

# The Daily Iowan

Thursday, May 8, 2008

NEWSPAPER •  DAILYIOWAN.COM • TELEVISION

50¢

## Grad tiff gets heard

Members of the Graduate Student Senate present resolution after six months of silence.

By Lauren Sieben

THE DAILY IOWAN

A six-month battle over censorship and sexism came to a head Wednesday night, after two history-department senators in the UI Graduate Student Senate alleged that their opposition to a bar crawl last fall resulted in a backlash from male senators.

Caroline Campbell and Karissa Haugeberg wrote a letter to the editor of *The Daily Iowan* in October 2007 with fellow graduate student Christy Clark to express their disapproval of a Graduate Student Senate bar crawl. Both say they received negative feedback from male senators after the letter's publication.

SEE GRADUATE, 4A

### Graduate History Society statement to the Graduate Student Senate

- **October 2007** — Three senators write to *The Daily Iowan*, expressing their disapproval of a Graduate Student Senate bar crawl. They allege that they received sexist and paternalistic e-mails from male senators. The Graduate History Society approved a resolution to present to the Senate in response to the alleged sexism.
- **November 2007** — The Senate executive council informs the Graduate History Society that the resolution would not be read at the November meeting.
- **November 2007 - April 2007** — The society contends it repeatedly attempted to have the resolution read in the Senate.
- **Wednesday** — Former Senate President Mike Ridge presents the resolution to the Senate.

### INSIDE

#### A writer's paradise?

University and Iowa City efforts to make our community a definitive home for the writing crowd lead to simple questions: Is creativity really in the air? And if so, what happens after Iowa? 80 Hours, 1C

#### Alexander anxious for '08 Olympics

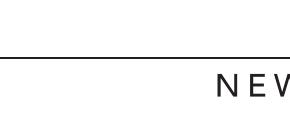
Hawkeye sprinter Kineke Alexander is anxiously awaiting the 2008 Beijing Olympics, where she'll compete as the only female track and field competitor for her home country. Sports, 1B

#### Bookin' it

The UI's Sarah Prineas talks about what it took to score a three-book deal with HarperCollins. City, 2A

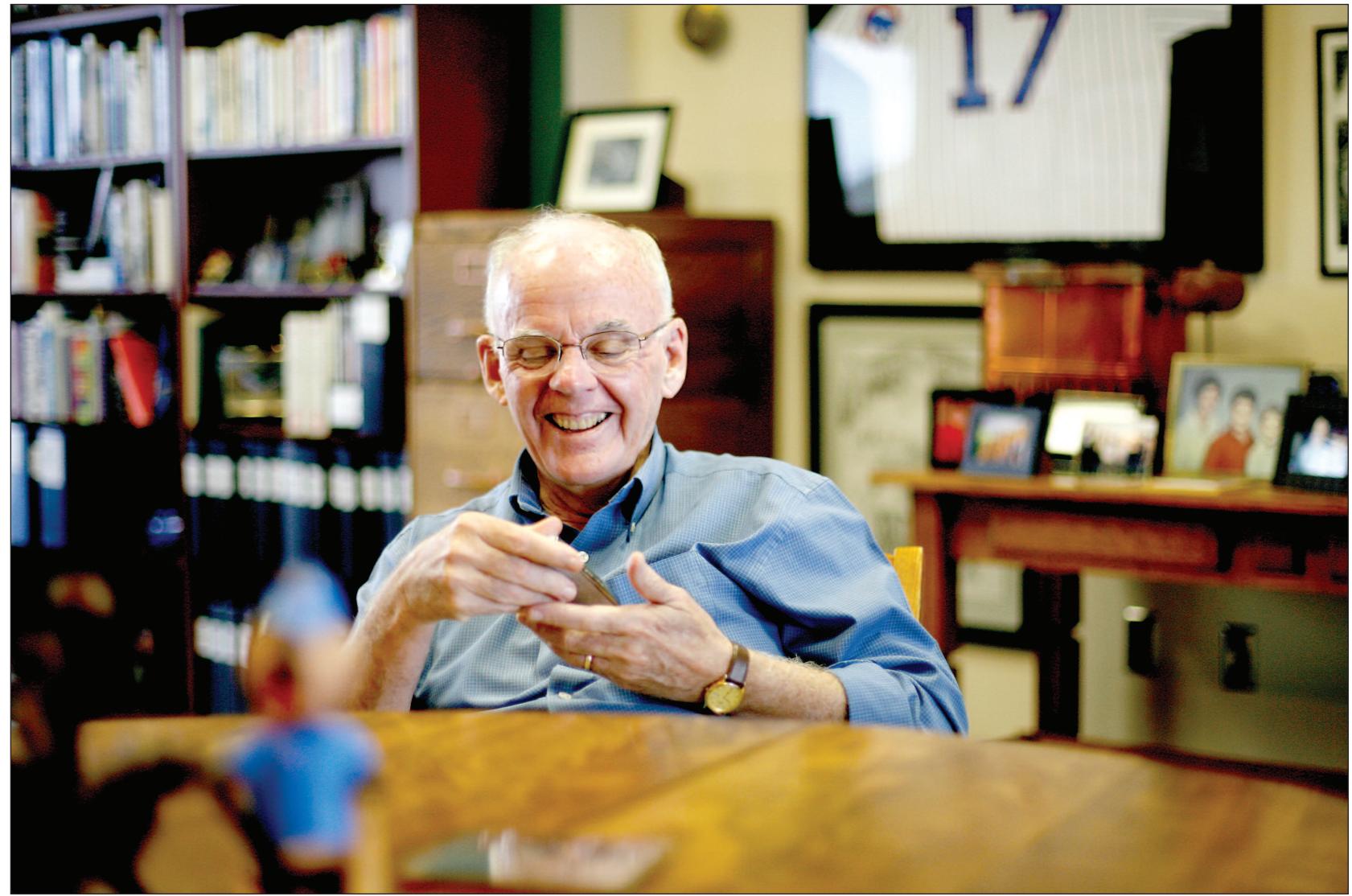
#### Staving off Gattaca

Congress deserves applause for banning discrimination based on genetic predispositions to disease. Opinions, 6A



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FIRST IN A TWO-PART SERIES



Robin Svec/The Daily Iowan

Michael Gartner gives an interview with *D*/reporter Bryce Bauer in his office at Principal Park in Des Moines on April 24. Gartner has had an extraordinary career, working, among many positions, as a Pulitzer-Prize-winning editorial writer, Page One editor of the *Wall Street Journal*, president of NBC News, and president of the Iowa Board of Regents. Gartner purchased the Iowa Cubs in 1999, and he serves as the team's chairman.

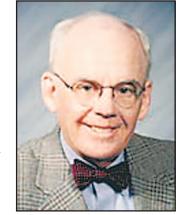
# Going his way

By Bryce Bauer • The Daily Iowan

Earlier this year, Michael Gartner relinquished his polarizing three-year-long tenure as president of the state Board of Regents. It was just the latest chapter in a life that has taken him from a teen answering phones at the *Des Moines Register* to a high-powered journalism career, followed by public service and the purchase of a minor-league baseball team. Throughout, he has left his mark on the minds of many: sometimes positively, sometimes negatively, but always memorably.

Michael Gartner appears to have but one head shot. It's the photo there, to your right. The one where he is smiling, not exuberantly, but more in an expression of passive pleasure, or at the very least, simple contentment. His head of waning white hair is slightly cocked, his signature bow-tie locks the eye.

In other places, the photo surfaces next to the author description in the back of a book he wrote about newspaper editorials, it looks on monochromatically from both the webpage of the state Board of Regents and the official site for the Pulitzer Prize, and it has been paired with countless news articles ranging from stories about the tribulations of a university's presidential search to an editorial on the death of his beloved son, Christopher.



**Gartner**  
ex-president  
of the state  
Board  
of Regents

It's the stalwart image of a man of many accomplishments, much renown, and a good deal of scorn. A native Iowan who has led a life centered on one theme: newsmaking. It's just sometimes he's the subject, others the writer, and always a self-described agent of change. Someone who — in the process of accomplishing what he believes is best — may make allies or completely enrage an entire community.

Which one? He doesn't really care.

"Prickly. Prickly. That's the way Jack Welch, who was head of GE described it: 'Michael Gartner is prickly.' I said, 'As long as it has an 'ly' on it, I'm fine,' " Gartner recalled recently. Welch, who led the company that owns NBC Universal, told *The Daily Iowan* through an assistant he would call Gartner "Smart and Prickly," not just "Prickly."

SEE GARTNER, 4A

# Jackson hearing draws protest

Friends of Vernon Jackson protest in front of the courthouse Wednesday morning.

By Danny Valentine  
and Lauren Skiba  
THE DAILY IOWAN

Around 30 protesters gathered Wednesday morning in front of the Johnson County Courthouse before the pre-trial hearing of UI student leader Vernon Jackson.

Their charge: Jackson's recent arrest for public intoxication and disorderly conduct was racially motivated.

Jackson's friends and community members protested outside at 8:30 a.m., wearing T-shirts reading "Justice4Vernon," and "Racist Police."

Since January, the former

UISG presidential candidate and Black Student Union president has had several run-ins. On Jan. 21, Jackson was charged with assault causing bodily injury outside 3rd Base, 111 E. College St. On April 3, he was charged with fourth-degree theft for allegedly failing to return bull horns. His most recent charges, on May 3, were for disorderly conduct and public intoxication.

"I've never felt like I was being targeted so much in my life," he wrote in an e-mail circulated by UI Assistant Professor Adrienne Hurley encouraging people to attend Wednesday's protest.

In that same e-mail, Hurley depicted how the May 3 arrest had occurred and urged Jackson's friends to attend the protest.

"He never got in any trouble until this year," said Anthony Battaglia, who was present at Jackson's hearing Wednesday.

Jackson was held on a \$1,000 bail, an amount his friends found suspiciously high.

But Battaglia said that Jackson's previous charges possibly accounted for his high bail. In addition to those charges, Jackson missed an April 23 court date, when he was scheduled for a pre-trial hearing.

SEE PROTEST, 4A

#### Vernon Jackson's past Iowa City charges

- Disorderly conduct and trespassing (June 24, 2007)
- Assault causing bodily injury (Jan. 21; later dropped)
- Fourth-degree theft (March 3)
- Disorderly conduct and consumption/intoxication (May 3)



**Jackson**  
sophomore



dailiyowan.com

#### Daily Iowan TV

To watch Daily Iowan TV, go online at [dailiyowan.com](http://dailiyowan.com) or tune into UTV. 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.

#### WEATHER



Partly sunny, windy.

↑ 66 °F ↓ 45 °F

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News

# Stars align for writer

Sarah Prineas of the Honors Program has a three-book deal with HarperCollins.

By Lauren Sieben

THE DAILY IOWAN

Sarah Prineas was ecstatic when publisher HarperCollins picked up her children's fantasy trilogy, but even more excited when the publisher made *The Magic Thief* one of its lead titles, pushing its release date up an entire year.

Prineas, the UI Honors Program scholarship coordinator, spoke in a presentation about book publishing Wednesday as a part of the Honors Arts Program. Her book *The Magic Thief* will be in stores June 3.

HarperCollins decided to move the release date from June 2009 to 2008 in light of international attention. The book started to turn heads across the world in 2007.

"A publisher in Italy made a pre-emptive offer on the book, and it was bigger than [HarperCollins] expected, so Harper sort of perked up its ears a little bit," Prineas said.

The publishing magnate continued to sell publishing rights to international publishers in the spring of 2007; numerous publishers in Germany and France bid for rights. In all, 11 international publishers have

## Sarah Prineas

### About her fantasy children's trilogy

- Three-book deal through HarperCollins
- First book, *The Magic Thief*, set for release June 3
- Second book set for release June 2009
- Third book set for release June 2010

bought publishing rights from HarperCollins for the book.

Prineas has also written a novel and short stories for adults, but she said she has found her niche in children's writing.

"I think I found my register, the voice that really works, and that's as a children's writer," she said. "I'll probably continue writing for children now. It pays a lot better, too — I don't really have a reason to write for adults."

She discussed the content of her book and went through a publishing timeline starting in 2005, when she wrote the first book in the trilogy.

"The publishing process is really arcane. It's a lot more complicated than you might expect to go from a stack of man-



Robin Svec/The Daily Iowan

Sarah Prineas, the scholarship coordinator for the UI Honors Program, discusses the writing and publishing of her new book, *The Magic Thief*, with students at the Blank Honors Center on Wednesday. The book, which will hit bookshelves on June 3, is the story of a boy who is drawn into a world of magic after picking the pocket of a wizard.

uscripts to a finished book," she said.

Prineas signed a three-book contract with HarperCollins. The second book in the trilogy is set to be released in June 2009 and the third in June 2010. HarperCollins offered the three-book deal after reading the first book and proposals for the following two, she said.

HarperCollins also included an "option" in Prineas' contract for the fourth and fifth books of the series. After the release of the third book, she will know whether they decide to pick up

books four and five.

Prineas said that in general, success in the publishing industry has less to do with connections and more with timing and chance.

"You can write a brilliant book, but if no one's reading books like that, no editor is going to buy it," Prineas said. "There's just sort of an alignment of the stars that has to happen. There's a lot of serendipity in getting a book published, no question about that."

E-mail DI reporter Lauren Sieben at: lauren-sieben@uiowa.edu

# Activists look to end violence

By Ben Travers

THE DAILY IOWAN

Several anti-violence activists converged on the Iowa City Public Library on Wednesday afternoon to come up with a plan to stop the recent spate of violence against women in the area.

Kristie Doser, the executive director of the Domestic Violence Intervention Program, said the goal of the meeting was to look at actions to take as a community in light of the more than 30 attacks since September 2006.

"There's been a lot of talk, and it's been successful," she said. "Now, what do you do with that conversation? That's what this is about."

Doser said she felt men and women wanted to speak after the attacks began, and meetings such as this will continue to be held so peoples' voices can be heard.

Individuals attending the "Antiviolence Initiative" meeting, hosted by members of the

program, were asked to divide into groups and write responses to questions listed at six separate tables.

One of the ideas presented by the activists was forming a men's group to act as leaders for the community and role models for children.

"I could name, off the top of my head, 10 to 12 men who are working on this issue," Doser said.

UI students are taking an interest in the issue, said Sam Cochran, the director of University Counseling Service.

Though there were no male UI students in attendance, he said, finals and the time of the meeting might have kept them away.

"I know there are a lot of young men on campus who have expressed interest [in the issue]," Cochran said.

Mary Ann Pedde, the client-advocacy services coordinator at the domestic-violence program, said she first became interested in bringing the issue to the

attention of men after seeing a brochure for a male antiviolence group at Arizona State University.

Prominent male figures in a community need to be positive role models and be able to stand up for their beliefs, she said.

"Until the male leadership begins to speak out and say, 'No more,' I think we'll still be dealing with the situation in five or 10 years," Pedde said.

The program was tailored as a response to Jackson Katz's recent lecture, which focused on the role men played in ending violence against women.

Delaney Dixon, the director of the youth and outreach program at the anti-violence program, said members wanted to take the energy generated from Katz's speech and use it to do something useful for the community.

Katz, an international author and speaker who promotes anti-sexism among males, spoke in Macbride Hall and argued that violence against women is not woman's issue but a man's issue,

## Antiviolence Initiative

### Those attending the meeting were asked to write down responses to prepared questions:

What have been successful [anti-violence] campaigns in the community?

- Nite Ride
- Iowa City Task Force on Violence Against Women

What are other campaigns or campuses/communities doing [successfully]?

- Safe walks
- Take-back-the-night rallies

Dixon said.

"There are organizations within the community who work on this [issue] every day," Dixon said. "This is an opportunity to get other people involved and bring their ideas to the table."

E-mail DI reporter Ben Travers at: benjamin-travers@uiowa.edu

## METRO

### Police seek information on 'suspicious man'

Iowa City police are seeking information about a suspicious man who reportedly motioned toward a group of children near Wood Elementary during recess Wednesday.

The school's principal reported a suspicious incident to police around 1:20 p.m., said Iowa City police Sgt. Bill Campbell.

A "father-aged" man in a white sedan with a black stripe was reportedly in the area of the school's playground. He was reported to police as white with somewhat dark skin and dark hair.

Campbell said the man blew a kiss in the direction of a couple of girls and boys and motioned one or more of them to come over. None of the students went up to the man. Campbell notes that police do not know if the man is a parent of one of the children and don't have a clear picture of what happened.

"We haven't made contact with him yet," Campbell said. "Was he

motioning to someone he knew? Someone he didn't? It's hard to know what was going on."

The incident occurred around 12:35-12:45 p.m. — 35-45 minutes before it was reported to police. The playground monitor reported the incident to the principal. Campbell said he didn't think the monitor had seen the incident.

The students' parents were notified of the event, he said.

Police have no plate information on the vehicle and were unable to locate it or the subject inside. He said police were alerted of the event but are not "actively searching" for the vehicle.

— by Clara Hogan

### Woman pleads not guilty in alleged attack

An Iowa City woman accused of attacking her boyfriend with a knife pleaded not guilty on Wednesday to five charges.

Police arrested Dameka Bryant, 33, after she allegedly chased her boyfriend around an apartment with

a 10-inch chef's knife when he attempted to leave. A witness reported that he yelled at Bryant to stop when she lunged at him, throwing rocks and yelling "I'm gonna kill you."

She then reportedly led police on a short chase throughout the apartment. Once apprehended, Bryant allegedly kicked at officers, injuring one on his right knee, according to reports.

She was charged with going armed with intent, a Class D felony, assault on peace officers and others, a serious misdemeanor, domestic-abuse assault with intent or displaying a weapon, interference with official acts causing bodily injury, and assault displaying a weapon, all aggravated misdemeanors.

Bryant's felony charge alone could net her up to five years in prison with fines of up to \$7,500. A serious misdemeanor is generally punishable by up to one year in jail and up to \$1,500 in fines, and an aggravated misdemeanor is generally punishable by up to two years in prison and up to a \$5,000 fine.

— by Olivia Moran

### Ex-inmate sues state

A former inmate at the Iowa Medical & Classification Center filed a lawsuit against the state this week, claiming he was abused during his incarceration.

Mark DeJode, address unknown, was an inmate at the medium-security prison in August 2004. His lawyer, Philip Mears of Iowa City, wrote in the suit that state employees broke one of his bones and caused a fracture in his left leg by "banging him against something."

The incident allegedly happened while DeJode was being transported to UI Hospitals and Clinics.

Mears also wrote that the state failed to provide reasonable medical care until his client was transported to a hospital four days later.

As a result, DeJode suffered from "significant pain and had to incur significant medical care," the suit read.

DeJode originally filed a tort claim with the State Appeal Board, but the claim was denied on Nov. 6, 2007.

He is demanding a jury trial.

— by Olivia Moran

## POLICE BLOTER

**Asia Boone**, 22, St. Louis, was charged Tuesday with disorderly conduct.

**Daniel Crouch**, 22, 514 S. Capitol St. Apt. 2, was charged Wednesday with disorderly conduct.

**Mark Flaherty**, 24, 2407 Petsel Place, was charged Wednesday with keeping disorderly house.

**Jacob Gruber**, 27, 2812 Muscatine Ave., was charged April 29 with driving with a suspended/canceled license.

**Rachelle Johnson**, 23, 1100 Arthur St. Apt. H3, was charged Tuesday with disorderly conduct.

**Ines Martins**, 41, 1007 Prairie Grass Lane, was charged May 2 with fifth-degree theft.

**Earl Sanders**, 47, 2722 Wayne Ave. Apt. A8, was charged Wednesday with assault causing injury.

**Andrew Worley**, 23, 203 Myrtle Ave. Apt. 312, was charged April 30 with criminal trespass.

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# 2 alums aim for kindness journey

Two UI grads are preparing for a cross-country journey on foot.

**By Rachel Weber**  
THE DAILY IOWAN

UI graduates Brian Triplett and Denny Clark, both 23, are going on an expedition this summer. Beginning May 20 along the Maine coast, the pair will trek across the nation and help strangers they meet along the way.

"We're doing random acts of kindness to people who don't really need it and might have a distorted perception about it," Clark said.

He and Triplett decided late last year to go on this trip when they were sitting together discussing the plethora of negative images in the media, Clark said.

From the coast of Maine, Clark said, they will head south along the Appalachian Trail, then west to New Orleans and toward their end point — California. They aren't purposely trying to avoid the Midwest, he said, but thought that their chosen trail would allow them to learn more about the United States and its people.

"Heading south would be a little more different from what we're used to," he said.

Other than a rough sketch of their route, Clark and Triplett said, they aren't making any certain plans for the trip.

"We're going to kind of

"We're doing random acts of kindness to people who don't really need it and might have a distorted perception about it."

— Denny Clark, UI graduate

bounce around like pinballs with the people we meet," Triplett said.

Clark said they weren't sure what sorts of things they would do to help people, but he guessed they would be doing such tasks as mowing lawns, washing cars, and other physical labor.

"Just going up to a farmhouse, we could be doing things we've never done before," he said.

The pair said they want to give a better outlook on strangers and, hopefully, allow people to regain trust in their neighbors. They also said they are very interested in the responses they'll get from the people they try to help.

"We're aware some people might be really thankful, some might be really skeptical," Triplett said.

He suggested that they would be acting as field



Recent UI graduates Denny Clark (left) and Brian Triplett (right) give a brief presentation to a Perspectives on Leisure and Play class in Van Allen Hall on Wednesday. Clark and Triplett plan to spend the summer traveling across the country performing random acts of kindness for those they meet along the way.

reporters in a way, recording the responses of the strangers they meet.

He and Clark will keep friends and family updated on their travels via their blog at <http://www.nostrangerland.blogspot.com>. Clark said they plan on updating the blog with pictures, videos, and writings two to three times each week, though admitted there might be entire weeks of silence because of accessibility.

"We want it to be a source of positive news for everyone," Triplett said.

As a graduate of the UI School of Journalism and a former *DI* staffer, Triplett said he plans to record their trip as accurately as possible.

"If we come across people, they rob us and take all our stuff, we'll write about it," he said.

Both said they were preparing by gathering gear, applying

for grants, and asking for donations to cover their expenses. Triplett said they were budgeting around \$5 per day for food and nothing for travel or lodging, expecting to walk and camp for the course of the trip. They also made business cards and T-shirts to advertise their trip, he said.

Neither of the two said they were very experienced campers.

"I'm definitely not a Boy Scout or anything," Triplett said. "I know it will be a lot more difficult than I can even imagine."

## Strangers no more

**Brian Triplett**  
• Age: 23  
• Hometown: Davenport  
• Graduated from the UI with a journalism degree  
• Has been to 25 countries on five continents

**Denny Clark**  
• Age: 23  
• Hometown: Ankeny, Iowa  
• Graduated from the UI with a business degree  
• Has a tattoo on his rear end that reads "Made in Iowa"

"Scout or anything," Triplett said. "I know it will be a lot more difficult than I can even imagine."

The trip still seems surreal to him, he said, and a little overwhelming. He has never been scared of meeting strangers, but there are still some things he's nervous about encountering along the trip, he said.

"I'm a bit afraid of snakes," he said.

Triplett and Clark hope their journey will inspire others and spread the idea of kindness across the nation. Taken from Gandhi, they have adopted the mantra "Be the change you want to see in the world."

"We're not trying to save the world; we're just trying to make it a better place," Triplett said.

E-mail *DI*/reporter **Rachel Weber** at: [r-weber@uiowa.edu](mailto:r-weber@uiowa.edu)

## STATE

### Illegal worker trial nears close

DES MOINES (AP) — An attorney for a union representative accused of protecting illegal immigrants working at a meatpacking plant in Marshalltown told a jury during closing arguments on Wednesday that his client may have said some unlikely things but wasn't guilty of any crimes.

Braulio Pereyra-Gabino was arrested by federal immigration officials in July 2007. He faces charges of harboring illegal workers, false use of a Social Security number, and aggravated identity theft. His trial in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa started Monday.

Federal prosecutors contend that from June 2003 until early last year, Pereyra-Gabino, a vice president of Local 1149 of the United Food and Commercial Workers, told undocumented workers how to escape detection and protect their fake identities used to get jobs at the Swift & Co. plant in Marshalltown.

Officials said the charges resulted, in part, because of union orientation speeches that the defendant gave to all new Swift employees of Hispanic descent.



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## News

# Gartner seen as passionate, smart



Contributed photo/Michael Gartner

**At the age of 15, Michael Gartner started working at the *Des Moines Register*, where his father was an editor. He returned in 1974 and eventually became the paper's editor and president before trying to purchase newspaper — the bid failed, and the *Register* was instead purchased by Gannett, where Gartner later worked.**

**GARTNER**

CONTINUED FROM 1A

**On to public service  
in Iowa**

Therefore, it seems fitting that when he was appointed to his recently completed stint as president of the regents in 2005 — a job for which he gained much notoriety in Iowa City — the nine-member governing body of the state's universities was marred by controversy.

In January of that year, John Forsyth, the former regents' president had just resigned — along with two others — amid allegations of conflict-of-interest. UI Hospitals and Clinics was renegotiating its reimbursement contract with Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, of which Forsyth happened to be (and still is) chairman and CEO.

So then-Gov. Tom Vilsack tapped Gartner to fill one of the vacancies.

Vilsack is in the ally category of Gartner's acquaintances. They first met in the late 1980s over lunch at Vilsack's Mount Pleasant, Iowa, home on the recommendation of a *Des Moines Register* political columnist who invited Gartner to come and meet "the next governor of the state of Iowa." At the time Vilsack was still mayor of that southeast Iowa town, but Gartner continued to follow the politician's career as he ascended to state senator and eventually became Iowa's 40th governor in 1999.

Reflecting now on why he originally chose Gartner for the regents' post, Vilsack said: "I thought he was very intelligent,

'You may think he did great things or not great things, but he did a lot of work to forward the state of Iowa.'



— **Teresa Wahlert, former member of the state Board of Regents and former UI Presidential Search Committee chairwoman**

obviously. He understood the significant role universities are going to play in the economic development of the state."

Vilsack already knew Gartner could oversee a large project. The new Democratic governor had previously appointed Gartner (also a Democrat) to serve as the first chairman of the Vision Iowa board, which was charged with doling out millions of state dollars to help Iowa communities attract tourists.

Gartner counts his time on that board as one of his proudest accomplishments, despite telling his wife before taking the position: "I just agreed to do something for Vilsack, and when it is all over, three people in the state are going to be happy and 500,000 are going to be pissed off."

"But as it turned out, we ran it in a way that we stretched the money far more than anybody thought we could. We didn't give the money where everybody assumed we would give the money. They thought we would

be easy; we were very, very tough," Gartner said. "As a fellow board member said, we were equal-opportunity pricks."

In fact, he said the Vision Iowa program was one of the best initiatives the state had taken during his lifetime.

"[Gartner] just had a remarkable capacity to figure out how to solve problems," Vilsack said earlier this year.

So shortly after he joined the regents, the board unanimously voted him into the presidency position vacated by Forsyth.

Gartner recalls the transition with mixed feelings, saying Forsyth's departure was a "real loss to the university system and state."

"I think it was an unfortunate event. I think John was a very good regent and a very good president of the regents."

But Gartner said he was excited about taking the post. "I thought it would be interesting," he said.

It was.

During his tenure as regent leader — he stepped down at the beginning of this year, although he's scheduled to remain on the board until 2011 — he participated in tussles with the state Legislature on funding, discussions over continually rising tuition, and two presidential searches. To a public eye, at least, each issue seemed to come with some sort of conflict. And to this day, the one that sticks most solidly in many people's minds is the search for a new president of the UI.

**Iowa City conflict**

On Jan. 21, 2006, then-UI President David Skorton, who had previously pledged to retire in Iowa City, announced he

would instead move to take the top position at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

Many saw his departure as further fallout from the Wellmark controversy of the previous year — a few months after that dispute ended, the regents met to approve pay increases for all three university presidents. The result: Gregory Geoffroy at Iowa State University received a 5 percent boost, as did Robert Koob at the University of Northern Iowa; Skorton, however, saw just a 3 percent bump in his paycheck.

"I thought President Skorton was treated unfairly by the board, and my principal regret from the time that I've been on the board was that in August of 2005, when his compensation was reviewed, I didn't take a public stand on it at that time.

I've acknowledged that was an error," said Regent Robert Downer, referring to what he calls Skorton's "woefully inadequate" pay increase. Skorton had initiated the contract renegotiation with Wellmark in January 2005.

(Skorton declined, through an assistant, to be interviewed for this article).

Downer said there have probably been more disagreements between Gartner and him than between any two other regents during the Iowa City lawyer's five-year term on the board, including a time as interim president.

Despite his opposition to pay differences, Downer justified his vote by saying he was simply trying to project the board as a united front — something that he believes was important to Gartner.

"I think he feels he is certainly a strong — and I think dynamic — leader, and this I think puts

**What they think**

**Michael Gartner stepped down earlier this year as president of the state Board of Regents after three years. Here's what members of the Iowa City community have to say about him:**



'My sense is if he believes in you, trusts you, he leaves you alone.'

— **UI President Sally Mason**

'I very much like him personally and professionally.'



I felt he was a very smart person who asked tough questions, probing questions — he has an edge to him, which I think is energizing. Other people found it not-so-energizing. I always enjoyed my interactions with him.'

— **UI Professor and former-UI interim President Gary Fethke**



'He was very intense, very organized. I think he has developed a good relationship with the regents, and clearly, he was an extremely intelligent man.'

— **former-UI Student Government President Barrett Anderson**



'On balance, he contributed to moving our public universities forward. Certainly, he had his challenges in Iowa City around the selection of a new university president. I wish that would've gone better.'



'I don't want to go there.'

— **UI psychology Professor Michael O'Hara, the president of the Faculty Senate**

more emphasis, more strength behind what the board is doing as opposed to when there is a split vote," Downer said.

It's a point that makes sense for a man whose career has been devoted to running businesses, writing poignantly, and arguing his opinion.

Those who know Gartner describe him as someone who brings a strong passion to whatever he chooses to do and approaches issues with a robust appetite for information. When he figures out what he wants, he goes for it.

"Michael is a guy whose world is black and white. He has definite views on what is right and wrong," said Troy McCullough, an interactive news writer with the *Wall Street Journal Online* who started working under Gartner at the Ames *Daily Tribune* in the late-1990s. "If you screwed up, he was going to tell you you screwed up."

Gartner was, nonetheless, gentle with the *Tribune's* reporters, he added.

When Gartner and two others bought the *Tribune* in 1986, he was investing in a state he loved and the one where he procured

his passion for the profession that pulses through his veins.

Gartner's father, Carl Gartner, was the editor of the *Register*, where young Gartner started working at the age of 15, answering phones and writing minor sports stories.

"He always seemed like a happy guy, and I thought, 'Boy this is pretty neat,'" Gartner said about his father, who died in 2004. "I always assumed I would go into newspapers."

This experience launched a career that would take him to the *Journal* as the Page-One editor, make him president of NBC News, and allow him to become the general news executive at Gannett Co. and *USA Today* before eventually purchasing the *Tribune*. The Ames paper became his "little journalism school" and forum for Pulitzer-Prize-winning editors.

Yet, when he came to head the regents, he had never directed an agglomeration of academics before.

E-mail *D*/reporter Bryce Bauer at bryce-bauer@uiowa.edu

# Resolution finally heard

**GRADUATE**

CONTINUED FROM 1A

"When we expressed that dissent, we received e-mails that were very paternalistic and mocking," Campbell said. "The e-mails were so demeaning that we felt compelled to write this resolution."

Campbell and Haugeberg said the backlash they received was sexist because it came only from male members of the Senate.

Their resolution includes a citation from an e-mail in which Sen. Aaron Sachs allegedly wrote, "I might expect [this] from people lacking in critical thinking skills," and, "I would hope that people at our level of education have moved beyond such simplistic assertions."

The resolution presented Wednesday night condemned senators who

responded negatively to the letter and urges the Senate to refer to guidelines set by the Office of Student Life explaining why student organizations cannot sponsor bar crawls.

Although the Graduate History Society voted to present the statement last November, the group delayed numerous times because, according to Campbell and Haugeberg, then-Sen. and Senate President Mike Ridge failed to comply with the resolution's demand that a senator or proxy representing the history graduate students to read the statement.

"The idea that he didn't know that he was supposed to read it is blatantly false," Haugeberg said. "He voted on this resolution. He voted against it, but he was completely aware of it. We thought we were being friendly to him by having

this proxy provision."

The proxy provision would have allowed Ridge to select another speaker to present the resolution to the Senate.

"We thought it might be embarrassing for Mike to condemn his own actions in front of the body that he presides over, so we gave him an out," Haugeberg said.

Ridge declined to comment.

Although Campbell and Haugeberg said that the Senate's sponsorship of a bar crawl was their initial concern, the body approved an addendum to the minutes document for its October 2007 meeting. The addendum states that, "In accordance with the guidelines set by the UI, it is important to inform the Graduate Student Senate body and the university community that the Senate is not an official sponsor of this event, nor does it have any official

relationship with it."

Campbell and Haugeberg maintain that the group sponsored the bar crawl through both listserv e-mails and on its website.

Ridge presented the resolution in a Senate meeting Wednesday night. Campbell and Haugeberg say they are relieved that their message is out and that incoming Senate President Tim Paschkevitz is taking over for Ridge.

"I believe there was a massive breakdown of communication," Paschkevitz said. "I'm moving forward with a positive attitude, and I'm not going to dwell on the past."

Paschkevitz said he looks forward to meeting with Campbell and Haugeberg and bringing complete closure to the issue.

E-mail *D*/reporter Lauren Sieben at lauren-sieben@uiowa.edu

# Rally protests Jackson hearing

**PROTEST**

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Iowa City police and jail officials were unable to comment late Wednesday night and directed all calls to the Johnson County Courthouse.

Battaglia, a UI sophomore, said another problem is that Jackson is frequently targeted by bouncers.

"We've been at one bar, and he will be kicked out for wearing a do-rag, but we'll go to another bar and I will wear it, and as a white guy, I get in," he said. "Then we switch, and he gets kicked out again."

Jackson, 21, ran for student government president this year but was not elected; he served as the Black Student Union president during the spring 2007 and fall 2008.

Although Battaglia was invited to protest Wednesday morning, he instead met with Jackson and stayed with him for the beginning of the hearing, where he was told he might serve as a witness for Jackson. Dozens of protesters surrounded the front of the courthouse, and at least five accompanied Jackson into the building.

"He seemed pretty cool," Battaglia said. "He was waiting for his lawyer, and we were talking about basketball."

Battaglia was informed later that the assault charge had been dropped and Jackson was free to go.

"All the protesters were good friends who were talking to him, people I haven't even seen before and I'm with the guy all the time," Battaglia said.

E-mail *D*/reporter Lauren Skiba at lauren-skiba@uiowa.edu

# State gets Walsh grant

The Iowa Sex Offender Registry could soon provide more detailed information for the public.

By Olivia Moran  
THE DAILY IOWAN

Nearly \$270,000 allocated to the state last month will allow modifications to Iowa's Sex Offender Registry, which officials are also working toward making compliant with a federal law.

Despite receiving a \$269,450 grant through the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act — which went into effect in 2006 — Steven Conlon, assistant director with the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, said the state's registry still fails to follow certain requirements.

For example, an Iowa sex offender must stay on the list for at least 10 years, but the Walsh Act suggests the minimum registration duration be 15 years, Conlon said. Iowa legislators are aware of the changes that need to be made, he said, and the efforts in making the state's registry compliant will be incorporated into upgrading the system.

"We're trying to use the available money to enhance the operational aspects of the registry through the use of the new technology that's available," Conlon said.

The Iowa Sex Offender Registry currently provides an offender's address and birth date and physical details such as ethnicity, height, weight, hair color, eye color, and any type of markings. Under the Walsh Act, sheriffs would be required to collect more information about the registrant that could include, for example, which car an offender drives and employment information.

But Johnson County Sgt. Raquel Wray said posting even more information about an offender would only make the filing process more difficult.

"It's hard as the way it is trying to get what little we do get," she said.

Conlon said one of the biggest goals would be to transform the filing process into an electronic one. Now, sex offenders manually complete a form and mail it to the office.

A web-based system would post information the same day it is filed, "versus now, it may take a minimum of several days to get the information here and re-entered into the system," Conlon said.

A July 2006 press release from the White House said the Walsh Act would also integrate registry information from all 50 states, ensuring that "law enforcement has access to the same information across the U.S." Conlon said integration of information would provide some sort of uniformity that would prevent offenders from moving from state to state undetected.

Luckily, he said, Iowa's registry provides some of the most comprehensive information. The registry, which is updated every day, shows 149 registered offenders who were convicted in Johnson County, compared with 291 convicted in Linn County and 663 in Polk County.

E-mail D/reporter Olivia Moran at: olivia-moran@uiowa.edu

## Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006

The Adam Walsh Act was created 25 years after the child of John Walsh — now the TV host of "America's Most Wanted" — disappeared in a shopping mall in Florida. The bill provides more detailed information about sex offenders and requires them to update information of their whereabouts more regularly.

Source: "America's Most Wanted" website

# Measles draws concerns

Measles is not just a mild childhood disease. Health officials call for immunizations.

By Zhi Xiong  
THE DAILY IOWAN

Measles may sound outdated, like polio or smallpox, but a recent outbreak in the United States prompts another look.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recorded 64 cases between Jan. 1 and April 25. At least eight more cases appeared in the last week.

"This isn't a mild childhood disease," said Patricia Quinlisk, medical director of the Iowa Department of Public Health.

The virus is extremely contagious and easily spread by sneezing, coughing, and sharing food. Though its symptoms are similar to those of a cold or influenza, up to 5 percent of people can die, namely from such complications as pneumonia and brain inflammation.

None of the 64 confirmed cases have been fatal, though 14 people were hospitalized.

"I'd want the doctor who thinks he or she has a patient with measles to call public health immediately, even if it's 3 o'clock in the morning," Quinlisk said. "Don't wait until 8 o'clock."

The disease was declared eliminated in the United States in 2000. That means measles is no longer prevalent in this country, but it can still be brought in from other places. Ten of the 64 patients were Americans traveling abroad or visitors to the United States.

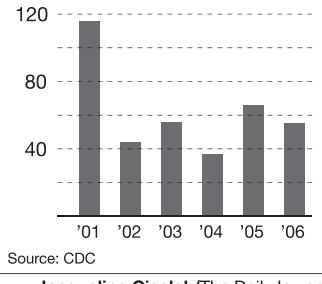
## Measles count

Between Jan. 1 and April 25, there have been 64 documented cases of measles in the United States. There was a similar-sized outbreak in 2001, with 116 cases.

### Cases by state

New York	23
Arizona	15
California	12
Michigan	4
Wisconsin	4
Hawaii	3
Illinois	1
Pennsylvania	1
Virginia	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>

### Total cases by year



Source: CDC

Jacqueline Cieslak/The Daily Iowan

One caveat is that people can easily contract the virus in health-care settings, and it can linger for hours after a patient leaves. In a chilling anecdote, Quinlisk noted a physician who contracted the virus from walking past an infected child and spent days in intensive care from complications.

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## Measles

### Not so mild

• Symptoms include high fever, cough, and rash. Serious complications are pneumonia and brain inflammation

- 14 of the 64 measles patients around the nation in the first 17 weeks of 2008 were hospitalized
- Up to 5 percent fatality rate
- Complications include pneumonia and encephalitis
- Before measles vaccines were available, 3 million to 4 million people in the United States caught the virus each year
- Some of them suffered chronic disability from measles encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Besides these precautions, those who do get exposed can immediately receive a dose of the vaccine. If done quickly, there is a good chance they will not get sick, Quinlisk said.

Today, about 96 percent of kindergartners have their measles immunizations — the vaccine is said to be 99 percent effective.

Of the 64 cases on record, one person had known documentation of receiving both doses of the vaccine, but still fell ill because the vaccine didn't take.

Experts say even a high vaccination rate is not a safety net. Measles is an exception to "herd immunity," in which a small minority of unimmunized people in a community are protected because nearly everyone around them is vaccinated.

"You really have to have every single person immune," Quinlisk said.

According to the CDC, the primary reason for this year's

outbreak resulted from lack of vaccination. While some of the infants were too young for the routine vaccination schedule, many cases stemmed from parents' personal choice or religious reasons not to have their children immunized.

Despite numerous studies showing the contrary, some are convinced that childhood vaccinations cause disorders such as autism.

UI clinical Assistant Professor of Infectious Diseases Christine Ziebold wrote via e-mail that the "vaccine is particularly 'hated' by vaccine rejecters," though she said it was not intended to be a generalization.

Since 1991, almost all Iowa children who start school were required to have two doses of the vaccine. The only exceptions are physician determined medical reasons, or religious reasons.

E-mail D/reporter Zhi Xiong at: zhi-xiong@uiowa.edu

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# Opinions

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## Editorial

# Genetic nondiscrimination bill deserves a double helix of applause

When scientists finished mapping the human genome in 2003, the fight against disease was given a major boost. Unfortunately, not every result of this work was positive.

As our understanding of human genes has improved, so too has the ability to screen for various genetic traits. This has primarily been seen in tests that determine genetic predisposition to various afflictions. The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act — approved by Congress on May 1 — will prevent employers and health-insurance companies from discriminating based on a person's genetic information. For far too long, employers and health-insurance carriers have essentially been given free rein in their attempts to seek out and then cast aside those who may be particularly vulnerable to certain diseases. With this in mind, it seems clear that the bill's only real flaw is its unfashionably late arrival.

As one would expect, the motivation for such testing comes down to cost savings. For employers, the main costs associated with sick employees are increased healthinsurance premiums. For corporations with large scale health insurance deals, the overall price of coverage is usually determined according to that corporation's medical track record. That is, if a company can reduce the amount being spent on employee health needs, the insurance carrier will often reduce the company's premium. Just as a clean driving record can bring down the price of car insurance, healthy workers are sure to leave their employers in "good hands." To

that end, businesses have a strong incentive to hire not only competent employees but healthy ones as well. Thankfully, the ability of these companies to hire healthy workers will once again be a matter of luck, as it unequivocally should be.

As a matter of economics, health-insurance companies seek out genetic information in their attempts to reduce a phenomenon known as adverse selection — in this case, the inability to distinguish among the health needs of potential clients. If genetic testing is permitted, those afflicted by — or prone to become afflicted by — certain diseases are essentially red-flagged as a result of their high-risk status.

Of course, employers may have reasons for genetic discrimination that ultimately stem from things other than health-insurance costs. Often times, certain positions that require a significant amount of training may leave employers with a strong incentive to hire employees who can remain on staff for the long haul. However, more often than not, an employer's attempt to hire healthy workers is an effort to appease its fastidious health-insurance carriers.

Lawmakers should be commended for approving the bill, despite its taking 13 attempts to finally get the ball rolling. True enough, health-insurance companies will once again be subjected to the same uncertainty that plagues insurance carriers of all sorts, imposing greater costs on the average client. But the cost of discrimination is unequivocally higher.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** may be sent via e-mail to [daily-iowan@uiowa.edu](mailto:daily-iowan@uiowa.edu) (as text, not as attachment). Each letter must be signed and include an address and phone number for verification. Letters should not exceed 300 words. The *D/I* reserves the right to edit for length and clarity. The *D/I* will publish only one letter per author per month. Letters will be chosen for publication by the editors according to space considerations. No advertisements or mass mailings, please.

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

## CORRECTION

The "On the Spot" piece in Wednesday's *D/I* misidentified Michiel Hekker as Dan Rosato, and vice versa. The *D/I* regrets the error.



## Commentary

# After the cyclone

The military rulers of Burma are brutal, repressive, incompetent, superstitious — in sum, genuinely loathsome. But now is not the moment to say so, as the White House has made a habit of doing lately. With the death toll from the worst Southeast Asian cyclone since 1991 mounting to perhaps more than 10,000, and with tens of thousands of people missing, this is the time to offer help — and to pray for the sake of the afflicted that it will be accepted.

It has been clear for more than a decade — and especially since last year's suppression of the would-be Saffron Revolution — that Burma's odious junta cannot be shamed into reform. It is too isolated and xenophobic to worry about its image, too paranoid to learn from outsiders, and too blood-drenched to believe it can survive any loosening of control over its hapless people. The contradictory combination of U.S. sanctions and an engagement strategy adopted by its neighbors has failed to produce any improvement. Attempts to use the catastrophe of Tropical Cyclone Nargis as leverage to pry open the country will almost surely fail as well.

The White House has sent mixed messages to Burma since the cyclone struck, and that could have dangerous consequences for a country whose

poverty, bad governance, and lack of infrastructure make its population particularly susceptible to disaster. On Monday, even as the U.S. Embassy in Yangon offered \$250,000 in emergency aid, first lady Laura Bush excoriated the "inept" junta for failing to warn its people of the approaching storm. She has been a courageous critic of the regime, but the timing of her démarcage was terrible.

Then on Tuesday, White House spokeswoman Dana Perino announced another \$3 million in aid and pressed for full access for relief workers, who are still waiting for visas. But on the same day, President Bush signed legislation awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi — a stick in the eye to the junta.

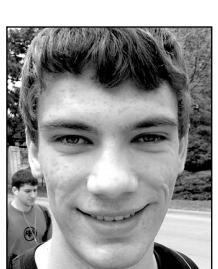
The United States should focus on getting food, water and medicine to the suffering population and save the scolding for later. And it should work behind the scenes to persuade the junta's two key enablers, India and China, both of which have major energy interests there, that a better-governed Burma is in their national and regional best interests.

This editorial appeared in Wednesday's *Los Angeles Times*.

## On the Spot

In light of the primaries on May 6, do you think Hillary Rodham Clinton should drop out of the race?

"Probably; her chances of winning are fading."



Robert Null  
UI junior

"Definitely."



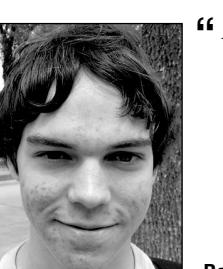
David Naylor  
UI freshman

"Yeah, probably."



Mike Desmond  
UI sophomore

"Absolutely not."



Reice Haase  
UI freshman

# Momma's boy

I'm just going to come out and say this; I'm a momma's boy. I was hooked from the word "contractions."

Sure, my mom is a mother in the traditional sense, if there's anything such as a traditional mother anymore in this crazy age. She cleaned my cuts and scrapes and made sure I ate my vegetables. She yelled at me if I didn't take a jacket and sent me to my room if I got out of line (which was most of the time).

She's something different, though. I call her "mom," and I'm of her blood, but she's more than that.



NATE WHITNEY

She's one of my wisest confidants and best friends. She's my harshest critic and my biggest supporter. She never has lost sight of what I can accomplish, while always making sure I take the time to smell the roses and enjoy what each day presents me with. And the amount of shit that she has put up with, well, it's above and beyond her job description. In fact, was she this committed to any other job she'd be labeled an infatuated workaholic. Were she this obsessed with any other person's life, she'd be accurately deemed a stalker. Were her sacrifices evidenced on a battlefield, she would be decorated with medals; instead, she is awarded with snotty noses and crayon murals on the living-room wall and, on good days, a resounding giggle or a good report card. Should she show the kind of dedication and passion in any other line of work — which is honest to God what parenting is — she'd be the CEO of her very own company, a Fortune 500 magnate, and example for the business world.

Instead of all that, she dedicates herself not to profit and publicity but good grades and good deeds. She performs the unnatural because it comes naturally, because she cares, because it's what's expected of her. That's it.

It sounds so simple, but every mom, every dad, and most kids for that matter, most who read this column know better. We know better because our moms taught us to know better.

As a single mom and a full-time student in Ames, she taught me to value what you have instead of bemoaning what you don't. When we couldn't pay the power bill it was a game; we're going to play caveman for two days. We built a fort in the living room out of couch cushions and blankets. A crisis was transformed into a bonding moment.

When she had a double date over on a Friday night, I made things interesting. With guests at the table and dinner being served I trotted out to the kitchen, a socially oblivious 4 year-old who had waited too long to pause his video game. "Mom," I cooed in front of the stunned dining crowd. "Don't get mad, but I pooped on the floor."

After begging for contact lenses for months, my parents finally gave in, and I ditched my glasses in seventh grade. The romance faded after a few weeks of having watery eyes and dealing with the cleaning and maintenance, and I stopped wearing them despite the angry warnings of two parents who had apparently wasted a couple hundred dollars. Then I was jarred back to reality one day, while sitting in math class, as I watched my mother stroll casually into the room in her fuzzy pink robe, curlers in her hair. She walked right up to me and placed my contacts case on my desk. "Honey," she calmly explained, perhaps as equal retribution for my fecal misadventure years before, "you forgot these." Among the giggles and pointed fingers a friend leaned over and asked, "Was that your mom?"

"No." I shook my head. "I dunno." I wasn't happy at the time. I was embarrassed, amazed. Now I laugh, and I understand that my mother's purpose, your mother's purpose, any mother's purpose is to mold and shape us into a representation of their work. Their affection, their teachings, their time and money (oh, the money) and sacrifice personified. A living, breathing example to the world of their love. We can be cliché monsters of a consumer-driven world and pick up a dozen long-stemmed or a box of those nasty coconut-filled chocolates. Moms don't want that; they want us to do what we're told. That's their job, no thanks necessary.

Happy Mother's Day, mom. I love you.

*D/I* columnist and editorial writer **Nate Whitney's** column this week was originally written in macaroni and glue, but the printers pitched a fit. E-mail him at: [mighty.is.the.pen@gmail.com](mailto:mighty.is.the.pen@gmail.com)

# Sleep tied to ill health

Too much, too little sleep tied to obesity, other problems in CDC study.

**By Mike Stobbe**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — People who sleep fewer than six hours a night — or more than nine — are more likely to be obese, according to a new government study that is one of the largest to show a link between irregular sleep and big bellies.

The study also linked light sleepers to higher smoking rates, less physical activity, and more alcohol use.

The research adds weight to a stream of studies that have found obesity and other health problems in those who don't get proper shut-eye, said Dr. Ron Kramer, a Colorado physician and a spokesman for the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

"The data are all coming together that short sleepers and long sleepers don't do so well," Kramer said.

The study released Wednesday is based on door-to-door surveys of 87,000 U.S. adults from 2004 through 2006 conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Such surveys can't prove cause-effect relationships, so — for example — it's not clear if smoking causes sleeplessness or if sleeplessness prompts smoking, said Charlotte Schoenborn, the study's lead author.

It also did not account for the influence of other factors, such as depression, which can contribute to heavy eating, smoking, sleeplessness, and other problems.

Smoking was highest for people who got under six hours of sleep, with 31 percent saying they were current smokers. Those who got nine or more

hours also were big puffers, with 26 percent smoking.

The overall U.S. smoking rate is about 21 percent. For those in the study who sleep seven to eight hours, the rate was lower, at 18 percent.

Results were similar, though a bit less dramatic, for obesity: Approximately 33 percent of those who slept fewer than six hours were obese, and 26 percent for those who got nine or more. Normal sleepers were the thinnest group, with obesity at 22 percent.

For alcohol use, those who slept the least were the biggest drinkers. However, alcohol use for those who slept seven to eight hours and those who slept nine hours or more was similar.

In another measure, nearly half of those who slept nine hours or more each night were physically inactive in their leisure time, which was worse even than the lightest sleepers and the proper sleepers. Many of those who sleep nine hours or more may have serious health problems that make exercise difficult.

Many elderly people are in the group who get the least sleep, which would help explain why physical activity rates are low. Those skimpy sleepers who are younger may still feel too tired to exercise, experts said.

Stress or psychological problems may explain what's going on with some of the lighter sleepers, experts said.

Other studies have found inadequate sleep is tied to appetite-influencing hormone imbalances and a higher incidence of diabetes and high blood pressure, noted James Gangwisch, a respected Columbia University sleep researcher.

# Clinton to push on

With time and her money running out, Hillary Rodham Clinton says she's sticking with her presidential run.

**By Beth Fouhy  
and Jim Kuhnhenn**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Her money draining away, her options dwindling, a resolute Hillary Rodham Clinton vowed Wednesday to press on with her presidential bid even as she and top advisers were hard-pressed to describe a realistic path for her to wrest the nomination from Barack Obama.

After a wrenching primary outcome Tuesday in which she was routed in North Carolina and barely won Indiana, Rodham Clinton made a hastily scheduled trip to West Virginia to show her determination to fight on. The state will hold a primary May 13.

"I'm so happy to be here in West Virginia and excited about the next week as we campaign here in this beautiful state about our country's future," Rodham Clinton told an audience at Shepherd University.

She planned to return to the state today, then fly to South Dakota and Oregon, which also have upcoming contests.

Also Wednesday, aides disclosed that Rodham Clinton had lent her campaign \$6.4 million since mid-April, on top of a separate \$5 million loan in February. She contributed \$5 million on April 11, \$1 million on May 1, and \$425,000 on May 5.

Spokesman Howard Wolfson said the New York senator made the investment to keep pace with Obama, who has shattered all fundraising records and vastly outspent her in recent contests. The loan also reinforced her belief that the campaign must continue, Wolfson said, suggesting she would be willing to spend more of her own wealth if necessary.

"This is a sign of her commit-



Elise Amendola/Associated Press  
Democratic presidential-nomination hopeful Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks at a fundraiser in Washington on Wednesday.

ment to this race, her commitment to this process, and her commitment to ensure the voices of her supporters are heard," Wolfson said.

Nonetheless, Tuesday's results drastically reshaped the dynamic of the campaign, positioning Obama as the all-but-certain nominee and casting Rodham Clinton as a dogged but deluded also-ran. At least one prominent Democrat, Rodham Clinton supporter and former South Dakota Sen. George McGovern, called on Rodham Clinton to quit the race. Others held back, allowing her to assess the landscape and draw her own conclusion about how

to proceed.

But at a news conference in West Virginia, the former first lady showed no sign of going anywhere. "I'm staying in this race until there's a nominee," she declared.

Rodham Clinton barely mentioned Obama but insisted, as she has throughout the race, that she would be the stronger candidate against Republican John McCain. While Obama has run strongest among blacks, college-educated, and younger voters and has produced record turnout among all three groups, Rodham Clinton pointed to her own strength among Latinos and white,

working-class voters, especially women. She noted they are the swing voters Democrats need to win a general election.

"What we have not been able to count on in the last elections are the voters that I'm getting," she said.

Wolfson and chief strategist Geoff Garin echoed that argument in a conference call with reporters. They also described a scenario they said would keep her candidacy alive, including resolving disputed primaries in Florida and Michigan. Rodham Clinton won both contests, but the results were voided because their timing violated Democratic Party rules.

## NATION

### Farm bill to be considered next week

WASHINGTON (AP) — Negotiators on a five-year, \$300 billion farm bill say they have reached a tentative agreement on the legislation, and it will be considered by the House and Senate next week.

But the Bush administration has objected to the bill, and the White House says it seems unlikely that Congress will pass farm legislation the president can sign. President Bush has said the bill is "bloated" with farmer subsidies and is too expensive.

Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, said after meetings Wednesday that the negotiating is finished, but he acknowledged that some minor issues remain unresolved.

None of the lawmakers would provide details of the final agreement, the latest of several proposed frameworks that have been renegotiated after the White House or other members of Congress signaled opposition.

Democratic Sen. Kent Conrad of North Dakota said Wednesday's agreement moved Congress closer to the White House on the amount of government subsidies that would be directed to wealthy farmers, an issue that has been a sticking point for months.

As of Tuesday, negotiators were considering eliminating some government payments to those who make more than \$750,000 in farm income annually, which would be closer to the White House's proposal on limiting subsidies.

The Bush administration originally proposed a cap for those who make more than \$200,000 in average annual farm income, but it has indicated it could accept a limit of \$500,000. As of last week, negotiators were considering a \$950,000 income cap on farm income.

While lawmakers met privately in attempts to appease Bush, his administration worked to rally conservatives who oppose the bill.

Grover Norquist, the president of the anti-tax group Americans for Tax Reform, said an administration official criticized the bill at a breakfast attended by conservatives Wednesday morning. Another person who attended the meeting said the official was Deputy Agriculture Secretary Charles Conner, who said Bush was likely to veto the bill.

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News

# Bust nets frats

Six fraternities are suspended in drug probe at San Diego State and 75 students are arrested.

By Allison Hoffman  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SAN DIEGO** — San Diego State University has suspended six fraternities after a sweeping drug investigation that landed dozens of students in jail on suspicion of openly dealing drugs on campus.

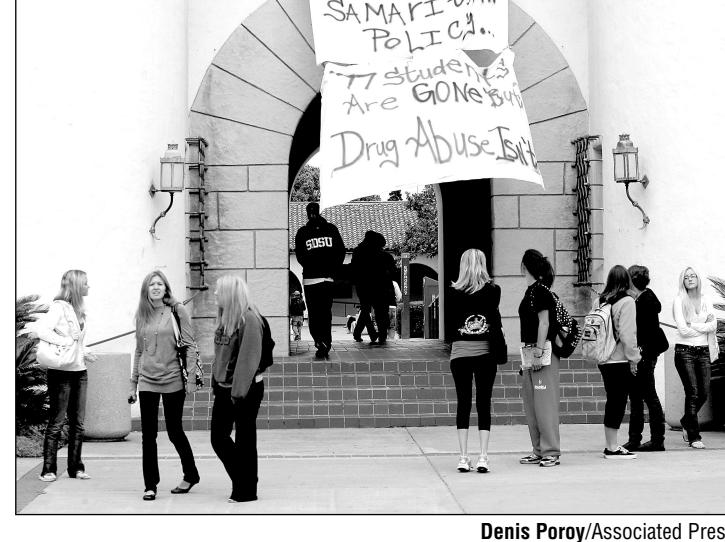
The probe — prompted by the cocaine-overdose death last year of a freshman sorority member — led to the arrests of 96 people, 75 of them San Diego State students. A second drug death occurred during the investigation.

Twenty-nine people were arrested early Tuesday in raids at nine locations including the Theta Chi fraternity, where agents allegedly found cocaine, Ecstasy, and three guns, authorities said. Eighteen of those arrested were wanted on warrants for selling to undercover agents.

Theta Chi and five other fraternities have been suspended pending a hearing on evidence gathered during the investigation, dubbed Operation Sudden Fall.

All of the arrested students have been suspended and will be barred from attending classes or taking final exams until their cases are reviewed, San Diego State President Stephen Weber said in a statement. Those who live in university-owned housing were evicted, he said.

"If guilty, they have ruined an untold number of lives," he said. "We are determined to remove



Denis Poroy/Associated Press

**San Diego State students look at a banner hung by Students For Sensible Drug Policy during a protest against the drug arrests at San Diego State on Wednesday.**

people from our community who have placed our students at risk."

Authorities said some fraternity members openly dealt drugs and that one sent a mass text message advertising special prices on cocaine. Two kilograms of cocaine were seized in all, along with 350 Ecstasy pills, marijuana, psychedelic mushrooms, hash oil, methamphetamine, illicit prescription drugs, several guns, and at least \$60,000 in cash, authorities said.

Profits may have been used to finance fraternity operations, according to an affidavit.

A member of Theta Chi sent out a mass text message to his "faithful customers" stating that he and his "associates" would be unable to sell cocaine while they were in Las Vegas for a fraternity formal, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. The text promoted a cocaine "sale" and listed the reduced prices on bulk quantities.

"Attn faithful customers both myself and my associates will

# Envoy: Burma toll may reach 100,000

Aid hampered by the government's restrictions, U.N. says.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**YANGON, Burma** — Hungry people swarmed the few open shops, and fistfights broke out over food and water in Burma's swamped Irrawaddy delta Wednesday as a top U.S. diplomat warned that the death toll from a devastating cyclone could top 100,000.

The minutes of a U.N. aid meeting obtained by the Associated Press, meanwhile, revealed the military junta's visa restrictions were hampering international relief efforts.

Only a handful of U.N. aid workers had been let into the impoverished Southeast Asian country, which the government has kept isolated for five decades to maintain its iron-fisted control. The United States and other countries rushed supplies to the region, but most of it was being held outside Burma while awaiting the junta's permission to deliver it.

Entire villages in the Irrawaddy delta were still submerged from the May 3 storm, and bloated corpses could be seen stuck in the mangroves. Some survivors stripped clothes off the dead. People

wailed as they described the horror of the torrent swept ashore by the cyclone.

"I don't know what happened to my wife and young children," said Phan Maung, 55, who held onto a coconut tree until the water level dropped. By then his family was gone.

A spokesman for the U.N. Children's Fund said its staff in Burma reported seeing many people huddled in rude shelters and children who had lost their parents.

"There's widespread devastation. Buildings and health centers are flattened, and bloated dead animals are floating around, which is an alarm for spreading disease. These are massive and horrific scenes," Patrick McCormick said at UNICEF offices in New York.

Burma's state media said Cyclone Nargis killed at least 22,980 people and left 42,119 missing.

American diplomat Shari Villarosa, who heads the U.S. Embassy in Yangon, said the number of dead could eventually exceed 100,000 because safe food and water were scarce and unsanitary conditions widespread.

The situation is "increasingly horrendous," she said in a telephone call to reporters. "There is a very real risk of disease outbreaks."

A few shops reopened in the Irrawaddy delta, but they were quickly overwhelmed by desperate people, said Paul Risley, a spokesman for the U.N. World Food Program in Bangkok, Thailand, quoting his agency's workers in the area.

"Fistfights are breaking out," he said.

A Yangon resident who returned to the city from the delta area said people were drinking coconut water because there was no safe drinking water. He said many people were on boats using blankets as sails.

Local aid groups distributed rice porridge, which people collected in dirty plastic shopping bags, he said. He spoke on the condition of anonymity because he feared getting into trouble with authorities for talking to a foreign news agency.

U.N. officials estimated some 1 million people had been left homeless in Burma, which also is known as Myanmar by the military junta.



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Visit [www.uiowafoundation.org/SPI](http://www.uiowafoundation.org/SPI) to learn about how the UI Foundation helps connect students to a bright future.

The University of Iowa Foundation

## SCOREBOARD

**MLB**  
 Oakland 6, Baltimore 5, 10 innings  
 Detroit 10, Boston 9  
 Cleveland 3, N.Y. Yankees 0  
 Toronto 6, Tampa Bay 2  
 Kansas City 9, L.A. Angels 4  
 Minnesota 13, Chicago White Sox 1  
 Texas 2, Seattle 0

Cincinnati 9, Chicago Cubs 0  
 N.Y. Mets 12, L.A. Dodgers 1  
 Atlanta 5, San Diego 2  
 Pittsburgh 3, San Francisco 1  
 Florida 6, Milwaukee 2  
 Houston 4, Washington 3  
 Colorado 4, St. Louis 3  
 Philadelphia 5, Arizona 4

Thursday, May 8, 2008

# SPORTS



Bull Riding: Where a lot of bull is good, 2B

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## 2 stars on board for '09

Kirk Ferentz has received two oral commitments from 2009 prospects.

By Scott Miller

THE DAILY IOWAN

Last year, Hawkeye football coach Kirk Ferentz couldn't lure a single four-star recruit to Iowa City.

Hubie Graham, the No. 13 tight end in the class of 2008, made an official visit to Iowa and committed to Illinois a week later.

Dan Hoch, a Harlan, Iowa, native and the No. 18 guard in the country, spurned Iowa for head coach Gary Pinkel and Missouri.

Last, stand-out running back Mark Ingram, the No. 17 athlete out of Flint, Mich., made the Hawkeyes wait until national signing day before he joined Nick Saban's No. 1-ranked recruiting class at Alabama.

Maybe it was the lack of in-state talent. Maybe it was Iowa's recruiting strategy. Or maybe it was the Hawkeyes' 6-6 record. But something was keeping elite prospects from signing with Ferentz.

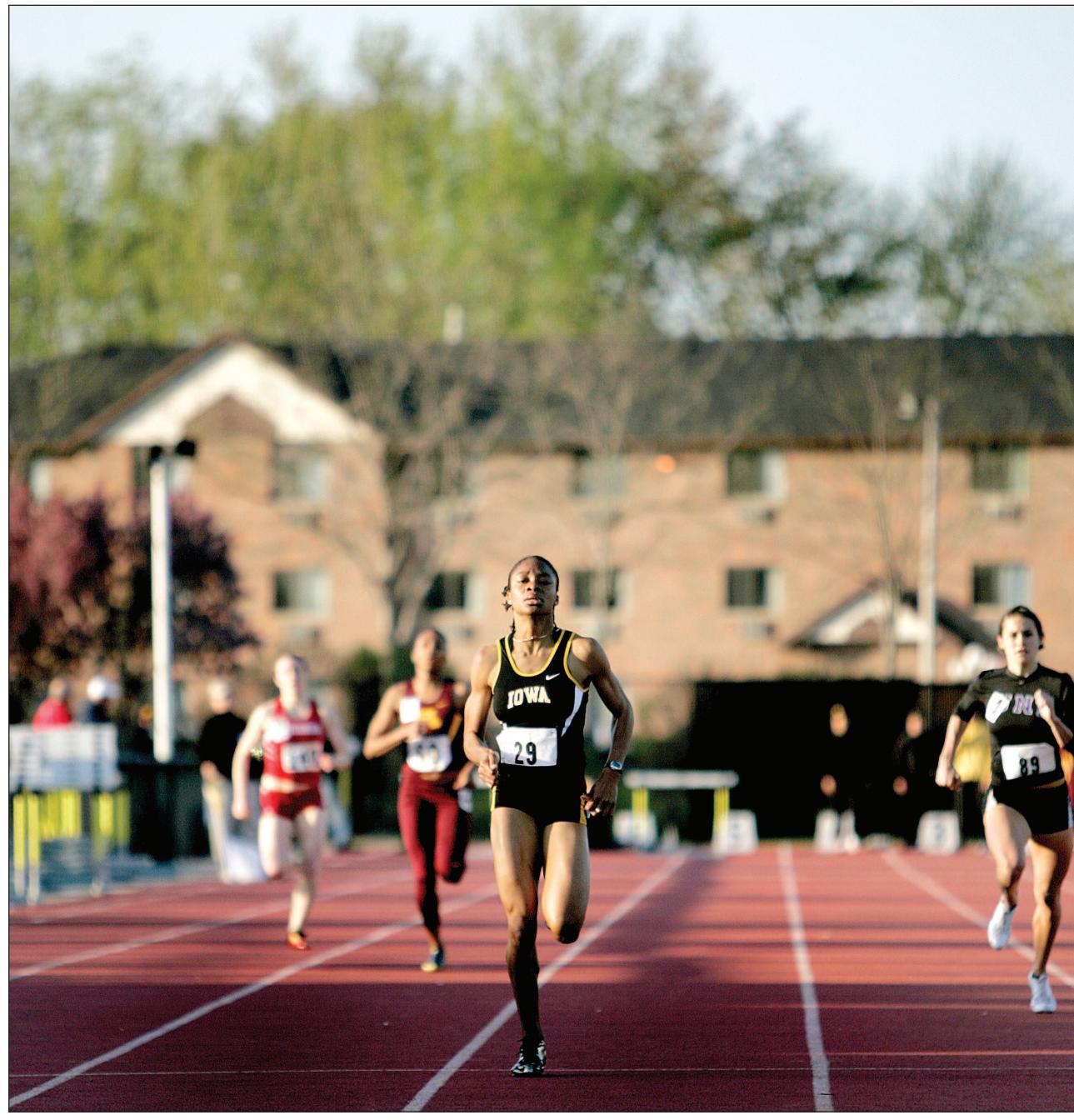
That all changed on May 3 when David Barrent — a 6-8, 290-pound offensive tackle out of Valley High School who ranks as the No. 101 player in the class of 2009, according to Rivals.com — gave his oral commitment to Iowa.



Barrent

recruit

SEE FOOTBALL, 3B



Robin Svec/The Daily Iowan

Hawkeye senior Kineke Alexander leads the field in the home stretch of the 400 meters during the Musco Twilight Meet on May 3. After taking the event title with a regional qualifying time of 54.52, Alexander is now looking toward competing in the 2008 Beijing Olympics for her native St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

## Hawk set for Olympics

By Jeff Pawola

THE DAILY IOWAN

the University of Iowa and her country when she travels to Beijing to compete in the 2008 Summer Olympics.

Unlike the United States, which hosts Olympic qualifying trials, her country, which sits in the Caribbean around 400 miles north of Caracas, Venezuela, asked her to compete. Her past track accomplishments include a 400-meter U.S. championship in 2006.

"I'm pretty much the only girl out

there — they really didn't have a choice," she joked.

It's true. With a population of roughly 118,000 people, there really weren't many alternatives; Alexander will be the only female from her country to compete in track and field. However, she won't be completely alone — her cousin and training partner Gerard

SEE OLYMPICS, 3B

## MLB

### Reds blast 7 homers, Cubs

CINCINNATI (AP) — Nothing special about Joey Votto's first homer, a hanging slider that he pulled into the seats in right field for a modest 1-0 lead.

What followed was breathtaking.

Jon Lieber became only the second pitcher in Chicago Cubs history to give up four homers in an inning, and Votto connected three times in all as the Cincinnati Reds powered their way to a 9-0 victory Wednesday.

"I'm like a kid," said Votto, a second-year player who had never hit more than one in a game. "I thought it was cool. It's not a big part of my game."

On a wet, windy afternoon, the home run was everything.

Votto started a four-homer second inning off Lieber (2-2), making his first start of the season. Adam Dunn and Paul Bako also had solo shots, and Jerry Hairston Jr.'s two-run homer completed the rally.

Known throughout his career for impeccable control, Lieber joined Phil Norton as the only Cubs pitchers to allow four homers in an inning — a surprising statistic, considering how the wind often blows out at Wrigley.

## BIG TEN

### Buckeyes add 2 to hoops roster

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — After losing four top players from last season, Ohio State is adding two junior-college reinforcements.



Kecman

forward

are joining the Buckeyes.

Simmons is a Chicago native who played at Mott Community College in Flint, Mich. He will have two years of eligibility remaining.

Kecman, born in Serbia, will have three years left after transferring from Eastern Arizona College.

The Buckeyes lose four of their top six players from last season with the graduation of guard Jamar Butler, forward Othello Hunter, and backup forward Matt Terwilliger. Center Kosta Koufos will jump to the NBA draft after playing one season.

## TV TODAY

### NBA PLAYOFFS

- Eastern conference semifinals, Game 2, Cleveland at Boston, 6 p.m., ESPN
- Western conference semifinals, Game 3, New Orleans at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m., ESPN

### PGA TOUR

- The Players Championship, first round, at Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., noon, Golf Channel

### NHL PLAYOFFS

- Conference finals, Game 1, Dallas at Detroit, 6:30 p.m., Versus

### BIG TEN SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

QUARTERFINAL ROUND, NO. 3 IOWA VS. NO. 6 ILLINOIS, 9 A.M. FRIDAY, SHARON J. DRYSDALE FIELD, EVANSTON, ILL., TV: BIG TEN NETWORK

## Softball set for tourney

The third-seeded Hawkeyes will play their third-straight game against Illinois on Friday in the Big Ten Tournament.



Chris Vanderwall/The Daily Iowan

Iowa junior Brittany Weil pitches against Western Illinois on April 30 at Pearl Field. Weil and the third-seeded Hawkeyes will take on Illinois in the quarterfinal round of the Big Ten Tournament on Friday morning.

### Hawkeyes head to Big Tens

Watch Daily Iowan TV at [dailyiowan.com](http://dailyiowan.com) to hear more from the third-seeded Hawkeye softball team as it prepares for the opening round of the Big Ten Tournament.

By Brendan Stiles

THE DAILY IOWAN

The Iowa softball team is feeling confident.

After losing in the quarterfinal round of the Big Ten Tournament the past two seasons, the Hawkeyes are determined to post a different outcome this weekend in Evanston, Ill.

"I've been one-and-done my freshman and sophomore years," junior Colleen McGlaughlin said. "This is a great opportunity for us to go deep into the tournament."

Iowa, which is the No. 3 seed in this weekend's tourney, will square off with the sixth-seeded Illinois on Friday at 9 a.m. Should the Hawkeyes win, they would play their semifinal game later that afternoon against the winner of today's contest between Michigan and Michigan State.

SEE TOURNEY, 3B

## Hawk slugger is showing up

By Eric Mandel

THE DAILY IOWAN

As sophomore Katie Brown buried her cleats into the batter's box to face Iowa assistant coach Michelle Venturella during Wednesday's practice, the outfield began to rumble.

"Remember, she hit three home runs this weekend — back up," quipped one of the three outshagging balls.

The zinger warranted chuckles from her fellow fly catchers, but nonetheless, each did take a couple steps back. And guess what? Brown still stung a few pitches behind them.

After the way Iowa dented the ball last weekend against Illinois, the warning track might be a good starting place for opposing outfielders.

As ringleader of the team's season-high 12 runs and 17 hits against Illinois on May 4, Brown was rewarded with the Hawkeyes' first offensive conference Player of the Week honors this season. The Spirit Lake, Iowa, native shared her first title with Northwestern's Nicole Pauly.



Brown

sophomore

SEE SOFTBALL, 3B

**SPORTS 'N' STUFF****BIG TEN SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT**

at Northwestern\*, May 8-10, 2008  
 Today's Games  
 Game 1: #2 Michigan vs. #7 Michigan State, 2 p.m.  
 Game 2: #1 Northwestern vs. #8 Ohio State, 4:30 p.m.

**Friday's Games**

Game 3: #3 Iowa vs. #6 Illinois, 9 a.m.

Game 4: #4 Minnesota vs. #5 Purdue, 11:30 p.m.

Game 5: Michigan-Michigan State winner vs. Iowa-Illinois winner, 2 p.m.

Game 6: Minnesota-Purdue winner vs. Northwestern-Ohio State winner, 4 p.m.

Saturday's Championship Game

Game 7: Game 5 winner vs. Game 6 winner, 12 p.m.

\*Northwestern wins top seed by coin flip

Games 3-7 will be broadcast on the Big Ten Network

**BIG TEN BASEBALL**

Conference	All Games	W	L	Pct.
Michigan	20 4	833	35 11	.761
Purdue	17 7	.708	26 20	.565
Illinois	14 10	.582	28 18	.609
Ohio State	11 12	.478	25 21	.543
Northwestern	11 13	.458	18 23	.439
Penn State	11 13	.458	20 27	.426
Michigan State	10 13	.435	22 23	.489
Indiana	9 15	.375	21 26	.447
Iowa	8 16	.333	20 27	.426
Minnesota	8 16	.333	18 30	.375

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	22	14	.611	—
Tampa Bay	17	16	.515	3½
New York	17	18	.486	4½
Toronto	17	18	.486	4½
Baltimore	16	18	.471	5
Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	17	15	.531	—
Cleveland	16	17	.485	1½
Chicago	15	18	.469	2
Kansas City	15	18	.455	2½
Detroit	22	14	.611	—
West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	22	14	.611	—
Oakland	22	14	.611	—
Texas	15	20	.429	6½
Seattle	14	21	.400	7½

**Wednesday's Games**

Oakland 6, Baltimore 5, 10 innnings  
 Detroit 10, Boston 9

Cleveland 3, N.Y. Yankees 0

Toronto 6, Tampa Bay 2

Kansas City 9, L.A. Angels 4

Minnesota 13, Chicago White Sox 1

Texas 2, Seattle 0

**Today's Games**

Cleveland (Byrd 1-2) at N.Y. Yankees (Mussina 4-3), 12:05 p.m.

Minnesota (Slowey 0-1) at Chicago White Sox (Danks 2-3), 1:05 p.m.

Boston (Beckett 3-2) at Detroit (Verlander 1-5), 6:05 p.m.

Tampa Bay (Jackson 2-3) at Toronto (Litsch 4-1), 6:07 p.m.

Baltimore (D.Cabrera 2-1) at Kansas City (Hochevar 2-1), 7:10 p.m.

Texas (Gabbard 1-0) at Seattle (F.Hernandez 2-2), 9:10 p.m.

**Sunday's Games**

Iowa at Penn State, 11:05 a.m.

Indiana at Northwestern

Michigan State at Purdue

Illinois at Ohio State

Michigan at Minnesota

**NATIONAL LEAGUE****East Division**

Florida 19 14 .576 —

Philadelphia 20 15 .571 —

Atlanta 17 15 .531 1½

New York 17 15 .531 1½

Washington 14 20 .412 5½

Central Division

St. Louis 22 13 .629 —

Chicago 19 15 .559 2½

Houston 18 16 .529 3½

Milwaukee 16 17 .485 5

Pittsburgh 14 19 .424 7

Cincinnati 14 21 .400 8

West Division

Arizona 22 12 .647 —

Los Angeles 19 15 .559 3

San Francisco 14 20 .412 8

Colorado 13 21 .382 9

San Diego 12 22 .353 10

**Wednesday's Games**

Cincinnati 9, Chicago Cubs 0

N.Y. Mets 12, L.A. Dodgers 1

Atlanta 5, San Diego 2

Pittsburgh 3, San Francisco 1

Florida 6, Milwaukee 2

Houston 4, Washington 3

Colorado 4, St. Louis 3

Philadelphia 5, Arizona 4

Today's Games

San Francisco (Cain 1-2) at Pittsburgh (Maholm 2-3), 11:35 a.m.

**NHL PLAYOFFS****CONFERENCE FINALS (Best of 7)****Wednesday's Games**

Dallas at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.

Friday's Game

Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 10

Dallas at Detroit, 6 p.m.

Sunday, May 11

Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, May 12

Detroit at Dallas, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13

Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14

Detroit at Dallas, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 15

Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday's Games**

N.Y. Mets 12, L.A. Dodgers 1

Atlanta 5, San Diego 2

Pittsburgh 3, San Francisco 1

Florida 6, Milwaukee 2

Houston 4, Washington 3

Colorado 4, St. Louis 3

Philadelphia 5, Arizona 4

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Wednesday, May 14

Detroit at Dallas, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 15

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**Wednesday's Games**

N.Y. Mets 12, L.A. Dodgers 1

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Pittsburgh 3, San Francisco 1

Florida 6, Milwaukee 2

Houston 4, Washington 3

Colorado 4, St. Louis 3

Philadelphia 5, Arizona 4

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Friday's Game

Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 10

Dallas at Detroit, 6 p.m.

Sunday, May 11

Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 6

# Softball to face Illini

## TOURNEY

CONTINUED FROM 1B

Just last week, Iowa took two games from Illinois in Champaign, winning by scores of 5-2 and 12-6. In the latter contest, the Hawkeyes belted 17 hits off of Fighting Illini pitching.

The players believe their bats couldn't be coming around at a better time.

"I think people are peaking at the right time right now," McGlaughlin said. "People are hitting very consistently, and we're getting the timely hitting when we need it."

The team sees an advantage in playing Illinois again after doing so on May 3-4, but coach Gayle Blevins was quick to point out how it could also benefit the Fighting Illini to see the Hawkeyes again.

"There are no secrets," she said. "Everybody knows everyone, and that's true on both sides. Certainly, the Illini have a sense of urgency, because they know what they have to do to get to postseason."

"We won't see any different approach from them from what we saw in both of the games we played. They are just a very high-energy team, and they swing the bats."

Among the Hawkeyes licking their chops about playing the Fighting Illini again is sophomore Katie Brown, who went 5-for-6 with three home runs in the two contests with Illinois, good enough to earn her Big Ten Player of the Week honors.

"I think we're all really prepared and kind of excited to play them," she said.



Chris Vanderwall/The Daily Iowan  
Iowa junior Colleen McGlaughlin bats against Western Illinois on April 30 in Pearl Field.

Not only have the Hawkeyes shown they can beat the Fighting Illini, but Iowa has beaten every other Big Ten squad in this week's tournament at least once, and it was the only team to garner victories over Northwestern and Michigan — who shared the regular-season conference crown.

But the Hawkeyes are also reminding themselves that in order to get another crack at the Wolverines in the semifinals Friday, or the Wildcats in the final Saturday, they have to be able to clear the hurdle being set up by the Fighting Illini, even with the recent success Iowa had playing them.

"We want to be the Big Ten Tournament champs," junior pitcher Brittany Weil said. "We're just going in, taking it one game at a time. We can't

overlook Illinois, even though we beat it twice this past weekend. We got to come out and really be on fire and ready to go."

Even though the hitting has been hot and the Hawkeyes are as capable as anyone of winning three games this weekend, Blevins made it clear that the most important aspects of the game are what they've been all season for Iowa — pitching and defense.

"Having a solid performance in our pitching and defense are big keys," she said. "Then it is pressure offensively. Even in the innings that you don't score, if you do a great job of having quality at-bats, that takes an edge off a team."

E-mail DI reporter Brendan Stiles at: [brendan-stiles@uiowa.edu](mailto:brendan-stiles@uiowa.edu)

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Now the Hawkeyes hope the batting bonanza can continue through the conference tournament, helping out hurlers Brittany Weil and Amanda Züst, who've combined for a 1.14 ERA.

If the mixture of slapper hitters and sluggers can continue to score four or five runs each game, the conference title will likely be sitting inside a Black and Gold trophy case.

"I think after this last weekend we really realized that we are peaking at the right time and everything is starting to come together right now," Brown said.

E-mail DI reporter Eric Mandel at: [eric.mandel@uiowa.edu](mailto:eric.mandel@uiowa.edu)

everyone else and to ourselves that we can score runs," said teammate Colleen McGlaughlin, who leads the team with eight home runs.

Rotating between designated player and first base has been a relief for the sophomore compared with last season, where Brown made six appearances on the mound with an 0-1 record and 5.25 ERA.

Brown is currently batting .283 and is second on team with nine doubles, six home runs, and eight walks.

"Being a pitcher [last season] kind of helps me a little bit too, just kind of know their ups and downs of what they are throwing," Brown said. "But taking stress off of pitching helps a lot ... I think we've got the right girls out there, so

that's fine with me."

# Olympics ahead

The only track and field female athlete representing St. Vincent and the Grenadines at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Hawkeye trackster Kineke Alexander hopes to race to the 400-meter finals.

## OLYMPICS

CONTINUED FROM 1B

Lewis will also represent St. Vincent and the Grenadines on the men's side in the 100 meters.

"I trained with him over winter break in December," she said. "Having another person is obviously going to be nice, so I won't be completely by myself."

After the Olympics, however, she might stand alone as the greatest female athlete from her nation to ever touch the track. Her goal this year is to become the first ever to qualify for the Olympic finals, but her coaches believe that more is in store for Alexander in Olympic Games to come.

"Her limits are endless," said Hawkeye assistant coach Victor Houston. "Kineke doesn't know how good she can be. She has an idea, but no idea how good."

"I think she has the ability to be one of the top long sprinters in the world," said Iowa head coach Layne Anderson. "And if she's open-minded, she can do the 800 [meters], as well."

However, as a self-described "400 girl," Alexander is content with staying put and says she actually dislikes running the 800.

Both coaches estimated that if she continues to improve, she will be able to hit 48 seconds in the 400 and 1:55 in the 800, marks that have won Olympic gold in the past. In order to do that, she will have to run professionally, going beyond the college ranks following graduation next December.

"If she wants to become a professional athlete, she needs to realize it's a full-time job," Anderson said. "But for her, it's going to pay the bills."

But before she officially becomes a professional, she must first take on the NCAA championships, a task that seems easier in comparison with what the future holds. Recent setbacks will make that task more difficult; Alexander has been sidelined by hamstring injuries for most of the outdoor season and is just now getting back to form.

"I want to break 51 [sec-

onds] by nationals," she said. "I'm focusing on the Olympics right now, so nationals for me is just another meet to help improve on my time."

Following the completion of her Hawkeye career at the NCAA championships in June, Alexander will officially begin her Olympic preparation as a runner for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

She will have three competitions in July — two in Mexico and one in Columbia — after which she will journey to Beijing just two weeks before the Olympics' opening ceremonies to conduct final preparations.

What also must be taken into account is the mental aspect of Alexander's training. Houston, an Olympic competitor in the 1996 and 2000 Olympics for Barbados, said the biggest difference between those who succeed and fail is whether they are prepared mentally.

"A kid with her talent — any goal is realistic," he said.

E-mail DI reporter Jeff Pawola at: [jeffrey.pawola@uiowa.edu](mailto:jeffrey.pawola@uiowa.edu)

# Slugger comes alive

## SOFTBALL FEATURE

CONTINUED FROM 1B

"She's probably one of our best kids as far as really working it mentally," said Iowa head coach Gayle Blevins. "I think that's a large part of why Katie has done as well as she has done this year."

"We always knew that she would be a big-time hitter for us."

Brown's weekend included three home runs, one double, six RBI, one intentional walk and four runs scored. In her six at-bats, Brown only trotted back to the dugout with an out once, amassing to an incredible .833 batting average.

"Sometimes our defense and pitching are always so strong, and it's great for us to show

everyone else and to ourselves that we can score runs," said teammate Colleen McGlaughlin, who leads the team with eight home runs.

Rotating between designated player and first base has been a relief for the sophomore compared with last season, where Brown made six appearances on the mound with an 0-1 record and 5.25 ERA.

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# Football nabs 2 for 2009

## FOOTBALL

CONTINUED FROM 1B

"It seems like the perfect fit to me, both academically and athletically," Barrent said Wednesday. "... [My parents and I] decided that that wasn't going to change, so we just decided to make this decision now."

After a breakout junior season, he also received offers from Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, and Iowa State, among others.

"He's a big, athletic kid from the state of Iowa at a position that Iowa really needs to focus on this year with several offensive linemen graduating or near graduation," said Tom Kakert, the publisher of hawkeyereport.com. "He made a meteoric rise [this past year]. He really impressed our evaluation people with his abilities

at the [Rivals] academy and his film."

The West Des Moines native joined running back Brad Rogers, who became the first member of Iowa's class when he gave his oral pledge on April 28. Rogers, a 5-10, 230-pound prospect out of Toledo, Ohio, has drawn comparisons with another Big Ten powerback because of his rare combination of size and speed.

"He's a big back. Kind of a P.J. Hill-type running back," Kakert said. "He's got some size, speed ... It's a great get for Iowa to get a top-flight back out of the state of Ohio."

Now that they have the commitments of Rogers and Barrent, Ferentz and his coaching staff are focusing their time on other big-name prospects.

Keenan Davis, a 6-3, 195-pound wide receiver out of

Washington High School in Cedar Rapids, has been recruited from schools all over the country since his sophomore year. Nathan Scheehaase, a quarterback from Kansas City, and Jordan Cotton, a Mount Pleasant native, are expected to have the Hawkeyes high on their lists — both of their fathers played at Iowa.

"Just based on the pure numbers, it doesn't appear that it's going to be a huge class," Kakert said. "... Obviously, offensive line is going to be important. Probably one more running back. And from there, you'll pick and choose your other spots based on the best athlete available."

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Call (319)430-9232.

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**720 includes cable/ internet.** [www.apartmentsnearcampus.com](http://www.apartmentsnearcampus.com) Avail. August (319)351-7676.

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-415 Woodside Dr. \$660, H/W paid

# Daily Break

## horoscopes Thursday, May 8, 2008

— by Eugenia Last

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Put your imagination to good use instead of conjuring up scenarios that are probably not fact. Do something very unique that will surprise the people around you. Don't let anyone take advantage of your talents.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** It's your turn to take advantage of what others have to offer instead of doing for everyone else. Pull back, and wait to see who comes forward to help you out. There is likely to be a change of heart.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Do your own thing, and use your own ideas. As soon as you incorporate what someone else is doing, you will lose credibility. You have what it takes to be original. You are more talented than you think, so stop relying on others for input.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You won't be yourself today, so think before you do something you may regret. A new friendship can start if you participate in something that you believe in or an activity that can enhance your life. You will receive information valuable for making a personal decision.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You can expect someone you have an emotional connection with to be blunt. You may not like what you hear, but it will help you clear up an issue that has been bothering you. Talks will lead to change.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Give love a chance. You should plan a trip or take part in something that will help a relationship you are in or help you find someone new. Open your heart and your home.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Your patience will run thin if someone tries to push you to do something. Stay calm, and avoid discord of any kind. You will do better with acquaintances than you will with those with whom you have a business or personal relationship.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Look at the past, present, and future from a financial standpoint to get an idea how you can budget and raise your earning potential. A change in the way you spend and how you approach work will bring positive results and recognition.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Don't sweat the little things — do things today that make you feel good about who you are. Nurturing the people you love should be top of your to-do list. Changes may be brewing at home. Don't fight what's necessary.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Be original if you want to make headway today. Expect to be put to the test, personally and professionally. This will be an excellent chance to show your worth and talents. You can't lose, so don't fear the challenge.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Consider what you have done in the past that made you happy, and get back into it. It's never too late to begin again or to take on something interesting to make your life better. Don't let love drag you down.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You are likely to offend someone who won't back down and can make your day miserable. Stick to work, and leave emotional and personal matters until you are better equipped to deal with them.

**"There's widespread devastation. Buildings and health centers are flattened, and bloated dead animals are floating around, which is an alarm for spreading disease. These are massive and horrific scenes."**

— Patrick McCormick of UNICEF, describing the scene in Burma in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Nargis. Up to 100,000 people may have been killed by the storm and its aftermath. See story, 8A.

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



ANDREW R. JUHL

## Ideas for a bored bouncer

- After looking at people's IDs, point your finger at them and make the screeching noise à la *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*.

- Stamp faces instead of hands.

- Tell people about the wet tube-sock contest coming up at midnight.

- Make people say the alphabet backwards before letting them in; tell everyone they forgot the letter "E."

- See how many times you can dribble a basketball with your left hand in an hour.

- Try to beat that record the next hour.

- Shed a solitary tear of refined turmoil in a scarcely perceptible acknowledgment of your unknowable loneliness.

- Max-out your glutes by flexing in synchrony to Fiddly's phat beats, yo.

- Ask people if they'll trade you their IDs for a near-mint 1985 Donruss Kirby Puckett Rookie Card.

- "There be no cover on this night/but wishing entry without a fight/demands I first must ask of thee/the answering of these questions three!"

- Stop checking IDs. Start checking ids.

- Think about Roadhouse, and try to hide your erection.

- Get low low low low low low low.

- Ask every seventh patron, regardless of age, sex, or creed: "Daddy?"

- Ponder the life decisions that brought you to this place.

— Andrew R. Juhl thanks his friend, Becca, for her assistance with today's (and other) Ledges. 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-iowan@uiowa.edu](mailto:daily-iowan@uiowa.edu). If we think it's good, we'll run it — and maybe contact you for more.

## THE BLOOM IS ON



Phoebe Webb/The Daily Iowan

A tree blooms outside Trinity Episcopal Church by a sidewalk under construction on Wednesday evening.

## today's events

Want to see your super special event appear here? Simply e-mail the name, time, date, and location information to: [daily-iowan-calendar@uiowa.edu](mailto:daily-iowan-calendar@uiowa.edu)

- Biochemistry Seminar, "Kv Channels and the Ribosome: Tunnel Vision," Carol Deutsch, University of Pennsylvania, 10:30 a.m., 2189 Medical Education and Biomedical Research Facility
- Benefit Luncheon for Shelter House, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Society, 10 S. Gilbert
- Business Succession Planning Workshop, 11:30 a.m., Hills Bank & Trust, 1009 Second St., Coralville
- Corridor Connection Chapter of BNI, 11:30 a.m., Iowa River Power Restaurant, 501 First Ave., Coralville
- Bioethics & Humanities Seminar, "Evaluating Fitness to Parent: A Neuropsychological Case Presentation," by David Moser, 1 p.m., UIHC eighth-floor East Room
- Iowa New Play Festival reading, *The House of Grateful*, by Sheela Kangal, 2 p.m., 172 Theatre Building
- New Horizons Band Woodwind Ensemble, 2:30 p.m., Senior Center, 28 S. Linn
- The Honky Tonk Angels, 3 p.m., Old Creamery Theatre, 39 38th Avenue, Amana
- Coralville Farmers' Market, 5-8 p.m., Coralville Aquatic Center, 1513 Seventh St.
- Cultural Centers' Recognition Reception, 5 p.m., 274 IMU
- Iowa New Play Festival free readings, selections from the Undergraduate Playwrights' Workshop, 5:30 p.m., 172 Theatre Building
- Knit and Wine, 6-9 p.m., Crazy Girl Yarn Shop, 1150 Fifth St. Suite 152, Coralville
- Thursday Night Supper Club with Eddie Picard, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Fireside Grill, 111 Fifth St., Kalona

- *Throne of Blood*, 7 p.m., Bijou
- "Live from Prairie Lights," Gigi Durham, nonfiction 7 p.m., Prairie Lights Books, 15 S. Dubuque
- UI Explorers Seminar Series, "Gender in Prehistory: An Archaeological Examination," 7 p.m., Museum of Natural History
- Writers Gone Public, Nonfiction Writing Program, 7 p.m., 304 English-Philosophy Building
- Knitting Doctor, 7-9 p.m., Crazy Girl Yarn Shop
- *Fiddler On The Roof*, 7:30 p.m., Theatre Cedar Rapids, 102 Third St. SE
- Slavic Movie Night, *Blind Chance*, 7:30 p.m., 315 Phillips Hall
- Drinking Liberally, 8 p.m., Mill, 120 E. Burlington
- Free Karaoke, 8 p.m., Nickelodeon, 907 Second St., Coralville
- Sean Boarini, 8:30 p.m., Piano Lounge, 217 Iowa
- Campus Activities Board, Massage Chairs, 9 p.m.-midnight, IMU Chalk Talk Lounge
- Campus Activities Board movie, *Enchanted*, 9 p.m., 348 IMU
- Gemini Karaoke, 9 p.m., Speak Easy, 171 Highway 1 W
- Joe Uker, featuring David Zollo, 9 p.m., Mill, 120 E. Burlington
- Daughters of Wisdom, 9:30 p.m., Bijou
- Sangria Night, 9:30 p.m., David's Place, 100 S. Linn
- Thursday Night Karaoke, 9:30 p.m., Charlie's, 450 First Ave., Coralville
- Zumba Gold, 10:25-10:55 p.m., Mercer Park, 1321 Dover St.

## CAN'T GET ENOUGH SUDOKU?

CHECK OUT [DAILYIOWAN.COM](http://DAILYIOWAN.COM) FOR MORE PUZZLES

## SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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

5/8/08

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### Level:

1 2

3 4

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](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

### SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

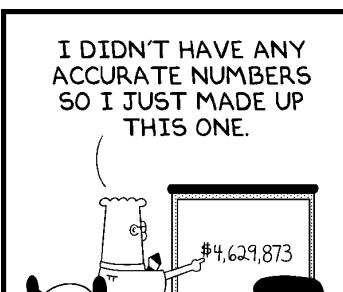
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2	9	6	1	3	4	5	8	7
3	1	9	2	6	7	4	5	8
7	6	4	5	9	8	1	3	2
5	2	8	4	1	3	9	7	6
6	7	1	3	5	2	8	4	9
8	5	2	7	4	9	3	6	1
9	4	3	6	8	1	7	2	5

## UITV schedule

Campus channel 4, cable channel 17

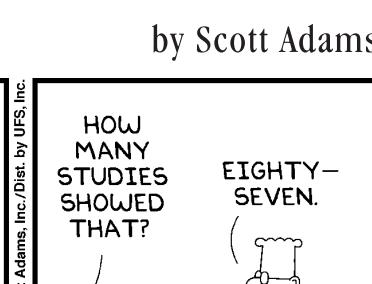
- 12:30 p.m. News from China-Beijing (in Chinese)  
 1 Live from Prairie Lights Archive, Thomas Swick  
 2 News from Germany (in German)  
 3 "Java Blend," from John Gorka  
 4 State Board of Regents Lectures, Regent David Miles  
 9:30 Daily Iowan TV News  
 9:45 The Best of "Java Blend"  
 10 Incompetent Sports Talk from Student Video Productions  
 10:30 Daily Iowan TV News  
 10:45 The Best of "Java Blend"  
 11 "Java Blend," from John Gorka

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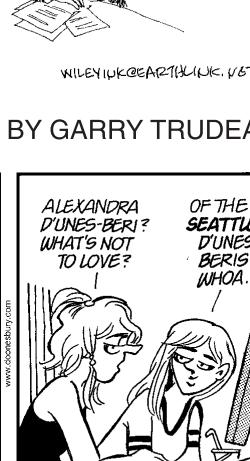
5/8

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## The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

# 80 HOURS

Thursday, May 8, 2008

[dailyiowan.com](http://dailyiowan.com)



## If upon a falling vowel

If you want to be a writer when you grow up, you can study writing at the UI — but prepare to spend your life learning what you learned in school.

By Tara Atkinson Gunyon • The Daily Iowan

**I**t goes something like this: Your parents or your high-school career counselors ask you what you want to be when you grow up. And if you want to be a nurse, you have to go to nursing school. If you want to be a veterinarian, you have to go to veterinary school. If you want to be a writer, you have a conundrum.

You can go to school for creative writing, but the work of a writer isn't the sort to be condensed into a neat job description. "Poet" does not typically show up in the classifieds; career centers and employment agencies won't find applicants positions as novelists. There are professionalized versions of the craft — writing copy, writing grants, writing advertisements — but writing the fine art, the writing of literature, the kind of writing done by the romanticized "Writer," with the typewriter and cigarettes or laptop in a coffee shop, is as ambiguous in its source as love. Try to find a place that makes literature the way a roaster makes coffee or a mill makes flour, and you won't find a factory — you'll find writers.

Yet in Iowa City, you'll find a lot of writers. Enough, in fact, that a proposal was drawn up to make Iowa City the second UNESCO City of Literature after Edinburgh, Scotland. The UI advertises itself as the "Writing University."

Tell people you're an undergraduate English major, and they might ask you what your concentration is. Tell them creative writing, and they'll probably ask you a question you'll hear in around 50 percent of conversations for as long as you're studying at the UI: So you're here for the writing program?

And the answer is, Yes, yes, you are here for the writing program. You're not actually far enough along in your studies to really be in the writing program, the famous Iowa Writers' Workshop, but you're here to just kind of look at it while you read Shakespeare.

A lucky 50 people each year, however, do belong to the Writers' Workshop as M.F.A. candidates. It's not only possible to get a graduate-level degree in creative writing — it's also extremely

popular. Since Iowa created the very first Workshop in 1936, the idea has been catching on and, lately, snowballing. Do a Google search for the number of M.F.A. programs in the United States, and you won't find the number, you'll find proposals from universities citing the increasing number of M.F.A. programs in creative writing as a reason their school should create one, too; one from Murray State University (in Murray, Ky.) lists an increase from 55 programs in 1992 to 99 in 2001. *The Creative Writing M.F.A. Handbook*, published in 2005, lists 284 graduate writing programs (including M.A.s and the handful of newly emerging creative-writing Ph.D.s). There are literally thousands of writers in school across the country.

However. Graduate from nursing school, become a nurse. Graduate from veterinary school, become a veterinarian. Graduate from writing school, and you have a problem.

SEE WRITERS, 3C



Sam Larsen-Ferree, undergraduate



Joyce Turner, first-year fiction student



Robin Hemley, Writers' Workshop graduate

coming up  
**THIS WEEKEND**

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

### Raised by lesbians

UI M.F.A. graduate Leah Ryan returns with a reading of her play "Raised with Lesbians" on May 11 at 4 p.m. in Theatre B. The work follows Joe, who must choose between living with his lesbian mother and her partner or his "normal" father. First produced in 1998 at the UI's New Play Festival, this reading is a benefit for Ryan, who is suffering from leukemia. A \$5 donation is appreciated.

### LAST SHOW EVER ...

... For the rest of the semester. Yeah, it's a bit lame when we include the explanation. But really, "80 Hours on Air" is hosting its last sound-fest on Friday from 5 to 6 p.m. on 89.7, KRUI. We bring you a sort of greatest hits edition, featuring our year's "Best Ofs," and perhaps our darkest secrets.



# weekend calendar of events

## Today 5.8

### MUSIC

- **Friday Night Concert Series** Battle of the Bands featuring Dead Larry, Brian Troester, Nikki Lundeen Trio, Blue Cat Alley, and Emplify, 7 p.m., Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn
- **Joe Uker, featuring David Zollo,** 9 p.m., Mill, 120 E. Burlington
- **Mission Creek Pre-sents:** Foul Tip, Film School, Airlie, and Birth Rites, 9 p.m., Picador, 330 E. Washington

### WORDS

- **Iowa New Play Festival free reading, *The House of Grateful*,** 2 p.m., 172 Theatre Building

- **Iowa New Play Festival free reading, Selections from the Undergraduate Playwrights' Workshop,** 5:30 p.m., 172 Theatre Building
- "Live from Prairie Lights," Gigi Durham, non-fiction, 7 p.m., Prairie Lights Books, 15 S. Dubuque

### LECTURES

- **UI Explorers Seminar Series, "Gender in Prehistory: An Archaeological Examination,"** 7 p.m., Museum of Natural History

### MISCELLANEOUS

- **Coralville Farmers' Market,** 5 p.m., Coralville Aquatic Center, Seventh Street and Morrison Park

- **Cultural Centers' Recognition Reception,** 5 p.m., IMU State Room

- **Knit and Wine,** 6 p.m., Crazy Girl Yarn Shop, 1150 Fifth St., Suite 152, Coralville

- **Knitting Doctor,** 7 p.m., Crazy Girl Yarn Shop

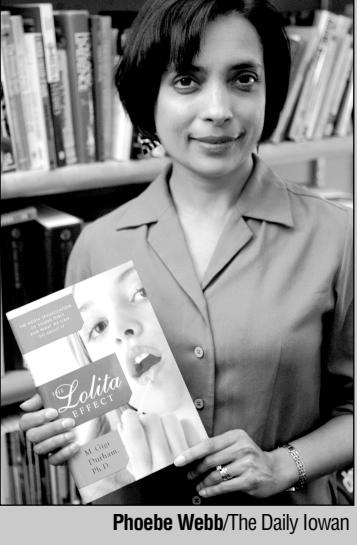
- **Slavic Movie Night, *Blind Chance*,** 7:30 p.m., 315 Phillips Hall

- **Drinking Liberally,** 8 p.m., Mill

- **Goodtime Karaoke,** 8 p.m., Nickelodeon, 907 Second St.

- **Gemini Karaoke,** 9 p.m., Speak Easy, 171 Highway 1 W

- **Thursday Night Karaoke,** 9:30 p.m., Charlie's, 450 First Ave., Coralville



Phoebe Webb/The Daily Iowan

**UI journalism**  
Associate Professor Gigi Durham delves into the issues of youth, gender, and sexuality issues in media in her new book *The Lolita Effect*, from which she'll read tonight at Prairie Lights Books. Click over to [dailyiowan.com](#) for Arts reporter Melyn Fluker's preview of the reading.

## NEW MOVIES OPENING THIS WEEKEND



### Speed Racer

Sycamore 12, Coral Ridge 10  
Emile Hirsch takes off his frayed Christopher McCandless pants in exchange for a slick racing jumpsuit in the live-action adaptation of the animated series *Speed Racer*. The film is directed by the Wachowski brothers of *The Matrix*, so expect a dizzying and dazzling display of special effects that could provide more seizures than an episode of "Pokémon." Nothing beats seeing the mischievous Chim Chim the chimpanzee brought to life on the silver screen.



### What Happens in Vegas

Sycamore 12, Coral Ridge 10  
Cameron Diaz and Ashton Kutcher star in this romantic comedy in which the two accidentally marry each other after a night of drunken debauchery in the City of Sin, only to find out one of them has won a huge jackpot. Humorous misunderstandings are bound to ensue. If it were real life, Kutcher would have accidentally married a tranny Elvis impersonator whose real name is actually Doug Witherspoon.

### AT THE BIJOU



- **Master of Fine Arts 2008 Exhibit, Opening Reception,** 3:30 p.m., UI Museum of Art

- **The Power of Line: American Etching Revival Prints from the Lee Collection Exhibit, opening reception,** 3:30 p.m., UI Museum of Art

- **Rainbow Graduation Recognition Reception,** 5 p.m., Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Resource Center

- **Graduate Painting Open House,** 6 p.m., 109 River St.

- **Friday Night Magic,** 6:30 p.m., Critical Hit Games, 89 Second St. No. 5, Coralville

- **Friday Night Karaoke with Gemini Karaoke,** 9 p.m., American Legion, 3016 Muscatine Ave.

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

### Finishing the Game

Showtimes: Friday, 6 p.m., Saturday, 5 p.m., May 11, 3 p.m.  
This 2007 faux-documentary, directed by Justin Lin, chronicles the tail end of making Bruce Lee's last film, *Game of Death*, after the martial-arts star tragically died. While the real movie was made, supposedly with a Lee double and a new script, *Finishing the Game* is a satire of Hollywood and the making of that film.

## what are you READING?

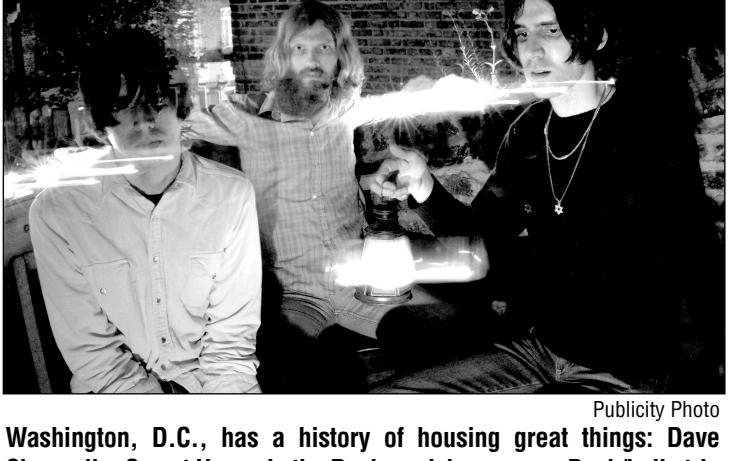
Even as semester draws to a close, some Iowa City residents still make time for the occasional joy read. This week, the *DI* talked to Frank Durham, an associate professor of journalism and mass communication.

"I'm reading *What Orwell Didn't Know: Propaganda and the New Face of American Politics*, by Andras Szantao. Based on George Orwell's premise in his 1946 essay 'Politics and the English Language' — that democracy depends on the clarity and quality of written language — this collection of critical essays examines contemporary media framing, spin, and propaganda."



Phoebe Webb/The Daily Iowan  
The New Play Festival is coming to a close. Audiences should make sure to catch the tail end of the event's performances and readings on Saturday night. Be sure to read Friday's *DI* for a primer on all things dramatic in the UI theater department.

## Friday 5.9



Publicity Photo

Washington, D.C., has a history of housing great things: Dave Chappelle, Sweet Honey in the Rock, and democracy. Punk/indie trio Dead Meadow also hails from the District of Columbia. The band will land in Iowa City on Friday night, when it will play a show at the Picador. Snatch Friday's *Daily Iowan* for Arts reporter (and King of Cred) Jarrett Hothan's preview of the show.

### MUSIC

- "Java Blend," noon, Java House, 211½ E. Washington
- **VitalLight and Super Like You,** 5 p.m., Picador
- Women's Chorale and University Choir, 8 p.m., Clapp Recital Hall
- **Cornmeal and White Water Ramble,** 9 p.m., Yacht Club
- Kevin Gordon and Ernie Hendrickson, 9 p.m., Mill
- The Nadas, 9 p.m., Picador

### WORDS

- **Iowa New Play Festival free reading, *Mourning Alethea*,** 2 p.m., 172 Theatre Building

### THEATER

- **Iowa New Play Festival, *We Three*,** 5:30 and 9 p.m., Theatre Building Thayer Theatre

### WORDS

- **Iowa New Play Festival free reading, *Painted Skin*,** 1:30 p.m., 172 Theatre Building

### THEATER

- **Iowa New Play Festival,**

## Saturday 5.10

- Dust Town,** 5:30 and 9 p.m., Theatre Building Mabie Theatre

### DANCE

- **Alice in Wonderland,** 2 and 7 p.m., Englert Theatre, 221 E. Washington

### MISCELLANEOUS

- **Iowa City Farmers' Market,** 7:30 a.m., Chauncey Swan parking ramp, Gilbert and Washington Streets

- **Mother's Day Project-Apron,** 9 a.m., Home Ec. Workshop

- **Project GREEN Garden Fair,** 9 a.m., Carver-Hawkeye Arena

- **International Migratory Bird Day,** 10 a.m., Macbride Museum of Natural History

- **Knitter's Breakfast,** 10 a.m., Home Ec. Workshop

- **Intro to Cables,** 10:30 a.m., Crazy Girl Yarn Shop

- **What a Load of Craft Fair No. 4 and Record Swap,** noon, Picador

- **HeroClix,** 1 p.m., Critical Hit Games

- **20th Anniversary Celebration of In Vitro Fertilization Program,** 2 p.m., Kinick Krause Family Plaza

- **Backyard Abundance Free Yard Tour,** 2 p.m., 38 Quincourt

- **Trains Across Iowa,** 2 p.m., Johnson County Historical Society, 860 Quarry Road, Coralville

- **Rock and Roll/Country Night,** 9 p.m., Speak Easy

- **Knitting Nurse,** 2 p.m., Home Ec. Workshop, 207 N. Linn

- **Noon Knits,** noon, Hardin Library

- **Ballroom Dance Club,** 7:30 p.m., Old Brick, 26 E. Market

- **Adult Ballet,** 1:30 p.m., Arts à La Carte, 20 E. Market

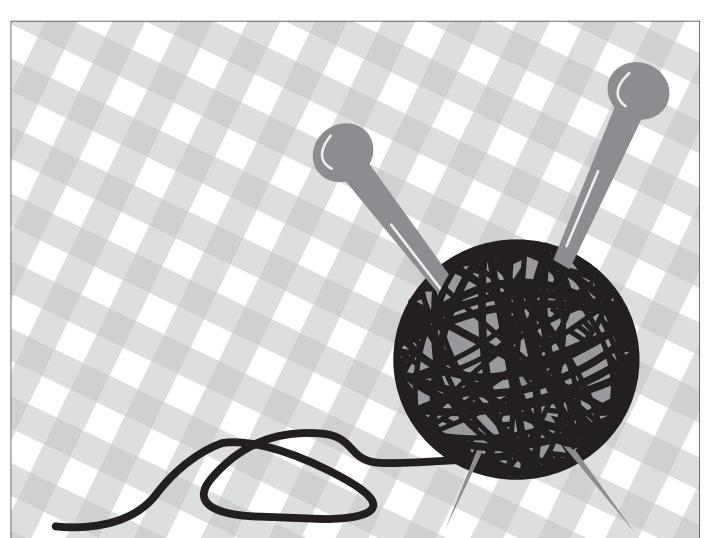
- **Graduate Painting Open House,** 6 p.m., 109 River St.

- **Friday Night Magic,** 6:30 p.m., Critical Hit Games, 89 Second St. No. 5, Coralville

- **Friday Night Karaoke with Gemini Karaoke,** 9 p.m., American Legion, 3016 Muscatine Ave.

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

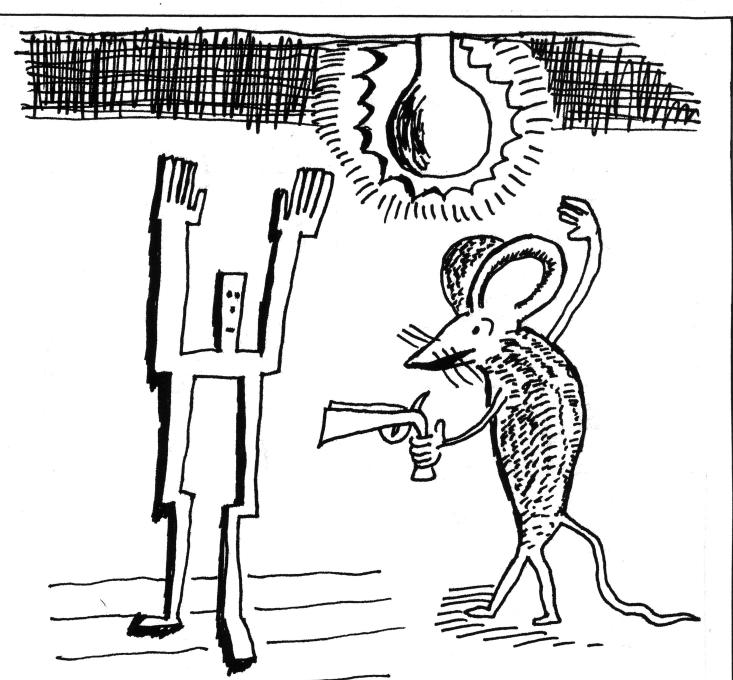
## Sunday 5.11



Matt Egesdal/The Daily Iowan

Summer heat can be suffocating. On the hottest of days, an indoor activity might be just the thing to help cool off and keep those fine motor skills in check. Try knitting! Sunday is a great day to learn how at any of the events at Home Ec. Workshop or Crazy Girl Yarn Shop.

## Haloosa Nation



"One false move and I'll make Swiss cheese out o' va!"



DI RECOMMENDS

YouTubing "babies eating lemons." Have we really sunk that low? Yes, we have. Perhaps the only pre-finals week enjoyment capable of getting is seeing the wee tykes' citrus misfortune. Being adorable and worrisome at the same time has never seemed so right.

## QUOTEABLE

"Did I do that?"

— Steve Urkel



**DailyIowan.com** shows a strong resemblance to Liz Lemon on "30 Rock." If his obsession with sandwiches and guys named Dennis weren't enough, all he has to do is whip out his Cleveland fascination. A wondrous burg, 'tis Cleveland.

arts & culture | 80 HOURS

# Town, school live up to literary rep

## WRITERS

CONTINUED FROM 1C

### All Roads Lead to Iowa City

Where do writers come from? Asking a writer when they knew they wanted to be a writer is a lot like asking a married couple when they fell in love: The making of a writer is a love story, except that the most important part, the part that explains how it all begins, doesn't have a story — just as asking when people knew they were in love, writers will say "you just know."

Joyce Turner, 42, is a first-year student in the fiction workshop. She is soft-spoken but opinionated, and her voice has a gentle lilt from her childhood in South Carolina.

"When I was a child, I decided I wanted to write something I wanted to read," she said.

Growing up, Turner eagerly watched readings from the Iowa Writers' Workshop aired on South Carolina public television. As an undergraduate, she studied philosophy and biology at St. John's College in Annapolis, planning to pursue a career in writing but having biology to fall back on. At present, she works in a UI lab.

"I was hoping to work in a lab by day and write by night," she said. "Now, I write by day and work in a lab at night."

After completing her undergraduate degree, Turner did not apply to M.F.A. programs right away but drove trucks across the country for nine years with her husband. That experience was the stuff that books are made of.

"I got to see what America is," she said.

After a divorce, Turner returned to school, this time in writing classes, and after auditing a few, applied to 11 M.F.A. programs without favorable results.

"It was in Florence where it occurred to me that if you wanted to be a goldsmith in the 15th century, you wouldn't stay in your own little village, you would go to Florence," Turner said.

So, in 2003 Turner came to Iowa City and applied to the Writers' Workshop — and was rejected. She continued to audit classes. She continued to be rejected.

"And every March I would go out to my mailbox to get my rejection slips," she said. She was washing the dishes when the phone rang in March 2007 to let her know she'd been accepted.

### The Writing University

Where writers come from really is a lot like where babies come from: People fall in love with a book, they decide to make new books, and then spend their lives trying to decide what to do with their new books.

Lan Samantha Chang, the director of the Writers' Workshop, knew that she wanted to write at a very young age.

"I've wanted to write since I was 4 years old," she said. "But I did not study creative writing, because I am the child of immigrants and tried for many years to pursue a more stable path."

A conundrum.

"I was in my mid-20s when I began to take community writing courses, which led to the Workshop," she said. "I love the Workshop. The reason I decided to take this job as director is that I am trying to give back to the Workshop in some way what I gained from it — which is aesthetic independence of thought and action, creative inspiration and support, and lifelong friends."

The Workshop tries to provide its students with "a community of the most gifted peer group of emerging writers in English, as well as support and instruction from world-class established fiction writers and poets," she said.

Robin Hemley, the director of the UI Nonfiction Writing Program, is a Writers' Workshop graduate as well. He echoed Chang's reference to community.

"There are very few places in the U.S. where writing is respected as an endeavor," he said. "When I came to Iowa City, I found a community of like-minded people."

But while the Workshop



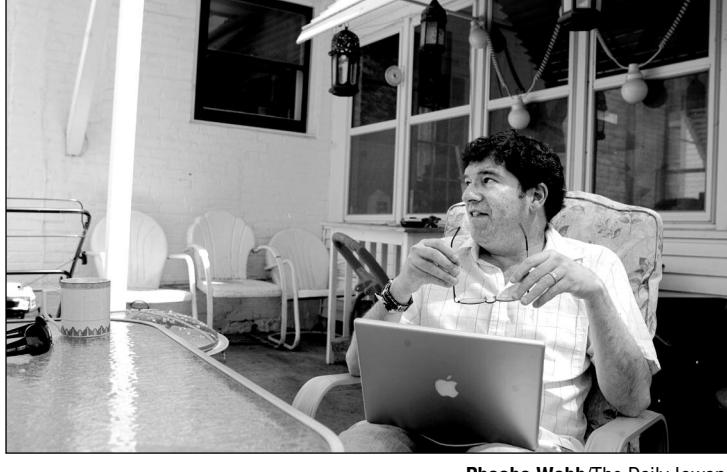
Phoebe Webb/The Daily Iowan

Junior Sam Larsen-Ferree sits at his writing desk at his home. He says he must keep his desk clean and sparse in order to concentrate.



Phoebe Webb/The Daily Iowan

Writers' Workshop student Joyce Turner sits at her writing desk in Macbride Hall. Turner is in her first year at the Workshop.



Phoebe Webb/The Daily Iowan

Robin Hemley, the director of the Nonfiction Writing Program, sits on his patio, where he does most of his writing in fair weather.

began the UI's literary reputation, not all writers in school here are a part of the Writers' Workshop.

While the Workshop works primarily with graduate students, Hemley, in the likewise distinguished Nonfiction Writing Program, works with both undergraduate and graduate students. He, along with Christopher Merrill, the director of the International Writing Program (who is primarily responsible for the proposal to make Iowa City a UNESCO City of Literature), and former Provost Michael Hogan, were part of the task force responsible for naming the UI "the Writing University." Hemley described the task force as a "think tank" to "enhance and improve the university's writing commitment."

Tied up with the phrase "writing commitment" is the unspoken promise that those who choose an education at the "the Writing University" should be provided necessary resources as writers. A number of undergraduates, however, wanted more: In October 2006, Sam Larsen-Ferree, along with other undergraduates, drew up a petition for a creative-writing major, a proposal that met support from the Writing University task force.

"Here was Iowa City, the cradle of writing in the U.S., but no creative-writing major," Hemley said. "It struck me as a glaring omission."

One of the biggest areas for improvement was the creative-writing Honors thesis project, which currently requires a faculty member of the Writers' Workshop to serve as an adviser. For years the trend has been that a number of faculty are available for nonfiction projects, while James Allen McPherson is typically willing to advise fiction projects — poets are out of luck. The cornerstone of the creative-writing major proposal was the addition of faculty. Then a structured curriculum could be developed with beginning, intermediate, and advanced classes. The proposal also requested literature classes specifically for writers with a

larger concentration on craft and a transcript notation.

The proposal will be implemented as a track in the English major beginning this fall, when the newly appointed director of undergraduate creative writing, Robyn Schiff, will arrive on campus.

Schiff, a poet and another graduate of the Writers' Workshop, highlighted a difference between undergraduate and graduate writing education. Like Hemley, she spoke of avoiding overspecialization, of expanding the existing community, and offering writing classes to all interested undergraduates, not just those who plan to pursue a writing career.

"An undergraduate education shouldn't assume you want to do that for the rest of your life," she said. "You might be flirting with the idea."

The undergraduate program, still to begin, embodies dreams of openness and opportunity

that stand in contrast to the tradition of the exclusive Writers' Workshop.

Larsen-Ferree, a junior, won't be among the undergraduates to benefit from the creation of the tract. He still feels, however, that he benefited as a writer from his time as an undergraduate in Iowa City.

"The university provides a lot,

but I also find the place inspiring,"

he said, naming the points of the larger community: the bookstores, the readings, the other writers.

"The way Iowa City works with a lot of smaller communities connected is kind of surreal."

#### A writer

Ask Hemley if you can teach writing, he will laugh. Apparently, this is a top question in

interviews for teaching in writing programs.

"And No. 2 is: How do you grade creative writing?" he said. He then said that the short answer is that craft can be taught but not talent.

"I will say, though, that talent is not a fixed thing," he said. "If you're going to be a writer, you have to be in it for the long haul, and it's not always the most talented but sometimes the most persistent who do well."

But what is a successful writer? The Workshop is renowned for its distinguished graduates; Maryann Rasmussen, the director of the English Honors Program, can list many undergraduates who've gone on to write movies and win places in prestigious M.F.A. programs.

"I think it's hard to know when you graduate how to pursue a career as a writer outside of getting an M.F.A.," she said. "You can keep working on your writing and try to get it published, but writing a novel, for example, takes time, and money usually has to be made in the meantime. Sometimes, students know they want to be writers, and sometimes they figure it out later, and their undergrad experiences with writing here shape them in ways neither they nor I can always predict."

Turner, who spent three persistent years applying to the Workshop, talked about what someone should expect after graduating from a writing program. "If someone had designed the perfect writing school, all would publish a book when they were finished, but it's not like med school, where you graduate and become a doctor. Every writer's path is different."

The role of the writing community is consistently reinforced. Turner said that her time in Iowa City before being accepted into the Workshop helped her establish "writing identity." Hemley said, "Iowa taught me not only how to write but how to think of myself as a writer."

"If you had asked me what I learned at the Workshop in 1993, when I graduated, I would probably have had a completely different answer from what I would say now," Chang said. "Now, I know that the Workshop was only the beginning of my education as a writer, but it was a remarkable beginning."

E-mail D/reporter Tara Atkinson Gunyon at

tara.gunyon@uiowa.edu

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# Lying in winter



Steve Lexa/The Daily Iowan

**Cast members rehearse May 6 in the Theater Building for *A History of Bad Ideas*, a dramatic play about hard times in a relationship. The play is part the week-long New Play Festival that features plays written by members of the Playwrights' Workshop.**

By Brigid Marshall

THE DAILY IOWAN

Erie scenes, characters, and feelings will fill Thayer Theatre Friday night as budding playwright Mary Hamilton's latest project, *We Three*, takes the stage. As part of the UI's premier springtime event, the Iowa New Play Festival, her play will take audiences to the dead of winter just as temperatures are beginning rise here.

"There's a range of styles and stories being told this year, from a ghost story in a tourist town to a mythic telling of Greek stories," said John Kaufmann, *We Three*'s director. "People can pick and choose any play and be delightfully surprised."

Kaufmann, a UI theater graduate student, saw Hamilton's work through every stage of its development, even as the lines changed with each new rehearsal.

"What drew me to this play was the stark poetry in the language and how much of the mystery and action of the play is between the lines, left unsaid, rather than otherwise," he said.

The play focuses on two neighbors, Grace and Dustin, as their lives intertwine when a young girl from out of town, played by 12-year-old Amy Ostrem, falls through the ice during a winter storm. The play is taken us through subsequent events as the aging widow, Grace (Evelyn Stanske), swears she saw the girl fall, but upon repeated

## 2008 NEW PLAY FESTIVAL

### NEW PLAY FESTIVAL

#### *We Three*, by Mary Hamilton

**When:** 5:30 and 9 p.m. Friday

**Where:** Theatre Building

Thayer Theatre

**Admission:** \$6 for the public;

\$4 for UI students,

senior citizens, and youth

questioning, her story wavers.

Days after the child's reported drowning, police search for a body but, mysteriously, can only find a lone mitten. As the children seen playing with her that day confirm the girl existed, pieces come together only to fall apart.

"What it's really about on a deeper level is the power of belief," Kaufmann said. "Asking the questions such as can believing something make it so? All the characters have something they believe in so much they want to make it real."

Alone in her large, empty home, Grace knows what she saw was real, though she can't prove it. With Dustin's entrance into the frame (the story is best left in mystery), the peculiar plot line leaves audiences off balance.

"[Hamilton's] dialogue — the

### A play on video

For a sneak peak of what's to come during Friday night's performance of the New Play Festival's *We Three*, check out the actors' video commentary on [dailyiowan.com](#).

way she writes — is so crisp and clear. I relate it to Shakespeare, because there are all these clues that Mary puts in the text," said Megha Nabe, who plays Daisy, Dustin's love interest. "You've got to be a detective. It's not a straightforward play."

As the show focuses on Grace's tale, the Dustin/Daisy plotline tangles, and no one knows whom or what to believe. Grace believes she saw a girl, Dustin believes Grace — but no one believes either of them.

"When I first read the play, I was like, 'Wow,'" said Ethan Henry, who plays Dustin. "Every time I [perform] this, I finish and am like, 'What did I just do?'"

Hamilton's work centers on audience interpretation, understanding of truth, and how mixed-up reality really is.

"I think the play is about people searching, reaching a hand out, and wanting someone to grasp it back, and wanting that support system," Nabe said. "Looking for love and not knowing how to find it."

E-mail *D*/reporter Brigid Marshall at: [brigid\\_marshall@uiowa.edu](mailto:brigid_marshall@uiowa.edu)

## THE PICADOR

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Film School Ariele Birth Rites

**Fri. May 9** ALL AGES 5PM  
**Vital Light** Super Like You

**Fri. May 9** The Nadas She Swings, She Sways

**Sat. May 10** ALL AGES 12-6PM  
**What A Load of Craft #4**  
Craft Fair and Record Swap!!!

**Sat. May 10** Dead Meadow The Black Hollies Mondo Drag Brutus and the Psychedelic Explosions

**Wed. May 14** Jesse White Caleb Coffey The Sullivan Gang

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# Nothing bites like reality



MERYN FLUKER

both Video Hits 1 and Music TeleVision (creative, huh?) rarely play videos during waking hours. That precious airtime is now devoted to marathons of mindless reality television in the form of celebrity-stroking competitions and surveillance of soon-to-be D-List celebrities, complete with the newest music as the soundtrack. But enough about "Rock the Cradle" and "The Real World." I'm not going to rail on MTV, because it knows what it's doing, and like its viewers, won't stop until life (or lack of interest) forces it to grow up.

My beef is with VH1. The home of such awesome series as "Legends," "Storytellers," and the gold standard in documentary television, "Behind the Music," has reduced itself to a jungle gym for washed up Hollywood dwellers. Nothing exemplifies this truth more than its latest foray into trashy content, "Celebracadabra," which debuted recently. Yes, "Celebracadabra." It's exactly what it sounds like, minus the celebrities. The show features has-beens and never-weres such as ANT, host of that other VH1 talent-fest "Celebrity Fit Club," and C. Thomas Howell (showing that dressing up in blackface only takes a career so far). These individuals get coached by magicians and perform magic tricks for crowds on the street, which let's face it, is the only way most of these people could draw a crowd anyway.

I haven't seen quality music-oriented programming on VH1 in a long time. After driving the brilliant and witty "I Love" series into the ground, (really, was 2004 the appropriate time to look back on the '90s with any real perspective? And were two

installments really necessary?) VH1 went down a dangerous path with Bret Michaels at the wheel of its "Celebrability" programming block. Sure, it's fun to mock the formerly famous and usually talentless, but is that the best way to build a programming schedule? VH1's ratings have gone through the roof, with "I Love New York" garnering the highest ratings of any VH1 series ever, proving that there's nothing folks love more than watching black people act out their stereotypes. The star of "I Love New York," Tiffany Pollard (a.k.a. New York) is not even a celebrity but rather a former contestant on dried-out Public Enemy member Flavor Flav's reality show, "Flavor of Love."

VH1's commitment to continue developing and airing such insipid and near-prurient content only shows that appealing to the lowest common denominator is easy and profitable. By effectively throwing away a once-great legacy of substantial and entertaining (and don't forget, music-centered) programming in favor of staying relevant and registering with younger viewers, VH1 has disappointed its former demographic, as well as the occasional Generation Y member with an old soul. As far as "Celebracadabra" and its brethren, the only magic trick I want to see ANT do make VH1's "CelebReality" lineup disappear.

E-mail *D*/reporter Meryn Fluker at: [meryn\\_fluker@uiowa.edu](mailto:meryn_fluker@uiowa.edu)

# Dining out?

# Dining guide

The Daily Iowan

at [dailyiowan.com](#)

**DAILYIOWAN.COM** has been told his behavior resembles John Locke's on "Lost." Badass, bald, and completely willing to undercut that pretty boy Jack, **dailyiowan.com** is magical. Especially because it has MP3s — a truly shiny hatch of wonder.

The latest Mission Creek band has trouble with its label and Midwest geography. But the group seem to be doing just fine when it comes to rocking out.

# Loving Omaha and other FILMS

By Anna Wiegenstein  
THE DAILY IOWAN

One of my standard questions for any touring band: So, have you been through Iowa before?

When I asked Film School's lead singer and guitarist Greg Bertens, he enthusiastically responded, "Totally — we loved playing Omaha."

After a brief U.S. geography reminder, he spent the rest of our time on the phone bemoaning his lack of Iowa/Nebraska knowledge: "I'm like the person from the U.S. who knows nothing about Europe, except I'm the guy from California who apparently knows nothing about the rest of the country."

Indeed, it was not the most auspicious start to an interview. But despite it, he did a bang-up job of buttering up the Iowa City readership.

"Many people have told us it's a cool place to play," he said loudly, the rumble of a van starting up nearly drowning him out. "We're looking forward to it."

So, for the record, today's 9 p.m. Mission Creek show at the Picador, 330 E. Washington St., will indeed mark Film School's inaugural Iowa visit.

Founded by Bertens, Film School (whose name comes from, he reported, "living in the suburbs and this kind of prescribed notion that if you're going to be creative, you had to be either in film school or in a band. So I started a band called Film School") has been around in several different incarnations for almost seven years.

The band began as a side solo release by him, 2001's *Brilliant Career*. Following years saw the releases of 2003's *AlwaysNever EP*, 2006's self-titled album, and last year's *Hideout*. Along the way, the band has shifted lineups with nearly every disc out.

"I think that with each lineup, there have come changes that get closer to 'the album' that I've been trying to write for however many years," he said. *Hideout* is the closest he has yet to get to that album, he said, thanks to more "sonic expansion and better layering."

"When the melodies are better," Bertens said, "it gets you closer to the emotion you're trying to share in the first place."

Of course, pointing at what just exactly would need to happen for this mythical album to appear would be too easy: "It's the unspeakable, I'm afraid," he said. "The indefinable."

Being "definable" is actually something that Film School, a band that is most often described as of the sonically layered "shoe-gaze" genre, has had its own problems with.

"It's a really tricky label to associate yourself with," Bertens said, sighing at the mention of the largely mid-90s genre. "We've totally struggled with that."

Though the group's MySpace page does indeed list "shoe-gaze" as one of its classifications, he is quick to point out that it's the last of the three (the first two being "alternative" and "psychedelic") and that he only recently decided to add the label. If it were up to him, he said, the page would list not only My Bloody Valentine but Sonic Youth and Seefel at the top of its profile.



The band Film School, pictured above, got its name because of the notion, according to its founder, that "If you're going to be creative, you had to be either in film school or in a band."

## MUSIC

### Film School, with Airel, Foul Tip and Birth Rites

**When:** 9 p.m. today  
**Where:** Picador, 330 E. Washington  
**Admission:** 19-plus can buy tickets at TicketWeb.com for \$7.

"I think it's way more accurate to use bands to describe other bands," Bertens said. "If that were three bands, and not three genres, it'd be way better."

While he may struggle with the shoe-gaze affiliation, a listen to a Film School track can't help but recall the genre, especially when the process behind the writing is revealed. Sonic tracks are layered on top of each other and/or looped, until melodies reveal themselves — a process Bertens says can take anywhere from "10 minutes to 10 weeks."

"It's like TV," he said. "The



## GIVE A LISTEN

### Film School Hideout

#### Featured Tracks:

- "What I Meant To Say"

longer you stare at that snow that shows up, the more patterns you see."

Described like that, it perhaps shouldn't be surprising when Bertens only hesitated for a fraction of a second before describing the Film School's live experience as: "Ginormous."

He laughed and said, "What can I say? It's a real big sound. Ever had a band describe itself as that before?"

E-mail *D*/reporter Anna Wiegenstein at: Anna-wiegenstein@uiowa.edu

## PERFORMING IOWA

# Dance Gala

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# Along the lines



Beth Skogen/The Daily Iowan  
*The Power of the Line: European and American Etching Revival Prints from the Lee Collection* hangs on display at the UI Museum of Art. Artists used acid to texture molds that were pressed onto paper, creating a highly precise piece of art work.

With a large gift from Iowa City residents Debra Gabrielson Lee and J. Thomas Lee, UI art undergraduate and graduate students helped to assemble an etching exhibition at the UI Museum of Art.

By Cole Cheney  
THE DAILY IOWAN

## ART EXHIBIT

### *The Power of the Line: European and American Etching Revival Prints from the Lee Collection*

**When:** Opening Friday at 3:30 p.m.  
**Where:** UI Art Museum

colors forces the artists emphasize the texture so accurately."

Among other art students, Smith headed committees that pored over nearly 300 etchings to select a small percentage to display at the exhibit. The class,

The Art Museum: Theory and Practice, which is taught by art Professor Joni Kinsey, exposed students to the process of museum display. The instruction was new even to veteran museum curator and art history Ph.D. student David Riep, who works in with the African department in the UI museum.

"This is far outside my specialty, and the setup showed me the many different techniques that artists can etch with a single color," he said.

"Shard, blurring, and smoky effects on Japan Paper, satin and cotton linen give the displays a lot diversity."

Organizing graduate and undergraduate students into committees in the "Topics: Art History" class, Kinsey instructed students as they selected the most interesting pieces to display. Ranging from maritime to nature scenery to sheep, the different exhibits beg for a closer inspection, with each line becoming more intricate the closer the scrutiny. While only blues, reds, and blacks bounce off beige walls and white frames, the exhibit maintains an air of perfection through simplicity. The scenes take on individual meanings through each line. The straight and clear lines display an image rivaling 3-D photography; the blurred lines take on a surreal tone, suggesting a hazy scene or memory. What the exhibit lacks in celebrity, it compensates with time and space transcending images that evoke American history and scenery as desired by UI students.

"VOOM will be tough to beat, attendance-wise," said museum media Spokeswoman Margaret Anderson. "I do think, however, that the era of the exhibit, along with student participation in its creation, should attract people."

E-mail *D*/reporter Cole Cheney at: cole-cheney@uiowa.edu

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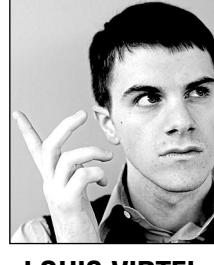
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# Crazy — maybe even Krazy

*Letters to  
Louis*



LOUIS VIRTEL

louis-virtel@uiowa.edu

Dear Louis,  
What ever happened to the Crazy? Britney's doing better; so is Lindsay — who's even left anymore? Winehouse? Yuck. You miss the Crazy as much as I do?

YOURS! — Nat

Dear NAT!

You know, Nat, I can't really miss the Crazy if I'm surrounded by it every second of the day. Which I am. The Crazy's not something we just scan in gossip blogs — it's in our lives, all around us, bombarding us, like oxygen or *Scarface* posters. Also doesn't help if we generate the Crazy ourselves, constantly — which I certainly do. It's my way of recycling. I'm talking about that internal, maniacally scheming, *Fatal Attraction*-style obsessive streak, which came into vogue in the early '90s, when actress Sean Young dressed up as Catwoman and stormed a movie set to persuade Tim Burton to cast her. Even Sinéad O'Connor was like, "She needs help."

The Crazy on a micro level is just as frightening. Take, for instance, my divine ability to think and rethink about degrading comments my gymnastics coach hurled at me when I was 8 (domineering Lithuanian men still make pee a little) or how hot I'd



Publicity Photo

Rapper/has-been Lauren Hill, particularly the "Jetsons" version, is a key member of the Crazy population, according to Louis Virtel's representatives.

look if only I removed half of these pesky ribs. See? Scary. Let's figure out where the rest of you can find ample dosages of the Crazy, because you apparently can't drag it out of yourselves. P.S. Sanity is for pussies; you all make me sick.

**Rapping females:** The barometer of Crazy shoots up like a sunflower-steroid hybrid whenever a rapping lady enters the room. You might remember when Lauryn Hill sang about the "Ex-Factor" or how "Everything is Everything." Since that time, Hill has advanced on her storied "Miseducation." And by that I mean she's currently studying abroad ... on what must be a spaceship. Little over a year ago, Hill unveiled a new "look," featuring what sure seemed like silver eye makeup (puffy paint?), an Afro, and a tin-foil alien bodysuit — killing us softly with her ray-gun, if you will. With all the Reynolds-wrap and Martian imagery going on here, I sense a remake video of "We Built This City" on the horizon, so look forward to that.

Lauryn's main combatant in Crazy is, obviously, the lovely Ms. Lil Kim, who likes to spend her un-incarcerated time collecting plastic surgeries like

Pokémon cards. I could revel in this Crazy all day, except these ladies carry weapons, so let's book it.

**Residence Life:** Not positive your university life abounds with enough under-medicated spontaneity? Looks like your time has arrived to become an RA. Check it: I'm an RA, and guess how I feel? Fluent in Crazy. I'm speaking it to exchange students by now. The day-to-day beat of a resident assistant involves only the finest of life's challenges, like stopping that thousand-pound freshman from punching pedestrians or getting called at 4 a.m. to help clean Tina's puke off her roommate's thong in the hall. If you ever wanted to take part in the show "Cops" without committing to all of that ... Kentucky, become an RA. You're on staff with superschweet, sensible people, and you'll need them when a wobbling, crying 18-year-old pulls the fire alarm because she got scared when Tina started puking on everyone's thongs.

**Exes:** Part of enjoying the Crazy means constraining others as crazier than us. It's validating. Talk about "Ex-Factor," the exercise re-evaluating our most diagnosable exes gets more fun with each attempt. Truly, I

wish I was deranged enough to make up my three personal favorites, because I'd be making James Frey-style bank right now: 1) My high-school beau whose hyper-Catholic father blessed him with holy water every time I came over. For real. Still debating an Opus Dei connection. 2) The batshit-bonkers 25-year-old who claimed I spread rumors that he had AIDS and "wore his bandana all the time because of the AIDS." You know. Bandanas. Those international AIDS emblems. And 3) The affable 21-year-old I met in March who (get this) claimed to have sex dreams where I read "Letters to Louis" to him as we did the nasty. See, this is why we need to legalize gay marriage ... so I can arrange for this flattery in all my days.

**Facebook:** Um, Nat, we haven't yet spoken about our demented mutual friend named Facebook. Crazy basically lives in a high-rise on Facebook, though it owns condos on MySpace and most fan-fiction sites. Just look at these pearls, from the compulsive overachievers who post stilted profile pictures from meet-and-greets with Hillary Rodham Clinton or Mitt Romney to that uncombed recluse English grad student whose only listed interest is either "fire" or "Morrissey." Bless your madness, Mark Zuckerberg.

One last note about the Crazy: I'm set to swivel in it for life since, er, "L2L" ends next week. Don't worry, the column will end the way you probably expect — Marcia gets to play Juliet, DJ doesn't get into Stanford, and Liz Phair travels back in time to when she wasn't Avril Lavigne's MILF aunt. And maybe I'll cry. Stay tuned.

Of course, [dailyiowan.com](#) tries endlessly to mold himself after superstar Louis, with or without TV backing. In an odd and misguided move — unable to attract the attention of the writer himself — [dailyiowan.com](#) can now be seen dressed in a cape of crumpled, unanswered letters addressed to Virtel. Reality show is pending.

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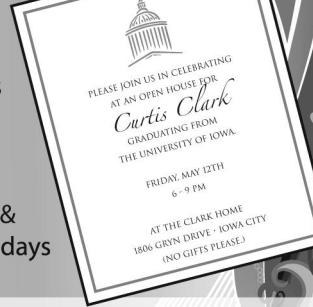
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