East Village gems

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Whether you’re looking for some new threads with your friends, satisfying your hunger alongside your family, or just taking a stroll on a calm Sunday, the Historic East Village offers the charm to satisfy any need. The beauty of this village, located in downtown Des Moines near the Iowa State Capitol Building, is due largely to the local businesses and the unique people that welcome you to their shops. KELSEY PEDERSEN

A small yet lively shop, Vanity and Glamour is tucked away on East 5th Street in the Historic East Village. The owner, Patrick Boltinghouse, is just as upbeat and eclectic as the store itself. With his own scientifically crafted brand of make-up, you can paint your face with anything from “Oh My Orange” to his newest custom shade, affectionately named “Moulin Rouge.” Patrick strives to create a line of cosmetics that’s “unique and modern enough to be artisty-driven, with a varied collection of staple colors and quality formulas.” Vanity and Glamour’s philosophy is straightforward: “There is no right or wrong in the world of makeup; we all make it up as we see fit for every unique style.” From everyday wear to full-on costume make-up, Patrick and the rest of the Vanity and Glamour team can transform you to embody whatever unique look you please.
ZOMBIE BURGER AND DRINK LAB

Zombie Burger and Drink Lab, the new kid on the block, opened its doors in August. It offers a burger counter for a meal-on-the-go and the drink lab for a more traditional sit-down experience. Aiming to be a favored destination during the yearly pilgrimage known as the Des Moines Zombie Walk (google that sucker, it’s a sweet tradition), Zombie Burger offers a themed menu including all the essentials – soylent greens, the Zombie Bride Wedding Cake Shake, and a wide selection of delectable brains—er, burgers, which range from the Flamethrower and Boomstick burgers to the Trailer Trash Zombie burger. Kori Teeter, an employee of Zombie Burger, claims the Raygun as her favorite treat. Teeter also stated that since opening in late August, business has been steady. Zombie Burger is open for all your horde-surviving needs from 11 a.m. to midnight daily.

THE BARGAIN BASKET

Why spend your next paycheck on an expensive coat or a pair of heels when you can support a local cause, while also finding something to provide that little boost of warmth you need for your daily trek across the windswept wastes of central campus? In 1974, the Bargain Basket was a one-day rummage sale sponsored by the Junior League. In 1980, it evolved into a permanent store, located in the Drake neighborhood. In 2006, the current store opened its doors at 560 East Grand Street. Bargain Basket sells clothes for men and women, with a majority of the stock priced at a wallet-soothing $4 and up to $25. Lauren Burt, president of the Junior League and Iowa State University alum, says the Bargain Basket has raised over $1 million for the Junior League. The profits from the store fund Junior League programs, such as Girl Power, I-Ready, and after school tutoring. The Bargain Basket is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.