Group targets 21-only

By Abby Harvey
THE DAILY IOWAN

An impassioned seven stu-
dents from the UI Student Health Initiative Task Force pre-
sented different strategies designed to increase student voter registration for the 21-
ordinary vote on Nov. 6 at the UI Main Library Thursday
night.

If passed, the state’s 21-ordi-

nance would make it illegal for
anyone under the age of 21 to be
in a bar after 11 p.m.

“Early voting is huge,” said
Aaliyah Naibakh, a co-founder of
the task force and the UI Demo-
cratic precinct.

“It takes away the confusion of
the event,” said task force
director Matt Przybylak, not-

ing that it allows students to
register and cast a vote simultane-
ously.

Satellite-voting locations
have been set up in Hillcrest, Burge,
Maryville, the IMU, and the
Main Library.

In the last city election, only
700 of 30,000 students placed

votes — compared with 14,000

nonstudents, according to the
task force. The panel hopes to
change this.

UI senior Melanie Harmsen,
who has lived in the Iowa
City/Cedar Rapids area all her

life, was one of 40 representa-
tives to attend the anti-21-ordi-
nance meeting.

“I don’t want to see the down-
town ruined, and house parties
are uncool,” she said.

UI sophomore Ryan Venom,
who went to the meeting to hear

more about the issue, has the

same reservations about the
21-

ordinance.

Where has GOP
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By Kelsey Beltrame
THE DAILY IOWAN

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ing in Iowa, she joined the
UI Afro-Cuban Dance Group.

This year, the internation-
ally observed National Coming
Out Day coincides with the
20th anniversary of the Gay
and Lesbian March on Wash-
ington as well as the presenta-
tion of the AIDS Quilt at the
National Mall as a memorial
to those who suffered AIDS-
directed attacks.

The recent controversy over a
judge’s ruling that the Iowa law
limiting marriage to opposite-
sex couples was unconstitutional
provided a backdrop for the

event.

Students sit with posters on the Pentacrest lawn on Thursday. The group sat on the lawn at the intersection of Iowa Avenue and Madison Street to raise awareness for National Coming Out day by making posters, handing out rainbow pins, and answering questions for interested passerbystes.

The UI Student Health Initiative Task Force rallies students, encourages voters in hopes of defeating the 21-ordinance, which is on the Nov. 6 ballot.

“Coming out, going strong

A local event showcases persistent voices in demanding equal rights.

Merging Cuban, African spirit

Analia Alegre-Femenias, a UI graduate student, feels closer to her Cuban
heritage when she’s dancing for the UI Afro-Cuban Dance Ensemble.

By Clara Hogan
THE DAILY IOWAN

In Kinzie Hall, UI graduate student Analia Alegre-Femenias sat down on a dance studio’s sleek, wooden floor during her lunch

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The ensemble is made up of

dancers and percussionists who
perform in Kinzie Hall’s “Space/Place,” the building’s event space.

Through its performance, the ensemble intends to inspire the music and dance that inspired those who were forced to leave their homeland.

The ensemble will perform in North Hall’s “Space/Place” Oct. 21.

UI graduate student Analia Alegre-Femenias wrote, sang, and narrated about the group’s performance in Space/Place on Oct. 19 and 20.

Lindsey Staton/ The Daily Iowan

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Supervisors address farm splits

An amendment to the farm split ordinance will change how landowners break up property for agricultural use.

By Kayla Kelley

Landowners will find it easier to split land for nonagricultural uses if an amendment to the farm split ordinance is adopted by the supervisors. The amendment would allow landowners to split up for agricultural use and fewer tax income for the county.

The supervisors approved the amendment on August 14 during a meeting. An assistant director of Johnson County Planning and Zoning, Matt Fry, recommended the amendment to the supervisors, saying the positive effects included land for agricultural use and fewer tax income for the county, while negative effects amounted to splitting up landowners, while making it easier and a loss of an agricultural use.

The amendment proposed to the supervisors on August 14 was proposed by Matt Fry, an assistant director of Johnson County Planning and Zoning. The supervisors approved the amendment, which will change how landowners break up property for agricultural use.

The supervisors also accepted the amendment, which will change how landowners break up property for agricultural use.

Employee charged with stealing from Goodwill

A woman who allegedly stole goods from Goodwill was charged with felony theft, according to the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office.

The suspect, Kayla Kelley, 20, was charged with second-degree theft. According to reports, Kayla Kelley allegedly stole $75 worth of clothes from Goodwill.

The suspects will be arraigned in Johnson County District Court at a later date. A trial has not yet been scheduled.

Area woman charged with 3rd OWI

A woman who was charged with a third OWI on Wednesday was arraigned in Johnson County District Court.

The suspect, Kayla Kelley, 20, was charged with second-degree theft. According to reports, Kayla Kelley allegedly stole $75 worth of clothes from Goodwill.

The suspects will be arraigned in Johnson County District Court at a later date. A trial has not yet been scheduled.
Aslai Nakas, the president of the UI Democrats and a cofounder of the Student Health Initiative task force, speaks during an anti-21-ordinance meeting in Shambaugh Auditorium on Thursday. The 21-only measure is on the Nov. 6 ballot.

The task force encourages all students to register to vote so everyone can speak on the issue equally because the 21-ordinance has never been voted on by the public before.

“We want students to choose to walk out [of downtown] rather than be forced out,” Pitchford said. “If they’re forced out, they’re going another place to drink.”

— Analia Alegre-Femenias, UI graduate student

A GOP candidate at the forum Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2004, said the 21-only ordinance is an attempt to “punish” kids who break the rules.

“This is a very arbitrary way of handling the problem,” said Tom Hahn, a Republican running for the 2nd District Congress seat. “The ordinances that we have now in the cities, if you look, they are driving people away.

“With this ordinance if you drive downtown, you will find the kids there and that’s not what you want to see.

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There are many problems in Mac’s relationship — trying, frustrating, and anger — and in this emotional affair, Mac isn’t even a real person.

According to a new survey, computers are causing more emotional problems for Americans than they did three years ago, and 64 percent said they spend more time with their computers than with their romantic partners.

The survey, conducted by SupportSoft Inc., also found that 84 percent said they relied more on their computers than they did three years ago.

“I don’t think it’s surprising, because of the way technology has changed, and the networking that’s happened with computers, more people are using their Macs and PCs more often,” said Lisa Troyer, a UI associate provost.

In the United States, high-school standards and rigor are too low, it has lost its relevance and utility, and it’s also boring.

“… a major effort has occurred over the last several years ago.

The merging of the phone and Internet has also increased the amount of time people spend on the web, he said, and that the amount of users have increased, including immediacy and multitasking.

Another possible cause for the increase in the amount of time people spend on the web is that they often center on computers.

The results of the survey also showed that a dead computer and a live computer are done on the computer, while 52 percent said they just bristled it.

“You become so dependent on it, and when it doesn’t work, you get frustrated,” she said.

“If I try not to be on my computer too often,” she said.

“You can’t have an advanced society without an advanced public-school system,” he said.

“… you certainly can’t have the world’s most mature democracy without having a fairly mature school system,” he declared.

While computers can increase online communication, it is healthy as long it is done with care and responsibility.

“I don’t think it’s surprising that the survey was done on the computer, and 51 percent said they spent more time with a strong language about the computer, while 52 percent said they just bristled it.

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BAGHDAD — A U.S. attack killed 19 insurgents and 15 civilians, including nine children, northwest of the capital Thursday — one of the heaviest civilian death tolls in an American operation in recent months. The military said it was targeting senior leaders of Al Qaeda in Iraq.

American forces have applied force and determined pressure on militants, especially Al Qaeda in Iraq, since the full contingent of additional U.S. troops arrived June 15. But Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki has recently confronted top American commander Gen. David Petraeus about what he sees as overly aggressive U.S. tactics that harm innocent civilians, Iraqi officials said.

The military statement detailing Thursday's air and ground assault said soldiers were acting on intelligence reports about a Qaeda meeting in the Lake Tharthar region. The northern reaches of the big, man-made lake are approximately 50 miles north-west of the capital.

The American account said U.S. surveillance confirmed "activity consistent with the reports and supporting aircraft engaged the time-sensitive target." The first air strike killed four "terrorists," the statement said. The military said the second air strike "assisted the first attack and killed 15 additional terrorists." The military insisted the 25 killed were insurgents, but the government has made no progress on healing wounds among Iraq's various ethnic groups.

An Iraqi woman with her child looks on and another sits on the ground as a U.S soldier patrols the area at the village of Jadihah northeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on Thursday.

By Steven R. Hurst

Profs: Cuba policy stuck

Cuba debate opens up on campus.

By Kathleen Olp

Nationalistic fervor circulated around Cuba this week when the country marked the 40th anniversary of Che Guevara’s death. But in the United States, the issue of Cuba remains controversial among presidential-nomination hopefuls.

"There is no policy with Cuba," there is none," Lou Perez Jr. said, a University of North Carolina professor who studies the Caribbean. "Transition has begun, and still Americans won’t have anything to do with Cuba."

Perez, an Ida Beam Distinguished Visiting Professor, discussed the island and the origins of American policy in Cuba in a lecture on Thursday. "Cuba and the United States. From Cultural Engagement to Political Conflict."

He cited Cuba as a "political system in collapse and an economic system in stagnation" as the grounds for resolution in the late 1950s. He also traced American route deeply embedded in the nation, still making it an issue today.

With a lap of international pressure influencing foreign policy for presidential-nomination hopefuls, Cuba continues to remain a contentious point.

Among the candidates, Democratic hopeful Barack Obama said he supports unrestricted travel rights for Cuban Americans to travel, and he would be open to meeting with Fidel Castro. Democratic candidates Matt Romney and Rudy Giuliani don’t think the United States should deal with the Cuban government.

"Definitely Cuba should be on the presidential candidate’s foreign-policy agenda," she said. "She said she doesn’t think lifting the U.S. travel ban would make any significant changes in the current administration’s approach to the government."

Perez said a presumption of family familiarity with Cuba, and it’s crucial to try to understand the country, as well as take a real approach in the election. It was nothing in Bickey Ricardo to prepare for Fidel Castro, he said, it’s time for change.

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The Recording Industry Association of America has just scored another major victory with the approval this week by the U.S. Copyright Royalty Board of a massive hike in royalties on internet audio streams from 2006-10. This doesn’t sound right. From 2007? A retractive regulation? This amounts to billing radio stations and online services for music that they played last year, without any awareness of futures fees. This is absurd. The radio industry is already a dying one. There is no way that the recording association should be trying to stomp out radio’s last chance at making a profit. That wouldn’t make any sense, would it? It couldn’t be that the recording association is trying to pass a regulation that would effectively put the nail in the coffin of all online broadcasts, right?

Wrong. Very wrong. The recording association is not only charging radio webcasts great and small for the songs, but it is charging a digital arm and leg. Take, for example, John Draper, a former UI student who now lives in Cedar Rapids and broadcasts a British rock show on iTunes out of his home. He started the station as a hobby in 2005, in his basement, with no ambition beyond bringing British rock to users who connected to the server in his house. Today, Draper boasts a subscriber- ship of 2,000 and brings his passion to thousands of listeners every day. Draper raises $1,400 a month to pay for royalties and server fees, which, prior to the recording association’s interference, was completely sufficient. Now, the recording association asks Draper for a crippling fee of a month for every station that he plays music. The association has, as efficiently as any, crippled this association’s revenue, and this is profoundly unfair.

The recording association’s recent display of unbridled greed may be the straw that breaks radio’s back. By eliminating the possibility for radio stations to broadcast music that has long enjoyed status as public domain, the recording association has, as efficiently as any, crippled this association’s revenue, and this is profoundly unfair.

Radio gives bands an opportunity to flourish, and the internet gives listeners a chance to tune in to almost anywhere, so what sense does it make to take that away? What good does it do to change radio stations and unbridle some sum of money simply to broadcast to an audience who could just as easily watch TV? The recording association is in the wrong. Its greed may finally off an industry that was already limping on its last leg. An industry that it was created to help and protect.

It’s disappointing that the court, which repeatedly has reproached the Bush administration’s rendition policy, has ruled in this case. The court may have taken a step toward preventing the CIA from breaking the United States’ treaty obligations. But the court did not rule that the administration’s rendition policy was unconstitutional. In fact, the court wrote in its order: “This case does not present the question of whether rendition is constitutional. It need only be noted that the court’s holding will not affect its power to render judgment in this case even if it is determined that rendition is a constitutional method of obtaining information.”

Aside from its inhumanity, this so-called rendition policy has blackened the United States’ name throughout the world. It has resulted in the exposure of national secrets, though judges should do their utmost to make sure such information does not come to light. I-35 collapse to the administration and compensation from Congress. Just because the courts have ruled that the Bush administration’s rendition policy is constitutional, it does not mean that the administration should be allowed to continue to use rendition.

It may be that it would be impossible for these lawsuits to be tried without an international tribunal. But let’s hope that the Bush administration is willing to accept the fact that it does not have the right to rend one American citizen, and that it is not afraid to face the music.

It’s time for the United States to stop breaking treaties. It’s time for the United States to stop rending. It’s time for the United States to start living up to its treaty obligations.

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Wilco looking for intimate show

By Susan Elgin

Despite playing the dance floor of the past few years, Glenn Kotche says he misses the perspective of being close to the audience.

The percussionist — the label “drummer” would be too limiting description of Kotche’s musical inventiveness — insists he misses being close to the band, Wilco — has been on tour with the group since April, supporting the all-country group’s eighth album, Sky Blue Sky. While he hardly has a minute to himself on tour, Kotche said he misses the nightlife, the nightly routines and even the live audience is what keeps him grounded.

“If I feel responsible when I’m on stage with those five guys. It’s kind of hard to fall into a funk,” Kotche said in an interview with The Daily Iowan. “Just having the music and being in front of that many people put your adrenaline going, and then the excitement happens. I start throwing in things I don’t think you hear in opening acts, because you can’t hear your own personality.”

During their show at the IMU Main Lounge on Oct. 23 in downtown Iowa City, Wilco had just played a small venue at the University of Texas in Austin the night before. Kotche said the venue was less than 1,000 people.

“I’m not sure how Wilco would have sounded at that venue, but the energy was there, and we were just happy to be up there,” he said.

Kotche is especially anticipating the Oct. 14 concert in the IMU Main Lounge is one Kotche said his own personality plays a big part in it. He said he is “half-anticipating” each night of the tour and “half-anticipating” what will happen. Kotche also said he is also looking forward to the perspective of being close to the audience.

The side projects with the American television series are attending the Interna- tional Writing Program for the first time this year. Today at noon in Room 406 will sit on the panel “Writing from Where I Stand: World Perspectives and Home.”

Steel Train

Final-year reporter Anna Wiegertogen enjoys the article’s perspective of the screen.

The opinion piece is a chance to share their feelings with others. The art is a forum to express their thoughts.

The move to an online format is a new experience for the staff.

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of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, hereby support

RON PAUL
FOR PRESIDENT OF THESE UNITED STATES

SAY NO TO WAR, AMNESTY, AND TAXES
SAY YES TO LIMITED GOVERNMENT, SECURE BORDERS, AND LIBERTY

Restore The Constitution And The Republic!

“You Never Have to Sacrifice One Bit of Liberty for Security” - RON PAUL

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SPORTS DESK
Friday, October 12, 2007

Wake Forest 24, No. 21 Florida State 21

by Diane Hendrickson

In recent years, Memorial Stadium in Champaign, Ill., has been "Kinnick East" because the Hawkeyes have dominated the Illini in front of a black-and-gold-clad crowd just as they did opponents at home.

But even the original Kinnick Stadium’s ghost has faded after the Hawkeyes, 2-4, have dropped four of their last seven, six in the not-so-friendly confines.

On the field now.

With a 5-1 Illini squad coming to town — most likely with a large contingent of fans in tow — it sure looks like a great challenge for the football team, so we’ve got that task ahead of us.

And history is on our side.

"It doesn’t really matter what the circumstances are," tailback Albert Young said. "We’ve got to keep pushing and working hard. Hopefully sooner rather than later, we can get things soaking a little bit of renovation," new coach Todd Lickliter said during a 30-minute press conference. "I don’t want to pre-judge the media for the second time this fall."

But even the original Kinnick didn’t have Iowa and coach Todd Lickliter excited about this season.

He’s made it clear that he wants to win ball games.”

"Just because Tony had the so-called No. 1 spot on the floor, it opens up for the guys on the bench to take advantage of the situation and play should improve."

"We’ve got a lot of momentum now, and it’s going to keep pushing and working hard."

"We’ve got a lot of positives in place."

"I’ve said we’re building, we’re not doing anything yet."

"What the Black-and-Gold fan base may not be aware of, however, is a freshman who will affect Freeman’s game."

"I think he’ll find that very rewarding."

"We’ve got a lot of positives in place."

"I think Iowa has a great way as it is," he said. "What I’ve learned, that starts from within."

"With a 5-1 Illini squad coming to town — most likely with a large contingent of fans in tow — it sure looks like a great challenge for the football team, so we’ve got that task ahead of us."
ON THE LINE:

We think we're pretty funny. At all think we'll be the winner come December. But that happens. Turn to the sports pages, Friday, if you'd like to turn to the "expert" opinions on all things college football.

NOTE: ON-LINE GAME PICKS ARE CHOSEN BY WEDNESDAY EVENINGS.

**MUTCHAPS**

**ILLINOIS vs. IOWA**

"Charmless" in October..."some", one might say.

**OREGON STATE vs. STANFORD**

Even though Oregon State is a powerhouse, some individuals have given all they had to hoist the Oregon State flag over Stanford.

**ARMY vs. NAVY**

"Not a sure thing, but..." a sure thing.

**TAMPA vs. FLORIDA**

"Any day now..."

**TENNESSEE vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE**

"But there are some..." some things.

**MISSOURI vs. TEXAS A&M**

"Missouri at Texas A&M..." No lack of confidence in this one.

**MICHIGAN vs. PENN STATE**

"Michigan..." some, one might say.

**SOUTH CAROLINA vs. FLORIDA**

"But South Carolina..." some, one might say.

**UTAH vs. ARIZONA**

"Utah..." some, one might say.

**LOUISIANA vs. LOUISIANA TECH**

"When is this game..." some, one might say.

**MICHIGAN STATE vs. MICHIGAN**

"Michigan State..." some, one might say.

**OHIO vs. MINNESOTA**

"But Ohio..." some, one might say.

**TENNESSEE-MEMPHIS vs. MEMPHIS**

"For Tennessee-Memphis..." some, one might say.

**OKLAHOMA vs. OKLAHOMA STATE**

"Oklahoma..." some, one might say.

**CU vs. ARIZONA STATE**

"But Colorado..." some, one might say.

**ARIZONA at COLORADO**

"Colorado..." some, one might say.

**MICHIGAN at PURDUE**

"Purdue..." some, one might say.

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**CU vs. ARIZONA STATE**

"But Colorado..." some, one might say.

**ARIZONA at COLORADO**

"Colorado..." some, one might say.
Hawks try to end skid

Freeman to lead Hawks

**BASKETBALL**

**CONTINUED FROM 1B**

Changing the look of the locker room and on the practice floor, Lickliter made the decision to take down almost all the individual photographs and newspaper features that adorned the walls in favor of a clean, modern style that the team would embrace.

Changing up the look helped, but it was the two like the prospect of taking the court for his first game under the new coach that excited Freeman.

"I've been looking forward to this for a long time," said Freeman. "I've been an Iowa Hawkeye fan for a while now, and I've been waiting for the opportunity to play for Coach Lickliter."

Freeman will have to be open to advice.

Even if it comes from a fresh face.

"I think Coach Lickliter is going to be a great mentor for me," said Freeman. "He has a lot of experience, and I think he can help me improve my game."

Freeman has been named the starting point guard for the season.

"I'm excited about the opportunity," said Freeman. "I've been working hard in the summer and I think I'm ready to make a contribution to the team."

**FOOTBALL**

**CONTINUED FROM 1B**

Faced with the task of leading his team to victory in his first game as head coach, Freeman was keenly aware of the challenges that lay ahead.

"I know we have some work to do," said Freeman. "But I'm confident in the players on our team and I think we can get the job done."
The Iowa men's tennis team enters its second event of the year hoping for individual improvement.

Hawkeye senior Dave Huffmann has compiled a 5-1 singles record this season with ITA rankings of 141st in singles and 53rd in doubles. Huffmann and junior Gregory Holm are 1-1 in doubles play this season.

In the fall, the Hawkeyes traveled to Austin, Texas, for the ITA Fall Regional Championships, where the Hawkeyes claimed the team title and junior Davis Wilson earned the singles title. Both events were held Oct. 5-6.

After losing to then-No. 1 seed Duke in the quarterfinals of the ITA Fall Regional Championships, the Hawkeyes earned a berth in the ITA National Team Indoor Championships. The Hawkeyes will host No. 4 seed Wisconsin on Jan. 26 in the first round of the ITA National Team Indoor Championships.

The Hawkeyes also competed in the Quad City Bank Open in Davenport, Iowa, for the ITA Midwest Regional Championships. The Hawkeyes defeated Missouri 7-0 in the first round, then defeated Northwestern 4-3 in the second round.

The Hawkeyes will travel to Bloomington, Ind., on Saturday for the Big Ten Men's Tennis Championship. The Hawkeyes enter the tournament with a 12-2 record overall and 4-1 record in the Big Ten Conference.

The Hawkeyes have been ranked in the ITA national rankings for all of the team's matches this season. The Hawkeyes have received five early-season ITA regional rankings, with the team at No. 40 in the national rankings through five rounds.

Hawkeye head coach Ross Wilson said the ITA Team Indoor Championships will be an opportunity for the team to prove itself on a national level.

“The ITA Team Indoor Championships will be an exceptional opportunity for the Hawkeyes to compete on the national stage,” Wilson said. “This is the first time in program history that the Hawkeyes have qualified for this prestigious event.”

The Hawkeyes will compete against No. 1 seed Duke, Indiana and Minnesota for the ITA Team Indoor Championships.
Today's events

- Richard & Barbara Hansen Leadership Award & Leadership: "Pathways to Better Health: Some Run Through Health-Care Systems, Some Do Not," University of Iowa, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Hancher Auditorium, 1420 Hwy. 60
- "Dawn's Blend," Bob Dare and The Blue Band, noon, Java House, 211 E. Washington St.
- Prairies Light Special event, Chris Dodd, Letters From Nuremberg, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., P曛rea Light's Bar & Bistro, 140 N. Gilbert St.
- Crossing Borders-Experiencing Diversity, noon, IMU;
- "Know the Score," Oct. 5, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 1117 University Capitol Centre
- "Crossing Borders-Experiencing Diversity," noon, IMU;
- "La Vie En Rose," The Daily Iowan - Iowa City, Iowa - Friday, October 12, 2007
- "Opening reception," 5 p.m.-7 p.m., IMU;
- "IWP 40th Anniversary, "Cultural Diplomacy: The Writer and the World," 4 p.m., Old Capitol Senate Chamber
- "Opening reception," Writing at Iowa exhibition, 5 p.m.-7 p.m., Old Capitol;
- "steel Train (with Kings for Queens)," 5 p.m., Peckham, 330 E. Washington St.
- "La Tu Fo Rose," 6:30 p.m., Dvorak
- "Hubbard Street Dance Chicago," 7 p.m., Hancher Auditorium
- "A Perfect Wedding, UI Theatre Main Stage Production, 8 p.m., Theatre Building;
- "IWP 40th Anniversary, Paul Engle Reading," 8 p.m., Mabie Theatre
- "Main Library-Museum Bookshop Auditorium"
- "Live at the Java House," Global Bats, 8 p.m., Java House
- "Opening East Opening Gala," 8 p.m., Clapp Recital Hall
- "Diplomat of Solid Sound, Featuring "Live at the Java House," Gilded Bats, 9:30 a.m., 6 E. Washington St.
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Hawks look to stop skid against streaking Illini

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IOWA VS. ILLINOIS

October 12, 2007
Nobody covers Hawkeye football like THE DAILY IOWAN

Postgame coverage

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• Updated story with quotes and postgame quotes 90 minutes after the game
• On Mondays, full coverage with postgame analysis, photo slide shows, and video highlights

Pregame on Daily Iowan Television

• Most extensive weekly Iowa football preview show in the state with highlights, interviews, and analysis leading up to the big game
• Catch the special broadcast at dailyowansports.com/football or UITV during the second half of Thursday night's newscast

Go Hawks! Beat Illinois!
Iowa 14, Illinois 13 — This is a classic top game for Iowa.

Kenny Ardoin — Just a hunch I have.

Iowa 63, Iowa 14

Ryan Sandhu — Nick has plenty of reps, because the Hawkeyes part about every possession. No more 14-potential.

Illinois 30, Iowa 20 — An offensive awakening for Iowa ... It's sad that 20 points is an awakening.

Diane Hendrickson — You know, "Rumble" sounds like the name of a Milwaukee brew.

Alex Johnson — The real Rumble.

The Daily Iowan - PREGAME - Friday, October 12, 2007 - 3C

Quick Hits

Iowa-Illinois score

Hawkeye player to watch

Bigger upset: Stanford-USC or Appalachian State-Michigan

Blackout or Gold Rush

Team MVP through six games

Iowa’s midterm grade

Coolest nickname in college football

Bold prediction for Saturday

Iowa pulls the upset with Troy Moss scoring the game-winning touchdown.

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A CLOSER LOOK: TREY STROSS

UNSHAKABLE CONFIDENCE

After the team’s fourth-straight loss this season and eighth in a row in the Big Ten, perhaps no Hawkeye player showed as much positive energy postgame than Stross. Determined to accept the 2-4 start to the season and warn the team room to improve, Stross won’t let the current slide kill the reputation the program worked so hard to build over time.

“I don’t know if our confidence can be shaken as a team,” he said. “We’ve worked too hard, we’ve put too much into this program. People before us put too much into this program for us not to have promise, not to come out with any pride.”

“We’re going to keep that in our hearts and keep the confidence going. We can only be optimistic at this point and get better.

Looking for a spark, both in the locker room and on the field, Stross’ no-quit attitude has been succeeded by numerous teammates this week, including senior tailback Darnell Damar.

“The season’s not over, so the sky’s the limit. We still have six games to make a difference,” he said.

Even reliant in the losing streak, Stross’ mindset seems to be working at an individual level — since his return from a big injury in week five, the sophomore has totaled six catches, 102 yards and two touchdowns.

DESIRE

After a first half in which the Hawkeyes attempted only six passes and trailed by 13 points, it comes as no surprise that the final two quarters at Penn State were spent spreading the field and throwing the football.

Abandoning a run-heavy game plan that was thwarted by the Illinois Lions’ front four on defense, offensive coordinator Ken O’Keefe called a whopping 23 pass plays in the second half of the team’s latest loss — much to the delight of Stross and the morning corps.

“We actually want the ball,” said Stross, when asked if adjusting to a pass-first playbook was tough on the fly. “If we had to pass a lot more, we were up to the task. It doesn’t matter who we’re playing against, we’re going to compete.

And judging from Stross’ success in the fourth quarter at State College, what the team’s up against doesn’t count for much, either. With the Hawkeyes’ backs against the well early with just 2:31 to play in the fourth period, Stross helped lead the offense on a 65-yard touchdown drive that would provide a glimmer of hope during an otherwise gloomy afternoon.

“I don’t know what it was, but we all got on the same page, all 11 of us, and that’s what we need,” Stross said of the scoring drive. “We need all 11 guys to run together, and that’s what going to happen.”

With a touchdown in each of the team’s last two games, the Hawkeyes could certainly use more of Stross’ recent success on Saturday against Illinois.

A LESSON LEARNED

Eleven points before catching a fly ball pass on the last play of the first half against Indiana, Stross learned his lesson after an end-zone celebration cost the Hawkeyes a 10-yard penalty.

Shredding the emotion accompanied with the Hawkeyes frustrations in the opening quarter and checked to have caught the pivotal play, the sophomore snapped the football near the goal-post and drew numerous flags from officials for unsportsmanlike conduct.

“Trey was emotional,” Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said after the game. “He was happy about making a great play. It’s just one of those things that happens.”

Mistakenly, likely by tight ends coach Eric Johnson who when returned to the sidelines, getting an alert about the 15-yard penalty that forced Iowa to kick from its own 20 to start the second half, Stross seemed to learn from the emotional error in judgment at Penn State.

Training by 20 points early in the fourth quarter, the Avon Lake, Ohio native caught an 11-yard touchdown strike from Chris Tentoffen to cut the deficit to 13 points. Sprunging up from inside the goal line like the bear was a tramplike, the former Penn State receiver for Stross looked for the done was the official — but not to make sure we don’t see another spike.

Looking at first like he might lose his head in the moment, Stross sprinted a few steps to the back judge before softly handing him the ball.

Consider it another lesson learned for the young Hawkeye receiver.

CATCHING UP

Pressured into nine back-to-back 18-20 home loss to Indiana and hurtled around Beaver Stadium last weekend, sophomore quarterback Jake Christensen is more willing to admit themes room to improve.

Struggling to find cohesiveness as a unit and forcing Christensen to make faster decisions, many of the Brackets — zone off line and some line too — have made the receivers such as Stross use their legs to catch up.

“I can obviously get the ball off quicker, and that’s going to go into our game a lot better,” Christensen said of the receivers. “I’m throwing the ball away ahead of the break sometimes. You know, most balls are thrown before the break, but when you get ready good, you can throw it when they’re still there, four steps away.

“That’s what I have to work on.”

Clocked as quick as a 4.4 s in the 40-yard dash in high school, Stross’ lack of speed certainly hasn’t been the issue. Hoping to find consistency in the aerial attack, the Hawkeyes have plenty of catching up to do not only on long passes, but after a disappointing 2-4 start to the season.
The joy of rushing the passer

For this week’s Q&A, the DI sat down with Hawkeye defensive end Kenny Iwebema as he prepares to play the second half of his senior season.

Iwebema: My TV show cartoon networks.

DI: Who would you tell you don’t really think about this in individual plays? I just go out there and try to hit people.

Iwebema: What would you say is the biggest hit you’ve ever laid on anybody?

DI: Iwebema: I don’t know. I couldn’t tell you. I don’t really think about it, but he’s a funny guy. He’s a good coach and the reason that I came here.

DI: What’s something about you that might surprise some people or catch them off guard?

Iwebema: The fans. Playing at Kinnick is an unbelievable thing. I had heard about it before I got here, but that first time, even when I wasn’t playing, it was huge. Sellouts every week, it was. Going to Kinnick is an unbelievable experi-
ence.

DI: What is your favorite thing about Iowa City?

Iwebema: The 25 mph speed limit.

DI: What are some of the things you like to do in your free time when you’re not at the facilities or not doing school work, and you have that time to yourself?

Iwebema: Just relax, watch TV.

DI: My final question here. What are some of the things you’d like to accomplish by season’s end, with this being your senior year?

Iwebema: Right now, I’m just focused on Illinois, showing Illinois, then going on the next week and win-
ing that game, then going on the next week and win-
ing that game.

I-webema:

By Brendan Stiles

DI: How would you describe yourself on the field?

Iwebema: Emotional.

DI: All right. Now how about off the field?

Iwebema: Playful. I’m not a real serious person all the time. I play a lot.

DI: What’s the funniest thing you’ve seen Kirk Ferentz do in your time here?

Iwebema: There have a lot of them. I couldn’t even tell you. I don’t really think about it, but he’s a funny guy. He’s a good coach and the reason that I came here.

DI: What’s something about you that might surprise some people or catch them off guard?

Iwebema: Being able to rush the passer and make plays. Everything starts up front. Anything you can get that hit on a quarterback, it’s a won-
derful feeling. I’m telling you, it’s a wonderful feeling. Being able to use it on Sundays with everybody in the meeting room and talking about it, it feels good.

Iwebema: Defensive end
Buckeyes keep eye on winning

With its 23-7 victory at Purdue last week, Ohio State extended its regular-season winning streak to 24-consecutive games, dating back to 2005. The Buckeyes’ current mark tied for third all-time among Big Ten teams, behind only separate 29- and 28-game winning streaks set by Michigan during the 1990s. Ohio State also holds a current 17-game winning streak in Big Ten play, which is tied for second all-time behind a 19-game Big Ten winning streak from Michigan between 1990-92.

By the Numbers

The Iowa defense has collected 14 sacks through six games in 2007. The Hawkeyes are ranked 14th nationally in scoring defense, allowing 17.2 points per game on average.

There are 16 players on the Iowa roster who are originally from Illinois. By beating Wisconsin, 21-19, last week, the Fighting Irish ended the Buckeyes’ 14-game winning streak, which was the longest in the nation. The number of consecutive weeks that Illinois’ Treviarni J. Leonard has led the Big Ten in tackles per game.

Stat of the Week

Perhaps no one had a more incredible afternoon last week than Northwestern quarterback C.J. Bacher. The junior from Sacramento, Calif., earned Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week honors after completing 30-of-48 pass attempts for 500 yards, five touchdowns, and no interceptions in the Wildcats’ 38-4 overtime victory over Eastern Michigan.

Hart moving up in record books

In Michigan’s 55-0 victory over Eastern Michigan on Oct. 6, senior running back Mike Hart added his name into the Michigan record book. With 202 carries and 1,151 rushing yards, Hart became the school’s all-time rushing leader, breaking the record held by former great Anthony Thomas. Right now, Hart has ranked second nationally with 375 rushing yards on 179 carries and is tied with three other Big Ten backs on 10 touchdowns in 2007.

Purdue (5-1, 1-1) at Michigan (4-2, 2-0)

11 a.m., Big Ten Network

Michigan appears to be handing its baggage back after winning four in a row, but will have its resolve tested once again when it returns to Big Ten play, hosting Purdue on Saturday. Meanwhile, the Buckeyes look to bounce back from their first defeat of the season. Purdue fell to third-ranked Ohio State at home, 23-7. This will be the first meeting between the two schools since 2003.

Minnesota (1-5, 0-3) at Northwestern (3-3, 1-2)

11 a.m., Big Ten Network

The spirits in Columbus are alive and well after the Wildcats won their first conference game of the season last week by upsetting Michigan State in overtime, 48-41. Junior quarterback C.J. Bacher led an incredible afternoon, throwing five touchdowns in the win, earning him Big Ten Player of the Week accolades. Minnesota, on the other hand, looks to rebound from a 49-20 defeat at Indiana last week and get coach Tye Hiller his first career Big Ten victory.

Kent State (3-3) at No. 3 Ohio State (6-0, 3-0)

11 a.m., Big Ten Network

If there were no doubles before, the Buckeyes officially put them to rest after laying down a 23-7 win in West Lafayette on Saturday, extending their 19-game winning streak. Ohio State will look to win its 25th-consecutive regular-season game this Saturday when it heads out-of-conference to host in-state rival Kent State, which comes into The Horseshoe with a 3-9 mark.

No. 19 Wisconsin (5-1, 2-1) at Penn State (4-2, 1-2)

2:30 p.m., ABC

The Buckeyes and Big Ten buses had high intentions coming into 2007, and while winning the conference would mean challenging now, both schools still have plenty to play for. Penn State is coming off a 27-7 win over Iowa, and it will look to redeem itself at home against a Wisconsin squad that lost at No. 18 Illinois last week. The Penn State offense will be led by their quarterback Birkett Bolden taking over in Madison.

Indiana (5-1, 2-1) at Michigan State (4-2, 0-2)

6 p.m., Big Ten Network

If you’re a fan of gridiron games, then this game is East Lansing is for you. The Spartans are on a two-game losing streak and remain a major blowout threat at home from Northwestern. However, Michigan State has produced quite the mixture in their two defeats. The Horned Owls come in with a high flying offense, while the Spartans have made them bowl-eligible for the first time since 1993.

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Hawks face ground offensive

Iowa’s tired defense will have its hands full against an Illinois rushing attack — one of the tops in the nation — led by Heisman hopeful Rashad Mendenhall.

By Diane Hendrickson
THE DAILY IOWAN

As ghastly as Iowa’s offense has been this season, at the bottom in almost every offensive category, it still doesn’t rank last in the conference in passing yards-per-game and pass efficiency. That distinction belongs to Illinois, which ranks nationally 111th and 107th, respectively.

The difference between a 5-1 team and the Hawkeyes? Rashard Mendenhall, the Fighting Illini’s rushing behemoth, who consumed Illinois’ offensive line, including Lombardi Award-winner William, more than makes up for the issues seen on offense.

As the Illini came to Kinnick Stadium on Saturday for the first time since 2001, when they won the Big Ten Championship and the 99th Illini tailback ranks seventh in the nation with almost 1300 yards on the season, including a 214-yard performance against Indiana.

“His a real athletic running back, probably one of the more athletic backs I’ve seen since I’ve been here at Iowa,” linebacker Mike Humpal said. “They had a tandem of running backs there the last few years, so he was kind of under the radar. Now, he’s the main guy at running back, and he has definitely shown what he can do.”

Some pundits are already talking Heisman for the offensive catalyst who has helped the Illini to the top of the Big Ten pile as one of three conference undefeated, ending the nation’s longest win streak on Oct. 6 against Wisconsin.

In 2006, Mendenhall finished 10th in the Big Ten in rushing with 603 yards — a number he’s eclipsed through six games this season — but led the league with 8.2 yards per carry. “He was an excellent player out of high school and just has continued to mature,” Hawkeyes coach Kirk Ferentz said. “He’s really doing a good job there. And then running the option, too, it’s created some some space for him, and he’s doing a good job with it.”

With Illinois’ passing struggles, but the Illini’s rushing attack in the nation’s top five. The Hawkeyes must contain that attack in order to end their four-game losing streak against the Illini.

“We got to stop the run first, no matter what,” Iowa defensive end Dan Bacher said. “People get out of balance all the time, and Konyer Tosham said: ‘We just got to work on it so that they can’t just run up and down the field on us.’

But the standout defense that started out the gale with holes because of the offense’s inability to pick up first downs, only giving its counterpart a few chances to shine, had its own kind of success.

A fatigued unit spent 36 minutes on the field in last weekend’s 27-7 loss at Penn State, allowing a combined 206 yards to Rodney Robison and Evan Royster.

“We’ve got the potential to have a very good defense, and we’ve played very good defense a fair amount of the time this year,” Ferentz said. “But it’s got to get back to being the type of defense it needs to be consistently.”

“Usually, when you look at teams that have great defensive stats, that’s part of the equation. They’re not out there more than half the time.”

For the defense to stop the run, Iowa’s offense will need to take a page out of the Illini’s playbook by finding someone to make a big catch or run.

“Mendenhall, John Williams, and a couple of others,” Matt Royce said. “They have playmakers, and it’s our job to contain them.

“If we stop the run, there’s a very good chance we can control their offense.”

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PHOTO: In this Oct. 6, 2006, file photo, Illinois’ Rashard Mendenhall runs past Wisconsin’s Audrey Plassen to score a touchdown in the first half in Champaign, Ill., on Oct. 6.
The heart of the Illini ‘D’

Much like Abdul Hodges was for the Hawkeyes, J Leman is the middle of the Illinois defense, its biggest impact player.

By Alex Johnson
THE DAILY IOWAN

One look at the Big Ten defense atop the stat sheet, and you know, Leman is a top-linebacker

Leading Illinois as well as the conference in tackles with 71 through six games, the senior senior head-hunter’s defense taking its vengeance season into Iowa City this weekend — the Fighting Illini have beaten four-straight teams that got the best of Ron Zook’s squad in 2006.

The Illini won’t rest on their laurels though, they thoroughly outplayed Purdue, Indiana, Penn State, and Wisconsin have all dealt the Orange-Blue wrath. Now, Illinois need only win Saturday in Kinnick Stadium to make it five-consecutive’avenged losses.

Last year, Illinois lost twice that, dropping 10 games. But the Illini weren’t out of reach in many of them.

“We thought we could compete with people last year, but now we know we can win with people,” Leman said.

“Coach Zook says it all the time; ‘It’s a 60-minute game, a 100-yard field,’ and he’s really emphasized the 60-minute game.

“We’ve really focused on finishing games, and I think that’s showed — especially in the last three Big Ten games, we’ve finished well.”

With write a rarity in the past, Leman came onto ‘07 looking for change.

“It’s been hard,” he said before the season. “That’s been the hardest thing of my college career, to deal with losing.

“I’ve learned a lot, and I think that I can’t focus on the past. I’m focused on the future, and I’ve got one more year to make up for all.”

In his first four years on campus (redshirting his first), Leman saw just eight wins for his hometown Fighting Illini.

“Eight games in four years is not very successful,” he said. “That’s aver-

Age wide two wins a year — that’s awful.

Now, Leman is making good on his final year for redemption.

“This is my senior year, and it’s time to show what we’ve got,” he said.

To have the success now that Coach Zook has been talking about,” Leman said. “I’ve been a part of it since I was a kid. When I was little, I looked up to Coach Zook, and now, I can give back what he gave me.”

Leman is a six-year veteran of Illinois’ defense, starting his career as a true freshman.

“I’ve been around the game of football my whole life,” he said. “I’ve learned a lot from my father, who played football for Illinois, and my grandfather, who was a football coach for the Illini.”

Leman’s father, John Leman, played on the Illini’s 1982 national championship team, and his grandfather, Joe Leman, coached the Illini from 1965 to 1970.

“Having a father and grandfather who were both successful coaches has been a huge influence on me,” Leman said.

“Coach Zook has been a huge influence on me as well,” he said. “He’s instilled in me the importance of hard work and dedication.”

As a result, Leman has emerged as one of the most dominant forces on the Illinois defense.

“Leman is a true leader,” Zook said. “He’s a vocal player who always gives 100 percent on the field.”

“I believe in him, and he believes in himself,” Zook said.

Leman’s most notable accomplishment this season was his interception against Purdue, which set a new school record for career interceptions by a defensive end.

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By Brendan Stiles

Super Hawks

**Niland shined in the dark ’60s**

In one of Iowa football’s most difficult eras, no Hawkeye shone quite like John Niland.

Growing up in Amityville, NY, he was adopted as a child and had no siblings to play with. He always enjoyed playing sports on his own, and he became a good enough football player to receive a scholarship from Iowa.

For Niland, it was an easy decision, and even though it meant being thousands of miles away, he knew he had to pursue his dream. He was already sure the scholarship as something that would help his education in football.

“The opportunity came to get a scholarship, I was just plain on the floor. What? You’re going to give me an education to play football? What a concept. Boy, where do I sign?”

It also helped having fellow Hawkeye Barry Switzer, also from Amityville, do his part to help him with the transition from high school to college.

“He was taking me around school and getting me acclimated to the Mat- wot and everything, and he was very painless honest with me,” Niland said.

That’s what I liked about Barry. Barry would talk to me, and I would take his word like a big brother would. Not really having a big brother, and not really having a father to bounce it off, Barry knew who was a couple of years ahead of me, was a tremendous influence on me.”

During Niland’s senior year, Iowa finished 1-8, which was ultimately cost coach Jerry Barresi his job. But despite their difficulty, Niland continued to play for American, and in 1966, the Dallas Cow- boys took him in the fifth overall pick in the NFL draft.

“Jerry was a very big, strong offensive guard,” Barry said. “He had all the abilities to pull and trap and pull lead- ing the sweep and pass blocking. There was no question about his size, and durability, and strength.”

“He was a classy guy a very self-spoiled guy, and was an excellent team player.”

As a member of the Cowboys for nine of his ten years in the league, Niland played on an offense that featured the likes of Roger Staubach, Duane Thomas, Mike Ditka, and Rayfield Wright. He also had a coach in Tom Landry who is regarded by many as one of the best coaches in NFL history.

“It was during this era that Dallas just made its reputation as America’s Team.”

“We did not know what was happening until it was happening,” Niland said. “We didn’t come from a legacy of winning tradition. We made the win- ning tradition. We were America’s team, and we pulled that whole image in back-to-back Super Bowls for Dallas. The Cowboys lost on Super Bowl V in a last-second field goal to the Baltimore Colts, 16-15.”

But the following season, Dallas became the first team in NFL history to win the Super Bowl after losing the previous season, when the Cowboys defeated the Miami Dolphins in Super Bowl VI, 24-3.

“Niland called going through the 1971 season and winning Super Bowl VI’s big relief.”

“Starting almost immediately after we lost the year before, we knew we were going to go back and win the Super Bowl,” Niland said. “Don’t ask me how to explain it. I can’t. The point is, we knew, and we were not to be denied.

He began to receive more recognition just in the past year. In 2006, he was inducted into the Iowa Athletics Hall of Fame for the contributions he made as a Hawkeye football player in the 1960s. Having the chance to reunite with the Iowa football program has been exciting for him.

“I appreciate all the great times I had at Iowa, with all the cold weather, I loved it,” he said. “I loved it and was just absolutely grateful for it. Now unfortunately, we didn’t have a winning team, so nobody remembers the team of 1961 that went to the Rose Bowl because it didn’t happen.

“Even though I thought I was a pretty good ballplayer, I think they were nice of them to honor me for the Hall of Fame, but I’m not sure I belong there more than anyone else does.”
MIDTERM REPORT CARD

PART 2

DEFENSIVE LINE
Led by the constant motor of senior defensive tackle Mitch King, the defensive line has consistently made big plays this fall and kept opposing quarterbacks on their toes. If only linemen had unlimited energy. Spending too much time on the field during the second half, the line has worn down late in games, a sign of the offensive struggles. Seniors Bryan Mattison and King must continue their strong play up front and hope for more time on the sidelines in the second half.

LINEBACKERS
A.J. Edds may be the surprise of the season, and the Mikes — Klinkenborg and Humpal — have been solid when they’ve both healthy. Bryon Gattas did a solid job filling in against Indiana and Penn State, but the spread offense continues to hurt the linebackers most. Lined up with speedy receivers in four-wide sets, including the 38-yard catch that set up the game-winning field goal against Iowa State, the linebackers have struggled somewhat in pass coverage. If the line stays solid up front, expect a strong second-half showing from this group.

SECONDARY
Torched by Indiana wideout James Hardy and blowing coverage at Penn State, the secondary has cost the Hawkeyes dearly in the past two losses. Without Devan Movil, the free-safety position has been a liability, but the defense still created three turnovers last weekend. Charles Godfrey is in the midst of a special season, and he must continue to lead if this group hopes to contain the spread offenses remaining on the schedule.

SPECIAL TEAMS
Ryan Donahue played an outstanding game at Penn State in averaging more than 40 yards on 11 punts at Penn State, but that doesn’t eliminate the laundry list of mistakes the unit is responsible for this season. The missed extra point against Indiana and the blocked field goal at Iowa State are small examples of the unit’s troubles, and the kicker situation is still a mess. Austin Sigori and Daniel Murray continue to switch off in the starting role, and until one is solidified as the No. 1, expect more poor outings this season.
IOWA COACHES
Yes, it is a mighty choky to point fingers at a coaching staff for a disappointing season, and when the guidelines is brought out for the Hawkeyes in their fifth consecutive Big Ten loss, it's a tall task. This is not a different beast — Iowa is on its road to its second consecutive season under 500.

If Lloyd Carr nearly lost his job after early season losses, then some head coaches deserve similar punishment for two losses in three years to Iowa State, two-loss struggle to Indiana, and an eight-game losing streak in the Big Ten.

Don't get me wrong, Jake Christensen is not as much as the next person, but he is still a young quarterback stuck behind a porous offensive line with his top three receiving targets (Dominique Doucette, Tony Moeaki, and Andy Brodell) on the sidelines. While Christensen has been unambiguously ineffective for much of the year, it is the coaching staff who repeatedly pat in the blind in his hands, giving our few best offensive players, Garrick Sims and Albert Young, 27 combined touches out of 61 in a game against Indiana.

The same staff decided to reduce a week earlier, deciding to run the ball with consistency against the second-best run defense in the Big Ten, giving them 22 of 44 touches. I am not giving Christensen easy breaks, especially in an unattractive atmosphere such as Happy Valley, but even on a flat campus such as Iowa City, Kirk Ferentz and company make Rudy Gaidel look like Bart Burns.

And on the flip side of scrimmage, the Hawkeyes run the same Staleak out, bend don't break, counter-tactic scheme that lost the Hawkeyes to both Ohio State and TCU titles this year, and has recently altered with the loss of quarterback and running back Ryan Peery, whose loss to the team is the third-ranked defense in the Big Ten. Those accidents used to amount to wins.

The call to fire Ferentz for now more than two years, but but K.O. K'Nite now has his turns running like marathons in the growing outcry of fire as well, as he sees the team have more than 14 losses in the last 27 games they have played in Iowa City.

Is it the same, ranking along with the injury bug and youth excuse, are all that keeps a couple coordinators' heads from rolling.

— by Eric Mandel

QUARTERBACK JAKE CHRISTENSEN

Now that the cold, hard slap of four-straight losses has hit home, clarity of a list like this young, inexperienced quarterback who cannot seem to live up to Iowa fans expectations.

During the past four games, comments said it perfectly — Jake Christensen looks out and confused. For every dropped pass by the youthful receiver, Christensen throw the ball away or was under pressure and was sacked.

During the past four games, is not seen as a vocal leader on the field. An offensive line and receivers only can do so much before the quarterback must take action and make the play.

In comparison, Drew Tate commanded the team and took up the impetus to win upon his own shoulders. When Iowa lost behind his last year, I could see Tate become the vocal leader, albeit the record says he wasn’t very effective. With Christensen, I can never convince myself he is ready to shoulder the load and become a more vocal leader on the field.

The numbers also point to the quarterback’s shortcomings. A 54 percent completion rate shows that Christensen is definitely not getting his receivers the ball where and when they need it. While he has posted 1-1-52 yards this season, he is also minus-12 yards. At the positive gain runs melhor if it for every positive game the play the Hawkeyes face, Christensen then takes the team a step back by getting sacked for a loss.

Offensive line and receiving corps losses are small in comparison to improving the quarterback’s play. Clearly, Iowa quarterbacking could be the most attention out of all the units on the team.

Until Christensen can step up and take a more dominant role in the Iowa offense, he will continue to post poor statistics. Christensen is the focal point of offense, and until he is easily comfortable with the role he needs to assume, the offensive unit’s performance will suffer.

— by Jonathan Groves

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MIDTERM REPORT CARD

After a 2-4 start and coming off the program’s eighth-consecutive Big Ten loss, this report card likely won’t be hung on the Hawkeyes refrigerator this season. Struggling to find cohesiveness on both sides of the ball, the offense was virtually nonexistent in the first three quarters of the latest loss. Break out your No. 2 pencils and follow along because not even the nicest professors could argue the Hawkeyes passed the first six weeks.

QUARTERBACK
Sophomore quarterback JakeChristensen fell below 500 in his career as Iowa signal-caller against Penn State, but nobody can argue it’s all the sophomore’s fault. Sacked nine times against Indiana and attempting just six passes in the first half at Penn State, offensive coordinator Ken O’Keefe has showed little confidence in the passing game, but big deficits have forced Iowa to throw. There’s no question Christensen has held the ball too long at times and made some inexplicable decisions, but he must get better protection and help from the senior backfield to be judged more fairly.

RUNNING BACKS
So what happened the star-studded backfield that saw two 100-yard rushers against Northern Illinois in the opening week? Stacked boxes, that’s what. Without a trio of top receivers on the field in recent weeks, teams have loaded up against the run and prevented seniors Albert Young and Damien Sims from achieving success. After carrying the ball 12 times in the first half against Penn State, Young touched the rock only once in the final 30 minutes. Poor blocking hasn’t helped the backs get going, but as seniors, they’d like to see more on-field leadership from the tandem.

RECEIVERS
It’s not fair to rate this bunch without considering the injuries to Andy Brodell and Tony Moeaki and the suspension of Dominique Douglas, but let’s be honest — the young guys are struggling. Outside of brilliant flashes from Derrell Johnson-Kohut and a solid game from Trey Strow last weekend, the inexperienced receivers have looked the part in committing key mistakes. Bumped off routes and failing to get open consistently, the corps has regularly hung Christensen out to dry. Youth will take its toll, but the last six weeks can only get better at this position.

OFFENSIVE LINE
A unit known for producing NFL-caliber talent has struggled mightily to find cohesiveness this season, with defensive lines devouring over the prospect of getting to Christensen. Allowing nine sacks against Indiana and failing to provide solid run blocking for Young, injuries and position shuffling haven’t helped the group gel. More so than any other position on offense, the line must improve most in the second half if the Hawkeyes are to have a fighting chance.