

INSIDE



80 HOURS: Studio 13 searches for Iowa City's next drag star

A weekly competition, *Studio 13's Star Search*, allows newer performers within Iowa City's drag community to shine. Each Sunday, performers gather to lip-sync and perform for the judges, and one competitor is eliminated each week until the winner is crowned.

Page 3B



80 HOURS: Graduate students prepare a 'Timeless' thesis concert

Michael Landez and Juliet Remmers, third-year graduate dance students, will perform in four unique choreographed dances for their upcoming thesis concert. The pair are working up to their final concert through both historical and contemporary pieces.

Page 4B



Hannah Pinski named 2022-2023 DI executive editor

Student Publications Inc. selected Hannah Pinski as the next executive editor of *The Daily Iowan* on Monday. Pinski has written for the publication since her freshman year, and currently serves as the Opinions and Amplify editor. Pinski will become the first woman of color to lead the *DI*.

Page 5A



Basic Goods owner to further education at Tippie

Simeon Talley, owner of Iowa City personal care and wellness store Basic Goods, will be enrolling in the University of Iowa Tippie School of Business MBA program for business executives starting in fall 2022.

Page 6A

ONLINE

Johnson County businesses stay afloat with federal aid

Local businesses in Iowa, including some in Johnson County, are still in need of financial support despite receiving federal aid from the Restaurant Revitalization Fund in 2021.

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'A built-in best friend'

Identical twins Keegan and Kris Murray went from being afterthoughts to fulfilling their dream of playing basketball together at Iowa.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa forwards Kris Murray and Keegan Murray pose on the bench during a men's basketball game between Iowa and Longwood at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Nov. 9, 2021. The Murray twins shot a combined 15-of-19 with 40 total points in the game.

Robert Read
Pregame Editor

The noises emanating from the basement are what Kenyon Murray remembers most. Constant sounds of his twin sons in action: The muffled thud of a miniature plastic foam basketball being dribbled against the carpet. The stomping of footsteps as the boys sprinted from one end of the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, home to the other. "And-one" being yelled after dunks on the plastic rim.

Even as fifth-graders, current Iowa men's basketball stars Keegan and Kris Murray spent

countless afternoons in their basement playing basketball — full-court basketball, no less. The rectangular room with two Little Tikes hoops on opposite sides subbed in for Carver-Hawkeye Arena. Even then, the twins imagined themselves as Hawkeyes. Their father played hoops at Iowa before they were born. They dreamed of doing so, someday, too. Had it not been for a postgraduate year at a prep school, or a preexisting relationship with Iowa head coach Fran McCaffery, they may not have continued the Murray legacy in the Black and Gold.

Before Keegan became perhaps the Big Ten's

best player and Kris established himself as one of the conference's superior bench options, the twins were afterthoughts to Power Five basketball programs. Only one Division I school offered them scholarships in high school, but the twins wanted more.

And they wanted it together. Keegan and Kris are seemingly inseparable — on and off the court.

"As we've grown older and through basketball and other sports," Kris said, "it's been fun having someone like you be with you."

MURRAYS | Page 2A

Keeping cats cozy through the winter

In the cold months, animal care services and Iowa City residents are creating insulated box shelters to care for the stray cat population.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

A cat hides in a corner at the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center on Feb. 21.

Emily Delgado
News Reporter

During the cold months, Iowa City and Coralville animal lovers feel they have the responsibility to care for feral cats and are keeping them warm by building insulated box shelters.

"I felt like there were just a lot of animals out there that were left out in the cold and really didn't have any shelter and just needed some assistance from the community," Shelly Hull, a realtor for Sellers and Seekers, said.

Hull started putting boxes insulated with straw or other materials for free pickup at her realtor offices and at the Iowa City Animal Shelter.

"We go through a lot during the year, you know, depending on how cold it is and stuff but I tell you, we go through a lot of them and we have a wonderful community that really tries to look out for them," Hull said.

Hull has made the shelters for 15 years, she said, after she saw a large stray cat population in Iowa City.

WINTER CATS | Page 2A

UI students to teach Iowans about immigrant, refugee issues

A group of University of Iowa students in a community-engaged learning course will inform eastern Iowans on immigrant and refugee issues.

Anthony Neri
News Reporter

University of Iowa students are helping educate eastern Iowans about the immigrant and refugee experience.

A group of students in the course, "Community Engaged Learning with Refugees and Immigrants in Iowa" will partner with the Catherine McCauley Center, a Cedar Rapids nonprofit, to bring educational lectures, writings, and other outreach.

Peter Gerlach, adjunct assistant professor in the UI international studies program and class instructor, said he will split his students into four groups to each carry out different goals. All the goals center on the Afghan refugee crisis, which is the focus of Gerlach's course this semester.

Gerlach designed the course in 2019 and taught his first class in spring 2020.

In addition to the course, Gerlach is directing a public lecture series through the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council, which is platforming several immigrants and refugees who will share their stories.

Gerlach wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that Humanities Iowa granted the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council \$9,530 to direct these lectures from Dec. 1, 2021, to Aug. 30. The project cost \$19,060 in total, with the remainder provided by the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council, he wrote.

REFUGEE | Page 2A

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MURRAYS

Continued from Front

“It’s like having a built-in best friend,” Keegan said.

Flying under the radar

The Murray twins entered the Hadley Club room on the court level of Carver-Hawkeye Arena roughly 20 minutes before a 2 p.m. practice in February. Kris walked in the room, usually a hospitality suite on game days, first. Keegan was right behind him. Calling the Murrays identical twins isn’t a stretch. Luckily, they were donning practice uniforms that prominently displayed Keegan’s No. 15 and Kris’ No. 24 on the back.

In street clothes, there’s not much to distinguish which Murray is which.

“I’ve been called Keegan as I’ve been walking downtown more than I’ve been called Kris,” Kris joked when I thanked them for being clearly identifiable in uniform. “There’s not much to tell us apart really besides some small features that you might notice.”

“You just have to go with it, or it’s awkward,” Keegan agreed. “I feel like the older we’ve gotten, the more we’ve looked alike. It’s kind of weird.”

Like the students who pass one of the Murrays in Iowa City’s Pedestrian Mall, most college coaches couldn’t tell Keegan and Kris apart either—at least in the sense that they didn’t differentiate their skills and personalities or comprehend why they would want both of them on their team.

Keegan and Kris both played three seasons on varsity at Cedar Rapids Prairie High School. As a senior, Keegan averaged 20.5 points and 7.3 rebounds on his way to a Metro Player of the Year honor. Kris wasn’t far behind, dropping 19.5 points a contest and contributing 6.4 rebounds and 2.5 blocks per game as an All-Metro performer. Both players were two-time team captains who spent four years on the honor roll.

But it took a while for Iowa to be interested in the Murrays. Western Illinois was the only Division I program to offer both Keegan and Kris scholar-

ships while they were in high school. “That takes up enough time,” Kris said. Keegan says he is the better driver, but not without mentioning Kris has hit a trash can while behind the wheel. Kris will take credit for being the better cook. Keegan has a better fashion sense, while Kris is admittedly messier and studies less than his brother. Keegan is more routine-oriented. Kris likes to go with the flow. Their father contends that Keegan is more serious about his appetite and went through a stretch where his diet prohibited sugars. “No this, no that,” Kenyon joked. At the same time, Kris would happily eat Oreos or brownies.

“Keegan would always joke with him that his diet wasn’t going to be some-

thing that could keep him going,” Kenyon said. “And Kris would be like, ‘Whatever.’” As for which twin is funnier, that title is still disputed between the two of them. When our conversation turns to recruiting, they acknowledge that if there was one thing they agreed on, it was that they wanted to play college basketball at the Power Five level.

And, despite few offers in high school, they knew there was a path to doing so.

“Watching them daily and watching their work ethic and how important the game of basketball is to them, I knew they were going to find a way,” Rickertsen said. “You knew they

weren’t going to give up on their dream of playing Division I basketball.”

Fulfilling an Iowa dream

Kenyon sat in the bleachers of Kirkwood Community College’s gym during an Eastern Iowa All-Star Game after Kris and Keegan’s senior season in high school. As the game unfolded, Fran McCaffery — who was there watching his son, Patrick, play — made his way over to inquire about the two players “dominating” the game.

“He’s just like, ‘Hey, what’s the plan?’” Kenyon said. “I think they have a chance to play at this level, so what are you going to do?”

Keegan and Kris had been playing against Patrick, who attended Iowa City West High School, since they were in fourth grade. Patrick still calls them the best fourth-grade basketball players he’s ever seen. The Murray-McCaffery connection has already been established for decades, though.

As an assistant coach at Notre Dame in the early

90s, Fran recruited Kenyon. They first interacted at an AAU tournament McCaffery was scouting in Texas. It was clear to the current 12th-year Hawkeye head coach that the first Murray he would recruit was the best player in the gym. Kenyon visited South Bend, but inevitably wanted to play in the Big Ten.

So, he became a Hawkeye. In four years (1992-96) as a forward at Iowa, Kenyon — a former McDonald’s All-American — started 95 games and averaged 9.9 points per game. Keegan and Kris will tease their dad now, saying they both have already surpassed his career-high of 23 points. Keegan has scored 37 points in a single game. Kris’ best total is 29. Their father isn’t afraid to fire right back.

“I always try to tell them that I was such a good defender that they wouldn’t get 20 on me,” Kenyon said. “I’d make it really hard... I stopped playing them when they were in seventh or eighth grade because I knew they were getting better than me then.”

“I finished undefeated.” The Murray twins’ connection to the Hawkeyes, even as children, was deeper than simply being the kids of a former Iowa men’s basketball player. Kris and Keegan were both born on Aug. 19, 2000. Kris was born first and, as a tribute, named after Chris Street, one of Kenyon’s former Iowa teammates who died in an auto collision in 1993.

Kenyon said he never directly heard it from Keegan or Kris as they grew up, but both imagined playing at Carver-Hawkeye Arena. They dreamed of being Hawkeyes, of wearing the same uniform their father did. Kris wanted to play in the venue where his name-sake is honored.

“We were trying to get a scholarship somewhere,” Kris said. “We honestly didn’t think it would be in the Big Ten or at Iowa. Iowa was definitely a dream school growing up and I’m grateful that I’m here right now.”

To realize their dream, the Murrays had to take an indirect path to Iowa City. Kenyon and McCaffery chatted in the Kirkwood stands as their sons ran up and down the court. McCaffery likes to say he practically watched the Murrays grow up. He accepted Iowa’s head coaching job in 2010.

Kenyon went to McCaffery’s introductory press conference. With Patrick, Kris, and Keegan all in the same grade, the families ran into each other in gyms all over the state over the years. Pat-

rick, who has always been tall, was surprised in high school when he suddenly had to start looking eye-to-eye with the Murrays. By the All-Star Game, Kenyon said McCaffery — because of his busy schedule — hadn’t seen his sons play live in a little over a year. But what he saw on Kirkwood’s court was enough.

“I said, ‘Hey, we’re going to be interested in both of them,’” McCaffery said.

At the time, Iowa only had one available scholarship. But the Hawkeyes wanted both twins. McCaffery recommended a year at prep school, saying it would be a “game-changer.” The Murrays were already ahead of him. They were headed to DME. The idea was for Keegan and Kris to gain weight to their taller, longer frames and receive a boost in confidence while going against superior talent than what they faced in high school.

“The skillset was already there,” Kenyon said. “It was just a matter of putting the

other pieces together.” Keegan and Kris both gained about 25 pounds during their year in Florida, all while playing against other elite prep, Division II, and junior college programs. After the first weekend recruiting showcase DME held, Kenyon said Keegan and Kris received about 40 calls from schools interested in recruiting them, but Iowa had spent the last several months intensifying its recruiting with the Murrays. The Hawkeyes wanted them on campus that same week for a visit.

Iowa was an appealing destination because of the program’s up-tempo, motion style of offense that allowed stretch-forwards like Keegan and Kris to do a little bit of everything on the court. In his second year, Keegan regularly rebounds a missed shot, dribbles up the court like a guard, and then defends the paint like a center on the next posses-



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Kenyon Murray speaks with his daughter McKenna during a men’s basketball game between No. 24 Iowa and Northwestern in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 28. The Hawkeyes defeated the Wildcats, 82-61.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa forward Kris Murray goes up for a shot during a basketball game between Iowa and No. 6 Purdue at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Jan. 27. The Boilermakers defeated the Hawkeyes, 83-73.

ships while they were in high school.

The Murrays remember three Division II offers they could have accepted, and a couple of junior colleges that would have welcomed them. Otherwise, the interest in them — rated as three-star recruits by 247 Sports — was minimal. Kenyon and Jeremy Rickertsen, who coached the Murrays at Prairie, agree that this was caused by a couple of factors. First, both twins underwent sudden growth spurts in high school. Keegan and Kris were both around 5-foot-11 as freshmen, but gradually sprouted to 6-foot-7 by the time they graduated. They hit the genetic lottery, as their dad likes to joke. By the time they reached that height, some schools had already stopped recruiting them. But what kept others away was the idea that Keegan and Kris would only go to the same school.

“I think a small part of the hesitation of some schools was having the perception that they had

around the seven-foot range. A handful of minor differences in appearance are the only ways to differentiate them physically. The sides of Keegan’s hair are cut slightly shorter than Kris’, and his facial hair is a tad longer around his chin.

The contrasting elements of their personality are a little more apparent. They’ll say as much.

“I’d probably say Kris is more outgoing, more social, than I am,” Keegan said. “I’m really an introvert and keep to myself a lot. I’m not really into the social atmosphere and things like that. That’s probably the biggest difference, I’d say.”

“He hit it pretty spot on,” Kris responded. “I wouldn’t say that I’m an extrovert. I’m kinda in-between. Right after games, we just go back to our apartment and chill. We don’t do much besides basketball during the season.”

“Once the season starts, all I want to do is basketball,” Keegan said, “get my schoolwork done, and go to

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MURRAYS

Continued from 2A

sion.

There was no hesitation in bringing both Murray twins to Iowa City. Mostly, McCaffery said, that was because he viewed them as Keegan and Kris, not an identical pair.

“Fran viewed them as individuals as opposed to, ‘The twins,’” Kenyon added. “They’ve always been

and Kris left school for the weekend perfectly healthy, but returned with one of them in a sling and the other with a swollen, closed black eye.

“Our principal was wondering what happened,” Keegan said, holding in a laugh behind a sharp grin. “Our mom is like, ‘I swear, nothing.’”

Their classmates and teachers assumed Keegan and Kris got into a fight. No wonder.

only celebration,” drawing laughs.

The trash talk isn’t limited to each other. Kenyon and the twins’ mother, Michelle — who was a four-sport athlete at Anamosa High School and golfed at Mount Mercy — aren’t exempt from it. Neither is McKenna, their 16-year-old sister, or Demetrius Harper, their older brother who the Murrays adopted in 2012. The Murrays are avid board and card-game players. Bouts of Cards

Both Murrays knew they were going to take on larger roles coming into the 2021-22 campaign — particularly Keegan. They had to. Iowa lost Garza, a two-time national player of the year and the program’s all-time leading scorer, and three other players with starting experience from last season’s team. McCaffery approached Keegan last summer and told him he was “the guy” for the Hawkeyes. That meant he’d be one of the team’s leaders,

he said. Keegan agrees and smiles.

If he thinks differently, he’s not saying so.

“If you’re looking for offense, those aren’t very fun to watch,” Kris said. “We both know each other’s moves really well. You have to really be creative in what you’re doing to score on the other person, and I think that has helped a lot in these past couple offseasons.”

Keegan’s emergence has led an Iowa team that was picked to finish ninth in the Big Ten in the preseason by ESPN to a 22-win season and an upcoming postseason appearance.

Both twins knew they were going to see significant playing time this season. They liked that. Playing at the same time is comfortable for them, but there was still plenty to improve on in the offseason. Keegan wanted to better his shot-creating ability coming into the season — to make moves off the dribble and be all-around more versatile on offense. Mission accomplished. Nebraska coach Fred Hoiberg has called Keegan the “most versatile player in the Big Ten.” Kris wanted to use their one-on-one games to his own advantage. He wanted a more-consistent jump-shot to improve his efficiency from deep. Kris is leading Iowa with a 40.2 percent 3-point conversion rate this season.

That’s somewhat surprising to Rickertsen. Keegan was the better shooter in high school, he said, and now that’s Kris’ strength. Kris was always the superior inside presence, but that’s where Keegan thrives now. Keegan had a better sophomore year in high school, then Kris was better as a junior. As far as Rickertsen is concerned, Kris could be an All-Big Ten player next year, too.

“They’ve kind of fed off of each other,” he said. “One of their strengths, the other one tried to match it, and vice versa.”

A future in the NBA

Keegan and Kris are used to playing basketball on camera. But at the start of the New Year, they did so under slightly different circumstances.

The twins stood on the court of the empty main West Liberty High School gym. Their scripts had been memorized. Estela’s Fresh Mix in Iowa City was filming an advertisement. The premise was based on a Michael Jordan-Larry Bird-McDonald’s commercial from the 90s, where both future Hall of Famers played a game of H-O-R-S-E.

“What’s up, Keegan?” Kris asked as the cameras started rolling. “Whatcha got in the bag?”

“An Estela’s burrito, chips, and queso,” Keegan responded.

“I’ll play you for it,” Kris said.

The Murrays always wanted to make a living by being around the game of basketball. Kris, who ma-

jors in journalism and mass communication, idolized Paul Pierce and the rest of the Boston Celtics’ “Big 3.” He grew up wanting to do something in sports — coach games, commentate them, or play if he was good enough. Kenyon remembers Keegan, a sport and recreation management major, sending Facebook messages to his friends in fifth grade that he would one day play in the NBA.

That day is quickly approaching.

Sports Illustrated ranks Keegan as the No. 6 overall prospect in the 2022 NBA Draft. Bleacher Report’s latest mock projects Keegan going fifth overall, while NBC Sports predicts him being selected at No. 8.

The Iowa men’s basketball program hasn’t had a top-10 draft pick since Lester in 1980. Fran McCaffery knows that’s likely to change. He’s called Keegan a lottery pick, which equates to being a top-14 draft pick, on several occasions this season.

“I remember [former No. 5 overall pick] LaPhonso Ellis was texting me about him,” McCaffery said. “And I said, ‘You know, he reminds me of you because he’s really humble off the court, but he’s kind of an assassin off of it.’”

“And he said, ‘Yeah, but I couldn’t shoot it like him.’”

Enjoying the moment

The interview with Keegan and Kris ended just after the allotted time ran out. They couldn’t be late for practice. Both twins thanked me for my time and exited the room. By the time I shoved my notebook into my backpack and made my way into the hall, Keegan and Kris were already shooting on the Carver court.

They were the first players there.

Keegan may have played his last game on that floor. He hasn’t made any decision regarding the NBA, but the family knows he’s considering leaving. That wasn’t important at the moment.

When Keegan and Kris were young, Kenyon and Michelle would hear them mumble to each other in their own little language over the baby monitor. Their faraway conversation somewhat resembled that. The twins were in their own space. The Big Ten and NCAA Tournaments are all that remain in the 2021-22 season. The Murray twins may only be playing together for a couple more games. But that’s not important, either.

Keegan and Kris are locked into their shots — ready to chirp an insult if the other one misses.

“They’re playing together, they’re at their dream school,” Kenyon said. “Whatever happens in the future, happens. We want them to enjoy what’s happening right now.”

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Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa forward Keegan Murray goes up for a shot during a men’s basketball game between No. 25 Iowa and Michigan State at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 22. The Hawkeyes defeated the Spartans, 86-60.

known as that. But we’ve always talked about how Kris is Kris and Keegan is Keegan. That’s how we look at it.”

Keegan and Kris both committed to Iowa on Oct. 21, 2019. Iowa’s coaching staff high-fived each other after the Murray family’s visit ended. The Hawkeyes got who they wanted, both of them. McCaffery wasn’t caught up in bringing twins onto the same team.

“I wish there were three of them,” McCaffery said.

Trash-talking twins

“Should I do the Memorial Day one?” Keegan Murray asked his brother with a grin.

“Oh yeah,” Kris responded.

The Murrays were just asked something Iowa fans may not know about them. The first story that came to mind was a painful one. Literally. It was over Memorial Day weekend in fifth grade, a weekend that was supposed to be spent competing in neighborhood sporting events. That was disrupted when, during a backyard football game, Keegan landed on his arm and broke both bones in it. The next day, Kris went to play street baseball and was plucked straight in the eye. Keegan

Everything between the twins is a competition. They just assumed that during one of them, a brawl ensued. It didn’t, though. The normally mild-mannered Murrays limit themselves to trash-talk. A lot of it. And during a variety of activities. Who has the better trash talk?

“Kris,” Fran McCaffery said before the question had even been asked completely.

“It’s some explicit language,” Keegan said, prompting laughter from both twins. “It’s usually just to light a fire under the other person to make them compete more. It’s more helpful than him getting down on himself.”

“Yeah, I’d say I’m more vocal if I’m trash talking someone, but Keegan will just kind of stare you down or something like that,” Kris said, imitating his brother by glaring at him.

“I can [trash talk] if I want to,” Keegan said.

“People might think we’re fighting,” Kris said. “But it’s really just our way of communicating with each other that we respond to.”

After Iowa’s home win over Michigan State in February, Keegan described flexing in celebration after an and-one. Kris, sitting next to him at the press conference, chimed in that it was “his

Against Humanity with the family gathered during holidays or long weekends can turn slightly hostile.

“It can get a little testy,” Kenyon said. “There are a few words that I’d rather not hear them say at the table. They’re just ultra-competitive at everything. And they pull their little sister in there too. She’s like, ‘I want to be the first Murray to graduate with a 4.0.’”

Hawkeye fans have had a chance to see this fiery spirit up close this season, unlike last year.

Kris was mostly limited to sitting on the bench as a freshman. Iowa was loaded with wings and had a roster that featured two current NBA players: Luka Garza and Joe Wieskamp. Kenyon was under the impression the elder twin was going to redshirt, but he received limited minutes here and there, instead.

Keegan, though, played right away. Between injuries to CJ Fredrick and Jack Nunge throughout the season, as well as Keegan demonstrating his ability to rebound and defend even as a freshman, No. 15 cracked the starting lineup at times and made the Big Ten All-Freshman team during his first season as a Hawkeye.

but also its star.

That role has fit Keegan nicely.

The Big Ten announced on Tuesday that Keegan was unanimously named first-team All-Big Ten, making him the first Hawkeye to earn that honor as a sophomore since Ronnie Lester in 1978. Keegan is only 50 points shy of breaking Garza’s 747-point single-season scoring record at Iowa and leads Power Five players in points per game while shooting 55.4 percent from the floor and 58 percent from 3-point range.

“He’s unbelievable,” said Tom Izzo, Michigan State’s head coach and the all-time leader in wins at a Big Ten program. “He’s as good as any player I’ve seen in this league in a while. Keegan is a special talent. They’ve got a star. He is a star, don’t kid yourself.”

“[Iowa’s] got something special. Enjoy him.”

Coming into the season, the Murray twins were regularly found on an open court somewhere between Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. They played one-on-one. And not the basement version.

Kris chimes in first to say the one-on-one games are usually pretty even. One brother will win a stretch of games, then the other will,

REFUGEE

Continued from Front

Public lecture series

Madison Black, the only UI student in the course who is also helping direct the lecture series, said that — as an Iowa City Foreign Relations Council intern — she takes notes on each lecture and conducts outside research to prepare a report with hopes of it being read by the Iowa Legislature. She has interned with the council since 2017.

“That will be about what the program has taught and more steps going forward,” Black said. “I’m also taking some of that information and putting together a paper that I’m going to present at the Iowa Human Rights Research Conference at Drake University in April.”

The international-studies program, Gerlach said, was equally as interested as the council in launching a Community Engaged Learning Course about immigration and refugees.

Anne Kiche, adjunct instructor in the UI global health studies program, will speak at the lecture series on March 23 on the topic of higher

education, as it relates to immigrants and refugees.

Kiche has extensive knowledge of the difficulties of being an immigrant, having written her dissertation on Sudanese refugees to Iowa and coming from Kenya herself years ago, she said.

She said the lecture series will provide Iowans with the awareness they need to go out and help immigrants and refugees. “Sometimes, immigrants of the community really struggle, because they really don’t know where to go,” she said. “Where are the resources? If they know where the resources are, the question is, who is going to go there with them to interpret whatever they are saying and vice versa.”

Student group projects

Black said she wants to be a part of the class that will write editorial articles, which Gerlach wants to be published in *The DI* or *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, he said.

The articles will focus on what the class is learning, he said, as well as the Afghan resettlement efforts of the Catherine McAuley Center.

“They’re editorials and not interviews, because that was the Catherine

McAuley Center’s preference,” he said. “They want to really control their own messages and organization because of a sensitivity — the sensitive nature of the work that they’re doing.”

Gerlach said his students will never meet any of the refugees they serve, given the considerable trauma they have faced, which direct questioning might not improve.

“It is not ethical and responsible to do so,” he said.

A second student group will work with the Catherine McAuley Center on making a refugee simulation exercise in the Iowa Memorial Union.

Gerlach acknowledged that the simulation exercise will more closely resemble the current situation of Ukrainian refugees than those of Afghan refugees, which are two very different circumstances.

A third group will launch a social media campaign to focus on bringing attention to Afghan refugee resettlement.

“The Office of Community Engagement, as well as the International Studies Program, have offered us to use their online platforms as a place to amplify their

work that the Catherine McAuley Center is doing as well as the important work that folks are doing to resettle Afghan refugees,” he said.

With the exception of Black, students are not directly involved in public lectures. Gerlach has invited several international guests to speak to each of the four groups. The guests will come mostly through zoom, Gerlach said.

“How do the different voices balance each other, and what are the ways their stories differ so that people really can appreciate the variety of experiences and positions that people have across our state,” he said of the benefit of having a variety of voices.

Gerlach said he needed to counteract what he saw as a prevailing negative attitude toward immigrants and refugees and to show them something would be done locally in Iowa City.

“My hope is that both the students and attendees to the programs are better informed,” he said. “Oftentimes, people do not get to hear directly from these folks, rather they read headlines that flash across a smartphone.”

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WINTER CATS

Continued from Front

“We don’t know the situation of these animals — maybe they’ve been abused,” Hull said. “It’s just a sad thing to see them out running around and that’s what, you know, it touched my heart because I was like, they need our help.”

Iowa City Animal Shelter Supervisor Chris Whitmore said that because feral cats have a bad reputation, people are hesitant to help them.

“But, unfortunately, they do get such a bad rap that we just need to start educating people that community cats are no different than a raccoon or anything else [animals],” Whitmore said.

Similar efforts are underway in Coralville in VetRxDirect, a pet pharmacy that has Styrofoam boxes available for residents to pick up for stray cats.

“I know that those are really popular and they seem to work really well,” said Holly Wilkinson, Coralville Police Department animal control officer. “They keep the cats warm during the winter with a little bit of bedding in there, and they’re available all over the place.”

The shelters available for pick up at VetRxDirect are recycled Styrofoam shipping boxes, and the pharmacy had no idea that residents were using the boxes to keep stray cats safe.

“It wasn’t until the folks found out about it for the cat shelters that we really started to have interest, and we started to actually have more interest than the quantity of coolers that we had available,” Wes Hepker, director of Coralville’s VetRxDirect, said.

Hepker said the stray cat population is increasing because many are not spayed and neutered.

In Iowa City, due to a Trap-Neuter-Return ordinance, residents are allowed to catch stray cats and have them spayed and neutered. This allows residents to help decrease the population of feral cats in the wild.

Whitmore said the ordinance is a way to help stray cats live in the community.

“We feel it’s our obligation to try to help them,” Whitmore said. “So, that’s why we offer these boxes so they can be saved so they don’t get frostbite. They’re for the cats that are in our community.”

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Opinions

COLUMN

It's not complicated: let girls play in girls' sports

Removing transgender girls from girls' sports is not a fairness issue — it's transphobic.



Yassie Buchanan
Opinions Columnist

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds proudly signed legislation barring transgender girls from playing sports in the state on March 3. While many people argue that this is a complicated issue regarding fairness, there is nothing complicated or unfair about allowing girls to play girls' sports.

To understand this, you have to understand the difference between gender and sex. Sex refers to biological characteristics like reproductive organs and hormones. Gender is a social construct referring to the norms associated with masculinity and femininity. These two often get conflated with each other, especially when talking about sports.

There is no single biological way to be a gender, and reducing eligibility to this false standard is transphobic.

We have already seen how these false associations of biology and gender have played out in elite

sports.

Cisgender Black women were barred from participating in the Olympics because of having natural testosterone levels that were too high. The only way these women would have been allowed to race was if they took medication to decrease their natural testosterone levels.

At the time, experts said there was not enough evidence to prove if these athletes' testosterone levels would give them an advantage.

Ironically, when transgender athletes competed in the Tokyo Olympics, research showed that transgender women do not have an athletic advantage over cisgender women.

Because of continually conflating people's biological makeup with their gender, young girls in Iowa are being politicized and unfairly targeted.

People often refer to trans athletes in sports as a fairness issue. However, there is minimal research to back these claims. Scientists also do not often support bans on these athletes.

Despite what doctors, researchers, politicians, or anyone else says, at the end of the day, the biological make-up of a girl or woman should not exclude them from playing sports.



Sports aren't separated by sex; they are separated by gender.

It's especially transphobic for the governor to claim that this bill is a protection of the integrity of girls' sports. Reynolds made discriminatory remarks saying, "This is a victory for girls' sports in Iowa. No amount of talent, training or effort can make

up for the natural physical advantages males have over females. It's simply a reality of human biology."

If this bill was about fairness, all girls would be allowed to play girls' sports.

Reynolds' effort to separate sports based on being assigned female or male at birth excludes intersex individuals whose biological makeup does not fit the

confines of being assigned female or male. There are several logical issues with this bill because this was not an effort to protect girls — it was a discriminatory act.

With minimal research, and the fact that transgender girls make up such a small portion of girls in Iowa, this bill is a hateful way to exclude these ath-

letes. There are complex issues our government could concentrate on, like the fact that Iowa is ranked as the third worst place for Black people to live. However, instead of facing these issues, Iowa Republicans have made discriminatory initiatives toward young athletes.

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COLUMN

Yik Yak and the dangers of anonymity

Yik Yak, the anonymous social media app, is problematic.



Sophia Meador
Opinions Columnist

The Yak is back.

The anonymous social media app, Yik Yak, announced in August 2021 that it would be available for download following a four-year hiatus. This announcement led to celebration among many — especially college students.

Yet, a major flaw prevails. The anonymity of Yik Yak makes the platform a target for hate speech and cyberbullying. Without accountability on Yik Yak, we have the responsibility to prevent hate on this platform.

Yik Yak was founded almost a decade ago by two college students, Tyler Droll and Brooks Buffington. Soon after its launch, Yik Yak became a popular platform for both high school and college students. Within one year of its release, the app had over a million downloads.

Yik Yak's popularity is largely credited to two unique features: anonymity and proximity. The app connects users within a five-mile radius and allows users to post anonymously. Users can upvote or downvote a post, which influences the number of interactions users have with the post.

But Yik Yak's success was short-lived. The app received universal backlash

because of prevalence of bullying, discriminatory speech, and threats of bomb and gun violence. By September 2016, Yik Yak only had 125,000 downloads.

In April 2017, Yik Yak shut down.

On Aug. 16, 2021, however, a verified twitter account announced "ICYMI: After a 4 year hiatus, Yik Yak is available in the App Store again!"

The company website states, "On the new Yik Yak, it's against the Community Guardrails to post bullying messages or use hate speech, make threats, or share anyone's private information."

But there has been little sign of improvement.

In February, two Iowa State University students were arrested following an investigation from the FBI and Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation response to a Yik Yak post:

"Some of y'all are ok, don't come to carver tomorrow 4:30," the post read.

This event mirrors accidents that led to Yik Yak's shutdown in 2017, showing that the company has failed to address its long-standing problems.

Yik Yak has been a source of issues on the University of Iowa campus, as well. In 2015, a string of posts targeted Asian students at the UI. The post included offensive language: "Guys if we don't do something soon this university will be more Asian than anything, and if so, I'm leaving ..." and "Iowa City? More like Chintown."

The features that make Yik Yak popular are what make the app problematic. Because posts are anonymous, there is no way to hold users accountable for malicious language or threats. This allows for hate speech, bullying, and threats to flourish. In addition, the proximity of the app targets specific groups of people.

In theory, the idea of Yik Yak is great. It's a break from formal and sometimes scripted reality. But in practice, Yik Yak simply does not work.

The UI should take preventative measures to stop bullying, hate speech, and threats. In 2016, administrators at Illinois College sought to ban Yik Yak. In response, the college's Student Senate passed a resolution in favor of blocking it from campus internet networks, which the administration did.

The UI should follow Illinois College's lead and block Yik Yak from campus internet networks. But that alone will not be enough. As students, we need to stray away from this platform.

I know firsthand how challenging it can be to not succumb to the latest app or trend. Unless Yik Yak improves its policy for anonymity, it's unlikely we will see any positive outcomes from the platform. So, simply don't download Yik Yak. To anyone who currently has Yik Yak, I encourage you to consider deleting the app, and seek out a different platform to connect.

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COLUMN

Trump's praise of Putin shows he is not fit to be president in 2024

Former President Donald Trump's praises of Putin show he should not be the nominee for 2024.



Luke Krchak
Opinions Columnist

Former President Donald Trump continues to praise Russian President Vladimir Putin. This raises the question: is he the best candidate for the GOP in 2024?

Trump praised Putin during his presidency. He had plans for a Trump Tower in Moscow before he became president. He also said that Putin was a better president than former President Barack Obama.

His praise may be seen as the least of our concerns because of his past two impeachments. In both the 2016 and 2020 elections, Russia attempted to tip the scales in favor of Trump. He also denounced NATO and the European Union multiple times, while attempting to get Russia back into the G7.

While Trump caused much more drama during his presidency, such as the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, his recent praise toward Putin for his invasion of Ukraine is some of the worst yet.

Politicians of all parties have denounced Putin's invasion of Ukraine, with Trump being one of a few to praise the Russian president, commenting on Putin "taking over a country — really a vast, vast location, a great piece of land with a lot of people — and just walking right in."

Trump is the front-runner for the 2024 GOP presidential candidate. These are some of the many reasons he is not the best candidate for the GOP nomination, however, let alone the presidency. I suspect the future will provide us with even more proof.

The attack on Ukraine is Putin's doing and is a massive humanitarian crisis, breaking up many families as they flee and fight.

If the Ukrainian people are willing to die not only to defend their own families and country, but also to leave knowing they may never come back, then this invasion is not something to be praised.

A week after Trump's praise of Putin, he has since retracted his statements, calling it a "holocaust," and urging the conflict to stop, as many people are dying. However, he still continues to say that he could have stopped the conflict if he was president, and denounce current President Joe Biden's response to the war.

Even though Trump did retract his earlier praise of Putin, the impact will be long lasting. Whether intentional or an over assumption of what the war was going to be, his original response of praise will stay on people's minds.

There are Republicans who have yet to denounce Trump for his praise, which is causing a rift between them and Republicans who have condemned Trump as well as Putin. Steve Bannon, former adviser to Trump, not only didn't condemn Trump, but agreed with him, adding that Biden should be impeached for instigating the war.

We don't need more drama from our presidents because it causes rifts between people, including among families. Presidents are also the foremost image of the U.S., so consistent praise of war-mongering world leaders can lead to the wrong idea of what the U.S. should be.

As citizens of the U.S., we should ensure our next presidential candidates try to bring the country together rather than create rifts between us. Both parties need to step up their game, but as we can see, Trump cannot be the GOP candidate.

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THE DAILY IOWAN which has been serving the University of Iowa, Johnson County, and state of Iowa communities for over 150 years, is committed to fair and accurate coverage of events and issues concerning these areas. The DI is committed to correctly representing the community it serves, especially those most underrepresented or marginalized. The DI welcomes any input on how our coverage can be improved to better serve our audience.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR may be submitted via email to daily-iowan@uiowa.edu (as text, not attachments). Each letter must be signed and include an address and phone number for verification. Letters should not exceed 300 words and may be edited for clarity, length, and style.

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

READER COMMENTS that may appear were originally posted on dailyiowan.com or on the DI's social media platforms in response to published material. Comments will be chosen for print publication when they are deemed to forward public discussion. They may be edited for length and style.

Pinski named Daily Iowan editor

Hannah Pinski, currently the *DI*'s Opinions and Amplify editor, was selected by Student Publications Inc. on Monday night to lead the newspaper during the 2022-23 school year.

Kate Perez and Emily Delgado
News Reporters

Hannah Pinski was selected to serve as *The Daily Iowan's* next executive editor for the 2022-23 academic year on Monday night. Pinski is the first Asian American and woman of color to serve as the *DI's* executive editor.

Pinski is a third-year University of Iowa student double majoring in journalism and mass communication and music with a minor in political science. She has been writing for the *DI* since her freshman year. She currently serves as editor of the Opinions and Amplify sections.

Pinski said she decided to apply for executive editor after observing those before her at the *DI* and their paths. She said she wanted to follow in their footsteps and inspire others the way they inspired her.

Pinski said she is grateful for the opportunities the *DI* has given her.

"I decided to get involved with the *DI* because I wanted to give reporting and the news industry a try and I just fell in love with it throughout my time here," Pinski said.

During her time writing for the student-run publication, she said she learned how to be adaptable.

"I also learned the importance of journalism and why storytelling has such a powerful impact to the community as well as the values of democracy," Pinski said.

Reporting on difficult topics and serving as a mentor for the *DI* as a whole are Pinski's greatest accomplishments, she said.

"I would say writing-wise, my piece on sexual misconduct and reporting — that was something I've worked on for I think about eight months," she said. "... It's one of the things I am most proud of in my journalism work that I've accomplished."



The 2022-23 *Daily Iowan* Executive Editor Hannah Pinski poses for a portrait on Monday.

Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Pinski will fill the role currently held by Caleb McCullough. McCullough said Pinski is a great editor and he hopes she will continue to build upon what the *DI* has created in its 154 years of publishing.

"She's brought a huge focus to diversity, equity, and inclusion to both the Amplify section and the *DI* as a whole with her role on the DEI board, and with the community chats that she has taken over organizing and hosting after those were started last year," McCullough said. "I hope that she takes that role and creates a lot of great content and papers."

McCullough said his

advice to Pinski would be to create a strong team around her.

"I encourage her to build a good team of editors around her and rely on them when needed, and make a great editorial team as a whole," Mc-

Cullough said.

Student Publications Inc. selected Pinski after interviewing her on Monday night. Melissa Tully, vice chair of the board and UI

journalism professor, said she chose Pinski because of her experience and her vision for the paper.

"I was really impressed with Hannah," she said. "Both her vision for *The Daily Iowan*, also just the kinds of stories that she's

take the helm.

"I was impressed with her vision for the paper, but she's also very organized and very detail oriented, so I think she's really ready for this next step," Brummond said.

Brummond hopes Pinski can continue to foster the environment of learning that the paper is known for, and bring staff together as the publication returns to conducting business in person.

"This grand reopening of the newsroom and bringing people back together, I think Hannah is going to be a good fit to really kind of foster that learning environment

that the *DI* is known for," Brummond said.

For the upcoming school year, Pinski said she hopes to bring the staff together to produce a great print paper and bring high-quality journalism to the Iowa City community, while also diversifying the newsroom.

"I would love ... to be able to bring a variety of perspectives and identities and keep working on making the *DI* a more inclusive environment, and also providing more longform, enterprise stories for the print paper and have that aspect of in-depth reporting," Pinski said.

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"I was impressed with her vision for the paper.

— Jason Brummond, *DI* Publisher

already told, and her commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion."

Jason Brummond, the *DI's* publisher, said he believes Pinski is ready to

The Daily Break



Puzzle solutions on page 2A

The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0202

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- Across**
- 1 Basis of a trivia question
 - 5 Selects from various places
 - 10 Main component of soapstone
 - 14 Party with poi and poke
 - 15 Threat to the Allies in W.W. II
 - 16 Brouhahas
 - 17 Website links
 - 18 With 20-Across, goes to great lengths
 - 19 Party giver
 - 20 See 18-Across
 - 22 Roll of fabric
 - 23 More reasonable
 - 24 Bottom-first birth position
 - 26 "Scram!"
 - 29 One in peak singing condition?
 - 31 Saint, in Portuguese
 - 32 Pull a fast ___
 - 34 Solidify, as Jell-O
 - 35 With 39-Across, superior
 - 36 See 41-Across
 - 39 See 35-Across
 - 41 With 36-Across, plays dirty
 - 42 "Impressive!"
 - 44 Actress Zellweger
 - 45 "The price is negotiable," in classified ads
 - 46 What might display a little spirit?
 - 49 Airport inits.

- 50 Prominent Venetian Renaissance painter
 - 52 Particle binding quarks together
 - 54 Like some tales
 - 55 See 60-Across
 - 59 Isolate, in modern lingo
 - 60 With 55-Across, no longer an issue
 - 61 Discovery
 - 62 Notable nights
 - 63 Wear away
 - 64 It might come with breakfast in bed
 - 65 Lead-in to wolf
 - 66 ___-turvy
 - 67 Sources for longbow wood
- Down**
- 1 Blunder
 - 2 Emanation
 - 3 Class with integrals, for short
 - 4 Walrus weapons
 - 5 Sandwich invented in Florida, despite what its name suggests
 - 6 Took a car, in a way
 - 7 La capital de Inglaterra
 - 8 Fellas
 - 9 Crosswalks cross them: Abbr.
 - 10 Vehicle named after a lake
 - 11 One between 10 and 20, say
 - 12 They're hopeless

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Puzzles provided by sudokusolver.com

IC City Council's new strategic plan will shape next five years

The Iowa City City Council is developing a new five-year strategic plan, compared to previous two-year plans.



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

City Manager Geoff Fruin looks to community members addressing the council about COVID-19 relief funds for front-line workers during an Iowa City City Council meeting at the Senior Center in Iowa City on Nov. 16, 2021.

Ryan Hansen & Emily Delgado
News Reporters

The Iowa City City Council's next strategic plan, which councilors say will prioritize climate action, affordable housing, transit, and social justice and equity, will determine the city's trajectory for the next five years.

The current strategic plan, adopted in June 2020, will be in effect until the next plan is drafted and approved. The city's fiscal 2023 budget was created with the new strategic plan in mind.

"The next 10 years, the next two strategic plans, are really critical to the

future of Iowa City," Councilor John Thomas said at a City Council meeting March 1.

City Manager Geoff Fruin said in an interview with *The Daily Iowan* that the strategic plan lays out the goals of the community and reflects the vision of elected city officials.

"We've been doing strategic plans for approximately the last decade," Fruin said. "The strategic plan sets forth a vision and key activities from the elected leadership and the community. It is an opportunity for them to express where they want to see the community go over the next few

years."

The plan will set out goals for the city over the next five years — a shift from the previous two-year cycle for strategic plans, Fruin said.

"Historically, the city has done two-year strategic plans, which coincide with the election cycles here in Iowa City," Fruin said. "We are going to be moving to a five-year plan, which just allows us to think a little bigger and perhaps pursue some more long-term objectives."

As the current strategic plan expires, the City Council — which is made up of both newly-elected

and longer-serving members — will lay out the vision for itself and the overall community for the upcoming years.

Councilor Janice Weiner said she believes the strategic plan connects the dots between different aspects of the community.

"It really is easy in any profession, in any part of life, to just focus on one thing, to focus on one issue, and not be able to step back and see the bigger picture," Weiner said.

She said the City Council's focus on affordable housing was one example, because putting solar panels on roofs of affordable housing locations also met various goals.

For the next five years, Weiner said she hopes the plan continues to move toward equity and affordable housing, with a heavy focus on climate action.

"I think we've done this to some extent, but given where we are in the world, we need to make sure that climate and sustainability is included in basically every single step we're looking at," Weiner said. "If it's not there yet, it needs to be."

Weiner said the council wanted to continue working on programs included in its January initiative that gave grants to small businesses, start-ups, and businesses owned by people of color.

The City Council has

delegated staff, as well as experts, to each initiative to best accomplish the goals in the strategic plan.

"There's just a lot more we can do to put all of those pieces together," Weiner said. "Several of us are going to sit down together soon and start to work through some of this."

The city's current initiatives are to:

- Advance social justice, racial equity, and human rights.
- Demonstrate leadership in climate action.
- Strengthen community engagement and intergovernmental relations.
- Invest in public infrastructure, facilities, and fiscal reserves.
- Foster healthy neighborhoods and affordable housing throughout the city.
- Enhance community mobility for all residents.
- Promote an inclusive and resilient economy throughout the city.

The City Council will meet with Karen Kurt, executive director of East Central Iowa Council of Governments, in April to facilitate conversation about what it wants to include in the plan.

"The Council has devoted staff to climate action to a degree that is not typical of most cities in Iowa," Becky Soglin, Iowa City's Climate Action commissioner, wrote in an email to the *DI*.

In the fiscal 2023 budget, the climate action goals for the current strategic plan include:

- Begin implementation of the accelerating Iowa City Climate Actions Report.
- Communicate progress toward reaching the intergovernmental panel on climate change's carbon emission reduction targets.

Looking ahead to the next strategic plan, Soglin wrote that the City Council is moving in the right direction in prioritizing climate action.

"Ensuring there are continued and even increasing resources, including staff, to support the work of the accelerated actions and future needs will be crucial," Soglin wrote.

The fiscal 2023 budget has funds set aside for increasing affordable housing in Iowa City.

The city created an Affordable Housing Fund in 2016, and has received \$1 million for the fund annually since then. As of 2021, there was \$3.6 million in the fund.

The City Council will meet with its facilitator from Eastern Iowa Council of Governments in April ahead of fiscal 2023.

"Black Lives Matter, questions of equity, climate change — you know, I really do feel we are in a unique moment," Thomas said.

daily-iowan@uiowa.edu

Basic Goods owner enrolls at UI

Simeon Talley, owner of Iowa City personal care and wellness store Basic Goods, will enroll in the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business MBA program.



Isabella Cervantes/The Daily Iowan

Simeon Talley, owner of Basic Goods, poses for a portrait in his shop on March 4.

Sam Knupp
News Reporter

Simeon Talley, owner of Basic Goods in downtown Iowa City, has founded restaurants, coffee shops, and music festivals, and is now starting a new chapter at the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business.

Talley will enroll in the college's Master of Business Administration program for business executives in fall 2022. He made the decision to enroll when he recognized that he was capable of doing more, Talley said.

"This is something that can help me create more value for my business, for this community, but also just can create more value in the world at large," Talley said.

Basic Goods opened in 2020 in the earlier stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. During a time where many businesses were left struggling, Talley's store expanded, he said, taking over the office space previously leased by Rep. Dave Loebsack, D-Iowa.

Talley said he isn't worried about balancing his studies with managing the store, as the

UI program is made for business executives with the intention of accommodating their schedules.

He said managing his schedule will also be possible because of his staff.

"I've benefited from really great staff," he said. "I've leaned on them and relied on them a ton. And they are the ones who, in many respects, make the store go."

Talley said he hopes to use what he learns and the connections he makes at the business college to turn Basic Goods into a household name.

Talley said part of the reason Basic Goods has a passionate customer base is the progressive and inclusive approach he takes to managing the store.

"They're really supportive and [the] encouragement that they offer, it's just really, really rewarding, and it gives me energy," he said.

Talley's store aims to sell natural, environmentally friendly products, he said. It includes refill stations for everyday items like hand soap, dish soap, and body wash.

Tucker Shepard, an employee at Basic Goods and its in-store coffee

shop Daydrink, said he likes that the store brings personal care and wellness products to Iowa City — something he normally sees in major cities such as New York or Los Angeles.

"Some of the candles are also a lotion product. You burn and smell it, and it also turns into this oil that you can rub on your hands," he said. "I just haven't seen those in a lot of places."

Talley said he intentionally prioritizes inclusivity, by selling products made by people of color and women.

"They're building products for the future, not necessarily for the past," he said. "And that's just interesting to me, personally, and something I value. So, I wanted to kind of bring that to the store as well."

Sam Uditsky, a retail associate at Basic Goods, said the store feels like a community space where customers can come in and get what they need, while also interacting with other people.

"I think it's just a space that Iowa City needed," Uditsky said.

samuel-knupp@uiowa.edu

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Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan
Iowa guard Tony Perkins attempts to windmill dunk during a men's basketball game between No. 24 Iowa and Northwestern in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 28. Perkins scored six points. The Hawkeyes defeated the Wildcats, 82-61.

TOURNAMENT

Continued from Page 8A

won the women's tournament last weekend.

Iowa's first game is scheduled to be played at around 1 p.m. on Thursday. The fifth-seeded Hawkeyes (22-9 overall, 12-8 Big Ten) will play the winner of the Nebraska-Northwestern matchup, which will happen Wednesday night. Iowa is a combined 3-0 against the Cornhuskers and Wildcats this season.

Despite finishing fifth in the Big Ten after the regular season, Iowa

Illini, the Hawkeyes are one of the hottest teams in the conference entering the postseason.

The Hawkeyes won eight of their final 10 games of the regular season.

"Everybody knows, from the two teams that won [the regular season title] and everybody else, anybody can beat anybody," Iowa men's basketball coach Fran McCaffery said. "That's kind of what makes this time of year so exciting across the board. You see it every night ... We're excited for the opportunity."

“That's kind of what makes this year so exciting across the board. You see it every night ... We're excited for the opportunity.

— Iowa men's basketball coach Fran McCaffery

has the third-best odds (+600) of winning the Big Ten Tournament, according to BetMGM. Only Purdue and Illinois were given better odds. Despite their loss to the

Iowa has been a top-five seed in the conference tournament the last three years. Last season, the Hawkeyes beat Wisconsin in the Big Ten quarterfinals before

losing to Illinois in the semifinals.

But the Hawkeyes are 0-4 all-time in the Big Ten Tournament as a No. 5 seed.

Breaking that streak could better set up Iowa for the NCAA Tournament. Iowa is projected to be a No. 6 seed in the NCAA Tournament field by ESPN bracketologist Joe Lunardi. On a more personal note, a couple of wins in Indianapolis could set up a rematch with Illinois. The Hawkeyes and the Fighting Illini could face off in the conference semifinals on Saturday.

And Iowa will be ready if that is the case.

"Knowing that we could see them again, and beat them this time, that's all that we really care about," Iowa guard Tony Perkins said. "Knowing we have the potential to go far in the Big Ten Tournament and the NCAA Tournament, that brings a lot of confidence to our team."

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Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan
Iowa forward Keegan Murray dribbles the ball down the floor during a men's basketball game between No. 24 Iowa and Northwestern in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 28. The Hawkeyes defeated the Wildcats, 82-61.

NPOTY

Continued from Page 8A

the SEC's record with 20 consecutive double-doubles this season and is seventh in the nation with 12 rebounds per game.

But as a center, it's Boston's duty to grab the Gamecocks' rebounds.

Clark accumulates an average of 8.1 rebounds every game as a point guard. She flirts with a triple-double in every contest, and she stands as the only active Division I women's basketball player with five or more career triple-doubles. She grabbed one triple-double in her freshman season in 2020-21, and five this year.

Sure, Clark has trouble with turnovers. She's turned the ball over 147 times through 30 games.

But as the Hawkeyes' point guard, Clark runs the offense. The ball is in her hands multiple times per possession.

"Point guards have a lot more responsibility," Bluder said. "That's one

of the reasons I think she has made more impact on our team as an individual than other people that we're talking about for the national player of the year."

Historically, the national player of the year goes to the best player on the nation's best team. No one can dispute that South Carolina, which has sat at No. 1 in the Associated Press Top 25 Poll for most of the 2021-22 season, is the best women's basketball team in the nation.

"We have great people around Caitlin," Bluder said. "We have great basketball players. We don't have 10 All-Americans though, like some people do, and there is a difference on them. Now, we play as a team, and we're very, very proud of that."

Iowa is currently No. 8 in the nation with Big Ten regular season and tournament titles. The national player of the year committees cannot deny Clark's presence as the best player in the country any longer.

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Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan
Iowa guard Caitlin Clark smiles on the court during a basketball game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 6 Nebraska during the Big Ten Women's Basketball Tournament at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis on March 5. This game marked her fourth 40-point game this season. The Hawkeyes beat the Cornhuskers, 83-66.

PCP

Continued from Page 8A

one of his fingers. Though, that isn't likely the result of a long-term injury or the reason he didn't wrestle Penn State's Nick Lee in the conference finals. The *Cedar Rapids Gazette* reported that Eierman was dealing with knee issues when he forfeited to Lee.

The injury Cassioppi suffers from is unclear. Regardless, the Hawkeyes don't have a lot of healthy bodies right now. Even senior 135-pounder Austin DeSanto had his hand taped up for his Big Ten Championship Finals match against Roman

Bravo-Young.

I think Marinelli is the healthiest guy available to the Hawkeyes right now. I know he's famously struggled at the NCAA Championships. But I think this year's NCAA Tournament could be Marinelli's to win.

With his Big Ten Championship Finals win over Michigan's Cameron Amine, Marinelli became just the 17th four-time conference champion in Big Ten history. It's hard to deny the momentum a win like that builds.

Not all bad luck lasts forever, and I think Marinelli's NCAA Championship curse ends this year.

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Chris Werner
Sports Reporter

Two

After Iowa men's wres-

tler Alex Marinelli stood atop the 165-pound podium at last weekend's Big Ten Championships, I'm confident that it's now time for "The Bull" to capture a national championship.

Marinelli has underperformed in each of his previous two trips to the national tournament. In both 2019 and 2021, Marinelli entered the event as the No. 1 seed at 165 pounds. Both times, however, he lost in the quarterfinal round.

In his final run at the NCAA Championships this season, the four-time Big Ten champ has all the motivation he could possibly need. He has a loss

this season, knows he doesn't have another shot at a national championship next year, and in his words, 'everyone remembers a national champ, so we got more to do.'

Marinelli will be joined as an individual champion by Iowa's 141-pounder Jaydin Eierman.

Eierman, like many of the Iowa starters, has had a longer-than-normal college wrestling career. His journey actually began at Missouri in 2015-16. He took an Olympic redshirt in 2019-20. Then, Eierman joined the Hawkeyes' roster in 2020-21.

Eierman has qualified for the NCAA Championships four times. He's

advanced to at least the event's quarterfinals on four occasions.

Eierman recently medically forfeited a Big Ten Championship Finals match to Penn State's Nick Lee. In the last two years, Lee is the only wrestler Eierman has lost to.

Counting his recent medical default, two of Eierman's last three matches with Lee have ended in sudden victory.

All the signs seem to be pointing to national titles for Eierman and Marinelli. Neither has risen to the top of college wrestling before. This year, they'll finally get it done.

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HAWKEYE UPDATES

Iowa men's basketball sophomore Keegan Murray named first-team All-Big Ten

Iowa men's basketball forward Keegan Murray was unanimously named first-team All-Big Ten by the conference's coaches and media members on Tuesday, becoming the program's first sophomore to earn the honor since Ronnie Lester in 1978.

Murray did not extend the program's streak of having the Big Ten Player of the Year to three straight seasons, however. That honor went to Wisconsin's Johnny Davis. Murray averaged 23.3 points per game in the regular season, the most of any player in a Power Five conference. The 6-foot-8, second-year Hawkeye also led Iowa with 8.6 rebounds, and 2.1 blocks per game while shooting 55.4 percent from the floor and 38 percent from the 3-point line. Davis averaged 20 points, 8.1 rebounds and 2.2 assists per game for the co-Big Ten Champion Badgers.

The first-team All-Big Ten selections consisted of Murray, Davis, Illinois' Kofi Cockburn, Purdue's Jaden Ivey, and Ohio State's E.J. Liddell.

An Iowa player has earned first-team All-Big Ten honors seven times in the last nine years, starting with Devyn Marble (2014) and continuing with Aaron White (2015), Jarrod Uthoff (2016), Peter Jok (2017), and two-time Big Ten Player of the Year Luka Garza (2020, 2021).

Sixth-year guard Jordan Bohannon was also honored by the Big Ten, earning honorable mention all-conference recognition.

Former Iowa football player Noah Fant traded to Seattle Seahawks

Former University of Iowa tight end Noah Fant was reportedly traded from the Denver Broncos to the Seattle Seahawks Tuesday.

Fant was part of one of the biggest trades in National Football League history. The Broncos reportedly traded Fant, quarterback Drew Lock, defensive lineman Shelby Harris, and five draft picks to the Seahawks for QB Russell Wilson and a fourth-round pick.

The trade will become official when physicals are passed and the new NFL league year begins on March 16 at 3 p.m.

Denver used the 20th overall pick on Fant in the 2019 NFL Draft. He's since racked up 1,905 career yards and 10 touchdowns on 170 career receptions.

Fant is currently playing on a four-year, \$12.6 million contract, per spotrac.com. The deal will keep Fant with the Seahawks through the 2023 season, barring an unforeseen trade or roster cut. After the 2023 season, Fant will be an unrestricted free agent.

Fant is one of three Hawkeye starting tight ends in the NFL. Fant's fellow Iowa tight end starters in the NFL are the San Francisco 49ers' George Kittle and the Detroit Lions' T.J. Hockenson.

All three tight ends played together at Iowa in 2016. Kittle left Iowa City in 2016, while Fant and Hockenson departed in 2019.

AP Top 25 (MBB)

- Gonzaga
- Arizona
- Baylor
- Auburn
- Kentucky
- Kansas
- Duke
- Villanova
- Purdue
- ...
- Wisconsin
- Illinois
- Iowa

AP Top 25 (WBB)

- South Carolina
- Stanford
- North Carolina State
- Baylor
- Louisville
- UConn
- Texas
- Iowa
- LSU
- Iowa State
- Indiana
- Michigan
- Maryland
- Ohio State

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"That was a pretty exciting match."

— Iowa men's wrestler Max Murin on his win over Northwestern's Yahya Thomas

STAT OF THE DAY

10

— wrestlers that medically forfeited in Session V of the Big Ten Championships

Men's tournament time

The Hawkeyes have plenty at stake during this week's Big Ten Men's Basketball Tournament.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa head coach Fran McCaffery leads a huddle during a men's basketball game between No. 24 Iowa and Northwestern in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 28. The Hawkeyes defeated the Wildcats, 82-61.

Robert Read Pregame Editor

The Iowa men's basketball team walked off the court in Champaign, Illinois, on Sunday, after a two-point loss ended its regular season.

Fighting Illini fans stormed the

court as Illinois celebrated becoming co-Big Ten regular season champions, a title it shares with Wisconsin. With the loss, the Hawkeyes missed out on a double-bye in this week's Big Ten Men's Basketball Tournament. Instead of needing

to win three games to be crowned tournament champions, Iowa will now need four. But the Hawkeyes know there is no time to dwell on that.

The hunt for the Big Ten Tournament title begins on Wednesday night. "We missed a lot

of shots we normally make," forward Keegan Murray, who was named first-team All-Big Ten on Tuesday, said of the Illinois game. "We made mistakes down the stretch. That was a learning experience for us. But it was better for that game to

happen now than during tournament time. I think, for us as a team, that really brought us closer together and got us closer to March, because that's what the atmosphere is going to be like. All the records fly out the window. Every game from now on is

win or go home." The 2022 Big Ten Men's Basketball Tournament begins with two first-round games on Wednesday night at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. The men's tournament tips off after Iowa

TOURNAMENT | Page 7A

COLUMN

NPOTY isn't up for debate

Caitlin Clark deserves to be national player of the year.



Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark shoots a three-pointer during a basketball game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 5 Indiana during the Big Ten Women's Basketball Tournament Championship Game at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis on March 6. The Hawkeyes beat the Hoosiers, 74-67.

Chloe Peterson Assistant Sports Editor

Iowa women's basketball junior Gabbie Marshall said it best.

"You don't see anybody else in the country hitting logo 3s in triple teams," she said of teammate Caitlin Clark's candidacy for national player of the year.

Clark, the Hawkeyes' sophomore point guard, has been the X-factor for Iowa women's basketball for the past two years. She led the nation in scoring in her freshman season in 2020-21 and is doing it again in 2021-22.

The sophomore out of West Des Moines, Iowa, is the 2022 Big Ten Player of the Year. She's one of five finalists for the Nancy Lieberman Award — an honor that goes to the top point guard in the nation.

Clark also jumped into the John Wooden Award National Player of the Year top-15 and is on the Naismith Player of the Year Midseason List.

This season, Clark deserves to win the Wooden Award. And the Naismith. And every other national player of the year honor that exists.

This isn't an "I attend the University of Iowa" homer take. Clark's resume throughout the 2021-22 season is unparalleled when compared to any other women's basketball player in the country.

Clark has been leading the nation throughout the 2021-22 season with 27.4 points per game. Not only is she the country's leading scorer, but she has dished out 7.9 assists per game for a total of 236 — both marks that top the national leaderboard. Clark is also effective at

the free throw line, making a nation-leading 189 free throws.

"The thing is, people always recognize Caitlin, as she's the leading scorer in the country," head coach Lisa Bluder said. "Well, yeah, but she leads the country in assists, too. And not only that, but she's our No. 1 rebounder, and she's one of our best free throw shooters as well. She impacts the game in so many different ways that people sometimes get fixated on that scoring."

Despite Clark's accolades in 2021-22, ESPN has deemed South Carolina's Aliyah Boston as the national player of the year.

Don't get me wrong, Boston is a fantastic women's basketball player. She broke

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

How many Hawks will win NCAA titles?

Two Daily Iowan staffers debate how many Iowa men's wrestlers will win championships in 2022.



Austin Hanson
Sports Editor

One

Alex Marinelli isn't usually the only Iowa men's wrestler I trust to win in big moments. But he is this year.

It's not that I think other Hawkeyes don't have what it takes to be clutch in big moments. Rather, Iowa is just too banged up to win when it matters.

Of the Hawkeyes' 10 wrestlers that competed in 2022 Big Ten Championships, four dropped out of the event with injuries.

Senior 141-pounder Jaydin Eierman and junior heavyweight Tony Cassioppi both medically forfeited Big Ten Championship Finals matches.

Senior 174-pounder Michael Kemerer bowed out of the tournament in the semifinals after suffering an injury against Ohio State's Ethan Smith in the quarterfinals. True freshman 125-pounder Drake Ayala forfeited his seventh-place match against Rutgers' Devin Shawver.

Kemerer and Ayala have both sported braces on their left shoulders this season. "KemDawg" has done so since he made his season debut on Jan. 7. Ayala has worn his support apparatus since Feb. 20. He missed three of the Hawkeyes' regular season duals with an injury.

In multiple duals this season, Eierman appeared to be seen dislodging and relocating

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80 HOURS:

THIS WEEKEND IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022



STUDIO 13'S STAR SEARCH:

Studio 13's Star Search seeks the drag performer who best represents Iowa City's drag community. The weekly competition allows newer drag queens and kings to grow and improve their performance skills.

Lillie Hawker/The Daily Iowan
Drag queen Barbara Busch Light poses during her lip-synch performance at the semifinal round of Studio 13's Star Search drag contest on Sunday.

Weekend Events

10

THURSDAY

COMEDY

• **RED ROOM COMEDY SHOWCASE**
6:30 P.M., SANCTUARY PUB, 405 S GILBERT ST.

MUSIC

• **A TRIBUTE TO ARETHA FRANKLIN: THE QUEEN OF SOUL**
7:30 P.M., HANCHER AUDITORIUM, 141 E. PARK RD.

• **MINOR MOON, WARSHIP & SEAN TYLER**
8 P.M., GABE'S, 332 E WASHINGTON ST.

THEATER

• **STRING**
8 P.M., UNIVERSITY OF IOWA THEATRE BUILDING, 200 N RIVERSIDE DR.

11

FRIDAY

COMEDY

• **FRIDAY FORUM: A COMEDY SHOWCASE**
9:30 P.M., WILLOW CREEK THEATRE COMPANY, 327 S GILBERT ST.

• **KENYON ADAMCIK**
8 P.M., JOYSTICK COMEDY ARCADE, 13 S LINN ST.

MUSIC

• **ORGAN CONFERENCE RECITAL**
5:30 P.M., UNIVERSITY OF IOWA SCHOOL OF MUSIC VOXMAN BUILDING, 93 E BURLINGTON ST.

THEATER

• **THE NICETIES**
7:30 P.M., RIVERSIDE THEATRE, 119 E COLLEGE ST.

12

SATURDAY

COMEDY

• **COMEDY SATURDAYS**
8 P.M., JOYSTICK COMEDY ARCADE

MUSIC

• **THE PORK TORNADOS WITH TOM'S TOP 8**
7 P.M., WOOLY'S, 504 E LOCUST ST.

• **WAVE CAGE AND ALYX RUSH, CABLEB "THE NEGRO ARTIST" RAINEY**
9 P.M., TRUMPET BLOSSOM CAFE, 310 E PRENTISS ST.

THEATER

• **STRING**
8 P.M., UNIVERSITY OF IOWA THEATRE BUILDING

13

SUNDAY

EXHIBIT

• **WE ARE HAWKEYES: CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF STUDENT LIFE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**
1 P.M., UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARY MAIN GALLERY

MUSIC

• **BRUCE COCKBURN**
7 P.M., ENGLERT CIVIC THEATRE, 221 E WASHINGTON ST.



THEATER

• **I SAW YOU/NEW PERSON**
2 P.M., UNIVERSITY OF IOWA THEATRE BUILDING

ASK THE AUTHOR:

CANDICE WUEHLE



Olivia Augustine
Arts Reporter

Candice Wuehle is a poet and author who grew up in Iowa City. She received an MA in literature from the University of Minnesota, an MFA in poetry from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, and a doctorate in creative writing at the University of Kansas, where she was the recipient of a Chancellor's Fellowship. Wuehle is the author of many chapbooks and poetry collections, one of which being *Death Industrial Complex*, which was selected as a finalist for the *Believer Magazine Book Award* in 2020. Her work can also be found in several reviews and magazines across the U.S. Most recently, Wuehle published her first novel, *Monarch*. There will be a reading of *Monarch* and conversation with Wuehle at *Prairie Lights* on March 28, to celebrate the novel's release.

(This interview has been edited for length and clarity. Read the full interview at dailyiowan.com.)

DI: In your novel, *Monarch*, what inspired you to combine these deep and dark plotlines with the life of a former beauty queen — which might be seen as more glamorous?

Wuehle: I was listening to a true crime podcast, and they were covering the murder of JonBenét Ramsey, and just sort of as an aside, one of the hosts of the podcast mentioned that they'd come across this theory that posited that JonBenét Ramsey's mother, Patsy, was an agent in a deep state program called — I think they said this in the the podcast — called *Project Monarch*, but maybe I just looked it up on my own and found this "Project Monarch" theory. So anyway, the theory is that Patsy Ramsey was triggered and that she murdered her own daughter, who was also in training to become a monarch agent. So of course, that is far-fetched and unbelievable, but I thought that it was really fascinating, and it went well with these ideas that I was already having for a novel in the back of my mind that was about how culture in the '90s socially conditions women to remove them from their own personalities or desires, and the metaphor sort of fell into that slot that I'd heard about.

DI: What about *Monarch* are you most proud of?

Wuehle: I think that I am most proud that I was able to incorporate some of the research that I did during my doctorate at the University of Kansas, specifically the research that I was doing on memory and trauma studies. There's a plotline through *Monarch* where the mother of the main character runs this sort of cryotherapy Tupperware party ring where women sleep in these Tupperware containers at night that are also cryotherapy chambers in order to freeze the aging process. And that idea came to me from this Disney special that I remember seeing when I was a kid that no one else remembers. But I thought that that plotline was really similar to what I was learning about trauma structures and how the brain works to process traumatic memories, and the sense of sort of being frozen in a moment of trauma. So, you know, I got my Ph.D. as a creative writer, but I also did

all this theoretical research, so I think I'd say that I'm really proud that I was able to bring some of those ideas into *Monarch* in a way that I think is a little more accessible, perhaps, than a literary theory.

DI: How does all your expertise and experience in writing poetry reflect in your novel-style writing?

Wuehle: When I started *Monarch* and I sat down to write it, I thought I was going to be writing a prose poem. The beginning of *Monarch* starts with a short passage that is from a different narrator than the rest of the book and that was part of the prose poem that I was writing. There were just some little moments in that passage that felt more like they had a story behind them, and a plot, and where a voice sort of started to come out in a character. I realized that the story that wanted to be told had elements that were really different from poetry, in terms of characterization. *Monarch* has a real kind of spy-thriller plot that probably could not be conveyed through poetry, that at the same time, I think retains a lot of what I did as a poet in terms of imagery, and including extended metaphor throughout the book, but especially just in terms of bringing together ideas.

DI: What did you learn from the Iowa Writers' Workshop that you have most carried into your career to-day?

Wuehle: I think I learned at the workshop how to live the daily life of a writer, so I think I learned a lot about just setting aside the time to write and privileging that time and prioritizing it. And I got to see lots of other people doing that and see how much discipline that took, but also passion. I would say that the biggest thing that I learned through example at the workshop was to write about what you're obsessed with and to not worry too much about what you think you're supposed to be writing about or what you think people want to read about. But rather to just go towards your own obsession, and the thing that you can think about every single day in detail for years.

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Streaming Highlight: *Turning Red*



Illustration by Molly Milder

Parker Jones
Arts Editor

Pixar once again seems to be getting the short end of the streaming stick with its newest film, *Turning Red*, which will debut on Disney+ at no extra charge on March 11.

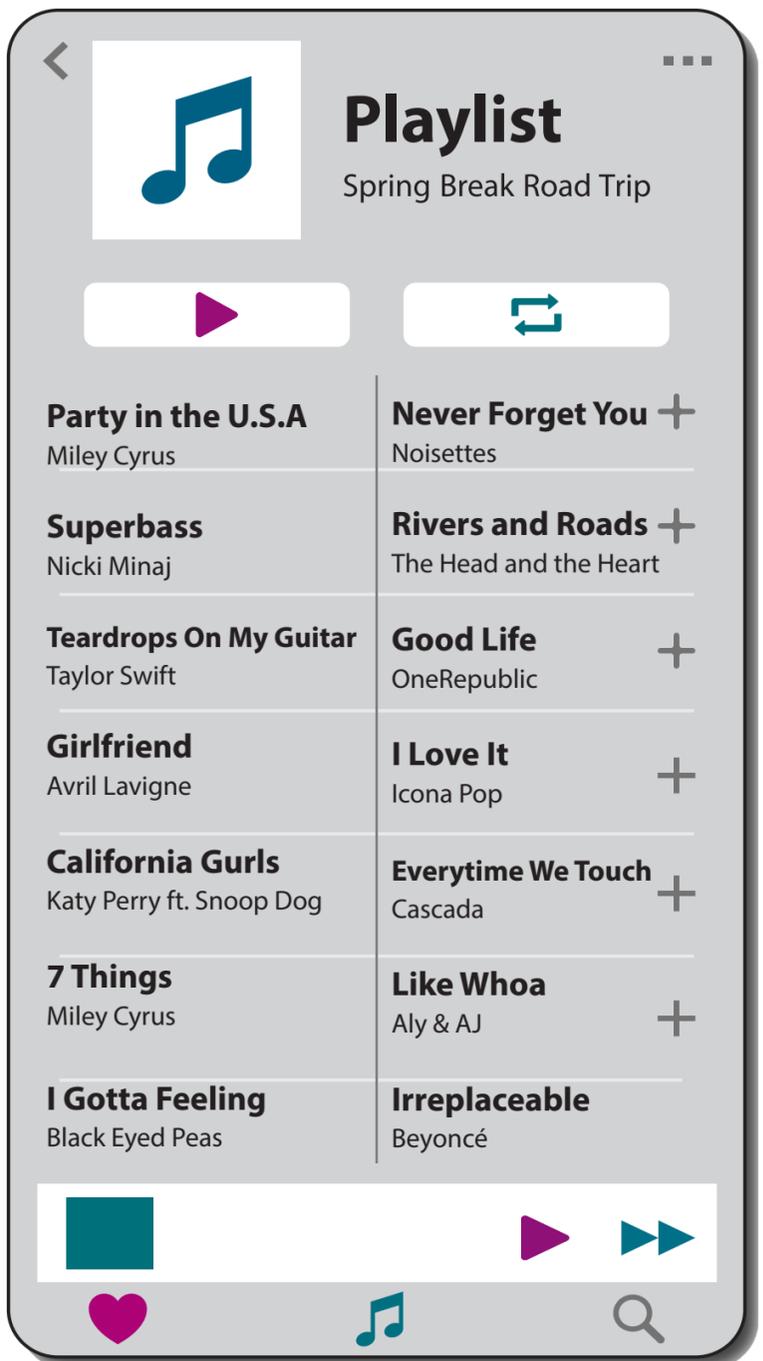
Focusing on a 13-year-old Chinese-Canadian girl named Mei and her tribulations of adolescence during the early 2000s, the animated film will incorporate a fantastical element as Mei suddenly develops the ability to shapeshift into a giant red panda whenever her emotions run too high. Dealing with this newfound uncontrollable power, as well as middle-school friendship drama and her obsession over boy bands, Mei must figure out how to stay true to herself along the way.

Turning Red is directed by Chinese-Canadian animator and filmmaker Domee Shi, who also directed the Oscar-winning animated short film *Bao*, in addition to working on several past projects. Mei, whose full name is Meilin Lee, will be played by up-and-coming actress Rosalie Chiang. Additional stars include Sandra Oh as Mei's overprotective mother Ming Lee, and Ava Morse, Maitreyi Ramakrishnan, and Hyein Park, who each play a member of Mei's close friend circle.

Like their last film *Luca*, Pixar's latest coming-of-age comedy will not cost an extra \$30 fee, unlike Disney's other big releases over the last year or so. Both *Raya and the Last Dragon* and *Encanto* cost an extra \$30 for the first few months of their release on the site, and were produced specifically by Walt Disney Animation Studios as opposed to Pixar.

Turning Red will also receive a simultaneous limited theater release, showing exclusively at the El Capitan Theatre in Burbank, CA, which is owned by Disney, as well as in countries without Disney+. Despite the differences in release method, *Turning Red* has already shown promising audience excitement and should prove to be a new fan favorite with its quirky and relatable premise.

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Finding IC's next drag star

Every Sunday, *Studio 13's Star Search* seeks the drag performer who best represents Iowa City's drag community.

Jami Martin-Trainor
Arts Reporter

The disco ball smattered light into all corners of the bar, shimmering over the rainbow paneling distinctive of Studio 13's performance space. Patrons filled tables scattered around the floor on Feb. 20, anticipating the latest night of *Studio 13's Star Search*, the Iowa City bar's weekly competition.

Studio 13's Star Search is a drag competition for Iowa City performers. Held every Sunday night since Jan. 16, the ultimate Iowa City drag queen or king will be crowned this coming weekend.

Studio 13 remains Iowa City's only LGBTQ+ nightclub, and for over two decades, it has provided a space for a strong community of drag queens and kings. For years, the club has hosted regular drag shows and has expanded its usual performances with its star search to give newer performers a chance to take the spotlight and hone their skills.

The competition consists of several elements, including a lip-syncing contest and a runway walk to show off the contestants' personalities and performance skills. Each week, one performer is sent home until only one winner remains.

On Feb. 20, the theme of the show was "red." Contestants are given relatively vague predetermined themes each week, allowing for their own creativity to be at the forefront of the show.

Throughout the night, the audience interacted with performers, cheering on every entertainer.

Singing along to the music playing and screaming in support of everyone in the room, Studio 13's patrons helped build and sustain the supportive atmosphere.

Barbara Busch Light took the stage first that night, performing with passion. Her runway outfit consisted of a long, glittering red dress, which she complemented with a matching red wig and jewelry. While the judges later commented that her piece didn't feel cohesive, Barbara Busch Light explained that her look was meant to encapsulate the duality of drag — both ele-

“This is seriously going to push [performers] to the point that they need because it's making them do drag every week.”

—Judge Myla Jade

gant and dramatic.

Drag king Spooky Santos got the crowd especially riled up, performing the song “Dirty Little Secret” by the All-American Rejects. Parading around the stage with confidence and executing an intense air-guitar moment, Spooky Santos earned second place that night.

The lip-syncing contest begins the night, with each performer showing off their look and stage presence in front of the audience and judges. Performers must balance pandering to an audience just feet away, remembering the words to their song, and displaying their skills to the panel of judges to succeed in this element of the contest.

The songs the queens and kings choose to perform vary drastically. Some take

on slower and smoother ballads to draw in and entice the audience, while others perform more high-energy routines to ignite the energy in the space.

Regardless of the chosen style, it is incredible to see the performers transform on stage. Before their performances, kings and queens can be seen standing and awaiting their turn, and it's clear that the competitive setting brings about tension and nervousness. But once the music begins, those nerves seem to instantly turn to total confidence.

Even though *Studio 13's Star Search* is a competition, the performers were nothing but kind to each other, both on and off stage. Whether it be taking photos of each other in their respective outfits or supporting the performer who got voted off at the end of the night, it is abundantly clear that Studio 13's community thrives on kindness.

The contest is also meant to give newer drag queens and kings an opportunity to improve their skills. One of the show's co-hosts, Lil Kimmy Blaque, explained that performing in a competitive setting is ideal for growth.

“The goal is to pretty much set up these newer performers for success by them showcasing their performance skill, and then they are judged based off

of that,” Lil Kimmy Blaque said.

After the performances and runways conclude, the show judges give comments and critiques to the performers. Criticism was clearly focused on being constructive, allowing for the performers to use past mistakes and improve their craft. Through the judges' commentary, it became quite clear to the audience that drag is much more than being able to get up on stage — it takes skill, creativity, and practice to succeed.

The concept of a drag competition is not necessarily new to Studio 13. Before the pandemic limited the entire performing-arts community, the nightclub was home to *Sasha Belle's Drag Race*. Hosted by former competitor on *RuPaul's Drag Race* Sasha Belle, the competition ran for eight seasons and three all-star seasons. According to the show's hosts, *Studio 13's Star Search* was partially conceived to fill the gap left after *Sasha Belle's Drag Race* ended.

Since the pandemic started, a positive change was noted in Studio 13's drag community. Co-hosts Lil Kimmy Blaque and Beep Beep explained that before they were separated by space, the drag community was divided by experience, leaving those who were new to the community on the outskirts.

“It's definitely changed a lot since we first started,” Lil Kimmy Blaque said. “The pandemic definitely flipped everything on its head. I would say the pandemic kind of brought us a lot closer, and not in a sense of



Lillie Hawker/The Daily Iowan

Drag queen Daphne Danger performs a lip-sync routine during the semi-final round of the *Studio 13's Star Search* drag contest on Sunday.

space-wise.”

Entertainment and experience are the main goals for the competition, but building community is also a key component. For many competitors, the co-hosts, and the show's primary judge Myla Jade, Studio 13 has been home for a long time. Jade immediately jumped into Studio 13 at the age of 19, and has been performing there for the past seven years.

“Looking back at myself seven years ago when I first started coming to the studio, it was like I was so awful [at performing],” Myla Jade said. “This is seriously

going to push [performers] to the point that they need because it's making them do drag every week.”

Lil Kimmy Blaque, Beep Beep, and Myla Jade all expressed that Iowa City's drag community is diverse and accepting of everyone.

“There's a lot of, like, weirdos, there's a lot of pretty queens. We have a lot of kings here,” Beep Beep said. “You'll never see the same thing twice in a show.”

Studio 13's Star Search's final competition will take place March 13 at 9 p.m.

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Nathalie Stutzmann, principal guest conductor
David Kim, violin

Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 7:30 pm

The Philadelphia Orchestra is among the world's preeminent ensembles—and a Hancher favorite as well. The orchestra returns to perform Max Bruch's beloved Violin Concerto No. 1 as well as Franz Schubert's final symphony, a masterwork that lives up to its moniker, *The Great*.

PROGRAM (subject to change)

Missy Mazzoli: *Sinfonia (for Orbiting Spheres)*
Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 26
Schubert: Symphony No. 9 in C Major

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IOWA

Student Spotlight: Graduate student duo prepares for dance thesis concert

Michael Landez and Juliet Remmers have focused their thesis concert on the idea of time, exploring both historical and contemporary pieces.

Anaka Sanders
Arts Reporter

It's that time of year, when graduate students typically feel pressure to work on their thesis papers. But for two third-year graduate students who are working on their MFAs in dance on the performance track, their paper takes shape in the form of a concert.

In fall 2021, dance duo Michael Landez and Juliet Remmers performed the piece *The Moor's Pavane*, originally choreographed in 1949 by revolutionary dancer José Limón for the Dance Gala. The dance was based on the Shakespearean tragedy *Othello*, where Othello kills his wife after hearing rumors that she cheated on him.

Remmers and Landez performed the dance as a quartet, alongside fellow graduate dance students Darius Gray and Emmalee Hallinan, and will do so again in their thesis concert.

Landez and Remmers met when they entered graduate school three years ago. For about 18 months, they've thrown around ideas for a joint thesis concert.

Since their performance in the 2021 Dance Gala, the two have combined that piece with three other pieces, along with shorter dances to fill the gaps between the four main performances to create their thesis concert, titled *TIMELESS MOTION*.

TIMELESS MOTION will

run from March 30 to April 1 in the Space Place Theater, one of the first in-person performances to return to the stage.

The first piece in the concert was choreographed by Brenda Serrata Tally, and developed into a solo for Landez. He said Tally is a good friend of his, so when

“I hope the audience members can come away feeling like they've experienced something that maybe has changed them in some way, or changed their idea of what performance can do.”

— Juliet Remmers, third-year MFA dance student

he called her to ask for help choreographing a solo about being Brown in Texas, she immediately said, “I'm in.”

Landez is from San Antonio, Texas, and decided to become a dancer after seeing *The Nutcracker* as a kid — a “classic origin story” for a dancer, he said.

While preparing his solo, he and Tally discovered an alternate form of rehearsal that they self-titled, “queer rehearsal.” On a trip over winter break, they decided to see *West Side Story* instead of going to a traditional rehearsal.

“It sparks a lot of conversations and ideas, trying to trouble the process of, ‘Where is the dance actually made?’” Landez said. “That's been kind of a journey.”

After Landez's solo performance comes *The Moor's*

Pavane, then Remmer's solo piece, choreographed by Janet Charleston. Her solo is a piece that began as an improvisation, but has been subsequently set into more designated choreography. The piece is still in its rehearsal stage, using a combination of Zoom and short in-person rehearsals.

Remmers is from Lawrence, Kansas, and like Landez, her parents took her to see a ballet — *Swan Lake* — where she first fell in love with dance. She joked that nobody could make her stop dancing, except maybe her knees.

The last piece in the program is another duet between the two dancers, choreographed by Joshua L. Peugh. Landez described the piece as an imagination of queer futures, and called it “very campy and ridiculous.”

“It sort of recalls a bygone era in some moments. It has some 50s-ish nostalgia and deals with issues of cultural appreciation,” Remmers said. “What is comfortable? What is uncomfortable? What does it mean to dance together with a good friend?”

They both agreed that the final piece of their concert is their favorite part, but for two different reasons.

Remmers enjoyed the aspect of doing the dance together, and is excited to finish the concert with upbeat, energetic work together.

er. Landez, however, most looks forward to the piñata the pair gets to destroy throughout the final dance. Coming from a large family, he said, being able to hit the piñata more than a couple of times is exciting. The piñata destruction scene leads into a fast-paced section that he called “very pleasurable” to do.

In the final month leading up to *TIMELESS MOTION*, the duo will work on sewing costumes, as well as meeting with a stage manager, lighting designer, and sound designer to ensure that the concert runs smoothly.

“I hope that people are excited to see a lot of

dancing,” Remmers said. “I hope the audience members can come away feeling like they've experienced something that maybe has

changed them in some way, or changed their idea of what performance can do.”

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Contributed.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

String

book by Sarah Hammond
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IOWA



A TRIBUTE TO ARETHA FRANKLIN: THE QUEEN OF SOUL

Featuring Damien Sneed
and special guest Karen Clark Sheard

Thursday, March 10, 7:30 pm

In 2004, Aretha Franklin brought the house down in the original Hancher Auditorium. Now, we invite her towering spirit into the new Hancher with a multi-media tribute performance by created by Damien Sneed—who toured with Franklin late in her career and developed a stronger mentor/mentee relationship with the soul legend—and an accomplished collection of jazz, gospel, and soul musicians. Gospel music legend and four-time Grammy Award-winner (not to mention her multiple Stellar and GMA Dove Awards) Karen Clark Sheard will bring her signature, one-of-a-kind multi-octave vocal range and musicality to the stage in honor of Aretha as well.

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