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50¢

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CORRECTION

In the Feb. 17 article "A rising number of UI students report depression," the DI incorrectly reported that 22 percent of UI students said they have some degree of suicidal thoughts, the number refers to the 22 percent of students seeking help at the University Counseling Service, not the general university population. The DI regrets the error.

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WEATHER

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Partly sunny, breezy, turning cloudy, 30% chance of rain late.

GOP presses for voter ID

Secretary of State Matt Schultz emphasized the importance of the voter-ID bill.

By **BETH BRATSOS**

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DES MOINES — College Republicans gave free cupcakes to lawmakers at the Capitol on Tuesday. All legislators had to do for the treat was present an ID.

"We're handing out cupcakes just to show how easy it is to show IDs," University of Iowa College Republicans President Kelsey Boehm said.

The display was meant to support legislation being pushed by Secretary of State Matt Schultz that would require voters to present a government- or school-issued IDs to vote. Under the legislation, voters wouldn't need IDs if a qualified adult vouches for their identity.

Schultz said Tuesday he is confident legislation will earn the Legislature's approval this year.

"This simple little ID is causing a lot of problems," Schultz told Iowa College Republicans as he held up his state driver's license. "If you have to show your ID for [other things], why not when you vote?"

Schultz, who proposed the bill in January, said the measures in the bill are important to reduce polling fraud and could poten-



Iowa Secretary of State Matt Schultz meets with UI College Republicans at the Capitol on Tuesday. (The Daily Iowan/Beth Bratsos)

tially increase voter turnout.

"It doesn't suppress the vote; it has increased the number of people voting in states that have it," he said.

Natalie Ginty, the chairwoman of the Iowa Federation of College Republicans, said she has also seen statistics supporting increased voter turnouts, noting Indiana especially but pointing out that many states that just passed the laws recently do not have statistics yet.

A poll released this week by a Republican consulting firm showed 76 percent of Iowa voters support Schultz's proposal, while only around 20 percent oppose it.

But Sen. Joe Bolkcom, D-Iowa City, said he thinks the bill will suppress voter turnout.

"They are trying to sell it under the idea that there's voter fraud in Iowa," he said. "As I understand it, there has only been one case [of it] in 25 years. Voter fraud is not a big thing in

Iowa."

Though Schultz said the bill does provide options for those less likely to have identification. Eligible voters who don't have a driver's license for any reason can obtain free voter cards. Elderly people will be allowed to show other forms, such as Medicaid or Medicare cards, and students will be allowed to use their student IDs, he said.

SEE VOTER ID, 3

Officials push for gas tax

Gas-tax increase could aid road-repair funding.

By **ELISE DILGER**

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Area officials say the legislative bills requiring an 8- to 10-cent fuel-tax hike is necessary to maintain upkeep and fuel efficiency on the road.

"Bad roads leads to less fuel efficiency and damage," said Johnson County Supervisor Janelle Rettig.

The state Senate bill, which the Transportation Committee voted on Feb. 15, would raise fuel taxes by 10 cents. A Department of Transportation study, which began in 2008, estimated the funds would be necessary to cover around \$200 million in statewide road repairs.

Last week, the House transportation subcommittee passed the measure that would increase the tax by 8 cents.

Rettig said the tax wouldn't affect only local drivers.

"We need a way for road users to pay for road repairs," she said. "The best way to do that is increase fuel taxes because people who are trav-



A driver pumps gas at the Kum & Go at Burlington and Madison Streets on Tuesday. An 8- to 10-cent increase on gas taxes is in the works in the Iowa Legislature. (The Daily Iowan/Chastity Dillard)

eling through the state are paying for these taxes, not just residents of Iowa."

Rettig broke down Johnson County road funding to a cost of \$1 million for every mile of road needing repairs. With 950 miles of roads in Johnson County, she said, local officials would eventually need \$950 million to cover cumulative repair costs.

The Iowa fuel tax was last changed in 1989, when gas averaged \$1.02 per gallon and had a 21-cent fuel tax. Though the average cost per gallon today has more than tripled, fuel taxes have decreased.

State motorist officials said they're hoping to see the tax

boost pass.

"Iowa has some of the worst bridges in the nation and several roads that are deteriorating quickly," said Brenda Neville, the president of the Iowa Motor Truck Association. "Roads are the lifeline of this state, and the trucking industry is supportive of a phased-in gas/fuel tax. We consider this to be more of a user fee than a gas tax, because everyone who is using our roads help pay for the roads through a gas tax."

Sen. Bob Dvorsky, D-Coralville, said the tax is a good economic move.

"That we have decent roads

SEE GAS TAX, 3

Council OKs traffic cameras

Iowa City police squad cars each have one security camera.

By **KRISTEN EAST**

kristen-east@uiowa.edu

Red-light cameras are likely coming to an intersection near you.

The Iowa City City Council passed an ordinance allowing development of red-light cameras throughout town on its final consideration Tuesday night.

In contrast to the first and second considerations of the ordinance, the only community members who addressed the council Tuesday were those who opposed the ordinance.

Mayor Matt Hayek and Councilors Rick Dobyms, Terry Dickens, and Susan Mims voted in favor of the ordinance.

Councilor Connie Champion maintained her position on the red-light cameras, voting "no" on all three considerations.

"There is a place for cameras," she said, acknowledging the red-light cameras in use in Cedar Rapids. "I'm not for them. There are other things that could be done. I don't like it, and I probably won't ever like it."

According to the *Des Moines Register*, results of an Iowa Poll conducted last week indicate that 50 percent of Iowans favor a ban on red-light cameras.

There are at present more than 200 cameras placed throughout the city monitoring

SEE RED-LIGHT CAMERAS, 3



PIZZA CAKE



Chad Clark of Blind Dog Pizza teaches a class about making pizza from scratch at the New Pioneer Co-op in Coralville on Tuesday evening. The Co-op offers a variety of different cooking classes available to the public on a regular basis. (The Daily Iowan/Jessica Payne)

METRO

Council OKs TIF

Iowa City City Councilors approved the first consideration of a tax-increment financing ordinance.

The TIF ordinance would establish Iowa City as a tax increment financing district.

According to the proposal, the ordinance would allow for taxes derived from taxable Urban Renewal Project Area property to be placed in a TIF fund. The TIF funds would be used for loans, rebates, grants, advances, indebtedness, or bonds for City Council-approved projects.

City councilors approved the first consideration on a 7-0 vote.

An ordinance requires three readings; councilors will vote on

the second consideration during its meeting on March 6.

— by Kristen East

Lawmaker wants to abolish Education Department, board

Sen. Brad Zaun, R-Urbandale, filed a bill Tuesday abolishing the Iowa Department of Education and the State Board of Education.

According to the draft, the responsibilities of the Department of Education would be switched to the Department of Human Services. The Board of Directors for state community colleges and the state Board of Regents would be given more authority in the bill, and it

removes certain restrictions established by the department.

The bill would modify how school systems throughout Iowa are funded and would move toward creating an education savings fund for Iowa students.

Though the bill is unlikely to pass the legislative deadline this Friday, Zaun told the *Des Moines Register* the bill is a statement about education issues.

— Alison Sullivan

Parking ban passes 2nd consideration

The Iowa City City Council approved the second consideration of an ordinance prohibiting parking adjacent to a curb extension.

The City Code currently prohibits parking within 15 feet of an intersection, but curb extensions often go beyond 15 feet.

City officials said the combination of a curb extension and double parking often leads to traffic and other safety concerns during nighttime hours, especially for taxi cabs.

City councilors approved the second consideration 7-0; they will vote on the third and final consideration during their next meeting, March 6.

— by Kristen East

District to make public report card

A monthly School District

report card will soon be available to the Iowa City community.

After the district received an infrastructure audit by the Synesi engineering company in January, the School Board requested a timeline of when certain items would be accomplished.

Superintendent Steve Murley and the district created a public document that indicates accomplishment of the previous year, as well as goals for the upcoming years.

Some of the previous accomplishments topics included in the informational piece were construction, facilities, technology, and district administration leadership and management.

The February report card will

be posted on the School District website at the end of the month as an insert of the district brochure. The district also plans to present the information monthly to the community.

Many board members said they believe the report card will be an easy way to communicate.

“I do think this is going to be a really easy way for everyone to see the progress being done every month,” said board President Marla Swesey.

District officials will provide an update each month to both the board and the community for the duration of the goals set in the report card.

— by Jordyn Reiland

Council eyes ‘student apts.’

City councilors have said students tend to live in four- or five-person apartments.

By KRISTEN EAST
kristeniocleat@gmail.com

City councilors got an earful about a proposal targeting student housing near downtown Iowa City on Tuesday night.

The proposal calls for changing the definition of “household” as it currently applies in the City Code. Approval of the item would reduce the number of unrelated persons who may

reside in one housing unit to a maximum of three in the University Impact Area.

Locals at Tuesday night’s City Council meeting debated whether the council should open the measure up for public input or refer it to the Planning and Zoning Committee for advice.

After nearly 90 minutes of varied public comments, the council approved a public hearing on the item by a 4-3 vote. Councilors Connie Champion, Susan Mims, and Jim Throgmorton, and Mayor Matt Hayek voted in favor. The hearing will take place at the March 6 meeting.

Many community members feared the City Council

didn’t know enough about housing change and thought councilors would benefit from having the Planning and Zoning Commission’s consideration.

Glenn Siders, the vice president of SouthGate Development Services, urged councilors to go about their regular process and postpone the public hearing until later.

Casey Cook, a local resident, also thought the council should refer to the Planning and Zoning Commission first.

“I encourage you to do some analysis on the true cost of our options,” he said. “I encourage you to refer these questions to the public process, and engage the planning and zoning com-

mission.”

Hayek disagreed, saying he was comfortable with holding a public hearing on the item.

“Doing it this way is not unprecedented,” he said. “We don’t have projects as significantly or immediately affected by 7b as we do under [other current zoning issues.] The concerns about fairness are distinguishable.”

Mims said she favored a public hearing, and that the council should act quickly on this issue.

“I think the overbuilding of these four- and five-bedroom units has been allowed to happen by previous councils for so long that it really warrants getting on this as quickly as we can,” she said.

Officials eye online evaluations

Roughly 35 percent of evaluations contain items developed by UISG.

By ANNA THEODOSIS
anna-theodosis@uiowa.edu

University of Iowa students may one day take course evaluations online.

UI Student Government officials said having students take the evaluations online would be more beneficial in collecting student feedback data, which could later be published. UISG and university officials have been working together for the past decade to take the evaluations online.

“We want students to have the most information

possible,” said Kevin Paulsen, the executive associate to the UISG president.

The eventual goal of UI Evaluation and Examination Services officials is to make the Assessing the Classroom Environment form available online for students to fill out. But the results of the evaluations will not be made available to students.

At a UISG academic affairs meeting Tuesday, officials discussed making the Assessing the Classroom Environment the university’s only evaluation. This, officials said, would make results more accurate.

Paulsen said UISG officials want to publish the data from only the student core items online in order to provide students with the opinions of their peers for those interested in taking the course later on.

These student core items — which roughly 35 percent of the evaluations contain — are developed by UISG officials.

These statements include ratings on whether “Exams in this course were fair” and “This course requires an appropriate amount of work for the credit earned.”

Some senators said the statements are not sufficient enough for the evaluation.

“Right now, [the statements are] too general,” said UISG Sen. Nick Rolston. “I would rather target questions such as ‘Was the instructor passionate in teaching this course?’”

“It’s been very hard to compile [the items] in a way that will be helpful to students,” Paulsen said. “If we can find a way to ask different statements, that’s great. And that’s something UISG can do.”

But some senators are concerned allowing students to take evaluations online will decrease participation.

“If it’s not tied to any incentive, you would think that participation would go down,” said UISG Sen. Kyle Oskvig. “That’s a downside [of going online].”

He said collecting data and publishing the results would be more effective, however, if students took the evaluation online.

Paulsen said officials have discussed making the evaluation mandatory to maintain participation. Oskvig suggested participating in the evaluation would be included in a student’s grade.

According to the Evaluation and Examination Services website, professors and instructors have the option whether to use the evaluations. Those who do can choose what statements will appear.

The Daily Iowan

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VOTER ID

CONTINUED FROM 1

The UI Student Government recently passed a resolution opposing the bill.

"It could potentially cost the university millions of dollars if it suggests that university IDs are only

valid if they have an expiration date," UISG President Elliot Higgins said before the vote. "That cost could trickle down to students."

If the bill passes, Schultz said schools will be given two years to get expiration dates on them. He also said he'd work with Iowa colleges to come up with an affordable plan for providing the new IDs.

Some legislators fear the bill would target the elderly, poor, or others who lack identification.

"We ought to be doing things that help people to vote, not make it harder," Bolkcom said.

He said he thinks the bill is discriminatory.

The bill introduced in January is slightly different from the one passed by

House Republicans last year, which was never passed by the Senate. Schultz said his bill has been assigned a committee, and now he can only continue urging legislators to pass it.

"I'm willing to make changes and work [the bill] out with Democrats," he said. "But now it's up to the House or Senate to pass it."

GAS TAX

CONTINUED FROM 1

in Iowa to move forward," he said.

He said the 5-cent increase in 2013 and the additional 5 cents in 2014

would save drivers money allowing them to pass through Iowa quickly.

Some locals, however, were less enthusiastic.

"I'm kind of disappointed because gas prices in Illinois — where I am from — are higher than Iowa," UI freshman Allison Verheyen said. "So I typically fill up in Iowa before I go home."

UI senior Kevin Niehoff said he agreed.

"I really do not like to hear that the tax on fuel is going up," he said. "Because it is hard to pay for gas while paying for college."

Yet Sen. Robert Bacon, R-Maxwell, said he didn't believe the bill would pass the Senate because he hadn't yet seen it on the agenda.

Fuel Tax

Recent and predicted Iowa fuel taxes include:

- 2014: 31 cents per gallon
- 2013: 26 cents per gallon
- 2012: 21 cents per gallon
- 1989: 21 cents per gallon

Source: gasprices.com

RED-LIGHT CAMERAS

CONTINUED FROM 1

activity, including eight cameras on the Pedestrian Mall purchased and installed by the Iowa City Downtown Association in June 2010.

Iowa City police Sgt. Denise Brotherton said the department doesn't routinely monitor the cameras, but the police do refer to them if there is an investigation.

"We definitely support the cameras, and we do refer to them if there is an investigation downtown that we see they can assist in," she said. "But if there's

Smile, you're on camera

There are more than 200 cameras installed throughout the city to monitor activity.

- Transit Division: 162 cameras
- Police Department: 1 camera per squad car
- Parks and Recreation: 28 cameras
- Library: 26 cameras
- Ped Mall: 8 private cameras

Source: Iowa City Police Chief Sam Hargadine

a fight downtown, it'll happen in front of the officers. [Officers] probably won't go back and get that from the cameras.

Brotherton said though there has been a noticeable decrease in violence and crime-related activities since cameras were

installed, there are other factors that should be taken into consideration.

"It's not necessarily because of the cameras," she said. "[The cameras] help, and we support them, but the 21-ordinance and some other factors, such as the additional presence of campus police, has also helped."

The Iowa City Transit system also uses cameras to monitor for incidents or misbehavior.

Chris O'Brien, the city's director of transportation services, said there are six cameras on each of the city's 27 buses. He said cameras are in place to review accidents and evaluate complaints.

"[The cameras] allow us to go back and determine what truly happens when an incident occurs," he said.

The most recently purchased bus video surveil-

lance system cost \$8,782, O'Brien said. The Federal Transit Administration paid for 83 percent of the funds, leaving Iowa City officials responsible for slightly less than \$1,500 of the initial cost.

Hayek said the approval of the ordinance gives the City Council the authority to issue a request for proposals, negotiate contracts, and determine the 10 cameras' prices. That process, he said, will likely take a few months.

Iowa City transportation planner John Yapp said it's difficult to estimate the funds needed for the red-light cameras without having a contract.

"When we get to the point of actually doing installation, we should check the data and recommend intersections that have the most red-light issues," he said.

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Editorial

Time to consider getting rid of emergency phones



An emergency phone is shown behind Hillcrest in 2010. Emergency phones are located in 22 areas around campus. (The Daily Iowan/File Photo)

Blue emergency phones may appear to be an effective way to prevent and report crimes on college campuses, but other schools have found they prove to be costly, obsolete, and abused by the public.

Running a college campus is a costly affair, which is why we shouldn't risk wasting any precious resources without weighing the cost benefit both carefully and critically. "Code Blue" emergency phones on the University of Iowa campus may appear to be worth any expense for the comfort and safety of people, but their usefulness ought to be evaluated. Educational institutions across the country are beginning to realize how antiquated these systems have become and are beginning to phase them out.

The UI should analyze these numbers, learn from them, and possibly get rid of the costly devices, putting the money devoted toward more security and more efficient protocol.

At the University of Vermont (which is about half the size of the UI) these emergency phones cost \$400,000 to install and require \$75,000 to maintain annually.

These emergency phones are rarely used, and when they are used, they are abused more often than not. New Mexico State University made the logical decision to eliminate its emergency-phone system after years of misuse.

"Unfortunately, the blue-light phones do not contribute to safety" said Stephen Lopez, the deputy chief of the New Mexico State police. "We receive thousands of calls on the blue-light phones every year, and virtually all of them are either crank calls or someone who accidentally hit the activation button, which immediately calls 911. This is a considerable waste of time and resources."

Another school, the Contra Costa Community College District in California (with more than 60,000 students on its campuses daily) decided to rid its campus of the emergency phones because the police had never received a "verified, real emergency call." The rarity of the legitimate use of the emergency phones makes the substantial cost of them a waste.

On this campus, UI police officers are required to report to the scene — a waste of time, energy, and resources if the call turns out to be illegitimate.

There are arguments to be made for the retention

of these emergency systems. Many schools purchase these emergency phones with the knowledge that prospective students and their parents will keep an eye out for them during campus tours. The knowledge that these emergency phones are on campus put these empty-nesters' minds' at ease.

Under the assumption that more blue lights are indicative of better campus safety, these tuition-paying parents feel more comfortable sending their student to an institution with an ample number of blue emergency phones. Another justification for the purchasing of these phone systems is as a preventative measure for potential legal complaints that may hold the school liable in the case that an emergency happens in which a blue light could have changed the outcome.

While neither of these reasons involve the safety of college students, both arguments, like the systems themselves, fall out of relevancy by the day.

Use of blue emergency phones is so scarce perhaps because modern cell-phone use has rendered them virtually obsolete. Most emergency-phone systems were implemented in the '80s or '90s, when hardly anybody had mobile devices. Emergency phones are no longer useful on a college campus where nearly everybody carries a mobile device. With instant, mobile communication becoming easier by the day, there is no evidence that emergency phones will once again be relevant in the future.

The money being drained into the obsolete emergency phones should instead be channeled toward tighter security in the heart of campus, such as security personnel and more efficient protocol for timely responses.

Not every college campus is the same, but the ineffectiveness of these systems seem to be uniform no matter the campus, no matter the region. If officials here can't prove the effectiveness of the system, it should be removed from campus, and the money set aside for these phones should be spent on tighter security specified for our unique university.

Your turn. Are emergency phones obsolete?
Weigh in at dailyiowan.com.

Harkin: Dems' health-care reform saves money

The Affordable Care Act set a goal for our nation: Give all Americans access to quality, affordable health care. According to new data, that goal is becoming a reality.

In addition to new access to health services, over the past year, millions of Americans, including thousands of Iowans, saved money because of how the act begins to close the Medicare Part D "doughnut hole." According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, more than 42,000 Iowa residents with Medicare saved some \$25 million on their prescription drugs in 2011, an average of \$616 per person.

In its first full year, the Affordable Care Act provided a 50 percent discount on brand-name prescription drugs purchased in the "doughnut hole" and, this coming

year, an additional 14 percent discount will apply for generic drugs. With increasing coverage and discounts, by 2020 the doughnut hole will be closed completely.

In addition to the Medicare prescription-drug savings, the Affordable Care Act also provides for free preventive services such as mammograms and immunizations.

In short, the cost savings and the preventive care now available to Iowans on Medicare means better health coverage and a healthier Iowa.

For more information about the Affordable Care Act and the cost savings for Iowans, please visit my website at www.harkin.senate.gov, or feel free to call any of my offices in Iowa or Washington, D.C.

Tom Harkin, a Democrat, is Iowa's junior U.S. senator.

Grassley addresses religious questions

Q: What's behind growing support in Congress for the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act?

A: Lawmakers are responding to a decision by the Obama administration to disregard the freedom of conscience supported by the First Amendment. In issuing a federal rule to implement the 2010 health-care law, the administration said religious-affiliated organizations must cover certain preventive services free of charge, including contraception and sterilization procedures, or be subject to substantial monetary penalties. Public alarm about the January announcement forced the administration to modify its plan. In practical terms, the affront to religious freedom remains even in the scaled-back rule. The issue is whether religious-affiliated institutions will be able to practice their faith without government intrusion.

Q: How would the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act change things?

A: The legislation would amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,

the 2010 health-care law, to protect rights of conscience with regard to requirements for coverage of specific products and services. It reaffirms the conviction articulated by Thomas Jefferson in 1809, when he told New London Methodists that "[n]o provision in our Constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprises of the civil authority." The principle is part of our nation's tradition and has been codified in state and federal laws, including previous health-care laws. Support remains strong today, with 202 members of the House of Representatives and 38 senators having sponsored and cosponsored the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act. The president's attempt to ignore the freedom of religion guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, which he tried to remedy only as an afterthought and under pressure, is unconstitutional and unconscionable.

Chuck Grassley, a Republican, is Iowa's senior U.S. senator.

Guest opinion

Sally Mae: We understand and are here to help

Your story "Locals applaud student-loan changes" (*DI*, Feb. 7) omits important information about private education loans.

Sallie Mae advises families to use a "1-2-3 approach" to paying for college: First, use grants and scholarships; second, explore federal loans; and, third, fill the gap with responsible private

loans. Sallie Mae offers among the lowest rates in the country and repayment options to help customers save money and pay off faster than other private loans.

The vast majority of education-loan customers successfully manage their payments. We recognize that a job search today may take

longer than it used to, and we work with private-loan customers to help them navigate difficult financial circumstances and preserve their credit-standing.

We offer alternative repayment options scaled to the customer's ability to make more manageable payments during periods of demonstrated financial

hardship. These options include reduced monthly payments, extended schedules, and temporary interest-rate reductions. Each is fee free and does not negatively affect a customer's credit-record.

When a customer requests "forbearance" — the ability to temporarily stop making payments alto-

gether without a delinquency reflected on her or his credit record — we require a fee as a good-faith payment. The fee was put in place in 2004 to encourage customers to seek less costly options first, and it is now refundable after a customer resumes on-time payments.

The fact remains those with college degrees earn

more and have higher employment rates than those without. Sallie Mae is proud to have helped 31 million Americans save, plan, and pay for college, including many successful University of Iowa alumni.

Patricia Nash Christel is the vice president of corporate communications for Sallie Mae.

Legislators eye per diem reform

By LYNN CAMPBELL
IowaPolitics.com

DES MOINES — The days of Iowa lawmakers using their daily allowances to inflate their pensions could come to an end.

Under House Study Bill 645, the “per diem” or expense allowance to lawmakers — which ranges from \$100 to \$134 per day and averages more than \$10,000 a year on top of their salaries — would not be included when calculating their pension benefits under the Iowa Public Employees’ Retirement System.

“I think it’s the fair and right thing to do,” said Rep. Peter Cownie, R-West Des Moines, the bill’s floor manager. “Per diem, it just doesn’t really pass the sniff test to go towards IPERS for a legislator.”

Iowa is one of 13 states that allow per diem payments to be counted toward pension benefits in some form, according to an analysis by *USA Today* and the *Des Moines Register*. Lawmakers collected more than \$2.5 million in per diem payments from 2006 to 2010, the *Register* said.

Cownie, who was elected in November 2008 and is serving his second term, told IowaPolitics.com that he was aware that his per diem is being calculated into his pension benefits. As a Polk County legislator, Cownie collects \$100.50 per day in per diem, which amounts to between \$10,050 to \$11,055 during a 100- to 110-day legislative session.

“We get briefed when you first get elected, in terms of all of those sorts of things,” said Cownie, who’s president of Junior Achievement of Central Iowa, which educates youth about the value of free enterprise, business, and economics.

John Gilliland, a senior vice president for government relations for the Iowa Association of Business and Industry, praised lawmakers for attempting to apply the same rules to themselves as they do to everyone else.

“As far as calculating IPERS and what retired lawmakers’ IPERS benefits would be, I don’t think it’s right that your per diem expenses are included in that calculation,” said Gilliland, whose association is the state’s largest business trade group representing 1,400 Iowa busi-

nesses that employ more than 300,000 Iowans.

Officials with State Budget Solutions, a national nonprofit advocating for reform of state budgets, also welcomed the legislation.

“Not only does it artificially inflate pensions of lawmakers, but you can bet the farm that actuaries never included per diems in calculations of how much needed to be invested to pay the pensions,” said State Budget Solutions Editor Frank Keegan. “So, the impact on taxpayers of the real cost of the extra amount legislators get actually is compounded.”

Management of IPERS affects Iowa taxpayers, who pay the employers’ share of the pension fund for public employees.

Ramona Robson, 75, of Guthrie Center, who retired five years ago from the Guthrie County Hospital’s dietary department, receives IPERS checks based on her previous earnings. She said she’s happy with the program and isn’t bothered by per diems boosting lawmakers’ pensions, because she, too, has benefited from IPERS perks. She’s received a bonus check each year that she can’t really explain.

“We get something extra, too, that wasn’t planned, wasn’t in the retirement package,” Robson said. “It’s an investment of some kind, divided out among those who have worked and retired. We get that check at the end of January, although we don’t know how long that’s going to last. Not everybody gets that.”

Robson said she thinks IPERS is “pretty well managed,” although she recalled that the program had some poor management at one time. IPERS’ \$339 million investment in Westridge Capital Management of California was frozen in 2009, after Westridge owners were charged with securities fraud. The state later recovered \$250 million, which state officials said represented 85 percent of the state’s remaining principal investment.

“I’m happy with it; I hope it doesn’t go down. They keep reassuring us that it won’t,” Robson said. “We do very well on our IPERS. I never made lots of bucks because I wasn’t in the area that did. But I made enough that I am happy with what I retired with.”

Santorum questions Obama’s religion



Rick Santorum and daughter Elizabeth visit the Hamburg Inn in November 2011. (The Daily Iowan/Jacklyn Couppee)

By CHARLES BABINGTON
Associated Press

PHOENIX — A surging Rick Santorum is making increasingly harsh remarks about President Obama, questioning not just the president’s competence but his motives and even his Christian values.

Mitt Romney also is sharpening his anti-Obama rhetoric. He said Tuesday the president governs with “a secular agenda” that hurts religious freedom. In general, however, the former Massachusetts governor has not seriously challenged Obama’s motives, often saying the president is decent but inept.

But Santorum and Newt Gingrich have heightened their claims that Obama’s intentions are not always benign, ahead of today’s televised GOP presidential debate and next week’s

primaries in Michigan and Arizona.

Santorum, the former Pennsylvania senator who suddenly is threatening Romney in his native state of Michigan, says Obama cares only about power not the “interests of people.” He says “Obamacare,” the health-care overhaul Obama pushed through Congress, includes a “hidden message” about the president’s disregard for impaired fetuses, which might be aborted.

Santorum even seemed to compare Obama to Adolf Hitler, although he

denies trying to do so.

Santorum’s remarks have gotten only scattered attention because he weaves them into long, sometimes rambling speeches. Romney’s team is monitoring Santorum’s comments, privately suggesting they could hurt him in a general election.

But it’s difficult for Romney to openly criticize Santorum on these points because Romney already has trouble appealing to the party’s socially conservative base. Santorum’s remarks could come up in Wednesday’s debate in

Mesa, Ariz., sponsored by CNN.

Gingrich, campaigning Monday in Oklahoma, called Obama “the most dangerous president in modern American history.” Gingrich said the administration’s “willful dishonesty” about alleged terrorists’ motives threatens the country.

Gingrich has long been known for over-the-top rhetoric, and Santorum’s rapid rise in the polls has drawn much of the campaign’s focus away from the former House speaker.

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An aggressive, talented individual is sought as editor of *The Daily Iowan*, Iowa City’s largest news organization, with an editorial staff of more than 100 young professionals, an editorial budget exceeding \$300,000 and readership of over 60,000. The board of Student Publications, Incorporated and the publisher of *The Daily Iowan* will soon interview candidates for the position of editor for the term beginning June 1, 2012 and ending May 31, 2013.

The editor of *The Daily Iowan* must have strong journalistic abilities, skills in management and a clear sense of editorial responsibility. The board will weigh heavily scholarship, previous news writing and editing experience (including working at *The Daily Iowan* or another daily newspaper), and proven ability to lead, organize and inspire a staff.

Applicants must be enrolled in a UI undergraduate or graduate degree program. Candidates must submit completed applications and supporting materials by noon, Friday, February 24, 2012.

Susan Elgin
Chair

William Casey
Publisher

Application forms are available at and should be returned to:
The Daily Iowan business office, Room E131, AJB.

The Daily Iowan

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the ledge

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



More Movie thoughts:

- Ray Liotta laughs like a creature who's heard laughter before but doesn't quite understand how or when to use it.
- I can't wait to go see *The Hunger Games* and get the extra large popcorn.
- I wonder if Jack White and Jack Black bumped into each other at a screening of *The Grey*?
- I don't care if you use your cell phone in the theater, if you don't care that I take a picture of your colon with it. Your shoe will follow if you don't stop kicking my seat.
- Quit complaining that your favorite director wasn't nominated even though the movie was nominated for Best Picture. There are nine Best Picture nominations and room for five Best Directors. Do the math.
- Why am I recycling the 3D glasses? Can't I just bring them back to pay regular price at the next 3D movie?
- What's with rerunning movies in 3D anyway? To me, *Titanic 3D* spells "Tragedy! In 3D!" (*Star Wars: Episode I 3D* spells the same thing, though for entirely different reasons ...)
- I'm all for movies in 4D, though; I want to be done with the movie before I even get there.
- *The Descendants of Hugo The Artist* (a.k.a. the *War Horse*) got *The Help* they needed by winning an *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* game of *Moneyball* by *The Tree of Life* sometime around *Midnight in Paris*. (No — I don't know what I just said, either.)
- **Brian Tanner** thinks *50/50* has a better than average chance at winning all the Oscars it's been nominated for.

The Daily Iowan
www.dailyiowan.com

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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

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SOLUTION TO TUESDAY'S PUZZLE

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

CHECK OUT dailyiowan.com FOR MORE PUZZLES

HUNGRY?

Check out The Daily Iowan Dining Guide only at dailyiowan.com



today's events

SUBMIT AN EVENT
Want to see your super special event appear here? Simply submit the details at: dailyiowan.com/pages/calendarsubmit.html

- **Keep Current, Hardin Open Workshop**, 10 a.m., Hardin Library
- **Blood Drive**, 10:30 a.m., Mercy Iowa City, 500 E. Market
- **Spring Job and Internship Fair**, 11 a.m., IMU Main Lounge
- **Anatomy/Cell Biology Seminar, "Comparative Processing and Function of Human and Ferret CFTR," John Fisher**, 1 p.m., 1-561 Bowen
- **Wednesday Documentary Film Series, Sweetgrass**, 1:30 p.m., Uptown Bill's, 730 S.

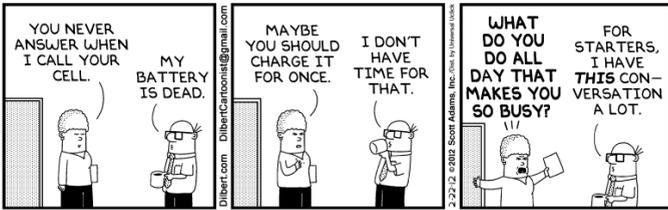
- Dubuque
- **Discover Languages ... Discover the World, International Programs**, 5 p.m., 1117 University Capitol Centre
- **"Live from Prairie Lights," John D'Agata, nonfiction**, 7 p.m., Prairie Lights, 15 S. Dubuque
- **Oscar-Nominated Animated Shorts**, 7 & 9 p.m., Bijou
- **Spoken Word Open Mike**, 7 p.m., Uptown Bill's
- **Roster McCabe**, 9 p.m., Gabe's, 330 E. Washington
- **Jam Session, Iowa City Yacht Club**, 13 S. Linn

UITV schedule

Campus channel 4, cable channel 17

- Noon** Author Elizabeth Berg speaks at Book Festival 2011 on July 16, 2011
- 1 p.m.** Authors Heather Gudenkauf and Bonnie Jo Campbell speak at Book Festival 2011 on July 16, 2011
- 2** Authors Camille T. Dungy and Shane McCrae speak at Book Festival 2011 on July 16, 2011
- 3** Author Stephanie Kallos speaks at Book Festival 2011 on July 16, 2011
- 4** Author Elizabeth Berg speaks at Book Festival 2011 on July 16, 2011
- 5** Authors Heather Gudenkauf and Bonnie Jo Campbell speak at Book Festival 2011 on July 16, 2011
- 6** Book Festival 2010, Jane Smiley, July 2010
- 7** Authors Camille T. Dungy and Shane McCrae speak at Book Festival 2011 on July 16, 2011
- 8** Author Stephanie Kallos speaks at Book Festival 2011 on July 16, 2011
- 9** Souk Ukaz, *Writing In and Beyond the City*, International Writing Program, 2009 film
- 9:30** Daily Iowan Television News
- 9:45** Book Festival 2010, Audrey Nittenegger, July 2010
- 10:30** Daily Iowan Television News
- 10:45** Author Elizabeth Berg speaks at Book Festival 2011 on July 16, 2011
- 11:45** Java Blend Encore, music videos from the Java House

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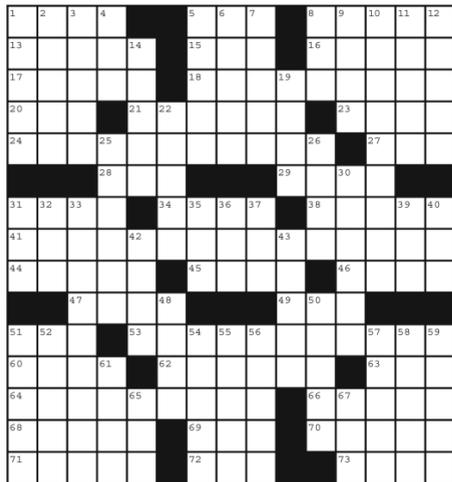
OBJECTS OF ART



The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0118

- Across**
- Places for flocks
 - Some sporty cars
 - Sandbox retort
 - Pizza topping
 - Wide shoe spec
 - Like a perfect game, of a sort
 - Nabisco wafer
 - Monopolist's clothing accessory?
 - Teen idol Efron
 - Like a poor attendance
 - Crewman on the Jolly Roger
 - Designers for Microsoft Windows?
 - Blow it
 - "Do Ya" rock grp.
 - Blow it
 - Refs. for Web site newbies
 - Brewer's equipment
 - Oil well firefighter Red
 - What Martian invaders may be intent on?
 - Martian, e.g.
 - Viral phenomenon on the Web
 - Assemble-it-yourself chain
 - Sleepaway, e.g.
 - Young 'un
 - Really get to
 - What the backer of a failing business may do?
 - License prerequisite, often
 - "Take your time!"
 - chi
 - Trunk item ... or what has been put on 18-, 24-, 41- and 53-Across?
- Down**
- Schemer called to mind by the Madoff swindle
 - Univac I predecessor
 - Word after "roger," to a radioer
 - G, in the key of C
 - Insinuate
 - Country singer Clark
 - Dr. for kids
 - Tiny colonist
 - Pitchfork-wielding groups
 - Disney development
 - Gretzky, for many years
 - Bewhiskered frolicker
 - Like some French vowels
 - Where props are seen
 - Bit of math homework
 - Lipton competitor
 - Beanery side dish
 - Emphatic assent
 - Monk's title
 - WWW giant
 - Moves first
 - King who had the Labyrinth built
 - Trail the pack
 - "Love Train" singers, with "the"
 - Become, eventually
 - That, in Toledo
 - Cause to roll in the aisles
 - Hawks
 - Huff and puff
 - It may elicit a blessing
 - Words after a knock
 - Adjust, as a corsage
 - Upholstery fabric
 - Polonius's hiding place
 - "Hasta ___"
 - Item at a 95% markdown, say
 - Country singer Tucker
 - He-man's opposite
 - Drop ___ (moon)
 - Eerie gift
 - Sleepover attire, for short



Puzzle by Chris Handman

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. AT&T users: Text NYTX to 386 to download puzzles, or visit nytimes.com/mobilexword for more information. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/wordplay. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

ON THE STREET

Do you think the rec center is worth the cost?



"Honestly, I don't use the rec center." **Christine Salamone** UI sophomore



"I think so; I use it a fair amount." **David Kyin** UI freshman



"Yeah, I go there a lot. I usually run on the track. The atmosphere really motivates me to be there." **Keely Halper** UI junior



"I don't really use the rec center regularly, but I think it's a good option for people to have a place to stay in shape and get in shape. So I don't really mind paying the extra cost." **Sean Harrity** UI junior

The Daily Iowan

For home delivery, phone 335-5783

Wage bill splits Iowans

By **BRYCE VISSER**
bajvisser@gmail.com

An Iowa Senate bill raising minimum wage by \$2.25 over the next year has some Republican legislators and business owners concerned about future employment prospects — including those for students.

The bill would see Iowa's minimum wage increase this summer from its current rate of \$7.25 per hour to \$8.75 per hour and further to \$10 by 2013.

"This is basically a 'message bill,'" said Sen. Bob Dvorsky, D-Coralville, who noted that he doesn't believe the bill will pass in the Republican-controlled House. "We're just trying to get the message out that it does cost about \$10 an hour to live anywhere in Iowa in a sustainable fashion."

However, Tom Lench, owner of the Library, 113 E. College St., noted raising the minimum wage might put a crunch on small-business owners.

"I estimate I'm going to have to increase my payroll by about \$200 a day," he said. "It's going to make me look for more qualified candidates, employees who are worth \$10 an hour."

Lench said he might have to reduce hours for his employees to make up for increased minimum wages.

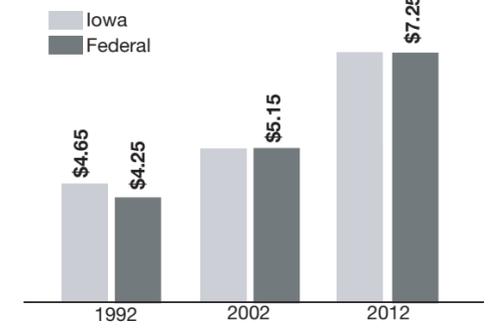
"I'll still have to employ the same number of workers, but I might have to become creative with my scheduling, like starting my employees at 11 [a.m.] instead of 10 [a.m.]," he said.

Sen. Sandy Greiner, R-Keota, noted many employers in her district said they would hire more experienced personnel — and therefore fewer students — to ensure they're getting their money's worth for the increased wages.

"If this goes through, they

Minimum Wage Increase Proposed

If passed, the new Iowa Senate bill would raise the state's minimum wage to \$10 per hour by 2013. The last increase occurred in 2008.



Source: United States Department of Labor

Graphic by Allie Wright

don't feel they can hire as many young people and pay them \$10 an hour when they're training," she said.

Greiner, who represents some of Johnson County southwest of Iowa City and Coralville, noted the large number of students in her district who might not be able to find a job if employers cut down on new hires.

"I know how devastating it would be for high-school students who cannot find an after-school job or youth who can't find work over the summer," she said. "Without jobs, they might have to re-evaluate their education prospects."

Dvorsky noted this would be the first increase of the state's minimum wage since 2008, when the wage was raised from \$5.15 an hour to its current rate.

"Back then, companies all over the state were protesting the minimum wage hike and threatening to move out," said Danny Homan, the president of the American Federation of State, Municipal, and County Employees Iowa

Council 61. "It turns out none of them left."

Homan said "a disturbing number of Iowans have to work numerous jobs just to make ends meet."

"Why do the companies believe students can be paid a substandard rate for their work?" Homan asked. "It's deplorable that they're more interested in their bottom line than in paying what their employees are due."

John Solow, a UI associate professor of economics, noted Greiner's concerns were valid and historically, raising the minimum wage has made firms more cautious about hiring on new employees in the minimum-wage bracket.

Yet if minimum wages had to be raised, he said, now would be ideal.

"We're coming out of a recession, and businesses are beginning to expand and hire new employees," he said. "We're seeing unemployment rates dropping, and while they're not where we'd like them to be, we're in a far better condition to raise minimum wages than we were a year ago."

District reestablishes safety committee

The district's Safety Advisory Committee will be set at the end of the week.

By **JORDYN REILAND**
jordynreiland@uiowa.edu

Iowa City schools will soon see a new safety committee.

During Tuesday's School Board meeting, the members finalized a Safety Advisory Committee whose responsibilities will include reviewing district emergency plans, student security efforts, and working with agencies such as Johnson County Public Health and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Diane Duncan-Goldsmith, who served on the district's past safety committee, said the new committee could deal with safety issues outlined in the district's 2011 Synesi infrastructure audit. None of the School Board members who have served for more than a year knew when the previous safety committee was disbanded.

The audit noted district physical-plant members often lacked management experience for engineering and construction projects and needed "an inclusive, functioning, and aggressive safety committee."

"[The past safety committee] was very effective," Duncan-Goldsmith said. "It's a good way to

School District Advisory Safety Committee

The Iowa City School District recently formed a safety committee following the Synesi report. Some of the goals include:

- Reviewing safety procedures
- Establishing and promoting safety and security training programs
- Reviewing emergency plans

Source: Iowa City School District

start the dialogue and look at the issues identified and see what issues in the [Synesi] report are or could be safety related."

District officials said they previously operated several informal safety committees for a number of years but decided to formally create one again following the Synesi audit.

David McKenzie, the assistant director of the district's physical plant and current safety committee member, said he is interested to see what goals the new committee members have.

"I think safety committees are important to show that both management and labor are interested in the safety of the employees," he said. "It depends how the committee is organized and what its mission is and how it's run, [but] I am looking forward to what we can do."

The committee will con-

sist of various faculty and staff who were nominated to work with Superintendent Steve Murley on developing safety policies, procedures, and manuals. Confirmed committee members include Duncan-Goldsmith, Director of Health and Student Services Susie Poulton, and Special Education Director Rozy Warden.

A full list of committee members is expected to be completed by the end of the week.

Other Johnson County school districts, including the Solon School District and Clear Creek/Amana School District, either have a committee or are looking to create a safety advisory committee this year.

Lori Robertson, the director of finance and board secretary for Clear Creek/Amana, said the district is in the process of forming a safety committee.

"It's something [the district] has wanted to do for a long time, and it is in the very beginning stages," she said.

Clear Creek/Amana has compiled information from other districts that have committees, she said.

Iowa City School Board member Sarah Swisher said the new committee would coincide with the district's management goals.

"Safety is the top priority of the district," she said.

NATION

Health co-ops receive federal loans

HELENA, Mont. — Health-care cooperatives that are being launched in eight states, including Iowa, announced Tuesday they will receive a total of \$638 million in loans from the Obama administration under the federal health-insurance law.

The administration said the new nonprofit health insurers will be run by their customers and will be designed to offer coverage to individuals and small businesses. Supporters say the co-ops will keep pressure on private insurance companies for both price and coverage.

Critics, led by House Republicans who voted last year to repeal the health-care law, immediately questioned the administration's decision. The House Ways and Means Committee called the loans a political reward to a friendly constituency.

Republicans noted that the recipient that received the largest loan — more than \$340 million — was going to a group connected to the Freelancers Union, a nonprofit that serves independent contractors that are a growing segment of the workforce. Members are eligible for health insurance through a company owned by Freelancers.

The legislative panel questioned the organization's eligibil-

ity in a statement that said "it appears as though the Obama administration will stop at nothing to reward its political friends."

The administration said they determined the organizations getting the money are able to deliver the required services.

"Freelancers Union clearly met the legal standards under the statute and federal regulations," said Brian Cook, a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services spokesman. "It is not an insurer, it is a nonprofit union of independent workers, sole proprietors, and entrepreneurs who do not receive insurance through an employer."

Starting in 2014, millions of

people who are currently uninsured will buy private coverage in new state markets under President Obama's health-care reform law. Tax-credit subsidies will help customers with the cost of the insurance.

The co-ops will compete in these state-run insurance

exchanges, although co-op backers said they do not yet know the cost of premiums when the program will be formally unveiled in late 2013. Initially, they expect to compete for a small share of the overall health-insurance market.

The new federal awards were announced for co-ops serving

Montana, Iowa, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, and Wisconsin.

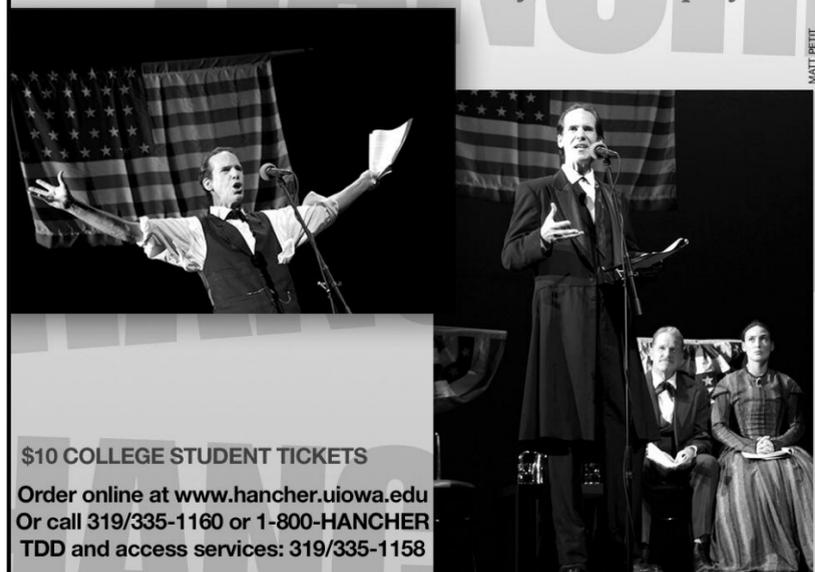
"It will be consumer-governed and will be responsive to consumer needs," said John Morrison, who is helping set up the cooperative in Montana.

— Associated Press

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SWIMMING

CONTINUED FROM 10

[Iowa fans] made the drive last year, and that was in Minnesota — we had a great crowd still, but this year will be even better.”

While swimming a championship in the home pool will be new for most of the Hawkeyes — the Big Tens haven't been held in Iowa City since 1982 — one person on Iowa's roster has experience in an event of such caliber in familiar water. Assistant coach Kirk Hampleman swam for Auburn when the Tigers hosted — and won — the

2000 SEC championships.

He didn't get to relish in the buildup to the event as Iowa's swimmers have — the venue was moved to Auburn two weeks before the meet because of a complication with the original host's, LSU, pool — but Hampleman still called it one of the best memories of his life.

“It was great, [even though] it was a strange circumstance,” he said. “It was incredible — all the students from the community came by. I remember that championship better than all the others I swam in.”

“There hasn't been a day where [the Iowa swimmers] haven't talked about

the event here; they know this is a chance for them to showcase themselves, and they're not going to take it for granted.”

Senior Duncan Partridge has similar beliefs, and he said this is a chance to show the level of competition the Hawkeyes are capable of.

“I'm looking forward to posting best times, racing hard, and having the big home crowd,” the All-American said. “It shows how far we've come, the last four years since I have been here; it shows the progress we have made.”

“I think we're ready to show the swimming world where we're at.”



Iowa head coach Marc Long talks to the team after the Iowa men defeated Minnesota in November. The Big Ten men's meet will begin this evening in the Campus Recreation & Wellness Center. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM 10

victory over the Hoosiers. “[His parents] said, ‘Well, we'll think about it.’”

“He said, ‘No, we're not going to think about it ... I've always wanted to be a Hawk,’ so it was done right there.”

McCaffery saw potential in Stokes — the son of Greg Stokes, Iowa's third all-time scoring leader (1,768 points). So when the younger Stokes was still eligible to take a redshirt last year after playing in only 10 games, McCaffery used it.

DAILYIOWAN.COM

The Hawkeyes have been one of the Big Ten's worst road teams since starting off 2-0, and half of Iowa's remaining games will take place away from Iowa City. Log on for the full story.

“That's why we redshirted him last year — because I think he's got a chance,” McCaffery said at a press conference on Tuesday. “I don't look at him as a walk-on where he's going to run the other team's offense [in practice]. He's somebody who has some definite talent and character.”

Stokes said wearing the Black and Gold “has always been a dream of mine.” For now, he'll continue to approach practice with the same attitude in hopes of

earning more time.

“All I can do is just work hard in practice,” Stokes said. “I'm not going to know when I'm going to get minutes. If I get the opportunity in a game, I'm going to make the most of it.”

Cartwright questionable for Thursday

Bryce Cartwright is questionable for Thursday's game against Wisconsin, McCaffery said. The senior point guard suffered a high-ankle sprain during practice on Feb. 11 and has missed Iowa's last two games.

Cartwright said his ankle is improving, and he didn't rule out playing, adding that he's “taking it

day-by-day.”

The Compton, Calif., native is averaging 6.4 points per game and 4.3 assists, the Big Ten's fourth-best rate.

“You know you don't want to rush these things,” Cartwright said. “You want to be healthy and at the same time, help your team. If you're not helping the team, you're hurting the team.”

Hawkeyes look for big home-court advantage on Thursday

A larger-than-usual student section “made a big difference” the last time Iowa admitted students for free, McCaffery said. Iowa defeated Minnesota, 63-59, on Feb. 1.

The Hawkeyes hope for a

similar result Thursday, when students are again given free admission. UI Student Government will reimburse student season-ticket holders for \$5 at the game if they present their season tickets and student IDs.

“I'm really excited. I've been saying it before, I love

when students get in for free,” freshman forward Aaron White said. “It changes the game totally, how much energy they bring. Not only does it help us, it can hurt the opposition, too ... if they're loud enough. It should be a good atmosphere.”

TRACK

CONTINUED FROM 1

recruiting Clive Roberts helps bring foreign athletes into the program. Roberts was able to recruit Leacock from Trinidad and help her make the decision to become a Hawkeye.

That kind of teamwork on the coaching staff helps recruit the athletes, Roberts said.

“I may have the ‘director

of recruiting’ tag, but it's a team effort,” he said. “All of the coaches do the same thing. We're all on board when it comes to recruiting kids and bringing them into Iowa City.”

Anderson and Roberts don't recruit the overseas portion of the team any differently from the way they recruit athletes closer to home. They admitted it's tougher to recruit the international athletes, though.

“There's a communication challenge, staying in constant contact with the athletes,” Anderson said.

“The language barrier can be a struggle at times.”

Anderson said some international athletes have to take the TOEFL, an exam that measures the ability of non-native English speakers to use and understand the language as it's heard, spoken, read, and written in a university classroom.

Schrulle, a distance-running graduate student, said she passed the test with flying colors and was able to make the jump overseas.

She had an advantage when it came to under-

standing and using English, she said, because she learned it growing up; that was an advantage that allowed Schrulle to contact Anderson herself and ask for a visit to Iowa City.

“I heard of him through a contact in Germany,” she said. “It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me.”

But not all international athletes are as easy to recruit as that, Anderson admitted.

“It's definitely a struggle, but we do all that we can,” he said.

Modest Dunn streaks along

Garret Dunn is carrying the Iowa men's tennis team, even though he'd never admit it.

By TOM CLOS
thomas.clos@uiowa.edu

Garret Dunn doesn't like to brag.

The native of Tempe, Ariz., has won five-straight singles matches, including four straight-set victories. It's a streak that, because the rest of the team is struggling, has single-handedly made sure the Hawkeyes remain somewhat competitive on the court.

But Dunn refuses to pat himself on the back.

“I'm just trying to focus on the team,” he said. “I'm not focusing on streaks or anything.”

He figured out an approach to the game that has helped him through his run, and he said it might benefit the teammates that are having problems finding wins.

“Just go out and have more fun,” Dunn said. “Just being loose and going out there and enjoying every match; that's been the key.”

And while Dunn chose not to acknowledge his winning streak, head coach Steve Houghton did. He said it's a tangible example of how much his 6-8 junior has grown as a player over the course of his career.

“He's the perfect example



Garret Dunn hits a backhand during his 6-3, 6-2 victory over DePaul's Josh Dancu at the Hawkeye Tennis & Recreation Complex on Feb. 5. Dunn has won five-consecutive singles matches. (The Daily Iowan/Jacklyn Couppee)

Next Up: Iowa vs. Drake

When: 6 p.m. Feb. 29
Where: Roger Knapp Tennis Center, Des Moines

of a guy who has gotten better year by year,” Houghton said. “He reminds me of a big man in basketball, sort of a developmental guy who's gotten better and better.”

The longtime head coach said the keys to Dunn's recent surge have been his powerful serve and the ability to use it to get himself out of trouble in important spots.

“It's really a big weapon — in a tight situation, to be able to pull out a big serve,” Houghton said. “He's got

that weapon that not everybody else has ... That big serve he has, it's the type of thing that's intimidating to the guy he's playing.”

Few would know more about what the lanky Arizonan has been getting done on the court than current doubles partner Michael Swank. The sophomore said he has noticed a difference in his partner's on-court demeanor that has led to positive results.

“He's very confident,” Swank said. “The way he moves, the way he's carrying himself. It's carrying over to the way he plays.”

Swank said that, although Dunn is modest, he doesn't hesitate to pass along advice to his teammates — especially at a

time such as this, where everyone on the team is struggling.

“Garret's never one to brag, but he is one who tries to be a leader,” Swank said. “He's trying to show us emotionally how to handle ourselves right now on the court, and he's doing a really good job of that.”

The leadership and team-first attitude manifested itself when Dunn was pressed to discuss his streak. Even when he eventually acknowledged his personal success, he played down its impressiveness and his overall performance this season.

“I'm a streaky player who goes through hot and cold,” Dunn said. “[The streak] isn't really that big. There have been bigger.”

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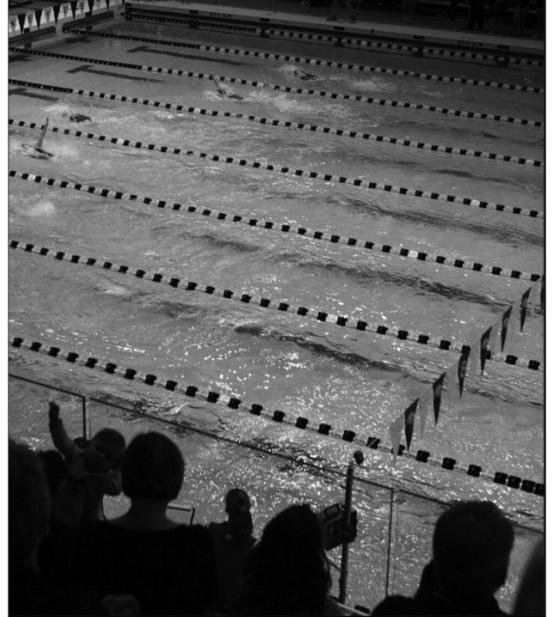
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BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIPS



Men ready to make a splash

The Big Ten meet will begin this evening in the Campus Recreation & Wellness Center.

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

It's not very often that an athlete gets to compete in perhaps the biggest event of his life at his home venue.

But that's a reality for the Iowa men's swimming and diving team, which will host the 2012 Big Ten championships starting today in the Campus Recreation & Wellness Center. The event will kick off at 6:30 p.m. with the 200-medley and 800-freestyle relays and 3-meter diving competition. The meet will run through Saturday evening.

Iowa head swimming and diving coach Marc Long competed in the Big Ten meet as a Hawkeye swimmer in the late 1980s, and he has coached the Black and Gold for the past eight years. Even though it's a familiar competition for the former Iowa swimmer, Long said this

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Follow *DI* men's swimming reporter Ben Ross for live updates from the Big Ten championships @benEross

will be a championship like no other.

"It's home, we're in our own beds, which is unusual," Long said. "[Iowa swimmers] will feel more comfortable because they know the pool so well. I'm really excited to have it in our own pool; I can't deny that."

The Big Ten has an excellent reputation on the national swimming scene, with a national-best six teams ranked in the top 25. Iowa is slated at No. 14 going into the week, with No. 4 Michigan, No. 9 Ohio State, and No. 11 Indiana preceding it in the rankings. No. 16 Purdue and No. 17 Minnesota round out the rest of the teams represented in the top 25, making the

Big Ten Championships

When: 6:30 p.m. today

Where: Campus Recreation & Wellness Center

event arguably the best collection of college swimming talent before the NCAAs in late March.

All-American Paul Gordon said he has looked forward to this meet for a while. The senior was quick to point out one of the things he's looking most forward to is the crowd he expects to fill the stands at the new facility.

"I have been looking forward to this for a few years; it's cool to have. It's something to celebrate," he said. "The crowd will be big. A lot of

SEE SWIMMING, 8

Iowa sophomore Kyle Noser swims the 400 medley against Minnesota in the Campus Recreation & Wellness Center on Nov. 4, 2011. Noser and the Hawkeyes will host the Big Ten meet starting today. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley) GRAPHIC BY ALICIA KRAMME

NOTEBOOK

Stokes stoked about playing

Walk-on forward Darius Stokes relishes his next opportunity after contributing in Iowa's win against Indiana.

By **JORDAN GARRETSON**
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Fran McCaffery told Darius Stokes to be ready to play this past weekend against Indiana. The walk-on forward needed to be, especially with Eric May out with back spasms.

The red-shirt freshman delivered, recording an offensive rebound and put-back in five minutes — the first meaningful playing time of his career.

Now, Stokes craves another opportunity even more.



Stokes
walk-on

Next Up: Iowa vs. No. 16 Wisconsin

When: 8 p.m. Thursday

Where: Carver-Hawkeye Arena

"That's so much fun just to be in there," he said on Tuesday. "I want more time being in there, so I'm just going to work that much harder just to get more opportunities."

McCaffery stumbled upon the Cedar Rapids native while recruiting Marcus Paige, Stokes' high-school teammate.

"We invited him down with his parents for a visit, and we offered the [walk-on] opportunity," McCaffery said following Iowa's 78-66

SEE BASKETBALL, 8

Tracksters look abroad

Iowa's international athletes have made their presence felt on the women's track team.

By **CODY GOODWIN**
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The Iowa women's track and field team is made up of a diverse group of athletes.

Twenty-four members of the 54-person team (44 percent) are from the state of Iowa. Another 44 percent are from elsewhere in the United States. That leaves 11 percent of the team — six athletes — from outside America's borders.

In comparison with the men's half of the program, which has no international athletes, the women's side is known for recruiting heavily outside the U.S.

"International contacts are often via email," head coach Layne Anderson said. "Somebody will either reach out to you, or it will be through a recruiting service."

Through this process, he receives an e-mail

about an athlete and runs a background check. From there, he decides whether to recruit the athlete or not.

"We tend to look for kids who would fit our profile and who would be a good match for us," Anderson said. "We'll explore those options with them and then recruit them heavily."

Among the international athletes on the team are Zinnia Miller from the Bahamas, Victoria Sack and Mareike Schrulle from Germany, Annemie Smith from South Africa, Lena Placzek from Poland, and Carisa Leacock from Trinidad. Each brings her own personality, culture, and track skills to the team; this makes a well-rounded squad both on and off the track, Anderson said.

Anderson said assistant coach and director of

SEE TRACK, 8



Iowa sophomore Lena Placzek starts the 600 meters at the Iowa Invitational on Feb. 17 in the Recreation Building. Placzek, from Poland, is one of the six Iowa track athletes from outside the United States. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)