The Daily Iowan

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Kilo plays guitar near his camp on Sept. 23, 2023. At the time, Kilo was living within the southside encampment located off the Iowa River. "I never expected to be homeless in Iowa City," Kilo said.

A CITY WITHIN: AN INSIDE LOOK AT HOMELESSNESS

A Daily Iowan photojournalist followed several unhoused lowa City residents over the course of five months.



Jordan Barry | The Daily Iowan

Jessie looks back toward her camp in the early evening on Sept. 22, 2023. Jessie hails from Georgia and said she faced trauma in her upbringing there.

Jordan Barry Photojournalist jordan-barry@uiowa.edu

Editor's note: Jordan Barry is a Daily Iowan photojournalist from the Iowa City area and a University of Iowa student double majoring in anthropology and journalism and mass communications. Barry spent five months following a community of local individuals experiencing homelessness and documented their stories. The piece is written in a first-person perspective to provide a more intimate understanding of the individuals who were followed.

For the safety of the individuals discussed, The Daily Iowan has agreed to the sources' request to only be referred to by their

Just south of Highway 6 near South Gilbert Street in Iowa City, along a wooded embankment abutting the Iowa River, a makeshift community for local unhoused individuals burst into flames in early October, bringing with it the attention of city law enforcement and media.

The property — dubbed "Tent City" or "River Camp" by some of those who lived there — is owned by the Iowa City Municipal Airport Commission who have since evicted over a dozen people residing on the land. Airport officials are working with Shelter House to provide resources for the individuals displaced by the fire.

I visited the camp for about a month and a half before the fire, during which time I became acquainted with a number of the individuals living there. \bar{I} was hesitant to photograph my first day at the encampment as I could sense the collective uneasiness surrounding my being there. But as weeks passed to months, the tension of my presence seemed to soften. Individuals opened up to me about their lives and in doing so opened up a part of Iowa City that I had never known. I encountered new perspectives during the project while talking and spending time with people who are unhoused, which I found to be extremely rewarding. I was motivated by the resilience of Iowa City's most marginalized residents, proof that hope persists in some of the darkest places.

On the day of the fire, I was one of the first journalists at the camp. Having been there multiple times before, I was concerned for the well-being of the people who considered this small stretch of land their home. I'm not suggesting other journalists were not equally troubled, but I was struck

UNHOUSED | 3A



UI health experts push education on Narcan administration

University of Iowa health specialists are working to increase access to the naloxone drug for use in Iowa schools.

NEWS | 2A

ONLINE

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Resources on the chopping block

Federal data shows people experiencing homelessness in lowa is rising.

Roxy Ekberg Politics Reporter roxy-ekberg@uiowa.edu

Advocates for Iowans experiencing homelessness say recent and proposed state policies that would reduce resources available for unhoused people threaten the growing population.

Amid an increase in people experiencing homelessness in Iowa, Gov. Kim Reynolds' plan would eliminate state boards and commissions, including the Iowa Council on Homelessness. While Reynolds claims the cuts will make state government more efficient and effective, critics question if the decision will reduce resources for the unhoused.

After previous legislation barred cities' restrictions on source-of-income discrimination — allowing landlords to reject tenants using vouchers - some critics worry the reorganization plan would decrease support for an already vulnerable population.



Reynolds

Reynolds' plan to reduce the size of government will eliminate 111 of Iowa's 256 boards for a 43 percent decrease. The majority of the boards and commissions will be absorbed by other boards or have their powers delegated to state agencies. But 39 will be entirely eliminated, including the homelessness council.

Depending on the pace of the legislation, David Hagen, a member of the Iowa Council on Homelessness, said the council recognizes it



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

Lawmakers sit in the house chamber during the first day of the 2024 lowa legislative session at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines on Jan. 8.

may dissolve in July because of the elimination of the board by the legislature.

State and national data show a current increase

in people experiencing homelessness. The annual Point in Time report conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development revealed 2,653 unhoused individuals on a single given night in 2023 in Iowa, which is the highest number recorded in the report since 2018. **HUD's Annual Homeless Assessment Report** showed a 12 percent increase in homelessness

nationally in 2023 — the highest number of people

COMMISSIONS | 2A

UI health experts push education on Narcan dose administration

The specialists are working to up access to Narcan in Iowa K-12 schools.

Shreya Reddy

News Reporter shreya-s-reddy@uiowa.edu

A University of Iowa professor and UI Hospitals and Clinics pharmacy specialist are working to increase educational training and access to Narcan after hearing concerns from teachers in Iowa schools.





nurses and other

staff members have

Ben Miskle, a

Wood

been trained on how to identify an overdose and how to administer naloxone

"We are training them to provide them with that information, knowledge, and education but also to destigmatize substance use disorders and understand that this can affect everybody, Miskle said.

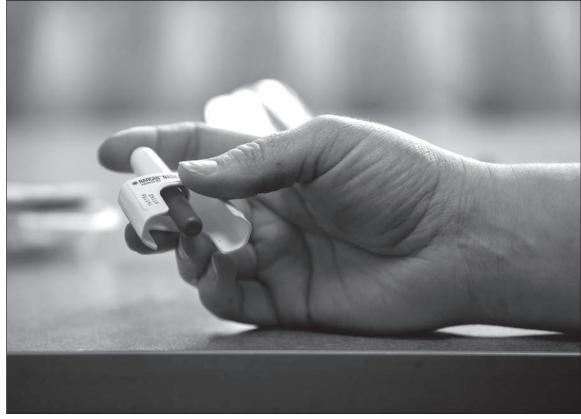
Naloxone has been distributed to the Iowa City Community School District and the Clear Creek Amana School District after Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds passed a bill in June 2022, allowing naloxone to be administered by schools and school nurses when an opioid overdose occurs on school grounds.

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services is funding this supply of naloxone in schools, Wood said.

Fatal opioid overdoses continue to plague individuals both in Iowa and across the country.

Naloxone, more commonly known by its primary delivery method, Narcan, is one solution to the problem.

Miskle said naloxone is used when someone has been exposed to a large amount of opioids to the point of overdose. The treatment, which can be administered through the nose or via muscle injection, works to reverse that overdose and comes in a variety of different forms.



Sahithi Shankaiahgari | The Daily Iowan

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist Heidi Wood holds Narcan naloxone nasal spray at the Medical Education Building in Iowa City on Jan. 24. This project is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the University of Iowa's College of Pharmacy. Wood, along with other pharmacists at the university, say an increase in Narcan will be a positive for the community. "I want this to be flowing like water," Wood said.

[naloxone] because even if it is not due to opioids, it does not cause them harm," Wood said.

Naloxone Iowa, a program through the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, is providing a free supply not only to school districts but also to nonprofit organizations and businesses.

This helps the school districts a lot in that they are not having to come up with the money to have these vast supplies," Wood said.

Naloxone is \$45 without certain forms of insurance when purchased over the counter at a pharmacy, Wood said.

Wood said nurses and staff members are not the only ones being trained to administer the medication; school administrators and any other individuals within the school who want to be trained.

Naloxone is always administered by a bystander, never by the person having the overdose giving it to themselves, and it is so simple," Wood said.



Sahithi Shankaiahgari | The Daily Iowan

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist Heidi Wood points to Narcan naloxone nasal spray at the Medical Education Building in Iowa City on Jan. 24. This project is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the University of Iowa's College of Pharmacy.

Think of it as a fire extinguisher — you really don't think you are going to use it, but you are not going to not have one."

> **Heidi Wood** Clinical pharmacy specialist

like any other nasal spray," he said.

not recover within two to three minutes, a second dose can be administered in the second nostril

"At the time, you may not know if someone has overdosed from an opioid or a different drug or substance, but you should administer

reported as experiencing homelessness on a sin-

Data for the 2024 Point in Time report began

Hagen said in an email to The Daily Iowan that

in the months leading up to the state legislators' decision, members of the council will explore con-

tingency plans to continue statewide advocacy of

He described Johnson County's Shelter House

as a "star." Located in Iowa City on 429 Southgate

Ave., Shelter House provides eviction prevention,

emergency shelter, and rehousing services for

for Shelter House, said legislation such as the

removal of protections for those using hous-

ing vouchers and the upcoming elimination

of the Iowa Council on Homelessness would

Christine Hayes, director of development

its collection process on Jan. 25. Results will be

gle night since reporting began in 2007.

made available later in the year.

people facing homelessness.

COMMISSIONS

homeless concerns.

from 1A

Wood said naloxone can be placed anywhere within the school, particularly in the AED, making it accessible to the point where even a child could

"Think of it as a fire extinguisher you really don't think you are going to use it, but you are not

The goal, Miskle said, is to get naloxone into as many school districts statewide as possible.

"The big thing here is that it is state needs access to equitable accessible and on hand. The goal is health care," Miskle said. to never have to use it, but it is bet-

ter to have it and not use it, than not have it at all," Miskle said. The stigma of substance use disorders, Miskle said, is very high, and having naloxone implemented in schools is a way to

break down that stigma and help educate a large group of people. Access to rural health care plays a large role in this as well. Miskle

said rural access is a barrier and the fastest-growing overdose counties in the state are rural counties like those in Iowa. According to the Iowa Depart-

ment of Health and Human Services, there were 258 opioid-related deaths in 2021 and 237 in 2022.

"That is why we are focusing on the entire state because the entire

Wood said sometimes people will say they don't know of anyone who might be at risk of overdosing, but that they probably do.

'If you were to come across somebody having a medical emergency such as an overdose, you would be able to save a life,' Wood said. "You would be able to

make an impact." Miskle said to provide care and help to people in need, substance abuse disorders need to be thought of as a real disease much like that of high blood pressure.

"We need to think of it as a very common disease that a lot of people experience," Miskle said. "You have the potential to save a life with Naloxone, and I think it should be in everybody's first aid kit.'

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Newsroom 319-335-6030 daily-iowan@uiowa.edu

The Daily Iowan strives for accuracy and fairness in reporting news. If we've made an error or a report is misleading, let us know about it: daily-iowan@uiowa.edu.

STAFF

Publisher

Jason Brummond jason-brummond@uiowa.edu 319-335-5788

Executive Editor Sabine Martin sabine-martin@uiowa.edu 319-335-6030

Managing Editor Parker Jones parker-jones@uiowa.edu

Managing Editor, Digital Jami Martin-Trainor jami-martin-trainor@uiowa.edu

Managing Editor, **Enterprise and Design** Marandah Mangra-Dutcher marandah-mangra-dutcher@ uiowa.edu

Managing Editor, Visuals Ayrton Breckenridge ayrton-breckenridge@uiowa.edu

Politics Editor Liam Halawith liam-halawith@uiowa.edu

News Editor Alejandro Rojas alejandro-rojas@uiowa.edu

Asst. News Editor Jack Moore jack-moore@uiowa.edu

Sports Editor Kenna Roering mckenna-roering@uiowa.edu **Asst. Sports Editor**

Colin Votzmeyer colin-votzmeyer@uiowa.edu **Arts Editor**

Avi Lapchick olivia-lapchick@uiowa.edu Asst. Arts Editor

Charlie Hickman charlie-hickman@uiowa.edu **Opinions Editor**

Evan Weidl evan-weidl@uiowa.edu **Visuals Editors**

Emily Nyberg emily-e-nyberg@uiowa.edu Cody Blissett

cody-blissett@uiowa.edu

Asst. Digital Editor Natalie Dunlap natalie-dunlap@uiowa.edu

DEI Director Christie Cellman

DITV News Director Ashley Weil ashley-weil@uiowa.edu

DITV Asst. News Director Johnny Valtman johnny-valtman@uiowa.edu

DITV Sports Director Michael Merrick michael-j-merrick@uiowa.edu

DITV Tech Director Carson Ramirez carson-ramirez@uiowa.edu

BUSINESS STAFF

Business Manager Debra Plath debra-plath@uiowa.edu 319-335-5786

Advertising Director/ Circulation Manager Juli Krause juli-krause@uiowa.edu 319-335-5784

Production Manager Heidi Owen heidi-owen@uiowa.edu

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"It is as simple as using Flonase one spray into the nostril — just

Wood said if someone does to reverse the overdose.

administer the medication.

going to not have one," Wood said.

SHELTER HOUSE IOWA CITY RESOURCE ESTIMATES

INDIVIDUALS IN IOWA CITY



During the winter, there are 10-15 individuals living unhoused and unsheltered.



During the summer, there are **55-80** individuals living unhoused and unsheltered.

BEDS IN IOWA CITY There are 40 beds in the

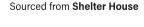
winter shelter.



There are 70+ beds at the Shelter House's emergency shelter.



Currently, Shelter House is at capacity with 30-50 waitlisted.



form of harm," Hayes said. "If people don't know what's happening, they can't work to fix it.'

The emergency shelter that Shelter House operates has 70 beds for occupants and allows an extra 30 people during the winter months. Hayes said the winter shelter was full for the first time on its opening night in the first week of December and has been full ever since.

Sam Brooks, street outreach and engagement specialist at Shelter House, works odd hours to seek out individuals who may need the shelter's services. Brooks said almost all of the people at the largest homeless camp in Iowa City rely on housing services, including federal housing vouchers.

Reynolds signed a law in 2021 barring cities from adopting ordinances that prevented landlords from denying housing to individuals and families using housing vouchers. Hayes said the legislation prioritizes an ability to make a profit over an individual's ability to live life with their

The law voided Iowa City's existing ordi-

nances on Jan. 1, 2023. Hayes said the law has unequivocally impacted the people of Iowa City and caused an increase in the shelter's population.

Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher | The Daily Iowan

Hayes described the legislation as "decidedly wrongheaded" as a voucher is a guaranteed source of income.

"It is hard to see this as anything but discriminatory legislation when every individual with a voucher in hand is guaranteed to be able to pay their rent," Hayes said. "There's no way to make sense of it other than the fact that it is permitting income-based discrimination.' Brooks said homelessness is an issue that the

entire community is responsible for and should be held accountable for.

"This is not an individual problem. This isn't a problem based on anything that has to do with this person, beyond these larger institutional barriers, and to accept that guilt, essentially, is really hard," Brooks said. "It's not comfortable to feel like you've let your neighbor stay in the cold.'

would result in a significant loss of advocacy and education. She said the community would lose the voice of the people who work directly in the

Hayes said the elimination of the council

system that helps unhoused individuals and the ability to inform policy discussions. "Even if on the most basic level, it was simply

the fact of ignorance, that ignorance is its own

"If people don't know what's happening, they can't work to fix it."

Christine Hayes Director of development for Shelter House

UNHOUSED

by those in my profession who appeared to only focus on the problem of a fire caused by the carelessness of people experiencing homelessness.

From the beginning, I wanted to be a different kind of journalist. I wanted to build relationships with people and help tell honest and holistic stories. Before I started the project, I didn't personally know a single homeless person. That changed in the five months I spent covering this story. For one thing, I met a young man who said he had attended Iowa City High School. Meeting him was certainly a profound moment for me. Our common backgrounds in the Iowa City area struck an emotional chord, and amplified my sense of commitment to cover this group fairly and without bias. Today I feel fortunate to have a different perspective on Iowa City and its people. Through this experience, I have found myself more empathetic towards those facing extreme challenges, which in this case are often out of their control. The diversity of stories I heard was both captivating and extremely personal.

During my time working on this piece, I came to know several individuals, including Kilo, Ashley, and Stykx. I didn't know where to start contacting people initially, but after talking to a woman named Liz and a man named John, both of whom were sleeping on the sidewalk on a corner near the restaurant Uncle Sun, they told me to look along the Iowa River near Highway 6 and the Benton Street Bridge. I had biked along the Iowa City River Trail multiple times, which goes through that area, but I never explored it on foot. One day in September, I hopped on my bicycle and headed in that direction. The following stories concern some of those I came to know best.

KILO AND ASHLEY

Kilo and Ashley are a couple who are both in their 30s. I remember their hesitancy in speaking with me when I initially met them, but they opened up after learning I intended to simply understand their daily life. They met late last summer and started to live together in "Tent City," but when I first met them they were in the process of moving to a different camp.

On one overcast September day in particular, I recall cans of fruit perched on a foldable table next to an assortment of other camping items. I met the couple in a wooded area beyond the railroad tracks near the Iowa River, the location of their future camp. A once vibrant towel danced on a clothesline and floor mats laid on the ground as a makeshift carpet of sorts. I met a woman named Sam who had been spending her nights with Kilo and Ashley since her tent had burned down — a separate incident from the October fire — which had destroyed many of her possessions. She had previously had a relationship with Ashley's brother Ryan, but as they told me, Ryan had recently gone missing. They feared for his safety and I could see it in their eyes. Weeks later they discovered Ryan had been in Coralville. After that interaction, I realized the community Kilo and Ashley shared meant a great deal to

Later that day, I followed them to the Iowa City Walmart. Bags of cans jangled precariously in hand as Sam, Kilo, and Ashley biked through car lots and car dealerships along Highway 6. I spent some time with Sam at Walmart as she turned in cans and bottles for nickels, dimes, and quarters. She told me about her life growing up poor in Nebraska. Sam's hands were dirty, her fingers calloused and nails long.

Cars sped past Highway 6 in dangerous proximity as the trio pedaled past the Iowa City Municipal Airport and then crossed

"We all thought we could throw ourselves away and it didn't work like that and life goes on."

Ashley

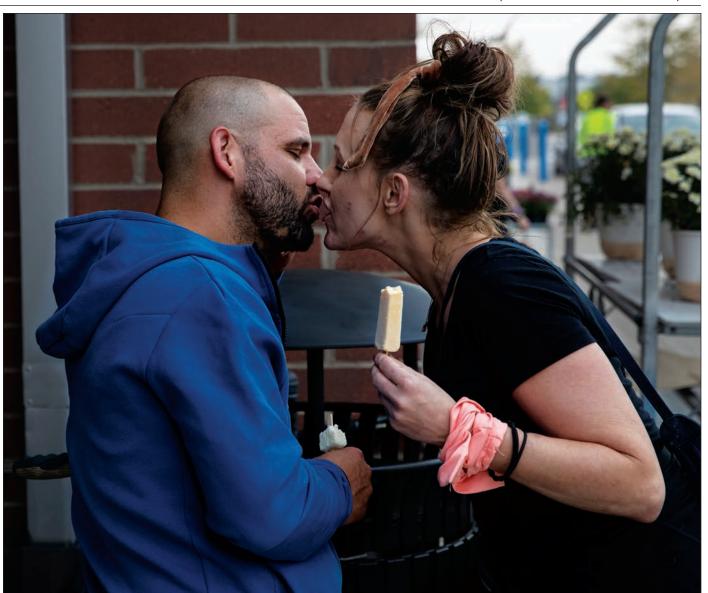
Iowa City unhoused individual

the river. They made their way along the east side of the river before emerging out of the trees onto "Tent City" - the sprawling encampment of over a dozen or so individuals all living in intricately designed or personally modified shelters. Clothes, bike parts, and a host of other collected items were strewn across the grass and bridged the gap between tents. Ashley offered melting popsicles she had bought at Walmart to people as they emerged from their tents. The community was tight-knit, but I quickly learned communal sharing was defined differently by individuals, and sometimes disputes would erupt into altercations. Kilo and Ashley informed me they planned one day soon to move upriver, away from "Tent City". They said addiction, trauma, and mental health problems often create a landscape of social volatility in the encampment, which made them feel uncomfortable.

As a slight breeze ushered the warm day into a cool evening, I noticed a pair of joggers on the trail abutting the camp stop and look. There were trees along the encampment, but not enough to hide the various tents from prying eyes. It seemed the separation between the trail and encampment was not just physical but also an invisible disconnect between the housed and unhoused of Iowa City.

As I returned to visit Kilo and Ashley over the following weeks and months, they became increasingly more open with me. I could see their relationship was strong but also observed that it was undoubtedly intertwined with the realities of addiction. They explained that despite their drug dependence, it was a comfort to have each other rather than be alone.

When I asked what they would want people to know about them, Kilo said, "I would want people to know that I'm sorry. And I really don't care about how people look at



Jordan Barry | The Daily Iowan

Kilo and Ashley share a kiss outside Walmart in Iowa City on Sept. 19, 2023. Kilo and Ashley have been together since last summer. "We all thought we could throw ourselves away and it didn't work like that and life goes on," Ashley said.

me but I care about my family and if there is something that I would want people to know what's going on here, it's that I am a sorry person ... A humbled sorry person that's hurt. A lot of people who use meth and are hurt will come out in anger real quick. But if people really knew like in the inside of me, we are f***ing hurt — like, we are damaged. And if they knew how deep of a pit of a dark hole that we found ourselves in, I feel like they would feel sorry, too, and not just write it off as just a junkie or a liar, cheater, thief — whatever, like a lot of us are just hurting. The drug makes us feel better."

"If there is something that I would want people to know what's going on here it's that I am a sorry person."

Kilo

Iowa City unhoused individual

This fall, Kilo and Ashley's camp moved three times, and I would often find they moved to a new spot when going to see them. Their camp was in a state of continuous precarity moving up and down the banks of the Iowa River. Snow now covered the ground one December afternoon as I visited their camp. Bald eagles watched from their perch on a tree branch above as I entered the assemblage of tent and tarp, which measured roughly ten square feet of livable space. Christmas lights, powered by a generator, illuminated an entranceway where salvaged artwork was posted to the inside walls. Below the artwork, nonperishable food items were stacked neatly next to a small electric toaster. A propane tank equipped with a heater stood next to the bed. A large poster of the Hindu God Vishnu hung on the side of the tent as well as a poster of a tweet from Kanye West that read, "How to NOT kill yourself pt. 1, Avoid being around people who want to kill yourself."

STYKX

When I met Stykx, 51, he was immediately open with me about his experiences; I can remember the moment clearly. The tall, statured man laid on his side on a blank mattress with half a cigarette dangling from his mouth. His hair, dyed purple, was fading back to brown. The midday light pierced through the trees, highlighting a motley selection of possessions: loose-leaf tobacco, a dark torn sweatshirt, a backpack, and a dirty syringe. Stykx told me about his life in Clinton, Iowa; how his daughter was taken by the DHS, and how battles with a subsequent heroin addiction almost took his life on multiple occasions. I saw the fatigue in his face, but in his eyes remained a sense of energetic youthfulness.

"I feel my eyes are open to other people, I see that a lot of people's eyes are closed and I get it from people who have homes ... I get looking at homeless people ... even acknowledging us is a difficult thing for them — it's frightening," Stykx said. "They don't wanna see it as a possible for themselves, so it's easier for them not to acknowledge, not to see.

Stykx changed camps often. Weeks went by when I would not see him. I once found him living behind the Hy-Vee on 1st Avenue in a wooded area. He was under the cover of a large red and white striped beach umbrella. Stykx walked with a noticeable limp; he told me how a bar bouncer had broken his femur several years ago in Clinton, and due to not being able to afford a hip replacement, his left leg was shorter than his right. But Stykx chose to remain positive. He claimed that his disability made him faster while riding his bicycle — which from my observations sure seemed like it might. With astonishing elegance and pace, he zigzagged through streets and empty car lots atop his modified Peugeot road bike.

It was late in the day at Stykx's current camp as he lay cocooned in a hammock, his head tilted toward the sky. He held an arm out and let it sway below him. His forearm displayed a fading tattoo of a yin-yang design a friend had drawn for him. Further down, rusted bracelets and rings appeared to constrict the blood flow to his multicolored painted fingernails. When I asked him about whether he would consider moving into a shelter he shook his head with a smile.

"I like playing Peter Pan," he said. "I could be a pirate for a long time."

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The last time I saw Kilo and Ashley was on Jan. 25 in their tent. It was raining and the snow was beginning to turn into slush and salt. During the sub-zero temperatures in Iowa City, they were fortunate enough to stay at a friend's house instead of going to the winter shelter like many others. Kilo "They don't wanna see it as a possiblity for themselves, so it's easier for them not to acknowledge, not to see."

Stykx Iowa City unhoused individual

and Ashley return to their camp periodi-

cally when the weather permits. However, at that moment, their faces illuminated purple from lights powered by the recently restarted outside generator shone brightly in the surrounding damp. We were happy to see each other. They acknowl-

edged their future remains uncertain. I met up with Stykx again at Shelter House by coincidence on the same day. Stykx looked to be in good spirits despite the dismal weather and seemed optimistic about his current living situation. He admitted that during the past winter storms this month he had moved into Iowa City's winter shelter for a week or so, but had since moved out.

As I learned during a call with Christine Hayes, director of development at Shelter House, over a dozen individuals were displaced by an eviction at the encampment. Most have housing case managers but still have been unsuccessful in finding housing in the private marketplace.

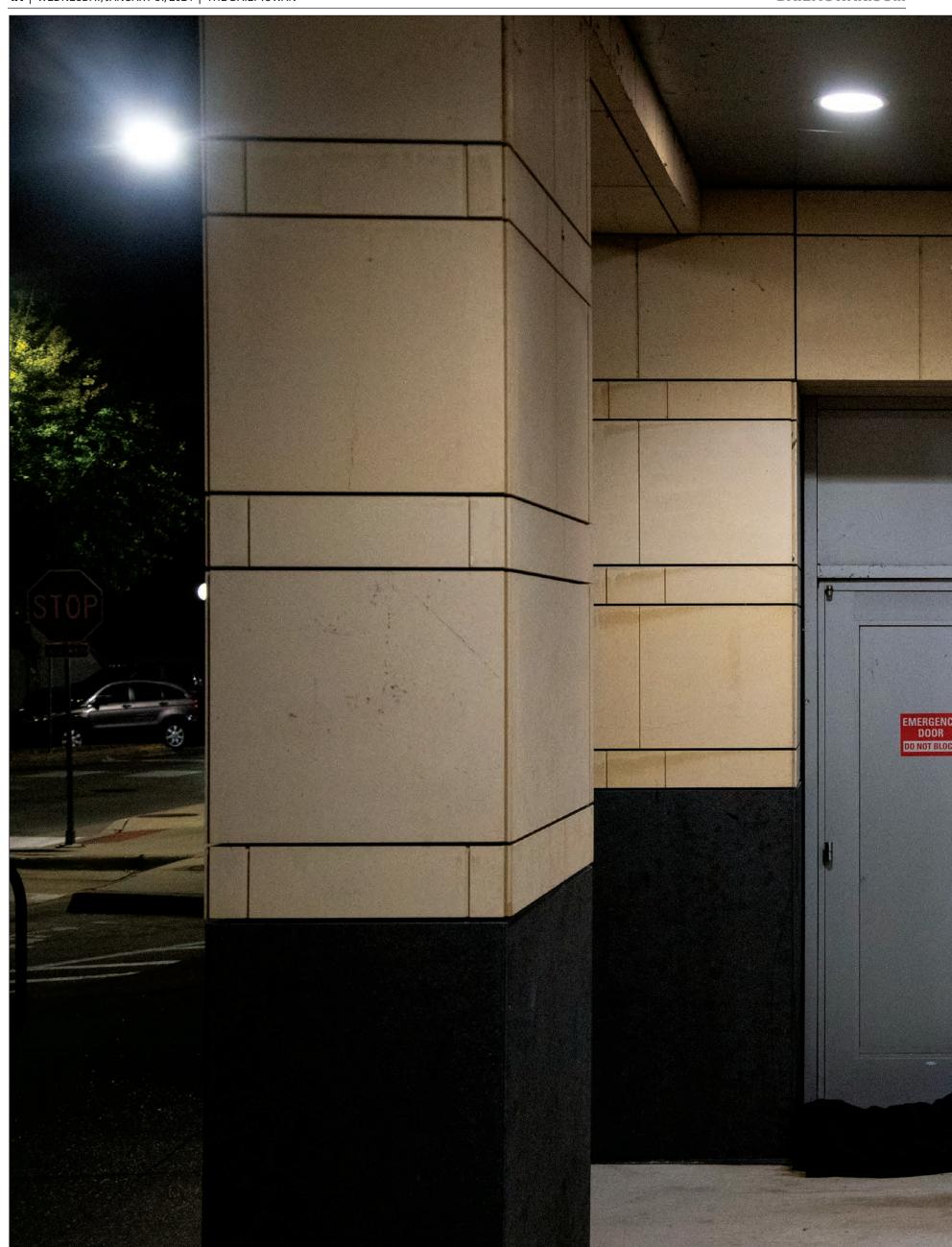
When I returned to the airport's land where the encampment used to be last week, I found it almost unrecognizable. Snow drifted into large embankments from the wind now free from the barriers of trees. The emptiness sat with me, and I stopped to reflect on the experiences I had during

the project. I recalled a quote from Stykx; "I love my life, even the hard days are a blessing too .. and it's not the meth thing, it's the life thing, we're living each moment, each minute, having our adventures and our good and bad times. I think the good times we are experiencing more deeply because the hard times, because of freezing out here, because of the moments when we are just miserable, when we have a good moment it's just f^{***} ing amazing," he chuckled to himself. "You know I've got this girl ... and I'm head over heels for her and I'm willing to just love her and be open with her and not hide from it the way I would've in the past. There is a lot of joy to be had when you got a lot of misery.'



Jordan Barry | The Daily Iowan

Stykx poses for a portrait near the Iowa River on Dec. 14, 2023. "I love my life, even the hard days are a blessing too." Stykx lived at this encampment, along with other individuals, known by them as "River Camp" or "Tent City." The encampment existed for at least 18 months before the eviction by the Iowa City Municipal Airport Commission around Dec. 29, 2023.







NATIONAL CONTEXT:

Between 2022-23, 41 states, including lowa, saw an increase in people experiencing homelessness.

> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

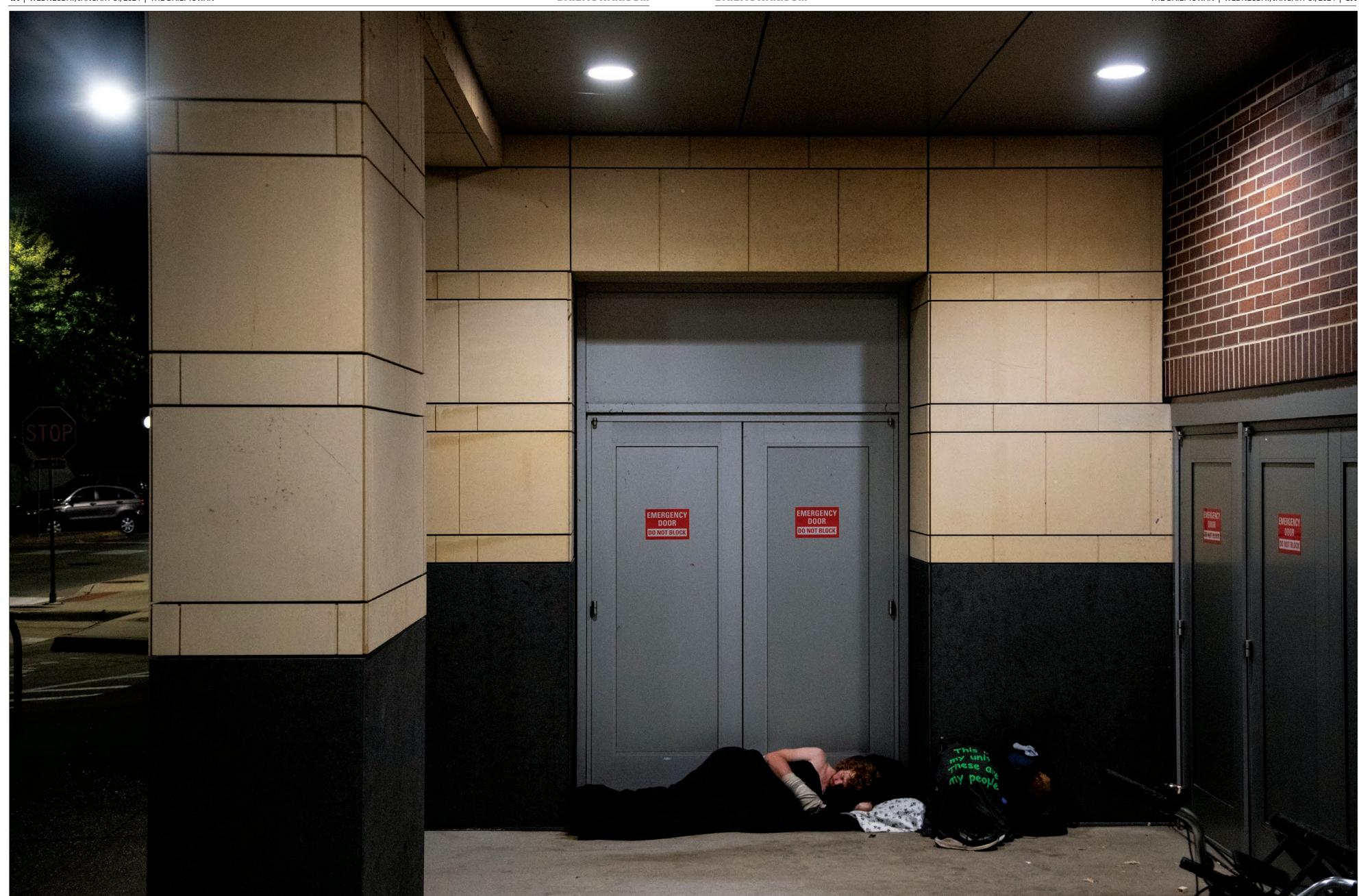
"We've long lost touch with our environment outside; We don't realize we have to coexist with it."

Michael Iowa City unhoused resident

IOWA CONTEXT:

In 2023, lowa reported the highest number of individuals experiencing homelessness since 2018, with 2,653 on a given night.

 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development









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Jordan Barry | The Daily Iowan

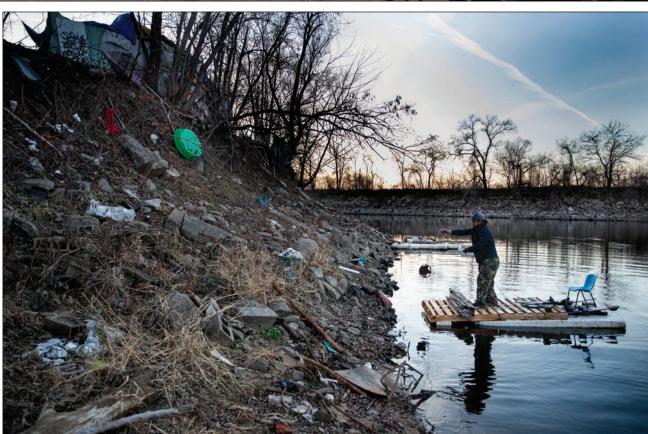
(Top) An individual sleeps on the ground outside the lowa City Public Library on Sept. 22, 2023. Shelter House estimates there are 55-80 individuals who live unsheltered and unhoused in the summer and 10-15 individuals in the winter. As fall and winter weather brings colder days to lowa City, individuals living outside can be put at risk. lowa City's homeless population must navigate a set of difficulties which includes food insecurity, exposure to the elements, and often personal traumas and/or addiction. Despite the hardship, individuals have become increasingly resourceful and have built community-like networks as well as intricate encampments. (Far left) Kilo looks through a gap in his tent to the outside on Nov. 15, 2023. "I don't like dope man. I do not like the fact that I don't talk to my mom or my brother as much as I should — that I'm not in my nieces life, like he [my brother] just had his first kid. It sucks ... when we do it, when we get high, a lot of times I don't enjoy it, I don't enjoy helping her [Ashley] because I know its f***ked up. And I can put my mind in that frame of understanding like damn, what we're doing ain't good for us — and I love you [Ashley] and I want you to get well, but it's how we met ... it's who we are now," Kilo said. (Middle) Ashley, Sam, and Kilo search for evidence of Ashley's brother, Ryan, on the south side of lowa City along the river on Sept. 22, 2023. Ryan disappeared and they had feared for his safety. "We see amid like all of the bullshit some really sweet f***ing acts of service from one to another," Ashley said. They later discovered Ryan had been in Coralville. (Far right) Michael looks for a hatchet he lost in a body of water near an encampment on Dec. 6, 2023. "We've long lost touch with our environment outside; we don't realize we have to coexist with it." The encampment known by individuals who lived there as "River Camp" or "Tent City" existed for at least 18 months before the eviction by the lowa City Municipal Airport Commission around Dec. 29, 2023.

See more online:

View more of *The Daily Iowan's* coverage from the A city within: An inside look at homelessness project at **dailyiowan.com**.





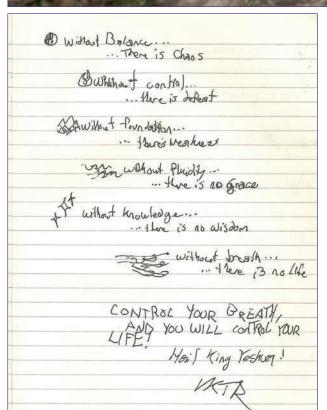


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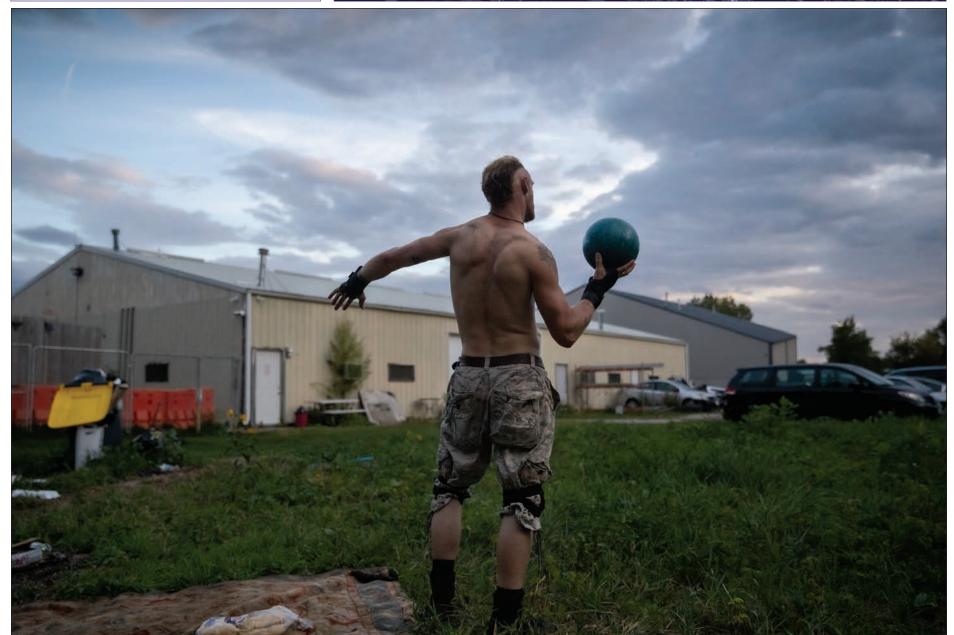
(Top) An individual sleeps on the ground outside the lowa City Public Library on Sept. 22, 2023. Shelter House estimates there are 55-80 individuals who live unsheltered and unhoused in the summer and 10-15 individuals in the winter. As fall and winter weather brings colder days to lowa City, individuals living outside can be put at risk. lowa City's homeless population must navigate a set of difficulties which includes food insecurity, exposure to the elements, and often personal traumas and/or addiction. Despite the hardship, individuals have become increasingly resourceful and have built community-like networks as well as intricate encampments. (Far left) Kilo looks through a gap in his tent to the outside on Nov. 15, 2023. "I don't like dope man. I do not like the fact that I don't talk to my mom or my brother as much as I should — that I'm not in my nieces life, like he [my brother] just had his first kid. It sucks ... when we do it, when we get high, a lot of times I don't enjoy it, I don't enjoy helping her [Ashley] because I know its f***ked up. And I can put my mind in that frame of understanding like damn, what we're doing ain't good for us — and I love you [Ashley] and I want you to get well, but it's who we are now," Kilo said. (Middle) Ashley, Sam, and Kilo search for evidence of Ashley's brother, Ryan, on the south side of lowa City along the river on Sept. 22, 2023. Ryan disappeared and they had feared for his safety. "We see amid like all of the bullshit some really sweet f***ing acts of service from one to another," Ashley said. They later discovered Ryan had been in Coralville. (Far right) Michael looks for a hatchet he lost in a body of water near an encampment on Dec. 6, 2023. "We've long lost touch with our environment outside; we don't realize we have to coexist with it." The encampment known by individuals who lived there as "River Camp" or "Tent City" existed for at least 18 months before the eviction by the Iowa City Municipal Airport Commission around Dec. 29, 2023.

See more online:









Jordan Barry | The Daily Iowan

(Top) Michael lies among his possessions after a fire at the encampment on land owned by the Iowa Municipal Airport on Oct. 4, 2023. The fire destroyed many of his material items. "The whole walls thing, I feel anxious the whole time. I've been doing it for so long [living outside] that it is the only thing I can really think of," Michael said. (Top middle left) Viktor, an individual who frequents lowa City Southside encampments, wrote the above writing sample after being asked to write his name. (Top middle right) Michael searches for any usable materials in the aftermath of an encampment fire which destroyed many of his possessions on Oct. 4, 2023. "I kinda think they [The Iowa City Municipal Airport] were hoping we would just leave ... It seems just unneccesary [the eviction] to me because again, like I said we're just gonna move," Michael said. (Middle) Viktor prepares to toss a bowling ball near his camp around dusk on Sept. 25, 2023. Viktor is one of several individuals who live sporadically in unhoused encampments on Iowa City's southside. "You have to know someone's language to speak to them," Viktor said. (Bottom left) The sun sets over the lowa River near one of the encampments, seen on Sept. 25, 2023. The encampment known by individuals who lived there as "River Camp" or "Tent City" existed for at least 18 months before the eviction by the Iowa City Municipal Airport Commission around Dec. 29, 2023.

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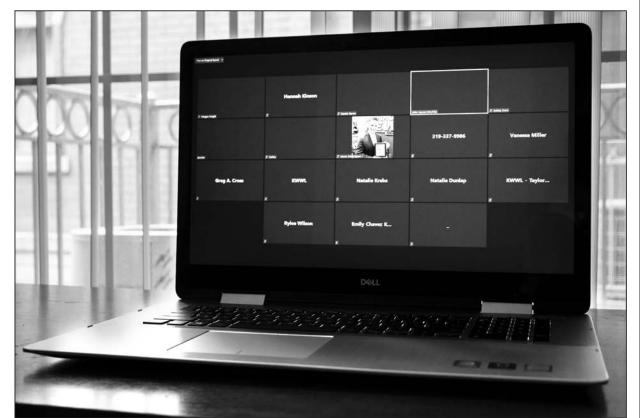
OPINIONS

DAILYIOWAN.COM

COLUMN

Generation Z needs help to overcome 'pandemic skip'

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a learning lag among students who missed time in school.



Hannah Kinson | The Daily Iowan

UI graduate instructors John Jespen (Department of History) and Kassie Baron (Department of English), and associate professor Megan Knight (Department of Rhetoric) discuss why they will only teach online classes in the upcoming semester during a press conference over Zoom on Aug. 4, 2020. They say returning to campus is a health risk for students and faculty, as well as members of the community.



Kennedy Lein Opinions Contributor

I may be about to graduate college, but the drastic effects of the pandemic have left me feeling like I am still 17 years old.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a widespread, uneasy feeling of lost time despite almost three years having gone by. Experts have labeled this feeling the "pandemic skip," and it especially affected young people who were in the most

formative years of their lives when the pandemic struck.

According to the *New York Post*, "Nova Cobban, a psy-

I missed out on junior prom and the first half of my senior year. I never got to tour college campuses and pick my favorite one. Now, I have two semesters left of college, and it still feels like I just graduated high school. It is terrifying.

chologist in the UK, describes the 'pandemic skip' as the sense that we missed out on growth milestones and opportunities that would have occurred during the years the world

The pandemic skip is a real phenomenon that affects many people deeper than they may realize. The lack of awareness around this topic is a problem and leaves those who felt lost and confused after the pandemic still lost and confused.

Cobban told The Post that people's sense of passing time during the pandemic was lost. *The Post* quotes Cobban, saying, "Days would often pass without any new stimulus, significant change, or progress. It altered our perception of

how much time was passing." Although many days felt like an illusion to some, the pandemic was three years long, so once it was over, no one wanted to discuss the effects or the often-posed "What do we do now?" question. Instead, they moved away from COVID and didn't discuss the possible developmental or mental health problems it created.

The pandemic skip is especially problematic for the younger generation and developing minds.

Think about how important experiencing graduation or college visits are to our lives. Or prom, or the first year of college. When we miss out on certain moments that shape who we are and what we remember most in life, we are left feeling like something is missing or possibly still waiting for it to happen.

I know I feel this. I missed out on junior prom and the first half of my senior year. I never even got to tour college campuses and pick my favorite one. Now, I have two semesters left of college, and it still feels like I just graduated high school. It is terrifying.

Yamalis Diaz, a psychologist at NYU Langone Health, says this is a major delay in development for younger generations. She told FOX, "Young adults in particular may feel this impact when it comes to completing education, making career decisions, dating, establishing long-term relationships and becoming financially independent.'

This delayed development will only continue and worsen if never addressed to the extent it needs to be. This is a problem that needs to be talked about in therapy, schools, and on the news. It is important, especially for the children that went through it.

According to KFF, 50 percent of young adults ages 18 to 24 reported anxiety and depression symptoms in 2023, making them even more likely than older adults to experience symp toms of mental illness.

Discussing this topic on a wider scale may help or encourage people, especially the younger generations, to get help. It will make them feel as if they are not alone. Then maybe, collectively, we can finally move on.

COLUMN

Seasonal depression is not the same as 'winter blues'

Seasonal sadness is often overlooked, but could be a sign of SAD in some cases.



Shelley Mishra Opinions Contributor

When the much-awaited winter break approaches, students usually anticipate catching up on sleep or binge-watching their favorite shows after a semester loaded with assignments, projects, and exams.

Sometimes, however, neither sleep nor TV can help people relax or escape stressful schedules. Every day, when we wake up and look at the gloomy weather, a sense of sadness begins to take over.

Some of us notice this pattern every year. Winter, with a lack of sunshine, makes us dreary. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, sadness accompanied by symptoms such as oversleeping, changes in appetite, and social isolation for at least two consecutive years, may be signs of Seasonal Affective Disorder,

Although symptoms may be noticed by those who experience SAD, it is often dismissed as a "normal" seasonal cycle. We must clear all misconceptions about SAD, because "misrepresenting" any mental illness is dangerous.

As per John Hopkins Medicine, SAD usually occurs in late fall through early winter. The symptoms of SAD include hypersomnia, or excessive sleeping, as well as anxiety, social withdrawal, fatigue, inability to focus, changes in appetite, and carbohydrate cravings that can lead to weight gain.

According to the American Psychiatric Association, SAD affects nearly 5 percent of the adult population in the U.S. The general population must be made cognizant of this disorder. The feelings of depression and anxiety that follow a seasonal cycle should not be dismissed; they require psychological intervention.

SAD especially affects college students because they endure the stress of living away from home in addition to pressure and adjustment to new academic and social environment. These stressors can help prepare them for the world-but at a cost. We can aid students in this transition by educating them about neglected mental health issues like SAD.

Mayo Clinic recommends devising a treatment plan, such as a visit to a therapist, before the onset of the SAD season. Treatment options also include light therapy, exposure to light brighter than indoor lights, which restores the brain's circadian rhythm and cognitive behavioral therapy.

There are also certain self-care options that help relieve symptoms, such as exercising, doing indoor or outdoor activities that one enjoys, and connecting with friends and family.

When those "winter blues" linger and seem to disrupt routine activities, they cannot be dismissed as a minor seasonal issue. More people should be educated on the symptoms so they can know when to seek appropriate treatment.

The general population must be made cognizant of this disorder. The feelings of depression and anxiety that follow a seasonal cycle should not be dismissed; they require psychological intervention.

DOC IS IN

How to utilize psychodermatology to its fullest extent

An up-and-coming field called psychodermatology explores how the health of your skin and mind are connected.

Will Moody **Guest Opinion**

When you're stressed, it shows. Your skin health and mindset might be more connected than you think

Unfortunately, this sounds like a familiar story for many university students. During a stressful time, you may have noticed that skin conditions like acne and eczema tend to act up. In the last 25 years, researchers have begun to learn more about a field they call psychodermatology, which is the study of the delicate interplay between your skin and your mind. In 2001, researchers wondered what was happening to

their students most important barrier to the environment: their skin. They studied 27 graduate students at times of higher and lower stress. The researchers measured the students' psychological stress and skin barrier permeability right after their return from winter break as a baseline for a low-stress time and then once again during a time of high stress, which, you guessed it, was during final exams. After a defined injury to the skin, the researchers showed that during times of higher perceived stress, the students' skin was slower to recover than during times of lower perceived stress.

Based on its findings, the research team proposed that students' stress could be a factor in initiating or worsening skin diseases. A complex interaction between your mind, immune system, and skin may help cause eczema sprinkled on your arm while writing that term paper.

Eczema prevention

We can't stop taking tests, and we can't magically make ourselves less stressed out ... or can we?

Earlier this year, researchers from Stanford compared mindfulness meditation techniques against controlled breathwork, and the results were surprising. Breathwork control was more effective at improving positive attitude and decreasing respiratory rate. The best method for improving mood was a breathing technique called cyclical sighing. Cyclical sighing involves breathing in through your nose slowly until your lungs feel relatively full and then inhaling again until it feels like your lungs are as full as possible. Then, slowly breathe out until your lungs are empty. Repeat this pattern for up to five minutes. This new twist on your oldest skill might be just the tool we have been looking for to decrease general stress and alleviate the skin issues that

At the end of the day, being a student is stressful. The most important thing you can do is start one daily practice, even if it is small, and stick to it. Remember to take a deep breath the next time you're gearing up for the big test. Your skin might even thank you for it.

Will Moody is a second-year Carver College of Medicine student at the University of Iowa.

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ETHICS POLITICS

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Education services could see overhaul

Proposed legislation raises concerns for services for children who have disabilities.



Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

Colleen Elin, a special education specialist at Northwest Junior High in Coralville works in her classroom on Jan. 26. Iowa's Area Education Agencies are facing sweeping reforms, reorganizations, and restrictions under new plans proposed by Gov. Kim Reynolds.

Natalie Miller Politics Reporter natalie-m-miller@uiowa.edu

Michelle Elgin doesn't know what she would have done without the services from the Grant Wood Area Education Agency in Cedar Rapids that her now-18-year-old son has relied on since he was six months old.

Elgin's son was diagnosed with cerebral palsy shortly after birth, a condition that affected his development and ability to move on his own. He started receiving care through Grant Wood long before he started school in the Benton Community School District in Van Horne, Iowa, just 29 miles west of Cedar Rapids. Physical, speech, and occupational therapists, as well as other providers, visited her home in Vinton, Iowa, once a week.



On the evening of Jan. 9, as Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds delivered her annual Condition of the State Address, Elgin tuned in to hear the education portion of her speech. Elgin ended the video in disappointment after Reynolds unveiled a

proposal that would curtail the services the agencies offer Iowa educators and families. Elgin stayed up until 1:30 a.m. that night, writing to her legislators urging them to not take up Reynolds' call to action.

Grant Wood AEA has provided Benton School District with the equipment that Elgin's son needs throughout his time there. This includes modified chairs and a bike so he can participate in physical education class. He communicates with others through his iPad, and providers from Grant Wood come into the school and educate teachers on the

"That was a godsend to have interventions before we had diagnoses ... before we knew what was going on," Elgin said.

During this time, her son received necessary and otherwise costly services from Grant Wood, as well as gracious cooperation between the agency and the school district.

Iowa's AEAs are facing sweeping reforms, reorganizations, and restrictions under the new plan Reynolds proposed. During her annual address, Reynolds said growing dissatisfaction with AEAs from some school district superintendents fueled her plan to limit the services

We are simply giving control of the funding to those who work directly with your child on a daily basis, and we're taking special education off autopilot, where it has been stuck for far too long," Reynolds said during her address. "Once again, let's drive transformational change and do what's right for our children. Being able to read is a key component to every child's success.

AEAs were established in Iowa in 1974 after the Iowa Legislature passed Senate File 1163. The state funneled the 99 county Boards of Education, one for each county, into 15 AEAs spread across Iowa. Today, Iowa has nine AEAs that support Iowa's 328 school districts. AEAs serve 72,672 students who have disabilities across the state.

AEAs provide support for digital resources, reading, math, and science curriculums for students who have disabilities. Nearly 80 percent of all state AEA budgets are dedicated to

While Reynolds and proponents of the legislation argue the reforms will hold AEAs accountable and promote competition and improvements, critics decry the proposal as an attack on AEAs that could jeopardize the services that many Iowans rely on.

Defining the proposed changes

Under Reynolds' proposal, services that families like the Elgins receive could be in jeopardy. The 124-page bill would alter the way AEAs receive funding, reorganize AEAs, limit AEAs to only providing education services for students who have disabilities, and create a new department at the Iowa Department of Education.

Reynolds said in a Jan. 18 news release that services like Early ACCESS, an early intervention system available for children with developmental needs from birth to age 3 years old, and Child Find, the AEAs' responsibility to ensure eligible children receive their services, will continue.

However, the amendments announced in the news release have yet to be filed.

AEAs are currently funded in a "flowthrough" method, where legislatively determined state funds and property tax dollars flow through school district budgets and then to their AEAs. Any funds generated by a school district specifically for AEAs are subtracted from what they would have received from the state, according to the AEA website.



Ryan Wise, dean of the Drake University School of **Education and Iowa Depart**ment of Education director from July 2015 to March 2020, said he appreciated the Iowa Legislature for continually wanting to improve but advised caution on how Iowa should attempt change.

Public outcry prompts Reynolds to reel back



Rep. Sharon Sue Steckman, D-Mason City, said she had never seen so much opposition to a bill as she's seen with the governor's proposal to revamp AEAs. She said her inbox has been flooded with opposition from AEA employees, as well as parents and kids who've

relied on them.

Steckman said Reynolds is seeing such a large backlash because "no one asked to have the governor dismantle our AEAs.

After hearing feedback from Iowans, Reynolds amended the draft legislation, which was leaked on Jan. 29, to allow AEAs to provide general education services if requested by the school district and approved by the Iowa Department of Education.

Republican House Speaker Pat Grassley told KCCI news on Jan. 19 the legislators are trying to find a solution to achieve better results for students who have disabilities to give more accountability to school districts for funding.

This gives the schools to be able to take that same level of money that existed the state and federal money and decide what is the best way for us to deliver those services for whatever school district they are," he said.

AEAs 'blindsided' by proposal

John Speer, the chief administrator of the Grant Wood AEA, said AEAs were given no prior indications that Reynolds would be introducing a bill to reform the agencies.

"It was a full-blown overhaul of a system that has served families and schools really well over the long haul ... It's economical,

superintendents.



it's efficient, it's equitable," Speer said. "We would think you'd be hard-pressed to find a system that would do those things as well.'

Speer said the agencies have heard interest in exploring ways to improve the systems, but the Iowa AEAs never expected a bill of this mag-

'We're about getting better every day,' Speer said. "We would have been full partners in any effort to look at what we do to try to make it stronger, but it was certainly

not that type of effort."

Wise said during his time as the director of the Iowa Department of Education, AEAs are always looking to improve the services they provide, making Wise skeptical as to what sparked the need for this legislation.

'In my experience in working with the AEAs, they are very much striving to improve their effectiveness, their efficiency, and their impact," Wise said. "I have not seen anything specific that would drive this chan

Grant Wood AEA provides services to Johnson County and six other surrounding counties — Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Jones, Linn, and Washington. Within these seven counties, Grant Wood AEA services 32 public school districts, as well as 15 state-accredited non-public schools, and 10 independent accredited non-public schools. The AEA provides education services to 9,823 students who have disabilities.

Plan could have a chilling effect on rural school budgets

Other critics fear Reynolds' plan will have chilling effects on school budgets, specifically small, rural districts.

Speer said every school district that currently uses AEA services would be affected by this reformation.

Iowa's AEAs purchased 29 online resources collectively for districts, and when buying those in bulk and bundling them together, it costs around \$126,000. If school districts were forced to purchase those resources themselves, the total amount would come out to be \$6 million when adding up the resources purchased

by every school district, Speer said. Speer said these resources are being heavily used as well. EBSCO is used as a research tool for students, and last year, students and staff of the Iowa City Community School District accessed this tool over 1 million times.

Wise said it would take time for districts to familiarize themselves with this new approach.

"I think it could pose some pretty significant challenges to schools, particularly rural schools in putting the burden on them to go and seek out services, to sift through potential providers," Wise said.

2003

What else does the bill do to AEAs in Iowa?

- Limits the number of Iowa AEAs to nine. The current code allows for 15.
- Eliminates the AEA chief administrator title, instead, referring to the position as AEA **Executive Director that reports** to the director of the lowa Department of Education.
- Makes current AEA's board of directors an advisory body that no longer exercises oversight. Instead, oversight for AEAs is moved to a newly formed Department of Special Education under the lowa Department of Education.
- The bill will terminate the employment of all chief AEA administrators on July 1, 2024, unless fired by the Director of the Iowa Department of Education before July.
- Gives state aid funding AEAs directly to Iowa school districts to pay the AEAs, contract with a different AEA, reinvest in their own Special Education staff, or contract privately.

Delocalizing AEA support

Speer, with Grant Wood AEA, does not believe having a centralized group in Des Moines attempting to visit districts periodically to deliver several services will do Iowans any good. Those services are better delivered locally, he said.

"We strive every day to improve teaching and learning and outcomes in Iowa. We have staff in every school district, in every building on a daily basis," Speer said. "They know families, they know parents, they know kids, they know school district personnel are a trusted source.



Zabner

State Rep. Adam Zabner, D-Iowa City, has experienced, through his older brother, the positive impacts of the services that Iowa's AEAs provide. He credits the agencies for helping his brother overcome a speech impediment from a young age.

"I think my big concern is making sure that the kids keep getting the services that they deserve and that they need,' Zabner said. "I really feel bad for these parents whose kids rely on these services, and they're really desperate to make sure that their kids continue to receive the services.

Elgin said people don't understand how expensive the services and equipment are if AEAs are not providing them. Through the money that funds AEAs, these things that are necessary for students are provided at no cost.

Elgin worries that students who have more needs than others won't be able to be met with the same care if this proposal goes through because it's so expensive.

Michelle said she believes it isn't plausible for small, rural districts to hire a professional to take care of those needs, especially when close to no other student needs.

"He is the only kid in his school that needs what he needs ... There's no way that they would have someone who's specialized in that kind of stuff that they would have on staff,"

Iowa's AEAs are always willing to do better, Speer said, so the agencies would support getting a full body of stakeholders together to study the way services are delivered, but Reynolds' proposal does not give that idea

"We just don't think it's a smart policy to force something to force change on the system, where the vast majority of providers and consumers of our products are very, very satisfied," Speer said.

Elgin said AEAs provide critical resources to families like hers and drastically changing the system that has worked for so many years makes her worry about their future.

"There's just so many more services that are involved with the AEA that, unless you have the misfortune of needing their services, you just have no idea," Elgin said. "I honestly had no idea before I had him, but now to have essentially 18 years of close contact and working with them, I just feel like they're a really big benefit to Iowa in general.

Northwest Iowa AFA.

Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher | The Daily Iowan

Timeline of Iowa's Area Education Agencies

1858 1957 2008 1974 Three AEAs merge in the Waterloo area merge into what Two southeast lowa New Iowa Iaw New Iowa law allows Iowa establishes Area is now the Central Rivers AEA. establishes county adjacent counties to join **Education Agencies to** AEAs, covering the education together to hire an provide special Ottumwa area, Two Northwest Iowa AEAs merged into the Great superintendents. administrator to provide education services to merged into what is now known Prairie AEA. services to a region. lowa's schools. as the Prairie Lakes AEA. 1947 2000 2006 2010 1965 Another two northwest Two southwest lowa lowa's AEAs ask New Iowa law allows New Iowa law the legislature to Iowa AEAs, covering AEAs merged into the two or more adjacent establishes expanded the Sioux City area, Green Hills AEA. allow voluntary counties systems to voting procedures for merged into the mergers of AEAs. merge into one. county

INSIDE 2B:

Hawkeye Updates

 Quote of the Week Stat of the Week Point/Counterpoint

DAILYIOWAN.COM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024

THE MOST COMPLETE HAWKEYE SPORTS COVERAGE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Found family on the court

lowa men's basketball's familial culture has developed over decades of hoops.



Theodore Retsinas | The Daily Iowan

Iowa men's basketball players dance before a men's basketball game between the Iowa Hawkeyes and the Maryland Terrapins at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Jan. 24. The Terrapins defeated the Hawkeyes 69-67. Iowa head coach Fran McCaffery is known for prioritizing life over basketball as a coach.

Chris Meglio

Sports Reporter chris-meglio@uiowa.edu

Fran McCaffery has been the Iowa men's basketball head coach for 14 years. Over those 14 years, he has added to a widely respected culture that prioritizes life

Anyone who knows McCaffery — from players to fans and media members - recognize that he's all about character and family, despite this season's highs and lows.

In November 2023, Iowa fourth-year guard Tony Perkins' grandmother died. Perkins was very close with her, and the team embraced him with open arms while his family was back home in Indiana.

"I found out in practice — [the team has] been helping me with everything," Perkins said. "Everyone has my back — coaches

Perkins went on to play a fantastic game the following day on Nov. 29 against North Florida, contributing 21 points to the 103-

"He obviously had a point to prove, and he had a little bit more to play for," forward Owen Freeman said postgame. "To go out and see him do that, it's really something special ... Tony, he's a special player.'

As the Hawkeyes' next match came against Purdue in West Lafayette, Indiana, McCaffery allowed the Indianapolis local to remain with his family after the game while the rest of the team returned to Iowa.

It wasn't long after that when another tragedy struck the team: Freeman learned of the his grandma's passing the day Iowa hosted Purdue on Jan. 20.

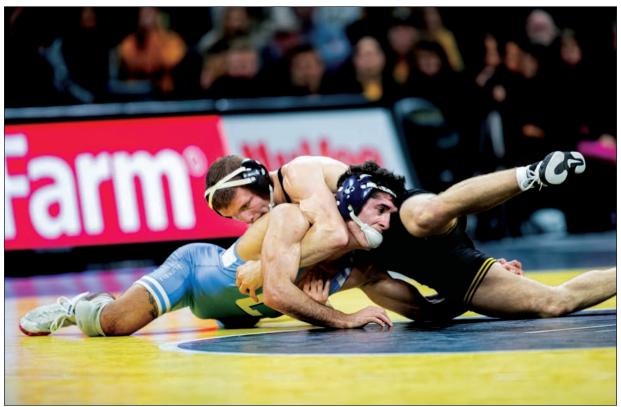
Freeman never spoke publicly about the loss, but McCaffery confirmed that he allowed the first-year standout to bypass

BASKETBALL | 3B

MEN'S WRESTLING

The race for 133 pounds

Coaches are working to solidify the starting lineup.



Sara Stumpff | The Daily Iowan Iowa's 133-pound Cullan Schriever wrestles Columbia's Nick Babin during a wrestling dual between No. 4 Iowa and Columbia at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Dec. 8, 2023. Schriever is battling teammate Brody Teske for the starting spot at the 133-pound place in the lineup. Iowa defeated Columbia, 38-3.

Van Dee

Isaac Elzinga Sports Reporter isaac-elzinga@uiowa.edu



Schriever



pounds this season, and no one has locked down the spot well into the conference schedule — but Cullan Schriever seems to be Brody Teske started the season well at 133 with a pair of wins during the Hawkeyes'

The Iowa men's wrestling team has had four different athletes in the lineup at 133

first two duals of the season against Cal Baptist and Oregon State, where he picked up a ranked win against No. 22 Gabe Whisenhunt in the latter.

However, a loss to No. 19 Evan Frost in the Iowa State dual soon after saw Teske fall out of the lineup and open the door for those behind him to compete for his spot.

The Hawkeyes then had two different wrestlers in the lineup at the following two duals, with Jace Rhodes getting the call against Penn and Cullan Schriever against Columbia.

Rhodes lost his matchup against No. 13 Michael Colaiocco, but Schriever won in his first match of the season against No. 11 Angelo Rini.

Schriever, hailing from Mason City, Iowa, was left out to begin the season due to a suspension after his involvement in the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation's probe into

illegal sports wagering. Iowa had only four athletes listed on the lineup against Columbia, and after the dual, Hawkeye head coach Tom

Brands said the team would continue to do so "until we figure it out.' The Hawkeyes went into the winter break

with a question mark at 133, hoping to find some clarity at the spot during the Soldier Salute at the end of December. There, Iowa had five wrestlers compete at 133 with Teske making the finals.

Teske beat Nebraska's Jacob Van Dee in

WRESTLING | 3B

TRACK AND FIELD

Smith soars to second

Smith ranks near the top in men's weight throw in UI history.

Mia Boulton Sports Reporter mia-m-boulton@uiowa.edu



Two years before second-year track and field thrower Sean Smith became the second-best weight thrower in Hawkeye history, he was building a makeshift training

facility in his basement.

Back home in Webster, New York, Smith passed the time in COVID-19 quarantine by bettering his craft within the confines

of his home, building a throwing net in his basement with tarps and any miscellaneous materials lying around the house. Smith's dedication to throwing began in middle school

after receiving a mass letter from the track and field coach asking kids to join the team. There, Smith began to realize his natural strength and thus started to challenge his During his high school career, Smith's parents drove him to meets around the country to satisfy their son's hun-

ger for competition. Outside of the limits of high school meets, Smith made his own opportunity to throw in the two events he now specializes in. "I started throwing weight and hammer outside of the

high school team where we did discus and shot put," Smith said. "It took off from there."

Smith's high school career was covered with track and field honors. His highlights include being a four-time state medalist in track and field, four-time conference champion, six-time sectional champion, USA Track & Field Junior Olympics runner-up in the hammer throw, and second runner-up at Indoor Nationals in the weight throw.

At the University of Iowa, Smith's progress skyrocketed. After the Larry Wieczorek Invite from Jan. 19-20, Smith

became the second Hawkeye in school history to have a weight throw over 70 feet and earned Big Ten Men's Field Event Athlete of the Week honors.

The mark was 21.83 meters, which is 0.37 meters behind former Hawkeye Tyler Lienau's top mark.

Smith's performances and dedication have begun to create a domino effect on

SMITH | 3B

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Women's basketball

Wednesday, Jan. 31 At Northwestern 7 p.m., Peacock and Hawkeye Radio Network

Saturday, Feb. 3 At Maryland 7 p.m., FOX Sports and Hawkeye Radio Network

Men's basketball

Friday, Feb. 2

vs. Ohio State 6 p.m., FS1 and Hawkeye Radio Network

Men's wrestling

Friday, Feb. 2 At Michigan 7:30 p.m., Big Ten Network and Hawkeye Radio Network

Gymnastics

Sunday, Feb. 4 vs. Nebraska Xtream Arena 1 p.m., Big Ten Plus



Saturday, Feb. 3 vs. Kansas State 11 a.m.

Sunday Feb. 4 At Denver

NEW OC IN TOWN



has hired Tim Lester as the next offensive coordinator. Lester most recently served as

Iowa football

a senior analyst for the Green Bay Packers, where he was tasked to "study the offense of each of the Packers opponents and help the defense game plan." He was hired as Western Michigan's head coach in 2017 and was fired in 2022 after going 5-7, his first losing season at the helm. Lester finished his tenure with the Broncos 37-32 overall and 26-20 in MAC play. Lester was the starting quarterback for Western Michigan from 1996-99, leading the Broncos to a Mid-American Conference Championship appearance his senior season. Lester served as Syracuse's quarterbacks coach from 2013-15 and doubled as offensive coordinator in 2014-15. He then served as quarterbacks coach at Purdue for one season before returning to his alma mater. Lester was set to take a coordinator role at Troy. sources told ESPN. Iowa also strongly considered Kevin Johns, who was seen having breakfast with Kirk Ferentz at the Courtyard Marriott across from Kinnick. Lester is replacing Brian Ferentz, who served as Iowa's offensive line coach from 2012-16 before taking on the offensive coordinator role on Jan. 9, 2017. Iowa averaged over 25 points per game in four of his six seasons as offensive coordinator. The Hawkeyes averaged 28.2 points per game in 2017, 31.2 in 2018, 25.8 in 2019, 31.8 in 2020, and 23.4 in 2021. One of the worst offensive seasons of head coach Kirk Ferentz's tenure came in 2022. The Hawkeyes averaged 17.7

THE WEEK

points per game — 123rd

in the FBS - and ranked

second-to-last in total

offense with 251.6 yards

per contest. In 2023, he

10-4 Hawkeves averaged

15.4 points and 235.4 yards

per game, ranking second-

to-last and last in the FBS,

respectively.

"None of us ever want to let her down ... She is one of the best basketball minds there's ever been."

Caitlin Clark on head women's basketball coach Lisa Bluder

THE WEEK



The number of times Kalen Walker has broken the 60-meter school record this season.

GYMNASTICS

All-around the scoresheet

Second-year gymnast Karina Muñoz builds on first-year campaign.

Jake Olson

Sports Reporter jake-olson@uiowa.edu

Iowa second-year all-around gymnast Karina Muñoz took every opportunity she could to get in competitions during her first season for the Iowa women's gymnastics team last year - and now it's paying off.

As a first-year from East Brunswick, New Jersey, Muñoz competed in all 12 meets. She was one of only two athletes to compete in all-around during the season.

She notched seven event titles and 13 top-three finishes, scoring a 9.800 or better on every vault performance in the year.

'As a freshman, I didn't expect to do as much as I did," Muñoz said. "I feel like that was kind of different. I feel like I had to prepare my head more. But now that I was able to compete at allaround last year, and leaning toward this year too, I felt that was something."

That "something" was momentum propelling into her second year with GymHawks, in which she is now poised to break out for this Hawkeye squad.

After her impressive rookie season at Iowa, Muñoz earned a spot in the Big Ten Gymnasts to Watch List this preseason.

Despite not enjoying what comes with the early hype, Muñoz uses it as fuel to power her through her second-year campaign.

So far this season, Muñoz has done just that. She's lived up to the preseason expectations.

In three meets this year, she has already earned three event titles, averaging a 9.800 or higher on beam, bars, and vault.

"I feel like I held back and could have done more [last season]," Muñoz said. "Now that I have that year out of the way, I can use everything I didn't use last year and use it this year."

One factor that Muñoz thought she could improve on was the mental aspect of the sport. Head-



Karina Muñoz competes on beam during session two of the Big Ten gymnastics championship at Xtream Arena in Coralville on March 18, 2023. Michigan won the Big Ten women's gymnastics title with a score of 198.000.

ing into a new year, both athletically and academically at the University of Iowa, Muñoz has a more positive mentality than she has ever had as a GymHawk.

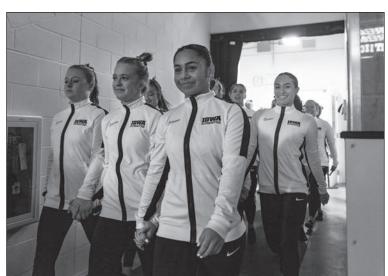
"During the summer or even during the preseason, I feel like things were hard for me," Muñoz



said of the balance. Iowa head coach Larissa Libby still thinks Muñoz can improve after an already impressive first-year paign, emphasiz-

ing that she hasn't scratched the surface of her fullblown potential.

"I think that she trusts herself more," Libby said. "She's a good competitor - there is no question about that. But I think that she's a little more self-assured, so that presents a lot better.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa enters the arena during a gymnastics meet between No. 23 Iowa and No. 21 Washington at Xtream Arena in Coralville, on Jan. 12. In the fourth meeting between Iowa and Washington, the Hawkeyes defeated the Huskies, 196.400-196.250.

Q&A | CHLOE LARSEN

Mid-distance runner shares motivations



Second-year Mid-distance runner Waunakee, Wisconsin

Chloe Larsen

Mia Boulton

Sports Reporter mia-m-boulton@uiowa.edu

The Daily Iowan: What motivates you to work hard?

Chloe Larsen: I feel like a lot of the time, it is the people I am with in practice. When I am home alone during breaks by myself, it is hard to find motivation. Being with the different girls that we train with every day kind of helps me push

What was the last show you watched?

This is basic, but I have been watching "The Office" a lot lately. It's a comfort show, and I have seen it so many times. It's just perfect to throw on at the end of the day.

What is one thing you couldn't go a day

Chewing gum. I have to have it when I am running, training, in races, and in class. I am always chewing gum.

How would your friends describe you? I would say optimistic. I think that's how we all are, too, especially in practice. We all try

to make the most of it when we are dying in a

What is your favorite track memory? Last year, it was super fun taking the 4x400 to nationals. In my freshman year, I loved going to indoor nationals. I didn't even run in the 4x400, but it was so fun just being there and

What was your favorite subject in

I feel like I was always a big science girl. I always just stuck with that, and it still has to do with what I am doing now.

What are you majoring in?

I'm majoring in health studies and finishing up my minor in Spanish.

Who knows you best?

My coach. He knows me as a person and a runner really well.

What is your proudest accomplishment? Being a student-athlete. Competing and juggling academics is hard, but it can definitely

POINT | COUNTERPOINT

Which player would help lowa football?



Brad Schultz Sports Reporter

Kyler Kasper, Oregon WR

Iowa has a ton of holes to fill in order for its offense to be even marginally successful. Sure, the new offensive coordinator might won't magically fix all of it.

The Hawkeyes landed their first big target in the transfer portal when former OL commit Kadyn Proctor transferred in from Alabama just days ago. Proctor's homecoming is huge for the offensive line, but Iowa is severely

lacking explosive playmakers. Enter Oregon wideout Kyler

Kasper already has a connection to the Iowa program. His father Kevin played for the Hawkeyes from 1997-2000 and currently ranks fifth on the school's all-time receiving list. He also played in

the NFL for a few years.

At 6-foot-6, 205 pounds, Kasper has exceptional length that gives him a distinct advantage over most defensive backs, and he would be the perfect red zone target for an Iowa offense that has struggled mightily in that

experiencing it.

Kasper is also known for his explosiveness off the ball, and if you compare that with his large frame, he is extremely difficult to defend. After watching some of his highlights in high school, he reminds me of current NFL star wide receiver Mike Evans.

Despite his impressive background in high school, Kasper has seen little playing time with the Ducks. After redshirting in 2022, the wideout hailing from Gilbert, Arizona, caught only two passes in 2023. He hasn't officially entered the transfer portal, but should he enter, he will have many teams seeking his services. I expect head coach Kirk Ferentz to keep a close eye on him through this offseason.

Though Iowa isn't exactly an entertaining program for wide receivers, Kasper would certainly have plenty of playing time, and give Iowa some explosiveness at a position that has been lacking for a long time.



Matt McGowan Sports Reporter

Jack Wilty, **Colorado OG**

While the Iowa offensive line room received a significant boost this off-season with the transfer of five-star recruit Kaydn Proctor from Alabama, the Hawkeyes can still add to the group, especially on the interior. Guard Rusty Feth served a valuable veteran presence last season and started several games in the Black and Gold, and his departure will be missed. The perfect but realistic person to fill that void would be Jack Wilty from the transfer

Wilty appeared in 11 games for Colorado in 2023 but only started one contest. In the limited snaps he did receive, the interior lineman allowed no sacks on 146

pass attempts. The 6-foot-4, 310-pounder has

two seasons of eligibility left and has experience before Boulder. After redshirting a season at Northern Illinois, Wilty spent two years at Iowa Central Community College, where he earned allconference honors in 2022.

While he may not have eyepopping numbers, Wilty is more likely than his counterparts to head to Iowa City, as he is from Altoona, Iowa, and attended Southeast Polk High School, where Proctor and Xavier Nwankpa also starred at.

While lineman Nick DeJong announced he would return to Iowa City next season, Wilty would provide solid support for the senior as the pair look to fill one or both guard positions.

Plenty of fans may clamor for another side receiver in the portal, but with the health of quarterback Cade McNamara, the strength of the line will be key in making sure he stays upright and avoids another season-ending

As evidenced from last season when Deacon Hill was under center, the Hawkeyes need solid quarterback plus to have success. McNamara is the best option for the offense, and protection will

BASKETBALL

the following practice as he went home to his family in Moline, Illinois.

The important thing is that Tony [Perkins] knows, that Owen [Freeman] knows, that everybody in that locker room loves them," McCaffery said at a media availability soon after. "I told [Freeman's] mom that we're going to put our arms around him and love him up — and his teammates, to a man, and the coaches, to a man, have done that for him. He's got a beautiful family.'

Then, the team heard more devastating news. Payton Sandfort's grandmother died Jan. 24, the day Iowa suffered a close loss to Maryland.

Sandfort told reporters the news after Iowa's bounce-back win at Michigan. The point guard had an electric game against the Wolverines with 26 points, tying his career high. After the contest, Sandfort said it made him happy to think about his grandparents watching him play from heaven.

"One of the most special things that ever happened to me was the way that Tony treated me after Wednesday's game, Sandfort said. "Obviously, I made some big mistakes down the stretch. But he just kinda put his arm around me, and we were sitting in that press conference, and we were walking down the hallway, and he just told me how much he loved me.

Former Iowa center Jack Nunge was prepared to begin his fourth season with the Hawkeyes in November 2020 when his father died just a few days before the home opener against North Carolina Central.

Nunge immediately traveled home to Indiana, and McCaffery assured him to take as much time away as he needed.

"It was obviously heartbreaking and devastating — it was horrible news," said fourth-year center Luka Garza, who had played with Nunge for four years up to that point. "We're going to circle around him and just try to build him up, and hopefully when he comes back, we can make him feel at home.

Almost six years previously to the date, Iowa center Gabriel Olaseni lost his father

the morning of a home game against Northern Illinois.

After the game, McCaffery and the fourth year talked with Olaseni's mother and set up a plan to buy him a round-trip flight to London through the NCAA's Student Assistance Fund.

When Nunge's dad died, McCaffery stressed the plan of connecting Olaseni with Nunge to discuss how to cope through the family tragedy.

McCaffery and his wife, Margaret, have raised more than \$1.25 million through fundraisers and donations for cancer research and treatment since moving to Iowa City in 2010. Their motive behind such efforts comes from their son and current Hawkeye fourth-year forward Patrick McCaffery's battle with thyroid cancer as a 14 year old in 2014.

After two surgeries, multiple ultrasounds, and some time off, Patrick was cancer-free and back to playing basketball again. He's now an Iowa Hawkeye playing Division I basketball coached by his dad.

The journey, however, hasn't been all that smooth.

During the 2022-23 season, Patrick took a leave of absence, citing mental health

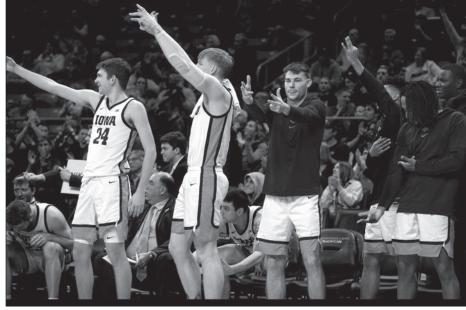
"I think [Patrick discussing his anxiety] opened up a lot of conversation and opportunity for us to come together," Sandfort said, who was a second-year player at the time. "We love him, and we're doing everything we can to help him.'

Fran said he noticed the effects of Patrick's anxiety both on and off the court over the previous weeks and gave him the utmost support as a coach and a father.

All of us admire his courage and willingness to be open about this struggle, and we hope others know that they are not alone," Fran said. "We will be with him every step of the way.

In a game against Minnesota on Jan. 15, the Hawkeyes notched their 11th win of the season and McCaffery's 272nd victory as Iowa head coach, pushing him ahead of Tom Davis for the most wins by a head coach in Iowa men's basketball history

Garza was in attendance to witness his



Theodore Retsinas | The Daily Iowan

lowa players celebrate a three-pointer during a men's basketball game between lowa and Maryland at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Jan. 24. The Terrapins defeated the Hawkeyes, 69-67.

former coach make history - an expression of gratitude for all McCaffery did for his progress, which culminated in him breaking the program scoring record and the retirement of his jersey.

Fran McCaffery has been around to fondly know of most Iowa records as his players do, including former Hawkeye guard Jordan Bohannon, who had the chance to own a record himself but had his mind set on the bigger picture.

On Jan. 19, 1993, Hawkeye star and to-be NBA Draft selection Chris Street was tragically killed in a car accident. Street was one of the best players to ever out on an Iowa jersey and was even more beloved for his character.

The Hawkeye great set a program record with 34 consecutive free throws made before his passing. On Feb. 25, 2018, Bohannon had a chance to break the record. After tying Street's record with one made, he intentionally missed

the second shot.

"It's been in my mind for a while," Bohannon said on the matter, emphasizing it's not his record to have. "I knew I wanted to leave it short a little bit. I didn't want to make it too obvious."

It's not just basketball, and it's not just the players and coaches — but it's the entirety of the Iowa Hawkeyes - the fans, media, fellow students, parents, and much more - that makes a beloved community.

Because at the end of the day, family will always be there through the good or bad, and that's exactly what the Iowa men's basketball team embodies.

'It's a family in that locker room," McCaffery added. "It's a journey, a lot of hard work, and ups and downs. How you deal with that is many times going to be a function of the support that you get from your teammates and your coaches, and we'll continue to do that."

SMITH

from **1B**

the team, leading to success for his team-

'It makes it easier to throw far," redshirt first-year thrower Austin Busch said. "As someone else gets better, it raises everyone else up. You start to realize excellence is the expectation.'

The Hawkeye throwing squad has earned a handful of personal records and history-making marks this indoor season alone, and Iowa Director of Track and Field Joey Woody accredited a portion of the throwing group's success to its leader.

"[Smith] is a great example of what we look for in athletes who want to develop here at Iowa," Woody said. "Those types of kids put their mindset to working hard,

trusting the coaching, and trusting the training. He has done that."

Smith's goals for the season include breaking the school record in the weight throw and punching his ticket to the NCAA Championships in March. He also aims to medal at the indoor and outdoor Big Ten Championships.

"He just wants it," Woody said. "He's been really consistent with those big marks. He still has a lot of room for bigger marks.'

To do so, Smith plans to stay consistent, trust the process, and continue training

Rome wasn't built in a day," Busch said of his teammate. "You have to understand that this is all a process and that you will come out better on the other

WRESTLING

a tight 5-4 decision to claim the 133-pound title, earning his spot in the Hawkeyes' lineup ahead of the conference schedule. Iowa's first dual meet after the winter break was against Nebraska, where Van Dee and Teske would face off again at 133.

This time, Van Dee got the better of Teske, beating him, 10-4, and once again opening the door for others to get into the lineup in his place.

'We've got to figure something out at

133," Brands told the media after the dual

Iowa's next dual came against Minnesota, and for the first time this year, Kale Petersen got the nod at 133. The freshman failed to deliver at Carver-Hawkeve Arena and narrowly lost the match to No. 29 Tyler Wells, 6-4.

For the Purdue dual, Brands returned to Schriever, who made the most of the opportunity, beating Dustin Norris by a whopping "I love being back out on the mat; I love

competing," Schriever said. "So each time out, I'm thankful to be out there. Each time out is another opportunity, so I just look forward to maximizing that." Brands said Schriever could have earned

a tech fall in the match, but was impressed with his ability to fight back after being taken down early in the bout. "He is doing his job — we love it," Brands

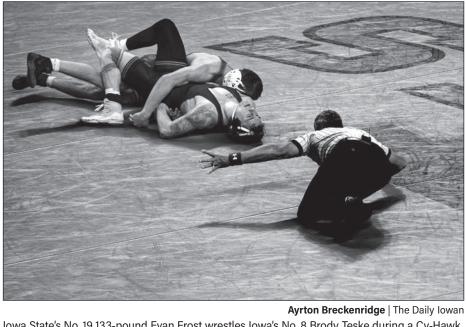
said of Schriever's status in the lineup. "He's going to have the next two matches, and we love what's happening ... we've got to keep a good thing going there."

Schriever wrestled and won in Iowa's next dual against Illinois, beating No. 30 Tony Madrigal, 9-1 — further establishing himself

"I don't really think of it as being 'the guy,'" Schriever said of the competition at 133. This is the next step toward what I want to do, which is to be the national champion in March. I don't think of it as a competition. I think of it as this is the next time that I get to prove myself and that I get to get better.'

Teske also saw action in the dual as he wrestled at 141 instead of No. 1 Real Woods. Teske won his matchup as well, beating Will Baysingar, 5-0.

"It's a good problem to have. When you've got people on your tail, it holds you accountable," Schriever said of the race for 133. "It's not just my weight either. I have Drake Ayala to wrestle; I have Real Woods to wrestle; I have Spencer Lee to wrestle. I think that being in a room like we have is good for everybody - no matter the weight



Iowa State's No. 19 133-pound Evan Frost wrestles Iowa's No. 8 Brody Teske during a Cy-Hawk men's wrestling dual between No. 4 Iowa and No. 8 Iowa State at Hilton Coliseum on Nov. 26, 2023. The Hawkeyes defeated the Cyclones, 18-14. Frost defeated Teske by decision, 8-1.

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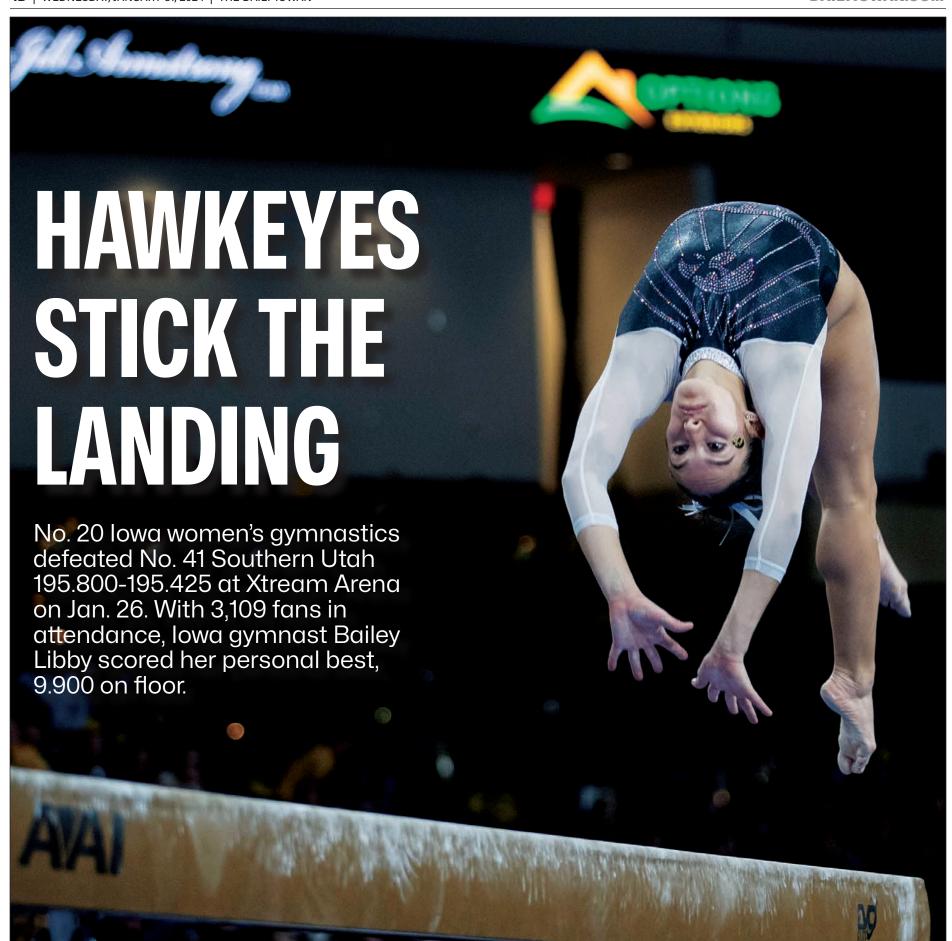


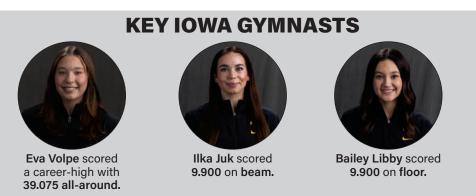
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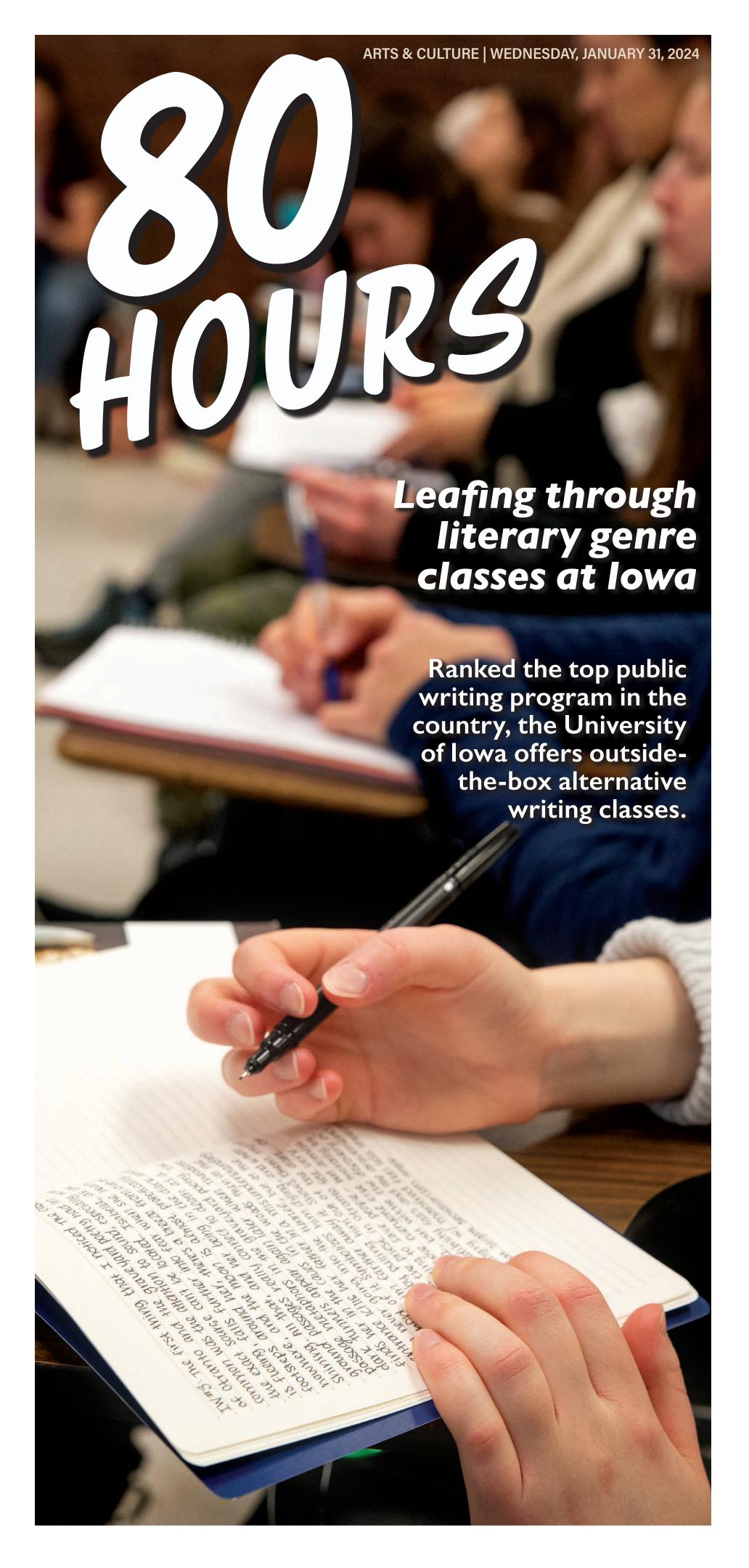
(Top) Iowa all-around gymnast Ilka Juk competes in beam during a gymnastics meet between No. 20 Iowa and No. 41 Southern Utah at Xtream Arena in Coralville on Jan. 26. The Hawkeyes defeated the Thunderbirds, 195.800-195.425. Volpe scored 9.750 on her beam routine. (Beside) Iowa all-around gymnast Kaia Vanney competes on bar during a gymnastics meet between No. 20 Iowa and No. 41 Southern Utah at Xtream Arena in Coralville on Jan. 26. The Hawkeyes defeated the Thunderbirds, 195.800-195.425. Vanney scored 9.725 on bars. (Bottom) lowa's Bailey Libby embraces head coach Larissa Libby following a gymnastics meet between No. 20 Iowa and No. 41 Southern Utah at Xtream Arena in Coralville on Jan. 26. The Hawkeyes defeated the Thunderbirds, 195.800-195.425.

See more online:

To view more of The Daily Iowan's coverage of the women's gymnastics team, visit dailyiowan.com.







Writing classes explore unique genres, go abroad

From "Gothic Fiction" to books about medieval times or modern politics, the UI hosts classes over unique topics.

Sophia Connolly

Arts Reporter sophia-connolly@uiowa.edu

In a crowded University of Iowa classroom twice a week, professor Lori Branch dives into the world of gothic fiction.

As the UI is ranked the top public writing university in the nation, some courses tackle

unique topics — even taking students abroad. The class, "Gothic Fiction," is offered for the spring 2024 semester. A highly sought-after class, many students had to

waitlist before enrolling. Branch said English classes were typically to be crazy, and it still has this imaginative

UI third-year student Hannah Cargo is an English and creative writing major and an environmental policy and planning major. She is one of the 48 students enrolled in 'Gothic Fiction.'

Though studying timeless pieces isn't new to any English class curriculum, Cargo said the class is sought-after among her peers because the Gothic, horror-based topics covered are often a first for many student writers.

"[The genre] deals with questions like, 'What happens when we die?,' 'How do I feel in relation to society?' 'What does God

"[Dracula] still has so much cultural appeal and power today. I mean, you can read it in 2024 and stay up late at night. Your hair is gonna stand up, and it's gonna be crazy, and it still has this imaginative power over us."

> **Lori Branch** University of Iowa writing professor

capped at 24-28 students, but because of the popularity of this class, the UI expanded the class to 50 students. She said around 86 students had the course in their cart before the

An author herself who is focused on the intersection of literature and secularism, Branch was drawn to instruct a gothic fiction course because of its roots in the 18th century, a period in which she specializes.

The UI's English department was created in the early 1900s. The English and creative writing major originated in 2016 and replaced the creative writing track the university previously offered.

The Gothic period occurred from the late 1700s to the early 1800s. Books written during the time stemmed from an aesthetic of fear and included "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley and "Northanger Abbey" by Jane

"I designed this course. It's like my own kind of baby, so to speak," Branch said. "I really love it."

Students lucky enough to snag a seat in the course have spent their first few weeks studying the history of the genre, from the first English-language Gothic novel in 1764, Horace Walpole's "The Castle of Ontranto, to more circulated works such as "Dracula" by Bram Stoker.

Branch said the class' popularity is due in part to students' recognition of the titles listed on the syllabus. However, she said, English majors were mostly drawn to the class because the books were "scary."

'[Dracula] still has so much cultural appeal and power today," Branch said. "I mean, you can read it in 2024 and stay up late at night. Your hair is going to stand up, and it's going think of this behavior or these people or me?" Cargo said. "These sorts of questions are sort of applicable to everyone, even if we are not in 1700s Britain, so those can

easily be applied to other people's writing.' Besides "Gothic Fiction," Cargo has also taken classes on specific literary genres ranging from YA to science fiction during her time at the UI.

Cargo said she thinks the writing program at the UI is so strong because each class focuses on one specific topic and hones in on that subject.

Other unique English and creative writing classes include those that tackle medieval fantasies, realism in literature, and stories of women as political and social activists.

One such class even includes traveling abroad. Over winter break, UI professor Stephen Voyce took students on a writing trip to Greece.

During the trip, Voyce said students explored Greece and found inspiration for their open-ended writing assignments.

"I think it's always going to be a radically eye-opening experience just to go to a different country with a different language with different customs," Voyce said.

There are three study-abroad location options focused on English and creative writing: Dublin, London, and Greece. The trip to Greece focuses on the influence of Greek mythology on modern literature. For these programs, any student can apply even if they are not an English or creative writing major.

While English classes are separate from creative writing classes, there exists overlap between them. Examples of creative writing-specific classes include the standard

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1227



Ava Neumaier | The Daily Iowan

Lori Branch teaches a gothic literature class in the English Philosophy Building at the University of Iowa on Jan. 25. The class invites writing fellows into the classroom to advise and inspire students and is reading "The Castle of Otranto" by Horace Walpole.

offerings of "Fiction Writing" and "Poetry Writing"; some English-specific classes are "Medieval Fantasies" and "Flawed Protagonists and Narratives of Evil.'

In choosing unique classes, program administrators focus on the people involved in the program and their interests.

Blaine Greteman is head of the English department, while Professor Kaveh Akbar oversees the English and creative writing

According to Greteman, only a few classes are considered mandatory for students including "Foundations of the English Major." The rest of the curriculum focuses on discussion-oriented classes and can be catered to specific student interests. To choose what English classes to offer for

an upcoming semester, the faculty first submit the classes they want to teach. Then, the department makes sure the classes fulfill students' curriculum and degree requirements and include a wide span of offerings

Greteman said this process allows faculty to teach what they are passionate about and allows the department to provide innovative course offerings for students.

"It creates a better student experience too, because you get to partner students with faculty who are really excited and enthusiastic about the things they're teaching," Greteman

Lan Samantha Chang, the director of the

Iowa Writers' Workshop, said the program follows a similar process for choosing classes.

"In addition to taking a more general class such as creative writing, it can be very valuable for students who are interested in particular kinds of writing or particular authors or worlds, particular methods or genres to be in a group of writers who share their enthusiasm," Chang said.

UI first-year Alyssa Santoleri is one student who chose the UI specifically because of its creative writing program.

An English and creative writing major on the publishing track, Santoleri is excited to take more fiction-writing classes in the future and aims to one day become a fiction editor or writer.

Like Cargo, Santoleri said the large span of genres and topics provided allows students to fully explore the depths of literature and writing during their time at UI.

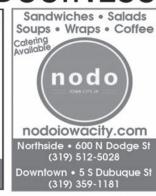
"It definitely provides a lot more choice and options instead of just sticking you in one specific class and being like, that's it, that's all you get to learn," she said.

She also said the UI puts a lot of care into supporting students in the type of writing they want to produce.

'You can go so many different ways in this program," Santoleri said. "You don't have a set one thing to do, and so I think it's so highly ranked because there's not one specific way to be an English major here."



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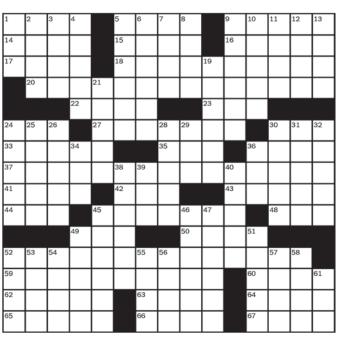






THEBREAK PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON 3B

The New York Times



Across

- Travel requirement, at times Where the 10 countries with the lowest median age are all located
- 11 Sounds of surprise 14 Book before Romans
- 15 "King James"
- 16 Word before nail or after
- steel 17 Cluster, as of grass
- 18 Product of volcanic activity 19 Certain grueling race,
- informally 20 Factory ____

- 22 Moccasins, but not oxfords
- 24 Voice of doom 27 It's a me problem
- 28 End up OK
- 29 Boring bit
- 31 Not forbidden
- 32 "A Doll's House" playwright 33 Quattro preceder
- 36 "Joking!"
- 38 Father on "Modern Family"
- 40 Mary, Queen of _
- 37 Secret traders
- 39 Prof's helpers
- 41 Roman fountain name 42 Digital money

- 43 Van Gogh masterpiece
- 44 One daying for a cause 47 Leave a mark on?
- 49 Put up
- 51 Japanese exporter of diesel engines
- 52 Coastal inlet
- 53 "___ Fideles" 55 Letters that go in both
- _tofferson blanks of
- 58 Jug unit: Abbr. 59 Comfy shoe
- 60 Bank note made of pure
- cotton fiber 61 Bow-making timber 62 "Enthusiasm is the mother

_": Ralph Waldo

Emerson 63 One may ask for a dinner preference

Down

- 1 Acid container, maybe 2 Hosp. area
- 3 Friar known for his patronage of animals
- 4 What had a major impact on this puzzle's theme?
- 5 Notwithstanding 6 Guinness records, typically
- 7 Some handoff recipients in football, for short
- 8 Some investments, in brief
- 9 Boston, Amherst and others 10 Immune response trigger
- 11 "Great" 10th-century
- 12 Features of many ceratopsians

emperor

- 13 Something possibly triggered during a mass extinction event
- 21 Blue material
- 23 "___ favor"
- 24 Accelerated H.S. English course
- 25 First dog on an orbital spaceflight
- 26 Novelist King who wrote "Caretakers" and "One on One'
- 30 Applications
- 32 Some W.S.J. topics
- 33 Writer's reference ... or what each row of shaded letters is missing?
- 34 It helps keep a tight ship tight
- 35 Beethoven's "Für _ 37 Spooked by
- 38 Annual architecture award 40 Ancient method of
- encipherment with a message wrapped around a cylinder
- 41 Pants, but half off?
- 42 List follower 43 Newspaper supplement
- 44 Come together 45 Common typeface
- 46 Ruler's dimensions? 48 Crystalline mineral deposits
- in some caves 50 Like Beethoven, by his

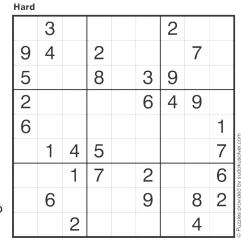
54 West Coast airport code

- mid-40s
- 56 Music producer Gotti who worked with Ja Rule and J.Lo
- 57 Soak (up)

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WEEKLY EVENTS

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1

MUSIC BINGO AT COA CANTINA

Test your bingo skills with a chance to win prizes at Coa Cantina Thursday nights at

7 P.M. | COA CANTINA 18 S. CLINTON ST.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2

- IOWA CONSERVATORY - LATTES **WITH LESLIE NOLTE**

Join Admissions Director Jessie Frerich in conversation with ICON founder Leslie Nolter and enjoy some morning coffee.

7:30 A.M. | IOWA CONSERVATORY 123 N. LINN ST.

- ALTERNATE REALTY

Experience distortions of Iowa City realty in this immersive art installation that seeks to comment on the home buying experience.

4 P.M. | PUBLIC SPACE ONE 229 N. GILBERT ST.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3

BLACK HISTORY BALL: FROM **AFRICA TO BLACK IOWANS**

Enjoy an art installation, jazz performance, food, and a speech at ICSC's first Black History Ball. Tickets are available online and proceeds will benefit Friends of the Iowa City Senior Center and Sankofa Outreach Connection.

7 P.M. | IOWA CITY SENIOR CENTER 28 S. LINN ST.

- EMO NITE LA AT GABE'S

Top tier emo artists curate a night of angsty rock with professional partiers

9 P.M. | GABE'S IOWA CITY 330 E. WASHINGTON ST.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4

- SUNDAY FUNNIES COMEDY **OPEN MIC**

Test your jokes at Iowa City's newest comedy open mic night every Sunday

9:30 P.M. | JOYSTICK COMEDY ARCADE 13 S. LINN ST.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 5

AARON HWANG IN **CONVERSATION WITH LEI WANG**

Iowa Writers Workshop alum Aaron Hwang will read from his books on Animal Horoscopes and celebrating Lunar New Year just five days before the celebration.

7 P.M. | PRAIRIE LIGHTS BOOKSTORE 15 S. DUBUQUE ST.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6

- BONNIE JO CAMPBELL

National Book Award Finalist author Bonnie Jo Campbell will visit Iowa City's Prairie Lights Bookstore and read from her small-town novel "Waters."

7 P.M. | PRAIRIE LIGHTS BOOKSTORE 15 S. DUBUQUE ST.

ARTS & CULTURE

Grayscale in modern film

Some University of Iowa students have mixed opinions on the black and white version of the film "Godzilla Minus One" at FilmScene.



Ava Neumaier | The Daily Iowan

A patron enters a black and white showing of the 2023 film "Godzilla Minus One" at FilmScene at the Chauncey in Iowa City on Jan. 26. The special showing runs until Feb. 1.

Grant Darnell

Arts Reporter grant-darnell@uiowa.edu

After becoming the highest-grossing Godzilla movie from Japan, the much-anticipated grayscale version of "Godzilla Minus One" is now screening at FilmScene in Iowa City.

Many University of Iowa film students and fans of the original release question the purpose of director Takashi Yamaza-

ki's choice in the film, named "Godzilla Minus One/Minus

Fourth-year screenwriting student Emily Mueggenberg said the modern use of black and white cinematography is appropriate in certain circumstances, but even she questions the value of re-releasing otherwise colored films this way.

"I think it's kind of weird," she said. "If I had seen the film I'd probably have a better opinion,

but I guess I don't really see the point of it."

Second-year cinema student Logan McCaw voiced a similar opinion.

'I think it is like a style," he said. McCaw said it's a net positive that modern directors have the artistic freedom to choose between shooting black and white and color, but he also believes this freedom can be a double-edged sword.

"There's this one theory,"

McCaw said, referring to André Bazin's Myth of Total Cinema. "Cinema should replicate real life as much as possible, [meaning] no black and white. But there's also the other end where cinema is supposed to be like [another] reality. It's not supposed to be like real life. So there are two sides.'

While cinema can represent an escape from reality for some, others feel it should true to reality. The choice to re-release "Godzilľa Minus One" without color, then, could be interpreted on a spectrum from tacky to genius.

"It's kind of the same thing with Zack Snyder's 'Justice League,'" McCaw said, further explaining how some directors choose to pursue black and white films solely for the gimmick. "You have to choose one or the other."

UI first-year cinema student Reece Hunerdosse offered a different perspective.

"Any movie can be black and white depending on how [the filmmaker] wants the vibe to be," he said. "I think it's a medium to tell their story.

Despite this, he voiced reservations about the new re-release.

"I think it is kind of cheap," he

Hunerdosse said the primary purpose for the film's re-release is to make more money, but he still sees the potential artistic

"It's paying homage to the original," he said.

'The Zone of Interest' needed and haunting

The film was recently nominated for Best Picture.

Charlie Hickman

Assistant Arts Editor charles-hickman@uiowa.edu

Director Jonathan Glazer's "The Zone of Interest" is a haunting and hypnotic meditation on evil. It is a forceful and deeply impactful work, but the heavy subject matter may not be for everyone.

Adapted from the 2014 novel with the same name, written by Martin Amis, and now nominated for five Academy Awards including Best Picture, "The Zone of Interest" is unlike anything I've ever seen.

Based on a true story, the film follows Rudolf Höss, the commandant of Auschwitz, as he tries to build a comfortable home for his family on the

outskirts of the concentration camp. Within the opening minutes of the film, it became clear Glazer was aware of the weight of the film's material. Before any image was shown, a swell

of music filled the theater. Lasting a few minutes, this soundscape was a fascinating way to open the film. The hum of horns, chattering of distant dialogue, and overwhelming volume of noise prepared the audience for the somber feel of the movie.

The film moved at a creeping pace, with certain scenes lingering just long enough to feel like something could emerge from the many shadows that lurk in the backgrounds of the film. Even though it is not a horror film, it was built like one — I was unnerved for nearly the entire runtime.

The Höss family lives just on the other side of the fence from one of the worst atrocities in human history. Yet the Höss', led by matriarch Hedwig Höss, played tactfully by Academy Award nominee Sandra Hüller, went

CARTOON

Glazer eases the audience into the dread that hovers over the film just as the plumes of ash emitted from the Auschwitz smokestacks loom over Hedwig's pristine garden. Each scene in these early minutes of the film builds on the evil of the last until the

film is drenched in expertly photographed imagery of some of the most

about their posh lives without a care.

disturbing portraits I've seen on film. A particularly sickening scene plays out in the backyard of the Höss residence. Rudolf, played with impressive apathy by Christian Friedel, looks on as the German children enjoy his swimming pool while a train of pris-

oners passes by in the background. Even though images like this are constant throughout, the dread is never redundant. It doesn't take long for it to become clear what the film is about, yet the film trudges on at a consistent,

trance-like pace. The sparing use of score emphasizes the despair at the core of the film. Whenever music is used, it is to punctuate a particularly haunting moment. The Oscar-nominated sound design is

some of the most innovative in years. A low hum occasionally interrupted by distant shouts and gunshots plays under the entire film, constantly in the background of the lives of the Höss family. This constant reminder of the horrors just beyond their view makes the family's complicity infuriating.

Every scene of tragedy and gloom builds toward the astounding final moments which, to reveal as little as possible, depict the central questions of the work succinctly. I will not be able to get the final few images of Glazer's film out of my head for days.

The Zone of Interest" is now playing at FilmScene.

E-MAII Cartoon by Avi Lapchick | The Daily Iowan

"Which sign-off politely communicates 'never speak to me again?"



OLD BANDS, NEW HITS

"WHEN WE WERE YOUNG" | Blink 182 "ALL MY FAVORITE SONGS" | Weezer "THE GENERAL" | Guns N' Roses "WHOLE WIDE WORLD" | The Rolling Stones "CUSTER" | Slipknot

Green Day falls flat on 'Saviors'

Despite a long and storied career, Green Day can't beat the high bar they've set.

Evan Weidl Opinions Editor evan-weidl@uiowa.edu

After four long, eventful years of anticipation, pop-punk icon Green Day is back with a new album, titled "Saviors."

Sadly, if you had told me this collection was the result of typing "make a pop-punk album" into ChatGPT, I wouldn't have doubted you for a second.

I went into this album with a deep wariness. Green Day has a legendary discography, but nearly 40 years as the face of a genre that emphasizes simplicity but is now as brutally corrupted as pop punk - looking at you, Machine Gun Kelly — would probably leave any band drawn to producing corporate-friendly material.

Green Day has not had a strong showing in quite a while. I couldn't write an honest review of their 2020 album, "Father of All Mother-f***ers," that would be family-friendly enough for publication.

Nonetheless, knowing the band was capable of producing a great project front-to-back at one point in their career, I tried to keep an open

In return, I got the sonic equivalent of a glass of skim milk - not exactly disgusting, but far from refreshing. From a technical standpoint, the album had more or less the same attributes as the rest of their career: Power chord-driven, sarcastic, and youthful - exactly what they were doing in the best years of their career.

However, in 2024, long after pop punk's prime, even this familiar formula can't hit the same. When lead singer Billie Joe Armstrong proudly labeled himself a twisted, deviant rebel at 21 years old, it made a lot more sense when he was still at the beginning of his career.

But when he's a 51-year-old millionaire with all the success anyone could dream of? Not the same sentiment.

The most striking flaw of the album was its monotony. Green Day has never been a band I turn to when I want music that'll challenge my brain, but that used to be the best thing about them. Even with that mindset, they were able to fill any space with explosive earworm choruses, fluid basslines, and hyperactive drums.

Samuel D. Hunter

Iowa Playwrights Workshop alum and the MacArthur Genius Grant recipient speaks on all things playwrighting, storytelling, and Iowa City.

Caden Gantenbein

Arts Reporter caden-gantenbein@uiowa.edu

Writer of the Academy Award-winning play-turned-movie "The Whale," Samuel D. Hunter is also a 2007 alum of the University of Iowa's Playwrights Workshop.

Not only has Hunter experienced exceptional success as a playwright post-graduation, he has also managed to break into the film industry with his first project being directed by Darren Aronofsky.

With the recent debut of his play, "A Case for the Existence of God," at Iowa City's Riverside Theatre, it was extremely fitting to have Hunter speak on behalf of that play and his work, as well as his writing process, achieving success in New York, and asking the questions we simply don't have the answers to

The Daily Iowan: What is your preparation like before you put your pen to page?

Samuel D. Hunter: It usually starts with a question. I normally don't want to write a play that says a singular statement like 'war is bad', because then every scene is going to be 'war is bad', that's like a bell you're hitting over and over but starting with a more open-ended question allows you to explore anything. With "A Case for the Existence of God" I think it's more than one thing, but there was definitely a guiding question of, 'How can I use a secular language to talk about the necessity of grace and definitely why is it so hard to be a middle-class person in this country right now?

How does an Iowa Playwrights Workshop graduate go on to win an Obie Award only five years later, then receive the MacArthur Genius grant only three years after that? A lot of it is luck and being at the right place at the right time, but I always tell my students that you need to fall in love with the process. I never got bored of it. In New York, my first play wasn't received very well at all so when you look at my portfolio everything seems linear, but that's not including the failure, embarrassment, and bad reviews, of which there were plenty. Almost no one has their first play coming out of school to see big success, and if it does, I think it's setting you up for failure because if your first play coming out happens to catch fire, there's no way your second play will do the same thing.

How do you think your time at the UI has benefitted you both socially and professionally?

I went to New York University for my undergrad and came straight to Iowa City after that, and I was actually a little worried about it because I had fallen in love with New York City, and so much of my education for being a playwright was just living in NYC and seeing a bunch of plays. So, I was worried about moving back to a place that felt more similar to where I grew up. What I found there, though, was incredibly valuable. I had what could almost be seen as a three-year writer's retreat.

How do you think the culture of Iowa City benefits the writers who receive their education here?

Sometimes I teach at NYU or Columbia University and it's surprising to me when I find these students in Master of Fine Arts programs, and they really haven't read what's canon. In Iowa, I just find that students know the mechanics, they know their stuff better and it's because they're hungrier. I think some kind of complacency can come with living in New York being surrounded by plays but in Iowa City it's like people really focus on plays as literature ... it's such a writing university so it feels like it's really in

Contributed photo of Samuel Hunter

What drove you to create a play that is so isolating like "A Case for the Existence of God"?

My impetus for "A Case for the Existence of God" was my husband and I doing two things on top of one another — buying a house and adopting a child. These are middle-class goals, owning a two-bedroom apartment and having one child. These aren't big asks, but they were by far the hardest thing we've ever done in our entire lives. It was such a process, the number of times we needed to be fingerprinted or let random people into our homes and the mountain of paperwork we had to do. It was really like a new full-time job for a good year, just trying to convince this country that we are capable of being parents and so in ""[A] Case [for the Existence of God]" I wanted to illustrate that.

What draws you to write about this type of destructive individual?

I'm kind of tired of the hero's narrative. Incredibly self-possessed people doing incredibly sexy things is not really my experience of the world. I don't think that's the experience for most people. I actually think it's kind of a virus to write middle-of-the-road characters who kind of effortlessly walk through life. The portion of Americans finding themselves on the losing end of life is ever-increasing, and I think these are people worth talking about.

EVENT

Traveling film festival screens at Big Grove

The Indian Creek Nature Center screened environmental backcountry films.

Isabella Nekvinda

Arts Reporter isabella-nekvinda@uiowa.edu

Silence washed over the crowd at Big Grove Brewery's screening room as film festival patrons digested filmmaker Josh Goldsmith's newest short documentary. His film "What If?" explores courage and doubt through the odd pairing of backcountry skiing and poetry.

The Winter Wildlands Alliance Backcountry Film Festival has been featuring environmental short films that highlight the amazing feats of winter nature explorers for the past 19 years.

On Jan. 26, the nonprofit conservation group, centered around protecting wild snowscapes, took the festival to Big Grove Brewery, hosted by Indian Creek Nature Center. Its vision is to establish a sustainable ecosystem and restore a balanced environment to the national parks, something they hope to spread awareness of through short films made by local filmmakers.

The Indian Creek Nature Center is an environmental preserve that aims to educate others and restore their natural habitat and has worked with the Winter Wildlands Alliance for five years.

The featured films combined the missions of both the Winter Wildlands Alliance and the Indian Creek Nature Center through their portrayal of a variety

of nature-themed topics.

The film festival spanned 120 minutes with individual film lengths ranging from six to 20 minutes, exploring topics such as Indigenous heritage, snow sports, and rescue volunteers

Goldsmith's six-minute documentary follows back-country skier and poet Mallory Duncan.

Goldsmith, whose previous work ranges from historical period pieces to documenting the experiences of cruise ship workers, does not shy away from telling stories that are not typically heard, but rather, he invites the challenge.

His most recent film, inspired by Duncan's poetry, portrays the harsh conditions and challenging feats that backcountry skiing entails. But Goldsmith and Duncan noticed most existing films about skiing typically follow the same formula.

"[Skiing films] will normally feature the athlete either conquering a goal in the mountains or experiencing a struggle that comes from the mountains," Goldsmith said.

the air out there.

However, Duncan and Goldsmith set out to do something different this time.

"I wanted to capture the essence of [Duncan's] poem," Goldsmith said. "[It] describes the mental battles and self-doubt that [Duncan and backcountry skiers alike] experience during and after their expositions."

Duncan's poetry talks of dreams, warnings, and missteps through spoken word. Goldsmith delves into the feelings of doubt and fear associated with skiing by opening all his sentences with the questions, "What If?", including "What if the lessons I learned weren't enough?" for example.

While backcountry skiing isn't a universally shared experience Goldsmith said doubt is. His film is a testament to resilience and confidence.



Kathy Le | The Daily Iowan

Indian Creek Nature Center hosts the Winter Wildland Alliance Backcountry Film Festival at the Big Grove Brewery's lowa City Taproom on Jan. 26. The film festival also had showings in Cedar Rapids.



