



First Friday News & Views



Iowa's LGBTQ+ Newsletter of the First Friday Breakfast Club

August 2024 | Volume 29 | Issue 8

Next Meeting
Friday,
August 2
7:00 a.m.



Location
Hoyt Sherman
15th & Woodland
Des Moines



Speaker
Dr. Daniel
Zinnel
C.E.O.
Proteus



Website
ffbc Iowa.org



The Payoffs of a Nonprofit

by Byron Huff, Board President

As a nonprofit, FFBC relies on donations to support our scholarship program. This year brought us near the \$500,000 milestone of scholarships awarded to high schools seniors who have done significant things in their schools and communities to reduce homophobia. FFBC is a small organization with very low overhead supported by volunteers; this allows us to award 100% of donor money directly to deserving students. We are fortunate to have the program continue to grow thanks to so many generous donors who recognize the importance of supporting students who face an ever-increasing cost to higher education.

Nonprofit organizations have long relied on the generosity of individual donors to fuel their missions and address societal challenges. However, recent trends indicate a troubling decline in the number of people donating to charities. According to a report by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, the percentage of American households donating to charity dropped from 66% in 2000 to 49.6% in 2018.

One of the primary reasons for the decline in individual giving is economic instability. The Great Recession of 2008 had a lasting impact on the financial health of many households, leading to increased caution in discretionary spending, including charitable donations. Even as the economy has recovered, income inequality and wage stagnation have left many individuals feeling financially insecure, making them less likely to give.

Generational changes also play a crucial role in the evolving landscape of nonprofit giving. Baby Boomers, who have tradi-

tionally been the most generous donors, are aging, and their giving patterns are shifting as they enter retirement. Meanwhile, younger generations, such as Millennials and Gen Z, approach philanthropy differently. While they are passionate about social causes, they often prefer to engage in activism, volunteerism, or support through social enterprises rather than traditional monetary donations.

Trust in nonprofit organizations has also been a factor in the decline of individual giving. High-profile scandals and cases of mismanagement have eroded public confidence in charities. Donors are increasingly demanding transparency and accountability, and organizations that fail to provide clear, measurable outcomes may struggle to attract support.



[continued on page 2]



["The Payoffs of a Nonprofit" continued from page 1]

The digital revolution has transformed how people interact with causes and charities. While this has opened up new avenues for giving, it has also fragmented the landscape. Traditional nonprofits now compete with a multitude of crowdfunding platforms and social media campaigns that appeal directly to individuals. These platforms often attract smaller, one-time donations rather than sustained, long-term support.



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Changes in tax policy have also influenced charitable giving. The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in the United States, for example, significantly raised the standard deduction, reducing the number of taxpayers who itemize deductions, including charitable contributions. This has led to a decrease in the tax incentives for giving, particularly among middle-income households.

FFBC has worked to increase our donor base by embracing transparency, leveraging technology, and building meaningful relationships with our donors. Anyone who has attended a scholarship awards ceremony can see the positive impact on students and their families. We continue to improve our technology that makes giving more convenient, and for the first time **we will be able to accept debit/credit cards at our meetings!** FFBC evolved quickly in 2020 when in-person meetings were not possible; Zoom meetings were our only saving grace. That same Zoom technology continues to be used allowing us to offer our meetings to anyone who cannot attend in person.

Given the many challenges and headwinds to charitable giving, FFBC has continued to thrive by remaining nimble and adapting. FFBC will continue to support the scholarship program as long as it is needed and as long as our donors continue to see its importance by continuing to generously contribute.



"Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization."

- Mahatma Gandhi

Briefs & Shorts



Thanks to **John Schmacker** for volunteering his amazing home and gardens for our July Donor Appreciation & Member Party. Thanks to **David Cotton** for managing our website, to **Nicholas Williams** for managing our Microsoft IT infrastructure, and to **David Wilfahrt** for managing FFBC's finances. Thanks to **Wade Petersen** for his work as our newsletter editor. *Thank you to all our newsletter contributors!*

The **deadline** for the 2024 **September newsletter**

will be **August 26**. If you have something on your mind to share, type it up and email it to Wade (wadecpetersen@gmail.com) by the deadline.



Fundraising efforts are ongoing to fund our scholarship program. To date we have awarded over **\$495,000** for scholarships to Iowa high school seniors who have done remarkable, courageous things to reduce homophobia and teach about LGBTQ issues in their schools and communities. Please consider a tax-deductible **contribution** online or by sending a check.



A special **thank-you** to those FFBC members and friends who have chosen to designate FFBC through the **Donor Direct** program of **United Way**. Contributions through United Way are tax deductible. Those who have chosen this means of supporting FFBC have gone to the trouble of completing their United Way campaign worksheet by designating FFBC as the beneficiary of their generosity. FFBC is an eligible recipient of such funding designations.



United Way



Some Questions for Donald Trump

by Jonathan Wilson

I have a few questions for Donald Trump that have not been asked or answered *yet*. They need to be.



First Friday Breakfast Club
Founder **Jonathan Wilson**

FIRST QUESTION

It is well known that the twice-impeached, convicted felon (by a unanimous jury), convicted sexual abuser (by a unanimous jury) former-President of the United States, relies upon support from a large percentage of born-again “Christians.” Trump needs to be asked simply to recite the Lord’s Prayer. I’m betting that he who has referred to “*two Corinthians*,” and rarely attends church except when someone dies, can’t do it.

If he could recite it, or would read it, he’d come across the challenge it contains: “Forgive [me my] trespasses as [I] also have forgiven those who have trespassed against [me]” (Matthew 6:9).

When pressed to identify his favorite scripture, Trump said it was “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,” (Leviticus 24:17-22). That pre-Christian, pre-New Testament, admonition was expressly repudiated by Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:38). Try squaring that admonition with Trump’s pledge to “be your vengeance and your retribution.” If you don’t have difficulty squaring that repudiation with his pledge, it may be an appropriate occasion for you, dear reader, to reevaluate what kind of a Christian you are. Are you an Old Testament “Christian” like Trump, or a New Testament Christian like Biden?

SECOND QUESTION

Mr. Trump...you have claimed that you passed a cognitive ability test with flying colors, and you have called upon President Biden to undergo an independent cognitive ability test. If he were to do so, would you submit to an independent psychiatric evaluation by a qualified psychiatrist? It’s essentially already been done. Check out the book by Dr. Bandy X. Lee, a forensic psychiatrist and president of the World Mental Health Coalition (those seem like pretty impressive credentials). It’s called *The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump: 27 Psychiatrists and Mental Health Experts Assess a President*.

It actually doesn’t take a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist to make the diagnosis. Don’t take my layperson’s word for it; check out the Mayo Clinic website and look up “Narcissistic Personality Disorder.” Mayo Clinic not only provides the readily observable symptoms used by professionals to make the diagnosis of this mental disorder, it goes on to describe how people afflicted with narcissistic personality disorder behave. It lists 13 symptoms and eight resulting behaviors. Donald Trump demonstrates every one of them. Every single one. Go ahead; check it out. I dare you.

THIRD QUESTION

From living in New York for many years, you are no doubt familiar with the mafia. Mob bosses classically expect others to do their dirty work and commit crimes on their behalf (think here about Michael Cohen, Alan Weisselberg, and Steve Bannon, as examples – all of whom have served or are serving time in prison for their activities done on your behalf). Mob bosses demand absolute loyalty and obedience from those variously involved in their nefarious operations. How would you distinguish yourself from the leadership style of a mob boss?

FOURTH QUESTION

The U.S. Supreme Court (contrary to the four words engraved above the entrance to the Supreme Court – EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW), has ruled that a president is immune from federal criminal prosecution for official, criminal acts committed while in office. When I was in the United States Army, I was taught in basic training that no soldier should follow an illegal order, no matter who gives the order. That lesson puts a subordinate member of the military in a difficult, but necessary, situation. Presumably, the directive would include an illegal order issued by the Commander in Chief. Because of your issue with temporary bone spurs on your heels, you missed out on that basic training. If you were to again become the Commander in Chief, would those lessons be reversed? If, as Commander in Chief, you were to give an illegal order, will subordinates (from generals down to privates) be expected, even required, to obey? Will they be immune, or should it just be you who is immune? And if you were to be the only one immune, what does Equal Justice Under Law even mean?

FIFTH QUESTION

Why did your parents send you off to a private military academy? Was it because you were so incorrigible that they couldn’t stand having you around? And when are you going to authorize the release of your high school and college grades that you have thus far refused to do?

SIXTH QUESTION

Where is Melania? She knows you, in and out of the White House, better than anyone else in the world. Why is she not enthusiastically out there with you on the campaign trail?

[continued on page 4]



Given the prospect that Donald Trump could be re-elected as President of the United States, I actually feel some sense of foreboding writing this for publication. I could easily become a target of Trump's "vengeance and retribution." I have decided, given the fact that I am now retired from the practice of law and am of a "certain age," I am relatively immune from meaningful vengeance and retribution, shy of actual violence. And, what I've written needs to be said. Who better to do it than someone who is relatively immune to vengeance and retribution?



RAINBOW SAFARI PRIVATE ZOO EVENT

AUGUST 1 @ 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Join **Capital City Pride** for an evening of wild family adventures at Blank Park Zoo! **Rainbow Safari** returns on **Thursday, August 1, 2024**.

Explore the zoo's animal exhibits while enjoying the beautiful zoo grounds. From 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM, there will be **free** and unlimited train and carousel rides, as well as face painting and temporary tattoos. The Capital City Pride team will be selling CCP Merchandise throughout the evening at the Pavilion. **Ten percent of all proceeds will be donated to the Blank Park Zoo Tiger Conservation Campaign.**

Please note:

- All [tickets](#) are sold by Capital City Pride.
- Tickets are transferable but non-refundable.
- All ticket proceeds directly support Capital City Pride.
- Remember to bring a copy of your tickets for admission to Rainbow Safari.

FFBC Membership

FFBC membership is open to all members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies.

We welcome **EVERYONE**, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

Meetings are held the first Friday of every month at Hoyt Sherman Place in Des Moines.

Membership Rates

The following rates help us to cover food and facility costs:

Annual Rate: \$180
(12 consecutive meetings)

Quarterly Rate: \$48
(3 consecutive meetings)

Month-by-Month: \$18

First-Time or One-Time Attendee: \$15

Full-Time Student: \$8

No charge to attend via Zoom

Payment Options

We accept cash, checks, or credit cards at the meeting.

Meeting Schedule

6:30 a.m. - Doors open

6:45 a.m. - Breakfast service begins

7:00 a.m. - Meeting begins



SPOTLIGHT

Iowa Queer Student Alliance (Founded by FFBC Scholars!)



The Iowa Queer Student Alliance works to unite queer students across the state, expand access to LGBTQ+ inclusive education, and develop youth leadership skills.

Iowa QSA was formed in 2023 by **Emmaline Mitchell** and **Estella Johnson**. **Emmaline Mitchell was a 2021 FFBC Scholar, and Estella Johnson was a 2022 FFBC Scholar!** During the 2023 Legislative Session, Emma and Estella wanted to connect queer students across the state and create a space where students could come together to discuss the bills that were targeting their community. In the duration of the 2023 Legislative Session, they worked to coordinate student speakers in sub-committee meetings, planned over 30 school walkouts with Iowa WTF, spoke at the Rally to Resist on March 5th, and even organized their own "We Say Gay" rally on March 8th.

The current Events Director for Iowa QSA is Rebekah Schurz, a 2024 FFBC Scholar! First Friday Breakfast Club is so proud of the initiative and leadership of all Iowa QSA members, and we are especially proud of our FFBC Scholars!



At Iowa QSA, they believe that all students should have access to:

- Safe inclusive learning spaces
- Safe spaces to make friends
- A place to learn and grow with their peers on issues that affect their generation
- Leadership programs focus on real world issues affecting them

Iowa QSA can help high school students with:

- Applying for colleges
- Searching for LGBTQ+ friendly colleges
- Applying for scholarships

"We are the future leaders of our society, and we aren't going to wait until the future comes to let our voices be heard. We are advocating for ourselves now, and helping others find their voices."

<https://iowaqsa.wixsite.com/iowaqsa>

Forbes' 10 Best LGBTQ+ Dating Sites & Apps of 2024

- by [Anna Baluch](#)



Best for Finding Others
with Similar Interests:

Grindr



Best Free Dating Site:

Plenty of Fish



Best for In-Person Events:

Match



Best for Pronoun Selection:

OkCupid 

Best for Single Parents:

Stir



Best for Those Who
Identify as Women:

HER



Best LGBTQ+ Swipe-Based App:

Badoo



Best Social Features:

Taimi



Best for Those Who
Identify as Men:

HeeSay



Best for
Compatibility Scores:

eHarmony





The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest LGBTQ+ advocacy group, is launching its 2024 public education and engagement campaign **"We Show Up: Equality Wins"** to reach a record-high 75 million identified Equality Voters nationwide. This campaign will not only work to defeat escalating anti-trans attacks, but to deliver major victories this November and to elect historic LGBTQ+ and pro-equality candidates down-the-ballot. HRC is a trusted messenger for these voters — in a [recent poll](#) HRC has a near 70% favorability rating, more than any candidate or political party— demonstrating the importance of HRC's voice to help drive Equality Voters to the polls to vote for pro-equality candidates.

"We Show Up: Equality Wins," is a resounding rejection of intimidation and fear designed to silence and erase the LGBTQ+ community and will again show America the community's collective strength and power to stand up, fight back, and secure the future it deserves without exception, as it's been doing successfully for decades at the ballot box, state houses, school boards and more.

Camp with Pride
LGBTQ+ FAMILIES

- ✓ LGBTQ+ AFFIRMING MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS
- ✓ FISHING, PADDLING, HIKING, ARCHERY, & MORE
- ✓ LED BY EXPERIENCED NATURALISTS
- ✓ BREAKFAST AND DINNER PROVIDED

SEPT 7-8
JESTER PARK
COST: \$10 PER FAMILY

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:
WWW.TINYURL.COM/CAMPWITHPRIDE

Logos for Camp With Pride, Polk County Conservation, and West Des Moines Parks & Recreation.

Future Speakers

September 6:
Connie Boesen
Mayor of Des Moines

October 4:
Coming Out Panel
Various Speakers

November 1:
John & Terri Hale
The Hale Group | Advocates Working for Better Lives for Iowans

December 6:
Kennetha Bingham-Tsai
Iowa UMC Conference Bishop




August Speaker

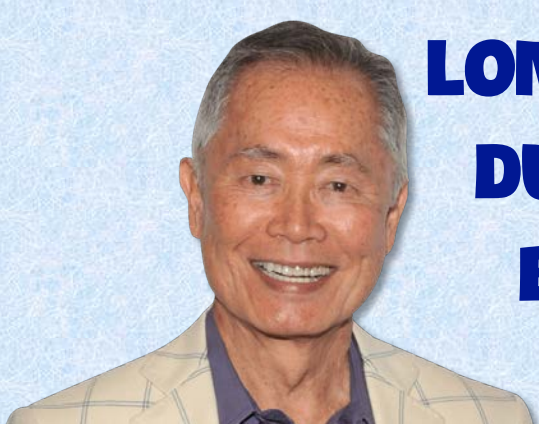
Dr. Daniel Zinnel



Dr. Daniel Zinnel earned his Doctorate of Education in Leadership from Creighton University, M.A in Health Studies from the University of Alabama, B.A. in Liberal Arts with Psychology and Sociology Minors from Grand View University, and A.A. from Iowa Central Community College. He has formal training through the Perception Institute on explicit and implicit bias, stereotype threats, and racial anxiety. In 2020, he launched Growth and Joy, LLC, to help individuals, businesses, and organizations develop proactive, practical, and purposeful leaders. He has trained and spoken to over 20,000 individuals on a variety of topics including leadership, power, and privilege; LGBTQ inclusion; and building your personal brand. Dr. Zinnel has over 15 years of nonprofit administration and leadership including currently serving as the CEO of Proteus, Inc. and previously as the Executive Director of One Iowa. In 2024, he was a recipient of the LGBTQ+ Legacy Leader Award.



**“HATE
NEVER WINS
OUT IN THE END. IT
INSTEAD GOES
ALWAYS TO ITS
LONELY,
DUSTY
END.”**



- George
Takei

SAVE THE DATE



PrideFest · June 6-8, 2025

Donor/Member Party

Photo Gallery



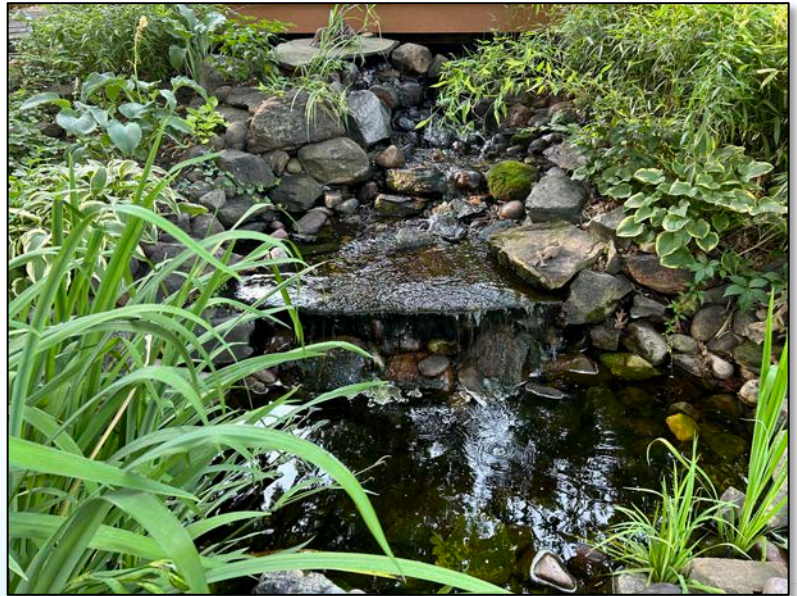
FFBC Recognizes 2024 Scholarship Donors

On Saturday night, July 13, the First Friday Breakfast Club enjoyed the gardens of **John Schmacker** to thank members and our donors to the FFBC Scholarship Fund. Wonderful drinks and food added to the celebration. It was good to celebrate a record-breaking year that allowed FFBC to recognize **16 scholars** from across the state of Iowa with **\$3,000 each (that's \$48,000!)**.

The event gave FFBC members a chance to meet some of our allies and donors. For those new to FFBC, it was perhaps the first time they had the opportunity to enjoy John Schmacker's gardens which he has so beautifully created over 40 years. That, along with his unique art collection, is always a joy to experience.



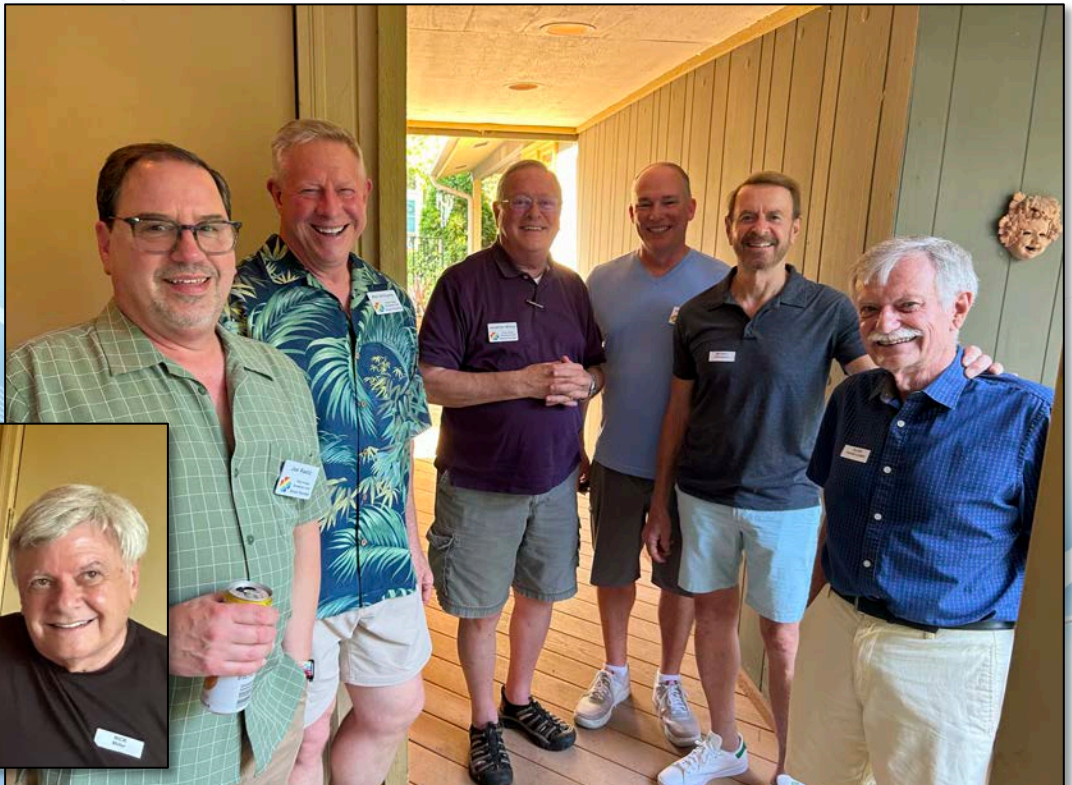
SCHMACKER'S ACRES



Donor/Member Party

Photo Gallery

Summer



Donor/Member Party

Photo Gallery

**SUMMER
PARTY**





Veepstakes

by Supervisor Matt McCoy
Polk County, 1st District



The recent decision by President Biden to bow out of the 2024 presidential race has upended Democrats in a positive and hopeful direction. Vice President, Kamala Harris, has demonstrated that she is capable, competent, and disciplined to do the job. Her engagement on the national and international stage has been impressive. Most recently, she has been acting as the tip of the spear as a messenger for reproductive rights with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* by the illegitimate Supreme Court.

As we assume that Harris will receive the formal nomination at the Democratic National Convention, the next, and very crucial, decision she will have to make is her choice for running mate. The short list includes Governor Josh Shapiro in the critical swing state of Pennsylvania; U.S. Senator Mark Kelly, who brings a military background as well as advocacy on behalf of his wife Gabby Giffords, is also a consideration. Kelly is known to be bipartisan and moderate in his views. U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, who has both cabinet and executive experience and also a military background, is considered one of the best communicators on behalf of the Democratic party. North Carolina Governor, Roy Cooper, comes from an important swing state where Democrats have invested over \$2 million. And finally, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear who, at age 46, got elected and then re-elected in a deep red southern

state that Trump won by more than 25 percentage points in 2020.

There are others, but this is what I consider to be the top short list for Vice President. The good news is that Democrats have a strong bench and any of these candidates would complement Harris and add important attributes to what would be an exciting ticket to combat the aging and decrepit and mentally unfit Donald Trump and his homophobic Veep pick, U.S. Senator J.D. Vance.



The **One Iowa Midwest LGBTQ Health and Wellness Conference** is dedicated to the holistic health of LGBTQ individuals in the Midwest. This inclusive event welcomes all those involved in LGBTQ health, including healthcare professionals, mental health practitioners, and healthcare support staff. Physicians, therapists, social workers, dentists, physical therapists, community health workers, and medical students are all invited to participate.

The 2024 conference will be held in person on Monday, September 23rd, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Courtyard Marriott in University Heights, Iowa City.

Focused on navigating the interlocking systems of care for LGBTQ community members and addressing associated barriers, the conference prioritizes submissions that emphasize intersectionality and the liberation of all LGBTQ people. Sessions that tackle issues such as racism, ableism, xenophobia, rurality, fatphobia, and classism are highly valued in the selection process.

Tickets: oneiowa.org/event/hw24



Longlegs

A Movie Review by Mark Turnage

At last, a spooky detective story! Director Osgood Perkins, son of Norman Bates actor himself Anthony Perkins, helms *Longlegs*, a 90's period occult thriller/police procedural in the shadows of *Psycho*, *Zodiac*, and *The Silence of the Lambs*. Perkins' love letter to his own film's cinematic legacy is clear, but is it coherent? *Longlegs* works best as a creepy, slow-burn detective story with a few jumpscare; when it introduces its paranormal elements to its mystery, an otherwise unnerving and subversive story loses its narrative footing and payoff by becoming solipsistic and messy with details instead of leaning into its own nightmare logic.

On her first case in the early 90s, rookie FBI agent Lee Harker (Maika Monroe), despite condescension from her fellow agents, captures a murderer in hiding and avoids a grisly fate thanks to her uncanny intuition (not her detective skills). Her boss, Agent Carter (Blair Underwood), puts her through extrasensory tests at the FBI Academy which appear to confirm her precognitive abilities, ones Harker describes as like "a tap on the shoulder." Carter assigns Harker a cold case spanning decades: a series of familicides with no forensics indicating an intruder, only a coded letter left behind by the killer signed "Longlegs" (Nicolas Cage). Harker's distant, strained relationship with her religiously overbearing mother, Ruth (Alicia Witt) is put to the test when Longlegs delivers a letter to Harker personally, threatening to kill Harker's mother if Lee shares with the FBI how she cracked Longlegs' cypher: using a Bible. Harker connects the dots between the victims, discovering past and future dates relevant to the case through occult symbology and a mysterious veiled doll buried at one of Longlegs' past crime scenes. Despite their skepticism, Harker and Carter suspect a demonic force at work, and the closer they

get to arresting Longlegs, the more alarming overlaps doll between the case and Harker's childhood are revealed.

On paper, *Longlegs* seems like an homage to Jonathan Demme's 1991 Oscar winner *The Silence of the Lambs*: featuring a gifted but awkward rookie female FBI agent who's underestimated by her peers, a socially grotesque serial killer fond of mind games with a basement not unlike "Buffalo Bill," and even a not-mentor boss who treats the main character somewhere between a friend, an employee, and a tool for career advancement. But where the two films diverge is the root cause of their scares: with *Silence of the Lambs*, it's the human element that's the most frightening, with *Longlegs*, it's the religious element, before shifting to the supernatural. Religious trauma is the real villain of *Longlegs*, present in its themes and as a disturbing undercurrent to all its main characters. Had the two-dimensional "Satanic Panic" elements been substituted for more real-world generational religious horrors, the motives of *Longlegs'* characters would become far more haunting, *symbolic* (irony intended) and relevant than relying on the whims of paranormal activity. It's a shame the film had to "cop out" of its bolder subject matter—it would have been daring to embrace its lead as a skilled female FBI agent living with autism instead of "clairvoyance." Monroe effectively codes Harker as such through her character's neurodivergent mannerisms.

What *Longlegs* does well is generating a consistent hum of anxiety throughout its narrative by using tense camera work like Steadicam tracking shots when Harker is walking up to a crime scene, long still shots while someone could be lurking nearby, and perhaps most frighteningly, changing film type and deliberately obscuring all of a character from entering the shot, giving the "feel" of a dream



or memory and building upon the sense that the character onscreen is "off." Cage is an unrecognizable pale horror as Longlegs, but the script caps an intriguing character portrayal with two-dimensional plot baggage. What it could do better, and learn from *Silence of the Lambs*, is the issue of escalating/conflicting stakes. In *Silence*, Buffalo Bill is a looming threat because his crimes are ongoing, and thus, the stakes (and personal danger) are always being raised during Clarice Starling's investigation. Dr. Lecter further agitates and complicates the plot. This also helps a film avoid feeling "slow" when the stakes are consistently evolving. *Longlegs* doesn't escalate the threat beyond past crimes or Harker's immediate circle until late in the film, and its complication arrives in the form of an expository narrative. Unfortunately, this exposition suffers from over-explaining—more ambiguity would mean a scarier third act more securely in the realm of nightmare logic and a more satisfying conclusion. As is, its ending awkwardly trades detective logic for dream logic, and minimizes its mystery by tying everything back to one character, to the point where it strains credulity. Mysteries, especially ones with elements of horror, are rarely neat or organized, but even those are a team effort.

See *Longlegs* if you're a fan of atmospheric procedurals with some spooky on the side, but maybe wait for it on streaming if you love *The Silence of the Lambs*.



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A Book Review This Isn't

COMMENTARY

by **Steve
Person**



While I read many books, there are some aspects of this country in which we live that disturb me greatly. So, gentle reader, please forgive this old man while he rants about what we are currently having to put up with.

I want to take up the televised medium. Perhaps the gravest member of that Fourth Estate is Fox News—or what I refer to as Fox Not News. (If you look at what it is legally named as FNN—Fox News Network, you'll get the point.). In the history of televised broadcasting, this so-called news outlet has done more damage to the American experiment in democracy than any competitor—and there are other copycat programs.

Even in the more mainstream commercial television news programs, lies abound. Perhaps the worst is the phrase as the correspondents sweetly proclaim as they say, “We’ll be right back.” In correct vernacular, that means just a few seconds. If you, the viewer, watch any of these news programs, you will be inundated with product after product (usually some unpronounceable medical term that no regular viewer knows what it is) and will be forced to watch for four or five minutes, ads that can be explained in tiny type at the bottom of the screen that cannot be read with any comprehension. Where is the FCC?

While I usually like Stephen Colbert, I am confused by the words at the bottom of the screen as he comes on, “Live on tape.” Huh? How can anything be live if it’s on tape? At least on *Live with Kelly and Mark* in the mornings, they will occasionally run the blurb at the bottom, “Previously recorded.” I appreciate the truth.

That brings me to the term of, “Artificial Intelligence.” Intelligence is a natural phenomenon. There is nothing artificial about it. The term should be, “Artificial Deception,” for that is what it is. And yet, television program after program has fallen into what someone collectively called it. And they all fell for it. While I am on it, stop calling these so-called presidential debates, debates! They have nothing to do with debates. At best, they are question-and-answer programs and have next to nothing to do with governing this country. The last one in June showed that Biden wasn’t up to answering the questions, and Trump just lied and changed the subject. Some debate! The moderators never called Trump on his never answering the questions. So much for CNN!

In a world where the Russians bomb children’s hospitals in Ukraine, and vapid men and women in TV commercials worry about white teeth. I just say, where are your scruples? Teeth, if taken care of properly, have their own tint. As my dentist told me decades ago, “Don’t brush your teeth. Brush your gums with a soft bristled tooth brush. Your teeth will just get in the way and will be brushed secondarily.”

Thanks for listening.

