

The Daily Iowan

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Herbold/Blizek takes election

The ticket wins with a 10% margin of victory

By Sara Faiwell and Jennifer Sturm
The Daily Iowan

After taking 55 percent of a stunning voter turnout, Nick Herbold vowed to fulfill his campaign platform as he celebrated winning the UI Student Government presidential election on Tuesday night.

"This is amazing," said Herbold, of Grinnell, Iowa, after hearing he had defeated UI junior Eric Parker by receiving 2,802 out of 5,061 votes.

Herbold and running mate Matt Blizek, who are both 21-year-old juniors and political-science majors, say they want to improve relations with state lawmakers and the UI administration, improve student input in city affairs, keep education affordable, and expand recycling. They will take office April 1.

"We need to continue progress at the Statehouse," said Herbold, a member of the Johnson County Democrats.

Blizek, the founder and president of Students for Local Politics, said his first priority will be to get a non-voting student representative on city commissions and later get a student elected to the council.

The two ran under the auspices of the Giant Sloth Party, a coalition of liberal student groups formed by current UISG President Nick Klenske.

Klenske said that while the new leaders will have to focus on tackling state budget cuts, they must also make UISG seem more legitimate in the eyes of the students. Herbold and Blizek will face a tougher fight for affordable education, he said.

"This year was bad," Klenske said, referring to cuts that have totaled more than \$37 million for the UI and caused an 18.5 percent tuition increase. "But next year will be worse."

Student Election Board Chairman Chris Loftus choked up as he announced that 18.5 percent of the students voted in the election — the largest percentage in at least a decade. "That's damn good for a Big Ten university," he said.

Loftus, who had estimated as few as 2,000 ballots could be cast, said he was surprised with the record number of votes because the race was not controversial and only two tickets were taking part.



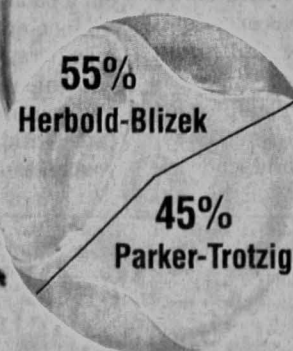
Zach Boyden-Holmes/The Daily Iowan
UISG President-elect Nick Herbold and Vice President-elect Matt Blizek hug campaign manager Mayrose Wegmann after the UISG election results were announced Tuesday evening in the IMU.

See UISG ELECTION, Page 4A

How many clicks does it take ...

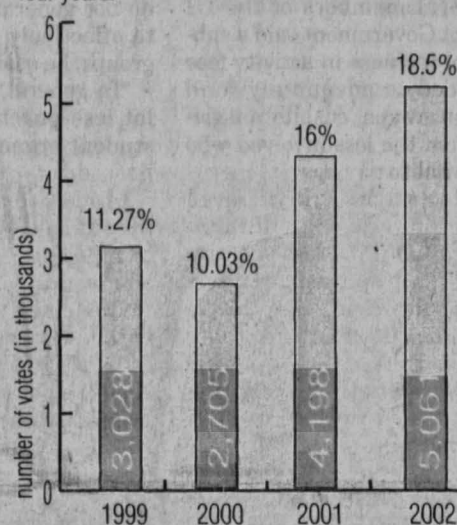
... to get to the center of UISG

With 55% of the vote, the Herbold/Blizek ticket defeated the Parker/Trotzig ticket for the UISG presidency.



Students speak up

The graph below compares voter turnout for UISG presidential elections over the past four years.



• Online voting was not available until after 1999

Source: DI research

BP/DI

Amendment 14.E passes

Amendment 14.E passed by a margin of 81 percent to 19 percent.



Source: DI research

BP/DI

Fees amendment approved

By Shelbi Thomas
The Daily Iowan

If Phillip Jones, the UI vice president for Student Services, wants to continue controlling leftover student fees, he will have to go against the wishes of more than 4,000 students rather than a few student leaders.

Student voters approved Amendment 14.E by a landslide on Tuesday, which changes the UI Student Government Constitution to put

leftover student fees in the hands of student leaders rather than in the Office of Student Services. More than 80 percent of voters — 4,105 of 5,061 — approved the measure.

"It is clear that students support this amendment by a huge margin, and I'm looking forward to meeting with Jones in ironing out the details on this," said President-elect Nick Herbold.

Student leaders say controlling the leftover money, which totals more than \$200,000, will

be beneficial for student organizations that are hurting for funding, such as the Lecture Committee and SCOPE, and it will ensure the money is spent in the best interests of students.

But Jones will have the final say on whether UISG will oversee the money. While declining an interview on Tuesday, saying he will comment only after he reviews the amendment, Jones said earlier in the week he does "not use



Phillip Jones
vice president for Student Services

See AMENDMENT, Page 4A

Third budget cut brings layoff talk

By Jessica Brady and Tony Robinson
The Daily Iowan

Responding to the third wave of budget cuts this year, UI officials again warned of possible layoffs and high tuition increases, but they vowed that the administration would absorb the brunt of the damage.

President Mary Sue Coleman said the budgets of administrative units, such as her office, will be slashed 45 percent more than academic programs, and she eliminated one vice-president position altogether.

"The UI is in the worst shape ever," said Provost Jon Whitmore, noting that the state budget cuts totaling more than \$37 million this year for the university are unparalleled and that cuts for next year are likely.

"This is no way to run a university at all," he told a con-

cerned UI Faculty Senate.

Earlier in the day, Coleman sent out a mass e-mail detailing guidelines to cope with the \$4.98 million cut the university must make by the end of fiscal year 2002, which will end June 30. Coleman's guidelines pledged to use layoffs as a last resort, but Whitmore said the university will have to cut through attrition and possibly layoffs.

Coleman said 165 jobs have already been eliminated this year as officials dealt with the cuts amounting to 12 percent of the university's state-appropriated funds.

"With previous budget cuts, fewer people have been employed on state dollars at the UI — and unfortunately, that will still be the case," Whitmore said, noting that 75 percent of the general-education fund is

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INSIDE TODAY'S DI



'Body slam'

U.S. claims to have killed hundreds of Al Qaeda and Taliban troops in intense battles.
See story, Page 5A

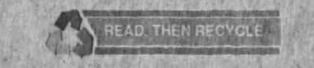
Seed money

Coralville will consider loaning a DNA firm \$800,000 for expansion.
See story, Page 3A

WEATHER

Partly cloudy, chance of drizzle/freezing drizzle late

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↓ 32 °C



I.C. police promotions hinge on degrees

By Vess Mitev
The Daily Iowan

A high-school education will no longer cut it for Iowa City police officers who want to climb the ranks to police chief or other positions.

Instead, education is increasingly important as science, technology, and sociology weave their way into police work, local police officials said. Three of the department's 68 sworn officers have master's degrees; the rest have earned or are in the process of earning bachelor's or associate's degrees.

"There is a noticeable difference between the officers who get an education and those who choose not to," said Capt. Tom Widmer, a 22-year veteran on the force who has a master's



Scott Morgan/The Daily Iowan

Iowa City police Capt. Tom Widmer talks on the phone in his office.

degree. "It puts those without it at a disadvantage."

Iowa City police officers without higher education are at a growing disadvantage when performing regular police work and gaining promotion eligibility, Widmer said.

When it comes to beat assignments, however, practical experience and training take precedence over formal education, said Police Chief R.J. Winklehake. "We follow the minimal state

code when we hire you," he said. "But in order to make sergeant or lieutenant, you have to have the degree required [by the department]."

For example, investigation assignments, when officers work a specific case, are determined through a rigorous interview process and input from the county attorney's office.

State law requires police

See PROMOTIONS, Page 1A

Gross hammers Vilsack on budget

By Gigi Wood
The Daily Iowan

A Republican gubernatorial candidate said on Tuesday he could solve the state's budget problems within a couple of years by narrowing its priorities to K-12 and higher education and attracting businesses to Iowa.

Des Moines lawyer Doug Gross, who officially announced on March 2 his intentions to run as one of three Republican candidates in this year's primaries, said the state's budget woes can be blamed on Gov. Tom Vilsack.

"The governor's budget has 77 priorities on it," he told a group of approximately 20 people at a campaign stop at the IMU. "If you have that many priorities, you have no priorities."

The former state of Iowa Board of Regents director of business and finance focused on the budget, saying he has experience with both private and public financial issues stemming from his work as chief of staff for former Gov. Terry Branstad.

Iowa's current budget crisis began in December 2000, when the state's revenues fell below projections and Vilsack failed to recognize the problem, said Gross, a former lobbyist for the state's largest hog producer, Iowa Select Farms, among 17 other clients.



Doug Gross

"You've got to manage the downsize and hope for the upside," he said. "[Vilsack] budgeted for the upside, which devastated the institutions that educate children."

Gross, who has raised more than \$500,000 for his campaign, said he was against using \$44 million in rainy-day funds to offset a portion of the state's \$121 million budget shortfall.

"Democratic legislators] want to use one-time funds for ongoing problems," he said, adding that he opposes dipping into the fund again next year. "The governor's got the state up the creek without a paddle."

Upon questioning by audience members, Gross said he favors implementing the death penalty and maintaining state abortion laws, and he opposes school vouchers.



Ben Plank/The Daily Iowan

Republican candidate for governor Doug Gross speaks to UI students and Iowa City residents in the IMU Northwestern Room on Tuesday.

When UI junior Bridget Quinn asked him why she should teach in Iowa when teachers are paid twice as much in Texas, Gross said he favors a pay system that increases teachers' salaries based on performance.

"If they demonstrate ability in the classroom, they would get paid more than those who don't," he said. "They should not be paid according to how many years

they've been there — that's a situation you'll never get out of."

Quinn, a UI Student Government senator, said she agreed with most of Gross' platform issues but is wary of performance-based pay.

"It would have to be really regulated to work," she said. "It could cause a lot of dependency. It's hard to be a teacher and be for it."

UISG faces crimped budget despite \$1 raise in activity fees

By Lyndsay Gross
The Daily Iowan

Several members of the UI Student Government said a substantial increase in activity fees is needed to adequately fund student groups, despite misgivings from the less-involved who don't want to pay more money.

Even though UISG received more money to fund student groups than it did last year, it's struggling to provide suitable funding for them, as inflation and increasing fees and wages strain budgets.

Student-activity fees for full-time students will be raised \$1 per semester — to \$18.50 — for the 2002-03 year, following a request by UISG. The state of Iowa Board of Regents approved the increase in November 2001.

UISG authorized a \$705,000 allocation to student organizations for 2002-03, a 6 percent increase over the year before.

Even though the increase could give the budget committee more money, it is accompanied

with no substantial effects, said Ben Fagerlind, the UISG financial officer. Student-activity fees do not generate enough money to effectively fund all student groups, he said.

"In general, our funds had a lot less purchasing power for student organizations," Fagerlind said.

In addition to supplying funds for student groups, UISG and the budget committee face administrative fees each year as well as fixed costs, such as the Bijou's rent and rigging SCOPE's productions at Carver Hawkeye Arena.

Priority-one groups, such as KRUI, SCOPE, and the UI Lecture Committee, requested more than \$1 million but received \$370,000. The remainder of the money will go to priority-two and -three groups and to supplemental funding. Student leaders will not decide on priority-two and -three group funding until March 12.

Despite the difference in requests and actual alloca-

tions, student groups are receiving funds proportionate to, if not slightly higher than, last year, said UISG Vice President Dan Rossi.

He said KRUI, however, did not receive money for emergency use.

KRUI received \$33,485 toward operation, administration, and new equipment costs, but it did not get money for a fund used whenever equipment breaks down unexpectedly.

UISG leaders want that money to be used more effectively, Rossi said, explaining that they are attempting to create a plan to allow KRUI to use money left over from other student groups for emergency use.

"The fact is that KRUI is a business — we run 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Jennie Guyan, the KRUI general manager. "No other student organization has that kind of commitment."

E-mail DI Reporter Lyndsay Gross at: lyndsay-gross@uiowa.edu

Principal asks for more students

By John Molsseed
The Daily Iowan

At the same time Iowa City School Board members are attempting to persuade voters that the district needs an approximately \$30 million school expansion and improvement package, one East Side school principal asked for more students.

"We're an underutilized school," said Lemme Elementary School Principal Mike Kelley at a Tuesday night open forum meeting. "It becomes a question of efficiency."

Lemme could not only support about 60 to 80 more stu-

dents, but additional students would actually help the school's curriculum, he said.

Teachers at Lemme share resources, using one set of lessons to teach two grade levels, which is called grade-sharing. First-graders have many of the same lessons as second-graders, and the same goes for third through sixth grades. Kelley said grade-sharing isn't ideal for Lemme because of its small number of students.

"Half the time, kids are learning a grade ahead — the other half the time they're a grade behind," Kelley said.

Board member Matt Goodlaxson said a student under-

population might seem like an easy problem to solve, but changing school boundaries would be complicated and unpopular.

"We would probably face great resistance from parents," he said, pointing to parent outcry over moving the Lake Ridge subdivision out of Hills Elementary School's attendance area.

Board members also said Lemme's underpopulation problem could make getting voter support for the board's \$30 million districtwide improvement proposal difficult.

E-mail DI reporter John Molsseed at: jmolseed@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

POLICE LOGS

Kevin Lamont Sanders, 30, 331 S. Lucas St., was charged Monday with assault causing injury. The defendant threw a cup of coffee in his girlfriend's face and struck her with his fist during a dispute, police allege. The girlfriend received a laceration above her right eye that required medical treatment, police reports said.

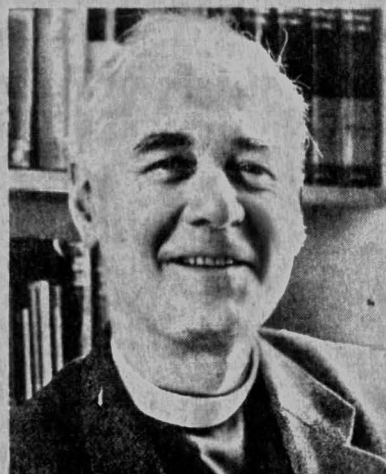
Marinez Santos, 28, 203 Sixth St. Apt. 4, Coralville, was charged Tuesday with identity theft. Police allege they received a call from the UI Community Credit Union asking them to run a search on a Social Security number the defendant attempted to use when opening an account. Police confirmed that the number belonged

to a deceased male, court records said. Santos' bail is set at \$10,000.

Donroy Merrival, 35, of Iowa City was charged Monday with assault causing injury. Police allege that Merrival punched and knocked out his roommate, causing bruising and swelling.

— by Vess Mitev

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3:30 p.m.
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Public Lecture
"Is There Anyone There?"
Friday, March 8, 2002
8:00 p.m.

Buchanan Auditorium
Pappajohn Business Administration Building

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"Can a Scientist Believe?"
Saturday, March 9, 2002
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Illinois Room, IMU

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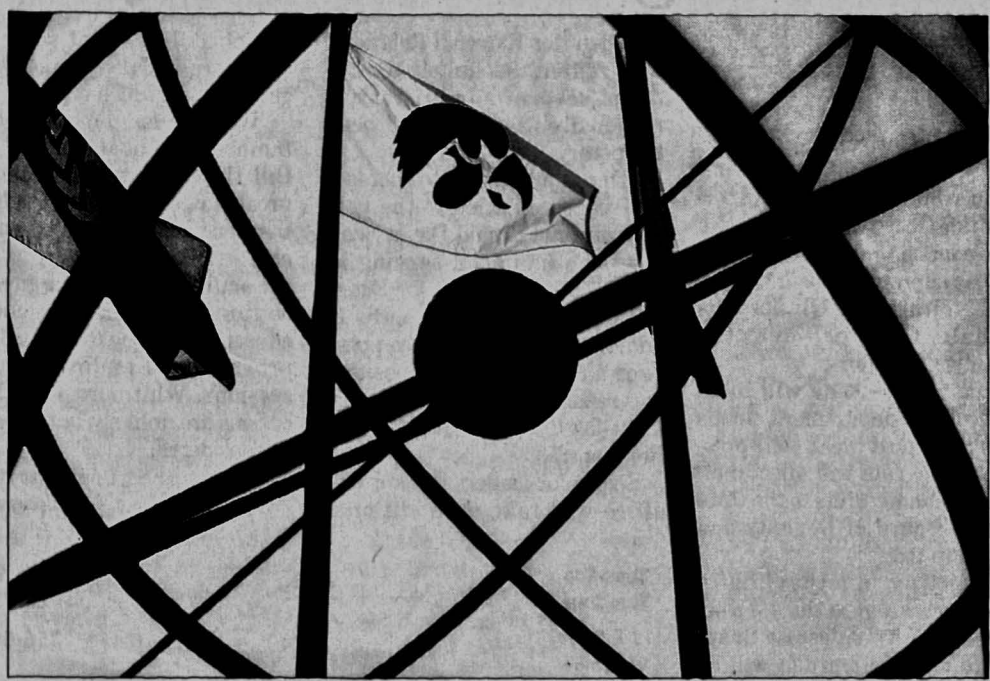
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TIGER HAWK'S AERIE



Scott Morgan/The Daily Iowan

The UI flag flies in front of the sculpture in the circle drive at the Sheridon Hotel in Iowa City.

Coralville to contemplate loaning DNA firm \$800,000

By Peter Rugg
The Daily Iowan

Coralville will consider supplying funds to a local company so it can triple its production and office space, hoping the move will generate more jobs, city officials decided Tuesday night.

The city could provide an \$800,000 loan to Integrated DNA Technologies Inc. to help the company in a \$52 million expansion project. The money would be drawn from tax incremental financing funds.

The funds would be in addition to a \$600,000 loan from the state's Community Economic Betterment Board, which Coralville city officials will try to help the company get.

Integrated DNA Technologies researches and develops production methods for synthetic

oligonucleotides — a short segment of DNA used in research.

The area's proximity to the UI is one of the main reasons for the expansion, said Joe Raso, the president of the Iowa City Area Development Group, 325 E. Washington St.

"The company already provides state universities with a significant amount of research products," he said. "And having the facility will provide graduates in biology and engineering a place where they can find a good quality job without having to leave the state."

The project will add 80,000 square feet of building space and laboratories to its production facility in Coralville. The company is building a 4,060-square-foot warehouse. The completion date is scheduled for 2005.

Raso said the project is expect-

ed to generate up to 200 jobs, the majority of which will be scientists, engineers, and information-technology employees.

Coralville finance officer Terry Kaeding said the project would most likely be added to next year's fiscal budget.

"What money we loan it will come back to us on the property tax, so it's not too much of a concern," she said. "I don't think there will be any problem adding it to the budget or securing the funds."

The project is being sponsored by the city of Coralville, Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative, Kirkwood Community College, the Iowa Department of Economic Development, and the Iowa City Area Development Group.

E-mail DI reporter Peter Rugg at: peter-rugg@uiowa.edu

Condit defeated by ghost of Chandra Levy, former aide

By Erica Werner
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gary Condit lost the Democratic congressional primary to a former aide Tuesday, while conservative businessman Bill Simon opened a wide lead over the moderate former mayor of Los Angeles in the Republican gubernatorial contest.

After a campaign overshadowed by the Chandra Levy

scandal, Dennis Cardoza handily beat Condit, his mentor and former friend.

With 65 percent of precincts reporting, Cardoza had 8,707 votes — 54 percent. Condit had 6,130 votes, or 38 percent.

In the GOP primary, Simon had 258,532 votes — 46 percent, with 20 percent of precincts reporting. Riordan had 159,140 votes, or 28 percent, and Secretary of State Bill Jones had 127,388 votes,

or 23 percent.

The winner will face Gov. Gray Davis, who easily won the Democratic primary against little-known opponents.

Voters were also weighing six propositions, including a term-limits initiative, as well as dozens of legislative and congressional races, including one that could send a pair of sisters to Congress for the first time.

Condit's bid to keep his Central California seat was domi-

nated by the disappearance of Levy, the 24-year-old Washington intern last seen April 30.

Condit, 53, admitted he had had an affair with Levy, according to Washington police sources. But they have said he is not a suspect in her disappearance.

The gubernatorial contest had taken a startling turn in recent weeks as Simon transformed a 30-point deficit in

polls into a lead over Riordan, who had been considered a sure thing for the nomination.

Despite the hotly contested primary, election officials said

voter turnout was extremely low, and it could be the worst in the state's history. It was California's first gubernatorial primary in March.

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Bush slaps tariffs on steel

By Tom Raum
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush imposed hefty tariffs of up to 30 percent on a range of steel imports Tuesday, suggesting it would help ailing U.S. steelmakers get back on their feet. The action could raise prices on such products as cars and appliances, and it drew sharp criticism from U.S. trading partners.

Bush stopped short of giving the industry the 40 percent across-the-board tariffs it sought, and he also declined to support an industry-proposed \$10 billion bailout of pension and health-care benefits for retired steelworkers

whose companies have gone bankrupt.

Still, his three-year package was generally applauded by both the steel industry and its workers.

"It's some light at the end of a very dark tunnel," said Leo Gerard, the president of the United Steelworkers of America.

Acting on long-running complaints from domestic steel producers and steelworkers' unions, Bush imposed a three-year plan of tariffs of 8 percent to 30 percent on imported steel, depending upon the type.

He said his decision would "help give America's steel industry and its workers the

chance to adapt to the large influx of foreign steel."

Foreign steel exporters immediately protested.

"The U.S. decision to go down the route of protectionism is a major setback for the world trading system," said European Union Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy.

He told reporters that the EU would challenge the decision before the World Trade Organization.

Asked about the prospects of trade wars over his actions, Bush told reporters that international trade rules permit such temporary tariffs to protect battered industries.

Air pollution tied to lung cancer

By Lindsey Tanner
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Long-term exposure to the air pollution in some of America's biggest metropolitan areas significantly raises the risk of dying from lung cancer, a study of a half-million people found.

The study echoes previous research and provides the strongest evidence yet of the health dangers of the pollution levels found in many big cities and even some smaller ones, according to the researchers from Brigham Young University and New York University.

The risk is from what scientists call combustion-related fine particulate matter — soot emitted by cars and trucks, coal-fired power plants, and factories.

The study appears in today's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

It involved 500,000 adults who enrolled in 1982 in an American Cancer Society survey on cancer prevention. The researchers examined participants' health records through 1998 and analyzed data on annual air-pollution averages in the more than 100 cities in which participants lived.

The researchers first took into account other risk factors for heart and lung disease such as cigarettes, diet, weight, and occupation.

Lung-cancer death rates were compared with average pollution levels, measured in micrograms per cubic meter of air. The researchers found that the number of lung-cancer deaths increased 8 percent for every increase of 10 micrograms. Other heart- and lung-related causes of death increased 6 percent for every 10-microgram increase.

Allen Deary, a scientist at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, which funded the study, called it "the best epidemiologic evidence that we have so far that that type of exposure is associated with lung-cancer death."

"This study is compelling because it involved hundreds of thousands of people in many cities across the United States who were followed for almost two decades," said study co-leader George Thurston, an NYU environmental scientist.

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CITY

Turnout surprises election official

UISG ELECTION

Continued from Page 1A

A new rule allowing the candidates to campaign during the election in addition to the convenience of on-line voting, which was being used for the third year, seems to have helped garner the high turnout.

"The large voter-turnout is a victory within itself," Parker said.

Herbold and Blizek said they are sure the one-on-one campaigning they did during the past two weeks sparked student interest in the race. The duo handed out more than 10,000 fliers on Monday and Tuesday alone.

As Loftus prepared to introduce the winner, an invisible line of supporters for each ticket split the IMU Terrace Room. More than 80 people were waiting for the election results when they were finally announced at 8:20 p.m.

After the announcement, Herbold and Parker embraced in the center of the auditorium. Parker's running mate, UI junior Kristin Troztig, hugged and thanked all of the students involved with their campaign.

"I would not have traded this for anything," she said.



Scott Morgan/The Daily Iowan
Vice-presidential candidate Kristin Troztig reacts to the UISG election results Tuesday night. Her opponents, the Herbold/Blizek ticket, won.

E-mail DI reporters at:
daily-iowan@uiowa.edu

Officials again warn of layoffs

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1A

tied up in salaries.

More than \$4 million of the latest cut will come from the general-education fund, with the remainder coming out of special-purpose appropriations including UI Hospitals and Clinics, the Oakdale Campus, and the Hygienic Laboratory.

Whitmore said he will meet with college department heads during the next week and present how the cuts will affect individual academic units to the state of Iowa Board of Regents one week from today.

Predicting another hefty tuition increase next fall, he said, "Anytime universities see financial trouble, the burden will be shifted to the student to pay more." Tuition has already been raised 18.5 percent for next school year to help cover funding gaps; regents will consider increases for the following year in September.

Coleman's guidelines said the university will not cut financial aid to help ensure accessibility. The only other area she shielded was money for library acquisitions to maintain the quality of the libraries in the face of skyrocketing costs.

She also permanently eliminated the position of the vice

president for External Relations, a move that indefinitely consolidated several administrative responsibilities that had been temporary.

"This is just trying to shoulder the responsibilities to the help the university," said David Skorton, who has been serving as interim vice president for External Relations for 20 months in addition to his role of vice president for Research. His position was renamed Tuesday "vice president for Research and External Relations."

Six senior leaders in Skorton's office will take on additional

responsibilities that some say means working longer hours and getting fewer lunch breaks.

"We have for some time been thinly spread at the office," said Bill Decker, the associate vice president for Research, adding that the workload is still manageable.

Faculty senators suggested cutting \$2.6 million in general-education funding to the athletics program and ending summer sessions. Whitmore said those options are unlikely, but they will be considered.

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Students overwhelmingly OK amendment

AMENDMENT

Continued from Page 1A

student-government elections to make administrative decisions."

UISG President Nick Klenske, Vice President Dan Rossi, and Herbold will present the election results and their plan to Jones for his approval Friday. The plan would go into effect July 1.

"I think this will be a strong statement to Jones that this is what the students want done," Rossi said. "Hopefully, we will be able to meet halfway and negotiate more effectively now that we have a mandate from students to handle their money that way."

After an audit in the early 1990s revealed that several student groups were in debt, the leftover account was set up to help them make payments. Jones has insisted it is his responsibility to "give consent for UISG spending recommendations and allocations for spending UI funds," according to a letter he sent Klenske in shooting down a similar proposal last May.

If Jones does not approve the plan, Klenske said, UISG will continue to push for its passage. Rossi said Herbold may be able to negotiate better with Jones, who will be under more pressure as a result of Tuesday's vote.

"The university should pride itself in listening to student voices," Klenske said. "It shows there is a problem if it ignores the students' vote... Students should be able to trust the student government as a representative for their money."

Tuesday's vote was the culmi-

nation of almost one year of sparing between Klenske and Jones over the money. The disagreement began when Jones announced he would use \$50,000 in leftover student fees to purchase Planet X tickets, a family fun center, for students. Jones insists that he found another source for the funding.

Regardless, student leaders say the move highlighted a troubling practice: Jones' ability to use the money without input from students.

UISG distributes \$750,000 in

student-activity fees — \$17.50 per student each semester — among student groups. Any funds the UISG does not use by the end of the year are placed into the account overseen by Jones.

Changing the practice would also bring the UI in line with other state universities. The University of Northern Iowa and Iowa State University student governments both already have systems to retain student-activity fees at the end of the fiscal year.

E-mail DI reporter Shelbi Thomas at:
shelbi-thomas@uiowa.edu

I.C. police keep eye on degrees

PROMOTIONS

Continued from Page 4A

officers to have a high-school diploma or equivalent, but requirements for promotions vary from city to city, Winklehake said. In Iowa City, an associate's degree is required to attain sergeant rank, a bachelor's degree for lieutenant, and a master's degree or the equivalent for police chief.

Winklehake said Iowa City police officers attend classes at such training institutes as the FBI Academy, Northwestern University, and Louisville University.

Prospective officers must also complete a written and a physical exam. Candidates then undergo an extensive background check by the department to determine if they are qualified.

"We go back deep," said department spokesman Sgt. Mike Brotherton, who is attending a specialized training course in Kentucky. "I'll go to your hometown, talk to your high-school friends, your neighbors, people you didn't even know you knew. If there's anything to find out, we'll find it out."

Education, he said, smoothes the transition process.

"Certainly, if we get people who graduated from college and took some classes on their own, they are going to be more adaptable to this environment," he said.

E-mail DI reporter Vess Mitev at:
vess-mitev@uiowa.edu

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'95 warning alerted FBI to proposed suicide hijacking

By Jim Gomez and John Solomon
Associated Press

Six years before suicide hijackers attacked the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the FBI was alerted that Middle Eastern pilots were training at U.S. flight schools and at least one had proposed diving a jetliner into a federal building, according to documents and interviews with Filipino and U.S. authorities.

The information came from police interrogations of Abdul Hakim Murad and a computer seized from Ramzi Yousef, two men arrested after a chemical fire at a Manila apartment

tipped authorities to a terrorist plot linked to Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda network.

Murad and Yousef eventually were convicted in the United States and sentenced to life in prison for a plot to blow up 12 U.S.-bound airliners flying out of Asia.

Filipino police and intelligence officers, along with several secret police reports reviewed by the Associated Press, say Murad's intentions were much broader and included suicide hijackings like those that occurred on Sept. 11.

"Murad's idea is that he will board any American commercial aircraft pretending to be

an ordinary passenger, then he will hijack said aircraft, control its cockpit, and dive it at the CIA headquarters," one Filipino police report from 1995 said.

"There will be no bomb or any explosive that he will use in its execution. It is a suicidal mission that he is very much willing to execute," it said.

Filipino authorities told AP they shared the information immediately with FBI agents in Manila in 1995; they ultimately concluded that U.S. authorities focused too much on the bombing plot and not enough on the possibility of suicide hijackings.

Bush prods Palestinians, Mubarak pushes Israelis

By Barry Schweid
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak searched Tuesday for solutions to the spiraling violence in the Middle East, with Bush emphasizing the need to stop Palestinian attacks on Israelis, while Mubarak demanded that Israel ease up on the Arabs.

Bush said peace in the Middle East is "only possible if there is a maximum effort to end violence throughout the region, starting with Palestinian efforts to stop attacks on Israelis."

Mubarak, for his part, called for an end to forceful Israeli military tactics such as demolishing Palestinian homes and closing roads.

"Nothing can be achieved through violence or resolved by force," the Egyptian said.

Bush also spoke favorably of a Saudi Arabian proposal, which would offer Israel peace, trade, and security in exchange for the land the Arabs lost in war and of Mubarak's offer to be the host for talks between Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"We're both determined to redouble our efforts to work for peace," Bush said, referring to himself and the Egyptian president.

Mubarak said of the Israelis, "The closure of roads, the siege of towns and villages, the demolition of houses, the collective punishment that make progress more difficult should stop."

Speaking of the growing violence, Bush said officials in both the United States and Egypt "view this situation with great alarm."

"We both feel deep sympathy for the people in the region who are trying to live their lives in peace," he said.

In Jerusalem, Israeli officials let it be known Sharon consid-

ers a meeting with Arafat useless while Palestinian attacks against Israelis continue. Mubarak said he would not meet with Sharon unless Arafat attended as well.

In a speech before his meeting with Bush, Mubarak declared he was not "pro-Arafat" and said the Palestinians would be free to choose another leader after peace is achieved.

"I have no problems with the Palestinians or the Israelis," Mubarak said, as he sought to put Egypt forward as an evenhanded mediator between the two sides.

U.S. offensive kills 100s of Al Qaeda and Taliban fighters

By Kathy Gannon
Associated Press

GARDEZ, Afghanistan — Hundreds of Taliban and Al Qaeda fighters were killed in fierce fighting Tuesday, as U.S.-led coalition forces pressed their offensive in the rugged mountains of eastern Afghanistan, the operations's American commander said.

U.S. forces in the region said as many as 800 opposition fighters had been seen moving toward the battle since the American-led operation was launched on March 2.

"We caught several hundred of them with RPGs [rocket-prop-

pelled grenades] and mortars heading toward the fight. We body-slammed them today and killed hundreds of those guys," said Maj. Gen. Frank Hagenbeck, the commander of the operation near Gardez, 75 miles south of Kabul, the capital.

U.S.-led forces continued inching up the snow-covered mountains, meanwhile, trying to reach hideouts still believed to contain hundreds more Al Qaeda and Taliban fighters. Some forces entered at least one cave complex, uncovering weapons caches.

Allied jets flew high over Paktia province, dropping bombs as well as decoy flares to

ward off heat-seeking missiles — defensive measures after two U.S. helicopters were hit Monday in incidents that left seven U.S. soldiers dead.

Frontline commander Abdul Matin Hasankhiel said hundreds of Afghan and coalition forces have ringed the mountain range and trapped the Al Qaeda and Taliban fighters higher up.

Rise of Al Aqsa unnerving for Israel

By Laura King
Associated Press

NABLUS, West Bank — Abu Mujahid had two videocassettes in his pocket. One was the farewell tape made by a Palestinian suicide attacker who had sprayed a Tel Aviv nightclub with gunfire only hours earlier. The second, he said, also showed a suicide attacker — one whose mission was yet to come.

Abu Mujahid — a nom de guerre, meaning "Father of the Struggle" — is a leader of the Al Aqsa Brigades, a Palestinian group that carried out almost all the deadly attacks on Israelis in the past two weeks, a period that has yielded one of the highest body counts of an increasingly bloody conflict. Approximately 160 people, two-thirds of them Palestinians, have died in an unrelenting succession of strikes and retaliations in that time.

The Al Aqsa Brigades has been in operation since shortly

after the fighting began between Israel and the Palestinians in September 2000 but has moved to the forefront only lately, staging attacks that have not only been lethal but profoundly unnerving to all Israelis.

In the past four days, attacks carried out by the group have cut across Israel's social, political, and geographic spectrum.

They targeted Orthodox Jews leaving synagogues in an ultra-religious neighborhood of Jerusalem, soldiers at an isolated West Bank roadblock, and revelers at a hip all-night Tel Aviv restaurant and dance club.

Particularly infuriating to Israel are the group's ties to Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction and that its followers include members of the Palestinian security forces. The Palestinian who carried out Tuesday's attack in Tel Aviv — which left three dead and more than 31 hurt — was an officer in the Palestinian naval police.

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— Doug Gross, Republican candidate for governor of Iowa.

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Editorial

Encouraging law will protect couples against dating abuse

Think back to the last relationship you were in. Now, think about an argument that occurred between you and that person you were dating. Was there ever a time when that argument took a turn for the worse and fists began to fly?

At times, relationships can be difficult and even abusive. Until last week, those who were only dating and were in an abusive relationship had little or no protection from the state.

Now, a new law has been passed that not only allows those who are dating to obtain a restraining order against the abusive party, they can also file a report with the local police. Before, when a police officer would respond to a domestic or abusive situation, they would have to ask the status of the relationship between those who were involved.

Iowa has passed a law extending protection from abusive partners to dating couples, which should encourage more victims to seek help.

If the couple were only dating, the rules were different. To an officer, a dating couple was defined as two people who did not live together and who did not have a child together. If they were just dating, then the officers' hands were tied.

Now, dating couples will have the same rights as those who are married, live together, or have a child together. Kristie Doser, the director of education/volunteer programs for the Domestic Violence Intervention Program, could not have said it better: "It's a loophole that needed to be closed."

No longer will officers need

to ask the status of a couple, and no longer will those who are "just dating" feel that they are not protected by the law.

Johnson County Attorney J. Patrick White said the law could increase the number of cases of abuse in Johnson County between 10 and 15 percent, but it is worth it in the end. The new law should encourage more people who are abused to call the police and other groups that help victims of abuse. With the fight toward more laws that require mandatory criminal arrests of domestic abusers, the fears of victims will be abated.

Letters to the Editor

In defense of athletes

I read Amanda Mittlestadt's column of the injustices that occur in college athletics (*DI*, Feb. 25). She makes very good points, but there are inconsistencies in her argument.

From the information she presented, the Colorado team members were not convicted of the crime before the bowl game. Of course Coach Gary Barnett isn't going to suspend his players based on a charge that was brought against them. Even on the collegiate level, the term "innocent until proven guilty" applies.

I am a high-school football and basketball coach and I view my teams as families. I want the best for them, and I will side with them in tough times because I love them. If one of my players were in the same situation as the Colorado players, I would sit down with them and discuss it, as I am sure Coach Barnett did. I would make a decision based on the facts, not hearsay. If I felt that there was foul play, then of course they would be suspended or kicked off the team. I would not simply take the word of someone that they had raped or assaulted another person.

The case involving Hakim Hill is different. He was guilty and actions have been taken against him. There may be a legal issue with revoking his scholarship since the crime was committed while he was still in high school. This doesn't excuse his actions, but it must be taken into consideration.

Finally, Mittlestadt mentioned the case at Iowa State where two football players "turned themselves in to the police and admitted to the

assault." Coach Dan McCarney immediately suspended the two players, and rightly so. They ADMITTED to the crime. There was no gray area. They said they did it, and he took the proper actions.

I agree with Mittlestadt's comment that McCarney's decision is correct and should be followed. But I do not agree with her assumption that all players should be suspended or kicked off of their team because of allegations of criminal activity. Not every decision made by a coach in college athletics is made in light of "pending bowl appearances." There are some decent coaches out there. There is still a sense of family that is generated on college athletic teams. In fact, that is the only family some of those athletes know. There are still players out there that would do anything for their coaches because they respect the example that they are setting for them. Coaches honor that level of respect by sticking by them in the hard times.

There is never a "good time" for a woman to be raped. Mittlestadt is right, "college athletes are not stars yet, and not everything is theirs for the taking." But what if the players she mentioned were stars? Does that make it OK? No. Whether a coach is in the NFL or NCAA, he must make decisions that are based on evidence and fact. I don't think there is a coach in America that would allow his players to go without punishment if they were convicted of rape, assault, or criminal activity. And if there is such a coach, he would have an athletic director, principle, university president, media, and the community/public to answer to. Criminal allegations are detrimental

to all parties involved. They put a strain on relationships and cause people to stand by the people they believe in. I would hope the people that love and care for me would stand by me if I were in that situation, just as I would stand by the players that I care for and coach everyday.

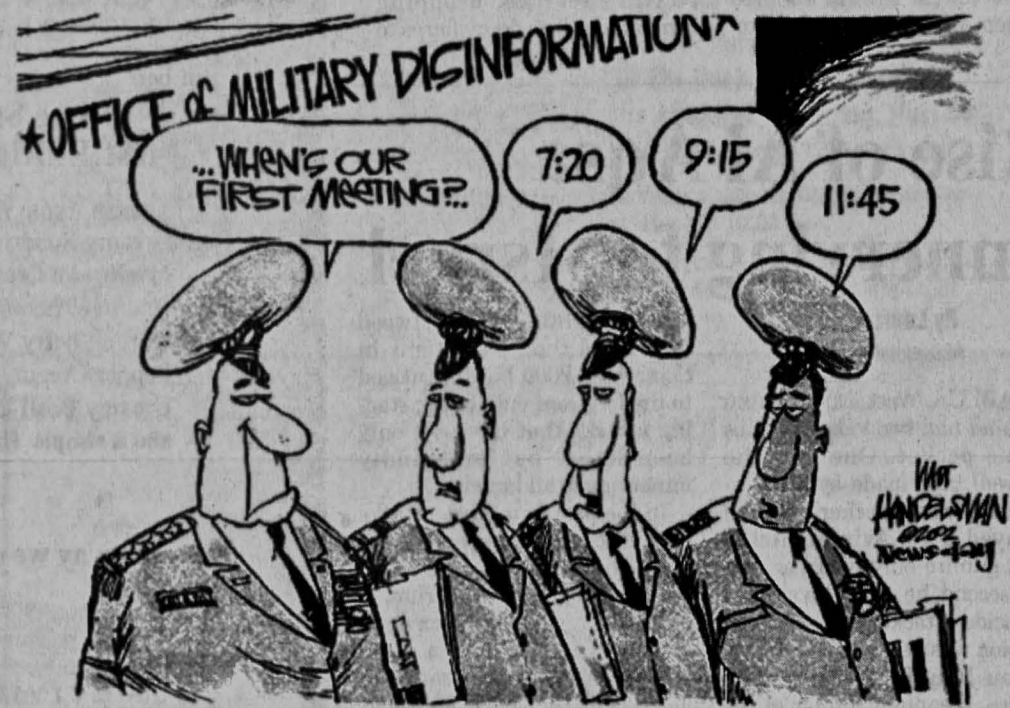
Louis A. LeBlanc
University of Alabama graduate student

Our wise leaders

I would like to applaud the Iowa City City Council. Once again, it has managed to turn what seems like a good idea into what actually is another excuse for us students to "binge drink" more often. Days after a report saying that people age 12-20 (13 percent of our population) drink 11 percent of our nation's alcohol, accompanied with another study saying most UI students are "binge drinkers," the City Council passed legislation that will increase the number of drink specials. Was it not just trying to eliminate drink specials? That is correct; now establishments that earn more than 50 percent of their revenue from food cannot allow patrons to smoke. Therefore, they will either have to sell less food or sell more alcohol. Ask the Mill Restaurant what it will do to circumvent this bill. It plans to drop expensive food items AND INCREASE DRINK SPECIALS.

I must add, however, that as a college student, I am happy to vote for the same City Council in the next election. It is certainly making it easier for me to "binge drink" several times a night.

Colin Whitney
UI student



Huerta: a hero committed to a cause

Tonight at 7 in Macbride Auditorium, you have an opportunity to hear a hero speak. Her name is Dolores Huerta.

When historians assess the United States in the 20th and early 21st centuries, her importance will rise as the people for whom she's fought all her life — the "invisible" people — become major players in U.S. politics and, thus, the world. In a time when we desire quick resolution of actions against terrorism, Huerta's strength lies in the long struggle, the patient, persistent, ever necessary work in the face of huge odds and, yes, terror.

Employers who hire thugs to go after union organizers, who give their employees no clean drinking water and no available bathrooms, no housing, no health benefits, and who look the other way from — or encourage — sexual assault and violence: These

are the local terrorists against whom stands the powerful Huerta. With the power of nonviolence — what Huerta calls a "spiritual" practice — at her back, Huerta altered in the 1960s and still alters today the landscape for seasonal farm workers.

This all began long ago, when the Mexicans who lived in California back in the day when it was Mexico suddenly got displaced from their land by a U.S. government hell-bent on Manifest Destiny.

In case you haven't heard of Manifest Destiny, it was born in 1845; the phrase meant that inevitably, the white folks of the United States would have as much land as possible, because God wanted it that way. In other words, the United States would fight the sovereign state of Mexico until we got to the Pacific, with God's seal of approval. And, well, you know what happened.



Suzi Steffen

OUT, HERE, LISTENING ALL THE TIME

The United States won the war and a ton of land.

So by the middle of this century, Anglo (white, or European-American) growers owned all the good farmland in central California. Farm workers, both Mexican-American and Mexican (and Filipino and many others), labored to bring in the grapes, strawberries, mushrooms, blueberries, and any other fruit or vegetable the country desired.

The workers who brought us fruits and vegetables

obtained nothing like a living wage — in 1965, workers struck for a standard wage of \$1.25 an hour. Laura Pulido, in her fabulous book *Environmentalism and Labor Justice*, adds that Mexicans were considered "dirty, poor, and lacking in political ambition." She quotes a law-enforcement officer as saying, "Mexicans are trash. We herd them like pigs."

Nice. First we take your land by force, then we tell you you're trash. That's very nice.

In addition, traditional labor unions refused to help the workers. Then came along Dolores Huerta.

"In the face of stereotypes of lazy Mexicans and disempowered women, Huerta learned to organize," says Sam Lopez.

Sam's a doctoral candidate in the English department and one of the co-organizers of Huerta's lecture, which lands early in International

Women's Month (some call it Women's History Month) and smack in the middle of a stimulating conference on Global Feminisms.

Global Feminisms, as I found out at <http://www.uiowa.edu/~wrac>, comprises research and presentations on different feminist theories and actions of women and men from Kazakhstan to Kenya, from Iran to India, from Chicago to Huerta's California. But Huerta's speech stands as the centerpiece both of the conference and the month.

In 1962, Huerta co-founded a farm-workers' labor organization with Cesar Chavez after teaching for several years. The organization became the United Farm Workers of America in 1966. She explains in her biography at www.ufw.org, "I couldn't stand seeing kids come to class hungry and needing shoes. I thought I could do more by organizing

farm workers than by trying to teach their hungry children."

If you come to the lecture, says Sam, "You'll hear things that will make you shiver and make you smile." Out of Huerta's passion for justice came her work to secure labor contracts for farm workers. She negotiated the first ever farm-worker contract in 1966. She has been literally on the frontlines ever since, working for a wide variety of rights; she was even beaten by an LA police officer at a 1988 rally and lost her spleen as a result.

Huerta's got a lot to say, and she can inspire just about anyone. Why? Sam explains. "Huerta has learned that if you commit yourself to a cause that is right, and you organize, there isn't a way that you can be denied."

See you there!
Suzi Steffen is a *DI* columnist.

On the Spot

Do you think drug use is prevalent in the residence halls?



"I think so, because I smell it just about every day, and I hear it talked about in the elevator."
Lindsay Steen
UI freshman



"Yes and no. It depends on the people you hang out with."
Chris Vandello
Iowa City resident



"I think there's a lot of drinking. There are ways of getting alcohol in the dorms without being caught."
Carlin Dorris
UI freshman



"I wouldn't say so much in the dorms. It's more generally in town."
Andrew O'Connor
UI freshman



"Pot use is high. There are a couple of rooms in each hall where it happens consistently."
Tim Noonan
UI sophomore

Arts & entertainment

Going, going, gone to Dublin

By Kelly Matlock
The Daily Iowan

He came with eloquent language and fear of the unknown and left with things much greater, but Martin Roper was never truly gone from Iowa City.

Born and raised in Dublin, Ireland, he came to the UI on a Fulbright scholarship in 1994. "I hated Iowa City with a vengeance," he said, reflecting on his arrival at the university, where he lived in Mayflower Residence Hall. "It was a shock to the system, coming to such a small city."

Still, with time and a challenging education, Roper dreaded his leave.

"I did fall in love with it," he said, attributing his adoration for the university and city to the inspiration and direction he gained from such professors as Susan Lohafer, whose teaching Roper calls "the best of my life."

Roper was part of the International Writing Program, and he also earned an M.F.A. in non-fiction writing in 1998. He then returned to his homeland, revisiting Iowa when the proper occasions arose years later.

One year before graduating, Roper worked with the university to start a study-abroad writing program in Dublin, now called the Irish Writing Program. Today, he heads the program while teaching many of the writing courses offered within.

"I didn't know what I was doing," Roper said about being asked to help establish and direct the program. "I didn't feel I had the resources."

The program is sponsored by

the school but welcomes students from other universities and states as well. Receiving students from Iowa to Harvard, the program blends a diverse group of young people with one thing in common: a passion and talent for writing. The program lasts six weeks during the summer — from approximately the end of June to beginning of August — and gives six credit hours. Students stay at Trinity

College, where the creative writing, literature, and drama classes are taught. Trinity, Ireland's oldest college, was founded in 1592, and it houses one of the world's most famous books, the *Book of Kells*. The school is located in the center of Dublin and is walled in from the "hustle and bustle"

of city life outside.

Roper says the Irish Writing Program has been extremely successful, promoting not only the enhancement of students' writing but personal and spiritual growth also, all while giving students the chance to experience Irish life and culture firsthand.

When not working on his own writing, Roper juggles his time between the Irish Writing Program and the Dublin Writers' Workshop, which he founded in 1984. The workshop is a weekly event that meets in a popular pub and is open to anyone.

"It can be wonderful, and it can be dreadful," Roper said. "You can get some great writers, and you can get lunatics." Impressively, after 18 years, Roper still enjoys leading the workshops.

These outstanding achievements alone make Martin Roper a

name that introductions do no justice, but there is more that comes from the famously lyrical Dubliner. And this one's another first.

Gone, Roper's first novel, hit bookstores in February, and it has already received literary praise and recognition from press all over the United States and Europe. The novel is about a man named Stephen who leaves his life in Dublin for New York after the devastating death of his sister Ruth and the relentless grip of a troubling marriage. Soon caught in a web of lust with a woman 15 years older than him, Stephen's life uncoils before his eyes, giving him no choice but to re-identify himself.

"The most horrific truth is forgetting," Roper writes, "forgetting and going on. But there is no other choice. The only option is to live a fiercely joyous life knowing full well that misery leans against every street corner."

With touching prose and striking voice, Roper steps out into the spotlight with *Gone*, previewed in the November 2001 issue of *The New Yorker*, undoubtedly the first of other masterful works to come. The characters are so complexly molded that there is no denying their realities, as their flawed beauty makes them human.

"All that was after the honeymoon," Stephen tells of wife Ursula, "adoring the sight of her; her arched foot; ankle with the tiny tattoo of the green and red hummingbird; her bent knee; high widening out; heavy hips falling down to the waist."

With the elaborate veracity and detail in both the character and plot, it is difficult not to wonder how much of Roper's novel is from his own life, of which he says that only the first half of the book parallels. From Stephen's unfinished grief and blind love to Ursula's gradual condescendence and anal tendencies to Holly's domineering luster, the characters take the driver's seat in the reader's world and refuse

to let go even after resolution. As in life, characters go away, but along with Stephen, we are left aching from their departure and coping with their being, indeed, gone.

E-mail: DJreporter@uiowa.edu
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Gone

Martin Roper

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It's not TV, it's actually good

By David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The slogan sounds elitist, even pompous: "It's not TV, it's HBO." But the pay cable service has backed up its boast.

"Sex and the City" won a recent Emmy and Golden Globe as television's best comedy series. "The Sopranos" swept the Emmys' lead-acting awards. "Six Feet Under," back this month for its second season, won the Golden Globe for best drama series.

Only a decade ago, HBO was barely in the business of making TV series. Now, its series are driving a surge in growth for the network, which added 1 million subscribers last year, to 26.1 million, says Larry Gerbrandt, the chief content officer for cable analysts Kagan World Media.

One-fourth of American homes with television now get HBO. That success is due to an economic

model that frees HBO from broadcast network restraints and to a willingness to offer creative freedom.

HBO's winning streak will be tested in the next few years as it prepares to increase its number of series by 50 percent.

It airs only seven scripted series now. ("Oz" and "Curb Your Enthusiasm" also are critical favorites.)

HBO's first notable series success was "The Larry Sanders Show," which began in 1992. HBO, which began operation in 1972, didn't even try making series until the late 1980s.

When Jeff Bewkes took over as CEO in 1995, he sought to increase the number of series to insulate HBO against downturn years in the feature-film business, which still provides the bulk of its programming.

Bewkes' mandate was simple, though subjective: An HBO series has to be something you wouldn't

see on the broadcast networks.

Last summer, NBC Chairman Robert Wright asked his own executives in a memo to account for what it was that made HBO's series so distinctive. One answer, said Scott Sassa, NBC West Coast president, is that HBO doesn't have to fill 22 prime-time hours a week, every week, with original programming.

Think of it: An NBC with just "The West Wing," "ER," "Frasier," and "Friends" would be pretty formidable.

There just isn't an endless supply of strong programming, Sassa said.

"When you put on a certain show, everyone thinks you had a choice between 'Seinfeld' and the crappy show, and you put on the crappy show because you were so stupid," he said. "[Instead], you had three crappy shows, and you put on the least crappy one."

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KERRIGAN

Continued from page 1B

experience, Kerrigan inherited a team that was just two games back in the wild-card race despite a tumultuous clubhouse. The Red Sox went 17-26 under him, winning their last five games against Tampa Bay and Baltimore.

Kerrigan was informed of his fate after Tuesday's 4-2 win over the Braves.

Port said Kerrigan is one of the two best pitching coaches he's known, and Lucchino seemed to leave the door open for Kerrigan to return as pitching coach.

"What we said to Joe is to take a few days off to let the dust settle before you make any specific plans," he said.

The coaching staff will remain in place, Port said, even with a new manager. It's not known if Cabbage will be considered.

When asked if their goal is to hire a manager with big-league experience, Port said: "At this point in time, overall managerial experience."

Little managed 16 years in the minor leagues for Baltimore, Toronto, and Atlanta. His record was 1,054-903, and four times he was named manager of the year. He coached under Jimmy Williams from 1997 to 1999 with the Red Sox.

Macha managed four seasons in the Red Sox farm system, beginning in 1995 for Double-A Trenton. He managed Triple-A Pawtucket in 1997 and 1998.

Garciparra and Trot Nixon played for Macha while rising through Boston's minor-league system, and they are among his strongest supporters. Macha compiled a 317-249 record as manager.

Dilfer wants to end in Seattle

DILFER

Continued from page 1B

were very fortunate last year to sign him."

After the season ended, Dilfer and Holmgren met for what the coach called an "exit interview," in which Holmgren told Dilfer he wanted him to come back. They agreed to meet again a month later.

"I plan on making this my last stop in the NFL, and I wanted to make sure it was the right decision," Dilfer said.

Dilfer received a \$4 million signing bonus and will make a

base salary of \$750,000 this season. He will also make a base salary of \$750,000 in 2003 and \$1.25 million each in 2004 and 2005, though incentives could boost his income in those three seasons.

The incentives are based on the team winning 10 games, Dilfer compiling a passing rating of 85.0 or higher, and his taking 75 percent of the snaps.

When someone noted that only a handful of quarterbacks had that high of a rating last season, Dilfer quickly pointed out: "And I was one of them."

Dilfer had a 92.0 rating,

passed for seven touchdowns, and was intercepted four times. Hasselbeck's quarterback rating was 70.9, with seven touchdown passes and eight interceptions — and a 5-7 record. Dilfer was sacked 10 times to Hasselbeck's 38.

The Seahawks signed Dilfer to a one-year contract in August after he lost his spot in Baltimore when the Ravens signed free agent Elvis Grbac to a \$30 million, five-year contract. At the time, Dilfer said he would be content in a backup role.

Hasselbeck has a \$24 million, five-year contract.

Thieleke encouraged by start

THIELEKE

Continued from page 1B

Thieleke: I was thinking about this coming home from Vanderbilt the other day. Really, the coaching is more specialized. Scouting reports come into play more often now. Also, there is more promotion of the game and new facilities, like at Vanderbilt.

DI: What can we expect out of this Iowa team?

Thieleke: This is a team that will play with energy. This is a team that will be aggressive. This is a team that will play with some passion. We have a good mix of seniors and freshmen. We will have more consistency, too.

Consistency has to be there for us to win.

DI: Were you encouraged by the 1-1 start in Nashville?

Thieleke: It was a great to see for a defensive coach — giving up only three runs and playing two tight ball games. It's a benefit to have tight games like that early. We got the players game-situation experience, and we let the kids play through it. We spend so much time in the bubble, it was important to finally have game experience.

DI: You are starting a freshman shortstop; can you comment on a rookie in such a critical defensive position?

Thieleke: Jeff Gremley is the right type of kid to do

that. He has great confidence and the ability to raise his game to that level. He showed it this past weekend. He's got a strong arm; he got quick, good instincts. He's got everything you want in a shortstop.

DI: What do you like to do outside of baseball?

Thieleke: It's the wrong season now, but I love golfing. Basically, anything competitive — PlayStation or whatever. I really loved the Olympics last month.

DI: What is something not many people know about you?

Thieleke: Well, when I got home [from practice], I watched "Oprah." How's that?

E-mail DI reporter Jeremy Shapiro at: shapiro@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

SPORTS BRIEFS

Barkley accuses Masters of racism

NEW YORK (AP) — Former NBA star Charles Barkley is accusing Augusta National Golf Club of "blatant racism," saying the reason behind recent changes to the course was to keep Tiger Woods from winning the Masters.

"Jack Nicklaus won the Masters six damn times, and he was hitting it past everybody else, and they never made a change," Barkley said in this week's issue of *Sports Illustrated*. "What they're doing to Tiger is blatant racism."

Augusta National spokesman Glenn Greenspan said the club had no comment.

Recent renovations, which include nearly 300 additional yards, were announced by Chairman Hootie Johnson the day before last year's Masters began. Woods won his second green jacket by two shots over David Duval.

Hughes to skip world championships

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Don't read anything into Sarah Hughes' decision to skip the world championships.

The Olympic gold medalist withdrew from the meet Tuesday, saying the whirlwind that followed her Salt Lake City upset hasn't left her any time to train. But she isn't turning pro, as Tara Lipinski did after winning gold four years ago, and she still plans to compete at the Olympic level next year.

"She said, 'Make sure everybody knows I'm still going to compete,'" said Robin Wagner, Hughes' coach. "She really wants to compete. She

says, 'I've won this, which is great, but I want a national title, I want a world title. I just really love competing.'"

Hughes pulled off one of the biggest upsets in Olympic history when she won the women's free skate Feb. 21 and soared from fourth to first. The 16-year-old from Great Neck, N.Y., beat Irina Slutskaya of Russia and six-time U.S. champion Michelle Kwan.

NHL GMs discuss using Olympic rules

Rules changes that could bring the NHL closer to the quicker style of the Olympics were among the topics Tuesday at the league's annual meeting of general managers.

Possible trades were also part of the discussions, which were described as intense and heated.

"You have 30 fairly strong-willed people in there who are very opinionated," New York Islanders GM Mike Milbury said. "Good things come out of that."

The executives spent the morning and afternoon hours at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Naples, Fla., assessing which — if any — Olympic rules would work well in the NHL.

They also schmoozed each other in hopes of landing the key player for a successful playoff drive. The trading deadline is 3 p.m. on March 19.

"That's part of the reason we have the meetings now," New York Rangers GM Glen Sather said. "It's a good time to talk about players and get everything out on the table."

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-R- 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45

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-PG-13- 12:20, 3:30, 6:40, 9:50

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-PG-13- 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 10:00

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-R- 12:10, 3:30, 6:40, 9:50

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