

# MISSION CREEK WEEK. 80 HOURS.

# The Daily Iowan

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017

THE INDEPENDENT DAILY NEWSPAPER FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COMMUNITY SINCE 1868

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with Ghostface  
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## WEATHER

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## Carberry ponders run for governor

By ISABELLA SENNO  
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Johnson County Supervisor Mike Carberry is mulling a run for the governorship in 2018.

If Carberry decides to run, he would create a campaign centered on such issues as public-education funding, workers' rights, and water quality.

Carberry said he has only been on the Board of Supervisors for two years, and for 10 years before that, he was a professional environmental advocate.

"I've always been a political activist all my life, since I was a kid," he said. "There seems to be a war on workers, a war on women, a war on water. I think that this state needs progressive leaders who speak to the issues that are important to rural Iowans, to working Iowans, to impoverished Iowans. We need leadership that will return the focus to people and away from corporations."

Potentially building a platform focused on these issues could garner him support if he decides to run, said Christopher Taylor, the head of the Johnson County Democratic Party.

"I think those all sound like issues that resonate with the majority of Iowans," Taylor said. "I know education has been an issue that Democrats have tried to lean on for many years and would have a hard time making any headway with Republicans in the Legislature."

Public education and its subsequent funding are issues that Carberry feels need to be urgently addressed at the state level.

"There is some serious mismanagement," he said.

SEE CARBERRY, 2A

## New student assessments put on hold

By JASON ESTRADA  
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The state's move to adopt new state exams to match what is currently being taught in classrooms has been delayed.

Senate File 240 was amended by the Iowa House, then passed by the Iowa Senate on March 8. The floor manager of the bill was Sen. Amy Sinclair, R-Allerton. The bill has not yet been signed into law.

The bill will require Iowa Department of Education to implement the Smarter Balance Assessments through administrative rules. The administrative rules moved forward after the end of the 2016 legislative session.

The Education Department began transition work to help Iowa students prepare for the new state assessments scheduled for the 2017-18 school year. However, the work was put on hold because of an Iowa legislator's interest in further discussing the statewide assessments.

"What the bill does, if it passes, requires the department to issue a request for a proposal to choose a new statewide assessment," said Staci Hupp Ballard, the communications director of the Education Department. "The time frame for the administration of that test would be the 2018 and 2019 school year."

The Iowa Assessments were developed by Iowa Testing Programs from the University of Iowa College of Education to measure student growth and student achievement from kindergarten through 12th grade.

The 2013 Education Reform Act established a state task force to consider and recommend options for possible new state assessments.

"The task force got together and looked at options for about 14 months, and after a lot of careful consideration, it made a recommendation, and that recommendation was the Smarter Balance Assessments," Ballard said.

Superintendent Stephen Murley of the Iowa City School District is hopeful for a new proposal for state testing to reflect the teachings in the classroom.

"State tests are one way to observe student achievement," he said. "It is by no means the only way or the best way, but it does provide data that help to better understand student progress."

Murley noted if state testing were to end, then it wouldn't change the teaching process in the classroom. However, he believes it is important for students to participate because it would provide a marker for comparison.

"It would not change what we do in the classroom," he said. "It would be one less data point for teachers to work with but it is not the only way that we have to

SEE TESTING, 2A

## UI REACHES OUT ON MENTAL HEALTH



To raise awareness about mental health, the UI held its first mental-health fair in the IMU on Wednesday. (The Daily Iowan/Osama Khalid)

By NAOMI HOFFERBER  
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For many college students, a large portion of their health goes widely ignored. One in four people will suffer from mental illness for some part of their life, yet the stigma keeps individuals from seeking help.

Fresh Check Day, UI's first mental-health fair, aimed to address stigma and offer resources to students who may be struggling.

"It's a place where you can come and check in on your mental health," UI Active Minds President

Kelin Silber said. "It's just a really nice event where you can come in, talk to people, do events that really promote positivity, promote awareness, promote ending the stigma, and promote your own self."

Silber said the most common age for individuals to take their own lives is ages 20-24, which includes a lot of college students.

"In our culture today, we are taught about overexertion, but we are taught in a way that it's what you are supposed to do, you're supposed to do a bunch of things," Silber said. "Once

you do that, you don't take the time to sit down and recognize yourself. One in four adults will suffer from mental illness in their lives, and even though that's the case, two-thirds of students won't seek out that treatment."

At the fair, the Rape Victim Advocacy Program gave students an opportunity to write messages of support for survivors and learn ways to cope with issues.

"We are here to provide support to students," Emi-

SEE FAIR, 2A

## Trying to head off Islamophobia locally

By MADELEINE NEAL  
madeleine-neal@uiowa.edu

Stereotype, stranger, inclusion, equality, Muslim, and non-Muslim.

These are the words that flashed across the PowerPoint presented by Ramsey Ali, a Ph.D. in the University of Iowa Counseling and Psychology Program.

The UI Muslim Student Association continued its Islam Awareness week with a "Facts versus Fears" lecture in the IMU on Wednesday evening.

As the words flashed across the screen, Ali asked audience members to think of what they associated each word with.

Some audience members connected the word "non-Muslim" with "white." Others associated the word "stranger" with "danger." Some Muslim audience members identified the word "Muslim" with "me."

UI junior Abdulrahman Ismail said cultural differences are noticeable, especially when considering others religions.

"A lot of people hear things and are intimidated by the media," he said. "You don't really get the full story from the media."



UI Ph.D. student Ramsey Ali gives the Facts vs. Fears presentation as part of the Islamic Awareness Week in the IMU on Wednesday. (The Daily Iowan/Lisa Dauterive)

Ismail's parents, who were born in Yemen, are strong in their Muslim beliefs, he said.

"We invite people who are Islamophobic to come to our events and meet us," he said. "That's how you break the barriers."

Ali offered an analogy at the event; Martians are to the United States Constitution as Islamophobics are to the Quran, he said.

Sharia Law, which Ali said means "the clear, well-trodden path to water," has been banned in seven American states: North Carolina, Alabama, Arizona, Kansas, Lou-

isiana, South Dakota, and Tennessee.

Many people of the Islamic faith believe Sharia Law is a personal relationship with God, not with the states, Ali said.

Ali encouraged attendees to consider cultural differences when viewing faith that belongs to others. An example he gave is the death penalty practiced in the U.S., which some might find offensive, just like others might not understand some Islamic practices.

This, he said, is why it is

SEE ISLAM, 2A



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SMOOTH SAILING



Campus Recreation & Wellness Center employee Leyuan Li makes smoothies on Wednesday. The building, which opened in 2010, was awarded third place among best campus recreation centers by Best College Reviews. (The Daily Iowan/Ben Smith)

FAIR

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

ly Milke of RVAP said. “We know that sexual violence can impact mental health. Everyone kind of copes with that differently; some people seek out official counseling or therapy, oftentimes, folks don’t, and that’s OK. RVAP is here for folks who are having a bad day, who want to talk to someone, who have advocacy needs, and all our services are free, confidential, and totally optional.”

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and RVAP has events throughout to raise awareness and offer support for survivors.

Rachel Liddle, a substance-abuse counselor at Student Health & Wellness, had a booth in the fair that discussed issues of mental health with alcohol and drinking behaviors.

“A lot of times when people are thinking about alcohol and mental health, they think about substance-abuse disorders or dependence or alcoholism, but that’s not what we’re talking about here,” she said. “Even one episode of binge drinking or higher-risk drinking can impact mental health. It’s really all kind of things: worsening mental-health conditions that are already existing or things like rebound-

ing anxiety even after even one episode of binge drinking kind of leading to the manifestation of mental-health issues.”

Liddle said 25 percent of students on campus abstain from alcohol consumption, and alcohol can affect mental health regardless of whether someone has a mental illness.

“I think mental health is a huge part of our overall health and wellness,” she said. “For a long time in society in general, we thought of health and mind to be separate from each other, but we are finally understanding, as we should, that the brain and mental health goes hand in hand with our physical health.

It’s important to break down stigma so people can get proper treatment, so people can be their best.”

Booths around the IMU offered information, activities, and resources for students regarding their mental wellness. One booth gave people the opportunity to write the issues they struggle with, or their “elephant in the room,” on a piece of paper. The paper would be anonymously shared on a board with other students’ “elephants” to show many struggle with the same issue.

“Your lives matter,” Silber said. “Things like these make you take the time to recognize that and maybe seek the help that you’re looking for.”

TESTING

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

measure progress.”

Shawn Eyestone, a former president of the District Parent Organization, said the Smarter Balance Assessments is a testing pro-

gram from California, which entails computer tests.

“[The Iowa City district] was one of the few or maybe even the only lone center on it, but they didn’t like the idea with going with the Smarter Balance,” he said.

He said the problems with the assessments were cost, which was a big is-

sue, and the unavailability of a science course, which pushed the proposal.

There were also concerns about preparing kids for the tests, which means students were receiving a moderate amount of preparation to take the various tests.

“I would like to look at it from the other side; let’s

teach our kids and figure out how well they’re doing, so doing some sort of assessment to see where they’re at,” he said. “Maybe you do that by trying to match the tests better about what’s being taught in the classroom, but I think you’re to have a lot of variety from teacher to teacher and district to district.”

CARBERRY

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“We are underfunding education at every level, including the regents’ universities ... our community colleges, our K-12, our pre-K and early childhood, public education is completely underfunded, and Iowa used to be known as the education state, yet we’re starving our public education.”

Carberry pointed to two bills signed into law on March 30 that bar counties from creating their own minimum wages — which affected Johnson County and three others — and decrease coverage for workers’ compensation as key examples of the ineptitude he sees in the Gov. Terry Branstad-Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds administration.

“I was the supervisor that provided the third vote to raise the minimum wage in Johnson County to \$10.10, so one of the things I’m running on is the war on workers in the state of Iowa,” Carberry said. “The Republicans war on workers is going very well, and one of the things I’m going to stand up for is fighting for workers.”

Pushing back against

certain policies that have sparked protest in the days after their signing, such as the Feb. 16 restriction on public employees’ collective-bargaining rights, could win Carberry some points even across party lines.

“You see a lot of pushback with some of Gov. Branstad’s policies; I see it within [both parties], so I think if he plays his cards right and really pushes back against those policies that both sides of the political spectrum are pushing back against ... he’ll gain traction in that area,” said Kyle Apple, the vice president of the University of Iowa College Republicans. “When you look at the minimum wage, I think that’s somewhere he could gain a little bit of traction, especially in some of the larger cities.”

Carberry said he is passionate about improving soil and water quality, advocating for environmental policies that have labeled him “extremist” in some circles.

“Water quality is a huge issue. As a professional environmental advocate, I’ve been working on clean water issues since at least 2000 ... and our water quality is just getting worse,” Carberry said. “Asking for clean

water for our children and for our health, I don’t believe that that’s extremist. That’s mainstream.”

As a self-described “Berniecrat,” Carberry was heavily involved in the Bernie Sanders campaign during the 2016 election, introducing Sanders three times at various events and acting as a surrogate for environmental issues such as the Dakota Access Pipeline.

“I make no bones about it; I’m a progressive, left-leaning liberal Democrat, and I was the highest elected official in the state to endorse Bernie Sanders,” Carberry said.

According to *Politico*, Trump won the state by about 150,000 votes last November, and this vocal endorsement of, and alignment with, Sanders and his policies means that any potential campaign by Carberry may have difficulty gaining momentum within non-Democratic demographics.

“Anyone who is that open to socialist ideals has no place in Iowa, no place in the United States in the political system. The 2016 election made it very clear that Iowa wants nothing to do with liberal policies, and Mr. Carberry embodies the failed policies

of the left,” Apple said. “ [If he decides to run], I hope Mr. Carberry gets the Democratic nomination for governor, because Democrats like Mr. Carberry elect Republicans.”

Carberry plans to decide on whether to form an exploratory committee this month and will continue to see how the process unfolds throughout the next six months or so. He said that should he continue with the exploratory committee, he would be able to decide whether he will run for office next fall.

He is holding conversations with several key Democratic leaders across the state about. Carberry is up for re-election for the Board of Supervisors in 2018 and a person cannot run for two political offices at once. The decision to move forward with a campaign would be a large step for Carberry.

“If I decide to run for governor, that means I don’t run for my county supervisor seat. I love Johnson County, I love the people of Johnson County, this is the greatest place to live in the Midwest, and I would be sacrificing that position, but maybe for the greater good and the greater good is the needs of the people of Iowa and of the state of Iowa.”

ISLAM

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

important to take context into consideration when viewing the Islamic faith.

For Ali, his presentation was an effort to lessen the fear of what it means to be

Muslim, and to erase some of the misconceptions.

He began to notice hatred against the religion after the events on 9/11, he said.

“I didn’t know how to process that level of hate,” he said. “[I] felt more obligated to join and understand it.”

Anti-Muslim assaults, he said, are at their high-

est levels since 2001 — the most historic spikes were after 9/11 and after the 2015 attacks in Paris.

One-third of the victims of these hate crimes are under the age of 18, according to the Los Angeles District Attorney’s Office, Ali pointed out.

With today’s cyber-context, Ali said terms such as

“jihad” and “Sharia Law” can be misconstrued.

For UI student Angie Dundee, who is seeking a master’s degree in social work, understanding Islam is important.

“I came [to the event] to learn about the culture,” she said. “I think if people can they should do this group.”

The Daily Iowan

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BREAKING NEWS

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# Allaf rockets to the fore in Iowa men's tennis

By **JAKE MARKOWITZ**  
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During this past summer, it became clear that a high-impact player was about to be added to the Iowa men's tennis team in the spring season.

Redshirted in his first year, Kareem Allaf took to the summer matches with a vengeance, finishing in the semifinals of singles play at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association National Summer Championships and reaching the quarterfinals with doubles partner junior Jake Jacoby. Allaf proved to the team he was ready to compete in the spring.

"Kareem is a guy that we really look forward to winning a lot of matches for us," head coach Ross Wilson said in the fall.

He was right.

Wilson placed Allaf in the No. 3 spot for

singles, and he shot out of the gate, posting a 7-2 record in that spot to kick off his first spring season. Eventually, Wilson saw enough and decided it was time to move Allaf up.

"Kareem had played really well at the No. 3 position [in] singles," Wilson said. "I felt he earned an opportunity to play higher in the lineup."

At the USD/SDSU Invitational, Allaf began his rise. Wilson placed Allaf at No. 2 against a nationally ranked Oregon squad that had won six of its last seven coming into the eight-team tournament.

Allaf did not disappoint his coach or his teammates. He was up match point against junior Simon Stevens before the match was called off; the Ducks had already clinched the victory. His rise continued the following day.

In the third-place match, Allaf was slot-

ted in as the No. 1 singles player for the Hawkeyes. His opponent was No. 55 Filip Vittek. The national ranking did not faze Allaf, going back and forth with the senior before eventually falling in a hard-fought third set.

"I think my coaches have seen the competitiveness in me," Allaf said. "I bring it to every match and compete as hard as possible."

While competitiveness has always been one of his strengths, consistency has not.

In the fall season, Allaf's performances would range from dominating four-straight matches in the regional championships to falling in straight sets at the Battle in the Bay, hosted by San Francisco.

However, over the course of the spring season, consistent play has become part of Allaf's game, which he attributes to his movement in singles.

"Consistency was definitely a problem for me at the beginning of the season, where I would play one good match and then one bad match," Allaf said. "Recently, I have been able to play at a high level consistently. Coach Wilson always reminds me, and it has become a habit."

The consistency has added to the confidence Allaf has in his game, and his teammates have noticed.

"He is someone who truly believes in himself and wants on-court success very badly," freshman Jason Kerst said. "It's nice to have teammates who are very confident and think about their tennis and goals in the long run."

Allaf's goals, however, are not to merely climb up in singles. The fiery juices in him have his mind on one thing.

"Winning," Allaf said. "Where I play is not my biggest concern. Winning the match is."

## FOOTBALL

CONTINUED FROM 6A

to blocking. The same goes for Beyer and Hockensen, who will likely see plenty of time on the field in the upcoming season.

"Across the board, we're all young, inexperienced I guess is a probably a better way to put it at the tight-

end position," Woods said. "All three [Fant, Beyer, and Hockensen] can stretch the field a little bit, developing as run blockers. Again, they're not there yet by any stretch of the imagination at either spot, either as a receiver or as a blocker, but I think they're really working hard."

### Multitalented group

As stated before, Iowa

likes its tight ends. The coaches especially like tight ends who can play various roles in the offensive scheme.

Woods said he would like as many tight ends on the field at one time as possible, because he believes the guys play a number of parts in the lineup.

"We have some guys who are capable of do-

ing more than just playing tight end," Woods said. "We have some guys who can flex out at receiver, we have some guys who can play in the backfield as a fullback, do some kick-out blocks, some lead blocks, things like that."

### Senior leadership

Just two tight ends on

the roster are upperclassmen — seniors Peter Pekar and Jon Wisnieski.

Pekar started eight games in 2016 and saw action in all 13, but he had only 1 reception for 5 yards last season. His role was primarily one as a run blocker. Wisnieski, on the other hand, has played in only three games throughout his injury-riddled career with

the Hawkeyes.

Woods said that has not stopped them from stepping up into a leadership role at spring practice, especially Wisnieski.

"I love having Jon in the room because he's an older guy," Woods said. "He's good for the room. He's good to help the young guys particularly. He's a very smart guy."

## BASEBALL

CONTINUED FROM 6A

mer Saturday starter C.J. Eldred was sidelined for the remainder of the season with an elbow issue.

### Adams goes yard

Jake Adams, tied for the Big Ten lead with 11 home runs, drilled 3 home runs in the past five games of the winning streak.

Adams' batting average went from .325 after

Iowa's loss against Purdue (after which the seven-game streak started) to .340 after the South Dakota State game.

His scoreboard-smacking home run against the Jackrabbits gave Iowa its first lead of the game

in the third inning.

Illinois' Pat McInerney shares the conference's top home-run spot with Adams.

### Closing time

Iowa acknowledges it

does not have a set closer, but Josh Martsching has quietly blossomed into the role, recording 2 of his 3 saves on the season in the past seven games.

Martsching made quick work of South Dakota State, retiring the first

three batters in the ninth during Iowa's 4-3 win on April 4.

He pitched two innings in Iowa's 3-0 win over UNLV, striking out one and retiring six of the game's last seven batters.

## SOFTBALL

CONTINUED FROM 6A

en that they can come from behind to win a game. This is not a team

that is typically going to score a lot of runs, so getting down early puts even more pressure on the hitters.

Batting has also been a bit of a struggle for the Hawkeyes, but they

put this to rest in game three of the Purdue series. Even though the Hawkeyes only had 5 hits, their quality at-bats were devastating for the Boilermakers.

The Hawkeyes were

down 1-0 going into the third inning, when they went off. They had only two hits in the crucial inning in which they scored 7 runs. The 2 hits came from junior Allie Wood and Rozier.

Wood had two runners on base and sent the ball into left field to score both of them. After Wood, Rozier came up to the plate and hit a home run over the center-field wall.

Two at-bats, 2 hits, 4

runs, and just like that, the game was over in the third inning. If the Hawkeyes keep up the quality at-bats and the disciplined defense, they could have some major success down the road.

## TRACK

CONTINUED FROM 6A

In these early meets, national running times are on the minds of all involved.

"We just want to hit big performances; we are still trying to get people to hit qualifying standards for the first round of the national meet," Woody said.

One of the racers in midseason form is sophomore Mar'Yea Harris, who ran well in last weekend's Florida Relays. He will try to continue his high-caliber pace during the Click meet.

"Mar'yea running a 45.7

was really impressive [at the Florida Relays]," Woody said.

Harris is sitting on top of the Big Ten 400-meter mountain with that 45.7 performance.

Last weekend's relay races were to get the relay teams going — this weekend will focus on some individual stars such as freshman Collin Hofacker.

He notched personal bests in both 200 meters and 400 meters last week-

end in Florida, and this weekend he will try to do the same. Hofacker said that in every meet, he wants to earn a new personal best. He has been able to continue this trend through two meets; this third one will test the boundaries of the freshman racer.

Another must-watch athlete this weekend is another freshman, Nathan Mylenek. He runs the 3,000-meter steeplechase and runs it well. He

has broken into the top 10 in Iowa track history in the event, while also injecting himself into the top 20 in the nation.

The story of last weekend for the Hawkeye women's team was freshman Lauluga Tausaga, a sensation in her own right. Being able to step into a D-1 organization and break the women's discus record in the first month of her outdoor career is rather impressive. The throw

also grabbed her the sixth-best distance in the nation. She looks as though she is poised to break many Hawkeye records, and she has a good chance to do so this weekend.

The distance-running unit for Iowa will get the weekend off from competition as they prepare

for the Mt. Sac Relays the weekend of April 13-15. Woody thought it was important for the group to have some time away from competition.

"We are going to give our distance runners some rest this weekend and get them ready for Mt. Sac next week," he said.

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# OPINIONS

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—FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

## COLUMN

### States should protect privacy on the internet

By JOE LANE  
joseph-lane@uiowa.edu

The internet, by virtually every measure imaginable, is still in its infancy. Considered even as just a communication method, for example, the internet is still more than 125 years younger than Alexander Graham Bell's telephone (of course, there is so much more to the internet than a communication tool). Though the possible applications of the internet today seem limitless, there truly is no telling what the future will hold.

One of the most amazing things about the internet is its role in the future of the "American Dream." As a free and open tool, the internet can be used by anyone — big corporations and individuals alike — to access a world of knowledge and transform that knowledge into valuable additions to society. However, like any other medium through which growth can occur, the internet requires regulations to protect both creators and users. These protections have been at risk for some time now, subject to the whims of the federal government and, most recently, a controversial legislation surrounding internet privacy.

Recent votes in the House and the Senate overturned a regulation that — although it had not taken effect — would have required internet service providers to gain permission from consumers before they sold their data. The original regulation comes from the Obama administration, and it would have been a major step in protecting people online. Though separate and different, this overturning is one component of a broader set of legislation brought up in the last few years — such as net neutrality — that plays a role in keeping personal data safe while still allowing for the unhindered growth of the internet.

The reverse of the Obama regulation is yet

to be signed by President Trump but likely will be in the near future.

Some states, in response to this new legislation, have acted to protect their residents from ISPs looking to use their information such as search history and downloads. Minnesota, for example, now has legislation on the table that will require ISPs to receive the "express written approval from the customer" to collect this information, according to the Minnesota Senate website.

The internet now lies in the middle of the long-standing debate between state governments and the federal government. Because the recent vote in Congress is to revoke a regulation that would have been set in place, states now have the power to adopt a similar resolution and achieve the same effect as the national regulation that had yet to be put in place. The question then becomes, of course, how will Minnesota's decision to enact this law affect the states' and its citizens' interactions with ISPs? One potential adverse effect could be the unwillingness of ISPs to work smoothly with local government entities in the future.

Ultimately, assuming Trump signs the reversal, state legislatures will have to make the decision upon which side of history they hope to land. I implore the Iowa Legislature to adopt a similar resolution to Minnesota's.

While the potential backlash from ISPs may be important, the value of consumers in an entire state should not be overlooked, and the ability of the service providers to respond by punishing an entire state are unlikely, if not impossible. As we have seen — both directly from the most recent election and in a variety of ways in the private sector — the power of personal data is immense. If the federal government won't step up to protect it, then states should.

## COLUMN

### Kendrick Lamar needs to remain humble about female empowerment



Kendrick Lamar performs in the Austin City Limits Music Festival on Oct. 1, 2016. (Jack Plunkett/Invision/Associated Press)



ISABELLA ROSARIO  
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Last week, Grammy award-winning rapper Kendrick Lamar dropped his new single, "Humble," along with a cinematographically magnificent visual directed by Dave Meyers. The three-minute video leaves fans a lot to talk about, from its blasphemous Last Supper imagery to whether it includes a diss of Big Sean, but Lamar's 12-second testimony to women's natural beauty is what has some critics singing praises — and others shaking their heads. The lyrics include Lamar lamenting how "sick and tired" he is of Photoshop and begging to be shown "something natural."

A split screen divides

a black woman's face between an airbrushed, perfectly contoured, slicked hair version on the right and a makeup-less, curly hair version on the left. When the woman walks to the left of the screen, her clothes, face, and hair become completely "natural" as Kendrick eyes her approvingly. The video also shows a shot of a woman's butt with stretch marks, something rather unprecedented not exclusively in the context of rap music videos.

The response to this blurb of social commentary has been blown out of proportion on both sides. A *Vogue* article called the video a "powerful message of feminist support," while a writer at *Refinery29* condemned it as a misogynistic message to all women about how to be attractive to men.

I'll admit that when I first saw the video for "Humble," my reaction to this scene was immediately positive. Personally, it felt empowering to see a woman's stretch marks praised

in a music video that has since amassed 30 million views — it still does. But after my excitement over a new Lamar song calmed down a bit, I challenged myself to think more critically about the lyrics. It's clear that he is speaking for himself and his preferences; he confirms that he'll still have sex with a woman on her "mama's couch" if she's not wearing makeup and wearing her hair naturally. So, not exactly a message of "feminist support" or empowerment, like some listeners are saying. But at the same time, I don't think it's a condescending message to all women, either — he's speaking about his preferences, after all. If it was meant to be a powerful political statement, I'd call it a rather lukewarm one.

It's no secret rap music has an issue with rampant misogyny (not that that really stops me from blaring Kanye West). We often place rappers such as J. Cole and Lamar in a separate category of social consciousness from others such as, say, Future.

But just because Cole and Lamar are "woke" about such subjects as police brutality and capitalism, that doesn't mean they always get it right when it comes to women. "For Free," the anti-capitalist single from Lamar's political album *To Pimp a Butterfly*, condemns the institution of capitalism through the lens of gold-digging black woman, as if capitalism doesn't negatively affect black women as well as men. In short, those condemning and those applauding Lamar's portrayal of women in "Humble" just might be expecting too much.

He is held to a higher standard than other rappers, even though he's proven himself just as ignorant when it comes to the complexity of women's issues and female bodily autonomy. While I don't find "Humble" offensive, I understand that these futile attempts by men to empower women are cause for eye roll. Although well-intentioned, it often misses the mark. Stay humble, Lamar.

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## COLUMN

### 'Transitions and Transgressions' conference comes to the UI

This upcoming weekend marks the 17th-Annual Craft Critique Culture Conference. Graduate student organizers Enrico Bruno, Faith Avery, and Diann Rozsa have planned an especially engaging conference this year, with the theme "Transitions & Transgressions." As always, the conference is interdisciplinary, with presenters coming from a variety of fields — ranging from literary studies to digital humanities to nonfiction writing. Importantly, this year's conference grapples with racial politics, violence, and gender in meaningful ways.

Panels will begin on Friday at 9 a.m. and continue

on Saturday. All events will take place in EPB. Panel highlights include Friday's "Writing Transitions in Economies of Race and Place," with presentations by Jaelyn Carver, Caitlin Simmons, and Ian Faith, and Saturday's intriguing panel called "Speculative Structures: Negotiating Genre in Women's Writing," highlighting the work of E. Mariah Spencer, Laura Meli, and Angela Toscano. This year's conference also features an Undergraduate Honors Panel.

Professor Richard Turner, a scholar in African American Religious History at the University of Iowa, will deliver a plenary speech titled "Jazz, the Second Line, and Af-

rican-American Religious Nationalism in New Orleans" on Friday at 1 p.m. in 304 EPB.

Michael Awkward, the Gayl A. Jones Collegiate Professor of Afro-American Literature and Culture at University of Michigan, will give a keynote talk at 4 p.m. Friday in 304 EPB titled "why it can't stay dead: Race, Re-Presentation, and the 'Open Casket' of Emmett Till," which investigates why black American pain is positioned as a phenomenon that requires vigilant protection. Intersectional Feminist scholars will know Awkward's early work on Toni Morrison and Zora Neale Hurston, while scholars of African American Literature and Amer-

ican Literature and Culture broadly will certainly recognize Awkward's influence and contributions in current scholarship. Awkward's participation in the conference is truly an exciting and important event for UI students and faculty alike.

Overall, the 2017 conference promises to be thought-provoking, engaging, and on the cutting edge of new scholarship in numerous fields. For more information, check the conference website.

—Corey Hickner-Johnson  
UI doctoral candidate in English and a graduate instructor in English

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### A visit, and words, to remember

Eighth-grade students at North Central Junior High were privileged to meet and hear from authors Michael Bornstein and Debbie Bornstein Holinstat on March 30. Through support from the University of Iowa Alumni Association, we were able to put the book *Survivors Club* in our students' hands and the authors

in front of them to speak about this miraculous story.

Bornstein was 4 when he was liberated from Auschwitz. The book is his memoir of life in Poland during Nazi occupation and life after liberation. Our students and many staff read the book before the visit and hung on the authors' every word. This is an important story we must never forget. Bornstein put

that message forward in as gentle a way possible so that it was accessible to our students. He reminded them that humanity requires compassion.

We are thankful to Bornstein and Bornstein Holinstat for taking time to speak to us and for taking time to answer questions both in the large-group setting and individually after the event. We are thankful to the Alumni Association, especially Ashley

Durham, for this visit. It has opened many eyes and touched many hearts. Although this book was written for middle-school students, the adults who have read it were also touched by this story.

—Susie Corbin-Muir, Claire Hanson, Latrenda Soukup, and the staff and students at North Central Junior High

# Event celebrates UI women for 35th year

IMU event celebrates accomplishments of female Hawkeyes.

By SARAH STORTZ  
sarah-stortz@uiowa.edu

The University of Iowa continues to recognize women's accomplishments in the community.

Several University of Iowa community members put a spotlight on the under-represented gender Wednesday afternoon at the "Celebration of Excellence and Achievement" in the IMU Second-Floor Ballroom.

Since 1982, the celebration has been going on as way to recognize female faculty, staff, and students for their contribution to campus. This year, the committee has given out nine different awards.

Senior Director of Human Resources Sharon Beck has been the head of the celebration planning committee since 2008. She noted the importance of holding this ceremony and recognizing women on campus and their ongoing oppression.

"Women today still struggle for equality in all areas of their lives. It's important for other women, particularly our students, to see the ways women have succeeded and the ways others champion causes for women's rights," Beck said. "It sends a message that they too can succeed, that they have worth and value, and

that they are intelligent."

In terms of demographics, female professors remain a minority at the UI. According to the UI website, women make up approximately 30 percent of the faculty.

Beck pointed out that while the UI has progressed since the celebration began, there are still ongoing issues. She acknowledged a gap in equal pay as one example.

"We had equal pay day on April 4, which symbolizes how many additional days into the New Year that women need to work to make as much as men did the prior year," Beck said. "There's always more work to be done. We continually seek out the accomplishments made by and for women on our campus to keep a focus on the future."

Director of Faculty Human Resources Services Angelique Johnson, a member of the celebration committee, said she felt women are often overshadowed.

"With the University of Iowa being such a large campus, it's really easy to not recognize all of the work that's being done by women, so this is a great event to highlight all that they've contributed," she said. "Making resources more equitable for women in our campus, as well as our nation, is something that we

should all strive for."

UI Student Government President Rachel Zuckerman was this year's recipient of the Jean Y. Jew Women's Rights Award. This award is given to any UI community member who has made an outstanding effort improving the status of women on campus.

"I've received a lot of special recognition [during] my time as a student, but this, without a doubt, is the most meaningful for me," Zuckerman said. "I came to Iowa hoping I could leave something behind that would benefit people other than myself. [This award] is more than anything I could potentially ask for."

The ceremony has had an effect for past award winners as well.

Senior Assistant Vice President for Research Ann Ricketts, a member of the celebration committee, was the recipient of the Susan C. Buckley Distinguished Achievement Award in 2016. This award recognizes staff members who have contributed greatly to their fields.

"I was especially gratified to be the inaugural recipient of the distinguished achievement award, renamed for Sue Buckley last year," she said. "Having the 'Buckley' in my office is a daily re-



UI undergraduate Ellen Kuehnle claps while Jamillah Witt is hugged by UI Associate Professor Rachel Marie-Crane Williams, who presented them with the Lippke Memorial Scholarship during the Celebration of Excellence and Achievement Among Women in the IMU on Wednesday. (The Daily Iowan/Margaret Kispert)

minder to go about my work with confidence, integrity, and most important, a sense of humor."

Beck said that she hopes the winners in this ceremony will set an example for other students.

"These individuals are role models for others on campus, whether that is what they set out to be or not, they are role models," Beck said.

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# Getting tight with tight ends



Dillon Cazley of Illinois attempts to tackle Iowa's Noah Fant as he catches the ball in Champaign, Illinois, on Nov. 19, 2016. Iowa defeated Illinois, 28-0. (The Daily Iowan/File Photo)

By **COURTNEY BAUMANN** | courtney-baumann@uiowa.edu

Under Iowa football head coach Kirk Ferentz's tenure, seven tight ends have been drafted by NFL teams. Six more have signed free-agent deals. This is not including George Kittle, who is projected to be a mid-round draft pick.

That being said, Iowa likes its tight ends. This year, though, the Hawkeyes have a group of guys at the position without a whole lot of game experience. Of the seven currently listed at tight end on the roster, four are returning first-year letter winners. Two — Noah Fant and Peter Pekar — combined for 10 catches last season.

Those who did play were primarily blockers, but now with the absence of Kittle, there will be room for them to step into more of a receiving role.

Tight-end and special-team coach LeVar Woods took to the podium Wednesday afternoon in the Hansen Football

Performance Center to discuss spring practice, tight ends, and the upcoming offensive outlook.

## Young, no, inexperienced

Woods has his eyes on a few of the young guys in his group to step up and possibly stretch the field as Kittle could.

Those that he mentioned by name were Fant, Shaun Beyer, and TJ Hockensen. Beyer and Hockensen, both red-shirt freshmen, spent last year on the scout team. Fant was pulled out of redshirt to play as a true freshman and had 9 receptions for 70 yards and a touchdown.

Although Woods has seen a little bit of what Fant can do in a game, he said there is still work to do, especially when it comes

SEE FOOTBALL, 3A

# Softball focuses on numbers

By **JACOB MILLER**

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The Iowa softball team got its first wins of the conference season against Purdue. The Hawkeyes won the series with two victories in decisive fashion, and their wins provide the blueprint for their success against future Big Ten opponents.

## Quality at-bats

The phrase has been emphasized as a major point for the Hawkeyes in the batter's box. Iowa has many powerful hitters, such as sophomore Brooke Rozier, who could easily clear the fence in any at-bat, but that's not what the team is focused on. The Hawkeyes stress moving runners along, as in the work of freshman Lea Thompson, who leads the team in sacrifice hits at 11. The team goal is to win each game one step at a time.

The Hawkeyes want to win each at-bat when they are in the box or in the circle, and they did so against Purdue, for the most part. The Hawkeyes have not accrued a lot of hits this season, and they are last in the Big Ten in this category, but there has been an uptick.

## 1 error, 20 hits allowed

The Hawkeyes had only 1 error in their two victories against Purdue and doubled that in their lone defeat. Iowa's defense is proving to be one of the most disciplined in the Big Ten.

When the Hawkeyes have fewer than 2 errors in a game, they are almost impossible to beat. This seems redundant, but when a team does not make errors, it is going to be tough to beat. The Hawkeye defense could not have come together at a better time, because the squad will enter the tougher part of their Big Ten schedule.

Twenty hits in three games is alarming, but Iowa's pitching has been solid all year. If Iowa's bats continue to connect, the pitching staff can put some of the burden on the offense.

## Coming from behind

The Hawkeyes have also prov-

SEE SOFTBALL, 3A

# Tracksters head to the West again

By **CARTER MELROSE**

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After taking another plane ride to the West, the Hawkeye track and field team will participate in the Jim Click Shootout in Tucson, Arizona. The meet will span from today through Saturday and will mark the second time in that number of weeks the team has traveled 1,000-plus miles.

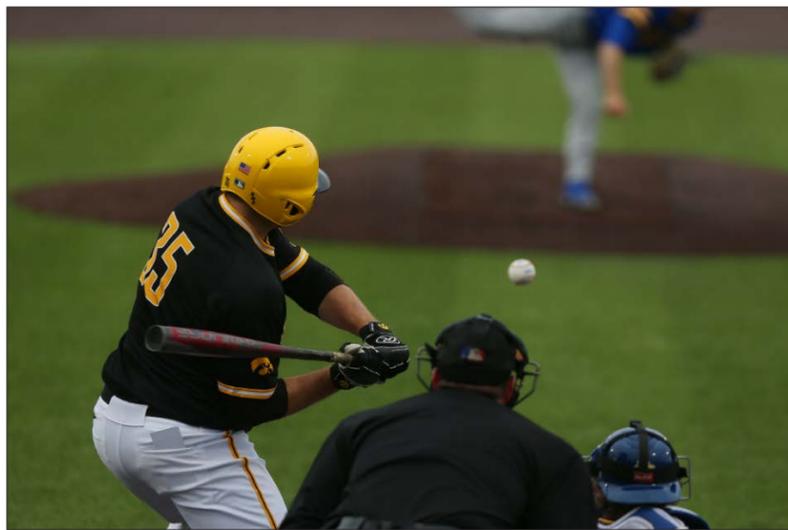
"It's about what we are doing during this week," Director of Track and Field Joey Woody said. "As long as we don't pound them too much, they are pretty fresh."

Leading up to last weekend's meet, the team was thrust into a less than favorable situation by arriving at their hotel a bit later than anticipated — 2 a.m.

"The flight got delayed, we were supposed to get there closer to 11," Woody said. "Our kids still performed pretty well on Friday."

SEE TRACK, 3A

# Baseball puts on the late show



Iowa first baseman Jake Adams swings at a pitch against South Dakota State at Banks Field on Tuesday. The Hawkeyes scored 2 runs in the bottom of the seventh to top the Jackrabbits, 4-3. (The Daily Iowan/Alex Kroeze)

By **ADAM HENSLEY**

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Thirteen days ago, Iowa (18-9) was only two games above .500 for the season. Since then, things have changed.

"The better we play, the more confidence [we] get," head coach Rick Heller said.

Now, the Hawkeyes ride a seven-game winning streak into a weekend matchup against Northwestern in Evanston, Illinois, for their second Big Ten series of the season.

## 2.14 runs in the eighth

During the Hawkeyes' streak, they have averaged a little more than 2 runs in the eighth inning.

Overall, Heller's team flourishes in the clutch, averaging 3 runs in the game's last three innings in the past seven games.

Time and time again, the coach praised his players for their resiliency and strength in late-game moments — the scorecard reinforces this notion.

Iowa has been in close games (con-

tests decided by 2 runs or fewer) in four of its last five games. Only 1 run decided the past three games.

Iowa faced a deficit or a tied score in the seventh inning six times out of the past seven games. These late-game heroics include 4- and 5-run explosions in the eighth inning against Purdue and a walk-off winner in a three-run ninth inning against UNLV.

The Hawkeyes connect for an average of 2 hits per eighth inning during this stretch.

## Daniels and Shimp — 5-0

Pitchers Zach Daniel and Kyle Shimp accounted for five of Iowa's seven wins. Daniels took three of the first five games during the winning streak, improving his record to 6-1 this season. He won on March 25 against Purdue and on March 28 against Grand View. His third win during the streak came against UNLV on April 1.

Against the Vikings, Daniels pitched 2.2 innings. Aside from shutting out Grand View while on the mound, he also threw 3 strikeouts and didn't walk a single hitter.

Meanwhile, Shimp allowed only 2 runs in his 4 innings in the second game and seventh game against Purdue (March 26) and South Dakota State (April 4) in the run, moving to 3-0 this year.

Iowa needed its pitching unit to step up early in the season after for-

SEE BASEBALL, 3A

# 80 HOURS

The weekend in arts & entertainment

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## ON THE EDGE WITH LAUGHTER

By **BRETT SHAW**  
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Famed comedian Margaret Cho unapologetically embraces her intersecting identities and frequently raises controversy with her outspoken beliefs. Through an eclectic career in entertainment, complete with a couple of Grammy-nominated comedy

albums, and various philanthropic efforts, she is a champion of pioneering diversity.

"I am so many identities: queer, Asian, feminist," Cho said. "I try to push all these boundaries of identity with class. And trash."

Cho will display her vibrant and on-the-edge humor as part of Mission Creek Festival at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at

the Englert, 221 E Washington St.

Along with her personal identities, growing up in a diverse San Francisco neighborhood exposed her to lifestyles and cultures such as drag queens, hippies, burnouts, and others who helped shape her inclusive and socially dynamic beliefs.

Cho is very politically ac-

tive, both in her show material and daily life. Her celebration of gay culture and her political advocacy for LGBTQ rights have made her an icon. Iowa City Pride and Studio 13, two significant organizations in Iowa City's LGBTQ community, are even co-presenting Cho's performance.

SEE CHO, 3B

## GHOSTFACE SLAYS 'EM IN ENGLERT

By **AUSTIN ANDERSON**  
austin-anderson@uiowa.edu

The bass thumped heavily in the rafters of the decades-old Englert Theater as people trickled in, creating a poignant juxtaposition in a

venue built during the closing era of silent film.

The show's opener, AWTH-NTKTS, had a magnetic stage presence. Over a musical backdrop composed mainly of blues samples, the members rapped speed-style. While their on-

stage pantomimes left some to be desired, they clearly relished the chance to open for one of hip-hop's legends and took the time to politicize the show, denouncing the rightward movement of American politics and stating that the resistance is a

"revolution you can be a part of."

Following chants of "Wu-Tang forever," Free Murda, a part of the Wu-Tang collective, entered the show. Amateur hour was over.

SEE GHOSTFACE, 3B

## LIKE A BIRD ON A WIRE

By **BRETT SHAW**  
brett-e-shaw@uiowa.edu

Acclaimed singer/songwriter Andrew Bird has been trained in the Suzuki method for violin since the tender age of 4. But as if that weren't impressive enough, he also learned to play completely by ear.

"My mom thought I should do it," he said. "Not many 4-year-olds decide they want to play violin, and

when you're that young, you're not really excited or jumping

up and down about playing

it. But my mom wasn't

pushy, and for the

first five years or

so, it was a lot of fun

and games. Then it got more serious, but I'm glad it did."

It certainly did get more serious; so serious, in fact, that Bird has released nearly 20 solo albums since 1996, with his latest, *Are You Serious*, released in April 2016. In addition to his ample time in the recording studio, Bird's worldwide tours have attracted swarms of die-hard fans, as was the case when he kicked off Iowa City's Mission Creek Festival on Tuesday. And for the majority of those who attended, Bird's performance at Hancher seemed to fall nothing short of a deeply moving experience.

Stepping on stage to the rapid applause and cheering, Bird picked up his violin, playing his opening piece solo, and then with his accompanying band, broke out fan favorites "Capsized" and "Roma Fade" from *Are You Serious*.

SEE BIRD, 5B

### On the web

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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.

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# WEEKEND EVENTS

## TODAY 4.6

- MUSIC**
- RYAN JOSEPH ANDERSON, 8 P.M., YACHT CLUB, 13 S. LINN ST.
  - MAIDEN MARS, 8 P.M., GABE'S, 330 E. WASHINGTON
  - JACK LION, 8:30 P.M., MILL, 120 E. BURLINGTON
  - LIV CARROW 9 P.M., TRUMPET BLOSSOM CAFE, 310 E. PRENTISS
  - MEKA JEAN, 9:30 P.M., BLUE MOOSE, 211 IOWA

- FILM**
- MY LIFE AS A ZUCCHINI, 4:30 & 8:30 P.M., FILMSCENE, 118 E. COLLEGE
  - NERUDA, 5:30 P.M., FILMSCENE
  - KEDI, 6:30 P.M., FILMSCENE,
  - WILSON, 8 P.M., FILMSCENE

- WORDS**
- ADAM HASLETT READING, 4 P.M., DEY HOUSE
  - KRISTEN RADTKE & LINA MARÍA FERREIRA CABEZA-VANEGAS, 6 P.M., PRAIRIE LIGHTS, 15 S. DUBUQUE
  - MARGARET CHAO, 7:30 P.M., ENGLERT, 221 E. WASHINGTON

## FRIDAY 4.7

- MUSIC**
- DICKIE, 8 P.M., MILL
  - KAREN MEAT, 8 P.M., ENGLERT
  - FERALINGS, 9 P.M., MILL
  - PORT AUTHORITY, 9 P.M., GABE'S
  - DANIEL WYCHE, 9 P.M., TRUMPET BLOSSOM
  - DIIV, 9:15 P.M., ENGLERT
  - 75 DOLLAR BILL, 9:45 P.M., TRUMPET BLOSSOM
  - PIETA BROWN, 10 P.M., MILL
  - OWEN BONES, 10:15 P.M., BLUE MOOSE
  - COOL KIDS, 10:45 P.M., BLUE MOOSE
  - TASHI DORJI & TYLER DAMON, 10:45 P.M., TRUMPET BLOSSOM
  - TENNIS, 11 P.M., GABE'S

## SATURDAY 4.8

- MUSIC**
- LAURA GIBSON, 8 P.M., ENGLERT
  - CUBITS, 9 P.M., BLUE MOOSE
  - COMMANDERS, 9 P.M., YACHT CLUB
  - FUTURE ROCK, 9 P.M., GABE'S
  - RUFUS WAINWRIGHT, 9 P.M., ENGLERT
  - TIRES, 10 P.M., BLUE MOOSE

- FILM**
- QUEST, NOON, FILMSCENE
  - WOMEN WHO KILL, 2:15 P.M., FILMSCENE
  - LOVETRUE, 4 P.M., FILMSCENE

- WORDS**
- COLE SWENSEN, NOON, PRAIRIE LIGHTS
  - SAEED JONES, 6 P.M., MILL
  - JANELLE JAMES, 8 P.M., MILL

## SUNDAY 4.9

- MUSIC**
- SHELBY TRACY, PERCUSSION, 3:30 P.M., VOXMAN RECITAL HALL
  - J.E. SUNDE, 7 P.M., ENGLERT
  - KATHERINE FRANZEN, PERCUSSION, 7:30 P.M., VOXMAN RECITAL HALL
  - KISHI BASHI, 8:15 P.M., ENGLERT

- WORDS**
- GABRIELLE CIVIL, 11 A.M., PUBLIC SPACE ONE, 120 N. DUBUQUE
  - POETRY SLAM, 7 P.M., IMU HAWKEYE ROOM

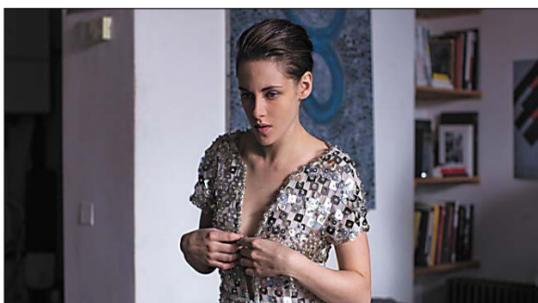
- MISCELLANEOUS**
- SPRING ART EXPOSÉ, 10 A.M., IMU MAIN LOUNGE
  - DOCUMENTING DATA, 11 A.M., MAIN LIBRARY GALLERY
  - BODIES IN MOTION, NOON, IMU VISUAL CLASSROOM
  - COME TOGETHER: COLLABORATIVE LITHOGRAPHS FROM THE TAMARIND INSTITUTE, NOON, IMU BLACK BOX THEATER
  - CONNECTED: THE INTERNET OF EVERYDAY THINGS, 1 P.M., OLD CAPITOL KEYES GALLERY
  - HAWKEYES IN SPACE, 1 P.M., OLD CAPITOL HANSON GALLERY

# OPENING MOVIES



### DONNIE DARKO

Directed by Richard Kelly, *Donnie Darko* has been listed as No. 2 in *Empire's* 50 Greatest Independent Films of All Time list and No. 53 in *Empire's* 500 Greatest Movies of All Time. The film centers on a teenage boy, Donnie Darko (Jake Gyllenhaal), who is troubled by visions of a man in a rabbit suit who pressures him into committing crimes.



### PERSONAL SHOPPER

Called the "best film of 2017 so far" by *Edge*, *Personal Shopper* tells the story of a personal shopper for Hollywood's elite, who also happens to be a medium able to connect with spirits. The film stars Kristen Stewart and was directed by Olivier Assayas, who won the Cannes Best Director Award for the film.



### QUEST

A documentary with upwards of a 10-year creation process, *Quest*, directed by Jonathan Olsheski, will make its world premiere at the 2017 Sundance Festival. Following the life of a resilient family from North Philadelphia, the film tells a moving story about a home music studio becoming a creative refuge from the hardships of their lives and their neighborhood.

—by Hannah Crooks

# STREET STYLE



## Tiphany Phan, English, secondary education

**What're you wearing?**  
I'm dressed warmly because it's a rainy day and kind of lazy.

**Where do you like to shop?**  
I shop at H&M and Forever 21, but these boots are actually children's boots, but I was sick of my feet constantly getting wet.

**Where do you get your style inspiration?**  
I usually like to scroll around on Instagram for inspiration.

**What are the core components of your aesthetic?**  
My style is simple, convenient, and functional. And I really like the color red, because it always makes a statement.

# DRINK OF THE WEEK



### BEE'S KNEES

Today's Drink of the Week is a direct response to that ridiculous article circulating on Facebook that "your friend who drinks gin is most likely a murderer" or some version of that. If you haven't seen it, check out my timeline, because numerous friends felt it necessary to tag me. Gin is amazing, and the Bee's Knees cocktail from the Sanctuary is proof. It's a Prohibition-era concoction of gin, lemon, and honey. It's refreshing and just the right amount of sweetness. Honey doesn't overly sweeten the cocktail but still takes the bite off the gin. It's a beautiful cocktail to remind you of the dark days when alcohol was illegal. *Shivers*.

—by Emily Kresse

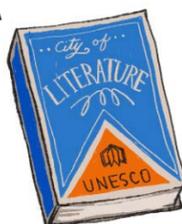
# LIT PICKS



ILLUSTRATIONS BY ZEBEDIA WAHLS

### THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD, BY ZORA NEALE HURSTON

One of the most famous novels by African-American novelist and short-story writer, Zora Neale Hurston, her 1937 novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* follows Janie, a fair-skinned African-American woman now in her 40s as she tells the story of her life to a close friend via a series of flashbacks, each centering on her marriages to three very different men. Set in the American South during the early 1900s, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is a seminal work in both African-American and women's literature and is considered to be one of the greatest novels of the 20th century.



### SWING TIME, BY ZADIE SMITH

The latest *New York Times* bestseller from acclaimed author Zadie Smith, the novel follows the lives of two brown girls as they dream of becoming dancers, but with only one having the true talent to do so. With the protagonists moving between Northwest London to West Africa in pursuit of their goals, *Swing Time* is an ambitious piece of literature and joyful read that goes beyond the surface of modern-day inequality to discover its roots and the continuing anguish of its sufferers.

—by Lily Goodman

## CHO

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

As a queer woman and self-proclaimed “fag hag,” Cho has led several campaigns to legalize same-sex marriage, stirred controversy with a pride-theme dress on Dancing with the Stars, and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from PFLAG and LA pride for leaving a lasting imprint on the LGBTQ community.

Cho believes that art is intrinsically political and enjoys partaking in the discussion through comedy and activism.

“I started doing shows during the AIDS crisis

and under the Reagan administration,” she said. “There was a lot to say and there still is now.”

Cho has also served as a pioneer for Asian Americans in comedy and entertainment. Her 1994 ABC sitcom “All-American Girl” was the first television show in history to center on an East Asian family. The show was soon canceled after poor reviews; however, Cho set a foundation for future Asian representation in televised media.

Being a successful woman in comedy, an industry that is overwhelming male, is a feat in itself. Female comics are held to differ-

ent standards and criticisms from their male counterparts. Following “All-American Girl,” Cho was subject to tormenting ridicule over her weight, appearance, and ethnicity, which led her to various self-abusive behaviors.

However, she pulled herself out of the dark space and regained her confidence. Her hit 1999 one-woman play and book, \*I’m the One That I Want\*, astounded audiences with her depicted struggles and triumphs in the entertainment industry. In 2003, she received the Intrepid Award from the National Organization of Women.

Cho’s work has often

met with controversy. Whether it be inflammatory terminology on stage or a portrayal of a North Korean general at the Golden Globes, her comedy tends to teeter the line between taboo and offensive.

“I think it’s hilarious to be offensive,” she said. “I don’t find it offensive at all, though.”

Sex is brought to the forefront of many of Cho’s jokes, sparking an extremely open and frequently vulgar dialogue. Whether frankly discussing her ability to orgasm or partaking in a musical diss track titled “My Puss,” her content embraces and even celebrates risqué sexuality.



(Contributed photo)

“I’m from the ’90s pansexual renaissance,” she said. “It’s a time when we tried to make sense of sex; AIDS changed the landscape of our community, and we were mak-

ing safer sex fun.”

By including lewd humor and covering sexual topics, Cho normalizes raunchiness and makes the discussion of safe sex casual and entertaining.

## GHOSTFACE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“Make some noise for the Ghostface Killah,” he shouted.

Clad in a puff jacket, Ghostface sported a flow that has not declined since the release of *36 Chambers*.

The audience had gotten what they came for, the ultimate showman. Although his critical reputation has declined in recent years, his show was just as entertaining. From the first few bars of “Ice Cream” onward, the audience engagement was overwhelming, with each hook being echoed by the patrons.

The DJ made use of the heavy drumbeat that charac-

terizes the Wu-Tang sound. The retro reminiscence continued with the excellent performances of several songs off of \*36 Chambers\*, complete with the iconic bar, “Jacques Costeau could never get this low.”

Despite the vast changes in his three decades of fame, the vigor and stage presence of Ghostface remain constant.

First coming to fame as a member of famed New York City supergroup Wu-Tang Clan, Ghostface Killah played an integral role in the creation of the group’s magnum opus *Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)* in 1993. Alongside reunion efforts with the

group, Ghostface has had major collaborative success working with group members, most notably on Raekwon’s 1994 debut *Only Built 4 Cuban Linx*.

However, Ghostface has created a solo career not overshadowed by his time in Wu-Tang, showing the ability to remain in the public spotlight for the better part of three decades. This is in part due to his part in public feuds with actors as diverse as members of 50 Cent’s crew G-Unit and controversial pharmaceutical magnate Martin Shkreli, with whom Ghostface has feuded over the sale of the Wu-Tang album *Once Upon A Time In Shaolin*.

Taking foul with Shkreli’s price increase of the essential AIDS/cancer medicine Daraprim and its implications for lower-income people faced with both diseases, Ghostface was quoted calling Shkreli a killer, saying “You a real killer man, you’re a real killer. But you’re a soft killer,” per a CNBC article.

His outspoken public persona aside, Ghostface has through his crime-noir rapping achieved massive solo success, with three solo albums: *Ironman* (1996), *Supreme Clientele* (2000), and *Fishscale* (2006) widely considered to be essential part of the canon of classic hip hop.

Ghostface’s work has re-

ceived widespread critical acclaim, even receiving the begrudging respect of Robert Christgau, the hard-nosed longtime critic for the \*Village Voice’s\* “Consumer Guide.” Despite having moral reservations about the artist’s content, Christgau gave Ghostface a majority of “A” ratings on albums for the better part of a decade.

Christgau has repeatedly written about the documentary nature of Ghostface’s albums: “The most street of the Clan — not comic like Ol’ Dirty Bastard or mack like Method Man, not deep like Raekwon or Genius, either,” Christgau wrote of Ghostface in his 1996 debut

Ironman, “In a word, gangsta — East Coast-style, reflective and observant, only he doesn’t vow to go straight all the time. By his own account, he’s done a lot of bad things.”

Despite high praise for *Ironman* and *Supreme Clientelle*, it is with 2006’s *Fishscale* that Christgau’s praise reaches its highest levels.

“With the crack trade making its hip-hop comeback, Ghost fashions a trend record that ranks with any Biggie or Wu CD. His high wail renders extreme anxiety beautiful. And before the music settles into a powerfully souled and sampled Clan-type groove, its screeching intensity has a Nation of Millions feel.”

## Blanco keeping the supernatural real

By BRETT SHAW

brett-e-shaw@uiowa.edu

A multitasking rapper and performance artist known by the name Mykki Blanco bends the confines of gender, bringing theatricality and hard-cutting issues to the music industry through fashion, videography, and a poetic insight to her personal life. Blanco is the feminine stage persona of cis-male Michael Quattlebaum. When the wig and makeup come on, Quattlebaum turns on the performance, putting forth themes of freedom and female empowerment. Blanco will supply her high energy and R&B diva aesthetic in a colorful performance

at Blue Moose, 211 Iowa Ave., at 11 p.m. Thursday as a part of Mission Creek Festival. Deriving from Lil’ Kim’s alter ego, Kimmy Blanco, the persona arose from Quattlebaum’s early YouTube videos. The persona was met with fanatical reception and soon transformed into a music and performance icon. Blanco’s expression and performance of gender lead many to connect her art with that of drag queens. While inspired by drag, Blanco does not want to be labeled as a drag act.

“I always have to tell people Mykki Blanco did not start as a drag character,” said Quattlebaum in an interview with MTV. “Myk-

ki Blanco started as a video-art project when I was already trans-identified. I was already going by ‘she.’” Quattlebaum’s gender identity has shifted numerous times and been shaped over time, and the distinction and aesthetic of Blanco has changed as well. The two influence one another and grow together. Blanco has released several poetry collections, EPs, and mix tapes prior to the release of her self-titled 2016 album, \*Mykki\*. Drawing from her literary past, Blanco’s latest hip-hop album artfully discusses personal topics such as love, homophobia, and struggles with addiction. One song from the album, “You Don’t Know

Me,” is about the stigma of HIV, something the rapper struggles with in her daily life. In 2015, Blanco came out to fans as HIV positive through Facebook. A tragedy that she thought would end her career actually lifted a weight off of her shoulders and drew mass support from fans. “The more that people feel they know something intimate about you, that creates this sort of bond,” Blanco said in an MTV documentary. The music videos released with Blanco’s albums and EPs really bring her artistry to another level. Alluding to \*Romeo and Juliet\*, the narrative video for “High School Never Ends” beautifully tells a gruesome tale of

the battle between love and bigotry. While at times sexually explicit, the video depicts the beauty of romance and tragedy of reality. The trippy video for “Loner” creates intense, visually stimulating moments with dramatic shots and vibrant color to create an emotionally moving piece regarding the sensation of loneliness. The futuristic use of virtual reality, high fashion, and a unique fluidity of gender make for an absolutely stunning video performance. While not wanting to be labeled as the queer rapper, Blanco embraces the acceptance from audiences and the inspiration that she can provide to queer fans. “A

lot of the things that made me so taboo in the past are now mainstream,” she said in her MTV documentary. As the world collectively begins to embrace queer culture, more people will be looking toward such artists as Blanco to provide fresh perspectives on music and performance. Her high energy, artistic devotion, and poetic verses make her a rising act to look out during this Mission Creek.

When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday

Where: Englert, 221 E.

Washington

Cost: \$39.50

## Link delights at Hancher



Author Kelly Link reads from a few of her works in Hancher’s Strass Hall during Mission Creek on Tuesday. Link is a Hugo Award winner, Margaret Nebula Award winner, and a World Fantasy Award winner. (The Daily Iowan/Margaret Kispert)

By BRETT SHAW

brett-e-shaw@uiowa.edu

Devout fans of literature and aspiring writers sat down under the lights of the beautiful Hancher Strauss Hall to hear a reading from multi-genre author and Pulitzer-Prize finalist Kelly Link.

Link began the reading with a haunting yet humorous passage from her short story, “I Can See Right Through You.” In a somewhat conversational manner, she functioned as a ghost-story teller by the campfire, depicting the tale of an actress’ run-ins with fame, a demon lover, and a missing nudist colony.

The audience was held captive by her words, laughing on cue to blunt commentary on pop culture and painfully hilarious scenarios such as a sex tape turned bloody mess. Despite these moments of comedy, the story revolves around tragedy and the painful, shallow lives that the characters live.

Following her reading, Link sat down for an open Q&A session with the audience. For many in the lined-up seats, this was an opportunity to gain

insight and valuable writing lessons from author they hold in high esteem.

Link discussed methods of escaping writer’s block, managing her independent publishing company with her husband, authors who inspire her, and other aspects of her authorial lifestyle. One writer in the crowd asked Link if she ever desired to keep her completed stories to herself, and Link said no. “Part of constructing a story is that I am thinking about the people reading it,” she said.

She considers different interpretations and responses from her audience, and those are what actively drive her writing. One thing that Link loves is hearing strong reactions evoked by her writing. She quoted one of her favorite reviews, a one-sentence Tumblr post, “this is the worst book that I have ever read.” She was proud to elicit such intense feelings.

To the delight of the audience, the Q&A ended with Link retelling the story of how she came to love the supernatural works that inspired her work and some real-life ghost stories that she had encountered throughout her life.

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## DI CALENDAR BLANK

Mail or bring to The Daily Iowan, Adler Journalism Building, Room E141. Deadline for submitting items to the calendar column is 1pm two days prior to publication. Items may be edited for length, and in general will not be published more than once. Notices which are commercial advertisements will not be accepted. Please print clearly.

Event \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_  
Day, date, time \_\_\_\_\_  
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**BIRD**  
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The Illinois native sure has a knack for collaboration. But whether his music is showcased through his individual use of numerous instruments or with other musicians, he has a constant and natural talent for creating harmonious compositions, and despite the complexity of the various sounds, they flow seamlessly into one another.

“For the last eight to 10 years, I have been obsessed with the eternal quest to write a great song — a well-crafted song that resonates with large groups of people,” Bird said. “I have a lot of projects that highlight my artistic curiosity, but

my ultimate goal is to write a really melodic song, which takes a lot of restraint. I strive for that restraint, though.”

Obviously, Bird’s restraint during the writing process is paying off. His conversational-like lyrics paired with the strings of a violin, a bass and electric guitar, drums, and Bird’s own, well-developed whistling technique can be entrancing. They can leave the audience in an almost euphoric-like state, which is unarguably what happened two nights ago. It seemed that people could not get enough of Bird’s craft, of his sound, and of his performance.

Furthermore, he created the perfect balance between his newer work and his “oldies,” as he referred to them. Weaving between “Pulaski at

Night” from his 2013 album, *I Want to See Pulaski at Night*, “Three White Horses” from *Hands of Glory*, and “Imitosis” from his 2007 release, *\*Armchair Apocrypha\**, it’s hard to imagine there was an audience member who left unfulfilled. Bird is a crowd-pleaser — and a natural one at that.

Following an encore of the crowd favorite “Fake Palindromes” from his 2005 album *The Mysterious Production of Eggs*, Bird thanked his audience, thanked his accompanying musicians, waved goodbye, and exited the stage. But his exit was nothing more than a physical movement, as Bird’s songs and overall astounding performance at this year’s Mission Creek Festival lingered long after the concert had ended.

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WHO-O-O

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

**FOOD**

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319-338-5647  
314 E Burlington  
319-337-2464  
MEXICAN RESTAURANT & CANTINA

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Lunch \$7.99/Dinner \$8.99  
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\$3 Mexican Draft Pints

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3 Rolls for \$15.00  
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Iowa City  
337-6677

Large 1 Topping Pizza \$8.99, 2nd for \$7.99  
XLarge 3 Topping Pizza \$13.99, 2nd for \$11.99  
Add Cheesestix or a Salad for \$6

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319-337-5527

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TONIGHT • 8PM, ALL AGES  
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\$3 Three Olive Specialty Drinks:  
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**\$3 Tall Boys**

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Maiden Mars, 8pm

Mission Creek Presents:  
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Authority, 9pm, 19+

Mission Creek Presents:  
Future Rock with The  
Tripp Brothers, 10pm, 19+

**IOWA CITY YACHT CLUB**  
[www.iowacityyachtclub.org](http://www.iowacityyachtclub.org)

Mission Creek Presents:  
Hailey Whitters, Brian  
Johannesen/Ryan Anderson

Mission Creek Presents:  
Mission Beat DJs,  
Attentat/Lazarus, 9pm

Mission Creek Presents:  
Condor & Jaybird/Strange  
Americans, The Commanders, 9pm

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\$5 MELTDOWN MARG  
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\$4 BOMBS, \$3 WELLS  
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Happy Hour Daily 3-6pm:  
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**\$6 Moscow Mules**  
**\$3 Dom Tallboys During Game**  
**\$6 for 6 Wings and Fries**

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Iowa City, IA  
(319) 337-4335

**ALL DAY:**  
\$3.75 Captain Morgan, Black Velvet  
or Jack Daniels Drinks  
\$3 Domestic Bottles

**ALL DAY:**  
\$3 Domestic Steins  
\$6 Old Fashion Bulleit Bourbon

**ALL DAY:**  
\$6 Moscow Mules  
\$3 Domestic Bottles

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Iowa City

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**\$2.50**  
48oz. Pitchers of Keystone Light

8pm-close - Away Games  
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8pm-close - Away Games  
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\$4.25 Craft Pint, \$3 Boulevard Stein

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\$2.99 Bottles of Corona & Corona Lt  
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