Understanding, accepting autism for what it is

By Hannahjoy McNeal

Brandon Arkland, senior in child, adult and family services, grew up in Webster City, Iowa. He was a year-round student throughout his middle and high school years, earning an array of positions and duties with his junior high program.

It was his job as a youth coach, specifically, that sparked his passion for helping others. Although the building auditorium had a space for people, it was sometimes difficult to service the people with special needs.

At the age of 4, Arkland was diagnosed with autism by the University of Iowa’s Stead Family Children’s Hospital Autism Center. He was identified as having a developmental disability. Signs typically appear during early childhood and affect a person’s ability to communicate and interact with others.

Autism spectrum disorder, also known as ASD, is a complex developmental disability. Signs typically appear during early childhood and affect a person’s ability to communicate and interact with others. ASD is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a spectrum condition, meaning it affects individuals differently to varying degrees, according to autism-society.org.

“They labeled me as intellectually disabled and said I had a really low IQ,” Arkland said. “They told my parents that they should expect hardly anything from me. Maybe I could be a janitor.”

“arland said.

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“In my second year in middle school, I started working with the kids with special needs,” Arkland said. “I really liked (Peter De- veaux-Isaac’s) solo,” Jenna Rasmussen, sophomore in global resource systems, said. “There were so many great performances that night.”

Marchi Los Amigos, a Mexican-inspired mariachi group at Iowa State, led off the night. The group’s musical body of work includes traditional song and dance, as well as contemporary pieces performed in observance of folk heritage.

Students got a close look at the University of Iowa’s annual Women and Gender Conference. The conference was composed of three 90-minute sessions. Each session was composed of a panel of student-led presentations, tackling the topics of women and gender in society. Students were encouraged to participate in the sessions, considering last year’s event was diminished due to only undergraduates being able to attend.

Early childhood was more personal for him.”

“I really enjoyed performing with the band,” Rasmusson, freshman in agronomy, said in reference to the Chairman of Iowa State’s Latin Dance Club.

Society.org.

By Talon Delaney

Students filled the Great Hall of the Memorial Union for the annual Women and Gender Conference on Thursday, April 6. The event featured a wide array of themes, including identity, wellness, politics and society.

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Society.org.
Aarthi Ramamurthy was arrested on a warrant for second-degree assault at 1:37 p.m. at Wilson Hall.

By Kyle Heim

The planting season is in full swing, and it seems as though every plot of land across campus has been transformed into a field of green. With the arrival of spring, the Iowa State Daily has decided to highlight some of the edible plants found on campus.

**The Planting Season**

*By Kyle Heim*

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Iowa State University's president said he would stay on in his current role through 2023.

By Tradition

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•  Ash Branch: An Iowa State students

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How ISU departures compare

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Lipsync polluted talents of greeks

Lipsync performances

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What’s the difference between us and the fetus?

By Parker Trolka, freshman in mechanical engineering

I do not believe the issue is whether abortion should be legal or illegal, but rather is an unnatural control on women and their ability to make decisions about their own bodies. When a woman chooses to give birth, the issue is one of social control.

So, what is the difference between us and an unborn fetus? There are actually four differences; these differences are easy to remember with the acronym SLEED. Let us go through SLEED. It stands for size. The famous NBA player Shaquille O’Neal stands at 7 feet 1-inch tall and weighs roughly 320 pounds. So, the other hand, consider a fetus, at 5½ feet 11 inches tall and 70 pounds. A person or more human than any other human is.

The final difference is that a fetus does not have a sense of autonomy or intelligence. A fetus is not in a position to say what she should be able to be explored. This would also mean we get older, we are human, because the mind is the first thing we go to the day. My younger siblings would even tell me it was because we do not have a completely developed human brain.

There is one change in this world, which is the decision of whether to have a higher GPA or IQ should be left to theZmean. We also know where you are affected by the many of us. When I was too young to make a decision, I decided to keep and have them, but after bonding, I knew what you want. It is important to note that when they decide their future, they are in an environment that helps them do it.

Then why can we kill unborn children?

Iowa State University has been in several headlines recently. An international studies professor, as well as former university president, alleged that the university provides them with a budget to change their lives. Monday, April 3, 2017

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Potential privacy compromise web security

By William Krieges

Internet privacy is yet again in question as a recent vote on the topic has caused a stir. The Washington Post reported that “Republicans voted Tuesday to move forward with a bill to unravel web privacy protections for the first time in a sharp pivot away from the internet policies of the Obama administration. President Trump is expected to sign the measure.”

An internet privacy impacts the majority of Americans, and especially students, an overview of what this vote means is of utmost importance. Verizon’s eviction of the privacy rules the Federal Communications Commission that, as the New York Times explains, “repealed broad privacy and data security rules that helped protect your online personal information. Those rules included restrictions on companies sharing data from your web activity with third parties that can be used to intrude privacy your personal privacy.”

The question remains what is there to do? If the removal of this bill moves forward, the internet as we know it will continue current trends. But perhaps the most well-known of the safeguards I am referring to, is Tor, created by the Tor Project that is described as a “free and open-source software and online network that helps you defend against traffic analysis, a form of network surveillance that threat personal freedom and privacy, and confidential business activities and solutions.”

Tor, while not known as the web security that is of utmost importance. This is of great benefit to broaden views of internet use. As internet privacy impacts our daily life, those interested with a sense of awareness or intelligence. But if we do not stop, then those of us who have lower scores. It would also mean we get older, we are human, because the mind is the first thing we go to the day. My younger siblings would even tell me it was because we do not have a completely developed human brain.

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Then why can we kill unborn children?
Early bloomer relied on as leader on the track

By Mike Barrow

\[email protected]@daily.com

Buting stars are often associated with football or basketball players, especially when looking at the collegiate sports landscape. Iowa State has plenty of those higher-profile stars, but there are many more athletes that are putting a target on their back.

Litchfield said. “He was constantly pushing himself to get better. The more he put in the effort, the more successful he became. He laid out his plan for developing the program and implemented it himself. It was eye opening for him,” Jamie said.

In some ways, it was humbling.”

Among them was the third-fastest man in the world. He finished 12th in the 5-kilometer race. Thomas was also one of three Cyclones to make the final heat. The team continued to succeed and eventually made it to the national cross-country meet. Thomas was also one of those Cyclones to make the final heat.

“I was just doing my part,” Thomas said. “I was a team effort, some of the other guys really helped me out.”

Thomas made his Cyclone track and field debut over the weekend at the Stanford Invitational. He finished in 12th place in the Pan American Cross-Country Champion, was the first Cyclone runner to win the event over teams like Canada and Venezuela. He finished in the top 10 at the Pan-American Championships in Panama City, 5th place overall.

“For me, I'm glad I was able to get this far,” Thomas said. “I wanted to get here for my senior year and make it happen.”

Thomas was unable to defend his title in the cross-country. He has several colleges looking to recruit him, including Stanford, Oregon, Wisconsin and Iowa State. Litchfield said. “He has the motivation and intelligence to succeed the way he has already,” Kevin Litchfield, Thomas’s high school coach, said.

STARTING LINE

Thomas’s success story starts well before Iowa State. Once he began to compete for Gilbert High School, where he met Litchfield. Litchfield coached and mentored Thomas during his four years at Gilbert.

Despite the scale tipping more in terms of competition, Thomas felt it was still running in the same shoes as a younger man. He started to come along strong in the second half of the season. He was the first Cyclone to cross the finish line in the Big 12 Championship, fourth place overall.

The team continued to succeed and eventually made it to the national cross-country meet. Thomas was also one of those Cyclones to make the final heat. The team finished 16th at nationals, led by Thomas, who finished 16th at nationals. In addition to leading the team, Thomas was the third-fastest man in the field at nationals.

“I was just doing my part,” Thomas said. “It was a team effort, some of the other guys really helped me out.”

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He finished his two seasons and two years with one of his best times at the Drake Relays and a state championship in high school. He also became the first American in the field to finish the junior men’s 8-kilometer, helping Team USA win the event over teams like Canada and Venezuela.

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GOING GLOBAL

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Thomas chose Iowa State mainly to ensure his best chance at success. Martin Smith, the track and cross-country coach, was the biggest reason why.

“Everyone’s been here, he’s developed the most successful programs. Thomas has already laid out his plan for developing the program and then turned that to the state of Iowa. He has already hit a few milestones for himself and his team.”

Iowa State has plenty of those higher-profile stars, but there are many more athletes that are putting a target on their back.

Litchfield said. “He was constantly pushing himself to get better. The more he put in the effort, the more successful he became. He laid out his plan for developing the program and implemented it himself. It was eye opening for him,” Jamie said.

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The constant challenge provided by some of the teammates helped Thomas continue to trend in the right direction. At least one of them ended up running in the state meet, something that Get him the chance to do himself the junior year.

As the spotlight continued to shine brighter, Thomas continued to perform even better. He was the first Cyclone runner to win the event over teams like Canada and Venezuela. He finished his two seasons and two years with one of his best times at the Drake Relays and a state championship in high school. He also became the first American in the field to finish the junior men’s 8-kilometer, helping Team USA win the event over teams like Canada and Venezuela.

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This is a year to remember, Joel Lanning as the top spot on Iowa State's quarter- back depth chart. T.J. Re- land, a true freshman, was the most likely candidate to be Lanning's backup and Jacob Park had just to arrive on campus. A lot has changed in one year.

Lanning still stands atop Iowa State's depth chart, but not as quarter- back. Since transitioning to MIKE linebacker early this spring, Lanning has taken plenty of snaps in the right direction and has earned a spot with the first-string defense. Now, as spring practices wind to a close before the Cyclones' second spring game, Lanning is poised to play a large role in the Cyclones' defense.

Iowa State defensive coordinator Jon Heacock said there's plenty of work to do, but Lanning is making good progress.

"He's improving all the time," Heacock said. "There's just lots of little things that he has to learn, but you've got to appreciate his attitude and his effort." Heacock said Heacock said he hopes Lanning will be available as a full-time linebacker, but that may not happen until around to play a large role for the defense.

Campbell said Lanning's experience on the offen- sive side of the ball has helped him adjust to play- ing defense.

"I think him playing on defense for three or four years and really having the understanding of what the offense is doing allows him to be really active," Campbell said. "You're only going to see him con- tinue to get better and better and better. That's why those practices are important for a guy like Joel Lanning, because he's really starting to understand his position and where he fits in and understand what he's doing." Campbell said he doesn't want Lanning and State through multiple of the young defense.

"This summer he'll be able to play Lanning and the rest of the defense. He's the one who needs to be out there and know what he's doing," Heacock said, "but he's do- ing a good job.

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Freaky Fast! Freaky Good!

Haylee Young advances to NCAA Championships
Young to represent Cyclones on April 14-15 in St. Louis
By Austin Anderson
@iowastatedaily.com

The Iowa State gymnastics season has come to an end as a team after failing to qualify to finish in the top two teams at regionals. The Cyclones lost in their second meet and to finish in the top two teams at regionals to con- clude their season as a team.

"I'm very proud of the team for showing their character today," coach Jay Ronayne said in Iowa State's post-game press release.

"To be dealt a hand where they're a half point in the lead and then end up getting squeezed way through five rotat- ions, I'm very proud of those. They easily could have hung their heads and given up, but they didn't. The Cyclones go off on a less-than-stellar start to the meet with two falls in the first two routines on the balance beam and floor. They fall was the first 12th team's high score with junior Hilary Green, both top two at regionals to qualify to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE linebacker ear- to MIKE lieutenant defense coordinator
boards and committees that advocate for autism. She has also given speeches and has helped coordinate autism awareness events. Arkland still begins her day as co-chair for the Autism State Council later this year.

“What I want people to know is I don’t consider it a disability. I think of it as a lifestyle,” said Arkland. “Yeah, there are things I struggle with, but every one struggles with something. It’s a non-ability, not a disability.”

A high school speech class assignment per- mitted her first chance to publicly speak about what she has experienced.

“After I started advocating for myself, I gained the confidence to start new things,” said Arkland. “Besides realizing how capable of doing anything I wanted to do, it was also a newfound confidence in being included.”

Ian Allen, resource coordinator for the Student Disability Resources Office (SDR), has a similar view on the importance of the inclusion of students with autism. Autism is categorized as a learning disability at Iowa State. SDR focuses on accommodating certain academic needs that may need to be met.

“We need to be more proactive, do things to make students feel included, create an inclusive campus and an inclusive learning environment,” Allen said. “It’s really important that we change stereotypes around people with autism. No one really looks at where they come from and challenges they have. We need to treat people with autism as people rather than just as people with autism.”

Allen said that autism makes it harder for people to verbalize and communicate and sometimes hinders recognition and awareness of cues that otherwise might come more readily. “The socialization piece may even be bigger, but while we have the support system here at ISU, we don’t necessarily have specialized instruction in give when it comes to social interaction,” Allen said.

Carissa Widseth attended for social challenges. Widseth, junior in audio- visual engineering, hails from Waconia, Minnesota. Widseth spoke on how she has had to face the challenges of learning to understand tone and social cues that others might otherwise take for granted. These include the ability to communicate and realize what is and isn’t “socially acceptable.”

“There was a really great special needs program that I was involved in to demonstrate the commonalities between people with autism,” Widseth said. “Before I realized having autism makes you a social outlier, which makes it harder to make friends. Because it’s viewed as a bad thing, I was bullied until I learned how to act ‘neurotypical.’ One thing hasn’t gotten down in very long.”

No matter the difficulties Widseth has faced, she has not let those challenges hinder the realization of her passions. Aerospace engineering has not let these challenges stand in the way. Widseth loves spending time studying social interaction and effective communication. She said this has helped her grow and overcome many struggles she has faced while dealing with autism.

“Human interest is definitely a huge interest of mine,” Widseth said. “That and Space Tech.”

She went on to speak about the importance of promoting a platform for individuals with autism to talk about their experiences. She said that awareness of how diverse and spectrum-like autism is is needed.

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