

# Editor struggles internally with abortion issue

By Zachary Pearlman

In June, the United States Supreme Court overruled *Roe v. Wade*, leaving the decision allowing abortions up to each individual state. Among these states, Iowa does not have any active “trigger laws” to make abortions illegal.

As a citizen of Iowa, I am now faced with the difficult decision to either support access to abortion like it has been for the past five decades or to support new legislation restricting abortion.

Since I am the new editor of *The Wildcat Chronicles*, I felt compelled to write about this important issue. I contacted my journalism advisor Mr. Steve Sands via text this summer to see if I could write an article, expecting to be shot down. Instead, he supported my decision to write about such a controversial issue.

I felt like the dog who caught the car, not knowing what to do because I got to write an assignment I considered unreachable. Then I realized it wasn't going to be easy.

## Armed From page 1

I'm certainly not opposed to looking at it," he said. Mr. Burnett believes there are advantages to arming educators, but he would just want those who are armed to be highly trained.

It's interesting to see what other states are trying in order to keep students safe, he said.

"It'll be interesting to see how it works in Ohio," said Mr. Burnett.

Students interviewed for the article were cautiously in favor of arming local staff.

"It would make me feel safer if I knew teachers could help protect us, as long as they were protecting and not harming," Durant junior Kaetlyn Hansell said.

Senior Max Thoma agrees.

"I would feel much safer with our teachers being armed in the case of a school shooting," said Thoma. "I think that it's a good idea as long as teachers are properly educated and trained with the weapon."

## Soy From page 1

One person who has coached both athletes is Coach Tom Compton, now an as-

As a 17-year-old male, I feel hesitant to write about this issue because it is about women and their rights to bodily autonomy. It is also difficult because the topic has become inflamed over the years by politics.

This issue hits home for two reasons—or maybe I should say two people, the first being my oldest cousin. She had her child right after she graduated high school in 2019. Hazel, now three years old, is the light of her life. She is a fun, talkative toddler who is great to be around.

I admire my cousin for the courage that she had to keep Hazel. It is difficult for someone fresh out of high school to become an adult and to face the reality of having a child.

She was also fortunate to have a strong support system around her. My aunt and uncle are able to help and guide her with Hazel. Not everybody facing this difficult situation has that support.

I also see this controversial topic through the eyes of my girlfriend Sofia Rey-

na, whom I've dated for over a year.

Being in this relationship, I've learned to support my girlfriend in any way possible, especially when it comes to her rights as a woman. I've had many conversations with Sofia about her rights and what I can do to support her.

"I feel as if the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* was a decision that shouldn't have happened," she said. "I wholeheartedly believe that it takes away a person's right to their own body, and that the choice of abortion should not be up to a small group of people [U.S. Supreme Court]."

She believes people who get an abortion have many reasons for doing so, such as rape or financial inability.

With Sofia and my cousin, I've seen this issue in a more nuanced way than most, if not all politicians. Many of them do not see the people their decisions affect and what the outcome is for those people.

Politicians on both sides always seem to be polar opposites, painting the other side as evil for their own personal gain.

Hansell thinks that because Durant is a smaller school, not every teacher needs to be armed. She suggested that all teachers should be trained to handle a weapon, but only the teachers at the ends of hallways carry weapons. As far as training, Hansell thinks training should be ongoing to keep the rules locked in mind.

Thoma does not believe 24 hours of training is enough time.

"It should be multiple days of training for teachers. In order for teachers to carry a gun in school, they need to be trained and prepared for all kinds of different situations," he said.

He believes arming teachers would work in Durant "with the right education in how to handle and use the weapon in specific situations."

Durant high school social studies teacher Daniel Knipfel feels Durant is "privileged" to have a resource officer in the building, and it makes Mr. Knipfel feel safer

in school.

"I have mixed feelings on it [arming teachers]," said Mr. Knipfel. "On one hand, carrying a firearm would not be a concern of mine because of my respect for the firearm and how it should be handled. On the other hand, I would have questions about my role as an educator. Am I here to teach or am I law enforcement?"

He said currently he would not be in favor of any legislation that would arm educators.

"I think adding the presence of weapons, with the exception of law enforcement, into an educational institution that has spent decades and several generations banning weapons from school grounds, even for safety purposes, could send the wrong message and easily be misinterpreted," Mr. Knipfel said.

He said he "believes non-firearm, active shooter training, such as ALICE Training, that we have done at Durant pro-

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Mr. Knipfel said it doesn't necessarily make him feel more comfortable that his child's teacher is armed.

"As a parent and a teacher, I expect my child's teachers to be trained and educated to protect students by any non-lethal means necessary," he said. "If any teacher carrying a firearm is not competent, I feel they pose a real threat to the people around them."

Durant industrial tech teacher Tim Rouse also raised concerns about arming teachers.

"I feel comfortable enough that I could do it, but I don't think the training that 'should' be given will be enough for the majority of teachers to do it," he said.

"A loaded gun in an incompetent person is more dangerous than a person bringing one in. If a person can't control the gun, it's like bringing it to the person that will take it from you then use it."

Returning as an Wildcat assistant in 2015, Coach Compton has been coaching DeLong at Durant for the last three years.

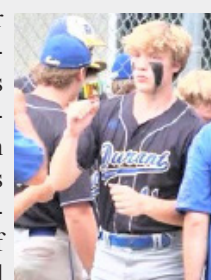
Coach Compton also followed Soy's career through college.

## Rise & Grind's MVP leader of the month



624 5th Street  
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Senior Garrett Hollenback is a member of a new group called Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP). Upperclass leaders will mentor incoming freshmen, and Hollenback decided to join "to be a good role model." He hopes this program will improve the academics and extracurricular activities of student participants. He will listen and provide advice for the students.



Hollenback



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## Liberty Trust & Savings Bank's club member of the month



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Junior Landon Marth is a member of the robotics team. His role on the team is to program the robot. He makes sure the robot can perform simple and complex tasks. Marth said, "I joined robotics because I wanted to make cool innovations with my friends along with competing against others."



Marth

"Coach Compton was always around," Soy said. "He has been someone who's reached out to me throughout my career, while I was in middle school, high school, or even college.

"He's definitely someone who's reached out and has always been very friendly and had nice things to say. I always enjoyed my relationship with him."

Although Soy was only coached by Coach Compton one year, the coach still remembers how great of an athlete Soy was for Durant and for Northwest Missouri State.

He believes that Soy could've been invited to the NFL combine if he didn't have the ankle injury.

"He's a tremendous athlete," Coach Compton said.

"He would've been an NFL player if he hadn't gotten hurt."

Comparing the two athletes, Coach Compton pointed out some similarities and how he believes DeLong is in the same tracks as Soy.

"I think they're both really exceptionally dynamic athletes," he said.

"Their work ethic for both of them is tremendous. He [DeLong] really works hard too. He tries to get the most out of his talent, and Jake was the same way."

During his senior year in high school, Soy earned 1,032 yards and averaged at least 10 yards per carry.

In DeLong's junior year, he rushed for 1,591 yards and 18 touchdowns. He averaged 6.9 yards per carry.



Photo by Garrett Pearlman

The new *Chronicles* editor, Zachary Pearlman, with his girlfriend, Sofia Reyna, a 2022 DHS graduate.

However, I believe most people find themselves in the middle, like me. Many want to keep abortions available for medical issues or for traumatic situations like rape and incest. In a *Des Moines Register* poll in July, 60 percent of Iowans believe abortions should be completely legal or have exceptions.

In the end, I admire my cousin for keeping Hazel, but I also want my cousin and other women to still have control over their lives.

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