

Anti-abortion activists react to Roe v. Wade

Iowa's anti-abortion activists and groups react to SCOTUS's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.



Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

A baby stroller with anti-abortion signs rests outside the Emma Goldman Clinic in Iowa City during a demonstration on May 5.

Emily Delgado
News Reporter

The Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade sparked activists on both sides of the issue to demonstrate.

Lena Branch, a University of Iowa student, said she's pleased that the Supreme Court decided abortion is not protected by the Constitution.

"It should be up to the states to make the decision," Branch said.

Branch is a rising junior studying business marketing and said she was elated when she found out SCOTUS overturned Roe v. Wade.

"This is something that I have been advocating for and praying for a while now and I believe that life begins at conception," Branch said.

Kristi Judkins, executive director of

Iowa Right to Life, said the organization was pleased with the SCOTUS decision, but understands there is still work to do in the fight to protect the unborn.

"However, we know our work is not done. At this time, abortion is still legal in Iowa so we will continue to communicate our message about the intrinsic value of life," Judkins said in an email to *The Daily Iowan*.

Iowa Right to Life is an organization

that aims to protect unborn infants through lobbying and working with anti-abortion activists around Iowa.

Judkins said she wants to tell abortion-rights activists that Iowa Right to Life is not anti-choice, but rather, against taking the life of an innocent human.

"We believe in the science which

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Coralville celebrates July Fourth with various festivities including fireworks.

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With mixed fan reactions, the new release had questionable writing, a dip in acting, and a villain that could have been scarier.

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DITV

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Future of Robert A. Lee Pool undecided

With the fate of Robert A. Lee Pool undecided, Iowa City staff are weighing public input.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

The pool at the Robert A. Lee Recreation Center is seen in Iowa City on June 29.

Emily Delgado
News Reporter

In 2014, the Robert A. Lee Recreation Center celebrated 100 years of being part of the Iowa City community. Now, eight years after its 100th anniversary, the existence of the pool is at stake.

Iowa City Parks and Recreation, with the assistance of BerryDunn, a consulting firm, has

formed the Iowa City Gather Here Recreation Master Plan, an initiative to update facilities around the city.

One of the plan's projects is to either repair the building or remove it completely, as it has extensive damage.

Upon deciding if removing the recreation center would be a good choice for the community, the history of the pool has been reviewed.

The entire Robert A. Lee Recreation Center was built on what used to be the Civil Defense Network of Nuclear Fallout Shelters, a space designed to keep occupants safe in the case of nuclear explosions.

In 2017, during a restroom renovation, staff ran into concrete reinforcements along the lower level of the center.

"The building's low-

er level itself has reinforced concrete throughout the hallways and all around the core locker room area," Iowa City Parks and Recreation director Juli Seydell Johnson said. "We've confirmed that with our restroom renovations in the last six years that we've run into concrete that had a lot of reinforcement, much thicker than anyone expected and likely

because of this use as part of the Civil Defense Program."

At an Iowa City City Council work session on June 21, Seydell Johnson presented an update on the project where numerous Robert A. Lee Recreation Center visitors spoke to the council in support of keeping the pool.

Seydell Johnson said

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Coralville celebrates the nation's freedom and independence

Coralville celebrated the Fourth of July with games, rides, vendors, and fireworks as part of the 4thFest celebration.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

A firework shoots off over a ride at a carnival during 4thFest at S.T. Morrison Park in Coralville on July 4. The carnival featured food, games, and rides.

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Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

Community members gather in S.T. Morrison Park during 4thFest in Coralville on July 4.



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

Community members ride "The Black Hole" at a carnival during 4thFest in Coralville on Monday.



Jered Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Aireona Hesselstine dumps food into a fryer during 4th Fest at S.T. Morrison Park in Coralville on July 4.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Alicia and Willa Olberding enjoy food at a carnival during 4thFest at S.T. Morrison Park in Coralville on July 4.



Jered Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

The Soft and Low performs during 4th Fest at S.T. Morrison Park in Coralville on July 4.



RIGHT TO LIFE

Continued from Front

establishes the baby has its own DNA from the point of fertilization and is a separate human being inside the mother's womb," Judkins said. "The development of the baby from the point of fertilization is grounded in research on both sides of the abortion debate."

The American College of Pediatricians says human life begins at conception or fertilization.

Branch said she believes people who are pro-choice, pro-abortion, or anyone who is seeking an abortion should make sure they understand what they are doing.

"If you support something like this, I think the biggest thing that I see is people don't actually know what [abortion] is and what [abortion] does," Branch said. "Once they really do learn and take that step to fully understand the process, they either have a deeper understanding and change their mind or they are just better equipped to defend their position."

Ultimately, no matter what side of the abortion debates a person is on, Branch said she believes everyone should be informed on their stance.

Branch said the pro-life movement should show women love during their pregnancy.

"The pro-life movement — we need to be able to give those women the love that they deserve, and that they need at that time," Branch said.

While Branch has not been to the Emma Goldman Clinic to protest, anti-abortion and abortion-rights activists are often seen outside the Emma Goldman Clinic either supporting patients or trying to change the patients' minds.

"The pro-life movement is incredibly generous. And that is something that we need to do is make women feel loved in front of those abortion clinics as well," Branch said.

Branch said she doesn't believe the overturning of Roe v. Wade will set back the women's rights movement.

"For 50 years now, in order [for women] to feel empowered in America, you have to have the ability to be able to kill your baby," Branch said.

Branch said this is an injustice to women.



Contributed photo of Lena Branch, a University of Iowa student.

Judkins said she believes women are empowered when they know the risks of an abortion and the trauma that could come from it; and choose life-affirming options to either keep or

give up their child for adoption.

Currently, in the state of Iowa, there is a law in place that limits abortion after 21 weeks. Gov. Kim Reynolds is seeking to restrict abor-

tion by requesting the Iowa Courts to enforce the heartbeat law, which requires physicians to check for a fetal heartbeat prior to performing an abortion.

"In 2018 the Heartbeat

Bill created significant momentum across the country for conservative states to initiate legislation to protect the unborn ... I support the decision to put these laws back in front of

the Court to protect life in Iowa," said Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver in a statement released by Reynolds on June 28.

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POOL

Continued from Front

two groups have been a part of giving public input: Robert A. Lee pool swimmers and other community members, both being weighed by the Iowa City City Council for approval.

Iowa City Parks and Recreation Staff, along with BerryDunn, requested that upon the removal of the pool the city invest in the Mercer Aquatic Center. The tentative removal of the

Robert A. Lee Recreation Center won't be an immediate project. Seydell Johnson predicts it will happen in the next five years.

Keeping the pool would require repairs, causing the city to invest, around \$5 million, Seydell Johnson said.

"It's kind of a less than ideal situation to invest four or five million dollars to keep it operating as it is," Seydell Johnson said.

Another factor in deciding if keeping the recre-

ation center is beneficial to the Iowa City community is the frequency of visitors to the pool. Seydell Johnson said it is unusual to see more than two lap swimmers in the pool.

At an Iowa City City Council Meeting on June 21, Amy Kretkowski, a University of Iowa College of Law faculty member, said she is a regular lap swimmer at the recreation center.

"I can tell you from the times I go, there is way

more than two people in the lap lane," Kretkowski said.

Seydell Johnson said the recommendation to remove the Robert A. Lee Recreation Center is not based on wanting to negatively impact the users but rather determine if the cost is worth keeping the pool.

"The Robert A. Lee pool is the best for senior citizens, it's not too long or too short...it's well utilized and well kept...I hope you will maintain it. It's worth

spending the money, effort, and time to keep it," Ramon Lim, a retired professor of the UI College of Medicine said at the June 21 City Council meeting.

The team behind the Gather Here Recreation Master Plan asked for public input to best decide what to do next. Much of the public input has been to keep the pool as it is a part of the greater Iowa City Downtown District, something Seydell Johnson recognizes.

Parks and Recreation staff were accepting feedback from the public up until June 4 and will use said feedback on deciding on a project timeline for the entire Gather Here Recreation Master Plan.

"We just think that there may be other uses that benefit many more people in our population that we should be considering at this point," Seydell Johnson said.

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Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

The pool at the Robert A. Lee Recreation Center is seen in Iowa City on June 29.

Opinions

Show up for reproductive rights

Social media has made it easier to promote activist ideals, but the unwillingness to show up for direct action is harmful to the very movements some claim online to be allies of.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan
Downtown Block Party attendees cheer for protesters during "Night of Rage," an abortion-rights protest, in Iowa City on June 25. The protest started at the Pentacrest with speakers, then, protesters marched through Iowa City.



Yasmina Sahir
Opinions Columnist

Two days of protesting and marches were planned and executed in Iowa City following recent Supreme Court decisions, most notably the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*.

The actions garnered local support from both individuals and organizations. But on June 25, as many Downtown Block Party attendees cheered on the march as we walked down Clinton Street and throughout the Pedestrian Mall, not everyone chose to join in the protest.

Even with more people spreading awareness

of social justice causes through their social media platforms, organizers and activists have a hard time getting local community members to show up in-person for protests, community conversation, or other forms of action.

When I've expressed this view in person, two common responses are repeated from non-organizers. The protest was competing with the Downtown Block Party and people want fun on their Saturday night, some said. The other common response was that perhaps some people needed time to digest the SCOTUS rulings.

There is privilege in being able to step aside and forget politics for an evening. While every self-proclaimed activist should take time for mental and physical self-care, aiming to avoid performative actions

should also be a top priority.

Reluctance to "show up" is not only an Iowa City issue nor are there easy answers to this problem. In fact, this issue has garnered such widespread attention that it now has a name: performative activism.

"[Performative activism is the] ability to turn topics and activism into a superficial trend; it makes a mockery out of social issues [while] no tangible action is being taken," Editor-in-Chief at *The Register Forum*, Esther Fu, wrote in 2021 as a response to recent performative social justice movements including the social media campaign Blackout Tuesday.

Holding each other accountable is one way to solve the problem of people using movements to either gain social capital or to claim member-

ship when they have no real interest in creating positive, intersectional change.

Sikowis Nobiss, executive director and founder of the Great Plains Action Society, an in-

off."

Nobiss' comment is one example of how social media can be helpful in organizing. Social media does have its place in modern organizing and is not always harmful.

“Change won't happen in reproductive rights nor in other areas of sociopolitical concern if people keep their opinions behind keyboards and phone screens.

digenous-led grassroots organization fighting to prevent further colonial-capitalist violence, expressed their frustration with this seemingly modern standard.

"Everybody needs to make an effort right now," Nobiss posted on Facebook. "It doesn't matter what it is, but you better do it. And privileged friends of mine that act woke but don't show up to s*** can f***

Online platforms allow people to share protest locations and dates, images of recent events or conflicts that occur during protests, as well as debrief — a form of activist mental self-care — following actions.

Change won't happen in reproductive rights nor in other areas of sociopolitical concern if people keep their opinions behind keyboards and phone screens. With

recent SCOTUS decisions and many communities fearing the future standing of other currently held constitutional rights, there will be plenty of opportunities to "hit the streets" in whatever way is most accessible to you.

If you are looking to support reproductive rights and other grassroots movements in Iowa, Repros for Iowa and Corridor Community Action Network (CCAN) are currently hosting 40 Days of Reproductive Freedom. Corridor Community Action Network also regularly posts daily direct action ideas on their platforms.

Donate, vote, show up to a protest, make some calls or send some emails. It doesn't matter what you do. Do it and do it soon. Time is running out.

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A political movement in disguise

Originalism's true goal is to increase the political power of reactionaries



Shahab Khan
Opinions Columnist

The recent term of the Supreme Court has brought upon big wins for reactionaries in support of forced birth.

The decision of *Dobbs v. Jackson* has been justified under originalism, a theory of jurisprudence that advocates for interpreting the constitution as a perfect, final document.

That said, when one stops and thinks for two seconds, it becomes clear that originalism is not actually credible jurispru-

dence, but rather a right-wing political movement on a mission to overturn the last 70 years of progress.

This overturning of progress is exemplified by the *Dobbs* ruling as it allowed the state of Mississippi to implement an abortion ban 15 weeks after gestation and explicitly stated that the right to an abortion is not protected by the constitution.

This overturned the precedent set by *Roe v. Wade*, and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the cases which protected the right to abortion under the privacy clause of the 14th Amendment.

The vapidness of originalist thought can be summarized by Justice Alito's majority opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson*.

The ruling was justified by Alito in that the majority held the view that for a prospective right to be protected by the constitution, that right must be "deeply rooted in the history of the nation".

Essentially, Alito's argument boils down to the idea that if the founding fathers believed that the right to an abortion must be protected, they would have enshrined it in the constitution. To simplify, since the word abortion is not mentioned in the constitution, the Constitution does not grant the right to an abortion.

The logic of Alito's originalism fails on two fronts. First, the nature of how societies interpret rights change as time progresses. In 1789, when the constitution was written, it pro-

tested the so-called right of slavery through implication of the the fugitive slave and three-fifths clauses.

Thus, if we follow the logic of originalism, since the right to enslave others is deeply rooted in the founding of our nation and a right that our framers defended, the 13th and 14th Amendments violate the spirit of the constitution and should be overturned.

Of course, when one takes originalism to its natural conclusion, it becomes clear how foolish it is to base decisions of law on the interpretations of people who lived three centuries ago. Just to rub salt in the wound, the framers themselves agreed with the view that the constitution was not a docu-

ment set in stone.

As believed by both Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, the constitution was to be interpreted as a living breathing document that served as a guiding principle for future generations. Not a document to be taken literally.

In fact, Jefferson himself took this point to the extreme and argued that about every two decades, the constitution should be rewritten in order to better fit the times and issues affecting the polity.

Based on the viewpoint of the fathers and originalism's superficiality as jurisprudence, it seems that originalist jurists are misguided.

However, the internal logic and historical context of originalism makes it clear that these jurists

are charlatans disguised as principal jurists. This is because originalism's intended purpose is to turn the United States into a draconian society.

When one peaks behind the mask of jurisprudence, it becomes clear originalism is the culmination of a right-wing political movement bent on dismantling the achievements of the American experiment. Achievements that have drastically improved the quality of life for millions of Americans.

Originalism is not meant to persevere and help achieve a more perfect union, rather it is a reactionary ideology meant to preserve the power of white, Christian conservatives.

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Arts & Culture

Review: “Stranger Things: Season 4, Volume 2”

The feature-length episodes of “Stranger Things: Season 4, Volume 2” did not do justice to the show’s earlier seasons — with questionable writing, a dip in the cast’s performance, and a villain that, ultimately, wasn’t that strange.



Dan MacMedan/USA TODAY

Jan 19, 2020; Los Angeles, CA, USA; From left, Cara Buono, Finn Wolfhard, Noah Schnapp, Priah Ferguson, and Gaten Matarazzo arrive at the 26th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards at the Shrine Auditorium.

Parker Jones
Arts Editor

About 10 minutes into the “Stranger Things: Season 4, Volume 2” premiere, I had to pause the episode. In the moment, I chalked it up to the late-night release — midnight of July 1 — Netflix’s most popular show, and one of my personal favorites, had succumbed to poor writing.

It can happen to any show that becomes unexpectedly popular or goes on too long. The first season of “Stranger Things” was near-perfect, and with that success, its writers, and more likely its pro-

ducers, felt the need to raise the stakes, add new characters, and cram as much emotion, action, and funky new supernatural foes into each new episode.

I saw it in the second and third seasons, and even the first volume of the fourth season, but it didn’t become so blatant until the most recent episodes. Nearly every conversation between members of the main cast, but especially between the younger actors, felt forced and awkward.

It’s unsure if this is because the second volume was rushed because

of COVID-19 production delays, or if the writers are still trying to portray middle-school-aged kids when the characters, and more noticeably, their actors, have grown up.

Although they have proven their acting ability in the past, most scenes with Noah Schnapp, who plays Will Byers, and Finn Wolfhard, who plays Mike Wheeler, could have definitely used a few more takes, especially in “Chapter Nine: The Piggyback.” Wolfhard, in particular, seemed distinctly uninterested in playing Mike, at least with the forgettable position they put his char-

acter in this season.

Their lack of energy is definitely more noticeable when compared to certain other cast members, namely Sadie Sink, who plays Max Mayfield, and Caleb McLaughlin, who plays Lucas Sinclair in their palpably heartbreaking scenes this season. I also really enjoyed every scene between Joyce Byers, played by Winona Ryder, and Jim Hopper, played by David Harbour, who both have charming chemistry.

Most other characters are enjoyable this season, including the new fan-favorite Eddie Munson,

played by Joseph Quinn. Although I didn’t get quite as attached to him as the other long-standing cast members, I could get behind his quirky humor and the real sense of anxiety he portrayed, that some of the other characters seemed too eager to push aside during tense moments.

Without spoiling every detail, the main villain of this season — Vecna, played by Jamie Campbell Bower — didn’t frighten me as much as I hoped he would. Especially during the predictable but necessary final battle that brought all the different

characters together, the backstory they gave him didn’t seem to matter at all. It felt like another attempt by the writers to up the stakes by having a villain more deadly, yet more human, than the already-frightening creatures from seasons prior.

Of course, with its sky-high budget, stellar VFX, and retro aesthetic that has proven popular time and time again, “Stranger Things” will never be a totally bad show. However, I fear that the latest season hints at the downfall of Netflix’s biggest series.

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Imagine Dragons gifts fans with “Mercury, Act 2”

Imagine Dragons released the second “act” of their two-part album, the first act releasing in 2021 — most noteworthy for its smash hit “Enemy.” The second act does not disappoint, exploring a wide variety of sounds and themes including aging, regrets, and conflict.

Ariana Lessard
Assistant Arts Editor

Imagine Dragons’ album, “Mercury, Act 1 & 2” reminded me why I consider Imagine Dragons one of my favorite bands. Bold and imaginative, this album is actually two albums in one — the first “act” consisting of fourteen songs and released back in September 2021, and the second consisting of eighteen, which was released on July 1.

Something I’ve always loved about Imagine Dragons is that they’re willing to experiment with a wide variety of sounds. Despite lead singer Dan Reynolds’ somewhat distinct voice, each song engages with different feelings using different sounds and approaches, so much so that one can wonder if they’re listening to an entirely different band as the album progresses.

The first half of “Mercury” was released back in 2021, with its smash hit “Enemy” from the Netflix series “Arcane: League of Legends,” featuring JID. “Enemy” and “My Life” are my favorites from the first act of “Mercury.”

From the second act of the album, the song “Sharks” seems to be doing the best commercially as it’s one of the most played tracks on Apple — which it should be. Upon hearing this song I wanted to get up and dance, even with

its ominous lyrics. This is something I also appreciate about Imagine Dragons — their nuanced approach to conflict.

On one level, “Sharks” depicts somebody who is in over their head, who is “swimming with sharks,” as shown by the chorus’ main line, “Just you wait and you’ll see that you’re swimmin’ with sharks. Your blood is pumping (he’s comin’ to get you).”

Another layer within the song is that it breaks down the idea of insincere friendships. This song felt as though it called out my high school self with the lyric, “You think you’re better than them, better than them, you think they’re really your friends, really your friends.”

“Easy Come Easy Go” hurt. It describes the fluid state of friendships, and although it’s likely meant to console the listener, as someone who’s home for the first summer since leaving for college, this hit too close to home. The lyric, “I’m not gon’ lie to you, I miss you so much, tell me what I did wrong to lose touch?” was absolutely heart-wrenching.

In the song, especially as it concludes, the tension between the final lyrics grows. This is partially because of the repetition, and though I often consider concluding a song with a fade-out of repeating lyrics to be lazy,



Melissa Majchrzak/USA TODAY Sports

May 14, 2022; Salt Lake City, UT, USA; singer Dan Reynolds of Imagine Dragons performs at the LoveLoud Festival.

in this instance, I think it worked phenomenally.

“Bones” was the first track from the second act, and a strong good start out on. The premise of the song is that “there’s magic in my bones.” I enjoyed the quick pace and shifts of the song, and felt like, for those reasons, this song would be well-suited for a gym workout or a nightclub.

“Take it Easy” is another face-paced song with heavy

lyrics. This song was cryptic at points, such as the opening lyrics, “Last week, I came to you, I didn’t know what to do, yeah, man sometimes I lie, but sometimes I can tell the truth.” However, the message of this song is pretty straightforward, it’s the same plea Adele released in “Easy on Me” which is not to judge the band’s mistakes too harshly, because it’s a crazy world.

“Younger” is one of those

songs that will grow with me as I age. It’s about wanting to be younger, and when I played the album for my parents, this song was my mom’s favorite. This song is heartbreaking, as Imagine Dragons discusses the tension between adulthood and youth, as well as the way growing up impacts one’s viewpoint.

Personally, I found the lyrics, “I haven’t seen you since we lost all our inno-

cence, you left me in the dark while you drink in the park, never be the same again” to be especially painful.

This album exceeded my expectations and showed how versatile Imagine Dragons’ sound is capable of being. I look forward to watching this band continue to stretch themselves musically.

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Kathy Fobian
319-321-6550
kathy@cbrep.com

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GRIFOLS

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz | No. 0601

- Across**
- 1 "Damn right!"
 - 5 What a lizard's tail can do
 - 11 Word with snow or bank
 - 14 Holiday trio, with "the"
 - 15 Mark in the World Golf Hall of Fame
 - 16 Kerfuffle
 - 17 Info typically not found in the Yellow Pages
 - 19 Become one
 - 20 Like produce in the produce aisle, often
 - 21 Washington post?
 - 23 Surreptitiously say "26-Across," say
 - 26 See 23-Across
 - 27 Railroad stops: Abbr.
 - 29 Creative activity for grade schoolers
 - 34 Neighbor of Sudan
 - 35 Aspect
 - 36 "Back to the Future" actress Thompson
 - 37 Can type
 - 39 Instinctive behavior for a mother-to-be
 - 41 Arafat's grp.
 - 42 Writer Gay
 - 44 Tiny salamanders
 - 45 Reason to sleep with a night light
 - 47 Spell-offs
 - 48 Org. in "The Bourne Identity"
 - 49 Positions
 - 51 Full of noxious vapors
 - 55 Pop singer Simpson
 - 59 "Catch-22" character
 - 60 Prized possessions for numismatists
 - 63 Prefix with century or sentence
 - 64 Just one little bite
 - 65 David Ortiz had 1,768 of them, for short
 - 66 Jerk
 - 67 Unknown people, in slang
 - 68 Not yet completed

- Down**
- 1 Digital clock toggle
 - 2 When doubled, seafood burger choice
 - 3 Some causes of stubbornness
 - 4 Switch maker
 - 5 Sonata finale, often
 - 6 Only living creature in the genus Dromaius
 - 7 Little treasure
 - 8 Broccoli ___
 - 9 City near Provo Bay
 - 10 Vintage military planes
 - 11 Rescue tool at a crash site
 - 12 Lines that lift
 - 13 Main section of text
 - 18 Some reef dwellers
 - 22 Mathematician Lovelace
 - 24 Rice dish infused with saffron
 - 25 Neighbor of Ire.
 - 27 ___ life
 - 28 The Hanged Man and The Chariot, for two
 - 30 Scandinavian-inspired shoe brand
 - 31 Language spoken in the Canadian Prairies
 - 32 Farmer's market sights
 - 33 Droops
 - 34 Guitar clamp
 - 35 Shoulder's place
 - 38 Early vehicle that could take up to 30 minutes to start
 - 40 One might be graphic
 - 43 Screw up
 - 46 What's-___-name
 - 47 "Yours truly" alternative
 - 50 Assails, with "into"
 - 51 Place to see a Matisse in N.Y.C.
 - 52 Biometric scan identifier, maybe
 - 53 Smidge
 - 54 Rap's Wu-Tang ___
 - 56 Gray wolf
 - 57 Children's author Blyton
 - 58 Italian for "it"
 - 61 Psilocybin alternative, for short
 - 62 W.W. II zone: Abbr.

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Sports

Football vets stress summer workouts

Hawkeye upperclassmen are teaching younger players the importance of offseason training.

Chris Werner
Summer Sports Editor

While the Iowa football team won't play its first regular-season game of 2022 until Sept. 3, summer workouts are in full swing.

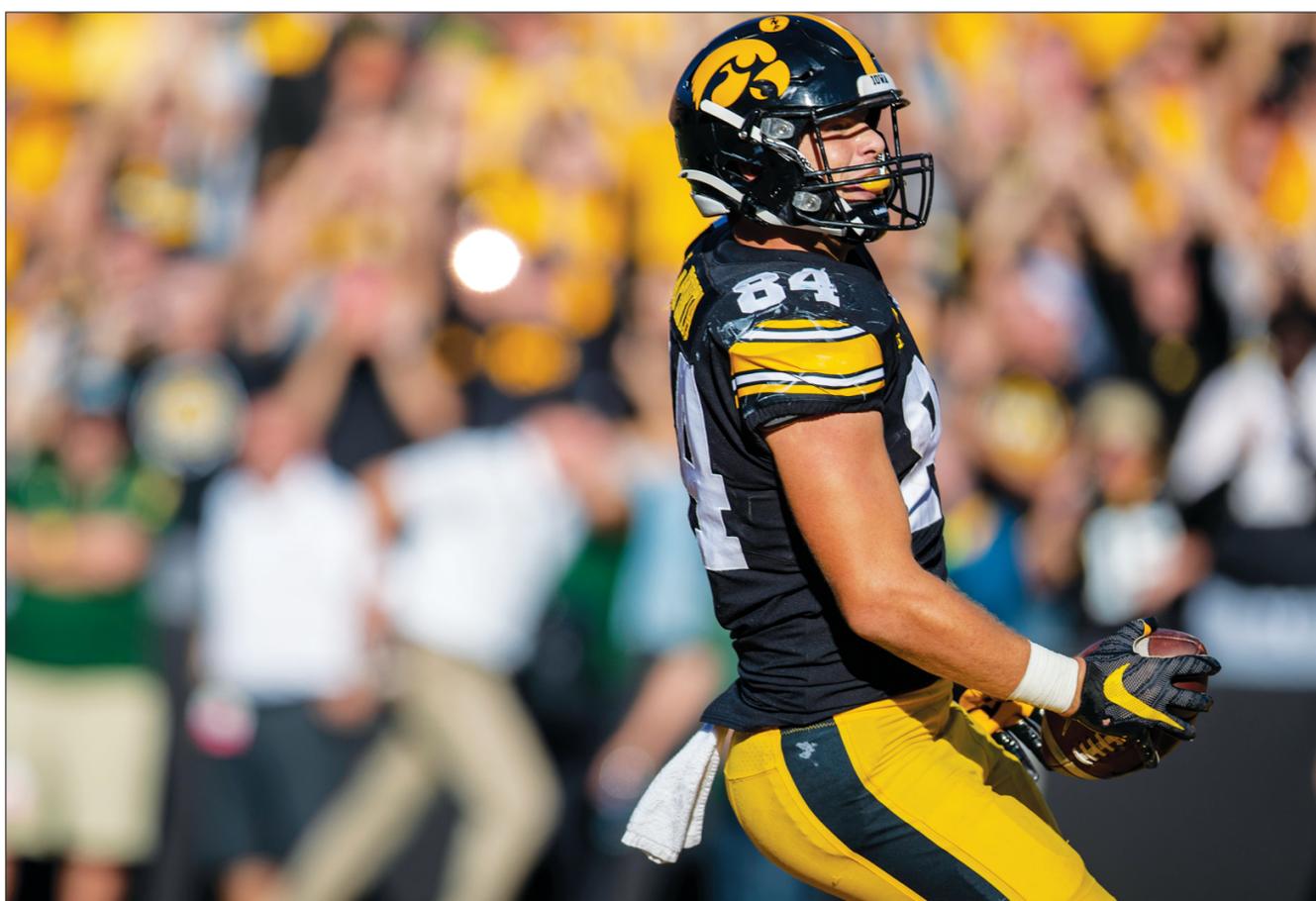
Players are getting back into the practice facility for weight training, film work, and on-field drills while meeting some of the new Hawkeyes for the first time.

At a media availability session on June 23, upperclassmen Jack Campbell, John Waggoner, and Sam LaPorta spoke about the importance of the summer session, especially for younger players.

Campbell, a senior linebacker who was second in the Big Ten in tackles last season, told reporters that summer is the time when freshmen are really introduced to the college game. Campbell reminisced about his days as a first-year during the summer months of 2019.

"It's gonna kind of come with experience and making mistakes and maybe not figuring out how fast the summer goes by and maybe a kind of hit in the face," Campbell said. "I mean, when I was a freshman and I came in, Kristian Welch was here and he let me know how fast it's going to happen. If you don't have the right mindset, the right attitude it's going to fly by and you're not going to even progress."

Welch is now entering his third season in the



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa tight end Sam LaPorta jogs into the end zone after a touchdown reception during a football game between Iowa and Colorado State at Kinnick Stadium on Sept. 25, 2021. The Hawkeyes defeated the Rams, 24-14.

NFL as a member of the Baltimore Ravens.

Waggoner, a senior defensive lineman who has been in the program since 2018, noted the importance of a routine. He said the summer is when freshmen learn how to operate.

"A lot that I learned

when I was a freshman was just like, how to operate, how to act inside and out of the building, just being a professional," Waggoner said. "Having your priorities straight, having a good routine that you can fall back on. [If you do those things,] you're gonna get things

done and improve."

Waggoner may be primed for his biggest season yet as Zach Van Valkenburg moved on to the NFL after a stellar 2021 season that included 58 tackles, 15 tackles for loss, and 5.5 sacks.

LaPorta, a senior tight end who has been named

a preseason All-American and All-Big Ten first-teamer ahead of the 2022 season, likened summer workouts to a ramp getting players ready for what's to come.

"Getting in shape and [continuing] to build your strength training leading up to fall camp, and,

of course, the skills and drills and the fieldwork that we do all summer, it's really important as well," LaPorta said. "So trying to emphasize that to the young guys, it's critical."

Fall camp begins at the start of August.

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COLUMN

Big Ten gains significant edge

With the additions of UCLA and USC in 2024 and a new media rights deal coming soon, the Big Ten has leverage in the new college athletics landscape.

Isaac Goffin
Sports Reporter

It seemed unfathomable over a year ago that UCLA and USC would want to join the Big Ten, but here we are. And the conference has garnered a significant edge.

Shockwaves were sent around the college athletics world when syndicated Pac-12 reporter Jon Wilner tweeted midday on June 30 that the two storied Los Angeles universities were planning to cut ties with the Pac-12 and enter the Big Ten as early as 2024.

The Big Ten Council of Presidents and Chancellors announced that evening it voted unanimously to admit UCLA and USC to the conference, effective Aug. 2, 2024.

The Big Ten is historically grounded in the Midwest, but in today's landscape, geography is of the smallest concerns. Now, it's all about who can leverage the most power in the nation, and a lot of that power comes from media rights. Fortunately, for those who support Big Ten programs, the conference is on the winning end of the battle.

When Texas and Oklahoma revealed in the summer of 2021 that they would jump from the Big 12 to the Southeastern Conference in 2025, it commenced a new era of conference realignment. The already dominant SEC, known for producing five of the last eight college football national champions, is gaining two nationally recognized colleges that will turn it into a super conference — athletically and financially.

With that, it made the other four Power 5 conferences — the Big Ten, Big 12, Atlantic Coast Conference, and Pac-12 — realize they had to fight



Kate Heston/The Daily Iowan

The Big Ten logo and a basketball are seen during a semifinal game of the Big Ten women's basketball tournament in Indianapolis on March 12, 2021.

back if they wished to remain competitive. The Big 12 accepted Houston, Cincinnati, Central Florida, and BYU as members that will join in 2023.

On the other hand, the Big Ten, ACC, and Pac-12 formed "The Alliance," which was an unofficial agreement among the conferences that they would work together on a variety of issues such as nonconference football scheduling, per *The Athletic*.

"The Alliance" served as a counter to the SEC but didn't show any valuable financial benefit for the Big Ten. Yet, by being

in the U.S.'s second-largest media market, UCLA and USC turning into Big Ten members is a massive gain.

“Whatever transpires in the upcoming years, the Big Ten will remain a dominant conference in the new collegiate athletics landscape.

The current Big Ten media contract with ESPN and FOX expires at the end of the 2022-23 academic year, and the conference's new media contract is still up for negotiations, though *Sports Business Journal* reported

Fox Sports has reached a deal to carry at least half of the conference's package.

According to the outlet,

the Big Ten will become the first college conference to earn over \$1 billion a year when it settles its next media rights contract. *The Athletic* projected in March that the Big Ten would distribute \$100 million annually per

school by the end of the decade. That was all written before the Big Ten brought in UCLA and USC as future members.

Imagine the pocketbooks of Big Ten programs in a few years. Big Ten football teams could become competitive with the SEC as the nation's two super conferences. Additionally, every Big Ten sport will benefit from UCLA and USC joining the conference with the upcoming media rights deal.

There's a reason Big Ten presidents and chancellors voted unanimously. Traveling now is

not like it was when the conference formed in the 1890s, though it won't be the most convenient for its members, it will be affordable under the anticipated media rights contract.

It doesn't appear this is the end of conference realignment in the 2020s, and more colleges probably will enter the Big Ten. But whatever transpires in the upcoming years, the Big Ten will remain a dominant conference in the new collegiate athletics landscape.

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Summer Snapshots 'Ya like jazz?'

The Iowa City Jazz Festival hosted jazz, funk, and R&B groups from across the country, as thousands of community members gathered in downtown Iowa City throughout Independence Day weekend.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Spectators watch a performance during the Iowa City Jazz Festival on July 2.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Molly Miller performs on the Main Stage during the 2022 Iowa City Jazz Festival in downtown Iowa City on July 2. The Festival started on Friday and continued into Sunday, featuring a variety of trios, quartets, and more.



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

Glenn Zaleski, a pianist for the Dan Wilson Quartet, performs during the 2022 Iowa City Jazz Festival on July 2.



Fireworks go off during the 2022 Iowa City Jazz Festival on July 2. The show lasted approximately 30 minutes.

Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan