

Insulin: a fatal price tag



Nick Rohlman/The Daily Iowan

Janelle Lutgen sits for a portrait at her home on Feb. 24. Lutgen's son Jesse died after his financial situation forced him to ration insulin.

Insulin prices have increased nearly 200 percent in nine years, and politicians are starting to take action. But for diabetics like Jesse Lutgen, efforts come too late.

BY JULIA SHANAHAN
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Jesse Lutgen's favorite pro-football team was the Green Bay Packers. They didn't play in the 2018 Super Bowl, but he watched the Eagles clinch their first Super Bowl victory with his aunt on the last night of his life.

His mother, Janelle Lutgen of Bernard, Iowa, said through tears that her 32-year-

old son Jesse, an avid football and baseball fan, could be described as being the best friend anyone could ask for.

Jesse died after rationing his insulin to treat Type 1 diabetes, a lifelong condition requiring injected insulin for the body to process sugar. He lost his job in the winter of 2017 and with that, lost his health benefits. He could no longer afford to buy insulin and died three months later.

Approximately 30 million Americans

are living with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, and 6 million Americans use some form of insulin. In Iowa, 7.6 percent of adults have Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes.

Many families such as the Lutgens have been unable to receive adequate medical care because of the rising cost of insulin. The mean price of insulin has jumped 200 percent from 2002 to 2013, according to

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INSIDE

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion leadership candidate withdraws

The second candidate in the UI's search for a new associate vice president for diversity, equity, and inclusion, who was never identified, has withdrawn from consideration. The candidate was supposed to visit campus in a forum on Monday. The *DI* incorrectly printed forum times. The correct times for the remaining forums are:

• Thursday, 3:30-4:30 p.m., 348 IMU
• March 25, 3-4 p.m., 348 IMU

Iowa Senate passes bill changing judge selection

A bill cleared a major legislative hurdle Tuesday that would reduce Iowa attorneys' power in favor of legislative leaders of both parties when selecting those who nominate Iowa Supreme Court justices.

Go to dailyiowan.com for the full story

DI

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Watch for campus and city news, weather, and Hawkeye sports coverage every day at 8:30 a.m. at dailyiowan.com.



UISG moves on suicide prevention, mental health

UISG allocated funding to a new suicide-prevention program and passed a resolution for a \$2 mental-health fee increase to fund three new positions in the University Counseling Service.



Michael Guhin/The Daily Iowan

UISG discusses mental health on Tuesday in the IMU.

BY RYLEE WILSON
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The University of Iowa Student Government passed two pieces of legislation supporting mental-health initiatives on Tuesday.

UISG allocated \$5,000 in funding to pay the integration fees for a new suicide-prevention program, Kognito, into Success at Iowa pro-

gramming for first-year students. It also passed a resolution supporting a proposed \$2 per semester increase in the student mental-health fee.

Both pieces of legislation passed unanimously. Kognito is an avatar-based online suicide-prevention program. UISG funds will help cover integrating the program into MyUI and ICON web

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HPV-related cancers on the rise

The Cancer in Iowa 2019 report says medical professionals have seen a rise in the number of HPV-related cancers.

BY KELSEY HARRELL
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While many cancer rates in Iowa have stayed the same in the past year, medical professionals have seen an increase in the number of cancers caused by the human papillomavirus.

The Cancer in Iowa Report, issued on March 5 by the State Registry of Iowa, estimated the number of new cancers and cancer-related deaths for 2019, as well as information on HPV-related cancers and what can be done to prevent them.

Medical professionals in the state are seeing increases in the number of cases of melanoma, as well as oropharyngeal, or throat, cancers caused by HPV, University of Iowa Assistant Professor of epidemiology Mary Charlton said.

After the introduction of Pap testing for women in the 1940s, doctors were able to discover abnormal cell growth because of HPV before the cells become can-



Charlton

SEE CANCER, 3



Jesse Lutgen's ashes sit in an urn in the home of his mother, Janelle.

Nick Rohlman/The Daily Iowan

INSULIN
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

a report from the American Medical Association.

Averaged across types of insulin, the price of a milliliter of insulin in 2002 was \$4.34. In 2013, that price increased to \$12.92.

Some brands of insulin hiked prices at an even faster pace. Humulin, an insulin sold by company Eli Lilly, is one of six brand-name drugs that jumped in price by at least 500 percent from 2006 to 2015.

Lutgen said her son was diagnosed at the age of 12, after he was med-flown from their small town to Iowa City after having flu-like symptoms for about a week.

"[Jesse] handled it pretty well. He didn't wallow or pity or anything — that was just something that he had to do," Lutgen said. "He was pretty easygoing."

The family lives in north-

eastern Iowa in a town with a population of 117 people. The closest hospital is 17 miles away, in Dubuque. Lutgen said paying for her son's insulin was never a problem until he was no longer covered under her health insurance.

What Iowa doctors and lawmakers are saying

Iowa lawmakers and endocrinologists are putting together policy recommendations to prevent other diabetic patients from dying because they can't afford to pay for insulin.

Sen. Carrie Koelker, R-Dyersville, who represents Janelle Lutgen in the state Senate, is sponsoring a bill that would allow someone to receive a one month's supply of emergency insulin without a prescriber's authorization. The current law in Iowa only allows up to a 72-hour emergency supply of a prescription drug, but insulin is not packaged in 72-hour quantities.

Koelker said she first heard

can Party chair, said anytime she has the opportunity to share her and her son's story, she seizes it. She said she wants to do more with her retirement than just be retired — she will continue to advocate for lower insulin prices.

Like other doctors, Abel warns against rationing insulin and said that insulin pricing is making it difficult for doctors to provide optimal care.

Abel said the price of insulin is a significant issue, and price increases have been addressed by professional organizations including the Endocrine Society, an international organization of which Abel is the president-elect.

"Drug companies will say that they give us very generous rebates that are available to patients to discount the price of business," Abel said. "The trouble is that oftentimes patients may not know how to access these rebates."

There needs to be more transparency in the pricing of insulin, he said, and with insurance companies and pharmacy-benefit managers, who negotiate the preferred pricing and rebates for any given patient. As a result, he said, patients with good health insurance typically pay lower costs.

"We would sometimes prescribe them an alternative form [of insulin], which may not be what we would want to use in the given patient, but we know may cost significantly less," Abel said.

Bipartisan action on the federal level

Sens. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, say they hope Republicans and Democrats can come together for a bipartisan agreement at the federal level to address the rising prices of insulin and, more broadly, all pharmaceuticals.

Grassley, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, held hearings Feb. 26 with seven pharmaceutical manufacturers to address rising prices. The only insulin-provider among them was Sanofi. Grassley also wrote letters to leading insulin manufacturers, including Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk, and Sanofi, asking for information regarding extreme price increases.

In an interview with *The Daily Iowan*, Grassley said he was frustrated with the outcome of the hearings, saying manufacturers placed blame on insurance companies and didn't propose substantial solutions to the price increases.

Concerns about rising insulin prices have been showing up in Grassley's emails and town-hall meetings in recent years, he said, and that the issue needed a "critical mass before Congress pays some attention to it."

"There's probably more opportunity for bipartisan agreement with doing something on prescription drugs, and specifically insulin, than almost anything else we have a chance to deal with, considering the Democrats have taken over the House of Representatives," Grassley said.

Since Grassley submitted his letter to Eli Lilly, the company agreed to release authorized generic insulin to the

market, which it will sell for half the price of nongeneric insulin. However, Greg Kueterman, the Eli Lilly director of communications, said in an email to the *DI* that the decision, made March 4, was unrelated to Grassley's letter.

Ernst told reporters in a Feb. 28 conference call that a way to address the rising prices of insulin could be to bring in prescription drugs from other countries, where they are often sold at significantly cheaper prices. Kueterman said in an email that pharmacies from other countries can appear safe but quality standards may be lax.

Kueterman wrote in an email that Eli Lilly encourages patients to use their company's help lines instead of purchasing outside of the U.S., where there is no FDA oversight.

In Canada, families affected by Type 1 diabetes will typically spend \$1,500 after insurance in Canadian dollars (\$1,116 in U.S. dollars) on insulin and medical supplies per year, according to the Canadian Diabetes Association. In the U.S., the annual average cost of insulin alone from 2012 to 2016 was anywhere between \$12,467 and \$18,494, according to the Health Care Cost Institute.

Ernst, who noted she has a number of family members who are diabetic, said she has sponsored four bipartisan bills this year that aim to regulate how drug companies can put their medication on the markets by pushing for generics to be marketed faster and closing loopholes in patenting laws.

"This is a bipartisan issue, so we're glad to be able to join some of our Democratic friends and working through these issues and trying to find a solution for the American people," Ernst said in the conference call.

Being a student with Type 1 Diabetes

Most students are fortunate enough to not have to navigate the pressures of college with a chronic illness. But students such as University of Iowa junior McKenna Raimer depend on bills such as the ones in the Iowa Legislature and the U.S. Senate to ensure that she can access insulin.

Raimer, the president of the UI College Diabetes Network — Type 1 Hawks — said

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BREAKING NEWS

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Nick Rohlman/The Daily Iowan

Janelle Lutgen sits for a portrait at her home on Feb. 24. Lutgen's son Jesse died after his financial situation forced him to ration insulin.

eastern Iowa in a town with a population of 117 people. The closest hospital is 17 miles away, in Dubuque. Lutgen said paying for her son's insulin was never a problem until he was no longer covered under her health insurance.

The empty bottles of insulin she found in Jesse's home after he died were from a friend who had extra, Lutgen said. Under federal law, it is illegal to sell or share prescription drugs.

"Who knows how much time it added to his life?" Lutgen said. "[Giving him the drug without the prescription] is illegal, but when you're saving lives, who cares about whether it's legal or not?"

Many patients, like Jesse, resort to rationing because they simply don't have the money to keep up with regular dosing. When Type 1 diabetics don't get the amount of insulin they need, they develop diabetic ketoacidosis, a condition in which the blood becomes acidic and the cells dehydrate. If untreated, it can lead to diabetic coma or death.

Lutgen, who also serves as the Jackson County Republi-

Lutgen's story at a campaign forum where Lutgen told the group about her son. Lutgen inspired her and other state lawmakers, both Republicans and Democrats, to work together on legislation that could help families struggling to afford insulin, Koelker said.

"There are people who decide, 'Do we turn our heat on, or do we buy insulin?'" Koelker said. "Do we feed our children, or do we have to provide insulin? Do I ration this out for a week when it's really a two-day dose?"

The Senate bill unanimously passed the Human Resources Committee on March 7 and awaits debate on the floor.

"It's not a cure-all, it's not a fix-all, but it's definitely a step in the right direction," Koelker said.

A similar bill was filed in the Iowa House by Rep. Andy McKean, R-Anamosa, and Rep. Lindsay James, D-Dubuque. Koelker said that bill is "married" to the Senate version.

"Insulin isn't a drug that you just take," Koelker said. "It's not like anyone is just going to pick up a vial of insulin and misuse it. When you need



Michael Guhin/The Daily Iowan

McKenna Raimer, the president of Type 1 Hawks, on March 6 talks to members of the organization about the half-price insulin made by Eli Lilly, which is not covered by insurance.

she has encountered new challenges in recent years because of changes in her insurance. She no longer has an excess of insulin as she was used to, and she has had to make every vial count "to the last drop."

UI sophomore Maddie Walding, the vice president of Type 1 Hawks, said the Type 1 community online and on campus has helped her transition into college as a diabetic.

"I'm very independent with [my diabetes], and the hardest part is just adjusting to everything because insulin needs change drastically throughout your lifetime and that includes coming to college," Walding said. "I would be walking to and from class, and it would just be like ups and downs with my blood sugar."

When diabetics' blood sugar gets low, they can experience fatigue, have diffi-

culty concentrating, and endure mood swings. In some cases, Type 1 diabetics can experience insulin shock, a life-threatening condition. Walding said blood-sugar changes are unpredictable, and that keeping blood-sugar levels stable can be difficult because she has no choice but to stop whatever she's doing to address it.

"You have to stop yourself in the moment and say, 'No, I'm going to take care of myself right now and fix it,'" she said.

Raimer said she feels a lot of pressure for her to find a job with good health benefits.

"Eventually, I will be off my parent's insurance," she said. "... I have to worry about not just 'I need a job when I'm out of college.' It's, 'I need a job with good health insurance,' because I can't afford it on my own."



Nick Rohlman/The Daily Iowan

A memorial card for Jesse Lutgen hangs alongside a magnet reading "Access to insulin is a human right" on the refrigerator in the home of his mother, Janelle.

UI research shows women less likely to seek assistance for alcoholism

UI research appears to find that women and men seek alcoholic treatment services differently. Women, in particular, are less likely to seek assistance and think they can control the problem on their own.

BY ANNIE FITZPATRICK
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University of Iowa research has indicated there are disparities among genders in seeking treatment services for problems related to alcoholism. Specifically, the study found that women are less likely to seek help and see themselves as more independent.

UI Assistant Professor of community & behavioral health Paul Gilbert, who led the study, said his primary area of research focuses on alcohol use and the disparities that accompany it.

"We really have to have a good understanding of what's the situation in the first place, what's going on with any of these disparities ... and the latest paper here was focusing on differences between men and women in getting help for a drinking problem," he said.

Gilbert said there are a number of studies that indicate women are not getting help at the "same level that men are," and this study works to further address that.

The data came from two waves of longitudinal studies among participants with similar alcohol problems, he said, one conducted in 2000-2001 and a second in 2004-2005.

Gilbert worked to find a relationship among results in each wave, which had not

been done in previous research, he said. By decreasing the time in between analyses of participants, the answers given were more accurate and made re-analysis more successful, he said.

UI Assistant Professor Grant Brown, who worked on the study with Gilbert, said this study was important for understanding the reasons people choose whether to seek help and services.

"We can't fix what we don't understand," he said. "In order to promote population health ... we really have to understand what the health landscape is."

The data collection analyzed variations in people's experiences with alcoholic services and treatment using three categories: 12-step programs, specialty services, or other supportive services, such as a religious group. Specialty services, Gilbert said, are focused on treating substance use — typically rehabilitation in the form of inpatient and outpatient treatments.

Analysis of the data indicated that "gender disparity was larger for 12-step programs than for specialty services" among women and men. This, Gilbert said, was surprising and seemed counterintuitive.

"One of the things that jumped out was that it seemed like maybe women

had a more independent and self-reliant mindset, because they were twice as likely as men to say that they didn't get help because they thought the problem would get better ... by itself," Gilbert said.

However, Gilbert also said women may not seek help from programs like Alcoholics Anonymous because there is a "long history of criticism of inherent sexism" and that the program was originally developed for men. Though, he said, this bias has changed over the decades.

Senior behavioral health consultant Becca Don said care among genders at the UI Student Health & Wellness differs because of biological tendencies.

"Our programs are really specific to the unique individual, regardless of gender or sex. There are differences in the way biological males and females process alcohol, so sometimes that would be relevant information in an appointment," Don said.

Gilbert said the data can be used as a resource for developing programs that help women and men in different ways to make them more successful.

"I would hope that it would raise the profile of gender differences ... we should be thinking about tailoring whatever our efforts are for women or for men ... in order to increase help," he said.

parents more hesitant to vaccinate their children during the ideal age, Boonstra said. It's important for pediatricians to educate parents on what the vaccine is and stress that it prevents cancer, he said.

HPV-related throat cancer can cause many complications, such as damaging of a person's vocal cords and taste buds, said Jon Scharingson, a patient who had HPV-related throat cancer. The chemotherapy Scharingson went through caused those complications with his throat, he said.

Scharingson went through

numerous surgeries, including biopsies, tonsil removal, the insertion and removal of a feeding tube, and three procedures to widen his esophagus after it became restricted because of the radiation therapy, he said.

"Nobody wants to see their children go through [cancer treatment] if they don't have to," Scharingson said. "It's no different from getting your child a measles or tuberculosis vaccination. If there's a vaccination out there that's proven and it's safe, and there's no risk, why wouldn't you get the vaccination?"

CANCER CONTINUED FROM FRONT

cerous, causing a decrease in cervical cancer, Charlton said.

Along with causing cervical cancer, HPV can cause throat, vaginal, anal, and penile cancers. There is currently no way to screen for HPV-related cancers other than cervical cancer, she said.

"The throat, the oropharyngeal cancer in males, has surpassed the rates of cervical cancer in females," Charlton said. "So I think if you put them all together, males versus females, the rates of HPV-related cancers are pretty close, but they're increasing far more dramatically in males."

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the U.S. However, the disease can be prevented through receiving a vaccination that's most effective between the ages of 9 and 11, Charlton said. It's best to receive the vaccine before the age of 26, but the FDA recently approved the vaccine for people up to the age of 45, she said.

According to the report, the HPV vaccination rate was 38 percent in 2017.

HPV-related cancers account for more deaths than do diseases for which children receive mandatory vaccinations, said Nathan Boonstra, a UnityPoint pediatrician. When measles was common, it caused 400 to 500 deaths a year. HPV-related cervical cancer alone causes 4,000 deaths a year, he said.

"We're talking about cancers that happen 10, 20, 30, 40 years down the line, and so we really have to be thinking forward for these kids to help give them not only a healthy childhood but a healthy adulthood as we can," Boonstra said.

That HPV is an STD makes



Photo illustration by Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

MEGAN GRISWOLD BOOK TOUR

The Book of Help



Location:
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"In a world full of spiritual seekers, Megan Griswold is an undisputed All-Star. She has spent her life examining her existence in patient, courageous, and microscopic detail, and now she has written about her search with tender and comic honesty. What a delightful journey!"

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LA TIMES TOP 10

About The Book:

When Megan Griswold's newly wedded husband calls in the middle of the night to say that he's landed in jail, Megan must accept that her many certificates, degrees and licenses had not been the finish line she'd once imagined, but instead the training for what would prove to be the wildest, most growth-insisting journey of her life. Documenting the trial of over 290 self-help therapies, *The Book of Help* is a heartbreakingly vulnerable and tragically funny memoir-in-remedies tracing one woman's 6 continent, worldwide quest for self-healing and peace of mind



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Opinions

COLUMN

Lack of a mental-health system in Iowa public schools is an injustice

The Iowa government is depriving children of much-needed services.



DANIELLE MCCOMAS
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Mental-health education needs more grip to pull through the Iowa Legislature. Numerous bills have been proposed, amended, and voted on in the Iowa Senate and Iowa House, but execution and implementation of mental-health education still suffers. A children's mental-health bill did survive the recent funnel week, but urgency on its need should be expressed.

Mental-health bills in Iowa are long overdue considering the amount of anxiety and depression and the number of suicide attempts in Iowa schools. Mental-health issues can be found in all schools across the state, but public schools are the target for state legislation because they can be regulated and reformed. They were the topic of debate during a large part of the 2018 gubernatorial election and should continue to stay relevant in Iowa politics. It's time to start implementing these suggestions.

Awareness in early education is crucial so that signs and symptoms are caught, prevented, or treated. Many children and teens may not

notice that they struggle with mental health until they are out of the public-school system, which can make it harder for them to find resources and combat illness when they may not be surrounded by the support that is available in Iowa public schools. With that being said, Iowa policymakers need to put more of a focus on carrying out legislation rather than merely talking about it to improve the current situation regarding mental illness among young Iowans.

state that experience the lack of mental-health resources firsthand so that effective bills can be put in place as soon as possible.

Many Iowa lawmakers are on board for mental-health bills, including Gov. Kim Reynolds' proposed Senate File 479, but this piece of legislation, and many like it, lacks specificity in how and when it will be implemented in the school system.

For Reynolds' bill to pass in the Iowa House and Iowa

'Iowa policymakers need to put more of a focus on carrying out legislation rather than merely talking about it.'

However, efforts are not entirely futile. In speaking with Jackie Bode-Steinke, a counselor at Lewis Central High School in Council Bluffs, she notes that Iowa is moving in the right direction. Through the education and awareness of mental health being provided to teachers, they can recognize signs with their students and locate help early on. Many schools, such as Bode-Steinke's, provide their teachers with professional development regarding trauma-informed practices and mental-health awareness training to help identify struggling students. The Legislature has to work and communicate with school educators, students, and parents across the

Senate, there will have to be increased clarity on its funding and the organization of its efforts. The Legislature will have to discuss the budget of K-12 education, the issues that would be covered under the large umbrella that is mental health, and the allocation of other resources, such as more mental-health professionals, that would be necessary for mental-health education or services.

The process toward a mental-health system in schools has undoubtedly begun, but the Legislature has to continue the fight for feasible mental-health policy by focusing on the structure and timeline of implementation.

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

What should Netflix do to be considered for Academy Awards?

Two *DI* staffers debate whether online films should be eligible for awards.



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Netflix is Oscar-worthy now

Nearly everyone you talk to has Netflix and has binged a series in one night. That being said, Netflix original movies are also household names and extremely accessible. Widely popular movies such as *Birdbox*, *Black Mirror: Bandersnatch*, and *The Kissing Booth* are all examples of Netflix movies becoming widely known and watched. While these movies and this platform are widely

known, filmmakers such as Steven Spielberg claim these movies shouldn't be considered for awards such as the Oscars.

While these movies might not have a box-office release or the same gross as blockbuster movies, there is no denying that Netflix movies are capable of making their way into the general consciousness and pop cul-

'There is no denying that Netflix movies are capable of making their way into the general consciousness.'

ture, and they are just as artistically and cinematically sound as their blockbuster counterparts. A box-office release has long been seen as a determining factor into whether a movie is good. Movies that are straight to DVD have corrupted our views on whether a movie without a cinema release can be good. Howev-

er, with platforms such as Netflix and Hulu beginning to make strides in online releases, these standards need to be changed and looked at differently.

Netflix movies should be looked at the same way as any movie that has a box-office release. The platform in which you release a movie shouldn't be taken into consideration when

making the decision on whether a movie is Oscar-worthy. Netflix movies are just as cinematic and artistic as blockbuster movies, as seen in the aforementioned examples. They can have the same cultural and artistic impact as their counterparts. With all of this in mind, why aren't Netflix movies winning awards?



Valerie Macon/AFP/Getty Images/TNS

Roma Director Alfonso Cuarón accepts the award for Best Director for during the 91st Academy Awards in Hollywood, California, on Feb. 24.



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The Academy needs time for any adjustments

This argument of what should be considered for an Academy Awards has long been in question, but with

COLUMN

Increasing the price tag of room plans is unfair to on-campus students

The proposed housing and dining rate increase treats students as expendable financial objects instead of real people who are struggling.



Wyatt Dlouhy/The Daily Iowan

Catlett Residence Hall is seen on March 6.



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The University of Iowa requested on Feb. 28 that the state Board of Regents permit an increase in residence hall living and dining-hall meal-plan rates. The increase would be 2 percent for all but one standard room plan. This increase seems to be a push on the administration's part to produce more revenue for the school in an estimated student occupancy decrease from 95.2 percent to 91.3 percent.

While it is understandable that the university wants to make more money in a projected decrease of student occupancy in the dorms, the increase for room and meal plans is unacceptable and affects students struggling to pay for the pricey housing and dining plans they have now.

Around 95 percent of first-year UI students choose to live on campus, according to undergraduate admissions. Many students choose to live in the residence halls their first year because most students come from places other than Iowa City and would

not be privy to apartment showings or have a general knowledge of the area and real estate.

The current rates for a the cheapest housing option, a double room with air, ranges from \$6,252 to \$7,956 depending on the residence hall one chooses to live in. That's \$625.20 to \$795.60 per month for the 10 months students are enrolled for a single academic school year. That's a high price tag, and it doesn't include the required meal plan

'To increase those prices by 2 percent would put a financial strain on students who struggle to pay the expensive costs of living in the dorms today.'

each dorm resident must purchase — the cheapest being the black meal plan at \$3,344 for an academic year.

To increase those prices by 2 percent would put a financial strain on students who struggle to pay the expensive costs of living in the dorms today. As a Catlett resident, I can attest to the overwhelming cost that living in the dorms has subjected me to, even with the help of scholarships and grant awards. It's why I've chosen to live in an apartment for the next academic school year and attend the UI with essentially a full ride, whereas this year I had to pay around \$5,000 for housing and dining plans I am enrolled in.

The cost to live in the dorms with a required meal plan are too demanding of students' financial capacity to support themselves in their plight to further their education and attain extensive career knowledge and experience. There are other ways to increase revenue for the school rather than increasing housing and dining rates when tuition rates for those same students are being hiked for the next few years. It is important for the university to support

students financially and not just focus on the promotion of the University of Iowa.

UI officials said they have plans in place to increase on-campus occupancy. If that is a goal for the university, the increase in housing and dining rates will definitely not be an incentive for students to choose to stay in the dorms when they can live somewhere else for significantly less money.

Increasing student occupancy in the dorms while keeping the same pricing for room and meal plans that are currently in place would increase revenue for the university. There shouldn't be a request to exploit students' finances even more if there are plans in place to increase occupancy.

the recent critical success for streaming films such as *Roma*, it has been called into the spotlight by directors such as Steven Spielberg.

'Netflix has created some high-grade content in recent years, but it has ... creative ventures that didn't receive the same high critical acclaim.'

Netflix has created some high-grade content in recent years, but it has also created some films and creative ventures that didn't receive the same high critical acclaim.

This year, Netflix submitted only three films for consideration for the Oscars. The films were made with highly famous directors and writers,

such as the Coen brothers, but it also made quite a bit more films that it didn't deem ready to submit for nominations. Netflix released more than 30 films in 2018.

With this high push-out rate for movies, it may be hard for all these films to have the necessary process to be considered by the Academy and be nominated. With having to choose certain movies over others, to have a real theatrical releases, means streaming services such as Netflix will have to pick favorites to be played in theaters.

This sort of favoritism it may create a pretty unhealthy competition with filmmakers and creatives. So it may be worth an investigation on this decision before any hasty decisions are made.

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Campaign aims to grow 'green candidates'

One group's presence in Iowa City aims to help disseminate information about the use of biofuels to presidential candidates.

BY CHARLES PECKMAN
charles-peckman@uiowa.edu

A new campaign aims to combat climate change in Iowa.

Mighty Earth, a worldwide organization that discusses issues ranging from deforestation to oceanic preservation, has offices across the globe. In Iowa, the group has grassroots organizers in Davenport, Des Moines, and Iowa City.

Iowa City field organizer Anya Fetcher said Mighty Earth's goals vary greatly by location and, in Iowa City, are focused on the upcoming 2020 presidential election.

So far this election season, Mighty Earth members have attended events with Democrats Cory Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Tulsi Gabbard, and Eric Swalwell.

"In Iowa, we're focusing more on the political aspects and how we can help shape the messages of presidential candidates as they come

through the state," she said. "The biofuel aspect has a lot to do with deforestation and the overall impact on the climate. We're trying to advocate for climate solutions that are truly sustainable, versus false solutions."

It is important to note, Fetcher said, that cellulosic biofuels such as miscanthus are excluded from food-based biofuels such as corn and soy.

Campus grassroots coordinator and University of Iowa student Aluna Olaniyi said that although she has been impressed with candidates' knowledge about climate change, she is also skeptical about the omission of "certain perspectives" from political events.

"I feel like many of the candidates are in support of solutions that combat climate change, but when it comes to biofuels, it seems like many people are hesitant to discuss that, especially in Iowa," she said.

Despite this, both Fetcher

and Olaniyi said they have been pleased with the "central spot" climate change has received during this election cycle.

On a university level, UI student and media coordinator Camryn Carpenter said she thinks the organization can help disseminate information about what students can do to lessen their carbon footprint and become informed on environmental issues.

"In general, I think Mighty Earth's initiatives are in-line with the University of Iowa's sustainable initiatives," she said. "Clean-energy initiatives are here, but it's promising to see that the university and presidential candidates realize that climate change is a pressing issue."

Carpenter said a possible point of disconnect, however, is the lack of action after politicians visit Iowa. Mighty Earth, she said, is trying to "plant the seed" of environmental legislation into candidates during their visit(s) to



Charles Peckman/The Daily Iowan

(From left) UI student Camryn Carpenter, Mighty Earth field organizer Anya Fetcher, and UI student Aluna Olaniyi stand in the Main Library on March 6. Mighty Earth, which has offices across the globe, set up shop in Iowa City to discuss food-based biofuels with potential 2020 presidential candidates.

Iowa.

Ultimately, Fetcher said, the goal of Mighty Earth's presence in Iowa City is to help reform the renewable fuel standard — she said this

can be done by getting presidential candidates to denounce food-based biofuels as not being a truly "green, sustainable option." This, Fetcher said, is being paired with in-

formation about wind, solar, and land conservation.

"At the end of the day, we want the candidates to listen to the people — not the money," she said.

UISG CONTINUED FROM FRONT

services. The rest of the program is funded through a \$90,000 three-year contract with Housing & Dining, according to the legislation.

The program will appear to incoming first-year students in a trial version in May and a full version in May 2020, according to UISG Sen. Amber Crow, a sponsor of the legislation.

"I think it's really important to know 60 percent of students

are likely to turn to a peer when they have suicidal ideation," she said during the discussion. "I think it's really important for students to have these conversations to know what to do when someone they know is struggling."

Kognito has been used previously as a resource at the UI but was discontinued because of a lack of grant funding, according to the legislation.

"This training can expand far past our campus community as students, faculty, and staff will have this valuable training that is transferable to others in their

lives," the legislation stated.

The \$2 mental-health fee increase would fund three new positions in the University Counseling Service, Director Barry Schreier said. The service would like to add a second case manager and a liaison between the Counseling Service and the Dean of Students Office to provide support for students hospitalized for mental-health issues.

Schreier said the service needed a second case manager to help students connect to mental-health services outside of the Counseling Service.

"We're not just giving names to students — we're helping students make good decisions and make good connections," Schreier said. "It is a system built on one person's shoulders, so should a case manager decide not to be here anymore, then we lose all of our case manager services."

Additionally, the fee increase would partially fund another staff psychologist to develop a campus-wide suicide-prevention program.

"Suicide-prevention initiatives on this campus have been pretty hit-and-miss," Schreier

said. "It was grant-funded for a while, [then the] grant dried up, and there was no more money to keep doing it. When it comes to suicide prevention for this campus — it should be consistent and sustainable."

According to the legislation, student visits to the Counseling Service increased from 1,744 in 2015 to 2,627 in 2018. The \$2-per-semester fee increase would add an additional \$107,000 to the service's budget.

"UISG is working diligently with [the Counseling Service] and other campus partners to bring an additional psycholo-

gist to campus to help alleviate the need, but more importantly, help provide services to historically marginalized populations," the legislation stated.

The proposed fee increase must be approved by UI Senior Vice President for Finance Rod Lehnertz and the state Board of Regents.

The regents initially approved the \$12.50 mental-health fee in 2016 to fund eight new counselors. Student-government leaders advocated for the fee with support from university administration and regents.

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Katina Zentz/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Megan Gustafson celebrates with teammates after winning the Big Ten Tournament on March 10.

GUSTAFSON
CONTINUED FROM 8

result of these malfeasances, Hawkeye fans started a #VoteGustafson movement to get the senior the attention she deserves. But she shouldn't need a hashtag to get national pundits to vote for her; they should just do it.

Her stats tell the story. Gustafson leads the country in points per game (28.0) and field-goal percentage (70.3). She's third in rebounds nationally with 13.4 per game. These numbers are slightly better than last season's, when she put up 25.7 points per game and was 67.1 percent from the field. She's hardly a "rising star."

It's true that Iowa isn't a traditional basketball powerhouse, but it's not as though Gustafson plays for the University of Phoenix. The program has appeared in the NCAA Tournament 14 times in the last 18 years, and last weekend marked its third conference tournament championship even though the tourney has only existed since 1995.

What else could it be? Gustafson is known by her

coaches and teammates as a quiet and humble player. She deflects all questions about her accolades to the success of her team and was visibly embarrassed last weekend to be awarded Most Outstanding Player, minutes after a 45-point performance in the Big Ten title game. Perhaps this attitude won't get many clicks and isn't interesting enough for our high-volume media intake and short attention spans.

But basketball analysts and voters of this year's Naismith Trophy still have a chance to fix the problem.

The trophy is announced in April and is decided by former winners, former coaches, journalists, and others.

The semifinalists have been announced, and Gustafson is on the list. Among the front-runners are California's Kristine Anigwe and Notre Dame's Arike Ogunbowale.

Anigwe gets a lot of media attention because she leads the country in double-doubles, even putting up a 32-30 game just last month. She's a machine, to be sure.

But Gustafson only trails Anigwe by one double-double this season. The two are

close in the defensive rebounding category, but Anigwe's offensive rebounding numbers are far greater than Gustafson's. The reason? Gustafson converts her shots from the field almost 70 percent of the time, while Anigwe has hovered around 52 percent this season. Gustafson doesn't need offensive rebounds.

Ogunbowale, who scored two buzzer-beaters to get Notre Dame a national championship last year, has an affinity for scoring but only scores about 21 per game to Gustafson's 28.

The players on the list are all outstanding and hard-working. The point is not to take away from their accomplishments, but Gustafson's numbers should be held in awe because of their seeming impossibility.

Some national analysts, such as ESPN commentator LaChina Robinson, have begun to realize what they are witnessing. Robinson said she's "reconsidering" her vote after Gustafson posted the third 40-point game in the history of the Big Ten Tournament (Gustafson has had two of them).

There's still time for the rest of the media and voters to give Gustafson her much-deserved respect.

MEN'S
CONTINUED FROM 8

While staying off Twitter might not have a big impact on most Hawkeyes, their play on the floor has. Iowa has lost four in a row heading into its postseason matchup with its last loss coming in heartbreaking fashion.

Iowa led Nebraska for most of the game on Sunday but blew a 7-point lead in 47 seconds to lose its fourth straight.

The Hawkeyes showed their potential earlier in the season, consistently finding themselves ranked

in the AP Top 25 and scoring big wins, including a dominant victory over then-No. 5 Michigan in Carver-Hawkeye.

"We executed fairly well in certain situations, not so much in others, and that's what happens in the course of a long season," Iowa head coach Fran McCaffery said. "You try to continue to have a businesslike approach. You want to enjoy the ride to a degree, but there's always that businesslike approach that you have to have when you're preparing to play games at this level."

Iowa hasn't won a game in March since taking down South Dakota in the NIT in

2016-17. The Hawkeyes are 0-5 since then.

Iowa has shown its potential all season, even recently beating one of the hottest teams in the Big Ten in Indiana on Feb. 22. Now, it's a matter of putting it all together and executing during the most important stretch of the season.

"I don't think we would change anything — just keep being ourselves," forward Tyler Cook said. "We don't want to second-guess what we know how to do. We were one of the hottest teams in the country earlier for a reason, so we just want to get back to being ourselves."

TRACK
CONTINUED FROM 8

Tausaga, a junior, owned the school record in both the weight throw and the shot put beginning the season, and she took her performance a step further to cement her status in program history.

In her first event of the season, Tausaga broke her record in the weight throw, a mark she first claimed as a sophomore and bested on four occasions this indoor campaign. At the Seignie Invitational, a meet in which she won event MVP, Tausaga had her best throw of the season (22.51 meters). That is the current school record. Unless Tausaga breaks it again.

Tausaga also had a noteworthy season in the shot put, where she only broke a measly one school record. Tausaga's current best in the event is 16.70 meters, which beat her previous mark of 16.51.

The records propelled Tausaga to win Athlete of the Week and Regional Female Field Athlete of the Year.

12th - Highest ranking in program history

In the Week 7 poll, the Hawkeye women achieved the highest ranking in program history — No. 12 in the country. It was also the highest the Iowa men have ever been in the poll.

The achievement is all the more impressive when considering that they were ranked No. 37 in the country in the preseason.

The women made gradual progress in the poll throughout the indoor season, peaking at No. 12.

A point of emphasis for the outdoor season, however, could be to finish on a stronger note. After an up-and-down weekend at NCAA meet, the women fell to No. 33 in the final poll of the season. While that's still a position to be proud of, the amount of talent the women have will tell you they expect to finish higher.

14 - All-American honors handed out at NCAA Indoor Championships

Iowa had a plethora of athletes who earned All-American honors at the NAAs.

After the first day of competition, six athletes earned second-team All-American. Mar'Yea Harris and Wayne Lawrence received the title in the 400 meters, and Tria Simmons and Jenny Kimbro earned recognition for their performances in the pentathlon.

Jaylan McConico (60-meter hurdles) and Tausaga (shot put) were also named second team All-Americans.

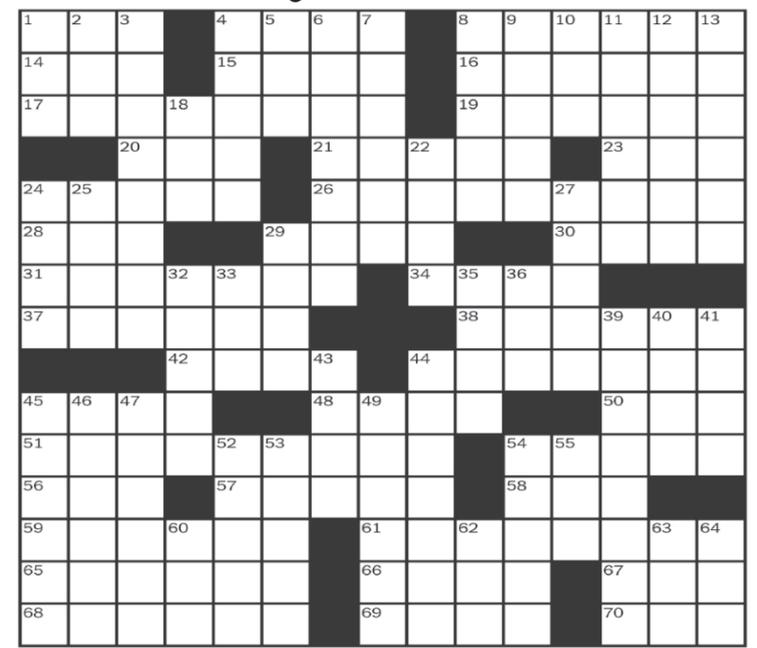
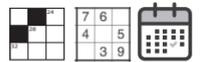
At the conclusion of the championship meet, eight more All-American honors were handed out to Iowa athletes, this time with first-team distinction.

Tausaga earned more recognition in the weight throw, and Briana Guillory brought home the second first-team honor of her career.

Chris Douglas and Karayme Bartley received the All-American distinction for the 60-meter hurdles and 200 meters, respectively.

The men's 1,600-meter relay squad, consisting of Collin Hofacker, Bartley, Lawrence, and Harris, also received first-team honors.

The Daily Break



The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0206

CLUES

- 1 It emerges at dawn
- 2 Sch. with a campus in Providence
- 3 Dainty eaters
- 4 Prometheus' gift
- 5 N.Y.C. subway letters
- 6 Rapping sound
- 7 Runs off to a justice of the peace
- 8 May honoree
- 9 "Awake and Sing!" playwright Clifford
- 10 Bygone Pan Am rival
- 11 Call to the hounds
- 12 Port up the lake from Cleveland, O.
- 13 Clarify, as butter
- 14 "Either you do it ___ will"
- 15 Russia's ___ Mountains
- 16 Source of some pop-ups
- 17 Contribution of Gilbert, but not Sullivan
- 18 Seminary subj.
- 19 Give a hand to
- 20 Implore
- 21 "___ from that ..."
- 22 Old person, in Oldenburg
- 23 Presided over
- 24 Word of greeting
- 25 Notable stretches
- 26 Help for a star witness?
- 27 Sadistic
- 28 Underground rock
- 29 Dawn's direction
- 30 Sound from a rowdy crowd
- 31 Like Ganymede among Jupiter's moons
- 32 "Somebody That I Used to Know" singer, 2011
- 33 Byron's "before"
- 34 Light beige
- 35 Alternative to a cup
- 36 Dungeons & Dragons, for one, in brief
- 37 Classify by type
- 38 "Otello" and "Pagliacci"
- 39 Carnival game with bottles
- 40 Author Sholem
- 41 Drinking game penalty, perhaps
- 42 Many a character in Ann M. Martin's "The Baby-Sitters Club"
- 43 "Peter Pan" dog
- 44 Language of the answers to this puzzle's uniclus
- 45 Urban area
- 46 Good place to be during a blizzard
- 47 It might be left holding the bag
- 48 British bottom
- 49 Annoy
- 50 Cpl. or sgt.
- 51 Comment made while yawning
- 52 One practicing self-help, informally
- 53 Declares with confidence
- 54 Prime-time time
- 55 ___ factor
- 56 Miley Cyrus's "Party in the ___"
- 57 One of Donald Trump Jr.'s parents
- 58 World Smile Day mo.
- 59 Hair-coloring technique
- 60 Dr. of rap
- 61 Fight finisher
- 62 Facility at Quantico, Va.: Abbr.
- 63 News inits. since 1958
- 64 Line on a receipt
- 65 Any of the Magi
- 66 Nessie's home
- 67 Where you might get into hot water
- 68 Dissuades
- 69 "When all ___ fails ..."
- 70 How many feet are in a fathom

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 7

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY

- Night of 1,000 Dinners, Celebrating International Women's Day, 5:30 p.m., 220 S. Gilbert
- Peace Corps Info Session, 6 p.m., 1117 University Capitol Center
- Iowa Bibliophiles: "The Publication History of the Tale of Peter Rabbit", 6:30 p.m., Main Library Special Collections
- "Live from Prairie Lights," Karla Kelsey & G.C. Waldrep, 7 p.m., Prairie Lights, 15 S. Dubuque
- JACK Quartet Concert II, 7:30 p.m., Voxman Concert Hall
- Liz Miller, Visiting Artist in Sculpture, 7:30 p.m., E125 Visual Arts

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- We Still Here Radio 2-3pm
- Joke Local 5-6pm
- Descent Into Radness 7-8pm
- Amalgamorium Emporium 9:30-10:30pm
- Single Synopsis 11pm-12am



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Tennis continues midseason struggles

After a fast start, the Hawkeye women's tennis team is running into pitfalls on the road.

BY CODY SMITH
cody-r-smith@uiowa.edu

Iowa tennis has seemingly taken a turn for the worse.

Early this season, the women's tennis team (8-5) looked as if it was on its way to becoming ranked by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association after beginning the season 7-0.

Since then, the Hawkeyes have appeared to turn their early hot streak into a cold one. This past weekend, Iowa split its two road matches in Florida (beating Florida Gulf Coast [5-2], losing to Furman [5-2]) before getting roasted by Notre Dame (7-0) on Tuesday in Lake Nona, Florida.

"Disappointing loss for us today," Iowa head coach Sasha Schmid said in a release. "We weren't able to step up to the challenge in our matches and couldn't close out opportunities."

With its win over Florida Gulf Coast on Sunday, Iowa has gone 1-5 in its last six matches, 1-4 away from the Hawkeye Tennis & Recreation Complex.

So: What has happened to the women's tennis squad?

Well, the simple answer is it struggles to secure the doubles point. To date, that has been the Achilles' heel of the team. The Hawkeyes either secure it and win the match or let it slip away and lose.

In their losses this season, the women have dropped every single doubles match but one. They've lost to Northwestern, Kansas State, Furman, and Notre Dame, and they all have been on the road. Iowa's only doubles win came in a 4-3 loss to Penn State at home on Feb. 24.

This past weekend, only Samantha Mannix/Elise van Heuvelen Treadwell and Sophie Clark/Ashleigh Ja-

cobs have managed to secure a doubles victory against Florida Gulf Coast. Other than that, everyone else has dropped their doubles matches leading to losses to Furman and Notre Dame.

Nonetheless, Schmid understands that this year is a learning curve given the youthfulness of the team.

"It's important for us marching forward and competing hard as we mature with each match," Schmid said.

The next few matches will define the rest of the season for the Hawkeyes — they have three Big Ten matches, all on the road. This weekend, Iowa will head to East Lansing to face Michigan State on Saturday before going against Michigan in Ann Arbor on March 17.

The upcoming stretch marks a pivotal point for the Hawkeyes; the trip to Michi-

gan will be Iowa's first Big Ten battle since losing to Penn State. The Hawkeyes will continue on the road when they

take on Ohio State on March 24 before returning home to face Purdue on March 29. Iowa will continue confer-

ence play for the rest of the season through the Big Ten Tournament on April 25-28.

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ADORER	LOCH	SPA							
DETERS	ELSE	SIX							

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Shivansh Ahuja/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Samantha Mannix prepares to serve against Penn State at the Tennis Complex on Feb. 24.

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HAWKEYE UPDATES

Stoll earns at-large bid to NCAA Championships

Iowa heavyweight Sam Stoll was given an at-large bid to the NCAA Championships in Pittsburgh when the NCAA announced the field on Tuesday.



The Hawkeyes will now have nine grapplers taking the mat at nationals. Eight others — Spencer Lee, Austin DeSanto, Max Murin, Pat Lugo, Kaleb Young, Alex Marinelli, Cash Wilcke, and Jacob Warner — earned automatic bids at the Big Ten Championships.

Stoll is a returning All-American, along with Alex Marinelli and Spencer Lee, who is the defending national champion at 125 pounds. Murin, Young, and Warner will make their NCAA debuts.

Brackets and seeds will be announced on a selection show on NCAA.com at 5 p.m. today.

Marinelli wins USA Wrestling Athlete of the Week

Hawkeye 165-pounder Alex Marinelli was named the USA Wrestling Athlete of the Week after winning a Big Ten title on Sunday.

Marinelli toppled No. 1 seed Vincenzo Joseph of Penn State, 9-3, to become Iowa's 200th individual Big Ten champion.

Marinelli now has a record of 23-0 this season and will be a top contender to take first at the NCAA Championships on March 21-23.

The honor marks Marinelli's second USA Wrestling Athlete of the Week award of the season.

Cook earns spot on All-District Team

Iowa forward Tyler Cook was named to the All-District VI team by the U.S. Basketball Writers Association on Tuesday.

Cook is tied for 11th in the Big Ten with 15 points per game and ranks sixth with 8.1 rebounds. He is one of two Big Ten players, along with Wisconsin's Ethan Happ, to average at least 15 points and 8 boards a game.

This season marks the fifth in six years that Iowa has had a player on the team; Cook joins Devyn Marble, Aaron White, Jarrod Uthoff, and Peter Jok.

Iowa State's Marial Shayok and Drake's Nick McGlynn join Cook as the only other players from Iowa.

NCAA Women's Basketball Top Scorers

- 1) **Megan Gustafson**, Iowa — 28.0 PPG
- 2) **Cierra Dillard**, Buffalo — 25.3
- 3) **Aari McDonald**, Arizona — 25.0
- 4) **Kierra Anthony**, Louisiana Tech — 23.7
- 5) **Savannah Smith**, Northern Colorado — 23.6

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We were one of the hottest teams in the country earlier for a reason."



— Iowa forward Tyler Cook on the Hawkeyes getting back to playing as they did earlier

STAT OF THE DAY

Iowa thrower Laulauga Tausaga has **broken a school record five times this season.**



5 school records

#TourneyTwitter

The Hawkeyes won't be on social media in the coming days as they prepare to rediscover their groove.



Lily Smith/The Daily Iowan

Jordan Bohannon and teammates celebrate a score against Northwestern at Carver-Hawkeye on Feb. 10.

BY PETE RUDEN
peter-ruden@uiowa.edu

Log onto Twitter between now and the Big Ten Tournament, and you'll surely see plenty of entertaining memes, loud opinions, and up-to-date sports news. One thing you won't see, however, is the Iowa men's basketball team.

As the Hawkeyes try to find their groove on the court again, they have deleted social media in preparation for the conference tournament, which will begin for them on Thursday when they take on the winner of the Illi-

nois-Northwestern game.

The reason for the lack of posts is simple, really.

"Just to focus on our team and not worry about outside distractions," Iowa guard Jordan Bohannon said.

This isn't a new phenomenon by any means. Before every NBA playoff run, LeBron James activates "Zero Dark Thirty-23" mode, cutting off access to all social media to focus on his upcoming games, and it has paid off.

After all, he has won three NBA titles and took home Finals MVP all three times.

No matter how James' regular season goes,

he hits a second wind in the postseason and proves why he's the most dominant player in the league.

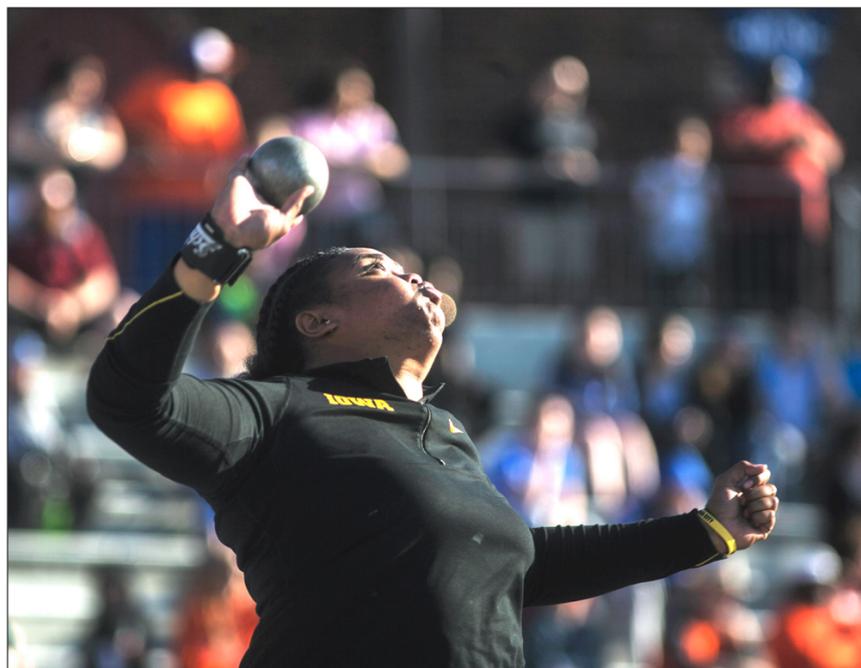
That's exactly what the Hawkeyes are hoping to do in the Big Ten Tournament.

"It's been present all year, but I don't think it was necessary," forward Luka Garza said. "It was just starting to get a little bit more amped up, especially with everything going on. I think it was just a good, clean decision. I wasn't on Twitter too much anyways, so it's not really a big effect on my life."

SEE MEN'S, 6

Iowa track completes eventful indoor season

A look back at the indoor season shows Iowa track and field is a force to be reckoned with.



Ben Allan Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Laulauga Tausaga competes in the shot put during the Drake Relays in Des Moines on April 27, 2018.

BY ROBERT READ
robert-read@uiowa.edu

The indoor track & field season has come to a close. Iowa went through one of the most eventful seasons in program history, seeing records fall and new standards set.

Both the men's and women's teams saw a variety of competitors shine during the season, leading the way to fourth- and third-place finishes, respectively, at the Big Tens.

With the starting gun for the outdoor season about to go off, here are some numbers to keep in mind from the indoor campaign.

5 — Number of times Laulauga Tausaga broke a school record during the indoor season

It was an eventful indoor season for Tausaga, to say the least.

SEE TRACK, 6

COLUMN

Gustafson the best; national media clueless

Megan Gustafson is the best player in women's college basketball, and her statistics back that up.



PETE MILLS
peter-mills@uiowa.edu

Megan Gustafson is the best player in women's college basketball. The national media are screwing up their coverage of the Big Ten's Player of the Year, but they still have time to fix their mistakes.

On Feb. 15, the official NCAA Women's Basketball account thought it was doing women's fans a favor on Twitter by introducing them to the nation's points leader, referring to Gustafson as a "rising star" in college basketball. This was the night after a 31-point and 17-rebound performance in Iowa's win over Illinois.

On Sunday, another account on Twitter — this time ESPNW, which is supposed to advocate for the best female athletes in the country — mistakenly referred to Gustafson as "Mary" in a deleted Tweet.

The Naismith Trophy announces its Player of the Year in April, so it's a bad time for these accounts to be botching their coverage of the best player in the country. As a direct

SEE GUSTAFSON, 6