “lies in the capacity of an agent to be autonomous,” something one obviously forfeits upon buying the farm.

• OK, forget dignity—what about simple respect? It’s disrespectful to eat someone’s flesh just because they’re no longer around to complain, right? Not inevitably, says Wisnewski. There are plenty of behaviors—“raising one’s middle finger, going without one’s shirt, belching,” and so forth—that telegraph disrespect in some cultures but are uncontroversial in others. Just because we may perceive eating a former acquaintance as a pretty serious F.U. doesn’t mean it’s inherently disrespectful. (Wisnewski here grants that hopefully the deceased will have made her wishes known one way or another regarding becoming a postmortem casserole. “The author of this article has no objections to being cannibalized,” he adds; happy to put you two in touch, Johnny.)

Obviously one could similarly muster philosophical arguments against cannibalism, but here let’s just stipulate Professor Wisnewski’s findings: we can eat other human beings, provided we’re not murdering them, provided they’ve granted some kind of premortem consent, etc. Should we? A few things to consider:

• Despite ongoing debate among experts about how many societies ever really engaged in cannibalism (which is where we left things back in 1988), it’s still generally believed that the fatal neurological disease kuru was transmitted among the Fore people of Papua New Guinea via their practice up into the 1950s of eating their dead relatives’ remains, brains prominently included.

Remember mad-cow disease? From the same pathological family as kuru, it spread due to cattle’s being fed meal containing bits of other cows.

• Were humanity to embrace cannibalism, we’d likely end up eating a lot of recently deceased old folks. Culinarily this may not sound promising, and we’d certainly want to develop some prep methods to get around the toughness factor, such as, er, aging the meat. But a 2015 article in Modern Farmer makes a case (granted, with respect to livestock) that we should be eating older animals anyways—properly tenderized, they’re apparently more flavorful than younger specimens.

• An article on the website Live Science—ha, ha—argues that compared to four-legged stock humans really aren’t very meaty, and compared to chicken they’re slow to mature, so you won’t get much bang for your buck with a widespread program of human cannibalism. That’s partly why, through history, the practice has existed largely as a last rite (or a last resort), rather than an ongoing method of subsistence.

• Humans are, in the end, red meat, which, here in the developed world, we’re told we should stay away from. Elsewhere on earth, of course, few can afford to be too picky.

But this brings us to the real point, re the starvation issue: Human hunger is most decidedly not a question of a lack of resources—it’s a question of distribution. There’s already plenty of food to go around, in other words, without us needing to have granny for dinner.

—Cecil Adams
CANCER (June 21-July 22): Author Courtia Newland quotes the pre-Socratic philosopher Meno: “How will you go about finding the thing the nature of which is totally unknown to you?” In response to this riddle, Newland riffs on what it means to him: “Even more important than the journey itself, is the venture into the unknowable. The ability to find comfort moving forwards without quite knowing where you are going.” I nominate these to be your words to live by in the coming days, Cancerian. Have open-hearted fun as you go in search of mysterious and impossible secrets! I’m confident you will track them down—especially if you’re willing to be lost.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your homework is to write a story about the life you’re going to live between now and next April. The length of this predictive tale should be at least three pages, although it’s fine if you produce more. Here are some meditations to lubricate the flow of your imagination. 1. What three questions would you love to have answered during the next 42 weeks? 2. Of the numerous adventures that might be fun to explore, which are the two that would be most consistently energizing? 3. What is the one thing you’d most like to change about your attitude or revamp about your life? 4. What new privilege will you have earned by April 2017?

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): According to an old Chinese proverb, if you want to get rich, you must have a nickname. My meditations on your future suggest that this curious formula may have some validity. The next 15 months will be a favorable time to attend to the groundwork that will ultimately increase your wealth. And your luck in doing this work is likely to be oddly good if you add a frisky tweak to your identity—such as a zesty new nickname, for example. I suggest you stay away from clichés like Ace or Vixen or Sharpie, as well as off-putting ironic monikers like Poker Face and Stonewall. Instead, gravitate toward lively choices like Dazzler, FluxLuster, Hoochie-Coochie or FreeBORN.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): During the next 15 months, you will have an unprecedented chance to materialize a fantasy you’ve harbored for years. Essential to your efforts will be a capacity to summon more ambition than you ever have before. I’m not talking about the grubby self-promotion that typically passes for ambition, however. Arrogant self-importance and selfish posturing will not be part of your winning formula. Rather, the kind of ambition I’m referring to is a soaring aspiration that seeks the best and highest not just for yourself but for everyone whose life you touch. I mean the holy hunger that drives you to express impeccable integrity as you seek to master the tasks you came to Earth to accomplish. Get started!

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): During the next 15 months, composting should be a primary practice, as well as a main metaphor. If you have been lazy about saving leftover scraps from your kitchen and turning them into fertilizer, now is an excellent time to intensify your efforts. The same is true if you have been lax about transforming your pain into useful lessons that invigorate your lust for life. Be ever-alert for opportunities to capitalize on junk, much and slop. Find secret joy in creating unexpected treasure out of old failures and wrong turns.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Have you ever made a fool of yourself while trying to fulfill your deepest yearnings? I hope so. If you haven’t, your yearnings probably aren’t deep enough. Most of us, on multiple occasions, have pursued our longings for connection with such unruly intensity that we have made foggy decisions and engaged in questionable behavior. That’s the weird news. The good news is that now and then, the impulse to leave our safety zone in a quest to quench our deepest yearnings can actually make us smarter and more effective. I believe this is one of those times for you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): During the next 13 months, what can you do to enhance your ability to be the boss of yourself? What practices can you engage in on a daily basis that will build your potency and authority and clout? How can you gain access to more of the helpers and resources you need to carry out your life’s master plan? These are excellent questions to ask yourself every day between now and July 2017. It’s time to find or create your ultimate power spot.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The prison population in the U.S. is over two million, more than twice what it was in 1990. In contrast, Canada keeps about 41,000 people in jail, Italy 52,000, and France 66,000. That’s the bad news. The good news, at least for you and your tribe, is that a relatively small percentage of you will be incarcerated during the next 15 months. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, Aquarians all over the world will specialize in liberation. Not only will you be extra ethical; not only will you be skillful at evading traps; you will also be adept at emancipating yourself from your own delusions and limitations. Congratulations in advance! It’s time to start singing some new freedom songs.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): The English word “catharsis” is derived from the ancient Greek katharsis, which was a technical medical term that meant “purification” or “purification,” as in flushing out the bowels. Aristotle converted katharsis into a metaphor that described how a drama performed in the theater could “clean out” the emotions of spectators. These days, catharsis may refer to any event that precipitates a psycho-spiritual renewal by building up and then releasing tension. I foresee at least one of these strenuous blessings in your immediate future.

Aries (March 21-April 19): The coming months will be a favorable time to boost your skills as a cagey warrior. I don’t mean you should push people around and get into lots of fights. Rather, the goal is for you to harness your aggressiveness constructively and to wield your willpower with maximum grace. In the face of fear, you will not just be brave, but brave and crafty. You’ll refrain from forcing storylines to unfold before they’re ready, and you’ll rely on strategy and good timing instead of brute strength and the decree “Because I said so.” Now study this counsel from the ancient Chinese statesman Zhuge Liang, also known as Crouching Dragon: “The wise win before they fight, while the ignorant fight to win.”

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Everything you do in the coming days should be imbued with the intention of enhancing the flow. It’s high time to identify where the energy is stuck, and then get it unstuck. You have a sacred mandate to relieve the tension...to relax the twists...to unravel the snarls if you can, or simply cut through them if necessary. You don’t need to tell anyone about your secret agenda. Just go about your business with zealous diligence and unflagging purpose. If it takes more effort than you wished, so be it. If your progress seems maddeningly gradual, keep the faith.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): My long-term predictions for the next 15 months are a blend of hopeful optimism and a reasonable interpretation of the astrological omens. Here we go: 1. You will have an excellent chance to smooth and soothe the rough spots in your romantic karma. 2. You will outgrow any addiction you might have to frustrating connections. 3. Unrequited love will either be requited, or else you’ll become bored with the futility and move on. 4. You’ll be challenged to either refresh and reinvent an existing intimacy, or else get shrewd enough not to repeat past mistakes in a new intimacy. 5. You will have an abundance of good ideas about how to install the theme of smart fun at the heart of your strongest alliances. — Rob Brezsny
TWINS
Square America
https://www.facebook.com/Twinstheband

RECORD RELEASE PARTY
The Mill Fri., July 1, 9 p.m., $8

Iowa’s very own princes of guitar pop are back with another slab of black vinyl densely grooved with their trademark harmonies and chugging guitars.

Their 2014 album Tomboys on Parade was a smart collection of guitar pop that I described in my Little Village review as being a “survey of power pop,” as it had songs ranging in influence from BritPop and British Invasion to American pop rock.

This time around TWINS entered the studio with a more singular idea of sound. In a conversation with guitarist and vocalist Joel Sires, he said, “I think power pop kind of took a backseat on this record. It’s just more of an American Rock ‘n’ Roll sound—à la The Replacements.”

While I’m still hearing a little Oranges & Lemons-era XTC on this summer’s Square America—in the bubbling percussive guitars and harmonies of “Take That Gurl” and the bright chiming guitars in “Mary’s Sister Margaret”—TWINS have handed in their power pop membership card for an honest-to-goodness guitar rock album.

I don’t hear the drunken slop of The 'Mats, but certainly lots more KISS and Cheap Trick riffage all over the place—more in line with their driving live sound.

The album, which drops July 1, kicks off with “Hot Stepper,” which owes much of its guitar tone to KISS’s horny 1974 anthem “Strutter.” I love the dirty sax solo in it (played by Kyle Gowin of Christopher the Conquered’s band)—it really throws it over the top. Sires explains, “This was one of the first albums we’ve made where we used our own amps the whole time and basically our own guitars the whole time too.”

On Square America, TWINS are refining their sound—a result of the band maturing. Beyond that, this is the bratty bar band that still can’t help but dabble in the themes of young, hormone-addled lust—the thrill of the chase, the brummer kiss offs, the wistful attractions. Blasting power chords, sex and an eternal summer break, delivered by a band at the peak of their rock and roll powers. Stand and be counted among the devoted: TWINS are back!

—Mike Roeder

BLAKE SHAW
Listen Hear
blakeshawbass.com

Listen Hear is the latest release from Iowa City composer/musician Blake Shaw. Recorded at Flat Black Studios, Listen Hear is an incredibly accessible jazz album featuring a strong quintet of players with Shaw on the upright bass, Dan Padley on guitar, Nolan Schroder and Ryan Smith on respective woodwinds and Chris Jensen on drums.

Although this album is easy to listen to, Shaw’s compositions possess enough rhythmic changes and sonic meanderings to keep an attentive listener engaged, making it a perfect combination of being good background music and worth studying closely. Shaw has worked with a wide range of ensembles and is currently working on his Masters degree with an emphasis on jazz.

As Shaw writes in his liner notes, “Whether it be the troubling times we live in today, the ones we lived in the past, the love we feel from others … just talk it—and don’t stop loving.” This is clearly the sentiment driving Shaw’s work, which is simultaneously heartfelt and studied, experimental and grounded, accessible and esoteric.

But it’s the accessibility I want to emphasize. My knowledge of jazz is limited, but I know what goes well with a nice glass of wine and I know what makes my head bob and I know what goes well with a nice glass of wine and I know what makes my head bob and I know what goes well with a nice glass of wine and I know what makes my head bob and

This somnolent arrangement is an instant ticket to Chillsville.

SUBMIT ALBUMS FOR REVIEW
LITTLE VILLAGE
623 S DUBUQUE ST, IOWA CITY
Give one of this puzzle’s nontheme answers the thematic treatment to find the way a prissy pirate might call someone a butt-head.

ACROSS
1. Propane, briefly
6. Some garbage vessels
11. Weisshorn and Parrotspitze, e.g.
15. Have ___ on (control)
16. Sportscaster Rashad
17. “The Lion King” lioness
18. Doing the reverse cowgirl while dressed for the part?
21. Plastic ___ Band
22. Twerp
23. Cornish of NPR’s “All Things Considered”
24. Nasty-looking hitman?
27. Brought back
28. French wine-growing region that also produces Dijon mustard
30. Time that whizzes by?
35. When a business really takes off?
36. Wonderment
39. Site of apnea studies
41. The “good” cholesterol
42. Completed, as a tattoo
46. Trumpet flourish greeting the arrival of someone who’d rather hear “Hey, Soul Sister”?
49. Greet, as a superior
50. Richard Nixon’s elder daughter
52. Trumpet flourish greeting the arrival of someone who’d rather hear “Hey, Soul Sister”?
54. Gridiron official
58. Irish princess in a Wagner opera
60. Mobile eatery where rock musician Courtney serves up lamb fries and Rocky Mountain oysters?
63. Repeated word in Hozier’s “Take Me to Church”
64. There’s usually enough of it to go around
65. Comic Fields
66. Devotee of something arcane
67. Snake with a zigzag pattern on its back
68. Work blue, maybe

DOWN
1. Party led by Jeremy Corbyn (for now)
2. Knock the crap out of?
3. Start missing a lot
4. “Cathy” word
5. Lubricants used in the 11-Across
6. Solomonic types
7. Country whose officials were recently called “very rude” by Queen Elizabeth
8. Old Dodge models
9. Salary breakdown
10. Reagan’s “Star Wars” program, briefly
11. Certain beef cattle
12. “Well ain’t you fancy?”
13. Vanilla
14. ___-sex
19. “Super Mario Bros.” console
20. Pioneering political cartoonist Thomas
25. “Uh-huh”
26. Hunky-dory
29. Fam. member
30. Illinois city that gave its name to a bygone watch company
31. Family planning product letters
32. Place to grow kidneys, say
33. Hi-__ monitor
34. Family of witches in “The Vampire Diaries”
37. Headed back from work
38. Minnesota city named for the local waterway
40. Family of witches in “The Vampire Diaries”
43. Late in the fourth quarter?
45. Gridiron official
47. Guac and such
49. Greet, as a superior
50. Richard Nixon’s elder daughter
51. Quidditch position
53. World leader who studied ophthalmology in London
54. Words of denial
55. Confectioner who produced Double Bubble, the first successful bubblegum
56. Carly Fiorina’s “Demon Sheep” and others
57. The Hatfields or the McCosys
61. Temporizing abbreviation on a schedule
62. Spreadsheet division

LV200 ANSWERS
1 = Jan and Dean
2 = Guns N’ Roses
3 = Iron and Wine
4 = Matt and Kim
5 = Love and Rockets

The American Values Club Crossword is edited by Ben Tausig. Subscription information can be found at avxword.com.
Friday, July 1

Main Stage
4:00 pm  Artists Booths, FUN Zone, Culinary Row, Beverage Garden
10:30 pm Jam Session at Share, Clinton Street Social Club

Side Stages
5:00 pm  United Jazz Ensemble
7:00 pm  Akiko Tsuruga Trio featuring Jeff Hamilton & Graham Dechter
9:00 pm  Allison Miller’s Boom Tic Boom

Saturday, July 2

Main Stage
11:30 am Artists Booths, FUN Zone, Culinary Row, Beverage Garden
10:30 pm Jam Session at Share, Clinton Street Social Club

Side Stages
1:00 pm  North Corridor Jazz All Stars
3:00 pm  Phil Hey Quartet
5:00 pm  Marquis Hill Blacktet
7:00 pm  Vijay Iyer Trio
9:00 pm  Poncho Sanchez and His Latin Band

Sunday, July 3

Main Stage
11:30 am Artists Booths, FUN Zone, Culinary Row, Beverage Garden
9:30 pm  City of Iowa City’s Fireworks

Side Stages
12:00 pm  Damani Phillips Trio
2:00 pm  Larry Fuller Trio
4:00 pm  Edmar Castaneda Trio
6:00 pm  Miguel Zenon Quartet
8:00 pm  David Berkman Sextet

Side Stages 11:30 am/1:30 pm/3:30 pm/5:30 pm/7:30 pm
Youth Stage, Sponsored by Oaknoll Retirement Community
College Stage, Sponsored by the Iowa House Hotel
Local Stage, Sponsored by Carpenter’s Local 1260