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The Daily Iowan

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2015

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Uber tries to drum up support

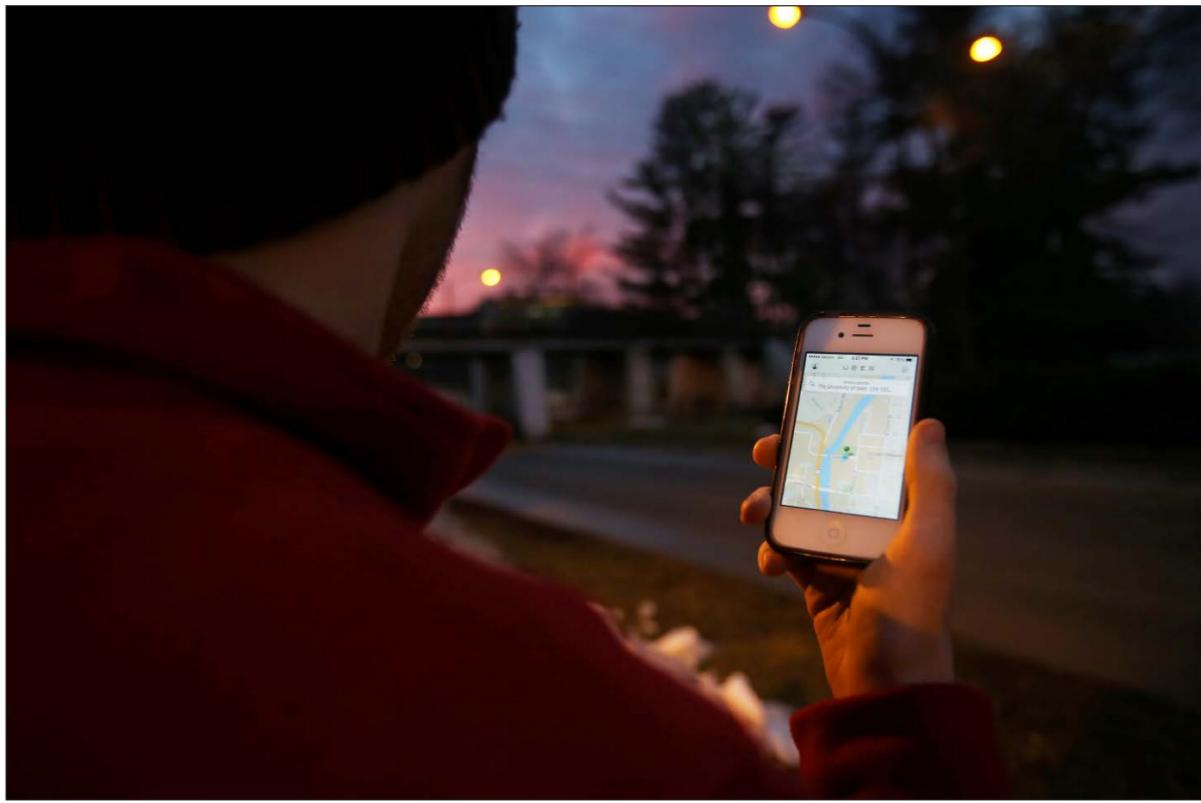


Photo Illustration by Margaret Kispert

Uber recently sent out emails encouraging Iowa City residents to call city leaders and ask that Uber be made available.

By **CORY PORTER**
cory-porter@uiowa.edu

Uber, the ride-sharing company, has started enlisting interested Iowa City people to let city leaders know there is a demand for its services.

Uber sent out emails to people who have opened the app within 20 kilometers of Iowa City asking them to contact city councilors and demand the city code be changed to Uber's liking.

Jennifer Mullin, an Uber Midwest representative, said the current wording of a proposed ordinance — which would require Uber drivers to have city-issued IDs, among other regulations —

doesn't fit with how the company operates.

"The way the regulations are currently written, they're not ride-sharing regulations; the city's trying to fit ride-sharing into a taxi regulatory framework, and it's not appropriate for ride-sharing," she said.

Mullin said the email was sent out to thousands of "riders," the company's term for people who use their service, as a way to rally support.

"We wanted to make sure their voices were heard by the City

SEE **UBER**, 2A

30hop success through the roof

By **NOELLE ALKHAWAJA**
Noelle-alkhawaja@uiowa.edu

Each week, The Daily Iowan will provide an in-depth look at a local business.

Approaching the doors of 30hop, one could certainly notice the large rooftop bar resting on top of the indoor seating.

Dan Blum, a part owner and the general manager of the bar and grill, 900 E. Second Ave., Coralville, is happy with the results after only five and a half months of business.

After traveling around the country, Blum said one goal for the owners was to bring the "city" vibe of a rooftop restaurant and bar to the area. And so far, they feel it has been a success.

"It's been a great start," he said. "We're always seeing new faces. But we also have a good corps of people that have been here many times."

Manager Mike Waters emphasized the restaurant's unique name.

"30hop is kind of a play on words like 30 Rockefeller's '30 Rock' and the word hops, which is a core ingredient in beer," Waters said. "The theme of the restaurant and the rooftop bar brings a big city feel into the Iowa City/ Coralville area."

The restaurant features more than 60 taps flowing with a wide range of beers.

"There are four domestic beers, and the other tap lines are reserved for craft



30hop Bar and Grill's beer taps are seen on Wednesday. The New American restaurant features 60 local and international beers on tap. (The Daily Iowan/John Baker)

beers that we pull from all over the U.S.," Waters said. "And we pull from several local breweries: four from the state of Iowa and four from a Coralville Brewery called Backpocket."

When it comes to choosing the beers it has on tap, a mix of uniqueness and

approachability for the less adventurous beer connoisseurs is crucial, Blum said.

"We try to keep a wide pendulum of approachable beers," he said. "And then

SEE **BUSINESS**, 2A



Money for the kids

By **GRACE PATERAS**
grace-pateras@uiowa.edu

Between the years of 1995 and 2014, Dance Marathon enthusiasts at the University of Iowa have raised more than \$14 million in efforts to provide emotional and financial support to children with cancer and their families.

Last year, \$1.8 million was raised, and this year, supporters hope to continue the tradition and pattern of raising more than the previous year.

"Every year, we seek to do as much as we possibly can for the kids and families [because] raising more money means we can provide more for kids and families," said Erin Larsen, this year's executive director, said. "We are excited about the possibility of reaching the \$2 million milestone."

This year's grand total won't be announced until the Big Event on Feb. 6.

"Any money we raise throughout from one Big Event in February to the next, we take it all in and we total it all up at the end," Larsen said.

Money raised throughout the year is spent depending on the decisions made by a board of 15 people composed of nurses, social workers, Dance Marathon families, alumni, and student executive members.

The board accepts requests with ideas for emotional or financial support from hospitals and other organizations, then meets to discuss the different options the group has to spend the money.

SEE **MONEY**, 2A



King stays comfortable in House

By **JORDYN REILAND**
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Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, says when people have to make big decisions in their lives, three things have to line up: the head, the gut, and the heart, in that order.

And when former Democratic U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin announced his retirement in 2014, King says he gave the opportunity to run a lot of thought — three months' worth to be exact.

King told *The Daily Iowan* that the other Republicans who were looking at that race reached out to him and



King
representative

SEE **KING**, 2A

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UBER

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Council and taken into consideration," she said.

The email included the names, emails, and phone numbers of every city councilor and the date of the meeting when the final consideration will be discussed, Feb. 9.

Councilor Susan Mims said she had received more than 50 emails from people inquiring about Uber as of Wednesday afternoon.

Mims said, while the wording of the proposed ordinance does not differentiate between traditional taxi companies and ride-sharing platforms on issues like a city-issued ID, a company such as Uber would still be exempt

from certain other changes, like needing a unique color scheme for its cars.

"I'm certainly open to having them come," she said, "We certainly have called them out differently than a traditional taxi cab company on a number of the regulations."

Mims said she wants to consult with city staff members and find out their rationale for including both traditional taxi companies and web-based companies for city-issued IDs.

"What was their rationale?" she said. "I would want to hear that before I could make a decision on whether they'd have to change it."

If any changes did come about, and they didn't radically alter the ordinances, it could still pass on Feb. 9. If the changes were "materially different," the process

would have to start all over, Mims said.

Mullin said each of the 200-plus cities Uber operates in has a different set of ordinances, but none of them have ordinances like the one the City Council has been discussing.

"We do further background checks," she said. "We have a higher level of insurance. All the public-safety mechanisms that are built into our platform are already accounted for, so that the regulations as they stand are unacceptable."

University of Iowa senior Cliff Wallace said he has used Uber in Des Moines, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Minneapolis.

He said every time he used the app to get a ride, he felt safe, which Mims said was the impetus in the first place for the proposed ordinance changes.

"I've always felt much more comfortable in Uber," he said.

He said he has used Uber for a variety of purposes, including going home from a night out at the bars; and if Uber came here, he'd use it again.

Uber

Uber representatives urged interested people to contact city councilors and demand that they change an ordinance to allow the service to come to Iowa City. Other Big Ten cities with Uber include:

- Ann Arbor, Michigan
- Minneapolis
- Lincoln, Nebraska
- Columbus, Ohio
- Madison, Wisconsin
- New Brunswick and Piscataway, New Jersey

Source: Uber website

The Daily Iowan

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BREAKING NEWS

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MONEY

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Last year, the team received between 30 to 40 applications. Board members choose events depending on different factors, said Kyle Walters, the coordinator for the UI Dance Marathon in the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership.

"Depending on our funds or how well the allocations request relates, we reserve the right to not fund or partially fund requests as they come in,"

Walters said.

From one Big Event to the next, fundraisers and family events are also held to continually help support families and children in the Dance Marathon program.

Some external events are held often to support families in more ways than one, Walters said.

"[There are] monthly family events that provide a lot of emotional support and gives us a chance to interact with families," he said.

Some events include trips to the Omaha Zoo, Coral Ridge Ice Arena,

Children's Museum, and the Putnam Museum in Davenport. Additionally, this past fall, officials held a combined family picnic and 5K run which included crafts, food, and entertainment.

In addition to the different yearly distributions, Dance Marathon is committed to a multiyear donation to building the University of Iowa Children's Hospital.

An annual \$500,000 installment is donated to ultimately raise \$5 million by 2020.

Freshman Ariana Gevov said she is excited

to contribute to the total Dance Marathon earnings after her first year participating. She said she received donations by posting her fundraising page on social-media accounts.

"I'm most excited for seeing all the kids that show up [to the Big Event] and how happy they are knowing they have such a large support from a college community," she said. "It's been a great experience sharing my thoughts [on social media] on the organization and what it does for the kiddos and how they're affected positively by it."

BUSINESS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

have a few that are geared more toward some of the people that are much more versed in craft beer."

On the menu, the most popular items are the

sandwiches, particularly the "50/50 Burger," Blum said, which is named for its half burger and half bacon content.

"As far as food goes, we try to find a balance between having very approachable food ... but at the same time trying to be somewhat unique and offer a little bit

of a twist on a traditional approach," he said.

Walters said he hopes the rooftop bar will eventually be available year round.

"An enclosure is something we are working toward so we can have that next year," Waters said.

Employees said the

restaurant has a relaxed atmosphere — enabled by dim lighting, a vibrant color scheme, and a sense of ambience.

"It's very fun and more laid-back than other places, you know?" server Jordan Yordi said. "You just come, hang out, and have a good time."

KING

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

said they would wait until he decided.

Ultimately, he chose not to run.

"That didn't happen to me in the Senate race; I got to that part where I just couldn't quite convince [myself], even though my head would tell me, and my gut would tell me, my heart couldn't quite get there," he said in his spacious office in the Washington, D.C., Rayburn House Office Building.

King was worried what might happen had he campaigned in Iowa instead of staying in his current position.

"With that decision, I became concerned of what would happen with the destiny and direction of our country if I stepped out of my day-to-day engagement here in Congress and went back and spent 18 months campaigning," he said. "If I'm back there campaigning, I couldn't envision how I could put all of those genies back in the bottle that would get out."

King also said it is not likely he will ever run for the U.S. Senate in the future. King, who has served in Congress since 2003, is happy right where he is — bucking the order that the Republican establishment has put in place. The outspoken and unapologetic conservative said he will continue to "kill bad ideas" in the 114th Congress.

"That's the hardest thing in this town, because there are bad ideas that get started, and they create in-

ertia, and you have to bring people back to reality," he said.

Before Congress, King served in the state Senate from 1997-2003 and started and ran King Construction for a number of years until his eldest son took over.

King serves on the Agriculture Committee and is the chairman of the subcommittee on department operations, oversight, and nutrition. He is also a member of the House Judiciary Committee, where he sits on the constitution and civil justice subcommittee and the immigration and border security subcommittee.

The 65-year-old has made it very clear what his biggest accomplishments have been as a member of the House.

King has proposed several pieces of legislation attempting to repeal the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, while understanding that President Obama would not sign such a law. He has also worked on the last two farm bills, in 2008 and most recently in 2014.

King isn't just trying to shape the actions of the 114th Congress — he's also trying to help Iowans select the next president of the United States.

Just last week, King made news following his first Iowa Freedom Summit event in Des Moines, which nearly 30 speakers and 1,200 guests attended. Based on the guest list, which included Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker,



Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, welcomes a crowd of people to the Freedom Summit in Des Moines on Jan. 24. King hosted the event, which drew more than 1,000 people in attendance. (The Daily Iowan/Margaret Kispert)

among others, the event was seen as one of the first opportunities to gather those potentially interested in seeking the party's presidential nomination in 2016.

Several of the speakers touted their relationship with King.

Christie said during the summit that he has been invited to the state by King five times and considers him a close friend. He recalled a time when he stood before a congressional committee in 2009 and King was the only representative to stand behind him.

"When I left that hearing room that day, he waited for me in the hallway," Christie said at the Jan. 24 event. "I said to him, Congressman, I never met him in my life. I said, with the way you stood up for me, anything you ever need from me again in my career, if anything comes of my career, you just pick up the phone and call."

Perry and Cruz were among others who thanked King for the opportunity to speak with Iowans.

"I want to say a special

thanks to another member of Congress," Perry said. "... He is the reason I'm here today. Brother Steve King."

King has long touted the importance of Iowa in the national picture, and he believes that the condition of the state predicts where the country as a whole is standing.

"If we hold it together in Iowa, the rest of the country has got a chance; if it falls apart in Iowa, the rest of the country is probably lost," he said.

Returning to Congress

The Daily Iowan Ethics and Politics Initiative visited Washington, D.C., earlier this month to meet with Iowa's congressional delegation. Profiles of those representatives will appear in print and online at dailyiowanepi.com over the next two weeks.

Wednesday: Sen. Chuck Grassley
Today: Rep. Steve King
Friday: Rep. Dave Loebsack

BLOTTER

Johnnie Barnes, 26, 1424 Broadway, was charged Jan. 1 with driving with a suspended license and charged Wednesday with public intoxication.

Celena Chavez, 18, Burlington, was charged Wednesday with disorderly conduct and public intoxication.
Patricia Chavez, 19, Burling-

ton, was charged Wednesday with disorderly conduct and public intoxication.
Lindsay Logan, 18, Burlington, was charged Wednesday

with OWI.
Johan Burbano Marquez, 24, 2009 Union Road, was charged July 16 with possession of a controlled substance.

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Local activists seek 'ecopolis'

By **ALYSSA GUZMAN**
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Local environmental activists are seeking to change Iowa City from an Iowa metropolis to an "ecopolis" emphasizing biking and local food production.

Through a project called Ecopolis, local environmental activists said they hope to take steps toward accelerating environmental initiatives immediately.

The goal is to identify what barriers are slowing the adoption of more environmentally friendly practices by facilitating collaboration between the community and the city, officials said.

"There are good ini-

tiatives, but they aren't happening fast enough," said Rockne Cole, a member of the Ecopolis movement. "We want to become a regenerative city. We don't only want to get into sustainability. We don't believe it's enough. We need to look at our city as the center of energy production."

In order to move the project forward, the grand opening of the Ecopolis Center, 1000 S. Clinton St., took place Jan. 24.

Though the program is also focusing on collaborating with the Riverfront Crossing and the Riverfront Park, Ecopolis is focusing on creating a friendlier biking

infrastructure in Iowa City in order to increase the quality of life and to decrease greenhouse gases.

"[We're focusing on] how we live, how we work, and how we grow," Cole said. "The key things we've talked about are local food production and moving around in terms of transportation."

The project is focusing on local food accessibility. "We're talking about adding additional access to local foods," Cole said. "We want a well-thought out plan to get local food production."

A step toward that plan is to ensure residents of Iowa have easy access to gardens to grow

their own food.

"Ecopolis challenged the city to provide access to a community garden plot within 16 blocks (one mile) of their residence," said Jeff Biggers, an Iowa City resident, writer, and historian who is a part of Ecopolis, in an email.

Biggers said regenerative city initiatives have successfully transformed communities in Germany and Australia. Residents and planners simply need to reconsider their sense of place and costs of imported food, he said.

Currently, Ecopolis is looking to ensure 90 percent of people in Iowa City have access to a gar-

den spot wherever they live in the near future.

"There should be plenty of community gardens, not just two," said Grant Schultz, the founder of Versaland in Iowa City and a farmer and permaculture expert.

Schultz believes Iowa is the ideal place to kick-start the project.

"We have a diverse population, access to natural resources, and we've got the UI, which is a major asset," Schultz said.

UI student Andrew Hirst, and student garden co-president, said he believes this initiative is building a community he would want to grow with.

"As students, it gives us hope to see this urge from the community for more sustainable development and better community engagement," he said. "It personally makes me proud to be a part of this city and not just the university."

Thus far, the initiative has hosted an event with Shultz speaking about community gardens and a forum focused on solar energy in Iowa.

"We've invited city officials to a lot of our events," Cole said. "We want to really partner with the city [and] show people how to make these things actually happen."

Riverfront may see changes

The Iowa City riverfront could undergo a transformation.

By **HANNA BEARY**
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The Riverfront Restoration Project hosted a public forum Wednesday to debut plans for an Iowa City riverfront park, potentially featuring wetlands, a safer dam, and a zip line.

The city hosted a public forum regarding plans to turn to a flood-prone, defunct wastewater-treatment plant into a riverfront park. The functions of the plant have been taken over by the south wastewater-treatment plant.

The proposed plan is to turn the dam, a current safety hazard, into a more fisher-friendly area while encouraging pedestrian-oriented redevelopment, officials said.

"The goal is to blend the city grid with a natural look," said landscape architect Scott Crawford. "The master plan is to blend downtown with land surrounding the river."

The park is planned to have a number of "adventure elements" such as

play places and boulders for children to climb on.

In the proposal, there is also an option to be able to zip line across the Iowa River to the other side of the park. Other proposals include a dog park, a community garden, ornamental gardens, and a boardwalk.

Additionally, the proposal includes plans to turn Ralston Creek into a more feasible wetland serving as a buffer from flooding.

The 2008 flood was a wake-up call, Crawford said.

Some community members at the meeting had concerns that the construction will endanger the animals currently living in the area.

"If we disrupt the animals' habitat, we are doing the wrong thing," Linda Fisher, community member, said.

Crawford maintains the work being done will not be environmentally hazardous.

Along with the adventure elements, there is a literature element that is just as vital to the proposal, said Pat Boddy, an adviser to the Iowa River Restoration Board.

Visitors will enter the park from Kirkwood Avenue near poetry portals, which could be 30 feet tall.

"This is a literature city," Boddy said. "It's cheesy to say, but there is something for everyone at this park."

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OPINIONS

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— FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

COLUMN

Look out Netflix, here comes HBO



Chris Clegg
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HBO is well-known among the masses of the world for defying the boundaries of modern television. From severing heads in "Game of Thrones" to record-breaking compression algorithms in "Silicon Valley," the Time Warner affiliate has raked in some serious dough with the success of its productions. However, according to *Fortune* magazine, HBO is set to make headlines off the screen with the implementation of its very own stand-alone streaming service that will likely coincide with the release of the fifth season of "Game of Thrones" in April of this year.

With the introduction of this new service, it will allow anyone who pays the fee (not yet disclosed) to access the contents of HBO with nothing more than a connection to the Internet, essentially (and I know this is heartbreaking) eliminating the need to go through your cable company. Sound familiar? Obviously Netflix and Hulu have had major success in this department, and HBO is clearly hoping that success will be mirrored by practicing the same system.

Not only should this new service work to the benefit of HBO's corporate revenue by attracting more customers, it should also provide a cheaper option for consumers because they no longer have to add the price of HBO (around \$20 for Mediacom and Century Link) to their current cable package.

Additionally, in theory, it should reduce the amount of pirating by offering HBO content to a wider variety of people, including those who cur-

rently obtain HBO shows and movies illegally on various different websites. Whether its goals are to cut down on pirating or increase revenue, the decision to offer online streaming couldn't have come at a better time for the company.

Given the statistics, it shouldn't come as a surprise why HBO is making the shift from cable to Internet now when the technology has been there to do so for at least the past couple of years. Marcus Wohlsen of wired.com reports that for the first time ever, broadband users have surpassed the number of cable users in the United States. As this stat shows the prevalence of high-speed Internet over cable, it can also represent how consumers are less willing to pay for cable TV shows that can easily be found online and watched at the convenience of their own schedule. If these trends continue to persist, the future of television could potentially look a whole lot different than the way the current cable-dominated system works.

By crossing over to the web from cable, HBO has grouped itself with such companies as MTV, ESPN, Comedy Central, Fox, Discovery, and the History Channel as providers of streaming television. For the avid TV watcher, cable will still be the best route to experience a multitude of channels, but for people such as me, that mainline a select set of channels, Internet-based TV has serious potential to group me into the generation of "cord cutters" that are replacing cable with Internet.

Regardless of the motive, with all these actions and the consequences resulting from them, HBO seems to be taking a step in the right direction to accomplish its goal of "building video addicts" that CEO Richard Plepler laid out in an interview with BuzzFeed in January 2014.

EDITORIAL

Education needs more funding

Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad is just a year away from being the longest serving governor in U.S. history. Over the course of his six terms, overspending hasn't been a problem. Fiscal conservatism has been the administration's method of operation since the governor took office in 1983. It's one of the many reasons *USA Today* named Iowa as one of the top five "best-run" states in December 2014.

But what may be good for the budget statements at the end of the year, the box score of money spent versus money earned, doesn't necessarily mean all has been accounted for.

Many of the cuts in public funding that the state government has made over the last decade affected educators and families alike.

On Tuesday, the Iowa House passed a 1.25 percent increase in K-12 public-school funding, an estimated increase of \$48 million for the next academic year.

The Republican-controlled House hopes to reach a compromise with the Senate, in which a majority of Democrats called for the increased education budgets.

What may be viewed as bipartisan cooperation from Republicans, a 1.25 percent increase is very much a lowball proposal that does not even come close to fixing the problems the state currently has with education funding and academic achievement.

The Senate will likely reject the bid in favor of trying to approve a higher level of spending to ensure public schools are getting the appropriate funding to be successful.

Compared with the rest of the United States, Iowa's public schools have fallen far behind.

The American Legislative Exchange Council

publishes a comprehensive overview each year, titled "Report Card on American Education," in which the researchers focus on school performance and achievement.

Where did the Hawkeye State finish last year? — 31st overall, receiving a C-minus grade with major deficiencies in both math and reading across the board. An F grade was also given to the state in the "Digital Learning" category and a D-plus average was given to the "State Academic Standards" category.

While many may dismiss these rankings as arbitrary numbers and grades that cannot accurately assess the value of education in a state, the truth is that Iowa does not invest enough in education as it could.

The latest report by the National Education Association shows that Iowa is worse than average in funding compared with the rest of the country. Iowa is 28th overall in percentage of revenue for public K-12 schools from state governments.

The *Daily Iowan* Editorial Board believes that increases in public-school funding must be made above the 1.25 percent increase put forth by House Republicans. Larger class sizes, lack of resources, and the insufficient academic performance are all reasons for concern. This is not to give educators a blank check, because we don't want to trade quality education for financial insolvency. But the development of Iowa children and ensuring long-term vitality of the state as a whole depends on planting the seed of education that has been malnourished for years, and we hope Iowa's divided Legislature can reach a suitable compromise to reverse this trend.

COLUMN

Guilty of making music



Michael Korobov
michael-korobov@uiowa.edu

It seems implausible that the creation of a music album could land a man in jail for life. Well maybe in North Korea, Burma, Turkmenistan, or Libya, but certainly not in the United States.

In one of the more bizarre cases in the country, a man in California could soon become the product of this exact scenario. A rapper in San Diego, Tiny Doo (Brandon Duncan), faces a charge of 25 years to life in prison if convicted. The man has no

prior criminal record.

The charge stems from a law known as California Penal Code 182.5. Enacted in 2000, the code makes it a felony to be a member of a street gang, obtain knowledge of street gang's criminal activity, or to promote, assist, or benefit from the criminal actions. Duncan is only being accused of benefiting from criminal actions through the violent imagery he portrays in his lyrics.

Prosecutors argue that the album, *No Safety*, takes advantage of gang activity and allows Duncan to increase his sales. Deputy District Attorney Anthony Campagna said, "We're not just talking about a CD of anything, of love songs. We're talking about a

CD [cover] ... there is a revolver with bullets."

It seems as though Campagna has not done his research. Many album covers contain much more violent depictions. A death metal group called Cannibal Corpse has an album called *Tomb of the Mutilated*, which depicts two bloody skeletons performing explicit sexual acts on each other. In my opinion, this is much more disturbing than a picture of a revolver with bullets.

His bond was set at an unbelievable \$500,000, and because he is unable to afford this, he has been spending time in jail until his trial date of April 20. Again, this is just for a music album. It doesn't seem as if he's been profiting too much from the al-

bum ... considering he's in jail.

In December, I wrote about another case that has made the Supreme Court regarding a man, Anthony Elonis, who made violent posts on Facebook and was sentenced to four years in prison. In some ways, this case is even worse.

In the wake of the Charlie Hebdo terrorist attack, free speech must especially remain a top priority.

There are few who would argue that violent lyrics in and of themselves serve as a positive for society, and if prosecutors are able to tie Duncan to criminal activity, then that is a different story. However, putting a man in prison for music lyrics alone is ridiculous and certainly unconstitutional.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

THE DAILY IOWAN is a multifaceted news-media organization that provides fair and accurate coverage of events and issues pertaining to the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Johnson County, and the state of Iowa.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR may be sent via email to daily.iowan.letters@gmail.com (as text, not as attachments). Each letter must be signed and include an address and phone number for verification. Letters should not exceed 300 words. The *DI* will publish only one letter per author per month. Letters will be chosen for publication by the editors according to space considerations. No advertisements or mass mailings, please.

GUEST OPINIONS that exceed 300 words in length must be arranged with the Opinions editor at least three days prior to the desired date of publication. Guest opinions are selected in accordance with word length, subject relevance, and space considerations.

READER COMMENTS that may appear below were originally posted on dailyiowan.com in response to published material. They will be chosen for print publication when they are deemed to be well-written and to forward public discussion. They may be edited for length and style.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reimburse graduate student fees

I am a graduate student at the University of Iowa and a member of COGS, the graduate-student union. I am writing to express my support for COGS's ongoing negotiations for fee reimbursements.

Graduate employees at the University of Iowa are required to pay hundreds of dollars each semester in order to work. All graduate employees should receive a 100 percent fee reimbursement. Teaching assistants, research assistants, and other appointed graduate students should not have to pay to work.

These fees contribute greatly to the financial hardship of being a student and can make attaining an advanced degree a near-impossibility for economically disadvantaged students and for those who have families or other dependents to support.

— Hodna Bentali Gharsallah
Nuernberg

I would like to express my support for COGS regard 100 percent reimbursement for graduate assistants at the UI. The majority of us are parents and have our own families to support. Working and having to pay school fees at the same time only puts an unnecessary strain and makes it difficult

to concentrate on studying. The stipend received does not justify the rising cost of living. Please reimburse for the unnecessary fees.

— Mary Kemi

The state Board of Regents is trying to force graduate students to continue to pay full fees. We just want to work as research and teaching assistants. The extra burden of these fees subtracts from our salaries and is particularly difficult to deal with for students such as me who have already had to deal with long-term health problems. Each of us, after all, does have at least a bachelor's degree (I also have a master's degree). We don't expect to earn tremendous amounts of money, but this should be taken into account when considering money coming from a graduate student employee's salary in order to pay what is effectively tuition, which we were led to believe would be fully reimbursed.

It is standard practice among universities today to include fee reimbursement along with tuition reimbursement since there is no practical difference between the two from the student employee's perspective. Considering that part of the package of being admitted to a graduate program at UI in many cases is tuition reim-

bursement, it is a deception to hide part of this tuition as fees.

— Ryan Daly

Dining in downtown Iowa City costs an average of \$7 or more while only \$2 is necessary to cook at home, but the transportation for shopping groceries, cooking, and cleaning take hours a month. What does the time of grad employees at the University of Iowa mean? Not just money, the time of grad employees contributes to the academic performance of the UI, one of the Carnegie Research I Universities, which is supposed to give high priority to research. Reimbursing full fees is actually a pretty good deal to save the time and effort of grad employees so as to benefit the academic performance of the UI in the long run. Isn't that the reason we grad students are admitted? No more hesitation to reimburse full fees.

— Farley Lai

Not long ago, graduate employees at UI started receiving 100 percent tuition reimbursement after years of being in the bottom of the Big Ten in terms of compensation. But after COGS' hard-earned tuition victory, which helped bring many grad students out of poverty and reduced their overall debt burdens, the UI

turned around and raised mandatory fees. Fees are just tuition by another name, and the promise of providing 100 percent tuition reimbursement while still charging students \$1,000 a year in fees is insidious. Furthermore, for quarter-time appointed teaching and research assistants, the cost of fees is equivalent to each of them giving back over 10 percent of their annual salaries to UI as a condition of their employment. No one should have to pay to work. For these reasons and many more, the UI should reimburse graduate employees 100 percent of their mandatory fees. While 100 percent fee reimbursement would be a drop in the bucket for UI, considering it amounts to 0.26 percent of the 2015 general education fund, for the 2,300 graduate employees on campus, a 100 percent fee reimbursement would significantly alleviate the financial hardships that many graduate employees experience. It would also keep UI competitive with other Big Ten universities and R1 peer institutions in terms of graduate employee compensation. And to reduce the incentive for UI to keep raising fees to generate revenue from their grad employees, the reimbursement needs to be 100 percent, and it needs to happen now.

— Melissa Zimdars

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM 8A

Senior Sam Logic, Iowa's all time leader in assists, leads the Big Ten in helpers, averaging 7.1 per game.

By running the offense through Logic, Iowa is able to spread around its attack, opening up passing lanes left and right and balancing a lethal offensive attack.

And while the dropoff after Logic is steep (Whit-

ney Jennings comes in second with 2.8 assists/game), every member of the Black and Gold is capable of making smart decisions with the ball when called upon.

Free-throw percentage — 68.3 percent (12th in Big Ten)

It's somewhat astounding that a team with so many gifted shooters on offense doesn't fare better from the line.

A sparkling field-goal percentage has been an enormous reason for the team's success this

year; however, many of those wins have come in spite of some poor efforts from Iowa free-throw shooters.

What's more, it's a problem that's easily fixable, at least more easily than others.

With 378 attempts, Iowa has more opportunities than most of the Big Ten teams; however, it has struggled to convert, often in key situations.

The likes of Kali Peschel, Melissa Dixon, Alexa Kastanek, and Ally Disterhoft have all shot better than 75 percent this season, but

freshman Jennings and senior Bethany Doolittle, two of Iowa's most-fouled shooters, shoot well below that mark.

It seems basic, but knocking down big foul shots would probably save the Hawks a lot of headaches and close calls.

The Hawks are not an overly physical team that can go into shut-down mode against any opponent, but it stands to reason that

capitalizing more on gift-wrapped opportunities on offense would help alleviate some of the pressure on defense.

Follow [@ryanarod](#) on Twitter for news, updates, and analysis about the Iowa women's basketball team.

 IOWA	 NORTHWESTERN
Ally Disterhoft 14.5 Points, 5.8 Rebounds, 2.4 assists	Nia Coffey 14.5 Points, 8.5 Rebounds, 1.7 assists
2-2 (Iowa's record in Thursday night games this season)	60.6 (Northwestern scoring defense, third in Big Ten)
78-72 win over No. 15 Nebraska	76-75 loss to Penn State

WRESTLING

CONTINUED FROM 8A

While Clark isn't exactly worried about

seeding, it's still important to note that a good draw can help tremendously when it comes to the Big Ten and NCAA championships.

In fact, despite the ca-

sual indifference to rankings by many of the wrestlers, they still do play at least a small part in how their season ends up.

As Iowa heads toward its final stretch of the

dual season, head coach Tom Brands believes his wrestlers are as close to the top of the wrestling world as it gets.

"We believe in our guys, even though you

know maybe they have a No. 1 ranked guy here, and maybe we're down the line a bit," Brands said. "You know, I don't believe that we're that far apart at some of

those 1 versus 6 rankings, as well."

Follow [@JordyHansen](#) on Twitter for news, updates, and analysis about the Iowa wrestling team.

GYMNASTS

CONTINUED FROM 8A

The best: Still Rings

The still rings may well be Iowa's strongest event. The Hawkeyes have averaged 72.000 points through two meets, compared with 70.150 for Ohio State.

Oklahoma, however, has been phenomenal on the event — averaging 75.850 through the first two meets. Their top performer, senior specialist Michael Squires, has been nothing short of sensational. Squires has scored more than 16.000 in both of his routines. To put that into perspective, no one else from any team in the country has breached

the 16-point mark even once — in any event.

That puts Squires more than a point ahead of Iowa's top dog, junior Jack Boyle, who averages 15.000 on the rings. And the rest of Oklahoma's lineup for the event is no joke. Sophomore Thao Hoang averages 15.175 and junior Kanji Oyama 14.975.

Of the teams' top nine scorers on the rings thus far, seven of them compete for Oklahoma, two for the Hawkeyes, and none for Ohio State.

The worst: Pommel Horse

On the other end, the pommel horse has remained a liability for the Hawkeyes. At 67.875 points per meet, it stands as the worst of six events.

Oklahoma averages 72.150 on the event, led by senior Michael Reid and sophomore Allan Bower. The good news for Iowa is that senior Doug Sullivan's 14.925 tops anyone in Oklahoma's lineup. The bad news is the dropoff from Sullivan. Oklahoma has five guys averaging better than Iowa's next best, freshman Austin Hodges at 13.475.

No one on Ohio State has stood out on the pommel horse, and Logan Melander leads it with an average of just 13.500. The team has averaged a measly 66.275 in its worst event.

Beating the Buckeyes

Ohio State has scored just under 4 more points

on the season than the Hawkeyes. At the Windy City Invitational on Jan. 17, it finished just .08 of a point ahead of Iowa to take third place.

Both teams saw their point totals jump drastically in their second meets, but the Buckeyes have been slightly better in the early part of the season.

Aside from the pommel horse and still rings, the Buckeyes own an advantage in every event. They are best on the vault with an average of 72.625, compared with Iowa's 72.300. And although that is the highest average on any event for the Hawkeyes, it has in recent seasons been a weak point, so it is not unfathomable that it could be in this meet as well.

Vault specialist and senior Larry Mayer averages 15.125 on the vault this season for Ohio State, the best of the three teams in the meet.

Senior Drew Moling and sophomore Sean Melton give Ohio State an edge on the high bar and parallel bars and also provide it a real shot to upend the Hawkeyes on the still rings.

Across the board, Oklahoma is a better team than both of its upcoming Big Ten foes. For Iowa, the meet might come down to whether it can get a win over a more evenly matched Buckeye squad.

Follow [@CharlsGreen](#) on Twitter for news, updates, and analysis about the Iowa men's gymnastics team.



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DAILY BREAK

the ledge

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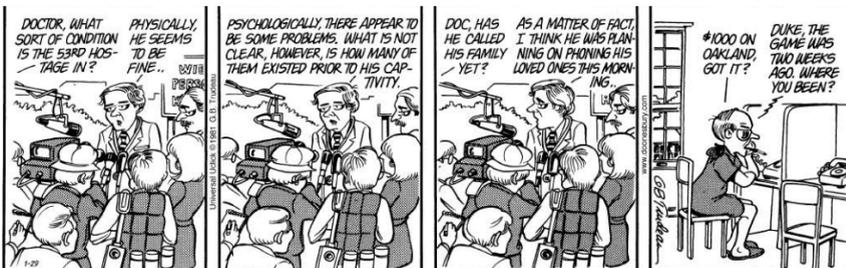
Questions I've asked myself recently

- What is the standard for "acting with impunity"? I might have been doing everything with impunity this whole time.
- When will food scientists stop messing around and finally make an electrolyte-replenishing ice cream?
- If the Oscars are televised, why aren't the Emmys a movie?
- Is it more embarrassing if this huge sore on my lip is from (1) contracting herpes or (2) eating a whole can of stale salt-and-vinegar Pringles with too much ... "enthusiasm"? Is it weirder that I'd sooner admit to the former than the latter?
- Why do people keep calling me "cynical"? What do they get out of doing that? I mean, what's in it for them?
- Why can't I reliably remember how old I was when I discovered the truth about Santa Claus: He's a subtle form of behavior-modification therapy?
- When all the urinals are busy in a huge public bathroom, am I supposed to close the stall door if I'm only peeing? Do women have an issue like this? What does it say about me that only during mild questions of public etiquette do I envy being a woman in today's supposedly modern society?
- If I'm not supposed to hook myself up to a car battery up for sexual pleasure, then why was I born with these "+" and "-" birthmarks on my testicles?

Andrew R. Juhl Thanks Jayne Sanderson for questioning his questioning.

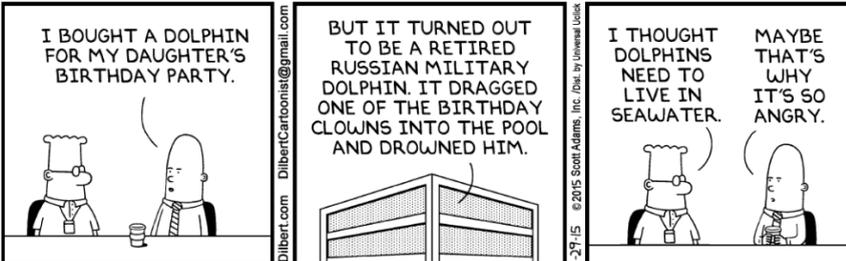
Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



DILBERT

by Scott Adams



'NON SEQUITUR

BY VIEV



today's events

- **Study Abroad Fair**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., University Capitol Center Second Floor
- **"Being an Effective Ally: A Conversation about Building Alliances in Our Community,"** Phil Kutzko, 4:30 p.m., College of Public Health Building Callaghan Auditorium
- **Iowa Public Radio Iowa City Open House**, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Clinton Street Building WSUI/KSUI studios
- **"The Tale of the Dueling Neurosurgeons,"** Sam Kean, 5:30 p.m., 2117 Medical Education & Research Facility
- **"Live from Prairie Lights,"** Tim Johnston, fiction, 7 p.m., Prairie Lights, 15 S. Dubuque
- **"The Lion's Mouth Opens,"** documentary screen-

- ing and discussion, 7 p.m., W10 Pappajohn Business Building
- **Big Hero 6**, 8 & 11 p.m., IMU Iowa Theater
- **Birdman**, 8 & 11 p.m., 348 IMU-Comedian Chloé Hilliard, 10 p.m., Public Space One, 120 N. Dubuque

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

	7		4				5		
2							1		4
				6			9	8	
	9					1			
4	5						8		3
			8					7	
	5	7			9				
6		3							
		1					5	7	6

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE 1/29/15

7	5	6	1	3	2	4	9	8
2	8	1	9	7	4	6	5	3
4	3	9	8	5	6	7	2	1
9	4	8	3	1	5	2	6	7
3	7	2	6	8	9	5	1	4
1	6	5	4	2	7	8	3	9
5	2	3	7	9	8	1	4	6
8	1	4	5	6	3	9	7	2
6	9	7	2	4	1	3	8	5

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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- 8-9 a.m. Morning Drive
- Noon-2 p.m. Sports Block
- 2-4 p.m. Joe Goes to College
- 4-5 p.m. The Jewel Case
- 5 p.m. KRUI News
- 6-7 p.m. Los Sonidos
- 7-8 p.m. Community Infrared
- 10 p.m. - Midnight Global Chill

mc ginsberg.com

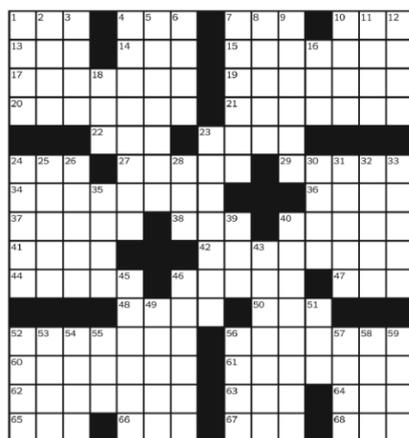
OBJECTS OF ART

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1225

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cassava lookalike
 - 4 Point
 - 7 Bit of texting shorthand
 - 10 Charlie Parker genre
 - 13 Like a style with eyeliner and long bangs
 - 14 Org. concerned with 34-Across
 - 15 Sprinkle at a pizzeria
 - 17 Settled a score
 - 19 Be bigger than, in a way
 - 20 Packing
 - 21 Most to the point
 - 22 Backdrop for Chamonix
 - 23 Brewskis
 - 24 Sounds of indifference
 - 27 Break down in tears?
 - 29 Soil
 - 34 Drink that's a freebie
 - 36 "Keep it coming!"
 - 37 Samosa topping
 - 38 20-Across grp.
 - 40 Flowery girl's name
 - 41 Tiny victory margin
 - 42 Give rise to
 - 44 Sought consent from
 - 46 Joe Quimby on "The Simpsons," e.g.
 - 47 Kick in
 - 48 Track figure
 - 50 Stereo knob: Abbr.
 - 52 Keystone site
 - 56 Party snack ... or a hint to six squares in this puzzle
 - 60 Hairy menace
 - 61 Artwork from a folder
 - 62 Pest-ridden, say
 - 63 Raging
 - 64 ___ state

- DOWN**
- 1 One doing safe work?
 - 2 Come (to)
 - 3 Sporting lead-in to cross
 - 4 Aquarium giant
 - 5 Like some mining and barbecues
 - 6 Zest
 - 7 Start, as a computer
 - 8 Leveled
 - 9 Milk maid?
 - 10 Dish
 - 11 ___ column
 - 12 After-dinner serving
 - 16 Baseball execs
 - 18 Info for an airport greeter
 - 23 Like an out-of-body experience
 - 24 ___ Sketch
 - 25 Rib-tickers
 - 26 Startling newsmaker of 10/4/1957
 - 28 Calf's place, maybe
 - 30 "Agreed!"
 - 31 Feature of Rome's Pantheon
 - 32 Presided over, as a case



PUZZLE BY XAN VONGSATHORN

- 33 Presided over, as a case
- 35 "As you ___"
- 39 At all
- 40 Blonde's secret
- 43 Really take off, in a way
- 45 Economic slump
- 46 Ancient pyramid builders
- 49 Merit
- 51 Calf's place
- 52 The whole spectrum
- 53 Four-star
- 54 Props on the street
- 55 Laugh sound
- 56 Home to "The Persistence of Memory," informally
- 57 Leave stumbling
- 58 Apple pie seasoning
- 59 Be a prima donna, e.g.

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horoscopes

Thursday, January 29, 2015 by Eugenia Last

- ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Discuss your options with someone you have worked with in the past. Don't let an emotional incident interfere with your productivity or how you get along with someone of influence. Make the appropriate changes to help you advance.
- TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Expanding your mind and your self-awareness will bring about a change of attitude and an increased appreciation of friendships. You can influence others by sharing your thoughts and offering an alternative way to live.
- GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Your curiosity will mount. Trying something new will bring you in contact with people who can influence your life. Don't be too eager to make a leap of faith. Your research will show that you are better off following your own path.
- CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Romance, a trip to exotic destinations, and trying something new will give you the boost you need. Good fortune awaits if you are willing to put more effort into the way you present who you are and what you want.
- LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Deception is apparent where money and joint ventures are concerned. You can make changes, but do so for the right reasons and only after you have done sufficient research to warrant moving forward. Too much of anything will work against you.
- VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Re-evaluate your personal and professional relationships. If you feel someone is working against you, look at your alternatives, and do whatever is necessary to avoid creating a scene. Rely on facts and figures, not hearsay.
- LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Size up your situation, and make your move. You have plenty to gain by using your intelligence to maneuver your way through any discussion that can have an effect on your relationships in business or in your personal life.
- SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Someone close to you will show signs of instability. Look for a unique way to compensate for someone's loss or confusion. Positive change will help to bring you closer together and improve the way you live and do things in the future.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Don't let someone's personal interest in you cause confusion. You are best to make positive changes at home that will help you re-evaluate what you have. Someone pretending to offer what you want will mislead you.
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Don't allow the changes going on around you to cause stress. If you don't like something, make positive moves rather than complain. Revert to the situations, people, and places that have worked best for you in the past.
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Don't let opposition scare you. Focus on your family, your home, and changes that will bring greater happiness and joy to you and those you love. Don't give in to someone trying to control what you can and cannot do.
- PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Keep a tight lip to avoid being called a meddler. Emotional matters will escalate quickly, causing problems for you that can influence your personal and professional status. Don't fold under pressure or reveal sensitive information. Observe, but do not take action.

Why shouldn't truth be stranger than fiction?
 Fiction, after all, has to make sense.
 — Mark Twain

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THE BOX SCORE

So far, so good for Hawk Hoops



Iowa guard Sam Logic drives for a lay-up against Nebraska's Rachel Theriot in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Monday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Cornhuskers in overtime, 78-72. (The Daily Iowan/Margaret Kispert)

By **RYAN RODRIGUEZ**
ryan-rodriguez@uiowa.edu

After its gutsy overtime win against Nebraska on Monday night, the Iowa women's basketball team has gathered a full head of steam leading up to this weekend's road trip.

At 7-1 in the conference, the Black and Gold are off to their best start in nearly 20 years, sitting firmly in possession of second in the Big Ten.

A quick peek at the numbers reveals just how Iowa has managed to win so many big games over the past few weeks.

Field-Goal Percentage — 45.4 percent (Second in Big Ten)

Anyone who has watched an Iowa game in the 15

years Lisa Bluder has been at the helm knows the Hawks like to push the pace on offense, using a fast breakout and quick transition game to break a press and create scoring chances in droves.

And while playing with pace does leave the Hawkeyes vulnerable to fast breaks going the other way (they're third to last in the league in scoring defense at 68.2 points against per game), pretty much every member of the team can shoot the ball with precision if called upon.

Accurate shooting helps Iowa capitalize on as many of these scoring chances as possible, and with 11 different women averaging more than 40 percent from the field, outlasting the other team offensively seems to be Iowa's greatest asset and main game plan.

Assist/turnover ratio — 1.2 (First in Big Ten)

Bluder constantly stresses a pass-first mentality, and luckily for her, the Hawks seem to have taken that mantra to heart.

Of course, it doesn't hurt to have an elite veteran point guard running the offense.

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, 5A

Iowa women's basketball at Northwestern

When: 7 p.m. today
Where: Evanston, Illinois

Hawk wrestlers ignore rankings

Iowa wrestlers brush off numbers, head toward dual with Minnesota.

By **JORDAN HANSEN**
jordan-hansen@uiowa.edu

As No. 1 Iowa heads toward a matchup with No. 2 Minnesota, a large amount of interest has been put on individual rankings — by schools, fans, and the media.

With that said, many of the wrestlers don't put much stock in the rankings, one of whom is Iowa 157-pounder Michael Kelly.

"To me, it doesn't really matter. I think — it's good to be aware of who's at the weight and who's doing well, but it really doesn't mean much in the grand scheme of things," Kelly said. "You see it at nationals all the time, a No. 1 ranked wrestler is going down, and he might not even get All-American."

"I don't think it really means much; you have to still go out there and perform."

Part of it is who wrestlers are; they're focused on their own performance and improving themselves, not so much on who else is good this year.

However, one may think it'd make sense if they used the rankings as motivation, but Kelly said that isn't exactly the case.

"I don't put a whole lot of stock into all the fanfare. If I'm wrestling a higher ranked guy, it's another opportunity — I can go out and put my name out there as one of those top-five guys," Kelly said. "Every match is opportunity and a step toward the ultimate goal of nationals."



Iowa 157-pounder Mike Kelly grabs for Rider 157-pounder Chad Walsh during the first day of the Midland Championships in Welsh-Ryan Arena in Evanston, Illinois, on Dec. 29, 2014. Kelly is ranked 15th going into the Minnesota dual. (The Daily Iowan/Margaret Kispert)

While Kelly, ranked No. 12 by Flowrestling, may be the underdog in some of his matches, even higher ranked wrestlers such as fourth-ranked 133-pounder Cory Clark don't see it as much more than what it is — simply a number.

"You hear them say what they're ranked, but rankings are kind of just a number," Clark said. "It's good to have

a high ranking, to be No. 1, but some people think that it's good to not be No. 1. You have to do the same thing whether you're No. 1 or No. 5, or No. 8.

"You got to beat the guys ranked above you or below you if you're No. 1 to win the tournament."

SEE WRESTLING, 5A

Numbers favor the Sooners

The *DI* takes an analytical look at the upcoming men's gymnastics meet against Oklahoma and Ohio State.

By **CHARLIE GREEN**
charles-j-green@uiowa.edu

With Sunday's bout against No.1 Oklahoma and No. 7 Ohio State looming, Iowa men's gymnastics faces the challenge of preparing for two of the top programs in the country.

Across the board, Oklahoma has been leaps and bounds better than Iowa and Ohio State this season. The Sooners have averaged 17.80 more points than Ohio State and 19.75 more than the Hawkeyes, scoring more than 440.00 in both its meets to date.

In all six events this year, the Sooners averaged more than 70 points, compared to five with Ohio State and just three for Iowa.

For the Hawkeyes to have success, their best and worst events may be the most crucial.

SEE GYMNASTS, 5A

80 HOURS

The weekend in arts & entertainment

Thursday, January 29, 2015



Luck of the I wish



By JUSTUS FLAIR
justus-flair@uiowa.edu

Do you avoid cracks in the sidewalk? Do you cross your fingers when waiting for an announcement? Have you ever thrown salt over your shoulder?

Does it usually work out for you? It never does for Sara Fine, the lead of Robert Caisley's new play, *Lucky Me*, opening at Riverside Theater, 213 N. Gilbert St., at 7:30 p.m. Friday. Performances will continue through Feb. 22, and Caisley will be at Riverside Friday and Feb. 1 for a talk-back after the show.

"Sara Fine has had 22 years of bad luck: Her cats disappear, light bulbs burn out, her fish die, and mysterious hockey pucks fly through her windows," director Jody Hovland said. "To make matters even worse, her roommate is her very cranky elderly father who has a habit of driving away her boyfriends. Enter Tom, a TSA agent and optimistic new neighbor who is undaunted by it all and determined to break through Sara's bad luck."

Lucky Me has been produced only twice before, in New Jersey and Denver, and Riverside will continue its rolling world premiere as part of the National New Play Network, of which Riverside is a part, before the play moves to Seattle. The network supports the development and production of brand-new plays, both artistically and financially.

That support came in handy when tackling the technical aspects of Caisley's play.

"It has special effects that are really challenging for a small theater," Hovland said. "It's tempting to say, 'We can't do that,' but this was a play that delighted me so much that I was willing to say, 'Well, we'll figure it out.' A small-cast comedy is a precious thing; this had four characters, it made me laugh out loud, and it invites you imaginatively into a world that's just a little bit quirky. I also like that it was a love story about two people in their early 40s. It had a deeply human quality in its treatment of loneliness and love."

Also a help? Daily conversations with an invested playwright. A lot of that devotion stems from Caisley's excitement that his new work is being produced at all.

"I teach playwriting at the University of Idaho, and my students often ask me about getting plays produced, and I wish I had a formula to give them, but it's not rocket science; there's no sure way," he said. "If you write a good play, it'll find a way, but you've got to be quite aggressive in getting your work out there. If you sent out 10 scripts and hear back from one theater, you're doing well. Learning to sell a play was harder than learning to write a play."

Hovland and Ron Clark, the Riverside cofounders, said they were sold almost instantly on *Lucky Me*.

"We committed to this play some time ago, and I thought it was very funny, but I didn't quite understand it, which is good," Clark said. "If something is complex enough and has the sort of wacky character diversity that this play has, that's good."

SEE LUCKY, 3B



Designed by Patrick Lyne

On the web

Get updates about local arts & entertainment events on Twitter @DailyIowanArts.

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Tune in to KRUI 89.7 FM at 5 p.m. on Thursdays to hear about this weekend in arts & entertainment.

Events calendar

Want your event to be printed in *The Daily Iowan* and included in our online calendar? To submit a listing visit dailyiowan.com/pages/calendarsubmit.

UI art takes a road trip

By CLAIRE DIETZ

claire-dietz@uiowa.edu

Artist Halle Siepman likes a good challenge. Whether crafting delicate line drawings or large graphic paintings (or a combination of both), she harnesses a variety of materials on slick surfaces to create what she dubs “architectural imaginations.”

“I use all of these [media] to create balances and also create tension, because watercolor is so unforgiving and so spontaneous and hard to control, whereas oils are very forgiving and are easily manipulated,” said Siepman, a University of Iowa graduate student in art.

Work by Siepman and nine other M.F.A. candidates and art faculty members are showcased in the Luce Gallery at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa. The exhibition, among others around Iowa and the United States, helps UI artists gain recognition off campus.

The Graduate and Faculty Showcase started as the brainchild of Sue Hettmansperger, a UI professor of art, reached Mount Vernon at the invitation of Susan Coleman, the gallery coordinator at Cornell College.

“I thought about several different scenarios,”



Contributed

three things: listening to music, observing things around me, and drawing,” she said. “So I used to sit and draw for hours from observation, and I never really gave it up ... Sue wanted to give the M.F.A. students the opportunity to show their work with other faculty members, and I was happy to participate.”

This isn’t the only off-campus opportunity M.F.A. students have had this month. Recently, Associate Professor Monica Correia, the head of the 3D design program at the UI School of Art and Art History, led several students who won the CONNECT competition at SOFA CHICAGO, the world-renowned art fair dedicated to functional art and design. The winning design is being displayed at CSPS in Cedar Rapids through Feb. 4.



Contributed

Hettmansperger said. “A show of my paintings or a show of important women artists in the area, or a show of the six graduating M.F.A.s in painting and drawing, with members of the faculty in this program included. I decided on the latter.”

The artists and their works opened in the Luce Gallery on Jan. 18 and will be on display through March 1.

Siepman said the event has helped her art to take on a life of its own.

“Sue [Hettmansperger] was trying to give us exposure, to give us work and express ourselves,” Siepman said. “I think it is such a lovely gesture, because not only is our work up in the gallery, but because of social media, my art is far more reaching than I could ever control. I have people contacting me, and they comment on it. This allows me to build on this dream of being an artist.”

Fellow M.F.A. candidate Lizzy Schule — who has a series of portraits, self-portraits, landscapes, and still-life paintings displayed in the Luce Gallery — said she had always felt a strong pull to be an artist and was thankful for the opportunity to share her work.

“I think that since I was a kid, I enjoyed

“I was requested by Monica when we applied for the exhibition ... I put the design into a 3D software and created a scene and brought it into the shop to get an idea of what the booth would look like upon completion,” he said. “Kind of as a visual perspective for everyone to see ... A big challenge was taking it from concept to putting it together.”

In the end, the design space won the competition over submissions from the Illinois Institute of Technology, the Pratt Institute, the University of California-Davis, the University of Cincinnati College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning, and the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth.

Outside of Iowa, art work by UI M.F.A. graduate Tomás Lasansky and his late father, Mauricio Lasansky, will be featured at the Snite Art Museum at the University of Notre Dame through March 15. The late Lasansky was a UI professor of art for 40 years. The father/son exhibition will feature drawn and painted portraits, often of historical figures such as Abraham Lincoln, Albert Einstein, and Jesus Christ.

While debuting their work out in the “real world” leaves it open to criticism, Siepman said, it is an important step in an artist’s often confusing career.

“I think that you always will go back with what you want to do in life, and sometimes we waver, and we go down a certain path, and we’re not sure to go right, left, or straight,” she said. “But I think you have to do some introspection — you have to write down your goals and stick to them and not listen too much to commentary about your work. If you know what you are doing is true and right and genuine, [then] you owe it to yourself to do what you love.”



Contributed

weekend events

MOVIES OPENING THIS WEEKEND



Project Almanac

Following the misadventures of five documentarian teens who come across blueprints for a time machine, *Project Almanac* is another worthy addition to the increasingly popular found-footage node of the sci-fi film genre.



Black or White

Good intentions lead to heated conflict in a custody battle between a young girl’s loving grandfather and guardian (Kevin Costner) and her paternal grandmother (Octavia Spencer). Inspired by real events, this dramedy explores issues of race, family, and forgiveness.

FILMSCENE



Oscar Shorts 2015

FilmScene will preserve its young tradition of screening all 15 Academy-Award-nominated short films, starting with live action and animated shorts on Friday and continuing with documentary shorts Saturday.

DRINK OF THE WEEK



8-Bit Pale Ale

Every once in a while, I like to judge a book by its cover — at least in the beer cooler. It’s hard for the eye not to be drawn to the colorful can of Tallgrass Brewery’s 8-Bit Pale Ale, covered in 1980s video-game imagery, including a pixelated smiley face and barrel rocket labeled “galaxy hops.” Luckily, this eye-catching cover contained a pretty good beer.

THE EXPERIENCE: The 8-Bit is nearly as golden as the smiley face on its logo, with a thick head and lacing that clings to the inside of a glass. It boasts a woody aroma with a hint of citrus, like the smell of a new oak log cabin after the floors have just been scrubbed with Pine-Sol. The flavor itself is not heavy, but has the pop and sizzle of a well-made pale ale, as well as a crisp dry finish.

ADVICE: The 8-Bit is a great pale ale for people like me who don’t generally like a APAs or IPAs. I’m not sure what about it evokes vintage video games apart from its label design, but a six-pack could make a good gag gift for the gamer in your life.

— by Emma McClatchey

Today 11.20

MUSIC

- Molly Conrad, 7:30 p.m., Uptown Bill’s, 730 S. Dubuque
- KO with Loaf, Nightlight, and Baby Alchemy, 10 p.m., Mill, 120 E. Burlington
- SOULSHAKE, 10 p.m., Gabe’s, 330 E. Washington
- Mixology, 10 p.m., Gabe’s

FILM

- *The Boxtrolls*, 3 p.m., FilmScene, 118 E. College
- *Foxcatcher*, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m., FilmScene
- *The Lion’s Mouth Opens*, documentary screening and discussion, 7 p.m., W10 Pappajohn Business Building

WORDS

- “Live from Prairie Lights,” Tim Johnston, fiction, 7 p.m., Prairie Lights, 15 S. Dubuque

MISCELLANEOUS

- Study Abroad Fair, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., University Capitol Center Second Floor
- Opening reception, *Beyond the Anthropocene* photo exhibit, 5 p.m., Englert, 221 E. Washington

Friday 11.21

MUSIC

- Fairview, with Unnamed Acoustic and Evan Stock Band, 7 p.m., Gabe’s
- NE-HI, with Younger and Bull Black Nova, 9 p.m., Mill
- Fire Sale, with the Weathered Heads and Duology, 10 p.m., Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn

THEATER

- *Lucky Me*, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Theater, 213 N. Gilbert
- *Falls for Jodie*, 8 p.m., Theater Building Theater B

WORDS

- “Live from Prairie Lights,” Wapsipinicon Almanac, 7 p.m., Prairie Lights

FILM

- Oscar Shorts 2015, Live Action, 3:30 p.m., FilmScene
- Oscar Shorts 2015, Animated, 6 p.m., FilmScene
- *Foxcatcher*, 8 p.m., FilmScene
- The Owl of Minerva Theater Presents *21 Up*, 9:30 p.m., 109 EPB

Saturday 11.22

MUSIC

- The Recliners, 7 p.m., Mill
- Aaron Kamm and the One Drops with the Casual Ties, 10 p.m., Yacht Club
- Wax Cannon, Speakerwire Collins, Samuel Locke Ward, • FOXHOLES, 10 p.m., Gabe’s

THEATER

- *Lucky Me*, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Theater
- *Falls for Jodie*, 8 p.m., Theater B

WORDS

- Conscious Birth Summit 2015, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn

FILM

- *Matilda*, 10 a.m., FilmScene
- Oscar Shorts 2015, Animated, 12:30 p.m., FilmScene
- Oscar Shorts 2015, Documentary, 2:30 p.m., FilmScene
- *Foxcatcher*, 6 p.m., FilmScene
- Oscar Shorts 2015, Live Action, 8:45 p.m., FilmScene
- Bijou After Hours, *Clue*, 11 p.m., FilmScene

Sunday 11.23

MUSIC

- Piano Sundays, Ksenia Nosikova and Studio, 1:30 p.m., Old Capitol Museum

THEATER

- *Lucky Me*, 2 p.m., Riverside Theater

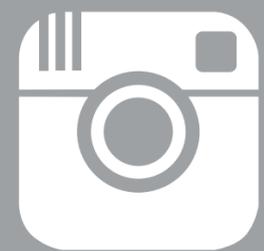
WORDS

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FILM

- Oscar Shorts 2015 - Live Action, noon, FilmScene
- *Foxcatcher*, 2:30 p.m., FilmScene
- Movies @ the Museum of Natural History, *A Sloth Named Velcro*, 3 p.m., Museum of Natural History
- Oscar Shorts 2015, Documentary, 5:30 p.m., FilmScene
- Oscar Shorts 2015, Animated, 8:45 p.m., FilmScene

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LUCKY

CONTINUED FROM 1B

Caisley said many theaters will not take a risk on a play that hasn't won a major award and been given a "thumbs-up" from the *New York Times*. It is a huge disservice to audiences not to allow new work to be fostered and encouraged in the regional theater base, Caisley said, so he was thrilled Riverside, among other venues, decided to produce *Lucky Me*.

"It takes a couple of productions to figure out a play," he said. "You can do lots of readings and workshops, but actually having a theater produce the show in front of a live audience gets down to the nitty-gritty of the play and what's working and what isn't. By the time this production is finished, I'll have seen how three different directors approached the show, three different ways costume designers costumed the show, three different ways actors approached each role, so that when the script is published, I can have a play that I am proud of and that I'm no longer thinking, 'Oh, I'm not sure how I feel about that line.'"

Being a playwright herself, Jennifer Fawcett, the actor playing Sara, understood Caisley's goals quite well.

"We had [Caisley] on Skype for our very first rehearsal, and I have been CC'ed on a lot of conversations between him and Jody," Fawcett said. "When I have had questions, he's been really great about responding and rethinking things. Having questions about a script is completely normal, so we needed to make sure we weren't relying on the playwright too much. Audiences on-

ly get the play, so all answers should already be contained there."

One answer the play doesn't contain and Caisley doesn't know is where the story originated.

"Usually, I can tell you exactly where a play came from, what the starting moment was," he said. "And I usually have it written down somewhere. I have a tendency to steal all those little notepads and pens from hotels. I scatter them all over the house so I'm always within arm's reach of a piece of paper."

"But with *Lucky Me*, I sat down one day, and I just started writing. I remember writing the stage direction of lights coming up on the stage, and you hear people coming upstairs, and the door is thrown open, and I have to describe who is coming in. And who comes in but a woman on crutches and a man in a parka helping her. And that was all I needed to start the play. If you think about the first act of the play, it's really just me creating a series of mysteries for myself that I have to solve over the course of the play."

As he solved those mysteries, Caisley had to make sure his play stayed interesting, that it fulfilled what he described as the necessary arrogance of playwrights.

"The horrifying thing about playwrighting is to think about the arrogance

that goes into it," he said. "I say to you, 'What I am going to show you for the next two hours is infinitely better than what you would have seen if you stayed home tonight.' I feel a terrible responsibility to audiences, and I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy."

But he continues to wish it on himself, writing play after play, bridging genres and even helping future playwrights as a professor at the University of Idaho. Though he's written his fair share of love stories, Caisley said, *Lucky Me* is off the beaten path.

"It's an odd love story, certainly, but I think that's kind of the nature of every love story," he said. "I don't think Hollywood tells us real love stories very often. They're clean. And when they're messy, they're messy by design. My experience of love is that everyone's got a really unusual, eccentric story that they could tell us about falling in love."

"I think I was genuinely trying to write about how difficult it is sometimes to fall in love. It's a wonder that it even happens because it's exhausting. It's quite time-consuming, being in love, so it's surprising that people are able to hold down jobs and drive cars. So amid all the kookiness in the play, I'm hoping people will feel warmed that these two found each other."

In the jaws of the lion

By JASMINE PUTNEY

jasmine-putney@uiowa.edu

And the lion's mouth opens and yer staring at his teeth/And his jaws start closing with you underneath.

More than 50 years ago, these words in a Bob Dylan poem symbolized the struggle of Woody Guthrie and his battle with the neurological disorder Huntington's disease. Now, this couplet represents thousands of families and the daily struggles they face in the film *The Lion's Mouth Opens*.

At 7 p.m. today, W10 Pappajohn Business Building will hold a special screening of the 28-minute documentary.

Director Lucy Walker worked in conjunction with the University of Iowa Huntington's Disease Society of America Center of Excellence in order to organize the screening. Sean Thompson, the public-relations coordinator for the group, said *The Lion's Mouth Opens* was the best documentary he has ever seen.

"Finding out your genetic testing results for Huntington's disease is, in my estimation, one of the most daunting and life-defining moments a person can face," he said. "In this film, you see a young woman [filmmaker/actor Marianna Palka] learn her medical fate in this way with bravery and grace that is compelling and inspiring. For a short film, it really has a lasting impact on those who have seen it."

Combining the symptoms of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease), Huntington's affects the functioning of mood, memory, and movement. Vice President



Contributed

of the Huntington's Disease Society and Huntington's disease carrier Jamie Parish said she believes the film presents an accurate portrayal of the daunting nature of the disease.

"I tested positive for [Huntington's] five years ago, and I found when watching the film that Marianna went through the same feelings as I have gone through," she said.

Parish said she hopes to advocate awareness of Huntington's disease and its effects in order to better educate the general public.

"I wish people could look at a person symptomatic with [Huntington's] and say to themselves, 'Oh, that's Huntington's disease' and not think the person is drunk or choosing to behave in that manner," she said.

Parish said *The Lion's Mouth Opens* also showcases the growing issue of genetic counseling. According to the National Society of Genetic Counselors, genetic counseling is the "process of helping people understand and adapt to the medical, psychological, and familial implications of genetic contributions to disease."

UI specialized care coordinator Shawna Feely has ample experience working with Huntington's disease carriers.

"I ran a [Huntington's]

clinic at Wayne State University prior to being recruited to UI. Through this, I have worked with hundreds of patients and families affected by [Huntington's]," she said. "And although it is wonderful to see movies such as *The Lion's Mouth Opens* being made, there are thousands of other people who have similar stories that don't get made into movies. I am honored that I have been able to be a witness to some of these individuals' experiences and share in their process as they make difficult decisions."

Since debuting at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival, *The Lion's Mouth Opens* has won four of eight nominations, including Outstanding Achievement in Nonfiction Short Filmmaking at the 2015 Cinema Eye Honors. It was also shortlisted for a 2015 Oscar nomination. The documentary will be broadcast on HBO May 25 during Huntington's Disease Awareness Week.

"It's a gift to those affected by Huntington's disease that Marianna wants to share this journey with viewers in hopes of raising awareness of [Huntington's]," Thompson said. "She's heroic for allowing her personal story to inform and inspire the public about this disease and the real people it affects."

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UI play dramatizes Reagan assassination attempt

The workshop production *Falls for Jodie* will open in the Theater Building's Theatre B starting at 8 p.m. Friday and running through Saturday.

Based on a true story, the play tells the story of John Hinckley as he visits Yale in 1980 in an attempt to meet his childhood crush. Eddie, the concierge of the hotel at which Hinckley is staying, is the only one who can help him find her. Hinckley later goes on to attempt to assassinate President Reagan.

Falls for Jodie was written by Eric Holmes, a second-year M.F.A. candidate in the Playwrights' Workshop. He came to Iowa from New York City, where he

lived for seven years doing theater. *Falls for Jodie* is his first play involving a historical figure, and although the production takes place 35 years ago, Holmes says that it is still relevant.

"The problems that ended the Carter administration and shaped the dawn of the Reagan era — income disparity, the role of government, racial prejudice, and a biting recession — are still very much a part of the national conversation today," Holmes said.

Felipe Carrasco, who plays Eddie, just graduated from the UI; he said it as an honor to collaborate with Holmes.

"I have worked on shows without the playwright... and it's totally different. It's great because you have the playwright there in the room as a resource," he said. "If you don't have the playwright there and you're caught up on a moment or your character's intention... but with

the playwright being there, you can always talk it out with him."

Carrasco said he intended *Falls for Jodie* to be educational and entertaining.

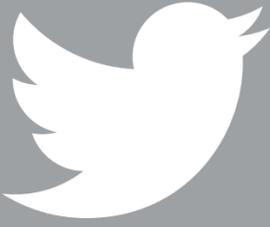
"I hope [audiences] get to watch and enjoy this relationship unfold and John Hinckley's story unfold in the months prior to what we all know happened in history," Carrasco said.

— by Devyn Young

Falls for Jodie

Where: Theater Building Theatre B
When: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday
Admission: Free, but seating is limited

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By Naomi Iizuka

Directed by Alan MacVey

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Trigger Warning: This production contains discussion of sexual violence which may be triggering to some people.
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ENTERTAINMENT			
 DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE	Comedian Chloe Hiliard - 10pm, Public Space One BIG HERO 8pm & 11pm @ Iowa Theatre, IMU • \$3@Hub BIRDMAN 8pm & 11pm @ Illinois Theatre, IMU • \$3@Hub	BIG HERO 8pm & 11pm @ Iowa Theatre, IMU • \$3@Hub BIRDMAN 8pm & 11pm @ Illinois Theatre, IMU • \$3@Hub	BIG HERO 5, 8 & 11pm @ Iowa Theatre, IMU • \$3@Hub BIRDMAN 5, 8 & 11pm @ Illinois Theatre, IMU • \$3@Hub
 118 E. College St. on the Ped Mall www.icfilmscene.org	THE BOXTROLLS - THE PICTURE SHOW 3pm FOXCATCHER - 5:30 & 8:30pm	OSCAR SHORTS 2015 - LIVE ACTION - 3:30pm OSCAR SHORTS 2015 - ANIMATED - 6pm FOXCATCHER - 8pm	MATILDA - THE PICTURE SHOW - 10am OSCAR SHORTS 2015 - ANIMATED - 12:30pm OSCAR SHORTS 2015 - DOCUMENTARY - 2:30pm FOXCATCHER - 6pm OSCAR SHORTS 2015 - LIVE ACTION - 8:45pm CLUE - BIJOU AFTER HOURS - 11pm
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 213 N Gilbert St Iowa City (319) 338-7672	LUCKY ME Opens Tonight @ 7:30pm www.riversidetheatre.org/	LUCKY ME Thur/Fri/Sat 7:30pm, Sun 2pm www.riversidetheatre.org/	LUCKY ME Thur/Fri/Sat 7:30pm, Sun 2pm www.riversidetheatre.org/

Q&A: Going after mountains in full descent

By ISAAC HAMLET
isaac-hamlet@uiowa.edu

Tim Johnston is a graduate of the University of Iowa and a professor at the University of Memphis. Tonight, he will return to Iowa City to talk about his newest book, *Descent*, a novel about a family vacation that goes awry with the disappearance of the family's 18-year-old daughter, Caitlin.

The Daily Iowan: Prior to writing *Descent*, you published a short-story collection and a young-adult novel. What spurred you to write *Descent*?

Tim Johnston: I think I was heading for a book like *Descent* for a long time without really knowing it. When I got up to the Rocky Mountains to work on a house that my father and stepmother had built, I was there for several months working by myself, and this idea slowly came to me. I put it off as long as I could before I couldn't put it off any longer, so I put down my paint brush

and started to write.

DI: There's a passage in the book in which you compare the mountains to deserts and other settings. What about the Rockies made you think this place need to be captured?

Johnston: I was daily amazed by the vastness and what remains wild about the Rocky Mountains despite all the highways going through and the resorts, and maps, and trails. If you live up there for a while, you understand that the vast majority of that territory is as wild as it ever was. It's really easy to get lost, it's unmapped, unpaved, and you don't have to go very far off the path before you're very far off the path. Whenever I was up there hiking or mountain biking, I was always conscious of the fact that nobody knows I'm up here — if I were to fall of this cliff, it would be a long time



Johnston author

before anyone A) realized where I'd gone off to, and B) found me where I'd fallen. This helped me form the idea of this family going there on a vacation and not really understanding the territory they're going into, their taking [it] for granted. It's a national park; what could go wrong?

DI: A lot of the reviews for the book have described it as a thriller, but it also has quite a few literary elements and is surprisingly introspective for most of the characters. Did you intentionally do that?

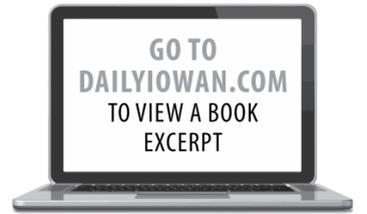
Johnston: Because of the marketing and the way [the book] has been reviewed, most people come to it the exact opposite of the way I did. What I set out to do was write a novel about characters; that said, I wanted it to be exciting, I wanted it to have an interesting plot that people could get carried away by. It took me six years to write the book; all that time was not spent figuring out plot or how to write a thriller — the word "thriller" never

entered my mind — the time was spent developing characters and trying to write the best novel I could.

DI: A good portion of the book describes how each family member copes with this loss, goes into flashbacks, and fills in a lot of the story both prior to and just after Caitlin's disappearance. Why did you decide to tell the story in this way?

Johnston: In a traditional [thriller], I think there would have been a lot of attention paid to the direct aftermath of the disappearance and the introduction of the various characters trying to find her and all the frantic energy that goes in to those initial hours, days, and weeks. I wanted to jump ahead to the time two years later, when nothing has come of all that effort and searching and the family is left with the same uncertainty they had the day it happened and must go on with that uncertainty. They're not allowed to go on with their lives, they grow older, but their daughter

does not grow older in their minds. I tried to consolidate the things that had to be known plot-wise by putting them in dream-like flashbacks.



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LUB CAR 122 Wright St. 351-9416	\$2.50 Dom. Bottles • All Day \$3 Tall Boys • 4-6 \$2.75 Wells • 4-6 \$3.75 Jager Bombs • 7-close	\$3 19oz. Dom. Mugs • All Day \$3 Tall Boys • 4-6 \$2.75 Dom. Bottles & Wells • 4-6 \$4.25 All Bombs • 7-close	\$2.50 Wells & \$3 Tall Boys All Day \$3 19oz. Dom. Mugs • 7-close
UGLY'S SALOON 210 N. Linn St. next to Hamburg Inn	\$5.75 Domestic Pitchers \$2.50 Domestic Pints	\$4.25 All Bomb Drinks \$3.75 Shot Wheel \$3 Domestic Steins	\$2.50 Domestic Pints \$2.50 Well Drinks \$3 Tall Boys
MIGGS IRISH PUB 11 S. Dubuque • 338-6860	9pm-Close \$4 25oz Silos of Bud & Bud Light	9pm-Close \$3 Domestic Pints \$3 Jameson Shots	9pm-Close \$3 Domestic Pints \$3 Jameson Shots
the Mill 120 E Burlington • 351-9529	KO w/Loaf, Nightlight, Baby Alchemy - 9pm, 19+ Happy Hour 2-6pm M-F: \$5 PBR Pitchers, \$3.50 Craft Beer & French Fry Bsk	NE-HI w/Younger, Bull Black Nova 9pm Happy Hour 2-6pm M-F: \$5 PBR Pitchers	The Recliners, 7pm, All Ages Weekend Breakfast 10am-11am \$3 Bloody Marys & Mimosas
MONDO'S SALOON 112 E. College St. Iowa City 319-354-3837	11-2pm \$6 BURGER ALL DAY: \$3 CORONA, DRAFTS, MARGS FIESTA HOUR 2-6PM	\$5 MELTDOWN & WATERMELON MARGS FIESTA HOUR 2-6: \$1, \$3, \$5 & \$6 SPECIALS	ALL DAY \$3 WELLS & \$4 WINE BOMBS FIESTA HOUR 2-6: \$1, \$3, \$5 & \$6 SPECIALS
BREW WORKS PUBLIC HOUSE 525 S Gilbert St. • IC • 337-3422	8-Close \$2 U-Call-It	FAW 2-8pm: \$5 Pub Melt - \$7 with House Pint \$3 House Pints, \$8 House Pitchers 8-Close: \$3 U-Call-It	\$3 Craft Tallboys \$2 Domestic Tallboys \$2 Wells/\$3 Bombs
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Shakespeare's 819 S. 1st Ave. Iowa City 337-7275	PINT NIGHT 5pm-Midnight: \$2.50 Dom. Pints w/Shake's Glass 5pm-10pm: \$1 Off Wrap Baskets	5pm - Close: \$6 Dom. Pitchers 5pm - 10pm: \$11.25 Steak Special	\$3.50 Pints of Fat Tire
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Vine tavern & eatery 330 E. Prentiss, Iowa City 39 2nd St., Coralville	\$7.99 Philly or French Dip \$2.99 Dom Steins, \$4.25 Craft Steins, \$5.50 Import Steins	\$7.99 Fish & Chips Happy Hour 3-7pm: \$3 Craft Pints & Absolut Vodka	All Day, All Night: \$7.99 Rueben \$2.50 Bottles of Corona

Q&A: Finding the funny in observation

By JUSTUS FLAIR
justus-flair@uiowa.edu

Chloé Hilliard is marketed as a “larger than life comedian” given her towering 6-1 frame and dark afro. After competing on last season’s “Last Comic Standing,” Hilliard has taken her standup act on the road, especially to college towns; in fact, she was recently nominated for Entertainer of the Year by *Campus Activities Magazine*. Hilliard spoke with *The Daily Iowan* about her upcoming tour stop in Iowa City at 10 p.m. today in Public Space One, 120 N. Dubuque St.

The Daily Iowan: You were a journalist for a long time. Can you walk me through how that led you to standup comedy?

Hilliard: I went to college, to NYU, for journalism. I studied magazine print journalism, and I did that for 10 years. After that, the industry changed and went from long-form, in-depth stories that I loved to everything online and short and quick, and that frustrated me. So I thought, ‘I’ve done everything in journalism except broadcast,’ so I thought I’d try that.

I like to really prepare for everything, so a friend was taking a comedy class, and I decided to take it with

her. I thought if I tightened that skill, I could be a really good reporter and interviewer in the field. There was a show at the end of the class and ... my family and friends liked what I’d done and asked when my next show was; I didn’t really have a next one planned. I’d only had five minutes of jokes, and I had to write them on my hand because I was so nervous. I just kept going with it, and four and a half years later ...

DI: Where did you pull your material from?

Hilliard: At that time, nothing was really personal because when you do comedy it takes most comics a while to start talking about their family and lives and things, so it was more observational. As a journalist I already had the skill set to notice things around me, so I just noticed funny things and talked about them.

DI: Why did you decide to audition for “Last Comic Standing?” [This past season, there were not open auditions. Comics were invited to audition.]

Hilliard: Someone had referred me. They didn’t do an open general casting, they kind of reached out to the industry and asked for recommendations. They flew us all out to LA to audition, and if you made it past that

audition, then you were on the show. I was very fortunate that after only a few years under my belt, I had people in the industry who were willing to put my name out there.

DI: What was your greatest moment on “Last Comic Standing?”

Hilliard: Getting through my first round. It’s kind of surreal because there were two different ways to walk onto the stage, and during the round before they told me to walk down these steps and I was like, ‘Are you kidding me? I’m wearing 4-inch heels, and if I bust my butt, you’re going to put that on air. So I was more worried about falling than my set. Once I got on stage, I was kind of on autopilot. Each set is only four minutes, so after a minute I was like, ‘I should actually enjoy this.’ So I had to take a moment.

DI: Tell us about the tour you’re on now.

Hilliard: I’ve been doing colleges for a year. I’ve been pretty steady on the road from like August till now. [Feb. 3] kicks off 32 days straight. I was trying to pick a name for this tour, just for myself, and do a little video on it, and capture this experience, so it’s either Miles Ahead because I’ll be driving all around or, option two, Chloé’s Cross-Country Comedy Caravan.

Q&A: Bahamas’ Afie Jurvanen

By EMMA MCCLATCHEY
emma-mcclatchey@uiowa.edu

Canadian musician Afie Jurvanen — popularly known by his stage name Bahamas — has ridden a steady road to success since the release of his first album, *Pink Strat*, recorded in a cabin in Ontario in 2008. His third and most recent album, *Bahamas is Afie*, was released on Aug. 19, 2014, and met with acclaim, earning the No. 1 spot on the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.’s Top-20 Albums of 2014 and comparisons with other stripped-down artists such as Jack Johnson. Currently on a tour that will take him to Bonnaroo Music Festival in June, Bahamas performed at the Mill, 120 E. Burlington St., on Tuesday and caught up with *The Daily Iowan* before the show.

The Daily Iowan: When did you decide to go by a stage name?

Afie Jurvanen: Pretty early on, before I had an album. My friends and I were playing a bar, and they said, “What do you want on the poster?” At the time, I really didn’t feel like going by Afie — that felt too strange of a name to go by. I’m not sure when Bahamas came up the first time, but as soon as it popped into my mind, I thought it was a cool word and conjures nice imagery

for people before they hear the music. So I said, “Put that on the poster” and basically didn’t think about it again. It was a little bit accidental, but I’m happy with it — it ended up suiting the music even if I didn’t design it that way.

DI: You are self-taught on a lot of the instruments you play on the album. Do you write music around your own abilities, or do you come up with a song in your head and figure out how to create it later?

Jurvanen: It’s a bit of both. I do like to play a lot of guitar, so a lot of times, I’ll just stumble onto things as I’m working my way around the instruments. You might play a chord progression 100 times the same way, and for some reason, you play it one more time slightly differently and unlock something. That’s always really exciting as a writer.

On the other hand, just as often I’ll write music without instruments. If you have a lyric or just some words floating around in your head, they’ll have the power to suggest a melody, and then you have to test it out afterwards and figure out how it all comes together. There are several songs on [*Bahamas is Afie*] that came together that way.

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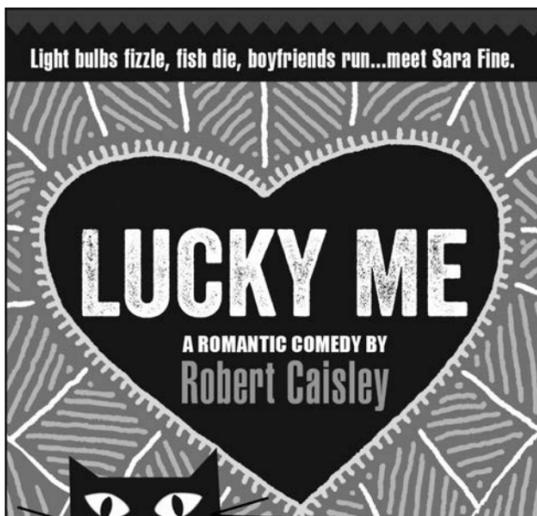
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	<p>AMERICAN SNIPER (R) ✓x 12:50, 3:55, 7:00, 10:05</p>	<p>AMERICAN SNIPER (R) ✓x 12:55, 4:05, 5:00, 7:15, 10:25</p>
	<p>BLACK OR WHITE (PG-13) ✓x 7:00, 9:55</p>	<p>BLACK OR WHITE (PG-13) ✓x 7:00, 10:00</p>
	<p>BLACKHAT (R) ✓x 3:05pm</p>	<p>BLACKHAT (R) ✓x 10:30pm</p>
	<p>INTO THE WOODS (PG) 12:55, 3:50, 10:10</p>	<p>CAKE (R) ✓x 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:35, 10:00</p>
	<p>KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE (R) ✓x 7:00pm</p>	<p>FOXCATCHER (R) 1:00pm</p>
	<p>MORTDECAI (R) ✓x 11:05, 1:40, 4:25, 7:45, 10:25</p>	<p>INHERENT VICE (R) 10:20pm</p>
	<p>PADDINGTON (PG) ✓x 12:20, 2:40, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40</p>	<p>INTO THE WOODS (PG) 4:30pm</p>
	<p>PROJECT ALMANAC (PG-13) ✓x 7:00, 9:45</p>	<p>MORTDECAI (R) ✓x 12:40, 3:15, 5:50, 8:25, 11:00</p>
	<p>STRANGE MAGIC (PG) ✓x 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:05, 9:35</p>	<p>NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET TOMB (PG) 12:00, 2:30</p>
	<p>TAKEN 3 (PG-13) 11:10, 1:45, 4:20</p>	<p>PADDINGTON (PG) ✓x 11:00, 2:10, 4:35, 7:30, 9:25</p>
	<p>THE BOY NEXT DOOR (R) ✓x 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:20, 9:45</p>	<p>PROJECT ALMANAC (PG-13) ✓x 7:00, 10:00</p>
<p>THE IMITATION GAME (PG-13) 11:15, 1:55, 4:35, 7:25, 10:15</p>	<p>SELMA (PG-13) 1:05, 4:10</p>	
<p>THE WEDDING RINGER (R) ✓x 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30</p>	<p>STRANGE MAGIC (PG) ✓x 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45</p>	
<p>UNBROKEN (PG-13) 11:55am</p>	<p>THE BOY NEXT DOOR (R) ✓x 1:10, 3:35, 6:00, 8:25, 10:45</p>	
	<p>THE IMITATION GAME (PG-13) 11:50, 2:35, 5:20, 8:05, 10:45</p>	
	<p>THE LOFT (R) ✓x 8:00, 10:30</p>	
	<p>THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING (PG) 1:30, 7:30</p>	
	<p>THE WEDDING RINGER (R) ✓x 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30</p>	
	<p>WHIPLASH (R) 4:15</p>	

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