

7

ALL-CITY ANNUAL

Cover: John Watson





HOLA.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT IN OUR EFFORTS TO DO GOOD WORK, MAKE NICE THINGS, AND FURTHER THE CULTURE AND COMMUNITY OF CYCLING.

XOXO,
THE ALL-CITY TEAM




RITCHEY



LOG LADY

We love singletrack; we love being in the woods; we love it when the going gets tight, techy and nasty. We are beyond excited to bring that love further into the All-City lexicon with our first true mtb: The Log Lady.

A.C.E. tubing, 27.5 wheels, singlespeed perfection

All photos: John Watson



Charlie B. Ward





#SQUAD

For 2016, the All-City X Fulton cross team is 35 members strong and will be organizing 3 of the races on our local calendar. We are very proud of their contribution to our local cross community.

With the addition of All-City X Blackhand in the mid-Atlantic and All-City X Alpha in Colorado, we're expanding into several other areas of the country this Fall. Look for an All-City team rider on a cross course near you!



Todd Bauer

NATURE GIRL: RIDE IT ALL WEEK RACE IT ON THE WEEKEND


Todd Bauer

KOSHI: SPEED & STYLE

Our main man in Japan, Masahiro Koshiyama, or "Koshi" to his friends, is the only Category 1 cross racer in Japan to exclusively race single speed. He's also an active BMX'er, helping to run many events and contests in his home country. His mantra is "Speed & Style" and he never fails to make cross racing look good!



Photos: Kei Tsuji









Ryohei Wada









OUTSIDE THE COMFORT ZONE

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY GREG EVANS

What does the Space Horse mean to me? Begin by separating the two parts. The word horse–when combined with a predilection for western classics–evokes visions of slow-paced travel over unfamiliar terrain, with rolling hills and distant mountains as the backdrop. The frequent solitude of the frontier forces the wanderer to turn to his companion-creature for comfort and confidence. The word space naturally takes on a more otherworldly symbolism, where a cocktail of curiosity, a desire to explore and the subsequent abandon of anything familiar guides travelers through infinite expanses. A Space Horse then, must embody some combination of these traits. If I put all the pieces together, the Space Horse is not simply a bicycle, but rather a dignified creature with an insatiable yearning to explore the distant surroundings, all the while humbled by the knowledge that it's a relatively small piece of the pie. A Space Horse can be your best friend, your most trusted confidant, the constant source of motivation you look to when you have nothing else to feed the fire. The bike pushes you forward–both literally and metaphorically–as it wants nothing more than to be the catalyst for a great journey.

A homebody is a person who prefers to stay at home; perceived as unadventurous. It's quite a far cry from the intrepid Space Horse, yet it has also been used as a one word self-description for this young man. Coming from an upbringing in which leaving to college immediately after high school was nothing short of an expectation, I was the kid who stuck around to work out at the local bike shop in between jaunts to the junior college attempting to focus my direction. As several years passed, the aforementioned title seemed to stick with increasing adhesion, until eventually it came time to do something completely different. I flipped open the Quality catalog, picked out a frame, and set to work building up a bike that could help me turn the page of my story. If you hadn't already guessed, the frame of choice was an All-City Space Horse.

I booked a flight to Vancouver, B.C. and two weeks later, much to my own surprise, I actually boarded the plane. While it was a quick flight up the coast, the trip back was going to take quite a bit longer. I arrived at the airport with a big brown box, promptly unpacked the contents in a quiet corner of the lobby and assembled them into what would be my home for the next 50 days. When the final bolts were tightened down, and the panniers affixed to the racks, I hopped in the saddle, parting the sliding glass doors as I took my first pedal strokes out into the sun. It was Canada Day.

I ARRIVED AT THE AIRPORT WITH A BIG BROWN BOX, PROMPTLY UNPACKED THE CONTENTS IN A QUIET CORNER OF THE LOBBY AND ASSEMBLED THEM INTO WHAT WOULD BE MY HOME FOR THE NEXT 50 DAYS.

The next few days were spent circumnavigating the Juan De Fuca, growing ever wary of the seemingly impossible nature of the task that I'd forced upon myself—though these thoughts were soon forgotten as the collective value of every day's experience became more apparent. The homebody was determined to shake his title. The journey south continued after a ferry trip to Washington where I–on the suggestion of a friendly Canadian–took a "goat track"around the backside of Lake Crescent. The pure translucent blue of the lake contrasted off the orange clouds as they reflected the inferno of distant forest fires. As my tires crushed the gravel and soft debris along the northern shore, I recall feeling guilty that I couldn't capture the












PROPANE FLAMMABLE NO SMOKING
PROPANE EXCHANGE

beauty of this scene to share back home. In my reflections I am still at a loss for the words to describe the euphoria of this moment. It was a seminal turning point in not only my optimism for the trip but also my understanding of the funny ways that life can surprise you. If I had never made the impulse decision to force myself outside my comfort zone, to reject a habit of calculation in favor of chance, I would never have been in that place at that time to experience that beauty. I realized that life's best experiences are often unplanned.

I continued south through the never ending woods of Washington, along the sweeping coastline of Oregon, past the farms of northern California to my home in the Bay Area and on through Big Sur and Los Angeles. I continually added to my story with every mile I rode, every town I visited and every person I met. The odyssey came to a close as I crossed the border into Mexico. I remember standing on the streets of Tijuana, disappointed in the fact that I didn't get a passport stamp to mark the trip's conclusion, when I was slapped by the realization of an obviously fitting cliché: that the important takeaway from all of this was not the completion but the cumulative experiences of the journey itself.

Professors, hot shots, dental students, bartenders, political activists, cartoonists, musicians, accountants, poets and legitimate vagabonds are just a few of the two-wheeled wanderers that shared in my experience along the way, and not one of them ever wore a frown. The relationships that formed on the road saw perfect strangers become old friends over the course of a single night. The relationship between my bike and me however, is forged in the fires of permanency. No single object has ever helped me grow as much as my Space Horse. I truly love this machine–this friend–and I look forward to riding it into the ground, whether the bike goes or I do.



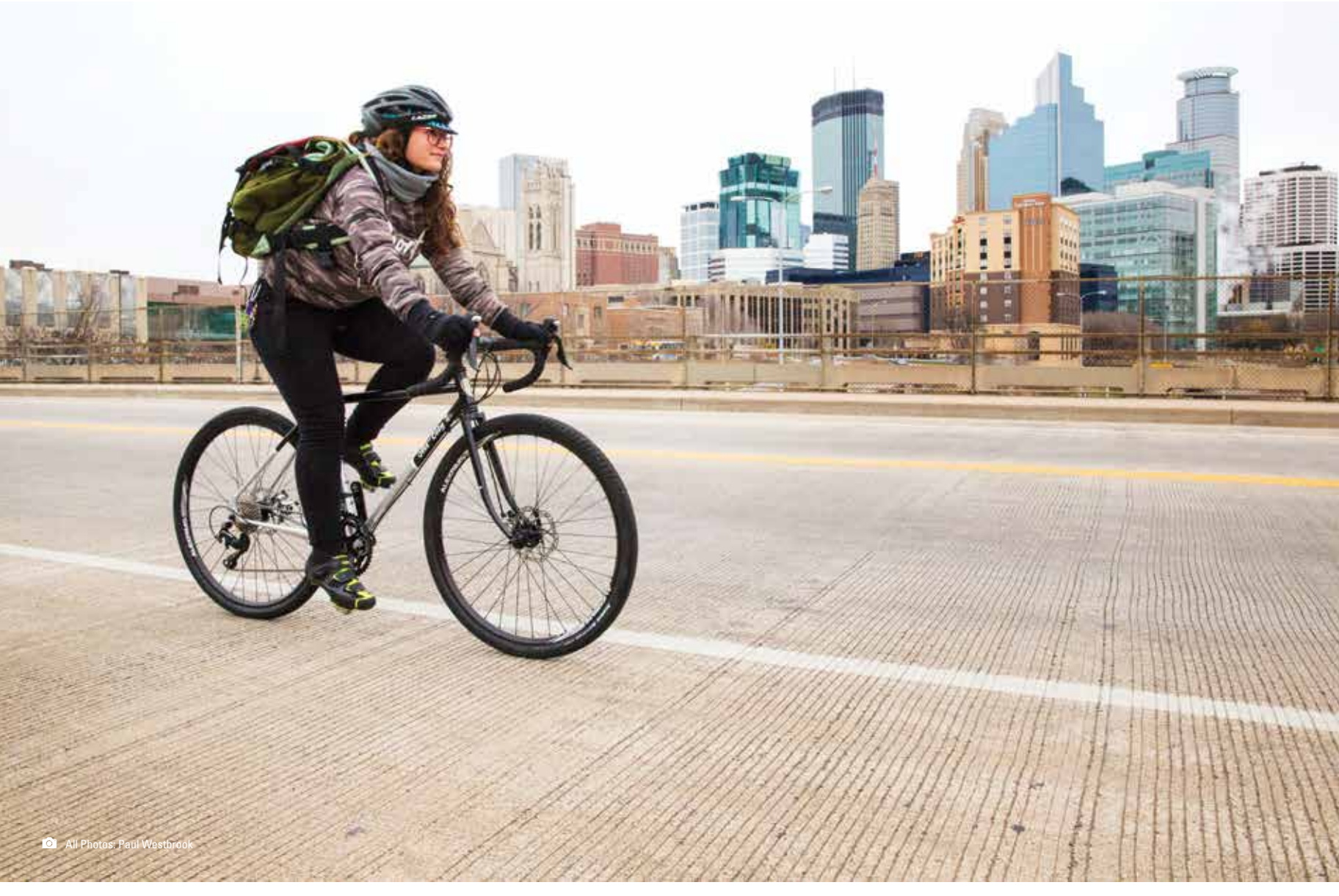








LABOR OF LOVE: OUR OWN NICK PAGLIA SNAPPED THESE WHILE SPENDING A DAY REPAIRING OUR BEAUTIFUL LOCAL VELODROME, THE NSC.

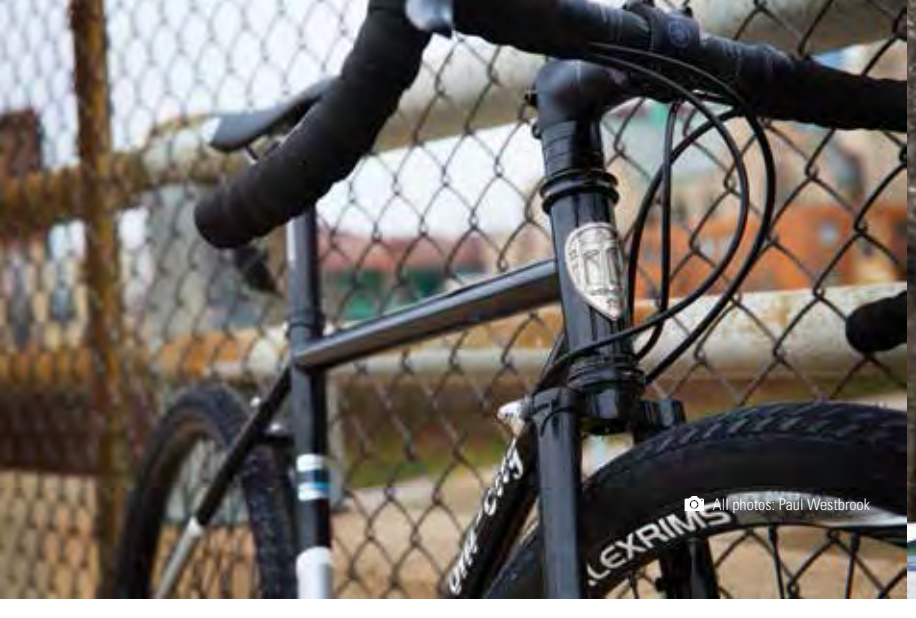


All Photos: Paul Westbrook



MEET OUR NEW BABY: SPACE HORSE DISC

Everything you loved about the original, but now with discs and the ability to better fit smaller riders thanks to 650b wheels on the 43 and 46cm sizes.



All photos: Paul Westbrook





Team rider Christina Peck gets after it
at the Wolfpack Hustle Finale Crit, Austin, TX

Chris Lee

AS LONG AS I BREATHE I ATTACK

– BERNARD HINAULT



All photos: Kevin Sparrow



STUPOR BOWL XIX

This was the 19th edition of the Minneapolis-based legendary race: one of the oldest, largest, and gnarliest alleycats on the planet, thrown by the Minneapolis Bicycle Messenger Association during the peak of Winter's cruelty.

300 some racers turn up every year to challenge the city streets, Midwest weather and their fellow competitors.

A few will be elevated to the pantheon of champions, while most will simply leave with blurry memories of a day spent fighting traffic and a night spent on the dance floor with the only other people who will ever understand what just happened or why.

FEBRUARY 6TH 2016

- 23 degrees
- 297 racers
- 16 checkpoints
- 31 miles
- $1100 raised for the local messenger emergency fund



Jeff's race route mounted to the stem of his Mr. Pink





All photos: Kevin Sparrow



Riders crossing over the Hennepin Bridge on their way to the start line



All photos: Kevin Sparrow



Saisha Harris, All-City's Art Director, checking in at Mackenzies









All photos: Kevin Sparrow



Men's Stupor Winner: Ben Lagerquist

"I RACED MY MR PINK. THERE ISN'T ANOTHER BIKE ON EARTH I WOULD'VE RATHER RACED ON. SUCH A PERFECT MACHINE. THANKS FOR CREATING SUCH RAD SHIT AND FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE MESSENGER COMMUNITY."

– A/C RIDER & 1ST PLACE STUPOR: NIKKI MUNVEZ





Women's Stupor Winner,
Nikki Munvez

TO ME, CYCLING IS A SOUL SPORT, AN ART FORM. I SEE THE WORLD IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT WHEN I'M LOOKING AT IT FROM A BICYCLE.

– MISSY GIOVE



Manuel Velez



Sean Talkington


John Watson


Sean Talkington

MACHO CUSTOM

This winter we sent a black E.D. coated Macho King over to Sean at Team Dream as a thank you for his collaboration on the All-City X Team Dream bandannas. We waited on pins and needles, rapt with excitement and curiosity about what he would do with it and how he would make it his. The results? They blew us all away as he collaborated with his friend Emilio Santoyo, who designed and hand painted the graphics to create a truly one of a kind ride.









HANDMADE IN TAIWAN

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY NICK PAGLIA

Working for All-City as the Product Manager has afforded me the opportunity to travel to many places around the globe. Unexpectedly, one of my favorite places to travel has been, and will continue to be, Asia. It is no secret that we do all of our frame and fork production in Taiwan. I've traveled there on three separate occasions over the past year and a half, all in an effort to help keep our process running smoothly. Taiwan is such a wonderful place to visit and the people, culture, food, and charm are inviting and intoxicating. When you leave, you instantly start thinking about your next chance to return.

We unfortunately live in a society that is largely focused on the commoditization of disposable products, many of which have "Made in Taiwan" or "Made in China" country of origin stickers. The import of sub-par products entering this country with those stickers affixed has formed a stigma incorrectly associating the origin of manufacturing to quality. Part of the All-City philosophy is to deliver products that become a defining possession for its owner, something they own and cherish for a very long time...yet our bikes are made in a country commonly associated with producing junk. So, how does that work? Simply put, what you've heard about manufacturing in Asia isn't always true and I'd like to share my first-hand experiences while exploring what it means to be "Made in Taiwan."

It is no accident that Taichung, Taiwan is quickly growing to become the "Silicon Valley" of bicycle industry production. The great people, passion for cycling, and experience producing some of the most compelling product, make it a natural epicenter of cycling industry growth and innovation. As you drive through the narrow streets lined with aqueducts and rice patties, you can't help but run into several major industry partners like SRAM, FSA, Velo, and Transart, to name a few. Around every turn is a small CNC shop, paint facility, or tube forming specialist filled with experts at their chosen craft and niche. Entering a facility is like entering their home, where you are greeted with a warm smile, a cup of tea, and graciously offered a seat. Language barriers are quickly overcome, replaced with an unspoken yet interactive and mutually understood series of points and nods. You can gain a sense of what, how and why they do what they do just by observing body language, listening critically and looking intently.

FOR ME, GETTING TO MEET THOSE TALENTED FOLKS WITHIN THEIR WALLS, TO EXPERIENCE THEIR WORK, TO SEE THE LOOK OF PASSION AND PRIDE IN THEIR EYES AS THEY SHOWED ME THE FRAME OR FORK THEY WORKED ON, WAS A LIFE-ALTERING AND PERSPECTIVE-SHIFTING EXPERIENCE.

All-City is fortunate to work with the best welders, fabricators, and painters that Taiwan has to offer. We have spent several years establishing and bettering our relationships with key partners because of their technique and skill in both producing and finishing our bikes, frames, and accessories. Our partners understand our dedication to producing high performance and classically influenced products, helping us turn our crazy ideas into reality. For me, getting to meet those talented folks within their walls, to experience their work, to see the look of passion and pride in their eyes as they showed me the frame or fork they worked on, was a life-altering and perspective-shifting experience.







During my most recent trip to Taiwan in March of 2016, I made it my personal goal to document and understand more about the people behind our production. I really wanted to return from the trip with a more complete understanding of their story, and to leave our manufacturing partners with a better sense of how much we truly appreciate their skill, passion and expertise. I was greeted with carte blanche access to document many aspects of production, and that is where the pictures you see in the pages surrounding this article were born. One of the most impactful discoveries I made is the extent to which our frames and forks are completely, from start to finish, handmade. All of the forming, brazing, welding, fixturing, cutting, and clamping is done by hand and the employees performing the functions, most notably the welding staff across multiple manufacturers, have average tenure of 15 yrs. The individuals working in all of our production facilities are long-standing artisans of their craft. Watching a frame being fine-tuned to spec on the alignment table, post-welding is a thing of beauty. There are no computers or robots carefully nudging frames into alignment, just years of skill and a masterfully trained eye.

I knew we had to do something to celebrate the support and partnership with our Taiwanese manufacturers, something more impactful and timeless than a write-up on the blog or sharing of photos through the social media channels. So, as of this model year, all bikes delivered in the second half of 2016 and beyond will come with our new "Handmade in Taiwan" stickers. Rest assured this isn't just a clever marketing ploy, this is a genuine representation of appreciation and respect for the makers. We hope you will proudly display this sticker on your bike and that it becomes another signifier of quality, maybe even a point of conversation with your friends and family, as you enjoy your new All-City.

HANDMADE
IN TAIWAN

IT'S IN THE DETAILS

There was a time when production steel bikes were beautiful, full of little touches and the artistry of their makers. We want to bring those details back into the production world and allow our builders to stretch out and show what they are capable of.



Marty Wood


ALL-CITY
MPLS MINN


TRAIL DOGS
ALL CITY
ACROSS
AMERICA




All-City




All-City
All-City

BEST FRIENDS FOREVER





Kevin Sparrow



John Watson

SPECTACULAR RIDING JAMS

Hey gang, we wanted to get you laced up with some serious jams so we called upon All-City's resident DJ, Sir Jeffrey G the Archduke of Dance, to put together a list of albums that are perfect for blasting while careening around the city on your bicycle. The rest of the A/C team also put in their top choices. Presented in no particular order:

JUDAS PRIEST – PAINKILLER

Out of nowhere in 1990 Judas Priest unleashes their hardest record ever. The opening track Painkiller is a tour de force and Hell Patrol is simply the greatest song to blast while slicing through traffic after dark. You'll gain at least 5mph with this rattling through your head. Other recommended Priest albums: Rocka Rolla, Sad Wings of Destiny, Stained Class

CEDRIC IM BROOKS & THE LIGHT OF SABA – S/T

There had to be some sort of reggae in this mix for those way too warm summer evenings. My pick is this self titled compilation of the work of Cedric Im Brooks. Chiller than chill, cooler than cool, and just about the most laid back you can get without falling off your saddle.

MANOWAR – KINGS OF METAL
LET THE WARRIOR'S SPIRIT ENTER YOUR HEART.
The ultimate metal fantasy record.

ISENGARD - VINTERSKUGGE
Another metal shredder. This one's a riff monster from Fenriz of Darkthrone. See also: Darkthrone – The Underground Resistance

THE WIPERS – IS THIS REAL?
My current favorite, the first album from one of Portland's greatest contributions to the music world. This 1980 record never ceases to make the miles fly by. It's got it all: punk aggression, emotional pull, and superb musicianship.

ESPECTROSTATIC – S/T
Late at night when things are getting weird, this will take that feeling to the next level. It sounds like the soundtrack to some bizarre 80's horror movie that never existed. Total creep vibe, but in a good way. I wouldn't recommend this one for alone in the woods though…

GZA – LIQUID SWORDS
You know there needed to be at least one Wu record in this mix. For bumping around town, my pick is the classic Liquid Swords by GZA, but it easily could have been RZA's Bobby Digital in Stereo, Method Man's Tical, or any other number of classic Wu recordings. Liquid Swords is dark, aggressive, weird, and you're not likely to offend too many folks as you pass by.

NATE'S PICK
ENIO MORRICONE –
FISTFUL OF DOLLARS SOUNDTRACK
From the classic Clint Eastwood western, this album will have you rampaging like a shark in the deep end.









NICK'S PICK
AUTHORITY ZERO – 12:34
Mesa, AZ based punk band. The song "Courage" always comes up on my playlist at times when I need to hear it most… My favorite line is, "It's your courage, take 'em on, take 'em out, take a stand, take a bow."

RACHEL'S PICK
ANNIE MAC PRESENTS 2015
I'm addicted to Annie Mac's Friday night radio show on BBC Radio 1 out of the UK. Bangin' beats, massive buildups and breakdowns, and tunes that make you move whether you're feeling on the top of the world, or are desperately in need of a jolt of energy. This album is Annie Mac's "best of" and these tracks have energized me through alleycats, tons of commutes, and many a solo kitchen dance party.

SAISHA'S PICK
CHET FAKER – BUILT ON GLASS
Soul-influenced electro from Australia. This is more on the chill side, but definitely good for moving and grooving, especially at night. "Gold" is a hot track.

ANDREW'S PICK
THE MIGHTY IMPERIALS –
THUNDER CHICKEN
Inspired by the legends of New Orlean's funk, these kids bring unique style to the genre. Former members now occupy such groups as the Dap-Kings, El Michels Affair, and the Antibalas Afrobeat Orchestra.



Jolene Holland

OUR CITY'S PATRON SAINT.

The whole package. On his first several records he wrote, produced, and played every single instrument. His stage shows were legendary and he continually pushed the bounds of sexuality, gender norms, and fashion. He was a true pioneer, a true performer, and most importantly to us: a true Minnesotan.

While others left to make it big in the world, Prince made the world come to Minneapolis. He said the "cold keeps the bad people out," and a million of us nodded along in agreement.

The body of work he left behind is currently blowing another generation of minds as the remembrances of him has us digging whole albums when previously we only knew of the singles. The more we listen, the more we are in awe, the more we appreciate, the more we feel the loss.

REST IN POWER, PRINCE ROGERS NELSON.



Marty Wood

TREAT
YO' SELF

