

The Daily Iowan

TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2006

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50¢

MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT

Simpler AIDS drug coming

BY KELSEY BELTRAMEA
THE DAILY IOWAN

Three years ago, Jeff Moore was a man living by the clock. Every four hours, an alarm would go off, reminding him it was time to take yet another pill.

Diagnosed with AIDS in 1998, Moore was taking 32 pills a day to manage the disease.

Now, because of the Food and Drug Administration's last week approval of a once-a-day medication to treat HIV/AIDS, if he wanted, he would only have to take one.

Atripla Tablets, the first one-pill, once-a-day HIV/AIDS medicine, are expected to be available for purchase in pharmacies as soon as August, said Kris Davis, a registered nurse practitioner with the UI Hospitals and Clinics HIV/AIDS program.

The new pill, a combination of three widely used antiretroviral drugs, offers a simpler, less complex regimen for those able to take it. It combines the active ingredients of previously FDA approved Sustiva, Emtriva, and Viread. "This is the first of the antiretroviral therapies that have been available in one pill," Davis said. "It's kind of a landmark from the days when patients were having to take 12 or 15 or even 20 pills at a time."

SEE DRUG, PAGE 5

Death baffles friends, family



Jenn died July 14

BY LEAH DORZWEILER
THE DAILY IOWAN

Friends, relatives, classmates, neighbors, and teammates streamed down Fairchild Street outside St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church on Monday afternoon, each waiting patiently to pay respects to Jeremy Jenn, a 2006 Iowa City West High graduate.

Jenn, an honor student and member of the West High baseball team, which is currently in the state playoffs, grew up in Hills and planned to study business at the UI in the fall. The 18-year-old, who friends said "always had a smile on his face," unexpectedly decided to end his life on the morning of July 14 in the

Iowa River outside his hometown.

Johnson County Sheriff Lonny Pulkrabek said the preliminary report of Jenn's cause of death was drowning. An autopsy, performed by the State Medical Examiner's Office in Ankeny, likely won't be completed for about a month, he added.

The death has baffled those close to Jenn, who had revealed no outward signs of depression.

"I can't see why it happened; there was no reason," said Michael Malmberg, Jenn's best friend and lifelong neighbor. "I think it was a bunch of little stuff that just added up."

SEE JENN, PAGE 5

DRASTICALLY CUTTING THE FAT OUT



Laura Schmitt/The Daily Iowan

Kevin "B.F." Burt plays the blues in front of Terrapin Coffee Brewery in Coralville on Monday. Burt was a recent recipient of gastric-bypass surgery.

DIET DIFFERENCES

A meal for a person on a normal diet



A meal for a person who just had gastric bypass surgery



BV/DI

BY ABIGAIL SAWYER
THE DAILY IOWAN

Kevin "B.F." Burt, a soul musician with a passion for hot wings, had the big-man blues.

At his peak, the local performer weighed 402 pounds and suffered a litany of health problems. High blood pressure. Sleep apnea. Asthma. And symptoms of diabetes.

Plagued with a family history of obe-

sity, Burt — known to friends as "Big Fat Burt" — felt his singing performance diminish and his energy wane. The steady weight gain since college, when he weighed 275, finally prompted him to undergo a life-changing procedure: gastric-bypass surgery.

"I didn't do this to be a thin person," he said. "I did it to be able to play basketball and go on walks with my daughters."

SEE GASTRIC, PAGE 5

UI really feeling its oats

A Power Plant program using oat hulls for fuel is saving the school money using a carbon-neutral source

BY MATT SNYDERS
THE DAILY IOWAN

UI administrators in charge of overseeing energy use on campus are hoping a kilowatt-hour saved will turn out to be a kilowatt-hour earned.

"We've been conducting building audits to see what we can do to increase energy efficiency," said Jeri King, an assistant to the associate vice president for UI Facilities Management. "This includes designing new buildings and renovated space to be as efficient as possible. We're approaching energy efficiency from a number of paths."

One particularly smooth and successful path has been the Oat Hull Project. Last week, the Chicago Climate Exchange Environmental Compliance Committee — of which the UI is a voluntary member — announced UI's 2005 CO₂ emissions were significantly lower than required in the committee's agreement. According to UI officials, this success is due, in large part, to the Oat Hull Project.

SEE OATS, PAGE 5

Space flight still controversial



Contributed photo/NASA

Astronaut Peggy Whitson works on a soybean growth experiment, one of the many investigations she conducted during her six-month stay on the international space station in 2002. Whitson, who received her undergraduate degree in biology/chemistry from Iowa Wesleyan College, worked as a biochemist for NASA for several years before she was selected as an astronaut in 1996.

BY LAURA SHATZER
THE DAILY IOWAN

More than three years after the space shuttle Columbia was consumed in flames as it re-entered Earth's atmosphere, the shuttle Discovery touched down Monday. During a 13-day mission, crew members conducted safety testing, repaired the international space station, and delivered supplies and a third station resident.

Yet the question UI physics/astronomy Professor Emeritus James Van Allen posed following the Columbia tragedy lingers: Is human space flight obsolete?

In an article in the summer 2004 edition of *Issues*

in *Science and Technology*, the space pioneer noted the high financial costs and risks of sending humans into space in an age when robotic technology is becoming increasingly advanced and efficient.

But for two of the seven Iowa astronauts to work for NASA since its 1958 inception — one a pilot on the Apollo 7 mission in 1968, the other a space-station veteran — human space flight remains invaluable.

"It's part of the human spirit to go out and explore," former astronaut and Creston, Iowa, native Walter Cunningham said. "They've always sent robots out ahead of us."

SEE SPACE, PAGE 5

HISTORY OF HUMANS IN SPACE

- 1958: NASA begins operating.
- 1961: First humans in space.
- 1969: First humans on the moon.
- 1986: Challenger destroyed during launch.
- 2000: First permanent international space station crew arrives.
- 2003: Columbia burns up during re-entry.
- 2005: First shuttle mission in two years.
- 2010: Shuttles will be replaced.



BV/DI

88 ³²C
70 ²¹C
Partly sunny, breezy

RUNDOWN

A DI sports reporter has a brilliant idea: Work out with cross-country coach Layne Anderson. Ha-ha. **10**



IN THE MONEY

Money magazine puts Iowa City in the top 10 percent of "Best Places to Live." **2**

SOUTHERN SALT

Some old rebel flair are what Kentucky group Black Stone Cherry adds to its brand of rock. Or maybe that's old rebel flare. **3**

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IC high among 'Best Places'

BY GRANT SCHULTE
THE DAILY IOWAN

Money magazine's influential "Best Places to Live" list ranks Iowa City in the top 10 percent of all towns the publication examined in a nationwide study, according to the latest issue, released Monday.

The home of the Hawkeyes placed 74th based on a litany of factors, from overall affordability to education to youth demographics and quality of life, according to a list published in the magazine's August 2006 issue. Iowa City also ranked No. 5 nationwide for singles, with 52 percent of the population unmarried.

Combined with other high rankings, the magazine's findings offer a strong promotional boost to the city for attracting a young and vibrant work force, elected officials and business leaders said. The UI also uses such rankings for recruiting students and faculty.

"It increases awareness of what we have to offer," said Nancy Quellhorst, the president and chief executive officer for the Iowa City Chamber of Commerce. "There's a sense of place here, without a doubt."

Quellhorst said the proximity of nearby towns complement one another with a variety of offerings — a job in Cedar Rapids, for



Ed Bornstein/The Daily Iowan

Iowa City swelters on a muggy afternoon Monday. A report released Monday in *Money* magazine ranked the city No. 74 on its "Best Places to Live" list, putting it in the top 10 percent in the country.

instance, with a home in small-town North Liberty and weekend festivities in Iowa City.

Money magazine chose Fort Collins, Colo. — home of Colorado State University — as the top "Best Place to Live," followed by Naperville, Ill.; Sugar Land, Texas; Columbia/Elicott City, Md.; and Cary, N.C. The full list can be viewed at <http://money.cnn.com>.

Iowa City has long ranked well as a hot spot. In 2004, *Forbes* magazine crowned Iowa City the No. 3 among the "Best Small Places for Business."

Expansion Management magazine ranked it No. 3 for overall quality of life the same year. And in 2002, *USA Today* deemed the city third-most educated metro area nationwide.

"It just paints a nice mosaic of the area," said Iowa City Mayor Ross Wilburn. "There are lots of opportunities. I don't think you can put full weight on any one."

City Councillor Connie Champion said the city appeals to well-educated outsiders, many of whom have grown "fussy about where they're going to live" and

don't want a lengthy commute.

The reporters who compiled the rankings whittled the town list to 201 from the original 745, all with populations greater than 50,000. Cities with large elderly populations were cut, as were places with "undesirable characteristics" — negative job growth, high crime, poor-performing schools, and high home prices, said Tara Kalwarski, *Money* magazine's special-projects editor based in New York.

Kalwarski said Midwestern towns — including No. 64 Cedar Rapids and No. 71 West Des Moines — generally ranked higher than in previous years, because of the magazine's greater emphasis this year on affordable housing. The magazine sought small towns with big amenities — "the very things that young families are looking for," she said.

The five-reporter team compiled the bulk of its results over three months, examining each town's health, safety, leisure, jobs, and economy.

Oddly enough, Kalwarski said, not everyone in the high-ranking areas were eager to advertise their towns.

"A lot of times, the locals will say, 'Don't pick us,'" she said. "We don't want a lot of people moving here."

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HOT GAME OF CHECKERS



Aaron Hall Holmgren/The Daily Iowan

Seven-year old Miles DeWitt maneuvers his piece during a checkers match with his father, Marty DeWitt of Durham, N.C., on the Pedestrian Mall on Monday afternoon. The pair have been in town since July 13 for their annual visit to Miles' grandparents in Iowa City. The over-sized checkers were checked out from the Iowa City Public Library, which also loans out giant chess pieces for use on the cement gameboard outside the building.

METRO

Area woman faces many charges

A Solon woman faces numerous charges after allegedly breaking into a Coralville business early Sunday morning.

Sara Stoppelmoor, 40, was charged with second-degree burglary, fourth-degree theft, and fourth-degree criminal mischief, according to police documents.

Two employees were reportedly in the business shortly after 3 a.m. Sunday when they heard the door window being broken. Police officers, who arrived at the scene a few minutes later, allegedly found Stoppelmoor in the parking lot holding the cash drawer, the documents state.

Stoppelmoor allegedly had a crowbar concealed inside the waist of her pants, which police believe to have been used to break the door window and pry open the cash drawer. The total value of the drawer and its contents was \$450, according to the documents.

Stoppelmoor was being held in the Johnson County Jail with a \$9,000 cash-only bond, a jail official said.

Second-degree burglary is a Class C felony, punishable by up to 10 years in prison and \$10,000 in fines.

— by Leah Dorzweiler

The Daily Iowan

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Call: 335-6030
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POLICE BLOTTER

Charity Caston, 20, Coralville, was charged July 15 with driving with a suspended/canceled license.

Joseph Cofield, 17, 2128 S. Riverside Drive Apt. 116, was charged July 16 with underage use of tobacco products and possession of a schedule I controlled substance.

Donald Graft, 24, West Branch, was charged July 13 with driving with a suspended/canceled license.

Vincent Larios Jr., 16, 1515 Mulberry Ave., was charged July 16 with underage use of tobacco products.

Amanda Violette, 19, 416 S. Dodge St. Apt. 3, was charged July 15 with driving with a suspended/canceled license.

Russell Watson, 38, address unknown, was charged July 15 with simple assault.

Brianna Wyatt, 16, 1239 Hollywood Blvd., was charged July 16 with littering and underage use of tobacco products.

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SPI BOARD STAFF VACANCY

The Board of Trustees of Student Publications Incorporated, publisher of THE DAILY IOWAN, has two vacancies for staff representative — two-year terms covering the period from September, 2006 through May, 2008.

Nominees must be 1) full or part-time employees of the University of Iowa excluding faculty, and 2) committed to working on the board until the term expires. You may nominate yourself or someone else. The deadline for nominations is July 21, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. Nominations should be delivered to 111 Communications Center or placed in Campus Mail.

Nominees should provide the following information:

Name of Nominee	Home Address
Position in the University	Office Phone
Campus Address	Home Phone

A brief description of why the nominee is qualified for the SPI board.

The election will be on the internet from July 24 - Aug 4 at dailyiowan.com

City may ban street vendors

BY LISA BLUM
THE DAILY IOWAN

Street vendors may no longer be able to sell food out of parking spaces if the Iowa City City Council approves an ordinance at tonight's formal meeting.

At Monday's work session, the council discussed the measure, which would forbid people from taking part in commercial activities while parked for longer than 10 minutes.

The issue originated after grills produced enough smoke to evoke several complaints from sidewalk cafes. Problems have also arisen because Pedestrian Mall vendors have purchased \$750 permit fees from the city to operate carts,

while street vendors have supposedly slid by free of charge.

Currently, Ped Mall cart operators must abide by minimum hour and seasonal requirements for operation, including daily lunch and evening hours from May to October.

Councillor Connie Champion recommended that the city "designate two areas downtown for street vendors," which would likely have a fee similar to Ped Mall carts and could only operate late at night — an idea that could possibly irk current vendors who abide by the regulations.

Councillor Bob Elliott suggested the guidelines be eliminated, agreeing with Assistant City Manager Dale Helling's assertion

about the vendors.

"They do their best business late at night," Helling said.

Before discussion reached the issue of vendors at the work session, stormy weather brewing outside Harvat Hall caused the lights to flicker, suggesting an imminent power outage — just as MidAmerican Energy Co. representative Terry Smith began his presentation requesting the city renew its franchise agreement with the company.

The previous 15-year agreement expired in November 2001, and when public debate followed, the council put a energy referendum on last November's ballot. The measure, which asked whether the city should operate municipal

utilities rather than using MidAmerican Energy, was voted down.

Under the requested agreement, MidAmerican estimated approximately \$44.7 million be invested in economic development, energy efficiency, and philanthropic causes.

Councillor Regenia Bailey was wary of the reinstatement, which will be discussed at the council's work session July 31, citing MidAmerican customers' current level of satisfaction.

"There comes a point where we have to make a business decision," Smith said. "Those decisions get harder in the absence of a franchise."

E-mail *DI* reporter Lisa Blum at: lisa-blum@uiowa.edu

UI TAs WIN ON TESTING FEES

BY DANNY VALENTINE
THE DAILY IOWAN

It cost Yangfan Zhang \$600 in English as a Second Language testing and training fees before he could become a UI graduate teaching assistant.

Last year, he was among the first students forced to pay for the mandatory English-proficiency test.

A recent ruling by an Illinois-based labor arbitrator, publicized Monday by the UI Campaign to Organize Graduate Students, found the UI was contractually obligated to pay for international graduate employees' written and oral communication training. And now, students want their money back.

"I think this is a great decision," Zhang said. "Last year, students who took the ESL test suffered a lot."

The China native did not pass the \$300 test his first time, forcing him to retake the exam. Further increasing the burden on his pocketbook, the mathematics department cut his position to quarter time as a result of not passing, he said.

Labor arbitrator Curtis Behrens found on June 27 that the UI violated article 19 of its contract with COGS — the union representing more than 2,600 UI teaching and research assistants — which states the employer must provide instructional assistance for teaching and research assistants, including oral and

written communication training, when warranted. Behrens ruled that the university must reimburse all international graduate employees.

During the 2005 school year, the UI decided to charge students for both test preparation and the examination to help defray the costs, said Kevin Ward, the senior associate director of Human Resources.

"We perceived the fee as being a separate issue from the provisions in the contract," he said.

Currently, he added, his department is determining how much money to award the international students, although no firm timeline has been set.

Next year, the university will resume paying for international

graduate employees' English-proficiency tests.

"To invite people here and claim this is a place that values cultural diversity and then slap them with these fees that violate the contract is unconscionable," said Ian Besse, a graduate teaching assistant and campus chief steward with COGS.

"My hunch is the university was looking for ways to save money and make ends meet," he said.

Besse said international graduate employees must arrive with at least some level of English proficiency in order to actually teach, but the degree of aptitude varies from person to person. He added that it's the university's responsibility to resolve the problem.

E-mail *DI* reporter Danny Valentine at: daniel-valentine@uiowa.edu

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CALENDAR-WORTHY

MARK STUART AND RANDY BURKE, singer/songwriter showcase, 9 p.m. today at the Mill, 120 E. Burlington St., \$5.

ARTS & CULTURE

More than a pinch of Southern salt

BY ZACH SPITTLER
THE DAILY IOWAN

The usual college student's game plan may include studying abroad, maybe some intramurals, and, of course, lots of classes. Topping the rock charts usually doesn't fit in there.

Black Stone Cherry's self-titled debut hits stores today, but it's already gained a lot of momentum from a single that peaked at No. 16 on *Billboard's* Hot Modern Rock Tracks chart. And the oldest member of the band has only 23 years under his belt.

The "ancient" lead singer/guitarist, Chris Robertson, readily admits that his young southern Kentucky-based band is riddled with old-school rebel flare.

"We're hard rock with Southern salt ... too heavy to be Southern rock, but we're not quite metal," he said.

The band draws its writing style from such groups as the Allman Brothers, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and Black Sabbath. Though Robertson said it wasn't intentional, Black Stone Cherry's first single, "Lonely Train," bears a title strikingly similar to Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train." But don't get the wrong idea.

The "Fucking Prince of Fucking Darkness" may indeed be crazy, as relayed by that song in particular, but Robertson doesn't want anyone to be bogged down



Photo By: Matthew Vlachos

Black Stone Cherry lead singer Chris Robertson stares down a rowdy fan who thinks conditioner is better than shampoo.

by anything his band does — song titles included.

"We want everything to have a positive outlook," he said. "The song might start off with a negative outlook, but by the end of it, things will be positive."

"Lonely Train" is the quintessence of this idea. It starts off with "Big train, rollin' down the line / Makes me lonely." But then the chorus shouts, "But you can't judge a book, looking at the cover [...] / You want to

have peace, got to love one another."

Recognizing the recent tendency in music, hard rock in particular, toward sullenness in lyrics and tone, Robertson and his band bring a refreshing discordance to

the table through their upbeat and "straight-edge" lifestyle. And some think Rush is the only band that can get away with such a thing in rock 'n' roll.

"About as hard-core as we get is drinking water and Diet Coke," Robertson said, adding that the band members mostly "play music and talk about music" when they are together.

And one can feel the influence of these conversations. The band's heavy backbeat, almost-bluesy singing, and flowing guitar melodies remind the listener of Skynyrd and ZZ Top at their peaks.

The band puts a conscious emphasis on letting the music unconsciously take the wheel. Robertson said his bandmates even refused to use a metronome in their recording sessions — something relied upon by many bands to maintain a consistent tempo in the studio.

"People don't move and feel the way a machine's going to tell them," he said. "Your heart beats with the way you feel."

Robertson said he listens to music to feel good. "You don't have to get down to the bottom of the dumps to have fun listening to rock and roll," he said.

Even in the grungy basements of hard rock, there is always light at the top of the staircase. Just watch your head on the pipes.

E-mail *DI* music critic Zach Spittler at: zachary-spittler@uiowa.edu

POP GOES THE QUESTION

M. Night Shyamalan's new movie, *Lady in the Water*, will surface in theaters this weekend. If you were Paul Giamatti and you found a drowning water nymph in your pool, what would you do?



Nathan Heitz
UI senior

"I'd call pest control."



Sharon Benzoni
UI senior

"Try to get her to go on a date with me."



Mike Penney
UI senior

"Ask her to play Marco Polo."



Ishi Fales
UI sophomore

"Take it out. Dry it off."

Want in on this? Look for the *DI* arts reporter roaming on Monday afternoons in the IMU, local coffee shops, or even your front porch.

AN ERASERHEAD FOR RADIOHEAD



CD REVIEW

Thom Yorke
The Eraser

★★★ out of ★★★★★

BY JOHN C. SCHLOTFELT
THE DAILY IOWAN

I'm hesitant to fill this review with synonyms about the cleansing, destructive, or expunging powers of Thom Yorke's solo debut, *The Eraser*, but it will probably happen.

The solitary man who graces the album cover, fending off a black-and-white tidal wave, is not unlike Yorke, who stands alone before a sea of press,

heightened expectations, and his own neuroses. It is this overwhelming swell that undoubtedly brought about *The Eraser*.

This year started off promisingly enough with a new Radiohead album on the horizon. However, when the band announced it would hold off the release (originally slated for this summer) till spring '07, the critical community began buzzing with disparaging rumors and innuendoes.

According to many critics and bloggers, Yorke released his solo debut *The Eraser* to extinguish an onslaught of pasty record nerds and to keep Radiohead on the tongues of reviewers till next spring. Even if the rumors about *The Eraser* are in any way true, it is still far better than a mere placeholder.

In a very solipsistic move, one very much in line with the album's title, Yorke has almost completely eradicated Radiohead, at least as compositional contributors. Save a piano line by guitarist Johnny Greenwood and longtime Radiohead producer Nigel Godrich once again behind the boards, Yorke has



Publicity photo

In much the same way he wrote *The Eraser*, here Thom Yorke squints hard enough to make the new Radiohead album slowly pop from his forehead. The band says it may take until next spring.

released a "Do-it-Himself" record.

Just because Yorke has taken the reins on this one doesn't mean the Radiohead comparisons aren't apt. On "Harrowdown Hill," Yorke unloads some political sentiments left over from his band's last effort, 2003's *Hail to the*

Thief. Yorke instructs "Don't ask me / ask the ministry," as an overdriven guitar punctuates his vocal line.

While the album is sonically different from his band's, he has still constructed tunes that could have found homes on his band's last effort. Two of *The Eraser's* best tracks, "And It Rained All Night" (featuring sheets of synthesizer and a booming bass-line) and "Clocks" (with its hissing percussion and droning guitar), have *Hail to the Thief*-ian qualities.

However, comparisons with Radiohead and its re-embracing of the guitar are not entirely fair, because here, Yorke has almost completely removed live instrumentation. With the aid of Godrich, he has created an almost entirely synthesized soundscape, full of percolating percussion and minimalistic keyboard lines. While the compositions are seemingly more simplistic than Yorke is accustomed to, they are also deceptively nuanced.

In "Analyze," he uses flashes of distorted guitar, buzzing under a persistent piano pulse, as an indicator of the chorus. As he warbles "It gets

you down," the guitar continues to smolder, re-ignite, and smolder again, leading to a swell of strings in the second verse.

Musical subtleties aside, Yorke's voice is the featured attraction on *The Eraser*.

Nowhere are the wiry Englishman's vocal acrobatics more impressive than on the nearly effervescent "Atom for Peace." Slurring his words and climbing up the scale, Yorke blends each line of the verse into one beautiful word, with the last syllable arriving at a floating falsetto.

The sparse instrumentation heightens the claustrophobic lyrics for which Yorke is famous. Instead of becoming lost in the complicated arrangements that have dominated Radiohead records — especially since 1997's *OK Computer* — the static, processed beats accentuate Yorke's isolation.

Finally, I'd like to thank Thom Yorke for successfully abating my hunger for the new Radiohead record and Thesaurus.com for providing me with innumerable synonyms for "erase."

E-mail *DI* music critic John C. Schlotfeldt at: john-schlotfeldt@uiowa.edu

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PMS Research Study

The University of Iowa, College of Public Health invites women who suffer from premenstrual syndrome (PMS) to participate in a research study. The study is testing calcium and vitamin D for the prevention of PMS symptoms.

This five-month study has six visits to the research clinic in Iowa City. Participants must be 18-42 years of age and have regular menstrual periods. Compensation is available.

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EDITORIAL

UI donor's threats misdirected, will harm university

On July 14, the ongoing controversy over the state Board of Regents' micromanagement of the three state universities reached a new level. While it is obvious the regents' tactics have not won them many friends, their ill-advised moves seem to continually place the UI into even worse situations. In a letter to Iowa's Senate Republican Leader Mary Lundby of Marion, Patrick Baird, a UI alumnus and CEO of Cedar Rapids-based AEGON USA, threatened to withhold large sums of donor money from the university, writing: "I simply cannot, in good conscience, invest corporate funds in our state universities given the current state of affairs." Baird's announcement is a disturbing, depressing, yet all too common sign of the UI's direction under the oversight of the regents.

But Baird's threat appears to signal a new chapter in the sadly recurring brouhaha. Baird, in his letter, argued he could not trust the regents' "public explanation" for why former UI President David Skorton and former Iowa Athletics Director Bob Bowsby left for greener pastures. While much grumbling from donors has occurred related to the regents' actions, never has such a definite — and large — threat thrust its way into the public eye. Baird's move brings frightening consequences. Regent President Pro Tem Teresa Wahlbert nonchalantly suggested Baird "perhaps needed a reason not to fund the university," but it appears unlikely the case. But the greater fear of further donor money flight is worrisome.

Yet, lost amid the hubbub is a more disturbing trend. Faculty and students have strenuously protested the regents' meddling in UI affairs for

some time yet have been paid little notice from the Legislature or media — and especially not the regents themselves. But Baird's six-figure threat, potentially eliminating the vast majority of funding for UI's Emmett Vaughn Institute of Risk Management and Insurance Program, has generated instant attention. It is a sad state of affairs when the individuals most affected by the regents' muddling are ignored, but monetary interests with more distant connections to the university draw widespread outcry.

The three state universities are not, and should not be, solely economic institutions. This is not to say the regent universities cannot drive economic growth — the work and research produced in their hallowed halls will continue to benefit the state, the country, and the world. But economic growth should be a side effect and not the main purpose of the universities. Baird's threat, and the resulting controversy, has only brought further credence to this claim.

Clearly, Baird is hoping to draw some response from the regents and perhaps influence their further involvement with the UI. However, the potential loss of funds resulting from Baird's threats will only harm the institution he apparently wishes to help. His actions are misdirected, and they will only serve to worsen the financial situation of a university already hurting for funding.

That said, the regents must change their indifferent attitudes and acknowledge their action, or inaction in this situation that will no doubt have a profound effect on the university.

Stock character

So I see that Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, is doing his steadfast best to paint Iowa as a state full of steadfast hicks.

Yeah, that's pretty much what Iowa needs. Its reputation is so über-metro, after all.

No wonder all the UI graduates stay in Iowa. Every last one of them.

Last week, King, in full umbrage — or full Kingly or full something — trotted out a sand-castle model of a border wall in an attempt to demonstrate why the United States "needs" such a wall between it and Mexico to prevent — well, what? Brown-skinned people from coming here?

What's the matter, King? Too many brown-skinned people in this country? What's your next target — tanning booths?



BEAU ELLIOT

As both C-SPAN and Talking Points reported, King had mock sand to represent the desert, in addition to a mock wall, complete with electrical wires on top.

Or as King said, on C-SPAN, "I also say we need to do a few other things on top of that wall, and one of them being to put a little bit of wire on top here to provide a disincentive for people to climb over the top."

"We could also electrify this wire with the kind of current that would not kill somebody, but it would be a discouragement for them to be fooling around with it. We do that with livestock all the time."

So Mexican immigrants equal livestock?

You'd like to think that nobody could be this imbecilic, given that this is Iowa, a state famous for its literacy rate and its love of education (though, if recent years are any indication, not for its financial love of education).

In King's defense, a spokeswoman for the congressman, Summer Johnson, told Talking Points Memo, "He was comparing a fence to a fence — a border fence to an Iowa farm fence."

Well, OK. If you say so. But according to reports, King never once mentioned Iowa farms or Iowa farm fences, for that matter. He did talk about immigrants and livestock.

And King is, you have to remember, the Einstein who said about Al-Zarqawi, "There probably are not 72 virgins in the hell he's at. And if there are, they probably all look like [longtime White House correspondent] Helen Thomas."

Well, there's the obvious slur about Helen Thomas' looks. Granted, this society as a whole (that would be both men and women) is far too concerned about a woman's appearance and not so much about who she is or what she does. But still, Thomas is probably on the north side of 70 (she's covered every president since John F. Kennedy; you do the math), and it seems utterly impolite to comment on an older woman's physical appearance (or, indeed, any woman's). Not to mention that such a comment is without a modicum of civility.

Or intelligence. But then, King is the guy who famously said Washington, D.C., is more dangerous than Iraq.

No, really. So it seems quite possible that King would, indeed, compare Mexican immigrants to livestock.

I don't know what they're putting in the water out there in the western Iowa district that King represents (though I suspect it's farm runoff, pretty much like everywhere else). But I think that if you're looking for an explanation of why anyone would vote for this buffoon, you'd have to start with the water.

Maybe (to steal a notion from an old joke about southern Iowa and Missouri), we could cede western Iowa to Nebraska and raise the IQ in both states.

There are, no doubt, many important things about U.S. immigration policy that could be debated — such as how open it should be (a tricky one for a nation, as American Indians would point out, made up of descendants of immigrants) or whether, as liberal columnist Paul Krugman and others have written, immigrant workers are driving down the wages of the American working poor.

King's dog-and-pony show doesn't address any of these, but then, his neural synapses may not be the snappiest on the block.

Maybe voters should send him to a livestock show. In his worldview, he could practice his Spanish. ■

Beau Elliot notes that if all people went back to their origins, the planet's entire population would wind up in Kenya, which might get a tad crowded.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR may be sent via e-mail to daily-iowan@uiowa.edu (as text, not as attachment). Each letter must be signed and include an address and phone number for verification. Letters should not exceed 300 words. The *DI* reserves the right to edit for length and clarity. The *DI* will publish only one letter per author per month. Letters will be chosen for publication by the editors according to space considerations. No advertisements or mass mailings, please.

GUEST OPINIONS that exceed 300 words in length must be arranged with the Opinions editor at least three days prior to the desired date of publication. Guest opinions are selected in accordance with word length, subject relevance, and space considerations.

DI BLOG

U.N. must take active role in peacekeeping

Where are the blue helmets? Israel appears to be fending for itself without a Lebanese soldier coming close to the chosen people's state, but is it enough? The United Nations needs to take an active role as a peacekeeper in the Middle East. Surrounded by enemies, Israel must be assisted diplomatically, as well as militarily. Not only are its current decisions based entirely on self-preservation, but no matter what course of action it takes to succeed, it will be biased.

The magnifying glass of the United Nations would accomplish a few important things. First, it would allow the organization to be taken more seriously around the world by becoming involved in the decisions of a "Western nation." Second, it would take power out of the hands of the United States and put it into the world community.

The second point is debatable, because the United States provides the majority of U.N. funding. Both of these things are vital for the stability of the region.

But the most pressing reason for acquiring stability in the region with the United Nations is Iran, which, while years from having a nuclear armament, has made several threats against the Jewish state, claiming it will blow Israel off the map. Hezbollah can only launch small-scale attacks against Israel, but any nation, no matter how large an army, can cause devastation with a nuclear weapon. By putting a multinational force in the region, it becomes everybody's problem, and when it's everybody's problem, the world will be forced to make a decision.

With the international community at the drawing board, a decision needs to be made that will increase stability and benefit the entire region, not just Western investors.

John LaRue
Columnist



COMMENTARY

Crisis in Middle East no joke

Before things can turn a corner in the Middle East, we need the diplomatic equivalent of electric-shock therapy. We may need \$100 oil to jolt the Europeans and the Chinese. We may need the Russians to be told that they can forget joining the World Trade Organization. And we're going to need something dramatic to reward India, whose response to terrorism last week was exemplary.

The India-Israel comparison is startling. Lebanon-based Hezbollah terrorists shower rockets on northern Israel and carry out a raid that inflicts eight deaths and two abductions. Israel justifiably responds by bombing the headquarters of the Hezbollah leader, but it also rains fire on Beirut's airport, roads, and apartment towers, destroying the props of a new and hopeful Lebanon.

Now consider India. Coordinated bombings in Mumbai commuter trains kill 182 people and wound hundreds. On the same day a grenade attack at a bus station in Kashmir injures at least six tourists. The Indians announce that a new incarnation of a Kashmir independence group called Lashkar-e-Taiba is the main suspect in the Mumbai attacks. Just as Hezbollah is part of Lebanon's ruling coalition, the group operates openly in Pakistan and is said to be backed by that country's intelligence services.

India's response? No reprisals, no bombings. No threat to cut off diplomatic communications with Pakistan, and no massing of troops on the India-Pakistan border. Instead, the Indians tell Pakistan a forthcoming meeting of foreign ministers must be postponed. And they seek support from the Bush administration and the United Nations to get Pakistan to clamp down on the terrorists.

They certainly had better get that support. Israel's iron-fist approach is partly a poor bet: a gamble that bombing will smash the terrorists' structures, even though they are more likely in practice to smash civilian ones, radicalizing the Arab world and undermining the moderates who seek peace with modernity. But to be fair to Israel, its military offensive also reflects the absence of a viable diplomatic option. There already is a U.N. resolution calling for Hezbollah to be disarmed, but the big

powers show no interest in applying the muscle to make disarmament happen.

So the challenge in the Middle East and beyond is to show that diplomacy can function. In the wake of the Mumbai attacks, Pakistan is a good place to start: China, a traditional Pakistani ally, should join with the United States in telling Pakistan to close down its jihad network. Until now, of course, China has regarded India-Pakistan tensions as a strategic plus. But it needs to update its worldview. Trade and investment between China and India are growing, and China depends on imported oil. War in India, or the emboldening of Pakistani jihadists with links to the Middle East, is not in its interest.

But Pakistan is only a beginning. On every major security challenge, from North Korea's missiles to Iran's uranium enrichment, diplomacy is undermined by Chinese, Russian, and, sometimes, Western European foot-dragging. These powers are happy to criticize unilateralism and belligerence at every turn. But when there's a chance to make diplomacy work, they call for U.S. leadership and hide behind the curtains.

You'd think chaos in a major oil exporter, with the potential to seed extremism all over the Middle East, would alarm all responsible governments. But the freeloaders think it's a joke. Pressed over the weekend about democracy in Russia, Vladimir Putin quipped that he didn't want a democracy like Iraq's.

It's going to take something drastic to change this mindset. But until it changes, diplomacy will be weak; there will be more wars and more radicalization of extremists. Maybe it's going to take \$100 oil to shock the Chinese and the reluctant Europeans into seeing that Islamic extremism does hurt them. And maybe it's going to be necessary to block Russia's quest for membership in the WTO, which Putin pressed for aggressively last week. Why should the Russians expect the benefits of international trade if they won't contribute to the security that underpins it?

This is an excerpt from a commentary by Sebastian Mallaby published in the *Washington Post* on Monday.

ON THE SPOT

Do you think the Board of Regents is too involved in the university, specifically with the UI presidential search?



"I don't really have an opinion on it. I don't follow it that much."

Gary Peltier
Facilities Management coordinator



"Having been involved with two searches for a private high school, it seems very normal to me. Students should also be involved, if for no other reason than PR purposes."

Bonnie Campbell
Parent of incoming freshman



"I think the regents should have a say in it, but not a final say."

David Jennings
UI senior



"Honestly, I don't really know much about it. It just seems as though they change presidents every three years here."

Ronan Fudge
UI junior

AIDS drug regime easier

DRUG

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Moore, a Cedar Rapids resident, said anything less than his old routine was "a godsend."

"To have to wake up in the middle of the night and then try to go back to sleep — you just can't do it," he said. "Nobody can."

He was constantly worried he would oversleep or not hear his alarm, he said. But he did hear it. Every. Single. Time.

"It was a constant reminder that I was sick. It never stopped," Moore said. "I couldn't get out of bed or very far from a bathroom because of the diarrhea and nausea."

His lack of sleep eventually affected his health as much as the virus.

"It seemed like I was making myself sick to make myself better," he said.

Finally, he switched to a two-pill-a-day routine, and he said his quality of life has improved greatly. Moore also has less reason to fear short-term memory loss, an additional side effect of treatment.

"If you miss just one dose, you're playing with fire," he said. "The fewer you have to take, the better you remember."

Davis agreed, saying it is incredibly important for patients to take each treatment.

"The research that has been done with antiretroviral therapy shows people need to take at least 95 percent of their doses to avoid resistance

to the medication," she said. "The simpler regimen they are taking, the easier it is to take each one."

But for those such as Cat Simon, the relaxed habit Atripla would offer just isn't an option.

"I've been on a [different] pill before," she said, "and it put me in the hospital."

Because of her limited tolerance for treatment medications, her daily routine consists of 20 pills a day, and she said she would never consider taking more concentrated treatments again.

"[Doctors] tried for years to get me on meds that I could actually take," Simon said. "I had reactions to everything else."

So each morning, after her high-protein breakfast of lunch meat, the Cedar Rapids resident takes 10 pills. Then, at 9 p.m., she reaches to her end table to take a remaining 10.

"There are advantages for people that can take [once-a-day]," Simon said. "But it also can be very dangerous, very toxic."

She said she will not be one opting for the new drug. Neither will Moore.

"I want to leave my options open," he said. "When you've been taking that many pills a day, even only two is a godsend, but that's just me. Somebody might go run and grab the one-pill-a-day. It's up to each person to determine what he or she can handle."

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Astronauts back humans in space

SPACE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Astronaut Peggy Whitson, born in Mount Ayr, Iowa, and raised in Beaconsfield, Iowa, spent six months aboard the space station in 2002, doing assembly work and conducting science experiments on everything from superconductors to soybeans. Whitson is now in training as backup commander for another expedition to the station, set to launch in September.

"It was very rewarding," Whitson said about her time in orbit. "Even the mundane tasks were important, because I was helping to keep the station alive."

After the February 2003 Columbia mission, which killed native Iowan Laurel Clark and her fellow crew members, NASA halted all shuttle missions for two years. Trips to the space station during this period used Russian Soyuz vehicles, and the station's staff was cut from three to two astronauts. Discovery first returned to space last summer, with the primary goal of testing new safety procedures.

Cunningham said safety worries are not reason enough to discontinue or even to proceed more cautiously with human missions.

"Today's society acts like no one's ever supposed to take risks," he said. "You've got to expect losses in a business like this. It's safer now than it's ever been." The former Marine Corps pilot said he felt perfectly comfortable flying the first Apollo mission after the Apollo 1 spacecraft burned up on the launch pad, killing the crew.

There were will no more shuttle missions after 2010, when NASA hopes to replace the aging craft with a new and improved Crew Exploration Vehicle.

"We can't be risk averse, or we're not going to explore," Whitson said. "There are lots of us who are really excited to do something new and different."

Geb Thomas, a UI associate professor of engineering, has worked with NASA geologists and robots for nearly a decade. He said he understands the value in highlighting the adventurous side of space exploration — astronaut heroes can inspire kids to pursue science and hold public interest. But such an attitude

also concerns him.

"The danger when sending people [to space] is that the emphasis starts to focus on the heroism instead of the basic science," he said. "But the basic science is what really leads to long-term gains."

Pointing to the success of the Mars exploration rovers, he noted that robots have been very productive and are far cheaper to send out than humans.

"The amount of effort expended in order to keep astronauts alive completely dwarfs the return the robots could deliver," Thomas said.

While Cunningham believes Mars will not be "explored" until humans set foot on the Red Planet, Thomas said he is still not convinced that robots can't do the job alone.

This is not to say, however, that human space flight will fade away. Thomas foresees a future race into space centered on military power. NASA has adopted President Bush's 2004 proposal to take humans to the "Moon, Mars & Beyond" with its new spacecraft.

The organization also continues to advance space exploration through the funding it provides to state groups, such as the Iowa Space Grant Consortium. Started 15 years ago, the group — composed of representatives from the UI, Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa, Drake University, and other institutions — receives approximately \$500,000 a year from NASA that it uses to fund research and outreach programs.

"A lot of NASA workers started in the '60s and '70s, and there's a shortage of engineers in the country," UI College of Engineering Dean Barry Butler said. Butler, the consortium's UI coordinator, said for several years, the UI has used most of its money to further research with instruments and human factors in the cockpits of aircraft. Last year, funds helped to defray the costs of a UI student trip to Cape Canaveral, Fla.

"There are always students who have an interest in NASA," Butler said. "I always tell them to start early in their careers and build up a lot of experience."

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Friends, family mourn death

JENN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jenn's parents reportedly became worried when Jenn was missing on the morning of July 14 and didn't attend the team's 9:30 a.m. practice, said West High coach Charlie Stumpff. Jenn's father, Steve Jenn, called Stumpff following practice to confirm his absence.

Malmberg was working at Hills' volunteer Fire Department about 11:30 a.m., he said, when the department was paged to help the Johnson County Sheriff's Office search for a suspected drowning victim. A couple of Jenn's teammates, who were also assisting in the search, discovered his body in the river about 2 p.m.

Assistant coaches called the

baseball team members an hour later to tell them the scheduled quarterfinal playoff game against Cedar Rapids Prairie would be postponed until Monday, out of respect to Jenn and his family.

"He had a great practice the day before, had a lot of energy," Stumpff said about Jenn, who was primarily a pitcher. "He was a coach's delight — respectful, always played

hard. All his teammates loved him."

Zack Topping, a teammate and friend, said Jenn enjoyed playing with the closely knit team and could always be counted on for a smile.

"We want to keep honoring him by playing as well as we can; that's what he would want us to do," he said.

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OAT HULL PROJECT

UI works at saving energy

OATS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The biomass project uses oat hulls, as opposed to coal or natural gas, as combustible fuel. Approximately 180 tons of oat hulls are shipped from the Quaker Oats plant in Cedar Rapids to the UI Power Plant each day. Because the oats absorb just as much carbon dioxide during growth as they emit when they are burned, the renewable energy source is said to be carbon-neutral, making the oats an extremely clean alternative fuel.

Ben Fish, the Power Plant operations manager, noted another benefit.

"It's a lot cheaper than coal or natural gas," he said. "It's about as cheap of a fuel as you can find in the country."

By making use of oat hulls — the outer layers encapsulating oat grains — the university has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in energy costs, according to UI documents pertaining to the program. A university news release issued Monday reported savings totaling more than \$1 million since 2002, when the program began. Fish said the relatively cheap transportation costs as a result of the plant's proximity to the Quaker Oats plant makes the fuel source a particularly good investment. As a result, oat hulls make up 14 percent of the UI's total purchased fuel.

But administrators in Facilities Management don't want to rely solely on oats to bolster sustainability on campus. King outlined other undertakings.

"We've implemented scheduling adjustments for buildings," she said. "For instance, if a building is unoccupied, the temperature is adjusted accordingly."

She added that other measures, such as cleaning and replacing temperature-modifying equipment in campus buildings, have been used to increase energy efficiency. In addition, the university will turn off lights and raise temperature settings in campus buildings numerous times this summer as part of its agreement with MidAmerica Energy to curtail energy use.



Ed Bornstein/The Daily Iowan

A silo holding oat hulls stands next to the UI Power Plant on Monday afternoon. Fourteen percent of the energy used on campus comes from burning oat hulls, which the plant buys from the Quaker Oats plant in Cedar Rapids.

Monday was one such day, when energy use was curtailed from 1-7 p.m. The energy company provides an economic incentive to the university for participating.

Facilities Management officials are making plans to put on an energy expo at the Sheraton Hotel, 210 S. Dubuque St., to showcase various conservation

efforts across the state. The student-oriented event will begin at 9 a.m. on Sept. 27.

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Keeping the fat off a struggle for some

GASTRIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The UI Hospitals and Clinics has performed 45 gastric bypass procedures so far this year, and 170,000 have been done nationally in 2005, according to the American Society for Bariatric Surgery. The upward trend has left experts emphasizing the importance of postoperative adjustments to keep the weight off and remain healthy.

The adjustment is part physical and part psychological, said Wayne Bowers, a UI clinical professor of psychiatry. Pre-existing mental conditions, such as binge-eating disorder, can cause weight gain — even after such a body-altering procedure as a gastric bypass.

Kelly Hahn maintains that she was born with a tendency to overeat.

"When I was a little girl, I

didn't want a Happy Meal," she said. "I wanted a large fry."

Four and a half years ago, Hahn underwent gastric bypass surgery to help her lose the weight she had gained since junior high. After the birth of her first child, Hahn — weighing 256 pounds — was considered morbidly obese for her 5-5 frame.

Though successful with keeping off most of her preoperative weight, she still struggles with the nagging temptations of high-fat, high-sugar foods.

These "eat-me demons," as she calls them, come from junk food, especially carbohydrates.

"It's hard to say no to the doughnuts in the break room," Hahn said. "You obsess about it."

UIHC dietitian Amy Lukas said surgery isn't the ultimate cure for health. She emphasized the importance of taking

vitamin supplements and eating a healthful diet because of the procedure's effectiveness in limiting calorie and nutrient intake. If such a diet is neglected, patients can suffer weight gain and deficiencies that can cause anemia, nerve damage, and osteoporosis.

Nutrition counseling was recommended to Hahn after the procedure, but she chose not to pursue it.

"I know what I should be eating," she said, "but I still struggle with right food choices, every day."

She wishes the procedure had cured her mentality toward food, too, not just her ability to consume it.

Hahn, now 160 pounds, has kept off 80 percent of her preoperative weight, and she is pleased with her new size. People tell her she had the easy way out.

"I want to tell them, 'Try living in my body,'" she said.

Getting out from under the weight has more benefits than just a smaller waistline.

Hahn cites fewer problems with depression, low energy, or being self-conscious. Side benefits are part of it, too.

"It's about weight loss," said Lynn Gingerich, a physician's assistant in the UIHC gastric-bypass office. "But it's also about reducing ... risks for death."

Patients who seek gastric bypass often exhibit type 2 diabetes, hypertension, sleep apnea, leg-swelling, and high blood pressure.

Burt — supported by his wife, who underwent the procedure more than a year ago — looks forward to a new chance at interacting with life afforded by his new physique.

"Whether large or small," Burt said, "the goal is to be healthy."

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SPORTS

SPORTS 'N' STUFF

NATIONAL LEAGUE

By The Associated Press
All Times CDT

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	55	37	.598	—
Atlanta	44	49	.473	11½
Philadelphia	42	49	.462	12½
Florida	41	50	.451	13½
Washington	39	55	.415	17
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	52	40	.565	—
Cincinnati	49	44	.527	3½
Milwaukee	46	48	.489	7
Houston	45	48	.484	7
Chicago	35	56	.385	16½
Pittsburgh	33	61	.351	20
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Diego	49	43	.533	—
Arizona	46	46	.500	3
Los Angeles	46	47	.495	3½
San Francisco	46	47	.495	3½
Colorado	44	48	.478	5

Monday's Games

Pittsburgh 3, Colorado 1
Atlanta 15, St. Louis 3
Florida 4, Washington 2
Arizona 8, L.A. Dodgers 3
San Diego 8, Philadelphia 6
Milwaukee 10, San Francisco 1
Today's Games
Colorado (Francis 6-8) at Pittsburgh (Gorzalanny 0-1), 6:05 p.m.
Washington (O'Connor 3-6) at Florida (Willis 6-7), 6:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Palfrey 1-0) at Cincinnati (Miller 6-4), 6:10 p.m.
Houston (Oswalt 1-6) at Chicago Cubs (Marmol 2-3), 7:05 p.m.
Atlanta (Hudson 6-8) at St. Louis (Marquis 11-6), 7:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Billingsley 0-2) at Arizona (Cruz 3-4), 8:40 p.m.
Philadelphia (Madson 8-6) at San Diego (Hensley 5-7), 9:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Ohka 2-1) at San Francisco (Wright 5-8), 9:15 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Colorado at Pittsburgh, 11:35 a.m.
Washington at Florida, 12:05 p.m.
Philadelphia at San Diego, 2:35 p.m.
Milwaukee at San Francisco, 2:35 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Cincinnati, 6:10 p.m.
Houston at Chicago Cubs, 7:05 p.m.
Atlanta at St. Louis, 7:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at Arizona, 8:40 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	55	36	.604	—
New York	54	36	.600	½
Toronto	52	40	.565	3½
Baltimore	44	51	.463	13
Tampa Bay	39	54	.419	17
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	62	30	.674	—
Chicago	57	34	.626	4½
Minnesota	51	40	.560	10½
Cleveland	41	51	.446	21
Kansas City	32	60	.348	30
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	48	45	.516	—
L.A. Angels	47	45	.511	½
Texas	47	46	.505	1
Seattle	44	49	.473	4

Monday's Games

Boston 5, Kansas City 4
N.Y. Yankees 4, Seattle 2
Baltimore 5, Oakland 3
Detroit 10, Texas 1
Minnesota 6, Tampa Bay 3
L.A. Angels 10, Cleveland 5
Today's Games
Kansas City (Duckworth 1-2) at Boston (Lester 4-0), 6:05 p.m.
Seattle (Pineiro 3-8) at N.Y. Yankees (Ponson 0-0), 6:05 p.m.
Oakland (Loaiza 3-5) at Baltimore (Ortiz 0-6), 6:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Garland 8-3) at Detroit (Robertson 8-5), 6:05 p.m.
Texas (Padilla 9-5) at Toronto (Marcum 0-0), 6:07 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Kazmir 10-6) at Minnesota (Liriano 10-2), 7:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Lee 9-6) at L.A. Angels (Saunders 0-0), 9:05 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Oakland at Baltimore, 11:35 a.m.
Kansas City at Boston, 12:05 p.m.
Seattle at N.Y. Yankees, 12:05 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Angels, 2:35 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Detroit, 6:05 p.m.
Texas at Toronto, 6:07 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Minnesota, 7:10 p.m.

TODAY'S MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
BATTING—Mauer, Minnesota, .375; Jeter, New York, .343; Suzuki, Seattle, .340; Rios, Toronto, .330; Matthews, Texas, .327; Cano, New York, .325; Hafner, Cleveland, .320.
RUNS—Sizemore, Cleveland, 73; Hafner, Cleveland, 71; Thome, Chicago, 71; Suzuki, Seattle, 69; DOrtiz, Boston, 68; Swisher, Oakland, 66; Damon, New York, 66.

RBI—DOrtiz, Boston, 90; Thome, Chicago, 80; Morneau, Minnesota, 77; Hafner, Cleveland, 77; Ibanez, Seattle, 77; Giambi, New York, 76; VWells, Toronto, 72.

HITS—Suzuki, Seattle, 135; MYoung, Texas, 121; Jeter, Baltimore, 120; Jeter, New York, 117; Mauer, Minnesota, 112; Matthews, Texas, 112; Sizemore, Cleveland, 111; VGuerrero, Los Angeles, 111; Loretta, Boston, 111.
DOUBLES—Lowell, Boston, 33; Teixeira, Texas, 31; MYoung, Texas, 31; Matthews, Texas, 30; Sizemore, Cleveland, 27; CGuillen, Detroit, 26; DeRosa, Texas, 26.
TRIPLES—Crawford, Tampa Bay, 9; JoLopez, Seattle, 7; Sizemore, Cleveland, 6; Suzuki, Seattle, 6; Podsednik, Chicago, 6; Teahen, Kansas City, 5; Reed, Seattle, 5; Ibanez, Seattle, 5.
HOME RUNS—DOrtiz, Boston, 32; Thome, Chicago, 31; Hafner, Cleveland, 28; Giambi, New York, 28; Dye, Chicago, 25; Morneau, Minnesota, 24; Claus, Toronto, 24; MRamirez, Boston, 24.
STOLEN BASES—Figgins, Los Angeles, 36; Crawford, Tampa Bay, 32; CPatterson, Baltimore, 31; Podsednik, Chicago, 29; Suzuki, Seattle, 28; RRoberts, Baltimore, 24; Damon, New York, 18; Jeter, New York, 18.

PITCHING (11 Decisions)—Halladay, Toronto, 12-2, 857, 3.06; Liriano, Minnesota, 10-2, 833, 2.12; ESantana, Los Angeles, 11-3, 786, 3.88; Mussina, New York, 11-3, 786, 3.30; Schilling, Boston, 11-3, 786, 3.42; Rogers, Detroit, 11-3, 786, 4.10; Verlander, Detroit, 11-4, 733, 2.83.
STRIKEOUTS—JoSantana, Minnesota, 145; Kazmir, Tampa Bay, 125; Schilling, Boston, 124; Bonder, Toronto, 124; MRamirez, Boston, 124; Liriano, Minnesota, 108; Lackey, Los Angeles, 107.
SAVES—Papelbon, Boston, 27; Jenks, Chicago, 26; BRyan, Toronto, 24; TJones, Detroit, 24; Ray, Baltimore, 23; FRodriguez, Los Angeles, 22; MRivera, New York, 22.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
BATTING—FSanchez, Pittsburgh, .363; Garciparras, Los Angeles, .345; Holliday, Colorado, .333; CJones, Atlanta, .333; Pujols, St. Louis, .329; Rolen, St. Louis, .329; MICabrera, Florida, .324; Berkman, Houston, .324.
RUNS—Utley, Philadelphia, 75; Reyes, New York, 75; HaRamirez, Florida, 71; Beltran, New York, 70; Weeks, Milwaukee, 68; Rollins, Philadelphia, 68; Pujols, St. Louis, 67.
RBI—Berkman, Houston, 85; Pujols, St. Louis, 83; AJones, Atlanta, 81; Howard, Philadelphia, 78; Beltran, New York, 77; CaLee, Milwaukee, 76; Beltran, New York, 73.
HITS—Holliday, Colorado, 116; Utley, Philadelphia, 116; FSanchez, Pittsburgh, 114; Eckstein, St. Louis, 114; Wright, New York, 112; Reyes, New York, 111; Renteria, Atlanta, 108.
DOUBLES—FSanchez, Pittsburgh, 33; NJohnson, Washington, 33; Atkins, Colorado, 30; Holliday, Colorado, 29; Rolen, St. Louis, 29; LGonzalez, Arizona, 29; Zimmerman, Washington, 28; Utley, Philadelphia, 28.
TRIPLES—Reyes, New York, 12; DRoberts, San Diego, 9; SFinley, San Francisco, 9; Sullivan, Colorado, 8; Lofton, Los Angeles, 7; Pierre, Chicago, 6.
HOME RUNS—Howard, Philadelphia, 31; Pujols, St. Louis, 31; Dunn, Cincinnati, 30; ASoriano, Washington, 29; CaLee, Milwaukee, 28; Beltran, New York, 26; Berkman, Houston, 25.
STOLEN BASES—Reyes, New York, 39; Pierre, Chicago, 32; FRamirez, Florida, 26; FLOpez, Washington, 23; DRoberts, San Diego, 23; ASoriano, Washington, 23; Furcal, Los Angeles, 22.
PITCHING (11 Decisions)—TGlavine, New York, 11-3, 786, 3.56; Webb, Arizona, 10-3, 769, 2.52; Penny, Los Angeles, 10-3, 769, 3.26; CZambrano, Chicago, 9-3, 750, 3.23; Trachsel, New York, 9-4, 692, 4.57; Capuano, Milwaukee, 10-5, 667, 3.46; CYoung, San Diego, 8-4, 667, 3.59; Carpenter, St. Louis, 8-4, 667, 2.85.
STRIKEOUTS—CZambrano, Chicago, 131; Harang, Cincinnati, 127; Peavy, San Diego, 125; Smoltz, Atlanta, 116; Capuano, Milwaukee, 113; Webb, Arizona, 113; PMartinez, New York, 111.
SAVES—Isringhausen, St. Louis, 26; Hoffman, San Diego, 25; Turnbow, Milwaukee, 23; Lidge, Houston, 21; Gordon, Philadelphia, 21; BWagner, New York, 18; Borowski, Florida, 18.

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	15	6	.714	—
Detroit	14	6	.700	½
Indiana	14	8	.636	1½
Washington	11	10	.524	4
Charlotte	5	16	.238	10
New York	4	16	.200	10½
Chicago	3	17	.150	11½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	18	5	.783	—
Sacramento	13	8	.619	4
Houston	8	10	.444	5
Seattle	11	10	.524	6
San Antonio	10	11	.476	7
Phoenix	9	11	.450	7½
Minnesota	7	13	.350	9½

Monday's Games

No games scheduled
Today's Games
Phoenix at Indiana, 12 p.m.
Sacramento at Seattle, 2 p.m.
Houston at San Antonio, 7 p.m.
New York at Los Angeles, 9 p.m.

Reporter left gasping

AGONY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Immediately, I noticed a striking change. The birds were gone, and the butterflies gave way to hungry mosquitoes. The overgrown trees made the path appear to be something straight out of Sleepy Hollow, spooky and treacherous.

The first sprint up the hill left my legs wobbling and my chest burning. Anderson quickly instructed me to not bend at the waist to try to regain my breath but instead expand my abdomen. The advice did little good as we made our way down for another try.

After another stinging dash up the hill, a third try, and a run on the once beautiful trail, even my arms started to ache. The plan was to run up the slope again, do a loop on the sun-scorched path, and finish with a fifth dizzying hill trip.

Let's just say I didn't quite make it that far. The fourth time up, I felt my legs shaking like Jell-O in a bad Bill Cosby commercial. Anderson, working with his least capable athlete ever, told me to bend forward and really get my arms into it. It was enough to propel me up the nasty terrain.

On the way down, I felt like throwing myself into a tree to escape the torture I had

volunteered to put myself through. Instead, my pride pushed me until we ran out of view of the cameras, and employing my best basketball knowledge, I called a time-out.

As we walked the now unsightly trail, Anderson said his runners normally run anywhere from 30-60 miles per week. I couldn't even imagine running 10.

We finished our "light" workout with one last push up the hill, when the cameras came into view again. On our way back to the Recreation Building, Anderson optimistically guessed I could easily do the workout with a couple months of training.

As the thought gnawed at my head, all I could think about was passing out and never having another story idea like this again.

E-mail *DI* reporter **Ian Smith** at: ian-w-smith@uiowa.edu

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AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH (PG)
FRI-SUN 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
MON-THU 5:20, 7:30, 9:50

XMEN: LAST STAND (PG-13)
FRI-SUN 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
MON-THU 5:30, 7:40, 9:50

A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION (PG-13)
FRI-SUN 2:00, 5:00, 7:25, 9:40
MON-THU 5:00, 7:25, 9:40

SYCAMORE 12

Sycamore Mall • Iowa City, Iowa
351-8383

YOU, ME & DUPREE (PG-13)
12:45, 3:45, 6:40, 9:20

LITTLE MAN (PG-13)
12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST (PG-13) NO PASSES
12:00, 1:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 9:45

DEVIL WEARS PRADA (PG-13)
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:15

SUPERMAN RETURNS (PG-13) NO PASSES
12:00, 2:00, 3:30, 5:30, 9:00

CLICK (PG-13) NO PASSES
12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

NACHO LIBRE (PG)
12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

LAKE HOUSE (PG)
12:50, 3:50, 6:40, 9:20

CARS (G)
12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00

THE BREAK UP (PG-13)
7:20, 9:45

DA VINCI CODE (PG-13)
12:00, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45

CORAL RIDGE 10

Coral Ridge Mall • Coralville, Iowa
625-1010

YOU, ME & DUPREE (PG-13)
1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST (PG-13) NO PASSES
12:00, 1:00, 3:15, 4:30, 6:30, 8:00, 9:45

DEVIL WEARS PRADA (PG-13)
12:50, 3:50, 7:00, 9:40

SUPERMAN RETURNS (PG-13) NO PASSES
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NACHO LIBRE (PG)
12:15, 2:30, 4:45

CARS (G)
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:20

THE BREAK UP (PG-13)
1:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40

DA VINCI CODE (PG-13)
7:30

Writer pursuing his dreams

AUTISM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Forget about it.

Today, no one can get me to shut up, especially if I'm talking sports. I got placed in a regular education classroom when I entered first grade, and I'm now beginning not only my second year at Iowa but my second year at *The Daily Iowan*.

I want to make two more things clear about autism. No. 1, autism is a disability. It is not a disease. It is not an illness. It won't kill anybody that has it, and there will probably never be a cure.

Before people start saying I'm ruining hope for someone with autism because I say there's no cure, let me clarify. When I die, it won't say in my obituary that autism was the cause of death or that I died because no one found a treatment.

Even if someone does find "a cure," I know a lot of people affected, like myself, who wouldn't change anything about themselves. If I didn't have to live with this, you wouldn't be reading this commentary, regardless if I still were writing for

The Daily Iowan.

If doctors want to find a cure for something, they should focus more on finding treatments for cancer, the HIV virus, or other deadly illnesses — before finding cures for autism.

Which leads to my other point — there is a way for people with autism to live with it. I have. McElwain has, and sons of former football players, such as Doug Flutie and Dan Marino, have.

If affected, just remember what Valvano said, no matter how bad the situation may be. If the disability is identified early enough, there are many people out there who can do whatever it takes to ensure a kid has a childhood just like any other.

If you're a parent of an autistic child or one with any other disability, make sure your kid is involved. Make sure he or she has proper guidance from teachers, guidance counselors, and social workers. Encourage your child to be involved in lots of activities and make friends.

But, most importantly, make sure he or she keeps dreaming, and help her or

him get to where he or she wants to be. No one should be considered a lost cause, no matter how severe her or his case.

As for adults with learning disabilities, such as autism, the advice is the same — keep pursuing your dreams, even if you haven't reached them, yet.

I don't deserve to be in the same light as McElwain, and I wish him nothing but the best. I'm just grateful for the fact no one gave up on me when I was first diagnosed and that at 19 years of age, I'm already getting to do something I've wanted to do for a long time.

E-mail *DI* reporter **Brendan Stiles** at: brendan-stiles@uiowa.edu

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SUN - 5:30, MON - Not Screening
TUE - 7:00, WED - 9:00

DOCUMENTARY (Total runtime: 132 min)
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Unquestionably, The Closer

BY BEN WALKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — After Mariano Rivera got routed in his major-league debut, manager Buck Showalter offered an observation.

"Hopefully, Mariano will learn from it," Showalter said.

More than a decade later, yep, he's done OK. World Series MVP, four championship rings, and, now, 400 saves. Pretty good for a guy who throws only one pitch.

"The best ever, no doubt about it," Dennis Eckersley said Monday.

High praise from the lone reliever to make it into the Hall of Fame on his first try. See any similarities, Eck?

"No comparison," he said. "I didn't have the stuff he did. Not at all. I've been blowing his horn for years. He's electric."

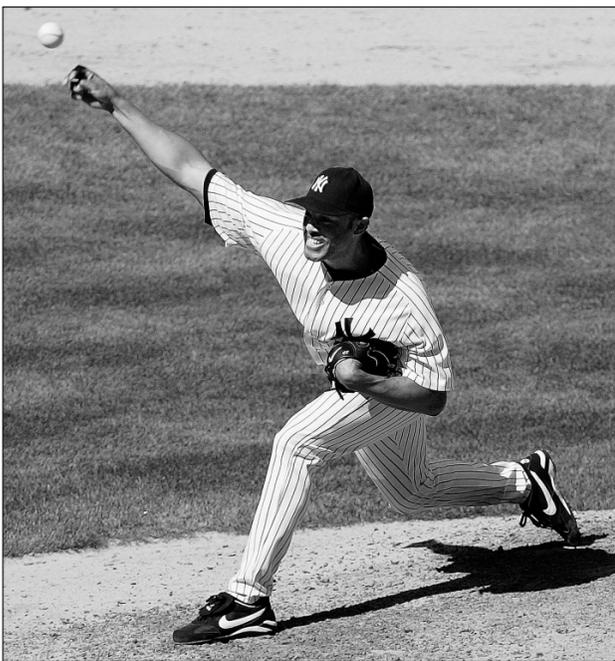
Put it this way: Put the New York Yankees' ace closer on the Atlanta Braves from the start of his career, and they're probably a dynasty rather than a post-season disappointment.

Instead, Chipper Jones was reduced to chuckling in the dugout as he watched Rivera's cut fastball break three of Ryan Klesko's bats while finishing off a 1999 Series sweep against Atlanta.

"He has the single best pitch ever in the game," Chicago White Sox slugger Jim Thome said. "A lot of guys, you can make some adjustments. But not with that cutter."

Said Eckersley: "I mean, those left-handed hitters know what's coming, and he still eats them up. How does he do that?"

And, while Metallica's "Enter Sandman" is Rivera's signature song, he has another trademark



Julie Jacobson/Associated Press

New York Yankee Mariano Rivera pitches against the Chicago White Sox during the ninth inning on Sunday at Yankee Stadium. Rivera recorded his 400th career save in the Yankees' 6-4 win.

sound at Yankee Stadium: the cracking of Louisville Sluggers.

Be it the Mariners in May or the Mets in October, Rivera sees each opponent as an opportunity.

"Every time I go out there, it's business," Rivera said.

The 36-year-old Rivera has done it enough since becoming a full-time relie

NEWS

UI to study PMS

A UI study will test PremCal, a pill composed of natural ingredients, to see if it helps relieve physical discomfort during PMS.

BY WESLEY CROPP
THE DAILY IOWAN

'Women are prescribed medication for PMS symptoms. The problem with that is when you give someone a drug, there are side effects. So, with this method, instead of medicating, you are giving a supplement with far fewer side effects.'

coordinator Deb Feddersen, a UI program associate in epidemiology.

In 1998, Thys-Jacobs tested 500 women nationwide to determine whether calcium alone could mitigate PMS symptoms. The results solidified expectations — more than 50 percent of those tested showed a reduction in physical discomfort.

The study tracks symptoms before and after the use of the pill. A placebo will be used intermittently to validate researchers' findings.

The UI was picked for the PMS examination because UI Associate Provost Susan Johnson, the principal investigator in the research project, had previously conducted a women's health study that concentrated on the dietary benefits of calcium on PMS.

Currently, "women are prescribed medication for PMS symptoms," Feddersen said. "The problem with that is when you give someone a drug, there are side effects. So, with this method, instead of medicating, you are giving a supplement with far fewer side effects."

Feddersen also called into question the method of taking birth control to moderate PMS symptoms.

"A lot of women don't like taking daily medication for symptoms that occur only one week out of the month," she said. "That's why Dr. Thys-Jacobs recommends a higher dose for a shorter period of time instead of every day."

Participants in the study will be initially screened — and not given calcium and vitamin D supplements — for two months to give researchers an idea of their specific symptoms; a three-month period in which researchers will gauge the effects of the supplement will follow.

"Women keep a daily record of symptoms," said Kelly O'Berry, a research assistant for the study. "We only need 40 women, but this is a pilot for a much larger-scale study."

Women interested in participating in the study can call O'Berry in the epidemiology department in the UI College of Public Health and be added to the 15 woman who have already signed up.

E-mail DI reporter@wesley-cropp@uiowa.edu

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FOOTBALL TICKETS

Good news, bad news on tickets

There's good news and bad news for anyone who hasn't bought Iowa football tickets yet.

The bad news — no tickets remain for games against Iowa State, Ohio State, Purdue, or Wisconsin.

The good news — starting Wednesday at 9 a.m., Hawkeye fans can purchase single-game tickets for the Sept. 2 season-opener against Montana, as well as back-to-back home games against Northern Illinois and Northwestern. Single-game tickets for all three contests are priced at \$48 each.

On the day of the Montana game, the Iowa National Varsity Club will induct its new members into the Iowa Athletics Hall of Fame.

Also, the game against Northern Illinois on Oct. 28 will be this season's "Black Out Saturday." As in the Michigan game last season, fans will be encouraged to wear black to this game. The following home game against the Wildcats is scheduled for Nov. 4.

For tickets, call 1-800-IA-HAWKS, or take a trip to the Iowa athletics ticket office, located in Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

— by Brendan Stiles

BASEBALL

2 ex-Hawks promoted in minors

Some spring Iowa alums are still searching for jobs, but a couple of ex-Hawkeyes are already earning promotions.

Pitcher Nathan Johnson and outfielder Nate Price both recently learned they would be moving, the university announced Monday, the former to the AA affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies, and the latter to the high-A affiliate of the Chicago Cubs.



Price
outfielder

Johnson received the news in part because of a 6-2 record, 2.56 ERA, and a 39-8 strikeout-to-walk ratio; he will join the Reading Phillies.

Price warranted a move to the Daytona Cubs despite just 16 games with the Peoria version. Iowa coach Jack Dahm said the outfielder started strong, scuffled for a bit, but got back in the swing of things in a hurry.

"They really like how much of the game Nate's learned," added Dahm, who talked to Price the day before the departed senior heard the good news. "Just his offensive approach at the plate and his patience."

— by Tyson Wirth

HUMMEL COMMITS

Valparaiso's Hummel picks Purdue

VALPARAISO, Ind. (AP) — Valparaiso High School's Robbie Hummel has become the third top instate basketball recruit to pick Purdue over Indiana in recent weeks.



Hummel
forward

Hummel, a 6-8 senior-to-be forward who also considered Iowa at one point, made the oral commitment on Monday. He is ranked No. 72 nationally by Rivals.com, and he averaged 12.5 points a game last season as Valparaiso went 21-3.

Hummel said he knew little about new Indiana coach Kelvin Sampson but felt good about Purdue.

"I just felt comfortable with the situation there," he said. "I really like coach [Matt] Painter and his staff."

The Boilermakers had already landed commitments from two others for the 2007 recruiting class — guard E'twaun Moore of East mitments announced.

Running as a form of agony



Laura Schmitt/The Daily Iowan

Daily Iowan reporter Ian Smith does the "hills" during a grueling run with Iowa women's cross-country coach Layne Anderson. Smith had an abbreviated practice in the 90-degree weather; Anderson went for a run afterwards.

Ian Smith underwent a simulated practice of the Hawkeye women's cross-country team with coach Layne Anderson. Smith soon discovered he had mightily underestimated the pain that would be involved.

WANT TO SEE IAN IN EXCRUCIATING PAIN? LOG ON TO DAILYIOWAN.COM TO SEE VIDEO OF THE WORKOUT.



BY IAN SMITH
THE DAILY IOWAN

Pain attacked my legs as if 1,000 porcupine needles were digging into my skin. My body thirsted for any kind of break, and my head spun like I just rode the Tilt-a-Whirl.

Don't worry; I was only

doing a routine workout with women's cross-country coach Layne Anderson. On July 14, he met me at the Recreation Building to take me through a normal practice his squad suffers through during the season.

Right from the get-go, I knew I was in trouble. Anderson, whose tall, thin build matches that of someone who runs to Davenport and back every day, described a typical workout. I lost him after the second 12-minute run. Instead, I asked him if he had any abbreviat-

ed training regimens, and that's when he mentioned the "wrestler's hill."

Being of the curious nature, I decided I should get a jump on where we were headed and ask what the hell the "wrestler's hill" was. Anderson, with a straight face, told me it's where Dan Gable used to have his wrestlers sprint up a long, dirt hill carrying each other on their backs.

Great.

We started our warm-up jog through a pretty nature trail that runs along

Highway 6. The sun's sizzling rays had not yet sunk in, and I was enjoying the sounds of the birds chirping and butterflies dancing on nearby flowers. Anderson explained he usually likes his runners to run at a pace of five to six minutes per mile, but it was OK if we went slower today.

Then it was time to take on the wrestler's hill. I let Anderson lead the way, because I didn't want to slow his torrid pace.

SEE AGONY, PAGE 6

POINT/ COUNTERPOINT

WHO SHOULD BE FANTASY FOOTBALL'S TOP PICK?

LOOK FOR RESULTS OF THE D/ STAFF FANTASY FOOTBALL DRAFT ON JULY 24.
NEXT WEEK WILL ALSO FEATURE OUR RESIDENT EXPERTS' DAY-BY-DAY POSITION PREVIEW.

LARRY JOHNSON — BY BRENDAN STILES

It's Chief running back Larry Johnson.

Think about this for a second — Johnson only started nine games last season, and he rushed for 1,750 yards and 20 touchdowns. One word describes this — incredible.

Let's look at other possible first picks for a second. First, you have Peyton Manning. He's probably the best quarterback from a fantasy perspective. But Manning may have a harder time putting up numbers this year without Edgerrin James in the Colts' backfield.

Then there's LaDainian Tomlinson. I'll say off the bat that L.T. is one of my favorite players in the league, but here's my problem.

He didn't put up great numbers at the end of the season, which is one of the reasons San Diego missed the playoffs. Just ask the guy in my league last year who went 13-1 before losing to me in the playoffs.

As for Ian's guy, Shaun Alexander, he's a smart choice and the league MVP. But the Seahawks, lost Steve Hutchinson to the Vikings, who was probably

Seattle's best offensive lineman and one of the biggest reasons Alexander had 28 touchdowns in 2005. Also keep in mind Alexander is the cover boy for Madden this year — the jinx is inevitable.

I have two concerns with Johnson — one is the Chiefs losing fullback Tony Richardson to the Vikings, and the other is offensive coordinator Al Saunders leaving for Washington.

But, at the same time, new Chiefs coach Herman Edwards "plays to win the game," and if Johnson can stay healthy and start 16 games this season, he should rush for more than 2,000 yards.



Johnson
Chief running back

SHAUN ALEXANDER — BY IAN SMITH

Exactly like Shakira's song "Hips Don't Lie," Shaun Alexander's stats don't lie, and that's why he is the obvious choice for the No. 1 pick in fantasy football this season.

There really isn't much of an argument, after Brendan takes off his red-tinted glasses and opens his eyes to the league's most overlooked superstar.

First, Alexander scored a league record 28 touchdowns last year. Even if he has an "off" year, that still means around 20 touchdowns. He ran for 1,880 yards and even managed to secure 15 passes from his Pro Bowl quarterback Matt Hasselback.

Did I mention Alexander hasn't missed a single game in the past six seasons? That's a nice security blanket to have when trying to decide whom you should grab with the top pick. Meanwhile, Larry Johnson has yet to even start a full season. So what if he had a ton of yards during another Chief run to mediocrity?

Alexander will also face a much easier schedule than Johnson this year. The Chiefs will face top-10 running defenses in half of their games this season, compared with six for Alexander.

The biggest advantage for

Alexander, though, will come in the season's last weeks, i.e., playoff time. In weeks 14 and 15, Johnson will face stout defenses Baltimore and San Diego, while Alexander is steamrolling Arizona and San Francisco.

Brendan says Alexander lost one his best offensive lineman, Steve Hutchinson, this off-season. Yet the Seahawks already have an experienced backup in Pork Chop Womack. With a name like that, how can you not be good?

Speaking of offensive lines, can the Chiefs' creaky bunch hang on for another year? The KC line averages 32.2 years old an experienced injuries across the board last season. Couple that with the loss of offensive genius Al Saunders and Dick Vermeil, as well as possessing arguably the league's worst receiving core. It all points to Larry Johnson being a risky pick.

That's why I am taking the league MVP and the safest choice at No. 1



Alexander
Seahawk back

COMMENTARY

On not giving up



BRENDAN STILES

IN THURSDAY'S D/

CHECK OUT D/ REPORTER VALERIE BRAYTON'S STORY ABOUT AUTISM, A DISORDER THAT RECENT STUDIES SHOW IS UNDERREPORTED AND UNDER-DIAGNOSED.

At the first ESPY awards in 1993, Jim Valvano lay on his deathbed. Before the legendary NC State basketball coach succumbed to cancer, he had these words for anyone listening.

"Don't give up! Don't ever give up!"

When he delivered this unforgettable message, it was targeted toward the fight against cancer. For very personal reasons, I've always felt this is a message everyone ought to live by, and as I watched the 14th ESPY awards on Sunday, I was glad to see I wasn't the only one living that creed.

An 18-year-old by the name of Jason McElwain won the ESPY for Best Moment. In case you don't remember, McElwain was the student manager of the Greece Athena High School basketball team in Rochester, N.Y., and on senior night, he not only got the chance to suit up and play the final four minutes of his school's game, but he scored 20 points in that four-minute span. That's remarkable for anyone to achieve.

His athletics accomplishment stood out — but not as much as what he overcame to enjoy what he considered to be "the greatest night of my life."

McElwain has a developmental disability called autism. One in 166 infants are born with it, according to the Autism Society of America. What needs to be understood is autism can come in many different forms and can affect people such as McElwain in many different ways.

How do I know this? Because I was diagnosed with high-functioning autism at the age of 3.

While autism may not affect me the same way it affects McElwain, I can relate to any struggles he may have endured. One of the bigger challenges I faced with growing up was reading people's faces.

Sometimes I wouldn't understand if my name was called and I wasn't paying attention. Teachers, counselors, pathologists, and a speech therapist all spent a lot of one-on-one time with me through junior high.

When I was first diagnosed, doctors told my parents I would never speak again — I actually went two years of my early childhood without saying a word. No one really knew how I would feel, because they couldn't communicate with me. Nobody envisioned me being in a normal classroom setting growing up. College?

SEE AUTISM, PAGE 6