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ETHICS & POLITICS

NATIONAL POLITICS

IOWA CAUCUS CHAOS

While waiting for delayed results of the Hawkeye State's first-in-the-nation nominating contest, Democratic candidates made hasty claims of winning the caucuses as they pack up for New Hampshire.



Staff/The Daily Iowan

In this triptych, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., former South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg, and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., address supporters at their watch parties in Des Moines after the caucuses on Tuesday. News reports predicted the three candidates to be at the top of the Iowa caucuses as of press time Monday night.

BY SARAH WATSON
sarah-e-watson@uiowa.edu

DES MOINES — Delayed results of which presidential hopefuls Iowans supported kept the nation holding its breath on Monday night,

but candidates themselves attempted to fill the vacuum before they left for New Hampshire.

Former South Bend, Indiana Mayor, Pete Buttigieg, tweeted "Iowa, you have shocked the nation. By all indications, we are going on to New

Hampshire victorious."

Bernie Sanders, the independent senator from Vermont, said, "I have a strong feeling that at some point the results will be announced. And when those results are announced, I have a good feeling that we are going to be

doing very very well here in Iowa."

At Joe Biden's party on the Drake University campus, the former vice president acknowledged the lack of results, but said he was looking "onto New Hampshire."

U.S. Senator from Massachusetts

Elizabeth Warren took the stage at her watch party in Des Moines at 10:30 p.m. saying that while the results were at that point "too close to call," she had confidence moving for-

SEE CHAOS, 2A

INSIDE



6A

First-time caucusgoers explain 'what's in a name'
Students at the University of Iowa, many first-time caucusgoers, caucused with the rest of the state Monday night, bringing their unique perspectives out in force across campus, from the IMU ballroom to Schaeffer Hall.



6A

Satellite caucuses give caucusgoers increased accessibility
For the first time in the history of the Democratic Caucuses, "satellite caucuses" were held amid concerns from the Democratic National Committee about accessibility. Eighty-seven new locations were added across the state, country, and world, allowing for greater attendance.



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



Progressives split the ticket in Iowa

Progressive Iowans showed up to support 2020 Democratic hopefuls Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., on Monday night, with both candidates splitting the liberal vote.



Katina Zentz/The Daily Iowan

Supporters for Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., participate during the caucus at Des Moines Precinct 62 in the Knapp Center on Monday.

BY JULIA SHANAHAN
julia-shanahan@uiowa.edu

DES MOINES — While results from caucus precincts across Iowa rolled in after midnight, much later than in previous years, one thing was clear — progressive Iowans showed up for Senator from Massachusetts Elizabeth Warren and independent Senator from Vermont Bernie Sanders Monday night, splitting liberal support on the ticket.

Based on early reporting results from news outlets and

social media, Sanders and Warren had the most support on the Democratic ticket.

Former Vice President Joe Biden and Senator from Minnesota Amy Klobuchar, Democratic candidates with moderate platforms, followed behind, signaling an appetite among caucusgoers for a more left-leaning candidate.

For Iowa caucusgoers, an important difference between the campaigns was the rhetoric and language around their messaging. The Warren campaign made

SEE PROGRESSIVES, 2A

President trumps Republican caucuses

Regardless of an incumbent president from their party, Republicans still came out to show their support at the Iowa caucuses on Monday night.

BY ELEANOR HILDEBRANDT
eleanor-hildebrandt@uiowa.edu

DES MOINES — President Trump handily warded off two GOP challengers in Monday's Republican caucuses after Iowa Republicans turned out to pledge their support for the impeached president.

The Iowa Republican Party announced at 9:38 p.m. Monday that the party broke the caucus turnout record set in 2012. With 94 percent reporting at 10:46 p.m., Trump had won all of the party's 37 delegates with 99 percent of caucusgoers' support. The other two candidates — former Massachusetts Gov. Bill Weld and former Illinois Rep. Joe Walsh — did not have enough supporters to be viable at any precinct.

SEE GOP, 3A





Megan Nagorzanski/The Daily Iowan

John Deeth, volunteer from Johnson County Democrats, recounts before assigning delegates during the caucus at the IMU on Monday.

Reporting changes throw curveballs at caucusgoers

Changes to the precinct reporting system delayed the results of the Iowa caucuses — but other changes, such as the new rules regarding viability and online check-in, made an impact on Iowans' caucus experience as well.

BY RYLEE WILSON
rylee-wilson@uiowa.edu

New changes in the caucus rules could have impacted the delay in results of the Iowa caucuses, though some caucusgoers said certain changes helped the night to run more smoothly.

A phone app designed to allow precinct captains to easily report results did not work according to plan Monday evening, and by midnight, there were no official results from caucus sites.

Other new rules implemented by the Iowa Democratic Party allowed many caucusgoers to leave the event early. If candidates reached viability, they could leave after the first headcount, and Iowans wrote down their presidential preference on

cards, providing a paper record of caucusgoers' candidate choices.

Despite the delay in results, some precinct captains said the delegate card reporting system helped the caucus to run more smoothly.

Josh Haugo, a precinct captain for Pete Buttigieg in Ankeny, said around 130 people showed up to the caucus, which awarded four delegates.

"It went pretty smooth this year," Haugo said. "The preference cards helped keep the numbers square, and overall it was much smoother than it has been in the past. I think the cards make the caucus run better and provide accountability if there are any challenges later."

Cathleen Simpson, a precinct captain for Buttigieg in West Des Moines, said that

her experience caucusing in 2020 was much smoother than in 2016.

Simpson said using the preference card system was "immensely better" than only counting by heads, though waiting for results after the technical errors can be frustrating.

"I was reporting the results immediately to the campaign," Simpson said. "I understand there was a technical glitch. We all use computers, we're all very tolerant when our phones crash, we fire them back up again. We're less apt to forgive crashes when we're all waiting for results."

Simpson attended Buttigieg's watch party, where attendees left around midnight with an unofficial declaration of victory from Buttigieg.

In a statement, the Iowa Democratic Party said the paper trail provided from the headcount cards was being used to determine results.

"We found inconsistencies in the reporting of three sets of results. In addition to the tech systems being used to tabulate results, we are also using photos of results and a paper trail to validate that all results match and ensure that we have confidence and accuracy in the numbers we report," the statement read.

Joanne Tubbs, who caucused at Callanan Middle School in Des Moines, said the option to check in online made the process more efficient.

"I think this year was much smoother in every element. Even prior to tonight, I felt more informed as a caucus-

goer because we had early check-in. I could check in online and that helped distribute people who were arriving," Tubbs said.

Statements from the Biden campaign criticized the Iowa Democratic Party, saying "acute failures were occurring statewide."

Alyssa Mackemie, a precinct captain for Elizabeth Warren at Des Moines Precinct 23, said accessing the app to report results within her caucus location was difficult.

"Only the precinct captains had to use the apps. We didn't have great service in our [caucus location] — it was really hard to get on the app itself," Mackemie said. "In general, writing things down, our chairs had to count four different times ... it was kind of scary."

Mackemie also had con-

cerns about accessibility at her caucuses. She said it was difficult to find chairs for caucusgoers who needed accommodations.

Simpson said although the caucus process for her was overall more efficient than in 2016, the Iowa Democratic Committee could reconsider if the caucuses are accessible events.

"I would like to see the Democratic party in Iowa revisit the true strength of the caucus — are we being totally inclusive, or are we excluding people because of the one hour on the one day," Simpson said. "People with work can't come in, people with kids can't come in, elderly people who can't stand for a couple hours — it's leaving them out and they're reluctant to go because of this restriction."

CHAOS CONTINUED FROM FRONT

ward to New Hampshire.

As of 1:00 a.m. Tuesday, no precinct results of the nation's first nominating contest on the Democratic side had been released. Iowa Democrats cited needing extra time to verify results with a new reporting process this year.

According to a Politico article, 85 percent of precincts were reporting by 8:30 p.m. in 2016.

Part of the new changes, the Iowa Democratic Party planned to release two added metrics this cycle — the raw to-

tal of supporters for each candidate and the amount of supporters after some camps don't meet the viability threshold.

An Iowa Democratic Party spokesperson cited needing more time to ensure accuracy of the three reported results as the reason for the delay, as well as tech systems being used to tabulate the results.

"We found inconsistencies in the reporting of three sets of results," said Iowa Democratic Party Communications Director in a prepared statement. "In addition to the tech systems being used to tabulate results, we are also using photos of results and paper trail to validate that all results match and ensure that we

have confidence and accuracy in the numbers we report. This is simply a reporting issue, the app did not go down and this is not a hack or an intrusion. The underlying data and paper trail is sound and will simply take time to further report the results."

General counsel for the Joe Biden campaign, Dana Remus, emailed the Democratic Party officials decrying Iowa Democratic Party's reporting system and asking for "full explanations and relevant information regarding the methods of quality control you are employing."

In previous years, the party just released state delegate equivalents, which are calcu-

lated based on a formula of the Iowa Democratic Party. Each of Iowa's 1,678 Democratic precincts reports a certain number of state delegate equivalents.

Iowa pledges 41 delegates to the Democratic National Convention to pick an eventual nominee. The Hawkeye State's delegates are relatively small compared to California and Texas. They each send 415 and 228 delegates, respectively.

The next state to make its presidential pick is New Hampshire, on Feb. 11. Candidates left Iowa Monday night to get to New Hampshire for a heavy week of campaigning ahead.

The chair of the Iowa Republican Party defended

the Iowa Democrats, telling WHOTV that the party was right to ensure the accuracy of the results.

"The accuracy of results of the Iowa caucuses does not have a deadline," Kaufmann said.

President Trump's campaign manager Brad Parscale admonished the slow results

from the Iowa Democratic Party in a prepared statement.

"Democrats are stewing in a caucus mess of their own creation with the sloppiest train wreck in history," he said. "It would be natural for people to doubt the fairness of the process. And these are the people who want to run our entire health-care system?"

PROGRESSIVES CONTINUED FROM FRONT

their detailed policy proposals a campaign centerpiece, with supporters sporting T-shirts that read "she has a plan for that."

The Sanders campaign frames their policy proposals as being "revolutionary" — like total student-loan debt cancellation, a wealth tax on Wall Street, and Medicare for All.

While the language of both campaigns differed, both senators focused on similar domestic social programs with slight differences.

Devin McMillen, 27, showed up to the Wells Fargo Arena to caucus for Sanders. He said that he thinks Sanders is stronger than Warren on issues of immigration and universal health care because, he said, Sanders has been consistent about his platform throughout his political career.

"Bernie just kind of holds everything I kind of want to see happen," said McMillen, a Des Moines resident. "The candidates have responded to all different social programs has

been pretty horrendous, the endless wars, and it's just kind of time to step away from that idea."

This year, President Trump has proposed cuts to Medicare and Medicaid and Social Security programs such as the federal retirement program and the disability insurance program.

University of Iowa political-science Professor Frederick Boehmke said the amount of attention the two left-leaning candidates are receiving in Iowa is telling of how Democrats are responding to the Trump presidency.

"A lot of the policy proposals [Democrats are] talking about, you know, would not have gotten nearly as much traction eight to 16 years ago," Boehmke said. "These are some of the most progressive policies you've seen in a long time."

Boehmke said he does not think Warren and Sanders splitting left-leaning progressive support in Iowa will have detrimental effects to the larger Democratic Party, because there is not one strong moderate Democrat running in the race, either.

Klobuchar, Biden, and

South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg all have moderate platforms, supporting Medicare for All as a public option and lowering college tuition costs rather than implementing universal free college.

Geoff Walken, 26, caucused for Warren at Callanan Middle School in Des Moines, and said the differences between Warren and Sanders are miniscule. But, he said, he likes the way that Warren carries herself among her opponents.

"I hope [the results show that] here in Iowa, we care about other people, including health care for all," Walken said. "It's important to take care of the citizens of your nation."

Grinnell political-science Professor Barbara Trish, an expert in political parties and electoral politics, said that high turnout for either candidate could signal credibility to voters in other states. Trish said that while Warren and Sanders supporters view their candidate as electable, some other moderate Democrats in the party do not.

Trish said that, objectively speaking, when you look at Trump and the way he talks about the economy by tradi-

tional measures of economic strength, things in the U.S. seem to be doing well. But, she said, looking at people's individual situations and class divide, that has been fueling the appetite for progressive politics.

"You look at the extreme degree of growing inequality — this is something that is, you know, is really striking people as ... an untenable situation," Trish said. "And I think that's what the progressive left is picking up on, and it motivates them."

Emily Elliot, 40, caucused for Warren at the Drake University Field House and said her decision between Warren and Sanders was simple, because Sanders' health is a big concern of hers. Sanders had a heart attack in October.

"I worry about his energy, I worry about his capabilities," said Elliot, a Des Moines resident. "I have been around Elizabeth Warren enough to see her energy. It's palpable, it's clear, and I just think she's in better health, and that's a big thing."

Sarah Watson and Rylee Wilson contributed to this report

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BREAKING NEWS

Phone: (319) 335-6030
Email: daily-iowan@uiowa.edu
Fax: 335-6297

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Call: Juli Krause at 335-5783
Email: daily-iowan@uiowa.edu

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Send address changes to:

The Daily Iowan,
100 Adler Journalism Building,
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-2004

BUSINESS STAFF

Business Manager
Debra Plath. 335-5786
Advertising Director/Circulation
Juli Krause. 335-5784

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Where did support for nonviable candidates go in the caucuses?

With five candidates competing for even numbers of supporters, second choices in the Iowa caucuses Monday night will likely be a deciding factor once results are reported.

BY CALEB MCCULLOUGH
caleb-mccullough@uiowa.edu

DES MOINES — U.S. Senator from Minnesota Amy Klobuchar, entrepreneur Andrew Yang, businessman Tom Steyer, and sometimes former Vice President Joe Biden. While they had fervent supporters and may have nabbed a few delegates at the Iowa caucuses Monday night, these candidates and a few others were largely unable to gain viability in many precincts. So where did their supporters go?

After initial preferences are expressed at a caucus and the first group counts are tallied, groups that failed to reach viability — gain 15 percent of attendees — are given the chance to realign to another group.

For the first time this year, the Iowa Democratic Party announced the raw vote totals of the first alignment along with the second alignment and the final state delegate equivalents. In previous years, the state party only released the delegate counts.

Because of technical issues delaying reporting of results, the party had not released the final counts by press time late Monday night. Still, *Daily Iowan* reporters fanned out to precinct locations across the state and found some stories of what happened to the supporters of less popular candidates.

Adam Van Wyk, 49, moved to the Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., camp after his first choice, Klobuchar, didn't reach viability at Des Moines Precinct 65 at Lincoln High School. He said he wanted to support a woman for the Democratic nomination.

"I've always liked Warren and Sanders' ideas, but they always seemed a little pie in the sky to me," Van Wyk said. "But Amy felt a little more realistic about how to achieve some of these things."

Van Wyk said Klobuchar's supporters were split pretty evenly between Warren and former Vice President Joe Biden after the realignment. He said many Klobuchar sup-



Katina Zentz/The Daily Iowan

Supporters of Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., hold up cards during the caucus at Des Moines Precinct 62 in the Knapp Center on Monday. The caucus head count reached 849 people, leaving 127 individuals needed for the candidate to be declared viable. Warren received 212 first-round total head-count votes.

porters favored Biden because of his experience as the vice president.

Randall Hoffmann, 28, the Yang precinct captain at Des Moines Precinct 65, moved to the Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., group after Yang failed to gain viability. He said it didn't make any sense to him to go undecided in the second alignment, and he wanted to realign with a top-tier candidate, because he felt like that was the most effective use of his caucus decision.

"I went right to Bernie, because that's where my heart is," he said.

On Jan. 29, Yang predicted in a roundtable with Bloomberg News reporters that many of his supporters may move to Sanders' groups in later rounds if he didn't reach viability.

However, no candidate drew a majority of Yang supporters at Hoffmann's precinct. He

said seven or eight of the 15 people that aligned with Yang on the first round decided not to realign. He was the only one of his group that realigned with Sanders, while others went to Warren and Buttigieg.

"I think that Pete ended up benefiting the most from realignment from what I was able to see," Hoffman said. "From my understanding, that was a group that was very strong in this precinct specifically."

Buttigieg had 88 people in his group on the first alignment, and jumped to 109 after realignment. Warren gained 21 supporters, going from 71 to 92, while Sanders, who had one of the largest groups on the first alignment, only gained four caucusgoers in the second round, going from 85 to 89.

At Callanan Middle School in Des Moines, Stella Perlowski, 17, first caucused with

Biden but was forced to realign when he didn't reach viability. Perlowski said she was being courted by Klobuchar, Sanders, and Buttigieg supporters. She ultimately decided to align with Buttigieg.

"The biggest thing that they said was he has a good chance of beating Trump better than Bernie, and that's the biggest thing that I'm going for," she said.

In other locations, caucusgoers chose to leave rather than to realign with another candidate.

In Iowa City Precinct 3 at the University of Iowa Field House, it was a battle of the stickers — a Warren supporter stood fast at the door with her stickers, only for a Sanders supporter to be steps away, touting stickers for his candidate. Up the crowded stairs stood entrepreneur Andrew Yang supporters

with signs, more Sanders and Warren supporters flanking on either side.

Caucusgoers entered one half of the gymnasium, marked off by black netting, and many filed into sections in support of Sanders, Warren, Yang, Biden, Buttigieg, and Klobuchar. Undecided caucusgoers stood in the middle of the sea, as supporters of every side began to float over, to try to sway them one way or another.

"I feel kind of flustered," Judy Siara, an 18-year-old first-time undecided caucusgoer said. "I feel like I was more excited before I actually got here, it's more in your face."

What would follow would be a three and a half hour ordeal, ending in a confusing conundrum.

The first count came in at 490 caucusgoers, leaving 74 to be the viable number. Only

Sanders and Warren had met viability, with 196 and 106 respectively, with Yang and Buttigieg falling just short with 59 and 62, and Biden and Klobuchar falling short at 10 and 13.

What happened next was something that Nicholas Johnson, the alternate precinct chair, said he has never seen in his years involved with the caucus with his wife, Mary Vasey.

The vice chair, who had taken over for the precinct chair, told individuals that they could either realign to a viable group or to form a viable group, or that they could mark on their preference cards that they choose to not align with a viable candidate and leave.

147 caucusgoers chose to do that, leaving without realigning to a viable group. While the Yang supporters initially made an effort to recruit from the Buttigieg, Biden, and Klobuchar group, they could not make viability. Many of those who had been in a viable group also left, their decision already counted.

The final count after the realignment had the Warren count at 130, and the Sanders count at 213. However, the math used to find the delegates were to be awarded left two delegates unaccounted for; the precinct had to delegate 7, Warren had won 2 and Sanders had won 3. The problem came from using the original number of caucusgoers who showed up, 490, rather than those who had realigned to a viable candidate, 343.

The question became then what to do with those who had simply left. This became a long debate, and as the vice chair tried to get the Iowa Democratic Party on the phone to no avail, it was determined that delegates would be determined by the number of people who had stayed and realigned.

"I think this is a good, common sense, rational way to solve a dilemma when the law refuses to answer your call," Johnson said. "I have never before encountered a caucus where there were people who left rather than realigned to a viable group."

GOP CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Des Moines resident Gary Propstein, 61, arrived at Perkins Elementary School's library 45 minutes early and waited for the Republican caucus to start. He wore a "Keep America Great" hat and proudly voiced his support for Trump.

"The Democrats just don't want to accept that he won the election, even though there was nothing wrong," Propstein said of the impeachment. Trump's impeachment trial regarding his alleged abuse of power and obstruction of Congress will come to a vote on Wednesday. "Trump's an outsider and [he's] just proving there's corruption."

He said his support for Trump is based on more than party politics. Propstein said he supports Trump because he's not a traditional politician.

"Trump's real," he said. "He doesn't sugar coat things and does what he says he's going to do. He protects our international interests. The world is sitting up and taking notice that they can't walk all over the United States anymore."

Trump came in second place behind U.S. Senator from Texas Ted Cruz in the 2016 Iowa caucuses, with 45,416 Iowans declaring their support for Trump across the state — around 24.3 percent of Iowa Republican caucusgoers.

In the 2016 general election, Trump won 51.1 percent of Iowa's votes, totaling to 147,314 more votes than



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

Caucus participant and University of Iowa freshman Mason Zaker checks his phone before a Republican caucus at Schaeffer Hall on Monday.

Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and winning 93 out of Iowa's 99 counties.

Since Trump launched his reelection campaign in June 2019, he has made two campaign stops in Iowa. Vice President Mike Pence has also swung through the state.

Doug Coats, 56, said his support for Trump has only grown over the last four years, including throughout the impeachment process.

"I think [the impeachment] is going to help him in the 2020 general [election, because] he fights back and there's no beating around

the bush," he said. "You know where he stands."

Coats said he wasn't concerned about anyone in the Democratic Party going up against Trump. However, he was still concerned about what might happen within his own party if he didn't show his support for the president.

"There's two other candidates," Coats said. "I didn't want to take [anything] for granted. I probably wouldn't have shown up if there hadn't been multiple candidates."

At North Liberty's Republican caucus location, 10 people chatted and socialized in

the community recreation center basement. Many made comments about the "circus" upstairs, referring to the Democratic caucus.

Charles Tomes, caucus chair for North Liberty Precincts 1 and 5, has worked for the county Republican Party since 2016.

"I prefer the caucus system compared to that of other states," Tomes said. "This is where the process begins. The energy grows when we reach the county convention and beyond."

Tomes began the night by leading the 19 caucusgoers

in the Pledge of Allegiance, turning toward an American flag printed out on computer paper. Several people were not aware there are two opponents to Trump for the Republican nomination.

Five minutes passed before the votes were counted — a unanimous North Liberty vote for Trump.

At a Republican caucus location at University of Iowa's Schaeffer Hall, Graeme Cabrera entered dressed in a suit, Trump wig, and a "Make America Great Again" hat. The California resident said he journeyed to the political

tundra of Iowa to observe the caucuses because being the first state to vote is a beautiful thing.

Growing up in California, all of Cabrera's friends were Democrats — himself included. He even voted for independent Senator from Vermont Bernie Sanders to be the Democratic nominee in the 2016 election. When that didn't pan out, Cabrera said he couldn't vote for Clinton.

"I said to them, 'You guys, I'm sorry. You guys have lost me, and the Democratic Party has lost me. I am not going to support election fraud in the primary or the general,'" he said.

Several students at Schaeffer Hall's Republican preference poll — all freshmen — questioned which county they were in and what the last digit of the zip code is.

UI freshman Mason Zaker was one of the first to show up at the precinct. He was one of the 15 people to turn out at the Schaeffer Hall precinct, where 14 voted for Trump and one voted for Walsh.

Zaker has been a Trump fan since he was in high school and has been keeping up with both sides of the impeachment process.

With Johnson County a strong blue marker on Iowa's map, Zaker said that there are many Democrats who will mistreat those who identify as Republicans on campus.

"You don't see a lot of the Republicans around here pushing it in the Democrats' faces," he said. "You can really notice that when you see the two groups here."

Hannah Rovner and Maddie Lotenshtein contributed to this report.

2020 caucuses: Scenes from around the state

Daily Iowan photographers scoured the state to cover the 2020 Iowa caucuses. See the images that defined the evening.

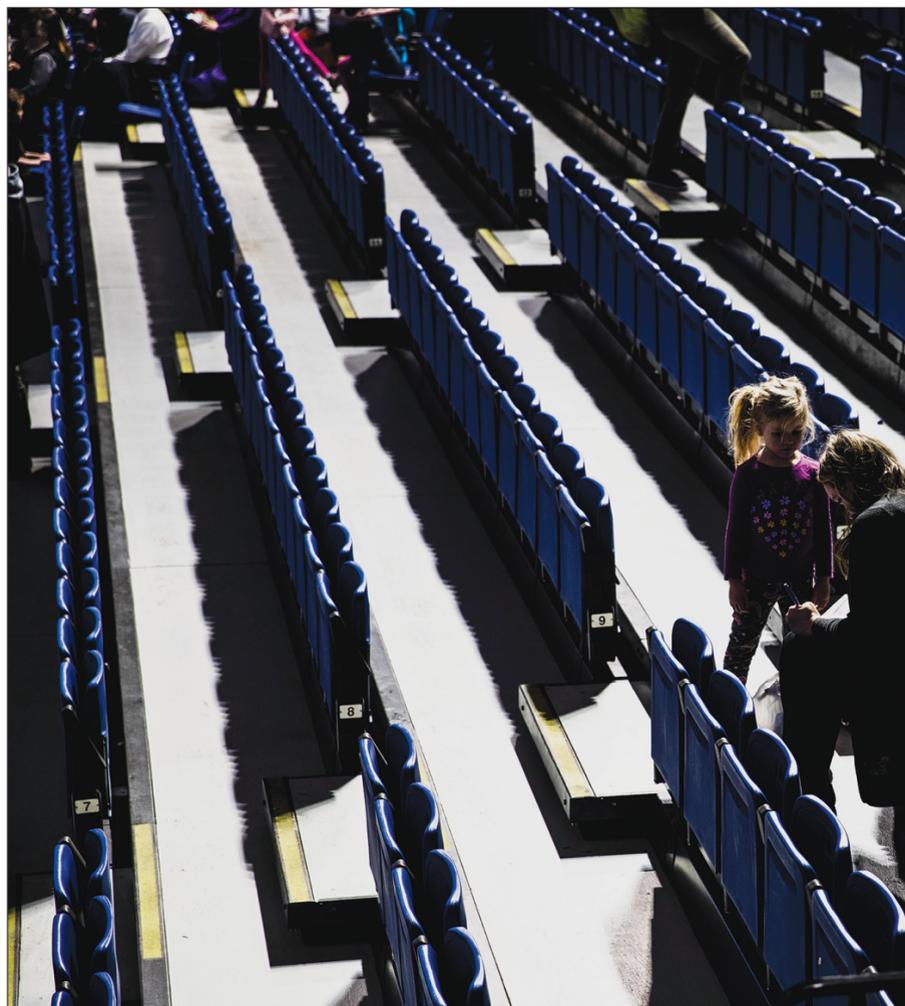


University of Iowa students wait as they participate in a Democratic presidential-precinct caucus at the IMU on Monday.

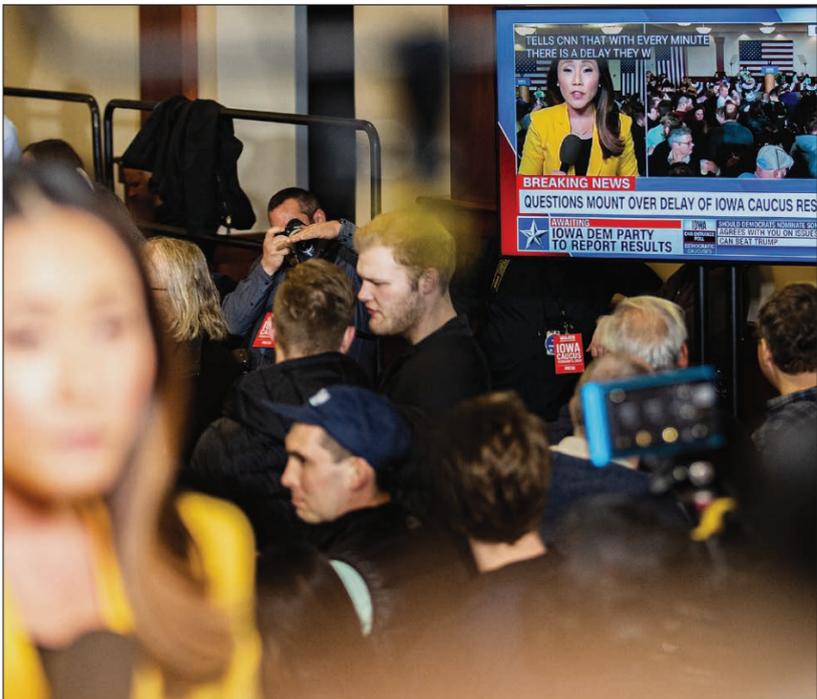


Wyatt Dlouhy/The Daily Iowan

Former South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg supporters cheer outside of the venue before the first round of counting begins in Des Moines Precinct 62 at the field house on the Drake University campus on Monday.



An attendees fills out a paper during the caucus at Des Moines Precinct 62 in the Knapp Center on Monday. The caucus declared viable.



Shivansh Ahujat/The Daily Iowan

CNN anchor Amara Walker reports from Warren HQ at the Forte Banquet and Conference Center in Des Moines on Monday.

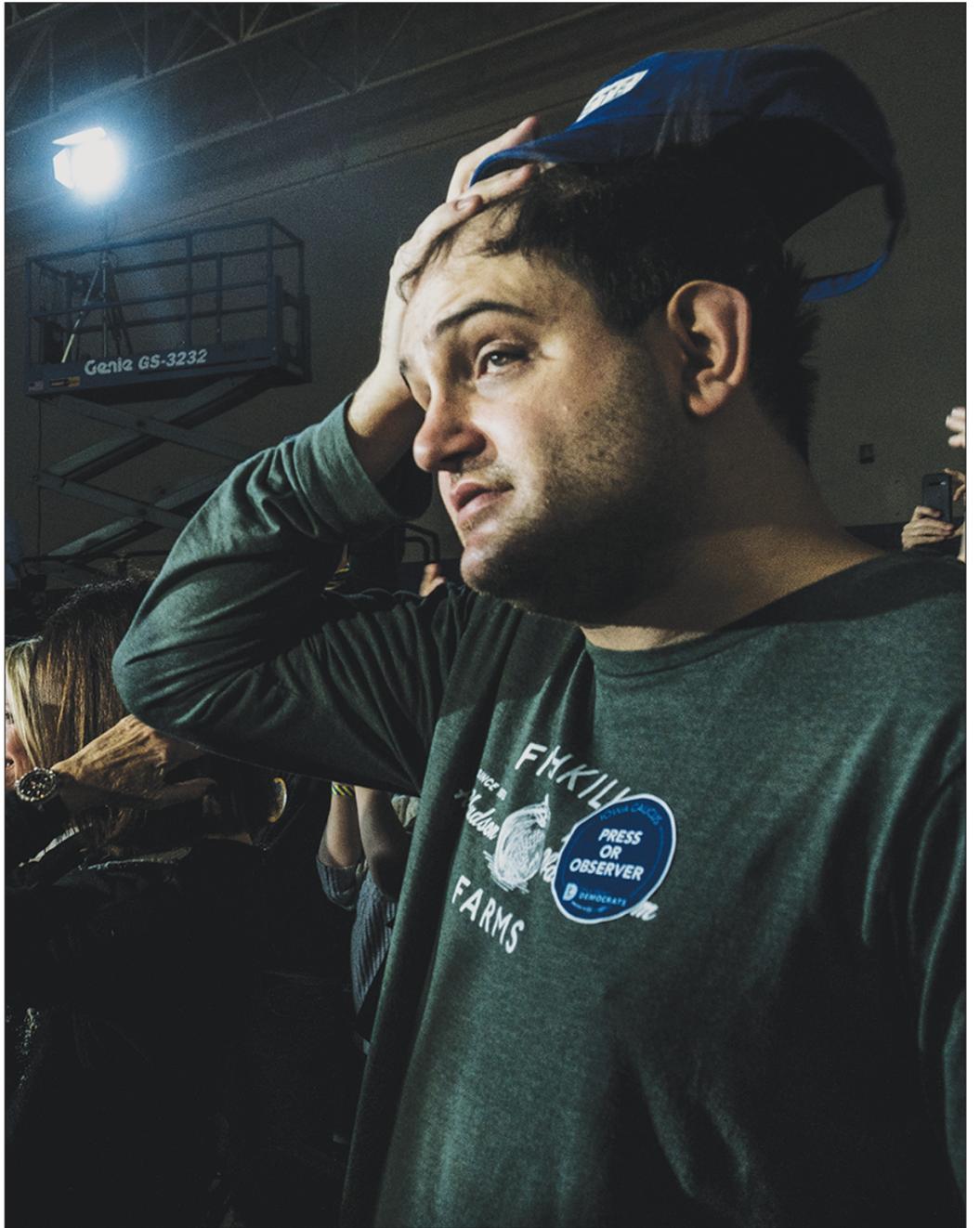


Katina Zentz/The Daily Iowan

Supporters of Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., hold up cards during the caucus at Des Moines Precinct 62 in the Knapp Center on Monday. The caucus head count reached 849 people, leaving 127 individuals needed for the candidate to be declared viable.



Megan Nagorzanski/The Daily Iowan



Wyatt Dlouhy/The Daily Iowan

A member of the audience become emotional as former South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigeig takes the stage at the Bell Center following the closing of the polls on Monday.



Katina Zentz/The Daily Iowan

head count reached 849 people, leaving 127 individuals needed for the candidate to be



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

President Trump volunteer Graeme Cabrera observes a Republican caucus at Schaeffer Hall on Monday. Cabrera said he came to Iowa to volunteer because "Iowa is first."



Shivansh Ahuja/The Daily Iowan

Caucusgoers wave a Puerto Rican flag outside the Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines on Monday.

First-time caucusgoers explain 'what's in a name'

Despite a less-than-ordinary Iowa caucuses night, it was nonetheless many students' first exposure to the first-in-the-nation contest. Many students said that ideological differences between the factions of the Democratic Party influenced their decisions Monday night.

BY CHARLES PECKMAN
charles-peckman@uiowa.edu

As the nation trained its eyes on the Hawkeye State Monday night for the Iowa caucuses, many University of Iowa students were exposed to the oft raucous nature of the first-in-the-nation caucuses for the first time.

As colleges and universities throughout the state rallied behind their candidates of choice, the University of Iowa was no exception — throughout the night, thousands of students caucused for the 11 Democratic candidates and incumbent

president alike. At the IMU, for example, students rallied heavily for Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and former South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

Buttigieg supporter Abigail Bright said she is fond of the former mayor's youth and charisma. Bright, a UI freshman and first-time caucusgoer, said she is hoping "Mayor Pete" leaves Iowa with a victory.

"I've done research about all the candidates online and read about them," she said. "What I like about [Buttigieg] is his passion for

younger generations. He understands us, and I just like him as a person, too."

Although UI junior Ben Perez said he is the first to admit that former Vice President Joe Biden is not "the most enthusiastic" candidate running in the 2020 election, his storied career should speak for itself.

"I like his background as [President Obama's] right-hand man," Perez said. "I also like that his goals and policies are achievable, which I don't think is being shown in other campaigns."

At around 7:45 p.m., well into the first alignment

of the evening, the lights of the IMU second floor ballroom went out. After a brief moment of panic, a litany of iPhone-powered flashlights illuminated the space — some campaigns, such as that of entrepreneur Andrew Yang, took the abbreviated blackout as an opportunity to engage with undecided voters.

One of these undecided voters, UI freshman Liam Warren said he was not simply torn by "who I like the best," but by the ideological divide between the moderate and progressive factions of the Democratic Party.

"At this point, I just really don't know," Warren said, adjusting his campaign button-clad leather jacket. "I'm torn between the ... ideas that I view should be done, and the candidates whose platforms and policies can be done."

To UI sophomore Ian Triplett, Sanders is the "clear choice" for the Democratic nomination. Even though Triplett said he understands the skepticism that prevents some Democrats from supporting Medicare for All and other progressive platforms, he added that now, more than ever, the nation is ready for a political revolution.

"[The senator] cares about the lives of the people who have been negatively impacted by the system the most," Triplett said. "I care about universal health care and education because those programs will help the people who have been disenfranchised the most."

Across campus at Schaeffer Hall, students quietly talked to one another while filling out Republican preference-voting ballots. Of the students *The Daily Iowan* spoke with, all of them were freshmen — including Maddie Pautvein, a freshman who showed up to support the Republican Party.

"I decided I would give it a shot," she said. "I'm a Republican, so I thought I'd come to the Republican caucus first."

According to data aggregated by Tufts University, college-aged caucusgoers (18-29) in Iowa demonstrated how Sanders, Warren, and Buttigieg showed an early lead in Iowa. As of Jan. 24, Sanders held 39 percent of the prospective 18-29 vote, followed by Warren at

19 percent and Buttigieg at 14 percent.

This showcases the results from Precinct 5 (the IMU second-floor ballroom), where Sanders received four delegates, followed by Warren with three and Buttigieg with two.

The poll, in which 500 Iowans were surveyed, stated that 72 percent of Iowa youth said they had been "personally contacted" by a campaign, party, or any other organization that supports political candidates — 82 percent of young Democrats responded yes to this question, followed by 75 percent of independent/unaffiliated voters, and 60 percent of young Republicans.

According to the same report, young voters are not overwhelmingly passionate about one particular topic — issues pertaining to sexual health, climate change, and the rising cost of higher education are salient to college-aged students. 18 percent said they were especially passionate about the environment, while 12 percent cited taxes as a primary concern.

In 2016, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton narrowly won Iowa with 49.8 percent of the vote compared to Sanders' 49.6 percent, making it the closest contest in Iowa's history.

Looking forward, Triplett said he hopes the "revolution" Sanders has started continues all the way to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

"If you look back at candidates who have 'played it safe,' they never capture the momentum required to win," he said. "We even saw this with the 2016 election. I think this year, the [Democratic] Party is fired up and ready to move forward."



University of Iowa students caucus at the Iowa Memorial Union on Monday.

Megan Nagorzanski/The Daily Iowan

Caucusgoers appreciate accessibility of satellite option

The satellite caucus option arose for the first time in Iowa history, allowing more accessibility for the Democratic caucuses with 87 new locations.

BY RIN SWANN
corinne-swann@uiowa.edu

For the first time in Iowa's caucus history, the Iowa Democratic Party implemented satellite caucuses — sites which local caucusgoers are lauding as bringing more accessibility into the process.

Amid concern from the Democratic National Committee about the accessibility of the Iowa caucuses, the Iowa Democratic Party created a satellite caucus option with the hope of increasing turnout for those who may otherwise have struggled to participate.

As of press time Monday night, the party had not repeated turnout numbers.

Satellite caucuses added an additional 87 locations for Iowa Democrat, including 60 new options in-state, 24 options out of state, and three international caucus locations placed in Paris, France; Glasgow, Scotland; and Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia.

Because of a delay in reporting results from the Iowa Democratic Party, official results from satellite caucuses were not reported before press time.

Another change in the process included additional start times for the satellite caucuses. For example, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics provided two satellite caucuses for patients and staff, one at 5:30 p.m. and one at 7:45 p.m.

Multiple retirement homes provided satellite caucuses and 24 new locations were provided for students on college campuses. A crowd of 318 people,

mostly students, attended a satellite location in the UI's Phillips Hall.

Yajara Bolanos, 21, caucused at Phillips Hall because she did not have a vehicle to take her to the precinct at Iowa City West High School, which was her assigned precinct.

"Buses come every hour and it was just very inconvenient," said Bolanos, a Des Moines native. "And then someone told me about this satellite caucus on campus at Phillips and I was like, 'OK, I'll go.' I wouldn't have gone [without the satellite caucus]."

In a typical caucus, an Iowan will travel to a precinct location, where a caucus will begin at 7 p.m. and can last for a few minutes or up to a few hours based on the number of attendees.

The Democratic National Committee expressed concern about the accessibility of precinct caucuses, because it can be difficult for people who may be elderly or disabled to physically travel to the precincts and could result in less overall turnout. In a primary, there is an absentee ballot option, but because you have to physically show up to a caucus, there is no similar option.

Issues with attendance included caucusgoers who work late, who may be college students, or who may be in hospitals and nursing homes.

UI students from varying counties expressed that the satellite-caucus option was more convenient given their busy schedules.

"We wanted to go home but it wouldn't have worked

out with morning classes," said UI student and Johnston, Iowa native Maddie Petersen, 19.

Adults who attended the satellite caucus at Phillips Hall said that traditional caucus precincts are often not feasible options, because they have to travel from work.

"I was teaching on campus until 6:15 [p.m.]," said UI lecturer Ashley Jennings,

33. "I would have had to go get my car and go drive to the caucus location that is closer to our house, and the likelihood of doing that within 45 minutes was slim, so this is facilitating my ability to caucus ..."

Each of Iowa's four congressional districts reported an extra county to accommodate for their satellite-caucus results and one caucus county for all of

the out-of-state caucus sites — meaning that the overall number of counties reporting totaled 104 instead of the usual 99.

The total number of delegates allocated to the satellite caucuses was based on the total turnout of the satellite caucuses within each district, or turnout statewide for the out-of-state and international sites. In total, the satellite caucuses

were allowed up to 10 percent of the delegates.

John Bergstrom of Iowa City, 62, expressed gratitude for the satellite caucus at Phillips Hall and how it increased accessibility.

"I appreciate it because I could walk here from my home rather than drive to the official caucus site," Bergstrom said, "which is why I am very pleased to have this opportunity."



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

Volunteers speak with participants before a caucus at a satellite location at Phillips Hall on Monday. Many who could not make it to their designated precinct caucus location participated in the satellite site.

Caucus rules change causes turnout uncertainty

While Iowans still turned out to caucus in 2020, many issues were faced regarding new regulations, causing a delay in reporting.

BY ALEXANDRA SKORES
alexandra-skores@uiowa.edu

Iowans turned out to caucus across the state Monday night, some confused about new rule changes, while the Iowa Democratic Party faced delays in reporting results.

In an email to the press, Iowa Democrats Press Communications Director Mandy McClure stated that three sets of results had discrepancies in their reporting. McClure said the Iowa Democratic Party will check photos of results and paper trails in order to check the tech systems that are being used to tabulate the results.

At the Republican caucuses statewide, 32,001 caucusgoers were present and in Johnson County, Iowa's bluest county, 827 Republican caucusgoers turned out. As of press time, Democratic turnout results were not available.

While the energy and anticipation remains high in Johnson County, many at the precinct locations remained hopeful.

"It's my favorite political night, other than election night," Betsy Miller, a former vice president Joe Biden precinct captain said. "And we're so lucky to be from Iowa... It's grassroots and what America is all about."

For the 2020 election, the Iowa Democratic Party promised changes to the first-in-the-nation caucuses with an early check-in option to expedite the entrance process, a streamlined realignment process, and satellite caucus loca-

tions. The Iowa Democratic Party will now record raw numbers, first alignment, and final alignment, while viable groups will be locked in during the first alignment period, even if the group is undecided.

According to Democratic Caucus Organizer John Deeth, the Iowa City 5 precinct located in the University of Iowa IMU experienced issues surrounding the new app for precincts. Frustrations arose with new rules and regulations as well, causing many nonviable groups to leave before the final alignment because of a lack of understanding the new rules — a problem he believes many faced across the state.

For incumbent GOP candidate President Trump, caucusgoers turned out at rates lower than in 2016, when a record of 180,000 Republican caucusgoers turned out.

At North Liberty Precinct 1 and 5 at the North Liberty Recreation Center, it was a unanimous vote by all 19 people present for Trump.

In North Liberty's Republican caucus location, 10 people chatted in the community recreation center basement. Many made comments about the "circus" upstairs, referring to the Democratic caucus.

Charles Tomes, a caucus chair for both of the North Liberty precincts, began working for the Johnson County Republican Party in 2016.

"I prefer the caucus system compared to that of other states," Tomes said about primary states. "This



University of Iowa students form lines during the caucus at the Iowa Memorial Union on Monday.

Megan Nagorzanski/The Daily Iowan

is where the process begins. The energy grows when we reach the county convention and beyond."

Democrats turned out at low rates in Iowa in 2016, but the results are still underway for what officials say could be a record turnout.

Caucusgoers of all ages gathered in the Iowa City High School cafeteria, and Vicki Bachman, a 68-year-old entrepreneur and Andrew Yang supporter, said she was prepared to caucus for a candidate who is forward-thinking and considerate of future generations.

Bachman said it was difficult to find parking outside City High, but once inside the organizers did a brilliant job directing caucusgoers to each precinct. As a former teacher in the Iowa City Community School District, Bachman said she was not expecting such a large crowd at a school she was very familiar with.

"I've been to City High many, many times, but I was shocked by how jam-packed it was all around," she said.

In an effort to get more Iowans to the caucuses, Iowa City Transit added four

new bus routes to serve caucus locations.

Anne Matte, communications and voting outreach coordinator of Disability Rights Iowa, said accessibility to the caucuses proved to be extremely difficult, which was a concern of the Democratic National Committee and why the Iowa Democratic Party implemented satellite caucus locations.

Just two weeks prior to the caucuses, Matte said, Iowa Democrats and Iowa Republicans began to process the nearly 300 accommodations requests. Had the parties al-

lotted more time in advance, Matte said she believes there would have been many more requests.

"Promised improvement with language of accessibility was not properly delivered and it was thrown together to appease the community," Matte said. "It was like dangling the carrot on the stick and trying to lead the community on. ADA is the law of the land — accessibility is not a new requirement."

Annie Fitzpatrick and Hannah Rovner contributed to this report.

EMTs face steady risk of attack while on duty

First responders report that they sometimes face verbal or physical attacks from the people they try to help while on the job.

BY KELSEY HARRELL
kelsey-harrell@uiowa.edu

University of Iowa Emergency Medical Services Learning Resource Center Director Paul Ganss can recall a time in his career as an emergency-medical technician when he responded to a call and was attacked by a patient's relative.

Ganss and another emergency-medical technician were answering the call of a woman who'd collapsed in her home from cardiac arrest. The woman's family told Ganss she had a do-not-resuscitate order. When Ganss moved to check her pulse to verify whether she was alive or dead, the woman's son lunged over the couch and attacked Ganss.

In the time since this happened in the 1980s, Ganss said EMTs and other emergency personnel are still often attacked by the people they're trying to help. UI researchers are continuing to investigate this trend in such violent incidents.

In a 2013 study by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, between 57 percent and 93 percent of EMS responders reported experiencing verbal or physical violence at least once during their career.

Sometimes patients see EMTs as the enemy, said UI Hospitals and Clinics EMS instructor Lori Kuester, because patients are under the influence, or have anger-management or mental-health issues preventing them from controlling themselves. Patients will bite, slap, spit, and punch responders in an effort to push them away, she added.

"It's a lot more common than people think," Kuester said. "Just because of the people that we deal with, a lot of them are on drugs or they're drunk or just have anger issues, whatever, and they don't always see us as being there to help them."

There's no way to prevent attacks from happening, but EMTs are trained in how to de-escalate a situation,

Kuester said. That includes bringing the patient somewhere they can calm down, physically or chemically restraining them, or giving them medication to calm down, she added.

"I think there's a gray line between people who, because of their physical condition, assault us," Ganss said. "I can't justify putting those people in jail — do they need to be arrested?"

Superiors to EMTs may sometimes be reluctant to acknowledge violence toward their workers, Ganss said, because it could affect their image to the community. A concern also exists that prosecutors won't take the case even if an EMT presses charges, he said.

UI business Professor Semin Park participated in a 2017 conference that brainstormed possible solutions to this problem.

Park said her primary research focuses on teams and interpersonal relationships in organizations, and she helps conduct research

at Arizona State University that involves training first responders and how to make that training more comprehensive.

Her team came up with the solution to create systematic training across

medical services, police, and firefighters. It can be difficult to find a solution to this problem, because it involves the law and systems that act as a guideline as to who should report to who, Park said.

"There's no guidance in terms of if you get attacked; what you do," she said. "There's underlying assumptions that first responders are caregivers. They have to help them, even if a patient is aggressive."



Wyatt Dlouhy/The Daily Iowan

Director of the Emergency Medical Services Learning Resource Center Paul Ganss poses for a portrait at the University of Iowa Hospital on Jan. 28.

UI pediatric neurosurgeon honored for work in field

Professor Arnold Menezes, a renowned pediatric neurosurgeon, has received the Franc D. Ingraham Award for Distinguished Service and Achievement. The award is the highest career achievement for a pediatric neurosurgeon.

BY RILEY DAVIS
riley-davis@uiowa.edu

Arnold Menezes, a University of Iowa pediatric neurosurgeon and professor, recently became the 10th pediatric neurosurgeon in history to receive the Franc D. Ingraham Award for Distinguished Service and Achievement.

Menezes began at UI Hospitals and Clinics in 1969, as a resident in general surgery and neurosurgery. Once he completed a fellowship in pediatric neurology, Menezes said he was asked to remain at the UI and build up the pediatric neurosurgery and neurosurgical program.

Ever since then, Menezes has redesigned procedures and reduced the risk of mor-

tality for surgeries involving disorders in the craniocervical region.



Menezes

Menezes said his recent award was initially instituted in 1998 by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons Section of Pediatric Neurological Surgery, in honor of Franc D. Ingraham, a founder of American pediatric neurosurgery.

The award is the highest career achievement in the world for a pediatric neurosurgeon, said UI Professor and Neurosurgery Chair Matthew Howard. World-renowned pedi-

atric neurosurgeons put forward names for consideration and an award-selection committee reviews the academic work of each nominee.

The committee bases its decision on whether the neurosurgeon's accomplishments are both remarkable and unique, Howard said.

"[Both apply] to Dr. Menezes, because his work is so unique and easily differentiated as truly world class," Howard said.

Menezes is most famous for perfecting operations that address problems where the skull interfaces with the cervical spine, Howard emphasized. Those conditions are both dangerous and difficult to treat surgically, Howard said.

"Before Dr. Menezes entered that field, the complica-

tion rates and mortality rates were very high for those operations and very few surgeons tried to do those operations," he said. "But over a period of 40 years, he systematically developed these very innovative, meticulous, and systematic approaches to surgery and reduced the complication rate to a very low level."

Previous challenges in this type of surgery involved accessing the interfacing area, Menezes said. There was no answer to the issue in neurosurgical literature anywhere in the world, so Menezes began a research endeavor with other pediatric neurosurgeons.

"My research endeavor was mainly at the junction of the skull base between the skull and the cervical spine because

the mortality was very high, like 30 percent, if patients were operated from behind when the problem was in front," Menezes said. "We designed the diagnostic procedures, as well as the different operative approaches and surgical techniques. This started the evolution of the database for problems with the cranial-cervical junction."

That same database now involves more than 7,000 patients that come from around the world, he added.

Menezes has inspired many of the neurosurgery trainees within UIHC to pursue pediatric careers, Howard said. Because of his mentorship over the last 20 years, the hospital has produced the third highest number of people going into academic pediatric neurosur-

gery in North America, he said. "He has been an incredible mentor to me," UI Neurosurgery Assistant Professor Brian Dlouhy said. "As a resident and younger faculty member, I've learned a tremendous amount from him."

Dlouhy emphasized that Menezes is very encouraging of residents interested in going into pediatric neurosurgery and engages with them while still seeing and treating patients.

"[I feel like] a parent; they are all my kids," Menezes said. "I'm very proud of all their achievements because each one of them has gone ahead and furthered the cause — not just what I do, what I did, or what I taught them, but in their own way."

Tippie associate dean announced as first candidate for vice president for Student Life

Tippie College of Business Associate Dean and Professor Kenneth Brown, a candidate for vice president for Student Life, held a public forum where he discussed his strengths and the Division of Student Life's priorities.

BY LAUREN WHITE
lauren-white@uiowa.edu

In a public forum as the first finalist for the Vice President for Student Life position, Tippie College of Business Associate Dean Kenneth Brown emphasized listening to students, bettering the campus environment, and advancing conversation surrounding important current issues.

University of Iowa students, staff, and faculty filled IMU Room 166 on Monday for the event, as Brown took the stage to reflect on his time at the university thus far and address his goals for improvement.

"When we work together, better things happen; amazing things happen," Brown said. "If we rush and push too hard, things don't progress as well."

In October 2019, the UI launched a search committee responsible for filling the vice president for Student Life position after

former head of the division Melissa Shivers announced she would leave the UI to lead student affairs at Ohio State University.

Brown discussed his passion for leading and mentoring students, and how listening to and supporting students makes it possible to learn from them.

"You cannot replace someone like Shivers," Brown said. "You can only pick up from where she left off and continue the conversations that she began."

Brown's priorities for the Division of Student Life include student engagement; holistic well-being; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and community and belonging. He does not believe that the division needs fixing or that someone needs to create a new plan, Brown said, but he wants to plant additional focus on preexisting priorities in the office.

By focusing on these goals, Brown said there can be a greater impact on the

educational futures and careers of students. However, he added, this work cannot be done through one or two people, but everyone must pick up a piece for a better campus environment.

"As a faculty member who has been here for 22 years, I think it so important to implement a connection be-

order to foster a one-university, one-mission mentality. Brown said that he wants to build trust among students by providing for an environment that works to their benefit and truly listens to them.

Following his presentation, Brown discussed the #DoesUIowaLoveMe

pus and to urge the university to take action to create a better campus climate.

Shivers previously told *The Daily Iowan* that she hired an executive director for Belonging and Inclusion, Maria Bruno, in response to students' concerns raised in that movement.

Brown said. "Fraternities can do so much good for its students and the community, and I want to place stricter measures and guidelines to the fraternities to steer their priorities to where they should be."

UI Student Government Governmental Relations Director Connor Wooff said he was impressed by Brown and respected his stance on connecting and empathizing with students to make them more likely to engage in easy conversation about finances.

"Ken makes his work known to those even outside of his college," Wooff said. "I like his thoughts on finding new funding resources for the division and university. He brought a personal connection to the cost of education and empathizes with students so that they can attach a friendly face to the cost."

Wooff said that students face so many burdens with education at the UI, but Brown helps students feel less stressed. He also expressed an appreciation for Brown's passion for connecting with students. A vice president for Student Life should understand what is best for students and listen to their needs, he added.

"I hear students' fears, and I could never say that it is unrealistic, I say that we hear it and we are going to try to make things different," Brown said. "You put aside institutional defensiveness to hear the hard stories. This is the only way we can get better."

"When we work together, better things happen. Amazing things happen. If we rush and push too hard, things don't progress as well."

— Kenneth Brown, associate dean of the Tippie College of Business

tween the Provost's Office and Division of Student Life in order to create policies and a culture of well-being for students," Brown said.

If selected, Brown said, he would work hard to connect the two departments in

movement and said he was pleased by how it challenged the university and those in its higher positions. In February 2019, Hawkeyes took to social media to voice their experiences with discrimination on the UI cam-

In this instance, students were the educators, Brown said. He wants to continue encouraging conversations like these, he added.

UI Student Government LGBTQ+ Constituency Senator AJ King said Brown was transparent about his identity and the privilege it holds, which they appreciated.

"He seems self-aware and learned on cultural competency, and I hope to see how he performs such competencies in his work and practice," King said.

When asked by attendees how he plans to address gender violence and sexual assault on campus, Brown said he wants to start by encouraging fraternities to understand the fear that their negative reputation causes for campus and the community.

The UI has previously administered the Speak Out Iowa survey to gauge students' experiences with sexual misconduct and in response unveiled an anti-violence plan aimed to address the issue. The plan aims to expand prevention and education on sexual misconduct, and also better account for the unique experiences of individuals from underrepresented communities.

"As president of my fraternity in college, I am grateful for all of the skills greek life brought me,"

SECOND VP FOR STUDENT LIFE FORUM

- **Who:** Sarah Hansen, manager of strategic programs in the Provost's Office
- **Where:** Room 166 IMU
- **When:** Tuesday, 10:30-11:45 a.m.



Jake Maish/The Daily Iowan

Finalist for Vice President for Student Life Kenneth G. Brown presents during a public forum in the IMU on Monday. Brown is the first of four candidates vying for the position, which was left vacant by Melissa Shivers' departure.

Health officials monitor newly dominant flu strain

With flu season in full swing, experts detect a rise in influenza B cases — a cause for confusion since influenza A was previously the predominant strain. Mercy Iowa City, UI Student Health, and UI Health Care are emphasizing prevention efforts.

BY RILEY DAVIS
riley-davis@uiowa.edu

Despite influenza A being the predominant strain of past flu seasons, influenza B is leading in case volume this year, and experts say that people in their mid-20s and younger are more susceptible to the virus.

Experts do not currently know the cause for the shift in predominance from influenza A to B, said David Kusner, infectious disease physician at Mercy Iowa City. Viruses often make changes in their nucleic acid recombination and fluctuate depending on how they're selected by immune responses for either humans or animals, he said.

Children and the elderly are the primary groups at risk, he said, but recently young adults up to about age 25 have also become more susceptible to influenza B.

Several variables can make some people more susceptible to one strain of influenza than the other, Kusner added, making the B strain more predominant this flu season than it has been in the past.

"Sometimes when [individuals] have past exposure, that might give [them] a partial immunity to it," Kus-

ner said. "That's what we're seeing now with influenza B where older people are not getting it very much, but younger people are."

At Mercy Hospital, people are only mildly concerned about influenza B's predominance. The primary concern is actually how to bounce back from last year's tough flu season, Kusner said, because of a high rate of hospitalizations and even deaths. Mercy's main focus is to not grow complacent as flu season progresses.

University of Iowa Health Care Infection Preventionist Stephine Holley said there's a concern for influenza every year, regardless of a strain's dominance, and the hospital takes tremendous efforts to prepare for flu season.

"We put much effort into prevention strategies including promoting vaccination, identifying ill people and putting practices into place to minimize spread, encouraging good hygiene practice and, of course, monitoring the situation closely," she said. "We have multiple teams that collaborate to ensure we are providing a safe environment for our patients, visitors, and staff."

In an email to *The Daily*

Iowan, UI Student Health Medical Director Jennifer Johnson said the university has yet to see an abnormality in the number of flu cases at this point in the semester, but that health providers have noted the unusual change in predominance of influenza strains.

Generally, influenza B becomes the prevalent strain in the later part of the flu season, Johnson said, so the early shift to influenza B prevalence is indeed out of the ordinary.

Student Health encourages students to pay close attention to what could be a more severe flu season, she said.

Johnson added that the best way to combat this change within the university community is to keep up healthy practices such as reducing stress, sleeping and eating well, and exercising. She also emphasized the need for students to get a flu shot.

"It's not too late to get one," Johnson said. "The more students who get a flu shot, the more it protects our entire campus [herd immunity], which makes it safer for people who can't get a flu vaccine [such as babies under six months]."



Photo Illustration by Katie Goodale

HAWKEYE UPDATES

Maryland, Michigan earn weekly men's basketball honors

Maryland guard Anthony Cowan Jr. and Michigan guard Franz Wagner have been awarded weekly honors by the Big Ten, the conference announced on Monday.

Cowan Jr. earned Big Ten Player of the Week honors, while Wagner has been named Big Ten Freshman of the Week.

Cowan Jr. scored a career-high 31 points, tallied six rebounds, and had six assists in a win over No. 18 at College Park.

He scored 19 of his points in the second half to secure Maryland's second top-25 win of the season.

Wagner averaged 18 points, seven rebounds, and 1.5 assists in two Michigan victories last week. He shot 63.2 percent from the field (12-for-19) and 62.5 percent on 3-pointers (5-for-8), making a career-best four against Rutgers.

Wagner stepped into the starting lineup versus the Scarlet Knights and set new career bests in six categories: points (20), field goals (7), field goal attempts (13), 3-point field goals (4), 3-point field goal attempts (7), and minutes (38).

This is the second Player of the Week honor of Cowan Jr.'s career and the first Big Ten accolade of Wagner's career.

Big Ten announces weekly women's basketball honors

Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin earned the Big Ten women's basketball honors for the past week, the conference announced on Monday.

Michigan's Naz Hillmon was named Big Ten Player of the Week after averaging 28.5 points, nine rebounds, and 3.5 assists per game in two games last week.

She was also named ESPNW National Player of the Week on Monday. Hillmon recorded a career-high 30 points and 10 rebounds on 14-of-19 shooting in the Wolverines' victory over No. 18 Iowa. She contributed 27 points, eight rebounds, and five assists in a Jan. 30 loss at No. 23 Northwestern.

Minnesota's Jasmine Powell and Maryland's Sydney Hilliard earned Co-Freshman of the Week honors from the conference.

Powell averaged 17.7 points, five rebounds, and 3.3 assists per game last week, leading the Golden Gophers to two conference victories.

Hilliard averaged 15.5 points, 8.5 rebounds, and 3.5 assists per game as Wisconsin split two conference games last week.

AP MEN'S BASKETBALL POLL

1. Baylor
2. Gonzaga
3. Kansas
4. San Diego State
5. Louisville
6. Dayton
7. Duke
8. Florida State
9. Maryland
10. Villanova
17. Iowa

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's a mindset that we have going into every game, that in order to win in this league, you've got to be the tougher team."



Iowa center Luka Garza on the team's toughness

STAT OF THE DAY

Luka Garza has scored **20** or more points 16 times this season

Barta steps into CFP role

Iowa Athletic Director Gary Barta spoke with the media on Monday about his new role in the College Football Playoff committee and shared what football means to him as a first-generation student.



Katina Zentz/The Daily Iowan

Iowa Athletic Director Gary Barta addresses the media during the second day of Big Ten Football Media Days in Chicago on July 19, 2019.

BY PETE RUDEN
peter-ruden@uiowa.edu

For the first time since being named the chair of the College Football Playoff committee, Iowa Athletic Director Gary Barta took to the podium to discuss his new role, among other items.

Barta, who was named the CFP chair on Jan. 22, will take over for Oregon Athletics Director Rob Mullens.

In his new role, Barta will serve as a spokesperson for the other committee members.

Serving as the chair, Barta said, allows him to give

back to a sport that changed his life, which played a role in accepting the position.

"If I didn't play football — I was a first-gen college student and my family had no money, so there was no reasonable person who thought I'd go to college," Barta said. "So, if it weren't for that opportunity, I wouldn't be standing before you today. Football has given me unbelievable opportunities. It was a chance when they asked me to be on the committee to say, 'I'd love to give back.'"

Barta said his vote still holds the same weight as the rest of the committee members, but he will have to be on the road more often when football season comes

along and the College Football Playoff committee hits its stride.

Members representing a university — like Barta for the University of Iowa — cannot be in the room when their programs are discussed.

Instead, the group uses white hats with no logos as a symbol for finding the best teams in the country.

"Before you go into the room, you hang your hat," Barta said. "Symbolically, it's just a commitment from everyone in the room to look to name the best 25 teams,

SEE BARTA, 2B

Competitive edge lifting Hawkeyes

The Iowa men's basketball team is playing with a certain toughness this season, and that comes straight from the top.



Nichole Harris/The Daily Iowan

Iowa head coach Fran McCaffery yells during a men's basketball game between Iowa and Michigan at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Jan. 17. The Hawkeyes defeated the Wolverines, 90-83.

BY ROBERT READ
robert-read@uiowa.edu

A team often takes on the identity of its head coach. That's the case for the Iowa men's basketball team this season.

The Hawkeyes have a toughness, a competitive edge that past teams under head coach Fran McCaffery have lacked. That's been very evident this season, especially in conference play.

"Fran's done an unbelievable job of resurrecting this team," Illinois head coach Brad Underwood said. "He's not getting enough credit nationally, with all the guys leaving. This is a better basketball team than they were a year ago. They're tougher."

Iowa came back from down double-digits to beat Wisconsin at home on Jan. 27. The Hawkeyes have pulled out close wins against ranked teams on three separate occasions.

That's not something the Hawkeyes have al-

ways done under Fran McCaffery. There's no quit in this year's team.

"Fran's a tough son of a gun," Underwood said. "It's a mindset. He's got his kids believing, and that's 99 percent of the battle today in college. Coaching is getting your team to believe in you and take on your characteristics. He should be really proud."

Center Luka Garza has blown kisses to the crowd and pounded his chest throughout this season — just as guards CJ Fredrick and Connor McCaffery have not been shy with their trash talk.

It's the type of behavior that makes the home crowds at Carver-Hawkeye Arena stand up and cheer, or the opposing fans yell with full force in disgust at the Hawkeyes.

What's important is that the way Iowa plays on the court backs up those antics. Not all players can.

SEE BASKETBALL, 2B

Ruther leads charge for Hawkeyes in 2020

After a disappointing 2019 campaign, Iowa softball is ready turn the corner in 2020. Led by junior college transfer Mia Ruther, the Hawkeyes have high expectations for the upcoming season.

BY AUSTIN HANSON
austin-hanson@uiowa.edu

Following a 19-32 season in 2019, Iowa softball is gearing up for its latest campaign. Despite the Hawkeyes' recent struggles, they remain optimistic for 2020.

Very optimistic. "What we're capable of, I truly feel like we can have 38 to 40 wins," head coach Renee Gillispie said. "I think it'll give us a chance to be seen in the NCAA Regionals."

Much of Iowa's optimism has been generated by the fresh faces Gillispie welcomed to her program during the offseason.

"I think [the newcomers are] going to be an immediate impact," senior Allison Doocy said. "We saw right from the fall that we had some great players that came in. We have a lot of girls with really good experience — freshmen and transfers — that have a lot to bring to the team. A lot of new personalities, as well as skill sets that made a really competitive atmosphere, but also, like, a loving atmosphere. We're all fighting for a spot, but also supporting each other in what we're doing."

Mia Ruther highlights the class of new Hawkeyes. Ruther transferred in from Des Moines Area Community College, where she earned National Junior College Athletic Association All-American honors.

The Burlington, Iowa, native's path to the UI wasn't easy. Iowa City's proximity to Burlington

SEE RUTHER, 2B

Men's gymnastics shines against Minnesota

The Hawkeyes earned a win in their home opener while posting their second-best point total of the season.

BY CASSANDRA BUCHHOLZ
cassandra-buchholz@uiowa.edu

The Iowa men's gymnastics team defeated Minnesota and the Illinois-Chicago Flames with a team score of 400.00 — the team's second highest of the season — on Feb. 1, followed by Minnesota at 397.950 and UIC at 355.600.

The Hawkeyes are currently ranked ninth in the country for men's gymnastics, just behind Big Ten rivals Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Penn State, and Nebraska.

As the Hawkeyes' best out-performed their opponents on vault — 70.850 to Minnesota's 70.050 — senior Brandon Wong, who performed a career-best of 14.100 on vault, notes that wins at home always feel extra special.

"One of our goals this year is to be undefeated at home," Wong said. "So, we really put that on the guys to make sure we step up and defend our

home and that we're not losing here. This win feels really good. Coming into a home crowd was really cool. Everyone was excited, and we kept the energy up. I thought we did a good job."

Along with the win at home, the Hawkeyes earned their first Big Ten victory of the season over No. 4 Minnesota.

"Any Big Ten win is fantastic, even at this point in the season," Iowa head coach JD Reive said. "There's a lot of things to iron out on both sides. Being at home, the first meet and the freshman getting to experience coming out of the tunnel their first time and getting the win at home is just fantastic. It's a great amount of motivation going into next week."

Another area of strength for the Hawkeyes against the Golden Gophers was on floor. Iowa tallied a team score of 67.750, with junior Benner Huang leading the team with an individual 14.000, winning the all-around in the three-team meet

at 81.050 and completing a season-best on the high bar.

Sophomore Evan Davis — who set multiple career-bests at the dual-meet against Nebraska last week — accomplished two individual wins for the Hawkeyes. Davis taking first overall in rings (13.500) and third overall in high bar (13.600).

On Saturday, Iowa moves onto the number-one ranked Oklahoma Sooners, a team who averages 413.880 this season. Coach Reive sees the opportunity for strong competition and knows how to prepare his team.

"We're going into Oklahoma, which is going to be fairly stiff competition," Reive said. "The game is to continue to get better week-to-week, practice-to-practice, week-end-to-weekend, and make sure that the meets continue to rise in score."

"The stuff that we're looking at and focusing on is showing up out on the floor and in front



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Brandon Wong performs on the vault during a Men's gymnastics meet against the University of Minnesota and the University of Illinois at Chicago on Feb. 1.

of the judges. And that we are conscious with intent on what we are doing out there. We saw a lot of that tonight, but there's

still plenty that we have to work on."

Competition between the Hawkeyes and Sooners begins

at 5 p.m. Saturday. Iowa is back in action again on Feb. 20-21 when the Hawkeyes travel to Las Vegas for the Winter Cup.

BARTA

CONTINUED FROM 1B

the top four, and to do so without putting the bias against the teams that you might be closest to or know the most about."

Talking name, image, and likeness

Barta also used his time to speak on some hot-button issues within the college athletics community.

Although he didn't go in-depth, Barta rattled off some of his thoughts on student-athletes' ability to use their name, image, and likeness.

The state of California has already passed a bill that doesn't put limits on what a

student-athlete can make with their name, image, and likeness.

Iowa senators introduced a similar bill in January.

Barta said he thinks most Americans are opposed to having college athletics go away or having student-athletes become employees, noting a line that could be crossed.

"The challenge or the concern is when does it become

name, image, and likeness, and when does it become boosters wanting to get involved in the recruiting process?" Barta said. "There's certainly a discomfort and concern about that."

Talking transfers

When discussing transfers, Barta mentioned that each waiver application comes with

a unique set of personal reasons for changing schools.

The Big Ten Conference, Barta said, has discussed either allowing players a one-time transfer option that doesn't make them sit out a year or making all transfers ineligible for a season.

Having different transfer rules for different sports is not a comfortable place to be, Barta said.

"When the rule of transfer

first came to the NCAA, everybody had to sit," Barta said. "Over the years, it was changed, and all sports except for five get a one-time waiver. It's not a waiver anymore, because the vast majority are not having to sit. Anytime you have a rule where more than 50 percent are falling outside and need an exception, I would argue you need to take a look at it."



Shivansh Ahuja/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Connor McCaffery looks to pass during a men's basketball game between Iowa and Michigan at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Jan. 17.

BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM 1B

"I think you can help that a little bit, but that's either in you or it's not," Fran McCaffery said. "There's the physical side of the game and the stamina required to play the game. It's up and down, it's intense. At the same time, you have to process a scouting report; it's very intricate."

"Being able to execute the offense and whatever your job description is. You can get sideways when a game gets a little sticky and make mis-

takes. You've got to be able to execute under pressure, under duress."

In Iowa's victories against Wisconsin and Illinois, words have been exchanged frequently during the game and even after the final buzzer sounded.

Connor McCaffery was front and center for both situations.

"Everybody talks, that's how you play," Connor McCaffery said. "We're talking, they're

talking. We're playing with that competitive edge, and that's why we are where we are."

Playing in the Big Ten requires a competitive edge. The Hawkeyes continue to show that they have that.

This year's Iowa team is not one that's going to be intimidated by adversity. The Hawkeyes won't be stepping away from any fights, either.

"We have a tough mentality," Connor McCaffery said. "We

all do. You want to say, 'Hey, why are they talking, why are they trying to start something.' That's not what it's all about. We're not taking anything. We're right here, we're going to stand our ground. CJ [Fredrick], Luka Garza, everybody is the ultimate competitor. We're all really competitive, and that's what it comes down to. Us being as competitive as we are, that's what's going to happen. That's why we win."

RUTHER

CONTINUED FROM 1B

nearly kept Ruther out of a Hawkeye uniform entirely.

"I am very, very grateful that softball brought me to the University of Iowa," Ruther said. "I wasn't considering coming here, just because it's so close to home. The university has just blown my expectations away, just with the resources they have, the classes, how much I've already learned in the classes. [The softball program] has also met my expectations."

Ruther largely credits her decision to join the Hawkeye softball program to coach Gillispie's recruiting efforts.

"The initial conversation that [Gillispie] wanted me to play here was kind of something that sparked me," Ruther

said. "It wasn't something I ever imagined could happen. She just kind of showed me that she had the same values as the coaches that I have loved and looked up to so much."

Gillispie is pleased with her recruiting efforts and glad to have Ruther's presence and versatility on the roster for 2020.

"It's exciting," Gillispie said. "[Ruther] is a hometown girl from Burlington, Iowa. It's exciting to see Mia here and helping us out. She plays so many different positions. We've had her at second base, shortstop, and even a little outfield these past few weeks. She's very versatile, and with her speed, she's going to give us a lot of opportunities offensively."

Ruther is a natural second baseman. She started at second base during her time at DMACC from 2017 to 2019. Despite her inclination for

second base, Ruther is open to exploiting her talents at other positions.

Anything to help out the Hawkeyes.

"I'm really excited about [trying other positions]," Ruther said. "I started outfield maybe the end of last week. I'm really excited for the challenge. It's something new. I've absolutely never played outfield."

"It's definitely hard seeing all these other girls with knowledge of the techniques and stuff. I'm really grateful for the opportunity and to feel like they want me on the field. They're willing to try me anywhere, and I'll just give it my all."

Ruther will wear No. 26 for the Hawkeyes this season. It is unclear how exactly the junior college transfer will fit into Iowa's lineup, but no matter where she is on the diamond, she'll make an impact.

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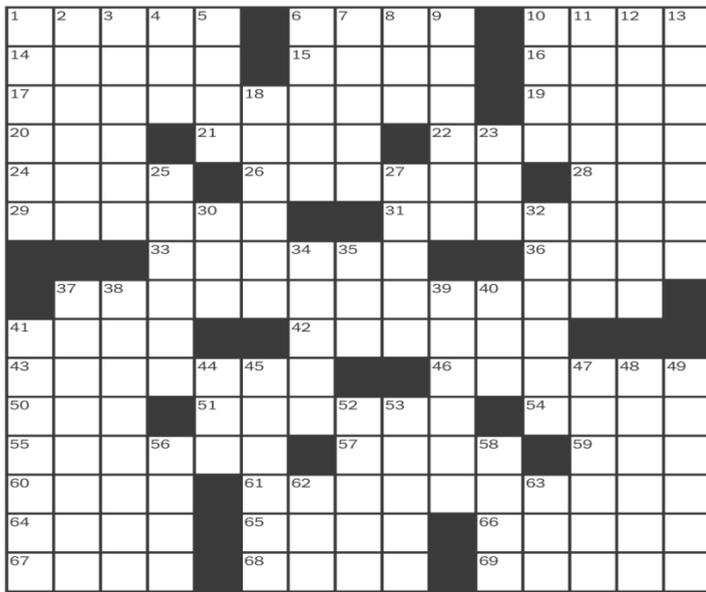
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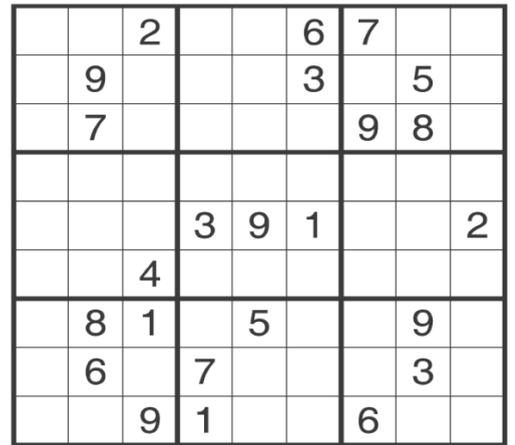
SUDOKU



- 65 Like 2, 4, 6, 8 ...
66 The mermaid in "The Little Mermaid"
67 Magnetite and cassiterite
68 Common first word
69 "___ after class"

DOWN

- 1 Neglects, as responsibilities
2 It's reshaped by Lasik surgery
3 Humanitarian org. since 1946
4 Clear tables in a restaurant
5 Tennis's Arthur ___ Stadium
6 Call off, as a mission
7 Composer whose work might be appropriate during March Madness?
8 Alternative to an Airbnb
9 Supplements
10 Elsa's sister in "Frozen"
11 Fans of Conan O'Brien, colloquially
12 Cast away, like Crusoe
13 Subtle acknowledgments
18 Give kudos
23 Floral necklace
25 Sentence shortener
27 Yarn purchase
30 Gym lifter's unit
32 Tropical fruit with orange flesh
34 Mafia bosses
35 Olympics chant
37 Like the French and Italian flags
38 Silently bids adieu
39 Limited, as a search
40 Doctors' org.
41 Thank you, in Tokyo
44 Eggs on sushi
45 Like some teeth, pork and punches
47 Get down on the dance floor
48 "God Save the Queen," for one
49 Big name in chocolate and bottled water
52 Zapped at a riot, perhaps
53 Kagan on the bench
56 Comment at a bridge table
58 Herbal brews
62 Egg cells
63 Emotion that's "raised"



- ACROSS**
- 1 Diving gear
6 Home to seven "-stan" countries
10 Drive-up bank conveniences
14 Wagner on a very valuable baseball card
15 James of Her Majesty's Secret Service
16 Actress Patricia of "Hud"
17 *Currency replaced by the euro
19 ___ a soul (no one)
20 G.O.P. fund-raising org.
21 Makes a boo-boo
22 Apply suddenly, as brakes
24 Not go bad
26 Just one small bite
28 Pigeon's sound
29 Trip through the bush
31 *Decorative garden feature with fish

- 33 Many an adopted pet
36 Star pitchers
37 *Almost-identical pair, figuratively
41 ___ Sea (mostly dried-up lake)
42 Country on an isthmus
43 *It flows through Turin
46 Big name in sunglasses
50 Clinch victory in
51 Result of a coup
54 Top-notch
55 Preachers preach it
57 Oodles
59 Periods after the fourth qtr.
60 Duchess of ___ (Goya subject)
61 Common New Year's resolution -- as hinted at by the answers to the four starred clues
64 "Dear Santa" requests

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Opinions

20 OUT OF 20

Left leadin', Biden slidin'

Sanders and Warren made a statement for progressive Democrats, but the biggest news is the former vice president's failure to build a viable alternative for centrists.



ELIJAH HELTON
elijah-helton@uiowa.edu

[Editor's note: At press time, only unofficial caucus results were available. According to Democratic officials, "inconsistencies" were reported, which delayed the announcement of results.]

Do you hear the people sing? It's not Biden's praises.

After more than a year of debates, stump speeches, and town halls; after all the polling

trends and coverage thereof; after more than 20 candidates sought the Democratic presidential nomination — Iowa planted itself firmly on the left.

The top-to-bottom results read left to right. Sens. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts topped the results. And former Vice President Joe Biden, the most strident moderate in the field, absolutely collapsed.

Questions about electability were asked about Sanders and Warren throughout the campaign. The senators responded by winning elections.

The left came out on top, but the real story of the night is that Biden is toast. He's burnt-to-a-crisp, ruined-the-toaster toast.

The former vice president's message didn't convince many in the Hawkeye State. He insisted that the Trump Era is an aberration, that cooperating with Republicans is a requisite for action, that there's some

sort of "soul of America" that he can win back. Last night, Iowa said no to that soft-sided approach.

For the moderates who did show up, they definitely were not "ridin' with Biden."

Former South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg finished well. He's distinguished himself from Biden, offering a different flavor of centrism



Katina Zentz/The Daily Iowan
Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., speaks during the Iowa City Climate Rally at the Graduate Hotel on Jan. 12.

ever centrist support remained with Biden.

As for the progressive block, it didn't split; it was massive enough to support two camps.

Sanders is looking the strongest. He's built a robust coalition fueled by a genuine grassroots campaign. Especially in more progressive areas, such as the University of Iowa, Sanders is the clear favorite.

It's not like Biden will drop out tomorrow, but those hoping for his return to normalcy aren't going to get it easily. If Biden wants to get his shot at beating President Trump in November, he has to take down not one but two challengers on the left.

"We want a government that represents all of us," Sanders said in his speech to supporters last night. "Change is coming."

In Iowa, the change is already here.



Shivansh Ahuja/The Daily Iowan
Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., speaks in Des Moines on Monday.

'The real story of the night is that Biden is toast. He's burnt-to-a-crisp, ruined-the-toaster toast.'

with relatively more ambitious policies and de-emphasized bipartisanship.

Even Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota contended with the former vice president. She was barely more than a no-name also-ran a month ago, only to pull together enough to split what-

Of course, the Sanders-Warren wing of the party will eventually need to settle on its champion. The New Hampshire primary next week and subsequent contests will figure out who it is.

So, what does this all mean moving out of Iowa?

COLUMN

Rogan endorsing Sanders is good for the Democrats

The podcaster's endorsement of Bernie Sanders' presidential bid shows how the party can broaden its appeal across the country.



PEYTON DOWNING
peyton-downing@uiowa.edu

Podcasting has become an incredibly influential medium in today's society. According to Edison Research, more than one in five people who listen to podcasts daily have a lot of influence on public opinion. One such podcaster, Joe Rogan, recently endorsed Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., for president. Some people criticize the endorsement, but they're wrong to do so.

Rogan is an interesting figure, and he interviews interesting personalities. Sometimes, the most polite way to describe these personalities is "controversial."

These include the likes of neo-Nazi sympathizer Milo Yiannopolis, Proud Boy founder Gavin McInnes, and fake news generator Andy Ngo.

But most of his guests aren't them. Leftist political talk show host Kyle Kulinski, NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden, and philosopher Cornel West have appeared on the show — not to mention Sanders himself.

Interviewing controversial figures is not inherently a bad thing, but Rogan's method of interviewing can do more harm than good. He often lets his guest lead the discussion,

even letting them go on their own tangents, and does not push back on their ideas. This lack of critical analysis of his guests' view can lead to listeners thinking that he is endorsing their viewpoints.

Platforming is an incredibly risky action. While it can shed light on issues and viewpoints that need to be examined, not doing so can expose viewers to toxic ideologies that poison public discourse.

Rogan himself has also said some questionable things on his show, such as calling a transgender female athlete a man.

target it can get. A reelection for President Trump will eradicate any standing the United States has in an international setting while also being a domestic disaster.

To make sure that doesn't happen, we will have to appeal to as many people as possible — the disaffected, the libertarian-leaning, the apathetic. Rogan reaches all of these people. To reject what he brings to the table is to reject a massive swath of the American population. While not everyone agrees on every left policy, many at least agree with one.

If the Democrats are going to beat Trump in November, they will need all hands on deck. They cannot afford to play gatekeeper and purity test everyone who wants to oppose the GOP.

It's not as though Sanders has reneged on any previous policy of his either. He has maintained his commitment to being a progressive candidate for decades. Sanders has made no concessions in order to achieve this endorsement.

In 2020, the Democratic tent will have to be big — the biggest seen in years — to win back the White House. They're going to share spaces with people whom they might not want to associate. But that's what it will take to get the White House out of the hands of white nationalists.

Once the election is over, everyone can go back to calling each other social-justice warriors and problematic. But for now, we must work together to bring a future that is free of a corrupt White House.

'If the Democrats are going to beat Trump in November, they will need all hands on deck.'

These are legitimate concerns about Rogan's podcast. He has brought on figures who I personally believe to be individuals whose sole purpose is to spread misinformation and bad beliefs. He does not push back on ideas that he should and does not have "politically correct" takes.

Rogan has also spoken out in favor of socialized education and health care. "If it cost \$35,000 a year to pursue a career in comedy and you gotta be \$200,000 in debt before making a career on the road, there wouldn't be a god damn thing to laugh at," he said in a podcast.

In a democracy, voters win. It seems obvious to point out, but it seems necessary based on some of the responses Rogan's endorsement has garnered.

In 2020, the Democratic Party will need every advan-

COLUMN

Voters must prioritize climate

Young Iowans need to continue the fight for our environment.



BECCA BRIGHT
becca-bright@uiowa.edu

We must have an environmentalist as our president-elect on Nov. 3.

There is no other issue on the progressive agenda that should be pursued with more urgency than climate change. This is both the foundation and the limit of our political future. Democratic and Republican parties cannot debate or create legislation if there is no physically habitable place to govern.

Climate action has to be voters' top priority in the 2020 election. By taking on the responsibility of environmental activism first, voters will then be able to focus on other issues on stable ground. We need to mentally equate Abraham Lincoln's rhetoric of "a house divided cannot stand" with Swedish activist Greta Thunberg's message, "Our house is on fire."

Thunberg's activism has become the image for climate

action for the last year, and that image consists mostly of students — young voters. We are the key to prioritizing climate action.

While students are definitely conscious of climate activism, actually discussing its reality is almost never done within a classroom. This is an incredible mistake.

Our demographic is a valued target by all presidential campaigns. We have the potential of showing up to vote for a candidate in enormous numbers.

In the 2018 midterms, student-age voter turnout increased considerably in almost every state. These midterms showed that most young voters favored Democratic candidates. Support of a Democrat usually implies support of agendas dedicated to climate action, such as the Green New Deal.

With this kind of possible impact, one would think universities would take a student's exercise of the right to vote as an opportunity to promote education. However, most educators are more than reluctant to vocalize anything to do with climate action.

To understand this space between young voters and the teachers, I talked with UI lecturer Michael Žmolek.

He is actively dissolving this space by making environmental history and policies its own academic focus, and currently teaches a class on sustainability.

"The course is mainly about development theory, but our textbook problematizes development theory as that, until now, environment was never a central concern," Žmolek said. "It does seem academia is beginning to internalize the problem, and adjusting to the idea that academia has a key role in finding solutions."

Žmolek remarked on how enrollment for his sustainability class is higher this spring semester than ever before.

I asked him about his impression of educators being reluctant to broach the topic of climate action.

"We teach our students what is true versus what is false, not what political position to support," he said. "This is tragic, because we have the facts, and the idea that there is still a debate as to whether climate change is happening is basically false. It is a false debate."

This coming election cannot afford the time consumption of false debate. The majority of young student voters vocalize support for climate action, because they know the consequences.

We need to talk about that reality now.

Teachers need to acknowledge those consequences, and support a future for their students that's realistic and livable.

"Educators should be preparing young people," Žmolek said. "Time is increasingly a luxury."

That preparation is informing students, so that their ballots can be used to elect politicians who will implement legislation that can literally save the world.



David Harmantas/The Daily Iowan
Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg speaks at the Iowa City Climate Strike on Oct. 4, 2019.

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