

The Daily Iowan

Thursday, December 20, 2007

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50¢

Commencement ceremonies:

- Graduate College, Friday, 2 p.m., Hancher Auditorium
- College of Engineering, Friday, 7 p.m., Hancher Auditorium
- College of Business, Saturday, 9 a.m., Hancher Auditorium
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and College of Nursing, Saturday, 10 a.m., Carver-Hawkeye Arena
- College of Law, Saturday, 10:30 a.m., Boyd Law Building.

INSIDE

Pray labyrinth, meditate

Old Brick's Taizé encourages its multicultural participants to observe a contemplative tradition started in France, opening its doors to all kinds of spiritual interpretation. **80 Hours, 1C**



Gymnasts endure fire, repercussions

Members of the Hawkeye men's gymnastics team will move back into their rebuilt home in February; an August fire heavily damaged the five-bedroom house. **Sports, 1B**

Overtured

Against UI Student Government wishes, UI Vice President Phillip Jones has restored cuts to the UISG leaders' salaries. **Campus, 2A**

No seasons greetings

Unwilling to disturb possible voters' cheer, frantic pre-caucus holiday calling and electioneering will cease for Christmas, campaigns say. **State, 5A**

dailiowan.com

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Daily updates

Now check back at dailiowan.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 dailiowan.com or tune into UI TV. 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 more immigrants are voting Democratic.

WEATHER



Cloudy, 20% chance of freezing rain/rain/freezing drizzle, with patchy freezing drizzle and fog at night.

↑ 34 °C ↓ 28 °C

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Lit City writes to world

The path to achieving an international distinction for a locally known truth.



Natalia Salazar/The Daily Iowan

IWP Director Christopher Merrill on Wednesday in Shambaugh House presents the final application for Iowa City's bid to become a UNESCO-designated City of Literature. In the background sits a bust of Paul Engle — who helped bring international prominence to the UI writing programs.

By Kelsey Beltramea
THE DAILY IOWAN

On Wednesday, members of the Iowa City writing community sent an application to Paris to garner a tangible distinction for all of the literary resources the town has to boast.

Led by International Writing Program Director Christopher Merrill, officials submitted a dossier to apply for international accolade as a City of Literature from the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, which would also add Iowa City to a growing international network of renowned, creative communities.

"This is the culmination of two years of work, and more than anything, this is the culmination of our effort to inventory what literary riches there are in Iowa City," Merrill said. "Now that we've done that and seen just how rich the city is in creative talent, we've recognized that it could be the cornerstone of larger collaborations between us and other creative cities."

The nearly 80-page application, which enumerates and

chronicles Iowa City's vast literary resources, is the product of hundreds of hours of work by dozens of individuals, Merrill said — all of which began after a UI employee stumbled upon a website.

Hugh Ferrer, an IWP associate director, was surfing from site to site when he ambled onto the webpage for UNESCO's Creative Cities Network in 2005. The network was launched just a year earlier to recognize cities with creative pedigrees in order to promote cultural development of communities worldwide. UNESCO offers distinctions for cities established in literature, cinema, music, folk art, design, media arts, and gastronomy.

When Ferrer read the description, he knew Iowa City belonged. The task, then, was to document just how endemic literature is in this town.

"It's thought of at the civic level, at a local level, at the university level," Ferrer said. "People visit here for it, come here to study it, move here for

"We're a city that treasures the written word, that uplifts it and holds it up for others to see. We're a city that refines it, treasures it in every single way, and furthers literature to make sure it keeps going."

— Hugh Ferrer, IWP associate director

Full application

To see the entire City of Literature application, go to dailiowan.com.

SEE CITY OF LIT, 3A

A big room full of writers

Marvin Bell writes that in Iowa City "many have bowed to their writing in attics and basements / at rest by the river or paused on a bridge..."



By Kelsey Beltramea
THE DAILY IOWAN

Enclosed within the special hand-crafted box of Iowa City's application for the City of Literature distinction, alongside the formal dossier, lies what some have called the heart of the effort: a poem by Marvin Bell, written just for the occasion.

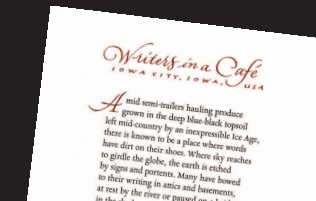
"Writers in a Café," printed on handmade hemp paper and adorned with calligraphy, will be one of the first documents that the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization will read.

For its author, the subject of the poem came naturally. Bell said, "It's easy to just think of a room full of writers, because Iowa City is a room full of writers — a big room full of writers."

The local poet was asked by his former student and City of Literature project point man Christopher Merrill to pen "something about the creative atmosphere of Iowa City," Merrill said.

"It seemed to me that if we were going to assemble, in

More online
Go to dailiowan.com to:
• Listen to Marvin Bell read his poem "Witness in a Café"
• Read the full version of the poem



SEE BELL, 3A

School guards common

At least 70 Iowa high schools have armed police officers.

By Clara Hogan
THE DAILY IOWAN

Officer Rodney Fogle's sole responsibility is patrolling Burlington High School. On an average school day, he can be found breaking up a fight, mediating arguments, or playing basketball with students in the gym.

He is what is called a "School Resource Officer," and the presence of law enforcement in American high schools is becoming increasingly common. The Iowa City School Board is discussing putting guards into both of the city's high schools after both principals requested them at the board's Nov. 27 meeting.

Proponents of school officers say they bridge the gap between law enforcement and America's youth, while opponents argue they are an unnecessary waste of tax dollars.

At least 70 high schools across the state have police officers, and there are more than 9,000 nationally, according to the National Association of School Resource Officers — the nonprofit training program most used by districts.

Interest in the association, which started in 1991, has skyrocketed in recent years alongside the increased school violence, said the department's media-relations officer, Kevin Quinn.

"People are scared of copycats," he said.

Fogle has been an officer for 16 years, but he has only been at the school for two and a half. Officers are only allowed to serve for up to four years.

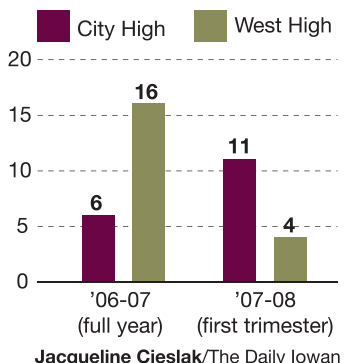
He, along with most school resource officers, carries a gun.

SEE ARMED, 4A

IC teen violence

Increased violent behavior is prompting the School Board to discuss putting armed guards in the high schools.

Physical fights at IC high schools



Graduating Seniors | JOSH WILLIAMS

Looking forward to medical school

Josh Williams

Age: 22
Major: Biology
Hometown: Carroll, Iowa
Favorite UI memory: Tailgating with his friends in the wee hours of the morning



By Shajia Ahmad
THE DAILY IOWAN

UI senior Josh Williams said he feels lucky that he's always known what he wants to do — become a doctor.

His decisiveness has allowed the graduating Hawkeye to complete his biology degree in a mere three and a half years. An interview at Des Moines Univer-

sity medical school awaits him in February.

But Williams isn't packing his bags and skipping town just yet — the Carroll, Iowa, native plans to stick around in Iowa City through the spring semester while he earns money to pay for his education and waits for his girlfriend of eight years, UI senior Abby Heiman, to finish an identical degree to his.

Because Heiman has already been accepted to William's school of choice, the graduating senior said he did not consider applying to UI Carver College of Medicine.

"I don't even know if I'd go there if I got in, because Abby is going to Des Moines," Williams said. "It would be tough to be separated."

The two met in their fourth-grade homeroom, where boys and girls sat in alternating seats.

"She picked a seat between me and my best friend — she was kind of a tattletale back then," he recalled and laughed.

Heiman said it was also her first memory of her boyfriend.

"He and his friend were always up to mischief," Heiman said. "I wanted to see what they were up to."

SEE SENIOR, 4A



UISG salaries baffle some

In a move that upset some student officials, Phillip Jones, vice president of student services, changed UI Student Government salaries after they were approved by the Student Senate and Student Fee Committee.

By Kayla Kelley
THE DAILY IOWAN

Current salaries of Student Government officials:

- **President:** \$8,250
- **Vice President:** \$8,250
- **Financial Officer:** \$4,500
- **Public Relations Liaison:** \$4,500
- **Budget-committee head:** \$4,500
- **Student Organizational Liaison:** \$4,500
- **Speaker of the senate:** \$4,000
- **City Council Liaison:** \$2,500
- **Chief of Staff:** \$2,500

Phillip Jones, the UI vice president for Student Services.

When the recommendations were brought to the student assembly to be approved by the senate, the newly elected president and vice president, Barrett Anderson and Carole Peterson, appealed to the salary changes on March 25.

Anderson said that he and Peterson appealed to the salary increases in order to make the

position financially feasible for students who want to take advantage of the opportunity, but can not hold another job.

But the senate voted and approved the budgeting recommendations anyway.

After the student senate, the salaries were sent to the student fee committee to be approved and then Jones.

Jones changed the allocations before they were sent to the state Board of Regents to be approved.

While Jones maintains that it is within the administration's rights to change the allocations, they have not been raised back up in the past.

Jones said requests to change the salaries have been made in the past, but they are always accompanied by a reason, which was not the case this time.

He said the salaries are a decision of personnel, and there was no reason to decrease the salaries.

"That is not a decision that the student government has," Jones said. "The salaries are determined by the administration."

But the student government has been delegated the responsibility of allocating fees and salaries by the administration,

noted Maison Bleam, the current budget-committee head.

He has been on the committee for three years and has never seen anything like this happen before.

Bleam said the allocating committee voted to decrease and combine the president and vice president's salaries to give more money to organizations on campus.

"We need to get as much money back to student organizations as possible," he said.

Meanwhile, Anderson said money has been saved in other ways.

He said the Speaker of the Senate position was previously three jobs — each paying \$3,000 — which have since been combined into one that only pays \$4,000 and has more responsibilities.

Anderson said they also have meetings in the Pappajohn Business Building and Schaeffer Hall for no cost this year, while last year's student government administration spent \$5,000 to meet in the Old Capitol.

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The Daily Iowan

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DI TOP STORIES

Most-read stories on dailyiowan.com for Wednesday, December 19

1. Woman's best friend
2. Long, long road back
3. Hawks get another oral commitment from tight end
4. Volleyball coach Fredrick resigns
5. Iowa not so depressing, new study concludes

POLICE BLOTTER

Melissa Carlson, 41, 1017 Dover St., was charged Tuesday with interference with official acts.

Thomas Linnell, 18, was charged Wednesday with public intoxication.

Anacleto Lopez-Dejesus, 35, 2401 Highway 6 E. Apt. 1015, was charged Tuesday with violating a no-contact domestic-abuse protective order.

Thinking locally on water

Two UI professors say their study on 'place-based monitoring' is 'pioneering work' in the field of environmental law.

By Abby Harvey
THE DAILY IOWAN

Just as laws can differ from state to state, or city to city according to each community's needs, a new study showed that drinking-water regulations should be tailor-made to fit the local water conditions and histories.

Edwin Brands, a UI adjunct assistant professor in geography and international studies, and Raj Rajagopal, a UI geography professor recently published their three-part study, "Economics of Place-based Monitoring under the Safe Drinking Water Act," which focuses on the attribution of federal Safe Drinking Water regulations to small U.S. towns.

Brands said the idea of place-based monitoring is "very simple." Although there is a list of 90-plus contaminants, he says one can't expect to find every contaminant in every drinking water supply.

"Let's take into consideration the characteristics of where the water is coming from before we start testing for long lists of contaminants," he said.

The study found that periodic monitoring of a small number of suspected pollutants would be as accurate as and more cost-effective than conventional monitoring of all 90. It also examined the history of 19 water supplies in



File photo/The Daily Iowan

Superintendent Aaron Fisher waits for the air-pressure valve to regain full power at collector well No. 2. The collector well is the driving force behind the river intake system at the Iowa City Water Treatment Facility near Interstate 80.

communities around Iowa that are influenced by surface water.

Nitrates, most commonly found in nitrogen fertilizer, were found in every surveyed water supply, and atrazine, a herbicide, came in at a close second.

The spring and summer months are usually when the highest concentration of agricultural contaminants are found — at least for the surveyed Iowa communities.

"If you look at a graph of nitrate concentrations in some of these towns, it's much higher in May, June, and July than the rest of the year," said Brands. "If they're only taking one sample a year, they're not going to catch that, and they

won't find the highest concentrations."

Communities hosting water supplies with contaminants exceeding the legal level will not go unnoticed. Most often there is some action taken, whether it be legal, or in the form of a public notification.

Although it's clear that some water-treatment plants may test water purity according to a skewed schedule, the UI Water Treatment Plant tests on a consistent basis.

Scott Slee, the operations manager at the plant, said that while there have not been any unusual traces of contaminants, nitrate has always been a problem in their industry.

"Sometimes in the spring nitrate goes above that [legal] number," he said. "So we blend it with well water to keep our numbers within that level."

The study found that by analyzing the seasonal timing of high nitrate concentrations, monitoring strategies can be devised to better estimate the highest concentrations in drinking water supplies.

"I should say that there are probably 10 or 11 major federal environmental laws that all have monitoring requirements that could benefit from a similar type of approach as place-based monitoring," Brands said.

E-mail *DI* reporter **Abby Harvey** at: abby-harvey@uiowa.edu

Panel aims to stop 'brain drain'

Generation Iowa Committee close to finishing report on how to stop the state's brain drain.

By Shawn Gude
THE DAILY IOWAN

The Generation Iowa Commission is close to delivering its report on how to curb the state's so-called "brain drain."

Its findings focus on several key components — wage gaps, student debt, and cultural opportunities — to solve the problem.

It has been a hurried process, with the 15-member board first meeting in August. Iowa Gov. Chet Culver created the group in April.

"We certainly came under a time crunch, this being our inaugural year" said Kyle Colson, the group's chairman, noting that it was difficult "only having five short months to do a full year's [worth of] research and work."

conflicting concerns for members coming from rural and urban communities.

Vice Chairwoman Rachel Judisch, who hails from rural Lake View, Iowa, said the two different contingents have been able to find common ground, though.

"One of the main ideas that has transferred across both urban and rural [groups] is the idea that retaining adults within the metropolitan areas makes it that much easier for the rural areas to pull from that population," she said. "It's much easier to compete with Des Moines than Chicago."

Colson said that Iowa faces both a shortage of workers and aging workforce because of young adults leaving the state. And economically speaking, the

Hawkeye State is missing a key age group, the Colfax resident said.

"When you look at the economies surrounding Iowa, particularly the ones with big cities, they have a younger-generation demographic that really helps drive the economy through their activities — through their spending and those types of things," said Colson, who is in his late 20s. "Our economy doesn't have that to the extent that it could."

In creating the commission, the governor and lawmakers specifically targeted the 18- to 35-year-old group, with Culver appointing members only in that demographic.

After three public input meetings on college campuses

throughout the state — the UI, Drake University, and Buena Vista University — countless e-mails, and subcommittee and group meetings, the commission is finally set to complete its recommendations at its Jan. 11 meeting.

Judisch just hopes Culver and the Iowa Legislature will look closely at the report she calls logical, effective, and one that includes ideas out of the typical thought process.

"For Iowa to continue to have thriving economic development and be a viable state competitively, we have to be proactive with it," Judisch said. "Many states are already addressing brain drain issues of their own in different ways. So if we wait, we lose."

E-mail *DI* reporter **Shawn Gude** at: shawn-gude@uiowa.edu

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IC bids for literary fame

Application will be presented on Jan. 24; decision expected next March.

CITY OF LIT

CONTINUED FROM 1A

it, retire here for it. It's on the sidewalks, in the grad programs, in the summer writing festivals. And on and on and on."

So, already working on former Provost Michael Hogan's charge to document and develop synergies among UI programs, the IWP officials set out to compose indices of the entire city's literary activities. They catalogued writing programs, famous alumni, independent presses, and reading series, while also trying to define the significance of the city's creative economy.

The first-ever analysis of the Iowa Cultural Corridor by D.C.-based nonprofit Americans for the Arts found that local nonprofit arts organizations support 1,968 full-time equivalent jobs, generating roughly \$63 million in annual spending and \$6 million in local and state government tax revenue.

Josh Schamberger, the president of the Iowa City/Coralville Convention and Visitors Bureau, said the area certainly benefits from visitors exploring Iowa City's literary heritage.

"I'm not overstating it when I say that Iowa City is truly recognized all over the world as a leader in literature," Schamberger said.

If selected, Iowa City would be the second city in the world to hold such an appellation for literature.

Edinburgh, Scotland — which is roughly seven times the population of Iowa City — earned the first City of Literature title in 2004 for its rich writing tradition and famed festival celebrations.

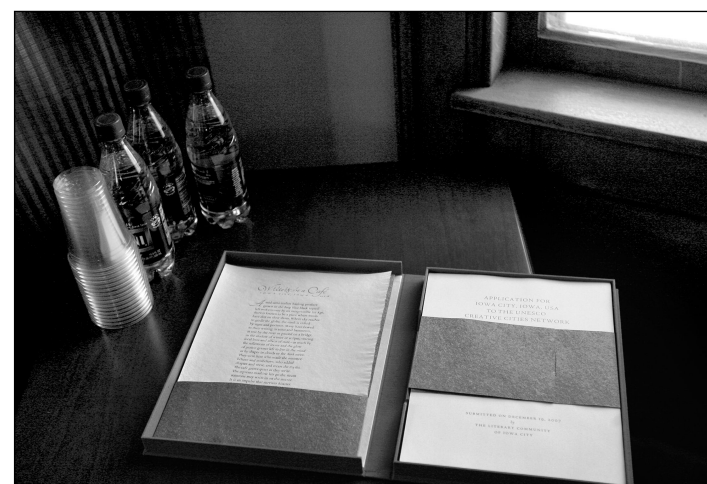
Since then, Edinburgh has been instrumental in blazing the trail for other towns interested in achieving Creative City status, Merrill said. Other cities in the process of compiling bids for the City of Literature designation include Dublin, Ireland; Kolkata, India; Melbourne, Australia; and Vancouver, Canada.

Merrill has visited the capital city to talk with his Scottish counterpart about assembling the best dossier, and the two project managers have also speculated on how the cities could collaborate with writer exchanges and literary projects that span an ocean.

Edinburgh's efforts to expend and brand itself with the distinction, from establishing a voluntary board of trustees to creating the domain cityofliterature.com, are also



Natalia Salazar/The Daily Iowan
May Ross Wilburn speaks to a crowd of people in the Shambaugh House on Wednesday. The literary community of Iowa City sent its final application to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network headquarters in Paris in hopes that Iowa City will earn a City of Literature distinction.



Natalia Salazar/The Daily Iowan
The final application for Iowa City to receive the City of Literature distinction sits in the Shambaugh House on Wednesday. A decision is expected by next March.

"Iowa City is already so prideful of its rich literary tradition and history, and I believe that we could see the community's branding efforts wrap around this literary designation."

— Josh Schamberger, president of the Iowa City/Coralville Convention and Visitors Bureau

things Iowa City could look to mirror, Schamberger said.

"Iowa City is already so prideful of its rich literary tradition and history, and I believe that we could see the community's branding efforts wrap around this literary designation," he said.

Iowa City Mayor Ross Wilburn said the potential designation "opens up possibilities for tourism and cultural exchange for people throughout the world to recognize Iowa City as a destination point for literature."

Only one U.S. city is a member of the elite network of creative cities. Santa Fe, N.M., was recognized for excellence in both folk art and design in 2005. City official Tom Maguire said at first, it seemed as if UNESCO was "simply stating the obvious in our minds" by recognizing the home of the world's largest folk art market.

"But the distinction has also given us the opportunity to project that image to the world and use it as a springboard to really take on a leadership role," said Maguire, who is Santa Fe's senior planner for culture and heritage tourism. Next fall, the town of

'People visit here for it, come here to study it, move here for it, retire here for it. It's on the sidewalks, in the grad programs, in the summer writing festivals. And on and on and on.'

— Hugh Ferrer, IWP associate director

around 70,000 people will host an international conference on creative tourism — a conference Merrill hopes to attend.

First, the IWP director will travel to Paris on Jan. 24 to formally present Iowa City's application before the UNESCO board. It will make its decision by next March. Merrill and others at the IWP are already familiar with the wealth the city can showcase to the rest of the world.

"We are a city of literature," Ferrer said. "We're a city that treasures the written word, that uplifts it and holds it up for others to see. We're a city that refines it, treasures it in every single way, and furthers literature to make sure it keeps going."

Then would securing this title mean that much more? Ferrer laughed, then said, "It definitely doesn't hurt anyone's feelings to be internationally recognized for something everyone locally already knows."

E-mail *DI* reporter Kelsey Beltramea at: kelsey-beltramea@uiowa.edu

Bell still loves IC

BELL

CONTINUED FROM 1A

fairly straightforward language, a dossier of the resources we have here, at the very start of it, we ought to have a poem, because that is, in fact, what we do here," he said. "People write stories and essays and poems, and there's nobody better at that than Marvin Bell."

So the 70-year-old Bell took on the commission because, he said, he attributes Iowa City, in part, for fostering his creative talent.

The New York native said he came here in 1961 "as sort of a graduate-student bum" from the University of Chicago. After spending three years at the UI to earn a Master of Fine Arts, Bell joined the Army, only to return in the fall of 1965 to teach in the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

"I like Iowa City. I've liked Iowa City since I first came here as a student," he said. "Everyone knows Iowa City is Poet City."

Since then, Bell has published 17 collections of poetry, earned the title of Iowa's first poet laureate in 2000, and traveled around the country to teach. He recently retired after 40 years on the faculty of the Writers' Workshop. Bell has also served on the faculties of numerous schools, including Goddard College, Saint Mary's College of California, West Virginia Wesleyan College, and the Universities of Hawaii, Washington, and Wichita State.

"I have an e-mail address and a hat for about every school I work at," he said, as he pulled cap after cap from a large cardboard box on his desk.

But the poet always comes back, returning to a town that is thought to house more writers per capita than in any other city in the world, he said.

"These things grew up in large measure because one man, an Iowan named Paul Engle, a poet, decided he was going to do it, and no one could stop him," Bell said, describing the man credited with building the Writers' Workshop into a world-class institution.

Now, Bell splits his writing time in town between an upstairs office in his East College Street home and at the South First Avenue Java House over an 11 a.m. latté.

He said that when someone recently challenged him by asking if he was the best poet in Iowa City, he was amused.

"I said, 'Well, I'm the best poet in the 1400 block of East College Street, unless someone has moved in here whom I haven't heard about yet,'" Bell remembered, laughing. "That's how many of us there are here. It's amazing."

E-mail *DI* reporter Kelsey Beltramea at: kelsey-beltramea@uiowa.edu

"Iowa changed the course of American literature in the twentieth century."

— Tom Grimes, *The Workshop: Seven Decades of the Iowa Writers' Workshop*

A History of Great Writing in Iowa City

1891 The first writers' club, the Tabard, is formed on campus.

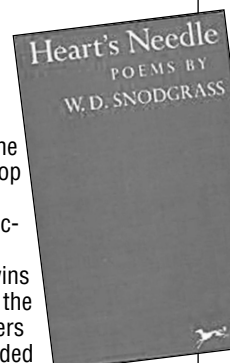
1922 A master's degree is offered at the UI for creative work for the first time.

1936 Wilber Schramm takes the helm of the program for creative writing. The title Writers' Workshop is not formally used until 1939, when a summer course appears under that title.

1941 Schramm takes leave from the UI for wartime service, and Cedar Rapids native Paul Engle becomes director of the Writers' Workshop, a position he will hold for more than two decades.



Engle



1960 The first Pulitzer Prize is awarded to a student of the Writers' Workshop when W.D. Snodgrass' collection of poems *Heart's Needle* wins the Pulitzer. It is the first of 12 Pulitzers that will be awarded to students and faculty of the Writers' Workshop — and 40 Pulitzers in all to writers with ties to Iowa.



Nih-Engle

1967 Engle and Hualing Nih, a visiting writer from Taiwan, found the UI International Writing Program, which is the first and only program of its kind in the world.

1976 Paul and Hualing Nih Engle are nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize by a U.N. ambassador for contributing to international understanding through the IWP.

1986 The UI Center for the Book is established as an innovative interdisciplinary program in book arts and book history.

1987 The Summer Writing Festival is founded. It grows to attract more than 1,500 writers to Iowa City each summer.

1991 WSUI airs its radio program "Live From Prairie Lights," which is the only ongoing series of live broadcast literary readings in American radio.

2007 The IWP celebrates its 40th anniversary. It has hosted more than 1,100 writers from more than 120 countries.

Source: Iowa City's UNESCO bid

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Iowa City schools mull guards

ARMED

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Arming the guards is one of the more controversial aspects of the discussion in Iowa City. West High Principal Jerry Arganbright said he would prefer the guards be unarmed. This is impossible if the schools plan to use the city police — the most common and cost-effective way for schools to hire an officer.

The Iowa City police have said they would require their officers to be armed if the request was approved.

Guns aren't necessary to secure West High, Arganbright said, but having a uniformed person to help with security, violence, and counseling is.

"We want to enhance how safe our students feel," he said.

When the Burlington School District decided to implement an officer at its sole high school in 1997, there was little resistance, said Lt. Dennis Kramer, the school's first resource officer.

City High Principal Mark Hanson was principal of Burlington High when the program was started, and he has since said his new school desperately needs one.

Tom Messenger, the Burlington school's current principal, said he supports the program. The middle schools are now considering sharing the officer or getting their own, he said.

Kramer said the students at Burlington High were standoffish at first, but they eventually realized he "wasn't someone they needed to hate."

In Des Moines, officials gave all six high schools officers around

five years ago, said Dick Murphy, the School Board president. That program was controversial because of the significant amount of funding needed and the presence of guns in schools.

Funding for district-hired officers took money away from educational staff, and many thought more guidance counselors was a better solution.

In Des Moines, the School District and police each pay a portion of the six positions. Because the Iowa City police is concerned about being short-staffed, there is no way they could afford to fund a school resource officer alone, said Sgt. Troy Kelsay.

He speculated that there would only be one person hired for both schools at first, if the School Board could come up with the money.

There have been 11 fights at City High during the first trimester of this year, compared with the six fights over the course of last year. West High has had four fights this year, compared to the 16 last year.

Both schools have been significantly increasing in enrollment, and Kelsay argued this has affected the number of fights in school.

Evan Eastman, a senior at Des Moines Hoover High, said his school's officer helps with the tons of fights that break out during the day.

He has only spoken to the officer twice. Once after the officer helped after another student hit Eastman in the face in the parking lot last year and again when the officer made a presentation to his psychology class.

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CIA to release tape documents

By Pamela Hess
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The CIA said Wednesday it would begin handing over documents to Congress about the destruction of videotapings showing the harsh interrogation of two terror suspects after the House Intelligence Committee threatened to subpoena two agency officials.

Committee Chairman Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas, said Wednesday he had prepared subpoenas for former and current CIA officials and attorneys if they won't appear before the committee voluntarily. The panel rejected a Bush administration request that it defer to an executive branch preliminary inquiry and has launched its own investigation into the videotape destruction.

Reyes wants acting CIA general counsel John Rizzo and Jose Rodriguez, the former head of the National Clandestine Service, to testify to the committee on Jan. 16. Rodriguez is the official who directed that the tapes, which document the interrogation of two Qaeda suspects in 2002, be destroyed.

He told reporters the CIA had agreed to begin providing

documents regarding the 2005 destruction of the tapes this week. That could be as early as Thursday, according to senior intelligence officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the legal inquiries. If that doesn't happen, the committee will subpoena them too, Reyes said. The document request includes records related to the 9/11 Commission and to Qaeda conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui, whose attorneys were seeking interrogation videos.

Rizzo will testify, though the CIA has not committed to a date. Rodriguez has his own lawyer, so his arrangements were being made separately.

The committee's announcement is another sign of increasing tensions between Congress, the judiciary and the White House over the interrogation tapes. Congressional overseers are angry they were not fully informed of the tapes and their destruction, and want to know what else they have not been told. A federal judge has summoned Justice Department lawyers to his courtroom Friday to determine whether the destruction of the tapes violated a court order to preserve evidence about detainees.

Reyes also wants the CIA to make available CIA attorneys Steve Hermes, Robert Eateinger, Elizabeth Vogt and John McPherson to testify before the committee. Former CIA directors Porter Goss and George Tenet, former deputy director of operations James L. Pavitt, and former general counsel Scott Muller are also on his list.

Reyes' threat of subpoenas was triggered by a letter the Justice Department and the CIA inspector general sent to his committee on Friday. It asked the committee to delay its investigation to avoid interfering with an ongoing preliminary inquiry by those two agencies. Reyes and the committee's top Republican, Peter Hoekstra of Michigan, had asked for immediate delivery of all documents, cables and records regarding the taping of detainee interrogations, as well as for testimony from Rizzo and Rodriguez at a planned Tuesday hearing. The officials did not come and the documents were not provided.

Reyes said the Justice Department letter chilled the CIA's willingness to comply with the committee's requests for information and witnesses. That has since been clarified,

he said. The Justice Department told the committee Tuesday that the attorney general is not advising the CIA to withhold documents.

Justice Department officials denied they had changed their stance on the investigation. They said their letter did not specifically forbid the CIA to testify or provide documents, something the officials said they have no authority to do. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk publicly about the letter.

Attorney General Michael Mukasey has refused, however, to immediately provide details of the Justice Department's own investigation to the congressional judiciary committees out of fear that could taint what may become a criminal case.

Assistant Attorney General Kenneth Wainstein and CIA Inspector General John Helgeson, who are heading the joint Justice-CIA preliminary inquiry into the videotape destruction, told the intelligence committee they could not predict how long their inquiry would take. They said they would need the same documents and witnesses the committee has requested.

UI SENIOR EYES MED SCHOOL

SENIOR

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Though Williams said he doesn't have a back-up plan if medical school doesn't work out, he's fairly confident that his grades and extra-curricular activities will allow him to enroll in the medical school of his choice next fall.

For the past two years, Williams has worked in UI Associate Professor Daniel Eberl's biology lab, and his Honors thesis covers his work with the protein STC-2, found in flies, fish, and most recently in humans, Williams said.

"We don't know much about it," he said, as he described his work in the lab and referred to

his terminology as a "bunch of biology talk."

In addition to his lab work, the chemistry minor also works in cell lab in the hospital and volunteers at the UI Hospitals and Clinics' medical intensive-care unit, where he helps nurses take care of patients.

Regardless of whether medical school works out, William said he will follow his girlfriend to the state capital in August. Heiman said she didn't see any reason her boyfriend would be denied admission.

"If they don't accept him, they probably wouldn't take anybody," she said.

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By Anna Johnson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO, Egypt — Al Qaeda has invited journalists to send questions to its No. 2 figure, Ayman al-Zawahri, in the first such offer by the increasingly media-savvy terror network to "interview" one of its leaders since the 9/11 attacks.

The invitation is a new twist in Al Qaeda's campaign to reach a broader audience, and it represents an attempt by al-Zawahri to present himself as a sophisticated leader rather than a mass murderer.

"I think its media capability is sophisticated as ever," said Bruce Hoffman, a terrorism expert and professor at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. "It shows how this group with seventh-century ideology is exploiting 21st-century media capabilities."

The advertisement, issued by the group's media arm Al-Sahab on an Islamic militant website, invites "individuals, agencies and all media" to submit written questions for

'The translation of their statements and [their release on the Internet shows that Al Qaeda puts a lot of attention on making their messages as widely heard as possible.'

— Rita Katz,
operator of the Washington-based terrorist monitoring SITE Institute

al-Zawahri by sending them to the Web forums where Al-Sahab traditionally posts its messages.

Al-Sahab asked the forums to send it the questions "with no changes or substitutions, no matter whether they agree or disagree (with the question)."

It said it would take questions until Jan. 16, after which al-Zawahri would answer them "as much as he is able and at the soonest possible occasion."

It did not say whether his answers would come in writing, video or audiotape.

prominence in the 1990s. But neither has been interviewed since the 9/11 attacks and the subsequent U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, which toppled Al Qaeda's patrons the Taliban and sent Al Qaeda's leaders into hiding.

They are believed to be in the lawless regions along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

Since then, al-Zawahri has emerged as Al Qaeda's most prominent spokesman. He has appeared in at least 16 videos and audiotapes this year, compared to four for bin Laden.

As a whole, the terror network's messaging has dramatically increased this year, with Al-Sahab issuing more than 90 videos in 2007, more than the total number for all three previous years, according to IntelCenter, a U.S. counterterrorism center that monitors militant message traffic.

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UI still searching for flu-response volunteers

Students are slowly catching on to pandemic flu response, signing up to do volunteer work and undergoing online training.

By Zhi Xiong
THE DAILY IOWAN

If a campuswide breakout of the pandemic flu were to occur, a student's first thought might be hopping in the family van and going home until it blows over. But the recently released UI Pandemic Influenza Plan, which dates from June 29 but was delayed because of changes in university administration, includes fledgling plans to call on student volunteers in case of such scenarios. The updated preparedness plan has five sections, including Public Health, Continuity of Operations, and Health Care Services. It wasn't easy to drum up the enthusiasm, said Elizabeth Hosmanek, a program associate

in the UI Hygienic Laboratory and the College of Public Health. "We haven't been able to get students interested," she said. "But we've been thinking about moving forward this year." The UI Public Health Emergency Student Volunteer Advanced Registration, which would have students answer hotlines, distribute food, and deliver messages if the campus does experience a serious emergency, has more than 120 members in its database since its creation several months ago. The undergraduates and graduate students were recruited from certain areas of study — psychology and nursing in particular — though a background in health care is not required for participation, said

Hosmanek, the group's leader. Volunteers fill out a questionnaire and undertake a 90-minute online training session. In exchange, they receive a free vaccination against the seasonal flu. Members of the UI student volunteer program could not be reached because of confidentiality issues. It is only a pilot plan with limited resources so far, Hosmanek said. Ideally, it will eventually resemble the University of Minnesota's Medical Reserve Corps, a group of approximately 970 students, faculty, and staff from the pharmacy, medical, dental, and public-health schools activated in various health emergencies. The Medical Reserve Corps was called to duty during

hurricanes Katrina and Rita and when the Minneapolis bridge collapsed in August. Students make up about a third of the members, said director Kathy Berlin. They also undergo online training and short face-to-face sessions to work around their schedules. To assuage their safety concerns during emergencies, Berlin said, the response team gets their shots first. "We know we can't count on all members to be here. But we're hoping with the knowledge that they're getting protection, they'll show up," she said. Furthermore, many of the students are eager for the learning experience — and putting it on a r sum , Berlin said. E-mail *DI* reporter Zhi Xiong at: zhi-xiong@uiowa.edu

Even politics to pause a bit

Dec. 25 may represent a calm before the storm.

By Dean Trefitz
THE DAILY IOWAN

With the holidays, mainly Christmas in mostly Christian Iowa, so close to this cycle's caucuses, presidential-nomination hopefuls and their campaigns are getting a break right in the middle of the home stretch, even if it's less than optional. Christmas Day is nine days before the Jan. 3 contests, and candidates will retreat to their home states to be with their families, save for Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., who has temporarily relocated to Des Moines. "Having [the caucuses] so close to the holidays kind of hurts in terms of being able to campaign," UI political-science Associate Professor Tim Hagle said. Candidates can't campaign on Dec. 25 to avoid appearing crass, he said. Even afterward — almost all campaigns said their candidates would be back on the trail Dec. 26 — it may be hard for candidates to grab potential caucus-goers' attention. Hagle speculated that political traction will be hard to come by as voters are concentrating on friends and family and may even be out of the state. The season has spawned a slew of holiday-theme ads attempting to get some of that traction back, complete with the family in front of a fire, policies packaged and wrapped with ribbons and bows,

Christmas sweaters, and at least one decorated tree per spot. However, calling voters directly on Christmas Day is a big faux pas. This both forces and allows the usually bustling campaign offices to quiet some for at least one day. "I think everyone wants to respect the holidays," said Mark Daley, a spokesman for Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y. "It's certainly a different situation; the last caucuses were at the end of January, so it wasn't as big an impact." Even with the breather, the proximity to the caucuses means some political creatures will likely still be stirring. "We'll probably slow down a little but we won't stop," said Dodd spokeswoman Taylor West. The Dodd campaign office will close at noon on Dec. 24 and open back up two days later. While staffers aren't required to come in, West estimated that some will be working — though many will take advantage of the rare opportunity. "Everyone can take a deep breath before taking that plunge" of last-week campaigning West said. Both West and Daley said they would take at least one full day off. "I'm going to try to sleep in and watch reruns on TBS," Daley said. E-mail *DI* reporter Dean Trefitz at: dean-trefitz@uiowa.edu

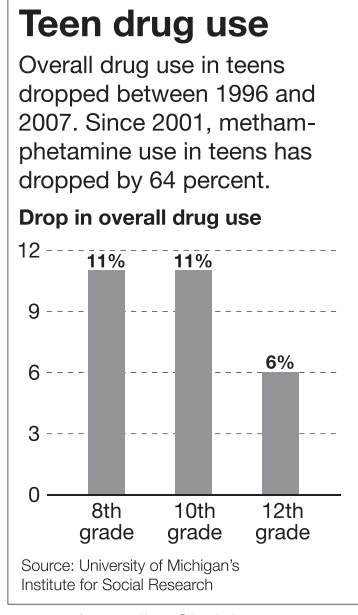
Teens switching to painkillers

A national study details the ups and downs of teen drug use.

By Olivia Moran
THE DAILY IOWAN

The nation's youth aren't using methamphetamine anymore — they've moved on to prescription painkillers, according to a study, and one local official said Iowa City teens are following suit. A recent survey by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research found that use of methamphetamine and marijuana by eighth-, 10th-, and 12th-graders is becoming less popular. Use of cocaine, however, has remained steady, and use of certain painkillers is on the rise. Shannon Wagner, the director of community affairs at MECCA, an Iowa City and Des Moines-based organization that offers substance abuse and health services, said painkillers seem to be one of the biggest problems among local youth. "It's kind of the trend right now," she said. MECCA has had full-time counselors based at City High and West High for the past decade. Wagner said students can visit the counselors for

themselves, a friend, or even a parent — all in confidentiality. Iowa is one of many states that has no minimum or maximum age that limits who can seek private counseling services. Wagner said the counselors see around 30 students every few months in each high school. "We're really glad that it's like this," she said. Although drug use decreased by 11 percent in eighth and 10th grade, and decreased by 6 percent in 12th grade, according to the study, Wagner said the drug trends in Iowa City high schools have basically remained the same. Methamphetamine and cocaine, she said, aren't too common, and marijuana use is typical but steady. On the contrary, use of methamphetamine in national teens has decreased by 64 percent since 2001. Still, Wagner referred to the local use of painkillers as "the problem." "I think that's true for the



The K-6 program begins with lessons on the heart and the lungs, Jensen said. In junior high, she said, students focus specifically on substance abuse and how the body is affected by it. Beginning in high school, sex and drugs are covered together, Jensen said. But Wagner said some of the time it's not necessarily strictly a substance-abuse problem but a mental-health issue that arises in adolescents. "It's really common to have depression or bipolar disorder," she said. Though whatever the issue may be, Wagner said, the MECCA counselors are available within the high schools and outside of them. "It's gotten to be common," she said. "Students can know that it's safe to go to." E-mail *DI* reporter Olivia Moran at: olivia-moran@uiowa.edu

nation, for Iowa, and for locally," she said, adding that students can easily obtain the drug from a parent or another person who was legally prescribed. Judith Jensen, the Iowa City School District's health coordinator, said the district implements substance-abuse curriculum starting in kindergarten. "You have to teach kids skills, and you have to teach them over time," she said.

NATION

Tribune CEO FitzSimons to resign

CHICAGO (AP) — Tribune Co. set the stage Wednesday for turning over the reins to real estate mogul Sam Zell, announcing that Dennis FitzSimons will step down after five years as chief executive as soon as its \$8.2 billion buyout is completed. The deal was expected to close today barring last-minute delays, putting Zell in charge of an ailing

media conglomerate at a time when the newspaper industry is in its worst fix ever. The 66-year-old billionaire will become chairman and may also take over as chief executive — a post left conspicuously unaddressed in the announcement and which the company refused to comment on. Regardless whether he is set to take the CEO's job, as the *Chicago Tribune* reported in an online report Wednesday, citing anonymous

sources, Zell will be the power behind the company and is expected to push ahead with selling the Chicago Cubs and making cuts and potentially other asset sales. Under terms set when he crafted the buyout deal in April, his investment in Tribune will rise to \$315 million from \$250 million, and he will own warrants to buy about 40 percent of the company, which will be formally owned by an employee stock ownership plan.

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Editorial

A King in Congress

When Plymouth Rock was first colonized by the West, it was done so in attempt to escape the religious persecution of the presiding English monarch. Although America's founders sought to remove any such inequality, it seems that many of its modern citizens may yet face the religious vexations of a King.

An Iowa congressman and an avid Christian, Steve King, recently introduced a piece of legislation that calls for "Recognizing of the importance of Christmas and the Christian faith." The bill begins by describing the role Christianity plays in the United States and the world. It then lists six religious claims to be "acknowledged" by the House of Representatives. These claims are primarily expressions of the importance of Christianity, the last of which calls for Christians to be paid the House's "deepest" respect. King clearly has an understanding of the prominent role Christianity plays in American culture. However, it is equally clear that King is completely ignorant of the principles on which America was founded — namely the separation of church and state. Furthermore, given America's plethora of underrepresented religious minorities, the congressman's push for legal recognition of an already dominant religion is as deplorable as it is unnecessary.

In an interview on "Fox News," the congressman attempted to rationalize his bill. Much to his chagrin, it quickly proved to be a sterile endeavor.

"I think there is an assault on Christianity in America," King said. "We're a Christian nation founded on Christian principles. Let's worship Christ, and let's celebrate Christmas for the right reasons."

Aside from the countless Americans to whom they don't apply, King's statements are simply untrue. Putting equality above all else, America's

founders made clear the importance of distinguishing a line between church and state — a line that King is attempting to cross.

King makes further attempts to defend his legislation by referring to similar bills that call for the recognition of holidays celebrated by minority religions, such as Ramadan. However, he refrains from mentioning that these bills were primarily intended to promote religious equality. (Or that he opposed all of them.) Of course, the importance of separating church from state would seem to imply that such legislation is inappropriate regardless of which religion it recognizes. In any case, that non-Christian religions are so much less prevalent at least implies that explicit recognition of their practices is vastly more important than that of Christianity. After all, short of being blind, deaf and dumb, it's impossible *not* to recognize the presence of Christianity in American culture.

King's actions are not only an insult to followers of non-Christian religions, they are a dereliction of his duty. Even in his Midwestern constituency, he surely represents believers of many faiths — all of whom he is obligated to consider equally, though it appears he does not. While King's bill may not have established a legal priority for Christians, the same cannot be said of his time and interest. In what was obviously an excellent use of government time and funding, the bill does little more than offer praise to Christianity and its followers. All in all, the bill is little more than a legislative love note; it shows where the congressman's personal loyalties lie and, as such, where his leadership falters.

Offensive stupidity

I get tired of the trivialization of war to describe every social issue we have, but especially so when I hear about the "war on Christmas." To each their own, I say. Have a Happy Festivus or don't, it doesn't bother me. Tell me "Merry Christmas," or "Happy Hanukkah," or "Go screw yourself." I understand the inflection and emotion behind each of those, and I know what they each mean. The semantics matter less than the connotation, the point is the same; they're wishing me well in their own way.

It's not that I don't agree that Kmart calling Christmas trees "holiday trees" is going too far, it's that I don't care. It's stupid, to be sure, and an example of politically correct overkill, but



NATE WHITNEY

it doesn't fire me up like it does Catholic League President and Windbag McPissypants Bill Donohue. On the league's website, he complains about the chain's efforts to "not offend employees" and uses the same post to point out that a staff member at North Seattle Community College was berated for discussing "Christmas cookies" in an e-mail.

Typically, when you want to lend credence to your argument, you use names, but I'll assume Donohue's reference is legit and agree that the mystery staff member shouldn't have been "berated" or even "scolded" for her or his actions and maybe should have just gotten off with a light Taser. That cookies are a source of contention is a sign of how this whole thing has gone way too far. Donohue's further rants on the site include complaints about a Christmas tree being taken down at Missouri State and a nativity scene being taken down at a New Jersey medical center, concluding each point with the observation that "no one complained about the menorah."

Maybe Donohue is just looking for equal representation; he thinks it unjust that Christians get all the naysayers and he wants Jews to share in the fun. Or maybe his point is that state money shouldn't pay for specific religious symbols — specifically the non-Christian ones.

Enter Mike Huckabee and his new ad that seems less stump speech and more Hallmark Gold Crown. Huck doesn't crow about the Constitution or lament about immigration, he wishes the viewer a Merry Christmas. "What really matters is the celebration of the birth of Christ, being with our family and with our friends," the candidate says, wearing a red sweater as he sits in front of a Christmas tree. "I hope that you and your family have a magnificent Christmas season." "Silent Night" plays through the background as Huckabee ends the ad with "God bless, and have a Merry Christmas."

I don't belong to any church, but I'm not offended by the message. It's a pleasant form of pandering, to be sure, but harmless. No hidden partisan scheme, no attack on a fellow candidate folded neatly into the greeting. It's a guy, in his home, wishing me a Merry Christmas. It doesn't win my vote, but it doesn't offend me, either.

Oh, but if things were so simple for Bill Donohue. He thinks the ad was "too much." Too much what?

"The whole idea is to give the appearance of a cross," he said one recent morning on (snicker) "Fox and Friends," "and this is just injecting religion into politics even too far for guys like me." That from the man who gave America this little nugget of goodness on "Hardball" in October 2004: "[I]f a Catholic votes for Kerry because they support him on abortion rights — that is to cooperate in evil."

Donohue's gripe about the Huckabee ad refers to the bookcase that appears over Huckabee's shoulder. You see, most bookcases happen to be flat, with sides. It's a little known fact, but those sides help keep the thing from falling down. Well, that 90-degree angle formed is, in fact, an intersection of lines. It's a cross. While watching the ad, Donohue evidently skips past the mention of Jesus Christ, ignores the red sweater, Christmas tree, and the word "Christmas" which is used three times, and immediately focuses in on the subtlety of furniture design and its incredible offensiveness. That bookcase just goes too damn far! Donohue thinks Huck is trying to use subliminal images to push Christianity, because evidently the really freaking obvious ones just aren't enough. Bill Donohue needs a lobotomy, or maybe the problem is he's already had one.

Hey Bill, Merry Christmas. Now shut the hell up. ■

DI columnist and editorial writer Nate Whitney hopes people just have a good time over break, no matter what they celebrate. E-mail him at: mighty.is.the.pen@gmail.com

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Guest Opinion

Biden: Special counsel needed to probe CIA videotape destruction

This past week, we learned that an administration official in the CIA had destroyed videotapes of the agency's use of severe interrogation techniques on detainees held in secret, extra-legal prisons. Responsibility for this sad stain of dishonor on America's integrity rests squarely with the president. The evidence destroyed depicted the president's policy of snatching terrorist suspects from the streets of foreign countries, hiding them away in secret prisons, and torturing them. The president has created a culture of criminal misconduct and cover up, has injected politics into the administration of justice, and has made public policy a slave to his ideology. I have called for a special counsel to conduct a thorough but unbiased investigation of this matter.

There are two circumstances under which federal law requires the attorney general to appoint a special counsel: when the investigation would present a conflict of interest for the Department of Justice and when it would be in the public interest for an independent prosecuting authority to assume responsibility for the investigation. Seldom in our history have the facts and circumstances surrounding an investigation made a more compelling case for appointment of a special counsel.

At his confirmation hearing this fall, the president's nominee for attorney general confounded legal experts and the American public by testifying that he was not sure whether waterboarding constituted torture. American military courts have condemned waterboarding as torture since the United States occupation of the Philippines in 1902. Michael Mukasey's refusal to answer directly that waterboarding is torture and violates federal law raises serious questions regarding whether he can conduct an unbiased investigation into conduct involving the waterboarding of detainees.

Unfortunately, under this administration, the Department of Justice has been riddled with ideological influence and partisan politics, from providing legal cover for the president's "alternative interrogation" policy to advising him that he had unreviewable authority under Article II of the Constitution to define the scope of his own powers. The administration has even gone so far as to hire and fire top prosecutors based on whether they were "loyal Bushies."

Moreover, the investigation necessitates that criminal investigators pose direct questions to, and demand answers of, high-ranking administration officials. We know that former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Harriet Miers was involved in the decision regarding whether the tapes should be preserved. We know that both the president and the vice president took a keen interest in the implementation of their policy regarding the detention and interrogation of terrorism suspects. And I am concerned that the president's spokesperson reported that "the president said that he does not recall being made aware of [the tapes'] existence or their destruction until [his Dec. 6, 2007] briefing."

I do not make the call for a special counsel lightly. For 34 years, 16 years as the chairman or ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I have been a supporter and steward of the Department of Justice. I still maintain the utmost respect and admiration for the career prosecutors who enforce our laws every day without bias. But when a president abandons our cherished national values of upholding the rule of law and respecting human dignity, and when he allows our system of justice to be influenced by partisan politics, the attorney general he appointed cannot preside over an investigation that goes to the heart of the administration's conduct. In such circumstances, our law requires the appointment of a special counsel.

— Sen. Joe Biden

On the Spot

Has the holiday season become too politically correct?



"I don't have a problem with it."

Melissa Wrenn
UI junior



"To some extent, but we have to respect everyone."

Holly Gummert
UI sophomore



"Yeah, I guess it has."

Ashley Triolo
UI sophomore



"I don't think so. We should respect what people celebrate."

Elliott DeVilbiss
UI junior

Bush signs auto-mileage bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush signed into law Wednesday legislation that will bring more fuel-efficient vehicles into auto showrooms and require wider use of ethanol, calling it “a major step” toward energy independence and easing global warming.

The legislation signed by Bush at a ceremony at the Energy Department requires automakers to increase fuel efficiency by 40 percent to an industry average 35 miles per gallon by 2020. It also ramps up production of ethanol use to 36 billion gallons a year by 2022.

Bush said the new requirements will help “address our vulnerabilities and dependency” on foreign oil by reducing demand for gasoline and diversifying the nation’s fuel supply.

Bush was flanked by Democrat and Republican members of Congress who had ushered the legislation through.

The House passed the energy bill Tuesday by a 314-100 vote after the Senate cleared it last week following lengthy negotiations and sometimes testy confrontations. Bush had vowed to veto the original legislation passed by the House because it included \$21 billion in taxes.

The tax provisions were dropped to get the bill approved.

Congress delivered the legislation to the White House late Tuesday in a gas-hybrid sedan.

Bush noted that earlier this year he had proposed a plan to cut gasoline use by 20 percent over the next 10 years. But the president has long opposed arbitrary numerical standards for vehicle fuel economy.

The legislation increases the federal standard automakers must meet to an industry wide 35 mpg for passengers cars, SUVs and small trucks. The standard for cars today is 27.5 mpg and for trucks and SUVs 22.2 mpg.

It requires refineries to increase the use of ethanol from about 6 billion gallons a year this year to 36 billion gallons by 2022 and mandates that by then at least 21 billion gallons are to come from feedstocks other than corn.

Express train crowded with holiday travelers derails in Pakistan, killing at least 58

MEHRABPUR, Pakistan (AP) — An express train crowded with holiday travelers derailed in southern Pakistan on Wednesday, killing at least 58 people and leaving hundreds of terrified survivors to claw their way out of the wreckage in total darkness.

The train, which derailed at about 2 a.m., was loaded with an estimated 900 passengers, many of them heading home for the Islamic holiday of Eid ul-Adha.

Dozens of soldiers and police helped tend the injured and carry them away to waiting ambulances, as hundreds of people from the surrounding villages looked on. Army engineers used two cranes and cutting equipment to free the last survivors.

Passenger Mohammed Yusuf sat on a pink blanket next to a pile of discarded shoes and clothes, waiting in grief at the death of his younger brother.

He said his wife, two children and another brother were injured and taken to a hospital but their conditions were unknown. Yusuf, 26, said his brother survived the impact and



President Bush signs the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 during a ceremony at the Energy Department in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday. Charles Dharapak/Associated Press

7.2 temblor strikes Aleutians; no reports of damage

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A large earthquake rattled Alaska’s seismically active Aleutian Islands, but there were no immediate reports of any damages or injuries.

The magnitude-7.2 quake struck at 11:30 p.m. Tuesday and was centered about 125 miles west of Adak in the island chain, according to a preliminary report by the U.S. Geological Survey.

A dispatcher with the Anchorage Police Department said he didn’t feel the quake, some 1,300 miles away, and there were no reports of any injuries or damages.

The Aleutian Islands are a chain of more than 300 islands that extend southwestward from Alaska into the northern Pacific Ocean.

A tsunami warning was canceled early Wednesday for Alaska’s coasts after officials determined waves from the earthquake posed no widespread destructive threat.

U.S. commanders in Baghdad angered by Turkey’s attack

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. military commanders in Iraq didn’t know Turkey was sending warplanes to bomb in northern Iraq until the planes had already crossed the border, said defense and diplomatic officials, who were angered about being left in the dark.

Americans have been providing Turkey with intelligence to go after Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq. And a “coordination center” has been set up in Ankara so Turks, Iraqis and Americans can share information, two officials said Tuesday.

Defense and diplomatic officials

House to vote on \$70B for Iraq, Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic-controlled House is expected to give President Bush an end-of-session victory in his year-long battle with antiwar lawmakers over Iraq by approving \$70 billion for U.S. military operations there and in Afghanistan.

The vote Wednesday also would represent the final step in sealing a deal between Democrats and Bush over how much money to provide domestic agencies whose budgets are set each year by Congress.

The Iraq funds have been bundled with an omnibus appropriations measure to create a massive \$555 billion package that Bush has signaled he will sign.

Providing the war funds was a bitter pill for most Democrats, who on Monday sent the Senate a bill limited to \$31 billion for U.S. operations in Afghanistan, which have much broader support than the unpopular mission in Iraq.

That effort was doomed in the face of a Bush veto promise and a filibuster by Senate Republicans. The Senate rewrote the measure Tuesday night by a bipartisan tally and dropped the combined Iraq and Afghanistan funding in the House’s lap as one of the last votes before most senators left Washington for the year.

“Even those of us who have disagreed on this war have always agreed on one thing: Troops in the field will not be left without the resources they need,” Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said.

was crying out in pain, but that he had been unable to free his trapped leg.

They spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the record.

Their comments follow complaints by Iraqi leaders Monday that Turkey hadn’t coordinated with Baghdad before sending bombers to strike targets of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or PKK.

Congress saves millions from tax

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 20 million families will be spared an extra \$2,000 tax hit on average after Congress excluded them from a higher alternative tax originally aimed at untaxed multimillionaires.

An 11th-hour vote on Wednesday to put a one-year freeze on growth of the alternative minimum tax shields many middle- and upper-middle income taxpayers from first exposure to the tax. In 2006, it affected 4 million.

President Bush plans to sign the bill into law.

But by waiting until the last day of the session, less than a week before Christmas, Congress left in question whether the Internal Revenue Service can adjust its forms in time for the 2008 filing season to begin in mid-January. Delays in processing returns could put off refunds to millions of people needing the extra cash for holiday expenses.



An injured passenger (bottom) talks on his mobile phone from the wreckage of a train derailment near Mehrabpur, approximately 250 miles north of Karachi, Pakistan, on Wednesday. An express train crowded with holiday travelers derailed in southern Pakistan early Wednesday, killing at least 58 people and injuring some 150 others, officials said. Shakil Adil/Associated Press

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THE SMITH-JONES 2008 CALENDAR

Suspect caught in student's slaying

By Roxana Hegeman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

EL DORADO, Kan. — A man suspected in the slaying of a college student who led a secret life as an Internet porn performer was arrested Wednesday in Mexico, authorities said.

Israel Mireles, 24, was arrested on a Butler County homicide warrant at a relative's home in Melchor Muzquiz, Mexico, approximately 70 miles southwest of Eagle Pass, Texas. He was being held there pending extradition, U.S. Deputy Marshal Logan Kline said.

Mireles has been charged with capital murder, rape, and aggravated criminal sodomy in the death of 18-year-old Emily Sander, Butler County prosecutor Jan Satterfield said. Investigators believe Sander's killing was planned, she said.

Sander was last seen alive on Nov. 23 when she left an El Dorado bar with a man police identified as Mireles. The disappearance of the Butler Community College student drew nationwide attention after the discovery that she also led a secret life as an Internet pornography model named Zoey Zane.

Her body was found six days later, about 50 miles east of El Dorado, as police traced the route they believed Mireles took to pick up his 16-year-old girlfriend, Victoria Martens, in Baxter Springs.

Kansas authorities received tips about Mireles' whereabouts in Mexico from several sources, and their Mexican counterparts had been monitoring his movements since at least Dec. 3, when he was charged in Butler County, she said.

Mexican authorities held off on arresting Mireles until they were assured of the legitimacy of Kansas prosecutors' case, Satterfield said.



Fernando Salazar, Wichita Eagle/Associated Press

U.S. Marshal Troy Oberly answers questions about the arrest of Isreal Mireles in connection with the death of Butler County Community College student Emily Sander during a press conference in El Dorado, Kan., on Wednesday. Mireles, 24, was arrested Wednesday morning at the home of a relative in Melchor Muzquiz, Mexico, approximately 70 miles southwest of Eagle Pass, Texas; he has been charged with capital murder, rape, and aggravated criminal sodomy.

Satterfield said her office had to promise Mexican authorities that it would not seek the death penalty for Mireles. If convicted of capital murder, he would face life in prison without the possibility of parole, she said. The extradition is expected to take about 60 days, Satterfield said.

U.S. Marshal Troy Oberly said Martens, who is eight months pregnant, was found unharmed in the same Mexican city but has refused to return to Kansas, despite an offer by Kansas authorities to assist her return.

Satterfield said prosecutors don't plan to file charges against Martens and cannot compel her to return to the United States because there is no arrest warrant for her.

"It doesn't sound like she wants to return to the U.S. Our

main concern was that she was alive and safe," Oberly said.

Mireles became the focus of the investigation after police found large quantities of blood in an El Dorado motel room where he had been staying. Authorities have said that a bedspread that was missing from that motel room was found close to Sander's body.

Police have not released details about the cause of Sander's death, but they say her Internet activity had no connection to her disappearance.

Mireles was born in Mexico, where he still has relatives, and has been living in the United States legally. A rental car he was driving was found Nov. 27 in Texas, where he also has relatives.

NATION

Dems fail to expand SCHIP

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House temporarily extended a popular health-insurance program for children on Wednesday, handing Democratic leaders a disappointing end this year to their efforts to cover an additional 4 million children.

The extension through March 2009 was part of legislation that also gave physicians a 0.5 percent rate increase when they treat the elderly and disabled in Medicare. Physicians had been scheduled to take a 10 percent cut. The reprieve for doctors will last until June 30.

Democratic lawmakers, with considerable help from Republicans, supported a \$35 billion expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program. President Bush vetoed

two bills that would have provided the additional money. He said the bill would move too many children from private coverage to government-sponsored coverage.

The extension for SCHIP will provide states with enough money to cover those enrolled in the program through March 2009, but Democrats had spent months demanding more. They overwhelmingly supported use of a tobacco tax increase to pay for the expansion.

They promised that the issue will be revisited many times next year. "What we couldn't resolve, the American people will resolve in November," said Rep. Rahm Emanuel, D-Ill.

Republicans said the extension meets their goal of maintaining the program for the people it was originally intended to serve — children from families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but cannot

afford private insurance. Rep. Joe Barton, R-Texas, urged Democratic lawmakers to work with the GOP in the coming year. He asked for more hearings and for more opportunities to shape the program's future.

"It's still possible in this Congress to have the meetings on the mind on SCHIP," Barton said.

The legislation that passed Wednesday dealt with myriad issues involving the government's two primary health care programs — Medicare and Medicaid. Among the more notable changes was a moratorium on new regulations that would reduce Medicaid payments to schools. The administration said the schools were billing the program for overhead costs that weren't related to delivering health care. The regulations, if allowed to go into effect, would trim payments to schools by about \$3.7 billion over five years.



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Lost Calif. family saved

By Juliet Williams
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARADISE, Calif. — Lost for three days in the Northern California mountains, Frederick Dominguez and his three children wrote "Help" in the snow, huddled in a culvert for warmth, sang songs, and prayed.

There was no way search crews on the ground were going to find them Wednesday.

The closest rescuers were two miles away and didn't know exactly where to look for the missing Christmas-tree hunters. One snow-laden storm had covered the family's tracks, and an even bigger storm was hours away from burying them deeper.

The weather finally cleared up enough to make air searches possible Wednesday, but only briefly. A California Highway Patrol helicopter passed over the heavily wooded area, flying through a narrow canyon with cloud-covered mountain ridges on each side, but the crew saw nothing at first.

"We were on our last pass. That was it — the weather was pushing us out," pilot Steve Ward said.

Then they saw a man atop a small bridge, wildly waving his arms amid a wilderness of white and gray.

Snow from the incoming storm was falling when the helicopter set down in two feet of powder and plucked the family, wet and shivering, to safety.

"Our hearts are all full right now," said Cory Stahl, who closed his pest-control business so his employees could help look for Dominguez, an employee. "It's a very merry Christmas now."

The helicopter ferried the Dominguez family to safety in two trips; Alexis, 15, and Joshua, 12, were taken out of the woods first. Their 38-year-old father smiled at cheering family and friends later as he and his 18-year-old son, Christopher, emerged from the aircraft.



Randy Pench, Sacramento Bee/Associated Press

Butte County Sheriff Perry Reniff (left) and Capt. Jerry Smith help Alexis Dominguez, 15, to an ambulance after she was rescued by a helicopter Wednesday near Paradise, Calif. A father and three children who vanished on a Christmas tree-cutting trip in the Northern California mountains were found alive Wednesday after huddling in a culvert for warmth during three days of heavy snow.

The four were taken to Feather River Hospital in Paradise, where all were doing well — walking, talking, and drinking hot chocolate, treating physician Kurt Bower said. He expected them to be released within hours.

"I'm surprised how good they are," he said. "There's a miracle from God in there somewhere."

Their ordeal began Sunday, when Dominguez and his children — Christopher, Alexis, and Joshua — left church and headed to the mountains approximately 100 miles north of Sacramento to cut a tree for Christmas.

Because the 38-year-old father had custody of his children at the time, his ex-wife did not know they were missing until she discovered that her youngest child failed to show up at school Monday.

By the time authorities learned they were missing and began their search Monday night, the first storm had dumped 8 inches of snow around the family's parked pickup truck, obliterating their

tracks. The family had been missing about 25 miles north-east of Chico, in the mostly rural north-central region of the state.

By Wednesday, the storm had dumped more than a foot of snow in the mountains, leaving wind-driven drifts 7 feet high in some areas.

The family — found less than a mile and a half from the road — said they got lost by going from pine tree to pine tree, trying to find the perfect Christmas tree, before realizing they were lost.

"My daughter goes, 'Mom, you know how we are. We get excited, and we see a tree and then we see another tree,'" said Lisa Sams, the children's mother. "They just got lost, and they ended up taking a side road that led them to the opposite direction."

Sams said she never lost hope. But inside the hospital where the four were being observed late Wednesday, she said she had been frightened by the nearly continuous snowfall.

NBA	Orlando 97, Houston 92
Atlanta 117, Miami 111, OT	Dallas 108, Phoenix 105
Detroit 87, Boston 85	Portland 101, Toronto 96
Chicago 95, Washington 84	New Orleans 107, Seattle 93
Charlotte 98, Utah 92	NHL
Indiana 102, Philadelphia 85	Buffalo 2, N.Y. Islanders 1
New York 108, Cleveland 90	Detroit 6, Los Angeles 2
Sacramento 102, Milwaukee 89	Chicago 5, Nashville 2
Memphis 88, San Antonio 85	Anaheim 2, Colorado 1, OT
Golden State 111, Minnesota 98	

SPORTS



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Thursday, December 20, 2007

Basketball: Tyler Smith's rugged road, 3B

dailyiowan.com



Back to normal

On Aug. 4, in a span of eight minutes, four early morning house fires ripped through a three-block area in Iowa City. Among those lost to the flames was a five-bedroom house occupied by six members of the Iowa men's gymnastics team.



Ben Roberts/The Daily Iowan

The charred remains of 618 Bowery St. as seen on Aug. 21. Members of the Iowa men's gymnastics team plan to move back into the renovated house in February.



Jessica Simpson

NFL

Owens to Jessica Simpson: Back off

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Terrell Owens has a message for Jessica Simpson: Stay away.

The 27-year-old singer-actress has become Public Enemy No. 1 among Dallas Cowboys fans because of a link being made between her appearance at Sunday's game and the poor performance of her new boyfriend, quarterback Tony Romo.

"Right now, Jessica Simpson is not a fan favorite — in this locker room or in Texas Stadium," Owens said Wednesday.

The Cowboys lost, 10-6, to the Philadelphia Eagles, and Romo had what was statistically the worst game of his career, all while Simpson sat in a luxury box wearing a pink No. 9 jersey she proudly showed off for television cameras.

The problem for her is, Romo's previous worst game came last December at home to the Eagles when then-girlfriend Carrie Underwood was in attendance.

RECRUIT

Guillory signs

It's official: Nate Guillory will wear the Black-and-Gold next year. The 5-10, 180-pound three-star running back out of Coffeyville (Kan.) Community College signed his letter of intent at his former high school in Houston Wednesday.

Unlike some of the other members of the Hawkeyes' 53rd-ranked 2008 recruiting class who will sign their letters of intent on national signing day in February, Guillory — who is ranked as the 42nd-best junior-college prospect in the country, according to rivals.com — plans to enroll at Iowa in January.

"I want to [come in and] learn the plays, get adjusted, get to know the team, and start a team bond together," Guillory said in a Dec. 11 interview.

Iowa oral commitment David Blackwell — a three-star athlete out of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. — also intends to enroll in January, but he has yet to sign his letter of intent, according to rivals.com.

— by Scott Miller

TV TODAY

- NFL**
- Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 7 p.m., NFL
 - NCAA Basketball
 - Pittsburgh at Duke, at New York, 6 p.m.
 - Gonzaga vs. Oklahoma, at Oklahoma City, 8:30 p.m., ESPN2
 - NCAA Football
 - Utah vs. Navy, Poinsettia Bowl, at San Diego, 8 p.m., ESPN
 - NBA
 - L.A. Lakers at Cleveland, 7:15 p.m., TNT
 - Houston at Denver, 9:30 p.m., TNT

By Nick Compton
THE DAILY IOWAN

When Diego Mercado Austin picked up his cell phone on Aug. 4, the sun had barely risen and he hardly had a chance to say "hello" before an anxious voice on the other end broke in.

"Diego?" Jacques Bouchard asked, his voice shaky, his tone terse, "Are you O.K.?"

Normally, Mercado Austin, now a UI junior and a valued member of the Hawkeye men's gymnastics team, wouldn't be up at 5 a.m. But on this day, at 4:45, he had left the comfortable

confines of the five-bedroom house he shared with five fellow gymnasts. A friend of his had injured his head, and Mercado Austin offered him a ride to the hospital. Had he stuck around, the trauma would have been far worse.

Bouchard, a UI alum and former All-Big Ten gymnast himself who had stayed the night in the big white house, had alarming news.

"Diego," he said, "Thank god you're O.K. Come over to the house. There's been a fire ... come over."

Bouchard had escaped the brunt of the flame when his girlfriend at the time, UI junior Emily Grieves, awoke to the smell of smoke and quiet moan of a far-away fire alarm. The pair were

sleeping on the second level of the house, and when Grieves spotted a black plume of smoke creeping up the stairs and under the bedroom door, she woke Bouchard and the two escaped through the bedroom window.

Luckily, Iowa City firefighters, already whipped into formation by a bizarre morning, were in the vicinity and rushed to the scene of the fire, where they, along with police officers, helped Grieves and Bouchard climb down from the second-story overhang. The firefighters doused the flames before they could devour too much of the house.

SEE HOUSE FIRE, BACK PAGE



Mercado Austin

Iowa junior gymnast, lost almost everything to the fire

Hawkeye role model

Wendy Ausdemore brings many leadership attributes both on and off the court for the women's basketball team.

By Brendan Stiles
THE DAILY IOWAN

To say Wendy Ausdemore leads by example would be a bit of an understatement.

On the basketball court, the junior leads the Hawkeyes in scoring through 10 games, averaging 11.7 points per contest. Not only that, but her 25-of-43 shooting from 3-point range is tops in all of Division-I women's basketball. In addition, she's second on the team in rebounds, assists, blocks, and third in steals.

But away from the hardwood, Ausdemore is just as impressive. In high school, she was the class president, valedictorian, and Homecoming queen.

SEE AUSDEMORE, BACK PAGE



Lindsey Walters/The Daily Iowan

Hawkeye Wendy Ausdemore (left) and Jeneé Graham defend against Minnesota in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Jan. 25. Ausdemore, a junior, has been a valuable leader for the Hawkeyes this season.

IOWA WRESTLING

Keddy bright spot for Hawks

By Eric Mandel
THE DAILY IOWAN

Through seven dual meets this season, the Hawkeye wrestling team has lost only 11 matches. One of those losses can be accounted for with Jake Kerr filling in for Mark Perry during the latter's suspension, while four others can be attributed to the 184- and 197-pound weight classes.

What that means, essentially, is that 40 percent of Iowa's losses have come from two weight classes.

While a combined 10-4 record at the two hefty weights is a far cry from panic, it sticks out like Santa Claus lighting the menorah

on Hanukkah compared with the dominating efforts from the rest of the top-ranked Hawkeyes.

"[At the 184-pound] weight class, the No. 1 and No. 2 guys at Minnesota and Iowa State, I don't look at them as being head and shoulders above everybody," said Iowa head coach Tom Brands. "I don't know if we are in their league, but I feel good about closing the gap on them."



Keddy sophomore

SEE KEDDY, BACK PAGE

SPORTS 'N' STUFF

BIG TEN BASKETBALL

	Conference		All Games	
	W	L	Pct.	Pct.
Michigan St.	0	0	.000	10
Indiana	0	0	.000	9
Minnesota	0	0	.000	7
Wisconsin	0	0	.000	8
Ohio St.	0	0	.000	7
Purdue	0	0	.000	7
Illinois	0	0	.000	6
Penn St.	0	0	.000	6
Iowa	0	0	.000	6
Northwestern	0	0	.000	4
Michigan	0	0	.000	4

WOMEN'S BIG TEN BASKETBALL

	Conference		All Games	
	W	L	PCT	PCT
Ohio State	0	0	.000	8
Penn State	0	0	.000	9
Illinois	0	0	.000	8
Michigan State	0	0	.000	7
Wisconsin	0	0	.000	7
Michigan	0	0	.000	6
Iowa	0	0	.000	6
Indiana	0	0	.000	5
Purdue	0	0	.000	4
Northwestern	0	0	.000	4

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Rank	Team	Record
#1	North Carolina	88, Nicholls State 78
#2	Memphis	79, Cincinnati 69
#3	Michigan State	85, San Jose State 45
#4	Tennessee	86, North Carolina-Ashville 73
#12	Texas A&M	79, Detroit 39
#16	Butler	83, Bradley 64
#19	Arizona	52, UNLV 49
#24	West Virginia	90, Radford 60

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE					
Atlantic Division	W	L	OT	Pts	GF
New Jersey	18	13	3	39	84
N.Y. Rangers	17	13	3	37	75
Philadelphia	16	13	3	35	99
Pittsburgh	16	15	2	34	92
N.Y. Islanders	15	15	2	32	72

PACIFIC					
W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	19	11	4	42	100
San Jose	18	11	4	40	84
Anaheim	17	15	5	39	90
Phoenix	16	16	0	32	82
Los Angeles	12	21	2	26	95

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	20	3	.870	—
Toronto	15	7	.682	—
New Jersey	10	15	.400	11
Philadelphia	10	15	.400	11
New York	8	17	.320	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	18	7	.720	—
Dallas	18	9	.667	1
New Orleans	16	10	.615	2
Houston	12	12	.500	6
Memphis	8	17	.320	10

PACIFIC					
W	L	Pct	GB		
Phoenix	18	8	.692	—	
L.A. Lakers	15	9	.625	2	
Golden State	15	11	.577	3	
Sacramento	11	14	.440	6	
L.A. Clippers	9	15	.375	8	

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
National League
 CHICAGO CUBS—Agreed to terms with OF Kosuke Fukudome on a four-year contract.
 COLORADO ROCKIES—Agreed to terms with RHP Col Wells and LHP Mark Redman on one-year contracts.
 SAN DIEGO PADRES—Agreed to terms with C Michael Barrett on a one-year contract.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
 WASHINGTON WIZARDS—Signed G Mike Wilks.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
 NFL—Upheld the one-game suspension of Cowboys S Roy Williams for repeated use of horse-collar tackling.
 CINCINNATI BENGALS—Signed DT Titus Adams to the practice squad. Released S Jesse Daniels.
 KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Placed OT Kyle Turley on injured reserve. Agreed to terms with TE Michael Allan on a three-year contract. Claimed OT OT Adrian Jones off waivers from the New York Jets. Signed OT Joe Lobdell to the practice squad.
 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Signed DL Rashad Moore. Released S Rashad Baker and CB Eddie Jackson.
 NEW YORK JETS—Signed OL Clint Oldenburg and OL Robert Turner from the practice squad. Signed CB Manny Collins and LB Jerry Mackey to the practice squad.
 OAKLAND RAIDERS—Signed DL Kelly Talavou to practice squad.

Rams brace for Steelers



Winslow Townson/Associated Press
Pittsburgh Steeler quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) looks for a receiver against the New England Patriots in Foxborough, Mass., on Dec. 9. Roethlisberger, enjoying a turnaround season following the many mishaps and major injuries of the previous one, was among five Steelers chosen Tuesday for the Pro Bowl.

By R.B. Fallstrom
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS — Four days after Cheeseheads took over the Edward Jones Dome, the St. Louis Rams are braced for an invasion of the Terrible Towels. So much for home-field advantage.

Running back Steven Jackson, the most outspoken of the Rams, said after Sunday's 33-14 loss to the Packers that it felt like playing at Lambeau Field minus the frozen tundra. So many disenchanting fans sold their tickets to visitors that the crowd was close to an even split. "It's a joke," Jackson said.

Tonight's home finale might feel a bit like Heinz Field, with rampant fan apathy again expected to result in a huge influx of Pittsburgh Steeler faithful making the trip. "I'd be surprised if it's not like Green Bay, the Terrible Towels and everything," said quarterback Marc Bulger, who's from Pittsburgh. "It'll be just as loud, I think. So we have to get ready for that."

Of course, once again, it'll be a game with a lot more interest outside the city. While the Rams (3-11) have stumbled all season, the Steelers (9-5) are stumbling near the finish line, an AFC North title that seemed a foregone conclusion not long ago now hanging in the balance. Pittsburgh has lost its

because everyone is feeling the same thing."

Roethlisberger has a franchise-record 29 touchdown passes, one more than Terry Bradshaw threw in 1978, and Willie Parker leads the NFL with 1,317 yards rushing. But the Steelers misfired last week against the Jaguars, getting out-gained 421-217 in total offense.

The Steelers count on a stingy defense that's ranked first in the NFL and allows 16.7 points per game, tied for the fewest. They've gone two games without a sack, but have two shutouts and have limited six opponents to 10 or fewer points.

The Rams are a good candidate to become team No. 7. Hampered by an offensive line minus three starters, the area hit hardest on a team with 11 players on injured reserve, St. Louis was blanked in the second half by the Packers and 10 times have scored in the teens or worse.

That unloved feeling can't help with the franchise emphasizing Brett Favre over one of its own players in the loss to the Packers.

Rams wide receiver Isaac Bruce passed Marvin Harrison for fourth place on the career list for yards receiving in the first half, and the achievement was ignored until a break in the third quarter. Meanwhile, the game was halted when Favre set the NFL career record for yards passing early in the fourth quarter. The milestone was noted by the public address announcer and the crowd saluted Favre with a noisy ovation.

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Rowers can't wait for water work

As the holiday break nears closer, the Hawkeye rowing team continues its winter training and prepares for a trip south.

By Mike Brownlee
 THE DAILY IOWAN

With the ending of the fall season more than a month ago and the spring season still months away, the Hawkeye rowing-team members are trying to stay focused during the winter doldrums of indoor training.

"The winter season can get long," senior Brittany Keyes said.

Since the season ended at the Cal-Sag Shootout on Nov. 2, the rowers have tried to keep their indoor training routine diversified to keep things fresh. Running, lifting, calisthenics, mobility exercises, and stationary bike work make up the cross-training program, along with work on the rowing machine. Regardless of how fresh things stay indoors, junior Laura Kanaris said, none of it compares to being on the water.

"Rowing on the water gives you so many more benefits that rowing on the machine doesn't," she said. "I can't wait to get down to Florida."

The team will be in Cocoa Beach, Fla., from Jan. 11 to Jan. 20 for intensive training. The warm weather will give the team ample opportunity to be on the water, practicing twice a day and also holding intrasquad races. The trip can't come fast enough for Keyes.

"I was walking past the river the other day and missing it a lot," the athletics training and pre-physical therapy major



Julie Brayton/The Daily Iowan

Members of the Iowa rowing team began practice on the Iowa River on Oct. 3. The Hawkeyes are preparing for a trip to Cocoa Beach, Fla., from Jan. 11-20.

said. "It'll be nice to be back on the water and a good experience for everyone."

Kanaris agreed. "I'm excited about it being warm down there," she said. "It'll be good to get a lot of rowing time on the water. It's a good trip for bonding as well, the varsity and novice working together; it's a bonding experience and a lot of fun."

When the team returns from Florida, there won't be any for-

mal practices until February, when the team will pick things back up in preparing for the spring season — which begins during spring break at the Heart of Texas race in Austin.

"I'm really excited and looking forward to it. It'll be my last spring season, last chance to do well at Big Tens and regionals, so I'm hoping we'll succeed," Keyes said. "We're all motivated to work hard between now and then."

The success of the fall season encourages Kanaris, who hopes the team will continue to work hard before the spring season begins.

"I think we had a strong fall season," the health-promotion major said. "If we have a strong winter it'll set us up well for the spring. It's early, but I think we have a good team that will do well this spring."

E-mail reporter@uiowa.edu Mike Brownlee at michael-brownlee@uiowa.edu

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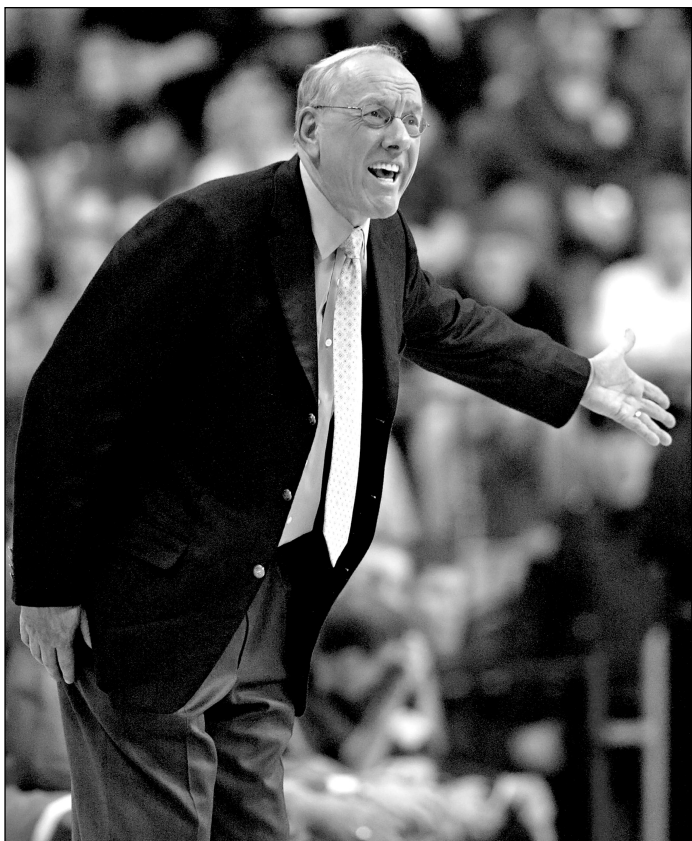
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NCAA BASKETBALL



Tim Larsen/Associated Press
Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim reacts to a referee's call on Jan. 10 in Piscataway, N.J. After more than three decades as coach at Syracuse, Boeheim suddenly has landed in uncharted territory: Because of injuries, three freshmen are starting.

Injury bug bites Syracuse

By John Kekis
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Jim Boeheim hasn't seen anything like it in his more than three decades of coaching at Syracuse.

Injuries are turning up everywhere, and this may be the first time he's lost a key starter to an injury so early in a season.

"You coach the guys you have," Boeheim said. "You do the best you can with them. If everybody gets sick, and you only have five walk-ons, you coach them."

Eric Devendorf, a junior and preseason All-Big East guard, tore his anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee on Dec. 15. Devendorf, averaging 17 points, had just led a fast break against East Tennessee State and passed to Paul Harris for a lay-up when he fell awkwardly near the Syracuse bench.

An MRI on Sunday revealed the injury, which happened not long after Devendorf appeared on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. Devendorf joins junior shooting guard Andy Rautins on the bench. Rautins, who started 20 games in 2006-07 and became a key outside threat, is also out for the season with a torn ACL suffered while playing during the summer.

"I don't think we've ever lost a starter in the beginning of the year. It is so rare for a really good player to go down at all," Boeheim said on Tuesday night after the

Orange defeated Colgate. "We've really never lost a starter, a guy who played a lot, since I've been here, and both of these injuries were freak injuries, just missteps. Usually, you get in traffic and somebody rolls into you and you hurt your knee."

Adding to Boeheim's woes was the loss of guard Josh Wright, the lone senior on the team. Wright, who started 27 games last season, logged only 19 total minutes in the four games he played this season and did not show for six others, including Dec. 15.

Wright was not listed in the media notes Tuesday night for the first time this year, and Boeheim said Wright's playing days at Syracuse essentially were over.

"He left school, never took a test, just left," Boeheim said.

Which led the Hall of Fame coach to reach another milestone: Boeheim tabbed Scoop Jardine to take Devendorf's spot, giving the Orange three freshmen — Jardine, forward Donte Greene, and point guard Jonny Flynn — in a starting lineup for the first time in program history.

Also on the floor was junior center Arinze Onuaku, who had surgery on his left knee before last season and never played. And on the bench was sophomore power forward Devin Brennan-McBride, who is facing a third operation on his left shoulder, will not play this season, and has to decide whether he wants to come back next year.

Tyler Smith's rugged road

By Beth Rucker
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Tyler Smith's body art is worth a thousand words.

Tattooed teardrops trickle from his left eye for his father, who died in September of cancer. The word "sacrifice" rings Smith's neck for his baby son, whose first steps he did not see and whose first words he did not hear.

"I got those to really remember," the Tennessee forward said. "I look at them every day. I know he's up there right now watching me. I just know he's watching me. It's going to help me a lot."

They remind Smith of the long path he's traveled since he graduated from Giles County High School in Pulaski, a road marked by a year at military prep school and another in Iowa, as well as his son's birth and father's death.

The 21-year-old sophomore dedicated this season to his father, Billy Smith. And with the way his season's going, his father would be very proud.

Smith is a starter for the No. 12 Vols (9-1), who played UNC-Asheville on Wednesday night. He leads the team in rebounds (5.2), steals (2.3), and assists (3.6), and his 13.3 scoring average is third best.

He's also filling the spot vacated by fan favorite Dane Bradshaw, who graduated at the end of last season. Bradshaw wasn't as talented as Smith is, but coach Bruce Pearl celebrated him as the "glue" that held the team together.

"If there's a guy out there that could replace a Dane Bradshaw, Tyler would have that ability," Pearl said.

Smith, the 2005 Tennessee Mr. Basketball, was recruited by former Vols' coach Buzz Peterson. But when Peterson was fired in spring of 2005, Smith asked to be released from his scholarship. Pearl declined.

As it turned out, Smith was



Wade Payne/Associated Press
Tennessee's Tyler Smith (1) goes up for a shot between Arkansas-Monticello's Jermaine Samuels (right) and Byron Wickes on Nov. 14 in Knoxville, Tenn. Since he graduated from Giles County High School in Pulaski, Tenn., Smith has faced a year at military prep school, a transfer to Iowa, his son's birth, and his father's death.

academically ineligible for the 2005-06 season and headed to Hargrave Military Academy in Virginia. Before he left for school, his father was diagnosed with lung cancer after becoming short of breath one day.

"When he first got diagnosed with cancer he told me, 'Don't worry about anything, I'll be all right,' even though I knew he was hurting real bad," Smith said.

Smith starred at prep school, averaging 20 points, 10 rebounds, and just over five assists while leading Hargrave to a 28-2 record. He also got his grades in shape for NCAA eligibility.

Smith was recruited by then-Iowa coach Steve Alford, and Billy Smith's cancer appeared in remission. Smith led the Hawkeyes in rebounding and steals while averaging 14.9 points.

Osborne no longer 'interim'

By Eric Olson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OMAHA, Neb. — The interim tag has been removed. Tom Osborne is committed to being Nebraska's athletics director for 2½ more years.

Chancellor Harvey Perlman announced Wednesday that the 70-year-old Osborne would remain on the job until June 30, 2010.

Ten years removed from his celebrated coaching career, Osborne returned to the university in an interim capacity on Oct. 16, the day after Steve Pederson was fired.

Since then, Osborne has fired Bill Callahan as football coach, hired Bo Pelini, and helped the Huskers in football recruiting.

"When Chancellor Perlman asked me to lead the athletics

department and to help unify the state, he gave me the responsibility and the authority to do whatever needed to be done," Osborne said in a statement. "We've made some great strides over the last two months, but the chancellor and I agree that these next two years are crucial to keep our program moving forward."

Osborne, whose annual salary is \$250,000, oversees a 23-sport program that runs on a \$66.7 million budget. When he took over in October, he said he had no timetable for how long he would keep the job. In subsequent interviews, he said he would stay at least through the 2008 football season.

In his first two months on the job, Osborne's focus has been on rebuilding the football program he coached to its pinnacle in the mid-1990s.

The Cornhuskers are coming off their second losing season in four years, and Osborne fired Callahan on Nov. 24. He introduced former Nebraska defensive coordinator Pelini as new head coach on Dec. 2.

Between Callahan's firing and Pelini's hiring, Osborne named himself interim head coach so he could keep recruiting efforts going. He even offered a scholarship to a player an hour after Pelini was named coach. That week, Osborne and Pelini spent a couple days recruiting together.

Osborne said he wants people associated with Nebraska athletics to know he's committed to the job.

"I have never been enamored with titles," he said. "At the same time, I think it's important for our entire

Meanwhile, his son, Amare — named for Phoenix Suns center Amare Stoudemire — was born, though he remained with his mother in Tennessee. Midway through Smith's freshman season at Iowa, his father's cancer became more aggressive.

"That was really what got my decision to come back home," he said.

The NCAA granted Smith a hardship waiver, allowing him to play immediately rather than sit out a season.

Pearl and Smith said there have been no hard feelings about Smith's desire to return to Tennessee, even though he had asked for a release two years ago.

"He wants to be here. He's so happy to be home," Pearl said. "If the kids are happy, if they like it here ... most of the time that makes coming to practice a really good thing. That really jumps out at me for Tyler Smith."

Smith got to see Amare nearly every weekend, and there was the prospect of playing college ball in front of his father. Billy Smith was a college player himself at Martin Methodist in Pulaski and had seen his son play at that level only two or three times.

Smith went to work with his new team during the summer and started classes in August. Then September came, and he got the call he'd been dreading.

"We were in study hall," said teammate and roommate Ramar Smith, no relation. "He came in and said he had to go. He said, 'It's Pops.' I already knew what it was."

Tyler Smith said he saw his father at a Nashville hospital just before he died Sept. 19. He had the teardrops tattooed on his face the day after Billy Smith was buried.

"He was under so much medication that he couldn't respond to what I was saying," he said. "But I just told him that I love him, and this season is dedicated to him."

department to realize that we will continue moving down the same path we're already going. Change always breeds at least some uncertainty, and if removing 'interim' from my title helps everyone understand that we'll continue to be consistent in our approach, I'm all for that."

Perlman said a search for Osborne's successor would begin in early 2010 and that Osborne would assist in the search and transition.

"I appreciated Tom's willingness to step in as interim athletics director during a very difficult time for the athletics department," Perlman said. "His presence and his decisions have significantly reduced the controversy surrounding the department and particularly the football program."

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Boeckman adjusts

By Rusty Miller
ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — For 10 games, Todd Boeckman was down-right Heismanlike as Ohio State's first-year starting quarterback.

After closing the season with games in which the junior played like a bronze statue, the Buckeyes are hoping that Boeckman can return to form heading into their game against LSU for the Bowl Championship Series national title.

"He probably didn't have as consistent a games in the last two as he did in the first 10," Ohio State coach Jim Tressel. "But he's the kind of guy, he's going to study it, and he's going to go back and work on his fundamentals. I know he's been working hard these last few practices on really going back and thinking about footwork. This has been a good opportunity for Todd from that standpoint."

The quarterback position is at the forefront of a lot of Ohio State fans' tension these days, ever since Tressel stunningly revealed that Boeckman's backup, Robbie Schoenhof, has been working out at tight end. That move means that third-stringer Antonio Henton — suspended earlier this season until pleading guilty to a minor misdemeanor count of loitering for prostitution — actually is now second team for the bowl.

But more on that momentous change later.

Boeckman was leading the Big Ten and was sixth in the nation in passing efficiency through the first 10 games, all wins by top-ranked Ohio State. Heading into the Nov. 10 game at home against unranked Illinois, Boeckman had completed 66 percent of his passes for an average of 197 yards, with more than two TD passes and less than an interception a game.

Some were even whispering that Boeckman might be just as good as the man he replaced, Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith, who graduated and is now with the Baltimore Ravens.

Then over the last two games — a 28-21 loss to the Illini and a 14-3 win at Michigan in which the offense effectively buttoned up at halftime because the Buckeyes had the lead and the weather was bad — Boeckman looked like a scared rookie.

Over those two games, he



Ohio State quarterback Todd Boeckman picks up yardage against Illinois on Nov. 10 in Columbus, Ohio.

completed 56 percent of his passes for a total of 206 yards with four interceptions and no touchdowns.

Boeckman said he and Tressel, a former college quarterback, looked at film and noticed that he was opening up his stance too much when throwing to his left. That error led to interceptions, which then caused him to lose his confidence.

"Maybe I got down on myself too much at the end," he said. "At the beginning of the season I was making mistakes and bouncing right back. At the end I wasn't bouncing back as quickly. You can't let a turnover affect your entire game. I'm going to shrug those off and keep going."

Even with the sour finish to the regular season, Boeckman has been

surprisingly good for the Buckeyes. Remember, he came in having spent the last two seasons watching Smith take almost every snap. Boeckman had never started a collegiate game and had thrown just 10 passes in six mop-up performances.

Yet his 2007 numbers still are comparable with those of Ohio State's most exalted recent quarterbacks. He finished with a .645 completion rate for 2,171 yards with 23 touchdowns and 12 interceptions in 12 games. A year ago Smith was at .653 and threw for 2,542 yards and 30 TDs with six picks in 13 games. Craig Krenzel, who led the Buckeyes to the 2002 national title as a junior, had a .594 completion percentage for 2,110 yards and 12 touchdowns with seven interceptions in 14 games.

Amy Sancetta/Associated Press

Mangino wins coach award

By Doug Tucker
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAWRENCE, Kan. — It began as a friendly basketball game in Mark Mangino's old neighborhood of New Castle, Pa. One of Mangino's teammates kept making mistakes. Finally, Mangino threw up his hands and let the kid have it.

Those leadership skills 40 years later would steer surprising Kansas into national-championship contention and help him become the Associated Press Coach of the Year.

"Mark ran the kid off the court, out of the building, and into the street," recalled lifelong friend Tom Tommelleo. "Mark's always been a coach. We just didn't know it then. He would study every sport we played and see things the rest of us couldn't see. The thing that lit his fuse the most was somebody not giving his best effort."

In his sixth season with Kansas, Mangino has gotten an exceptional effort from the Jayhawks. Longwoleful Kansas won a school-record 11 games, had two All-Americans, and earned a spot in the Bowl Championship Series for the first time. On Jan. 3 in Miami, the Jayhawks will play Virginia Tech in their first major bowl since 1969.

In voting by AP college football poll voters, Mangino received 28 of a possible 58 votes, easily outdistancing Missouri's Gary Pinkel, who had 11. Hawaii's June Jones was third (seven votes) and Illinois coach Ron Zook fourth (five votes). "That's awesome for Coach [Mangino]," Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing said. "He's earned all the recognition he gets. I don't think anybody realizes how hard coach works for us."

Mangino is the first Kansas coach to win the award since the AP started handing it out in 1998 and the third Big 12 coach, joining Oklahoma's Bob Stoops (2000) and Kansas State's Bill Snyder (1998). Stoops and Mangino were both assistants for Snyder during the mid-90s.

Things have turned out well for Mangino, the studious kid who always demanded the best back on the playgrounds of Mahoningtown,



Matt Slocum/Associated Press

Kansas head coach Mark Mangino reacts to a penalty against Texas A&M on Oct. 27 in College Station, Texas. Mangino was selected as the Associated Press College Coach of the Year on Wednesday.

the working-class Italian-American community in western Pennsylvania where his character was shaped.

There'll be a Mahoningtown reunion at the Orange Bowl. Tommelleo and a number of others are meeting in Miami to cheer on an old friend who's made good.

"He's at the top of the conversation in this entire area," said Tommelleo, who moved back to New Castle several years ago and works in the biotech medical industry.

"We are very, very proud of Mark."

Kids played hard in the close-knit neighborhood of mostly first- and second-generation Italians where their fathers worked 12-hour shifts in the rail yards and steel mills. Moms and dads had full authority to correct other peoples' kids, and often did.

"In our neighborhood, arguing and fighting were an expression of affection," Tommelleo said. "Mark was always at the top of the chain."

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'My first thought was, "Oh my god." Thank god I wasn't in there; it happened so quickly. If I had been, I don't know what would have happened ... I don't know.'

— Diego Mercado-Austin, UI junior

After the fire

HOUSE FIRE
CONTINUED FROM 1B

The gymnasts' house, on Bowery Street, was one of four blazes that shattered the early morning calm on Aug. 4. All four fires started in a span of eight minutes, 4:51 to 4:58 a.m., and all occurred within a three-block area — the others singed the air on Johnson Street.

Iowa City Fire Marshal Grier said arson is the suspected cause in each. The acts appeared to be random, but Grier based his assertion on an eerie similarity: All of the blazes started on front porches stuffed with furniture. In the gymnasts' house on Bowery, firefighters were able to pinpoint the point of combustion — a well-worn couch.

By the time firefighters, already raw from the morning's previous blazes, were able to put out the fire, smoke had flooded the house, permeating walls and ruining carpets, and fire had left one room ravaged. That room, closest to the porch was Mercado Austin's.

"I thought he was still home," Bouchard said, "When I called, and he said he was at the hospital, I was confused. I thought 'Already? Are you hurt?'"

The confusion didn't last, however, and Bouchard, aware that Mercado Austin's room was torched and his possessions reduced to ash, gently asked his friend to come home.

"I didn't want to tell him about his room over the phone," Bouchard recalled. "He still had to drive home safely."

Upon arriving at the scene, Mercado Austin didn't believe his eyes. He'd anticipated walking into the remnants of a small grease fire — a little smoke damage here and there, but nothing wasted. Instead, once the firefighters gave the OK for the residents to try to salvage their possessions, he walked into a blast zone. His TV and computer were reduced to smoldering piles of melted plastic, his

clothes had been swallowed by the flames, and a thick layer of ash dusted the floor.

"My first thought was, 'Oh my god,'" the Tijuana, Mexico, native said. "Thank God I wasn't in there; it happened so quickly. If I had been, I don't know what would have happened ... I don't know."

While Mercado Austin called his family in Mexico, his roommates, including three seniors on this year's gymnastics squad — Curtis Kleffman, Tom Buese, and Jacob Becker — calculated their next move. The house, which the gymnasts had lived in for a full year, was a wash and would need to be completely refurbished before it became inhabitable. None of the tenants had renters' insurance, but fortunately, the hectic gymnastics season and school year hadn't begun yet, and only Mercado Austin's possessions had been entirely consumed.

For the next few days, the displaced students were put up in hotel rooms paid for by the Red Cross and later the Hawkeye athletics department. Becker, who had been staying at his girlfriend's house during the time of the blaze, was at a loss as he and his teammates attempted to find a new lease while reconstruction occurred.

"We weren't exactly sure where we were going to live," the All-American gymnast said. "Trying to find a lease that would allow us to move out when the [burned] house was finished was difficult."

Arrangements made with a lenient landlord, however, secured the group a tentative lease on a new apartment. Meanwhile, Mercado Austin struggled to cope with the loss of so many valued possessions. In a stroke of luck, he learned that most of his important files and registration — including his passport and vital documentation — had escaped the fire, stuffed safely inside a desk drawer.

As for the clothes, electronic gadgets, and furniture he lost in the blaze, a huge outpouring of support from the UI

Office of International Students and the NCAA helped him procure a computer, a printer, and some fresh out-fits.

Fred Mims, an Iowa associate athletics director, said that the NCAA's bid to help Mercado Austin in his time of need reflects an often overlooked function of the sometimes-beleaguered association.

"There's so much talk about all the restrictions the NCAA puts on student-athletes," he said. "But people sometimes forget that the NCAA is also concerned about the welfare of student-athletes. Whenever hardships pop up, and when students are in need, they can request aid from the NCAA."

For Mercado Austin, who competes in five of the six gymnastics events for the Hawkeyes and is what coach Tom Dunn calls an "excellent all-around performer," the generous aid from friends, the university, and the NCAA was able to steady his focus, reigniting his dedication to gymnastics and academics.

"After all the support I received, I knew I would be OK," he said. "My health is what's most important. All that other stuff can be replaced. Now I can focus on gymnastics and being a student."

As the 2008 gymnastics season rolls into sight — with the first competition in Chicago on Jan. 12 — the displaced housemates are making plans to leave their temporary digs and move back into the house that caught fire in August. Its restoration is nearly complete. The front porch has been redone, the carpets and walls scrubbed clean, and Mercado Austin's room has been renovated.

When the group of gymnasts move back into their house in early February, it will be a joyous, if gentle house-warming.

"We're all excited to move back in; it's an awesome house," Mercado Austin said. "The fire was just a random thing; it could have happened to anyone."

E-mail [reporter](mailto:reporter@uiowa.edu) **Nick Compton** at: nicholas-compton@uiowa.edu

Ausdemore a gem

AUSDEMORE
CONTINUED FROM 1B

At the university, the business major maintains a 3.83 GPA, and last year, she was not only named to the Big Ten's all-academic squad, she was also the only sophomore to be named to the Academic All-District VII team.

It's no wonder why her coach, Lisa Bluder, described Ausdemore as "the perfect package."

"She's the exact role model that you want in our basketball program," the coach said. "She's a person that you want to be around personally, but you want your kids to be around, you want your kids to learn from, and I'm talking about my own children."

"She just exemplifies everything that you look for in an Iowa women's basketball player."

Hailing from the town of Neola, Iowa, Ausdemore grew up on a farm and always found ways to have fun, whether it was riding her family's four-wheeler or going down to a nearby creek with her brother to swim.

In sixth grade, she said, she was introduced to the game of basketball.

"My best friend now, she moved to my school and her dad asked me to play," Ausdemore said. "I just fell in love with it right away. I had never really played before, and I immediately just loved it and hadn't stopped."

"It was just so fun, the competitiveness of it and just playing with a team. We started traveling to a whole bunch of different tournaments, so that was really fun."

Over time, she developed into such an unstoppable force at Tri-Center High School that by her senior year, she was dominating girls' basketball at the Class 2A level.

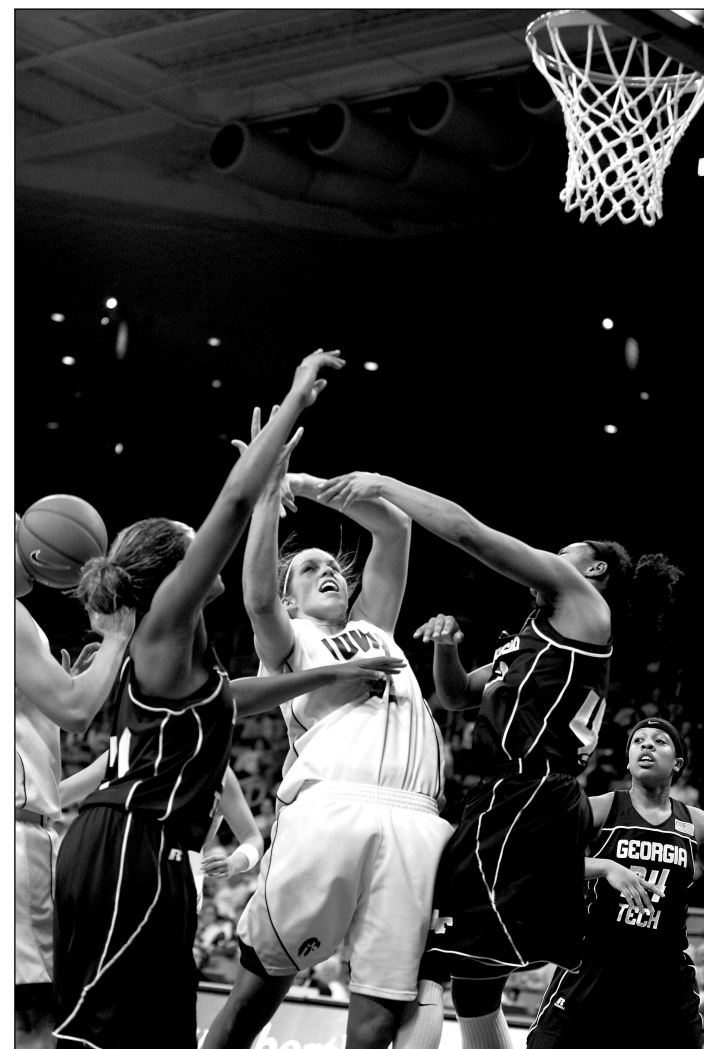
She was named MVP of the 2005 Iowa state tournament after posting 31 points and 10 rebounds in the title game.

Her play had caught Bluder's attention, but after meeting Ausdemore and her family, the coach was convinced Ausdemore was truly special.

"She's just a great person," Bluder said. "You look at everything Wendy does, and she does it with excellence. That's something that we'd like to have in all of our women's basketball players and all of our recruits."

"Everybody really likes her, and she has earned that respect because she does everything with high integrity."

In her freshman season at Iowa, Ausdemore never started, but she made her presence felt in the 29 games she played



Julie Brayton/The Daily Iowan
Hawkeye forward Wendy Ausdemore's shot is blocked by the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Nov. 28. The Hawks were defeated by the Yellow Jackets, 76-57.

coming off the bench. In the course of a year, she went from being a role player to taking home Iowa's Most Improved Player award at the end of last season.

Starting all 30 of the Ausdemore's games a season ago, Ausdemore rewrote some of the Iowa record books. Her 62 3-pointers broke a sophomore mark of 60 held by former Hawkeye Lindsey Meder. She also shot a school record 90.2 percent from the charity stripe, hitting 55-of-61 free throws.

Among the reasons for Ausdemore's emergence as a scoring threat on the Hawkeyes is her release as she attempts a 3-pointer, something that's quick and deadly.

"That was something Iowa did when I got here right away as a freshman," Ausdemore said. "[The coaches] changed it to the hop step and just really worked on it."

"It was weird at first, because I didn't make a lot of shots at first, but it just came natural, and I wouldn't change it now. It's just the way it is."

Bluder attributes Ausdemore's improvement as a basketball player to the time she has put in the last two summers to improve upon areas

such as conditioning, getting stronger, and releasing an even quicker shot.

Ausdemore's teammates have also taken notice with how she operates on a regular basis, trying to feed off everything she brings to the table.

"She has an awesome work ethic, and that's good for me, because we push each other," junior guard Kristi Smith said. "I feed off of her enthusiasm, and her dedication, and her love for the game."

But even while being a responsible student-athlete, Ausdemore also finds the time to let some of that self-satisfaction sink in.

Being the team player that she is, however, she also enjoys the satisfaction that comes with helping her teammates find similar success on and off the court.

"It's just the things you do when no one is watching that really makes you feel good about it, and then people see the results," Ausdemore said. "I like to get stuff done right away. If someone asks me to get something done, I'm going to do it, and then just watch out for others and make sure they're getting it done, too."

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Keddy solid at 184

The evolution of Phillip Keddy has helped the Iowa wrestling team erase half of the question marks surrounding its upper-weight classes.

KEDDY
CONTINUED FROM 1B

"Last year, I think we made a lot of progress. I don't think they've gotten as good as we've gotten over the last year. I think the improvement that we've made is big, and I told the team the other day that our most improved wrestler to this date is probably Phil Keddy."

Keddy owns a 6-1 record while bouncing back and forth between 184 and 197 pounds this season, with his lone loss coming against Iowa State's No. 1 ranked 184-pounder Jake Varner, 4-1.

"[Keddy's] a scrapper, he's a brawler and he's starting to learn some skills," Brands said. "The thing with him is his light bulbs will go off in his head when you talk to him. He has an open mind, and he's trying to get better. That's the telltale sign of a guy who is going to continue to get better."

Along with the most improved Hawkeye tag, Brands said he has superglued Keddy into the 184-pound slot, which is the red-shirt sophomore's most comfortable weight.

Keddy is still willing to move up to 197 pounds if needed, but he feels he is finally wrestling complete matches this year and

Perry earns weekly honor

Fresh off his one-match suspension, senior Mark Perry was named the Big Ten Wrestler of the Week after notching two pins in Iowa's double-dual victories over Northern Iowa and Cornell College on Dec. 13.

Ranked as the No. 2 165-pounder in the country, Perry pinned third-ranked Moza Fay of Northern Iowa in an astonishing 48 seconds, and followed that by sticking Cornell's Christian Coffey in 4:17.

This honor is Perry's second of his career and comes a week after teammate Joe Slaton won the honor after upsetting Nick Fanthorpe of Iowa State, 6-5.

is much more comfortable mentally — something that wasn't always the case during his 8-10 dual record last season.

"I feel that 184 is my spot and where I'm strongest," said the sophomore out of Vernal, Utah. "If the coaches feel that I should move up to 197 to help, then no question I'd move up to help the program and the team, but they've made it clear to me that 184 is my spot."

"There's a lot to be improved on but it's coming in the right direction."

While the question mark is shifting to an exclamation

point at 184 pounds, the 197-pound issue is still a mystery.

Rick Loera has been the most recent favorite, and Brands said he was happy that the sophomore "gave him the business" after being kept on the bench against Iowa State in favor of Chad Beatty, who gives up more than 20 pounds wrestling at that weight.

"That's what I want to hear; he shouldn't agree with that decision," Brands said. "He should want that opportunity, that limelight in a big setting."

Still, Brands admits he is not completely confident with Loera at 197, despite the Park Ridge, Ill., native nearly toppling Northern Iowa's 20th-ranked Andrew Anderson.

"We don't have to make these decisions now," Brands said. "We have a lot of capable guys. It's not like they're at their ideal weight class. Beatty is a 174-pounder, Loera is a 184-pounder, so that's not an ideal situation for him to go 197."

"We have to make up our mind about what we're gonna do sooner than later at this point in the year. That doesn't mean that we can't go match to match with duals and make those decisions, but it's not like it's October anymore, either."

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MLB

Schilling to Clemens: Give up Cy Youngs or clear name

BOSTON (AP) — Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling called on Roger Clemens to give up the four Cy Young Awards he's won since 1997 if he can't clear his name from allegations that he used steroids to prolong and enhance his career.

"If he doesn't do that, then there

aren't many options as a fan for me other than to believe his career 192 wins and three Cy Youngs he won prior to 1997 were the end," Schilling wrote Wednesday in his blog, 38pitches.com. "From that point on the numbers were attained through using [performance-enhancing drugs]. Just like I stated about Jose [Canseco], if that is the case with Roger, the four Cy Youngs should go to the rightful winners, and the numbers should go away if he cannot refute the accusations."

Schilling noted in the 3,200-word posting that he was a fan of the seven-time Cy Young Award winner who owed much of his success to a stern talking-to he received from Clemens when Schilling was a young pitching prospect.

"His 'undressing' of me and lecture were a major turning point," Schilling said. "I've always respected his career accomplishments and regarded him as the greatest pitcher to ever play the game."

Got Something To Say?

Say it at

Daily SHOUT!

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80 HOURS

Thursday, December 20, 2007

dailyiowan.com



Centering SILENCE

No preachers or sermons here — Old Brick Taizé is all about the silence.

By Vanessa Veiock • THE DAILY IOWAN

Lavender and milk colors wind and twist around the floor as seven shoeless meditators follow the paths of the labyrinth at Old Brick on the first Sunday of Advent. A man perches on a sapphire pillow in the six-petaled center as a woman wraps a translucent scarf over her silvery-blond hair. She weaves around the curves and stops intermittently, eyes peacefully closed. A fusion of heavy tenors, lofty sopranos, and simple piano strokes repetitively bounce across the high rafters. The warm glow of string lights and candles reach all four corners of Taizé participants in the Market Street facility.

"This is your one hour a week to do something different," Frank Fischer, a soon-to-be UI M.B.A. graduate, said at the conclusion of a service. "[Taizé] is intended to get really personal."

A Taizé practitioner since age 17 (he's now 27), Fischer represents one of around 20 regular Taizé attendees present for the group's 10th anniversary on Dec. 2. Since the first Advent Sunday of 1997, a rotating group of multicultural individuals of assorted religions have convened each Sunday for Old Brick's Taizé Evensong, an hour-long service of repeated chants, silent meditation, and prayer meant to achieve a "pilgrimage of trust on Earth." Based on the ecumenical Christian monastic community founded in the '40s in Taizé, France, Iowa City's Taizé unites as many diverse individuals as the languages they sing in.

The French Connection

Ren Stinson's first Taizé experience transpired on a two-week trip to France during his undergraduate years at Augustana College. The UI psychology Ph.D. candidate spent half of his trip absorbing the lives of more than 100 brothers who have committed themselves to Taizé. Thousands of other multinational college-age students joined him.

"It's like camp for college students," the 26-year-old said. "There is anywhere from 3,000 to 10,000 15- to 28-year-olds from all over the world camping out in tents."

Open to visitors 50 weeks a year (there is a brief break for the annual European meeting in late December and early January), Taizé welcomes visitors to "enter into the rhythm of community life for a week" by gathering with the brothers three times a day for prayer and meeting other international guests through shared meals, small-group discussions, and practical jobs. The stay is meant to springboard participants into discovering a new inner peace and spread it to others globally. All the brothers ask in return is a donation between 5.50 and 7.50 Euros (approximately \$8-\$11 U.S.) for visitors from English-speaking countries.

Stinson found such a deep connection with the Taizé repertoire that he's returned to the community twice and has attended the Iowa City service regularly for five months.

"Iowa City Taizé is similar [to Taizé in France], but it has its own flavor because it needs to be authentic to the people who organize it," he said, noting that rotating readings by volunteers is a twist from traditional Taizé. Readings range from the poetry of Madeleine L'Engle, Sylvia Plath, and the readers themselves to Bible verses and other literature.

But Stinson noted there are other notable differences: "Five thousand people singing [in France] is a bit different than 15 here."

SEE TAIZÉ, 5C



Whitney Wright/The Daily Iowan

John Cowan kneels during a moment of silence at a Taizé service at Old Brick on Dec. 9. Taizé, an hour-long service without religious affiliation, included personal readings, silent meditation, and traditional song.



Whitney Wright/The Daily Iowan

Diana Cates contemplates during a 10-minute silent meditation period of a Taizé service at Old Brick on Dec. 9. This service also included traditional song led by pianist Weyburn Wasson and personal readings from Ren Stinson.



Whitney Wright/The Daily Iowan

John Cowan joins his hands together for prayer during a 10-minute silent meditation period during a Taizé service at Old Brick on Dec. 9.



Design by: Natalie Nielsen
Illustration by: Nelle Dunlap

Special Edition 80 Hours Gift Guide Special!

Need that extra awesome gift for someone you care about more than average? How about 39 mega-kind-of-cool ideas for all your cousins? The *DI* Arts staff has you covered. Check out all the materialistic excitement, **3C**.



also
inside

Some calendar thing with weekend events. — **2C**

Louis responds to person with problems, again. — **4C**



weekly calendar of events

new movies OPENING THIS WEEKEND



National Treasure: Book of Secrets

Sycamore 12, Coral Ridge 10
The long-anticipated sequel has finally arrived. Ben Gates is once again involved in a historical discovery plot, this time regarding missing pages of John Wilkes Booth's private diary. When he finds out that one of the missing pages mentions his great-grandfather, Gates will stop at no ends to clear his family name.



Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story

Sycamore 12, Coral Ridge 10
Walk Hard tells the tale of Dewey Cox, a wannabe rock-and-roll singer who overcomes every cliché mark of adversity to attain his dreams, like kicking every drug habit known to mankind. By the end of the movie, his final count includes: sleeping with 411 women, three marriages, 22 kids, and 14 stepkids. Mega-producer Judd Apatow returns with his first straight-up farce.



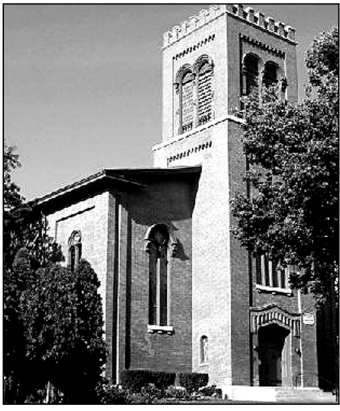
P.S. I Love You

Sycamore 12, Coral Ridge 10
Grief plagues Holly Kennedy's life when her husband dies from an illness. Yet when a birthday cake from him shows up on her 30th birthday, things change. Accompanying the cake is a tape recording telling her to get out and "celebrate herself." From then on, a series of letters are delivered to her from him, explaining to her how to deal with her grief and build a new life.

Today 12.20

MUSIC
• **Dead Larry, Neil Jennings, and Jesse White**, 9 p.m., Yacht Club, 13. S Linn
• **Uniphonics**, 9 p.m., Mill, 120 E. Burlington
• **Max Eubank and Joe Losh**, 9:30 p.m., Quinton's, 215 E. Washington

MISCELLANEOUS
• **Advent Meditation**, 12:15 p.m., Old Brick, 26 E. Market
• **Baha'i Campus Association Tranquility Zone**, 2-4 p.m., 345 IMU
• **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



Stress often feels insurmountable, especially the kind that accompanies finals week. Meditation is often used not only for relaxation but as a tool of reflection. Those addled with anxiety can relieve their woes during this afternoon's Advent meditation at Old Brick.

Friday 12.21

MUSIC
• **"Java Blend," The Bowmans**, noon, Java House, 211½ E. Washington
• **VitalLight**, 6 p.m., Picador, 330 E. Washington
• **Sharon Bousquet**, 8 p.m., Java House
• **Shame Train, Highway Shelter, and Skursula**, 9 p.m., Yacht Club
• **Billy Hoake and the Hoax, Caw!Caw!, A Vague Sound, Mannix!, and Dimas Lemus**, 9:30 p.m., Mill
• **The Puritanicals and the Brown Note**, 9:30 p.m., Picador

DANCE
• **Dance Party, with music by Rock 'n' Thunder**, 9:30 p.m., Charlie's

MISCELLANEOUS
• **Friday Night Magic**, 6:30



Singer-songwriter and poet Sharon Bousquet will grace the Java House Friday night to share her genre-spanning music. Two songs from her latest album, *Temple*, will be featured in the upcoming film *Cosmic Radio*. Bousquet, a native of Fairfield, Iowa, also contributed to the film's score.

p.m., Critical Hit Games, 89 Second St. No. 5, Coralville

• **Friday Night Karaoke with Gemini Karaoke**, 9

p.m., American Legion, 3016 Muscatine

• **Retro Club Night**, 9 p.m., Speak Easy

Saturday 12.22

MUSIC
• **Kevin BF Burt**, 2 p.m., Old Capitol Town Center
• **Kevin Gordon**, 8 p.m., Mill
• **School of Flyentology**, 9 p.m., Yacht Club

DANCE
• **Tango Milonga**, 7:30 p.m., Wesley House, 120 N. Dubuque
• **Dance Party, with music by Rock 'n' Thunder**, 9:30 p.m., Charlie's

MISCELLANEOUS
• **Euchre Tournament**, 1 p.m., American Legion
• **HeroClix**, 1 p.m., Critical Hit Games
• **Karaoke**, 9 p.m., Picador
• **Rock 'n' Roll/Country Night**, 9 p.m., Speak Easy



Self-proclaimed "Rhythm & Blues Entertainer" Kevin BF Burt has shared the stage with B.B. King, Albert Collins, and Buddy Guy. Burt is a self-taught guitarist who is a 15-year veteran of the Midwestern tour circuit. He is taking a break from playing alongside legends for a solo gig at the Old Capitol Town Center on Saturday.

Sunday 12.23



Reggae music was first developed in Jamaica during the '60s. Such musicians as Bob Marley, Peter Tosh, and Toots & the Maytals all brought a broader audience to reggae and helped it become the popular and highly respected art form it is today. Reggae fans can rejoice because every Sunday night is reggae night at the Yacht Club, beginning at 9.

MUSIC
• **Reggae Night**, 9 p.m., Yacht Club

MISCELLANEOUS
• **Bicyclists of Iowa City Ride**, noon, Weber Elementary School, 3850 Rohret

Road
• **Old Brick Taizé**, 5 p.m., Old Brick
• **Knit Night**, 5:30 p.m., House of Aromas Coffee, 118 S. Clinton
• **Sunday Night Pub Quiz**, 9 p.m., Mill

The spirit of Christmas, STARRING AARON SORKIN

While he isn't fat and hasn't yet been resurrected from bad ratings (he is, however, Jewish), writer Aaron Sorkin is an integral part to any true Christmas celebration.



MERYN FLUKER

Christmas television means the abundance of three personalities: Frosty, Santa, and Rudolph. There are no people more important to cultivating the holiday spirit on the airwaves (unless you count Jesus, but it's been awhile since I've seen him do a TV Christmas special). It's now time to add another individual to the list: Aaron Sorkin.

It may be easy to scoff, given that his most recent offering is the vastly underappreciated but heavy-handed flop "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip," but he is responsible for the best Christmas moments on television in the past 10 years.

You might wonder why Sorkin is on the list. After all, Frosty gives viewers the satisfaction of creating a friend in their backyards with common household items, a winter-weather Mr. Potato Head, if you will. Santa runs what is essentially a year-round sweatshop, but he runs it for us. He's committed to granting every child's wish for one day a year, even if the elves have to suffer (they have inventer genes). Rudolph is part of Santa's posse, giving viewers the double



No one in this publicity photo for "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip" is its creator/writer, Aaron Sorkin — though many are stand-ins for the dude's strange personal issues (especially Matthew Perry).

satisfaction of making dreams come true and also proving that outcasts are ultimately the coolest people in any group. But Sorkin's work also teaches valuable lessons — they're just aimed at the older set.

His legacy of outstanding Christmas material began in 1998 with another undervalued series, "Sports Night." Critics take shots at Sorkin's arcane references and inauthentic style of dialogue, but he never underestimates his audience. "The Six Southern Gentlemen of Tennessee Tech," the first Christmas-themed episode in "Sports Night's" run, is Sorkin at his best. He teaches (not preach-

es) about teamwork and giving, woven through a story about a self-centered but well-meaning sports anchor and a college football team that won't play under the Confederate flag. The episode includes one of the best monologues of Sorkin's career, a trademark of his writing style.

Sorkin's Christmas episodes are great because they work on different levels. Rather than dangling mistletoe in front of viewers and forcing eggnog down their throats, or resorting to pandering clichés, he uses common themes and appropriates them to the show's setting without sacrificing

emotional weight. He also manages to bring the funny, not letting the episodes drown in their own complexity.

Homelessness is so often ignored by the bright lights of network television, but when Santa's sleigh bells are within earshot, every TV starlet becomes an advocate for the impoverished. Let it not be forgotten that even "Saved by the Bell" tackled the topic on its Christmas episode. Yet Sorkin, who continued his run of Christmas storytelling on "The West Wing," was able to tie homelessness into politics and present his fans with a classic piece of television. "In

medium
media filtered through us
brought to you

Excelsis Deo," the first Christmas episode of "The West Wing," has a major character, the curmudgeonly Toby Ziegler, in search of a proper burial for a homeless veteran. The episode has Sorkin all over it: scholarly humor? Check. Unexpected character development? Check. Political sermonizing? Check. Sorkin turns what could easily be a maudlin story about everyone's favorite holiday into a moving lesson on brotherhood and gratitude, while silently advancing his liberal agenda.

While viewers will be able to find the original Christmas trifecta of the snowman, the reindeer, and the man in charge of it all, Sorkin won't be on the tube this year. After a stellar Christmas episode of "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip," featuring a touching tribute to New Orleans, the show still couldn't survive critics' attacks and Sorkin's baggage. Those still in need of a fix can wait for *Charlie Wilson's War*, his latest film. While it may not have a Christ-theme, the film will grace most theaters on Dec. 25, so fans won't have to spend the holiday sans-Sorkin. How's that for divine intervention?

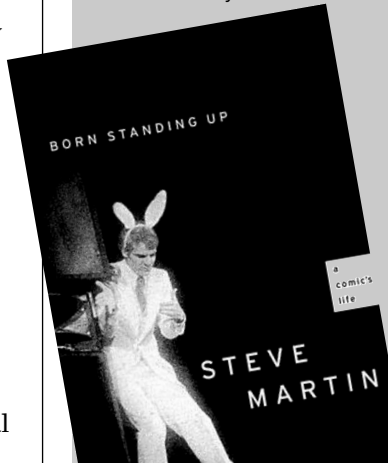
E-mail *DI* reporter Meryn Fluker at: meryn-fluker@uiowa.edu

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 Steve Hitlin, a UI assistant professor of sociology.

“ Maybe I should pretend I'm reading Proust or James Joyce, but no such luck. I'm about to pick up Steve Martin's *Born Standing Up*. I read enough dense academic stuff as part of my research, so in my free time, I look for smart, insightful, and funny. ”



DI RECOMMENDS

The *DI* recommends a holiday TV marathon, complete with *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer*, *Frosty the Snowman*, *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, *Elf*, and if you're really into the holiday spirit, a trip to the theaters to see *Fred Claus* (or, if you have taste for blood [it's red, too!], *Sweeney Todd*).

QUOTABLE

“ There's a vocabulary in movies that boozing is O.K., especially if the guy is going to kind of reform himself. That using cocaine, we're never going to look past. That if we saw him snorting it, we're no longer going to care about the Russians and the Afghans and the horror over there. ”

— Aaron Sorkin, a former cocaine blowhard, about its use in his *Charlie Wilson's War*



No. 2: China would make food for its people instead of truckloads of Furby eyes. Then again, half the cool stuff below wouldn't exist, especially not OhMiBod. But dailyiowan.com still might. Hm. Choices, choices.

HOLIDAY

GIFT
GUIDE

MOVIE GIFTS



- **BIG-ASS, WIDESCREEN, HDTV:** Screw the comprehensive box set — it'll look like crap if you don't have the pixels to enhance that classic, artsy moment. A proper, 50-some-inch TV might cost more than your car (or, perhaps, your house), but once you go high-def, you'll never go... um... there's nothing that rhymes — you won't want to leave.
- **STANLEY KUBRICK DIRECTORS SERIES** (includes all his goodies)
- **GIANT UNIVERSAL REMOTE** (complete with all big buttons)
- **BLADE RUNNER** Five Disc Collectors' Edition (in Deckard's silver briefcase)
- Anything that's **NOT TRANSFORMERS**

Okay, so we aren't all Rich Uncle Pennybags. A TV like this LCD one is cool too, maybe... just not nearly as cool. Not even close.

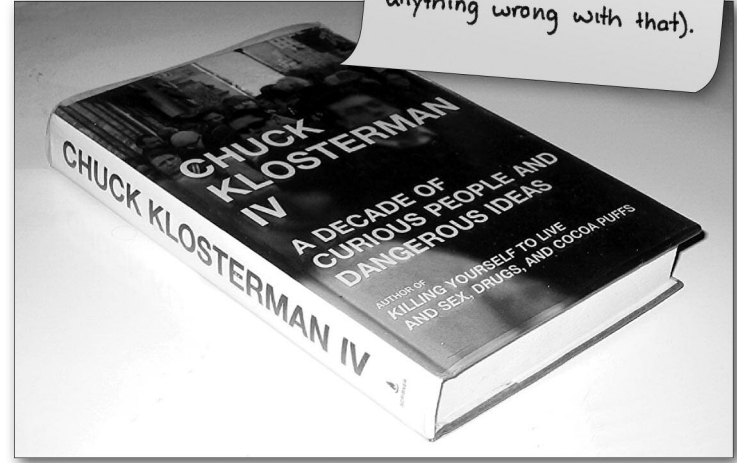
We know you only have **FIVE** days left, but it's likely that you still have some shopping to do — or your choices just aren't sexy enough. Here's the **BEST** of **EVERY WISHLIST** for this holiday season. The **DI** arts staff thought up 8 categories of cash-depleting, gift-giving options...

Information compiled by the *DI* arts staff
 Graphics by **Jacqueline Cieslak**/The Daily Iowan

BOOK GIFTS

- **THE NEW KINGS OF NONFICTION**, edited by Ira Glass, the charismatic host of "This American Life": an anthology covering teenage white-collar criminals, buying a cow, drunken British soccer society, the people in our Rolodex, winning big at the World Series of Poker by accident. Proceeds also go to help raise money for 826 CHI, a literacy group in Chicago.
- **ZOOM: THE GLOBAL RACE TO FUEL THE CAR OF THE FUTURE**, by Vijay Vaitheeswaran and Iain Carson: Ideal for an oil-conspiracy theory-obsessed relative or car worshipper. A book to drive fear into your oil-addicted heart and stir your inner desires to change your energy consumption.
- **A DECADE OF CURIOUS PEOPLE AND DANGEROUS IDEAS**, by Chuck Klosterman IV
- **BLOGGING HEROES: INTERVIEWS WITH 30 OF THE WORLD'S TOP BLOGGERS**, by Michael A. Banks
- **INTO THE WILD**, by Jon Krakauer: The 1997 documentary-style version. Quotable quotations galore.

You can find all these books at **Prairie Lights** (or some faceless corporation like Amazon.com... not that there's anything wrong with that).



WOMEN'S FASHION GIFTS

To help you pick a statement gift for a fashion-forward female, Sheila Davisson, owner of Revival, 117 E. College St., gives a rundown of this season's hottest trends.

- **ENVIRONMENTALISM** is as prominent in fashion as it is in politics. Think nature goddess and look for all things organic — jewelry with animal motifs, nature-inspired patterns, and "green movement" clothes made out of recycled materials.
- **CLUTCHES** and hard-case **FRAME WALLETS**
- Loose, flowing tops with voluminous sleeves
- **Chunky JEWELS**
- Knit-brim hats

Stop by Revival in downtown IC to find more pretty things like these earrings. Oooo, shiny...



... IF YOU'RE POOR AND IN COLLEGE GIFTS

- Let's be honest; the semester is dwindling down and so are our bank accounts. With a creative mind, your holiday shopping can be done in an economically thrifty manner. Here are some fantastic and cheap gift ideas.
- **OLD VIDEO-GAME SYSTEMS AND GAMES** — great video games never die, and they can be bought for incredible prices. A perfect gift to help summon feelings of nostalgia in your siblings. Nothing says I love you more than a copy of Turok: Dinosaur Hunter.
 - **KRUI 89.7 T-SHIRT** (Stylish!)
 - **A MACARONI-ADORNED PICTURE FRAME** (A good way to get rid of unused E-Z Mac)
 - **A SHINY PIECE OF METAL** (your little brother or sister will freak)
 - **WRITE LOVED ONES SONGS** (Even if the songs suck, they'll still say they liked it)

TV GIFTS

- **"SEINFELD," THE COMPLETE SERIES (SEASONS 1-9):** This show about nothing, the brainchild of Jerry Seinfeld and Larry David, started out as ratings poison and became the greatest sitcom in history (even *TV Guide* agrees). Finally all nine catch-phrase-filled seasons are on DVD, meaning viewers can now replay the "Elaine Dance" as many times as they want and appreciate the show's underrated series finale. Yada, yada, yada, no true TV fan's library is complete without this collection.
- **TiVo**
- **"SIX FEET UNDER," THE COMPLETE SERIES** (Seasons 1-5)
- **DIGITAL CABLE**
- **"THE WEST WING," SEASONS 1-4** (The complete series compilation is a worthwhile buy, but those strapped for cash should purchase the four golden seasons before creator, executive producer, and writer Aaron Sorkin left the show.)

MUSIC GIFTS

- **AN IPOD TOUCH:** Maybe your 2005 30GB model no longer responds. Maybe your little 4-GB mini, so cute when you bought it, is no longer capable of holding the massive number of tunes necessary for your everyday life. Maybe you just love that commercial featuring the music of CSS. Whatever the reason, this little beauty is here for you, in both eight- or 16-GB models. (And no, the music of Macy Gray doesn't come standard with every purchase.)
- An **OHMIBOD**. For when music really, really is your boyfriend. Google this (we can't print the details).
- **THE SOUNDTRACK TO SUPERBAD.** Perfect music for practicing the dance from the credit sequence.
- **TICKETS TO A NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW AT THE PICADOR.** Murder by Death is guaranteed to ring in 2008 with rock.
- **A HOT TOPIC GIFT CARD.** What? Isn't that where all hard-Xcore music fans shop?

This is almost an iPod Touch — just with some sort of telephone thing attached. Whatevs... still sweet.



MISCELLANEOUS GIFTS

- **ESPN ALL SPORTS TRIVIA CHALLENGE:** Questions. 10 Categories. One Champion. Enough said.
- **ADOPT-AN-ANIMAL:** Not only are you helping save the animals, you get a cute, cuddly plush version of your very own.
- **EARMUFF HEADPHONES:** Play your favorite tunes while walking to class AND keep your ears warm.
- **PERSONALIZED PHOTO RUBIKS CUBE:** Scramble your friends' faces and laugh as they get frustrated trying to solve the cubes.
- **CUISINART SANDWICH GRILL:** Cook any kind of sandwich, as well as French toast and omelets in minutes.

HOMEMADE GIFTS



- For a **NO-SEW BLANKET** all you need is three yards of two different kinds of fleece fabric and some scissors. Cut squares of approximately 1/2-inch out of each corner. Cut 1/2-inch strips along the edge of the blanket, tie them together, and voilà!
- Buy a **BULB AND SOME POTTING DIRT** from the garden section at your local retail store. Plant the bulb in a plain clay pot. Feel free to use decoupage or decorate the outside with lace, sequins, or acrylic paint.
- Using construction paper and colored markers, make a **HOMEMADE COUPON BOOK.** Make coupons for dinner on you at your loved one's favorite restaurant, doing dishes for a week for your brother, or a day at the spa for your mom while you take care of daily errands.
- A way to (well, anyone's) heart is through her or his stomach. Make **DINNER OR A CAKE OR COOKIES** just for the person who gives you heart eyes.

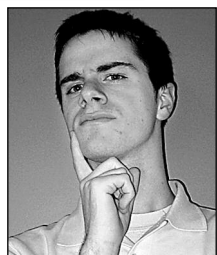
Keep your hands busy making this blanket for a special Someone, then use it to inspire more creative touching later.

♪♪ All together, this and that, with all our tricks we're making Christmastime ♪♪



Perfect isn't, and other war stories

Letters to Louis



LOUIS VIRTEL

louis-virtel@uiowa.edu

Dear Louis, I'm a reasonably attractive guy, yet I seem to have problems finding "the perfect man." My friends say it's because I'm too picky

with whom I'm looking for, but I disagree. I have qualities that I look for in a guy, and I'm unwilling to change. What can I do — who can I do — to finally find the one for me?

Uncompromising Paul
Dear Paul,
I think my readers (the fine, Gets-It children you are — I grant each of you full access to my infinite reservoir of conditional love) value me the way I so often think of myself: as a surrogate Evita. Liberating commoners with Tim Rice lyrics. Imparting inspired adages from my veranda over the dorms. Wearing many shoes. Then shit like this letter seeps in. What happened? Was I wrong? Am I actually a 14-year-old straight girl who assures her gay, prep-ass husband he'll make a compelling Jean Valjean? Come the

hell on, homos, love me more than this.

Shame on me, what am I saying? You're right, Paul, you deserve buckets of attention: After all, you can't find (*sigh*) the perfect guy. You're worried you're too (*whimper, bereavement, hankie-wave*) picky. Allow me to gaze into my effing crystal ball and deduce wild, paranormal things about you: Perhaps you might-sometimes-always prefer to think gays are just too frivolous for you? Too immature? Too sex-obsessed? Too low-brow? God, the revelations are flying like hotcakes. Someone restrain me and the tarot cards.

Paul, you have all those qualities. But also, every gay man wants a soul mate. And every gay man is picky. And no college-bound queer in Iowa City thinks he's compatible. Sorry, am I yawning? Really loudly? In

a suicide-seems-fun way? I'm surprised — insulted, really — you didn't at least pretend to pose a novel concern. My time is valuable, dear. Fear not, I'll add some dimension, just for the sake of the nap that's overcoming me: Um, you're still held emotionally hostage by incest you suffered at the hands of your bohemian uncle, the onetime gigolo and unrecovered stalker of Jennifer Capriati. You find solace in painting dying seagulls. And angry commentaries on apartheid. Tori Amos understands you. Maybe you can dress like her, find her in a public bathroom, and impress her. See, look at all this. I'd be on the front page if you were everything I wanted, Paul. Get with the trauma already.

J/K. You know I'm filled with luv 4 u. And 4 the lyrics of Prince. Since here are a couple things to

remember: "A perfect relationship" is a byproduct, not a goal. How fulfilled would you be if you met a guy, he survived your checklist, and that was all? Please, kill me. Relationships thrive on the spontaneous, the surprising mutual challenges and comforts that spring up between two people. With someone who just seems to have "the right qualities," you're doomed for boredom. An electricity occurs because of imperfections, exactly the kind of qualities you can't predetermine. Essentially, seeking a "perfect relationship" is like seeking a template, and I'm willing to bet you're more multidimensional than that, even if your jank-ass question is not.

That said, I definitely support seeking a template when it comes to plain-and-sinful hooking up. Sometimes you need a guy

who just knows to spank you when you scream the lyrics to "Cornflake Girl," am I right, Paul?

Furthermore, the "perfect relationship" (I hate calling any relationship "perfect" — how scathingly dull) occurs after things evolve between two people, beyond first impressions and expectations. Accordingly, I advise you to, yes, be selective, but give your potential boyfriends (or enablers, if you're like me) two chances. Unless he's a fan of *Wedding Crashers* (then toss him back to the creeper crew).

But in the meantime, I require that you own your unoriginality and think diligently about it the next time you write in. To everyone else, feel for me. I'm forced to combat such clichés. Unlike other icons, I'm fine if you cry for me.

E-mail DI@tragedy.louis.virtel@uiowa.edu

Hearing bloody Willy Shake

Singer-songwriter, guitarist, and UI alum Kevin Gordon comes back to Iowa City — older, wiser, and with a pretty famous fan in his corner.

By Meryn Fluker
THE DAILY IOWAN

A note to the Writers' Workshop students: If you stick with it and graduate, Keith Richards could be in your professional future. How does one of the greatest guitarists in rock history have a UI connection? Rather than play a confusing game of Six Degrees of Separation, go to Writers' Workshop grad Kevin Gordon for the answer.

Gordon isn't joining the Rolling Stones, but Richards did record one of his original songs for a tribute album.

"It was completely unbelievable. Still is, really," Gordon said about having Richards cover his song "Deuce and a Quarter." "It's just pretty amazing that it happened. And, of course, the cruel irony was it came out on a record that sold maybe a thousand copies. You might be able to find one on eBay, I don't know." Despite the sales outcome, Gordon isn't bitter, adding that the song is one of his favorite things that he's ever had recorded.

Gordon, 43, graduated with a M.F.A. from the UI Writers' Workshop in 1989. Since then he's moved to Nashville and continued a music career that has included work with big names like Lucinda

Williams. He will return to Iowa City on Saturday for a performance at the Mill, a place he was well acquainted with during his time as a Hawkeye.

"I usually went [to the Mill] after workshop on Mondays. We would all walk there from the old EPB Building and consume many pints of beer," Gordon said. "I don't think I played there until after I left Iowa City."

The Mill wasn't the only place Gordon frequented as an Iowa City resident, and it isn't the only place he visits when he comes back. On his list of Must See Iowa City stops, Gordon included Prairie Lights Books (he called it "still the best bookstore in America") and the Sanctuary. He said when he used to play shows at the restaurant he was addicted to its pizza. Another landmark made Gordon's list for some less innocuous reasons.

"I think I did some hanging out in the Deadwood the last time I was there. It's hard not to see a few old ghosts coming out from under the tables," he said. "That was a place where I tended to get into a lot of trouble. Trouble seemed to find me there."

Gordon said he learned a lot during his time at the UI, both inside and out of the classroom, but his experiences haven't



DAILYIOWAN.COM

GIVE A LISTEN

Kevin Gordon
O Come Look at the Burning

Featured track:

- "Watching the Sun Go Down"

If you like it:

See KEVIN GORDON, 8 p.m. Saturday, Mill, 120 E. Burlington

informed his music in a way that some people think it has. Gordon studied and wrote poetry during his time at the UI, and while many think that poetry and song lyrics are in the same vein, he rejects that notion.

"I run into this all the time, where people try to talk about

song lyrics like they're poetry. They call them poetry. I have a real beef with that, because having done both, I can say that it's just not the same," Gordon said. "With songwriting, of course you have melody involved, which tends to be a great informer, I guess. It can take a piece of language that's otherwise pretty mediocre, and if the melody's right, it can be something that's beautiful."

Gordon's musical background ranges from the Jerry Lee Lewis and Ray Charles records he overheard at his parents' parties to a phase as a teenage punk in what he calls a "Ramones cover band." Gordon struggles to define his own sound.

"I just end up thinking about it in terms of, 'these are songs I write.' Other than that, I don't know what they are. I guess it's loosely under the guise of rock and roll, but there are other things in there," he said. "People hear the music and they hear

different things in there, depending on where they're coming from. It makes it difficult. I just like to think that I'm doing something that's honest, and that's real, that's energetic, and that's something people enjoy hearing."

Modest words from a man Keith Richards once called, "bloody William Shakespeare."

E-mail [DI](mailto:DI@tragedy.louis.virtel@uiowa.edu) reporter Meryn Fluker at meryn-fluker@uiowa.edu

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No. 4: Legitimate exercises of spirituality, such as the below, might usurp the shiny seduction of the religious shopping frenzy. Though maybe you already skipped it for being "boring." What'evs — dailyiowan.com might have some stories about beer for y'all.

The 10,000 ways of silence



Whitney Wright/The Daily Iowan

Diana Cates sits among Taizé participants singing traditional chants during a Taizé service at Old Brick on Dec. 9. Taizé services included personal readings, silent meditation, and songs.

TAIZÉ

CONTINUED FROM 1C

Fischer noted that the biggest difference between Taizé, France, and Iowa City is the absence of the brothers. Taizé brothers hail from more than 25 countries with both Catholic and Protestant backgrounds and pledge celibacy while sharing a simple life.

Interacting with the variety of both brothers and visitors made Fischer's trip memorable.

"The songs touch you, and you think about life while you meet new people and get new ideas," the native German said in between chatting with fellow worshippers at the service in Iowa City this past Sunday. This marked Fischer's last Taizé before heading home and Old Brick's final service of the year.

A Pocket Community

Dorothy Whiston has never visited Taizé, France, but she did start Iowa City's own miniature Taizé community. Exposed to the rituals at various retreat centers around the country while earning a doctor of ministry degree from the Graduate Theological Foundation in South Bend, Ind., Whiston decided to bring the ecumenical service to Iowa City with the help of Julia Easley, then Episcopal Campus Ministry chaplain, for the first Advent Sunday in 1997.

The hour-long service has persisted nearly every Sunday since, evolving less with its rituals and more with the arrival and departure of many Taizé enthusiasts from the local area.

"We're sort of an odd community in that the primary thing we do together is pray and meditate," Whiston said, noting that there's much less talking in a Taizé service than the traditional church service. "No preaching, no teaching, no pastoral prayers. It's singing and silence — it's very right-brained."

Services include a 10-minute period of silent meditation, personal readings by other participants, and traditional Taizé songs — usually two- to four-line



Whitney Wright/The Daily Iowan

John Cowan pauses to pray after lighting a candle during a Taizé service at Old Brick on Dec. 9. A Taizé service offers participants time for prayer and meditation.

chants sung repetitively in various languages, such as German, French, Latin, and Italian. The first Sunday of each month, the Taizé worship centers on the Chartes-inspired cloth labyrinth laid on the floor — a twist to the traditional Taizé practice.

The labyrinth (not to be confused with a maze, which has many paths; a labyrinth has only one) hints at the symbolism of one's spiritual journey as it first leads to the center, then backs off to the edges.

"People describe it as when you first start searching for spirituality, and you get crazy about it by going to the center," Stinson said. "Then you ease off and go a bit slower."

The service lends itself to open-ended introspection and unifies individuals from various religious backgrounds and life circumstances. Regular attendees include students, professors, fathers, and grandmothers practicing Sufism, Buddhism, Christianity, or no tradition at

Taizé by the numbers

- 7 Taizé podcasts from France available from taize.fr
- \$8-\$11 Suggested donation for a week-long stay at Taizé, France
- 10 Minutes of silence at Old Brick Taizé
- 20 Average size of an Iowa City Taizé service
- 25-plus Countries the Taizé monks hail from
- 29 Labyrinths listed in Iowa on the "World-Wide Labyrinth Locator"
- 31 Languages the international Taizé website is translated into
- 67 Years since Taizé's inception
- 90 Age of Brother Roger, Taizé's founder, when he was stabbed to death by a Romanian woman during a church service in 2005
- \$4,500 Approximate cost of the Old Brick Taizé program for 2007
- 162,000 English websites returned upon Googling "Taizé"

all. Some use it in addition to their church services and others as their primary means of spiritual release for the week.

Meaning in Silence

"The main event for Taizé is the silence," said Stinson, explaining that the quiet endows the message of each individual's choosing rather than influencing a single greater meaning or explaining a commandment.

Each Taizé participant describes a wholly different personal experience during the service — whether it be time for self-reflection, speaking with God, or just enjoying the absence of

sound.

"Silence is profound for me, because as a grad student, it's day to day one thing to the next," Stinson, a once United Methodist, said. "That 10 minutes [of silence] is a good way to discipline myself to stop worrying about things and enjoy."

Others enter into states of meditation.

"Taizé worship allows us more fully to enter into the deep peace and deep silence of God," said Raisin Horn, the Episcopal campus minister and one of the overseers of the program. In between the periods of silence and singing, Horn's honey-like

voice often directs the room at Old Brick.

Nancy Adams-Cogan, a 72-year-old self-proclaimed "Unitangican," a mix between a Unitarian and an Anglican, identified with the serene calm Taizé inspires.

"[Taizé] encourages connecting with inner spirit rather than defining theology — 'leaving the surface without leaving the world,'" she said.

For those who come regularly, crossing the threshold of Old Brick's door is enough to stimulate the tranquility.

"All we [regulars] have to do is sit down in our chairs and enter into a meditative state," Whiston said.

With votive candles glowing and silence eminent (save for the occasional creak of wooden floorboards), an air of calmness wafts among individuals sitting, weaving, praying, and kneeling.

Taizé remains something mysterious to understand — it might hold a thousand definitions.

Simply explained by Fischer, "You need to come here to know your own interpretation."

E-mail DI/reporter Vanessa Veiock at vanessa-veiock@uiowa.edu

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Dessert

Rice pudding with orange blossom essence

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"The \$10,000 is to help pay for my coffee and doughnuts."

— An anonymous World War II Army veteran who remembered getting free coffee and doughnuts from the Salvation Army decades ago. He gave a \$10,000 check to a Salvation Army bell-ringer outside an Exton, Pa., department store on Dec. 14. The bell-ringer was described dumbfounded.

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



ANDREW R. JUHL

Fascinating facts, not left well-enough alone

- The average porcupine has over 30,000 quills — yet has never finished a novel.
- Guinea pigs were first domesticated by the Incas, who used them for food, in sacrifices, and as household pets — though usually in the opposite order.
- A hippopotamus can run faster than a man — albeit, he's a pretty fat man.
- Over 97 percent of the world's river is in the ocean — but 100 percent of the world's ocean is in the water.

Male monkeys lose the hair on their heads the same way human men do — with sullen bitterness.

An ant can lift 50 times its own weight — but I don't see why that's a big deal; I can lift 50 times an ant's weight, too.

A good milking cow gives 6,000 quarts per year — a bad milking cow smokes Lucky Strikes, rides a Harley, and doesn't play by society's "rules."

One ostrich egg can make more than 11 omelets ... or one baby ostrich — but the latter isn't as tasty with sausage and pancakes.

The average American's vocabulary contains 10,000 words — which is ... is ... um ... neat.

The world is not round; it is an oblate spheroid, flattened at the poles and bulging at the equator — just like your mom! BURN!

— Andrew R. Juhl found the above factoids in *2,201 Fascinating Facts*, by David Louis. E-mail him at: andrew-juhl@uiowa.edu.

Think you're pretty funny? Prove it. *The Daily Iowan* is looking for Ledge writers. You can submit a Ledge at daily-owan@uiowa.edu. If we think it's good, we'll run it — and maybe contact you for more.

horoscopes Thursday, December 20, 2007

— by Eugenia Last

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stay calm, and you will avoid mishaps that could set you back. Love is likely to cost you financially today. Don't go overboard picking up last-minute gifts to impress your lover.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Network all you can, or set up a meeting with someone who can alter your future. Travel will be hectic, but the memories will be worthwhile. Someone from your past may leave you thinking about decisions you have to make.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't fool yourself about how much you are actually spending these days. If you don't want to head into the new year in debt, look for bargains. Someone may promise you something, but get everything in writing, or it isn't likely to materialize.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A good relationship may be questioned if you pay too much attention to one person and not enough to another. Make up your mind, and don't leave anyone dangling if you don't want to end up alone. Make a decision, and give a straight answer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Someone may try to trick you into divulging a secret or surprise. Keep your wits about you. Emotional issues may have to be dealt with, especially where partnerships are concerned. Better to do so now and begin the new year with nothing to hide.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Travel will bring back memories. You can relive and revive old connections. Make arrangements to see all the people you want to touch personally before year's end.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Everyone around you will make you nervous. Try to remain calm. Say no if you really don't have time to help someone out. It's up to you to take care of your own business first.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't overspend for emotional reasons. Put things in perspective, and you will realize that it's the thought that counts, not the price tag. A greater understanding between you and someone you really care about will help you deal with what's ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't burn bridges or make impulsive motions that will come back to haunt you. An older or more experienced person will be able to shed some light on your situation. Listen to advice being given.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your home is your castle, so entertain and welcome the people you care about most. You can share your company, good tidings, and insightful thoughts for the upcoming year.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful to whom you tell your secrets. You can expect to face problems while en route or when dealing with emotional matters concerning friends, relatives, or neighbors. Someone who has been influential in your life may need assistance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Open your heart to those you care about, and make amends to those with whom you have differences. Today is a great time to rethink your future and to revise your strategy. Changes at home will be a good place to start.

KOREAN VICTOR



Yonhap, Park Ji-ho/Associated Press

Photographers take pictures of South Korean President-elect Lee Myung-bak of the conservative opposition Grand National Party and wife Kim Soon-ok in Seoul, South Korea, on Wednesday. Lee won the South Korean presidency on Wednesday, ending a decade of liberal rule.

today's events

Want to see your name special event here? Simply e-mail the super, time, date, and location information to: dailyowan@uiowa.edu.

- Explore the Johnson County Historical Society Museum, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 860 Quarry Road, Coralville
- "Growing Up in Iowa," 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Iowa Children's Museum, Coral Ridge Mall
- Museum of Natural History Tours, 10 a.m., UI Museum of Natural History
- Preschool Story Time, 10:30-11 a.m., Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn
- Extraordinary Holiday Show, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Chait Galleries Downtown, 218 E. Washington
- Lunch With the Chefs, "Casbah Cuisine: Moroccan Favorites," 11:15 a.m., IMU Main Lounge
- Kol Shira, Traditional Jewish Ensemble, noon, UIHC Colloton Atrium
- Advent Meditation, 12:15 p.m., Old Brick, 206 E. Market

- Teen Tech Zone, 2:30-5 p.m., Iowa City Public Library
- Snow Globe Art Adventure, 3-5 p.m., Iowa Children's Museum
- The Bubble, 7 p.m., Bijou
- Free Karaoke, 8 p.m., Nickelodeon, 907 Second St., Coralville
- Dead Larry, Neil Jennings, and Jesse White, 9 p.m., Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn
- Gemini Karaoke, 9 p.m., Speak Easy, 171 Highway 1 W.
- Thursday Night Karaoke, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Charlie's, 450 First Ave., Coralville
- Uniphonics, 9 p.m., Mill, 120 E. Burlington
- Max Eubank and Joe Losh, 9:30 p.m., Quinton's Bar & Deli, 215 E. Washington
- Sangria Night, 9:30 p.m., David's Place, 100 S. Linn
- Wild Strawberries, 9:30 p.m., Bijou



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6	7							
		2		8				

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

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

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Got something to say? Send it away! Go to dailyowan.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 Shout Out! I'm a published author now.
- Shout out to whoever scheduled a final at 7:30 in the morning. I'll see you in hell.
- Shout out to your mom, your son, and your cat.

UITV schedule

Campus channel 4, cable channel 17

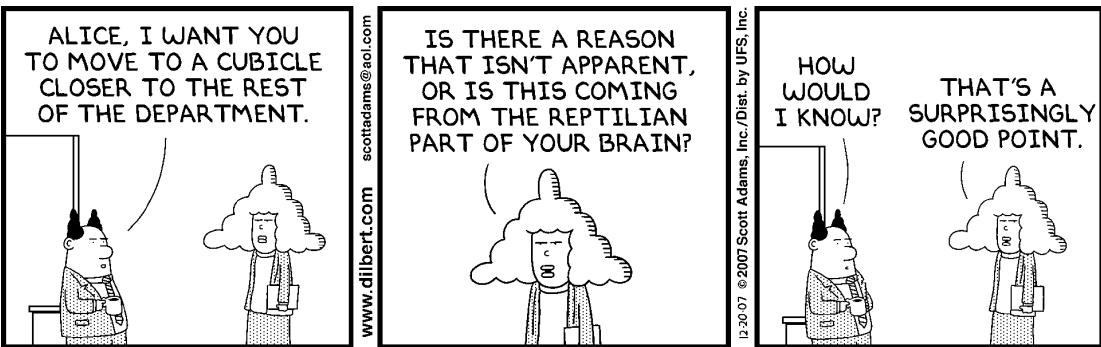
- 12:30 p.m. News from China-Beijing (in Chinese)
- 1 A Prairie Lights Reading from the UITV Archives, Kate Christensen
- 2 News from Germany (in German)
- 3 "Java Blend," The Blue Band Holiday Show
- 4 Fiscal Wake-Up Tour, RSM McGladery Lecture, Tippi Accounting
- 5:30 2007 "Holiday Tubas" Concert

- 6:15 2006 "Holiday Tubas" Concert
- 7 "Java Blend," The Blue Band Holiday Show
- 8 Fiscal Wake-Up Tour, RSM McGladery Lecture, Tippi Accounting
- 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," The Blue Band Holiday Show

For complete TV listings and program guides, check out Arts and Entertainment at dailyowan.com.

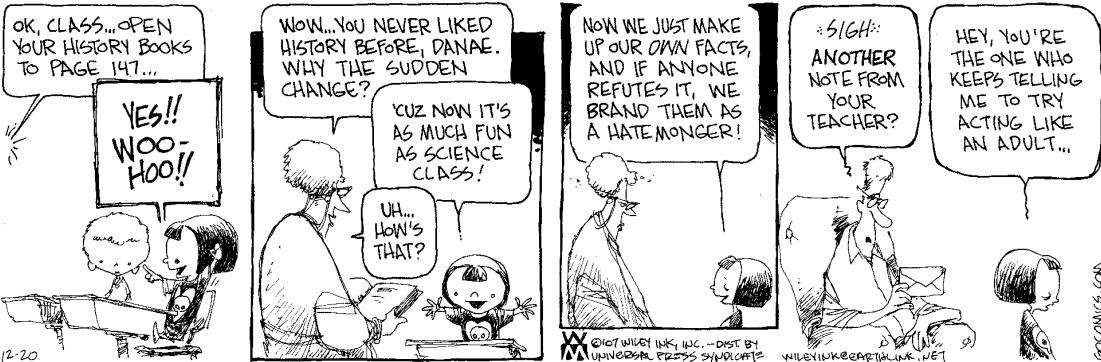
DILBERT

by Scott Adams



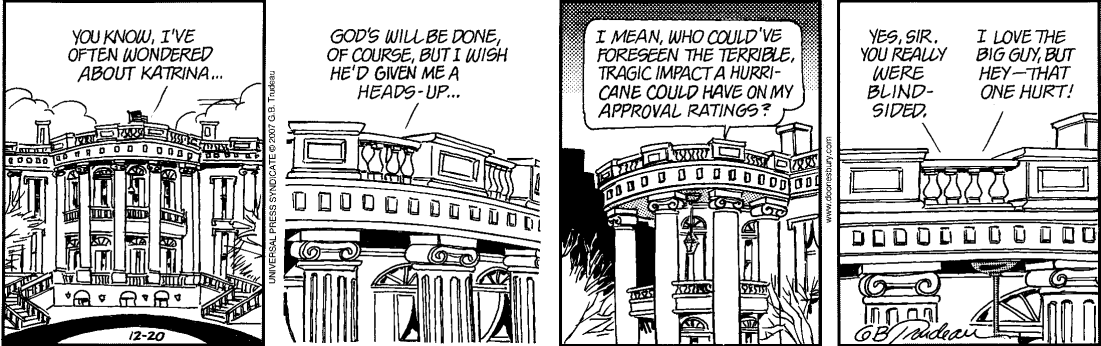
'NON SEQUITUR

BY WILEY



Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



The New York Times Crossword

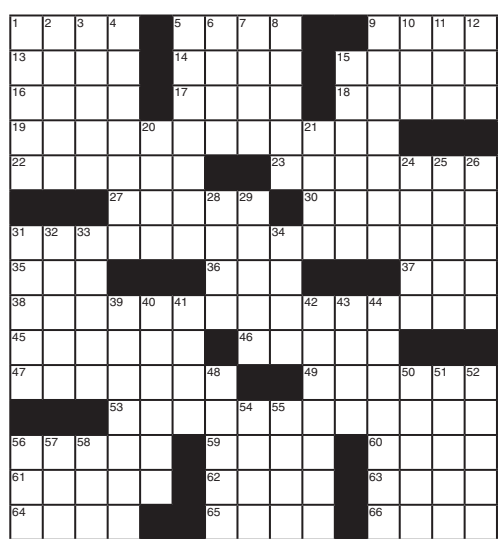
Edited by Will Shortz No. 1108

- Across**
- 1 Quarrel (with)
- 5 Contents of a scoop
- 9 Glass substitute
- 13 Child's plea
- 14 "Jabberwocky," for one
- 15 Real ___
- 16 Former southern constellation in the shape of a ship
- 17 Billet-doux writer
- 18 "Skunk egg"
- 19 Internal-combustion device
- 22 Executor's concern
- 23 When someone 27-Across
- 27 See 23-Across
- 30 "Très sexy!"
- 31 "American Psycho" author
- 35 One of the first to raise a hand, usually
- 36 Barn adjunct
- 37 Scented gift
- 38 Loser in a staring contest
- 45 Temper, as metal
- 46 Vaccine target
- 47 Acts as a middleman
- 49 Began
- 53 Unfeeling nature ... or a literal hint to 19-, 31- and 38-Across
- 56 Lustrous black
- 59 "What ___?"
- 60 Type choice: Abbr.
- 61 Apply
- 62 Not worth ___
- 63 Equipment in chuck-a-luck
- 64 Best of the early Beatles
- 65 Chop ___
- 66 Tolkien's talking trees

Down

- 1 Suffix with land or sea
- 2 Setting for "La Traviata"
- 3 Inner tension
- 4 It's read to the unruly
- 5 Beach adjacent to Copacabana
- 6 The ___ Nugget, Alaska's oldest newspaper
- 7 Sinn ___
- 8 The end
- 9 Historian William H. ___, author of "The Rise of the West"
- 10 Here, abroad
- 11 Be lovey-dovey
- 12 Philosopher Rand
- 15 Secretary of state during the War of 1812
- 20 Siouan speaker
- 21 Monopoly token
- 24 "Rag Doll" singer, 1964
- 25 Visitor from afar
- 26 Kind of surgery for the eyes
- 28 Home of "Monday Night Football"
- 29 Soak

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



Puzzle by Paula Ganche

- 31 Without question
- 32 Marie Antoinette, par exemple
- 33 Gets
- 34 Hang ___
- 39 "You pay attention!"
- 40 Factor in pageant judging
- 41 Stewpot
- 42 One who's late to adopt the latest
- 43 Leaning
- 44 Beach maximizer
- 48 Mex. misses
- 50 Away
- 51 Pass
- 52 Strikes out
- 54 Vegan's protein source
- 55 Cartoon canine
- 56 Agent, for short
- 57 Sturdy feller?
- 58 A.S.P.C.A. worker

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