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DAILYIOWAN.COM

Q&A | UI DM director looks forward to in-person 'Big Event'

The Daily Iowan spoke to UI Dance Marathon Executive Director Raginya Handoo about the upcoming "Big Event."

News Reporter

Editor's note: This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

The Daily Iowan: How do you feel going into

this year with Dance Marathon, as it's the first year back to a pre-pandemic setting?

Raginya Handoo: Yes; the last time we had an in-person Dance Marathon "Big Event" would

have been my freshman year, so Dance Marathon 26. It was 2020, and it was in February right before the pandemic hit, and ever since then, we've had two virtual events. So, in the past three years or so, this will be the first time that we go back. It's definitely been challenging kind of navigating this new era because we're kind of basing everything off of whatever we re-

our freshman year. Many of us who are not only executives but even our entire leadership team have never really experienced a "Big Event" in person except for when they member that happened were freshmen. They were

dancers, and as dancers, you don't really know a lot of what's going on behind the scenes or the planning. We're definitely doing our best and rely-

MARATHON | Page 2A

Class of 2026 left behind in loan program

UI's first-year students struggle to pay school fees after being left out of the federal loan forgiveness program.



Lilly Stence/The Daily Iowan Students in the class of 2026 wait to listen to speeches during convocation at the Pentacrest on Aug. 21, 2022. The class of 2026 was left behind in the student loan forgiveness program because it only applies to people who

Grace Katzer

When the Biden Administration announced its student loan forgiveness program, many University of Iowa students and graduates were excited at the possibility of having up to \$20,000 of their loans forgiven.

borrowed loans before June 2022.

However, some UI stu-

feel they have been left behind. The student loan forgiveness program was initiated as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and only applies to people who borrowed loans before June 30, 2022. Federal student loans for first-year college students began in August

2022. "I thought I was pretty

dents in the class of 2026 self-aware in the beginning university after all of the chose the UI because she of the financial aid process," Morgan Schropp, a UI first year student, said. "I started by looking for scholarships and such, and after a while, I kind of got the impression that everything would be automatic. Easy."

After Schropp got her first U-Bill, she said she was shocked to see there was no financial relief from the

scholarships she applied for.

"I am so happy for those above me that have the possibility of loan forgiveness, like my sister, but I can't say it wouldn't be nice to have the same opportunity," she said.

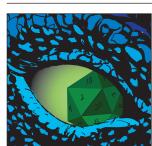
Schropp said despite having a high GPA in high school and academic offers from other schools, she

believed it was inexpensive. Now, she said she is relying on her FAFSA loans that will add up to roughly \$22,000 at the end of her four years.

'I've been in contact with financial aid and ended up in touch with admissions as well to look into more opportunities, but the experience has not been the greatest," she said.

The student load forgiveness program was shut down in November 2022 by a federal district court judge based in Fort Worth, Texas, one month after a temporary block by the U.S. 8th Circuit Appellate Court brought by six states, including Iowa. The U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral

2026 | Page 2A



80 HOURS: Dungeons and **Dragons and Hawkeyes,** oh my!

Using spells and storytelling, UI students are painting their own fantasy lands through the roleplaying game Dungeons & Dragons.

ONLINE

UIHC investigating

pro-Russian hacking group.

potential cyberattack The hospital was in a list of health care systems targeted by "KillNet," a

UPCOMING

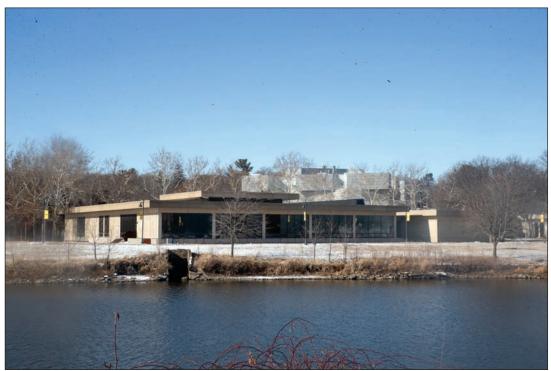
The UI Dance Marathon kicks off Friday and runs into Saturday at the Iowa Memorial Union. Check https:// dailyiowan.com/ for The Daily Iowan's 24-hour online coverage.





Old UI Museum of Art to house Department of Dance

The Performing Arts Annex, previously the Old Museum of Art, will eventually become the Department of Dance.



Shuntaro Kawasaki/The Daily Iowan

The Old Museum of Art, now named the Performing Arts Annex, is seen across the Iowa River on Jan. 26. The building used to house the University of Iowa's art collection but was flooded during the 2008 flood.

Sydney Libert News Reporter

The University of Iowa is preparing to have the Division of Performing Arts take center stage in the former Museum of Art.

The Old Museum of Art will now go by the interim name Performing Arts Annex as part of

the university's 10-year facilities master plan to have the building eventually house the Department of Dance.

While the building is not ready yet for the department's transition, the introduction of a new name signals that dancers are one step closer to departing their current home in Halsey Hall.

"It's like any old building," Rebekah Kowal, Department of Dance department executive officer, said. "It's charming, but it has its problems."

Built in 1915, Halsey Hall originally served as a space for women's physical education with

ARTS | Page 2A

Legislation restricting local control upsets **IC** officials

The Iowa City City Council expressed frustration for proposed housing design bill.

Isabelle Foland **News Reporter**

Several City of Iowa City officials have expressed disappointment and frustration with a proposed bill in the Iowa Legislature that would restrict the city government's ability to dictate certain residential housing design standards.

City staff said the bill follows a worrying trend of state-level bills that take away power from local governments. An Iowa Senate subcommittee recommended the passage of the proposed bill, SF43, on

If passed, the proposed bill would no longer allow local governments to set new or amend existing residential buildings standards, such as determining what materials will be used or the building's aes-

In interviews with *The Daily Iowan*, Iowa City staff and councilors shared concerns over the impacts this bill would have on the city's strategic plan, specifically on issues such as racial equity and sustainability.

Iowa City Mayor Pro Tem Megan Alter said planning and zoning plays a major role in allowing the city to build sustainably and make its neighborhoods more

LOCAL | Page 2A



Matt Sindt/The Daily Iowan

The family of Chris Street answers questions before the Iowa and Northwestern basketball game at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Tuesday. Street, the lateformer Iowa basketball player, is honored annually with "Chris Street Remembrance Day."

2026

Continued from Front

arguments for the cases next month.

According to new data from the U.S. Department of Education released Jan. 27, 264,000 Iowans have applied for the program, and 169,000 Iowans had their fully-approved applications sent to loan servicers for

discharge. Kelsey Ryder, UI associate director of advising, financial literacy, and outreach at the Office of Student Financial Aid, wrote in an email to The Daily Iowan that her department is there to help students who need help understanding student loans and repayment plans.

'We offer financial literacy services where we can dig into topics like budgeting and tracking spending to help students find ways to manage their money in college, which may help students borrow less in

loans," she wrote. Ryder added that she wanted new loan borrowers to be aware that the Biden debt cancellation program created a new income-based repayment option to help future borrowers, which will be reviewed by the U.S. Su-

preme Court this spring.

Stephanie Cook, a UI third-year student, said she expects to spend the rest of

her life in debt. "I have too many loans, even with my two scholarships," she said. "And even though my dad has a good job, FAFSA doesn't account for the fact that I will be paying off every dollar my-

Cook said the possibility of having \$10,000 in loans forgiven would be life

changing. 'It's so unfair to think of the students that just missed the deadline," she said. "If I had taken a gap

year or time off, and I

missed qualifying, I would

have beat myself up." Zoe Bergman, a second-year UI student, said the main problem with financial aid is how confusing and misleading it can be for

students. 'With the way [loan forgiveness] was talked about, it sounded like they're going to give loan forgiveness to all college students, or at least that's what I thought," she said. "I had no idea I was walking next to some classmates that are eligible for \$20,000 of relief and others

who are eligible for zero."

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ARTS

Continued from Front

locker rooms and courts that have been repurposed for the dance department. But over a century later, the space has issues conflicting with the needs of faculty and students.

Kowal expressed her frustration with a lack of uniform-sized spaces in the building. She noted that while some classes can teach up to 55 dancers at a time, others only fit 15 in a

"It's hard to run a department where you're so limited in terms of the number of students that can be in a space at any one time," Kowal said.

The building also lacks climate control, with extremely cold conditions in the fall before the heat is

turned on and no air conditioning to combat the studio's rising temperatures in the spring and summer. Additionally, Kowal said the space only has two bathroom facilities to accommodate the hundreds of students the program serves

Kowal also said the abundance of stairs in the building, which she said is not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, limits the department from being able to showcase its work to the public in the building and is not accessible to the entire student body.

every semester.

However, the UI has found a solution in the Old Museum of Art facility, which the department plans to transition into in the coming years.

Although the building

sustained significant damage after the 2008 flood, Federal Emergency Management Agency funds restored the museum back to its original state. Because of its proximity to the Iowa River and related insurance limitations, the university is unable to exhibit art in the space.

The UI Department of Theatre Arts has already started testing the space for rehearsals and research projects. The dance department will follow suit by temporarily occupying some areas before construction starts to make the space suitable for the arts.

Joshua Weiner, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences associate dean, said the college is aiming to help the dance department make some spaces in the Performing Arts Annex usable in the short term for classes, practices, and some small performances.

Additionally, the college recently engaged funds to renovate the Space Place Theater in North Hall, which includes installing ventilation, reupholstering chairs, and making improvements to the backstage and dressing room areas, he said.

The college is doing what it can to support the dance programs," Weiner said. "We really are trying to improve their facilities, which is one of the main things that they need."

The complete relocation of the dance department is further out in the future, Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations and UI architect Rod Lehnertz said.

The process of moving the dance program and razing Halsey Hall for the expansion of the Iowa Memorial Union Parking Ramp is only one of the many projects the university intends to accomplish within the next decade.

Lehnertz said other projects outlined in the university's 10-year facility master plan, like the development of a new impatient tower for UI Hospitals and Clinics and the creation of a new health sciences building, have first priority.

"In the case of a project like dance moving to the museum - it's an optional project. I mean, we can keep dance operating for some time out of a very old building in Halsey Hall," Lehnertz said. "It's not ideal. They have operated out of the building for decades and decades, but we know more and more it

doesn't serve the needs of our campus and that program as well was we'd like it to." Lehnertz also said up-

dates to make the museum more suitable for the department, like floor-toceiling walls and locker rooms with plumbing, will take considerable funding the university does not have available. Lehnertz estimated renovations to the facility could cost upward of \$20 million.

We know it's an important project, but to adopt it as a dance building will take considerable capital project renewal funds, gifting funds, and other things that will take time to amass," he said. "There's no hard timeline on it, but it will certainly be several years out."

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LOCAL Continued from Front

diverse and inclusive. This bill would effectively negate

these efforts, she said. She said she worries the bill would have a negative effect on the city's relationships with building developers because of the limits it places on the city's collab-

oration with the developers. "We have some really strong partners who are

both local and from out of state and to now have this kind of real imbalance in terms of that we don't have any say in how our communities will have their residential housing built is really disappointing," Alter

The scope of this negative impact expands beyond Iowa City, and the effects of this bill will be long term,

Alter added. This is going to impact so many communities at a time when Iowa itself is struggling to keep people," Alter said. "If the community is weakened through not very good neighborhoods or the development is just sort of pushed in, that's going to have ramifications for years to come."

Looking beyond the impact this bill would have on the city's strategic plan, Deputy City Manager Redmond Jones said what stuck out to him the most about the bill is the loss of control over the aesthetic of a neighborhood.

"We would believe that having a home rule and the ability to guide that building process at a local level is important," Jones said.

In addition, Iowa City City Councilor Shawn Harmsen said it appears this bill would be beneficial to the wealthy, as the bill states its constraints would not apply to private parties that own housing covenants, which are private legal restrictions on the use of land.

A topic that was repeated among city representatives was the general concern over state and federal governments taking powers away from local gov-

ernments. Harmsen said this apparent trend is "not a stream of bad bills and

bad bill proposals" but a fire hose," citing a 2017 Iowa law that prohibits local governments from controlling the minimum wage as another example of the state stripping pow-

er from municipalities. "It's another one of those inequity issues built into a law that we don't need that is solving a problem that we don't have," Harmsen said.

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MARATHON

Continued from Front

ing a lot on our advisors and alumni, and also just a lot of the groups that we work with.

DI: What's going to be different at Dance Marathon 29?

Handoo: We're bringing back a lot of our traditions that we've definitely lost throughout the years, lots of things we couldn't really replicate or mimic during a virtual year. We're trying to turn back to the in-person stuff. During the COVID virtual years, it was nice because we got a bit of a reset. We got to talk more closely with our leadership members and dancers to survey them and really understand what they want out of Dance Marathon, what's not needed, or where there is a need that we can fill. With that, we've tried to create activities that are interactive to everybody. We want to make sure that there's accommodations, if necessary, for everybody to enjoy Dance Marathon. One of the things we're doing this year is we have a morale dance we show every single year, and our captains go up and they perform it every single hour.

This year, we are also making a video that is an accommodated version of this morale dance because it's something that people typically want to learn at the "Big Event," and we have the opportunity for everyone to learn it. Even some of our kiddos and family members want to but some of them might be in a wheelchair, and some may not be able to walk, so they can't always be jumping and stomping around like a lot of the dancers do up there.

We're also trying to pull in more student organization involvement this year to really foster that partnership, so other student organizations will be performing at our "Big Event," a lot of the performative ones, like dance groups and singing groups. Additionally, the classic kiddo graduation, or halfway there, they've always been a tradition. We're making little tweaks based on what we have heard and the feedback we've received while still staying true to Dance Marathon and keeping those traditions that everybody knows and loves.

DI: What is on your list of priorities for this year? Handoo: The families

and the kiddos are always at the front of that list, but I think one of the coolest things this year with the opportunity of bringing back that in-person event is we're essentially rebuilding Dance Marathon and kind of rebranding what we're about. I know in the past there's been a lot of stigmas, and maybe some negative views about Dance Marathon ... I'm hoping as the "Big Event" comes around, and people are able to engage, and the public is able to see what it's like, they can see those changes that we've made and un-

derstand that we're trying to make Dance Marathon a better place, we're trying to make it more inclusive to everybody. We're also keeping the traditions that everybody loves. It's always that balancing act. We're going to make the atmosphere super hype, super exciting, and a great place to be for everybody — not just those who have the best ability to enjoy it.

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Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

Participants dance during Dance Marathon at the Iowa Memorial Union at the University of Iowa in Iowa City on Feb. 5, 2022. The fundraiser was held virtually with limited in-person participants.

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My cup is not my consent Using alcohol to get sex is sexual assault

ETHICS POLITICS

Republicans lead national 'school choice' push

Conservatives are spearheading a nationwide movement to provide taxpayer dollars for private education.

Liam Halawith Politics Editor

Iowa is one of the first GOP-led states in the U.S. to expand access to private K-12 education with state taxpayer funds after Gov. Kim Reynolds signed into law "school choice" legislation on Jan. 24.

Iowa is the newest addition to a growing list of states that have publicly funded Education Savings Accounts that help support private education with almost no limits.

Arizona and West Virginia are the only other states that enacted similar legislation, but the movement is snowballing with almost a dozen other GOP-lead states having introduced similar legislation

ilar legislation.
Nine GOP-led states, including Iowa, currently support these initiatives in some way, and seven more states have introduced legislation to achieve this goal.

option of choice, but they aren't the only choice," Reynolds said during the bill signing. "With this bill, every child in Iowa, regardless of zip code or income, will have access to the school best suited for them." Opponents of the

Opponents of the legislation said the bill would take away money from public schools that aren't fully funded due to the rising costs of inflation and stagnant growth in state funding. The law is estimated to cost \$345 million a year once fully implemented in 2026, according to an analysis by the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency.

The bill would give \$7,600 — roughly what the state spends per pupil in K-12 education — to parents of children who transfer to private schools or already attend private schools to spend on tuition or other education expenses.

There are currently 33,692 private school



Margaret Kispert/The Register/USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Kim Reynolds high-fives House Speaker Pro Tempore John H. Wills, R-District 10, before she signs House File 68 in the rotunda of the Iowa State Capitol Building on Jan. 24.

dramatically.
"And if they're go-

Private schools in Iowa counties

lowa has 184 private schools. Only 57 of lowa's 99 counties have one or more private schools, leaving 42 counties in lowa without a private school.

of counties have NO private schools

of counties with at least one private school

Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher

Source: People Over Politics

Reynolds flagship legislative priority, the Students First Act, moved quickly through the Iowa House and Senate. It was signed into law three weeks after it was introduced by the governor on the second day of the 2023 legislative session. The bill passed with a slim majority in the Iowa House and Senate, as several Republicans joined Democrats in opposi-

tion to the legislation.
After signing the bill into law, Reynolds said the law aims to bring equity to private school access.

"Public schools are the foundation of our education system, and for most families, they will continue to be the

Source: EdChoice

students who attend 183 private schools in Iowa, according to state Department of Education data. The Legis-lative Services Agency estimates that roughly 41,600 Educational Savings Accounts will be created by the start of the 2026-27 school year. Most accounts are expected to go to current nonpublic school students, and only around 5,000 accounts would likely be created public-to-private school transfers.

Dave Daughton, a lobbyist for the School Administrators of Iowa and the Rural School Advocates of Iowa, said failing to fully fund public education will affect Iowa's schools

ing to continue to, in effect, shortchange the public-school districts, they're going to continue to struggle," Daughton said in an interview with *The*

Daily Iowan.

Iowa State Education Association President Mike Beranek said taxpayer dollars should go to public schools because they offer equal access, and private schools are not accountable to the taxpayer dollars they are

receiving.

"Make no mistake, this is not a war between public schools and private schools; it is a conflict between how taxpayer money is spent on private schools without equal

access and no accountability or taxpayer oversight," Beranek said in a news release. "Elected officials have a responsibility to serve all the people of our great state. This legislation serves just a few, with all the peo-

ple's money."

Iowa law does not provide oversight of private schools that receive funding from these accounts. Private schools aren't required to administer state standardized testing or report testing results

report testing results.

The law does allow school districts to use leftover allocated funding to fund teacher salary increases and training by allowing schools to transfer the designated funds into the district's general fund balance. Additionally, the bill provides \$1,200 in residual funding to a private school student's home

public school district. Opponents also argued that special education students get wouldn't this choice in education because of selective admission standards for private schools. Rep. Heather Matson, D-Ankeny, said a student in her district wouldn't be accepted to private school because of his

autism diagnosis.

"There is no choice for him because no private school will accept him because of his disabilities," Matson said during debate on the House floor late in the evening on Jan. 23. "But Brandon is ac-

cepted and has teachers and staff who work hard for him in the Ankeny Community School District."

School choice picks up steam

Iowa is one of three states that currently have Education Savings Accounts for all private school students, according to Ed Choice, a national school choice advocacy group. Six other GOP-led states have ESA programs with income limits, and a few of those states — including Missouri — are looking to expand the programs

the program.
Currently, 33 states and the territory of Puerto Rico have a private school voucher program, and 35 states have some form of tax credit for private school parents.

However, only two other states have legislation as expansive as Iowa's law. Arizona enacted legislation last year that designated ESAs to all students attending private school in the state to subsidize tuition and other educational expenses. West Virginia enacted similar legislation in 2021.

Utah lawmakers recently passed legislation providing tax-payer-funded private school scholarships totaling almost \$42 million in taxpayer spending on scholarships for roughly 5,000 students.

These programs are a long time coming, with school choice proponents deep in the public taxpayer structure, including the U.S. Department of Education.

Former Education Secretary Betsy Devos championed ESAs during her tenure under the Trump administration. Devos now owns and operates the American Federation for Children, an organization that advocates for public funding for private schools.

"The 'Washington knows best' crowd loses their minds over that. They seem to think that the people's money doesn't belong to the people," Devos said in a 2020 speech. "That it instead belongs to 'the public,' or rather, what they mean — government."

Educational Savings Accounts aren't the only program supporting school choice. School vouchers, which give money directly to parents or schools for private school attendance, have also gained traction in many states. Sixteen states and the

territory of Puerto Rico currently operate voucher programs.

'Public school or nothing' in rural lowa

Forty-two of Iowa's 99 counties have no private school options within the county, although those counties contain 75 percent of Iowa's public schools, according to Iowa Department of Education data.

Stephen Murley, a University of Iowa education policy researcher and instructor, said this will lead to most students not having the option to attend the state's 183 private schools.

"When they talk about this being a choice bill and providing choice and opportunity for students, parents, and families, that's a misnomer," Murley said in an interview with *The Daily Iowan*. "It's a public school or nothing because there are no pri-

vate schools there."
Instead, Murley said the bill is going to subsidize private education in the state's most urban counties. Iowa's nine most populous counties contain 54 percent of Iowa's private schools.

"Those kids in the surrounding rural areas of those nine counties and the other 90 rural counties in Iowa will have almost zero choices," Murley said. "They will not have the option to access these dollars and use them to support their attendance at a private school."

Bernaek said the bill is taking funding from most of Iowa's students to give it to the minority who already can afford private education. Iowa has 481,713 public school students who make up 92 percent of Iowa's K-12 student population, according to state Department of Education data.

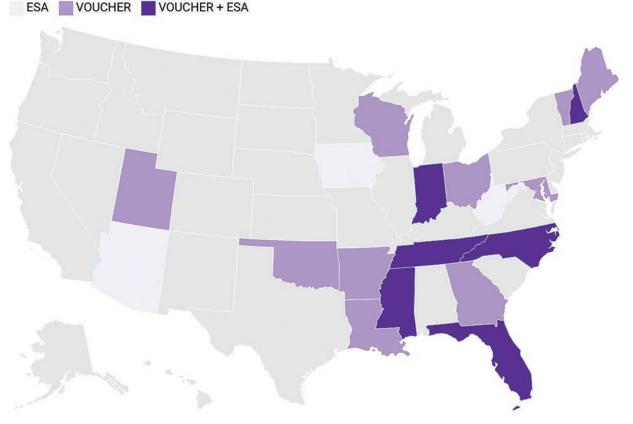
"The bill will divert essential funds from 92 percent of our student population and send the funds to just a select population of students admitted into private schools," Beranek said.

The Department of Education has asked for requests for proposals from companies with experience running ESA programs to apply to administer the state's program. Current cost estimates do not include the cost of the program's third-party administration.

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Voucher and ESA laws in the U.S.

In the U.S., 19 states have legislation regarding school vouchers and education savings accounts. Iowa was recently added to the ranks, with new legislation enacted for allowing education savings accounts.



Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher

Opinions no loss can be a nlus

Spending less can be a plus

People are finding ways to save money for future benefits.



Naomi Rivera Morales Opinions Columnist

As many expect a looming recession, some individuals are partaking in money saving strategies.

During a recession, consumers spend less, which leads to a significant impact in economic activity. During this period, the National Bureau of Economic Research measures and tracks the nation's economic status.

Economic recessions occur for a variety of reasons. These reasons include a stock market crash, a decline in consumer confidence, bubble bursting, and increasing interest rates.

Analysts are still divided on whether we will see a recession in the future.

Moody's Analytics suggests a slow-down in the economy rather than a recession.

"Slowcession" is a forecast that the economy will undergo a difficult period of almost no growth but will ultimately avoid an actual contraction. It's an argument that others also believe.

At the University of Iowa, students are experiencing the pressure of a wavering economy, leading them to find more effective ways to budget their money.

UI student Danielle Montgomery wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that she is having a hard time budgeting her money and recently made changes to her spending habits.

"I've started a monthly budgeting plan to make sure that I don't spend any money outside of what I plan for," Montgomery wrote. "I also keep a daily log of what I spend and when so that I can see exactly where I'm spending too much money. You got to know where the leaks are so you don't drain all of your income."

Montgomery wrote that students should track their spending and can save money by not eating at restaraunts and by using public transportation. On campus, the Cambus is available for students to use for free.

Olivia Comer, another UI student, wrote in an email to the *DI* that they are saving money by hanging out with friends on a budget.

"Instead of going to see a movie at the theater, we pop popcorn, buy M&Ms, and watch a movie in one of our dorms," Comer wrote.

Comer also goes to The Airliner in Iowa City for \$1 pizza slice nights on Sundays.

"It is beneficial in that I'm forced to be more thoughtful when it comes to spending my money," Comer wrote.

UI student Sophia Con-

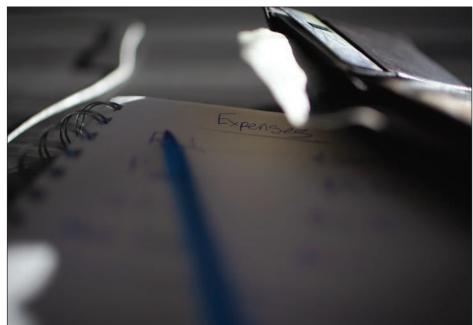


Photo illustration by Matt Sindt.

sidine wrote to the *DI* that she does not bring money with her when she knows she will be out to help save money.

"I try my best to only use my meal plan, Hawk dollars, and flex meals," Considine wrote. As college students, most of us are already aware of our spending habits. However, when economic hardships come into play, students are quick to think about more effective solutions to save more money.

Though these periods of time can often lead to exhaustion, we are at least finding ways to become more money conscious toward our present and future spending.

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You can't SNAP away hunger

Iowa Republicans want to reduce necessary food products from SNAP.



Luke Krchak Opinions Contributor

Iowa Republicans introduced a bill that would reduce Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

benefits.

This bill is harmful to the people who need help the most by limiting access to basic nutrition.

In our current economic downturn, it makes sense to look for cuts in the budget. However, services like SNAP are essential to the health and well-being of people who use them.

The bill was introduced on Jan. 11 to merge and reform the SNAP benefits with the Women, Infants, and Children Program. This merger leaves fewer options for individuals relying on SNAP. These items include cooking supplies, sliced cheese, fresh meat, and canned tuna and salmon.

The bill has also proposed an asset limit at \$2,750 on households. For households with an individual with a disability or an individual over the age of 60, the asset limit is set at \$3,250.

Services like SNAP may

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bars

aged.

seem like a place where too much money is allocated. It might seem like people on food stamp programs are abusing it to get luxury food. But roughly 20 percent of the U.S. lives at 130 percent or below the poverty line. Half of that percentage includes individuals in the SNAP program.

Cooking a home meal or having access to a fresh meal can be taken for granted. Many tend to overlook these things as if everyone has equal access to quality meals and nutrition.

The first food stamps program was established in 1939 by Henry Wallace, the former Secretary of Agriculture. These programs were originally made to aid the high percentage of unemployed individuals, which was a result of the Great Depression.

Today, we face another sizable economic downturn and incoming recession.

We need a well-funded SNAP program available to aid people during the current economic decline, and it needs to keep a variety of options and meals now more than ever.

Limiting options can make it difficult for people with allergies and other concerns to access adequate nutrition. In addition, the limit of protein-rich items — such as

fresh meats and cheese — aver would make it harder for people to meet their nutritional needs. aver the the cent

Funding comes from the federal government, giving the program protections from states cutting off funds to the programs budget. However, states are given the power to choose how to administer benefits, such as limiting benefits available and who is eligible.

In fiscal 2021, the federal government spent \$111 billion on SNAP, an increase from past years to increase aid during the COVID-19 pandemic. This price is expected to fall over the coming decade, going back to its original

average of 0.4 percent of the GDP.

Iowa has around 9 percent of its population participating in SNAP benefits, as of 2021. This is not just a problem affecting 0.0001 percent of people and is not a problem that

should be overlooked.

If Iowa Republicans still want to find ways to cut the budget, I recommend they find it in non-essential places, as SNAP is an essential service for Iowa and the U.S.

Every Iowan should be able to meet their nutritional needs, so we need to ensure SNAP is able to do that.

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POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Should IC lower its age requirement for bars?

Individuals under 21 are not allowed into drinking establishments after 10 p.m. Opinion writers Shahab Khan and Chris Klepach debate the required age to enter bars.



Shahab Khan Opinions Columnist

made underage drinking a rite of passage for high schoolers and college freshmen. With that being said, underage drinking is a public health crisis because it leads to a higher risk of alcohol dependency.

Therefore, it would be wise to prevent anyone under the age of 20 from entering a bar past 10 p.m.

When students are educated about the dangers of underaged drinking, the medical effects of alcohol are rarely contextualized, thus leading to a false belief that alcohol is a benign substance.

The National Library of Medicine found that excessive alcohol consumption cor-

Lower age to 20

relates with higher rates of violent antisocial behavior and suicide. Recently, medical professionals who examined the effects of alcohol on heavy drinkers found that alcohol caused worse health outcomes than heroin.

Underage drinkers are more likely to develop the habits that will put them on course to become alcoholics. This is because they are more likely to engage in binge drinking compared to drinkers who waited until they were older.

When we are teenagers, our brains are still maturing, and we are not able to make the most informed decisions regarding our health. As a result, when underaged individuals begin to drink, they tend to binge drink, thus making them susceptible to developing an addiction.

Preventing teenagers from entering a bar — where alcohol is accessible and everywhere — is important if we want to guarantee better life outcomes.

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Chris Klepach

Opinions Columnist

ter bars be one of them?
Why is it that one can enlist in the military at 17 years old, emancipate at 16 years old per Iowa law, but not be able to go to the bar past 10 p.m.?

In Iowa City, you must be 21 years old or older to enter a bar after 10 p.m. However, those who are underage will find ways around this law. A popular method is to turn to websites or people to order identity forgeries – fake IDs – to get past a bar's bouncer. This has turned into a silly arms-race of bars utilizing ID scanners and students buying fake IDs with scanning capabilities.

Lower age to 18

There are many responsibilities given at the age of 18. Why can't the right to en-

EDITORIAL POLICY

place, it potentially incentivizes those who wish to enter a bar to seek ways inside. There is a thrill given to illegal entry. That, combined with social pressures induced on younger people, can be a potential for early alcohol abuse. Ironically, higher age limits make entry into bar establishments "cooler."

When an age restriction is put in

Venues that typically only allow individuals 21 or older make exceptions to allow for performers who are underage to enter.

People should have the freedom to enter bars at the same approximate age that they arrive at college. Understanding and evaluating risks that we take is more important than constraining entry to an arbitrary age limit that gets ignored anyway.

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Sophia Meador, Shahab Khan, Yasmina Sahir, Hannah Pinski

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A fresh perspective

Iowa volleyball 2023 commit Alyssa Worden tore her left ACL in June 2022, but the injury provided her a new look in the game.

Kenna Roering Sports Reporter

volleyball 2023 Iowa Worden commit Alyssa suffered a season-ending injury last summer, but the six-rotation outside hitter hasn't allowed the setback to hinder her dreams of playing in the volleyball powerhouse Big Ten conference.

"I love the idea of playing in the Big Ten," Worden told The Daily Iowan. "I've always been extremely competitive, so the idea of playing in the toughest conference excites me.'

Worden made the South Elgin High School girls' varsity volleyball squad when she was a freshman in 2019. Then, she decided to forgo her sophomore high school season and play up with Sports Performance Volleyball Club's U18 team out of Aurora, Illinois.

The Bartlett, Illinois, na-

tive helped SPVC take home second place in the 18 Open at the 48th AAU Junior National Volleyball Tournament and secured a spot on the 2021 Ultra Ankle Junior Volleyball Association All-National Team Class of

Worden returned to the court for South Elgin as a junior in 2021 and led the Storm to a school-record 31 victories and an Upstate Eight conference title, earning her Team MVP honors.

Former Iowa volleyball head coach Vicki Brown went to watch Worden in person during her high school junior season and later offered her a spot on Hawkeyes. Worden committed to Iowa in October 2021, but Brown was fired the next month.

Newly hired Hawkeye head coach Jim Barnes and associate head coach and recruiting coordinator Brian Yale went to watch her in person during her junior season. After meeting and talking with Barnes and Yale, Worden was "even more convinced [she] wanted to play at Iowa."

Worden's commitment, however, preceded the biggest obstacle of her volleyball career yet. While competing for SPVC's 18 Elite squad in the 18 Open championship match in June 2022, Worden tore her left ACL.

The injury prevented Worden from playing her senior prep season with the Storm. Instead, she took on an assistant-like coaching role for South Elgin's boys' volleyball team and remained a vocal leader for the girls' squad during her recovery process.

Worden, who coached elementary school children at SPVC, said that being on the sidelines gave her a new and beneficial outlook on the sport.

"Everything becomes so clear on the sidelines the shots you should hit, where on defense you should be positioned, where you should be blocking," Worden said. "Coaching and watching from the sidelines really taught me more about the game than I could've imagined. This new understanding of the game has made me a better volleyball player both physically and mentally.'

Worden will join the rest of the 2023 commits outside hitters Kaia Mateo and Gabby Deery and libero Olivia Lombardi — this summer. After going 10-21 overall and 4-16 in conference last season, each 2023 commit is embracing the challenge of turning the Hawkeye program around.

"From our arrival and first interaction with [the 2023 class], it was clear that they were going to be great additions to our program, and to the University of Iowa itself," Yale said in a release. "Individually and collectively, they are a class that has already embraced what this program is build-

Worden's addition is even more critical for this rebuilding Iowa squad, especially considering the recent transfer of sophomore outside hitter Addie VanderWeide and the departure of senior attackers Amiya Jones and Edina Schmidt.

VanderWeide announced in an Instagram post on Jan. 3 that she was transferring to Hope College in Holland, Michigan — just an hour away from her hometown of Ada, Michigan. Vander-Weide started 44 matches for the Hawkeyes throughout her freshman and sophomore seasons and tallied 2.23 kills per set and 1.46 kills per set, respectively.

Barnes also picked up

Caitlan Buettner, a senior outside hitter from Texas State, in the transfer portal earlier this month. Buettner was third on the Bobcats, with 270 kills and totaled 148 digs in 2022.

Worden is still rehabbing, and while the recovery process has been difficult, seeing her progress keeps her going, she said. Worden is expected to make a full recovery before Iowa's 2023 season starts in August, and she is prepared to take on any role the Hawkeyes need

to be successful. "I am happy to fill whatever role coach Barnes needs me to help the Hawks win games and move up in the rankings," Worden said. "I want to be remembered as a great player for the Hawkeyes — someone who is exciting to watch and visibly makes a difference because of her grit and spirit."

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MURRAY Continued from Page 6A

Kris Murray said on Jan. 19. "Just going through pre-[N-BA Draft] last year, going to Damian Lillard's camp in August, I think, gave me a lot of confidence in myself, just knowing how good of a player I can be."

Kris Murray said the confidence he gained in the offseason has also helped him become a leader on this year's Hawkeye

While working through pre-NBA Draft activities, scouts may have been the boost he needed to understand he has all the on-court skills to be great.

Kris Murray's mentality has also influenced his ascension.

McCaffery said Kris Murray's improved mindset of playing in the present and not dwelling on missed shots or bad plays has made him a completely different person compared to last season.

"I just knew that I had the skillset and that it would come with who I was working with over the summer, that my skillset would get better," Kris Murray said. "But it's more the mental side that I worked on, just being able to just shrug off shots that I don't make and not put my head down and just kind of pick my head up knowing that the next one's going in."

Kris Murray's ward-looking attitude was more evident in Iowa's 81-67 victory over Maryland on Jan. 15. After he made just one of four shots in the first half, the Cedar Rapids product tallied 17 of his 19 points in the second half on 7-of-11 shooting, including a 3-pointer and two free throws.

"I knew that I needed to make an impact on that game," Kris Murray said. "I knew that kind of with the matchups that I had, I knew that I was in really good shape, that I'd be able to just kind of wear down the defense eventually. When my name was called, I knew they'd just keep going back to me, back to me, that I get

a good look every single time. It was a lot of confidence in myself to bring that one home."

And Kris couldn't help but take a shot at his brother when a reporter asked if he would've been able to take over a game in that manner in 2021-22.

"I don't think so, with Keegan on the court, Kris said sarcastically. "I don't think so a year ago. I would've been a person that would've maybe scored on a couple plays, and then just kind of let someone else take over. I think that's kind of where I've come along in the last

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lowa forward Kris Murray puts up a shot during a men's basketball game between lowa and Rutgers at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Sunday, Jan. 29. The Hawkeyes defeated the Scarlet Knights, 93-82.

Continued from Page 6A

if I had a bad practice or no matter if prelims went wrong, just knowing that I can do anything," Bebe said. "I think confidence has been my biggest key. Going into that race knowing that anything can happen, but I am meant to be here, and I can do whatever I put my

mind to." Iowa director of track and field Joey Woody said Bebe's mental improvement showed when she remained unfazed heading into the Hawkeye Pro Classic final, serving as an example for

the rest of the team. 'She just stayed focused on herself," Woody said. "I

Continued from Page 6A

a long and hard road.

they would be going down

As the GymHawks re-

turned to a sense of nor-

malcy, and COVID-19 restrictions were lifted,

Libby said she pushed her athletes beyond their limits. While Libby knows she

was hard on her team, she hopes to maintain this im-

Muñoz said she set per-

sonal goals for improve-

ment along with the push

for success from coaches.

Rather than having an end

destination, Muñoz wants

her team to get better

and score higher at every

ted every single day you

go to the gym and every

time you're going for your

skills," Muñoz said. "Just

be the best person you

could possibly be in order

to ensure that your prac-

tice or your competition

that day is the best that

As someone who joined

the team as a freshman,

Libby said there is typically

a steep learning curve go-

ing from club gymnastics

"You have to be commit-

MUNOZ

provement.

meet.

can be."

think that's been the biggest thing I've been really talking to them all about, is just to focus on themselves. You can't control what everybody else does. If you just focus on yourself and execute the things we're working on in practice, you're going to see big performances."

Woody said Bebe is pushing to succeed come her turn for redemption at the Big Ten and NCAA championships later this season.

'She's just more mature on how she takes care of herself and how she's dialed in and focused coming into training," Woody said. "I think it's been great because we've got such a great training group, and that group is really close and very supportive of one another. I think that's helped Myreanna just like she's helped all the other girls in that group. I think that's been a really big positive as well."

Nonetheless, Bebe said she hasn't set any goals for the rest of the year.

"I think that if I wake up every day giving my best and putting in that work, I can do anything," she said. ʻI'd say right now it's just limitless. That's how I look at the season, just going with the flow and having fun — that's my key thing. I'm just having fun, and all the blessings and everything that I want will come

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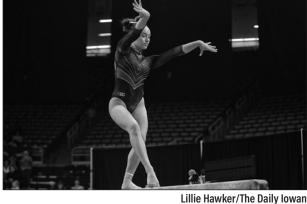


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Iowa gymnast Karina Muñoz competes on the beam during a gymnastics meet between Iowa and Minnesota in Iowa City on Friday, Jan. 27. The Hawkeyes and the Gophers tied, with each getting a score of 196.875

to college gymnastics. Before college, howev-

er, Muñoz participated on both her high school and club gymnastics teams, meaning she was privy to the demands and expectations set by her current

"It takes a toll on your body," Libby said. "It takes time to get used to adapting to all of that. She blended well with that whole idea and knew how to pace herself."

Libby said the team has been able to focus on the aspects that are in the gymnasts' control. Despite the struggles associated

with gymnastics, the Gym-Hawks have highlighted the positives. Muñoz contributes to

this general attitude, with the goal of putting her best foot forward every time she takes the competitive stage. No team is comprised of a single member, but team culture is cultivated by the attitudes of each individual.

They stay focused on the right things, which is the things you can control: your attitude, your effort, and how much fun you're having," Libby said.

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HAWKEYE UPDATES

Caitlin Clark, Monika Czinano, Kris Murray named to **Wooden Award late season**

A trio of Hawkeyes were named to the Wooden Award late season top 20

The Wooden Award is presented annually to both the top men's and women's basketball player in the

Junior guard Caitlin Clark, who is averaging 271 points, 7.9 rebounds, and 7.9 assists per game, has also been tabbed the Preseason Big Ten Player of the Year and preseason

On Jan. 23, Clark became the first player since Dwyane Wade in the 1999-2000 season to record a triple-double against an AP top-2 team - she recorded 28 points, 10 rebounds, and 15 assists against No.

The 2022 Big Ten Player of the Year also has a conference-record eight triple-doubles in her career. She is currently on a five-game double-dou-

Clark was also named to the Nancy Lieberman Award midseason watch list on Monday. The Lieberman Award is given to the top point guard in women's basketball, and Clark won it last

unanimous All-American.

ble streak.

on Monday, the Los Angeles Athletic

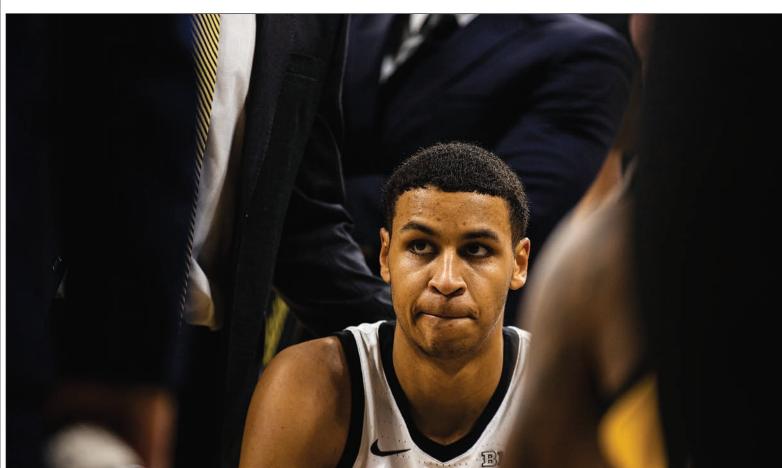
top 20

Club announced.

Sports

Murray's new mindset

The junior said he developed a new mentality of leaving the past in the past this offseason.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

lowa forward Kris Murray sits for a timeout during a men's basketball game between lowa and Rutgers at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Jan. 29. The Hawkeyes defeated the Scarlet Knights, 93-82.

Chris Werner

mento Kings.

Assistant Sports Editor

Iowa men's basketball

forward Kris Murray spent

last season playing second

fiddle to his twin brother

Keegan, who is now an NBA

rookie starter for the Sacra-

season, Kris Murray's pro-

duction without his brother

in Iowa City was a question

for the Hawkeye men's bas-

Coming into the 2022-23

Fifth-year senior Monika Czinano is also on the Wooden Award late season top 20 list

Czinano is averaging 18.1 points per game this season and ranks third in the country with a 66.3 field goal percentage. Czinano was a Lisa Leslie Award semifinalist last season, which is given to the top center in collegiate women's basketball.

lowa women's basketball is one of three programs to have multiple players on the list — South Carolina's Aliyah Boston and Zia Cooke and Stanford's Cameron Brink and Haley Jones are on the list.

Four of the Hawkeyes' final eight games will come against top-10 teams. Iowa will play both No. 8 Maryland and No. 4 Indiana twice before

the end of the regular season The Hawkeyes, who are 17-4 overall and a Big Ten-leading 9-1 in conference, moved up to No. 6 in the AP poll on Monday afternoon. Iowa will take on No. 8 Maryland at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. The game will be aired nationally on ESPN.



On the men's basketball side, junior Kris Murray was named to the Wooden Award late season top 20.

The men's basketball program has had four players named to the late season top 20 in the last four seasons. Forward Keegan Murray was a finalist for the Wooden Award in 2022, and center Luka Garza won the honor in 2021 and was a finalist in 2020.

The 6-foot-8 forward is averaging 20.8 points and 8.6 rebounds per game this season, starting every game he's participated in. He missed four games because of an injury.

Murray has scored over 30 points four times this season as of Jan. 30 one of just 11 players in the nation to do so. He's led the Hawkeyes to a 13-8 overall and 5-5 conference record this

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We'll worry February when February comes,"

- Men's basketball head coach Fran McCaffery on if his team will go on a February run.

STAT OF THE DAY



Number of times Caitlin Clark has been the Big Ten Player of the Week.

ketball community.

Murray averaged just under 10 points per game in less than 18 minutes per contest as a sophomore, but he was expected to produce with all eyes on him.

And he's stepped up to the challenge. As a junior, Kris Murray has started all 16 games he's played in he missed four contests in December with a leg injury — and doubled both his scoring output and floor time.

He's led the Hawkeyes in scoring a playing time with an average of 20.6 points and over 34 minutes a game. Keegan Murray averaged 23.5 points last sea-

Iowa head coach Fran McCaffery said that Kris Murray is excelling offensively because of the versatility of his game.

threes, "[Kris] makes drives the ball, offensive

rebound put-backs, scores from different locations on the floor, so you can't really scheme your defense because [he's] never in one place," McCaffery said on Jan. 19.

The Big Ten's second-leading scorer has contributed double-digit points in all but one game this season, poured in 20 or more on eight occasions, and eclipsed the 30-point mark four times as of Jan.

30. Kris Murray needs one more 30-point outing to tie his brother's five 30 pieces from a season ago.

Kris Murray said this offseason was pivotal in his improvement. He worked out with NBA scouts and attended a camp run by the Portland Trail Blazers' Damian Lillard.

"I'm playing with a lot more confidence this year,"

MURRAY | Page 5A

Clearing mental hurdles

Junior hurdler Myreanna Bebe bounced back from a turbulent 2022 season with a peaceful yet confident mentality.



lowa's Myreanna Bebe poses for a photo with former lowa track and field head coach Larry Wieczorek. They two celebrate with a trophy for winning the team competition during the Larry Wieczorek Invitational at the Iowa Indoor Track Facility in Iowa City

Colin Votzmeyer Sports Reporter

Iowa track and field hurdler Myreanna Bebe has had her fair share of struggles throughout

Despite multiple promising performances last season, the junior came up short at both the indoor and outdoor conference meets. During the season, she said she had a bad mental state as she tried to balance the requirements of her life after the death of her father the year

before.
"I think I was probably my biggest enemy just because I tried to put a lot of control in my own hands," Bebe said. "I tried to control everything that I did, and I just killed it for myself. I wasn't in a good place mentally."

To strengthen her mentality, the Orlando, Florida, native said she has held herself accountable by telling herself, "I'm not okay, and it's okay to not be okay." She added it is still her responsibility to want to improve and get out of those rough patches because they don't define her.

You can be sad, and you can be hurt, but you don't have to be stuck in it," Bebe said. "I wake up every morning just knowing that it's going to be hard some days. It's not going to be easy, and I'm going to miss who I lost, but I'm going to have to keep putting my best foot forward to get to where I need to be."

With the 2022-23 indoor season underway, Bebe said she has prioritized herself and hopes this year will reward her for the struggles she has endured. She said she will remain

'still" in the meantime. "I've built my faith up and trusted in God that everything will go according to his plan," Bebe said. "So, every time I'm going into a race, I don't care about stats. I don't care about what I ran last week. I don't care about what happened yesterday. I'm just going there with

confidence knowing that it's his

will, and I will get everything that I deserve in due time."

At the Larry Wieczorek Invitational Jan. 20-21, Bebe ran a personal-record 7.50 in the women's Hawkeye Pro Classic 60-meter dash prelims. The time tied for ninth all-time in the event for Iowa.

Bebe then ran to a fourthplace finish in the women's Hawkeye Pro Classic 60-meter hurdle prelim with a time of 8.28. Although unsatisfied, she said she did not feel defeated and instead remained calm.

In the final, she ran an 8.11 – another personal best that broke Karessa Farley's 14-yearold Iowa all-time record for the event by a tenth of a second.

Bebe said her mentality of peace is at an all-time high, propelling her to run the 8.11 that put her atop the event's all-time Hawkeye leaderboard.

"I think that's really what it is for me, remaining still no matter what's going on, no matter

BEBE | Page 5A

Muñoz keeps positive mentality

The Iowa women's gymnastics freshman stressed the importance of attitude and team culture when competing in a demanding sport.

Jami Martin-Trainor **Assistant Digital Editor**

Freshman Karina Muñoz's route to the Iowa women's gymnastics team was far from typical. When the New Jersey native started the process, a recurring hindrance on college athletics halted her traditional recruitment process — the COVID-19 pandemic.

Muñoz was living in her hometown East Brunswick during her recruitment process, meaning she and the Iowa gymnastics coaches couldn't fly out to meet one another. So, in lieu of face-to-face interactions, Muñoz got to know her future coaches through Zoom.

Muñoz said she joined the call on a weekly basis and talked about gymnastics for about 10 minutes. Then, for the next several hours, she and the Iowa gymnastics coaches would talk about nearly everything else.

From her family to how school was going, the coaches were adamant about getting to know Muñoz beyond her gymnastic abilities.

'That was something that really struck me, because other schools, I feel like it's more just like they want you for your gymnastics," Muñoz said. "They want to make sure that [I] fit in with the whole culture of the team, and that's something that really struck me and why I committed here."

Libby said while Muñoz's skills and abilities were good, her personality and desire to thrive was the ultimate reason they wanted her on

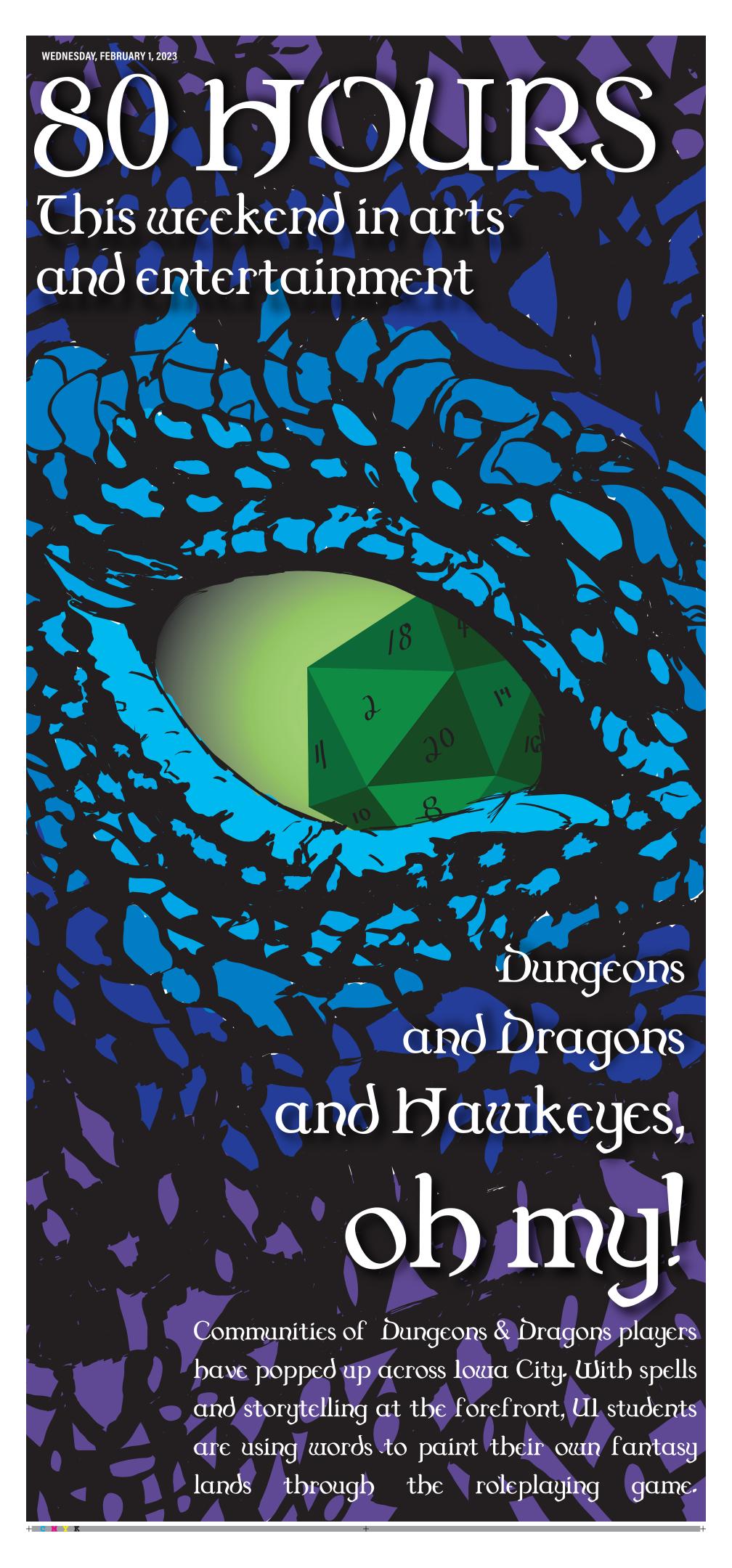
When Muñoz first joined the Hawkeyes, Libby said the coaching staff tested her ability to improve by requesting she change her bar dismount. Muñoz could have done it her own way, but Libby said she immediately complied and was willing to grow.

"For us, that's what we wanted, and that's what we're looking for," Libby said.

In the gymnastics field, both Muñoz and Libby stress the importance of mentality. With a sport that is so physically demanding and requires constant focus, Libby said a positive growth mindset is key.

This season has been especially grueling and hard on the GymHawks, Libby said. With the sheer number of new recruits, Libby knew

MUÑOZ | Page 5A



WEEKEND EVENTS



PHIL DOROTHY DRAWING STUDIO

This event costs \$10 and is a drawing group in memory of Phil Dorothy. Bring your own materials, but easels and drawing boards will be available. 6:30 P.M. | ARTS IOWA CITY 120 N. DUBUQUE ST.

OPEN MIC

Open mic at joystick arcade for any interested lowa City residents who want to try out their tight five.

8:30 P.M. | JOYSTICK ARCADE

13 S. LINN ST.

TEGAN NIA SWANSON

Swanson will read from her Nordic eco-noir debut novel "things we found when the water went down."

7 P.M. | PRAIRIE LIGHTS BOOKS AND CAFE 15 S. DUBUQUE ST.

KARAOKE

Open call for karaoke for any interested parties. 8 P.M. | ROXXY 127 E. COLLEGE ST.

AESTHETICS STUDIO GRAND OPENING

They'll have available refreshments and the opportunity to win prizes. 5 P.M. 2611 JAMES ST.



CHILL & CREATE

This event blends art and mindfulness to help people de-stress. 8 P.M. | GIBSON SQUARE 160 W. BURLINGTON ST.

STACY WEBSTER

For no cover charge, you can go watch live music from Stacy Webster and enjoy a full bar, bubble tea, and Korean/American food. 7 P.M. | LA WINE BAR & RESTAURANT 180 E. BURLINGTON ST.

RED WATCH BAND TRAINING

Almost 7,000 students have been trained with this program in its 11th year at the UI. This program trains students on how help prevent alcohol overdose. 3 P.M. | CAMPUS RECREATION AND WELLNESS CENTER 309 S. MADISON ST.

CUPPED COPPER EARRINGS

Interested parties will learn how to stamp and dap copper disks into earrings. Through Kirkwood Community College and costs \$68. 5:30 P.M. | BEADOLOGY IOWA 355 S. CLINTON ST.

ART & WRITE NIGHT

Join Iowa Citiy's art and writing community to get inspired by the peculiar stimulus offered by the Macbride Natural History Museum. 6 P.M. | MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

17 N. CLINTON ST.

BODY PARTS

This workshop focuses on drawing and recreating the human form. It costs

\$20 for a 2-hour session. 10 A.M.

120 N. DUBUQUE ST.

RIVER CITY SIX

Dance to River City Six. \$40 for guest couples, \$20 for guest singles, \$30 for member couples.

7 P.M. | FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES 225 IA-1

CRAFTERS AND COFFEE

Open to knitters, crocheters, beaders, felters, and more, this event will take place at the High Ground Cafe and focus on bringing together crafters over

10 A.M. | THE HIGH GROUND CAFE 301 E. MARKET ST.



"A WALK IN THE WOODS"

For \$15 - \$35, watch two superpower arms negotiators in the 1980s as they try to avoid nuclear destruction.

VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE

4261 OAK CREST HILL ROAD

JR. DENTIST WEEKEND

This event enables kids to pretend to be a dentist for the day via introducing kids to playdough activities designed to encourage dental health interest. 10 A.M. | THE IOWA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM 1451 CORAL RIDGE AVE.

FREEZE FEST

This fun outdoor exploration is designed to encourage families to go out and



Jon Lauck

last Sunday at Prairie Lights on his new book "The Good Country: A History of the American Midwest."

Parker Jones Arts Editor

Author and historian Jon Lauck received his doctorate from the University of Iowa in 1997. He has strong ties to the lowa City area and the Midwest as a whole. He grew up on a farm in South Dakota and graduated from South Dakota State University in 1993. He has written several books on the Midwest, including "The Lost Region: Toward a Revival of Midwestern History" and "From Warm Center to Ragged Edge: The Erosion of Midwestern Literary and Historical Regionalism." Lauck gave a talk on Jan. 29 about his newest book, "The Good Country: A History of the American Midwest" at Prairie Lights.

The Daily Iowan: What inspired you to write about and curate the history of the Mid-

Jon Lauck: Well, I've been working on Midwestern topics for a long time. My dissertation at the University of Iowa was about the problem of concentration and meat packer power in farm markets because I grew up on a farm, a little farm in South Dakota. Not that many people can say that anymore. It makes me seem

sort old, but I just got interested in

that. I also studied European history and stuff, but it just was very clear that not enough was being done to study the region around us. We have a million histories of the American South, and the history of the American West was like a huge field and still is, but no one was studying the American Midwest. Even people at places like the University of Wisconsin and University of Michigan and University of Minnesota, and really not much at University of Iowa either, which is something I was critical of.

So, I thought we need to fill this big yawning gap in our history, and long story short, there's a lot of water under the bridge we can skip over. But I ended up creating the Midwestern History Association in 2014, and along with that, launching an academic journal called Middle Midwest Review that I'm now the editor of. You can find it online right through the usual big databases. The University of Nebraska Press publishes it and did a bunch of projects in between, like various books on the Midwest, but there wasn't a history of the region, so many years ago I went to work trying to construct a history. So, if people want to have some

> basic understanding of the region, now they have one thing they can go to. They've got this book they can pick up in their hands and get a sense of the place.

DI: What advice would you have for aspiring writers or his-

Lauck: I would say they need to look around. The history is right here in our own neighborhood — in our own county. I think we've lost touch with that in the middle of the country, and we need to create our own. There used to be a movement. It's called regionalism, cultural regionalism, and the idea was to promote local writers and local historians, and local news. I mean there used to be huge newspapers in the Midwest like *The* Des Moines Register and The Chicago Tribune. The Des Moines Register used to sell 500,000 copies of their Sunday paper. Let that sink in a little bit. I mean, it used to be a major institution here in Iowa, in the Midwest. But, unfortunately, now that source of news has collapsed for a lot of reasons we don't need to get into, but we end up just imbibing national culture and mass culture and culture created in Hollywood and New York, and we can create our own. There's a lot of smart, creative people in lowa City, and they should be contributing to this regionalist movement, I think.

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Johanna Winters talks printmaking and puppetry

Artist and educator Johanna Winters spoke at the Stanley Museum of Art on Jan. 26 about her experience with puppetry, printmaking, and performance art.

Emma Gaughan Arts Reporter

Uniting the two worlds of puppetry and printmaking is just one part of what makes Johanna Winters' art and teaching engaging. Her work touches on vulnerable subjects like aging.

Winters is a Grant Wood Fellow, which is a one-year fellowship awarded to three students in printmaking, painting and drawing, and performance. Winters specializes in printmaking. On Jan. 26, Winters presented a talk at the Stanley Museum of Art on her expertise in the world of printmaking and puppetry.

In the lecture, Winters provided insight into her journey through the art world and a discussion about her methods and inspiration. The talk introduced Winters to other artists and people in the community and allowed them to gain a better understanding of her work and research.

"This is a particularly generous community here," Winters

Winters' art highlights the experience of aging in a female body and the anxieties and fears that come along with it. At the lecture, Winters presented examples of her work through photos and video recordings, which included scenes from her puppet performances "THE MIDDLE TELL" and "HOWW to BEHAAYV."

Winters began her artistic

career as a printmaker then explored the puppetry world during graduate school. She was then able to work with a puppeteer to learn how to make her own puppets and perform with them.

"I want people to be okay feeling a little uncomfortable," Winters said about her art. "It is about bodies and the fallibility of the body, and sometimes it is uncomfortable to look at the ob-

She said she does not take offense to the idea of someone viewing her work as weird or unsettling, and she thinks that being uncomfortable is a valid response to it.

"That's how I feel too, in making it and thinking about it," Winters said. "There's some kind of relatability to that experience of living in a body — the way that a body can be disappointing or shameful or celebrated."

Winters shared these ideas of

her work at the lecture, where she discussed making things that are too vulnerable or sensitive to be talked about otherwise.

"The puppetry and the performance and print, I think, is really important and interesting, and it's rarely seen," Kara Stallings, Winters' former student, said. Winters' work is simultaneous-

ly silly and serious in its subject matter and how she portrays it, Stallings said. Stallings, along with other attendees, wore distinct pointed hats made by Winters to the event.

"It's incredibly interesting sort of deeply surreal," Thomas Moberg, another attendee, said. He also wore one of the coned hats made by Winters to the lec-

Winters concluded the lecture by allowing attendees to ask questions about her work, which ranged from the sound used in her videos to the materials and methods.

Winters will be featured alongside the other fellows in an endof-year Grant Wood Fellow exhibition in April.

emma-gaughan@uiowa.edu



Dear **Edward**

Genre: Drama Number of episodes: 10 Starring: Colin O'Brien

Connie Britton Taylor Schilling Amy Forsyth Carter Hudson **Idris DeBrand** Ivan Shaw **Maxwell Jenkins**

Parker Jones Arts Editor

Turn on the waterworks for one of the biggest drama releases of the streaming world so far this year -"Dear Edward" will premiere Feb. 3 on Apple TV+. Based on the 2020 novel by Ann

Napolitano, the emotional thriller

series tells the story of Edward, a 12-year-old boy who is the sole survivor of a plane crash that kills all 191 other passengers, including his family. After healing from his injuries, the boy moves to live with his aunt Lacey. Edward must reconcile his newfound fame as a survivor and the massive loss he suffers all while connecting with other relatives of those on the plane.

"Dear Edward" was adapted for the screen and created by Jason Katims, who is best known as the creator of other television series like "Roswell," "Friday Night Lights," and "Parenthood." The series is also expected to stay somewhat true to the original novel, as Napolitano will serve as an executive producer alongside Katims, Jeni Mulein, and Fisher Stevens.

Child actor Colin O'Brien will make his screen debut as the titular Edward while "Orange is the New Black" star Taylor Schilling will play his Aunt Lacey. Additionally, "White Lotus" actress Connie Britton will play Dee Dee, a New Jersey housewife whose husband died in the crash but had some shocking secrets. Britton previously worked with Katims on "Friday Night

The series' first three episodes will be released this Friday, Feb. 3, and the following seven episodes will be released weekly.

parker-jones@uiowa.edu



SONGS TO SIP AND STUDY TO

I HEAR A SYMPHONY | Cody Fry **ELEANOR RIGBY** | The Beatles SHE'S A RAINBOW | The Rolling Stones MIDNIGHT CITY | M83 POOL HOUSE | The Backseat Lovers

2 P.M. | RIVERSIDE THEATRE

119 E. COLLEGE ST.

For \$12 - \$20 depending on age, go and enjoy watching this eccentric family 2 P.M. | IOWA CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

enjoy nature together.

1 P.M. | TERRY TRUEBLOOD CECREATION AREA

579 MCCOLLISTER BLVD.

Riverside Theatre is presenting "A Walk in the Woods," a powerful play about interpersonal relationships in the face of tensions and distrust, through the beginning of February. Stella Shipman Arts Reporter

'A Walk in the Woods' emphasizes

human connection and hope

FEED**BACK**

The Riverside Theatre transformed into a woodland grove in the mountains of Switzerland on the evening of Jan. 27, surrounded by three-dimensional trees of light and chicken wire with a single wooden bench occupying the stage.

"A Walk in the Woods" — which opened at Riverside on Jan. 26 - is a play written by Lee Blessing, a graduate of the University of Iowa whose work tends to focus on interpersonal relationships surrounding social and political issues. The play follows two arms negotiators trying to make a

deal between Russia and America. Andrey Botvinnik, played by actor Tim Budd, was the negotiator representing Russia

Andrey's counterpart was the negotiator representing America, John Honeyman, who is played by actor Martin Andrews.

The play is set in the 1980s, when the threat of nuclear war between America and Russia heightened worldwide tensions. America had

drafted a proposal to Russia to reduce both countries' nuclear weapons stores.

John and Andrey

took several walks in the woods of Switzerland, a nation of neutral ground, over the course of a year to discuss and ratify America's proposal and its ap-

The play is set in summer when Andrey and John took their first stroll into the woods to conduct their business away from the prying eyes of reporters.

peal to their leaders.

It was clear from the moment the two first spoke to each other that they were opposites. Andrey's carefree personality clashed with John's more uptight attitude, causing friction between the two and initially preventing any work from being done.

Their standoff continued into the fall when Andrey and John reemerged

onstage with hats and scarves. As the play continued, Andrey and John slowly began to reveal more about themselves and how their be-

haviors reflected their deepest hopes

and fears. Andrey, though he seemed secure and comfortable, lost hope in both countries to make any kind of progress and feared the continuous evolution of nuclear war. Meanwhile, John was insecure

about the possibility of failing in his position because he was so optimistic about the future and the power of people to change the war and, consequently, the world. In the winter, Andrey explained that

America's arms proposal was just too

good. Approval is built on trust, which

was inevitably impossible for the two countries to have between them. Finally, the two negotiators reached a conclusion about the proposal in the spring. In this season of growth and rebirth, John admitted that his position had begun to corrupt

his outlook with cynicism. Andrey shared a startling decision, prompting an emotional exchange between the two negotiators that proved just how they had changed

"A Walk in the Woods" was a beautiful story of human connection in the face of what felt like gridlock and indisputable opposition. It was about hope for the future even when all seems lost.

Thanks to the incredible performances of Budd and Andrews and their ability to bounce off each other so well, the stellar script was brought The performances were espe-

cially impressive during the actors' more serious monologues, and the lights and the sound onstage helped produce a dramatic effect. The audience could not tear their eyes away because they were too engrossed in the storytelling.

nihilism, especially in light of the Russia-Ukraine war, this play presented relatable themes of hope and despair. Riverside will present "A Walk in the

Woods" through February. Details of

the performances can be found on its

In a world plagued by violence and

website stella-shipman@uiowa.edu

Adventuring into the world of fantasy at the UI

As Dungeon Masters and party members, students express their creativity through Dungeons & Dragons.

Jami Martin-Trainor **Assistant Digital Editor**

There's a certain charm that comes with the idea of transporting to a fantasy land filled with caverns and caves, monsters and madness, and — of course – dungeons and dragons.

While physical transportation between worlds may be impossible, groups across the globe use words to paint their fictitious lands through the fantasy roleplay game called Dungeons & Dragons,

also known as D&D. As a school with a prominent creative writing program, the University of Iowa is home to many D&D. players. With writing and storytelling at the forefront of the experience, the



The game's original edition, created by Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson, came out in 1974. Since the initial release, a variety of amendments to the rulebooks have been published, consistently drawing fans back to the popular storytelling

D&D is typically led by a single person dubbed the "Dungeon Master." Other players portray fictional characters that form the adventuring party. It's Dungeon Master's role to facilitate the story, and with dice rolling to add an element of luck and surprise, the party must maneuver their way through whatever trials and tribulations come

their way.



Owain Weinert, a UI second-year student majoring in English and creative writing, said he first played D&D at 12 years old. He found himself diving deeper into the fantasy world six years later during the start of the pandemic.

Weinert has embodied numerous lives that are drastically different from his own. He said his own personal favorite is dubbed "The Overlord," which is a non-playable character in a campaign that Weinert is a Dungeon Master for.

David Gaunt, a UI

"I get to watch people sometimes make stupid decisions. It's fun facilitating other people having fun and getting to create my own world."

— David Gaunt, UI fourth-year

fourth-year student, is

also a Dungeon Master

for a group of peers that

he connected with during

and D&D is the best way

for me to tell stories -

and with friends," Gaunt

said. "I get to be social

because it can be difficult

for me to find places to

Gaunt said he prefers

being a Dungeon Master

to being a player, even

if he does appreciate

aspects of both roles.

socialize with people."

"I enjoy telling stories,

his freshman year.

"For me, it's an exercise in collaborative storytelling," Weinert said. "I think the closest you'd get in more traditional media would be something like an improv group.'

While Weinert has found individuals who play D&D, he said he has struggled to find a consistent group to play with on campus. Whether it be work schedules or class commitments, he has found the campaigns he starts tend to fizzle

That, however, does not stop him from talking about D&D with his

"I'm a creative writing major, so essentially everyone in my creative writing classes goes, 'You know, I play D&D a ton,'" Weinert said. "I think there's a lot of people who want to play D&D more but haven't found a unifying community element yet.'

Weinert has played as both the Dungeon Master and as a member of various campaigns, and he said each role has its own merits. As a storyteller, he finds the role of Dungeon Master more time-consuming, but it allows for more freedom to concoct a convoluted and enriching

From fighters to monks,

He said he puts three to

five hours of writing and preparation work into each session, with the end goal of maximizing the fun for himself and his players. "I get to watch people

sometimes make stupid decisions," Gaunt said. "It's fun facilitating other people having fun and getting to create my own world.

Campaigns and D&D communities are not a new trend at the UI. Levi Patterson, a recent UI graduate who majored in math and statistics, previously played on campus with fellow campus students.

Some who play D&D thrive on the creative elements — like Weinert - but Patterson said he was drawn to the numbers involved

"I'm a math nerd, and I

DONATE PLASMA

said. "I get to do a lot of little addition when I play D&D, and then on top of that, I think it's really just a great way to build

people." Patterson tumbled into the world of D&D accidentally. his way home from school during his sophomore of high school, he

was stopped by a classmate who invited Patterson to join the D&D club. While Patterson does

enjoy the mathematical elements, the ability to express himself through the game is his favorite "I like the freedom of

being a member of the campaign," Patterson said. "Just being able to show up on time for the meeting and being able to just be a character, let loose, and have fun."

Over the past few years, the general perception of D&D has shifted. Since the release of the Netflix original TV show "Stranger TV show "Stranger Things," Patterson said the roleplaying game has been more widely recognized and accepted. Real-play podcasts and shows have also been on the rise over the past several years, from the web series

"Critical titled Role" CollegeHumor's 'Dimension 20."

think, especially the pandemic, over there have been a lot of shifting tones toward the positive," Patterson said.

Despite the knowledge around D&D increasing, Weinert said interested people are often hesitant to start. Weinert said he always encourages anyone curious to give playing a try, even if it seems like there is a steep learning curve.

"People get intimidated

love numbers," Patterson relationships with

Contributed artwork of Weinert's original character Cynaeafwr-Tân, the Harvesting Flame, a level 20 Paladin. Weinert commissioned the artwork from Jessica Steward.

around D&D because it's a lot of different things at once," Weinert said. "It's math, it's acting, its storytelling, it's character creation. With practice, you'll get a lot better at it, and it gets a lot more

Marandah Mangra-Dutcher and Kate Perez contributed to this report.

jami-martin-trainor@uiowa.edu

Contributed artwork of Weinert's original character Seven Bells **Ring Mournfully The Evening After** Victory, a level 13 fighter. Weinert commissioned the artwork from Czasney Lynch S. Baleña.



The Daily Break

Communities

Cafe that

from

hosted

the

of players have

popped up across

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to

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Gaming Organization

Iowa City,

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The New Hork Times Crossword

Contributed artwork of

Weinert's original charac-

ter Ikarok the Stormtalon, a

level 20 monk. Weinert com-

missioned the artwork from

Czasney Lynch S. Baleña.

Puzzle solutions on page 2A

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1228

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GRIFOLS Network of Plasma Donation Centers

Across

- Part of a Tibetan leader's title San Luis ____, Calif.
- Catch in the act
- 15 Official decree 16
- Polishing aids
- Park in Manhattan, e.g.: Abbr. 17 18 Disciple of Haile Selassie, informally
- As part of a performing duo in 1991; as a solo artist in 2021
- What might help someone get a leg up? 21 23 "Cool!"
- 24 Take home
- As part of a band in 1998; as a solo artist in 2019
- 27 Put on staff
- Vessel that's a homophone of 24-Across 29 Get ____ on (ace)
- "Place" on a Monopoly board 32 Lowest pitches in chords
- One end of a battery As part of a songwriting duo in 1990; as a solo artist in 2021
- "Rule" stating that the number of transistors per microchip doubles every two years

With 60-Across, institution in which 19-,

47 Brit who wrote "The Vanishing Half"

Really got to

- Meadow 50
- Former Giants QB Manning Understanding of a situation

- 25- and 37-Across are (thus far) the only three women ever to be inducted twice
- "Waterloo" group
- 58 Acronym that might be shouted before a rash act
- Heavens on earth 60 See 53-Across
- "So sad" 63
- 65 Serving from a tap
- Laughed loudly
- 67 Janelle who sang 2010's "Tightrope" There are about five of these in a tsp.
- 69 Way off base
- 70 Strict

Down

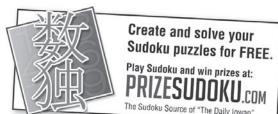
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- Canadian Thanksgiving mo.
- Kind of chemical bond
- Buckeye State sch. 12 Vancouver Island city

- stars"
- Lends an ear
- Penultimate part of a Shakespeare play
- Architectural style started, strangely, in England
- Russian pancakes
- Shelving area in a library Part of a water quality evaluation

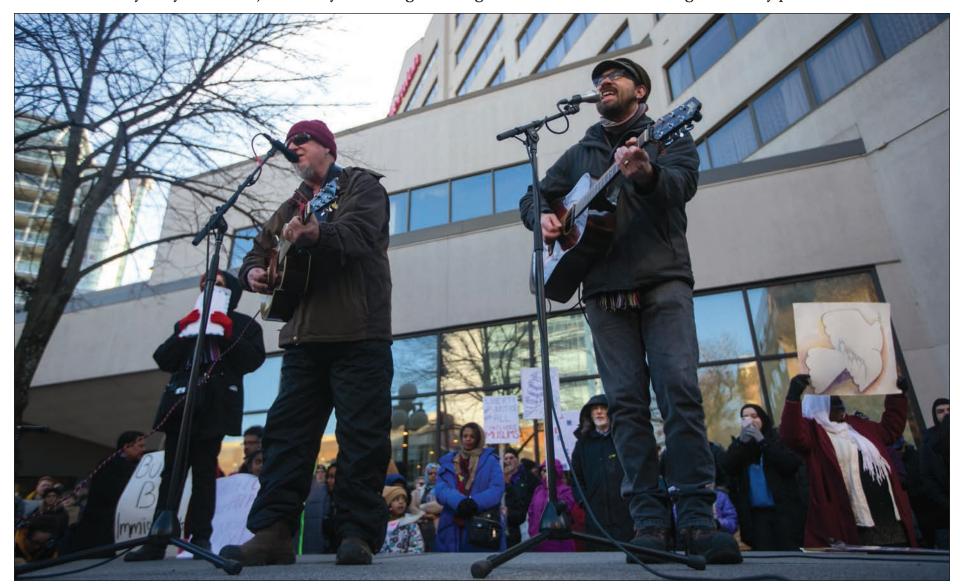
- mountain dog (breed named for its origins near the Swiss capital)
- Installs again, as a painting
- Kind of sax Hoagie 25
- Grp. known as OTAN in France
- Social worker who was the first American woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize
- Skeleton that's no longer in the closet? Stately tree
- Concern for online advertisers, for short Caffeine-containing nut
- 39 Goddess of peace
- 40 Isaac's father, in the Bible
- 41 Game with a bat
- Gives permission 42
- Proud and regal
- 45 Like some casts or teams Actor Wheaton
- Strive to achieve 48 49 Over the bounds
- 54 Composer Schumann Susan G. ____ (breast cancer advocacy organization)
- Transfer, as a tulip It's unrefined 62 Summer hrs. in Pittsburgh

64 Japanese currency



Greg Brown to hold retirement performance at the Englert

After a nearly 50-year career, Iowa City music legend Greg Brown will retire following a two-day performance series.



Joseph Cress/The Daily Iowan

Greg Brown performs during the Solidarity Against the Ban March in downtown Iowa City on, Feb. 5, 2017. The large crowd spilled past Union, the Bread Garden, and CopyWorks in three directions. More than 1,000 people attended the march.

Parker Jones Arts Editor

Greg Brown's nearly 50-year career music career is coming to an end - but he's ending on a positive note. On Feb. 16 and 17, Brown will perform one last concert at the Englert Theater.

The two-day performance will send Brown off to his much-awaited retirement after traveling the Midwest — and the county — as a folk legend. The Iowa singer and guitarist is originally from Fairfield, Iowa, and released his first LP with fellow musician Dick Pinney in 1974 titled "Hackelbarnev.'

When he was 19 years old and a student at the University of Iowa, Brown signed up for a talent competition and won. His prize was opening at a folk singer Eric Andersen, who told Brown he should move to New York. After getting his name out there at various labels in New York and Los Angeles, Brown opted to return to Iowa.

In the 1980s, Brown's career began to pick up. He solidified his regional

regularly performed. He then self-published two more solo albums in 1980 and 1981, titled "44 & 66" and "The Iowa Waltz," with the latter gaining more regional popularity. From there, Brown's recognition only grew.

In an email to *The Daily* Iowan, Brown wrote that some of the highlights of his career include the sheer volume of albums he has recorded — which stands at a total of 30, as well as many features on others — and getting to play in locations many folk singers have not.

"Some of the highlights would be touring around France and Italy, recording a bunch of albums, and getting to meet and jam with many wonderful musicians," Brown wrote.

He started his first of many collaborations Iowan guitarist with Bo Ramsey who will perform alongside Brown at the Englert — in 1989 after the success of his eighth album, "One Big Town." Ramsey debuted in Williamsburg, Iowa, back in 1973 as frontman for the Mother Blues Band. Ramseys' big break came in 1994 when he went on tour with Lucinda

nomination for "Friend of Mine," which he created alongside Bill Morrissey. In 1996, his album "Further In" received a four-star review in Rolling Stone. His 1997 release, "Slant 6 Mind," earned Brown his second Grammy nomination in the Best Traditional Folk Album category.

In the 2000s, Brown continued to release album after album, including "The Evening Call" in 2006, which was featured on an episode of NPR's "On Point." In 2010, Brown collaborated with singer Anaïs Mitchell on her album "Hadestown." Brown released his final collection in 2012 titled "Hymns to What Is Left."

The Englert Theatre Brown describes an artist who "moves audiences with warmth, humor, a thundering voice and his unpretentious musical vision." Senior srogramming manager Brian Johannesen wrote in an email to the DI that Brown is a "cultural institution" in Iowa City.

"As I have met and worked with songwriters all over the country, whenever I bring up Iowa City, they almost always mention Greg Brown," Johannesen wrote. "He has been an inspiration to songwriters across generations; proof that simplicity, honesty, and the ability to wring meaning out of the small things in life is still the best recipe for a good song."

Johannesen noted that Brown's performances at the Englert will be bittersweet after many other shows on the same stage. Brown is succeeded musically by his daughter, Pieta Brown, who last performed her indie-Americana sound in Iowa City in 2018.

Although his performance Englert will be his last official concert, Brown noted that it is possible he may do a few benefit concerts from time to time in the future. His advice for any Iowan musicians hoping to make it big does not follow a similar path to his own.

"I would suggest to young aspiring musicians in Iowa that they move," Brown wrote in an email to the DI. "Iowa under the administration has become a cruel and toxic place, with no respect for our land, or water, or little else other than agribusiness

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Brett Roseman/The Daily Iowan

Greg Brown sings while playing to a full house at The Mill Sunday night. Brown was accompanied by Bo Ramsey on electric guitar and Dave Zollo on keyboard.





Deadline: February 24, 2023