

The Daily Iowan

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INSIDE



Amplify | Sports media: not just for men

Men have always been around to write about the latest in sports. But as the years have passed, more and more women have been trailblazing their way through the sports media industry, paving the way for women behind them. Roxanna Scott is one of those people — as an Asian-American woman, she started in sports in the 90s and never looked back.



80 Hours | Writers' Workshop alum shares writing process and inspiration for bestselling novel

For three years, Iowa Writers' Workshop alum Kiley Reid worked in an office as a receptionist. Now, she's the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Such a Fun Age*, a novel that satirizes the white pursuit of wokeness.



WEB University of Iowa 'working to develop' in-person graduation option

In a campus-wide email sent on Monday, the University of Iowa announced that staff are working on creating an in-person option to celebrate graduation for spring 2021 graduates, changing course from earlier plans to hold all-virtual celebrations.

The format will allow graduates to celebrate "while practicing the university's guidelines for social distancing and mandatory face coverings" the update stated. The UI will announce additional details by March 19.

Go to dailyiowan.com to read more.



DITV

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



Vaccine experts say don't wait on a brand

This week, the FDA issued emergency-use authorization for a single-dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

BY LILLIAN POULSEN
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Public health experts in Johnson County recommend people get one of the three FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it's available, regardless of brand.

On Feb. 28, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

issued an emergency use authorization for the third vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19. Iowa will receive 25,600 doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. It'll be allocated to 17 Iowa counties that have larger 1B priority group populations — not including Johnson County. The Janssen vaccine from

Johnson and Johnson was approved after a thorough analysis of the data, including an analysis of 43,783 participants in a placebo-controlled study in South Africa.

With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the FDA, Executive Dean of the University of Iowa Carver

College of Medicine Pat Winokur, who is UI Hospital and Clinics' lead vaccine researcher, said UIHC plans to continue distributing vaccines as they become available to eligible populations.

Because of Johnson and Johnson introducing a single-dose vaccine, as opposed to the two-dose Pfizer and

Moderna vaccines, some have speculated that the older vaccines could only require one dose to be effective.

While this may turn out to be the case, Winokur said, there's not enough data to support this speculation.

SEE J&J, 2

Navigating the vaccine maze

The Iowa City Senior Center, including student interns, are helping older Iowans sign up for a vaccine.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Senior Center Coordinator, LaTasha DeLoach, poses for a portrait outside of The Center Senior Center in Iowa City on Monday. DeLoach coordinated an outreach phone bank at the Senior Center where they schedule vaccine appointments for older community members.

BY LILY ROSEN MARVIN
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As more vaccines become available to older Iowans, University of Iowa student interns at the Iowa City Senior Center have become a resource for older adults navigating the process.

Johnson County is currently vaccinating people

in phase 1B, which includes K-12 teachers, first responders, and Iowans 65 and older. Although vaccine appointments opened for Iowans in phase 1B on Feb. 1, health officials warned that it could take months to fully vaccinate the group. Officials expect all adults to be eligible by April. Older Iowans who aren't digital natives may face barriers if they don't know where to look online for an appoint-

ment.

In recent weeks, student interns at the Iowa City Senior center have become a resource for seniors as they navigate a complicated and decentralized appointment system in hopes of getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

SEE VACCINE, 2

Revitalizing South Side business

Advocates move on a self-supported municipal improvement district.



Jeff Sigmund/Daily Iowan

Some of the available units at Pepperwood Plaza are seen on Monday. The plaza is located at Hwy. 6 East, Iowa City.

BY MARY HARTEL
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Community organizers and business owners are pushing grassroots efforts forward to create a Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District in Iowa City's South Side district, which representatives say will "revitalize the community and stimulate business."

A Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District is a tool that communities use to collectively create economic growth and enhance a specific geographic location's livability and infrastructure by implementing a SSMID levy on commercial properties within the boundaries.

President of the South District Neighborhood Association and improvement district Committee Chair Angie Jordan said during a presentation last week that the purpose of the improvement district is to spur economic growth, to enhance infrastructure, and create a space to come together to collectively hold events and increase marketing.

"I love that we don't have to recreate the wheel with the SSMID," Jordan said. "One already exists — the downtown district."

Taking the downtown district's model and tailoring it to the Pepperwood Plaza area will be reflective and beneficial for the South Side of Iowa City dis-

SEE REVITALIZE, 2

Safety comments open to public

Previously open only to campus, the a campus safety committee is accepting public feedback.

BY DREW SULLIVAN
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The University of Iowa Reimagining Campus Safety committee is now accepting feedback from the public about campus security after previously only allowing students, faculty, and staff to provide feedback and view proposals to changes to the UI Police Department.

The committee has developed three potential systems. Two virtual town halls were held in February, which were only available to those with a HawkID. Feedback is open until Friday — then the committee plans to analyze feedback and make a recommendation to UI President Bruce Harreld on the path forward for campus safety.

As previously reported by *The Daily Iowan*, the majority of students who attended the town halls favored a holistic model. That model states that UI Police Department would only intervene if there were threats of serious harm and would divert service calls to other professionals.

Executive Director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council Randy Evans said while making the feedback available to all was the right call, the UI should have opened up feedback to the community sooner, as alumni, sporting event attendees, and Iowa City residents could be affected by the change.

"There are people in Iowa City who are on campus every day who aren't students or aren't employed by the university," Evans said. "All of these people were being kept in the dark, and they have a stake in what campus security will look like going forward. They were not being allowed to know what was being discussed or to offer their feedback."

SEE FEEDBACK, 2

BYE BYE BYE



Tate Hildyard/The Daily Iowan

Construction crews break down the inside of Union in downtown Iowa City on Monday. Due to underperforming financially, Union has officially shut down.

J&J CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Winokour said the antibody titers, the measurement of how many antibodies a vaccine has produced, were not robust after just one dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. "They were good enough to provide some protection over that short time frame, but they were not as good as titers you get after natural infection or the titers you get after the second dose of the vaccine," Winokour said.

nokur said. Johnson County Public Health Community Health Division Manager Sam Jarvis said the reason the Johnson and Johnson vaccine only requires one dose is because of the way that manufacturers studied it in South Africa. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines required a two-dose series when researchers studied the efficacy, while Johnson and Johnson only required one, Jarvis said. A single-dose vaccine would help distribute the vaccine to more people because it eases logistical complications.

in our mind when we're planning how to distribute the vaccine," Jarvis said. Although the data is promising, Winokour said she expects Johnson and Johnson to require two doses of the vaccine in the future. "Johnson and Johnson is going to be a little harder because their antibody titers are not as good as the coronavirus natural infection," Winokour said. "I'm suspicious that they may end up needing a second dose." Additionally, Winokour recommends people get the vaccine even if they've been infected with COVID-19.

erna vaccines," Winokour said. "We don't know exactly what's protected, but we know more is always better." Even if one vaccine has a lower efficacy rate than others, Director of Division of Infectious Disease Dan Diekema said in a video last week that the vaccine is still effective. "If the vaccine makes it through to emergency-use authorization by the FDA, that means it's extremely effective, [and] it has a very tolerable side effect profile," Diekema said. "It's going to basically be 100 percent effective at preventing you from being admitted to the hospital or dying from COVID-19." While the Johnson and Johnson vaccine has a 72 percent efficacy rate after

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VACCINE CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Senior Center Coordinator LaTasha DeLoach said her staff recently participated in an outreach campaign to help get Senior Center members signed up for vaccine appointments. "The role that we played was really just getting people that information," said Paisley Meegan, UI senior and student intern at the Senior Center. "We are able to make calls to people and sign them up for their vaccine. Everyone was super thankful for that and I think it's also difficult to

navigate the internet portion of [signing up] and the technology portion." Meegan said she was able to help seniors schedule their appointment and answer the COVID-19 screening questions, provide them with information about transportation to vaccination sites, and ensure they know the social distancing protocols for their appointment. Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds announced the launch of a COVID-19 vaccination information website last week. It won't allow Iowans to make appointments directly on the website but can connect people with area providers. By

March 8, Reynolds said the state will launch a 211 number for Iowans over the age of 65

to call to receive assistance scheduling vaccine. Meegan added that she



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

The Center Senior Center is seen in Iowa City on Monday.

one dose, compared to the nearly 95 percent of Moderna and Pfizer after two doses, Winokour said it's important to get whatever vaccine is available. "The more people that get vaccinated, the more people that are going to be better off," Winokour said. "They're going to be protected from severe disease and they're going to be protected from hospitalizations." "That was really great, and the person that I scheduled had no idea how they would have gotten their vaccine, so they were super excited," Meegan said. UI social work practicum master's student Julie Sands, who interns at the Senior Center and assisted with the vaccine outreach, said younger family members can help their older relatives by looking for vaccine appointments for them. "It's just basically being willing to help when some-

one asks," Sands said. Help if family members or friends who are of the older generation will ask the younger generation." DeLoach added that younger people can help their older relatives get the vaccine by researching any opportunities they hear about to make sure they are not scams. "Check it out first before sending [vaccine information] to an older parent or older family member. And check in on them after they have the vaccine," she said. "Just give them a call and make sure they're OK because that second dose is kind of a whammy on folks."

REVITALIZE CONTINUED FROM FRONT

trict, Jordan said. The improvement district would encompass the area south of Highway 6, East to West between Broadway Street and Keokuk Street, and ending south of Cross Park Avenue before Sandusky Avenue. The Pepperwood Plaza is the ideal area for the district, Jordan said, as it has a lot of underutilized commercial and parking areas and is close to many residents. "It is that gateway, it's that ideal commercial connection between the neighborhood and more of the commercial towards the west," Jordan said. The district overlaps a lot of the City of Iowa City's plan for development and supports further growth, Jordan said. Iowa City Downtown District Director Nancy Bird said

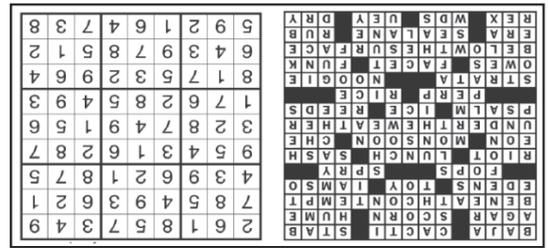
that improvement districts do not apply to residential areas, which is why the improvement district committee is looking to create the district in a commercial area. The funds for the improvement district are generated yearly by a taxable assessed value of qualified properties, Bird said. "So, it's essentially like a SSMID tax that will be applied against your property valuation," Bird said. For a petition to move forward, Bird said, it will require property owner and Iowa City Council approval. The Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District organization operates as a 501(c)6, with a board of members established and with agreement with the city, Bird said. The proposed budget for getting the project established to meet the first year's plan is roughly \$122,000, Bird said. Expenses include funding an

executive director, administration, organizational plan, and more, she said. Businesses within the geographic boundaries of the district can expect to pay their property valuation divided by 1,000 and multiplied by a \$5 levy rate Bird said, initially for five years. Right now, she said the process is in the outreach and engagement phase with all property owners and the committee is gathering petition signatures. The tax would be implemented beginning July 1, 2022, Bird said. Perks of having this self-supported district would include free WiFi, branding, and wayfinding; an open market structure to support existing cultural markets; cultural pedestrian connections; and collaboration among communities, Jordan said. The neighborhood has held consistent meetings to brainstorm new opportunities and

ideas for years, Jordan said, and these ideas are consistent with what the district would bring to the community. After the presentation, several community members expressed concern with how the improvement district would affect affordable housing and commercial real estate. Advocates for the district said they cannot preserve affordability by investing in other neighborhoods. Pepperwood Plaza business owner of JD Beauty Supply Tasha Lard said that she supports creating the improvement district. Lard said the improvement district would be beneficial not just for her as a business owner, but it will operate as a tool in uplifting the whole South District of Iowa City. It would also help with wayfinding, Lard said, putting Pepperwood Plaza on the map. Lard said she believes that even though businesses may

have to pay more for the tax, it will be worth it. "It's not something that's

given to business owners, it is kind of like an investment," Lard said.



My cup is not my consent. Using alcohol to get sex is sexual assault. ORVAP ADVOCACY SUPPORT PREVENTION 319-335-6000

FEEDBACK CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Following George Floyd's death, police brutality has become a forefront debate nationwide. In Iowa City, the Iowa Freedom Riders advocate led protests to restructure the UI Police Department and the Iowa City Police Department. UI senior Ala Mohamed, a member of the Iowa Freedom Riders, said reform is needed because current policing institutes and practices disproportionately affect African

American students on campus. Black students make up 3.1 percent of UI's enrollment. But according to data released this fall, Black people were in 38 percent of documented incidents of use of force by the UI police. "The current campus security system) harasses African Americans constantly downtown, whether they are having a night out at the bar or they are going to class," Mohamed said. "When I look at that system, the only thing I am seeing is the police who aren't really catering to BIPOC."

Mohamed said she is glad the university is asking for public feedback. Vice President for Student Life Sarah Hansen, who leads the Reimagining Campus Safety Action Committee, said community feedback is essential. The committee has reached out to a large audience, including affinity alumni groups, community partners, and students, Hansen said. "When you are a member of a university community, we have a very strong culture of shared governance," Hansen

said. "Decisions are not just made without campus community feedback." Hansen said the committee's next step after March 5 is to compile and analyze the feedback. "We have just massive amounts of feedback and [we will] look at the themes of that feedback in order to formulate our final recommendations that will be sent to President [Bruce] Harrelld," Hansen said. "From there, it will really be a matter of identifying any next steps and what a timeline would be for any changes."

Motorcycle Tips: Parking

University motorcycle permits allow motorcycles, mopeds and scooters to park in all University motorcycle lots. Always park in motorcycle lots; not bike racks or other areas. Going home for the summer? Take it with you or get a summer permit. transportation.uiowa.edu

Opinions

COLUMN

University bonds one reason for inflated tuition

The practice of university-issued bonds has created an unsustainable growth in tuition

BY JACOB MILLER
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We are in a student-debt crisis more severe than any other in history, and it's driven by predatory spending from bonds issued by universities to finance building projects on campuses. Given the impact of the pandemic, it is now more important than ever to reconsider how we are financing higher education from the point of view of institutions and public policy.

Research by Louise Seamster, a University of Iowa assistant professor of sociology and criminology and African American studies, and colleagues shows that it would currently take \$75,000 in student-debt cancellation to fully eliminate debt for more than 80 percent of Black, white, and Latinx families.

In contrast, it was not more than two generations ago that college could be paid for in grants and money someone made from a summer job — something akin to a pipe dream for college students today.

Tuition and fees have been on the rise for most colleges and universities in the U.S. over the past few decades. For example, college tuition and fees estimates for in-state residents in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Iowa have risen from \$1,602 in 2000 to \$4,802 in 2021, an increase of nearly 200 percent.

According to Seamster, a factor in rising tuition prices is the accumulation of debt accrued by universities selling bonds. Universities are then on the hook for the debts they owe as those bonds come to maturity. At

the same time, universities are paying for recurring and fixed expenses like salaries and maintenance which inflate as their campuses expand.

In essence, selling bonds to fund higher-education campus development has created a financial need for tuition increases because the amount of money it takes to keep the university afloat and expanding is also increasing.

The selling of bonds by colleges and universities has also become more precarious given the impact COVID-19 has had on enrollment and has caused a decrease in overall federal and institutional aid received by universities.

The dip in funding is potentially devastating for cash-strapped colleges already riding very close to

their margins, making the entire sector considered less stable. That point is highlighted by Moody's Investors Service, which reported that 30 percent of universities were showing operation deficits in April 2020.

The problem of increases in higher-education tuition is multi-faceted. It's clear that although there is strong evidence to support the claim that university-issued bonds have contributed to the increases, the student-debt problem is not something that can be rectified by only addressing one issue.

During the 2020 election there were ample proposals to eliminate student debt (either partially or in full). Recently, there have been more serious considerations to eliminate at least \$50,000 of federal student debt per student.

If we are to go forward with a proposal like this, it will be important to keep in mind the practices that got us here and strive not to make the same mistakes. At the very least, this should include regulating or doing away with the use of bonds by public institutions.

If we do nothing at all, I fear universities will continue to kick the can of debt down the road. This will leave future generations of our kids and grandkids stuck in the same impossible situation college students are finding themselves in today.



Photo Illustration by Raquele Decker.

COLUMN

Lawmakers shouldn't force our hands over our hearts

Iowa legislators should not be concerned with students standing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance daily, especially when there are other crises that need more attention.

BY YASSIE BUCHANAN
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A bill, sponsored by GOP state Rep. Carter Nordman, of Adel, passed in the Iowa House requiring public and some private K-12 schools to show the flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance every day. Although many people have concerns, the bill had support from both sides with claims of unifying the country.

Having children mindlessly recite the Pledge of Allegiance daily does not institute more unity or encourage critical thinking. It merely drives students to recite weightless words that are more than a century old.

If students are being re-

quired to stand and pledge their allegiance to the American flag, they should also be required to learn about the history behind those words.

The original Pledge of Allegiance was written by Minister Francis Bellamy in 1892. At that time, it was intended to be applicable to any nation. In the original pledge, there was no mention of God or the United States. It was not until 1923 that the "United States of America" was added to the pledge. "Under God" was also added later to the pledge by President Dwight Eisenhower because of fears of atheist communism.

Today, we aren't asking people to honor the original pledge because there have been amendments since

distorting the meaning and origin. It's important to understand the origins of the pledge as well as how it has evolved over time.

In addition, many LGBTQ students and students from underrepresented groups

“Today, we aren't asking people to honor the original pledge because there have been amendments since distorting the meaning and origin.

feel disenfranchised in this country. When encouraging students to recite statements like "liberty and justice for all" daily, we should be recognizing how this statement doesn't apply to all Americans. Students should be able

to have discussions about the true implications of liberty and justice in this country today and through history.

The pledge was written in 1892, a few decades after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued that abolished

continue to struggle with this assertion.

Disparities between minorities and white people in Iowa are incredibly stark. For example, this is clear looking at Iowa's incarceration rate, where 1.7 percent of all Black Iowans are incarcerated. In contrast, only 0.2 percent of white Iowans are. It's concerning that we are more focused on children mindlessly reciting these words than there being any truth behind them.

In addition to the faulty origins and meaning of the pledge, Iowa has more pressing issues it needs to be facing. According to the *New York Times* COVID-19 tracker, Iowa is among several other states who have been identi-

fied as having a high number of COVID-19 cases.

While introducing the bill, Nordman said, "We don't pledge our allegiance to a government. We don't pledge our allegiance to a person or leader. We pledge our loyalty to an idea, the American idea."

I'm not sure what the American idea is, especially when legislators seem to be more focused on pleading our loyalty to a flag and micromanaging education than protecting and supporting Iowans. The Pledge of Allegiance is thought to be a means of unity and pride for Americans when in reality many minorities struggle with inequality and injustice.

COLUMN

Learn about UI literary magazines

Students should be more aware of and learn about literary magazines on campus.

BY SIGNE NETTUM
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As an up-and-coming *New York Times* Best Selling author — hey, it could happen someday — I constantly try to get my foot into the proverbial door of the writing world. Coming to the University of Iowa for English and creative writing degree was one of the

various ways I tried to further myself after one high school creative writing class.

As a bumbling freshman, I knew little about publications outside of the campus newspaper. Then, I found *Ink Lit Mag*, one of the various literary magazines on campus. It is a first-year only magazine which means only first-year students can apply to hold

a position on the editorial board, and only first-years can submit. There is the exception of the alumni section, where if you have been previously published in the magazine, have been on the editorial board, or have lived in the Writer's LLC, you can submit past your first year.

Because of these criteria, I had to find more magazines on campus. The oldest literary review magazine on campus, *Earthwords*, now has published 40 issues. There is also *Fools*, a culture and art magazine that combines literary pieces submitted by students and art pieces curated specifically for the pieces. I did not discover *Boundless* nor the Iowa Chapbook Prize until my sophomore year. *Boundless* translates pieces into different languages and the Chapbook prize is a Spring semester class run by Daniel Khalatchi.

Once I discovered that the

Chapbook Prize was a class, I went in search of other non-student organization publications. I learned my sophomore year there were three publication classes that had a rotating magazine published every spring semester: *Metal* mag, *Mirror* mag, and *Spect* mag published prior to the pandemic. *Patchwork*, *Zenith*, and *Sanct* just had their publications last semester, and *Patchwork* and *Zenith* are continuing to pursue further publications outside of the class. The National Association of Black Journalists puts out a semesterly publication, *NURU*, and another publication *Black Art*; *Real Stories* aims to uplift Black storytellers.

Simon Michael, a double major in English and creative writing and journalism and mass communications, knew about literary magazines before coming to campus through an older sibling con-

nection. But he commented on the lack of connection in various organizations and how "having different lit mags collaborate on projects and events would be super cool and would help them gain traction and more readers and members."

New Moon editor-in-chief, Nicholas Runyon is informed on the topic of literary magazines on campus. He learned about magazines from a tour guide, but information about the organization wasn't the easiest to access.

"I needed to look them up and seek them out to get more information," Runyon said.

After being a student on campus for almost two academic years, he established *New Moon* as a way to develop a new type of distribution.

New Moon, unlike the rest of magazines on campus, is a once-monthly magazine that publishes a single page,

double sided, of flash fiction and poems. Other magazines publish books once or twice an academic year.

I found all of these magazines because I had an interest in them. When I learned about the limitations in many of them — published once a semester, people stayed on the editorial board until graduation — I went out and started my own: *Horizon Magazine*. We are a rotating staff that explicitly hires those who have had no prior experience within magazines.

People outside of the English and creative writing community should learn about and submit to magazines. Go outside of your comfort zone and have people read your work. Magazines are always looking for fresh and new pieces to read.

Who knows, your piece could end up forever memorialized on campus in a magazine.



Abigail McDaniel/The Daily Iowan
The English-Philosophy Building is seen on Aug. 26, 2020.

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Sarah Watson, Alexandra Skores, Hannah Pinski, Lucee Laursen, and Cesar Perez Editorial Board

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THE DAILY IOWAN which has been serving the University of Iowa, Johnson County, and state of Iowa communities for over 150 years, is committed to fair and accurate coverage of events and issues concerning these areas. In an ever-changing media landscape, the DI realizes that an often contentious political climate - paired with the widespread dissemination of news - can cause contentious discussions over some stories. Although these discussions are essential to democracy - and reiterate the importance of the freedom of expression - the DI takes great lengths to ensure that our social-media presence is free of discriminatory remarks, and inaccurate representations of the communities we ardently serve.

GUEST OPINIONS must be arranged with the Opinions Editor at least three days prior to the desired date of publication. Guest opinions are selected and edited in accordance with length, subject relevance, and space considerations. The DI will only publish one letter per author per month. No advertisements or mass mailings, please.

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Amplify

Sports media not just for men

Women in sports media share stories about their experiences in a traditionally male-dominated field.

BY CHLOE PETERSON
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Hawkeye sports were hot in the 1990s. Dan Gable and the Iowa wrestling team won seven NCAA titles, and C. Vivian Stringer coached the 1992-93 Iowa women's basketball team to the most dominant finish in program history — the Final Four of the NCAA Tourna-



Contributed

Roxanna Scott

ment. As a University of Iowa student and *Daily Iowan* sports reporter, Roxanna Scott was right in the middle of it.

Scott, now the sports managing editor for USA Today, followed Stringer and the Iowa women's basketball team to Atlanta, where the Final Four was held. For Scott, it was her first experience with national news.

"At that time, when I started off that season, I did not think that was where we'd end up," Scott said. "I just remember seeing the coverage on a national level of a team that I had been following all season — it was just surreal to me ... I think it just gave me an idea of how to cover a large event, and what the national media was like."

And in the 90s, Scott was lucky enough to have women to look up to in the *DI* sports section. She worked among the likes of Melissa Isaacson — who covered the Chicago Bulls in its 1990s reign over the NBA for the *Chicago Tribune* — and Kris Wiley, Scott's former sports editor.

"[Wiley], of course, was a female sports editor, and someone I very much looked up to," Scott said. "... I think it's not just having sports colleagues to look up to who are female, and who can be your allies and supporters, but also having the

leaders in the newsroom."

The number of women sports media professionals continues to be far below that of men, and many women are subject to spurs of doubt and harassment by their male counterparts. But those women who have been successful in the industry say the challenges were worth it and serve as role models for those coming behind them.

"I've been very lucky to work with editors that made diversity in the newsroom a priority," Scott said. "Working at the *Dallas Morning News*, and then USA Today, I've always felt like our leadership has been very supportive of having diverse voices and editors who tell all the stories, so they reflect our audience and the people we are writing about."

But not all women working in sports media have been as lucky as Scott. UI graduate Kimberly Bates grew up loving sports, and knew she wanted to work in sports, specifically with Major League Baseball.

The summer before her final year at Iowa, Bates took an internship with a collegiate summer baseball team as its on-field host. She was one of two female interns in a room full of male interns. The first day she was with the team, the general manager pulled her and the other female intern aside to talk about something he found important to only them.

"I was accused of only get-

“ I was accused of only getting the internship because I wanted to sleep with the baseball players.

— UI graduate Kimberly Bates

ting the internship because I wanted to sleep with the baseball players," Bates said. "That was the first thing that the GM had to tell me and the only other girl intern — that there's no flirting, talking to, or sleeping with the baseball players."

Closer to home, women sports journalists at the *DI* also recognized some of their experiences are not the same as their male peers.

According to a recent survey done by the *DI*, 72 percent of staffers in the *DI* newsroom are women. In the sports sec-

tion, there are two reporters that identify as women out of 10 sports reporters in the print sports section. Women are more represented in DITV sports, as over half of DITV sports staffers — five out of nine — are women.

Anna Kayser worked for the *DI* starting in fall 2017 as a sports reporter. Eventually,



Anna Kayser

she became the sports editor and edited the *DI*'s weekly Friday football special edition for the fall 2019 semester before graduation.

"You kind of have to find your own way," Kayser said. "Being with the sports section, you have to deal with things that the guys don't have to deal with a lot of the time."

Kayser noted a specific instance in her first year covering Iowa wrestling — star Iowa wrestler Spencer Lee was sidelined with kidney stones, and nobody knew if he was going to be able to wrestle in the upcoming meet. After Lee made it into the probable lineup for the meet, she wrote a brief at the direction of her editors, but was scrutinized by a male journalist at a wrestling press conference.

"He basically just called me

as the percentage of women sports reporters has stayed the same since 2012.

Leah Vann was named the new *Cedar Rapids Gazette* Iowa football beat reporter in January, making her the first woman in more than 20 years to be on the sports desk of the *Gazette* and the only woman on the Hawkeye football beat in the state. Vann graduated from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern with a master's degree in journalism in June 2020.

"I knew the next step in my career was to be a college football beat writer," Vann said. "And I don't know if I'm going to stay in college football ... but with two years of professional experience and a graduate degree, I knew it was what I was qualified to do."

Vann received her undergraduate degree in biology at the University of Texas at Austin — her home state — but realized halfway through her college career that she wanted to be a sports writer instead of a doctor. After battling cancer as a child, she felt pulled to the medical world, although it was not truly something she wanted to do.

"I was going to go to medical school," Vann said. "I went through a lot of medical stuff as a kid, I'm a cancer survivor of almost 10 years

this June, so when you go through something like that you feel the pressure to do something in the health care field.



Contributed

Leah Vann

"But my heart and soul has always been in sports," she said.

So, she started working at *The Daily Texan* her junior year of college and found a job in sports writing with the *Globe Gazette* in Mason City, Iowa, after she graduated. She then moved on to be the sports editor of the *Steamboat Pilot & Today* in Colorado, before attending Northwestern and getting the job she has today with the *Gazette*.

Vann's hiring was a long time coming. In Scott's almost three decades of experience as a woman of color in sports media, she's noticed how the industry has shifted.

"Now, I think it's not at all unusual to see women in the press box or in the locker room interviewing players after games," Scott said. "Just because there are more women who have seen Leslie Visser on the sideline of an NFL game,

or have seen Sage Steele on ESPN ... It's no longer unusual to have women. We are a part of this group, and we have shown that we belong."

Although more women are making their way into the sports media field, the fear of being harassed on social media doesn't stop. According to a 2014 report by the International Women's Media Foundation, nearly one-third of female journalists consider leaving the profession because of online attacks and threats.

"I have never once felt threatened by any athlete that I've had to work with," Kayser said. "But it never really leaves the back of your mind that if an athlete or a coach or somebody has your phone number, that could happen."

While Vann was a prep sports reporter in Colorado, she was harassed and stalked by a parent of a high school athlete she was covering.

"I think he found me attractive," Vann said. "Which is disturbing, since his son is closer in age to me than I am to him. So, he did call my office, and tell me that I had a 'rockin' body' and that he would like to take me fishing."

As more and more women slowly trickle into the sports-media industry, it'll become easier for women to be widely accepted by athletes, fans, and other media organizations as professional journalists.

But for now, Kayser stresses leaning on coworkers that support women unequivocally.

"I met some of my best friends at the *DI*, when I started with the sports section," Kayser said. "I found that those guys always had my back, on everything that happened."



Illustration by Paige Ho

Calendar

Virtual Community Events on Campus



Tuesday, March 9 @ 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.: Latinx/a/o Student Support



Thursday, March 11 @ 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.: UI Latinx Council Monthly "Meet and Eat"



Saturday, March 13 @ 10:00 a.m.: Womxn's Summit Weekend 1



Saturday, March 13 @ 6:00 p.m.: Womxn's Summit Weekend 1 Community Dinner



Tuesday, March 16 @ 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Latinx Council Monthly Meeting



Tuesday, March 16 @ 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.: World Canvass: COVID Care for Marginalized and Vulnerable Populations



Saturday, March 20 @ 3:00 p.m.: Womxn's Summit Embroidery Workshop led by Kalhina Creations



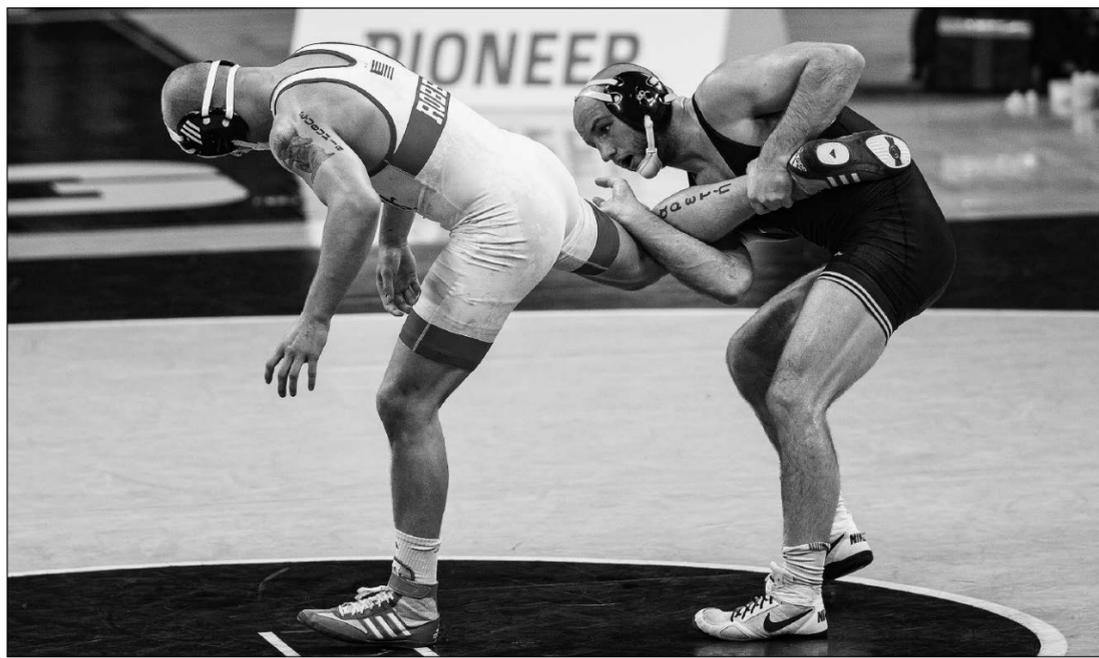
Friday, March 26 @ 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.: Imposter Syndrome, An Experience of Many Among Us

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Internal Committee

- | | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Sarah Watson | Kate Doolittle | Kelsey Harrell | Caleb McCullough | Hannah Pinski |
| Alexandra Skores | Josie Fischels | Mary Hartel | Molly Milder | Ally Pronina |
| Cesar Perez | Katie Goodale | Eleanor Hildebrandt | Elizabeth Neruda | Jenna Post |
| Shivansh Ahuja | Austin Hanson | | Sophia Perez | Julia Shanahan |

What is Amplify?

Amplify is the *Daily Iowan's* community section, focusing on topics and features surrounding culture within the Iowa City community. It looks to heighten voices within our audience, and provide an opportunity for our readers to engage with the *DI*.



Shivansh Ahuja/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's 165-pound Alex Marinelli grapples with Nebraska's Peyton Robb during a wrestling dual meet between No. 1 Iowa and No. 6 Nebraska at Carver Hawkeye Arena on Jan. 15. No. 2 Marinelli defeated No. 18 Robb by decision, 9-3, and the Hawkeyes defeated the Cornhuskers, 31-6.

WRESTLING
CONTINUED FROM 6A

tional championships from 1989 to 1992. "You would do things that were seemingly insane just to keep your edge in any way possible, and that's what these guys have been able to do," Brands said. "When it comes down to, 'Is it gonna be you or the other guy?' You've got to make it you. You've got to make it be you every time." While Iowa has wrestled many foes this season, COVID-19 may still be its greatest challenger, according to 125-pound senior and two-time national champion Spencer Lee. "I mean, everyone holds each other accountable, but I know most of us just kind of did our own thing," Lee said. "I'm not saying we avoided each other but we did the

best we could to stay isolated. We lost [the opportunity to compete for a national championship] last year, so I don't think any of us want to do anything that could possibly affect this year. We all knew what we had to do. We did what we had to do to get back to competition." Iowa's return to competition will come this weekend in University Park, Pennsylvania, at the Bryce Jordan Center for the 2021 Big Ten Big Ten Wrestling Championships. Both Lee and Marinelli will enter the weekend competition as defending Big Ten Champions at their respective weights, and Iowa will kick off the event as the reigning team champion. If the Hawkeyes are to repeat and reclaim their spot atop the podium, they'll first have to shake off the rust they've accumulated after 27 days without wrestling a single opponent.

VOLLEYBALL
CONTINUED FROM 6A

tions, some of the things that she has done has just been a really nice surprise." Ortega has made huge strides defensively in a short period of time as well. After averaging just four digs through her first nine matches, Ortega has netted a seven-dig average in her last three contests. "Bailey has done a great job of stepping up as a freshman," junior middle blocker Hannah Clayton said. "She's very coachable, she's very open to feedback, so that's been helpful when it comes to forming that strong bond." While Ortega has been

solid this season, she has gotten quite a lift from Buzzerio. Playing both setter and outside hitter, Buzzerio leads her team in kills with 121, is second in assists and digs at 210 and 89, respectively, and is third in blocks with 38. Boiling those statistics down, Buzzerio is averaging a double-double with 10 kills, 17.5 assists, and 7.4 digs per match. "Me and Bailey's connection has been good the past couple of weekends where she trusts me at the end of the games to execute and score," Buzzerio said. Most teams in the Big Ten use a 5-1 system in which one setter stays on the court for the entire



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa Setter Bailey Ortega celebrates a kill by Outside Hitter Courtney Buzzeiro during a womens volleyball match between Iowa and Rutgers at Xtream Arena on Feb. 20.

“ She's very coachable, she's very open to feedback, so that's been helpful when it comes to forming that strong bond.

— Hannah Clayton, UI volleyball player in regards to teammate Bailey Ortega

match, but Brown truly believes that the 6-2 system is a better fit for Iowa this season. The Hawkeyes are ninth

in the Big Ten in assists, up one spot from where they finished in that statistical category last season. "[6-2] is usually a great

system just to get a lot more offense against a higher-ranked defensive team than you," Brown said. "The 6-2 was what

we needed for this season with us being so young and having a freshmen setter and having a setter that's going to hit for us."

ZEITLER
CONTINUED FROM 6A

actually, I don't. I just want to go out there and play more golf. I was like, 'I don't really care,' because I felt so good." Zeitler went on to tally one more birdie in the final two holes of round two, turning in a six-under-par 66 — the lowest score for a

single round in the history of the Iowa's women's golf program. Although Zeitler fired a final-round 74 to finish at an even-par total and four shots behind the winner, the Austria native said not knowing where she stood on the leaderboard allowed her to play pressure-free golf. "That was the first time I ever [didn't know where I stood]," Zeitler said. "If I had the chance again, I

would want to keep it that way. In those two days, I was really just in the flow and I was so centered with myself, I was so focused on the process. I think this tournament was, mindset-wise, probably one of the best ones I've had in the past few years." Zeitler's runner-up finish at the Rebel Beach Intercollegiate earned her Big Ten Women's Golfer of the Week and came just days after a season-open-

ing performance at the FAU Paradise Invitational where she posted rounds of 77, 80, and 82 to finish near the back of the pack, carding just two birdies in the three rounds compared to the 13 she tallied in Las Vegas. "What happens sometimes is you're wanting it so badly when you put in the time and the effort [that you don't perform as well], I think that's what happened the first week,"

head coach Megan Menzel said. "The last time out, she was just able to relax a little bit and allow all those things that she's been working on to shine through." Zeitler echoed Menzel's assessment, citing a clearer mental approach for her lower scores. "I had a rough start in Florida," Zeitler said. "Coming back from Florida, I was really upset. I felt like I practiced the most I

ever had over break and then in the first event I just felt completely lost ... I knew that 95 percent of that performance came from my mental side. I went into the Vegas week with a clear game plan and two or three thoughts in my swing." Zeitler, her swing thoughts, and her teammates will be put to the test again next week in Tucson, Arizona, at the Wildcat Invitational March 8-9.

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Sports

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021

THE MOST COMPLETE HAWKEYE SPORTS COVERAGE IN IOWA

DAILYIOWAN.COM

HAWKEYE UPDATES

Clark sweeps Big Ten weekly honors

For the fifth time this year, Iowa women's basketball freshman point guard Caitlin Clark has won both Big Ten Player of the Week and Big Ten Freshman of the Week.

In her first full campaign as a Hawkeye, Clark has claimed 20 Big Ten weekly honors in total – good for a conference record among freshmen.

Clark's five conference player of the week awards are believed to be an NCAA freshman record.

Clark garnered her share of accolades this week by averaging 26.3 points, 10 assists, and five rebounds per game across three contests.

Last week also saw Clark break Iowa's all-time freshman scoring record in a 93-111 loss No. 8 Maryland.

Clark followed that performance with a 27-point, nine-assist, and five-rebound showing against No. 12 Michigan. The West Des Moines, Iowa, native shot 7-of-12 from 3-point range and 10-of-17 from the floor overall to help Iowa pick up an 89-67 upset win.

Clark didn't disappoint in her last game of the week either, piecing together her seventh double-double of the season with 18 points and a career-high 14 assists.

Clark's double-double propelled Iowa to an 84-70 victory over Wisconsin in Madison. Her 14 assists also helped her surpass Kathleen Doyle as Iowa's all-time freshman assists leader.



Iowa women's basketball freshman point guard Caitlin Clark will appear on the *DI* sports podcast, "The Scoreboard", Friday, March 5 at 11:45 a.m. The show streams on Spotify, Google Podcasts, and Apple Podcasts.

Big Ten Network announces expanded coverage of Big Ten Wrestling Championships

For the first time in the station's 25-year history, the Big Ten Network will broadcast both Saturday and Sunday's Big Ten Wrestling Championship action.

Previously, the Big Ten Network had only brought coverage to wrestling fans on the tournament's second and final day.

On Saturday, BTN will broadcast whip-around coverage from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., highlighting the best matches of Saturday's first session. Then, Session II coverage will air from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

BTN's coverage of the tournament will wrap up on Sunday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Shane Sparks, Jim Gibbons, and Tim Johnson will anchor coverage of the event remotely, while three-time Big Ten and NCAA champion Bo Nickal and reporter Ray Flores will handle on-site analysis.

MENS BBALL RANKING

1. Gonzaga
2. Michigan
3. Baylor
4. Illinois
5. Iowa
6. West Virginia
7. Ohio State
8. Alabama
9. Houston
10. Villanova

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Spencer's very unique. He's one-of-a-kind. We call him Yoda because he can do things with his opponent that is kinda [inhuman]."

—Junior Alex Marinelli on his teammate Spencer Lee

STAT OF THE DAY

5

Positive COVID-19 tests received by Iowa Athletics for the week of Feb. 22.

Wrestlers ready for mat

Iowa's wrestlers used unconventional methods to stay sharp mentally and physically during their program's COVID-19-related in-person activities pause.



Shivansh Ahuja/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's 165-pound Alex Marinelli grapples with Nebraska's Peyton Robb during a wrestling dual meet between No. 1 Iowa and No. 6 Nebraska at Carver Hawkeye Arena on Jan. 15.

BY CHRIS WERNER
christopher-werner@uiowa.edu

While most Iowans and Midwesterners hunkered down in February to avoid plummeting winter temperatures, some Iowa wrestlers bundled up and embraced the frigid air.

At that time, the wrestling room was not an option for the Hawkeyes, as they were forced to pause all team-related in-person activities on Feb. 8 after seniors Alex Marinelli and Kaleb Young, and head coach Tom Brands all tested positive for

COVID-19 between Jan. 31 and Feb. 7.

So, without their traditional training options available, Iowa's wrestlers had to resort to drastic measures to stay sharp mentally and physically.

"The guys that wanted to keep up shape did it," Marinelli said. "Typically, starting lineup, a couple backups, it's just the select few that want to be great. It was like negative 15 and I wore like four layers and I was sweating but my hands and my feet were freezing. And so, still got in a couple miles and blew my lungs out."

The Hawkeyes resumed in-person activities on a limited basis Feb. 15. Iowa's duals with Penn

State, Northwestern, and Wisconsin were all postponed or canceled, however.

"I don't know how many other sports would take that extra mile and go out and run in negative-degree weather," Marinelli said. "I just don't know who would do that, honestly, but we do. We want to be national champs. We don't want to skip a beat. We want to go the extra mile."

Much like the wrestlers he's coaching now, Brands also went the extra mile when he competed at Iowa under Dan Gable and won three na-

SEE WRESTLING, 5A

Iowa setters settle in

The Hawkeyes have used a two-setter system season with freshman Bailey Ortega and junior Courtney Buzzerio splitting time at the position.



Casey Stone/The Daily Iowan

Iowa Outside Hitter Courtney Buzzerio hits the ball over the net during the Iowa Volleyball game against Indiana on Feb. 6 at Xstream Arena. Indiana defeated Iowa 3-2.

BY WILL FINEMAN
will-fineman@uiowa.edu

Last season, Brie Orr was almost solely in charge of Iowa volleyball's setting duties as a junior.

The Egan, Minnesota, native racked up 783 total assists in 2019, good for seventh-best in the Big Ten Conference. Orr's high assist total is especially impressive considering she missed multiple contests with a concussion.

Orr and her fellow seniors — Griere Hughes and Halle Johnston — all opted out of the 2020-21 season, leaving second-year head coach Vicki Brown with a decision to make.

The University of Illinois alumna could continue to use the 5-1 system the Hawkeyes enacted when Orr was on the floor in 2019-20, or she could use the 6-2

strategy she implemented when Orr was sidelined.

Brown decided to go with a 6-2 set with Ortega starting at setter and junior utility player Courtney Buzzerio filling in as needed.

"I am a big advocate of distributing the load to win," Brown said. "With us being more sophomore-freshman heavy, I thought the 6-2 was a better way to cut pressure on certain players."

Ortega has surpassed expectations early this year. She is averaging 21.5 assists per match and 5.37 assists per set. The Davenport, Iowa, native has also tallied 30 or more assists in two of her last three matches.

"Freshman year, you have an idea of what they are going to do or what they are capable of," Brown said. "To see her actually step up to a challenge that was a big one of running the offense for three of our rota-

Zeitler makes history

After a tough week to open the season, Iowa women's golfer Lea Zeitler found her form at the Rebel Beach Intercollegiate.

BY CHRIS WERNER
christopher-werner@uiowa.edu

Last month, at the Rebel Beach Intercollegiate in Las Vegas, Nevada, Iowa women's golfer Lea Zeitler was tied for the lead heading into the third and final round of competition — and she didn't even know it.

In the three-round event, players were scheduled to complete the first 36 holes on the first day and play the final round the next, but darkness fell before the second round could be completed.

That meant Zeitler had to leave the course in the middle of her best round as a Hawkeye.

After 16 holes of her second round, the Hawkeye sophomore found herself at five-under-par for the round and one-under-par on the tournament. That night, Zeitler didn't want to know where she stood, she wanted to play with a clear mind on the last day.

"I was talking on the phone with my boyfriend [after the first day] and he was like, 'Do you want to know where you're at?'" Zeitler said. "I'm like, 'No,



Zeitler

SEE VOLLEYBALL, 5A

SEE ZEITLER, 5A

8 0 H O U R S



The weekend in
arts and
entertainment
Wednesday,
March 3, 2021

For three years, Iowa
Writers' Workshop alum
Kiley Reid worked in an
office as a receptionist.
Now, she's the New York
Times bestselling
author of, "Such a Fun
Age," a novel that
satirizes the white
pursuit of wokeness.

The road
to literary
success and
beyond

NOTES

"Such a
fun age"

page 3B

DESIGN BY
PAIGE HO



WEEKEND EVENTS

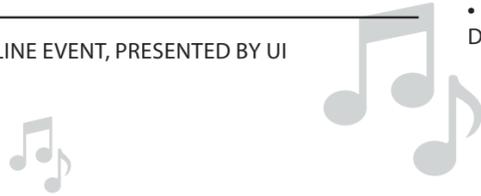
THURSDAY 03.04

FILM

• **NATURE OF THE DREAM**, ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY DES MOINES PLAYHOUSE

THEATER

• **10-MINUTE PLAY FESTIVAL**, ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY UI THEATER DEPARTMENT



FRIDAY 03.05

THEATER

• **STAGES BY DAVID LEE NELSON**, ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY RIVERSIDE THEATER

• **10-MINUTE PLAY FESTIVAL**, ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY UI THEATER DEPARTMENT



SATURDAY 03.06

THEATER

• **SKELETON CLOSET**, 8 P.M., ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY THE UI THEATRE DEPARTMENT

MISC

• **2021 DOWNTOWN IOWA CITY SPRING GALLERY WALK**, 11 A.M., DOWNTOWN IOWA CITY



SUNDAY 03.07

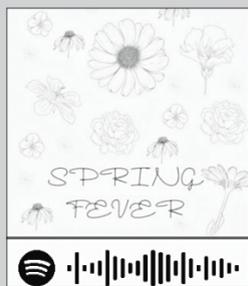
THEATER

• **SKELETON CLOSET**, ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY THE UI THEATRE DEPARTMENT



YOUR WEEKEND PLAYLIST

Spring Fever



Iowa City is finally seeing degrees in the 40's and 50's and *DI Arts* is celebrating with some fresh tunes that remind us of spring! Pop in your earbuds, go take a walk, and enjoy!



SONG	ARTIST	ALBUM
Paris	Magic Man	Before the Waves
Wonderwall	Oasis	(What's The Story) Morning Glory?
Never Give Up On Me	MisterWives	Single
Brighter Than Sunshine	Aqualung	Srange & Beautiful
Wildflowers	Tom Petty	Single
A Day In The Life	The Beatles	Love
Changes	David Bowie	Hunky Dory
Here Comes The Sun	The Beatles	Abbey Road
Would That I	Hozier	Wasteland, Baby!
Tommy's Party	Peach Pit	Being So Normal
Good Day Sunshine	The Beatles	Revolver
If I Needed Someone	The Beatles	Rubber Soul
The Cave	Mumford & Sons	Sigh No More
Loveland	Milky Chance	Sadnecessary
Crash My Car	COIN	Dreamland
Electric Love	BØRNS	Dopamine
18	Anarbor	Burnout (Deluxe Version)
Saturday Sun	Vance Joy	Nation of Two
Little League	Conan Gray	Kid Krow

THIS WEEK IN STREAMING



Cherry

BY PARKER JONES
parker-jones@uiowa.edu

Next week, *Cherry* will make its highly anticipated digital premiere, and could prove to be one of Tom Holland's most cumbersome acting ventures yet.

The dramatic crime film will release on AppleTV+ on March 12, after a limited theatrical release that began Feb. 26. Focusing on Cherry, a young man suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after a difficult stint as an Army medic, the story is a troubling journey of bad decisions and even worse circumstances. As he struggles with addiction and a dangerous career as a serial bank robber, Cherry must overcome potentially losing the love of his life along the way.

Cherry is based on Nico Walker's 2018 debut novel of the same name, and became adapted for the screen by Jessica Goldberg and Angela Russo-Otstot. Directed by Joe and Anthony Russo, collectively known as the Russo brothers, the crime film is a

unique direction for the directing duo to take after their fame-garnering superhero stretch, which includes *Avengers: Endgame* and *Avengers: Infinity War*.

For Holland, playing the film's titular character will likely be a talent showcase, and give him room to explore darker themes than what the Spider-Man actor is usually associated with. The film will also star Ciara Bravo as Emily, Cherry's love interest, and *It* actor Bill Skarsgård, playing a yet-to-be-named antagonist.

Reception to the film has been widely divided so far. According to the review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, it has scored an abysmal 37 percent critic score, but has a surprising 81 percent audience score. With such a large divide, it's difficult to predict what the film's high and low points will be.

Whatever the case may be, *Cherry* will be sure to provide an opportunity for Holland to show off the extent of his acting abilities, and make for an interesting watch nonetheless.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK: Let Me Tell You What I Mean

BY MADDIE JOHNSTON
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In *Let Me Tell You What I Mean*, beloved author Joan Didion does exactly as the title promises. Stating her opinions is what Didion does best, and her opinionated demeanor wouldn't be as successful if it weren't for her shrewd style and sharpness that fans like myself have grown to love.

Didion has a way of sharing her opinions that is never imposing, nor imperious. She relies on truths and physicalities, expressing judgments founded on her observations, which have led her to become a quintessential pioneer of the narrative nonfiction genre.

The book, a 12-part essay collection of pieces written from 1968 to 2000, is a glimpse into her younger

mind and process. What makes her essays coalesce is not a certain repetition of theme or specific plotline, but Didion herself. Her voice, wit, acute observation, and self-awareness are all forces that unite the pieces into a whole. She speaks on writing, on college, on the news, on Gamblers Anonymous, and in her lengthiest essay, on why Martha Stewart is the epitome of feminism.

In the book's first essay, "Alicia and the Underground Press," Didion criticizes newspapers that use a pretense of "objectivity." In Didion's words, for a writer to pretend they have no bias lends the entire venture of news writing a certain mendacity. She said the idea that the writer's attitudes should remain unadmitted in the traditional

press comes between the page and the reader "like so much marsh gas." She commends writers for underground papers who say what they mean directly.

The book seems to be Didion's repossession of the "I" narrative. She uses "I" not to inflict her point of view, but to find a voice that can answer her own questions.

Several of the essays, including "Why I Write" and "Telling Stories," delve into Didion's development as a writer. There is a pervading sense of self-awareness in each essay, as Didion speaks in depth about how she becomes drawn to write about something — she knows to start when an image in her head quite literally shimmers around the edges. These images in her mind dictate the arrangements of her words

on the page, Didion said. "It tells you. You don't tell it."

Didion recalls the haunting rhetoric at a Gamblers Anonymous meeting in her piece "Getting Serenity," where addicts spoke in a "subverbal swamp," speaking in exact days since relapses ("1,223 nights now"), using words like "togetherness," "mental thinking," and Didion's least favorite, "serenity." She wrote about the situation not through a journalistic lens, or even a bookish lens, but like a diary entry.

I found her description of the meeting captivating and sad. The darkness and the addicts need for "serenity," a word often associated with death, painted a clear picture in my mind of somewhere I wouldn't like to be.

Let Me Tell You What

I Mean also exposes a great deal of Didion's self-doubts derived from life's disappointments. She writes on when she thought about finishing off an old bottle of codeine-and-Empirin following her rejection from Stanford, and when she elected to never write a short story again after being rejected from every major news market in the country, and she addresses the mortal humiliation of every writer, "seeing one's own words in print."

Her openness to talk honestly about these vulnerable moments is just one of the several aspects that makes this book a standout against

her previous work. *Let Me Tell You What I Mean* is a great read for fans who have yet to see the younger, darker, side of the critically acclaimed author.



ARTS & CULTURE

From office job to best selling author

For three years, Iowa Writers' Workshop alum Kiley Reid worked in an office as a receptionist. Now, she's the *New York Times* bestselling author of, *Such a Fun Age*, a novel that satirizes the white pursuit of wokeness.

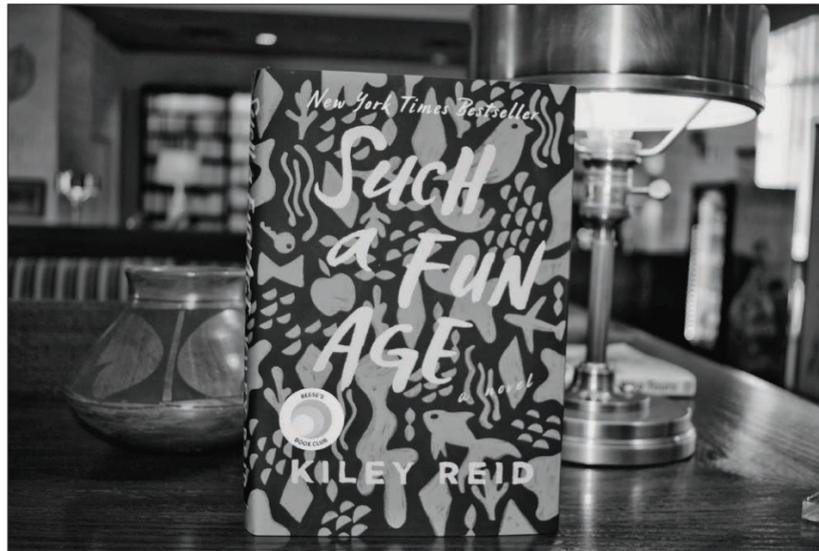


Photo Illustration by Raquele Decker/The Daily Iowan

Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid, cover design by G.P. Putnam's Sons.

BY MADDIE JOHNSTON

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Awkward situations, racist remarks, and class in America; these are all aspects of modern culture that author Kiley Reid wanted to explore when she began writing her 2019 debut novel, *Such a Fun Age*, a fiction novel which both effectively and subtly scrutinizes the current forms of racism in America.

Now a graduate from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, Reid has become a *New York Times* Bestselling author whose novel has been named a Best Book of the Year by NPR, *Vogue*, *The Washington Post*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and multiple others. The novel's rights have been acquired by both Lena Waithe's Hillman Grad Productions and Sight Unseen for a film adaptation, though the film's release date remains unannounced.

Such a Fun Age follows a 25-year-old Black woman

named Emira who takes on a nanny position for a white family in the time period prior to her commitment to "a real job." Not far into the novel, Emira is accused of kidnapping the child she nannies while the two are out at an upscale Philadelphia grocery store. The story escalates as the characters navigate the situation and continue to be faced with countless other uncomfortable situations.

After Reid received her bachelor's from Marymount Manhattan University, she planned to become an actress. Reid said she had always liked writing but thought of it more as a hobby. It wasn't until after graduation, amid one of the biggest breaks of her acting career — a \$500 paying commercial, where Reid said she felt like Kris Jenner in that moment — that she realized acting wasn't the most authentic mode of storytelling

for her. She wanted to be the one writing the stories.

With her newfound understanding, Reid ventured into her freshly chosen career path as a writer. For three years, she worked as a receptionist, coming home to submit her stories to literary journals and write unremittingly. She then applied to graduate school two years in a row. The first year, she received nine rejection letters. But by the second year, Reid got nine acceptances.

Nestled among this new pile of acceptance letters was one from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, which Reid ultimately decided to accept because of its potential for scholarships and stipends, its second-year teaching program, and the quietness a place like Iowa City has to offer to writers.

"The quiet, the, you know, the inexperience to living," Reid said. "I lived near the graveyard, and I would write, and

I would go for walks, and there's something about being able to be in nature and find a lot of quiet that really helps me get my thoughts in order in my head. So, I would say that Iowa was a huge help and that it's just a really nice place to write and really like foster creativity."

Now an alum of the program with an impressive amassment of short stories and a novel that has attained nationwide acclaim, Reid has continued to write and teach students at Temple University. Reid said taking a red pen to others' work helps her do the same with her own. With years of experience under her belt, she offered some advice to young writers.

"I think something I wish I had learned a little bit early on is that part of writing is being very comfortable with your writing," she said. "When it's not good, getting it out on the page is the thing that helps you make it better. So many times, you have this great idea. You go home to write it, and you write it and you're like, 'Oh god this is trash,' and that's, that's what it is, at that moment. That doesn't mean that it will forever be that."

Reid also emphasized that in order for a novel to be sustainable, the content a writer deals with should be endlessly exciting and interesting to them. Reid calls this, "following your obsessions," a mantra which propelled her to success with *Such a Fun Age* and continues to be a driving force in her present endeavors. Reid said there's an aspect of heart in writing that is always clear to her — an energy that distinguishes good writing from bad. When one is reading a story and can tell the author needed to tell it; there is a palpable feeling

of fire and spirit beneath the words on the page.

Some of Reid's "obsessions" throughout her time writing *Such a Fun Age* were issues of class and race, working with women characters, and "making things as awkward as possible." Her upcoming novel will retain many of these same ideas, but she said her interests grow and take on new forms every day.

Within the process of writing her new work of fiction, Reid's process has also evolved. In an effort to produce a truly page-turning novel, Reid now writes everything by hand, with each paragraph or line on a different index card which she then lays out and structures as she sees fit.

"All of my fiction is fairly plot driven, and so, there

that Reid said she hopes will make several on-screen appearances.

The author also said she hopes for Emira's relaxed personality and effortless way with children to remain evident in the film.

"I'm very excited to let the experts do what they do best, and also weigh in to keep the spirit of the novel alive," she said. "Both teams are wonderful to work with and I can't wait to see how this story is told on screen."

According to the Harvard Review, one of the most alluring aspects of Reid's storytelling in *Such a Fun Age*, is her ability to speak on racial issues without creating overtly racist situations. Although the plot is centered around a more blatantly racist event, racism in the book also manifests in more nu-

“ So many times, you have this great idea. You go home to write it, and you write it and you're like, 'Oh God this is trash,' and that's, that's what it is, at that moment. That doesn't mean that it will forever be that.

— Kiley Reid

is a lot of structuring and list making and orders of events," Reid said. "...So, there is some structure to it, but sometimes when I go into writing a scene, I just write everything that I think could potentially happen in that scene. It's very messy. It looks like I've had a breakdown a little bit."

Along with writing and teaching, Reid also works as the executive producer for the film adaptation of *Such a Fun Age*. Filming of the movie takes place in the location of the book, Philadelphia, the charming and exciting city

anced ways, like through her educated white character's off-putting pursuits of "wokeness," and the ill-defined moments of microaggression and ignorance.

"There is a really thin line of balance between depicting something that is nuanced, yet familiar. And that's what I really look for in writing," Reid said. "When you're reading something and you say, 'Oh my god I never thought about it that way.' But that's exactly how it is, like it's so accurate that it seems new. Those are the moments that I really, really love."

IC small business owners shift to online platforms

Iowa-based artists and owners of small businesses have adapted to sell their hand-made products during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BY SABINE MARTIN

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Full of nerves, University of Iowa freshman Jazmine VanPelt woke up at 6 a.m. last Friday. They immediately checked their sales after launching their small business online the night before. VanPelt was shocked to see over a dozen orders from across the country — and even as far away as Sudan, they said.

"I was super nervous, but you always have to have enough faith in yourself," VanPelt said. "It is super exciting because my art is about to

be hanging out in other people's homes and it will be all over the United States."

VanPelt is one of many Iowa City artists who have continued to run small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their business, The Grove Village, sells Van Pelt's original art prints, pins, and stickers.

Growing up in Iowa City, VanPelt said they have been inspired by artists that they met throughout high school. VanPelt said they have worked for years to find their personal art style. VanPelt's art is inspired by nature and includes symbols of mushrooms and

other mythical creatures.

"I have seen so many extremely talented artists who come and go from Iowa City," they said.

As a full-time student, VanPelt independently runs their business online by packaging and shipping all orders from their parent's Iowa City home.

"Other than selling art and being a student, I also have a job outside of selling art, so it definitely can get hard to manage time with all of that," VanPelt said.

VanPelt said other than their online shop, Twitter and other social media platforms are helpful to advertise their artwork during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Social media has been a big influence for my business sales. A lot of my purchases and people who support me are from social media," VanPelt said.

Another artist, Erica Gooding, who also grew up in Io-



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

Products from The Grove Village sit on a table in the Old Capitol Town Center on Tuesday. The owner of The Grove Village and University of Iowa Freshman, Jazmine VanPelt, said, "I want to share my art with people and it's kind of fun."

“ If it's a handmade item, that person is putting their time and efforts into their business. You can feel good knowing the money you spend goes right back into the community.

— Julie Chapman, owner of Sweet Julie Marie



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

In this diptych Jazmine VanPelt (left) and Erica Gooding (right) pose for a portrait. VanPelt is a University of Iowa freshman and owner of The Grove Village. Gooding is the owner of Artisan Jewelry.

wa City, has owned her small jewelry business for the last 12 years.

Other than jewelry making, Gooding said she works with COVID-19 patients several days a week as a nurse at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

"I had someone see something I was wearing and they suggested that I try to get into a little craft show," Gooding said. "I thought, 'Why not?', so I applied and got in."

The motto of Gooding's business, Artisan Jewelry by Erica Gooding, is "handmade with love and a blow torch." Gooding said she makes jewelry out of raw materials and uses techniques to manipulate the appearance of them.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Gooding said she has made her store website more accessible for shopping online and promotes her products on social media. Gooding normally sells her jewelry at art shows, but she

said many were canceled or hosted online this year.

"There is really no way to compare doing a live event with vending at an online event," Gooding said. "At a show, people go there to support artists and to purchase things. I think for everyone who makes handmade products, online is more difficult."

Gooding said independently running a small business calls for a strong support system.

"I think anyone who is wanting to start their own business will have to consider where they can get help from, because it is hard to do it alone," Gooding said. "I have met some really amazing small business owners who are a tribe of support for me."

Small business owner Julie Chapman said she has also had to refrain from art shows to sell her artwork. Chapman grew up in Iowa City, and her card business, Sweet Julie Marie, includes Iowa-inspired

illustrations and whimsical calligraphy.

Chapman said she looks forward to continuing to attend art shows after COVID-19.

"I hope to continue growing and to sell my work at shops and boutiques once things have opened up," she said. "I am ready to get back into it for my own fun and goals."

In January 2020, the U.S. Small Business Administration issued a disaster declaration in Iowa up until the end of last year. The declaration granted small businesses that were impacted by the pandemic to apply for low-interest loans.

Supporting a small business helps support a dream, Chapman said.

"If it's a handmade item, that person is putting their time and efforts into their business," Chapman said. "You can feel good knowing the money you spend goes right back into the community."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

First light, last hurrah for senior band

Rock-influenced band Citrus Sunday will release their first LP, 'First Light,' at midnight on March 5.

BY TATIANA PLOWMAN
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Lead singer of Citrus Sunday, Travis Siegel, once told *The Daily Iowan* that an album for the band would rise 'from the ashes.' The pandemic-born LP entitled *First Light* will release on March 5 with 12 original tracks surrounding blues, psychedelic and hard rock genres.

The rock band is composed of Siegel, drummer Ben Yussen, bassist Mitch Wisniewski, rhythm guitarist Ethan Adato, and guitarist and background vocalist Kameron Morrie Peck-Valdivia. All five members will graduate from the University of Iowa this spring. The band formed three years ago after meeting through Iowa Hillel.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the band lost their rehearsal space at Iowa Hillel, so they moved to Wisniewski's basement. But, that didn't stop the band from working harder on new material and continuing to collaborate, even if it was in a different format than they were used to.

After months of working in all different locations, the band was able to come back together in the same location in early January. While many of the songs were penned throughout the pandemic, some of the songs were written rapidly before recording.

"We have known we wanted to record an album for over a year," drummer Yussen said. "COVID sort of threw us for a loop, but we've come back stronger."

Since it's the band's final year all being based in the Iowa City area, the album signifies their journey of working together over the past four



Contributed by Citrus Sunday

years. The band released an EP titled 'Terry's Revenge' last fall, but this LP is their first lengthy project. After spending thousands of hours together not only playing music but also hanging out, the band was in agreement that it is no surprise that they all have an extremely close bond with one another.

"This started just as something fun that we've been able to do for so long and grow because of it," guitarist Adato said. "I self-taught myself how to play and have seen my own growth as a musician through

playing with these guys."

Leading up to the release of the album, Citrus Sunday has released three singles in anticipation for the big release. Beginning on Valentine's Day, the band released "Fade," followed by "Run Little Boy, run" and "Doctor's Note" each Sunday after.

Recording the LP at Flat Black Studios in Lone Tree, Iowa, had its ups and downs throughout the process. With only a week in mid-January to record all 12 tracks, and one of the only times they had been able to meet together in

person due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it wasn't smooth sailing at first, said bassist Wisniewski.

"There was tons of arguing between us as a band, especially because some of the songs we had only written a couple weeks before we started recording," Wisniewski said. "We just wanted to produce our best work and not waste the time of our wonderful engineers."

After completing the album's music, the final step consisted of creating a title that would capture the audi-

ence's attention.

"The name 'First Light' came after extremely long recording days and many other failed attempts," guitarist and background vocalist Valdivia said.

At the end of 2020, *Little Village* magazine named Citrus Sunday's EP as one of the best albums to have been recorded at Flat Black Studios.

Before the official release of the LP on March 4, the Iowa City community can catch a professionally recorded show of Citrus Sunday through the University of Io-

wa Campus Activity Board's website or through the Facebook event. The performance will be filmed at the IMU and available for UI students to watch. When the LP is released, listeners can find it on all streaming platforms including Apple Music and Spotify.

"For us, the album and the opportunity to have a professionally filmed show is just the icing on the cake," lead vocalist Siegel said. "We don't know where the road will take us after this, but it has sure been a great ride."

The Daily Break

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 2A

The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0127

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- 24 Place for a coin
- 25 Old woman's home, in a children's rhyme
- 26 Enlist again
- 27 Na+ and Cl-
- 29 Square
- 30 Tiny fraction of a min.
- 31 Shrink in fear
- 33 What dogs do in the spring
- 34 One of a pair of towel markings
- 36 Citi Field mascot
- 37 Drug trafficker, informally
- 40 City across the Rio Grande from Juárez
- 41 Drive ... or drive mad?
- 46 Drifted downriver, say
- 48 Not off key
- 49 Not drunk
- 50 Quaint contraction
- 51 "Stop worrying!"
- 53 Play defense against
- 54 Run up, as charges
- 55 Barely make it
- 58 Cries of discovery
- 59 Animated frame
- 60 Biblical twin
- 63 Indianapolis-to-St. Louis dir.
- 64 Female Jedi in "Star Wars"

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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Across

- 1 ___ California
- 5 Frequent sightings in Road Runner cartoons
- 10 Attempt
- 14 Vegetarian substitute for gelatin
- 15 "Silence is the most perfect expression of ___" (line in a Shaw play)
- 16 Philosopher David
- 17 Despicable ... or where this answer goes?
- 20 Paradises
- 21 Output of Santa's workshop
- 22 Retort to 4-Down
- 23 Dandies
- 25 Moving around very nicely, thank you
- 26 Nonstop joker
- 28 Midday break
- 32 Merit badge holder
- 35 Nearly forever
- 36 What to expect between June and September in India
- 38 What's what, in Italy
- 39 Sick ... or where this answer goes?
- 42 "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord ...," e.g.
- 43 "Diamonds"
- 44 Habitat for bitterns and herons
- 45 ___ walk
- 47 University whose name is also a food
- 49 Levels
- 52 Knuckleheaded act?
- 56 Is indebted to

- 57 Side to be considered
- 61 "I only got a seventh-grade education, but I have a doctorate in ___": James Brown
- 62 Latent ... or where this answer goes?
- 65 Notable time
- 66 Shipping route
- 67 Burnish
- 68 Servius Tullius, e.g., in ancient Rome
- 69 Part of w.p.m.: Abbr.
- 70 One-eighty
- 71 Like some wines and humor

Down

- 1 Hon
- 2 Like sharp cheddar
- 3 Longtime actress co-starring in Netflix's "Grace and Frankie"
- 4 Schoolyard denial
- 5 Winter hrs. in the Midwest
- 6 Fünf + drei
- 7 2017 Pixar hit
- 8 Where Paris took Helen
- 9 Holiday ___
- 10 Heavy scissors
- 11 Possible result of overeating, informally
- 12 Roadies' loads
- 13 Texas politico O'Rourke
- 18 "Poor venomous fool," to Cleopatra
- 19 A hot one is timely

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