

GOING PRO

KEN O'KEEFE'S PRO-STYLE OFFENSE MAY HAVE STALLED LAST WEEK, BUT THE HAWKEYES WON'T CHANGE ANYTIME SOON. PREGAME



THE INDEPENDENT DAILY NEWSPAPER FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COMMUNITY SINCE 1868

The Daily Iowan

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50¢

WHAT'S INSIDE:

The first-degree murder trial of 19-year-old **Charles William Curtis Thompson** continued Thursday with his neighbors' testimonies. **Page 2**

Fourteen watchdog groups this week endorsed legislation from **U.S. Rep. Dave Loebsack**, D-Iowa, requiring additional transparency from the "supercommittee" and its deficit reduction efforts. **Page 7**

Iowa caucus contenders took on income tax in Thursday night's **Fox News/Google** debate. **Page 4**

G-20 pledges to work for financial stability

WASHINGTON — The world's major economies are pledging to take strong actions to restore financial stability and calm financial markets that plunged on Thursday over renewed fears that the global economy was headed toward a new recession.

Finance officials of the Group of 20 major economies issued a statement late Thursday saying they were committed to a strong and coordinated response to renewed challenges coming from the European debt crisis and weak economic growth in the United States and other countries.

The finance officials of traditional economic powers such as the United States, Japan, and Germany and major emerging nations such as China want to demonstrate strong resolve in the hope that it will calm jitters that had sent financial markets down sharply.

"We are taking strong actions to maintain financial stability, restore confidence and support growth," the G-20 joint statement said. "We commit to take all actions to preserve the stability of banking systems and financial markets as required."

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke represented the United States at the meeting.

A senior U.S. Treasury official who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door discussions said all the countries felt there was a sense of urgency to take strong actions to deal with the financial market turmoil.

— Associated Press

CORRECTION

In the Sept. 22 article, Mason talks appropriations, sexual misconduct, by Jordyn Reiland, the *DI* incorrectly reported that the University of Iowa Twitter account was affiliated with the Political Science Department. The Twitter account is a general UI account. The *DI* regrets the error.

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INDEX

Classifieds **11** Spotlight **2**
Crossword **8** Sports **12**
Opinions **4**

WEATHER

HIGH **61** LOW **41**
Partly cloudy, light winds.



Police survey the scene of a reported Cambus accident outside the Main Library on Thursday. A 20-year-old woman was reportedly struck by the Cambus while crossing the street; police reported that she was conscious when they arrived. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

1 injured in Cambus accident

Cambus authorities said there will be extensive conversation among Cambus officials.

By **KRISTEN EAST**
kristen-east@uiowa.edu

University of Iowa officials aren't sure how they'll move forward with improving campus safety after a Cambus hit a 20-year-old pedestrian Thursday morning.

Iowa City police officers said the accident took place just after 10 a.m. Thursday. The Cambus was reportedly southbound on Madison Street and struck the woman as she

entered the crosswalk at the intersection of Madison and Washington Streets.

The incident cracked the bus's windshield and the woman was reportedly conscious when officers arrived and was taken away in an ambulance. No update on her condition was available Thursday night, and authorities have not yet released the subject's name.

Iowa City police Sgt. Denise Brotherton said the crash is still under investigation. The woman received significant injuries, and she

is undergoing treatment at the UI Hospitals and Clinics.

Campus authorities say safety is a priority, but they're not sure what, if any, recourse will come from Thursday's crash.

"We'll need to await the outcome of the investigation," said UI spokesman Tom Moore.

Cambus manager Brian McClatchey said there will be extensive conversation among

SEE **BUS**, 3

UI eyes new-dorm cost

By **ALLIE WRIGHT**
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University of Iowa officials are working on driving down the cost of a new residence hall after its price tag jumped twice in the last year.

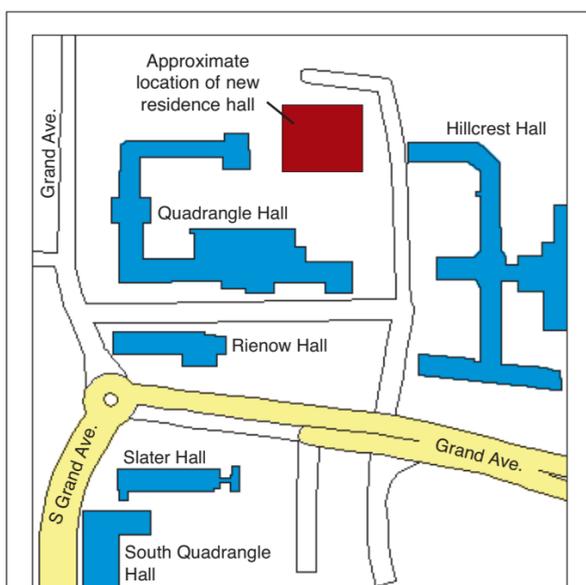
The state Board of Regents approved \$54 million for the residence hall Tuesday, part of \$323.8 million for capital improvements on campus.

But in September 2010, *The Daily Iowan* reported the cost of the new residence hall would be between \$20 million and \$32 million. Then, in April, officials told regents the cost of phase one of the project was \$42 million, with an expectation that additional revenue would be needed to support the project.

Officials are now saying the construction will cost less than \$50 million, and it is part of a plan to provide more housing to better accommodate the increasing class sizes. Construction is expected to begin in early 2013.

Located north of Grand Avenue near Hillcrest, the residence hall will accommodate approximately 450 students, said Tom Rocklin, the UI vice president for Student Life.

"We have a commitment to house every first-year student



The University of Iowa's new high-rise residence hall has a completion date of 2015, and it will cost an estimated \$50 million. The new dorm will be located north of Grand Avenue in between Quadrangle and Hillcrest. This graphic shows the layout of the West Side residence halls.

Source: Tom Rocklin, UI VP for Student Life

MAX FREUND/THE DAILY IOWAN

who are on-campus housing," Rocklin said. Additionally, UI officials have a goal to provide more housing options for upperclassmen, he said.

The original plan of the

building was a wider space, but the plans changed to a taller building, which will be less expensive because it

SEE **NEW DORM**, 3

UI mulls policy for social media

UI Facebook fans have grown by 20,000 in last six months.

By **JANET LAWLER**
janet-lawler@uiowa.edu

University officials say they don't have an official policy governing university-branded social media following a gaffe last week in which the university apologized for an "inappropriate" tweet.

However, tweets, posts, and "pics" are now contributing to the greater recruiting endeavors at the University of Iowa including many of its different departments. And university officials say a centralized policy is in the works.

Eric Page, an assistant director of University Creative Services, said there is no time frame set for the centralized policy's release.

"We need to remember to be somewhat reined in and remember that we represent an institution, not ourselves," he said.

Earlier this month, @UIowaPolitics posted a message on Twitter saying, "I didn't know Bachmann was in town. Bah-dum-bum" after news that a cougar had been spotted in Iowa City. Shortly there-

SEE **SOCIAL MEDIA**, 3



Defense disputes witness



Witness Ronda Bluitt starts crying on Thursday in the Johnson County Courthouse as she remembers the day she saw shooting victim John Versypt die. (The Daily Iowan/Jacklyn Couppee)

Thompson's next-door-neighbor will continue his testimony Friday.

By ERIC MOORE
eric-moore1@uiowa.edu

Ronda Bluitt initially told police she saw one man in jeans and a black hoodie running outside her window the night of landlord John Versypt's slaying. But Thursday, in her testimony during Charles William Curtis Thompson's trial, she said she saw two people.

Bluitt, who lived next door to Thompson in the apartments at 1958 Broadway, concluded her testimony and cross-examination Thursday at the Johnson County Courthouse.

Thompson was charged with first-degree murder for allegedly shooting Versypt when Thompson was 17 in October 2009. He is now 19; he is being tried as an adult.

After Bluitt's testimony, defense attorney Tyler Johnston cross-examined her. His questions focused on what he labeled as inconsistencies between her initial account of the night of the murder, subsequent interviews, a deposition held in January, and the testimony she gave Thursday.

"When you were talking to agent Sandhu [of the Iowa City police], who was trying to solve this murder, you decided, instead of giving him the correct information, that it was as only one person instead of two," Johnston said.

Thompson trial

The timeline of the slaying, according to Charles William Curtis Thompson's next-door-neighbor, Ronda Bluitt:

- Around 3 p.m. Bluitt and her husband, James Brown, start watching a movie.
- A little bit later, they hear a loud pop, followed by the back door of the apartment slamming shut.
- Shortly after, they hear Justin Marshall knock on the apartment next door, asking his aunt to let him in.
- A while after this, another neighbor alerts them to the presence of a body on some steps inside the apartment building hallway.
- They see the body, John Versypt, moving and then stop moving.
- They call the police.

Source: Trial testimony

She said she "didn't feel safe" talking to the police.

"All of them were rude," Bluitt said. "They were rude, I was rude. I didn't want to hear what anybody had to say."

Johnston brought up video interviews conducted by Iowa City police on the day of the homicide and roughly a week later. Bluitt said she hadn't seen them. She appeared aggravated when asked why she hadn't reviewed the video.

"I remember, it's in my mind, it's been there," Bluitt said. "And I'm glad this day has come so I can

get on with my life."

The video file of the first interview, held on the evening of the killing, was shown to the court. In the video, Bluitt is shown joking around with the interviewer. The defense tried to use this video footage to discredit Bluitt.

Though she initially said she changed the story because she wasn't comfortable talking to police, she later said she didn't recall there were two people until later.

There was also some disagreement over her recollection of what Thompson and Justin Marshall — who is also charged with murder in the case but will be tried separately — were wearing the day of the murder.

Johnston read a quotation from Bluitt taken from a deposition in January in which she said "[Thompson] and Justin had on black hoods."

In her testimony Thursday, Bluitt described Marshall as wearing "some shorts and a jacket."

Her demeanor at the start of her testimony was calm and confident, but she grew increasingly aggravated as the defense's questions continued. The same was true for her boyfriend, James Brown, who was also brought in by the prosecution to testify.

Brown said he saw a gun while spending time in the apartment Thompson and

Marshall shared the night before the murder. He said it was black and "had some shiny stuff on it, with a brown handle." This was inconsistent with his statements in the deposition in January, in which he said the gun was "brass."

The two witnesses also provided differing layouts of the way their apartment was configured. This affects where Bluitt and Brown were sitting, which could affect Bluitt's credibility regarding whether she could see out the balcony window.

Johnston said he believed the prosecution told Brown to change his use in terminology for the furniture in the apartment. Before the noon break, he referred to a "sofa" and "love seat," but after the break, referred to both items as "pieces of furniture." His account of their placement was also inconsistent with his wife's.

Also, Johnston accused each witness of having changed their stories after discussions with the prosecution. The prosecution, represented by Assistant County Attorney Meredith Rich-Chappel, disputed that, especially in regards to Brown's statements. She said the defense had "no basis" for these claims.

The trial will resume at 9 a.m. today in the Johnson County Courthouse with Johnston's cross-examination of Brown.

Organization of Johnson County.

Because the results of the study did not meet federal criteria for an additional stop sign, the department asked City Manager Tom Markus to implement a crosswalk. The Transportation Planning Division also requested an island refuge, which creates a divide between lanes, to which pedestrians could walk and stand on as they wait for traffic to clear.

While painting in a crosswalk would be relatively inexpensive, an island would be in the range of tens of thousands of dollars. There have been no cost estimates done yet, Yapp said. The City Council is expected to address the proposal at its next work session.

— by Asmaa Elkeurti

METRO

Emergency personnel respond to rail yard

Workers at the Iowa Interstate Railroad yard were evacuated Thursday after a possible leak was discovered from a rail car carrying acid.

The Iowa City Fire Department arrived at the scene with one engine and battalion chief. A Johnson County HAZMAT team was also called, along with the emergency-response team from Proctor & Gamble, a nearby factory. The Johnson County Ambulance Service was also called for standby.

Crews were on the scene for about two and a half hours.

There were no leaks found, and all seals and valves were intact after members from the Proctor & Gamble emergency team searched the area in protective gear.

— by Asmaa Elkeurti

Officials eye Highway 1 trail

Planning has begun for the Highway 1 trail project in Iowa City. City officials will hold a neighborhood public open house next week to present project goals.

A 10-foot-wide trail is projected to stretch along the north side of Highway 1 and go from Orchard Street to Sunset Street. An 8-foot-wide trail will also be implemented along the west side of Orchard Street.

Shive-Hattery Inc. has begun the preliminary design work, which will be presented at the open-house meeting from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sept. 28 in Paul's strip-mall area, 438 Highway 1 W.

The city has planned for a consultant to begin collecting data through surveys and field work along Highway 1.

— by Asmaa Elkeurti

City ponders Kirkwood/Summit crosswalk

The Iowa City Transportation Division wants a crosswalk at the intersection of Kirkwood Avenue and Summit Street to allow pedestrians to cross the street more safely.

Cars driving along Kirkwood Avenue have no stop signs, making it difficult for pedestrians to cross, officials say. After receiving numerous phone calls from pedestrians, the city's Transportation Planning Division conducted a traffic study to investigate whether stop signs along Kirkwood Avenue are necessary, said John Yapp, transportation planner for the Metropolitan Planning

with fifth-degree theft.
Carl Johnson, 50, address unknown, was charged Tuesday with third-degree burglary and Wednesday with public intoxication.
Troy Knapp, 43, 1561 Dickenson Lane, was charged Wednesday with OWI.
Raymond Osborne, 19, Coralville, was charged June 24 with third-

BLOTTER

Andre Boudreau, 44, 67 Coneflower Court, was charged Thursday with driving with a suspended or canceled license.
William Burch, 52, 96 Oberlin St., was charged Thursday with domestic-abuse assault.
Michael Burnett, 27, Coralville, was charged Oct. 1 2010 with first-degree theft.

Jill Bushman, 48, 1808 DeForest Ave., was charged Wednesday with OWI-third or subsequent.
Keona Chew, 29, 861 Cross Park Ave. Apt. A, was charged Tuesday with driving with a suspended or canceled license.
Heather Dentandt, 34, 1131 Third Ave. Apt. 6, was charged Sept. 17

degree burglary.
Denise Purkeypille, 26, 1956 Broadway Apt. C10, was charged Wednesday with driving with a suspended or canceled license.
Mindy Setzen, 44, 5158 Lower West Branch Road S.E., was charged Thursday with OWI and possession of cocaine.

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BREAKING NEWS

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TOP STORIES

Most-read stories on dailyiowan.com from Thursday.

1. Mason: appropriations increase request is modest
2. Bullock emerges as No. 2 running back
3. Q&A: Mason talks appropriations, sexual misconduct
4. Despite flood of numbers, far too early to gauge 21-ordinance effects
5. Letters to the Editor

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- ~ New & used jewelry ~ Shoes
- ~ Collectibles
- ~ New spanish CDs & DVDs
- ~ Isabel Bloom sculptures
- ~ Beanie babies
- ~ Pictures/artwork
- ~ Purses/bags
- ~ Buttons/bumper stickers
- ~ Longaberger baskets

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BUS

CONTINUED FROM 1

Cambus officials.

“Certainly as a group, the management will sit and discuss what happened here, and if there’s anything additional we need to do regarding pedestrian safety,” McClatchey said. “Our initial reaction is that it wasn’t gross negligence by the driver. There’s a lot of info for us yet to learn.”

McClatchey said students go through an extensive, three-step training period in order to obtain a commercial driver’s license, which is necessary to drive the Cambus.

“It’s a very involved and fairly lengthy process,” he said about the nearly 50 hours of training required.

McClatchey, who has been at the UI for 24 years, said Thursday’s accident is only the second or third he’s seen that has required medical attention.

“They’re very rare,” he said. “We’ve averaged fewer than one a year.”

Pedestrian accidents are also rare at other state universities.

Spencer Walrath, the president of the University of Northern Iowa’s student government, was shocked when he heard about Thursday’s incident. UNI operates the Panther Shuttle, a free transportation service for students that is very similar

to the Cambus but run by the student government.

“I’ve been here for five years, and I’ve never known of an accident,” Walrath said.

Pedestrian safety is also a big concern for Iowa City residents and UI employees.

UI library assistant Donald Baxter said he regularly advocates for pedestrian and cyclist rights on campus and complains weekly about the Cambus.

“Cambus drivers drive too fast,” he said. “They’re not mindful of pedestrians. They’re dismissive and need to change their whole attitude toward operating the bus.”

He said he hopes Thursday’s incident will be a wake-up call for the UI



Witnesses fill out police reports and get interviewed after a Cambus reportedly hit a 20-year-old woman on Thursday morning outside the Main Library. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

campus.

“Pedestrians have rights,

and drivers have responsibilities,” Baxter said. “[The

drivers] act like the enemy.”

NEW DORM

CONTINUED FROM 1

would take up less land, said Ken Stirm, an architect from Rohrbach Associates in Iowa City who is leading the design of the project. The firm has worked with UI housing for more than 15 years, he said, on such projects as the IMU and College of Public Health Building.

Von Stange, the UI assistant vice president for University Housing and Dining, said he hopes to house mostly living-learning communities, but no specific plans for which ones will be included have been decided yet.

And while normal double-bed rooms are less expensive, UI officials are hoping to come up with something more innovative.

“We’re trying not to do a traditional residence-hall

floor,” he said.

But the plans aren’t set in stone. Rocklin said officials will reveal the floor plans for the building at the regents’ meeting in February.

UI officials initially proposed the construction plan to the regents in April. The expected date of completion was in the fall of 2014.

Rocklin said the delay can be attributed to UI officials’ efforts to keep costs down.

Construction on the new residence hall will require the UI to demolish a section of the Quadrangle, which would mean a loss of 47 beds.

More on-campus housing is a need the UI has had for a long time, said the regents in April.

Regent Robert Downer told the *DI* that he hopes the construction isn’t delayed.

“I think these are very exciting plans, and I’m very pleased with them,” he said in April. “I would just hate to see the timeline lag on this. I think that’s occurred too much already.”

SOCIAL MEDIA

CONTINUED FROM 1

after, the tweet was removed and university officials apologized.

“You know, I think we’ll probably look at this opportunity to examine whether a policy would be appropriate,” UI President Sally Mason told *The Daily Iowan* this week. “These technologies are evolving so quickly that it’s sometimes hard to figure out exactly what we should be doing, and we should be monitoring it.”

Despite the controversy over the Bachmann tweet, officials say social media has been mostly positive for the university.

Page is the main manager of the official @uiowa Twitter account and does day-to-day maintenance of the official UI Facebook page.

Although many departments in the university have accounts, Page said the main Twitter page currently has 11,000 followers.

“[Social media] is a great way to reach an audience; it’s a direct avenue to them and doesn’t require issuing a press release to traditional media,” Page said. “Our main goal is to engage the audience in a way that tells the university’s story.”

There are more than 15 UI affiliated departments or organizations that have Twitter accounts in addition to the official Twitter page, something Assistant Professor Petya Eckler, who studies health communication at the University of Iowa, said could potentially cause problems for any institution with a similar situation.

“Institutions are not people; they are huge organizations, and it’s hard to get a unified voice from all of

those people,” she said.

“It’s harder to mandate things here because universities value freedom of opinion but are much more decentralized,” Eckler said.

Social-media policies at Iowa’s public colleges vary.

Annette Hacker, a spokeswoman for Iowa State University, said there was no central policy for the university, but some departments that chose to have social-media sites would have their own policies, whether it be formal or more general guidelines such as they have in the Code of Computer Ethics and Acceptable Usage.

“Social media is one more tool to reach out to a fragmented audience,” Hacker said. “We can no longer rely on just paper, just TV, just email.”

Jim O’Connor, assistant vice president of marketing and public relations at University of Northern Iowa, said finishing touch-

es were being placed on a Best Practices document for social media.

O’Connor said the document will cover effective use, managing profiles, appropriate icons, how to deal with negative posts, and in general what departments should consider when creating social media sites for the institution. The University of Northern Iowa is holding a seminar in three weeks to discuss how institutional social media should be handled across the campus in both the technical and content aspect.

Forrest Meyer, the executive director of Strategic Communications for the UI Foundation, has a social media presence as well. Meyer said the foundation is in the process of developing a formal social media policy hopefully to be implemented in a few months.

“The policy is just as much to help people to use social media effectively,” he said.

WHEN IT COMES TO HEALING JOINT PAIN



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Editorial

Rising community-college tuition is burdensome

As the costs associated with attending a four-year university continue to rise, many students have opted to attend community colleges. Unfortunately, many of these institutions are beginning to face the same affordability issue.

A recent analysis of the Iowa Department of Education's 2012 Tuition and Fees Report shows this year's state community-college attendance fees increased by nearly 6 percent over last year's total, despite the fact that community college costs in Iowa were also 75 percent above the national average. In 2009, they were 60 percent above the national average. This, combined with a dwindling supply of available financial aid, has exacerbated the overwhelming costs of attaining a higher education in the state.

The rising costs are troublesome. The tremendous costs of attending college have not only restricted financial growth, they undermined our notion of the American Dream, an ethos that continues to weaken in credibility. Before this emerging trend is allowed to gain momentum, we, as both a state and nation, need to commit to maintaining access to higher education by keeping community colleges affordable.

The costs of attending a four-year university are increasing rapidly. When adjusted for inflation, the cost and fees of attending a four-year university have more than doubled since the year 2000. The exorbitant rise in college tuition has had a deleterious effect on the national economy, because students today are often inundated by excessive student loan debt.

Enrollments at community colleges have seen unprecedented growth, especially since the economic downturn. According to the American Association of Community Colleges, community-college enrollment nationally increased by nearly 15 percent between 2008 and 2009. In Iowa, last year marked the state's all-time highest enrollment for community colleges to date.

Clearly, community colleges are one of the most important aspects of our modern educational structure. They provide access to higher education for those without the financial means to attend an expensive college and also provide a host of services that large (and often bloated) universities cannot. By offering transfer programs, they also allow students to begin college at an affordable level and gain a positive academic record before transitioning into the more expensive universities.

But many community colleges often face adversity when requesting state appropriations, which can be used to lower costs and improve education.

"Unfortunately, community colleges are neither thought of in the context of higher education, nor are they thought of in the context of K-12, nor do they seem to have the clout of either," Kirkwood Community College economics Professor Saul Mekies told the *DI* Editorial Board on Thursday. "Yet, the Legislature does recognize that ... community colleges provide a vital link to Iowa's work force and to higher education."

These colleges provide opportunities and services for members of our community that four-year schools often overlook. Many cater to unconventional students, such as a single parent or longtime worker attending college for the first time. By using long-distance learning or providing evening classes at an affordable price, these motivated individuals are able to reach for higher levels of financial security and intellectual faculty.

"Community colleges cannot become an answer for society's entire problem," Mekies said. "In many ways, community colleges are there to create a seamless transition to higher education or training."

Without affordable college access, those without money would be at a further disadvantage in working to achieve financial stability. The current rift in income disparity will then be prone to intensification.

Some may argue that not everyone needs to attend college, and they can certainly make a compelling point. The trend the country is witnessing, however, is much more expansive and complex than any such argument addresses. What we're seeing isn't related to choice, it is related to opportunity.

"As state and national support has dipped in the past three years, we have all had to raise our tuition at rates higher than ever before," Kirkwood Community College President Mick Starcevic wrote Thursday in an email to the Editorial Board. "This makes it very hard on our neediest students and those most unable to fund their own education."

Restricting access to higher education is something we simply cannot allow to happen. While there's no quick fix to the exponentially rising tuition at public and private universities, we still have time to stop the same from happening to the entire system. It's time we drew a line in the sand for community colleges by prioritizing education in regard to tax revenue — elementary, higher, and otherwise.

Your turn. Is tuition getting out of control?
Weigh in at dailyiowan.com.

Column
about drugsCHRIS STEINKE
csteinke25@gmail.com

(This column is about drugs.)

In between obscene local bowling commercials and the plethora of advertisers claiming they're "No. 1 on Highway 1," you might come across an ad promoting prescription drugs.

Stand up, and remove your caps, Americans, because every time you see an 30-second spot for Prozac, a rendition of "America the Beautiful" may be in order.

Just like ads for a baguette boutique open just three hours a week are specific to France, prescription-drug advertisements are uniquely American (unless you count New Zealand as a country. You shouldn't count New Zealand as a country.)

This may strike some as odd but only those who have been hypnotized into believing prescription-drug commercials actually promote health. Fools! Drug advertisements promote drug sales.

You know that Lipitor commercial with the guy who apparently used to swing 20 feet into a pit of rocks as a child? You know, the guy who was still taking "foolish risks" with his cholesterol? You know? You know! Well, he may not have helped you out with your heart problems, but he sure did help Pfizer Inc.

Though Lipitor increases patients' death rates by 58 percent (boo), the cholesterol drugs' sales totaled \$5.276 billion in 2010 (Hurray!).

For those mourning their Uncle Terry's premature death, take consolation by imagining all that money trickling down to the middle class. Not so bad, right? Right? Right.

OK, you might say. America messed up on one measly drug. Big deal. Well, technically, it's not just one measly drug. It's hundreds of thousands of measly drugs.

America has a bit of a drug problem. You may have learned that from the *D.A.R.E.* program as a kid. They taught you about all the deadly drugs, like marijuana, acid, MDMA, and heroin. They told you how LSD would make you "hear colors and see sounds," thus extinguishing any interest you may have had in that killer nar-

cotic. But the program (funded entirely by your tax dollars, coincidentally) never told you about the dangers of legal drugs.

Driven by an boost in prescription-narcotic overdoses, drugs are now deadlier than alcohol, which was caused 24,263 deaths in 2009. They also caused more deaths than firearms (31,228 deaths in 2009). Or marijuana (0 in 2009). Or cars.

Wait, cars? Yeah, there were more drug-induced fatalities (37,485) than deaths caused by motor-vehicle accidents (36,284).

There were also more deaths caused by narcotic overdose than suicide (36,547), most of which, I'm sure, had nothing to do with prescription drugs. Let's look it up, just to humor ourselves.

Eighty percent of those who committed suicide were being treated by psychiatric drugs. Got it.

Which reminds me of that Zolof commercial I really like. There's a little white blob that can't help but get rained on. He's so sad he doesn't even play with the bluebird. It tells the viewer how the cause of depression is unknown, but that doesn't seem to matter because the little dots are flowing from "Nerve A" to "Nerve B," and then the little blob guy begins to bounce and play with the bluebird because he's all happy and hopped up on meds during the 15 seconds of side-effects and warnings. I don't have to feel this way any more, it tells me.

That commercial first came out when I was 9 years old, and it is still ingrained in my mind. Maybe that's why Zolof continues to sell, at \$48 million in 2009. Speaking of 2009, that was the year of the height of health-care debates. Pfizer Inc., which owns Zolof, Lirica, Celebrex, along with Lipitor, spent \$25 million in lobbying expenditures in 2009, leading the health-care industry.

I'm sure that money went to the politicians who were already big fans of Big Pharm. That money certainly didn't influence any politician's policies, just supported those who were already ensured of the narcotic industry's effectiveness and goodwill. Right?

Ech, all these stats are making me depressed. And what's worse? Getting arrested for pot would make me even more depressed.

Get at me later, bluebird. I'm gonna go chill with the *D.A.R.E.* lion. ■

Letter

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR may be sent via e-mail to daily.iowan.letters@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.

Was Hendrickson thinking or bloviating?

In Wednesday's Guest Opinion, John Hendrickson quotes Tom Pauken: "our society has been under ... lethal assault by ... cultural ideologues who have not learned the lessons ... history offers about

what has happened when men and societies have 'forgotten God.' "

There's a thought to conjure by. Take the Scandinavian countries: They are among the most atheistic and socialistic in the world, yet enjoy among the highest indices of social well-being anywhere.

Come to think of it, what does history teach us about

societies that have "remembered God"? Take Spain, among the most religious societies ever: Thousands of "witches" burned alive at the stake, thousands of Indians murdered by Columbus' thugs in the name of Christ using such ingenious methods as cutting off both hands or slow hanging, Europeans "remembering" God as they shoved Jewish bodies

into the ovens, and slaughtering one another for 30 years over, inter alia, theological niceties — and so on. Slave-owners in this country could and did quote the Bible.

Hendrickson is a "research analyst" for a "public interest" think-tank. Is he being paid to think or to bloviate?

Evan Fales
UI associate professor of philosophy

Guest opinion

Who's really been Taxed Enough Already?

ADAM B SULLIVAN
adam-sullivan@uiowa.edu

It's easy to lean on the platitude that death and taxes are the only certainties. But is it true?

During Thursday night's Fox News/Google debate, moderators asked Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., how much of a person's income a person ought to be allowed to keep. She used the question, of course, to take a shot at

President Obama and said people deserve to keep *all* the money they earn.

"Barack Obama seems to think that when we earn money, it belongs to him, and we're lucky just to keep a little bit of it," Bachmann said on the stage in Florida.

So does Bachmann go on to call for a repeal of federal income tax?

Nope.

"Obviously, we have to give money back to the government so we can run the government, but we need to have a different mindset," she said.

So Bachmann hates the income tax (it's endorsed by that socialist Barack Obama, after all) but only when Democrats are spending the money; as soon as there's a Republican in office, the income tax is necessary and A-OK by her.

There's a lot about Bachmann's branch of the conservative movement that is disingenuous and ideologically inconsistent, but income tax is perhaps the greatest hypocrisy this caucus season.

Bachmann and other so-called Tea Party conserva-

tives get away with framing the income tax as stealing by the government, but none of them are calling for its abolishment. What's more, she doesn't even have a clear plan to reduce the federal income tax.

Even relatively mainstream Republicans such as Herman Cain and Jon Huntsman, for instance, have plans to decrease the income-tax burden. At the debate on Thursday, Georgia Republican Cain said he'd boot current federal taxes altogether and replace them with a flat 9 percent personal income

tax, a 9 percent corporate tax, and a 9 percent national sales tax.

And former Utah Gov. Huntsman promised not to raise taxes saying, "This is the worst time to be raising taxes, and everybody knows that." Instead, he'd eliminate loopholes and deductions and replace the current tax-level system with just three income tiers.

Then there are the libertarian tax hawks in the race. Former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson wants to simplify the personal income-tax system and get

rid of the corporate tax altogether, opening the possibility of individuals incorporating themselves and living income tax-free. And there's U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, who would abolish the income tax, the capital-gains tax, and the death tax altogether.

Yet Bachmann is the candidate called a favorite of the Tea Party — a movement supposedly based on the acronym "Taxed Enough Already." Given her moderate stance on taxation, it looks like the Tea Party picked the wrong darling.

House battles to save disaster \$

By **ANDREW TAYLOR**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With the economy sputtering, the warring factions of Congress headed toward gridlock late Thursday over the usually noncontroversial process of approving disaster aid or even keeping the government from shutting down.

Democrats appeared poised to again oppose the legislation if, as expected, the \$1.5 billion in accompanying spending cuts would come from an Energy Department loan program that helps automobile and parts manufacturers retool their plants to build fuel efficient vehicles.

To those cuts, House leaders were adding another \$100 million in savings from a loan guarantee program for renewable energy projects approved under the 2009 stimulus law. Congress set aside \$2.4 billion in case some of the loans went bad, such as a \$528 million loan to now-bankrupt Solyndra Inc., a California-based solar panel maker effusively praised by Obama.

An Energy Department official said the reserve fund has at least \$100 million in it. The program expires on Sept. 30. Time is running short. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said Thursday that the government's main disaster-aid account is "running on fumes" and could be tapped out as early as early next week. She called on Congress to quickly resolve the problem or risk delays in getting disaster projects approved.

The battle erupting on Capitol Hill sends a discouraging sign as a bitterly divided Washington looks ahead to more significant debates on President Obama's jobs plan and efforts by a Congressional supercommittee to slash deficits.

The maneuvering started as Republicans controlling the House moved to resurrect a \$3.7 billion disaster-aid package after an embarrassing loss Wednesday. Instead of reaching out to Democrats, House GOP leaders looked to persuade wayward Tea Party Republicans to change their votes and help approve the assistance — and try to force Senate Democrats into a corner with little choice but to accept cuts to clean-energy programs they favor.

"We're fed up with this," said Democratic Whip Dick Durbin of Illinois. "They know what it takes for us to extend [stopgap funding] and keep the government in business. And this brinkmanship ... we're sick of it."

Unless Congress acts by midnight Sept. 30, much of the government will shut down. More immediate is the threat that the government's main disaster-aid account will run dry early next week.

The battling came as the stock market absorbed heavy losses and pessimism about the economy deepened. The arguing was reminiscent of the poisonous atmosphere of this summer rather than lawmakers' more recent promises to work together to find common ground where possible.

In Washington, Wednesday's embarrassing 230-195 defeat of the disaster-aid bill in the GOP-majority House exposed divisions within the Republican Party that demonstrated the tenuous grip that Boehner has on the chamber. Forty-eight Republicans opposed the measure, chiefly because it would permit spending at the rate approved in last month's debt pact between Boehner and Obama, a level that is unpopular with Tea Party lawmakers.

GOP leaders said they hoped to win a vote on a

largely identical measure by convincing wayward Republicans that the alternative was to give Democrats a better deal by adding more disaster aid or decoupling it from \$1.5 billion in spending cuts.

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Outspokenly irreverent

Joe Raiola will bring his George Carlin-esque comedy show 'American Heretic,' to the Englert Theatre tonight.

By **JORDAN MONTGOMERY**
jordan-w-montgomery@uiowa.edu

"American Heretic," a show full of edgy, outspoken material, is intended to leave an Iowa City audience questioning the roots of their religions.

"This is a show that really challenges the status quo," comedian Joe Raiola said. "I like taking people out of their comfort zone and challenging the way people normally see things. It's a provocative show because it questions conventional belief in religion, in God, and in country as well."

Raiola will perform at 8 p.m. today at the Englert Theatre, 221 E. Washington St. Admission is \$15 for students, \$20 for the general public. He will also lead a question-and-answer discussion session at 12:30 p.m. today in 1100 University Capitol Centre. The session is open to the public, and admission is free.

"American Heretic" is Raiola's third touring comedy show; his first was "The Joy of Censorship" and his second "Almost Obscene." Both shows dealt with censorship and controversial First Amendment issues.

Aside from performing

live comedy, Raiola has written for *MAD* magazine since the mid-1980s, and he is a senior editor there.

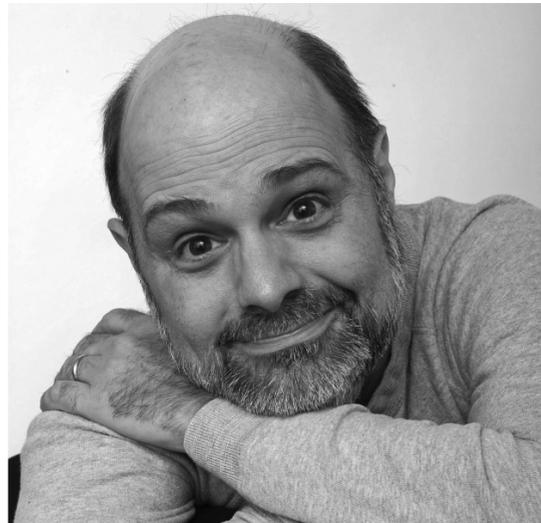
"There's no question that Joe's an oddball," said *MAD* Editor-in-Chief John Ficarra. "He loved non-sequitur humor when he was younger but recently has gotten much more interested in politics and social commentary. And his show reflects that interest. He's passionate and wants to make his audience both laugh and think."

Despite being an "oddball," Raiola is serious about his comedy. He said he conducted research for his show so he could present statistics dealing with religious issues. His figures included the number of people in the United States who believe in the devil, believe in God, and believe that God answers prayers.

"I find that presenting that information gives an interesting picture of the spiritual psychology of the country," he said.

The director of "American Heretic," Barbara Pitcher, noted the depth of the show.

"When we work on pieces like this, we [go] from a very deep emotional place to get his personal take on



Joe Raiola will perform at the Englert tonight (Publicity photo)

what's going on in the world," she said. "Sometimes, he might come across as a bit irreverent, but he comes from a very caring place."

Considering the themes of "American Heretic" in conjunction with the current political climate, the show will be thought provoking for some.

"It's a good time for some political humor because Iowa is such a political hot spot," said Nathan Gould, the Englert marketing director. "It should be a nice comic perspective on politics and culture in general."

While the subject matter is serious, Ficarra jokingly recalls seeing Raiola perform and knows the effect he has on audiences.

"I've seen Joe perform

Joe Raiola, "American Heretic"

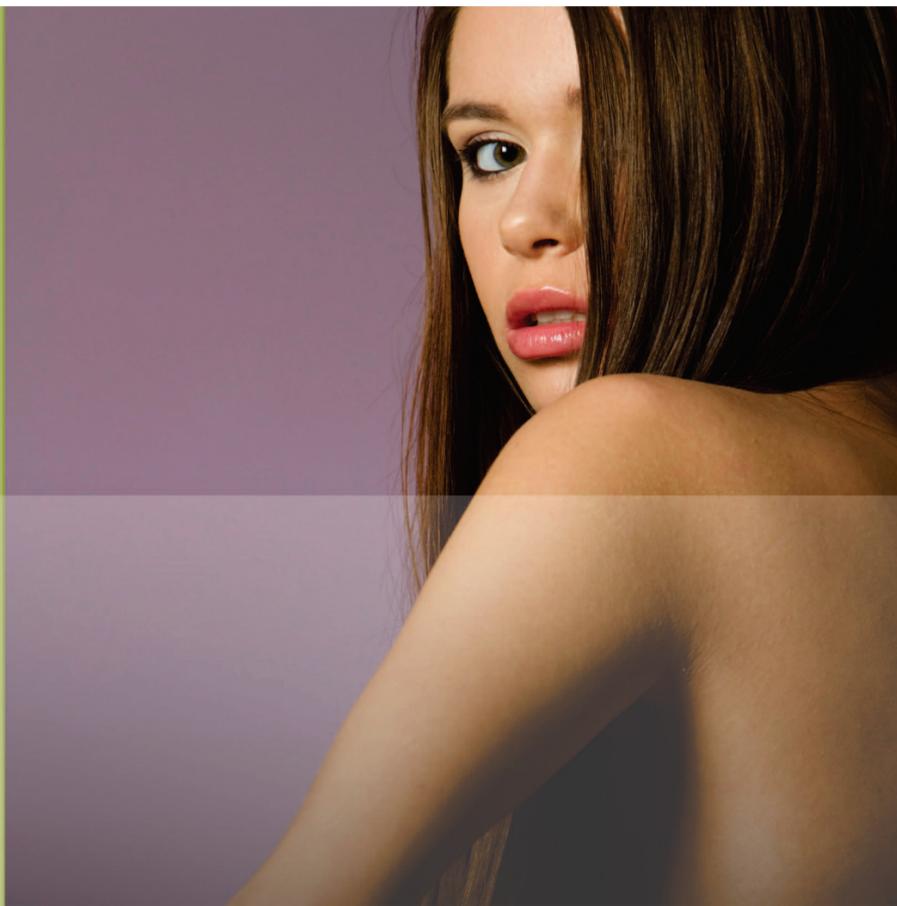
When: 8 p.m. today
Where: Englert Theatre, 221 E. Washington
Admission: \$15 for students, \$20 for the general public

Q&A Session

When: 12:30 p.m. today
Where: 1100 University Capitol Centre
Admission: Free

live once, and my first thought was, 'I want a refund.' And I got in for free," Ficarra said. "But I'm sure he's gotten much better since last week. And I would urge all Iowans to get out and see Joe and his fabulous show."

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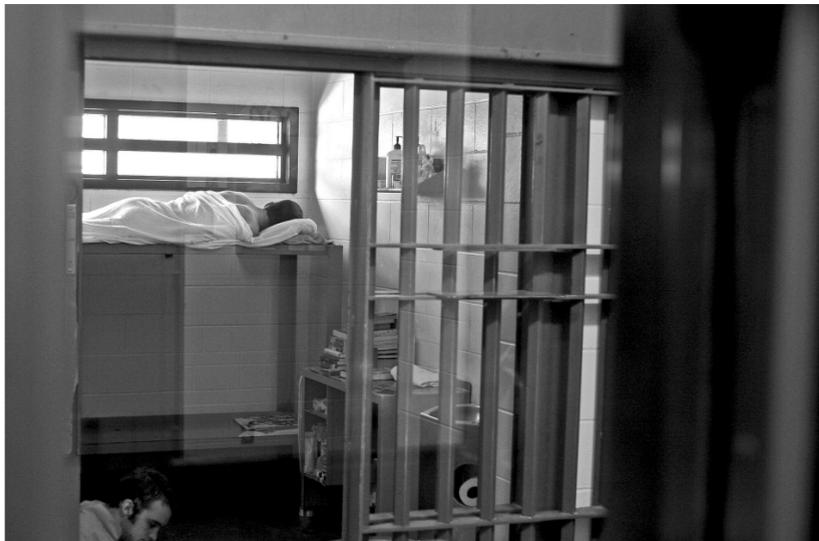


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Alt-jail saves \$450K



Inmates at the Johnson County Jail rest in the high-security cells. Because of overcrowding, the county must transfer inmates to other jails, and the cost of that is rising. (The Daily Iowan/File Photo)

Johnson County saves roughly \$450,000 through the jail-alternative program.

By **JORDAN MICKLE**
jordan-mickle@uiowa.edu

Diverting mentally ill inmates out of the Johnson County Jail is saving the county almost half a million dollars a year and helping with overcrowding.

The jail-alternative program, established under the Mental Health Department in 2005, helps inmates who are mentally disabled by making sure they get the treatment they need and help to get them out of incarceration, because their mental-health symptoms could worsen the longer they're locked up, said Pat Harney, the chairman of the Johnson County Board of Supervisors.

Jessica Peckover, team leader of the jail-alternative program, told the supervisors Thursday the most recent cost of a jail-bed day — when an inmate occupies a holding space — for the jail is reported as being \$64.60 per day. The number of jail-bed days used by the 660 inmates prior to the jail-alternative program was 30,308 beds used in a year. After one year of the jail-alternative program, only 10,296 jail-bed days were used. The difference saved roughly \$1.3 million in additional costs, Peckover said.

“Even taking into account the cost of the program since inception, there is still about \$450,000 of cost savings,” she said.

Peckover said there are a

Additional Cost Savings

In addition to the monetary savings, officials said the program helps:

- Promote community wellness
- Increase public safety
- Enhance quality of life for inmates

Source: Jessica Peckover, team leader of the jail-alternative program

number of unquantifiable cost-savings that include preventing repeat offenses, lawsuits, psychiatric hospitalizations, and committals of the mentally disabled inmates. Other savings include promoting community wellness, public safety, and the enhancement of inmates' quality of life.

Supervisor Sally Stutsman, a strong supporter of the program, said it focuses most of its time helping these individuals at the Health and Human Services Building, but they also spend time at the jail

or other communities.

“Not only does this help alleviate the crowding, but it's also diverting people who shouldn't be in jails,” she said. “It's better for the individual because there's a number of people related to criminal activity that have mental issues, and this really becomes a preventative program for those in need.”

Stutsman said that, without a doubt, the jail would be more overcrowded without this program.

“The community wanted us to create some alternative to putting people out of jail, and this is the best alternative that we came up with,” she said.

Harney also supports the program and said it's helpful for Johnson County.

“The idea is to keep them out of jails and institutions, and I'm really glad we have this jail-alternative program in place,” he said.

MINI MED SCHOOL



Girl Scout Mary Bounds learns how to use a stethoscope during the Junior Mini Medical School Program on Thursday. The University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine hosted the Girl Scout event to encourage girls to explore careers related to science, technology, engineering, and math. (The Daily Iowan/Carrie Guenther)

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\$16 muffins? Maybe not

By PETE YOST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government did not pay \$16 apiece for breakfast muffins at a Justice Department conference, no matter what the department's inspector general thinks.

So says Hilton Worldwide, which hosted the 2009 legal-training conference in Washington. Even the IG's own report issued this week acknowledges that the government got more than muffins for its money.

Hilton Worldwide, which manages and franchises hotels including the Capital Hilton, where the conference took place, says the price included not only breakfast baked goods but also fresh fruit, coffee, tea, soft drinks, tax, and tips. It says the report misinterpreted its invoices, which often use shorthand and don't reflect the full menu and service provided.

The IG's audit of excessive spending at 10 Justice Department conferences was one of those news stories that make the public sit up and take notice. Once

again, the profligate government was overspending. But it wasn't billions. Or even millions. It was muffins at \$16 apiece, according to the IG's office.

The report referenced the \$16 muffins half a dozen times, and it said their cost was one of many food items that "appeared extravagant and potentially wasteful."

Not so, Hilton Worldwide said in a statement Thursday.

"In Washington, the contracted breakfast included fresh fruit, coffee, juice, muffins, tax, and gratuity, for an inclusive price of \$16 per person," Hilton Worldwide said in a statement.

"Dining receipts are often abbreviated and do not reflect the full contracted menu and service provided, as is the case with recent media reports of breakfast items approved for some government meetings," Hilton's statement said.

On Thursday night, IG spokesman Jay Lerner said that "we stand by our report."

The IG's report allocates \$4,200 for the muffins but also noted 15 gallons of compli-

mentary coffee, 30 gallons of complimentary ice tea, and 200 pieces of free fruit included in the overall price of \$39,360.

The IG says that the total cost per person at the reception was \$14.74 — 2 cents over the allowable Justice Department limit. Totaling up the items in the IG's report, the 534 attendees over five days were given 1,150 pastries and 1,350 pieces of candy and fruit.

In its report, the IG's office said the cost of the muffins was one of many food items that "appeared extravagant and potentially wasteful."

"Many individual food and beverage items listed on conference invoices and paid by the Executive Office for Immigration Review for a legal training conference "were very costly," said the IG report. "The [office] spent \$4,200 on 250 muffins and \$2,880 on 300 cookies and brownies. By itemizing these costs, we determined that, with service and gratuity, muffins cost more than \$16 each, and cookies and brownies cost almost \$10 each."

Groups back Loeb sack bill

STAFF
The Burlington Hawk Eye

Fourteen watchdog groups this week endorsed Rep. Dave Loebsack's legislation requiring additional transparency from the so-called "super committee" and its deficit reduction efforts.

But the Deficit Committee Transparency Act, H.R. 2860, has yet to gain much traction among the dozen committee members and the congressman's colleagues.

Loebsack, a Democrat from Iowa's 2nd District, renewed his efforts this week by sending letters to House leadership and the deficit committee's co-chairs and by highlighting the endorsements.

"We need to improve transparency and sunlight in Congress, which is what the American people are demanding," Loebsack said in a press release Tuesday on his continued his efforts. "I call on members of the super committee to take matters into their own hands and ensure the nation that this process is open and fair. It is the least we can ask given the implications of their decisions on our economy."

The watchdog organizations supporting Loebsack's legislation are the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, Center for Responsive Politics, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, Common Cause, Fix Con-

gress First, League of Women Voters of the United States, MapLight, OMB Watch, OpenTheGovernment.org, Project On Government Oversight, Public Citizen, The Sunlight Foundation, Taxpayers for Common Sense, and U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

"I applaud these organizations for calling for an open, transparent process," Loebsack said. "For the American people to be fully confident in the decisions made by this committee, we must ensure transparency exists at all levels of their dealings and deliberations."

The 14 organizations wrote to super committee co-heads Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, and the 10 other members, urging them to immediately and voluntarily implement the provisions in Loebsack's legislation.

"Efforts to make the work of the committee transparent by posting information on the committee's new website are laudable, as are decisions to forego attending fundraisers during this time period," the 14 watchdog organizations wrote.

The deficit committee is charged with finding at least \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction and must vote on its plan by Thanksgiving. Congress will then vote up or down the committee's

proposal by Dec. 23. Like Loebsack, the watchdog agencies pointed to the unprecedented power that the committee has been given.

Loebsack's bill would require disclosures within 48 hours of meetings that committee members or their staff have with special interests or lobbyists, of campaign contributions or donations above \$500, and of scheduling a meeting with lobbyists leading up to the vote.

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Rethink Possible

Harriers stay patient

Women's cross-country has flourished despite not racing its best runners so far this season.

By **ELDON GIANNAKOUROS**
eldon-giannakouros@uiowa.edu

Women's cross-country coach Layne Anderson's sleeve is still bulging with aces two meets into the 2011 season.

Anderson's major talent — senior leaders Betsy Flood, McKenzie Melander, and Brooke Eilers, as well as promising freshman Kayla Beattie — sat out of the team's first two meets.

Anderson said his decision to sit some of his top runners reflects their desire to live up to the expectations they've placed on themselves this year.

"In the back of their minds, the girls realize the potential to be a lot better than our ranking. If we fire on all cylinders, especially at the end of the season, we feel we are a much better team than our ranking shows," Anderson said. "We're not concerned with that right now; we're more concerned with getting our best people to the end and having them be at or near their best."

"If we do those two things, this has a chance to be an outstanding year."

Anderson has called this year's team, ranked No. 28, the best he's had in his nine

years of coaching, and the depth the Hawkeyes showed in their first two outings may prove him right.

On Sept. 16, the squad showed it didn't necessarily need its cannons to string together a strong set of finishes. The women's squad, led by junior Kelsey Hart, trumped Northern Iowa, 15-45.

"Kelsey Hart winning the meet was just what we had hoped for; we hoped an Iowa girl — one who might not otherwise win the meet if we ran some of our top people — would get in there and do that and get a real confidence boost she could use going forward," Anderson said.

Melander said she hasn't minded staying out of the action early in the season, because it has given her a chance to see the benefits of the work she's put in from a different perspective. And while there are some major benefits to the experience of competition, she said she believes she's more than prepared to race, no matter when her season actually begins.

"The benefit of being a senior and being through all these seasons is that, hopefully at this point, I know how to race," she said. "It's a long season; we're just getting a lot of good base training in right now, so hopefully, that will be beneficial for us later on

and we'll actually run our best when it really counts."

Flood echoed Melander's sentiment.

"In the past, we've definitely competed a lot earlier than this year, but we've also peaked too soon. This year, we're trying to be more patient," she said.

Anderson said he plans on putting together the best group of competitors possible for the Loyola Lakefront Invitational on Oct. 1 in Chicago. Melander, Eilers, Flood, and Beattie will compete, but Flood said she feels onlookers still might not see the best the Hawkeyes have to offer.

"We're ready to race, for sure," she said. "We've gotten a lot of good training in, but the goal is still to run our fastest races in November."

Melander nearly qualified for nationals as an alternate during her freshman year, and she said she's hungry to make the impact she missed out on as a freshman and lead her team to Terre Haute, Ind., in her last season.

If the energy and the optimism pouring out of Anderson and his squad are any indication, she isn't alone in this goal.

"The sky's the limit," the coach said. "We're healthy top-to-bottom, and hopefully, we'll be able to continue saying the same thing each and every week."



Anderson
head coach

HAWKEYE SPORTS

Renovated Carver to be dedicated

The newly renovated Carver-Hawkeye Arena will be dedicated this afternoon in a free event open to the public, according to a release.

The program will begin at 4 p.m. and consist of tours and speakers, including University of Iowa President Sally Mason, Athletics Director Gary Barta, women's basketball coach Lisa Bluder, and Iowa alumnus Dale Howard.

Howard and wife Marilyn Howard gave the university a \$3.5 million gift to help complete the Carver-Hawkeye project in 2008; as a result, the addition to the arena will be named the Dale and Marilyn Howard Family Pavilion.

The pavilion is a four-story, 75,000-square-foot addition that includes an 8,000-square-foot strength and conditioning center, practice courts for Iowa's basket-

ball and volleyball teams, locker rooms, and office space for athletics staff.

The Howard family's gift was a portion of the \$21 million given to the university by private donors to complete the \$43 million project.

The dedication program will be held in the Feller Club Room, with tours and a reception to follow. Parking is available in Lot 75, and visitors should enter through the main entrance of the Howard Pavilion on the west side of the building.

— by **Seth Roberts**

Men's track announces captains

Head men's track and field coach Larry Wiczorek announced his 2011-12 team captains on Thursday, according to a release.

The Hawkeyes will be led by All-American seniors Erik

Sowinski and Troy Doris.

Sowinski won two All-American honors at the 2011 NCAA championships, running the third leg for the 1,600-meter relay team that finished fourth (3:07.16) and finishing fourth individually in the 800 meters (1:49.47).

Doris finished fifth in the triple jump at the NAAs and broke a 22-year-old school record in the event during the Big Ten championships. He was a six-event All-American at the College of DuPage before transferring to Iowa before the 2011 season.

"We have a number of individuals who are capable of being tremendous team captains, but Erik and Troy separate themselves because of their distinct success on the track," Wiczorek said in a statement. "They're both All-Americans, Big Ten champions, and outstanding student-athletes. I'd say they're very deserving of this honor."

— by **Seth Roberts**

Runners still without Thode

This weekend will mark the beginning of NCAA points play, which determines which teams make the cut to go to the NCAA cross-country championships.

By **BEN ROSS**
benjamin-d-ross@uiowa.edu

The Iowa men's cross-country team will travel to St. Paul, Minn., to compete in the Roy Griak Invitational this weekend.

The competition will feature top teams from throughout the country, including No. 10 Portland, No. 13 North Carolina State, and No. 24 Minnesota. The men's competition at the Les Bolstad Golf Course on Saturday will begin at 12:20 p.m.

Iowa will compete without its best runner, junior All-American Jeff Thode, for the second week in a row. Thode won't attend the meet because of a family emergency.

This is the first time since 2008 that the Hawkeyes will compete in the invitational, making this weekend a showcase of talent for Iowa's young runners to witness.

Head coach Larry Wiczorek said he's excited about his runners' opportunity to race against top competition, and this weekend will be a learning experience for his younger runners.

"This is what cross-country is all about," Wiczorek said. "There will be big-time athletes, and the course consists of lots of rolling hills, twists, and

Roy Griak Invitational

Where: Les Bolstad Golf Course, St. Paul
When: 12:20 p.m. Saturday

turns. It's really a good challenge that will educate the runners. This is the type of course you run on, run against; it should be an eye-opener for our younger guys."

This weekend is also the first time teams can begin earning points that count toward qualifying for the NCAA cross-country championships, which will be held in Terre Haute, Ind., in November.

Senior Chase Kadlec said he isn't too concerned about Thode's absence. He said he's more focused at the task at hand: running well as a team.

"I'm not worried about scoring points," Kadlec said. "Hopefully, we can put together a good race as a team. Hopefully, Nick Holmes and Kevin Lewis will get out there and put on a good show for us."

One might expect that the high-caliber atmosphere of the meet may cause some of the younger, less-experienced runners some anxiety leading up to the event, but sopho-

more runner Jon Michael Brandt said he isn't nervous and just wants to work on keeping his mental focus.

"We just have to keep cool," the Winona, Minn., native said. "The meet will be just like always; the only difference is that there will be 300 other people on the course with us. We can't get too worked up over earning points. We're just going to race and not worry about the score."

Wiczorek has been trying to develop what he calls "interchangeable parts" for his teams, especially without its best runner not competing for the second-straight meet. Although it's difficult to replace Thode's talent, the 25-year head coach said he thinks his runners can step up.

Though this meet may mean big things down the road for Iowa, Kadlec said he still believes this race isn't any more or less important than the past two competitions for the Hawkeyes.

"We're still practicing the same," the senior from Wheaton, Ill., said. "I think we'll be fine. We're not building up this meet any more than it has to be."

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Saturday, Sept. 24
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SOCCER

CONTINUED FROM 12

That team bonding enables for better team chemistry on the playing field, senior Rachel Blakesley said.

"A lot of people say it's hard with road trips — we see it as an opportunity to get to know each other more," Blakesley said. "We incorporate that cam-

aderie that we have on the bus and bring that energy on the field to help us as a team."

That chemistry was present in Iowa's conference-opener last weekend against Illinois.

The Hawkeyes raced out to a 2-0 lead on the Illini, but Illinois scored two goals in the second half. After two periods of overtime, the game ended in a draw, 2-2.

The way the Hawks performed against then-No. 23 Illinois gave them expectations of good things to come

this season in the Big Ten, Blakesley said — especially after a last-place finish last year.

"Scoring those first two goals made a statement about our team," Blakesley said. "We're really willing to face any opponent. We're more excited than anything to have a new challenge and see where we stand against Big Ten teams."

Lacasse honored
Freshman Cloé Lacasse was named one of the Big Ten's Top 20 College Play-

ers to Watch by topdrawer-soccer.com on Thursday.

Lacasse is one of only two freshmen in the conference to make the top-20 cut.

The Ontario native has established herself as a star for the Hawkeyes, leading the team with 10 goals and 23 points through nine games.

She trails the Iowa all-time lead in those categories by five goals and 13 points with 10 games left on the schedule.

VOLLEYBALL

CONTINUED FROM 12

strategy.

Iowa's team has traditionally been smaller and less physical than the rest of the Big Ten's volleyball programs, but the Hawkeyes plan to use their speed and agility to combat their lack of size against the conference's taller and stronger players.

"We're not going to try to

Iowa (10-3) vs. No. 24 Ohio State (10-3)

When: 7 p.m. today; vs. No. 5 Penn State 7 p.m. Saturday
Where: Carver-Hawkeye Arena
Where to listen: www.hawkeyesports.com

do things drastically different, because we can't," Dingman said. "We're going to win volleyball because of the way Iowa plays volley-

ball. We're not going to play well against Ohio State if we try to play Ohio State's style of volleyball. We're just not built that way."

The key for the Hawkeyes as they prepare to enter Big Ten play is to continue improving, Dingman said. The coach said she's already seen great improvements in her team, but the progress has to continue if Iowa wants a shot at competing in the conference.

"The things we're good at, we just have to keep getting better at," Dingman said. "We're pretty good at

WANT LIVE VOLLEYBALL UPDATES?

Follow *DI* volleyball reporter Molly Irene Olmstead on Twitter for live updates from Carver-Hawkeye Arena this weekend - @MireneOlmstead

serving, but we have to get better at serving. We're good defenders, and now we're going to have to play greater floor defense.

"We're not all of a sudden trying to go above and beyond what we're capable of doing; we just have to continue improve the things we already do well."

GOLF

CONTINUED FROM 12

trust in everyone that he'll do his job.

"If [each of us does our job] and we have trust, I think the result will be

pretty good."

George said continual improvement will go a long way toward building trust among the team.

After struggling at the Gopher Invitational, he attributed his poor play to a lack of focus and said maintaining his mental

sharpness at the Golfweek event should lead to fewer strokes.

Ihm had just the opposite problem. He said he needs to maintain an even-keel approach throughout all three rounds — something he wasn't able to do at the last meet.

"The first two rounds, I

was keeping my thoughts simple and was relatively calm," said Ihm, who posted two rounds of 2-over before finishing the final round 13-over. "You can overthink it sometimes. You have to have a happy medium."

The Tee Box

The Daily Iowan will break down every golf course on which the Hawkeyes will play this season. The *DI* spoke with Aaron Luttenegger, the operations manager of Spirit Hollow Golf Course on Thursday to see what course conditions will be like this weekend for the Golfweek Conference Challenge.

DI: How will the course play?

Luttenegger: We're going to play it at about 7,000-7,100 yards. This year, we haven't had much rain at all; the course is in great shape. We're going to get some roll, so the course is going to play a lot faster than last year. That will allow us to move those tees back a little bit.

DI: Are any of the holes particularly challenging?

Luttenegger: Some of the par-

3s, such as hole 15 will be a great shot. They're going to be playing that at about 215 yards over water into a green surrounded by bunkers.

DI: How will the greens be for the tournament?

Luttenegger: The greens will be good. We've had great weather the past seven to 10 days. We airfired them at the end of August. They'll be as good as

they can be.

DI: Are there any clubs players won't use?

Luttenegger: I don't think so. The good thing about our golf course is there are holes you definitely need the driver on and holes you definitely don't need the driver on. But it'll be a mix; you'll need some hybrids in the bag this week, I think, based on some of those tee shots.

FOOTBALL

CONTINUED FROM 12

TCU last weekend. The defending Rose Bowl champion Horned Frogs eventually took control of the game, but not before Monroe sent a very clear message to Ferentz and Company.

"If you look at their last ball game against TCU ... it was 21-17 before the half, [they] missed a field goal, could have pulled within one," he said. "Tough, hard-fought game on the road. All we have to do is look at that film [and] look at our

Iowa (2-1) vs. Louisiana-Monroe (1-2)

When: 11 a.m. Saturday
Where: Kinnick Stadium
Where to watch: Big Ten Network

film. It's pretty evident we got a lot of work to do this week."

It's not just the defense that needs to get off on the right foot, either.

Iowa's offense stalled for the better part of three quarters against Pitt, and Monroe's defense — like its offense — is "unique." The Warhawks play a 3-3-5 set, with three linemen, three

linebackers, and five defensive backs.

Senior wide receiver Marvin McNutt said he doesn't think the extra man in the backfield will change how he and fellow wideouts Keenan Davis and Kevonte Martin-Manley prepare, however.

"We prepare every week to think we have to make plays. That's key. We have to make plays, whether it's catching balls or blocking," he said. "If they have an extra guy in there and we have to dig him out, that's our job. If there's an extra guy, and we have to make the plays and catch the

ball, that's our job as well."

And having everyone do his job from the get-go will rectify Iowa's biggest problem from last week, McNutt said.

"There were three quarters of football in which we didn't play well, and that's a focus this week," he said.

"Let's not wait until the last few minutes to start playing well, let's start the game off the right way and execute the best way we can."

Men's tennis splits for 2 events

By RYAN MURPHY

The Iowa men's tennis team will compete in two different events this weekend, which means head coach Steve Houghton's top two players will get a national test while the longtime head coach gets a look at other players who haven't competed as often.



Houghton
head coach

The Hawkeyes will send representatives to both the Baylor-HEB Invitational in Waco, Texas, and the Drake Fall Invitational in Des Moines. Both events begin today and run through Sept. 25.

Seniors Marc Bruche and Will Vasos will wear the Black and Gold in Waco in a tournament, featuring

some of the best college tennis players in the country. Houghton said it's a crucial opportunity for Bruche and Vasos to face some of America's top talent.

"It's a great opportunity for them to play in a national-type tournament, and there will be some nationally ranked kids down there," the coach said.

Seven athletes — including Bruche at No. 101 — will enter Waco ranked among the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's pre-season top 125 singles players, led by No. 17 Costin Paval of Oklahoma. Additionally, two doubles teams in the tournament are nationally ranked — including the No. 41 pairing of Bruche and Vasos.

Vasos said he and Bruche look forward to the opportunity to test themselves against top competition, while building for the all-important spring season.

"It's really high-level tennis, and there are going to be a lot of good players," the Fort Collins, Colo., native said. "Every match we see will be a tough one."

Houghton said Bruche's and Vasos' performances in Waco will be a building block toward the NCAA championships in the spring season.

"This tournament gives them a chance to carve a path to NCAAs, because that all starts in September," the 31st-year head coach said. "They're both capable, in singles and doubles, of securing some good wins — but nothing will come easy."

While two of Iowa's seniors are playing in Texas, other members of the team will compete in Des Moines.

The Hawkeyes will send four players to Drake: senior Chris Speer, juniors Garret Dunn and Connor

Gilmore, and freshman Matt Hagan.

Hagan, who won five matches in his first tournament as a Hawkeye last weekend, said he is focused on building momentum from the Purdue Invitational.

"My serve and my forehand were really strong last weekend, so I'm just trying to keep rolling and keep playing well," he said.

Houghton said getting more experience for his players that haven't competed in many events as Hawkeyes is his top priority in Des Moines.

"We're still looking at guys that we just haven't seen play very much, like Hagan and Speer," Houghton said. "It also gives guys like Speer [who won five-straight matches last weekend] a chance to prove that last week wasn't a fluke."

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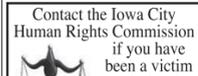
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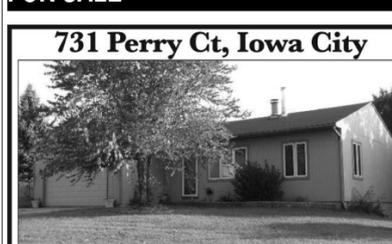
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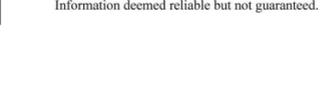


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Iowa wide receiver Keenan Davis scores a touchdown against Pittsburgh on Sept. 17 in Kinnick Stadium. Davis, who had 10 receptions for 129 yards in Iowa's 31-27 victory last week, will face an extra defensive back this week against Louisiana-Monroe. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

Soccer wants to exact revenge

The soccer players are confident heading into the weekend after tying Illinois on Sept. 18.

By **BEN WOLFSON**
benjamin-wolfson@uiowa.edu

The Iowa soccer team is off to its best start in school history (8-0-1) as it travels to Bloomington, Ind., to face the Hoosiers in its first conference road game.

The Hawkeyes will also play Purdue in West Lafayette, Ind., on Sept. 25.

The players say they are looking forward to tonight's matchup against the Hoosiers, especially because the Hawkeyes lost to Indiana, 3-2, in overtime last year in Iowa City.

"We're really excited to get into the Big Ten part of our season and show everyone what we can do, no matter if it's on the road," senior midfielder Sarah Langlas said. "The pressure [to do well against Indiana] comes from how our team played against them last year. We didn't get the result we wanted or play how we wanted to. People are thinking about that and using it as a reason to get excited to play."

The Hoosiers (4-4-1) are coming off two consecutive losses, to No. 12 Marquette and to Michigan.

"We know Indiana is going to be a super opponent," head coach Ron Rainey said. "Our team has played on the road this year, and we just have to have the mentality that Indiana is going to be defending its home turf. We have to play at an even higher level than we did against Illinois [last weekend] if we want to be successful."

The team has traveled this season and won all three games — against DePaul, George Washington, and American Universities. The Hawkeyes said they enjoy road trips because of all the extra time they have to bond with each other.

Big win long gone

The Hawkeyes have moved past last week's big win to prepare for a 'unique' team.

By **SETH ROBERTS**
seth-roberts@uiowa.edu

The Iowa football team's win over Pittsburgh last week was pretty memorable.

After all, the Hawkeyes mounted the biggest comeback in school history to shock a Panther team that had led by 17 points in the fourth quarter. The Big Ten Network even deemed Iowa's win the league's Game of the Week.

But by now, the Hawkeyes themselves say they don't remember anything.

"What we have is a 24-hour

rule," cornerback Shaun Prater said on Tuesday. "Win or loss, we have to move on to the next game and focus on our next opponent."

Prater admitted achieving that mentality is easier said than done, however.

"It's something you have to force yourself to do," he said. "You can't go back to the game. You can't take it back. Whatever happened, it happened."

So the monumental comeback, the lockdown on special teams, and Micah Hyde's game-ending interception — all those things that will live on in Hawkeye lore — simply

"happened." Lessons have been learned, and it's on to the next one.

That could turn out to be a good philosophy, because Iowa's next game is against a Louisiana-Monroe team head coach Kirk Ferentz said runs a playbook that's "unique."

"Offensively, it's like they have two separate offenses," Ferentz said on Tuesday. "They give you some unusual things that we're not used to seeing. It's going to eat up some practice time today, tomorrow, all week, to make sure we get everything covered ... If you don't have it cov-



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ered, you're looking at big plays. That puts a hole in your boat real quick."

Monroe's big plays allowed the Warhawks to pile up 189 yards and put 17 points on the scoreboard in the first quarter while visiting then-No. 23

SEE **FOOTBALL**, 10

SEE **SOCCER**, 10

Volleyball set for tough Big Ten

The Iowa volleyball team's Big Ten season starts this weekend, and the Hawkeyes feel prepared for the challenge.

By **MOLLY IRENE OLMSTEAD**
molly-olmstead@uiowa.edu

Big Ten volleyball is "really good," Iowa volleyball head coach Sharon Dingman said.

Iowa will see two of those "really" good teams this weekend; the Hawkeyes will open the Big Ten season against Ohio State at 7 p.m. today and Penn State at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Along with five other conference schools, the No. 24 Buckeyes and No. 5 Nittany Lions are sitting toward the top of NCAA volleyball.

Although the Hawkeyes finished their nonconference play with a 10-3 record (the Hawks finished nonconference only 5-4 in 2010), they're still going to see a drastic change in the level of competition this weekend, Dingman said.

But they're not nervous. "I've been here for three years now, so I really know to expect the change," senior captain Tiffany Nilges said. "The other people who haven't been here and haven't gone through it,

we're just trying to tell them that it's going to be a lot harder to continue to play well because these teams are at a higher level. But most of us know what to expect, so we're not scared."

Four of Iowa's six freshmen have been receiving significant playing time, including regular starters Alex Lovell at outside hitter and Kari Mueller at defensive specialist. Middle blockers Emily Yanny and Erin Leppke also had frequent minutes during the nonconference season.

The freshmen have never seen anything like Big Ten volleyball before, Dingman said. Thanks to the upperclassmen, though, the freshmen understand the drastic change in the level of competition they'll see this weekend.

"It's going to be a different type of team we'll compete against," Mueller said. "You won't really find a team that's just going to give you runs or hand you a few points — everyone's going to have go full-out."

Even though the Hawkeyes will see different types of teams this weekend — and for the rest of Big Ten season — they're not trying change their



Nilges
captain

SEE **VOLLEYBALL**, 10

Men's golf hopes to repeat

Iowa men's golfers will try to build team trust at their second tournament of the fall, starting Sept. 25 at the Golfweek Conference Challenge.

By **BEN SCHUFF**
benjamin-schuff@uiowa.edu

The Iowa men's golf team started slowly last fall when it placed sixth at the Gopher Invitational.

Then the Hawkeyes got hot and won their next four tournaments.

Eleven days ago, Iowa again placed sixth at the Gopher Invitational.

On Sept. 25, head coach Mark Hankins' squad will begin its effort to repeat as the winner of the Golfweek Conference Challenge in Burlington. The tournament begins Sept. 25, and the final round will be played on Sept. 27.

The 15-team field is packed with quality competition, including eight schools that finished inside Golfstat.com's top-50 rankings last year: Oklahoma State (No. 1), Georgia Tech (No. 3), Iowa (No. 9), Arkansas (No. 17), California (No. 18), Chattanooga (No. 36), North Texas (No. 44), and Kennesaw State (No. 45). New rankings for this fall season have yet to be released.

Hankins maintained his stance that this year's team is much different from last year's, and he said he hasn't talked much about the successes of last fall.

"Just looking at the field, I told the guys a top five out of 15 at this golf course is going to be a really good finish," he said. "It's a nationally ranked field; our main concern is that we manage ourselves."

Hankins said he thinks even-par will be a good score at Spirit Hollow golf course.

Such success hinges on getting quality rounds from all five golfers throughout the tournament.

At the first tournament in Min-



Iowa senior Chris Brant practices at Finkbine Golf Course on Sept. 7. Brant will lead the Hawkeyes' attempt to repeat as the champions of the Golfweek Conference Challenge this weekend in Burlington. (The Daily Iowan/Anthony Bauer)

nesota, seniors Chris Brant and Barrett Kelpin finished first and second individually. But lackluster play from Brad George and Ian Vandersee — and Steven Ihm in the final round — led to a sixth-place team finish.

Those same five golfers will head to Spirit Hollow today and have a practice round on Saturday.

Aside from posting low scores, Hankins and members of the team said building trust is only the second event of the fall will be key.

"This year, we've got some guys who have played, but we have some

new guys on the team, and we're still building trust," Hankins said. "These guys have to understand every shot counts."

Senior Brad George expressed a similar belief.

"[Last year], we were so experienced and knew what each others' games were like because we had been together for three years," George said. "This is kind of a new team, and we're still trying to figure out everyone's game and basically

SEE **GOLF**, 10