

The Daily Iowan

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50¢

A piano teacher in an Iowa prison



Nelson
imprisoned since
March 17, 2003

On June 9, the Iowa Board of Parole agreed to interview Phyllis Nelson for possible early release; she is serving time in prison after being convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the stabbing death of her husband

BY GRANT SCHULTE
THE DAILY IOWAN

In prison, Phyllis Ruth Nelson teaches piano.

The former substitute teacher finds solace in her music, shared with fellow inmates at the Iowa Correctional

Institution for Women in Mitchellville, her lawyer says. The lessons hark back to a life before her husband's stabbing death in a Cedar Rapids apartment. Before her first-degree murder trial and the ensuing media frenzy. Before she was escorted, tearful and handcuffed, to a new life behind bars.

On June 9, the Iowa Board of Parole agreed to interview the 59-year-old for possible early release three years after her voluntary manslaughter conviction for stabbing her husband, a top UI medical-school dean. But Nelson, imprisoned since March 17, 2003, must still

persuade a skeptical three-member board that she is ready to be freed.

"A lot of it depends on the inmate's risk" outside prison, said board member Curtis Jenkins. "It's really done on a case-by-case basis."

SEE NELSON, PAGE 7

COLLEGE LOANS Rates on loans to shift

'It's a total change in how the government calculates the rate. It's going from using a variable rate to a fixed rate.'

— Beth Oakes of the UI Office of Student Financial Aid

BY DEAN TREFTZ
THE DAILY IOWAN

A federal law that will go into effect July 1 will simplify loans for college students in Iowa and across the country, yet the implications of the shift are not yet clear.

After June 30, student loans awarded by the federal government will be fixed, discontinuing year-to-year interest-rate changes previously associated with such loans. Also, students will no longer be able to consolidate their loans while in school.

"It's a total change in how the government calculates the rate," said Beth Oakes of the UI Office of Student Financial Aid. "It's going from using a variable rate to a fixed rate."

For new loans, the government will no longer annually recalculate to reflect the current national interest rate, she said. Any new federal student

SEE LOANS, PAGE 7

KANSAS TWO STEP



Ed Bornstein/The Daily Iowan

Iowa City resident Gara Luckett, left, dances to samba music by Euforquestra outside the Homegrown stage at Wakarusa Music Festival on June 10 in Lawrence, Kan. The band members, self-proclaimed "shameless promoters of our own music," walked around the festival playing music and handing out fliers advertising their timeslot that night. Check out DAILYIOWAN.COM for a complete slide show of the band's performance and other photos of the festival.

STANLEY OFFICIAL TO ADVISE GOV'T

Gregs Thomopoulos will sit in on U.S. State Department advisory panel

BY MONICA SCHULZ
THE DAILY IOWAN

Iowa City resident Gregs Thomopoulos' experience in engineering contracting, which spans highway building in India to designing electrical infrastructures in Iraq, has won him a seat on a U.S. State Department advisory panel. The group will meet for the first time this year this week in Washington, D.C.

The Nigeria-born president and CEO of Stanley Consultants, an international engineering, environmental, and construction services firm based in Muscatine, expects to advise the U.S. Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations on rebuilding embassies to protect against terrorist attacks, among other issues.

Thomopoulos' international background, said Jim Hollatz, the senior vice president in

SEE THOMOPULOS, PAGE 7

Nurses train to aid rape victims

BY ABIGAIL SAWYER
THE DAILY IOWAN

Twenty-three health-care workers completed training June 9 at the UI College of Nursing to become licensed sexual-assault nurse examiners, adding them to a growing roster of advocates for rape victims in Iowa.

Courtroom role-playing culminated a weeklong training series, which taught the workers how to collect evidence and serve as expert witnesses in rape cases. Such training has become increasingly prevalent, as health experts recognize the benefits of these examiners in improving patient care and hospital efficiency.

The first of these programs in Iowa City started nearly three years ago, after the Rape Victim Advocacy Program landed a

SEXUAL ASSAULT BY THE NUMBERS

- Approximately one in three women worldwide have been coerced into having sex, beaten, or otherwise abused in their lifetime.
 - Rape is attempted on one in five American college women during their college years.
 - As of 2004, approximately 15 percent of Iowa women had been raped during their lifetime.
- In 2005, the Rape Victim Advocacy Program in Johnson County received:**
- 603 crisis calls about sexual abuse.
 - 225 crisis calls specifically about rape.
- Source: Rape Victim Advocacy Program data

SEE SEXUAL ASSAULT, PAGE 7



Lindsey Walters/The Daily Iowan

Becky Kinnamon (top left), a domestic-abuse intervention coordinator from Des Moines, plays a rape victim during a mock trial for a sexual-assault nurse examiner training program on June 9. Roxann Ryan (right), a faculty member in the criminal-justice department at Simpson College, plays the judge, and Michael Salvner (first row left), a Polk County assistant county attorney, and Jeffrey Fields, an Iowa City lawyer, play the prosecutor and the defense attorney. The workshop teaches nurses aspects of the forensic and health-care processes to aid sexual-assault victims.

LIFE IN THE VERY FAST LANE

Hawkeye Kineke Alexander comes within an eyelash of a national championship. **12**

TEACH THE CHILDREN

Michael Deunov believes he's found a new way to educate children, and he wants to share it with the universe. **2**

SEX AND THE ADDICT

A semi-documentary featuring the life of sex addict might sound self-absorbed, but Caveh Zahedi uses humor and reenactments to break into a new genre. **5**

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↓ 54 ^{12c}



Not quite March-like, partly sunny

MEDICARE

New drug plan may squeeze pharmacies

'Pharmacists don't have purchasing power, and they don't have leverage. We're very worried, in the short run, that many independently owned pharmacies will go out of business.'

—Jordan Cohen, College of Pharmacy Dean

BY DANNY VALENTINE
THE DAILY IOWAN

Iowa City pharmacist Kevin Christians says he has been working an additional 60-70 hours a month since the implementation of the new Medicare prescription-drug plan, which went into effect Jan. 1.

The Medicare Part D plan, which Christians blames for upping his hours and confusing his patients, is causing independent pharmacies around Iowa to struggle because their per-drug profit margin is cut.

"It's been horrible," said Christians, who is also a UI adjunct instructor. "There should have been an easier way for seniors to get their benefits."

Christians owns the independent Iowa City pharmacy ValuScript, 106 First Ave., which services nursing homes. He said the plan makes senior citizens happy and politicians look good, but it comes at the pharmacists' expense, because the discount on prescription drugs cuts from their bottom line.

"It's been very lucrative for them," he said. "There is only one middle man that is going to take a cut."

The pharmacist said his customers now have 11 different prescription-drug plans to choose from, while in the past, there was just one option.

Christians said ValuScript, which fills approximately 350 prescriptions every day, has not been severely crippled by the plan, but smaller pharmacies likely cannot afford to make less profit on their drugs.

College of Pharmacy Dean Jordan Cohen adamantly agrees, calling the plan a huge disadvantage to pharmacies — especially small ones.

"Pharmacists don't have purchasing power, and they don't have leverage," he said. "We're very worried, in the short run, that many independently owned pharmacies will go out of business."

The dean said the prescription-drug plan provides great help for those seniors who rely heavily on medication and are on a fixed income.

But with more pharmacies than ever squeezed by the government, Cohen is seizing an opportunity to revolutionize the way pharmacists are paid. Currently, drug providers make money by keeping the difference between the wholesale and retail prices of prescriptions. Unlike doctors or lawyers, they are not paid for advising customers on what drugs to take — advice Cohen speculates saves the U.S. government billions of dollars.

"We've got to document that," he said. "That's the real value."

The UI pharmacy school is now using its research strengths to make the case for changing this system nationwide. After one to three years of research, school officials hope to present their findings to the federal government, he said.

"The purpose of the pilot studies we are developing is to demonstrate the exact value of these services and the extent of these savings," Cohen said.

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Guantánamo filled with despair, lawyer asserts



Brennan Linsley/Associated Press

In this photo reviewed by U.S. military officials, a detainee walks and others sit on April 6 as a guard looks on in the grounds of Camp Delta prison at the Guantánamo Bay U.S. Naval Base, in Cuba.

BY ANDREW SELSKY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A "stench of despair" hangs over the Guantánamo Bay prison where three detainees committed suicide this weekend, a defense lawyer who recently visited the U.S. jail in Cuba said as calls increased Sunday to close the facility.

The U.S. Defense Department identified the three on Sunday as Saudi Arabians Mani Shaman Turki al-Habardi Al-Utaybi and Yassar Talal Al-Zahrani and Yemeni Ali Abdullah Ahmed.

Saudi officials had earlier identified the two Saudis.

No other detainees had tried to commit suicide since U.S.

military guards found two Saudis and one Yemeni prisoner hanging by nooses made from sheets and clothing early on June 10, Army Lt. Col. Lora Tucker told The Associated Press on Sunday.

While U.S. officials argue that the suicides were political acts aimed at hurting American standing in the world, human-rights activists and former detainees say prisoners are desperate after years in captivity and view suicide as the only way out even though Islam forbids it.


A European official urged that the widely criticized prison be closed, and two senior U.S. senators expressed concern that most of the prisoners have not been charged

with any crimes. A Saudi Arabian human-rights group called for an outside investigation of the deaths.

U.S. military guards were trying to prevent more suicides, such as removing sheets from cells when detainees are

not sleeping. But rights groups and defense lawyers said they feared the suicides — the first detainee deaths at Guantánamo Bay — were just the beginning.

AP writers Paisley Dodds and Abdullah al-Shihri contributed to this report.



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Verizon dials for dollars with fiber-op phone

BY PETER SVENSSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MASSAPEQUA PARK, N.Y. — Lisa Donohue squats on the floor with 2-year-old son Calum in front of their high-definition TV, watching a children's cartoon.

"What kind of animal is Franklin?" she asks him. Calum is a little under the weather, and his eyes droop a bit, but they stay fixed on the turtle on the screen.

Calum probably doesn't know, but the image of Franklin's bright green skin is brought to him not by cable, satellite, or broadcast, but by pulses of light that go straight to his home here on suburban Long Island from a telephone-company building miles away, via optical fiber.

Optical fiber — strands of glass 15 times thinner than a human hair — have been used by telecommunications companies over long-haul routes since the 1980s.

Now, Verizon Communications Inc., is making a big and expensive bet on replacing the network of copper wires that has provided phone service since the 19th century with fiber, giving it the capability to carry TV and super-fast Internet service in the bargain.

Investors have been skeptical about the plans, sending Verizon's stock down by approximately 20 percent since the rollout started last year, and other phone companies have not made the same gamble. Donohue, however, is happy with the service Verizon calls FiOS.

"With cable, the picture would stop. Or we'd have those digital things going," she said, gesturing to mimic the picture breaking up.

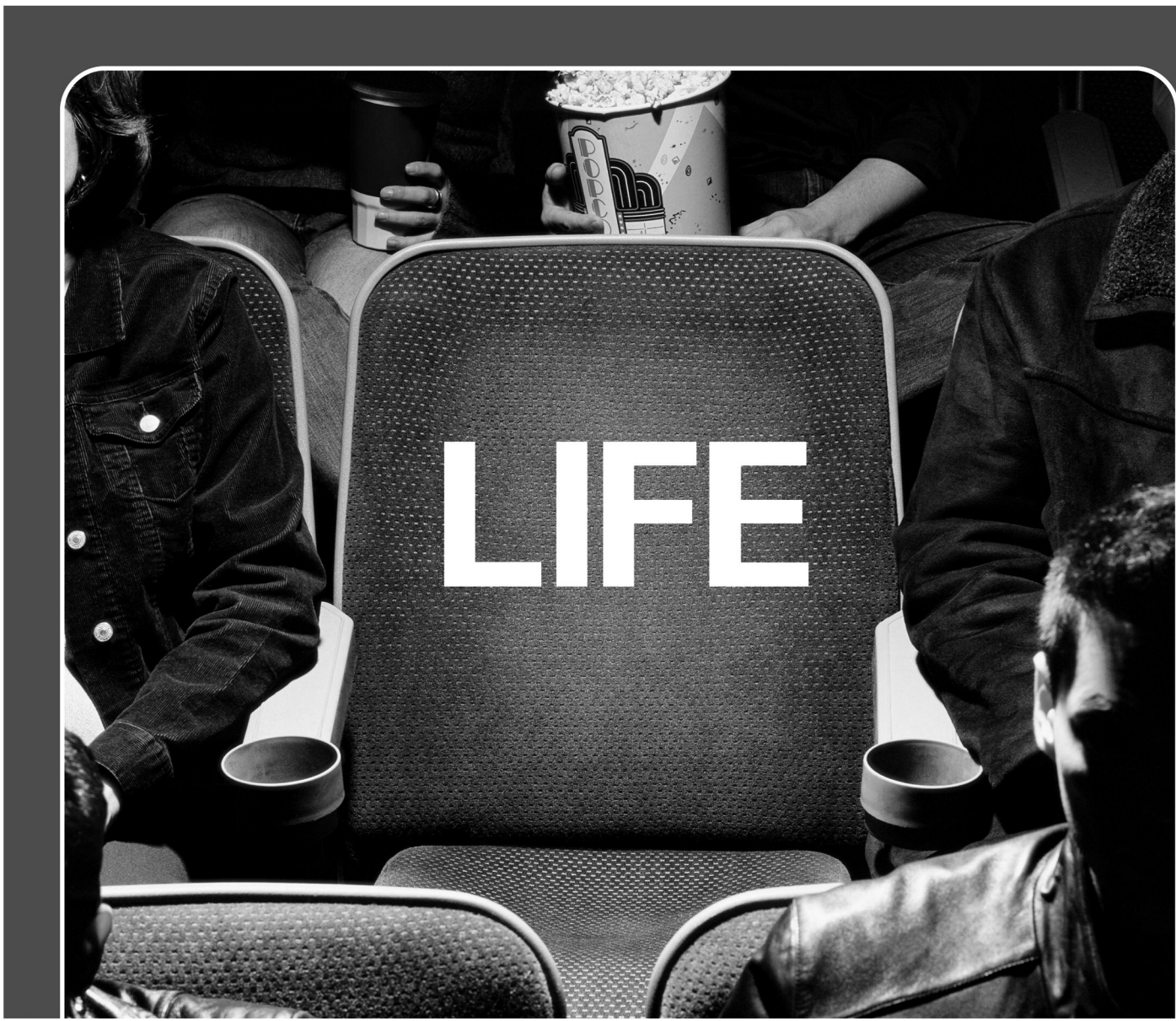
"We could get satellite, but our only tree in the garden is in the southwest corner, so we'd have to chop our only tree down" to get a clear line of sight to the satellite, she said.

The family pays approximately \$220 a month for TV, phone, high-speed Internet service, and two cell phones, which she says is cheaper than what they were paying before, when they had cable.

"It comes as one bill, which is nice, because I don't have to remember to pay four times," Donohue says.

Factors such as that have made Verizon's FiOS TV a success in the few areas where it's available, judging by Verizon's data. It has said that 6.5 percent of households in Massapequa Park signed up for TV in the first three months after its launch on Jan. 24. That figure is disputed by Cablevision Systems Corp., the incumbent cable company, which said it had a net loss of less than 2 percent in the area.

Verizon has permission to sell TV service in around 80 communities in New York, Florida, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Virginia. It has fiber available for phone and Internet service in many more — 3 million homes. Verizon doesn't say how many homes are connected, but analysis of a tally by research firm RVA LLC indicates that Verizon had approximately 400,000 homes connected as of April.



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CALENDAR-WORTHY

Iowa City Peace Camp March documentary, Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn Street 7:30 p.m. today, free.

ARTS & CULTURE

Documenting the self as sex



Publicity photo

In the autobiographical *I Am a Sex Addict*, Caveh Zahedi (right) is addicted to sex with prostitutes.



FILM REVIEW

by Soheil Rezayazdi

I Am A Sex Addict

When:

1, 4, 7, and 9:50 p.m.

Where:

Coral Ridge 10

★★★ out of ★★★★★

In the fretful world of Caveh Zahedi, "sightseeing" in Munich means gawking at strippers at a local gentleman's club, while being "honest" with his wife means pointing out every arousing woman (a.k.a., every woman) on the street.

In his latest genre-defying re-enactment/documentary/comedy, *I am a Sex Addict*, Zahedi will have most viewers screaming "T.M.I." Zahedi, who has made a living through bizarre, self-indulgent documentaries about himself, ups the ante in *Sex Addict*, detailing the sex addiction that ran two of his marriages into the ground.

Sex Addict traffics mostly in comic re-enactments and occasional real-life footage, while Zahedi narrates the film directly to the camera. He creates a playful tone by including digressive material about the

The film succeeds in its three primary goals: to engage in a dialogue on human sexuality, to tell the story of evolution from sex addict to hopeful monogamist, and to operate as a conventional sex romp

making of his restaged footage, which proves to be one of the keys to the film's modest success. In one scene, for example, Zahedi informs the audience that the actress portraying his second wife had refused to do an oral-sex scene, so the viewer will just have to imagine it while he delivers his narration. Given that there are about a dozen scenes of Zahedi receiving oral sex from wives, girlfriends, and prostitutes in the film, it's not that hard to conjure up the image.

The reactionary response to this is to cry narcissism, but Zahedi does everything in his power to entertain the audience — at his own expense. As a result, Zahedi, the character, is not exactly a likable figure in *Sex Addict*, which is, of course, not lost on Zahedi, the director. His whining about free love, his lust for prostitutes, and his inability to be honest in relationships all make his behavior seem rather unjustifiable. The riddle of monogamy versus polygamy (and that, sadly, the answer may lie somewhere in between) affects everyone, however, and serves as the film's core, as we watch him self-destruct with one lover to the next.

If you're thinking there's a lack of plot synopsis here, let's just say that Zahedi's one-track mind begets a one-joke

movie. That being said, the film succeeds in its three primary goals: to engage in a dialogue on human sexuality with utter and unpleasant frankness, to tell the personal and often poignant story of his evolution from sex addict to hopeful monogamist, and to operate as a conventional sex romp.

This third leg keeps the film unpredictable and further uncategorizable. One moment, Zahedi drops references to Nietzsche and Godard — and the next, he's aiming for cheap laughs with repeated masturbation jokes. While the lowbrow humor often goes lower than necessary (in one painful-to-watch scene, Zahedi tries to entice a woman in an Asian massage parlor to engage in dirty talk, even though she can barely speak English), the sophomoric bits work to make Zahedi's previous self more ridiculous and thus the touching conclusion pitch-perfect.

Like Jonathan Caouette's *Tarnation*, *Sex Addict* is a diary film made financially possible by the advent of digital filmmaking and editing. Working within an inherently self-absorbed genre, Zahedi's and Caouette's films are, in essence, documentaries about their own lives.

Sex Addict — with its buoyant, fourth-wall-breaking narrative — exhibits none of the narcissism and melodrama that can so easily plague a film in this burgeoning genre. Unlike *Tarnation*, which integrates restaged footage and tries to pass it off as authentic, *Sex Addict* parodies the deceptive nature of such diary films by detailing the troubles of filming fictionalizations. Entertaining, endlessly quotable, and a genuine testament to human monogamy, *Sex Addict* transcends self-indulgence to create a narrative that engages the viewer almost as much as the creator.

E-mail *DI* film critic **Soheil Rezayazdi** at: soheil-rezayazdi@uiowa.edu

Unfortunately fêting summer



BOOK REVIEW

by Ray Mattson

Who wants to play in a 200-degree sandbox full of cat poop when you can stay inside with air conditioning, clean hands, and some absorbing novels?

To inaugurate its 10th-annual Summer Reading Program, today at 3 p.m., the Coralville Barnes & Noble, Coral Ridge Mall, will kick off the Lemony Snicket-themed "A Summer of Unfortunate Events." The occasion, for kids in grades 1-6, will include a wildlife interpreter, giveaways, and refreshments.

Beth Jerde, the community-relations manager for the store, said the program tries to encourage students to stay inside and pick up a book during the hot summer months. Barnes & Noble partnered with Lemony Snicket for this series of events, the first time the store has teamed up with an author.

Readers have followed the orphaned Baudelaire children throughout the 12 published installments of Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, but what keeps most of them reading along is his wry, often morbid, sense of humor.

Snicket (Daniel Handler on his tax forms), the bestselling children's author, humorously described the situation best in a press release: "Summer is a miserable season, offering us little more than sunburn, melted ice cream, and the horrors of arts and crafts. It is best to spend these months indoors with a good book and a glass of lemonade that has not been poisoned." Barnes & Noble certifies all cool refreshments are poison-free.

But Snicket fans will probably ask: Will there be bugs and reptiles like in the books? Yes. Tamra Lewis, a certified Iowa Department of Natural Resources wildlife interpreter from Lake Macbride State Park, has a host of creepy and

"A SUMMER OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS"

A reading program for kids in grades 1-6 that will run throughout the summer.

Barnes & Noble, Coral Ridge Mall:

• Summer Reading Program Kickoff

Kids activities, slimy animals, and giveaways

Today, 3 p.m., free

• Snicket-y Bits

Lemony Snicket read-along and other activities

Every Monday through the summer at 3 p.m., free

crawly creatures, such as tadpoles, snakes, frogs, fish, and leeches, for attendees to interact with. Lewis maintains all creatures are native to Iowa, so kids can learn firsthand what is slithering or sliming in their own backyards. But she assures us that "all will be within their comfort levels."

The Summer Reading Program's free activity kit and journal sheet — with Lemony Snicket-themed activities such as "Wrestling the Wretched Word Search" — include everything needed to participate.

"The activities are a scavenger hunt for the mind," Jerde said.

Kids can also earn free books simply by reading other novels. After reading any eight books, either borrowed or purchased, kids can list their favorite parts of each book on their journal sheets and turn them in to any Barnes & Noble to receive free books. As an added bonus, those who complete journal sheets will be entered to win an autographed copy of Snicket's *The End*.

The Summer Reading Program also includes "The Most Unfortunate Summer Event" essay contest. Any fiction or nonfiction essay under 1,000 words is eligible to win a Barnes & Noble gift certificate.

Beginning June 19, the Coralville Barnes & Noble will host Snicket-y Bits, a weekly event every Monday that offers more activities. This way, kids can sit back and listen to the unfortunate travails of the Baudelaire children and be thankful they were fortunate enough to be out of the sandbox.

E-mail *DI* reporter **Ray Mattson** at: ray-mattson@uiowa.edu

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SUMMER GAMES



Iowa City resident Drew Walker pitches to graduate student Colin Nies at City Park on Sunday afternoon. The pair, along with other friends and teammates, participate in the Iowa City coed recreational C division adult softball league on Thursday evenings. The "Larynges" are gearing up for their upcoming game against team "2000" on June 22.

Ben Roberts/The Daily Iowan

Nelson hopes for release

NELSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The board will consider a host of factors, from the scope of her crime to her behavior in prison and likelihood to re-offend, Jenkins said. Of the 12 female inmates who requested a parole hearing, he said, only Nelson was given an interview.

The in-person prison interview is scheduled for July 5 at 1 p.m., Jenkins said. With a majority vote, the three members interviewing Nelson could free her on parole or through a work-release program — or deny her request. The board does not release death-case inmates without stipulations, Jenkins said.

Nelson has denied past requests for an interview. But in prison — as inmate No. 6281122 — she has remained "remarkably upbeat" and acted as a model to other inmates, her attorney, William Kutmus, said. Piano lessons notwithstanding, she has served as a reading tutor and spiritual adviser. The Iowa Department of Corrections deemed her "unlikely to re-offend" shortly after she began her sentence.

Her two grown daughters, who stood by their mother's side and testified on her behalf at trial, have since moved to Illinois, Kutmus said.

Nelson was arrested Dec. 12, 2001, hours after stabbing 54-year-old Richard Nelson once in the heart with a black-handled Oxo paring knife. Richard Nelson had admitted to having an affair with his secretary and, in the final years of his life, suffered spells of depression and rage, lawyers said at trial.

The stabbing in his Cedar Rapids apartment, moments after his lover had left, amounted to a "tragic accident" when a furious Richard Nelson lunged at Phyllis Nelson, defense attorneys argued. The Linn County prosecutor countered that she had gone to the apartment looking for a fight.

Phyllis Nelson was charged with first-degree murder hours after the stabbing, but Judge Thomas Horan — hearing the trial in lieu of a jury — convicted her of the lesser felony. Voluntary manslaughter carries a maximum 10-year prison sentence, but state law allows Phyllis Nelson to be paroled as

PHYLLIS NELSON TIMELINE

Dec. 12, 2001 — Richard Nelson stabbed once in the chest, dies at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids. His wife, Phyllis Nelson, is arrested.

Dec. 24, 2001 — Judge Thomas Horan allows Phyllis Nelson's family to pay a \$25,000 bond for her release from jail, 10 percent of the original bond.

Dec. 9, 2002 — Trial begins. Details emerge about Richard Nelson's affair and alleged verbal abuse.

Dec. 20, 2002 — Attorneys deliver closing arguments in the case. Decision postponed for the holidays.

March 17, 2003 — Nelson convicted, taken back into custody.

April 21, 2003 — Nelson sentenced to 10 years in prison, eligible for parole in five years.

July 5, 2006 — Iowa Board of Parole to interview Nelson for possible early release.

early as Sept. 20, 2007.

As the then-UI College of Medicine's executive dean, Richard Nelson was nationally renowned for his work as a pediatrician. News of his death shocked the UI community and forced a sudden reshuffling within the department's ranks.

The Nelsons, lovers since age 16, were deeply involved in their church, which might play into the board's decision, Kutmus said. Throughout the ordeal, friends from Zion Lutheran Church, 310 N. Johnson St., stayed at Phyllis Nelson's side, praying at times in the courtroom and visiting her in prison. Phyllis sang soprano in the choir. "It's now up to the parole board, of course," Kutmus said. "But in my humble opinion, it's a good sign."

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Nurses learn to aid victims

SEXUAL ASSAULT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

grant to hire Pamela Terrill as the first coordinator of the Johnson County Sexual Assault Response Team. Since then, Terrill's staff has grown to 10 nurses, serving approximately 70 persons in Iowa City hospitals last year, Terrill said.

In the past, assault victims have waited up to an hour before seeing a doctor, leading to emotional stress and impersonal care, said Binnie LeHew, a co-organizer for the training programs statewide. With training in victim psychology and current exam protocol, practitioners can help patients feel more comfortable and see an expert

immediately, LeHew said.

Andrew Nugent, a UI clinical associate professor of emergency medicine, called the practitioners "incredibly valuable" because they offer concentrated care, which he is often unable to administer during demanding emergency-room rounds. In his six years at the UI Hospitals and Clinics, Nugent has seen "hundreds" of sexual-assault cases, he said.

Another benefit of these examiners is their expertise in evidence collection, which takes pressure off victims to retell the story of their assault. The hard evidence gathered by these practitioners often renders such testimony unnecessary. Examiners collect samples with up-to-date technology such as a colpo-

scope — a vaginal magnifying glass — to find minute bruising and tearing, LeHew said.

The training programs first appeared in Iowa in 1998, she said, four years after the Violence Against Women Act granted federal funding to sexual-assault advocacy groups. Now, 16 programs cover the state, predominantly in the larger locales.

Adding sexual-assault nurse examiners in rural areas may be limited by funding, LeHew said, where pay for practitioners is determined on a hospital-by-hospital basis. In some cases, this means a flat rate — regardless of time invested in the patient. Training could eventually be offered through community colleges, she said.

"You don't make money doing these exams," LeHew said. "It's more like community service, especially in rural areas."

Sherrie Faith, a nurse with St. Luke's Hospital in Sioux City who attended last week's training, is now one of four trained practitioners at her hospital. Though she will not be paid for her service, she thinks having trained experts is important, she said.

"I'm grateful to be given the chance to help," she said.

She now hopes to encourage fellow nurses to undergo training to offer better patient care.

"If it was me, I'd want somebody who's experienced to know what to do and say," Faith said.

E-mail *DI* reporter **Abigail Sawyer** at: abigail-sawyer@uiowa.edu

Student loans to shift rate

LOANS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

loans taken out will be calculated at a flat rate. For Stafford Loans — the typical loan to students — the rate will be approximately 6.5 percent. PLUS loans — the main loan to parents of college students — will be set at around 7.9 percent.

Only time will tell how the shift will affect UI students, Oakes said. Because interest rates for the new loans will be fixed, if the national interest rate goes down, students will lose money. If it goes up, the new system will benefit them.

"It's hard to say," she said. "You're guessing what the economy will do."

The new law is not the only

factor to affect student debt. Because of the nationwide rise in interest rates, students currently holding loans will see an increase after recalculation at the end of this month. Student loans taken out before July 1 are at roughly 4.7 percent for Stafford Loans and 6.1 percent for PLUS loans. With the adjustment, the older, variable-rate loans will be more comparable with the new, fixed variety.

Students will also have less control over their federal loans; those currently enrolled will not be allowed to consolidate after June 30. Right now, if students have several federal loans, they have the option of consolidating them into one big loan. This is usually done only if the composite loan will

have lower interest than the combined smaller loans, Oakes said.

Loan consolidation is usually done when interest is low, she said. Today's rates, which are higher than they have been recently, make consolidation a less attractive option. However, students will be able to combine their loans again after graduation.

UI junior Nick McCaw, who has compiled \$17,000 in student loans, said he was not aware of all the implications of the change. "I didn't know you couldn't consolidate anymore," he said. "I just knew they were going to hike up the interest rate."

McCaw said he will be looking at private loans to find a better deal. The Air Force ROTC member plans to go into the

military after graduation, which will help him pay down his debt.

E-mail *DI* reporter **Dean Treftz** at: dean-treftz@uiowa.edu

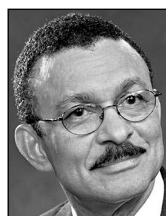
Local man to aid gov't

THOMOPULOS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

charge of the firm's Iraq operations, includes extensive work in Africa, and he has supported Stanley's efforts in volatile regions around the world.

"Gregs lived three years overseas working for Stanley, and his knowledge is extremely helpful," Hollatz said from Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. During its three-year presence in Iraq, the firm has worked on electrical generation, built schools, and aided infrastructure design.



Thomopoulos
Stanley CEO

billion contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to advise the corps' rebuilding of Iraq.

Based in Baghdad, seven full-time Stanley employees serve in an oversight capacity and help the corps establish construction budgets and prioritize country-wide reconstruction projects.

Hollatz said the engineers work in trailers, eat in mess halls, and are protected by the military.

"They live pretty normal lives," he said. "We're very fortunate. We've had nothing even close to terrorist activities."

Stanley is bidding for a contract to upgrade an airport in Kabul, Afghanistan. Hollatz said the area is dangerous, but he has no undue concerns.

"We don't get involved in local [politics]," Thomopoulos said.

"We just stick to being engineers."

Stanley made an estimated \$150 million in annual revenue last year, and Thomopoulos contributes much of the firm's success to its Iowa-based human capital.

"Good people make a company, and we have people of the highest quality," he said.

Amid other firms' recent emigration from Iowa, Thomopoulos said Stanley's 93-year history in Muscatine represents its commitment to the state.

"We're heavily invested in Iowa," the CEO said. "We own all our buildings, and it would be very difficult to move."

E-mail *DI* reporter **Monica Schulz** at: monica-schulz@uiowa.edu

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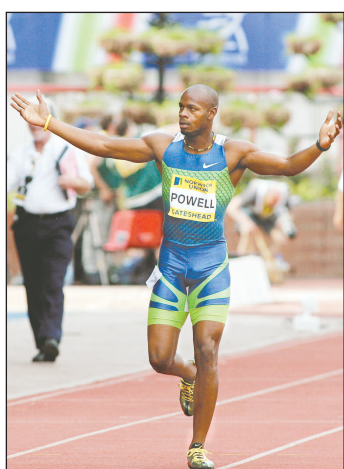
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Alexander just misses top spot



Powell

MEN'S TRACK

Powell equals 100-meter record

GATESHEAD, England (AP) — Asafa Powell has a message for Justin Gatlin.

"That's how you run a world record," Powell said, after he ran 9.77 seconds in the 100 meters at the British Grand Prix on Sunday, equaling the world record he holds with Gatlin. The Jamaican originally ran 9.77 in June 2005 in Athens, Greece. Gatlin tied Powell's record in Qatar on May 12, after his initial mark of 9.76 was changed five days later because of a timing mistake.

Michael Frater of Jamaica finished second, in 10.06. Dwain Chambers of Britain, in his first race since his two-year ban for the drug THG ended last November, finished third, in 10.07.

Powell had guaranteed victory at the British Grand Prix and wasn't threatened. He burst out of the blocks, and there wasn't a runner within two strides of him after 20 meters.



Jeff Chiu/Associated Press

Texas A&M's Clara Williams (center) celebrates after winning the women's 400 meters in 51.11 seconds at the NCAA track and field championships in Sacramento, Calif., on June 10. Iowa's Kineke Alexander (left) finished a close second to Williams.



Roach
high jumper

BY MICHAEL SCHMIDT
 THE DAILY IOWAN

Kineke Alexander came within steps of another national title. The Iowa sophomore galloped through the final turn of the 400-meter final on June 10 at the NCAA outdoor track and field championships with a chance to

bring Hawkeye track some rare national exposure.

Instead of adding a second gold, Alexander fell back slightly to finish second to Texas A&M junior Clara Williams, in a time of 51.35. Williams, competing in lane four, nudged ahead in the race's final moments and broke the tape in 51.11.

Alexander ends the 2006 season with an NCAA indoor gold and an outdoor silver medal.

"I'm very happy," she said. "I did everything right."

Securing the outright 400 throne would have been sweet, but Alexander was more than



"I'm very happy. I did everything right."

— Kinike Alexander, runner

SEE TRACK, PAGE 9

IOWA FOOTBALL

Football season tickets moving quickly

The Iowa football team faces a suspension.

A suspension of season-ticket sales, that is, after the university announced on June 8 it will likely have the fifth-consecutive year of increased sales.

"We're running a little ahead of the projections we put on the table a month or so ago, and we have some inventory available for new contributors to the National I-Club and members of the general public," said UI director of ticket operations David Sandstrum. "I do, however, expect to reach the point where we simply can't accommodate a request for a season ticket."

He added that single-game tickets are sold out for contests against Iowa State, Ohio State, Purdue, and they are in danger of selling out for the Wisconsin game.

The fans aren't the only ones with high expectations — the Blue Ribbon College Football Yearbook announced its poll on June 9, and it ranked the Hawkeyes as the No. 13 squad in the nation. That marks the Hawkeyes' highest preseason publication pegging of the year, after Athlon announced the team at No. 16, and Lindy's slotted them at No. 25.

— by Tyson Wirth

NBA FINALS

Once again, no Heat wave

After comfortably leading for nearly the entire night, the Mavericks lead the series 2-0

BY GREG BEACHAM
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Jerry Stackhouse and Josh Howard led the Dallas Mavericks past the Miami Heat four points at a time.

Shaquille O'Neal managed just five points in the worst playoff game of his career.

Any way you add up those numbers, the marvelous Mavs are halfway to their first NBA title.

Stackhouse scored 19 points, and Howard had 15 — and both converted four-point plays during

the decisive runs in Dallas' 99-85 victory in Game 2 of the NBA Finals on Sunday night, sending the Mavericks to Miami with a two-game lead.

Dirk Nowitzki's supporting cast made the biggest plays in this one-sided romp, but the German star shook off his Game 1 jitters to get 26 points and 16 rebounds for the Mavericks.

Game 3 is set for Tuesday night in Miami. A two-game deficit has only been overcome twice in NBA Finals history.

Led by Stackhouse, Howard, and Jason Terry, who had 16



Nowitzki
forward



Terry
guard

points, Dallas' offense was effortless and exciting. The Mavs buried the disorganized Heat with waves of points that included a 27-6 run in the second quarter. Both Stackhouse and Howard even converted four-point plays — the elusive act of hitting 3-pointers while getting fouled.

SEE NBA FINALS, PAGE 8



Donna McWilliam/Associated Press

Dallas Maverick Dirk Nowitzki (41) is fouled by Miami's Shaquille O'Neal during Game 2 of the NBA Finals in Dallas on Sunday.

Mintz airs it all out

Hillary Mintz is spending her summer interning with NBC in Philadelphia. The producer who hired her said he could tell the Hawkeye tennis star would be a good fit over the phone.

BY JOE WINN
 THE DAILY IOWAN

Like many college students, Hawkeye women's tennis player Hillary Mintz headed home for the summer. But while hordes of scholars flooded beaches and pools to work on their tans, Mintz journeyed back to Pennsylvania to work on her career in broadcast journalism.

The senior-to-be landed an internship with the sports department at NBC's Philadelphia affiliate, just 30 minutes from her hometown of Bensalem, Pa.

"I had opportunities in Orlando and



— Hillary Mintz, Hawkeye tennis player

Baltimore, but when I got a message from NBC in Philadelphia, I knew right away that I

SEE MINTZ, PAGE 9

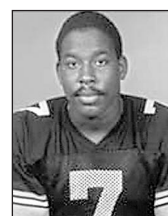
CLUB ANNOUNCES INDUCTEES TO HAWKEYE HALL

New Hall of Fame inductees are John Niland, Reggie Roby, Freddie Brown, Rummy Macias, Rafal Szukala, C. Vivian Stringer, and Christine Grant

BY BRENDAN STILES
 THE DAILY IOWAN

The National Iowa Varsity Club announced its 2006 Hall of Fame class at the first "Picnic with the Legends" June 10 at the Roy G. Karro Athletics Hall of Fame.

Former football stars John Niland and Reggie Roby, former basketball legend



Roby
former hawk

SEE HALL OF FAME, PAGE 9