

The Daily Iowan

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2009

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

50¢

SPORTS



Another summer, another title, another MVP

Iowa junior Kachine Alexander's team wins the Game Time title, and she is named MVP for second-straight summer. **10**

A brotherhood of wrestling

A third member of the Ballweg family will join his older brothers on the Iowa wrestling team in 2010. **10**

NEWS

Unleashing the feds

A North Liberty man who allegedly paid a bond with stolen money will now face his armed robbery charge in the federal courts. **2**

ARTS & CULTURE

A night of wacky films

Ever wonder what happens with an old homemade movie thrown away years ago? Well, it just may end up in the Found Footage Festival — an event that lets viewers see flicks picked up in random places throughout the years. **5**

Last show for 'Bad Boys'

Provocative Mint Wad Willy sings farewell to Iowa City at its favorite venue. **5**

OPINIONS

Unhealthy health

Are congressional Democrats crafting a reasonable health-care plan? Two *DI* commentators weigh in. **4**

WEB BONUS

- Read the PDFs from Police Chief Sam Hargadine about bars' liquor licenses.
- See video footage from the Game Time championship.

ON THE RECORD

Insights and information from inside today's *The Daily Iowan*.

"We're more about playing live and having fun with our friends," local band Mint Wad Willy's guitarist/bassist/vocalist Derek LeVasseur said. "Whereas other bands in Iowa City are like, 'Yeah, listen to me play this four-minute solo and tell me how this sounds and scream in my face.' Where we just want to have a good time." • Read a full preview of Mint Wad Willy's farewell show. **5**

WEATHER

86 30C 64 18C

Mostly sunny, turning cloudy, breezy, 60% chance of rain/T-storms.

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2 bars may lose licenses

By **ZHI XIONG**
zhi-xiong@uiowa.edu

The owners of 3rd Base and Et Cetera may have to fight to maintain their liquor licenses at the Iowa City City Council meeting July 28.

Iowa City Police Chief Sam Hargadine recommended that the city not renew the permits for the bars, located at 111 E. College St. and 118 S. Dubuque St., respectively.

On Thursday night, the news surprised several students on the Pedestrian Mall.

"Why take those two bars? All the other bars do the same thing," said Tomas Reiling, a 21-year-old UI student.

In recent memos to Iowa City Mayor Regenia Bailey and City Council members, Hargadine concluded both bars face issues of underage and the over consumption of

alcohol, physically violent behavior by patrons, and the "apparent inability of staff to adequately address the issues."

After July 1, Hargadine wrote, he must recommend denying liquor-license renewals to establishments that have an citation-to-bar visit ratio greater than 1.0.

The Field House, as 3rd Base is commonly known, is popular for its generous

ON THE WEB

Read the entire Iowa City police memo recommending that the City Council deny Et Cetera's and the 3rd Base's liquor-license renewal application on dailyiowan.com.

birthday specials in which patrons can purchase 21 pitchers for \$25.

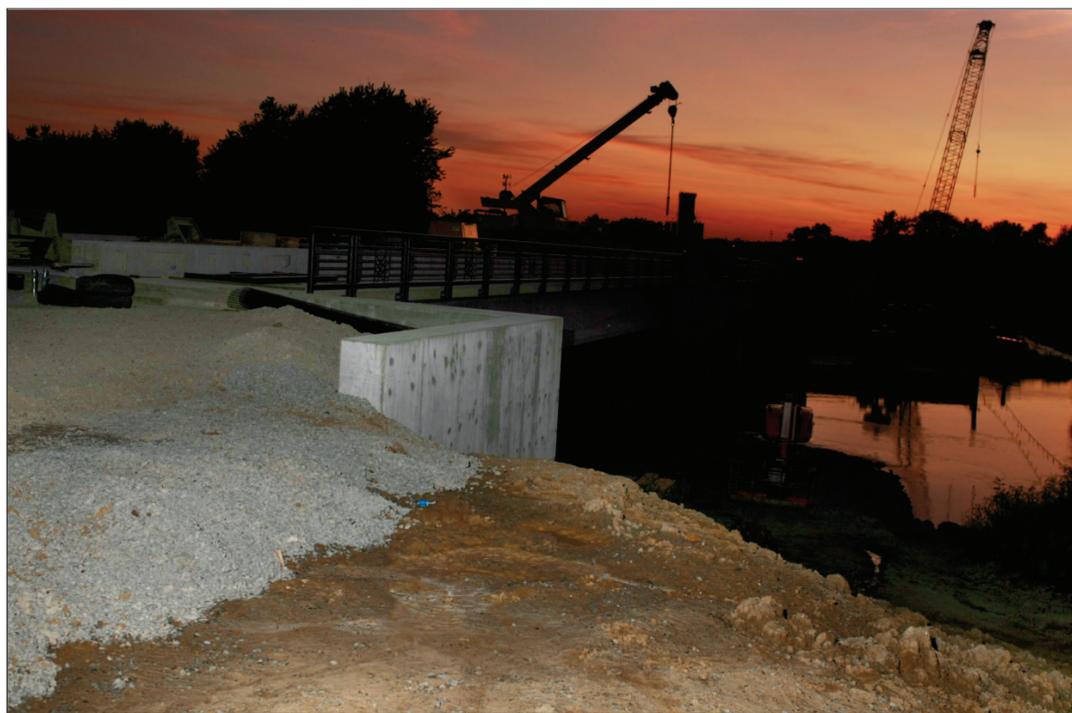
SEE **BARS**, 3

Downtown

Et Cetera and 3rd Base may lose liquor licenses.



DAN AMBRISCO/THE DAILY IOWAN



The sun sets on construction of a bridge on McCollister Boulevard over the Iowa River, connecting Gilbert Street and Old Highway 218 on Thursday. Construction should be finished and the bridge open to traffic by September.

LINDSEY WALTERS/THE DAILY IOWAN

NEW BRIDGE NEARLY DONE

The McCollister Bridge, tied to Iowa City's development and expansion, nears completion as officials and landowners mull the city's future.

By **NICOLE KARLIS**
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Mike Lehman's family has owned and farmed land in Iowa City since 1960.

But he knows another piece of it could soon be gone.

Iowa City is waiting to annex half a square mile south of the city limits — including Lehman's land — from property owners to expand the municipality.

The most recent phase of this goal is a new bridge over the Iowa River connecting the city's developing southwestern sector and the established East Side. The project is set to be completed and open for traffic by September, said Jeff Davidson, the Iowa City planning director.

The bridge is the most recent piece of McCollister Boulevard between

Old Highway 218 and Gilbert Street. Officials said they consider it a priority in building commerce in the area, a project that began approximately seven years ago.

"It's the first step," said Wendy Ford, the city economic-development coordinator. "In order to facilitate growth in a community, you have to be able to move the people through it."

With two years of work completed, McCollister is the first bridge built by the city over the river since the 1960s, Davidson said. But facilitating transportation and diverting traffic is only one of the project's goals.

Iowa City officials also hope to expand the community and build up their property-tax base.

SEE **BRIDGE**, 2

UI eyes stalking policy

UI officials plan to revisit student-safety policies to possibly include a measure regarding stalking.

By **HOLLY HINES**
holly-hines@uiowa.edu

A new policy may be needed to address stalking cases at the UI, said Monique DiCarlo, the university sexual-misconduct-response coordinator.

The UI deals with reports of this behavior under the auspices of other policies, such as harassment and discrimination or sexual misconduct. Iowa law defines stalking as repeated actions that cause fear of bodily harm or death.

DiCarlo — the go-to person for UI students with stalking complaints — said existing regulations may already be enough.

In the next three months, however, she said she plans to look into a national policy model that specifically addresses stalking.

SEE **STALKING**, 3

2 small firms receive grants

In Iowa, small companies and big dreams are not yet lost under the weather of the economy.

By **ZHANRAN ZHAO**
zhanran-zhao@uiowa.edu

In a time of over-stretched budgets, Iowa lawmakers have not forgotten small companies in the state dedicated to research and technology.

Last week, J&J Solutions, Inc. and Terpenoid Therapeutics Inc., two companies with ties to UI alumni and faculty members, received \$150,000 each in state money to continue their research projects on cancer-related issues.

They were among only five small businesses in the state to receive the grant from the Iowa Demonstration Fund.

Iowa Gov. Chet Culver established the \$2.5 million fund in 2007 to boost small

The application process

Five business went through a chain of paperwork and presentations before they received money from the Iowa Demonstration Fund:

- Complete the application for the grant
- Answer questions about business plans, the purpose of the project, and project design
- Give a three-minute presentation to members of grant-selection board
- Field questions from the board
- Notified by Gov. Chet Culver and board

Source: Iowa Demonstration Fund applicants

Iowa businesses in high-

SEE **GRANTS**, 3

Iraqis to arrive in January

By **SCOTT RAYNOR**
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An estimated 40 Iraqi students will make it to the UI in January 2010, a pilot test of a project so ambitious, it left one Iraqi student stunned.

"To be honest, when I heard I didn't believe it," said Talib Nawfel Talib, a UI graduate student who left his native country in 2004.

Scott King, the director of the UI Office of International Students and Scholars, will join representatives from 21 other universities in Washington, D.C., this weekend to participate in the official announcement of the Iraq Education Initiative.

The Iraqi government funds the program, which aims to send 10,000 Iraqi students to participating nations — namely the United States. Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki will sign the agreement with the national nonprofit organization Academy for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Scott King, the director of the UI Office of International Students and Scholars, will participate this weekend in the official announcement of the Iraq Education Initiative.

Education Development in Washington on Saturday.

"It is such a privilege and an honor to be a part of something that we think of as a part of history," said Sandra MacDonald, the vice president of the Academy for Education Development. "We expect the impact of these programs to be big."

The program aims to

unify Iraq by focusing on representing students from diverse backgrounds, she said. Another goal is bridging differences in education. Iraq has been isolated from Western academic institutions for more than 20 years, leaving students with "a lot of catching up to do."

SEE **IRAQ**, 3



IC may yank licenses

BARS
CONTINUED FROM 1

Last year, law-enforcement officers made 1,456 citations for PAULA per bar visit, on average, according to December 2008 statistics. This year, police have made 1,854 citations per visit, a rate second to the Summit, 10 S. Clinton St., with 2,028, a May report shows.

Amy England, a 23-year-old UI student, said 3rd Base's reputation counters the police recommendation.

"Everyone says the Field House is the most strict," she said. "Of everyone I know who is underage who drinks,

they say they can't get in at the Field House."

Last year 60 Et Cetera patrons were cited for underage drinking, or 1,429 per visit, compared with 1,469 on average so far in 2009.

Iowa City police also cited Et Cetera earlier this year for breaking a city ordinance for limitations on sales. The bar reportedly offered unlimited alcohol to some audience members who attended a Feb. 15 performance at Englert Civic Theatre, 221 E. Washington St.

A plainclothes officer was admitted to Et Cetera after the show, displayed a special ticket he got at the Englert, and received a "VIP" wrist-

band. A female bartender said the wristband guaranteed "all you can drink draws of Bud Light."

The bar was not open Thursday night; a sign on its door said it is closed for renovations.

"We've gotten tons of calls about the liquor license," said manager Morgan Strader; she and other managers would not comment further.

Owner George Etre did not return messages. David Carey, contacted by City Clerk Marian Karr about 3rd Base, could not be reached for comment.

The City Council is set to examine the liquor licenses at its July 28 meeting.

ON THE WEB

DI Your turn. Should the Field House and Et Cetera lose their liquor licenses? Weigh in at dailyiowan.com.

In a July 16 e-mail to Carey at "The Field House," Karr notified him the meeting is an opportunity to be heard. She included a copy of Hargadine's recommendation.

More than the licenses could be at stake, however.

Iowa City's 500-foot ordinance prevents new bars from opening close to existing establishments.

DI reporter Holly Hines and DI Metro editor Regina Zilbermints contributed to this article.

New bridge 1st since '60s

BRIDGE
CONTINUED FROM 1

Whenever the city annexes land, residents must begin paying property taxes to the city. In return, the city provides such services as water, sewage, and safety, Ford said.

"Building the property tax base by development is a good thing," she said, and it helps pay for the increasing prices of the community services.

Ford is confident there will be a mix of residential, commercial, and business development in the area. Commercial and business development bring in more money to contribute to the property-tax base. Those entities pay \$40 in property tax for every \$1,000 of the assessed value, Ford said. Residential property pays half that.

As the city seeks to annex

the land, delivering community services wouldn't be a problem, city engineer Ron Knoche said. When water-treatment systems were originally set up on the land, they were designed to be hooked up to the city, he said.

In contrast, law-enforcement officials noted the strain the expansion could put on their already limited resources.

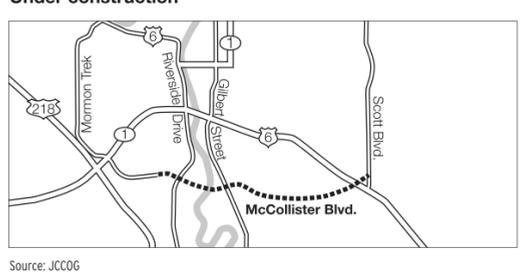
"As the city expands, it's going to increase a burden on the police department ... unless there's a corresponding increase in staff," said Iowa City police Sgt. Troy Kelsay. "Sooner or later, it's going to generate more work for us."

Property owners such as Lehman are understanding but in no hurry about possible future developments, though Davidson predicted the project will be complete in the next five to 10 years.

Relieving traffic stress on Hwy. 6

The city is building McCollister Boulevard to connect Mormon Trek and Scott in an effort to decrease the amount of traffic traveling on Highway 6.

Under construction



DAN AMBRISCO/THE DAILY IOWAN

"We know it's in progress," Lehman said, though he said he has not signed contracts or discussed prices. He hasn't even discussed the issue with city officials in two years, he said.

But Lehman and his family already know something about city expansion; their

original farmstead was located where Sycamore Mall now sits. Though Lehman accepts change is coming, he is somewhat bittersweet about the inevitable.

"If you have a good agriculture year, you want to keep farming," Lehman said.

Feds charge alleged bank robber

An alleged Iowa City bank robber may be in for bigger trouble: His case has reached the federal courts.

By **REGINA ZILBERMINTS**
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The state of Iowa has dismissed robbery charges against Charles Curry, 19, but that doesn't mean the North Liberty man is off the hook. Federal officials issued three warrants against Curry on Thursday.

And that can carry a heavier penalty than state charges, experts said. While first-degree robbery is punishable by up to 25 years in prison in Iowa, at the federal level, armed bank robbery carries the same prison sentence with an additional \$250,000-maximum fine.

Police allege that Curry walked into American Bank & Trust, 551 Westbury

Drive, on Monday, just before another man entered the bank with a handgun and demanded money.

Later that day, Curry allegedly used money taken during the robbery to post a personal bond at the Johnson County Jail and purchased several items from stores. Local police arrested him that evening and took him to the Johnson County Jail.

He was held on a \$50,000 cash-only bond until Thursday, when federal agents took Curry into their custody.

Federal charges are more likely to have automatic enhancements — provisions that increase prison time if certain circumstances apply. Generally,

they also require offenders to serve a greater percentage of their sentences before being eligible for parole, said Iowa City police Sgt. Troy Kelsay.

That's why local officials often drop charges so that cases may be federally prosecuted.

"It's a matter of negotiation between the local and state prosecutor and the federal attorney's office," said UI law Professor David Baldus.

Kelsay said it is typical for federal officials to file their own charges in bank robberies because they involve money insured by the federal government.

It is also possible to charge an individual for the same crime at both the

state and federal levels, Baldus said. Double jeopardy — the clause prohibiting a person to be charged for the same crime twice — only applies within the same system.

But prosecutors rarely do so.

"It's a matter of resources," Kelsay said. "You could probably do both, but they will serve time in one place or the other."

Those charged with a federal crime can expect a new set of accommodations and a different venue for trial. There is no federal courthouse in Johnson County, so federal agents transferred Curry into their custody.

METRO

County may honor Civil War general

A Civil War general from Burlington may be honored in Iowa City pending approval from the Johnson County Board of Supervisors.

At Thursday's meeting, Les Weber, the treasurer for a local group honoring Civil War veterans, requested permission from the supervisors to name part of Highway 6 in honor of Gen. John Corse.

The supervisors voiced interest in the project, which would name a bridge over the Iowa

River after the general, and agreed to put it on the July 30 formal agenda.

The project would not cost the county, Weber said. The group — Iowa's Sons of Veterans of the Civil War chapter — plans to cover the expense of the signs.

— by **Holly Hines**

2 charged with burglary, criminal conduct

Two Iowa City men allegedly broke into a residence Wednesday and assaulted a man

inside.

Edward Rohn, 40, and Larry Halligan Jr., 41, were charged with second-degree burglary/joint criminal conduct.

According to Iowa City police, around 11 p.m., officers responded to a report of a robbery on Kirkwood Avenue. While in route, they were provided with a description of the suspects and direction of travel.

Authorities located two suspects several blocks from the scene and took them to the police station, where they were interviewed, police said.

Rohn and Halligan are accused

of entering the residence without permission with intent to take \$50 that was supposedly owed to a third party, police reports show. While the men were inside, the resident was punched in the face and hit with pepper spray.

The victim reportedly received minor injuries to his face and was treated at the scene by ambulance personnel.

The investigation is ongoing; additional charges are pending.

Second-degree burglary is a Class C felony, punishable by up to 10 years in prison and maximum fine of \$10,000.

— by **Abe Tekippe**

POLICE BLOTTER

Shawn Aldeman, 27, Coralville, was charged Thursday with public intoxication.

Quartez Alexander, 18, address unknown, was charged Wednesday with theft.

Alizabeth Brammeier, 35, Mount Vernon, was charged Wednesday with fourth-degree theft.

David Collins, 23, address unknown, was charged March 7 with assault causing injury.

Skyler Cowden, 25, 2427 Petsel Place Apt. 3, was charged Wednesday with OWI.

Oliver Dion II, 21, 52 Olive Court, was charged Thursday with public intoxication.

Mark Henderson, 36, Waterloo,

was charged Jan. 1, 2005, with third-degree harassment.

Shania Lacina, 29, 1710 Fifth St. Apt. 3, was charged July 8 with public intoxication.

Dwain Nolting, 46, 1121 Gilbert Court, was charged Wednesday with fifth-degree theft.

John Schnobelen, 68, 18 Montrose Ave., was charged

Tuesday with driving with a suspended/canceled license.

Jack Sines, 47, 1100 Arthur St. Apt. J5, was charged Wednesday with assault causing injury.

Anthony Solecki, 19, 2502 Bartelt Road Apt. 2D, was charged Monday with third-degree harassment.

The Daily Iowan

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BREAKING NEWS

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TOP STORIES

Most-read stories on dailyiowan.com for Thursday, July 23

1. UI to run swine flu-vaccine trials
2. Busting some myths about speeding tickets
3. Only 1 Hawk in Prime Time final
4. Iowa City police's speeding procedure set to protect citizens, not harass them
5. Plane crash-lands in IC

CMe College Music Entertainment Inc.

is seeking a group of passionate and committed individuals wishing to assist in the implementation of a nonprofit National College Music League to:

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The Daily Iowan

is currently looking to fill the following positions for the fall 2009 semester:

NEWSROOM POSITIONS

- NEWS REPORTERS
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- ARTS & CULTURE REPORTERS
- PHOTOGRAPHERS
- PAGE DESIGNERS
- GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
- COLUMNISTS
- EDITORIAL WRITERS

DITV POSITIONS

- NEWS REPORTERS
- SPORTS REPORTERS
- TECH CREW

To pick up an application, stop by Room E131 of the Adler Journalism Building or download one at www.dailyiowan.com, under the "Job Opportunities" link. Most applicants must complete an internship/training program before they will be hired as a staff member.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Kelsey Beltramea at kelsey.beltramea@gmail.com

Completed applications can be submitted to the DI newsroom or business office in Room E131.

Obituaries

Irene Sloan Rosenbaum, 81

After a good life of 81 years, Irene Sloan Rosenbaum, of Iowa City, died Tuesday, July 21, 2009, in Oaknoll Care Center, due to complications from lung cancer.

A memorial service celebrating her life will be held at Oaknoll Retirement Residence, Saturday, July 25, at 10:30 a.m. Irene was loved for her wit, compassion, and honest warmth. She found the best side in everyone.

Irene was born January 22, 1928, in New York City. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from City College of New York in 1948. She began a long career in social work in the New York City Social Welfare Department, followed by positions in Ohio and Texas.

She moved to Iowa City in 1958 with her husband, Milton Rosenbaum, a faculty member in the University of Iowa Department of Psychology, and their children. She was an active member of the League of Women Voters. Irene served on the Iowa City Parks and Recreation Commission, and was the Commission's chair in the early 1960s. One of her proudest accomplishments was the institution of 10-cent entry once a week to City Park pool, so that the entire community could enjoy relief from the summer heat.

Irene earned a Masters of Social Work degree from the University of Iowa and joined the staff of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics as a renal social worker in 1971. She served on the board of the National Kidney Foundation for many years. She was noted for her wise mentorship to budding social workers and physicians, as well as her boundless energy, as she navigated the sprawling University of Iowa Hospital complex. She retired in 1993, and she and Milton moved to Tucson, Arizona in 1996. After Milton, her best friend, died in 1999, she returned to her beloved Iowa City, and joined the Oaknoll community in 2006.

Irene was a great patron of the arts, acting as a docent at the University of Iowa Art Museum for many years. She supported many organizations, including the Maia Quartet and the Englert Theater.

She is survived by her daughters, Marcy Rosenbaum (Husband Roy Reynolds), of Iowa City, Louise Rosenbaum of Washington, D.C., and Rose Madrone (born Janice Rosenbaum) of Redway, California, and grandchildren Nile Klein, Ron and Sarah Reynolds, and Melissa Coulter. She was preceded in death by her husband, Milton, her daughter, Lisa, and her siblings, Muriel Sloan and Arthur Sloan.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be directed to the Irene Rosenbaum Memorial Fund, c/o Thais Winkleblack, Midwest One Bank, P.O. Box 1700, Iowa City, IA 52244, which will support local music education and literacy programs.

Irene touched so many lives with her big heart, and will be sorely missed.

Online condolences and memories may be sent to www.lensingfuneral.com

UI mulls stalking

STALKING

CONTINUED FROM 1

This national regulatory example is part of an optional program presented early this year by the National Stalking Resource Center and the Federal Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women.

At the UI, stalking is never directly referenced in the online overview of its policies. This differs from other universities, such as the University of Illinois, where stalking is mentioned online in the student code as a behavior for which "students are subject to discipline."

Karla Miller, the executive director of the Rape Victim Advocacy Program, believes the UI would benefit from a more specific policy.

Focusing on stalking could draw attention to sexual crimes before they worsen, she said.

Miller said seven cases of stalking were reported to the Rape Victim Advocacy Program during fiscal 2008. In the same year, the organization received reports of

266 rape cases and 67 incidents of dating and domestic violence.

However, these numbers misrepresent the scope of local stalking occurrences, Miller said.

Victims often fail to report associated behaviors — such as blackmailing or showering the victim with unwanted gifts — before a more urgent crime enters the situation.

"When somebody's stalking someone, there's always the possibility that he or she will do more," she said.

A specific, clearly worded policy could also potentially benefit the university if sexual-assault lawsuits arise. Earlier this month, lawyers from several Big Ten universities — not including the UI — met to discuss whether schools can be reprimanded for failing to prevent incidents.

David Visin, an associate director of the UI police, believed addressing single behaviors before they escalate to stalking may prevent more harmful circumstances.

Taking action at the first sign of harassment can

prevent a pattern from forming, he said, and, "If we get involved early, we can stop it."

However, when cases do arise, the victim makes the ultimate decision about moving forward.

UI police officials address cases according to victim preferences, said Brian Meyer, a UI police public-safety patrol officer. Officials can assess the threat of alleged offenders by determining if they're permitted to own firearms, for example.

Sending a letter of warning to perpetrators often works to dispel the situation, Meyer said.

In cases of "cyberstalking," officers often work with UI Information Technology Services to track down e-mails and messages, he said.

The Internet can also help students with concerns.

The UI said a "Safety and Respect" link on its the homepage, a step Miller praised.

"Now, you don't have to search around or wonder which office deals with what," she said.

40 Iraqis coming to UI

More foreign students studying

The UI has served numerous students from foreign countries over the years, and these numbers are expected to increase. Many students from Iraq will attend the UI with aid from the Iraqi government.



DAN AMBRISCO/THE DAILY IOWAN

IRAQ

CONTINUED FROM 1

Talib agreed the exchange is beneficial.

"I think it will be good for both sides," he said. "It would be good for students here to learn about Iraq and Iraqi people"

Today, only around 200 Iraqis are studying in the United States; eight attended the UI last fall, King said.

The 22 educators meeting in Washington visited Baghdad in January, though at that time, 60 schools were invited. Officials from some universities were concerned that Baghdad was unsafe, King said, though he himself didn't feel that way.

"We got an invitation backed up by ambassador," he said. "It seemed like a pretty good deal to me."

The visit, he said, had a powerful effect on him. "It is interesting to see a city that is coming out of a war," he said. "Physically, there was a lot of damage and a tremendous amount of security."

The plan originally called for the students to enroll in the upcoming fall semester, but King said there were some obstacles

stemming from ethnic conflict in the country.

"It is going slower than everyone anticipated," he said. "They are trying to get it done right as opposed to getting it done fast."

But King was confident in the program's progress.

"They are trying to get it done right as opposed to getting it done fast," he said.

2 firms receive state grants

GRANTS

CONTINUED FROM 1

growth areas, particularly biosciences and advanced manufacturing, as well as to create new jobs for the state.

"It keeps us moving in the right direction," said UI alumnus Jared Garfield, who founded J&J Solutions with fellow UI graduate John Slump.

In 2008, Garfield and Slump — then students — won a \$5,000 in a regional business competition. A year later, they are working on their first major project, a device for safely handling drugs used in cancer therapy.

Both had family members who suffered from cancer, and the \$150,000 they received will go toward making sure others are not exposed to unsafe side effects of chemotherapy.

Aside from covering costs for manufacturing the new device, the grant will cover FDA testing and documentation before the product goes to market. And they are confident about taking it over.

"We hope in three to five years, we will penetrate and command a strong share of the market," Garfield said.

Terpenoid Therapeutics applied for the grant after learning about it through the UI Research Foundation this year.

"We were all very excited about the grant. It fits in nicely with our grants from other sources," said Raymond Hohl, a company founder and UI professor of hematology and oncology.

Along with three UI scientists, Hohl established Terpenoid Therapeutics in 2005 to fund

research into cures for cancer, osteoporosis, and other diseases.

The most recent grant goes to synthesizing two grams of a new drug to use in clinical trials; the drug, a molecule discovered in Cameroon, is aimed at curing brain cancer.

Hohl said two grams — approximately the weight of two peanuts — matters.

"It's a small number, but for early testing, it's a lot," he said.

Hohl said he hoped at least one of their drugs proves successful.

Though J&J Solutions' device and Hohl's new drug have yet to make their debuts, Garfield said even the experience of running his own company has been exhilarating.

"There's definitely a certain joy in being your own boss," he said.

HEARTH

One Twenty Six has opened our new sister restaurant HEARTH,

HEARTH is open for dinner every night.

The menu features an eclectic assortment of dishes, including authentic italian pizzas from our wood fired oven.

We also feature an exclusive wine list selected to compliment our house-made charcuterie.

Remember our private parking lot at US Bank.

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- * STI preventive medication
- * emergency contraception
- * a physical exam for injuries
- * a trained RVAP advocate

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Editorial

Is the Democrats' health care plan feasible?

Middle class will end up paying

Health care in this country will not be a right, even after the federal government figures out which of the two bills floating around Congress will become a law. Both bills, as they stand, require Americans to purchase coverage and provide proof of insurance when they submit their federal tax return. The feds will fine a person up to \$750 a year and business \$750 per uninsured worker a year. All that regardless of whether the person or business can afford to pay for insurance.

The federal government does provide a way around receiving such fines. The bill up for debate in the Senate creates a "gateway" in each state. Gateways would be insurance exchanges, providing a multitude of insurance policies. One such policy would be a government-funded public-option plan. The federal government hopes to pay for this public option with a surcharge on policies in the gateway and through unfunded state mandates. People still have to pay for their insurance up front, but they may receive a tax credit, should their income qualify for the credit.

The bill the House of Representatives passed has a more popular funding option. This bill provides a similar exchange system and penalizes citizens for not carrying insurance, but it will tax incomes in excess of a \$1 million at 5 percent instead of a policy surcharge.

Neither of these bills will lower health-care costs. Most of the regulation in either bill focuses on insurance companies, rather than health-care providers. It does nothing to lower costs of drug prices. Both bills would provide inflationary pressure on health-care prices by injecting more funds into the system.

The federal government may give taxpayers a credit, but some states can declare that income and tax it — even the middle class will still have to pay some money for insurance. Some Democrats criticized the House plan, saying the wealthy surcharge is insufficient to cover the hundreds of billions of dollars a year this plan will cost. This has raised the possibility the federal government will tax

employer-provided coverage in order to cover the shortfalls. After details of the plan are realized, it looks like the middle class will have to pay more.

— Justin Sugg

Taxing the rich is only reasonable

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., recently argued that the United States has the highest quality health care in the world. I have much to say about that, but one fact to present: At this moment in time, the United States has 50 million people without health care.

While actions must be taken to decrease that number, what's even more shocking is that President Obama's election platform included universal health care as one of its elements. Now, after we elected him to implement such a plan, we run and hide. Obama is not trying to politicize this matter, only fix a system that is broken.

Taxpayers of this country pay \$2.5 trillion in taxes to cover health care, mainly for those who have no coverage. Obama's public option aims to decrease that number significantly.

As for the cost, he intends to slightly raise the taxes on the people who can afford it the most: the wealthiest men and women who received tax breaks under the Bush administration. The cut down on bureaucratic posturing alone will save millions in taxpayer dollars.

"Socialized medicine" they call it? "Much needed" is more like it.

The Senate Finance Committee has found that by 2017 "health-care expenditures are expected to consume nearly 20 percent of the GDP." Add in a war that needs our support, and our dollar is stretched further than ever before.

We are at the precipice of disaster over the next 20 years if actions aren't taken. I would be alongside many of the Republicans against this if they provided an alternative, but they are too busy running their political machine.

We elected Obama for change in Washington. Now we have given him the resources for that change.

— Michael Davis

Learning to be unlearned

ADAM SULLIVAN
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Wide-spread layoffs, pay cuts, and defunct publications. Recently graduated journalism friends have told me they literally have nightmares about those things.

But step back an age group to the high-school journalists I hung out with this week at the 2009 UI Summer Journalism Workshops. For them, lost jobs, low wages, and closed doors are an incentive to stay in the field.

"It's an exciting time to be in journalism. It will be our generation who decides what's next," said Jacqueline Novak, a 16-year-old student from Lyons Township High School in La Grange, Ill. "I think that's pretty cool."

That attitude undoubtedly stems in part from classic teenage naiveté: These 16- and 17-year-olds aren't paying the bills yet, and they've yet to realize they're not invincible.

However, these students also have good reason not to be petrified of pursuing a career in journalism: Often, they have better ideas on ways to make our trade viable than do the professionals.

More than 150 high-school students from as far as Florida and Texas were on campus this week to take in some journalism instruction. I was a camp counselor for the week — mostly in charge of making sure none of them caught on fire or got lost on the Ped Mall — but I also got a chance to talk about the future of journalism with the students.

This year's camp T-shirt reads "rethink everything" across the back. That's exactly what they'll need to do if they want to turn journalism from a co-curricular hobby into a post-college profession.

The students I talked to realize that certain information is better fit for certain media. The web, of course, is best suited for breaking news and multimedia content. But these teens contend there will always be demand for some form of print — long-form, in-depth reporting is simply more comfortably read when you

can hold it in your hand. And — more importantly to the girls I talked to — there will always be a call for teen magazines.

"You can look up new makeup and hair styles online, but it's not as much fun," said Alyssa Harn, 17, from Lyons Township High School. "People are so used to just being able to lie down and have a *Seventeen* or *Tiger Beat* in their hands. They will always be hard copy."

Keep in mind that these students are supposed to be web addicts. They have never lived in a world without the Internet: By the time these kids were born, AOL was distributing its 2.0 release.

Still, they crave news they can hold in their hands.

Harn understood better than most veteran newspeople that the relationship between online and print needn't be one of absolutism; the two media can and should coexist. She noted that the online edition can be used to promote special features in the print edition, and the physical copy can build hype for the web version.

Unlike recent college grads, these high-schoolers have also come to terms with the fact that rich and famous journalists are a far-and-between exception.

"To me, money has nothing to do with it," said Carly Strand, 17, from Mother McAuley High School in Chicago. "I don't care if I won't make anything. Writing is what I want to do."

Aside from having at least half a decade of education before joining the workforce, the biggest thing the students I talked to have going for them is their ignorance: They're too young and inexperienced to know there are things they can't do. They don't know they can't create elaborate multimedia packages on a daily basis, or redesign an advertising model, or make a paper product people want to pick up.

Too often in our industry, we don't do things "just because." High-school students have yet to be corrupted by that attitude.

We all need to forget there are things we can't do, and we need to do it fast. Our trade depends on it. ■

Your turn What can the news industry do to be more profitable? Weigh in at dailyiowan.com.

Letter

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR may be sent via e-mail to dioletters@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.

READER COMMENTS that may appear below were originally posted on dailyiowan.com in response to published material. They will be chosen for print publication when they are deemed to be well-written and to forward public discussion. They may be edited for length and style.

Locals need vigilance on important topics

The articles on the FBI infiltration of an Iowa City peace group in the June and July issues of *The Progressive* explained how situation occurred but didn't really go into the local response. I brought this matter to the attention of the Iowa City City Council and proposed a resolution condemning the FBI for its actions. One councilor, Mike Wright, has been trying to get the council to act. Mayor Regenia Bailey told me that she would be in favor of a letter, not a resolution. Now the council is waiting to read the Freedom of Information Act file requested by one of the members of the peace group before it proceeds.

The Johnson County Democratic Party central committee overwhelmingly passed a resolution asking the council to write this letter to the FBI. Our local peace groups have been strangely silent. The community at large has also been strangely silent. No one else has come to the council meetings to bring up the subject. There have been almost no letters to the editor in our local newspapers (possibly because it has received scant coverage), and very few letters to the councilors.

Maybe this inaction is because most people respond like our mayor, who was quoted in *The Progressive*: "Yeah it's surprising, but is it surprising? It's been happening for years." I think that's the prevailing view of the politically "liberal" citizens here. And we are a politically liberal college town. Iowa City helped launch Barack

YOUR TURN POLL RESULTS
Results through Thursday evening on dailyiowan.com

How would you rate Iowa City police's speeding protocol?

Cops burden drivers with excessive citations.

14%

They're OK. At least this isn't University Heights.

70%

They should pull over more drivers.

16%

Respondents: 37

Obama in the Iowa caucuses in January 2008 and voted 70 percent for him in November. But as we activists get older, it's becoming harder and harder to find people who are outraged

enough about anything that happens locally — after eight years of Bush — to write even a two sentence letter to the editor.

Gary Sanders
Iowa City

Guest opinion

A culture under the influence of drug ads

By CHRISTOPHER LANE

Los Angeles Times

It's amazing what an hour of aimless channel surfing can turn up these days.

After some freewheeling with the remote one night recently, I managed to catch not only half a dozen low-budget makeover shows but also three ads for FDA-approved pharmaceuticals: one for depression, another for premenstrual dysphoric disorder, and a third for inadequate eyelash syndrome — sorry, "eyelash hypotrichosis." Prescription treatment for "longer, thicker, and darker lashes"? Fellow Americans, have we lost our minds?

In the ad, actress Brooke

Shields coyly advises women that any eyelid skin darkening that occurs — a potential side effect of the prescription liquid — "may be reversible" but "close doctor supervision" could still be necessary. Oh, and did I mention that the proposed treatment can take 16 weeks? Imagine the doctors' billable hours.

How does the pharmaceutical industry have the nerve to tap an already lucrative cosmetics market while keeping a straight face medically? And what exactly was Shields thinking as she read copy that, to my male ears at least, made the product sound downright scary: "There is potential for increased

brown iris pigmentation, which is likely to be permanent ... for hair growth to occur in areas where [the] solution comes in repeated contact with skin surfaces. If you develop or experience any eye problems or have eye surgery, consult your doctor immediately."

We do not go to American TV to seek signs of deep thought. The studios that gave us "Baywatch," "Toddlers & Tiaras," and "Skating With Celebrities" can't be accused of setting our expectations too high. Still, at least we know what we're getting with such shows. Direct-to-consumer pharmaceutical advertising, legal only in the United States and New Zealand, is

— or should be — another matter. After all, it concerns public health.

We should recall that we did just fine when these ads were limited to professional journals and health-care providers. That constraint reduced the risk of self-diagnosis — and spared us the barrage of vanity treatments that now beset us.

In 1997, however, the Food and Drug Administration — encouraged by the Clinton administration — relaxed its rules on this issue. The pharmaceutical industry was given a green light to market its wares directly to consumers.

To gauge the effect of that change, just follow the money. The year before the

ruling, drug companies spent \$595 million on direct to consumer advertising, according to the Food and Drug Law Journal. Within a year of the change, that spending rose to \$844 million. By 2000, it was \$2.24 billion. And an August 2007 *New England Journal of Medicine* article put the total for all drug-related marketing in 2005 at \$29.9 billion, with \$4.1 billion spent annually on direct to consumer advertising. That's more than \$11 million a day.

If Congress is serious about lowering health-care costs, including for vastly expensive (price-controlled) pharmaceuticals, it can start by reversing the 1997 FDA ruling. That is because such costs are always passed on to providers, and then to

patients, in the form of higher prices, co-payments, and premiums. Even when insurance providers decline coverage for treatments such as "eyelash hypotrichosis," as mine does, they — and eventually consumers — end up subsidizing the treatments because the drug makers inflate prices on regimens that are covered. Above all, there are so many more urgent needs in pharmaceutical research, including dealing with the H1N1 virus and the spiraling rates of HIV infection.

Christopher Lane is the author, most recently, of *Shyness: How Normal Behavior Became a Sickness*.

This commentary appeared in Thursday's *Los Angeles Times*.



PUBLICITY PHOTO/JOSH HERTZ

Hosts Nick Prueher and Joe Pickett introduce another found video clip at a Found Footage Festival show in New York.

Footage from Americana

The weirdest and wackiest obscure videos are revealed in the Found Footage Festival tour on Friday night.

By ERIC SUNDERMANN

eric-sundermann@uiowa.edu

A way to save lives — fill a spray bottle with grape juice, swish it back in forth in your mouth, spit out the foamy mucus into a coffee filter, and light it on fire. What lives are saved? No one is really sure, but “The Colbert Report” worker Nick Prueher and *The Onion* writer Joe Pickett knew when they saw this footage on an old VHS tape it was comic gold.

The Found Footage Festival will bring its collection of weird, twisted, and comedic videos to the Picador, 330 E. Washington St., at 10 p.m. today. Admission is \$10.

The found video’s subjects typically include employee training, exercise instruction, public access, and even medical instruction.

“The best way to describe it is as a guided tour through the collection of videos we’ve found at thrift stores, garage sales, and other odd places,” Prueher said. “We come out and introduce each clip and explain how and where we’ve found it, and then we make smart-ass remarks when the videos are playing. Then we come out after each clip and give our take on it, whether that’s through a comedic sketch, or a taped bit, or a remark.”

Prueher got this idea in 1991, when he found a custodial-duties tape while working a high-school job at a McDonald’s.

“I just popped it in when I was in the break room, and I could not believe how dumb it was,” he said. The video features “this overly perky crew trainer and this really dim trainee on his first day of the job, and he’s very enthusiastic about cleaning toilets. And this might have just been me, but I definitely noticed some sexual tension between the trainer and trainee, so

FILM
Found Footage Festival
When: 10 p.m. today
Where: Picador, 330 E. Washington
Admission: \$10

I was like — the world needs to see this video.”

He immediately showed the tape to childhood friend Pickett, who found it just as entertaining and stupid. Even though the two — who have thousands of videos stashed in their apartments — started collecting for fun in 1991, they didn’t intend on making them public.

“We had people over for dinner and would say, ‘Hey, take a look at our latest find,’” Prueher said. “Our friends really got a kick out of it, but we never really thought much about it. Then somebody about five years ago suggested we rent out a theater to see what happens and try to make it into a comedy show.”

The show includes a variety of two- to five-minute-long clips — an exercise video montage, what not to do in the office titled “The Best of Harassment,” or home records of people doing stupid things. Even though the guys are out to get laughs, they also believe they are capturing a slice of history.

“The primary goal is to entertain people, but I think this stuff is worth preserving and hanging on to,” Prueher said. “I think these forgotten, discovered moments from this forgettable footage that wasn’t deemed worthy to hang onto says a lot more about us as a culture than probably the movies on the AFI 100 best films list.”

Prueher hopes people’s curiosity gets the best of them, and they venture out to the show.

“Mucus and coffee filters?” he said. “I’m there, dude.”

‘Bad boys’ rock out

Local band Mint Wad Willy bids farewell to the stages of Iowa City as the members prepare to leave for Omaha.

By RYAN FOSMARK

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Alcohol and rock are Mint Wad Willy’s specialties. The group has grown into a full-on, whiskey-guzzling rock ‘n’ roll band — a far leap from its acoustic beginnings five years ago under the moniker Artichoke Hearts. With two records under its belt (the latest of which was recorded at nationally revered Sound Emporium Recording Studios in Nashville), Mint Wad Willy is moving to Omaha in search of a larger, better-fitting music scene.

The Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn St., will host a farewell show for Mint Wad Willy. Opening bands the Treats and Bold City Lights will start the festivities today at 9 p.m. Admission is \$7, \$5 with a non-perishable food item for the Crisis Center food drive.

“I’m sure they’ll all get really drunk, and I’m sure they’ll do something entertaining,” Yacht Club manager Pete McCarthy said. “The big red-head is usually good for something.”

Nick Johnston, the big red-headed bassist/guitarist/vocalist for Mint Wad Willy, and guitarist/bassist/vocalist



JOE SCOTT/THE DAILY IOWAN

The Mint Wad Willy members stand in their practice space on Thursday. The band, well-known for its drunken onstage antics, will play its final show at the Yacht Club tonight.

Derek LeVasseur noted the band is generally hard up for friends in the local music scene. The members remembered a rift-building argument with Camp Euforia, getting kicked out of the Picador, and a near knife fight at the Mill that resulted in one of the members being banned from the venue. Despite all that Mint Wad Willy has done to further the image of what lead guitarist Michael Fett calls “the small-town villain rock group,” the Yacht Club has never held a grudge.

“Nick would make jokes that we were always kind of the bastard child of the Yacht Club,” LeVasseur said. “For some reason they never got rid of us. They should have drowned us in the river, but they didn’t. They’ve always taken care of us.”

The members of Mint Wad Willy are known to usually have a high blood alcohol content while

playing, which often makes them cause a little bit of mayhem.

“This is our last show, so we’re really going to be in the mindset of we don’t give a fuck,” LeVasseur said. “We’re going to say and do everything we can to offend everybody.”

Venues aside, the group tends to be an outcast among the other local bands as well. With a very different style that just doesn’t seem to fit anywhere in the city, Mint Wad Willy finds itself critical of other musical approaches.

“That’s kind of where our stance on music is — we’re more about playing live and having fun with our friends,” LeVasseur said. “Whereas other bands in Iowa City are like, ‘Yeah, listen to me play this four-minute solo and tell me how this sounds and scream in my face.’ Where we just want to have a good time.”

All the members, save

CONCERT
Mint Wad Willy, with the Treats, and Bold City Lights
When: 9 p.m. today
Where: Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn
Admission: \$7, \$5 with nonperishable food item

drummer Royce Kensing, who is going to Sioux City, are moving into a house in Omaha. Without jobs lined up, they will be in a bit of a bind to pay their \$500 rent. But none of them seemed very worried about the situation, as long as they get to keep playing music.

“We’re all very blue-collar,” LeVasseur said. “We just do it because if we didn’t do this, we would be robbing people or breaking into houses. The aggression of playing music — I love it.”

FROM THE BLOG

Apocalypse Hollywood



KRISTEN PETERS
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On July 15, I went to go see the new *Harry Potter* movie. I’ll leave the reviewing up to our lovely Arts editor, Rachael, but frankly, I found it lagging and lacking. It was a filler movie, of

sorts, and I saw it as more of a bridge than a real movie that could hold its weight on its own. That, however, is besides the point. But I did indulge my favorite part of any movie-going experience: the previews.

Previews in the theater are something magical. It wouldn’t really matter if the clip was trying to sell me a biopic on the creator of shoelaces, I would undoubtedly lean over

to the person next to me and whisper, “I want to see that,” and I know you’ve been there, too. But there was a theme in the July 15 previews (even if it’s been a relatively popular subject in recent decades): Movies about what will happen

to us and our Earth after life as we know it has decidedly ended.

Admittedly, there are a good handful of top-notch movies on the apocalypse.

To read the rest of the blog, head to dailiowanarts.blogspot.com.

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NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	54	39	.581	—
Atlanta	49	47	.510	6½
Florida	49	47	.510	6½
New York	44	50	.468	10½
Washington	28	67	.295	27
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	52	46	.531	—
Chicago	48	45	.516	1½
Houston	49	46	.516	1½
Milwaukee	48	47	.505	2½
Cincinnati	44	50	.468	6
Pittsburgh	42	53	.442	8½
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	61	34	.642	—
Colorado	52	43	.547	9
San Francisco	51	44	.537	10
Arizona	41	55	.427	20½
San Diego	37	59	.385	24½

Thursday's Games
 San Francisco 3, Atlanta 1
 Philadelphia 9, San Diego 4
 St. Louis 4, Washington 1, 7 innings
 Arizona 11, Pittsburgh 4
Today's Games
 Cincinnati (Harang 5-10) at Chicago Cubs
 N.Y. Mets (J.Santana 11-7) at Houston
 San Diego (Latos 0-1) at Washington (Mock 0-3), 6:05 p.m.
 St. Louis (Pineiro 8-9) at Philadelphia (Happ 7-0), 6:05 p.m.
 Atlanta (J.Vazquez 7-7) at Milwaukee (M.Parra 4-8), 7:05 p.m.
 N.Y. Mets (J.Santana 11-7) at Houston (Hampton 5-7), 7:05 p.m.
 San Francisco (Cain 11-2) at Colorado (Hammel 5-4), 8:10 p.m.
 Pittsburgh (Duke 8-9) at Arizona (Y.Petit 0-4), 8:40 p.m.
 Florida (Jo.Johnson 8-2) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 8-5), 9:10 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	58	37	.611	—
Boston	55	39	.585	2½
Tampa Bay	52	44	.542	6½
Toronto	47	49	.490	11½
Baltimore	41	53	.436	16½
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	49	44	.527	—
Chicago	50	45	.526	—
Minnesota	48	47	.505	2
Cleveland	38	58	.396	12½
Kansas City	37	57	.394	12½
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	55	38	.591	—
Texas	52	41	.559	3
Seattle	51	44	.537	5
Oakland	40	54	.426	15½

Thursday's Games
 Cleveland 5, Toronto 4
 Seattle 2, Detroit 1
 Chicago White Sox 5, Tampa Bay 0
 N.Y. Yankees 6, Oakland 3
 Minnesota at L.A. Angels, late
Today's Games
 Chicago White Sox (Contreras 4-8) at Detroit (Verlander 10-5), 12:05 p.m., 1st game
 Chicago White Sox (B.Colon 3-6) at Detroit (Bonine 0-0), 6:05 p.m., 2nd game
 Oakland (Bre.Anderson 5-7) at N.Y. Yankees (Chamberlain 5-2), 6:05 p.m.
 Tampa Bay (Garza 6-7) at Toronto (Halladay 11-3), 6:07 p.m.
 Baltimore (Bergesen 6-4) at Boston (Penny 6-4), 6:10 p.m.
 Texas (Feldman 8-3) at Kansas City (Greinke 10-5), 7:10 p.m.
 Minnesota (Liriano 4-9) at L.A. Angels (Lackey 5-4), 9:05 p.m.
 Cleveland (Laffey 3-2) at Seattle (Rowland-Smith 0-0), 9:10 p.m.

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	12	4	.750	—
Connecticut	9	6	.600	2½
Washington	8	7	.533	3½
Atlanta	8	10	.444	5
Chicago	8	10	.444	5
New York	6	9	.400	5½
Detroit	5	9	.357	6
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	12	5	.706	—
Seattle	11	6	.647	1
Minnesota	10	7	.588	2
San Antonio	7	8	.467	4
Los Angeles	4	9	.308	6
Sacramento	4	14	.222	8½

Thursday's Games
 San Antonio 84, Indiana 65
 Washington 75, Chicago 64
 Sacramento 88, New York 73
Today's Games
 No games scheduled
Saturday's Games
 No games scheduled
Sunday's Games
 Phoenix at New York, 3 p.m.

Sacramento at Washington, 3 p.m.

GOLD CUP SOCCER GLANCE

SEMIFINALS
Thursday's Games
 United States 2, Honduras 0
 Mexico 1, Costa Rica 1, tie, Mexico wins on penalty kicks 5-3

CHAMPIONSHIP
Sunday, July 26
 At East Rutherford, N.J.
 United States vs. Mexico, 2 p.m.

GAME TIME LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

Thursday's Championship Game
 Coralville Hywe 85, Active Endeavors/McCurrys 68

PRIME TIME PLAYOFFS

Wednesday's Semifinal Games
 Jill Armstrong of Lepic Kroeger 99, Vinton Merchants 89
 Culver's of Coralville 101, Imprinted Sportswear/Goodfellow 93
Monday, July 27 Championship
 Jill Armstrong of Lepic Kroeger Realtors vs. Culver's of Coralville, 6 p.m. New gym

TOUR DE FRANCE AT A GLANCE

ANNECY, France (AP) — A brief look at Thursday's 18th stage of the Tour de France: Stage: A 25-mile individual time trial around Anney Lake.
Winner: Alberto Contador of Spain, three seconds ahead of time-trial specialist Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland. Mikhail Ignatiev of Russia finished third, 15 seconds off the pace, while seven-time champion Lance Armstrong was 90 seconds behind in 16th.
Yellow Jersey: Contador, the 2007 winner, leads Andy Schleck by 4:11. Armstrong climbed to third, 5:25 behind his Astana teammate.
Quote of the Day: "We must absolutely make no mistake on the climb of Mont Ventoux." — Alberto Contador, about Saturday's penultimate stage, featuring a 13-mile ascent at an average gradient of 7.6 percent.
Next stage: Today's 19th stage is a 111-mile ride from Bourgoin-Jallieu to Aubenas. The course features three little climbs and is likely to favor breakaway riders.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League
 CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Activated RHP Bartolo Colon from the 15-day DL. Optioned RHP Carlos Torres to Charlotte (IL).
 CLEVELAND INDIANS—Traded RHP Rafael Betancourt to Colorado for RHP Connor Graham and assigned Graham to Akron (OH).
 MINNESOTA TWINS—Recalled RHP Jesse Crain from Rochester (IL). Optioned RHP Kevin Mulvey to Rochester.
 TAMPA BAY RAYS—Placed RHP Chad Bradford on the 15-day DL. Recalled RHP Dale Thayer from Durham (IL).
National League
 ATLANTA BRAVES—Recalled INF Kelly Johnson from Gwinnett (IL). Optioned INF Brooks Conrad to Gwinnett.
 HOUSTON ASTROS—Placed 1B Lance Berkman on the 15-day DL. Recalled INF Edwin Maysonet from Round Rock (TX).
 PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Placed RHP Chad Durbin and LHP J.C. Romero on the 15-day DL. Purchased the contract of RHP Tyler Walker from Lehigh Valley (IL). Recalled RHP Andrew Carpenter from Lehigh Valley.
 PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Signed RHP Trent Stevenson. Agreed to terms with LHP Zac Fuesser.
 ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Optioned RHP P.J. Walters to Memphis (PCL).
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
 MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Agreed to terms with FT Ersan Ilyasova.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
 ATLANTA FALCONS—Signed S William Moore.
 DENVER BRONCOS—Signed TE Richard Quinn, G Seth Olsen and WR Kenny McKinley. Waived WR David Grimes.
 MINNESOTA VIKING—Signed CB Antoine Winfield to a five-year contract and CB Asher Allen to a four-year contract.
 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Signed DL Ron Brace, OT Sebastian Vollmer, WR Brandon Tate, OL George Bussey, DL Myron Pryor, and QB Julian Edelman.
 SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Signed C Kevin Houser.

NCAA eyes bat ban

By ERIC OLSON
 Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — College baseball is getting ready to crack down on composite-barrel bats.

The NCAA Baseball Rules Committee this week proposed an indefinite ban on the bats after anecdotal evidence and research conducted during this year's Division I national tournament, which culminated with the College World Series, indicated many of the bats didn't comply with NCAA standards.

NCAA spokesman Cameron Schuh said the proposal is being sent to schools for comment and will be reviewed next week. A formal vote could be taken next month and, if approved, the ban would go into effect at the start of the 2010 season.

Aluminum bats have been used in college baseball since 1975 and remain the most popular choice.

Composite-barrel bats have been around since the late 1990s but have become more popular the past two seasons, said Jim Sherwood, the director of the Baseball Research Center at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. Sherwood's laboratory is in charge of the NCAA certification process, though it did not do the research at this year's tournament.

There are different types of composite bats, each with varying amounts of graphite, fiberglass, and resilient plastic, Sherwood said. Bats with composite handles and composite transition areas — between the handle and barrel — would still be allowed under NCAA rules if the ban is approved, Schuh said.

The beef is with the barrel, which softens over time, creating a trampoline effect. This doesn't happen to factory-fresh bats — it's what happens later, after repeated use or after the bat is put through a process known as "rolling."

Composite-barrel bats that are broken in or "rolled" tend to have more pop and often violate NCAA limitations on the allowable speed at which the ball comes off the bat. The NCAA requires that this so-called "exit speed" be no greater than that of its wooden counterpart, lest it become a safety hazard for infielders and pitchers.

"I commend this legislation and am just elated that this is going forth," Florida State coach Mike Martin said on Thursday. "You just cannot imagine how far I saw a ball hit with an altered bat."

"If a guy took a bat and hit it a thousand times off a telephone pole, he'd likely bat better. That's not right."

During the Division I tournament, 20 of the 25 composite-barrel bats selected for "Ball Exit Speed Ratio" certification tests were not in compliance, the NCAA said. Because all bat designs must pass the test before mass production begins, the NCAA said, it was determined that the performance of those bats had changed, most likely because of repeated normal use or intentional alteration.

The committee said the ban should remain in place until manufacturers and the baseball community suggest ways that would allow composite-barrel bats to be used within NCAA guidelines.

BIJOU THEATER NOW PLAYING JULY 24 - JULY 30
HUNGER
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 Uncompromising, unflinching, and not for the faint of heart, HUNGER follows a hunger strike instigated by a group of detained Irish Republican Army members in a military prison during the 1980s. The film centers on IRA soldier Bobby Sands through a series of increasingly drastic protests following rampant prisoner abuse at the hands of the guards. Downplaying the inherent political agenda of the subject matter, director Steve McQueen instead focuses on the all-encompassing transformative power that the hunger strike has on Sands. "HUNGER pushes through the clichés of both prison films and political films to make something original, powerful and hard to shake."
 [CAPITAL TIMES]
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G-FORCE 3D (PG) ✓ 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20	G-FORCE 2D (PG) ✓ 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
HANGOVER (R) 7:50, 10:15	HANGOVER (R) 7:40, 10:00
HARRY POTTER & HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) ✓ 11:45, 12:30, 1:15, 3:00, 3:45, 4:30, 6:15, 7:00, 9:30, 10:15	HARRY POTTER & HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) ✓ 11:45, 12:15, 1:00, 3:00, 3:30, 4:15, 6:15, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30
ICE AGE 2D DAWN OF DINOSAURS (PG) 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:10	ICE AGE 2D DAWN OF DINOSAURS (PG) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
ORPHAN (R) ✓ 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10	ORPHAN (R) ✓ 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30
PROPOSAL (PG-13) 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:50	PROPOSAL (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50
PUBLIC ENEMIES (R) 1:10, 4:10	PUBLIC ENEMIES (R) 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF FALLEN (PG-13) 12:40, 3:55, 7:00, 10:10	TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF FALLEN (PG-13) 1:30, 4:45, 8:00
UGLY TRUTH (R) ✓ 12:50, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 10:00	UGLY TRUTH (R) ✓ 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40
	UP 2D (PG) 12:05, 2:30, 4:55

It's all Tebow in the SEC

By JOHN ZENOR
 Associated Press

HOOVER, Ala. — Tim Tebow was the latest Southeastern Conference figure asked for his take on the league's hottest topic — himself.

And Florida's Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback didn't have the answer Thursday to the most repeated question during the SEC media days.

"No, I do not know who didn't vote for me," Tebow said, when asked if he knew who the lone coach was that didn't pick him as the preseason All-SEC quarterback.

Some, like Mississippi's Houston Nutt, didn't wait to be asked.

"I just want to go ahead and tell you that I voted for Tim Tebow," Nutt said. "I voted him first team."

There are only four coaches left: Tennessee's Lane Kiffin, Auburn's Gene Chizik, LSU's Les Miles, and South Carolina's Steve Spurrier. Kiffin said this week he voted for Tebow, and so has every coach to address the gathered media. Tebow received 10 first-team votes; coaches aren't allowed to pick their own players.

Other popular Tebow subjects addressed by the coaches: his leadership, NFL prospects, and his Gators team.

Tebow, who is on the cover of this week's *Sports Illustrated*, addressed a few hundred print and Internet reporters from the main stage while every

other player has fielded questions from much smaller assemblages at tables tucked into corners of the hotel ballroom.

He embraces being the most famous player on a team that has a chance to win its second-straight national title and third during his career. He says the attention can be tough, but that it also gives him a platform to spread his Christian faith.

"Although there has been a backlash, oh well," Tebow said. "I'll deal with it if I have to. It's not a big deal to me because of the kids and the people that have been encouraged by the stories that we have had to tell and the life I've tried to live."

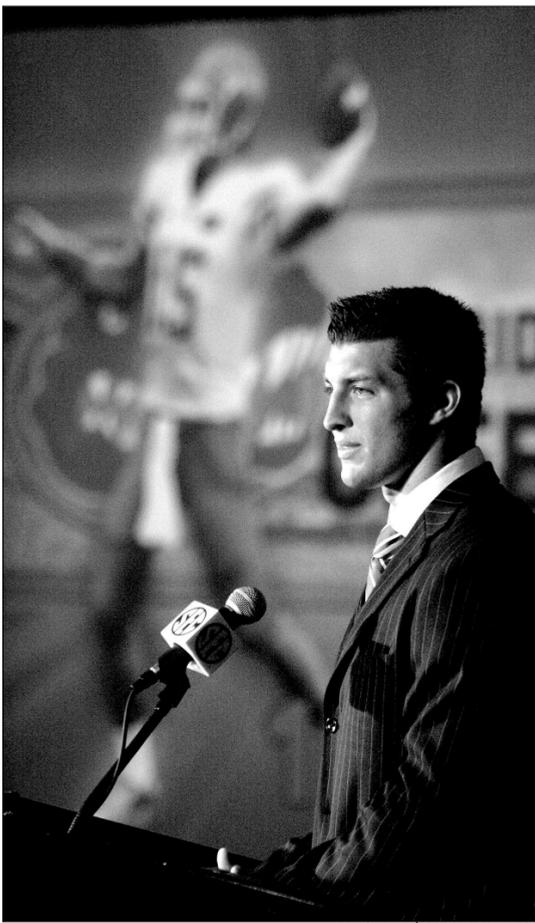
And nothing is out of bounds for Tebow. One reporter asked him if he was a virgin. "Yes I am," he replied.

Other Tebow topics touched on Thursday:

- Nutt has a transcript on his desk of Tebow's much talked about postgame declaration after the Rebels upset Florida last season. He has read it to his team. "It was awesome," he said.

- Tebow, who won the Heisman as a sophomore, finished behind Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford last season. That, he promises, isn't a driving force. "This won't be my motivating factor," he said. "I'm not gonna run sprints thinking about, 'They didn't vote for me.'"

- He isn't about to cut down on an exhausting



BUTCH DILL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida quarterback Tim Tebow talks about his senior year at the Southeastern Conference football media day in Hoover, Ala., on Thursday.

schedule that has included mission trips, speaking engagements, and countless interviews — in addition to class and football.

"I kind of look at it from a little bit different perspective," Tebow said. "If I'm going speaking or working at hospitals or

what not, it can get tiring, physically, emotionally. But at the same time, it's so worth it for me. It's worth it to be a little tired or get a little bit cranky."

"I look at it as I'm trying to make a difference, and that's more important than football for me."

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Alexander takes MVP

ALEXANDER
CONTINUED FROM 10

She was happy to be a champion in her first Game Time experience and thought it will be beneficial for the coming season.

"It's really exciting; I like it a lot," she said. "It's just one of those fun things to be able to look back on whenever I'm a senior or something. It was definitely a good experience. I

got to learn how to play with my teammates a lot and how people play. I just grew as a player."

The loss wasn't easy for Hamlin to swallow, but she was proud of her team nonetheless.

"Obviously, our team did well — we were in the championship game," she said. "The score was a little lopsided, but as far as our team, we played well."

Alexander might have been the easiest pick for MVP in league history —

she led the league in four major categories: points per game (24.8), rebounds per game (14.2), assists per game (7.3), and 3-point accuracy (57 percent). She was second in two-point percentage at 63.

The player, whose trademark is wearing long socks to her knees, thought she took her game to another level this summer.

"It was a good tournament overall," she said. "I think it was well worth

the summer; it helped me grow a lot in my game. Coaches expect a lot of me next year, so I had to step up in the summer in order to keep it going."

Iowa sophomore Kelly Krei of L.L. Pelling Company/Cullen Painting was named Defensive Player of the Year and Brendan Unkrich of Goodfellow Printing/ Imprinted Sportswear was named Coach of the Year before the championship game tipped off.

A family of brotherly shove

BALLWEG
CONTINUED FROM 10

Somehow, the trio survived. From then on, they kept out of the house.

Tom Ballweg, the father of the three athletes, started them all in the sport. Matt and Mark started at the same time, when Matt was in third grade and Mark in first. Jake started shortly after as a kindergartner.

Tom Ballweg converted an old machine shed into a wrestling room in the backyard of their home in Waverly, Iowa. Weights were put in, an old junior-high mat was laid down, and wall mats were hung. The boys drilled and did live wrestling in the room throughout grade school and middle school.

Matt was left out of live wrestling with his brothers as a kid because his size advantage. Mark and

Jake weren't far apart size-wise, and they went at each other frequently.

Jake Ballweg admitted to having a temper, and combined with Mark Ballweg's ability to get inside his head, wrestling often turned into fighting.

"Jake and I used to scrap quite a bit and get in fights a lot," Mark Ballweg said. "I can kind of get under his skin."

Jake Ballweg had a different perspective.

"Mark was just mean, to put it nicely," he said. "I'll get back at him sometime."

Even though wrestling led to some differences, the three have grown close the more years go by.

"At first, I think we hated each other because we wrestled each other and beat each other up," Matt Ballweg said. "But as we've gotten older, we've grown closer and become

really good friends."

Mark and Jake Ballweg agree. Time in the wrestling room, camps during the summers, and tournaments brought the brothers closer together. Jake Ballweg pointed out they grew closer because they all went through the same experiences.

Matt Ballweg was the first of the three to come to Iowa. For him, the decision was clear-cut; he liked Iowa City, and he connected well with the guys on the team during his visit.

Mark Ballweg soon followed his brother to Iowa. He recalled watching the Hawkeyes wrestle on television and going to some meets as a kid. That, coupled with Iowa's legendary program, brought him to Iowa City.

Jake Ballweg made up his mind a while ago that Iowa was the place for him. Iowa was the only school to

call him, but he says even if other places had offered, they would have had no shot. Matt and Mark Ballweg both knew Jake wanted to become a Hawkeye, so not much was said between the three during the recruiting process.

"I didn't really talk to them about where I was going or anything. I think we're basically all on the same page," Jake Ballweg said. "They knew that I had my mind made up, so they didn't really tell me much."

When he joins the Iowa wrestling program, it will mark the first time that all three have been on the same team. Hopefully, fellow Hawkeye wrestlers will force the trio to go head-to-head.

When asked who would win a round-robin tournament, all three responded with the same two words: "Definitely me."

Sox's Buehrle twirls perfect game

BUEHRLE
CONTINUED FROM 10

White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen was happy he made the switch to Wise, who came in for Scott Podsednik.

"I guess that's our job," Guillen said. Buehrle fell behind 3-1 in the count to Michel Hernandez, the second batter in the ninth, who took a

called strike and then swung and missed at strike three.

With fans chanting Buehrle's name, Jason Bartlett got ahead 2-1, then grounded to short-stop Alexei Ramirez, who threw to first baseman Josh Fields. Buehrle put both hands on his head and was mobbed by teammates between the mound and first base.

"Never thought I'd

throw a no-hitter, never thought I'd throw a perfect game, never thought I'd hit a home run," said Buehrle, who has done all three. "Never say never in this game because crazy stuff can happen."

The pitcher received a congratulatory telephone call from President Obama — a White Sox fan — following the 16th perfect game

since the modern era began in 1900 and the first since Johnson's on May 18, 2004.

"We joked around, a 30-second phone call, and I'm like, 'What? That's all he's got for me?'" Buehrle said.

Obama, a lefty like Buehrle, wore a White Sox jacket when he threw out the ceremonial first pitch at last week's All-Star game in St. Louis.

It takes a RAGBRAI

RAGBRAI
CONTINUED FROM 10

As I set up to take the shot, the Deere-Heart riders stopped smiling.

"What the hell are you doing?" Doug Brodersen asked me. "Get your bike, and get your ass down here."

It was then I got my first glimpse of what it meant to ride RAGBRAI.

From Day One, participants and residents in host communities came together to form a tightly-knit RAGBRAI family.

Driving into towns, every sign welcomes RAGBRAI riders into their communities, volunteers sit at every corner helping to direct traffic, and residents open up their homes to teams with more than 20 tents.

Everyone looks out for everyone. Whether it's a bike accident during the day or helping a neighbor set up a tent in the rain, when you're at RAGBRAI, you're at home.

Even for Tim and Cindie Travis, a couple who sold their homes and quit their jobs in 2002 to pursue their dream to ride their bikes all over the world.

I originally got in contact with Cindie Travis through Twitter about a week before the trip.

I ran into the couple sitting at a picnic table near Team Deere-Heart's camp, searching for Internet on a laptop and talking to passersby, trying to sell their books chronicling their journey across 22 countries over four continents.

Cindie and Tim Travis are riding with Team Road Show, a group of quirky unicyclists and jugglers riding with

their friends, who told the couple in 2003 they were welcome to join them if they ever rode RAGBRAI.

"We immediately felt comfortable with these people," Tim Travis said, noting their constant traveling makes it easy to meet people but hard to relate to them. "It just fit."

Tim Travis said that because he and Cindie Travis are always riding, they were happy to drive the team's bus in exchange for an easy way to carry boxes of their books.

"Riding really isn't about the bikes," Tim Travis said. "It's more about the people you meet. The bike puts you into situations, into communities, where you can find hospitality. If you were to take a bus through a city, you just drive right through."

"On a bike, you're right there. You're part of whatever community you're riding through."

When Tim and Cindie Travis finish RAGBRAI, they will finish their ride across the country and begin writing their third book before continuing their travels. They have already started planning their next trip: a three-year trip to India and its neighbors.

But for me, the adventure ends Saturday, when I walk down to the Mississippi River, dip my front tire in the water, and smile for a picture alongside my first RAGBRAI family, Team Deere-Heart.

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The Lodge 24/7 Fitness Center	\$0.00		Unfurnished Apartments Total Furniture Expenses:	\$2,100	
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DI CALENDAR BLANK

Mail or bring to The Daily Iowan, Adler Journalism Building, Room E141. Deadline for submitting items to the calendar column is 1pm two days prior to publication. Items may be edited for length, and in general will not be published more than once. Notices which are commercial advertisements will not be accepted. Please print clearly.

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Tim Tebow and the defending BCS champion Florida Gators will face big expectations in 2009.

WNBA

San Antonio 84, Indiana 65
Washington 75, Chicago 64
Sacramento 88, New York 73

MLB

San Francisco 5, Atlanta

Philadelphia 9, San Diego 4
St. Louis 4, Washington 1, 7 innings
Cleveland 5, Toronto 4
Seattle 2, Detroit 1
Chicago White Sox 5, Tampa Bay 0
N.Y. Yankees 6, Oakland 3



Ben Roethlisberger

FOOTBALL

Roethlisberger says he'll fight rape allegations

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Steeler quarterback Ben Roethlisberger vowed Thursday to fight a Lake Tahoe casino hostess' rape allegations against him, calling them "false and vicious."

Roethlisberger was served with a civil lawsuit last weekend when he returned to Lake Tahoe, where a 31-year-old Nevada woman alleges the quarterback raped her in a hotel penthouse in July 2008. He was in Nevada on both occasions to compete in a celebrity golf event.

The woman did not file a criminal complaint.

"[July 18] was the first I heard of her accusations," Roethlisberger said. "Her false and vicious allegations are an attack on my family and on me. I would never, ever force myself on a woman."

In his first public comments on the matter, he read a statement at the Steelers' practice complex in Pittsburgh. Dressed in a brown striped suit with no tie, he spoke for less than two minutes and did not respond to questions.

BASEBALL

GM: Free agency main reason for Halladay talks

TORONTO (AP) — Roy Halladay's desire to test the free-agent market following the 2010 season is the primary reason the Toronto Blue Jays are trying to trade their staff ace, general manager J.P. Ricciardi said Thursday.

"That's the whole reason we're going down this avenue," Ricciardi said, hours after revealing



Halladay
Blue Jay

Halladay's intentions in a pregame chat with a Toronto radio station.

Baseball's non-waiver trade deadline is July 31. Ricciardi said July 6 he would field offers for Halladay, who has a full no-trade clause. The Blue Jays have set a loose deadline of July 28 to make a deal but Ricciardi said there is room to maneuver.

"If we're down the road with something, obviously the deadline can fluctuate," Ricciardi said. "If we're not down the road by [Tuesday], nothing's going to happen."

Halladay, due to start against Tampa today, declined to talk about his free-agent status following Toronto's loss to Cleveland on Thursday.

"I'm not addressing it," Halladay said. "I don't even know what [Ricciardi] said. I'll [talk] after I pitch."

TV TODAY

MLB

• Chicago White Sox at Detroit, Game One, 12 p.m., CSN-plus
• Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs, 1 p.m., CSN

CYCLING

• Tour de France, Stage 19, Bourgoin-Jallieu to Aubenas, France, 7:30 a.m., VERSUS

Game Time

Alexander rules again



Iowa freshman Jaime Printy (left) and junior Kachine Alexander watch free throws during their Game Time championship game in the North Liberty Community Center on Thursday. Alexander finished with 19 points and 11 rebounds for Coralville Hy-Vee in its 85-68 championship win over Printy and Active Endeavors/McCurry's.

Kachine Alexander wins her second-consecutive Game Time title and MVP award.

By **ROBBIE LEHMAN**
robbie-lehman@uiowa.edu

If this summer's Game Time League performance is any preview of what to expect this winter, then the Big Ten better get ready for Kachine Alexander.

The Iowa junior guard did a little bit of everything this summer to earn the league's Most Valuable Player honors and lead Coralville Hy-Vee's team to the ninth Game Time championship Thursday night in North Liberty.

The playoffs went the way

of the chalk, as No. 1 seed Hy-Vee defeated No. 2 seed Active Endeavors/McCurry's, 85-68. Hy-Vee had three top-10 picks in the June draft, Nos. 1, 8, and 9. All were Iowa players and all were keys for the team's championship run.

Alexander scored 19 points, grabbed 11 rebounds, and dished out eight assists. Freshman Morgan Johnson added a double-double of 21 points and 10 rebounds, and junior Kelsey Cermak pitched in four points, four rebounds, and four assists in limited

action because of a sprained ankle early in the game.

Cermak's injury didn't slow down Hy-Vee much, if at all. The game was close early, but a short run before halftime paired with another one after intermission helped the team gain control. Iowa senior JoAnn Hamlin and freshman Jaime Printy did their best to keep it tight by scoring 22 and 11 points, respectively, for McCurry's, which only suited up six players. As it was all summer long, Hy-Vee was simply too deep and talented for the six to handle, going up by 20 with seven minutes left and keeping it right around that margin for the remainder of regulation.

For Alexander, both

ON THE WEB

Go to dailyiowan.com for exclusive video footage from Thursday's Game Time championship between Hy-Vee and Active Endeavors/McCurry's.



SEE **ALEXANDER**, 8

The mat family

Iowa wrestlers Matt and Mark Ballweg will soon welcome another brother to the Iowa wrestling program.

By **J.T. BUGOS**
josephbugos@uiowa.edu

Wrestling turned into fighting. Fighting turned into target practice. Tempers flared. Lamps were broken.

By some unimaginable circumstance, a chandelier became a casualty. Three boys surveyed the wreckage, and knew they were in trouble.



Mark Ballweg
wrestler

Matt, Mark and Jake Ballweg were the cause of destruction. Matt and Mark Ballweg are current wrestlers for the Iowa Hawkeyes. In the fall of 2010, Jake Ballweg will join them.



Matt Ballweg
wrestler

Matt Ballweg's selective memory prevented him from rehashing the demolition of a chandelier, but he and Mark Ballweg both knew they dug themselves a deep hole that day.

"We tried to stay out of the house," Mark Ballweg said. "Mom's rules. When you get Mom involved, that's dangerous."

SEE **ALEXANDER**, 8

SEE **BALLWEG**, 8

Great catch saves Buehrle's perfecto

By **ANDREW SELIGMAN**
Associated Press

CHICAGO — The 105th pitch of Mark Buehrle's day broke in toward Gabe Kapler, who turned on it and connected.

Buehrle looked up and knew his perfect game was in jeopardy.

Just in as a defensive replacement, Chicago White Sox center fielder DeWayne Wise sprinted toward the fence in left-center, a dozen strides. What happened next would be either a moment of baseball magic or the ninth-inning end of Buehrle's bid for perfection against the Tampa Bay Rays.

Wise jumped and extended his right arm above the top of the 8-foot wall. The ball landed in his glove's webbing, then popped out for a split second as he was caroming off the wall and stumbling on the warning track. Wise grabbed it with his bare left hand, fell to the

ground and rolled. He bounced up, proudly displaying the ball for the crowd.

Magic. A home run turned into an out.

His biggest threat behind him, Buehrle coolly closed out the 18th perfect game in major-league history, a 5-0 victory Thursday.

"I was hoping it was staying in there, give him enough room to catch it. I know the guys were doing everything they could to save the no-hitter, the perfect game, whatever it might be," said Buehrle, who has now thrown two no-hitters in his career.

Wise knew the stakes. "I was with the Braves in '04, and I was there when Randy Johnson of the Diamondbacks pitched a perfect game. So I've been on both sides of it," he said. "It was probably the best catch I've ever made because of the circumstances."

"It was kind of crazy, man, because when I jumped, the ball hit my glove at the same time I was hitting the wall. So I didn't realize I had caught it until I fell down and the ball was coming out of my glove, so I reached out and grabbed it."



Buehrle
pitcher

SEE **BUEHRLE**, 8

RAGBRAI Journal

Biking into a community

On my last day of RAGBRAI coverage, it's only appropriate to share what I feel the ride is really all about.



CHRIS CLARK
christopher-clark@uiowa.edu

More than 10,000 people on a 442-mile bike ride across an entire state drinking countless cases of beer and eating daily at places like Mr. Porkchop, Mama Raphael's, and Tender Tom's — a life only RAGBRAI riders know.

But what do I find most compelling about this week — an event drawing thousands of people, some from the other side of the world, to ride their bikes across Iowa?

The sense of community. I have never been on RAGBRAI, and I am not



CHRIS CLARK/THE DAILY IOWAN

DI reporter Chris Clark, (far left), dips his back tire in the Missouri River with six members of Team Deere-Heart in Council Bluffs on July 18. When RAGBRAI comes to a close Saturday, Clark will dip his tire with the team, 442 miles east in the Mississippi River.

originally from Iowa. I came on this trip with no expectations, ultimately knowing nothing beyond a universal opinion that "RAGBRAI is awesome."

When I arrived in Council Bluffs with Team Deere-Heart on July 18, things were less than ideal.

I knew almost no one I was riding with, one of the break pads on my yellow 1970s Schwinn LeTour fell off, and I was informed I had committed the ultimate rookie mistake: not bringing a helmet.

But it didn't take long to get comfortable.

I should have known when I noticed I was the only person to bring a bike lock or the first time I left my tent open with my computer, two cameras, and my wallet.

It hit me when I rode to the Missouri River with a few members of Team Deere-Heart on July 18 to take pictures and interview some people about the tire-dipping tradition.

SEE **RAGBRAI**, 8