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The Daily Iowan

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Illustration by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher | The Daily Iowan

ROUND TWO

Polling shows voters aren't happy about the potential rematch.

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This November's general election is shaping up to look a lot like a 2020 rematch with former President Donald Trump and President Joe Biden picking up presumptive nominations from the Republican and Democratic parties.

Americans remain largely unhappy with the repeated scenario of Biden and Trump running against each other for the job.

But with primary challenges to the two failing to gain ground and support, they are the choices voters are left with.

A January Reuters/Ipsos poll found that 67 percent of respondents were "tired of seeing the same candidates," and a December 2023 Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll found that 56 percent of the poll's 1,074 respondents were dissatisfied with Biden's likely nomination; 58 percent were dissatisfied with Trump's likely nomination.

That same poll found that 43 percent of voters viewed Trump "very unfavorably" and 42 percent viewed Biden the same.

Many voters feel stuck.

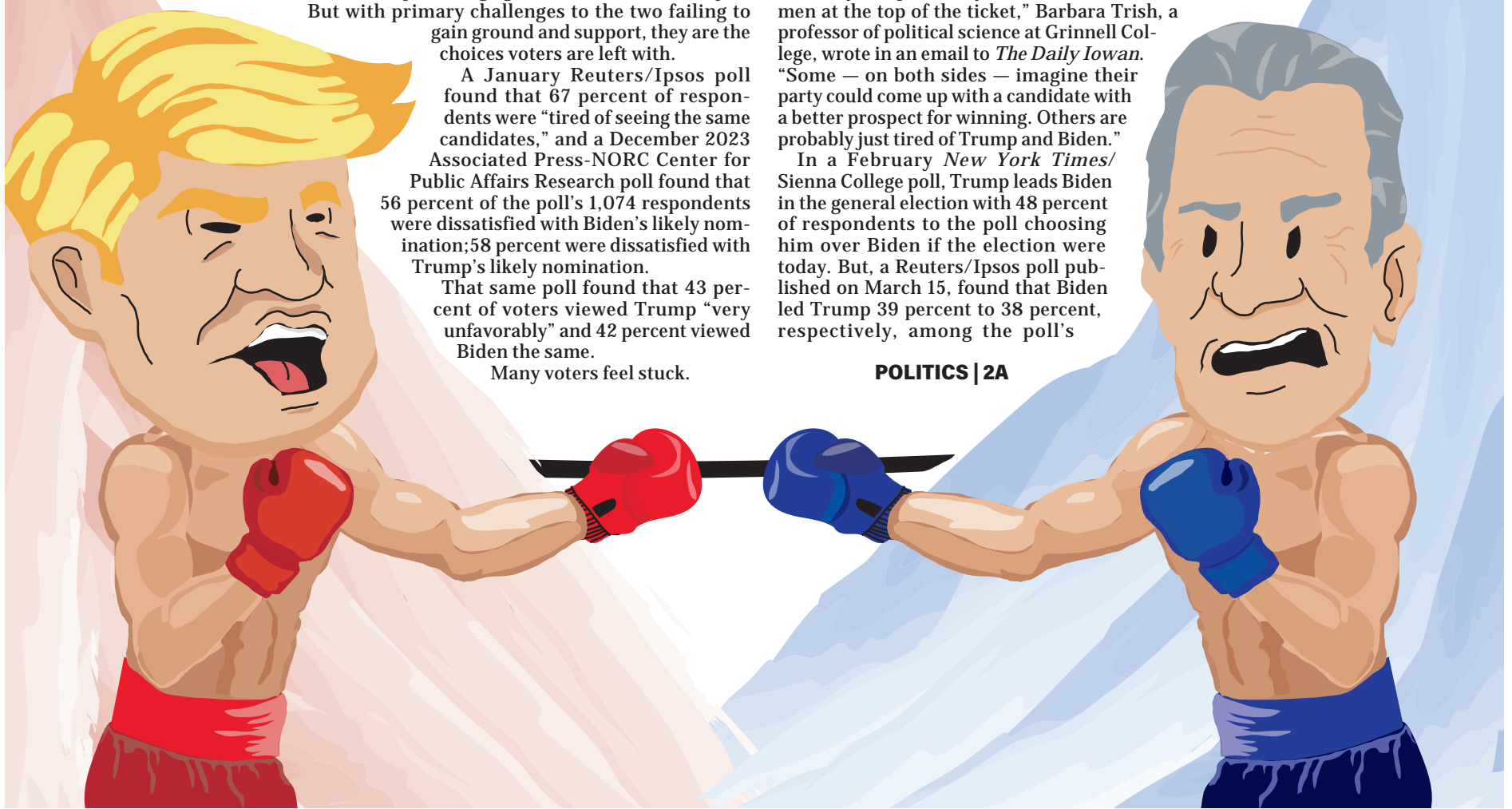
"It's like you either cook a baby in the microwave, or you cook it in the oven. Either way, the baby's gonna get cooked, so I don't really like it," Nichole Johnson, a University of Iowa second-year student and a self-declared independent, said of the rematch.

The polls hint at a deep dissatisfaction many Americans have with the two candidates. With Biden being an incumbent and Trump, a former president, dominating the GOP primary, many voters are unhappy no other choices exist.

"Many are put off by the idea of two old white men at the top of the ticket," Barbara Trish, a professor of political science at Grinnell College, wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan*. "Some — on both sides — imagine their party could come up with a candidate with a better prospect for winning. Others are probably just tired of Trump and Biden."

In a February *New York Times*/Sienna College poll, Trump leads Biden in the general election with 48 percent of respondents to the poll choosing him over Biden if the election were today. But, a Reuters/Ipsos poll published on March 15, found that Biden led Trump 39 percent to 38 percent, respectively, among the poll's

POLITICS | 2A

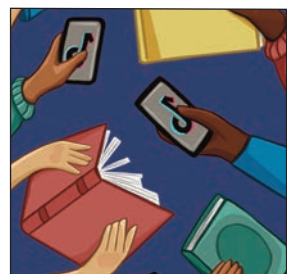


INSIDE

Overhaul in Iowa's mental health system

Advocates say Gov. Kim Reynolds' mental health plan is a start to fixing the current system.

EPI | 5A



#BookTok is the new hub for book recommendations

The hashtag has over 20 million videos on the social media platform TikTok and has influenced readers and authors across the globe.

80 HOURS | 1C

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Narcan in UI dorms for students

The university is expanding the number of kits available on campus.



Sahithi Shankaihgari | The Daily Iowan

Narcan naloxone nasal spray is seen at the Medical Education Building in Iowa City on Jan. 24. The University of Iowa now provides Narcan in dorms for students to use in case of emergency.

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treat opioid overdoses.

To increase access to opioid overdose treatment, the UI started to implement Narcan in residence halls across campus last month.

University of Iowa students who live on campus now have access to naloxone, or Narcan, to

The medicine is located in the automated external defibrillators on each floor of the resi-

dence halls, Associate Director of UI Student Wellness Trisha Welter said.

In January, the university added naloxone to the Iowa Memorial Union, located on campus, Welter said.

According to the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, Iowa reported 398 opioid-overdose deaths in 2021. The number of opioid-related deaths nationwide in 2021 was more than 80,000, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Welter said there have been no reported uses of the naloxone kits on campus since the implementation.

Welter said UI Housing and Dining staff, including student resident assistants, have been properly trained to administer the drug, which is a relatively simple process.

Heidi Wood, clinical pharmacy specialist and member of the UI Addiction and Recovery Collaborative, said the naloxone comes in two doses and is administered by adding a spray into the nostril of the individual experiencing the overdose.

One spray of naloxone is equivalent to four milligrams and can be administered if breathing does not improve.

Wood said opioids are a group of medications including morphine, hydrocodone, oxycodone, and fentanyl.

Fentanyl can come in both prescription form and manufactured, non-prescribed forms, such as heroin.

An overdose occurs when there has been an excess amount of opioids ingested, said Andrea

NARCAN | 3A

UI Parklawn residence hall to close again

The dorm that is near Hancher will close after being reopened in 2022.

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After being reopened in 2022, incoming and returning University of Iowa students will not be able to choose Parklawn Residence Hall as a future living option on campus.

The UI will officially close the residence hall at the end of the spring semester and will not reopen

it for students next year. Parklawn was previously closed in 2017 when Catlett Residence Hall was built, but reopened in 2022.

Though Parklawn is set to close, Mayflower Residence Hall will remain open despite its pending sale. Because of demand for on-campus housing, with nearly 1,500 returning students in fall 2024, Mayflower will remain open for the upcoming year and will take in the returning students who wished to live in Parklawn.

With space for more than 130 students, Parklawn Residence Hall is located on the west side of campus but does not have on-site campus dining. According to Google Maps, it takes approximately 23 minutes to walk from Parklawn to the Pentacrest.

For some students, Parklawn was only considered as a last housing option because of its

PARKLAWN | 3A

POLITICS
from 1A

respondents.

Among Iowans polled in a recent *Des Moines Register*/Mediacom Iowa Poll, 48 percent of 640 poll respondents said they would choose Trump if the general election were today, while only 33 percent would choose Biden. Fifteen percent would choose someone else.

Polling hints at the challenges facing Biden as he navigates criticism of his age, threatening his support among Democratic voters as he looks to secure a second term.

While most Republicans hold steadfast in their support for Trump, he faced serious primary challenges from other party leaders who were ready to move on from Trump, including Nikki Haley who dropped out on March 6. Further, his legal troubles continue to loom over his campaign which challenge his hold over the party.

Biden's age worries voters, but not Trump's

As the oldest sitting president at 81 years old, Biden has been criticized for his age after a series of public gaffes.

A recent report by special counsel Robert Hur, a Republican appointed by Attorney General Merrick Garland to investigate Biden's possession of classified documents after his tenure as vice president under Obama, called into question Biden's mental competency.

This has led to concerns about Biden's age among Republicans and young voters, who worry that he is too old to do the job effectively. *The New York Times*/Sienna College poll said that 45 percent of those polled agreed that "Joe Biden's age is such a problem that he is not capable of handling the job of president."

The same *New York Times*/Sienna College poll showed 47 percent of respondents said Biden is too old to be an effective president, while only 21 percent feel the same about Trump. A February ABC News/Ipsos poll found that 59 percent of the poll's 528 respondents thought Trump and Biden were too old to lead effectively.

In a recent *Des Moines Register*/Mediacom Iowa Poll, 56 percent of Iowans polled said Biden is too old to serve another term, while only 22 percent said the same about Trump.

Arianna Amin, a UI third-year student and vice president of University Democrats at Iowa, said many members of the political student organization have concerns about Biden's age and his handling of the Israel-Hamas war. The University Democrats at Iowa received backlash from the state party after calling for a ceasefire after using a saying that some state party officials viewed as calling for the genocide of Israelis.

"We have some concerns as we feel as though we're not really prioritized in Biden's campaign," Amin said. "It's not that we don't support him — because obviously the alternative is far worse — but we certainly have reservations about him being in office for another four years."

In the *New York Times*/Sienna College poll, voters in all age groups found that Biden was too old to serve another term, with 53 percent of 45-to-64-year-olds saying they strongly agree that Biden is too old, while 40 percent of 18-to-29-year-olds thought the same. However, 18-to-29-year-olds led those who "somewhat agree" that Biden is too old at 41

"I am ecstatic to vote for President Donald J. Trump. His presidency promises to tackle critical issues like the soaring cost of everyday living, which is a significant concern for me and many others."

Jasmyn Jordan
University of Iowa third-year student

percent of respondents.

"There's no doubt both of these candidates are pretty old," UI political science Professor Sara Mitchell said. "I think for some voters finding younger candidates would be more attractive."

Among the biggest critics of Biden's age are non-Democrats, with 64 percent of Republicans and 53 percent of independents saying Biden is too old to serve at 81 years old.

"With age I do believe there is wisdom and I believe that we should have somebody in this country who does have wisdom and has background with what they are doing," Kate Sopcich, an independent and first-year student at the UI, said. "But at the same time, I think there's a lot of problems with really old people leading this country."

Young Republican voters also say that Trump is too old to serve, with 37 percent of 18-to-29-year-olds saying they "somewhat agree" that Trump is too old.

During Biden's State of the Union on March



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. Republican voters assembled statewide to participate in the caucuses despite the cold and extreme winter weather across the state.



Sopcich

7, he confronted concerns about his age head-on, shifting the message to Trump's conservative policies that are "among the oldest of ideas."

"My fellow Americans, the issue facing our nation isn't how old we are. It's how old our ideas are," Biden said during his State of the Union address before Congress. "Hate, anger, revenge, retribution are among the oldest of ideas. But you can't lead America with ancient ideas that only take us back."

Trump, who is only four years younger than Biden at 77 years old, has skirted attacking Biden directly on his age, instead claiming he is mentally unfit due to other factors.

Trump has not faced the same criticism about his age with only 19 percent of voters claiming he is unfit to be president due to his age in the *New York Times*/Sienna College poll.



Hagle

UI political science professor Timothy Hagle said engaging with younger voters and their ideas matters more than a candidate's age.

"It's not so much the age, it's more the person and whether that person is appealing to issues that younger folks are interested in more than anything else," Hagle said. "And so in that sense ... a lot of younger voters are not as enthusiastic for Biden."

Trump's support among Republicans stays strong, but legal woes loom

While Biden faces a large portion of Democrats who aren't ecstatic about his presumptive nomination, Trump has vast support among Republicans with 48 percent of Republican primary voters "enthusiastic" about his presumptive nomination and 32 percent satisfied in the *New York Times*/Sienna College poll.

Trump also faced serious primary challenges with Nikki Haley picking up hundreds of delegates and winning two states before dropping out after Super Tuesday.

Despite his stark contrast with Biden's approval ratings, Trump still faces criticism over his legal woes. The February *New York Times*/Sienna College poll found that 53 percent of the poll's 980 respondents believed Trump committed serious crimes. Only 21 percent of Republicans agree with that sentiment. "Obviously, it's concerning, but at the same time, he hasn't been convicted yet," Tim Pollack, a third-year UI student and a Republican, said.

Among independent voters, who are key in swing state battles, 57 percent thought Trump had committed serious crimes.

"I don't think he should be able to run," John Stinson, a UI third-year student and independent, said about Trump's crimes. "If you're not following the law, I don't think you should be at the forefront of our nation."



Stinson

However, among Republicans, Trump is very popular because of his policies that 40 percent of Americans polled in the *New York Times*/Sienna College poll say have helped them personally, compared to 18 percent who say the same about Biden.

Jasmyn Jordan, a UI third-year student and president of the UI chapter of the Young Americans for Freedom, a conservative campus political organization, said she would support Trump because of his policies. While Jordan is the president of the conservative group, she was speaking on her behalf, not as



Jordan

a representative of the group's beliefs.

"I am ecstatic to vote for President Donald J. Trump," Jordan wrote in an email to the *DI*. "His presidency promises to tackle critical issues like the soaring cost of everyday living, which is a significant concern for me and many others."

Jordan said she is excited to see Trump run again and the possibility for him to deliver on his promises.

"Having observed the stark distinctions between the Trump and Biden administrations, I eagerly anticipate the possibility of another Trump presidency," Jordan wrote in an email to the *DI*. "I believe such a return to

"I don't think he should be able to run. If you're not following the law, I don't think you should be at the forefront of our nation."

Jon Stinson
University of Iowa third-year student

office holds the promise of steering our nation back onto a path characterized by greater truth and freedom."

While popular among those in their party, for the most part, Biden and Trump are both viewed unfavorably by independents with 42 percent of independents viewing Biden very unfavorably and 43 percent viewing Trump the same.

AGES OF U.S. PRESIDENTS WHEN THEY TOOK OFFICE

Of the last six presidents, Joe Biden was the oldest when elected.



George H. W. Bush
64



Bill Clinton
46



George W. Bush
54



Barack Obama
47



Donald Trump
70



Joe Biden
78



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

President Joe Biden speaks during his visit to the POET Bioprocessing ethanol plant in Menlo, Iowa, on April 12, 2022.

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

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NARCAN
from IA

Weber, UI clinical assistant professor and assistant director of addiction medicine. She said an excess in opioid consumption will slow down the part of the brain that allows individuals to breathe.

“What this often looks like is someone looking really sleepy, and so what we want people to look for is if they can wake them up — shout their name and try to rouse them,” Weber said.

Weber said “pinpoint pupils,” or when an individual’s pupils are very small, and trouble breathing are other signs of an opioid overdose.

“Respiration is really important because it is what we are monitoring once the naloxone has been administered,” Weber said.

Weber said when people have not been breathing or not breathing well, their lips and fingertips will turn blue, indicating a lack of oxygen in the body.

“You are never going to hurt someone by administering naloxone even if it is not an opioid overdose,” Weber said.

Welter said the university is working on expanding the number of naloxone kits available on campus.

“We want to be prepared if an overdose were to happen on our campus, so having it available even in the two or three minutes before emergency personnel arrive could truly make a difference in someone’s life,” Welter said.

Additionally, Welter said the university’s Student Wellness division has been

approved to distribute naloxone and has handed out 30 naloxone kits since its start in February. Any student can pick these kits up for free at Student Wellness located in the Campus Recreation and Wellness Center.

“For those students who wish to carry a kit in their backpack or in their dorms, we want them to have access to naloxone and learn how to administer it,” Welter said.

Welter said the university’s RedWatch provides CPR and AED training, how to respond to alcohol poisoning, and now, opioid emergencies.

Wood said the UI’s Addiction and Recovery Collaborative has also been working to mitigate and reduce the stigma behind overdoses.

“Many times people will say they don’t use drugs or I would never need to administer it [naloxone] but may not realize that they may be put in that position or know someone who could overdose,” Wood said.

Weber said it is important to normalize how stressful it can be for someone to witness a potential overdose, as many people who administer the drug may not be trained medical personnel.

“It can be a very emotionally primed experience, and we just want everyone to know that you will not hurt the person, and you could be saving a life,” Weber said. “This has really raised awareness about how overdoses affect people across all demographics, including college students, and we want students to be willing to help if a situation like this were to arise.”

PARKLAWN
from IA

small number of student amenities and its distance from campus.

Maclayne Crews, a UI first-year student who lives in Parklawn, said she and her roommate didn’t necessarily “choose” to live in Parklawn because it wasn’t their first residence hall choice. Crews was late to the admissions process when applying to colleges last year, and did not have many housing options left.

Erica Saylor, another UI first-year student, chose to live in Mayflower because she liked that its dorms include a kitchen, single bathrooms, and a large sense of community. Although Saylor will not return to Mayflower next year, she said she loved her experience there and made a lot of friends in the dorms.

Von Stange, senior director of University Housing and Dining, said there are multiple reasons the university decided to close Parklawn, such as its limited access to amenities, space, and campus access.

Stange said Mayflower offers a wider variety of student amenities compared to Parklawn, such as space for more than 1,000 students, suite-style and single dorms, larger bathrooms, easy transportation access, and a C-store.

UI Housing and Dining also plans to construct additional features in Mayflower, like more study lounges to make room for incoming first-years and returning students, who happen to be a part of

a larger class than normal.

Stange is unsure how long Parklawn will remain closed, but the decision for Parklawn’s reopening and how long Mayflower will remain open depends on the size of the incoming classes.

He added that Parklawn has closed many times in the past, as its availability depends on the university’s need for more or less housing.

“If we see a first-year class size that is shockingly large, we could certainly have the building ready to open again,” Stange said. “But our plans at this point in time is that based on first-year class size number returners, we’ll be able to house everyone in our current residence halls without using Parklawn.”

Although Parklawn will be closing, the university has no plans to sell the property, and the building will remain vacant until future use.

After the student housing application portal closed this year, Stange said UI housing received 1,500 requests from students who wanted to reapply for housing. Stange said this growth in applications and admissions was about 500 more than the usual number of returning students.

With this larger number of returning students, UI Housing and Dining decided that keeping Mayflower open was their best option, as Parklawn could only house less than 150 students overall.

“We’re excited about the possibilities that Mayflower Hall has for us, having that open for at least another year,” Stange said.



Stange

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OPINIONS

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COLUMN

Johnson County needs a passenger train

Reviving a train passenger line is an excellent solution for accessible transit.



Alex Belzer
Opinions Columnist

A vehicle that moves faster than highway speeds, more safely than a car, carries hundreds of people without creating traffic, and emits less carbon per person per mile than pedaling a bicycle already exists.

Not only are trains the original physical backbone of our nation's economic development and a potent symbol of industrialization, but they're a source of mobility that arterializes people and products through many of America's largest cities.

The area between, within, and around Cedar Rapids and Iowa City, also known as the "Corridor," deserves an environmentally favorable, convenient, long-term, and cost-effective transportation system. Trains are the solution.

Consider Iowa City's car-centric nightmares: On weekends, drivers are often looping the blocks downtown, hoping a parking spot opens up, finally settling for one of the ramps.

For the University of Iowa students and faculty who commute to campus, car-centric infrastructure means enduring reckless drivers on Second Street in Coralville or I-380, or end up taking the bus; there is an eternal administrative purgatory that is fending for a closer parking spot.

Getting to the Eastern Iowa Airport from Iowa City means begging a friend to drive

you, weighing the cost of two rideshares against overnight parking, or following false promises of a shuttle bus that is ever evasive.

With Tiffin and North Liberty's explosive growths, as well as the increasing number of people who live in Cedar Rapids and commute to Iowa City, the experience and inconvenience that comes with owning a car in the Corridor is noticeably worsening.

The Iowa Department of Transportation acknowledges this, as evidenced by their current plans to further expand I-380. However, widening of highways typically worsens congestion due to induced demand, according to an article from *Vox*. Corridor residents deserve a better solution.

The 380 Express commuter bus is excellent, it's limited, as it doesn't serve the airport or North Liberty and is still traffic-dependent. A rail line parallel to I-380 would be superior in these ways, likely with improved carbon emissions.

While the good news is that a rail route already exists. CRANDIC — the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City railroad line — starts in downtown Cedar Rapids, swings through CID, and penetrates the center of Iowa City via the seemingly abandoned railroad bridge over the Iowa River. Unfortunately, it hasn't carried passengers since 1953 and would require significant upgrades like electrification, passenger platforms, new train cars, and high-speed rail upgrades.

The cost of this prospective renovation has drawn concerns from some.



Creative Commons

Current CRANDIC revival plans estimate costs at around \$500 million, according to an article from the *Iowa City Press Citizen*. There's also known structural difficulty with funding public transit projects.

However, this investment is more than worthwhile for a progressive community that seeks a green future. In 2018, Iowa City declared a carbon emissions reduction target of 45 percent by 2030 and 100 percent by 2050.

While the first goal was hit nine years

early, Iowa City's transportation emissions have only increased. These emissions comprise 19 percent of the total, and have increased by 11.1 percent since 2020, according to Iowa City's most recent climate report. Replacing cars with trains is an obvious, attractive, and achievable path to necessary progress.

There's no time like the present for our growing community to invest in environmentally friendly and convenient interurban transportation infrastructure. It's high time to revive CRANDIC.

COLUMN

Traditional testing hinders real learning

Professors need to prioritize students' wellbeing by considering alternative assessment methods.



Jordan Coates
Opinions Columnist

Midterm exam season is arguably the most stressful time of the semester for many students.

While college students should be patting themselves on the backs for making it halfway through the semester, some are instead hunkering down to memorize nine weeks of material in one weekend.

On top of re-learning material in a short amount of time, the UI continues with regular schedules during the midterm exam period.

Professors should consider alternative assessment methods that are more inclusive and spread out throughout the semester, such as projects or group presentations. By

prioritizing the students' overall academic performance and wellbeing, college education can be more effective and beneficial.

Midterm exams are supposed to be indicators of a student's progress and retention in a course. Instead, these high-pressure exams realistically only measure one's ability to take a test.

Creating a variety of spaced-out assessments to replace traditional midterms could be beneficial not only for stressed-out students but also for the professor, who could gain more thorough appraisal of a student's ability.

A significant reason to reconsider the current system of midterm exams is the mental health of the students. According to the National Library of Medicine, "test anxiety impacts all students regardless of background, and learners with high anxiety have been shown to have deficits in the encoding and retrieval of information."

Unfortunately, test anxiety is often overlooked as simply a normal reaction

to college assessments. This outlook not only undermines a real issue but also adds to the stigma that often prevents students from seeking the help they need.

Along with school pressure, many students have commitments outside of college that can add to one's inability to do well on midterms.

As of 2022, 70 percent of college students have a job, according to the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce. Some students who work jobs are low-income students who may have little authority over their work schedules. About 50 percent of low-income college students work 15 hours or more per week.

When students take final exams, their metacognition is impacted negatively because they are not allowed to fix their wrong answers and learn from them. Many professors only provide students with a look at their finalized grades so that they are unable to see what they got wrong on the test.

Education is supposed to emphasize the necessity of learning from our mistakes

to improve our knowledge. High-stakes exams such as midterms only teach students to avoid mistakes at all costs.

If exams are necessary for a course, smaller assessments could be spread throughout the semester as opposed to piling all of them in one week which leads to unnecessary pressure to cram information and can disrupt one's work and study schedules.

Additionally, instead of midterms, tests, projects, or group presentations can be preferable for many students. Creating options for students to choose between written tests, projects, or presentations is a simple way to make assessments more equal and tailored to a student's learning method.

The current midterm system can be an unnecessarily stressful period for college students, particularly those who have other commitments outside of school. Test anxiety, mental health concerns, and a lack of inclusivity are some of the challenges associated with traditional midterm exams.

COLUMN

Limit alcohol-related cancers in Iowa

A new report found that alcohol is a contributing risk factor for cancer rates in the state.



Shelley Mishra
Opinions Columnist

The practice of binge drinking in college is all too common, and even celebrated at times.

Despite its social acceptance, the health consequences of excessive alcohol consumption must not be overlooked.

The Iowa Cancer Registry released its latest Cancer in Iowa report on Feb. 20. According to the report, Iowa ranks second for the fastest and highest-growing number of cancer cases in the U.S.

There are various causes of cancers, such as UV radiations, which lead to skin cancers; smoking, which causes lung cancer; and viruses like Hepatitis B, which causes liver cancer. The report found that alcohol is a contributing risk factor for cancer among Iowa residents.

Iowa has the fourth-highest incidence rate of alcohol-related cancers in the U.S. and in the Midwest.

The report highlights an estimated 21,000 new cancer cases in Iowa residents, with 14 percent being breast cancers, 13.6 percent being prostate cancers, and 12.9 percent being lung cancers.

Iowa ranked fourth in the nation for "binge drinking" in 2022, according to the report.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism defines binge drinking as the consumption of four or more drinks by a woman and five or more drinks by a man in a period of two hours.

According to the National Cancer Institute, or NCI, moderate to heavy alcohol consumption is linked to certain head and neck cancers, with heavy drinking causing a fivefold increase in pharyngeal cancers.

The NCI also links alcohol to an increased risk of a type of esophageal cancer called squamous cell carcinoma that develops on the epidermis and may spread to other parts of the body if left untreated. Moderate to heavy drinking has also been associated with an increased risk of colorectal cancer.

One of the obstacles in the formation of alcohol-related policies is the normalization of binge and heavy drinking, especially among underage individuals. As per the Cancer in Iowa report, 23 percent of Iowa residents reported having at least one alcoholic drink from the ages

of 12-20 years, and 15 percent reported binge drinking in 2019-20.

The Iowa Department of Public Health, or IDPH, suggests an increase in excise tax or a minimum unit price to discourage consumers from buying excess alcohol and reduce binge drinking.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, minimum unit pricing policies promote "an increase in the price of the cheapest alcohol" to further prevent related illnesses. As per the World Health Organization's pricing model in Scotland, alcohol-related deaths and hospitalizations were reduced by 13.4 percent and 4.1 percent respectively.

The IDPH also recommends the collection of data related to the number of licensed alcohol consumers and the correlation of alcohol abuse to public health. If implemented, it could help track the rate of alcohol consumption, its demand and effects on the number of cancer cases, and the development of strategies to generate public awareness.

Therefore, the first step to reducing alcohol-related cancers is to eliminate the misconception of binge drinking as a social norm, and understand the risks that accompany alcohol intake and its effects in later stages of life.

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Overhaul in Iowa's mental health system

Advocates say Gov. Reynolds' mental health plan is a start to fixing the current system.

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Candice and Kenneth Meisgeier, who call the northeastern Iowa city of Oelwein home, know the state's mental health care system like the back of their hand, with three of their four children having high-functioning autism.

Her oldest son, who is now 15 years old, was 4 years old when his parents noticed behavioral and developmental issues. At age 6, he had just started kindergarten when the quirks turned into meltdowns where he became violent and inconsolable.

For years, physicians said his behavior resulted from poor parenting. It was clear the physicians were missing something, Candice Meisgeier said. The family was in and out of specialists' offices getting new diagnoses and medications.

At 7 years old, he was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, anxiety, and depression by a physician at the University of Iowa.

Under the suggestion of a psychologist, the Meisgeiers admitted her son to Tanager Place, a psychiatric medical institute for children in Cedar Rapids — 71 miles south of the Meisgeiers' home in Sumner, Iowa, at the time.

"The conflicting emotions that you feel are devastating, but it was a very healing time as we continued to try and find answers," Candice Meisgeier said.

Oftentimes, Candice felt as though physicians were just hoping that a diagnosis would stick.

However, the support the Meisgeiers and other families like theirs need is far greater than a diagnosis.

"For years, my husband and I chased that diagnosis," Candice Meisgeier said. "That diagnosis is nothing but a classification of symptoms. It is not the be-all, end-all."

"There are weeks where I am crawling just to keep going, and there's just not enough support. There's not enough support for these kids. There's not enough support for the parents and the families. There's not enough answers, and it's truly terrifying."

Candice Meisgeier
Oelwein resident

Throughout those years of taking her son to various specialists, Candice said the shortest amount of time the Meisgeiers waited to be seen at the UI Hospitals and Clinics was four months. Sometimes, they had to wait up to six or seven months.

The Meisgeiers aren't alone. With a lack of access to care, many Iowans wait months and may have to travel hours to receive adequate treatment for mental and behavioral health issues.

Iowa faces a shortage of hospital beds and mental and behavioral health providers, leaving Iowa's mental health system overburdened, experts say. With a shortage of providers and a lack of access to inpatient psychiatric care in the state, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds has proposed combining Iowa's mental health and substance use disorder treatment districts to provide streamlined care for Iowans.

Senate File 2354 would condense Iowa's 13 Mental Health and Disability Service regions and 19 Integrated Provider Networks, which provide care for substance abuse disorders, into seven new Behavioral Health Districts, aligning funding and priorities between the two previously separate systems.

Advocates say the realignment will make services easier for Iowans experiencing both mental health and substance use issues, but some worry that the bill is not enough to fix Iowa's mental health care crisis.

With a lack of beds, Iowans lack access to mental health care

According to November 2023 data from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, Iowa has only 30.6 percent



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds delivers the Condition of the State Address at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines on Jan. 11, 2022. During the State Address, Reynolds spoke about child care, Iowa teachers, material taught in schools, unemployment, tax cuts, and more.

of its need for mental health care providers met, with a total of 106 additional providers needed to meet the full demand.

When a patient is released from a psychiatric unit, a follow-up appointment is recommended within two weeks. In Iowa, the average wait time for these appointments is two months.

The Treatment Advocacy Center, a

proposal, disability services would be moved to the HHS Aging and Disability Network.

Iowa Sen. Mark Costello, R-Imogene, vice chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, said Reynolds' proposal will improve the current system to provide more complete and equitable services.

Costello said the governor's proposal will benefit mental health care as a whole in the state, but he isn't sure if it's directly aimed at increasing the number of psychiatric beds.

"We've got different programs to try and meet those needs, we've enhanced some routes and are trying to get people to expand those areas," Costello said.

"There's a lot of things that are in the works that we'll see ... Hopefully, that will bear fruit."

Iowa Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell, D-Ames, said Reynolds' proposal won't make any huge difference, but mental health and substance use districts should have been combined many years ago.

"So many people have both, and not being able to provide services for both of those for one individual has been a problem for many years," Wessel-Kroeschell said.

How will the bill combat the mental health crisis?

Reynolds' proposal aims to ensure better coordination for substance abuse and mental health care, as many Iowans seek care from both programs currently.

of the East Central region's top priorities.

"They are so intermingled that we think it's super important that the funding and policy in Iowa are combined so that we can really effectively treat people," Hingtgen said.

Mary Issah, executive director of the Johnson County chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is optimistic that Reynolds' proposal will make a positive difference.

"Hopefully it will help our funding streams come to us a little more easily," Issah said. "That's really important because we've been in two different silos for so long, we don't know what the other one's doing."

Experts: Bill won't fix the crisis, but it is a start

While advocates favor combining mental health and substance use treatment, some experts say more must be done to solve the lack of access to mental health care in Iowa.

Barry Schreier, director of the Higher Education Program with the Scanlan Center for School Mental Health and a Professor of Counseling at the UI College of Education, said the state not only lacks psychiatric beds, but access to mental health resources as well.

"It comes down to money and it comes down to priorities," Schreier said. "We have a value around mental health, but we simply are not valuing it. The way that we show our value of things is we give money and people and space ... And we're not doing any of those things, or an insufficient number."

Schreier said Iowa's mental health care system would benefit if the state joined the PSYPACT, or Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact. In this multi-state coalition, licensed psychologists can

"It comes down to money and it comes down to priorities. We have a value around mental health, but we simply are not valuing it. The way that we show our value of things is we give money and people and space ... And we're not doing any of those things, or an insufficient number."

Barry Schreier
Higher Education Program Director

Her plan aims to provide more access to mental health care by optimizing programming and funding to the districts.

Kollin Crompton, a spokesperson for the governor, said mental health care has been one of the governor's highest priorities since taking office in 2017, but there is still work to be done.

"That's why Governor Reynolds is focused on building a full continuum of psychiatric care that focuses not only on high-quality state psychiatric hospitals for the most complex needs, but also private psychiatric hospitals, crisis services, and outpatient care," Crompton said in a statement to *The Daily Iowan*. "Iowa must also emphasize early interventions and ongoing behavioral health needs to align the entire continuum and ensure Iowans receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time."

Crompton said 25 percent of adults with serious mental health issues also have substance abuse disorders.

"Currently, Iowa's mental health and substance use services are coordinated separately, making it difficult for Iowans to get the services they need and for providers to coordinate care," Crompton said. "By aligning these 32 separate regions into a unified seven, we can improve coordination of services and deliver better treatment to Iowans."

Mae Hingtgen, CEO of Mental Health and Disability Services of the East Central Region, said combining substance use and mental health treatment has been one

provide mental health care to any other person in any of the other PSYPACT states.

Iowa has entered similar compacts for nursing, and lawmakers are currently considering a bill to enter a social work compact.

Currently, all states surrounding Iowa are part of PSYPACT. The bill would allow psychologists licensed in a PSYPACT state to perform temporary in-person services in another state and meet with patients in other states remotely without getting licensed in another state. Psychologists would have to be licensed in another state to practice there full-time.

While lawmakers consider measures to improve mental health access in Iowa, Candice and Kenneth Meisgeier have continued to advocate for their son as they navigate Iowa's overburdened mental health system.

The Meisgeiers have traveled miles upon miles to see psychiatrists, psychologists, and other specialists, waited hours for psychiatric beds to become available, and waited years for someone to diagnose their son.

"That stark reality for people who have and deal with severe mental illness is terrifying, and so sad," Candice Meisgeier said. "There are weeks where I am crawling just to keep going, and there's just not enough support. There's not enough support for these kids. There's not enough support for the parents and the families. There's not enough answers, and it's truly terrifying."



Shaely Odean | The Daily Iowan

Candice Meisgeier poses in her home for a portrait in Oelwein, Iowa, on March 12.

CHAMPIONS IN YEAR ONE

No. 1 Iowa won the National Championship and ended their inaugural season 16-0, with 12 All-Americans, six champions, and the national title.



Cody Blissett | The Daily Iowan

(Top) Iowa's 170-pound Kylie Welker wrestles North Central College Yelena Makoyed during the second day of the National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championships at Alliant Energy PowerHouse in Cedar Rapids on March 9. (Above left) Iowa head coach Clarissa Chun watches action during a match at the first day of the National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championships. (Above right) Iowa's 116-pound Felicity Taylor and Iowa's Brianna Gonzalez wrestle during the second day of the National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championships. (Bottom) Taylor and 155-pound Marlynn Deede lay next to the trophies following the second day of the National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championships.

See more online:

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





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

FOOTBALL

DeJean plays the waiting game

Iowa's Cooper DeJean remains confident as he recovers from his season injury.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa defensive back Cooper DeJean runs toward the end zone for a touchdown after a punt return during a football game between Iowa and Michigan State at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Sept. 30, 2023. The Hawkeyes defeated the Spartans, 26-16. DeJean is predicted to go 25th overall in the NFL draft.

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For Iowa cornerback Cooper DeJean, the wait continues. It has been over four months since DeJean last saw game action. The Hawkeye did not play in front of NFL scouts and front office personnel at either the NFL Combine from Feb. 29 to March 3, or at Iowa's Pro Day on March 18. However, this lack of activity doesn't concern DeJean, who plans to work out privately for teams on April 15, just 10

days before the NFL draft's first round. DeJean, alongside teammates Tory Taylor, Joe Evans, and Noah Shannon, is one of several Hawkeyes who could wind up playing on Sundays next season. Out of the group, cornerback DeJean is the highest projected draft pick — NBC Sports lists him as the 25th overall draft pick to the Green Bay Packers — but also hasn't seen game action since Nov. 11, 2023, against Rutgers. Four days after the Hawkeyes defeated the Scarlet Knights, DeJean fractured the fibula in his left leg, sidelining him for the rest of the season. "As a competitor, you want to get back out

on the field as soon as possible, but when you have injuries like this, you can't rush into it," DeJean said, noting that he's "pretty close" to 100 percent healthy. "You have to be as patient as possible. You get to grow your knowledge of the game by watching on the sideline, watching film ... learn the game from a different perspective." Not playing football for so long hasn't been easy for DeJean, and neither was his decision to forgo another season of eligibility and pursue his NFL dreams. As he forges his path to the next level, some question his ability to continue at the cornerback position.

These doubts don't phase DeJean, but they do surprise his teammates, who view him as someone who can play anywhere. Despite missing four games, including the Big Ten Championship and Citrus Bowl, DeJean still took home plenty of honors last season. Among them include a consensus first-team All-American selection, as well as the Big Ten's Defensive Back and Return Specialist of the Year. He was also a finalist for the Bronko Nagurski Trophy as college football's top defensive player.

PRO | 3B

BASEBALL

Early season struggles

Despite lofty expectations entering the season, the Iowa baseball team currently sits at 10-9.



Isabella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan

Iowa outfielder Sam Petersen looks to the crowd during a baseball game between then-No. 18 Iowa and Loras College at Duane Banks Field on Feb. 20. The Hawkeyes defeated the Duhawks, 20-6.

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Following a 44-16 season and NCAA Tournament appearance, the Iowa baseball team entered 2024 with higher expectations than any other squad in program history. They entered the season ranked No. 20 in Division 1 Baseball's preseason poll and as heavy favorites to win the Big Ten for the first time in 33 years.

Many sportswriters and analysts listed the Hawkeyes as one of the teams that could potentially make a run to the College World Series — something the program hasn't achieved since 1972. Though it's a lofty prediction for a lower-tier program like Iowa, it seemed like the chips were all on the table this year.

Starting pitchers Brody Brecht, Marcus Morgan, and Cade Obermueller all returned, with Brecht and Morgan generating plenty of buzz from Major League



Brecht

scouts. Besides bringing back their pitching staff, the Hawkeyes also returned shortstop Michael Seegers and third baseman Raider Tello, both of whom are among the best defensive and hitting infielders in the Big Ten.

Despite all the preseason hype, Iowa has struggled to open the season and currently sits at 10-9 through the season's first 19 games.

Though there's still a lot of baseball left to play, the slow start has bewildered Hawkeye fans. Many are asking what has gone wrong.

Bullpen struggles

When discussing Iowa's early struggles, the main topic has been the bullpen, which has been the Achilles' heel for the last few campaigns.

Last season, the Hawkeye bullpen was responsible for several blown leads in crucial moments, especially in the NCAA Regionals against Indiana State. In those games,

STRUGGLES | 3B

MEN'S WRESTLING

Competing in Kansas City

Nine Hawkeyes will compete in the NCAA Championships in Kansas City March 21-23.

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Three hundred and thirty wrestlers have one goal left in mind: a national title.

The NCAA Wrestling Championships will take place at the T-Mobile Center in Kansas City from March 21-23, and nine Hawkeyes are slated to perform. Aiden Riggins was the lone Hawkeye to miss out on the tournament. He did not place at 184 pounds at the Big Ten Championships or receive one of the 47 at-large bids.

Along with determining 10 individual champions, the national tournament will reward the top eight finishers in each weight class with All-American honors. The top four squads earn podium and team trophy finishes. Every wrestler in the tournament will compete in at least two matches in Kansas City.

If a wrestler loses in the first round but wins his consolation match, his chance at All-American status stays alive. This pattern applies to all athletes who lose in the first round — they have a chance to wrestle back to All-American honors, but if they lose again, their season will be over. If an athlete continues to win in the consolation bracket, they can finish as high as third in their respective weight class. Wrestlers who win in the first round, second round, and quarterfinals automatically earn All-American status.

The Hawkeyes finished with six All-Americans last season and have 163 total in program history. This list features three five-time, 25 four-time, 38 three-time, and 41 two-time All-American honorees. The Hawkeyes have three past All-Americans who will compete in the tournament, including Real Woods, Jared Franek, and Michael Caliendo. Since 1972, Iowa has crowned at least one All-American in 52 straight tournaments.

After an underwhelming fourth-place team finish at the Big Ten Tournament, the Hawkeyes have a lot at stake to keep their long-lived wrestling traditions alive.

According to seeding, Iowa is projected to finish ninth in the team race and without a finalist for the first time since 1989. The last time the Hawkeyes finished at or below ninth place was in 1972 when they tied for 11th. The last time Iowa finished without a team trophy was in 2016.



Riggins



Woods

NCAA | 3B

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Men's wrestling

March 21-23
 NCAA Championships
 Kansas City
 ESPN and ESPN

Gymnastics

Saturday, March 23
 Big Ten Championships
 East Lansing, Mich.
 Big Ten Network

Men's basketball

2024 NIT Tournament
 First round, March 19-20
 Second round, March 23-24
 Quarterfinals, March 26-27

Volleyball

Saturday, March 23
 Spring season opener
 Exhibition at Drake
 10 a.m.

Softball

March 22-24
 Big Ten opener
 Three-game series vs.
 Wisconsin
 Big Ten Plus and Hawkeye
 Radio Network

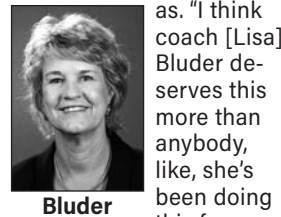
Baseball

Wednesday, March 20
 vs. Grandview
 4:05 p.m., Big Ten Plus and
 Hawkeye Radio Network

March 22-24
 Big Ten opener
 At Purdue
 Big Ten Plus and Hawkeye
 Radio Network

NO. 1 SEED

Iowa women's basketball has had plenty of historic moments this season, and Sunday's announcement can be added to the list. Atop of Regional 2 in Albany, the Hawkeyes received a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1992. The other No. 1 seeds include undefeated South Carolina, Pac-12 Champion Southern California, and Big 12 Champion Texas.



Bluder

"I think coach [Lisa] Bluder deserves this more than anybody, like, she's been doing this for a while," guard Caitlin Clark said about earning a No. 1 seed. "She's had some really great teams and, you know, no matter what, you're just lucky to get in the tournament. And once you're in, you're in, and it doesn't really matter what your seeding is. You can't be worried too much about what number a team has next to their name."

Fresh off their third straight Big Ten Tournament title, the Hawkeyes and their five seniors will play at least one more home game at Carver-Hawkeye Arena. Four of the six 16-seeds will play "First Four" games. Since Iowa is the No. 2 seed overall, a "First Four" game will be played in Iowa City on Thursday, with the winner of No. 16 Holy Cross and No. 16 UT Martin advancing to face the Hawkeyes in the first round on Saturday. The other first-round game in Iowa City features No. 8 West Virginia and No. 9 Princeton. If Iowa wins in the first round, it will play the winner of West Virginia and Princeton on Monday for a berth in the Sweet 16.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The No. 1 seed was something that I just think gives credit to our program and establishes us as one of the very best teams in America."

Lisa Bluder
 Iowa women's basketball head coach

STAT OF THE WEEK

Ninth

The place Iowa women's swimming and diving finished out of 66 teams at the National Invitational Championship

BASEBALL

Sliding into the starting lineup

Iowa baseball's Cade Obermueller looks solid in his first year as a starter.

Jake Olson
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The most glaring gap to fill for the Iowa baseball team in 2024 was a third and final starting pitcher.

Last season's Sunday starter Ty Langenberg was selected in the 11th round by the Minnesota Twins. Langenberg, a key piece to last year's 44-win season, posted a 4.17 ERA while fanning 86 batters in 78 innings of work.



Langenberg

With the Hawkeyes already having two bonafide starters in Brody Brecht and Marcus Morgan, head coach Rick Heller needed someone to step up and fill Langenberg's shoes.

Taking the reins so far this season has been second-year left-handed pitcher Cade Obermueller.



Obermueller

Hailing from Iowa City, Iowa, Obermueller has put up impressive numbers in his first season as a starter. He has notched a 2.63 ERA in 22.3 innings of work, striking out 31 batters. The Hawkeyes improved to over .500 on the season (10-9) with a triple-header sweep against Western Illinois last weekend.

Obermueller pitched 4.1 innings against Western Illinois on Sunday, sitting down five batters but walking four and giving up five runs.

"I think Cade is growing and maturing every single time he takes the ball," Heller said. "I am hopeful this is going to continue throughout the season because he definitely has the ability and the stuff."

Last season, Obermueller saw a lot of action in a middle reliever role despite being a first-year player. In his debut season for the Hawkeyes, Obermueller recorded a 4.91 ERA over 22 innings.

Heller and the coaching staff saw both positives and negatives from Obermueller in his rookie campaign. While putting up an impressive 36 strikeouts, the lefty also gave up 34 free bases from walks and hit-by-pitches.



Iowa pitcher Cade Obermueller pitches the ball during a baseball game at Duane Baseball Field in Iowa City on Feb. 28, 2023. The Hawkeyes defeated the Duhawks, 9-2. Obermueller had two strikeouts.

"Being in control of himself," Heller said regarding Obermueller's biggest improvement since last year. "Being in control of the situation. Being a better defender. Being better at holding runners and just being able to wipe a bad pitch away or wipe away if something bad happens, whereas last year it seemed to snowball on him a lot more."

After his initial season with Iowa, Obermueller got sent to play in the Cape Cod League, a prestigious summer baseball league filled with future MLB talent. There, Obermueller got even more comfortable on the mound while getting reps against some of the best college competition in the country. Throughout the regular season and playoffs, Obermueller threw 19.2 innings, striking out 35 hitters while posting a 1.83 ERA.

"A lot of my improvements was the mental game stuff," Obermueller said. "It was just getting out there and getting the reps and experience. It really got me dialed in. I mean, obviously, college baseball is a big step up from high school, and this summer felt like it got me really good experience."

The transition from a reliever to the starting role hasn't fazed Obermueller, who said he "really likes" where he's at in his career. Coming into college as a natural starting pitcher, Obermueller implemented things he learned from his time as a reliever into his routine now.

"This whole summer I threw out of the bullpen, but it was my goal to be in the starting rotation with Brody and Marcus," Obermueller said. "I have started my whole life and through high school."

Q&A | OLIVIA SWALLEY

Catching up with Iowa swimming



Olivia Swalley
 First-year
 Breaststroke
 Johnston, Iowa

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 Sports Editor
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The Daily Iowan: How did you realize you wanted to come to Iowa?

Olivia Swalley: I really had no intention of coming to Iowa. I wouldn't say it was a last-minute decision, but when the opportunity was presented to me, that's when I really realized I wanted to stay close to home. A lot of my friends go here, so it's nice to see some familiar faces.

What other colleges did you look at?

I visited Ohio State and Auburn. When I came here for my official visit, I just knew this was the place for me.

How long have you been swimming?

I've been swimming for almost 10 years. I started at a country club when I was like 7 or 8, and then it kind of took off. I was doing a lot of sports but really found a passion for it by swimming at the country club.

What was the appeal to swimming?

It definitely was not practicing because it's very hard and can get really boring. But it was

always what I was best at, and I've always hated losing. Just having some really good friends through swimming has also kept me going.

What makes practice boring?

It's just going back and forth 100 or 200 times. You can't really have music because you're underwater, so having your friends there helps a lot. You only have 10 to 30 seconds on the wall at a time, so getting in a little 'Hey, how are you?' or any jokes really does help.

When you compete in the morning and at night for a meet, how do you keep yourself focused in between?

We normally swim pretty early, so I'm up around six in the morning and swimming at eight. But when I come back from prelims, normally the first thing I want to do is take a nap. But it's really important to keep your recovery going, so I eat something for lunch. I keep it light because sometimes I get really nervous, so it's hard to eat. And doing stuff like foam rolling and stretching definitely helps too.

Have you always competed in the breaststroke?

Yeah, it's the one that stuck the most. A lot of

people struggle with breaststroke, but it just came naturally to me.

How have you managed to juggle sports, academics, and your social life?

It's definitely been a real adjustment coming to college, but there's a lot of resources that athletics gives us. I wouldn't say it's been easy, but easier than I expected.

How do you not get burnt out from swimming and stay motivated?

I have really high goals and the team environment helps me so much. We don't get a lot of breaks during the season, so just setting a high standard for myself and having my teammates keep me accountable helps too.

How do you get on the swim caps you wear?

The swim caps are kind of hard to put on. If you're sweaty or greasy it will just slip right off, so sometimes you have someone help you.

Do you notice a big difference when you swim without a cap?

Yes. Your hair can hold so much water, it's insane. And the drag it takes – I'm probably 10 seconds slower when I have my hair down.

POINT | COUNTERPOINT

Who will win men's basketball NCAAs?



Brad Schultz
 Sports Reporter

UConn

Though I'm not a fan of repeating champions in any sport, I've seen enough. The UConn Huskies will become the first team to win back-to-back titles since Billy Donovan's Florida Gators did it in 2006 and 2007.

The team lost the 2023 NCAA Tournament Most Outstanding Player Adama Sanogo to the NBA, but head coach Dan Hurley has done a terrific job with this group, which currently sits at 31-3 overall and is a No. 1 seed in the Big Dance.

Rutgers graduate transfer Cam Spencer has established himself as one of the top shooters in the country with a 44 percent clip from behind the arc, while fellow grad transfer Tristen Newton chips in an additional 14.9 points per game.

Not only is this team strong on the wing, but it also has the dominating presence of 7-foot-2 center Donovan Clingan, who ter-

rorizes opposing teams with his shot-blocking ability and scoring prowess.

As if that's not already a massive headache for opposing coaches, UConn's defense allows 63.8 points per contest, adding more firepower to an already loaded unit. The Huskies are one of the few teams in the country that rank in the top 25 in both offense and defense.

As a No. 1 seed, UConn will have the comfort of playing close to home in the East Regional in Boston. Obviously, UConn must get there first, but it will play its first and second-round games near Brooklyn. Both cities are about a two-hour bus ride from the university's campus in Storrs, so it's possible the Huskies won't have to board a plane until the Final Four in Phoenix.

It's been very hard to find an elite team in college basketball over the last few seasons, but this Huskies squad fits that mold. They can beat you with elite scoring, but they aren't afraid to turn a game into a grudge match either.

The road to the Final Four is one of the most challenging journeys in sports, but UConn has been there before, and I'm confident they will bring back the program's sixth national title in 2024.



Chris Meglio
 Sports Reporter

Kentucky

UConn is the obvious favorite to win the 2024 National Championship. But as I looked at team stats and reminisced on games that I've watched this season to make as accurate a prediction as possible, I decided to look in another direction.

It came down to Houston, Kentucky, Purdue, Iowa State, or North Carolina for me. But at the end of the day, this game will always be about getting a bucket, and nobody does that better than the Kentucky Wildcats.

Yes, they recently fell to Texas A&M, 97-87, in the SEC Tournament, but it took 97 points to beat them. The Aggies averaged 74.8 points per game, while the Wildcats averaged 89.4 points per game, which is the second-best scoring average in the nation. The Aggies also grabbed 20 offensive boards and took nine more shots than the Wildcats, putting Kentucky's defensive woes on full display.

At the same time, there's only a handful of teams that can keep up with or minimize Kentucky's scoring output. The Wildcats sit atop the nation shooting 41.2 percent from three, second with 32.2 field goals made, fifth with a 49.7 percent field goal percentage, seventh in the nation with 64.7 field goals attempted, and 10th with 17.6 assists per game.

Kentucky owns a 23-8 record heading into the NCAA Tournament. In those games, they have gone 10-5 when allowing opponents to score at least 80 points and are 15-3 when allowing less than 80 points. As for the offense, they're 22-5 when scoring at least 80 points and just 3-3 when scoring less than 80 points – 27 total games scoring at least 80 points to 15 total games allowing at least 80 points.

Kentucky has seven players averaging at least seven points per game and five players averaging at least 10 points per game, including 20 points per game from Antonio Reeves. Standout first-years Rob Dillingham and Reed Sheppard are two of the most talented players in the entire country and have willed the Wildcats to multiple wins down the stretch.

All in all, this Kentucky team is a dark horse to win the NCAA Tournament.

PRO
from **IB**

Registering 41 total tackles, seven pass defenses, and two interceptions in his final season with the Hawkeyes, DeJean wrapped up his collegiate career holding the program's single-season record in picks returned for scores, making it to the end zone three times in 2022.

The 21-year-old from Odebolt, Iowa, said leaving his dream school a year early nearly tore him apart. DeJean had plenty of people to lean on, including his coaches and family. He even recalled crying in front of Iowa defensive coordinator Phil Parker as he discussed his indecision, but concluded that declaring for the pros was his best option.

During the offseason, DeJean trained with other prospects in California and underwent interviews with teams, where he was asked everything from defensive philosophy to whether or not he could beat Caitlin Clark in a one-on-one battle.

"It was a good bit of debate," he said with a smile. "I just said it would be close ... If I can drive to the bucket, get a couple of layups, I don't how it would shape out."

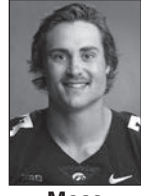
The only event DeJean participated in

at Iowa's Pro Day was the bench press, where he performed 16 reps of 225 pounds. Strength and physicality will be key in helping the cornerback transition to the next level.

According to NFL Draft Analyst Lance Zierlein, the 6-foot, 203-pound DeJean is "big and bundled" for a cornerback, which makes him a "no-brainer" as a punt returner and gunner in his rookie season. Zierlein also noted that despite his impressive interception count, DeJean doesn't possess the mobility to change direction quickly, casting him as a liability in man coverage.

"DeJean should be a big athletic tester, which will help get the hype train going," Zierlein wrote for DeJean's NFL prospect page. "But finding the proper schematic fit will be important in unlocking his best football as a zone corner or interchangeable safety."

A possible position change may also be in the cards for DeJean, who has started 20 games at cornerback in the Black and Gold. No white cornerback has started an NFL game since 2002. DeJean's former teammate at the cor-



Moss

ner, Riley Moss, who is white, played just 23 defensive snaps in 2023-2024 as a member of the Denver Broncos.

DeJean said he's heard former pro cornerback Jason Sehorn's name thrown around quite a bit during the pre-draft process, adding that some pro players training with him call him by Sehorn more than they do his own name.

"It doesn't really bother me too much," DeJean said. "I'm just going to go out and be myself. Just go out and play my game."

DeJean hasn't strictly been a corner his collegiate career, making three starts at the leo/cash position in 2022 and another start at strong safety in 2021. Last season, he shined on special teams, averaging 11.5 yards per punt return, scoring the game-winning touchdown against Michigan State and an unofficial clutch trip to the end zone against Minnesota.

Yet the position he plays at the next level isn't weighing too heavily on DeJean, who has also started at strong safety and leo/cash during his career. If anything, the lack of a clearly defined role only highlights his versatility.

"I feel like I have the athleticism, where I can play multiple different positions," he said. "At the end of the day, it's about play-

ing football, getting in front of the ball, and trying to stop the other team from scoring."

Back at OA-BCIG High School in Odebolt, Iowa, he earned the state title in the 100-meter dash as a senior, clocking in at 11.6 seconds, as well as the long jump, leaping 23 feet, 7.5 inches. His skills extend to the basketball court, where he averaged 25.9 points per game as a senior with the Falcons. Evidence of DeJean's multi-sport past cropped up quickly once he arrived in Iowa City.

"We would go play basketball and I remember he walked in the gym, grabbed the ball, and windmill dunked," Evans said of DeJean. Evans said it "doesn't make sense" for any team to move DeJean away from cornerback. "Once he has his pro day, a lot of people are going to turn heads at just how well he's going to perform," the defensive lineman said.

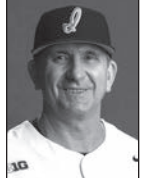
For Shannon, DeJean got his attention not just with his athletic ability, but also for his character. During his pre-draft training, people approached Shannon to ask about DeJean, who they thought might be "cocky." Shannon told them the opposite.

"This is the quietest, most humble, human I've ever met, I swear," Shannon said. "That's one thing I love to say: he's this all-world football player, but you'll never know. Walking down the street, he'll never tell you."

STRUGGLES
from **IB**

Iowa had edges of 4-2 and 6-4 but couldn't hold them, and the Sycamores advanced to the Super Regionals.

This year, it has been even worse.



Heller

Head coach Rick Heller and his staff were optimistic heading into the season, but this unit has posted a horrible ERA of 14.00 and hasn't shown any improvement.

Out of the 15 bullpen pitchers Iowa has used so far, second-year Aaron Savary has the lowest ERA at 3.38. Redshirt fourth-year Reece Beuter has the highest with 19.29.

Obviously, there's a lot of time to turn the season around, but it needs to happen quickly for Iowa to still have a shot at an NCAA berth.

Missed opportunities

Because of the Big Ten's status as one of the weaker conferences in the nation, Heller and company knew they had

to schedule tough non-conference opponents to build a strong resume for the NCAA Tournament.

Iowa's non-conference slate included matchups against Auburn, Virginia, Wichita State, and a three-game set against Ole Miss and Georgia, all of whom are regarded as some of the top programs in the country.

Despite great opportunities in front of them, the Hawkeyes only secured one victory out of these seven contests, with the lone triumph coming in the series opener against Ole Miss.

To make matters worse, Iowa had sizable leads in six of the seven games but couldn't hold on to them, resulting in gut-wrenching defeats.

The Hawkeyes arguably have the talent to compete with anyone in the nation, but a team playing in a northern-based conference can't afford to miss out on opportunities against SEC and ACC foes.

Though it may have seemed like a good thing entering the season, Iowa doesn't play Big Ten stalwarts Indiana and Maryland, which would have been good chances to improve its RPI, or Rating Percentage Index, ahead of postseason play.

As of March 14, the Hawkeyes rank 71 in the latest

RPI — not the most ideal situation for a team with big aspirations. For reference, Iowa's RPI was 32 entering the 2023 postseason. For the Hawks to get anywhere near that mark, it's going to take a big winning streak in conference play.

Extensive travel

Iowa has spent 30 of the season's first 36 days on the road, with only three midweek home games in that timeframe. It's one of the many challenges a team from a northern climate must face with the season beginning in mid-February.

The Hawkeyes finally have a chance to catch their breath, with three out of the next four weekend series taking place at Duane Banks Field, beginning with last weekends three wins over the Western Illinois Leathernecks. Iowa, will host Minnesota on March 29-31 and Michigan on April 5-7.

The Hawkeyes are currently 3-0 at home this season and an extended homecoming should give this club a chance to find its identity as the conference season gets underway.

NCAA
from **IB**

Iowa State is projected to place sixth, so if everything goes according to seeding, it would be the first time since 2007 that the Hawkeyes finished behind the Cyclones at the NCAA Championships.

Woods arguably has the toughest road

to a national title out of the nine Hawkeye qualifiers. The 141-pounder, who finished third at the Big Ten Championships, will face South Dakota State's No. 30 Clay Carlson in the first round. Carlson is a two-time All-American and defeated Woods in the 2021 NCAA Championships, 11-4. Carlson's first matches of the season came in the Soldier Salute in December 2023. Since

he hasn't competed as much, Carlson was seeded low.

Woods was Iowa's only NCAA finalist last season, ultimately falling to North Colorado State's Andrew Alirez, 6-4, in the 141-pound title bout.

Drake Ayala is Iowa's other best bet at an individual championship. The 125-pounder also finished third at the conference tourna-



Ayala

ment but did so by avenging his regular season loss to top-seeded Matt Ramos of Purdue, 4-1. Ayala will meet Cal Baptist's No. 30 Elijah Griffin in the first round. The pair matched up in the regular season, with Ayala prevailing, 18-8.

Iowa's seeding for NCAAs

- 125 pounds: No. 3 Drake Ayala
- 133 pounds: No. 15 Brody Teske
- 141 pounds: No. 3 Real Woods
- 149 pounds: No. 13 Caleb Rathien
- 157 pounds: No. 10 Jared Franek
- 165 pounds: No. 6 Michael Caliendo
- 174 pounds: No. 12 Patrick Kennedy
- 197 pounds: No. 7 Zach Glazier
- 285 pounds: No. 25 Bradley Hill

Tournament schedule

Thursday, March 21
Session I - First Round
11 a.m., ESPNU/ESPN+

Thursday, March 21
Session II - Second Round and Consolations
6 p.m., ESPN/ESPN+

Friday, March 22
Quarterfinals and Consolations
11 a.m., ESPNU/ESPN+

Friday, March 22
Semifinals and Blood Round
7 p.m., ESPN/ESPN+

Saturday, March 23
Medal Round
10 a.m., ESPNU/ESPN+

Saturday, March 23
Championship Finals
6 p.m., ESPN/ESPN+

A	P	L	O	M	B	A	S	M	U	C	H			
T	R	E	E	B	O	A	S	E	A	F	O	A		
H	O	R	N	E	T	S	Y	E	S	O	R	N		
E	M	O	S	H	I	E	L	D	S	O	D	D		
V	A	N	C	E	N	Y	U	E	E	N	I	E		
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J	A	W	E	D	D	E	M	N	E	R	V	E		
C	P	R	A	N	Y	N	E	W	S	R	A	N		
R	A	I	N	O	F	A	G	E	P	E	C	S		
E	N	S	U	I	T	E	A	T	E	I	N	T		
G	U	E	S	S	E	R	P	R	O	C	T	O		
G	I	S		H	S	N		S	Y	S		O	R	S

Easy

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

Medium

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

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THREE-PEAT THRILLER

Iowa won the TIAA Big Ten Women's Basketball Tournament after defeating Nebraska, 94-89. The Hawkeyes received a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.



Grace Smith and Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan
 (Top) Iowa celebrates winning a basketball game between then-No. 2 Iowa and then-No. 5 Nebraska at the TIAA Big Ten Women's Basketball Tournament at Target Center in Minneapolis, Minn., on March 10. The Hawkeyes defeated the Cornhuskers in overtime, 94-89. (Left) Nebraska guard Kendall Coley blocks Iowa forward Hannah Stuelke's shot during the basketball game. Coley completed two blocks and tied for the most blocks for the Cornhuskers with guard Jaz Shelley. (Below) Iowa head coach Lisa Bluder and Iowa associate head coach Jan Jensen speak to an official during the basketball game. Before bringing the team their first three-peat, Bluder and Jensen won a title in 2019. (Bottom) Iowa guard Gabbie Marshall celebrates a 3-pointer during the game. Marshall made two out of her seven 3-point attempts and played 40:24.

See more online:
 To view more of *The Daily Iowan's* coverage of the women's basketball team, visit dailyiowan.com.



80 HOURS

#BookTok is the new hub
for book recommendations



The hashtag has more than 20 million videos on the social media platform TikTok that influence both readers and authors across the globe.

BookTok influences modern reading

Over the years, social media has grown to become a staple for college-age readers.

Charlie Hickman
Assistant Arts Editor
charles-hickman@uiowa.edu

Riley Dunn
Arts Reporter
riley-dunn@uiowa.edu

University of Iowa student Andi Pinkerman, a self-described bookworm, started watching videos on TikTok after completing a book report in her second year of high school. The social media app's algorithm increasingly offered videos within the #BookTok hashtag — a sector of TikTok that serves a growing community of online book critics.

"I read 'Twilight.' And then I read 'Harry Potter' and 'Percy Jackson,'" Pinkerman said. "After that, book videos started popping up on my phone. It was to the point where all I looked at was just book videos and book recommendations."

For Pinkerman, the popularity of BookTok led her to find some of her new favorite novels. She also pointed out that the most popular literary genre promoted to her on social media was the romance genre.

The social media giant has reached users of all ages and backgrounds, and it continues to impact industries around the world. The app has become so influential that the U.S. government has stepped in.

Social media platforms that have user-

to frequent BookTok six months ago. She cites the fantasy genre as another favorite of social media influencers, believing that an "escape from reality" is appealing to many people.

Fantasy and romance are not passing trends, however. Because of the amount of interest in these books, their popularity has begun to influence both the content promoted by publishers and the marketing strategies used by authors.

"Before, it didn't matter whether books were on TikTok, but now I've seen authors on TikTok marketing their books, like Victoria Aveyard. She's been talking about her books there," Menning said.

While the online atmosphere of TikTok continues to promote certain types of books, the popularity of these writers has spread to some bookstores as well. Prairie Lights, one of Iowa City's local bookstores, has felt this impact.

"[BookTok] hasn't changed what we promote, but it has changed what we sell," said Emma Bagnall, the social media and returns manager at Prairie Lights Bookstore in Iowa City. "Our general audience is still made up of people who want various types of books. But people will also come in for Sarah J. Maas or Colleen Hoover, and we have to stock more of those books than we used to. We're constantly reordering 'A Court of Thorns and Roses.'"



Shaely Odean | The Daily Iowan

Photo illustration of books that are popular on the social media app TikTok via the #BookTok hashtag.

"Social media shifted the way we discuss books and opened the doors to discussion as a library because we aren't the facilitators of that discussion."

Sam Helmick

Iowa City Public Library Community and Access Services Coordinator

generated content, and subsequently user information-based algorithms, have recently faced public scrutiny for fear that these platforms share user information for personal gain. The U.S. Congress' most recent dispute arose due to concerns over data collection by TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, which is based in Beijing, China.

However, in the face of controversy surrounding data theft, the platform continues to spearhead the influencer career path. Content creators on the platform span all genres, including literature. TikTok has changed the way readers, as well as authors and publishers, try to adapt to trends in their marketing techniques.

This online community known as "#BookTok" serves as a marriage of social media and literary discussion. It is the primary virtual space where readers and literary influencers promote — or disapprove of — new book releases on TikTok that play into some of the most popular online trends.

The hashtag amassed a over 20 million videos on TikTok. For many TikTok users, the rapidly growing popularity of book discussions the app ignited their interest in reading in the first place.

"If you can write a good romance story, BookTok eats it up. As soon as 'It Ends With Us' came out, my whole school read it; I saw that book everywhere," Pinkerman said.

UI second-year student Ainsley Menning has received several romance recommendations since she began

Bagnall said when younger people who "don't read much" enter the store and ask her for recommendations, she tends to point them toward the fantasy and romance genres due to BookTok's influence.

Over the years, as BookTok grew more popular, Bagnall noticed a shift within the fantasy genre to include more romance. As a result, publishers have responded trying to hop on this trend, even going so far as releasing books with similar cover designs to other well-known novels.

"Fantasy used to be just pure fantasy, and now many people want it to be a mix of romance and fantasy. I think it's a unique approach for the publishers that is working well — they created a new genre," Bagnall said.

"If you can write a good romance story, BookTok eats it up. As soon as 'It Ends With Us' came out, my whole school read it; I saw that book everywhere."

Andi Pinkerman

University of Iowa student

Despite the heavy influence of BookTok on writing, the social media platform is not the only inspiration for these types of books. Before TikTok's launch in September 2016, literary enthusiasts convened on sites like Instagram, Vine, and Twitter

years before the explosively popular TikTok debuted.

"The book influencer truly started in that era," Sam Helmick, Iowa City Public Library community and access services coordinator, said. "Social media shifted the way we discuss books and open the doors to discussion as a library because we aren't the facilitators of that discussion."

Helmick, the former president of the Iowa Library Association, was once an active participant in literary social media communities and noted a drastic change in how influential an online space can be.

"Literary influencers don't just influence readers anymore, they guide publishers," Helmick said. "What is of literary and artistic merit has changed. We're opening our minds to the notion there will be our awards-winners and books that will be entered into the literary canon, but there are also books like beach reads romance novels, and guilty reads. We're placing more value

Second-year UI student Madison Kelly — who enjoys downloading new reading material on her Kindle — considers the amplification of lesser-known authors and publishers as a benefit of BookTok.

"TikTok can help guide [authors], but it's not going to be the determining factor in how they write, because, at the end of the day, they have their own voice and writing style," Kelly said.

Although certain genres may be more popular among TikTok audiences than others, it is difficult to determine whether publishers and authors are influenced by the trends on social media or just by what sells.

"There is a need [in Iowa City] to provide influencer books, the readership is very active," Helmick said. "But then how do we continue to keep the shop open for those masterpieces that will change the canon, recognizing the fact that those criteria change as we change as a society?"

Embracing e-books may be the answer. As the literature world continues to evolve and move online, both libraries and stores have had to increase electronic output.

"The popularity of apps like Libby and Kanopy is great, it shows that there is still a hunger for substantial work. Our e-book program has been consistently successful, too," Helmick said. "Folks want to engage in literature however they can."

With a heavier reliance on electronic literature comes the influence of algorithms.

The TikTok algorithm, more so than the influencers themselves, dictates what trends take off. This invisible virtual influence is what excites some literature fans.

"Trends come and go in this industry. I was a part of the Harry Potter generation and as millennials got into their 30s and 40s, serial novels became the craze," Helmick said. "In young adult fiction, we're seeing a lot of queer and BIPOC stories finally reaching a wider audience because of TikTok."

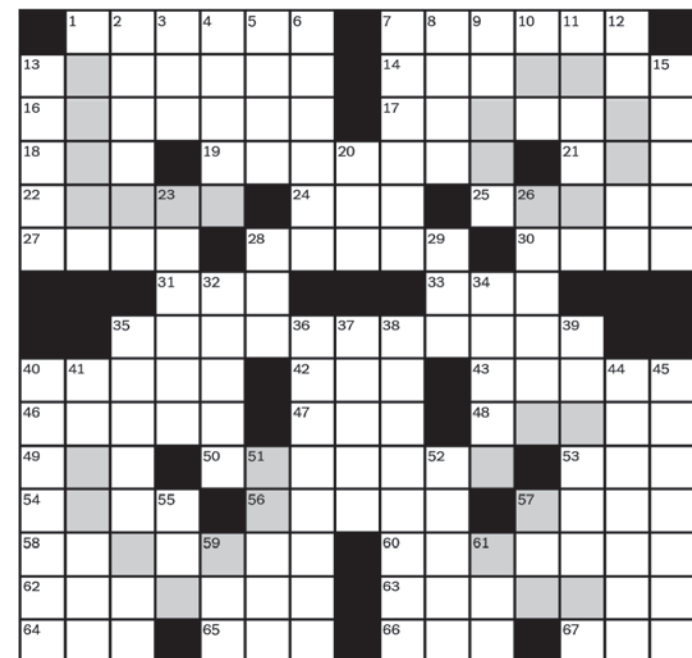
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Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0214



- Across**
- 1 Confidence
 - 7 In the same quantity
 - 13 Snake on a limb
 - 14 Bubbles on a beach
 - 16 Members of the genus Vespa
 - 17 "Answer the simple question!"
 - 18 Genre associated with guyliner and black nail polish
 - 19 Sword go-withs
 - 21 Word with sock or duck
 - 22 Oklahoma's ___ Air Force

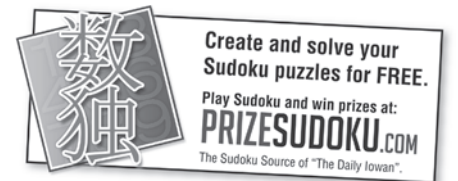
- Base**
- 24 Alma mater for Martin Scorsese and Lady Gaga, in brief
 - 25 Word used when making a choice, maybe
 - 27 Where the five most widely practiced religions originated
 - 28 "I can help!"
 - 30 Controls
 - 31 Comforting touch
 - 33 French holy title: Abbr.
 - 35 Valentine's Day exchanges ... or what this puzzle's

- shaded areas are?
- 40 Witch
 - 42 Actress Wong
 - 43 Achievements for Andrew Lloyd Webber and Elton John, colloquially
 - 46 Yammered
 - 47 Like the blue side, in brief
 - 48 Audacity
 - 49 ___ training (requirement for H.S. graduation in most states)
 - 50 "Have you heard back yet?"
 - 53 Did a marathon, say
 - 54 Puddle producer
 - 56 21, say
 - 57 Bench press muscles, informally
 - 58 Connected, as a bathroom
 - 60 Used a little of, as someone else's speaking time
 - 62 Role in a game of Taboo
 - 63 Final watcher?
 - 64 Dog tag wearers, in brief
 - 65 Sister channel of QVC
 - 66 Part of GPS: Abbr.
 - 67 Hosp. locales

- Down**
- 1 Chamomile and cedarwood, for two
 - 2 Popular Italian beer
 - 3 ___ Cariou, Broadway's original Sweeney Todd
 - 4 Like many bodybuilders, according to B.M.I. alone
 - 5 Fan of the flame?
 - 6 Sink components
 - 7 ___ seeker
 - 8 Pit, e.g.
 - 9 Fancy billiards shot
 - 10 Sci-fi sky sighting
 - 11 Popular Mexican beer
 - 12 Submit
 - 13 Resource for service members, colloquially
 - 15 Styles
 - 20 Potato part
 - 23 "Scarface"
 - 26 Come into view
 - 28 Salt Lake City athlete
 - 29 Playful suffix for "best"
 - 32 Vegan salon brand
 - 34 High schoolers, typically
 - 35 Walk-ups, often
 - 36 Feathery perennial
 - 37 Kagan on the Court
 - 38 Intervals
 - 39 Italian city known for its limoncello
 - 40 Allison Janney's role on "The West Wing"
 - 41 Easter Island
 - 44 Serial performer
 - 45 Self-driving cars have lots of these
 - 51 Post-its, e.g.
 - 52 "Glad you noticed our hard work"
 - 55 Some Greek letters
 - 57 Insta post
 - 59 Kinda sorta
 - 61 Sister of Helios

Easy

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



Medium

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

CALENDAR WEEKLY EVENTS

THURSDAY

MARCH 21

• 1940'S DECADES BOWL

Bowl into the past with a 1940s-decade theme, with accordingly themed cocktails, attire, and music.

ALL DAY | SPARE ME BOWL & ARCADE
404 E. COLLEGE ST.

• BOOK MATTERS: CHRISTOPHER GOETZ W/ CORY CREEKMUR

Join author Christopher Goetz as he discusses his newest book, "The Counterfeit Coin: Videogames and Fantasies of Empowerment," in conversation with Cory Creekmur, a University of Iowa associate professor of cinematic arts.

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

FRIDAY

MARCH 22

• J.E. SUNDE WITH CHRASH

Minneapolis, Minnesota, songwriter and classical composer J.E. Sunde's voice has been described as "some sort of weird angel." They will perform alongside local Iowa City band, Chrash.

7:30 P.M. | THE JAMES THEATER
213 N. GILBERT ST.

SATURDAY

MARCH 23

• BODY PARTS

Artist Beppie Weiss's workshop will focus on improving anatomical artwork. Materials will not be provided.

10 A.M. | ARTIFACTORY
120 N. DUBUQUE ST.

• TRIPLE I TOUR

The live performance will bring local artists the Zeffster, Patty, Yung Chapo, Scott Miller, and Uncontrol & Spit, to Gabe's upstairs venue.

5:30 P.M. | GABE'S IOWA CITY
330 E. WASHINGTON ST.

• DUSTY SLAY

Dusty Slay, a stand-up comedian with over half a million followers on TikTok, a Netflix special, and a Comedy Central set under his belt will perform at the Englert.

7 P.M. | ENGLERT THEATRE
221 E. WASHINGTON ST.

SUNDAY

MARCH 24

• THEATRE READING: IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER

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.

2:30 P.M. | THE STANLEY MUSEUM OF ART
160 W. BURLINGTON ST.

• SCREENING AND Q&A: STRANGER AT THE GATE

Oscar-nominated filmmaker Joshua Seftel will host a screening and live Q&A for his film, "Stranger at the Gate," about a young Afghan refugee and a U.S. Marine with a plan to bomb their community.

3 P.M. | FILMSCENE AT THE CHAUNCEY
404 E. COLLEGE ST.

MONDAY

MARCH 25

• SARAH ROSE ETTER

Author Sarah Rose Etter will read from her bestselling novel, "Ripe," in conversation with "In the Dream House" author Carmen Maria Machado. Ripe has received praise from *Time Magazine* and *Huffington Post*, among others.

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

UI exhibit showcases book history

The main library exhibit will be open to the public until June.

Riley Dunn
Arts Reporter
riley-dunn@uiowa.edu

When people walk through the University of Iowa Main Library's newest exhibit, they are transported hundreds of years back with walls lined with old and medieval manuscripts and contemporary artist books that date back centuries.



Ensley



Martin

Co-curated by Eric Ensley and Emily Martin, the "Making the Book, Past and Present" exhibit borrowed materials from the UI's Special Collections and Archives and placed them in conversation with one another. The exhibit is open to the public until June 28.

"What visitors will take away is an appreciation for some of the very different styles of books that are out there," Ensley said. "And how things that are hundreds of years old can be very interesting, alongside objects that

were made by people right here on campus."

Ensley, who serves as the curator of rare books and maps in the UI's Special Collections and Archives, added that the idea behind the exhibit first took root around six years ago, when Ensley was teaching a first-year course at Yale University titled "What is a Book?"

Now at Iowa, he continues to teach the course as a first year seminar. Within the class, he also incorporated studies on Shakespeare-focused artist books created by Martin. Naturally, upon Ensley's arrival in Iowa City, he and Martin decided to meet.

"This whole exhibit is an extension of this kind of ongoing conversation that Eric and I have been having — both before I knew we were having it, and after," Martin said.

Martin has previously taught introductory bookbinding classes, as well as classes on artist books at the UI as an adjunct assistant professor at the Center for the Book since 1998. She has also been a studio artist for many years.

"I think one of the interesting things that comes out, especially in Emily's work — and I hope so in the exhibit as well — is that when we pair these objects, old and new, together, the old objects don't always

say the things that we want them to say," Ensley said, "And so there can be real tensions there with the past and the present."

One of the challenges the curators faced upon putting together this exhibit was trying to come up with something that would entice a community that knows so much about books already.

"We've got a great team of people at the libraries, and so we always learn something new every time we do an exhibit," UI Exhibition and Engagement Coordinator Sara J. Pinkham said. "It's a really interesting job. While I'm not really a subject matter expert, I facilitate the process for those who aren't doing that scholarly work."

Pinkham also said the exhibit was a team effort, as many people came together to make it possible.

As for the pieces included, Ensley and Martin had long discussions with one another about which materials would make for the best showing. They also wanted to include various pieces to reach different audiences.

"We were trying to not have any kind of redundancies as far as sort of showing the same thing again, even though we really loved the books that we had to leave out," Martin said.

'Recital Attendance' course brings music variety to students



The UI course, introduced in Fall 2023, has a curriculum that requires students to attend music recitals.

Riley Dunn
Arts Reporter
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The University of Iowa course "Recital Attendance" gives music and non-music majors the opportunity to attend musical recitals for academic credit.

For music majors, this course is mandatory yet still enjoyable, some students say.

"You spend a lot of time alone with your thoughts at [these recitals] and for me that's helpful. They allow me to think about things going on in my life in general," UI music student Sam Greiner said. "You also get exposure to different cultures."

Greiner, who took the class for music majors in the Fall 2023 semester, enjoyed seeing new and different types of musical expression through the recitals. For example, one performance he went to see included Indiana prayer songs, as well as jazz music. The fusion was unique to Greiner, as he had never heard anything like it before.

His biggest advice for music majors taking the course would be to not wait until the last second to attend performances. Pushing them until the last moment could cause unneeded stress and anxiety before finals season.

"If you wait too long, you limit the options of things you can go to," Greiner said. "Personally, I don't want to go to seven classical woodwind recitals in a row. So, I think it really helps if you plan and look at the whole schedule for the semester. Just pick out as many that sound interesting as possible."

If students find themselves in a time crunch, Greiner recommends attending a jazz performance, as many of them are both entertaining and are under an hour long — making for a low time commitment for attendees.

Finding recitals to go to is simple as well. When looking through courses on MyUI, students simply have to go onto the recital attendance course page to find a link to a list of future performances on the School of Music's website.

"Being exposed to great music — and even world-renowned performance through Hancher — is a great benefit for [students] who attend," UI School of Music professor Volkan Orhon said.

Orhon enjoys the fact that students are exposed to recital etiquette through this course. He also believes it is important for students to attend performances that are headlined by current music majors, as well as UI faculty.

In regard to current student performers, there are also degree recitals included on the course calendar. These recitals are for senior music majors who have this performance included as part of their degree. Students who decide to attend these recitals can show support for fellow creatives.

"I think students like the class. And even outside of that class setting, we have other opportunities that we offer in the School of Music," Orhon said. "I'm a performer, so I know it is important to walk on stage and see an entire audience as opposed to five people."

PLAYLIST

ICONS FROM IRELAND

I'M SHIPPING UP TO BOSTON | Dropkick Murphys
LINGER | The Cranberries
THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN | Thin Lizzy
SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY | U2
FROM EDEN | Hozier

'Eternal Sunshine' is somewhat enjoyable

The album follows Ariana Grande's life changes.

Sophia Connolly
Arts Reporter
sophia-connolly@uiowa.edu

Pop megastar Ariana Grande's eighth studio album, "Eternal Sunshine" was released March 8 and follows the end of her relationship with her ex-husband Dalton Gomez. However, fans were expecting something different.

The album gained popularity and hype due to Grande's recent controversies. Most people have heard about the relationship drama between her and her "Wicked" co-star, Ethan Slater. Their affair took social media by storm, on X, formerly known as Twitter, where many people heavily criticized Grande.

An X user wrote a post on Feb. 24 that read: "Me if there is a song about Ethan Slater on Eternal Sunshine," along with a link to another tweet of a meme with a disapproving face.

Grande's new album responds to some of the hate. In a few songs, she expresses her lack of attention to the criticism she's received through repetition of the phrase: "Yes, and?"

The album was named after Michel Gondry's 2004 movie "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind", where a couple pays money to forget about each other and move on only to begin dating each other again after they forget about each other.

Grande's album is about exactly this: trying to forget about her previous relationship as much as possible and move on, but continuously going back to this person.

The majority of the album was filled with sadness and heartbreak — and these were the best parts. Grande sang about her struggles, loneliness, and heartbreak. She questions this in the song "Position" with the lyric "Am I in the right relationship?"

The underlying theme of the album wasn't responding to the hate but rather finding peace after her public divorce from Dalton Gomez. I like that the album focused on this rather than her new affair, as this topic was less controversial and more relatable to other people. Not a lot of people can or want to relate to an affair.

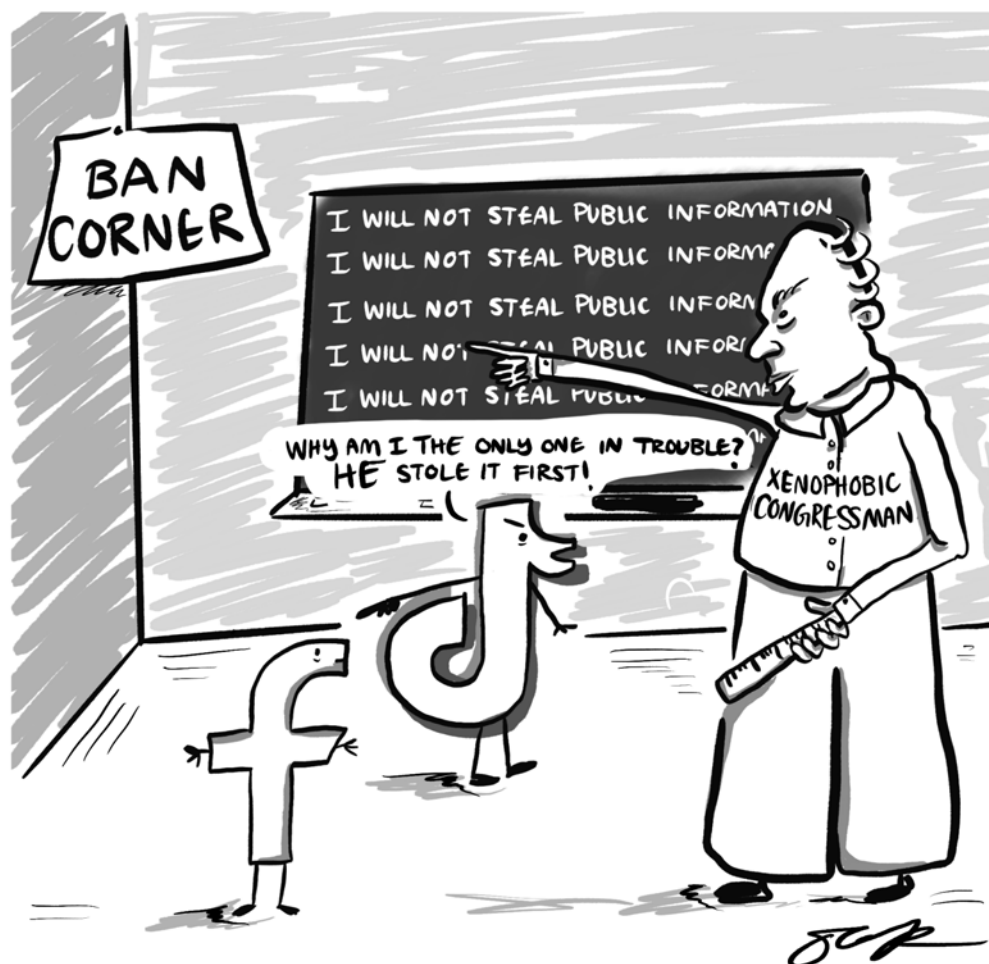
The vibe of the album is typical of Grande with her soft and soothing voice elevating each song on the track list, so those looking for a classic Grande album will love her voice in this.

Grande's voice shines with the classic R&B vibe, which combined with her fast-tracked pop tunes, made listening to this album soothing. The R&B songs were some of the best ones on the album, as those are the most well-written and vulnerable.

The best songs from the album are "Don't Wanna Break up Again," "Saturn Returns Interlude," and "We Can't Be Friends."

While fans may have been expecting an album about affairs, controversies, scandals, and cheating, they can still expect "Eternal Sunshine" to be a typical Ari product and, therefore, enjoyable.

CARTOON



This cartoon does not reflect the views or opinions of *The Daily Iowan*.

Cartoon by Avi Lapchick for *The Daily Iowan*


THREE ELECTRIC PERFORMANCES

FEATURING UI STUDENTS AND FACULTY. ONE VIBRANT CAMPUS WITH CREATIVITY AT ITS HEART.

This semester, join us for brilliant, diverse, eclectic artistry celebrating students, faculty, and staff across the performing arts.

Dance students working with Professor Stephanie Miracle and Professor Eloy Barragan will take to the Hancher stage with the iconic Martha Graham Dance Company. Theatre Arts students will bring a beautiful play to life under the direction of Professor Caroline Clay. And School of Music students will perform a new opera at Hancher with music composed by Professor William Menefield, who will also direct.

Each performance is emblematic of what's possible on a campus committed to collaborative, transformational arts experiences for artists and audiences alike.



MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY GRAHAM100

PRESENTED BY HANCHER AUDITORIUM WITH SUPPORT FROM UI DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

Friday, March 29 / 7:30 p.m.
Hancher Auditorium

An indispensable dance company celebrates 100 years, bringing its founder's classic works to the stage alongside new work by contemporary choreographers. Martha Graham—an icon among 20th century artistic icons—radically expanded the dance vocabulary, and her work has captivated audiences worldwide while influencing generations of artists.

TICKETS
Adults \$65 / \$45
Students & Youth \$10



IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER

By Tarell Alvin McCraney
Directed by Caroline Clay

PRESENTED BY UI DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

Friday–Sunday, April 12–14
& Wednesday–Saturday, April 17–20
Theatre Building

San Pere, Louisiana: Oya runs fast, but her collegiate future is placed on hold to care for her mother. Inspired by Federico García Lorca's *Yerma* and Yoruban cosmology, Tarell Alvin McCraney's *In the Red and Brown Water* is a lyrical offering at the intersection of ancestral myth and ritual about a young woman's coming-of-age navigating lovers, community, and her chosen path.

TICKETS
Adults \$20
Students & Youth \$15
Youth & Non-UI Students \$10
UI Students \$5



FIERCE

Music by William Menefield
Libretto by Sheila Williams
Directed by William Menefield

PRESENTED BY HANCHER AUDITORIUM, PERFORMING ARTS PRODUCTION UNIT,
AND UI SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Friday & Saturday, April 26 & 27 / 7:30 p.m.
Hancher Auditorium

An opera for the 21st Century, *Fierce* follows four teenage girls finding identity and purpose in the world as they write their college essays in a high school writers' workshop. The young women face striking internal challenges—the difficulties of high school popularity and social media, the weight of parental expectations, personal loss, and unstable lives at home—but come together to find community, self-empowerment, and the confidence to embrace new chapters.

TICKETS
Adults \$20
Youth & Non-UI Students \$10
UI Students \$5

PERFORMING
ARTS AT IOWA

SCHOOL OF MUSIC
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF DANCE
HANCHER AUDITORIUM
PERFORMING ARTS PRODUCTION UNIT

→ MORE INFO AND TICKETS AT
[PERFORMINGARTS.UIOWA.EDU](https://performingarts.uiowa.edu)

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