

The Daily Iowan

Thursday, December 13, 2007

NEWSPAPER •  DAILYIOWAN.COM • TELEVISION

50¢

INSIDE

16 sides of gaming

No, they're not all Urkel clones. The gamer population is growing, gathering folk of all backgrounds to share in the magic. **80 Hours, 1C**

Cal's in there

We're sure someone named Cal is performing in something this weekend. If not, it's just a lame pun to promote the **80 Hours calendar, 2C**



Freeman fighting soreness

Still adapting to the lingering effects of a foot injury, junior point guard Tony Freeman plans to play Friday against Drake. **Sports, 1B**

Wrestling hosts UNI, Cornell

The newly No. 1 Iowa wrestling team plays host to UNI and Cornell College in a rare dual double-header tonight. **Sports, 1B**

Edwards: Down with the GOP

Presidential-nomination hopeful John Edwards speaks against the Republican hopefuls Wednesday. **City, 2A**

'Ask Mitt anything'

With wife by his side, presidential-nomination hopeful Mitt Romney stopped in Marion on Wednesday night. **State, 5A**

Up the writers!

The strike is a good example of the creative standing up for their rights. **Opinions, 6A**



For photos, videos, audio, blogs, and more, check us out online at: dailyiowan.com

Daily updates

Now check back at dailyiowan.com during the day for the latest news on the UI and Iowa City.

Daily Iowan Television

To watch Daily Iowan Television, go online at dailyiowan.com or tune into UIVT. The 15-minute newscast is on Sunday through Thursday at 9:30 and 10:30 p.m., with reruns at 12:30 and 1:30 a.m. and 7:45 and 8:45 a.m. the following day.

Today's webcast

Watch Daily Iowan Television to learn why people are more likely to get influenza during the winter.

WEATHER



Partly sunny, breezy; turning cloudy in the evening.

↑ 32 °C ↓ 14 °C

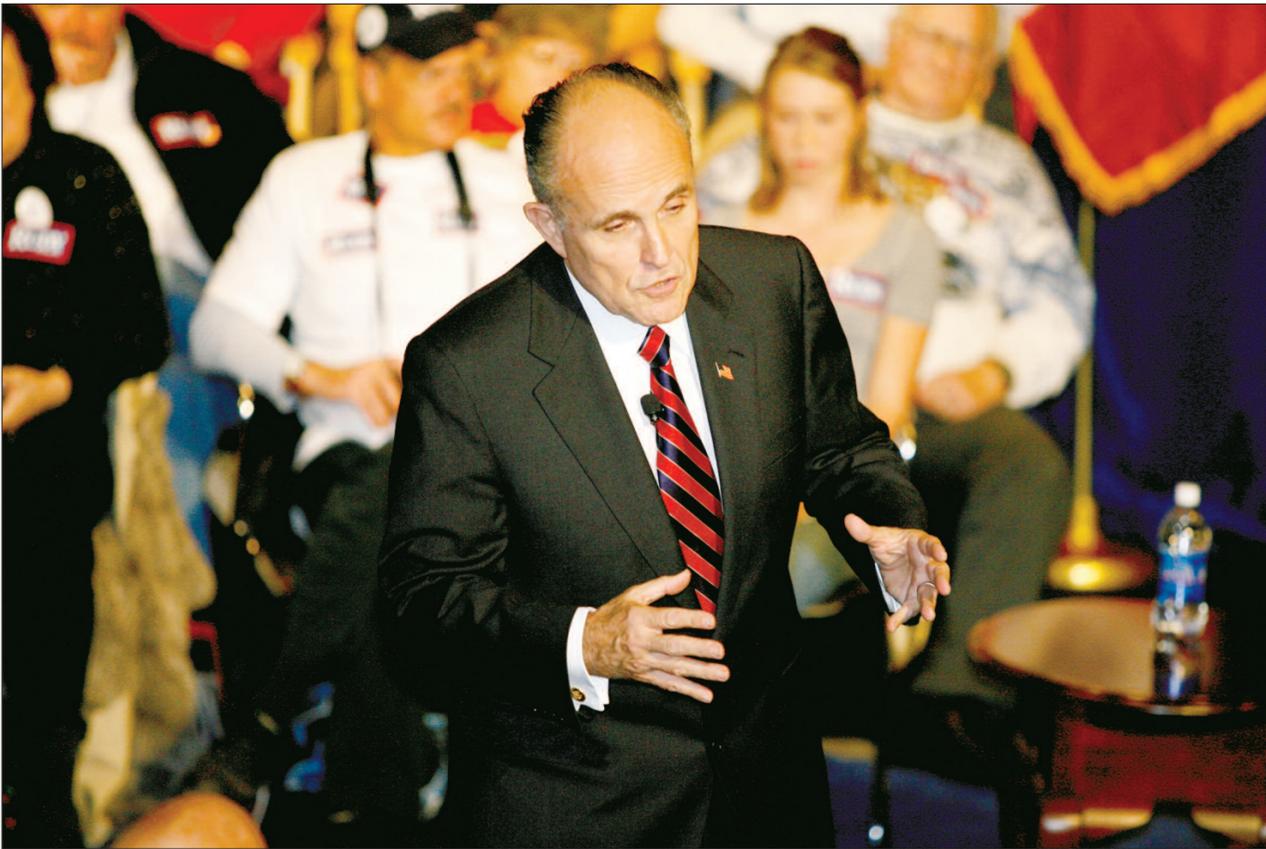
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PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN 2008

Giuliani stumps CR

Touching on topics ignored at the Republican debate earlier in the day, Giuliani speaks on immigration, Iraq, and Iran.



Julie Brayton/The Daily Iowan

Republican presidential-nomination candidate hopeful Rudy Giuliani addresses a question asked by an audience member at the Dows Fine Art Center at Coe College in Cedar Rapids on Wednesday. Giuliani answered questions from the audience on topics including immigration, education, and foreign relations.

By Amanda McClure
THE DAILY IOWAN

CEDAR RAPIDS — Foreign policy, health care, border control, and education were hot topics for presidential-nomination hopeful Rudy Giuliani Wednesday night at Coe College.

"It's about the future that you decide," the former Republican mayor of New York City said. "What kind of country do you want to turn over to the next president?"

Giuliani spoke briefly about his vision for the future United States before taking questions from the audience.

When asked about immigration, he responded with his plans for an ID-card system, a

'We'd love to have [the immigrants]. They can work. If they work, they should pay taxes and then be placed on an immigration program. We need to stop this at the border, and I know we can do it.'

— Rudy Giuliani, presidential-nomination hopeful

southern border fence, and patrolling troops.

"We'd love to have [the immigrants]. They can work," Giuliani said. "If they work, they should pay taxes and then be placed on an immigration program."

"We need to stop this at the

that a weak foreign policy encourages terrorism.

Giuliani also expressed his desire to embrace the millions of people living in the Middle East who aren't threatening America.

"There's nothing to be afraid of; they're good people, and we need to understand them better," he said. "We've had violent groups in our country, too, and we shouldn't have this holier-than-thou attitude about it."

Giuliani said, vis-à-vis the No Child Left Behind Act, that the responsibility of students should be placed on the parents, not the bureaucrats in Washington.

SEE GIULIANI, 4A

Welcome Freshmen | ELISE KEMERLEY

Cramming with chemistry

By Brian Stewart
THE DAILY IOWAN

The past few days have been filled with compounds and formulas for UI freshman Elise Kemerley, and she has pored over her Principles of Chemistry textbook, chapter by chapter, in preparation for her upcoming final.

On Monday night alone, Kemerley spent six hours reabsorbing the content of just three chapters, she said. Her goal is to make it through three chapters per day until Dec. 17, when she'll place pencil to paper in her first final exam at the UI.

"Chemistry will be my hard one," she said, then noting that her Calculus final will likely be just as difficult. "But I'm not too worried about Spanish."

She feels the time spent reviewing her schoolwork will definitely have her ready to ace

Elise Kemerley

- Age: 18
- Major: biology, pre-medicine, or pre-dentistry
- On finishing up the semester: Kemerley said she's studying nonstop and remains confident that she can master her final exams.



the exams, something she said she was worried about previously in the semester after a brief bout with low midterm scores.

And with three finals lingering in the near future, Kemerley said she is happy to be finished with her Accelerated Rhetoric class.

SEE FROSH, 3A

Knowing why the caged bird sings

By Melanie Kucera
THE DAILY IOWAN

"Is Black Beautiful?" was the title of a forum Wednesday night in which females gathered to talk about black women and beauty and how they see and approach it in today's society.

UI Associate Professor of theater Tish Jones, who served as the facilitator, said growing up as a light-skinned black woman was never easy, and she still has problems dealing with her image today.

"Black women have to fight with their image," she said, noting that media, books, and magazines have provided stereotypical portrayals since the times of slavery.

Throughout her discussion, Jones used the book *Shifting: The Double Lives of Black Women in America*, by Charisse Jones, which describes how black women are constantly



Natalia Salazar/The Daily Iowan

Patrice Jones (left) listens to Danielle Holliday's experiences of being a black woman. The discussion was led by Tish Jones (right), a UI associate professor of theater, at the Afro-American Cultural Center on Wednesday.

"shifting" themselves, such as the way they talk or look, when they are with different groups of people or settings.

The casual setting in the Afro-American Cultural Center

added to the free conversation during which the women related and comforted one another.

Jones' daughter, UI student

SEE BLACK, 3A

No war, IC says

Candidates utilize war, foreign-policy to spark interest in IC crowds.

By Dean Treftz
THE DAILY IOWAN

Iowa City is about as far away from Baghdad as possible, but many here have made the war in Iraq the centerpiece in their political activism.

Presidential-nomination candidates coming through the UI campus, usually Democrats, appear to have recognized this, with many delivering Iraq or general foreign-policy speeches. This has happened even after the past several months' reductions in American and Iraqi deaths have allowed other issues to become more prominent.

Despite a drop in violence and news stories, Iraq remains a driving force among politically active students, especially those on the left, and the presidential campaigns know it.

"There's definitely a vibrant antiwar community" in Iowa City, University Democrats President Atul Nakhasi said. "People here see [repairing diplomatic relations] as key to moving on and solving a lot of problems facing our country."

That activism has boiled over in several instances, such as when war protesters, including several students, occupied the Cedar Rapids offices of Iowa Sens. Tom Harkin, a Democrat, and Republican Charles Grassley in July.

SEE WAR, 4A



2008 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN



Sarah O'Brien/The Daily Iowan

Former Sen. John Edwards takes questions from reporters in the Eckstein Medical Research Building on Oct. 15.

Edwards, Dems play nice

Edwards makes his pitch as the force for change Democrats need.

Edwards talks down GOP

To find out more about presidential-nomination hopeful John Edwards' speech on Wednesday, watch Daily Iowan Television, dailyiowan.com

By George Sweeney
THE DAILY IOWAN

Former Sen. John Edwards didn't criticize any of the other candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination Wednesday. Instead, just more than three weeks before the Iowa caucuses, he focused on the split between himself and contenders for the GOP nod.

"Best I can tell, they're all George Bush on steroids," he said after mentioning a nationwide CNN poll taken between Dec. 6 and Dec. 9. The poll indicated Americans were more likely to support him than former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Sen. John McCain, or former Govs. Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee if he faced any of them in the general election. He was the only Democrat to claim that feat.

The softened tone within the party is not unique to the run up to the 2008 caucuses, UI political-science Associate Professor Cary Covington said.

"The idea of not being too negative has longer standing," he said. Candidates may avoid criticizing others because they think Iowans aren't attracted to negative campaigns, he said, or because they don't want to appear especially derogatory as the holidays approach.

Covington also pointed to Rep. Dick Gephardt's failed bid for the 2004 Democratic nomination as a potential lesson for

Robbins pitches in for Edwards

Hillary Rodham Clinton has Bill, Barack Obama has Oprah, and now John Edwards has Tim Robbins. "Get busy livin', or get busy dyin'," actor Robbins' character, Andy Dufresne, told Morgan Freeman's character, Red, in 1994's *The Shawshank Redemption*.

Wednesday, Robbins got busy campaigning for former Sen. John Edwards.

"I'm not Oprah," he told a packed room at the Iowa City Public Library.

Robbins said he supports Edwards primarily because of his "ability to defeat a Republican," in an interview with *The Daily Iowan* Monday. He also said he will support whichever Democrat wins the nomination.

Robbins, who is campaigning for Edwards this week along with actor Kevin Bacon, has not always seen eye to eye with the candidate.

The Oscar winner spoke strongly against the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, an action Edwards voted to support.

"He admits he made a mistake with Iraq," Robbins said.

He said people have to be able to learn in life and that he distrusts those who don't try to make apologies.

The actor added he hoped his

appearance might bring more media attention to the Edwards campaign.

"I believe there are more candidates than just two," he said.

He also said he makes no assumptions about his influence on public opinion, though he said celebrities are sometimes criticized for speaking politically "because people listen."

Reaction to the actor's decision to publicly support a candidate has yielded less than positive feedback by some.

Fox News commentator Bill O'Reilly mentioned Robbins' endorsement of Edwards on Tuesday, later adding, "Now, all I can say about Edwards is that he has no chance. But after the primary season, he can hold a big party in ... his enormous mansion and invite all his radical left supporters."

He added that voters will not be swayed by celebrities.

But Robbins defended his right to speak out on political issues, saying, "It's almost a responsibility."

"I'm a citizen; I have a right to my opinion," he said.

There is a "concerted effort" to get actors not to speak about political issues, he said, "by a certain element of the far right."

"What are they afraid of?" he asked.

— by George Sweeney

candidates. Gephardt's attacks on Howard Dean made him appear negative and contributed to his losing Iowans' support, Covington said.

The cordiality of the campaign has persisted despite poll numbers showing the race to be a dead heat in Iowa.

In a Monday Rasmussen

Reports poll on the Iowa Democratic caucus, Edwards trailed Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama with the support of 22 percent of respondents. Rodham Clinton held 29 percent, while Obama had 26 percent. The poll had a 3 percent margin of error.

The Edwards campaign also

announced a nine-point plan Wednesday for "Keeping Our Communities Safe" that includes pledges to hire more police officers, better enforcement of laws meant to curtail meth use, ban assault weapons, end ethnic profiling, and reform mandatory minimum sentencing.

After iterating past pledges for ending the war in Iraq and achieving energy independence, Edwards spoke with outrage about the difference in health care and education for the rich and poor.

The candidate also called for adapting but not abolishing No Child Left Behind, criticizing it for focusing too much on standardized tests and taking funding away from failing schools.

"You don't make a hog fatter by weighing it," Edwards said, quoting an anonymous person he had met during the campaign.

Overall, he projected himself as an agent of change, contrasted with an image he portrayed of Republicans as supporting the status quo.

"If you want the war in Iraq to continue, vote for them. If you want it to end, vote for me," he said.

Iowa City resident Mark Jones said he's likely to support Edwards in the Jan. 3 caucuses. "I feel like he's going to be honest," he said.

Charlotte Wright, an Iowa City resident, has considered supporting Obama but said Edwards' position against nuclear power won her over.

She said she holds "nothing against [Rodham Clinton]," but she just wants change.

E-mail D/reporter@george-sweeney@uiowa.edu

UISG passes 17 allocations despite storm

Because of inclement weather Tuesday evening, the UI Student Government postponed its final meeting of the semester until Jan. 22, 2008.

However, Tuesday evening did have a vote on monetary allocations that affected 17 UI student organizations via UISG's Internet e-mail list-serv system. Voting took place from approximately 3 p.m. till 11 p.m.

At that time, UISG President Barrett Anderson reported all matters passed.

Funds for meetings, trips, and celebrations of all groups got the green light.

Plans for the next UISG meeting include discussion of a full-time UISG secretary position, UISG protocols and job responsibilities, and Iowa City's application to become an official City of Literature.

— by Carla Keppler

Man charged with burglary to use drunk defense

A Columbus, Ohio, man facing

charges of burglary is going to use an intoxication defense at his trial, according to online court records.

Bakara Diakite, 30, was arrested in August and charged with holding up a Coralville Hy-Vee gas station, 2025 Second St. His then-girlfriend, Sherrica Barnette, allegedly drove the car in the robbery, and she was charged with accessory to a felony in October. She pleaded not guilty to the offense earlier this month.

Robbery is a Class B felony that could put Diakite behind bars for up to 25 years. His trial begins Dec. 17.

He is also facing charges of identity theft and witness tampering, according to online court records.

Identify theft and witness tampering are aggravated misdemeanors that could both individually net Diakite five years in prison.

— by Samantha Miller

Woman charged with domestic abuse

A woman allegedly conked her husband over the head with a DVD player Dec. 7, causing his head to bleed, Iowa City police reported.

Andressa Bouyer, 35, 1946 Broadway Apt. D, faces a domestic-abuse assault with intent or display of a weapon charge, according to reports.

Bouyer and her husband were involved in an argument when his wife hit him with the DVD player, police allege. Police said the victim suffered from a golfball-sized bump on the back of his head.

Reports said the victim also had bloody wounds on his left hand where Bouyer "came at him with the antenna she broke off the TV."

Before authorities arrived, Bouyer allegedly left in a blue Astro van with the couple's three children — two boys, ages 3 and 2, and one girl, age 7.

Police reported that Bouyer stabbed her husband in Des Moines in 2006.

Domestic-abuse assault with intent or display of a weapon is an aggravated misdemeanor, punishable by up to two years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000.

— by Kurtis Hiatt

Fire causes \$20,000 in damages

An early-morning fire Wednesday at 1127 Franklin St. caused an estimated \$20,000 worth of damages, fire officials said.

One occupant at the residence was asleep when the fire — which officials say appears to be accidental — started but was able to evacuate thanks to a warning from a smoke

detector, officials said.

Three fire trucks, a ladder truck, a command vehicle, and ambulance all responded at 4:34 a.m. Firefighters extinguished the blaze within 30 minutes, though they were unable to save the occupant's car.

No firefighters or civilians were injured. The cause of the fire is still being investigated, according to reports.

— by Kurtis Hiatt

Some still without power

As of 9:40 p.m. last night, the Iowa City metro area still had 118 MidAmerican customers reporting power outages from Tuesday's ice storm.

The total at that time in the state of Iowa was approximately 22,000. Although numbers decreased in Iowa City in the evening, outages in Des Moines jumped quickly — around 4,000 additional outages — by around 8 p.m. Other cities still affected were Council Bluffs, the Quad Cities, and Sioux City. The storm also affected states from Oklahoma to Wisconsin.

The storm was one of the three in the past 10 years that led officials to cancel UI classes. The Weather Channel reported .57 inches of precipitation in Iowa City on Tuesday.

— by Kelli Shaffner

The Daily Iowan

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TOP STORIES

Most-read stories on dailyiowan.com for Wednesday Dec. 12

1. Pot bust nets 4
2. Juco star picks Iowa
3. The Ice Man cometh
4. Knight-Alford redux
5. Lots of fresh faces for hoops

POLICE BLOTTER

William Barzee, 42, Coralville, was charged Monday with providing tobacco products to a minor.

Karen Haskins, 48, Hills, was charged Monday with driving with a suspended/canceled license.

Candy Kloos, 19, 1100 Arthur St. Apt. G2, was charged Wednesday with OWI.

Amy Richardson, 30, 1227 Burns Ave., was charged Tuesday with providing tobacco products to a minor.

CORRECTION

In the Dec. 12 article "Storm halts UISG plan," the *D*/incorrectly stated that the UI Student Government allocated \$375 to pay for meeting rooms. The correct amount for that fund is \$3,375. The *D*/regrets the error.

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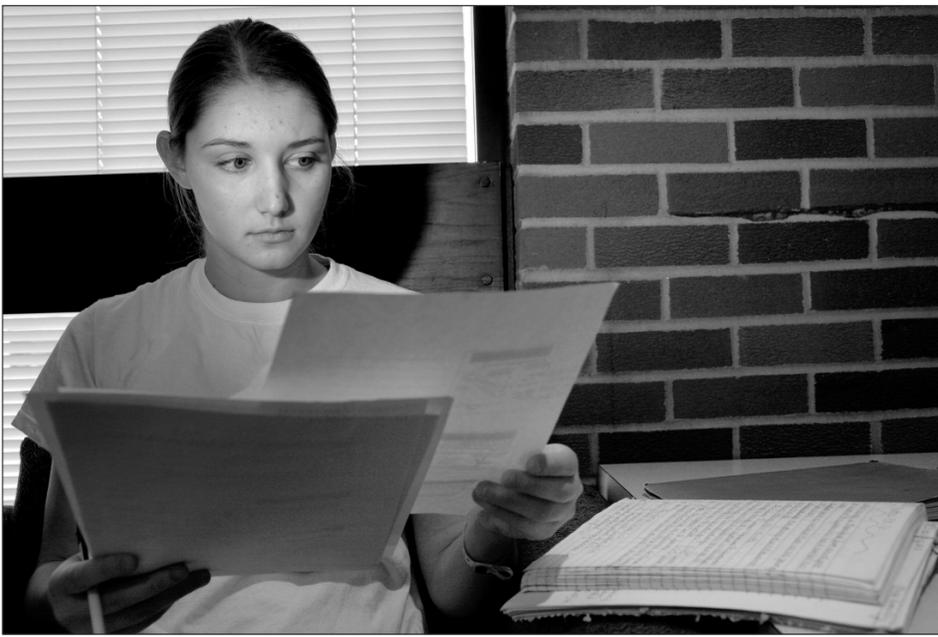
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Frosh set for 1st finals



Sarah O'Brien/The Daily Iowan

UI freshman Elise Kemerley studies for her final in Principles of Chemistry 1 in the Main Library on Wednesday. Kemerley has been studying three chapters a day since Sunday for the exam, which is next Monday. "I have a lot do," she said. "But I think I'll be ready."

FROSH

CONTINUED FROM 1A

But she still delved into a little political rhetoric during her own time when she attended Democratic presidential-nomination candidate Barack Obama's Dec. 5 student rally at the Field House. "I thought that was very entertaining and cool to get involved with because that never gets brought up at my house," she said. "Our family is not very political."

She doesn't intend to return to the UI campus from her hometown of Wheaton, Ill., to caucus for a candidate, although she said she was pleased that she had been exposed to Obama's message.

And while her family rarely discusses politics, religion remains an important area in the biology major's life.

"I'm getting used to all the faces, and I feel like I've just started talking to everyone. Now, I know for next semester to just be talkative with everyone right away."

— Elise Kemerley, freshman, on social interaction during her first semester

Kemerley has remained an active member of Campus Crusades for Christ, and she said she has continued to attend the group's Thursday evening worship services in lieu of a permanent church.

With winter break quickly approaching, she said, she is excited about going home and spending

time with her friends and family, who just visited recently.

"Before they came, it was almost like I didn't want to go home," she said. "I'd just been home for Thanksgiving, and now I want to stay here — I'm kind of in between."

When she returns to the UI in January, with a new set of classes and classmates, she said one personal goal is to get to know people more quickly.

"I'm getting used to all the faces, and I feel like I've just started talking to everyone," she said. "Now, I know for next semester to just be talkative with everyone right away."

But while she is away, Kemerley said she's certain she will miss her newly acquired friends at the UI.

"I'm missing them already, and I haven't even left yet," she said.

E-mail *DI* reporter **Brian Stewart** at: brian-stewart@uiowa.edu

Black & beautiful

BLACK

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Patrice Jones, said she has struggled with her image throughout her life, especially going to a predominately white school in Iowa.

"I was different," she said, "I did not see people who looked like me."

Her mother later asked if the women often faced prejudice and discrimination.

"Every day," her daughter responded.

UI junior Danielle Holliday, recalled the difficulties she faced in high school as well as in college, noting that no one ever told her she had potential.

She also brought up the stereotypes that come with black women's dialects.

"It has taken me 60 years to appreciate [black beauty]. I have learned we are beautiful and unique."

— Tish Jones, UI Associate Professor of theater, and leader of the forum

"I don't feel like I have to apologize for speaking a certain way," she said.

The women exchanged anecdotes throughout the more than hour discussion. In one, Patrice Jones recalled a day she wore her hair down.

"One boy said, 'Did you stick your finger in an electric outlet,'" she said, recalling how

humiliated and even more self-conscious about her image that statement made her.

Tish Jones noted that it was through her seeing her beautiful daughter that she herself appreciated her own beauty. It was harder in the past when "white women were put on the pedestal," she said.

"It has taken me 60 years to appreciate [black beauty]," she said. "I have learned we are beautiful and unique."

Another point the elder Jones noted was that the insecurities and stereotypes the women face are still very present.

"It is a battle, and we are going to keep fighting," she said.

E-mail *DI* reporter **Melanie Kucera** at: melanie-kucera@uiowa.edu

METRO

Wilburn on hold

Because of Tuesday's canceled Iowa City School Board meeting, Mayor Ross Wilburn will have to wait another week to find out if he will be hired as the next equity director for the School District.

Superintendent Lane Plugge said he sees no reason Wilburn would

not be approved for the position.

"Mr. Wilburn is a very qualified candidate," Plugge said.

If hired, Wilburn would have to leave his position as the Crisis Center executive director because the equity-director position is a full-time job, Plugge said.

In the new job, Wilburn would handle such matters as compliance

issues with students and faculty, training staff of equality issues, and bullying, as well as working with the equity and multicultural and gender-affairs committees.

"We're looking forward to having someone who has displayed commitment to this position," Plugge said.

— by Kelli Shaffner

WORLD

Bomb blast on train in India kills 5

GAUHATI, India (AP) — A bomb tore through a moving train in India's remote northeast earlier today, killing five passengers and injuring four, an official said.

The New Delhi-bound superfast Rajdhani Express started from the eastern town of Dibrugarh in Assam state and had just crossed a station near Chungajan, 168 miles east of state capital Gauhati,

when the bomb exploded, Indian Railway spokesman T. Rabha told the Associated Press. It jolted passengers out of their sleep, he said.

"A car near the luggage car took the whole impact of the blast before dawn Thursday. Five

passengers were killed and four others wounded," Rabha said.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack and authorities did not immediately blame any group. But several rebel groups are fighting for autonomy or independence in the region.

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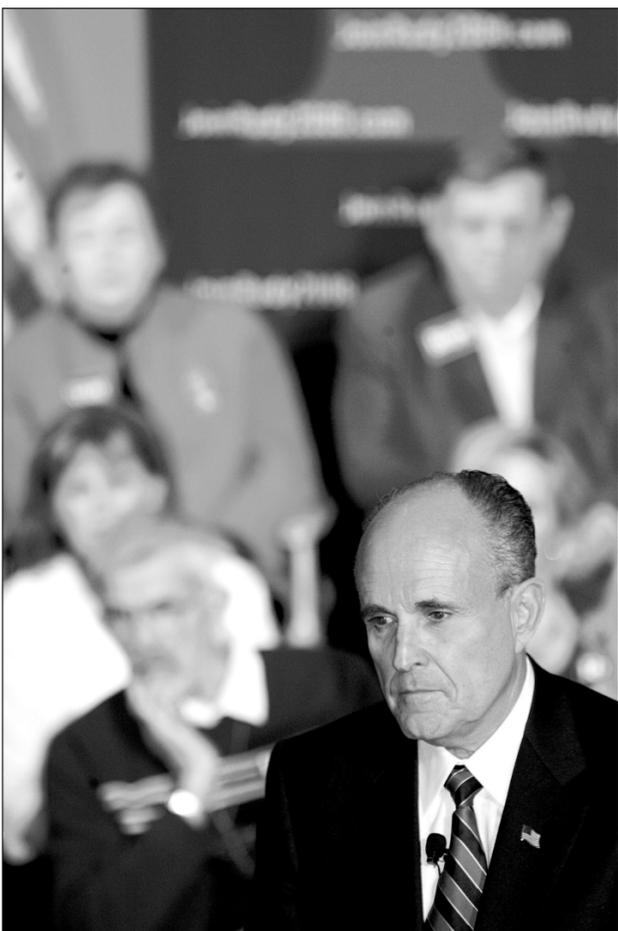
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Giuliani stops in Cedar Rapids



Julie Brayton/The Daily Iowan

Republican presidential-nomination candidate hopeful Rudy Giuliani spoke at the Dows Fine Art Center at Coe College in Cedar Rapids on Wednesday following the Republican debate in Des Moines earlier in the day.

GIULIANI

CONTINUED FROM 1A

"If you want to improve education, you have to start from the ground up," Giuliani said.

The former mayor also noted that America has the best higher-education system in the world, while its K-12 programs are struggling.

Giuliani spoke about his ideas to change tax codes and improve the health-care system by turning the responsibility to the people instead of the government.

By allocating \$15,000 tax exemptions for people to choose their own health insurance, he said, it will lower the cost of existing policies.

"Consumer markets will drive down the cost of health care," he said. "If everyone is investing in private health care, the prices will lower. I've seen it

work when I tackled the economy in New York."

Giuliani used Democratic candidate's health-care policies to reinforce his own.

"The Democrats want to take the options away from you and create a universal system," he said. "If that happens, my question is, where are all of the Canadians going to do for medical help?"

Samantha Wilson, a junior at the UI and a volunteer for the Giuliani campaign, said she believes the former mayor's appearance tonight will help him as the caucuses approach.

"I was really refreshed by his answers tonight," she said. "To have a Republican candidate to speak about embracing people in the Middle East is a nice change."

E-mail *DI* reporter **Amanda McClure** at: amanda-mcclure@uiowa.edu

Iowa City seen as antiwar spot

WAR

CONTINUED FROM 1A

"We're spending \$9 billion a day, and that money could be used for education or health care," said UI senior Brian Shearer, one of the activists arrested in Grassley's office.

A member of the UI Antiwar Committee, he said he sees the war as a distillation of many failed policies from the Bush administration. Now, along with the committee, he has an opportunity to get candidates to address the issue.

"We've had candidates come to Iowa City in the past who said they were antiwar, and yet, they voted for war funding," Shearer said, specifically mentioning one speech by Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del.

Iowa City tends to see a lot of speeches on Iraq and other foreign policy issues.

The Iowa City Foreign Relations Council has been driving some of the trend by inviting the presidential-nomination candidates on each side to come and speak on foreign policy in Iowa City, with several taking them up.

Several have accepted, but the large antiwar presence in "the People's Republic of Johnson County" has also upped the Iraq discussions.

Over the past several months several Democratic candidates have devoted entire speeches in the area to foreign policy, not including their remarks to the council. In an early November foreign policy speech, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama announced his military-contractor policy.

"If [the war] doesn't come up in the remarks, it generally comes up in questions" at candidate events, said Jeff Link, a Democratic strategist.

Campaigns know the war will be brought up when coming into Johnson County, he said.

"A lot of times the candidates will start with remarks on the war," because they know it will come up again later, he said.

The local environment can be unfriendly to those who disagree, however.

"I've been called everything in the book," said Ben Johnson, the chairman of the Iowa Federation of College Republicans, who believes the United States should stay in Iraq.

He said that while he doesn't

Voters on war

Public attention and media coverage have fallen along with the drop in U.S. casualties.

According to a November study from the Pew Research Center, in mid-January, Iraq was the first news story mentioned by 55 percent of respondents. By November, that number was down to 16 percent.

Also, the percent of people who said they were following events closely in Iraq dropped from 46 percent in January to 31 percent in November.

In May, U.S. casualties peaked for the year at 126; in November the total was 37.

A *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News poll also found that only 46 percent of people said the war should be one of the top-two priorities of the federal government. While that still leads all other issues, it is down from 53 percent in June.

take issue with people opposing the war, he would like to see more activism to help the troops.

"If you want to be against something that an administration is doing, that's fine," he said. "But personally, I take my energy and I use it toward an actual assertive goal," citing a program sending care packages to soldiers in Iraq started by the UI College Republicans.

Iowans concerned with the war are approaching a crossroads. With fewer than three weeks left before the Jan. 3 caucuses, national attention is less dead-set on the war.

Shearer, however, isn't concerned.

"Our generation and the generation below us is just becoming more informed and more involved," he said.

E-mail *DI* reporter **Dean Trefitz** at: dean-trefitz@uiowa.edu

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2008 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Romney pushes values, economy

Presidential-nomination hopeful Mitt Romney makes a short stop in Marion in hopes to capture the votes of familiar faces.

By Abby Harvey
THE DAILY IOWAN

MARION — Families scurried bundled children out of the cold night and into Linn-Mar High School's warm, crowded cafeteria filled with around 800 screaming former-Gov. Mitt Romney, R-Mass., supporters.

With only three weeks left until the Iowa caucuses, the presidential-nomination hopeful made his final stop of the day in Marion on Wednesday night after the Republican debate in Des Moines earlier that day.

As a part of Romney's "Ask Mitt Anything" campaign, the loud Linn County crowd came together for a "meet and greet" event, marking his 16th visit to that county alone.

The presidential-nomination hopeful was accompanied by "his sweetheart," "the boss," Anne Romney, who forged his marketability against other candidates — in particular,



Wesley Cropp/The Daily Iowan

GOP presidential-nomination candidate Mitt Romney meets with supporters and football fans near the College Republicans' tent in Ames on Sept. 15.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y. She cited his achievements as a husband, a father, a businessman, and in running the Olympics, in addition to being the governor of Massachusetts, as past successes

that will help determine the future.

"In every situation I've seen him in, he's been exemplary and extraordinary," Anne Romney said. "I look forward to him to being the next presi-

"This is a great nation of men and women who will sacrifice for America, who love their faith, who love their families, who love their country. It is why we will always remain the strongest nation on Earth, as long as we have leadership who will lay out the truth, and I intend to do just that, with all of your help."

— Mitt Romney

dent of the United States."

Just as first lady Nancy Reagan made "Just Say No to Drugs" her platform, and the Bush first ladies have both focused on reading, Anne Romney hopes to help young

people understand the importance of marriage and of making good decisions. More specifically, she is concerned they realize that "before they have babies, they should get married — that marriage comes first."

During the one-hour-long speech, Mitt Romney stressed the importance of strong families, strong homes, strong values, and a strong economy.

"I want to kill the death tax once and for all," he said. He also voiced plans for his special savings plan.

"My view is that everyone that earns \$200,000 or less a year would have a new tax rate on their savings," the former governor said. "Any of your tax rates would be zero so you could save your money for the future."

Mitt Romney said he also wanted to see a stronger military and better care for returning veterans.

His plan to follow through with all goals are simple: to

keep America the strongest nation in the world. Maintaining this status relies primarily on the foundation of a strong home, economy, and military, he said.

"This is a great nation of men and women who will sacrifice for America, who love their faith, who love their families, who love their country," he said. "It is why we will always remain the strongest nation on Earth, as long as we have leadership who will lay out the truth, and I intend to do just that, with all of your help."

Tim Albrecht, Romney's Iowa press secretary, said when his candidate comes out to campaign, he draws new voters, supporters, volunteers, and precinct leaders.

"His interest in the race is rising, and crowds are growing; we're trying to get Mitt Romney in front of as many people as possible," he said.

E-mail D/reporter Abby Harvey at: abby-harvey@uiowa.edu

UI official stresses academics

Worried about a party focus, a UI administrator hopes to send a new academic-centric message to students.

By Shajia Ahmad
THE DAILY IOWAN

A new message must be sent to UI students to improve undergraduate educational success, said university administrators.

Vice Provost Thomas Rocklin sought input on the Student Success Team, an ongoing project to explain to students the institution's educational expectations during a Staff Council meeting Wednesday.

"The Go Hawks, support the team, all that's great," he said. "But we want to tell students what you should do as students, not what Hawkeys do."

The initiative, which began

last fall, uses data and feedback from universitywide surveys and input from more than 30 student, staff, and faculty groups to create and implement programs and research opportunities to foster greater student academic success.

The average student with 15 credit hours of coursework, Rocklin said, studies approximately 12 to 14 hours per week outside of the classroom.

"That's not as bad as we may think, but it's half as much as we're asking of them," he said, noting that most students receive B averages with minimal engagement in their education. A new message to students, he

said, needs to teach students, not tell them, how to succeed.

Staff Council members raised questions about the current school-spirit messages, which some believe encourage partying. Some staff members also expressed that they feel underappreciated in their role in contributing to student success, because they work with students on a daily basis.

Matthew Gilchrist, a program assistant in the rhetoric department, said he believed there are already places on campus in which academic excellence and diversity are flourishing, and these departments and programs need greater university monetary support and recognition. This

would greatly benefit students in the long run, he said.

"Students need to also understand how they will become better persons and professionals at the end of their college careers," he said.

During its meeting, the Staff Council also debated and approved a parental-leave policy proposal for the state Board of Regents.

The council offered to broadly redefine the definitions of a parent and child and lengthen leave time for full-time employees from five to 15 working days, or 120 hours. The time could be used over the course of a year after initial custody of a child.

The council will ask for input from the Faculty Senate before forwarding its proposal to regents.

E-mail D/reporter Shajia Ahmad at: shajia-ahmad@uiowa.edu

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STATE

Settlement reached on federal funds misspent

DES MOINES (AP) — The state of Iowa and a troubled job-training agency tentatively agreed Wednesday on how to divvy up a \$1.3 million bill for misspent federal funds.

U.S. Department of Labor officials have sought to recoup the money after a pay scandal was discovered last year at the Central Iowa Employment and Training Consortium.

The state will pay \$800,000, according to the agreement brokered by Attorney General Tom Miller. The

remainder of the bill will be paid by the consortium and the agency's member governments, including the city of Des Moines and the counties of Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Story, and Warren.

The state and the consortium had argued they were not responsible for the federal bill, but Miller helped mediate their differences.

"Both sides had arguments," said Bob Brammer, a spokesman for Miller. "One argument was that the consortium had direct authority over the money. But the consortium also had an argument that the state had oversight."

The compromise scuppers a

potentially lengthy legal battle. Neither side wanted to pay the \$1.3 million, an amount federal officials say was misspent on lavish salaries for the consortium executives.

The deal still needs approval from each of the eight local governments involved in the federal payout, as well as a board of local officials that oversees federal job-training programs in central Iowa.

The attorney general's office has also agreed to pursue recoveries from the parties responsible for the debt, including those who have may have misspent funds and the consortium's insurance company.

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Editorial

Pay talent what talent is due

The writers' strike isn't a trucker's strike, which would cripple the nation. Our ability to buy fresh produce as well as finish up on our Christmas list isn't impaired by it. It isn't a teachers' strike, so kids in Iowa City and surrounding areas will still be able to finish their last few days of classes. Hollywood's writers hitting the picket lines will not keep our streets icy or our cars unticketed, as a municipal-employee strike would. All that said, there's less to be distracted from our studies with, evenings at home are a bit more boring, and our plasmas are missing their punch.

Film and television writers have been in a work stoppage since Nov. 5, despite the intervention of a federal mediator. From a narrow perspective, the picketing is affecting a sizable California industry that has created ripples in other businesses, such as catering, floral, and cleaning services. From a bigger point of view, the strike has cost more than 12,000 writers more than \$105 million according to the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers website, and an industry we rely on to unwind is growing weaker. But producers have also felt the squeeze; a grip that is tightening with previously produced episodes running out and the new year season's prospects for fresh episodes looking grim.

Viewers are turning off their televisions and being turned off in general by what looks like a greedy money squabble at first glance; despite those appearances, the issues are much deeper than the plot lines on ABC's "Cavemen."

The center of the disagreement is the current earnings-distribution system, one that the Writers' Guild says has most of the earnings floating to the top of the networks and production companies. More and more networks are airing full episodes of their programs online, On Demand ability for cable and satellite subscribers is rapidly multiplying, and the DVD market is expanding into new Hi-Def formats. These issues have all changed significantly since the last contract was negotiated; a process that takes place every three years, unfortunately for the writers — and now for television and film viewers — the producers' alliance doesn't believe significant changes need to be made in regard to revenue distribution. Essentially, the writer's efforts are being seen by more people and in more ways, but they aren't being compensated for it — everyone else is.

Some struggle through their day without a cup of coffee, others can't sleep without an episode of "The Daily Show." Both are a convenience, not a necessity. While we might be upset that ABC airs a garden-variety game show in place of new episodes of "Heroes," there is a relevant problem here — writers are not being sufficiently compensated for the use of their work. New media's expansion should be reflected in its returns to those responsible for its content. The producers' alliance needs to get back to the negotiating table and give writers what they deserve, and in doing so get Americans back to their regularly scheduled programming.

Bricks without straw

Another battle of the wills is emerging in Washington. While Congress and President Bush bicker relentlessly, the military waits for a new lifeline in the form of an approved budget. Once again, we're subjected to the insufferable presumption that the war in Iraq will end if Congress cuts the funding. If you read the Opinions page with a grain of salt, please make one exception today for the most important and genuine words I may ever contribute:

Cutting the war funding will not change the mission. Period.

I worked as a civilian in an Army office for several years. My job was administrative — inconsequential when compared with the work of those in uniform — but I became well-acquainted with the bureaucracy, including budgetary constraints.

Refusing to approve the budget may score political points for Democratic legislators, but it does nothing to bring the troops home. Does everyone remember the infamous words of Donald Rumsfeld? You go to war with the army you have, not the army you might want or wish to have at a later time.

Rumsfeld took a lot of flack for that statement, probably from many of the same people who currently support cutting the funding. But to cut the Department of Defense budget will advocate the same principle: You stay in Iraq with the budget you have, not the budget you might wish that Congress had approved.

Ask anyone in the armed services what life is like at the end of the fiscal year. My office would inevitably run out of something every September, and supply requests were denied. With no budget, no one could order supplies until the new fiscal year, so we used what we had. If we ran out of toner in the copy machine, we exhausted the fax machine to make necessary copies. Without a copier or fax, we could scan documents and use a printer. Absent those resources — we'd e-mail the scanned copies to another Army office to print and drive the government vehicle to pick them up.

All that for a few copies. Some years are better than others, but the end of the fiscal year always sucks. If you need supplies with no budget left, you do without. You make copies with the toner you have, not the toner you wish you would have ordered back in August.

Maybe it seems trivial to compare my office to the troops in Iraq, but my job experience gives me perspective. Regardless of where the budget is allocated, when the money's gone, supplies are gone, but it's always business as usual. For me, it was simply office supplies, but for troops overseas, it could mean compromising safety or ammunition. When the money runs out, the mission stays the same, and they find a way; trust me — MacGyver's got nothing on a soldier at the end of the fiscal year!

In the face of daunting tasks, our military will find a way and make it happen, with or without necessary funds. I spoke with an Army officer who has used the MacGyver approach in Iraq. He said, "There are things that have to be done, regardless of immature supply lines or lack of monies available. When faced with a down Humvee and no parts account money, we look around and find out what we have that we can trade for parts. After discovering an unused spool of Internet cable (CAT V, gold in early Iraq), somehow the motor pool lost track of several head gaskets and found better communication. An Iraqi man walked on spare parts for two months before finding his way to the prosthetic hospital. Two surgeons and an Army medical unit literally used broken camouflage poles and plaster casting to create a new leg." These are only two small vignettes representing countless situations. In the combat zone, they'll find a way; they have to, it's their job, and failure is not an option. Unfortunately, the same standard doesn't apply in Washington, D.C.

Nothing George W. Bush has said or done persuades me that he'd redeploy the troops or approve a budget with restrictions. Cutting the funding will result in deployment of troops who are ill-equipped and under-trained.

The reallocation of resources, both material and monetary, reduces training budgets, halts the acquisition of new and upgraded equipment in preparation for deployment, and will likely result in the loss of civilian positions in the United States — quite a price to pay for Democratic lawmakers to showcase their opposition to President Bush. ■

DI columnist Kathleen Watson has actually seen pictures of the prosthetic leg. E-mail her at: kathleen-watson@uiowa.edu



KATHLEEN WATSON

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

DI Blog

Here comes the Huck

"Who the hell is Mike Huckabee?" a friend asked while we watched a GOP debate earlier this year. "He's the former governor of Arkansas," I said. "He's polling about the same as Tommy Thompson."

"Who's that?" "Exactly." I liked to poke fun at Tommy Thompson. I'm also a Wisconsinite, and he's something of an embarrassment to many of us; granted, not so bad as Joe McCarthy, but still. So comparing Mike Huckabee with Thompson was a jab. I admit it. But honestly, I never expected I'd have to relive that conversation months later. Mike Huckabee just wasn't the real thing.

Then again, a lot of people said that about another Arkansas governor in the early '90s. Yeah, it happens. I take it back. In March, Huckabee was polling at 1 percent. With a margin of error somewhere around 5 percent, there was a possibility that almost negative 4 percent of Americans



would vote for him. He was flirting with mathematical impossibilities. Between March and October, nothing really happened. Just before Halloween, Huckabee was still polling in the low single

digits. As Midwesterners, we know exactly what those temperatures feel like. Voters were giving him the cold shoulder. And then November happened. I don't know if it was a combination of too much

turkey, a brilliant campaign ad that featured Chuck Norris, or a slew of religious conservatives receiving free campaign buttons, but Huckabee happened. And he happened fast.

A CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll in early November finally showed Huckabee breaking into the double digits, at 10 percent. By the end of the month, Huckabee fever gripped cable news, and a new CNN poll conducted last week has our pal Huck within the margin of error of Rudy Giuliani (whom you may have already heard of). If you include the margin of error, he might actually be ahead of "America's Mayor." Has the "I was the mayor of New York on 9/11" slogan finally run its course?

We're just a few weeks from the caucuses now, in case you forgot. Could it be possible that Mike Huckabee (the Tommy Thompson impersonator) might actually have a shot at the Republican nomination? He seems a good fit; many Republicans like his conservative record. Plus, he is Chuck Norris approved. Well-played, Huck-Chuck. Well-played indeed.

— Rob Verhein
DI editorial writer

A healthy dose of facts

RUNNING ON EMPTY

We've all seen the images of a charred house, the end of a forest fire, the mangledness of melted plastic. We know that once something is burned, it is very difficult — if not impossible — to return the object to its original form and likeness. For this same reason, we grew up with fire-prevention education such as Smokey the Bear, don't-play-with-matches commercials, and mothers telling us never to put a dish towel on a hot stove.

Humans can also burn out. Likewise, the end product requires great care and time to reform, making prevention something that should be avidly sought. As students, all of us know that there are times of greater stress than others. Stress is something our body does in order to react to a situation that demands more of our energy and attention. Stress and anxiety over specific events are not the same thing as burnout. Burnout should be thought of as a condition where one consistently feels stressed and cannot relax. It's a longer-term problem where our defenses against stress have been stretched too thin — and can't return to the original form.

The word "burnout" was coined in the 1974 book, *Burnout: The High Cost of High Achievement*, by Herbert Freudenberger, as "the extinction of motivation or incentive, especially where one's devotion to a cause or relationship fails to produce the desired results." Today, burnout is typically defined as an inability to cope with emotional stress over a long period of time and decreased overall well-being. Symptoms of burnout are nonspecific. They may include a general pessimistic outlook, decreased energy, physical and emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, lowered immuno-defensiveness, headaches, irritability, insomnia, or eating problems. As people have diverse mechanisms for dealing with stress, it is not surprising that the symptoms of failing to cope are also diffuse. Though burnout is not a defined clinical condition, there is a high correlation between burnout and clinical diagnoses of depression, anxiety, and mood disorders.

For the purposes of this article, burnout is defined by the prevailing view that it is caused by prolonged stress. Yet, as one may suspect with a condition that has not yet been concretely clinically defined, there is some controversy and contradictory studies on what actually causes burnout. Some studies have shown that burnout is highly



HEATHER BYERS

correlated with the hormones that the body releases during times of high stress, such as cortisol or epinephrine. Yet, other studies have shown that prolonged exposure to stress hormones is not necessary for burnout to occur. It is likely that the different results are due to the fact that different people have different stress triggers and ways of defining burnout.

What is not controversial is that burnout is a widespread problem with expensive societal costs. It is associated with higher levels of unproductivity and absenteeism. Burnout is typically measured using the Maslach Burnout Inventory, which rates emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and a feeling of failure and dissatisfaction. This scale has been used in multiple burnout studies. These studies tend to focus on known high-stress environments, such as the medical field. According to a study published in the *American Journal for Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, 25 to 60 percent of physicians experience burnout. Higher levels of burnout were loosely correlated with more stressful specialties, such as intensive care and oncology and further amplified with stressful working conditions, such as inadequate pay, absenteeism, a high level of employee turnover, or insufficient personal support.

The key to preventing burnout appears to be mindfulness — being aware of one's limitations, stressors, and activating coping strategies — and professional help. A major hinderance to getting help is that fact that many symptoms of burnout — such as an overall pessimistic attitude and a loss of confidence in one's ability — make it conducive for the patient to blame himself verses seeing burnout as a fixable condition. According to a *BMC Medical Education Journal* study that studied medical students over the course of their education career, burnout is a common problem (around 27 percent by third year), yet relatively few seek help. Though the medical field continues to better understand conditions associated with burnout, burnout itself is still largely individualized — as should its prevention.

So, yes, finals week is not the time to be concerned about a higher feeling of stress. That's normal. However, a perpetual feeling of inadequacy, exhaustion and stress may be indicative of burnout — and the need for a change.

On the Spot

As a student, what would you go on strike for?



"More efficient Cambuses."

Richard Gilbaugh
UI junior



"For women to stop wearing those ugly boots."

Josh Popelka
UI senior



"Cleaning parking spaces for cars downtown."

Andrea Bartula
UI senior



"To get rid of parking meters."

Anthony Kobusch
UI freshman

Bush again vetoes kids' health act

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush vetoed legislation Wednesday that would have expanded government-provided health insurance for children, his second slap-down of a bipartisan effort in Congress to dramatically increase funding for the popular program.

It was Bush's seventh veto in seven years — all but one coming since Democrats took control of Congress in January. Wednesday was the deadline for Bush to act or let the bill become law. The president also vetoed an earlier, similar bill expanding the health-insurance program.

Bush vetoed the bill in private.

In a statement notifying Congress of his decision, Bush said the bill was unacceptable because — like the first one — it allows adults into the program, would cover people in families with incomes above the U.S. median, and raises taxes.

"This bill does not put poor children first, and it moves our country's health-care system in the wrong direction," Bush's statement said. "Ultimately, our nation's goal should be to move children who have no health insurance to private coverage, not to move children who already have private health insurance to government coverage."

Rice: U.S. not ready for broad N. Korean engagement

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration is not ready to expand contacts with North Korea despite signs that U.S. ties with the reclusive communist nation are warming, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told the Associated Press Wednesday. She also said Iran remains a major threat even without an active nuclear-weapons program.

The North, she said, "is not a regime that the United States is prepared to engage broadly" until its leadership has ended all aspects of its nuclear weapons program. "If we are going to engage it broadly, it's clear in the program that we have laid out how that would happen, after denuclearization."

She added, "What matters first and foremost is that we deal with the nuclear-weapons programs, all of them, of the North Koreans. It remains a country that is dangerously armed and a considerable threat on both the proliferation front and its own program."

As evidence of a possible thaw, President Bush wrote North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Il, on Dec. 1 and raised the potential for normalized



Iraqi soldiers inspect the scene of a car bombing in the city of Amarah, Iraq, on Wednesday. Three car bombs exploded in quick succession in the market district of the southern Iraqi city, killing at least 41 people and injuring 150 in an oil-rich Shiite region that has largely escaped sectarian bloodshed, authorities said. It was the country's deadliest bombing in four months.

relations if Kim were to fully disclose his nuclear programs by year's end — a turnabout considering the White House lumped the country with Iran and Iraq in an "Axis of Evil" after the 9/11 attacks. Also, the New York Philharmonic announced on Tuesday it would play a concert in the North Korean capital in February.

Rice said neither the performance, which her department encouraged, nor Bush's letter, which also went to other foreign leaders involved in the disarmament talks, should indicate the administration was less determined to confront the North over its nuclear program. Bush's letter, she said, was part of the "active diplomacy" on the issue.

CIA destroyed tapes despite court orders

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal courts had prohibited the Bush administration from discarding evidence of detainee torture and abuse months before the CIA destroyed videotapes that revealed some of its harshest interrogation tactics.

Normally, that would force the government to defend itself against obstruction allegations. But the CIA may have an out: its clandestine network of overseas prisons.

While judges focused on the detention center in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and tried to guarantee

that any evidence of detainee abuse would be preserved, the CIA was performing its toughest questioning half a world away. And by the time President Bush publicly acknowledged the secret prison system, interrogation videos of two terrorism suspects had been destroyed.

The CIA destroyed the tapes in November 2005. That June, U.S. District Judge Henry Kennedy Jr. had ordered the Bush administration to safeguard "all evidence and information regarding the torture, mistreatment, and abuse of detainees now at the United States Naval Base at Guantánamo Bay."

U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler issued a nearly identical order that July.

At the time, that seemed to cover all detainees in U.S. custody. But Abu Zubaydah and Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, the terrorism suspects whose interrogations were videotaped and then destroyed, weren't at Guantánamo Bay. They were prisoners that existed off the books — and apparently beyond the scope of the court's order.

Bombs kill at least 41 in southern Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — Three car bombs exploded in quick succession Wednesday at the main market of a southern Shiite city, killing at least 41

people and wounding 150 others, police and local government officials said. It was the deadliest attack against Iraqi civilians in four months.

The devastating blasts in Amarah, an oil-producing city largely spared from sectarian bloodshed, occurred only days before Britain was expected to hand over a neighboring southern province — the last remaining under British control since the 2003 invasion.

Fears are rising about whether Iraq's mostly Shiite security forces can control Shiite militias competing for power in the oil-rich south, even as U.S. officials report dramatic falls in violence nationwide.

American commanders fear that Al Qaeda in Iraq and other extremists might try to exploit the security gap by attempting spectacular attacks against Shiite civilians in less-protected areas outside Baghdad — especially where there is little coalition military presence.

No group claimed responsibility for the Amarah bombings, which appeared to be bomb-rigged cars rather than suicide attacks. The blasts occurred minutes apart and seemed to be timed to bring maximum carnage.

Vegas police search for 2 gunmen

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Police searched for two gunmen

Wednesday who wounded six young people at a bus stop, an attack that officials believe stemmed from a fight about a girl. Tight security met students entering high schools. The six were wounded Tuesday shortly after a group of Mojave High School students got off a school bus in a working-class neighborhood in northeastern Las Vegas.

The investigation was focused at Mojave, but security also was increased elsewhere, said Clark County School District police Sgt. Ken Young.

"We've got extra officers at several high schools," Young said.

Police were search for at least two suspects. The attackers were believed to have fled the scene of the shooting on foot.

Police said they believed the shooting was linked to a fight at Mojave earlier in the day Tuesday. The brawl had been contained by school police, who arrested three male students, all about 16, officials said.

Sheriff Doug Gillespie did not describe how he believed the incidents were connected. The fight at

the school did not appear to be gang- or race-related, he said.

Colo. shooter's family 'groping for answers'

DENVER (AP) — The family of a young man who went on a deadly shooting rampage in two Colorado religious centers before killing himself said Wednesday that they are "groping for answers" and praying for the victims' families.

Matthew Murray's family said in a statement that they will hold a private funeral for him later this week.

"We are lost in grief as we prepare to bury our beloved son, Matthew. We loved Matthew with all our hearts, and we are groping for answers as we try in vain to understand the events of last Sunday," the family said.

Murray killed two people at Youth With a Mission, a training center for missionaries in the Denver suburb of Arvada, early Sunday. About 12 hours later, the 24-year-old killed two more people at the New Life Church in Colorado Springs, about 65 miles away. A volunteer security guard shot and wounded him, and he killed himself with a bullet to his head.

In between the shootings, Murray is believed to have left several posts on Web sites warning that he was going to kill Christians.

In Arvada, relatives of the two slain missionaries, Tiffany Johnson, 26, and Philip Crouse, 24, met privately with Murray's parents Wednesday to grieve and offer prayers for both the attacker and his victims.

Families flee freezing, blacked-out homes

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — After three nights in a freezing, powerless home, Jeanetta Plunkett couldn't take any more. She picked up her two young grandchildren and sought refuge at a shelter for people who lost electricity after a huge ice storm.

"We've been at home trying to endure, but it wasn't working," said Plunkett, who feared she was getting a cold and noticed the children had runny noses.

Oklahoma was hit hardest by the storm that encrusted the nation's midsection in ice and was blamed for at least 32 deaths. On Wednesday, the state still had a half million homes and businesses without power, and utility officials warned it could take a week to 10 days to get electricity fully restored.

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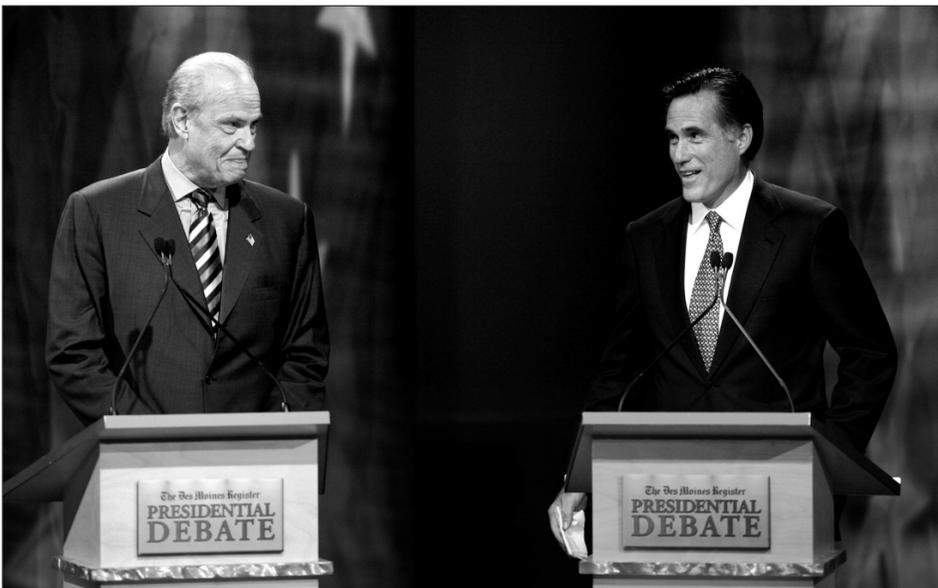
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2008 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN



Charlie Neibergall/Associated Press

Republican presidential-nomination hopefuls former Sen. Fred Thompson (left) and former Gov. Mitt Romney interact during the *Des Moines Register* Republican debate in Johnston, Iowa, on Wednesday.

GOP hopefuls: Cut spending

By Liz Sidoti
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHNSTON, Iowa — Republican presidential-nomination rivals called for deep cuts in federal spending Wednesday in a debate remarkably free of acrimony and agreed the reductions they seek need not require painful sacrifice by millions of Americans who rely on government services.

"The sacrifice we need from the American people is saying, 'Let the programs go that don't work. Don't lobby for them forever,'" said former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, one of nine GOP-nomination hopefuls sharing an Iowa stage little more than three weeks before the state's caucuses provide the first test of the campaign.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani called for across-the-board cuts of up to 15 percent, including reduced federal spending on health care. "Rather than relying on a nanny government, let's rely on people to decide their own health care," he said.

The debate was the Republicans' last before the Iowa caucuses on Jan 3, and it punctuated a remarkable period of turmoil in their race for the presidential nomination.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee has eroded

Giuliani's lead in nationwide polls, and he has overtaken Romney in public surveys of likely caucus-goers in Iowa. The result has been an increase in testiness — Romney on Tuesday became the first candidate to assail another in a TV ad, hitting Huckabee for his position on immigration.

But all nine men on the debate stage were on their best behavior for an Iowa electorate notoriously scornful of political attacks, and the subject of education produced the only semblance of sparks.

Moments after Huckabee said schools should provide all students with music and art instruction at all grade levels, Colorado Rep. Tom Tancredo took him to task. "That's not the job of a president. It's the job of a governor," he said. "That's what you should run for if you want to dictate curriculum."

Huckabee responded by saying that in his decade as governor, he had the "most impressive education record."

That brought a polite disagreement from Romney — also a fellow governor. "I just wanted a small adjustment to what Gov. Huckabee had to say. And I don't believe you had the finest record of any governor in American on education," he said, eliciting laughter from the debate audience.

Former Sen. Fred Thompson of Tennessee was an exception to the general agreement on spending and sacrifice. "We've got to spend more for the military as a matter of fact, but we've got to look at Social Security and Medicare and do some things that won't hurt anybody badly," he said. Thompson, alone among the White House contenders in both parties, has called for steps to reduce the benefits promised to future retirees. He has also said he supports changes in Medicare, but has yet to outline a specific proposal.

Carolyn Washburn, the editor of the *Des Moines Register* and the debate moderator, brought about a mini-revolt at one point when she asked all the candidates to raise their hands if they thought global warming was a serious threat caused by human behavior. "I'm not doing hand shows today," said Thompson.

Ultimately, no one disputed global warming was a problem and humans at least contribute to it.

"I know it's real," said Sen. John McCain of Arizona, who advocates legislation to tackle the problem.

"Climate change is real. It's happening. Human beings are contributing to it," agreed Giuliani.

The final pre-caucus Democratic debate is set for today.

STATE

22,000 in Iowa still without power

DES MOINES (AP) — Emergency volunteers continued to work Wednesday providing food, shelter, and water to help thousands of people still without power, a day after a winter storm blanketed much of the state under a thick layer of ice.

Iowa's two major utilities, MidAmerican Energy and Alliant Energy, reported approximately 22,000 customers still without power Wednesday night. Most of those were expected to get power back by this morning, officials said.

Meanwhile, Gov. Chet Culver has declared disaster areas in Appanoose, Mahaska, Marion, Union, and Wayne Counties. The declaration allows the counties to receive state funds and services to help recover from the storm.

In southern Iowa's Wayne County where power was out for much of the county, officials set up six shelters, said Bill Yeager, emergency management coordinator.

"We're transporting people almost continuously right now," Yeager said. "In the rural areas, we've had the power companies tell us it'll be from three, to five, to seven days before we get it restored."

Booster stations that pump water into the rural communities lost power, so generators kicked in to keep them going, Yeager said.

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Thursday, December 13, 2007

Women's gymnastics: Injuries common, 2B

dailyiowan.com **DI**

Freeman may be back



Natalia Salazar/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Tony Freeman scans the floor during the Hawkeyes' matchup with Northern Iowa on Dec. 5 in Cedar Falls. While continued soreness in his foot kept Freeman out of the team's game against Iowa State, the junior said he expects to play Friday against Drake.

Expected to play Friday against Drake, Tony Freeman said Wednesday he hopes to be 100 percent by the Big Ten season.

By Charlie Kautz
 THE DAILY IOWAN

Iowa head coach Todd Lickliter iterated Wednesday that while Tony Freeman is expected to return Friday night against Drake, it's remains unclear when, if ever, the junior guard will compete at full-strength this season.

Fighting continued soreness in a fractured toe on his left foot — a condition that kept him out of the team's first nine games and again last weekend — Freeman worked through a regular practice session Tuesday for the first time in six days after logging 24 minutes at Northern Iowa.

And although the severity

of the soreness was the deciding factor in Freeman's choice to sit out against Iowa State, Lickliter and the third-year point man seem to be on the same page six weeks into rehabilitation.

"I really think it's tolerating the soreness and the foot adjusting to this kind of pressure again," the coach said. "Eventually, it will subside. But I think he's going to have to go through some of this no matter what it is."

"So maybe practice is actually better than rest — he's been off of it a long time."

Continuing to ice his foot on a daily basis, Freeman appears to be doing just that. From early pool workouts to

Freeman to return Friday

Watch Daily Iowan Television at dailyiowan.com to hear more from Iowa coach Todd Lickliter regarding Tony Freeman's return as the Hawkeyes prepare to take on Drake Friday night.

the more high-stress action of the hardwood last week, he appears to be working hard and adapting to the injury process as he feels comfortable.

"I should be ready to go [Friday]," he said. "Last week, it was kind of early. I'm going to have to play through pain probably the first 10 months of this injury. I'm used to that, and as long as I'm able to go 90 percent of the time as far as playing with pain, I'll be fine."

At 6-5 overall, and with Freeman's limited minutes coming off the bench Friday, one thing that does bode well for Iowa (6-5) is the schedule. Following the home contest with Drake, the Hawkeyes

enjoy a 13-day break away from competition leading into the Big Ten season, with final exams and a brief Christmas vacation in store for players.

"Anybody with any type of injury, to get two weeks off — and like four or five of those days are just going home and resting with your family — it's no pressure or anything that holds you back from getting better," Freeman said. "I'm looking forward to taking that time off and just getting back to 100 percent for the Big Ten."

"I never like to take time off — I'm a gym rat. But if it's going to do my body justice and give the team time to rest injuries, then it's probably worth it."

One injury to which Freeman is referring is that of freshman Jeff Peterson, who's sprained right thumb has

SEE BASKETBALL, 3B

NO. 1 IOWA VS. NO. 25 NORTHERN IOWA

TODAY, AT CARVER-HAWKEYE ARENA, IOWA CITY, 6:30 P.M., KXIC 800-AM

Wrestlers aim to remain focused

By Ryan Young
 THE DAILY IOWAN

Newly crowned No. 1 and fresh off a stimulating 20-13 victory over then-tops-ranked Iowa State, Tom Brands and the Iowa wrestling team seek to remain dominant in its season home opener, facing Northern Iowa and Cornell College tonight in Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

Putting their top spot on the line, the Hawkeyes will go toe-to-toe with UNI at 6:30 p.m., then follow up with a meet against the Rams at 8 p.m.

"It's a quick turnaround," coach Tom Brands said. "We like that. We get to find out where our guys are consistency-wise. We key on individuals, go forward, and continue to build."

Directed by eight-year head coach Brad Penrith, the 25th-ranked Panthers enter Iowa City winless after beginning their season with a 16-16 stalemate against No. 13 Wisconsin.



Ariana McLaughlin/The Daily Iowan

Filling in for 165-pound Hawkeye Mark Perry, Iowa wrestler Jake Kerr is taken down by Iowa State grappler Jon Reader on Sunday. Ranked No. 1 after defeating the previously top-ranked Cyclones, Iowa will host Northern Iowa and Cornell tonight in Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

Equipped with a quartet of NCAA qualifiers who stand ranked nationally in the top 20, UNI seniors C.J. Ettleson (141) and Alex Dolly (174), in addition

to juniors Moza Fay (165) and Andrew Anderson (197) are the generators for Northern Iowa.

SEE WRESTLING, 3B

Projected Lineups

- 125 pounds** — Charlie Falck (I) vs. Caleb Flores (UNI)
- 133 pounds** — Joe Slaton (I) vs. Trent Washington (UNI)
- 141 pounds** — Dan LeClere (I) vs. C.J. Ettelson (UNI)
- 149 pounds** — Brent Metcalf (I) vs. Charlie Ettelson/Nick Pickerell (UNI)
- 157 pounds** — Ryan Morningstar (I) vs. Jarion Beets/Seth Pugh (UNI)
- 165 pounds** — Mark Perry (I) vs. Moza Fay (UNI)
- 174 pounds** — Jay Borschel/Rick Loera (I) vs. Alex Dolly (UNI)
- 184 pounds** — Phillip Keddy/Rick Loera (I) vs. Danny Dunning/Andy O'Loughlin (UNI)
- 197 pounds** — Chad Beatty (I) vs. Andrew Anderson (UNI)
- HWT** — Matt Fields (I) vs. Dustin Bauman (UNI)

SEE BASEBALL, 3B

FOOTBALL

Big Ten extends schedule

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big Ten football players will have less time to lie around and eat Thanksgiving leftovers starting in 2009.

The conference will extend the season to the weekend after Thanksgiving in 2009 and whenever necessary so teams can work an off week into their schedules. The university presidents approved the change Dec. 2.

"It was more about adding the bye week than it was about playing after Thanksgiving," Big Ten spokesman Scott Chipman said on Wednesday.

In 2006, when the NCAA went to a permanent 12-game schedule for major-college football teams to help schools increase revenue, the Big Ten was put in a bind. The league prefers to wrap up its season a week before Thanksgiving, but often that leaves only 12 weeks to play 12 games, starting Labor Day weekend.

Next year is an exception. With 13 weekends from the start of September to Thanksgiving, Big Ten teams will have an off week without playing past the holiday.

Every other major conference plays games the weekend after Thanksgiving. The Big East, Pac-10, and other leagues

SEE BIG TEN, 3B

IOWA BASEBALL

Hawk baseball looking up

By Sam Martin
 THE DAILY IOWAN

When prized baseball recruit Zach Kenyon decided to honor his commitment to Iowa instead of leaping to the professional ranks with the Kansas City Royals, Hawkeye head coach Jack Dahm was relieved.

"Zach called me up the night he said no to the Royals," Dahm recalled, chuckling. "This phone call's at about 11:15 at night, and I was too nervous to call back. I waited until the morning to give Zach a call back. I wanted to be able to sleep that last night, and it was probably a bad idea — I couldn't sleep because I didn't know what he decided."

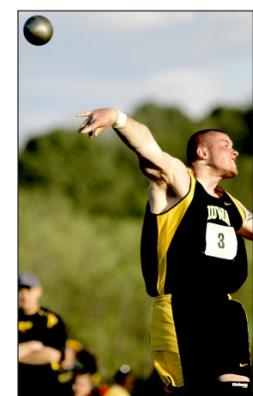
Iowa's fifth-year head coach is resting easier these days with his star recruit ready to don the Black and Gold next spring.

Kenyon, a 6-6 flamethrower

SEE BASEBALL, 3B

Hawkeyes in the 2007 major league draft

- Zach Kenyon**, P, Royals, ninth round
- Jason White**, SS, Orioles, 17th round
- Dusty Napoleon**, C/1B, Athletics, 19th round
- Travis Sweet**, OF, Astros, 29th round



TRACK

Men tracksters face each other

Competing for the first time since the spring season, the Iowa men's track and field team hosted its annual intrasquad meet Wednesday and saw encouraging performances.

Returning to action at the Recreation Building, junior John Hickey put on a show with a toss of 61-10 1/4 in the shot put, a mark that would've ranked second on the all-time indoors best performers list for Iowa. But because the intrasquad meet is not a sanctioned event, the mark simply stands as a high bar to eclipse when Iowa opens the season on Jan. 19, 2008.

On the track, senior Max Milder had a breakout performance in winning the 60 (6.97) and 200-meter (22.33) events, edging senior teammate Lee Elbert by a mere .08 seconds in the 60-meter finals.

Matching against Hawkeye teammates for the first time, freshmen Chris Barton (400 meters) and Graham Valdes (high jump) placed first in their respective events. Barton finished with a time of 49.63 in the 400, while Valdes' high-jump of 6-8 marked a personal best.

In the distance portion of the night, sophomore Adam Hairston captured first in the 1,000 meters with a time of 2:32.95, while junior Tommy Tate took the 300-meter title with a mark of 8:38.80.

— by Charlie Kautz

Women tracksters hold intrasquad

In a preseason showcase pitting Hawkeyes against one another, the Iowa women's track team participated in its annual intrasquad meet Wednesday night at the Recreation Building.

Competing for the first time since the death of former head coach James Grant, who passed away in July after a two-year battle with cancer, the women showed promise under the guidance of new coach Layne Anderson.

Winning the 600 meters in a time of 1:38.32, freshman Bethany Praska led the way for the Hawkeye youngsters, while sophomorealeigh Bacchus tied for first in the high jump with a leap of 5-7.

Joining Bacchus at the top was senior high-jumper Tammilee Kerr, whose 5-7 hop was good for a share of first.

In the most closely contested finish of the evening, sophomore Rhonda-Kaye Trusty (41.12) edged out junior Renee White (41.14) in the 300 meters, capturing first in a race worthy of a photo finish.

And in the mile, the top-five finishers were divided by more than 35 seconds, with Fiona Fallon (5:25.56) and Kathryn Guess (5:28.50) finishing lengths ahead in first and second.

— by Charlie Kautz

TV TODAY

- NFL**
- Denver at Houston, 7 p.m., NFL
- NBA**
- Washington at Miami, 7:15 p.m., TNT
- San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m., TNT



Sports

SPORTS 'N' STUFF

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	16	11	3	35	76	72
N.Y. Rangers	16	12	3	35	71	70
Philadelphia	16	10	2	34	89	76
Pittsburgh	15	13	2	32	88	88
Northeasters	14	12	2	30	66	82
Northwest						
W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Ottawa	19	7	3	41	96	77
Boston	17	10	3	37	82	75
Montreal	14	11	5	33	85	88
Toronto	13	12	6	32	97	100
Buffalo	14	14	1	29	91	84
Southeast						
W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Carolina	16	13	3	35	98	100
Tampa Bay	14	14	3	31	93	95
Atlanta	14	15	1	29	83	101
Florida	13	15	2	28	77	83
Washington	12	17	2	26	79	91

WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Central	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	22	6	2	46	104	67
St. Louis	16	10	2	34	76	73
Columbus	14	11	6	34	81	78
Chicago	15	13	2	32	91	86
Nashville	14	12	2	30	81	84
Northwest						
W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Minnesota	16	12	2	34	73	78
Colorado	16	13	1	33	92	91
Calgary	13	13	5	31	83	91
Edmonton	14	16	2	30	86	99
Pacific						
W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
San Jose	16	9	4	36	75	66
Vancouver	16	11	1	35	90	82
Anaheim	15	14	4	34	83	94
Phoenix	13	15	0	26	68	103
Los Angeles	12	17	2	26	89	80

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss.

Wednesday's Games
 Vancouver 5, Atlanta 3
 Buffalo 5, N.Y. Islanders 3
 Columbus 4, Colorado 1
 Washington 5, N.Y. Rangers 4, OT
 Ottawa 6, Carolina 0
 Chicago 6, Los Angeles 3
 Vancouver 3, Anaheim 2

Today's Games
 New Jersey at Boston, 6 p.m.
 Phoenix at N.Y. Islanders, 6 p.m.
 Montreal at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
 Edmonton at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
 Ottawa at Pittsburgh, 6:30 p.m.
 Calgary at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m.
 Colorado at Nashville, 7 p.m.
 Florida at St. Louis, 7:30 p.m.
 Los Angeles at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
 Vancouver at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	13	10	.565	6½
New Jersey	9	13	.409	10
Philadelphia	9	13	.409	10
New York	6	15	.286	12½
Southeast				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Orlando	16	7	.696	—
Washington	11	10	.524	4
Atlanta	10	11	.476	5
Charlotte	8	12	.400	6½
Miami	6	15	.286	9
Central				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Detroit	15	7	.682	—
Indiana	11	11	.500	4
Cleveland	10	12	.455	5
Milwaukee	9	12	.429	5½
Chicago	7	13	.350	7

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	17	4	.810	—
New Orleans	14	8	.636	3½
Dallas	9	9	.500	4
Houston	12	11	.524	4
Memphis	6	15	.286	11
Northwest				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Denver	14	8	.636	—
Utah	13	10	.565	1½
Portland	10	12	.455	4
Seattle	6	17	.261	8½
Minnesota	3	17	.152	10
Pacific				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Phoenix	17	6	.739	—
L.A. Lakers	12	8	.600	3½
Golden State	12	10	.545	4½
L.A. Clippers	8	13	.381	8
Sacramento	8	13	.381	8

Wednesday's Games
 Indiana 117, Chicago 102
 Toronto 92, Dallas 76
 Philadelphia 98, Minnesota 94
 Charlotte 108, L.A. Clippers 103
 Boston 90, Sacramento 78
 Seattle 117, New York 110
 Houston 120, Detroit 77
 Milwaukee 100, Orlando 86
 Denver 105, New Orleans 99
 Portland 105, Golden State 95
 Phoenix 103, Utah 98

Today's Games
 Washington at Miami, 7 p.m.
 San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE										
East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
x-New England	13	0	0	1.000	503	222				
Buffalo	7	0	0	.538	222	291				
N.Y. Jets	3	10	0	.231	239	315				
Miami	0	13	0	.000	213	355				
South										
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA					
Indianapolis	11	2	0	.846	381	217				
Tennessee	9	4	0	.692	305	229				
Jacksonville	7	6	0	.538	249	264				
Houston	6	7	0	.462	291	305				
North										
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA					
Pittsburgh	9	4	0	.692	309	189				
Cleveland	8	5	0	.615	360	356				
Cincinnati	5	8	0	.385	310	326				
Baltimore	4	9	0	.308	226	314				
West										
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA					
San Diego	8	5	0	.615	308	255				
Denver	6	7	0	.462	282	336				
Oakland	4	9	0	.308	241	298				
Kansas City	4	9	0	.308	179	271				

NATIONAL CONFERENCE										
East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
x-Dallas	12	1	0	.923	423	275				
N.Y. Giants	9	4	0	.692	290	270				
Washington	6	7	0	.462	253	273				
Philadelphia	5	8	0	.385	271	262				
South										
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA					
Tampa Bay	8	5	0	.615	255	215				
New Orleans	6	7	0	.462	300	293				
Carolina	5	8	0	.385	210	294				
North										
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA					
x-Green Bay	11	2	0	.846	361	229				
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538	305	244				
Detroit	6	7	0	.462	294	339				
Chicago	5	8	0	.385	253	296				
West										
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA					
x-Seattle	9	4	0	.692	315	225				
Arizona	7	0	0	.846	291	202				
San Francisco	3	10	0	.231	171	312				
St. Louis	3	10	0	.231	206	316				

Today's Game
 Denver at Houston, 7:15 p.m.
Saturday's Game
 Cincinnati at San Francisco, 7:15 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 16
 Baltimore at Miami, 12 p.m.
 Arizona at New Orleans, 12 p.m.
 Green Bay at St. Louis, 12 p.m.
 N.Y. Jets at New England, 12 p.m.
 Buffalo at Cleveland, 12 p.m.
 Seattle at Carolina, 12 p.m.
 Tennessee at Kansas City, 12 p.m.
 Jacksonville at Pittsburgh, 12 p.m.
 Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 12 p.m.
 Indianapolis at Oakland, 3:05 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Dallas, 3:15 p.m.
 Detroit at San Diego, 3:15 p.m.
 Washington at N.Y. Giants, 7:15 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 17
 Chicago at Minnesota, 7:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League
 BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Traded SS Miguel Tejada to Houston for OF Luis Scotti, LHP Troy Patton.
 RHP Matt Albers, RHP Dennis Sarfate and 3B Mike Costanzo.
 CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Announced they will not tender a 2008 contract to INF Andy Gonzalez and LHP Heath Phillips.
 DETROIT TIGERS—Agreed to terms with LHP Tim Lincecum on a one-year contract. Announced they will not tender a 2008 contract to RHP Chad Durbin.
 KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Announced they will not tender a 2008 contract to OF Emil Brown.
 LOS ANGELES ANGELS—Announced they will not tender a 2008 contract to INF Dallas McPherson.
 MINNESOTA TWINS—Announced they will not tender a 2008 contract to OF Jason Tyner.
 NEW YORK YANKEES—Agreed to terms with LHP Andy Pettitte on a one-year contract.
National League
 CHICAGO CUBS—Announced they will not tender a 2008 contract to RHP Mark Prior.
 HOUSTON ASTROS—Claimed RHP Ryan Heston off waivers from Toronto.
 LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Agreed to terms with CF Andruw Jones on a two-year contract.
 Announced they will not tender a 2008 contract to LHP Mark Hendrickson. Agreed to terms with RHP Tanyon Sturtze, RHP Mike Koplove, RHP Brian Falkenberg, RHP Rick Asadoorian, RHP Fernando Resque, RHP Greg Jones, LHP Brian Shakerford, OF John-Ford Griffin, 1B John Lindsey, INF Angel Chavez and C Danny Ardoin on minor league contracts.
 MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Agreed to terms with RHP Greg Aquino, RHP Seth McClung and C Mike Rivera on one-year contracts.
 NEW YORK METS—Agreed to terms with C Raul Casanova, C Gustavo Molina and RHP Nate Field on minor league contracts.

Thomas to lead Falcons

By Charles Odum
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Emmitt Thomas waited a long time to serve as head coach of an NFL team. He never could have imagined his opportunity would come this way. One day after Bobby Petrino's unexpected resignation, Thomas inherited an Atlanta Falcon team eager for new leadership.

Thomas, 64, was promoted Wednesday to interim head coach for the final three games of the season. Petrino resigned to become coach at Arkansas — and left behind Atlanta players who feel betrayed that he quit after 13 games, and furious he left word in a brief note placed at the players' lockers.

The Falcons were 3-10 under Petrino, and players who had nothing good to say about the departed coach were eager to embrace Thomas, who has worked with the team's defensive backs for three head coaches since 2002.

"I respect Emmitt the utmost," said center Todd McClure. "He's been a player. He has a ton of experience. I know he's going to lead us in the right direction. I think everybody in this locker room is looking forward to playing for him."

Thomas said he challenged the players who offered congratulations. "Like I told them, play well and then I'll really know how you feel about the situation," Thomas said.

The Falcons will visit Tampa Bay on Dec. 16. "I'm honored, and excited, and nervous, and happy to have the opportunity," Thomas said. "It's an opportunity for myself and the other coaches and coordinators to try to rally these guys and get them going to play competitive football the rest of the season."

Thomas is the first black head coach in the team's history. The only assistant coach who was not with the team Wednesday was Petrino's brother, wide-receivers coach Paul Petrino, who also resigned. Falcon general manager Rich McKay said he had not started to compile a list of candidates to replace Petrino on a full-time basis. He can't talk to candidates now coaching in the NFL until their seasons end.

Thomas did not lobby to be considered for the full-time position. "Let's don't take this any further than this day and this game-to-game situation," he said. "I'll be 65 in June, and all the years I've been here have been good to me, and I'm just happy I can give some back."

Petrino didn't last one year, and his first news conference late Tuesday night at Arkansas caused a stir among Falcon players watching on TV. "When we saw him doing his press conference at Arkansas, that's what I think brought up the anger to have him talk about family, about team, and about commitment, and then to come in here and have a form letter at your locker," said quarterback Joey Harrington. "That's not how a man acts. That's how a coward acts."

Harrington twice lost his starting job to Byron Leftwich, and then Chris Redman started Petrino's last game, a 34-14 home loss to New Orleans on Monday night. Thomas said Redman will start against Tampa Bay. After a visit to Arizona on Dec. 23, the Falcons will close the season in Atlanta against Seattle on Dec. 30.



Thomas interim Falcon coach

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Injuries common for gymnasts

By Lars Headington
THE DAILY IOWAN

Practicing and competing with injuries is not an exceptional situation for the Iowa women's gymnastics team. Hawkeye head coach Larissa Libby says — and a recent study conducted on college gymnasts confirms — it's the way of the sport.

"They say if you haven't hurt something or sprained something in gymnastics, you're not working hard enough," Libby quipped. "I think it just comes with the territory, you know."

At the age of 18, she underwent a spine fusion to repair a lower back injury that had been nagging her for several years.

"I lived with it a pretty long time," she said. "I remember a single incident in which I first started to feel pain when I was 13 or 14 — I guess I had slipped my disc very slightly just enough to irritate and just continued on."

Libby had her back monitored at a hospital to help her deal with the pain she suffered.

"In retrospect, it was not a smart decision the way I handled it," she said. "I was sitting in a position where I could make the Olympic team, and I wasn't going to stop so I couldn't make the team."

It wasn't until Libby was beginning her college career at Louisiana State University that she had surgery to fuse her spine, a decision she said was necessary for the long-term health of her back.

"I managed to train, I managed to do all of my goals. I managed to go to the Olympics, I competed at the World Championships — and my back was the least of my



Whitney Wright/The Daily Iowan
 Women's gymnastics team members cheer on Ally Zipse while she practices on the uneven bars in the Field House on Tuesday. The team's next event is the Cancun Classic starting Jan. 1, 2008.

problems," Libby said. "There was always something, I remember getting ... shin splints, stress fractures... that were really bad, I had a wrist injury, a heel injury."

Of her nagging injuries, Libby said the stress of training placed on a girl's body while she's in her teen years can be amplified by growing pains.

"In college, all of those little things get compounded because you're getting older and stiffer — it just makes everything a little bit harder," she said.

According to the NCAA ISS study, published in the June issue of the *Journal of Athletic Training*, most women's gymnastics injuries are sustained

by a gymnast's lower extremities.

Ankle-ligament sprains made up 16.4 percent of competition injuries and 15.2 percent of practice injuries. Knee injuries were, at 20 percent, the most prevalent of competition injuries — the study blames to dismounts and landings in floor routines.

Libby agreed that the floor routine exposed the gymnasts to the greatest opportunity for injury.

"You have a takeoff and a landing on floor three times, plus there's an element of endurance," Libby said. "So if you get tired at the end of a routine, you don't take off right."

"If you come in short twisting, you tear your ACL. If you

come in short flipping, you break your ankle, or you sprain your ankle."

With several of her own gymnasts limited by injury, Libby says they — like her — have grown up with the reality of competing through injury, and they understand that the fear of suffering another setback can't be in the makeup of a gymnast.

"At any second, you could just walk off a curb and roll your ankle, too," Libby said. "But because you're flipping in the air, twisting your body, upside down, inside out, I think there are bound to be injuries when it

No. 1 ranking on line

WRESTLING

CONTINUED FROM 1B

In its last encounter with the Panthers, the Hawkeyes won just five of 10 matchups and narrowly escaped Cedar Falls with an 18-15 victory — Brands' first at the helm of the Iowa program.

"We got to get ready for the match," he said. "There is a lot of tradition up there [in Cedar Falls], and there are a lot of what I would call, fanatic fans up there."

Cornell (3-1) is also a threat for Iowa. Slotted at No. 10 in the most recent Brute-Adida NWCA Division-III poll, the

Rams are captained by seniors Chris Heilman (125) and Pat McAuley (157).

Owning a 15-1 record, Heilman is ranked second at 125 pounds, while McAuley stands 14-5 and ranked fourth at 157 pounds.

Brands noted the biggest question mark for Iowa remains at the 197-pound weight class. Hawkeyes Chad Beatty, Phillip Keddy, and Rick Loera have had their names fluctuate up-and-down between 184 and 197 pounds with none showing signs of stability at 197.

Against ISU on Sunday, Keddy was defeated, 4-1, by

Cyclone Jake Varner, the No. 1 wrestler at 184 pounds. Beatty was ousted by Iowa State junior David Bertolino, 16-5, in a major decision that cut Iowa's lead to 17-13 before the decisive heavy-weight showdown.

"We want to focus on what we can do in our attacks, our control on the mat, and our opponent," Brands said. "It's more, go out, take what's yours, and control your opponent. Stay in good position, and do what you do best."

But there is good news for Iowa. Hawkeye senior Mark Perry will be reinserted into his starting spot at 165 pounds after serving a suspension when Iowa matched up with the Cyclones.

Additionally, 133-pound sophomore Joe Slaton has been named Wrestler of the Week by both the Big Ten and TheMat.com. Slaton upset fourth-ranked and former undefeated Cyclone Nick Fanthorpe, 6-5, vaulting him to No. 10 in his weight class.

"I look at it like we have some improving to do," Brands said. "But I tell you what, I feel good. I feel good about where we're headed."

"Get some guys to come around a little bit more, and we're headed in the right direction."

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BIG TEN

Football slate gets extra week

BIG TEN

CONTINUED FROM 1B

without conference championship games, allow their members to play regular-season games until the first weekend of December.

The Southeastern Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference, Big 12, Conference USA, and Mid-American Conference play their conference championship games on the first weekend of December.

Illinois coach Ron Zook was among those who had voiced concerns about the grind of playing 12-straight weeks.

Ohio State and Michigan resisted the change. The Wolverines and Buckeyes usually play their traditional season finale the week before Thanksgiving, but not always. Most recently, in 2001 the teams played the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Michigan coach Lloyd Carr, who will retire after the Wolverines' bowl game Jan. 1, has said he was against playing Thanksgiving weekend and advocated starting the season a week earlier.

Starting the season a week

earlier would require the Big Ten to get NCAA approval, which was unlikely.

The Big Ten's early finish has played an unusual part in the Bowl Championship Series the past two seasons.

This year, Ohio State finished its season on Nov. 17 and appeared to be out of the national championship race. Over the next two weeks, the other contenders lost games that eventually landed the idle Buckeyes in the BCS championship game.

Last year, Michigan finished its season No. 2 in the BCS standings, but was jumped the next week by Southern California and the following week by Florida, when the Gators won the SEC title.

The pre-Thanksgiving end to the season also leaves Big Ten teams with the longest possible layoff between the final regular-season game and the BCS title game.

Ohio State lost, 41-14, to Florida in last year's title game after a 50-day break. The Buckeyes will have 50 days between the Michigan game and the BCS championship against LSU this season.

Fireballer stays with Hawks

BASEBALL

CONTINUED FROM 1B

from Davenport, was taken by the Royals in the ninth round of last summer's major-league draft — the highest a Hawkeye player or recruit has been drafted since 1999. After putting the finishing touches on a first-team all-state senior season in which he went 8-2 with a 1.46 ERA and led his team to the 4A state championship game, Kenyon turned down the contract offer from Kansas City and came to Iowa.

Immediately. "The day after he [decided], he started driving back and forth [between Iowa City and Davenport] to work out with our strength coach," Dahm said. "That shows you the type of commitment Zach has to getting better and that passion for the game."

Kenyon's arrival speaks to an Iowa baseball program on the upswing. Last summer's draft netted three other Hawkeyes — senior Jason White, who signed

with the Orioles, and juniors Travis Sweet (Astros) and Dusty Napoleon (Athletics) opted out of their senior years to sign pro contracts.

While replacing them in the lineup will be difficult — the trio accounted for 22 of the team's 30 home runs and more than 40 percent of its RBIs last season — they are still paying dividends for the Hawkeyes even after their departures. Dahm believes their step up to pro ball will go a long way in helping recruit high-school players to Iowa City, excited at the prospect of signing pro deals after their careers at Iowa end.

He credits the four draftees with drumming up interest in Iowa baseball that resulted in inking eight recruits during last month's early signing period.

"Without a doubt," Dahm said. "Dusty and Travis were our first recruiting class, and the recruits were able to see that those guys came in here and got better, and that's allowed us to sign some very talented kids."

"Our No. 1 goal is to get our

players signing professional contracts. And to see our first recruiting class, to get two of those kids signed as juniors, that definitely helps us out."

Sweet, who hit .413 and swiped 25 bags for Iowa last season, received an undisclosed signing bonus — "enough to make up my decision to go play professional ball" — as well as an incentive that will pay the rest of his tuition so he can complete his degree.

After a slow start with the A-level Tri-City ValleyCats in Troy, N.Y., Sweet rebounded and

finished with a .247 average, three home runs, and 21 RBIs. Back in Iowa City for the off-season — and living with three of his former Hawkeye teammates — Sweet is happy with his decision to turn pro.

"You know, I don't have any regrets," he said. "I think a lot of guys, they're playing college ball to one day play professional ball, and I had the chance to do that."

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Freeman to play through injury

BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM 1B

been a nagging constant in recent weeks. Admittedly bothersome when the guard is shooting, the minor setback has also limited his once heavy workload.

While he and Freeman will both come off the bench Friday, Peterson is anxious to play alongside his backcourt mentor for the first time all season.

"It's our first game together, so it's exciting," Peterson said. "Besides Tony helping me off the court and on the court or

whatever, now he's actually going to be side-by-side, so that's very exciting."

Anxious to return and understanding of the play-through-pain mentality, Freeman hopes to make an immediate impact for the Hawkeyes Friday.

"I've been playing through pain my whole life," he said. This is probably something new, but you know, whatever it takes to win, my teammates are counting on me and I'm counting on myself."

E-mail *DI*/Sports Editor **Charlie Kautz** at: charles-kautz@uiowa.edu

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Cubs sign Fukudome

By Rick Gano
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Japanese outfielder Kosuke Fukudome and the Chicago Cubs reached a preliminary agreement on a \$48 million, four-year contract.

The deal is expected to a physical that is subject to take place next week, the Cubs said Wednesday.

Fukudome was considered one of the best outfielders in Japanese baseball. The 30-year-old slugger was a key member of the Japan team that won the inaugural World Baseball Classic in March 2006.

He had surgery on his right elbow in August and sat out the Japan Series, but he has 192 homers and a .305 batting average over nine seasons with the Chunichi Dragons, who won their first championship in 53 years on Nov. 2.

General manager Jim Hendry said there is no concern about Fukudome's elbow and that he should be able to go from the first day of spring training.

After becoming a free agent, Fukudome drew interest from the Cubs, San Diego Padres, and White Sox.

"Kosuke did have offers that economically were potentially better, but there are a lot of elements that played a role in his decision," agent Joe Urbon said. "Position, city, ability to win, and being the first Japanese player on a club. All those things played a role. ... Of course economics played a role."

He will play right field for the Cubs, who traded outfielder Jacque Jones to Detroit this off-season and declined their contract option on veteran Cliff Floyd.

Hendry said Fukudome has been the Cubs' main target since the off-season began and that's why he told Urbon the team would respect Fukudome's time frame in deciding whether to leave Japan.

"This was option 1-2-3 as far as we were concerned," Hendry said. "We couldn't be happier. He changes the dynamic of our club."

Hendry said Piniella to be up to Manager Lou Piniella to decide where in the order Fukudome bats, but that he could fit anywhere from second to fifth because he has power and a good on-base percentage.



Japan's Kosuke Fukudome slaps his coach's hand after hitting a solo shot off China's Zhao Quansheng in their Asia Round game of the World Baseball Classic in the Tokyo Dome on March 3, 2006. Fukudome and the Chicago Cubs reached a preliminary agreement Tuesday on a \$48 million, four-year contract.

All-Star slugger Alfonso Soriano returns in left and speedy prospect Felix Pie is expected to take over in center after shuttling between the majors and minors last season. The Cubs

hope Fukudome will provide the consistent left-handed bat they seek to go with righties Soriano, Aramis Ramirez, and Derrek Lee. Chicago won the NL Central

title last season before being swept by Arizona in the first round of the playoffs. Next season will mark the 100th anniversary of the Cubs' last World Series title.

Junji Kurokawa/Associated Press

Trib close to selling Cubs

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Media conglomerate Tribune Co. said Wednesday it anticipates closing on the sale of the Chicago Cubs as well as its stake in the local Comcast sports channel during the first half of next year.

A commitment to selling the Cubs was a condition that needed to be met in order for Tribune to be taken private in an \$8.2 billion buyout led by real-estate magnate Sam Zell.

Tribune said it also expects to complete the sale of the Cubs' Wrigley Field and related property during the same period.

Tribune put the Cubs and Wrigley up for sale in April, with the company's 25 percent interest in Comcast SportsNet Chicago included in the package. The company has moved slowly in soliciting formal bids, but among the leading potential buyers is a group of investors headed by John Canning, the chairman of private equity firm Madison Dearborn Partners LLC and a longtime friend and business partner of baseball Commissioner Bud Selig.

Analysts had said the Cubs could fetch as much as \$1 billion if packaged with Wrigley.

Tribune does not have the final say on who will become

the Cubs' next owner because Major League Baseball team owners must sign off on the deal.

Tribune said it plans to use funds from the sale to help repay debt.

The media company also maintained its previously announced forecast that the its buyout by the end of this month. It made the remarks in a monthly update on its revenue, which dipped 3.3 percent in November as classified ad sales continued to weigh on the nation's second-largest newspaper publisher because of significant real estate declines.

Last week, Tribune said it plans to use \$500 million in cash on hand to lower the amount it needs to borrow to close the buyout by year's end. The company crossed the last apparent obstacle toward completing the deal a week earlier when the Federal Communications Commission gave its approval.

Apart from the Cubs, Tribune's other properties include the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Los Angeles Times*, seven other daily newspapers, and 23 television stations.

Tribune shares rose 46 cents to \$32 in morning trading Wednesday.

Drug report to finger stars

By Ronald Blum
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The Mitchell Report exposes a "serious drug culture within baseball, from top to bottom," fingering MVPs and All-Stars, and calls for beefed-up testing by an outside agency to clean up the game, the Associated Press learned Wednesday.

The report by former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell will include names of 60 to 80 players linked to performance-enhancing substances and plenty more information that exposes "deep problems" afflicting the sport, one of two sources with knowledge of the findings told the AP. Both sources said the report would not address amphetamines.

The two sources were familiar with discussions that led to the final draft but did not want to be identified because it was confidential until its scheduled release today. They said the full report, which they had not read, totaled 304 pages plus exhibits.

One person familiar with the final version would only speak anonymously but described it as "a very thorough treatment of the subject" and said some aspects were surprising. He said the report assigns blame to both the commissioner's office and the players' union.

MLB's "not going to love it, the union's not going to love it," he said.

The report comes at the end of a year when San Francisco Giant outfielder Barry Bonds broke the career home-run record, only to

be indicted three months later on charges of lying to a federal grand jury about steroid use.

One source said that while the report will cite problems "top to bottom," it also will expose "deep problems, the number of players, high-level MVPs and All-Stars," as well as clubhouse personnel who allowed steroids and other banned substances in clubhouses or knew about it and didn't say anything.

None of the players' names had leaked out Wednesday night.

The rest of the report, the sources said, will focus on recommendations that include enhanced year-round testing and hiring a drug-testing company that uses the highest standards of independence and transparency. Baseball's

program currently is overseen by a joint management-union Health Policy Advisory Committee, with an independent administrator approved by both sides.

The report also is expected to recommend that baseball develop a credible program to handle cases with evidence of athletes receiving or taking drugs but not testing positive for them.

Just last week, Kansas City's Jose Guillen and Baltimore's Jay Gibbons were suspended for the first 15 days of next season, and media reports said they had obtained human growth hormone in 2005, after baseball banned it.

Mitchell, a Boston Red Sox director, planned to release his report at 1 p.m. today at a news conference in New York City.

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Earn up to \$70 per day. Undercover Shoppers needed to judge retail and dining establishments. Experience not required. 1-800-722-4791.

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LOVE-A-LOT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER is taking applications for full and part-time positions. Please apply at: 213 5th St., Coralville or call Julie (319)351-0106.

PRESCHOOL TEACHER

Teach in a diverse, NAEYC accredited preschool classroom and build a love of learning and promote school readiness. Candidate will have BA in education or Early Education. Full-time, \$25,000- \$27,000 plus benefits. Send resume and cover letter by December 10th to: Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County P.O. Box 2491 Iowa City, IA 52244 fax (319)358-0484

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Olive Garden ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Great opportunity with great benefits!

Work in a fun restaurant environment. Full and part-time. Hiring for all positions. Come join the family.

Fill out an application at: 930 25th Ave., Coralville

NOW HIRING:

We are looking for an experienced all-around person. Bartending, serving, and helping in the office. This is a full or time position. Apply in person between 2-4pm. University Athletic Club 1360 Melrose Ave.

NOW HIRING:

Midtown Family Resterant 2. All positions, full and part-time. Apply 9-11am and 1-4pm at 1069 Hwy 1 West (next to Iowa City Walmart) or call (319)321-9194

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 Two guys with two trucks will help you move. Affordable, reliable, fast, and fun. (319)341-3497 or (319)400-7684, leave message.

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MATTRESS set, full size, orthopedic new, still in package, \$105. (319)551-6130.

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BEDROOM in ranch style home. Close to medical campus. Non-smoking. (309)368-5699.

FREE first rent! \$475, utilities included. Two blocks from downtown. Parking. Available now! Call (515)249-8042.

FREE RENT/UTILITIES!
 Includes light healthcare/ house-keeping in exchange. Male quadriplegic seeks responsible roommate with flexible schedule. **PERFECT** opportunity for healthcare students. 10 minute bus ride from campus. Need clean driving record and subject to background check. Potential for additional compensation. References PLEASE. Contact T.J. 319-358-6358

NICE 1BR in 3BR apartment available now! Dec./Jan. rent FREE. Ten minute walk to campus, on campus route, near Kinrick, free parking. \$295/ month. (515)231-6936.

ONE bedroom in 2 bedroom available January 1. New building, short walk from campus, coded entry. Rent \$400/ month. Call (563)357-3002.

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AD#209. Efficiency, one, and two bedrooms in Coralville. Quiet area, parking, some with deck, water paid. W/D facilities. Possible flexible lease. Call M-F, 9-5pm, (319)351-2178.

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APARTMENTS and HOUSES. Close-in, reasonable rent. (319)331-1382, (319)936-2184.

DOWNTOWN moengroup sublets available for January. Vogel House 255 Iowa Ave. Furnished. Pets okay. Available now. Call Bobby or Bobby@moengroup.com

HERITAGE (319)351-8404 heritagepropertymanagement.com Call or go on our website. A few units left!
 1 & 2 bedrooms at great prices!

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LOVELY efficiency apartment in historic district. Close to campus. Available January 1. Please no pets. \$580, H/W paid. Call (319)331-9932 or home (319)339-1820.

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VERY large one bedroom. Close-in. C/A, parking available. Security entrance. W/D. \$625/month. Days (319)351-1346, after 7:30pm and weekends (319)354-2221.

VERY nice and quiet one bedroom units in North Liberty. \$510/ month. Non-smoking. (319)351-1346

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TWO bedroom, carport, storage, laundry facilities, pets allowed. (319)358-7139.

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THREE bedroom, two level, garage, nice yard, deck, southwest side, off Mormon Trek. Available November 25. (319)354-4100.

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DISTINCTIVE three bedroom 1600 sq.ft. eastside townhouse. On busline, near schools. \$122,500. Call (319)341-9872.

DUPLEX FOR SALE

TWO bedroom, attached garage. C/A, W/D, side-by-side units. \$125,000. (319)936-4647.

DUPLEX FOR RENT

ONE bedroom available now includes appliances, blinds, carpeting, W/D, A/C. No pets, no smoking. 802 20th Ave., Coralville. \$450/ month. (319)430-3272.

ONE bedroom duplex. \$475/ month plus utilities. Available immediately. (319)643-5574.

THREE bedroom townhouse. Near City High. W/D, oak laminate floors, off-street parking Available now. (319)541-6766. (319)331-9944.

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TWO bedroom, quiet. Eastside Iowa City. W/D hook-ups, no pets. \$575- \$625. (319)338-4407.

CONDO FOR RENT

2BED, 1bath Westside condo. Laundry in unit, dishwasher, garage, fireplace, C/A, patio. (319)621-1793.

BEST location, lowest rent. Three bedroom. Loaded condos. Garage. \$795. (319)331-8995.

LARGE three bedroom townhouse, two baths, skylight, off-street parking, W/D, C/A, yard, internet. No smoking, no pets. After 6:30pm. (319)354-2221. iacityrentals.com

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2, 3, 4, 5, 6+ bedroom, 2008 townhomes for rent. Fall 2008. Multi bathrooms in all homes. Free parking, busline, close-in, many new up-grades. Now leasing. (319)341-9385.

CONDO FOR RENT

EMERALD COURT has a three bedroom apartment available January 1st. \$775 includes water, off-street parking, laundry on-site. Call (319)337-4323 for more details.

LANTERN PARK TOWNHOUSE- Great Coralville location- three bedroom, 1 bath, W/D, C/A, near schools, parks, recreation center and library, on city busline. \$810. SouthGate, (319)339-9320, www.s-gate.com

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PARKSIDE MANOR in Coralville has a three bedroom available ASAP for \$845. Close to Library and Rec Center. Call (319)338-4951.

HOUSE FOR RENT

2, 3, 4, 5, 6+ bedroom, 2008 townhomes for rent. Fall 2008. Multi bathrooms in all homes. Free parking, busline, close-in, many new up-grades. Now leasing. (319)341-9385.

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FRANTZ CONSTRUCTION has done it again! With Ahmann Design, Inc. doing the design concept and the proven track record of Frantz Construction, this elite mansion will be Iowa City's most elegant, historical, up-scale condos. Many features including underground parking, as well as an elevator will be included for your convenience. With over 2300 square feet in the two bedroom homes and 1400 square feet in the one bedroom home, the floor plans are spacious, luxurious and the views are to die for. Walking distance of the college, parks and town! Put your hand on one now, as they won't last long!

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SHARE two bedroom with working male. Large bedroom, walk-in closet, garage, green area. 1637 Aber Ave. \$350/ month includes heating. December paid. (319)594-6292.

SUBLET from January through July. Bedroom with attached bathroom. Off-street parking. On-site laundry. Near UIHC. \$275/ month. (515)711-7471.

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DELUXE large one bedroom with office (will also rent as two bedroom) \$550- \$650, includes parking. Close to UIHC. H/W paid. No smoking, no pets. Available January 1. On-site manager. Call ASAP. (319)351-0942.

LANTERN PARK APARTMENTS- Great Coralville location- one bedroom, H/W paid, on city busline. Some units recently remodeled. Some units allow cats for an additional fee. \$475. (319)339-9320, www.s-gate.com

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LARGE one bedroom for sub-lease. Very close to campus. Internet provided, cheap, parking available. Security entrance, clean and safe. Call (309)781-8032 for details.

NICE size one bedroom in North Liberty. \$510/ month. Very quiet area. Days (319)351-1346; evenings and weekends (319)354-2221.

ONE bedroom apartment. Coralville strip. \$450/ month sublease. January- August 2008. Free H/W. Spacious. (563)508-0186.

ONE bedroom detached garage. Basement, W/D, dishwasher, busline, hardwood floors. \$700 plus utilities. (319)400-7335.

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ONE bedroom spacious apartment across the street from campus. \$640 plus electric. Free parking. Quiet. (515)450-7645.

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ONE and two bedroom, westside, H/W paid, busline, quiet, on-site laundry, A/C, off-street parking, garage available. Family owned and operated. (319)338-5736.

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CORALVILLE. One bedroom. H/W paid. Newer carpet, appliances, parking, laundry on-site. \$475 single, \$495 couple. (319)330-7081.

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2 bedroom, 2 bathroom sub-lease, large apartment, on sight laundry & parking, storage, large kitchen, dishwasher, close to campus & College Green. \$883, heat/water included. Please call (515)321-8266.

ABER AVE- two bedroom, one bath, H/W paid, dishwasher, on-site laundry, near parks and walking trails. Some units allow cats and small dogs for additional fee, on city busline. \$595. SouthGate, (319)339-9320, www.s-gate.com

AVAILABLE ANYTIME. Iowa City. New two bedroom. \$600. First month. (319)621-7196.

BROADWAY CONDOMINIUMS very roomy two bedroom, one bath, water paid, C/A, on-site laundry, on city busline, \$510. (319)339-9320, www.s-gate.com

CROSS PARK APARTMENTS- two bedroom, two bath, dishwasher, microwave, on-site laundry, C/A, entry door system, some with deck or patio, on city busline. \$565-\$595. (319)339-9320, www.s-gate.com

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NOW. Three bedroom across from medical/ dental/ sports complex. \$930. FREE parking! All amenities. (319)337-5156.

PARKSIDE MANOR in Coralville has a three bedroom available ASAP for \$845. Close to Library and Rec Center. Call (319)338-4951.

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FINKBINE LANE- Near UIHC and Law Building- two bedroom, one bath, H/W paid, dishwasher, microwave, on-site laundry, on busline. Cats and small dogs okay for additional fee. \$595. SouthGate, (319)339-9320, www.s-gate.com

NEW furnished two bedroom. Available January 1. Two blocks from campus. Near Mercy Hospital. 411 E.Market St. \$550/ month plus utilities. Parking available. (773)445-4906, (312)515-3744.

PARK PLACE has a two bedroom available ASAP for \$565, includes water. Off-street parking, laundry on-site. Call (319)354-0281.

LARGE two bedroom, two bath in Coralville. Available January. Heat included. No smoking, no pets. On busline. Call (319)351-8901 or (319)330-1480.

TWO bedroom near UIHC/ Dental on Newton Road. Parking included. www.northbayproperties.com (319)338-5900.

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Daily Break

“To know how many people this has been affecting for such a long time, to know something should have been done a long time ago. Because it's a primarily person-of-color situation, that's why it has taken so long. They can do whatever to people of color because we don't count.”
— Gwen Lyda of Oxon Hill, Md., who is black. Her son, Jerone Lyda, was sentenced to nine years on a crack conviction in 2004. The U.S. Sentencing Commission has decided that some prison sentences for crack-cocaine offenses may be reduced.

the ledge

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



MATT GORMAN

New Board Games

- Oligopoly
- I Forgive You!
- Veggieland
- Oranges to Oranges
- Dos
- Death
- Significant Pursuits

horoscopes Thursday, December 13, 2007

— by Eugenia Last

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The more you do, the better you will feel about yourself. Volunteer to help the poor, offer your time, or whatever services you can provide. A little will go a long way and make you realize how fortunate you are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't be tricked by your own emotions. Think matters through before making a decision. This isn't the day to be impulsive or take action based on hearsay. A trusted friend can help you out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be in a spending mood. Go shopping, but stick to your budget. Firm up your plans for end-of-the-year festivities. Chat with someone who can help you out with advancement you'd like to achieve next year.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make a deal, sign a new contract, firm up your professional plans for next year, and take care of any paperwork. A change is in order, and if you play your cards right, you can have both personal and professional success.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be entertaining, emotional, and in the spotlight. As long as you are honest and sincere, you will win the respect of your friends, colleagues, and acquaintances. Don't make impulse purchases. Little extras really aren't necessary.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may need to make some changes, but if you try to do everything all at once, you will face difficulties. Get advice from the people you know and trust. Emotional matters should be taken care of before you do anything else.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You have everything in order and all eyes watching. You can state what you want and present your plans. Your passion to follow your dreams and to accomplish your goals will lead to opportunity and success.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotions will be close to the surface, and arguments will develop easily. You want to keep things peaceful, even if everyone around you is stressed out. Offer to take care of some of the chores if it will help ease stress and tension.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You've got everyone's attention, so make your move, your statement, or whatever point you want. You will have a captive audience but not necessarily an agreeable one. Take any criticism as useful, and incorporate it into your scheme.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put on a big push, and finish up all the things that need tending to. Once you clear the way, you can enjoy yourself and the ones you love. You should be able to collect a debt or settlement or even come into money via a gift, winning, or rebate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): As long as you keep things simple, you will be fine. You will pay for extravagance, overindulgence, or carelessness. Joint ventures won't work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Prepare your home for the upcoming festive season. You should be able to make your place more entertaining with a purchase you make. Love can take an unexpected but pleasing turn if you are receptive to an offer.

DREAM WEAVER



Ben Roberts/The Daily Iowan
Ed “Sweatman” Merritt reads while tending his stand of hand-woven and exotic items at the IMU on Wednesday afternoon. Merritt, a social worker and teacher by trade, says he sells items that either he made or that close friends and family members made.

today's events

Want to see your super special event appear here? Simply e-mail the name, time, date, and location information to: DAILY-IOWAN@UIOWA.EDU.

- Cash For Books, book buy-back, University Book Store and residence halls
- Molecular Physiology and Biophysics Seminar, “RNA Disease in Myotonic Dystrophy,” Charles Thornton, 9:30 a.m., 5-669, Bowen Science Building
- Nutcracker Excerpts, UI Youth Ballet Performance for Preschool & Elementary Children, 10 a.m., North Hall Space/Place
- “Morphing a Transporter into an Ion Channel,” biochemistry seminar series Alessio Accardi, 10:30 a.m., 2117 Medical Education and Biomedical Research Facility
- Holiday Choir Concert, The Heartbeats, noon, UHCC Colloton Atrium
- Pharmacology Graduate Student Workshop, “Regulation of Erythropoietin Signal Transduction Erythropoietin Receptor Ubiquitination,” Daisuke Mayuzumi, 12:30 p.m. 2 Bowen Science Building
- Cultural Coffee House Sessions, 3 p.m., Afro-American Cultural Center
- Cultural Coffee House Sessions, 3 p.m., Asian Pacific American Center
- Cultural Coffee House Sessions, 3 p.m., Latino Native American Center
- Cultural Coffee House Sessions, 3 p.m., Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center
- Café Scientifique, “The Physics of the Big Bang,” Vincent Rodgers, 5 p.m., Cottage Bakery and Cafe, 14 S. Linn
- Lake of Fire, 6 p.m., Bijou
- Advent Lessons and Carols, 6:30 p.m., Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 123 E. Market
- “Writers Gone Public,” 7 p.m., undergraduate nonfiction writing, Shambaugh House
- My Fair Lady, 7:30 p.m., Hancher
- M.F.A. Directors One-Act Play Festival, “Chicago” and “Walkin’ Backwards,” 8 p.m., Theatre Building Theatre B
- Cria Cuervos, 9 p.m., Bijou
- Campus Activities Board Massage Chairs, 9 p.m., IMU Chalk Talk Lounge
- Campus Activities Board movie, *Shrek the Third*, 9 p.m., 348 IMU

CAN'T GET ENOUGH SUDOKU?

CHECK OUT DAILYIOWAN.COM FOR MORE PUZZLES

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level:

1	2
3	4

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

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

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

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

- Clueless
 - Obscene It?
 - Guess When
 - Peaceship
 - Not Quite Perfect, But It'll Do
 - Risk Management: The Game of Life Insurance
 - StarOfDavidFire
 - Hungry Hungry Hobos
- Matt Gorman would like to thank the Internet for its help on this Ledge. E-mail him at: matthew-j-gorman@uiowa.edu.

Got something to say? Send it away! Go to dailyiowan.com to give a shout-out to a friend or foe. Look for them online and on the Daily Break page.

Loudest Shouts

- Shout out to Maggie for the best pie I've ever had.
- Shout out to my engineering-group partners. We had the most popular shelter there!
- Shout out to the Cambus. You may be late all the time, but I'm glad you're there to take our lazy asses to class, especially in this shitty weather.

UITV schedule

Campus channel 4, cable channel 17

- 12:30 p.m. News from China-Beijing (in Chinese)
 - 1 A Prairie Lights Reading from the UITV Archives, William Lashner
 - 2 News from Germany (in German)
 - 3 “Java Blend,” Burlington Street Bluegrass Band
 - 4 Real Time Self-Learning River-Basin Management Systems, Jörg Imberger
 - 5 UI College of Engineering presents “Gabbing the Globe,” Globalization
 - 6 Special Events at the UI
 - 7 “Java Blend,” Burlington Street Bluegrass Band
 - 8 How We Can Make the Most of the Aging Opportunity, Marc Freedman
 - 9:30 News from Daily Iowan TV
 - 10 Incompetent Sports Talk, from Student Video Productions
 - 10:30 News from Daily Iowan TV
 - 11 “Java Blend,” Burlington Street Bluegrass Band
- For complete TV listings and program guides, check out Arts and Entertainment at dailyiowan.com.

DILBERT

by Scott Adams

DILBERT ©

MORDAC, THE PREVENTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES

I MADE SOME CHANGES TO THE NETWORK THAT I ALONE UNDERSTAND.

I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO TEST IT, BUT IF THERE IS A PROBLEM, I'LL BE ON VACATION FOR THREE WEEKS IN A RUSSIAN SUBMARINE BELOW THE ARCTIC CIRCLE.

MY SCREEN JUST WENT BLANK. LET'S CHALK THAT UP TO COINCIDENCE.

'NON SEQUITUR

BY WILEY

DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING, KATE?

No...IT'S BEEN PRETTY QUIET AROUND HERE LATELY.

THAT'S WHAT SCARES ME...WHAT'S YOUR SISTER DOING?

BEING GOOD.

WOW...CHRISTMAS SEEMS TO COME AROUND FASTER EVERY YEAR.

YEAH...PEACE ON EARTH, GOD WILL TOWARD MARKETING.

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

YOU GIVE FROZEN FOOD AS CHRISTMAS GIFTS?

YEAH. THE DOWNSIDE IS I CAN'T WRAP 'EM UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.

I'M TRYING TO DECIDE WHAT TO GET THIS WOUNDED SOLDIER I HAVE TO GO VISIT SOON DOWN AT WALTER REED...

I'M THINKING FROZEN PEAS. FROZEN PEAS IN A ZIPLOCK BAG ARE GOOD ON ANYTHING THAT ACHES. I USE 'EM ON MY STUMP.

SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY THOUGHTFUL GIFT, SIR.

BUT WHAT BRAND? SHOULD I SPLURGE ON BIRDS EYE?

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1101

Note: The clues in this puzzle appear in a single list, combining Across and Down. Where two answers share a number, they also share a clue.

CLUES

- Maintain
- In ___ (form of research)
- Concert halls
- They're unlikely to work
- Fiddle with
- Goofed (around)
- Quod ___ faciendum
- Negative connector
- Spy supply
- Rubberneck
- Composition of the Spanish Main
- Hit the road
- Florida ___
- Part of Caesar's boast
- 15 ___ Soleil (Louis XIV)
- 16 “The Night of the Hunter” screenwriter
- 17 First name in daredevilry
- 18 Some Romanovs
- 19 Runtish
- 20 Motor Trend job
- 21 Prohibition agents
- 22 Legends
- 23 Author Jaffe
- 24 2002 Literature Nobelist ___ Kertész
- 25 Pair
- 26 Dodge
- 27 Sun protection
- 28 All bark ___ bite
- 29 Start of a phrase meaning “always”
- 30 “Sounds like ___!”
- 31 Gusto
- 32 Put to rest
- 33 Changers of 34
- 34 See 33
- 35 Cartoon character with feminine wiles
- 36 Annual parade site
- 37 Death jokes and such
- 38 Stamp letters
- 39 ___ mer
- 40 Lover of Tess in “Tess of the D'Urbervilles”
- 41 Part of the Constitution after the Preamble: Abbr.
- 42 N.F.L. coach who was undefeated in 1972
- 43 Relative of a cod
- 44 Like tennis balls and dinners
- 45 Wicked witch's home in “The Wizard of Oz”
- 46 Ranch closing?
- 47 Bowl
- 48 Comic, e.g.
- 49 N.F.L. placekicker David
- 50 Fast-food franchise that started in S. Salt Lake, Ut.
- 51 Squoosh

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

W	A	S	P	S	W	K	R	P	M	S	R	P							
X	A	G	O	R	A	O	L	I	O	O	T	A	L						
X	A	X	E	S	L	O	G	S	O	P	A	L							
					S	O	F	T	H	E	T	R	A	D					
I	M	A	M	P	E	E	T	R	E	S									
Q	U	E	N	E	D	S	U	E	D										
T	U	R	N	E	D	S	I	S	E	J	I	F							
E	M	O	T	E	S	O	I	S	A	P	I	N	E						
S	U	B	S		R	A	R	E	V	E	N	T	I						
T	R	U	E		H	A	T		H	O	A	X	E	S					
					K	I	W	I		T	E	N	C	E	N	T			
					D	C	I	V		R	O	A	M		E	D	D	Y	
					J	E	A	N	E	K	I	R	K	P	A				
					A	I	R	S		A	C	T	E		N	I	E	C	E
					N	O	D	E		O	A	H	U		D	E	L	L	A
					E	N	Y			S	L	O	P		A	S	S	E	T

Note: Squares marked with a * read TRICK in one direction and TREAT in the other. Three have TRICK across and TREAT down; the others have the reverse.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13									
14				15					16												
17									18												
19									20												
21									22	23											
24									25												
26	27	28							29	30									31	32	33
34									35										37		
38									39	40									41		
42									43										44	45	
46									47										48	49	
50									51	52											
53	54	55	56						57										58	59	60
61									62	63									64		
65									66										67		
68									69										70		

Puzzle by Larry Shearer

- 52 Impersonator's work
 - 53 It's all downhill from here
 - 54 Gene group
 - 55 “I goofed”
 - 56 Delight
 - 57 Tore
 - 58 Don Juan
 - 59 Old Testament book
 - 60 Cry made with a handshake
 - 61 Benny Goodman's “Foolish Things”
 - 62 Benny Goodman's “Foolish Things”
 - 63 Savage
 - 64 Challenge for Theseus, in myth
 - 65 Be a gloomy Gus
 - 66 Radio part
 - 67 Pod holder
 - 68 Something (a wow)
 - 69 Door
 - 70 Unexaggerated
- For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

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80 hours

Thursday, December 13, 2007

dailyiowan.com



GOT MAGIC?

Martinis, high school, and a world 38,000 years in the future. Once reserved for 'geeks' and 'nerds,' the gaming landscape is slowly opening its doors and consciously trying to broaden its appeal.



BY MERYN FLUKER
The Daily Iowan



Chris Vanderwall/The Daily Iowan
Players take part in a "roll off" after a game tournament on Dec. 8. The winners of the competition were offered various prizes, though many opted to pass them off to other competitors.

The door into Critical Hit Games serves as much more than an entrance into a typical store. Inside those walls, located at 89 Second St. No. 5 in Coralville, reality is suspended. The store is one of the few places where a miniature soldier can topple a tank with his psychic powers. A dice roll can determine your fate. In the back room, where some of the most intense competition occurs, a list of rules is posted stating that a dispute two players cannot solve together will be decided by a Critical Hit employee. Third-party intervention during rule violations may not sound out of the ordinary, but keep in mind that many of the people who frequent the store are well into their 20s and 30s.

Welcome to gamer heaven. Population: More than you think.

0/2

Events

Where: Critical Hit Games, 89 Second St. No. 5, Coralville

- | | |
|---|---|
| Pirate Sundays
When: 1 p.m. Sundays | Board Game Night
When: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays |
| Star Wars TCG
When: 4 p.m. Sundays | Warhammer 40,000
When: 6:30 p.m. Thursdays |
| Star Wars Pocket Model League
When: 6:30 p.m. Mondays | Friday Night Magic
When: 6:30 p.m. Fridays |
| D&D Minis League
When: 6:30 p.m. Mondays | HeroClix
When: 1 p.m. Saturdays |
| Axis and Allies Minis
When: 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays | Legend of the Five Rings
When: 1 p.m. Saturdays |

More than 40,000 colors

Log onto dailyiowan.com to see Chris Vanderwall's photo slide show of Critical Hit Games' crucial gaming activities.



Jerod Leupold, 32, opened the store two years ago after a string of jobs and internships (including working for *The Daily Iowan* from 2002 to 2003). His wife, Gigi Leupold, also 32 (and also a former *DI* staffer), encouraged him to open the store after Iguana's, an Iowa City game store he helped manage for two years, shut down.

"He's been playing games since, like, the fourth grade, and it's something that he really enjoys," Gigi said. "He really missed the community aspect of some of the other game stores that have been in town." So he debuted Critical Hit, which takes its name from "the most effective attack a player can make in a game. For most games, it involves rolling a 20 on a 20-sided die in order to deal severe damage to an opponent."

"You're never going to get exposed to this unless you come to a store like it," Jerod said in describing *Blokus*, a popular game that plays like a live-action version of video-game classic *Tetris*. "There aren't going to be commercials about it on TV, because it's a small market."

Before images of Urkel clones cloud the mind, Jerod, a gamer since he was in junior high, attempted to put those stereotypes aside.

"I think mass media don't help," he said about the perpetuation of unflattering gamer images. "You're looking at glasses, tape, thick shoes — that whole thing. You might see a few more pairs of glasses here, and

you'll see a lot more left-handed people here, too. But you don't see that stereotype being pushed."

It's hard to pin down the core demographic of live-action and board-game players. *Emarketer.com* cited a 2006 Information Solutions Group study showing "60-70 percent of casual gamers were females over 30." However, the website later cited an Ipsos Insight study that showed in 2006, "62 percent of U.S. computer- and video-game players are male."

It's easy to marginalize the gamer community and assume that they're just a bunch of man-children spending their 20s and 30s living with their mothers. The regulars at Critical Hit, which opens its space up to various competitions throughout the week, don't shy from this perception but are instead humorously self-deprecating about it.

"Do you speak nerd?" Geico insurance agent Steve Groom asked as two obvious game novices (or "noobs," as many in the gamer community refer to them) entered Critical Hit's back room. There, Groom, 34, and Peter Franke, 29, a UI Education Technology Center employee, were engaged in an intense game of *Warhammer 40,000* — a military game set 38,000 years in the future.

Two Games By The Numbers

- Magic: The Gathering**
- 6 million players in more than 70 countries.
 - 9,113 cards created in the game's 14 years.
 - \$40,000 in prize money for being the best at a weekend tournament.
 - \$20,000 spent for a single rare card, the *Black Lotus*, in 2005.
- Dungeons and Dragons**
- 20 million players worldwide.
 - More than \$1 billion in book/equipment sales since the game's introduction in 1974.
 - Celebrity players include Moby, Vin Diesel, Mike Myers, and Stephen Colbert.

Source: Wizards of the Coast Online; Gatherer (the official Magic card database); *Magic: The Gathering Magazine*; BBC News Online; *Gaming Report*, and *Wired*.

Information compiled by Anna Wiegenstein

SEE GAMES, 3C

coming up this weekend

Check out 2C for a complete list of Iowa City events

Serving international love

Anne Guarrant is a former Iowa City dweller who conquered the tennis universe, ranking as high as No. 11 in the world during her pro career. She will return to Iowa City tonight, sharing her mission to end poverty in the Third World with micro credit lending.



also inside

Mozart's *The Magic Flute* whistles into the UI — 4C

Louis takes down Tila Tequila (stick around for his religious rant, back page) — 5C



Weekly calendar Of events

Today 12.13

MUSIC

- **Festival of Carols**, 7 p.m., Englert Theatre, 221 E. Washington
- **Sean Boarini**, 8:30 p.m., Piano Lounge, 217 Iowa Ave.
- **Justin Crippen and the Revival, with Mint Wad Willie**, 9 p.m., Mill, 120 E. Burlington
- **Nothing's Real, Backdrop, and The Surf Report**, 9 p.m., Picador, 330 E. Washington
- **General Education**, 9:30 p.m., Quinton's, 215 E. Washington

WORDS

- **"Writers Gone Public," undergraduate nonfiction**, 7 p.m., Shambaugh House

THEATER

- **My Fair Lady**, 7:30 p.m., Hancher Auditorium
- **A Christmas Story, City Circle Acting Company**, 8 p.m., Marriott Hotel, 300 E. Ninth St., Coralville
- **M.F.A. Directors One-Act Play Festival**, 8 p.m., Theatre Building Theatre B

LECTURES

- **"From Serving at Wimbledon to Serving the World's Poor," Anne Guerrant**, 7:30 p.m., Iowa City Public Library Meeting Room E, 123 S. Linn

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Advent Meditation**, 12:15 p.m., Old Brick, 26 E. Market
- **Cultural Coffeehouse Sessions**, 3 p.m., Afro-American Cultural Center
- **Cultural Coffeehouse Sessions**, 3 p.m., Asian/Pacific American Cultural Center
- **Cultural Coffeehouse Sessions**, 3 p.m., Latino/Native American Cultural Center
- **Cultural Coffeehouse Sessions**, 3 p.m., Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Resource Center
- **Advent Lessons and Carols**, 6:30 p.m., Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 123 E. Market
- **Free Karaoke**, 8 p.m., Nickelodeon, 907 Second St., Coralville
- **Gemini Karaoke**, 9 p.m., Speak Easy, 171 Highway 1 W.
- **Thursday Night Karaoke**, 9 p.m., Charlie's, 450 First Ave., Coralville

Yuletide with heart and BB gun

A Christmas Story, the cult holiday film that bequeathed to us the glory of an 'Official Red Ryder Carbine-Action Two-Hundred-Shot Range Model Air Rifle,' becomes a live affair this weekend thanks to Coralville's City Circle Acting Company.

By **Louis Virtel**
THE DAILY IOWAN

If you watch *A Christmas Story* 12-consecutive times on TNT this Christmas Eve, TiVo it for New Year's, and replay it an additional 20 times for a Groundhog Day encore, it turns out you'll still be doomed to miss some stuff.

It's only until you visit the theater and witness *A Christmas Story* live onstage that you learn the full scoop behind 8-year-old Ralphie Parker's nostalgic Christmas misadventures in the '40s.

The play version of the 1983 cult holiday classic, adapted by playwright Phil Grecian in 2000, picks up where radio humorist Jean Shepherd's screenplay left off. Bespectacled youngster Ralphie still dreams of owning the fancy toy BB gun that shines in captivating advertisements. But now, years after Shepherd's death and the film that launched a thousand catch phrases

(Ralphie's mother's "You'll shoot your eye out" ranks among them), the City Circle Acting Company will stage the oft-overlooked play adaptation this weekend at the Coralville Marriott Hotel, 300 E. Ninth St., starting at 8 p.m. today.

Co-directors Rick Crooks and Rod McCrea focused on one main goal while helming almost two months of rehearsals: to preserve the film version's classic moments.

"We've tried to make it true to the story and include all the highlights that people love," Crooks said. "There's a huge set, with a Santa's Land, a playground with a flagpole, the house, school, and a sidewalk out front. It's beautifully done."

The family dynamic between Ralphie and his traditional 1940s mother needed no coaching — freelance writer Eve Adamson plays Mrs. Parker, and her 9-year-old son, Emmett, plays the eager Ralphie.

Adamson, who writes

THEATER

A Christmas Story

When: Marriott Hotel, 300 E. 9th St., Coralville
Where: 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Dec. 16
Admission: \$17 regular, \$14 students and seniors

regularly for pet publications and "Idiot's Guide" books and recently penned a gluten-free diet cookbook, saw an ad for *A Christmas Carol's* casting call and knew she and her son fit the bill perfectly.

"Emmett likes lots of attention. I told him if he tried out, I'd try out for the mother," she said. "My connection to the movie was how much I thought he reminded me of Ralphie."

Though Emmett originally "didn't want to tell anyone" that Adamson was his real-life mother, the pair became natural foils. Emmett even acknowledges that one stare-down scene between Ralphie and his mother could have felt forced if anyone else played her part. Luckily, Emmett sees his character as a pretty logical extension of himself.

"In about 65 percent of ways, he's like me," he said. "I like BB guns, and I thought he was kind of emo, like me."

E-mail *DI* reporter **Louis Virtel** at: louis-virtel@uiowa.edu

new movies

OPENING THIS WEEKEND



I Am Legend

Sycamore 12, Coral Ridge 10
Will Smith returns in his typical action sci-fi role as the last man on Earth. Based on the 1954 book *I Am Legend*, by Richard Matheson, Smith plays Robert Neville, a brilliant scientist living in New York City in its post-devastating epidemic state. Francis Lawrence directs this familiar story, which also stars Alice Braga and Smith's 7-year-old daughter, Willow Smith.



Alvin and the Chipmunks

Sycamore 12, Coral Ridge 10
Since making their debut in 1958 with the song "Witchdoctor," Alvin and the Chipmunks have been ever-evolving. They started off merely as electronically enhanced voices, and they now have finally made the leap as computer-animated rodents in their full-length feature film from the director who brought us such classics as *Garfield: A Tail of Two Kitties* and *Muppets in Space*. Tim Hill.

AT THE BIJOU



La Vie en Rose

The Israeli film *The Bubble* follows youths in Tel Aviv dealing with the reality of living in a country in conflict. The story follows young gays, men, women, Israelis, and Arabs. The tight group of friends' bubble is burst when a young Palestinian changes their lives. Directed by Eytan Fox.

Friday 12.13



Tonight, the Black Student Union is sponsoring a Kwanzaa celebration at the Afro-American Cultural Center. Created to unite people and give them pride in their roots, Kwanzaa is a holiday based on seven principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

MUSIC

- **"Java Blend," Radoslav Lorkovic**, noon, Java House, 211½ E. Washington
- **"Holiday Tubas," fundraiser for Toys for Tots**, 12:30 p.m., Old Capitol steps
- **Holy Roman Empire CD Release Party**, 5 p.m., Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn
- **Chad Ambrose**, 6 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 225 Highway 1 W.
- **Latin Jazz Festival Concert**, 8 p.m., Clapp Recital Hall
- **The Diplomats of Solid Sound, Driver of the Year, and Ice Palace**, 9 p.m., Picador
- **The Gilded Bats, Mike and Amy Finders with Evan Miller**, 9 p.m. Mill
- **"Live At The Java House," Nikki Lunden**, 9 p.m., Java House
- **Jamba Nosso**, 9 p.m., Yacht Club,

THEATER

- **My Fair Lady**, 7:30 p.m., Hancher
- **A Christmas Story**, 8 p.m., Marriott
- **Die Zauberflöte**, 8 p.m., 132 Voxman Music Building
- **M.F.A. Directors One-Act Play Festival**, 8 p.m., Theatre B
- **No Shame Theatre**, 11 p.m., Theatre Building

DANCE

- **Country Dance, DJ Scoot-A-Boot**, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge
- **Ballroom Dance**, 7:30 p.m., Old Brick
- **Dance Party with music by Rock 'n' Thunder**, 9:30 p.m., Charlie's

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Graduate Art History**

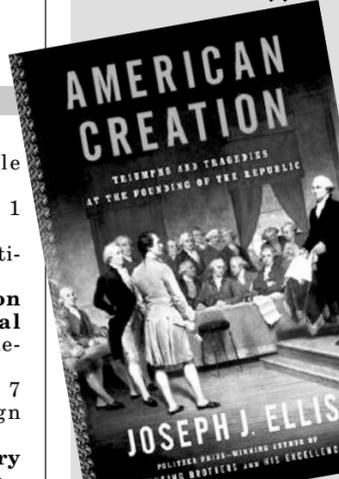
Society Gift-Wrapping Service Fundraiser, 9 a.m., 235C Art Building

- **Center for the Book Open House**, 3:30 p.m., North Hall Ground Floor
- **Friday Night Magic**, 6:30 p.m., Critical Hit Games, 89 Second St. No. 5, Coralville
- **B.F.A. Painting Studio**, 7 p.m., Art Building Painting Studio
- **Kwanzaa**, 7 p.m., Afro-American Cultural Center
- **Karaoke**, 8 p.m., Veterans of Foreign Wars, 609 Highway 6 E.
- **Friday Night Karaoke with Gemini Karaoke**, 9 p.m., American Legion, 3016 Muscatine Ave.
- **Retro Club Night**, 9 p.m., Speak Easy

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Each week, the *DI* finds an individual in Iowa City raving about her or his favorite book of the moment. This week, the *DI* talked to Beth Donelson, the lead bookseller for Barnes & Nobles in Coralville.

"I'm reading *American Creation*, by Joseph J. Ellis. It's about the Founding Fathers and the trials of the Revolutionary War and the Constitutional Convention. I like reading about history; it's really interesting."



Saturday 12.14

MUSIC

- **Iowa City Fretlists**, 2 p.m., Old Capitol Town Center
- **The Wonder of Christmas**, 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m., Parkview Evangelical Free Church, 15 Foster Road
- **Chase Garrett**, 7 p.m., Uptown Bill's Small Mall, 401 S. Gilbert
- **"Seasons of Love," The Quire**, 7 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 310 N. Johnson
- **Duhka, Freak Label, Lost Nation, and Speedfinger**, 9 p.m., Picador

- **Hunab and Hyentyte**, 9 p.m., Yacht Club
- **The Salsa Band, with Ray Vega**, 9 p.m., Mill

WORDS

- **Thomas Flaggel**, 11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, Coral Ridge Mall

THEATER

- **My Fair Lady**, 2 p.m., Hancher Auditorium
- **A Christmas Story**, 2:30 p.m., Marriott
- **My Fair Lady**, 7:30 p.m., Hancher Auditorium

- **A Christmas Story**, 8 p.m., Marriott
- **Die Zauberflöte**, 8 p.m., 132 Voxman

DANCE

- **International Folk Dancing**, 7 p.m., Arts à la Carte, 20 E. Market
- **Holiday Big Band Dance Party**, 7:30 p.m., Old Brick
- **The Nutcracker, UI Dance Forum/Youth Ballet**, 8 p.m., North Hall Space/Place
- **Dance Party with music by Rock 'n' Thunder**, 9:30 p.m., Charlie's

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Deck the Paws Pet Photo Shoot and Pet Expo**, 10 a.m., Kirkwood Community College, 1816 Lower Muscatine
- **Winter Land Breakfast**, 10 a.m., Old Capitol
- **Wreaths Across America**, 11 a.m., Oakland Cemetery, 1000 Brown St.
- **Baubles, Bangles and Beads**, noon, Kahraman Dance Studio, 330 Second St.
- **Bicyclists of Iowa City Ride**, noon, Wickham

Elementary, 601 Oakdale Blvd., Coralville

- **Euchre Tournament**, 1 p.m., American Legion
- **HeroClix**, 1 p.m., Critical Hit Games
- **"In Situ: A Collection Of Literary and Visual Arts,"** 1 p.m., Englert Theatre
- **Rock and Roll Jam**, 7 p.m., Veterans of Foreign Wars
- **Rock and Roll/Country Night**, DJ Gizmo, 9 p.m., Speak Easy

Sunday 12.15

MUSIC

- **The Wonder of Christmas**, 9 and 10:30 a.m., Parkview Evangelical Free Church
- **New Horizons/Community Band Holiday Show**, 2:30 p.m., Englert
- **Rhapsody Express Christmas Concert**, 3:30 p.m., Walden Place, 2423 Walden Road
- **Jazz to the World**, 7:30 p.m., Englert

- **Semi-Annual Last Chance Concert, Iowa Percussion**, 8:02 p.m., Clapp Recital Hall
- **Reggae Night**, 9 p.m., Yacht Club
- **The Sword, Valient Thorr, and Black Cobra**, 9 p.m., Picador

THEATER

- **A Christmas Story**, 2:30 p.m., Marriott

DANCE

- **The Nutcracker, UI Dance Forum/Youth Ballet**, 3 p.m., Space/Place

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Alternative Gift Market**, 9 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 2701 Rochester
- **Arts and Crafts Show**, 9 a.m., Carver-Hawkeye Arena

- **Cultural Coffeehouse Sessions**, 3 p.m., Afro-American Cultural Center
- **Cultural Coffeehouse Sessions**, 3 p.m., Asian/Pacific American Cultural Center
- **Cultural Coffeehouse Sessions**, 3 p.m., Latino/Native American Cultural Center
- **Cultural Coffeehouse Sessions**, 3 p.m., Lesbian,

Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Resource Center

- **Live Nativity**, 3:30 p.m., Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2301 E. Court
- **Old Brick Taize**, 5 p.m., Old Brick
- **Knit Night**, 5:30 p.m., House of Aromas Coffeehouse, 118 S. Clinton
- **The Original Mill Pub Quiz**, 9 p.m., Mill

DI RECOMMENDS

Taking many study breaks, as many as possible. Drink a cup of hot chai tea and draw a bubble bath. You'll feel warm and tingly all over; just the kind of feeling you need to dive right back into studying.

QUOTABLE

"The amount of time you spend in Washington means nothing unless you are accountable for the judgment you made."

— Oprah Winfrey on publicly supporting Barack Obama.

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Gamers try to zap image

The four styles of gaming

- **Board Games** — The widest-ranging format, including everything from Scattergories to the highest-grossing board game ever made, Settlers of Catan. If you ever took part in a "family game night" with Life or Monopoly, you're a gamer, according to Critical Hit. Not that Jerod Leupold recommends it: "Monopoly itself sucks as a game. It's pretty terrible," he said. Hence, the popularity of Catan, which originated in Germany 10 years ago.
- **Miniature Games** — "This is typical: Two people sit down, they each make an army and blow each other up," Leupold said. Featuring the fantasy game staples of Warhammer ("the granddaddy"), its later edition, Warhammer 40,000, and the comic-book-based Hero Clix, miniature games are named for their tiny soldier-pieces, typically no taller than two inches tall. Pieces are assigned point values (a "Terminator" soldier is worth more than a puny average gunman, for example), set up on a grid, and players take shots at each other's military units with the help of dice and rulers.
- **Role-Playing Games** — Recently expanded via the Internet to programs such as Second Life and Final Fantasy, role-playing games ask the player to play a unique character in a given story line with others. Dungeons and Dragons provides the most well-known example of a role-playing game, with one person taking control of an adventure as the "Dungeonmaster." "Think of it as improv," Leupold said. "I've got this guy, my guy is at the bottom of a well. Well, OK, what do I see? It's like improv, how do I get out of the situation?"
- **Collectible Card Games** — Along the lines of Pokémon, Magic: The Gathering, or even the pastime of collecting baseball cards. The frequency with which given cards are retired and new ones introduced have made the final gaming area "a billion-dollar industry," Leupold said. Magic: The Gathering has a steady following at Critical Hit, with a premise a fan of J.K. Rowling might appreciate: Two players each play wizards, with their cards representative of spells they can cast at each other. The only catch? "If you want to make the money, you've got to spend the cash to keep current with the new sets," Leupold said. "It's brilliant on their part."



Chris Vanderwall/The Daily Iowan
Jason Burns awaits the beginning of a Marvel HeroClix game on Dec. 8. The miniatures are taken from characters of four Marvel stories: Planet Hulk, World War Hulk, Marvel Zombies, and X-Men.

Jerod cites the community aspect as one of the reasons why, in a fairly crowded market, "the Coolest Game Store in Iowa" stands out. There is competition: Hobby Corner in Sycamore Mall, Alter Ego in Cedar Rapids, and Linden Cards and Games, an online store based in Iowa City. In spite of the competitors, Jerod says Critical Hit is still a "destination store" for gamers.

DI reporter **Anna Wiegenstein** contributed to this report.
E-mail DI reporter **Meryn Fluker** at: meryn-fluker@uiowa.edu

"I provide a space for people to play in, because I want to build a community," he said. "When you know who you're playing, you can hang out, meet new friends, and now it's a comfortable atmosphere they'll want to come back to."

DI reporter **Anna Wiegenstein** contributed to this report.
E-mail DI reporter **Meryn Fluker** at: meryn-fluker@uiowa.edu

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GAMES
CONTINUED FROM 1C

Information compiled by **Anna Wiegenstein**

Attention to detail is key in the miniature-focused game. The two armies battle on a rubbery mat of terrain. The tiny figurines were hand-painted by each player and appeared life-like despite their diminutive size.

"I like painting, but it's sort of an acquired taste, because the painting part can be long and tedious until you develop a technique," Franke said. "It's rare to see two fully painted armies in the battlefield."

"[The hobby] isn't just related to other people, it's also stuff that you can do by yourself," Groom said. "You can do stuff at home, during your free time, and feel like you're accomplishing something. The end result is when you lay out your army, everyone's like, 'Wow, this looks great.' It just adds to the verisimilitude of the hobby. It helps to suspend disbelief, when everything is painted."

Don't be so quick to mock the seriousness these two 30-somethings apply to their fun, because Jerod says "gamer" is a moniker that can be applied to everyone, not just Warhammer 40,000 die-hards.

"I'm famous for saying this: Everyone's a gamer, they just don't know it," he said. "It's because they haven't found the right game."

Women don't seem to have gotten the memo. Critical Hit's clientele is overwhelmingly male, which Jerod and Gigi aren't blind to.

"That's a concern," Jerod said. "It's something that my wife and I worked on." He pointed to "Girl's Night Out," which he said was "a lot of fun," as an attempt to increase female presence in the store. The event featured board games and was advertised toward women, but Jerod said he played the same games then as the ones he regularly features during Wednesday nights, the time designated for the store's weekly board-game demos (which are not sex-specific).

"You might see a few more pairs of glasses here, and you'll see a lot more left-handed people here, too."

But you don't see that stereotype being pushed.

— **Jerod Leupold, owner of Critical Hit Games**

Why aren't there more women lined up at Critical Hit, painted miniatures in tow? According to womengamers.com, "Despite the growing female market, the gaming industry is not meeting women's needs."

"I think some of the games

naturally are more interesting to guys in general, like a lot of the war games," Gigi said. "I think we can get more women to play, but they just don't know about it."

She doesn't hesitate to stress that marketing in all areas, not just on Critical Hit's behalf, seems to be one of the main issues when it comes to women's absence from the gaming scene.

"We've grown the number of women who come in, slowly over time," Gigi said. "I don't know if it's just kind of a fluke or not, but the magazines that guys read and the shows that they watch, that's where you find the marketing for a lot of our games. And you don't find it when you're watching 'Desperate Housewives.' You're not going to see a commercial for Magic."

'Everyone's a gamer, they just don't know it. It's because they haven't found the right game.'

— **Jerod Leupold, owner of Critical Hit Games**

The gaming industry seems aware of how closed off it can appear, not only to women but to people who consider themselves "non-gamers." Both Jerod and Gigi eagerly demonstrated two easy card games, Martinis and Men and High School Drama, which Gigi said were featured on "Girl's Night Out" and had wide appeal. Jerod refers to them as "bridge games." The website of High School Drama classifies the game as "a hilarious new card game published by Shifting Skies Games to bridge that gap between casual gamers and traditional gamers." High School Drama is about a clique trying to consolidate power during four years of high school, and Martinis and Men is a Go-Fish style dating game.

"We featured [them] because the theme of 'Girl's Night Out' is to try to get some of the women to come who are maybe a little averse to games," Gigi said. "And these are just easier to learn. I don't immediately gloat onto Warhammer 40K, where it's these armies of alien monsters pitting themselves against robots; it's not really my thing. But high school, I can immediately connect with."

And, it seems, people are coming together at Critical Hit. The store has regulars, and Jerod calls most of his customers by their first names. He said hosting the game events brings people into the store and is his way of taking advantage of the large space Critical Hit has, a luxury not afforded to many game outlets.

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Then God said, "Let the site produce a space for bored users to post their half-baked comments on dailyiowan.com." He saw that it was OK, though sometimes unnecessary — the third edit.



DINO POWER



Chris Vanderwall/The Daily Iowan

A front-row fan enjoys the Dinosaur Jr. show on Tuesday at the Picador. The all-ages show was sold out.

DI DAILYIOWANARTS.BLOGSPOT.COM

Yesterday was perhaps what one designates as a flawless day. Waking up to robot-voiced warning call from the university canceling classes was an excellent way to begin, considering I was only going to leave my house if I had a full dog-sled team at my disposal. Today

was like the musical Super Bowl, for I was finally able to see Dinosaur Jr., one of the most iconic and influential bands of the '80s to early '90s.

If it was the Super Bowl, then the pregame show was reading charming DI writer Ann Colwell's interview with Lou Barlow, Dino Jr.'s bassist, in the paper

that morning. She really captured the sense that this reunion tour isn't just a victory lap, (like the Styx-minus-Dennis DeYoung era ... even though they suck, regardless) but an opportunity for the still-relevant band to demonstrate its ability to make still-relevant music.

The clock had struck the witching hour, and it was time to head to the show, which led me to a mad scramble to find some earplugs around the

house. Dinosaur Jr. is legendary for its ear-bleeding shows, so I figured I should track down some sort of protection. Much to my chagrin, the hunt was unsuccessful, but who needs ears anyway?

Read the rest of *DI* reporter Jarrett Hotham's rant/review of the show at dailyiowanarts.blogspot.com.

The magic of the opera

The UI Opera Room: where rescue fairy tales and classic composers collide. Now, graduate and undergraduate students perform Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

By Lauren Matovina
THE DAILY IOWAN

When walking into an opera practice, laughter is not the first thing one expects to hear — but apparently, Mozart had quite the sense of humor when writing *Die Zauberflöte* (*The Magic Flute*) only days before his death. An "essentials" performance of the piece will take the stage in the Opera Room in the Voxman Music Building on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.

As an "essentials" performance, *The Magic Flute* is slightly dissimilar to typical opera stagings. Rather than using elaborate scenery and costumes, the performance has been stripped of all the unnecessary additives, using only what is essential (hence the name). Shari Rhoads, the UI Opera Theater coach-accompanist, said this is so the performance has more to do with the acting and singing, rather than the surrounding environment.

"Workshopping an 'essentials' performance really allows you to work on your role from start to finish," said Allison Holmes, a

Ph.D. student who plays the role of the Queen of the Night. The students studied their roles and their German diction with Rhoads before working on the staging with music Professor Stephen Swanson, the director. Then, as an ensemble, they piece together all aspects of the drama.

"When you work on an opera, it's a lot of work, thinking about what goes into it," said Erin Smith, a first-year master's student. "You have to marry all the aspects — it's about balancing your character and the singing and acting all at once."

Last performed in Iowa City in 1999, it's been awhile since Mozart's piece has made its way to the opera stage.

"[*The Magic Flute*] is a great ensemble piece that has small roles for undergrads and quite difficult roles for graduate students and more advanced undergrads," Rhoads said. "Also, we love Mozart operas. If I had to choose something to do with the rest of my life, it would be conducting Mozart operas with young singers — an endless wonderful cycle of Mozart operas."

THEATER

Mozart's *The Magic Flute*

When: Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.

Where: Voxman Music Building Opera Room

Admission: Tickets are free, but contact Stephen Swanson to obtain them at stephen-swanson@uiowa.edu or 319-335-1671.

The opera itself is about Pamina, the beautiful, young princess and daughter of the Queen of the Night, who is taken to the temple by Sarastro, a wise priest. The Queen of the Night then sends Prince Tamino after her daughter in the hopes to free her from the evil Sarastro. Along the way, Tamino's sidekick, Papageno, also tries to find love from the maiden Pamina. Upon rescuing the princess, Tamino is united

with Pamina, and the couple lives happily ever after. Sound familiar? This rescue drama isn't too different from today's fairy tales: "Rapunzel," "Sleeping Beauty," or even *Shrek* — except that it's sung in German, with the dialogue spoken in English.

"It's more expressive [in English], because it's in our native tongue, and the English is really where [Mozart's] humor comes out," Holmes said. "Opera really is accessible, and it has something for everyone."

Besides humor, love is the key element to this magical story.

"In the duet between Papageno and Pamina, they say, 'We live through love alone,' and I think this is the message [of *The Magic Flute*]: love and honesty," Rhoads said. "It is a very old-fashioned and yet a contemporary message that still resonates with young and old."

E-mail *DI* reporter Lauren Matovina at lauren-matovina@uiowa.edu

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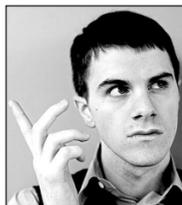
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ADMIT ONE

Still speaking, God said, "Let there be an expanse on dailyiowan.com, welcoming all sorts of digital music files to stream." He saw that it was good, especially the stuff from Dinosaur Jr.'s new record — the fourth edit.

Chugging a shot of fame

Dear Louis: Sometimes I feel like you want to write your own letters. Are you pissed off at that asshole Tila Tequila? Well, I hate her. Your thoughts?!?! — Love, love, infatuation, Louis



LOUIS VIRTEL

Medium

media filtered through us brought to you

The biggest problem with "A Shot at Love" is that I keep watching it. I have no delusions about the issue. Unfortunately, that's not interesting to read about — luckily, the star of the show, Tila Tequila, behaves so despicably that I've already found plenty of other problems to drag up.

It's not rocket science. "A Shot at Love" is a dubious idea to begin with: a group of heterosexual men and lesbian or bisexual ladies vie for the heart of Tila Tequila, the MySpace superstar who pits the contestants against one another, eventually eliminating them until a champion emerges. It's "The Bachelor" with some sexual liberation (or confusion). With the final episode looming, I'm urging for a last, desperate plea to the remaining two contestants, nice guy Bobby and short-haired sweetheart Dani, to overthrow the operation and leave Ms. Tequila in the annals of avoidable cyberspace.

Where to begin? As if her provocative MySpace photos aren't a lame enough springboard to pop-culture viability, Tila Tequila touts herself as an open-minded believer in all sexualities. Nice try, dear.

People who respect lesbians don't house them, without their consent, alongside a group of hawing heterosexuals who openly mock, malign, and misunderstand them. One quickly eliminated female contestant confided to the camera (before she realized men would also compete for Tila), that she was excited to be part of "the first lesbian-dating competition show" on TV. Such eagerness may suggest she expected respect and understanding — but of course, it's funnier to Tila if the female contestant has to put up with bulky, aggressive dudes. Even (or especially) if she didn't sign up for it.

Worse, Tila regularly labors the contestants with such self-congratulating, dishonest drivel as, "You guys have to understand how difficult it is to make myself vulnerable," as if she didn't post her own scandalous photos on MySpace or pose for those *Playboy* shoots. She's shy, guys. Worse yet, she ignores that her contestants suffer worse "vulnerability." After all, the audience is

familiar with Tila's persona and understands she's capitalizing on her rising fame with a TV show; the contestants, however, are only known as lonely, if photogenic, people hoping Tila notices them. I think they're worse off than the perky pipsqueak who is paid to announce degrading challenges as a throng of applicants adore her.

And another thing about respect — when contestants Rebecca and Steven friskily fraternized underneath the covers during Episode Three, Tila was outraged. How could they betray her? It's not like they were forced to sleep in the same giant bed together — oh, wait. There goes logic again, fuddling Tila's seemingly inflexible conscience. Officially, Rebecca was eliminated for making out with another girl in the house. Best-case scenario, she wins a spin-off series, like jocular Italian contestant Domenico. Maybe it'll have a less cliché title than "That's Amore."

Mainly, however, Tila's biggest offense is the insistence that she's somehow a bisexual woman who braved the torments of homophobia to come out proud. I'll go ahead and speak for the majority of gays and lesbians (something I'm almost never prepared to do): Tila needs to stop pretending she's endured anything like those rare gays, bisexuals, and lesbians without dating shows. Like the stereotype so many bisexual women ache to dissolve, Ms. Tequila uses her bisexuality as a tool for shock value. That episode where she

visited blond himbo Ryan's family and proceeded to hit on his sister? Was that supposed to feel encouraging and inspiring to the gay community? No, it was supposed to draw more attention to the star, plain and simple. One small step for Tila, one giant setback for everyone who is or loves a bisexual person. Word.

Believe me, I'm all for wild self-promotion. You may realize

I write an advice column that occasionally veers into self-fanning. Allegedly. But you know what, if self-promotion comes at the cost of those actually seeking a kindred spirit, I say that's when it's time to put the 6-inch stilettos away. And to stop pretending you want a shot at love when you really hurt for a shot at continuing relevance.

But again, Tila wouldn't have

the opportunity for such a luxury if I didn't tune in. Perhaps I'm waiting for an upheaval or a slice of justice right in the nick of time — though I guess, like the losers on "A Shot at Love," I'll likely settle for enabling the tiny vixen's thirsty, devoted crush on her own now blisteringly unavoidable fame.

E-mail figurehead@uiowa.edu Louis Virtel at: louis-virtel@uiowa.edu



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Tuba or not tuba

'Holiday Tubas' toot for Toys for Tots — a 34-year tradition of outdoor oompah-ing.

By Claire Lekwa
THE DAILY IOWAN

The man in the Santa suit with a candy-cane baton, directing tubas and euphoniums on the steps of the Old Capitol, wanted to spread holiday spirit to more than just listeners on the Pentacrest this year. UI Assistant Professor John Manning decided to use the annual "Holiday Tubas" concert on Friday to benefit children in need by pairing with Toys for Tots.

"I thought if we were going to get a couple hundred people there, we might make it a philanthropic endeavor," Manning said. The Toys for Tots cause resonated with him — he was shopping for his daughter for Christmas, thinking about children who would not be so fortunate to receive gifts.

In 2006, Toys for Tots distributed 19.2 million toys to 7.6 million needy children throughout the United States, according to the organization's annual report. The local campaign, Hawkeye Area Toys for Tots, paired with the Salvation Army to give Christmas gifts to more than 1,300 children in the Johnson County area, said co-coordinator Carmen Noska.

The organization has seen fewer donations this year, she said, especially in gifts for children ages birth to 3. She hopes the community will remember to donate, or else fewer children will receive gifts this Christmas.

On Friday at 12:30 p.m., Toys for Tots drop boxes will be set up on the steps of the Old Capitol, welcoming donations for children up to age 15. Meanwhile, the UI Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble will play a 30-minute outdoor holiday concert, opening with the "Underdog" theme song and playing other upbeat tunes, such as "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and the Alvin and the Chipmunks Christmas song.

Manning beams as he talks about the concert, a holiday tradition started by UI Professor Robert Yeats in 1973. For 34 years, student and community musicians have faced the

TOYS FOR TOTS EVENT

Holiday Tubas Concert

When: Friday 12:30 p.m.
Where: Pentacrest, steps of the Old Capitol
Who: UI Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble. Open to anyone who plays tuba, euphonium, baritone horn, or sousaphone
Admission: Free; Toys for Tots donations of gifts for children up to age 15 are encouraged

elements with cheer, dressing their instruments with wrapping paper, lights, and garlands and donning reindeer antlers and festive garb.

Now that the concert will also be a Toys for Tots event, Manning is reminded of another time he played his tuba for the organization's cause. In 1987, as a part of the Air Force Band of the Golden Gate in California, he played holiday music with a brass quintet at a Midas muffler shop, while Marines loaded heaps of toys into trucks. The concert turned bizarre, however, when it started to rain, moving Manning and his fellow musicians into the repair bay, playing among flying sparks and machinery.

If the weather turns awry on Friday, Manning said, the musicians will play on. Senior Chet Aliga, the drum major for the Hawkeye Marching Band, remembers playing his euphonium in temperatures from the 40s to the teens during the three years he has participated.

"When it gets cold enough, your mouthpiece can freeze to your lips," he said.

For Manning, the reaction from the audience makes it worth braving the winter weather.

"How can you see a bunch of crazy tuba players and not smile?" he said. "It's a warm atmosphere, even though it's cold outside."

E-mail reporter@uiowa.edu Claire Lekwa at: claire-lekwa@uiowa.edu

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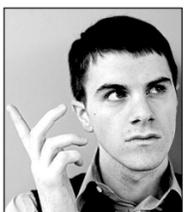
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Our Father, Who Art in Heaven's Gate

Letters to Louis



LOUIS VIRTEL

louis-virtel@uiowa.edu

Dear Louis, This past weekend, I attended Afterdark, a concert at the IMU advertised as a free concert by Jon McLaughlin and Joe White, "a speaker to the MLB and NFL." After watching McLaughlin perform, White came out, and soon he began building a cross onstage and started talking about how "Jesus can be your daddy." He also played video footage of Jesus being whipped. I am not Christian, but my friends that I went with are — they said they probably didn't advertise the event as Christian-theme because not so many people would come. I still feel like something is wrong here. I was very uncomfortable throughout the event. I just wonder if I'm

wrong to feel this way. You don't have to put this in the column if you don't want to, I'm just curious. — Mandy

Dear Mandy the Martyr, Yeah, I guess I'm just curious, too — about this CULT! Hide the Kool-Aid from that guy!

Mandy, I was so intrigued by your question that I did some research (which I'm usually so against). The Afterdark Facebook event page lists no religious connotations, even though student Christian groups Campus Crusade and 24/7 helped organize the event. Let me be absolutely clear: I have nothing against these people. Many of my friends populate both groups, and a fellow RA even told me about Afterdark's religious intentions beforehand. Of course, not everyone else got the memo. And there you are, my wan little Mandy.

A couple nights before the Afterdark concert, one of my dear friends wrote on the Facebook event wall wondering if the occasion focused on spiritual and religious themes. The next day she received private messages from two different people that said, "I'll be honest with you; yes, this is a religious event, but it's open to skeptics, nonbelievers, etc." My friend then checked the wall again — her comment had been erased by an event administrator. No one addressed her question publicly. Like all my favorite altar boys, it was forced into the closet.

Mandy, anytime ideology is concerned, an organizing group has the responsibility to alert potential attendees. What the hell was the excuse? Not so many people would show up? Oh, I see. After all, that would lead to people selfishly deciding for themselves whether to attend a sermon and have their values challenged. What a dangerous liberty that would be! This is straight-up trickery, the same subversive method of cults and extremists. Or even certain clubs or klans. I'm blanking on names.

Not to say these organizers' intentions were malicious — but in trapping attendees, without their consent, into a potentially offensive religious ceremony, they disrespect their audience's choice in attending a spiritual challenge, or awakening, or whatever Shirley MacLaine's calling it now. And look, the clandestine approach also put an awkward barrier between you and your friends looking to have fun at a concert. What, were you supposed to just abandon your posse, leave the IMU, and step cautiously past all those enjoying a religious experience? That's terrible. I'm ashamed for both Campus Crusade and 24/7 if they support such a tactic. Did any famous Christians ever trick their peers? Hmm. Something Iscariot? Jeez, me and the names today! More Vitamin C in your diet, Louis!

I wish I could've attended just to see how quickly the

whole thing spiraled from peppy Peter-Paul-and-Mary time to the depths of "daddy's" pulpit. He built a cross? See, I hate to bring up my religious views — it feels so imprudent — but I think Madonna had that idea first. I love how White was billed as a speaker for the NFL and MLB. Sounds like you learned a lot about professional sports. Or, according to Afterdark's strategically vague website, "the greatest story ever told." To me, that's the movie *Clue*, so congrats and

I hope you guessed Mrs. Peacock.

The "Daddy" thing is troubling. Sounds like this White aimed for impressive college kids who feel distant from their fathers (according to my trusty friend who attended and felt totally violated). I don't know who else would feel redeemed by a Jesus/Daddy connection. But perhaps I'm being presumptuous. Or just gangsta again. To be fair, White's message probably works healthily for some people —

and I'm guessing most of those folks would've attended even if it was, *ahem*, advertised. Imagine that.

Anyway, Mandy, if you're looking for solace, I hope I provided it. I'm comforted in seeing you found actual divine intervention, because you read this column regularly (with my framed photo and a rosary, naturally). If that's not sufficient, however, I can set you up with some dark chocolate and a vibrator.

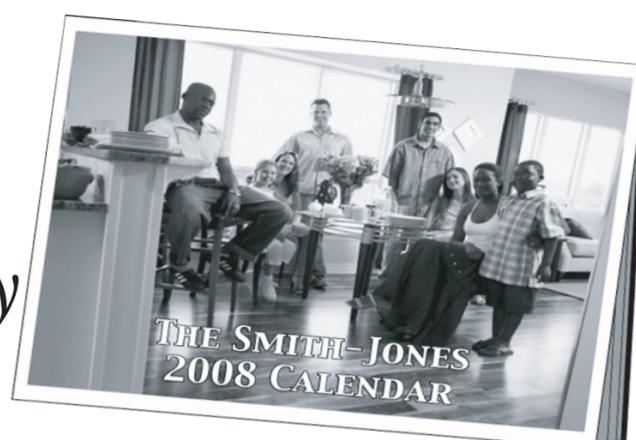
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