The Daily Iowan

UI FIJI chapter denies wrongdoing in sexual assault lawsuit

The chapter said it wasn't responsible for protecting a woman alleging sexual assault at the fraternity's house.

Caleb McCullough **Executive Editor**

The University of Iowa chapter of Phi Gamma Delta rebuffed accusations that it

aided and abetted a sexual assault, as the chapter and two former members face a lawsuit over allegations that the former members sexually assaulted a UI student at a party last year.

In a court filing on Friday, the Mu Deuteron chapter of Phi Gamma Delta, the formal name for the UI's chapter, denied any injury

was sustained by UI student Makéna Solberg, who filed the lawsuit. In its filing, the fraternity said she was responsible for any damages caused. Her claims for dam-

ages are barred, the chapter said, "by her consent, contributory negligence and/or

willful misconduct." "The sole proximate cause of any injury Plaintiff may have experienced is due to her own conduct," the chapter said in the document.

FIJI | Page 3A

Legislators eye lower income tax

Iowa Republicans are looking to lower the state income tax in the 2022 session, and many hope to eliminate it entirely.



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

The Iowa State Capitol Building is seen on Jan. 12 in Des Moines.

Lauren White Politics Reporter

The 2022 legislative session is less than a month away, and a key goal of Iowa Republicans is to reduce state income tax. Democrats in the minority party say their priorities include

improving the state's workforce issues and addressing affordable housing and child care to keep people in

the state. At the Greater Des Moines Partnership State Legislative Leadership Breakfast on Dec. 9, Sen. Brad Zaun, R-Urbandale, said Senate Republicans' main priority for the 2022 session is to lower the state income tax, with the ultimate goal of eliminating it entirely. He said that would be one of the biggest tools to attract people to Iowa.

'That is not going to happen overnight, I know

that right now we're having conversations...in regards to tax credits." Zaun said. "I think we need to look at all the tax credits that we have in the state of Iowa to see how effective they are."

At the legislative breakfast, Rep. Brent Siegrist, R-Council Bluffs, said corporate tax rates will also be looked at during the session, but the bigger priority is the statewide income tax. He said the state should have over \$9 billion worth of revenue going into the session

with which to budget. "I think more money into our parks and recs and into

our water systems is absolutely the right thing to do. I am not sure how much push that is going to get this year," Siegrist said. "It's an election year, there's sales tax, there's a lot of support for it, but I'm not sure it'll be enough."

In a Monday press release, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds said the December Revenue Estimating Conference forecast shows an overcollection of Iowa taxpayer funds and vowed to give that money back in the 2022 session.

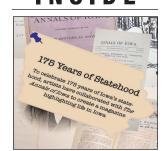
"I will continue to fight to return these funds to the hands of hardworking Iowa taxpayers and explore significant tax cuts this legislative session that will make Iowa one of the most competitive states in the country," Reynolds said. "This overcollection of taxes is unethical and it must end."

Speaker of the Iowa House Rep. Pat Grassley, R-New Hartford, echoed Reynolds' statements, saying he wants to return the revenue to Iowans, while he criticized the Biden Administration for rising levels of inflation.

"Iowa House Republicans look forward to addressing this issue and finding the most effective way to lower taxes and return this money to Iowa taxpayers," Grassley said in a prepared statement issued on Monday.

LEGISLATURE | Page 2A

INSIDE



80 HOURS: Commemorating 175 years of statehood

In collaboration with artists, the Annals of lowa is releasing a special anniversary edition to commemorate 175 years of Iowa's statehood. Two UI graduates will have their work featured in the special edition.

National Suicide Hotline to change to three-digits

Iowa City will route calls to the new suicide hotline 9-8-8 number, which will take effect in July 2022, to CommUnity Mobile Crisis Service.

UPCOMING

This is the last print edition of the year for The Daily Iowan. The DI will not publish in print over winter break but will publish breaking news online. The first print edition of 2022 will be Wednesday, Jan. 19.



Watch for campus and city news, weather, and Hawkeye sports coverage at dailyiowan.com



Cadet bound for Arizona Healing the

Grace Palmatier, will graduate from the UI nursing and ROTC programs at the end of the semester, and join air force as nurse.



Jake Wicks/The Daily Iowan

ROTC Cadet and University of Iowa undergraduate nursing student Grace Palmatier is pictured here in front of the University of Iowa College of Nursing on Dec. 9.

Marandah Mangra-Dutcher **News Reporter**

As Grace Palmatier graduates from the University of Iowa's nursing program and the UI ROTC this winter, she looks to Arizona, where she will take the next steps in her career as a nurse for the U.S. Air Force.

After graduating at the end of this semester, Palmatier said she intends to take a break to recharge and spend time with friends and family. In March of next year, she will begin her final training to be a nurse in the Air Force with the nurse transition program.

"It's kind of like a nurse internship, like they have here with the university," Palmatier said.

Palmatier will also be conferred the honor of Distinguished Graduate, awarded to only the

highest achieving cadets. The distinguished graduate honor is something that candidates compete for on a national level," Capt. Amanda Anderson-Gonzalez said. "And essentially, what's required is we will submit a package and really that's like, a really robust

resume." Leadership positions, performance as underclassmen and upperclassmen, and individual profile are among the considerations for the Distinguished Graduate award, Anderson-Gonzalez said.

Palmatier spent her final se-

mester at the UI interning at the UI Hospitals and Clinics, she said. At the hospital, she worked in the surgical and neurological intensive care unit, which receives a

wide variety of patients. "Depends on the operation, of course, but surgical patients, neurological aspects like stroke seizures," she said. "We had a lot of trauma patients from the emergency department. Once they were stable enough, they would

come up to the surgical ICU." Palmatier did not graduate on time with the rest of her class in spring of 2021. Instead, she stayed to fulfill a semester in-

PALMATIER | Page 2A

divide

The Ad Hoc Truth and Reconciliation Commission says it is working to heal the Black community.

Arabia Parkey News Reporter

In the past year, the Iowa City Ad Hoc Truth and Reconciliation Commission has faced a series of commissioner resignations, a lack of funding from the Iowa City City Council, and pressure from some community members, as well as Mayor Bruce Teague, to disband and restart.

Still, the city's newest commission is working to find ways to further its mission. To progress toward healing, the commission plans to participate in restorative justice practices such as Circles, led by community facilitators.

Restorative circles are a practice that brings together different parties in a conflict — those who have acted, those impacted by those actions, and the broader community — to an open discussion.

In the wake of the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police and nationwide protests across the nation, including in Iowa City, the city established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in September 2020, one of 17 points agreed upon by the city and the Iowa Freedom Riders, the group leading the protest movement in Iowa City.

The council charged the commission with fact-finding, truth-telling, and reconciliation of injustices within Iowa City and making policy recommendations to the Iowa City City Council by May 1, 2022.

With pushback from some community organizations like the Black Voices Project

TRC | Page 2A



LEGISLATURE

Continued from Front

During the legislative panel, Konfrst said the House and Senate need to address taxes without raising them on those who pay sales tax and to make sure any policies they enact don't disproportionately affect less wealthy Iowans.

"I hope what we are looking at is addressing middle-class taxes, finding a way for workers to actually get the benefits of these tax cuts for a change, and I think it's pretty important to realize that when you're talking about cutting a lot of taxes and then raising a sales tax, the impact of that is disproportionately on the working poor," Konfrst said.

Wahls told The Daily Iowan his top priority is to get Iowans good jobs that they want to keep. He said the Legislature can do this by focusing on investments in career technical education and higher education.

'We've seen the political environment that Republicans have created makes it very hard to attract workers

and older Black Iowa City

residents, several Truth

and Reconciliation com-

missioners and community

members say a long-time

generational divide has be-

come increasingly apparent

between the commission —

whose members tend to be

younger - and older mem-

bers of the city's Black com-

In past City Council meet-

ings, some community mem-

bers called for the disbanding

and reset of the Truth and

Reconciliation Commission.

of the many reasons former

Truth and Reconciliation

Freedom Riders founder Ra-

neem Hamad resigned from commission. Hamad

said in a September inter-

view with The Daily Iowan

that the biggest shock for

her was the treatment young

activists like herself received

She said it was difficult to

handle the "patronizing en-

ergy" coming from both city

councilors and older Black

"I was consistently deal-

ing with this, like, 'Your ideas

aren't good because you

don't know how the govern-

ment works or how the city

works,'" Hamad told the DI.

"We've lived in Iowa City all

our lives, we grew up in this

system, we know how sh-

happens inside day in and

Truth and Reconcilia-

tion Commission chair Mo-

don't know anything.

community activists.

from older Black leaders.

commissioner and

This divide became one

Iowa

You

Continued from Front

TRC

munity.

to Iowa." Wahls said. "So, we have a lot of real concerns about where we are and where we see things going,"

Iowa's population grew 4 percent from 2010 to 2020, but that growth was concentrated in the state's four largest counties, while the population fell in 68 Iowa counties.

As the minority party, the Democrats' role is to respond to what Republicans put forward, Wahls said, but he is worried the GOP will focus on cultural issues as a distraction in the upcoming session.

Konfrst told the *DI* the upcoming session should focus on putting money back into the pockets of

Konfrst said the Legislature will be addressing taxes during this session to create a fair tax system that invests in schools, health care, public safety and infrastructure. She said that middle-class Iowans should be the target for tax cuts.

"Iowans expect us to listen, put aside the politics of division, and to work together to make

hamed Traore said much of

this divide stems from public

comments made early in the

year, as well as commission-

ers not feeling generally re-

spected or on the same tier

er one of those things where

you're always going to have

pushback from the com-

munity when you're trying

something new and you're

trying to make changes," Traore said. "You're always

going to have groups that

aren't going to completely

agree with you, so you need

to be willing to put in that

To address this divide,

Traore said the commission

is working to attend more

community events and

contact groups in disagree-

ment, so they know their

Another method to en-

courage healing is the com-

mission's participation in

a program called Circles,

where the community par-

ticipates in restorative jus-

tice circles facilitated by

Iowa City residents Angie

Jordan, Annie Tucker, and

V Fixmer-Oraiz.

extra time and work."

opinions are valued.

"The divide is just anoth-

on the commission.

their lives better and Iowa House Democrats are ready to do that," Konfrst said.

Konfrst said she, and other legislators, have spent the time since the last session meeting with constituents to see what issues they are facing and what they think should be discussed in the Statehouse. She said she has heard that access to child care and funding for education come up as a concern often.

Representing constituents is one aspect of the Democrats' jobs, Konfrst said, while the other is holding the majority party accountable when it introduces legislation Democrats oppose.

"You know, when they say they're doing one thing and they come here and they do something more extreme, it's our job to let people know that," Konfrst said.

The Legislature will also be making decisions around university funding and governance. Last year, legislators introduced a number of laws that were criticized for

Contributed photo of TRC Vice Chair Amel Ali.

"The power of Circles is

that people can get clearer,

can feel more connected,"

said Tucker, who serves as

director of Mediation Ser-

Circles work by having a

"circle keeper" ask the circle

a question — such as "tell me

about a person who has made

a positive difference in your

life" — and a talking piece is

passed around the circle as

members answer the ques-

director of Banjo Knits Empowerment, said Circles pro-

vide a foundation that may

not have been provided to

the Truth and Reconciliation

Commission when it was first

established, allowing com-

missioners and the communi-

ty the opportunity to connect.

the TRC to come together

around practicing what their

actual charge is: truth and

reconciliation," Jordan said.

Truth and Reconciliation

Commission member and

other organizations in the

Iowa City area and are held

in partnership with Dream

City, Jordan said.

Circles are offered to any

"It's an opportunity for

Jordan, CEO, founder, and

tion or pass, Tucker said.

vices of Eastern Iowa.

impeding academic freedom in higher education.

In an interview with the DI on Dec. 9, University of Iowa President Barbara Wilson said she meets with legislators to advocate for the university and hopes this upcoming session will prioritize funding for the state's public universities.

Wilson said the UI does a lot for Iowa in terms of health care and training professionals and hopes legislators can see the impact the university has on the entire state.

"We're doing newborn screening for every baby born in the state for free to ensure that we know about genetic challenges and illnesses. We're helping the K-12 school system train teachers for mental health and wellness," Wilson said. "I mean, there's so many things that we can point to that are affecting every county around the state, and so help us make sure this university continues to thrive."

Lauren-white@uiowa.edu

"They can be used in a way to remedy situations where people aren't necessarily in agreement or have been in bigger arguments or feel like they've been wronged by one person or another and hoping to use those as a tool for rectifying situations where people feel like they have a rift between us [two]," Traore said.

After a year of setbacks, including a temporary suspension in March, Ali said the commission has experienced various successes, including in its advocacy for the Excluded Workers Fund, as well as recently hearing from local high schoolers experiencing racism in schools.

"As long as we can continue to work on the relationship with the older generation and city council as well, that's also really important," Ali said. "I think we'll be able to succeed in our mandate."

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PALMATIER **Continued from Front**

day out."

ternship required for her to finish her nursing degree.

When Palmatier graduates, she will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. Palmatier's commission-

ing ceremony will take place Dec. 17, where friends and family will come together to celebrate her accomplishments. Amanda Ander-Capt.

son-Gonzalez, a recruiting and admissions officer with UI ROTC, said Palmatier will receive gifts from different cadre members, and Palmatier will say a few words. Palmatier will also speak her oath of office, which will be administered by an officer she selected.

"During the military, you obviously have to sign a contract and there's a ceremonial oath that you take," Anderson-Gonzalez said. "It's essentially a very long-winded promise."

Palmatier is the only ROTC member graduating at the end of this semester. She said it is a normal step to become a Second Lieutenant after graduating from the ROTC program, but graduating is the hard part.

'I started with about 30 people in my class freshman year, and that last semester, my class graduated four or five," she said.

Palmatier decided she wanted to be in the U.S. Air Force in high school because of her family ties, she said. After deciding that enlistment was not the route she wanted to take, Palmatier joined ROTC in the fall semester of her freshman year. During their underclassmen years, ROTC members learn the basics, she said.

"Freshman year, especially, you learn how to march and salute, stuff like that." She said. "And then sophomore year, it's really like intense training, getting you ready for field training in the summer,"

Field training takes place at the Maxwell-Gunter Air Force base in Montgomery, Alabama, Palmatier said. ROTC members are flown out in the summer of their sophomore year.

you're 'Once there, you're put into flights with a bunch of random cadets and you just spend two weeks there," she said. "You live there. You march around and do field exercises and leadership exercises, stuff like that, and you're evaluated the whole time."

After passing this field training, Palmatier returned to the UI and continued her ROTC training, but the focus shifted more to learning leadership skills, she said.

'Once you're back from that, and you're an upperclassman, your training is more focused on officers, specific things," Palmatier said. "You know what it's like to be in the military now. You need to learn how to manage people and lead people and part of that is training the underclassmen

and yourself." After Palmatier completes her required training, she will be stationed in Las Vegas, Nevada, at Nellis Air Force Base right outside of the city. She said she looks forward to taking the next

step in her life.

"I'm really excited to live somewhere else, meet new people, and experience new places," she said.

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Political Science

County asked to raise funeral aid

As local funeral homes continue to provide families services not fully funded by the county, Johnson County Social Services is proposing the county increase funds for funeral assistance.



Grace Kreber/The Daily Iowan

Lynette Jacoby, Johnson County Social Services director, poses for a picture outside of the Johnson County Department of Human Services on Dec. 8.

Meg Doster News Reporter

Johnson County Social Services is proposing more financial assistance for families paying for funeral services, as funeral assistance hasn't been updated in seven years, said Lynette Jacoby, director of Johnson County Social Services.

The current amount of funeral assistance for families in Johnson County is \$2,100 for cremation and burial, and \$900 for a plot in a cemetery, which comes to a total of \$3,000. Social Services is proposing to change this to \$2,200 for a cremation, \$3,200 for a burial, and \$1,000 for a cemetery plot, which is a maximum of \$4,200 in financial assistance.

According to the National Funeral Directors Association, the median cost of a funeral is \$7,848.

On the popular crowdfunding website GoFundMe,

an entire category exists for people asking for help to pay for funeral services. The website says it is "the leader in online memorial fundraising" and claims to have raised \$330 million a year

vices, Johnson County pays more in funeral assistance than other Iowa counties. Linn County only pays \$1,000 for a cremation or a burial, and Polk County pays as low as \$750 toward

We just absorbed that as a loss. But, our funeral home's policy is we still provide services for everyone.

> - Dan Chia, owner of Gay and Chia Funeral and **Cremation Service**

for 125,000 memorials.

'The county is giving probably one of the highest amounts in the state of Iowa. There are some counties that have no funds, they will not give any funds," said Michael Lensing, co-owner of Lensing Funeral Home in Iowa City. "And in those situations, I don't know what

According to Social Ser-

cremation only.

The assistance comes from the county's General Assistance program. A family's household income must be less than 150 percent of the federal poverty line to qualify for funeral

"Funerals have gone up. They're really expensive," Jacoby said. "What's been happening is, the funeral

homes write off a very large portion of the expense for services, [and] they end up donating those costs."

Jacoby said, while families on assistance will still receive funeral services from funeral homes despite not paying the full amount, the funeral homes themselves will be the ones losing money.

Dan Ciha, owner of Gay and Ciha Funeral and Cremation Service in Iowa City, said — in most cases — the family does not have many funds to contribute to the funeral.

"We just absorbed that as a loss," he said. "But, our funeral home's policy is we still provide services for everyone.'

Lensing said his funeral home also provides funeral services when the cost of the services were not paid.

"We tried to give the most respect to the deceased and to follow through and try to get the family through

this situation, but we have to work with and only that amount," Lensing said

Ciha said the amount of funeral assistance provided by the county does not cover the amount funeral homes generally charge, and it hasn't for "many years."

In Johnson County, 108 people have died of COVID-19 from the start of the pandemic, according to the New York Times COVID-19 tracker.

Both Lensing Funeral Home and Gay and Ciha Funeral and Cremation Service were overworked with scheduling funerals, the owners said.

'We've had probably 90-plus funerals where the death has been some COVID-19 or COVID-19 complications with it," Lensing said.

Ciha said, in the close to five decades he's worked at the funeral home, he has never seen anything like the COVID-19 pandemic. He said he and his staff have been overworked for the past two years.

Though Ciha and Jacoby say Johnson County should provide more financial assistance, they both agree Johnson County does cover more than other counties.

'We are very fortunate in Johnson County," Ciha said. "We have some of the best public assistance in terms of not only financial support, but also in terms of professionals helping all these people.'

Lensing and Ciha both said even though Johnson County isn't fully funding funeral homes, they still donate their services to the deceased and their loved

"The way I look at it is, by us caring for those families that are less fortunate, the more fortunate families will remember them, or members of that family will remember us caring for them," Ciha said.

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Continued from Front

The chapter was named as a defendant in the lawsuit from Solberg, alleging that two former members of the fraternity sexually assaulted her at a party on Sept. 5, 2020, and shared photos and videos of the incident. The two men, Carson Steffen and Jacob Meloan, as well as Phi Gamma Delta Educational Association, Inc., an arm of the national fraternity, were also named as defendants in the lawsuit.

The UI FIJI chapter and Phi Gamma Delta Educational Association, were accused of failing to protect guests at a fraternity event and delaying investigations into the alleged assault by directing members to delete photos.

The chapter denied that it ever failed to protect guests or police its members, saying its code of conduct, rules, and policies do not create a standard of care.

"Defendant owed no duty to protect Plaintiff from negligent, intentional, or criminal actions of third parties or any other duty of care," the chapter's filing says.

In the filing on Friday, the chapter said "digital images may have been shared in a social media group.

The chapter denied allegations that the images were portraying a sexual assault, however, or that the group chat had been established for "official Iowa FIJI communications," as the initial lawsuit said.

In a separate filing last week, Steffen didn't deny having sex with Solberg, but he said it was consensual. Steffen is seeking reparations for damages to his reputation and future earning potential.

Steffen was arrested last week on a harassment charge, and he's accused of sharing a sexual photo of a victim without their consent on Sept. 5, 2020, the same day Solberg says he and Meloan sexually assaulted her.

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Iowa City to promote new Suicide Hotline numbei

The National Suicide Hotline will become a three-digit number, 9-8-8, starting July 2022.



Larry Phan/The Daily Iowan

Photo illustration by Larry Phan.

Emily Delgado News Reporter

The National Suicide Hotline will become a three-digit number, 9-8-8, in July 2022. In Iowa City, calls will be routed to the Mobile Crisis Service housed under CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank.

Iowa City City Manager Geoff Fruin wrote in an email to The Daily Iowan that he believes call volume will increase as people can remember 9-8-8 more easily than its current number, (800) 273-8255.

The change to a three-digit number provides novel access to mental health care for people struggling with mental health problems, said Sarah Nelson, executive director of CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank.

CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank houses Iowa City's Mobile Crisis Services as well as a Mobile Crisis Outreach program. Mobile Crisis Services will respond to 9-8-8 calls.

'The other thing that's really exciting is that the [Federal Communications Commission] recently passed the ability for people to text 9-8-8," Nelson said.

Nelson said she believes the texting option will allow more access to help for younger people.

Iowa City City Councilor Janice Weiner praised the new number's accessibility.

"It makes a lot of sense to me that it should be really easy to call," Weiner said. "I mean, somebody shouldn't have to look up an 800 number."

Nelson said she hopes the change will assist in decreasing the number of suicides nationwide because the three-digit number will serve as a better tool.

"An educated assessment of the situation is that, with anytime access, we are creating an opportunity to reduce tragic outcomes," Nelson said.

In an update to the Iowa City City Council on Nov. 30, the Mobile Crisis Outreach program spoke on its personal goals of stabilizing crises and reducing unnec-

essary hospitalizations. One of the City Council's goals for the Mobile Crisis Outreach program is to make the organization available 24/7, Weiner said.

Currently, the city and crisis service are working together to improve response times through a multi-year grant, Fruin wrote. This project will appear on the city council's agenda in January.

Weiner said an interesting idea of hers is to set up a triage of questions to ask when a person calls in a 9-1-

"I would love to see something like that. I don't know what [it's] going to look like in the end, but to me, that's something where we should be headed," Weiner said.

The city is working alongside the Iowa City Police Department to make sure 9-8-8 is promoted at the same or greater volume than the emergency 9-1-1 number, Fruin said at the Nov. 30 city council meeting.

"We continue to have some great discussions with the mobile crisis on expanding their capabilities and improving their response time" Fruin said. "We're pretty close to bringing you a proposal on that using some of the ARPA funds."

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Syphilis is on the rise in Iowa

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection. Early numbers show a 75% increase in syphilis cases in Iowa from 2020 to 2021.

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Opinions

EDITORIAL

Access to abortion is a fundamental right

Having access to a safe abortion is critical for reproductive health care and safety.



Jeff Sigmund/The Daily Iowan

Madelaine Todd writes a pro-choice message on the sidewalk outside the Emma Goldman Clinic in Iowa City on Sept. 9.

DI Editoral Board

Efforts made by multiple states, including Iowa, to deny the right to an abortion have set a dangerous path for the future of reproductive health care and safety on a dangerous path.

In May, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed what is referred to as the "heartbeat bill" into Texas law, banning abortions at approximately six weeks. However, this was different from other abortion bans because it included a provision that greatly expanded who can take legal action under the law.

The provision allows any

individual to sue anyone who provides an abortion or helps a patient access abortion care prohibited by this law. While a state iudge recently declared the law unconstitutional, it still cannot be stopped from being enforced. The U.S. Supreme Court also decided on Friday not to block the law, but more challenges

could come. Now, the Supreme Court is weighing the constitutionality of a Mississippi law that bans abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. Although a decision isn't expected until summer 2022, the ruling will set a crucial precedent for other states to follow.

Almost 50 years ago, the Supreme Court established the constiutional right to an abortion in the case of Roe v. Wade. The Daily Iowan Editorial Board stands firm with this ruling and believes these limitations set a dangerous future for the country — especially for states like Iowa.

Iowa is notorious for pushing back on abortion access, and Iowa Republicans in Congress and Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds have joined the national call to overturn Roe. Although state lawmakers have passed some

restrictions, many have been struck down.

The Iowa Supreme Court rejected a 72-hour abortion waiting period requirement in 2018 because the restrictions violated the due process and equal protection clauses of the Iowa Constitution.

In 2019, Iowa's "fetal heartbeat" law was struck down by Polk County District Judge Micheal Huppert, citing the Supreme Court's decision that the Iowa Constitution grants a woman the right to decide to terminate a pregnancy.

But for the past year, Iowa Republicans have been trying to change that.

In May, the Legislature passed an amendment to the Iowa Constitution stating that it doesn't secure the right to an abortion, which will leave Iowa open to more restrictions should Roe v. Wade be weakened or overturned.

The amendment needs to pass in one more legislative session and then be voted on by Iowans in the next election before it takes effect.

Restrictions introduced across the country, and those that will inevitably be introduced in Iowa, should the constitutional amendment pass, are an attack on the ability of women, trans men, and nonbinary people to control their own bodies and reproductive decisions.

Access to abortion isn't only a fundamental right in reproductive health care - it is also a human-rights issue.

Abortion rates don't drop when restrictions are put in place. In fact, limitations make the procedure more dangerous. According to the Guttmacher Institute, data shows that abortion rates are nearly the same in countries where abortion isn't legal as in those where it is.

A lack of access to safe abortion can lead to financial burdens and physical and mental health complications, which could result in maternal deaths and morbidities. While unsafe

abortion is a leading cause in maternal deaths, it is also preventable. The basic solution is to allow universal access to safe and effective abortions.

But with new restrictions, and potentially more being put in place, our country could see an increase in unsafe abortions, and — consequently - an increase in maternal deaths.

Frankly, it's irresponsible and immoral for lawmakers to pass these laws that could exacerbate a preventable issue.

If politicians are against abortion, they don't have to support or get ones themselves. However, they don't have the right to make decisions for other people on what they wish to do with their body.

Additionally, it's cruel that laws laws similar to the one recently passed in Texas make no exception for cases of rape or incest. For those who don't wish to carry out that pregnancy, it is unfair to force that upon them on top of the trauma that they have already endured.

Nearly 50 years ago, the Supreme Court ruled that the U.S. Constitution protects the right to an abor-

Now that this notion is under attack, it is up to us and our lawmakers to fight to ensure that this ruling stays intact.

daily-iowan@uiowa.edu

SENIOR COLUMN

More than a newsroom

The people I've worked with at *The Daily Iowan* have forever changed my life.



Ally Pronina **Opinions Columnist**

"The House that Built Me" by Miranda Lambert came on during a Sunday in October as I was leaving a pitch meeting in The Daily Iowan newsroom, thinking about how there were increasingly fewer days remaining in the

place that built me. The DI has blessed me with people who see my ability to become a great mom, and who see a good heart behind the infertile young woman with a congenital heart defect. Thanks to the most supportive editors, colleagues, and coaches anyone could ask for, I felt comfortable talking about personal topics, like Turner syndrome and my faith.

I've realized that the interview someone in a wheelchair than an athlete or a politician is not my biggest weakness, like I used to believe when I began in journalism. It is my biggest strength.

fact that I would rather Reflecting on what to

say to the newsroom of

people who have been my

second family for over

two years, "Thank you,"

doesn't seem like enough.

It's not enough for those

who have always seen nothing but the best in me and my writing, even when I couldn't see it myself. Yet, I'll say it anyway.

Thank you to former DI editors Sarah and Zandra and former Diversity, Equity, and inclusion Director Cesar for creating the DEI committee, one of my biggest support systems and memorable parts of being on staff. Day, thanks for all the work you have already achieved as the new DEI director. I'm going to miss our pre-meeting conversations as the only ones who got to the conference room early.

Hailey, thanks for always being there whenever I need a deep conversation and doing an interview for my final the morning I asked you. You somehow always seem to know what I need to hear.

Kelsey, thank you for reading my profile for class because I struggle writing anything journalistic that is not an opinion piece. Josie, thank you for listening to me talk about how I miss my clients and how much I am going to miss the DI.

Julia, thanks for sharing your story about living with bipolar disorder and sending me a Slack message about how much you love my columns. I never in my wildest dreams would have imagined receiving these messages from the former DI politics editor.

I'm going to miss the opinions team, or the professional unprofessionals - as we call ourselves - full of kind-hearted columnists who made me laugh so hard during meetings by talking about Sponge-Bob and our other goofy antics. Sometimes, I ended up forgetting my pitch because of all the fun we

had. Thank you to Jennifer Wagner and Caleb for looking over my personal statement — and shoutout to Caleb for killing spiders in the newsroom.

Last, but not least, Hannah. Thank you for also looking over my personal statement and always being there whenever I or anyone else on the opinions team needs anything, even when hospitalized. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated, hard-working, caring,

and passionate leader. In all my excitement to have a break from school and leave Iowa City, there is also sadness at the thought of no more Sundays in the newsroom, Community Chats, and DEI meetings.

I'm not ready to leave the publication that has changed me in the best possible way and will forever have a special place in my heart. DI family, I miss you already. Thank you for making the DI newsroom the newsroom that built me.

alena-pronina@uiowa.edu | ings, I made meaning-

SENIOR COLUMN

My advice: get out of your comfort zone

As I prepare to leave the UI, I have vreflected on my experience and compiled tips for incoming Hawkeyes.



Sophie Stover **Opinions Contributor**

So, you've found yourself here, a senior in high school with sights set on Iowa City. You already know you've made a great choice, and I'm here to affirm that. As a graduating senior, I can certainly say I made the right decision to attend the University of Iowa.

I'll always be thankful for the people I met at the UI and in the Iowa City community. Moreover, I learned many lessons from my experiences while pursuing an undergraduate degree here. The following are my tips for prospective students to maximize the college experience at the UI.

Attend office hours with your professors, especially in classes with less than 50 people. I found that talking to professors is most beneficial when the class is engaging, difficult, or when the professor had experience that aligned with my interests.

Through Zoom meet-

connections with professors during the pandemic. Furthermore, cultivating a strong relationship with a professor is helpful for future references or letters of recommendation.

Later in college, when you're seeking a job or internship, it's worth trying to directly contact decision-makers. Worst case scenario after emailing a hiring manager or decision maker directly is that you recieve no response. The best-case scenario is a new connection and avenue to a job application.

Talk to as many people as possible, especially in your first year. Talk to your neighbors in class and on your dorm floor because you'll likely see them again. I knocked on my neighbor's door the first night in Burge Residence Hall, and the girl that answered is still my best friend to this day.

Another great way to meet people with whom you share common interests is by checking out all the clubs and groups on the UI campus. The university and surrounding community boast tons of opportunities for student involvement. Joining a club helps to feel a sense of connection to campus and to find camaraderie with peers and col-

EDITORIAL POLICY

This tip isn't always fun, but find ways to get out of your comfort zone. Reflecting on my college experience, I made huge improvements in personal growth when I put myself into uncertain situations. Take that class you know nothing about and join that club you're interested in.

You'll be better for it in the long run. I never had goals or aspirations to be a journalist, so joining The Daily Iowan was certainly out of my comfort zone. Yet here I am, a year later, with countless incredible experiences and a full-time job lined up, thanks in part to the DI. You never know where vour new skills or connections will take you.

My final tip might be a controversial one, but work a part-time food service job during college. Working at Panera Bread for three years during my college career absolutely pushed me to some mental limits.

Food service is both frustrating and hard work, but leaving that job made me appreciate it more. I created relationships with my coworkers that I'll remember forever, and the stress I endured reinforced my belief that I'm capable of anything.

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Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

Heartlander defenseman Billy Constantinou watches as a face off takes place at a hockey game between the Iowa Heartlanders and Toledo Walleye at Xtream Arena in Coralville, Iowa, on Dec. 8. The Walleye beat the Heartlanders 4-0.

HEARTLANDERS Continued from Page 6A

the professional game. "He's been awesome,"

Kozlowski said. "I can't say enough good things about him. It's cool to watch him progress and develop as a young guy, and me being a bit older trying to teach

him a thing or two off the ice as well, help him out a little bit. But he's a good guy, a character. I love him to death. Funny guy for sure.'

As he spent his late teenage years playing junior hockey, Constantinou has not had the chance to attend college. He said it's cool to live in a college town like

Iowa City.

"I get to experience it in a way," Constantinou said. "Like, football's huge here, I'm a big football fan. So, it's nice to have that

sports town vibe around us, knowing that everyone everything is following around here.'

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FOOTBALL

Continued from Page 6A

else from the 2021 season not that there was any doubt about that.

robert-read@uiowa.edu



Austin Hanson Sports Editor

Henry Marchese's blocked punt

Who knew a single special teamer could save a season? Perhaps only Iowa special teams coach LeVar Woods and one of his aces Henry Marchese.

With 14:22 remaining in the fourth quarter of its annual Heroes Game against Nebraska, Iowa trailed, 21-9. On the day, the Hawkeyes had been limited to just three field goals, offensively.

Then, Marchese blocked



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

lowa defensive back Henry Marchese blocks a punt during a football game between No. 16 Iowa and Nebraska at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Nebraska, on Nov. 26. The Hawkeyes defeated the Cornhuskers 28-21.

a punt off the foot of the Cornhuskers' William Przystup. After Marchese made contact with the ball, it soared through the air and right into the hands of Hawkeye sophomore Kyler Fisher. Once Fisher had the ball in his hands, he raced

touchdown. The special teams score gave the Hawkeyes an avalanche of momentum that the Cornhuskers couldn't halt. Iowa won the game, 28-21, and retained possession of the Heroes Trophy for the seventh consecutive season.

Championship Game.

The blocked field goal ultimately started a run that propelled Iowa to the Big Ten Championship Game. Had Marchese never started Iowa's late-game scoring rally against Nebraska, the Hawkeyes never would've made the Big Ten

Yes, Iowa got blown out in the Big Ten Championship, but the win against Nebraska helped push the Hawkeyes to their first outright Big Ten West Division title and conference championship game appearance

since 2015. Even if the trip to Lucas

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2021-2022 school year

MID-PRAIRIE

Oil Stadium in Indianapolis wasn't fruitful for the Hawkeyes, it was still quite an achievement for a program that doesn't get an opportunity to play for a league championship very often.

austin-hanson@uiowa.edu

BRITT Continued from Page 6A

rounded by amazing people who want to achieve goals in and outside of our sport," Britt said.

"Coach Woody has been a champion," Britt added. "To be around someone like that has helped me succeed."

Britt and Woody have a very tight-knit relation-

ship. Woody is a former college hurdler himself. The reigning Big Ten Coach of the Year won an NCAA Championship in the 400-meter hurdles at Northern Iowa in 1997.

into the end zone for a

"He's a big team guy," Woody said of Britt. "I mean, it's phenomenal. He wants to do everything he can to help the team win and be successful . . . and I think

the way he is. I can't say enough good things about the guy.

"He really cares about his teammates," Woody added. 'He's just fun to coach."

Britt did not compete in the Jimmy Grant Invitational on Dec. 11. Britt is likely to return to the track for the Hawkeye Invitational on Jan. 14.

grant-hall@uiowa.edu



Jenna Galligan/The Daily Iowan

Jamal Britt runs in a relay during the second day of the Larry Wieczorek Invitational on Jan. 23 at the University of Iowa Recreation Building.

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HAWKEYE UPDATES

Citrus Bowl Game information

The No. 15 University of Iowa football team will take on No. 22 Kentucky in the Vrbo Citrus Bowl on Jan. 1 at 12 p.m. The game will be

televised nationally on ABC. The 2021 Citrus Bowl will be played at Camping World Stadium in Orlando, Florida. Tickets to the game are still available at ticketmaster.com.

The Hawkeyes and Wildcats have never played each other before.

Iowa finished its season 10-3. The Hawkeyes went 7-3 in conference play this year, counting their 42-3 loss to No. 2 Michigan in the Big Ten Championship Game at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on Dec. 4.

Kentucky went 9-3 this year. All three of the Wildcats' losses came against SEC opponents. Kentucky lost to Georgia Oct. 16, Mississippi State Oct. 30, and Tennessee Nov. 6.

Kentucky is coached by Mark Stoops, who played defensive back at Iowa from 1986-88. Current Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz was an assistant on the Hawkeyes' staff when Stoops played in the Black and Gold.

Ferentz was one of then-Hawkeye head coach Hayden Fry's assistants. Stoops also coached under Fry as a graduate assistant from 1990-91.

The last time lowa played in a Citrus Bowl was 2005, when Hawkeye quarterback Drew Tate hit wide receiver Warren Holloway for a 56yard touchdown as the game clock expired. The Tate-Holloway touchdown pushed lowa past a then-Nick Saban-coached LSU team, 30-25.

When Tate connected with Holloway, the game was called the Capital One Bowl. In 2014, the annual contest was renamed the Citrus Bowl.

The Citrus Bowl has been renamed on one other occasion. The game was played for the first time in 1947. The contest was called the Tangerine Bowl until 1982, when it was dubbed the Florida Citrus Bowl. Capital One was the game's sponsor beginning in 2003.

Tracy receives transfer offers

Former Iowa wide receiver Tyrone Tracy Jr. has begun to receive offers from other institutions, per his personal Twitter account. The 5-foot-11, 201-pound junior from Indianapolis entered the NCAA Transfer Portal on Dec. 7.

Since then, Houston, Hawaii, Miami (OH), Eastern Illinois, and Pur-

due have given Tracy offers. Purdue is the first Big Ten team to give Tracy an offer since he entered the transfer portal.

Tracy's brother, Kenny Tracy, plays running back at Miami (OH). Kenny played 11 games for Miami this season, netting 213 yards and two touchdowns on 41 carries. Kenny also pulled in 17 passes for 155 yards and a touchdown this year.

Javon, the youngest Tracy brother, is currently a senior in high school. He committed to Miami (OH) on June 15, per 24/7 Sports.

Tyrone has not yet revealed where he intends to transfer to.

If he were to commit to Miami (OH), he wouldn't be the first Hawkeye to transfer there in the last five years.

Defensive back Emmanuel Rugamba played the 2016 and 2017 seasons at Iowa. He then transferred to Miami (OH), where he had to sit out the 2018 season due to the NCAA's transfer rules at the time.

Rugamba went on to become a full-time starter for the RedHawks. He won Mid-American Conference Championship Defensive Player of

the Game in 2019. Tracy won't be subject to the same transfer rules as Rugamba. No matter where his next destination is, Tracy will be eligible to

compete immediately. The NCAA implemented new transfer rules in April, allowing student-athletes to transfer one time without losing eligibility. Student-athletes that transfer from one school to another can now play at their new school right away, rather than sitting out a year like

Rugamba. The Athletic's Scott Dochterman tweeted Dec. 8 that six 2021 lowa football players are currently in the

transfer portal. Third-string quarterback Deuce Hogan, a redshirt freshman, and sophomore receiver Desmond Hutson have both entered the transfer portal since November.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Murin is a physical, staunch, pillar of a guy."

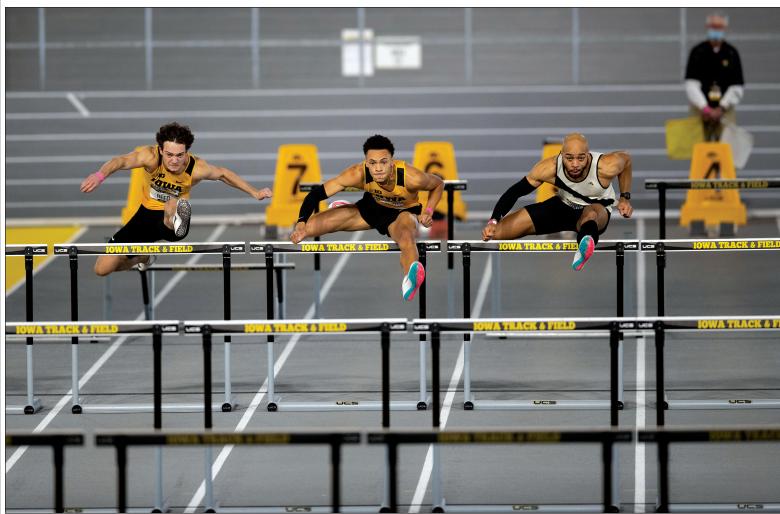
lowa men's wrestling coach Tom Brands on 149-pounder Max Murin.

STAT OF THE DAY

Consecutive losses for Iowa men's

Britt pushes boundaries

Jamal Britt's goal for this season is to win a national championship in the 60-meter hurdles.



Jenna Galligan/The Daily Iowan

lowa hurdlers Gratt Reed, Jamal Britt, Iowa alum Aaron Mallett — who ran unattached — compete in the 60m hurdle premier final during the second day of the Larry Wieczorek Invitational on Jan. 23 at the University of Iowa Recreation Building. Reed, Britt, and Mallett finished fifth, second, and first, respectively.

Grant Hall Sports Reporter

Despite all the success he's enjoyed during his time in the Black and Gold, senior hurdler Jamal Britt is still hungry for more.

The three-time All-American posted a runner-up finish in the 60-meter hurdles at last year's NCAA Indoor Men's Track and Field Championships in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Britt was one hundredth

of a second away from a national championship in the 60-meter hurdles. Louisiana State University's Damion Thomas, who beat Britt in Fayetteville, is returning to Baton Rouge for his senior

With his runner-up finish from last year in mind, Britt is setting lofty goals for himself this season.

"My goal last year was to make the NCAA championships," Britt said. "To place second was an eye-opener because it wasn't really something I expected . . . This year, the goal is to try to win a title."

Britt already holds the University of Iowa record for fastest 60-meter hurdle time. The 7.52-second time Britt ran in Fayetteville shattered Iowa's previous 7.60-second record. Britt set the old 7.60-second UI record at the 2021 Hawkeve Invitational in February.

"Setting the record was very exciting," Britt said.

"7.52 was a time I didn't expect to run until my senior year. So, to do that as a junior has me wondering, 'What time can I get this year?"

Britt's impact on the Hawkeyes' roster goes beyond the track. The senior now views himself as a leader, and he wants to set the standard for the rest of the team.

"I look at myself to be a leader, as someone people look to," Britt said. "I do my

best in terms of execution, so I can set the best example possible . . . I try to help my teammates in any way I can because I want them to be the best version of themselves. And they help me as well."

Britt attributes much of his and his teammates' success to the culture Iowa director of track and Field Joey Woody has built.

"I'm very thankful to be in a program like this, sur-

Heartlanders defenseman proves crucial to success

Billy Constantinou is the youngest skater on the club, but he's proving to be a solid defenseman.



Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

lowa defenseman Billy Constantinou attempts to get the puck by Indy forward Brent Gates during a hockey game between the Iowa Heartlanders and Indy Fuel at the Xtream Arena in Coralville, Iowa, on Nov. 12. Iowa won 5-3.

Isaac Goffin Sports Reporter

Billy Constantinou, a defenseman for the Iowa Heartlanders, likes to tune up a little bit of everything in the locker room.

Before morning skates, he puts on country music. When that's finished, he queues up Avicii. Then, ahead of games, he blats rap songs through his speakers. Most of the time, his teammates enjoy those songs from the kid of the squad.

At 20 years old, the right-handed shooter from Ontario, Canada, is the youngest skater on the Heartlanders.

"It's like being the little brother of the group," Constantinou said. "So, we all get along really well. [They] take me under their wing a little bit - show me the ropes, I guess you can say — so I

But Constantinou's youth doesn't mean he's been put on the bench. Instead, it's the opposite. Constantinou had recorded 10 points through 21 games — the most on the club for a defenseman. Four of those points have come from goals.

"I like being a defenseman because you can see the whole ice from the back end," Constantinou said. "But I also like to be creative and show my offensive side as well."

Forward Yuki Miura applauded Constantinou's ability to find open space on the offensive

"When I put a puck in the [offensive] zone, he's always open and always tries to shoot the puck," Miura said.

The offensive prowess Constantinou is demonstrating in his first professional season is not new. From 2017-20, he competed in his home providence as a skater in the Ontario Hockey League — a junior hockey club.

During his three seasons in the Ontario Hockey League, Consantinou tallied 22 goals with three different organizations. He also put 76 assists, including a staggering 39 during the 2019-20 campaign. The 53 points credited to his name in 2019-20 were 10th among blueliners in the

Now, as a professional player in the ECHL, Constantinou feels more relaxed on the ice.

He said that he initially felt pressure to not make any mistakes, but he's felt more comfortable as he's worked with the Heartlanders coach-

Constantinou has been key on a defense that has occasionally had fewer than the usual six defensemen each game — such as the Heartlanders' 3-2 shootout victory on Dec. 10 against the Toledo Walleye. The right-handed shooter was one of the four defensemen in the lineup, playing on the ice more than usual.

Goaltender Trevin Kozlowski has been impressed with how Constaninou has adjusted to

HEARTLANDERS | Page 6A

The Iowa football season's greatest moment

DI Pregame Editor Robert Read and Sports Editor Austin Hanson debate which moment stands out from the season.



Robert Read

The stadium swarm at Kinnick

This one was

Iowa's 23-20 win over Penn State at Kinnick Stadium on Oct. 9 in what was, at the time, a matchup between top-five teams is undoubtedly one of the most memorable moments in Hawkeye football history. It most certainly is the

Pregame Editor

highlight of the 2021 season for the Hawkeyes.

It was Iowa's first top-five matchup at Kinnick in 36 years. The atmosphere was so intense that Penn State was called for back-to-back-toback false start penalties. The rowdy environment was so impressive that it helped eventually sway five-star safety Xavier Nwankpa to commit to Iowa. Oh, and then there was the game-winning touchdown pass from quarterback Spencer Petras to wide receiver Nico Ragaini. Fans were just waiting for Iowa to hold onto the win from that moment on so they could spill onto the field.

The field storming that night was surreal. It's the best atmosphere I've ever been in for a sporting event, for whatever that's worth. The implications of that entire game were surreal, too.

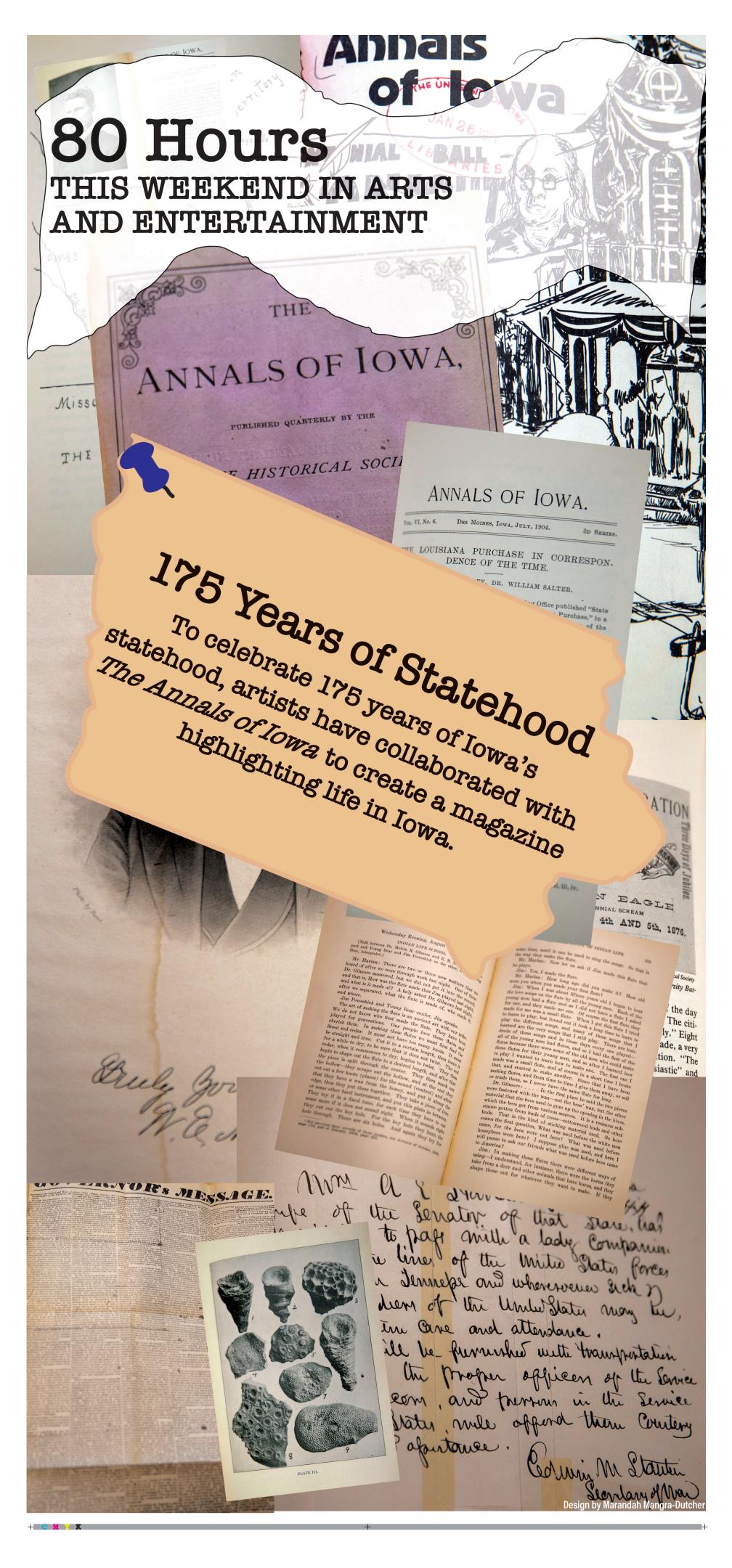
Iowa just moved to 6-0 on the season (and No. 2 in the country) after beating a team everyone seemed to think could be College Football Playoff bound. Everything seemed so possible for the Hawkeyes at that point. Quick warning, Hawkeye fans: I'm about to mention a game that included Purdue wide receiver David Bell.

A week after this game, Iowa's perfect season ended. The Hawkeyes lost to Purdue for

the start of their two-game losing stretch. And yes, Iowa still won 10 games this season and represented the Big Ten West in the conference championship game. But after beating Penn State, even more than that seemed possible.

Between the stakes of the game, the celebration, and the surrealness of the whole situation, Iowa's win over Penn State stands out above all

FOOTBALL | Page 6A



Weekend Events

THURSDAY

ART -

- ART TO EAT BY: COOKBOOKS AS **RECORDS AND EXPRESSION**

ALL DAY, MAIN LIBRARY, 125 W WASHINGTON ST.

MISC.-

- HOLIDAY POP-UP MARKET

ALL DAY, IOWA CITY DOWNTOWN **DISTRICT**

MUSIC

- GARRETT SPEER

10 P.M., ELRAY'S LIVE & DIVE, 211 IOWA AVE.

FRIDAY

DANCE -

- WINTER LUST: BURLESQUE & DRAG **SHOW**

9 P.M., WILDWOOD SMOKEHOUSE & SALOON, 4919 WALLEYE DR. SE

MUSIC —

- PAULA POUNDSTONE

-8 P.M., ENGLERT THEATRE, 221 E WASHINGTON ST.

- ANTHONY WORDEN AND THE IL-LITERATI, SPECTER POETICS, WAVE

9 P.M., GABE'S, 330 E WASHINGTON ST.

SATURDAY

FILM

- THE SHOP AROUND THE CORNER 7 P.M., FILMSCENE—CHAUNCEY, 404 E COLLEGE ST.

- DIE HARD

9:30 P.M., FILMSCENE—CHAUNCEY

- IOWA CITY HOLIDAY MARKET

ALL DAY, ROBERT A. LEE REC CEN-TER, 220 S GILBERT ST.

THEATRE —

- MATILDA THE MUSICAL

7:30 P.M., CORALVILLE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 1301 5TH ST.

SUNDAY

- ART TO EAT BY: COOKBOOKS AS RECORD AND EXPRESSIONS

9 A.M., Main Library

THEATRE -

ART

- MATILDA THE MUSICAL

2 P.M., CORALVILLE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



ASK THE AUTHOR:

NICKOLAS BUTLER



Nickolas Butler attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison as an undergraduate student and the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop as a graduate student. Butler is the author of international bestseller Shotgun Lovesongs and his acclaimed collection of short stories entitled Beneath the Bonfire. He has also won France's prestigious PAGE Prix America, the 2014 Great Lakes Great Reads Award, the 2014 Midwest Independent Booksellers Award, the 2015 Wisconsin Library Association Literary Award, the 2015 UW-Whitewater Chancellor's Regional Literary Award, and many other honors.

DI: So my first question is where did the inspiration for the book *Godspeed* come from?

Butier: Back in 2014, we built a nouse house where I'm talking to you from in South Voeckler, Wisconsin — and after the house was done, a family friend of mine came over to kind of look the house over, and he started talking about this project that he was working on. Not so far away from where I live, he was working on a multi-million-dollar house, and he and the other guys sort of slipped behind on whatever perceived deadline there was. And the homeowner got everybody together and offered each guy on the crew a \$15,000 bonus if they get the house finished in the next three weeks. And he said to me, my friend said, "Nick, if we had all the meth in the world, we couldn't finish the house in three weeks." And I thought, that sounds like a really good idea for a book, but for some reason I couldn't figure out how to place it, how to set it in Wisconsin. And it wasn't until years later when my family and I took a trip out to Yellowstone and then came through Jackson that the setting sort of crystallized for

I was pretty naive about Jackson, and I read about it and I thought to myself like, "You know? I didn't want to live in Eau Claire." This seems like kind of a quaint ski village to be in and then I looked at the real estate values and they're astronomical. You can't be like a normal person and live in Jackson very easily. So that was influential too. And then we actually spent three, four days camping in the Bridger Teton National Forest, so we could be close to natural springs and natural hot springs, and so then I was actually sitting in the springs everyday looking out over the landscape thinking this, this is where the story's set.

So I started asking myself like, what if it's not a \$2 million house? What if it's a \$20 million house outside of Jackson? What if instead of \$15,000 It's a quarter-million dollar bonus and what if instead of saying no to that crazy scheme, what if the guys were like "Yeah, let's do it." And then what if they slip behind and have to start using meth to stay up all night long?

DI: What message does your story convey? Butler: I don't worry a whole lot about the messages.

I mean, I think I'm a little bit worried about the fact that in a lot of communities around the country, it's becoming increasingly hard for middle class people to live where they are accustomed to living. They're being priced out by super wealthy folks. I guess I'm concerned about what I see in the world of Instagram or social me dia where people think that material goods are going to make them happy, and then it's not. I guess I worry about losing the natural world — if we can all just build a house in beautiful places, otherwise, there will be no beautiful places left. Yeah, I've never wanted to repeat myself with doing the same project every time. There's a lot of writers that kind of seem to have a formula and follow it and I've been fortunate to not do that. So yeah, there were a number of challenges.

DI: Was it the story your friend told you that inspired you, or was there a different reason you decided you wanted to go in the direction of a thriller?

Butler: Well, I love reading thrillers, so it's a genre that I love and I would never disparage. I really love a good literary thriller, where you know, a book like Deliverance or A Simple Plan or I'm trying to think of some other titles, but I like a literary thriller because I don't think they necessarily try to tie everything up super neatly at

DI: What would you say are some strengths of the thriller genre?

Butler: Well, I mean, I think a lot of thriller writers sort of still have a contract with their reader. You know, they care about the reader turning pages. They don't want to read a boring book. What would be worse than reading a boring thriller, you know, and that's something that I respect. I mean, I mostly write literary fiction, but I do think it's important to not have to write for a reader or care about what your readers think, but to not be like, so selfish that you're reading a boring book.

DI: So to end off, final question. It's kind of a fun one. Are there any characters that you see yourself

Butler: Well, I mean, I think there's a little bit of Gretchen in me. When we built our house here in Wisconsin, I sort of naively thought that the next day after I moved into the house and after it was finished, I was somehow going to be a happier, more complete human being, and surprise, you know, you're the same person. You've just spent a lot of money building a house. And I think Gretchen is trying to find a way to get back to her childhood and get back to the memories that she values the most. But she's ultimately not super successful with

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STREAMING HIGHLIGHT: THE BOOK OF BOBA FETT



Photo via Disney+

Parker Jones Arts Reporter

Next up in Disney+'s lineup of original content is a much-awaited spin-off of one of the streaming service's biggest series, The Mandalorian, following another mysterious helmeted protagonist.

The Book of Boba Fett premieres on Dec. 29 and will run for seven episodes until Feb. 9. The character of Boba Fett first appeared in the 1978 Star Wars Holiday Special, and later in main franchise films like The Empire Strikes Back, Return of the Jedi, and Attack of the Clones.

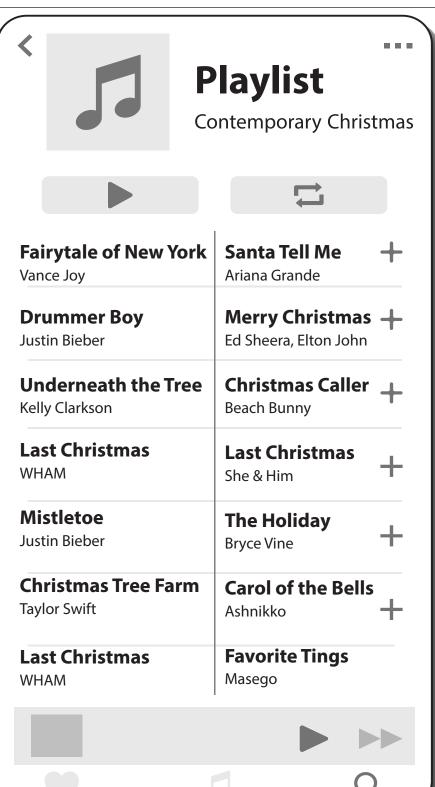
The new series will also follow the fan-favorite bounty hunter and mercenary Fennec Shand, who first appeared in *The Mandalorian*. The two work together in an attempt to make a name for themselves in the galaxy's underworld by taking over the territory once controlled by Jabba the Hutt. The Mandalorian shares much of its cast and crew with The Book of Boba Fett.

The new series will be produced by Jon Favreau, Dave Filoni, Robert Rodriguez, and Kathleen Kennedy. Favreau, Filoni, and Rodriguez directed several episodes as well, like they did for The Mandalorian. Cast members of the new series include Temuera Morrison as Boba Fett, who

he also played in *The Mandalorian*, and the return of Ming-Na Wen as Fennec Shand, an elite mercenary and assassin in Fett's service after events in The Mandalorian. Additionally, actress Jennifer Beals portrays a Twi'lek character who has yet to be revealed.

The Book of Boba Fett will be sure to bring the fan-favorite character to a new

generation of Star Wars fans.



Iowa City DJ collective aims to empower

FemmeDecks, an Iowa City DJ collective, seeks to empower women, people of color, and the LGBTQ+ community.

Arts Reporter

In the world of electronic music making, an industry dominated by straight white men, FemmeDecks is an Iowa City-based collective that aims to empower women, people of color, and the

LGBTQ+ community. FemmeDecks was founded at Gabe's by University of Iowa alumni Angelia Mahaney and Nina Kintsurashvili in 2019. The two had DJ'd together at the bar on Washington Street and bonded during a conversation about the lack of female DJs in Iowa City.

After graduating, Kintsurashvili moved back home to Tbilisi, Georgia, but starting a music collective alone didn't slow Mahaney. FemmeDecks was still relatively new when Kintsurashvili moved, and the group has grown exponentially since then.

"We were still trying to get connected and find other people that were interested in doing this too," Mahaney said. "A lot of what I've done with connecting with new people and booking new DJs that are not just [white, cisgender, heterosexual] men has been after [Kintsurashvili] left, and also during the pandemic."

FemmeDecks is dedicated to creating a safe and inclusive environment for marginalized artists to engage with each other, said Liara Kaylee Tsai, who joined the collective in May of this year. She said one of her biggest goals with the group is to emphasize that FemmeDecks is a safe place for members of underrepresented communities in electronic music.

Tsai had a following in Madison, Wisconsin, before moving to New York City. After moving back to the



lowa City resident Angelia Mahaney demonstrates how to use a sound board at a DJ open house in Iowa City on Dec. 11. The event was hosted by FemmeDecks to inspire women and minority groups to become active in the DJ community.

Midwest in April, she heard about FemmeDecks and its

Tsai said she had never heard of a group that performs live with Femme-Decks' goals in mind.

"It felt really good to have that kind of acceptance and representation," Tsai said. "I just really appreciate what the organization is trying to do."

Andrés Mora Mata, originally from Caracas, Venezuela, is another member of the collective who helps organize and DJ at events.

Mora Mata said he's seen similar groups in places like Berlin and Spain, but it's special to have a group in Iowa City that pushes local diversity.

"Having that change of status quo really means that people are being provided with both the spacing which they can be free and just enjoying dancing when that's what we're trying to provide — and also a change of what is usually just cis white men doing their thing, and, you know, running the show," he said.

Mora Mata said he sees Saturday's DJ workshop at Public Space One's Close House Space as one of FemmeDecks' biggest successes. The workshop was open to people from all levels of expertise in DJing.

The space allowed people who are new to DJing, or interested in getting into the field, with the opportunity to work equipment they wouldn't have access to otherwise. They were also taught fundamental lessons like how to organize a track list and what software to download.

Mahaney said she was held back from DJing for a long time because she subconsciously believed it was only for men to do. She said she hopes the workshop will alleviate some of that thinking by providing a safe space to explore and try something new.

"I think that a lot of women have this thought in their heads all the time,' Mahaney said. "I think that just getting it out there that, yeah, women can DJ - like women do have the taste in music and technical skills and knowledge - will hopefully encourage more people, more women, to start DJing.'

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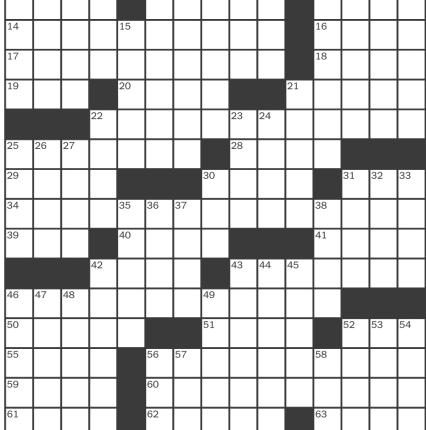


The Daily Break-

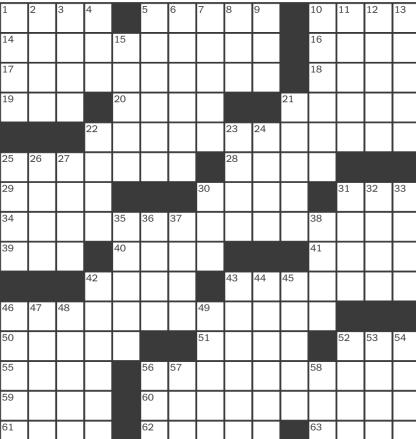
The New Hork Times

Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1110



- Across
- Redding of Stax Records
- 5 It often surrounds high-maintenance
- 10 Eponym of a famed N.Y.C. deli
- 14 One who's got the goods
- 16 Contents of Lago Titicaca 17 56-Across, to a dairy farmer
- 18 South African currency 19 Singer Rita
- 20 Side with tandoori chicken
- 21 Backed up, say 22 56-Across, to a smartphone user
- 25 On and on and on
- 28 x or y, in math class
- hand
- 30 State bird of Arizona or South Carolina
- 31 Debtor's note
- 34 56-Across, to a gambler
- 39 Battle of Britain grp. 40 Reddit Q&As
- 41 Plant used by ancient Greeks and Romans to treat wounds
- 42 BuzzFeed offering 43 Becomes more and more irksome
- 46 56-Across, to Occupy protesters
- 50 Succeeded in 51 Bad, in Bolivia 52 "Wanna ___?"



- 55 Apple variety
- 56 Small amount
- 59 Mishap during a shave
- 60 Pharmacist's workplace in a hospital 61 They consist of reps
- 62 Actor Buddy of "The Beverly Hillbillies"
- 63 Rustic verse

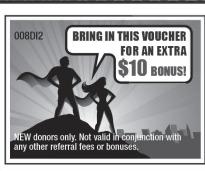
Down

- Nordic capital
- Marvel movie directed by Kenneth Branagh Johnny Carson's home state
- **Lotion letters**
- Hold up
- Order back
- Mockery, of a sort

- Motivational speaker Robbins
- 9 Genesis craft
- 10 Gold standards Its dried stalks can be used to make
- didgeridoos 12 The "dial" in "Don't touch that dial"
- Attractive, fashionable man, in modern parlance
- "Yeezus" rapper
- 21 Author of the "Fear Street" series
- 22 Cartoon character who says "Swiper, no swiping!"

Save a life. Be a hero.





*fees subject to change without notice **when applicable

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Puzzle solutions on page 2A

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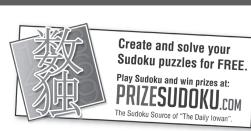
grifolsplasma.com

GRIFOLS

24 Jump on the ice

25 Day of the week named after 2-Down: Abbr. 26 Actress Chaplin

- 27 "___ said!" 30 Is, in hindsight
- 31 Wait for the light to change, say
- 32 What helium and nitrogen lack
- 33 Exploits
- 35 Olympic event featuring a table 36 Not bring up
- 37 Popular flip phone of the mid-2000s
- 38 Sworn words
- 42 Ones who treat people poorly? 43 Frothy beverage
- 44 Title woman in a hit song by Dexys Midnight Runners
- 46 Lookalikes
- 47 "__ the Clown" (classic episode of
- "The Simpsons")
- 48 Put into law
- 49 Make ___ of things 52 Bit of hair decoration 53 Professor 'iggins
- 54 Texter's sign-off
- 56 Dedicated work
- 57 Writing tip? 58 CBS series with spinoffs



Medium

2			6	5			1	
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	1		8			3		
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Celebrating 175 years of lowa

Artists collaborated with the *Annals of Iowa* to create a magazine full of works highlighting aspects of life in Iowa.

Jenna Post Arts Editor

To celebrate the 175th anniversary of Iowa's statehood, the *Annals of Iowa* — a quarterly published history magazine — will unveil a special edition in collaboration with the Iowa Arts Council for the first time in the publication's history.

Typically, the *Annals* of *Iowa* features written work about the state. For this edition, essays and visual art inserts will be united under 11 categories, including religion, politics, and agriculture.

Annals of Iowa editor Andrew Klumpp said the selection process involved three key criteria: how well the work fit with the selected topic, how well the work would fit in a magazine format, and if the work's art style would add variety to the magazine.

He said, of the many submissions the publication received, 16 artists were selected for inserts and one was selected for the cover.

"This was the first time that we've ever done a collaboration like this between the Iowa Arts Council and the Annals of Iowa, so we weren't quite sure what to expect for a response, but we were just delighted by the response we received from Iowa artists," Klumpp said.

Two former University of Iowa graduates will see their work published in the *Annals of Iowa* special edition.

When Nancy Purington, UI graduate and visiting professor for textile arts, heard that the publication was seeking submissions, the agriculture category resonated

with he

"I grew up in Iowa, in the country, and I was always a visual learner," Purington said. "I intensely observed the world around me as a child."

Purington said she had a period of painting botanical subjects for a few years. During that time, she published the original version of the piece she submitted to the *Annals of Iowa*. The current version was digitally reworked in Photoshop and will be featured in the special edition, entitled "Cross Pollination #104."

The work features a geometric pattern with yellow corn kernels, a blue background representing ancient indigo dyeing practices, and a diagonal pattern connecting those elements.

"Variations in botany is a language, and a way of life in Iowa," Purington wrote in her artist statement for the special edition.

Multidisciplinary artist and UI graduate Akwi Nji also uses art to represent language. Her submission, which will be featured in the special edition, was pulled from her 2020 textbook series titled "Textile Narrative." Each piece is sized 5 inches by 7.5 inches, which mirrors the standard size of a memoir to represent that her visual work carries a narrative.

"It's a story of who we are at the time that I was creating the piece — as a community, as a state, as a country," Nji said.

Nji wanted to focus on the two events that affected her and her two teenage daughters most at the time: the pandemic and the murder of George Floyd. As a mother, she

It's a story of who we are at the time that I was creating the piece — as a community, as a state, as a country.

– UI graduate and artist Akwi Nji

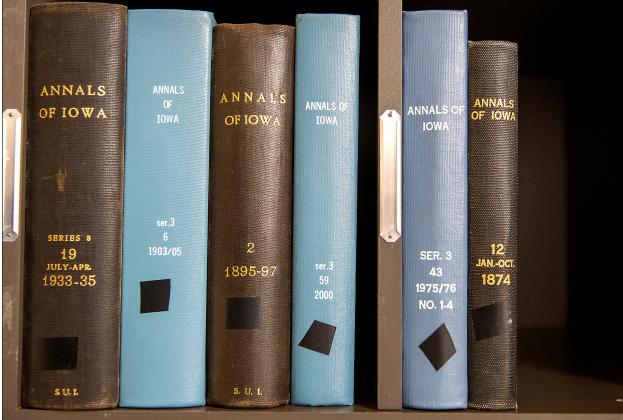


Photo illustration by Jerod Ringwald

I grew up in lowa, in the country, and I was always a visual learner. I intensely observed the world around me as a child."

- UI graduate and artist Nancy Purington

said she wanted to work through her thoughts and feelings on these issues so she could have conversations with her daughters about them.

"I had so many intellectual and emotional thoughts that were just getting jumbled up in my head and in my heart," she said. "And the way I visualized it is like just a ball of yarn — the thread becoming more and more tangled the more I thought about everything."

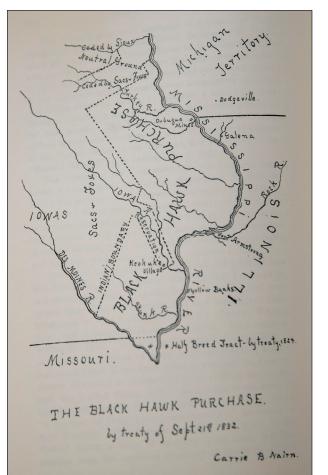
Nji found that her complicated feelings were easier to untangle when she put them into her art, she said.

"Creating the artwork was a way for those ideas and feelings that I was processing to really be sorted out," Nji said. "Very literally using my hands to make sense of what my head and my heart could not make sense of."

Nji said, while the Black Lives Matter movement is certainly not unique to Iowa, it has roots here. She sees a through-line between Iowa's involvement in the Underground Railroad and Black Iowans' past and present, she said.

"What we are experiencing now is absolutely directly connected to centuries of history," Nji said. "And so, for me, it was a really intentional decision to try to create something that tied a historical context of race relations to contemporary art."

jenna-post@uiowa.edu of lowa is seen.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

A map of the Black Hawk Purchase in the 1903-1905 edition of *Annals of Iowa* is seen.







