

INSIDE



80 HOURS: Powerful premieres at Iowa New Play Festival

Returning in person completely for the first time since 2019, the festival will showcase many works from University of Iowa undergraduate and graduate students.

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80 HOURS: Student Spotlight: Making history on dance team

Nathan Polanczyk made history when he became the first man to join the University of Iowa dance team. However, he prefers to highlight what the group has accomplished together.

Page 3B



Former mayor recounts time on City Council

Jim Throgmorton, former Iowa City mayor and city councilor, says his background in urban planning came in handy when serving the Iowa City community. His memoir recounts a career spanning from the 1990s until the conclusion of his time on council in 2019.

Page 3A

ONLINE



Bill! Bill! Bill!

Bill Nye the Science Guy visited the Hancher Auditorium to speak about the complex challenges in the world and how to solve them through science.

dailyiowan.com



Take Back the Night protest rallies at Pentacrest

The Women's Resource and Action Center hosted a Take Back the Night rally on Tuesday. Almost 200 people marched down Iowa City streets to the Pentacrest, with some survivors speaking up about their experiences.

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DITV

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



Student groups recount Wilson meetings

University of Iowa President Barbara Wilson said in a recent interview with *The Daily Iowan* that one of her accomplishments for her first year as president is meeting colleges and student groups throughout campus, but not every conversation has been beneficial, some groups say.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

University of President Barbara Wilson speaks with members of *The Daily Iowan* in Jessup Hall on April 20.

Kate Perez
News Reporter

When one student group on campus met with University of Iowa President Barbara Wilson, some members were concerned with the way she spoke about sexual assault protests and her previous work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Wilson has been meeting with student groups and colleges across campus in her first year as UI president — one of her goals she's out-

lined in the past. She said in an April 20 interview with *The Daily Iowan* that she wants to keep meeting people on campus after her first year concludes.

"I think one of my challenges to myself going forward is to continue to get out and meet people because I won't learn anything if I don't get out of the office and talk to people," Wilson said. "That may seem like a small goal, but I think it's a really big part of how I make sure I'm thinking about all the different stakeholder

groups that care about the university."

Ignite Iowa, a nonpartisan UI student group for women and nonbinary people in politics, met with Wilson in December after scheduling a meeting in late August.

Maggie Bashore, social media coordinator of Ignite Iowa, said among the topics the group and Wilson talked about were the protests at the Phi Gamma Delta house in September. She said the members found the way Wilson talked about it to be concerning.

In a recording of the Ignite Iowa meeting obtained by the *DI*, Wilson said she was told she needed to leave the President's Residence and go to the public safety building during a Phi Gamma Delta protest that came to the residence in response to a question about how she manages stress.

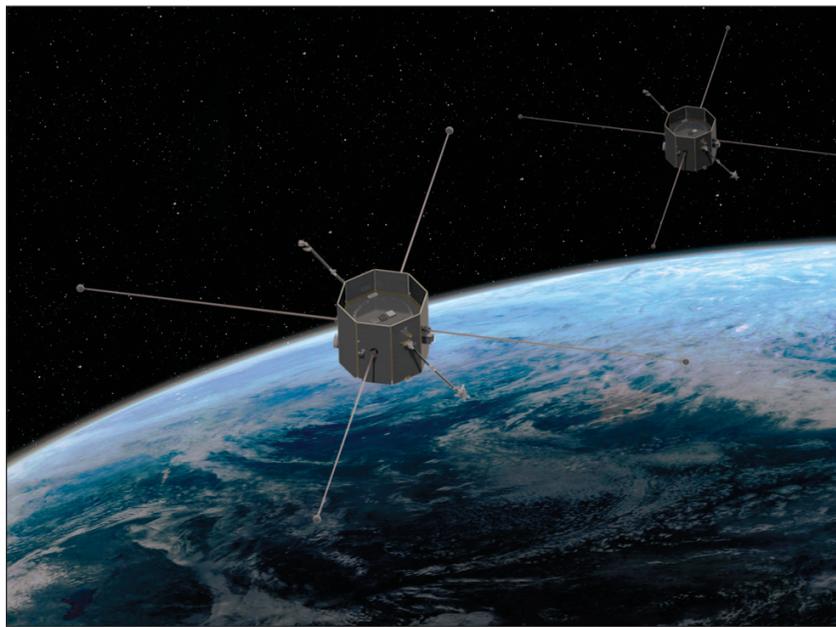
Wilson said she got a text from staff saying she needed to go to the police station when protesters went to the residence during the protest. "We got through that case, but it was enormously

complicated," Wilson told the group in the recording. "And social media was taking over, so much misinformation. And so, there it is, it's 10 o'clock at night, and I'm ready to go to bed and I have to get in the car and drive down. So, there are weird times in these positions. And fortunately, we got through that, but I think that's the thing I worry the most about and the thing that stresses me out the most is student safety."

WILSON | Page 2

UI NASA satellite mission advances to next phase

Scientists at the University of Iowa have passed a critical review by NASA and will soon begin building two satellites to study the sun's effects on earth's magnetosphere.



Contributed

Anthony Neri
News Reporter

NASA approved a team of University of Iowa scientists to move to the next phase of their mission launching two satellites through the Earth's northern polar cusp. "We're gearing up for some design re-

views, and then we'll be building the actual things that will fly in space," said Craig Kletzing, the mission's principal investigator and UI professor of physics and astronomy.

NASA | Page 2

Faculty struggle with burnout

University of Iowa faculty and staff are continuing to struggle with burnout and productivity barriers as a result of the pandemic.

Kate Perez
News Reporter

The University of Iowa Faculty Council and Senate are voicing concerns about burnout and poor mental health as the academic year comes to a close.

UI President Barbara Wilson told *The Daily Iowan* on April 20 that she will continue prioritizing mental health for faculty and staff.

Teresa Marshall, UI Faculty Senate president, said she heard from senators that they have been experiencing burnout and are struggling with mental health.

"I don't think it matters what sector you're working in — the last couple of years have been very difficult for individuals impacted by COVID," Marshall said. "When you look at faculty, they're not immune. We look at our faculty and staff on campus and they're impacted like everyone else in our state."

Marshall said she thinks faculty concerns about the university's inability to require masks, vaccines, or workspace protection raised stress levels, which contributes to burnout.

"For people on the other side of the river, there's constant changing of how I'm going to teach in person, remote, increase the workload, and they really haven't gotten a break," she said.

BURNOUT | Page 3

A keepsake edition to be published on Wednesday, May 11, 2022



After a memorable year, it's time to recognize the graduates of 2022.

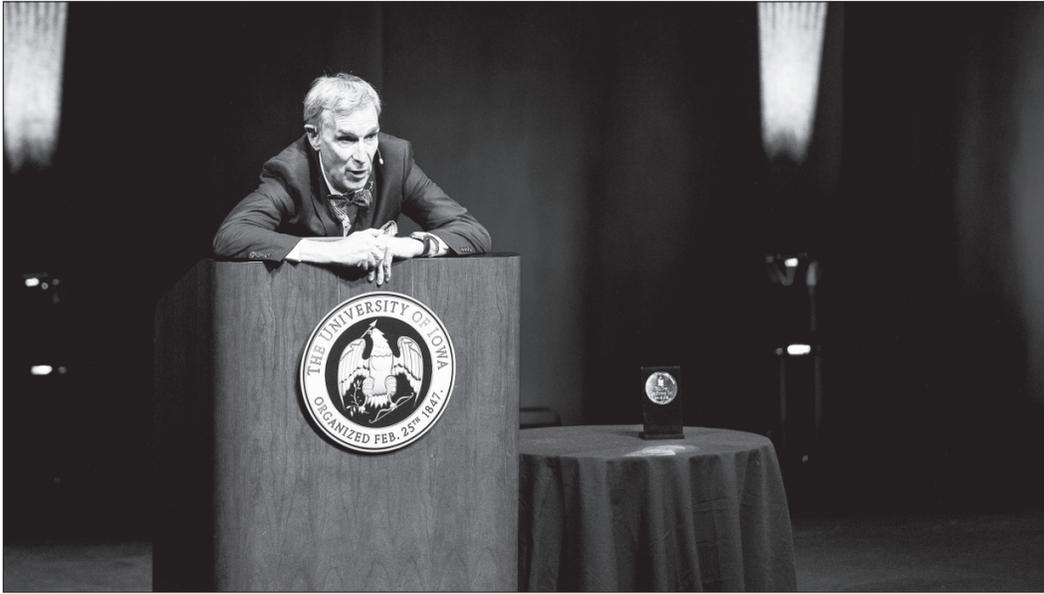
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Science rules



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Bill Nye speaks during a lecture held at Hancher Auditorium in Iowa City on Tuesday. Nye spoke about climate change.

WILSON

Continued from Front

"It just kind of caught us off guard because she made it sound like the whole thing was really an inconvenience to her. She didn't really talk about the gravity of the situation," Bashore said.

Wilson also talked to Ignite about her experiences at the University of Illinois, where she worked to get a policy enacted against relationships between students and professors or teaching assistants.

"This is a power differential, that is inappropriate," Wilson said. "And it's like, the public doesn't like it, I don't care what you think. Students [are] like, 'We should be free to love and we're adults,' until it runs into a problem, and then you're going to be suing us, OK? I'm gonna have to protect you from your own hormones and other things right now, because we can't have it."

Bashore said she felt concerned by the way Wilson framed her decisions at the University of Illinois to be concerning.

"It was just very weird rhetoric to hear from her. I feel like that kind of felt like it was playing into victim-blaming," Bashore said. "Afterward, we were all like, 'Did she really say that? Did she really say those things?'"

In an email to the *DI* on Tuesday, Wilson wrote that she was being candid when she met with Ignite Iowa.

"I was speaking candidly from the heart with a thoughtful group of young women, answering the questions asked and sharing examples of inappropriate relationships between faculty and undergraduates that were concerning to me," Wilson wrote. "I realize now that the students wanted to talk more about misconduct between students."

Wilson wrote that supporting women has been an important issue to her and remains so.

"I wish I had done a better job of expressing my strong commitment to supporting women, preventing sexual misconduct, and holding offenders accountable," she wrote. "Campus and student safety are one of the most important parts of my job."

Bashore said she felt Wilson truly appreciated the group's feedback and comments, but she wouldn't say it was the most genuine atmosphere.

"I kind of feel like she came in and like she wanted to be really intimate and have girl talk with us," Bashore said. "She wanted to be really real with us, but at the same time, why would you say those things to students? I don't know if she thought it wouldn't leave the room, but it's still pretty naive to say all those things to a group of 12 or so members."

UI Democrats and UI College Republicans

At the meeting with Ignite Iowa, Wilson also discussed meetings she had with student groups, saying her experience with the University Democrats and College Republicans was frustrating.

"I thought, 'Well, I'm gonna bring these two groups together and see if we can't work on something.' And it was so strange, the meeting, I'll just leave it at that. Say it was one of the most frustrating meetings I've had," Wilson said.

Wilson said the two groups struggled to agree on different topics.

"We couldn't agree on anything to work on together, except at the end, we said, 'Well, we all care about political action, so maybe we could work on something to encourage students to get more active politically,'" Wilson said. "But it's a pretty lame conclusion to an hour-long meeting."

Caleb Slater, president of the UI University Democrats, said Wilson's office reached out to the groups to set up an Oct. 4 meeting with UI College Republicans.

"We ended up having the meeting and it went fine," Slater said. "In my opinion, it went about how you would expect two groups of young partisan activists meeting with each other — about as well as you could expect that to go."

The *DI* contacted the College Republicans for comment multiple times but did not receive a response.

Slater said Wilson wanted to know if there were issues the two groups could work together on, but no real consensus was reached.

"I think from University Democrats' perspective, we didn't really see any reason why she would want to meet with both of us at the same time and why University Democrats would work with College Republicans when the goals of our organizations are polar opposite from each other," Slater said.

Wilson wrote in the email to the *DI* that she intended for the two groups to be able to collaborate at the joint meeting.

"I had hoped we could find ways for the two groups to work together, across political party lines, on campus issues that students care about such as free speech, respectful political debate and voting," Wilson wrote.

Wilson wrote that she will continue to listen to students.

"I respect the students' concerns and I very much appreciate their feedback," she wrote.

The feel of the meeting was "professional" and "cordial," Slater said, with Wilson acting as a moderator throughout, but he said he wished University Democrats could have had their own meeting with Wilson so they could have voiced their issues without having to compete for her attention.

"We would have been able to better explain to her or chat with her about what our concerns are without having those concerns, kind of drowned out by College Republicans having their own concerns that also needed to be heard by her, and sometimes those concerns were a little bit contradictory to each other," Slater said.

While the overall meeting was professional between the two groups, Slater said it was disappointing to share time because they had fewer opportunities to ask questions about their organization.

"I think we would have more appreciated an opportunity to focus on [their actions] and ask her what she thinks we could be doing better, or what she thinks what the student org of our type should be, how we should be working with other student orgs," he said.

Wilson meets with UI colleges

Despite some concerns, other groups the *DI* spoke to said their meetings with Wilson were productive.

Wilson said in the April 20 interview with the *DI* that meetings with colleges at the university helped her gain insight into what different goals each school within the university has.

"When I go out and talk with colleges, of course, the goal is to ask, 'What are your aspirations?' 'How can the president's office help you?' 'How can I make sure I'm talking about what you're

doing to legislators and leaders across the state?'" she said.

All of the conversations she has had with different groups, both student and college, have helped her learn more about the university as a whole, Wilson said.

Wilson met with various colleges throughout the school year, including the Graduate College. Amanda Thein, dean of the Graduate College and associate provost for Graduate and Professional Education, said the president's office reached out to her for their meeting.

"We were really thrilled to have them asked to do that," Thein said. "They came to visit us in mid-December, and they were here for about three hours. A university president is a very, very busy person, so it's a very, very generous amount of time to spend with us."

Thein said she showed Wilson and Kevin Kregel, executive vice president and provost, Gilmore Hall while discussing her goals for the Graduate College.

"She got the chance to hear a little bit from me directly about some of my priorities, and then other people who are part of the leadership team and the Graduate College got a chance to speak to the president, which I think is so important," Thein said.

Wilson said she spoke with various deans in the Graduate College, including Steve Varga, Jennifer Teitle, and Shelly Campo about the college's student-centered approaches to graduate education and career preparation, the creation of communities and support networks for graduate students, and how it provides opportunities for undergraduates to explore graduate programs.

The directors of the college's academic units, including the School of Library and Information science, the Center for the Book, the School of Planning and Public Affairs, the International Writing Program, and the UI Press, also got to tell Wilson what they do in their academic units and their goals, Thein said.

"I had been working with each of these units and we collaborate across units, but as we worked on what we wanted to share with President Wilson and Provost Kregel, it was really a nice chance for us to collaborate and think about what are the most important things that we do for campus and for students, and how can we help President Wilson really understand that," she said.

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Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

University of President Barbara Wilson speaks with members of The Daily Iowan in Jessup Hall on April 20.

ant things that we do for campus and for students, and how can we help President Wilson really understand that," she said.

Thein added that it was an opportunity to present the Graduate College's core values and vision of student access to graduate education to Wilson.

She said she was grateful Wilson came and spent time with not only administrators but doctoral students and leaders as well.

"I really appreciate the fact that President Wil-

son wants to be very engaged with what's happening with academics on campus," Thein said. "She has a very big role over all aspects of what goes on at the University of Iowa. Academics is a central piece of that and she's deeply interested in the kinds of new programs that we have, the opportunities that students have as undergraduates, as graduate students, as professional students."

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Bicycle Tips: Parking

- Always park in a rack.
- Lock both wheels and frame to rack.
- Don't leave your bike for an extended period of time.
- Going home for the summer? Take your bike or donate it.

transportation.uiowa.edu

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The Board of Trustees of Student Publications Inc., which oversees *The Daily Iowan*, has two vacancies for

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

This is a one-year term covering the period from September 2022 through May 2023 with an option to serve a second term.

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Duties include monthly meetings, committee work, selecting an editor and budget approval. You may nominate yourself or someone else.

The deadline for petitions is

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2022 at NOON

Request a petition via email from
Publisher Jason Brummond
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NASA

Continued from Front

NASA provided UI investigators \$115 million in 2019, the single largest amount of external funding in UI history at the time, for the Tandem Reconnection and Cusp Electrodynamics Reconnaissance Satellites project, known as TRACERS.

The scientists have a launch readiness date of July 27, 2024, Kletzing said.

Scientists passed the Key Decision Point C phase recently, which focused on assessing their schedule and costs, he said, before passing it along to NASA's Science Mission Directorate, which helps its associates develop satellites for probing.

"They want to make sure that you're really ready to go," Kletzing said. "It's a key milestone."

Without approval at Key Decision Point C, the team's satellites might not have been able to launch or would have been delayed.

Jasper Halekas, UI associ-

ate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, also emphasized the importance of this stage for the future of their mission.

"It's a particularly important evaluation," Halekas said. "This is really the gate that says, 'Yes, your design is complete and you're ready to start building the thing.'"

Kletzing said his team will study the Earth's magnetosphere to eventually create better models that can predict disasters resulting from its contact with the sun. The magnetosphere is the region around the Earth that shields it from solar wind with its magnetic field.

"The process that [the satellite] is probing is what brings energy and momentum and mass in and around the Earth into what we call the Earth's magnetosphere, which drives things like the Aurora Borealis and lots of space phenomena," he said.

Kletzing referenced GPS and satellites as examples of what can be harmed by solar winds, a stream of particles from the sun that

breach the Earth's magnetosphere in a process called magnetic reconnection.

"Very large currents can be driven by this process that flow in the northern and southern polar regions, but they're big enough that they can actually couple to things like power lines," he said.

Kletzing cited the Quebec Blackout Storm of 1989, a solar event which caused a nine-hour power outage in the entire province, as one example of a disaster resulting from magnetic reconnection.

He also mentioned a more distant memory, the Carrington Event of 1859, a surge that blazed telegraph stations, even as it made auroral graphics for much of the world to see.

"If we can build better models that let us predict with more advanced warning what might happen, then you can say, 'Hey, you guys should be paying attention,'" he said.

Kletzing's team will repeatedly fly their satellites through the northern polar cusp, a consistent site of mag-

netic reconnection.

That the cusp is shaped like a funnel spiraling down to Earth is ideal, Halekas added.

"The cusp is this really unique location where we can observe the effects of that reconnection that happens much farther out," Halekas said.

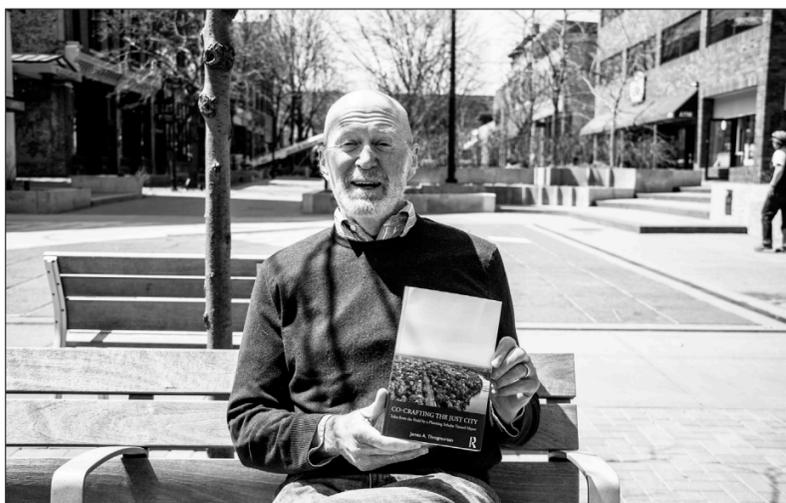
Scott Bounds, UI department of physics and astronomy associate research scientist and engineer and investigator on the mission, said the TRACERS mission continues the UI's long tradition of building spaceflight hardware, initiated by James Van Allen, the late UI space scientist.

"It's always very exciting after putting in a lot of hard work to design and build, to actually get the data back and see that your effort is important and has a result," Bounds said. "The development of spaceflight transportation was kind of started here with Van Allen. I definitely want to see his legacy continue on."

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Jim Throgmorton's memoir recounts time as mayor and Iowa City City Council

The former Iowa City mayor says his background in urban planning helped him best serve the Iowa City community in his memoir.



Isabella Cervantes/The Daily Iowan

Jim Throgmorton, a former Iowa City Mayor, poses for a portrait in the Pedestrian Mall on Tuesday. Throgmorton recently published a memoir about his time on the council.

Emily Delgado
News Reporter

Former Iowa City Mayor Jim Throgmorton's background in urban planning came in handy when he was serving as Iowa City's mayor. Throgmorton recounts his time as Iowa City's mayor in

his new memoir, *Co-Crafting the Just City: Tales from the Field by a Planning Scholar Turned Mayor*.

Starting his career on the City Council in the 1990s for two years and then returning in 2011, he concluded his time serving on the council

as mayor in 2019.

Throgmorton was on the council at the same time as current Councilor Pauline Taylor.

"I admired Mayor Throgmorton very much," Taylor said. "He was a good leader, a good role model ... I think

he was an asset to the council and a good leader for us while we were on the council with him."

Throgmorton said his success in the City Council is because of his background in urban planning. He has a doctorate degree in urban and regional planning from the University of California, Los Angeles.

"I have considerable experience in processing large amounts of data," Throgmorton said. "My background was very helpful is that I had a great deal of practical and scholarly experience having to do with any issues pertaining to the natural environment."

Throgmorton splits up his book in accordance with his time on council, with the second chapter focusing specifically on his first two years on council and projects he was involved in.

"That chapter focuses attention on mainly four topics, one of which has to do with a project we call the Gateway Project, which involves the elevation of

North Dubuque Street and the construction of the Park Road Bridge, both flood mitigation projects," Throgmorton said.

Another topic that Throgmorton addresses in his book is Iowa City Community School District's facilities management plan.

"The school district's desire to adopt a facilities management plan that would involve the construction of new K-12 schools, but also modification of existing schools," Throgmorton said.

In addition to the facilities management plan, Throgmorton helped efforts to begin the rezoning of the Forest View mobile home park, Charlie Eastham, a member of the Iowa City Community School District Board of Directors, said.

"His work on supporting the Forest View neighborhood relocation efforts have a major impact upon the students in the Forest View neighborhood," Eastham said.

Eastham said the biggest impact Throgmorton had on the council was his work for the Forest View mobile home park.

Eastham worked with Throgmorton from the beginning of his career on the City Council as a fellow advocate for social justice, housing issues, and other topics.

"I am really impressed by his work, his writing, and his willingness to put down in detail and extensively the issues that he was trying to deal with as mayor and as a land use planning scholar," Throgmorton said.

The main goal of his book is to give the Iowa City community an inside look at what goes into serving on the city council, Throgmorton said.

"I would hope that any reader, including our current council members and Mayor, would be able to read the book and come to their own conclusions," Throgmorton said.

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BURNOUT

Continued from Front

While faculty have enough time to complete all their work on paper, Marshall said, they can hit a level of burnout that stunts those daily activities.

When faculty continue to push themselves despite being stressed, their tasks may take longer because their brains are pre-occupied with other worries like their families, she said.

"I would encourage them to just take time for themselves, whatever they do, and take it easy on themselves, not be as demanding.

— Teresa Marshall, UI Faculty Senate president

to just take time for themselves, whatever they do, and take it easy on themselves, not be as demanding," she said. "We all have high standards for performance, that's how we end up getting here. Maybe relax those standards a little bit and give yourself grace."

Bronwyn Threlkeld-Wiegand, director of the UI Employee Assistance Program, wrote in an email to the *DI* that the top reason people use the program's services is to manage depression and anxiety. The

"The use of telehealth and telephone has enabled us to connect with people who would never have been able to get to our office in the past," she wrote. "That has been a welcome improvement."

Faculty can use services for free, she wrote.

Well-being resources can also be accessed through the liveWELL program, which focuses on helping faculty and staff in their health and wellness efforts.

The 2021 UI liveWELL report, taken annually by UI faculty and staff to report on their overall well-being, was released earlier this year. The report detailed that UI faculty and staff have been experiencing an increase in productivity barriers and health risk behaviors since the 2019-20 academic year, coinciding with their burnout complaints.

According to the report:

- 22 percent of faculty and staff experienced the health risk behavior of unmanaged stress, a 7 percent increase from 2019
- 80 percent of respondents experienced the health risk behavior of poor nutrition, a 4 percent increase from 2019
- 35 percent of respondents experienced the health risk behavior of physical inactivity, a 1 percent increase from 2019
- 32 percent of respon-

dents experienced the health risk behavior of poor sleep, a 3 percent increase from 2019

Along with the physical aspects of well-being that UI faculty and staff are struggling with, the report also found that they are struggling with concentra-

- 31 percent of faculty and staff had difficulty concentrating due to their caregiving responsibilities, a 7 percent increase from 2019
- 56 percent of faculty and staff had difficulty concentrating due to feeling like they had too much to do, a 5 percent increase from 2019
- 25 percent of faculty and staff had difficul-

ty concentrating due to their own health or physical condition, a 7 percent increase from 2019

• 29 percent of faculty and staff had difficulty concentrating due to financial stress, a 2 percent decrease from 2019

In an interview with the *DI*, Wilson said UI human resources has been working on more mental health programs for university faculty and staff to combat issues like burnout.

"[HR goes] out to departments, they'll work with different units around work-life balance issues, around stress releases, around the issues that you're talking about," Wilson said.

Part of the university's

challenge is making faculty and staff aware of the resources for both individual and departmental health, she said.

"It's there, I just think we got to connect the services with the people, and we're working on that," Wilson said. "I think it's really important. We talk about student wellness and mental health all the time, and we often leave out our faculty and staff."

Wilson said it's important to pay attention to the mental health of all UI members, as students often rely on faculty.

"We're a community and people can't help each other unless they're feeling strong and resilient themselves," she said.

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A keepsake edition to be published on Wednesday, May 11, 2022

The Daily Iowan
Graduation EDITION

Celebrate your family member or friend's momentous achievement in *The Daily Iowan's Graduation Edition*. This special keepsake issue will feature graduate profiles and stories, along with congratulatory advertisements placed by parents, family members and friends of University of Iowa graduates.

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Opinions

COLUMN

Alcohol has negative health effects

Reports that show alcohol use in Iowa increasing over time are cause for concern.



Kyle Tristan Ortega
Opinions Columnist

Iowans drink more than the average American.

According to reports in 2021, 22.8 percent of Iowa adults were binge drinking, which was 5.2 percent above the U.S. average during that time. In 2022, the Iowa Department of Public Health claimed alcohol consumption in the state remains above the national average, and even moderate to light drinking is dangerous because of its health-related and second-hand consequences.

Have you ever popped a few cold ones with your friends and had a good time? Probably, which is understandable because social drinking has been linked to an increase in positive emotions and social bonding, and a decrease in negative emotions.

But what does it mean to drink too much? Alcohol consumption guidelines suggest that men can have two drinks or less a day while women can have one drink or less a day, meaning that alcohol consumption beyond these guide-

lines can be categorized as “drinking too much.”

Dangers come with the overconsumption of alcohol, and many of them are health-related. Studies show that drinkers, even light to moderate ones, are at risk for seven forms of cancer, in addition to liver and brain complications. Essentially, if alcohol does not negatively affect you now, it might do so gradually over the span of weeks, months, or years.

Alcohol also poses secondhand effects that are dangerous to a drinking individual and those around them. An estimated 21 percent of women and 23 percent of men have been injured in some way as a direct result of alcohol abuse. The ways that people have been a detriment to themselves and others because of alcohol include instances of traffic accidents, violence, harassment, emotional distress, and financial difficulty.

Considering that the overconsumption of alcohol causes adverse health problems and one in five American adults, approximately 53 million people, experience harm from secondhand drinking, it is clear why Iowa’s above-average alcohol consumption is concerning.

Regardless, it may be argued that some alcohol



Photo Illustration.

Kate Heston/The Daily Iowan

consumption is beneficial. This is not only evident in social drinking, but some reports show that moderate drinking also reduces the risk of developing heart diseases and diabetes. However, these benefits do nothing to decrease the risk of developing cancers or other diseases, or experiencing injuries from sec-

ondhand drinking.

With regards to the aforementioned health benefits of moderate drinking, a study refutes drinking’s proactive effects by stating that the validity of it reducing the risk of developing certain illnesses has not been accurately tested. This means that, aside from making social gatherings

more fun, drinking may have no benefits at all.

Drinking, specifically in social settings, can be fun, but there are too many risks associated with alcohol. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest that non-drinkers should not start drinking for any reason, alluding to the practice’s potential

consequences.

Obviously, no one should drink too much. However, evidence supports the idea that even moderate to light drinking is risky. If possible, avoid drinking altogether, as no amount of good can justify the negative effects of alcohol.

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COLUMN

A better solution for students with IEPs

With a policy reversal at Iowa City High, the Iowa City Community School District’s troubling history reminds us of abuse of seclusion rooms.



Sophia Meador
Opinions Columnist

The Iowa City Community School District Board of Education voted to reinstate seclusion rooms more than four years after the district committed to ending the practice.

Seclusion rooms in schools are a source of debate among those who argue the practice is harmful and others who believe it is necessary. But, there would be less of a need for seclusion rooms if schools were better equipped.

In 2017, then Iowa City Community School District Superintendent Stephen Murlay emailed parents to inform them that the district would discontinue the use of seclusion rooms.

Seclusion rooms are a space intended to separate a student from others, if they experience an outburst that puts the safety of staff and students at risk. Commonly, seclusion rooms are used for students with individual learning plans, known as IEPs, which are made for students with disabilities or special needs.

But, less than five years after ending this practice, Iowa City High School plans to build a seclusion room in one classroom. The Iowa City school board voted to convert existing exercise, custodial, and laundry spaces into two class-

rooms, including one with a seclusion room.

The new seclusion room will only be used if it’s in a student’s IEP, and their parents have consented. This policy hopes to correct the district’s troubling history of seclusion rooms.

In 2017, the Iowa Department of Education ruled that the district had, in some cases, used seclusion rooms inappropriately. The 6-by-6 foot wooden box was used in cases of minor behavioral issues. During this time, students could be placed in seclusion if there was a risk of “serious harm.” In 2021, the Iowa State Board of Education changed that standard to risk of “bodily injury.”

This ruling also shed light on how students of color are disproportionately punished. Federal data found 39 percent of students with IEPs put in seclusion in Iowa City schools were Black. Yet, the district only had a Black population of 19 percent.

This highlights the argument that many have against seclusion rooms: they are misused.

Although seclusion rooms are to be a last resort when calming down a student experiencing an outburst, people are subjective when declaring an outburst a safety hazard. This can lead a staff member to put a student in a seclusion room unnecessarily.

Unlike Iowa City High School, some schools do not limit seclusion rooms to students with IEPs. So, students acting up in the classroom could be subjected to a seclusion room. Statistics prove this is most common for students of color.

So, the question remains,

what better alternative is there? Unfortunately, I don’t have a simple answer to that.

One thing we can all agree upon is that working in a classroom is hard. Iowa teachers and staff members are underpaid and often serve many students. It’s hard to imagine the stress they are under each day — even more so during a student’s outburst.

I worked one summer at a daycare, and each day I came home absolutely exhausted. While we did not have seclusion rooms, there were often outbursts so great that a child had to be restrained.

But, the children who experienced the most outbursts had underlying mental health issues, disabilities, or issues in their home life. The more we understood a child’s background, the better we were able to access their needs.

Grafton Health Network, an organization that serves people with behavioral issues in Virginia, ended its practice of seclusion rooms. It transitioned from a “control and compliance model” to an “understanding and prevention” model. From 2003-19, total staff injuries from students and other clients decreased by 64 percent.

I want to be clear that I don’t believe teachers and staff members are not doing enough. But, if schools and teachers were better equipped with resources — staffing, training, preventative tools, and social workers — maybe there would be less need for seclusion rooms.

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COLUMN

Cutting SNAP benefits leaves many Iowans scrambling

Iowa cut extension to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, leaving many families and individuals to deal with high food costs and fewer benefits.



Yassie Buchanan
Opinions Columnist

The state of Iowa has opted out of extra SNAP benefits, leaving many individuals and families without the assistance they need. Because of this cutback, food pantries in Iowa are seeing increased demand and must make up for a lack of assistance.

Food is a basic necessity. Iowa’s government should make it a priority that no Iowan is scrambling to feed themselves or their family, and ending SNAP benefits was not the way to do this.

In response to the spikes in poverty and food insecurity at the beginning of the pandemic, the federal government took action by expanding SNAP benefits, unemployment benefits, and more. Iowa is now one of 12 other Republican-led states to opt out of the expansion, starting this month.

SNAP benefits have not only been important during the pandemic. The program is the largest in the U.S. for addressing hunger and poverty, serving over 41 million people. In February, 15 million U.S. households were allotted expanded SNAP benefits.

Food insecurity increased by 33 percent in Iowa during the pandemic, and there was a 168 percent increase in the distribution of SNAP benefits. Now, Iowans who may have relied on this have to turn elsewhere to address their food needs.

The Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, or HACAP, has seen a 20-percent increase in the use of its services this month. The HACAP pro-

vides services to address homelessness, children, veterans, energy conservation, and health and nutrition. The volunteer coordinator of HACAP reported that an estimated 65 percent of people coming to the food pantry earlier this month had never been there before.

Other food banks have seen and are addressing the impact of these cuts. Feeding America estimates it will spend 40 percent more in fiscal 2022 than in previous years.

With drastic upticks in Iowans needing food assistance, it is clear that cutting back SNAP benefits has in no way been beneficial. Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds has said cutting back on these extra benefits is necessary to get people working. However, Iowa has yet to address a living minimum wage, meaning work doesn’t guarantee people won’t need benefits.

This logic is especially troubling considering increases in the prices of goods. There has been an 8.5-percent increase in inflation, with food prices rising the fastest. It was estimated that Americans are paying 10 percent more for groceries than in previous years. These rises are not expected to drop soon, either. As a result, many families are facing double the struggle with cuts on SNAP benefits and high food prices.

This inflation makes it all the more necessary to take action to accommodate these prices.

Common sense tells us that, instead of cutting back on SNAP benefits in hopes of decreasing unemployment, Iowa should look at ways to mitigate poverty by raising the minimum wage, expanding benefits, and investing in long-term solutions.

Food banks should not be overwhelmed with the task of feeding Iowans. We need our government to take action and address these needs.

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BRAITHWAITE
Continued from FRONT

Since he took over for Doyle, Braithwaite has made some tweaks to the Hawkeyes' strength and conditioning regimen. "There's similarities and there's differences," Braithwaite said. "I mean, the nuts and bolts don't change. But every year we have to stay relevant, and we're always evolving and researching and making sure we're on the cutting edge in terms of what's out there in strength and conditioning. "I think I'm a different human being," Braithwaite added. "My personality is different. I'm a different guy. The staff is different. The staff changes and

evolves. With that, comes changes in the way we do things and how we interact with the team." One of the biggest points Braithwaite said he has emphasized over the last two years is athlete mental health, noting that working the mind is an important part of strength and conditioning. "I think that goes back to individual meetings with guys," Braithwaite said. "You have to establish a rapport when kids get on campus initially, just to let them know that there's an open-door policy and that you care about them outside of the sport of football. I think it's big for their own mental health, so they don't just think they're just a commodity that comes in, works out, then leaves."

Braithwaite has made his share of changes over the last two years. But the 44-year-old doesn't switch things up without proper consideration. "The challenge is not changing for the sake of change," Braithwaite said. "... Some of the basics still work. We have to become, like we say here, brilliant at the basics. They have to be really good at the basics before we want to decide to change things. "We always want to say we want to have consistent variability in the way we design things," Braithwaite added. "It has to be consistent in philosophy and why we do what we do. But there has to be some changes, some tweaks." austin-hanson@uiowa.edu



Joseph Cress/Iowa City Press-Citizen
Iowa director of strength and conditioning Rai Braithwaite speaks during a news conference, April 13, at the Hansen Football Performance Center in Iowa City, Iowa.

JONES
Continued from FRONT

Linderbaum declared for the NFL Draft after his junior season. The All-American is a projected first-round pick in Thursday's draft. While preparing for the draft for the last four months, Linderbaum has also helped his former teammate do the same thing he did ahead of the 2019 season — move from defensive tackle to center. Jones has reached out to Linderbaum, who encouraged Jones to make the switch, frequently for pointers about the position. One area in particular has caused Jones some trouble: snapping. "I thought it would be easy," Jones said. "I snapped a little bit in high school. But it is hard. The timing of the count and everything, stepping and snapping, there's a lot to it. "With changing positions there are a lot

of challenges ... Getting plays down, my footwork, and then going against the defensive line guys. Going against them, it was hard to be really serious about it. But at the end of the day, I've got to beat these guys despite them being my old brothers." At the start of spring practice, Jones was listed as the No. 3 center on the depth chart. Tyler Elsbury and Matt Fagan held the top two spots. But on Saturday, Elsbury played first-team left guard and Fagan played second-team center. Jones, the 6-foot-2, 282-pounder, said he arrived at Iowa thinking he could change positions one day. He knew Linderbaum did it. Once the former Lewis Central High School prep started playing scout team center last season, his teammates on the defensive line started joking that his time on that side of the ball was coming to an end. The joke became reality. "The biggest thing for me was leaving the de-

fensive linemen," Jones said. "We created such a strong bond and leaving them and going to another room was probably the hardest part for me ... But they understand and are very supportive." Ferentz joked on Saturday that enough time has passed since he moved Jones from D-Line to O-Line that his defensive coaches are finally speaking to him again. Defensive line coach Kelvin Bell, who recruited Jones, was particularly adamant about Jones staying on defense. Bell said Jones would have seen significant time at defensive tackle this season had he stayed there. "It's a combination of what he might be able to do, then a combination of what our depth is," Ferentz said of Jones moving to center. "That's really what led us to this move. We try not to move guys just to move 'em. If there's a good rationale for it, we'll have a discussion." Jones redshirted as a freshman in 2020 and saw

limited snaps last season. Bell still isn't thrilled about the move, but said he knows it is in the Hawkeyes' best interest. "Anyone can empathize with the feelings I had during that [transition]," Bell said. "You've built a foundation for that kid and you're excited about it. To have it taken away from you ... But I understand. It's going to be for the betterment of our football team. Would Logan have played defensive tackle for us this year? Absolutely. He would have been a really good one, much like [Linderbaum] would have been. But there's a need on offense from a depth standpoint on the offensive line. That's the best spot for him. "I hate to lose Logan. He's a great player. But it's going to be better for our football team that he goes on that side of the ball." robert-read@uiowa.edu

SPI Board STAFF VACANCY

The Board of Trustees of Student Publications Inc., which oversees *The Daily Iowan*, has one vacancy for **STAFF REPRESENTATIVE**

This is a two-year term covering the period from September 2022 through May 2024.

Nominees must be full or part-time employees of the University of Iowa (excluding faculty) and must be committed to working on the Board until the term expires. You may nominate yourself or someone else.

The deadline for nominations is **FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2022 at NOON**

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Nominees should provide the following information:

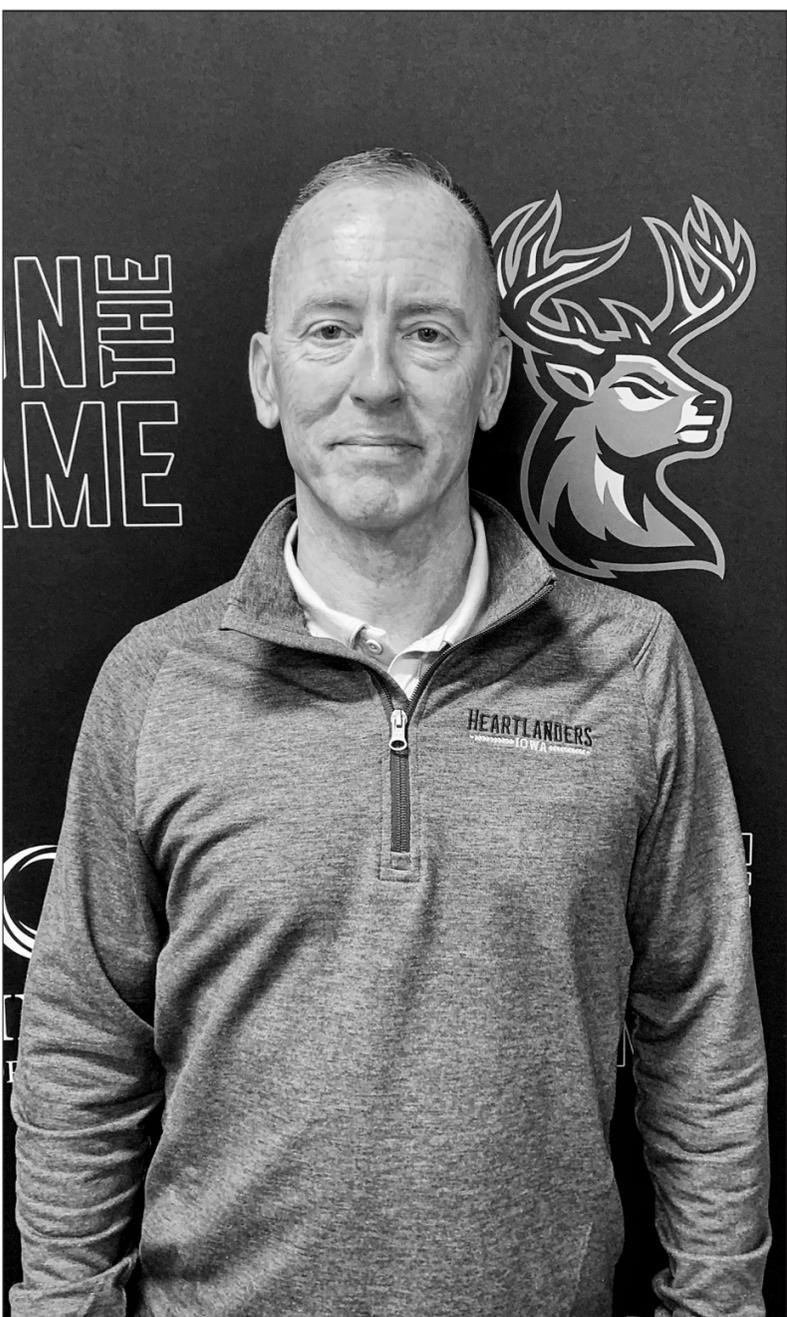
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HEARTLANDERS
Continued from FRONT

"Tom's relationships with local businesses and partners throughout Eastern Iowa will be a tremendous asset as the Heartlanders build upon a tremendous first season in Coralville." Hamilton said he's been impressed with the club's front office personnel since taking over as president. He described his staff as loyal, energetic, and passionate about the Heartlanders. The Heartlanders re-

corded the second-lowest attendance in the ECHL during the 2021-22 regular season with 1,961 spectators per game at Xstream Arena. Though the first game in club history hosted 4,017 fans, attendance dipped to an average of 1,686 in November and 1,707 in December. The Heartlanders filled more seats in the final four months of their inaugural campaign, and the final home contest put 3,210 fans into the 5,100-capacity facility. The organization has

months to prep for the 2022-23 season, which begins in October. That is a longer time frame than the Heartlanders had before their inaugural season in 2021-22, as they were filling up their front office staff last summer while taking their first steps in Johnson County. "Our biggest goal is to get more people in that arena and show them how exciting it can be," Hamilton said. "Whether it's their first experience or second season." isaac-goffin@uiowa.edu



Contributed photo of Tom Hamilton

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HAWKEYE UPDATES

Eldridge named Iowa men's basketball assistant coach

Iowa men's basketball announced Monday that director of recruiting and player development Courtney Eldridge has been promoted to assistant coach.

Eldridge will fill the position vacated by Billy Taylor, who left Iowa for a head coaching job at Elon.

Eldridge has been on Iowa's staff since 2017, first serving as the Hawkeyes' video coordinator. The 41-year-old coach was promoted to director of recruiting and player development in 2019.

Eldridge specialized in film breakdown, player development edits, and assisted the coaching staff with statistical data and analytics as the Hawkeyes' video coordinator.

"I am thankful to [head coach Fran] McCaffery and [athletic director] Gary Barta for this opportunity," Eldridge said via release. "I have been in Iowa City the past six years, and I know how special this community and program is. I am excited to mentor the student-athletes in our program."

Eldridge first met McCaffery at University of North Carolina-Greensboro in 1998. McCaffery, who was at the helm of the UNC-Greensboro men's basketball team from 1998-2005, coached Eldridge from 1998-2002. Eldridge then played over 12 years of professional basketball overseas before returning to the U.S. to begin coaching.

"I have had a relationship with Courtney for a long time," McCaffery said in a release. "He played for me at UNCG, has been on my staff, and has a great relationship with our players. He is a tireless worker, who has tremendous character and experience that will benefit our program."

Eldridge's prior experience in coaching includes being a boys' basketball coach at East Boston High School and Saint Joseph Prep School in Brighton, Massachusetts.

The Iowa men's basketball program has not yet announced plans to hire a new director of recruiting and player development.

Iowa women's golf falters at Big Ten Championships

The Iowa women's golf team finished the 2021-22 season with a 14th-place showing at the Big Ten Tournament last weekend in Pittsburgh at Fox Chapel Golf Course. The Hawkeyes shot a three-round team score of 76-over-par.

Junior Jacque Galloway was the Hawkeyes' highest finisher, placing 58th with an 18-over-par score in three rounds of action.

Michigan's Monet Chun won the individual tournament with an 8-under-par total of 205. The Wolverines took the tournament's team crown with a 5-over-par 857.

For the Hawkeyes, Galloway competed alongside freshmen Paula Miranda and Caroline Gray, juniors Lea Zeitler and Morgan Goldstein, and senior Dana Lerner.

Miranda, Zeitler, Goldstein, Lerner, and Gray finished 64th, 68th, 71st, 82nd, and 84th, respectively.

On the three-day event, Iowa combined for just 12 birdies, made 109 bogies, and posted 20 scores of double bogey or worse.

Goldstein's second-round score of 4-over-par 75 was the lowest single round any Hawkeye shot in Pittsburgh.

The conference championship signaled the end of a spring season that saw the Hawkeyes record just one top-10 finish. The Hawkeyes' best performance of the spring came at the Maryb S. Kauth Invitational. Iowa placed ninth at that tournament. Only nine teams competed in the Maryb S. Kauth Invitational.

The Hawkeyes will lose three seniors during the offseason — barring the use of additional COVID-19-related eligibility. Lerner, Manuela Lizarazu, and Jordan Amelon were the only seniors listed on Iowa's active roster at the end of the 2021-22 season.

ESPN's Way-Too-Early Top 25 (CFB)

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- Ohio State
- Georgia
- Utah
- Texas A&M
- Notre Dame
- North Carolina State
- Michigan State
- Michigan
- Oklahoma State

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25. Iowa

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Yes, I'm the fastest."

—Iowa football defensive back Terry Roberts on who the Hawkeyes' fastest player is

STAT OF THE DAY

21

Pounds gained by Iowa football recruit Xavier Nwankpa since he joined the Hawkeyes.

Big shoes to fill

Logan Jones moved from defensive tackle to center this offseason and is in contention to replace All-American Tyler Linderbaum.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa center Logan Jones blocks defensive tackle Loui Stec during a spring practice at Kinnick Stadium on April 23.

Robert Read Pregame Editor

The Iowa football team's starting center during its 15th and final practice of the spring on Saturday was a former defensive tackle wearing No. 65.

Sound familiar? With former Hawkeye

and Rimington Award winner Tyler Linderbaum, who also switched positions during his time as a Hawkeye, watching from Kinnick Stadium's west stands, Logan Jones snapped the ball to quarterback Spencer Petras and blocked his former position-mates on the defensive line. Iowa

head coach Kirk Ferentz approached Jones this offseason about changing positions, citing the depth on the defensive line and a need for a new starting center with Linderbaum's departure. After about a week of mulling the decision, Jones agreed to move to the other side of the line of

scrimmage.

Jones knew that, with the switch, he had a long offseason of learning ahead of him.

The redshirt sophomore also realized he needed a new number.

"I texted Lindy asking if I could wear it and he allowed me to," said Jones, who wore No. 95

in his first two seasons as a Hawkeye. "It's a lot of pressure. He was like, 'I don't care. It's just a number.' So he's cool with it ... Obviously Lindy is a great player. I hope I can live up to what he's done, not only as a player, but as a person. I'd be proud of myself."

JONES | Page 5A

Braithwaite making mark

Iowa football's director of strength and conditioning has added some wrinkles to the Hawkeyes' training regimen since he assumed his role in March 2021.



Joseph Cress/Iowa City Press-Citizen

Iowa director of strength and conditioning Rai Braithwaite speaks during a news conference, April 13, at the Hansen Football Performance Center in Iowa City, Iowa.

Austin Hanson Sports Editor

Freshman defensive back Xavier Nwankpa was listed at 6-foot-2, 190 pounds on the roster Iowa football released on March 22. Before the Hawkeyes' April 23 spring game at Kinnick Stadium, Iowa strength and conditioning coach Raimond Braithwaite said Nwankpa was up to 211 pounds.

While Nwankpa was a five-star high school recruit, his accelerated growth between

the release of the Hawkeyes' first 2022 depth chart and Iowa's spring game isn't unusual for freshmen.

"It's very common for freshmen, when they get into our program and have access to the nutrition and training that we provide for them, to have huge jumps early on," Braithwaite told reporters at an April 13 press conference.

Braithwaite has been helping Iowa's football players get stronger and faster for the last 18 years. He was named director of

strength and conditioning in March 2021.

Braithwaite became the Hawkeyes' interim director of strength and conditioning in June 2020, when Iowa parted ways with Chris Doyle. The University of Iowa paid Doyle — who was the Hawkeyes' strength and conditioning coach for 22 years and at the heart of alleged racial disparities within the Iowa football program — \$1.1 million as part of a separation agreement.

BRAITHWAITE | Page 5A

Heartlanders name new president

The former Coralville Hy-Vee store manager became the Heartlanders' second president on April 21st.

Isaac Goffin
Sports Reporter

The Iowa Heartlanders announced Tom Hamilton as their next president on April 21. He will succeed Brian McKenna, who retired after leading the franchise through its inaugural season.

A former Coralville Hy-Vee store manager and Iowa City West High School alum, Hamilton had never worked in professional sports before taking the job with the Heartlanders.

As president, Hamilton oversees the Heartlanders' daily front office operations. He started working for the Heartlanders a week before the press release regarding his appointment was published.

"The biggest interest to me was the fact that I could see what [the team] was doing for the community," Hamilton told *The Daily Iowan*. "As the season went on, I could feel the excitement in the fans increase, and the community became more aware of who the Heartlanders were in hockey. I found myself in the same boat."

When the Heartlanders approached Hamilton about the position, it was easy for him to decide.

"When the opening was presented to me, I just evaluated where I could fit in being from here and having made a lot of friends over the years," Hamilton said. "Like I said before, it just sounded exciting."

Hamilton, who spent 33 years with Hy-Vee before retiring from the grocery store chain in 2018, was contacted about the position in mid-March. He met with people involved with the Heartlanders and found out about the role.

Hamilton told Glenn Stanford of Deacon Sports and Entertainment — the Heartlanders' ownership group — on April 8 that he was committed to becoming the Heartlanders' president.

"We are excited to enter this second phase of growth with the Iowa Heartlanders by welcoming Tom to the Deacon Sports and Entertainment family," said chair of Deacon Sports and Entertainment Dean MacDonald in a release.

HEARTLANDERS | Page 5A

80 HOURS

THIS WEEKEND IN ARTS
AND ENTERTAINMENT

PROLIFIC AND POWERFUL PREMIERES AT IOWA'S NEW PLAY FESTIVAL

The Iowa New Play Festival will return completely in person for the first time since 2019, showcasing an abundance of new work by graduate and undergraduate students at the University of Iowa.



Weekend Events

28

THURSDAY

COMEDY

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

DANCE

• **UI DANCE PRESENTS BFA & UNDERGRADUATE CONCERT**
8 P.M., SPACE PLACE THEATER, 20 DAVENPORT ST.

FILM

• **A DECENT HOME**
7 P.M., FILMSCENE AT THE CHAUNCEY, 404 E COLLEGE ST.

MUSIC

• **DIPLOMATS OF SOLID SOUND WITH THE UNIPHONICS, LIQUID LOCALS**
7 P.M., WILDWOOD BBQ & SALOON, 4919 WALLEYE DRIVE

THEATER

• **NATASHA, PIERRE, & THE GREAT COMET OF 1812**
7:30 P.M., RIVERSIDE THEATRE, 119 E COLLEGE ST.

29

FRIDAY

DANCE

• **UI DANCE PRESENTS BFA & UNDERGRADUATE CONCERT**
8 P.M., SPACE PLACE THEATER

MISC

• **ANNE FRANK TREE PLANTING CEREMONY**
5 P.M., UI PENTACREST, CLINTON ST. AND IOWA AVE.

MUSIC

• **BOHEMIA ON RECORDS WITH GUEST SPEAKER FILIP ŠÍR**
1:30 P.M., VOXMAN MUSIC BUILDING, 93 E BURLINGTON ST.

• **CHNNLL WITH FINE BY ME & IN THE ATTIC**
8 P.M., GABE'S, 330 E WASHINGTON ST.

THEATER

• **AN EVENING OF CHINESE PERFORMING ARTS**
7:30 P.M., CORALVILLE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 1301 5TH ST.

30

SATURDAY

ART

• **FOILING STUDIO GROUP**
1 P.M., THE ARTIFACTORY, 120 N DUBUQUE ST.

• TYPE-IN TYPEWRITING

1 P.M., PUBLIC SPACE ONE, 538 S GILBERT ST.

LITERATURE

• **IOWA CITY POETRY AL FRESCO**
5 P.M., COLLEGE GREEN, 600 E COLLEGE ST.

MUSIC

• **OKEY DOKEY WITH LOU SHERRY**
7 P.M., GABE'S

THEATER

• **BAWDY BAWDY HA HA BURLESQUE PRESENTS "PILLOW FIGHT!"**
8 P.M., THE JAMES THEATER, 213 N GILBERT ST.

• **NATASHA, PIERRE, & THE GREAT COMET OF 1812**
7:30 P.M., RIVERSIDE THEATRE

1

SUNDAY

ART

• **LONG POSE STUDIO GROUP**
9 A.M., THE ARTIFACTORY

FILM

• **VINO VÉRITÉ: SIRENS**
6:30 P.M., FILMSCENE AT THE CHAUNCEY

MUSIC

• **LORNA SHORE WITH SIGNS OF THE SWARM**
7 P.M., WILDWOOD BBQ & SALOON

• **TRANSVIOLET WITH LORELEI MARCELL**
7 P.M., GABE'S

THEATER

• **NATASHA, PIERRE, & THE GREAT COMET OF 1812**
2 P.M., RIVERSIDE THEATRE



ASK THE AUTHOR:

Jennifer Fawcett



Ariana Lessard
Arts Reporter

Jennifer Fawcett graduated from the University of Iowa's MFA Playwrights Workshop and served as co-artistic director of Iowa's Working Group Theatre for 10 years. Her debut novel, *Beneath the Stairs*, is about two girls facing the consequences of what they see in a house in the woods at age 14.

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

The Daily Iowan: What was the inspiration for your book?

Fawcett: So, a friend challenged me to do NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) when I was in Iowa City. It was a number of years ago and I had no idea what I was going to write about, and this idea, this image, sort of came to me of for young women, like young teens, standing with their bikes beside them on a summer day looking at this abandoned, maybe haunted house and trying to decide if they were going to go in or not. So, that was like this picture came to my mind. And I think the reason why — I don't know why I was thinking about it — but I think the reason why I did is that when I was 13, on a summer day, on a bike ride, I did the same thing. I did that. I was one of those girls and I went into this house that I had read recently discovered was near us in the country and was supposed to be haunted, and so it was in the shape of an octagon. So, that's why the house in the book is an octagon, because the real house that I went into was. That's a weird detail I never thought of. I had no idea. It was like some kind of an architectural trend or something, I don't know. Like, there are octagonal houses, so it's just not very many of them. I was trying to figure out if it was like a significance of the number eight or something. I've been told the idea is that the Devil can't get you in the corner. Except that then somebody said, "Oh, no, that's more for roundhouses." But I mean, it would work for an octagonal house too because it's not it's true, you know? It's not a 90-degree angle.

DI: What does your artistic process look like?

Fawcett: I do a lot of writing. I didn't outline this book, which is probably one reason why it took me so long to write. I did what they call "pantsing," which is really just sort

of write your way forward and figure out what the story is. So, because I was initially creating this in NaNoWriMo — and again, I didn't really know if I was going to be able to create a book. The goal of NaNoWriMo is just about a word count. It's just about hitting a daily word count, so that at the end of the month, you have written 50,000 words, which is actually not really a novel, it's that will be a short novel, actually. But you're certainly well on your way to it. So, it was really just moving forward. Just keep going, keep going, keep going, and telling myself to get the story on the page. And then after that, once I had an understanding of what the story was, then I go back and I look at what's there and I see, I try and see sort of what's the structure that's organically been created in a story and then how can I, you know, make that structure stronger, essentially, because I think when you write the first draft, your mind drops all sorts of great clues and, you know, unfinished threads and all that sort of thing. And so part of the job of revision is going back and seeing what all of those are and snipping some of them off and then carrying other ones through to, like, continue my metaphor.

DI: What is your best writing tip?

Fawcett: I don't know that I can say in any kind of a pithy way, but I think it's the tip that I have to give myself over and over and over again, which is allowing yourself to write badly. Allow yourself to write badly, which is not original and saying that, but it's essential to get to the good stuff, you actually go through the bad stuff. If you wait for inspiration, you could be waiting a really long time.

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▶ Streaming Highlight: *The Staircase*



Illustration by Molly Milder

Parker Jones
Arts Editor

The line between fiction and true crime was blurred following the untimely death of Kathleen Peterson, whose husband was convicted of her murder in 2003. Based on the 2004 docuseries of the same name, *The Staircase* will premiere on HBO Max on May 5.

On December 9, 2001, Kathleen Peterson was found dead at the bottom of the stairs by her husband, Michael Peterson, a true-crime novelist. Although he called 911 and reported her death as an accident, medical examiners quickly established foul play as a reasonable cause of death — Michael Peterson being the prime suspect. After the story went public, it garnered the attention of French filmmaker Jean-Xavier de Lestrade, who made the well-received docuseries on the crime. Although its first several parts were released in 2004, there were three follow-up episodes released on Netflix in 2018.

The eight-episode HBO Max series, which will be a dramatization of the events, was created and produced mainly by Antonio Campos, who most recently directed *Devil All the Time*. The star-studded cast includes Colin Firth as Michael Peterson, Toni Collette as the late Kathleen Peterson, Sophie Turner and Odessa Young as their adopted daughters Margaret and Martha, and Patrick Schwarzenegger and Dane DeHaan as Todd and Clayton, Michael's sons from his first marriage.

Outside the immediate Peterson family, the reputable cast list continues. Rosemarie DeWitt plays Candace Hunt Zamperini, Kathleen's sister who fervently believes Michael is guilty; Juliette Binoche is cast as Sophie Brunet, the editor of the original *Staircase* docuseries who allegedly had an affair with Michael; Parker Posey plays Freda Black, the attorney who prosecuted Michael Peterson.

Although it came nine years after the original prosecution, Michael Peterson was granted a chance at freedom when his case was retried in 2011, which sparked new attention toward the case. One would only expect that the HBO Max series will do so as well, and eventually, there could be an answer to the mystery behind *The Staircase*.

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Playlist

Songs for Sunny Days

⋮

▶

↺

Walking on Sunshine Katrina and The Waves	Daylight Taylor Swift	+
Pocketful of Sunshine Natasha Bedingfield	Solar Power Lorde	+
Here Comes the Sun The Beatles	Sunflower, Vol. 6 Harry Styles	+
Sunflower Post Malone, Swae Lee	Chasing the Sun The Wanted	+
Island in the Sun Weezer	Sunroof Nicky Youre, dazy	+
House of the Rising Sun The Animals	Sunflower Rex Orange County	+
You Are My Sunshine Elizabeth Mitchell	Saturday Sun Vance Joy	

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Polancyak makes history on UI dance team

Nathan Polancyak knew he made history as the first man on the University of Iowa dance team, but he prefers to be seen as a member of the larger group and celebrate what he and his teammates have accomplished together.



Contributed photo of Nathan Polancyak

Anaka Sanders
Arts Reporter

Nathan Polancyak was sitting in his living room, surrounded by friends and family, when he found out he had made University of Iowa history by becoming the first man on the dance team.

"I wasn't supposed to tell anyone, but I didn't see that part of the email before I already screamed out to everyone, 'I made the team,'" Polancyak said. "Then we all jumped around and celebrated and it was super fun."

Dance is the only thing Polancyak has ever instantly fallen in love with, he said. His love for the UI, however, didn't occur until he had his first visit.

The freshman from St. Louis was on his high school dance team, but he was still nervous trying out for the UI's team, which initiated a new form of tryouts the year he took part.

During round one, Polancyak and his fellow team members sent in videos of their technique and skill. Following their acceptance into round two, they had to create a video performing one of the current dance team's sideline performances.

Round three involved a Zoom interview with head coach Jennifer Eustice. Polancyak recalled the recruitment process as super stressful but equally rewarding.

As the first man on the team, Polancyak said he understands that he's made history, but doesn't like to look at it that way. He wants everyone to see the team as a unit, rather than the dance team girls and a dance team boy.

"I just want it to be the dance team," Polancyak said. "I would rather focus on celebrating the team and what we did together instead of what my accomplishments were personally."

Along with dancing at home football, basketball, and volleyball games, the team spent the year preparing for the most important event of its season: Universal Dance Association Nationals.

In January, Polancyak and the rest of the dance team placed eighth in its pom routine, 14th in jazz, and third in the nation for its game day routine.

Performing at nationals was a day to remember, Polancyak said — and not just because of the team's ac-

complishments.

Every dancer's nightmare occurred during the fight-song portion of the team's game-day routine — the music cut out.

"We all had to put our minds together and count the rest of the routine out so we could finish it the way it's supposed to be finished," Polancyak said. "It just felt super amazing to come off the floor after the performance and be like, 'Wow, we just did that.'"

Polancyak described his teammates as hard workers. His favorite part about being on the dance team at the UI is walking into practice every day and seeing everyone's faces, because he knows he is entering a loving environment where everybody has the same goal.

Coming off a historic freshman year, Polancyak said he already has next year on his mind.

"I'm looking forward to keep moving up in where we are as a team. We have eight new girls next year," Polancyak said. "It's going to be an entirely different team dynamic and I'm super excited to see where that takes us."

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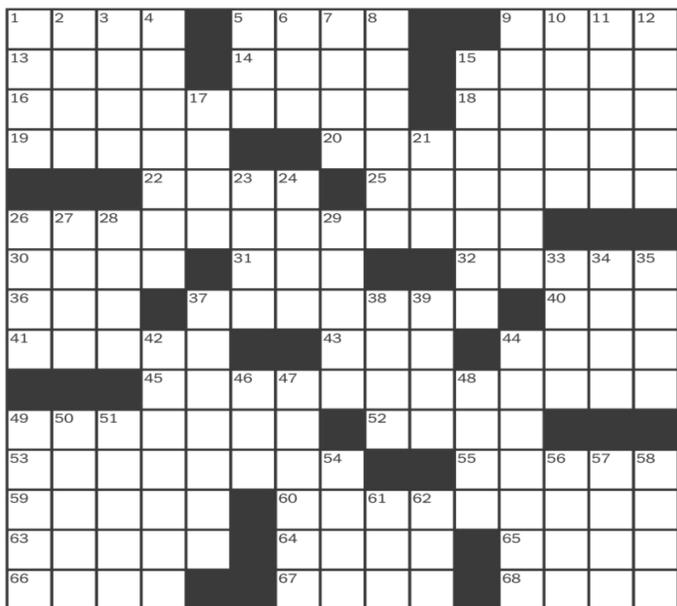
Contributed photo of Nathan Polancyak

The Daily Break

Puzzle solutions on page 3A

The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0323



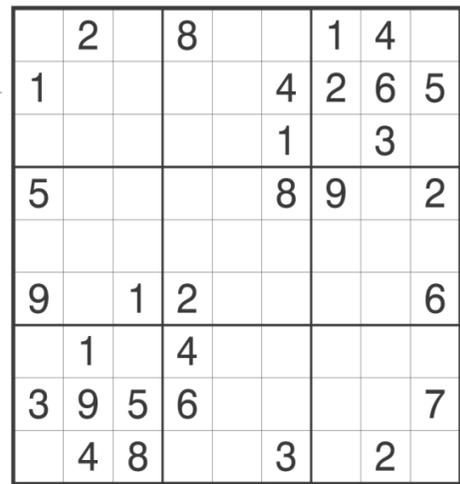
- 65 Before, poetically
- 66 Act as a go-between
- 67 Icy hazard at sea
- 68 When doubled, a 2010s dance fad
- 69 Object represented visually twice in this puzzle

Down

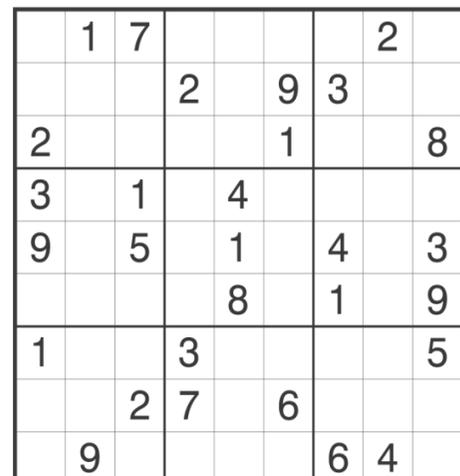
- 1 Belly laugh
- 2 Julia Louis-Dreyfus role on "Seinfeld"
- 3 Go to
- 4 ___-eye steak
- 5 Punk offshoot
- 6 Word with latter or red-letter
- 7 Deity of Islam
- 8 Fancy evening party
- 9 Lifted weights, informally
- 10 Breakfast appliance
- 11 Shook on
- 12 Places where you might find okapis and gnus (besides crossword puzzles!)
- 13 ___ Benedict
- 18 Six-line stanza
- 24 Vaccine approver, in brief
- 26 Newspaper parts: Abbr.
- 28 Debris from welding or power drilling
- 29 Heavy metal band whose name includes an actual heavy metal
- 31 Actress Thurman
- 32 According to
- 34 Movie theater reproof
- 36 Mentalist's power
- 37 Third letter in an alphabet song
- 38 Judge Judy title
- 40 Kindle purchases
- 43 Birth control option, for short
- 45 "I hadn't thought of it that way"
- 47 New York city where Mark Twain is buried
- 49 Enter gingerly, as a hot tub
- 50 Few and far between
- 51 Slowly phase out, in lingo
- 53 "Look for yourself!"
- 55 It may cover a cut
- 56 Feminist Millet who popularized the concept of the patriarchy
- 61 Stately tree
- 62 Actress Long
- 63 @, as a verb

Across

- 1 Prepared, with "up"
- 7 Snake in ancient Egyptian art
- 10 Crowdsourced map app
- 14 Final syllable of a word, in linguistics
- 15 Singer Rawls
- 16 Wide-eyed with wonder
- 17 Oxymoronic stage name for the D.J. Norman Cook
- 19 Puddle-jumper?
- 20 "Phooney!" to Shakespeare
- 21 Frontiersman Wyatt
- 22 Admit, with "up"
- 23 Rashida Jones's role on "Parks and Recreation"
- 25 Unquestioning followers, in slang
- 27 First three words famously said by Kamala Harris to Joe Biden upon winning the 2020 election
- 30 Gradually increased
- 33 Hard-to-find game cards, in collector's lingo
- 35 "Am I the problem here?"
- 36 Reverberate
- 39 In ___ words
- 41 Sound likely not made by a Tyrannosaurus rex, despite what "Jurassic Park" would have you believe
- 42 Welcomed at the door
- 44 Streaming service rebranded with the suffix Max in 2020
- 46 Fragrance
- 48 Singularity
- 52 Gentleman: Sp.
- 54 "The Simpsons" storekeeper
- 55 Vodka brand that sounds like a toast
- 57 Reassuring words after a fall
- 58 ___ Jose, Calif.
- 59 "Ple-e-e-ease?"
- 60 Ones with minority views
- 64 Oodles



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Iowa New Play Festival returns with four premieres

The Iowa New Play Festival, a weeklong event featuring new work from both graduate and undergraduate students, will return to completely in-person shows during the first week of May.

Jami Martin-Trainor
Arts Reporter

Art Borreca, co-head of the playwriting program at the University of Iowa, describes his place of employment as “The Writing University.”

The Iowa New Play Festival acts as a culmination of that idea, he said. The annual festival, which features a repertoire of events including four full-length productions, a number of readings, and guest artists from a variety of disciplines within the world of theatre, provides an opportunity for new theatrical work by graduate and undergraduate students to be showcased in a workshop setting.

The festival will take place in the Theatre Building from May 2-7. This year marks the festival’s return to in-person performances for the first time since 2019. The 2020 festival was canceled because of the pandemic, and the 2021 festival was in a virtual format.

Borreca, as the festival’s creative director, said students with a passion for creative expression drive the show. Thanks to student work and desire for success, Borreca said the university upholds that distinct writing legacy.

“We just create a healing and joyful experience for not just the audience, but the performers as well.”

— Ann Kreitman, director of *It’s Like Riding a Bike*

“This festival has been going on a long time, and I think continuing the festival tradition — featuring plays — is very much in sync with that overall culture of the university,” Borreca said. “The idea is that we bring students here who are particularly interested in writing and producing new work and experimenting with doing new things in theatre.”

Borreca said the New Play Festival is also an educational experience. This year, the university has invited five guest artists from across the nation to share their knowledge and expertise with students.

Borreca said the guests are intended to give UI students a glimpse into a professional future in theatre. He also noted that, occasionally, students and guest artists can form relationships beyond the festival, creating opportunities for the future.

“There are advantages to where we are in terms of the ability to focus on one’s writing and one’s work,” Borreca said. “At the same time, it’s important to have that connection to the profession. The guest artists really provide that connection.”

This year, the Iowa New Play Festival will feature four shows from the university’s third-year graduate playwriting students — *And Then*, *It’s Like Riding a Bike*, *Stars and Stones*, and *Basically Children*.

And Then, written and directed by playwright MFA candidate Jarek Pastor, follows a factory just after immense changes have been made to improve working conditions. The show explores what happens when institutions acknowledge their faults, and the employees hope for change.

It’s Like Riding a Bike, written by playwright MFA candidate Jeremy Geragotelis and directed by MFA candidate in directing Ann Kreitman, tells the story of two siblings coping with their mother’s dementia.

Kreitman said that, when playwrights were initially partnered with directors, she connected with Geragotelis. Their similarities drove a portion of the creative inspiration, making for a



Director Ann Kreitman talks with the cast of *It’s Like Riding a Bike* during a rehearsal at David Thayer Theatre at the Theatre Building in Iowa City on April 24. *It’s Like Riding a Bike* is one of four full-length productions in the Iowa New Play Festival, running May 2-7.

streamlined directing process.

Kreitman said both herself and Geragotelis love the community elements of theatre, which is partially why *It’s Like Riding a Bike* is a musical show. Kreitman said mu-

wicz said. “It is OK to live within questions about your own identity.”

Basically Children, written by MFA candidate Charlie O’Leary and directed by MFA candidate Natalie Villamonte Zito, tells the story of two college students who meet, fall in love, and discuss the intricacies of what it means to be gay.

O’Leary said his work has gone through many changes. What started as a satirical piece transformed into a sort of tragedy, and O’Leary said he wanted the audience to feel for and understand his characters.

“The first draft I wrote, which was about a year ago now, was a completely different play,” O’Leary said. “I would say, like, the first draft or two or three, I feel like I really missed the mark. It was a really cruel satire, and I just sort of made fun of all my characters, and I didn’t really invest in their emotional journeys.”

Basically Children is partially inspired by an event that happened in Massachusetts in August 2020. During the race for governor, a smear campaign was launched against one of the candidates, accusing him of pedophilia. While major changes were made to the event in O’Leary’s play, he wanted to highlight the incorrect association between homosexuality and pedophilia.

O’Leary said that, outside of noting the aforementioned myth about homosexuality, he wants his audience to thematically devise their own meaning from his work.

“I want my plays to ask questions more than provide answers,” O’Leary said. “I hope

sic has the unique ability to bring people together, whether they’re sitting in the audience or shining on the stage.

“We just create a healing and joyful experience for not just the audience, but the performers as well,” Kreitman said. “If the performers are enjoying this and creating this gorgeous music, it connects so easily to the audience. Music is just like that expressway to emotional connection. It’s the music [that] really helps us bring the audience into our community.”

The performance balances a weighty topic. Kreitman said she hopes people also see, thematically, the positives in the story. She said the show is really about reaching out and forging a connection with loved ones, and the goal is for the audience to see that love, so it resonates and is realized in the real world.

“I’m going to show up every day, even when it’s hard, even when I don’t feel like it, I’m going to keep showing up every day to bring a little bit of beauty into this world,” is what I hope the audience is inspired to do themselves,” Kreitman said.

“I want my plays to ask questions more than provide answers.”

— Charlie O’Leary, *Basically Children* playwright

Sarah Gazdowicz is directing the show *Stars and Stones*. Written by MFA candidate Emma Silverman, the performance takes a look at Jewish identity and the nuances that come with it.

Gazdowicz said that, above all, she hopes the piece leads the audience to realize that it’s OK to sit with and question one’s own identity, as it is a completely normal and natural part of life to question the self. The play is meant to evoke those thoughts, she said.

“The biggest thing that we’ve kept coming back to with this story is this idea of the nuance and complication of identity, especially identity that is not overtly visual, which is one of the unique aspects of Jewish identity,” Gazdo-

that a lot of the topics in the play just get the audience thinking about the sort of issues that I bring up from a bunch of different angles.”

O’Leary also noted that the nature of the Iowa New Play Festival is ideal for collaboration. While all of the pieces presented may not be fully fleshed-out, the workshop environment allows for growth and education above all.

“[Full productions are] not really the point of a New Play Festival workshop,” O’Leary said. “The point is to develop the script, to really make the story sort of as clear and strong as we can, and to provide opportunities, I think, for all of us to collaborate.”

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Amanda Keating, playing as Mom, sings in a rehearsal of *It’s Like Riding a Bike* at David Thayer Theatre at the Theatre Building in Iowa City on April 24. *It’s Like Riding a Bike* is one of four full-length productions in the Iowa New Play Festival, running May 2-7.



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