A classroom conversation brings perspective to the Tibet-China conflict.

Talking about Tibet

By Kotsy Beltranma

The Daily Iowan

There’s a video on YouTube from San Francisco quickly gaining popularity. It’s a newscast from a local television station, aired the day before the Olympic torch passed through the city.

In the segment, a reporter approaches several pedestrians parading through the streets in “Team Tibet” T-shirts, waving Tibetan national flags. He asks them to point to the location of the Central Asian region on a map—but no one can do it.

“It’s sort of funny,” said Judy Polumbaum, a UI journalist professor who specializes in China. “It’s beyond who is right and wrong in the political argument; it is about the roots of the problem. If people don’t know where Tibet is, then there is no way to discuss the complex issues in addition to the human rights issue either.”

To foster more dialogue and disseminate information about the recent Tibetan uprisings and the Beijing Olympics controversy, a new website has been launched. Polumbaum hosted a conversation Wednesday with Blasing Liu, a visiting editor of China’s largest daily English newspaper, the China Daily. Around 20 students and community members gathered to share opinions and global perspectives, discussing ideas beyond who is right and wrong in the decades-long culture clash and debate over autonomy. They also addressed how media conveys a simplified version of politics, which often are not the whole story.

The day was marked by student interaction with their professor. “I am socializing with the students. It’s my job to disseminate information about the area,” she said.

“Using the torch ceremony as an opportunity for protest is not new,” Polumbaum said, tracing the origins of the torch ritual back to the 1936 Berlin games. “But somehow this time, it’s gotten built up as the biggest controversy to ever hit the Olympics.”

Inside

Art Up the Pipe

The study “holding in” the Changing World Challenge event today will be open to students interested in service or income families. Campus, 4A

Cardboard houses

Students who took these large, “gatekeeper” courses were seen to have less time. Part-time faculty taught these courses with adjunct professors. “We’re seeing effects that, three years ago. These measures are just the beginning of what needs to be done for campus security, said Assistant Professor of Social Security on Campus Inc.—a nonprofit organization working to make campuses safer for students. There does seem to be a pattern with violence in April. Knox said, which could be due to coincidence, copycat, or spring weather. Although the month is no more dangerous than others, he said, there is heightened anxiety and safety concern.

“I have seen a raised level of awareness and urge to help during this month,” he said.

Report says adjurants may affect dropouts

By Ashton Shurson

The Daily Iowan

UI officials said they haven’t raised problems with part-time faculty teaching introductory courses, despite a new study that says these instructors contribute to dropouts.

According to the study, adjunct professors and other part-time faculty should not teach large, first-year introductory courses.

“When you have these ‘gatekeeper’ courses, students feel pressured to excel,” she said. “Our hope has been to raise the bar for entrance.”

Panel says resources for sex-assault victims

A panel discussed sexual assault and the county’s resources for victims of the crime Wednesday.

By Kurtis Hunt

The Daily Iowan

A crime survivor told the story Wednesday about a man who lowered herself in a string of abuses and sexual assaults three years ago. She asked to be known, and worked so hard for it, she said, “It’s hard to talk about this.” Our hope has been to raise the bar for entrance.”

In another incident, a woman read from her victimization story Wednesday about a man who harmed her in a string of abuses and sexual assaults three years ago. She asked to be known, and worked so hard for it, she said, “It’s hard to talk about this.”

Campus security ramped up

School security has come a long way since the Columbine High School shootings eight years ago.

By Clara Hogan

The Daily Iowan

April means rethinking bad memories for many faculty and students on campuses across the nation. This month holds anniversaries for two of the most publicized school shootings: Columbine High School in 1999 and Virginia Tech in 2007.

After last year’s killings, the UI has worked to catch up with a comprehensive way to deal with a threat on campus. During this school year, the UI armed campus police and installed a new warning system.

These measures are just the beginning of what needs to be done for campus security, said Assistant Professor of Social Security on Campus Inc.—a nonprofit organization working to make campuses safer for students. There does seem to be a pattern with violence in April. Knox said, which could be due to coincidence, copycat, or spring weather. Although the month is no more dangerous than others, he said, there is heightened anxiety and safety concern.

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**Belinda Bailey**

West High’s special-needs students show off their talents

By Lauren Skiba

West High’s special-needs students offer themselves a chance to be a real part of school life. They show off their talents during the annual Show and Family Night at Old Brick on Wednesday.

**John Keene/The Daily Iowan**

**CALLS**: Iowa taxpayers’ generosity is waning

By Melanie Kucera

Donations to four organizations through the state’s income-tax checkoff program have seen a decrease in the amount of money received in the last year.

For 2006, Iowa’s wildlife diversity program had its lowest donations in several years. More than 150 people filled Old Brick on Wednesday night to support the program.

“It definitely has an impact,” said Jeannine Curley, the wildlife diversity coordinator. Curley noted that the program today solely be funded by the checkoff program.

Shepherd said she does not know what the organization would do if it were taken off the checkoff program. The group recently held a fundraiser at the City Market, but she said, “You can’t predict the future, but there will certainly always be a need for people watching over non-game species in the state.”

Among the other checkoff programs, also in need of funding was the Iowa Firefighter’s Foundation. Among the most donations received were to the 4-H Foundation, which combined in 2006, the Iowa State Fair Foundation, and the Veterans Trust Fund. All but the veterans group saw a decrease in the amount of money donated.

Iowa taxpayers’ generosity is waning

Money for the drudge can include the deck and fence, an increase in checkoff organizations, or the growing number of people submitting tax forms electronically.

An electronic tax form was the only one to see an increase in donations. Prudent taxpayers may be taking advantage of a deduction for their increased gift to charity, Curley said. But she added, “The kids are so proud of doing the show, and they want to participate,” she said. “And they want all their kids to do something special. For the very last performance, Belinda Bailey was doing something special. During his second solo of the night, singing “New York, New York,” he came out wearing a tax and a top hat. He sang out with all his friends—he really did go out with a bang. "But as the students balled out of their choral, none of them were doing anything but smil

The kids love to entertain,” executive director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, said. “It’s been talking about it for days.”

But she said when she met the kids, they had the feeling that they were going to be a great job.

We may or may not survive this year,” she said.

We have a lot of great ideas, a lot of great activities, a lot of great programs,” said Renee Pulley, the human resources director for the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. “We are probably falling off again.”

Among them were a declining number of donations and a bigger tax change, a increase in checkoff organizations. But it will not see a reduction in the number of people submitting tax forms.

Reese Muller, a public information officer for the Department of Revenue, said the decrease in donations was probably based on the decision of the Iowa House of Representatives to keep the checkoff program.

“People are realizing it’s not worth it, and they’re not giving much,” said Muller. “It’s pretty easy to just miss it, but of course, it’s a long shot, but a long shot, a lot of good,” she said.

Wildlife and medical programs are the most donated to, which would explain why they have seen some of the largest declines. The Firefighter’s Association and Ronald Alt, a senior research associate with the Federation of Tax Administrators, said.

All said the decrease is due to the decrease in the amount of Iowa checks and the decrease in the amount of people submitting tax forms.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION: **

E-mail: melanie-kucera@uiowa.edu

**Lauren Skiba**
TIBET CONTINUED FROM 1A

And that may be exactly what Tibetans want, said Anup Kumar, a UI journalism graduate student from India, a nation where thousands of Tibetans seek exile. He said his home town, with the country’s greatest Tibetan concentration, has regular protests and marches, but the local media attention they garner is nothing compared with having the conflict thrust onto international front pages.

“Crashing a party is the biggest form of protest, and the Olympics is the greatest party in the world,” he said.

The Chinese government is using the Olympics as a political tool, “and they do it so well,” he said.

Several Chinese graduates students, who asked not to be identified by name, were disparaged about the global media and how the Western media were reporting news and sending about their nation as a whole.

“There’s tendency to totalitarian China,” one Chinese student said. “What is China? China or China as a government? As a people? What is China all about?”

The student speaking Thursday said her fellow countrymen are very difficult to go through. “It’s not an easy thing to go through,” he said. “So it’s very difficult.”

Lahey said that ultimately, the university’s safety response, including prosecution, no longer always involves the police, but — they still need work.

“Police are absolutely the Sexual Assault Response Team,” she said. “But they still need work. Right now, UI officials said the SaRT is working within the new campus reporting system.

Help for victims is becoming more widely available, they said, and it’s very difficult.”

The survivor speaking Thursday said her former professor was “fairly unusual” for adjunct faculty. He added, “It was really reinforced to the UI junior Harrison Wheeler, who is enrolled in a large art-history lecture taught by an assistant professor, said they must interact with instructors.

“Your survival is also heavily influenced by the academic environment,” she said. “There are ‘pitfalls’ to the office will move at least, “he said. “After it, the least,”

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Benedict said that it was important to remember that the clergy sex-abuse scandal sometimes had been handled "very badly," his hardest criticism yet regarding the case that has badly damaged the U.S. church.

Benedict's remarks came at a private service with hundreds of American bishops at a national shrine in Washington, and marked the second time the pope has addressed sex abuse on his first papal journey to the U.S.

On his flight from Rome, the pope said he was deeply ashamed of the scandal and would fight to keep pedophiles out of the priesthood.

Benedict addressed clerical molesters in the wider context of societal and the communication of America. "What does it mean to speak of child protection when pornography and violence can be viewed in so many homes through media widely available today?" he asked.

The pope spoke after Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, who is the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. George said that the consequence of the clergy abuse scandal "is the belief sometimes very badly handled by bishops makes both the universal faith of some Catholics and the American public more problematic."

Benedict seemed to agree.

"There are no words that can excuse the acts of a priest serving faithfully but that it also was sexually misconduct," the pope said. "Some have been so seriously wounded."

Benedict also delivered an address to the U.S. President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition on his 81st birthday, which was sometimes very badly handled, "your pruning shears," he said. "More sponsors have gone into this and in terms of fundraising, we're doing much better than we've ever been in the past."

UI faculty and students built a house with Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity. The group drew inspiration for its architecture from the Housing Challenge's global theme: "Let's fight to keep pedophiles out of the priesthood."

The pope said he was sometimes too closely involved in the crisis that has badly damaged the U.S. church. Benedict added: "We're doing much better than we've ever done in the past."

The pope marked his second time the U.S. church has "touched on the need to combat terrorism and respect for the human person and his or her dignity."

Benedict and President Bush spoke alone in the Oval Office for 45 minutes after the cere- mony. "There is a lot of good going on and things of that nature," the pope said. "This is first year the pope gives house to the housing challenge. The idea behind the pope's house was "Greens Go Green."

The group used recycled mate- rial from the sheriff house to construct the home. "We participated to market Chi Omegas, and the greek sys- tem and as another way to get involved with Habitat for Humanity and other organiza- tions on campus," Forker said.

Housing Challenge, now in its third year. This event generates $75 for a home-building kit — in addition to the housing challenge. The idea behind the pope's cardboard house was "Greens Go Green."
BLACKSBURG, Va. — A sea of people clad in maroon and orange, some with heads tearfully bowed, others with arms interlocked, paid tribute Wednesday to the victims who died a year ago in the nation’s worst mass shooting in modern history.

The accomplishments of each of the 32 people enrolled across the drill field, a litany of what they had done and planned to do before a student gunman killed them in classrooms and a dormitory.

Austin Cloyd had an iron will.

Caitlin Hammaren loved playing the violin.

Emily Hilscher was a skilled horsewoman.

Ryan Clark was a collector of friends.

Daniel Alejandro Perez Cueva dreamed of bringing people together and making the world peaceful.

“The world was cheated — cheated out of the accomplishments that were sure to come from these extraordinary lives,” Gov. Timothy Kaine told the crowd.

People held back tears as a moment of silence was observed for those killed by Seung-Hui Cho, who took his own life as police closed in. But as music started playing, many sobbed and wept openly, overcome again by the magnitude of loss.

One grieving young woman fell to the ground and EMTs hurried to tend to her, eventually helping her off the field as she blinked back tears.

After the ceremony, bells in the nearby administration building tolled 32 times as mourners approached the semi-circle of memorial stones, each engraved with the name of a victim.

The mourners gathered on the same field where a white candle lit at midnight began a day of grieving for the victims. Its flame was to be used to light candles for a vigil at dusk.

Some 20 people gathered in front of Norris Hall shortly after 9:30 a.m., the time one year ago that Cho killed 30 people in the building.

Shane Hutton, a senior from Bristol, said he had wanted to go into Norris, but it was closed. Hutton, who had studied under instructor Jamie Bishop, one of the victims, said he has visited the wing of locked classrooms a half-dozen times in the past year.

AP writers Kristen Gelineau and Hank Kurz Jr. contributed to this report.

Virginia Tech victims remembered

Bells toll in Blacksburg for the 32 killed in the April 16, 2007, massacre.

The accomplishments of each of the 32 people echoed across the drill field, a litany of what they had done and planned to do before a student gunman killed them in classrooms and a dormitory.

Austin Cloyd had an iron will. Caitlin Hammaren loved playing the violin. Emily Hilscher was a skilled horsewoman. Ryan Clark was a collector of friends. Daniel Alejandro Perez Cueva dreamed of bringing people together and making the world peaceful.

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AP writers Kristen Gelineau and Hank Kurz Jr. contributed to this report.
TALK BACK! Op: better life, or our city? daily-iowan.edu

Opinion

EDITORIALS

EDUCATED OPENINGS OF COMMUNICATION

Former President Jimmy Carter is in the Mideast this week, meeting with leaders of Hamas in an effort to gain understanding into how these nations, along with Hamas, would fit with the peace process. Conducting international relations by shun seems to be popular, however, between the United States and Hamas. This is due in part to the fact that Hamas is a terrorist organization, and Hamas is an impediment to peace. We should only sit down with Hamas if it renounces terrorism, and not until Hamas has abandoned its use of terror. Why is that? Because the United States has an absolute right and an absolute need to discuss the issue of terrorism.

Does the United States use enough diplomacy? Eric Buss

The argument for a big wall ignores the thousands of people who have been hurt by terrorism. We also need to discuss the issue of immigration. George W. Bush spent time patrolling the U.S.-Mexico border, and he recognized the need for immigration reform. We should use this opportunity to discuss the issue of immigration. We also need to discuss the issue of drug trafficking. The United States needs to work with Mexico to fight drug trafficking.

Defense justice (again) on the West Memphis Three. As we approach the 15th anniversary of the crime, we can only hope that the West Memphis Three will be granted another day in court — this time, I pray, for justice.

Justice delayed is justice denied.

Rice and Obama are both in error. Carter does no wrong by simply going to the Middle East. Has he not officially standing with the current administration, has he nothing to offer Hamas even if he chose to do so? He’s an old man who knows more about the region than just like the Rice and Obama. He wants peace. His methods differ, but they aren’t sinisters, they aren’t, and they won’t weaken our nation or its position. In fact, if used more often, it’s safe to say they would have a good chance of improving it.

Brianna Rodriguez

Do we get as much from our military action as we could ever have?

We used some of it, but not enough. It never hurts to be diplomatic.

Stephanie Korn

Justice delayed is justice denied.

When was the last time you read a book? How about when you were last in a library? As we approach the 15th anniversary of the crime, we can only hope that the West Memphis Three will be granted another day in court — this time, I pray, for justice.

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I don’t think rice and Obama are in error. Carter does no wrong by simply going to the Middle East. Has he not officially standing with the current administration, has he nothing to offer Hamas even if he chose to do so? He’s an old man who knows more about the region than just like the Rice and Obama. He wants peace. His methods differ, but they aren’t sinisters, they aren’t, and they won’t weaken our nation or its position. In fact, if used more often, it’s safe to say they would have a good chance of improving it.
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush called for a halt Wednesday in the growth of greenhouse gases by 2025, saying the nation must act immediately to prevent environmental damage. He also said the world needs a push for developing cleaner and more efficient energy technologies. And he warned against legislation that would result in “late, insufficient, and ineffective “late, insufficient, and ineffective” pollution reductions.

Bush said his environmental program would encourage clean and efficient energy technologies. And it would encourage development of new energy sources such as corn and other biofuels, and some policies aimed at increasing energy efficiency standards, as well as long-term goals to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.

He said he envisions a comprehensive blend of market incentives and a “binding international agreement” to reduce serious climate change. He said he was ready to commit to “a comprehensive strateg...
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Thursday, April 17, 2008

For Varner, progress is step by step

An appearance in the NCAA championships as a freshman hasn’t left HawkEye Ray Varner content – he’s changing his technique to get even better.

By Charlie Kautz

THE DAILY IOWAN

Ray Varner practices hurdles at the Crotsenmeyer Track on Tuesday, Varner who is working to implement a new technique and style in his premier event has already become a regional qualifier in the 400-meter hurdles. He will compete in the HawkEye Invitational on Saturday.

Injuries cloud spring

With their strong core of returning athletes, the Hawkeye baseball team is second in the Big Ten.

By Charlie Kautz

THE DAILY IOWAN

IOWA VICTORY

Baseball wins fourth straight

The Hawkeye baseball team straightened out the struggling offense to beat Creighton in Omaha, 9-3, to win the Big Ten’s first straight victory.

Freshman Zach Kanyon gave up one hit through his four innings, picking up his first career victory.

- By Dave Funnekotter

RECRUITING

Lickletter signs two more

First-year men’s basketball assistant coach Jason Lickliter announced Wednesday that the Hawkeyes have signed two committed junior-college players.

Fuller has played for two junior-college programs.

- By Dave Funnekotter

Iowa Hawkeye men’s basketball player and former Iowa prep standout Devin Thomas.
The Hawkeyes believe they can break records in those events, as Cappos said.

"I think from within the team, everyone wants to see as many as 20 qualify for the championships — as much as I can when I jump high and widen my strides. It's been hurting me these last few days, but is poised to finish strong." Curtis Kleffman, the team's all-arounder, said.

Big Ten-level athlete or Big Ten contender, you have to prove yourself prior to the championships. We're focusing on the Big Ten championships more than NCAA championships, but you get to prove yourself to get to that level," Iowa head coach Tom Dunn said.

"Right now, we only have a handful of our regional qualifiers. I think we expect more regional qualifiers out of this meet and more guys climbing up the ranks nationally. An All-American honor this week would add to the already-portentous season."

"I think from within the team, there's a lot of enthusiasm and excitement for those events," Cappos said.

"This will be the last meet that we go for to see if we can do a lot of those things. So there's a lot of enthusiasm and excitement for those events," Cappos said.

"We're trying to give guys an opportunity to get better," field coach Larry Wieczorek said. "If I can get things just right (at practice) that he would be able to do at least what he last year." Bugman.

That's what tore it, that shoulder had been nagging what was almost a lost season for him. In the other three he did step in and consider yourself a Big Ten-level athlete or Big Ten championship contender, you have to prove yourself prior to the championships. We're focusing on the Big Ten championships, but you've got to prove yourself to get to that level," Iowa head coach Tom Dunn said.

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SPORTS

Some questions at the Summit

**SPRING FOOTBALL**

**RUNNING BACKS CONTINUED FROM 1B**

“It would be a good idea for a guy who could give us 1,600 yards a season, we’d take that and put it all in our roster,” he joked. “In a perfect world, you’d love to have an All-Big Ten performer returning for these years.”

Unfortunately for Ferentz, things are far from perfect on a backfield depth chart that remains about as certain as a lottery ticket in mid-April.

While the redhead freshman and special-teams veteran O’Meara has taken most of the first-team repetitions in formal spring practice, the coaching staff had also been pleased with Murphy’s effort prior to his suffering a back injury last week.

Establishing himself as the early favorite to become the team’s No. 1 back next fall, O’Meara’s hard-nosed running and every-down attitude were praised by Ferentz this week.

“Fokke’s a guy who has done a real nice job out there,” Ferentz said. “He’s a guy who’s consistent and has done a really nice job I think he’s practiced well and improved.

“He’s our starter come September. What it may be there that last Saturday, then we’ll go with him and have a lot of confidence.

As a result of Murphy’s injury setback, Gilliard, a junior-college transfer from Coffeyville, Kan., slid up to the No. 2 spot on the depth chart, and his condition scrimmage—a move that should give Iowa few good looks at a player who has remained mostly unknown to the public." Saying Gilliard is a guy who, like you’d expect, he’s got a good

**FOOTBALL CONTINUED FROM 1B**

It’s like a lot of things in this spring. It goes one day good, one day bad, or one guy’s better than the other— that type of thing. I think all three of those quarterbacks are making progress, and we’ll probably keep an open mind about it right through August.

Another group touched on the secondary, where Ferentz put it Wednesday, what you see is what you get. With shoulder surgery sidelining cornerback and returning Jordan Bernstine, the Hawkeyes have shuffled all their available active players to compensate— even moving returning starting safety Harrelsonfulfilling the void left by the departure of Adam Band

**QB, DBs up in air**

Varner is making more and more toward that world-class stride pattern with the technique changes he’s currently undergoing.

“I think it’s a sign of progress for Ray in that he’s got to make some changes in his approach, he’s got to go faster,” Wiesniewski said. “Maybe he’s tapped out with his current stride pattern. Now, it’s probably going to be Ray pretending that he’s comfortable with it and pretending to be a world-class runner.

With just two weeks before Saturday’s scrimmage at Kinnick Stadium.

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And although position battles are a mainstay of spring practice nationwide, the big story will be how the Hawkeyes are able to cope with a combined 12 injury-related issues this off-season.

Among those Ferentz listed was coping with soreness in his hip. Of the five new injuries reported, only Streis is expected to see action during Saturday’s scrimmage.

“… But all that being said, no matter what he’s doing, it’s been a positive first three weeks of spring camp,” Ferentz said on Monday. “I think it’s a sign of progress for Ray in that he’s got to make some changes in his approach, he’s got to go faster,” Wiesniewski said. “Maybe he’s tapped out with his current stride pattern. Now, it’s probably going to be Ray pretending that he’s comfortable with it and pretending to be a world-class runner.

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Hawks hope to advance

Senior Gymnasts

By Lars Headington

The Iowa men’s gymnastics team will travel to Stanford, Calif., this weekend, ready to battle the best squads in the country.

The ninth-ranked Hawkeyes, who are currently fourth in the Big Ten standings, are prepared to face the third-ranked Stanford Cardinal and No. 11 California Golden Bears. Despite Stanford’s overwhelming strength, 10 champion Ohio State toTen champion Ohio State to...
Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 19): Business will help you keep things in perspective today. A focus on your financial picture or emotional matters into the picture, so all plans are well thought through. Do not expect chaos. Small overreactions, or take on others' responsibilities.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Good cycles will allow you to take things as you make them. This is no time to be overly ambitious in a new grant. Opportunity is there for those who take the time to do it right.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Put in a little extra time and effort as on. It will make it easier to come to some conclusion. If you must act today, do so with caution, it will not help you to compromise. As opening up a growth you will need to keep the pressure on.

Leo (July 23-August 22): Today your energies are strong and you are in a great position to get things done. Be careful not to be overbearing, however, or you will not get the results you want from others.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep your head on to keep your emotions in check, especially when dealing with someone you might not know. You have to go out on a limb, but will not regret the commitment. As opening up a group you will need to keep the pressure on.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You have been working hard and are about to reach a new level. You are in a great position to move forward and make progress.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may not be totally sure of what others might do, but if you follow your heart and act on your feelings, you will come out on top. When it comes to partnerships or personal matters, you don't have to go overboard to win, but it will help to compromise. An opening in a group you wish to join looks promising.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You have a lot of reasons to feel good today. It will make a difference to your personal and professional life, if you can keep it up.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep your head on and don't get involved socially with your colleagues or authority figures. It will help to compromise. As opening up a group you will need to keep the pressure on.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep your head on and don't get involved socially with your colleagues or authority figures. If you can keep it up, you will come out on top. When it comes to partnerships or personal matters, you don't have to go overboard to win, but it will help to compromise. An opening in a group you wish to join looks promising.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You may not be totally sure of what others might do, but if you follow your heart and act on your feelings, you will come out on top. When it comes to partnerships or personal matters, you don't have to go overboard to win, but it will help to compromise. An opening in a group you wish to join looks promising.

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Spoons, swirlers, bubblers, and chillums all help make up the world of glass pipes. With their art and science straddling legal and perceptual lines, some glass blowers strive for legitimacy in the Iowa City community.

By Cole Cheney

Eyeing the pipe shop, sometimes known as a head shop, the not-so-savvy buyer is naïve and maybe nervous. The store defies the commercial mold internally and externally, dodging mainstream ideology and mentality. The unfamiliarity renders the shopper unsettled while he approaches the Wal-Mart antithesis. Carefully strolling past an Ethiopian restaurant and entering his intended location, the first-time purchaser oevr two puppy wrestling and approaches the counter cautiously. Little does the novice understand that Iowa City has several stores that sell beautiful pipes crafted by local glassblowing experts eager to dispute any illegal connotations that surround their craft.

The purchaser analyzes the owner, who, just as on any other day of the week, calmly lights up a cigarette; the flame matches the owner’s neon tattoo silhouetting up her arm. Thrashing experimental rock blares over the speakers, cruising over the clothing rack and intensifying the scene.

Then, the mystique falls to the wayside. “Hey, whatcha looking for?” says Kelly Stucker, the proprietor of the smoking-accessory shop the Konnexion, 114 1/2 E. College St. She appears to be eager to converse. As the novice stammers, the owner’s eyes light up, bouncing around the store. Yanking green and swirling spoon-shaped pipes out from under the display and thrusting red water-pipes toward the customer to analyze the texture, it seems that a blindfold would hardly impair her efforts to find the exact piece to complement the buyer’s personality.

While the expert interacts with the purchaser, analyzing his every word, she casually slides the first piece the buyer eyed toward her side. She always separates the first one (buyers come back to it). The buyer makes a decision, and the vendor delicately wraps the item in starchy brown paper. Small talk arises over a few strokes behind a puppy’s ears from the buyer, and then the transaction is complete. Buyer’s remorse: nonexistent. As for seller’s remorse: Her smile says it all.

With thousands of these scenes occurring every year, the world of glassblowing occupies an odd commercial niche. One of the last few vocations taught in the classroom, the job means hours spent with 2,400-degree torches, twirling and exhaling — most often for meager incomes. Living in an era in which even Bob Dylan appears in commercials and Iowa City sports a Starbucks, glass blowing is a final refuge for the passionate, the brilliant, and the yet to sell-out.

It is this expertise that leads to one unanimous thought among blowers and sellers alike: The approaching “holiday” on 4/20 — the unofficial marijuana smoker’s day of celebration — undermines the passion, art, and legitimacy of the effort that goes into each piece that they create, be it marbles, jewelry, or pipes.

In an effort to bridge the gap between the blower and connoisseur, Stucker has transformed a borderline version of the Konnexion into a successful bohemian-style store after purchasing the shop from its previous owner. Always casual, always ecstatic to be working, always with cigarette in hand and canine in tow, Stucker thrust herself into the glass industry with a devotion equal to that of the local artisans blowers.

“People still walk in occasionally and hand me a dollar bill, which the old owner required upon entry,” Stucker said, referring to the previous proprietor’s odd practice meant to deter casual shoppers.

**SEE GLASS BLOWING, 5C**
While it might be nice to look for smooth reggae sounds somewhere in Jamaica, audiences don’t have to go that far away. Tonight, Downpour rock-reggae-hop-top band Rude Punch come to the Yacht Club with some island sounds and a City Jazz sensibility.

Friday 4.18

MUSIC
“Jazz on the Rocks,” 7 p.m., Englert Theatre, 221 E. Washington St.
“Jazz in the Quad,” 7 p.m., Clapp Recital Hall
“Jazz on the Rocks,” 7 p.m., Englert Theatre, 221 E. Washington St.
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The outrage of power

Meredith Alexander, the director of the University Theatres Mainstage Production Tartuffe, aims to bring back some of the outrage and passion the play originally sparked, with a new translation and relevant social commentary.

By Whitney Warne

Tartuffe is a religious man with good intentions. He is also a power-hungry liar. Slipping into the good graces of a French head of household, he remains unchallenged, running the show until one of the more observant members of the family has the nerve to pull up. But is that too much to ask of the individual? French playwright Molière’s 1664 representation of power run amuck still rings true in the political and religious landscapes of today, asking: Are the people in power in it for the community or themselves? How often do we sit passively when change is needed?

Originally performed for King Louis XIV at the palace of Versailles, Tartuffe was written in French, for the French, by the French. But today, the translation with the assistance of MFA dramaturgy student Kate Shipa, who oversees the process. "A lot of times when doing something classical, (dra- maturgy) are looking out for the playwright’s intentions as well as the translator." Shipa said.

In the time of Molière, all French plays were written in verse, with this play consisting of 12 syllables, making a perfect translation almost impossible. "Some of the sentences (Pascal’s words) are inverted, but no translator has ever kept to the same metre,” Shipa said. “It’s more of a concern to the rhythm and rhyme. But these inverted sentences create a challenge for the actors.” Alexander and Shipa agree that Pascal’s final product is much closer to the original. And with its clevered hilarity and outrageousness, both are hoping a strong conversation ensues.

Alexander chose Tartuffe specifically for this election year because the play raises many issues about power — who is in power, whether they deserve that power, and if they are making decisions for themselves or the people they supposedly serve. She hopes a dialogue will start among members of the community.

"The leaders in our culture speak a language that makes us believe the decisions they are making are for society and the greater good,” Alexander said. "But really, they are ensuring the continued power for the individual. The only way people get to and attain power is by people admitting."
The truth is that these stores operate in no weird legal terms. If any shop were shut down, it would be because of illegal activity from the employees. Selling these products is not under any form of scrutiny.

—Troy Kelso, Iowa City police

Finally, the piece is either128 carbonized, polished, or set to rest while an additional piece to be “blown” is cut and added. Sometimes glass blowers create small pipes, merely round glass tubes to smoke from. Venturing outside of this realm, they create some simple poetry color and uniform patterns. tiny and plain. The drink stirring rods with mice up by an ounce or more will be carefully watched by the Thieves.

Then there are the mam-

travel more. Spend less

Customer at the Konnexion watch while owner Kelly Stucker gives her dogs, Bruno and Ivy, a treat on Monday. The Konnexion is a smoking-accessory shop located on College Street.

Blowing in the Glass

GLASS BLOWING

CONTINUED FROM 1C

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The truth is that these stores operate in no weird legal terms. If any shop were shut down, it would be because of illegal activity from the employees. Selling these products is not under any form of scrutiny.

—Troy Kelso, Iowa City police

Finally, the piece is either128 carbonized, polished, or set to rest while an additional piece to be “blown” is cut and added. Sometimes glass blowers create small pipes, merely round glass tubes to smoke from. Venturing outside of this realm, they create some simple poetry color and uniform patterns. tiny and plain. The drink stirring rods with mice up by an ounce or more will be carefully watched by the Thieves.

Then there are the mam-

travel more. Spend less

Customer at the Konnexion watch while owner Kelly Stucker gives her dogs, Bruno and Ivy, a treat on Monday. The Konnexion is a smoking-accessory shop located on College Street.
“Arrested Development,” Wes Anderson's comedy, “Stuff White People Like,” and “Chappelle’s Show” all assume that we can laugh at the racial tropes in our net-so-distant past. But as long as there are the Iowan 6, the concept of being “black enough,” and hate crimes happening in liberal-bender playgrounds such as Iowa City, I refuse to believe we’re really just kidding about stereotyping different ethnicities. Who cares? at the white people. As the most-astute readers can see, the blog isn’t all-encompassing: the blog exhaustively covers issues in favor of the blog is an eventful day for this un-Louisian: My main problem with “Stuff White People Like” is how it accepts the notion that “Stuff White People Like” is how it is written by White People Like” is written by the mostly white blog full of exactly what it sounds like: entries devoted to the things I didn’t understand her experience.”by the mostly white bloggers who are endlessly annoyed by my...