

The Daily Iowan

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2004

SINCE 1868

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4 U.S. civilians killed, mutilated

1 long year later, local GIs home

BY BRIAN SPANNAGEL
THE DAILY IOWAN

The welcome-home ceremony for the Iowa National Guard's 109th Medical Battalion today begins weeks of homecomings for more than 1,000 Iowa Guard troops and thousands of soldiers nationwide who have served in Iraq, Lt. Col. Greg Haggood said on Wednesday.

The ceremony for the first returning wave of soldiers — more than 200 locally based Guard troops — is set for 6 p.m. today at the Coral Ridge Mall ice rink. The shopping center is gearing up for an estimated crowd of more than 1,500 family members, friends, and members of the general public at the 20-minute event.

"There will be lots of emotions," said Haggood, a Guard public-affairs officer. "Families are overjoyed and relieved that they are home, and there is lots of pride."

Two units in the 109th — Headquarters Support Company and Company A — were sent to Iraq from Iowa City in the first weeks of 2003, when war was imminent. They arrived back in the States last week for processing at Fort McCoy, Wis., and they will be bused in from there.

The Guard's duties included overseeing other medical companies, dispatching ambulance services, distributing medical supplies, and retrieving soldiers.

Then-UI junior Tiffany Jenkins, who was deployed as a member of the 109th, will see her mother, father, and grandmother at the ceremony for the first time in a year.

"I spoke with her, and she said it is so good to be in the same time zone — it's been a very long time," said Jenkins' grandmother, Betty Chapin, who left a light on in the window of her home for 396 days straight, ever since Jenkins left. She plans on letting her granddaughter turn the light off when she comes home.

The ceremony's crowd will nearly double the 2,700 average daily shoppers, so the mall has increased security, notified vendors, and has enough parking to accommodate everyone, said Coral Ridge marketing director Sheila Boyd.

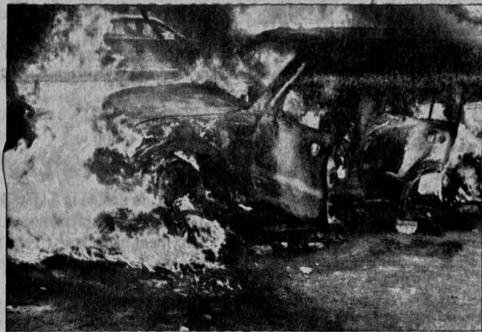
An additional 800 Iowa Guard troops deployed in the first rotation to Iraq are expected to return by May, Haggood said. Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, nearly 4,200 Iowa Guard troops have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Seven hundred soldiers with the 168th Infantry Battalion were mobilized in February, and they expect to be stationed in Afghanistan. Overall, roughly 100,000 U.S. soldiers are serving in Iraq.

E-mail D/I reporter [Brian Spannagel](mailto:brian-spannagel@uiowa.edu) at brian-spannagel@uiowa.edu



Khalid Mohammed/Associated Press

Iraqis chant anti-American slogans as charred bodies hang from a bridge over the Euphrates River in Fallujah on Wednesday. Enraged Iraqis in this hotbed of anti-Americanism killed four American civilians, dragged their bodies through the streets, and hung them from the bridge.



Abdel Kader Saadi/Associated Press

Flames engulf a vehicle in Fallujah on Wednesday after four American civilians were attacked and killed.

BY SEWELL CHAN
WASHINGTON POST

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Four American civilians were ambushed and shot to death here Wednesday by insurgents, witnesses and U.S. officials said. Townspeople mutilated the bodies of two of the men, dragged them through the streets, suspended them from a bridge, and burned

them while crowds danced and cheered.

Two hours earlier, 12 miles away near the town of Habaniya, five U.S. Army soldiers were killed when their armored vehicle ran over a roadside bomb that left a 10-by-15-foot crater. It was the deadliest such attack since the invasion of Iraq one year ago, and it made March the second deadliest month for

the U.S. military since the beginning of the war.

The four men killed in the Fallujah ambush were not immediately identified. Officials said they were employed by a private security firm, Blackwater Security Consulting of Moyock, N.C., which issued a statement confirming the deaths of four of its employees.

The extraordinary attacks stunned U.S. officials and signaled a new level of violence and brutality in an insurgency that has directed its lethal energy at every symbol of the American-led occupation: troops, contractors, aid workers, and Iraqis viewed as collaborators. Even on the battle-scarred streets of Fallujah, residents said they were shocked by the ferocity of the insurgents and their sympathizers.

White House spokesman

Scott McClellan, blamed terrorists and loyalists of deposed president Saddam Hussein for the "horrific attacks" and vowed that they would not alter U.S. plans to turn over political power to an interim Iraqi government on June 30. In Baghdad, Army Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said, "Fallujah remains one of those cities in Iraq that just don't get it."

The violence here came five days after a running gun battle in the streets of Fallujah left 15 Iraqis and one Marine dead. The city, approximately 35 miles west of Baghdad, has been the site of some of the fiercest anti-American attacks in the country. None of the earlier violence, however, featured the grisly acts played out across the center of Fallujah for hours on Wednesday.

U.S. officials said that

their information about the assault was limited and sketchy.

"Quite frankly, we don't yet know what has happened today," Kimmitt, the deputy director of operations for the military's joint task force in Iraq, said at a news conference. "It would be premature to judge or criticize or make even any assessment of what happened today until we know all the facts."

Iraqi witnesses interviewed hours after the attack provided descriptions of the violence that were generally consistent but could not be independently verified.

The ambush was carried out by three insurgents who drove into town on a large truck, witnesses said. After shooting the four Americans,

SEE IRAQ, PAGE 4A

ALSO INSIDE:

After a year, U.S. militants struggle to maintain security in the Sunni Triangle region. Also, news organizations were faced with the decision on whether to run gruesome photos of Wednesday's event.

See page 3A

UI's laundry service may be privatized

Going private will save money without lay offs

BY SARAH FRANKLIN
THE DAILY IOWAN

Frustrated by a proposal that could replace UI Laundry Service workers with a private company, the employees' union representatives said on Wednesday that they will present the state Board of Regents with at least 1,000 signatures protesting the idea.

Privatizing the service that launders garments for UI Hospitals and Clinics, the IMU, and Facilities Services Group, among others, would save "hundreds of thousands" of dollars

annually without laying off any of the 31 union workers, said Doug True, the UI vice president for Finance. But union representatives do not want their members transferred to other jobs at the university.

True said the university will decide whether it will seek formal bids from private companies in the next few weeks.

"One year ago, we sought proposals from vendors, and we saw great savings [for the UI]," he said. "It was clear one year ago that there would be great savings."

SEE LAUNDRY, PAGE 4A

ARABIAN KNIGHTS



Nick Loomis/The Daily Iowan

Arabic dance instructor Fritha Coltrain demonstrates a move for her class at Arts à la Carte on Wednesday evening. In addition to teaching, Coltrain also performs with Kahraman Near East Dance Ensemble.

CR officials float idea for interurban trolley

BY MARK QUINER
THE DAILY IOWAN

Cedar Rapids city officials are trying to drum up support for a regional passenger rail system to foster tourism — hoping Iowa City will jump on board the \$15 million project and join other communities.

The Cedar Rapids City Council voted 4-1 Wednesday to apply for a federal grant that would fund \$12 million of the project, which would connect Cedar Rapids, the Amana Colonies, and Coralville by means of a trolley traveling up to 40 mph.

Doug Wagner, the chief of staff of the Cedar Rapids mayor's

office, said \$800 million per year are spent on tourism in Johnson, Linn, and Iowa Counties. He added that the three cities involved, as well as Board of Supervisors in each county, plan to divide the remaining cost.

"This will create a true regional destination," Wagner said, adding that he expects other cities close to the trolley route to get involved as the project gains momentum.

Josh Schamberger, the executive director of the Iowa City and Coralville Convention and Visitors Bureau, said that although Iowa City is not currently one of

SEE TROLLEY, PAGE 4A

WEATHER

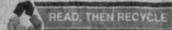
↑ 55 ..
↓ 32 .. Mostly sunny, light breezes

LIFE AT THE TOP

The Hawkeye men gymnasts are looking to make some national noise. See story, Page 1B

GAS ATTACK

OPEC decides to go ahead with its oil-production cut, prompting fears of higher gas prices. See story, Page 7A



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INDEX

Arts 1C
Classifieds 4B
Crossword 8A
Opinions 6A
Sports 1B

NEWS

Speaker urges binational peace

BY ARNA WILKINSON
THE DAILY IOWAN

Ali Abunimah, a commentator on Arab-American and Middle Eastern affairs, addressed the options of peace in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict before a receptive crowd of UI students and community members on Wednesday night.

The mood was somber as the social-policy researcher dedicated his speech about the merits of a binational state to those who have died in skirmishes between the two groups, including several Iowans.

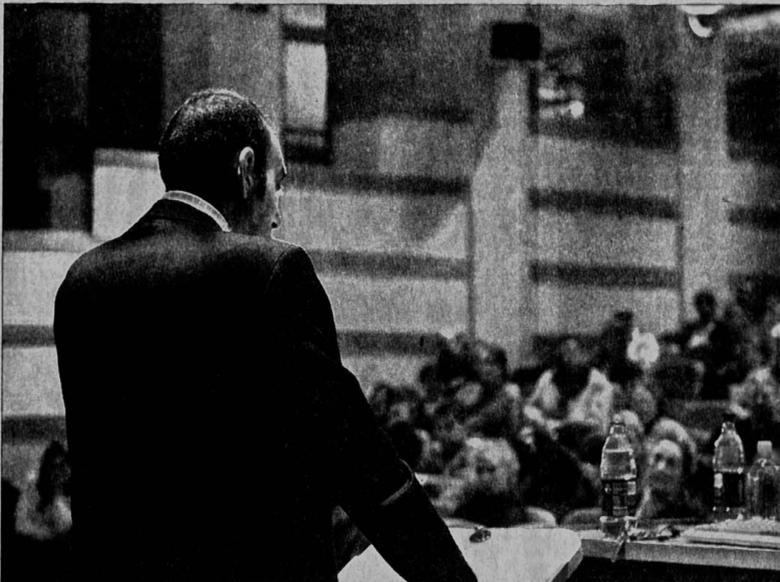
"I feel a great sense of responsibility that what we say here tonight — everything we say is in seriousness — so much is at stake," he said.

Denouncing Israeli policies such as the construction of the separating wall and creating "settlement blocks" of Jewish settlers, the Palestinian-American said that Israel has rendered the idea of two separate states impossible.

He also condemned "illegitimate forms" of Palestinian violence, such as suicide bombings as "resistance that stands in the way of peace."

A binational solution, which has been proposed off and on since the 1920s, would create a secular state in the Palestinian territories shared by Jewish and Arab populations. Occupied territories would be annexed to Israel, with Palestinian residents gaining citizenship and rights equal to current citizens.

Abunimah stressed that although a binational state may be "too remote, too utopian," a



Nick Loomis/The Daily Iowan

Ali Abunimah discusses Palestinian-Israeli relations in the Buchanan Auditorium on Wednesday night.

resolution to the Palestinian/Israeli conflict is necessary now more than ever as the Arab population becomes a majority in the territory. He called upon the responsibility of the Palestinians, Israelis, and the United States to make peace, urging the end of U.S. military aid to Israel.

"We often see the world as full of conflict, but it is easy to forget that the world is full of reconciliation, too," he said.

An outspoken critic of international and U.S. media, the frequent newspaper columnist spoke

before the event about media prejudice against Palestinians — the reason he co-founded websites concerning Middle Eastern political and social issues.

"We felt there was a major gap in the media, particularly in the United States, when it comes to Palestinians," he said.

UI senior Giancarlo Diviacchi said he had a tendency to see things from an Israeli point of view before the speech.

"What [Abunimah] was talking about makes sense," Diviacchi said. "I'm not as biased

toward the Israelis as I was."

This kind of open-mindedness was what co-sponsors People for Justice in Palestine, the UI General Union of Palestine Students, and Iowans for Peace in Iraq had hoped for.

"We want to build awareness in Iowa City about a peaceful solution to Israeli/Palestinian conflict," said Yaser Abu Dagga, a UI alum and member of People for Justice in Palestine. "Peace is a wonderful thing to accomplish."

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The Daily Iowan

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BREAKING NEWS

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POLICE BLOTTER

Thomas Blanchard, 56, address unknown, was charged Tuesday with public intoxication.

Robert Jones, 49, Coralville, was charged Wednesday with public intoxication.

Joshua McFarland, 21, 618 Iowa Ave. Apt. 3, was charged Wednesday

with operating while intoxicated.

Christopher Miller, 25, 68 Oberlin St. Apt. 10, was charged Wednesday

with domestic abuse and fifth-degree criminal mischief.

Christopher Parsely, 28, Mount Vernon, was charged Wednesday with driving with a suspended license.

STATE

Jobless Iowans may lose benefits

DES MOINES (AP) — More than 17,000 jobless Iowans are set to lose unemployment benefits if the federal government doesn't extend funding, said a congressional study released Wednesday.

The House Committee on Government Reform prepared reports for each Democratic senator, including Sen. Tom Harkin.

The report said that 8,300 workers lost unemployment benefits in the first three months of 2004. Another 8,761 could lose their benefits over

the next three months if benefits are not extended, the report said.

People who lose their jobs are eligible for 26 weeks of compensation. Another 13 weeks is added if the job loss is the result of a business closing. The federal program would have extended benefits for an additional 13 weeks.

Harkin said the U.S. is in the longest period of job loss ever, with more than 2 million jobs lost over the past three years and 9 million people who are unable to find work.

Extending federal funding for unemployment benefits is crucial to helping those workers, he said.

Panel examines options for cutting funds

BY ALEX LANG
THE DAILY IOWAN

UI President David Skorton's new budget task force will not consider instructional programs or departments in its efforts to slash \$12 million from the general fund, a committee member said Wednesday.

To prevent the university from weakening all of its programs, the General Education Fund Task Force will look to reallocate funds from several non-instructional programs — though no one has decided which ones, said panel member Kitty Buckwalter, the associate provost for health sciences.

"We've got to find \$12 million,

and we've got to find it soon," she said, describing the process as "tough" and "unpleasant." Looking at instructional programs "is not part of our mission right now," she said.

The task force will address more concrete options after its subcommittees report back to the group.

The general education fund, which makes up a large portion of the UI budget, hovers around \$400 million. Encompassing 11 colleges' budgets and most faculty and staff salaries, the budget is funded by state appropriations and tuition.

Buckwalter and other officials declined to say what programs are under consideration for being cut, but she cited the UI

Center for Aging as an example of a non-instructional program. It doesn't offer instruction but still affords students learning opportunities, she said.

"It is extremely difficult" determining what to cut, said the task force's chairman, law Professor Jonathan Carlson. "Everything in the general education fund is valuable to people on campus, Iowa City, Johnson County, the region, or the state."

He said the task force may also target self-supporting programs that can survive without money from the general fund.

Skorton, who must approve the task force's recommendations before forwarding them to the state Board of Regents, created the

group to review the way the university has handled budget cuts.

"I'm very anxious and interested in seeing their point of view," Skorton said.

Before he does, the task force hopes to hold several public forums to discuss the general education fund, though time constraints may prohibit that, said panel member and outgoing UI Student Government President Nate Green.

In what Skorton and task-force members deemed a coincidence, the committee report is scheduled to be completed on a day of another budget concern: April 15, tax day.

E-mail: alexlang@uiowa.edu

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Saturday, April 10
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Grand Entry: 1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 11
Doors Open: 11:00 a.m.
Grand Entry: 1:00 p.m.

admission

Adult 3-day pass	\$15
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THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA



An Iraqi youth cheer carrying up to four U

Medi

BY JAMES T. M

NEWSDAY

News organization day faced the difficult of whether to show tures from the Fall, recalling the cont 1993 over images of mob dragging the U.S. soldier thr Mogadishu streets.

Some television and newspaper edit use the disturbing burned bodies bei or hanging from a b others did not.

The Fox News C quently aired the s attack on a convoy c American contractor their SUVs on fire an jubilant Iraq civilia

NATION

Officials ecsta Ecstasy ring s

WASHINGTON (AP) Canadian drug traff believed responsible fo of all the Ecstasy sn North America has bee authorities said Wedn announced arrests a charges against 170 pe

At its height, the ring million Ecstasy tablets the two countries and 1 million a month using cies and bank transfers States and Vietnam, off

Drug Enforcement A chief Karen Tandy said investigation culmina arrests of nearly the ent operation, from leaders

"We wiped out this ent ion," she said at a new: Ecstasy, or MDMA, is a trolled substance original "club drug" because of its raves and dance clubs. It high schools and colleges mated 3.2 million people i in 2002, according to the

It was once thought t less drug. But research h prolonged, heavy use of cause confusion, depres aggressive and impuls and memory loss, acco National Institute on Dru

Its popularity has attention of an increas criminal enterprises, lar of the large profits. I about \$4 apiece whol operation typically cost each on the street.

The organization targ and Canadian authori largely of people with grounds, according to ments. The alleged ring Ze Wai Wong, 46, a Ch and Mai Phuong

Vietnamese citizen, arrested in Toronto and They operated three la which were discovered

tied in August, authori pills often were smuggle U.S. border or inside Ca parments within vehic making the drugs hard t ticularly for drug-sniffing

Fallujah a hot spot of anti-Americanism

BY ESTHER SCHRADER AND TONY PERRY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON — After a year of trying, the U.S. military can't figure out how to quell the rage in Fallujah, perhaps the most dangerous city in Iraq's most dangerous region.

Last spring, the Army's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment sent in a small, light force that got into a firefight and was forced to retreat. Next came the 3rd Infantry Division and, then, the 82nd Airborne with more iron-fisted approaches. When each left, the insurgents seemed as strong as ever.

Last month, the Marines arrived with a different strategy, running 24-hour-a-day patrols to hunt down insurgents while spending millions of dollars aimed at winning civilian hearts and minds.

But no change in strategy prevented Wednesday's gruesome developments during one of the deadliest months since Iraq was invaded a year ago: Four Western civilians dead, their charred corpses dragged through the streets and hung from bridges by jubilant crowds.

Lt. Gen. James Conway, the commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, told a group of Navy chaplains recently that the Marines had been given a "God-sized challenge" to

bring security and stability to the Sunni Triangle.

But at the Pentagon, senior military officers are beginning to question whether any military strategy can sway a region where anger, religious zeal, and intense economic need run so deep.

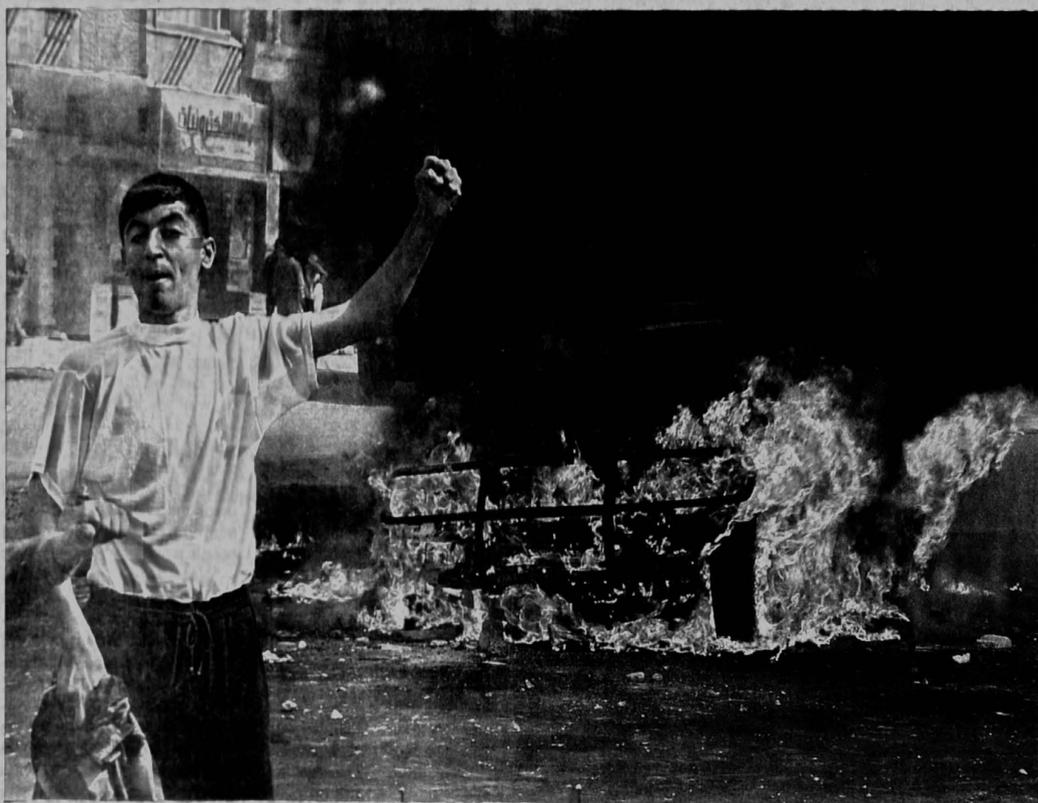
"We've got to recognize," said one senior officer, "that Fallujah is certainly the hotbed of the insurgency in Iraq. It is clearly the hardest nut to crack in terms of the religious issues."

The area also reflects the residue of the influence wielded by ousted Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, the senior officer said.

"It is clearly where most of Saddam's most loyal subjects have and continue to play a role and feel they have the wherewithal to resist any attempts to change," the officer said. "That means that until we get the Iraqis in there to handle it, and we get out, this is going to continue to happen."

That sort of pessimism is born of a difficult year in Fallujah, a city approximately 30 miles west of Baghdad where Sunni Muslims maintain prayer rooms in restaurants and where women are rarely seen in public.

Under Saddam's regime, Fallujah became a major recruiting center for military and security services.



Abdel Kader Saadi/Associated Press

An Iraqi youth cheers in front of a burning vehicle in Fallujah on Wednesday. Gunmen attacked two civilian cars that residents said were carrying up to four U.S. civilians. The occupants of the cars were killed, and their vehicles were set on fire.

Media face tough call on images

BY JAMES T. MADORE
NEWSDAY

News organizations Wednesday faced the difficult decision of whether to show grisly pictures from the Fallujah attack, recalling the controversy in 1993 over images of a Somali mob dragging the corpse of a U.S. soldier through the Mogadishu streets.

Some television producers and newspaper editors chose to use the disturbing scenes of burned bodies being mutilated or hanging from a bridge, while others did not.

The Fox News Channel frequently aired the story of the attack on a convoy carrying four American contractors, showing their SUVs on fire and crowds of jubilant Iraq civilians but not

abuse of the charred corpses. "We just decided it was too graphic to show," said Bill Shine, Fox's vice president of production.

The Associated Press distributed 10 photos to its 15,000 clients worldwide including such popular websites as Yahoo, which posted some of the disturbing images. AP Television News also offered streaming video of the event.

"These photos aren't that gruesome; I've seen a lot worse," said AP's deputy photography Michael Feldman, citing the beheading of a Sri Lankan leader in the early 1990s.

"We aren't in the business of censoring news. I think it would be wrong not to show what is happening in Iraq."

AP clients in Europe, the Middle East, and elsewhere will be

less reluctant to show such violence, Feldman said. Agence France-Presse also distributed a number of graphic photos.

At *Newsday*, editors Wednesday night were planning to publish a couple of the controversial images. "We decided to strike a balance," said *Newsday* Editor Howard Schneider.

"On one hand, our normal policy is not to depict graphic violence. On the other hand, the nature of that kind of violence is the story ... and we don't want to protect people from seeing the world as it really is."

Such issues have been a constant in the past year's coverage of the Iraq war, with some journalism experts saying Americans received "sanitized" reports that rarely depicted the dead from either side.

John Armstrong, a former TV producer who now teaches at Furman University in South Carolina, said, "It is appropriate to run that kind of video, but it also is appropriate to portray the broader story of what's happening in Iraq."

In 1993, images of the body of an U.S. soldier being dragged through the streets of Mogadishu helped to intensify calls on then-President Clinton to withdraw troops from that African nation. But some experts doubted whether the Fallujah photos would have a similar effect.

"The Somalia images came out of nowhere and shocked the American public," said David Perlmutter, the author of two books on war photography and a Louisiana State University professor.

NATION

Officials ecstatic; Ecstasy ring smashed

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S.-Canadian drug trafficking ring believed responsible for 15 percent of all the Ecstasy smuggled into North America has been wiped out, authorities said Wednesday. They announced arrests and criminal charges against 170 people.

At its height, the ring distributed 1 million Ecstasy tablets per month in the two countries and laundered \$5 million a month using travel agencies and bank transfers in the United States and Vietnam, officials said.

Drug Enforcement Administration chief Karen Tandy said the two-year investigation culminated in the arrests of nearly the entire trafficking operation, from leaders to couriers.

"We wiped out this entire organization," she said at a news conference.

Ecstasy, or MDMA, is a synthetic controlled substance originally known as a "club drug" because of its popularity at raves and dance clubs. It has spread to high schools and colleges, with an estimated 3.2 million people using the drug in 2002, according to the DEA.

It was once thought of as a harmless drug. But research has found that prolonged, heavy use of Ecstasy can cause confusion, depression, anxiety, aggressive and impulsive behavior, and memory loss, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Its popularity has caught the attention of an increasing range of criminal enterprises, largely because of the large profits. Pills sold at about \$4 apiece wholesale in the operation typically cost \$15 to \$20 each on the street.

The organization targeted by U.S. and Canadian authorities consisted largely of people with Asian backgrounds, according to court documents. The alleged ringleaders were Ze Wai Wong, 46, a Chinese citizen, and Mai Phuong Le, 38, a Vietnamese citizen. Wong was arrested in Toronto and Le in Ottawa.

They operated three labs in Canada, which were discovered and dismantled in August, authorities said. The pills often were smuggled across the U.S. border or inside Canada in compartments within vehicle gas tanks, making the drugs hard to detect, particularly for drug-sniffing dogs.

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For more information on how you can participate, contact Kathy Flanders at 356-4602 between the hours of 8:00 and 4:00, or e-mail at flandersk@mail.medicine.uiowa.edu, or visit our web site at: <http://obgyn.uihc.uiowa.edu/>

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NEWS

4 U.S. civilians in Iraq killed

IRAQ

Continued from Page 1A

the attackers left the area, witnesses said. The desecration of the victims' bodies was perpetrated by mobs of enraged townspeople.

Lt. Col. Jalal Sabri Khamis Tae, the head of police patrols in Fallujah, said 11 of his officers arrived after the killings and found "hundreds of people, old and young" chanting slogans against the Americans.

Crowds carried the bodies of two victims to the nearby Euphrates River and hung the corpses from one of two bridges that span the waterway. Hours later, the bodies were cut down, tossed onto a pile of tires, and set afire.

The bodies were then dragged behind a donkey cart to Fallujah's municipal building and dumped there, only to be tied to the bumper of a car and dragged away to an unknown location.

By nightfall, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, which

took over responsibility for security in western Iraq last week, had not entered Fallujah to retrieve the bodies.

The deaths of the four Americans brought to 16 the number of foreign civilians killed in Iraq since March 9. Before Wednesday, six Americans, two Finns, and one citizen each from Britain, Canada, Germany, and the Netherlands had been slain.

The statement issued by the company that employed the Americans, Blackwater Security, said four members of its staff were killed in the attack while providing security on a food convoy for a U.S. government subcontractor. The company did not provide details about the identities of the dead men or about whether there were more than two vehicles in the convoy.

Blackwater Security is a division of Blackwater USA, which has a 6,000-acre training site in northeastern North Carolina. Blackwater trains security and law-enforcement personnel for domestic and overseas assignments and

emphasizes its use of former Special Operations forces from the military, particularly Navy SEALs, an elite commando unit. The name Blackwater alludes to the commando practice of deploying into water at night.

The company also has a contract to provide the personal security detail for L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. administrator for Iraq.

Some witnesses said the insurgents had planned Wednesday's ambush in advance. Esam Yassin, 22, who sells biscuits and soft drinks at a small shop on Highway 10, said owners of businesses along the four-lane road were warned Wednesday morning to stay away from the area because of an impending clash with the Americans.

The attack occurred in a commercial district that is normally busy. But on Wednesday, Yassin said, the morning streets were nearly devoid of their normal pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Yassin said insurgents were circulating this message: "We

will be waiting here for them and a big battle will happen. So we don't want civilians to be around."

Wednesday's bombing of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle near Habbaniya brought to 408 the number of U.S. troops killed in combat since the invasion of Iraq. At least 48 of those deaths came in March, making it the deadliest month for American forces since November, when 82 troops were killed.

In Baghdad, several thousand young Shiite Muslim men marched on Wednesday to protest the closing of a newspaper published by an anti-American cleric.

The march was peaceful, but the young, mostly unemployed men who make up the so-called Mahdi Army chanted their readiness to take up arms on behalf of their Shiite clerical leader, Moqtada Sadr.

Special correspondent Naseer Nouri, correspondent Karl Vick, and staff writers Mary Pat Flaherty, Dana Priest, and Jackie Spinner contributed to this report.

Officials push for intercity railway

TROLLEY

Continued from Page 1A

the cities involved in the project, he is sure there will be a station serving the Iowa City area.

"There are quite a few communities that would benefit from this sort of service," he said, adding that passengers could book a hotel in Cedar Rapids and visit the attractions, take the trolley to Coralville, and go to a Hawk-eye sporting event.

Iowa City City Councilor Connie Champion said she thought it was a good idea, but she wasn't sure people would take a trolley when they could drive to the various destinations in 20 minutes.

"I would not finance it because [the cities are] too close, and it will not be well-used," she said.

Eliot Keller, the committee chairman of the Iowa Association of Rail Passengers, said the system would have many functions, serving student commuters as well as tourists.

UI senior Mallory Klungtvedt said she didn't think there were enough people commuting among the destinations to support a passenger rail system.

At Wednesday's Cedar Rapids council vote, Lyle Hanson, the city's finance commissioner, worried that the ongoing cost of maintaining the railway would burden the city, which is already grappling with a 2003 \$3 million cut in state revenues.

He said the public would incur much of the cost, and in addition, he was not convinced people would support it.

"Not that it is not a good idea," he said. "I just don't think that the time is now."

Keller said the system will likely need governmental support for maintenance.

"In most cases, fare-box revenue does not account for the total operating expense," he said, adding that a rail system is a valuable asset to society in that it reduces road congestion and is environmentally friendly.

E-mail/DI reporter Mark Quiner at mark-quiner@uiowa.edu

UI may look to private laundry service

LAUNDRY

Continued from Page 1A

The UI spends \$3.2 million annually on laundry, 80 percent of which comes from UIHC at 49 cents per pound, True said. University officials do not yet know the exact amount of savings if the school were to privatize the laundry work.

Last year, when the university requested bids to gauge potential savings, the bidders' average per-pound price was 36 cents, said Robin White, an organizer for American Federation of State, County, and

Municipal Employees Council 61, which represents the 31 workers.

Union members who work at the UI laundry facility would be reassigned to similar work at the university, True said.

The employees' current salaries — ranging from \$10 to \$17 per hour — are also guaranteed by their union contract, White said.

If the UI decides to seek bids, it would first consult with the regents, who would make the final decision on employing a private firm, True said.

The 6-year-old, \$4 million laundry facility, located on the

edge of the Oakdale campus, could be used by the private company, he said, adding that when the university sought proposals one year ago, one company expressed an interest in using it.

Union representatives are concerned about the jobs going out of state.

"There is no guarantee that 31 employees from the state of Iowa [will be hired]," White said. "Those are 31 jobs state workers won't have access to anymore."

True, however, said that in seeking bids, the university will work to keep jobs in Iowa. "It is important to have Iowans employed," True said.

In addition to the petition, the AFSCME is hiring a consultant to help reduce costs.

"My people are living in fear that their job is going away," said Ed Alcock, the president of the AFSCME Local 12. "They don't want to leave."

True said the university will do its best to ensure the workers find jobs matching their skills.

"We've been very open with the people there and with the unions," he said. "Their jobs are protected, but there is still concern about change."

E-mail/DI reporter Sarah Franklin at sarah-franklin@uiowa.edu

Spain issues int'l warrants in Madrid bombing

BY MARIA JESUS PRADES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADRID, Spain — Spain for the first time issued international arrest warrants Wednesday in the Madrid train bombings, seeking six suspects in a widening probe into the worst terrorist attack in Spanish history.

The names and photographs of the warrants for five Moroccans and a Tunisian were distributed by the Interior Ministry. They included two brothers of Naima Oulad Akcha, the only woman charged in the case so far, a court official said.

The warrants were sent internationally and not specifically to Britain, Morocco, and France, contrary to earlier reports, a court official said.

Earlier, a government official erroneously said that one of the warrants was for Abdelkrim Mejjati, a 36-year-old Moroccan who was convicted in absentia in the deadly bombings in Casablanca last year, which killed 33 people and 12 suicide bombers. Mejjati is wanted by the FBI in connection with possible terrorist threats against the United States.

Spanish police have 19 people in custody — 11 Moroccans or Moroccan-born Spaniards, two Indians, two Spaniards, and three Syrians. The nationality of one suspect, whose arrest was announced Wednesday, was not released.

Fourteen of the suspects have been charged with mass murder or collaborating with or belonging to a terrorist group.

Interior Minister Angel Acebes on Tuesday identified the Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group as the main focus of investigation in the March 11 bombings in Madrid, which killed 191 people and injured more than 1,800 others. That extremist group is a forerunner of Salafia Jihadia, which Morocco blamed for the Casablanca bombings.

At least five members of the Combatant group, including alleged leaders Nouredine Nfia and Salahedine Benyaich, trained in Qaeda camps in Afghanistan between 1999 and 2001, Moroccan officials said.

Spanish investigators have analyzed a videotape in which a man claiming to speak on behalf of Al Qaeda said the group carried out the Madrid attacks in reprisal for Spain's backing of the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

In the investigation, Moroccan Mustapha Ahmidam and Antonio Toro Castro, the brother-in-law of a Spaniard charged with supplying dynamite to the bombers, were questioned by the judge Wednesday.

Ahmidam was released, and Castro was ordered to return to court on Friday.

Another Moroccan, Fouad Almorabit, was re-arrested Wednesday.

The radio station Cadena Ser said one of the suspects who went before the judge told him the attack was motivated by the occupation of Iraq and that Britain, Spain and the United States are held responsible.

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Libe

BY SETH SU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — I business, or is it poli The two seem in entwined for the l America Radio, the radio network that five stations around Wednesday.

As a startup med it needs to draw i fast. Air America betting that a left-leaning politica tary, current-affair satire will resonate opposed to th administration.

Al Franken, who ing the network w three-hour talk shov no secret of his inter his platform to inf election in November "We are flaming sv tice," he told a cheeri a party to launch th Tuesday night.

"Bush is going d going down, he is g And we're going to h Franken's show w noon on Wednesday Katherine Lanpher, host of a public rad Minnesota.

At the opening, Fr that they were broad a bunker 3,500 feet President Dick Ch secret bunker.

In fact, Franken cast his show, du

NATION

Missing Wisco student found

MADISON, Wis. (AP) University of Wisconsin found alive and healthy V a marsh near campus, fo she vanished from apartment with no coat

Police said Wednesday Audrey Seiler had been knife-point, and officers the abductor had not fo search continued Wedn Officer Shannon Blac Seiler did not know the also said there also wa tion or threat of a gun, t never saw the weapon. "Audrey reports she to leave and was n Blackmore said.

Seiler, 20, was treat tal and released after less than six hours. Schultz said Seiler wa dehydrated and had mu

"Audrey is doing happy to be back," sai Keith Seiler. "Needless thrilled to be home ag family and friends."

The discovery cappe search in which dozei teers from Seiler's slogged through ma woods around campus gators scoured phone

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Liberals open up air offensive

BY SETH SUTEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Is it a radio business, or is it politics?

The two seem inextricably entwined for the leaders of Air America Radio, the liberal talk-radio network that launched on five stations around the country Wednesday.

As a startup media business, it needs to draw in listeners fast. Air America Radio is betting that a menu of left-leaning political commentary, current-affairs talk, and satire will resonate with those opposed to the Bush administration.

Al Franken, who is heading the network with a daily three-hour talk show, has made no secret of his intention to use his platform to influence the election in November.

"We are flaming swords of justice," he told a cheering crowd at a party to launch the network Tuesday night.

"Bush is going down, he is going down, he is going down. And we're going to help him."

Franken's show went live at noon on Wednesday with co-host Katherine Lanpher, a longtime host of a public radio show in Minnesota.

At the opening, Franken joked that they were broadcasting from a bunker 3,500 feet below Vice President Dick Cheney's own secret bunker.

In fact, Franken will broadcast his show, dubbed "The



Frank Franklin II/Associated Press

Comedian Al Franken gestures during a break on Wednesday on the debut broadcast of his radio show, "The O'Franken Factor," which airs on the liberal Air America

O'Franken Factor" in his latest job at Fox News host Bill O'Reilly, from the slightly shabby studios of New York City station WLIB, on the 41st floor of an office tower a few blocks from the Empire State Building.

The studio, where the show has had just a week to settle in before launching, has the feel of a scrappy political campaign that's just getting under way.

"I don't think of it as a business, but I know it has to make money to be sustaining," Franken said in an interview, perching his feet up on the desk after a rehearsal session for the show. "A lot of it is mission."

The sense of mission is felt just as strongly several floors down, where the makeshift offices of Air America Radio are marked with handwritten sheets of paper

taped on the wall, including those for CEO Mark Walsh, where the phones have yet to be hooked up.

Walsh, a former America Online executive and adviser to the Democratic National Committee, said liberal politics would be a "teaser ... a loss leader in the window" for the radio network, which is also being broadcast in Chicago, Los Angeles, and Portland, Ore.

NATION

Saddam spy gets 3-plus years

CHICAGO (AP) — A suburban Chicago newspaper publisher convicted of spying on Iraqi dissidents for Saddam Hussein was sentenced Wednesday to three years and 10 months in federal prison.

Khaled Abdel-Latif Dumeisi, 61, is expected to be deported after he finishes his prison term.

U.S. District Judge Suzanne Conlon also said he may not re-enter the United States without permission from the attorney general.

Dumeisi was convicted of failing to register as a foreign agent, conspiring to fail to register, lying

to a federal grand jury, and lying to an immigration agent. He was not convicted of espionage, which involves theft of defense secrets, nor was there any allegation the case involved terrorism.

"I don't think anyone at the trial would conclude that Mr. Dumeisi was a sophisticated spy," the judge said, characterizing his offense as more like fraud.

Witnesses said Dumeisi spied on Iraqi dissidents living in the United States who were opposed to Saddam's regime and that he forwarded his information to Iraqi intelligence agents who worked at that country's U.N. mission under the guise of diplomats.

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NATION

Missing Wisconsin student found safe

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A missing University of Wisconsin student was found alive and healthy Wednesday in a marsh near campus, four days after she vanished from her nearby apartment with no coat or purse.

Police said Wednesday night that Audrey Seiler had been abducted at knifepoint, and officers searching for the abductor had not found him. The search continued Wednesday night.

Officer Shannon Blackmore said Seiler did not know the abductor. He also said there also was an indication or threat of a gun, though Seiler never saw the weapon.

"Audrey reports she was not free to leave and was not injured," Blackmore said.

Seiler, 20, was treated at a hospital and released after being there less than six hours. Dr. Philip Schultz said Seiler was cold and dehydrated and had muscle aches.

"Audrey is doing well. She's happy to be back," said her father, Keith Seiler. "Needless to say she's thrilled to be home again with her family and friends."

The discovery capped an intense search in which dozens of volunteers from Seiler's hometown slogged through marshes and woods around campus and investigators scoured phone records and

apartments for any clue into the disappearance. Police also used dogs, planes and boats in the search.

Officer Larry Kamholz said Seiler was found after an employee at a nearby office building called police to report what she thought was a body in the marsh less than two miles from Seiler's off-campus apartment.

Officers with weapons drawn searched the heavy brush, and a helicopter with heat sensors was brought in to aid the search.

Rejoicing residents took to the streets to tear down missing-person posters in Seiler's hometown of Rockford, Minn., a small town about 30 miles west of the Twin Cities.

"Right now it's just an unbelievable feeling," said Roman Pierskalla, principal of the high school in Rockford. "Today, the prayers of everyone in the Rockford community have been answered."

Later, a candlelight vigil turned into a celebration; a local Domino's sent free pizzas and the Rockford Fire Department brought a ladder truck that hoisted an American flag.

"I think everyone's just shocked that she showed up after what happened to Dru Sjodin," said Nate Rivera, referring to last November's disappearance of a University of North Dakota student.

A man has been charged with abducting Sjodin; her body has not been found.



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OPINIONS

WE'RE GLAD IT'S APRIL FOOL'S DAY

Otherwise made-up letters would be inappropriate. But we'll run them anyway, unless you submit yours to: daily-iowan@uiowa.edu

MEGAN ECKHARDT Editor • CALVIN HENNICK Opinions Editor • JESSE HELLING Assistant Opinions Editor • TONY ROBINSON Managing Editor • J.K. PERRY News Editor • TRACI FINCH, JOHN MOLSEED, PETE WARSKI Editorial writers

EDITORIALS reflect the majority opinion of the *DI* Editorial Board and not the opinion of the Publisher, Student Publications Inc., or the University of Iowa.

Finally righting a horrible left

American liberal media bias, sow your bitter Red seeds elsewhere

Another domino has fallen.

It has long been common knowledge in America that the mass media are dominated by the political left, all part of an insidious plot to shut out the opinions of anyone who thinks that such bleeding-heart notions as welfare, Medicare, and women's suffrage are ruining this great country, God bless it.

But there was one light in the valley of the shadow of liberalism — talk radio. Here, a junta of conservatives led by Generalissimo Rush Limbaugh held out against the tree-hugging hordes. On radio, George W. Bush is a great American, affirmative action is nothing but reverse discrimination, and it's *your* money, dammit.

Until now.

On Wednesday, Air America radio, a three-station network featuring programs produced and hosted by such noted liberals as Al Franken, launched in New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

Is nothing sacred?

We of the *Daily Iowan* Editorial Board have decided to fill this egregious void. From this day forth, we vow to put forth the right-wing viewpoint so that it may not perish from American journalism entirely. For *you*, our conservative comrades ... er, sorry, those pinko habits are hard to break ... we hereby categorically refute all opinions expressed herein over the past year.

Turns out, gay marriage will be the downfall of Western civilization. And 9/11? Of course it should be exploited for political gain. Bush got us through that horrible day — he should be able to take the credit in the form of a multimillion-dollar ad campaign for re-election. C'mon, you would do it, too.

About those caucus things, we actually decided we're not so big on those. Let people who know something decide these things — how about Californians? After all, they did elect the Kindergarten Cop governor. Oh, and we like him now, as well.

Howard Dean? Angry liberal firebrand who wants to raise your taxes!



Were it not for America, France would be a German-speaking nation, the *DI* Editorial Board now realizes.

YARGHHHHH!!!

How about this — perhaps consent isn't actually that sexy. And Janet's boob was a big deal, dammit.

Faulty prewar intelligence? Sounds like Richard Clarke trying to sell books to us.

And we'll be darned if Iowa doesn't need more gambling, as long as it doesn't purchase cheaper prescription drugs from Canada.

We're all big fans of Iowa men's basketball coach Steve Alford, but we feel what he's really missing is some good ol' fashioned Colorado-style

sex scandals. It'll be a great story to report on. Or, we could just make the whole thing up, get fired, and write a tell-all book. Thank you, Jason Blair, for making all of our journalism dreams come true!

But mostly, we'd like to thank John Ashcroft. Without his intensive re-education program in Guantánamo Bay, this editorial never would have been possible.

We had it all wrong. All of it. What were we thinking?

Happy April Fool's.

FABRICATED LETTERS

Continue to bring it on, *DI*

I would like to commendate *The Daily Iowan* Opinions staff for its stallwartful efforts in supporting my administration during this time of uncertainty, not to mention taking a stand in the face of unparalleled liberal bias. Your belief in old-fashioned conservative values has further ensured our way of life against the forces of evil.

God bless America, but more importantly, God bless Beau Elliot. Ride on, cowboy.

P.S. Where's a good place to score some blow in this town?

George W. Bush
former Texas Rangers owner

Play fun pills excite

Hi there. Remember me? Check out this new website. The lowest priced Viagra, and the hottest girls waiting for you.

Julie From Your Dreams
Spammer

So sayeth...

I'm glad I'm so popular lately, but that really was an awful movie. Can't Mel Gibson do anything that isn't R-rated?

Jesus Christ
Lord and Savior

End the phallogentric, speciesist oppression of all forms of life

Although vegetarians recognize that eating meat is playing accomplice to the murder of good and beautiful creatures, a vegetarian diet is only the first step toward a truly non-invasive and altruistic lifestyle. Vegetarians need to realize vegetables are living beings too.

The senseless slaughter of soy plants is an unrecognized holocaust in the U.S. Farming is a massive slave industry, growing innocent corn in confined spaces and allowing short life while we devour its unborn off-spring.

While organic all lifestyle maybe beneficial for cows, pigs, and the people who live them, only the non-organic diet benefits the entire planet. My diet consists of foods for which living creatures have not suffered for my gain. I eat Twinklers for breakfast and have astro-turf tofu at most other meals. I also drink only rain water before it becomes a habitat for microbes.

Everyone else needs to be as tolerant and considerate as me and my fellow non-organic dieters. If they aren't, they only selfishly sap life from this planet. However, I have not thrust the inconvenience of my survival on other living creatures.

Sure, I may weigh 90 lbs, but I

am secure in the knowledge that my body, when I die, will be of no nutritional value to a meat-eater nor to any plants that grow where I lie.

I plan to picket the farmer's market this year, where orphan seedlings are callously sold off as food slaves. I encourage other enlightened Iowa City residents to do the same.

Blossom Moonbeam
president, I'm Sorry For Living Foundation (ISFLF)

Help!

Has anyone seen my car keys?

Phillip Jones
vice president for Student Services

I'm still cool

Hey, guys! I'm coming to your campus; it's a polka invasion! Don't miss me singing my hits "Amish Paradise" and "Harvey the Wonder Hamster."

Some might find it sad to watch a middle-aged man wear a funny shirt and sing goofy junior-high style lyrics over a karaoke track of a 20-year-old Madonna album. To them, I say, "Sad enough to be worth all 30 bucks!" So come see me. You won't believe what I can do with a gerbil.

Weird Al Yankovic
pop artist

You hush up, liberals

Why do liberals hate America? Americans put a man on the Moon. We now have the technology to blow the Moon up if we wanted to — and who could stop us if we did?

So what if millions don't have health care, but who else could make a national sport out of turning left continuously for hours at a time. We also make beer you can see through, not that dark stuff then Europeans drink. I stopped listening to the news because all it did was make me distrust my government. I stopped voting because it's my constitutional right. I don't even know who's president now, but I do know this is a great country and someone is doin' a great job of running it. So liberals should love it or leave it.

Earl Swilldrinker
1978 Ford Pinto resident

Come on, get happy

Why is the American media so fixated on the problems of the world? There are so many good things that happen every day, but, if you turn to the front page of any newspaper, all you see is so-and-so killed what's-his-face and whatnot. Are all reporters such Gloomy Guses that we can't have just one story a week about area

kindergartners' art projects or those cute bunnies I see in my front yard? Please consider these changes to your otherwise very nice newspaper. Thank you.

Maggie Honey
proud grandmother

Stop looking at me!

Ever have that feeling you were being watched?

Have you ever wondered whether everyone you meet on the street might secretly want to get you, eat your brains, and wear your skin like a coat?

Do you ever feel like you could run naked into a volcano and come out unsinged? Have you ever felt like the word suddenly shrank and you can now take vengeance on everyone and everything Godzilla style?

Does life seem like it's made from billions and billions of buzzing insects forming organized patterns and you could cause them to disperse with a shout into a shower of unorganized rainbow color spray?

Have you watched C-SPAN and come to the conclusion that every government official is a diseased cannibal, sucking the marrow out of the bones of what appears to be Ben Franklin's and Tom Jefferson's bodies?

Then you are the person who stole my medication last weekend — and I want it back!

J. Halsey Morgan
Iowa City paranoid

When the chips are down

Post-9/11 fear allowed Congress to heave a steaming snow shovel of manure called the Patriot Act onto civil liberties. Since then, both conservatives and liberals have reacquired the low-level paranoia that is necessary for any healthy republic to keep its government in check.

Much like cholesterol, paranoia has two forms in a democracy — healthy and unhealthy. Under the healthy kind, democracies flourish under the wary eye of citizens. Then there is the kind the government instills in order to wrestle freedoms from the hands of the people. Security, used as an excuse by a tyrant to limit the people's power, becomes the maxim of the enslaved.



JOHN MOLSEED

However, too much of the good kind can be bad and lead to nervous, sleepless nights and bullet holes in one's bedroom walls. Just as too much cholesterol can leave people with hideously clogged arteries, too much paranoia can leave people naked and jabbering in a fortified compound in Montana with only the company of an assault rifle.

We know these people as conspiracy nuts. They play a crucial role in our society by putting their sanity on the line to figure out what our government is really up to, where it is in its centuries-old Illuminati global-dominance plan, and what popular music sounds like backwards.

However, the *Washington Post* ran a story last week that gave validity to a new conspiracy theory in only the way the mainstream media can — it debunked the myth.

The story described instances of people who have been putting \$20 bills in microwaves to prove what they believe is an effort to track U.S. citizens with radio-frequency identification chips. According to some conspiracy stories, the bills spark and char at Andrew Jackson's right eye, where the chip is supposedly located. According to the article, people working metal detectors have noticed people wrapping their \$20 bills in aluminum foil to counteract the radio chip.

The technology itself is very old, dating back to WWII, when the British employed radio-frequency identification as a means to discern incoming Royal Air Force planes from Nazi planes. Today, chips can be made as small as 0.4 square mm — about the size of a piece of glitter.

The technology's application is varied. It can be used for toll collection, to replace magnetic strips on credit cards, or in place of bar codes on products we buy. The chips not only identify what product they are on, they identify the specific item in your hand.

At first glance it seems little more than a 21st-century version of bar codes. It facilitates wireless payments on everything from groceries to getting on the turnpike. What concerns some people are the applications that haven't received as much press. In Singapore, the technology is used to track high-school students to ensure attendance. German shoppers were shocked to find such chips embedded in stores' customer-loyalty cards and on products they were buying.

Closer to home, Wal-Mart and Procter & Gamble teamed up, placing hidden radio-frequency ID tags inside Max Factor lipstick in Broken Arrow, Okla. A P&G employee tipped off the *Chicago Sun-Times* to the operation. That major companies are secretly planting chips in everyday products should stir some healthy paranoia. Why not be public about it if the technology is harmless? If major companies expect a backlash against the technology, they should pre-emptively address those concerns.

Such paranoia may be well-founded. Personal identification chips could easily be planted on ID cards the same way chips were put on a German shopper-loyalty card. Any reader within range would know who you are; where you live, and maybe even if you bought P&G lipstick, which could prove not just invasive but pretty embarrassing.

I doubt whether the government is tracking our \$20 bills (Euro bills are supposed to have implanted ID chips by 2005). Even if it were, the only information it would glean from me is that 20s don't stay in my wallet very long — if they are there at all these days. However, as identification software is developed for such chips, one archaic inconvenience the technology could end up circumventing will be the Fourth Amendment. Imagine a future in which a cop doesn't ask for your ID but instead tells you he just read it from across the street.

Tag! You're it.

ON THE SPOT

Pepper spray!



“The pain! The pain!”

F. Scott Fitzgerald
UI scuba-diving major



“You son of a —”

Norbert B. Welch
Angry, angry man



“It tastes like burning.”

Laverne Laverne
2004 Reform Party presidential candidate



“You, like, totally smeared my makeup!”

Paris Hilton
waste of oxygen

OPEC oil ministers agreed to carry

OP Product

BY JOHN WASHINGTON

BERLIN — OPEC oil ministers agreed to proceed with a oil production turning aside industrial countries resulting price the world's economy.

With oil prices election-year in the House called pointing and a tion officials engaged” with ments about it.

Oil ministers 11 member states Vienna, upheld sion to cut pr million barrels of avoiding a buildup of oil markets. But analysts said could be blun demand as w arrives and by ing on official countries try to incomes while near 13-year hi

Following n sion, White H Scott McClellan ducers should that harm Ame and our econ Bush has not c ers about the said, but official tration are in to

As gasoline p John Kerry, th Democratic no dent, has incre oil in his c ances. On Tu Bush had “don OPEC to reduc Bush criticize planning high

Meeting in A ary, OPEC min reduce daily qu barrels, to 23.5 day, starting crack down in additional 1.5 r daily producti quotas. Prices t ing around \$2

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NEWS



Ronald Zak/Associated Press

OPEC oil ministers and delegates meet on Wednesday at the group's headquarters in Vienna. OPEC has agreed to carry out its planned cut in oil output despite already high prices.

OPEC OKs output slash

Production of oil to be cut by 2.5 million barrels a day

BY JOHN BURGESS
WASHINGTON POST

BERLIN — OPEC oil ministers agreed on Wednesday to proceed with a 4 percent cut in oil production beginning today, turning aside criticism from industrial countries that any resulting price rise will harm the world's economy.

With oil prices emerging as an election-year issue, the White House called the move disappointing and said administration officials were "actively engaged" with OPEC governments about it.

Oil ministers from the cartel's 11 member states, meeting in Vienna, upheld a February decision to cut production by 2.5 million barrels a day on grounds of avoiding a price-deflating buildup of oil supplies in world markets. But some oil-industry analysts said any price rises could be blunted by drops in demand as warmer weather arrives and by continued cheating on official quotas as member countries try to maximize their incomes while prices remain near 13-year highs.

Following news of the decision, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said that "producers should not take steps that harm American consumers and our economy." President Bush has not called OPEC leaders about the issue, McClellan said, but officials in his administration are in touch.

As gasoline prices have risen, John Kerry, the presumptive Democratic nominee for president, has increasingly been citing oil in his campaign appearances. On Tuesday, he said Bush had "done nothing with OPEC to reduce the gas prices." Bush criticized Democrats as planning higher gas taxes.

Meeting in Algiers in February, OPEC ministers decided to reduce daily quotas by 1 million barrels, to 23.5 million barrels a day, starting April 1 and to crack down immediately on additional 1.5 million barrels of daily production in excess of quotas. Prices then were hovering around \$28 a barrel, and

ministers said a cut was necessary to keep prices stable as demand dropped at the end of the heating season.

Rather than stabilizing, prices have risen steadily in the seven weeks since, partly because of the OPEC announcement, analysts said, and partly because of pressure from speculators. Earlier in March, oil briefly sold for more than \$38 a barrel, the highest level since the 1991 Persian Gulf War, before falling back to the current level of around \$36.

As this week's meeting approached, some industry analysts predicted that with such a rise, the cartel might opt to forgo production cuts. According to reports from Vienna, a number of OPEC members raised this issue in unofficial meetings on Wednesday before the formal sessions. But Saudi oil minister Ali Ibrahim Naimi, whose country is traditionally OPEC's most influential, trumped those concerns with an endorsement of going ahead.

The question in the oil markets now is how seriously the cartel will enforce the cuts. The cartel is historically undisciplined. Year after year, members have pledged to one another to produce only a set volume to keep world prices at certain levels, but privately they sell more to gain a windfall.

Oil prices fell by approximately \$1 a barrel in the hours after Wednesday's announcement, as traders interpreted the details to mean that much of the cut would be illusory. "There isn't much credibility," said Marshall Steeves, an energy analyst at Refco Group, a New York-based financial services firm. "Overproduction or cheating — call it what you want — has been quite rampant in the last few months."

In recent months, cartel members have "been put in a position where they produce at near-capacity levels, thereby maximizing revenues, without cutting production," Steeves said. "It's been an ideal situation for them. They'll try to continue that for as long as they can." He predicted a reduction of

only 200,000 or 300,000 barrels a day. With more oil flowing out of Russia and Iraq, he said, world markets would remain well supplied.

Ed Silliere, the vice president of risk management at Energy Merchant Corp., a petroleum-products distribution company based in New York, saw somewhat more effect.

"It's quite possible they could cut a million barrels a day — I have no doubt about that. But what about the extra million and a half that they're cheating on? We have no evidence that they've reined in excess production," he said.

Also helping bring prices down was release of the U.S. Energy Information Administration's latest weekly report showing that domestic crude-oil inventories finished last week at approximately 294 million barrels, their highest level since August 2002.

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calendar

- Graduate Student Workshop, "Effects of the C-terminal Tail of c-Cbl on EGF Receptor Signaling Pathways," Michael Van Kanegan, 12:30 p.m., 2-501 Bowen Science Building.
- Mechanical Engineering Graduate Seminar: Thermal/Fluid, "CFD Based on Fluctuating Hydrodynamics," N.A. Patankar, Northwestern University, 3:30 p.m., 3505 Seamans Center.
- March for Abortion Rights and Reproductive Freedom, 5:30 p.m., Emma Goldman Clinic, 227 N. Dubuque St.
- Students with Friends in the Military organizational meeting, 6:30 p.m., 259 IMU.
- Icelandic Film Series, *Last Stop*, Olafur Sveinsson, 7 p.m., 101 Becker Communication Studies Building.
- "From Stacks to Stage: A Lyrical Look at an Opera Director's Love Affair with the Library," Gary Race, 7 p.m., IMU Richey Ballroom.
- "Live from Prairie Lights," Donald Morrill, nonfiction, 8 p.m., Prairie Lights Books, 15 S. Dubuque St., and WSUI.
- Campus Activities Board comedy event, J. Chris Newberg, 9 p.m., IMU Wheelroom.
- Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies, "Serious Pleasures," time TBA, IMU; for information, 335-4141 or www.nd.edu/~incshp.
- Tamara Thweatt, flute, Alan Huckleberry, piano, 8 p.m., Clapp Recital Hall.
- Marc Dickman, euphonium, Marcelina Turcanu, piano, David Spies, tuba, Johnson County Landmark rhythm section, 8 p.m., Voxman Music Building Harper Hall.

Little University

1 What Southern state boasts the U.S. National Tick Collection, home to the largest assemblage of dead ticks in the world?

2 What West Coast punks grewled at Woodstock '94, "Sometimes I give myself the creeps"?

3 What wealthy sultanate crashed to earth in 2001 after crown prince Jefri Bolkih blew \$15 billion on such baubles as gold-plated toilet brushes?

4 What Italian-American's final novel, *The Family*, was finished by his close friend Carol Gino?

5 What company spun off its lucrative Palm digital organizer unit in 2000?

1. Georgia
2. Green Day
3. Brant
4. Mario Puzos
5. 3Com

Quote of the Day

I think the guy has a future in show business.

— Jazzman George Souza on Paul McCartney, who sat in with Souza's trio for an impromptu performance Monday night at a Lake Tahoe club.

happy birthday to ...

- April 1 — Danielle Scaletta, 21
- April 1 — Ashley Simpson, 20
- April 1 — Gwen Blume, 24
- April 1 — Kenna Schmeling, 23

Wish your friends a happy birthday. E-mail their date of birth, name, and age three days in advance to daily-iowan@uiowa.edu.

news you need to know

- April 5 — Undergraduates: Last day to drop individual semester-length courses, 4:30 p.m.
- April 8 — Graduate students: First deposit of theses due in Graduate College
- April 13 — Graduate students: Last day to withdraw entire registration or drop individual-length courses, 4:30 p.m.
- April 13 — Graduate students: Last day to withdraw entire registration or drop individual-length courses, 4:30 p.m.
- April 19 — SUMMER AND FALL 2004 EARLY REGISTRATION, APRIL 19-30
- April 19 — Undergraduates: Last day to withdraw entire spring semester registration, 4:30 p.m.

PATV

- 11:15 a.m. White Privilege Conference '03
- 12:30 p.m. Stuck with the Truth "Sabell"
- 1 Video Games 4
- 1:55 A Little Bit of Iowa
- 1:30 On Main St.
- 2 Glory 2 Glory
- 2:30 Give Me An Answer
- 3 QM (replay)
- 4 The Unity Center
- 5 Tabernacle Baptist Church
- 6 Our Bodies, Ourselves
- 7 Grace Community Church
- 8 Revival in Oxford
- 9 Sports Opinion
- 10 Power of Victory
- 11 From Dreams to Action, What Would King Do?

UITV

- 6:30 p.m. Turkey: Internal Politics, External Negotiations
- 7:30 p.m. Live from Prairie Lights, Nell Freudenberg
- 8:30 p.m. Ueyey
- 9 p.m. Chinese New Year

DILBERT ®

by Scott Adams

DOCTOR DOGBERT SHOW

TODAY WE'LL MEET A COUPLE WHO HAVE A COMMON PROBLEM.

I MAKE HIM SLEEP IN A GIGANTIC HOT DOG BUN.

CAN I SEE IT? NO... PLEASE.

AND THE PROBLEM IS THAT HE SNORES.

BY VILEY

...AND THAT GENTLEMEN, IS WHAT I CALL A HOSTILE TAKEOVER!

HOW WE'D REALLY LIKE TO SEE "THE APPRENTICE" CONCLUDE

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

YOU SEE, MARK, WE'RE RIGHT WHERE WE WANT TO BE! WE FOUGHT CLINTON'S SURPLUSES WITH TAX CUTS, AND IT WORKED!

NOW WE'RE BACK TO HUGE, DESIRABLE DEFICITS! AND NEW TAX CUTS WILL MAKE THE SITUATION EVEN BETTER!

I SEE, SO IF TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH WORK IN BOTH GOOD TIMES AND BAD, ARE THERE ANY CONDITIONS WHEN YOU WOULDN'T FAVOR THEM?

UM... NO.

YEA, STRAIGHT TALK.

THE LEDGE

WAYS TO INTIMIDATE YOUR CLASSMATES DURING A TEST

By Jesse Ammerman

- To begin with, try not to burst into tears and convulsions when exams are handed out this time.
- Roger Clemens gains an edge on opponents by firing an occasional 95-mph bean ball. You would do well to incorporate this strategy during critical points in the test.
- A pair of NASCAR-style wraparound shades will serve to cast an aura of brash confidence as well as reducing bothersome glare from the room's fluorescent lighting.
- Hire a couple beefy henchmen to sort out your competitors. In this way, football players actually can prove successful in a testing environment.
- Unprepared as you might be, present a front of supreme invincibility by pulling out your pens and scrawling away effortlessly. Nobody has to know you're just writing more fan letters to Justin Timberlake.
- Initiate a series of battle raps, even if the only lyrics that spring to mind are from Elton John's "Tiny Dancer."
- Humiliate and distract classmates with negative appraisals of their mothers. Sample topics include a matriarch's physical appearance, occupation in an ill-reputed line of work, or her previous night's whereabouts.

horoscopes

Thursday, April 1, 2004 by Eugenia Last

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Set the record straight. By not backing down, you will make some new friends who are as enthusiastic as you are. Socializing with energetic people will lead to some very progressive partnerships.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): This is not the time to tell others how to do things. Do your own thing, and do it well. Changes at home may not be to your liking, but go along rather than start an argument.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Problems at work and at home are best left alone for the time being. Planning your next vacation will ease stress. Listen to what others have to offer before making promises.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't hold back if you have a suggestion that might lead to a more efficient way of doing things. If you've misplaced your life's dream, consider giving it another whirl.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It will be difficult to control your emotional reaction toward others today. Reconsider your options, and don't be afraid to make a move if it will help you stabilize your future.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone you are working with may not be playing fairly. Observe what this person is doing, but don't share your ideas. Consider if you know anyone who would make a good partner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Someone will strike a chord with you and get your mind racing in a new direction beneficial to you and to the group you are with. You'll grab someone's interest.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Control your emotions, and refrain from showing any jealousy. Maintain a state of calm, and no one will ever guess that you are churning inside. Patience will pay off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll probably find adventure if you do a little traveling today. Make plans with friends or your lover to do something that will rev up your metabolism.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can sign contracts, take care of legal matters, invest, or make changes to your personal papers without concern. An older family member may need assistance. Offer your home or office as a meeting place.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be looking for love, but if you are too pushy, you are likely to come up empty. Treat whomever you are with respectfully, and you will do so much better.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Gossip or getting involved in one of your peer's personal affairs will not lead to advancement or finishing your work. Focus on what it is you are supposed to get done, and don't stray until your task is complete.

For complete TV listings and program guides, check out Arts and Entertainment at www.dailyiowan.com.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0219

ACROSS	33 High nests	64 Handsome youth
1 Film, in Variety	36 Insult, slangily	65 Architect Saarinen
4 Pant	37 Goya's "Duchess of ..."	66 Used
8 Neighbor of Orlando	38 Porter classic	67 1973 Peace Nobelist
14 Call ___ day	40 Close cousins	68 Lozeng
15 What un lago holds	42 "Come here often?," e.g.	69 ___ in Thomas
16 Card game for two	43 Queue after Q	DOWN
17 Like some memoirs	45 Certain foundation	1 Computer bit
19 Bad news from a credit card company	46 "Evil Woman" band, for short	2 ___ Greek
20 Patron saint of goldsmiths	47 Humors	3 Birchbark
21 Have the lead	48 Chicago university	4 Hood's gun
23 Outdated	50 Like some physical tests	5 Wrinkles, say
24 Wind-borne deposits	54 Creepy one?	6 Harem keeper
26 Hindu incarnation	57 Caged	7 Chitchat
28 Pressured	59 Beak	8 Checked, as a box
30 Musical aptitude	60 Playoffs	9 Bygone deliverer
	62 Abandon	10 Estate
		11 Hosp. testing techniques
		12 Announcements from the cockpit, briefly

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

HIMOM BBC REBUS
OSAKA LEO AGASP
CARDSHARP TOTER
HAZMAT ITRY
EBWHITE POSSE
TEHEES ELECTRIC
CAIN AERO YAY
HTS POPARTY AMB
EEK ARIA ECTO
SNEERSAT SENIOR
YUKON HANGDOG
USSR NOVELS
SHOOT BITTEREND
COUPE ABU ADLER
GORED REP LEFTY

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SCOREBOARD

NBA
New Jersey 103, Washington 97
Indiana 111, Milwaukee 76
Portland 105, Boston 98
Chicago 109, Orlando 91
Detroit 108, L.A. Clippers 78
Golden State 85, Toronto 77
Miami 100, Atlanta 97
Minnesota 90, Seattle 83

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2004

TENNIS
Venus Williams

NASDAQ-100
KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — Venus Williams' sprained right wrist took care of her shaky serve and late rally on Monday night. Williams was injured in her second set Wednesday, shotmaking hurt her. She lost to Elena Dementieva 5-7, 7-6 (3) in the quarterfinals of the NASDAQ-100 Open. A three-time champion, Williams came in her bid to reach a second Grand Slam in her first time since Wimbledon in July. Dementieva's match point and error on her own to win the ugly 2½-hour duel. "It was a very difficult match, but I think interesting," she said. The upset had all the characteristics of a Venus Williams match. She double-faulted twice, committed 51 errors and played

MLB
Garciaparra at least three weeks
FORT MEYERS, Fla. — The Boston Red Sox season without Garciaparra, after all. The All-Star shortstop placed on the disabled list Wednesday because of an injured right Achilles tendon, and is expected to miss three weeks. "I don't like missing time, but I anticipate a good thing is we know we have a structured program to talk to all the doctors everyone on the staff," Garciaparra said in Florida. "My body will tell me when I'm ready. Once that shouldn't take me long to get back in the lineup." Garciaparra never will be back in Boston in the Red Sox tried AL MVP Alex Rodriguez during the offseason to send Garciaparra to the Chicago White Sox. But trade talks broke down, and Rodriguez stayed put, and Rodriguez Boston's biggest rival, the New York Yankees.

NBA
Childress will declare eligible
(AP) — Stanford's Josh Childress will declare himself eligible for the 2004-05 season but still leave open the possibility of returning for his senior season. "I plan on putting in and testing it out, but I'm not sure," he said in an interview Wednesday. Childress had a season he expected to be the nation's top scorer in the nation's top conference, the NCAA's SEC, by Alabama. Childress missed the first nine games with a knee injury, then averaged 7.5 rebounds, and 1.6 assists per game. He was named Player of the Year for

SCOREBOARD

NBA

New Jersey 103, Washington 99
 Indiana 111, Milwaukee 78
 Portland 105, Boston 98
 Chicago 109, Orlando 91
 Detroit 108, L.A. Clippers 99
 Golden State 85, Toronto 78
 Miami 100, Atlanta 97
 Minnesota 90, Seattle 83

San Antonio 107, Sacramento 89
 Utah 89, New Orleans 76

NHL

Minnesota 5, Colorado 4, OT
 Edmonton 3, Dallas 1
 N.Y. Islanders 5, Montreal 1
 Detroit 3, Columbus 2
 Ottawa 5, Florida 4
 Calgary 1, Phoenix 0

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2004

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RETURN OF THE SAMURAI: MATSUI ROCKS TOKYO, PAGE 3B

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You make the call

As intramural competition heats up, student referees shoulder much criticism

BY FRANK KLIPSCH
 THE DAILY IOWAN

No words came out of the player's gaping mouth. But his sweaty, dumbfounded face, wide eyes, and finger aimed at the black out-of-bounds line relayed his message loud and clear. The ball, he said to the referee by

Intramural Championships
 April 6, Carver-Hawkeye Arena:
 7 p.m., women's
 8 p.m., co-ed
 9 p.m., men's
 Free and open to the public.

way of a high-pitched screech, was out, and you blew the call.

But this was a player in the UT's intramural basketball co-ed recreational division — a category designed more for fun and exercise than competition. Criticism of officials in basketball has become almost as

commonplace as scoring points and blocking shots.

As the intramural playoffs approach the All-U final at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on April 6, the intensity rises, and players are quicker to heatedly share their opinions with refs.

"In high school or college, there's a lot more structure to the game because there's a coach who usually does the talking to the officials," said Mike Widen, the fourth-year director of intramural officials at the UI,



Rachel Mumme/The Daily Iowan

UI sports official Jon Thelander directs a player to the sidelines during intramural basketball on Tuesday night.

SEE REFEREES, PAGE 6B

As Iowa coach Tom Dunn seeks his second national title, he is Iowa gymnastics' RING LEADER

RING LEADER

BY NICK RICHARDS
 THE DAILY IOWAN

If there is one thing men's gymnastics coach Tom Dunn does well, it's winning.

Dunn, the head coach at Iowa since 1981, will look for his second team national title, his first at Iowa, this weekend at the NCAA championships in Champaign, Ill.

The Hawkeyes will compete Friday in the NCAA qualifier, where they can earn one of three spots in the NCAA finals on Saturday for a shot at the national title.

"It's going to be competitive this weekend," Dunn said. "If everything goes to plan, it should go down to Iowa and Michigan for that third spot with Illinois and Oklahoma on Saturday. It will be close."

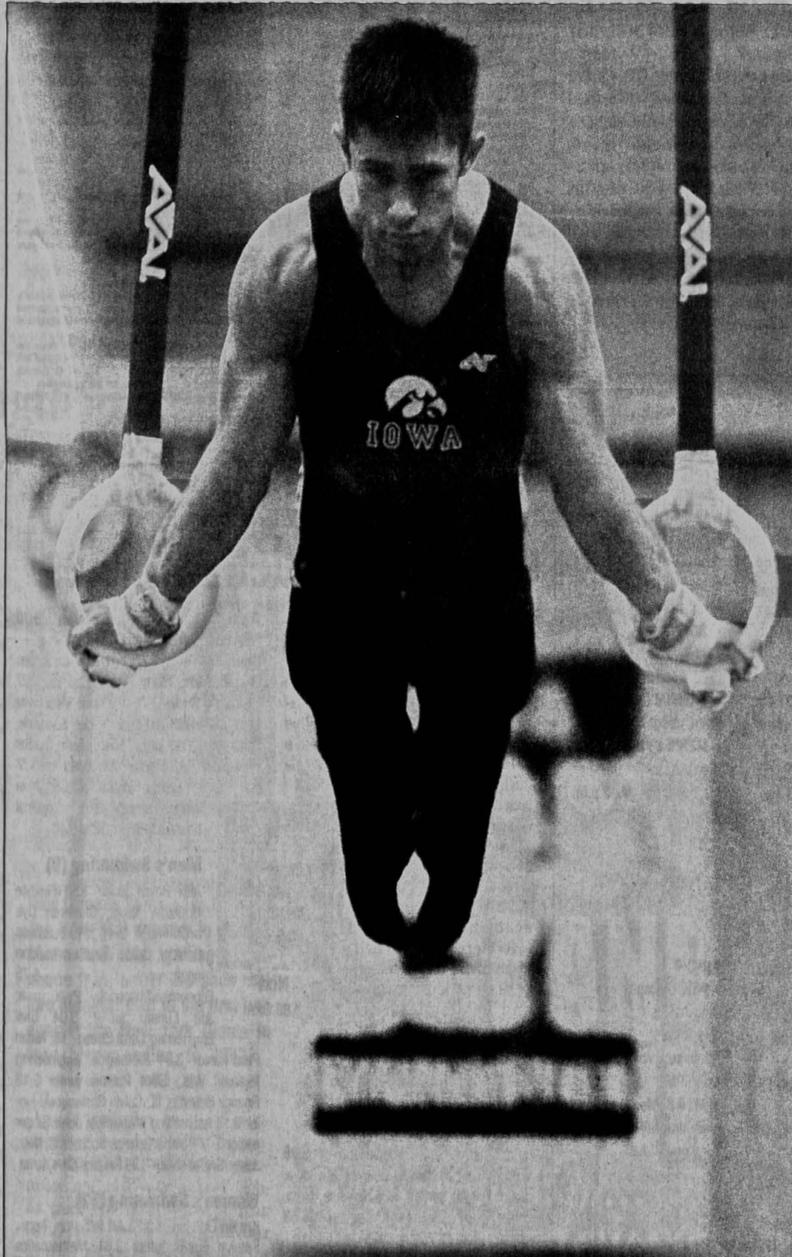
Dunn's championship experience is nearly unparalleled in the sport. While at Penn State, Dunn was a two-time All-American, winning the national title on the parallel bars as a senior in 1971. His lone team title came as coach at Penn State, leading the Nittany Lions past Indiana State to the title in 1976. That championship team earned Dunn co-coach of the Year honors.

"As I recall, the '76 team never really put it together like that except for that one weekend," he said. "We haven't done that yet, but I think we have the potential to do that."

The comparisons with his championship team in '76 and this year's Hawkeyes are numerous. Dunn's Penn State team struggled to find consistency throughout the



Dunn
 Iowa coach since 1991



John Richard/The Daily Iowan

Michael McNamara performs on the rings during a meet on March 6 against Michigan.

SEE GYMNASTICS, PAGE 6B

No sleepers in this Final Four

BY JAIME ARON
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

Based on pedigree, this should be a great Final Four.

The teams left chasing the NCAA championship include the preseason No. 1, the winner of the top preseason tournament, a perennial power that spent a month at No. 1, and a top conference's regular-season and tournament champs.

Further proof that there are no sleepers: The lowest seed left, No. 3 Georgia Tech, already has beaten Duke and Connecticut, the teams the Yellow Jackets could play in the

final if they get past Oklahoma State on Saturday night.

"Whoever wins the championship, I think, will really be the true national champ this year," UConn coach Jim Calhoun said Wednesday. "I think most years they are, but this year I can clearly say you have to win two great basketball games."

Seeing the cream rise to the top doesn't always make for a memorable NCAA Tournament. Fans love stories of underdogs pulling off upset after upset to reach the final weekend or one



Calhoun
 Ranked No. 1 in preseason



Hewitt
 First time in the Final Four

star player carrying his school to a string of victories.

Yet there's something to be said about the way it's worked out this season.

Especially when players who could dominate in college are instead going to the NBA straight from high school or after one year of school.

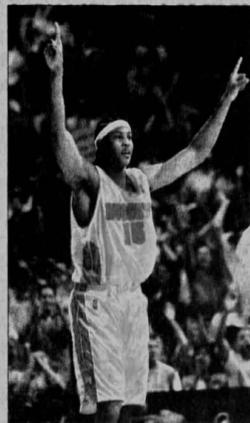
These clubs still have their marquee players, but the common denominator is that they earned their way to San Antonio by becoming well-rounded teams capable of rising to challenges.

"The continuity of college basketball is not what it used to be," said Georgia Tech coach Paul Hewitt, the only Final Four newcomer among this year's coaches. "You no longer have to have guys play together for one or two seasons. Now maybe half a season, three-quarters of a season might be enough to have them become a cohesive unit and then get hot at the right time walking into the tournament."

The Yellow Jackets and Cowboys, who meet in the early game Saturday, were long shots six months ago because of uncertainties.

Georgia Tech was trying to overcome the loss of freshman

SEE FINAL FOUR, PAGE 6B



Jack Dempsey/Associated Press
 Denver forward Carmelo Anthony celebrates after hitting a career-high 41 points on March 30. The Nuggets won, 124-119.

Melo's mission: Playoffs

BY JOHN MARSHALL
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER (AP) — It's fitting that Carmelo Anthony's teammates call him Melo, with his brilliant smile and easygoing nature.

But a closer look reveals a fierce competitor who has made it his mission to get the Denver Nuggets into the playoffs for the first time in nearly a decade.

"I hate to lose. That's one thing I don't like is losing," Anthony said Wednesday. "I'm going to go out there and do whatever I've got to do to help my team win."

That kind of attitude has made the 19-year-old Anthony a winner everywhere he's been. He led Oak Hill Academy in Virginia to a 32-1 record his senior year and helped Syracuse win its first NCAA title last year as a freshman.

And now Anthony's doing his best to make the Nuggets — one of the NBA's worst franchises over the past decade — a winner.

He became just the third teenager to score 40 or more points in an NBA game when he finished with 41 in a 124-119 victory over Seattle on Tuesday night that moved the Nuggets into a tie with Utah for the Western Conference's final playoff spot.

With a team-leading 20.9 point scoring average and a confidence that rarely wavers, Anthony has helped Denver (39-37) more than double its win total from last season and move into position for the franchise's first playoff appearance since 1995.

Not bad for a rookie. "He's the kind of player that you knew would make a difference, make a contribution. And he has," Minnesota coach Flip

SEE NBA, PAGE 6B



Venus Williams

TENNIS

Venus ousted at NASDAQ-100 Open

KEY BISCAJNE, Fla. (AP) — Tape took care of Venus Williams' sprained right foot. There was no remedy for the shaky serve and late fade.

Williams was injured during the second set Wednesday, but sloppy shotmaking hurt her more, and she lost to Elena Dementieva (6-3, 5-7, 7-6 [3]) in the quarterfinals of the NASDAQ-100 Open.

A three-time champion at Key Biscayne, Williams came up short in her bid to reach a semifinal for the first time since Wimbledon in July. Dementieva survived a match point and erratic play of her own to win the tense but unsightly 2½-hour duel.

"It was a very difficult, long, but I think interesting match," the No. 5-seeded Russian said.

The upset had all the characteristics of a Venus loss: She double-faulted 11 times, committed 51 unforced errors and played hurt.

MLB

Garciparra out at least three weeks

FORT MEYERS, Fla. (AP) — The Boston Red Sox will start the season without Nomar Garciaparra, after all.

The All-Star shortstop was placed on the disabled list Wednesday because of an injured right Achilles' tendon and is expected to miss at least three weeks.

"I don't like missing more time than I anticipated, but the good thing is we know we have a structured program to be able to talk to all the doctors and get everyone on the same page," Garciaparra said in Fort Myers, Fla. "My body will tell me when I'm ready. Once that happens, it shouldn't take me long to get back in the lineup."

Garciaparra never expected to be back in Boston in the first place.

The Red Sox tried to acquire AL MVP Alex Rodriguez from Texas during the offseason and planned to send Garciaparra to the Chicago White Sox.

But trade talks with the Rangers broke down, Garciaparra stayed put, and Rodriguez went to Boston's biggest rival, the New York Yankees.

NBA

Childress will declare eligibility

(AP) — Stanford forward Josh Childress will declare himself eligible for the NBA draft but still leave open the option of returning for his senior season.

"I plan on putting my name in and testing it out, testing the waters," he said in a telephone interview Wednesday. "I do not plan on hiring an agent right now, just from the standpoint of coming back if I need to."

On Tuesday, the All-American forward told coach Mike Montgomery about his decision. Montgomery had said after the season he expected his leading scorer to return. Stanford, ranked No. 1 in the nation at the time, was knocked out in the second round of the NCAA Tournament by Alabama.

Childress missed the season's first nine games with a left foot injury, then averaged 15.7 points, 7.5 rebounds, and 1.6 blocks the rest of the way and earned Pac-10 Player of the Year honors.

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SPORTS 'N' STUFF

Q&A

Roach first high jumper to win Big Ten title at Iowa

Freshman Peaches Roach has already made her mark in the Iowa women's track and field record books. At the Big Ten indoor championships, held in Iowa City in February, Roach took the title in the high jump with a leap of 5-11 1/2, the first Hawkeye to ever win a Big Ten championship in the event.

Roach qualified for the NCAA outdoor championships, where she placed 15th. DI reporter Nick Richards recently caught up with the budding star from Kingston, Jamaica.

The Daily Iowan: How did you get your name?

Roach: I don't know, it was what my mother gave me. She wanted me to have a different name.

DI: What is the toughest event in track and field?

Roach: Probably the 400 meters.

DI: What's the biggest thrill in competing?

Roach: I like winning and breaking records.

DI: How did the first winter in Iowa go?

Roach: When I first came to Iowa, that's all I heard about, was how cold it gets, so I was expecting it to be cold. I'm having more problems now, because I'm expecting it to get warm, and it isn't.

DI: When did you know that you were going to be track athlete?

Roach: I didn't do anything in high school, so I decided to run. I was not very good, so I said I need to try something else. I started doing high jump, and I learned the technique and everything, and that worked out well. I don't know, I've just always been good at it.

DI: Did you play any other sports in high school?

Roach: No, just track.

DI: What do you miss most about Jamaica?

Roach: The food and the climate.

DI: What's your favorite food from Jamaica?

Roach: Rice and beans with chicken.

DI: What would be your playlist?

Roach: Well, my CD player is broken. But when it works, I love to have some old reggae. When I'm in a higher mood, some rap or some hiphop.

DI: Which do you prefer: indoor or outdoor track?

Roach: Outdoor. Outdoor all the way.

DI: Bob Marley or Wyclef?

Roach: Marley. Definitely Marley.



Roach
High Jump champ

NBA

By The Associated Press
All Times CST

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct GB	
x-New Jersey	33	31	.517	—
Miami	37	38	.493	6 1/2
New York	35	40	.467	8 1/2
Boston	34	41	.453	9 1/2
Philadelphia	32	43	.427	11 1/2
Washington	23	52	.307	20 1/2
Orlando	19	57	.250	25
Central Division	W	L	Pct GB	
y-Indiana	55	20	.733	—
x-Detroit	48	27	.640	7 1/2
Milwaukee	37	38	.493	18
New Orleans	37	38	.493	18
Cleveland	32	42	.432	22 1/2
Toronto	30	44	.405	24 1/2
Atlanta	24	51	.320	31 1/2
Chicago	21	54	.280	34
WESTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct GB	
x-Minnesota	52	24	.684	—
x-San Antonio	50	25	.667	1 1/2
x-Memphis	48	26	.649	3
x-Dallas	46	28	.622	5
Houston	42	31	.575	8 1/2
Utah	39	36	.520	12 1/2
Denver	39	37	.513	13
Pacific Division	W	L	Pct GB	
x-Sacramento	52	22	.703	—
x-L.A. Lakers	51	23	.689	1 1/2
Portland	38	36	.514	14
Seattle	34	41	.453	18 1/2
Golden State	33	41	.446	19
L.A. Clippers	27	49	.355	26
Phoenix	26	49	.347	26 1/2

By The Associated Press
All Times CST

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division	W	L	T OT Pts GF	
x-New Jersey	42	24	12	2 98 207
Philadelphia	39	20	14	6 98 223
N.Y. Islanders	37	29	10	4 88 228
N.Y. Rangers	26	40	7	8 67 203
Pittsburgh	21	47	8	4 54 183
Northwest	W	L	T OT Pts GF	
x-Boston	47	15	14	7 101 201
x-Ottawa	42	22	10	6 100 259
x-Toronto	43	24	10	3 99 234
x-Montreal	40	29	7	4 91 202
Buffalo	37	32	7	4 85 217
Southeast	W	L	T OT Pts GF	
x-Tampa Bay	45	21	8	6 104 240
Atlanta	32	36	8	4 76 210
Carolina	28	33	6	7 76 162
Florida	28	34	4	4 74 179
Washington	23	45	9	2 57 178
WESTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	T OT Pts GF	
z-Detroit	47	20	11	2 107 251
St. Louis	48	28	11	2 89 185
Nashville	36	28	11	4 87 210
Columbus	24	44	8	4 60 171
Chicago	20	41	11	7 58 184
Northwest	W	L	T OT Pts GF	
x-Vancouver	41	24	10	4 97 226
x-Colorado	39	22	13	6 97 231
x-Calgary	41	29	7	3 92 196
Edmonton	36	28	12	5 89 219
Minnesota	22	29	20	3 78 181
Pacific	W	L	T OT Pts GF	
y-San Jose	42	20	12	6 102 214
x-Vancouver	40	25	13	2 95 187
Los Angeles	28	26	18	8 90 200
Anaheim	28	35	10	8 74 182
Phoenix	21	36	18	6 66 186

By The Associated Press
All Times CST

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Los Angeles	28	26	18	8 90 200
Anaheim	28	35	10	8 74 182
Phoenix	21	36	18	6 66 186

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

z-clinched conference

Wednesday's Games

Detroit 3, Columbus 1

N.Y. Islanders 5, Montreal 1

Citrus 5, Florida 4

Buffalo 4, N.Y. Rangers 3

Edmonton 3, Dallas 1

Minnesota 5, Colorado 4, OT

Calgary 1, Phoenix 0

San Jose 3, Los Angeles 0

NBA

Vancouver 2, Anaheim 1
Today's Games
Florida at Tampa Bay, 6 p.m.
Washington at Boston, 6:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Montreal, 6:30 p.m.
Detroit at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.

NATIONAL INVITATION TOURNAMENT

All Times CST
Championship
Today
Rutgers (20-12) vs. Michigan (22-11), 6 p.m.

NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

All Times CDT
THE FINAL FOUR
At New Orleans Arena
Semifinals
Sunday, April 4
Tennessee (30-3) vs. LSU (27-7), 6 p.m.
Connecticut (29-4) vs. Minnesota (25-8), 8:30 p.m.
Championship
Tuesday, April 6
Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

FINAL FOUR
At The Alamodome, San Antonio
Semifinals
Saturday, April 3
Oklahoma State (31-3) vs. Georgia Tech (27-9), 5:07 p.m. CST
Duke (31-5) vs. Connecticut (31-6), 7:47 p.m. CST
Championship
Monday, April 5
Semifinal winners, 8 p.m. CDT

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE
BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Optioned C Geronimo Gil to Ottawa of the IL. Reassigned INF Eddy Garabito and LHP Rob Ramsey to their minor league camp.
BOSTON RED SOX—Placed SS Nomar Garciaparra, RF Trot Nixon, RHP Byung-Hyun Kim and RHP Kevin Appier on the 15-day DL, retroactive to March 26. Released INF Terry Shumpert.
CLEVELAND INDIANS—Acquired LHP Jeremie Robertson from the Houston Astros for OF Luke Steltz and the rights to OF Willy Taveras.
DETROIT TIGERS—Assigned LHP Eric Eckerstahler to Toledo of the IL. Reassigned INF Jason Smith and OF Andres Torres to their minor league camp.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Optioned LHP Greg Swindell, RHP Kris Wilson, LHP Chris George, LHP Jaime Cardr, RHP Joe Daxley, RHP Ryan Buovich and OF David DeJesus to Omaha of the PCL. Placed RHP Mike MacDougal, RHP Miguel Asencio, RHP Remeys Hernandez, RHP Kyle Snyder and RHP Kevin Appier on the 15-day DL. Assigned RHP Zack Crispin and RHP Rudy Seanez to their minor league camp.
SEATTLE MARINERS—Optioned RHP J.J. Putz to Tacoma of the PCL. Assigned C Pat Borders, INF Mickey Lopez, INF Jose Lopez and OF Hiram Bocachica to their minor league camp.
TEXAS RANGERS—Announced LHP Glendon Rusch exercised his option to become a free agent. Assigned RHP Todd Williams to their minor league camp.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Claimed RHP Sean Douglas off waivers from the Minnesota Twins. Placed RHP Bob Fife on the 15-day DL, retroactive to March 26.
NATIONAL LEAGUE
ATLANTA BRAVES—Released OF Gary Matthews Jr.
CINCINNATI REDS—Optioned LHP Jung Keun Bong and INF Tim Hummel to Louisville of the IL. Assigned LHP Mike Matthews, OF McKay Christensen, UT Jermaine Clark and OF Jacob Cruz to their minor league camp.
COLORADO ROCKIES—Released INF Benji Gil.
FLORIDA MARLINS—Released OF Brian Banks.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Released OF Bubba Trammell.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Released LHP Joe Beimel.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS—Placed RHP Jesse Foppert on the 60-day DL. Designated RHP Ryan Jensen for assignment. Claimed LHP Kevin Walker off waivers from the San Diego Padres.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association
NBA—Fined Denver G Jon Barry \$7,500 for verbally abusing game officials in a March 27 game. Named Scott O'Neil senior vice president of marketing and team business operations.
MIAMI HEAT—Activated C Loren Woods from the injured list. Placed C Wang Zhi-Zhi on the injured list.
MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES—Signed G Derrick Martin. Placed G Troy Hudson on the injured list.
TORONTO RAPTORS—Activated F Robert Archibald from the injured list. Placed F Jerome Moiso on the injured list.

IOWA SPORTS

Today
• SOFTBALL at Drake, 4 p.m.

Friday
• BASEBALL at Michigan State, 1 p.m.
• MEN'S GYMNASTICS at NCAA qualifier in Champaign, Ill., 1 p.m.
• MEN'S TRACK at Missouri Relays, 4 p.m.
• SOFTBALL hosts Northwestern at Pearl Field, 6 p.m.

Saturday
• MEN'S TRACK at

Missouri Relays, 9:30 a.m.
• WOMEN'S TENNIS hosts Michigan at Koltz Tennis Center, 10 a.m.
• BASEBALL at Michigan State, noon and 3 p.m.
• SOFTBALL hosts Northwestern at Pearl Field, noon.
• MEN'S TENNIS at Michigan State, noon.
• MEN'S GYMNASTICS at NCAA championships in Champaign, Ill., 7 p.m.
• WOMEN'S GOLF at Indiana Invitational.
• WOMEN'S GOLF at Indiana Invitational.

• ROWING hosts Minnesota.
April 4
• WOMEN'S TENNIS hosts Michigan State at Koltz Tennis Center, 10 a.m.
• MEN'S TENNIS at Michigan, noon.
• SOFTBALL hosts Michigan State at Pearl Field, noon and 2:30 p.m.
• BASEBALL at Michigan State, noon.
• MEN'S GYMNASTICS at NCAA championships in Champaign, Ill., 2 p.m.
• WOMEN'S GOLF at Indiana Invitational.

TV SCHEDULE

Today
• MLB Preseason, Houston Astros at Atlanta Braves, noon on ESPN2.
• MLB Preseason, Arizona Diamondbacks at Chicago Cubs, 2 p.m. on FSX.
• CBB NIT Final, 6 p.m. on ESPN.
• NHL Detroit Red Wings at St. Louis Blues, 7 p.m. on ESPN2.
• NBA Sacramento Kings at Dallas Mavericks, 7 p.m. on TNT.
• NBA Houston Rockets at Los Angeles Lakers, 9:30 p.m. on TNT.

Friday
• NBA New York Knicks at New Jersey Nets, 7 p.m. on ESPN.
• NBA Los Angeles Clippers at Chicago Bulls, 7:30 p.m. on FSX.
Saturday
• CBB Slam dunk and 3-point competition, 2 p.m. on ESPN.
• NHL Chicago Blackhawks at Phoenix Coyotes, 3 p.m. on FSX.
• CBB Final Four, 5 p.m. on CBS.
• CBB Final Four, 7:30 p.m. on CBS.

April 4
• NHL Chicago Blackhawks at Dallas Stars or St. Louis Blues at Minnesota Wild, 2 p.m. on ESPN.
• MLB Boston Red Sox at Baltimore Orioles, 7 p.m. on ESPN2.

SOCCER

U.S. beats Poland, 1-0, in exhibition play

PLOCK, Poland — The United States tuned up for World Cup qualifying by beating Poland 1-0 in an exhibition game Wednesday on DaMarcus Beasley's goal, ending the hosts' seven-game winning streak.

Goalkeeper Brad Friedel had a shutout in his first national team game in nearly two years for the United States, which lost to Poland, 3-1, in the first round of the 2002 World Cup.

The Americans, who went on to reach the quarterfinals of that tournament, open their road to the 2006 edition with a qualifier against Grenada in Columbus, Ohio, on June 13.

This also was coach Bruce Arena's first win in seven tries in Europe. The Americans had been 0-10-1 in

Europe since beating Austria in an exhibition game in April 1998. "It feels good," Arena said. "We've lost some difficult games along the way like to Holland, Germany, Italy. But we knew we would win one."

Because of fears of terrorism Wednesday, Polish police increased security for the game, with at least 50 officers forming a ring around the field and another 500 outside the stadium.

Arena started seven European-based players, including Friedel, who plays for Blackburn in the English Premier League.

"It was an important match in an important year," he said. "It was great to get this group of players together and then have success. It's rare we get our European based and domestic players together."

Iowa tops All-Big Ten list with 53 student athletes

IOWA CITY — The Big Ten Conference has announced that a league-best 53 Iowa student-athletes have been named to the 2004 winter Academic All-Conference team. The list includes student-athletes from men's basketball (3), women's basketball (8), men's gymnastics (6), women's gymnastics (8), men's swimming (9), women's swimming (12), and wrestling (7).

To be eligible for an academic All-Big Ten selection, student-athletes must be letterwinners in at least their second academic year at their institution and carry a career grade-point average of 3.0 or better.

Men's basketball (3)
Name, Year, GPA, Major, Hometown
Greg Brunner sophomore 3.08 Communication Studies Charles City, Iowa; Jared Reiner senior 3.26 Finance Tripp, S.D.; Kurt Spurgeon senior 3.53 Management DeWitt, Iowa

Women's basketball (8)
Jenna Armstrong junior 3.00 Biology Stockton, Mo.; Jamie Cavey junior 3.42 Mathematics Mechanicsville, Iowa; Kristi Faulkner senior 3.39 Elementary Education Glen Elyn, Ill.; Morgan Kasperik sophomore 3.30 Communication Studies Hinsdale, Ill.; Jennie Lillis senior 3.51 Communication Studies Urbanda, Iowa; Becca McCann senior 3.47 Elementary Education Saginaw, Mich.; Tiffany Reedy sophomore 3.11 Political Science Dysart, Iowa; Lindsay Richards sophomore 3.59 Psychology/Communication Studies Barrington, Ill.

Men's gymnastics (6)
Jacques Bouchard sophomore 3.84 Microbiology Rio Rancho, N.M.; Bryan Bourland sophomore 3.56 Pre-Exercise Science Lubbock, Texas; Linas Gaveika junior 3.04 Russian Vilnius, Lithuania; Kenny Lin junior 3.12 Asian Language and Literature Orem, Utah; Matt Metzger senior 3.79 Economics Cincinnati; Dan Proudfoot junior 3.15 Art Lakeville, Minn.

Women's gymnastics (8)
Liz Grajewski sophomore 3.03 Communication Studies Covington,

Wash.; Stephanie Gran senior 3.70 Elementary Education Wauconda, Ill.; Brandy Kilian senior 3.27 Communication Studies Owosso, Mich.; Tiffany Kwan sophomore 3.27 International Studies Unionville, Ontario; Mindi Levitz junior 3.12 Health and Sport Studies Sunnyvale, Calif.; Anne Rue junior 3.54 Leisure Studies Reisterstown, Md.; Melissa Saliba sophomore 3.77 Pre-Exercise Science Nashville; Nicole Wong senior 3.61 Industrial Engineering Virginia Beach, Va.

Men's Swimming (9)

Alex Boyce junior 3.50 Finance Houston, Texas; Cameron Dye sophomore 3.47 Pre-Business Boulder, Colo.; Jonathan Landon sophomore 3.75 Economics/Philosophy Pella, Iowa; Joe Lureau junior 3.04 Civil Engineering Carol Stream, Ill.; Natan Pheil junior 3.54 Biomedical Engineering Neenah, Wis.; Elliot Ptasnik junior 3.13 Finance Belleville, Ill.; Calvin Shelangoski junior 3.13 Accounting Muscatine; John Singer senior 3.47 Political Science Scottsbluff, Neb.; Jason Snider senior 3.99 Finance Clive, Iowa

Women's Swimming (12)

Kristen Eide junior 3.23 Art Houston, Texas; Katelyn Eustis junior 3.61 Mathematics Chesterfield, Mo.; Caitlin Girdley junior 3.52 Nursing/Psychology Verona, Wis.; Katie Haeger junior 3.82 Biology Hales Corners, Wis.; Lisa Haunz senior 3.52 Management/Health, Leisure & Sport Studies Bismarck, N.D.; Andrea Hemphill sophomore 3.36 Pre-Business Lawrence, Kan.; Christie Hooper senior 3.11 Communication Studies Gallatin, Tenn.; Karen Kelly sophomore 3.12 Health and Sport Studies Galesburg, Ill.; Katherine Koenig sophomore 3.22 Pre-Elementary Education Dubuque; Jackie Molzahn senior 3.70 Elementary Education Barrington, Ill.; Jennifer Skolaski junior 3.52 Social Work Madison, Wis.; Abby Van Maaren junior 3.21 Health and Sport Studies Ames

Wrestling (7)

Ryan Fulsas senior 3.27 Elementary Education Decatur, Iowa; Alex Grunder sophomore 3.29 History Wilton, Iowa; Matt Morkel junior 3.46 Mathematics Omaha, Neb.; Tyler Nix senior 3.85 Accounting Greene, Iowa; Oleg Polyatsky sophomore 3.11 Pre-Business Buffalo Grove, Ill.; Ned Shuck senior 3.59 Elementary Education Mapleton, Minn.; Joe Uker sophomore 3.66 Open Osage, Iowa



Nix
3.85 GPA



Snider
3.99 GPA

Bojangles

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MEDICAL

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2150 Rochester Avenue
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Attn: Athletic Director

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SPORTS

Only three have scored 40+ as teens

NBA

Continued from Page 1B

Saunders said. "The energy he has provided as well as the skill he's brought to the team has been a factor in what they have accomplished."

Anthony certainly hasn't had a typical first season.

At a time when most rookies struggle with the long season and have a drop in production, Anthony has gotten better. His scoring average the second half of the season is 24.5, six points higher than the first half, and his shooting percent has climbed three points to 44 percent.

Anthony has been particularly effective in the final stretch of the season, leading the Nuggets in scoring in each of the past six games, including his performance against Seattle.

He got off to a great start against the Sonics — 18 points in the first quarter — and his teammates kept feeding him. He finished 19-for-29 to join LeBron James and Clifford Robinson as the only teens in league history to score 40 points in a game.

James, Cleveland's 19-year-old rookie sensation, had 41 against New Jersey on March 27. Robinson scored 40 with

Detroit in 1980, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

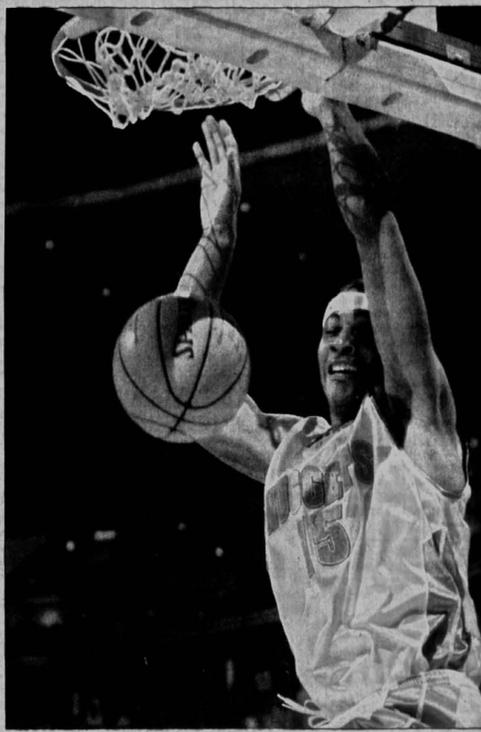
"We have to still remember, he's 19 years old," Nuggets coach Jeff Bzdelik said of Anthony. "You can't get spoiled and think you're going to get that kind of performance all the time. No one gives that kind of performance all the time, but he certainly was outstanding."

Not that he's been perfect. In a blowout loss to Detroit on March 19, Anthony refused to return in the fourth quarter after teammates questioned his shot selection. He apologized to the team the next day, but he didn't realize the magnitude of his actions until a few days later when he got a call from Michael Jordan.

"He told me to never let people know how you're feeling," Anthony said. "If you've got something to say to your teammates, say it in the locker room. Then he told me that it was over with. I just have to learn from my experiences."

But one minor setback shouldn't tarnish what Anthony has done this season.

He's handled the pressure of being the savior of a franchise with relative ease, disarming the media with that charismatic smile and quieting taunts and physical play with clutch shots late in games.



Jack Dempsey/Associated Press
Denver's Carmelo Anthony dunks against Seattle on March 30.

More than 60 officials make calls for 10 sports leagues

REFEREES

Continued from Page 1B

who added that the rate for technical fouls increases during the tournament. "Some students have unfair expectations because the officials are their peers, 18 to 22 years old, and most aren't certified for high school."

More than 60 officials at the university make the calls for 10 different sport leagues comprising 1,600 athletes and 200 teams. Widen said flag football and basketball are the most intense sports and therefore the most demanding.

For basketball, a two-part training includes a classroom setting covering rules and mechanics and an on-court period for situations. More than half of the 38 current basketball officials worked last year. For each game, an experienced official is paired with a newcomer, and everyone is evaluated as the season unfolds.

Tyler Eason is one of the most veteran referees. In 2002 and 2003, he was voted the intramural Official of the Year. When asked what makes a good ref, he answered the way he blows his whistle: without hesitation.

"Confidence," he says. "By far."

Eason and his first-year partner, Tom Schorer, run along the edges of the court

dressed in black shorts and black shirts with gold lettering. They sprint forward and stop, then skip in reverse, heads moving back and forth, surveying the 10 people on the floor, whistles clenched tightly between their teeth. The ball-handler on team Absolut X jumps into the air and charges into an opponent. Before the player lands, Eason has blown

"Some students have unfair expectations because the officials are their peers, 18 to 22 years old, and most aren't certified for high school."

— Mike Widen, fourth-year director of intramural officials

his whistle and put his left fist behind his head to signal an offensive foul. The player questions the call, and after Eason signals the infraction to the scorekeeper, he gives a quick reply.

"You also have to have the ability to work and communicate with others," he said. "And you have to respond well to criticism."

The pay scale begins at \$8.45/game and can increase to \$10.40. Intramural graduate assistant Rob Patchett said a majority of the officials get better as the season progresses and subsequently want to try more sports.

Schorer, who wears number 136 across his back, has already made calls for indoor soccer and volleyball, and he looks forward to the upcoming Wiffle ball and outdoor soccer seasons.

"You're going to make mistakes and people are going to take on you about it," he said. "But if you listen to them, they'll listen to you."

E-mail/DI reporter Frank Klipsch at randysjulia@aol.com

Hawks need consistency at NCAAs

GYMNASTICS

Continued from Page 1B

year, but it performed at its best when it counted most, smashing the competition on the way to the title. Many feel this Iowa team could do the same.

"We need a consistent effort," Dunn said. "We haven't had a complete team effort yet this year, so we really haven't peaked yet. It's pretty hard for all 36 routines to be on the money, and that's really what you have to do to win."

This Iowa team also has individuals who can carry the team in hard times, something Dunn's championship team had

plenty of. The Hawkeyes have leaned on many performers this year when they've needed to, including the senior class of Eric Block, Michael Kelly, Matt Metzger, and Paul Summers. Junior Linas Gaveika, last year's national champion on the high bar, has also been a major contributor, as have sophomores Michael Reavis and Michael McNamara.

"The '76 team had horses," said Dunn. "We had the horses, and we had the specialists. This team has that as well."

Last, the '76 championship squad had a focus on the title, something Iowa has plenty of going into the weekend.

"The team is, right now, in the best shape it's been [going into the championship] since I've been here," Gaveika said.

While Dunn has yet to reach the top at Iowa, he is no stranger to championship meets while he's been a Hawkeye. In his 24 years at Iowa, Dunn has compiled a 179-73-2 record and has led the Hawkeyes to the national meet 17 times in the past 20 years. He has coached 11 national champions in his 24-year tenure, with Gaveika being the most recent. His experience in big-time meets could prove to be the difference between a fifth-place finish and a championship for the Hawkeyes.

"I think Tom Dunn's coaching experience in general is a very good quality of his," said Reavis. "Because he's had many different experiences, he can take us where we want to go."

E-mail/DI reporter Nick Richards at nicholas-richards@uiowa.edu

Semis a rematch of Duke-UConn 1999 championship game

FINAL FOUR

Continued from Page 1B

sensation Chris Bosh, now with the Toronto Raptors. Even with him, the Jackets missed the tournament last year. Then practices began, and Hewitt quickly believed his team could be among the nation's best.

He even told them so. They responded by winning the pre-season NIT, going 27-9 and tying for third in the ACC. They've kept winning in the tournament even with leading scorer B.J. Elder hobbled by a sprained ankle.

"Because we play so many guys, it's a different [star] every night. People may get lulled into thinking that they're not very good, that the sum is greater than the individual parts. But the individual parts of this team are very, very good."

The Cowboys came into the season trying to blend five transfers with three holdovers. They got their growing pains out of the way early, then breezed through the Big 12. They entered the NCAA Tournament having won 17 of 18 games, with the only loss by one point in double overtime on the road against Missouri.

Connecticut started the season ranked No. 1, lost its fourth game — to Georgia Tech — and dropped five more, mostly after star center Emeka Okafor was injured. The Huskies' talent and depth carried them through

rocky times, and Ben Gordon has taken over the scoring load in the tournament. They've won each of their tournament games by at least 16 points.

Now UConn gets Duke, the team it beat in the 1999 championship game. Although Blue Devils coach Mike Krzyzewski showed his team tape of victories that sent previous teams to the Final Four, he dismissed that title game as having "little relevance in our game Saturday."

"No relevance, to be quite frank with you," he said, "because ... none of these kids played in that game."

Perhaps more relevant is this: Duke senior Chris Duhon is the only player at this Final Four who has been there before. He was a freshman when the Blue Devils won it all in 2001.

With Stillwater, Okla., approximately 500 miles from the Alamodome, Oklahoma State is the geographic favorite. The Cowboys also could become the sentimental pick.

Their story lines include John Lucas' arrival from Baylor after that program was rocked by tragedy and scandal, plus coach Eddie Sutton's attempt to shed the label of owning the most wins without a national title. There also are the memories of 10 people who died in a plane crash while returning from a game three years ago.

Starter Ivan McFarlin and reserve Terrence Crawford were on the Cowboys' roster that season.

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Push, a thesis concert for choreography graduate student Amanda Hamp and performance graduate student Maureen Miner, will be performed today, Friday, and Saturday in SpacePlace, North Hall.

"We called the concert *Push* because I think we both felt really pushed by the whole project," Hamp said.

Because of being full-time students and teaching assistants, everyone faced a lack of time. Miner said that at the beginning, she thought it would be a push to put the performance together at the last minute.

Luke Dahn, a UI composition graduate student and music composer, with Evan Kucher, for Hamp's choreographed piece "Oath," felt the same way.

"The amount of music that was needed in a relatively short amount of time was quite challenging," he said. "We had to compose very quickly, which is something I don't usually do."

Push consists of three performances: "Once was Said," "The Imagined Offense," and

"Oath." "Once was Said," a dramatic duet, was choreographed by Sara Semonis, a faculty member at Illinois State University, and it will be performed by Miner and Ed Rice, a guest dancer from Illinois State.

"The Imagined Offense," a more light-hearted piece choreographed by UI faculty member Charlotte Adams, will be danced by Miner and UI senior Jayme Heaberlin. "Oath," a 23-minute performance, once again features Miner as the main dancer, along with four additional performers: Laura Buckholz, Lisa Kottemann, Holly Knights, and Elisabeth Lovin.

"I wanted to dance in Amanda's thesis," Miner said. "I chose choreography that would challenge me ... Her piece feels very gestural. A lot is movement styles. It's nice for a performer to have different movement styles."

The inspiration for Hamp's choreographed piece comes from different oaths people take, such as ones in a courtroom, ones the president of the United States takes when talking to the country, and even oaths in partnerships. She said she then began working with the idea that women, because of their female embodiment, are expected to follow codes.

"There are different female relationships," Hamp said. "This is not to tell a story. It's not a narrative necessarily. It's about making ideas into movement."

"I think there are several very captivating moments in 'Oath,'" Dahn said. "Dance is such an expressive art form, and Amanda and the dancers have really shown this to be true."

SEE PAGE 3C



PHOTOS BY AMANDA MAY

Holly Knights (background) and other performers Maureen Miner and Amanda Hamp's M.F.A. thesis concert at SpacePlace Monday night.

Laura Buckholz, Elisabeth Lovin, Lisa Kottemann perform the piece 'Oath.'

Buckholz, Miner, Kottemann and Lovin perform 'Oath' during the concert Monday night.



FOOLISH FUN

? In the spirit of April Fool's, we wrote a few stories to try to fool you. Three of today's stories are a little less than true. ?
Can you find them?

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT | 80 HOURS

Hancher to get a little weird

WEIRD AL YANKOVIC STOPS IN IOWA CITY IN SUPPORT OF A NEW MUSIC-VIDEO DVD AND *POODLE HAT*, HIS 16TH ALBUM.

BY LAYNE GABRIEL
THE DAILY IOWAN

Twenty-four years after performing a parody of "Another One Bites the Dust" in an Iowa City club, Weird Al Yankovic will return to promote his new album and perform at Hancher Auditorium.

"One of the very first concerts I ever did was in Iowa City years and years and years ago," he told *The Daily Iowan*. "In 1980, a radio station in Iowa City flew me out from LA just to play 'Another One Rides the Bus' in a nightclub."

Yankovic has been creating parodies of popular music since he was a teenager. He got his start by sending homemade tapes of his music to the Dr. Demento radio show, and by the time he was out of college, he had released singles nationally.

Although the days of the Dr. Demento show are long gone, Yankovic is still influenced by the artists whom he was exposed to on the show. His musical heroes have inspired him in writing material for his albums for the past two decades.

Poodle Hat,

Yankovic's 16th album, contains a mix of parodies and originals.

"It just won a Grammy not too long ago," he said. "It's my third Grammy. It felt great. I hadn't won a Grammy since 1988, and it's nice to get the recognition from my peers."

SHOW

Weird Al Yankovic

When: 6:30 p.m. Friday
Where: Hancher Auditorium
Admission: \$27.50 and \$32.50

In addition to *Poodle Hat*, he recently released a collection of all 24 of his music videos on DVD.

"It was something we wanted to do for a while," Yankovic said. "We had a collection out previously, but the company that put that out somehow let it go out of print. Then we had some legal problems with getting some of the tracks re-licensed to put the package out again. By the time we were able to release it, we had a few other videos to put on it. It's a full, unabridged career retrospective."

This is definitely not the life he had expected to live, but he has settled into it comfortably and now balances his work with a wife and a daughter.

"I suppose I had my rock-star dreams when I was 12 years old, but I never thought this was what I would be doing for a living," he said. "I never thought I'd have such longevity in a field where people have a lot of one-hit wonders."

Yankovic's years of work have made him a good living and helped him gain a huge fan base across the country.

"I love my fans and respect them," he said. "I tend to think they're more intelligent in general than a lot of other fan bases. As a group, they seem to have a good sense of humor and they seem fairly bright. They're the kind of people I'd like to hang out with."

Doors for Friday's show at Hancher open at 6:30 p.m.; tickets are \$27.50 and \$32.50 and are available from all Ticketmaster outlets.

E-mail DJ reporter Layne Gabriel at: laynegabriel@yahoo.com



Publicity photo

Weird Al Yankovic, the world's biggest-selling comedy recording artist of all time, has spoofed everyone from Coolio to Nirvana to Crash Test Dummies in his more than 20 years in the music business. *Poodle Hat*, his newest album, features parodies of hit songs by Eminem, Nelly, Avril Lavigne, and the Backstreet Boys, among others.

Gere to bring rap to Iowa City

In a bizarre and unexpected career move, Richard Gere decides to pursue a rap career

BY LAYNE GABRIEL
THE DAILY IOWAN



Contributed publicity photo

Gere and the Dalai Lama talk hip-hop logistics before embracing at a recent awards show.

Popular film star Richard Gere has slipped out of acting to pursue a full-time rap career that will bring the star to Iowa City next week.

Gere's album, *Thuggin' With Buddha*, which has garnered him national attention, contains 14 original tracks and guest appearances by Wu Tang Clan and the Dalai Lama. Gere mixes his Buddhist ideals with the rich history of rap music on the debut album.

"I've been writing music for a long time, and I banged on the piano a lot when I was a little baller," Gere told *The Daily Iowan* from a hotel room in Compton. "I took a lot of time getting a good flava going and working with Queen Latifah (on *Chicago*) really got me hyped about making some jams."

Though Gere has been keeping busy promoting his album and preparing himself for a national tour with the Beastie Boys, he is taking time to play a few small clubs and teach rap workshops in college towns.

"I really like to chill with young people, and this is a great way to share my beats," he said. "It's great to have the chance to hang with other people and freestyle. It's gonna be phat to teach all these thugs how to turn it out."

Gere will play a show at Gabe's on April 6 and teach a workshop at Public Space One on April 7.

Dave Strackany, a director at Public Space One, said that he was thrilled to open the facility's doors to support Gere's new endeavor.

"I think this is a great opportunity for people to really see what goes on with high-profile musicians," he said. "Gere's album is full of excellent material, and the workshop should be a good time."

Gere said he planned on having guests with him at his concert and workshop next week.

"Well, Mike D. and Ad-Rock (of the Beastie Boys) ain't really got much going on, and, of course, a couple of the guys from the Clan are going to try to help me out with some hard beats," he said. "It should be pretty 'bout it."

E-mail DJ reporter Layne Gabriel at: laynegabriel@yahoo.com

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Capitol Steps is and D.C.-area a

All for

BY KATI
THE DA

Now that the Iowa caucuses comes the parody musical comedy rent and for staffers, will p City on April from the perfor fit the Old Cap the National F Blind in Iowa.

"The group Hancher a few the community it," said Priscilla McKinley, the president of the Old Capitol Chapter of the national federation. "Another Eastern chapter had them come, and they were successful. And they also suit the current political climate."

The blind fed rights organizati for legislation a tunities for the mentoring the providing schol students. The seeks to raise av has had books placed in the pu libraries.

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80 HOURS ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The appeal of cooperative karting

BY WILLIAM SMITH
THE DAILY IOWAN

Only Nintendo could take one of the stupidest video-game ideas in history and turn it into a beloved franchise.

In 1992, Nintendo introduced the world to a Super Nintendo game called Super Mario Kart, which consisted of taking everyone's favorite Super Mario Bros. characters and putting them into a kart-racing game. As absurd as the concept sounded, the title became an enormous success, and it is still considered to be one of the best Super Nintendo games ever released. The early '90s was a unique time when new and original genres were being formed, despite Nintendo's uncreative practice of tacking the word "super" onto every game title.

Twelve years and two incarnations later (the last console version was the 1996 Mario Kart 64), Mario Kart has returned. Mario Kart: Double Dash!!, which is available for the Nintendo GameCube, is an addictively fun racing title that will enchant almost every gamer. The game delivers the same simplistic fun that is representative of the franchise and updates the series with gorgeous graphics and a few small innovations.

Like most racing games, Mario Kart: Double Dash!! gives players the option to compete at a variety of racetracks with a wide choice of drivers and cars. Because all of the drivers come from the outrageous fantasy land that Mario inhabits, players choose from such characters as Yoshi, Princess Peach,

Donkey Kong, and Bowser. This time around, however, the developers spiced up the vehicles to reflect the characters' personalities. The evil Wario has a huge purple Cadillac, Bowser drives a monstrous go-kart with spikes on the hubcaps, and baby Mario cruises around in a baby carriage.

The big innovation behind this GameCube sequel is

and the other riding on the back of the kart. The character on the back of the car is solely responsible for using the special power ups and weapons that can be picked up on the track.

Although this change proves to be a shallow gimmick in the one-player game, it is the defining feature of the new two-player cooperative mode. There is nothing more fun than dishing out punishment to other racers while your buddy drives the car. Cooperative play is sorely absent in today's game market, so it is refreshing to see a title that involves working with friends instead of always competing against them.

Most gamers will have a hard time picking out that inexplicable quality that makes Mario Kart: Double Dash!! so addictive. The basic game play has hardly changed since Super Mario Kart was released in 1992, and yet other racing games have used

those years to constantly evolve. This lack of complexity proves to be the strength behind the Mario Kart franchise. Almost anyone can pick up a controller and start winning races, but it takes practice and



GAME REVIEW

Mario Kart: Double Dash!!

★★★½ out of ★★★★★

dedication to truly master everything the game has to offer.

Some gamers will be turned off by Mario Kart's super cuteness, and others may walk away frustrated when they hit the hall that divides the easy races from the difficult ones. The rest of the gaming populace will find this title to be a delight. Even those who hate racing games will find the game strangely compelling.

Mario Kart: Double Dash!! won't convert any Mario haters, but it does prove that a racing game can be fun if it is stripped down to the bare essentials (and contains a few deadly turtle shells).

E-mail D/ reporter William Smith at: william-d-smith@uiowa.edu



Publicity image

Capitol Steps is a comedy troupe made up of former Capitol-Hill staffers and D.C.-area actors. The group will perform at West High on April 4.

All the funny for your money

BY KATE BULLEN
THE DAILY IOWAN

Now that the dust from the Iowa caucuses has settled, here comes the parody. Capitol Steps, a musical comedy troupe of current and former Capitol Hill staffers, will perform in Iowa City on April 4. The proceeds from the performance will benefit the Old Capitol Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind in Iowa.

"[The group] performed at Hancher a few years ago, and the community seemed to like it," said Priscilla McKinley, the president of the Old Capitol Chapter of the national federation. "Another Eastern chapter had them come, and they were successful. And they also suit the current political climate."

The blind federation is a civil-rights organization that fights for legislation and equal opportunities for the blind as well as mentoring the newly blind and providing scholarships for blind students. The local chapter seeks to raise awareness, and it has had books about being blind placed in the public and school libraries.

"We want to change the attitudes of the public and the blind," McKinley said. "We're not freaks, we're just blind."

Capitol Steps was started by mistake at a Christmas party in 1981.

"We said we wanted to do a

Nativity play, but we couldn't find three wise men or a virgin," Elaina Newport said. An aide for then-Sen. Charles Percy of Illinois at the time, she is an original troupe member and co-writer of the group's material. The joke was taken well, and Capitol Steps hasn't stopped.

"For the first 15 years, you had to have worked on the Hill," Newport said about troupe membership. "But in 1996, we opened it up to D.C.-area actors." The split of the group is now about 50-50 — staffers and actors.

Capitol Steps has performed in 49 states.

"Not Wyoming," Newport said with a laugh. "That's Dick Cheney's state, and we think he warned them about us. We do like Iowa. You're so political. You invite

politicians every four years." The group, however, has not performed at the Iowa caucuses.

"We don't have a political message really, except that comedy is important, especially when the news is so serious," Newport said.

Capitol Steps will perform at West High School, 2901 Melrose Ave., at 7 p.m. on April 4. Tickets are \$26.50 and are available through Paypal on the Old Capitol Chapter website, www.oldecapchap.com. Tickets are also available at Prairie Lights or through McKinley at 354-8614.

E-mail D/ reporter Kate Bullen at: katherine-bullen@uiowa.edu

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The intimate interaction of dancing bodies

DANCE

Continued from page 1C

Since Jan. 20, Hamp and Miner, along with the other six dancers, have been putting in countless hours rehearsing. Lighting, costumes, and music, each of which plays a contributing role in the performance, were aspects that also needed serious consideration.

"Evan and I knew that in music/dance collaboration, the visual dance takes precedence over the aural music," Dahn said. "At least in regard to the percep-

tion of the general audience. At the same time, we wanted the music to enhance what was going on onstage ... So, we did try to portray musically the emotions we felt the dancers were trying to portray onstage ... One of the most rewarding moments was watching the dance with the music for the first time. I was very surprised at how well things went together."

Amid all the work, however, everyone seemed to leave room for at least a little bit of fun. During a rehearsal for "Oath," the women joked with each other about hair styles for the show and adding body glitter

for a little extra glitz. During breaks and pauses, the dancers discussed their injuries, which included a jammed toe, a bleeding elbow, and floor burn.

"I wish I could tell you they're not always like this," Miner said with a smile, "but they are."

Once the music began, the dancers regained their composure, grievances and minor ailments forgotten. Their motions and bodies meshed together sensually and elegantly. They acted as poets, silently expressing a powerful concept with a slight gesture of an arm or a

sweep of the leg. Though Hamp and Miner said they enjoyed working with each other on the concert, structuring it and being a part of the process as a whole, the chemistry among the dancers on stage is equally important, and equally visible.

"There's something intimate about spending so much time together," Miner said. "We rehearse every night and are interacting bodily. It can happen in any dance, but in the rehearsal process, it becomes especially intimate."

E-mail D/ reporter Julie Throm at: julie-throm@uiowa.edu

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT | 80 HOURS



Bang Rajan (above) will be shown Sunday at 3:30 p.m. as part of the WAVES film festival.

Hanging cinematic ten

In its fourth year, the WAVES film festival attempts to dispel the idea that Asian cinema is all about martial arts

BY WILL SCHEIBEL
THE DAILY IOWAN

Audiences can ride the waves of Asian ambition and daring creativity in this weekend as the WAVES film festival celebrates its fourth year at the UI.

Sex and gang violence are among the controversial topics addressed in this weekend's series of the latest and edgiest cinematic imports from Asia. The festival, which was created and is run by UI graduate students, will launch its annual screenings Friday at 7:30 p.m., with movies running through April 4 in 101 Becker Communications Studies Building. All films, which include documentaries, shorts, animations, and feature-length pictures, are free and open to the public. Some include discussion and Q & A sessions with panelists and special guests.

Lisa Koizumi, who is involved in the festival's programming, said the event is about education as well as entertainment. "We're trying to dispel ideas about martial arts being the dominant genre in Asian films," she said.

In past years, the festival has featured such award-

FILM FEST
WAVES

When: 7:30 p.m. today - Sunday
Where: 101 Becker Communications Studies Building
Admission: Free

winning films as *Monsoon Wedding* and *Green Dragon*. Koizumi said this year's goal was to find lesser-known movies of the same caliber. She is proud of the new selections and hopes WAVES will be able to continue to bring satisfying results in the future.

The first movie is a graphic film from Singapore directed by Royston Tan called *15*, which was an official selection in the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year. Some real-life gang members and actual footage were used to depict the life of teenage criminals on the streets.

Jamie Lai, who also helped plan WAVES' programming, said the film has only been screened once before and even then it had 27 cuts. *15* was controversial to the point of putting all of Tan's future projects on hold and causing him

to be blacklisted by the Singapore government, she said.

Although the film cannot be shown without authorization, WAVES is presenting Tan's uncensored version.

"It's important to give Asian-American directors a voice ... we have that opportunity," Lai said.

Another talked-about film in the festival is *Masters of the Pillow*, which is one of three installments in a spotlight series on Saturday called "Sex, Stereotypes, and Cinema." Because of the adult-oriented content, viewers under the age of 18 will not be permitted to attend the film's screening. Lai cited *Masters of the Pillow*, which she said attempts to "combat the desexualization of Asian males," as another example of how the festival accepts taboo works.

Bang Rajan, *Repatriation*, and *The Last Breadbox* are some of the other films being shown over the weekend. The complete schedule can be found at uiowa.edu/~waves. For more information or special accommodations, contact Lai (319-331-3111) or Koizumi (319-356-5817), or by e-mail at uiwaves@yahoo.com.

E-mail: DIreporter@uiowa.edu
leonard-scheibel@uiowa.edu

Bijou announces: 100% chick flicks

BY WILL SCHEIBEL
THE DAILY IOWAN

For more than 30 years, the Bijou has provided Iowa City with great art-house, foreign, classic, and independent films that otherwise might not come to the community. But are these types of movies really relevant anymore, especially when other growing genres continue to prove themselves as the defining art forms of our time? I'm, of course, referring to the "chick flicks" that the Lifetime network has perfected with its years of brilliant television craftsmanship.

Eugene Suen, a member of the Bijou board of directors, said the cinema has come to realize that foreign and classic movies are a thing of the past.

"We've moved on since the radical '70s, and our taste in movies has matured with each passing year," he said. "Who wants to see the new Errol Morris documentary or some crusty old comedy by the Marx brothers when there are more important things we could be watching?"

In light of the ever-increasing popularity of Lifetime's revolutionary melodramas and romantic comedies, the Bijou is reformatting its entire spring and summer lineup. "Forget The

Triplets of Belleville and *Modern Times*," Suen said. "We just took a look at the new print of *Deceptive Seduction* and were absolutely blown away by it."

For the months of April and May, the Bijou is showing nothing but the latest girl-power movies and, depending on the results, may decide to be an exclusive Lifetime theater. Here is what we can expect to see in the next coming weeks: *Adventures with Yoga*, *My Ex-husband From Hell*, *Lustful Temptations*, and *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*.

"These movies are cultural touchstones," Suen insisted. "They respect female characters and give them profound dialogue, complex emotions, and believable situations."

The Bijou's concession stand is changing its snacks to fit the new movie program as well. For only \$5, audiences can buy what is being tentatively called "The Survival Kit." The kit comes with a box of tissues, a medium-sized container of Ben & Jerry's ice cream, one glass of wine, and a cell phone to make angry calls to ex-lovers.

The "chick flick" movement is finally being recognized as the biggest thing we've seen in cinematic importance since the French New Wave.

E-mail: DIreporter@uiowa.edu
leonard-scheibel@uiowa.edu



ARTS

UI makes exotic dance a requirement

The UI announced Tuesday it has decided to add a new graduation requirement for the dance school. All dance majors must now take a course in exotic dancing or stripping, in addition to the existing major requirements.

"I'm very excited about it," said UI junior Jayne Blair. "This opens up a lot of doors for me, career-wise."

Current seniors in the dance program will be grandfathered out of the requirement. All remaining students, however, must complete the semester-long course in order to graduate. Students are also encouraged to practice their moves in a work-study program with Dolls Inc. in Coralville.

"We are looking forward to this," said a Dolls representative, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "These girls look like a very talented group, and I wouldn't be surprised if some of them stayed around after graduation."

Blair is enthusiastic but a little reserved.

"I'm nervous about telling my parents about this," she said. "But I think the fact that it's required will help. And it's very comforting to know that I'll be able to get a job very soon after graduating."

Exotic Dancing is available to dance majors only, and it has not yet been listed on ISIS. Advanced courses may be offered in the subject if sufficient interest exists.

— by Kate Bullen

BIJOU University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

The Triplets of Belleville
(2003, France)
Thr-9pm, Fri-8:15pm, Sat-7pm,
Sun-9pm, Mon-9pm,
Tue-7pm, Wed-9pm
last screening 4/7/04

Hard Goodbyes: My Father
(2002, Greece)
Thr-7pm, Fri-5:15pm, Sat-9pm,
Sun-5:15pm, Mon-7pm,
Tue-9pm, Wed-No Screening
last screening 4/6/04

Sherlock Jr.
(1924, US)
Thr-5:15pm, Fri-7:15pm, Sat-5:15pm
Sun-7:30pm, Mon-5:15pm,
Tue-5:15pm, Wed-5:15pm
last screening 4/7/04

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80 HOURS | ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

A billion steps ahead of stale

The man behind such hits as Jay Z's 'H to the Izzo' and Ludacris' 'Stand Up' releases his debut album and proves he's more than just a beatmaker

BY DAN MALONEY
THE DAILY IOWAN

Kanye West used to be a faceless hip-hop hero. Presumably harbored in a modest-sized bedroom adorned with Run DMC posters, the young West made beats and even scored production credit for a few hip-hop hits, most notably Jay Z's anthem "H to the Izzo." And although West no doubt received sizable paychecks for his contribution to these hits, the extent of his exposure to the public never made it past the credits and liner notes. With the release of his debut solo album, *The College Dropout*, West's faceless days are over.

If you listen to mainstream radio or watch MTV, you may have encountered West's work without even realizing it. With two hit singles of his own ("Family Business" and "Slow Jamz") and production credits on current chart hits such as Ludacris' "Stand Up" and Alicia Keys' "You Don't Know My Name," he is beginning to seem like the new P. Diddy.

What's more, *Dropout* has been heralded as a hip-hop linchpin and described as a billion steps ahead of rappers with phonics problems, such as Mr. "Right Thurr" Chingy and "Hot in the Herr" Nelly.

Dropout, which at first listen seems like the antithesis to the intellectual collegiate path, isn't so much a concept album as it is a testament to West's life. Songs on the album showcase strong self-reflection and humorously sophomoric rhymes that complement his already established top-notch beats.

rhymes that complement his already established top-notch beats. He places such songs as "Jesus Walks," in which he admits his strong faith in God, against such tracks as "The New Workout Plan," in which he jests about his need for sexual pleasure.

Most of his songs vary from dance-floor-ready club tracks to champagne-seducing bedroom jams. Tracks such as "Breathe In Breathe Out," "Get 'Em High," "The New Workout Song," and "All Falls Down" will keep the clubs and after-hours dance parties raging till morning. "Breathe In" and "Get 'Em High" are classic bump 'n' grinders — the bass-



CD REVIEW
Kanye West
The College Dropout

heavy groove and throaty vocal assaults are logical soundtracks to pelvic thrusts, sweat, escalating shoulders, and ass-shakin'. The hooks keep coming with "New Workout Song" and "All Falls Down" — effective use of vocoder and violin flourishes flesh out "Workout" and the soulful voice of Syleena Johnson and choppy acoustic guitar highlight "All Falls Down."

West also contributes slow-paced R&B and soul songs, such as the R. Kelly-styled "Slow Jamz" and the Marvin Gaye-influenced "Space Ship" — proving that he can play both sides of the hip-hop/R&B field.

Like most hip-hop artists today, he manages a huge arsenal of guest vocalists, ranging from huge stars to under-the-radar upstarts. Jay-Z pays his respects in a half-hearted display on "Never Let Me Down," juxtaposed to an

igniting and stellar performance by Talib Kweli on "Get 'Em High." The hodgepodge of cameos oversaturates the album, however, and the between-song comedic skits grow tiresome and irritating.

When everything is tallied, West has still created one of the best debuts in hip-hop since NWA's *Straight Out of Compton* and Nas' *Illmatic*. And whether he's simply providing the beats or delivering rhymes of his own, West has proven he's a fresh new name — and face — in an increasingly stale, mainstream hip-hop climate.

E-mail DJ reporter Dan Maloney at: malo51@aol.com

Coens' latest bellies up to laughter



FILM REVIEW
by Laura Jensen

The Ladykillers

When:
4:30, 7 and 9:40 p.m.
Where:
Campus III
★★★ out of ★★★★★

The Ladykillers, a typical Coen brothers film in its clever absurdity, is a farcical crime caper that starts a little slowly but builds to big belly laughs by the end.

Writer-directors Joel and Ethan Coen (*Intolerable Cruelty*) have crafted a story filled with eccentric characters living in a sleepy Southern town who decide to rob the local riverboat casino. Professor Dorr (Tom Hanks), the ringleader, comes to town and boards with Mrs. Munson (Irma P. Hall, *Soul Food*), a devout elderly woman whose basement is perfect for tunneling to the casino's underground safe. Dorr is posing as a musician who wants to practice church music with his ensemble.

His fellow cohorts include an incompetent explosives man (J.K. Simmons, *Hidalgo*), a casino janitor as the "inside man" (Marlon Wayans, *Scary Movie*), a Vietnamese veteran who is an expert at tunneling (Tza Ma, *Rush Hour*), and a moronic football player for muscle (Ryan Hurst, *Remember the Titans*). All goes well in the beginning, but they soon discover that their upstairs host is more difficult to fool than



Tom Hanks and Irma P. Hall star in the Coen brothers' comedy *The Ladykillers*.

any of them had expected.

The first half of the film is entertaining and mildly funny, but the second half gets the audience rolling in the aisles. The rag-rag miscreants are hilariously to watch as they bumble foolishly in their attempt to avoid getting caught. Hanks is typically pitch-perfect — his performance is funny because the character is so out there, and Hanks plays him so well, filling him with characteristic tics, like his breathy laugh and a sly, smirking smile.

The supporting cast members all hold their own wonderfully against the two-time Oscar winner. Hall's ultra-religious landlady elicits perhaps the most laughs with her tough-as-nails Christian attitude. A surprise contender for the role of funniest character is Hurst as the dumb muscleman,

whose hulking presence and deep rumbling voice belie a sweet, innocent little boy. He plays up this side by flashing bashful smiles, swinging his knees, ducking behind menus, and grabbing cookies by the handful.

Simmons, as Garth Pancake, and Wayans, as Gawain MacSam, battle in some amusing fights, during which Garth often condescendingly reminds an indifferent Gawain of his civil-rights activism. Simmons brings in another amusing character in his better half, Mountain Girl (Diane Delano, *A Mighty Wind*), a massive woman whom he met while on a vacation for sufferers of irritable bowel syndrome.

The Coens have produced some great, ridiculously funny (and often just ridiculous) films. This one may not measure up in laughs

or wit with *Raising Arizona*, but it is a strong showing that is clearly a Coen brothers' movie. The film's final act is its most outlandish but also its funniest. The characters and their dialogue are outrageous. For example, the professor looks like an aged Puck (of "The Real World") and wears a three-piece tan suit with a strange bow tie while carrying a cane. He also spews such discourse as "Oh, we must think. We must all have waffles and think."

Those who appreciate the Coens' offbeat sense of humor will not be disappointed. For anyone else, the movie might be too silly, but it will still induce some laughs. If nothing else, *The Ladykillers* offers an opportunity to see Tom Hanks in the type of goofy mode we haven't seen him in for years.

E-mail DJ reporter Laura Jensen at: laura-jensen-1@uiowa.edu

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The Ggitch

Friday, April 2
Euforquestra
HEADLINER
Broken Grass

Saturday, April 3
Danny Five & The Uptown Five
HEADLINER
The Heart of Gold Band

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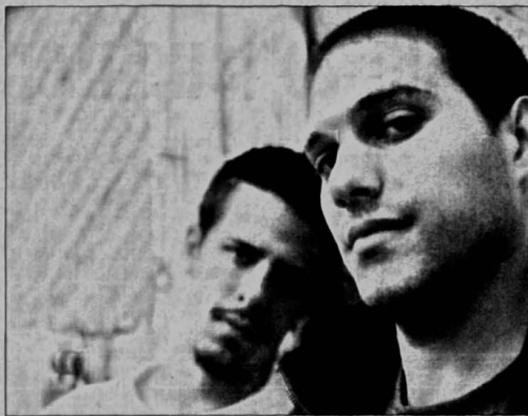
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WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PICK OF THE WEEK

EYEDEA AND ABILITIES WILL PLAY AT GABE'S, 330 E. WASHINGTON, SATURDAY AT 9 P.M. BLUEPRINT OF SOUL POSITION, GRAYSKUL, AND CARNAGE WILL START OFF THE SHOW. ADMISSION IS \$12.

TODAY

Music

- **The Gglitch**, Spacklebury, Green Room, 509 S. Gilbert, time and price TBA
- **Marc Dickman**, euphonium, Marcelina Turcanu, piano; David Spies, tuba, and the Johnson County Landmark rhythm section, Voxman Music Building Harper Hall, 8 p.m., free
- **Tamara Thweatt and Alan Huckleberry**, flute and piano, Clapp Recital Hall, 8 p.m., free

Words

- **Chris Forhan**, poetry, Prairie Lights, 15 S. Dubuque, 6 p.m., free
- **Donald Morrill**, nonfiction, Prairie Lights, 8 p.m., free

Theater

- **Emily Dickinson & I: The Journey of a Portrayal**, Riverside Theatre, 213 N. Gilbert, 7 p.m., \$12-\$23
- **Thesis Concert**, UI dance department, Space/Place, North Hall, 8 p.m., \$5-\$10

Misc.

- **"From Stacks to Stage: A Lyrical Look at an Opera Director's Love Affair with the Library,"** Gary Race, IMU Richey Ballroom, 7 p.m., free

FRIDAY

Music

- **Broken Grass**, Euforquestra, Green Room, time and price TBA
- **Dan Knight**, piano, Museum of Art, 5 p.m., \$10
- **Steel Train**, Concealing Victory, the Berlin Project, Dexter Danger, Ateravia, Gabe's, 330 E. Washington, 6 p.m., \$10
- **Society of Composers Student National Conference**, electro-acoustic concert, Clapp, 8 p.m., free
- **Dred I Dread**, Public Property, Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn, 9 p.m., \$5
- **Kevin Gordon**, Mill, 120 E. Burlington, 9 p.m., \$6

Words

- **"Where Self and Subject Meet: The Making of Emily Dickinson and I and Cloning Mary Shelley,"** Iowa City Public Library Meeting Room A, 123 S. Linn, 7 p.m., free
- **Lorrie Moore**, fiction, Main Library Shambaugh Auditorium, 8 p.m., free

Theater

- **Emily Dickinson & I: The Journey of a Portrayal**, Riverside Theatre, 8 p.m., \$12-\$23
- **Thesis Concert**, Space/Place, 8 p.m., \$5-\$10

Misc.

- **"A Little Bird Told Me,"** artist reception and talk, Jefferson Building, Lower Level, 129 E. Washington Street, 5 p.m., free

SATURDAY

Music

- **The Heart of Gold Band, Danny Jive and the Uptown Five**, Green Room, time and price TBA
- **Society of Composers Student National Conference**, new works concert, Clapp, 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., free
- **Society of Composers Student National Conference**, closing concert, Clapp, 8 p.m. free
- **Dennis McMurrin and the Demolition Band**, Yacht Club, 9 p.m., \$5
- **Pretty Girls Make Graves**, the Red Light Sting, Mahjonn, Gabe's, 9 p.m., \$8

Theater

- **Thesis Concert**, Space/Place, 8 p.m., \$5-\$10
- **Emily Dickinson & I: The Journey of a Portrayal**, Riverside Theatre, 8 p.m., \$12-\$23

Misc.

- **Volunteer Workshop**, Public Space One, 6 1/2 S. Dubuque, 5 p.m.
- **The American Magic-Lantern Show**, Macbride Hall, 8 p.m., free

SUNDAY

Music

- **Ben Connelly**, Mill, time and price TBA
- **Gglitch**, Euforquestra, Green Room, time and price TBA
- **Iowa Woodwind Quintet with Kenneth Tse**, saxophone, Clapp, 3 p.m., free

Theater

- **Emily Dickinson & I: The Journey of a Portrayal**, Riverside Theatre, 2 p.m., \$12-\$23

Misc.

- **WOW! Family Day**, Museum of Art, noon-4 p.m., free

MONDAY

Music

- **Eyedeas and Abilities**, Blueprint of Soul Position, Grayskul, Carnage, Gabe's, 9 p.m., \$12
- **Open Mike**, Mill, 8 p.m., free

Words

- **Matthea Harvey and Michael Teig**, poetry, Prairie Lights, 8 p.m., free

Theater

- **The Moon Stays With Us**, Public Space One, 8 p.m., Price TBA

TUESDAY

Music

- **Willie Waldman Project**, Gnask, Green Room, time and price TBA
- **Hannah Holman and Rene Lecuona**, cello and piano, Clapp, 8 p.m., free

Words

- **John Dalton**, fiction, Prairie Lights, 8 p.m., free

Theater

- **The Moon Stays With Us**, Public Space One, 8 p.m., price TBA

Misc.

- **Stitch 'N' Bitch**, Public Space One, 4 p.m.
- **Lightning in a Bottle**, improv comedy, Mill, 8 p.m., \$2

WEDNESDAY

Music

- **Poetry Slam**, Green Room.
- **Amy Stewart**, nonfiction, Prairie Lights, 8 p.m., free
- **Talk Art Cabaret**, Writers' Workshop student readings, 9 p.m., price TBA
- **Jam Band Jam**, Yacht Club, 10 p.m., free

Theater

- **The Moon Stays With Us**, Public Space One, 8 p.m., price TBA

NEW MOVIES

OPENING THIS WEEKEND

OPENING FRIDAY

Agent Cody Banks: Destination London

Coral Ridge 10, Cinema 6
Frankie Muniz returns as Agent Cody Banks, traveling to London and posing as the pupil of a prestigious music boarding school while searching for a stolen top-secret mind device.

Hellboy

Coral Ridge 10
In this suspenseful sci-fi film, Satan's son is raised as a force of good after an evil Nazi experiment doesn't go as planned.

Home on the Range

Coral Ridge 10
A cartoon set in the Wild West that follows some cows and their horse friend (Cuba Gooding Jr.), as they try to find a way to raise money and save their family farm.

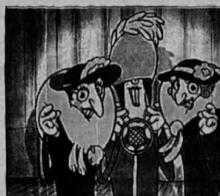
The Prince and Me

Coral Ridge 10
Julia Stiles plays a pre-med student who falls in love with the prince of Denmark, who is trying to live a normal life.

Walking Tall

Cinema 6
Chris Vaughn (the Rock) is a retired soldier who returns home in search of a new life. His hometown is overrun with crime and drugs, so he is elected sheriff to try to return the town to its original state.

OPENING TODAY



The Triplets of Belleville

Bijou
This animated musical follows Madame Souza, her dog, and the Belleville triplets as they try to save Madame Souza's grandson, who was kidnapped during the Tour de France.

Hard Goodbyes: My Father

Bijou
A young boy tries to cope with the sudden loss of his father in Athens in 1969.



Sherlock Jr.

Bijou
Buster Keaton stars as a man who dreams of being a detective and getting the girl of his dreams in this silent-film classic.

Mad Cow Disease is Only the Beginning

The USDA recently proposed that downed cattle, animals too sick to stand, be banned from the human food supply after the discovery of mad cow disease in a downed cow. Mad cow disease is a fatal neurological disorder with no known cure.

While mad cow disease was officially confirmed in the U.S. in December, 2003, there is evidence that a similar neurological disease has been present in the U.S. since at least the early 1990's. Other diseases known to afflict U.S. cattle include bovine leukemia virus, bovine immunodeficiency virus, and Johnes Disease - whose human counterpart is Crohns Disease. Sheep in the U.S. harbor their own neurological disease, called "scrapie," while poultry are known to harbor avian influenza. In the age of factory farming, transmissible animal diseases spread quickly, and they commonly go undetected as meat, milk and eggs are rushed onto supermarket shelves. Even when diseases are found, they are allowed into the human food supply. Downed animals with malignant lymphoma, hepatitis, gangrene and other ailments have been approved for human food by USDA.

YOU CAN HELP

Much needs to be done to improve the quality of our food supply and the well-being of farm animals, including a ban on the use of downed animals in the food supply. The USDA is accepting public comments on its proposed rule to prevent downed cattle from being used for food until April 12. Please write immediately urging the USDA to publish a final rule banning all downed cattle, as well as downed sheep, pigs and other species, from being used for human food.

Encourage friends, family, and neighbors to write. This public comment period provides a rare opportunity to help improve our food supply and the lives of farm animals. Write to:

WRITE TO: FSTS Dept. 2000
 Dept. of Agriculture
 Room 1220, Cotton Building
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20250-1220
 Fax: (202) 799-0438
 E-mail: fsts.regulations@aphis.usda.gov

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DAWN OF THE DEAD (R)
 Mon-Thurs: 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
 Fri-Sun: 1:00, 3:15, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40

ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND (R)
 Mon-Thurs: 4:45, 7:20, 9:45
 Fri-Sun: 1:45, 4:45, 7:20, 9:45

LADY KILLERS (R)
 Mon-Thurs: 4:30, 7:00, 9:40
 Fri-Sun: 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40

CINEMA 6

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JERSEY GIRL (PG-13)
 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

NEVER DIE ALONE (PG-13)
 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10

TAKING LIVES (R)
 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

SECRET WINDOW (PG-13)
 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

ENDS TODAY **SPARTAN (R)**
 9:00 ONLY

STARSKY & HUTCH (PG-13)
 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

ENDS TODAY **MYSTIC RIVER (R)**
 12:30, 3:20, 6:10

CORAL RIDGE 10

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SCOOBY DOO 2: MONSTERS UNLEASHED (PG)
 NOON, 1:00, 2:10, 3:10, 4:20, 5:20, 6:30, 7:30, 8:40, 9:40

PASSION OF THE CHRIST (R)
 12:40, 1:40, 3:40, 4:40, 6:40, 7:40, 9:40

ENDS TODAY **AGENT CODY BANKS 2: DESTINATION LONDON (PG)**
 12:10, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

HIDALGO (PG-13)
 12:10, 3:20, 6:30, 9:30

CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN (PG)
 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20

50 FIRST DATES (PG-13)
 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30

MIRACLE (PG)
 12:10, 3:20, 6:30, 9:30

ENDS TODAY **LOTR: RETURN OF THE KINGS (PG-13)**
 Noon, 4:10, 8:00

MOVIE LINE
 337-7000
 category 4220