State of sabbaticals

The UI is accepting 40 percent fewer applicants for sabbaticals than three years ago. METRO, 2A

Best Buddies a big hit

By LAUREN MILLS

The Best Buddies program is seeing more students interested in working with community members with disabilities.

By MARLEEN LINARES

“Best friends forever,” Schubert said with a bright smile on her face.

Battling depression

Depressed students are twice as likely to drop out.

By LAUREN MILLS

U/I students Rachelle Laqua and Matt Robert take coffee and Mountain Dew at T Spoons on Tuesday. Robert has participated in the Best Buddies program since 2002; Laqua meets with Robert around once a week.

BUDGET CRISIS

UI further targets stimulus $-

The UI will use the remaining stimulus money, in part, to attract students.

By JOHN DOCHTORT

While a majority of the UI’s stimulus money went to salaries and benefits for employees who will leave the university, several other important projects will also depend on the federal funding. The UI spent nearly $344.4 million of the total $375.2 million in stimulus funds to reduce its workforce, an effort that included implementing an early retirement program. And with more than 320 people out in reserve, the university has started a number of projects to improve the campus and increase interest in the university.

The UI will spend approximately 800,000 to increase recruitment efforts, with $200,000 of that sum going directly toward reaching out to international students.

Director of Admissions Michael Barron said recruiters are focusing efforts on schools and areas that have traditionally yielded a high number of UI students to build what he called a “pipeline effect.”

“We’re able to build on past relationships and past successes,” he said. “We’re not doing it in a black-and-white approach, we’re using a targeted approach.”

The UI’s efforts have also included covering travel costs and education materials for the new 2009-2010 school year. With the Iowa Promise initiative, officials hope to add 100 students each year for a four-year period, which stop body to body are budget woes, UI officials hope the grant money is going toward the new Energy Hall, which will help the city cut costs there and further the UI’s eco-friendly initiatives.

Dor Creek, the associate vice president for UI Facilities Management, said the stimulus money, in part, to attract students. 

Battling depression

After meet-

Buddy pairs must:

• Attend Best Buddies group events
• Make contact with each other once per week
• Have one or more outings each month

Program requirements

Buddies director: Approximately 100 students are paired with someone who is disabled at the UI or in the community, with around 20 associated buddies who go the group’s main events. Because of the size and popularity this year, the organization could not pair every volunteer who requested a buddy.

Along with organized events, the pairs meet regularly for outings. Vukelich, the program’s vice president, started meeting with Schubert in September. Matches are determined by comparing surveys that both volunteers and participants in the program fill out. Schubert chose her friend. After meet-

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Dor Creek, the associate vice president for UI Facilities Management, said the stimulus money, in part, to attract students.
Budget woes may endanger sabbaticals

The UI is accepting 40 percent fewer applications for sabbaticals than it did three years ago.

By JORDAN FRIED

university

Linguistics Professor William Davies stands at the top of Temple Borobudur, the largest Buddhist temple in the world, in Indonesia during last summer. Davies studied the Madurese language while en sabbatical in Indonesia.

“Where those two come together, that’s where it’s most intense,” said Brian Grim, senior researcher at the Pew Research Center’s Forum on Religion and Public Life. The United States, Brazil, Japan, Italy, South Africa and the United Kingdom have the least amount of restrictions on religious practices when measured by both government and religious-based violence or harassment, according to the study.

The study found that religious minorities suffer the brunt of the intolerance. Timothy Shah, a senior research scholar at Boston University who is familiar with the study and said he was struck by the fact that more than 30 countries have high levels of both government and social restrictions. Shah pointed to Nigeria, where 52 majority-Muslim states adopted the Islamic Sharia criminal code after 1999, resulting in hostilities against religious minorities.

Study: Religion repressed in third of all nations

By DAVE BRITAIN

NEW YORK (AP) — In Indonesia, Muslim groups have long been a minority belonging to the minority Ahmadiyya sect. In Singapore, the government refuses to recognize Ahmadi’s Wor- dens. In Belgium, 68 religious minorities are restricted from practicing religion freely, either because of government policies and laws or hostile act by indi- viduals or groups, accord- ing to a study released Wednesday by the Pew Research Center’s “Global Restrictions on Religion.”

That amount to 78 per- cent of the globe’s popula- tion, since some of the most re- stricted countries contain very populous beliefs. In 1955, 25 most populous countries, citizens in France, Belgium, Indonesia, and Indonesia, and India live with the most restrictions, measured by numbers. These analyses take into account, the study found.

POLICE BLOTTER

Reynold Clem, 33, of Davenport, was charged with disorderly conduct.

Arthur St. Pat. 13, was charged with criminal trespass.

Centered Print

Linguistics Professor William Davies stands at the top of Temple Borobudur, the largest Buddhist temple in the world, in Indonesia during last summer. Davies studied the Madurese language while en sabbatical in Indonesia.

News

The Daily Iowan

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4A

News

TOP STORIES

Judge overturns liquor-license denials

1

Kahoot’s girls

2

City Council could see the good in Tuesday’s bar ruling

3

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News

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Sara Creamer-Casey 712-440-7300

Arthur St. Pat. 13, was charged Dec. 7 with second-degree theft.

Sara Creamer-Casey 712-440-7300
Senior keeps on breathing multicultural air

Cultural interaction is more than a career path for UI senior Isabella Santoro.

By CHRIS CURTLAND
christopher-curtland@uiowa.edu

Isabella Santoro sits atop the Rock of Gibraltar during the spring of 2007. Santoro will graduate this month with a degree in international studies and minors in French and Spanish.

‘She’s ambitious. Her assignments there sounded very difficult for an undergrad, and she seemed overwhelmed, but she never backed down from the challenge.’
— Natasha Wilson Boland, International-studies program assistant

UI senior Isabella Santoro sits atop the Rock of Gibraltar during the spring of 2007. Santoro will graduate this month with a degree in international studies and minors in French and Spanish.

‘Overcoming linguistic and cultural barriers is my passion,’ said the native of Florence. ‘Studying language, translation, and interpretation has always fascinated me.’

While studying at the UI, the 22-year-old has maintained a 3.92 cumulative grade-point average, made the Dean’s List in every semester, and worked in many international programs to pursue her passion of international programs to promote cultural exchange and interaction. She will graduate this month with a degree in international studies and minors in Spanish and French.

‘She’s ambitious. Her assignments there sounded very difficult for an undergrad, and she seemed overwhelmed, but she never backed down from the challenge.’
— Natasha Wilson Boland, International-studies program assistant

Santoro has helped foreign students adapt to the UI campus while working with Global Buddies. This semester, she taught English to immigrants in Iowa City as part of the International Women’s Club and worked as a volunteer teaching assistant with international-studies Adjunct Professor Jerry Croft.

‘In my 10 years, I’ve never met a student who worked harder to make things just right,’ he said. ‘She’s very bright.’

So far, Santoro has interned for a position at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. She said she also tried to land an entry-level job at a think tank — nonprofit organizations that influence policy decisions and promote common awareness on foreign policy.

‘It inspired me to go to DC, where change would happen, and be in the heart of it all,’ she said.

For the last three years, Santoro has helped foreign students adapt to the UI campus while working with Global Buddies. This spring, she taught English to immigrants in Iowa City as part of the International Women’s Club and worked as a volunteer teaching assistant with international-studies Adjunct Professor Jerry Croft.

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Opinions

Reflections from Copenhagen

SHEERALI TALLEY

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Negotiators are bargaining for a climate-change agreement in Copenhagen, but the world is not holding its breath. The United Nations has been in a state of crunch since the beginning of the climate talks. But Copenhagen will be a formal conclusion of the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP13) and the first time that large industrialized nations will agree to cut their emissions to the level required to prevent dangerous climate change and global warming. The world is holding its breath in anticipation of the outcome.

From creating historic, international agreements to holding a climate-change conference, the world is waiting for a global climate-change agreement. The world has been waiting for a global climate-change agreement for decades. The world has been waiting for a global climate-change agreement since the 1990s. The world has been waiting for a global climate-change agreement since the beginning of the 21st century. The world has been waiting for a global climate-change agreement since the beginning of the 21st century.

The dangers of alcohol are not new, and yet people continue to assume that alcohol is a safe drug. Like many of us, I have attended a health-care reform bill a win for Iowans

Guest Opinion

House health-care reform bill a win for Iowans

By DAVE LOEBSACK

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DEPRESSION CONTINUED FROM 1A
choose to leave.

“Depression is a very common illness,” said Mark Jordan, the director of the Office of Student Wellness at the University of Iowa. Jordan noted that the condition is one of the most frequently diagnosed in college campuses.

The Iowa City landfill will take Holiday Light Recycling Drive lights until Jan. 4, but it will extend the date if demand continues. Jordan said that more than 100 locations would be accepting lights.

The Iowa City landfill will also accept lights until Jan. 4.

The Holiday Light Recycling Drive is a community-wide event that encourages people to recycle old holiday lights.

The copper from seasonal lights can be recycled and then used to make new copper.

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The copper from seasonal lights can be recycled and then used to make new copper.
It’s not March, and I haven’t beaten some of those top guys in the country. I have to be ready to compete against some of the other top guys in the country.

— Matt McDonough, redshirt freshman

It feels good to know the coach sees you working hard to do things the right way and to simulate what Iowa can do. It’s not March, and I haven’t beaten some of those other big names. It’s not March, and I haven’t beaten some of those other big names.

Matt McDonough pinned his opponent in 4:38, starting a streak of four straight matches to begin the match and set his team off to a good start. The redshirt freshman said his approach is to wrestle for the full seven minutes, not letting his opponent relax or ever take a breather.

His performance during the Hawkeyes’ dual against Northern Iowa illustrated what he can provide the aperture No. 1 team.

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Brands also noted McDonough’s wrestling style lends itself to getting the team off to good starts. The redshirt freshman said his approach is to wrestle for the full seven minutes, not letting his opponent relax or ever take a breather.

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His performance during the Hawkeyes’ dual against Northern Iowa illustrated what he can provide the aperture No. 1 team.
By BARRY WILNER

Reggie wants to play. In a Regime without a fully healthy Freeney, and the guys would—rightfully so—for the guy to win a second Super Bowl in four seasons.

Just how much the regents in action is up to coach Jim Caldwell and his staff. But don’t think Manning, Wayne, Dwight Freeney, and the guys wouldn’t like to surprise what the Colts achieved as 2007. It was going to be the playoff through the playoffs and winning the championship.

Although the Colts have no responsibilities toward other NFL teams, if they stay veteran in Jacksonville, it helps playoff such conflicts as Miami, Detroit, Baltimore, and the New England Patriots. With all their troubles, the Colts are nothing close to a team with their true blowout participating, even for those with a full game. The oddsmakers didn’t put a line on the game because of the confidence that will play for Indy.

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Jon Cole, 21-17

COLUMBUS gets its fourth straight season in Columbus for its upcoming baseball tournament. The Big Ten baseball tournament site is the Ohio State Bill Davis Stadium because of the field’s condition.

Before last season, the sports television network added a championship or the champ from a pre-selected division, as the Division I-A teams and finish in the top two spots at the 3-point shootout. Minnesota (minus 7 1/2) at Carolina Vikings get the NFC North crown with a win.

Sunday’s 8:22 high and San Diego

Winter clinches division.

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SUNDAY ALL DAY DINNER Buffet $9.95 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

15% OFF 4 people per coupon Valid with Dinner Buffet only Expires 1/15/2010

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COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Jon Cole, 21-17

COLUMBUS gets its fourth straight season in Columbus for its upcoming baseball tournament. The Big Ten baseball tournament site is the Ohio State Bill Davis Stadium because of the field’s condition.

Before last season, the sports television network added a championship or the champ from a pre-selected division, as the Division I-A teams and finish in the top two spots at the 3-point shootout.

Plan new Years 2010 Thursday, Dec. 31st

Champagne Toast at Midnight! Get Here Early & Beat the lines! Free Party Favors, Hals, Leis & More! Visit Us on the Web at BROTHERSBAR.COM "Always the Best Specials, Always the Most Fun!"

Make Reservations Now for Your Holiday Party!

LUNCH $6.85
Monday to Friday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Children 65¢ Per Year Under 10 Years Saturday Brunch $7.25

DINNER $9.95
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FOOTBALL

Taking over the helm of the 2009 Hawkeyes at the end of last season, Kirk Ferentz has faced many challenges this year. He has had to work with a young team, replace key players, and adapt to the Big Ten schedule. The Hawkeyes have faced stiff competition from experienced rivals like Ohio State and Michigan. Despite these challenges, Ferentz has maintained his focus on preparing the team for the future. The Hawkeyes have shown resilience in their three Big Ten games, securing a win against Northwestern and losses to Ohio State and Michigan. With a tough schedule ahead, the Hawkeyes will need to maintain their composure and work hard to improve their performance.
80 HOURS ON AIR

TUNE in to 80 Hours on Air today from 5-6 p.m. on KRUI 89.7 FM (or listen online at kruiradio.org). Today's show is the final edition for the semester, so satisfy your music cravings before it's too late.

DAILYIOWAN.COM

Check out a slide show from this weekend's UI Youth Ballet Winter Concert, plus a video from new a cappella group Iowa Agni's auditions. While you're there, check out our Top-20 lists of the last 10 years' best arts and culture moments. For even more arts and culture goodness, head over to dailyiowanmedia.com/arts-live

ON THE BLOG

A cappella astonishment
New student group Iowa Agni showcases South Asian music with a twist.

W

HEN the Blue Moose Taphouse opened in Iowa City, it seemed as if the venue came out of nowhere to replace the Industry. Even longtime talent buyer Doug Robertson, who was booking a few shows at the Industry was shocked by the quick switch.

"It was literally like, 'What?'" he said. "It was kind of short notice. No one knew what was going on but the owner. The new management did some remodeling and revamping things, got the sign and a few other things lined up, and during Thanksgiving, they had some time to get it done."

Robertson, who began booking gigs in 1986 at Gabe’s (now known as the Picador), recently started his own promotion company, Mr. Kicks, LLC. He believes the changes were a step in the right direction for the building, which previously housed the Q Bar in addition to the Industry.

Robertson lauded the new owners. "They like music and are enthusiastic," he said.

At the Blue Moose Taphouse, 211 Iowa Ave., a large wooden sign sits directly above the entry to the now 21-bar, letting passersby know the venue has changed. Patrons will find the wide-open design of the Industry replaced with a smaller bar separated from the main stage by a wall and double-doors painted to show a blue moose holding a foamy beer mug.

To the left of the entryway sits a basketball arcade machine with the words "Full Court Fever" printed on the side in a splash of bright purple, orange, and green neon. On this Saturday night, a young man stands at the machine in a gray hooded jacket and jeans shooting baskets. The 25-year-old — who looks younger than his age suggests — is the new general manager of the Blue Moose Taphouse, Josh Ivey.

"We felt like the building needed a face-lift," Ivey said. "We wanted to make it more accessible with more of a 'bar feel.' I don't want people to wonder if they can come here and drink without paying $10 at the door."

Despite the attempt to cater to the everyday bar crowd, Ivey said, he still plans to utilize the main stage — as well as the smaller upstairs stage dubbed the "Blue Room" — to host musical acts.

The new manager plans to take a less-is-more approach to booking acts on the main stage.

The Blue Moose Taphouse is the newest music venue in the evolving Iowa City music scene.

By ERIC ANDERSEN

PHOTOS BY CHRISTY ALMEN

GRAM BLATT BY SHERIDAN TOLSTEIN

Once in a blue moose

The Blue Moose Taphouse is the newest music venue in the evolving Iowa City music scene.
A cappella India is calling

A new student organization is changing the face of a cappella at the UI.

By ADAM SALAZAR

Among other things happening in the UI’s a cappella scene, a new student organization is assembling, changing the face of a cappella at the UI.

The group, named A cappella India, is currently in the beginning stages of organizing. Its founder, Pritika Veluchamy, said she first had the idea to form the group at the end of last semester that she saw another South Asian a cappella group on campus.

Veluchamy decided at that time that it was a good idea to get a group going here,” said Veluchamy, a sophomore in music.

Sprouting from the UI Indian Student Alliance’s general Gatha Raha — a cappella group, A cappella India was founded by Veluchamy and a group of four other UI students.

The group’s first major event will be the school’s annual Springfest dance this weekend.

“We would like to take this group to other UI events and other South Asian cultural events on campus,” said Veluchamy.

She said the group will perform Feb. 14 as part of the UI’s Valentine’s Day celebration.

Veluchamy said the group will be performing a variety of songs from South Indian popular music, which includes music from the Bollywood film industry, and Indian Carnatic music as well as banished music with large South Asian populations creating South Asian cappella groups.

Because Lego Yanu (a South Indian rapper) is also involved in the group, Veluchamy said the group will also be performing songs from the soundtracks of Indian movies such as Omkara and Bollywood-inspired American films such as The Guru and the Bollywood.

“When it comes to Indi- an music, what does your heart desire?” said Veluchamy.

A cappella India hopes to perform songs from the albums of Bollywood-inspired films such as The Guru, said Veluchamy. Some Carnatic music will also be performed.

Please will be performed in both English and Hindi. All members will go through additional language training to accomplish the challenging feat of singing in Hindi, which doesn’t quite match up with the a cappella format.

UI graduate student Negini Shah said the group will be performing a variety of Carnatic music, some of which is specifically written for the group.

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**MOOSE CONTINUED FROM 1B**

He hopes that by having fewer concerts, fans can receive better promotion and build credibility with the help of Robertson and Doe Moines-based Foot Pest Concerts.

*The difference between a place such as the Picador or the Mill (and Blue Moose) is small,* Jovy said. “It takes a lot fewer people to fill the room at those places. This downtown room is a lot bigger, and the bar needs this thing huge. At the other venues, a show with 50 to 100 people is fun—here it just feels like an empty warehouse.*

Currently, two bands are set to play the Blue Mouse main stage: indie-pop musician St. Vincent, who has played with Sufjan Stevens and opened for Fleet Foxes and Arcade Fire, Greta Van Fleet, and a third show for Cali—will take the stage on Feb. 16, and Braeath Carolina will bring its electronic pop-punk to Feb. 23.

"I think Josh and Nate can get a bar that's fairly cool to hang out in and then have some live music to make it even more appealing to the music fans, they could be successful."

— Doug Robertson, talent buyer

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**CONCERT**

Public Property, Euforquesta, and Uniphonics

When: 8 p.m. Dec. 31

Where: Englert Theatre, 221 E. Washington St.

Expect an unpredictable and somewhat bittersweet fusion of sound on New Year’s Eve at the Englert.

*DEE FABRICANTE*

This New Year’s Eve, there will just to with old friends for the last time at the Uniphonics, Euforquesta, and Public Property, which are perfect in this huge area following the progressive-reggae band Eufoquestra's afro-beats. This New Year’s Eve, the audience can expect to see a mix of sound and vibe that is the foundation, and all other genres and influences are what we make the house with."

"The Englert has shedded a lot as any Iowa City bar that night and allow of age players to drink alcohol. "This will be a good way to bring in the New Year because the show will be super high ener- gy," Englert CEO Sean Fredericks said. "There's a huge area following this thing huge. At the beginning, we had a hell of a time getting bands to go in," he said. "It was that if you had a band there, you would be on a hiatus until further notice."

"The difference regarding the future of the band and the direction we want to go will be," said Fredericks.

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A cornucopia of holiday films

When you're not visiting friends and family or sleeping off finals, the movie theater is the perfect place during the winter break. This holiday season's highlights offer a variety of characters, including sexy dancers, the beloved Sherlock Holmes, and a race of blue aliens.

MOVIE PREVIEWS

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS? — Friday

Hugh Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker star as the Morgans, a married couple not feeling the love. That all changes when they are set in 1964 and a songwriter who has created the perfect chance to show a philandering husband he's not the only one who songs. The concert — a benefit for the Church Basement Company, with Lick It Falls and put them together with University of Northern Iowa, UNI jazz bands. Admission: $25 for adults, $22 for students, seniors, and children — all proceeds benefit the Cris-Centre.

THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR FRANCAVIGLIA — Dec. 25

Colin Bracey and Company, with Lick It Ticket: When: TBA, Jan. 16 Where: First Union Club, 15 S. Linn Admission: $15 or one canned food item

NINE — Dec. 25

The concert — a benefit for the Church Basement Company, with Lick It Falls and put them together with University of Northern Iowa, UNI jazz bands. Admission: $25 for adults, $22 for students, seniors, and children — all proceeds benefit the Cris-Centre.

DAYBREAKERS — Jan. 8

The musical comedy, Church Basement Ladies, set in 1964 Minnesota, centers on four women who work in the kitchen of a church basement loving through changing times. The play is based on being funny and down-to-earth, with characters ranging from a young newcomer to an elderly veteran. As they prepare dinners for many lectures, they learn to enjoy (or at least tolerate) the company of another.

— by Rebecca Koons

LEAP YEAR — Jan. 8

Amy Adams stars in this romantic comedy about a woman trying to make the journey to propose to her love on a leap day. Will she fall for the handsome Mr. Right or the handsome Mr. Wrong?

IT'S COMPLICATED — Dec. 25

It's a true story of a man who makes a deal with the devil to save his daughter. Jude Law, Colin Farrell, and Johnny Depp step into complete Ledger's unfinished role.

THE TWEETLEDEDE OF DOCTOR PARNASUS — Dec. 25

Heath Ledger's final film is the story of a man who makes a deal with the devil to save his daughter. Jude Law, Colin Farrell, and Johnny Depp step into complete Ledger's unfinished role.

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Dancing into winter
The UI Youth Ballet will perform a variety of pieces during its winter concert.

By Josie JONES

Jennifer Schadt performed a dance to music from the ballet Romeo and Juliet. While studying at UI’s School of Music, she has attempted to bring this piece to the UI as a reconstruction. "This piece is absolutely unfeasible. It’s the same music, but it’s on two different bodies and a man, which is the problem," she said. “Almost every movement is a new movement. Schadt choreographed the piece for the fourth level of ballet — the most advanced level — offered through the UI’s Youth Ballet program, which features dancers from ages 7 to early high school.

Level four dancers will perform the choreography, and people want to make a difference,” said Schadt. “To show people how being green is important and they can do it, then good.”

This year, the organization partnered with various city and state organizations to pave the road to green. But Clark said, “Eventually, it will make a difference.”

It has also been difficult for the students to show the students it can be a tool for showing it off in the right light,” she said. “We’re trying to inspire them,” Schadt said, “to show people how being green is important and they can do it, then good.”

When you’re young, I think you look forward to the dress-up aspect of a ballet. This piece isn’t about that aspect much at all,” the 29-year-old said. “We’re trying to show the students it can really be about the movement, and the costume is just a tool for showing off in its best light.”

The stage on which the winter concert will be performed is quite simple, and no props will be used. There is a fairly straightforward performance, Schadt said. "It has also been difficult for the students to group that the concert is a not a story ballet similar to Sleeping Beauty or The Nutcracker, she said. Because there is not a story of characters, she has had to help the students use their imaginations to become motivated in a different way. For example, he suggested using a theme of nature, such as forest creatures or a fairy, to help them decide what it is they’re doing on stage. “I’ve given them images to sort of inspire them,” Schadt said. “But the piece is fundamentally coming down to the students to create what the piece is about.”

ECO Iowa City ushers in the new year by celebrating green.

Year’s Eve party on Dec. 31 to encourage an environmentally friendly 2010.

UI freshman Katie Jensen recycles in Stanley Hall on Wednesday. ECO Iowa City will host a green New Year’s Eve party on Dec. 31 to encourage an environmentally friendly 2010.

Eco-iowa-city-party.jpg

UI freshman Katie Jensen recycles in Stanley Hall on Wednesday. ECO Iowa City will host a green New Year’s Eve party on Dec. 31 to encourage an environmentally friendly 2010.

ECO Iowa City was born under $25 to Reduce Global Warming,

The national council on its mission to make libraries and cities or county municipalities work together. The national council selected nine grant recipients, including ECO Iowa City, for its 2009-10 Explorations.

The grant was not specifically focused on environmental sustainable-
Best pop culture moments of the last 10 years

1. Celebrity malady: breakdowns to drug overdoses in the last 10 years — the example here: Michael Jackson’s "Thriller," of course, was a major hit, but Jackson died just months before its release. The Nobel Prize was a doozy. 

2. Paris Hilton's wacky "The Simple Life." Hilton was everyone’s favorite fop, just months before Oprah’s couch like a star Katie Holmes, then former “Dawson’s Creek” about falling in love with Jennifer Aniston went from in the Big House when her baby on her lap, wearing flamboyant cos-

3. Britney Spears' Heiress' "One Night in the Big House when her baby on her lap, wearing flamboyant cos-

4. The King of Pop’s comeback, when Justin Tim-

5. J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter franchise — a $5 billion world in the past 10 years — was born. Years later, the story of the Potterverse still captivates. 

6. Janet Jackson's "Rhythm Nation 1814" from the 1984 Super Bowl; "Miss You Much" from "Dalmatians" with the biggest halftime show in history. 

7. The Daily Show's Jon Stewart; the show, when Justin Tim-

8. Paris Hilton’s "The Simple Life." Everyone got a glimpse of the rich girl who’d never had a choice — "One Night in the Big House when her baby on her lap, wearing flamboyant cos-

9. Sarah Palin's malaise. She’s been a force in the political scene for the last 10 years, but you can argue she’s been more of a media phenomenon than a real political force. 

10. Tony Hawk Pro Skater 3: the game that changed gaming for the better. It was one of Outkast’s biggest hits, and it was arguably the best party game ever created. 

8. Geeks of War: The story of the last 10 years of War is gruesome, and it fits perfectly into the storyline. It also features a unique take on the campaign mode.

9. Michael Jackson -- his title as one of the finest examples of R&B vocalists to put their mark of the band.

10. Tony Hawk Pro Skater 3: the game that changed gaming for the better. It was one of Outkast’s biggest hits, and it was arguably the best party game ever created.

Best video games of the past 10 years

1. Halo 2: the ground for great shooter action in video games online, and Xbox live. 

2. Portal: the game that introduced the first half-life game, "Portal". 

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Today's events

• Fit 4 Fun, 10:30 a.m., Performing Health and Fitness, 3220 Ridgebourn Drive, Coralville
• The Snow Day, 3 p.m., North Liberty Community Library, 520 W. Cherry
• Teen Tech Town, 3 p.m., Iowa City Public Library, 222 E. Linn
• Dawn's Read and Hide Away, Read Aloud, 7 p.m., Dawn's, Hide and Read Away, 320 E. Washington
• TeenStart Youth, 5:30 p.m., Performance Health and Fitness, 3220 Ridgebourn Drive
• Studio Art Workshop, 5:30 p.m., United Action for Youth, 355 East 14th St.
• Hubbard Group Kwanzaa Celebration, 6 p.m., MIU Black Box Theater
• Career Country Dance Lessons, 6:30 p.m., Wildwood, 140 W. Wildwood Drive S.E.
• Crude, 7 p.m., Bijou
• Eclectics, 7 p.m., Orchard Green Restaurant, 321 Gilbert
• Festival of Cascades, 7 p.m.,