

The Daily Iowan

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020

THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COMMUNITY SINCE 1868

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**For
Hawks
at
home,**



RENT
still due

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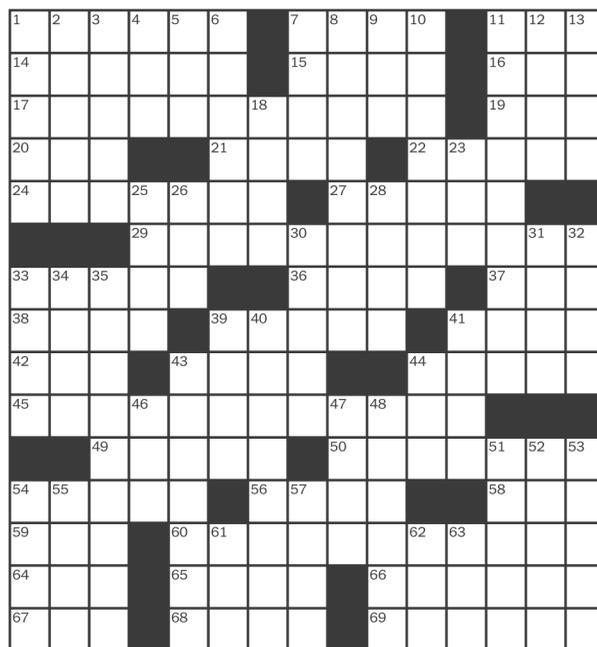
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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 3

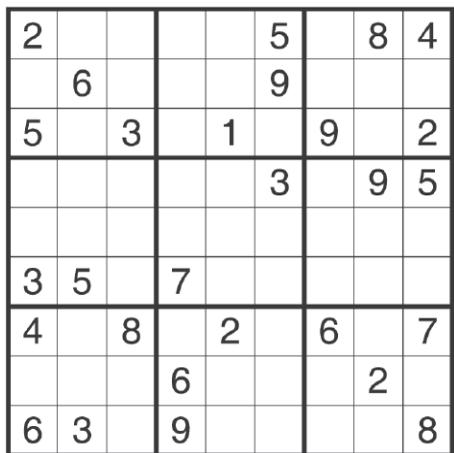
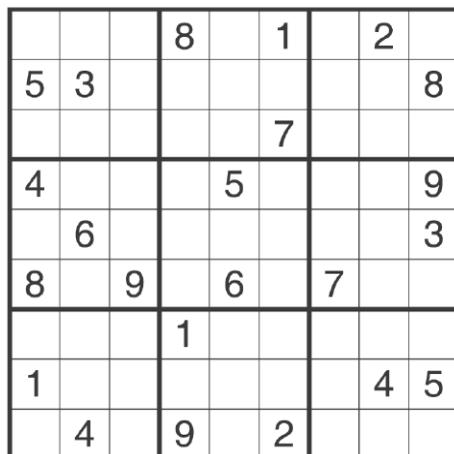
Across

- 1 Annual tennis or golf championship
- 7 "Sign me up!"
- 11 ___ dispenser
- 14 Team spirit
- 15 Detective Wolfe
- 16 Friend for Philippe
- 17 Zombies with a sense of humor?
- 19 Pinch
- 20 What to do after saying grace
- 21 Spree
- 22 Removes, as from a club
- 24 Had high hopes
- 27 Gay rights or climate change
- 29 Grizzlies that don't fall for traps?
- 33 Writer who went through hell?
- 36 Rat-___
- 37 Cheer from the stands
- 38 Greek god who fought with the mortal Hercules
- 39 Many a time
- 41 Prefix with space
- 42 Small set
- 43 Surrealist Maar
- 44 Called off
- 45 Exam in an interior design class?
- 49 Singer Luis with the 13x platinum hit "Despacito"
- 50 Write the book on, so to speak
- 54 Automaton of folklore
- 56 Like some spicy food

- 58 "Snakes ___ Plane" (2006 film)
- 59 Abbr. before an alias
- 60 Terrible attempts at peeling corn?
- 64 Org. that collects 1099s
- 65 Wonder Woman, for Gal Gadot
- 66 Mexican dish prepared in a cornhusk
- 67 "Hmm, I don't think so"
- 68 Shift and Tab, for two
- 69 Less fresh

Down

- 1 Called balls and strikes
- 2 Word before system or panel
- 3 Deliver a sternwinder
- 4 Be punished (for)
- 5 Figure in Santa's workshop
- 6 Neither feminine nor masculine
- 7 Lead-in to China
- 8 Introductory scene in some rom-coms
- 9 Subj. of the federal tax form 5498
- 10 "For sure"
- 11 Like some salmon that's not baked or broiled
- 12 Give off
- 13 10001, 10002, etc., informally
- 18 Ore source
- 23 Exercise
- 25 Fifth book of the New Testament
- 26 Daisy ___ (character who loved Li'l Abner)
- 28 Astronaut Shepard, first American in space
- 30 Like almost 0% of tarantula bites
- 31 Like blue moons
- 32 Having footwear
- 33 Harebrained
- 34 ___ 51
- 35 "Hey, let me be the first to tell you ..."
- 39 Reactions to gut punches
- 40 Orchard pest
- 41 Up the ___
- 43 Nation whose flag is a white cross on a red background
- 44 Neighbor of F1 and a tilde
- 46 Outer edge of a golf club
- 47 Shade akin to turquoise
- 48 Is
- 51 One giving directions to a tourist, say
- 52 Where a pant leg and a sock meet
- 53 It'll give you a shock
- 54 Benefit
- 55 Vegetable that's frequently fried
- 57 Colors
- 61 Great distress
- 62 Lid, so to speak
- 63 Thurman of "Pulp Fiction"



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For Hawks at home, rent still due

Classes moving online and businesses shuttering has left some students wondering how to pay rent for the duration of their leases.

BY SARAH WATSON

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University of Iowa junior Nina Grover was used to paying her groceries, rent, and insurance on time. She kept her finances minutely organized, maintaining one account for personal spending and another for her school expenses.

After spring break, she found out she wouldn't be able to return to her part-time food-service job in Iowa City because of novel-coronavirus mitigation efforts, and her carefully planned budget suddenly unraveled.

She applied for unemployment benefits, but unsure of when those would kick in, she emailed her landlord a day before the first of the month asking about rent deferment options. She needed to stay in Iowa City, she said, as staying with her family in Illinois meant conducting online classes in a small apartment while sharing a room with her sister.

They worked out a plan to delay \$300 of her roughly \$600 rent payment, adding that as long as she paid it by June 1, her landlord would waive any late fees. She also applied for the UI's Student Emergency Fund, which has doled out over \$200,000 and received

roughly 1,200 applications since spring break.

"It's a decent amount of stress that's lifted," she said.

Since classes transitioned online, on-campus facilities closed their doors, and most downtown businesses closed to the public, some students have had to grapple with how or whether to pay the cost of off-campus housing, and landlords whose tenants are predominantly students are delaying or doing virtual property showings while waiting on the university to concretely declare students will return to campus in the fall.

Seventy-three percent of UI students live in off-campus housing, according to the *U.S. News and World Report* rankings of best colleges. Nationwide, around 69 percent of renters had paid rent by April 5, down 12 percentage points from the previous month, according to the National MultiFamily Housing Council. By April 12, 84 percent of American renters had paid up.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds ordered a moratorium on all filing of evictions to last until April 30, except under circumstances that would be a danger to the resident or others. The Iowa Supreme Court released guidance in April that stated no eviction case hear-

ings would be carried out until June 15, unless done by phone.

However, that doesn't mean that renters are completely off the hook for rent, UI Student Legal Services Director Amanda Elkins said.

"Yes, you still need to pay rent—you're just not going to be evicted for it," she said.

She said her office, which provides free legal services to registered UI students and operates under the umbrella of the Dean of Students, received an influx of appointment requests, calls, and emails just before April 1 to ask for advice on topics ranging from terminating leases, to subleasing, to complaints of landlords showing units in-person while public-health experts are urging people to practice social distancing.

Some students who moved back home are wondering how to pay for housing now that they can't use it.

One UI exchange student from Scotland, Aaron Burns Lee, returned to the United Kingdom on the first Monday of the UI's spring break, leaving his soccer ball and skateboard at a friend's place before cramming his things into two suitcases and boarding a flight home.

The now 21-year-old en-

rolled in the university in August 2019 and planned to return home in May, though decided to leave Iowa City early as international travel warnings escalated. By March 23, Burns Lee and his family in Liverpool were stuck in a nationwide lockdown order.

Not planning to return to the UI for the remainder of his lease—which runs until August—Burns Lee asked for a lease termination. His property manager denied the immediate request, saying in an email Burns Lee shared with *The Daily Iowan* that the company would put him on a sub-

leasing waiting list and would release him from his rent obligation once the spot was filled. The manager offered to set up a payment plan.

But Burns Lee said he thought the offer was insufficient and insensitive, and he was anxious about still paying another four or so months of

rent—at nearly \$900 a month—for space he wasn't living in.

"In theory, I would be able to pay, but it would cost basically all the money I have," he said, adding that he was seeking legal advice on his next steps.

SEE RENT, 4



My cup is not my consent

Using alcohol to get sex is sexual assault

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RENT

CONTINUED FROM 3

He said he's afraid if he elects not to pay, and the properties pursue a lawsuit, he could permanently damage his credit score.

"It's really hard to know what the best thing to do is. I really do believe it is unfair to be charged in such extreme and unpredictable circumstances."

Elkins, the UI Student Legal Services director, said landlords could still file suit for unpaid rent in the courts as soon as May 1 under Reynolds' current order, although the Johnson County Sheriff won't

file evictions until May 4 and hearings couldn't take place until June 15 per the Iowa Supreme Court.

She added that the issue of unpaid rent could spill over into fall and winter as property managers look for ways to collect unpaid dues.

"I'm worried about debt collection, to be honest — those students who for whatever reason can't pay," she said. "I've been working with other SLS offices to see, 'Are there arguments we could make that the tenant shouldn't be responsible for rent at this time?' And because it's an unprecedented situation, it's not like we have prior experiences to

draw on... The big question is, 'How are the landlords going to deal with those deficits in the rent amount?'"

Kyle Vogel owns Key-

“In theory, I would be able to pay, but it would cost basically all the money I have!”

— Aaron Burns Lee, UI student

stone Property Management, which has about 500 properties in Iowa City and North Liberty, roughly half of which are student-rented, he said.

He said he hasn't gotten any requests for rent deferment from residents in the properties he manages, but that some tenants

emailed him early into the COVID-19 response in mid-March with questions.

He said he's preparing to field more inquiries

about rent leading up to May 1 since people were employed for around half of March.

University officials have said they're planning for classes to resume in the fall, but Vogel said the college's final decision will have the greatest impact on how many of his prop-

erties are full.

"The university and the student population are absolutely what drives everything in this town," Vogel said.

He's also conducting virtual showings instead of in person, as he normally would. From March 16-27, Keystone Properties canceled 60 hours worth of showings, he said.

"Normally we're at probably 20 to 30 hours a week of scheduled showings, down to seven or eight hours of video showings," he said.

But he said he thought that once the university was back in session, the lack of showings wouldn't translate into more vacancies because housing would always be needed — unlike luxury goods industries.

The biggest change, he said, may be that showings that would've been done before May could be backed up into summer and early fall depending on when social-distancing recommendations are relaxed.

"We may end up Aug. 1 with, you know, 5 to 10

percent of our properties still vacant. And then suddenly have a two-week period where we're just showing 24 hours a day in order to find people places," he said.

Although Vogel's transitioned most of his showings virtually (except for vacant properties), Community Health Manager Sam Jarvis said the Johnson County Public Health Department has been receiving complaints of some landlords entering apartments in-person.

The department is drawing up recommendations for both property managers and tenants to respect the public-health crisis, he said.

"I believe our kind of advice or guidance will be to, one, have people be reasonable — you know, tenant and landlord — and just recognize that right now we are currently in a pandemic, and we are asking people to socially distance, and so if they can just find some middle ground or have that ability to coordinate reasonable access," Jarvis said.

FAST FACTS ON RENT AMID COVID-19

- **73 percent** of University of Iowa students live off-campus
- **69 percent** of renters nationwide paid rent by April 5, down 12 percentage points from March
- **84 percent** of American renters had paid up by **April 15**
- Gov. Kim Reynolds-ordered moratorium on all filing of evictions to last until **April 30**
- Iowa Supreme Court-released guidance in April that stated no eviction case hearings would be carried out until **June 15**



Jake Maish/The Daily Iowan

UI student Nina Grover poses for a portrait on the balcony of her apartment on Monday.

Quarantine Dream born from COVID-19 nightmare

The lives of touring musicians were flipped upside down when the COVID-19 pandemic left everyone at home for the foreseeable future. They went from playing shows on stage to instead creating music in isolation.

BY MEGAN CONROY
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From the nightmarish COVID-19 pandemic, musical project Quarantine Dream emerged.

What was a collaboration between Iowa City-based bandmates on tour is now a virtually collaborative effort to continue to create music while social distancing. It's a different way of producing music amid a pandemic which has forced musicians to cancel concerts, suspend their tours, and create music in isolation.

Before the pandemic, musician Avery Mossman was already in the preparation stages of reinventing his musical identity. In February, he ended his solo project, Ivory James.

"I'm not the same person I was when I was 20," Mossman said. "It was time to allow myself the free-

dom to evolve and grow and not feel like I'm betraying the expectations for that project. Immediately after that, there's a pandemic. I know I'm going into a period of rediscovery and then it was like, 'Surprise, you're not doing anything else.'"

Out of this period of reinvention, Quarantine Dream was born: a musical project and song produced by Mossman along with musicians Hannah Frey and Sam Farrell. The project's title song, Quarantine Dream, sounds the way isolation feels; slow, dreamlike, the lyrics nostalgic for what life was like before the novel coronavirus spread across the globe.

Frey wrote the song in 15 minutes. Mossman mixed and mastered it, then put it onto Bandcamp, a streaming platform for musicians to release work and garner direct support from fans.

All proceeds from the song go to the CommUnity Food Bank in Iowa City to help ease the burden of the pandemic as millions nationwide face unemployment because of COVID-19 closures.

"We speak through music and this felt like a way to put (silly) words to the seriousness around us and come together," the group's description on Bandcamp states.

A "workaholic by trade," Mossman has also resorted to creating songs from scratch on Instagram live. From his basement set up, he produces and writes songs in real-time for his viewers to watch.

"I'm making all these songs without a computer or software. I'm making them the same way synth-pop, or electronic music, or even hip hop was created in the '80s or '90s. It's a hardware drum, a sequencer, and hardware with no plugins or



Tate Hildyard/The Daily Iowan

Musician Avery Moss Poses for a portrait in his backyard on April 9. Moss runs a special music project known as Quarantine Dream, where he collaborates with local musicians to create and share music amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

anything," Mossman said.

He continues to add to his setup as time goes on to improve the quality for the viewers. For instance, he uses a direct interface set up to his phone to improve sound quality.

Anthony Worden, Mossman's bandmate from Anthony Worden and the Illiterati, has also continued to create music at home when he's not working at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in the nutrition department.

"It's become more solitary. I've been doing a few demos at my house," Worden said. "I recorded a few personal recordings. I'm still making plans for the future, making material for when we can do shows again."

Worden has also played a few Instagram live shows. While the Instagram live shows are OK, he said, nothing compares to performance for a live audience.

Anthony Worden and the Illiterati released an NPR Tiny Desk performance from February called "How Long" on April 15. In typical band fashion, Anthony Worden, Capel Howorth, Avery Mossman, and Elly Hofmaier performed with a notable passion for the craft. "How Long" is a dreamy pop song about a former relationship, sung powerfully by Hofmaier.

Iowa City-based singer-songwriter Elizabeth Moen is also no stranger to the stage, but she said her creative juices are continuing to flow freely during the pandemic.

In November, Moen and her band were touring Italy. Now, she's adhering to social-distancing recommendations, only leaving once a month for groceries and living at her aunt and uncle's house in Iowa.

Despite the new environment and downtime, Moen is trying not to put pressure on herself to be productive. However, with what she describes as a "less foggy" brain, she has been writing music by herself—with a keyboard and a bass she borrowed from a friend to teach herself and create.

Because of the pandemic, her studio album had to be pushed back, potentially to next year. She said she plans on recording a quarantine EP to be released in the near future.

"My songwriting muscle feels stronger than ever," Moen said. "I'm usually writing on the road. I recognize that I'm very lucky to have this down time and alone time to spend a whole day working on a song. I think some of them are my best ones yet."



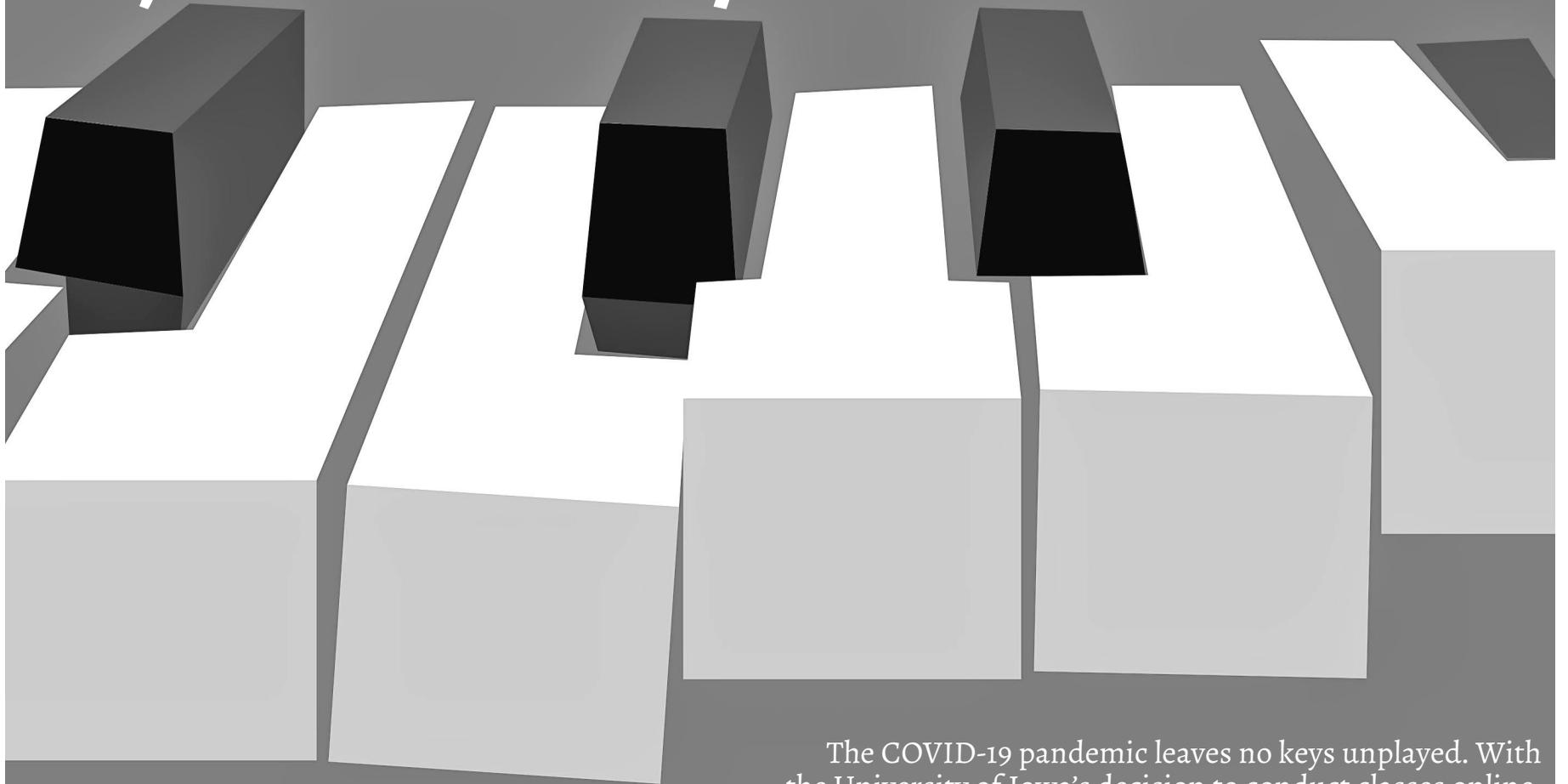
Tate Hildyard/The Daily Iowan

Musician Avery Moss Poses for a portrait in his backyard on April 9.



Go to [dailyiowan.com](https://www.dailyiowan.com) for a film featuring Quarantine Dream

Pandemic forces pianists to adjust to new dynamic



The COVID-19 pandemic leaves no keys unplayed. With the University of Iowa's decision to conduct classes online, piano accompanists have also had to adapt to the change and confront the unknown.

Design by Kate Doolittle

BY MADISON LOTENSCHTEIN

madison-lotenschtein@uiowa.edu

When Gustavo do Carmo heard that the University of Iowa decided to continue instruction online, he began to record himself playing English, Italian, and German songs, including opera arias and musical theatre pieces, and email it to the voice studio soloists he

works with.

The UI music-arts doctoral student and Brazilian international student works as a staff accompanist for choir ensembles and privately accompanies music students working on solo pieces. This isn't his normal way of doing business, but rather is the result of closures and restrictions on social gatherings because of the spread of the

novel coronavirus.

"What is interesting about these recordings is that I have been making many different versions of the same song — for example, a slower version, a version with a click track, a version with the vocal line on top of the piano accompaniment. etc., so the students have more possibilities to practice at home," he said.

Do Carmo is one of several pi-

anists at the UI whose work has been disrupted as the COVID-19 pandemic has burdened the health-care system, upended education and businesses, strained the economy, and torn its way through the livelihoods of millions.

Several departments at the UI require live music for students to practice their art. For many facets of live performance, including

opera and vocal rehearsals, dance classes, or musical theatre rehearsals and productions, accompanists from the School of Music are brought in to play piano for a wide variety of university activities.

With restrictions on crowd-gathering nationwide, the University Choir and Camerata — the choirs

SEE PIANISTS, 7

PIANISTS CONTINUED FROM 6

do Carmo accompanies for — are now unable to practice. Do Carmo said playing for the choirs is half of his income. Do Carmo was one of the many student employees at the UI whose pay status was unknown until March 27 when the UI announced its workers would continue to be paid through the spring semester.

He received an email on April 4 from his human-resources director stating that biweekly employees who are unable to work because of COVID-19 are eligible for up to 80 hours of paid time until the end of the semester.

The income from his choral accompanist job, do Carmo said, will tide him over until the end of the academic semester, because it was an on-campus position and paid hourly. He only lost one week of his income.

Along with his two jobs, do Carmo also worked at the Trinity Episcopal Church as a choral accompanist, but the church canceled its activities because of COVID-19. The recitals that do Carmo would have played for his private students would have meant an additional \$2,500, but they were all canceled. The musician had planned on using the extra money to pay his living expenses for the summer, when he planned to focus on writing his dissertation. Do Carmo is an All But Dissertation graduate student.

“During the semester, I’m working so much that I don’t have enough time to write,” he said.

While the paycheck from the UI will keep do Carmo afloat until the summer, the musician said he is a little relieved that the university announced it is making plans to have an in-person fall semester. But uncertainty remains, as he still doesn’t know the UI’s plans for recitals and concerts. Depending on



Contributed

the decision, returning to Brazil in the fall is a possibility for do Carmo, in order to save money.

“Nobody knows how long [the COVID-19 pandemic] is going to last and how it’s going to keep infecting people,” do Carmo said. “So there might be a chance I go back home and I will not be able to come back for a while. Travel is just not recommended.”

The one positive aspect of do Carmo’s situation, he said, is that he has more time to work on his dissertation, and keeps busy by working with voice students virtually.

Other pianists such as Minji Kwon, the professional staff accompanist for the School of Music, echoed this sentiment.

As a professional staff pianist at the School of Music, Kwon is paid on salary, because she is not a UI student. Kwon works with soloists and performers for musicals such as the upcoming performance of *The Light in the Piazza*. The show is to be presented by the School of Music and Department of Theatre Arts in the fall, after its original premiere date of April 15 was pushed back because of the pandemic.

Kwon still works with students on a virtual scale, but has found that even with platforms such as

video-conference tool Zoom available, practicing with singers can be a challenge.

“I actually tried to work with my singer — she sang while I was playing,” Kwon said. “It was a total disaster because she hears, I think, 0.5 seconds later? It was a whole mess. I’d rather just play my part and listen to the singers and they can listen to it with their devices instead of live streaming. So I learned that it’s not going to work collaborating at the same time.”

Bogyeong Lee, a piano-solo graduate student, also works with students virtually. In addition to her studies and accompanying private students, Lee has worked for the UI Pre-College Piano Conservatory since 2016, a program that gives piano lessons to children while giving the experience of teaching to graduate students.

Partaking in the program is not required to graduate, though Lee is still paid on salary for the lessons she gives online. However, the cancellation of the concerts she was slated to play for has reduced her income.

Lee was assigned to teach a group theory class and individual lessons, and said she is trying to adjust to teaching lessons over FaceTime.

“Interestingly, the kids are

very concentrated to use, to see me through the cell phone. Pretty much, they were OK, unlike me. I’m not very technical,” she said with a laugh.

Be that as it may, Lee couldn’t conduct in-person lessons because she lacked the essential tool her teaching method requires: a piano. To accommodate, the School of Music collaborated with Coralville instrument company West Music to deliver pianos to students without their essential tool.

Now, graduate piano assistants and students can use uprights, keyboards, or electric keyboards in order to continue their own work, said piano Professor Rene Lecuona, co-chair of the piano area. Lee received her piano on March 30, and has been able to continue the lessons she teaches and receives from her piano professor.

With work happening from home and virtual accessories available, the one thing left to do, it seems, is to play piano, keep in touch, and hope for the best, Lecuona said.

“If there’s nothing that I can do tangibly right now, then the best thing I can do is connect with my students,” Lecuona said. “I’m very connected to the piano area. It values a high level of artistry, but we also are supportive, like a family.”



Contributed

The thesis shows must go on

As COVID-19 has prompted the cancellation of M.F.A. art students' thesis exhibitions, students have presented their theses in alternative ways including film, Instagram, or virtual galleries.

BY MADISON LOTENSCHTEIN AND JOSIE FISCHELS
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University of Iowa ceramics M.F.A. candidate Donté Hayes didn't know when he agreed to participate in a documentary centered on his thesis project that it would become a placeholder for a canceled thesis exhibition.

Months before the novel coronavirus spread in Iowa and across the U.S., Hayes put on a show at the Iowa Ceramics Center in January in Cedar Rapids, where he was approached by UI alum Alan Murdock. The filmographer asked if he could make a documentary about Hayes and his upcoming thesis project, and Hayes agreed.

"We had no idea that coronavirus was going to stop everything," Hayes said. "It was a great opportunity just to show how I was preparing for my thesis show and things. And the video documentary ended up being the stand-in in a lot of ways, because today [April 10] was going to be my thesis show reception. If it wasn't for Alan, no one would have saw any of it, or even thought of what I was trying to do."

Hayes is one of many graduating M.F.A. art students forced to cancel or indefinitely postpone their thesis shows after the Visual Arts Building, along with the rest of the UI, closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the UI waived thesis exhibitions as a graduation requirement for graduate students, many still turned to alternative ways to present three years of dedicated work.

Hayes' said he hopes his thesis show will be presented in the summer. His thesis' concept takes place in a future even more unknown than the present day: the year of 3021. It's now featured in Murdock Media Production's documentary, titled "Welcome to Afro City: Part 1."

Hayes' thesis would have consisted of several ceramic pieces and prints. In his thesis' concept, humanity has been forced to live underground for generations to avoid an uninhabitable surface. Fifty years before 3021, people resurfaced, some starting a ci-

ty in Iowa named "Afro City" where people could be one again.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Hayes has had to change some core themes of his thesis.

"It's kind of interesting, because I'm changing my thesis to speak about, how is it welcoming when we have to be six feet apart from each other?" he said.

Because Hayes and other artists were told

At her show, the artist would have had 22 images with golden frames around them, with her model sculptures hanging from the walls, and some featured throughout the floorspace.

Like Hayes, some of Nobles-Adler's work was left unfinished because of COVID-19.

"The images have been made, but they have not been printed," she said. "The landscape models are all made, but some of them

with your friends, have people see your work, and there's people in the community outside of the university that come to see the work," Lee said.

Receptions also provide opportunities for artists to sell work and get documentation of people visiting the exhibit — an important factor for artists when it comes to applying for jobs and residencies in the professional realm, he said. While Lee did not view the gallery as a way to make money by selling his work, he said he did miss the opportunity to formally commemorate his work with friends and family and have more people outside the UI see his prints.

Lee has also been able to show his work in virtual galleries offered online. While Lee said most of his peers already have websites to show their work, showing work in a virtual gallery can serve as an alternative to show to a wider audience, and allow for artists to gain documentation of a physical show.

Mortar and Pestle, a virtual gallery startup in Lee's hometown of Lexington, Kentucky, has extended its first open call specifically to provide a place for B.F.A. and M.F.A. graduating students to show their canceled or indefinitely postponed thesis shows free of charge. Lee is also set to show at an online gallery based in Cedar Rapids, OnViewGallery.

The UI Art and Art History Department does not currently offer a virtual gallery for graduate students to put on their thesis shows. While Lee and others have turned to virtual galleries offered elsewhere, many of those galleries require consultations beforehand, and charge fees.

The Daily Iowan reached out to the School of Art and Art History for comment on whether or not the department plans to offer a virtual gallery option for M.F.A. students, but did not receive a response.

"It's a little heartbreaking to get to the end of your M.F.A. programs in three years and then not being able to put on the final event — you know, the culmination of all your experiences and research," Nobles-Adler said.



Contributed by Jacob Lee

University of Iowa printmaking M.F.A. student Jacob Lee's installation "But This Wasn't The War I Dreamed" is seen on display March 12 in the Visual Arts Building.

to leave the Visual Arts Building, he also wasn't able to fire any of his artwork for his show.

"Even if I was allowed to do a show ... I still wouldn't be able to do it because I would have to get all the work fired first," Hayes said.

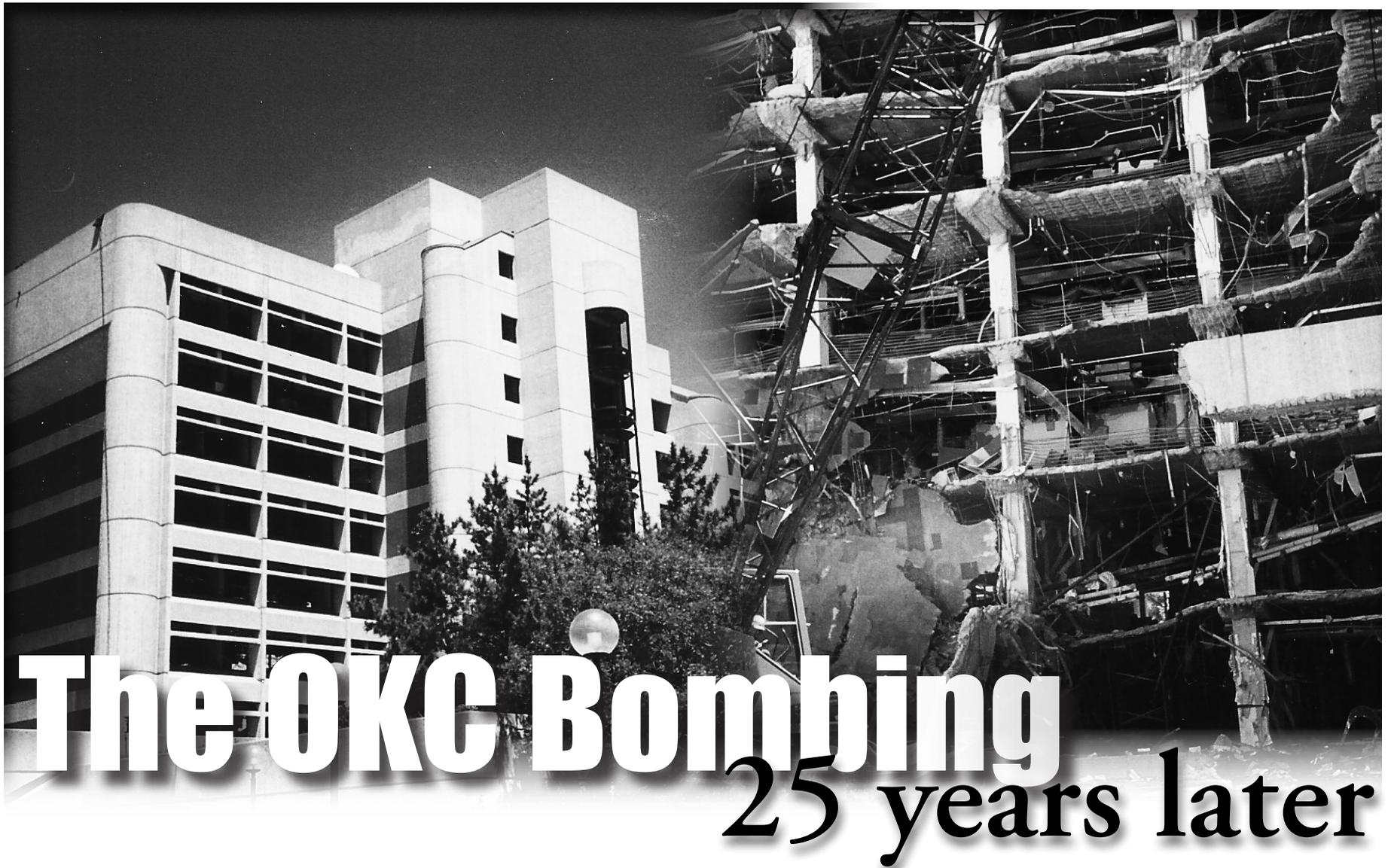
Artists of other disciplines have also experienced the disruptions caused by COVID-19, including photography M.F.A. candidate Neva Nobles-Adler, who was scheduled to present her thesis the same week as Hayes. Nobles-Adler creates landscape models and photographs insects from her insect specimen collection in those models.

I still had to make the bases for where they would have sat on for the walls."

Through the Photo Department, Nobles-Adler was still able to show her work on its Instagram, @uiowaphoto.

Printmaking M.F.A. student Jake Lee's show, "But This Wasn't The War I Dreamed," was the last to be put on before the Visual Arts Building closed. Lee, a U.S. Army veteran, had to take down his exhibition early, missing out on his show's closing reception, which happens on Fridays.

"It's a good opportunity to just hang out



Twenty-five years since the worst domestic terrorist attack in U.S. history, Oklahoma City bombing survivors remember the day an explosive parked at the north entrance of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building killed 168 of their friends.

BY KATIE ANN MCCARVER
katie-mccarver@uiowa.edu

Former Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent Judy Hoke McCarver stood on the main floor of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, waiting for the elevator. It was about 8:30 a.m. April 19, 1995.

McCarver was heading to her office on the ninth floor before remembering she had already made plans that morning with the assistant U.S. attorney in another building. The 28-year-old turned away from the elevator and instead took the pedestrian

tunnels running underneath the city to her meeting, which would begin at 9 a.m. and was the manifestation of months of culminating evidence, working undercover, and following paper trails. It represented a major case for her district.

Just two minutes into her meeting, McCarver felt the building shake. She and the assistant U.S. attorney looked at one another in confusion. She ran to the window, which provided a clear view of the street, where tons of glass had blown out of all the storefronts and windows on the ground floor of the building were busted out.

She looked further in the distance and could see buildings about five blocks east evacuating. If the county jail and west courthouse were evacuating, McCarver said she knew it had to be something horrible. About that time, the attorney's secretary ran into his office and said, "It's the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building."

"In a split second," McCarver said, "I was seized with terror."

This is the story I have heard pieces of my whole life. Then Special Agent Hoke, or Judy McCarver as I've always known her, is my mom. And because she worked late the night before and

everything that she needed for her meeting was already in her briefcase, she left the Murrah building the morning of April 19, 1995 without a second thought.

Half an hour later, a bomb parked by ex-soldier Timothy McVeigh in a truck at the building's north entrance killed 168 people, including 19 children, and injured hundreds more. It was the worst domestic terrorist attack in U.S. history. Twenty-five years later, stories such as my mother's continue to teach us about the ups-and-downs of survival, friendship, and never taking life for granted.

April 19, 1995 at 9:02 a.m.

Gina Bonny was sitting at her desk in the Murrah building and working on a report. She had just returned from the Drug Enforcement Administration office at the other end of the building and from visiting with its administrative staff—a group of women affectionately known as "the girls."

Bonny, then a Midwest City police officer assigned to a DEA task force and often partnered with my mom, said when her computer began acting out of order she had the sense something wasn't right.

SEE 25 YEARS, 10

25 YEARS CONTINUED FROM 9

“And then I heard the explosion,” Bonny said. “After that, it’s like I was asleep, and I woke up on my knees and my arms were above my head and there was stuff all on top of me.”

Her first instinct was that it was the end of the world, Bonny said. Her training, however, told her differently — it was a bomb. She stood up, took in the destruction around her, and located two members of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms nearby, both alive but severely injured.

“One of them had something metal stuck down into his side, but it was stuck so I had to pull it out so he could get up. He was kind of bleeding, just a little bit everywhere,” Bonny said. “I get to [the other agent] and he had a pretty good-sized hole in his head and it was bleeding bad, so I’m trying to take his shirt off, so I can put the shirt in the hole to help stop the bleeding.”

Bonny helped the agents run down the nine flights of stairs to get out of the building.

When she asked, someone on the ground told her they had not seen the “the girls.”

Meanwhile, McCarver remembers somehow running the four blocks back to her building. She never wore a dress to work, she said, but did that

“He walked around to the answering machine, because he immediately has no idea where I’m at,” McCarver said with tears in her eyes. “And he sees one blinking light — and it’s my message.”

When she arrived on the scene, McCarver spotted an ATF agent with his head out the window on the ninth floor of the Murrah building. She asked him about her office and he just shook his head.

Then a DEA special agent and coworker of McCarver’s, Kevin Waters, had woken up late and been at home when the bomb detonated. He flashed his badge to pass the police tape and ran to the back of the building, where he was handed a phone to speak with the same ATF agent in the building. Waters simply asked in regard to his coworkers, “Did they suffer?”

In the chaos, Waters said he saw a police officer crying and carrying a baby. It was immediately clear the baby had been killed — he had never even known there was a daycare on the second floor of the building, Waters said. Nineteen of the people killed in the bombing were children, according to the FBI website. Fifteen of those killed had been dropped off at the America’s Kids daycare center that morning.

Bonny was still helping out on the ground when an attorney she knew approached her and asked if she was hurt. Covered in blood, Bonny an-

The aftermath

Crisis-recovery work was all McCarver did for six weeks after the bombing. She worked late ev-

the bomb exploded.

Amid the aftermath, Webb said first responders kept finding their belongings and bringing them to the command post. The flag from the

reaction to the bombing was the same as every other Oklahoman — she wanted to help the recovery process, so she did.

“Then I went back to school and



Contributed/Judy McCarver

A destroyed section of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building’s north side is shown in the weeks following a bombing. The entire north wall of the building was obliterated at 9:02 a.m. April 19, 1995 when a bomb at the building’s north entrance detonated, killing 168 people.

“And of course he comes running up to me: He thought I was dead so he was just so happy to see me.”

—Gina Bonny, former Midwest City police officer

day because she was expected in the judge’s chamber for a case that afternoon.

Though her memory of those first few minutes remains fuzzy, McCarver said she made two calls. One to her office — nobody answered — and another to my dad, Paul McCarver, leaving a voicemail to let him know she was alive.

swered that she didn’t know and let herself be steered toward an ambulance. On the way, she saw her husband.

“And of course he comes running up to me,” Bonny said. “He thought I was dead, so he was just so happy to see me. And I told him we need to go back in. The girls — we need to find the girls.”

ery night, and often into the early morning. She did administrative work, and once spent a whole day driving cars out of the Murrah building’s parking garage. She was torn between work — her investigative instincts kicking in — and grief — trying to process the trauma.

Meanwhile, the DEA office in the city expanded and brought in new team members.

“It was never the same,” McCarver said. “It changed on a personal and a professional level. We had been traumatized in a way that they hadn’t... Before the bombing, we were a family. After the bombing, we were an office.”

Don Webb, then the resident agent in charge of the DEA’s Oklahoma City district office — known as “Boss” to McCarver and her coworkers — was at a charity golf tournament when

DEA office was found nearly torn to shreds, he said, and is mounted in the Oklahoma City DEA office even today.

The last body was brought out 21 days after the initial explosion, Webb said. There was always something going on around the building, he added. People visited and volunteered by providing their time, food, and donations.

People sent in so many batteries and socks that first responders had to send out a radio message asking for less donations, McCarver said. Elementary schoolers sent letters to those affected.

Kari Watkins, Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum executive director, was living locally in 1995. When I spoke with her about the aftermath of the bombing, Watkins said she thinks her

work, and that was that,” Watkins said. “We just went on when the time was right, and people started moving forward.”

Convicting Timothy McVeigh

Waters told me he could recall working late the night before the bombing. He left the Murrah building around 9 p.m. and saw a pair of strange men staking it out. They looked like hitmen, Waters said.

“It really creeped me out,” he said. “And it was a stare-down as I’m pulling out of the parking garage. I drove by, got their license plate, wrote it down, and called it in.”

Waters didn’t know it then, but one of those men staking out the building was Timothy McVeigh.

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 that we are a team

Contributed/Judy McCarver

A page from a eulogy for a coworker of former DEA Special Agent Judy Hoke McCarver's, scribed for a funeral after the bombing is written out on plain piece of notebook paper. McCarver gave eulogies at three of the five funerals for her coworkers who died in the bombing.

Just under two hours after the explosion April 19, an Oklahoma state trooper stopped McVeigh for driving without a license plate about 80 miles north of the city and arrested him for carrying a concealed weapon, according to the FBI website.

Jim "Buzz" Crist, a retired ATF special agent and one of four who worked the case with the FBI, said remnants of the Ryder truck that held the bomb led investigators to the man that had rented the vehicle out, who then gave them composite drawings of two suspects, one being McVeigh.

When authorities found

McVeigh already in jail, Crist said an FBI lab tested his clothes and found traces of ammonium nitrate — a key ingredient in the 4,800-pound bomb.

An Oklahoma judge ruled after one year that, because of conspiracy theories running rampant in the state, McVeigh would not be able to receive a fair trial. The trial thus moved to Denver, Colorado, where Crist and his fellow agents worked the case two more years before McVeigh was found guilty and sentenced to the death penalty.

Crist worked with 100,000 pieces of evidence to convict McVeigh and

his co-conspirators, Terry Nichols and Michael Fortier. Nichols, who helped mix and make the bomb, was sentenced to life in prison. Fortier, who Crist said was aware of the plot but neglected to report it to authorities, got 12 years, according to the Oklahoma Historical Society.

A former soldier that Crist said "went off the deep end" after failing to pass special-forces school, McVeigh was very anti-government. A government raid of the Branch-Davidian religious sect in Waco, Texas motivated the 27-year-old's target of the Murrah building — where a few ATF agents who had participated in the raid worked. The standoff at Waco occurred April 19, 1993.

When Crist first saw McVeigh, he said he looked less like a villain in person than he did on television. He looked like a kid — a young soldier.

"He was a decorated war hero," Crist said. "He was an outstanding soldier until he couldn't get through green-beret school... I guarantee he always felt like he was the smartest in the room."

For a month after the bombing, Waters didn't remember seeing McVeigh that night before the attack. It wasn't until the FBI routinely questioned DEA personnel about McVeigh that Waters said a light bulb came on in his head. The man who had been with McVeigh that night before the bombing was never identified.

The incident bothered Waters so much, he said he sought help with psychologists.

"I was in a bad place, because at that point I've got survivor's guilt,

“

If you didn't die, you had survivor's guilt."

— Judy McCarver, former Drug Enforcement Administration special agent

and I've got the guilt of not doing anything to perhaps prevent it, having seen McVeigh and the other guy staking out the building," Waters said. "And that's coupled with how

I didn't even remember it for like a month."

Twenty-five years of recovery

My mom and several of her coworkers had survived, "at least physically," she said. Any given morning, there could be 20 people in the DEA office. But the day of the bombing, there were five. It was easy to wonder why, she said.

"We all had survivor's guilt," she said. "If you didn't die, you had survivor's guilt."

She and my dad attended eight funerals in seven days. My mom gave eulogies for three of her five coworkers who died. So many of the funerals overlapped, they couldn't always attend each one.

"It was sobering," she said. "I never bought into what people would say, 'Well, you were saved for a reason.' I wasn't saved for a reason. I have a reason for living, but I wasn't saved for a reason. God didn't save me and not spare [my friends]. It doesn't work like that."

McCarver said she eventually had to stop asking herself "why" the bombing happened the way it did and start asking herself "what." She had survived — now what?

Bonny agreed, having sustained career-ending injuries in the bombing, undergone several surgeries, and been counseled for post-traumatic stress disorder. The bombing made her appreciate life more, Bonny said. When you see something like that and survive it, she said you try to remember not to take life for granted.

"My body is definitely a constant

vive, and they didn't get a chance to raise their children or see their grandchildren. And I always have to remind myself of that."

Waters said the job wasn't the same after the bombing. He began drinking, and was suicidal for three years after while still carrying his gun for the DEA. Waters said he wondered why coworkers of his who were "good" had died when he felt he was living a very "bad" life himself.

He decided to leave the DEA and eventually became a criminal-justice professor. Moving on was the best thing for him, Waters said. He's over 20 years sober now.

Those affected by the bombing are never going to get closure, Waters said. But he has seen people like my mom, who he likened to a sister, accept what happened and reach a good place in regard to her fallen friends.

"You know, the memories of them don't bring a tear to her eye, they bring a smile to her face," Waters said. "And I've come to be like that too."

Remembering the bombing

Every year in my house, April 19 was one of the few days out of the year I might see my parents cry. Even when I was too young to comprehend it fully, I could sense the helplessness they must have felt, which over the years has turned into a hopefulness, and the guilt that has turned into growth.

Terrorist attacks are meant to incite fear, but my mom said she doesn't cower because of what happened. It simply made her want to live a life that is honorable to her friends.

"Twenty-five years is a long time," she said. "And honestly there are days in my life I don't think about what happened on April 19, 1995. And there will be other days where I'll just have the most profound memory or moment. Twenty-five years is a long time, and there's been a lot of water under that bridge."

reminder of what happened," Bonny said. "Sometimes I get negative, just feeling sorry for myself. But I've overcome that and remember that I survived, and my friends didn't sur-

Campaign donations steady for now

While experts say the economic impacts of the coronavirus will shape who is able to donate to campaigns, Iowa's congressional candidates have seen an increase in campaign contributions as of March.

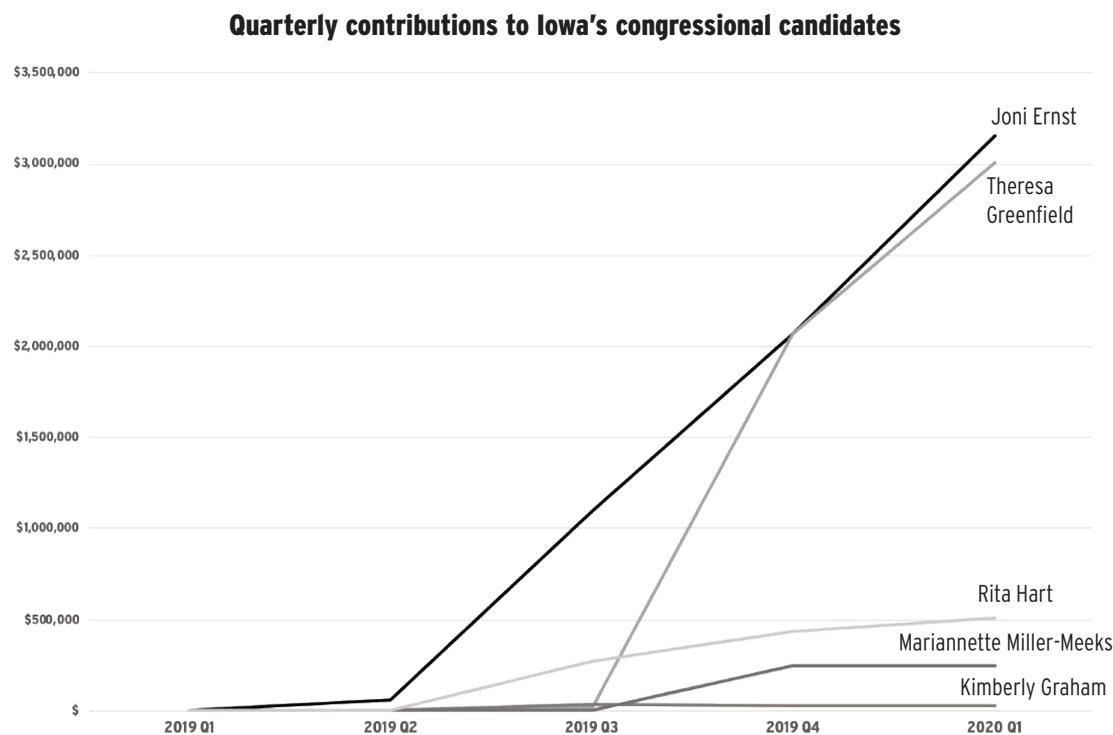
BY RYLEE WILSON
rylee-wilson@uiowa.edu

While most of the nation's focus is on the novel coronavirus pandemic, candidates for federal races in Iowa have seen an increase in campaign donations from January, but political scientists say there is potential for depressed donations in future months.

Federal Election Commission filings showed the amount of money given to candidates did not significantly slow down for Iowa's races. Most candidates received more donations in March than in January and February, when Iowa politicians were focused on the nation's quadrennial kick off to the presidential-nominating race.

Eleanor Powell, an associate professor of American politics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said giving in March may not show the full impact of the virus, and reports from later in the year may show a more significant drop in donors.

Powell said although smaller donations may drop as individuals have less extra cash to give to candidates, giving from industries and corporate interests may increase.



Source: Federal Election Commission

"Various companies, and political action groups, corporate interests — they are financially stretched, but they might want to have access to members of Congress to try to influence what's happening with the relief legislation," Powell said. "I could imagine representatives from industries that are hit particularly hard, like the airline industry

or hotel industries, might maintain or increase contributions."

Even as businesses and schools transition their work online, Powell said donors could be less inclined to substitute virtual alternatives for in-person fundraisers.

"It's tough to know how these things will translate to a virtual world — whether people will be

satisfied with Zoom fundraisers and Zoom conversations as an alternative," Powell said. "Maybe they will be an acceptable alternative to donors, or the politician and the donor may be uncomfortable with a more recordable format — it's less conversational and less off-the-record format."

John Green, the emeritus direc-

tor of the Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron, said donations that come from in-person fundraisers are usually much larger than those given online.

Because social distancing makes high-dollar fundraising gatherings impossible, Green said there may be a decline in larger gifts.

"Part of the reason that people give is they like to have contact with candidates and party leaders, even if it's just to shake their hand and wish them well, sometimes it's because they want to have connections with them, if they end up winning the election," Green said. "Smaller donations are much less personal in nature, so the internet and telephone and mail solicitation end up working very well."

Green said while people may be shorter on cash during the economic crisis, some may be more interested in contributing because of the turbulent political climate brought on by the virus.

"You could imagine a lot of people who maybe wouldn't be inclined to contribute, but they're mad as hell about the bad economy and want to do something about it — they want a new president or a new governor,"

Green said. “There’s a kind of irony — hard times may decrease people’s ability to donate, but it increases the inclination to give.”

Recent data from the Wesleyan Media Project show advertising in presidential, House, and Senate races has slowed significantly over the past few weeks.

Though the decline in volume of advertisements is partly explained by the end of the Democratic primary as Joe Biden became the presumptive nominee, congressional races also showed a drop in advertising.

The data showed that at the end of February, around 12,000 ads for candidates for the U.S House of Representatives aired nationwide each week. By mid-March, the number of advertisements was close to zero.

Travis Ridout, co-director of the Wesleyan Media Project, said there could be some impact of economic factors on the drop, but the change of the political climate around the virus has also had an effect.

“On the one hand, it may be more difficult to raise money at this point, leading to a drop in advertising,” Ridout wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan*. “On the other hand, potential advertisers may believe that people’s attention is focused on the coronavirus and not on politics.”

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, a left-leaning group which also funds a political action committee to support Democratic candidates, has seen an increase in membership since the beginning of the pandemic, but the organization’s leaders are concerned about funding from larger foundations.

Adam Mason, the state

policy organizing director for Iowa CCI, said around 40 percent of the organization’s \$1 million annual budget comes from individual donors, and 60 percent comes from foundations.

Mason said he is concerned that foundations with large endowments invested in the stock market may struggle to provide funding on par with grants given to the organization in previous years.

“One of the things that we have heard is because of the crisis moment that we’re in, a lot of the foundations that support organizations like ours that do direct service work, recognize that the need is really great right now,” Mason said. “They likely will continue to make grants this year, but it might impact funding from foundations next year.”

Mason said although he has heard from some current members that continuing to give to Iowa CCI may not be possible because of economic circumstances, the organization has seen a slight increase of new members over the past month.

“We’ve actually had new members signing up and new volunteers coming in because they’re socially distancing, they’re staying at home, but they’re angry at the lack of leadership from our president and from our governor, and they’re looking for ways to get involved,” Mason said.

Data for campaign contributions from the FEC is available only through March 31.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds shuttered certain businesses March 17, declaring a public-health emergency for the state. Since then, she’s directed a myriad of other businesses in waves to close



Hannah Kinson/*The Daily Iowan*

Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, talks about her personal struggles during the Iowa GOP Reception at Hughes Family Barn in Cedar Rapids on Oct. 18, 2019. Several Democratic candidates are challenging Ernst’s reelection bid for one of Iowa’s Senate seats in 2020.

to the public.

Fundraising numbers through the second quarter of the year will be available in July.

Republican incumbent Senate candidate Joni Ernst raised \$1.3 million in individual contributions to her campaign committee in March, up from \$405,000 in February and \$842,000 in January, according to FEC filings.

Melissa Deatsch, a spokesperson for Ernst’s campaign, did not indicate if the virus had any impact on fundraising.

Deatsch wrote in an email to the *DI* that “Ernst had the largest amount raised and cash on hand reported at this point in an election cycle in recent Iowa history.” The campaign did not comment any further on this claim.

Democrats vying to oppose Ernst in the general election also saw an increased number of donations in March. Theresa Greenfield raised \$1.3 million in individual contributions

in March, an increase from money raised in January and February.

In comparison, in 2016, Democratic Senate challenger to Sen. Chuck Grassley, Patty Judge, had raised \$160,000 in March of that year.

Iowa State Sen. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Ottumwa, raised \$190,000 in March, though \$95,000 was a contribution from Miller-Meeks.

In a written statement to the *DI*, Miller-Meeks’ campaign manager, Austin Harris, wrote that Miller-Meeks was investing in her own campaign in a similar way to President Trump in 2016.

“She recognizes Iowans are feeling a financial pinch during this pandemic and they’re concerned and worried about their future,” Harris said in the statement.

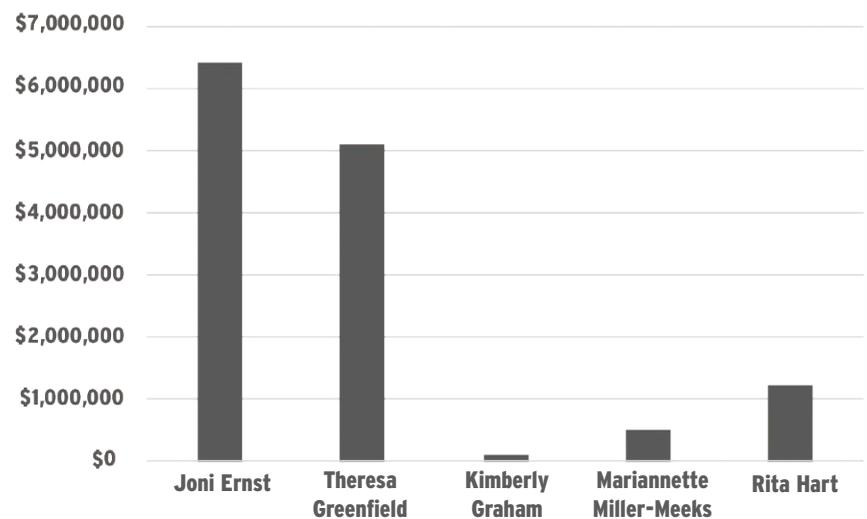
Democratic senate candidate Kimberly Graham, who

raised \$15,584 in March, said fundraising is a challenge.

Graham says her campaign tells supporters to take care of themselves first.

“If you have extra funds after that, please help out friends and family and if you have a few bucks extra after that, we’ll gratefully accept and use them to unseat Joni Ernst and get better leadership for Iowa and our country,” Graham wrote in an email to the *DI*.

Contributions raised by Iowa congressional campaigns since January 2019



Source: Federal Election Commission

‘Yo no soy un delincuente’

Iowa agencies are asking ICE to temporarily suspend deportation procedures and release immigrants.

BY MARY HARTEL

mary-hartel@uiowa.edu

Sitting on the attic couch of the Iowa City Catholic Worker House, Jacinto Rivera-Ramirez looked down at the monitor bracelet on his ankle, issued to him by Immigration Customs and Enforcement Officials in Ohio as he waits for his next immigration court proceeding.

Speaking in Spanish, he said he has no intention of becoming rich or staying in the U.S. forever. He said he just wants the opportunity to prove he’s a hard worker and earn enough money to meet basic human needs, support his family, and eventually move back to Guatemala and start a business.

“... Más o menos para sustento de cada día. Hacer un poco de dinero, y después, hacer un negocio. Esa es mi mentalidad que yo tengo,” dijo Rivera-Ramirez.

“... More or less for a daily sustenance. Make a little money, do a little business. That is the mentality that I have,” Rivera-Ramirez said.

In recent weeks, there has been an increasing number of COVID-19 cases among U.S. detention facilities. Rivera-Ramirez’s native country, Guatemala, has reported several different cases of deportees from the U.S. returning to the country and testing positive for the virus.

A few days ago, Rivera-Ramirez said he found out that his brother, who was living and working in Cedar Rapids for seven years, has been held at the Linn County Correctional Center for the last 10 months, after he got pulled over for

drinking and driving.

Rivera-Ramirez said he thinks people like his brother should be released from detention facilities, because the centers fail to meet safety standards or mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spreading throughout them.

“Yo no soy un delincuente,” dijo Rivera-Ramirez.

“I am not a criminal,” Rivera-Ramirez said.

Amid community spread of the novel coronavirus, organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa and immigration attorneys across the state are calling for the release of immigrants detained in Iowa jails, and the temporary suspension of other deportation activity in Iowa.

Thirty-seven Iowa legal and advocacy organizations, attorneys, and law firms sent a letter April 16 addressed to the regional director of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, asking ICE and Iowa leaders to prioritize the public health of immigrants and mitigate the spread of the contagious virus.

ACLU of Iowa staff attorney Shefali Aurora said the letter requests leaders to do primarily four things:

- Ensure immigrants aren’t discouraged from seeking medical attention
- Review individuals in ICE custody on a case-by-case basis and identify based on health conditions who should be released immediately.
- Ensure immigrant detainees have free access to health care, hygiene products, and communication services
- The Office of the Chief Counsel within ICE to stop re-

sisting bond requests and work with attorneys representing immigrants to “facilitate the emptying of all facilities”

Aurora said a lack of action would jeopardize the health and safety of immigrants as well as the ICE officers and facility staff, leaving everyone at risk of spreading COVID-19.

According to a statement from ICE emailed to *The Daily Iowan* by public-affairs officer Shawn Neudauer, ICE reviews decisions to release individuals every day on a “case-by-case basis.”

“Due to the unprecedented nature of COVID-19, U.S. ICE Office of the Chief Counsel is reviewing cases of individuals in detention deemed to be at higher risk for severe illness as a result of COVID-19. Utilizing CDC guidance along with the advice of medical professionals, ICE may place individuals in a number of alternatives to detention options,” the statement said.

As of April 10, 693 individuals have been released from ICE custody during COVID-19, according to the statement. *USA Today* reported April 7 that ICE holds more than 34,000 detainees, and of those individuals, 60 percent have no criminal record and are detained over a civil immigration violation.

There are no detention centers in Iowa, said Jessica Malott, immigration attorney and partner at Vondra & Malott PLC, but there are various jails throughout the state that have contracts with ICE to house detainees.

A lot of people have been urging ICE to release low-

level offenders and people with high health risks, Malott said, as adding detainees to existing prison populations that already live in such close quarters means an outbreak is very likely to occur.

In addition to the ACLU, the list of those calling for the release of certain detainees includes the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and thousands of medical professionals, according to NBC.

“... ICE really does have the power to do that. They do not need to keep people detained, there are other alternative ways that they can keep track of people if that’s their ultimate concern, which it is,” Malott said. “They can give them an ankle monitor, they can have them call and check in, they can also do an order of supervision, where they require them to check in personally at a later date.”

Malott said based on her experience throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the imi-

gration courts have been quite accommodating to attorneys, but she thinks that ICE should consider stopping or postponing deportation proceedings to prioritize the health of everyone, including judges and court staff.

Visiting clinical Professor Geoffrey Heeren, interim director of the immigration clinic at the UI, said immigration detention is not criminal incarceration. Its purpose is civil detention — to assure that people attend their immigration court hearings.

“I think that there are a lot of options other than detention,” Heeren said. “At this point in time, the public-health reasons for releasing people greatly outweigh whatever justification there is for holding people.”

Rivera-Ramirez said his brother recently received the news that he was going to be released, but he didn’t know whether that meant staying in the U.S. or going back to Guatemala. He said if it’s the former,

his brother would come and live at the Iowa City Catholic Worker House with him and his son.

If immigrants were released from detention centers, Rivera-Ramirez said the majority of people being held there now — especially those facing less serious charges — would not flee or try and escape persecution.

Like him and his brother, Rivera-Ramirez said, most of these people just want to be safe and the ability to work.

“Por mi, no quiero violar la ley ... ni tengo intención de escaparme,” Rivera-Ramirez said. “Quiero cumplir con la ley.”

“For me, I don’t want to violate the law ... nor do I have any intention of escaping,” Rivera-Ramirez said. “I want to comply with the law.”

Editor’s note: Jacinto Rivera-Ramirez’s interview with The Daily Iowan was done in Spanish with an interpreter present. English translations are in italics.



Jake Maish/The Daily Iowan

Jacinto Rivera-Ramirez, from Guatemala, poses for a portrait in the dining room of the Catholic Worker House in Iowa City on April 18.

Opinions



SIGNE NETTUM
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COLUMN

Practicing mindfulness while in Coronaland

Don't stress about being "productive" right now.

"If you don't come out of this quarantine knowing new things or with a new body, you've failed as a human being."

After spending time on social media during spring break and my subsequent extended stay at home, I have seen variations of this phrase on Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr — some without the body shaming, others with different criteria. Because of the many variations, it is hard to track

down the original post.

During spring break, I told myself that I needed to have the same workout routine and eating habits that I had in Iowa City, albeit with modifications because of my surroundings. I soon learned that I could not because of a lack of supplies and space. I told myself that right now, in this situation, I can give myself a break. But it took many days to achieve this mindset.

I am not here to judge. I am not here to give you a set of rules or guidelines to follow during the COVID-19 pandemic. The only message I have for you is to have mindfulness during this time. Merriam-Webster defines mindfulness as "the practice of maintaining a nonjudgmental state of heightened or complete awareness of one's thoughts, emotions, or experiences on a moment-to-moment basis."



Multiple people — parents, school counselors, and therapists — have spoken this word to me multiple times. I will not lie to you, it is a hard mindset to get into during this time, or even when the world is not knocked off its axis. You can easily have mindfulness with certain parts of your life, but it is difficult to achieve with all.

Amid COVID-19, my mindfulness focus has shifted from academics to my physical and mental health. I have sat on my butt for many hours of the day as an English major, listening to lectures, writing, or reading. I sometimes spend all day in my pajamas. I let myself fall into a grumpy mindset because anything else takes too much effort.

As time passed, I knew that I would need to change. A lot of change all at once is hard and sometimes not healthy. I started setting guidelines for myself to stay mindful. I would not let myself stay in my pajamas past 10 a.m., I would take a 30-minute walk around my neighborhood

every other day — if the weather was bad, I would do the stairs in my house instead. While my cupboards are filled with Little Debbie cakes and my freezer with ice cream, I try — and sometimes fail — to eat fruits and vegetables every day.

During this time, I walk the fine line between giving myself a break and punishing myself for slacking off. I tend to beat myself up for not achieving the high expectations I set up. While I should give myself a break for all of the stress I am dealing with right now, I should not let myself take 10 steps back when I have only taken three forward. If I cannot progress, I should at least dig my heels in and stay in my current place.

I should be mindful, not cruel, to myself during this time. Even if I don't come out of this with a better body, I will come out with a better mindset. It is important that our mental health takes priority over social-media users urging for new hobbies or slimmer waistlines.



Opinions



JASON O'DAY
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COLUMN

Lawmakers should check gov's emergency powers

Iowa can't allow the virus to justify frivolous executive branch power grabs.

On the morning of St. Patrick's Day, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds issued a mandate for all bars and restaurants to stop serving dine-in customers by noon. In the month since, that order has been maintained and expanded to include more businesses.

What's troubling is that the input of our state Legislature was not sought, nor was it required. She has the authority to issue such orders under Iowa Code Chapter 29(6). Under state law, the Iowa Legislature has the power to rescind her orders, but that clause is unlikely to be invoked except in extreme circumstances.

Iowa needs a more pre-emptive check on the governor's emergency powers. Fortunately, the restrictions Reynolds issued have generally been reasonable, unlike those from some of her counterparts.

For example, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear directed Kentucky State Police to record the license plate numbers of anyone attending Easter church services so that local health officials could show up at their homes to issue quarantine orders. Discouraging church services during a pandemic is fine, but the way he went about it seems a bit Orwellian.

A pandemic does not necessitate abandoning our republican form of government for months at a time. It may be unsafe for the

Legislature to convene right now. However, it is safe for members of the General Assembly to meet in private Zoom sessions — as so many of us have been required to do for our classes.

In Michigan on April 9, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer banned the sale of nonessential items such as gardening materials and restricted visits to other residences, with exceptions such as caring for a relative, elderly friend, or pet or visiting a nursing home. She also banned boating, but only for boats with motors.

These restrictions are absurd and even dangerous. No one should ever need state permission to check on a neighbor or family member. Forbidding the sale of nonessential items in stores such as Walmart that are open anyway is excessive. Someone might need a pair of headphones to drown out their loud roommate, a book to read, a birthday present for their child, or anything else you can imagine. Fishermen going out on their boats pose no risk to public health.

The Republican-dominated Pennsylvania General Assembly provides a shining example of a proper response to gubernatorial emergency overreach. Republican state Rep. Mike Jones, a member of the lower house, told a local NBC affiliate, WGAL, the

process to apply for waivers to stay in business has been unfair and lacks transparency. Republicans there want to give county officials more autonomy over reopening decisions. The bill is unlikely to survive Gov. Tom Wolf's veto, but it was a worthy effort.

This type of crisis is unique because it enables broad government oversight for such a long period of time. Most natural disasters don't hurt the entire state, compelling governors to merely issue evacuation orders and dispense aid resources. Riots, such as those in Los Angeles in 1992, can typically be resolved within a matter of a few days.

During the Cold War the federal government built secret under-

ground facilities where Congress could meet in the event of a nuclear fallout. It doesn't seem like too much to ask for our state representatives to meet each other occasionally on Zoom to ensure the governor is not exceeding her proper authority.

The authority to shut down businesses and restrict the movement of every citizen for months at a time should not be vested in a single person. After this is all over (yes, there is light at the end of this tunnel) Iowa needs a new statute to rein in the governor's emergency police powers. Any executive orders of the scope that Reynolds issued on March 17 should require the General Assembly's approval to be extended beyond the first seven days.



Katina Zentz/The Daily Iowan

Gov. Kim Reynolds smiles during the Condition of the State address at the State Capitol on Jan. 14.

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Shivansh Ahuja/The Daily Iowan

Iowa quarterback Nate Stanley warms up on the sideline during the 2019 Holiday Bowl between Iowa and Southern California in San Diego on Dec. 27, 2019.

STANLEY

CONTINUED FROM 20

At the NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis, which ran Feb. 23 through March 2, Stanley participated in throwing drills and showed off the new throwing mechanics he's been working on since Iowa's season ended.

Stanley's trips to New Jersey have been to

meet with quarterback specialist Tony Racioppi, who he met through the Manning Academy.

"I'm just a lot more consistent," Stanley said. "I can very easily replicate throws. That was a knock that a lot of people had on me was that consistency and accuracy. So now, I'm just making sure that my base is really solid. I've been working those lower-body mechanics. I can throw the ball with just as much velocity without my arm getting tired or sore."

STONE

CONTINUED FROM 20

Hooker, like Stone, is a New Castle, Pennsylvania, native. Hooker played safety for Ohio State before being a first-round selection by the Colts in the 2017 NFL Draft. The two have known each other since Stone was in middle school.

Now, Hooker's advice helped lead Stone to the next path of his football journey.

"He said he saw me playing in the NFL and he saw me playing right away," Stone said. "I trust his word, whatever he says. He's been doing it at a high level in the NFL, he's a starter, a first-round pick. He's definitely been a great help throughout this process."

Since Stone was 3 or 4 years old, he said he's wanted to be a professional athlete. He grew up around a family that loved sports. As a kid, he said he was the water boy for his high school's football team.

During his junior year of high school, Stone realized his dream was becoming a real possibility.

"I noticed how much I had improved my game and my football knowledge," Stone said. "I

moved to safety that year. I had college coaches coming to see me, saying I was a guy they could see playing at the next level. After that, I was like, dang, I have the opportunity to make my dream come true. I knew I really wanted this bad. I knew I wanted to play in the NFL."

After a three-year career at Iowa that saw him emerge as a leader and a playmaker in the secondary, Stone is now projected to be a mid-round pick in this year's draft. He'll be watching the draft from his home in New Castle with his mother and some other immediate family while trying to maintain social distancing amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stone met with almost every team during the NFL Scouting Combine and has met with teams over the phone in the weeks since. Regardless of where he gets drafted, Stone is ready to contribute in the NFL.

"I definitely think I'm ready to play in the NFL," Stone said. "Play at a high level like that. Just knowing myself, I know I can compete with those guys. I feel like I showed that day in and day out and on Saturdays every time I stepped on the field. I feel like I'm a safety that's versatile. I can play in the box or in the slot or anywhere on the field."

Much like what he saw in his college recruit-

While at the combine, Stanley met with nearly all of the 32 NFL teams during an informal interview process. He then talked with three teams in a one-on-one setting for the formal interview process.

These meetings proved to be all the more crucial after the COVID-19 pandemic canceled Iowa's scheduled pro day and made further face-to-face meetings with NFL scouts and general managers impossible ahead of the draft.

NFL teams have been keeping constant contact with Stanley throughout the draft process, talking to him through video meetings to better evaluate him as a prospect. Accuracy has been something these teams have questioned about Stanley, and he's addressed that. These teams have also told Stanley he has qualities that may interest them on draft day.

"What I was asked to do at the line of scrimmage, my overall knowledge of our offense and how I kind of operated it at the line of scrimmage," Stanley said. "That's what a lot of NFL teams ask their quarterbacks to do, and I feel like I had to do a lot of the same stuff."

"That and just arm strength. There's some throws they'll pull up and say, 'Wow, that was a great throw.'"

Having run a pro-style offense at Iowa for

the last three seasons, Stanley expects that he'll grasp whatever is thrown at him at the next level.

"I think that learning curve once I get into the NFL won't be as steep for me," Stanley said. "There's some things that I've done that somebody is gonna have to learn on top of learning the playbook on top of learning the terminology. So, I definitely think that gives me an advantage moving forward."

Stanley will be at his parent's house in Menomonie, Wisconsin, while the draft is happening. With the unpredictability of the draft, he does not really know when to expect to be drafted, but said he's been told it could be anywhere from the fourth round on.

Bleacher Report's head NFL Draft writer Matt Miller identified Stanley as the biggest sleeper at quarterback heading into the draft. Some NFL teams may agree.

Wherever he is selected, Stanley is ready to contribute.

"Since I was a kid, I've always wanted to play in the NFL," Stanley said. "When I get that phone call, it's going to be a huge rush of emotions. I do know that I'll be extremely happy and extremely excited to get out and play again."



Wyatt Dlouhy/The Daily Iowan

Iowa defensive back Geno Stone yells during a football game between Iowa and Michigan in Ann Arbor on Oct. 5, 2019.

ing process, Stone's doubters have voiced their concerns leading up to the draft. On his draft profile on NFL.com, Stone's size and speed are put into question, as is his athleticism.

These are all things Stone has heard before. He doesn't mind if he keeps hearing them.

"Keep doing it," Stone said. "That's something that keeps me motivated. People keep

doubting me, and I've been proving them wrong my whole life. Regardless of my size, my speed, whatever it is — my football IQ is off the charts. I play way faster than whatever time you'll find out there. I keep up with guys that run 4.3 just because of the way I take angles. My game speed is way faster than everyone else's, I feel like."

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Sports



Shivansh Ahuja/The Daily Iowan

Iowa quarterback Nate Stanley drops back to pass during a football game between Iowa and Wisconsin at Camp Randall Stadium in Madison on Nov. 9, 2019.



Katina Zentz/The Daily Iowan

Iowa defensive back Geno Stone defends during the football game against Illinois on Nov. 23, 2019.

Former Hawkeyes chase NFL dreams

Nate Stanley has been working hard to prepare for the NFL ahead of the upcoming draft. No matter where he goes, he's ready to earn his spot at the next level after putting up stellar numbers at Iowa.

BY ROBERT READ
robert-read@uiowa.edu

There's not a lot of down time for prospects leading up to the NFL Draft — especially for a quarterback. Former Iowa signal caller Nate Stanley has found that out first hand throughout his preparation this offseason.

"It's been a really cool process," Stanley said. "It's been busy, too — I've been traveling a lot. I've been working with a quarterback

guy out in New Jersey, so I've been going back and forth between Iowa City and New Jersey. I was doing all strength and conditioning stuff with coach Doyle at Iowa. Finishing up school.

"Now because of the shutdown with coronavirus, I've just been home and working out at home. Playing catch and throwing routes with some friends."

SEE STANLEY, 17

Some scouts have questioned whether or not former Iowa safety Geno Stone has the size or speed to play at the next level. No matter what other people are saying, Stone knows one thing — he's ready to play in the NFL.

BY ROBERT READ
robert-read@uiowa.edu

In the weeks following Iowa's victory in the Holiday Bowl, Hawkeye safety Geno Stone was taking a ride with his childhood friend and current safety for the Indianapolis Colts, Malik Hooker, that helped him realize something — he was ready for the NFL.

Stone, who had the opportunity to come back for his senior year with the Hawkeyes,

decided to forgo his remaining eligibility and enter the 2020 NFL Draft.

"I was kind of back and forth the whole time," Stone said. "I did say I was going to come back for sure at a certain point throughout the process. And then I looked at things a little more in-depth, and I thought everything felt right just to leave with the situation I was given. I definitely don't regret it now."

SEE STONE, 17