

TRAVERSING THROUGH THE SMOKE



Despite self-imposed and external hardships, female firefighters overcome challenges every day to better help their communities, with support systems backing them each step of the way.

FIREFIIGHTERS | Page 2A

INSIDE

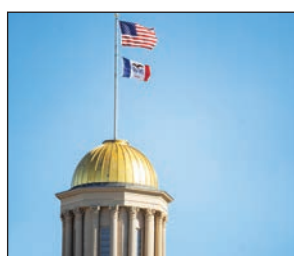


80 HOURS: Iowa City Downtown District's Winter Night Lights dazzle Iowa City

This February, six massive blow-up rabbits are taking over the Pedestrian Mall in the Downtown District for its Winter Night Lights.

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ONLINE



Federal financial aid drops for fifth consecutive year at Iowa's public institutions

Institutional financial aid increased 6 percent at state Board of Regents institutions while federal financial aid decreased.

UPCOMING

The artificial intelligence generator ChatGPT has been nationally popularized on university campuses as a new way to cheat. Some University of Iowa students who spoke to the *DI* are using the tool to cheat — and some professors aren't noticing.



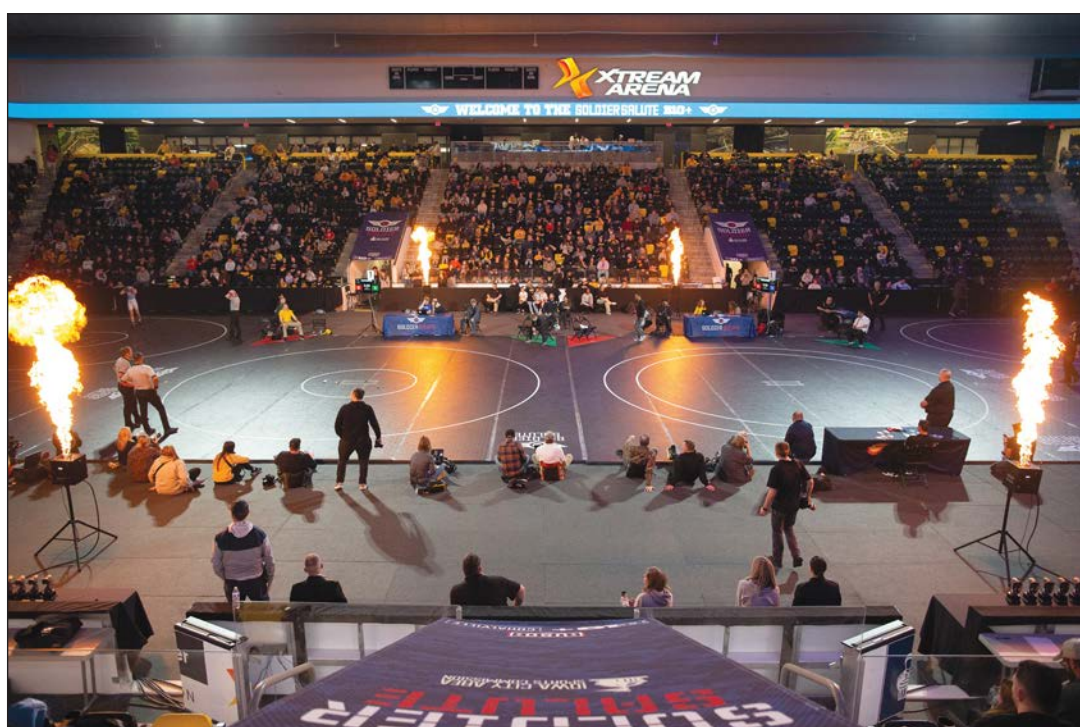
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Xtream Arena draws customers to Coralville

The arena continues to bring people and business to the River Landing after two years of operation.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan
Fire is set ablaze during day two of the 2022 Soldier Salute College Wrestling Tournament at Xtream Arena in Coralville, Iowa, on Dec. 30, 2022.

Natalie Miller
News Reporter

Since the Xtream Arena's opening in September 2020, its economic impact sparked the growth of businesses in the Iowa River Landing and Coralville areas.

Over 5,000 Xtream Arena patrons flood the Iowa River Landing during events. The arena, located at 200 E. 9th St., is home to the University of Iowa's volleyball team and the Iowa Heartlanders' professional minor league hockey team. It was slated to have an economic impact of over \$1.4 billion over a 20-year period, according to the City of Coralville.

Coralville Mayor Meghann Foster said the Iowa River Landing has seen more visitors since the arena's opening.

"It is not unusual to see on the weekends and

during the week when we have these big events to see a lot of foot traffic, a lot of actual traffic, and people not only enjoying the event they came to the area for but enjoying all the other amenities the River Landing has to offer," Foster said.

The arena hosts concerts, high school sporting events, UI sporting events, and various rec and club sporting events.

Restaurants in the area such as Tribute Eatery and Bar and 30Hop Coralville are located directly across from Xtream Arena. Employees at both institutions said they often see a surge in business on days when big events take place across the street.

Tribute Eatery and Bar opened November 2020 — shortly after Xtream Arena's opening — general manager Blake Laughton said.

The restaurant has protocol measures put in

XTREAM | Page 5A

UI to sell Mayflower, build new dorm

The residence hall could be sold and closed by spring 2024 if approved by the state Board of Regents at its Feb. 22 meeting.

Kate Perez
News Editor

Mayflower Residence Hall, which was first built in 1968 and became housing for University of Iowa students in 1982, is set to be sold to make way for a new residence hall, the university announced Tuesday.

The UI announced in an Iowa Now article its plans to sell the building and construct a new dorm with 250-400 beds on the east side of campus to house second, third, and fourth-year students in a university-owned location.

Potential locations for the new residence hall include:

- Behind Stanley and Currier Halls
- Next to Alpha Chi Sigma fraternity on North Clinton Street
- The Recreation Center parking lot located on West Court Street
- The Hillcrest Parking Lot at the end of Byington Road

The residence hall is expected to draw students to the main university campus and dining halls, according to the Iowa Now article. The university received research and feedback from students about the current housing system, the article stated.

The *Daily Iowan* reached out to the UI on Jan. 30 about the future plans for Mayflower Hall and the construction of a new dorm.

"The university is always proactively evaluating its housing and dining systems to best serve students who choose to live on campus," Tricia Brown, senior director of internal communications and media relations, wrote in an email to the *DI*.

"The university is in the process of

DORM | Page 5A



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Cedar Rapids firefighter of nine years Megan Wichmann, 30, scans the area after responding to a call on Jan. 2. Wichmann became a firefighter in 2014 after obtaining her EMS and fire science certificates and degrees from Kirkwood Community College in 2013.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Firefighters Wichmann, Michael McFarlane, Shelby Van Weelden, Zack Howell, and Jake Bawek test their ladder skills at a training tower in Cedar Rapids on Jan. 2. In her time in the fire service, Wichmann said she's been treated very well on the management and crew level and has the support one needs in the CRFD. "We're here 24 hours a day; we experience the same calls," Wichmann said. "Working with these people day in and day out, you forge a very special bond with them."

FIREFIGHTERS
Continued from Front

Grace Smith
Photojournalist

Megan Wichmann sat in her high school English classroom in 2009 and contemplated her new assignment for the month: Pick a career and research it. Wichmann was interested in shadowing a paramedic, so she went on a few ambulance ride-alongs in Johnson County.

Wichmann's mother's partner at the time was an Iowa City firefighter, and he asked Wichmann if she wanted to ride along in a firetruck for the day. Wichmann quickly accepted, eager for every experience she was offered.

"I think that's honestly where I fell in love with firefighting because I get to do EMS and fire," the Iowa native said. "Then, it kind of took off from there."

And with each ride-along and conversation, Wichmann's passion for helping others grew stronger.

Twenty days after Wichmann graduated from Iowa City High School, she went on a ride-along at Station Five in Cedar Rapids. After obtaining her EMS and fire science certificates and degrees from Kirkwood Community College in 2013,

Wichmann sat in the same station as a paid Cedar Rapids firefighter in 2014.

Since then, the 30-year-old has jumped from station to station and absorbed as much information as possible, connecting with coworkers and bettering the community, which she said she cares deeply about.

"You never know what the day has in store for you," Wichmann said. "So, just being able to roll with the punches or adapt and overcome is kind of the motto for me."

Wichmann said community risk reduction is a large part of why she loves being a firefighter.

"I love hearing stories. [Community members] even say, 'I remember coming to the fire station when I was in preschool,' and this could be like a 30- or 40-year-old civilian coming in, and they remember that piece of their life," Wichmann said. "I just enjoy the heck out of it."

During her nine years in the field, Wichmann said there have been times when community members come up to her and said, "I've never seen a female firefighter." They'll even come up and ask for a photo.

"My initial reaction is to let out a belly laugh," Wichmann said. "Whenever

anybody wants to come station, up and engage in conversation, I'm all for it ... I love the fact that people are inquisitive — young and old."

Challenges for female firefighters

The National Fire Protection Association estimated female firefighters made up 9 percent — around 89,600 — of 1.04 million career and volunteer firefighters in the U.S. in 2020. The Cedar Rapids Fire Department has eight female firefighters.

Amy Kunkle, Cedar Rapids Fire Department fire and explosives investigator, said she's experienced challenges being a woman in the fire service, including self-imposed hardships.

"It feels like, as a woman, you have to prove yourself more than a male does," Kunkle said. "And I'm not saying that's reality. It's just kind of something that myself and others that I work with feel."

Kunkle, who is 45 years old, has worked at the department since 2008. She found there are many benefits to having female firefighters out in the field.

She said even though men may naturally be built physically bigger and stronger, there are a lot of circumstances where bigger isn't better.

One day on the job, Kunkle and her coworkers responded to a house fire. As Kunkle was circling the home and looking for potential victims and fire hazards, she noticed the department's hose nozzle was placed on the wrong side of the fence. So, Kunkle had to hop over a fence quickly to start putting water on the fire as soon as possible.

"I wouldn't be in the field if I didn't believe that I could do it," Kunkle said.

Jennifer Alexander, a preschool teacher at Cadence Academy in Iowa City and a volunteer firefighter for the Coralville Fire Department, said she bears external hardships in the fire service.

Alexander is a 5-foot tall, 125-pound woman in the fire service. She said people sometimes underestimate her skills because of her stature and her gender.

Alexander said gear is an unexpected challenge she experiences daily. She said she wishes gear was more accessible and fit women better so they could complete tasks to the best of their ability without having inappropriately-sized gear slowing them down.

"We have to do the same work as men — in gear that's not designed to fit

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**IC Fire Department
faces lawsuit**

Sadie McDowell, a former employee, shared alleged accounts of sexism, racism, and homophobia from her former coworkers.



Matt Sindt/The Daily Iowan

An Iowa City firetruck is seen at the Iowa City Fire Station 1 Headquarters on Oct. 12, 2022.

Jami Martin-Trainor
Assistant Digital Editor

The Iowa City Fire Department is currently facing a discrimination lawsuit after former employee Sadie McDowell reported the unit for accounts of sexism, racism, and homophobia. The trial is currently set for July 30 to Aug. 12, 2024, according to Amy Beck, an attorney working on McDowell's case.

The official court documents were electronically filed on Aug. 10, 2022. The case is still open and under litigation. As of the time the document was filed, McDowell was technically employed by the Iowa City Fire Department as a firefighter, but she was not being paid and was not allowed to return to work. McDowell said her employment officially ended in January.

In the 19-page lawsuit, McDowell describes the reported discriminatory actions she observed from her colleagues, both directed to her and others.

This includes officers intentionally looping in the downtown Iowa City area to "ogle young women and comment on their bodies and/or clothing," which was referred to as the "the Lust Lap."

McDowell also describes a situation that occurred in the summer of 2017 where she faced "unwanted and non-consensual kissing and sexual groping" from a colleague.

In response to these allegations, the Iowa City Fire Department denied all claims made in the lawsuit. In a statement to *The Daily Iowan* from Lee Hermiston, Iowa City's public safety information officer, the city's official reply is limited for legal purposes.

"The City of Iowa City is committed to supporting the rights of all employees and creating a safe, inclusive, and respectful work environment. These are allegations only," Hermiston stated.

When the document was filed, four women were employed at the fire department, which was made up of 65 people. As of Feb. 8, the number of women in the Iowa City fire department has decreased to one, according to data received by the *DI* from Hermiston.

The disproportionate number of men and women in emergency services is not limited to the fire department. The number of men sworn into the Iowa City Police department was 69 while the number of women was 11, as of Feb. 8.

Allegations in the document also include instances of racism, homophobia, and transphobia. The document states McDowell reportedly heard a lieutenant say a Black homeless man "was not worth the skin on his bones," and several coworkers frequently used the word "gay" in a derogatory manner. Other allegations claim the male firefighters would mock transgender individuals and refuse to respect their preferred pronouns and chosen name.

As a whole, McDowell states in the lawsuit that the treatment of herself and others has drastically and negatively impacted her mental health.

"This ordeal has caused Sadie to develop a myriad of debilitating symptoms and mental health conditions including Major Depressive Disorder and Other Trauma and Stressor Related Disorder," the document reads.

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FIREFIIGHTERS

Continued from 2A

us using tools that aren't designed with us in mind — and have to be able to do it at the same standard of quality and efficacy as men," Alexander said.

Alexander said the department is aware of issues with her gear not fitting. But because of cost and gear being normally purchased in bulk, the department is not able to provide her with properly-fitting gear. However, she said the department has been able to accommodate her with inexpensive equipment including suitable structure gloves.

Alexander said, along with the constraints of gear, she sometimes feels restrained when using her voice and asserting herself in situations.

"If a woman is assertive and a little aggressive, they're a b****," Alexander said. "But if a man is aggressive and standing

his ground, he's just being assertive."

She said it often feels like high school all over again.

"If you get the highest score on a math test, everyone hates you because you set the curve," Alexander said. "But if you're the captain or the quarterback for the football team or the star basketball player, and you score the winning points, it's announced on the loudspeaker how great and awesome you are."

Overcoming adversity in the fire service

Some women have been actively battling constraints in the fire service for years, Julie Popelka, a current firefighter at the Cedar Rapids Fire Department, said.

Popelka started working for the department about 20 years ago when she was 42 years old. At the time she started in the department, there were two oth-

er female firefighters who passed along their advice on overcoming adversity in the field.

And overcoming adversity is exactly what Popelka had to do.

Popelka stood shoeless in the kitchen during her rookie year at the station, making cookies for her coworkers during some downtime the firefighters had in between calls. As she was running around and baking cookies, an older male firefighter walked in laughing and made the comment, "Yep, that's where the woman should be: barefoot in the kitchen."

Popelka said although he may not have meant it in a crude way, it has stuck with her during her 20 years in the fire service.

Popelka said the department continues to improve representation and accept women in the field.

In 2017, the department created the Young Women's Fire Academy to in-

troduce women and girls ages 16 and older to the fire service by providing skills and opportunities for participants to learn about firefighting as a career.

Popelka said during the academy a couple of years ago, women were participating in a fitness challenge, and one of the battalion chiefs of the department came down to observe. And as one woman was running through the challenge, the chief was shocked to see every participant cheering the woman on and supporting her through the entire challenge.

"The battalion chief afterward came up and told us, 'It's just amazing to see the difference. Men wouldn't be doing that,'" Popelka said. "It was just neat for him to see how the women encouraged each other."

Finding a support system

Popelka said female

firefighters need to have a solid support system to do a job in a male-oriented field.

Both Popelka and Kunkle said their husbands and children are supportive of their career paths, and they are grateful to have that backing.

"[My husband and children] are my biggest cheerleaders," Kunkle said. "They've always been really proud of me, and that makes it a lot easier when I'd have to leave for 24-hour shifts and not be able to see them, or if I've missed a holiday or birthday or an important event."

Wichmann said she's appreciative of her niece and nephew, who she cares so deeply for, and wants to be a role model for them as she works in the fire service.

"I want them to be able to have the mindset that they can do anything. They can be anything," Wichmann said.

Kunkle said not a lot of young girls think about being firefighters when they grow up because they don't see that female representation often.

"I think it's really important for them to see me and Megan and Julie out there so that maybe [firefighting] is something that will pop into their mind," Kunkle said.

Wichmann said, despite the challenges of being in the fire service, the people she works with and the community she works in make the job worth it.

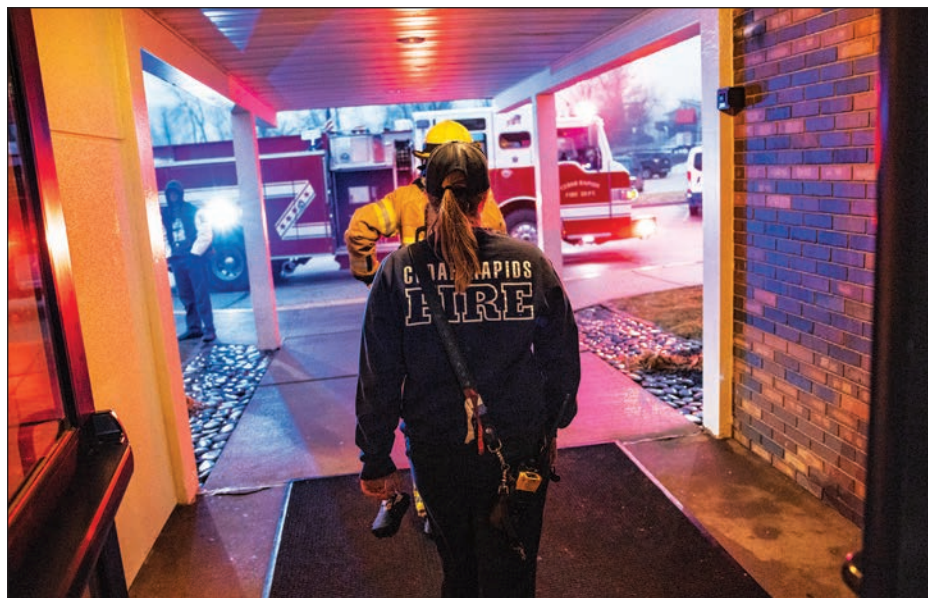
"The guys and gals that I work with on the daily through my volunteer experience and my professional firefighting experience are the ones that make the job," Wichmann said. "Just cooking dinner together and running these calls together, doing things outside of the job. It's fulfilling, and I wish everybody could experience something like it."

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Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Wichmann and other first responders roll a stretcher to an ambulance on a call in Cedar Rapids on Jan. 2. Wichmann said she enjoys being in the fire service and helping community members. "You never know what the day has in store for you," Wichmann said. "So, just being able to kind of roll with the punches or adapt and overcome is kind of the motto for me."



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Wichmann walks out of a Cedar Rapids school after responding to a fire alarm on Jan. 2. As a female firefighter, Wichmann tries to make herself available and approachable for community members of all ages to ask questions, which is what she does at the Young Women's Fire Academy. The academy was started by the CRFD in 2017 and helps provide skills and opportunities for women and girls ages 16 and older to learn about firefighting as a career. Wichmann said she still talks to women who went through the academy.



Contributed.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

An American flag patch is seen on a firefighter's coat at a training tower in Cedar Rapids on Jan. 2.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Wichmann works out at the gym inside the Cedar Rapids Central Fire Station on Dec. 7, 2022. Wichmann said she tries to work out at least once a day on her shifts but often has to take a break from lifting weights to respond to calls in the community.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Firefighters Travis Foster, Van Weelden, Wichmann, and McFarlane make nachos for dinner at the Cedar Rapids Central Fire Station on Dec. 7, 2022. Wichmann said the people she works with are what makes the job so special. "The guys and gals that I work with on the daily through my volunteer experience and my professional firefighting experience are the ones that make the job," Wichmann said. "Just cooking dinner together and running these calls together, doing things outside of the job. It's fulfilling, and I wish everybody could experience something like it."



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Wichmann and her coworkers walk around the Cedar Rapids Central Fire Station on Dec. 7, 2022. Shift members didn't receive many calls that day, so the team walked around the station to cure their cabin fever.

Opinions

COLUMN

Breaking from familiarity

There is importance in unfamiliarity, as it allows you to gain new experiences to further grow into yourself.



Photo contributed by Naomi Rivera.



Naomi Rivera Morales
Opinions Columnist

I have been both grateful and fortunate to be a part of a military family. My time and experience throughout the years has shaped me into the person I am today.

Before I started moving from place to place, I lived in Puerto Rico. Although it is home, I was unaware of life outside of it, and I was inexperienced with the larger world around me. When I was around 5 years old, my family and I went on our first order. We

moved to Alaska.

In Alaska, I was introduced to blankets of powdered snow that melted against my skin. It was unlike the island, but nonetheless new and exciting. My parents and I lived in Alaska for five years before moving on to new places, including Maryland, Iowa, Egypt, and Austria.

I am more than grateful to have experienced living in not only this country, but a few others. Living in Egypt and Austria showed me the importance of stepping out into the world and the importance of surrounding yourself with new experiences within various cultures and backgrounds.

During my time in Egypt, I was introduced

to new music, foods, and ways of life. My mother and I would often go to the market, weaving ourselves through stands with gold and silver jewelry, hand-made textiles, leather products, spices, perfumes, and more. It was enriching.

In Austria, my family and I often enjoyed the museums. We learned of the history and the art that runs through the country, emphasizing its beauty.

Getting the chance to experience these things up until high school graduation made me feel closer to not only those around me but to the world around me.

There are many individuals who are unable to travel widely, but one does not have to do this to reach new experiences. New experiences can look different for everyone. An individual can travel within their state or even try something new within their current living area.

Research by the *New York Post* found that 11 percent of participants have never left their home state. Over 54 percent have gone to a maximum of 10 states across the country.

There are various reasons why an individual would never leave home. Some people are unable to, some have not given it much thought, and others have no interest in doing so.

During my childhood, I had no interest in moving and no interest in seeing the larger world around me. I was used to life on the island. I had found comfort in familiarity.

The importance of get-

ting out of one's comfort zone surrounds the idea of opportunity. When you step past familiarity, you gain some benefits. Some of these benefits include more confidence, creativity, self-growth, and one's knowledge about themselves.

Though I am currently residing in Iowa City, I still find ways to gather new experiences, whether it's through a newly opened business, a new trail to explore, or a new general area downtown to seek out.

Having been part of a military family made me realize that the world is here for us to see. Since my first move, I have grown toward new experiences and allow unfamiliarity to take place.

Hesitation and worry toward new experiences can often take place, but every individual needs and deserves to see more. It is all for the better.

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Photo contributed by Naomi Rivera.

Recognizing voices in Black history

The Daily Iowan opinions staff highlight Black voices and their influence in American history that everyone should know.

Spike Lee

A person I look up to is the legendary filmmaker Spike Lee.

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 20, 1957, he grew up to be one of the premiere Black filmmakers of the modern day. He works in an entertainment landscape that notoriously is not very forgiving to filmmakers from marginalized groups, which requires them to work harder than everyone else.

He managed to not only work in this harsh environment, but also thrived and managed to get nominated for multiple Academy Awards such as Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Director, and Best Picture. His films contribute greatly to societal discourse around important issues relating to race.

What makes him my choice is his persistence and his unique touch to everything he makes. Every one of his films has his unique touch and style to it, unlike some films where it could be directed by anyone. Whatever Spike Lee directs feels like it could only ever be directed by him.

Lee's ability to keep making art, his perseverance, and his contributions to cinema are why I admire him.

— Peter Anders

Gwendolyn Brooks

As a writer, I am inspired by people like Gwendolyn Brooks who work to help other writers get published.

Brooks was born in 1917 and died in 2000. She was a poet who dealt with and interacted with the turmoil and racial injustices of her time. Her greatest works showed life before and during the 1960s civil rights movement.

I first learned of her work in my Interpretation of Literature class when we read and listened to the poem "We Real Cool." Brooks was the first Black author to win a Pulitzer Prize, and she was the first Black woman to be a poetry consultant in the library of congress.

She is the prime example of what we as writers and people should be. We should not only break the barriers that limit us, but help others reach a similar level of success. Thank you to Brooks for aiding Black authors and Black publishers to get their works published and for the poetry that relates to problems that still are prevalent today.

— Luke Krchak

Rihanna

Rihanna is not just known for her music. She has a presence that exudes confidence, and her womanhood is a valuable part of her persona. Rihanna has been a role model for as long as she has been in the public eye.

She was born in St. Michael, Barbados, and is dedicated to supporting where she came from. She founded The Clara Lionel Foundation, a nonprofit organization that invests in climate justice initiatives and funds health clinics and schools in both the U.S. and Barbados.

She emphasizes inclusivity in everything she does. Her makeup label, Fenty Beauty, preaches beauty for all and was one of the first brands to carry a proper range of shades for all skin tones.

Rihanna is there when we need her. When I need a good cry, I blast "California King Bed" in my car. When I'm in the club while "Don't Stop the Music" is playing, the girls know every word. She is an inspiration for young Black children who turn on the television and can witness her success. She was the youngest artist in history to achieve 10 number one hits, and she will forever be an icon.

— Katie Perkins

Oludah Equiano

Equiano is written in history as one of the most influential African-born writers in the world.

To get there, he endured hardship as an enslaved child, and he was kidnapped from Igbo village. He had to learn how to read and write in Virginia before buying his own emancipation in 1766.

His autobiography "The Interesting Narrative of The Life of Oludah Equiano" was published in 1789. This writing exposed through firsthand testimony the suffering that came with the transatlantic slave trade. This work details his experience as a slave during his life in Nigeria.

However, his written narrative shows pride in the heritage he came from and exposed to millions through several re-prints the injustices he went through alongside the nearly 13 million Africans that were taken from their homes.

When Equiano arrived in London as a free man, he connected with abolitionist figures like Gran Sharp. Through the publishing of his work and his organization with abolitionist figures, he fought for the equal treatment of Africans by the European powers that enslaved people. He exposed much of the American and European public to the atrocities of the transatlantic slave trade and has gone down as being one of the fathers/mothers of the slave narrative.

He gave a voice to those who were burdened by the system of human commodification — and a powerful one at that.

— Chris Klepach

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COLUMN

Republicans miss the point about the academic tenure debate

Republicans are more interested in waging unserious fights than actual reform.



Shahab Khan
Opinions Columnist

After successfully gutting the public education system, it seems Iowa Republicans have set their eyes on ruining higher education.

In previous legislative sessions, Iowa Republicans entertained the idea of prohibiting tenure at the state's flagship institutions, — including the University of Iowa. These bills have been introduced several times and made it out of committee since the 2021 legislative session.

While these bills have not become a law yet, the persistent Republican efforts to target tenure is cause for concern.

The most recent proposed bill, House File 48, would not only alienate academic faculty but also degrade scholarship and research that is critical to

improving our lives.

Instead, tenure should be reformed in a way that lowers the barriers of entry for those who have obtained a doctorate so academic institutions can improve the quality of education and research output.

The Republican rationale for eliminating tenure revolves around the idea that giving a professor a permanent position grants them cover to discriminate against students for their political viewpoints. In particular, Republicans are concerned that professors are indoctrinating students in left wing anti-American ideologies and silencing conservative voices.

Republicans have also proposed that the Iowa Legislature should monitor university professors to make sure they are complying with proposed Republican standards.

This is wrong for two reasons. First, college professors are not actually indoctrinating their students in left wing politics. Second, putting students under the state surveillance would be a clear violation of privacy rights.

The Republican bills against tenure do not work

to improve the atmosphere for colleges because it is focused on subjugating academics to the will of the state GOP. That being said, there is an opportunity to improve tenure.

Work in the field of labor economics shows that labor protections give protections to workers from losing their jobs in the event of an economic downturn or potential cost cutting measures by firms. This results in high wages for workers.

At the same time, labor protections also lead to high barriers of entry for workers. This does not allow for competition and increases in productivity from taking place in a labor market, as they prevent firms from opening the number of jobs in a firm.

In other words, those with labor protections are incentivized to be less productive.

Tenure in its current form operates similarly to this principle. Although academic positions are highly specialized at universities, there are some distinct advantages to tenure that allow professors to take on more risky research.

Simply put, job security guarantees that professors

have the backing to conduct forward thinking research that benefits their institutions. For example, when faculty were granted tenure in the pharmacy discipline, it was found that the number of academic papers published increased, indicating that research output also increased. This has been found to be true in many other fields as well.

That is not to say that tenure cannot be improved. Legislation that would make it easier for academics with doctorate degrees to become professors is a necessity. This would greatly improve academic institutions in the state and allow for other potential professors to pursue their research goals and increase knowledge.

Unfortunately, the Republican bill does not attempt to improve tenure.

The legislation is meant to settle political scores involving apocryphal statements from conservative students. Tenure is a necessary part of our higher education system, and we need to maintain it in some basic form.

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Sophia Meador, Shahab Khan, Yasmina Sahir, Hannah Pinski

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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XTREAM

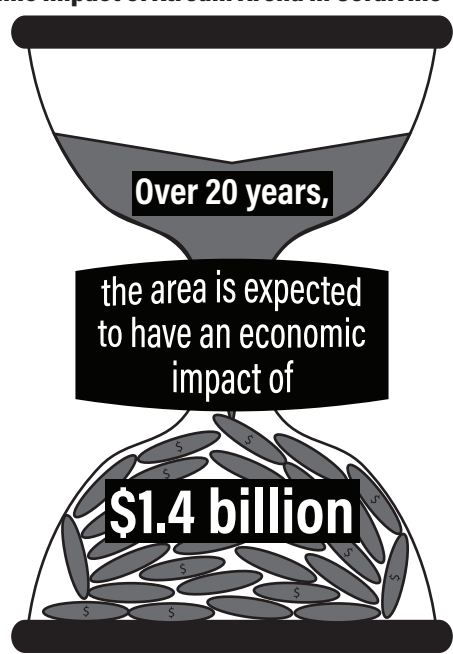
Continued from Page 1A

The restaurant has protocol measures put in place when an event is set to be at the arena, such as ensuring there are enough of his employees available to cover the

“Toby Keith was one where we expected that there’d be so many people at the concert where we would set up to sell extra Busch Light and White Claws — that’s not part of our normal service,” he said.

30Hop opened on the Iowa River Landing eight

Economic Impact of Xtream Arena in Coralville



Infographic by Bri Brown

night, Laughton said. “We can definitely tell when there’s an event at the arena ... It’s a big part of our business,” Laughton said.

Additionally, Laughton said he tries to ensure he has products in stock that will complement what events are going on at the arena.

years ago. General manager Mike Osaro echoed Laughton, saying it is essential to the restaurant that there is enough staff when events are held at the arena.

Osaro said he sees many groups of people come through the restaurants when events occur at the arena. The

MAYFLOWER

Continued from Page 1A

updating its five-year Housing and Dining master plan and can share more details once it has been presented to and received approval from the Board of Regents, State of Iowa,” she wrote.

Mayflower Residence Hall could close as early as the end of the spring 2024 semester, the article states, following the completion of current construction in Hillcrest Residence Hall.

According to data gathered by the university, Mayflower Residence Hall is the last chosen and first transferred from residence hall for first-year students.

Sarah Hansen, UI vice president for student life, said in the Iowa Now article that 89 percent of first-year students who live in residence halls stay for a second year compared to 82 percent who live off campus.

First-year students who live in Mayflower also reportedly have lower grade point averages.

“This five-year plan represents an efficient and effective use of our resources while improving outcomes for students,” she said.

In recent years, Mayflower Residence Hall has received negative publicity, most recently after a UI student fell out of a window from the sixth floor in November 2022. Mayflower’s gas stoves have also caused multiple evacuations.

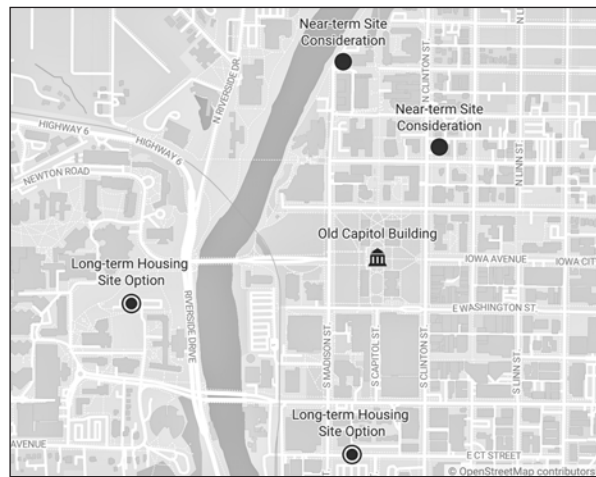
“Offering central campus dining encourages students to make connections and develop relationships with each other and decreases isolation, especially for first-year students,” Hansen said in the article.

Selling Mayflower and the construction of a new

dorm is part of the university’s Housing Master Plan, which will be presented to the state Board of Regents on Feb. 22. Other plans include the remodeling and modernizing of both Burge and Hillcrest Residence Halls.

Continued renovations to Burge and Hillcrest Residence Halls are expected to cost \$5-10 million per project while the construction of the new residence hall will cost an estimated \$40-60 million. It will be funded by “potential Mayflower Residence Hall sale

Potential locations for the new University of Iowa residence hall



Infographic by Jami Martin-Trainor



Mayflower Residence Hall is seen on Tuesday.

Emily Nyberg/The Daily Iowan

Feature photo | Floral Valentine’s Day



Matt Sindt/The Daily Iowan

Ileana Minor, an employee at Beno’s Flowers and Gifts in Iowa City, prepares a Valentine’s Day bouquet for a customer on Tuesday. Minor has worked at Beno’s for three months. “It’s been really busy,” said Minor, as customers lined up from the register to the door to buy flowers.



Matt Sindt/The Daily Iowan

A fan watches from the hallway during a hockey game between the Iowa Heartlanders and the Cincinnati Cyclones at Xtream Arena in Coralville on Nov. 26, 2022. The Heartlanders defeated the Cyclones, 4-3.

“We are really proud of what we’re seeing in the arena. We’ve always viewed it as the last big piece of the redevelopment of that area.

— Coralville Mayor Meghann Foster

restaurant sees a lot of families when the Iowa Heartlanders are in town and when youth and high school events are held at the arena. “Anything that gets

everyone together gets everyone excited,” Osaro said. “Depending on if it’s a concert or something, sometimes it’s just groups of friends.” Foster said many peo-

ple visit the Iowa River Landing and the arena from not only all over Iowa but all over the world.

“We had the Wrestling World Cup as well as the men’s and women’s tournaments,” Foster said. “Those are people who are visiting our community from all over the globe.”

Foster said she is proud to see how far the Iowa River Landing has come over the years.

“We are really proud of what we’re seeing in the arena. We’ve always viewed it as the last big piece of the redevelopment of that area,” she said.

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proceeds and borrowing,” according to the plan.

A search for a buyer is in progress.

On-campus housing for incoming students will not be impacted by the sale of Mayflower, according to the plan.

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Tippie College of Business increases accessibility

Accessibility buttons that were previously the size of a quarter were enlarged over winter break.

Maddie Willis
News Reporter

The University of Iowa has been working to improve accessibility at the John Pappajohn Business Building, most recently by installing larger accessibility buttons that open doors in the building.

Rick Adrian, Tippie College of Business director of facilities, said the old buttons looked around the size of a quarter. Diversity, equity, and inclusion committees at Tippie pushed for building improvements. "They are doing 3-foot-by-10 inches across buttons so it's more accessible for someone in a wheelchair," Adrian said.

The Pappajohn Business Building will turn 30 years old in December, and over the years accessibility requirements and the Americans with Disabilities Act — which requires buildings to be accessible for those with disabilities — have changed. Adrian said the entire building is being re-evaluated.

"For example, we've got a handicapped ramp on the north side of the building, and there was no handicapped button to it," Adrian said. "I don't know if this was overlooked when the building was built, but we started the work of how to rectify that situation."

ness has a DEI committee that was originally created to improve accessibility in the college.

Pamela Bourjaily, Tippie DEI Committee chair and an associate professor of instruction and accounting, said the committee's goal is to promote accessibility in the classroom and create an environment where faculty, staff, and students can thrive.

"I think the whole Steering Committee overall, it seems to me to really be thinking about diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility," Bourjaily said.

Abbie Stehum, a second-year graduate student in library and information sciences, served as the president of the UI Students for Disability Advocacy and Awareness organization last semester.

He said the group's main focus is to support people with disabilities at the UI and work toward getting a cultural center for people with disabilities on campus.

The UI currently has four cultural centers: the Afro-American Cultural Center, Asian Pacific American Cultural Center, Latino Native American Cultural Center, and Pride Alliance Center.

"Just to have the buildings themselves be acces-



The John Pappajohn Business Building is seen on Jan. 24.

Vincenzo Mazza/The Daily Iowan

sible is extremely helpful or practical and also just welcoming for the student," Stehum said.

Stehum said people with low muscle capabilities might have trouble pushing the building's doors open.

"You go all the way to campus only not to be able to get into the building," he said. "That's a lot

of work."

On the DEI Committee, Bourjaily said that accessibility is a precondition for learning.

"This is like physical access, and other aspects of DEI have to do with, maybe educational access or access to certain opportunities, but this is just total physical access to be able to use and participate

in all of our spaces," Bourjaily said.

Bourjaily said the changes matter because it is the right thing to do, and they are practical for the world we live in.

"You can't learn or get to work if you can't get in the building," she said.

Facilities management has additional project goals, including adding

door openers to restrooms in the Pappajohn Business Building. Adrian said the building plans on making additional accessibility changes in the future such as adding a larger button near Lecture Hall W10.

"As a college, we value an inclusive environment for all," Adrian said.

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Chi Omega House repair request denied

The sorority is appealing after its request was denied by the Iowa City Historic Preservation Commission.

Sydney Libert
News Reporter

The University of Iowa Chi Omega sorority is appealing a denied request from the Iowa City Historic Preservation Commission to add new windows in its historic house.

Despite previously receiving permission from the city to install new windows on the upper level of the building, which is located on 804 Iowa Ave., the sorority's request to replace windows on the main level was denied. The commission ordered the existing windows to be refurbished due to the home's historic relevance. The commission declined the sorority's window replacement because the windows are in good condition and only need repairs.

The recommended fix was too costly, the sorority wrote in the appeal. The sorority wants to add high-quality win-

dows from a company, Pella, with tilt-in sashes to allow for easier future maintenance.

Kirk Lehmann, a secretary for the Iowa City Board of Adjustment, said the most recent appeal to the board took place in 2021.

"To be honest, appeals are pretty rare," Lehmann said. "Usually, it's tied to harm to property, and surrounding property owners are the ones who file it."

The handbook recommends that historic homes repair windows before replacing them to protect the building's architectural character. Properties are not allowed to install modern windows, including sliding, awning, casement, and bay windows.

The appeal will go before the city's Board of Adjustment, which will act as a jury to determine whether the Historic Preservation Commission

justly exercised its powers.

The board may reverse, modify, or affirm the commission's decision. If the board agrees with the commission and Chi Omega chooses to appeal the decision further, it will go to Johnson County District Court.

Lehmann said the board would be overseeing the appeal because the sorority house's location is within the city's College Hill Conservation District. Compared to historic preservation districts, conservation districts have fewer designated historical properties within their neighborhoods.

While Lehmann said historical districts typically have stricter regulations tied to them, buildings in both districts must request approval from the city's Historic Preservation Commission to make any exterior changes.

"We tend to deal more with special exceptions,



The University of Iowa chapter of Chi Omega is seen in Iowa City on Feb. 6.

Emily Nyberg/The Daily Iowan

which are uses allowed within the code that require additional oversight," Lehmann said.

After multiple attempts by *The Daily Iowan*, Chi Omega and the Historical Preservation Commission

both declined to comment on the appeal.

The city anticipates holding a public hearing for the appeal on March 8 at 5:15 pm in City Hall's Emma J. Harvat Hall. The Board of Adjustment will

release a packet confirming the location and time of the hearing either the week before or early on during the week of the hearing.

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The Daily Iowan
Student surplus, dorms crowded

Housekeys discarded on Iowa City street this week to live on campus for the 2022-23 academic year.

Large incoming class strains UI faculty, departments
The University of Iowa expanded the capacity of more than 50 classes to accommodate the large number of students.

Johnson County officials work to minimize monkeypox spread
Since the first confirmed case of monkeypox in Johnson County just months ago, health officials are most at risk of contracting the disease.

INSIDE
Housekeys discarded on Iowa City street this week to live on campus for the 2022-23 academic year.

ONLINE
The University of Iowa expanded the capacity of more than 50 classes to accommodate the large number of students.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Executive Editor for the 2023-24 year

The board of Student Publications, Inc., which oversees The Daily Iowan, is seeking applicants for the 2023-24 Executive Editor position.

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Iowa men's basketball picks up third straight win, outlasts Michigan in overtime
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Caitlin Clark moves to second all-time leading scorer as Iowa women's basketball blasts Northwestern
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Tweets from @TheDailyIowan

Details and application available at:
dailyiowan.com/editor-application
Deadline: February 24, 2023

ZIVAT

Continued from Page 8A

shop for people on the team. Libby said she is good friends with Michigan State's gymnastics coach, who was able to speak on Zivat's behalf.

When Zivat officially joined the team, Libby made a point to help the teammates get to know one another. Every year, Libby promotes team building by hosting a get-together outside of Iowa City.

"It's a lot of pressure to be on the team — to be on anybody's team — in Iowa City," Libby said. "It's a small city, so everybody knows who you are. That in itself, while it's super exciting, is also largely stressful. There's constantly a whole community watching you."

The getaway helps the athletes get to know one another outside of gymnastics — a point Libby stresses. She said growing up with gymnastics is hard, and she does everything in her power to help the team heal from any toxicity in their pasts.

As a former gymnast, Libby understands the unhealthy culture that surrounds the field. She said gymnasts are taught as young children that

they need to be quiet and take demands implicitly. From her own experiences, Libby is working to transform her community.

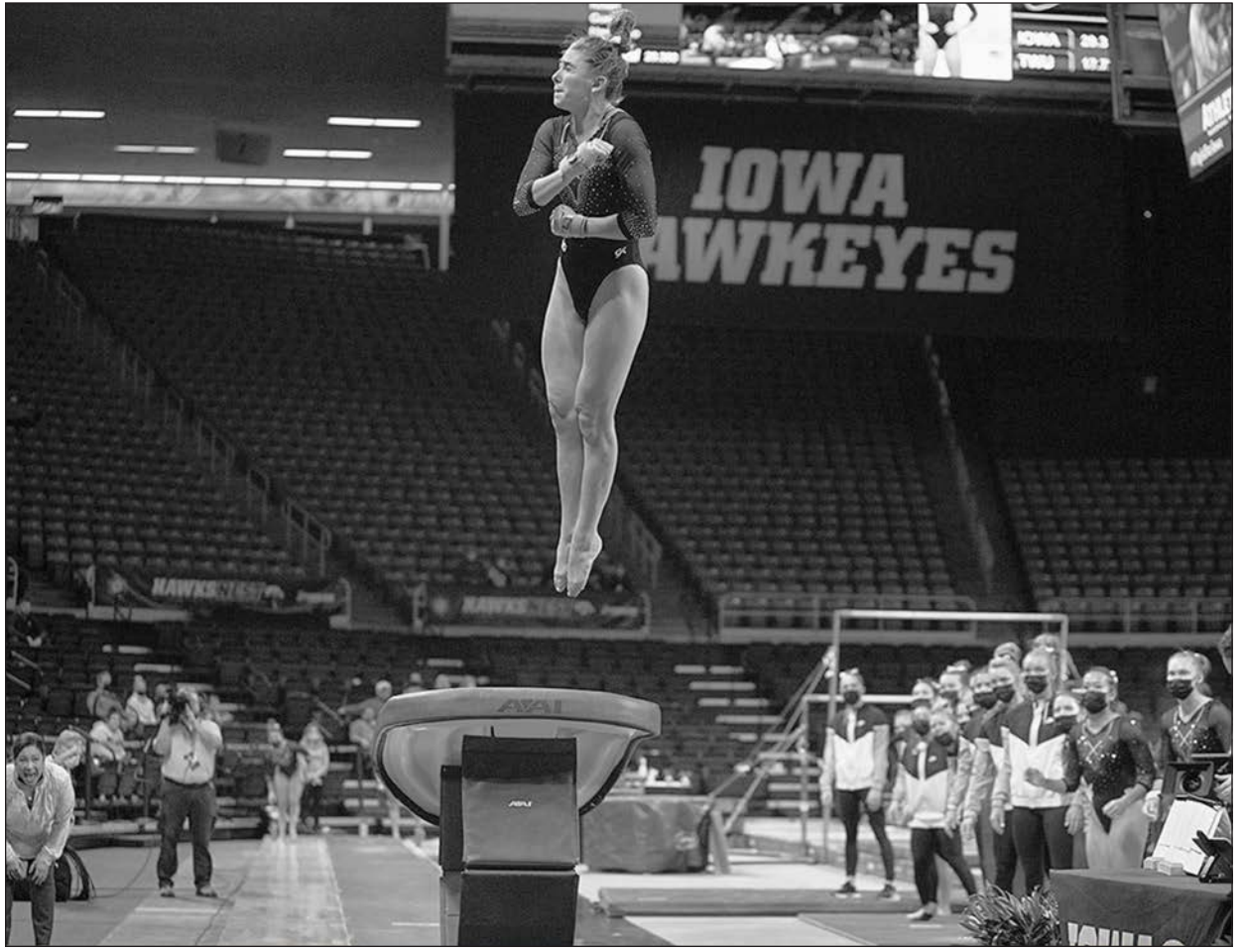
"What other sport starts at perfection and deducts? There is not a single sport that does that," Libby said. "That in itself is insanity. Some of them have had more trauma than you can even imagine."

Showing value outside of gymnastics is part of how the GymHawks can build such a strong and caring team culture. Zivat said that is what pushes her to continue improving.

"It's just such a great feeling, knowing how happy people are for you," Zivat said. "It's reciprocated. I want it for my team as well."

To build this positivity among teammates, Libby said she focuses on giving the women a voice and opinion so they don't implicitly take orders from their coaches.

"Our culture is to try and undo all of that before they graduate in four years," Libby said. "How they see themselves, how they allow their friends to treat them, the relationships that are inviting into their lives — it drives all of that stuff."



Lillie Hawker/The Daily Iowan

Iowa junior Linda Zivat attempts to complete the vault during the Iowa gymnastics meet against Texas Women's University at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Jan. 14. The Iowa Hawkeyes defeated Texas Women's Pioneers, 196.125 - 189.300. Zivat scored 9.825 during her run on the vault.

While Libby has only coached Zivat for the past two years, she pushes to engrave that message onto the entire team. Gymnastics and scores

are important, but to Libby, nothing is put above the fact that her women are human beings and deserve to be treated as such.

Zivat doesn't know what she wants to do after graduation, but she said she is keeping her options open and plans on following her passion.

"Ultimately, I don't want to walk away from gymnastics with any regrets," Zivat said.

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CLARK

Continued from Page 8A

on the court in 2021-22, leading the nation with 27 points and eight assists per game. She also added on an average of eight rebounds per game as a point guard.

But the politics of the women's national player of the year comes down to team rankings.

Clark said she doesn't take any stock in becoming the national player of the year because she knows her team needs to succeed first.

"As long as my team wins, all that takes care of itself," Clark said. "It's not something that I think

about every day, but that is a huge honor. And it's your own, even last year when I was in the conversation for it, it is a huge honor. It's a huge honor for our team, for our program to have players in that conversation."

Aliyah Boston was the unanimous national player of the year in 2021-22 after leading South Carolina women's basketball to a 36-2 season (and an NCAA Championship, but voters chose before the postseason).

Boston impressively had 30 straight double-doubles throughout the 2021-22 season, averaging 16.8 points and 12.8 rebounds during the season. But she didn't impact her team as

much as Clark did. Boston is a player that transcends the game — she's continuing to do so this season, and she'll likely be the No. 1 pick in the 2023 WNBA Draft.

The difference between Boston and Clark, both last season and this season, is that Boston plays for the No. 1 team in the nation. Voting for the national player of the year seems simple — the best player on the best team has to be it, right?

I think it's more complex than that.

The national player of the year shouldn't be the best player on the best team. To be the No. 1 team in the nation, there needs to be multiple highly

skilled players working in tandem.

The national player of the year should be the person who's had the most impact on her team.

This season (and arguably last season), Clark is the player who's had the most impact on their team. In 2022-23, she is second in the nation with 27.4 points per game and first with 8.3 assists. Along with 7.6 rebounds per game, the junior is nearly averaging a triple-double throughout a grueling Big Ten season.

"I think it's the best player in the United States," Bluder said on her national player of the year criteria. "That's what I think she is. I think she

is the national player of the year. When you look at what she does and compare that to what other people can do, nobody can do what she can do, nobody in the country."

Now, there's arguments to be made this season for Boston, who is averaging 13.4 points and 9.9 rebounds per game; LSU's Angel Reese, who is averaging a staggering 15.3 rebounds per game; and Indiana's Mackenzie Holmes, who averages 22.5 points and 7.5 rebounds per game.

But there's a difference between those three front-court players and Clark: Their job is to bring down rebounds. Clark excels in rebounding when her job

as a point guard is to bring the ball up the court. Technically, she's not allowed to crash the boards for offensive rebounds.

Bluder described comparing Clark, a guard, to a post player or forward as "apples to oranges."

"There are two totally different positions," Bluder said. "And that's why it's kind of nice we have the Nancy Lieberman Award and the Ann Meyers Drysdale award and the Lisa Leslie Award."

Apples to oranges aside, Clark is by far the most impactful player in women's college basketball. And she deserves an award that will show that impact.

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Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark celebrates during a basketball game between No. 5 Iowa and Rutgers at Carver Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Sunday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Scarlet Knights, 111-57.

ROERING

Continued from Page 8A

runner-up at the Big Ten tournament. This is largely because the selection committee emphasizes RPI when deciding regional-worthy teams — which I think is flawed, but that's for another story.

The Hawkeyes are returning several key pitchers this season, including 2022 Big Ten Freshman of the Year Keaton Anthony, Baseball America Preseason Third-Team All-American Brody Brecht, and Perfect Game Preseason

Big Ten Pitcher of the Year Ty Langenberg.

The Hawkeyes have some decent experience on the mound, but with the departure of pitchers Dylan Nedved and Adam Mazur, others will need to step up.

Iowa also returns a few offensive assets in 2023 — Anthony, shortstop Michael Seegers, and utility player Sam Petersen. Anthony led the Hawkeyes last season, hitting .361 with 14 home runs. Seegers batted .286 with 31 RBIs, and Petersen hit .264 with 33 RBIs and six home runs.

A few detrimental losses throughout the season — which the Hawkeyes have had in recent years — are exactly what Iowa needs to avoid if it wants to hear its name called on selection day. If the Hawkeyes can avoid hiccups against teams with low RPI that they absolutely should beat — like Illinois State, Southern University, South Dakota State, and University of Illinois-Chicago, to name a few — Iowa's chances of making regionals look favorable.

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OLSON

Continued from Page 8A

2022.

Williams was drafted in the seventh round by the Toronto Blue Jays, and Beutel signed with the Chicago White Sox as an undrafted free agent.

Last season, Iowa boasted an RPI of 61 at the end of the season. While they had a decent RPI, the

Hawkeyes struggled with the overall strength of schedule, having the 107th hardest schedule in Division I baseball.

While Iowa did schedule tough individual games against LSU and Sam Houston State, along with a weekend series against Texas Tech, this season, I don't see the Hawkeyes' overall strength of schedule improving measurably from last season.

Games against South Dakota State and Western Illinois, teams in the high 200s in last season's RPI, won't help the resume, and a loss to any of these teams would prove catastrophic.

While I believe the Hawkeyes will have a solid season competing in the Big Ten, I don't see them going anywhere further than that.

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Sports

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023

THE MOST COMPLETE HAWKEYE SPORTS COVERAGE IN IOWA

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HAWKEYE UPDATES



Caitlin Clark named to Dawn Staley Award watchlist

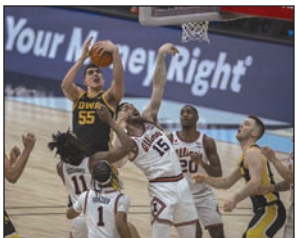
Two-time Dawn Staley Award winner Caitlin Clark has been named to the award's late season watchlist, it was announced Monday.

The Iowa women's basketball junior won the award, which is given to the best collegiate guard in the country, in both her freshman and sophomore seasons. The honor is named after three-time Olympic gold medalist and current South Carolina women's basketball head coach Dawn Staley.

Clark is averaging 27.4 points, 7.6 rebounds, and 8.3 assists per game this season. She's recorded three triple-doubles this season, including one against then-No. 2 Ohio State.

Iowa women's basketball dropped two spots to No. 7 in the AP Poll on Monday after splitting games against No. 2 Indiana and Rutgers last week.

The Hawkeyes are 20-5 overall and 12-2 in the Big Ten with four games remaining in the regular season.



Keegan Murray, Luka Garza record career highs in scoring in NBA

Former Iowa men's basketball teammates Keegan Murray and Luka Garza secured career highs in scoring in their NBA action this week.

Murray, a forward for the Sacramento Kings, exploded for 30 points in a 140-120 win over the Houston Rockets on Feb. 6, leading the team in scoring. Garza put up 25 points of his own in a 143-118 win over the Utah Jazz two days later.

After shooting a combined 2-of-21 from the field in his last three games, Murray went 11-for-17 from the field and 8-for-12 from three in 33 minutes. The fourth overall pick in the 2022 NBA Draft added six rebounds, two steals, and an assist.

On Feb. 10, the Kings lost to the Dallas Mavericks, 122-114, although Murray continued scoring in double digits and had a strong defensive effort in the backcourt. Murray scored 16 points on 6-for-10 shooting from the field and 4-for-5 from three. He added two blocks.

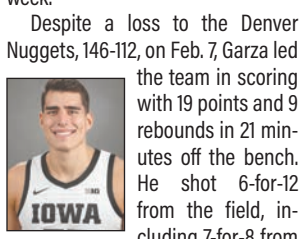
The Kings faced the Mavericks again on Feb. 11, this time capturing an overtime win, 133-128. In 28 minutes, Murray had five points on 1-for-5 from the field — all the shots coming from three — but went 2-for-2 from the free-throw line. He contributed six rebounds, three assists, and a steal.

After this week's games, Murray is now averaging 12 points per game, and the Kings remain third in the Western Conference one week before the All-Star Weekend.

Garza also found his footing this week.

Despite a loss to the Denver Nuggets, 146-112, on Feb. 7, Garza led the team in scoring with 19 points and 9 rebounds in 21 minutes off the bench. He shot 6-for-12 from the field, including 7-for-8 from the free-throw line. He added nine rebounds and two assists.

Garza's career-high came in just 24 minutes on Feb. 8 in a win against the Utah Jazz, 143-118. He shot 9-for-13 from the field, 4-for-5 from three, and 3-for-3 from the charity stripe. He added three rebounds and three assists.



Garza's career-high came in just 24 minutes on Feb. 8 in a win against the Utah Jazz, 143-118. He shot 9-for-13 from the field, 4-for-5 from three, and 3-for-3 from the charity stripe. He added three rebounds and three assists.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's not always a bowl of cherries."

— Iowa men's basketball head coach Fran McCaffery on coaching his sons Connor and Patrick.

STAT OF THE DAY

12

— Number of bonus point wins in 13 bouts for Iowa men's wrestler Spencer Lee.

Zivat finds support at Iowa

The GymHawks accepted the Michigan State transfer into their community, instantly making her feel welcome.

Jami Martin-Trainor
Assistant Digital Editor

With serious injuries plaguing her for two years and complications associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the beginning of Linda Zivat's college gymnastics career was less than ideal.

So, when Zivat transferred to Iowa from Michigan State for her junior year, one of the first things she noted about the Hawkeyes was the culture difference in the gym.

"Coming off an injury, I struggled a lot starting up my gymnastics again," Zivat said. "Every day, there were little victories, just seeing how genuinely excited my friends were and my teammates were."

In her first visit to campus, Zivat said head coach Larissa Libby was intentional in forming a connection with both her and her mother. Zivat also noticed the way the team immediately tried to chat with her.

"The girls came up and were excited to meet me



Lillie Hawker/The Daily Iowan

Iowa gymnast Linda Zivat hugs teammate Kareena McSweeney in celebration after her bar routine during a gymnastics meet between Iowa and Minnesota in Iowa City on Jan. 27.

and talk to me and get to know me. It was very genuine," Zivat said. "You could just tell that the culture of the program is there."

Now, two years after

joining the Hawkeyes, Zivat has flourished. On Feb. 1, Zivat was named the Big Ten Tri-Event Specialist of the Week. Zivat said the accomplishment made it feel like her

work paid off.

Libby said transfers are not typical for the Iowa women's gymnastics team. The current roster only has two transfers, and Zivat was the only

transfer her first year on the team.

Libby said the transfer process is gross in the way that coaches must

ZIVAT | Page 7A

COLUMN

The complexities of the NPOY award

The women's basketball national player of the year honor has multiple factors, but it should come down to the best player in the country — and Caitlin Clark is that player.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark celebrates during a basketball game between No. 5 Iowa and Rutgers at Carver Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Feb. 12. The Hawkeyes defeated the Scarlet Knights, 111-57.

Chloe Peterson
Sports Editor

Head coach Lisa Bluder's mind was made up after junior guard Caitlin Clark's performance in Iowa's 96-82 victory against Maryland on Feb. 2.

Clark, a national player of the year candidate, dropped 42 points, eight assists, and seven rebounds against what was the No. 8 team in the country that night.

"I don't know how you cannot say that Caitlin Clark is not the national player of the year," Bluder said postgame. "I don't know how you can say that she is not. She was unbelievable."

Obviously, Bluder is biased toward her own player, but Clark has an almost

impenetrable case to become the national player of the year.

The key word here: almost.

Last March, I wrote a column that will end up sounding very similar to this one: Caitlin Clark should be the national player of the year.

She didn't end up winning the national award in the 2021-22 season. She was nominated for all four major national honors — the Wooden, Naismith, and USBWA Awards and the Wade Trophy — but fell short in all of them.

I'll say this again: My opinion isn't a homer take as a University of Iowa student. Clark was arguably the most impactful player

CLARK | Page 7A

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Will Iowa baseball make NCAA regionals?

Two DI staffers debate the legitimacy of the Hawkeyes' being one of the 64 teams called on selection day.

Yes

The 2022 season ended with more frustration than satisfaction for head coach Rick Heller and the Iowa baseball team, as the Hawkeyes were left out of the 64-team NCAA regionals.

Heller's bunch went 36-19 overall last season, falling in the Big Ten Tournament semifinal game to the Michigan Wolverines, 13-1. I think the 2023 season, however, will have a different ending for the Black and Gold.

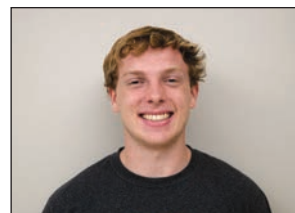
The Hawkeyes last made regionals in 2017 with an automatic bid after winning their first Big Ten Tournament title over Northwestern, 13-4 — which put them at 38-20 on the season.

To make a regional this year, Iowa probably needs to hit at least 40 wins and have a Big Ten Tournament run similar to 2017, as the selection committee rarely gives consideration to Big Ten squads that finish outside of the top two or three in the conference.

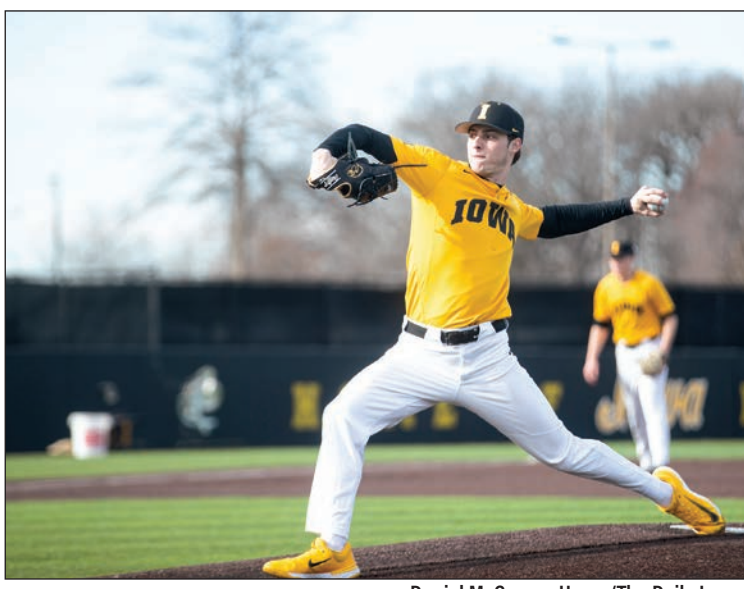
We saw this happen last season when the committee snubbed Rutgers, despite the Scarlet Knights going 44-15 overall and placing



Kenna Roering
Sports Reporter



Jake Olson
Sports Reporter



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa pitcher Nick Gottilla throws the ball during the Iowa men's baseball media day at Duane Banks Baseball Stadium in Iowa City on Feb. 8. With many new players on the field, head coach Rick Heller has his sights on Omaha.

ROERING | Page 7A

No

The Iowa baseball team has hopes of returning to the NCAA tournament again under the watch of head coach Rick Heller. While I believe the Hawkeyes will have a successful season in the Big Ten this year, I don't think they will do enough to earn their first NCAA regionals appearance since 2017.

Last season, Iowa recorded 36 wins — good for eighth all-time in program history — and finished second in the Big Ten regular season standings, going 17-7 in conference play.

The Hawkeyes have lost a lot of talent from last year's squad.

Former Big Ten Pitcher of the Year Adam Mazur was taken in the second round of the 2022 MLB Draft by the San Diego Padres. First baseman Peyton Williams and closer Ben Beutel also made the jump to professional ball. Williams had a .335 batting average for Iowa last season, while cranking 13 home runs for the Hawkeyes. Beutel posted a 1.47 earned run average while earning four saves and a 3-0 record in

OLSON | Page 7A

80 HOURS

THIS WEEKEND IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023



Downtown District's Winter Night Lights dazzle IC

Throughout February, Iowa City can enjoy the Iowa City Downtown District's self-guided Winter Night Lights experience in the Pedestrian Mall, which features interactive lights and giant inflated rabbits.

Winter Night Lights dazzle Iowa City

The Iowa City Pedestrian Mall will feature interactive lights and giant inflated rabbits during February.

Stella Shipman
Arts Reporter

While strolling through the Pedestrian Mall, it's hard not to notice that Iowa City has become home to a host of six new inhabitants. Rabbits as tall as 40 feet have nestled in close to buildings and benches and appear simultaneously cute and imposing. These luminescent creatures are one of many new downtown light experiences.

Throughout February, Iowa City's Ped Mall will be filled with brilliant light installations to brighten this winter's chilly evenings as part of the Iowa City Downtown District's Winter Night Lights.

The Winter Night Lights program is a multi-faceted, self-guided experience. It features light installations from different artists and companies. The city is also arranging a silent disco event every Friday night on the Ped Mall, which previously proved popular in the summer.

The staff of the Iowa City Downtown District implemented the Winter Night Lights program to encourage economic activity during the cold season. The district has encouraged people to go downtown, especially since COVID-19.

"I think, first and foremost, that [the Winter Night Lights] gives another reason to come downtown and see these kinds of interesting installations," Nancy Bird, Iowa City Downtown District executive director, said.

One light installment is the internationally renowned "Intrude" exhibit by Amanda Parer. The exhibit has been featured in Shimokita, Japan and Madrid, Spain. Parer is an Australian artist who focuses on painting and sculpting. Her work typically explores themes of interaction between humans and the natural world.

This particular exhibit recognizes the impact of rabbits on the natural environment. European rabbits were introduced to North America with the arrival of white settlers about 200 years ago. Their presence has since dismantled portions of nearly every ecosystem on the continent.

Today, rabbits are commonly seen in nature, and some people even keep rabbits as household pets. Parer's exhibit reflects both the cuteness and the intrusive status of these creatures.

Six white blow-up rabbits were installed intermittently around the Ped Mall, each composed of light and air. They lounge in various positions — some lying down, some sitting, and one even playfully rocking back with its feet up. Their comfortable placement emphasizes how they overtook the area.

Each rabbit has its own name, and people can learn more about the rabbits and the exhibition by scanning the QR codes on the signs beside them.

Parer worked with engineers and electricians to create the massive sculptures from digital-



Emily Nyberg/The Daily Iowan

Inflatable rabbit sculptures are seen in the Iowa City Pedestrian Mall. Sculpture artist Amanda Parer's "Intrude" rabbits are part of a month-long Winter Night Lights experience put on by the Iowa City Downtown District.

ly scanned models run through a computer program.

Though its composition is foundationally simple, the artistic essence of the exhibition is in its layered meanings. Just as much as the rabbits draw people in, they take up an inordinate amount of space in an otherwise open environment. This is reminiscent of how the species originally dominated the land.

No matter where the exhibition been installed, Parer has noticed that people have similar reactions to the rabbits.

"I've found that adults

become children around them," Parer said. "They really enter this sort of fantasy world, and that's just beautiful. And, of course, children just automatically respond in that way, too. So, it's nice to inject a bit of wonder in a given environment."

The City of Iowa City reached out to Parer over the summer about installing her "Invade" piece.

Bird said the Winter Night Lights program was a great opportunity to appreciate Parer's art as well as her environmental messages.

2023 also happens to be the Year of the Rabbit in the Chinese Lunar Year calendar, further emphasizing the iconography of the rabbit.

Another installation is a 120-foot light canopy. It is strung over the alleyway perpendicular to South Linn Street off the Ped Mall, which experiences regular foot traffic. The canopy is unique from the other installations because it will be a permanent fixture.

These lights, along with the interactive "Singing Trees" that have also been reinstalled in the Dubuque Street corridor, were a project purchased from Limbic Media.

According to its website, Limbic Media is a "trans-disciplinary team of artist-engineers with a passion for technology and the arts" that transforms

public spaces with interactive light experiences.

The purchase of the light canopy was funded by the University of Iowa, which helped the Downtown District choose a project that would promote fun activities. The installation of the lights was an endeavor sponsored by Neumann Monson Architects and physically carried out by Martin Construction.

Installation required the consideration of several factors, including the age and infrastructure of the buildings the lights are hanging between and the permanency of the project.

After consulting with several engineers, including those from Limbic Media, the lights were successfully hung with stainless steel cable and anchored to the cement and brick of different buildings. They are now elegantly draped in strings of vibrant rainbow-colored luminescence over the Ped Mall alleyway, beautifying the otherwise barren space.

The lights also interact with sound by syncing up to music to produce changes in the color and patterns of the lights. According to Limbic Media, activating an audio-reactive mode will allow the lights to respond to any sounds in the environment or "dance" to certain songs.

Andrew Martin of Martin Construction said the

light canopy will be fun for people to engage with.

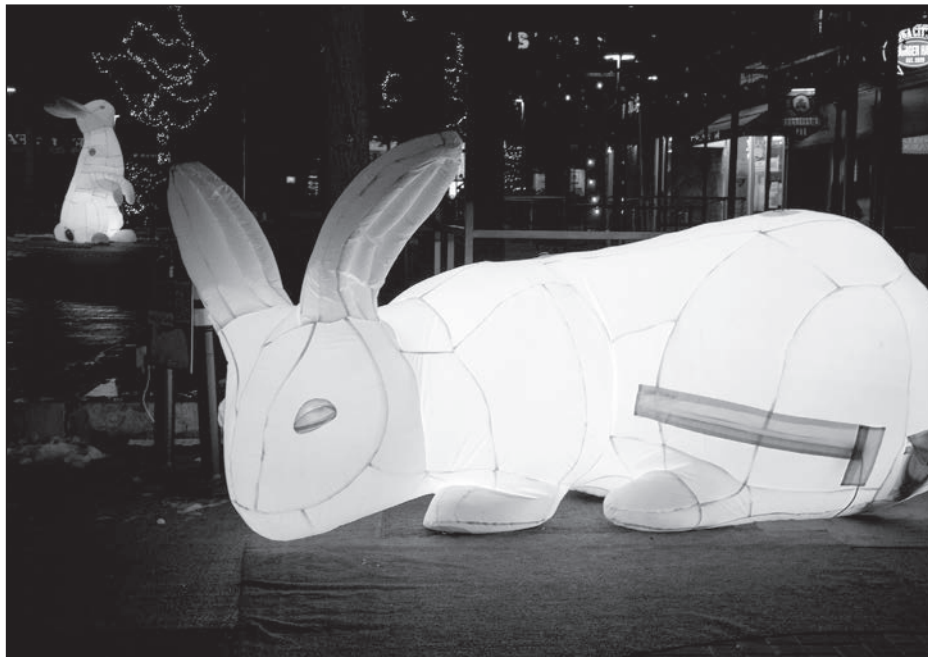
"Hopefully, they'll be able to use it for all the various holidays, and I'm sure they'll use it for the art stuff," Martin said. "I can't imagine they won't get involved with it somehow."

The "Scribble Lights" by Iowa City-based artist Ali Hval have been a brilliant fixture of the Ped Mall since its installment in December 2022. It is composed of rope lights and zip ties and will remain on display during the winter to provide consistent brightness to the Ped Mall.

Each light installment is a stunning work of art that anyone can appreciate. The Winter Night Lights serve as a reminder that Iowa City is a community influenced by and focused on art in every form, and it encourages residents to brave the cold and support local businesses.

"So, we're trying to set the stage for others to come and enjoy [the Winter Night Lights] and have fun," Bird said. "Hopefully, you get a taste of downtown in the winter and what a nice place it is to be then and all the different shops and restaurants that you can stop in while you're poking around."

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Emily Nyberg/The Daily Iowan

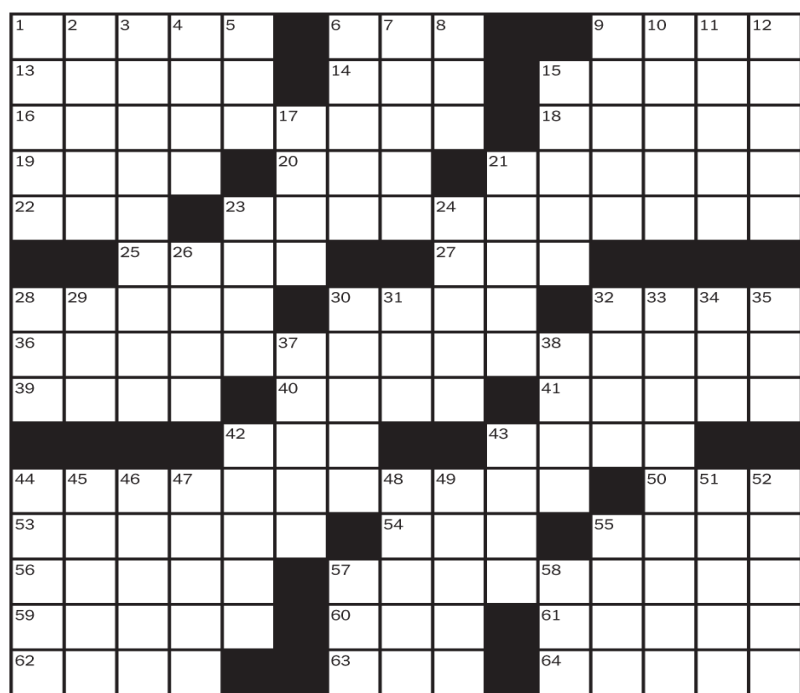
Inflatable rabbit sculptures are seen in the Iowa City Pedestrian Mall. Sculpture artist Amanda Parer's "Intrude" bunnies are part of a month long Winter Night Lights experience put on by the Iowa City Downtown District.

The Daily Break

Puzzle solutions on page 5A

The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0109

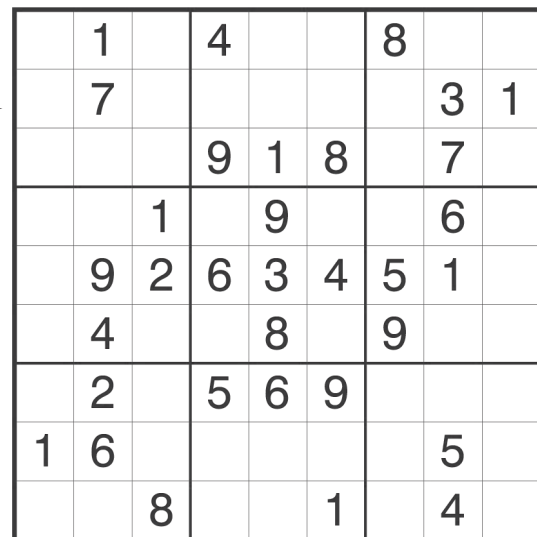


- Across**
- 1 Crooked, as a painting on the wall
 - 6 Nine-digit ID
 - 9 How revenge (or pizza for breakfast) is best served
 - 13 Steeple
 - 14 Noshed
 - 15 Corporate rule or regulation
 - 16 Concept that can't be criticized or questioned, metaphorically
 - 18 Tennis's Agassi
 - 19 Torah holders
 - 20 Bigeye or yellowfin tuna, at a sushi bar
 - 21 Feel great sorrow
 - 22 Shout made with a fist pump
 - 23 Seafood often served with picks
 - 25 Dab, as with a paper towel
 - 27 Chicago trains
 - 28 Not showy
 - 30 Language spoken in Bangkok
 - 32 Ballet dancer's knee bend
 - 36 Pre-employment investigation
 - 39 "A guy walks into a bar ..." may start one
 - 40 Caesar's words to Brutus
 - 41 Music Mann?
 - 42 Shoofly
 - 43 Norway's biggest city
 - 44 Cocktail named for two iconic beverage brands
 - 50 Catch forty winks
 - 53 Changes, as a hemline
 - 54 22-Across, in French
 - 55 Regarding
 - 56 Latin for "in itself"
 - 57 Behaved in a laid-back way
 - 59 Connections for car wheels
 - 60 Author Edgar Allan
 - 61 In an unusual way

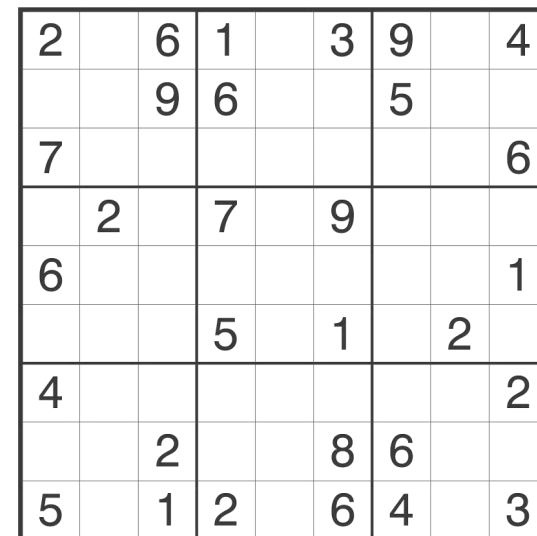
- 62 Army's football rival
- 63 Mr. Potato Head piece
- 64 Sell illegally, as tickets

Down

- 1 Test for purity
- 2 What a diagonal line represents on a bowling scoresheet
- 3 Relaxes
- 4 Commits a fumble
- 5 Small, to a Scot
- 6 Borat creator Baron Cohen
- 7 Showing no emotion
- 8 Either "N" in NY, NY
- 9 Jaded doubter
- 10 More ancient
- 11 Stage in a butterfly's development
- 12 Socially inept sort
- 15 Poets of yore
- 17 It's tossed toward a bull's-eye
- 21 Frozen
- 23 Viet (armed force of the 1960s-'70s)
- 24 Reeves of the "Matrix" films
- 26 Thumbs-up on Facebook
- 28 Goopy lunchbox sandwich, informally
- 29 Language spoken in Vientiane
- 30 Schlepped
- 31 Primitive dwelling
- 32 TV's Dr. _____
- 33 San Pellegrino offering
- 34 "Rocks" that clink in a drink
- 35 _____ out a living
- 37 Rider's handful
- 38 Assignment for a lawyer
- 42 Removes skin from
- 43 "The Grapes of Wrath" figure
- 44 Mount Fuji's locale
- 45 Amazon "assistant"
- 46 PC command to paste
- 47 Ken who wrote "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"
- 48 Hot drink with marshmallows
- 49 Word before space or limits
- 51 Coral islet chain
- 52 Coral reef producer
- 55 "Highway to Hell" rock group ... or a hint to electrical switches found in 16-, 23-, 36-, 44- and 57-Across
- 57 Gorilla, e.g.
- 58 Uno + uno



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The Kronos Quartet gives moving performance

The group played at Hancher Auditorium on Saturday with narration by Nikky Finney and a choral performance by Tonality.

Emma Gaughan
Arts Reporter

Stories can be told in many ways. Through music, lights, colors, imagery, words, and more, stories come to life and create an unmatched experience.

All of these storytelling aspects came together during “At War With Ourselves — 400 Years of You.” The performance joined The Kronos Quartet with music by Michael Abels, text and narration by poet Nikky Finney, and the choral group Tonality conducted by Valerie Sainte-Agathe.

The performance mixed choral song, spoken word, and instrumental music to capture the spirit of the story on Feb. 10 at Hancher Auditorium.

“I really like that there are opportunities to see live music,” Cecilia Shearon, a music major at the University of Iowa, said. “The idea behind the performance is really interesting to have music and also the very famous poet. That was exciting to even just read about.”

The song cycle revolved around a poem written by Finney, which is only a page long, and told the story of the experience of Black people throughout American history. The performance also touched on the history of racism in the U.S. Along with the text and music, lighting was used to emphasize the story and performer.

Jackie Fuentes, a UI dance major, said she found the combination of spoken word and live music to be relevant to the fine arts community.

The use of spoken word in this performance is a feature becoming more common in the music and dance worlds, Fuentes said, adding



David Harrington, a member of the Kronos Quartet, performs during the premiere of “A Thousand Thoughts” at Detroit Film Theatre in Detroit on April 12, 2019.

Junfu Han, Detroit Free Press

that it allows artists to create more immersive storytelling and artistic experiences.

Hancher is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, which is something it has in common with The Kronos Quartet. This performance marks a special occasion for both organizations, and they wanted this performance to be something special in honor of the celebrations.

“It’s such a great space,” Fuentes said about Hancher. “There’s not many accessible fine arts spaces at this capacity where

people actually feel like there is community engagement.”

Hancher has had a long relationship with The Kronos Quartet, which is composed of four string musicians: two on violin, one on viola, and one on cello. The collaboration between Finney, Hancher, and The Kronos Quartet is an impressive display of how the artists of today want to make music and art to tell stories and bring people together.

The Kronos Quartet has also collaborated with worldwide composers such as Phillip Glass, Steve Reich, and Terry

Riley.

The quartet has released over 70 recordings, received more than 40 awards, and commissioned more than 1,000 works for its nonprofit organization Kronos Performing Arts Association.

Additionally, the group has performed with notable singers like Paul McCartney and David Bowie.

Maya St. Clair, who is in the music program at the UI, said she was excited to attend the performance. She said she likes learning from what other performers do

so she can apply it to her own musical endeavors. “It’s cool to watch other performers do their thing,” St. Clair said.

Hancher and the music programs at the UI made efforts to allow the community the opportunity to see the performance, including making announcements aimed at music students, Amanda Baker, a music student at the UI, said.

The organizations want to inspire and educate as many students as possible through attending events involving the arts.

Baker said she hopes

to attend more events in the future — especially those involving music and stories. She said she enjoyed “At War With Ourselves — 400 Years of You,” and that she hopes to attend similar events in the future.

“Getting information about when all the performances and stuff are is great,” Baker said. “You have all the opportunities to go to things.”

Cecilia Shearon is a former staff member of the Daily Iowan.

emma-gaughan@uiowa.edu

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PROGRAM (subject to change)

- Franz Schubert: Overture in C Minor
- Robert Schumann: Concerto for Violoncello in A Minor, op. 129
- Aulis Sallinen: *Chamber Music III, The Nocturnal Dances of Don Juanquixote*, for cello and string orchestra, op. 58
- Piotr Tchaikovsky: Serenade for Strings in C Major, op. 48

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