

The Daily Iowan

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021

THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COMMUNITY SINCE 1868

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Twelve zoetropes scattered throughout the Pedestrian Mall form an interactive art exhibit, designed to attract people to downtown Iowa City.

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PUBLISHING INFO

The Daily Iowan (USPS 143.360) is published by Student Publications Inc., E131 Adler Journalism Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-2004. Periodicals postage paid at the Iowa City Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 2, 1879.

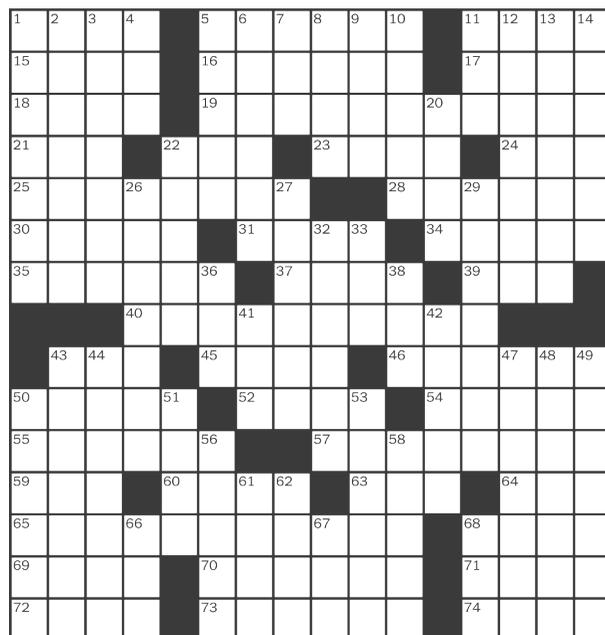
Cover photo by Jeff Sigmund: The "Loop" exhibit as seen on July 7. Each Loop plays music and features a film-like illustration. Visitors sit inside and move the handle back and forth to activate it.

Cover design by Kate Doolittle

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0616



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 11

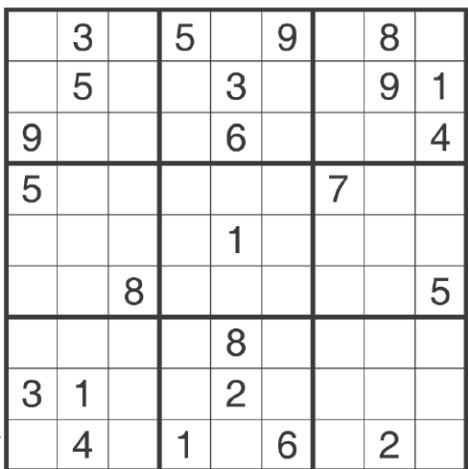
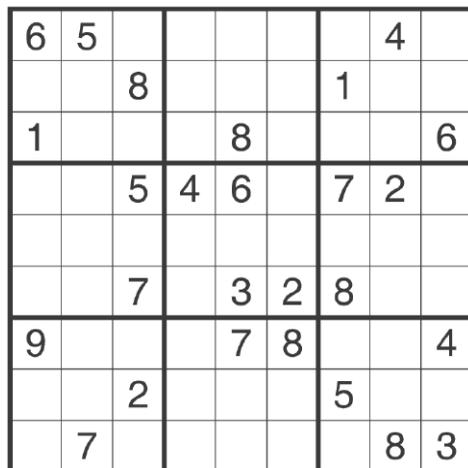
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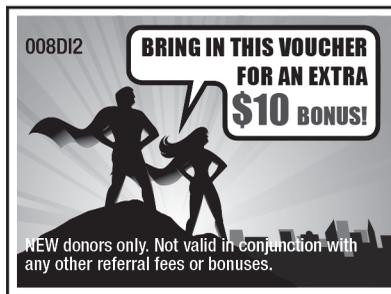
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Interactive art exhibit ‘Loop’ takes over Ped Mall

Downtown Iowa City is the temporary home to the installation, which debuted in Montreal in 2016 and features 12 zoetropes.



Jeff Sigmund/The Daily Iowan

Brook Easton and her son, both Iowa City residents, try out one of the many “Loop” public art exhibitions on July 7. The devices can be found at the entrances to the Pedestrian Mall and will be there until Aug. 10.

BY MEG DOSTER

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The Iowa City Pedestrian Mall is staying in the loop with its latest exhibit, aptly titled, “Loop.”

The hand-drawn animations within “Loop” and the corresponding flashing lights and softly

played music are powered by the person sitting on the bench within the structure, going only as fast as the contraption’s lever is pulled.

Within the loops are cylinders that spin as their levers are pulled, and the still images inside the pod then come to life to tell a story. “Loop” is inspired by the 19th

century ancestor of animation, the zoetrope – cylinders that have images inside the rim, and when spun, give the illusion of moving animation.

The interactive art installation, which can be used free of charge, consists of 12 zoetropes, each containing a different story.

The art exhibit first appeared downtown on July 9 and will remain there until Aug. 10. The goal of “Loop” is to welcome visitors and residents back to the Iowa City downtown area after the streets have been quiet for the past year, and to create an immersive artistic experience for the community.

Laura Farahzad Mayer, a graduate student at the University of Iowa studying graphic design, said she does not live in the downtown Iowa City area, nor does she have reason to travel there often. She said the outdoor installation was

SEE LOOP, 4



Jeff Sigmund/The Daily Iowan

Jiselle Fernandez tries one of the "Loop" devices on July 7.

LOOP CONTINUED FROM 3

more than worth the trip.

"It was refreshing to walk around downtown and to see a lot of people walking around and exploring the art was really interesting," Farahzad Mayer said. "... It's similar to a stop-motion animation in the way that it functions as you're viewing it and the image changes. So, it's made up of a bunch of still images, and then as it moves as it switches between images, it looks like it's moving."

"Loop" was created by Olivier Girouard and Jonathan Villeneuve, and 24 other French authors and illustrators were involved in the creative process for the latest iteration of the exhibit. The exhibit is on loan from the art agency, Creos. The names of the many artists and authors can be found on the Downtown Iowa City website.

Director of Creative Services for Downtown Iowa City Betsy Potter said the art piece will serve as a backdrop to festivities and events in the area throughout July and early August.

Potter anticipates "Loop" will attract "thousands of visitors."

"It's meant for visitors to try all 12 to really experience the full installation," Potter said.

"Loop" and the stories the art

exhibit tell first appeared in Montreal in 2016. Nick Pfeiffer, vice president of Marketing and Communications at Think Iowa – which helped bring "Loop" to Iowa City – said the exhibit is not new to the

United States, but since it's been updated, Iowa City is the first place in the country to host the installation.

"I had actually seen it at Navy Pier in Chicago a couple of years ago, and now it's a different experience because there's different imagery and different music to it," Pfeiffer said.

"Loop" spent two years touring the U.S and Canada after it debuted in 2016. That iteration of the exhibit displayed widely known fairytales, including Alice in Wonderland and Pinocchio. The pods currently being displayed in Iowa City are out for the first time, using images inspired by French-Canadian artists.

So, for anyone who may have already seen "Loop" in previous years, it will be a new experience seeing it again this summer in Iowa City.

"What I liked about it was the way it engaged the viewer, and it was the discovery of it and being able to experience that on your own," Farahzad Mayer said. "Even though it was public art, the private experience and discovery of it was really unique."

Potter encouraged people to see "Loop" during both day and night, as it's a "totally different experience" depending on time of day. But be aware, she said, there might be a wait to get into one of the zoetropes.

Potter said throughout the day,

there is usually at least one person per zoetrope, seeing a story at their own pace.

"We will see what the feedback and success of the 'Loop' is for the summer, but we're always looking for ways to get people out and about during the wintertime, too, especially because we all know what Iowa winters are like," Pfeiffer said. "But if there's attractions that we can bring to downtown Iowa City, we're definitely open to those. And based on early reaction, I would suspect that's something we'll be looking forward to doing."

“ We will see what the feedback and success of the 'Loop' is for the summer, but we're always looking for ways to get people out and about during the wintertime, too.

– Nick Pfeiffer, vice president of Marketing and Communications at Think Iowa



Jeff Sigmund/The Daily Iowan

Visitors in downtown Iowa City view the "Loop" exhibition, which displays stop-motion animations for the public to experience free of charge, on July 7.

JoCo rises as sustainability role model

Through a joint project and a 2018 comprehensive plan, Johnson County is implementing efforts to be more sustainable.

BY EMILY DELGADO

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Johnson County is making efforts to implement renewable energy throughout the county.

Grow Solar, a joint project between Johnson County and Linn County, is increasing solar education and lowering the costs of buying solar panels by hosting solar "power hours" through group buys.

Johnson County hopes to be a role model to other counties and communities in its efforts to be a more sustainable county, Johnson County sustainability coordinator Becky Solgin said.

A group buy lowers the solar panel installer's "soft costs" by educating customers in groups. The Grow Solar website states that the overall effect of a group buy is that lower prices businesses and homeowners pay for their solar array and communities can achieve their sustainability goals.

Grow Solar, a project created by Midwest Renewable Energy Association in Wisconsin, works with counties including Linn and Johnson Counties to make solar more affordable for residents.

"Linn and Johnson Counties, and the municipal partners they bring to the table, are a shining example of cooperative efforts to help residents understand solar and reduce their electricity bills," Solar Program Director at MREA Peter Murphy said.

MREA reached out to Johnson County five years ago, Solgin said. At the time,

Johnson County was rolling out a process similar to Growing Solar, called SolSmart – a U.S. Department of Energy-funded program to educate communities about renewable energy.

To reward communities for their energy accessibility and sustainability achievements, SolSmart awards gold, silver, and bronze designation, as previously reported by *The Daily Iowan*. Johnson County earned Gold in 2017.

"Johnson County was the first county in both Iowa and the Midwest to earn the gold community designation. Since then, Linn County also has earned Gold as have some other counties in the Midwest," Solgin said.

In order to meet gold community designation, a community must reach 200 points in the SolSmart criteria and two prerequisite criteria, complete permit turnaround time, and complete solar in-zoning.

"We don't have all the answers. We are trying to learn from others in our own experience," Solgin said. "The more we can try to make our county sustainable, I would hope, the more others can also learn from us and do the same."

Johnson County has been participating in Grow Solar since 2018, with 925 participants in the Solar Power Hours.

Countywide, 221 properties have added solar, and 1,430 kilowatts of solar power have been

installed. These efforts resulted in bypassing the equivalent of 1,454,675 pounds of coal burned.

"One thing we do want to emphasize while it's been primarily homeowners who have participated in the program," Solgin said. "We have had some people who have farms and they've added to some buildings of their farm. Certainly, businesses are welcome as well so both homeowners, businesses, and farms are all welcome to attend our program."

For Linn County, this is the third year they have been participating in Grow Solar, which started in 2017.

"I think, for me, the biggest impact is just like the value of communication of solar," Linn County sustainability manager Tamara Marcus said.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the

amount of sunlight that hits the surface of the Earth in an hour and a half is enough to power the world's energy for over a year.

Since the 2019 Climate Resolution Act, Linn County committed to greenhouse gases emission reduction targets, Marcus said.

"I guess I want to honor that history of the county being committed to recognizing that these issues, issues of sustainability, issues of climate change and adaptation, are important," Marcus said.

Johnson County has been looking into sustainability since 2015, when the Johnson County Board of Supervisors wanted to make the board's operation more sustainable.

"We started adding solar to our own operation," Solgin said. "That way we could understand what the process was and then

we could help the people in Johnson County understand the benefits."

Johnson County has a comprehensive plan for the county and a chapter of the plan is revolving around

sustainability.

"Part of that includes doing things like supporting and advancing energy efficiency, resource conservation, and renewable energy programs," Solgin said.

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Inhaled COVID-19 vaccine shows promising results

Researchers at the UI and University of Georgia found that an inhaled COVID-19 vaccine was effective in mice and ferrets.

BY LILLIAN POULSEN
lillian-poulsen@uiowa.edu

Those who are unvaccinated might have the option to inhale a COVID-19 vaccine, after clinical trials showed the effectiveness of an inhaled vaccine in animals to protect against the virus.

A new study led by a team at the University of Iowa and the University of Georgia found that a single-dose intranasal COVID-19 vaccine fully protects mice against the lethal virus.

The vaccine also prevents transmission between animals, leading the researchers to believe it may be effective in humans.

“The vaccine does the same things that a traditional vaccine does, but it also creates a local immune response in the respiratory tract,” Paul McCray, professor of pediatrics-pulmonary medicine, and microbiology and immunology at the UI Carver College of Medicine, said. “Since this is a respiratory virus, that could be an added benefit.”

The vaccine is administered through a nasal spray, unlike the currently available mRNA vaccines that require an injection into the arm, McCray said.



McCray

He said the available vaccines — Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, and Moderna — deliver messenger RNA into a body's cells and instruct it to make the spike microprotein that is presented to the immune system.

In the case of this intranasal vaccine, parainfluenza virus 5 (PIV5) — a virus that doesn't cause infection in humans — carries the genetic material into the cell and tells it to make the spike microprotein, McCray said.

The spike microprotein is the

part of the coronavirus that binds to the receptor on the host cells, which is the first step of getting into other cells, McCray said. If the body makes antibodies — through a vaccine — against the spike microprotein, that interferes with the ability of the virus to bind to the cells and get in, he said.

The team has found success with this new vaccine in mice and ferret models, McCray said.

“These mice are given the SARS-Cov-2 and they develop a progressive, fatal infection so they die,” he said. “One of the measures of success with this is that we pre-treated them with the vaccine and they all lived.”

Additionally, the mice had less instances of lung disease and the vaccine prevented the spread to the central nervous system, McCray said.

In ferret models tested at the University of Georgia, the team found even more success, Biao He, professor of infectious diseases at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, said.

The ferrets are a good model for humans due to their similar respiratory systems, He said.

“The vaccine prevented infection and transmission among ferrets... generates very good mucosal responses in the airways of animals,” He said. “It's very exciting, because I don't believe anyone else has been able to achieve this level of protection before.”

McCray said the success in animal studies makes the team excited for the potential in humans.

“We're really excited about these animal studies, because they are proof that this vaccine could be protective,” McCray said. “We're really excited that it works in these animals and now we need to test it in the most important animal — humans.”



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

The University of Iowa's Carver College of Medicine is shown on Aug. 27, 2020. A new study led by a team at the University of Iowa and the University of Georgia found that an intranasal COVID-19 vaccine fully protects mice against the lethal virus.

The team has recently received FDA clearance to begin testing the vaccine in humans, He said. The initial trial will be at three sites in the U.S.: Rochester, New York; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Bardstown, Kentucky; and the first patient will receive the vaccine July 26.

In the future, the team wants to do a trial with people who have received an mRNA vaccine, He said. For now, they are testing whether this vaccine can be effective for people who haven't been vaccinated, he said.

“I'm excited we get a chance to test the vaccine in humans,” He said. “After testing for safety and efficacy, we will monitor the vaccine to see if it does what it's supposed to in a healthy human population.”

With this vaccine, the team hopes to prevent infection and transmission, He said.

“With the nasal spray, a patient sprays it into their respiratory tract

where COVID-19 enters your body,” He said. “This sets up a defense perimeter at the site of the virus entry, which has been very effective in animals, and we hope this can help prevent transmission in humans.”

The vaccine only requires a single dose and can be stored at normal temperatures, McCray said. It can also be produced in large amounts and doesn't require the use of syringes or needles to administer it, he said.

Kun Li, associate research scientist in pediatrics at the UI Carver College of Medicine, said this vaccine might help in other countries where there are limited resources.

“In places like India and South Africa where there are more people infected and they are experiencing more variants, this could help vaccinate those populations,” Li said. “The majority of the world's population still needs vaccines.”

According to the Iowa Coronavirus Dashboard as of July 17, 58.1 percent of Johnson County residents and 46.2 percent of people in Iowa are fully vaccinated. According to the Mayo Clinic, 48.7 percent of the U.S. population is fully vaccinated.

These advantages would make it easier to distribute the vaccine to places that don't have the capacity to store vaccines in ultra-cold freezers, McCray said. The vaccine might also be easier to administer for people who have a fear of needles, he said.

While the available mRNA vaccines are effective, they won't stop the COVID-19 pandemic, He said.

“The way to stop this pandemic is to have a vaccine that can prevent infection and transmission,” He said. “We can save people from dying using the current vaccines, but we want the virus to go away which is why we need to prevent transmission.”

Fox sightings counter statewide population decrease

Though there has been a recent uptick in sightings, the foxes seen appear to be sick with a skin disease, Sarcoptic mange.



Jeff Sigmund/The Daily Iowan

A fox enjoys the warm sun on April 13, 2019. The foxes are not violent toward humans, and can coexist along with people and their pets in residential areas, said a wildlife specialist.

BY EMILY DELGADO
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Recent sightings of red foxes in the Iowa City area around First Avenue and the Elk Country Club counteract the statewide decline in fox populations since 2006, according to a 2020 Iowa Department of Natural Resources survey.

“They’re very plentiful this time of year, and you’ll see them,” Chris Whitmore, Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center animal services coordinator, said. “Seeing them out and about during the day... people are alarmed by that, but that’s pretty common, especially for the young juvenile ones that are really wanting to get stuff to eat.”

At this time, the red fox population is decreasing, Woodruff said.

According to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources spring spotlight survey, 24 red foxes were observed in 2020, compared to 58 in 2019 across almost 4,800 miles of Iowa land.

In Iowa City, the red foxes that have been seen are sick with Sar-

coptic mange, which is a skin disease that comes from a mite bite, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Wildlife biologist Steve Woodruff said.

“It’s kind of a virus thing that causes them to get really sick. Then it is pretty fatal to the fox, but some do survive, some don’t,” Woodruff said.

The mange disease originated in

western Montana, Woodruff said, and traveled slowly from one animal to another.

“So, I don’t think [Johnson County residents] are alarmed, but I think they should contact us because we should be able to try to find out where we’re seeing the most,” Whitmore said.

According to the survey, “spotlight detections for red fox are challenging to collect due to their small size and evasive behavior,” which results in some variability in these data.

Across Iowa, other sightings of foxes have been taken account of. On Iowa State University’s campus, a team of students in a mammalogy class is using a frequent fox visitor named Earl for their research.

The team wants to figure out where the foxes are living and how big the fox population is around the ISU campus. The team is asking the ISU and Ames community to use the ISU online map to mark where they have seen foxes.

In October, the Coralville Police Department posted information to citizens about fox sightings in residential areas after an uptick in calls and questions. Foxes, an animal native to Iowa, are not violent toward humans, the post said.

Adam Janke, assistant professor in natural resource ecology and management at ISU and Extension Wildlife Specialist, wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that foxes can coexist with people and their pets in residential areas.

“These foxes aren’t really ‘emerging,’ they’ve been around all along,” Janke wrote. “Sometimes people just start to notice them more, or perhaps there are scenarios where one or a pair will get more comfortable around people and therefore be a bit more noticeable.”

Abortion access major target of Christian lobbyists

Lobbyists and legislators at The FAMiLY Leadership Summit in Des Moines celebrated that Iowa has begun the process of amending its constitution to say abortion is not a protected right, among other anti-abortion efforts.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Former Vice President Mike Pence addresses the crowd at The FAMiLY Leadership Summit in Des Moines on July 16. Pence said his favorite encounters with Americans are when people mention they are praying for him.

BY NATALIE DUNLAP
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DES MOINES — The 2021 Iowa legislative session was the best The FAMiLY Leader had ever seen, partially because they saw their biggest priority accomplished: beginning the process of making an amendment to the state constitu-

tion that declares abortion is not a protected right.

The lobbyist group's Vice President and Chief Counsel Chuck Hurley addressed a crowd of several hundred on July 16, at the 10th annual The FAMiLY Leadership Summit in Des Moines. The event brought together religious leaders and Republican politicians who

promoted inserting Christianity and "Christ-like-leadership" into politics, as well as condemning the cultural changes that go against their socially conservative beliefs.

National names took the stage, including former Vice President Mike Pence, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, and Iowa Gov.

Kim Reynolds.

Some speakers are being eyed as potential GOP candidates for 2024. President and CEO at the Family Policy Alliances Craig DeRuche introduced Pompeo by joking former President Barack Obama and Pompeo both were the editor of the *Harvard Law Review*, and that Pompeo might be interested in an-

other job Obama held.

Among other common sentiments — such as banning critical race theory or any curriculum saying the United States is fundamentally racist or sexist; showing support for police officers; and discussing COVID-19 mitigations as a restriction on freedom — a majority of the speakers took swings at

Planned Parenthood and emphasized a need to reduce abortion access.

“This is why we fight. Thousands of other babies’ lives depend on you and your efforts, your contributions, but most of all all your prayers,” Hurley said while holding a baby on stage. “And then sharing with your friends why the ‘Protect Life Amendment’ is needed.”

Attendants received a card with a photo of a baby on it explaining the process of making an amendment to the state constitution, stating that abortion is not protected.

“The power of informed, patriotic Americans bringing their faith boldly into the public square and seeking to influence government at all levels — it cannot be overestimated,” Reynolds said. “Over the years, it has helped sustain and encourage me and legislators over and over again, which is a big reason why my administration has become one of the most pro-life in the country.”

Reynolds laid out the ways her administration has tried to restrict abortion, some of which have been struck down in court.

In May 2018, Reynolds signed a bill into law outlawing abortions when a fetal heartbeat was detectable. A state judge ruled this was unconstitutional in Jan.

“The power of informed patriotic Americans bringing their faith boldly into the public square and seeking to influence government at all levels — it cannot be overestimated.

— Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds

2019.

The Iowa Supreme Court declared in June 2018 that the Iowa Constitution grants a right to abortion in a case that struck down a 72-hour wait period before receiving an abortion. A similar 24-hour wait period law



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds delivers a speech during The FAMILY Leadership Summit in Des Moines on July 16.

was also recently blocked in an Iowa District Court.

However, Reynolds and others trying to limit abortion ac-

cess have had a few recent wins. This past June, an Iowa Supreme Court case ruled the state can prevent Planned Parenthood from receiving funds for sex education programs.

cess have had a few recent wins. This past June, an Iowa Supreme Court case ruled the state can prevent Planned Parenthood from receiving funds for sex education programs.

This May, a joint resolution proposed an amendment to the

state constitution that declares Iowa doesn’t recognize, grant, or secure a right to an abortion, to combat the 2018 Supreme Court decision.

“This amendment is written so clearly that even living constitutionalists wouldn’t be able to twist it,” Reynolds said. “If all goes as planned, it’ll be put before Iowa voters in 2024.”

Though it has already passed once, amendments to the state constitution “must be agreed to by two successive General Assemblies and ratified by a majority of the electors” before going into effect, according to Iowa law.

Noem, who was invited to the summit by her “dear friend” Reynolds, discussed how she has used her gubernatorial office in

South Dakota to limit abortion. “I believe I’m still the only governor in the country that has a person on staff whose job description is to be an unborn child advocate,” Noem said. “He wakes up every single day looking for ways in statute and in law to defend life and make sure that it’s going to be protected.”

Despite efforts from the Republican-controlled state house and The FAMILY Leader promoting an anti-abortion agenda through events like July 16’s summit, numbers from the Iowa Department of Public Health obtained by *The Des Moines Register* show Iowa’s abortion rate went up 42 percent between 2018 and 2020.

When Pence served as gover-

nor of Indiana, he said he signed every anti-abortion bill passed by the Indiana Legislature.

“For the very first day of our administration, we reinstated the Mexico City policy to make sure that abortions would not be funded or promoted with tax dollars around the world,” Pence told the crowd. “We cut funding in the United Nations Population Fund, and I had the privilege of being the first Vice President in history to address the national March for Life on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., with my wife Karen and my son. I probably had no higher honor when I was serving as President of the Senate than the day I cast the tie-breaking vote to allow states to defund Planned Parenthood.”

Arts & Culture

Hancher takes center stage after shutdown

The performance hall returns with a new season after overcoming budget cuts and a temporary closure because of the pandemic.



Tate Hildyard/The Daily Iowan

Hancher Auditorium is seen in Iowa City on Sept. 20, 2020. Hancher opened its doors to the American Ballet Theatre on July 4.

BY JENNA POST
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Hancher is making an unrestricted return with a new lineup of performers after having its 2020-21 season cut short because of the pandemic.

The new season kicked off with a Fourth of July performance from the American Ballet Theatre (ABT). Hancher Executive Director Chuck Swanson said he was ecstatic to plan and attend the event.

“ABT is one of the finest ballet companies in the country, and we were the first place they contacted for their tour,” Swan-

son said. “I think that speaks to Hancher’s reputation and how Hancher impacts the University of Iowa and the arts on campus.”

Swanson said Hancher’s core value is “people first,” because he believes that the arts can and should create a more connected community. He said he felt that sense of connection during the ABT event in a way he hadn’t since before the pandemic hit the U.S.

“There was so much joy in the air that night, and it was on Independence Day. It felt like a sign that the community was healing,” he said.

Following the performance, Hancher’s new season lineup was made public.

Swanson anticipates that *Hancher Illuminated*, *Step Afrika!*, and Broadway hit *Waitress* will generate conversation within the Iowa City arts community. “The arts are a way for people to understand themselves better and understand others better too,” he said. “When you experi-

“Hancher is committed to the work we do, and we’ll do our best, as we always have.

– Chuck Swanson, Hancher Executive Director

“There was so much joy in the air that night, and it was on Independence. It felt like a sign that the community was healing.

– Chuck Swanson, Hancher Executive Director

ence art together, there’s opportunity for discussion.”

Swanson said he has always considered Hancher a place for learning. UI junior Katherine Shamdin, who is pursuing a BFA in dance, said she used Hancher as a learning space during the school year while it remained closed amid the public.

“Before [the pandemic], I think I took the power a space can have for granted,” Shamdin said. “I’ve always danced in a studio or onstage, so being removed from that space added such a challenging element to my classes.”

After campus closed during the spring 2020 semester, Shamdin went from receiving a dance education in person to pirouetting in her home at the direction of a Zoom instructor.

The following semester, Hancher opened its doors to the UI Department of Dance, so students had room to practice social distancing while dancing.

Shamdin said she was thrilled with the opportunity.

“I think having my classes in Hancher really gave me this

drive and excitement to continue dancing,” she said. “It also made me feel really valued as an artist because sometimes it feels like, ‘How is this important? How can I make what I’m doing meaningful?’ and being in Hancher, where there’s such dedication to working towards getting back onstage, felt really special.”

Hancher house manager Paris Sissel said she is happy to see a return to normalcy. Sissel, who graduated from the UI in May, began working for Hancher as an usher her freshman year.

“Working for Hancher not only gives me the skills that I’ll need in my future career, but it also allowed me to make connections with industry professionals and set me on the right path,” Sissel said.

Swanson said the UI cut funding for Hancher while shutdown, forcing the auditorium to rely on funding from donors and small, private events.

While the financial future of Hancher remains uncertain, he said Hancher will move forward with community needs at its forefront.

“It will certainly be a challenge, but Hancher’s here,” he said. “Hancher is committed to the work we do, and we’ll do our best, as we always have.”

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Opinions

COLUMN

Pre-health class culture harms students

The level of rigor in class does not match the teaching style, and instructors need to prioritize learning in courses.



YASSIE BUCHANAN
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Most University of Iowa students taking pre-health and STEM classes have fallen victim to multiple weed-out courses. Instead of fostering an environment where students can learn and grow their passions in the sciences, they are expected to absorb a large amount of material with little guidance when it comes to testing.

Weed-out courses are rigorous classes where the instructors aim to discourage students from pursuing careers in those subjects with large amounts of work and harsh testing styles.

While offering rigorous and challenging courses is understandable for pre-health students, it can be extremely difficult to learn in these classroom settings. Instead, uplifting students and encouraging further inquiry in the sciences these classes tend to cause stress and frustration.

Pre-health career classes generally include several lower level and higher level biology courses, principles of chemistry classes, organic chemistry, and more.

For students to pass in some of these classes, they rely on a heavy curve to keep them afloat. The majority of students should

not be receiving failing grades on tests or have to rely on a curve or adjusted scoring to get passing grades.

A study done by the *Journal of the Association of the American Medical Colleges* taken of pre-med students showed that 88 percent of the students surveyed were concerned about earning the necessary grades to attend medical school. A large part of that concern comes from the level of rigor and competitive nature of these classes.

The seemingly high stakes pre-med and other pre-health students face takes a toll on their mental health. Research taken of burnout in pre-med students displayed they face higher severity of depression and emotional exhaustion than students not taking pre-med courses.

Jordan Trost, a rising senior studying public health and minoring in environmental science on the pre-dental track at the UI, said in her experience, the rigor of testing did not match the course work and teaching.

"The tests were always five times more difficult than what we actually learned," Trost said. "The test questions usually combined multiple concepts even though in class they never applied the material in that way. If you have bad testing anxiety, you are destined to do poorly."

If the purpose of these classes is to learn, professors should prioritize preparing their students with ample materials, practice, and clear communication. Instead, many professors hand



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students unreasonably large amounts of material without proper guidance and preparation.

Trost added that she did not feel she was able to prepare for these courses with the materials provided by the instructors.

"Some professors had study guides and one or two review sessions but if you weren't able to attend them there was nothing to replace that opportunity," Trost said. "There were also professors who gave study guides but not the answers saying that would be unfair. It feels like if you don't have the money and resources for tutoring or extra practice to succeed in these courses you're screwed."

Through these very rigorous and tiring courses, many students are discouraged from pursuing their dream careers.

"Me and the majority of people I met in pre-health classes were always questioning if we were good enough or smart enough or if the struggle of these classes was worth it," Trost said.

Oftentimes, these classes end up fostering very toxic and competitive environments with the grading style. Students do not have the time or extra resources needed to dedicate to these classes and cannot always rely on their peers for help.

Further, these weed-out classes have been found to disproportionately ostracize minority

groups from pursuing STEM careers.

It is ironic so many classes push students away from pre-health careers when there is a projected shortage of physicians in the country. Recent research taken by the Association of American Medical Colleges estimates a shortage of 37,800 to 124,000 doctors by the year 2034.

If the majority of students are getting failing grades with their raw scores, clearly the teaching methods are not matching the testing. Instructors should restructure these courses so the testing and grading style matches the teaching, instead of inducing an unnecessary amount of stress in their students.

Statute of limitations on sexual assault are counterproductive

Statutes of limitations on sexual assault should be abolished because they are out of date and do not help survivors.



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SAMUEL O'CONNOR
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There should not be a statute of limitations on sexual assault in this state or any other.

The existence of a statute of limitations — for some crimes — is reasonable. It limits the state's power to prosecute someone indefinitely for petty crimes committed long ago. Outside of sexual crimes, statutes of limitations work to keep the courts as well greased as can be. It does this by forbidding prosecution

after a set period of time, so that convictions come about through hard evidence, rather than evidence which may deteriorate over time.

This can be a good thing. Should an 80-year-old woman be charged with some misdemeanor she committed when she was 20? Probably not. But it is not cases like this which are the problem.

For sexual crimes, a statute of limitations is basically a get out of jail free card.

Like most laws, the statutes of limitations vary greatly from state to state. In Iowa, legal proceedings must begin within 10 years of the crime being committed. But the problem is this: the trauma which results from these crimes lasts a long, long

time, and people may not be ready to seek out a legal course of action until they have healed enough to revisit that pain. Taking action as bold as a civil proceeding can bring trauma to the surface.

But what if it takes longer to heal than the amount of time granted by a statute of limitations? Why should the law put a timeframe on justice, when the aggressor's actions have a life-long effect?

According to the Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network (RAINN), only 310 out of 1,000 sexual assaults are reported to the police. Out of those 310, 50 reports lead to an arrest, and only half of those will be incarcerated. They cite several reasons as to why so few cases get reported,

such as fear of retaliation or believing the police would not do anything to help.

Do not be mistaken — it is not the fault of the survivors that these aggressors walk the streets. That fault lies with the aggressors themselves, and with the failures of the justice system, and with a distressing lack of prevention among college campuses and other places. At the University of Iowa, a mandatory, self-paced ICON course taken by freshmen only to be forgotten months later is simply not enough.

It is not the fault of the survivors, and it is not their responsibility either. It is a gross misstep to tell anyone how to respond to a violation such as this or do anything at all other than offer resources, support, and prevention. One of those resources, though, is the so-called justice system, and it can always do better.

Shannon Keeler, a student from Gettysburg College, received a confession from her abuser years later that he sexually assaulted her in her dorm

tions — on sexual assault or otherwise — exists to ensure that no one is unfairly prosecuted. The idea behind this is that after a number of years passes, evidence will not be reliable enough for a sound conviction. But these laws were established before DNA evidence became such a powerful tool.

DNA evidence is now the most critical factor in the courtroom when it comes to cases of sexual assault. Since DNA can be safely stored for a period of time which is longer than the statute decrees, and since these crimes have a lifelong impact on survivors, these laws simply should not exist.

However, there are still obstacles within the sphere of DNA evidence. Surprisingly, some hospitals do not have forensic kits (also known as rape kits), meaning survivors could have to drive a long way before evidence can even be collected. Additionally, hospitals can only store DNA for a set number of years if the crime goes unreported, which varies from state to state.

But the statute of limitations is

“Taking an action as bold as a civil proceeding can bring trauma to the surface.”

room. But somehow, that was not enough. The district attorney, Brian Sinnott did nothing, saying, he “can't file charges unless a case meets the high bar needed for conviction.”

These laws, such as having 10 years to report the sexual abuse to law enforcement in Iowa, are out of date. A statute of limita-

just a small part of a larger problem. Our energy and resources should be put into prevention and support. If you are looking to help, check out rainn.org and read up on their efforts in volunteering and public policy.

National Sexual Assault Hotline:
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Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa players huddle before a field hockey game between Iowa and Michigan at Grant Field on March 12. Some non-revenue athletes are struggling to profit off NIL in the first month.

Non-revenue Hawkeye athletes face NIL challenges

Iowa athletes who are lacking a large public following are getting creative to profit off their name, image, and likeness.

BY BEN PALYA
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Many Hawkeyes have profited off their name, image, and likeness by selling merchandise, signing autographs, and signing endorsement deals

since the NCAA started allowing such behavior at the start of July. At least, those who already had a following.

Iowa wrestler and three-time national champion Spencer Lee partnered with Ironside Style Apparel in Cedar Rapids to sell

exclusive merchandise, and Hawkeye football wide receiver Tyrone Tracy Jr. held an event at Graze restaurant in Iowa City to sign autographs.

While Lee and Tracy Jr. already have name recognition in the Iowa City community, it

has been harder for Hawkeye student-athletes in non-revenue sports to garner similar identification.

Field hockey is a popular sport in Europe, Australia, and the east coast of the United States, so only three players on

the Hawkeye roster hail from the Midwest. The University of Iowa houses the only Division I field hockey team in the state.

“It is a lot harder for us because field hockey isn’t big in the United States, especially

“ It is a lot harder for us because field hockey isn’t big in the United States, especially out here in Iowa. A lot of us don’t have a bunch of followers like a football or basketball player.

— Iowa forward Leah Zellner

out here in Iowa,” field hockey senior Leah Zellner said. “A lot of us don’t have a bunch of followers like a football or basketball player, but there are some people I know who are working [toward an endorsement].”

Lee has 113,000 followers on Instagram and averages over 20,000 likes each post, while Zellner has approximately 1,600 Instagram followers.

But Hawkeye athletes in softball, field hockey, soccer, and cross country can still take ad-

vantage of name, image, and likeness rights — whether it’s appearing in advertisements for smaller companies or working as brand influencers.

Many Hawkeyes have become Barstool Athletes — a program started by Barstool Sports, a sports and pop culture digital media company. Different universities have different Barstool accounts, including Barstool Hawkeyes.

Student-athletes across all sports at Iowa are now Barstool

Athletes, including Lee, softball sophomore Sammy Diaz, men’s basketball senior Connor McCaffery, and women’s soccer senior Skylar Alward.

As the new NIL rules just went into effect July 1, Hawkeye student-athletes are still contemplating their options in the first month of the new opportunities.

Iowa athletics started a comprehensive name, image, and likeness program — named FLIGHT — to help Hawkeye student-athletes understand the



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa defender, Sara Wheaton, and Penn State midfielder, Payton Lineman, fight for the ball during the Iowa women’s soccer match v. Penn State at the Iowa Soccer Complex on March 25. Unlike her teammates, Wheaton is not interested in pursuing the new NIL legislation.

inner workings of NIL. Iowa athletes also attended compliance meetings before NIL went

into effect to ensure any deals will fit in the university’s policy.

“I haven’t [engaged in NIL deals] yet, because it’s still pretty new,” Zellner said. “And I think a lot of us have still been thinking about it and learning about it so we’re still compliant ... We’re both learning as we go, but the university is here to help us, and we’ve been on calls already going through the rules.”

Social media has become popular with influencers making money off brand deals and advertising, and Iowa athletes playing both revenue and non-revenue sports can use it to their advantage.

Some Hawkeye athletes, like women’s soccer captain Sara Wheaton, are not on social media often. Wheaton said she does not have a desire to use the new NIL rules to gain a following and earn money through advertising revenue.

“I have TikTok and that’s about it, so I personally won’t do anything of the sort,” Wheaton said. “But I know that there are girls on the team that are interested in using social media to reach out and build their brands.”



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa forward Leah Zellner prepares to pass the ball from the corner of a penalty shot during a field hockey game between Iowa and Michigan State at Grant Field on March 26. As a non-revenue sport athlete, Zellner is finding it difficult to profit off name, image, and likeness.

Riley Mulvey adjusts to B1G men's hoops

The New York native graduated from high school a year early to join the Hawkeyes and contribute during the 2021-22 season.

BY CHLOE PETERSON
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Riley Mulvey's decision to pick the Hawkeyes was easy. Choosing to forego his senior year of high school on the east coast to enter the Iowa men's basketball program a year earlier was a far tougher choice.

Originally a 2022 commit, Mulvey chose Iowa over offers from Syracuse, Yale, and Penn State, and committed to the Hawkeyes on March 15.

But with the departures of Hawkeye centers Luka Garza — now pursuing a professional basketball career — and Jack Nunge, who transferred to Xavier, the Hawkeyes saw an immediate need for Mulvey in the frontcourt.

So, Mulvey reclassified to 2021, graduated high school early, and joined fellow Hawkeye freshman Peyton Sandfort for the 2021-22 season.

"My decision to come to Iowa was pretty easy to make," Mulvey said. "But then the decision on top of that to come early was definitely the hardest part for me."

The Rotterdam, New York, native spent his junior season of high school at St. Thomas More in Connecticut, a collegiate preparatory school for high-level basketball players on the east coast.

St. Thomas More is part of the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) League, an organization that

functions similar to the NCAA.

While Mulvey played at the preparatory school in his junior year, many players — like Hawkeye teammates Keegan and Kris Murray at DME Sports Academy in Florida — utilize the schools for an extra year of prep after graduating from high school.

"Playing in the NEPSAC League in the northeast is similar to college because of the fact that all the rules are college rules," Mulvey said. "So, I've been used to playing 20-minute halves, playing with the 3-point line the way it is now, and the physicality of people who are older than high school seniors, they're a year up, and I'm used to playing against that already."

But nothing could prepare the

incoming freshman for the physicality of Big Ten men's basketball.

"The first day, the first day I was here, Josh Ogundele just hit me, and I went backwards, and I was like, 'Oh, my gosh,'" Mulvey said. "It was definitely one of the 'Hi, we're in the Big Ten now.' ... I've honestly just had a ton of fun being here already. Playing every day has honestly been a dream come true. It's been so fun playing against people who are really good here."

But as Mulvey gets adjusted to the pace and play of the Big Ten, his Hawkeye teammates have been around to help him out — even in just getting to practice.

Mulvey said many of his teammates, including seniors Jordan Bohannon and Austin Ash, have

been giving him rides to practice almost every day. Sophomore forward Patrick McCaffery, an Iowa City native, also helped him figure out the bus system.

"He's still trying to get adjusted to everything, because not only is he a freshman but he should be a senior [in high school]," McCaffery said. "It's a hard enough curve for the freshmen to pick up on, but he should still be in high school, so that's something we're all trying to work with him toward. But he's somebody that I love his attitude, he comes in every day ready to play, ready to work, so that's something that you have to admire about him."

"He's someone you'll see glimpses of this year, but down the road he'll really turn some heads."

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