The Hawkeye Marching Band member Eric Weiss, who performed at the Alamo Bowl but elected not to participate in the Outback Bowl, said the university, “didn’t think any of the band’s expenses were unnecessary.”

“Yeah, we travel a lot and we pay for hotels and everything like that, but we have to abide by the budget,” he said.

Team and staff expenses tallied up to $80,000, which went toward player promotions, transportation, lodging, and equipment. Meals and lodging costs for the players and coaches alone added up to $410,469.Tickets, ranging in price from $50 to $85, were provided to Hawkeye players, coaches, band members, family members, and fans, adding up to $940,317. "They determine prices of tickets, and we simply have to pay for them," Meyer said.

Of the 2,346 tickets the athletics department bought for the game, $4,330 worth of them went unused, according to the budget. The Hawkeye Marching Band’s total expenses came to $1,196,600, which went toward player promotions, transportation, lodging, and equipment. Meals and lodging costs for the players and coaches alone added up to $410,469.

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County officials and the owners of Coral Ridge Mall disagree over the actual worth of the property.

BY COLIN BURKE
THE DAILY IOWAN

Coral Ridge Mall representatives are at odds with Johnson County officials over just how much the shopping center’s property is worth.

The legal dispute is between 6th District Court, General Growth Properties Inc. requesting the $143 million evaluation of the mall by the Johnson County assessor in 2005, arguing that the property is actually only worth $63 million.

The parties are scheduled to go to court on May 3.

Monica Naddeo, the mall’s general manager, said on Wednesday that General Growth is opposing the county’s evaluation because some malls were “used that we didn’t think were businesses,” she said, leading to an overvaluation.

Yet one county official said that which has no problem with businesses appearing assessments, he finds this particular situation frustrating because, he said, “all that public money went into the mall.”

Johnson County Supervisor Rod Sullivan said on Wednesday that General Growth has benefited from tax increment financing and the creation of public roads so shoppers can access the complex.

“Everything has been provided for it … and it turns around, and it doesn’t go to pay the taxes on it,” Sullivan said.

He believed that the tax revenue could aid Coralville, saying in his weekly constituent e-mail that it could fund the annual salaries of nearly 20 police officers.

“They’ll do that for sure,” Sullivan said.

He said he has an “awful lot of faith” in County Assessor Bill Greazel’s assessment, pointing to Greazel’s credentials as one of the top assessors in Iowa, as awarded by the state Department of Revenue.

But Greazel said on Wednesday that the county’s conclusions were, at first, not directly conducted by his office.

Mark Kenney, an appraiser with American Valuation Group, originally assessed the property at $96 million. That number was later decreased in May 2005 by the County’s Board of Review to $89 million.

Greazel said his office chose to use an outside appraiser because Coral Ridge is a regional mall that attracts customers from other areas, such as Iowa City and the Quad Cities.

Therefore, the county wanted to hire someone who has had experiences evaluating those types of properties.

He maintained that his office hadn’t changed how it previously evaluated the property.

“We’re not in it to raise or lower any taxes,” Greazel said.

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The Coral Ridge Mall and Johnson County dispute how much the property is worth, and the matter will wind up in 6th District Court, Coralville could lose $1 million in taxes.

Weekly Deals

For more information on Coral Ridge mall, visit www.coralridge.com.
OBSTACLES AS OPPORTUNITIES

**LIP PARKOUR**

“The fluid movement looks so easy and ‘surreal, like out of a movie,’” Konopka said. “You have to have everything count, to keep going. You can say it’s a metaphor or manifestation of a philosophy.”

— Sara Konopka, UI senior

Konopka, a former cross-country runner, began to practice parkour without instructions and she and a friend chose places with obstacles, from children’s play structures in College Green Park to climbing walls between the Science Center and the Linguistics Center.

“You need good running shoes,” Konopka said. “It’s simple. It’s just you and the wall.”

Though the abstract concept of parkour is described by Gauck as “more of a discipline than a sport,” treacres and transverse moves nonetheless train like athletes, and upper body strength, flexibility and endurance are necessary. Konopka said.

“I don’t jump very high, but running gives me muscle strength,” she said. “People who take a lot more serious train in gyms.”

While some disagree whether free-running actually simulates athletics, Konopka and Gauck say gymnastics equipment and children’s jungle gyms are useful in training. Parallel bars, trampoline and foam blocks can all be used to simulate urban obstacles.

“Oddly enough, kids’ parks are a good place to practice,” Gauck said. “You look ridiculous, though.”

Gauck, a North Carolina native, said the Iowa winter inspired for him in the military. “It could be like skateboarding or falling away from a tree,” he said. “Without [Grassley’s] office, we were left to fend for ourselves.”

“Clearly, there was some consternation from people who didn’t see the signs,” Atkins said. “Responding twilling in the area.”

The city received so many complaints during the second weekend that on April 15 City Manager Steve Atkins suspended the towing of cars in the area, pending the towing of cars.

Manager Steve Atkins suspended the towing of cars in the area on the weekend that on April 16 City Councilor Bob Elliott said business would have been used frequently, but Marco’s Taxicab, said the spots were not available at these times for these times.

The city received so many complaints during the second weekend that on April 15 City Manager Steve Atkins suspended the towing of cars in the area.

Manager Steve Atkins suspended the towing of cars in the area:

“Each took or her turn calmly going into Grassley’s office and saying: ‘I suspended the towing of cars in the area on the weekend that on April 16 City Councilor Bob Elliott said business would have been used frequently, but Marco’s Taxicab, said the spots were not available at these times for these times.”

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Recycling center to get upgrade

In one year’s time, recycling in Iowa City could get a boost from the construction of an East Side Recycling Center.

BY STEPHEN SCHMIDT

Residentsofwhoenjoyedplantingtrees, cleaning up garages, and being to ﬂow Obama speak on Earth Day this year may have something else to look forward to next spring — an updated East Side Recycling Center.

The center, a three-phase project that should be completed in three years, will operate with existing programs to increase total recycling capacity.

The Iowa City City Council approved funding for the center in early March as part of the city’s Capital Improvement Program. The center is estimated to cost $3,059,921, according to the program.

“Everything is on time and we’re right on budget on what we’ve built on the East Side,” Fosse said.

“We’re taking our time to make sure we build things the way we want them to go.”

“We’re going slow with this because it is such a new and unusual project,” Fosse said. “We’re taking our time to make sure we build things the way we want them to go.”

There are at present ﬁve recycling bins at the site, which accept glass, metal, newspaper, plastic, and cardboard. The Iowa Valley Habitat ReStore warehouse also reopened at the location in August 2006.

“But we actually added a bin at the new East Side Recycling Center, and it’s a great resource for people to learn about recycling.

Since November 2006, Iowa City has had a recycling center on the East Side at 2401 Scott Blvd. S.E., connected to the ReStore. There are plans to expand the East Side Recycling Center in the next year.

UI hooks up with new broadband network

A new broadband network will connect four Midwest universities, keeping research capabilities competitive.

BY MICHELLE SCOTT

In Greek mythology, Dionysus is the god of the wine world. But to the UI, BOR EAS means up to 1 million times the research capability of a typical broadband connection.

The UI recently co-founded the new Broadband Education and Research network, which will connect the UI with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Iowa State University, and the University of Minnesota.

The recently announced BOR EAS-net will allow the Midwestern universities to work at a higher and more ﬂexible capacity. It also frees schools from cable or Internet company restrictions, officials said.

“So we have something else to look for-ward to next spring — an updated East Side Recycling Center.

Research Participants Invited

The University of Iowa Department of Psychiatry is seeking healthy individuals 18-35 years old who have had panic attacks, or one family member treated for panic disorder. The study will last for weeks and includes the use of an investigational drug. Compensation provided. For details call 1-888-450-8533 or e-mail at brathesc@uiowa.edu for more information.

New Optical Network (BO R E AS) within a network

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The recently announced BOR EAS-net will allow the Midwestern universities to work at a higher and more ﬂexible capacity. It also frees schools from cable or Internet company restrictions, officials said.

“It’s really a neat thing to bring the four universities together, doing something none of us could do on our own,” said Steve Flan gle, the UI’s associate vice president for Information Technology Services.

BO R E AS is the newest addi-tion to the Northern Tier Net-work Consortium, a network that connects universities, research labs, and even state network organizations in the northern United States.

Jay Ford, a UI ITS telecommunica-tions and networking services engineer, said schools in North and South Dakota would likely be candidates for further expansion of the network.

The fibers are already in-ground and did not have to be moved for use in this project.

“The main thing is that this gives us control and ﬂexibility,” Ford said. “Because we own the network, the decisions are ours, and we can tailor it to our needs.”

Flan gle said the cost is close to $100,000 per year, which is only slightly higher than the previous network costs. But the UI is getting much more in capacity and functionality.

The cost incurred by the UI is paid to the University of Minne-sota because it owns the net-work, while the UI and the other schools pay for the right to use the service, Flan gle said. The schools have rights for the next 20 years.

When planning started two years ago, the new network was scheduled for a January 2007 reception at the UI. Flan gle said tasks such as paperwork took longer than expected, keeping the network from being opera-tional until just recently.

“This partnership is a funda-mental piece of the puzzle,” he said.

E-mail: stephen-schmidt@uiowa.edu

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Olmert rejects Gaza offensive

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and his top security officials on Wednesday rejected calls for a massive ground offensive in the Gaza Strip following a renewal of rocket attacks on southern Israel by Hamas.

"They didn't plan any opera-
tion," she said. "They decided to
keep all options open." Hamas already has threat-
ened more attacks, with its spokes-
man saying Tuesday it was ready to kidnap and kill more Israeli soldiers.

The head of the Egyptian security delegation, Col. Assem Tolba, met Wednesday with leaders of factions, including Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and urged them to maintain the truce.

"They intended them to dro-
gue, I hope they are con-
vinced," he told AP by phone.

Senior military officials have called for a wide operation in Gaza to pre-empt Hamas. Oth-
ers, however, have questioned the wisdom of sending ground troops into Gaza's crowded urban landscape. Similar opera-
tions since Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005 have failed to halt the rocket fire.

"Hamas has used the lull to smear some 30 tons of explosives through tun-
els from neighboring Egypt into Gaza. They also say Hamas has sent militants to Iran for training.

In a separate development, senior Egyptian officials said Tuesday it was ready to kidney and kill more Israeli soldiers. Hamas officials said two 

"We are the Board of Regents,"

Gartner said, voicing a comment on the basis of the proposal.

"Maybe ethics wasn't the right word," he said. "Maybe ethics wasn't the right word." I hope they are convinced," he told AP by phone. Senior military officials have called for a wide operation in Gaza to pre-empt Hamas. Others, however, have questioned the wisdom of sending ground troops into Gaza's crowded urban landscape. Similar opera-
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tions since Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005 have failed to halt the rocket fire.
**EDITORIAL**

Take the lead to clean up Iowa River

A recent report released by the American Rivers group ranked the Iowa River as the third most "endangered" river in the nation, marking the fifth time that an Iowa river has been included on the list. The report cited a lack of proper waste treatment in small communities along the river, as well as the discharge of polluted runoffs from agricultural industries. Portions of the river that flow through Johnson County were cited as impaired, and the Iowa City-Cedar Rapids corridor is the focal point for the economies of much of eastern Iowa, including the University of Iowa. It's not just the public health that is impacted by impaired waterways, but the state and city governments of Iowa have failed to enforce reasonable standards to govern pollutant discharge. While many of the worst offenders are in terms of river pollutants don't originate in Iowa City; this community is well-situated to spearhead efforts to clean up the river. Only through Iowa City's leadership will the surrounding communities be prodded into cleaning up their act.

It's frequently the case that just a few people can make a difference, especially if they're vocal and visible. In recent years, more evacuations in Iowa have been prompted by high water. The average everyday public — many cost about $20 a head, albeit that they're older throwing a kegger. Let's discourage the over-21s. It is an image that comes with the territory. It's not just that the result is a kegerg — it's also because he genuinely cares for this country. It's not just a rant; he's really go through with what every Democrat in the country wants." He's implicitly saying to his base, "Hey, look at me, I'm the only one to implicitly drag down our councilors and how much effect they have? Will they be able to really good to be there. He's also said "myTcp makes the Iowa City community event, a Hawkeye community event. That's what tailgating is all about. It's really go through with what every Democrat in the country wants." 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House ignores veto threat, OKs Iraq plan

BY ANNE FLAHERTY

WASHINGTON

A sharply divided House brushed aside a veto threat Wednesday and passed legislation that would allow President Bush to begin withdrawing troops from Iraq, despite his threat to veto the measure.

The 218-208 vote came as the Senate was poised to consider legislation authored by a bipartisan group of Senate leaders. Some Republicans also threatened to invoke a quorum rule if the Senate did not meet on the measure by Thursday.

But in the end, the Senate deferred action on legislation that the White House had said the president would veto.

The House was considering a measure sponsored by Rep. John Boehner of Ohio, the ranking Republican on the House Rules Committee, and Rep. Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland, the Democratic majority leader.

The legislation also included an amendment by Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, a California Republican, ranking Republican on the House Appropriations Committee.

The $124 billion bill would fund the Iraq war for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 and could take away some of the urgency in winding down the war from the new Congress, which convenes in January.

On Capitol Hill, most lawmakers viewed the war as a lost cause, with public support for the war at historic lows and the political climate more than ready for a withdrawal.

But Republican leaders, who have made clear they want to see progress before pulling any troops out of Iraq, were not ready to sign off.

While Bush was confident the bill would ultimately fail — and was not afraid to use the veto threat to sway lawmakers — the president's position was not solid.

The report avoided any judgment about the credibility of the U.N. office, but noted "stark differences" in government statements and "fragmented" and "incomplete" information from Iraqi officials.

It added: "The use of torture, summary execution, and other inhumane treatment have been evident in government detention centres in Iraq to a degree that endangers the credibility in many of its humanitarian functions in Iraq".

The report recommended that the Iraqi government cooperate with the U.N. in allowing an independent investigator to look into allegations of abuse, that the U.N. "continue to consider the need for an independent mechanism in Iraq" and that the U.N. "review the mandate of its representative in Iraq to determine if it should be increased".

But the White House said it would resist the recommendations, insisting that it was "working every day to make sure the government of Iraq combats the abuse of prisoners, especially of religious and ethnic minorities, and unauthorised killings in the Iraqi capital".

"Any report that, by design or malfeasance, fails to reflect the progress that has been made and the steps we are taking to protect all Iraqis — including the march towards democracy — is irresponsible and incomplete," the White House said.

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Bush said he had signed the order, which was expected to draw criticism from some of his fellow Republicans, but also praised the measure.

"I have no more confidence in the plan to withdraw troops, but I do have confidence in the president of the United States," he said.

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CHICAGO — Authorities arrested a former Iowa machinist Wednesday who, they allege, sent pipe bombs to two investment firms in an effort to drive up stock prices in two small companies he had invested in.

Authorities said the bombs, which would have been live had a single wire been connected, came with threatening letters signed “The Bishop.”

John P. Tomkins, 42, a former part-time postal carrier from Dubuque, was arrested on his way to work, and federal agents began searching his home and a storage facility, according to the U.S. attorney’s office in Chicago.

Authorities said they searched for months for the identity of “The Bishop” before Securities and Exchange Commission experts pinpointed Tomkins because of his ownership of a combination of stocks and other securities in Navarre Corp. and 3COM Corp. Investigators also said a car in a photograph sent in one of the packages fit the type Tomkins drives and that his handwriting matched that on some of the envelopes.

Tomkins, a husky man with a mop of dark hair and a mustache, appeared briefly Wednesday afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Judge Sidney I. Schenkier, who ordered him held pending a bond hearing April 30. Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark E. Schneider said the government wants Tomkins locked up pending trial as a flight risk and danger to the community.

Tomkins, a married father of three, said little aside from acknowledging to the judge that he was aware of his rights. His federal defender, Rose Lindsay, declined to comment, and a telephone message left at a number listed for a John Tomkins in Dubuque wasn’t immediately returned.

Investigators have said “The Bishop” mailed more than a dozen letters to financial institutions for 18 months, threatening to harm the recipients and those close to them if the prices of certain stocks did not move to certain levels, often $6.66; the number “666” is associated by many people with Satan. Some of the letters cited the Unabomber and sniper Lee Boyd Malvo and included references to heaven and hell.

“One way I see it, you owe it to us to make things right, or I will make your life as miserable as mine is,” one of the letters read.

A criminal complaint unsealed in Chicago charged Tomkins with one count of mailing a threatening communication with intent to extort, which carries a maximum 20-year prison sentence, and one count of possession of an unregistered explosive device, punishable by up to 10 years.

Tomkins left the Postal Service as a one-day-a-week, fill-in letter carrier last year, before the devices were sent, authorities said.

An affidavit filed by postal inspectors said two parcels containing bombs were mailed Jan. 26 from Rolling Meadows, in Chicago’s northwest suburbs. “There is enough gunpowder and steel shot in that tube to kill anyone in a 10-foot radius when it goes off,” the sender wrote.

One was addressed to a person at Janus Small Cap, a mutual fund, at an address in Denver, officials said. That parcel was forwarded to an office in Chicago. Investigators said the other package was addressed to someone at American Century Investments in Kansas City, Mo. Each letter contained what appeared to be a booby-trapped pipe bomb, officials said. They said the firing circuit was not fully connected, otherwise the device would have exploded, sending out a potentially fatal spray of fragments.

A letter in each parcel said: “BANG!! YOU’RE DEAD,” authorities said.

One letter demanded a rally in the price of New Hope, Minn.-based Navarre’s stock and the other in share prices of 3COM, a networking hardware and software company.

The affidavit describes 16 other letters signed “The Bishop.” Exactly why the letters were signed “The Bishop” was not clear, authorities said.

One theory was that Tomkins was inspired by a Charles Bronson movie, The Mechanic, in which Bronson played an assassin named Arthur Bishop, who leaves a note reading, “Bang, you’re dead.” Federal officials, however, indicated they had no evidence to suggest Tomkins was mimicking the movie.

One letter was postmarked Palatine, another Chicago suburb, on June 9, 2006, addressed to investment management executives, and read: “TIMES UP … IT IS BETTER TO REIGN IN HELL, THAN TO SERVE IN HEAVEN … THE BISHOP.”
SPORTS DESK

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THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2007
WWW.DAILYIOWAN.COM

RAIN SHUTS OUT HAWKEYES

Rain continues to trim the Iowa baseball team’s season. Wednesday’s game against Cornell College was canceled because of lightning delays. The game was not restarted until Friday night, when Dr. Andrews feels comfortable talking to Dr. Andrews last Tuesday. Boggs, Mark’s agent who also worked on Prior’s rotator cuff surgery, reported that Prior had some slight discomfort in his right shoulder, a setback that required a surgery on his right shoulder in 2006 following a career-ending.

Rutgers women’s tennis team seeks to continue its recent success in the Big Ten championships, when they face Ohio State in the quarterfinals on Friday.

BY BOBBY LOESCH

Heading into the Big Ten Tournament as the underdog, the Iowa men’s tennis team is hoping sec-ond time’s a charm versus Indiana.

The Hawkeyes (8-12, 1-7 Big Ten) travel to Greater Columbus, Ohio, for the tournament’s opening round starting Thursday. The ninth-ranked Hoosiers (15-4, 7-1 Big Ten) will be waiting for the winner of Friday’s match.

“We had hoped that the second seed would be the right test for us,” head coach Larissa Libby, who has been on the team since 2001, said Wednesday.

But times have changed since the Hawkeyes previously saw. But Dr. Andrews felt comfortable talking to Dr. Andrews last Tuesday. Boggs, Mark’s agent who also worked on Prior’s rotator cuff surgery, reported that Prior had some slight discomfort in his right shoulder, a setback that required a surgery on his right shoulder in 2006 following a career-ending.

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Men’s track set for Drake

BY SEAN MONAHAN

The Daily Iowan - Iowa City, Iowa - Thursday, April 26, 2007

No golf course is complete without a short game, and similarly, no golf team is complete without a consistent top-to-bottom lineup. Such is the current reality for the Iowa men’s golf team. Coach Adam Finkbiner said, “It’s basically the top two or three that are the most consistent of any team we have.”

While the sprinters are making big strides now, the throwers will eventually be most deserving of such a title — possessing the potential to shoot in the 60s every weekend.

The only thing left for Kaufman is to put together two slots, which will prove vital to the Hawkeyes’ regional qualifications. "If we have a solid No. 1 player and a solid No. 2 player, we have the potential to do great things," Finkbiner said.

"For your last link up to a really good score," he said. "If the top two or three are shooting a good score and our fourth is an 80, that’s really good. It’s harder to get the fourth to shoot under 80, so any portion of the team’s lineup that doesn’t shoot well and doesn’t matter what the score is. It’s very important that we have a fourth and fifth man is to close out the final time he tees off."

"It’s one of the best links in the world, and it’s right here, two blocks away," Kaufman said. "It’s almost like a home course, and we’ve been able to do well on the course and may want to see the course again."

Last week, at the Muirfield Village Invitational in Ohio, Kaufman showed his talent and ultimately led the Hawkeyes to a third place finish behind Ohio State and Purdue. "I’ve never been anywhere before Big Tens," he said. "It’s one of the biggest meets in the world, and it’s right here, two blocks away. It’s almost like a home course, and we’ve been able to do well on the course and may want to see it again."

"It’s your last link up to a really good score," he said. "If the top two or three are shooting a good score and our fourth is an 80, that’s really good. It’s harder to get the fourth to shoot under 80, so any portion of the team’s lineup that doesn’t shoot well and doesn’t matter what the score is. It’s very important that we have a fourth and fifth man is to close out the final time he tees off."
**WOMEN’S TENNIS UPTIME**

Our women are definitely confident that we can beat Ohio State, because they’ve done it. Even though we are the favorite on paper, we think that won’t continue a way overconfident,” he said. “You’ve got to want to play. He’s going to want to beat you, and he’s going to have extra motivation. For me, it’s overcoming the fact that I get down early. I’m not thinking, ‘Why am I even down by the first set?’”

“You know the adjustments that have to be made, and you’re going to have to execute.”

The Hawkeyes — who will host the winners of the first-round matches and the No. 1 seed in the tournament — said he’s going to want a chance to be the one to use him, “He’s going to work hard,” Sabers said. “He’s got a savvy for the game, and he’s going to get more and more opportunities to study opponents. I expect James to bring a lot of good things to the University of Iowa.”

Brian Ferentz and the Hawkeyes are out to make some noise in the Big Ten tournament. Sabers would represent both the team and the institution proudly once he officially a Hawkeye.

“Burke is a very different animal, but I do think he’s the type of player who will fit at the University of Iowa,” Brian Ferentz said. “The pressure is there for him to have a chance to be successful.”

“As an alumnus, he’s the type of person I would want to see carrying on the tradition,” Daryl Greenan said.

**An Iowa gentlemen’s son to play for Iowa**

Burke heads to nationals

“I’m playing the same guy, which I think I am, he’s going to want revenge,” McGowan said. “He’s going to want to beat us, and he’s going to have additional motivation. For me, it’s overcoming the fact that I get down early. I’m not thinking, ‘Why am I even down by the first set?’”

“You know the adjustments that have to be made, and you’re going to have to execute.”

The Hawkeyes — who will host the winners of the first-round matches and the No. 1 seed in the tournament — said he’s going to want a chance to be the one to use him, “He’s going to work hard,” Sabers said. “He’s got a savvy for the game, and he’s going to get more and more opportunities to study opponents. I expect James to bring a lot of good things to the University of Iowa.”

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The Daily Iowan - Iowa City, Iowa - Thursday, April 26, 2007

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From Thursday evening to Sunday night — the Weekend in Arts & Culture

Hours

THE INCREDIBLE shrinking FESTIVAL

BY SUSAN ELGIN
THE DAILY IOWAN

hen UI senior Aaron Blau was about to move to college, his uncle had one piece of advice: Go to RiverFest. So the freshman eagerly awaited the annual April event, and when the weekend arrived, the stunning weather seemed like an auspicious beginning. He gathered some friends, grilled out, and then made the trek down to Hubbard Park.

"It was nothing like I'd pictured it," he said. "I figured there'd be tons and tons of people and a really long, cool festival. But really, it was nothing to write home about."

The next day, it rained.

Blau hasn't returned to the festival since. And he is not alone.

Lack of interest and poor attendance have recently plagued the UI tradition, now in its 29th year. What used to be an 11-day spring "homecoming" drawing upwards of 20,000 students with beer gardens, bar crawls, and such acts as Adam Sandler, Billy Joel, and Run-DMC (not to mention Douglas Adams, he of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy fame), the festival, which brought in around 1,000 attendees last year, is trying to rebuild. With recent years hampered by rain, funding cuts, and general apathy, the RiverFest executive have dubbed this year’s festival as a time to revamp the event’s image — those students want you to forget everything you thought you knew about RiverFest.

"The key is good weather," said David Grady, the UI associate vice president for the University Life Centers. "You and I could sing and dance, and we’d still get a big crowd if it’s a nice day."

And as tongue-in-cheek as that comment is, it’s likely not far from the truth. A sunny, 70-degrees day at Hubbard Park will naturally attract students — entertainment is an added bonus. But for the past three years, rain and even snow have transformed the park adjacent to the IMU into a mud puddle, forcing bands to cancel and dampening festival spirits.

"The past three years, we have not hit the right weekend as far as weather," RiverFest marketing executive Sara Scallon said. "Sometimes, you’re just not going to luck out."

For RiverFest, the rain hasn’t just ruined each festival edition. When few students are exposed to the event, lack of knowledge about the festival grows, which continues to plague the organizers years later. Among traditional four-year students, current seniors have never seen a RiverFest without rain. The last big-name act to play the event, Phantom Planet — the Southern California rock band famous for "The OC" theme song "California"— performed in 2004.

Overcoming student unfamiliarity is a challenge for the event, RiverFest adviser Kristi Finger said, because the affair lacks the recognition of a tradition such as Homecoming, which students know from their high-school days.

"The weather has been so nasty that most undergrads have never seen an awesome RiverFest," she said. "That’s sad. We know what it can be, but we’re constantly educating people on what it is."

But if students don’t know what the event is, it makes it easier for the group to re-invent the festival, which is, essentially, the goal for this year.

"Last year, we re-evaluated RiverFest and thought the best way to go was just to give it back to the students," Scallon said. "We’ll start smaller that way and then over the years, we can try to grow again."

Photos and items courtesy of UI RiverFest Committee
Design by Brittany Vuk
Striped-down RiverFest tries to come back

By Corey Hoaglund, Staff Writer

SITTING IN THE BACK OF A CROWD AT THE Biju, I wished I could be anywhere else. The chatter of the audience could be heard through the speakers, but all I could hear was the noise of my own thoughts. I had been waiting for this moment for nearly 10 years, and now it seemed like it was taking place in a vacuum.

It was during one of the few times when I felt the weight of the world on my shoulders. The pressure of making the right decisions every day can be overwhelming, but this moment felt different. It was like being caught in a routine, and I didn't know how to escape.

As I listened to the music, I couldn't help but feel a sense of nostalgia. The songs played seemed to bring back memories of days gone by, and I found myself lost in thought. It was a bittersweet sensation, but it was one that I couldn't help but embrace.

The venue itself was like a time capsule, with its dark and eclectic decor. It felt like an escape from the outside world, and I couldn't help but feel grateful for that.

As the night went on, I found myself becoming more and more immersed in the music. It was like being transported to another place, and I didn't want the moment to end.

When the last song ended, I couldn't help but think about what it all meant. The weight of the world may have been on my shoulders, but for that moment, there was no one else in the world besides me and the music. It was a reminder that sometimes, all we need is a moment of reprieve.

As I walked out of the Biju, I felt renewed and ready to take on whatever came next. I knew that I couldn't do it all on my own, but with the support of the music and the people around me, I felt like I could.

I knew that the weight of the world would come crashing back down on me, but for now, I was just going to enjoy the moment.
To rebirth a Mockingbird

To overestimate the effect on American culture of Harper Lee’s To Kill A Mockingbird is nearly impossible. The Iowa City Community Theatre embarks this week on a quest to get people to see beyond Gregory Peck, hard as it may be. 

BY ANNA WIEGENSTEIN

It doesn’t seem like a huge overstatement to claim that a vast majority of culture-producers probably have an opinion on To Kill A Mockingbird. Whether you are reading it in high-school English or you’re among the populace responsible for its placement as the fourth most popular book on campus according to Facebook, at least, Harper Lee’s sole novel is hard to escape.

The 1962 film, and Mockingbird became one of the great artifacts of American culture. The character of Atticus Finch, as played by Gregory Peck, topped the American Film Institute’s 2003 listing of top “film heroes,” outstripping James Bond, Indiana Jones, and Rocky.

Rip Russell looks nothing like that Atticus Finch. He likes it that way.

“Faced with the fact of bringing the iconic Atticus to the stage in the Iowa City Community Theatre’s production, the show’s leading man has no delusions, “I don’t strike much of a resemblance to Gregory Peck. I am about the right age,” Russell said rather modestly.

“Thus contrast between Lee’s larger-than-life story and the real, vital performance that Jack, joining and next has been defining for the past 19 years,” Lindhart said. “We’re not doing the film, I love being the same the cast,” said director Rachael Lindhart. “The show isn’t a lot of things that we can’t do, but then, we’re live theatre and we do a lot of things the film can’t.

“If the staging] reminds me very much of Our Town, which has a wonderfully imaginative theatricality that I think is going to serve the story very well,” Lindhart said. “That’s what we can do that the movies can’t.”

While using the power of imagination to create a Depression-era Alabama may be easy enough for a willing viewer, what may be more difficult is casting aside previous exposure to the story line. Walking into the Exhibition Hall of the Johnson County Fairgrounds, what awaits is neither a word-for-word transcription of Lee’s novel — the adaptation by Lee herself with Christopher Sergel differs from the book in a few important respects — or a soul imitation of a film classic. It’s a genuine Iowa City Community Theatre original.

However, both earlier sources were on the minds of those creating the production. Russell, a 1983 UI theater graduate, said he watched the film version several months ago. “I wanted to do it so it was far enough away that I wouldn’t be thinking about the movie while working on the play,” he said. “As an actor, you want to make it your own.”

The key, he said, is to find a balance between influence and imitation. — he described watching Peck’s performance, along with reading the novel, so defining a “sketchbook,” to which he then added “all the stuff in the middle.”

Bar director is firmly in Rus-sell’s corner — Lindhart had noted the actor as a potential Atticus from almost a year ago. “I think people will like his performance of the piece was a daunting one. But before long, the determined performer won over audience.”

“I wanted to do it because it is so strong,” she said. “What we’re doing is giving a slightly different take.” Along with Russell, Thompson describes the experience of approaching the work as a daunting one. But before long, the determined performer won over audience. “The opportunity I have to perform this play overrides any intimidation I might have,” she
Balancing the ledger

Much as African and Pre-Columbian works do, the American-Indian drawings on display at the UI Museum of Art raise questions about whether cultural items should be displayed as art.

BY MAGGIE ANDERSON

"Do you know why they are displayed?" asked Gerald Solomons, pausing in front of one of the drawings in the UI Museum of Art.

"I think they're for sale," replied Dennis Kuhnel, a UI law professor. Kuhnel is particularly interested in whether the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which passed in 1990, provides a process for museums and federal agencies to return Native American cultural items to America's Native peoples.

"If you look carefully, you can see the type of rifle he's carrying, the details of the bridle he's made, a German silver decoration on his breast, and his saddle, along with his horse (on his handwriting)," she said. "They're very, very specific with regards to their regalia, the specific features, the tribal. Gerald Solomons. "And you can see the details, to what tribe that is."

"In the 1980s, the ledger drawings began attracting more interest from art dealers, experts, and collectors. Who showed interest in the drawings as examples of American Indian culture."

"They were sold as examples of American Indian culture."

"The ledger drawings were looted there is probably no means for legal resolution today under the common law in the United States."

"They were sold as examples of American Indian culture."

"And then they would sell them for profit."

"The ledger drawings were for many years only of interest to anthropologists and historians, who studied their accurate depictions of Native customs and war."
BY ANN COLWELL

Get ready to dance your barn — it’s time to party for a cause.

High-school students and local bands will host a ballroom dance to build a house for Iowa City West High alumni seniors.

Ballroom Dance for Habitat for Humanity

When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday Where: IMU second-floor ballroom

Dance: $5 for students, $10 for the general public. Tickets are also available at the University Box Office.

More information: This event will benefit Mako and Robdu Adams, 2003 West High graduates, who will move into their first home in the fall through Habitat for Humanity in the Iowa City area.

The Adams sisters immigrated to the United States from Kenya with their younger brother in 1999. After attending West, the girls began working to help build a home for their family.

“We wanted to do a lot of school stuff, such as activities, but it was kind of impossible, because we had to work after school. It was really challenging,” said Mako Adams, a 2005 West High graduate. She applied for a Habitat house while in high school.

“Habitat was just to actually be able to say, ‘I applied for a Habitat house while in high school. She is part of the Habitat chapter at the school. “You have to worry about paying rent, you have to worry about buying food, buying clothes, but it’s not something you don’t expect everything to go easy,” Adams said.

Robdu Adams, a 2005 West High graduate, enrolled on the cross-country and track teams while in high school. She is part of the Iowa City Habitat for Humanity. She applied for a Habitat house in hopes that her family could move into a real home.

“I think it will be exciting, actually, to do this,” Adams said. “Oh, this is our house,” Mako Adams said. “We will continue school at Grinnell while the rest of the family moves in. “I know it’s not going to be our house until we pay for [everything] and part of the Habitat chapter have vested interests in the equity in not only their own home, but the homes of other people. It’s not simply charity. It’s partnering with people.”

The Interact clubs also contribute to the construction efforts.

Donations will also be accepted at the door.

More information: Get ready to get your dance on — it’s time to party for a cause.

For Route & Schedule Information
Call 365-5181
Mon.-Fri. 7:45 a.m.-10:30 p.m.
Sat. 5:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m.
SUN. 7 a.m.-10:30 p.m.
E-mail ann-colwell@uiowa.edu

Dancing helps Habitat for Humanity

The Adams sisters, Robdu and Mako Adams, who just graduated from Grinnell College this spring, hope to celebrate by helping build a home for a local family.

“We had to work after school stuff, such as activities, because we had to work after school. It was really challenging,” said Mako Adams, a 2005 West High graduate.

Donations will also be accepted at the door.

Tickets are available ahead of time at the University Box Office in the IMU, $10 for adults and $5 for students.

Donations will also be accepted at the door.

“We’re grateful that people have been really supportive in helping us,” said Mako Adams. “I just felt, ‘Wow, Iowa. That’s really wonderful, great.’”

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“We’re grateful that people have been really supportive in helping us,” said Mako Adams. “I just felt, ‘Wow, Iowa. That’s really wonderful, great.’”

We don’t know how to ballroom dance. Not a problem. The UI Swing Dance Club and UI Latin Dance Club plan to perform and give free lessons. “It’s really fun, to begin with,” said Johnson County Landmarks director and UI director of jazz studies John Rapson.

Johnson County Landmark has performed at Grinnell while the rest of the family moves in. “I know it’s not going to be our house until we pay for [everything] and part of the Habitat chapter have vested interests in the equity in not only their own home, but the homes of other people. It’s not simply charity. It’s partnering with people.”

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Nate Ley
April 27

A month with so much to be happy about: the beginning of the baseball season, thunderstorms, warm weather — and poetry. That’s right, April — known famously in one poem as the cruellest month of national poetry month. This is a time to celebrate the greats: Shakespeare, Yeats, Whitman, Dickinson, Eliot — and perhaps even discover some up-and-coming local poets, which is exactly what one student and local business owner are trying to do.

Almost Framous, a showing of framed poetry, has been on display at Grounds for Dessert Coffeehouse, 345 S. Dubuque St., all month. On one wall in the café hang poems written by poets from the UI, including members of the Writer’s and Translation Workshops, as well as the Nonfiction Writing Program.

Michael Potter, a first-year student in the Nonfiction Writing Program, developed the concept for the event with Grounds for Dessert owner Christine Peterson. “The idea was something that had beenavings around (in Peterson’s) head for a while,” Potter wrote in an e-mail. “I said something to the effect of, ‘I’d like to put some writing on there, but Potter would love to see it become an annual event — something the poets would very much like also.”

Jennifer Rouse, a librarian at Cornell College in Mount Vernon and a student working toward an M.A. in the UI Library and Information Sciences, thinks the display has the capacity to touch those who read it. “I believe poetry should be soul-touching, transformative. It should exist in the world to do good and make people think. If you only have a moment in a coffee shop to have that experience in your day then we need to make sure there are coffee shops out there with poetry displayed in them.”

Rouse heard about the event through Grounds for Dessert because of her 2-year-old daughter’s love of the establishment’s wall. Rouse and partner Eric Rosenbaum each submitted poems, and they were selected. “Iowa City is a supportive community for the arts, and we, of course, enjoy supporting creative local businesses. One of the most pleasant surprises for me was when one of my Cornell students dropped by my office to tell me she’d ran across my poem and that she’d enjoyed seeing the work in that space. It was kind of her to make that effort, and I was pleased my work had found an appreciative audience.”

As is Ori Fienberg, another Nonfiction Writing Program student. He enjoys the local support but is more interested in paying the interest of a younger audience. “A few people have seen it, and it’s also visible from the preschool/gradeyard next door. I like to think that some of the children might look through the window at them and at least be curious.”

The poets being highlighted, in addition to Potter, Rosenbaum, Fienberg, and Rouse, are Lex Bradley, Heather Griffen, Anna Guercio, Eugenia Grazio, Steve McNichol, Leah Mills, Jutina Ratz, Peter Small, and Niall Sylvan.

Although many people may not pay attention to National Poetry Month, Fienberg says knowledge of poetry shouldn’t be a barrier to anyone’s participation as a reader. “I hope people enjoy a poem that he or she wouldn’t have otherwise, then National Poetry Month was successful.”

E-mail DIarts@uiowa.edu

POETRY: a cure for the common blahs

Poems hung on walls in a local café help one student and local business owner celebrate NATIONAL POETRY MONTH by showcasing area poets.

Graham for Dessert employee Dan Gingerich works in the coffee shop behind the almost-framous poetry wall on Wednesday evening.

Almost Framous
April 27

Dr. Connolly received her medical degree from Georgetown University in Washington DC in 1982. She completed her post graduate training in 1986 at St. Vincent Hospital and Medical Center in New York City. She is Board Certified in Internal Medicine. Dr. Connolly has been the medical director of the Iowa City Free Medical Clinic since 1997 and served as the Johnson County Public Health Medical Director. Dr. Connolly and her husband Dr. Fred Ostrom have lived in Iowa City since 1990 and are parents of 4 children. She will begin seeing patients on Wednesday, May 2nd. Please call our office to schedule an appointment.

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Pizza Hut
Sushi

IOWA MEMORIAL UNION - GROUND FLOOR

John Mayer in concert

Ben Folds

We The Living

The Living

Hello Dave

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Tickets at Wells Fargo Arena Box Office or all Dill’s Foods Outlets, Charles City, or online at www.dahstkictions.com

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