#12





# FRONT LINES

Don Root

April

"April is the cruellest month, breeding Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing Memory and desire, stirring Dull roots with spring rain."

-T. S. Eliot, from The Waste Land

ersonally, I can't agree with old T.S. I have no fondness for the constancy of winter in the PNW — the endless gloom, cold, and rain. If April gives us more blue skies, I'm all for it, and what the heck kind of miserable heathen doesn't love lilacs breeding out of the dead land?

We have a bare patch of dirt at our abode I sprinkled with wildflower seeds a month or so ago, hoping to revive it with a bit of color. Nothing showing yet. I have a brown thumb though, so I expect my chances of seeing a wildflower actually poking its head up out of the dirt to say "Hi, Don! Mighty fine day today, isn't it?" are somewhat remote. But hope springs eternal. Bed springs just squeak.

They wrote a song about **April in Paris** — "they," in this case, being Vernon Duke and Yip Harburg, who collaborated on the tune in 1932. I like the name "Yip." His birth name was Isidore Hochberg, and he was blacklisted during the McCarthy era (Joe, not Kevin) for being a socialist. I've been to Paris a few times, but I'm not sure whether I was ever there in April. My most memorable visit was actually in January, when the festive holiday lights were still lit, the museums were empty, and snow lined the Seine. Nice. It's such a great city, and its mayor is a socialist... and a *woman!* Oh, the horror!

By the time you read this, we will be past **April Fool's Day**, which is probably a good thing. The Fool is Graffiti's signature tarot card, dontcha know? It's a card suggesting, according to thetarotguide.com, "innocence, freedom, originality, adventure, travel, foolishness, carelessness, idealism, youth, spontaneity, lack of commitment, [and] new beginnings," most of which sounds great to Graffiti (and we'll accept our failings in the remainder).

I have about a dozen friends with **birthdays in Apri**I. Happy Birthdays, y'all! Speaking of *"mixing Memory and desire,"* my first lover's birthday was April 16th. (It still is, I suppose, as birthdays don't change much, do they?) She was my best friend's little sister. We kept in touch rarely until a few years ago, when she wrote me a nice long email for my birthday, then disappeared. Maybe she was dying. Or maybe she was just thinking, "Why have I burdened myself with this Fool all these years? I must put an end to it at once!" Back in the day, she and I had lots of memorable sex in that exciting teenage exploratory way. There are many kinds of sex, aren't there? Romantic sex, dispassionate mechanical sex, unbridled lust-crazed sex, and just plain fun sex. That last one was us. It'd be TMI to relate the details, but rest assured, we had a blast! Happy Birthday, Banana, wherever you are!

April 22nd is **Earth Day**, promoting virtues actually practiced by three old hippies on a communal farm in southern Chile somewhere. The rest of the world's population can't be bothered, so we can probably just forget this one. But now **Arbor Day**, April 28th! There's a holiday everyone can enjoy! At least, everyone who lives near the coast and can take a picnic basket down to the Arbor and watch the boats sail in and out.

Finally, let's not forget the old saw, "**April showers bring May flowers**," or so they say — "they," in this case, probably not being Duke and Harburg, at least not exclusively. Personally, I've had enough of showers anywhere but in my bathroom for the time being, so I'd request Ma Nature to please give it a rest now. And in any case, from what I see out and about, the March torrential downpours brought April flowers... excepting, of course, on my patch of dead land.

Which brings us back to Eliot and *"stirring Dull roots with spring rain."* Now, I can't say T. S. and I were ever really close, but I thought we were at least cordial. That he would call me Dull with a capital "D" does hurt a bit, I can't lie. But there is blue sky out my window at the moment, so I'd best stir myself out of bed and take advantage of it. The trusty steedcycle definitely prefers delivering Graffiti when the sun is out.

## NEW ON THE WEBSITE ! (www.graffiti-magazine.com):

- "Irregular heart functioning," by Al Fry
- "Bouncing Betty," by Wes Hansen
- "Deih Freestyler: Strategies to be Free," by Diego
- "The Search for the Scenic: Travel in the Age of Tourism," by Stephen Slater
- "The Decline of the West," by Jim Smith

# Graffiti

1292 High St. #129 Eugene OR 97401 graffitieugene@gmail.com (503) 853-5582

Taylor Swift: Jordan Howell Rose Travis Kelce: Rod Williams Beyoncé: Lise Eskridge Usher: Kevin O'Brien Casey Kasem: Morgan Smith Lawrence Welk: Don Root

**Contributors:** Thomas Avery, Sean Bentley, sela Brougher, Fergul Cirpan, Diego (from Valencia, Spain!), Shachar Efrati, Ed English, Al Fry, Rachael Hammond, Wes Hansen, H. R. Harney, G. L. Helm, Misha Kagutaba, Dan Liberthson, Will Long-Pantz, Charles Mattoon, Cassandra Mettling-Davis, Jean Murphy, Ponder/Seek/Discover, Leo Rivers, Jesús Sepúlveda, Stephen Slater, Jim Smith, Morgan Smith, Stephen Swiftfox, Rene Tihista, Jordan Valerie, Terah Van Dusen, Rod Williams, John Zerzan

Find past issues and additional submissions online at: **graffiti-magazine.com ON THE COVER:** Spring is in the air! Street photo by Don





### HOW DO I SUBMIT WORK?

- Email to: graffitieugene@gmail.com
- Snail-mail or hand-deliver to:

### Graffiti, 1292 High St. #129, Eugene OR 97401

FYI: At that street address you'll find PakMail, not Graffiti's swanky corporate offices, the location of which remains a mystery, even to us.

### WHAT SORT OF WORK DO YOU PUBLISH?

Artwork, poetry, short fiction, and short nonfiction, original to you and preferably based on personal experience. We eschew (cool word!) essays on politics and current affairs. No more rants or excerpts of other people's work.

### DO YOU ACCEPT PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED WORK?

Only if it was self-published, and really, we'd rather not. The purpose of Graffiti is to encourage new creativity.

#### **DO I GET PAID?** No. And neither do we.

Enjoy your April, Graffitoids! Maybe pick up a copy of *The Waste Land* and see if it stirs you, too. See you in May! 45 45 45

## LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?

Spring is a time of new beginnings. So why not begin by donating to Graffiti?

It costs \$600 to print each issue, and we aren't making that with advertising yet. We rely on donations from people like you to keep us going. Every little bit helps, from \$1 to \$1 million! (Hey, we like to think big!) So get yourself a dose of good karma by chipping in something for the cause today, eh? Thanks!





## DOES I GOTTA RIGHT GOOD?

No, but if you have something to say, you want people to understand it, right? Dictionaries are cheap—even free online! If you use one, you'll always have perfect spelling. It's that easy. Grammar's a little harder, but the more you write, the better you'll get. As a rule, we don't edit. What you give us goes as-is.

### WHAT LENGTH WORKS ARE ACCEPTABLE?

For printing in the zine, anything under 800 words makes us happy. Submissions longer than 1,000 words will probably be posted on the website instead: **graffiti-magazine.com**.

## DOES GRAFFITI ACCEPT SUBMISSIONS FROM OUTSIDE LANE COUNTY?

Yes.

## IS VEUVE CLICQUOT STILL YOUR FAVORITE BUBBLY?

Yes, and we're absolutely parched! Be a dear, won't you, darling?



photo by Terah Van Dusen

**Spring is:** going barefoot... polka-dot skirts... blades of grass between the toes... swings!... daylight after school... daylight after work... cleaning the barbecue grill... thinking about buying new sunscreen... too late! that first sunburn... play-dates outdoors for a change... having friends over out on the deck... bicycling along the river... hiking up Spencer Butte... marveling at your bulbs blooming like a Van Gogh... opening the windows more often... sneezing more often... the birds and bees... drying clothes out on the line... putting away the flannel sheets... itching for summer!

## Bicycle Woman



BICYCLE WOMAN is drawing EYEBALLS ON EXELIDS of a Ű haven't 'WO' slept days SCARED to sleep Im so Hold saying sleep There are 5 (city-subsidized!) PARKING RAMPS downtown - but Hmm, gives that gives But first, ok! mak PARKING PLACES one of them egister utthe the FUTILITY PARCADE NO place for SPORTS DMV CAR VEHICLES c folks to Ø

LAPTOP COMPUTE

"Roll On, John" is a traditional folk song about love, loss, and the passage of time. Couple years ago, I heard David Bromberg and his band perform it at the Shedd, and evidently it left a profound impact on me. Bob Dylan re-purposed the song (as Bob Dylan is wont to do) on his 2012 album Tempest as a tribute to John Lennon. I'm re-purposing and re-imagining Dylan's version here as an homage to my sweet brother John. — Rod Williams

## Roll On, John

Colorado, that old Rocky Mountain High Never felt like home, you never really could say why You knew you were different right from the very start Drums in your head and a jukebox in your heart Shine your light. Search for Avalon. Just out of sight. Roll On, John.

New York City in the summer called your name Pulled you east like a moth drawn to a flame You settled down in the city that never sleeps Where the urban ghouls and the rough boys play for keeps Shine your light. Better turn it on. You're in for a fight. Roll on, John.

Slaved in the kitchens of the uptown nouveau riche The American Dream hovering just out of reach Learned your job and brother, you learned it well You cooked up a storm just like ringing a bell Shine your light like a magic wand. You burn so bright. Roll on, John.

Dance past midnight, party til the break of dawn Weed and whiskey, then put your dark glasses on The morning on fire, a symphony in the streets The sky spins crazy, pavement tilts beneath your feet Shine your light til the good is gone You're high as a kite. Roll on, John.

The night your lover punched a hole in the bedroom wall The morning you woke and saw the second tower fall The week you spent in Brooklyn all stoned and blessed The years of debt like a stone upon your chest Shine your light and do no wrong. Hold on tight. Johnny, roll on.

## **Brinkley's Lifer**

It's Esther Brinkley's fault vou know-She forced me to commit an act of poetry In High School, years and vears ago. I didn't like her much. I thought her rattle brained, And once I kicked a chair at her--(Not really kicked-more pushed and Caused a clatter in her class which Bought me time in penance after school) But anyway-At her behest I stand condemned-Sentenced to poetry for life: And now I wonder-Should I have thanked her.

### by Jean Murphy

awake

Under the wonders and the where as and the shoulda and the couldas are all the failings. We duck into the darkness to avoid even greater darkness, Or, do we? "There's some bad shit out there!" Velcro zombies stick to park benches And fetid mattresses Hoping to outlast A narco tsunami. A collective demise Even the marginal can't deny We have a problem. There is a space between people That holds the dust and the detritus It can be obscure to the eve But, between the motes and the molecules are the hard volubles. Pain may radiate Dislocation is apparent And we realize we are not so far from some bad shit The question, what is your responsibility?

**Bad Shit** 

## **Ed English**

## Crayfish

In a rainbarrel in the alley lived three crayfish, content in their utter strangeness, but a child couldn't bear it and had to interfere.

With their stalk eyes and gray too-many legs, did they see the baseball bat descending calm and curious until it chose one and pressed lightly as it could but too hard not to express dark murk. Camouflage or ruptured innards?

The child never knew which. He jumped back, ran away, and ever after shied from strangeness.

**Dan Liberthson** Illustration by Cassandra Mettling-Davis



Then music filled the air and all the concert halls Ten days with The Clash, three more with the New York Dolls The Glimmer Twins, The Boss, and The Thin White Duke Stop makin' sense, horses, and the talking book Shine your light. Blonde on blonde. Here comes the night. Roll on, John.

Toni Morrison laughed when you asked her for a dinner date Gabriel Byrne loved your painting, he said it was great Robert Creeley decreed your poem "the genuine shit" You lived by the seat of your pants and by your wits Shine your light. Shine it strong With all your might. Roll on, John.

Winter comes creeping in slow like a cold sundown The years blip by faster than the speed of sound Snow piles high outside your windows and walls The mystery train is here, it beckons and calls Shine your ever-loving light. Keep moving on. You'll be all right. Roll on, John.

## **Rod Williams**

.L. Helm

Or hired a hit man?

Emerald Broadband is local. **TRULY LOCAL.** Not local in the sense that "one of our offices is out in Eugene." Eugene, Oregon IS our office. We're not expanding out to Eugene. We're expanding from within Eugene. This is where we're rooted. Come grow with us. A truly local, Oregon-grown company.

541-363-0260 EMERALDBROADBAND.COM



The Curious Case of the Sheep Who Thought He Was a Cow Rene Tihista

hese days there's a lot of conflict, hand wringing, puzzlement and outrage about the various sexual identity issues currently riling up our dyspeptic society. One of these disputes concerning what has become known as LBGTQ issues, is usually confined to humans. However, though not widely known, issues of gender identity are not exclusive sapiens. Lodged in my periential archive of is the curious case of a sheep, as rams were Montana where I grew fered not from gender but, and arguably species confusion. A little ground is necessary to preface this tragically enigmatic tale.

When my oldest brother Edward assumed responsibility for the family business after my father died, he'd been away from any working involvement with sheep for more than a decade. After serving in WWII, he'd been a salesman and in retail management, both occupations he excelled at. But the cultural imperative of the eldest son taking over the family business after the death of the paterfamilias was compelling and he returned home to fulfill his patrilineal destiny. His absence from experience in the sheep business occasionally clouded his judgment as illustrated in the case of the aforementioned confused buck.

To breed our herd of 1,800 ewes we had three-hundred rams. That's a pretty standard ratio of six ewes per buck although obviously there were occasional anomalies to consider: bucks that were older, timid or only mildly inenthusiastically about their business. The Columbian was utterly disinterested in the ewes he was procured to implant his majestic genetic heritage into.

> In early December, we trailed the sheep from the summer grazing range to our farm in the Milk River Valley for the The drive took most of about twenty-five passed by several ever we passed a the big Columbian dead run to be with fuming and cussing, over in the pickup, citrant Romeo with a hook, and return him herd. This farce was peated three times that I remember, the last being the very farm from which Ed had purchased the buck. He was

gone quite a long while that time because, as we later learned, he had had a heated discussion with the farmer who'd sold him the malingering Columbian.

For all his shortcomings as a sheepman, Ed knew when to cut his losses. He sold the gender-confused sheep for a very reasonable price to a notorious former bootlegger and alleged calf rustler named Homer Dribble, who lived in the Badlands south of the Missouri River. I suspect the species-conflicted sheep became the main ingredient in at least a month's worth of mutton stew.

By chance, many years later, an article in the *Seattle Post Intelligencer* caught my eye and shed an entirely different perspective on this unfortunate animal. A psychologist at the University of Washington was doing research

on sheep and discovered that some of the rams in her study were apparently homosexual.

Another study by the University of Oregon corroborated this surprising finding. I quote: "Researchers in the Oregon Health and Sciences University School of Medicine, have confirmed that a male sheep's preference for same sex partners has biological underpinnings. This study, along with others, strongly suggest that same sex preference is biologically determined in sheep and





# **Bad Boys:** Michel Houellebecq and Bret Easton Ellis

n the late '90s Michel Houellebecq's *The Elementary Particles* was a sensation in France, somewhat surprisingly, given the frightening tableau it provides of modern society at the end of its tether. Ostensibly a tale of two half-brothers looking for love, for meaning, the novel is powerfully effective in showing how lost they are, how definitive is the erasure of pretty much everything. No juice, a zero level of energy, just Full Stop to society.

His 2016 novel, *Submission*, depicts a jaded lecturer at the Sorbonne. Literature is his field, but isn't fulfilling, and he's largely a bored hedonist. The emptiness of his life begins to disturb him, and starts to look for meaning, even resorting to a weekend retreat at a monastery, which proves fruitless. The background to his quest is a French national election that brings the Muslim Brotherhood to power. This becomes plausible because Houellebecq describes a society that is coming apart, that no longer coheres. Amidst the disorder, including violence, people vote in the only political regime that seems to command order, rejecting even Le Pen and the Right.

Submission was criticized by some as Islamophobic, which misses its point. The book is neither anti- or pro-Islam; it's not about Islam but about crumbling modernity. At the novel's end, our (anti) hero is given a choice: continue as a professor with some restrictions, or be pensioned off. His life is already so limited, and the implication is that he goes along with the new regime. Submission.

Bret Easton Ellis produced American Psycho in 1991. It was a shocking book that was widely banned, and caused Ellis to be ousted by his publisher, Random House. It is frighteningly graphic as it describes misogynist violence at the hands of a serial killer. The novel's central character is Patrick Bateman, a young Wall Street Mr. Cool whose contempt for the poor is a given, as he fantasizes mutilating and murdering women. But I read American Psycho as a devastating exposure of the blizzard of violence against women, the opposite of celebrating it. Ellis's new one, The Shards (2023), is autobiographical, in the form of a murder mystery. Seniors at a private school in L.A. do a lot of drugs and try to ignore the looming threat of a serial killer. The estrangement of the various 17- and 18-year-olds, including Bret himself, is faultlessly rendered. Karl Marx once remarked that one learns more about society from reactionary novelists than from progressive fiction. Houellebecq and Ellis are not Right-wing reactionaries, but non-PC, un-Woke characters, maybe jerks in their daily lives. And they are both unerring in their grasp of a profound alienation and emptiness, which is growing as capitalist civilization deforms reality. ககக



terested in performing their husbandry duties. Or ewes who were skittish, cantankerous, aging or indifferent to breeding despite being in estrus.

A neighboring farmer, who also had a small herd of cattle, had acquired and reared a Columbia Ram with his cattle. It was a beautiful animal. Quite large, as Columbia sheep are. They are a hybridized breed first developed in Wyoming prior to WWI and bred to thrive in the harsh climate typical in the western high plains of the Great Basin.

Open faced, they are good wool producers, their meat being a secondary asset. So, when the farmer talked Ed into buying the buck, just before breeding time in late October, it seemed like a propitious fit for our herd. Unfortunately, the big Columbian had a serious identity crisis. Much to Ed's surprise and mounting frustrated anger, the big ram ignored the ewes while his more amorous peers went possibly in humans."\*

After reading this I pondered how Ed might have responded to the news that his strapping Columbian buck could have been gay. But the ram displayed no apparent amorous proclivities toward his fellow rams. If he had, it might have explained the unexpected behavior. But there was his affinity for cows. Given the size differential between the big Columbian and potential cow mates, one has to be skeptical. Granted, he was huge-for a sheep, but still, to a bovine he might (to mix species metaphors) be considered a shrimp. I suppose an argument could be made for the odd case of species consanguinity. There is the precedent of Romulus and Remus though the veracity of that myth is questionable.

No, I suspect this particular sheep's interest in cows was more than confused sexuality. Could it have been some spiritual connection?

(continued on p. 12)

## **ANARCHY RADIO**

with John Zerzan KWVA 88.1 FM Streaming: kwvaradio.org Tuesdays 7 p.m. Archive: johnzerzan.net

## Stepping into spring (of 2024)

Sometimes the bitterness arises again The soul has its own plan to heal

Silent winds

Love is power Directing my life as a circus or a theater

Heart walls... melting! Discovering new colors

Better by chance Better by change

Blooming love

I know now I am his cup of tea

Vibrant things happen all at once!

These soul lessons, The wisdom...

Fergul Cirpan

The German word Liebeskummer means "love sickness." It consists of Liebe ("love") and Kummer ("grief"), and it's more difficult to cure than the common cold! Although you might not be sick with a fever, Liebeskummer can keep you in bed just the same. — Fergul

## March'ing

My soul shines This perfect timing The perfect clash of hearts

New Moon New Moon Fill my cup!

Flowing To a vague destination

The desire to alter my life

I can hear your smile over your voice You are my bucket list

You are my Liebeskummer!

Fergul Cirpan

## A Love Letter To You

#1

"Bittersweet The love I have for you extends beyond my selfish pride Among my branches you'll find My love grows long and far Fruit so sweet Luscious and fragile I am The love I have for you means more than Anything Love conquers all"

## I'm sorry

I'm sorry, if I'm using you I guess I just thought... Well I guess I thought if you loved me I could learn to love myself

#### selah Brougher

## Late

Lately I am always running To different places But some-times it's the same place I run when I want to go somewhere That's when you know I care I am no graceful runner So I throw away public perception to spend time with you I will run to get to you And somehow I'm always late.

#### selah Brougher

## Inside/out

We heal inside/out I take you outside/in When the veil rises What is revealed?

Scars.

Scars have eyes They can see something Coming They ask the questions - What if,.....? - Will this hurt? - Should I? Scars,

Memories of a fall, A miscalculation, of pain. Scars,

A pronouncement of risk, and hope, and love at the edge.

What do your scars tell you?

Ed English

### newlove

#### morning light, kitchen soft-boil hiss, invisible altar air dances, the well-tread linoleum shines I'm already beaming, memory of your kiss anticipation of your touch, voice, scent not really waiting when you still fill my senses fresh as coffee aroma rising, perfect headbrew buzzing me through the dayour new love has got me feeling this way, beyond our years and old wound fears, just electric life shivers all gift and free givers, overflowing and rooted in peacewhat can I say, but we will speak with our lips, our hips, our sway swept away in newlove nothing kept, feels like a lot left no expectations, history/herstory a light, fluid pour it always feels new way like that old mystery night meeting virgin day.

**Charles Mattoon** 

## The exploded view

"Live in a perpetual great astonishment." — Theodore Roethke

A leaf falls: countless attitudes between its branch and earth. Earth is changed wholly in this transaction. I feed on this, I live.

**Sean Bentley** 

It's always been there, and it's happy to be. And its role is to support, not to care. Your porch swing might be made out of old wooden slab boards and slightly rusted chains. Or synthetic material, ready and hot. The porch swing sways politely for pictures. It creaks and groans in strong storms.

The Porch Swing

The porch swing doesn't care.

#### #2

"A Sudden Rush Of Love I Feel It In My Chest The Rise And Fall I Can See It Now How I Will Always Feel This Way, About You"

#### #3

"His hair, the dark curls that wrap around themselves Just like me, he is a witness to life and death Blue waves. Envelop and tumble, they end with their white foam. They wrestle even though they cannot outrun one another, and though the sea is so deep they stay with one another They know no bounds and can see for miles They stay with one another For another wave will not wrestle and tumble just the same"

#### Jordan Valerie

It's there on your worst days; to hold you when you're in your dumpy clothes, with tears and snot rolling down your makeup-free face.
It doesn't mind your gripping, sweaty palms, and it won't tell on you when you vomit violently off its side.
It will look respectable in the mornings with your coffee cup in one hand.
What has the coffee cup done for you lately? The porch swing might wonder, but it won't ask.
Because it's the porch swing and it's seen things.
It's seen first dates, proposals, the breakups, the mail arriving, everyone running past to watch sparkly combustibles explode in the sky.
It's been stained and scuffed and painted over more times than it can even count.
It's born the scars of your bad days and the scorned embers of cigarette butts.
And long after you've forgotten about it, it's still there, ready to welcome in and support the next family.

The porch swing.

#### H.R. Harney



# Same war renews. Turn around, see every heart harbors the virus.

Misha Kagutaba

Peace means you must face the dark, hot mess. A thousand cuts to comfortable views.

Flowers, fields, hawks, doves don't care a flying turd for cock surety, hate, fear.

Haiku

**News & Views** 

(Sermon)

Poetry debates now! conducted by Poet Laureates to descend to power.

Agent Orange Face defoliates the scene dark rifts exposed.

Thicket of views, false and misleading news, bullshit

detectors needed.

The way of peace flows through the eye of cyclone love calling us home, but

a sharp sword waits there to cut out your pride and greed to bleed you empty.

No grudge or bias see each as brothers, sisters; that's no surrender.

Resistance without love, wisdom, is futile. Be the change you wish. Change.

Protest signs and tweets don't translate face to face. Grieve blameless gap between us.

Minds dimmed to sound bites. This is not haiku. Courage meets in open fields.

Closed fist, last resort. Closed heart, first and only sin. Eden works through fire.

Feel what you're willing to die for, if anything, and work from there. Joy!

**Charles Mattoon** 

## **Fish Monger**

Tall and thin carrying his body curved

# "I call on Godzilla to Wage War on the works of the Smog Monster!"

I, too, when seeing the green vomit pouring from every river into the sea where I see the mottled gelatinous fans of pollution opening as if in shame upon the sea where House Garbage, the urban pulp of Poverty and the shit of unsleeping factories boils upon the face of the waters and drops death's tentacles into the deep!

I, too, wish Godzilla would wade in from the ocean, I, too, wish Godzilla, pissed off, would rise up from the deep and beating the air with his fists open his terrible jaws to pour Hellfire upon the deep, letting his merciless atomic breath sweep in every direction like a lighthouse beam pointing out the pollution and the sewage and the waste with a fiery glance that sears away the scabs WE have left on Mother Nature's body.

I, too, wish to stand with that little boy in the tide pools of the wholesome ferns of kelp that wash up on the beach, carefully stepping between the octopi baby as I, too, raise my fists and beat the air in front of me.

I, too, call upon Godzilla to roar the purifying flames of Nature's vengeance upon the poisoned backs of waves that like a stampeding herd of bison carry a king tide of pestilence and the pest to plague us out,

out,

out from the sea...

#### Leo Rivers

Leo writes: I wrote this in response to seeing Godzilla versus Hedorah on TV and watching "The History of Godzilla vs. Hedorah" by Big Action Bill on YouTube. The film is surreal. On the one hand it is a sincere protest against pollution, and on other it's a smashed piñata of wildly disconnected stuff. As a conventional film it's a Madam Web–scale mess, but I find much of it fun and funny. I meant this poem as a rant against all the hostile toxicity spewed out by the media.

like a fishback you'd suspect him of fins rather than feet. Whistling he glides among his fishes smiling and clear eyes winking oval scales smile back. He loves them and even now cleaned and cased they can't help loving him.

**Dan Liberthson** 



## **ART HOUSE NOTES**

• **April 25:** *The Room,* **with Greg Sestero Live.** The story of the making of this godawful film by Tommy Wiseau might be vastly more interesting than the movie itself, which has for some mysterious reason become a cult classic. Greg Sestero was one of the leads and can talk about the inside poop. This event will likely sell out. Go figure.

# Lucinda Williams, One of My Heroes

#### Thomas Avery

have been following Lucinda Williams music ever since I first discovered her. Her father Miller Williams was a poet laureate from the South. Her mother was a sensitive intelligent woman who suffered from depression and schizophrenia. Lucinda had a challenging childhood. She understood what pain was about. Her grandfather, her father's father was a preacher in a Methodist church. But he was also a believer in human rights and supported labor unions. He was an influence on her music as well as her father was. She was born in New Orleans where her father taught literature and French Cajun music influenced her musical expression in songs like "Crescent City," "Lafayette," and "Louisiana Man." Those songs were on her earlier albums. Her first albums were Ramblin' on My Mind and Happy Woman Blues where she sings like a cowgirl on the western plains and after that came the album simply titled Lucinda Williams. Later, Car Wheels On a Gravel Road was a turning point in her career. After Lucinda's mother died Miller married again. His second wife, Jordan was a poet also and he landed a permanent teaching position at the University of Arkansas and Lucinda was influenced by the different poets she met at her father's parties in Fayetteville. On her album World Without Tears she does a slow bluesy poetic rant on "American Dream." On her album

Down Where the Spirit Meets the Bone she mixes it up with some lighter acoustic tracks and some hard driving rock. One that grabs my attention and speaks about the injustice and poverty is "East Side of Town." On one of her more recent albums, Good Souls Better Angels she really rocks out on "Man Without a Soul." She doesn't mention a name. But it is quite clear who she is singing about. Her music mentors are Woody Guthrie Joan Baez and Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen. She has shared the stage with Willie Nelson, Neil Young and many other luminaries. On one of the more obscure albums, Vanished Gardens, recorded with Charles Lloyd and the Marvels, she sings with jazz musicians. She also did an album called Bob's Back Pages: A Night of Bob Dylan Songs. She had a stroke a few years ago but made a come back on her album Stories From a Rock n Roll Heart and she keeps on rockin and singing songs of love, joy, pain, justice and truth. She wrote a memoir about her personal life and her music career titled Don't Tell Anybody The Secrets I Told You which I highly recommend. I saw her at the McDonald Theatre when she came to town after releasing Car Wheels On A Gravel Road and World Without Tears. I'll be looking forward to seeing her on stage again when she comes around. ಹಹಹ



## Art In The City Stephen Slater

e who currently live in Eugene, Oregon, are blessed with a few examples of genuinely good public art. (That is more than I can say about the town where I grew up, a cheezy suburb of Tacoma, Washington.)

At the intersection of Willamette St. and Broadway there are several instances of such art. Four of them are entitled Four Seasons and were created by Woof Works Studio in Eugene. At the northwest corner there is a stainless steel structure surrounding a column, apparently of mineral origin. The whole is suggestive of frozen music (Goethe's phrase for architecture). At the northeast corner it is Eugene Farmers' Market with a metal torpedo sprouting from it and a smoky swizzle stick corkscrew on top. At the southeast corner there is a vertical cone with black & white tiles leading up to scaly bracts, sending forth something for which I have no description. At the southwest corner there is something a bit like the structures at the northeast and southeast corners: black and white tiles on a vertical cone supporting a pitcher plant covered with colored tiles, from which metal calligraphy emerges. The difference between viewing these structure in daylight and when the street lights are on is strikina.

At the corner of 12th Ave. and Pearl St. is my favorite mural in town, Jim Evangelista's 1992 "Tuscany." It is an urban scene, evidently European, sometime in the 19th or 20th century, yet it has a "timeless" quality due to the cobblestones and the lack of technological markers of modernity: automobiles, street lights, power cables and obnoxious advertising. It is impossible to tell which season the scene is set in. I find myself tempted to imagine what lies beyond the scene depicted on the wall: the visible suggests the invisible, as in (distantly) Akira Kurosawa's 1970 film, Dodes'ka-den. (As for the mural on the other side of the same building, I would suggest to the artist that the eyes of the child being carried are all wrong: they are "older" and more troubled than fascinated, thus detracting from the mural as a whole which is otherwise admirable.)

Near the corner of Olive St. and 10th Ave., near the LTD station, there is a very plain bronze sculpture of Rosa Parks created by Pete Helzer in 2009. The act of sitting as a radical act of defiance. Here the visual aspects yield to the act commemorated. And yet the same Pete Helzer also created, at a moment when his daimon had clearly abandoned him, The Storyteller, an unfortunate undertaking at the intersection where the Four Seasons are located, a enduring tribute to Eugene's own model family man, Ken Kesey, cast in an anti-weathering alloy of oinkoink ignoratio and willing compliance with generally accepted standards for public art in middleclass America. After all, reading to children was what he was known for, wasn't it?

As if making a mockery of the Rosa Parks sculpture, in front of the Eugene Public Library there is a metal memorialization of Eugene Skinner plopping his pioneer butt down in a symbolic act of taking possession in the name of militant Manifest Destiny. (Couldn't the artist have placed the man in an outhouse, where his squat would have had colorectal significance?) do do do





The silky smooth surface of stuffed pleather sits against your skull, fully isolating the cochlear nerves. Five hundred dollars worth of technology produces direct input, a sonic plundering, a minimalist caress, or anything between. Sometimes, listening to albums through a high-quality pair of cordless headphones, while otherwise sensory deprived, is better than the live performance, the dance internal.

## **Burnt Ivory and Loose Wires**



by Ponder/Seek/Discover

Annie Gosfield Released: June 21, 1998 Tracks: 7

Annie Gosfield is a classically trained composer dubbed by the BBC as "a one woman Hadron collider."

This is Ms. Gosfield's first album, released on Tzadik, John Zorn's label. She tends to dance on that critical boundary between form and chaos, maintaining the balance with a mixture of traditional and non-traditional methods. Here, the acoustic instruments are digitally recorded and conform to notated scores with openings for improve; finally, the recordings are digitally detuned and otherwise manipulated, producing a sonic hurricane. Listener beware! Ms. Gosfield refers to this result as "calamitonality," after the infamous improviser, P. W. Schreck – "The dissonances on a beat-up piano can sound more beautiful than eighty union hacks reading down your score. Just because the funds aren't there, it doesn't mean music isn't."

## Untitled #123



Francisco Lopez Released: February 19, 2002

Francisco Lopez is a Spanish sound artist, creating minimalist soundscapes that, being rather lush, defy logic.

This is Mr. Lopez' second release on Alien 8 Recordings. It was created using sounds recorded by various artists invited to use the "Silophone" created by the experimental duo, [the user], in Montreal, Quebec; the "Silophone" an abandoned grain silo converted to a top-notch recording space. Being minimalist, listening to this album absolutely requires the best headphones money can buy, but I'll never forget the first time I listened to this album: lying mobile on my bed, at one point I found myself mysteriously floating about halfway between bed and ceiling ??! If Burnt Ivory and Loose Wires is a hurricane front, then Untitled #123 is the eye of the storm.

### Sick Boi



## World's Worst Crossword

by Will Long-Pantz



## ACROSS

1. Fergul, Graffiti poet from Istanbul

6. Graffiti's long-running music-review column

12. Obnoxious ass, in pidgin Spanglish

14. One of the biological Legos

15. Sick members of the high-school brass section

18. Dog breeders' registry org.

19. Animation frame

- 20. Inner-city transport trams (acronym)
- 21. Johnny Winter, for example
- 23. Graffiti's first cartoonist Misha

25. Holder of a security interest in real or personal property

26. Omari, early Graffiti contributor of outstanding fiction

27. Your first course at Beppe & Gianni's, perhaps

29. One of the covert "invisible" warfare experts deemed dishonorable by the samurai

31. A Mormon landlord?

32. The network connecting your brain with the rest of your body

34. "Would you like a second helping?" "No thank you. I

37. Tissue serving as a matrix with a structural or connective role

39. It's cool in Cannes

DOWN

9

2. Drummers with good double-stroke rolls inherited this

3. Shot\_

4. A grown-up

1. See 41-Across

5. Feminist fashion statement you might be comfortable with

6. What you get when you bathe after going to the beach

7. Nickname for Jennifer Lopez's cousin Ursula

8. Support of the monarchy

9. If you live near 5th St Marketplace, you hear them all the time

10. What you might have to do to a kinked hose

11. West Eugene's über-funky coffee emporium, Caffé

13. 1965 Western comedy film starring Lee Marvin and Jane Fonda

16. Introduction

17. How you remove slip-ons

22. Translations in the program notes for an early Roman production of The Wizard of Oz: lion: leo; tiger: tigris;

24. Things aren't fair around Rhode Island

28. Airport security updates

30. A segment of Graffiti's core audience



Released: October 13, 2023 Tracks: 18

Ren Gill is, first and foremost, a poet, second, a performance artist, and third, a musician.

This is Ren's second, self-released, studio album. Ren is primarily a self-made YouTube sensation from Wales. Being a prodigy, he was initially following the standard trajectory, but then fell extremely ill. His illness was miss-diagnosed several times before the proper diagnosis of Lyme disease and a stem cell transplant cure. His illness lasted more than eight years and eventually led to psychosis, and this is the experience which informs his music. One of the most brutally honest and authentic artists I've ever experienced, his work leaves you emotionally exhausted. If Burnt Ivory and #123 is the hurricane, then Ren is walking about after the fact, gators and cotton mouths everywhere, too tired to care.



41. With 1-Down, Graffiti's popular new comic panel

44. A jumble of George Washingtons

45. Some Pennsylvania Dutch people with extra upper-body appendages?

46. Box for organizing and storing certain shrub leaves

49. Defeated by

50. "It's really cold!"

51. A spherical body

52. Alligator pear, slangily

53. An underwater vessel offered as a door prize

56. Sea in Saint-Tropez

57. "I bawl my eyes out! You?" "Yes, I \_

58. Graffiti advertiser John Davis's real estate firm

59. John, regular Graffiti contributor and host of Anarchy Radio on KWVA

35. Where Dorothy et al were off to

36. Bad advice given to physician Larry Lawrence concerning his upcoming testimony

38. Person with a hot bod in yoga class

40. A vegan protein source

41. A decidedly non-vegan protein source

42. Sometimes done beyond a reasonable doubt

43. "How do you feel after that workout?"

47. Rice in Reynosa

48. Container for storage or shipping

54. Half of a chocolate treat

55. Tit-\_\_\_-tat

Answers on p. 11 (You're gonna need 'em!)

## Imagine

Please, if you will, Kind colonizer, Sweet imperialist, Saucy capitalist, A desperate father sneaks out surreptitiously as a mouse, Searching for ANYTHING to feed his starving darling, the beloved soul of his soul While a sniper playing Call of Duty, Neutralizes his target, And the child dies of hunger And the father's body decomposes among The rubble, denied a funeral, Denied humanity, Having been killed by the silence of civilized braggards and heartless imbeciles, Another day in Gaza Where humanity haunts the witness And confounds the innocent. Gaza, where to be born Is a death sentence And an empty promise, By an empty skull, We are all guilty of genocide While we hug both sides, Oh oppressor, in your need to imagine Yourself the victim You killed a Palestinian child every 10 minutes, And destroyed cities by your silence. Oh oppressor, Holding all the power, A system of oppression at your fingertips A shower of pain at your convenience, What a pile of horror it must be To have to continue this charade That their blood isn't on your hands, Isn't a stain on your soul, Isn't in your control.

This thing you call society Has been burned down in Gaza, This idea of progress, Of western civilization, Of reputable institutions, Is rotted and exposed, at its core And its foundations, Devoid of any shred of credibility. All you have left is brute power And when that fails you I will enjoy watching you scramble for A hand to hold, But the hate you birthed Will choke you And I will not raise my voice in your defense But will be dancing with all liberated people On the ashes of your terror.

#### **Shachar Efrati**

## A Seat at the Table

Outrage mounts, Humanity shouts, You will not win, Your crooked grin Will drown to a grimace And we will look upon your face As the face of evil within. So bomb from a hill. From the belly of a tank, From the comfort of your American bank, Keep sneering from your stolen land, We will see Palestine stand United in the struggle Like a rose rising from the rubble.

## Endecasílabo

El mundo lame la mano del amo

Jesús Sepúlveda

## No Man's Land

With the third world in the bones and the fourth in the heart

Erased from the map as a sinking island Migrants' herd in the wake of exile

Storms of words Splinters in the eyes or speck in another's eye

> Brother against sister Sister against brother

Melting guts on the battlefield Do not listen to the engine of fury

Hurricanes turn the blades of power Its deep core is a gear

Intestines eaten by the worm of death Hatred and resentment go to bed on holy ground

Jesús Sepúlveda

## **On Viewing Watercolors** by Adolph Hitler

There is no curling barbed wire shown, or Semite faces shrunk to skulls. No chimneys full of greasy smoke just steps away from showers where water did not run. Here is only watercolor applied in tiny daubs, Controlled with draftsman's hand and photographic eye. A Ruin is what you saw and drew. A crumbling church all beaten down with war and pain Of which you had some part in 1914's battles. You captured the tone of evenings bluing shadows as they came....

### And then you ceased to paint.

Why? Why did you leave your brushes? Were they so heavy that you had to lift a sword to rest your hands? Was watercolor so difficult you found it better to paint in blood? If only you had held to paint and canvas you might have edified us all! Instead of making art with flashing guns and mangled flesh That screamed and begged before it gushed its life onto the canvas of your war. That was a bit of art the world could well have done without. A picture that the children of Treblinka would want no dealings with If they had had a choice. They got no choice. You and all the ones who helped your earthly hell to be, gave them no choice. But they were living things! Not crumbled ruins like this Belgian church you trapped in watercolor so long ago. Living creatures created by the acts of love that never were a part of you, painter. Creatures you could not create, and so you waved you painters hand And tried to wipe all life away because you were a jealous fool Who ran amok because he was not God.

## Ode to the Mother

#### Creator

The drift of the Mother is dark indeed; She needn't be present to plant Her seed. She comes on occasion when life is unwell, an Isis in hiding under Her veil. She awakens Her lovers, their wounded dream; She gives them meaning, dissolving what seem, misery and illusory, a temporal scream. A deliverance from sorrow, Her people unchained; Prometheus rising, Her will ordained.

The essential darkness, beginner's mind; Her jewels and adornments a pleasure to find. Awaked from ignorance, unending bliss; a manifest of wonder brings us to this: Serve Her will, She'll open the door; a timeless kingdom, possibility galore. Accept the wisdom, the ancient lore, follow Her love to yonder shore.

Feed the Mother you fools, for She's the One to adore! Feed the Mother you fools, for She's the Eternal Core! Feed the Mother you fools, add to Her ancient lore! Feed the Mother you fools, cross to the yonder shore!

#### Preserver

The essence of the Mother unchanged through time; Birth and Death, the eternal rhyme. Listen to the story it tells of this, Colloidal Suspension, lovelorn bliss. What is illusory and what is real; the sword of death a determined appeal. Discriminate wisely, you'll see the truth; transcending time, eternal youth. So mourn not Death nor yearn for Life, the Mother in essence is full of Strife.

Feed the Mother you fools, try to even the score! Feed the Mother you fools, no reason to abhor! Feed the Mother you fools, calm the tempest's roar! Feed the Mother you fools, let your spirit soar!

#### Destroyer

Fraudulent kings born into power, integrated desire, prostitution, and war;

- boardroom warmongers, a slick ass campaign, exporting death with moral disdain.
- Kings and their jesters plying the trade, demons and fools a hell-bent tirade;

Mercenary killers still keeping the score, all they care for continuing war.

Scene after scene, crusades of hate; blood begets blood, it's already too late. Killing sons, daughters, the young; aborting their future in the name of the State. Sorrow by sorrow recorded in time; destiny repeating, the doom innate.

Feed the Mother you fools, treat the world like your whore! Feed the Mother you fools, enjoy the bloody gore! Feed the Mother you fools, until you're tired and sore! Feed the Mother you fools, there's room in hell for lot's more!

So dance now on the blood of martyrs As it sinks into the soil. Feeding the revolution, as it boils Over into fierce defiance Of all oppressed people Shaking the foundation to its core Until dignity and equality break down the halls of justice, Once and for all, Everyone gets a seat, As humanity sits tall.

**Shachar Efrati** 

G. L. Helm



Poem and art by Wes Hansen



art by Jean Murphy

# **Steve in Cars**

**Stephen Swiftfox** 

## **First Crush**

Facing South, school playground...empty You're in the driver's seat in more ways than one. White '62 Plymouth. Cross on the mirror. Me...far end of the vinyl bench seat, my head rolled back looking at the white foam headliner, watching my finger make - you're undoing my belt... pants - divots in the headliner.

Pants off, you're good at this. My butt on vinyl. You ask, working on me, if I had... impure thoughts about Michelle. 7th grade angel.

> A trigger, eh? I thought impure thoughts were mortal sins. I can't stop my racing heart, quickened breath or..... that. Being a priest must make it ok.

Funny what the smell of hot asphalt will resurrect from 60 years ago.

## The Persistence of Memory

With apologies to Salvador Dali

## PSST! HEY YOU! UP HERE!...

Yes, you! Graffiti depends on you to send us your creative work! Fiction, nonfiction, poetry, line art, photography whatever you create. Don't be shy! Do it today! More than once if you feel the urge! Be in the next issue, okay? Email your writings and/or scanned artwork to us at graffitieugene@gmail.com.



Leaked photographs of Graffiti's corporate headquarters: spacious gender-neutral outhouse (above) and C-Suite offices (below). © Morgan Smith, leaker.



#### Answers to puzzle p. 9

<sup>1</sup> C	I	<sup>2</sup> R	<sup>3</sup> P	<sup>4</sup> A	⁵ N		۴	<sup>7</sup> U	<sup>8</sup> <b>R</b>	Ν	I	۹ ۲	10 U	11 <b>P</b>
н		<sup>12</sup> <b>R</b>	U	D	0	<sup>13</sup> C	U	L	0			<sup>1</sup> R	Ν	Α
15 	16 L	L	Т	U	в	Α	В	0	Y	17 S		18 <b>A</b>	К	С
19 C	Ε	L		20 L	R	т	S		21 <b>A</b>	L	22 <b>B</b>	Ι	N	0
<sup>23</sup> <b>K</b>	Α	G	24 U	Т	Α	В	Α		25 L	I	E	N	0	R
26 E	D	Ε	Ν			27 <b>A</b>	Ν	28 <b>T</b>	I	Р	Α	s	т	I
29 <b>N</b>	Ι	Ν	J	30 <b>A</b>		31 L	D	S	s	0	R			
	32 <b>N</b>	Е	U	R	33 <b>A</b>	L		<sup>34</sup>	м	F	υ	35 L	36 L	
			<sup>37</sup> S	Т	R	0	<sup>38</sup> <b>M</b>	Α		<sup>39</sup> F	R	Α	I	40 S
41 S	42 P	43 	R	Ι	т	U	Α	L			44 <b>S</b>	Ν	Е	0
45 <b>A</b>	R	М	-	S	Н		46 <b>T</b>	E	47 <b>A</b>	48 C	Α	D	D	Y
49 L	0	s	Т	Т	0		50 B	R	R	R		51 <b>O</b>	R	в
<sup>52</sup>	۷	0		53 S	U	<sup>54</sup> <b>B</b>	Α	Т	R	Α	55 F	F	L	E
<sup>56</sup> M	Е	R			57 S	0	В	S	0	т	0	0		Α
<sup>58</sup>	Ν	Е	U	G	Е	Ν	Ε		<sup>59</sup> Z	Е	R	Z	Α	N

**Rene!** When we met at one of our Buddhist meetings my breath was caught by your 6' 2" frame. A new arrival from New York seeking a modeling job in L.A. Most everyone was Japanese and well under six feet.

No need to work up some confidence asking to go out with you, you asked me. This helped. At 20 I'd hardly been in even the close proximity of a woman.

On my 21st birthday you dropped by. Didn't know quite what to do. Small talk would suffice I guessed. As that ran dry I asked if you'd like to see my aquarium in my bedroom and you sweetly assented. Didn't take me long to realize you didn't come here to see an aquarium. The forever existing side of me said "It's about time Steve."

Soon we were inseparable. You showed me that it was possible to do 'it' in the back of a 1965 VW Beetle.

Now, in my quiet moments I wonder where you are. A lot of time and miles between then and now. A bright twinkle echoing to today.

## Curious Case

(continued from p. 5)

Humans make up spiritual fantasies all the time—communing with the spirts of the woods and rivers the birds and the flowers. Fly Fishermen harbor mystical feelings of solidarity with salmon and their impossible odyssey from a mountain stream to the depths of the Pacific and then, years later, back to their original remote spawning grounds.

Are we to assume the so-called "lower" animals don't possess the capacity for mysticism? How do we know that? Could this big Columbian have imagined he was a cow? Did he think, dream or contemplate life as a cow? I propose that the Columbian's struggle with his species identity was a profound statement about life's metaphysical mysteries. When I discover what those mysteries are, rest assured, I'll report my findings.

\**Science Daily*, Oregon Health Sciences Center, March 9, 2004

## Dies infaustus

Wake on the hours, night gilding your walls like infant shoes. Tombed with your stirring heart you hear its pungent iambs: I am the unwell being.

Thunderheads are sculptors mutilated with their own tools. Roll away from the open window, feeling accused.

You think you are drawing farther from her, when in fact you are growing closer and have always been almost closer than you could bear.

In some hours you will leave your bed, hornswoggled into the irrevocable daylight.

Sean Bentley



Through wildlife rehabilitation and public education, Cascades Raptor Center fosters a connection between people



Stephen Slater Retro Procto: Dr. Duck

ansas Porco Dio Radio's colorectal rock-hard "Procto Lollipop Suppository Suck Hour" is Dorothy and the Tin Man's very own contribution to pandemic-reinforced retrogression into 1950s Allen Dulles CIA-enabled United Fruit Chiquita Walmart gaga gimme gimme goatfuck warm fuzzy mommy foam / wheres my dacquiri & huz that methcrazed reprobate rummaging my carry-on / Toto, I don't think we're in the 20th century anymore / one man's terroiriste is another man's Enduring Freedom (as Noam Chomsky once pointed out regarding W.'s global war on whatever, one meaning of the word "endure" is "to suffer") / Wenn ich das Wort Umwelt höre, greif ich nach meinem Adolf / plus ça change / Hunter S. Thompson did not die: his gonzo turkey dinner with all the fixins was transubstantiated into the rarified element of reiner Geist with just a touch of materialist yeast, just enough to sprout a future froth of freaky Frank's inventive mothers / that woman's impeachable mouthful of Wild Bill's wayward wanger / but I regress / back to the war on Vietnam: Stephen Paddock's Las Vegas My Lai shootem-up / is mass murder a speech act? (Professor Searle, please call your office) / did Gottlob Frege sense the Sinn without broaching the Bedeutung? / does the pope shit in the sacristy? / Multimeming Mallarmé / Railroad Rimbaud ridin' roughshod on the ratio / James Joyssance, Ithacan author of Derridas Dead / lilliputian a la mode with a french-fried frisson / i'll have the turd aspic on a bed of lettuce / eine Kuh macht Muh, viele Kühe machen Mühe / vortex vertex Volly Darton / Madoff Karloff Benoit Mandel / white brot butterbrot / cuz the vandals took the handle

## **Redemptor mundi**

s Mary of Nazareth was walking to the market one day, she was humped by an eight-legged flying saucer with a retractable pneumatic titillator. On the eve of the Super Bowl she gave birth to a stigmata-studded alien with an attitude. When it turned twelve it already had a BMW, a Prius and a Tesla. By the time it was twenty it had expanded a home-based hummus operation into a multi-franchise fast falafel chain. A few years later, unmistakable adumbrations of what was to come began to make themselves manifest. In its thirtieth year a large cruciform lump developed on its back, which began to sprout hairs and throb in ever more insistent fashion when the moon was full. It got into gin and blackjack, muttering "Golgotha, Golgotha" at every deal, and "Father, why hast Thou forsaken me?" when it lost as was usually the case. Then it met Ichabod the Baptist in the sauna one day, who taught it how to attract lepers and storms. They did the talk shows and Vegas; they were even on Saturday Night Live. Yet there was no avoiding what was to be. The throbbing cruciform lump could no longer be dismissed as a mere by-product of overactive gonads. No - a fullscale hirsute crucifixion was taking shape, Roman soldiers and all, just beneath the grotesquely distended integument, literally itching to be hatched.





541.833.0022

Event transport, mural tours, river tours, brewery tours, inclusion of non-cyclists in group rides.

## EmeraldCityPedicab.com



#### 458.292.8375 | lisadiluna.com

## Dan Liberthson, Novelist and Poet

The Bluejay Contrivance – spy novel on a worldwide stage The Golden Spider – kids' fantasy novel with talking cat A Poetry of Birds – poems about birds, with photos The Pitch is on the Way – baseball poems and drawings Animal Songs – poems & drawings about pets & wild ones A Family Album – poems & album photos about family Morning and Begin Again – poems about life's challenges

ana biras oj prey

Owls, Engles, Hawks, Falcons, and more!

#### COME FOR A VISIT

Open year round Tuesday- Sunday 10am - 4pm



## Mark Überverse

s Jared Samsa awoke one morning from troubled real estate dreams, he found himself sipping champagne at the American embassy in Tel Aviv. With him was Ivanka who, although enjoying the snacks and bubbly, began eying the bowl of Red Delicious resting on the sideboard. How does this story end? www.liberthson.com / liberthson@gmail.com



#### Help! Help! Please! Somebody! I'm trapped down here under all these ads. I can't breathe! Call 911! Hove you, Mom