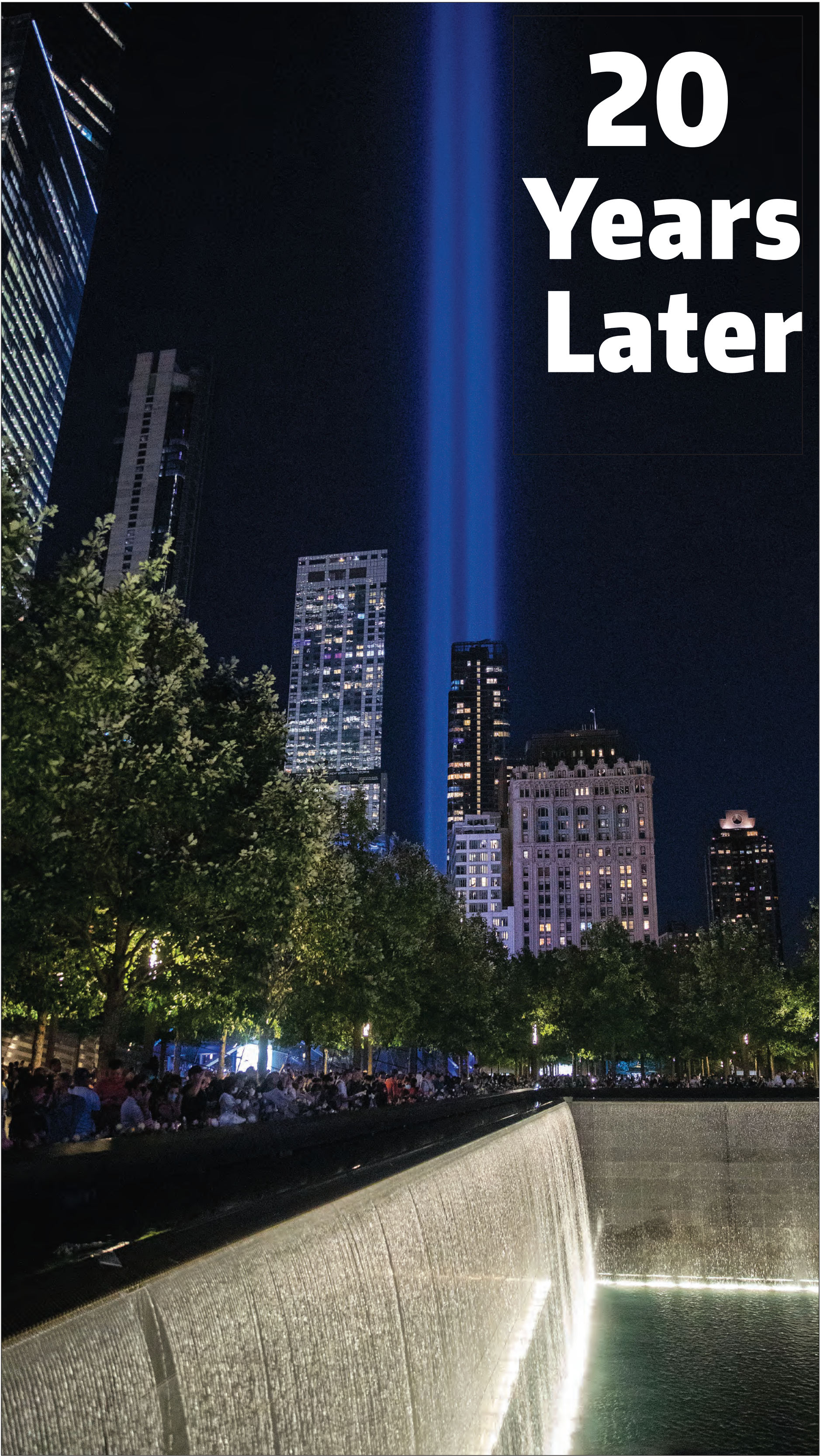


The Daily Iowan

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COMMUNITY SINCE 1868

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20 Years Later

Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

The 9/11 'Tribute in Light' is seen at the 9/11 Memorial in New York City on Saturday, the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

DITV

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Rachel Schilke and Josie Fischels
Senior Print Editor and Managing Editor

"A day of infamy."
That was the headline of *The Daily Iowan's* paper on Sept. 12, 2001, one day after Al-Qaeda terrorists carried out suicide attacks aboard three hijacked planes that flew into the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington D.C.
Twenty years later, America is still reflecting on and recovering from a day that killed nearly 3,000 people and plunged the nation into despair, confusion, and darkness.

Over the years, the *DI* has discussed with professors, students, and the community, recounting memories of the events and experiences felt by those in New York at the time and those feeling the impacts at home.
Today, even the senior class working at the *DI* have no memory of the twin towers crumbling to the ground before the nation's eyes. But in 2001, the *DI* sent a team of college reporters to New York City to report on the tragedy — an effort that required them to drive overnight on the weekend after tragedy struck.

The team left a university campus also reeling from the attack in New York, where stunned students crowded around television screens in the Iowa Memorial Union and gathered on the Pentacrest by the hundreds for a candlelight vigil.

Making a plan

Most people who remember 9/11 remember exactly where they were when they heard the news. When journalists heard the news,

IN MEMORIAM



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan
Firefighters lay flowers, hats, and a photo down onto a name at the 9/11 Memorial in New York City on Saturday, the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

9/11 anniversary: Scenes from ground zero

Near ground zero in New York City, scenes of reflection were present all throughout the day on Sept. 11, 2021.

Josie Fischels
Managing Editor

NEW YORK — In New York City, scenes of mourning, remembrance, and reflection on the 9/11 attacks could be seen from the moment the sunlight broke over the city to the moment the moon took its place in the sky.

The day marked the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, the sting of the day was just as visible near ground zero as it had been every year since the twin towers fell.

The blue, cloudless day began with thousands gathering at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum for a four-hour private ceremony for families of 9/11 victims. The annual reading of names took place, and moments of silence marked each minute a plane hit or one of the towers fell. President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden, former President Barack Obama, and former President Bill Clinton all attended the commemoration.

At the memorial fountain, which marks the spot where each World Trade Center tower stood, people left gifts and stuck flow-



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan
A photo of firefighter Robert "Bobby" Evans is displayed at a memorial outside of the FDNY Ten House fire station in New York City, New York, on Friday, Sept. 10 the day before the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

ers and small flags into the etched names of those lost on 9/11.

On the outskirts of the memorial, members of the public gathered in crowds behind fences. Some watched live coverage of the commemoration on their phones, others looked on soberly at the spot where

the towers once stood. Even further out, some promoted conspiracy theories on the sidewalks. Some protested President Biden's presence at the commemoration.

The weekend was also noticeably marked by parents educating their children about terrors that occurred before they were born.

"Did 9/11 happen during the day?" one boy asked his father as the two stood before the FDNY Ten House memorial wall the night before the 20th anniversary.

After the commemoration on Saturday, the 9/11 Memorial Plaza was open to the public. Thousands gathered around each me-

The Daily Iowan

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STAFF

Publisher | 335-5788
Jason Brummond

Executive Editor | 335-6030
Caleb McCullough

Managing Editors
Rylee Wilson, Josie Fischels

Managing Digital Editor
Kelsey Harrell

Asst. Digital Editor
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Elisabeth Neruda

DITV Asst. News Director
Julia Richards

DITV Sports Director
Destinee Cook

BREAKING NEWS
Phone: (319) 335-6030
Email: daily-iowan@uiowa.edu

CORRECTIONS
Call: 335-6030
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daily-iowan-circ@uiowa.edu

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Send address changes to:
The Daily Iowan,
100 Adler Journalism Building,
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-2004

BUSINESS STAFF

Business Manager | 335-5786
Debra Plath

Advertising Director/Circulation | 335-5784
Juli Krause

Production Manager | 335-5789
Heidi Owen

morial fountain, taking photos next to names, leaving items, or standing for a moment to silently look out at the water that poured down into the center of each fountain.

In the afternoon, New York resident Jody Lee came to the memorial fountain alone to pay respects to those who had lost their lives.

"The sorrow was overwhelming," she said of that day 20 years ago. "My son was supposed to be here, he was supposed to be in this building, but he had a business in Portland."

Looking out at the fountain, Lee said — although she didn't know anyone who had died on 9/11 — she felt it was necessary to come to the memorial on a day when those who lost their lives would be remembered properly.

"I've been here before,

just on any day, and I was appalled that a lot of people were treating it like a tourist attraction — taking selfies and laughing," she said. "And I thought, 'This is a gravesite, folks. Let's keep a perspective here, thousands of people died in this spot.' And so I felt like I wanted to honor it with people who were really feeling the depth of that loss."

At night, people walked with their phone cameras tilted upward to snag a picture of the Tribute in Light shooting twin beams of blue into the sky.

"These are all our people. This is our blood, these are our folks, whoever they are, whatever country they were from," Lee said. "The loss was bigger than lives lost, it was a blow to our country, a blow to our financial industry — everything changed."

josie-fischels@uiowa.edu

UI alum, NY firefighter recalls 9/11

University of Iowa alum and New Yorker Michael Weinstock was a volunteer firefighter when his department was called to help the rescue efforts after 9/11. Twenty years later, he reflects on that day.



Contributed
Michael Weinstock speaks with students at Silverstein Hebrew Academy on Sept. 10.

Josie Fischels
Managing Editor

NEW YORK — Michael Weinstock was certain he was dreaming.

It was a clear, sunny day in New York City, and yet, somehow, it was snowing. The flakes drifted down around him softly, blanketing the world in silence and whiteness. But something was wrong — the snow was warm. It muted the world too suddenly.

"For about two or three minutes I felt nothing but that way because, up until that moment, I was sure it was a dream," he said.

Weinstock felt relief because up until that moment that day, he had been witness to a tragedy. The University of Iowa alum was a volunteer firefighter and EMT on 9/11. The "snow"

he and thousands of others saw was asbestos drifting down from the fallen World Trade Center twin towers.

Twenty years later, he can still recall the day in great detail.

Sept. 11, 2001 was supposed to be the first day of Weinstock's vacation from volunteering at the station. He'd planned to meet up with friends from college in Chicago. When the announcer on his radio said a plane had struck one of the twin towers, he didn't even climb out of his lofted bed to look out the window. His fire department was all the way across New York and had never responded to an accident in lower Manhattan, where he lived with a view of the towers.

But then the radio announcer, Howard Stern, started to sound panicked.

"That panic made me climb down and look across the river," he said. "And I looked across, and I knew right away, from the incredible amount of black smoke pouring out the tower, that this was going to be a mass casualty incident with a huge number of fatalities."

And so, Weinstock sprang into action. Grabbing only a fire department T-shirt and a bag of medical supplies, he flagged down the first ambulance he saw and jumped on.

When they arrived at the base of the towers, both were still standing, but it didn't last long.

"We parked our rig and we were pulling out supplies, getting ready to go into the first tower," he said. "As we were unloading the ambulance, I felt the ground shake, and I heard the loud-

est noise I'd ever heard in my entire life — just incredible rumbling."

He made eye contact with his working partner. The two dropped their equipment and ran. The South Tower was coming down.

They ran into a bank and immediately began treating burn victims with water and seltzers that had been left out for a meeting that never took place. Weinstock then went outside to grab more medical supplies from an ambulance that hadn't been crushed, but he was met with a peculiar sight.

"What had earlier been a very dramatic, frightening emergency scene turned into a snowy day. It was snowing outside," he said. "It was warm snow, and it was landing just like snow, and just like snow quiets the whole world when there's a full snowstorm, it was snowing outside and it was suddenly quiet."

He felt relief — but it was short lived. The second tower came down shortly after, while he and others were helping move an injured firefighter. This was no dream — it was a never-ending nightmare.

The nightmare only worsened when later that day, Weinstock learned that his close friend Johnathan Ielpi had died.

"That's when the day went from surreal to tragic," he said.

Weinstock says it still stings when the anniversary of 9/11 comes around on his September calendar, but 20 years later, he says that

what he remembers most of all is how people helped one another that day.

"The immigrants at their pushcarts who didn't run away when they were scared but stayed at their pushcarts and gave away all the bottles of Snapple iced tea and all the water to people running by who were scared — I think of that," he said. "I think of the men at the base of the Manhattan bridge who weren't rescue workers, but they stayed for hours helping people climb up on the roadway and get secure and on their own two feet before walking across the Manhattan bridge."

Most of all, he said, he thinks of his friend.

"I loved him like a brother," he said. "He was an awesome guy with a mischievous sense of humor, and a wonderful, yet imperfect, sense of right and wrong, and I miss him."

josie-fischels@uiowa.edu

S	L	O	E	A	G	A	R	L	O	A	M	S
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Easy	7	4	6	9	5	1	8	2	3
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- Take a photo of your bike for identification.

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9/11

Continued from Front

wherever they were, many found themselves in the newsroom immediately afterward to report on it.

Then-*DI* Editor-in-Chief and current *New York Times* Editor on Business Desk Joe Plambeck was sitting in his apartment when then-*DI* Publisher Bill Casey called him and told him to turn on the news. The first tower had been hit.

“I saw the second tower get hit, and it was this clear realization that something very, very big was happening,” Plambeck said.

Within a couple of hours, he and other editors at the newspaper were gathered to determine how they wanted to cover the events of the day, Plambeck said.

“This is not going to be a day-long story: It’s going to be a long story, so be prepared,” he remembers the conversation going. “In some ways, it was rallying the troops.”

He said it did not matter what beat a reporter had — everyone was expected to contribute to the coverage, whether on campus or in New York. Even the sports section was filled with 9/11 cov-

chaos of the attack — the atmosphere was somber, quiet, and uncomfortable.

“That’s when [Plambeck] asked me, ‘Would you be willing to go to New York?’” she recalled. “I really wanted to say no, but I said yes because my philosophy at that time was to say yes to any story — any opportunity.”

Plambeck said he wanted someone with Rossi’s skills to be there. While photographer Conrad Schmidt and reporter Peter Boylan were eager to cover the attack on the ground, Plambeck said Rossi was a bit more hesitant.

Rossi said her initial reaction came from a place of fear surrounding the situation.

“I think it was just scary. News is a lot like that, you know? When a new thing happens, sometimes it’s just scary,” she said. “Like, sometimes I had that feeling, even before that, like, ‘I don’t want to go to that fire. I don’t want to see what I’m going to see, but that’s the job.’”

Some of Rossi’s memories are hazy, especially when she was traveling to New York. However, she does remember having to wash her hair in a gas station sink before entering New York.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

The front of the Sept. 12, 2001 edition of *The Daily Iowan* print newspaper.

erage, as most upcoming games were canceled or postponed because of the tragedy.

Plambeck added that he only wanted to send a few people to New York — those that he knew were experienced and could get the job done.

Lisa Rossi (then Lisa Livermore), former *DI* reporter and current comedian, was a 20-year-old student at the University of Iowa and the *DI*’s city editor on 9/11. When she heard the news, Rossi said, her first reaction wasn’t to jump into action — it was to turn the radio off and hide.

“No no no no no no no,” Rossi said, shaking her head.

She said she had a strong feeling at the Iowa Memorial Union, where she had gone to bury herself in her history textbook to study and block out the day, that it was going to be difficult when she entered the newsroom later that day.

“I went to the deepest darkest depths of [the IMU] and I just tuned it out for a while, because ... it was like my last moment of peace for myself,” Rossi said.

Eventually, she entered the *DI* newsroom. She was the last one there, and she said — despite the

Upon arrival, Rossi said the team put on their *DI* T-shirts and hoped that if Iowans were there, they would reach out to them. She said they ran into the New York University president and interviewed him.

“He was very traumatized. There were things he could not talk about,” she said. “It triggered a lot of traumatic memories, I think from war, for him.”

Flipping through the reporter’s notebook she’d kept with her in New York, Rossi found a note she had written to herself pointing to something strange at the end of the article after her story was published.

“He was like, ‘We weren’t ready for this,’” she said. “And he was like, ‘You know, you’re in Iowa. It’ll get ya.’”

She said he was right. “I think we in Iowa felt that perhaps maybe this wouldn’t affect us,” she said.

She read more excerpts from her journal — personal notes about her experiences interviewing sources.

“I clenched my teeth writing this portion of the narrative. Large buses crammed with volunteers seemed to miraculously materialize from ground zero,” Rossi wrote.



Zach Boyden-Holmes/The Daily Iowan

Iowa City resident Kitty Lake and her children listen at the candle light vigil at the Pentacrest on Sept. 11, 2001.

“I stared at them all with bulging eyes and hands dirtied by death. They angrily stared back ... most rejected my pathetic attempts to interview, they dodged my attempts to characterize them as heroes.”

of them are rough. This year, however, she was given the gift of a “really beautiful memory.”

“I didn’t do well with 9/11 there. There got to be a point where I got kind of traumatized. And I was drinking, I threw up, I cried and stopped talking,” she said, close to tears. “At some point, me and the team stopped into a comedy club, and the comedian was like, ‘I know this just happened and it’s not funny, but I want to keep looking for the light.’”

She said she felt “like garbage” and the comedian was healing for her. It is hard for her to complete interviews on the subject because she feels like she doesn’t have a right to be talking about her trauma.

“That’s where I feel like the conflict about that, because for me, it was a pivotal moment in my life as a young adult. So, there’s just a lot of personal drama going on with me,” she said. “But you know, like starting my career, starting my life after this big thing, but there’s still people, I mean, it ruined their lives and they’re still looking for answers. And that’s where I feel so conflicted. I’m like, ‘Who am I to be talking about this?’ But I was a witness to it.”

Rossi said witnessing the aftermath of 9/11 left her without a sense of purpose and caused her to view journalism cynically for a while. She left the *DI* for two weeks upon her return to Iowa.

“I was just like, ‘I’ve just seen so much, and how does it help? How am I helping?’” she said. “We get into journalism to make a difference, and it didn’t feel like I was.”

She said she has a clip of the article she wrote in her journal — one that she despised.

“I just have such a negative view of it. For me, I didn’t feel that good, although when I read it now, you know, it’s not

rocket science: You write down what people say to you — you write down what you saw,” Rossi said. “...I definitely went there being like, ‘Yay, I get to witness history, what a privilege, what a special thing that I would get to do.’ But I didn’t come back feeling like that. I honestly wish I would have not seen that.”

Rossi knew she needed therapy after 9/11 but did not start it up until she was around 37-years-old. Now, she lives her life doing things she wants to do: meditating, exercising, and journaling every day, and prioritizing mental health.

“It’s a work in progress, and you know, that’s the thing I’m like, ‘God if I could have just — when I think about some other people getting the help right away — would be so wonderful.’ But it’s definitely a big focus in my life, you know, to take care of that,” she said.

A campus in mourning, but not at a standstill

The sky was clear in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001. At 8:46 a.m. Eastern time, the World Trade Center Towers, commonly known as the twin towers, collapsed.

In Iowa City, the air was cool and the sky was clear — and the gravity of the event was certainly felt.

UI Professor of Religious Studies Raymond Mentzer — then brand-new to the role — was at home, preparing for his class and listening to Iowa Public Radio when the announcer said, “There’s a report of an airplane crashing into the World Trade Center.”

“Now, I imagined a little private plane. I mean, who would have thought [it was] a large passenger plane?” Mentzer said. “Then a little bit later, she said, ‘Well no, this is really serious.’”

He said both he and his wife had lived through

President John F. Kennedy’s assassination, and that most Americans who were alive that day remember where they were at that exact moment.

“This is very much the same,” he said.

Mentzer said the reaction to news of the attack in his class was delayed, partly because of the lack of social media. In his Medieval and Religious Culture class, he recalled that the majority of the students were Christian, and a few were Jewish. Two were Muslim.

He said a student of his made an “uncharitable remark” about the attack, which prompted Mentzer to ask his students to reserve judgement.

“We didn’t know what happened exactly. There was this sense that somehow these were Islamic terrorists, but no one knew for sure,” he said. “At one point I felt I needed to say, ‘Look, no matter who did this, keep in mind that we’ve had homegrown terrorists.’”

But on that day, even as students stood shocked in front of screens, the UI did not cancel any classes or events, although university officials considered it. According to the Sept. 12 edition of the *DI*, some classes still reflected on and discussed the 9/11 attacks, and some were released early.

Then-UI President Mary Sue Coleman said the best way to respond was to “continue our work and studies...and not be paralyzed by the horrific events that have occurred.”

Coleman held a two-hour fireside chat, where tears ran down the faces of attendants. She had told students it was imperative to continue moving forward while also discussing the tragedy.

“It is very important for us to carry on,” Coleman had said. “I think terrorists win if we just stop. We shouldn’t be paralyzed.”

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Ben Plank/The Daily Iowan

All flights were canceled on Sept. 11, 2001, at the North East Iowa Airport.



9/11
Continued from Front

Plambeck remembered that, when Coleman made these statements, most of the campus agreed with her.

“It was something that happened to the United States, but it was also something that didn’t happen next door, in a way that, you know, talk to people in New York about today, and it really changed their life,” Plambeck said. “It didn’t have that sort of impact in Iowa City. It was a little more abstract.”

At the end of the semester, Mentzer said a student of his responded in an evaluation that he was the only professor she had who had mentioned the attack on the twin towers on Sept. 11.

“People, both faculty and students, were sort of feeling their way through this, trying to make sense of it before discussing it,” he said.

One student during the fireside chat had suggested the U.S. bomb Middle Eastern countries immediately, while another said the country shouldn’t.

He added that he refrained from bringing the incident up during his classes because of its sensitive nature. He didn’t want to create a situation

Source: *The Daily Iowan*, Sept. 21, 2001. Infographic by Caleb McCullough

that could potentially make the Muslim students feel ill at ease.

Muslim students in 2001 were fearful of prejudice, according to an article from the *DI*. One student, then-UI sophomore Abe Assad, said it was “typical” to blame a Middle Eastern country because of its prior history of terrorism.

Assad, who is half-Palestinian, said at the time he was not fearful for himself, but he could foresee prejudice against others.

Some students at the UI said they were saddened that ethnicity and religion became focal points of the U.S.’s investigation into the attack.

With his background in religious studies, Mentzer understood how to “walk on eggshells,” so he said he deferred to his colleagues who specialized in Islamic studies at the UI to field questions during a department panel held on the attack.

Mentzer said the 20th anniversary of the attacks caught him by surprise, and that the events taught Americans to be more inclusive, from his perspective as a religion instructor.

“I think we have made an effort... to see the broader brushstrokes here, to be a little more inclusive, to be a little more tolerant,” Mentzer said.

“Intolerance, whoever is displaying it — it doesn’t matter who is displaying it or what your faith might be, or no faith whatsoever — it doesn’t really help... It’s probably a cliché to say it’s become a smaller word, but certainly we have more interactions than might have otherwise been the case.”

With the U.S. recently withdrawing all troops from Afghanistan, Plambeck remembers that 20 years ago, everyone was in a state of shock as the U.S. was not involved in any wars at the time.

“We didn’t realize how some people around the world were angry at the U.S., and so there was an innocence, truly, that was lost in that moment,” he said. “... We all had to rethink what was happening in the world, and sort of what we thought about that, and all of those things in a way we hadn’t before.”

Looking back, Plambeck said the reporting done by journalists in New York and on the UI campus was remarkable.

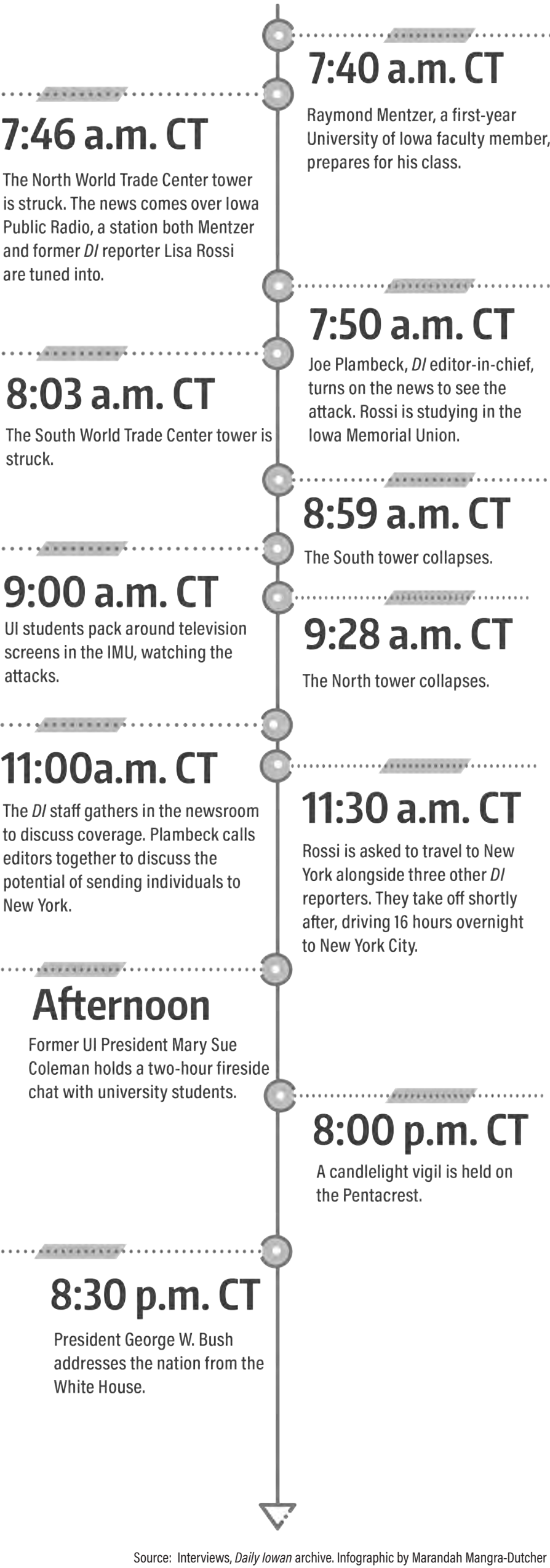
“The amount of stories that were done, the amount of copy that came in, the number of good stuff people collected,” he said. “I mean, it was one of the most amazing things I’ve seen in journalism.”

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Zach Boyden-Holmes/The Daily Iowan

Students watch the news footage of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

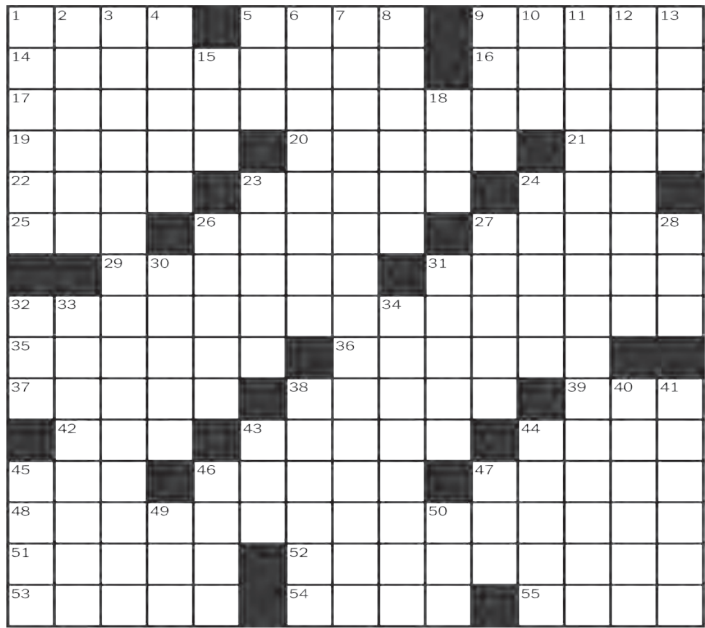


The Daily Break

Puzzle solutions on page 2A

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0806



- Across**
- 1 Fruit used to flavor the liqueur patxaran
 - 5 Culture medium
 - 9 Fertile soils
 - 14 Element next to iron on the periodic table
 - 16 Trifling amount
 - 17 Threat that’s hard to take seriously
 - 19 “Gracious!” informally
 - 20 “___ has poor memory”: Gabriel García Márquez
 - 21 Lead-in to night or day
 - 22 Things sometimes named after queens
 - 23 Invigorating
 - 24 Fictional operator of the Discovery One spaceship
 - 25 Put on the line, say
 - 26 Psychoanalyst Fromm
 - 27 Chap
 - 29 The end of time?
 - 31 When repeated, name in 1968 news
 - 32 Response from Siri
 - 35 Charlotte ___, capital of the U.S. Virgin Islands
 - 36 Trifling amounts
 - 37 So-called “Father of the Italian Language”
 - 38 Most highly prized collectible coins
 - 39 Poster impostor?
 - 42 Trig function
 - 43 Dice, for instance
 - 44 Source of ruin
 - 45 Something you might throw in frustration
 - 46 Foil alternative, in Fulham
 - 47 Lisa of “A Different World”
 - 48 “Well, aren’t you so darn special!”
 - 51 Completely bought

- Down**
- 1 Got ready for a photo, say
 - 2 Old Hollywood actress born in Austria-Hungary
 - 3 Title rock lyric before “I’m gonna find ya / I’m gonna get ya, get ya, get ya, get ya”
 - 4 “Heavens to Murgatroyd!”
 - 5 Alex and ___ (jewelry chain)
 - 6 Hits the jackpot, say
 - 7 Exceedingly obtuse
 - 8 Go over
 - 9 & 10 Miss the boat
 - 11 Branch of agriculture pertinent to dairy farmers and cattle ranchers
 - 12 Longtime N.B.A. head coach Nate
 - 13 ___ money
 - 15 Partner of all
 - 18 Pain to a pediatrician?
 - 23 Director Cameron
 - 24 Judean king
 - 26 Woman’s name that becomes a different woman’s name when its third and fourth letters are switched
 - 27 Marching band instruments
 - 28 What “n” might mean
 - 30 Foes of the Romans
 - 31 Fathers
 - 32 “I was ___!”
 - 33 Starve
 - 34 Like a large garage or small pileup
 - 38 Badly chafe
 - 40 Feature of Herman on “The Simpsons”
 - 41 Moon of Saturn
 - 43 Half-___ (latte order)
 - 44 Stirrups, e.g.
 - 45 Kerfuffle
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COLUMN

Opinions

Fall of Afghanistan threatens national security

If Taliban-led Afghanistan becomes a safe haven for extremism, U.S. national security could be at risk.



Dylan Hood
Opinions Columnist

Sept. 11, 2001 was one of the darkest days in U.S. history. I remember getting off the bus when I was in second grade with the only knowledge in my mind being that I had gotten out of school early. As soon as my feet hit the pavement, my mother picked me up and rushed me into the house. She told me what happened, but I couldn't conceptualize the gravity of what occurred. The two-decade war in response to these events was one that cost trillions of dollars and took thousands of American lives. With the last hold-out valley in Afghanistan falling to Taliban rule, the U.S. is in just as much danger now as it was before the war. We knew the Taliban would surge back after the end of our occupation. Despite the equipment we provided them with, the training we

gave, and infrastructure we built, the Afghan military was weak. We spent two decades attempting to strengthen a military force that was split between national and Taliban allegiance. Afghan military on U.S. military attacks, also known as green on blue, spiked. There was very little faith in the Afghan military to withstand the resurgence of the Taliban in our absence. Though this was a predicted outcome, the speed of the Taliban's overtaking of the country was a surprise. The U.S. was expecting them to make their big push months after we had left the country, not days before we left. Now that the Taliban has solidified their rule in Afghanistan for the foreseeable future, the ability for extremist organizations to operate out of the region is an immediate danger to U.S. national security. ISIS-K — the ISIS affiliate operating out of Afghanistan — and Al-Qaida now have an unchecked opportunity to operate out of the country. As a current member of the Iowa Army National Guard and previous member of the Virginia Army National Guard, I have personal

“After the suicide bombing that claimed the lives of 13 U.S. service members, there is an indication that ISIS-K is starting to increase the speed and scope of its operations.

experience with a region affected by ISIS. During my first deployment to Qatar in 2015-2016 with Virginia, I worked on an Entry Control Point, where we screened and validated base access for anyone attempting to gain entry to our base. As Christmas 2015 approached, the intelligence officials at our post informed us that ISIS had made a claim to attack the U.S. Military Installation in Qatar. We were brought into the post movie theater by the company and given the details of the nature of the suspected attack. The attack was due to Qatar's cooperation and willingness to partner with the U.S. in military activities and was to be carried out before Christmas Day. It was also expected to be triggered by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, or as we in the military commonly know it, a VBIED. We all knew based on our training that VBIEDs are the deadliest kinds of

IED because of the ability to pack more explosive material than by any other means. To make all of this even worse, the attack was expected to be on our gate, during the shift we were on. Tension for the next month was extremely high on every shift. Each car that came to our gate had the potential to send us home in a body bag. During one of my shifts, an individual in a white ski mask on a dirt bike drove up to our gate at roughly 2 a.m. We signaled the man to drive forward but were promptly ignored. It wasn't until we grabbed our M4 rifles and approached the man that he quickly turned around and sped out the inbound vehicle lane. After we endured the uncertain weeks of December, we were able to work a bit more comfortably as ISIS was being quickly dismantled by U.S. air strikes and ground operations. The group was being

displaced and were no longer believed to be a direct and immediate threat to our base. After the suicide bombing that claimed the lives of 13 U.S. service members, there is an indication that ISIS-K is starting to increase the speed and scope of its operations. ISIS-K intends to create chaos and undermine the sitting government with the end goal of becoming a global caliphate that transcends national borders. ISIS's strength increases when it operates within a nation with political instability. The unstable political landscape allows the organization to recruit, train, and gain resources from its host nation. Unsteady politics allows for those who are unhappy with the sitting government to be more susceptible to ISIS's influence. The future is very uncertain for not only Afghanistan but for the rest of the world. With more questions than answers surrounding the embattled country, countries must continue to strengthen and enforce their national security policies. Whether or not anyone likes it, a Taliban-ruled Afghanistan is here to stay for now. The major

question is what kind of government will the Taliban create? Will they stay true to their word of being a legitimate government that can be recognized on the world stage? Or will the group continue with its reign by terror policy, where it executes, beats, and segregates. A unified Afghanistan with a functional and competent Taliban-backed government is one that is better for the U.S. national security interests as ISIS and the Taliban aren't strategic partners. The Taliban wants to rule over Afghanistan while ISIS threatens on a global scale due to the scope of its operations. Taliban leadership will not allow the freedom of movement that they did for Al-Qaida. But if the people continue to fear for their lives and remain unhappy, recruitment to ISIS becomes more of a possibility. A resurgent ISIS that is taking advantage of the political revolution going on in Afghanistan is the biggest threat to U.S. national security interests currently. If we hope to control the growth of the terrorist organization, it starts with a functional government in Afghanistan.

dylan-hood@uiowa.edu

COLUMN

Revamping Iowa Democrats' strategy

Iowa Democrats need progressive policies and aggressive outreach to win in 2022.



Shahab Khan
Opinions Columnist

If the Iowa Democratic Party is going to be competitive again, it must adopt an electoral strategy that combines popular progressive policy positions with a robust voter outreach program. One of the big lessons Iowa politicians learned over the past decade was that Iowa Democrats are really bad at winning state elections. Despite the fact that Iowa is still technically considered a swing state, the Democratic Party has not held any sort of power since the Tea party wave election in 2010. This is because Democrats have not made an effort to connect with Iowa voters. In the 2020 election, Iowa Republicans mobilized its election corps. GOP volunteers reached out to voters by door knocking while political operatives were planning meet and greets for Republican candidates. Democrats on the other hand did none of those things. Instead, citing the pandemic, they chose to expand their online presence. The decision not to hold any type of in-person events ended up costing Democrats dearly as most voters — who tend to be considered

middle aged or older — did not bother to learn about the Democratic Party platform. This essentially allowed Republicans to characterize the Democratic party as socialists looking to restrict the freedoms of Iowans. Democrats can not repeat the mistakes of 2020. They have to build a robust apparatus of operatives and volunteers who will meet with any prospective voter and advertise Democrat's ideas. In addition, Iowa, like most upper-Midwest states, has become redder as manufacturing jobs have left the state. The GOP under Trump has manipulated the racial resentments of these blue-collar workers to win elections. As a result, Democrats have had a harder time winning elections as they have lost their base. This makes door knocking and canvassing even more important. Next, Iowa Democrats need to organize their platform around the median voter theorem. Derived from economics, the median voter theorem contends that if you were to line up voters on a left to right axis, the voter that will decide an election will be the one that holds the most middle-of-the-ground views. In other words, if Democrats and Republicans want to win an election, they must capture moderate voters. Now, that does not mean Democrats should adopt so-called "centrist policies." Rather, they must campaign on a few pro-

gressive policies that are popular with moderate Iowa voters. Some of these popular policies could include raising the minimum wage and providing high speed internet to rural populations. A strategy based on the median voter theorem has been met with some pushback from left-leaning pundits. Often, they are quick to point out that in 2016, former president Donald Trump, who styled himself as a right wing populist won the

presidency by not catering to the so called median voter — except he did. Even if it was inadvertent, voters saw Trump's campaign proposals, such as promising not to cut social security benefits, as more moderate than his opponent at the time, Hillary Clinton, thus vindicating the median voter theorem. Furthermore, these pundits have also attacked public polling — the main method operatives use for finding popular issues

— as inaccurate. Instead, they point to the polling in the 2020 election as being off. It's much more nuanced than that. After conducting a post-mortem of the 2020 election, the election guru Nate Silver argued that while 2020 was a mediocre year for polling, 80 percent of polls were able to correctly pick the winner of the election. Finally, the premiere polling institution in America, the Pew Research Cen-

ter, has argued that pollsters should take steps to improve their polling methodology to get more representative samples of American voters. The current electoral strategy used by Iowa Democrats has left the party in shambles. However, if the party can do a better job of reaching out to voters and remember the guiding principles of the median voter theorem, they can build back better.

shahab-khan@uiowa.edu



Jerrold Ringwald/The Daily Iowan
Iowa Democratic Party Chair Ross Wilburn leads a speech during a rally for voting rights at the Pentacrest on Aug. 28.

STAFF

Caleb McCullough, Executive Editor
Hannah Pinski, Opinions Editor

Yassie Buchanan, Peyton Downing, Dylan Hood, Shahab Khan, Luke Krchak, Ally Pronina, Sophie Stover, Columnists

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Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan
Reverend Mark Timan Perez poses for a portrait with a flag that has traveled through 10 states and 12 parades at the 9/11 Memorial in New York City on Saturday, the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan
Photos, taken by Nathan Max Rosenstein and his father — a victim of the 9/11 attacks — are displayed at the 9/11 Memorial in New York City on Saturday, the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.



Two spectators are seen hugging at the 9/11 Memorial in New York City on Saturday, the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan
The New York City skyline and the 9/11 'Tribute in Light' are seen at the Brooklyn Bridge Park on Saturday, the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

Remembering lives lost

Daily Iowan reporters went to New York on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 to speak to Hawkeyes in the city and report on the remembrance of the tragic day. The anniversary began with a commemoration at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum and ended with the Tribute in Light stretching pillars of light above the city.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan
One of the two 9/11 Memorial pools is seen in New York City on Saturday, the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan
A New York City Fire Department flag march takes place outside of the 9/11 Memorial in New York City on the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan
Two children observe the 9/11 Memorial in New York City on Saturday, the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

UI students reflect on post-9/11 Islamophobia

Three Muslim students who shared how they've faced discrimination in their lives growing up in a post-9/11 America.



From left: Hibah Lateef (contributed), Mushroor Kamal, Aliyan Warraich, Hanaa Masalmeh (contributed).

Hannah Pinski
Amplify Editor

Although people assume Hanaa Masalm's parents forced her to wear a Hijab, she actually made the decision to wear it herself in 7th grade. Masalm wanted to stop hiding her identity and for people to know she was a proud Muslim, despite it potentially making her a target for Islamophobia.

After 9/11, anti-Muslim sentiment rose in response to the terrorist attacks. In 2001, 93 assaults against

Muslims in the U.S. were reported to the FBI. Before 9/11, there were only 12 reported incidents in 2000. Numbers surpassed the 2001 peak in 2016 when it increased to 127 reports during the year.

In addition to the rise of hate crimes, Muslims experienced an increase in discrimination. A Pew Research Center survey conducted in 2017 found that 75 percent of Muslim Americans felt they faced significant discrimination in the U.S.

Half of the respon-

dents believed that being a Muslim in the U.S. has become more difficult in recent years.

Masalm, a University of Iowa law student, said people need to use their freedom of speech to stand up against this discrimination and anti-Muslim sentiment.

"Rights are like muscles: you either use them or lose them," Masalm said. "I haven't seen people speak out when Islamophobia happens, and we need to start questioning the stereotypical

narratives when we see or hear them."

Aliyan Warraich, a UI junior studying human physiology on a pre-med track, faced microaggressions after immigrating from Pakistan to the U.S.

Growing up, some of Warraich's classmates would try to associate him with terrorists, or ask him questions such as, "Where are you from?"

Although sometimes it was meant as a joke, Warraich said he didn't respond to the comments because he wanted to

avoid conflict.

However, he still believed that the remarks were an issue because of the stereotypes they created.

"Because I'm brown and because all the terrorists were also brown, they would try to make associations and ask me where I came from," Warraich said. "It's inherently not a negative comment, but it assumes that you're foreign."

UI sophomore Mushroor Kamal experienced a similar situation to Warraich while growing up in Dubuque, Iowa.

"It would usually be jokes from friends that were based on the basic stereotype of all Muslims being terrorists," Kamal said.

Warraich said the media is partially responsible for Islamophobia because he believes it only exposes people to the most extreme and worst situations. He believes that people need to meet Muslims instead of creating assumptions and generalizations of outlets like social media.

"I think if more people met Muslims rather than through the TV or Twitter or Facebook, I think people would automatically change their perceptions because they would realize some of the stereotypes they have aren't true," Warraich said.

Hibaah Lateef, a second-year UI law student, said Islamophobia comes from individuals at the institutional and governmental levels.

Lateef grew up in Dallas,

Texas, and attended the same Islamic school until she graduated high school. She said protesters would often stand outside her school with guns and yell anti-Muslim chants.

Lateef believes Islamophobia is more than just bigotry and racism. She said it is deeply rooted at a systemic level.

After 9/11, the FBI surveilled mosques and neighborhoods with a dominant Muslim presence. Additionally, Lateef said the ensuing wars in the Middle East made Muslims scared to stand up for human rights because the rhetoric fueled the terrorist stereotype.

"I think that's actually the negative impact of the War on Terror," Lateef said. "Going on the street and someone swearing a slur at you for wearing a Hijab, it sucks, but imagine not being able to advocate for human rights overseas as a result of this rhetoric."

With the consequences Muslims face because of the rise of Islamophobia, Masalm said the U.S. needs to have difficult conversations and question the narratives the media presents.

Masalm believes that one way to combat anti-Muslim sentiment is to fight against stereotypical representation in the media.

"We need to take control of our image in the media," Masalm said. "How they misrepresent us fuels Islamophobia, and we can't let anyone else tell our story."

hannah-pinski@uiowa.edu

Miller-Meeks highlights veterans' mental health

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Iowa, is working on legislation to improve veteran mental health services as VA providers see an uptick in veterans seeking mental health care.

Natalie Dunlap
Politics Editor

Nationwide, more veterans are seeking mental health assistance, feeling the impact of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

There has been a recent nationwide uptick in Veteran Crisis Line referrals, said Rob Otto, a veteran and suicide prevention coordinator in the Iowa City VA Health Care System.

Otto said images from Afghanistan, such as people at the Kabul airport clinging to aircrafts, could exacerbate post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, or feelings of moral injury. Otto said VA mental health workers are also seeing veterans struggle with isolation, anxiety, and increased alcohol and substance use.

"For some, it's kind of an existential crisis. But there are some that are saying, 'Well, it's about time we got out of there.' And then there are some that also are saying, 'Well what were we doing there? Why did we go there in the first place?' So it's really a mixed bag, it's all over the place, but definitely we have seen an impact both mentally and emotionally, from the events in Afghanistan," Otto said.

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Iowa, en-

listed in the U.S. Army in 1971 and served as a nurse and doctor for 24 years. She said that community exists among veterans beyond party lines and that very few veterans felt the timeline of the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan was appropriate, especially with Americans and Afghan allies who hadn't been extricated from Afghanistan.

"I can tell you the number of veterans who have contacted me is extraor-

are aware of the resources the VA can provide them.

Miller-Meeks also co-sponsored a bipartisan and bicameral piece of legislation to improve the Veteran Crisis Line. She said her staff is working on developing legislation to change the requirement that veterans have to live 40 miles away from a VA facility to receive care locally.

She said the impact of the Afghanistan withdrawal, as well as the 20th

“Basically, in the military, it's all about the mission, it's all about the team and an individual's interests and safety and health and wellness, would often take a backseat. I think the message is it's okay not to be okay, and it's a good thing to reach out for help.

— Rob Otto, veteran and Iowa City VA Health Care System suicide prevention coordinator

dinary. They're angry, they're dismayed, they're disheartened-- they feel betrayed," she said. "I feel betrayed as a veteran of the Vietnam War era."

Miller-Meeks joined other Republican lawmakers in calling on the Veterans Affairs Chair Rep. Mike Takano, D-California, to hold a hearing on the short and long term implications that the Afghanistan withdrawal has had on veterans' mental health and to ensure veterans

anniversary of 9/11 on veterans' mental health has been recognized in a bipartisan fashion.

"For veterans— the Vietnam war veterans, the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans— the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, this is extraordinarily difficult for them. Their PTSD has worsened, and their mental health has been challenged," Miller-Meeks said.

Otto said veterans and loved ones concerned about a veteran in their

life can use the Veteran Crisis Line, 1-800-273-8255. Other resources for veterans in need of assistance include the VA's Reach Out campaign, MakeTheConnection.net, VA mental health services, Vet Centers, and County Veteran Service Officers.

He added it does not matter where veterans

reach out, just that they seek help if they are struggling.

"A lot of veterans, myself included, might be kind of reticent to reach out for help because sometimes asking for help is largely frowned upon, it could be considered as a sign of weakness, or if it's considered selfish, even," Otto said.

"Basically, in the military it's all about the mission, it's all about the team and an individual's interests and safety and health and wellness, would often take a backseat. I think the message is it's okay not to be okay, and it's a good thing to reach out for help."

natalie-dunlap@uiowa.edu

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Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-Iowa) speaks to a crowd on April 1 at an Iowa GOP regional reception in Cedar Rapids at the Elmcrest Country Club.

After planes struck the twin towers in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001, all sports, including Hawkeye football, stalled.



Ladell Betts rushes against Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium on Nov. 24, 2001. The matchup was originally set for Sept. 14, 2001, but was postponed because of 9/11 attacks.

During the football season, Iowa head football

Before airports and

“It was just, it was very strange. It was college football, baseball, everything stopped,” Brommelkamp said. “And we didn’t really know how long things were going to be stopped for. There wasn’t gonna be an Iowa-Iowa State game, but what about the next week, and the week after that, and how long were things going to be sort of in this holding pattern.”

"I remember, very vividly, Iowa played at Michigan State that year," Brommelkamp said. "And I remember pulling up in front of the hotel. The hotel we stayed at was the same hotel that Iowa [football] did. And I remember they had police out front, a bomb sniffing dog, and there was,

"That was a very unique aspect of [the Cy-Hawk] game," Brommelkamp said. "With it being the last game of the year, there was something riding on it for both teams. It had been so long in that series since that had

"A lot of us were here, a lot of us lived it, a lot of us remembered it, and a lot of us will be thinking about that probably Saturday, watching that game from the press box."

chloe-peterson@uiowa.edu



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Iowa - 27 Iowa State - 17

Iowa's new all-purpose player

Senior wide receiver Charlie Jones has an expanded role in 2021 as a top receiving option and elite special-teamer.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa wide receiver Charlie Jones catches a ball for a touchdown during a football game between then-No. 10 Iowa and then-No. 9 Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames on Sept. 11.

Chloe Peterson
Assistant Sports Editor

AMES — Charlie Jones is all about confidence.

And not just the type of confidence that prevents him from calling a fair catch even with opposing players nearby, but the confidence that

allows him to transfer from a Mid-American program and walk on at Iowa with the hopes of becoming a contributing wide receiver and lethal special teams player. Well, Jones' confidence has paid off.

The then-No. 10 Hawkeyes took down

the then-No. 9 Cyclones, 27-17, in the most anticipated Cy-Hawk game in series history behind Jones's 144 all-purpose yards — including the first receiving touchdown of his Hawkeye career.

With one minute left in the first half, Jones made

a leaping 26-yard touchdown grab from Hawkeye quarterback Spencer Petras after beating out double coverage with a post route to the middle of the field. The score put Iowa up, 14-3, en route to the team's sixth consecutive win over Iowa State.

"That's one of our base plays," Jones said of the touchdown. "When I lined up, I knew that it was going to be an option for us. Spencer made a perfect throw to a spot that only I could get it so yeah, it was a great play." "It's really just Charlie beating the man that's

responsible for him," Petras added. "... The guys up front protected well. It's a huge play against a really, really good defense. It was just well executed."

To add to his total, Jones recorded 44 yards off Cyclone kickoff returns and 64 yards off punts on Saturday.

JONES | Page 4B

HAWKEYE UPDATES

Hawkeye football takes down Cyclones

AMES — It's still a Hawkeye State. The first-ever Cy-Hawk game between two ranked opponents ended in a 27-17 Iowa victory at Jack Trice Stadium. Iowa State entered Saturday's game favored over Iowa for the first time since 2000, but the result of this year's Cy-Hawk game was the same as it had been in the previous five meetings: a Hawkeye victory.

Iowa has now won six consecutive games against Iowa State, its longest winning streak in the series since the team won 15 in a row from 1983-97. The Cy-Hawk Trophy is headed back to Iowa City.

The Hawkeyes will return to Kinnick Stadium next weekend to host Kent State. The game is scheduled to kick off at 2:30 p.m. and will air on the Big Ten Network.

Iowa jumps to No. 5 in Week 3 AP Poll.

The Iowa football team cracked the top 10 of the Associated Press' poll last week. Now, the Hawkeyes are in the top five.

The Hawkeyes are ranked fifth in the nation in the Week 3 AP Poll released on Sunday afternoon. Coach Ferentz's team jumped five spots after defeating then-No. 9 Iowa State, 27-17, in Ames over the weekend. The Cyclones fell to No. 14 in the latest poll. This is Iowa's highest ranking since it was No. 3 and then No. 4 in late November of 2015. This week's top five:

- Alabama
- Georgia
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Iowa

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Football's football."

—Hawkeye junior center Tyler Linderbaum on playing Iowa State

STAT OF THE DAY

15

Combined punts between the Hawkeyes and Cyclones Saturday

COLUMN

Hawkeyes still on top

The Iowa football team made a statement to Iowa State and the nation with its second dominant win of the season.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa players hoist the Cy-Hawk Trophy after winning a football game between then-No. 10 Iowa and then-No. 9 Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames on Sept. 11. The Hawkeyes defeated the Cyclones 27-17.

AMES — Offensive tackle Jack Plumb and defensive end Zach VanValkenburg paraded across the south end zone at Jack Trice Stadium with the Cy-Hawk Trophy perched on their shoulders, showing it off to the then mostly Hawkeye crowd while singing the school's fight song shortly after Saturday's 27-17 Iowa victory.

Coach Kirk Ferentz choked up when ABC's sideline reporter Holly Rowe asked him about overcoming the hype surrounding No. 9 Iowa State and proving that Iowa is still on top.

Linebacker Jestin Jacobs stuck six fingers in the air as he walked off the field to recognize Iowa's sixth-straight Cy-Hawk victory.

The Hawkeyes made two statements with their win on Saturday: They are one of the

best teams in the country, and Iowa is still a Hawkeye State.

"Obviously it's a big game, plus College GameDay," Jacobs said. "There was a lot of hype around this game. Just to get that win and to get it in hostile territory, it fills you with emotion. You're happy to see your teammates happy. You're happy to see your coaches happy. The emotion comes out. Six comes up. It was a great day for the Hawks."

There have been a lot of great days for the Hawkeyes lately.

Iowa is on an eight-game winning streak dating back to last season. Oh, as far as the start of the 2021 season? Two weeks, two games, two convincing top-20 victories — that's football, as Ferentz enjoys saying.

That's really, really good football.

It's the best football Iowa has ever played in the first two games of the season in 23 years under Ferentz. I don't think it's particularly close.

Iowa followed up a 28-point victory against

REPORT CARD

Grading Iowa's win over Iowa State

High marks all around after another dominant Hawkeye victory.

Robert Read
Pregame Editor

AMES — *Daily Iowan* Pregame Editor Robert Read assessed how the then-No. 10 Iowa football team performed in all three phases in its 27-17 victory over then-No. 9 Iowa State.

Offense



Iowa did enough offensively to win comfortably, and that's really all you can ask for.

The Hawkeyes only compiled 173 yards of total offense, but found the end zone twice and didn't commit a turnover. Quarterback Spencer Petras had a stellar second quarter, going 8-for-10 for 94 yards and his lone passing touchdown. Running back Tyler Goodson only averaged 2.6 yards per carry on 21 rushing attempts.

Defense



Does Iowa have the best defense in the country? Phil Parker's unit is making a case.

The Hawkeyes forced four turnovers, scored their third defensive touchdown of the season, and sent the opposing team's starting quarterback to the bench for the second game in a row on Saturday. All-American Breece Hall was held to 69 rushing yards. Seven of Iowa State's points came in garbage time when the game was all but over.

Special teams



A high snap and a missed field goal are all that's preventing this grade from being an A-plus.

Tory Taylor averaged 51.1 yards per punt and downed four inside the 10-yard line, keeping the Cyclones deep in their own territory throughout the afternoon. Caleb Shudak made two kicks, including one from 51-yards out. And Charlie Jones was lethal as a returner, compiling 108 punt/kickoff return yards. Stellar work from LeVar Woods' special teams unit.

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robert-read@uiowa.edu



The Iowa Hawkeyes huddle up before a football game between then-No. 10 Iowa and then-No. 9 Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames on Saturday.

Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan



Iowa defensive lineman Deontae Craig wraps up Brock Purdy for an assisted sack during a football game between then-No. 10 Iowa and then-No. 9 Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames on Saturday.

Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan



The Iowa State band performs during a football game between then-No. 10 Iowa and then-No. 9 Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames on Saturday.

Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan



Ashton Kutcher walks up to the stage during ESPN College GameDay in Ames on Saturday. ESPN selected Kutcher as the celebrity guest picker for College GameDay. Kutcher, from Cedar Rapids, picked the Hawkeyes to win over the Cyclones.

Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

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HAWKEYES CYCLONES

It's still a Hawkeye state. The Iowa football team defeated Iowa State, 27-17, in the first-ever Cy-Hawk meeting between ranked opponents. The Hawkeye defense forced four turnovers and scored its third touchdown of the season on Saturday at Jack Trice Stadium. Iowa has now won sixth-straight games against Iowa State and is 2-0 to start the 2021 season.



Iowa running back Tyler Goodson stiff-arms defensive back Datrone Young during a football game between then-No. 10 Iowa and then-No. 9 Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames on Saturday.

Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan



Cy enters the stadium during a football game between then-No. 10 Iowa and then-No. 9 Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames on Saturday.

Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan



Iowa State's student section cheers after a touchdown from running back Breece Hall during a football game between then-No. 10 Iowa and then-No. 9 Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames on Saturday.

Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan



Iowa running back Tyler Goodson shushes the Iowa State student section after scoring a touchdown during a football game between then-No. 10 Iowa and then-No. 9 Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames on Saturday.

Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan



Iowa players celebrate at midfield after winning a football game between then-No. 10 Iowa and then-No. 9 Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames on Saturday.

Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan



The Cyclones get set to play during a football game between then-No. 10 Iowa and then-No. 9 Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames on Saturday.

Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan



Iowa defensive back Matt Hankins gets set before a play during a football game between then-No. 10 Iowa and then-No. 9 Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames on Saturday.

Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Defense, punting winning recipe

The Hawkeyes’ defense racked up four takeaways in its win over the Cyclones, and Tory Taylor’s punts pinned Iowa State back all day.

Austin Hanson
Sports Editor

AMES — Saturday might be the easiest day of the week for Iowa football’s defense during the season. The Hawkeyes get to play classic 11-on-11 football without any barriers in place to keep them from succeeding.

At practice, the Hawkeyes’ defense occasionally takes on the Iowa offense nine-on-seven. Iowa’s defense tries to force at least four turnovers each practice, too. Senior cornerback Matt Hankins claims the Hawkeyes typically exceed their four-turnover goal at practice. Now, they’re starting to force four turnovers or more in games on Saturdays.

In their 27-17 win over then-No. 9 Iowa State Saturday, the then-No. 10 Hawkeyes forced four turnovers. Against Indiana on Sept. 4, Iowa turned the Hoosiers over three times in a 34-6 victory at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City.

Three of the seven turnovers Iowa’s amassed this year have resulted in scores. Junior linebacker Jack Campbell scooped a Justin Jacobs-forced fumble up and ran it back six yards for a touchdown against the Cyclones on Saturday, and senior cornerback Riley Moss registered two pick sixes in Iowa’s match-up with Indiana.

“It’s just the way we play defense,” Campbell said following Iowa’s win over Iowa State. “We just fly around. We have a great attitude about everything. Something might go wrong, but that’s why we’re here. We’re here to stop them, get the ball back, get points. I mean, you guys might call it a



Iowa defensive back Matt Hankins breaks up a pass intended for Iowa State wide receiver Joe Skates during a football game between then-No. 10 Iowa and then-No. 9 Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames on Sept. 11. The Hawkeyes defeated the Cyclones 27-17. Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

fluke. You guys might just say we’re playing hard. At the end of the day, it’s just the standard the Hawkeye defense has set.”

Of the seven takeaways the Hawkeyes have accumulated this season, six have come in the air. Iowa defensive backs have intercepted three passes per game so far this season.

Both Indiana and Iowa State benched their starting quarterbacks in their respective games against Iowa. The Hawkeyes are currently on pace to record 36 interceptions this season.

“We definitely can [maintain our pick pace],” said Hankins, who resaid Hankins, who intercepted two of Cyclone quarter-

back Brock Purdy’s passes Saturday. “It just comes down to the film work, preparation, and reading the keys. So, it’s not luck. It’s what we’re putting in during the week.”

Aiding Iowa’s defense,

“[Taylor] has a great attitude,” Hawkeye head coach Kirk Ferentz said. “He’s an unbelievable young person, but he’s an awfully good punter too. When you can affect field position through the kick-

ing game, it gives you a really good chance [to force turnovers], especially if you have a defense that’s opportunistic. It’s a good combination, and that really played into [Saturday’s Iowa State game].”

Against the Cyclones, Taylor booted five balls inside the Iowa State 20-yard line. Four of those five punts were downed inside the Iowa State 10-yard line.

“It’s not easy punting the ball,” Taylor said. “It can be really difficult, at times, especially in adverse conditions. I honestly owe a lot of credit, especially to guys like [junior Terry Roberts] and my housemate Ivory Kelly-Martin, they’re the guys screaming down the field . . . They’re the guys hustling down the field, and it just makes my job a lot easier, and makes the team a better team. Massive credit to those guys, and I’m really proud of them.”

Ferentz said postgame that he hasn’t seen an Iowa team punt and defend as well as his group has this season since 1981. The 1981 Hawkeyes and then-punter Reggie Roby made the Rose Bowl.

Ferentz isn’t the only one that sees the 2021 Hawkeyes’ potential either. Taylor believes Iowa has big things in store this year following its two season-opening victories over ranked foes.

“I’m really excited for this team moving forward,” Taylor said. “We’re going to be a great team, and I’m really looking forward to the rest of the year.”

austin-hanson@uiowa.edu

JONES

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urday afternoon.

Jones started his college football career at the University of Buffalo, part of the Mid-American Conference, in 2017 as a wide receiver and kick returner. After two years with the Bulls, he transferred to Iowa as a walk-on in 2019 — sitting out his entire first season as a Hawkeye because of NCAA transfer rules.

But when Jones took to the field in 2020 as the Hawkeyes’ main kick return specialist, he led the Big Ten with a 10.5-yard return average — good for first-team All-Big Ten return specialist honors from Phil Steele.

“It’s definitely been a long journey,” Jones said. “But we’re not done yet, we’re just getting started... I took a risk leaving Buffalo, I’m excited my hard work is paying off, but I still have a lot more

to prove.”

Jones has shown himself deserving of an expanded role as a Hawkeye wide receiver. Jones, from Illinois, started the 2021 season in the two-deep in the wide receiver room, behind juniors Tyrone Tracy Jr. and Nico Ragaini.

Through two games, Jones is second on the Hawkeye leaderboard with 38 receiving yards behind junior tight end Sam LaPorta — topping Tracy Jr. and Ragaini, who have 27 and 21, respectively.

Jones’ first reception of the season came on a crucial fourth-and-2 play against Indiana, and his third was his first touchdown in the Black and Gold.

“It was a year ago last fall when we realized what kind of returner [Jones] was and the capabilities he has that way,” head coach Kirk Ferentz said. “He did a great job all season long with the return game. It started

with judgement, really good judgement with the ball, so he has a lot of courage back there because that’s a tough position.

“We’ve been able to watch him in practice just evolve, continue to evolve, and become a good receiver,” Ferentz added. “He was OK last year, but now he’s really fitting into our offense.”

For Jones, his success is all about confidence — and his roommate, sophomore punter Tory Taylor, who helps him prepare every week.

“I think it all comes down to confidence,” Jones said. “Confidence in the way I prepare in the offseason. Tory, we’re always out there and he’s punting to me. Confidence in the guys that I have blocking. They take this stuff seriously, and they really work hard at it, and it gives me confidence.”

chloe-peterson@uiowa.edu



Iowa wide receiver Charlie Jones shushes the crowd after scoring a touchdown during a football game between then-No. 10 Iowa and then-No. 9 Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames on Sept. 11. The Hawkeyes defeated the Cyclones 27-17. Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

COLUMN

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then-No. 17 Indiana in Week 1 with a 10-point win over then-No. 9 Iowa State in Ames, securing a sixth-straight victory in the Cy-Hawk series. You couldn’t ask for a better start to the season if you’re a Hawkeye.

Oh, and as far as the Cyclones, I’m starting to think Iowa is tired of hearing about how great Iowa State is — or how great they’re supposed to be.

“Don’t mess with the lion if you ain’t prepared for the fight,” Iowa cornerback Riley Moss tweeted after the game.

“Keep the hype, we’ll keep the trophy,” Iowa safety Jack Koerner tweeted a minute later.

This was supposed to be the year Iowa State overcame Iowa — the year Cyclone coach Matt Campbell finally beat Ferentz and ended the losing streak in the series. Iowa State was at home, with a senior quarterback and three presea-

son All-Americans, plus a coach who could apparently take any significant college or NFL job he wanted.

But Iowa is still, well, Iowa. The Hawkeyes did what they seemingly always do against the Cyclones, at least lately — play turnover-free offense and pair that with elite defense and special teams play.

“That’s what we do at Iowa,” said linebacker Jack Campbell. “We may not run the fastest 40s or jump the highest. We’re mutts, but we get the job done.”

The Hawkeyes won the most anticipated Cy-Hawk game against supposedly the best Cyclone team ever, and did so convincingly. Don’t be mistaken, this Iowa State team is very good. And to go into Ames and beat the Cyclones down the way in which the Hawkeyes did was a performance worthy of a top-five ranking.

I know it’s still early, but Iowa’s two wins to start this season feels like it could be the start of something special.

Through two games this season, Iowa’s defense has forced seven turnovers, scored three touchdowns, and sent both Indiana’s Michael Penix Jr. and Iowa State’s Brock Purdy to the bench.

On special teams, Charlie Jones and Tory Taylor are elite in their roles as punt/kick returner and punter. Kicker Caleb Shudak is pretty close to that distinction, too. Iowa’s offense hasn’t lived up to its other two units so far, but they’ve put points up against good defenses in both games.

You won’t find the Hawkeyes getting ahead of themselves, though.

“I told the team a few weeks ago, ‘It’s one out of 12 every time you go out there and play,’” Ferentz said. “So you enjoy it and move on or you feel bad about it and move on. But you’ve got to go out and play the full schedule.”

Two games are down. Ten regular season contests are to go. More statements can be made.

robert-read@uiowa.edu



Iowa players hoist the Cy-Hawk Trophy after winning a football game between then-No. 10 Iowa and then-No. 9 Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames on Sept. 11. The Hawkeyes defeated the Cyclones 27-17. Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan