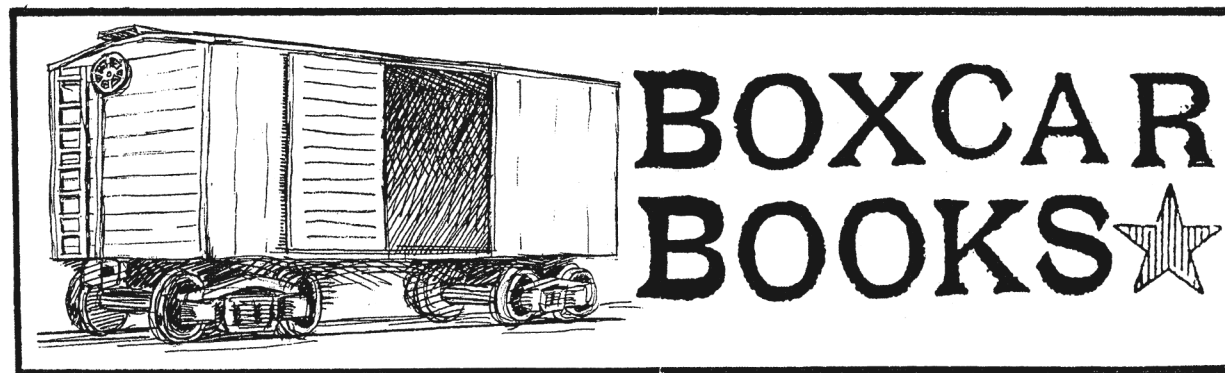


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Volume 11 Issue 5  
August/September  
2012



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

For the most up-to-date event information, visit our website! New events and changes may have been added since publication of this newsletter.

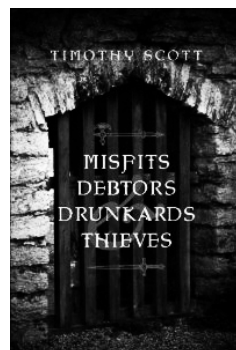
**Saturday, August 4th, 7pm**

Sander Hicks reading  
Sander Hicks reads  
from his book  
*Slingshot to the  
Juggernaut*.



**Saturday, August 18th, 7pm**

Timothy Scott reading  
Timothy Scott reads  
from his book  
*Misfits, Debtors,  
Drunkards, and  
Thieves*.



### Weekly Meetings:

**The Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project**  
Now meets at 118 S. Rogers Suite #2.  
Visit [www.pagestoprisoners.org](http://www.pagestoprisoners.org)  
or email [mwpp@pagestoprisoners.org](mailto:mwpp@pagestoprisoners.org)  
for more information.

Mondays: 7-9pm (during school year)  
Thursdays: 7-11pm Sundays: 2-5pm

Book and monetary donations should still  
be dropped off at Boxcar Books.

**The Bloomington Writing Project at  
Boxcar Books:** Tuesdays by appointment  
only. Thursdays walk-ins welcome  
3:30pm - 6:30pm. Free non-fiction writ-  
ing help for all community members.  
Open to the public. Volunteers at the  
Bloomington Writing Project come from  
diverse backgrounds, and offer writing  
consultation on a range of projects. From  
memoir-writing to application forms, an  
essay you've been thinking about to a let-  
ter to the editor, we're here to help you  
think through any form of non-fiction writ-  
ing. Visit:  
[bloomingtonwritingproject.blogspot.com](http://bloomingtonwritingproject.blogspot.com)

### Monthly Meetings:

2nd Tuesday of Every Month: Deep Roots  
Animal Sanctuary Vegan Pot Luck.  
[www.deeprootssanctuary.org](http://www.deeprootssanctuary.org)

Boxcar Books provides a free meeting  
room and access to other resources for  
community, activist, literary, and special  
interest groups. The meeting room is sep-  
arate from the retail space and may be uti-  
lized before, during, and after normal  
business hours. Please get in touch with us  
to make our meeting space more active! To  
reserve the meeting space for your group,  
please contact: [events@boxcarbooks.org](mailto:events@boxcarbooks.org).

If you would like to have an arti-  
cle included in our newsletter's Commu-  
nity/ Scene Report, or if you've had a  
change of address but would like to con-  
tinue receiving our newsletter, send an  
email with your article ideas and new  
mailing address to our newsletter editor  
at: [newsletter@boxcarbooks.org](mailto:newsletter@boxcarbooks.org).

## NEWS

by taylor dean

Hope the long summer days hold out. We've got work to do! We're stocking our shelves with tons of rad used books, as folks prepare to pack up and shift spaces come August, Bloomington's turn over month. As we make new friends and renew our efforts to support zinesters and small distros directly, Richard, Lauren, and Tara J. have been bringing in amazing new self-published zines from local Bloomington folks (like Gabriela Cracraft's *Maddie*) and artists a little farther out of town (check out *The Life and Times of Butch Dykes* zine series). Fall text-book preparations are underway, and we've been working on spreading the word about Boxcar's textbook stipend program benefitting undocumented students affected by SB590, an Indiana bill which requires undocumented folks to pay out of state tuition, even if they are Indiana residents. The stipend aims to provide some financial relief to these students in the form of a \$1,000 scholarship to be shared among applicants to cover semester textbook costs. If you want to know more about the text-book stipend, contact us for details!

And then there are the events...

In mid July Boxcar was the setting for a community discussion marking the release of *Down: Reflections on Prison Resistance in Indiana*, a collaboratively written book on the history of Indiana prisoner rebellion. Two of the book contributors hosted the gathering, sharing critiques of the prison indus-

trial complex (PIC) and explaining that the book serves as a means to: 1) create comradeship between folks on the inside/outside that can be mutually beneficial in abolishing prisons 2) talk about prisoner solidarity and critique strategies of support; 3) give a history of prisoner resistance in Indiana and 4) point out and challenge the larger cultural institutions of the police state (probation, surveillance, etc). Passages from the book's history of Indiana prisoner uprisings and collected interviews with Indiana prison rebels were read, followed by a discussion amongst attendees about strategies for resistance, a discussion which described ways in which folks on the inside and the outside can tear down prison walls together. If you missed the talk, check out the blurb about the book later in the newsletter, or stop by Boxcar to pick up a copy for yourself!

Radical critiques continued the next night with a visit from the Mysterious Rabbit Puppet Army! North Carolina artists and activists performed the original puppet show "Donny Quixote!," which featured papier-mâché animal puppets learning about radical eco activism vs. liberal activism and ways of responding to state oppression through direct action. The play offered critiques of money-driven environmental activism like "the buy green campaign" which encourages people to "vote with their dollars" by purchasing "green" products like hybrid cars (vehicle factory production is a top air pollution industry), windmills (natural resources and metals for windmill production are mined from land occupied by indigenous folks), soy (logging and clear cutting of the rainforest and indigenous folks' land to have more

continued on Page 2



farmland), for example. The show encouraged folks to resist “consumer activism,” as it isn’t a solution and only creates more ecological harm by spurring a demand for more goods production. Instead, folks suggested reducing waste by monitoring our own consumption habits and directly challenging companies that harm our land and bodies by polluting and tearing down our environment. The Puppet Army suggested that folks join local environmental groups like Bloomington’s Earth First chapter, Glacier’s Edge. Contact Glacier’s Edge at [glaciersedge@riseup.net](mailto:glaciersedge@riseup.net) for more information on ways you can get involved.

Several of the folks touring with the Puppet Army were from North Carolina’s free books to prisoners program, Internationalist Prison Book Collective, on behalf of which we posted an urgent call for support in our last newsletter, as IPBC was facing eviction due to gentrification in Chapel Hill, NC. Luckily, IPBC has found a new home in the large garage of their local housing co-op! Donations helped them cover the cost for moving and building shelving in their new home, which also serves as the

home base for their prison rebel information sharing operations—the main link in news about the prisoner hunger strikes happening at three North Carolina prisons, as prisoners demand basic rights like clean and adequate food, medical care, and the end of solitary confinement as a tactic of political intimidation. We here at Boxcar and Pages will try to continue relaying news from NC folks, especially updates from IPBC. Thanks for your support!

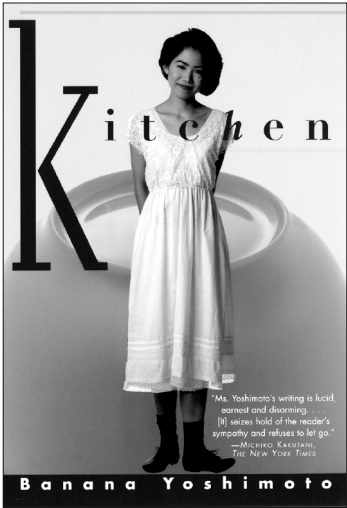
And, locally, Bloomington’s prison book program is doing well this summer, too. The Midwest Pages to Prisoners project has recently been seeing an increase in community volunteer support, which is great! Our zine distro project, which offers zines on radical politics to folks in Indiana, has sent out of 20 packs of zines so far! Folks are corresponding about the materials, which range from zines on prisons, feminism, gender studies, and much more. Please consider joining our efforts. Check out [www.pagestoprisoners.org](http://www.pagestoprisoners.org) to learn more about the project and how to get involved.

There’s so much more to look forward to in August. Check out our events calendar and come by the shop to learn more about what’s happening at Boxcar.

BOOK REVIEW

*Kitchen*  
by Banana Yoshimoto  
Reviewed by Courtney

*Kitchen* is a novel by Japanese author Banana Yoshimoto, which was first published in Japan in 1988 and which first appeared in English translation in 1993. The novel portrays the story of Mikage Sakurai, a college-aged woman whose grandmother, her last living relative, tragically passes away. *Kitchen*’s spare, dreamy prose floats over a depth of emotional intensity that surfaces in brilliant bursts. The novel opens with, “The place I like best in this world is the kitchen,” and contains several well-described meals. However, the novel is more than a sort of fictionalized food memoir, as the character



Sakurai, while cooking, spends much of her time contemplating her own morality and her place in the world. *Kitchen* is an easy, empathetic, and soothing companion to grief, as you travel with Mikage through her own grief and the sweet reblossoming of her happiness as she forges new connections in the world. Yoshimoto’s breakthrough novel still relevantly challenges traditional constructions of

family, while reaffirming the beauty of basic human connection, and it does all of this in 1980s Tokyo, a now likely distant time and place to us living in Bloomington in 2012. This is as an excellent read for the end of summer/beginning of fall, as it strikes a perfect balance between airy lightness and bittersweet salience.

FEATURED ARTISTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST



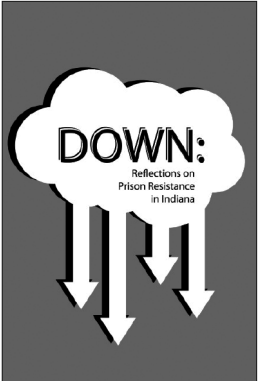
This July we showcased the art of Kate Prelock, a local photographer, whose recent photographs showcase landscapes and nature. Coming up in August, we’re exhibiting the work of Alex Greemann and Geran Thur, whose exhibit is

on local skateboards. Come check it out! Interested in having your art featured at Boxcar? Contact Courtney at [art@boxcarbooks.org](mailto:art@boxcarbooks.org)

FROM THE AUTHORS OF  
DOWN: REFLECTIONS ON PRISON  
RESISTANCE IN INDIANA

We’re pleased to announce the release of our new book, *Down: Reflections on Prison Resistance in Indiana*. The book contains a number of interviews with some of Indiana’s long-term prison rebels, a brief overview of the rich history of prison struggle throughout the state, and thoughts from the editors about how prisoner solidarity has been and could be done. More generally, it documents a conversation between a few anarchists in the state and some prisoners here who became politicized on the inside, of a bridge we are building between differing conditions, politics, and beliefs—of our mutual need and desire to abolish prison.

The book is a 95 page half-sized bound paperback. It’s free to prisoners, with particular preference given to folks in Indiana (as building connections with these prisoners is part of the point.) It’s available for sale to outside supporters for \$6 at Boxcar Books. If you have any thoughts about the book or the strategies outlined in it, you want to be in contact with the authors/editors or you know someone in prison in Indiana who might like a copy, please email [indianaprisonersolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:indianaprisonersolidarity@gmail.com).



VOLUNTEER PROFILE:  
COURTNEY

Interview by Alan Crenshaw

*What brought you to Boxcar?*  
I’ve been visiting Bloomington and living here for short periods of time since 2002. I’ve always really loved Boxcar, so when I settled down here, I came in and signed up to start volunteering.

*What is the last book you read?*  
It was *Kitchen*, by Banana Yoshimoto.

*Is that the book you’re reviewing in the newsletter?*  
Yeah. It’s one of my top three favorite books. The other two are *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith, and *When Rain Clouds Gather* by Bessie Head.

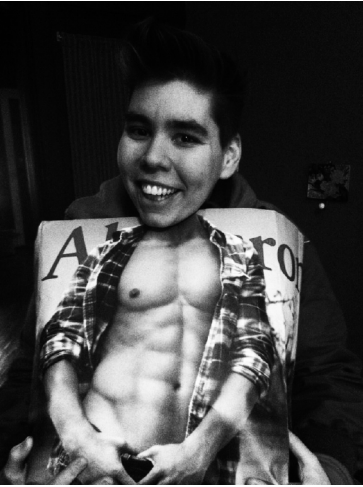
*If you were a Star Trek® or Star Wars® character, which one would it be?*

Oh my god. That’s hard... Star Trek... Oh, I totally know who I would be (pauses to look something up on the computer). I would be Pavel Chekov. And as for Star Wars characters, I would be ... Lando Calrissian, or maybe C3PO.

*What is your favorite drink?*  
I love the diet Dr. Brown’s black cherry soda from the co-op.

*If you could trade places with someone for a week, famous or not famous, living or dead, real or fictional, with whom would it be?*  
I would want to.... I want to be someone who’s on a really sweet vacation hanging out at the beach somewhere.

*Which character on The Office are you most like?*  
When I’m with my friend Rebekah we totally have a Michael Scott/Dwight Schrute dynamic going on. I usually go along with any dumb scheme she has. Otherwise...I’m probably.... I guess we all wish we were Jim. I also love Mindy Kaling’s character, Kelly Kapoor. She’s hilarious.



ZINES N’ THINGS

*The Horrible Happenings of Bageler Brian*, Issue One  
by Vernon Mahoney  
Reviewed by Lauren Glapa

In *The Horrible Happenings of Bageler Brian*, the luckless 20-something protagonist is mysteriously named as the heir of his father’s BBQ joint when his father dies, while



SCENE REPORT: VITAL

Volunteer as an Adult Literacy Tutor

There are more than 15,000 adults in Monroe and surrounding counties who lack basic literacy skills. You can help by volunteering as a VITAL (Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners) tutor. VITAL staff will train you to provide one-to-one tutoring to adults who want to improve their reading, writing, math or English speaking skills.

VITAL’s next Basic Literacy Tutor Training sessions begin August 18. Please plan to attend all four sessions:

- Saturday, August 18, 9:30-1:30
- Sunday, August 19, 1:30-5:30
- Saturday, August 25, 1:30-5:30
- Sunday, September 23, 2:30-4:30

“Tutors help adult learners to achieve their individual literacy goals,” said VITAL Coordinator Bethany Terry. “For some, that means being able to help their child with their homework. For others, it means earning their GED or finding a job. Working one-on-one with another person can make a big difference.”

With the support of VITAL tutors, adult learners have:

- gained important life skills such as reading medicine labels and understanding financial documents
- improved English language skills
- earned the GED (General Educational Development) diploma
- found employment, retained jobs and earned promotions

VITAL is a free service of Monroe County Public Library. To find out more, email [vital@mcpl.info](mailto:vital@mcpl.info), call Bethany Terry, VITAL Coordinator, at 349-3173, visit <http://mcpl.info/vital>, or stop by the VITAL office, second floor, Monroe County Public Library, 303 E. Kirkwood Ave.

his mother and accountant sister are denied any part of his business or fortune. Instead of his mother and sister, the lawyer designated to read the will is suspiciously named as his heir. I certainly had a few good laughs as Brian enthusiastically turns the BBQ shop, which was once famous for its 12 sauces (beware the 13th sauce!), into a “bagelry” with a horrifying store room (but I won’t tell you why!) After an all-too-brief discussion as to why the intelligent student daughter inherited nothing, while the lazy, irresponsible son and lawyer got it all, Lily is repeatedly placed as the pestering, know-it-all older sister stereotype. Brian uses his bagelry and power to impress “sexy girls,” which then leads the comic to its gory cliff-hanger! No volume 2 was ever made, so I just assume that the same thing happens to Brian that happens to the 4 men-children in the movie *The Hangover*.