

INSIDE



3B

Rebellion Burlesque approaches performing with a political twist

Rebellion Burlesque, an Iowa City-based burlesque troupe, dedicates itself to fusing burlesque with social justice. Its next performance on March 21 will focus on climate change, and donations will go toward fighting the Australian wildfires.



3A

Student-run book club discusses the apocalypse's place in literature

Art at the End of the World is a new University of Iowa book club devoted to studying apocalyptic fiction. The literature is from the students' class, taught by Vero Rose Smith, associate curator of special projects at the Stanley Museum.



3A

UI West Side Food Pantry celebrates its one-year anniversary

Following their one-year anniversary, the UI West Side Food Pantry reflects on the year's success and will continue to combat food insecurity through inclusion, education, and diversity.



6A

Hawkeyes looking to go out strong on Senior Night

The Iowa women's basketball team closes out the home portion of its regular season schedule tonight against Minnesota. The Hawkeyes will honor their senior class, who've all found different ways to contribute in their time in the Black and Gold.



6A

Softball posts impressive numbers during hot start to the season

Only seven wins away from last season's total, the Iowa softball season has been impressive early in 2020. Led by pitchers Lauren Shaw and Allison Doocy, the Hawkeyes' number back up their hot start to the season.



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.



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3 fraternities come under investigation

Phi Kappa Psi, Phi Delta Theta, and Sigma Chi are under investigation for recent incidents.

BY BROOKLYN DRAISEY
brooklyn-draisey@uiowa.edu

Three University of Iowa fraternities are once again under investigation for violating campus policies more than a year after four fraterni-

ties were removed from campus.

The UI has suspended Phi Delta Theta and Phi Kappa Psi, though Phi Kappa Psi is still able to operate barring social activities. The national organization suspended Sigma Chi.

Each of these fraternities were pre-

viously investigated in 2018; Phi Delta Theta was placed on deferred suspension until fall 2020, while Phi Kappa Psi and Sigma Chi were cleared of allegations.

According to letters requested by *The Daily Iowan*, Phi Kappa Psi was

featured on a Barstool Sports video titled "The Science Behind a Frat Party," which showed fraternity members allegedly hosting an "unregistered social event." The video, posted

SEE FRATERNITIES, 3A

ARTS & CULTURE

UI dance group performs at home before touring state

The UI touring ensemble performed a diverse mix of contemporary dances at Space Place Theater, weaving athleticism, beauty, humor, and absurdity into the home concert.



Jake Maish/The Daily Iowan

Michael Landez and Juliet Remmers perform a piece during a dress rehearsal of the Dancers in Company 2020 Home Concert on Monday at the Space Place Theater in North Hall.

BY ADDIE BUSHNELL
addison-bushnell@uiowa.edu

Dancers in Company, the University of Iowa's touring ensemble, held the opening night of their home concert at 8 p.m. Wednesday in

Space Place Theater. The show, which consists of six works of contemporary dance, will run through Feb. 29 at the UI.

Celebrating its 36th year, the home concert featured a variety of dance styles and a diverse array of talented choreographers. This is the

only home concert that the company will hold in 2020, and the dancers and directors clearly put their all into the show.

This will be the last performance of Dancers

SEE DANCERS, 2A

Team breaks through in epilepsy research

The amygdala, an area of gray matter in the brain that controls memory and decision-making, could help combat epilepsy deaths.



Abby Watkins/The Daily Iowan

Brian Dlouhy poses for a photo at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital on Tuesday.

BY RILEY DAVIS
riley-davis@uiowa.edu

A University of Iowa research team is the first to ever use electric stimulation on the amygdala to affect loss of breathing during epileptic seizures — sparking the possibility that they may be able to

predict if and when people are at a greater risk of Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP).

UI neurosurgery Assistant Professor Brian Dlouhy unwittingly began the initial research during his residency at the UI while pursuing his

SEE EPILEPSY, 2A

Ombuds looks to fill vacancy

The UI's campus-mediation resource is seeking to fill the position of associate ombudsperson.

BY MARY HARTEL
mary-hartel@uiowa.edu

A campus mediation and conflict-resolving resource, the University of Iowa Office of the Ombudsperson, started the search this month for a new half-time associate ombudsperson following staff changes amid a growing caseload.

The position, formerly held by three-year Associate Ombudsperson Kristal Gibson, opened up in early February when Gibson transitioned to student accountability services. On Feb. 7, the UI Ombudsperson's Office started a nationwide search to fill the position.

The search comes as the four-person Ombuds Office is expecting the most visitors the office has ever seen this year, said UI Associate Professor Rachel Williams, a half-time ombudsperson.

She said the number of visitors to the office has steadily gone up each year since it was established in 1985. The office added Gibson's position

SEE OMBUDS, 2A

West Side Food Pantry celebrates first year

With one year under its belt, the University of Iowa West Side Food Pantry is determined to promote inclusivity by diversifying the items it provides and educating the community on ways to combat food insecurity.

BY RACHEL SCHILKE
rachel-schilke@uiowa.edu

The University of Iowa West Side Food Pantry, located in the UI's Pride Alliance Center, celebrated its first anniversary in 2020. Leaders reflected on the year's successes and are preparing to diversify their supply of food and hygiene products to be

more inclusive as part of their goals for the year ahead.

Since the beginning of 2020, Food Pantry at Iowa Executive Director Charlotte Lenkaitis said the west-side location distributed 296.5 pounds of food to clients in 26 visits. Since fall 2019, both the UI east and west side food pantries distributed 11,597 pounds of food between

886 visits.

"In our second year, [the UI West Side Food Pantry is] definitely now focusing on not only increasing the amount of culturally diverse food and hygiene products ... but also promoting advocacy and awareness about the pantry," Lenkaitis said.

In January, she led a retreat in which the executive team for the

west-side location established goals for the new year. She said a goal moving forward is to reach out to state lawmakers and students on campus to promote both the existence and the mission of the food pantry to curb food insecurity.

UI West Side Food Pantry Manager Oluoma Obi said the Pride Alliance Center allowing the pantry to set up in its west-side space was key to jumpstarting the new food service.

"Cultural houses are a safe space where people identify within a particular culture can feel welcome and comfortable," Obi said. "Allowing clients to come through and openly allow them to walk through their space was really vital to the [pantry's] success."

From fall 2016 to fall 2019 of those visiting the Food Pantry at Iowa, including both east- and west-side locations, 69.9 percent of the clients were women and 30.1 percent were men. Demographically, 43 percent of clientele were white, 23 percent were black/African American, 17 percent were Asian, and 17 percent were Hispanic and Latinx. First-generation students made up 29 percent of visitors.

While the UI East Side Food Pantry receives a lot more client-

tele and is the first point of contact, Obi said, the UI West Side Food Pantry creates a more intimate space and serves a more demographically diverse share of visitors with the pantry's close proximity to the UI's cultural ad resource centers.

Using the UI's ID-card swipe system, Lenkaitis said the West Side Food Pantry is looking to build up its own collection of demographic data separate from the East Side Food Pantry's collection. The goal is to provide more ethnically diverse foods and hygiene products.

"On the west side, we tend to see more graduate students, international students and people of color," she said. "We want more diversity as we both create and expand locations, because we ultimately do not all eat or need the same things."

Obi said her main focus is diversity within the pantry, adding that she wanted the pantry to be a staple of the UI community's inclusive environment. She said pantry leaders are planning to send out a survey to collect feedback on what kind of products clientele want in order to diversify what they offer.

"In the first year, we struggled with consistency in items, so people did not feel like they could

come back to get what they needed," Obi said. "To grow the clientele, I want to rebuild that trust."

Media Strategist for the West Side Food Pantry Joanna Moody said her goal is to continue to promote ways through social media to combat food insecurity. She wants to target college students specifically, as the number of food-insecure students continues to rise dramatically, she said.

According to the American Journal of Public Health, multiple studies show rates of food insecurity among college students range from 20 percent to more than 50 percent, which is considerably higher than the entire U.S. population's 12 percent rate.

"People do not realize how common food insecurity is," she said.

Obi added that the stigma of food pantries often prevents people from using it, as they don't feel comfortable admitting they need help.

"We want people to know that we might not know what their lives are like, but we are not looking to just give them food and be done with it," she said. "We want them to know their needs are prioritized and that what they need is what we can provide."



Tate Hildyard/The Daily Iowan

The West Side Food Pantry is seen in the University of Iowa Pride Alliance Center on Tuesday.

Book club explores apocalypse in literature

As part of the University of Iowa course Art at the End of the World, students will lead an open book club that seeks to provide stimulating conversation about apocalyptic literature.

BY ADDIE BUSHNELL
addison-bushnell@uiowa.edu

Every Wednesday evening, a group of students led by Vero Smith, the associate curator of special projects at the Stanley Museum, gathers in Public Space One to discuss the end of the world. The club will run every Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. until April 22.

The discussions are inspired by the apocalyptic books that the group reads for their class, Art at the End of the World, taught through the University of Iowa's Art and Art History program by Smith. The club is also open to the general public.

Smith chose the book list for the class but the students run the book club itself and lead the discussions. On Wednesday, the chosen book was *Who Fears Death* by Nnedi Okorafor.

"It's a collection of short stories that illustrate the end of the world from different perspectives," said Yager Palad,

who led the discussion that night. "It's very funny in a very dark way."

Palad is a UI graduate student with a focus in printmaking.

Smith hopes that the apocalyptic themes discussed in Art at the End of the World will appeal to members of the local literary scene who have attended themed book clubs she's held in the past. She also mentioned that Art at the End of the World may bring in a new audience.

"I'm hoping we get more younger folks, like people who are current students at the [UI]," Smith said.

Smith said she was excited to share the book list for the club, which features authors such as Octavia Butler and Margaret Atwood.

"The book club is almost entirely science fiction and almost entirely written by women," Smith said. "Many of the books are written by women of color, which is great."

Smith said the discussions

about apocalyptic literature that will take place every week will explore the ways in which humans struggle in times of crisis.

"This book club is focused on concepts of the apocalypse because we live in anxious times full of dire warnings," Smith said. "However, no one seems to agree on exactly how or when the world will end. In the meantime, we are here, living in dread. We all have much to learn from previous thinkers and creators about possible world endings and how they might be averted or hastened."

Despite the darker content of many of the books, Smith and her students hope the club will produce lively and exciting discussions. A different student leads each meeting. During the Wednesday discussion, Palad read one of the short stories from Corin's collection out loud.

"This story is called 'Her Suicide,'" Palad said. "It's very dark, but hey, it's the end of the

world, so it makes sense."

Smith stressed that Art at the End of the World is an opportunity for students and community members to speak about literature, politics, and world issues outside of school.

"The goal of the book club is for my students to think about how we can continue to engage in intellectual conversations and community beyond a classroom setting," Smith said. "I hope this becomes

a goal for them when they graduate from their various programs — that they keep seeking out conversations that are interesting and based in reading, and in literature, and in artistic production."

LIST CURATED BY VERO SMITH

- Feb. 12: Ling Ma, *Severance*
- Feb. 19: Lucy Corin, *One Hundred Apocalypses and Other Apocalypses*
- Feb. 26: Nnedi Okorafor, *Who Fears Death*
- March 4: Octavia Butler, *Parable of the Sower*
- March 11: Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*
- March 25: Leigh Brackett, *The Long Tomorrow*
- April 1: Katharine Burdekin, *Swastika Night*
- April 8: Mary Shelley, *The Last Man*
- April 15: Margaret Cavendish, *The Blazing World*
- April 22: Nostradamus, *The Complete Prophecies of Nostradamus*

FRATERNITIES CONTINUED FROM FRONT

on Dec. 2, 2019, showed people in Hawkeye gear drinking at what appears to be a tailgate.

On Dec. 10, the investigation into this event has since ended, but a report has yet to be completed, said UI Media Relations Director Anne Bassett in an email to the *DI*.

Phi Kappa Psi was previously put on interim suspension of social activities in August 2019 after allegedly hosting an out-of-town formal. The chapter has been charged with alcohol use and misconduct on organizational property, among other charges.

The UI Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council permanently banned out-of-town formals in 2017 after Kamil Jackowski, a member of Sigma Chi, died while attending a formal in

Missouri.

Police were called to the Phi Delta Theta chapter house Jan. 31 to deal with a noise complaint, where they found a party occurring. According to the letters, the live-in adviser was cited for disorderly house. Phi Delta Theta received a letter Feb. 11 informing the chapter of charges of misconduct on organizational property and failure to observe policies.

Phi Delta Theta was previously accused in January 2019 of hazing, misconduct on organizational property, other violative conduct, failure to comply with a university directive, and failure to observe policies. After the investigation concluded, the letters said, no evidence in support of the allegations was found, and there would be no punishment.

Sigma Chi was charged Feb. 11 with failing to observe policies on or before Feb. 10, according to the letters,

though no specific instance was mentioned in the letters.

Under former Vice President for Student Life Melissa Shivers, the UI began working on a Fraternity/Sorority Life strategic plan after suspending several greek chapters in the fall of 2018. The plan's goal was to help fraternities and sororities create a healthier and safer environment, reducing the risk of high-risk alcohol consumption.

Shivers said in an October 2019 interview with the *DI* that IMU Executive Director Bill Nelson had just ended open forums that would contribute to changes in the plan, and Shivers anticipated receiving a draft of the plan by the end of the month. Shivers has since left the UI to take lead Student Life efforts at Ohio State University.

The UI wasn't able to share updated information on the Fraternity/Sorority Strategic Plan by the time of publication.



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Opinions

EDITORIAL

Bill hurts the UI, out-of-state students

The Iowa Senate must vote it down to protect our financial interests and student body.

BY *DI* EDITORIAL BOARD
daily-iowan@uiowa.edu

Iowa lawmakers are meddling in the state Board of Regents' business. An Iowa House bill passed on Tuesday could shape the University of Iowa's ability to brand itself as a destination university that welcomes students worldwide.

The bill would require the regents to adopt a policy stipulating that 75 percent of students admitted to the UI Colleges of Medicine and Dentistry be Iowa residents or enrolled in an eligible post-secondary institution prior to enrolling in those two schools.

The proposal now goes to the Iowa Senate for passage.

The *Daily Iowan* Editorial Board urges the state Senate to vote against this bill's passage when it is up for debate.

While the UI is a public institution of the Hawkeye State, this proposal counters what it means to be Iowan. Lawmakers should embrace that the university opens its doors to people from around the U.S. and around the globe — that's what makes Hawkeyes great.

If the regents are forced to bar more out-of-state and international students from attending these programs, we will miss many talented,

bright, and passionate students from beyond Iowa's borders.

Students are currently admitted based on their application, not their location. The UI should not be forced to admit a student who isn't as qualified as a nonresident applicant to these graduate programs just because they're from Iowa.

A nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency note assessing the bill's fiscal impact cites fall 2018 regents' enrollment report data showing resident students represent 66.3 percent of graduate and postgraduates enrolled in the College of Dentistry and 63.6 percent in the College of Medicine. This bill implies the schools have shifted away from training Iowans and preparing students to work in those fields in Iowa, but that couldn't be further from reality.

The agency estimates this would reduce tuition revenue to the two schools by \$800,000 to \$1 million annually. Fiscal 2020 base graduate tuition rates are \$10,079 for resident students and \$29,026 for nonresidents, meaning nonresident graduate students pay \$18,947 more for their education.

The UI stands to lose money with this bill.

In a time when our state has already disinvested from higher education, it is harmful to pass legislation that would leave the UI once again scrounging for more funds elsewhere. Tuition revenue already makes up around two-thirds of the general-fund pie.

Of course, UI students don't want more tuition hikes, and nonresident and international students shouldn't be seen as a cash cow to tap as a revenue source.

By supporting only one-third of the UI's general-fund revenue, Iowa has shown time and time again it's not a



Emily Wangen/The Daily Iowan

The UI College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics building is seen on July 17, 2019.

the previous cuts to the regent institutions.

Rep. Ann Meyer, R-Fort Dodge, who introduced the bill, said Tuesday during a

Considering the UI heavily relies on tuition revenue, her point is moot. Students are already responsible for financing a larger share of their education than the state.

Further, the College of Dentistry reports 80 percent of Iowa dentists studied at the UI, and the College of Medicine reports 50 percent of Iowa's 5,000 practicing physicians received some or all of their medical education at UI.

Chapter 262(9) of Iowa Code empowers the regents to "make rules for admission to and for the government of said institutions, not inconsistent with law."

And with this bill, Iowa lawmakers are overreaching their power.



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

The Roy J. & Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine is seen on Nov. 18, 2019.

'It is harmful to pass legislation that would leave the UI once again scrounging for more funds elsewhere.'

willing partner in adequately funding regent universities, prompting further tuition hikes from the regents.

Now, lawmakers want to enact a policy inhibiting the UI from reaping in tuition dollars it needs to support high-quality academic programs without fully restroing

House floor debate that she's heard from students in these programs that their nonresident counterparts have no intention of staying in Iowa.

"We are losing the benefit in Iowa," Meyer said. "Your tax dollars are educating out-of-state kids, and they're going back to practice."

COLUMN

Animal suffering shouldn't be needed to feed humans

Eating meat is treated as normal in most societies, but treating nonhuman animals as commodities is full of ethical problems.

BY RILEY MOORE
riley-moore@uiowa.edu

"Meat tastes too good." That reservation is common when speaking on the ethical questions surrounding animal consumption. The painful process of shredding a chicken's beak off, formally known as debeaking, in pursuit of a delicious chicken sandwich is commonplace in American culture.

However, replace "chicken" with "golden retriever" and "debeaking" to "de-snout-ing," and readers feel quasi-nauseous.

The argument against eating meat is not synonymous with lowering the value of human DNA, rather, it is raising the moral worth of nonhuman animals.

Peter Singer, godfather of the vegan movement, illustrates the suffering problem in his masterpiece *Animal Liberation*. He wrote, "If a being suffers there can be no moral justification for refusing to take that suffering into consideration."

Account for every dimension worth considering for a sentient being to have "worth" — such as the range of animals' intelligence and cognitive of their suffering — in nearly every respect, pigs are as valuable as dogs, if not more so. Nonetheless, humans will drool at the sight of a sizzling pork chop, ignoring the

required suffering to land that meat on their plate.

"There are larger problems to worry about" is not foreign to a vegan's ears. This thinking is deemed inappropriate upon learning your neighbor's dog is missing. Yet, we have convinced ourselves that the slaughter of 150 billion animals a year does not permit a moment of attention.

I will certainly grant that this problem, like many of our problems, is largely contained

'We have convinced ourselves that the slaughter of 150 billion animals a year does not permit a moment of attention.'

to the first world. Food is still scarce in many regions worldwide, let alone plant-based diets. And in areas with vegan options, it may be financially prohibitive. These are not the people I am addressing; in general, those reading this could minimize their animal consumption if they decided to do so.

Many comments to articles such as these read, "Stop telling people how to live." By "live," do they mean to suggest an argument against keeping the vast majority of innocent lives locked in filthy cages is wrong? Do they deserve to live with no room to step, only to have their bellies sliced open or a bolt shot through their head, to simply preserve another option for people to "live"?

Many practices are prohibited that, if permitted, would allow more options to "live." We don't legally permit murder of humans in the name of lifestyle choices. It is a depressing observation that homicide is treated as an entirely different category of taboo than slaughtering innocent beings of another species.

Nonhuman suffering extends beyond the meat industry. For instance, many people will sometimes buy animal products, such as leather. If there's no cultural reason, it ought not to be the case that DNA determines

whether a sentient being's skin can be worn for decoration.

The more compelling response for bleeding out living beings for flavor runs, "one person cannot make a difference." Although counter-intuitive, one person eats 7,000 animals within their lifetime. Preventing 7,000 from suffering is certainly making a difference — consult the animals for confirmation.

In future generations, the scale of our meat consumption will be rightfully viewed as a moral failing. I do not wish — as many other writers have pronounced — to place factory farming alongside slavery. A problem need not reach that to raise awareness for its existence.

But as for the taste, I'll stick with food that didn't suffer.

COLUMN

Bloomberg's strategy is dubious at best, undemocratic at worst

Skipping early states isn't just bad politics, it's bad for democracy.



KALEN MCCAIN
kalen-mccain@uiowa.edu

With the South Carolina primary approaching, billionaire former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg has a promising show of support in the state, placing him around fourth place in several polls. Despite this status, however, his name will not appear on the ballot on Saturday.

Contrary to any previous successful primary strategy, the campaign opted out of the first four primaries despite announcing its candidacy in November — early enough to do so in South Carolina, which has a filing deadline in December. (Iowa and Nevada had no such deadline.)

There is a litany of supposed reasons for Bloomberg's break from tradition. One is the strategic decision to focus efforts on states with more delegates, like those participating in Super Tuesday. Another camp holds that the choice is a critique of an unfairly sequential primary.

The strategy question

Bloomberg's late-breaking entry is not just a severance from tradition: it's a strategic

fever dream. A major problem is his lack of a key demographic that's not already taken.

The Democratic field already holds a former Republican with Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass. There's already a well-known moderate, former Vice President Joe Biden. There's another former mayor in Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana. There's even a billionaire whom Bloomberg trails in many South Carolina polls, Tom Steyer.

His only hope is dumping money into March-voting states, and that's not a sound

'His only hope is dumping money into March-voting states, and that's not a sound strategy to win.'

strategy to win. Even though Super Tuesday states are worth more delegates, earlier races are key to form momentum and press attention that can give candidates a lead and a safety net in the primary process.

Even if the field had narrowed, early states are important precisely for low-polling candidates such as Bloomberg because a decent turnout creates a more credible campaign image. For an easy example, see Buttigieg's national poll numbers before and after the Iowa caucuses.

Investing resources in early states could've had a minimal cost, especially for a multi-billionaire. Without actively campaigning in the state, Bloomberg has managed to rank fourth in most South Carolina polls, despite not being

an option for Palmetto State primary-goers.

The democracy question

There's another side to Bloomberg's \$62 billion coin.

His Super Tuesday focus appeals to concerns about unfair sequencing in the primary process, in which a fraction of the nation's voters set the tone for the race's remaining contests.

While a valid concern at the surface level, he hardly challenges the system. Foregoing early races doesn't discount their oversized sway on the election —

that will happen regardless of where campaigns spend their money. His decision, however, ignores these states entirely and is a net negative for democratic fairness.

Bloomberg's decision to only run in states he wants will have damning consequences in the general election.

Three of the four February nomination contests are in swing states. They now share a reason to disregard for this presidential hopeful.

If he somehow achieves frontrunner status, it will not be remembered as a legendary win in the primaries, but as the first act of a flop.

Virtually infinite funding is only important if you can make your campaign matter, and Bloomberg has failed to do so by foregoing the February primary contests. Even if he makes an impact on Super Tuesday, a reality check awaits in November.

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SENIORS
CONTINUED FROM 6A

While Meyer and Doyle have been important figures since stepping onto campus, Ollinger has been somewhat of a late bloomer. The senior from Cedar Rapids is having easily the best season of her career, taking advantage of the opportunities presented by roster change.

"If you would have told me in a million years I was going to be a backup center in the Big Ten, I would have laughed in your face," Ollinger said. "But here we are, and I'm just really thankful for the opportunity."

Ollinger is an engineering major, so balancing school and basketball is something that has been difficult for her. However, her increased focus on basket-

ball has allowed her to grow her love of the game and enjoy her time at Iowa more.

"I think part of [her improvement] is also her not stressing about class as much and just being able to put more of her heart into basketball, because engineering is such a hard major," Iowa head coach Lisa Bluder said.

The group is looking forward to playing what could potentially be their last game inside Carver-Hawkeye Arena, and while they'll look to savor the moment, the focus is on getting the job done.

"Just a little more attention about having fun and the last time and just wanting to really embrace it," Doyle said. "We just have to think about the task at hand and really just enjoy it, and that's what I try to do every game, so it's really not any different."

The last time the two teams met, the Hawkeyes edged out the Golden Gophers, 76-75, in Minneapolis behind 21 points from Monika Czinano. It took a strong fourth quarter where the team outscored Minnesota 19-9 in order to escape with a win.

However, the Golden Gophers are in the middle of a four-game losing streak, and Iowa will be looking to not only make it five in a row, but to win with some style on senior night.

Tonight's game will tip-off at 6:30 p.m. at Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

IOWA-MINNESOTA INFO

- Who: No. 18 Iowa vs. Minnesota
- When: Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
- Where: Carver-Hawkeye
- TV: BTN Plus



Hannah Kinson/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Makenzie Meyer listens at a timeout during a women's basketball game between Iowa and Penn State at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 22.



Emily Wengen/The Daily Iowan

Pitcher Allison Doocy warms up during the Iowa softball fall opener against Des Moines Area Community College on Sept. 13, 2019.

SOFTBALL
CONTINUED FROM 6A

that success this season, posting a 1.76 ERA. She boasts a 5-1 record and has completed four games with one shutout.

Feb. 23, the pair worked together to help the Hawkeyes win against Missouri-Kansas City in Hawaii. Shaw started and went 5.1 innings and gave up two earned runs. Doocy relieved her for the final 1.2 innings and surrendered no runs while striking out four.

100 - Team hits

Pitching is great, but a team can't win unless it gets on base and scores. Hitting certainly helps with that, and the Hawkeyes have proven so.

Five players have more than 10 hits so far. Freshman infielder Nia Carter leads the team with 17 hits, which includes two doubles and six RBIs. She leads the Big Ten in batting average with a .567 mark. For her 10-of-14 perfor-

mance at the plate this past weekend during the Hawaii Invitational, she was named Big Ten Player of the Week and Freshman of the Week.

Another freshman who has shined is infielder Kalena Burns. She has 14 hits, tied for second on the team. But she leads the team in home runs with three and RBIs with 10.

Though not freshman, two players that are doing well at the plate but are in their first season as a Hawkeye are sophomore catcher Kit Rocco and junior infielder Mia Ruther. These two are the other players tied with Burns at 14 hits. Rocco has two doubles and nine RBIs, and Ruther has one double and two RBIs.

3 - States the team has played in

With the weather in Iowa still stuck in the winter, the Hawkeyes have become snowbirds. They've played in South Carolina, Georgia, and

Hawaii.

In the Kickin' Chicken Classic in Conway, South Carolina, every team that the Hawkeyes went up against was from the South. That did not faze them, as they went 4-1 with wins over East Carolina, Campbell, Coastal Carolina, and Virginia Tech. In their final game against Virginia Tech, Ruther hit a walk-off single in the bottom of the eighth inning.

The Hawkeyes went down to Georgia Tech for their second series, sweeping Boston College and splitting against the Yellow Jackets.

In the Hawaii Invitational last weekend, the Hawkeyes faced no Power Five teams and proved that they were the best team at the event. The Hawkeyes went 5-0 with victories over Portland State, Missouri-Kansas City, and Hawaii.

The Hawkeyes will make three consecutive trips to Florida before playing their first home game March 19 against Maryland.

SURPRISE
CONTINUED FROM 6A

for the Hawkeyes.

Kemerer never showed signs of nagging injuries during the season. In fact, he won his first four matches of the year via technical fall twice, major decision once, and fall once.

Kemerer also hasn't seemed to be at any sort of a disadvantage having moved up two weight classes. He's defeated some of the nation's best at the weight: No. 2 Mark Hall, No. 4 Dylan Lydy, No. 7 Mike Labriola, No. 8 Kaleb Romero, and No. 13 Joe Smith. Kemerer even bested No. 6 Devin Skatzka by pin in 2:52. In total, Kemerer has defeated eight ranked foes in his weight class this season.

Kemerer now faces his largest

hurdle of the season. Postseason wrestling will undoubtedly test his durability and merit as the No. 1 wrestler at 174-pounds. Given the way the season has gone for Kemerer to this point, he will likely handle the adversity and put a final exclamation point on what has been a storybook season for him.



ISAAC GOFFIN
isaac-goffin@uiowa.edu

Abe Assad

Before the season, it seemed

like either redshirt freshman Nelson Brands or senior Cash Wilcke would be competing for the starting spot at 184-pounds. No one else was in the picture.

But when head coach Tom Brands pulled the redshirt off freshman Abe Assad in January, everything changed.

Assad has already earned the respect of the nation with his 19-5 record, being ranked nationally at No. 8 by InterMat. When "Ironman" by Black Sabbath came on this season at Carver-Hawkeye Arena, Assad's opponents knew they had to grind it out and be smart if they wanted to win.

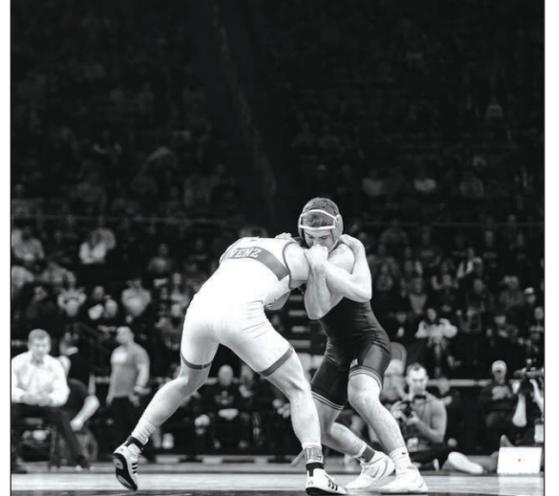
It was evident what Assad could do when he finished second at Midlands while being unattached. He won two matches by sudden victory, one by technical fall, and one by fall. The

fall was over now-No.15 Zach Braunagel of Illinois.

When Assad got his redshirt pulled, he won four consecutive matches, two of those on the road. Though all these wins were just by decision, it proved he was a force in the Big Ten on the best team in the nation.

During that streak, Assad defeated now-No.10 Taylor Venz of Nebraska and now-No. 13 Rocky Jordan of Ohio State, both at Carver-Hawkeye Arena. When Assad was wrestling, Hawkeye fans knew they were seeing something special that they would have three more seasons to enjoy.

Who knows who Brands will send to the Big Ten Championship at 184-pounds? If it's Assad, he has a great chance of making the NCAA Championships, which no one saw coming before this season.



Shivansh Ahuja/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's 184-pound Abe Assad wrestles Nebraska's Taylor Venz during a wrestling dual meet between Iowa and Nebraska at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Jan. 18.

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FOR SALE BY OWNER

NOTICE: Accepting offers on the Dvorak Wolford Acreage in Louisa County.

A sportsman's recreational property with Ag income, access to the Iowa River, timber with mature trees and a remarkable area to build. The acreage is on County Rd 66W, Riverside IA. Parcel #0108153000 Union Twp. Sec 6, Section 08-76-5, located on the East side of the road. Please note there are no buildings on this parcel. Description: approximately 211 +/- acres, of that, there are approximately 120 +/- tillable acres, approximately 20 +/- acres are in CRP, approximately 73 +/- acres are in Forest Reserve with large mature trees. The CRP acres will need to be transferred by the new owner immediately upon acceptance of offer. Tillable acres are open for the 2020 crop year. This parcel will be sold "as is". A portion of this parcel is in the flood zone. Offers will be accepted until 5:00 PM March 14, 2020. Any offers postmarked after March 14, 2020 will not be accepted. All offers will be read and discussed by the owners after March 19, 2020. Upon an accepted offer owners will require a 10% down payment as earnest money. Persons submitting offers will be contacted following the owners meeting. Send offers to Eldon & Cynlie Slaughter, PO Box 61, Lone Tree, IA. 52755.



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HAWKEYE UPDATES

Wirfs speaks at NFL Combine

Former Iowa offensive tackle Tristan Wirfs took the podium on Wednesday at the NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis.

Following his press conference with media members, Wirfs joined CBS HQ to talk about his preparation for the NFL Draft and how his time at Iowa has assisted him.



Wirfs

"The culture there and the way we develop guys," Wirfs said to CBS. "They can take guys, give them a new position, and they can become Pro Bowl players. It's kind of like a factory. [Strength and Conditioning] Coach [Chris] Doyle does a great job of transforming guys. Coach [Kirk] Ferentz has been an offensive line coach for I don't know how long. There's a lot of focus on the o-line."

Wirfs is projected as a first-round draft pick by a variety of experts. NFL.com Draft Analyst Lance Zierlein has referred to Wirfs as a right tackle with an elite body type and tremendous core strength. He also compared Wirfs to former Iowa tackle and current Green Bay Packer Bryan Bulaga.

Wirfs will perform an on-field workout in Indianapolis in front of scouts Friday on NFL Network.

Rowing ranked 13th in preseason poll

The Iowa women's rowing team has been ranked No. 13 in the USRowing/CRCA Preseason Poll released on Wednesday. This extends Iowa's program record to 30 consecutive weeks in the national rankings.



Greenlee

The Hawkeyes' No. 13 ranking comes after the team placed ninth at the NCAA Championships in 2019, which was the boat's highest finish in NCAA history. As a team, Iowa finished 13th with 63 team points.

The 2020 roster returns three All-Americans in Hannah Greenlee, Hunter Koenigsfeld, and Contessa Harold.

The Hawkeyes travel to Norfolk, Virginia, to compete in a series of duals with Old Dominion on Feb. 16.

NCAA MEN'S TRACK RANKINGS

1. Northern Arizona
2. LSU
3. Florida
4. Texas
5. Oregon
6. Georgia
7. Texas Tech
8. Tennessee
9. Florida State
10. Arkansas
22. Iowa

NCAA WOMEN'S TRACK RANKINGS

1. LSU
2. Georgia
3. Arkansas
4. USC
5. Texas A&M
6. Kentucky
7. Oregon
8. Stanford
9. BYU
10. Washington
21. Iowa

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I've gotten to play for the best coaching staff with the best teammates. This is my second home. I feel really blessed that I have that."



Iowa women's basketball guard Kathleen Doyle ahead of Senior Night

STAT OF THE DAY

Luka Garza's

13

straight games with 20+ points ties a school record in Big Ten play.

Closure at Carver

The Iowa women's basketball team closes out its home schedule against Minnesota on Senior Night.



Hannah Kinson/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Kathleen Doyle shoots a basket during a women's basketball game between Iowa and Penn State at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 22.

BY BEN PALYA

benjamin-palya@uiowa.edu

It's been yet another incredible season of Iowa women's basketball.

The team is crushing expectations on its way to a likely third-place finish in the Big Ten regular season standings and could possibly have home court for the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row.

A large part of that is because of an exceptional senior class consisting of Amanda Ollinger, Kathleen Doyle, and Makenzie Meyer. All three have been starters for this year's team and have been important cogs in the program over their time in the Black and Gold, albeit in their own way.

The three bring together different personality traits, with Doyle being the most outgoing, Ollinger being the more reserved, and Meyer being somewhere in between the two. However, the three have come together

to become not only great teammates but great friends.

"It's been fun becoming really close with them," Doyle said. "We all have really different personalities, and it's been fun to just get to know them and spend all this time with them. They're both great people, and they're gonna be friends for life."

The trio of Hawkeye seniors have gone on different journeys to get to where they are today.

SEE SENIORS, 5A

Hawkeye softball off to strong start

Whether it's on the mound or at the plate, the Hawkeyes' statistics show they have all bases covered.



Jenna Galligan/The Daily Iowan

Iowa pitcher Lauren Shaw throws a pitch during an Iowa softball game against Iowa Central at Pearl Field on Oct. 4, 2019. The Hawkeyes defeated the Tritons, 4-0, in 10 innings.

BY ISAAC GOFFIN

isaac-goffin@uiowa.edu

Last season, the Iowa softball team finished the season with a 19-32 record.

Though it's early, this season is already looking much better for the 12-2 Hawkeyes. In a game known for its numbers, it is worth recognizing where the team is shining early on and what has made the Hawkeyes successful so far.

2.14 - Team ERA

On the mound, senior Allison Doocy and junior

Lauren Shaw have dominated.

Shaw has a 1.46 ERA and 47 strikeouts in 48 innings. With a 7-1 record, she has managed five complete games and two shutouts. In the Big Ten/ACC Challenge, Shaw threw two complete games and gave up no earned runs.

Against Boston College Feb. 15, she gave up three hits and struck out eight while throwing 88 pitches on the day. The next day versus Georgia Tech, she had 10 strikeouts. For her performance, Shaw was named Big Ten Pitcher of the Week.

Predictably, Doocy is taking care of business. The 2019 Big Ten All-Second Team member has built off

Who was Iowa's most surprising wrestler?

The postseason is approaching for the Hawkeyes. Two DI staffers debate which member of Iowa's lineup had the most surprising regular season.



AUSTIN HANSON
austin-hanson@uiowa.edu

Michael Kemerer

Michael Kemerer is no stranger to success. The senior is a two-time All-American, a Big Ten Sportsmanship Award recipient, and a three-time letter winner.

This season, Kemerer appears to be on track to become a three-time All-American. The Murrysville, Pennsylvania, native is a legitimate national championship contender, ranked first in the nation at 174-pounds.

Despite all his career accolades, Kemerer's success this season has come as a bit of a surprise. Kemerer sat out all of 2018-19 following surgeries on both his knee and shoulder.

On top of the injuries, Kemerer moved up two weight classes to solidify Iowa's 2019-20 lineup at 174-pounds. He previously competed at 157-pounds

SEE SOFTBALL, 5A

SEE SURPRISE, 5A

Rebellion Burlesque



Rebellion Burlesque subverts how burlesque shows are typically viewed by incorporating social justice into their work – all while staying sexy.

Design by Katina Zentz

See 4B

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TUNE IN TO KRUI 89.7 FM AT 5 P.M. ON THURSDAYS TO HEAR ABOUT THIS WEEKEND IN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT.

EVENTS CALENDAR

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WEEKEND EVENTS ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●



THE LODGE

TODAY 02.27

MUSIC

- THE GET UP KIDS, 7 P.M., GABE'S, 330 E. WASHINGTON
- DMA RECITAL: GABRIEL SANCHEZ, SAXOPHONE, 7:30 P.M., VOXMAN

WORDS

- CURATOR GUIDED TOUR: 'THE PULL OF HORSES ON NATIONAL AND LOCAL HISTORIES AND IDENTITIES', 4 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY GALLERY

THEATRE

- PALANQUIN, 8 P.M., THEATRE BUILDING

DANCE

- DANCERS IN COMPANY 2020 HOME CONCERT, 8 P.M., SPACE PLACE THEATER

FILM

- THE LODGE, 2 P.M., FILMSCENE—THE CHAUNCEY, 404 E. COLLEGE
- DOWNHILL, 6 P.M., FILMSCENE—THE CHAUNCEY
- PARASITE, 8 P.M., FILMSCENE—THE PED MALL, 118 E. COLLEGE
- THE ASSISTANT, 8:30 P.M., FILMSCENE—THE PED MALL
- MOSQUITA Y MARI, 5:30 P.M., FILMSCENE—THE CHAUNCEY

FRIDAY 02.28

MUSIC

- HARPER & LEE, 8 P.M., LEGION ARTS CSPS HALL, 1103 THIRD ST. SE, CEDAR RAPIDS
- ANTHONY WORDEN & THE ILLITERATI W/ JACK LION & PURPLE FRANK, 9 P.M., GABE'S

WORDS

- FLOODWATER COMEDY FESTIVAL: LATE NIGHT SHOWCASE, 11 P.M., THE MILL, 120 E. BURLINGTON
- FLOODWATER COMEDY FESTIVAL: KRISTEN TOOMEY, 8 P.M., THE MILL

THEATRE

- PALANQUIN, 8 P.M., THEATRE BUILDING
- STAGES, 7:30 P.M., RIVERSIDE THEATER 213 N. GILBERT
- THE FROG PRINCE OF SPAMALOT, 7 P.M., WATERLOO COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE AND BLACKHAWK CHILDREN'S THEATER, 224 & 225 COMMERCIAL ST, WATERLOO, IA

DANCE

- DANCERS IN COMPANY 2020 HOME CONCERT, 8 P.M., SPACE PLACE THEATER

FILM

- BEANPOLE, 6 P.M., FILMSCENE—THE CHAUNCEY
- PREMATURE, 9 P.M., FILMSCENE—THE PED MALL
- SEBERG, 5:30 P.M., FILMSCENE—THE CHAUNCEY

SATURDAY 02.29

MUSIC

- DUSTIN OLSON W/ TANNER SCHECKEL, 9 P.M., YACHT CLUB, 13 S. LINN

THEATRE

- PALANQUIN, 8 P.M., THEATRE BUILDING
- STAGES, 7:30 P.M., RIVERSIDE THEATER
- THE ACTOR'S GANG, 7:30 P.M., HANCHER AUDITORIUM
- THE FROG PRINCE OF SPAMALOT, 2 P.M., WATERLOO COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE AND BLACKHAWK CHILDREN'S THEATER

DANCE

- DANCERS IN COMPANY 2020 HOME CONCERT, 8 P.M., SPACE PLACE THEATER

FILM

- HAVE YOU SEEN MY MOVIE? 12:30 P.M., FILMSCENE—THE CHAUNCEY
- BEANPOLE, 12:30 P.M., FILMSCENE—THE CHAUNCEY
- TRUE STORIES, 10 P.M., FILMSCENE—THE CHAUNCEY

ART

- NEW CLASS! BORO BEADS, 10 A.M., BEADODOGY, 220 E. WASHINGTON
- COLOR MIXING EXTRAVAGANZA!, 1 P.M., PUBLIC SPACE ONE

SUNDAY 03.01

MUSIC

- PIANO SUNDAYS, 1:30 P.M., OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM
- JOHN PRIMER & THE REAL DEAL, 7 P.M., LEGION ARTS CSPS HALL
- CELLISSIMO AND THE PREUCIL SCHOOL CELLO CHOIR, 1 P.M., VOXMAN

THEATRE

- PALANQUIN, 2 P.M., THEATRE BUILDING
- STAGES, 2 P.M., RIVERSIDE THEATER

FILM

- SEBERG, 12 P.M., FILMSCENE—THE CHAUNCEY
- THE LODGE, 3:15 P.M., FILMSCENE—THE CHAUNCEY
- PREMATURE, 4 P.M., FILMSCENE—THE PED MALL
- TAKE A PIC OF ME AND LEAVE ME HERE: BY TRISTEN IVES, 6 P.M., PUBLIC SPACE ONE



THE ASSISTANT



BEANPOLE



SEBERG



PREMATURE

WEEKEND HOROSCOPE

Mercury is in retrograde, Hawkeyes. Take your time this week, double check your alarms, and think twice before making any major plans. We're not official astrologists, but here's our astro advice:

Aquarius ♒	Take a deep breath when heading into conflict: Do you want to be right or to be heard?	Pisces ♓	Write out what you want to say and say it. Or burn it.
Aries ♈	Think twice before unleashing your inner party god: Are you really getting what you want?	Taurus ♉	It's OK to walk away—find time to get cozy if the vibes are off.
Gemini ♊	Take a look at who's on your side and find out why. Fairweather friends, begone.	Cancer ♋	If you've been playing it safe, now is the time to let a little loose.
Leo ♌	There's a difference between talking with you and talking at you.	Virgo ♍	Put yourself in other people's shoes—intent isn't always what matters.
Libra ♎	Get coffee with a friend and talk it all out.	Scorpio ♏	An old friend in your DMs? It's more likely than you think.
Sagittarius ♐	Maybe we take a break this weekend; let's lie in the sun and assess.	Capricorn ♑	Stop trying to control chaos. Find a new route if the road is too rough for you.

WEEKLY PLAYLIST

"Rad Drugz" - MISSIO	Ashley Dawson
"Strawberry Blonde" - Mitski	Brooklyn Draisey
"call the police" - LCD Soundsystem	Addie Bushnell
"Missing Reward" - Mt. Royal from Banshee	Pedro Barragan
"Something For Your M.I.N.D." - Superorganism	Naomi Hofferber
"Bang!" - AJR	Josie Fischels
"Hey Tomorrow" - Jim Croce	Madison Loteschtein
"Hurt By You" - Donna Missal	Megan Conroy

STUDENT FASHION



Name: Kelsey-Faith Abeh

Year: Senior

How would you describe your style?: "I wear a lot of black and white so it's pretty basic, but I always try to add something that makes it pop."

What is your favorite brand/stores?: "A lot of my clothing now is from H&M, Ragstock, and Forever 21, but I do have a decent amount of things from Goodwill."

How has your style evolved?: "I studied in France, and everyone dresses nice all the time there, no matter where they're going. That helped me to always be dressed my best and be as creative as possible with what I had to work with."

Addie Bushnell/The Daily Iowan

DRINK OF THE WEEK

Drink of the week: Ice on Fire

Hawks, trying to find a cocktail to fit the mood of this week was nearly impossible. From Sunday's 50-degree sunny dream to the midweek winter wonderland — finding a cocktail to match is like fire and ice. Hence our cocktail: cool blue wintery curacao combines with literal flames to warm your heart as we battle the final bouts of winter.

Recipe:
1 part blue curacao
1 part vodka
3 parts lemonade
Splash of rum

Orange slices
Maraschino cherry



Mix the vodka, blue curacao, and lemonade in a cup. Pour the rum slowly so it sets on top and set it on fire with a lighter. Very, very carefully. Let it burn down and enjoy.

— Naomi Hofferber

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Mysterious objects inspire UI graduate student's mind

Drew Etienne, a second-year University of Iowa graduate student, uses peculiar objects from his mind to inspire his art.

BY ASHLEY DAWSON
ashley-dawson@uiowa.edu

Unspecified, peculiar beauties that pop into the mind are what inspire Drew Etienne, a second-year University of Iowa graduate student, before he begins a new drawing.

"There are these mysterious, inorganic objects that just keep hanging around for unknown reasons," Etienne said.

Instead of being scared by these mind-floaters, though, he said he uses them as the basis for his art.

Geometric patterns and colorful landscapes cover canvases in Etienne's workspace in the Visual Arts Building. Although he has historically used acrylic paints, he said he is slowly getting back into the use of oil paints. He has also pursued his interest in printmaking as a secondary area of study.

"Landscapes of foreboding futures are a main part in my paintings," Etienne said.

A near-kaleidoscope effect takes place in Etienne's work. His canvases are covered in bright colors and patterns.

Inspired by his artistic

mother to pursue art, Etienne looked to art styles in video game manuals and comic books for a steady, expressive artistic style as a child.

As he grew older, Etienne said his inspiration changed depending on his headspace. Sometimes, he feels inspired by artist Yoshida Hiroshi due to his ability to say a lot in his work with a small amount of informational colors and patterns.

The 36-year-old also looks up to artists such as David Schnell, a German painter who specializes in geometric landscapes, and Frank Nitsche, another German painter who does geometric abstract work.

Etienne received his B.F.A at Indiana University over a decade ago, and he is now working towards an M.F.A in studio art with a focus in drawing and painting.

Although Etienne is not known to keep all of his works on-hand after finishing them, he has kept two or three with him to remind himself that not all of his art is unfavorable.

"I held on to them because everything came together

in them, and they're good benchmark or milestone pieces. I like having them around because they remind me that things can go right sometimes," he said.

After finishing his M.F.A, Etienne hopes to use whatever abilities he has grown to pay the bills. He has a project in mind that can help national parks. Despite the project still being fairly abstract, he knows that he wants to do something for the parks.

Etienne will have a reception for his pieces in the Levitt Gallery at Art Building WestMarh 6.

Though his color schemes and palettes have varied since his early artistic beginning, Etienne feels that he has found a comfortable theme for his art and hopes to inspire others through his work.

"I like color a lot. I like to explore different color palettes and pay close attention to where I use color that's very bright versus color that's very dull," he said. "I like to explore what that does to change the mood or atmosphere of the piece."



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan

Graduate Student Drew Etienne poses in his studio in the Visual Arts Building on Tuesday.

FAST FACTS

HOMETOWN: LIVED IN MANY DIFFERENT PLACES, DOESN'T VIEW ANY OF THEM

AS A HOMETOWN

YEAR IN SCHOOL: SECOND-YEAR GRAD STUDENT

AGE: 36

FAVORITE MUSICIAN: AUTECHRE

DREAM PLACE TO LIVE: IN THE MOUNTAINS

DREAM PLACE TO WORK: PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FAVORITE MOVIE: THE SAINT

FAVORITE PLACE FOR A LATE-NIGHT BITE: GOOSETOWN CAFE

LAST SONG STUCK IN HIS HEAD: DIRTY PROJECTORS' MUSIC

INSTAGRAM: @DREWETIENNE

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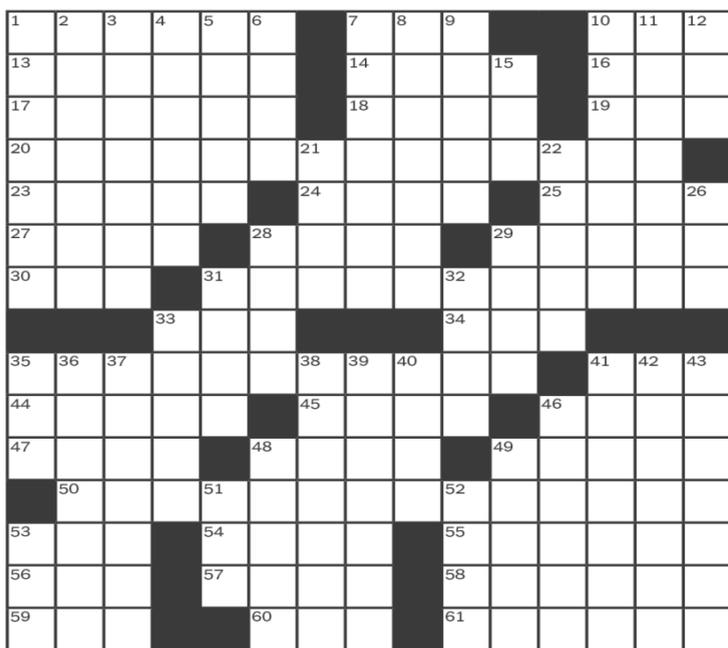
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The Daily Break

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 2A

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0123



- 56 Have
57 Boggle the mind
58 Locale for Ernst and Young
59 Vote heard on the floor ... and at the end of 20-, 31-, 35- and 50-Across?
60 Short albums, for short
61 Some "Toy Story"-themed toys, informally

DOWN

- 1 Source of material for a feather duster
2 Astronomical rings
3 Start-up worth a billion dollars, in a modern coinage
4 What brakes shouldn't do
5 "Give it ___"
6 Mesmerized
7 It may involve dilation
8 Wind power generator
9 Odysseus' faithful dog
10 Element of some chips
11 Something with an "x" factor?
12 What a shooter may shoot
15 Pull
21 Perniciousness
22 Retiring
26 Soong ___-ling, Madame Chiang Kai-shek
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A new generation of burlesque

You won't find Cher or Christina Aguilera in this burlesque troupe — Rebellion Burlesque uses sultry performances to spread a message.

BY SARAH STORTZ
sarah-stortz@uiowa.edu

Inside a small apartment, a group of women from Rebellion Burlesque crowded around each other, throwing friendly banter.

Once their plans were finalized, one woman dumped an Ulta box of makeup on the floor; the dancers scavenged through the mess to claim any products. In the background of the commotion, a cat slept peacefully in a play house.

Angela Weaver, known as Delia Belladonna during her performances, was the first dancer to workshop her piece. Donning a pink wig, purple lipstick, and fake eyelashes, she dressed in a costume consisting of a red and black corset. The ensemble was complemented by matching gloves and a feathery scarf.

While she strutted around the small space, Weaver was unapologetically risqué, using the burlesque to amuse her audience.

Burlesque is a genre of a performance where an artist intends to make their audience laugh by caricaturing serious subject matters, often through strip-teasing. Unlike stripping, burlesque is more comedic in tone.

Rebellion Burlesque is an Iowa City-based burlesque troupe that formed in 2017. Their mission is based in fusing entertainment, sex appeal, and activism.

While often displaying light-hearted acts, Rebellion Burlesque is currently working to define what burlesque looks like in Iowa City. The group invites dancers of all backgrounds to perform with them.

Rebellion Burlesque recently started their "calendar girl" series, where they'll have a show each month that interludes several forms of social justice. These topics range from black history, to sex trafficking, to mental health awareness. The group's next performance on March 21 will focus on climate change awareness, where they'll

gather donations to use for a charity fighting against the Australian wildfires.

Weaver said she enjoyed watching burlesque performances for a long time, but it took a push from a friend before she made her stage debut. Around that time, she was recovering from battling breast cancer.

At first, Weaver didn't want to be involved in burlesque — she suffered from stage fright. However, her co-worker strongly encouraged her to try out Rebellion Burlesque, showing Weaver the song, "It's Good To Be Alive" by Imelda May, in which May takes on the appearance of the Bride of Frankenstein.

Weaver strongly identified with the classical horror icon while she underwent cancer treatment, so she infused both the song and the character's aesthetic into her burlesque persona.

Another reason Weaver was drawn to Rebellion Burlesque was their acceptance of plus-sized performers.

"It's really empowering to see different women get up there," she said. "My lady friends here, we put a lot of time and work into it, but it's really cool to see how it's grown."

Strong relationships between the women are prevalent within Rebellion Burlesque. The other dancers shout and cheer for Weaver while she takes her top off during the workshop, which is often done in their performance venues.

Weaver's younger sister had ovarian cancer around the same time she was diagnosed with breast cancer. However, her sister died a few years later from the disease. Looking back on the event, Weaver said burlesque reminds her of what it means to be alive.

"[Performing] is scary," Weaver said. "I'm scared to death still, but it's also really fun and exciting."

Shortly after Weaver finished workshoping, Carmen, one

of the original founders, put on cheetah print lingerie, which she paired with a black parka and circular glasses that embodied Elton John's style.

Showing off her legs, she handed out sunglasses to her audience while the song "Bennie and the Jets" played in her home.

Carmen was already an experienced performer before getting involved with Rebellion Burlesque, with talents in singing, acting, and dancing. Before Rebellion Burlesque, Carmen

allowing performers to add more choreography to their individual acts. Among these include "nerdlesque" and "gorelesque," which uses cosplay and horror elements respectively.

After learning more about the different styles, she decided to do more research, concluding that doing burlesque would help hone all of her skills.

Carmen left the aforementioned troupes on her own terms. Later on, her roommate at the time pushed her to form

the New York University Tisch School of Arts. Myers said she felt drawn to burlesque being "deeply based in the body."

"I appreciate that burlesque is body positive," Myers said. "When people are practicing, there's this cultural knowing that it takes vulnerability and empowerment to have your body be seen that way. I think burlesque is an invitation to be brave. It's empowering and exciting where you're sharing this type of work with a community."

similar body shape as her. After talking with the performers after the show, Laughlin steadily worked her way from helping with retail merchandise for Rebellion Burlesque to becoming a performer.

Going by the name Arya Ready on stage, Laughlin said she uses a more light-hearted approach towards her burlesque performances, such as her "pigs in a blanket" routine where she'll dress up as a croissant and Carmen will dress as a pig.

"[Burlesque] can be so many different things for so many different people," Laughlin said. "Some people like to be really political with her acts, and that's awesome. Some people like to be silly, some people like to be sultry... it can be just fun, but it can be so much more than that."

Carmen said media depiction of burlesque tends to be inaccurate, especially in regards to the film *Burlesque*, starring Cher and Christina Aguilera. This is largely because the movie doesn't discuss burlesque's place in history.

"It's not easily believed that it would have such an impact on history in general because of its nature of sexuality, and the fact that we still don't believe women are deserving of owning their own bodies," Carmen said.

All three of the dancers encouraged other women to attend their workshops, which can help them the fundamentals of burlesque. They also emphasized that no one is obligated to perform with them.

"It is important to have somebody else there with you," Weaver said. "Before you even get on stage for that first time, you've bonded with these other people that are already doing it."

With her dancers still around her, Carmen concluded her performance by "dying" as the song neared its end, exposing her chest in the process.

After she opened her eyes, her community burst into cheers.



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan

From left: Carmen, Cierra Laughlin, and Angela Weaver pose for portraits in Coralville on Feb. 23.

said the only other Iowa City burlesque troupes were the Heartland Bombshells and Les Dames du Burlesque, having performing experience with both groups.

Carmen was also encouraged to try out burlesque by her roommate, but said she initially felt an aversion to the idea, not caring for the style of classical burlesque, which is the most common genre.

Classical burlesque has elements of Victorian England aesthetics, placing more emphasis on comedy and teasing the audience, according to Carmen. With the introduction of Neo-Burlesque, Carmen said burlesque now has a wider variety of genres,

her own group, eventually becoming Rebellion Burlesque. Since then, her perception of burlesque has radically changed — she now views it as a means to leverage social justice.

"I was looking for more of a purpose in my life," Carmen said. "I love to perform, but I don't think that performing is my ultimate passion in life. I really enjoyed the ability to use it as a platform to uplift awareness for lots of different causes and marginalized communities."

Melinda Jean Myers, a University of Iowa assistant professor in contemporary dance, previously put on her own burlesque show while attending

For their productions, Carmen said Rebellion Burlesque largely makes decisions as a team. The group is currently working to incorporate more theatrical elements, such as backdrops and props, into their shows. During rehearsals, the dancers will have a "kitten," who acts as their stage manager.

Calling herself "the queen of Goodwill," performer Cierra Laughlin's talents lie in transforming the dancers into their personas.

Laughlin first experienced burlesque at the Mill, where she watched a performance by the Heartland Bombshells. There, she noticed how Carmen had a



The Actors' Gang
The New Colossus



Dreamers' Circus



Melissa Aldana Quartet

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Actors' Gang, *The New Colossus*
Saturday, February 29, 7:30 pm

Performed in twelve languages (with English supertitles) with live music, poetry, and kinetic movement, *The New Colossus* asks an essential question: Who are we as a nation? The play explores the true stories of twelve people in the United States today because their families fled their countries of origin to escape oppression. Actors from around the world share the stage to tell heart-wrenching stories, weaving a single narrative of desperate people drawn to the promise of America.

The Chieftains, *The Irish Goodbye*
Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 pm

One of Ireland's most treasured musical ensembles, The Chieftains are six-time Grammy winners and incomparable instrumentalists and innovators who honor and extend the breadth and depth of traditional Irish music. The band's tour of the United States will feature the breathtaking virtuosity for which the group is known. Join us for a trip to the Emerald Isle just in time for St. Patrick's Day.

Club Hancher: Dreamers' Circus
Sunday, March 8, 5:30 pm and 8:00 pm

Nikolaj Busk (piano and accordion), Ale Carr (Nordic cittern), and Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen (violin) view their Nordic folk roots as a point of departure rather than a fixed destination. The trio blends this adventurous attitude with outstanding musicianship to recast tradition into something startlingly original.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Tuesday, March 10, 7:30 pm

The extraordinary dancers of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater make their first appearance on the new Hancher stage with a program that will be undeniably revelatory. Artistic Director Robert Battle has remained true to the vision of his predecessors—Ailey himself and Judith Jamison—while also expanding the company's work with a wide array of choreographers. The performance will close with *Revelations*, Ailey's masterwork that is as powerful today as it was when it debuted in 1960.

Club Hancher: Melissa Aldana Quartet
Wednesday, March 25, 6:30 pm and 9:00 pm

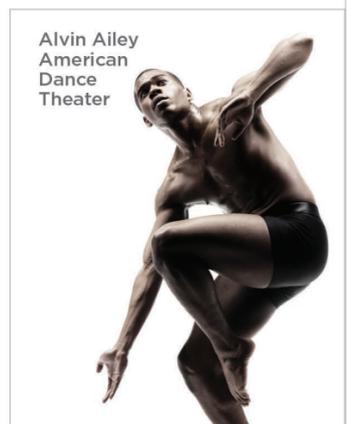
Chilean saxophonist Melissa Aldana first picked up the alto, but an encounter with the music of Sonny Rollins led to a switch to tenor. When she was 24, she became the first female—and first South American musician—to win the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Saxophone Competition. The *Chicago Tribune* says, "Aldana stands as an irrepressibly creative phrase-maker, sidestepping cliché at almost every turn." She'll bring that irrepressible energy to the intimate space of Club Hancher.

Los Angeles Master Chorale, *Lagrime di San Pietro* (Tears of St. Peter)
Saturday, March 28, 7:30 pm

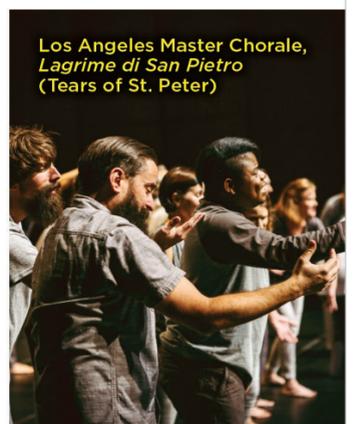
A Renaissance masterpiece—depicting the grief of St. Peter after his disavowal of Christ—is brought stirring to the concert hall by one of the country's finest vocal ensembles. Famed director Peter Sellars crafted this dramatically staged performance piece, focusing the themes through a contemporary lens and suggesting that we must all grapple with—and accept responsibility for—the mistakes made in our personal pasts.



The Chieftains
The Irish Goodbye



Alvin Ailey
American
Dance
Theater



Los Angeles Master Chorale,
Lagrime di San Pietro
(Tears of St. Peter)



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