

\$2

APRIL 15, 2022 | VOLUME 13 | ISSUE 8

YOUR DONATION BENEFITS THE VENDORS.
PLEASE BUY ONLY FROM BADGED VENDORS.

The harm of eviction: a review
of 'Evicted' by Prof. Matthew
Desmond. **Page 9**

HAL KLENK,
#88

ASK YOUR
VENDOR:
WHAT WORDS
DO YOU LIVE
BY?
PAGE 3

GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.

Youth leadership of climate change and climate justice: from rhetoric and action. **Page 4**



Photo credit: REUTERS/Leonhard Foeger

THIS PAPER WAS BOUGHT FROM

venmo



@groundcovernews, include vendor name and vendor #

community EVENTS

EARTH DAY AT THE ANN ARBOR COMMUNITY COMMONS

Thursday, April 21, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

- General sociability ... the Commons Park is open and cars will be gone
- Discussions and chalking

Friday, April 22, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

- "Green Brick Road to Sustainability and Survival!"

- Megan Sims Earth Dance
- Presentations from local climate and earth-conscious organizations: Ann Arbor for Public Power, Climate Lobby, Green Team, Project Grow and more, with opportunities to be involved and more active

• What does Earth Day mean to me?

Let your voice be heard

- Statements on Indigenous Land recognition and return
- Speeches on growing the commons, permaculture and community gardens
- Calls to actions: A2Zero 2030
- Readings from New Earth Manifesto
- Music, bands and songs from Jim Griffin and Mary and Eric Fithian

Saturday, April 23 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

- Poetry with "one single rose"
- The Politics of Climate Survival
- Drumming and dancing into the evening (weather permitting)
- Headline speaker at 4 p.m., Peter Linebaugh on the commons
- Missy Stults will follow
- Music from Laith Al-Saadi, John Heath

Sunday, April 24, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

- Center of the City Commons park open for fun and kids play
- Music from Steve Somer, Ralph McKee, and some final speakers
- Readings and sayings: "What does Earth Day mean to me?"
- "Boober cab" shuttle to Leslie Science Center annual Earth Day
- Clean up ... "leave no trace"

Website for details and times, www.annarborcommunitycommons.org

YOU'RE INVITED!

GROUNDCOVER COMMUNITY ARTICLE REVIEW

Have you ever read an article in Groundcover and wished you could have talked to someone about it? Do you feel disconnected from the news and solutions you read about in the paper?

Join Groundcover vendors and contributors for an open discussion about our 2022 content thus far — somewhere in between a book club and community forum. We are excited to meet our readers and engage in conversation together, about the things that matter to us.

**SATURDAY, MAY 7TH, 2PM
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GROUNDCOVER NEWS

Groundcover News, a 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in April 2010 as a means to empower low-income persons to make the transitions from homeless to housed, and from jobless to employed.

Vendors purchase each biweekly copy of Groundcover News at our office for 50 cents. This money goes towards production costs. Vendors work selling the paper on the street for \$2, keeping all income and tips from each sale.

Street papers like Groundcover News exist in cities all over the United States, as well as in more than 40 other countries, in an effort to raise awareness of the plight of homeless people and combat the increase in poverty. We are proudly a member of the International Network of Street Papers.

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Size	Black/White	Color	Dimensions (W x H in inches)
1/8	\$110.00	\$150.00	5 X 3 or 2.5 X 6.5
1/6	\$145.00	\$200.00	5 X 4
1/4	\$200.00	\$265.00	5 X 6.25
1/2	\$375.00	\$500.00	5 X 13 or 10.25 X 6.5
full page	\$650.00	\$900.00	10.25 X 13

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ASK YOUR VENDOR

What words do you live by?

Make it a great day: the choice is yours.

—Tre McAlister, #519

I wish I were the man God says I am.

—Hal Klenk, #88

For all we say and do, there's a lot more said than done.

—Tony Schol, #9

Everyday above ground is a good day.

—Joe Woods, #103

Honesty is the best policy.

—James Tennant, #174

"Cowards die many times before their death. The valiant never taste death but once. Of all the wonders I yet have seen, it seems to me most strange that men shall fear knowing that death is a necessary end that will come when it will come," said by Julius Caesar, March into Venice.

—Will Shakespeare #258

It is what it is.

—Pony Bush, #305

The answer is under your feet.

—Ken Parks, #490

My word is my bond.

—Gary Leverett, #554

Expect the same respect you give.

—Larzell Washington, #128

Everything happens for a reason.

—Tabitha Ludwig, #360

What would YOU ask?

If you have a question you would like Groundcover vendors to answer in this column, email us at contact@grooundcovernews.com

We will be featuring vendor responses in future issues.

The Jussie Smollett lie

When Jussie Smollett proclaimed to the world that he had been attacked on account of his being Black and gay, the headlines magnified the story to the world. Sympathies flooded in for him and he sat poised to bask in the media light.

But soon after, the details of his account began to fall apart. Eventually, it was discovered that it had been a hoax. Something that he had manufactured in his mind and paid stunt men to carry out.

In reality, it should have never gone that far. What contributed to the story even getting off the ground is of the media's making. It doesn't take much to recognize that the sympathy of the media leans heavily in favor of certain topics. When a LGBTQ person is ridiculed or attacked, more often than not, the media will hasten to their defense.

Despite the recent serial attacks and killings of unhoused people sleeping outdoors in New York City, there is little coverage in the national media. Certainly not rising to the level of attention given to the Black



LIT KURTZ
Groundcover vendor No. 159

Lives Matter Movement or other narratives vetted by the liberal media.

So, aware of the media's pattern of coverage, Smollett felt confident in creating a highly unlikely series of events to create his fictitious narrative. Meanwhile, unhoused people continue to experience attacks with little mention in the media.

What's worse is that the media depictions of those who are experiencing homelessness remain negative, helping to further exacerbate public ire towards this vulnerable population.

While the media continues its selective coverage, the number of unhoused people living in America increases. Although his ruse quickly unraveled, the door remains open for the Jussie Smollets of this world to drain attention from America's most urgent crisis of homelessness.

All I need to know I learned in kindergarten



KEN PARKS
Groundcover vendor No. 490

southeast Asia to disarm a few of the millions of pellet bombs still on the ground from what they call the American War.

How long did we live in the Garden of Eden before we ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil? Splitting reality into two parts is a deep dive into dualism. It has great power but is it wise? Students of reality take heed. We have the zeroes and ones of the digital world and need to remember that one divided by zero is the mathematical expression for infinity. The Void is always near.

Healing from trauma is important for many of us. The full spectrum of violence is so deep a matrix in the culture that emotional wounds may be hidden until they explode and we wonder "What happened?"

Veterans have hidden wounds that the Wounded Warrior Project explores. We need more awareness of "moral injury and PTSD," the guilt and shame that results when you witness yourself and/or others violating your own moral code. In 2017 *The New York Times* published "For Veterans, A Path To Healing Moral Injury." I remember two veterans who walked from Wisconsin to California and worked with the documentary that explored their healing. I met a veteran who went back to

see KINDERGARTEN page 7 ➔

Youth leadership of climate change and climate justice: from rhetoric to action

"Young people are increasingly speaking out against environmental and social injustices that are ruining people's lives worldwide. Leaders of youth movements are now trying to pin down what actions, beyond protests and lawsuits, they can take to end harmful practices."

— Mark Fischetti, Scientific American Journal (April 15, 2021)

On November 6, 2021, the Public Broadcasting Service TV Weekend NewsHour show was titled, "How youth leadership is changing climate activism." A video clip captured the demonstration in Glasgow over an uninspiring Conference of Parties (COP-26). Youth Leader Greta Thunberg dubbed the Glasgow Conference a failure and led more than 25,000 young climate activists to demonstrate in the streets. The NewsHour made the following observation: "Young people around the world continue to protest over what many see as climate change — like today's Global Day of Action."

Most of the young climate activists in the world know about Greta Thunberg's passion for tackling climate change and saving the planet for future generations. She has been a leader in environmental education, leadership and activism since she was 12 years old. She is now 19. She and millions of her peer climate action leaders spread a higher level of awareness and consciousness about climate risks. Now, youth leaders on climate change can be found across the globe in all 196 countries that make up the United Nations.

The U.N. General Assembly has accorded valuable recognition to the young leaders of climate change and climate justice. Youth Leadership forums are organized by the U.N. Secretariat in New York and several U.N. agencies in other parts of the world. Young leaders are told that their voices are welcomed, their ideas count and that they have a seat at the table where important decisions which affect their generation are made.

The United Nations International Children Emergency Fund held a recent youth forum via Zoom and video recording. The organization noted that a sizable number of youth leaders are engaged in mitigation measures in their towns, communities and countries. It noted that Greta Thunberg is the founder of "Fridays for the Future." Thunberg founded the organization in order "to speak to youth climate activists on how climate change has affected them and what



WILL SHAKESPEARE
Groundcover vendor No. 258



Young protesters march as part of the Global Climate Strike of the movement Fridays for Future in Vienna on March 25. Photo credit: REUTERS/Leonhard Foeger.

they're doing to fight it. They share their experiences and encourage others to take actions for a cleaner, cooler and happier world."

When Greta called on young activists to skip school and class for a Climate Strike on March 15, 2019, millions of middle schools, high schools and colleges responded. Parents, teachers and staff were jolted by the strike because the students didn't tell where they were going to protest in solidarity.

Greta issued a clarion call to young activists to stage a massive climate strike on March 25, 2022. Students in 85 countries and more than 500 cities around the world left class to demand action to forestall climate change.

Also, "Fridays for the Future" works in partnership with UNICEF which observed the following: "As the impacts of climate change intensify with each passing year, more and more young people are joining the movement for positive changes. By leading the discussion around climate change, they are also spreading awareness and motivating others to take action."

Recent Reports on Climate Change and Climate Justice

As reported in April 2019 publication of Groundcover News, scientists agree nearly unanimously that human activity is causing Earth's atmosphere and oceans to warm up, which threatens rising sea levels and weather catastrophes among other potential disasters. The scientists say that we must drastically reduce the amount of carbon that we are adding to the atmosphere or suffer dire consequences in the coming decades.

Since the Club of Rome met in Italy to address the consequences of explosive economic growth in the 1960s, there have been thousands of scientific reports on climate change. The most recent reports were published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It was created by the United Nations in 1988 and

charged with engaging in rigorous scientific research to advance knowledge on human-induced climate change. IPCC provides "objective and comprehensive information on anthropogenic climate change, including natural, political and economic impacts and risks."

In September 2021, IPCC released one of two published works on climate change and climate justice. These scientific works were part of IPCC's Assessment Report. The September 2021 report, "The Physical Science Basis," states unequivocally that the recent extreme weather events are linked to climate change. The February 28, 2022, report, "Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerabilities," claims "that inequality makes certain communities and countries vulnerable to climate change impacts." It is said that for the first time in IPCC's authoritative reports, the organization stated that climate justice needs to be at the center of global policy-making decisions.

Another key observation of the IPCC's 2022 report is that "the poor typically have low carbon footprints, but are disproportionately affected by adverse consequences of climate change." The 2022 report continues, "The poor lack access to adaptation options." The most vulnerable regions are in the global south — East, Central and West Africa; South Asia; Micronesia; and Central America.

IPCC authors said that the impacts of global warming may be irreversible, according to BBC reporters. The authors said that humans and nature are being pushed beyond their ability to adapt; that there are still windows of time to avoid the very worst; that over 40% of the world's population are highly vulnerable to climate change; and they are hopeful that if the rise in temperature is kept below 1.5 C, projected losses will be reduced.

The scientific Journal "Nature" ran

Undercover art intel: from Panda's desk

Each year Ann Arbor is transformed into an artist's paradise at the Ann Arbor Art Fair. My small contribution to this endeavor will no doubt go down in Groundcover history. This small column is about the inspiring homeless and low-income artists from around Ann Arbor.

I hope to introduce you to the artworks of many artists and the locations of their artworks around Ann Arbor. Art is a vast cornucopia of not only music and literature, but visual and mixed media.

The art intel — we will start with me, Cindy Gere. I've been an artist as early as I can remember. At the age of five, I asked my mother to draw a horse. This was well beyond her ability so I did it and she was quite

impressed. My artwork can be seen at the Delonis Center, the Briarwood Mall and Journey of Faith Church.

My job is to create both happy and politically challenging works that inspire and invoke a reaction. For me, Art is a way of life that I hope creates understanding and change in



CINDY GERE
Groundcover vendor No. 279

an ever evolving world.

Kung Fu Panda's art is located at:

- The Delonis center on the first floor, view only;

- The Briarwood Mall, all are for sale;
- The Journey of Faith Church "Art on a Journey" Located in the basement, viewing times: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, all works for sale.

All works are great for Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays or personal enjoyment.

Art on the Move Fashion Show

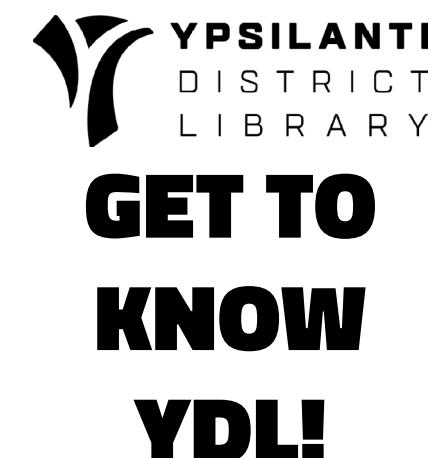
Location: Journey of Faith Church

Date: May 27, 2022

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Music: Live Band

This show is about wearable art

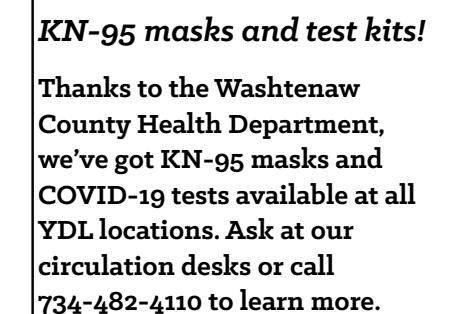


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FEATURED RESOURCE



The City of Ann Arbor Housing and Human Services Advisory Board invites you to AFFORDABLE HOUSING EDUCATION SERIES



WHEN

Second Thursday of the month at 6:30pm

*The series will take place at the beginning of the board's regularly scheduled meetings

WHERE

Zoom: bit.ly/Housing-Ed | Passcode: 934493

JANUARY 13 | HISTORY OF PUBLIC AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING - RACIST HISTORY AND ONGOING IMPACTS

FEBRUARY 10 | LOCAL MARKET DISCUSSION - U OF M'S IMPACT ON HOUSING MARKET AND CHALLENGES FOR BUSINESSES

MARCH 10 | AFFORDABLE HOME OWNERSHIP MODELS

APRIL 14 | SUSTAINABILITY, DENSITY, PLANNING, AND ZONING

MAY 12 | AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

JUNE 9 | AFFORDABLE HOUSING FINANCING (PART I)

JULY 14 | AFFORDABLE HOUSING FINANCING (PART II)

For more information, visit the Affordable Housing Education Series webpage
<http://bit.ly/AA-housing-ed>

FEATURED EVENT

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Saturday, April 23 -- 10am-4pm
5577 Whittaker Rd, Ypsilanti

Recycle your unwanted computers, printers, and other household electronics. Limited to residents and businesses of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, and Superior Township. Visit attend.ypsilibrary.org/events for details and restrictions.



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End times now

IAN DEWEY
Groundcover contributor

I. *Song of the Psychiatrists*
I am the purveyor of death—
Where I go and where I follow
The tides of the void seep in,
And the walls begin to crack
Unleashing the waves like floodgates.

I am the sanctimonious ritual—
Where I go and where I lead
Lives are upended,
And families are snuffed out
As a rod of incense is blotted.

II. *Song to a Mad Man on the Street who was still Sane*

Idealized images come to me in the most serene moments —
Grazing a shop window, my eyes feast on the banality
Of simulacra.
Turning a corner, a rugged man distilled his essence
And washed himself in so many herbs and incantations;
Just another spirit lost amid the turning furrows of machines:
To speak plainly,
A diamond in the rough.

Where will these souls go?
How do they see the light to keep trudging?
In a time, place, future,
Where man is void of substance?

III. *For a Future where all is Distant and Nothing is Close*

Take us back to the sea,
Take us back to the land of the free
And plenty.
Take us back to the times,
Take us away and out of the manifolds of minds.

Arching crescents abound the atmosphere!
The trappings of modern slums
Are reminders of the decadence which plagues
And the sunlight above—
A reminder of past images distilled.

Remind me in time,
That the rapture of *deja vu* is indeed,
Sublime.

Rolling waves inside my head,
Rolling waves inside your skull.
The synapse of triumph
Will tend to leave one dull—
Living a million years
In several seconds.

But quiet the voice,
And let...

IV. *Our Side Has to Win*

Lady from the deep

RON PAGEREKSI
Groundcover contributor

I had held her in my arms
and was bewitched by her charms.
I had hoped that she would stay
but, she had to go away.
She had to depart,
after she had stolen my heart
she had to return to her home
exit she did in a cloud of foam,
the mermaid returned to the sea.
Sadly I watched her return to the deep,
soon she was hidden from me.
In Davy Jones locker she's happy and free
the beautiful maid of the sea.

Little gifts from nature

RON PAGEREKSI

Thousands pass you by each day
all hurrying on their way.
In their cars they hardly see you
but on my bike I stop to greet you.
Little wildflowers, oh so pretty
bringing joy to farm and city.
Where you'll grow, no one's sure
blowing in the wind, innocent and pure.
Multi colors for all to see,
I'll take a few home with me,
and think myself a winner.
The vase on my table,
holds new guests for dinner



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Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office



APRIL 2022 EVENTS AT BETHLEHEM

In person events are just starting to resume at BUCC. We ask that you visit the church website at: bethlehem-ucc.org for the most up-to-date calendar and event information.



Sunday Worship Time
10:00 am In-person
and via Live Stream and
Radio Broadcast

Easter months — March and April



DENISE SHEARER
Groundcover vendor No. 485

liked to look pretty and dress up.

She sewed the dresses. She picked out the fabric and would make them so pretty. She made the dresses for me and my sister. Sometimes she would make a dress for herself, too.

I remember watching her make the dresses. It made me thankful and happy watching her make these. I used to think I wanted to sew dresses when I was a kid, but as I grew older, I didn't think about that as much. Sometimes thinking about this brings me comfort.

Thinking about Jesus comforts me when it's Easter months, March and April, and throughout the whole year.

Easter is also about the beautiful spring weather and doing things that are fun. Easter is about doing and focusing on things that comfort us.

When I was a kid, I thought of Easter as candy and getting my hair done and wearing some pretty clothes. My family would make an Easter dinner; it was delicious. My mom made the meal, did our hair and made the Easter clothes too. The same clothes I liked to wear to church. I



"Conductor, please stop the train."



CHRISTOPHER ELLIS
Groundcover vendor No. 483

outside of me and I'm witnessing it from inside this moving space.

The space is mundane, but outside it appears more realness, there is a solitary car, sitting obediently at the crosswalk, those flashing lights and striped pole barring its passageway. I have been a passenger in that automobile, even a driver. You wonder, "What are they thinking?" What were my thoughts during those stops? Maybe the driver is a young impatient teenager fresh from a 7-Eleven, or maybe a robust middle-aged man with a beefy arm carelessly over the steering wheel vibed to a tone.

The train blisters past a scarecrow in the field, no time to wave at him. An old man with a cane slowly walks to a country store; he seems immune to our blaring power in his lovely mundane air, but he is life, he is still life, continual life. That auburn horse, shiny with the sun, standing so still, head down to the grass, he is eternity, so strong in his place, he is immense now.

Like the window of this train that I find myself on. Almost like a cocoon, or a comfortable capsule housing all of life's memories, but they seem to be detached memories, away from or

► **KINDERGARTEN** from page 3

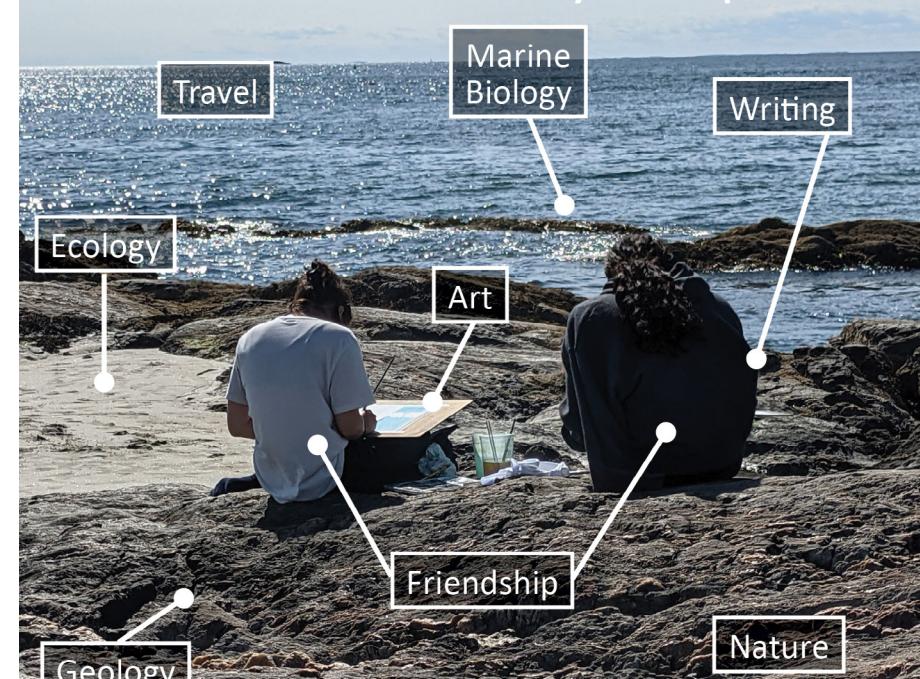
both retirees and children. Some units could be permanent but you may prefer a spot in a sister ecovillage in Florida or Cuba during the winter.

Kinderergarten is a German word which uses the capacity to put two words, children and garden, into one word, and gives us some feel of our European heritage which is fermenting in America into something more vibrant than a melting pot. Everyone learns from their own heritage and radical tradition goes to the root to find what is unique and what can be shared.

This issue of Groundcover comes out on Good Friday, the day after the Last Supper when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. "Go and do likewise" were among his final instructions. He had overturned the tables of the moneychangers and his execution was imminent. It was the women who attended the public execution and later experienced the mystery of continuity.

I am becoming a radical traditionalist in the sense that theory and practice are evolving and are aiming at a deeper understanding of the commons and land sovereignty, that the earth is sovereign. Land trusts can be organized to build ecovillages with a close relationship to particular kinds of work. Every farm could use a migrant worker ecovillage that would embrace

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HBO's Newest Controversial Show: 'Euphoria'

Teenagers, drugs, relationships and sex are often the main components of television series and films. The HBO teenage drama series "Euphoria" encompasses all of these, but has grown far more popular than other shows. It also has garnered plenty of criticism, so the question is — why is the show so popular yet so controversial?

With the second season of the series having recently wrapped up, "Euphoria" is the second most-watched show in HBO's history (after "Game of Thrones") with 16.3 million viewers across all platforms. The show is narrated by 17-year-old Rue Bennett (played by Zendaya) who struggles with addiction. It also follows the lives of several high-schoolers through their relationships, sex lives and personal growth in the suburbs.

"Euphoria" is known for its unique artistic style and vision. The cinematography, costume design, makeup and soundtrack have meshed into a new visual experience. With swinging cameras, flashing lights and moving sets, the show contains exciting cinematic elements that captivate viewers.

"Euphoria" also introduces a new style of costume and makeup. Makeup artist Doniella Davy wanted the cast's makeup to signal emotions and show character development. She uses bright colors, sharp lines, and three dimensional elements to help emphasize the characters' feelings and interactions. The series' costume designer, Heidi Bivens, parallels the show's unconventional and unique style by pushing the limits with the cast's outfits.

Most notably, the characters Maddy Perez (played by Alexa Demie), Cassie Howard (played by Sydney Sweeney), Kat Hernandez (played by Barbie Ferreira), and Jules Vaughn (played by Hunter Schafer) all have a distinctive style that reflects their demeanor and character. For example, Maddy wears the infamous cut-out pieces that show her abrasive and scandalous demeanor and she quickly became popular among young adults. We see Kat's style change in the first season from somewhat sophisticated to bad-girl-gone-chic which directly parallels her character development.

The cinematography, makeup and costume visions have had a widespread effect on Gen Z because of its ode to freedom of expression and relatable concepts. The show's aesthetic has influenced social media trends, fashion trends and even become the theme of parties and events. Glittery makeup, cut-out matching sets and flashy styles are



HAILEY KEMPF
U-M student contributor



FIONA CLOUD HICKEY
U-M student contributor



Source: IMDB

currently appreciated worldwide because of "Euphoria's" unique impact.

The show also encompasses realistic relationships and gives the audience storylines to both root for and despise. Fans are completely invested in the love triangle between Maddy, Nate (played by Jacob Elordi) and Cassie because people can often relate to these toxic relationships and the characters' emotions. We also see the extremely different characters Lexi Howard (played by Maude Apatow) and Fezco (played by Angus Cloud) form from an unexpected but loving relationship (which many people call Fexi) in the second season. Fans of "Euphoria" can root for certain characters and relate to storylines — which is an essential part of the show's popularity.

Despite its eye-catching cinematography, "Euphoria" has been under attack for the writing of each episode and the general direction of the show. One prominent criticism was that the focus of the show became less equally distributed in terms of each character's screen time. Many fans point out that certain characters, such as Kat, had promising character arcs in season one that suddenly became two-dimensional or even just disappeared throughout season two. In season one, Kat began to navigate the effects that social media had on her self-worth as a plus-size teen, which is a very prominent and relatable issue with many of "Euphoria's" young adult audience. However, many fans were disappointed with the lack of screen time

exception of one episode that was co-written by Hunter Schaffer, who plays Jules. This places most, if not all, responsibility for the direction of the show onto Levinson's shoulders, eliminating the idea of a writers' room or any sort of collaboration in the writing process for "Euphoria." This is why many fans love to turn their criticisms of the show to Levinson rather than to the plot. Levinson has received backlash from critics for many aspects of the show. Most notably, he was blamed for the glamorization of drug use and sexualization of young teens. D.A.R.E., the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program, called out the show for "misguidedly glorify[ing] and erroneously depict[ing] high school student drug use, addiction, anonymous sex, violence, and other destructive behaviors as common and widespread in today's world." Often from the voices of parents and adults who view the show, "Euphoria" and Levinson received tons of criticism for their depiction of drug use.

Cassie, a high-schooler, is depicted topless in multiple scenes, and is even the target of an explicit catcall while on stage at a school play. Some critics like to note that in an interview, Sweeney revealed that she had asked Levinson to tone down the nudity and sexualization of her character in multiple scenes throughout the season (he immediately and willingly agreed), and that despite this, she is still shown nude in numerous scenes. These issues are hot topics in discourse of the show, especially considering that drugs and sex are main themes that the show tackles. Many fans (and their parents) argue whether the depiction of these elements is appropriate for the young audience of the show.

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The harm of eviction: a review of 'Evicted' by Prof. Matthew Desmond



BEN GIRODIAS
Groundcover contributor

Eviction is the forcible removal of someone from their home. In formal eviction, courts order special police units dedicated for this purpose or the Sheriff's department to remove people from their place of residence. Contracted movers either pile belongings onto the street curb or ship them into public storage units, where they remain inaccessible to evicted tenants until the ransom rental charges are paid.

Informal means of eviction can also occur, such as landlord foreclosure, building condemnation — or in some extreme cases — resident lockouts. Millions endure this forced removal each year. Rising rates in recent years aren't just a symptom of poverty: they are a cause of it.

Involuntary moving destabilizes communities, increases mental distress, causes property and job loss, and forces desperate tenants to make do with condemnable buildings, endangering their and their children's health.

Yet despite the profound effect of the private housing market on people's well being, sociologists collected surprisingly little data on these market forces before University of Michigan Professor Matthew Desmond. Desmond, author of "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City," studied the harms of eviction through hundreds of personal interviews,

supplemented with extensive statistical analysis of troves of public records.

He noted that previous research seemed to treat poor people as if they were cut off from the rest of society,

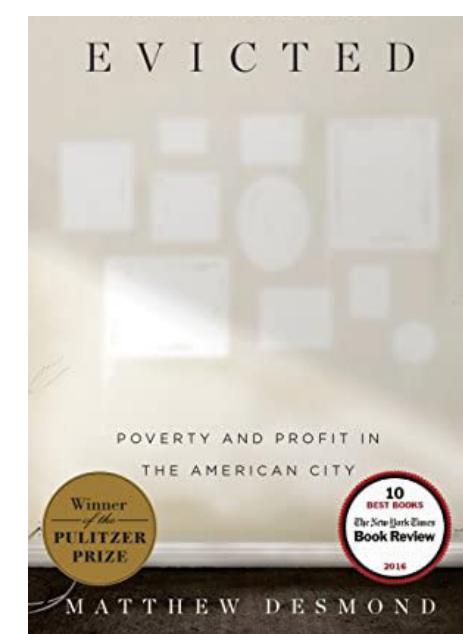
foreigner within the communities he researched, which allowed him to accurately represent true lived experience.

The shared experience highlighted the profoundly misguided conversation the nation has about poverty. The relationship of wealth and poverty is fundamentally an abusive, exploitative one; the private housing market forces control who can live where, leading to a lack of affordable housing and perversely the large profit margin of land owners. It is further aided by courts, which disproportionately favor property owners. This relationship implies a need for a fundamental shift in political policy: housing first.

In his afterword, Desmond recommends a universal voucher program which would remove bureaucracy and the stigmatization of assistance programs and guarantee needed assistance. Without a stable, safe home, little is possible.

There is no question that housing has become less affordable. For example, Lamar, a disabled man on social security, pays \$550 of his \$628 monthly assistance on rent. This leaves \$78 for the rest of the month. Rent is too damn high, especially in the most poverty stricken areas.

According to the Milwaukee Area Renter Study (2011), the median rent for a two bedroom apartment in Milwaukee's most dangerous



neighborhoods, as measured by crime rates, was only \$25 less than those in the safest. Various factors lead to this high premium, which opportunistic landlords extract from their tenants. Essentially, many tenants with little bargaining power are forced to pay such high rates because they have no other options. Eviction records, criminal records, racial prejudice, legal discrimination against children, as well as whatever other whimsical criteria landlords employ when choosing their tenants (such as, whether they list mother and

see EVICTED next page ➤

Maid, a story of determination and hope

ANDRE VASHER
Groundcover contributor

with her limited work experience, navigating the complexities of government assistance and dealing with the doubt she faces from friends and family who can't believe she left her partner Sean — because "he clearly loves her and their daughter Maddy."

Rylea Nevaeh Whittet plays Maddy, reacting as any child would to constant relocation and upheaval — not well. Nick Robinson playing Sean gives a realistic amount of temper and self-centeredness to place viewers squarely in Alex's court, but he still wants to do right by his daughter and their separation deepens his conflict with Alex.

This Netflix series conveys the story of young mother Alex's struggle to overcome partner abuse while coping as a single parent. She becomes homeless with her three-year-old daughter in a domestic abuse shelter due to fleeing from a toxic and dangerous relationship with her child's father.

Margaret Qualley's portrayal of Alex brings the audience into the young mother's world of trying to find a job

A contrary opinion

While I found "Maid" a realistic take on the cycle of poverty and domestic violence, another reviewer took the show's depiction of motherhood to task. This writer claimed Alex's ability to show patience and kindness toward her daughter, while facing enormous stress herself, to be unrealistic. As a parent, I can agree with that point, but that's one small ding against a very realistic series with excellent acting and believable characters. Invest in the approximately ten hours watching this true story, it's worth your time.

If you or someone you know is experiencing relationship abuse in any form, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline for free, confidential support 24/7/365. Text START to 88788, call 1-800-799-SAFE(7233) or chat online at TheHotline.org

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

APRIL 15, 2022

SHELTER

Robert J Delonis Center
312 W Huron St.
734-662-2829



Housing Access for Washtenaw County (HAWC)
734-961-1999
M-F: 8:30am-5pm

Safehouse
4100 Clark Rd.
24 hr crisis/help line: 734-995-5444
M-F: 9am-5pm

HOT MEALS

Robert J Delonis Center
312 W Huron St.
734-662-2829
Lunch: M-F 12-1pm, Sat & Sun 3-4pm
Dinner: M-F 5:30-6:30pm



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
306 N Division St.
734-663-0518
Breakfast: 7:30-8:30am, 7 days a wk

MENTAL HEALTH

Community Mental Health
555 Towner St. (Ypsilanti)
M-F: 8:30am-5pm
CRISIS HOTLINE: 734-544-3050

➡ **EVICTED** from previous page

father versus just mother as references) filter many from better housing.

Vanetta and Crystal were rejected from 73 different places before being finally approved. The apartment they got was dirty and in desperate need of repairs. In Vanetta's words, "I don't want to take it... but it's the only option I got." This sentiment is all too common for those who have been involuntarily removed from their previous residence.

The inequities in law only serve to aggravate many of the problems faced by low-income renters. Because of landlords' increased access to official records, often even the threat of a formal eviction is enough to persuade tenants to forfeit their right to a trial and vacate their homes. On top of that, eviction is a civil case, meaning that unlike criminal court cases, the defendant is not guaranteed legal representation. This produces a situation clearly stacked in the experienced landlord's favor, especially since tenants default if they do not show up.

According to the 2011 Milwaukee

Eviction Court Study, over 70% of tenants did not show up during the six week period studied. And as noted by Desmond, the data does not have any explanatory variables; in other words, it pretty much is random whether a tenant will get to court or not.

As Desmond's detailed description of anxious people on the verge of being homeless awaiting their trial reveals, these formal evictions disproportionately affect black women. Despite making up less than 10 percent of black neighborhood populations, women make up 30 percent of those evicted from them.

The vivid, emotional descriptions in Desmond's account propel the reader into the people's stories. The genuine connection he has to the people he interviewed comes through. His descriptions do not shy away from accurate portrayal, including both moments of joy and tragedy. It breaks down stereotypes of low-income people by including the wrenching backdrop against which people persevere.

The constant stress of poverty takes a toll much worse than what those who have never experienced it can imagine.

Policies designed by wealthy politicians based on inaccurate stereotypes are doomed to fail, precisely because they do not address the fundamental problems. This is exemplified by Lorraine, whose spending behavior frustrates her family.

"To Sammy, Pastor Daryl, and others, Lorraine was poor because she threw money away. But the reverse was more true. Lorraine threw money away because she was poor."

An isolated older woman living in a trailer park on the edge of town suffering from fibromyalgia and cluster migraines, Lorraine had no path out of grinding poverty. No amount of self-control could provide financial security from the \$164 Lorraine has left after paying rent each month. Wouldn't you, too, be tempted to spend it to experience pleasure, like watching your favorite cable programs or cooking a tasty dinner, even if that meant eating hot dogs and ramen noodles for the rest of the month?

Desmond offers hope with examples of the difference stable housing can make. Consider Scott, an ex-nurse, whose opioid addiction led to the loss of his nursing license, a profession that

gave his life meaning and purpose. In the grips of addiction, he lived a miserable existence with no hope of a better future. After beginning a methadone program and being offered permanent housing by a shelter he lived in, he finally moved into a place that he couldn't believe was his own. The too-good-to-be-true place differed radically from the dumpy place in the trailer park. His new apartment motivated him and gave him the tools to better himself. Finally, he was able to start saving up for the lab tests he would need in order to get his nursing license again, and with it a stable income. The housing intervention gave him a new sense of worth and gave him direction — a way out of poverty to prosperity.

For more up-to-date information,

Desmond's research team maintains a website called The Eviction Lab, which

has publicly accessible data on eviction rates, personal stories of those affected,

as well as resources for those facing eviction.

In addition, articles report on new findings, such as preliminary analysis of how the pandemic eviction moratorium reduced the usual eviction filings by over 1.55 million cases. See

www.evictionlab.org for more details.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Friends in Deed
1196 Ecorse Rd. (Ypsilanti)
Help Line: 734-484-4357
Circles Line: 734-340-9042
Administrative Line: 734-485-7658
Helpline@FriendsinDeedMI.org



SOS Community Services
114 N River St. (Ypsilanti)
734-484-5411

**LEGAL SUPPORT**

Legal Services of South Central Michigan
15 S. Washington St. (Ypsilanti)
734-665-6181
M-F: 9am-5pm

SHOWERS/LAUNDRY

Mercy House
805 W Huron St.
734-678-9818
Sat breakfast 10am-2pm



Peace House Ypsi
706 Davis (Ypsilanti)
734-754-0648
Sun brunch 10am-1pm

DRUG/ALCOHOL TREATMENT

Journey of Faith New Beginnings
Homeless Ministry
1900 Manchester Rd.
734-945-7825
M-W by appointment
Fri food distribution

**EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

Michigan Works
304 Harriet St. (Ypsilanti)
Mon, Wed, Fri: 8am-5pm
Tues: 8am-7pm
734-714-9814

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6	2					9	7
8		3	9		4		
4			2		8		
8			9			4	
	9	8		4	2		
3			1			9	
	3		6			1	
1	4	7	6	7	6		

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

WORD SEARCH: MUSIC!

E	Y	A	M	A	H	A	E	C	H	I	M	E	S	C
L	Q	U	A	I	L	L	V	C	R	W	T	H	E	O
E	G	B	J	L	D	L	L	S	A	S	Q	B	C	U
C	U	Z	B	D	P	L	R	H	E	N	E	T	S	C
T	I	F	I	N	E	H	S	N	H	R	P	I	P	E
R	T	F	I	B	V	O	O	D	E	A	G	A	N	L
O	A	D	N	F	Z	B	J	R	F	K	R	R	L	E
N	R	R	F	K	E	O	G	N	N	T	O	P	T	S
I	Y	U	K	U	L	E	L	O	H	R	U	I	T	
C	Y	M	B	A	L	A	G	O	N	G	L	A	M	A
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9	4	7	6	2	5	3	8	1						
5	8	1	4	8	5	9	7							

WORD

Cello Gong Rattle

BANK:

Cheng Guitar Rebec

Alpenhorn Chimes Regal

Alphorn Crwth Regal

Alto sax Cymbal Shawm

Anvil Deagan Timpani

Bell Drum Moog

Bin Electronic Oboe

Bones organ Piano

Bugle Fiddle Pipe

Celesta Fife Quail

Yamaha

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While Groundcover is a non-profit,

and paper vendors are self-employed contractors, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling, and representing the paper.

The following is our **Vendor Code**

of Conduct, which every vendor

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if you discover a vendor violating any

tenets of the Code, please contact

us and provide as many details as

possible. Our paper and our vendors

should be positively impacting our

County.

• I agree to treat all customers,

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fully. I will not "hard sell," threaten,

harass or pressure customers, staff,

or other vendors verbally or

physically.

• I will not sell Groundcover under

the influence of drugs or alcohol.

• I understand that I am not a legal

employee of Groundcover but a con-

tracted worker responsible for my

own well-being and income.

• I understand that my badge is

property of Groundcover and will not

deface it. I will present my badge

when purchasing the papers.

• I agree to stay off private prop-

Sugar snap pea salad

JUSTEN WHITE
Groundcover contributor

Ingredients:

3/4 cup sliced radishes
1 and 1/4 cup snap peas, sliced
1 cup feta cheese, crumbled
1 clove minced garlic
pinch of Kosher salt
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
3 tablespoon olive oil
Pepper to taste



Directions:

Whisk garlic, salt, lemon juice, balsamic vinegar, olive oil and pepper. Combine radishes, snap peas and crumbled feta. Drizzle dressing over pea mixture and toss. Perfect for spring!



St. Francis invites you
to come and meet Christ Jesus who
loves each one of us and who is
really present here to save us.

Mass Times:

**Saturday Vigil 5 pm & 7 pm (español);
Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm.**

**Daily Mon-Fri at 9:15am; Thurs Mass is followed by
a Holy Hour.**

**Holy Thursday, April 14:
Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm**

**Good Friday, April 15:
Mass at 12pm Stations & Veneration of the Cross**

1:30pm

**Saturday, April 16:
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**Easter Sunday:
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