

DRAFTING A LEGACY



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This summer, Caitlin Clark will shoot from a new logo. The logo will represent something the 22-year-old has been dreaming of since she was a young child — playing in the WNBA. The star point guard declared for the WNBA Draft on

Feb. 29 and is projected as the No. 1 overall pick. The top pick is owned by the Indiana Fever for the second straight year. Clark said on March 1 that she had not spoken with anyone from the Fever since she made her announcement. “Clark is a superstar; an elite shot-maker who is nearly impossible to guard. She’s the clear No.1 prospect in the 2024 WNBA Draft class,” wrote the NBA Draft Room. For Caitlin Clark, her decision to announce she’s declaring for the WNBA Draft was about clarity.

On March 3, the Hawkeyes celebrated senior day against No. 2 Ohio State, ending the regular season with a 93-83 victory over the Buckeyes. Clark, along with Gabbie Marshall, Molly Davis, Kate Martin, and Sharon Goodman, were recognized. “Getting the weight of the world off my shoulders and being able to enjoy this last month with my teammates

CLARK
from 1A

is the biggest thing," Clark said on March 1. "I didn't want senior day to be all about me or if I'm coming back. Gabbie, Kate, Molly, and Sharon have given so much to the program. They deserve to be celebrated as much as me." Clark, Marshall, and Martin have 383 combined starts for the Hawkeyes and 12,068 combined minutes on the court since 2020-21. "I'm not me without all of them," Clark said. "They'll be my best friends for the rest of my life." Clark said early in the season, she was going back and forth on using her final year of eligibility that was granted due to COVID-19. The star point guard said the decision became clearer in the last few weeks.

Hawkeye associate head coach Jan Jensen attended the Iowa high school girls' state basketball tournament in Des Moines on Feb. 29 and spoke about Clark's decision. Jensen said she thought Clark played with more "loose freedom" against Minnesota on Feb. 27 as if that pressure had been lifted off her. Clark recorded 33 points, 10 rebounds, and 12 assists to earn her second straight triple-double and 17th in her career.

"Everyone was worried about the record, like, 'Oh, she's stressed out about the record,'" Iowa head coach Lisa Bluder said, referring to Clark's pursuit of Kelsey Plum's NCAA women's basketball all-time scoring mark. "She was never stressed out about the record. She was stressed out about making this decision."

Typically, collegiate players don't declare for the draft until after the season is over. LSU's Angel Reese, Stanford's Cameron Brink, and South Carolina's Kamilla Cardoso still haven't announced their plans.

Brink, dubbed "the most dominant post-player in the NCAA" by Beyond Women's Sports, is expected to go to the Los Angeles Sparks with the No. 2 overall pick. Reese and Cardoso are projected as top-10 picks by multiple outlets.

Clark said earlier this year she would wait until the season was over to announce her plans. Players have 48 hours after their last game to declare for the draft. Jensen said this quick turnaround may have gone into Clark's decision to announce before the final regular season game on March 3.

"We talked about the pros and the cons, and obviously everyone wants her to come back, that's an Iowa fan, but we also understand the pressure she's been carrying," Jensen said, according to Owen Siebring of Iowa's News Now. "I think Caitlin is wired for challenges. She's wired for everything that's on that next horizon ... She knew without a shadow of a doubt that whether she was going to stay or go, we're going to be some of her biggest fans."

Clark doesn't have much, if anything, left to prove in college. She not only broke Plum's record but also surpassed Lynette Woodard for the most points scored in major women's college basketball history on Feb. 28. Woodard was recognized during the game against Ohio State on March 3, sparking a standing ovation from the Hawkeye faithful.

"At a school like Iowa that has been so rich in AIAW history, I just want to make sure we acknowledge Lynette's accomplishments in the game of basketball," Bluder said on Feb. 28.

With 0.3 seconds left in the first half against the Buckeyes, Clark sunk a free throw to pass Pete Maravich for the NCAA all-time scoring record. The point guard didn't take any time to celebrate the accomplishment as she ran into the locker room for halftime.

Clark ended the contest with 35 points, nine assists, and six rebounds, bringing her to 3,685



Sahithi Shankaiahgari | The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark speaks at a press conference following a basketball game between then-No. 6 Iowa and then-No. 2 Ohio State at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on March 3. Clark became the NCAA all-time leading scorer during the game.

career points. After the game, Clark said it's hard for her to wrap her head around "everything that's going on," and her main focus is "helping this team win."

"We've said this before, but when Caitlin's light shines, it shines on all of us," Martin said. "What Caitlin is doing individually impacts our entire team, our entire program, our entire state, the entire country. And that's really cool. We want the best for Caitlin, we've always had that in mind. We want her to win all of the awards. We truly, genuinely, are very happy for her."

move the meter and the excitement around her is incredible. The socially acceptable thing to do is to watch Caitlin Clark play basketball."

Iowa only has two guaranteed games left this season — the quarterfinal round of the Big Ten Tournament and the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Iowa received the No. 2 seed in the conference tournament and will face the winner of No. 7 Penn State and No. 10 Wisconsin at 5:30 p.m. on March 8.

Iowa's victory against Ohio State broke the tie between the Hawkeyes and Indiana Hoosiers

"What Caitlin is doing individually impacts our entire team, our entire program, our entire state, the entire country. And that's really cool. We want the best for Caitlin, we've always had that in mind. We want her to win all of the awards. We truly, genuinely, are very happy for her."

Kate Martin

Iowa women's basketball guard

The draft is on April 15 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. The WNBA Draft is three rounds with 12 picks in each round. If Clark gets taken by the Fever, her first home game would be on May 16 against the New York Liberty. New York features Sabrina Ionescu, who played for Oregon and is the all-time NCAA leader in career triple-doubles, and Breanna Stewart, who led UConn to four straight national championships.

"How many athletes, men or women at any level, can you say have delivered?" Jensen said. "She has more than delivered, and we're beyond grateful she chose to be a Hawk. We've had so many great, fun memories, and we're planning to have a lot more."

The WNBA has already felt Clark's impact. In the first 24 hours after Clark's announcement, Fever tickets doubled in price, according to ESPN's College GameDay. The demand for Clark expands outside of the Midwest, too.

After Clark declared, nearly 800 tickets were sold for the Connecticut Sun's season opener against the Fever on May 14. That equaled the number of individual tickets sold for the game up to that point, excluding the team's 2,500 season-ticket holders, according to The Guardian.

Connecticut Sun president Jennifer Rizzotti told the Associated Press this may be "the first time a non-UConn player has drawn this type of interest from our fan base."

"It's Clarkonomics," basketball analyst Deb Antonelli told *The Guardian*. "Her ability to

siers for second place in the conference standings. Iowa ended the regular season with a higher winning percentage against the top team in the standings — Iowa was 1-1 against the Buckeyes, and Indiana was 0-1.

All-session tickets are sold out for the Big Ten Tournament — the first sellout in the event's 31-year history. Over 109,000 fans are expected to attend the event at the Target Center in Minneapolis from March 6-10. The conference tournament champion earns an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

The Hawkeyes will then likely host the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament at Carver-Hawkeye Arena from March 22-25. The top 16 seeds earn the right to host the path to the Sweet 16.

With that weekend being Clark's and the rest of the senior class's last time playing in Carver, getting into the game may be difficult. Season ticket holders earn priority on tickets, and due to season tickets selling out for the regular season, Iowa Athletics "does not anticipate having additional tickets available for sale."

Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

1A PHOTO: Iowa guard Caitlin Clark celebrates during a basketball game between then-No. 6 Iowa and then-No. 2 Ohio State at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on March 3. The Hawkeyes defeated the Buckeyes, 93-83.



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark goes in for a layup during a basketball game between then-No. 6 Iowa and then-No. 2 Ohio State at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on March 3. The Hawkeyes defeated the Buckeyes, 93-83.

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Battling breast milk shortages

Many Iowa parents who have premature children use breast milk donations.

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For neonatal intensive care unit nurse and mother Stephanie Amundson, the importance of donating breast milk was not lost on her.

When she gave birth to her son Sebastian about a year ago, she was not producing enough breast milk for the first three weeks of his life. Amundson then made the decision to begin sourcing donor breast milk for her son.

Donating breast milk is a common practice, particularly for premature babies and infants whose mothers are unable to produce breast milk for a variety of reasons.

Tarah Colaizy, a UI Stead Family Department of Pediatrics professor of pediatrics in neonatology, said the primary benefit of donor breast milk is the reduced risk of necrotizing enterocolitis, a gut infection that can cause pneumonia, blood infections, and sepsis in premature babies.

Additionally, the antibodies and specialized sugars that fight infection found in human breast milk are often absent from donated baby formula, Colaizy said.

Colaizy said donor milk can increase neurological development in premature babies, and decrease the baby's risk of infection.

The Mother's Milk Bank of Iowa, located in Coralville, Iowa, allows mothers with an overabundance to donate their milk to babies in need.

Soon after Amundson became a mother, she was later diagnosed with a condition called hyperlactation, which meant she was producing an overabundance of breast milk.

"I was producing 100 ounces a day; more than twice the amount of milk that my Sebastian needed," Amundson said.

As a NICU nurse, Amundson saw the value donated breast milk can bring to premature babies and mothers in need.

"It was really a full circle moment seeing donor breast milk being used for my patients and ending up using it for my own child and being able to give back," Amundson said.

Heidi Baudhuin, milk bank coordinator at Mother's Milk Bank of Iowa, said the process to donate breast milk is relatively simple.

Interested donors contact the milk bank and will go through a three-step screening process that ensures all milk received is as safe as possible for infants. They are screened for medications, HIV, hepatitis C, and other bloodborne pathogens.

Once donors are approved, they can donate in the comfort of their own homes and drop their milk off at any of the bank's 43 drop-off locations in the Midwest, Baudhuin said.

Amundson donated over 5,000 ounces to the Mother Milk Bank of Iowa from July 2023 to October 2023.

Amundson said the center provides freezer bags needed to store the breast milk to keep the milk preserved before it is given to babies in need.

Once the milk arrives at the center, it goes through a pasteurization process, which heats the milk to kill any bacteria or viruses that may be present.

Colaizy said a lot of donors feel as if they are helping out another parent who



Isabella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan

An employee puts stickers on bottles of pasteurized milk at the Mother's Milk Bank of Iowa in Coralville on Feb. 29. The Mother's Milk Bank of Iowa has recently seen a shortage in milk donations.

isn't able to produce enough milk for a sick infant.

"Breast milk is such a precious resource, and being able to feed another baby instead of throwing that milk away can be incredibly beneficial," Colaizy said.

Baudhuin said a lot of babies born in the NICU are immunocompromised and the best source of nutrition is breast milk, as it can help protect against infection and inflammation while simultaneously boosting that baby's immune system.

In 2023, the Mother's Milk Bank of Iowa had a total of 239 donors and dispensed 252,488 ounces of milk, Baudhuin said.

Baudhuin said 74 percent of milk goes to babies in the hospital, while the other 26

percent goes to outpatient families. "This milk is like liquid gold for families, and we need all the donors we can get," Baudhuin said.

Colaizy said even a little milk can go a long way for these babies, as they often only eat a teaspoon a few times a day.

Amundson said as a NICU nurse, she saw mothers struggle for years trying to do everything they could to lactate and provide milk to their babies.

"This was a gift I had, and I wanted to make sure that my milk was going to families who needed it," Amundson said. "It was this beautiful warm and fuzzy moment, and it made me feel really great."

"Breast milk is such a precious resource, and being able to feed another baby instead of throwing that milk away can be incredibly beneficial."

Tarah Colaizy
UI Stead Family Department of Pediatrics

ReUnion Brewery implements dress code

The bar is the second downtown Iowa City establishment to add a dress code.

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Customers are now required to follow a dress code recently implemented in the downtown Iowa City bar ReUnion Brewery.

After receiving multiple weapon threats, ReUnion Brewery's manager said the dress code was added due to safety issues and to create a better ambiance.

Compared to eight other major bars in downtown Iowa City, ReUnion has had the most calls to police.

Service records show the Iowa City Police Department responded to a total of 19 calls from ReUnion Brewery from Jan. 16 to Feb. 27.

Out of the 19 calls, there was one reported instance of a physical altercation between a patron and ReUnion's security. Call records show security held the subject down after they

became physical.

Another call on Feb. 17 reported a male in a black sweatshirt, light-colored jeans, and a beanie who reportedly threatened to shoot staff.

On Feb. 18, another call was made to police that reported the caller wanted to speak to police referencing weapon threats. The same weekend of Feb. 18, a staff member from ReUnion said management informed staff a new dress code will be implemented because of weapon threats.

The dress code, which is listed on a sign in the corner of ReUnions doorway, bans patrons from wearing:

- Sunglasses
- Joggers
- Sweatpants
- "Wife beater" tank tops
- Backpacks

ReUnion Manager Elliot Lamb said the bar warned patrons two weeks before the dress code was implemented on March 2.

"In general, just the overall safety of the bar, we're just looking to continuously improve the scene here," Lamb said. "We're just keeping sweatpants and joggers and tank tops out of here really just because it doesn't fit the vibe that we're trying to push forward."

Lamb said the bar doesn't anticipate the dress code will affect the number of customers.

"We have protocols, and we do training in the event of anything that does happen, but overall, we feel pretty safe inside our bar," Lamb said. "Anybody who's going to throw a fit over wearing sweatpants into the bar, there's 100 and some bars in Iowa City, they are

more than welcome to choose another one."

Mara Garbanzos, a host and server at ReUnion, said she does not see as much of the security issues because they mostly happen at night but thinks the dress code helps keep people safe.

While ReUnion has a higher number of calls to police than eight other downtown bars, Garbanzos said she feels ReUnion is one of the safer bars in town.

"I feel like some [bars] are better at safety than others. I'd say ours is one of the best compared to some of the other ones around here," Garbanzos said. "I always feel safe to come here."

ReUnion will become the second of two bars in downtown Iowa City to have a dress code. The first bar, Summit, has had a dress code for over six years, bar manager Brad Wellner said.

Wellner said the dress code at Summit is not about safety.

"When you're in the bar, it's better to look nice when you're out in public instead of wearing sweatpants inside where everybody else is required to wear dress pants," Wellner said.

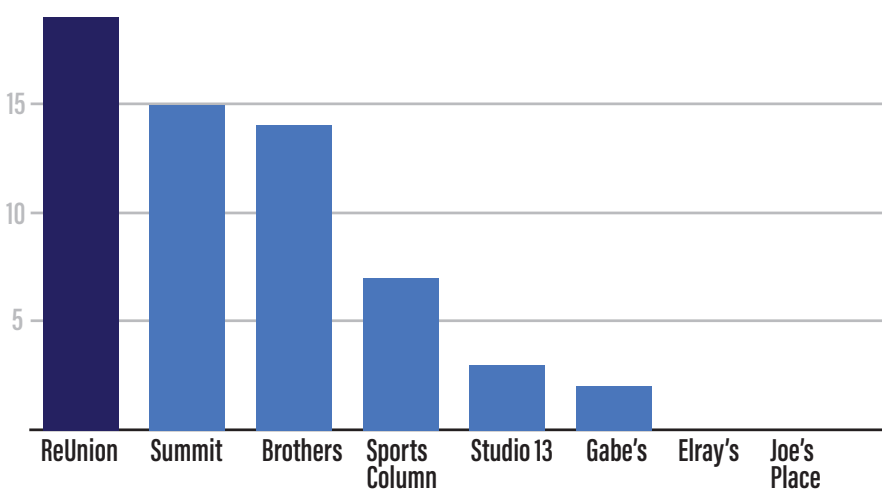
During the same period of Jan. 16 to Feb. 27, Summit had the second-highest number of calls to police out of the eight bars, totaling 15 calls for service.

While sitting with friends in Summit, University of Iowa student Zoe Shadravan said she doesn't think a dress code is unfair and understands a bar wanting to create a certain aesthetic.

"Dress codes aren't normally a big issue for me, but I do think they might be a larger issue for men here," Shadravan said.

DOWNTOWN BAR CALLS FOR SERVICE

Between Jan. 16 and Feb. 27, ReUnion, compared to eight other downtown Iowa City bars, had the most calls for service. ReUnion had 19 calls in total.



Sourced by Iowa City Police Department call records
Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher | The Daily Iowan

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OPINIONS

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COLUMN

Bill protects Trump, restricts voters

A bill in the Iowa Legislature seeks to protect Trump's position on the Iowa ballot.



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Fair and free elections are essential for a functioning democracy. House File 2610, a bill regarding Iowa voting law, survived the legislature's Feb. 15 funnel deadline with partisan Republican support. This bill allows people with felonies to run for federal office, further restricts absentee voting, and bans ballot drop boxes and ranked-choice voting.

Making voting more difficult to "prevent election fraud" has been an increasingly frequent strategy by Republican-led legislatures. However, this bill is peculiar because of its so-called "Trump clause," which ensures that former President Donald Trump will remain on ballots in Iowa this November.

The bill represents an abuse of power by a Republican-led state congress to protect their favored presidential candidate and, in combination with citizen disenfranchisement, demonstrates immense hypocrisy that brings into question their moral commitment to a functioning democracy.

I fundamentally agree with granting people with felonies the right to vote and run for office, especially in the context of the disproportionate mass incarceration of minorities in the U.S. Enfranchisement of ex-convicts is an essential goal of a good-faith approach to transformative justice and the meaningful re-integration of people with criminal histories into soci-

ety. Even Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds agrees, as evidenced by her 2020 executive order which restored voting rights to people with felonies who had completed their sentence.

Therefore, I believe the outcome of Trump's current legal proceedings should not disqualify him from being on the ballot.

Some may disagree with me based on Trump's alleged involvement in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol and the related federal election interference charge and argue that the 14th Amendment should block him from holding public office.

While this attack was a stain on our nation, obviously motivated by support for Trump, to invoke the 14th Amendment and block him from holding office will lead to further reactionary conspiracy and political extremism. Democratic defeat is the only healthy way to move past the Trump era.

If the motivation behind the bill is truly a good-faith attempt to ensure that "individual states don't get to play left or right-wing politics with the ballot access," as Rep. Bobby Kaufmann, R-Wilton, said, then every possible nonpartisan effort should be made to protect every citizen's right to vote as well. The legislature should not pass nitpicky voting restrictions that decrease turnout and remove voting convenience infrastructure that has never been legitimately linked to voter fraud.

Easy ways to protect every citizen's right to vote would be automatic voter registration, automatic absentee voting application distribution, expansion of the use of 24/7 monitored ballot drop boxes and of the



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Former President Donald Trump speaks during his caucus night watch party at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines on Jan. 15. At the event, Trump spoke to over 300 supporters at his watch party about his goals and putting America first.

absentee voter period.

It just so happens that these three common-sense pro-voting access amendments to the bill were proposed by the Democrats on the committee and rejected by the Republicans, including Kaufmann.

Unfortunately, automatic absentee ballot applications were banned following record turnout with the program in 2020.

The absentee voting period was shortened from 40 to 29 days in 2017 and 29 to 20 in 2022. Clearly, Republicans don't want all Iowans to vote.

Codifying the right of people with felony convictions to vote and be elected to office is good for our democracy. But the bill as written is a hypocritical, anti-democratic, partisan power grab that should not be signed into law.

COLUMN

Minimum prison sentences are a barrier

Mandatory minimum sentencing laws have proven to be outdated and largely ineffective, and Iowa should move to reform or scrap the laws entirely.



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In the state of Iowa, youth of color consistently continue to be disproportionately suspended in juvenile detention centers compared to their white peers.

The disproportionate suspension and detention rates of youth of color in Iowa's juvenile justice system indicate deep-seated racial disparities. These issues need to be addressed through policy changes and community-level interventions to ensure equitable treatment and opportunities for all young people. This disparity has hardly budged over the past decade.

According to national data from the Sentencing Project, "Incarceration disparities between Black and white youth have remained stubbornly high. As of 2021, Black youth were 4.7 times as likely to be placed ... in juvenile facilities as their white peers."

In Iowa, Polk County Juvenile Detention Center had to temporarily open an additional wing in recent months because of an ongoing statewide problem of finding adequate space for the juvenile population.

Children are being placed further away from their families at the cost of thousands of dollars in transportation for Iowa taxpayers. In addition, Iowa's most senior judicial officer warned that the state's system for defending impoverished juvenile court clients is on the brink of collapse.

Something has to change. Building jails to house children is not the answer to ending the school-to-prison pipeline. State officials and national experts have called the approach costly, ineffective, and out of step with national best practices in dealing with at-risk children.

One way to address the disparities in the rate of arrests of young people of color is to improve the relationship between youth and the police.

Many communities have implemented training programs for law enforcement officers that aim to build their skills in facilitating more positive interactions with young people, especially those from minority communities. By reducing the number of arrests and improving the relationship between youth and law enforcement, the disparities in the justice system can be reduced.

On a state level access, we need to develop objective, structured decision-making tools, such as detention risk assessment instruments to help intake staff make objective, unbiased decisions regarding detaining a youth or exploring other options.

According to the ACLU, the current best practice to stop racialized disparities in juvenile detentions "is to use resources

to prevent kids from entering the juvenile detention system altogether. Advocates urged the board to use the funds on prevention and rehabilitation instead."

Ann Schwickerath, the executive director of the Davenport-based development nonprofit Project Renewal, urges communities in Iowa to invest in support and rehabilitation instead of incarceration, which researchers have found increases recidivism.

According to Schwickerath, "When you lock kids up, it's not rehabilitating to them. It's not helpful to them. Invest in other ways to strengthen local communities, address family needs, and reduce juvenile crime. Start listening to the youth who are speaking. We could really make a long-term difference and it wouldn't be out of reach for all of us to work together and provide that."

In the U.S., youth of color are overrepresented at every stage of the juvenile justice system. The disproportionate suspension and detention rates of youth of color in Iowa's juvenile justice system highlight the urgent need for policy changes and community-level interventions to ensure equal treatment and opportunities for all young people.

Iowa must prioritize prevention and rehabilitation over incarceration, investing in support and rehabilitation instead of building more jails to end the school-to-prison pipeline. It is time for the state to listen to the voices of the youth and work together to provide the necessary services to reduce juvenile crime and strengthen local communities.

DOC IS IN

Self care strategies and asking for help with headaches

Building healthy habits and seeking care when necessary can help prevent frequent and severe headaches.

Kinnari Karia
Guest Opinion

What type of headache am I having?

Headaches can ruin a good day, and while we often use "headache" as a general term, there are different types of headaches. Tension headaches and migraines are two common types of headaches. Tension headaches are often described as steady pressure around both sides of the head or neck. Migraines are increasingly painful headaches that last hours to days and can be associated with light or sound sensitivity and nausea.

What is causing my headaches?

It can be difficult to figure out why you may have a headache, but common causes include not getting enough sleep, not drinking enough water, or over-caffeinating. Eating processed foods, having too much screen-time, or having your period can also cause

headaches. People often reach for Advil or Tylenol to help them get through the pain. Unfortunately, taking these medications, while they may help in the moment, may cause more headaches in the long run.

What can I do to prevent headaches?

Lifestyle factors, like mindful eating, sleeping until you feel rested, and consistent exercise are not only good for overall health but have also been shown to reduce headaches. It can be helpful to set goals such as not skipping meals, or cutting back on caffeine, alcohol, and sugary foods. You may also consider going to sleep and waking up around the same time every day. Additionally, adequate stress management is important for mitigating headache symptoms. Consider journaling, meditation, and blocking out time in your schedule for friends. Meeting with a qualified mental health provider is another self-care practice that can decrease the frequency of headaches.

Are your headaches continuing to persist?

If you have frequent headaches or your headaches are interfering with daily activities, consider seeing a health care provider. They can help you identify lifestyle factors that could be contributing to your headaches. They can also guide further testing to figure out the cause of your headaches. During your appointment, you might discuss starting medication. For example, menstrual migraines are related to fluctuating hormone levels and may resolve with preventive hormonal or non-hormonal therapy. If you can, bring a headache diary to your appointment that includes the timing of the headache, where the pain was located and how intense it was, what you ate and did before it started, and if you needed medications to help it pass. Severe headaches accompanying other symptoms such as a fever or stiff neck, confusion, fainting, difficulty seeing, or new numbness should be evaluated urgently.

Kinnari Karia is a University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine fourth year medical student.

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AMPLIFY

DAILYIOWAN.COM

Preaching inclusivity in Iowa churches

Many churches offer respite for the LGBTQ+ community as proposed bills loom.

Roxy Ekberg
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Rooted in their passion for an open, inclusive church, Adey and Tom Wassink left their denomination and started their own.

Sanctuary Community Church in Coralville has grown into a supportive space for the LGBTQ+ community.

It took 16 years for the couple to fully extricate themselves from their previous denomination and form their own church. In 2016, Sanctuary threw a “coming out party,” said Senior Pastor Adey Wassink, announced an official switch to becoming an openly inclusive church for LGBTQ+ members.

“We had no idea what the gift of queerness would bring to us,” Adey Wassink said. “We have been hugely shaped by the community and are super grateful to be able to have a church like this that is openly inclusive and supportive.”

Sanctuary, among many other Iowa City churches, offers respite and support for the queer community as proposed legislation looms over LGBTQ+ Iowans.

This legislative session, Iowa lawmakers introduced over 40 bills that would affect LGBTQ+ rights, according to One Iowa Action, an LGBTQ+ advocacy group. Since the first legislative deadline passed in February and another swiftly approaches in seven of the bills remain viable.

Nationwide, over 400 proposals were filed in 2023 to restrict the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, specifically transgender people, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Iowa’s most recent proposed legislation includes measures to legally define “man” and “woman” in state law, requiring new birth certificates for transgender Iowans to identify both their gender assigned at birth and their current identity. A bill was also proposed that would prohibit discipline for K-12 teachers who don’t use a student’s preferred name or pronouns.

In a Feb. 1 news release, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds said her bill defining “man” and “woman” and placing new requirements on identification, is “common sense” and further compared the bill to a law in 2022, which banned transgender women from participating in women’s sports.

At a public hearing for the bill, Denise Bubeck, a lobbyist and member of conservative Christian group The Family Leader, said “it is time to codify biology” and “protect women’s spaces.”

Bubeck said females are losing access to safe spaces while biological men are gaining access, and women and girls “who speak the truth” about biological differences are being silenced and canceled.

Many churches push to become a welcoming, supportive space for LGBTQ+ members, and some, such as Sanctuary, go as far as to engage in political activism.

Iowa City churches voice opinions on legislation

Religion is not a traditional source of support for the queer community and is often used for the exact opposite. However, legislation that affects LGBTQ+ individuals has spurred many Iowa City churches to openly voice their support and engage in inclusive practices specifically for the queer community.

Members of the Iowa City United Church of Christ traveled to the state Capitol in Des Moines for Rally Day on Feb. 5 to learn more about the legislation impacting LGBTQ+ people in Iowa.

A year ago, in response to legislation, the congregation formed an LGBTQ+ subcommittee to educate themselves about the queer community and learn how to become a better ally.

Hope Spragg serves on the church’s Mission Board, which is where the subcommittee stems from, and helped coordinate the trip to the Capitol.

The four members who attended the rally learned the basics about how bills become law at the state level, then dove into the specific legislation targeting the queer community, and spoke to Iowa Rep. Janice Weiner, D-Iowa City, Rep Adam Zabner, D-Iowa City, and Sen. Zach Wahls, D-Coralville

Spragg described the experience as uplifting, affirming, and inspiring.



Ava Neumaier | The Daily Iowan

Senior Pastor Adey Wassink preaches during a service at Sanctuary Community Center, a church in Coralville on March 3. Adey and Tom Wassink are pastors who advocate for women’s and LGBTQ+ rights within their organization.



Ava Neumaier | The Daily Iowan

Senior Pastor Adey Wassink and staff pastor Tom Wassink stand in the pews together during a service at Sanctuary Community Center, a church in Coralville on March 3. The Wassinks are pastors who advocate for women’s and LGBTQ+ rights in their organization.

“It’s really important for Christian churches to be overly inviting just because it has been a point of trauma for so many people in their church in the past,” Spragg said.

Spragg said the church is “trying to fly our flag a little higher” to let people know that they provide a safe space, which is part of the reason the subcommittee was formed.

“It’s not only a safe and welcoming place to be,” Spragg said. “We want to be allies and we want to stand next to and in front of you.”

Linda Muston, of Iowa City, has attended the United Church of Christ for about 10 years and said the church’s support for the LGBTQ+ community is nothing new.

Muston said it’s a “real mystery” as to why other churches and congregations are not as welcoming and supportive of the queer community.

“It’s part of the fiber and fabric of who we are and what we believe,” Muston said. “That’s why I’m happy to be here. I’m happy to be a part of this because it’s just business as usual for us.”

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Iowa City is on a roster of LGBTQ+ affirming and inclusive faith communities and holds a title as a reconciling in Christ congregation, meaning they welcome and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

However, Gloria Dei Pastor Sarah

Goetsch said it means nothing if the community doesn’t know the church is welcoming, and that they can’t expect people to just “walk through the door.”

Goetsch wanted to extend the church’s support outside of their building and into the broader Iowa City community, so she reached out to local drag artists who perform at Big Grove Brewery and asked how the congregation could offer their support.

“We want to be a visible and active support of the LGBTQIA+ community,” Goetsch said. “We want to support the drag community, and I said, ‘How can we do that?’”

The conversation sparked an ongoing relationship between the congregation and the drag artists of Iowa City. The congregation holds a table at the performers’ monthly drag shows at the brewery. Goetsch herself has only missed one performance in over two years.

Changes in the church

The Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church approved a new vision two years ago, allowing same-sex marriages and ordaining gay clergy to serve without fear of church charges, resulting in the loss of more than 142 Iowa churches that chose to disaffiliate from the denomination.

Before disaffiliation within the church, the United Methodist Church was the third-largest denomination in the nation, but disputes involving LGBTQ+ policies caused the departure of more than 7,650 churches across the country, or over a quarter of the total U.S. congregation.

The Wesley Center at the University of Iowa separated from the United Methodist Church in 2022, citing a misalignment between the center’s commitment to LGBTQ+ students and the denomination’s official stance that resulted in “direct attacks from the church body that once supported [the organization],” as written in a statement from the center.

Although the center is rooted in Christian tradition, it is no longer connected to any particular Christian denomination and holds space for people of all beliefs, said Rev. Sean McRoberts, director of operations and development.

The Wesley Center is the only queer-led campus spiritual community at the University of Iowa, and offers a Tuesday Table

program, a gathering for a meal and conversation, drop-in hours, and occasional short-term programming at its location in Old Brick.

Adey Wassink said it’s not unusual for churches to preach directly against the LGBTQ+ community on a Sunday morning, and many members of the queer community have had terrible experiences in churches.

“We are praying with them; we are crying with them. We are saying ‘Oh, God, we are so sorry that that happened to you.’ Part of our support is just saying ‘We care, and your love matters to us, and we want to learn how to be in it with you,’” Adey Wassink said.

Tom Wassink, staff pastor at Sanctuary, said those who have been excluded from church come to the center of the organization to shape it, to have a voice, and to produce influence.

Furthering advocacy in church

As a spurt of legislation in Iowa threatens the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals in the state, Iowa City churches are speaking out and attempting to implement long-lasting change.

Rev. William Lovin with the United Church of Christ said his biggest concern about some of Iowa’s anti-LGBTQ+ legislation is that it uses the protection of religion as a way to discriminate.

Lovin said the congregation supports the LGBTQ+ community and all people because they understand God as one who loves all people.

“We want to invite people into that kind of relationship with God and God’s love,” Lovin said. UCC Mission Board member Spragg described the legislation as unnecessary, damaging, and a poor use of resources. She said supporting the LGBTQ+ community is a biblical calling and the designation of Christians.

Spragg said she desires fast change from the legislature, but ultimately it is a “long game.”

“The change that I like for my children and my friends in the UCC is to do is to plant seeds, and whether those seeds are ready to germinate and grow right now, or if they’re just seeds that we can support and nurture and water that will someday ... build and grow outward,” Spragg said. “We just have to take the small changes or the small wins and then just keep doing the work.”

DISAFFILIATION IN IOWA

Out of 715 Methodist churches in the state, 143 have disaffiliated as of May 2023. This is a result of the United Methodist Church’s stance regarding LGBTQ+ individuals. Nationally, there have been approximately 7,650 churches.



Sourced from The United Methodist Church of Iowa Conference
Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher | The Daily Iowan



RECORD ROUNDUP

With Caitlin Clark's recent decision to enter the 2024 WNBA Draft, *The Daily Iowan* chose 15 notable moments so far in her career at Iowa.

Feb. 28, 2021

Clark breaks Iowa women's basketball's all-time freshman assist record.

March 2, 2021

Clark breaks the program's all-time freshman scoring record.

March 8, 2021

Clark wins Big Ten Freshman of the Year.

April 2, 2021

Clark becomes first freshman to earn the Dawn Staley Award, given to the best all-around guard in women's basketball.

March 26, 2023

Clark becomes the first Division I player to record at least 900 points and 300 assists in a single season.

March 26, 2023

Clark registers the first 40-point triple-double in Division I NCAA Tournament history.

March 29, 2023

Clark earns the Naismith Trophy, given to women's college basketball's most outstanding player.

April 2, 2023

Clark breaks the NCAA Tournament record for most points scored.

Nov. 12, 2023

Clark becomes Iowa women's basketball's all-time leading scorer.

Dec. 30, 2023

Clark becomes the Big Ten's and Iowa's all-time assist leader.

Jan. 31, 2024

Clark passes Ohio State's Kelsey Mitchell to become the Big Ten's all-time leading scorer.

Feb. 15, 2024

Clark surpasses Kelsey Plum to break the NCAA women's all-time scoring record.

Feb. 15, 2024

Clark scores 49 points to set an Iowa and Carver-Hawkeye Arena single-game record.

Feb. 28, 2024

Clark eclipses Lynette Woodard to become the all-time leading scorer in women's major college basketball.

March 3, 2024

Clark surpasses Pete Maravich to become the NCAA all-time leading scorer.

March 3, 2024

Clark breaks the NCAA record for the most three-pointers made in a single season.



Check newsstands on March 22 for a special Pregame edition featuring an in-depth preview of Iowa women's basketball's March Madness run.

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

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Iowa seniors leading the way

Four Iowa women's basketball starters are playing their final season with Lisa Bluder.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark celebrates after the senior recognition during a basketball game with then-No. 6 Iowa and then-No. 2 Ohio State inside a sold-out Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on March 3. The Hawkeyes upset the Buckeyes, 93-83, on senior night. Seniors Clark, Molly Davis, Sharon Goodman, Kate Martin, and Gabbie Marshall all played their final game of the regular season in Carver on March 3.

Cooper Worth
Pregame Reporter
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The No. 3 Iowa Hawkeyes will attempt to recapture lightning in a bottle by making another run to the NCAA championship game but, win or lose, a significant chapter in the program's 50-year history will end.

Seniors Molly Davis, Sharon Goodman, Kate Martin, Gabbie Marshall, and Caitlin Clark will each make their final tournament run suiting up for the Hawkeyes. They will move on from the team after the

season, some reaching the end of their NCAA eligibility while others choose to leave to pursue other ventures.

The latter three have 383 combined starts for the Hawkeyes and 12,068 combined minutes on the court since 2020-21, helping Iowa amass a 100-29 record in the process.

"You can't help but get a little sentimental anytime you have a senior class graduate, but this senior class has been successful and pretty enjoyable to coach," Iowa

head coach Lisa Bluder said at a March 1 media availability. "I understand that people are ready for the next chapter of their lives after four years of college."

All five players were recognized following Iowa's 93-83 win over No. 4 Ohio State during senior day on March 3, the last regular season game at Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

Each of the five players took vastly different paths to get to the point they are now: approaching the finishing lines of their collegiate careers.

Reigning Naismith College Player of the Year, Caitlin Clark announced prior to



Clark

senior day that she will enter the WNBA Draft this year and forgo her fifth and final year of eligibility.

"What we've been able to do is so special and, obviously, that's not over, but I think I'm ready for the next chapter of my life," Clark said.

She said she wanted to make the decision sooner rather than later to relieve that pressure so she could enjoy her remaining

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | 3B



Bluder

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Beyond the numbers

Three Hawkeyes embrace truth and accountability.



Shaely Odean | The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard, Tony Perkins dribbles the ball during a men's basketball game between Iowa and Nebraska at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Jan. 12. The Hawkeyes defeated the Huskers, 94-76.

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4,167 — That's the number of career points shared between the trio of Iowa men's basketball's Tony Perkins, Patrick McCaffery, and Ben Krikke, each of whom have crossed either the 1,000 or 2,000-point mark this season.

While donning the Black and Gold in 2023-24, the group of seniors have not only achieved career milestones in their offensive production but also have left behind traces of leadership and mentorship that extend beyond the stat sheet.

Perkins, the youngest of the bunch, was the first to notch his accomplishment, surpassing 1,000 points when he nailed a midrange jumper in the second half of an Iowa win over Michigan on Jan. 27. As the 52nd player in program history to reach quadruple-digits in scoring, Perkins averages a career-high 15.1 points per game this season, tying for eighth in the Big Ten with 4.2 assists per contest.



Perkins

"He just continues to mature," Iowa head coach Fran McCaffery said of Perkins after the Hawkeyes' victory over Ohio State on Feb. 2. "When he first got here, he was a junkyard dog — that's what he loved about him, and that's why we recruited him. He's a fearless guy."

Hailing from Indianapolis, Perkins finished second in Indiana's Mr. Basketball coming out of Lawrence North High School in 2020. While he played sparingly in his first season in Iowa City, his scoring average has increased each year, culminating in his best offensive production of his career on Feb. 4, 2023.

That Saturday afternoon against Illinois, the 6-foot-4 Perkins practically carried the Hawkeyes to their first win against the Fighting Illini in three years. Piling in 32 points, the then-third-year missed just four shots from the field and free throw line.



F. McCaffery

MEN'S BASKETBALL | 3B

WOMEN'S WRESTLING

Off to nationals

Iowa women's wrestling looks to close out its historic season strong.

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Following a dominant outing at the NWWC Regionals on Feb. 23, the Iowa women's wrestling squad will make the quick trek to Cedar Rapids to close out its milestone season at the NWWC National Championships on March 8-9.

The four-session event will be held at Alliant Energy PowerHouse in downtown Cedar Rapids, with wrestling beginning at 11 a.m. each day. For one session, tickets are \$18 for adults and \$12 for children. All session passes can also be purchased for an additional cost. For fans unable to make it to Cedar Rapids, a live stream can be found through FloWrestling.

The Hawkeyes are coming off a superb performance in regional action as all 15 wrestlers competing qualified for the national finals. For a wrestler to qualify for nationals, they must place in the top four of their respective weight class.

Iowa's national qualifiers

- Sterling Dias (101 pounds)
- Emilie Gonzalez (101 pounds)
- Ava Bayless (109 pounds)
- Brianna Gonzalez (116 pounds)
- Felicity Taylor (116 pounds)
- Ava Rose (123 pounds)
- Emily Frost (130 pounds)
- Lilly Luft (136 pounds)
- Reese Larramendy (143 pounds)
- Ella Schmit (143 pounds)
- Bella Mir (155 pounds)
- Marlynn Deede (155 pounds)
- Kylie Welker (170 pounds)
- Haley Ward (170 pounds)
- Jaycee Foeller (191 pounds)

Iowa storylines

Despite several key injuries at 136 pounds, first-year Lilly Luft has stepped up to the plate. Hailing from Charles City, Iowa, Luft is 13-5 on the year and ranked No. 14 in her weight class.

Second-year twins Emilie and Brianna Gonzalez have

WOMEN'S WRESTLING | 3B

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Men's basketball

Sunday, March 10
Senior day
vs. Illinois
6 p.m., FS1 and Hawkeye Radio Network

Women's wrestling

March 8-9
National Championships, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
11 a.m., FloWrestling

Baseball

Friday, March 8
Jacksonville State in Jacksonville, Ala.
6 p.m., ESPN+, Hawkeye Radio Network

Softball

Friday, March 8
Iowa vs. CSU Bakersfield in San Jose, Calif.
2 p.m.

Friday, March 8
Iowa vs. San Jose State in San Jose, Calif.
5 p.m.

Tennis

Friday, March 8
Iowa vs. Nebraska in Lincoln, Neb.
Noon

NCAA WRESTLING

The NCAA Division I Wrestling Committee released qualifying tournament allocations for this year's national championships, which will be held at the T-Mobile Center in Kansas City March 21-23.

The pre-allocations were determined by using a sliding scale of win percentage, coaches' rank, and RPI ranking; while never going below the base of .700 winning percentage, top 30 coaches' ranking, and top 30 RPI ranking until reaching the maximum 29 wrestlers per weight class.

For each wrestler who reached the threshold in at least two of the three categories, his conference tournament was awarded a qualifying spot in that weight class. For example, Iowa's Drake Ayala, along with eight other 125-pounders in the Big Ten met at least two of the three thresholds, so the conference was awarded nine pre-allocated spots in that weight class.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I don't think Lynette Woodard would have this moment without Caitlin Clark."

Lynette Woodard
Basketball hall of famer

STAT OF THE WEEK

No. 2

Iowa women's basketball's seed in the upcoming Big Ten Tournament

VOLLEYBALL

NCAA adjusts volleyball rules

Double contacts are now allowed, sparking debate across the nation.

Kenna Roering
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NCAA volleyball might look different this season.

The NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel approved allowing double contacts, a rule change that has sparked debate across the country.

More specifically, this rule change "allows women's volleyball players to contact the ball more than once with any part of the body in a single attempt on a team's second contact when the ball is played to a teammate."

Committee members thought the elimination of this judgment call would "bring more consistency to the game ... and promote the continuation of play, which would make the game more entertaining for the players and fans."

This mainly affects setters, who previously had to set the ball cleanly, making both hands touch the ball at the exact same time so it has little to no spin while in the air.

Some believe this change discredits the years of work setters have put in to perfect their technique and avoid double contacts.

For the Iowa volleyball team, this rule change hasn't been a big talking point. Head coach Jim Barnes said it won't change the way he or the rest of the staff train the athletes, emphasizing players should still try and cleanly set.

Barnes said this rule means the NCAA is "catching up" with the international and Olympic level.

"Basically, they won't call balls just because it's got some spin to it. So now you don't disrupt the game, and you don't have the refs making critical plays," Barnes said. "You want the players to make those critical plays. I go back to when we set the ball, it couldn't spin at all. So I should be the first to be offended by it because I spent my whole life learning how to do it. And I'm like, 'Oh, thank God that we don't call it' because it would be so random when they would call it, and there's no advantage. It's usually a worse set."

Iowa setter Claire Ammeraal, who recently transferred from Central Michigan, said the rule "kind of" takes away from the setting position, but she is glad she can be more aggressive with her hands and not have to "worry about hitting [the ball] weird."

Emily Lavin, a libero and designated setter for the Hawkeyes, also isn't a big fan of the new rule but is excited to see how the game



Barnes



Isabella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Kaia Mateo sets the ball during a volleyball match between Iowa and Iowa State at Xstream Arena on Sept. 6, 2023. The Cyclones beat the Hawkeyes, 3-2.

changes when the rule is added this spring and fall. Iowa will open its spring schedule with an exhibition against Drake on March 23.

Iowa's Gabby Deery, who considers herself a pin hitter, said she won't be as worried now if an opportunity comes where she has to set the ball.



Deery

Along with approving double contacts, the NCAA announced five other rule changes, including allowing two different liberos to play in the same set. Previously, if a libero was struggling, the coach couldn't sub them out. Now, teams are allowed to swap out setters after every point based on who's better on offense or defense.

The NCAA said the rationale behind this rule change was to "allow more players the opportunity to compete."

This is similar to what Barnes said, as he thinks this rule was implemented more for the lower-level divisions where teams want to get more players on the roster. Barnes said switching out setters after every point "would be an abomination" but admitted he "would

do anything" to help the Hawkeyes win. Ammeraal said subbing in and out after every point may mess with a libero's head, but she thinks it's good to have it as an option.

"I'm not personally a fan because I feel like if you're a libero you should be able to play defense, pass — you're supposed to be the best all around," Lavin said.

Other rule changes

•Allowing the referee to issue an administrative sanction (red card) to the home team in instances where spectators encroach on the playing area.

•Allowing interference above the net — whether an opponent was touched — to be added to the list of plays that can be challenged in video review.

•Expanding the jewelry rule to allow small, snug-fitting nose rings and ear cuffs.

•Requiring all protests to be resolved during the match.

Q&A | HOLLY DUAX

Second-year sprinter highlights supporters



Holly Duax
Second-year Track and field sprinter
Sioux City, Iowa

Mia Boulton
Sports Reporter
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The Daily Iowan: What is your dream travel destination?

Holly Duax: Iceland. Iceland or just Europe in general. I think Iceland comes to my mind because of the natural beauty of it.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

Honestly, I feel like I'm proud of a lot of things that I've done, but there's not one thing that is my proudest moment. I'm still building up to it. I'm waiting on it. It's yet to come.

What are you studying?

I'm studying psychology right now.

What's the most relaxing part of your day? I feel like it is probably around 9 p.m. -10:30 p.m. when I just lay in bed and watch TV or read.

How about the most difficult part?

Honestly, I would say the most difficult part is having to go to class after practice. A lot of times, we have class right after practice, so we have to rush. I love being at practice and I love being around my teammates, so to have to leave that and go to class right after is tough.

What do you hope to accomplish soon?

I wanted to medal at Big Tens, and that didn't happen indoor, so I want it to happen outdoor. Academic-wise, I've had a 4.0 [GPA] since I've been here except for my first semester, so I want to maintain that. And just staying happy and positive.

Who has helped you most within the past year?

I would say Lia [Love] has been really helpful for me. Last year, I was obviously a freshman and didn't know what was going on, and she was really helpful. Even though she is only a year older than me, she has so much wisdom to share. This year, she has been a person to lean on, and whenever I feel anxious, I know she is calm.

Besides running, what is your favorite form of exercise?

I love playing volleyball. I absolutely loved volleyball throughout high school, and I played in middle school. I think if I couldn't run, I would want to do some sort of volleyball-esque sport.

POINT | COUNTERPOINT

Should court storming be allowed?



Jake Olson
Sports Reporter

Yes

Since I can remember, storming the court has been a big tradition in college basketball. Whenever a top-ranked team suffers a loss on the road, they are always in danger of being on the receiving end of a court storm.

As of late, though, court storming has come under fire from coaches and media outlets all over the country.

On Feb. 24, the No. 10 Duke Blue Devils suffered a loss while playing at unranked Wake Forest. Even before the final buzzer went off, Demon Deacon students started to pour onto the court inside LJV Coliseum.

While trying to walk off the court, Blue Devil forward Kyle Filipowski collided with a Wake Forest student and had to be helped off the court with an apparent injury.

Even though Filipowski seemed to engage with the student first, it wasn't deemed his fault in the situation.

Duke head coach Jon Scheyer told the media how he felt in the post-game press conference, saying that only players, coaches, and officials should be on the court, not students or fans. He demanded that the ACC

do something to prevent these court stormings and further injury to their student-athletes.

While I believe the health of student-athletes is the top priority, court storming should be allowed in collegiate athletics.

The only thing separating professional sports from college athletics is a tradition like court-storming. Just like other college athletic traditions, such as the marching band, student sections, and live animal mascots, court stormings are essential for separating professional and collegiate sports.

The reason people love college sports so much is because you don't see these kinds of traditions and atmospheres anywhere else.

However, court stormings can be executed properly and safely.

Earlier that week, No. 1 UConn dropped to No. 15 Creighton on the road. Filled with excitement, the Blue Jay faithful decided to run onto the court to celebrate with their team. While that was going on, security blocked off a space on the court just for Huskie athletes to properly leave without getting injured.

If it means we have to set up more rules and regulations regarding court stormings, I'm fine with that. But don't take away one of the greatest traditions in college sports just because a Duke player faked an injury.

Taking away these traditions will be the death of all college athletics as we know it, and I will not stand for that.



Chris Meglio
Sports Reporter

No

Throughout the years, college sports fans have seen court storming become more of a controversial topic as unfortunate events began to occur. It's one thing if those unfortunate events couldn't be controlled, but they can be controlled, and the only way to control it is to ban the action completely.

Conversations really started to heat up after Iowa superstar guard Caitlin Clark collided with a fan when trying to evacuate the court. After then-No. 18 Ohio State's 100-92 home victory over then-No. 2 Iowa on Jan. 24, Buckeye fans began to storm the court. When Clark was running off the court, she ran into a rushing fan, spinning around and falling to the ground in visible pain.

She needed help getting off the court as Hawkeye teammates and coaches voiced their frustration about the matter — not just for the collision itself, but also for the fans' word choices directed at the star player.

"It's unfortunate the game ended that way and Caitlin [Clark] gets taken out on the floor," Bluder

said. "Had some inappropriate words yelled at her by fans, by students. That just should not happen."

Then on Feb. 24, another court storm incident took place — this time in men's hoops. Wake Forest upset then-No. 8 Duke, 83-79, which was arguably the biggest upset in program history. The fans decided to rush the court.

While trying to get off the hardwood, a Demon Deacon fan jumped into star center Kyle Filipowski, hitting his knee. The moment the incident happened, the team surrounded him and helped him get off the court as safely as possible as he was clearly injured as a result.

"I absolutely feel like it was personal, intentional for sure," Filipowski said after the matter.

"How many times does a player have to get into something, where they get punched, or they get pushed, or they get taunted right in their face? It's a dangerous thing," Duke head coach John Scheyer.

Obviously, it's exciting to the fans to storm the court to celebrate an unanticipated victory or defeat your rival opponent. But the reality is that it's unsafe for the players and coaches, especially for the visiting teams. Something must be done before another star player suffers a much more serious injury because of the manner, and the only real fix would be to ban the action completely.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa head coach Lisa Bluder hugs guard Kate Martin during senior recognition at a basketball game with then-No. 6 Iowa and then-No. 2 Ohio State inside a sold-out Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on March 3. The Hawkeyes upset the Buckeyes, 93-83, on senior night.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

from **1B**
time with her teammates.
"I didn't want senior day to be all about me or if I'm coming back," Clark said. "Gabbie, Kate, Molly, and Sharon have given so much to the program. They deserve to be celebrated as much as me."

She is expected to be the No. 1 overall draft pick, which the Indiana Fever holds. The draft is on April 15 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Clark broke Kelsey Plum's NCAA women's all-time scoring record on Feb. 15 and surpassed Lynette Woodard for the most points scored in major women's college basketball history on Feb. 28. In the first half against the Buckeyes March 3, she passed Pete Maravich for the NCAA all-time scoring record.

The only accolade eluding Clark is a coveted National Championship ring, and she says helping Iowa continue to



Goodman

win games is her top priority.

Goodman announced she would not return to Iowa next season.

"It was not an easy decision by any means," Goodman said with tears in her eyes. "In the end, it was a decision that I had to make for myself, and I am a little bit proud of myself for being able to process and make that decision."

The center entered college at a low point in her life, losing her mother to cancer just months before joining the team. After appearing in all 30 games as a first-year, she tore her ACL in practice before her second season and missed the entire year.

She played in just 13 games the following year. This season, she has appeared in 26 games — starting eight — and averages 5.2 points and 3.3 rebounds per game.

"I had a very big life event happen right before I came here, and to sort of think of my growth [over] the past four years, it's humbling," Goodman said. "I'm thankful for all

the people that have been around me."

Though Molly Davis has only been with Iowa for two seasons, she has made quite the impression in her short time in Iowa City.

Davis has started nearly every game for the Hawkeyes this season, averaging 6.3 points and 3.2 assists per contest. Hailing from Midland, Michigan, Davis is known for her scrappy style of play despite being a shorter player at 5-foot-7.

"She looks like this quiet, nice person, but to me, she has a sneaky moxie about her," Bluder said of Davis earlier in the season. "She has no fear."

Davis transferred from Central Michigan following the 2021-22 season. In three years at Central Michigan, Davis made her mark on the program's history by ranking seventh and 11th in career assists and points with 356 and 1,434, respectively.

"For Molly to come here and not be guaranteed anything — no starting position, no amount of playing time — [just] come here, accept her role, and do whatever it took for us to be better, that took a lot of courage," Bluder said.

Super seniors



Martin

Martin and Marshall are the tandem of super seniors who have been able to elude moving on from the women's team due to redshirt seasons and COVID-19 granting extra years of eligibility.

Martin joined the program in summer 2018 and redshirted her first year after tearing her ACL and meniscus a number of days before arriving at the UI. Marshall joined her a year later, and both have witnessed firsthand the popularity of the Iowa women's team — and the sport in general — explode.

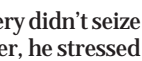
Martin and Marshall each played a big role in Iowa's NCAA Tournament run last season, including Martin scoring 16 points and grabbing six rebounds in a Sweet 16 win against No. 6 Colorado, and Marshall scoring 14 points and collecting four steals in the Elite Eight versus No. 5 Louisville.

Both were not 100 percent sure they would return to Iowa for the 2023-24 season, with Martin more on the fence than Marshall. However, Clark was able to convince her to return.

"It's been a really fun year, and I'm glad Caitlin kind of forced me to come back," Martin joked. "Why would I ever want to give this up?"

Both said they are happy with their decision to return as the Iowa women's team has had a historic season thus far, breaking the attendance record for a women's basketball game at Kinnick Stadium, selling out arenas in almost every one of the Hawkeyes' road games.

"I feel like I've had more fun playing this year than I ever have in my life," Martin said. "It's just been very free."



Marshall

MEN'S BASKETBALL

from **1B**

"I've been doing this a long time. I haven't seen too many guys go off like that," Fran McCaffery said of Perkins' performance. "That was impressive."

Following that season, the head coach issued Perkins a challenge: to become a more vocal leader. Embracing that goal, Perkins made himself heard his fourth year.

Iowa first-year guard Brock Harding remembered when Perkins was the first Hawkeye starter subbed out on Feb. 17 against Wisconsin. Sitting on the bench watching as Harding took his place, Perkins didn't sulk, but rather "instilled confidence" in his teammate.

"He was cheering loud for me, talking to me at time-

out," Harding said of Perkins.

Averaging 15.1 points per game this season, Perkins still has an extra year of eligibility, a decision he said he will make after the season.

Patrick McCaffery, on the other hand, is in his last season of eligibility and sunk his 1,000th career point while at the charity stripe on Feb. 27 against Michigan. For his father, Fran McCaffery, the moment was a sign of just how far the 23-year-old has come since he was diagnosed with thyroid cancer 10 years ago.

"When he was 14 years old, to get 1,000 points in the Big Ten, we weren't sure if he would get two points or even play his high school career," the head coach said of his son. "His leadership on this team has been impressive."

On the podium following the win over the

Nittany Lions, Patrick McCaffery didn't seize the opportunity to gloat. Rather, he stressed his career accomplishment shouldn't overshadow his 1-for-6 shooting performance, or the team's win.

"I had a pretty atrocious game to be completely honest," he said. "I wish [1,000 points] came a little sooner, but I'm glad I won, and I'm glad I got there."

While Patrick McCaffery and Perkins have worn the Tigerhawk their entire careers, Ben Krikke is in his first campaign in Iowa City. The grad student transfer elected to spend his final year of eligibility with Iowa after four seasons with Valparaiso.

In 2022-23, Krikke was king of the Missouri Valley Conference in scoring, registering 19.4 points per contest. This season, that mark has dipped to 13.9 per game. Even though Krikke is no longer the main offensive option and doesn't have the same amount of experience with the Hawkeyes,

it doesn't negate his influence.

"He's not the guy who does a lot of talking, but he certainly commands the respect," Fran McCaffery said of Krikke. "When he does say something, everybody listens because he's a really special person and incredible worker, so he has credibility."

One of the talking points heading into this season was the leadership void after the departures of Connor McCaffery, Kris Murray, and Filip Rebrača. But now after four Quad 1 wins, Iowa has an outside shot at making the NCAA Tournament, which would be the program's fourth straight appearance.

For Fran McCaffery, part of that stability derives from senior leadership, which continues to change faces but still finds a receptive team striving to play for each other and constantly improve.

"You're going to have guys talking, but if you have guys who aren't listening, it's not going to do any good," he said.

WOMEN'S WRESTLING

from **1B**

been a dominant one-two punch in the Hawkeye lineup. Both clinched regional championships at Simpson College and have a combined record of 29-2 this year. Emilie Gonzalez is ranked No. 6 in her weight class, while Brianna Gonzalez holds the No. 5 spot.

Second-year Kylie Welker is a perfect 13-0 on the season and comes off a regional title at 170 pounds. During her high school career, Welker was ranked the No. 1 pound-for-pound women's high school wrestler in the nation.

Head coach Clarissa Chun was named USA Today's Woman of the Year for the state of Iowa on Feb. 29. Chun was a two-time Olympian during her wrestling career and led the U.S. to 17 World medals as an assistant coach.

With a perfect 16-0 dual record and the top spot in the NWCA rankings, the

Hawkeyes undoubtedly enter the event as clear favorites, but there are other programs looking to shock the nation and take down Iowa.

One of the biggest threats to Iowa is North Central College, who the Hawkeyes have faced on multiple occasions.

The two teams met in the NWCA National Duals finals on Jan. 6, which narrowly ended in Iowa's

favor, 21-20.

Though they came up short, the Cardinals did win five matches.

Kendra Ryan, Amani Jones, and Alara Boyd have won NWCA Regional Wrestler of the Month honors, and Jones and Boyd have defeated their Iowa counterparts at least once during the season.

Colorado Mesa also presents a tough challenge for the Hawkeyes.

Colorado Mesa enters Cedar Rapids with an 11-5 record and a No. 4 national ranking in the NWCA polls. Wrestlers Isabella

Morales and Holly Beau-doin have earned NWCA Regional Wrestler of the Month recognitions for Region IV. With Iowa's Emilie Gonzalez sharing the same weight class, a potential showdown in the national finals could be in store.



Harding



P. McCaffery



Chun

USURP	TAP	OOMP	PH
SAVER	ELI	USAGE	
SKEDADDLE	TAPAS		
READIEDAROCK			
SLY	ARABIC		
AMSTEL	BOHO	ONA	
TIMEDAGETUP	OSU		
ELON	MAO	ABEL	
OAK	BACKEDAWORK		
UNE	LESS	ALLOTS	
TOYCAR	SNL		
CROSSED	ABEAR		
RADII	POLYGRAPH		
UPENN	ASL	EERIE	
GREGG	NOIS	SALISA	

4	1	5	3	8	2	7	9	6
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8	2	4	1	9	6	5	3	7
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5	6	8	2	3	1	4	7	9
3	9	2	4	6	7	8	5	1
1	4	7	9	5	8	6	2	3

HIRING OPERATOR
CITY OF MT. VERNON, IA

The City of Mt. Vernon is accepting applications to fill an opening in the Public Works Department. The Operator will assist in day-to-day operations in the street department and is under the direction of the Lead Operator and Public Works Director.

The successful candidate will need to have knowledge of practices, techniques, equipment, tools, materials, and supplies used in street construction, maintenance and repair. Entry level knowledge of safety regulations, protocols, principles, practices and procedures for street construction, maintenance, and repair; ground maintenance and erosion repair control are preferred but not required. Candidates will possess the ability to learn and follow techniques in excavation, water main repair, park maintenance and snow removal. Candidates will be responsible for maintaining a positive attitude with staff and the public as well as a willingness to learn and to work with others in a team-oriented environment.

Applicants must have a High School diploma or GED. Applicants must have the ability to maintain a valid Iowa Driver's license, CDL certification with air brakes or ability to obtain CDL with air brakes and pass a pre-employment drug screen and physical.

Resumes and/or applications will be accepted until March 15, 2024. Full job description can be found on the city website.

EOD

Eldon Downs, Public Works Director, City of Mt. Vernon
213 First Street NW, Mt. Vernon, IA 52314
edowns@cityofmtvernon-ia.gov · www.cityofmtvernon-ia.gov

HIRING/SEASONAL
CITY OF MT. VERNON, IA

The City of Mount Vernon is looking for seasonal help and mower operators to aid in ground and parks maintenance work. This position will be 30 - 40 hours a week Monday to Friday. Candidates will need to possess a strong work ethic, accountability, yard maintenance knowledge, be capable of operating a weed trimmer, rake, shovel, etc., along with the ability to learn new practices and follow directions. Applications can be found on the city website www.mtvernon-ia.gov or at City Hall. Applications due by March 22nd. Must be 18 years old to apply.

The seasonal mower positions will require a candidate with prior experience operating turf mowing equipment. This individual would be responsible for mowing city parks, along with city owned property. Qualified individuals would have previous experience operating zero turn mowers, along with other lawn equipment, and knowledge of preventative maintenance for mowing equipment. This position can, depending on weather, run from March to November, with an average of 30-40 hours per week. A complete job description can be found on the city website www.mtvernon-ia.gov. Must be 18 years or older to apply.

Applications must be turned in to City Hall by 4 p.m. on March 22nd.

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TAKING DOWN NO. 2

The then-No. 6 Hawkeyes defeated the then-No 2. Buckeyes, 93-83, on senior day.



Ayrton Breckenridge and Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

(Top) Iowa guard Caitlin Clark drives toward the basket during a basketball game between then-No. 6 Iowa and then-No. 2 Ohio State at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on March 3. The Hawkeyes defeated the Buckeyes, 93-83. (Beside) Iowa guard Sydney Affolter blocks Ohio State guard Rikki Harris' shot during the game. Affolter scored six points and dished out two assists. (Below) An official reacts to a conversation with Ohio State forward Cotie McMahon and guard Rikki Harris during the game. Carver-Hawkeye Arena was sold out for senior day. (Bottom) Iowa guard Gabbie Marshall celebrates a 3-pointer during the game. Marshall, along with fellow seniors Caitlin Clark, Sharon Goodman, Molly Davis, and Kate Martin were honored following the game.

See more online:

To view more of *The Daily Iowan's* coverage of the women's basketball game against Ohio State, visit dailyiowan.com.



80 HOURS

Connecting through laughter

After a decade-long hiatus, the Iowa City Senior Center revitalized the Laughter Club in January, helping residents find solace in random laughter.



Iowa City Laughter Club is no joke

Participation is prompted by acting out ludicrous scenarios while holding eye contact with other members. The club meets weekly at the Iowa City Senior Center.



Isabella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan

Members of laughter club do laughter exercises during a meeting at the Iowa City Senior Center on Feb. 28. The club that is open to the public restarted in January after taking a pause.

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Standing in a room full of strangers, making direct eye contact with others, and laughing in their face might sound like a nightmare to some. Members of the Iowa City Senior Center's Laughter Club have found it beneficial to their mental health.

The Laughter Club meets every Wednesday afternoon.

"Deep inside ourselves, we have joy and a whole lot of laughs. That's why we need to get them out as much as we can," senior center attendee Chris Cotant said. "It's about remembering yourself."

The senior center's goal is to provide space for positive environments like the Laughter Club to the community.

Unless specified, all programs hosted by the senior center are open to participants of all ages. However, a majority of the classes and clubs are designed for an audience over 65 years old.

"After you're out of the workforce and retired, you lose those natural encounters with other people," senior center program specialist Michelle Buhman said. "We provide that natural conduit."

Events like the Laughter Club are designed to give older people a structured time and place to meet people who are looking for the same thing: connection.

In recent years, mental health has become a growing concern for much of the U.S. and, according to an article from the International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, older people are among the most at-risk groups.

The research presented in the article discussed the mental health effects of social isolation on individuals 65 and older during the COVID-19 pandemic, describing the impact of pandemic-induced "biopsychosocial vulnerabilities" among the older population as aggravated forms of previously present afflictions.

Without the added stressor of contracting COVID-19, older people are already at higher risk for cognitive impairment onset by loneliness

and neglect.

Caring for the mental health of Iowa City's older population is a priority for the senior center, but it has become especially imperative in the years following the pandemic.

"Our programs are split between focusing on community engagement, social connections, lifelong learning, and wellness," Buhman explained.

Specialty art classes, fitness classes, music classes, and more shape the lineup of activities in the senior center's catalog, each meant to promote engagement and wellness.

The Laughter Club may be among the most outlandish but also the most beneficial.

Buhman leads the weekly laughter club meetings and vouches for its positive mental health effects.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the center still did its best to bring people the connection they needed.

"I was hosting Zoom meetings for our flute club. They weren't even playing the instrument, they just wanted to see each other and chat," Buhman chuckled.

For a post-pandemic crowd of members who longed for the joy of companionship more than ever, the Laughter Club offered a solution.

"It's a space for people to tap into an inner child-like playfulness," she said with a smile, as if just thinking about the club's positive reception was in itself a stress reliever.

The club was on a decade-long hiatus until this January when Buhman resurrected it. She cited the pandemic as the core reason for bringing back the therapeutic experience.

Acting as an alternative form of group therapy, the club encourages laughter without the punchline. The initiation of laughter is a group exercise: Participant interaction is prompted by acting out ludicrous scenarios while holding eye contact with one another.

Wooden signs — one reading "Laugh!" — dot the walls in the otherwise empty room, where echoes of uproarious laughter bounce off the walls. In the center of the room, the group sits in a large circle, giggling together in anticipation before the exercises have even begun.

However, laughing voluntarily does not always come naturally. Mercedes Bern-Klug, a professor at the University of Iowa's School of Social Work and one of the club's newest members, shared she found her first few visits socially awkward. Bern-Klug is also a specialist in gerontology, or the study of aging and older adults.

"We look into people's eyes and laugh in their faces. But because everyone else

is doing it, it was all of a sudden socially acceptable," Bern-Klug said. "You can't argue with the results."

The group begins with stretches and facial warm-ups, loosening the cheeks and lips in preparation for the group exercises.

The structure of the class is reminiscent of a yoga class, which also promotes serenity and encourage sufficient warmups.

After applying a metaphorical "laughter cream" to their bodies to keep them laughing, members are then prompted to act out a variety of scenarios: pushing around an imaginary lawnmower, acting out their favorite animal, and drinking huge glasses of "laughter milk."

The imaginary scenarios even included situations that would normally be stressful or awkward, such as opening a credit card bill that was twice the amount expected, turning pockets to show how broke they are, and deliberately missing each other's high-fives.

Then, to conclude each exercise, the group joined together in a chant: "Very good, very good, yay!"

Every step of the way, positivity was of utmost importance. Initial nerves over forced laughter for such an extended period quickly dissipated when each participant realized they were there with the same purpose of lightening their moods.

Buhman feels the club has helped her to take stressful events in her life less seriously.

"I found that I can laugh when something doesn't go right and all of a sudden it doesn't feel bad; just practicing that laughter and being okay laughing," she said. "I feel like as we grow older, it's not as socially acceptable just to burst out laughing."

For Chi Liang, a club member who moved to Iowa City from Taiwan a year and a half ago, establishing himself in the U.S. has been a challenge, especially socially, and it takes a lot of courage to talk to new people.

Chi shared that participating in the club has made him feel more confident in himself and his abilities.

"After this group, I smile more. It's built up my internal confidence," he said. "Because of my personality, I preferred not to speak to strangers. But after this class, I tend to speak more to someone I'm not familiar with."

The club, like the rest of the senior center, accommodates all community members. The programs are for people of all experience levels and backgrounds.

"It goes beyond our doors," Buhman explained. "People take fitness classes together or meet to practice their shared interest in playing an instrument, and they start to see the same classmates every week. Soon, participating in these weekly programs develops into post-class lunches or coffee trips. That's a lasting connection."

The Laughter Club will host a special public meeting on April 1 in the Pedestrian Mall.



Isabella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan

A member of the laughter club interacts with others during a meeting at the Iowa City Senior Center on Feb. 28.

Isabella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan

1C PHOTO: A member of the laughter club interacts with others during a meeting at the Iowa City Senior Center on Feb. 28.

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IOWA

CALENDAR WEEKLY EVENTS

THURSDAY

MARCH 7

• MINDFUL MEDITATION FOR EVERYONE CLASS

This is a beginner meditation class open to those who are just getting started on their mindfulness journeys. Allow yourself to practice living in the present.

6 P.M. | GARCHEN MILA BUDDHIST CENTER
209 E. WASHINGTON ST.

• NIGHT OF 1000 DINNERS

Celebrate International Women's Day with a buffet featuring cuisine from all over the world. Tickets range from \$10-\$35.

6 P.M. | UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
2355 OAKDALE ROAD

FRIDAY

MARCH 8

• WHY WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS MATTER

Hosted by Kathleen Kuehnast, the director of the Women, Peace, and Security portfolio at the United States Institute of Peace, the discussion will center on gender inclusivity regarding peacebuilding. Free lunch is provided.

12 P.M. | IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
123 S. LINN ST.

• TERMINAL CARE

"Terminal Care" is an exhibition created by Chicago artist and computer scientist X. A. Li, featuring multimedia artwork surrounding themes of digital culture like artificial intelligence, machine learning, and surveillance.

4 P.M. | PS1 NORTH GALLERY
229 N. GILBERT ST.

SUNDAY

MARCH 10

• FAMILY FOLK MACHINE

Featuring songs of social justice and inclusion, the Family Folk Machine is preparing for its spring concert at the Englert on May 12.

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

TUESDAY

MARCH 12

• SPANISH BILINGUAL STORYTIME

Children of all ages are welcome to the Spanish bilingual storytime at the ICPL, with books read by Raquel the librarian. Masks are required for all individuals over the age of two.

10:30 P.M. | IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
123 S. LINN ST.

• GRAPHIC DESIGN HANGOUT

For those with any experience level in Adobe creative software like Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop, and more, the ICPL will host a space for graphic designers to network with other graphic designers.

5 P.M. | IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
123 S. LINN ST.

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 11

• BROADSIDES: CREATIVE AND INDEPENDENT TECHNIQUES

Broadsides, or posters, were historically used as a cost-sensitive way to distribute writing. Registration costs \$100.

6:30 P.M. | PUBLIC SPACE ONE
225 N. GILBERT ST.

• GEEKS WHO DRINK TRIVIA

Iowa City welcomes its newest pub quiz, "Geeks Who Drink," every Wednesday at Roxy.

7:30 P.M. | ROXXY
127 E. COLLEGE ST.

IC revives Oscars watch parties

While viewership steadily drops, film lovers in Iowa City strive to keep watch parties alive.

Sophia Connolly
Arts Reporter
sophia-connolly@uiowa.edu

Cinema lovers across Iowa City are uniting March 10 to defend Hollywood's most glamorous night of the year despite its recent dwindle in cultural relevancy.

Attributed to a recent jump in "snubbed" wins, viewership for the Oscars decreased by more than 50 percent, from 43.7 million viewers in 2014 to 18.7 million in 2023. With the 2021 Oscars holding the lowest ratings in the ceremony's history, the once must-watch show has been steadily losing relevance.

Despite these numbers, FilmScene Event Manager Angie Mabeus reports an increase in attendance at their Oscars screenings. Last year, they drew in a crowd of around 300 people to the "Blue Carpet Bash."

"I think we just kind of have the community factor a little bit more," she said. "You can bring your friends here — you can get dressed up and [make it] an outing rather than staying at home."

Dana Woolery, a member of the University of Iowa Bijou film board, said he had never attended an Oscars watch party before attending the bash.

He could never find a group of people interested in award shows in the past, but FilmScene's event was the first time he encountered a group of people interested in watching the Oscars.

"I feel like people who watch the Oscars are a very niche subculture in cinema and the film community

in general," Woolery said.

Woolery added that the Oscars represented more than just awards and nominees. He also enjoys the in-person reactions — both positive and negative — and the discussions watch parties bring.

"[The Academy Award nominees] are kind of a reflection of the psyche of America and the psyche of the entertainment industry as a whole," he said.

Shift manager at FilmScene Ashlyn Watson has attended the bash in previous years and intends to attend in 2024 as well. When she is not participating in work-related Oscar parties, though, she enjoys celebrating the awards by watching them with her friends.

With her friends, she described the environment as much more casual and laid back. She said watching the awards ceremony with them could be a lot more humorous as well.

However, while watching with her friends she is typically more laid back. With her strong interest in film, Watson prefers attending FilmScene's watch party to properly celebrate as it allows her to celebrate the Oscars in a more dedicated format.

"The art and the culture and the ritual of going to movie theaters is something that I'm always going to promote," Watson said. "That is really important to who I am and what I think I stand for personally."

Unlike Watson, freshman Olivia Heller expressed a disinterest in watching the Oscars completely.

Regarding her interest in film, Heller was drawn to horror and romantic comedies. She said the Oscars served a frivolous value, and to her, the voting process was biased.


"I think the film should speak for itself," Heller said. "It doesn't need to get all the awards and to be honest, the people voting for the Oscars don't represent the public as a whole or how the public is seeing art. It's a very specific view that is voting."

Watson believes that paying attention to the Oscars and film in general is important.

"Paying attention to film is kind of like keeping your finger on the pulse of society," Watson said. "What has been said in film is a direct translation of what's going on in our culture and our society at the moment ... There are so many different worlds to explore whether they're huge or small within film, that I think that's incredibly important."



Graphic by Avi Lapchick | The Daily Iowan



PLAYLIST

OSCAR-NOMINATED BANGERS

DAFT PUNK IS PLAYING AT MY HOUSE | LCD Soundsystem

PINK ("BARBIE" OPENING THEME) | Mark Ronson, Andrew Wyatt

DON'T LOOK BACK (FROM "PAST LIVES") | Them, Van Morrison

HOPE IS CIRCUITOUS (FROM "THE ZONE OF INTEREST") | Shao Jean

SEE YA/INTO THE UNKNOWN (FROM "THE HOLDOVERS") | Mark Orton

CARTOON



Cartoon by Avi Lapchick | The Daily Iowan

Binge-watching through break

While out of class this spring break, here are four popular series to watch with your free time.

• **"The Umbrella Academy" on Netflix**

• **"The Bear" on Hulu**

• **"The Boys" on Amazon Prime Video**

• **"Succession" on Max**

More Online

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POINT/COUNTERPOINT

What deserves 'Best Animated Short Film' at the 2024 Oscars?



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"Ninety-Five Senses"

The "Best Animated Short Film" nominees at the Academy Awards this year brought tough competition for which film deserves to win the award, but the one film that I believe deserves the Oscar and has earned the slot for my personal favorite this year is the short entitled "Ninety-Five Senses."

Directed by filmmaking couple Jared and Jerusha Hess, a duo who absolutely dominated the production of this piece, the short takes the viewer on a tour of the five senses from the perspective of a seemingly endearing old man named Coy, voiced by Tim Blake Nelson who perfectly fulfilled the southern twang needed for this role.

As the film progresses, a dark twist reveals that Coy is a prisoner on death row. He spins a narrative yarn that operates sequentially, devoting time to each of his senses — touch, smell, sight, taste, and sound — while eating his last meal, which consists of Big Macs, lobster, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, and more.

In each sequence, the visuals are animated by different people, giving every moment of the film a captivating style that differs from the next.

Yet, these sequences still felt cohesive as each animator somehow managed to still tie their work in with the other collaborators. This, along with the overarching narration, ties each of these little slices together to make the project feel like a genuine collaboration in the film community.

While some of the other stories had heavier messages, this short managed to feel heartfelt, intimate, and introspective. It is clear that "Ninety-Five Senses" was a project that involved many minds to concoct, and the result is a story that boasts a high level of care and attention.



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"Pachyderme"

There is one film I believe deserves the Oscar solely for its ability to portray dissociation and isolation, otherwise to impossible to convey visually: "Pachyderme."

Created by Stéphanie Clément and produced by Reginald De Guillebon and Marc Ruis, the film was made in France and is narrated in French with English subtitles.

The animated short follows Louise, a 9-year-old girl, as she stays with her grandparents in Providence, Rhode Island. The film cuts between the beauty of Providence during the daytime — with butterflies, tall grass, and opaque blue water — and the anxiety that is brought about by the nighttime.

When the colors are dull, the shadows are heavy, and the lighting is scarce, that's when Louise notices she is being watched. There are eyes on the ceilings, and floorboards can be heard creaking. Suddenly, as the door opens, she fades into the mattress.

The night terrors Louise faces represent a topic that is often difficult to represent in film, especially animated film, as its audiences often lean younger: Childhood sexual assault at the hands of a trusted adult.

But "Pachyderme" was able to approach this topic in a way few films do. By utilizing visual cues like red light seeping under her door to signify her anxiety for what/who is approaching her room, Clément is able to illustrate the emotions and ranges one often goes through at the hands of abuse while never explicitly detailing the abuse itself.

Another example of this is how Clément has her character fade into the wall to represent the dissociation one often experiences after assault. This is something that is very common for victims of CSA, but rarely is it as successfully executed as in this film.

This film stays with you like a feeling you can't shake. It is what makes it so important, but, at the same time, unsettling. "Pachyderme" is the clear winner.

ASK THE AUTHOR

Kaveh Akbar

The *New York Times* bestselling author spoke about his past with addiction and his necessity for writing.



Ethan McLaughlin | The Daily Iowan

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At the top of *TIME Magazine's* list of the 25 most anticipated books of 2024 sits Kaveh Akbar's first fiction novel, "Martyr!" which hit shelves in January. Since then, the author's work has received unending praise from literary critics at *The New York Times*, *PBS*, *Oprah Daily*, *NPR*, and many others. Akbar is the newest name to be reckoned with in the literary genre.

Published by Knopf, "Martyr!" tells the story of the disgruntled poet Cyrus, an addict-in-recovery who is burdened by loss, mourning, iniquity, and suicidal ideation. His curiosity for martyrdom — "people whose deaths mattered" — leads him to New York City, where he meets a dying artist who teaches him what death truly means.

Born in Tehran, Iran, Akbar is the director of the *English and creative writing* major at the University of Iowa and teaches at the *Iowa Writers' Workshop*. Akbar is also the poetry editor of *The Nation*.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

The Daily Iowan: Tell me about the moment you sat down and began writing "Martyr!"

Kaveh Akbar: Unfortunately, there wasn't a concrete moment for me as someone who is constantly writing and who publishes very little. So, there are scraps of language that appear in "Martyr!" that are 10-15 years old, and early bird drafts of conversations that appear in "Martyr!" are 5-6 years old — it was a gradual process of sticking with some of those early drafts, recognizing I was writing recurring characters and sustained dialogue across themes, to then build towards a more cohesive vision. I have a friend, Tommy Orange, with whom I traded weekly pages every Friday. When both of our pages started to get prosier and prosier, we wrote our books together. Over the past half-decade, I wrote "Martyr!" and he wrote "Wandering Stars."

Your work has seen national praise. How does it feel as an author to be platformed on a national level — to write a book that sticks?

All the work wants is to be practically useful in the lives of people who will never meet, and each

of those [platforms] you mentioned is hopefully helping find people for whom it might be useful, people whose lives might usefully illuminate, complicate, or whose experiences might resonate — that is immeasurably gratifying. I have the highest ambitions for the work.

In your opinion and your experience, why might artists and writers be more susceptible to addiction?

Well, I don't know that it is statistically more common among artists or creatives than bricklayers or teachers, but I can say that there is a pervasive mythology about the drunk writer losing it all, and I certainly identified that myth in my younger days. I think the truth is there's an unfamiliar potential that can be activated through narcotic experience, but one can achieve similar or superior defamiliarization through the trade of one's attention and different modes of contemplation, meditation, reverence, through watching children, talking to people who are dissimilar from yourself, learning a new language — there are lots of other modes of unfamiliar experience that are not so corrosive on the individual artist and the people who love them.

Does it feel reductive to be asked about addiction in the context of your book?

No. I've been sober for 10.5 years, and I've written about that experience in every book that I have. It's a massive, massive part of my life, and the reason I can talk about it in conversations like these is that I've done thousands and thousands of hours of recovery work outside of these conversations; I'm not just white-knuckling it. It is because of the work I do in my actual life that I'm able to write about it and speak about it with some amount of objectivity. I'm grateful for the opportunity to speak about it, you know? I'm not speaking for anyone else or prescriptively in any way, but I can say that, today, I haven't had a drink or used a drug, and — it's been a few "todays" in a row now. If saying my experience might help someone else attribute a few "todays," that is a reason for gratitude.

More online

Read a longer version of the interview with Kaveh Akbar at dailyiowan.com.

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The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0131

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- Across**
- 1 Seize
 - 6 Alternative to "swipe" for a credit card
 - 9 Pizazz
 - 14 Word with life or screen
 - 15 One of the Manning brothers
 - 16 Measurement on an electric meter
 - 17 Fly the coop
 - 19 Spanish restaurant fare
 - 20 Prepared to fight Goliath?
 - 22 Scheming
 - 23 Like the numerals 1, 2 and 3
 - 27 Dutch beer named for a river
 - 31 ___-chic
 - 33 "I'm ___ Boat" (Lonely Island song)
 - 34 Stranded changing one's costume by the clock?
 - 36 The Cowboys and Cowgirls of the N.C.A.A.
 - 37 Private university of North Carolina
 - 38 Leader who was the author of "On Protracted War"
 - 39 First murder victim
 - 40 Common wine barrel material
 - 41 Invested on Broadway, say?
 - 45 Article in *Le Monde*
 - 46 Taking off
 - 47 Earmarks
 - 48 Matchbox, e.g.
 - 50 NBC staple since 1975, in brief
 - 51 Betrayed Paddington? ... or what 20-, 34- and 41-Across did in this puzzle
 - 58 Arm bones
 - 61 Something you shouldn't take lying down?
 - 62 Philly school
 - 63 In which the pinky and thumb pointing out represents Y, in brief
 - 64 Like a cemetery at night, maybe
 - 65 ___ Popovich, longtime coach for the Spurs
 - 66 Turndowns
 - 67 Latin dance
- Down**
- 1 It's written as "C.C.C.P."
 - 2 Japanese rice wine
 - 3 Pupil's place
 - 4 Chris formerly of 50-Across
 - 5 Gave positive reinforcement
 - 6 Old presidential nickname
 - 7 Penne ___ vodka
 - 8 Spot from which to say "bon voyage"
 - 9 Protruding feature on a cliff
 - 10 Tennis star Naomi
 - 11 Hiker's aid
 - 12 Sports org. with an annual championship on the weekend before Memorial Day
 - 13 "___ So Shy" (1980 Pointer Sisters hit)
 - 18 Actress Reese of "Touched by an Angel"
 - 21 Waikiki locale
 - 24 Owie
 - 25 Ad section in a newspaper, maybe
 - 26 Seals, in a way
 - 27 Dined at a restaurant
 - 28 City in which to see "Il Cenacolo" ("The Last Supper")
 - 29 Motown legend Robinson
 - 30 Perfect score, often
 - 31 Prominent parts of toucans
 - 32 Plains tribe
 - 35 Sonoma and Yukon
 - 39 Leatherworker's tool
 - 41 Extra-loud, as a loudspeaker
 - 42 Prefix with nautical
 - 43 Fine partner?
 - 44 Audience for which a G-rated film is appropriate
 - 49 Keeping in the loop, in a way
 - 50 Unloads, so to speak
 - 52 Bridge
 - 53 Meh
 - 54 La ___ Tar Pits
 - 55 Rank associated with tea and sandwiches?
 - 56 Honeybees' genus
 - 57 Large flightless bird
 - 58 Toupee, slangily
 - 59 Borrower's concern, for short
 - 60 Poor grade

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