

# The Daily Iowan

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2006

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50¢

**From The Fallen State**

## A student's long night's journey into day

*Once lost in a ravaging cycle of drug abuse, a UI student fends off the stinging lure of methamphetamine in her quest to get clean*

BY ABIGAIL SAWYER

THE DAILY IOWAN

**S**arah went to jail after eating a California burger at the Hamburg Inn one June morning.

"They starve you in there," she said. "I wanted to get a real meal."

With a duffle bag filled with the requisite white clothes and a backpack of textbooks, she left behind her kitten Esther and two roommates to serve a week-long sentence for drug possession.

She hopes this stay in the Johnson County Jail will be the last of her legal run-ins caused by her powerful addiction to methamphetamine, which has ravaged Iowa towns and plagued her own life since she was 17.

The 25-year-old's past reveals a shattered adolescence filled with drug use and crime. She has smoked, eaten, shot, made, and sold methamphetamine while at the UI. And now — after her most recent stay behind bars in June — all she wants is to get clean and graduate.

### Growing up: California, Iowa, and Europe

Since childhood in Buena Park, Calif., Sarah, whose name *The Daily Iowan* is not using to protect her identity, knew which family members used drugs. An uncle used heroin. A cousin used meth.

When her parents divorced in 1991, Sarah, then 10, moved with her mother to Hedrick, Iowa — a small town near Ottumwa. Once she reached middle school, she realized her friends also did drugs.

Though she abstained, Sarah had little fear of drugs after seeing her friends use them.

"Everybody smoked pot. Everybody did meth, and everybody drank at parties," she said about her early teenage years. "[Meth] wasn't a scary thing to try. It's just what we did."

By 17, she was smoking pot daily and experimenting with psychedelics. In late October 1998, the high-school senior moved out of her mother's house and into a nearby apartment, where she and her friends would gather on weekends to party. She, however, continued to abstain from meth.

SEE SARAH, PAGE 4A

### UP NEXT

In a four-part series this week, *The Daily Iowan* will explore the complexities — and consequences — of methamphetamine, a drug that has destroyed the lives, broken the families, and debilitated the health of countless Iowans.

**Tuesday:** Despite successful legislation and a statewide crackdown on meth labs, the continued high demand from fiends in Iowa and increasing supply from Mexico worry state officials.

**Wednesday:** Health-care professionals at the UI Hospitals and Clinics work to treat the myriad maladies that so-often riddle meth addicts.

**Thursday:** Children are often left behind in the tragic tribulations of meth-addicted parents — yet many times, they provide the motivation to stay sober.



### ON THE WEB

Watch stories of people struggling with their addiction, as well as experts discussing the physical and psychological repercussions of methamphetamine, in Aaron Preusch's video at [DAILYIOWAN.COM](http://DAILYIOWAN.COM).



Rachel Mumney/The Daily Iowan

Sarah has lived much of her life in shadows to hide her addiction to methamphetamines. After battling addiction, mental, physical, and sexual abuse since 1998, she has been clean since April, and hopes to be the first person in her family to graduate from college.

32°c  
12°c



Partly sunny,  
windy

### FIREWORKS IN CARVER

The inspired Hawkeye wrestlers take all the wind out of the Cyclone sails. **1B**



### SET BACK

Remember all those years you were told to sit up straight? If you ignored the advice, you were no slouch. **5A**

### NOT SO CONSIDERABLE

Sounds like a marriage made in heaven — famous "mockumentarian" and Oscar buzz. Turns out to be a divorce made in hell. **11A**

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## NEWS

# Leach may land academic job

The 30-year Capitol Hill veteran has been in contact with an unnamed UI department regarding a possible teaching position

BY DEAN TREFTZ

THE DAILY IOWAN

While James Leach may soon no longer pace the Capitol's halls in Washington, he has no intentions of retiring.

Defeated by Cornell College political-science Professor Dave Loebssack in Nov. 7's midterm elections, Leach has talked to several prominent universities and colleges about possible positions, including a job at the UI. At a Dec. 1 reception honoring the outgoing statesman, Leach said

Harvard, Princeton, Georgetown, and Grinnell have all been in contact with him, along with the UI.

"We'd love to keep him close,"

UI interim President Gary Fethke said on Dec. 1. He couldn't comment on the talks between Leach and the UI.

Also a possibility is one of the nation's most prestigious and well-known diplomatic posts — U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. On Nov. 14, Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., delivered a speech on the floor of Congress touting Leach for the job, should current Ambassador John Bolton not return to New York. Blumenauer and Rep. Jim Walsh, R-N.Y., also distributed a letter to be signed by congressional representatives favoring Leach for the position.

"I'm leaning to academia, but there is a possibility of a diplomatic position," Leach said on Dec. 1.

He may have been in Congress for the past 30 years, but his academic record is impressive nonetheless: The London School of Economics, Johns Hopkins University, and Princeton all grace the education portion of his résumé. He has studied economics, Soviet politics, and political science and worked in the Foreign Service, the United Nations,



Hogan

UI provost

"There are a lot of things he could teach our students here, and it would be a great honor, a great opportunity."

—Michael Hogan, UI provost

and as an aide for Donald Rumsfeld in Congress and the Office of Economic Development, among other governmental positions.

The 64-year-old has been in the political mix since he graduated from Davenport High School in 1960.

"There are a lot of things he could teach our students here, and it would be a great honor, a great opportunity," UI Provost Michael Hogan said on his way out of the Old Capitol Museum, where Leach's reception was held.

Both John Solow, the director of the undergraduate economics program, and Tom Rice, the UI political-science chairman, said they had not heard of any contact with Leach from their respective departments.

"Not to say we wouldn't welcome him," Rice said on Sunday. "We would love to discuss the possibility, but we haven't been in contact."

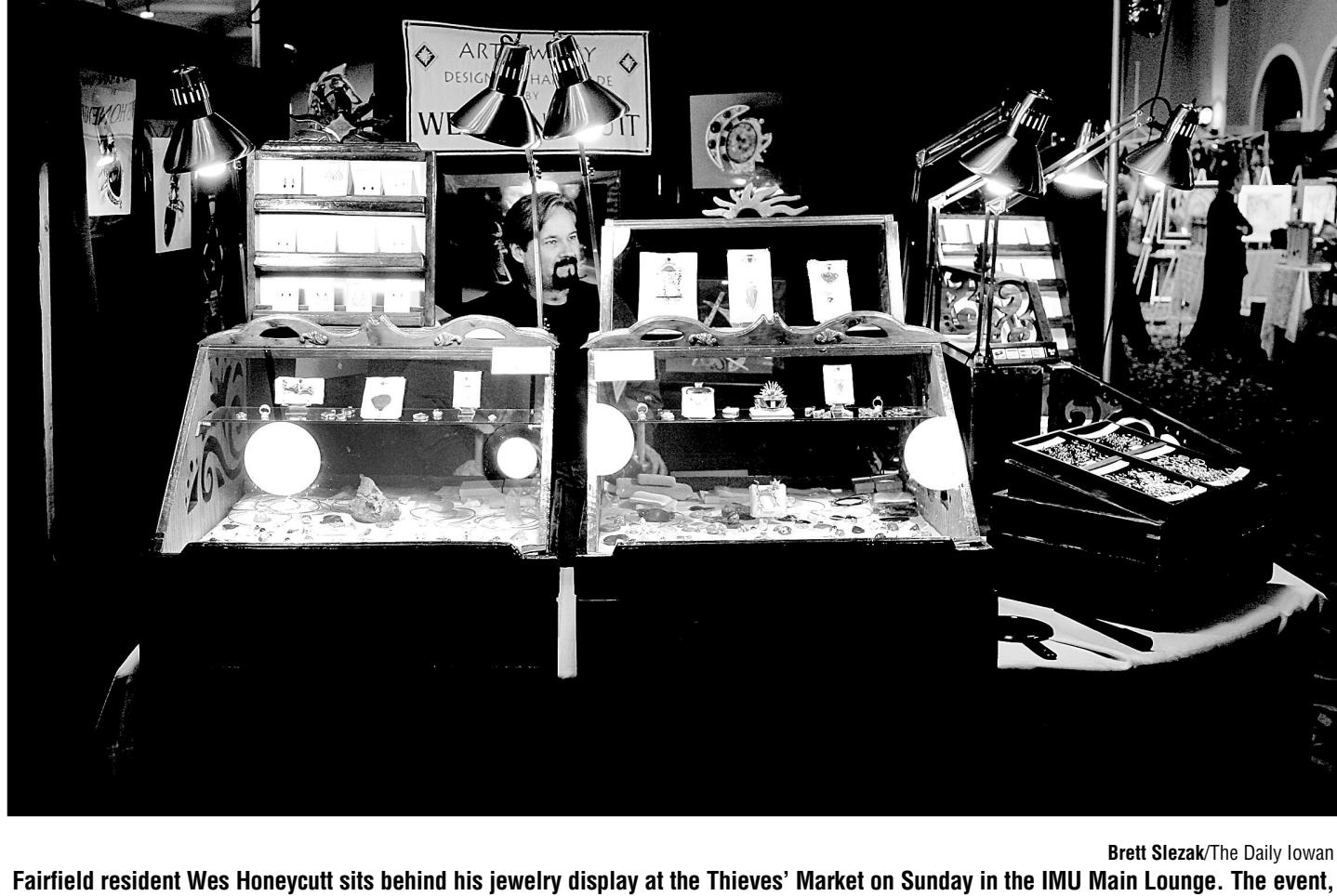
Solow doubted whether Leach would teach in economics, because of the highly mathematical and technical nature of the department. He did not dismiss the possibility but said if Leach had been in contact with someone in the department, "You could knock me over with a feather."

Leach said that wherever he ends up, he'll remain busy.

"I really haven't had time off during my adult career, and I don't relish it," Leach said.

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

**MARKET ECONOMY**



Fairfield resident Wes Honeycutt sits behind his jewelry display at the Thieves' Market on Sunday in the IMU Main Lounge. The event, sponsored by the Fine Arts Council, featured everything from jewelry to wooden duck carvings.

**POLICE BLOTER**

Nicole Auriemma, 18, 617B Mayflower, was charged Dec. 2 with PAULA, unlawful use of another's driver's license/ID and possession in a bar after hours.

Susan Barron, 18, 2509 Burge, was charged Dec. 1 with public intoxication.

Wesley Brown, 18, N316 Hillcrest, was charged Nov. 29 with PAULA.

Tina Coleman, 34, 1030 E. Court St. Apt. 16, was charged Dec. 1 with public intoxication.

Steven Connell, 19, Elmhurst, Ill., was charged Sunday with interference with official acts, public intoxication, disorderly conduct, and assault on police/fire/EMT personnel.

Katelyn Crouch, 18, 1210 Quadrangle, was charged Nov. 30 with PAULA.

Christopher Dixon, 19, Milwaukee, was charged Dec. 1 with possession of marijuana.

Brandon Elliott, 19, Solon, was charged Dec. 1 with possession of marijuana.

Daniel Guido, 20, Elmhurst, Ill., was charged Dec. 1 with public intoxication and possession of a fictitious driver's license/ID.

Matthew Harrigan, 19, 2246 Quadrangle, was charged Dec. 1 with fifth-degree criminal mischief.

Megan Kase, 19, 522B Mayflower, was charged Dec. 2 with PAULA.

Matthew Keating, 21, Orland Park, Ill., was charged Dec. 1 with public intoxication.

Danielle Klein, 18, 2530 Burge, was charged Nov. 30 with possession of a controlled substance.

Joseph Kotlarz, 18, S406 Parklawn, was charged Nov. 29 with PAULA and Nov. 30 with possession of stolen property.

Christopher Kragel, 19, Elmhurst, Ill., was charged Sunday with public intoxication.

Alex Leaven, 20, 630 N. Dubuque St., was charged Sunday with possession of marijuana.

Tyler Leiss, 20, 2522 Cascade Lane, was charged June 12 with possession of marijuana with intent to deliver and permit gatherings to use controlled substances.

Jason Lucky, 21, Cedar Rapids, was charged Dec. 1 with OWI.

Timothy Magrabi, 45, 4577 Kansas Ave. S.W., was charged Nov. 30 with violating a no-contact, domestic-abuse protective order.

Andrew Matheny, 20, Solon, was charged Dec. 2 with public intoxication and disorderly conduct.

Paul McIntire, 23, 1476 S. First Ave., was charged Nov. 30 with public intoxication.

Gerell Morgan, 26, 404 S. Governor St. Apt. 3, was charged Dec. 2 with domestic assault causing serious or aggravated injury.

Jonathan Ohrman, 19, S406 Parklawn, was charged Nov. 29 with PAULA.

Jonathan Peart, 18, S306 Parklawn, was charged Dec. 1 with public intoxication and disorderly conduct.

Michael Ryan, 36, 2437 Petsel Place Apt. 5, was charged June 12 with possession of marijuana.

Eric Smith, 21, 608 S. Johnson St., was charged Dec. 2 with public intoxication.

Ashley Somers, 18, 2528 Burge, was charged Nov. 30 with PAULA, possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Kory Stiffler, 26, 40 Thistle Court, was charged Dec. 2 with public intoxication and disorderly conduct.

Thomas Ulrich, 19, 630 N. Dubuque St., was charged Sunday with possession of marijuana.

Wesley Vanhouten, 22, 2437 Petsel Place Apt. 5, was charged June 12 with possession of marijuana.

Brian Welke, 20, 301 Hawkridge Drive Apt. 3117, was charged Nov. 30 with OWI.

Benjamin Willett, 18, address unknown, was charged Nov. 30 with fifth-degree theft.

Lanny Williams, 49, Canton, Ill., was charged Dec. 1 with public intoxication.

# The Daily Iowan

Volume 138

**BREAKING NEWS**

Phone: (319) 335-6063

E-mail: daily-iowan@uiowa.edu

**CORRECTIONS**

Call: 335-6030

**Policy:** The Daily Iowan strives for accuracy and fairness in the reporting of news. If a report is wrong or misleading, a request for a correction or a clarification may be made.

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December 6, 2006 @ 4:00 pm

OSL, 145 IMU



## CLARIFICATION

In the caption for the Dec. 1 article "The hat is in the ring," The Daily Iowan incorrectly identified the event's location. It was held in Mount Pleasant. The DI regrets the error.

In the Dec. 1 story, "After the Band Played On," The Daily Iowan featured two charts that operated in conjunction, the first of which,

States. The second chart, "Who Has HIV/AIDS," further elaborated this information, breaking down these same figures by age group.

# 3 pedestrians sent to hospital after accident

*Two pedestrians are transported by ambulance to the UI Hospitals and Clinics*

BY EMILEIGH BARNES  
THE DAILY IOWAN

An allegedly drunk driver struck three people crossing the intersection of Clinton and Burlington Streets early Sunday, leaving all three pedestrians injured and the driver unscathed, police reported.

Officers said Mark Moore, 51, of 935 E. Market St., was driving east on Burlington Street when he reportedly hit the three people.

Two of the pedestrians were transported to UI Hospitals and Clinics via Johnson County ambulance. A third was transported to UIHC by car, police said.

Moore, the only person in the vehicle, was charged with OWI, police said. Any other charges Moore might face depend on an investigation, said Iowa City police Sgt. Bill Campbell.

"Beyond [OWI], he may or may not have any other responsibility," Campbell said on Sunday. "It may not have been his fault."

Pedestrians also have responsibilities and rules when crossing streets, he said.

"Striking a pedestrian isn't really a charge," he said. "The issue would be what did [Moore] do with the vehicle that was wrong."

An Iowa courts online search uncovered no previous convictions in the state for Moore.

Burlington Street has been the site of several accidents involving pedestrians or bicyclists and vehicles.

In July, a bicyclist collided with a Girls Gone Wild bus at the intersection of Burlington and Linn Streets.

The victim lay under the bus in the rain for approximately 20 minutes before the Iowa City Fire Department used air bags to lift the vehicle from the unidentified man.

Iowa City police Officer Carlos Trevino said in July that the bicyclist was conscious the whole time he was being pulled out from under the bus.

In a Sept. 4, 2003, incident, Amanda Skolnick, then 20, died after a Ford Explorer struck her as she crossed the intersection of Linn and Burlington Streets.

Police reports stated Skolnick was dragged 30 feet before driver Thomas Eldridge realized she



Matt Ryerson/The Daily Iowan

was under his car. She died the next day at the UIHC from head injuries sustained during the accident.

Her parents later filed a lawsuit against Eldridge, contend-

ing that the 22-year-old was negligent when he hit their daughter.

Urine provided by Eldridge after the accident showed about twice the federal standard for

marijuana intoxication, testified experts from the state Division of Criminal Investigations at Eldridge's trial. Eldridge denied that smoking marijuana impaired his driving.

He was charged with vehicular homicide but later pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter.

E-mail DI reporter **Emileigh Barnes** at: emily-a-barnes@uiowa.edu

# Search panel heads: Delay harms UI

BY DANNY VALENTINE  
THE DAILY IOWAN

The two heads of the UI presidential-search committee have urged the state Board of Regents not to postpone its decision on the leadership search at their meeting today and to choose from the four finalists proposed by the committee.

Today, regents will discuss issues relating to the presidential search via telephone in a closed session. The meeting was announced Dec. 1.

Rumors have circulated that regents could pursue a cooling-off period before revisiting the presidential search, said François Abboud, a search committee vice chairman.

Postponing the process, he said, would have numerous

disadvantages, including a decline in the quality of candidates, continued negative national attention, and the possibility for a negative effect on donations.

"We need to remain active in this search," Abboud said on Sunday.

Both Abboud and committee vice chairwoman Katherine Tachau agreed that any delay of the process would also contradict the spirit of Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack's request to revisit the four finalists.

"Restarting the search will duplicate significant costs in time, energy, and money, with the unlikely possibility the next pool will be as outstanding as the current one," read the letter, which was distributed to local media.

Meanwhile, Provost Michael Hogan — who was one of four finalists for the UI position — is out of the running for the presidency at the University of Delaware. He was one of two finalists for that position.

On Nov. 17, regents voted 6-2, to reject the four finalists forwarded by the search committee and disband the committee, angering many UI faculty, staff, and students. Since that time, secrecy has enshrouded the process, and closed meetings and a need for confidentiality have clouded future plans for the next UI president, who will replace former UI leader David Skorton.

Tachau said delays at the top have hurt the university's ability to retain faculty and staff while impeding its ability to recruit employees.

"The problem is that wise

people don't get into crises they can't solve," she said.

Tachau said she worries postponing or restarting the search process would make it very difficult to find the best possible

candidate. She considers all four candidates proposed by the committee to be excellent.

Abboud and Tachau said the presidential uncertainty is harming the ability to retain

faculty and staff members.

Other institutions "see [the UI] as a place they can find faculty that are willing to leave."

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

## No one said life on the road had to actually be on the road.

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## From The Fallen State



Rachel Mumney/The Daily Iowan

After nearly overdosing on cocaine and being arrested on drug charges in fall 2005, Sarah has had to rebuild her life without meth. She says the process of letting go of the addiction is a lot like losing a best friend.

# UI student tries to fight meth addiction

## SARAH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Sarah decided to finish high school a semester early and return to California, wanting to escape the small-town drug circle and try her hand at community college.

But on New Year's Eve 1998, Sarah took her first line of methamphetamine — while tripping on acid.

"It was just like a relief, like the best feeling in the world," she said. "You could feel hung over, the flu, like shit, and physically, nothing hurt anymore. At all."

Within weeks, she visited a local "tweaker pad" — a hangout for users — where she ate and smoked meth for days. By the end of a week without sleep, she was hallucinating and paranoid.

"I was completely out of my mind," she said of the binge.

Come February, Sarah packed and moved in with her oft-fighting father and stepmother in Buena Park. Seeking refuge from the domestic squabbles, she visited an estranged uncle, who — unbeknown to her — used crystal meth, the white rock or powder variety whose potency equals that of Iowa's anhydrous-ammonia version.

He offered Sarah a line, and they began using together. Within six weeks, she moved into his apartment.

They smoked crystal meth all summer, staying awake for days at a time. After she enrolled at Buena Park's Cypress Community College in fall 1999, meth fueled her studies. For December finals, the aspiring engineer stayed up two weeks straight.

"It got to the point where I was smokin', smokin', smokin' meth, and I just threw up and passed out," she said. "It was like no matter how much I did, my body was not going to go on another minute."

And for many reasons, Sarah felt trapped.

Her uncle had begun abusing her, emotionally and mentally — and then physically and sexually. Drug-dependent and brainwashed by her uncle into thinking her family and friends had forgotten her, he let her leave the apartment only for classes.

"I wanted to die," she said.

But she continued to feed her meth habit, and a year later, in the summer of 2000, California police picked up

'Everybody smoked pot. Everybody did meth, and everybody drank at parties. [Meth] wasn't a scary thing to try. It's just what we did.'

— Sarah, speaking of her early teenage years

Sarah and her uncle on charges of using and possessing meth.

Once booked, she forfeited her one allotted phone call from jail because she was too ashamed to notify family. Crashing from the high, she slept through the entire stay behind bars.

"I didn't want anybody to know," she said.

With her uncle behind bars, Sarah, then 19, entered treatment for her addiction and moved in with her grandmother in Carson, Calif., near Los Angeles.

Still in school, she earned an associate's degree and stayed sober until the night of a Cold Chamber concert, when she met up with friends from school and got high.

That night, she also met a basketball player named Joel, whom she married in Las Vegas three months later. Together, they jetted far away to his home in the southern European country of Croatia and stayed clean.

Though she loved her husband, Sarah began to feel she had wrongfully sacrificed her goal of college graduation, while at the same time dreaming about the drug that had once plagued her life. After six months abroad, she chose to return to Iowa, where her mother still lived and worked.

### Coming to Iowa

Then 23, Sarah enrolled at the UI and began classes in fall 2004.

As a resident on the Honors floor at Hillcrest, Sarah was able to stay away from meth by meeting Katherine, a Davenport native who was also a first-year student. But in October, Sarah was thrown out for possession of marijuana and lost contact with her new friend.

Sarah moved into the Gaslight Village and began attending raves in Ames, searching for companionship. There, she met a meth user from Oskaloosa and began using again on the weekends.

Feeding an emotional void, Sarah's cravings for meth grew fierce. At times, she would even drive all over the state to find a supply.

In December 2004, she even participated in making meth, lured by a free meth 8-ball — or 3.5 ounces — for purchasing ingredients and driving the cookers to a rural area.

In spring 2005, she skipped classes, turned in incomplete work, and eventually failed two classes.

"That was the first time I let [meth] fuck up my school," she said.

Barely finishing that semester, Sarah moved back in with her mother in Hedrick and slept on couches in June and July until landing a place in Iowa City with a fellow meth user.

That apartment "just became this huge tweaker pad," she recalled. "There was constantly people up there, shooting up, making crack. Here in Iowa City ... just the shadiest people I've ever met in my life."

Sarah and her fellow "tweakers" filled their days by getting high and seldom leaving the

'It got to the point where I was smokin', smokin', smokin' meth, and I just threw up and passed out. It was like no matter how much I did, my body was not going to go on another minute.'

— Sarah

apartment. They covered the apartment walls in scribbles and poetry, while the floor was littered with rubbish, drugs, and "projects" — tasks, such as sorting paper clips by size or disassembling and reassembling a radio, that are hours-long obsessions of someone high on meth.

The tweaker underground appeased Rachel until reality came crashing down. School began again, and legal bills filled her mailbox. She had no way to pay.

Depression and shame led her to more meth and, in September 2005, she nearly overdosed after

shooting cocaine. Words "came out mumbles," and her feet became shriveled with dehydration, she said.

"It's not that I was afraid of dying," she said. "I was afraid of dying like that."

In October of that year, she was arrested on a warrant that accused her of passing counterfeit money at an Iowa City McDonald's. When police searched her home, they found pipes for meth, crack, and marijuana, as well as several drugs.

She remembers when she called her father in California to tell him about the arrest.

"Don't let those drugs get you," she recalled him saying. "You're too smart for that."

She told her mother and stepfather everything that had previously been hidden: the drugs, the arrests, the dealing, the incest. She discovered that her mother, too, had been raped by the same uncle in California. They vowed to help Sarah with money so she wouldn't have to cover tuition and rent by herself.

But back in Iowa City, she still felt alone.

Sarah knew one girl who was not a tweaker. Katherine, the friend from Hillcrest, now bought marijuana from Sarah on occasion. One day after the overdose, Katherine noted

'There's not a day that goes by that I don't think about meth or want to do meth right now.'

— Sarah

anyone outside the meth ring. Every day was a test of her determination to piece together the fragments of a life shattered by meth.

Since the last time Sarah said she used meth, on her late-April birthday in 2006, each day has represented a struggle to stay sober.

"There's not a day that goes by that I don't think about meth or want to do meth right now," she said.

Though only 25, she suffers sharp chest pains when running short distances. She jokes that she still has all her teeth, having avoided "meth mouth" — a common side effect of abuse characterized by rotted enamel and gums.

"It's something I'm going to have to live with forever," she said.

When asked if she will be permanently clean, the conviction wavers. Having watched the relapses of nearly everyone in her tweaker circle, she knows the track record for addicts is grim. The thought of never using again scares her. She compares it to losing a best friend or a first love.

"If I didn't have school [or] some other goal of a better life, I wouldn't see the point in trying," she said.

If Sarah makes it until next summer, she will be the first college graduate in the family. Meanwhile, the mundane, everyday tasks — like developing regular eating and sleeping patterns — need the most adjustment.

Now nearly finished with the semester, she has applied for a tutoring job and is living on her own. After visiting Joel in December 2004, she and her Croatian husband have now agreed to divorce.

Stinging memories of her life as a drug addict scare her away from daily temptation. And that her mother has taken a job at a pig farm to help put her through school only strengthens Sarah's desire to stay focused on a life of sobriety.

"I feel like I'm expected to fail," she said. "So I'm not going to."

E-mail D reporter Abbie Sawyer at abigail-sawyer@uiowa.edu

Sarah's shrunken form and sunken eyes — a stark shift from the warmth she remembered.

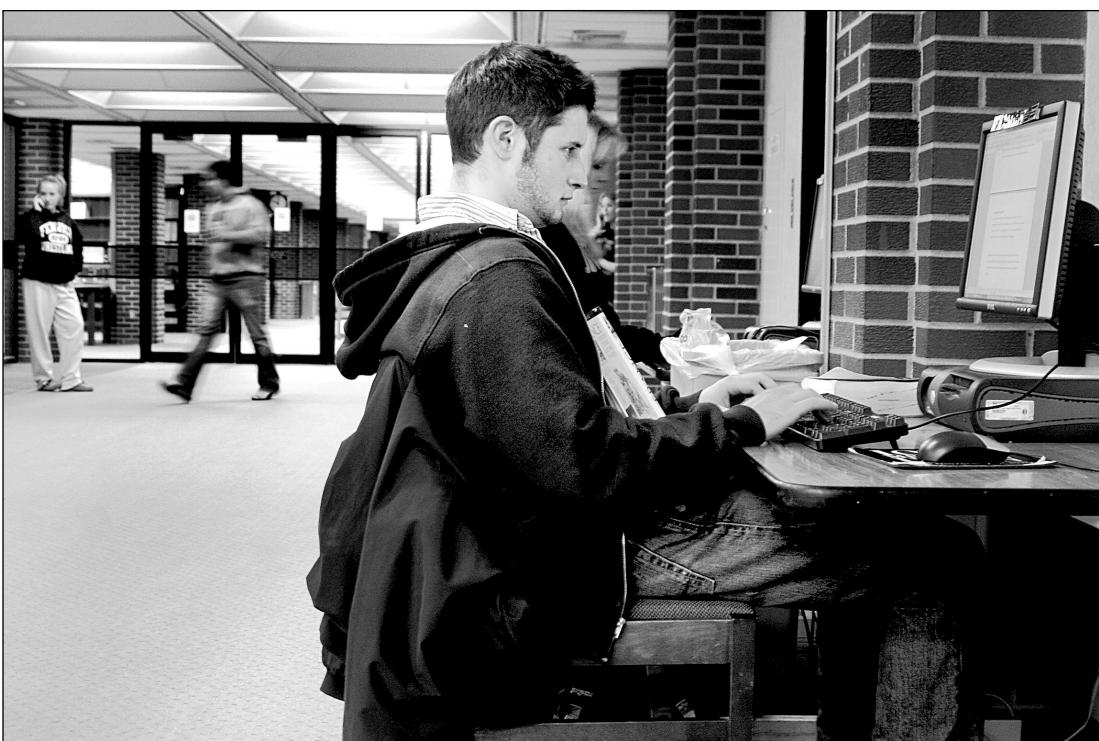
A few days later, they met again on the street. This time, Sarah was even thinner from binging. Katherine extended her home as a haven if Sarah wanted to avoid using meth, and Sarah took the offer.

### Getting clean

In January 2006, she moved into Katherine's house with her roommates, who are also UI students.

In sobriety, painful memories resurfaced from her past: missing her best friend's funeral, foregoing family reunions, severing ties with

# Sitting up straight maybe not such a good idea



Ben Roberts/The Daily Iowan

UI senior Lawton Stefanik studies Intermediate French 2 at the Main Library on Sunday night. A recent study suggests that sitting at, or near, a 135-degree angle is healthier for individuals than a 90-degree angle.

**BY TERRY MCCOY**  
THE DAILY IOWAN

UI senior Jennifer Heacock fidgeted uncomfortably against the wooden, straight-backed chair in a classroom in the Chemistry Building. The clock had just ticked through two hours while she took a chemistry test. Her head hurt. And — thanks to the unyielding form of the chair — her back hurt as well.

"It was really physically strenuous," she recalled. "And the longer you have to sit [in a straight-backed chair], the more strenuous it becomes."

Recently, a group of researchers, while at an assem-

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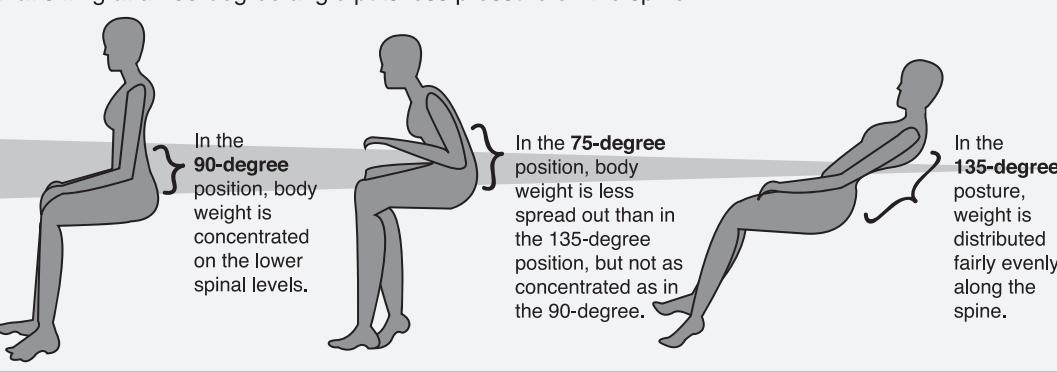
**Q:** As the holidays approach, how do I deal with all the holiday cheer when I don't feel much like celebrating since the death of my loved one?

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## Back Awareness

Your parents were wrong; sitting up straight is *not* good for you. In a recent study, researchers found that sitting at a 135-degree angle puts less pressure on the spine.



Nelle Dunlap/The Daily Iowan

'It is like when you are driving a nail into a piece of wood. The best way is to hit the nail on top of it. It is the same thing with the spine.'

— Patrick Hitchon, UI professor of neurology

"I like these kinds of chairs," Mike Raczka said, while resting his weight on a Burge Marketplace straight-backed seat. "These are the kind of chairs where I don't feel like I need to lean back."

The research team, led by Waseem Amir Bashir, a clinical fellow in radiology and diagnostic imaging at the University of Alberta Hospital, Canada, analyzed 22 patients with no previous instances of back pain. In the study, the patients assumed three different sitting positions: hunched-over, a 90 degrees, and a 135 degrees.

But she said she had not heard of the radiological group's newest findings. Some UI students said they thought renovating classrooms with reclining chairs would be a waste of time and resources.

degree sitting position was most injurious to the spinal cord, whereas the 135-degree sitting angle was the most innocuous.

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, back pain is the leading cause of professionals staying home during the workday. And the American Academy of Family Physicians reports that roughly nine out of 10 Americans experience back pain at least one point in their lives.

The strain placed on the back from sitting is much like carpentry, said Patrick Hitchon, a

UI professor of neurology.

"It is like when you are driving a nail into a piece of wood," he said. "The best way is to hit the nail on top of it. It is the same thing with the spine." He added that when the spine is taut, as it is when a person sits at a 90-degree angle, more weight is placed on the spine. But by sitting at a 135-degree angle, one's weight is thrown out of line with the spine and distributed elsewhere.

Hitchon did agree that these findings run contrary to decades of pesky parents and teachers chipping at kids for not "sitting up straight." But, he said, good posture is just as important as a healthy back.

"I always tell [my children] to sit up straight, especially when they are slouching at the dining-room table."

E-mail *D/I* reporter Terry McCoy at [terrence-mccoy@uiowa.edu](mailto:terrence-mccoy@uiowa.edu)

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## NEWS

# UI scientists make another giant-sloth find

BY BRYCE BAUER

THE DAILY IOWAN

Offering a further glimpse into a 12,000-year-old mystery, UI researchers at a Shenandoah, Iowa, dig site discovered bones from a new baby sloth, upping the number of the ancient creatures excavated from the rural Iowa creek bed to three.

"We just shoveled into [the bones], and I was just flabbergasted to see it," said Holmes Semken, a UI professor emeritus of geoscience and "dig master" on the project.

Greg McDonald, a natural-history curator with the National Park Service in Denver and one of the world's foremost giant-sloth experts, estimated that the newly discovered animal was less than one year old when it died, according to a UI press release. That revelation, coupled with the earlier discovery of adult and juvenile sloths, profoundly affects scientists' understanding of the furry creatures.

"This is so interesting, the window it is opening into sloth family behavior," said David Brenzel, the curator of the UI Museum of Natural History and co-leader of the sloth expedition. "Who would have guessed sloths would have been this social?"

For millions of years, the giant sloths lumbered across North America from Florida to Alaska. Then, 12,000 years ago, at the end of the Pleistocene epoch, the large beasts disappeared, leaving today's

researchers baffled.

Now, as they piece together bones, researchers are attempting to recreate history in an effort to figure out how the sloths lived and what may have caused their extinction.

The team is still awaiting DNA tests, but because the bones are so intermingled, the dig coordinators had surmised the three animals were related — a theory further solidified by this recent discovery.

"It is just kind of mind-blowing — the idea sloths would live this way," Brenzel said, saying the two younger animals could have been children of the older one or, perhaps, relatives.

While the discovery — so far, just a handful of bones — may provide insight into the sloth's social relationships, it has yet to provide any clues to the diet, Brenzel said, noting the new sloth — like the other two — appeared to be healthy. He hypothesized the two younger animals could have perished due to the death of the adult, but they don't yet know what killed the adult. Brenzel doubted whether sloths would have very many natural predators once they were fully grown.

"I doubt anybody would have been able to tangle with an adult sloth," he said. "It's a very giant beast."

Data show sloths used to stand 10-12 feet high and weighed about two or three tons.

Soon the team will take the artifacts to UI Hospitals and Clinics for CAT scans to view



Photo Courtesy of UI Museum of Natural History

**UI researchers excavate sloth bones from a rural Iowa creek bed near Shenandoah. They have recently discovered a new baby sloth, increasing the number of the ancient creatures found to three at this site.**

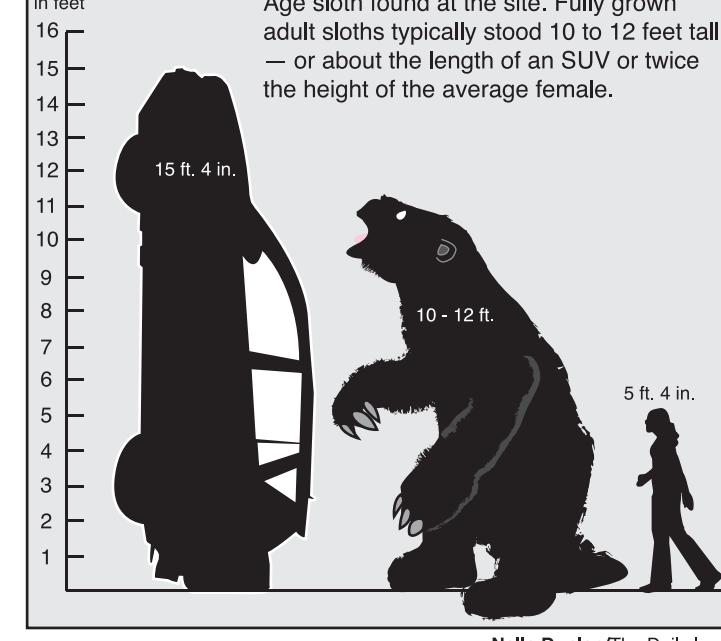
growth rings in the bones, hoping to find out about the sloth's development and any possible stressors that could have been present before they died.

Brenzel said the team

members plan to return to the dig site — which they have been excavating since 2003 — after the ground thaws a bit.

"I think we've got years of excitement ahead of us," he

## Sloth Size

Height  
in feet

At a dig site near Shenandoah, Iowa, UI researchers recently discovered a third Ice Age sloth found at the site. Fully grown adult sloths typically stood 10 to 12 feet tall — or about the length of an SUV or twice the height of the average female.

Nelle Dunlap/The Daily Iowan

said.

The new bones will be placed among others already on display at the Natural History Museum in Macbride Hall. Eventually, they all will be arranged in a "crime-scene" layout, replicating the creek-bed they were discovered in. The exhibit will

appear alongside the museum's venerable staple: Rusty, the giant sloth.

"We've all lived with the sloth so long, I think a lot of people take it for granted in this community," Brenzel said. "Does everybody have a sloth?"

E-mail *D*/reporter Bryce Bauer at bryce-bauer@uiowa.edu

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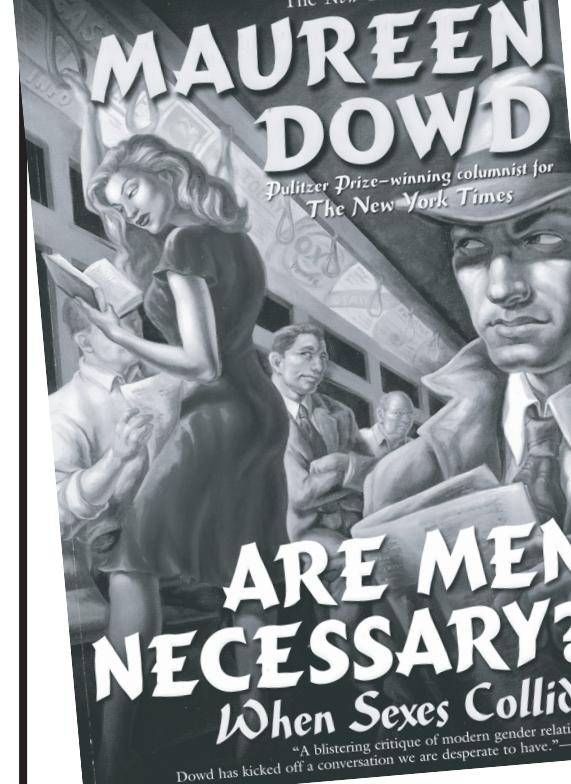
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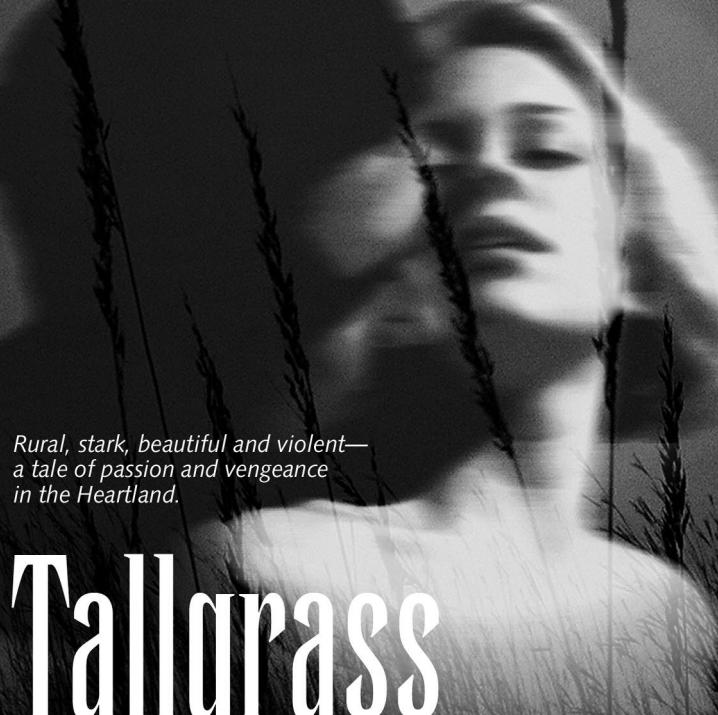


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# Doctors blast kid ads

An influential doctors' group has issued a statement in response to what it views as an influx in advertising aimed at children that encourages them to subscribe to poor dietary practices and engage in sex and drinking alcohol at too young an age

BY LINDSEY TANNER

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Inappropriate advertising contributes to many kids' ills, from obesity to anorexia, to drinking booze and having sex too soon, and Congress should crack down on it, the American Academy of Pediatrics says.

The influential doctors' group issued a new policy statement in response to what it calls a rising tide of advertising aimed at children. The policy appears in December's *Pediatrics*, scheduled for release Monday.

"Young people view more than 40,000 ads per year on television, alone, and increasingly are being exposed to advertising on the Internet, in magazines, and in schools," the policy says.

Advertising examples cited in the statement include TV commercials for sugary breakfast cereals and high calorie snacks shown during children's programs and ads for Viagra and other erectile dysfunction drugs shown during televised sports games.

The statement also is critical of alcohol ads that feature cartoonish animal characters; fast-food ads on educational TV shown in schools; magazine ads with stick-thin models and toy and other product "tie-ins" among popular movie characters and fast-food restaurants.

These pervasive ads influence kids to demand poor food choices and to think drinking is cool, sex is a recreational activity, and anorexia is fashionable, the academy says.

Interactive digital TV, expected to arrive in a few years, will spread the problem, allowing kids to click on-screen links to web-based promotions, the new policy says.

## STATE

### Board suspends teacher after accusations

CEDAR RAPIDS (AP) — A former substitute teacher accused of striking a child will have her teaching license suspended for six months unless she files an appeal.

Jamie Lynn Morris, 26, was accused of hitting a third-grader and making him cry Jan. 27 while substituting at Prairie View Elementary in the College Community School District in Cedar Rapids.

The Iowa Board of Educational Examiners voted on Dec. 1 to suspend Morris' license. She has until mid-January to file an appeal but has said she may not bother.

She has moved to Kansas and is teaching in a Kansas City, Kan., public school, with a conditional teaching license.

"I am happy where I am, and I don't plan on moving back to Iowa," she said. "I'm sure Kansas will know about this, but I'm not sure if it will affect my current job."

Martha Gage, with the Kansas State Department of Education's Teacher Education and Licensure Division, said education departments nationwide will be notified if Morris does not file an appeal.

Morris, who obtained her initial teaching license in January 2005, denied hitting the student and said she only put her hand on his head because she thought he was giving away answers during a math exercise. She declined to apologize.

However, three students from the class described it as a slap. The student involved also re-enacted the hit to his regular teacher and principal.

Administrative Law Judge Jeffrey Farrell dismissed a charge of physical abuse against Morris but found her guilty of harming the health and safety of her student. He recommended the state education board suspend Morris' license.

"There was a point in history when a teacher hitting a child was acceptable discipline," Farrell wrote. "Our society has evolved to a point where physical discipline is no longer tolerated."

In response, the academy says doctors should ask Congress and federal agencies to:

- ban junk-food ads during shows geared toward young children;
- limit commercial advertising to no more than six minutes per hour, a decrease of 50 percent;
- restrict alcohol ads to showing only the product, not cartoon characters or attractive young women;
- prohibit interactive advertising to children on digital TV.

The academy also says TV ads for erectile dysfunction drugs should be shown only after 10 p.m.

Jeff Becker, the president of the Beer Institute, an industry group for breweries, said parents have more influence than advertising on teens' decisions to drink. He also said brewers work to ensure that beer ads appear in adult-oriented media. For much of the sports programming where beer ads appear, most viewers are at least 21, Becker said.

"The American Academy of Pediatrics is wrong to blame alcohol advertising for the actions of underage teens who willingly break the law to drink illegally," he said.

Critics of advertising restrictions say it's a free-speech issue. But the academy notes that several Western countries, including Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, and Greece, limit ads directed at children.

"What kind of society exploits its children and teenagers for money? This is an example of where public health really has to trump capitalism," said Dr. Victor Strasburger, the lead author of the policy statement and an adolescent medicine specialist at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

Advertising aimed at children has come under increasing scrutiny in recent years, particularly because of data showing that growing numbers of U.S. children — now about 17 percent — are obese.

Spokespeople for Viacom, whose holdings include TV's Nickelodeon network and MTV, declined to offer immediate comment on the report. Viacom has urged its marketing partners to advertise healthier products, and it is among media companies that have been involved in discussions with federal agencies and advocacy groups about advertisers marketing to children.



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## NEWS

# Hillary meets with top Dem

BY BETH FOUHY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NEW YORK** — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., met on Sunday with New York's Democratic governor-elect to solicit his support for her likely White House bid, the latest indication she is stepping up plans to join a growing field of potential contenders for 2008.

One rival, Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh, announced on Sunday he was establishing an exploratory committee to raise money for a possible presidential run. He expects to decide over the Christmas holidays whether to seek his party's nomination.

A top aide to Rodham Clinton said he did not know when the former first lady would decide about pursuing the presidency or set up an exploratory committee. Her aides, however, have begun interviewing possible campaign staffers in recent weeks, Howard Wolfson said.

The New York senator, who has long topped national polls of Democratic hopefuls, spent two hours with Gov.-elect Eliot Spitzer at his Manhattan home.

"We just had a great, wide-ranging meeting on so many issues that affect the city, the state, and the country," she said as she left the meeting.

Last week, she contacted leading state lawmakers, including Democratic Reps. Charles Rangel and Nita Lowey, and the state party chairman, Denny Farrell, to assess her prospects and seek their support.

Rodham Clinton's Senate colleague, Chuck Schumer, told reporters Sunday that she had called him to arrange a meeting next week. But he was coy about the purpose of the get-together.

"She wants to sit down and talk next week, which we're going to do. It could be about legislation. I have no idea what it's about, and until we sit down and talk, that's all I'm going to say about it," Schumer said. He added, "I think she'd make a very good president, but let's wait and see. Everyone's sort of jumping the gun."

Wolfson told the Associated Press that Rodham Clinton "is reaching out to her colleagues in the New York delegation and

asking for their advice and counsel and their support if she decides to make a run."

She easily won re-election last month to a second term in the Senate. Wolfson noted that she long has said she would begin actively considering a presidential bid after that election. "That process has begun," Wolfson said.

Thirteen months before the first votes are cast in the nomination process, the presidential jockeying has intensified in both parties.

Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack announced his bid for the Democratic nod last week; Bayh is taking the initial steps; and others, such as the party's 2004 ticket of Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry and former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, are weighing possible runs.

The effort comes as Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, a rising

star in Democratic politics, enjoys a wave of publicity and momentum around a possible White House bid.

Obama, a clear challenger to Rodham Clinton's front-runner status, has appeared before huge crowds around the country, promoting his best-selling book, *The Audacity of Hope*.

He met with aides in Chicago last week, and they expect him to disclose his intentions about a 2008 run in a matter of weeks.

On the Republican side, Sen. John McCain of Arizona and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani have established exploratory committees — so, too, has long-shot candidate Rep. Duncan Hunter of California. Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney is moving toward a possible bid, and Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback is expected to announce soon about his intentions.

Bayh, appearing on ABC's "This Week," acknowledged he was not well-known outside Washington and Indiana but said he had the credentials necessary to be an effective president.

AP writers Karen Matthews and Marc Humbert contributed to this report.



Rodham Clinton  
senator

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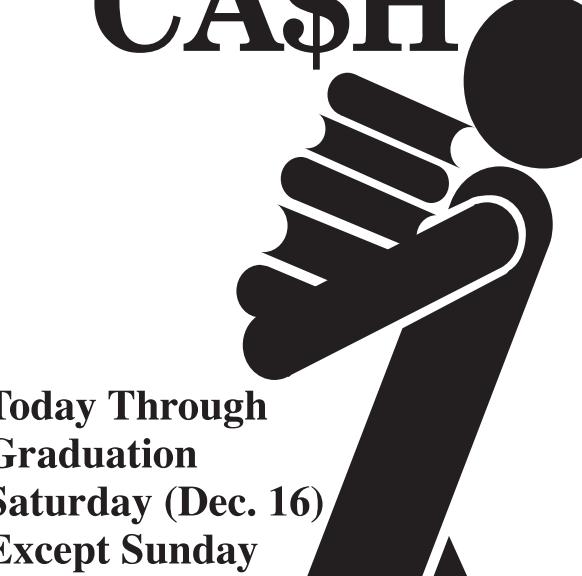
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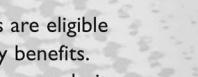


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# Chavez rolls to victory in Venezuelan vote

BY IAN JAMES  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARACAS, Venezuela — President Hugo Chavez won reelection by a wide margin Sunday, giving the firebrand leftist six more years to redistribute Venezuela's vast oil wealth to the poor and press his campaign to counter U.S. influence in Latin America and beyond.

Challenger Manuel Rosales conceded defeat but vowed to remain in opposition. During the campaign, Rosales accused Chavez of edging Venezuela toward authoritarian rule and warned the president could undertake even more radical policies if re-elected.

Minutes after the results were announced, Chavez appeared on the balcony of the presidential palace singing the national anthem. He pledged to deepen his effort to transform Venezuela into a socialist society.

"Long live the socialist revolution. Destiny has been written," Chavez shouted to thousands of flag-waving supporters wearing red shirts and braving a pouring rain.

"That new era has begun," he said, raising a hand in the air. "We have shown that Venezuela is red ... No one should fear socialism ... Socialism is human. Socialism is love. Down with imperialism. We need a new world."

Since he first won office in 1998, Chavez has increasingly dominated all branches of government; his allies now control Congress, state offices, and the judiciary. He has called President Bush the devil, allied himself with Iran, and influenced elections across the region.

Chavez also has used Venezuela's oil wealth to his political advantage. He has channeled oil profits toward multibillion-dollar programs for the poor, including subsidized food, free university education, and cash benefits for single

mothers. He has also helped allies from Cuba to Bolivia with oil and petrodollars.

He now promises to solidify his social program.

With 78 percent of voting stations reporting, Chavez had 61 percent to 38 percent for challenger Rosales, said Tibisay Lucena, the head of the country's elections council. Chavez had nearly 6 million votes versus 3.7 million for Rosales, according to the partial tally.

Turnout among the 15.9 million eligible voters was 62 percent, according to an official bulletin of results, making Chavez's lead insurmountable.

"We will continue in this struggle," Rosales told cheering supporters as he conceded defeat.

Some supporters at his campaign headquarters wept, while others were clearly angry.

"We have to do something," said Dona Bavaro, a 36-year-old Rosales supporter. "My country is being stolen. This is the last chance we have. Communism is coming here."

Rosales, a cattle rancher and governor of western Zulia state who stepped down temporarily to run against Chavez, focused his campaign on issues such as rampant crime and corruption, widely seen as Chavez's main vulnerabilities.

A top Rosales adviser, Teodoro Petkoff, said the voting was carried out in a "satisfactory manner." He said some irregularities had occurred, but most were resolved. Another member of the Rosales camp had accused pro-Chavez soldiers of reopening closed polling stations and busing voters to them.

Even before polls closed, Chavez supporters celebrated in the streets, setting off fireworks and cruising Caracas honking horns and shouting, "Chavez isn't going anywhere."

Earlier, Chavez loyalists jarred voters awake hours



Leslie Mazoch/Associated Press

**Jesus Soto stands outside his workshop, where presidential campaign signs hang in support of both current Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and opposition candidate Manuel Rosales in Zulia's state capital city of Maracaibo, Venezuela, on Dec. 2.**

before dawn in Caracas with recordings of reveille blaring from truck-mounted loudspeakers.

"We're here to support our president, who has helped us so much," said Jose Domingo Izquierdo, a factory worker who waited hours to vote. His family recently moved into new government housing.

Rosales supporters accused Chavez of deepening class divisions with searing rhetoric demonizing his opponents.

Alicia Primera, a 54-year-old housewife, was among voters so

passionate about the choice that they camped out overnight in voting queues.

"I voted for Chavez previously. I cried for him," Primera said.

"Now I'm crying for him to leave. He's sown a lot of hate with his verbiage."

## FLORIBBEAN HOLIDAY—CUBAN FUSION

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# OPINIONS

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## EDITORIAL

# More must be done to combat meth

In Iowa, the number of methamphetamine labs seized has been declining since a peak of 1,500 in 2004, according to Iowa's Drug Control Strategy for 2007. This decrease can be credited to the actions of the state Legislature, but there is still more that can and must be done.

Methamphetamines are a type of stimulant popular for their ease of production common household materials are the main ingredients. Unfortunately, these home labs are also dangerous and frequently set up by novice chemists. The sites of these labs are hazardous to enter and costly to clean up, and the negative effects of meth on its users is appalling.

Because of its strong stimulant effects, meth users frequently go without food or sleep. Meth can also cause kidney and lung damage, as well as possibly brain damage with chronic use. Meth is highly addictive, and users who try to quit can experience serious withdrawal symptoms.

The recent decline in the number of meth labs is credited to efforts to limit the availability of a core ingredient, pseudoephedrine. Pseudoephedrine is frequently used in over-the-counter cold and allergy medicines and is also purchased in bulk to be used in the manufacture of meth. In the past, stores enacted policies limiting the amount that could be sold to one customer at a time, but a requirement implemented in 2005 requires that pseudoephedrine be kept behind the counter and that the purchaser register.

However, there is more that can be done to combat Iowa's — and the nation's — meth problem. Iowa has been successful in lowering the number of meth labs, but now meth being brought into the state, specifically

from Mexico, is becoming a larger problem for its increased potency and relationship with drug cartels. Additionally, the new system lacks an information-sharing element. Although the inconvenience may deter some, it is still possible for a person looking to make meth to simply stop at several stores or pharmacies that sell pseudoephedrine and make numerous purchases. In addition to working to stop meth from coming into the state, Iowa could create a central database tracking purchases of pseudoephedrine. Oklahoma has created such a system — when people make purchases, their names are taken down and entered into the database. When they go to make their next purchase at a different store, the system flags their names, and they are denied the sale.

A similar but weaker national law has been enacted, but the primary focus of the Bush administration in dealing with drugs has been marijuana use, which it sees as a "gateway" drug leading to meth addiction. This misguided obsession with marijuana is a costly misallocation of resources. In 2005, \$12 billion was spent federally to fight the war on drugs. Of that, about \$2 billion was spent on prevention, and roughly \$3 billion was spent on treatment. It would be a better use of resources if more effort were put into preventing users from becoming addicted to harder drugs, such as meth, and less emphasis was placed on combating marijuana.

The tragedy of meth is that it appears one of the most easily preventable of drugs, given its source of ingredients. To that end, Iowa has thrived, and with a little more effort, the state can make further improvements. Now it is time for the federal government to catch up.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** may be sent via e-mail to [daily-iowan@uiowa.edu](mailto: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 *D*/ reserves the right to edit for length and clarity. The *D*/ 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.

## GUEST OPINION

# Despite UI experience, search industry provides valuable service

I have been in the executive-search business for the past eight years, and I currently run the Life Sciences Practice for one of the largest retained search firms, DHR International, which has its headquarters in Chicago. I reside in Coralville and have my office in Coralville Center.

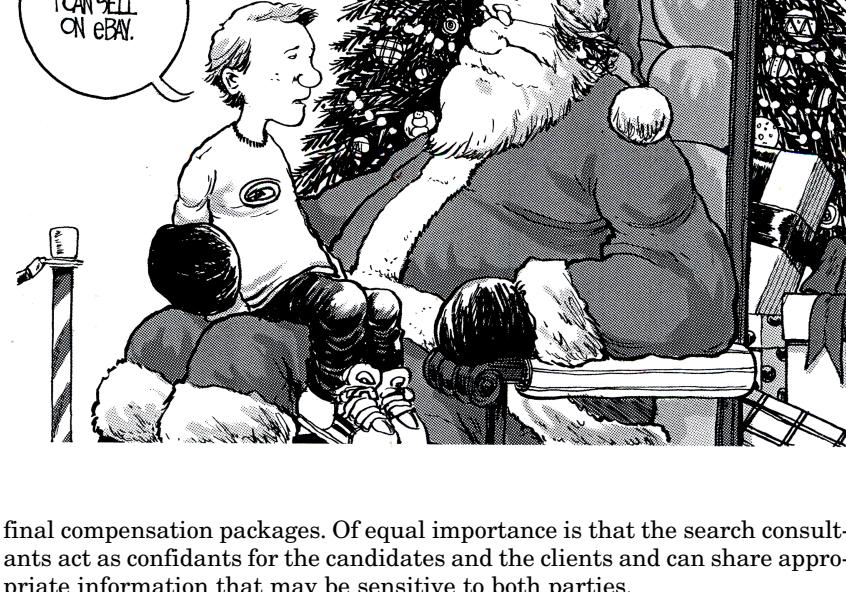
Prior to joining the executive-search industry, I spent most of my career in the health-care industry, where I held executive level positions with Hewlett Packard Medical Products Group and Quest Diagnostics, two multibillion-dollar corporations. As a leader in these companies, I had responsibility for hiring and firing people, leading reorganizations, and being part of reorganizations. Furthermore, I used search firms to find top talent. These comments stem from my broad view of business and my belief that there are several advantages in using search firms to find key talent.

I am not here to defend one of my firm's major competitors but, more importantly, to defend the search industry as a whole. I would like to provide those who may not understand the significant value in using a search firm and an appropriate search consultant for specific needs with perspective on the industry. There are thousands of successful searches completed by retained search firms every day. Companies have grown their businesses exponentially as a result of the appropriate talent found and brought on board by a search firm. The cost turns out to be a drop in the bucket. Similarly, not-for-profit organizations and educational institutions have grown because the appropriate individual(s) have been recruited.

A true partnership between the hiring organization and the search firm is critical in achieving a successful outcome. Furthermore, a process defined at the commencement of a search is important. The majority of search firms, when involved in a partnership/client relationship, will most likely interview internal candidates, candidates recommended by the client from their network, in addition to the candidates the search firm has presented to the client. It is incumbent upon the search firm to ensure it has agreement from the client to such a partnership. In the end, the search firm wants to find the best candidate for the role, and having a diverse pool from numerous sources often leads to a successful outcome.

Search firms provide the expertise and services well beyond simply finding candidates. They have the skills and experience to ensure candidates presented to their clients have been evaluated based upon an extensive and exhaustive process that provides the consultants with the appropriate information to make assessments. It is important for the search consultants to spend quality time with each member of the search committees to understand their specific needs and meet with others who influence the decision process. It is very important for the consultants to sit down with the entire committee, including board members, to share the insights from the internal discussions to ensure everything is on the table and there is agreement on what the search firms are looking for in terms of skills, background, personal characteristics, style, etc.

In addition, the search firms conduct extensive reference checking before and after candidates have been presented. They also help to negotiate the



final compensation packages. Of equal importance is that the search consultants act as confidants for the candidates and the clients and can share appropriate information that may be sensitive to both parties.

Throughout the search processes, the search firms share research findings and market information on what the firms are finding in the marketplace, including comments from candidates and sources about their clients. The clients can help the search firms address some of these sensitive objections and/or use the information to work on improving image or addressing a common theme.

It is unfortunate Professor Katherine Tachau has not had a good experience with search firms and feels they "are generally not particularly helpful to a search" and that the UI presidential search has not gone well. I know my colleagues in the search industry would be happy to share hundreds of references from delighted clients who have had exceptional experiences. The reason we get repeat business is because we strive to delight our customers, just as most successful companies do in any industry.

The search process is a partnership which typically leads to successful outcomes. The talented people in the search industry take pride in their work and enjoy helping their clients find the talent that will improve, change, grow, and, ultimately, lead their organizations to a better place.

John L. Baker  
executive vice president & Global Life Sciences Practice leader

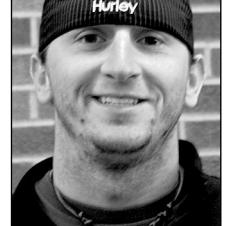
## ON THE SPOT

What do you think should be the focus of national drug policy?



"Maybe treating drugs based on the severity of their consequences, as opposed to arbitrary assignment of punishments."

James Saylor  
UI junior



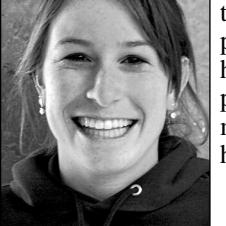
"There should be less emphasis on alcohol; it's out there and, people who are underage are going to get it. Maybe more on harder drugs."

Drew Murray  
UI junior



"There should be more focus on prevention for adolescence so they don't get into drugs. That way they don't need treatment, which saves money."

Bethsaira Fregoso  
UI junior



"Current drug policy is good, though some penalties are too harsh. The punishment for marijuana is too harsh."

Debbie Foss  
UI sophomore

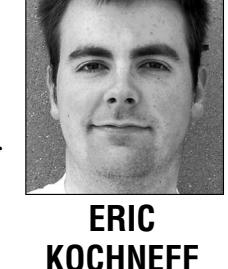
# Airline fusion

After US Airways offered \$8.5 billion to merge with Delta a few weeks ago, nearly every airline stock went up.

Investors currently see too many empty seats flying around the United States. A merger of two large carriers would cut costs and decrease overall capacity, which would lead to fuller airplanes, larger profits, and, thus, higher returns.

The entire decade of the 1980s saw a huge influx of new airlines, which led to too many available seats, extreme price wars, and, finally, bankruptcy for some of aviation's greatest names: Pan Am, Braniff, and Eastern, to name a few.

Unlike most industries with an inventory that can be stored in a warehouse and sold whenever, depending on demand, air-



ERIC KOCHNEFF

lines have no such luxury. The airline's product is a seat, from point A to point B. The technical way of measuring inventory for the airlines is the unit of seat-miles. That is, one seat traveling one mile.

For instance, today, United Airlines will fly eight nonstops between Cedar Rapids and Chicago with a total of 482 seats. This route is 196 miles long, giving United an inventory of 94,472 seat miles in the Cedar Rapids/Chicago market.

I can guarantee that there aren't enough passengers to occupy all of those seats between the two cities each day, so United often flies with empty seats. Each time an aircraft leaves the gate at Cedar Rapids bound for Chicago with one seat empty, 196 seat miles go to waste. The seat miles are wasted in the same sense of a spoiled gallon of milk or a discarded, uneaten apple. This is the game the airlines play.

A finite supply of inventory that vanishes every time it is created (whenever a plane leaves the gate) makes for complicated business. This is the way it works across the industry, and for much of this decade, the airlines have been flying far too many empty-seat miles.

Like most industries, there are certain supply and demand guidelines that govern pricing. For a certain fare, there are a given number of people willing to pay it to fly a certain distance — the lower the fare, the higher the number of willing passengers, and vice versa.

There are also routes that are always in high demand, regardless of price. On high density routes, such as New York to Boston or San Francisco to Los Angeles, the given fare can be higher and still maintain enough passengers. The airline might also utilize larger aircraft or a higher frequency of flights. This large supply of seats coupled with not enough passengers to fill them up has created many of the problems the industry has experienced in the past few years.

Most of the airlines realize this, as does the stock market, hence the upswing after the announcement of US Airways bid for Delta.

A merger of the two mega-carriers would reduce costs between the two-gate space at airports that have both US Airways and Delta; gates would be consolidated, duplicate routes eliminated, and leftover aircraft moved to more profitable areas. The number of seats would go down, in the long term, which would lead to higher load factors (the percentage of seats that are sold on a given flight) across the board.

Decreases in competition traditionally have been bad for the consumer, but both airlines involved in the merger operate the majority of their flights in markets with more than one carrier. Any consolidation between the two would still leave enough airlines in the mix to stave off any large fare increases.

One of the carriers, Delta, flies to Atlanta and Cincinnati from Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and Moline in this area, through its commuter arm, Delta Connection. The only changes local passengers might see is an increase in destinations from our airports, which would lead to more competition for the other airlines in our community.

Consolidation is necessary to ensure continued growth and future success in the industry. Modern airlines have facilitated growth, commerce, and travel better and faster than nearly any previous technology, and it is important that they operate in an environment which is fair, as well as competitive.

In the current operating environment, consolidation is the only way to maintain the competitive prices that U.S. passengers have come to expect, while at the same time preserving a safe, efficient, and manageable airline system. ■

E-mail *D*/columnist Eric Kochneff at [eric-kochneff@uiowa.edu](mailto:eric-kochneff@uiowa.edu)

# ARTS & CULTURE

# Consideration kills Guest's mocking bird



## FILM REVIEW

by Soheil Rezayazdi

### For Your Consideration

**When:**

1:15, 3:15, 5:10, 7:10 and 9:50 p.m.

**Where:**

Campus 3

★★½ out of ★★★★

Little known fact: Not everything Christopher Guest touches turns to gold. Sure, he has three hilarious improv-style "mockumentaries" in his résumé (four, if you count *This is Spinal Tap*, which he co-wrote), but the writer/director isn't infallible.

Anyone remember the last time he strayed from the mockumentary? It was in 1998, with the Chris Farley/Matthew Perry "comedy" *Almost Heroes*.

*The comic masterminds behind This is Spinal Tap and A Mighty Wind ditch the 'mockumentary' format for a straight fiction film about Oscar buzz. The last time writer/director Christopher Guest strayed from his tried-and-true formula? 1998's Almost Heroes. Ouch.*

That's not a good sign for *For Your Consideration*, Guest's inglorious return to the straight fiction narrative. As much as it hurts to say, *Consideration* sits closer to *Almost Heroes* than *This is Spinal Tap* on the laugh meter. Although briefly resuscitated by comic masters Fred Willard and Ricky Gervais, Guest's tepid, dated comedy about the lunacy of Oscar buzz stands as a low point in his ad-libbed canon.

Like his mockumentaries, *Consideration* follows a small-time group of performers as they prepare for a decisive performance or moment. As in *Waiting for Guffman*, Guest wants us to laugh at his pitiful characters, whose ambitions far supersede their actual talents. In *Consideration*, we follow the production of an overwrought indie film through

Guest's usual ensemble of actors, including Catherine O'Hara, Eugene Levy, and Jennifer Coolidge. The set becomes transformed when word of potential Oscar nominations begins to spread — a rumor whose flimsy origins began on a movie messageboard site.

The movie-within-a-movie, *Home for Purim*, is at the heart of *Consideration*'s mediocrity. Unlike the arena rock anthems of *This is Spinal Tap* or the silly folk ballads of *A Mighty Wind*, *Home for Purim* provides little to no laughs. Guest clearly wants to lampoon Hollywood and the Academy Awards hoopla, but *Home for Purim* is too over-the-top to resemble anything the Oscars would ever honor. Furthermore, intentionally poor acting is a subtle art, one that's lost on Guest's crew, who instead go for obvious, easy

theatrics (for an example of acting so-bad-it's-believable, see Julianne Moore's porn scenes in *Boogie Nights*).

Outside *Home for Purim*, Guest's jabs at Hollywood seem around 20 years too late. Jokes about Hollywood's Jewish backbone, even if delivered by Gervais ("The Office"), seem worn out. He parodies the need for aging actresses to appear young in Hollywood, for example, but his satire lacks the bite to get anything more than a sympathy laugh.

As he proved in *Best in Show* as an inept dog-show commentator, Willard has the ability to steal entire films. Here, he's trying to save one as an "Entertainment Tonight"-style talk-show host, spouting off such one-liners as, "You know what they say about blind prostitutes — you really have to hand it to



Publicity photo

Christopher Guest rounds up the usual "mockumentarians" (including Jane Lynch and Fred Willard) in *For Your Consideration*, a disappointing satire on filmmaking and Oscar buzz.

them." In a movie where the jokes are safe and predictable, Willard remains a wildcard, his mercurial screen presence throwing *Consideration* gladly off-kilter (to be more specific would be to spoil the primary reason for seeing the film).

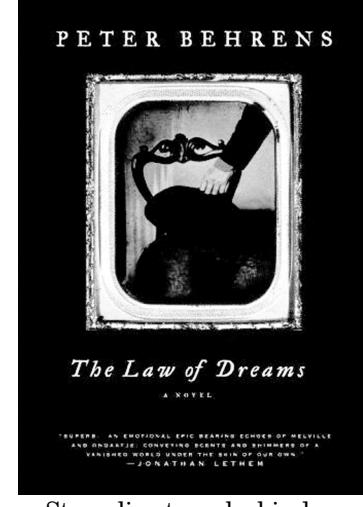
Thus, when the laughs do come, they come in waves, making the rest of the film look even more blah in comparison. In an era in which we have "The Daily Show" and *The*

*Onion*, bland satire doesn't stand a chance at survival. Just look at 2006's *American Dreamz*, a tame political satire that made just \$7 million at the box office, despite its powerhouse cast. *For Your Consideration* suffers from a similar plight. An insipid satire with few laughs and fewer insights, the film brings Guest's winning streak to an unfortunate end.

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

# The hungry road, from Blight to New World

*Author Peter Behrens' character from The Law of Dreams, Fergus O'Brien, escapes one of the 19th century's most devastating national crises: the Irish potato famine. In search of a new life, O'Brien comes to life in Behrens' novel. Tonight at Prairie Lights Books (and on WSUI), Behrens will read from the tale of O'Brien's difficult journey.*



BY BRIGID MARSHALL

THE DAILY IOWAN

After 10 years of "living" with the character of his first novel, writer Peter Behrens emerges with a reading from his latest piece of fiction, *The Law of Dreams*, tonight at Prairie Lights Books.

*The Law of Dreams* and the main character's role in the story symbolize the goal of reaching the Americas during the strife and destruction of Ireland during the mid-1800s. However, Behrens says the story "is not about potatoes or the absence of potatoes," though it takes place during Ireland's well-known famine. Instead, it's about protagonist Fergus O'Brien's hardships as he boards a boat during one of 19th-century Europe's most catastrophic periods.

"For Fergus, the law of dreams is 'keep moving,'" said Behrens. O'Brien holds his own as a teenage Irish immigrant who finds himself amending his life's direction while meeting Canadians (and some Americans) who help shape his new outlook.

## READING

**Author Peter Behrens' *The Law of Dreams* 'Live from Prairie Lights' reading**

**When:** 7 p.m. today  
**Where:** Prairie Lights,  
 15 S. Dubuque St., and WSUI  
**Admission:** Free

Montréal. The driving force behind O'Brien's development as a character was Behrens' connection to the boy's life.

"Fergus O'Brien — I imagine him to be my great, great grandfather," said the novelist. "I always knew the story, so it just came quite naturally."

Behrens struggles to let go of O'Brien's journey to move on to new projects, because he so strongly identifies with his subject; the character came from a story Behrens began a decade ago, and now the writer uses *The Law of Dreams* to pick up where he left off.

"Fergus is a person who is hungry for a lot of things," he

said. "He's looking for some powerful connection to ground him in life."

Behrens' original draft is under wraps, for now, because of his superstitions regarding unfinished pieces. Tackling the novel for the first time, and with the completion of the novel he's currently working on, the author hopes for success with his revamped version.

The author completed his education at Lower Canada College, Concordia University and McGill before moving on to Stanford University's Creative Writing Program, where he landed a Wallace Stegner

fellowship. The scholarship, named after the university's Creative Writing Program founder, is one of Stanford's top scholarships, given to 10 writers in residence each year.

His first short story, "Night Driving," published in 1987, was bought by *The Atlantic Monthly*, then optioned in Hollywood for cinematic release. Although the movie never made it to the silver screen, the opportunity launched Behrens into a second career as a screenwriter — though short-story writing remains his main occupation.

As for *The Law of Dreams*, Behrens said, "I think it has

some potential as a film or TV series."

However, he is unsure of its capacity to become a motion picture, saying that difficulty arises because it's a period novel that would demand heavy financial backing and elaborate settings.

Although the story is set back in time, Behrens maintains that his character desires the same things all people desire.

"I saw the world through Fergus for a long time," he said. "He's definitely going to throw a shadow into my next book."

E-mail D/reporter **Brigid Marshall** at: brigid-marshall@uiowa.edu

## The holidays are always happy at Hancher! Share the season with family and friends!



### Dianne Reeves, Christmas Time Is Here

Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30 pm

Jazz diva and Grammy-award winner Dianne Reeves returns to Hancher to heat up the holidays with her personal brand of Christmas cheer. Her love of the season is as unmistakable as her luscious voice.

### Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano, Fiesta Navidad

Sunday, Dec. 10, 4 pm

Head south for the holidays with a trip to Hancher! These masterful musicians will change an Iowa winter into a Mexican holiday fiesta with the help of some high-spirited dancers. And the party is just getting started when the music ends — enjoy a fiesta featuring Mexican treats in the lobby after the show!

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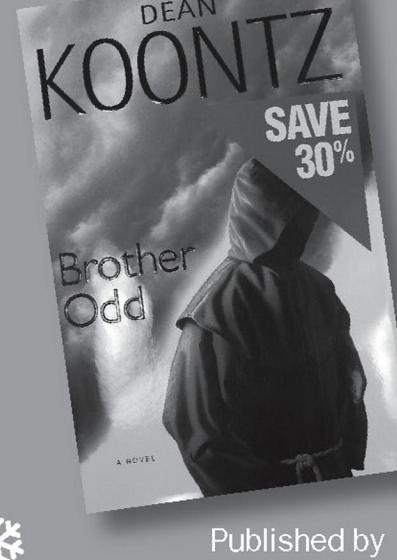
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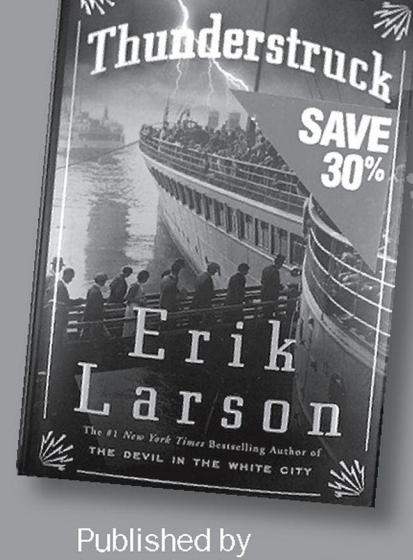


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Mom loves to watch movies

Meghan likes to read

Grandpa needs a new hat

Richard loves Hawkeye football

Jake wants new headphones

Sarah needs an Iowa sweatshirt

Roommate wants books

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hawkeye  
holiday

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## SCOREBOARD

### NFL

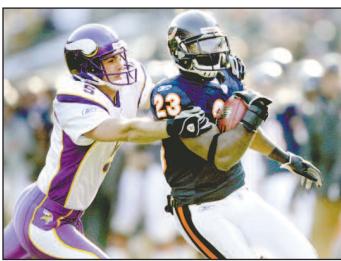
Chicago 23, Minnesota 13  
N.Y. Jets 38, Green Bay 10  
Atlanta 24, Washington 14  
Arizona 34, St. Louis 20  
Tennessee 20, Indianapolis 17  
San Diego 24, Buffalo 21  
New England 28, Detroit 21

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2006



**Q:** How many postseason games have the New Orleans Saints won in their 40-year history?

**Answer on page 2B**



### NFL

#### Bears 23, Vikings 13

CHICAGO (AP) — Devin Hester ran into the record book again. Ricky Manning Jr. returned an interception for a touchdown, and the Chicago Bears claimed their second-straight NFC North title.

Hester tied an NFL record with his fourth touchdown return, and Manning ran an interception back 54 yards to lead Chicago to a 23-13 victory over the Minnesota Vikings on a frigid Sunday afternoon.

Chicago has a five-game lead on the Vikings with four games remaining and also has the NFC's best record by two games.

And the Bears (10-2) overcame another shaky performance by quarterback Rex Grossman, who finished with a 1.3 rating after carrying a 0.0 into the final period. The Vikings couldn't overcome Brad Johnson's, however.

With the temperature around 20 and wind chill in single digits, Grossman did little to stop the debate about whether he should start. And Johnson was replaced.

With some fans calling for backup Brian Griese after a loss at New England, Grossman was 6-of-19 for 34 yards and threw three interceptions for the second-straight week — but stayed in the game. He has 14 interceptions in the last seven games, after throwing three in the first five.

He had two in the first half, and his first attempt of the third quarter was intercepted.

As bad as Grossman was, Johnson wasn't any better.

The veteran was 11-of-26 with 73 yards and four interceptions before being lifted for Brooks Bollinger late in the third quarter, and his last two passes ended in the Bears' hands.

Back from a one-game suspension for his role in a Los Angeles restaurant altercation, Manning picked off his team-leading fifth pass at the Chicago 46. He returned it for his first touchdown this year, to make it 14-6 in the third quarter. On the next play from scrimmage, Brian Urlacher intercepted Johnson.

That led to a 23-yard touchdown run by Cedric Benson and a quarterback change for the Vikings.

Benson had 60 yards on nine carries against a defense that was averaging a league-low 56.6 yards. And Thomas Jones added 32 on 12 attempts for the Bears.

### SWIMMING

#### AquaHawks finish

#### 4th, 7th

Although the books closed with no Hawkeyes prevailing atop the leaderboard, the Iowa men and women swimmers and divers came away from the Ohio State Invitational with spirits still afloat.

The women placed fourth among 12 teams in the highly respected meet, finishing behind South Carolina, Minnesota, and Utah. The men finished seventh, with Big Ten foe Minnesota taking first and host Ohio State following.

Hawkeye junior Dragos Agache led the squad with a second-place finish in the 100 breaststroke and third in the 200. Senior Emmy Haeger finished third the 100 breaststroke, and sophomore Ashley Dell was fourth to touch the wall in the 1,650 freestyle for the women.

The next Iowa meet has Cy-Hawk implications; the Hawkeye women face off against nemesis Iowa State on Friday at 6 p.m.

— by Eric Mandel

New Orleans 34, San Francisco 10  
Cleveland 31, Kansas City 28, OT  
Jacksonville 24, Miami 10  
Houston 23, Oakland 14  
Dallas 23, N.Y. Giants 20  
Pittsburgh 20, Tampa Bay 3  
Seattle 23, Denver 20

# SPORTS

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: BULLDOGS ALMOST BITE HAWKS, 2B**

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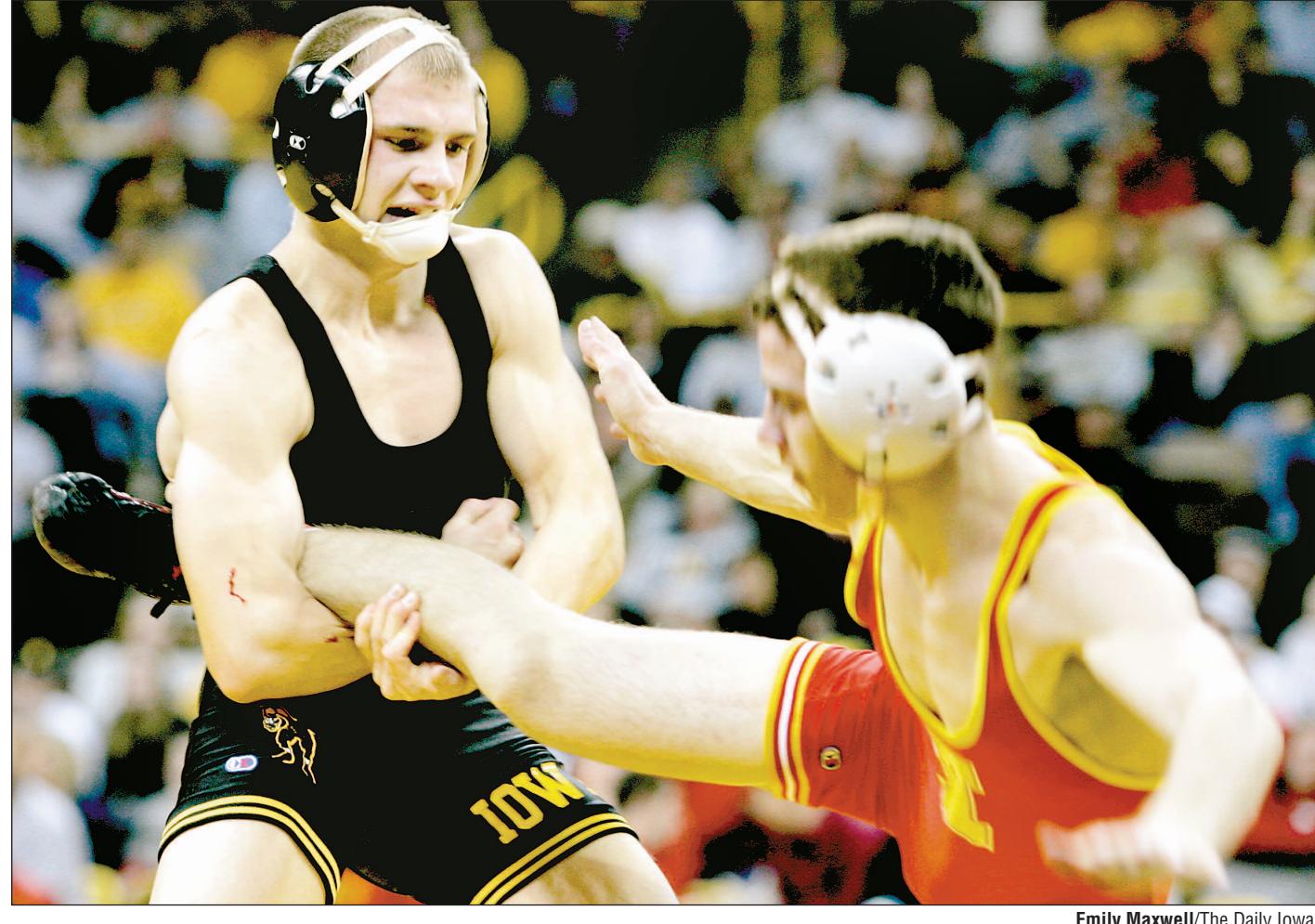
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## Wrestlers shock Cyclones



Emily Maxwell/The Daily Iowan

Iowa wrestler Charlie Falck takes Iowa State's Nick Fanthorpe down during the Iowa-Iowa State wrestling meet on Sunday in Carver-Hawkeye. Iowa won the meet, 24-6, before a crowd of 13,732.

BY JASON BRUMMUND

THE DAILY IOWAN

If Mark Perry set the tone, Iowa sophomore Dan Erekson swayed the momentum with an improbable win Sunday.

Erekson upset sixth-ranked Kurt Backes at 197 to kick off a string of five-straight victories for the Hawkeye wrestlers, as No. 8 Iowa earned a decisive, but close, 24-6 win over No. 4 Iowa State in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Sunday before the fifth-largest wrestling crowd in the venue's history.

Iowa claimed eight of the 10 matches — six decided by two points or fewer — as Hawkeye coach Tom Brands won his first in-state battle.

*Mark Perry sparked the fire, but it was a focused effort almost across the board that widened the margin of victory*

"It's a great feeling to come out here and put a whippin' on them like that," said red-shirt freshman Ryan Morningstar, who knocked off top-ranked Trent Paulson in the dual's biggest shocker.

Temps flared following second-ranked Perry's 6-4 overtime victory over Iowa State's Travis Paulson at 165, and the friction appeared to spark both teams.

Cyclone coach Cael Sanderson jawed with the official

after the match, prompting Brands and assistant Dan Gable to join the lively conversation, which clearly displayed the renewed focus on the rivalry.

In Erekson's back-and-forth match, the sophomore totaled four takedowns, including two in the final 1:31 of the third period. Backes earned an escape with 59 seconds left to cut the deficit to 9-8, but Erekson's final takedown with 35 sec-

onds remaining sealed the win.

Backes lost for the first time in 10 matches this season.

"You talk about definitive," Brands said. "It's such a big win for him, mentally."

Matt Fields (heavyweight), Charlie Falck (125), Mario Galanakis (133), and Alex Tsirtsis (141) followed Erekson's lead, and Iowa built an insurmountable 21-3 lead with five-straight decisions. Tsirtsis' 4-1 win over Iowa City native Mitch Mueller clinched the win.

At 165, Morningstar earned an escape with 1:18 left in the third period to upset Trent Paulson, a two-time All-American and previously undefeated this season.

SEE WRESTLING, PAGE 3B

## IOWA MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Haluska dooms Coppin St.



CHECK OUT HIGHLIGHTS OF ADAM HALUSKA'S CAREER NIGHT AT [DITV](#) — ON [DAILYIOWAN.COM](#), CABLE CHANNEL 17, OR CAMPUS 4.

BY DAN PARR

THE DAILY IOWAN

Adam Haluska doesn't deal with your standard spotlight. He fights the glare of a heavy, big, bright one — or so his coach tells us.

Whatever the strength of the bulb, opposing teams wouldn't mind if someone cranked it up a few more notches. Haluska's season, and perhaps his career, hit a new high last weekend in Iowa's Hawkeye Challenge tournament-clinching win over Coppin State, 83-67.

"He didn't start off shooting the ball real well, but in the last 12 minutes, it was obvious who was putting his team on his back," Steve Alford said.

Haluska scored a career-high 31 points, grabbed nine rebounds, and dished out nine assists while gaining Challenge MVP honors. Senior Mike Henderson, who had yet to play this year because of a broken wrist, looked uncomfortable in his debut and scored one point in eight minutes while going 0-3 from the field.



Lindsey Walters/The Daily Iowan  
Hawkeye Adam Haluska drives past Coppin State defenders during the final game of the Hawkeye Challenge in Carver-Hawkeye on Dec. 2. Haluska scored a personal best of 31 points, 23 during the second half, and helped the Hawkeyes win, 83-67.

Iowa improved to 4-4 after netting its second-straight win and further extended itself from its last streak — four consecutive losses.

"The guy we were trying to shut down was No. 1," said Coppin State coach Fang Mitchell. "What's his name again? Haluska? I don't even

need to tell you what kind of job we did on that one."

"I need to go back to the drawing board, because he killed us."

Coppin State trimmed a 14-point halftime deficit to two with just more than nine minutes remaining in the contest.

The taming of the burden-

blaring spotlight began in response to the 22-10 Eagle run.

Haluska, the third-leading scorer in the Big Ten at 18.5 points per game, snapped off 18 of his team's 21 points in a 4½-minute span — during which time, the Hawkeye lead increased to 16.

SEE HALUSKA, PAGE 3B

## Iowa draws Texas

*Iowa will face Texas in the Dec. 30 Alamo Bowl. The Longhorns are 9-3 after dropping a pair of games late in the season.*

BY JASON BRUMMUND

THE DAILY IOWAN

For the second time in three years, Iowa will face the defending national champion in a bowl game.

Texas accepted an invitation to the Alamo Bowl on Sunday to meet the Hawkeyes in the Dec. 30 game. The Longhorns (9-3) notched their ninth-straight bowl appearance and 46th all-time, second-most in college football.

"Under the leadership of head coaches Mack Brown and Kirk Ferentz, Texas and Iowa truly are the gold standard in college football," said Bob Cohen, the Alamo Bowl chairman. "We couldn't be more excited with this matchup."

Less than a month ago, Texas eyed a bid to a third-straight Bowl Championship Series game, but then the Longhorns dropped their last two games to Kansas State and Texas A&M.

Texas' 12-7 loss to the Aggies on Nov. 24 prevented it from reaching last weekend's Big 12 championship game, with a shot at the Fiesta Bowl. The Longhorns' only other loss came in September, against top-ranked Ohio State, 24-7, when they were No. 2.

SEE TEXAS, PAGE 3B

## IOWA WRESTLING

## Carver fireworks

*The Hawkeyes upset their No. 4-ranked rivals in Carver-Hawkeye Arena, as bad blood spills during and after the meet*

BY IAN SMITH

THE DAILY IOWAN

Raw emotion flooded Carver-Hawkeye Arena, and a frenzy of hungry Hawkeye wrestlers attacked Iowa State in dominating style.

Iowa steamrollered the No. 4 Cyclones, 24-6, in a meet in which both benches cleared like some sort of baseball melee, and two Hawkeye wrestlers upset their highly ranked counterparts.

A juiced-up crowd of 13,732 fans — the 11th largest in school and NCAA dual-meet history — and the opening matchup between No. 2 Mark Perry and No. 4 Travis Paulson led to fireworks right from the start.

Perry, trailing 4-1 at one point, refused to lose to Paulson for the first time in his career. Perry, then 3-0 against the

SEE RIVALS, PAGE 3B

## NEWS

## SPORTS 'N' STUFF

## 2006-07 BOWL SCHEDULE

**Subject to Change**  
 Dec. 19 Poinsettia Bowl at San Diego, TCU vs. Northern Illinois, 7 p.m. (ESPN2)  
 Dec. 21 Las Vegas Bowl, BYU vs. Oregon, 7 p.m. (ESPN)  
 Dec. 22 New Orleans Bowl, Troy vs. Rice, 7 p.m. (ESPN2)  
 Dec. 23 Papa John's Bowl at Birmingham, Ala., South Florida vs. East Carolina, 12 p.m. (ESPN2)  
 Dec. 23 New Mexico Bowl at Albuquerque, New Mexico vs. San Jose State, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)  
 Dec. 23 Armed Forces Bowl at Fort Worth, Texas, Tulsa vs. Utah, 7 p.m. (ESPN)  
 Dec. 24 Hawaii Bowl at Honolulu, Arizona State vs. Hawaii, 7 p.m. (ESPN)  
 Dec. 26 Motor City Bowl at Detroit, Central Michigan vs. Middle Tennessee, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)  
 Dec. 27 Emerald Bowl at San Francisco, Florida State vs. UCLA, 7 p.m. (ESPN)  
 Dec. 28 Independence Bowl at Shreveport, La., Oklahoma State vs. Alabama, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)  
 Dec. 28 Holiday Bowl at San Diego, California vs. Texas A&M, 7 p.m. (ESPN)  
 Dec. 28 Texas Bowl at Houston, Rutgers vs. Kansas State, 7 p.m. (NFL)  
 Dec. 29 Music City Bowl at Nashville, Tenn., Clemson vs. Kentucky, 12 p.m. (ESPN)  
 Dec. 29 Sun Bowl at El Paso, Missouri vs. Oregon State, 1 p.m. (CBS)  
 Dec. 29 Liberty Bowl at Memphis, Tenn., South Carolina vs. Houston, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)  
 Dec. 29 Insight Bowl at Tempe, Ariz., Minnesota vs. Texas Tech, 6:30 p.m. (NFL)  
 Dec. 29 Champ Sports Bowl at Orlando, Fla., Maryland vs. Purdue, 7 p.m. (ESPN)  
 Dec. 30 Meineke Bowl at Charlotte, N.C., Navy vs. Boston College, 12 p.m. (ESPN)  
 Dec. 30 Alamo Bowl at San Antonio, Iowa vs. Texas, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)  
 Dec. 30 Chick-fil-A Bowl at Atlanta, Virginia Tech vs. Georgia, 7 p.m. (ESPN)  
 Dec. 31 MPC Computers Bowl at Boise, Idaho, Nevada vs. Miami, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)  
 Jan. 1 Outback Bowl at Tampa, Fla., Penn State vs. Tennessee, 10 a.m. (ESPN)  
 Jan. 1 Cotton Bowl at Dallas, Auburn vs. Nebraska, 10:30 a.m. (FOX)  
 Jan. 1 Capital One Bowl at Orlando, Fla., Wisconsin vs. Arkansas, 12 p.m. (ABC)  
 Jan. 1 Gator Bowl at Jacksonville, Fla., Georgia Tech vs. West Virginia, 12 p.m. (CBS)  
 Jan. 1 Rose Bowl at Pasadena, Calif., Southern Cal vs. Michigan, 4 p.m. (ABC)  
 Jan. 1 Fiesta Bowl at Glendale, Ariz., Boise State vs. Oklahoma, 7:30 p.m. (FOX)  
 Jan. 2 Orange Bowl at Miami, Wake Forest vs. Louisville, 7 p.m. (FOX)  
 Jan. 3 Super Bowl at New Orleans, LSU vs. Notre Dame, 6 p.m. (FOX)  
 Jan. 6 International Bowl at Toronto, Cincinnati vs. Western Michigan, 11 a.m. (ESPN2)  
 Jan. 7 GMAC Bowl at Mobile, Ala., Southern Miss. vs. Ohio, 7 p.m. (ESPN)  
 Jan. 8 BCS National Championship at Glendale, Ariz., Ohio State vs. Florida, 7 p.m. (FOX)

Arizona 34, St. Louis 20  
 Tennessee 20, Indianapolis 17  
 San Diego 24, Buffalo 21  
 New England 28, Detroit 21  
 New Orleans 34, San Francisco 10  
 Cleveland 31, Kansas City 28, OT  
 Jacksonville 24, Miami 10  
 Houston 23, Oakland 14  
 Dallas 23, N.Y. Giants 20  
 Pittsburgh 20, Tampa Bay 3  
 Seattle 23, Denver 20  
**Today's Game**  
 Carolina at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.  
**Thursday, Dec. 7**  
 Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.  
 Thursday at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.

## NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**  
 Atlantic Division W L Pct GB  
 New Jersey 7 9 .438 —  
 Toronto 7 10 .412  $\frac{1}{2}$   
 Boston 5 10 .333 1 $\frac{1}{2}$   
 New York 6 13 .316 2 $\frac{1}{2}$   
 Philadelphia 5 11 .313 2  
**Southeast** W L Pct GB  
 Orlando 13 5 .722 —  
 Atlanta 7 8 .467 4 $\frac{1}{2}$   
 Miami 7 9 .438 5  
 Washington 6 10 .375 6  
 Charlotte 5 12 .294 7 $\frac{1}{2}$   
**Central** W L Pct GB  
 Detroit 11 6 .647 —  
 Cleveland 10 7 .588 1  
 Indiana 9 9 .500 2 $\frac{1}{2}$   
 Chicago 7 9 .438 3 $\frac{1}{2}$   
 Milwaukee 6 10 .375 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest** W L Pct GB  
 Dallas 12 4 .750 —  
 San Antonio 12 5 .706  $\frac{1}{2}$   
 Houston 11 5 .688 1  
 New Orleans 8 8 .500 4  
 Memphis 4 12 .250 8  
**Northwest** W L Pct GB  
 Utah 14 4 .778 —  
 Denver 10 5 .667 2 $\frac{1}{2}$   
 Minnesota 7 9 .438 6  
 Seattle 7 11 .389 7  
 Portland 6 12 .333 8  
**Pacific** W L Pct GB  
 L.A. Lakers 11 5 .688 —  
 Phoenix 9 6 .600 1 $\frac{1}{2}$   
 Sacramento 8 7 .533 2 $\frac{1}{2}$   
 Golden State 9 8 .529 2 $\frac{1}{2}$   
 L.A. Clippers 8 8 .500 3

**Sunday's Games**

Charlotte 97, Detroit 89  
 Minnesota 95, Philadelphia 84  
 Atlanta 107, Portland 96  
 L.A. Clippers 116, Orlando 91  
**Today's Games**

Dallas at Washington, 6 p.m.  
 Memphis at New York, 6:30 p.m.  
 Golden State at San Antonio, 7 p.m.  
 Boston at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.  
 Milwaukee at Utah, 8 p.m.  
 Orlando at Sacramento, 9 p.m.  
 Indiana at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

**NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	3	0	.750	281	165
N.Y. Jets	7	5	0	.583	241	238
Buffalo	5	7	0	.417	212	249
Miami	5	7	0	.417	197	222
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	10	2	0	.883	325	251
Jacksonville	7	5	0	.583	259	274
Houston	5	7	0	.417	211	294
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	3	0	.750	256	160
Cincinnati	7	5	0	.583	220	240
Pittsburgh	5	7	0	.417	259	257
Cleveland	4	8	0	.333	201	266
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Diego	10	2	0	.833	377	237
Kansas City	7	5	0	.583	257	236
Denver	7	5	0	.583	215	188
Oakland	2	10	0	.167	146	242

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	8	4	0	.667	332	218
N.Y. Giants	6	6	0	.500	265	255
Philadelphia	5	6	0	.455	267	239
Washington	4	8	0	.333	213	274
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	8	4	0	.667	310	251
Carolina	6	5	0	.545	189	190
Atlanta	6	6	0	.500	227	250
Tampa Bay	3	9	0	.250	145	272
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Chicago	10	2	0	.833	318	150
Minnesota	5	7	0	.417	211	231
Green Bay	4	8	0	.333	219	324
Detroit	2	10	0	.167	216	294
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	8	4	0	.667	260	263
San Francisco	5	7	0	.417	200	319
St. Louis	5	7	0	.417	242	287
Arizona	3	9	0	.250	221	284

**x-chinned division**

**Thursday's Games**

Cincinnati 13, Baltimore 7

**Sunday's Games**

Chicago 23, Minnesota 13

N.Y. Jets 38, Green Bay 10

Atlanta 24, Washington 14

## HAWKEYE SPORTS SCHEDULE

**Tuesday**

- Men's Basketball vs. Northern Iowa, Carver-Hawkeye Arena, 7:05 p.m.

**Wednesday**

- Women's track intersquad meet, TBA

**Thursday**

- Women's Basketball at UW Green

**A:** One. In the 2000-01 season, the Saints got their only postseason victory over the defending champion St. Louis Rams, 31-28.

## Commentary

## Pursuing the not-so-trivial



BOBBY LOESCH

*DI reporter Bobby Loesch ventures into the world of sports trivia competition, and the lesson that he learns is sure to endure*

At 9:43 p.m. on Dec. 2, less than an hour away from the start of the intramural sports-trivia contest, I couldn't help but glance at the clock with a nervous stare.

My editor sent me to capture the experience with my words, but as the start neared, I felt unsure and even a little intimidated.

Why? The possibility of an early exit.

My mentality was if a sports reporter gets it handed to him in sports trivia, doesn't that make him a little less credible? It'd be like if Adam Haluska got dominated in intramural basketball. Maybe I was just thinking too highly of myself.

I did my best to brush up on my sports knowledge, looking up professional and college champions of the last century or so. Did you know that some school named La Salle defeated Bradley to capture the 1954 men's basketball NCAA Tournament championship? Me neither.

The research ended up being for a lost cause, because about two hours later, eliminated, I had learned a very important fact of life.

The lesson: With sports, nobody knows anything, except for the few people who know everything and the few people who know nothing. That sounds complicated, but it's not.

Sure, there are people such as Ron Jaworski breaking down out patterns like a brilliant scout, but on

the flip side, there are people such as Skip Bayless, who really does nothing but attempt to position himself on the controversial side of every major sporting issue.

It isn't about these elite and idiotic guys, though. The sports world is mostly filled with everyone else in between — using opinions and knowledge to miss and hit the proverbial mark about equally. But enough philosophy.

The contest began with a 50-question test. There were 25 multiple-choice, 15 fill-in-the-blank, and 10 matching questions. With prompts such as, "What was the original location of the Chicago Bears?" and "What athlete had the nickname Grandma-ma?" I wished my math tests in high school had been this enjoyable.

There were about 25 guys — no women — at the start of the contest, packed inside a comfortable lounge room in the Field House. People cheered and jeered at the Big 12 championship game on a small corner TV as I arrived, but as soon as the test was handed out, everybody shifted to business. Around 20 minutes later, the results were announced.

The high score was 34 and the low was 12 — "achieved" by former *DI* sports reporter Alex Yank.

"This is a new low for me," he said.

I notched a 23, right in the middle of the pack.

The champion ended up being a guy named Nick Cron, a senior business-management major. In the final round of oral questions, he blew past two co-finalists with his knowledge of former women's collegiate basketball champions. Make no mistake, this guy knew his stuff.

"I don't want to come off as nerdy," Cron said as he walked out of the Field House with a victory under his belt and a champion T-shirt in hand.

He attributed his success to loads of ESPN.com and watching a lot of sports on TV.

"My mom also bought me a basketball almanac when I was younger to encourage me to read," he said.

The Iowa City native even gave some insight to aspiring sports-trivia competitors looking to attain his level of knowledge.

"Spend some more time on the Internet, and watch women's basketball," Cron said.

So, maybe that's the real lesson.

E-mail *DI* columnist **Bobby Loesch** at: robert-loesch@uiowa.edu

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IOWA 24, IOWA STATE 6

# Perry leads wrestlers past ISU

## WRESTLING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Morningstar, who lost a 3-2 decision against second-ranked Brian Stith of Arizona State a week ago, scored a first-period takedown at the 2:33 mark before Paulson chipped away with a pair of escapes in the first and second periods.

After Morningstar's third-period escape, the Lisbon, Iowa, native fended off Paulson's attacks to hang on to the 3-2 upset.

"It's a big confidence booster and shows that I can wrestle with anybody and beat anybody I want," said Morningstar, whose victory caused the crowd's loudest eruption, even though the team result was already determined.

"I knew they'd stick around for it. There's no better place than Carver-Hawkeye Arena to win a big match like that."

E-mail *D*/reporter Jason Brummond at jason-brummond@uiowa.edu

## WRESTLING: HAWKEYES VS. CYCLONES

Iowa 24, Iowa State 6

**165** – Perry (Iowa) dec. Paulson, 6-4 (OT)  
**174** – Luedke (Iowa) dec. Bertolino, 6-4  
**184** – Varner (ISU) dec. Keddy, 6-2  
**197** – Erekson (Iowa) dec. Backes, 11-9  
**Hwt.** – Fields (Iowa) dec. Zabriskie, 6-5  
**125** – Falck (Iowa) dec. Fanthorpe, 6-5  
**133** – Galanakis (Iowa) dec. Gallick, 6-1  
**141** – Tsirtsis (Iowa) dec. Mueller, 4-1  
**149** – Sanderson (ISU) dec. Grunder, 9-8  
**157** – Morningstar (Iowa) dec. Paulson, 3-2

# Sparks light up Carver

## RIVALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Cyclone, staged a late comeback in regulation by scoring a takedown with only 13 seconds remaining in the third period. The Stillwater, Okla., native tweaked a gimp knee in the final seconds, and the brief time-out before overtime set the Iowa State coaches off.

As Perry was attended to on the mat, Cyclone head coach Cael Sanderson and Iowa assistant Dan Gable appeared to exchange words. Sanderson said Gable "flipped the bird" to Iowa State, but Gable denied that, saying he only gestured with his arms.

With 22 seconds remaining in the first sudden-death period, Perry used a neck wrench to tally two points for the victory. A jubilant Iowa and upset Iowa State bench exploded onto the mat, yelling and gesturing to each other under the deafening noise of the near-capacity crowd.

The victory set the tone for the rest of the night.

"This is what it's all about, wrestling here at Iowa," the 165-pound Perry said. "I don't want to sound arrogant or anything, but I knew I was going to come back and win. I wasn't really worried when I got down 4-1. I think that has a lot to do with the coaches and how I've been training."

The momentum fueled the Hawkeyes to victories in eight of 10 matches, and upsets by Dan Erekson (197) over No. 6 Kurt Backes and Ryan Morningstar (157) over No. 1 Trent Paulson put an exclamation point on Tom Brands' first statement meet.

The boisterous Iowa faithful motivated their wrestlers to wins in six of seven matches decided by two points or fewer.

"I think it was a tone-setter," Brands said. "Mark Perry took that match away."

The hostility between the two squads continued long after the meet was in hand. In his post-meet press conference, Sanderson said his wrestlers were in better shape and "pushed Iowa around the mat." Coupled with the comments about Gable making an obscene gesture, Brands fought fire with fire.

"We've only had Mark Perry for one year; [Iowa State assistant] Tim Hartung had him for two, and we're still trying to work the kinks out," Brands said.

Friendly handshakes and polite congratulations are the norm in college athletics, but this rivalry may never take on that persona. If Sunday was any indication, the annual battle between the Cyclones and Hawkeyes should have generated enough electricity to light the venue.

E-mail *D*/reporter Ian Smith at lan-w-smith@uiowa.edu

## BIJOU NOW PLAYING DEC 1 - 7

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## CAMPUS 3

Old Capitol Mall • Iowa City, Iowa  
 337-7484

## BORAT (R)

FRI-SUN 1:00, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:30  
 MON-THU 5:20, 7:20, 9:30

## FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS (R)

FRI-SUN 1:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40  
 MON-THU 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (PG-13)  
 FRI-SUN 1:15, 3:15, 5:10, 7:10, 9:50  
 MON-THU 5:10, 7:10, 9:50

## SYCAMORE 12

Sycamore Mall • Iowa City, Iowa  
 351-8383

## THE NATIVITY STORY (PG)

12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

## TURISTAS (R)

12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35

## BOBBY (R)

12:55, 3:40, 6:25, 9:10

TENACIOUS D IN THE PICK OF DESTINY (R)

12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

## DECK THE HALLS (PG)

12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35

## DÉJÀ VU (PG-13)

12:45, 3:35, 6:25, 9:15

## CASINO ROYALE (PG-13)

12:00, 3:10, 6:20, 9:30

## HAPPY FEET (PG)

12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:45

## THE QUEEN (PG-13)

12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

## BABEL (R)

6:10 & 9:15

THE SANTA CLAUS 3 (G)

12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

## THE PRESTIGE (PG-13)

12:15 & 3:15

## THE DEPARTED (R)

1:00, 4:40, 8:00

## CORAL RIDGE 10

Coral Ridge Mall • Coralville, Iowa  
 625-1010

THE NATIVITY STORY (PG)

11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30

## DÉJÀ VU (PG-13)

12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:30

## THE FOUNTAIN (PG-13)

7:10 & 9:20

## DECK THE HALLS (PG)

12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

## HAPPY FEET (PG)

11:45, 1:00, 2:15, 3:30, 4:45, 6:30, 9:00

CASINO ROYALE (PG-13)

12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

## STRANGER THAN FICTION (PG-13)

12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:20

## THE SANTA CLAUS 3 (G)

12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00

## FLUSHED AWAY (PG)

12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:00

VAN WILDER DEUX: THE RISE OF TAJ (R)

12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15

## HALUSKA SCORES

Adam Haluska is establishing himself as one of the Big Ten's biggest scorers early in his final college season. A glance at his top-five scoring outings as a Hawkeye:

**Dec. 2: Iowa 83, Coppin State 67.**

• 31 points, nine rebounds, nine assists. Shot 10-18, 6-12 3-point field goals.

**Jan. 14: Iowa 80, Penn State 76.**

• 29 points, three rebounds, two assists. Shot 9-17, 6-10 3-point field goals.

**Nov. 13: Iowa 75, The Citadel 53.**

• 29 points, five rebounds, six assists. Shot 8-16, 7-7 free throws.

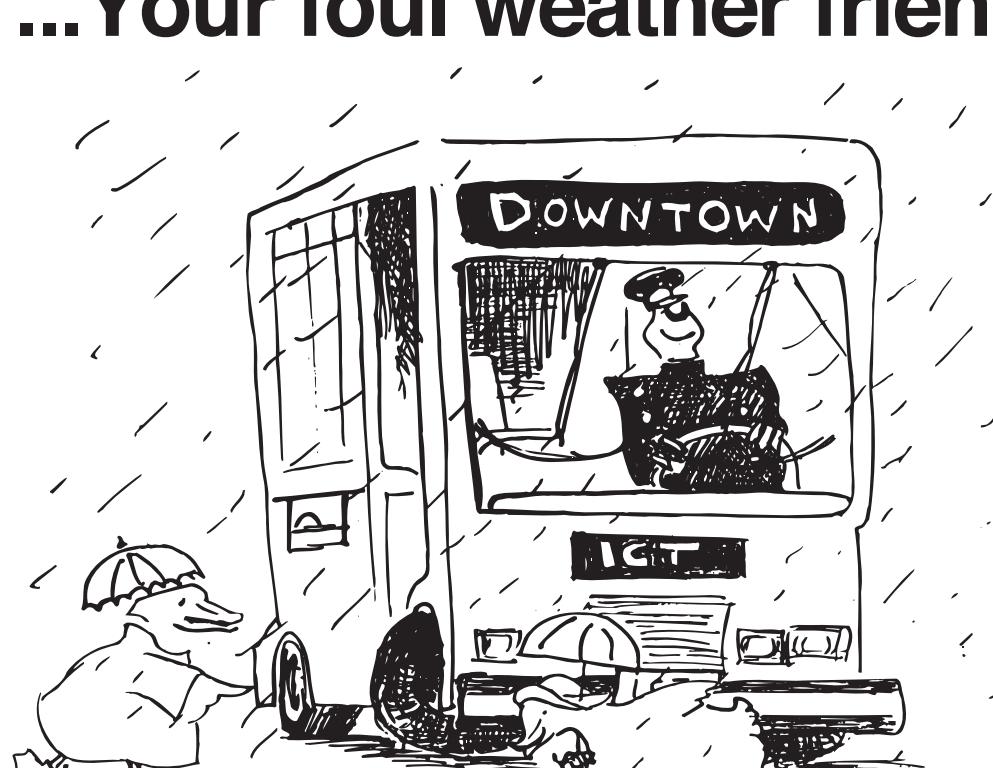
**Nov. 25: Iowa 64, Arizona State 67.**

• 24 points, four rebounds, three assists, two steals. Shot 8-17.

**Feb. 5, 2005: Iowa 64, Michigan State 75.**

• 24 points, six rebounds. Shot 7-16, 9-11 free throws.

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**NEWS**

# Gymnasts swing into season

*The Hawkeye gymnasts finally get to show off their skills in front of friends, family, and fans at an intrasquad meet*

BY SEAN MONAHAN

THE DAILY IOWAN

While the men and women of the Gold Team celebrated their 299.850 to 299.825 intrasquad triumph over the Black Team with a victory lap around the floor exercise mat in the Field House on Dec. 2, that they even could run proved to be a victory for Iowa.

Entering the meet, keeping the team healthy while getting a first look at the athletes in a competitive environment was important to men's gymnastics head coach Tom Dunn.

"We hoped for a good competition and no injuries, and I don't think we had any injuries that were significant," the coach said.

While he added it was difficult to have specific expectations for the intrasquad showdown, what he witnessed pleased him.

"The guys performed better than they've been performing in practice," he said.

Freshman Dustin Cranmer had a similar view, saying the team is in pretty good shape for this stage of the season.

Dunn, however, is not completely satisfied; he thinks the team has some rough spots the Hawkeyes must work out before their first meet, on Jan. 13.

Yet the head coach does see those patches being overcome with consistent practice.

"We haven't trained for this meet, and by the end of the year, we'll have done our routines many more times and be able to work on the smaller things, and smooth them out, and get fewer execution deductions," he said.

Cranmer agreed the mishaps were nothing to dwell on.

"A lot of guys did mess up, but that was to be expected," he stated.

If the mistakes are righted, the squad certainly has potential to perform well, and if Dunn's comparison with last year's national team,



**Katrina Hawthorne/The Daily Iowan**  
**Tom Buese grimaces as he competes in the even bars at the Black and Gold intrasquad Meet on Dec. 2 in the Field House. Buese, and the rest of the Black team lost by 0.25 of a point to the Gold team.**

which placed sixth, comes true, the men are in for an impressive season.

"I think we're a little ahead [of last year's team]," the leader said, "I think we have a little more depth, a few more guys working each event, and we have higher start values than we had last year."

Sophomore Diego Mercado-Austin shared his coach's evaluation.

"Right now, the team is really focused, and everyone is really motivated," the sophomore said. "I think we are going to do the same or even better. We know we can do better than last year."

The Dec. 2 competition gave fans and coach's a first glance at this year's squad; especially important was the chance to see Dunn's five freshmen in their first collegiate action.

When dealing with the first-year gymnasts, inconsistency is to be expected. While Dunn saw both ups and downs in his young athletes, he witnessed more of the former — the freshmen displayed better form

than previously seen in practice. In addition to providing a first glance at the team, the intrasquad meet served as a warm-up to this season's meets.

The men's coach felt the team gained competitive experience from the event and remarked it is common to see a significant jump in progress from the first meet to the second. He is hoping to see continued improvement build to the next meet in January. With the competition came the chance to be in front of a real set of judges for the first time all year, and Dunn felt that helped his team.

"We like to see who, when they raise their hand, who is ready to go," he said. "Some of them did better than others, but most of them did pretty good."

E-mail *DI* reporter Sean Monahan at: sean-monahan@uiowa.edu

**CHECK BACK TUESDAY TO SEE HOW THE WOMEN GYMNASTS FARED AND WHY THEY'RE DOING THINGS THEY COULDN'T LAST YEAR.**



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Mail or bring to The Daily Iowan, Adler Journalism Building, Room E141. Deadline for submitting items to the calendar column is 1pm two days prior to publication. Items may be edited for length, and in general will not be published more than once. Notices which are commercial advertisements will not be accepted. Please print clearly.

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# DAILY BREAK

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**DITV**

- First in the four-part series on meth use in Iowa.
- The best deals and places to work out in Iowa City.
- Highlights from the *Gazette-Hawkeye Challenge*.

**VIDEO**

- Methamphetamine in

Iowa.

- Coverage of the start of Vilsack's campaign.
- Interview with Nicki Petersburg.
- Interview with Iowa Ice-Hawks head coach.
- The highs and lows of a 24-hour tailgate.
- The No. 1 football team in

the nation, and the Hawkeyes.

- Highlights of the soccer team's split.
- Roommates gone crazy.

**PHOTO**

- Day of the Dead.
- Hawkeye football 2006.

**MP3s**

- Local Bands

**READERS' PHOTOS**

The Daily Iowan is launching a new way for readers to submit and share his or her snapshots of everything from chubby pets to early morning tailgating.

Go to [DAILYIOWAN.COM/READERSPHOTOS](http://DAILYIOWAN.COM/READERSPHOTOS) to submit your classic Hawkeye or Iowa City photos today.



Look for this button throughout the DI for more DITV coverage



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## today's events

To submit events e-mail [daily-iowan@uiowa.edu](mailto:daily-iowan@uiowa.edu), please put date of event in the subject and follow the format in the paper.

- "The Gender Gap in the Workplace: Better, Worse, or Stubbornly the Same?," Jennifer Glass, noon, 349 IMU
- *Factotum*, 7 p.m., Bijou
- "Live from Prairie Lights," Peter Behrens, fiction, 7 p.m., Prairie Lights Books, 15 S. Dubuque, and WSUI
- Teen Actor Meeting, 7 p.m., Hillel

Foundation, 122 E. Market

- CannonSaul, Kilowatt and The Count, with Ed English and Jim Viner, 8 p.m., George's, 312 E. Market
- Open Mike with Jay Knight, 8 p.m., Mill, 120 E. Burlington
- La Moustache, 9 p.m., Bijou

## UITV schedule

Campus channel 4, cable channel 17

- 3 p.m. "Live from Prairie Lights," Tim Miller  
 4 "Live from Prairie Lights," Garrison Keillor Special  
 5 The End of Postwar Japan: (May it Be) A Premature Declaration  
 6:30 Steve Alford Weekly

- News Conference  
 7 "Live from Prairie Lights," Tim Miller  
 8 "Live from Prairie Lights," Garrison Keillor Special  
 9 Ueye: Insight and Information about Student Life, Activities, and Recreation

- 9:30 DITV News, *The Daily Iowan* Daily News Update  
 9:45 Steve Alford Weekly News Conference  
 10:30 DITV News, *The Daily Iowan* Daily News Update  
 11 "Live from Prairie Lights," Tim Miller

For complete TV listings and program guides, check out Arts and Entertainment at [www.dailyiowan.com](http://www.dailyiowan.com).

## DILBERT ®



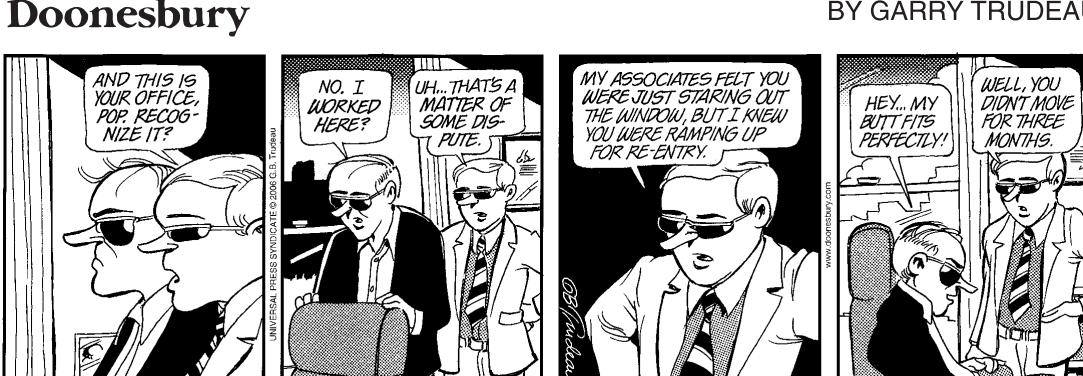
by Scott Adams

## 'NON SEQUITUR'



BY WILEY

## Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

"I guess sooner or later they'll realize the towers aren't back up. I don't know when."

— U.S. Postal Service letter carrier Seprina Jones-Sims, who handles World Trade Center mail at a post office facing Ground Zero. Hundreds of pieces of mail destined for the center still arrive every day, more than five years after the 9/11 attacks, including telephone bills, insurance statements, wine-club announcements, college-alumni newsletters, and even government checks.

## horoscopes

Monday, December 4, 2006

— by Eugenia Last

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Take a look at your life, and you will soon discover that, with a few minor adjustments, you can make things much easier. Good fortune appears to be headed your way, leading to an opportunity to make improvements at home.

**T AURUS** (April 20-May 20): You may not feel too sure about the way things will unfold, but regardless, keep moving along the course you set for yourself. A setback may be due to a reason that you know nothing about. You may have to ask very personal questions to get a straight answer.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Just when you think you have everything in order, you will be broadsided by someone or something you least expect. Your reaction will be what counts. Emotional matters will lead to erratic behavior and poor personal decisions.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): You may not like change, but the sooner you wrap your head around moving with the times, the further ahead you will get. Don't let your personal feelings or emotions slow you down or hold you back.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a stab at doing something creative, entertaining, engaging, or egocentric. Now is the time to try something that you've always wanted to try. Expect to have someone with more experience put restrictions on you.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't count on anything or anyone today. Do for yourself, and forget about promises others have made. You must be careful how you handle others, both professionally and personally. Emotional outbursts can be expected.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Travel, learn, and do things that will allow you to grow. This is a wonderful day to start a creative project or to consider having or doing things with children. Love is hot.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone may be trying to sabotage what you are working so hard to develop. Being a little secretive will probably help you get more accomplished. Don't trust anyone who has too much to say or is overly opinionated.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Everything must balance today if you really want to get ahead. You have to look at everything you do with impartial vision. A problem will arise if you take on too much or you overreact to what's going on around you.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Lighten up a little, and you will discover that people respond to you better. A good look at your current position will help you decipher what you really want to do next. If you aren't enjoying yourself, move on.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have the world by the tail, and you are ready to put things to rest. You can make changes that will alter the course of your life. This is a great day to check out something you've always wanted to do.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have to be very careful how you handle friends, family, and your lover. You will be unpredictable and uncertain about how you feel or what you want. Refrain from making a decision that may be irreversible.

**the ledge**

This column reflects the opinion of the author and not the *DI* Editorial Board, the Publisher, Student Publications Inc., or the University of Iowa.



**ANDREW R. JUHL**

## Ethnic jokes, now in non-offensive form

• How do you keep black children from jumping on the bed? Send them to time-out.

• Did you hear about the Scottish taxicab accident? There was a heavy fog, and the driver couldn't see where he was going.

• How do Chinese parents name their children? Usually, they choose a name that carries a special meaning or that honors a deceased relative.

• How do you keep an Irishman busy for hours? Hire him to repave your driveway.

• How do you tell a Polish airplane in a snowstorm? Look for the registry markings on the plane's tail.

• What do you call it when an Italian has one arm shorter than the other? Unfortunate.

• Did you hear about the new Vietnamese cookbook? It's called *Authentic Vietnamese Cooking: Food from a Family Table*.

• What's a Jewish dilemma? Opposing same-sex marriage at the risk of ostracizing a sizable subset of an already small population.

• What's the difference between a Mexican and a pizza? A Mexican is a native or inhabitant of Mexico, whereas a pizza is flattened bread dough topped with tomato sauce, cheese, and — perhaps — meat, after which it is baked.

• Why don't Puerto Ricans use checkbooks? Trick question! Many of them do.

— Andrew R. Juhl would like to thank his Aboriginal friend, Mike, for collaborating on this list, but he's just too bushed. E-mail him at: andrew-juhl@uiowa.edu.

## CAN'T GET ENOUGH SUDOKU?

CHECK OUT [DAILYIOWAN.COM](http://DAILYIOWAN.COM) FOR MORE PUZZLES

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By Michael Mepham

9									5
	7	8	3	1	2				
2						4			
	3	6	5	4					
4						2			
	2	7	9	6					
6						3			
	4	5	7	3	1				
2							8		

12/4/06  
 Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

SOLUTION TO FRIDAY'S PUZZLE

8	3	6	1	4	5	7	2	9
5	2	1	7	6	9	4	3	8
9	4	7	2	8	3	6	1	5
3	6	8	9	2	4	1	5	7
1	7	9	6	5	8	2	4	3
4	5	2	3	7	1	9	8	6
2	9	3	5	1	6	8	7	4
6	1	4	8	3	7	5	9	2
7	8	5	4	9	2	3	6	1

Sudoku on your cell phone. Enter 783658.com in your mobile Web browser. Get a free game!

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## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

G	O	L	D	E	N	P	A	R	A	C	H	U
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