

## Life around death in Iowa City

Iowa City funeral directors share recent trends in death care options.

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With walls painted in a calming green, comfortable furnishings, and paintings hung on every wall, Gay & Ciha Funeral and Cremation Service in Iowa City is like a friend's living room rather than a death care facility.

Dan Ciha is one of Iowa City's two core providers of funeral care. The now-64-year-old has worked at the funeral home for over 40 years, beginning as a 16-year-old after a high school field trip.

He didn't intend to enter the funeral industry; Ciha wanted to be a veterinarian at first, but joked that one must be smart to be a vet.

"You don't have to be smart to be a funeral director, and I'm living proof of that, but in all seriousness, our class came through the funeral home and I thought, 'Well, this is kind of interesting,'" Ciha said.

His high school class received a tour from the lead funeral director of the establishment, George L. Gay. Ciha said his teacher called Gay the next day, who then interviewed Ciha and lined him up for a summer job.

Eventually, Ciha was exposed to all the various jobs in the funeral practice and decided to officially enter the profession. He attended Kirkwood Community College before traveling to Texas to attend the Dallas Institute of Mortuary Science and received his funeral director's license soon after.

Currently, the only certified mortuary science program in Iowa exists at Des Moines Area Community College, which is entirely online, with 206 current students. While many schools offer prerequisite courses, like basic biology, including the University of Iowa in its mortuary science preprofessional program, much of the state lacks a direct track to mortuary licensure.

In an email to *The Daily Iowan*, Kevin Patterson, the program chair of mortuary science at DMACC, wrote that from 2014-21, DMACC enrolled around 150-175 mortuary students per academic year. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the program switched to its entirely virtual option, which allowed for an increase in students.

"While some media sources may paint a negative stigma around funeral directors, they provide a service to families who are facing one of their lowest points in life and help them as they begin the grieving process," Patterson wrote.

The Iowa Funeral Directors' Association represents over 700 licensed funeral directors, with nearly 85 percent of those licensed in Iowa, and the other 15 at out-of-state schools. There are 425 funeral home establishments throughout the state.

Ciha said funeral directors rank high in terms of burn-out and exodus, or leaving the profession early in one's career. He also noted that the profession ranks among the highest for rates of alcoholism.



Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

Michael Lensing explains the function of a cremator at Lensing Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Iowa City on Feb. 3. The only certified mortuary science program in Iowa exists at Des Moines Area Community College.

When someone dies unexpectedly, Ciha must be ready to go, even in the middle of family dinner.

"You go to work at that point, and you leave your family at the table and you might see them in six hours. So, that's the part that sucks," Ciha said. "[The job] is just very hard on an individual. It's hard on your families, your personal life."

Despite the stress and fatigue that can come with his career, Ciha said he "wouldn't trade it for the world." He noted that the relationships he forms with families and individuals make it worthwhile. In some cases, families may bury up to five generations with the same funeral home, Ciha said.

"The thing that I so appreciate about our work is families not only trust us with their dear loved ones, but they trust us with their families," Ciha said. "I can tell you stories about families, but I never would. They trust you like a counselor. And there's some things I wish nobody ever told me, but they tell me. And it's cool because they trust me with that."

### Rise in cremation, decrease in burials

Ciha said there has been a massive increase in cremations in recent years. When he began as a funeral director in 1976, the home's rate of cremation was less than 1 percent.

Now, the rate of cremation Ciha sees is almost 70 percent, he said. However, the reasons behind this drastic increase vary. For one, he said younger generations examine everything, including death, in a slightly different way than older generations, including but not limited to religion.

The other core provider of funeral care in Iowa City, Lensing Funeral & Cremation Service, currently sees a rate of about 58 percent cremations, according to co-owner Michael Lensing. Lensing Funerals also has a location in Coraville and a pet cremation service.

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A group of Harvard students created Facebook in 2004, one of the most prominent modern social media platforms.

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## UI students cut hair for a cause

Over 50 people cut their hair at the UI Dance Marathon this year.



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

Logan Ehrecke, a member of the entertainment committee for dance marathon, reacts to receiving a haircut during the University of Iowa 30th Dance Marathon at the Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City on Feb. 3. Ehrecke was one of over 50 students who cut or shaved their hair.

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University of Iowa fourth-year Tess Haug has waited to cut her hair for a cause since middle school. After raising over \$10,000 for Dance

Marathon, Haug finally got her chance.

Haug donated her entire head of hair to pediatric cancer patients at the Short Hair Don't Care event early on Feb. 3 during the 30th anniversary of UI's 24-hour Dance Marathon, which raised over \$1.4 million in total by the end of the event, an increase from the \$1.1 million raised in 2023. As shouts and applause filled the crowded Iowa

Memorial Union ballroom, Dance Marathon members and volunteers alike counted down to the famous Short Hair Don't Care event, a longstanding tradition at Dance Marathon.

Over 50 Dance Marathon members volunteered to cut or shave their hair on Feb. 3. Lining the hallways of the IMU, students excitedly took before and after selfies in anticipation of their new hairstyles.

Haug said she has been passionate about the cause ever since her sister introduced her to Dance Marathon in high school.

Many UI Dance Marathon students had a personal reason or motivation for going on stage and cutting or shaving their heads.

UI first-year Lauren Vogts has family members of her own who have had cancer. Her mother and her aunt have gone through multiple rounds of chemotherapy.

"It's just been very close to home how they lost their hair and wanted to get wigs," Vogts said. "The only way to get those wigs is for people like us to donate."

All Dance Marathon members were tasked with raising a minimum of \$300 to participate at the Big Event. The proceeds would go to UI Stead Family Children's Hospital, research, family support, and operating funds.

All money raised at the event will go to children who have cancer, those who have survived cancer, and families who have lost a child to the disease.

Vogts said donating is important so families know they are not alone.

"They are going through some of the hardest times in their life and giving them that support is really important," Vogts said.

UI fourth-year student Logan Ehrecke had

HAIR | 3A

## Turning the tide on UI campus laundry

The app students originally used to pay for dorm laundry was removed.

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The University of Iowa has forgone its use of the laundry app 4thID to turn back to student ID card swiping in residence halls.

The 4thID app was installed and used during the 2022-23 academic school year with the hope that the digital platform would help students reserve machines and link their Hawkeye Dollars for payment.

However, several reports and issues arose regarding the app's function, including a financial malfunction in April 2023 that ended up charging students for excess laundry transactions.

Von Stange, assistant vice president for student life and senior director of UI Housing and Dining, said in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that Washlava, the company initially running 4thID, was recently bought out and put under new management, which affected the use, function, and accessibility of the app.

The app was even removed from app stores for a period of time.

"Washlava's software partner attempted to assume responsibility for the laundry operations," Stange said. "They were able to get their apps restored to the Apple store and Google Play but did not have a timeline to fix the problem and enable compatibility with all mobile operating systems."

Stange added that this unreliable timeline was "unacceptable for the needs of our residents," which prompted the switch.

UI Housing and Dining contacted Transact Campus, an approved UI software vendor that partnered with KioSoft, a software company, to provide UI Housing and Dining with payment readers to install on the washers and dryers.

The funds for the installation came from a facilities budget designed for equipment. However, Mayflower washers and dryers were not outfitted with the new student ID swiping system, leaving students to receive free laundry services for the rest of the spring semester.

LAUNDRY | 2A

## CREMATION

from 1A

These estimations are backed by the National Funeral Director's Association, which reported that the average U.S. cremation rate was 60.5 percent in 2023. The NFDA expects this percentage could increase to over 80 percent by 2045.

"In my experience, cost is not always the main reason," Lensing said. "I feel it is the desire to be cremated. Cremation has become more acceptable over the years. Most religious denominations have given their approval, however, we find less cremation with Jewish families and no cremation with Muslim families we serve."

However, cost still plays a major role for many. The NFDA reported that 54.4 percent of surveyed individuals cited cost-effectiveness for why they would choose cremation over traditional burial.

Without a cemetery plot, headstone, or embalming, among other burial services, thousands of dollars can be saved in the death care process. According to a document listing the prices for various service options that Lensing provides, their general full-service burial funeral package costs \$7,495. Their general full-service cremation and funeral package costs \$5,640.

There are also more general options associated with cremation, Ciha said, citing one unique example.

"For instance, I had a gentleman, he was a big Harley Davidson buff," Ciha said. "I mean, he rode his Harley all over the country. He probably had easily, 200 biker friends just locally, and when he died, his daughter said, 'I want Dad to go all over the country.' So we did 150 little baggies of his cremated remains. And all the guys that showed up at the old Mill for the celebration, they all took a baggie of his and decided where they were going to spread them. So, you can't do that, obviously, with a person in the casket."

Ciha himself views cremation as an acceleration of the deterioration process. He said even in a sealed casket, we all return to our natural elements eventually. Cremation simply accelerates that process very quickly.

"A lot of people like the idea that they're not just 'sitting around rotting,' as they would say," Ciha said.

### Green burials

Aside from traditional burials or cremations, the concept of the "green" burial has also increased in popularity. According to the NFDA's 2023 report, 60 percent of surveyed individuals would consider a green burial option, up from 55.7 percent in 2021.

Ciha said green burials usually occur without embalming, and therefore must be performed within three days of death because of state requirements. Typically, Ciha said, green burials take place in green cemeteries, which allow the deceased to be buried without a casket or burial vault.

A burial vault is an underground concrete container that protects the casket and the deceased inside. A green grave is



Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

A green casket and urns are seen on display at Gay and Ciha Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Iowa City on Feb. 3. Green burials take up less physical space, and don't allow for the leeching of chemicals into the ground from untreated wooden or wicker casket.

typically not as deep as a traditional grave, because of the lack of a burial vault.

Green burials are intended to be environmentally conscious, as they take up less physical space, and don't allow for the leeching of chemicals into the ground from embalmed bodies. According to an Environmental Protection Agency report, formaldehyde left over from embalmed bodies can cause harm to animals and can be found in ambient air, contributing to overall pollution.

Ciha said he thinks green burials are a great concept, but that the practicality is often difficult because of cost and a low number of nearby green cemeteries.

"It's kind of like organic bananas versus the regular bananas," Ciha said. "We want to buy the organic because it's better for us. It's better for nature and all this. But for some strange reason, they cost more."

He estimated that the cost of a green burial is equal to or slightly less than a cremation. According to the NFDA's 2021 cost report, the median price of a funeral with burial and full viewing service is

embalming or a casket. However, he said the cost would be much higher to purchase a plot of land at a green cemetery than at a city cemetery because most green cemeteries are privately owned.

"If I won the lottery, I would have said I was going to buy 150 acres around here and just have a green cemetery," Ciha said. "But the problem is you got to have quite an investment in the land and you got to pay for that investment. So the only way you can do that is to charge like a son of a gun for that piece of land and charge to open the grave and close the grave."

### Destigmatizing death

Perspectives on death vary across age, life experience, and personal relationships. Regardless, death will eventually apply to everyone.

Lensing, who has worked as a funeral director for 47 years, said he has served countless families with different views on the services he provided. For some, the loss was a celebration of a long life that was well lived. For others, the death was a life cut short because

you're going to die. There's no way around it," Ciha said. "And there gets to be a point where you welcome death as peace and it's not the enemy. When I was 20 years old, I probably thought, 'I'm going to live to 85.' No big deal. As I get closer to that 85 point, I want quality, not so much quantity, but like I said, I'm not scared of it. It's just how I get there."

He said the media has "done its own spin" on death, especially when it comes to concepts like spirits or ghosts. However, Ciha said he thinks about every deceased individual as someone's family member. He never refers to the deceased by the term "dead body," instead calling them by name.

Whenever he is asked about how he can love his job working around "dead people," Ciha said he always flips the question.

"People say, 'How can you be around the deceased like you are?' And I say, 'If that was your grandfather, would you call them morbid or gross or distasteful?' And they say, 'Well, of course not,'" Ciha said.

In regard to his own death, Ciha said he wants to be cremated so his family could take him to different places if they chose.

Lensing, on the other hand, would prefer to be buried in a traditional service with a Christian mass and burial.

Ciha said there is ultimately no right or wrong answer to how to think about death, or how to go about choosing death care options. He said funeral directors must put the deceased's wishes first.

"My mother's in three different places, and she was cremated. My dad is buried in a cemetery in Solon in a casket," Ciha said. "And that just shows that people can be

### See more online

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"The thing that I so appreciate about our work is families not only trust us with their dear loved ones, but they trust us with their families."

#### Dan Ciha

Funeral Director at Gay & Ciha Funeral and Cremation Service

\$7,848. The median price of a funeral with cremation is \$6,970.

While the total cost of a green burial varies, the average cost of a green burial casket — usually an untreated wooden or wicker casket — is \$1,500. Combined with the cost of transportation and the potential price of a green grave, the average price can reach \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Ciha noted there are no green cemeteries near Iowa City, though some nearby cemeteries do allow for some natural burials without

of war, an accident, a suicide, or a premature birth.

"I believe that to move forward through the grief process, it is essential to stop and mourn the loss. Ceremonies and rituals are lifesaving," Lensing said. "People want to 'celebrate a life,' but one must say goodbye before you can celebrate."

Ciha said he doesn't believe we are meant to have all the answers about death. While he said he fears dying, he doesn't fear death. "What's crazy is you're born,

## HAIR

from 1A

not cut his curly hair since the last Dance Marathon event in 2023. He shaved his entire head at this year's event.

"The people who know me know my hair is a big part of who I am," Ehrecke said. "When people ask me why I shaved my head, I get to tell them about all the great stuff we are doing here today."

Tommy Layden, a UI third-year student, related shaving his head at the event to his experience as a nanny to three young children.

"I've been watching these kids for a really long time and I feel like they are my own kids in some ways," Layden said. "So when I think about kids who have cancer, I think about how it would destroy me if my kids had cancer."

Layden ran in the 2023 Chicago Marathon for the very first time for his fundraising event as a Dance Marathon member and said although running was never really his thing, he was excited to train again for this year's marathon.

"It is a small gesture for me to shave my hair like this," Layden said. "It'll grow back in a couple of

months and I am grateful that I get the choice to do this."

Dance Marathon members also reflected on how the act of shaving their heads and donating their hair helped put things into perspective.

Vogts said her experience with Dance Marathon has taught her life is short and she hopes to show how far hair donation can go.

"For some of these families, life changes in an instant and that really showed me what it means to help other people," Vogts said.

Haley Mudge, a fourth-year student, said she hoped others will cherish what they have and be willing to give back to these children.

"Tomorrow is not promised for these kids and that is why this is such

an important and special thing," Mudge said.

Ehrecke also said it has helped him appreciate what he has and get connected with more people.

"You are able to have a much deeper understanding of something you might not have experienced yourself," Ehrecke said. "It is something that is real and tangible that needs all the attention it can get."

## LAUNDRY

from 1A

"[UI Housing and Dining's] partnership with software company KioSoft made it easier and timely to make that switch," Stange said. "UHD maintenance, tech support, residence education, and business teams worked together to roll out a new laundry payment process over winter break to keep disruption to residents minimal."

The new student ID payment readers were installed over winter break to greet students on Jan. 16. UI students expressed positive remarks about the new system, some of them happy that 4thID has been abandoned due to technical issues over the past few months.

"I know the app actually crashed a few different times for my friends," Ava

Goldsmith, a first-year journalism major, said. "It was really unfortunate because one of my friends actually had to Venmo a random girl to pay for her laundry."

There have been, however, some issues regarding the new devices.

"I do know a couple people have encountered problems," first-year Delaney Resnick, a business major, said. "Sometimes when you swipe and you press start, it doesn't [start], so you have to stand there and make sure it starts [before leaving]."

Despite these problems, Stange said UI Housing and Dining plans to monitor the equipment, resident needs, and make future adjustments when necessary.

**Editor's Note:** Ava Goldsmith is a former employee of The Daily Iowan.

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## The Daily Iowan

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# UI caddy scholarship grows

Organizers said the UI's Evans Scholarship program plans to add 10 students each year.

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A national program for student golf caddies is growing at the University of Iowa.

The Evans Scholarship Foundation supports college students, including 10 UI students, who work as golf caddies with full tuition and housing. Evans program officials say one part of the program's growth would be adding a building off campus at the UI for the scholars to live in.

While the idea of the house is still in its early stages and no land has been purchased. The building is anticipated to be on an off-campus lot.

UI Evans Scholars are not the first in the scholarship program to consider buying a house on campus. In 2022, the Western Golf Association sponsored a house for the Evans Scholars on Northwestern University's campus.

There are currently 24 universities working with the program. As of the 2023-24 school year, the UI is the home of the newest branch of Evans Scholars with intentions to grow each year by 10 students, Brian Shell, vice president of Education at the Evans Scholars Foundation said.

Construction is expected to begin in 2025 and complete in 2026, Shell said.

While the scholars are responsible for their own textbooks and dining plans, the scholarship program pays their tuition and housing costs in full for all four years of college. According to the UI, the current total cost for out-of-state students is approximately \$45,543 each year.

Max Widhalm from Illinois and Tony Galusha from Wisconsin are both first-year students and two of the Evans Scholars recipients. Current UI Evans Scholars live in Daum Residence Hall on the east side of campus.

"It's huge to have that opportunity and the large community of Evans scholars throughout the Midwest," Galusha said.

Widhalm expressed his agreement with



Photo Illustration by Matt Sindt | The Daily Iowan

Galusha and said the Evans Scholarship presented him with opportunities to be a leader.

"[It] gave so much more opportunity not just with college but also with working and getting leadership opportunities," Widhalm said.

Last fall, the students described meeting UI President Barbara Wilson as a memorable highlight. The students met Wilson as part of the Evans Scholars program's first-year opportunities.

Shell said the four criteria for acceptance into the program include academic achievements, leadership achievements, financial need, and caddying experience. While the program prefers students with at least 100 rounds

of caddying experience, there is no exact number requirement.

He also discussed his excitement

A scholarship board is being formed among the student caddies currently enrolled. The board will

"It's huge to have that opportunity and the large community of Evans scholars throughout the Midwest."

**Tony Galusha**  
UI first-year and scholarship recipient

with future aspirations for the Evans Scholarship Foundation on the UI campus. While 10 scholars are currently on campus, he thinks the addition of 10 more each year for the next three years will benefit the UI community.

be fully composed of students with a potential advisor from the Evans Scholarship Foundation.

Galusha said he sees a board as a great opportunity to further the Evans Scholar Program at the UI.

# Healing Prairie Farms set to open for youth in crisis

The Iowa City center is expected to start accepting youth by March 1.



Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

Healing Prairie Farm is seen in Iowa City on Feb. 2. Healing Prairie Farm is a youth crisis stabilization center equipped with farm animals, and 24-hour crisis resource staff members.

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Equipped with a llama, two horses, four goats, and more animals, a new youth crisis center will begin accepting residents on March 1 to give youth a safe space in Iowa City.

"They'll come in through those doors and immediately be greeted with a warm home," Julia Winter, CommUnity Crisis Services Director of Development, said. "We aren't just an institution, it's a home that is going to feel safe."

The center, named Healing Prairie Farms, is located on the 5000 block of Highway 6 and comes from a partnership between local mental health organizations United Action for Youth and CommUnity Crisis Services.

According to CommUnity's Chief Executive Officer Sarah Nelson, the East Central Mental Health Region provided \$1.2 million to help them purchase the property. CommUnity bought the property in August 2023 for an undisclosed amount.

The center received funding and support through the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, who approved \$1 million in October 2023 to help renovate the property.

Nelson wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that she sees the crisis center as a unique opportunity to serve

youth in the community.

"Both the service and the environment we are providing it in are unlike anything youth have had access to," Nelson wrote. "We believe this space will be a truly healing experience that provides pathways to continued services in the community."

The property sits on 20 acres of land which includes two houses, a barn, stables, and a chicken coop. Organizers held an open house of the property on Jan. 27 with over 400 people attending,

Winter said.

A total of 12 beds will be available for youth to stay on the property. Staff will work in shifts to provide 24/7 support with UAY providing staffing during the day and CommUnity at night, Winter said.

The property has two spaces to house youth. In one house, there are four beds in an apartment-style design meaning there is a living room and kitchen along with a bedroom. This space is designated for homeless and trafficked youth. These children can stay up to 21 days, Winter said.

In the other house, there are eight beds for youth in crisis who can stay for up to 10 days, Winter said. However, they can stay longer depending on the circumstances.

This house overlooks a small lake where the two horses and llama graze.

While on the farm, children will be exposed to three types of programming Emma Huntzinger, communications director for CommUnity, said. These three programs are individual counseling, group therapy, and animal-based therapy.

The property is currently under renovation to meet the necessary codes and standards, such as having a sprinkler system and larger stairs. Winter said the original house on the property is around 100 years old, so it needed these types of updates.

Huntzinger said she sees the center as a calming place where youth can explore what interests them.

"I think just being in a space with animals is a really calming environment, and we want to encourage youth to do what interests them,"

Huntzinger said.

As the facility prepares to open, the history of the property is remembered by staff. Kinderfarm Preschool — a nature-based early learning center — taught preschool-age children for nearly 50 years until closing in 2022.

Winter said many of the farm animals, including the llama and horses, were donated by the previous owners of the property and were exposed to children while Kinderfarm Preschool operated.

"[The animals] had experience working with children, and that's been one of the things that's been really important to us as we're looking to bring other animals onto the property," Winter said.

Winter said she sees the farm being a place that youth can see as a home and is glad to continue that positive space Kinderfarm cultivated for youth.

"It's for Iowa City and it's really cool we get to carry on that legacy," Winter said.

## INVITATION TO BID

S.J. Louis Const., Inc. is soliciting subcontract and material bids for the SWTP West Feeder Main Phase 3 Project. Bids Due: 02/09/2024 @ 10:00 AM CST. Qualified DBE/MBE, Approved SLBE, and small business firms are encouraged to submit bids.

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Please contact us if you need any assistance in obtaining bonding, financing, insurance, equipment, supplies, materials or related assistance or services. All qualified bidders will not be discriminated against due to race, age, religion, color, sex or country of origin.

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## 41ST ANNUAL Presidential Lecture

### Pathways to Discovery: Clinical and Legal Trials, Academic Rigor, and Public Perceptions

Monday, February 19, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.  
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Public reception to follow

#### Christopher Coffey

Professor of Biostatistics; Director, Clinical Trials Statistical and Data Management Center, College of Public Health

#### Cristina Tilley

Professor of Law; Claire Ferguson-Carlson Faculty Fellow in Law; College of Law

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# OPINIONS

DAILYIOWAN.COM

COLUMN

## The fight for transgender rights is far from over

An Iowa LGBTQ+-related bill didn't advance on Jan. 31.



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds speaks during Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' Caucus Night Watch Party at the Sheraton in West Des Moines on Jan. 15. Reynolds signed the bill Senate File 482, which prohibits transgender people from using bathrooms that align with their gender identity, into law last session.



Natalie Nye  
Opinions Columnist

Iowa Republican lawmakers failed to pass another anti-LGBTQ+ bill, House File 2082, which would make it legal to discriminate against transgender people.

The bill would have specifically removed protections for transgender people and classify gender dysphoria as a legal disability.

This was an act of discrimination. While this bill was shot down, the fight for protecting transgender rights is far from over.

The transgender community is already one of the most targeted groups of people in the country. Taking away their protections in our state sends a threatening reminder that Iowa lawmakers will go out of their way to marginalize the LGBTQ+ community because they believe that they pose a threat to the fabric of our society for whatever reason.

Their obsession and hatred toward trans people show they are not equipped to prioritize active issues like school safety.

Conservative politicians have a history of spouting their distorted beliefs that being transgender is immoral and a ploy for predatory motives. Now they think it's a disability.

It is important for everyone to combat these harmful stereotypes perpetuated by our state politicians. Being transgender is not immoral, and the accusation that people with diverse gender identities are inherently predatory is completely baseless. The lack of empirical evidence speaks for itself. Republicans have been pushing out countless bills within recent years that specifically target transgender

individuals, motivated by their discomfort with or lack of understanding of the LGBTQ+ community.

The bill HF 2082 was strictly meant to discriminate against a protected class. If this bill got passed, there is no doubt that they would feel obliged to take harsher discriminatory measures to ensure that transgender people do not feel safe in this state.

Another example of these abrasive measures is bill House File 180, which would permit school staff and teachers to "out" their transgender students, which was withdrawn due to another bill, Senate File 482, signed by Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds that restricts trans people from using the bathroom associated with their gender identity.

Another signed bill nicknamed the "Don't Say Gay" bill, which has a temporary injunction, bans topics of gender identity and sexual orientation in K-8 schools. Now more than ever, it is important to actively protest these prejudiced laws.

Transgender people deserve to exist with full protection under the law, and kids deserve to have the choice of learning about the basics of gender identity so they can be more aware of the world around them.

We must continue to push our politicians to end their discriminatory campaign against the LGBTQ+ community and focus on eliminating the issues that genuinely negatively impact the people in our state.

Though the jig is up for Iowa Republican lawmakers for now, we must continue to protest any anti-LGBTQ+ bill they will undoubtedly put out. Their incessant hate makes them completely unfit to be politicians because they are determined to strip the rights and protections of Americans based on their personal beliefs under the ridiculous guise of protecting kids from the mere topic of gender identity.

There are real problems that Iowa lawmakers need to tackle such as gun violence, the lack of security in K-12 schools, and the inadequate mental health system. Their deflection of blame onto the LGBTQ+ community is completely baseless and ignorant.

COLUMN

## The US needs its own publicly-owned airline

Current air travel is a messy and stressful activity. We could help fix this with a state-owned airline.



Caden Bell  
Opinions Columnist

Flying can be a stressful and difficult endeavor, and the airlines are no help.

Passengers can often be hit with delays and left without compensation or assistance with their travel issues. Airlines are becoming increasingly less reliable, and their quality continues to drop. These airlines cut corners and are only beholden to their profit motive.

This has even led Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Connecticut, to introduce a "passenger bill of rights" in 2023 to hold the airlines more accountable.

In addition, there should be a government-owned airline similar to the train system Amtrak, or many global peers' airlines such as United Arab Emirates, Air New Zealand, and Scandinavian Airlines.

The airline would have many benefits. With privatized airlines, the companies are not beholden to the people but to profit. This has led to countless travel nightmares in which airlines regularly screw over their paying consumers.

A state-owned airline would be run by public officials voted on by the public or put in place by elected officials. It could also have Congressional oversight, allowing for regulation and fixes if people demand it. It would also lack a profit motive, so the airlines would not cut corners to maximize their amount of money. This could create safer air travel as a state-owned operation could invest all profits and funding into the best product.

Amtrak shows how we can start and run our own "Amair." Amtrak was founded in the 1970s to save the fleeting private passenger train industry as many private passenger trains were going bankrupt. The government decided that instead of bailing out the industry, it would buy the remaining companies and form a public state-owned passenger train. Since then, Amtrak has provided travel for many Americans, and the U.S. has not needed to bail out the industry.

The same cannot be said for airlines. According to *The Washington Post*, the U.S. and its taxpayers have spent billions financially bailing out airlines. We could use the money we have spent on bailing out airlines to run our own. A solution like Amtrak in which we create our own state-owned airline can help end this problematic use of taxpayer money.

A state-owned airline would be beneficial as it would introduce a competitor to our current airlines. We do not need to nationalize the industry entirely but have one standalone public airline. This airline, not working for profit, would be safer by not cutting corners and working for the public.

This would create an airline that consumers can directly address and impact and would be under the eye of the public. A government airline could help both the public consumer and help facilitate meaningful change within private airlines.

A state-owned airline would be beneficial as it would introduce a competitor to our current airlines ... This airline, that would not work for profit, would be safer by not cutting corners.

COLUMN

## Childrens' screen times are outrageous

Studies show that prolonged screen time at an early age could lead to decreased attention span in kids.



Shelley Mishra  
Opinions Contributor

The current abundant presence of screens in an average household gives us a common scenario: A child is engrossed in a screen, the parent snatches it away, and the child ends up throwing tantrums.

Even if this visual is depicted comically, it unveils one of the most pressing issues among adolescents. Children are exposed to technology at an increasingly early age and are given tablets and phones to keep themselves busy. Over 40 percent of children have a smartphone by 10 years old, according to Common Sense Media.

Even the Iowa Legislature is taking action against phone use. Lawmakers recently proposed Senate File 2044 in the Iowa Legislature would ban cell phone use in Iowa schools.

The effects of heavy screen time can prove costly in both the short and long term for children. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure their children don't become

attached to these screens and the responsibility of manufacturers to ensure that their customers are aware of potential harmful effects.

Although there are a handful of studies that demonstrate a correlation between screen time and low attention spans in children, children use their devices while they eat, while they travel, and even while they engage in conversation with those around them.

Even adults seem indifferent to their surroundings as they are engrossed in screens for this "dopamine boost." Dopamine, the neurotransmitter released by social interactions and external stimulations, creates a reward pathway in the brain which excites us, according to Seattle Children's Research Institute.

Therefore, children find their dopamine boosts in the interactive animations and motion pictures on the screens that stimulate them.

But for children, these frequent virtual "rewards" can interfere with their ability to focus on a single task, as they don't receive instant satiation, which, according to research from the National Library of Medicine, leads to impulsivity, low attention spans, and hyperactivity.

In fact, some studies show that even if screen time is assumed to decrease while children are at school and continue to grow up, time spent using screens early in life

leads to decreased academic performance in older age ranges.

According to the American Psychiatric Association, or APA, there should be no daily screen time for kids aged less than 18 months except video calling, only one hour for kids aged 2-5 years, and "consistent limits" for kids aged 6 years old and above.

Although the sale of most tablets and smartphones is not aimed toward children, they make up some of the biggest consumers of this technology. Manufacturers should consider adding labels to their products, informing consumers about the risks such as socio-cognitive and developmental delays associated with prolonged screen time in kids, and recommend the APA's guidelines for the same, so that parents can make informed decisions.

Parents should limit their children's screen time and instead engage them in activities such as reading, encouraging them to discover new hobbies, or helping them introspect by asking them to try journaling instead of only watching something on their screens.

Educators should make limited use of technology for younger students as well. They should assign students simple projects involving constructive use of technology and assign math problems without the use of calculators or the internet.

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# AMPLIFY

DAILYIOWAN.COM

## Black History Ball the 'missing piece'

In celebration of Black History Month, the inaugural Black History Ball lit up the interior of the Iowa City Senior Center on Feb. 4.

**Jack Moore**  
Assistant News Editor  
jack-moore@uiowa.edu

Within the chiseled stone exterior of the Iowa City Senior Center was a scene of smooth jazz, superfluous outfits, and the floating scents of fresh traditional cuisine the night of Feb. 4.

The senior center's assembly room was packed during Iowa City's first-ever Black History Ball — and event planners say it won't be the last.

Ashley Howard, a University of Iowa assistant professor of African American Studies and History, was the keynote speaker at the event. Howard's research includes topics such as the "Black Midwest" and the global history of racial violence.

"To see and to live in the world we want and deserve, to amplify our stories and our humanity, I want you to think about these questions," Howard said during her speech. "What stories do you tell and circulate? And in the spirit of Sankofa, what stories do we need to go back and get."

"Sankofa" is an African word originating from the Akan tribe in Ghana, meaning, "it is not taboo to fetch what is at risk of being left behind." The word is also used in the name of the local nonprofit Sankofa Outreach Connection, which helped organize the event.

In Howard's speech, she spoke of the impact of Black stories and what this ball means for the Black community, especially for the future. She emphasized how these stories deserve to be listened to and remembered.

"When I think of this ball next year, I'm also thinking about what are the stories that we will tell each other a year from now? What will we laugh about? What losses will we mourn? What achievements will we point to and say, 'We built that. We did that.'" Howard said.

Attendees of the ball were outfitted with formal wear including suits and traditional dresses, some with beadwork and other ties to African cultures. No dancing took place at this ball, however.

Instead, participants found a place to sit and listen to the jazz band and the keynote speakers of the night.

The ball took five months of planning by several organizers including the senior center's Original Mature Groovers, the UI Stanley Museum of Art, and Sankofa Outreach Connection, which works to retain and sustain women of color and their families in the Johnson County area.

The Original Mature Groovers, formerly known as the Elders of Color, is an Iowa City-based group that aims to provide a safe and welcoming space for people of color over the age of 50 to share their diverse perspectives and stories and foster new community connections.

LaTasha DeLoach, the senior center's coordinator, said the event's idea stemmed from the desire to bring the Black Iowan community together. The ball was also intended to help fund a trip for the Original Mature Groovers to learn more about the Underground Railroad, a secret network across the U.S. that formerly enslaved people used to escape their captors.

Proceeds from the ball's ticket sales as well as a silent auction at the event will go toward the trip. According to DeLoach, the event raised \$4,000 from ticket sales alone. DeLoach said an additional \$400 to \$500 was generated from the silent auction.

The formal nature of the event allowed



Kathy Le | The Daily Iowan

University of Iowa professor Donika Kelly performs a poem during the inaugural Black History Ball at the Iowa City Senior Center in Iowa City on Feb. 3. Several organizers planned the ball for over five months.

community members to dress in formal wear as opposed to a more casual party setting.

Before the ball started, DeLoach watched people begin to gather and said the event was something the community was missing.

"This is a great way to honor those folks that are local, whether they are chefs or whether they're musicians or other artists," she said.

Wangui Gathua, an Iowa City Ad Hoc Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner, was also in attendance at the ball. The TRC is tasked with identifying systemic racism in Iowa City and providing recommendations to the city council.

Gathua said she saw the ball as an opportunity for the community to come together and was happy to see the senior center be a welcoming location for the community.

"I'm excited," Gathua said. "It just

"When I think of this ball next year, I'm also thinking about what are the stories that we will tell each other a year from now? What will we laugh about? What losses will we mourn? What achievements will we point to and say, 'We built that. We did that.'"

**Ashley Howard**

UI assistant professor of African American Studies and History

provides more forums for people to get together."

Gathua said events like these create more spaces for the community, particularly the Black community to get together. It's something she hopes to see more of through her work at the TRC.

Along the walls of the center's assembly room hung seven works of art made by Black artists, which were provided by the UI Stanley Art Museum's collection.

Works of art included depictions of Martin Luther King Jr. from Ho Che Anderson's graphic novels. Wood masks and sculptures from Nigeria and Sierra Leone were also displayed.

DeLoach said all 115 seats were taken by the Friday before the event and they could not accept any more people.

The Curtis Taylor Quartet, led by UI professor of jazz Curtis Taylor and composed of UI assistant professor William Menefield, bassist Jonathon Muir-Cotton, and drummer Alexander White, played jazz during the event.

The quartet's jazz filled the ballroom as community members filled their plates with food. The night's dishes originated from a variety of cultures in places like West Africa, Puerto Rico, and Jamaica.

Dishes available to attendees included jerk chicken, a traditional Jamaican dish that originates back to the Arawak and Taíno Indigenous peoples; jollof rice, a West African dish typically made with chilies, tomatoes, onions, spices, veggies, meat, and rice; and mofongo, a seasoned dish from Puerto Rico seasoned with

Black National Anthem," also called "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Taylor's trumpet rang out, following the melody of the song as the crowd sang along.

Once finished, Howard took the stage delivering a 30-minute monologue on Black resilience, growth, and appreciation of Black culture. Howard spoke on stories from prominent Black figures including Malcom X, Aaron Douglas, Prince, and more.

"Our experiences matter and our stories are an integral part of the state's history and its self conception," Howard said during the speech. "The reimagining of their experiences must affirm Black Iowans' humanity."

Howard said there is reason to continue growing the community for Black Iowans while recognizing Iowa culture as a whole.

"We fight because we know that we are worth fighting for," Howard said. "Black Iowans must embrace the complexity, beauty, horror, and promise that this state holds for people of African descent."

Howard closed her speech with a wish for the continual growth of vibrance within the Black Iowan community as attendees gave Howard a standing ovation.

Attendee Simone Garza said she felt honored to attend the event and let people from the Black community come to share their culture.

"I feel pretty good to be here. Not about dressing up or looking pretty but also being able to represent our history. In our culture we are so strong," Garza said.

Garza said she saw the ball as a "defining event," and hopes to see more events like the Black History Ball take place around Iowa City.

"It's a big milestone. I'm just glad that we're able to make that change and continue to see more events like this," Garza said. "We get to represent our heart, we get to represent our culture and our history."

**Editor's note:** Simone Garza is a former employee of The Daily Iowan.



Kathy Le | The Daily Iowan

The Curtis Taylor Quartet performs during the inaugural Black History Ball at the Iowa City Senior Center in Iowa City on Feb. 3. The event's organizers want to plan future Black History Balls.

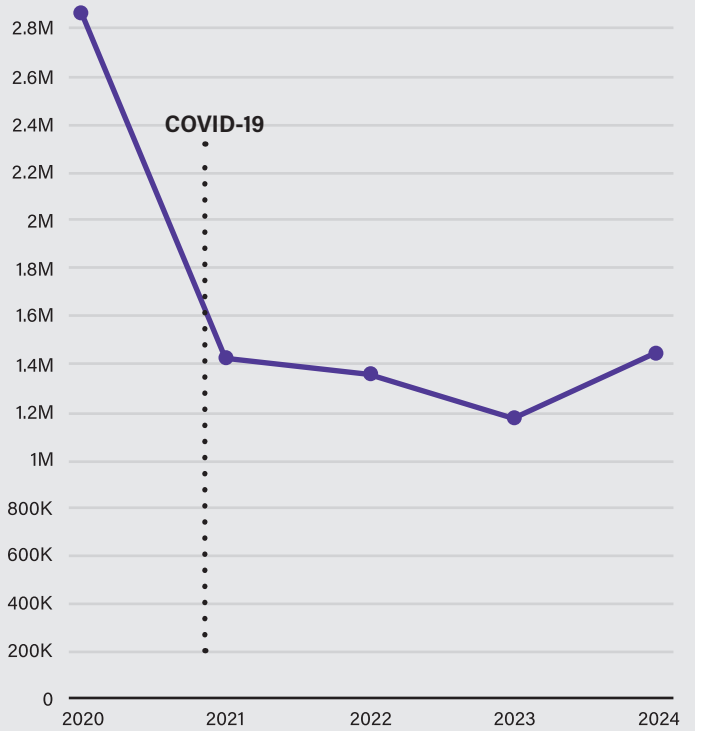
# DANCING 'FOR THE KIDS'

University of Iowa students and volunteers raised \$1,454,929 during Dance Marathon 30 on Feb. 2-3, the highest amount of money since before the COVID-19 pandemic.



### Amount of money raised by UI Dance Marathon each year since 2020

UI Dance Marathon raised the highest amount of money since COVID-19 this year at \$1,454,929.30.



Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher | The Daily Iowan

DI Staff | The Daily Iowan

**(First)** Attendees dance during the University of Iowa's 30th Dance Marathon at the Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City on Feb. 3. Dancers raised \$1,454,929.30 for families and patients who have pediatric cancer. **(Second)** Dance Marathon participants hug at the end of the University of Iowa's 30th Dance Marathon at the Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City on Feb. 3. **(Third)** Olivia Buerger lays on a cot during the University of Iowa's 30th Dance Marathon at the Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City on Feb. 3. Buerger was one of several students who was able to sleep for roughly 20 minutes. **(Fourth)** Dawson Ohlenkamp holds an image of his brother Giovanni Turner during the University of Iowa's 30th Dance Marathon at the Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City on Feb. 3.

See more online:

To view more of *The Daily Iowan's* coverage of Dance Marathon, visit [dailyiowan.com](http://dailyiowan.com).





Check out [dailyiowan.com](http://dailyiowan.com) on Feb. 8 for coverage of Iowa women's basketball's game against Penn State.

- Hawkeye Updates
- Quote of the Week
- Stat of the Week
- Point/Counterpoint

**FOOTBALL**

# New era afoot for Iowa football

Hawkeye offensive coordinator Tim Lester stresses balance in rebuilding Iowa's offense.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Seth Wallace, who was named assistant head coach on Jan. 16 and recently hired offensive coordinator Tim Lester enter a press conference at the Hansen Football Performance Center in Iowa City on Feb. 6.

**Matt McGowan**  
Sports Reporter  
[matthew-r-mcgowan@uiowa.edu](mailto:matthew-r-mcgowan@uiowa.edu)

On Jan. 26, the idea of Tim Lester being Iowa football's next offensive coordinator seemed remote, far-fetched, and for some fans, an undue burden. That morning, another candidate was, quite literally, in the picture. Hawkeye head coach Kirk Ferentz was having breakfast with former Duke offensive coordinator Kevin Johns.



Ferentz

First posted by "The Athletic's" Scott Dochterman, the image gave the Black and Gold faithful hope that the months-long hiring process had concluded. That is, until a now-deleted tweet from "The Des Moines Register's" Chad Leistikow that floated the idea of Lester as a legitimate candidate. Hours later, Leistikow explained that his words were "unnecessarily stoking legit

angst" about the hiring process.

For Iowa fans and media alike, Lester leading the Hawkeye offense was simply a rumor. Five days later, that rumor became reality, as Iowa officially announced the hiring of Lester, who had just spent 2023 working as an analyst for the Green Bay Packers.

Lester will be earning \$1.1 million in 2024 and \$1.4 million in 2025. His predecessor, Brian Ferentz, collected \$850,000 in his final season on the sideline.

"My family and I are extremely excited to

move to Iowa City and be a part of this football program," Lester said in his introductory press conference on Feb. 6. "I can tell you right now that we're going to be a physical football team. We're going to be disciplined and aggressive in everything we do from the run game, pass game, keepers, run-pass options, and tempo ... It's about putting your players in the best position to succeed."

Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said Les-

**FOOTBALL | 3B**

**MEN'S WRESTLING**

# Moving up a weight class

Iowa men's wrestler Patrick Kennedy embraces new role.



Carly Schrum | The Daily Iowan

Iowa's No. 9 174-pound Patrick Kennedy points toward the crowd during a wrestling dual between No. 3 Iowa and Purdue at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Jan. 19. Kennedy wrestled at 165 last year and this year transfer and teammate Michael Caliendo filled the spot moving Kennedy up to 174.

**Isaac Elzinga**  
Sports Reporter  
[isaac-elzinga@uiowa.edu](mailto:isaac-elzinga@uiowa.edu)



Kennedy

Iowa men's wrestler Patrick Kennedy has found a new home at 174 pounds for the Hawkeyes this season after an NCAA qualification at 165 last year.

Kennedy was missing from Iowa's lineup to start this season and didn't see any action until the dual against Iowa State on Nov. 28, where he wrestled and won against MJ Gaitan at 174.

He couldn't follow up that win, losing against Penn's No. 10 Nick Incontrera, 10-2.

He responded after the loss by earning a 20-3 tech fall in the Hawkeyes' final nonconference dual meet against Columbia's Garrett Bilgrave on Dec. 8.

For the 2023 Soldier Salute, Kennedy moved down to a more natural weight of 165 and succeeded, making it to the final.

He met teammate and North Dakota State transfer Michael Caliendo in the 165-pound title match. Caliendo got the better of Kennedy, beating him, 7-3, and protecting

his status at 165.

"I think that [Michael] Caliendo solidified himself at 165," Iowa head coach Tom Brands said coming out of the winter break. "We still have a great asset for our team, a great attitude, a great worker, and a great teammate in Patrick Kennedy."



Arnold

Brands has options at 174, with true freshman Gabe Arnold impressing early into his Iowa career. Still, the coaching staff put its faith in Kennedy ahead of the Big Ten Conference schedule.

Kennedy rewarded the coaching staff's faith in him by defeating his first opponent after winter break.

He wrestled No. 30 Bubba Wilson from Nebraska and beat him, 9-5, helping the Hawkeyes secure a 22-10 victory over the Cornhuskers.

He followed that win up with two more wins during Iowa's duals against Minnesota and Purdue. Kennedy secured bonus points in each, beating Minnesota's Sam Skillings, 13-2, for a major decision and Purdue's Brody Baumann, 19-4, for a tech. fall.

**KENNEDY | 3B**

**GYMNASTICS**

# Filling big gym shoes

Iowa gymnastics' underclassmen are primed to rise to the occasion.

**Jake Olson**  
Sports Reporter  
[jake-olson@uiowa.edu](mailto:jake-olson@uiowa.edu)



Henderson

With two of Iowa gymnastics' strongest competitors sidelined for much of the 2024 season, it is time for the underclassmen to rise to the occasion.

Returning to the GymHawks squad this season were a pair of seasoned gymnasts poised to lead the team to yet another NCAA Tournament appearance.

Three-time All-American and first-team All-Big Ten selection JerQuavia Henderson was returning for her fifth year of eligibility at Iowa — looking to add to her already decorated collegiate gymnastics career.

Along with Henderson was fourth-year Adeline Kenlin, a two-time All-American and the national runner-up on beam in 2022.

Both Henderson and Kenlin were set to lead a younger GymHawk team this season that has not seen much collegiate experience, but over the past three weeks, Iowa head coach Larissa Libby lost both athletes to the sideline.

Days before the team's season opener against Washington, Henderson announced her departure from the team to focus on her mental health.

In the team's third competition of the season against Southern Utah, Kenlin injured her ankle after a vault routine on the team's first rotation, exiting the gym before returning on crutches.

The sudden loss of the team's two leaders has left Libby looking for athletes who can step up and replace the All-American tandem.

"I'm not going to say it's not hard," Libby said. "It certainly is harder to not have the experience. But we don't have captains [on our team], and there is a reason for that. Here comes one of those reasons. At any given time, anything could happen, and they all have to be ready to lead."

The team's first competition without either athlete in the lineup came against No. 14 Michigan State, an event that saw Iowa lose, 197,400-195,700.

Despite the loss, Libby and her coaching staff are confident



Kenlin



Libby

**GYMNASTICS | 3B**

**UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

**Women's basketball**

**Thursday, Feb. 8**  
vs. Penn State  
8 p.m., Big Ten Network and Hawkeye Radio Network

**Men's basketball**

**Thursday, Feb. 8**  
At Penn State  
6 p.m., Big Ten Network and Hawkeye Radio Network

**Sunday, Feb. 11**  
vs. Minnesota  
2 p.m., Big Ten Network and Hawkeye Radio Network

**Men's wrestling**

**Friday, Feb. 9**  
vs. Penn State  
8 p.m., Big Ten Network and Hawkeye Radio Network

**Gymnastics**

**Friday, Feb. 9**  
At Rutgers  
5 p.m., Big Ten Plus

**Tennis**

**Feb. 9-10**  
Wisconsin Windy City Invite  
Tyson Invitational  
Jarvis Scott Open

**Tennis**

**Friday, Feb. 9**  
vs. Memphis  
10 a.m.

**Friday, Feb. 9**  
At Denver  
11 a.m.

**Rowing**

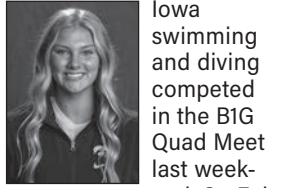
**Friday, Feb. 9**  
vs. Memphis  
10 a.m.

**TRACK PRS**



Over the weekend, the Iowa track and field program had its first road test of the season. The Hawkeyes boasted 41 personal best times, three first-place finishes, and seven adjustments to all-time school ranks. The team earned its respective honors across the country, from Indiana to New Mexico and Iowa. The highlight of the weekend took place at Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, where fourth year Alli Bookin-Nosbisch broke her own school record in the 800-meter race. She placed third in the event with a time of 2:04.20.

**SWIMMING PRs**



Iowa swimming and diving competed in the BIG Quad Meet last weekend. On Feb. 2, first-year Olivia Swalley posted the program's second-best time in the 100 breast-stroke. The Hawkeyes also set six season bests and two new collegiate bests. The success continued Feb. 3 as Iowa recorded two second place finishes and four all-season bests. The Hawkeyes fell to Purdue, Minnesota, and Northwestern during the meet, but head coach Nathan Mundt was pleased with his squad's performance. "We were much improved on day two of competition," Mundt told Hawkeye Sports. "We had confidence from the first event this morning all the way through the session. If you have confidence and perform aggressively, good things will happen."

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"The conference is the toughest it's ever been."

**Brenda Frese**  
Maryland women's basketball coach

**STAT OF THE WEEK**

**66**  
The number of points Iowa point guard Caitlin Clark needs to break the NCAA women's scoring record.

**TRACK & FIELD**

# Success follows friendship

The Iowa women's hurdle squad is poised to have a successful season.

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

Each time an Iowa women's track and field hurdler's spike crosses the finish line, she has a group of teammates eager to congratulate her.

Though their relationships began on the track, the hurdles squad quickly found their training partners to become some of their best friends. Some may assume their friendship depends on track and field, but the hurdles group argues it is built on something more.

"Our bond off the track, at the foundation of it, is a lot of love," second-year Natalie Harris said.

As built-in competitors, friendship within the hurdles squad doesn't hinder their fierce spirit on the track. Instead, it fosters growth within the group and helps them enjoy their training sessions.

"The girls definitely make it easy to look forward to practice," second-year hurdler Ellie Rickertsen said.

"We go head-to-head, but we still know that those are the people who are going to have your back and be in your corner no matter what," first-year Ali Frandsen added.

Even after off-season training, intense lifting workouts, injury recovery, and long meets, the hurdles squad never seems tired of each other. They even find extra time outside of track and field to be together.

Harris recalls hosting the hurdles squad at her house for football watch parties and trying out new restaurants in their free time. Fourth-year Paige Magee

remembers killing time between meet events by talking to the hurdles squad.



**Magee**



**Petersen**

"It feels so organic," Magee said. "I've been here for four years, and we're so much closer this year than I've experienced in the past."

This close-knit bond directly translates to success in races. The highlight of the indoor hurdles season so far has been Magee's school record of 8.00 in the 60-meter hurdles.

"That was one of my favorite moments," fourth-year Katie Petersen said of Magee's record-breaking race. Rickertsen recalls physically feeling the success of her teammate.

"[Frandsen] and I were warming up on the side for the 4x400, and I had full-body chills," she said.

Magee remembers breaking the record, but the most memorable part of the race came after. Though she knew she ran well, she didn't have a chance to check her record-breaking time before she was engulfed in hugs from her best friends.

Iowa Director of Track and Field Joey Woody said the women's hurdle squad is paving the way to reach the Hawkeyes' goal of a cohesive team culture.

"This year, they are growing closer and closer together not just within their group, but the whole team," Woody said.

Magee agreed with her coach, noting that individual events such as hurdles still require a team bond.

"We're not passing the baton to each other," she said. "We're not playing basketball, so we don't need on-court chemistry. But there is still a chemistry that shows in us in meets."

Despite the records, conference



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Natalie Harris and Katie Petersen hug Paige Magee after she placed first in the women's 60-meter hurdles and set a personal and meet record time of 8.07 during the Jimmy Grand Alumni Invitational at the Hawkeye Indoor Track Facility on Dec. 9, 2023.



Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

Fans watch the Larry Wiczorek Invitational & Multi at the Hawkeye Indoor Track Facility in Iowa City on Jan. 20.

honors, and Division I rankings the hurdles group has earned, they recognize the most valuable part of their Iowa track and field experience cannot be measured by seconds and records.

"It's about more than track," Rickertsen said. "It's about the relationships we are building, and the success just follows with that."

**Q&A | AIDAN KING**

## Mid-distance runner shares motivations



**Aidan King**  
Third-year  
Distance Runner  
St. Charles, Illinois

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

**The Daily Iowan: Where did you grow up?**

Aidan King: I spent most of my life in the Chicago suburbs in St. Charles. I was born in Texas, but I moved when I was really little. It was a little different than Iowa, but it was a good time.

**What are you most proud of?**

I'm proud of a lot of things. I think I am mostly proud of my role on my team. When I came in here, I was a super late commit. I had never met the coach in person until our first day of practice. I think the opportunities I have been able to open up for myself, [and] the role I have on the team as a leader is something I am proud of.

**Who was there to experience that with you?**

A lot of people. The first one is Max Murphy. I've been around him a lot. I've lived with him the last two years, and we both came in as freshmen when COVID and stuff was going on.

**Besides the necessities, what is one thing you use every day?**

I drink coffee every morning. I have a little French press that I got as a white elephant gift at my old job. I like to make my own coffee in the morning. For me, I like the coffee obviously, but I like the routine in the morning.

**What's one thing on your bucket list?**

I want to live in a few different areas. I think I've spent a lot of my time in more suburban areas. I'd like to live in a city and then also abroad as well.

**What is the most used app on your phone?**

Probably Twitter [X]. I'm almost embarrassed to

say that's what it is. I try to stay off my phone, but if I'm on it, that's what it is.

**Do you prefer cross country or track?**

They're different. I wouldn't say I prefer one or the other. Honestly, if I am doing better in track, I like track. If I'm doing better in cross country, I like cross country.

**Indoor or outdoor track?**

I've had more experience collegiately indoors. I like outdoors a lot. So even though I've had more experience indoors, I prefer outdoors. In outdoor season, we get in big meets in like California and North Carolina. You get to get out of the Midwest.

**If you could swap places with one of your teammates or coaches for a day, who would it be?**

Definitely my coach, Randy Hasenbank. He's a really nice guy, but I want to see what he does all day. It would be interesting.

**POINT | COUNTERPOINT**

## Is Tim Lester a good OC hire for Iowa?



**Brad Schultz**  
Sports Reporter

**NO**

Since the dismissal of controversial offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz in October 2023, Iowa football fans have anxiously awaited his replacement.

Former Western Michigan head coach Tim Lester's position was revealed on Jan. 28, with the university officially announcing it three days later.

It's certainly not the hire that fans were expecting, considering some of the other potential options. Former Duke OC Kevin Johns seemed to be the clear-cut favorite among fans and the media, but head coach Kirk Ferentz went in a different direction.

During his first offensive coordinator stint with Syracuse, Lester's offensive numbers with the Orange were mediocre at best. In his final year in 2015, Syracuse averaged 27.3 points per game, which ranked 77th in college football.

During his six-year stint as the head coach at Western Michigan, Lester led the Broncos to the 12th-ranked offense in 2021 but regressed to 122nd during his final season.

On the flip side, Johns has a solid track record as an OC, with previous stops at Indiana, Texas Tech, Memphis, and Duke. Coincidentally, he was Lester's offensive coordinator at Western Michigan in 2017.

At Duke, Johns was instrumental in the turnaround of the Blue Devils program and developed quarterback Riley Leonard into a star. His offense put up nearly 27 points per game in 2023 despite Leonard battling injuries for most of the year.

I don't hate the Lester hire, but I also don't love it. After briefly watching some tape, he presents some new looks that Iowa isn't used to, as well as some experience working in the NFL, which is always a plus.

I feel that the elder Ferentz went the safe route on this one. Sure, Lester has a decent career, and his numbers with the Broncos were solid, but the Big Ten is a completely different animal compared to the MAC.

I think it could be another moment of déjà vu for the Hawkeye offense. I hope I'm wrong, though.



**Kenna Roering**  
Sports Editor

**YES**

It would quite literally be impossible for the Iowa offense to be any worse than it was in 2023.

With that being said, do I think Tim Lester was a home run hire? Not really. However, I do think it was a good hire, and fans should give Lester a fair chance.

While acting as the head coach and primary play caller at Western Michigan, Lester led the Bronco offense to four straight seasons ranked inside the top 40 in terms of scoring offense and total offense.

Iowa's highest ranking in total offense in Brian Ferentz's tenure as offensive coordinator was 88th in 2020, when the Hawkeyes played just eight games because of the pandemic.

Yes, the MAC is a lot less competitive than the Big Ten, but Lester's numbers were still encouraging and showed that he is capable of being successful.

He has experience coaching quarterbacks, running backs, and wide receivers. Plus, Lester was a four-year starter at quarterback for Western Michigan, leading the Broncos to a Mid-American Conference Championship appearance his senior season.

Iowa has lacked a real quarterbacks coach since Ken O'Keefe left in February 2022. Ferentz never played QB or had experience coaching that position when he took over as quarterbacks coach after O'Keefe's departure. Iowa's pass-throwers have struggled recently, with Spencer Petras and Deacon Hill probably popping into most fans' heads.

Lester could give a much-needed, different perspective in the quarterback's room. I expect Iowa to stick to its roots and try to wear down defenses by running the ball as much as possible, which is not a bad thing. But I also think there will be more opportunities for explosive plays under Lester if Kirk Ferentz is willing to give some leeway.

Lester reportedly turned down a job in the NFL to work with the Hawkeyes. Whether you like the numbers Lester's offenses have put up in the past or not, it's respectable that he is willing to risk his reputation to turn around a comically failing offense.



**FOOTBALL**  
from 1B

ter was chosen from a list of 10-12 candidates, six of whom the head coach had conversations with. Lester was one of four candidates Ferentz had “extensive conversations with.” Per \*The Register\*, former Wisconsin head coach Paul Chryst turned down the job offer in mid-January. The head coach did not mention who the fourth candidate was.

A four-year starting quarterback for Western Michigan, Lester got his feet wet in the coaching industry just two years after graduating, taking on the role of offensive coordinator at Wheaton Warrenville South High School in Illinois. He broke into the college ranks in 2002 with Elmhurst, then bounced between St. Joseph’s, North Central, and his alma mater before earning his first Power-Five coordinating gig with Syracuse in 2014.

That season, the Orange ranked 113th in the nation with 329.9 yards per game and 118th in scoring offense at 17.1 points per contest as the team finished 3-9.

Despite the poor offensive numbers, Ferentz said he brushed past Lester’s time at Syracuse during the hiring process, describing how he himself has had poor years before taking over the helm with the Hawkeyes. For instance, during his time with Maine, Ferentz averaged four wins per season. Reflecting upon his time with the Orange, Lester said he dealt with injuries to his starting and backup quarterback.

“We took over a team that ran a spread offense that didn’t have the tight end, but we tried our blend them together,” Lester said of Syracuse’s offense compared to the ones he’s ran in the past.

Following a season-stint as the Purdue quarterbacks coach — where he ran a version of the New Orleans Saints offense — Lester reunited once again with the Broncos as head coach — his first time at the helm in Division I. While Western Michigan was fresh off a 13-1 campaign, the school was reeling after the departure of head coach P.J. Fleck to Minnesota, as well as at least eight recruits who flipped their commitments to the Golden Gophers, per the Detroit News.

After a 6-6 introductory campaign, Lester took over offensive play calling duties ahead of the 2018 season. From

2018-20, the Broncos never fell outside the top-40 nationally with regard to total offense or scoring offense. By comparison, Iowa has only cracked the top-50 twice in either category during that span.

In 2021, Lester ceded play-calling to two co-offensive coordinators and enjoyed his best season with the Broncos, leading the squad to an 8-5 campaign, including his first bowl triumph in a 52-24 victory over Nevada. Over 13 games, the Broncos ranked 34th in the nation in points per game while averaging 467.2 yards per contest. Utilizing a run game that dashed for 212.8 yards per game, Western Michigan dominated in terms of time of possession, holding onto the ball for more than 35 minutes each week — good enough for fourth in the FBS.

“I feel like we did a good job with running the ball and finding our run lanes, and the pass comes after that,” Lester said of

“We kept ourselves in games that our defense played great, and we found a way to win those games. That’s what we had. That was our best foot forward,” Lester said, adding he had to call plays with different vernacular than what he was used to.

As for Lester’s time in Green Bay, Ferentz said that stint was an “attractive” part of the coordinator’s past. The head coach said Lester was in charge of analyzing opposing teams’ offenses to assist in the Packers’ defensive scheme. To Ferentz, this was a “sabbatical” year for Lester in helping to grow his “real extensive knowledge of offensive football.”

In a radio interview with Iowa play-by-play announcer Gary Dolphin, Lester also cited his past in Green Bay, where he coached with a version of Shanahan’s offense under Packers head coach Matt LaFleur. According to Lester, Shanahan’s scheme has grown popular across the NFL, as it prioritizes keeping the ball on the

turn, Lester didn’t shy away from the challenge.

“I think the biggest thing is you want people that want to be here, as a head coach, as an offensive coordinator,” Lester told Dolphin. “But you’ve got to be able to put a product out there that people want to be a part of. That’s important.”

A critical target audience of that recruiting pitch will be towards wide receivers, a position group Lester said he values, especially in terms of flexibility. The coordinator detailed how he aims to put receivers in different spots along the line of scrimmage, including the backfield.

“I haven’t had the chance to meet with all of the wide receivers yet, but I want to make sure the quarterback understands we are going to spread the ball around and he’s going to read his keys as he’s supposed to,” Lester said. “It’s my job to make sure that those first couple of options is the guy that we want it to be.”

Lester’s other role in Iowa City will be as quarterbacks coach, where he will guide starter Cade McNamara as the Michigan transfer returns from a season-ending knee injury. As for what he looks for under center, Lester prioritizes efficiency over mobility, which he says is very “enamoring” to many, but often proves ineffective in crunch time. Even still, Lester heightened the importance of adaptability in the face of different skillsets.

“Everybody’s comfortable doing different things,” Lester said. “I think sometimes quarterback coaches, you know, they have things they like to do. I’m not married to anything. I’ve run a lot of things ... I’ve got to figure out what [McNamara’s] good at, and I’ve got to put him in those situations as much as possible.”

For Lester, directing an offense isn’t about being a “jack of all trades and a master of none,” but rather depending upon strengths. Yet before identifying the potential advantages the Hawkeyes have over other teams, Lester said he must first connect with those who perform on the field. Even if he may be surprise hire, Lester isn’t going to elevate himself above anyone else.

“I have a saying: RBO,” he said. “Relationship before opportunity. I’ll have a great opportunity to coach these young men once I have a relationship with them. That process is going to start real soon, and we’re looking forward to have the opportunity to have some fun out there and be aggressive at all times.”

“I haven’t had the chance to meet with all of the wide receivers yet, but I want to make sure the quarterback understands we are going to spread the ball around and he’s going to read his keys as he’s supposed to.”

**Tim Lester**  
Iowa football offensive coordinator

that season. “We never even talked about throwing the ball until we figured out how to move the ball on the ground. That was an explosive team.”

Lester’s final season in Kalamazoo proved to be his undoing, as the Broncos took a major step back, specifically in offensive production. After its starting quarterback Kaleb Eleby and receivers Skyy Moore and D’Wayne Eskridge all left for the NFL Draft, Western Michigan finished 124th in total offense and 119th in scoring offense. Mustering a 5-7 mark, the Broncos were limited to less than 20 points on eight occasions.

That season, Lester hired a new offensive coordinator to call plays, but eventually assumed the duty for the team’s last four games. During that period, the Broncos played .500 football and averaged 15.5 points per contest. Lester explained how he had a young team who struggled with turnovers, but maintained the team found some growth during the final month of the season.

ground to set up explosive passing plays. This pattern is a feature Lester wants to implement in Iowa City.

“I think a 50-50 split is the goal,” Lester said. “But ... I’ve been calling games since I got out of playing. I’ve called games with 70 passes, and I’ve called games with 70 runs. So you really have to be able to adjust. The plan is always 50-50.”

As for how much leverage Lester would have on the offensive scheme, Ferentz emphasized the importance of “non-negotiables” in coaching strategies, such as ensuring a run-pass balance, beneficial field position, and ball security.

“We’ve been here 25 years now, and the parameters have been pretty much the same,” Ferentz told Dolphin.

Back in the COVID-19 shortened season of 2020, Iowa averaged 31.8 points per game — which ranked 40th in the NCAA. In a span of three seasons, that ranking has fallen each season, most recently to 129th in 2023. Given such a recent down-

ahead of Iowa’s next duals against Illinois and Northwestern.

Illinois gave Kennedy his most challenging test at 174 pounds with No. 3 Edmond Ruth. Kennedy impressed in the top-10 showdown, beating Ruth, 5-1. Kennedy then beat Northwestern’s David Ferrante, 11-2, as the Hawkeyes dominated the Wildcats, 46-0.

Kennedy’s win streak was broken during Iowa’s dual against Michigan on Feb. 2 as he lost to No. 3 Shane Griffith. Still, Kennedy will have plenty of opportunity to impress in Iowa’s remaining duals ahead of the postseason.

“Hitting my stride, getting back into it, I don’t know,” Kennedy said after the win against Baumann. “I just know that every

time I feel like I am on the mat, I just get a little better. You get more comfortable. Even though I’ve been doing this for a long time. I just love that. I love the floor. I love the competition of it. You know you get nervous, but man when I walk out there, it’s so free. You walk out there, and it’s a wrestling match, and it’s just you versus another guy, and that’s the beauty of it.”

**KENNEDY**  
from 1B

Kennedy said he has embraced the physicality of wrestling and the goal of trying to dominate someone without causing physical harm. He thinks that makes wrestling the “purest form of competition on this earth.”

Kennedy ranked in the top 10 at 174



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa’s Eva Volpe high-fives her teammates after performing on the vault during a gymnastics meet between No. 23 Iowa and No. 21 Washington at Xstream Arena in Coralville on Jan. 12. In the fourth meeting between Iowa and Washington, the Hawkeyes defeated the Huskies, 196.400-196.250.

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**The Daily Iowan**

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Deadline: Friday, February 23, 2024

**GYMNASTICS**  
from 1B

about what she has seen from the athletes who are forced to step up and step in for the GymHawks.

“We felt like our young ones were talented enough to make the lineups,” Libby said. “That was way too early to be tested, but they have held their own. Sometimes death by fire is a good thing. It tests your mentality and the culture of your program. There is no better way to find out than to jump in, and here we go.”

Libby is confident in her underclassmen’s abilities to compete at this stage, but familiarizing themselves with playing in a team environment has been the younger athletes’ biggest difficulty so far.

“It’s not about their talent; it’s just about

them in competition,” Libby said. “Talent-wise, we are very strong. For the younger ones, it’s just them getting used to a team counting on you. It is very individual when you are in club [gymnastics], so being on a large team now is very different.”

One of the Hawkeyes who is filling the shoes of Kenlin is first-year Eva Volpe, who is now the only GymHawk competing in all four phases of the competition.

Hailing from Pearland, Texas, the three-time national qualifier has been thrown into the fire more than any other athlete on the team — something she didn’t expect in her first collegiate season.

“I expected to contribute but not necessarily on all four events right away,” she said. “It’s been super rewarding because I have been working really hard, so it’s all paying off.”

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# TAKING THE HOME COURT

No. 3 Iowa defeated Maryland, 93-85, at a sold-out Xfinity Center in College Park, Maryland, on Feb. 3. The win marked head coach Lisa Bluder's first career win at Maryland. The Hawkeyes previously lost their last six games at Maryland.



## PLAYER STATISTICS



**MOLLY DAVIS**  
PTS: 17  
AST: 3  
STL: 1

**CAITLIN CLARK**  
PTS: 38  
AST: 12  
REB: 6



"Caitlin did natural Caitlin things, which are spectacular, but I thought Molly Davis really had a great game as well."

**Lisa Bluder**  
Iowa women's basketball head coach

Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

(Top left) Iowa forward Hannah Stuelke and Maryland guard Jakia Brown-Turner fight for a rebound during a women's basketball game between No. 3 Iowa and Maryland at a sold-out Xfinity Center in College Park, Md., on Feb. 3. (Top right) Maryland celebrates a play during a women's basketball game between No. 3 Iowa and Maryland at a sold-out Xfinity Center in College Park, Md., on Feb. 3. (Below) Iowa guard Caitlin Clark celebrates a win during a women's basketball game between No. 3 Iowa and Maryland at a sold-out Xfinity Center in College Park, Md., on Feb. 3. (Bottom) Iowa guard Molly Davis goes up for a shot during a women's basketball game between No. 3 Iowa and Maryland at a sold-out Xfinity Center in College Park, Md., on Feb. 3. The Hawkeyes defeated the Terrapins, 93-85.

See more online:

To view more of *The Daily Iowan's* coverage of women's basketball, visit [dailyiowan.com](http://dailyiowan.com).



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ARTS & CULTURE | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024

## [20 years after TheFacebook's launch on college campuses]

As one of the first major social media networks to gain a large audience, Facebook's culture has rapidly evolved over the past two decades. From being a hub for undergrads to now being a space for "older adults," the site's user base has noticeably shifted.

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originally a social media for college connections

TheFacebook started in 2004

Illustration by [Marandah Mangra-Dutcher](#) | The Daily Iowan

**Riley Dunn**  
Arts Reporter  
[riley-dunn@uiowa.edu](mailto:riley-dunn@uiowa.edu)

Creepy — this is the word used in a 2006 article from *The Daily Iowan* to describe now-familiar features added to the 20-year-old college social media platform known as Facebook.

The features mentioned include the "News Feed" display, as well as a place for members to indicate personal details, such as who their friends are, what bands they like, and their current relationship status.

Though met with mixed reviews at the time of its release, these additions are now commonplace across most social media sites.

University of Iowa alum Tory Brecht embraced the new media in 1993, he was part of the first cohort of students to register for classes online.

"When I started college, there was very little online presence at all," Brecht said. "I mean, you had to stand in line and physically go to classrooms to sign up for classes."

In the 1990s, the internet was exciting and new. It was a limitless database of information accessible with just a few clicks of a button. It provided ease of

use, and with it came new ways to quickly communicate with family and friends.

Brecht said he and his friends mainly communicated using online "bulletin board" services, where users could upload and download data and post on public message boards. At the time, this technology "blew people's minds," Brecht said.

Though these virtual bulletin boards were much simpler than later social networks, early internet culture began to take shape around them.

"You can kind of see, even with that very early internet culture, what was coming down the path. A lot of jokes, little memes, things like that. By the time I graduated, we could do some basic graphic stuff and the technology has advanced," Brecht said.

As the Iowa City community began to reshape around the early internet, the concept of broad social networking sites took form.

"Social networks are a twenty-first-century phenomenon," Kembrew McLeod, the UI department chair of communication studies, said.

McLeod has observed the rise of social media over the last few decades. Early sites, such as Friendster, or its successful competitor MySpace, were not as dynamic as their successors and lacked features that would

become industry standards in later years — thanks to the success of Facebook.

On Feb. 4, 2004, a group of Harvard University students, spearheaded by CEO Mark Zuckerberg, developed Facebook. At the time, the site acted almost as a yearbook for their Ivy League peers, simply a way for college undergrads to identify and connect.

Though the platform's origin story has been dramatized time and time again — including in the 2010 feature film "The Social Network" — Facebook's conception still provides a unique point of comparison for modern day.

After its initial launch, thousands of new users joined TheFacebook every day. In 2005, TheFacebook simply became "Facebook" after the website domain Facebook.com was purchased for \$200,000.

Because of the blooming popularity of the young site, two years after its debut, Facebook's founders allowed any user with a valid college email address to join, including students at the UI.

"I remember I was in my sorority house, and we had just returned from winter break. We were talking about this 'thing' we had heard of. Somebody's cousin somewhere had joined this social network," Leslie Prideaux said, "They were talking about how cool this new network was. I was convinced it was a new dating site."

Prideaux graduated from the UI in

Contributed  
by Leslie  
Prideaux



2008 with bachelor's degrees in English, history, and journalism. She now works as the Assistant Vice President at the UI Center for Advancement.

In the beginning, Facebook was, in a word, fun. A user profile only consisted of a single main photo and a few personal details. At first, the site lacked a way to upload multiple photos at once. It was only after its first year of existence that Facebook started allowing users to post photo albums.

"When people could share photos, that's when FOMO [Fear of Missing Out] began. If you weren't there, you still got to see how much fun people had," Prideaux said. "It made people not want to miss out."

By the fall of 2006, anyone over the age of 13 could become part of the Facebook community.

"That [addition] changed the dynamic of Facebook," McLeod said.

As the platform became a social free-for-all, its users, the sum of which surpassed 1 billion in 2012, encompassed a wide spectrum that ranged from older generations attempting to reconnect with old friends and fellow family members to college students attempting to fit in with the status quo.

By the mid-2010s, Facebook's reputation as a platform for teenagers and college students had faded. In 2023, Millennials and Generation X are the top Facebook users, according to Insider Intelligence.

"Now, I feel like there is a neutral

DI Staff | The Daily Iowan  
Photo from 2004's *Daily Iowan* archive of student life.



**FACEBOOK**  
from 1C

**Facebook's 20-year history**

perception about Facebook. People aren't against Facebook, but it's not the number one used social media platform for college students," UI third-year Delaney Knutson said.

While Knutson does have her own Facebook account, she primarily uses it to follow her older family members. She also feels that a decent number of Iowa students have Facebook accounts to follow groups associated with their class, which are used to buy and sell tickets, search for roommates or apartments, and inform others on UI-related issues.

For the vast majority of Generation Z, Facebook has become strictly professional.

"I feel like Snapchat and Instagram are focused more toward younger populations. And I also feel like this age group joined right when they were started," Knutson said.

Today's platforms are constantly adapting, changing, and evolving their features. Facebook's parent company, rebranded as Meta by Zuckerberg in 2021, seeks to connect people.

Many supporters of the "Metaverse" claim that a perfect version of the internet would be a single platform where people can create an entire digital identity for themselves. Even now, Meta is being geared toward making virtual reality meetings and collaborative spaces more mainstream.

Instagram, which was first developed in 2010, was purchased by Facebook in 2012, and has also been revitalized under Meta. It appealed to young viewers, mainly in aesthetic appearance, and continues to skew toward younger demographics. The platform is similar to Facebook in the sense that it allows members to share photos and videos, but differs in both layout and aesthetic appearance.

It is also common that people use social media in their jobs and everyday life; many jobs require employees to maintain an online presence across multiple different platforms,

**February 4, 2004**  
Facebook is launched as "TheFacebook" on Harvard's campus.

**December 2005**  
Facebook reports having 6 million monthly users, who are mostly college students, a year after its creation.

**October 2021**  
Facebook, Inc. changes its name to Meta Platforms.

**August 2005**  
"TheFacebook" changes its name to Facebook.

**September 2006**  
Facebook is made available to everyone over 13-years-old who has an email address.

**2023**  
Facebook reports 3 billion active users in 2023. According to Statista, people ages 25-34 are the largest age group who use Facebook at nearly 24 percent.

Infographic by Emily Pavlik | The Daily Iowan

Prideaux said.

"You have to recognize the time people take with their social media presence. When they get into a real-life scenario, they don't have that luxury which can be challenging for some people," Prideaux said. "I think there are powers of good and evil with that."

Social media can foster immediate connections with strangers and often removes barriers for those who may have social anxiety. People can shape their words and curate their outward appearance online.

"I always embrace the aspects of technology and I enjoy the social aspect, but I do worry about our faces being on the screens and our brains being constantly engaged," Brecht said. "One piece of advice: give yourself a day-long break from your phone and encourage other people to do that, too. Your brain will feel different."

**Editor's Note:** Brecht is a former member of the The Daily Iowan staff.



Photo illustration by Kathy Le

**2024 Iowa Women's Basketball Book**



An immersive photo and essay book that chronicles this celebrated Iowa women's basketball season - from The Daily Iowan and the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

The book will feature photos taken by Daily Iowan photographers (from games, practices and behind-the-scenes with the team), essays from campus and national experts and thought-leaders in women's athletics, and stories written by journalism students about this significant moment in Iowa athletics and women's basketball.

The book is available to pre-order now. It will be published in the immediate weeks following the season and available in late April or early May. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

**\$1 of all pre-sales will be donated to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital**

Book Overview  
Price: \$30 / \$15 UI students  
Available: late April/early May  
Dimensions: 11.75" x 9"  
Pages: 160+

Book type: Sewn-bound book with soft touch cover

**Proceeds from the book will support hands-on learning experiences and travel opportunities for University of Iowa students, which are central to the mission of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and The Daily Iowan.**

To pre-order, visit **DAILYIOWAN.COM/BOOK**

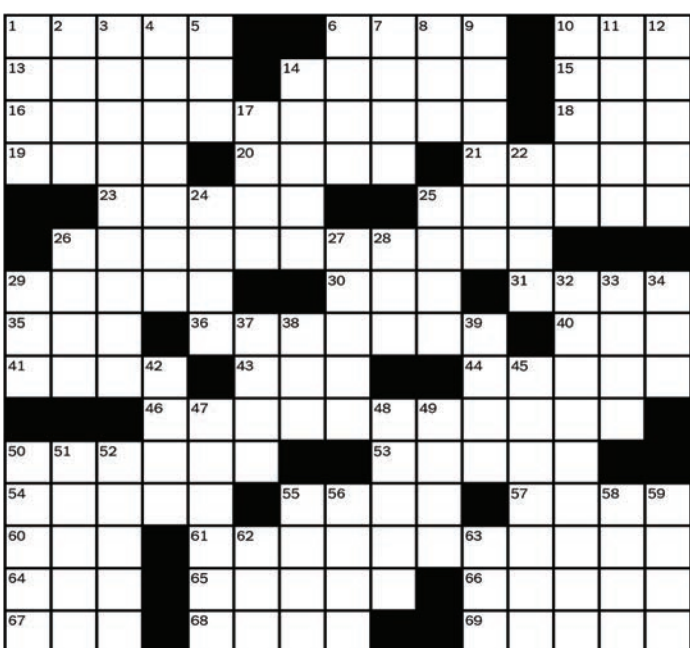
**THE BREAK**

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON 3B

DAILYIOWAN.COM

**The New York Times**  
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz  
No. 0103



- the answers to 16-, 26-, 46- and 61-Across
- 40 See 30-Across
- 41 "Light" of a light bulb moment
- 43 Get-up-and-go
- 44 Surrounded by
- 46 Not inflammatory?
- 50 Musical instrument also called a chac-chac
- 53 TV's Ted Lasso, e.g.
- 54 "\_\_\_ que sí!" (Spanish "Of course!")
- 55 Fake
- 57 Eton students, traditionally
- 60 .png alternative
- 61 Sanctuary like Yellowstone
- 64 "What a revelation!"
- 65 Public relations focus
- 66 Needing direction
- 67 Prohibit
- 68 Bring up
- 69 Trunk
- pluralized by adding an -s
- 17 Scraped (out)
- 22 Letters that are fittingly part of "f\_mily \_ \_ \_"
- 24 Bring up
- 25 Finish one's taxes
- 26 Ward (off)
- 27 Tours de force
- 28 "\_\_\_ but a scratch"
- 29 Customizable Nintendo avatar
- 32 1800s steam-powered locomotive
- 33 Breath freshener
- 34 Good \_\_\_ (kind soul)
- 37 \_\_\_ Klein, author of "Why We're Polarized"
- 38 "Curses upon thee!"
- 39 Raw material for some analysts
- 42 Yonder
- 45 Subject of a centuries-old theatrical superstition
- 47 Having legendary status
- 48 "You matter to me"
- 49 Not many
- 50 Mundane employment, derisively
- 51 Leader of Argos?
- 52 Harshly criticize, informally
- 55 "Without delay!"
- 56 Epic
- 58 Part of Y.S.L.
- 59 Resting place?
- 62 Québécois confidant
- 63 \_\_\_ fly (R.B.I.-earning play)

- Across**
- 1 Teacher of the Talmud
- 6 Alternative to a thigh
- 10 Cousin of a picnic, informally
- 13 Horn or whistle, at times
- 14 Home of Bach Ma Temple
- 15 Nickname for Missouri's second-largest city, with "the"
- 16 Was worth another mention
- 18 Cancel
- 19 Start of a simple selection process
- 20 Eartha who sang "I Want to Be Evil"
- 21 Cool place in a hot place
- 23 Janet's "not-a-robot" boyfriend on "The Good Place"
- 25 Speaking naturally
- 26 Travel discount
- 29 International intelligence organization?
- 30 With 40-Across, offshore work site
- 31 It's money, in a saying
- 35 Apple \_\_\_
- 36 Said no ... or, interpreted differently, a hint to entering

- Down**
- 1 Broccoli \_\_\_
- 2 It's vera soothing!
- 3 Rural shindig
- 4 Edy's competitor
- 5 Mischievous tyke
- 6 Power unit
- 7 Still able to win
- 8 Lead-in to stick or starter
- 9 Escort of a sort
- 10 Apathetic
- 11 Trap from all sides
- 12 Dungeons & Dragons mission
- 14 Sort of poem not usually

Easy

7			8	4	9	
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			1	9	5	
9		2	5		6	
	6	4	9			
	7	5		2	9	8
				1	2	
8	2	7			5	

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The Sudoku Source of "The Daily Iowan."

Medium

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	6	5			1	4
1				4		
8			6	3		
4		6	1	9	3	7
			5	4		8
		3				1
	8	4			6	9
7						

# CALENDAR WEEKLY EVENTS

## THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 8

### - PRAIRIE LIGHTS READING

Iowa City author Steve Sherman brings his new western adventure to Prairie Lights for a reading. Inspired by true events, the new novel stars historic lawman Bass Reeves.

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

## FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 9

### - LUNCH MUSIC SERIES

Spend an afternoon serenaded by UI music students at Voxman Music Building. The Lunch Concert Series returns this semester with the first audition concert.

12 P.M. | VOXMAN MUSIC BUILDING  
93 E. BURLINGTON ST.

### - SECRET FORMULA WITH TWO CANES & KWTF

Omaha native psychedelic rock band Secret Formula visits Iowa City with special guests Two Canes and Kobe Williams & The Fantasy.

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

## SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 10

### - GIMME GIMME DISCO

An ABBA-inspired disco, DJs Gimme Gimme Disco are bringing their party expertise to Gabe's.

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

### - 2024 COOKIE CRAWL

Iowa City's new Cookie Crawl will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 a.m. on Feb. 10. Purchase a ticket to stop at 19 participating businesses to enjoy featured cookies and exclusive shopping deals.

11 A.M. | DOWNTOWN IOWA CITY  
210 S. DUBUQUE ST.

## SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 11

### - AMATEUR ARTISANS: QUILTING WORKSHOP

Explore the art of coiled paper crafting commonly found in Bangladesh and Vietnam. Attendees can take their art home.

3:30 P.M. | TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES  
105 S. DUBUQUE ST.

## MONDAY

FEBRUARY 12

### - ART CLASSES WITH JENNIFER BLACK REINHARDT

Aspiring young artists can join accomplished children's illustrator Jennifer Black Reinhardt at Sidekick Coffee for an evening of art class.

6 P.M. | SIDEKICK COFFEE & BOOKS  
1310 1/2 MELROSE AVE.

## TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 13

### - DARIUS STEWART

Acclaimed poet and UI Nonfiction Writing Program alum Darius Stewart will read from his innovative new memoir "Be Not Afraid of My Body."

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

# IC artists find power in fiber art

Iowa City artists find empowerment through atypical crochet work.

Lily Czechowicz  
Arts Reporter  
lily.czechowicz@gmail.com

A wall in Meagan Wolgast's home office is covered in unique cross-stitch designs. One design depicts a Carnation Instant Breakfast box that reads "Instant Bit: Just add misogyny" as a response to a low-brow joke from "That 70's Show."

Another has a stitched image of a tube of biscuits titled "Gender Rolls." Wolgast added the warning, "Use caution when adjusting, may cause ennui."

For Wolgast, the fiber arts community allows her access to her inner her voice. In 2017, she was in search of a creative hobby but was quick to talk herself out of trying something new. This reservation changed when she came across a book on subversive cross-stitch.

"When I saw [the book] I thought, 'I know I can do that.' As long as I learned the stitches, anybody can do it," Wolgast said.

For Wolgast, her subversive and humorous cross-stitch patterns allow her the freedom to meditate on her values.

"I could finally be a little bit rebellious in ways I was never allowed to be growing up," Wolgast said. "The more that you ingest gender roles, the more that you're just slogging through it and confined to a small existence."

Textile arts have depicted centuries worth of stories and communities. Wolgast, among other subversive textile artists in Iowa City, has continued this tradition through queer crochet, unique cross-stitching, and fabric entrails.

In September 2021, crochet enthusiasts and novices gathered in Public Space One to loop together the brilliantly-colored crochet tent in just 24 hours.

The founders of the textile project, titled "Come Stay a While," intended to create a space for queer joy and to celebrate fiber arts artistry rather than diminishing it to its practicality. The final result was a brilliantly colored tent that radiated a sense of warmth and joy inside.

"Our goal with the project was being feminine-presenting people who are doing an art practice traditionally done by women and prioritize joy and happiness, and having fun with it," Quinlan Stafford, one of the project's founders said.

Stafford picked up crocheting in the fall of 2020 to keep herself busy as she completed



Photo contributed by Meagan Wolgast

the majority of her COVID-19 semester from her dorm room.

Eventually, she discovered the state's LGBTQ Archives and Library's weekly craft group where she enjoyed practicing her craft and belonging to a community.

Stafford's hobby gave her a community and a newfound identity as an artist. She said seeing the tent in its completion allowed her to recognize herself as a fiber artist and displayed the power of fiber arts as a medium.

Kenzi Rayelle began at the University of Iowa as a printmaker but, eventually, she grew tired of the limitations of 2-D and moved towards textile and sculpture to work with her hands in a physical realm.

By graduation, Rayelle was fully pursuing textile arts. Her Bachelor of Fine Arts show, entitled "Meat: An Exploration of Familial Trauma" was a humorous hyperbolic depiction of a Victorian-era butcher shop in which she explored the generational trauma endured by the women in her family.

For Rayelle and the women in her family, quilting is a long-respected practice. Including this practice was important for the narrative of her Bachelor of Fine Arts show.

Rayelle depicted a quilted woman sewn together and a diagram screen printed onto her of the different ways to cut and cook her.

Her first show in a lifelong series was presented at PS1 in 2022. Entitled "Interconnectivity," the exhibit examined conversations she had with her present self through fabric entrail arrangements.

Her shows spurred conversations with those who shared similar experiences, and it offered an opportunity for healing.

"The more and more I find about my identity the more I'm finding how important it is to show an aspect of gore in a way that celebrates the body, that celebrates womanhood, that celebrates the idea of the beauty of being," Rayelle said.

## REVIEW

# Billy Joel's new single was worth the wait

Joel released his first new song in 17 years last week.

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

World-renowned musician Billy Joel, known for household hits like "Piano Man" and "Vienna," released an emotional single Thursday that echoes his greatest hits and showcases both musical and personal growth.

The single, entitled "Turn the Lights Back On," lasts a total of three minutes and 58 seconds, with an encompassing crescendo from Joel's iconic voice and piano playing to a full-bodied ballad of stringed instruments and drums.

Upon first listen, the piano portion is what caught my ear. The chord changes driven by the piano are both delicate and unpredictable, which creates a dynamic I find to complement Joel's voice.

After subsequent listens, Joel's voice and lyrics stand out as a message to his audience who have waited 17 years for the singer to release new music. The song's lyrics speak of decaying love from complacency and the hope it is not too late to reconcile that love.

This message cuts deepest in the chorus when Joel amplifies the richness of the instrumentation, directly striking the heart with his vulnerable, passionate lyrics.

"I'm late, but I'm here right now /

Though I used to be romantic / I forgot somehow / time can make you blind / But I see you now / As we're layin' in the darkness / did I wait too long / To turn the lights on?" Joel sings.

The song does remind me of his past classics. I don't think you would find anyone saying this song defects from Joel's style. It fits into his entourage of classics that feature piano playing and powerful lyrics.

However, there is a level of sincerity I wasn't expecting from Joel. While this song doesn't have the swagger of "Piano Man" or the self-encouragement of "Vienna," "Turn the Lights Back On" feels intimate in a way I feel exceeds some of the classics.

Joel started his music career in 1971, over 52 years ago, and he has managed to remain popular amid a music business landscape that continues to change every day, which in itself is still a major feat.

Some may say Joel has fallen into the trap of musicians who have such well-known hits, that they only destined to play them over and over again until they die, never achieving the same notoriety with new music.

I'm not saying this song will overshadow "Piano Man," but I think it sends a message to his fans that Joel still has what it takes to make compelling songs, and this one is worth a listen.

## CARTOON



Cartoon by Avi Lapchick | The Daily Iowan

PLAYLIST

**NOSTALGIC THEME SONGS**

"TODAY IS GONNA BE A GREAT DAY/THEME SONG TO PHINEAS AND FERB" | Bowling For Soup

"SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS THEME SONG" | Spongebob Squarepants

"DRAGON TALES THEME" | Dragon Tales

"ADVENTURE TIME (THEME SONG)" | Adventure Time, VGR

"WHATS NEW SCOOBY-DOO?" | Simple Plan

# Behind the scenes

Ten-year-olds Eliza Durney and Bridget Greenwood alternate as leads in "Matilda Jr." at the James Theater.

Caden Gantenbein  
Arts Reporter  
caden-gantenbein@uiowa.edu

When Eliza Durney, 10, and Bridget Greenwood, 10, are in their regular classroom settings, they normally wouldn't confront a mean teacher.

But as the alternating leads for the role of Matilda in Nolte Productions Youth Theatre's production of "Matilda Jr.," they have no problem sticking it to bad authority.

"I would say that sometimes you have to be a little bit naughty, but I don't think my parents would be too happy with that," Eliza said comically. "It's fun because we get to be this stand-up kid who goes against the mean Trunchbull — and we get to have telekinesis."

"Matilda Jr." premiered at the James Theater on Feb. 2, and ran through the weekend. The show offered child actors the chance for a challenging role in Nolte Academy's adaptation of a well-known film and musical.

Before the opening night payoff, the Matildas spent weeks perfecting their roles as the lead, using various techniques to help them memorize their lines.

"I always eat strawberries because for some reason they help me remember stuff," Eliza shared.

Bridget and Eliza also have specific ways they prefer to rehearse, but they share one method in common: practicing in the car ride to rehearsals.

## Read more online

Learn more about the leads in "Matilda Jr." at [dailyiowan.com](http://dailyiowan.com).

PROFILE

# Illustrator teaches kids inner creativity

Artist Jennifer Reinhardt instructs drawing classes at the Iowa City cafe Sidekick Coffee.

Isabelle Lubguban  
Arts Reporter  
isabelle-lubguban@uiowa.edu

Jennifer Reinhardt knew from a young age she would grow up to pursue a career in the arts.

Now as a professional illustrator, she recalls marveling when she was a child at the “Where the Wild Things Are” author Maurice Sendak’s ability to create complex characters seemingly out of thin air.

“It was an amazing book back at the time,” Reinhardt said. “Even though it was a little scary, I liked it. His use of the linework has always stuck with me.”

Reinhardt, who lives in Iowa City, said opening up the imagination of children is the key to preserving the unique arts culture the city is known for.

“A lot of it was because of the arts. I’m amazed and grateful,” she said.

Reinhardt has taken her illustration skills to the classroom as the instructor of four children’s art classes at Sidekick Coffee over the last two months. The last class is Feb. 12.

For each class, every attendee gets a pencil and three ink pens, and after the sessions they can keep their materials and get their characters printed along with their book titles and names.

“I’d love for them to come away thinking about what they read a little more in that light and maybe wanting to combine reading, writing, and drawing together,” she said.

Before designing the class at Sidekick, Reinhardt said she wasn’t sure where to start, so she opted for character design because it was something she knew well. Another recurring teaching topic of hers is touching on the power of a single drawn line.

“It can be a profile, it can be an animal, a whole person, and [it can] tell you a story,” she said.

Reinhardt grew up in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, a “picturesque town” in the Appalachian Mountains, where she found herself surrounded by a welcoming community that influenced her childhood.

“The friendly, safe, and caring community influenced me and was a big part of my happy childhood,” she said.

Two people in Reinhardt’s life helped her in her creative journey: her mother and her grandmother, who were also both artists. Her grandmother kept unique and quirky collections of various items, one of which included antique picture books. Reinhardt described her as “eclectic.”

Reinhardt said her mother was so invested in the arts that she sought out teachers specifically for her daughter when the illustrator was younger, she said.

“She made the effort to drive me back and forth every Thursday night to art lessons that were about a half hour from home,” she said.

The first picture book Reinhardt ever wrote, “The Giant’s Toybox,” was published in 1995 by Wyrick and Company. At the same time, she illustrated humorous calendars and greeting cards for a large company. Her collaborative illustration journey began



Isabella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan

Children work on shading their art pieces during an art class at Sidekick Coffee and Books on Feb. 5. Sidekick will host their fourth and final installment of the class on Feb. 12.

with Charles Bridge Publishing.

The East Coast illustrator takes pride in doing whimsical artwork for prominent children’s books like “Gondra’s Treasure,” “Always by My Side,” and “Playing Possum.”

“I’ve always wanted to do this, but it’s taken a long time to happen. It was pretty incredible,” she said.

Reinhardt also published some children’s tales of her own, such as “Blue Ethel” and “Always by My Side.” Her ideas stem from the want to make readers relate to her characters, which she said generates a lot of her storytelling.

“It feels like a powerful thing to create a character and convince you, the reader, to believe that they exist, have meaning and validation, and hopefully find a connection to a child,” Reinhardt said.

## How to attend Reinhardt’s classes:

**Where:** Sidekick Coffee, 1310 1/2 Melrose Ave., Iowa City

**When:** Feb. 12

**What time:** 6 p.m.-7 p.m.




Isabella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan

Jennifer Black Reinhardt shows children her drawings during an art class at Sidekick Coffee and Books on Feb. 5. Sidekick will host their fourth and final installment of the class on Feb. 12.

# DANCE NATION

## BY CLARE BARRON

### DIRECTED BY SARAH GAZDOWICZ




February 2-10, 2024  
David Thayer Theatre | UI Theatre Building

“Dance Nation” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

GET TICKETS: [THEATRE.UIOWA.EDU/EVENTS](http://THEATRE.UIOWA.EDU/EVENTS)

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