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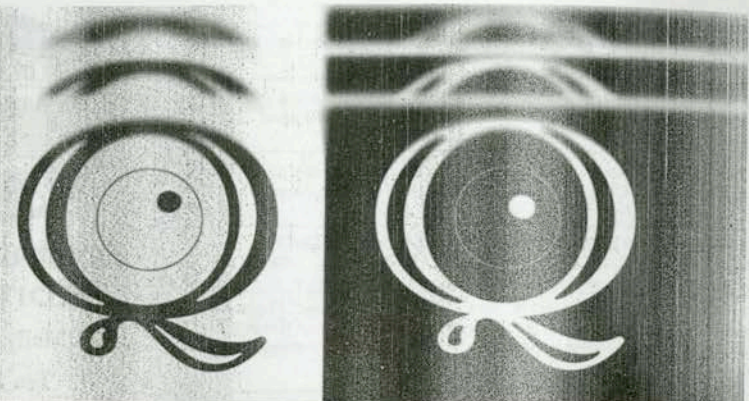
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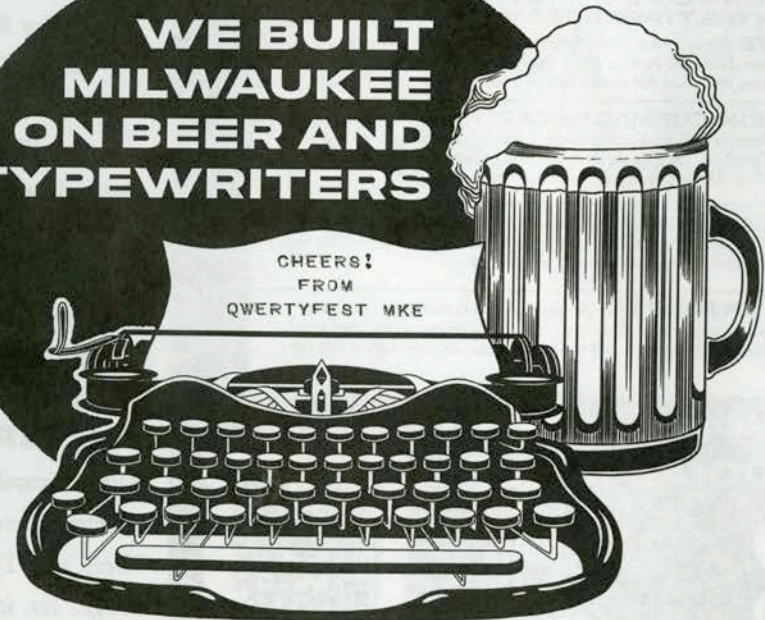
QWERTY QUARTERLY

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF QWERTYFEST MKE

ISSUE 01 // SUMMER 2023

WE BUILT
 MILWAUKEE
 ON BEER AND
 TYPEWRITERS

CHEERS!
 FROM
 QWERTYFEST MKE



ARTICLES - POETRY - ART - COLUMNS - FICTION - FUN PAGES

IN THIS ISSUE...

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QWERTYFEST MKE 2023 SCHEDULE *Everything you need to know about QWERTYFEST MKE weekend (June 23-25, 2023) is right here! Featured artist Celeste Contreras, and an official proclamation of QWERTY MKE Day!*

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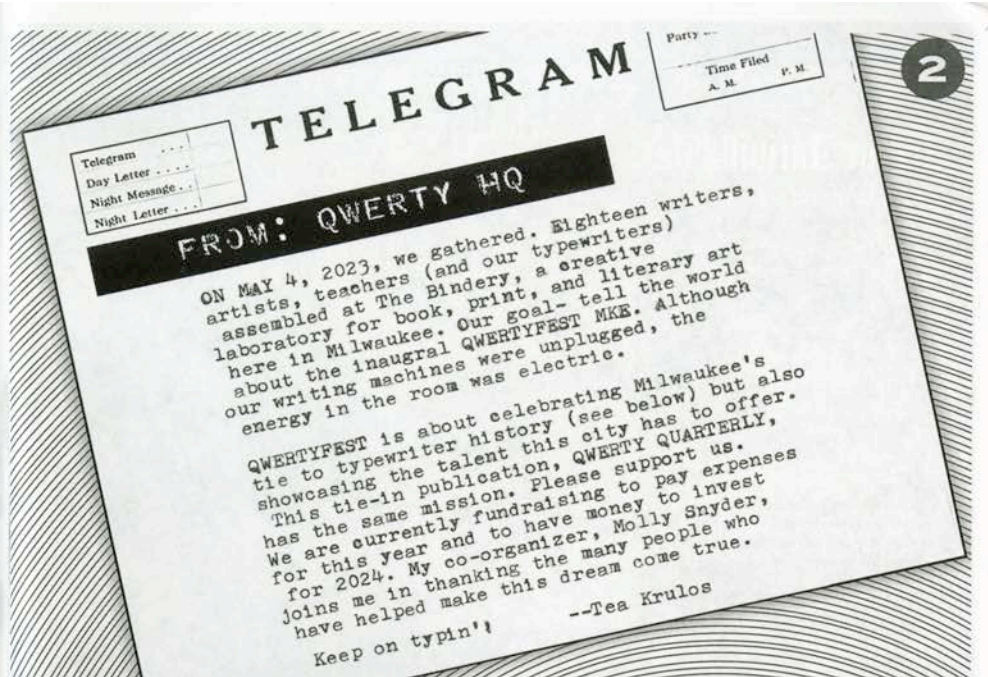
Celeste Contreras

Tim Demeter

COVER ART

Alicia Krupsky, our art director, created our "Beer and Typewriters" design. *Yes, it's definitely available as a T-shirt:*

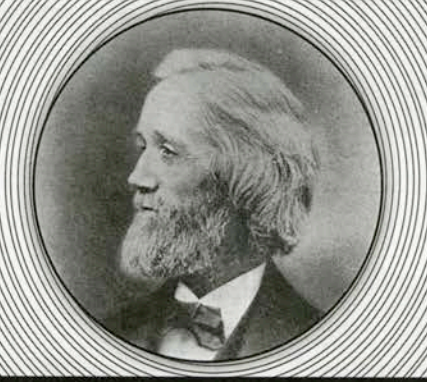
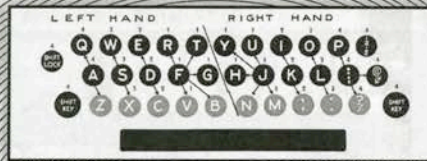
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WHAT'S THE WORD?

"QWERTY"

Inspiration for QWERTYFEST MKE (and by extension, this publication) comes from Milwaukee's role in history as the birthplace of the QWERTY keyboard and early typewriter prototypes, invented here by Christopher Latham Sholes (1819-1890) and his associates. Sholes was a newspaper publisher, state senator, and inventor. In 1873, Sholes came up with the keyboard configuration that we still use today, whether it happens by clacking on a Smith-Corona or tapping on the latest iPhone. 150 years after its invention by Sholes, we also suggest that QWERTY is not just a keyboard, but a typing state of mind.



CHRISTOPHER LATHAM SHOLES
1819-1890

Welcome to the first issue of Qwerty Quarterly!

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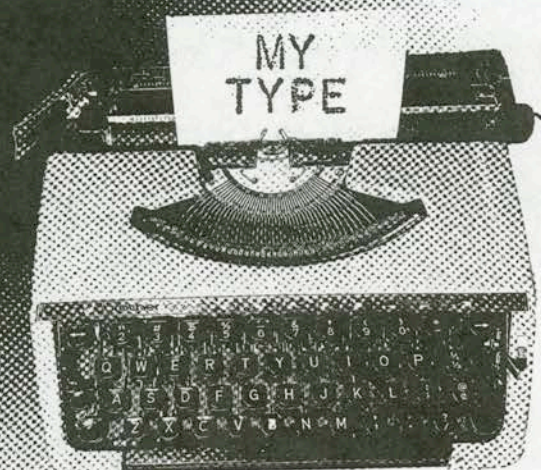
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AS TOLD BY KAY KRO

This is a love letter to my first typewriter, a blue 1976 Brother Charger 11. Named *Azuela*, she has been my friend and true companion, and my workhorse for the past two years.

She was sold to me by a DePaul University writing instructor. I met him in the alley behind his Chicago apartment, and he put it on top of a trash ~~bin~~ bin. He gave me a typewriter walk-through right there on top of his dumpster desk.

I am a full-time on-demand typewriter poet. This machine has never failed me. She's the perfect balance between function & form. I ~~have~~ have typewriters that are ~~lighter~~ lighter in the keys, but weigh ~~ten~~ ten pounds more. I have typewriters that are slightly lighter to carry, but the action is harder on the fingers.

Like most typewriters, she doesn't have a number 1, so I have to use a lowercase L for one. For an exclamation point, I have to do an apostrophe, ('), then backspace, then put a period (.) underneath to get (!). One time I thought she was broken for 3 months because her uppercase letters weren't working. Turns out I just didn't have the carriage lock all the way down. *Whoops!*

I have hauled this typewriter across state lines and states of mind. She is my first love. I used her to write poems in Milwaukee, Missouri, and Michigan. I've typed on her at gigs at art galleries, bars, coffee shops, theaters, and museums. Who knows where we'll go next?

Kay Kro (thetravelingtypist.com) is leading the "Creative (Type) Writing" workshop at QWERTYFEST MKE June 24, noon, at The Bindery.

See our links at linktr.ee/qwertyfest_mke for more info.

NINETEEN THIRTEEN BRINGS MELODIOUS AMPERSANDS, QUESTION MARKS, AND EXCLAMATION POINTS TO QWERTYFEST

By Molly Snyder

If the Milwaukee cello-drums duo Nineteen Thirteen was a typed page it would be the open-space between the words. The airy locus lingering around the iron-fisted ink that makes room for dreams and transcends definition. (The ga-dump that happens when we hit the spacebar on a Smith Corona.)

Formed in 2010, Nineteen Thirteen is a musical force featuring two talented humans who've accelerated a friendship as tight as their compositions. Classically-trained cellist Janet Schiff (her cello was born in 1913 in Transylvania, Romania — hence the band's name) says she "always liked" how Victor DeLorenzo played the drums. And with that, they started making multi-layered, mesmerizing, moody — sometimes deliciously melancholy — songs.

The pair will proffer these creations live from the Dandy stage, 5020 W. Vliet, on Friday,

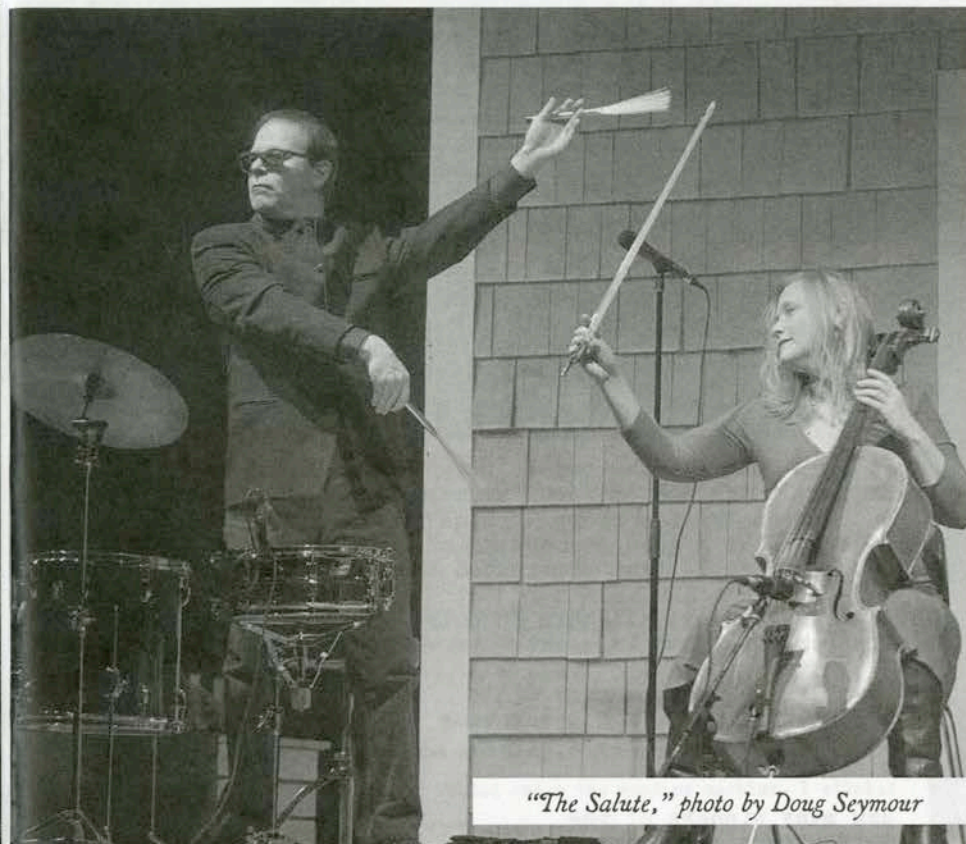
June 23 during the opening night party of QWERTYFEST MKE.

"We love the typewriter and feature it in quite a lot of our music," says Schiff and DeLorenzo, the founding drummer of Milwaukee's prideful Violent Femmes. (Here's to hoping they bring a typer to the QWERTYFEST gig.)

Nineteen Thirteen is innovative and enchanting both on the stage and through the stream. They play out often; recorded almost a dozen full-length albums, EPs and digital downloads; won two Wisconsin Area Music Industry (WAMI) awards; and collaborated with The Avett Brothers, Rainn Wilson and Longhorne Slim among many others.

When asked if Nineteen Thirteen were a food, their response was the title of a memoir yet to be written.

"WE WOULD BE A CANDY NECKLACE PAIRED WITH A GLASS OF FINE CHAMPAGNE," says Schiff and DeLorenzo.



"The Salute," photo by Doug Seymour

And now, the two say it's time to start a fresh page, a new chapter. "We are preparing new music and getting ready to play more live shows," says Schiff and DeLorenzo.

Nineteen Thirteen's music guides listeners to timeless travels, but their hearts remain tuned to Milwaukee. Shows at Summerfest, The Pabst Theater and Jazz in the Park are forever favorites in their repertoire of live performances.

"Like the typewriter, Nineteen Thirteen was invented right here in Milwaukee," says Schiff and DeLorenzo.

See Nineteen Thirteen at QWERTYFEST MKE on June 23 and check out their website at nineteenthirteen.com

Eligibility Verification

It seem like all the people procreating these days
 End up at the zoo on Saturday mornings-
 As soon as the zoo opens at nine in the a.m.
 It seem like a good percentage of them
 Have the people that procreated them in tow

All this is sex, all this is holy, all this is mundane
 The penguins jump in - out - in - out of concurring water

This is a 51-degree gray scale
 Spring day, where the polar bear
 Looks dirty and full of scrawn
 Sleeping on a rock

How many winners of the
 Deft struggle to make it to the
 Next generation are armed with fruit snacks
 Snacks that do not truly taste of fruit
 Facade alluding to the wildness immured

It all reeks of a gentleness one can barely feel

Fitness finessing patterns out these humans
 Humans finessing patterns out this fitness

-- Bryon Cherry

poetry

Centers

In Peru, when I was asked if Korea was inside the U.S.,
 a centavo fell off my wallet and rolled under the vending machine. I stuck
 my fingers into the dusty gap, but the coin was lost, no doubt,
 though only to me.

In Korea, I was asked if Peru was inside the U.S.

It was cold, and winter had no need of me, but I was still
 there, doing no more than a grain of salt,
 warming the asphalt street.

In the U.S.: where was Korea, where was Peru.

I replied every time by looking at my belly button, narrating
 the long string of belly buttons that came before it.

-- Ae Hee Lee

untitled

my lovers live in the wrong place
 the wrong time
 friendships that felt deeper
 but weren't meant to be
 or that never had the chance to try
 they live in first & only dates
 or two month stints
 in goodbye kisses
 unknown as the last when had
 they lounge about my poems
 my journal entries
 the back of my mind
 emerge in my dreams
 an indent in my bed next to me
 realizing it wasn't real
 they buzz out of the batteries of my vibrator
 through my pink
 to the top of my scalp
 & the tips of my toes
 they pop up in dm's
 compliment me
 propose drinks or coffee or whatever
 usually with no follow through
 they haunt me all over this small city
 the restaurants we shared meals in
 celebrated anniversaries at
 all of the memories
 mutual friends
 gifts kept
 they exist everywhere & nowhere
 making sure i'm never really without a lover
 never really with one

-- Melissa Mursch-Rodriguez

human adjustment

i learned i'm capable of killing you
 in a hyper dimension
 your blood was thick and pink
 and i laughed

i'm starting to feel parts of me
 gape open at the thought of you
 perceiving my shame

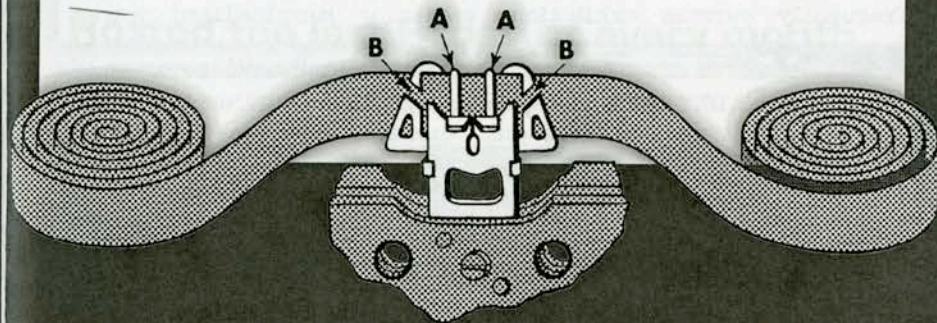
what kind of trauma slut
 am i today
 what color is my wig really
 when it's not in this light

if someone would just ask me
 to crawl on my knees towards them
 there shouldn't be anything wrong with that

the sweaty chests of my want and hurt
 collide and clap
 don't get anywhere

i want this poem to be done
 saying something

-- Chelsea Tadeyeske



OUR FEATURED POETS

BRYON CHERRY is a poet and musician. His work has been featured in *RETURN TO THE GATHERING PLACE OF THE WATERS ANTHOLOGY* (Vegetarian Alcoholic Press) as well as in *SOUTH FLORIDA POETRY JOURNAL*. In 2021 he was named an emerging poet in Milwaukee by Saint John's on the Lake. In music he has released 8 albums and in 2021 he was named Best R&B/Soul Artist in Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Area Music Industry awards. Born and raised in Milwaukee, he is of and shaped by his evolving home city. He is guided by what he considers to be magical forces—listening and love.

Born in South Korea and raised in Peru, **AE HEE LEE'S** debut poetry collection *ASTERISM* was selected by John Murillo for the 2022 Dorset Prize and is forthcoming from Tupelo Press. She is author of poetry chapbooks *BEDTIME RIVERBED*, *DEAR BEAR*, and *CONNOTARY* (Bull City Press' Frost Place Chapbook Competition Winner). Her work can be found at *POETRY*, *THE GEORGIA REVIEW*, *POETRY NORTHWEST*, *NEW ENGLAND REVIEW*, and *SOUTHERN REVIEW*, among others.

MELISSA MURSCH-RODRIGUEZ is a Milwaukee-based creative whose practice exists between the realms of fiber arts, zinemaking, poetry, and curatorial programming. She finds herself at the intersections of identities as a mixed chicana queer woman, which she parses, prods, and praises through her work. Regardless of the vehicle used, she aims to share her experiences and vulnerabilities and platform those of others in hopes of creating community and connection. She is the editor and founder of *MOODY*, a bi monthly zine featuring work by queer and BIPOC creatives, and frequently curates exhibitions centering marginalized voices.

CHELSEA TADEYESKE lives, works and plays in Milwaukee, where she co-edits Pitymilk Press and curates poetry readings in her apartment, The Bell Tower. She's the author of several chapbooks including *IF YOU BEND IT BACKWARDS NOTHING REALLY HAPPENS* (Rabbit Catastrophe Press, 2017), *PRINCESS DIANA* (Bathmatics, 2019), *THE FLOOR OF A CAGE FLOATING ABOVE THE FLOOR OF A HOUSE* (Bathmatics, 2020) and *ISLAND WEATHER* (Pitymilk Press, 2023). She's a Virgo sun, Libra rising and Aquarius moon born in the year of the snake.



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Brian Fette alongside the monument to Christopher Latham Sholes in Forest Home Cemetery.

THE ECOSYSTEM THAT CONSPIRED TO CREATE THE TYPEWRITER IN MILWAUKEE

STORY AND PICTURES BY ED MAKOWSKI

Brian Fette is a Milwaukee history buff. Though history is new to him.

"I didn't get into any of this stuff until after retiring - and I'm not even from here," said Fette, a native of Ann Arbor, MI.

Brian found himself theatrically inhabiting the character of Milwaukeean Christopher Latham Sholes, the inventor of the typewriter and the QWERTY keyboard. I met Brian at Sholes' monument in Forest Home Cemetery to learn more about the inventor. Fette illuminated that Sholes had an entire working life, surrounded by an exquisite ecosystem of factors that culminated

in Milwaukee being the birthplace of the typewriter.

"He was a newspaper editor downtown - where the Panther Arena is now located. Long before the typewriter he'd invented a way to print subscriber addresses onto newspapers, as well as a machine that printed check numbers for banking purposes," said Fette.

Placing words on the page faster seemed a logical next progression. Fette says Milwaukee was integral to the typewriter for both natural resources and industrial skills.

"On Capitol (Drive) at the Milwaukee River was a paper mill. Wisconsin was ripe with forests and then lakes and rivers to transport natural resources to Milwaukee's

industry where products could be made."

Fette also says that Latham was surrounded by collaborative tinkerers in a shared workspace in that the Cream City was a lush innovation nursery.

"Sholes worked at Kleinstueber's Machine Shop, where on neighboring benches Levi Burnell worked with Increase Lapham to design an anemometer to measure wind velocity, nearby Dr. Robert Fairies built telescopes, engraver John Marr handmade the typefaces. So in many ways Milwaukee was the ideal location," said Fette.

The most challenging part for Sholes was that all those tiny, hand-machined parts needed to not make contact on their way to and from striking the ribbon.

"Christopher Sholes traveled to meet Thomas Edison for guidance to make all of those moving pieces not bump into one another. The QWERTY layout provided the fastest typing with the least contact."

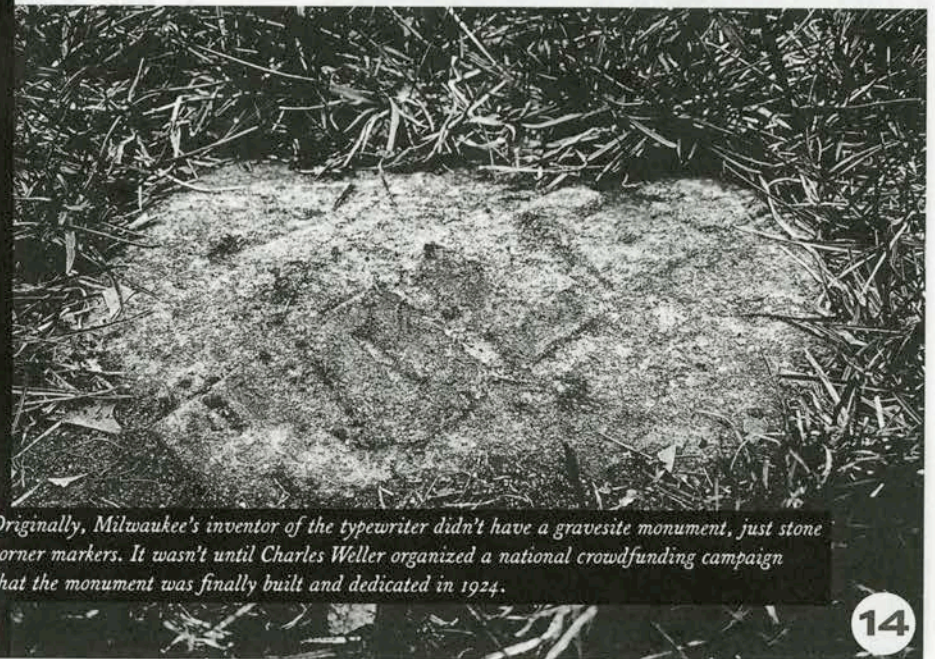
Sholes built 30 drafts of typewriters before deeming one commercially viable.

After 150 years the entire English-speaking world still types on desktops and pocket oracles from a layout designed during the days of horse and buggy. A democratization of communication that would probably make Sholes grin.

"It's said that on his deathbed Sholes' proudest achievement was that the typewriter broadened employment options for women the world over, bringing women into the office," said Fette.

So the next time you pull up your phone keyboard you can smile in the knowledge that, sure, maybe it could have happened somewhere else. But it didn't. Milwaukee exported words to the world.

Brian Fette is leading our "QWERTY Journey" tour at Forest Home Cemetery on June 24 (see schedule on page 15 for more details). Read more of Ed's writing at: radderthandeath.com.



Originally, Milwaukee's inventor of the typewriter didn't have a gravesite monument, just stone corner markers. It wasn't until Charles Weller organized a national crowdfunding campaign that the monument was finally built and dedicated in 1924.



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QWERTYFEST
MKE
2023



SCHEDULE
AND
INFORMATION

FRIDAY
JUNE 23

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QWERTYFEST PARTY
5-10PM AT THE DANDY
(5020 W. VLIET ST.)

An evening filled with typewriter fun and music! Featuring a live performance from esteemed cello-and-drum-duo NINETEEN THIRTEEN; a Clackathon performance hosted by ANJA NOTANJA SIEGER; a raffle (win gift baskets or a typewriter!), cash bar, and select vendors. We'll also have Typewriter Stations set up where you can try different typewriters and create your own short writing. Admission is \$25 (also included as part of the ALL CAPS Pass).

SATURDAY
JUNE 24

"TYPEWRITER 101" WORKSHOP
11AM AT THE BINDERY
(347 E. WARD ST.)
Instructor: Lisa Flooding

Are you interested in manual typewriters but don't know where to start? Have you come across a machine and wondered if it is usable or repairable? Learn how these amazing machines can still have a valuable place in our lives today. WORKSHOP TICKET: \$15.

"POETRY IN MOTION:
CREATIVE (TYPE) WRITING" WORKSHOP
NOON AT THE BINDERY (347 E. WARD ST.)
Instructor: Kay Kro

Experience textual healing with the power of typewriters. Break free of your writer's block and find your unique voice at this unique workshop designed to help you unplug and tune in. Whether you're a seasoned writer or just getting started, this workshop is the perfect chance to hone your skills, find your style, and connect with a community of like-minded individuals. WORKSHOP TICKET: \$20.

THE QWERTY JOURNEY TOUR
12 NOON AND 2PM AT
FOREST HOME CEMETERY
(2405 W. FOREST HOME AVE.)

How many know that Milwaukee in the 1860's and 70's was Silicon Valley for the development of the typewriter and other writing machines? Come on a QWERTYFEST tour to learn about the enduring legacy of Milwaukee inventors and purveyors of the written word. Tour starts at the Halls of History building. TICKETS ARE \$15. RUNS TWICE: NOON AND 2PM TOUR (If you got an ALL CAPS Pass, the 2pm tour is included with it, limited space available for non-ALL CAPS Passholders)

FLIP ME



QWERTYFEST MARKET AND TYPE TALKS:
1-6PM AT FOREST HOME CEMETERY'S
HISTORIC CHAPEL

Shop our market of local artists, booksellers, and antique dealers. Also featured: DJs spinning on an antique Victrola and a display of typewriters from Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design's Brooks Stevens Product Design Collection, as well as presentations on typewriter history and art. FREE ADMISSION.

4 PM: "150 YEARS OF THE QWERTY KEYBOARD," JASON PUSKAR, Professor of English, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

4:30 PM: "WOMEN'S COMPLICATED HISTORY WITH THE TYPEWRITER IS NOT BLACK-AND-WHITE," MOLLY SNYDER, Senior Editor, OnMilwaukee.com

5 PM: "CLACK BAIT: DRAWING STORIES AND EXCEPTIONAL ENCOUNTERS,"

CHRISTOPHER T WOOD, Pfister Hotel
Artist-in-Residence, 2022-2023.

QWERTYFEST RIVERWALK TOUR
2PM: A tour that explores the Riverwalk's sculptures, architecture, and typewriter history. More info: QWERTYFEST.COM

QWERTYFEST AFTER PARTY AND OPEN MIC FEATURING KAVON CORTEZ JONES
6-9PM, THE PRESSROOM
(3105 W. FOREST HOME AVE.)

A casual meetup in a Milwaukee tavern that's owned by a retired newspaper printman of 30 years. Open mic at 7. All poets, storytellers, comedians, truth-tellers, musicians and magicians are welcome. Cash bar. FREE ADMISSION.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF MILWAUKEE
PROCLAMATION

THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE JOINS ONMILWAUKEE STAFF, FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN CELEBRATING QWERTY MKE DAY ON SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023; AND,

WHEREAS, QWERTY MKE DAY RECOGNIZES THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MILWAUKEE INVENTOR CHRISTOPHER LATHAM SHOLES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TYPEWRITER AND THE MODERN KEYBOARD FORMAT; AND,

WHEREAS, QWERTY DAY MARKS THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTOPHER LATHAM SHOLES INVENTING FIRST FUNCTIONING TYPEWRITER - THE QWERTY KEYBOARD WHICH WE STILL USE TO THIS DAY; AND,

WHEREAS, QWERTY DAY COMMEMORATES THE DEDICATION OF CHRISTOPHER LATHAM SHOLES TO SERVE THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE THROUGH HIS APPOINTMENT TO COLLECTOR OF THE PORT OF MILWAUKEE BY PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN, HIS COMMITMENT TO JOURNALISM, AND HIS INVENTION OF THE TYPEWRITER; AND,

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE CELEBRATES QWERTY MKE DAY IN HONOR OF THE INNOVATIVE SPIRIT OF CHRISTOPHER LATHAM SHOLES, REMEMBERS HIM FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY, AND WISHES ONMILWAUKEE AND THOSE INVOLVED A SUCCESSFUL QWERTYFEST; AND,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CAVALIER JOHNSON, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023, TO BE QWERTY MKE DAY THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE.
CAVALIER JOHNSON
MAYOR

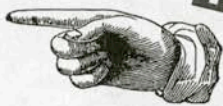
SUNDAY
JUNE 25

TYPEWRITER BRUNCH OPEN JAM
11AM-1PM, COMPANY BREWING
(735 E. CENTER ST.)

This is a free event that is open to anyone who wants to bring their typewriter. Please do support our host, Company Brewing, by ordering food/drink. Special performance by musician JOHANNA ROSE! FREE ADMISSION.

QWERTYFEST Open House
1-3PM, ANCHOR PRESS, PAPER AND PRINT
(INSIDE HOUSE OF RAD, 900 E. KEEFE AVE.)
Simple bookmaking workshop--we will have paper, stamps, ink and bring your typewriter if you want. \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION.

FLIP ME



SATURDAY
JUNE 24

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WORKSHOPS: Papermaking May 20, 12PM-5PM

Cyanotype June 10, 11AM-2PM

EVENTS:

Art Hop: June 17, 2-7PM

QWERTYFEST MKE: June 25, 1-3PM

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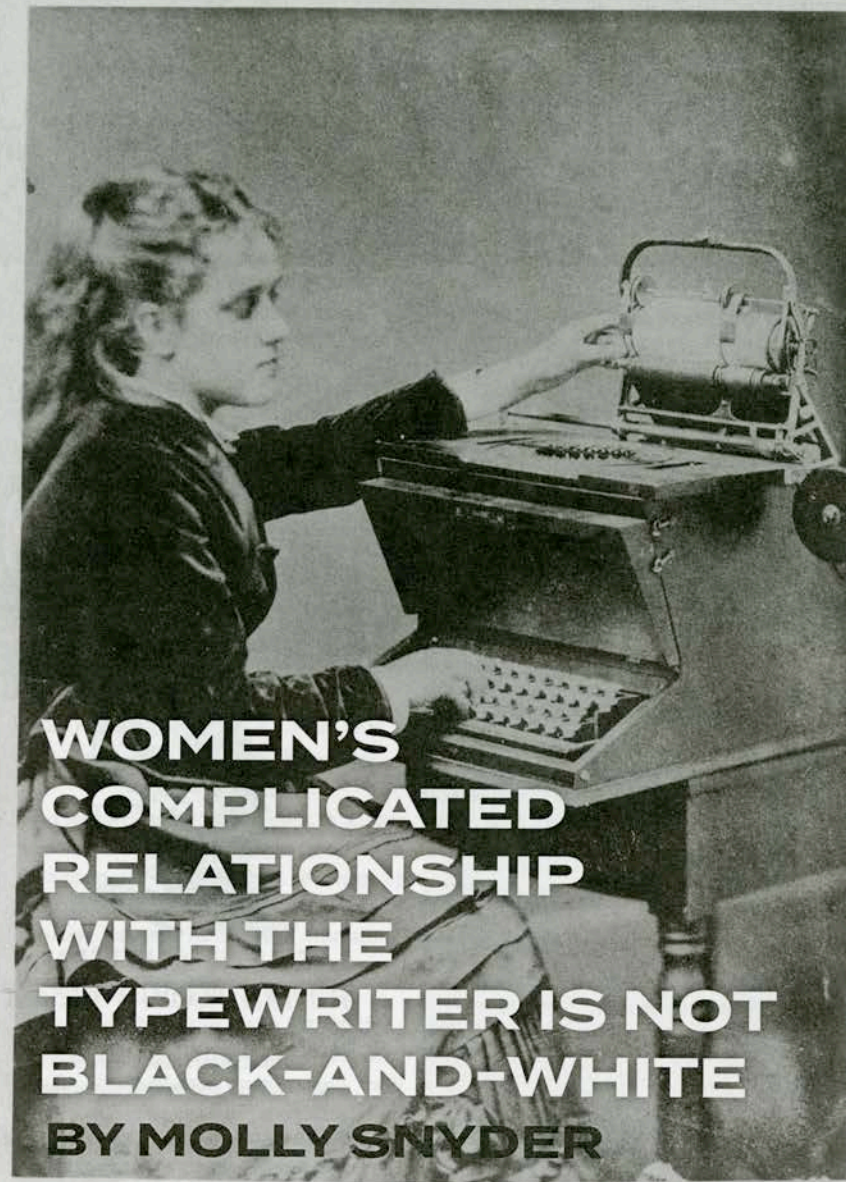
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**WOMEN'S
COMPLICATED
RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE
TYPEWRITER IS NOT
BLACK-AND-WHITE
BY MOLLY SNYDER**

*LILLIAN SHOLES, daughter of typewriter inventor CHRISTOPHER LATHAM SHOLES.
Photo: Wisconsin Historical Society, WHI-5125.*

COMMERCIAL TYPEWRITERS first clocked in at American offices in the mid-1870s. At the time, offices were like a man's second living room, but without women in the next room making meatloaf.

However, the arrival of the newfangled type-writer (as it was originally spelled) created a need for typists and there were not enough men to cover the clerical tasks. Or enough men willing to cover the tasks.

Somewhere in the midst of back slaps and three-gin lunches, men decided this was not their brand of work. Partially because the first typewriters made by Remington, former purveyor of guns, built them to resemble sewing machines, complete with identical flower decals. And since horses and dogs couldn't be trained to type, women were permitted to enter these 19th century man caves, but at a price. And not a fair or equal one.

In the 1870s, female typists were paid \$8 to \$12 a week, whereas men earned \$16 to \$20. This was acceptable to women because without teaching or nursing degrees, they were able to make \$6

a week or less as shop girls or house cleaners.

Hence, typewriter jobs became the foundation of the gender pay gap, a legacy that continues to this day.

But there is a bright side; a ding! For the first time, women were able to earn money in the business world to support themselves without a husband. This, in turn, led to new financial freedoms for many females.

Although underpaid, women were high in demand for typing jobs. Newspapers allured "fairer" workers by printing schmoozy ads and articles claiming that "girls are nimbler, neater and steadier" making them ideal for the typewriter job. (Typists were originally called "typewriters.")

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE in 1887 described ideal typewriter candidates as a "lively and good looking woman, 18-20 years old" because "old girls do not learn new tricks in the way of livelihood."

Many businessmen, however, did not welcome women into

the workplace. To prevent the possibility of women in the office writings emerged insisting women's hands were capable of chores like laundry and cleaning, but were too fragile to apply their fingers to a machine.

But the desire for workers during this fledgling time in American Capitalism won out, and women were hired in droves.

By 1891, according to THE PHONOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE in Cincinnati, there were 100,000 professional typewriters and more than 75,000 of them were women.

After a few years in the office, women started to open typing schools called "typing pools." Amid protests, the first typing class commenced at the YWCA in New York City in 1880 with a graduating all-women class in 1881. Unlike other "acceptable" jobs for women at the time such as teachers and nurses, typing was a lucrative skill that could be learned fairly quickly which appealed to women eager to earn their own money.

LILLIAN SHOLES, daughter of typewriter inventor Christopher Latham Sholes, is often falsely credited as the first female typist. At 15, she modeled for marketing materials for the new machine and this photo became one of the most famous early images. However, researchers later debunked that Lillian was the first female to use a typewriter when letters from an Italian woman to her lover were discovered from 1808.

Sholes, perhaps the OG of Imposter Syndrome, had many doubts about his invention and never envisioned the typewriter to be the successful machine it remains today. (The QWERTY keyboard is still standard on English-language laptops and desktops worldwide.) Thus, he sold it to Remington for a mere \$12,000 and died poor.

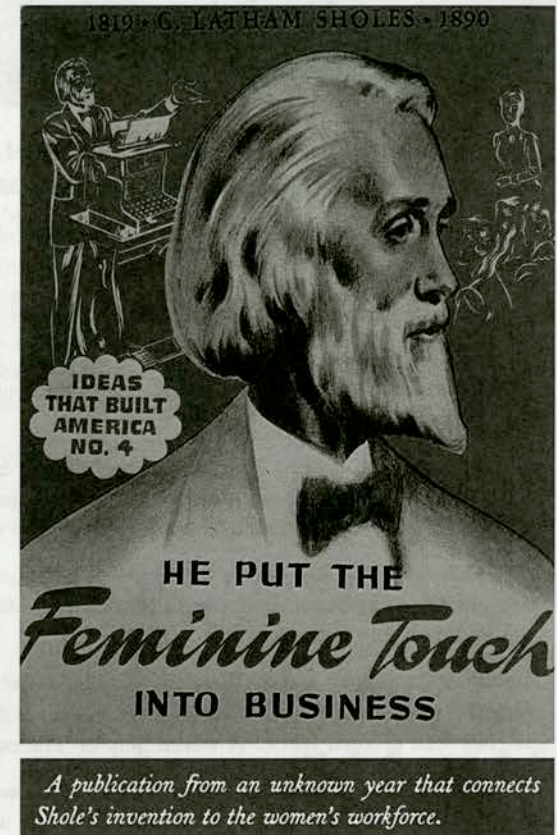
Sholes' great, great granddaughter, CATHERINE WATSON, is alive and well today. "When my family gets together for holidays he comes up sometimes. They bemoan the fact that he sold his

invention for \$12,000 and then we all laugh at how wealthy we could have been," said Watson.

From his deathbed, Sholes regretted that he sold the rights to his brilliant communication device for so little, but he was staunchly proud that he contributed to the financial emancipation of women.

"Whatever I may have felt in the early days about the value of the typewriter, it is obviously a blessing to mankind, and especially to womankind. I am glad I had something to do with it," he said.

Later, a conversation was documented between Sholes and his daughter-in-law days before he died on February 17, 1890. Apparently, she said, "Father Sholes, you have done something great for the world," and he



replied, "I don't know about the world, but I have done something for the women who have always had to work so hard. I believe this will enable them to more easily earn a living."

Further explore the subject of women and the typewriter during a free TypeTalk at the Forest Home Cemetery Chapel on June 24, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. The presentation, hosted by the author of this article, Molly Snyder, is in conjunction with QWERTYFEST MKE.

BY BECKY FRANZEL

ILLUSTRATION BY ANNA RODRIGUEZ

"When [I] woke in the woods in the dark and the cold of the night, [I]reach[ed] out to touch [my partner] sleeping beside me."

"A bear," I whispered in his ear, pointing toward the window near our cabin's door.

My partner rubbed his eyes, got up, and looked out. "Black bear. Maybe ten feet away. Come look."

I followed him, holding his arm as I peered from behind his shoulder. "Wow," I said as it stretched to grab a white pine's branch just out of reach. "You think it'll smell our food?" I said, eyeing the gap between dirt floor and plywood door.

"What food?" he asked from the corner of his mouth, eyes still focused on the bear. Not fearful, but curious. Death itself is not a lover, no. But facing Death can be a welcome mistress.

"Oh yeah, right," I said. We planned to buy food with the money we made here. No money, no food. My stomach grumbled. I shivered, my sweater more patches than original fabric. A woven Ship of Theseus.

We had traveled from Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Swannanoa, North Carolina—an 11-hour and 45-minute trip for a comedy show that never happened. My partner, the headliner, got the cancellation notice via Facebook Messenger 2 hours before doors. We had already checked in, refund not possible.

The bear continued clawing upward, branch still out of reach. We continued watching.

"I should have known it would cancel," my partner said, suddenly, as if angry at himself for not being a soothsayer. "How much longer can we do this?"

I squeezed his arm, a gesture I hoped would replace the answers I did not have.

"If trouble comes when you least expect it then maybe the thing to do is always expect it."

Four years of touring, little luck on either side. Perhaps success was our shared delusion rather than a possibility. We continued to watch the bear until it walked away, defeated. We crept back to bed.

Morning came. As my partner slept, I made instant coffee and inspected a vintage aqua-blue Royal Mariner typewriter in the corner of the kitchenette.

"Leave a note!" said a notecard propped between its keys. I looked at my partner, choosing to drag the machine to the porch rather than wake him.

I settled myself, took a sip of coffee, then pressed the T. Nothing. H. Nothing. A. Nothing. I continued stabbing keys at random, desperate to leave something. Anything. But there was no ink.

Stabstabstabstab. Nothing.

A red-winged blackbird glared from a nearby pine, feathers ruffled. *Go home. Gve up.* I imagined it said with its melodic scream, as if to look deep within my soul and spit.

"Did you get anything?" My partner startled me, pointing at the blank page. I laughed, exhausted.

Next, to South Carolina. Another show. We gathered our things, threw them in the car. We wore the same clothes as before—fabric ragged, coffee stained, thin.

"Then [we] set out upon the road again, slumped and cowed and shivering in [our] rags, like mendicant friars set forth to find [our] keep."

Becky Franzel's new novel, *DEATH'S INTERN DERRICK* (Aw Shucks! Publishing) is out now, more info at AWSHUCKSPUB.COM.





ASK ANJA

Dear Anja, How do you tell failure from success?
-J.A. in limbo, Here

Hi, J.A!

First, find your belly button.
Is it attached to someone else? Rip it off &
return it to your wobbly jelly bean receptacle.

If you are so worried about failure
that you make no move
no growth will occur.

If you take action and trouble results
at least you have a story!
Protagonists are meant to get gucky
just try ~~to~~ not to kill anyone on the way.

Failure is success
if you can laugh/retell/thrive/
survive after it happens.

I know you've got this! May, 2023 *Anja*

need advice?

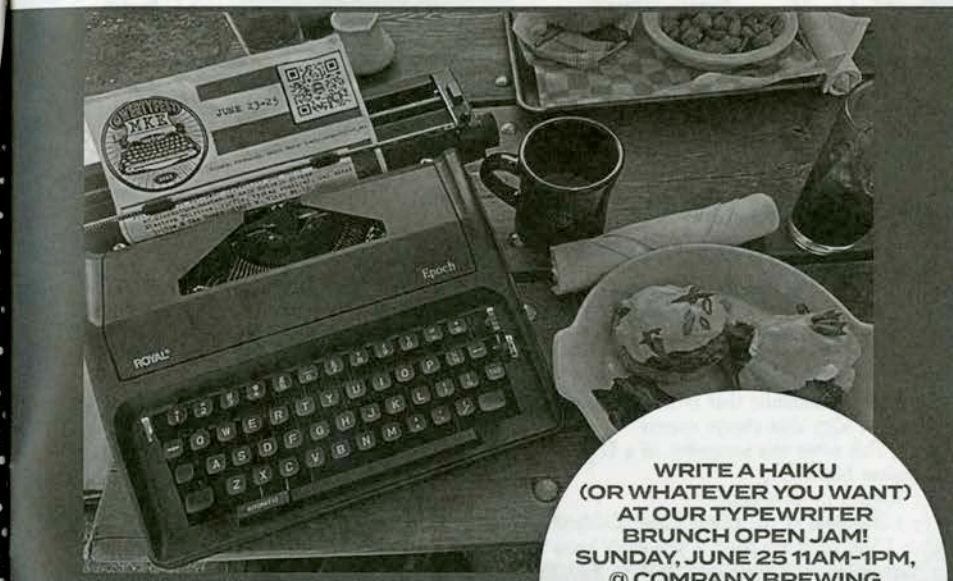
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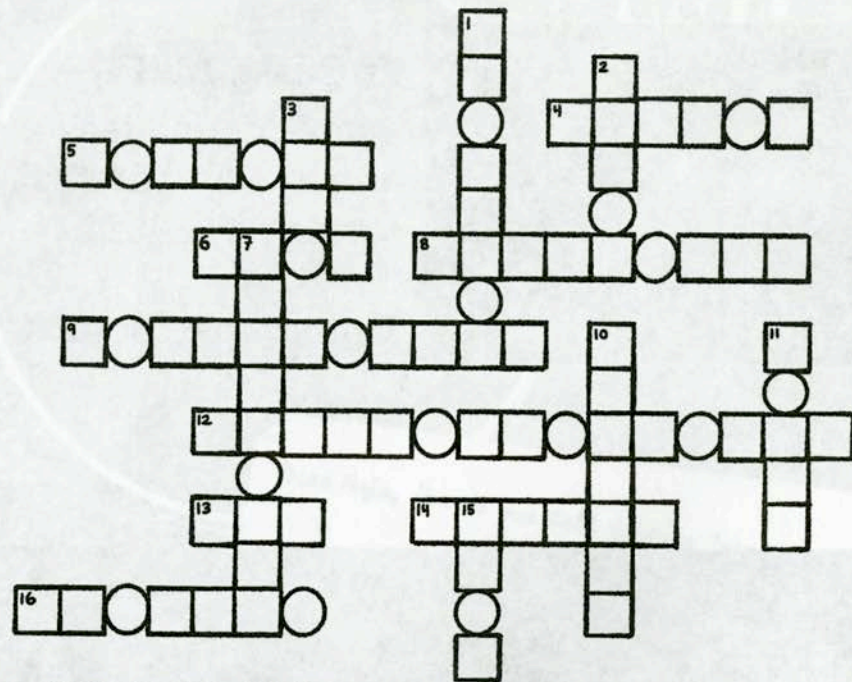


WRITE A HAIKU
(OR WHATEVER YOU WANT)
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Superior egg

-- Kelsey Crank

CROSSWORD



WEIRD AND WONDERFUL MILWAUKEE WORDS

BY TEA KRULOS

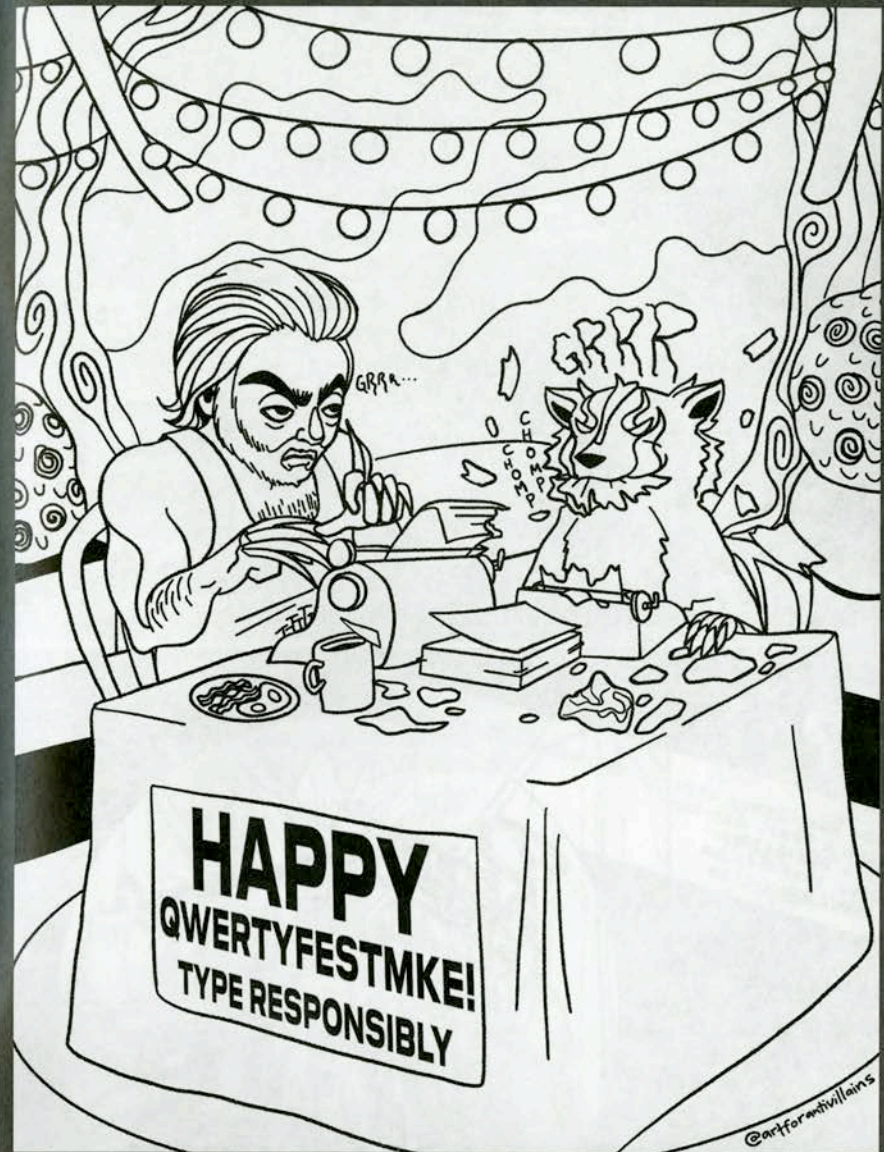
DOWN

- 1) Local columnist that refers to Milwaukee as "the City that always sweeps."
- 2) This actor was somewhat of a UWM student himself.
- 3) Bucks in (Spanish)?
- 7) Star hero of the Great Lakes X-Men?
- 10) You shall not pass! if you don't know this famous fantasy author, who has manuscripts archived at Marquette.
- 11) Horror writer who lived above Glorioso's and went on to write Psycho.
- 15) This artist's home was nicknamed "the Witch's House."

ACROSS

- 4) This comedy legend got arrested at Summerfest for saying seven naughty words.
- 5) Some people call this a "water fountain." Yeah right, it's called a...
- 6) This rockin' radio station is a QWERTYFEST sponsor and has a show called "The Chicken Shack."
- 8) Cosmic prankster Mark Gubin's roof welcomes you to...
- 9) Secret button at Milwaukee Public Museum activates this animal.
- 12) Special area at Mitchell International is a place to get yourself together.
- 13) The Sydney ___ counterculture hub is now a parking lot. RIP.
- 14) Name of the Milwaukee Press Club's mummified cat mascot.
- 16) A frightening place for baseball players.

Answer key: teakrulos.com/crossword



PUNKS AT BRUNCH
BY ALICIA KRUPSKY

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See schedule for more details.

ILLUSTRATION BY TIM DEMETER.