

The Daily Iowan

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2008

NEWSPAPER • **DI** DAILYIOWAN.COM • TELEVISION

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80 HOURS

Defacing everything

Second City makes its annual return to Iowa City this weekend as part of the its nationwide tour of *Deface the Nation*. Hot topics obviously include: politics, politics, and politics. **1C**



SPORTS

Does football pass or fail?

Check out **The Daily Iowan's** midterm grades for Kirk Ferentz's Hawkeyes as we break it down position by position. **1B**

Hoop it up

Lisa Bluder introduced her 2008-09 women's basketball team to the Iowa media Wednesday with high hopes. **1B**

NEWS

Helping Hancher

Locations around the city are offering space for shows originally slated to be at Hancher Auditorium, costing the university thousands. **2A**

Athletics update

The Presidential Committee on Athletics talked about adjusting education standards for athletes and budget expansions for flood-affected facilities Wednesday. **4A**

Facebook safety alerts

UI officials said they're considering using social-networking sites to update the community in emergencies. **5A**

OPINIONS

What election?

Pulling a felon's right to vote can be a sticky situation when you redefine "felon." **6A**

DAILYIOWAN.COM

For photos, videos, audio, blogs, and more, check us out online.

Daily updates

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

DAILY IOWAN TV

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

Today's webcast

From groceries to gas prices, see how the tumultuous economy is affecting students on today's edition of Daily Iowan TV.

WEATHER

72 48
Mostly sunny, light, variable winds.

INDEX

Arts **1C** Opinions **6A**
Classifieds **4B** Sports **1B**
Crossword **6B**

Controversies not cheap

The UI already follows most suggestions made in British study that says how to make controversy resolution cheaper.

Amount UI spends on controversies

The UI spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in the last year on staff positions and other costs relating to conflict mitigation:

- No more than \$250,000 went toward the Stolar Partnership report
- \$70,000 is Monique DiCarlo's 2008 salary
- \$89,546 is Cynthia Joyce's 2008 salary

By **LAURA KLAIRMONT**
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While controversies surrounding the Hillcrest sexual investigation, former UI Professor Arthur Miller's suicide, and the recent firings of two top UI officials may have tarnished the school's reputation, there's another problem that has been issued to the background: money.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars have vanished in the handling such controversies, and a Higher Education Funding Council report said conflicts among university staff, students and administration can be tackled more cost-effectively.

"A frequently encountered phenomenon is that a small dispute [grows large] and complicated and protracted

because of the way it is handled," according to the recently released report.

The report — "Taking a Fresh Look at Disputes in Higher Education" — emphasized that a campus ombudsperson, whose sole purpose would be to handle disputes, is essential to solving conflicts cheaply.

The UI already employs such a person, Cynthia Joyce, who earns nearly \$90,000 per year.

SEE **CONTROVERSY**, 3A

UI forms flood panel

During what seems to be an endless flood recovery, the UI gears up for risk assessment with a flood-mitigation committee.

By **ANNA LOTHSON**
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Four months after the start of the historic summer flood, UI officials are now ready to look back at the damage.

A diverse 14-member UI Flood Mitigation Task Force will work with consultants from Ayres Associates and Sasaki Associates to produce a report regarding ways the university can prevent future risks as rebuilding continues.

Jonathan Carlson, the senior associate to UI President Sally Mason, said the group is composed of individuals with expertise in flood-related areas.

"The group will help us understand why buildings on campus are where they are," he said.

While preventing future flooding is impossible, he said the task force will be able to determine how buildings should be protected so future damages are minimized.

He said process includes evaluating the use of the buildings, moving critical mechanical equipment, and protecting the landscape.

Though the team will work with outside consultants, Carlson said, UI faculty in the task force are all "technical experts" in various fields.

"To some extent it will be a team effort, and on the other extent, the task force will work on its own," he said. This will offer a broad perspective, he said.

Carlson said Larry Weber, a UI hydroscience professor, will be able to determine proper elevation levels for buildings and analyze the results of rainfall and precipitation to resolve how the university can live alongside the Iowa River.



Carlson
senior associate to UI President Sally Mason



BENJAMIN ROBERTS/THE DAILY IOWAN

The UI Main Library celebrates its newest exhibit — *Community, Education, Family, Tradition: Latinos in Iowa* — on Wednesday.

Celebrating Latino culture

For UI Latino students, community helps create an easier transition.

By **JENNIFER DELGADO**
jennifer-delgado@uiowa.edu

For UI sophomore Billy Drew, the transition to college wasn't difficult. But what was? Not seeing any other Latinos at the UI.

The UI "is culturally a little lower than what I expected," the 19-year-old said. "I do think there is [Latin] culture here, but you have to go and find it."

This week, UI Latino organizations are celebrating Latino Heritage Month. In the Main Library, an

ON DAILY IOWAN TV

See video of the gathering in the Main Library at dailyiowan.com.

exhibit rife with emerald, cardinal, and orange highlights how the local Latino community contributes to the UI — and to show a heritage some think is ignored on campus.

In the fall of 2007, Latino students made up nearly 3 percent of the campus, according to the UI's Office of the Registrar. In the past 10 years, the number has

increased by a little more than 200 students.

Officials said they wanted to honor Latino activism and the founding of a Latino Native American Cultural Center on Melrose Avenue.

"We've always had little sessions," said Rachel Garza Carreón, a member of the UI Council on the Status of Latinos. "But this is the first time a huge exhibit has been associated with the celebration."

UI freshman Marcela Zamora said she stopped by the exhibit to eat Mexican

pastries, listen to Latino music, and see an altar to Día de los Muertos — Day of the Dead — a Mexican holiday that honors the deceased.

"It's cool," Zamora said. "I love having Mexican food because it makes me feel at home."

The Hampton, Iowa, native said the UI is more diverse than her hometown — which has a population of roughly 4,000. But not by much.

SEE **LATINO**, 3A

Industry going after downloaders

Students found illegally downloading music on the UI's Internet could face thousands of dollars in fines from recording industries.

By **CLARA HOGAN**
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When the university caught UI senior Alex Cantu downloading music illegally three years ago in his Mayflower dorm room, he only lost his Internet for seven days and had to talk with an administrator.

"It wasn't that big of a deal," he said. "Nothing really happened."

But the punishment for students who use the UI's Internet — in residence halls, computer labs, or on the wire-

less network — to illegally download today could be far worse.

In the spring of 2007, recording companies started to charge UI students with copyright infringement, which could cost some several thousand dollars in settlement fees. University officials are urging students who have music-piracy software on their computers to remove it immediately.

In the last eight months, roughly 50 students have been charged with illegally

downloading music. The first subpoena for a UI student's information came in the spring of 2007.

A university report released two years ago said there were 141 incidents of students downloading music illegally in residence halls during the 2005-06 school year.

Thomas Baker, the associate dean of students, said the university has tried to boost copyright-infringement education among students, but it has still seen an increase in

the number of cases involving illegally downloading music this year.

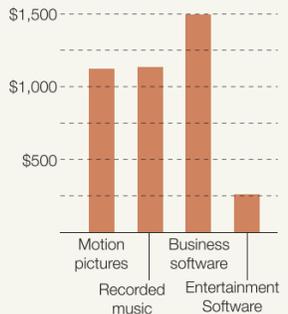
In total, music piracy costs \$12.5 billion internationally and 71,060 jobs every year, according to a Institute for Policy Innovation 2007 report.

The UI has traditionally dealt out punishment internally, issuing a warning and stripping the student of Internet access temporarily.

Piracy costs

It's estimated that copyright industries lost \$4,005 million to Internet piracy in the Americas in 2005.

Piracy-loss estimates for 2005
in millions



Source: International Intellectual Property Alliance

Jacqueline Cieslak/The Daily Iowan

SEE **DOWNLOAD**, 3A



Performances go on road

Venues throughout Iowa City work to help a university in need.

By **BRIANA BYRD**
briana-byrd@uiowa.edu

Without a stage to perform on, the fear of losing an entire season of performances loomed over the heads of the Hancher Auditorium staff.

But with the help of area high schools, churches, and even golf courses, Hancher and the rest of the performing Arts campus didn't lose its space. Actually, it gained some.

"Every single one of these facilities have bent over backwards to help us," said Charles Swanson, the executive director of Hancher Auditorium. "They've been great to work with, and we're just so pleased that we can save more than half our season."

But to make it work, Hancher will need to spend \$11,000 for all the new space and an additional \$17,000 for rental equipment, Swanson said.

The money doesn't hurt, venue officials said. But it's not about that — this is a community mission.

"It's definitely not a money-making endeavor," said Rob Medd, the director of the music department at West High.

The movement of the shows has caused headaches for some officials, who said scheduling has been a problem.

"We were not in the position to haggle over rental fees," said Judith Hurtig, the artistic director of Hancher Auditorium. "Everyone was frantically trying to find venues."

Even with the schedules of the events swelling, little can be cut. For instance, West High still hosts choir, band, and orchestra concerts for elementary, junior-high, and high-school students while serving the Parkview Evangelical church on Sunday mornings.

"There's a lot of schedule juggling, no doubt about it," said Phil Jamieson, office manager



DAVID SCRIVNER/THE DAILY IOWAN

Hawkeye Marching Band members rehearse on Wednesday for their performance during the Hawkeye-Hoosier football game Saturday. Their rehearsals, as well as other activities and events, have been moved to West High because of the flood.

at the Congregational United Church of Christ. "But most of the time, we're able to accommodate most requests."

But will the change in venue bring a whole new audience or an audience that doesn't show up at all?

"This is certainly changing the demographic of who attends," Jamieson said. "I'd imagine it's kind of a mixed bag in the sense of attendance."

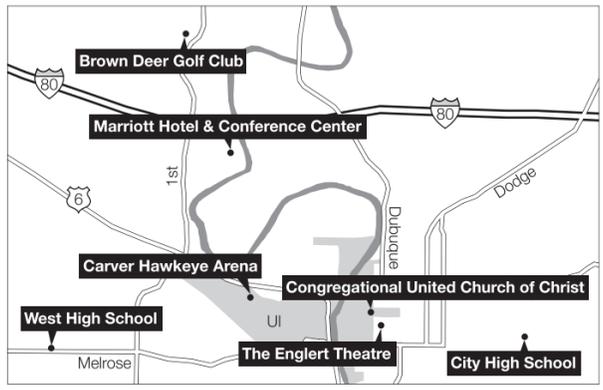
"I'm sure it draws some different people in, but we may lose some of the regular audience who went to Hancher before."

Regardless, Hancher officials said they're working to make sure the shows' quality remains the same, all while forming new relationships with the local community when moving shows.

"We want to make these performances as much like a Hancher experience as we can," Swanson said.

Replacement venues

Performances scheduled to take place in Hancher Auditorium have been relocated to other venues due to flooding.



Jacqueline Cieslak/The Daily Iowan

Said Medd: "It's been really neat to bring the arts community together. We've met a lot of people through the university

and have worked on things together. It is going to be a definite benefit for our students here."

UI aids in cleft-lip breakthrough

UI researchers have discovered a gene variant involved in cleft lip.

By **KATIE HANSON**
katherine-hanson@uiowa.edu

A baby born with cleft lip and palate can't suck on a bottle.

And without corrective surgery, such children could be plagued by speech impediments, hearing loss, and dental problems, and they could have difficulty eating normally.

But UI researchers, in an international collaboration, have made a discovery that may help diagnose, treat, and eventually prevent cleft lip.

Cleft lip and palate are among the most common birth defects, according to the National Institute of Craniofacial Research. In fact, a baby with cleft lip and palate is born every week in Iowa, said Jeff Murray, a UI professor in neonatology and a leading contributor to the study.

The researchers discovered a variation in a gene that may lead to 18 percent of isolated cleft lip cases, said Brian Schutte, a former UI associate professor involved with the research.

Murray's lab worked with the gene IRF6 — which Schutte's team found is a contributor to cleft lip and palate — and partnered with UI Professor Freder-

UI researchers have found a cause of cleft lip

A variation in gene IRF6 contributes to nearly one in five cases of cleft lip, according to UI researchers in collaboration with scientists worldwide.

- One in every 700 births results in a cleft lip and/or palate.
- A mother's chance of giving birth to a baby with a cleft lip and palate is 1 in 1,000.
- If a mother already has a child with a cleft lip and palate, the odds of her giving birth to another child with the birth defect is 1 in 20.
- Rates of cleft lip and palate sit at around 8 per 10,000 in the United States.
- In many South American countries, the prevalence of cleft lip and palate is roughly 15 per 10,000.

Sources: National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Institute, World Health Organization, and Jeff Murray

ick Domann to discover that a variation in IRF6's DNA wouldn't allow it to bind with a protein called AP2.

AP2 is crucial in controlling IRF6. If the gene doesn't function properly, the fetus may develop cleft lip.

"[This study] shows what can be achieved when investigators from seemingly disparate disciplines get together and collaborate," Domann said, who has previously studied AP2 and its relationship to cancer in the Radiation Research Lab.

The researchers used human and mammal DNA to study IRF6. The gene's makeup is the

same in all 25 animals studied, which allowed them to see if human IRF6 contained any differences.

"If you look at other [mammals], a mouse, cow, or bat, you can find the same sequence in the same position of any of these animals," Schutte said. The phenomenon is rare — roughly 2 to 3 percent of human DNA is the same as other mammals.

When former UI graduate student Fedik Rahimov studied the DNA of a patient with cleft lip and palate, he noticed an alteration not found in any other mammal involving IRF6's

interaction with AP2, Schutte said.

In a larger DNA study, the researchers found the sequence difference was more prevalent in individuals with cleft lip.

"This [discovery] is significant biologically, but clinically, it's still too early to have a significant immediate impact," Schutte said.

Gene therapy in the fetus is a procedure that still needs to be developed, Murray said, but the researchers' findings can help families know if a fetus contains the variation and help them be more prepared.

"Environment is easier to control than the gene," he said, noting that factors such as insufficient nutrition and tobacco can augment the chances of developing cleft lip and palate.

Schutte said that the method of using the human DNA can lead to further breakthroughs.

"We can use the approach to identify sequence differences in other genes that are involved in other complex diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease, and Alzheimer's disease," Schutte said. "This is one important step."

METRO

Mims honored

The NCAA Division I Iowa Athletics Directors Association awarded Iowa Associate Athletics Director Fred Mims the 2008 Dr. Gene Hooks Award Oct. 8.

The award is in honor of Hooks, the association's first director, according to an Iowa Sports Information news release.

It is presented each year to an athletics department staff member who has made a significant contribution to the CHAMPS program, which was created in the 1990s by the NCAA to promote a total development of a student athlete.

The CHAMPS program has five parts: academic and athletic excellence as well as personal, service, and career development.

"Together, we have built a culture at the University of Iowa that values student-athletes and their personal growth," Mims said in a statement. "I am proud of that culture and our collective efforts to build and maintain that culture."

— by Clara Hogan

Candidate forum today

All four 2nd Congressional District candidates will meet for a 2:30 forum this afternoon at the Coralville Library, 1401 Fifth St.

The candidates are: incumbent Dave Loeb sack, Democrat, Ottumwa doctor Mariannette Miller-Meeks, Republican, Brian White, assistant to the director of the UI Hospitals and Clinics, independent, and Cedar Rapids resident Wendy

Barth, Green Party.

The debate is being sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Johnson County, Johnson County AARP and the Heritage Agency Johnson County Task Force on Aging.

— by Shawn Gude

Trial for 3 ex-frat members set back

The trial for three former UI fraternity members found in possession of marijuana was rescheduled for March.

Iowa City police arrested former UI student Stephen Boyler, 23, and UI students James Goetz, 21, and Arthur Kerwin, 22, in December 2007 after police searched their Delta Upsilon fraternity house, 320 Ellis Ave., and allegedly discovered marijuana. Their

trial, originally scheduled for Oct. 13, is now set for March 23.

The arrest of the three former members eventually led to the closing of the UI chapter. Delta Upsilon International Fraternity officials said in a news release in January that the chapter closed from "serious violations of fraternity and university policies."

Other members of the fraternity were also either arrested or cited that month.

Boyer, Kerwin, and Goetz are each facing a felony Class D controlled-substance violation and drug tax-stamp violations, also a Class D felony. Kerwin was also charged with a serious-misdemeanor controlled-substance violation.

— by Olivia Moran

The Daily Iowan

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BREAKING NEWS

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CORRECTIONS

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Policy: The Daily Iowan strives for accuracy and fairness in the reporting of news. If a report is wrong or misleading, a request for a correction or a clarification may be made.

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TOP STORIES

Most-read stories on dailiowan.com for Wednesday, October 8

1. West High graduate a Daniel Radcliffe understudy on Broadway
2. Local GOP shifts focus away from UI students
3. Ferentz refuses to be gloomy despite losses
4. Fire hits home of five UI students
5. Commentary: Football playcalling varies from Republican to Quaker

POLICE BLOTTER

Jerod Hollinger, 18, 1110 N. Dubuque St. Apt. 803A, was charged Wednesday with presence in a bar after hours.

Joshua Jensen, 19, 199 E. Burlington St. Apt. 6, was charged Wednesday with public intoxication.

Makoko Mukumbilwa, 23, 2411 Bartelt Road Apt. 20, was charged Tuesday with driving with a suspended/canceled license.

Teresa Oberkiser, 27, 534 Elkhorn Trail, was charged Monday with driving with a suspended/canceled license.

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Total paid/requested	12,728	12,728
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Total free distrib.	5,397	5,397
Total distribution	18,125	18,125
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As publisher, I certify that the statements made by me are correct and complete.

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UI salutes Latinos

LATINO

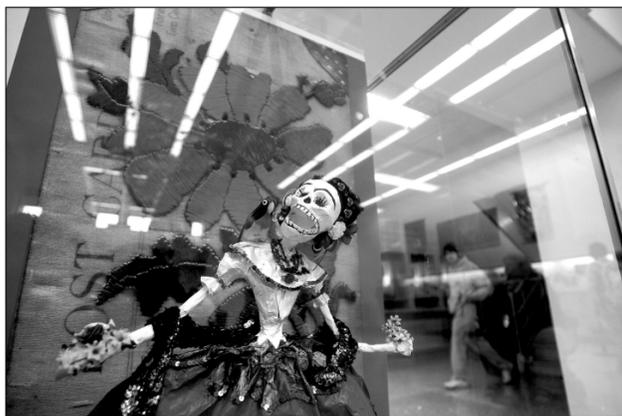
CONTINUED FROM 1A

For both Drew and Zamora, their financial-aid packages were big factors in their decisions to come to the UI.

The UI Center for Diversity and Enrichment says it recruits high-school students from diverse backgrounds. Its Advantage Iowa scholarship, geared toward minority, low-income, and first-generation college students, offers financial assistance starting at \$2,000 up to full tuition. Of its 433 scholars, 196 are Latino.

Zamora said the Iowa Edge program helped prepare her for college and introduced to the few Latino organizations, which helped her to realize there are some students like her on campus.

The program brings minority, low-income, and first-generation college students to campus a week before the school year starts. Officials say they hope incoming



BENJAMIN ROBERTS/THE DAILY IOWAN

A "Day of the Dead" doll sits encased during the *Community, Education, Family, Tradition: Latinos in Iowa* exhibit opening in the UI Main Library on Wednesday.

students build connections with other participants, student leaders, and school offices.

"I made a lot of good friends through the program," Zamora said. "If it wasn't for the Iowa Edge, I wouldn't know about" any Latino associations.

As the week of festivities continues, UI Latino council

members said they hope to teach the community Latino customs and traditions that would otherwise remain anonymous.

"For students and staff, we hope to bring their culture here whether it's through food, activity, or just being together," Garza Carreón said.

Downloaders face fines

DOWNLOAD

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Now, the companies "will usually file one subpoena for information on a handful of individuals at random times," said Jane Drews, the IT security officer at Information Technology Services.

The Recording Industry Association of America, one of the biggest companies filing these subpoenas, notifies students they've illegally downloaded songs — then offers them a settlement of \$3,000 to \$4,000 for a first-time offense, said Emily Scholten, an intern at Student Legal Services who researched the issue.

Scholten said that if a student challenges the charge in court and is found guilty, the association may increase the settlement cost to \$8,000.

Some of the roughly 50 UI students charged visited the

'Students shouldn't risk these lawsuits and should remove these programs immediately from their computers before it's too late.'

— Greg Bal, supervising attorney

university's Student Legal Services to seek advice, said Greg Bal, the supervising attorney for the service.

"By that point, we generally can't help them," he said. "Students shouldn't risk these lawsuits and should remove these programs immediately from their computers before it's too late."

Even if a student is charged by a record company, he or she can still face consequences from the school, Baker said. Most students he's talked to didn't realize

they were doing anything wrong when using the university's Internet.

"Programs like LimeWire upload stuff without you knowing it, and you can still get in trouble," he said.

While most universities, including the UI, have complied with the subpoena requests from recording association, others have resisted.

Recently, the University of Oregon challenged an association subpoena that requested information for 17 students, accusing the group of "spying" on students while collecting personal information from computers.

UI senior Cantu said college students will continue to download music illegally.

"If they have the choice to either pay \$13 for a CD or get it online easily for free, which one will they choose?" he said.

"I think the answer is obvious."

Troubles expensive

CONTROVERSY

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Just Tuesday the UI announced that the number of complaints against the UI has increased by 50 percent in the last year.

Meanwhile, UI spokesman Steve Parrott said spending money to dissolve academic controversies is always the last option.

"We try to give people a number of ways to find help," he said. "Given what happened with the recent sexual-assault case, people need a good place to start. [We] hope that offering places where people can go to try to resolve things will be less costly than going through a lawsuit or a formal grievance procedure."

One controversy response that cost a lot of money was the Stolar report, requiring no more than \$250,000. The report determined that the UI botched the Hillcrest investigation and ultimately cost former UI General Counsel Marc Mills and Vice President for

'We try to give people a number of ways to find help, given what happened with the recent sexual-assault case, people need a good place to start. [We] hope that offering places where people can go to try to resolve things will be less costly than going through a lawsuit or a formal grievance procedure.'

— Steve Parrott, UI spokesman

Student Services Phillip Jones their jobs.

The state Board of Regents said the UI couldn't pay off its own mistakes with student tuition money.

While the UI has recently created new positions in response to the Hillcrest assault investigation and the Miller controversy, officials said paying these people won't cost thousands of dollars.

Monique DiCarlo, the UI's newly appointed sexual-assault-response coordinator, will be paid an annual salary of \$70,000. But before taking this new role, DiCarlo was already at the UI earning a similar salary.

"The university is like a small city," said Jonathan Carlson, the senior associate to UI President Sally Mason, noting there are tens of thousands of students and staff at the UI.

"We get the full range of conflicts and we have the full range of resources for dealing with them."

Carlson said the Provost's Office, the Office of Legal Counsel, and Human Resources could work together with a risk-management program and the employee-assistance program to steer the university away from conflicts requiring legal resolution.

Flood group established

FLOOD

CONTINUED FROM 1A

I hope we aren't too reactive with the flood," Weber said in a UI news release. "We still want to interact with the river on campus but not from behind a 20-foot-high wall."

George Malanson, a UI geography professor and member of the new committee, said the goal will be "balancing risks and possible benefits for the university" as flood recovery continues.

Pamela White, the interim director of the UI Museum of Art, said officials have decided that the museum will not return to its previous home.

While every department and school wants its needs addressed first, she said, the

UI forms flood-mitigation committee

To continue with flood-recovery efforts, UI officials created a risk-management team. The members hail from various areas, including:

- Urban and Regional Planning
- Tippie College of Business
- Geography
- Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Art and Art History
- Risk Management
- Facilities Management

Source: UI News Services

White said. "There have been times where I had to sit on my hands."

Despite the daunting recovery process, she said, she believes it is great to have a team from a variety of disciplines, because that will develop "the best and most creative solution."

Though White said it won't be "a quick and easy fix," there is a need for the university to have the committee to address issues that have been overlooked because of the flood's vast impact across campus.

"It becomes really serious when you think about how many people and departments are involved," she said.

The task force will have its first meeting Friday.

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Schools must pay for trips

State education officials are enforcing a long-standing rule requiring schools — not parents — to pay for field trips.

By **KURT CUNNINGHAM**
kurt-cunningham@uiowa.edu

The wheels on the bus may have fewer round and rounds this year.

The Iowa Department of Education last week told school officials across the state they can no longer send notes to parents asking for additional funds for school activities or educational field trips.

"This will really limit the number of field trips our students can take," Iowa City School District Superintendent Lane Plugge said. "Not only are admission costs rising, so are fuel costs and trips are getting more expensive."

The decision from the Education Department comes after officials looked into the legality of 17 different fees that the Ames School District requested to be clarified.

According to the ruling, if a field trip is part of a class, the fees fall under tuition and must be funded through the school.

But if a field trip isn't related to course content, school officials can still ask a student for payment if they count him or her absent for the day, Plugge said.

However stipulations of the No Child Left Behind Act can make racking up too many student absences detrimental to the district.

"We have to maintain a 95 percent level or so rate of attendance," Plugge said. "So that limits this idea."

'This will really limit the number of field trips our students can take.'

— Lane Plugge, Iowa City School District superintendent

Carol Greta, legal counsel for the Education Department, said that while asking for additional money to fund field trips has always been prohibited, the problem hasn't been frequently reviewed.

"This is nothing new," she said. "They never had authority to ask parents for money, just no one has addressed it."

The state department's ruling was a way to clear up the obscure areas regarding funding responsibilities of parents and schools, she said.

"It is very hard for the schools to be aware of [the line]," she said. "This tells them."

Schools are now having to look for outside support to help offset the internal cost of field trips and other related activities.

One way is to use parent-teacher organizations to host events seeking donations, rather than directly asking parents to pay for field trips, Greta said, adding "even looking for donations, boosters, and grants are acceptable ways to raise money."

Athletics panel sees some changes

Athletics department may face changes this year.

By **AMANDA MCCLURE**
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Changes in NCAA regulations and steadily rising athletics costs are sparking policy and budget discussions on the Presidential Committee on Athletics.

The group met Wednesday to exchange ideas on the future of Big Ten academic policies and potential budget expansions brought on by rising travel costs and flood-damaged sports facilities.

Big Ten schools are investigating the possibility of readjusting education standards to comply with NCAA academic policies and procedures.

The policy switch would require an increase in achieved class credit hours for athletes to graduate. The current requirement is 120 hours.

Elizabeth Altmaier, a committee member and UI professor, said she was surprised by the heightened requirement, noting that Big Ten policies are usually more stringent.

"We don't know at this time if the philosophies of the Big Ten standards on academics is going to hold," Altmaier said.

Iowa Athletics Director Gary Barta said a task force is working with Big Ten basketball teams to mesh academic requirements with NCAA regulations. He noted the group's successes and said he anticipates similar results with the academic policy review.

The athletics council will know more about the potential academic changes in February when it returns to the Big Ten academic committee for further review.

In addition to examining its academic policies, the athletics department is working to

renovate flood-damaged fields in time for spring sports. Softball and track fields, along with the boathouse, need repairs before the spring seasons start, Barta said.

Although a final budget is yet to be determined for the 2008-09 academic year, committee members said the university is on the right spending track thanks to an increase in football-ticket sales from the 2007 season.

Barta, however, warned that the department may need to expand its budget to accommodate higher costs of travel and renovations to flood-damaged fields.

"We're in the same position as people across the country," he said. "There's no hard answer to the potential deficit. We'll just see where it goes."

The softball team is using its once-flooded field, and restoration will be complete by the end of March — just in time for the season.

After a four-month delay brought on by high waters this summer, construction of the Beckwith Boathouse — across the street from Mayflower — is set to resume immediately. The new facility will be able to take on 10 feet of water, should a floor occur again.

The athletics committee reported that the track field sustained too much damage to be finished before the season starts, and it will ineffectually be closed for the spring semester — leaving the track team without a home field.

"Our core business is serving young people," Barta said. "We'll have to see what adjustments are necessary depending on the economy."

The international touch

Two foreign scholars and professors spend some time away from their home countries' academia, working on their writing as members of the UI International Writing Program.

By **BRIAN DAU**
brian-dau@uiowa.edu

Maya Kucherskaya of Russia and Agnes Lam of Hong Kong will read at 5 p.m. Oct. 12 at Prairie Lights Books. Kucherskaya will read "Pizza Hut," a short story she wrote during her time in Iowa City, and Lam will read a handful of new poems.

Maya Kucherskaya

Russian author Maya Kucherskaya is obsessed with research. She adores it so much that her time at the UI International Writing Program is spent working on a historical novel chronicling provincial Russia at the beginning of the 20th century. While researching her novel, she says, she often finds herself awash in a sea of old periodicals, diaries, and memoirs.

"Sometimes, [my research] feels like a time machine, like I'm not in a house on College Street but at a big family table of my characters," 38-year-old Kucherskaya said.

Though this isn't the first time she's written about a historical setting (she previously penned a biography of a Russian grand duke), this novel marks the first time she's written a piece of historical fiction, as opposed to biographical work.

"I feel like it's time to understand something about my country, not myself," she said. "As a schoolgirl, I didn't really like history as a subject. Now, 20 years later, [the early 1900s] seem like an important time."

The main character of her novel is the daughter of a priest, and the book follows the "forbidden love" archetype, Kucherskaya said. She also plays with what she feels are trivial, cliché statements, such as, "People are always the same."

"We lost a whole world of relationships and people, and I'd like to rebuild this world," she said, referring to the political turmoil in Russia at the turn of the century. "It's interesting to compare what's changed."

One of the ways Kucherskaya remains connected to her own world is through her children, ages 8 and 10. Although they live in Russia, she found a way to bring them with her to Iowa City. Before she left to join the IWP, she bought two webcams — one for herself and one for her family — and she remains connected to them through the Internet.

"I have my children to talk to every morning," she said. "I couldn't stand it without them."

Agnes Lam

The last time Agnes Lam was in the United States, her life was dripping with anxiety.



JULIE KOEHN/THE DAILY IOWAN

Maya Kucherskaya of Russia stands on the Pedestrian Mall on Tuesday. The 38-year-old author is working on a historical novel at the UI's International Writing Program.



JULIE KOEHN/THE DAILY IOWAN

Agnes Lam sits on the swing at the Shambaugh House on Tuesday. The Hong Kong native is an author of two poetry books and various scholarly works, and she is a UI International Writing Program participant.

The native Hong Kong poet took her first trip to this country to pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh, and the pressure of finishing her dissertation was immense.

Now that she's in Iowa City, she says, she has a lot less to worry about.

"I'm more relaxed now because I'm not a student," said Lam, 54. "I know I would

like to write, but there's no deadline. It's much more inspiring that way."

She is the author of two books of poetry and a broad span of scholarly works. She started learning English at a young age, and now it's the language of choice for her poetry. She writes with a focus on a clarity of language that appeals to "all kinds of



ON THE WEB

Want a personal look into the lives of the UI's international writers? Watch video interviews throughout the semester with each global scribe in the program over at dailyiowan.com.

READING

Maya Kucherskaya (Russia) and Agnes Lam (Hong Kong)

When: 5 p.m. Oct. 12

Where: Prairie Lights, 15 S. Dubuque

Admission: Free

audiences," she said, from primary school-children to the elderly.

As far as inspiration goes, she says, she can find it in "everything around me," including the media and newspapers and images and dreams.

"I let [the poems] stay with me for a while," Lam said. "Until they are ready, I can't write them. But sometimes you just have an image in your head you have to try to get out."

Her goal during her time in Iowa City is to revise a variety of her work, including a new group of poems. She finds the college town's atmosphere to be well-suited in helping her reach her goal.

"People tend to be very happy here," Lam said. "They seem to be more patient. It's a very different pace of life. All I have to do is my work, and that's a big luxury."

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Trader Bryan Cooley watches the markets on Sept. 30 in the S&P 500 futures trading pit at the CME Group in Chicago.

Outlook bearish for U.S. economy

By DAVE CARPENTER
Associated Press

CHICAGO — The bear market that is ravaging investor portfolios is now one of the worst in modern U.S. history and has wiped out more than \$7 trillion in shareholder value, with no bottom clearly in sight.

When it stops and how far it drops, no one can predict with any accuracy — a painful uncertainty underscored by Wall Street's giddy mood at the moment the steep descent began.

A year ago Thursday, Wall Street was celebrating the fifth anniversary of a bull market that had created \$10 trillion in shareholder wealth since 2002. The Dow Jones industrial average and the Standard & Poor's 500 index hit all-time highs on Oct. 9, 2007.

A headline in *USA Today* captured the prevailing sentiment: "Market's run could keep going for a while."

In fact, the party was over. The subprime mortgage problem that was laid bare by a decline in home values developed into a much broader credit crisis that toppled giant banks and financial institutions.

Panicked investors have been fleeing from stocks. The S&P is down 37 percent from its peak of 1,565 a year ago, closing at 985 on Wednesday, and the Dow has tumbled 35 percent from 14,164 to 9,258.

Most experts don't see a recovery until there's greater stability in the housing market, banks are lending freely, and employment improves.

Unlike other periods that saw precipitous drops, this one is rooted in foundering credit markets. That makes predictions more difficult than if the plunge were based on company profits or stocks alone.

"When you have an environment like this where the crisis

is so deeply rooted from the credit standpoint, it adds an extra layer of ambiguity and ultimately of uncertainty," said Mark Freeman, portfolio manager for Westwood Holdings Group Inc. "That is what the markets are struggling with."

No turnaround is seen before 2009 or later. And there is a wide divergence of opinion on the future of this bear market, which feels unlike any other because of the \$700 billion federal bailout and the collapse of investment banks.

Even with the Federal Reserve and other major central banks around the world slashing interest rates Wednesday, experts were hesitant to call a bottom.

"Technical indicators tell us that we're overdue for at least a short-term bounce," said Liz Ann Sonders, chief investment strategist for San Francisco-based brokerage Charles Schwab Corp. "That doesn't tell us that the bear market is necessarily over."

This bear market — a term often defined as a prolonged drop in stock prices of 20 percent or more — already is harsher than most of the 10 bear markets since the 1930s. Those markets have lasted an average of about 16 months from peak to trough, with average stock losses of 31 percent, based on S&P data.

Since the record 83 percent plunge in 1929-32, the current market is exceeded only by the drops of 49 percent in 2000-02 during the tech stock implosion and 48 percent in 1973-74 during a recession and energy crisis.

The magnitude of this decline is close to that of the dot-com collapse earlier this decade, but this time, it's not just retirement accounts and stock portfolios that are being hurt. Increasingly, the availability of loans and credit is drying up, too.

Rob Arnott, chairman of Research Affiliates LLC in

Newport Beach, Calif., thinks the big difference this time is that Americans are feeling increasing pain apart from the stock market.

"People in 2000-02 saw their 401(k)s become 201(k)s, but the impact on their personal lives otherwise was minimal," he said. "This time, it is starting to be significant. People who have home equity lines and use them to pay for holidays or buy a car are finding that their loan facilities are getting pulled. That affects the way they look at their own spending."

He predicts another six to nine months for this bear market.

Some are far more pessimistic.

Jim Cramer, the normally bullish host of CNBC's "Mad Money" program, caused a stir Monday when he warned investors to take whatever money they need for the next five years out of the market now. On Tuesday, he called it "the most horrible market that I've ever seen."

Money manager Peter Schiff, who has long espoused the bleakest of market views, said the Dow has a good chance to sink to 7,500 or lower. He expects the bear market to last another five years or more. That would signal a possible loss of at least 20 percent more in shareholder value.

"Everybody wants to think there's a government solution to spare us the pain," said Schiff, who runs the investment firm Euro Pacific Capital Inc. in Darien, Conn. "There is no government solution. All there is is more pain."

One wild card is that a recession — unofficially defined as a decline in the gross domestic product for two or more consecutive quarters — could seriously crimp consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of U.S. economic activity.

NATION

New questions arise about Neb. safe-haven law

OMAHA (AP) — Nebraska's vaguely worded safe-haven law has already been exposed as ripe for abuse by allowing kids as old as 18 to be abandoned by their parents, but some officials now fear an influx of abandoned kids from other states.

That fear was realized late Tuesday, when a 14-year-old Iowa girl was brought across the Missouri River and left at an Omaha hospital.

The teenager left at Creighton University Medical Center on Tuesday — the 17th child abandoned since Sept. 13 — came from Council Bluffs, which sits just east across the river from Nebraska's largest city.

"It really concerns me that (people from) other states are possibly going to be leaving their children here," said state Sen. Arnie Stuthman of Platte Center, who introduced the bill that was the basis for the legislation.

The law, in its entirety, states only: "No person shall be prosecuted for any crime based solely upon the act of leaving a child in the custody of an employee on duty at a hospital licensed by the State of Nebraska. The hospital shall promptly contact appropriate authorities to take custody of the child."

Problem is, some have taken the word "child" in the law to mean "minor," which in Nebraska includes

anyone under the age of 19. Others have taken the common law definition, which includes those under age 14.

And the law doesn't preclude people from out of state from leaving their children in Nebraska, which leaves some uncertainty about its current reach.

Votes decide whether to update Iowa Constitution

DES MOINES (AP) — It's drawn little attention and no organized opposition, but voters next month will be asked to change Iowa's Constitution to remove the term "idiot" in defining who is eligible to vote.

Rep. Pam Jochum, D-Dubuque, has been a driving force behind the 10-year effort to clean up the outdated language included when the constitution was ratified in 1857.

"They used the language they thought would fit at the time," said Jochum. "We do know a whole lot more today. We now understand mental illness. There is absolutely no reason our constitution should refer to these people as idiots, because they're not."

At issue is language in the constitution that prohibits voting by anyone identified as an "idiot or insane person." The proposed change would make that read "a person adjudged mentally incompetent to vote."

The campaign is a highly personal

one for Jochum, whose 31-year-old daughter, Sarah, is mentally disabled.

The drive began in 1998 when Jochum and then-Rep. Betty Grundberg, a Des Moines Republican who also has a child who is mentally disabled, discovered the "idiot" language in the constitution.

"I certainly understand that then the knowledge of mental illness and mental retardation was nil," said Jochum.

Man charged in Tenn. mall shooting that killed 1

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A customer opened fire in a crowded shopping mall Wednesday afternoon, killing a clothing store employee before he was shot and wounded by police officers, authorities said. Witnesses said the gunfire sent people "stampeding" for cover.

The employee was shot multiple times around 4:20 p.m. after a confrontation with the suspect at Knoxville Center Mall, police spokesman Darrell DeBusk said. The store employee, 29-year-old Ahmed Nahl, died at the scene.

Two uniformed Knoxville Police Department officers confronted the customer as he left Reno Menswear store and exchanged gunfire, hitting him once in the arm and once in the leg, DeBusk said. No one else was hurt, and police recovered the suspect's handgun.

UI mulls Facebook as alert medium

Facebook: A possible medium for emergency alerts at the UI?

By MARY HARRINGTON
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Amid weekend kegger invitations, relationship status updates, and brazen club joining, notifications on Facebook may soon become more serious.

UI officials say they're considering using Facebook and MySpace to notify the community of any prospective danger, like a natural disaster or a gunman on campus. Officials say it would function much like the HawkAlert — which disseminates emergency information via cell phones and e-mail — but over social-networking sites.

"Facebook has become a social norm," said Lee Farquhar, a UI teaching assistant who researches online communication over such websites. "It has saturated the undergrad population."

But this system is "still just a possibility," said UI Spokesman Steve Parrott.

It's still unknown whether such a system would include just MySpace and Facebook, or all social-networking sites.

Officials said the addition of such a system wouldn't be in response to any problems with the Hawk Alert.

Last spring, the UI came under heavy criticism for using the Hawk Alert to broadcast the incorrect and vague statement "an active shooter is in the Iowa City area," to the UI community following the Suespel killings. The university didn't follow with more information later.

'The use of Facebook or MySpace is moving beyond a formal university structure. So there is some potential for people not to take an online message as seriously.'

- Lee Farquhar, teaching assistant

According to a Georgia Institute of Technology study released in September, emergency alerts that use texting often create problems. Because such systems send out so many messages at once, cell-phone networks become overwhelmed, said Patrick Traynor, principal investigator in the study.

Social-networking sites "would be one more way to reach more students," said Mark Katsouras, the director of telecommunication and network services at Information Technology Services.

UI senior Mimi Nguyen said he's right; students check Facebook constantly.

"I would like receiving alerts on Facebook," she said. "It seems like everyone is always checking their accounts."

But Katsouras said the Hawk Alert hasn't had any problems with texting messages to the community, as was discussed in the Georgia Tech report.

"We are in a very sparsely populated area in Iowa, so we don't have the population density to strain the system like other regions may," he said.

Other UI officials contend that problems sometimes do emerge with the Hawk Alert.

"With all new technology, there will be a period where we have to work through problems," said Larry Langley, the associate director of the UI police. For instance, Hawk Alert sometimes sends the same message again and again.

Texts are sometimes delivered out of order as well, potentially altering the intended message, said Nicholle McClelland, spokeswoman for Blackboard Connect Inc., developer of the Hawk Alert system. "It is almost mandatory that emergency alert systems" alert people in a variety of ways, she said.

Katsouras said no matter what new systems the UI implements, it won't be enough — word of mouth is still necessary.

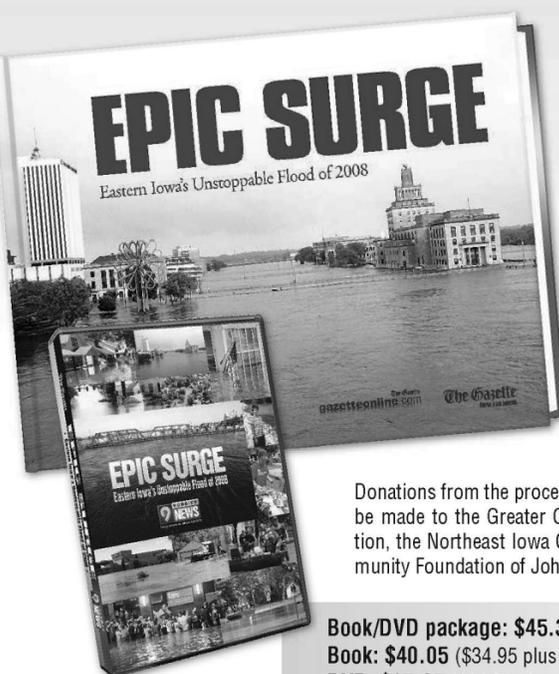
"The use of Facebook or MySpace is moving beyond a formal university structure," said Farquhar. "So there is some potential for people not to take an online message as seriously," he said.

Officials said any adoption of a new system wouldn't usurp the Hawk Alert but enhance it.

"In that way, it may be very effective," Farquhar said.

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Editorial

Disenfranchising the masses: voting rights for 'felons'

In just under four weeks, millions of Americans will go to the polls to elect the 44th president of the United States. Since 1870, our right to vote has been guaranteed by the 15th Amendment of the United States Constitution regardless of "race, color or previous condition of servitude." Throughout the 20th century, voting rights were granted to an increasing number of citizens, except one. Felons. In the 2004 election, 4.7 million American citizens were denied their fundamental right to vote.

Current criminal-disenfranchisement laws are a Draconian penalty stemming from "civil death," imposed in antiquity by Greek states on deviant elites — because only the elites had the right to vote. In contrast, the modern "civil death" penalty is largely imposed upon minorities and lower-class citizens. As the prison system becomes more and more full with drug-based offenses instead of violent crimes, an increasingly number of poor and minority American citizens are being forced to live out the remainder of their lives as members of a society in which they are denied fundamental rights. In theory, criminal disenfranchisement aims to serve as retribution and a deterrent for serious crimes against society; however, in practice, it creates millions of hollow members in our democratic society without a means to voice their concerns or affect the direction of our country.

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley is at the center of recent controversy over a recent list of 444 felonies of "moral turpitude" which disqualify citizens from voting — previously the list included 70 serious crimes, such as murder, rape, and drug trafficking. Riley's new list of "moral offenses against society" that will bar offenders from voting for life include: criminal mischief, possession of burglary tools, burning an American flag or cross, shoplifting, illegally slaughtering livestock, disrupting a funeral, leaving the scene of an accident with an injury, and conspiracy to set an illegal brush fire. Alabama Democrats argue the Republican governor's overly broad list will deny tens of thousands previously qualified voters — mostly minority and poor voters — their right to cast a ballot on Nov. 4 and

could sway the outcome of close races. Like Alabama, almost a quarter of the states impose lifetime bans on persons convicted of felonies — including "battleground states" Virginia, Florida, and Nevada. Only two states, Maine and Vermont, have unrestricted voting rights — felons can even vote while in prison.

In 2005, former Gov. Tom Vilsack passed Executive Order 42, providing Iowa's governor the power to grant the right to vote and hold public office to all ex-felons. It also allows the governor to restore voting rights and the right to hold public office to future ex-felons upon completion of all supervised release (parole and probation). To-date the executive branch has continued to automatically re-enfranchise ex-felons each month. In three years, no ex-felons have been denied their petitions to have their rights fully restored. Vilsack responded to criticism at the time, in a "Quad City Times" article, by defending the executive order on grounds that "when you give people the right to reconnect, the right to vote, to become fully engaged citizens, crime rates and recidivism are lower." The right to vote means more if you have lost it. Allowing ex-felons to regain their place as an active member of society should provide them with a strong incentive to avoid criminal behavior.

Executive Order 42 places Iowa among 17 other states which reinstate felon voting rights after all supervised release has been completed. Former Gov. Terry Branstad argued against Executive Order 42, in the same "Quad City Times" article, calling it a "mistake" and a "political move" which would "all of the sudden ... make 50,000 people eligible back vote" — actually, closer to 98,000 ex-felons were given back their right to vote. According to ProCon.org, 5.39 percent of Iowa's population had been disenfranchised — the sixth-highest percentage in the United States — before Executive Order 42 passed; now it's closer to 1 percent and the 21st-lowest percentage in the country. While Iowa's laws are not as progressive as some criminal-disenfranchisement reforms, it's definitely a large step in the right direction. Voting is a right, not a privilege.

A tip to happiness



KATIE GADIANT
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"If you can't afford to tip, you can't afford to drink," a bartender friend of mine recently explained after an unusually small nightly haul. This got me thinking: How often are we oblivious to the subtle nuances of the patron-service relationship? There are unspoken rules in every interpersonal exchange, but restaurants and bars seem particularly prone to terrible customers.

Because several of my friends are employed in the service industry, I'm always careful to tip and tip well. Not only is it the appropriate and courteous thing to do, it ensures quality service in the future. If you tip well, bartenders, baristas, and wait staff recognize you as a quality customer and are typically eager to keep you happy. Slamming your fist on the bar, hitting on the staff, stiffing your server, and generally being a nit is no way to solicit quality service.

I'm often surprised by the way I witness people treating those in the service industry. I want to pull obnoxious patrons aside and have a little conversation with them: "You realize these people are handling your food, right?"

Having been employed in restaurant-type establishments for the majority of my working career, I am familiar with the backroom conversations servers and food preparers have about rude or pernickety customers. I have had terribly frightening conversations with line cooks about various forms of vigilante justice. I certainly don't condone that sort of behavior, but I understand how those cooks justify less than savory actions.

"Let's break it down to the basics," another friend explained, "please and thank you is always nice to hear." Hmm ... please and thank you, I'm pretty sure most of us learned that around, say, kindergarten. It should be second nature to exchange appropriate niceties, even when your server or bartender isn't the catch of the day. Personally, I believe establishments should be far more liberal with their right-to-refuse-service policies. If patrons are being excessively rude and obnoxious, kick them out. They won't go hungry. Unfortunately, for most servers, bartenders, and baris-

tas, the potential to make money off you, even if it is minuscule, overrides their desire to send you on your way.

That's really what it all comes down to; these people are just trying to make a living. They're providing a necessary service that, let's face it, we're often too lazy to do for ourselves. In Iowa City, the majority of those waiting on us are students. They are getting up at 4:30 a.m. after studying until midnight to serve us coffee and breakfast for eight hours before going to class, coming home, studying, and doing it all again. Or they're getting up early, doing their studying, going to class, and then serving drunken idiots all night, before coming home at 3 a.m. and finally crashing out. Often, they have limited time to eat themselves, let alone chill out, have a cigarette or a drink, and unwind. They're on their feet, they're serving us, and they're being generally pleasant.

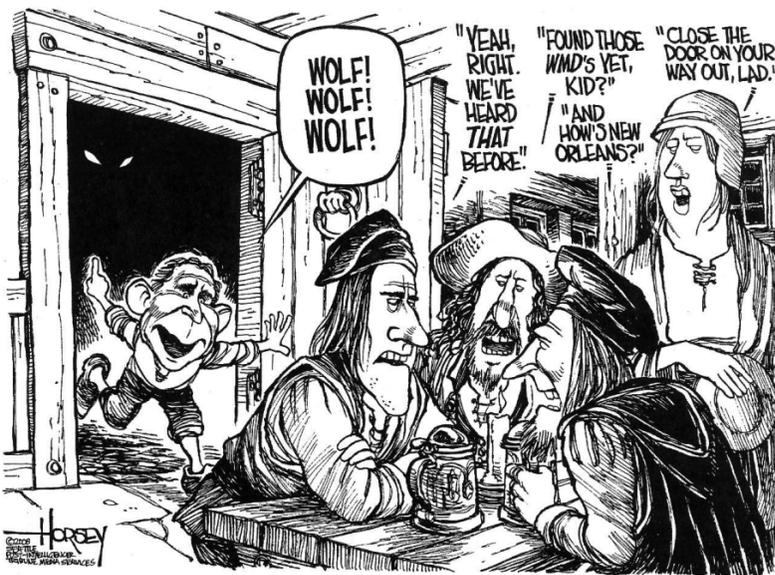
Even when I have a subpar server, I tip. I don't tip as well as I do when I have fantastic service, but I tip nonetheless. There are very few service-industry positions that pay a living wage; these people depend on gratuity. As in, "I'm thankful that you brought me my food, or prepared my drink, and so I will give you 10, 15, or 20 percent of the total cost of my purchase." Still, it's less about the amount of the tip. It's much more about the way we treat these people.

I was at a coffee shop the other day with a friend. The interweb, as I like to refer to it, was acting up. We decided to pack up our laptops and take our work elsewhere. I was irritated, but I occasionally have issues with my home interweb connection — these things happen. My friend was furious. As we were packing up, he explained that he intended to give the barista a piece of his mind. I interceded on the barista's behalf. The likelihood that she had any control over the interweb connection is highly dubious. In no reasonable situation did she deserve to be chewed out for the shoddy nature of the business' wireless connection.

In short, think about it this way: At the end of a long day, the last thing you need or want is someone yelling at you for something you have absolutely no control over, nor do you need some jackass making your life miserable simply because he or she wants to or "doesn't know any better." Furthermore, I don't think you want a loogie in your pasta or spit in your rum and diet. Be nice. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR may be sent via e-mail to diopletters@gmail.com (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 *DI* reserves the right to edit for length and clarity. The *DI* 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.



The Podium

What a difference a year makes

Part one in a two-part commentary from from the *DI*'s Opinions blog.



NEIL SCHUETT
neil.schuett@gmail.com

Heading in to the primary season, I would never have guessed how this election process has turned out. I thought Mitt Romney would win the Republican ticket and that Hillary Rodham Clinton was a solid lock for the Democrats. Of course, this is why I am not a political analyst, and why I don't gamble.

Twelve months ago, I wasn't even registered to vote. My view of the American political

system was jaded, cynical, and bordered on a frustrated feeling of complete hopeless and powerlessness that led to a strict stance of indifference. Two elections have come and gone since I was of legal age to vote. I had no part in either of them. I was a proud political conscientious objector. My indifference was my voice to the government. I was an educated non-voter; I followed the debates, the issues, and all of the different policies. Yet, I was never inspired to be politically active; I never felt as if there was a reason to exercise my right to vote or that my views would be heard.

All of that changed this year. As this political maelstrom that we call the race for the White House has grown larger

and larger — sucking in various politicians' careers, American integrity, ethical behavior, and billions of dollars — I decided to register to vote. This was the first race that was interesting, inspiring, and made me feel as if I should be involved since I turned 18. Bush vs. Gore? Bush vs. Kerry? Boring. Uninspiring. Continued hopelessness.

This country is at a vital turning point. In 26 days, the people of this country will tell the coming generations what America truly stands for in the 21st century. At least, this is what the media tell me on a daily basis. I do believe this election is paramount, but not just because there will be a female vice president or a minority president in the White House on Inauguration Day.

When Barack Obama and John McCain were selected to

represent their respective parties, I actually felt that no matter who won, America would have a strong, bright, respectable, and ethical man in the White House to lead us through the next four years. I may be a "secular progressive."

I may have caucused for Obama. But if Rodham Clinton had won the nomination, I may have voted for McCain. Not because I believe Hillary isn't capable, but because I despised the campaign she ran.

My dismissal of the American political system is rooted in my hatred for misleading and false ads, politicians who stir the racial-religious-social prejudice pot, empty campaign promises and platitudes, and self-interested politicians. Certainly a candidate's stance on the economy, foreign policy, and domestic policy will guide my vote; how-

ever, for me the "big issues" are just as important as whether or not I respect the candidate.

I am a proud American. I am proud of this country's core beliefs. I am proud of what we have accomplished in this country, especially over the last 100 years. In turn, I want to be proud of the elected leaders of this country. I want to be proud of the actions of my fellow Americans. Lately, I have pride in neither. The mob mentality of American voters over the last month has been abhorrent. The character assassinations and manipulations of social prejudices during the race for the White House has been repugnant.

On Nov. 4, we will choose more than just an elected official. We will choose more than just whether or not a Republican or Democrat sits in the Oval Office. We will

choose whether or not, we as Americans, will tolerate our leaders to be elected via unethical and socially divisive politicking. I firmly believe that when your back is to the wall, your true character surfaces. Over the last couple of weeks, each ticket has its back against the wall.

The finish line is insight, time to dig deep and find the strength to sprint. Both campaigns have flip-flopped — which honestly is better than being too stubborn to admit you're wrong or acknowledge that society and solutions are in constant flux — both campaigns have pointed fingers, and both have used misleading statements to woo voters.

Neither side's hands will be clean when it takes office; however, it is John McCain that I have lost respect for, not Obama.



TOM TRUJILLO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Damage to trees and the side of a cabin remain at lodging facilities in Curry Village in Yosemite National Park following a rock slide Wednesday. It was the second rock fall in the area in two days.

Rock slides hit Yosemite

By TRACIE CONE
Associated Press

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — Chunks of granite crashed to the Yosemite Valley floor in a cloud of dust Wednesday, injuring at least three people and destroying several cabins and trees at one of the park's most popular lodging areas, officials said.

The rock slide was the second in two days in the area called Curry Village, a lodging and retail area defined by dramatic, sheer cliffs.

"We were awakened at 7 to what sounded like thunder and what felt like the Earth crumbling apart," said Deanne Maschmeyer, 41, of Monterey, who was staying in a nearby cabin with her two children. "People were stampeding everywhere and running, running like crazy. I felt like I was running ahead of a tsunami."

The slide destroyed five cabins and partially damaged at least three others, according to a park statement. Three visitors were treated for minor injuries.

The volume of rocks cascading from the granite face was estimated at about 1,800 cubic yards, or about 180 truck loads, said Vickie Mates, a park spokeswoman.

There was another, smaller rock slide in the same area Tuesday afternoon. No one was injured then.

In 1996, a rock slide in the same area sent as much as

162,000 tons of rock plummeting more than 2,000 feet, killing one visitor and felling 500 trees. A slide in 1999 killed one climber and injured three others while narrowly missing the popular campground.

Tom Trujillo of New Milford, Conn., who was with a group of amateur photographers, saw Wednesday's rock slide and ran toward it.

"Trees were crushed all over the place," Trujillo said over the sound of a hovering helicopter. "A couple of kids, fifth- or sixth-graders, were stumbling out of the area. I tried to pick them up, tried to get them out as fast as I could."

Trujillo said he helped one boy, who had blood on his forehead and down his back, get out and find his mother.

"It was a really big mess," Trujillo said. "Tents were crushed, trees were knocked down, hard cabins were moved out of their positions, with boulders blocking their doorway."

Another photographer, Rena McClain, a nurse from Dover, Del., told the Associated Press that she had her back to the granite face when she heard what sounded like a thunder-clap. She whipped around and saw a giant cloud of rock and dust coming down.

"People were starting to yell, 'Run, run,' and kids started to scream," McClain said.

As the dust settled, shaken teachers and chaperones gathered groups of high-school

students and tried to get head counts.

"The kids were crying," said McClain. "I tried to comfort them. I'm a nurse; my immediate response was, 'What can I try to do to help?'"

Mates said the rocks fell across an area that used to be traversed by a trail no longer maintained because of heavy rock falls.

The beauty of the sheer granite face towering above the camp helps make Curry Village one of park's most popular lodging options.

In recent years, geologists have published studies describing a series of cracks along the cliff's face and hypothesizing that pressure from water flowing beneath the surface may be one trigger of the slides.

Researchers also say that tree roots growing down into cracks can sometimes wedge apart sheets of rock, sending sections of cliff tumbling.

Curry Village, founded in 1899 in south-central

Yosemite, has 610 canvas and wood cabins in rows among huge boulders, which geologists say are there because of prehistoric rock falls.

Those who saw Wednesday's slide wondered about the safety of the camp.

"With the village right below the rock face, there is definitely a safety issue," said Trujillo, pointing out that the cabins could be moved farther away from the granite cliff, into the parking lot area.

To McClain, on her visit to the park, the rock slide was an eye-opener.

"Nature here is unbelievable, but until you see what can happen, don't realize the danger that can result," McClain said. "I would return to Yosemite. But would I stay in Curry Village? I don't know that I would. I'm pretty shaken up."

AP writers Juliana Barbassa and Marcus Wohlsen contributed to this report.

U.S. fears drug, Islamists link

By CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

MIAMI — There is real danger that Islamic extremist groups such as Al Qaeda and Hezbollah could form alliances with wealthy and powerful Latin American drug lords to launch new terrorist attacks, U.S. officials said Wednesday.

Extremist group operatives have already been identified in several Latin American countries, mostly involved in fundraising and finding logistical support. But Charles Allen, chief of intelligence analysis at the Homeland Security Department, said they could use well-established smuggling routes and drug profits to bring people or even weapons of mass destruction to the U.S.

"The presence of these people in the region leaves open the possibility that they will attempt to attack the United States," said Allen, a veteran CIA analyst. "The threats in this hemisphere are real. We cannot ignore them."

Said U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration operations chief Michael Braun: "It is not in our interest to let that potpourri of scum to come together."

Their comments came at a two-day conference on the illegal drug threat in the Americas hosted by the U.S. Southern Command and the 35,000-member AFCEA International, a trade group for communications, intelligence, and national security companies.

Much as the Taliban tapped Afghanistan's heroin for money, U.S. officials say the vast profits available from Latin American cocaine could provide Al Qaeda and others with a ready source of income. The rebel group known as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, has long used drug money to pay for weapons, supplies and operations — and is also designated as a terrorist organization by the U.S.

"We've got a hybrid that has developed right before our eyes," Braun said.

Latin America's drug king-

'The threats in this hemisphere are real. We cannot ignore them.'

- Charles Allen, chief of intelligence analysis at Homeland Security

pins already have well-established methods of smuggling, laundering money, obtaining false documents, providing safe havens and obtaining illicit weapons, all of which would be attractive to terrorists who are facing new pressures in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Allen, of the Homeland Security Department, said there was currently a "low probability" of cooperation between terrorists and drug organizations, but the "fertile ground" of Latin America — where government corruption is common and institutions often weak — means that the possibility deserves renewed U.S. attention.

"It would be an unprecedented act. But we cannot rule it out," he said.

The officials said the key to preventing such an alliance is increasing cooperation between government agencies and with nations in the region. They singled out for praise the governments of Mexico and Colombia for making huge strides against drug groups, while criticizing Venezuela for its failure to do so.

Braun said the DEA can be a particularly critical component because of its wide use of human informants and telephone wiretaps to track those in the drug trade. Those sources often provide tips about other types of crime and could be key to identifying terrorists in Latin America.

"They use the same money launderers, the same document forgers," he said. "You are naturally going to bump up against terrorist organizations."

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| Family Medicine | Plastic Surgery |
| Gastroenterology (Digestive) | Psychiatry |
| General Surgery | Pulmonology (Lung disorders) |
| Gynecology | Radiology |
| Internal Medicine | Sleep Disorders |
| Neurology | Thoracic Surgery |
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Retailers report tepid or worse sales

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — American consumers went into hiding in September, leaving retailers with dismal sales and an uncertain future well beyond the holiday season as the fallout from the financial meltdown pushes spending even lower.

As retailers reported their monthly sales figures Wednesday, even discounters weren't immune to shoppers' mounting worries about their financial security. "Discretionary spending has

come to a trickle," said Ken Perkins, president of research company RetailMetrics LLC. "Consumers are the most worried I have seen since at least the 1991 recession. There are so many factors laying on their psyche."

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, said sales of discretionary items were weak as it posted solid results that were nevertheless a bit below expectations. Target Corp. fared far worse, reporting a bigger-than-expected drop and said it expects problems with its credit card business to last through the

rest of the year as customers have trouble making payments.

Luxury stores such as Neiman Marcus Group Inc. and Saks Inc. suffered sharp drops as well-heeled shoppers held off on buying \$600 stilettos and other luxuries. Many mall-based apparel stores and department stores including J.C. Penney Co. and American Eagle Outfitters Inc. find themselves mired in a deep sales slump.

With no clear spending recovery in sight, retailers are navigating in the dark about how much to cut their spring orders and store

expansions to address the dramatic changes in consumer behavior that are expected to persist at least until next year — if not longer.

"We rarely eat out, and even groceries have become a big-ticket item," said Cincinnati resident Victoria Gentry, 41, a single mother of a 15-year-old daughter, who now worries about her job at a bank's merchant service division. "No more payday pizzas now."

Before the financial meltdown began in the middle of last month, customers had already been switching to lower-price brands and stores, cutting back on essen-

tials and making other changes like mending their clothes instead of buying new ones.

"Weakness in consumer spending is a significant drag on overall economic activity," said Scott Hoyt, senior director of consumer economics at econmy.com, who now predicts declines in consumer spending, adjusted for inflation, through the first quarter of 2009. "We are on track for something longer and deeper than either of the previous recessions."

Desperation has set in as the critical holiday season

approaches. From discounters to luxury stores, merchants have begun cutting holiday orders in recent days, even as goods start to flow into stores, according to Arnold Cohen, co-founder of Mahoney Cohen and Co., an accounting firm for the apparel industry. A slew of companies, from J.C. Penney Co. to Saks Inc., cut their third-quarter outlooks Wednesday as they step up discounting to pull in shoppers. And many are delaying spring orders amid so much uncertainty, Cohen said.

New stem cells found

By SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Cells taken from men's testicles seem as versatile as the stem cells derived from embryos, researchers reported Wednesday in what may be yet another new approach in a burgeoning scientific field.

The new type of stem cells could be useful for growing personalized replacement tissues, according to a study in today's issue of the journal *Nature*. But because of their source, their highest promise would apply to only half the world's population: men.

Embryonic stem cells can give rise to virtually any tissue in the body and scientists believe they may offer treatments for diseases like Parkinson's and diabetes and for spinal cord injuries.

The testicular cells avoid the ethical dilemma of embryonic stem cells, which are harvested in a process that destroys the embryos. For that reason, some people, including President Bush, oppose their use for ethical or religious reasons.

"The advantage these cells have in comparison to embryonic stem cells is that there is no ethical problem with these cells and that they are natural," said study lead author Thomas Skutella, a professor at the Center for Regenerative Biology and Medicine in Tübingen, Germany.

Using testicular cells isn't the only promising method that avoids embryos; there have been impressive experiments in reprogramming ordinary body cells into stem cells by slipping certain genes into them.

The new findings and the reprogrammed cells — which still have technical hurdles — "take some pressure off the stem-cell issue," said White House science adviser Jack Marburger.

Earlier studies showed promise using so-called spermatogonial cells from the testes of mice. The new study used cells taken from biopsied tissue from 22 different men undergoing various medical treatments. The men ranged in age from 17 to 81. Researchers found that after a few weeks of growth, the cells could differentiate into various types of cells just like those taken from embryos.

Other scientists hailed the idea as promising, but not a reason to give up on research on embryonic stem cells.

"It's exciting. We could do it for males; that leaves women without as easy a method," said stem cell scientist George Daley of Children's Hospital in Boston and the Harvard Stem Cell Institute. He was not part of the new research.

Embryonic stem cells "have their own place in biology," Daley said.

Skutella said a female equivalent could be in women's egg cells, but Daley said that's unlikely because of the makeup of those cells.

Using the new findings to treat patients could take years. But Daley said the work on the cells from testes can benefit from a decade's worth of research into embryonic cells and advance at a fast pace.

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CROSS-COUNTRY
Luciano, Marchand honored

Iowa cross-country took both men's and women's Big Ten cross-country runner of the week awards Wednesday. Senior Racheal Marchand for the women and junior Jesse Luciano for the men were both honored following their performances at the Auburn Invitational on Oct. 4.

Marchand finished fifth in the women's 5,000 meters, and Luciano placed fourth in the men's 8,000.

Marchand's time of 16:15.50

ranks as the second-fastest 5,000-meter time in Iowa history and was a personal best. Her performance helped pace the Hawkeyes to a third-place finish in the 23-team field with 99 points.



Luciano
cross-country runner

Luciano ran 23:01.83, a personal best by 58 seconds. His time led the men to a third-place finish as well, scoring 72 points.



Marchand
cross-country runner

Marchand is the first Iowa women's Big Ten runner of the week since Diane Nukuri on Oct. 16, 2007, and Luciano ended a three-year drought for the men, winning the Hawkeyes' first award since Eric MacTaggart won Sept. 6, 2005.

The conference weekly honor is a career first for both Marchand and Luciano.

— by Alex Johnson

MIDTERM REPORT

While UI students cram for midterms, the Iowa Hawkeyes have completed the first half of the 2008 season. Here are our midterm grades for each area of the team.

By **ALEX JOHNSON**
alexander-johnson@uiowa.edu

C+ **Quarterbacks**
Iowa has lost its last two games largely because of turnovers by sophomore quarterback Ricky Stanzi. Amid the troubles, he has still shown flashes of excellence, continuing to be accurate on 65 percent of his passes.

A **Running backs**
The nation's third leading rusher, junior Shonn Greene, has the Hawkeye offense on his back, gaining 137 yards per game for 822 yards and four touchdowns. Iowa ranks 25th with 1,082 yards as a team.

B- **Wide receivers/tight ends**
Seniors Andy Brodell, Brandon Myers, and sophomore Derrell Johnson-Koulianos are the bulk of Iowa's corps. Each has more than 200 yards, combining for five of Iowa's seven receiving touchdowns. There's not much else — Iowa ranks seventh in the Big Ten in passing with 1,204 yards.

A- **Offensive line**
Iowa averages 4.8 yards per carry as a team behind the big Iowa boys, with Shonn Greene's clip at 6.4 yards per. The unit has come a long way, giving up 46 sacks a year ago but only 13 this year. The '08 line is the best it has been under Kirk Ferentz, except for maybe '03.

B+ **Defensive line**
Anchoring seniors Mitch King and Matt Kroul have combined for 54 tackles and four sacks. Young defensive ends Christian Ballard and Adrian Clayborn have followed suit with 52 stops combined. Largely because of the line, Iowa leads the Big Ten in scoring defense, yielding 11.2 points per game.

B+ **Linebackers**
Iowa knew what to expect from junior linebacker A.J. Edds after last season, but they've gotten production from sophomores Jeremiha Hunter, Jacody Coleman and junior Pat Angerer as well. Hunter leads Iowa in tackles through six games with 43, and Angerer is second with 41. Expect the backers only to improve.

C+ **Secondary**
Junior corner Amari Spivey and freshman safety Tyler Sash have fit in nicely alongside senior corner Bradley Fletcher and sophomore safety Brett Greenwood to help force six turnovers. Even with some blown coverages, Iowa ranks third in the Big Ten in pass defense.

C- **Special teams**
The unit has been erratic, losing a pair of key return fumbles in a home loss to Northwestern and yet cashing in a combined 9-of-12 on field-goal attempts while averaging 41.9 yards per punt. Consistency will be the key if Kirk Ferentz is to trust his special teams in another fourth-quarter pinch.

D+ **Coaches**
The players say it, the coaches know it: Iowa is the best 3-3 team in America. Nine points separate the Hawkeyes from 6-0. Turnovers have become a constant, and Iowa has failed to convert touchdowns in the red zone 14 of 26 times, picking up field goals seven times. The coaches must put the athletes in more positions to win — the plays aren't working.

C- **Overall**
3-3 and should (or could) be 6-0? This might generous.

— Jacqueline Cieslak/The Daily Iowan

Rowers have lofty goal

Rowing team sets sights on national tournament.

ON THE WEB
Watch the Iowa rowers prepare for their kickoff meet at dailyiowan.com.

By **MIKE SLUSARK**
michael-slusark@uiowa.edu

At coach Mandi Kowal's urging, varsity assistant coach Carrie Callen steered her motorboat close to the shore, reached over the side, and clasped the enormous neon blue and green puppy lying on the bank.

She pulled it in to her craft and placed it like a figurehead on the bow.

"I'm sorry you got brain matter on your hands," Kowal said, referring to the Styrofoam filling expelling out of a small breach in the stitching of the stuffed animal in to the boat.

Although they like to mix some fun into practice, don't believe the Iowa rowing team is taking the upcoming season lightly.

"Our team goals are definitely to get to the NCAAs and improve from last year," junior Megan Erickson said. "I think we're headed in that direction."

Last year the Hawkeyes finished sixth at the Big Ten championships. Immediately following the

SEE **ROWING**, 3B

NBA
Bird settles suit

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana Pacer President Larry Bird has settled a lawsuit brought against a couple he claimed used his name without permission to promote a bed-and-breakfast in his former hometown in southern Indiana.

Terms of the settlement were not disclosed because both sides signed a confidentiality agreement, said Lee McNeely, a lawyer representing the 12-acre resort called the "Legend of French Lick."

"All we can say is no comment, or, the lawsuit has been settled," McNeely said Wednesday. "That's the agreement that the lawyers on both sides entered into so we wouldn't get into a back-and-forth as to who did better, who won."

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in May and dismissed Sept. 16, claimed Georgianna Lincoln and Christopher Cooke did not have permission to use the NBA Hall of Famer's name with the property and were profiting off his trademark by stating the home belonged to him.

The Web site for the French Lick resort advertised the property as "the former home of Larry Bird."

TV TODAY

MLB
• National League Championship Series, Game One, LA Dodgers at Philadelphia, 7 p.m., FOX

NCAA FOOTBALL
• Clemson at No. 21 Wake Forest, 6:30 p.m., ESPN

NHL
• Toronto at Detroit, 6 p.m., VERSUS
• Boston at Colorado, 9 p.m., VERSUS

NBA PRESEASON
• New Jersey vs. Miami in Paris, France, 1 p.m., ESPN2

SOCCER
• MLS, New York at Real Salt Lake, 9 p.m., ESPN2

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL — 2008-09 SEASON


JULIE KOEHN/THE DAILY IOWAN

Freshman Kelly Krei, Shante Jones, Kamille Wahlin, and Hannah Draxten pose for a photographer at women's basketball media day on Wednesday at Carver-Hawkeye Arena. The freshmen join eight returning players from last year's co-Big Ten championship team.

Hoopsters hungry

The Iowa women's hoops team is looking for a repeat of last year's regular-season success.

By **JEFF PAWOLA**
jeffrey-pawola@uiowa.edu

As the only Hawkeye basketball team to make it to the NCAA Tournament and finish the regular season as co-Big Ten champions, the women's hoops team once again looks to hold up its end of the bargain in the 2008-09 season.

After finishing 21-11 last year, the Hawkeyes have the ingredients to make another postseason appearance. Iowa returns its top two scorers and only starters in senior co-captains Kristi Smith and Wendy Ausdemore, as well as senior and Big Ten Sixth Player of Year-winner Megan Skouby. Smith was

ON DAILY IOWAN TV

See a Daily Iowan TV report on the women's basketball team's prospects for this season at dailyiowan.com.

ON THE WEB

To see a photo slide show of Lisa Bluder and the Hawkeyes' media day, go to dailyiowan.com.

5 seniors want to leave mark

For five Hawkeye seniors, the 2008-2009 season is a chance to cement their place in Hawkeye history.

By **MIKE BROWNLEE**
michael-brownlee@uiowa.edu

The journeys of the five seniors on the Iowa women's basketball team have taken diverse paths in their four years in Iowa City.

As a freshman center, Megan Skouby won Big Ten Freshman of the Year and was named second-team all-Big Ten. Skouby then was a starter and leading scorer on the team as a sophomore. But with the return of Johanna Solverson from injury last season, Skouby moved to the bench and a reduced role but earned Big Ten Sixth Player of the Year accolades.

Guard Lindsey Nyenhuis and forward Nicole VanderPol have shown flashes of brilliance when they've been on the court, but they have battled injuries and depth at their positions. Nyenhuis played in only eight games last season, when she missed a month-and-a-half of play because of a stress fracture in her left foot. VanderPol got buried on the bench last season behind seniors Krista VandeVenter and Stacy Schlapkohl.

Forward Wendy Ausdemore has developed into one of the best 3-point shooters ever at Iowa, ranking second in career

ON THE WEB

Hear more from the Iowa seniors during the team's media day at dailyiowan.com.



Bluder
Iowa head coach

Ausdemore
point shooter

treys made (160) and first in accuracy (42-percent). As a junior last season, Ausdemore was named honorable mention All-Big Ten after scoring 11.6 points per game.

Point guard Kristi Smith is a three-year starter who led the team in scoring (13.3) a year ago and has logged more than 400 points and 100 assists in each of the past two seasons. She was named first-team All-Big Ten and honorable mention all-America last season.

"This is a special class. I can't believe they're seniors already," Iowa head coach Lisa

SEE **SENIORS**, 3B

SEE **SEASON PREVIEW**, 3B

SPORTS 'N' STUFF

2008 POSTSEASON BASEBALL

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES (Best-of-7)
American League
Game 6 will be 8:07 p.m. if NLCS ends first
Friday's Game
 Boston (Matsuzaka 18-3) at Tampa Bay (Shields 14-8), 7:37 p.m.
Saturday's Game
 Boston (Beckett 12-10) at Tampa Bay (Kazmir 12-8), 7:07 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 13
 Tampa Bay (Garza 11-9) at Boston (Lester 16-6), 3:37 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 14
 Tampa Bay (Sonnastine 13-9) at Boston (Wakefield 10-11), 7:07 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 16
 Tampa Bay at Boston, 7:07 p.m., if necessary
Saturday, Oct. 18
 Boston at Tampa Bay, 3:37 p.m., if necessary
Sunday, Oct. 19
 Boston at Tampa Bay, 7:07 p.m., if necessary

Central	W	L	Pct	GB
New Orleans	2	0	1.000	—
Chicago	0	0	.000	1
Cleveland	0	1	.000	1½
Indiana	0	1	.000	1½
Milwaukee	0	2	.000	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest	W	L	Pct	GB
New Orleans	2	0	1.000	—
Dallas	1	0	1.000	½
Houston	1	0	1.000	½
San Antonio	0	0	.000	1
Memphis	0	2	.000	2

Northwest

W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	2	0	1.000	—
Utah	1	0	1.000	½
Portland	1	1	.500	1
Denver	0	0	.000	1
Oklahoma City	0	1	.000	1½

Pacific

W	L	Pct	GB	
Golden State	1	1	.500	—
L.A. Clippers	0	0	.000	½
Phoenix	0	1	.000	1
L.A. Lakers	0	1	.000	1
Sacramento	0	1	.000	1

Wednesday's Games

Orlando 118, Charlotte 80
 Toronto 113, New York 111
 Philadelphia 98, Boston 92
 New Orleans 105, Indiana 71
 Detroit 85, Milwaukee 71
 Washington 89, Memphis 80
 Minnesota 88, Oklahoma City 82
 Atlanta 100, Phoenix 96
 Golden State 110, Portland 95

Today's Games

New Jersey at Miami, 1 p.m.
 Dallas at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
 San Antonio at Houston, 7:30 p.m.
 Phoenix at Utah, 8 p.m.
 L.A. Clippers vs. L.A. Lakers at Fresno, Calif., 9 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League
OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Announced 3B coach Tony DeFranco has been reassigned within the minor league system and the contract of strength and conditioning coach Clarence Cockrell will not be renewed.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Named Mike Basso manager, Dave LaRoche pitching coach, Ken Joyce hitting coach and Jon Woodworth trainer for Las Vegas (PCL).
National League
CHICAGO CUBS—Exercised their 2009 option on RHP Rich Harden.
HOUSTON ASTROS—Assigned RHP Dave Borkowski, RHP Jack Cassel, RHP Ryan Hosuton and INF Jose Castillo outright to Round Rock (PCL).
MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Agreed to terms with RHP Joe Bateman, LHP Lindsay Gulin, LHP Sam Naron and LHP Chris Narveson on minor league contracts.
SAN DIEGO PADRES—Sent INF Craig Stangberg, RHP Tim Stauffer and RHP Kevin Cameron outright to Portland (PCL).
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS—Promoted Jim Moorehead to senior director of media relations and Maria Jacinto to senior director of broadcast services.

WORLD SERIES
Wednesday, Oct. 22
 National League at American League, (n)
Thursday, Oct. 23
 NL at AL, (n)
Saturday, Oct. 25
 AL at NL, (n)
Sunday, Oct. 26
 AL at NL, (n)
Monday, Oct. 27
 AL at NL, if necessary, (n)
Wednesday, Oct. 29
 NL at AL, if necessary, (n)
Thursday, Oct. 30
 NL at AL, if necessary, (n)

NBA PRESEASON

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	2	0	1.000	—
Philadelphia	1	0	1.000	½
New Jersey	0	0	.000	1
Boston	0	1	.000	1½
New York	0	1	.000	1½

Southwest

W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	2	0	1.000	—
Orlando	1	1	.500	1
Washington	1	1	.500	1
Charlotte	0	1	.000	1½
Miami	0	1	.000	1½

Rugby making comeback

The Iowa rugby club team is making big strides toward becoming elite at the national level.

By **MATT LEITZKE**
 matthew.snisko@uiowa.edu

Although they did not score any points for the Cy-Hawk series, the Iowa rugby club's victory over Iowa State on Sept. 12 showed how far the club has come.

The club, which has been around for more than 50 years, endured a rough past several seasons, finishing with only one win and one tie game in 2007 and only one victory in 2006. Coach Jim Loyd, who came to the team in 2005, feels things are finally turning around for his squad, which sits at 5-3.

"Every year, we are winning more games, and playing better teams, and still winning more games," he said. "That's really been really important for me."

The club stands as a division-two club in the Midwest Collegiate Rugby Union, but it is looking to obtain division-one status as early as next season. The Iowa State club, which Iowa knocked off, 15-10, is a division-one team. Also, all three of the team's losses this season came against division-one clubs at the Big Ten Tournament.

The team lost to Ohio State, 17-5, Illinois, 22-12, and Minnesota, 22-7. In division-two play, the team smashed Illinois

ON THE WEB

Watch Jim Loyd and the Iowa rugby club continue making progress at dailyiowan.com.

State, 52-5, and shut out Illinois-Chicago, 25-0.

Iowa will play Northern Iowa on Saturday (another division-one club) and, with a victory, could make a statement.

"The game is obviously huge for us, but the game itself is probably more important than if we're going to move up to division-one status," Loyd said. "It's a big game for us and we just want to make a statement."

Junior T.J. Connors, the club's captain, agrees with Loyd, and he has been pleased with how this season has gone.

"We haven't really been competitive in past years with Iowa State, UNI, or anyone else for that matter," he said. "This year we started out 4-0, and we went to Big Tens for the first time in a while, and were competitive."

Senior Andrew Lollback, a foreign-exchange student from New Castle, Australia, has been a big part of Iowa's success. Starring as the team's scrum half, he has enjoyed playing in America.

"The game here is a bit slower," he said. "The skill level is there, but in Australia, it is

such a big game. It's more of a developing game over here, but the passion in club rugby is huge. I just love playing rugby over here, and we have a great bunch of guys."

Lollback, although new to the Iowa scene, feels the club has a lot of potential.

"We are in a real growth phase, and we have been around for a while," he said. "We keep getting stronger, and I really feel we're leading into something big."

Connors shared Lollback's vision.

"We're a social club; we

always have been," Connors said. "Each year, we take a bigger stride toward being a more competitive club in the Midwest as well as the country. This year, I think we have great potential to go to Midwest playoffs and beat some teams we really aren't expected to beat. We want to just go from here and be the best team in Iowa."

Loyd believes that his team's season so far has definitely put it on track for state dominance.

"Back when I played here, we were the most dominant team in the state," he said. "But that's ancient history; no one cares about that now. We feel like Iowa is where the rugby title belongs, and we want to get it back here."

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POINT/COUNTERPOINT

WHO WILL WIN THE WORLD SERIES?



There's no question. The Dodgers are the best team in the playoffs.

LA just swept baseball's best team right out of the NLDS, totally dominating in every way.

Joe Torre pulled all the right strings at the right times: bunt calls, hit-and-runs — and he kept a predominantly young team as calm as Manny Ramirez.

Ramirez, by the way, was as "Manny" as ever, continuing to be today's best playoff position player (including the non-position designated hitters). Ramirez was 5-for-10 against the Cubs pitching staff — one of the league's best — including two homers, five runs, and three runs scored. He also walked four times.

Forget just Manny, this team is clutch.

Every time the Cubs made a gaffe, LA took advantage, just like in September when the Arizona Diamondbacks made mistakes. That's the real reason the Dodgers are the best. That guy Torre, he's a pretty smart manager, and none of the managers remaining even compare.

If the series was decided by intangibles, the Dodgers would've been handed the Commissioner's Trophy as soon as Manny was Manny in Dodger Blue. That extra "it" is all Torre needs to take his fifth World Series title.

That, and his amazing pitching staff. Leading the NL in ERA at 3.68, nobody can match the Dodgers' ability to lock down great hitters. They did it to the Cubs, they'll do it to the Phillies, and whoever shows up in the World Series won't see many base runners or long balls (LA gave up just 123 home runs, fewest in baseball).

As for the other teams hanging around: the Rays are too young and untested, Red Sox too shaky and hurt, Phillies, too one-dimensional and pitching-deficient. The Dodgers are playoff-built, and they have Manny. Oh, and that guy named Joe.

— by Alex Johnson



The Philadelphia Phillies are poised to win the city's first major championship since the 76ers won the NBA crown in 1983.

While the "Fightins" may not boast the best regular-season record in the majors or even the National League, they're coming off the month of September having gone 17-8. Although their postseason presence was questionable, the saying "better late than never" was apt when the Phils punched their ticket to playoff party on Sept. 27.

Philadelphia wasn't satisfied with just making a playoff appearance, however. This postseason trip has been all business, illustrated by their relatively easy 3-1 series win against the Brewers. Keep in mind the victory was obtained without much help from horses Ryan Howard and Chase Utley, who combined for just four hits in as many games. Imagine the offense once this duo inevitably gets going.

Pat Burrell helped pick up the slack, joining legend Lenny Dykstra as the only Phillies to go yard twice in the same postseason game. Jimmy Rollins was great, but at this point, what else would you expect? J-Roll hit .375 in the series, showing a determination to taste his first playoff success since joining the team in 2000.

Then there's the pitching. Ace Cole Hamels was dazzling in his second career postseason start, despite being a ripe 24. In eight shutout innings of work, Hamels struck out nine and gave up just two hits in Game 1. Throw in a great performance from Brett Myers in which he outpitched C.C. Sabathia, as well as a solid start from Joe Blanton in the series-clincher, and you get a series victory.

Still not convinced? Let's not forget closer Brad Lidge — he hasn't blown a save all year. Enough said.

— by Jordan Garretson



The Tampa Bay Rays are stacked with fresh talent.

From rookie sensation Evan Longoria to rising superstar B.J. Upton, the products of the Tampa Bay farm system are the reason the Rays stung their competition and finished the regular season with 97 wins.

Even the amazingly talented pitching staff is inexperienced. Not one of the Tampa Bay starting pitchers has more than five years of experience in the big leagues, and only four relievers have more than seven.

Despite all of that, they held opponents to a .246 batting average and possessed the third-best ERA in the majors (3.82), outdone by only one other playoff team — the Dodgers — by .14 of a point.

Moreover, the Rays' rotation is just young enough and cocky enough to not care about the big, bad Boston Red Sox — or their power-hitting offense. The White Sox had three of the top five home-run hitters in the American League. But through four games in the ALDS, Rays hurlers only served up four homers and 13 runs to advance deeper into their first-ever playoff campaign.

When Tampa Bay needed a decisive win to get past Chicago at U.S. Cellular Field, 25-year-old righty Andy Sonnanstine did it with a four-hit, two-run victory.

Sure, two of those hits were solo homers from Jermaine Dye and Paul Konerko, but Sonnanstine isn't even the Rays' best pitcher. Scott Kazmir has 40 more strikeouts (166), James Shields has a much better ERA (3.56), and Edwin Jackson — who isn't on the playoff roster despite being the team's winningest pitcher alongside Shields — has one more win (14-11).

One thing Tampa Bay pitchers won't do? Walk hitters.

Only Mitch Talbot, who I'm sure no one has ever heard of, is averaging more than two walks per inning.

The Rays do everything right at every position on the field. But they execute exceptionally on the mound — the position where perfection matters the most. Home runs sell tickets. Pitching wins championships.

— by Ryan Young



It may have taken four games, a couple of late inning rallies and some extra baseball to defeat the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, but the Boston Red Sox eventually got it done.

Not only is Boston going to advance to its fourth ALCS in six seasons, the Red Sox are also poised to repeat as World Series champions after defeating the Angels, owners of the best regular-season record.

Boston won a tough series with timely hitting, strong defense, and quality pitching, most notably from emerging ace Jon Lester.

While Josh Beckett and Daisuke Matsuzaka struggled in their playoff starts, Lester shone for Boston. Having pitched in Game 4 of the World Series last season and throwing a no-hitter this season, Lester knows well how to handle pressure situations.

If Beckett and Matsuzaka can find their games, there's no doubt whether the Red Sox will have the most formidable pitching rotation in the playoffs.

The bullpen also hung tough, and it helps that closer Jonathan Papelbon pretty much guarantees a win when he's pitching with a lead in the ninth. His 41 saves during the regular season were tied for fourth-best in baseball.

Another strong assist for Boston is its clutch two-out hitting. Against Anaheim in ALDS, the Red Sox were able to score runs late in the game, with none more valuable than shortstop Jed Lowrie's single with two outs, ending the series.

Despite Dustin Pedroia — owner of Boston's best batting average — going a forgettable 1-for-17 in the series, the Red Sox still managed to come away with the victory. Whether it was a home run by J.D. Drew, or a stolen base by Jacoby Ellsbury, the Red Sox did what great teams do — found a way to win.

While the Rays, Dodgers, and Phillies are all strong contenders, Boston still has one thing they don't — the Red Sox are the defending World Series champions, and until someone eliminates them, they are the favorites.

— by Evelyn Lau

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Iowa senior Nicole VanderPol leaves the court at Carver-Hawkeye Arena to attend a luncheon after women's basketball media day on Wednesday. The forward from Grundy Center, Iowa, joins four other returning seniors to kick off the 2008-09 season on Nov. 2.

JULIE KOEHN/THE DAILY IOWAN

Seniors a tight group

SENIORS

CONTINUED FROM 1B

Bluder said during Wednesday's media day. "I think these players have had remarkable careers so far, but they're ready to really put a stamp on it this year."

Despite the different careers, the seniors have been around for a successful time in program history. In their three seasons at Iowa, the group has made two NCAA Tournament appearances (2006 and 2008) and won a share of the Big Ten regular-season title last year.

What the group also has in common is the shared experience of growing up in the Iowa program and a bond that extends beyond the court.

"We all came in before freshman year, and did summer school together, and lived in the same dorms," Ausdemore said. "We all got close that year, and since then, it's been us five; we've been really close."

That closeness has translated into chemistry on the court, Nyenhuis said.

"I think it's important for any

Iowa Senior	Position	Career PPG	Career RPG	Hometown
Kristi Smith	G	11.4	2.2	Thornton, Col.
Wendy Ausdemore	F	10.4	3.7	Neola, Iowa
Megan Skouby	C	12.1	4.2	Mentor, Ohio
Lindsey Nyenhuis	G	3.7	1.1	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Nicole VanderPol	F	3.5	2.3	Grundy Center, Iowa

team to be successful to have trust," the Grand Rapids, Mich., native said. "We definitely trust each other. We're out there working for each other and together, and that definitely carries over to the court."

With five seniors from last year out the door, there's pressure to carry an even heavier load this season.

"We lost a lot from last year, and their roles are going to have to be distributed among all of us," Nyenhuis said. "When you have been playing a sport for so long, and you [might] only have one more year left, you want to work as hard as you can, and I think we're doing that."

Bluder said she's seen a lot of growth from her senior class in

their four years under her tutelage.

"All of them, their game has changed tremendously from when they came here as freshmen," Bluder said. "More than anything, it's their leadership that has really developed and what really shines."

The group is using that leadership to help the incoming freshmen class, a group of four whom the seniors will count on to help the Hawkeyes have a successful season.

"We're passing on what it means to wear an Iowa jersey, the hard work it takes, the intensity, the desire," Ausdemore said.

Sights set high

SEASON PREVIEW

CONTINUED FROM 1B

named to the All-Big Ten first team and honorable mention All-American, and Ausdemore received an All-Big Ten honorable mention.

"We return three key players from last year," head coach Lisa Bluder said. "Kristi Smith, who I think is the best point guard in the Big Ten conference; Wendy Ausdemore, who is ranked as the best 3-point shooter in the Big Ten conference; Megan Skouby, who has had the most experience of any center in the Big Ten conference."

The three seniors as well as a mixture of youth have the Hawkeyes excited about a repeat performance. Iowa returns five seniors, one junior, and two sophomores; it also added four freshmen.

"Our goals are to defend our home court, be Big Ten champions again, and make the NCAA Tournament," Ausdemore said. "We want to be able to play in front of our home fans here at Carver [Hawkeye-Arena]."

If the Hawkeyes hear their name on Selection Sunday, Iowa will be guaranteed home-court advantage for the first two rounds of the 2009 NCAA Tournament. With Carver hosting the opening rounds of the tourney, the Hawkeyes are hoping to advance beyond the first round for the first time since 2002 — Iowa has been knocked out in the first round in its previous two tournaments, having lost to Georgia this past March as a 9 seed and BYU in 2006 as a 10 seed.

In order to do accomplish their goals, the Hawkeyes have to fill holes in their lineup left by graduating seniors Krista VandeVenter, Johanna Solverson, Stacy Schlapkohl, and Jenee Graham. The quartet accounted for almost 50 percent of the team's rebounding and more than 35 percent of the scoring.

"We lost some really good defenders and some great rebounders," Smith said. "We know coming into this year that people are going to have to step up in those areas in order to be a good defensive team like last year."

Iowa looks to some newcomers to fill the void left by the graduated Hawkeyes, especially the local standout, 6-2 Kelly Krei from Iowa City. She was named the Iowa Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year after leading City High to its first basketball state championship. The three time All-State selection will need to be a key contributor defensively in the Hawkeye lineup.

"She is going to be a factor for us," Bluder said. "[She's] a tremendous defensive player." The Hawkeyes will be rely-

ing heavily on its defense this year, having 20 games against postseason teams a year ago — including games against Kansas, Texas Tech, South Florida, No. 2 California, and No. 5 Duke.

Despite being the reigning regular-season co-Big Ten champions, the Hawkeyes enter the season unranked. The only teams in the Big Ten currently in the top 25 are No. 13 Ohio State and No. 23 Michigan State. Iowa faces every Big Ten team twice except for the ranked schools and Northwestern.

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High hopes on the water



Belgian rower Clara François (right) practices keeping her boat steady on Sept. 17 with Canadian teammate Christine Allingham. Because the boats are so small, they're difficult to balance.

DAVID SCRIVNER/THE DAILY IOWAN

ROWING

CONTINUED FROM 1B

capture of the stuffed puppy, Kowal reminded her team what its 6 a.m. daily practices were really about.

"From Hancher to the IMU is the NCAA grandstands," Kowal said.

The Hawks haven't qualified as a team for the NCAA championships since 2001, but Kowal thinks this year's team has the ability to return.

"It's going to take a lot of work, a lot of determination, and being really smart from this point on," Kowal said. "We at least have a group that has the potential to do it."

Kowal said the rowers coming back in good shape, as well as the large number of rowers this

year should help the team meet that goal.

In 2007, the coaches had to bring rowers up from novice in order to fill all the varsity races. This year, Kowal said, the larger numbers should allow the team to fill all the varsity races with members of the varsity team.

"Our lower groups," Kowal said, "meaning second varsity and 4's, are way ahead of last year."

The varsity rowing team consists of 37 members, 18 of whom are sophomores. Kowal said it's probably the biggest individual class the team has ever had.

When she told her team the 2011 Big Ten championships would be held in Iowa City, she wanted to make sure they understood the opportunity they have.

"Just think about what you

can do as a class," Kowal said to the second-year rowers, "staying together and being able to showcase Iowa rowing to everybody around here."

The team will take to the water Oct. 12 for its first race this year — the Head of the Rock in Rockford, Ill.

Wisconsin and Minnesota as well as Notre Dame will be at the competition, along with a number of club teams.

The race gives the Hawkeyes a chance to display the ability Kowal believes they possess.

"I always say, you can have a lot of talent, you can be aggressive," she said. "You've got to be able to do something about it, you've got to be able to take action."

Iowa begins that action towards a NCAA berth this weekend.

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Great model, on and off the soccer field

Iowa soccer's Heather Windsor is an all-around 'coach's dream.'

By AMIE KIEHN
amie-kiehn@uiowa.edu

Iowa midfielder Heather Windsor was born to serve.

You might not have met the junior soccer player, but chances are you have crossed paths with someone who has experienced her fine nature.

The daughter of two California firefighters, serving is nothing new for the 20-year-old. Sophomore teammate Keli McLaughlin describes Windsor as "the hardest working" member of the team, which, after looking at Windsor's schedule, comes as little surprise.

When she isn't on the soccer field or in the classroom, she can be found using her spare time to make a difference.

The health-sciences major is an aspiring nurse, and she has

filled out a lengthy application to volunteer at the UI Hospitals and Clinics during the team's off-season. Until she's a health professional, Windsor will fill her volunteering hunger with Dance Marathon — something the Temecula, Calif., native has participated in twice since arriving in Iowa City. For now, Windsor and the 7-5-1 Hawkeyes must focus on wins before hosting the Big Ten Tournament in November.

This week, Windsor continues in her second year of involvement with Hawkeye Pride, an initiative started in 2002 for Hawkeye student-athletes to assist in teaching positive values in Iowa City schools. Windsor does not donate her time out of obligation — hanging out with 7- and 8-year-olds from Roosevelt Ele-



Hawkeye soccer player Heather Windsor warms up her legs with heating pads at the Hawkeye Tennis & Recreation Complex on Wednesday. Windsor warms her legs every day before practice, especially with the weather getting cooler.

AMY ANDREWS/THE DAILY IOWAN

mentary, sipping milk at lunchtime and swinging on the monkey bars at recess is a pleasure.

"You are there to be a

positive role model, a positive influence," she said. "If anything is negative in the atmosphere, you are there to set a good example."

ON THE WEB

See more photos of Heather Windsor in action at dailyiowan.com.

Already a role model for her teammates, taking her example away from the soccer fields should be as easy as kicking her black-and-gold Nike soccer ball.

"[Windsor] is positive energy," sophomore Amanda Martin said. "All the way around, on the field, off the field — you want to be like [Windsor]."

Her genuine attitude of "team first, self second" has head coach Ron Rainey wishing she had more than one year of eligibility.

"Heather is a coach's dream," he said. "She makes a lot of good decisions and is someone who came in as a freshman and she has built, and built and built each year, [showing] tangible results of her getting better and getting more

playing time on the field."

Playing opportunities for every member of the team have been slim, because Iowa's roster is 27 deep.

"We have a lot of people who can step on the field and make a difference," Windsor said. "Often times, I am one of those players who steps on the field from the bench ... I know the people on the field in front of me are doing a great job — there are no bitter feelings."

The frustration of waiting on the sideline, desiring a chance to lace up her cleats, has never affected her attitude. She is thankful to don the Black-and-Gold and play soccer for Iowa. The lack of minutes doesn't deter her because her role on soccer team is about more than a lapse of a clock.

"If my role is [on the bench] right now, I am just going to make the most of the minutes I get," she said. "It's not something I worry about."

Matt Roth likes switch to LB

By STEVEN WINE

Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. — Now that Matt Roth has stepped back from the line of scrimmage, he's finding it easier to make his way into the opposing backfield.

Converted this year from defensive end to outside linebacker by the Miami Dolphins, Roth is embracing his new position for a defense that has been dominant the past two games.

The change means less wear and tear on the 6-4, 280-pound Roth, who as a lineman found himself butting heads with tackles outweighing him by 20 pounds or more. Now, he's fresher after games.

"I'm in the hot tub instead of the cold tub," Roth said with a grin. "It feels good on my body and my confidence."

The fourth-year pro is dropping into pass coverage, but he's also blitzing on occasion from the strong side and finding his way upfield in run defense. In Sunday's upset over San Diego, Roth had a sack and three tackles for a loss.

"Matt Roth played one heck of a ball game," coach Tony Sparano said.

Roth started nine games at end last year, but run defense was a big problem for a team that went 1-15. When the new regime drafted ends Phillip Merling, Kendall Langford, and Lionel Dotson in April, Roth's roster spot appeared in jeopardy.

Instead, Sparano, Bill Parcells and defensive coordinator Paul Pasqualoni came up with the idea of moving Roth to linebacker. The change coincided with the new coaching staff's switch from a 4-3 defense to a 3-4.

"We put Matt there in a couple of preseason games and started to like what we saw," Sparano said. "He started to catch on a little bit quicker than maybe even we thought he might. The next thing you know, we thought this would be a home for him."

The biggest issue was whether Roth would be able to keep up with tight ends and running backs in pass coverage. Against San Diego he often found himself covering three-time All-Pro tight end Antonio Gates.

"There was a lot of concern all



J. PAT CARTER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miami Dolphin linebacker Matt Roth stops San Diego Charger quarterback Philip Rivers (17) in the fourth quarter in Miami on Sunday. The Dolphins won, 17-10.

week about those matchups when they were able to get Matt on Gates one on one," Miami defense end Vonnie Holliday said. "But Matt was able to play it well for us. He took a big step and is gaining the confidence of the defensive staff."

Gates caught only one pass, and the Chargers were limited to 202 yards. With the victory, Miami improved to 2-2 heading into Sunday's game at Houston. Roth has two sacks this season, while Joey Porter has 5 1/2 at weakside linebacker. Pressure from the flanks is one reason Miami has given up only 23 points in the past two games.

Roth played linebacker as a freshman at Iowa before switching to end for the rest of

his college career. He said he was excited about the move back to his old position and conceded he might be miscast as an NFL end, especially in the new defense.

"The 3-4 is probably more of a 6-6, 300-pound-style guy," Roth said. "I felt I could play, but it was taking all my energy every single play. Now, I feel like I'm the big guy on the block."

Roth acknowledged he had doubts about playing pass defense but said it helps that he's mostly in zone coverage. He loves blitzing from the position, which often leaves only a running back between him and the quarterback.

"It's a mismatch," he said "A running back might be 220

pounds. I'm 280 pounds. Coming at that speed, just by pure physics, you should knock them down and get to the quarterback. They've been trying to put me in positions where I've got to win, and I've been coming through so far."

The new role also suits Roth because of his temperament. If effort were the only requirement, he would make the Pro Bowl every year, and at linebacker he has plenty of chances to throw his body into people.

"Matt is one of those wild, crazy guys," Holliday said. "It's good to see him playing well in that transition. A big credit to him. Linebacker is a fun position, and he has embraced it and is doing a great job."

As Eagles spiral, McNabb speaks up

By RANDY PENNELL

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb decided it was time to speak up.

After a pair of disheartening losses dropped the Eagles to 2-3 and the bottom of the competitive NFC East, the veteran quarterback called a team meeting earlier this week.

"I tried to let them know that it's easy for us to sit and say we could be undefeated right now or we should be 4-1, whatever it may be, but we're not," McNabb said. "So, in order for us to correct that and put these four or five games behind us, we have to do it right now."

the Eagles jumped to a 14-0 lead but were dominated on both sides of the ball the rest of the game. In the fourth quarter they had to settle for a field goal after driving to the Washington 2-yard line and eventually lost, 23-17.

Against the Bears the previous week, the Eagles snapped out of a second-half offensive lull long enough to drive inside the Bears' 5-yard line in the closing minutes. But Philadelphia failed to score the go-ahead touchdown on three runs from the 1 in a 24-20 defeat.

"There is no reason for us to come out the way we did early in the season and to be where we are at right now," McNabb said. "People take it hard. I'm

one of the guys who are very competitive, and I hate losing and especially hate losing in that fashion."

On his blog, McNabb wrote Tuesday that he was "embarrassed" by the team's performance.

"I'm embarrassed with the way we played the past two weeks," McNabb wrote. "I believe that we lost to teams we should have beaten. Not because I think they are not good — they are. But I still believe we are better; we just didn't show it."

McNabb did not single out any teammates for criticism, saying only that he didn't do enough to win, and added it's not too late to turn the season around.

"I'm better than this and I'll prove

it," he wrote. "I know my team is too. Now we have to prove it."

McNabb was impressive the first two weeks but has been spectacular the last three games. He's completed 64 percent of his passes for 1,296 yards and six touchdowns with two interceptions and a quarterback rating of 92.9.

There was plenty he could have done better against Washington, he said.

"I'm very hard on myself. If it's a throw that I missed that I know I can make, that's something that I have to correct," McNabb said. "If it's a sudden movement in the pocket to buy a little time, that's something that I also see."

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the ledge

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
andrew-juhl@uiowa.edu

Andrew R. Juhl, Professor of Letters

- **Dear Roulette:** Thank you. Thank you for teaching me statistics. And humility. And persistence. And the new watch.
- **Dear 2009 "Far Side" Desk Calendar:** Prepare yourself to become my 2009 Far Side cubicle wallpaper.
- **Dear X-box 360:** I'm sorry I've been neglecting you, lately. I've been so busy with work and school that I just haven't had the time to devote to you, which is inexcusable. But you know you're the most important thing in my world, right? Tell you what: After my last test on Friday, I'll pick up a couple of bottles of cab sauv (our favorite!), we can spend the night on the couch, and watch the sun come up together, just like old times.
- **Dear Neighbor's Dog that Pooped Directly in front of My Door Sometime in the Night, Leaving an Unavoidably Large Pile of Poop for me to Unknowingly Step In:** You really shouldn't be eating so many nuts.
- **Dear Last Four Hours Spent Watching Bruce Lee Movies on AMC:** You are not a clean kitchen, a completed grad-school application, OR three loads of folded laundry — but I love you all the same.
- **Dear Internet Spammers:** I am — and always have been — perfectly comfortable with the size, shape, length, and girth of my penis. May I humbly suggest that all future e-mails be targeted toward a demographic more concerned with this issue, such as my girlfriend?

- Andrew R. Juhl wants to know: "Who would YOU like to write a letter to?"

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. If we think it's good, we'll run it — and maybe contact you for more.

POLITICS AND YOGA



BECKY MNUK/THE DAILY IOWAN

Makenzie Kaiser warms up during a yoga class on Wednesday. The class, taught by James Miller, is a tightly knit group. The members spent the first few minutes of class chatting about Tuesday night's debate.

CAN'T GET ENOUGH SUDOKU?

CHECK OUT DAILYIOWAN.COM FOR MORE PUZZLES

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

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

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SOLUTION TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE

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

UITV schedule

- Campus channel 4, cable channel 17
- 12:30 p.m.** News from China-Beijing (in Chinese)
- 1** "Prairie Lights" Archive, Arthur Phillips (2003)
- 2** News from Germany (in German)
- 3** "Java Blend," Diplomats of Solid Sound
- 4** 2008 Iowa Homecoming Parade
- 5:30** Special ceremony to mark the start of the Fall 2008 semester
- 6:15** "Java Blend" Encore, New Beat Society
- 6:30** Incompetent Sports Talk
- 7** "Java Blend," Diplomats of Solid Sound
- 8** Kurtz Lecture, "Fuels from Cellulosic Biomass," Bruce Dale, Michigan State
- 9:30** Daily Iowan TV News
- 9:45** Incompetent Sports Talk
- 10:15** Student Affairs Programming, student life, issues, and activities
- 10:30** Daily Iowan TV News
- 10:45** "Java Blend" Encore, New Beat Society
- 11** "Java Blend," Diplomats of Solid Sound

horoscopes

Thursday, October 9, 2008 - by Eugenia Last

- ARIES** March 21-April 19 You'll have the backing you need to do what you want. It's a good time to get involved in a project that has interested you for some time. Working alongside creative people will open your mind to many interesting concepts and possibilities.
- TAURUS** April 20-May 20 Don't give in to someone who is being demanding or leaning on you too much. Keep relationships with friends, family, and colleagues balanced. A love connection will take you on a wild goose chase.
- GEMINI** May 21-June 20 Take the lead, and you will be able to hold on to it. You can set yourself up for the future by creating a demand for what you have to offer. Use your expert way of expressing your ideas, needs, and intentions — you will capture interest.
- CANCER** June 21-July 22 Love is on the rise, and if you please the one you love, there will be perks in it for you. Use action, not words, to show everyone how much you really do care.
- LEO** July 23-Aug. 22 Don't be talked into something you don't want to do. Someone you love may not be fair or honest about her or his likes, dislikes, and whereabouts. Stay calm. You can outsmart anyone today if you refuse to overreact.
- VIRGO** Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Open up regarding your intentions, and you will fit right into someone else's plans. This is not the day to be lazy, especially if you want to prove a point or cut a deal. Be business savvy, and don't give away too much.
- LIBRA** Sept. 23-Oct. 22 You are in the right place at the right time, and no matter what you are trying to pull off, you should be able to make it happen. A new friendship or partnership will develop suddenly with someone you least expect.
- SCORPIO** Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Protect yourself — don't let your confidence be beaten down. Stand behind your goals. You have more going for you than you realize, so don't back away or deep-six your plans.
- SAGITTARIUS** Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Don't be confused by someone who keeps changing her or his mind. Go it alone. The demand you create will temper anyone who tries to take over or gets in your way. Put a love incident on the back burner for now.
- CAPRICORN** Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Look for the information you need, and you will find it. You may not like what you hear, but you will be able to compensate and find solutions. Try to spend a little time with the people who have always supported your goals.
- AQUARIUS** Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You'll find it difficult to sit still and probably shouldn't if you want to avoid an argument. Put your energy into worthwhile ventures. Rid yourself of the negative influences, and surround yourself with people who believe in you.
- PISCES** Feb. 19-March 20 Hidden matters will keep you guessing. Do not put your money on the line unless you have all the facts. A good partnership can be formed, but be sure you both have a clear idea of what's expected.

today's events

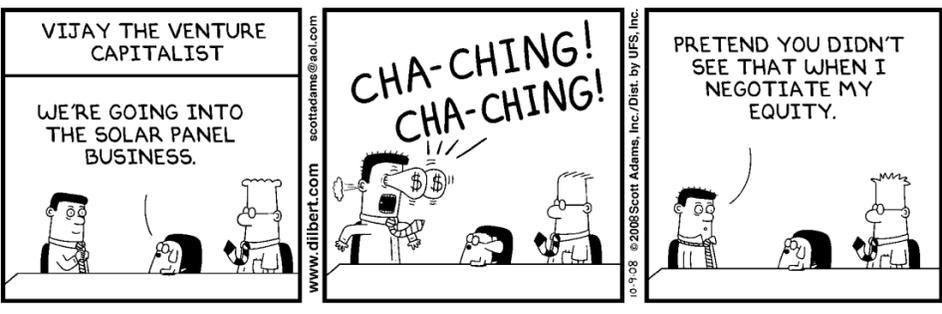
Want to see your super special event appear here? Simply e-mail the name, time, date, and location information to: daily-iowan-calendar@uiowa.edu

- **Writing Science at the Writing University**, all day event, UI campus; contact andreajonahs@uiowa.edu or (319) 335-2752
- **"Journeys in Faith Speakers Forum: Alan Moy, M.D.,"** 7:30 a.m., Newman Catholic Student Center, 104 E. Jefferson
- **Preschool Blues Music Storytime**, 10:30 a.m., Iowa City Public Library
- **Thursday Wee Read**, 10:30 a.m., Coralville Public Library, 1401 Fifth St.
- **Toddler Story Time**, 10:30 a.m., Iowa City Public Library
- **Microbiology Seminar, "Phenotype microarrays: high-resolution, high-throughput biology of microbial cells,"** noon, B111 Medical Laboratories
- **Iowa City Foreign Relations Council Lecture, Col. William Hauser, "U.S.-Iran Relations: Shaky Past, Uncertain Future,"** noon, Congregational Church, 30 N. Clinton
- **Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Legislative Meeting**, 1 p.m., Iowa City Public Library
- **Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center blood drive**, 2-6:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Parish Hall, 435 S. Linn
- **Game Day**, 2:30-4 p.m., Coralville Public Library
- **Movie Mania, The Goonies**, 2:30 p.m., North Liberty Community Library, 520 W. Cherry
- **2nd Congressional District Candidate Forum**, 2:30 p.m., Coralville Public Library, 1401 Fifth St.
- **Teen Tech Zone**, 2:30-5 p.m., Iowa City Public Library
- **"Straight Talk about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Issues in the Schools: Panel Presentation,"** 3:30 p.m., 301 Lindquist Center
- **UI Center for Human Rights, "Careers for Change," Ashley Hoffman**, 4 p.m., 1117 University Capitol Centre
- **Pharmacology Visiting Seminar, "How Flexible Proteins Regulate Cell Division and Apoptosis: Arf, p27 and PUMA,"** 4 p.m., Carver Biomedical Research Building, Kelch Conference Room
- **Meet the Mid-Eastern Council on Chemical Abuse**, 4:30 p.m., 438 Southgate Ave.
- **Gaming for Teens**, 6 p.m., Iowa City Public Library
- **Indian dinner with Pramod Sarin**, 6-8 p.m., New Pioneer Co-Op Fresh Food, 22 S. Van Buren
- **"Shaky Past, Uncertain Future: A Discussion on U.S.-Iran Relations,"** 6-7:30 p.m., University Capitol Centre, International Commons, Room 1117
- **"The Tyranny of Low Expectations in**

- Mental-Health Treatment," John Trepp, David Gibbons, and Karl Stensaas**, 6 p.m., Iowa City VA Medical Center chapel, 601 Highway 6 W.
- **"Frontier Forts Around Iowa," William Whitaker**, 7 p.m., UI Museum of Natural History
- **Ida Beam Lecture, "A Cultural Biography of Meat in South China: The Story of Pork," James Watson**, 7 p.m., 40 Schaeffer Hall
- **"Live from Prairie Lights," Forrest Gander, fiction**, 7 p.m., Prairie Lights Books, 15 S. Dubuque
- **King Corn, a feature documentary about two friends, one acre of corn, and the subsidized crop**, 7 p.m., Christ Episcopal Church, 220 40th St. N.E.
- **Meeting of the National Alliance of Mental Illness - UI Chapter**, 7-9:30 p.m., Lindquist Center, Jones Commons
- **Proseminar in Cinema & Culture: Sub-Saharan African Cinemas, This is Nollywood (USA/Nigeria) and Thunderbolt (Nigeria)**, 7 p.m., 101 Becker
- **"Shaky Past, Uncertain Future: A Discussion on U.S.-Iran Relations," Col. Richard Klass, U.S. Air Force; retired Col. William Hauser, U.S. Army; and David Drake of Iowa Physicians for Social Responsibility**, 7:30 p.m., 1117 University Capitol Centre
- **"The Rise of the New Sexism in the Mass Media," Susan Douglas**, 7:30 p.m., Main Library Shambaugh Auditorium
- **Writing Science at the Writing University, Session VII: Sandra Steingraber Ida Beam Public Lecture, "Writing Rivers in the Footsteps of Rachel Carson,"** 7:30 p.m., W401 Pappajohn Business Building
- **Drinking Liberally**, 8 p.m., Mill
- **Goodtime Karaoke**, 8 p.m., Nickelodeon, 907 Second St., Coralville
- **John Craigie, with Rachel Marie and Chicago Farmer**, 8 p.m., Mill, 120 E. Burlington
- **DeFace the Nation, Second City**, 8 p.m., Englert Theatre, 221 E. Washington
- **Campus Activities Board comedian, Sheng Wang**, 9 p.m., W151 Pappajohn Business Building
- **Gemini Karaoke**, 9 p.m., Speak Easy, 171 Highway 1 W.
- **Public Property and Heatbox**, 9 p.m., Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn
- **Silver Jews and the Mattoid**, 9 p.m., Picador, 330 E. Washington
- **Thursday Night Karaoke**, 9:30 p.m., Charlie's, 450 First Ave.

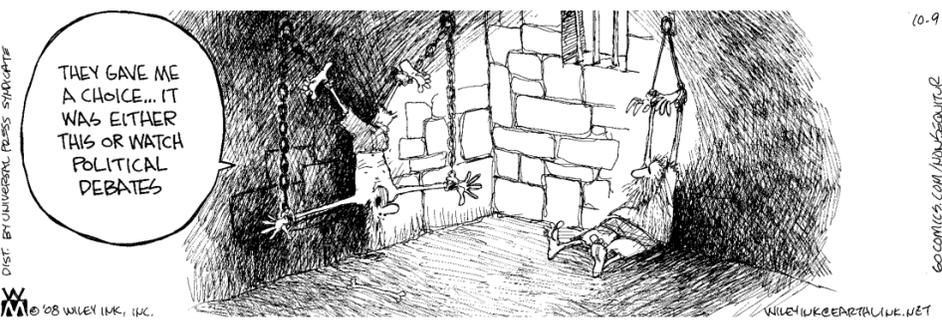
DILBERT

by Scott Adams



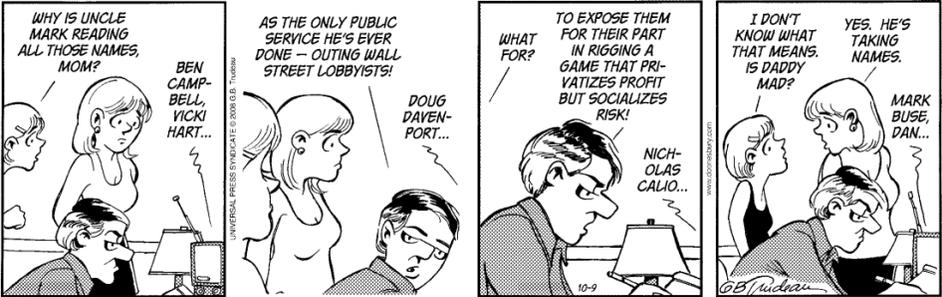
'NON SEQUITUR

BY WILEY



Doonesbury

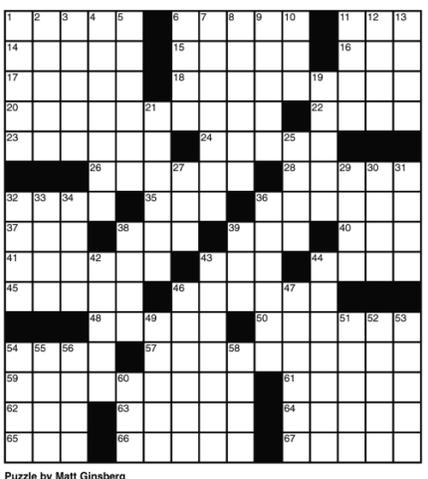
BY GARRY TRUDEAU



The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0828

- Across**
- 1 Feature of an acacia tree
 - 6 1986 showbiz autobiography
 - 11 W.W. II hero, for short
 - 14 Historical biography that won a 1935 Pulitzer
 - 15 & 16 Boxing result, often
 - 17 Certain feed
 - 18 Slow
 - 20 Delphic quality
 - 22 Hawaii's annual ___ Bowl
 - 23 & 24 Curious case in psychology
 - 26 Free
 - 28 Watch brand
 - 32 Where Nixon went to law school
 - 35 Much of central Eur., once
 - 36 Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness
 - 37 Married
 - 38 & 39 Instant
 - 40 Nod, say
 - 41 Sped (by)
 - 43 G.R.E. takers, generally: Abbr.
 - 44 Locale for four World Series
 - 45 The last 10% of 110%
 - 46 Three-wheeled Indian taxi
 - 48 & 50 Grammatical infelicities
 - 54 Quiet cough
 - 57 From southern Spain
 - 59 Patent holder's income
 - 61 Total
 - 62 & 63 Go Dutch
 - 64 Comparatively considerate
 - 65 Seed alternative
 - 66 They're usually washed separately
 - 67 Medical flow enhancer
- Down**
- 1 "The Sound of Music" name
 - 2 Soixante minutes
 - 3 "Wait till you're ___" (parent's reply)
 - 4 Bing Crosby's "White Christmas," again and again
 - 5 Hawk, maybe
 - 6 Lay off
 - 7 Pubescent, say
 - 8 Makeshift dagger
 - 9 American-born Japanese
 - 10 The Sun Devil, for short
 - 11 Diable battler
 - 12 Sweetie
 - 13 Irish singer with eight platinum U.S. albums
 - 19 Trample, for example
 - 21 Proceeded slowly
 - 25 Former E.P.A. chief Christine ___ Whitman
 - 27 It's produced by a Tesla coil
 - 29 Singly
 - 30 Afix
 - 31 Where Melville's Billy Budd went
 - 32 Not be alert



Puzzle by Matt Ginsberg

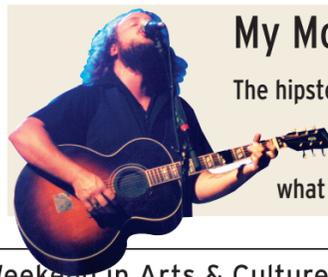
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

- 33 Operating system developed at Bell Labs
 - 34 Stayed fresh
 - 36 Impart gradually: Var.
 - 38 Grammy-winning reggae artist ___ Paul
 - 39 TV planet
 - 42 ___ facie
 - 43 Tanner's locale includes a hood
 - 46 More minute
 - 49 Jazz's Earl Hines, familiarly
 - 51 Wrestling promoter McMahon
 - 52 Gone, in a way
 - 53 Bar belt
 - 54 Wiles
 - 55 Twinkie alternative
 - 56 Assessed visually
 - 58 Poses posers
 - 60 Plasma alternative, briefly
- For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.
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The Daily Iowan

For home delivery, phone 335-5783



My Morning Jacket cuts it short

The hipster audience members at Tuesday night's My Morning Jacket concert soon found themselves mourning what could have been a fantastic set.

4C



Second only in name

PUBLICITY PHOTO

Second City has one of the nation's top reputations for political satire and improvisational humor. *DeFace the Nation* blends an eclectic hybrid of acting, dance, song, and absurdity, and rest assured: No one is spared. With the 2008 election hot on the horizon, get ready for an all-night lampoon of John McCain, Sarah Palin, Barack Obama, Joe Biden, and George W. Bush. The Second City troupe performs Thursday through Sunday at the Englert Theatre.

During the most controversial election of our time (well, at least since 2004), this weekend, six actors from Second City will have their way with the political candidates, incumbents, and other topics at the Englert during the nationwide tour *DeFace the Nation*.

By KATHLEEN SERINO
kathleen-serino@uiowa.edu

Anyone who has passed the Englert Theatre lately has probably noticed the posters of John McCain and Barack Obama: The two nominees' mug shots look as if a mad marker with ulterior political motives scribbled all over them. If the artwork has angered or humored passersby, well, that was the point — the posters were the product of Second City for its new red, white, and blue revue, *DeFace the Nation*, which will stop at the Englert Theatre tonight through Oct. 12.

"People love it," said *DeFace* troupe member and Iowa native Shad Kunkle, 35. "It's all of the political stuff we've done in the last couple of years modified toward our current situation."

DeFace hasn't received much criticism since it received a standing ovation at its debut in Oberlin, Ohio, last month. It's almost as if the three companies of actors have pleased most audiences because of their equal-opportunity-offender status.

"There's no rule out there that says we can't say exactly what we're thinking," Kunkle said in describing the improvisational acts that will take place at the end of each two-hour revue.

The show will kick off with a series of comedy sketches and end with improv.

"We don't necessarily have a stance either way on that issue as much as we want you to see the ridiculousness of one side of that philosophy," Kunkle said.

COMEDY

Second City: *DeFace the Nation*

When: 8 p.m., Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday
Where: Englert Theatre, 221 E. Washington St.
Admission: \$22 for UI students, seniors, and children, \$27 for adults



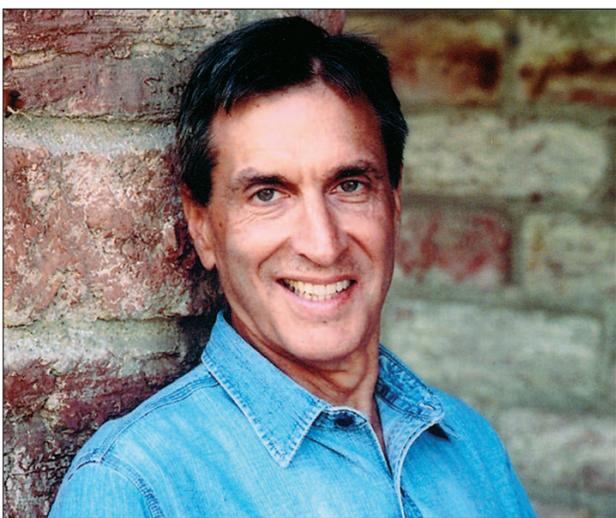
PUBLICITY PHOTO

Of all the public figures we can poke fun at, politicians are by far the best targets. Second City's *DeFace the Nation* tour comes through the Englert Theatre this weekend.

During a phone interview last week, he described a sketch that may make it to the Englert stage about a family feeling the effect of U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson's \$700 billion Wall Street bailout.

SEE SECOND CITY, 3C

A whole lot more than 7 percent



PUBLICITY PHOTO

UI alum Nicholas Meyer visited Iowa City during Homecoming weekend. His screenplay *Elegy*, featuring Penelope Cruz and Ben Kingsley, will open at Sycamore Mall this weekend.

UI alum Nicholas Meyer returns to Iowa City, bringing with him his newest screenplay, *Elegy*, based on Philip Roth's novella *The Dying Animal*. Meyer is a product of Iowa City's thriving literary and film scenes and a former *DI* film critic.

By ELIZABETH TIMMINS
elizabeth-timmings@uiowa.edu

Nicholas Meyer did more than reconnect with friends during his recent Iowa City visit.

Forty years after graduating from the UI with a B.A. in theater and filmmaking, the author of a best-selling novel and contributor to three *Star Trek* movies visited campus and rekindled his affection for the city during Homecoming weekend. Now, two weeks after his personal UI homecoming, his new screenplay *Elegy* will open at the Sycamore 12.

"I've always been interested in stories," Meyer said. "I don't care whether they are funny stories or sad stories or science-fiction stories or historical stories or present-tense stories, I just want them to be good stories."

Meyer based the screenplay on the novella *The Dying Animal*, by Philip Roth, a one-time faculty member at the Writers' Workshop and Pulitzer Prize winning author.

Elegy follows the passionate and powerful connection between a college professor (Ben Kingsley) and his

beautiful student (Penelope Cruz). The relationship invigorates and debilitates the formerly independent professor, David Kepesh.

Originally, *Elegy* did not grace the theaters of Iowa City, the literary town that nurtured Meyer. Showings of *Elegy* did not include the state's theaters when the film premiered Aug. 8. However, after a number of friends and acquaintances approached him and asked why the movie wasn't going to show here, he contacted production

SEE MEYER, 3C

WEEKEND AGENDA



Thursday

2 p.m. Donate blood at St. Patrick's Parish Hall. If the needle's not for you, make a friend come along and try to think about the complimentary cookies and juice afterward.

7:30 p.m. These days, there's a lot of buzz about sexism in the media. Check out a lecture about the rise in this issue by Susan J. Douglas in the Main Library.

9 p.m. Don't miss the Silver Jews at the Picador. Nothing like a little alt-indie-happy-hardcore to start the weekend off right.



Friday

11 a.m. Cook lunch with your friends. Flip to 2C for a delectable menu of tasty below-the-border taco salad and guacamole. Swing by dailyiowan.com to learn more about the recipe and the art of avocado-selecting.

Noon Mosey over to the business building to soak up a series of lectures about "Writing Science at the Writing University."

8 p.m. It's time to see Second City's *DeFace the Nation*. It runs Thursday through Sunday at the Englert Theatre. Beware: No one is spared from the political jokes

11 p.m. Take a late-night walk along the river with that special somebody, and retell all the jokes you heard at Second City.



Saturday

9 a.m. Rewind to childhood and do a puzzle. Pick up a challenging 500-piece anywhere around town, and work on it intermittently to keep yourself sane while studying for midterms.

10 a.m. Hello, gov'nah. Pretend you're British and go to the Cricket Tournament at Willow Creek Park. Be sure to bring your mates.

8 p.m. After your Friday night walk, the memories of flood destruction should be fresh in your mind. Attend the UI Museum of Art's Museum Party! If you're able, consider donating.



Sunday

2 p.m. Go to a Cello Daze concert, and think back to your middle school orchestra days. Appreciate the art of the strings at its finest.

4 p.m. Take a break and listen to music. *DI* Arts reporters gave Margot and the Nuclear So & So's and Oasis' latest albums good ratings, so that's a good place to start if you're looking for some new tunes.

7 p.m. Buy a latte at a downtown coffee house and dig in to your pile of homework.

80 HOURS ON AIR

And on the radio ... we heard "November Rain" ... Well, OK, we won't play "November Rain," but *DI* Arts reporter Claire Lekwa plans to share an exclusive interview with StoryCorps facilitator Anna Walters. Walters visited Iowa City last week to record local residents' experiences during the flood. These stories will be archived at the Library of Congress. Tune in to 89.7 KRUI Friday 5-6 p.m. to hear the interview.

ON THE WEB

The dailyiowan.com is almost the new YouTube — featuring sweet videos, exclusive concert footage, and in-depth interviews with local artists, writers, and musicians.

D(EYE) ON ARTS BLOG

Get the inside scoop on the My Morning Jacket set list that never was, the lowdown on having a secret obsession with terrible musical-theater ideas, and a how-to on becoming Paris Hilton's newest BFF. Go to dailyiowanarts.blogspot.com to read more.

**NEW MOVIES
OPENING THIS WEEKEND**



Body of Lies

Sycamore 12, Coral Ridge 10

Hunky male specimens Leonardo DiCaprio and Russell Crowe star as sexy CIA agents in director Ridley Scott's screen adaptation of this action/adventure novel. When operative Roger Ferris (DiCaprio) suspects a major terrorist leader may be operating out of Jordan, he enlists the help of CIA veteran Ed Hoffman (Crowe) to uncover the truth among the lies, namely by using big guns and blowing things up.



Quarantine

Sycamore 12, Coral Ridge 10

Showtime sweetheart Jennifer Carpenter (a.k.a., serial killer Dexter's sister) stars as television reporter Angela Vidal, who finds herself quarantined inside a Los Angeles apartment building whose residents have been infected by a strange virus. Expect a lot of screaming, some night vision, and one crazy old lady with really bad teeth.

AT THE BIJOU



My Winnipeg

Showtimes: Friday 5, 7, 9 p.m., Saturday 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 p.m., Oct. 12, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 p.m.

Director Guy Maddin (*of The Saddest Music in the World*) blames Canada in this indie-film-festival favorite, recreating his childhood growing up in Winnipeg with local myths and surrealist imagery. B-movie icon Ann Savage plays Maddin's mother. *My Winnipeg* attempts to answer the question of what would happen if you were to relive your childhood and do things differently.

TRACKS FROM THE PAST

A place to remember all those albums we actually bought, memorized, and obsessed over. You loved it then, and you'll still love it now.

As the last millennium crept up to one year before closing, people needed to listen to more than just Prince's 1999 on a loop to ring in the arrival of the last year of said millennium, 2000. Thankfully, Will Smith heard their cries, and knowing the new millennium would begin 2001 (or perhaps not), released *Willennium*, his second solo album following *Big Willie Style*.



Willennium by Will Smith

Released 1999

While today it might be most notable as being the disc that contains one of Smith's biggest movie-related-hits, "Wild Wild West," the majority of *Willennium's* track list still holds up surprisingly well almost a whole decade later.

OK, not so much "Will2K" but collaborative tracks such as "Da Butta" with Lil' Kim and "Can You Feel Me?" with a then-largely unknown Eve stand out as decent party songs, while "Who Am I?" takes things a bit more introspective with the vocals of Tiana Ali on the hook.

By far, the standouts for the entire record are "So Fresh"/"Pump Me Up," two tracks that lead directly into one another and are credited to DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince, with the former also featuring '80s hip-hop classics Biz Markie and Slick Rick. Smith decided to end the millennium by looking backward, and with results as awesome as these, it sounds to me like a decent send-off.

Today 10.9

MUSIC

- **John Craigie, with Rachel Marie and Chicago Farmer**, 8 p.m., Mill, 120 E. Burlington
- **Public Property and Heatbox**, 9 p.m., Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn
- **Silver Jews and the Mattoid**, 9 p.m., Picador, 330 E. Washington

WORDS

- **"Live from Prairie Lights," Forrest Gander, fiction**, 7 p.m., Prairie Lights Books, 15 S. Dubuque

THEATER

- **DeFace the Nation, Second City**, 8 p.m., Englert Theatre, 221 E. Washington

LECTURES

- **"Journeys in Faith Speakers Forum: Alan Moy, M.D.,"** 7:30 a.m., Newman Catholic Student Center, 104 E. Jefferson
- **Iowa City Foreign Relations Council Lecture, Col. William Hauser, "U.S.-Iran Relations: Shaky Past, Uncertain Future,"** noon, Congregational Church, 30 N. Clinton
- **2nd Congressional District Candidate Forum**, 2:30 p.m., Coralville Public Library, 1401 Fifth St.
- **"Straight Talk about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Issues in the Schools: Panel Presentation,"** 3:30 p.m., 301 Lindquist Center
- **"Careers for Change," Ashley Hoffman**, 4 p.m., 1117 University Capitol Centre
- **"The Tyranny of Low Expectations in Mental-Health Treatment," John Trepp, David Gibbons, and Karl Stensaas**, 6 p.m., Iowa City VA Medical Center chapel, 601 Highway 6 W.
- **"Frontier Forts Around Iowa," William Whittaker**, 7 p.m., UI Museum of Natural History
- **Ida Beam Lecture, "A Cultural**

don't miss!



John Craigie with Rachel Marie and Chicago Farmer

Where: Mill

When: 8 p.m. today

Why you should go: Folk fans should flock to the Mill tonight to hear John Craigie, a musician who has toured the United States over the past four years. His songs aren't merely pleas for love and peace, they also include messages mocking politics and cultural observations.

Biography of Meat in South China: The Story of Pork," James Watson, 7 p.m., 40 Schaeffer Hall

- **Writing Science at the Writing University, Session VII: Sandra Steingraber Ida Beam Public Lecture, "Writing Rivers in the Footsteps of Rachel Carson,"** 7:30 p.m., W401 Pappajohn Business Building
- **"Shaky Past, Uncertain Future: A discussion on U.S.-Iran Relations," Col. Richard Klass, U.S. Air Force; retired Col. William Hauser, U.S. Army; and David Drake of Iowa Physicians for Social Responsibility**, 7:30 p.m., 1117 University Capitol Centre
- **"The Rise of the New Sexism**

in the Mass Media," Susan Douglas, 7:30 p.m., Main Library Shambaugh Auditorium

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Blood Drive**, 2 p.m., St. Patrick's Parish Hall, 435 S. Linn
- **Meet the Mid-Eastern Council on Chemical Abuse**, 4:30 p.m., 438 Southgate Ave.
- **Proseminar in Cinema and Culture: Sub-Saharan African Cinema**, 7 p.m., 101 Becker
- **Drinking Liberally**, 8 p.m., Mill
- **Goodtime Karaoke**, 8 p.m., Nickelodeon, 907 Second St., Coralville
- **Gemini Karaoke**, 9 p.m., Speak Easy, 171 Highway 1 W.
- **Thursday Night Karaoke**, 9:30 p.m., Charlie's, 450 First Ave.

Friday 10.10

MUSIC

- **"Java Blend," Josh Davis Band**, noon, Java House, 211/2 E. Washington
- **"Know the Score Live," with Joan Kjaer**, 5 p.m., Old Capitol Senate Chamber
- **Diva Kai**, 8 p.m., Java House
- **International Saxophone Quartet**, 8 p.m., Old Capitol Senate Chamber
- **David Zollo**, 9 p.m., Yacht Club
- **Matthew Grimm and the Red Smear, with Brian Troester**, 9 p.m., Mill
- **The Envy Corps, the Silent Years, the Dig Angees, and Chrash Flood**, 9 p.m., Picador

WORDS

- **International Writing Program Reading, Ali Al Jallawi (Bahrain) and Haifa Bitar (Syria)**, 5 p.m., Shambaugh House
- **"Live from Prairie Lights," Kimball Smith, fiction**, 7 p.m., Prairie Lights

THEATER

- **DeFace the Nation, Second City**, 8 p.m., Englert

LECTURES

- **Writing Science at the Writing University, Session VIII, "Science and Creative Writing,"** 9:30 a.m., W401 Pappajohn Business Building
- **IWP panel, "What Matters Now: Social Change in the World,"** noon, Iowa City Public Library Meeting Room A, 123 S. Linn
- **Writing Science at the Writing University, Session IX: Reading by Karl Iagnemma, principal investigator, Robotic Mobility Group, MIT**, noon, W401 Pappajohn Business Building
- **Writing Science at the Writing University, Session X: "Writing the Iowa River,"** 1:30 p.m., W401 Pappajohn Business Building

Writing Science at the Writing University, Session XI: "Articulating the Animal, Writing the Life and Mind of Primates," 3:15 p.m., W401 Pappajohn Business Building

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Noon Knit**, noon, Hardin Library
- **Knitting Nurse**, 2 p.m., Home Ec. Workshop, 207 N. Linn
- **Hamburger Dinner**, 5 p.m., St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2675 E. Washington
- **Iowa Koran Study Circle**, 8 p.m., Robert A. Lee Recreation Center Meeting Room A, 220 S. Gilbert
- **Big D's Karaoke Jamz at Grizzly's Southside Pub**, 9 p.m., 1210 Highland Court
- **Friday Night Karaoke, with Gemini Karaoke**, 9 p.m., American Legion Post No. 17, 3016 Muscatine
- **Retro Club Night**, 9 p.m., Speak Easy

**weekend
calendar
of events**

Saturday 10.11

MUSIC

- **Yacht Club/Minstrel Studios/New Belgium Battle Finale featuring Mint Wad Willy, Ephraim Zenh, River and the Tributaries, Dead Larry, and Soul Method**, 7 p.m., Yacht Club
- **Cello Daze Concert**, 8 p.m., Preucil School of Music, 524 N. Johnson
- **Nikki Lunden Trio, with Zach Heath**, 9 p.m., Mill

THEATER

- **The Pillowman**, 7:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Society, 10 S. Gilbert
- **DeFace the Nation, Second City**, 8 p.m., Englert

LECTURES

- **Saturday Scholars, "The Kiowa Ledger Artist: Insight into a Special Culture," Jacki Rand**, 10 a.m., 40 Schaeffer Hall

DANCE

- **Country Dance by DJ Scoot-A-Boot**, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 225 Highway 1 W.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

- **Iowa City Hiking Club**, 8 a.m., Iowa River Power Co. Restaurant, 501 First Ave., Coralville
- **Bicyclists of Iowa City**, 10 a.m., Scott Park, 700 S. Scott Blvd.
- **Cricket Tournament**, 10 a.m., Willow Creek Park, 1117 Teg Drive
- **Knitter's Breakfast**, 10 a.m., Home Ec. Workshop
- **One Community, One Book, A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier**, by Ishmael Beah, 10 a.m., Iowa City Public Library Meeting Room A
- **Spiral Rope Bracelet Class**, 10 a.m., Dawn's Hide and Bead Away, 220 E. Washington
- **Yamaha Clavinova Piano Festival**, 10 a.m., West Music, 1212 Fifth St., Coralville
- **Introduction to Orthodoxy**, 4 p.m., St. Raphael Orthodox Church, 511 Iowa
- **Pheasants Forever Banquet**, 5:30 p.m., Johnson County 4-H Fairgrounds, 4265 Oak Crest Hill Road S.E.
- **Fifth-Annual Museum Party**, 8 p.m., hotelVetro, 201 S. Linn
- **Rock and Roll/Country Night**, 9 p.m., Speak Easy

Sunday 10.12

MUSIC

- **Cello Daze Concert**, 2 p.m., 150 Clinton Street Music 376
- **University Chamber Orchestra**, 3 p.m., West High Auditorium, 2901 Melrose Ave.

WORDS

- **"Paul Engle Centennial,"** 2 p.m., Senate Chamber, Old Capitol
- **IWP/Writers' Workshop Reading, Maryam Ala Amjadi (Iran) and Agnes Lam (Hong Kong)**, 5 p.m., Prairie Lights

THEATER

- **DeFace the Nation, Second City**, 8 p.m., Englert

MISCELLANEOUS

- **74 Days Till Christmas**, 1 p.m., Country Inn and Suites by Carlson, 2571 Heartland Place, Coralville

don't miss!

Cello Daze

Where: 150 Clinton Street Music 376
When: 2 p.m. Oct. 12
Why you should go: The Cello Daze concert is a chance to listen to some live music without lyrics or amplifiers. The concert will feature the massed Cello Daze Cello Choir. To read more about the event, pick up a copy of Friday's *DI*.

- **Taize**, 5 p.m., Old Brick, 26 E. Market
- **IWP Cinémateque, Dreams of Hind and Camilia**, 8 p.m., 101 Becker
- **Dead Night**, 9 p.m., Yacht Club
- **Reggae Night, with DJs FUNKMASTER and KIMX**, 9 p.m., Quinton's, 215 E. Washington
- **Sunday Night Pub Quiz**, 9 p.m., Mill

WRITING WHEN THE SKY OPENS

Poet-turned-novelist Forrest Gander mines for literary gold with his first novel, *As a Friend*.

By **BRIAN DAU**
brian-dau@uiowa.edu

Hemingway wrote that violent death is one of the simplest things to write about, and author/poet Forrest Gander agrees. Instead of taking that easier path, Gander challenged himself to write at the opposite end of the emotional spectrum—the complexities of love and relationships, and his debut novel *As a Friend* was born.

Gander, 52, will read from *As a Friend* at 7 p.m. today at Prairie Lights Books, 15 S. Dubuque St.

"It took me 20 years to write this tiny novel," he said. "You can develop complex emotions in poetry, but that sense of a

character that an audience will want to read about for 150 pages—that was hard."

The shift from poem to novel was quite a change for Gander, who has published 10 books of poetry over the past 20 years. He said he "failed a whole lot" while working on *As a Friend*, endlessly revising a manuscript that ballooned to 350 pages before he pared it down to a taut 150.

The novel takes the form of "one incidence seen from numerous points of view" and deals with the "complexities of friendship, often touched with erotics and jealousy." Although the novel is written in a narrative style, Gander's poetic sense is still at work throughout its

pages, including his interest in cross-genre writing and the musical quality of language.

"I called [the novel] a harmonic when I sent it to my publisher," he said. "It's composed of three different voices, and the way those tones overlay on top of each other creates something more deep and resonant, like a harmonic in music."

Though he is now a professor of English and comparative literature at Brown University, Gander received a degree in geology as an undergraduate at William and Mary. His interest in rocks and landscapes has yet to wane, and the protagonist of *As a Friend* works as a land surveyor.

He attributes his continued

interest in geology in part to poet George Oppen, who wrote "the self is no mystery, the mystery is that there's something for us to stand on."

"I'm really interested in the way that what we stand on and what we stand for are related to each other," Gander said. "Our sense of self has always been porous— Influenced by the environment around it and interested in the way that a landscape, even an urban landscape, affects the way we look and feel."

In addition to his position at Brown, he continues to write his way through the tough subjects, the "central human experiences" that both fascinate and frustrate him. No matter the form, he remains devoted to writing as a catharsis.

"You both love and hate [writing]," Gander said. "It's



READING

Forrest Gander, fiction

When: 7 p.m. today
Where: Prairie Lights, 15 S. Dubuque St.
Admission: Free

painful. You write crap for weeks on end, and it's terrible. Then you write a sentence you really like, and the sky opens up to you."

TACO SALAD & GUACAMOLE

Any *Daily Iowan* die-hard knows that Monday's Cook-In-Progress was all about picking out the perfect avocado. Today, that avocado becomes a crucial part of this week's menu, which is perfect for a fall fiesta. Taco salad and homemade guacamole make a great meal to survive the midterm blues. It's delicious and budget-friendly.

TACO SALAD

- What you need:**
1 lb. ground beef or turkey
1 packet taco seasoning
¾ cup water
½ ripe tomato
1 bag of lettuce, iceberg or butter
2 handfuls tortilla chips
½ cup Mexican-style shredded cheese
3 tbsp. fat-free sour cream
Taco sauce to taste

What to do:
Defrost the ground meat and

cook it in a skillet over medium heat until it is completely browned. Drain the meat and add taco seasoning and water. Simmer for approximately five minutes, until the excess moisture disappears. Then remove the meat from heat. Chop the tomato into small pieces. Empty the lettuce into a large bowl. Then add meat, tomato, chips, cheese, and sour cream. Use taco sauce as a dressing and add as much as you like to your

personal salad.

GUACAMOLE

- What you need:**
2 ripe avocados
2 tbsp. cilantro leaves
1 tbsp. fresh lime juice
½ tomato
¼ red onion
Dash of salt
Dash of pepper
What to do:
Cut open the avocados, remove the seeds and spoon out the

filling into a medium-sized bowl. Mash the avocado with a fork until it is smooth. Then wash and mince the fresh cilantro. Add it to the avocado. Cut a ripe lime into quarters and squeeze one tablespoon of juice into the avocado and cilantro mixture. Slice the tomato into small pieces, removing the seeds and pulp, before adding it to the avocado. Mince red onion and add it to the avocado mixture. Add the

pepper and salt, and stir the bowl's contents until the guacamole is evenly mixed. Use as dip with tortilla chips or add to taco salad.

ON THE WEB

Be sure to check out dailyiowan.com for UI senior Madeline Harrington's helpful video about how to prepare this south-of-the-border meal.

Politics via Second City

SECOND CITY
CONTINUED FROM 1C

"If it's done well, you could be a supporter of one party or one candidate and still laugh at them," said UI political-science Associate Professor David Redlawsk. "If it's done well."

Kunkle and his fellow jesters have nearly perfected the art of reading and guiding audiences with comedic finesse.

"Performing is not too unlike reading minds," he said, noting that he wouldn't make a "m.i.l.f." joke during a college parents' weekend. "Usually, our message isn't so heavy-handed that everybody can't relate to it from a personal point of view."

The company, made up of six actors, will not make fun of anyone's mother this weekend. Instead, the members will stick mainly to a grab bag of old and new comedy sketches — many of which have been supplied by the likes of Steve Carrell and Stephen Colbert. These pieces are glittering jewels tucked away in Second City alumni archives, which actors dip into often.

"They're modified to make the jokes specific to us," Kunkle said. "But all in the name of representing Second City itself."

And represent the players will. The history of Second City is founded on the genius of the comedy created by the players, who master their talent through training programs and classes.

UI film graduate student Andrew Peterson, who enrolled in a 2002 comedy-writing program at Second City in Chicago, believes he could never imagine a world without political satire, because it is, to him, an important tool used to inform voters.

Political satire provides a colorful explanation of technical government issues, he said.

"A clever satire is infinitely more enjoyable than a sterile TV debate and usually communicates more truth," he said.

Kunkle has pulled from those debates to use as new material.

"Turning [these issues] into comedy has given me a real opinion about what works and what doesn't," he said. "Sarah

'If the political process is your thing, the best way — maybe the only way — to engage in that process is to treat it as though it were all one colossal joke.'

— Andrew Peterson,
UI film graduate student

Palin entering the race was probably the greatest thing that ever happened for me comedically, because she's just such a controversial figure."

And comedy has proven to be a significant factor in politics; just look at "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report," which, of course, so many of you do. According to Nielsen TV ratings data collected in September 2008, the Comedy Central shows drew 1.9 million and 1.4 million viewers.

And who could forget Colbert's brief run in this year's election? According to a blog published on the *Washington Post's* website, the Facebook group "1,000,000 Strong for Stephen T. Colbert" reached its goal in a matter of three days. The group is ever-expanding.

When asked if audiences' opinions might be swayed by *DeFace the Nation*, Kunkle replied, "We sure hope so. Ultimately, we want you to vote. Hopefully, we've comedically shown both sides of the coin so that you can spend some more time thinking about the issues."

UI sophomore Mark Smith, who watches political-satire-based TV shows whenever he can, said his vote most likely wouldn't be swayed after seeing *DeFace the Nation*.

"Poking fun at both sides [of the] political spectrum is something that's funny," he said. "Especially when it's poking fun at the side you oppose."

Peterson has one piece of advice when it comes to the election:

"If the political process is your thing, the best way — maybe the only way — to engage in that process is to treat it as though it were all one colossal joke."

Happiness after Star Trek

MEYER
CONTINUED FROM 1C

company Lakeshore Entertainment to see what could be done. The incident points to a larger trend that he finds a bit upsetting.

"What has happened to movies and movie theaters is really appalling," he said. "You have 10 screens, and they are all playing the same movie or the same kind of movie."

And it's true. Take last weekend, for example: There was pretty much an even wash in local theaters of action thrillers, dramas, and romantic comedies. Not exactly the most heterogeneous mix. It's not lack of material but rather a lack of screens and less variety of movies purchased by theater owners.

"There's a wider range in fiction features and documentaries, but fewer places to show them," said UI cinema Associate Professor Sasha Waters Freyer.

Meyer said he enjoys seeing blockbusters, action films, and "teenage gross-outs," but he believes theaters should represent a variety of movies. When

he attended the UI (1964-68), five movie theaters could be found downtown, and students could walk to them.

"Iowa City is wiped for real independent movie theaters downtown," Waters Freyer said.

With the large number of movies available back then, Meyer was able to publish more than 400 movie reviews during four years as a film critic for *The Daily Iowan*.

Prior to enrolling at the UI, the native New Yorker said, he knew little about the Midwest.

"But I came to the school, took a look around, and sort of fell in love," he recalled. "I wanted to study theater and motion pictures and also get a liberal-arts education. I knew that the Writers' Workshop was there, so it made Iowa City the only place in the country that covered all my bases."

Longtime friend Dave Dierks, a UI Foundation vice president, knows Meyer's continued support and passion for the UI.

"I think the education here gave Nick a confidence that he didn't have before," Dierks said. After graduation, Meyer

From UI to the silver screen

Timeline of some significant experiences for writer/filmmaker and UI alum Nicholas Meyer:

- 1968: graduated from the UI
- 1969: worked for Paramount Pictures as an associate publicist
- 1971: moved to Los Angeles
- 1974: wrote bestseller *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution*
- 1982: wrote and directed *Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan*
- 1983: directed made-for-TV movie *The Day After*
- 1986: wrote *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*
- 1991: wrote and directed *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*

returned to New York and began working in the film industry as an associate publicist for Paramount Pictures. Meyer's "leap frog" approach to career advancement landed him in Los Angeles in 1971, and he wrote his first *Star Trek* screenplay 11 years after the cross-country move.

Although *Star Trek II*, *Star Trek IV*, and *Star Trek VI* mark Meyer's biggest commercial

successes, he attributes his most worthwhile experience in the industry to making *The Day After*, a made-for-TV movie in 1983 depicting the effects of a nuclear war, set in and around Lawrence, Kan.

"Ronald Reagan, who was president at the time, said *The Day After* changed his mind about the notion of a winnable nuclear war," Meyer said. "Having seen the movie, he went off to Reykjavik and signed the Intermediate-Range [Nuclear Forces] Treaty with [then Soviet Union President Mikhail] Gorbachev. I changed the U.S. president's mind and helped diffuse the then-nuclear crisis, and I consider that to be a pretty good thing."

Over his 40-year career, Meyer has been nominated for 17 prestigious film awards, including nominations for three Emmys and an Oscar for a screenplay based on his best-selling novel *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution*.

"I've tried to be very eclectic in my career," he said. "I don't, notwithstanding the *Star Trek* movies, care to repeat myself. I like to try different things."

EVENT TODAY

Silver (perhaps), Jewish (maybe), and happy hard-core

Anyone with a good dose of religious guilt should feel awkward uttering a name like Silver Jews, but it's nothing to be ashamed of.

The Nashville, Tenn., outfit Silver Jews come to Iowa City tonight to play what its MySpace describes as "alternative-indie-happy hard-core" music at the Picador, 330 E. Washington St.

The band began in 1989 as a project for musician David Berman and Pavement members Bob Nastanovich

CONCERT
Silver Jews and The Mattoid
When: 9 p.m. today
Where: Picador, 330 E. Washington
Admission: \$15

and Stephen Malkmus (who will be in town to play the Picador on Halloween with his band, the Jicks). Since then, the group has undergone numerous

lineup changes, but always with founder Berman in tow.

In the Silver Jews' 19-year history, the band has released six albums, including its latest CD, *Lookout Mountain, Lookout Sea*, released on the Chicago-based Drag City label in June.

When he isn't busy being a Silver Jew, Berman spends his time as an accomplished writer with a published poetry collection, titled *Actual Air*, on his résumé. On Sept. 23, Drag City released *Silver Jew*, a 52-minute film about the band directed by Michael Tully.

— by Meryn Fluker



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THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA



My Morning Jacket soars - until the fall

After an onstage fall that left Jim James with "traumatic injuries" to his torso, the band postponed shows scheduled in Chicago today and Friday, according to the group's website.

By MERYN FLUKER
meryn-fluker@uiowa.edu

Tuesday's My Morning Jacket performance was supposed to be huge. It was the first concert SCOPE ever put on at the Recreation Building, and the first big-name act to come to the UI since Homecoming's Rooney/Chuck Berry double bill. And for seven songs, the 1,000 or so fans were treated to exactly what they were promised: a hugely successful band playing an energetic set.

It looked like the next 17 songs would have reinforced that feeling. But no one will know, because shortly after song seven, "Off the Record," one of the Southern rock band's better-known tracks, the lights came up and the music stopped. Jim James, the band's frontman, injured himself falling off the stage.

Around five minutes later, drummer Patrick Hallahan appeared onstage to tell the audience to "hang tight" while the band "sussed out" the situation with James. A few more minutes of confusion passed, and the crowd thinned.



Jim James, the lead singer and guitarist for My Morning Jacket, sings "At Dawn," the second song played at the band's concert in the Recreation Building on Tuesday. The gig ended after only seven songs, when James injured himself falling off the stage at the end of an extended version of "Off the Record."

Many took the empty stage as a cue to relight their joints, chat, or, in the case of one particular couple, begin ballroom dancing on the floor of the Rec Building.

When Hallahan appeared on stage with the rest of the band in tow — sans James — the crowd's disappointment was audible before he even spoke

the words no one in Tuesday night's crowd wanted to hear.

"Jim's really hurt, and he's heading to the hospital," Hallahan said.

He closed with a promise to make the show's cancellation up to the fans and encouraged the students in the crowd to study hard for midterms. And with that, the night was aborted. The

mostly supportive crowd cheered and applauded for James' health and recovery, and only a few scant comments of anger and cries for refunds were heard.

It was an anticlimactic end to one of the best shows SCOPE has put on in the last four years. My Morning Jacket's set started with James on acoustic guitar,

softly plucking away during "Bermuda Highway." The rest of the band's lineup joined him on stage for the night's second song, "At Dawn." The first few songs were good but not great, though the group played well together and Carl Broemel provided some excellent pedal-steel guitar and backing vocals on the

PATRICK LARKIN/THE DAILY IOWAN

country waltz "Golden," the outfit's third song of the night.

My Morning Jacket has a sold-out New Year's Eve date at Madison Square Garden in its future, and it proved why during the next few songs. Behind a wall of indigo light, the band barreled through "It Beats 4 U," — a track off the band's 2005 breakthrough album, *Z* — led by a seemingly irrepressible James.

From there, the songs only got louder, the lights brighter, and flickering faster, and the music took off. The crowd's legs vibrated, and James thundered across the stage with his hair a tornado of curls during crowd-pleasers "Evil Urges" — the title track from the band's most recent album and the tour's namesake — and "Touch Me I'm Going To Scream Pt. 1."

The audience's fists pumped no higher and the band's energy was no more tangible than when My Morning Jacket launched into "Off the Record." A spectacular light show shifted from every color in the spectrum at varying speeds while James threw himself across the stage, seemingly propelled by the music's force. After a long jam, the show ended, as if the band was too powerful, and James fell at the hands of his own creation. One thing is certain, after the under-satisfied crowd streamed out of the venue: Despite whatever events would have happened during the next 17 songs of My Morning Jacket's set, for seven songs, the band's show was everything it was hyped to be.

Filming beyond mere plot

Get experimental this weekend. The second Iowa City Experimental Film and Video Festival kicks off today at the Picador.

By KATHLEEN SERINO
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Everything has a beginning, middle, and an end, whether it's a children's book or a blockbuster hit. Well, almost everything.

Experimental film, an unconventional genre of cinema, goes beyond conventional storytelling. Dozens of 8 mm, 16 mm, Super 8 film, and a bevy of other video will be screened today through Saturday at the Iowa City Experimental Film Festival.

"Experimental" is a bad term to use," said UI film student Cole Northway, who finds the title a bit vague. "Any film or any video with any sort of innovation is experimental in a certain sense. I feel 'art film' is a more appropriate title."

He enjoys incorporating artistic elements into his own work, he said, and thinks that "experimental" is misused and invites negative criticism. He has directed 16 short films and worked on a handful of separate projects.

The mission statement of the local festival, an all-volunteer organization comprising eight members, explains its purpose: "The Iowa City

Experimental Film Festival continues to provide an exhibition for media that operate outside of typical commercial exhibition and distribution channels."

Andrew Peterson, Richard Wiebe, and Kyle Stine, three graduate students in film, said the festival is a continuation of the original microcinematic festival THAW, an Iowa City film fest that folded a few years ago.

"There is this tradition of THAW and especially of the production program and film-studies program here that goes back at least 20 or 30 years," Peterson said. "We're just picking up on that."

The UI cinema/comparative literature department makes an ideal host for an experimental-film festival, although nobody seems to agree on a clear definition for the term "experimental." Peterson compared experimental film to poetry, contending that it's a freer, more artistic form of cinematic expression that doesn't necessarily have to provide a great deal of information.

"I think of that poetry versus novel distinction," he said. "Poetry is a valuable

thing. It's just a different use of language, which isn't better or worse than a good book. It puts you in a different head space."

Wiebe said the group discussion, open to audiences after each screening, would provide insightful discourse to help audiences, filmmakers, and jurors better understand the pieces.

Many graduate and undergraduate students, a UI professor, filmmakers abroad, and major experimental filmmakers such as Roger Beebe, Ben Rivers, and Tony Gault offered up the cream of their work for the festival this year. Of the 170-plus pieces submitted, roughly one out of four were picked for the screening by the board. The festival will show four competitive screenings over the weekend.

"Our selectivity was not necessarily the distinction between what's experimental and what's not," Wiebe said, suggesting a gut feeling drove the board members' decision. "It had more to do with a film that affected us not viscerally, emotionally, or aesthetically but [one that] had a very strong impact on us as individuals."

FILM FESTIVAL
Iowa City Experimental Film and Video Festival
When: Today, Friday, Saturday
Screenings:
• Iowa Filmmaker's Competition Screening, today, 8-10 p.m. 105 Adler
• Competition Screening, Friday, 6-8 p.m., Iowa City Public Library Meeting Room A, 123 S. Linn
• Juror's Screening with Deborah Stratman, Friday, 9-11 p.m. Uptown Bill's Small Mall, 401 S. Gilbert
• Competition Screening, Saturday, 2-4 p.m. 202 Senior Center, 28 S. Linn
• Competition Screening, Saturday, 5-7 p.m. 202 Senior Center
• Juror's Screening with Vanessa Renwick, Saturday, 9-11 p.m., Uptown Bill's Small Mall
Admission: Free

The work is to be judged by famed experimental filmmakers Deborah Stratman of Chicago and Vanessa Renwick from Portland, Ore.

And although it's great to be experimental, this kind of eclectic film doesn't always have the biggest market for filmgoers. Like the present U.S. economy, the Experimental Film Festival's economic fate is unsure. After the inaugural festival's success in 2007, the organizers hope that it, too, can have a great beginning, middle, and end.

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