



ADAM WESLEY/THE DAILY IOWAN

Obama blasts loan situation

By KRISTEN EAST
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University of Iowa students came out in full force Wednesday afternoon to hear President Barack Obama discuss college affordability and student debt.

"Helping more young people afford college should be at the forefront of America's agenda," Obama said. "And it shouldn't be a Republican or Democratic issue. This is an American issue."

Greeted by roughly 5,500 members of the UI community in the Field House, Obama spoke for nearly 30 minutes about the pressing federal loan situation facing college students.

Legislation passed in 2007 to keep interest rates for federal student loans at 3.4 percent is set to expire July 1. The interest rates on those loans will double to 6.8 percent if Congress doesn't act to extend the loan cut for at least another year. The legislation only applies to federal student loans, affecting 7.4 million students nationwide.

If Congress doesn't act before July 1, the average student will owe roughly \$1,000 more on her or his loans for each year Congress delays action.

"Now is not the time to double the interest rates on our student loans," Obama said. "Now is the time to double down on starting investments that build a strong and secure middle class."

Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, introduced a bill Tuesday that would freeze the federal loan interest rates for at least one more year. Obama has been making several stops across the country to advocate for the renewal.

But some local and statewide Republicans protested Obama's Wednesday visit.

"No amount of campaign speeches or lofty promises can change the fact that President Obama has failed our



President Obama speaks at the Field House on Wednesday. Obama talked about the economy and the high level of student debt in the county, and he argued against a July 1 rate hike for interest on student loans. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

nation's young people," Iowa GOP Chairman A.J. Spiker wrote in a news release. "Iowa students know their generation cannot afford four more years of massive debt increases and joblessness ..."

Mark Warner, the director of UI Student Financial Aid, said students should be most cautious of the potential doubling of the interest rate.

"Students should always be concerned about the interest rate because the higher it is the more, overall, the student has to repay and the higher the monthly payments will be," he said.

Federal student loans represented roughly 93 percent of loans borrowed by UI students in 2010-11. Warner said the average student debt for the graduating class of

SEE OBAMA, 5A

Obama wows local schoolboy

By KRISTEN EAST
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Antoine Anderson wants to be president one day.

The 8-year-old Coralville resident may have to wait a few years, but Antoine took one step closer to achieving his dream Wednesday when he met President Obama.

"I told him when he came in [I wanted to be president one day]," he said. "I was really excited."

Antoine attended Obama's address at the University of Iowa Field House Wednesday afternoon with his former teacher Julie Jessen, where he waited several hours in an enclosed room with other students before meeting the president. Antoine had his picture taken with Obama and received White House candy and a book.

"He was pretty shy," Jessen said. "There was a long line of people so it was real quick. He did talk to [Obama] though."

Jessen, a teacher at Kirkwood Elementary School, was Antoine's kindergarten teacher when he wrote a letter to the president in 2010.

"I've been teaching for 17 years in Iowa City, and it's definitely one of the biggest highlights of my career," Jessen said.

The teacher said Antoine was motivated to write the letter after Jessen saw Obama speak at the Field House that year.

"He was a little bent out of shape that I was going to see the president," she said. "He wanted to know what he'd have to do to be president."

Antoine received a response from the White House in summer 2010. Tasha Anderson said her son, now in second grade, received autographed pictures of the Obama family and their dog, Bo.

When Jessen heard Obama would speak at the

SEE ANTOINE, 5A

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• Demonstrators outside the president's speech said Obama's policies are contributing to the country's deficit.

• See what the five UI students who met with President Obama privately before his speech had to say about their exclusive roundtable.

CHECK OUT VOICES OF SOUL ON PAGE 5A



UIHC sees challenges

UIHC will have a 3 percent operating margin for the fiscal 2013 budget, down from the current 4 percent.

By **BETH BRASTOS**
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CEDAR FALLS — Officials at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics told members of the state Board of Regents that financial challenges will force them to tighten the budget in the coming year.

"We will have to be more creative in delivering the same quality services at a lower cost," said UI Vice President for Medical Affairs Jean Robillard.

At the Wednesday meeting, UIHC officials asked for a 6 percent rate increase for next year, including a 3 per-

cent operating margin for the fiscal 2013 budget. The regents unanimously approved the request, which is a decrease from this year's 4 percent.

UIHC CEO Ken Kates said the facility is operating below its allotted monthly operating margin.

Kates said the payments UIHC receives from third parties, such as Medicare and Medicaid, have been a challenge because the parties do not raise their payment rates at the same rate as the cost of inflation. Drug shortages have also posed a problem.

One UI professor noted changes in Medicare policy are resulting in lower reimbursement, and Medicare reimbursements continue to increase — but not enough to cover expenditures hospitals are making.

Keith Mueller, the head of the UI Depart-

ment of Health Management and Policy, said private insurance carriers feel pressure from buyers to negotiate lower pricing.

"This has been going on for multiple years," he said. "There's just a lot of pressure on insurance providers to bring down the increase of reimbursement and lower hospital budgets in general. So far the health care system has been able to hold up."

Ken Fisher, the UIHC associate vice president for finance, said officials intend to tighten the budget in the coming year among employee positions. Though layoffs are unlikely, he said, some vacant positions may remain unfilled.

Officials said they have plans set for a 1.8 percent increase in the payment rates, and a 6 percent price increase. Regents approved the requested 6 percent rate increase for the upcoming year to help offset some of the facility's

debt. Fisher said only 3 to 4 percent of patients actually pay that rate and they are usually completely self-paying.

"We tend to work with them individually, depending on what their financial situation is," he said.

Yet, Kates said, there is a strong overall volume growth in most other areas compared with the previous year.

Fisher said patient discharge and average patient days are slightly above budget and the numbers for inpatient surgery have stayed consistent in recent years. Hospital officials said the consistency is driven by accurate budgeting and the hospital's capacity of surgery and over-

time. "I am very confident we will achieve the 4 percent operating margin that we budgeted," said Kates of the current fiscal year.

DI reporter Derek Kellison contributed to this story.

The Daily Iowan

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BREAKING NEWS

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METRO / NATION

2nd suspect charged in robbery

A second man has been charged with robbing an Iowa City market.

Danriel Ware, 18, 913 Harlocke St., was charged March 12 with assault with use or display of a weapon, going armed with intent, and first-degree robbery.

According to an Iowa City police complaint, police responded to a report of a robbery at Creekside Market on Feb. 22, in which the clerk was injured.

The complaint said Ware's codefendant allegedly grabbed the victim around her neck and held a knife to her throat telling her she "had five seconds to get the money or he was going to cut her throat wide open."

Ware and the codefendant allegedly got away with several hundred dollars in cash.

The complaint said several acquaintances and a family member of Ware identified him from video surveillance, and several subjects told police officials that Ware fled to

Chicago after the robbery.

First-degree robbery is a Class-B felony.

Assault with use or display of a weapon is considered an aggravated misdemeanor.

Going armed with intent is considered a Class-D felony.

— by Jordyn Reiland

Man charged in alleged headbutting

A man was charged earlier this week after he allegedly headbutted a police car.

Rakeem Eberhart, 23, North Liberty, was charged Tuesday with second-degree criminal mischief.

According to a North Liberty police complaint, police arrested Eberhart for disorderly conduct. While in handcuffs standing next to a patrol car, he then allegedly headbutted the side of the car hard enough to knock himself unconscious.

The complaint said this left a dent in the side of the patrol car, which will require an entire side panel to be replaced. Damage is estimated at more

than \$1,000.

Second-degree criminal mischief is considered a Class-D felony.

— by Jordyn Reiland

House GOP wants to renew violence act

WASHINGTON — House Republicans determined to show women voters that they have their interests at heart on Wednesday announced plans to renew the Violence Against Women Act, the federal government's main domestic violence program.

The GOP proposal set up a possible showdown with a somewhat different version that Senate Democrats have advanced and has been pending for several weeks. The Senate began debate Wednesday on the Democratic version as talks continued.

The law, first enacted in 1994, has a history of being bipartisan and noncontroversial, but that's changed this election year. Democrats have accused Republicans of waging a war on women, and Republicans, led by

presumptive presidential nominee Mitt Romney, have responded by emphasizing their sensitivity to women's issues.

The Senate bill has 61 sponsors, including eight Republicans, but parts of it have met resistance from others in the GOP.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, joined by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, is preparing an alternative that would alter several Democratic provisions. Their alternative would cap visas available to legal and illegal immigrants who suffer abuse at 10,000 a year, compared with 15,000 proposed by the Democratic bill offered by Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt. It does not specify, as the Democratic bill does, that violence against gays, lesbians and transgenders are part of the act. The Leahy bill expands the authority of Native American officials to handle cases of abuse of Indian women by non-Indians. The Republican substitute permits tribal authorities to go to federal court for protective orders on behalf of abused Native American women.

— Associated Press

TO THE DOGS



Paul Jermihov plays fetch with his dog Al Capone at Off the Leash dog park on Wednesday. Jermihov takes Capone to the park as much as he can to for training. (The Daily Iowan/Jacklyn Couppee)

BLOTTER

Asmaa Elkeurti, 19, 375 Mormon Trek Blvd., was charged Monday with fifth-degree theft.
Quvondrick Mallard, 731 E. Burlington St., was charged April 22 with public intoxication.
Nicholas Martin, 24, Cedar Rapids, was charged Tuesday

with OWI.
Barakat Mohammed, 40, 2610 Bartlet Road Apt. 2C, was charged Monday with domestic-abuse assault.
Michael Mullink, 25, 1100 Oakcrest St. Apt. K, was charged Wednesday with OWI.

Lisa Nguyen, 44, 6 Amber Lane, was charged April 18 domestic assault.
Jeffrey Timmerman, 22, 329 W. Benton St., was charged Wednesday with OWI.
Trent Vincent, 27, 410 N. Clinton St. Apt. 1, was charged

Wednesday with public intoxication.
Russell Weston, 52, address unknown, was charged Monday with public intoxication.
Geary Zimmon, 23, 731 E. Burlington St., was charged April 21 with public intoxication.

TOP STORIES

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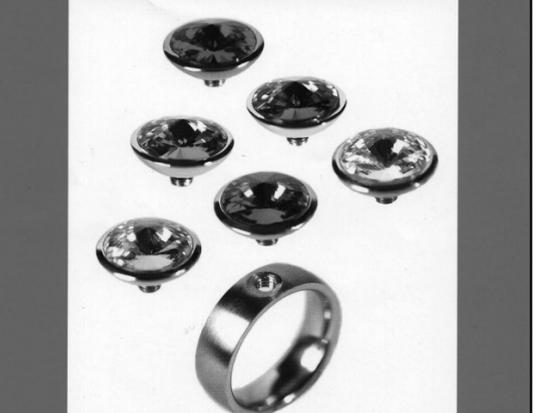
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Wahls debuts book

Iowa is one of six states where gay marriage is legal.

By JENNY EARL
jennifer-earl@uiowa.edu

In January 2011, Zach Wahls made a brief speech to state legislators about his two loving mothers in support of gay marriage. But for his book, *My Two Moms*, released today, Wahls had a little bit more wiggle room.

"It's essentially my extended statement," the 20-year-old and former University of Iowa student and *Daily Iowan* employee said. "I only had three minutes when I gave my speech to the Iowa House of Representatives. This allows me to tell my own story on my own terms."

And aside from being known as a YouTube sensation — his testimony before the Iowa House Judiciary Committee last January has generated more than 2 million hits on the website — Wahls will now be the first Iowa "Why Marriage Matters" advocate to campaign across the state for gay marriage rights. The campaign is a part of the national campaign of the same name.

Campaigns promoting gay marriage rights are spreading across the country.

"We do have marriage equality for many people. My fear is they think this fight is over," said Molly Tafoya, communications director for One Iowa. "We know that that's not true. Our opposition is well funded and very vocal, they're committed to taking away the gains we made in marriage equality — that's

exactly why we launched this campaign."

"Why Marriage Matters" is a \$10 million public education effort that the organization Freedom to Marry created in 2011 and helped One Iowa implement in January. Evan Wolfson, president of Freedom to Marry and author of the book *Why Marriage Matters* said the campaign is especially important for Iowa, though its running nationwide.

"Iowa got hijacked by all kinds of political attacks," Wolfson said of the response to the legalization of gay marriage in Iowa in 2009. "In the rest of the country — a nationwide majority, freedom to marry has grown. The goal One Iowa has had is to have enough conversations in Iowa to help build the majority support the same way we've built the majority support in the rest of the country."

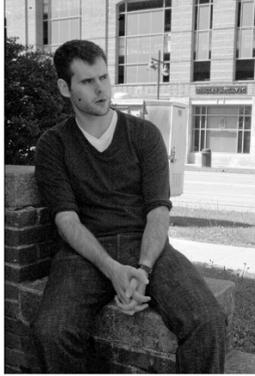
For now Wahls said he will put his school plans on hold to continue to fight for gay rights while the topic is hot. Partnering with One Iowa, Wahls will spearhead a "Why Marriage Matters Iowa" speaking tour in August.

Wahls said he wrote the book to provide a voice for kids like him.

"It is not uncommon for kids like me to be referred to as child-abuse victims by the other side, and that's not OK," Wahls said.

Tafoya said the tour will focus heavily on speaking engagements within Iowa communities, nonprofit groups, businesses and churches, and working with college campuses and students.

She said they want to make LGBT about family — not politics.



Former UI student Zach Wahls received an award for his work for LGBT rights on Sunday. Wahls is known for his speech about being raised by two mothers; his new book will come out today. (The Daily Iowan/Chastity Dillard)

David Kilmnick, executive director of CenterLink, a national association of GLBT community centers, said Iowa's campaign with Wahls as a public figure will be crucial to educating the masses about what this issue is really about.

"I think what most folks have seen is that the world hasn't crumbled," he said. "In fact, we're better off as a society focusing our attention on what we have in common among us all — we're all U.S. citizens — and this issue is about love, it's not about hate."

Wahls said his moms are both very proud of his LGBT efforts and happy with the finished product of his memoir.

"My mom, Terry, joked she would've been just as happy with me to still be having dinner with them once a week," he said. "But they said to have a passionate defense of our family and our commitment is really something special."

Event focuses on cancer

Last year, free screenings helped diagnose 2,000 people with oral, head, or neck cancer.

By DEREK KELLISON
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Physicians across the globe were saying "open wide" for Oral, Head, and Neck Cancer Awareness Week this week.

The event is an effort to raise awareness of the probability of cancer through free screenings, walk-a-thons, banquets, and research conferences.

Locally and nationwide, the general public and health officials are doing more to get tested.

This year 320 events were sponsored throughout the world in such places as Abu Dhabi, Cairo, and Iowa City — where University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics volunteers set up a screening station for 55 Iowa City residents.

"We're trying to raise awareness of the consequences of smoking and general awareness of cancer," said Kristi Chang, a UIHC head and neck oncologist.

UIHC has been leading the event for the past 10 years, providing half-day screenings to the Iowa City community.

At UIHC, about two to four people per year at the free screenings are identified with some level of concern for oral, head, or neck cancer. A majority of those screened are referred to their primary care doctors for a follow up. Chang said most patients have legitimate concerns that may or may not turn out to be cancer.



Doctors Bob Eppsteiner (left) and John Hellstein check Ron Mavrias on Wednesday. Free screenings were offered by UIHC Wednesday for Oral, Head, and Neck Cancer Awareness Week. (The Daily Iowan/Chastity Dillard)

A screening is like a basic physical, where a doctor checks for abnormalities in the head and neck area. Physicians look for a number of signs of cancer such as sores, lesions, lumps, and difficulty swallowing. A majority of patients at the screenings are between ages 60 and 70. Yet UIHC doctors see a wide age range, from 30 to 80 years.

Rodrigo Bayon, a UIHC doctor, said despite the low numbers of high-risk results at free screenings, physicians often provide direction for better care.

"Often times we don't see patients until they've been through the frontline of dentists and oral surgeons," he said. "We're directing this screening at people who don't realize they have symptoms."

Bayon said if the symptoms are ignored they may develop into a dangerous tumor.

"People often have cold sores or ulcers that don't go away, and they don't realize that if left alone, this may turn into cancer," Bayon said.

According to statistics, 85 percent of oral, head, and neck cancers are linked to tobacco use.

And although tonsil and tongue cancers are some of the least common cancers seen by physicians, Bayon said they are becoming more common in patients who do not smoke or drink.

People with no risk factors are reporting cancer symptoms more frequently. Bayon said this may be caused by the Human Papilloma Virus — another target of the screenings. According to statistics, HPV may be linked to over half of tonsil cancers.

Yet the organization has seen an increase of patients in past years. Only 7,000 patients signed up for free screenings in 2010, compared with 12,000 screened globally last year. Of those patients screened, more than 300 were referred due to suspected symptoms — and over 2,000 lives were possibly saved.

The medical association contributes this increase to better publicity.

"Patients are very receptive," said John Hellstein, oral pathologist and head of the American Dental Association Council on Scientific Affairs Board. "They want to know that we're giving them a full and thorough exam and getting all the information we can."

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President Obama speaks at the Field House on Wednesday. Obama talked about the high level of student debt in the county and advocated a hold on a planned July 1 rate hike for interest on student loans. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)



Clockwise from left bottom: The crowd at the Field House greets President Obama and takes photos on Wednesday. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley) President Obama waves goodbye while boarding Air Force One at the Eastern Iowa Airport in Cedar Rapids on Wednesday. (The Daily Iowan/Ian Servin) President Obama walks into the Field House to give a speech on the economy, higher education, and student debt on Wednesday. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley) Protesters wait for President Obama's arrival across the street from the Field House on Wednesday. (The Daily Iowan/Ya-Chen Chen)

'Now is not the time to double the interest rates on our student loans. Now is the time to double down on starting investments that build a strong and secure middle class.'

- President Obama said Wednesday



President Obama greets people after speaking at the Field House on Wednesday. This was Obama's second visit to eastern Iowa in 2012. He visited Cedar Rapids in January. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

OBAMA

CONTINUED FROM 1A

2011 was \$25,446, not far off from the national student debt average of \$25,000.

UI junior Saira Jaramillo, who attended the president's address, said she comes from a low-income, single-parent family, and student debt is a major concern of hers.

"I'm really in support of [Obama's] ideas," she said. "Having him here to explain it was great. A lot of people don't give him credit for what he's doing."

Warner said students and parents should only borrow what is "absolutely needed."

"Choice" borrowing may have repercussions down the road," he said. "If the student has borrowed when not absolutely necessary, their debt may affect the type of job they choose after graduation, where

they look for and find a job, and too much debt may delay graduate or professional school plans."

UI sophomore Tricia Schneider said the president's UI visit made her more knowledgeable about loans she'll one day have to pay back.

"I didn't know a lot, but I definitely saw it from a liberal standpoint," she said. "I'll have to repay [my debt] off some day, and it's going to be more debt than I want it to be."

Schneider is not alone. Rich Williams, the higher-education advocate for U.S. PIRG, said many students aren't as knowledgeable about their loans as they should be.

Williams said students should turn to officials in their university's financial-aid office to be more informed.

"They are the financial-aid experts, so they can definitely help educate and provide students with more affordable options and just be a real good resource," he said.

ANTOINE

CONTINUED FROM 1A

UI again, she immediately contacted Iowa Democrat Chairwoman Sue Dvorsky to coordinate a meeting between Antoine and Obama.

Once the meeting was arranged, Tasha Anderson, 33, decided to keep it a surprise from her son until the night before. She surprised him by bringing home

clothes for him to wear. Anderson was unable to accompany her son to the event because of work, but she was happy that her son had the rare opportunity to meet Obama.

"I was very excited for him, and he was so excited," she said. "It's rare that you can have opportunities to get this close to the president this young. It means a lot to me."

And as for Antoine, he said he plans on writing Obama another letter very soon.

Groups rally against Obama

By ASMAA ELKEURTI

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While thousands of President Barack Obama's supporters waited hours to hear the president speak, a handful of conservatives stood across from the University of Iowa Field House holding anti-Obama signs.

Many protesters spoke out against Obama's economic policies, as well as the national deficit, the job market, and student loans.

Obama visited the UI Wednesday to advocate the renewal of current federal interest rates on student loans.

Peter Larson, UI senior and member of the UI College Republicans, said his biggest issue with the president's policies include the rising deficit.

"I feel that more students at the University of Iowa need to be educated about the dangers this president possesses if he's elected for another term," he said. "So I feel like it's my duty to come here and express my distaste for him."

The roughly 30-person crowd consisted mostly of UI students.

Yet members of surrounding communities were also present.

For Rose Kendall, a 74-year old Burlington resident, this was the second time she protested the president's appearance.

"We're running out of money, so he can't keep giving away money," Kendall said. "He's throwing older people under the bus. He's teaching all these young people here that all they've got to do is sit back and let it be handed to them."

Kendall also cited her disagreement with government subsidized student loans, stressing the importance of being more self-supporting.

"My friend went to school and worked her way through school... She didn't get handouts from any government, and she did just fine," she said.

Among the older protesters included 62-year-old Rick David from North Liberty, who said the upcoming election was the most important of his lifetime.

"It's basically a choice between a society of dependence and bondage versus prosperity and freedom," David said.

Students meet Obama

Five University of Iowa students had the opportunity to sit down with President Obama to discuss federal student loans before his address at the Field House on Wednesday afternoon. The students spoke to *The Daily Iowan* about their experiences.

By ASMAA ELKEURTI

asmaa-elkeurti@uiowa.edu

Marissa Boles
UI senior



For UI senior Marissa Boles, that she spoke with President Obama had yet to sink in even hours after the meeting.

"I still don't believe it," she said later Tuesday evening. "Let's just say that."

And Boles said the meeting was relaxing. "I'm a pretty anxious person, and I've honestly been more anxious doing some presentations in college than I was talking to him," she said. "He walked into the room and he was like, 'Why is it so quiet in here, everybody?'"

Boles said the meeting was "surreal" — she has been an Obama supporter since his campaign for the presidency in 2008.

"It's like when you go on vacation, you see a place that looks really cool, and it looks more like that place than you imagined it would," she said. "It's like when you run into a football player in class."

Boles said she was also surprised by how thin and tall the president was in person relative to what he looked like on TV.

And even more so, Boles said, she was impressed by his character.

"The genuine guy you see on TV actually exists within him," she said. "What you see in the candidacy is what you get when you meet him."

Blake Anderson
UI junior



Blake Anderson didn't expect meeting the president to be so casual.

Anderson, who later introduced the president before his address at the Field House, admitted he was star-struck when Obama first entered their meeting room.

"We were sitting around the table, and I had my back to the door and everyone went quiet, and I saw everybody's faces," the UI junior said. "Their faces went ghost white,

and I turned around and the president is literally right there, sticking out his hand, introducing himself."

And he said the president quickly calmed the situation.

"I was star-struck, but literally after a minute or two of just the way he was interacting with us and his calm demeanor everything was so relaxed," the junior said.

Anderson said he left with a new perspective on the president.

"I have a tremendous amount of respect for him and the responsibility he holds," he said. "For him to take the time and sit down with five college students to talk about student loans is pretty special."

Jordan Garrison-Nickerson
UI sophomore



UI sophomore Jordan Garrison-Nickerson said he was surprised by how laid-back the president of the United States was during their meeting.

"We get a notice that he has just walked into the building, so we get all nervous," Garrison-Nickerson said. "So it's all quiet, and President Obama strolls into the IMU and is like, 'Hey, why is it so quiet in here?'" He was a really nice, really down-to-earth guy. He made it really, really relaxed — he even cracked a few jokes."

Garrison-Nickerson said he found Obama's voice was distinct in person.

"You obviously know that President Obama is a great speaker. There's something about his voice. It wasn't necessarily his looks that got me, but it was his voice," he said. "There's almost a rhythm of confidence, but also a 'Hey, I'm a nice guy, let's share a message together.'"

And, Garrison-Nickerson said, the conversation was casual even though they talked about a pressing issue.

"We were talking about a serious topic with student loans and Stafford Loans and how important that is for the future, but despite the importance of the topic, he made it informal," he said.

UI sophomore Martin Lopez said meeting Obama made him realize the president is just "a normal human being."

Martin Lopez
UI sophomore



"It was kind of surreal. I didn't believe it at first. I thought it was a joke to begin with," Lopez said. "I was shocked when I first saw him."

Yet, he said, Obama helped ease his initial anxiety.

"He was in a really relaxed mood. He made the environment very relaxed and calm," Lopez said. "My nervousness just went away." Lopez said he was able to see a more personal perspective of the president.

"I got to see an informal side of him. I understand he's president and all, and there's so much behind it, so much stress and responsibility, but I just saw that he was having a good time," Lopez said.

The sophomore said he was able to relate to the president.

"You know that's the president, but he makes it seem like no big deal," Lopez said. "He's like, 'I'm a person, too. I'm here and I've gone through the same things that you have.'"

Myranda Burnett
UI junior



Myranda Burnett will soon have not only her own debt to think about but that of her fiancé as well.

And that was something Obama said he could relate to.

"He related the story I told him with his and Michelle's debt, as well," the UI junior said. "After we were done taking the picture, he was telling us goodbye, and he told me 'I'll make a beautiful bride.'"

And she said the compliment was one she felt honored to have.

"It was really kind of exciting, because, past his daughters, how many people is he going to tell that to?" she said.

Burnett said the president was instantly aware of her situation.

"When he first came and we introduced ourselves, he was like, 'Myranda, you're the one getting engaged,'" she said. "He congratulated me."

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Guest Column

Keep student-loan interest rates low

College was a luxury fifty years ago. Back then, you could still graduate from high school and get a good paying job that would guarantee you a place in the middle class. Those days are gone.

A postsecondary education is the ticket to economic success in America. We know that the jobs of the future will all require some kind of education or training after high school.

And while it's never been more important to have a degree, a certificate or an industry recognized credential — it's also never been more expensive.

Since 1995, college costs across the country have risen almost five times faster than median household income. As a result, students and their families are taking on more and more debt. Borrowing to pay for college used to be the exception; now it's the rule.

Next month, millions of America's newest college graduates will leave school to enter the job market. As they do, a new challenge awaits many of them: how to pay back the student debt they've accumulated over the last four years.

Two-thirds of students are borrowing to get their degree, and they're graduating with more than \$26,000 in debt. In an economy still recovering from the worst downturn since the Great Depression, paying off a sum that large can be a daunting.

To make matters worse, a policy change is coming that will make getting out of debt more expensive for more than 7 million young Americans: without Congressional action, the interest rate on subsidized Stafford Loans is set to double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent starting July 1.

Based on the average loan amount, doubling the subsidized Stafford loan interest rate will add more than \$1,000 in total costs. For students who borrow heavily to go to college, it could cost even more. Only Congress can keep these interest rates from doubling.

This week, President Obama traveled to universities across the country to call on Congress to do its part to keep college affordable by stopping student loan interest rates from doubling

this July. With so many students struggling to both make ends meet and afford the skyrocketing price of a college degree, now is not the right time to heap more costs on top of them.

As we work to get the economy back on track, no one is suggesting it would be a good idea to double interest rates on credit cards or home mortgages. Why then do some believe it's a good idea to double interest rates for students?

We all have a role to play — the president, Congress, parents, students and schools — in making college affordable and keeping the middle class dream alive. Our administration is continuing to do its part: despite being in one of the most challenging budget environments in history and cutting almost all-domestic spending across the board, the president is increasing the investment in higher education.

The Obama administration is providing billions of dollars a year in aid to needy students through Pell Grants and helping students to better manage their debt after graduation with programs like income-based repayment and public service loan forgiveness. The president is also proposing a number of initiatives that would continue to make college more affordable, including doubling the number of work-study jobs within five years, making the American Opportunity Tax Credit permanent, and providing new incentives for states and institutions to keep college costs from escalating.

President Obama cannot — and should not — do this work alone. In 2007, a bipartisan majority in a Democrat-controlled Congress and a Republican president came together to lower interest rates on these loans because it was the right thing to do. This is not about politics. It's about doing right for America's students — and for our nation's economy.

Arne Duncan
U.S. Secretary of EducationYour turn. Should Congress vote to hold interest rates on federal student loans at 3.4 percent? Weigh in at dailyiowan.com.

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.

Down with coal

The Beehive Design Collective opened my eyes to the true cost of coal at Old Brick on April 18. Never before did I pay any mind to the correlations between our everyday lives and the externalized costs of coal. What an awful legacy of Americans' deprivation behind the evolution of our nation: It's as if businessmen are developing our country and economy without regard

to the commons of our planet or public health. The connections are plenty between the government and industry, but we the people share this world, too.

Compared with proven innovations in sustainable development, coal is needlessly on life support — and we are paying the bill. It's time to reinvest in our people and let our people invest in the future. The most convenient place to start is here

in our towns, in our state, at our institutions of higher education.

UI, and other public universities alike, should stand up with us and stop prolonging the coal industry's wreckage of our communities.

To Iowa's regent university Presidents Sally Mason, Steven Leath, and Benjamin Allen: Please stand with our people's dream now, and make proactive commitments

to move our campuses beyond coal in this decade.

And to Iowa's Board of Regents and Gov. Terry Branstad: please support and encourage our universities' progress toward a safer, healthier, more sustainable, and just future without the countless disparities associated with coal.

For our grandchildren and theirs: thank you.

Zach Carter
UI mechanical engineering undergrad

Guest Column

Court upholds friendship firing

Holding that “no matter what one makes of associational rights, friendship cannot have greater status than political speech,” the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last week that an Illinois village employee did not have a First Amendment right to her job.

Kimberly Benedix sued the Village of Hanover Park in 2011 after a newly elected Board of Trustees fired the village manager and abolished Benedix's executive-coordinator position.

Benedix claimed the village abolished her position solely because of her friendship with the village

manager and that she enjoyed a First Amendment right of association to that friendship.

An Illinois federal district court rejected Benedix's argument, holding that the village's action was protected by legislative immunity.

On appeal, a three-judge panel of the 7th Circuit held that legislative immunity did not protect the village but that Benedix could not successfully assert a First Amendment claim.

“It is common to hold a person's associations against him,” the court said. “Policymaking officials ... need an immediate staff of dedicated

aides if they are to do their jobs — and if the results of elections are to be translated into policy.”

“[I]t is an important part of the new officeholder's own right of association to be able to choose who to work with, the better to promote his ideas and policies,” the court continued. “Benedix has not cited, and we could not find, any appellate decision holding that friendship is a Constitutionally impermissible basis of hiring or firing public employees.”

While the court recognized that a friendship — by itself — might in some circumstances be

insufficient grounds for terminating a public employee, it concluded it did not need to define those circumstances in this case. Benedix, the court said, clearly enjoyed a “confidential” position within a policymaker's office and thus was subject to changing political winds.

“An executive coordinator who reports directly to, and works closely with, a policymaker such as the village manager,” the court said, “is properly classified as a ‘confidential’ employee who may be hired and fired on account of politics — or friendship.”

Douglas E. Lee
First Amendment Center

All hail Walmart

CHRIS STEINKE
christopher-steinke@uiowa.edu

In this fast-paced Iowa City life of waking up hungover all the time, one's schedule can fill up quickly. Hitting the snooze button can take up to four hours, and then there's that whole eating thing, and before you know it, CVS is closed, and you have to go another day without soap.

That's why it's so hard not to support Walmart. Need a Mohawk? A ski mask? A Playskool basketball hoop? Eye surgery? Some cabbage? Go to Walmart, and you're out of there in 10 minutes.

Luckily for us, we don't need to feel guilty when buying our cabbage from Walmart instead of your family farmer, because chances are, Walmart already bought cabbage from that farmer and displayed it next to the kiwis. So, thanks to Walmart, organic living is now cheap and accessible for everyone.

Go ahead, hippies. Thank Walmart. It supports healthy living and keeping organic farmers in the fields. Thank it.

Walmart's even doing it better than Whole Foods. Corby Kummer of *The Atlantic* led a blind taste using various fresh produce, and Walmart came out on top. Many of the ingredients came from the same local growers, yet Walmart's were fresher — and, of course, far less costly. For the same shopping list, Krummer paid Whole Foods \$175 and Walmart \$126.

And no, Walmart didn't hold a rifle to the farmer's head, sign a contract, rape his women, and pass the savings onto you. The savings come from Walmart's superior logistics. Much of any price tag comes from transportation and inventory costs.

According to the jokers over at Washington State University, the cost of carrying inventory typically accounts for 20 to 25 percent of the final sale value. Whole Foods can't compete there. And then you have to figure Whole Food's overhead is through the roof, considering it usually sets up the shop in high-end hippie districts.

Walmart's aim is to restore the small, healthy, sustainable farms that got screwed over by the huge, poisonous, industrial ones that

came about over the past few decades. And that's great.

But what I'm wondering is, why not apply that concept throughout the Supercenter? What, we have this huge manufacturing crisis in the United States? What if, instead of shipping everything from halfway around the world, the Iowa City Walmart partnered up with the woodsmiths in Amana to make simple wooden furniture en masse.

One of Walmart's sustainability goals is to be supplied 100 percent by renewable energy. Here's an idea: How about you stop shipping everything from Singapore and have some Mennonites drop off your furniture? Horse-and-buggies have like, no CO₂ omissions.

But, but, but — isn't Walmart going to do the predatory pricing thing and drive out even more businesses? Only the stupid, out-of-date ones. Look, if you're an entrepreneur with any business sense, you're not going to open up a shop selling cheap socks. Walmart will beat you, because Walmart is better than you. Sorry to all the Mom 'n' Pop HD TV store owners out there, but that business is a dumb idea. Think of something better that Walmart can't do. Take a page out of Walmart's book and innovate, for Jobs' sake.

And if you happen to innovate and create something great, yet tangible, I'd suggest not wasting your resources on a storefront to sell it. Instead, I'd suggest expanding your manufacturing facilities and leave selling to your local Walmart and anyone dumb enough to compete with it.

Walmart has the Local Supplier program. Try that. There's an extensive questionnaire, probably to feed data to its new Packaging Scorecard. If you don't know what the Packaging Scorecard is about, it rewards cheap and innovative products that have positive effects on the environment and local communities.

Thank Walmart, hippies. Thank it good. While you've been dropping acid at coffee shops or whatever, Walmart's been making moves. And when that corporate behemoth makes a move, the Earth shakes. It's shaking so hard right now it's waking everyone up and making those of us in Iowa City realize that, once again, we're really, really hungover. ■

Spotlight Iowa City

Standing up for laughter

Mackenzie Sheehy, a sophomore at the UI, is shaping her college experience with the help of standup comedy.

By SAMANTHA GENTRY
samantha-gentry@uiowa.edu

Mackenzie Sheehy likes to throw off her audience.

It would be normal for her standup show to include breaking out singing the Ashanti song "Foolish," while playing background music on her 1998 keyboard and holding her pink martini glass that says "B****" on the front.

"The laughs come in waves, and people didn't know if they should laugh or not," Sheehy said. "I try to make [the audience] uncomfortable."

The University of Iowa sophomore went into the comedy business a few months ago, and she has performed standup at five shows around the Iowa City area.

The aspiring comedian thought she would try it out because she had a lot of jokes up her sleeve.

"I was so nervous," Sheehy said. "I just wanted people to laugh, but the most awful and rewarding thing ever was hearing everyone laugh at my first joke."

Since then, she said, she has been getting a great response, which isn't something typical for beginning comedians.

The English major remembers one instance in which guys wearing snap-back hats were mocking her entire set.

"They were basically being really loud and obnoxious," Sheehy said. "So I started turning on the eighth-graders and pretty much did the whole 'Hey, isn't it past your bedtime?' thing, and they stopped."

While Sheehy's comedy skit changes depending on the show, there are several jokes that show up in almost all of her performances.

Being lady-like is not something Sheehy is worried with while on stage, and audience members shouldn't be surprised if they hear jokes about poop and farts coming out of her teenage girl mouth.

"I think woman comedians are coming to the forefront with Tina Fey, Kristin Wiig, and Amy Poehler," Sheehy said. "But I still think there is that stigma that girls can't be gross and funny, and being able to do that is really rewarding. I feel like I'm doing something not only for comedy but for girls, too."

Aside from looking up to some of the well-known comedians, Sheehy said she bounces off a lot of her inspiration from her "hilarious" group of friends and doesn't know if she would have done her first show without their encouragement.

UI sophomore Lev Cantoral, a friend of Sheehy's, has also performed standup with her at an art show/concert at Public Space One.

"Not only are her jokes smart, but she also take command of the stage," Cantoral said. "What [Sheehy] does really well, and I think one of the keys too really good standup is how to make petty swipes at those people in the world who just make you want to kill yourself, but in a way that somehow seems productive and intelligent."

UI sophomore Robert Flanagan also performed with Sheehy and Cantoral

Mackenzie Sheehy

- **Age:** 19
- **Hometown:** Cedar Rapids
- **Favorite Band:** The Handsome Furs
- **Childhood Accomplishment:** I won my first-grade spelling bee; the prize was a book lamp
- **Accidentally Ate:** A book-mark
- **Fun Fact:** I can't burp

Know someone we should shine a light on? E-mail us at: di-spotlight@uiowa.edu.
Catch up with others from our series at dailyiowan.com/spotlight.



Iowa sophomore Mackenzie Sheehy is a local standup comedian who performs around Iowa City. Sheehy hopes to work as a comedian in LA or New York after graduation. (The Daily Iowan/Ian Servin)

and that wit is a valiant steed full of courage and huge, undulating smiles," Flanagan said.

For right now, the Iowa native is focusing on booking more shows, but when she graduates from the university, she would love

to move to LA or New York to be a comedian.

"I think people who can make you laugh is the best thing," Sheehy said. "If I can do for people what [my inspirations] did for me, then I really think I've given something back."

Kenyon to be City of Literature interim director

John Kenyon was named as the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature interim executive director Wednesday, according to a press release. He is scheduled to take the position May 14.

Kenyon will replace former executive director Jeanette Pilak, who resigned earlier this month. During Kenyon's six-month interim term, the organization's board of directors will search for a new candidate.

Susan Craig, the director of the Iowa City Public Library, said in the press release that

Kenyon will be qualified to continue the success of the City of Literature organization.

Kenyon's duties will include overseeing the operations of the City of Literature's nonprofit organizations, programming, outreach, and fundraising.

Kenyon is a Des Moines native and University of Iowa graduate. He is the editor and director of media operations for the *Corridor Business Journal* and an executive committee board member for the City of Literature organization.

In November 2008, Iowa City was designated the first City of Literature in the U.S. and third in the world.

— by Derek Kellison

Downtown group changes name

A local downtown organization has a new name.

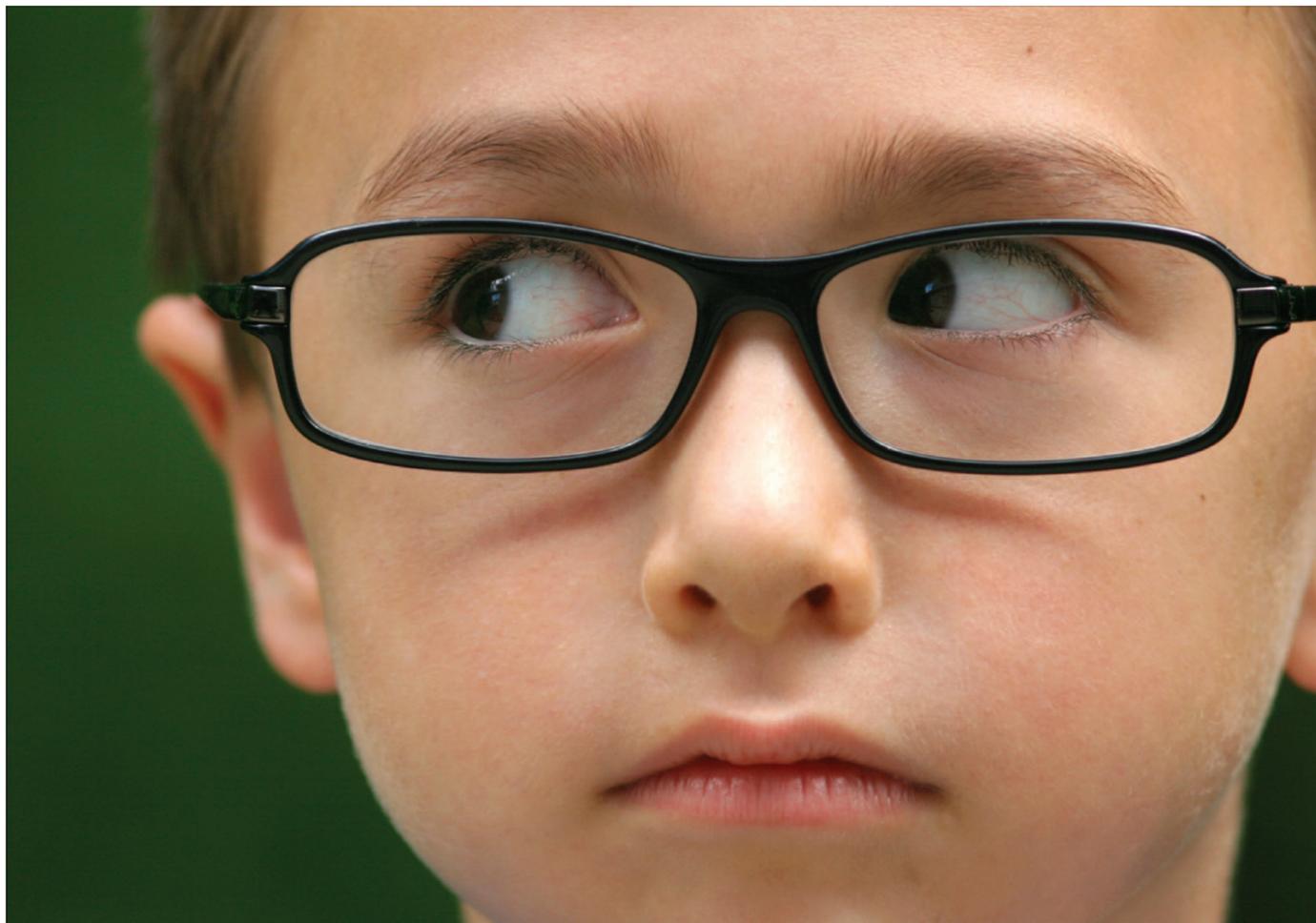
The Downtown Iowa City Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District has changed its name to the Iowa City Downtown District, according to a release from the Downtown Association. The Board of Directors voted for the name change at their meeting

Wednesday night and sought input from local business members and property owners.

The nonprofit organization is supported by property taxes assessed to those in the Downtown Iowa City and North Side Marketplace, including contributions from the University of Iowa.

The release said the legal name for the organization will remain Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District.

— by Alison Sullivan



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the ledge

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



Outside Iowa City

- Gas stations don't sell Ping-Pong balls or the newest Call of Duty.
 - The calendar is completely different: 12 months instead of 9, weekends start Friday night instead of Thursday, and I have to stake out houses for at least two weeks before I know when the occupants will be gone.
 - Way fewer women seen wearing their sexiest/skimpiest dresses while carrying their heels at 7 a.m. on Saturday.
 - If you're different in Iowa City, you can rest assured that many will still greet you with open arms; if you're different outside Iowa City, you should always keep one eye open for those that will greet you with closed fists.
 - Houses have driveways that you can park in and yards big enough to support more than one game of bags.
 - Plasma Centers aren't somewhere you want to hang out, but liquor stores are still always across the street.
 - There are these small-scale humans who whine a lot and are only good for getting you another beer.
 - You can do your laundry without quarters and the fear of having your nicest panties — er — favorite hoodie stolen.
 - You have to drive to and from bars. How counterintuitive is that?
 - No mass-transit system means having to save ALL your embarrassing personal stories for the elevator.
 - Paula is a woman's name.
- Nathan Wolf will miss the two-hour wait on wing Wednesdays.

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	3					6	7	
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SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

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

CHECK OUT dailyiowan.com FOR MORE PUZZLES

DILBERT

by Scott Adams

HEY, ALICE, DO YOU HAVE... SHE CAN'T HEAR YOU. SHE'S WALKING AND TEXTING. THAT'S IT... EASY DOES IT. I'LL GUIDE YOU AROUND THIS OBSTACLE. WHAT DID I JUST SEE? I'M SAVING UP FOR A SERVICE MONKEY.

NON SEQUITUR

BY VIEV

ACTUALLY, MY CAREER IS BLOGGING FOR THE HUFFINGTON POST... I JUST DO THIS TO MAKE A LIVING

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

HEY, MEL, WHO WERE YOU TALKING TO? FOX REPORTER HE WANTED TO CONFIRM THAT THE WAR IS GOING GREAT. OH YEAH? GOOD TO KNOW. MORE EVIDENCE THAT WATCHING FOX REALLY DOES MAKE YOU STUPIDER. IT'S LIKE GETTING YOUR NEWS FROM THE TOWN DRUNK. OBAMA: SOFT ON TERROR? YOU DECIDE! ANYONE HERE DISAGREE? NO?

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

- **Dance Marathon Blood Drive**, 7 a.m., UIHC DeGowin Blood Center
- **Clothesline Project**, 10 a.m., Pentacrest
- **Merle Volding Business Plan Competition**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center
- **Senior Tech Zone**, 10:30 a.m., Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn
- **Spanish Conversation Group**, 12:15 p.m., Iowa City Public Library
- **Organic Seminar, "Polymers that heal themselves," Katie Peterson, Chemistry**, 12:30 p.m., W228 Chemistry Building
- **Joint Astrophysics/Space Physics Seminar, "ELVA Survey of Giant Molecular Clouds and Massive Star Formation Sites in the Galactic Center," Natalie Butterfield, Physics/Astronomy**, 2 p.m., 309 Van Allen
- **Teen Tech Zone**, 3 p.m., Iowa City Public Library
- **Research Tea with Margoy Weiss, Wesleyan University**, 3 p.m., 106 Bowman House
- **Lecture by Barbara Weinstein, New York University**, 3:30 p.m., 1117 University Capitol Center
- **South Asian Studies Program Research Presentation**, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 225 Highway 1 W.
- **Grace Potter & the Nocturnals**, 8 p.m., IMU Main Lounge
- **Romeo and Juliet**, 8 p.m., Englert, 221 E. Washington
- **Wet Hair**, 9 p.m., Mill, 120 E. Burlington
- **Knights of the Turntable**, 9:30 p.m., Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn
- **This Is Not A Film**, 9:30 p.m., Bijou
- **Campus Activities Board Movie, The Artist**, 10 p.m., 348 IMU
- **RiverFest & Campus Activities Board Comedy, Josh Gondelman**, 10 p.m., IMU River Terrace

UITV schedule

Campus channel 4, cable channel 17

6 p.m. Iowa City Creators, Student Video Productions feature on creative people in Iowa City (2011)

6:30 Incompetent Sports Talk, student sports analysts review the week in sports, Student Video Productions

7 Java Blend, Fire Sale performance, March 2

8 Java Blend, encore performance by Alexis Stevens, March 5, 2010

9 Java Blend Encore, music videos from the Java House

9:30 Daily Iowan Television News

9:45 Student Information, lifestyle, support, and activities for students

10 Incompetent Sports Talk, student sports analysts review the week in sports, Student Video Productions

10:30 Daily Iowan Television News

10:45 Java Blend Encore, music videos from the Java House

11 Java Blend, Fire Sale performance, March 2

horoscopes

Thursday, April 26
- by Eugenia Last

- ARIES** March 21-April 19 Curb your response. You don't want to come across as unpredictable or difficult to deal with. Emotions will be hard to control, and it's important that you lead with charm, grace and good intentions if you want others to respond favorably.
- TAURUS** April 20-May 20 Do something nice for someone you love, and you will get something nice in return. Sharing, caring, and participating will lead to a host of new opportunities and friendships. Aggressive pursuits will pay off and show your leadership ability.
- GEMINI** May 21-June 20 Do something that will lift your spirits or build your confidence. A personal change to your image or the way you do things will draw positive attention. Avoid emotional situations that can lead to unfounded guilt and unnecessary handouts.
- CANCER** June 21-July 22 You'll find it hard to keep the peace. Don't let someone's lack of tact pull you into an argument. Take the high road, and focus on creative projects that will enhance the way people view you and what you have to offer.
- LEO** July 23-Aug 22 Make changes that enhance your position. You can do things your way if you can prove you have a better strategy in place. Your input will be met with opposition, but if you use a little Leo charm, you will win the battle.
- VIRGO** Aug 23-Sept. 22 You have the knowledge and expertise to turn any situation in your favor. Get busy making things happen instead of just thinking about it. Call in favors from people you have worked with in the past — something interesting will develop.
- LIBRA** Sept. 23-Oct. 22 You'll have plenty to think about and discuss when it comes to personal or professional partnerships. Iron out any problems before you move forward or spend money that can add to your stress. Love is in the stars.
- SCORPIO** Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Invest in a plan that allows you to use your skills and knowledge strategically. Networking will lead to an opportunity to expand something you are already interested in pursuing. Don't let someone's jealousy stand between you and your goals.
- SAGITTARIUS** Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Put more time and effort into your home, family, and most of all your love life. It's important that you are on the same page when it comes to personal changes that can alter your lifestyle. Compromise will satisfy everyone involved.
- CAPRICORN** Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You can learn from someone else's mistake. An investment, residential move or expansion of personal interests will play a positive role in your future plans. Expect someone from your past to have an influence on the choices you make.
- AQUARIUS** Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Discuss your plans for the future, and make lifestyle changes that are conducive to greater security and stabilization. It's up to you to call the shots and make the adjustments required to reach your goals.
- PISCES** Feb. 19-March 20 Let experience help you make better personal choices. Avoid getting into a no-win situation that ends in a loss of friendship. Reconnect with people you miss or have lost touch with. Express your regrets and your hopes for the future.

mc ginsberg.com

OBJECTS OF ART

The New York Times Crossword

- Edited by Will Shortz No. 0322
- Across**
- The Rhinemaidens in the "Ring" cycle, e.g.
 - Cracks up
 - Hot stuff
 - Went for on a gut feeling
 - Wing part
 - Their images are out of this world
 - Entrees for one of Dion's backup singers?
 - Ballpark figs.
 - "Who's there?" reply
 - Weapon in some raids
 - W.W. II arena
 - Late-night TBS show
 - Old royal
 - Discounts at garages?
 - 34 Lullaby side dish
 - 35 Singer
 - 36 Severely reduced wagers?
 - 43 Circus sounds
 - 44 "... wed"
 - 45 Like a line whose slope is zero: Abbr.
 - 48 Sweetheart
 - 49 Forum garb
 - 51 ___ Valley
 - 52 What mechanics may do as part of a tuneup?
 - 56 Irish lass
 - 58 Ones requesting seconds?
 - 59 Primed
 - 60 Not so fast
 - 61 Showed
 - 62 Orbital figure
- Down**
- One making camp?
 - White-collar worker
 - Antique desk feature
 - Celebrity couples, usually
 - Rookie: Var.
 - Big campaign topic: Abbr.
 - "Great" part for Duvall
 - Danger for wearers of high-heel shoes
 - O. Henry Award winner for "In the Region of Ice" (1967) and "The Dead" (1973)
 - China's Zhou ___
 - Valentine letters?
 - Wearer of a crown since 1952
 - Absorbed the cost of
 - Some A.L. batters
 - "South Park" boy
 - Ringo's drumming son
 - Grp. with a complex code
 - Shorten
 - 1930s migrant
 - Casse-___ (French brainteaser)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

B	L	U	R	T	S		T	H	E	L	O	T						
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			O	S	T	E	N	D		S	I	F	T	E	D			

Puzzle by Alan Arbesfeld

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MAN ON THE STREET

What do you think of the relationship between UI students and the Iowa City community?

"I think students want to not think about class, so they get involved in activities in the community."

Joe Likowitz
UI senior

"I think that they are both service-oriented."

Justin Miglior
UI junior

"I don't see a connection."

Meredith Zimmerman
UI freshman

"I think the students are trying to create more ties."

Amanda Adams
UI junior

DRAFT

CONTINUED FROM 10A

and that Reiff could benefit if some teams get "antsy."

That bodes well for the two other offensive linemen Ferentz expects to be taken, too. Adam Gettis stands 6-4 and weighs 280 pounds but has had to answer questions about his relative lack of size; Markus Zusevics tore a muscle in his chest while performing the bench press at the combine.

But Ferentz said Gettis "might be a sleeper in the whole thing ... this guy just blocks people." The Illinois native is quick, too; his unofficial time in the 40-yard dash at the combine

was the fastest of any offensive lineman, and his official mark of 5.00 seconds clocked in at third.

Ferentz shook off concerns about Zusevics' health, pointing to a similar injury suffered by former defensive lineman Broderick Binns last June. Binns came back at full strength for the 2011 season, and a torn pectoral isn't all that difficult to come back from, he said.

"Zuse will probably miss the mini-camps, but when it comes time, he should be able to go in August," Ferentz said. "... I'd be shocked if he didn't get drafted."

Both Gettis and Zusevics should be off the board by the end of the fourth round on Saturday, according to ESPN analyst Todd McShay. And if McShay's

complete mock draft is correct, the duo could be joined by several other former Hawkeyes in Saturday's later rounds.

McShay listed defensive tackle Mike Daniels and cornerback Shaun Prater as Iowa's other fourth-round hopefuls and said wideout Marvin McNutt will go in the fifth and linebacker Tyler Nielsen in the seventh.

Those four would push Ferentz's drafted list to 19 over the past two years, but he may have one more card in his hand.

Former safety Jordan Bernstein was among Ferentz's highest-rated recruits at Iowa; the Des Moines native was the best safety in the state and the No. 51 prospect in the country in 2007, according to Rivals. But he had issues

staying healthy at Iowa and didn't get consistent playing time until his senior campaign in 2011.

The National Football Post's college scouting director, Wes Bunting, told *The Daily Iowan* in November that he hadn't seen any of Bernstein's tape because he hadn't appeared in enough games to be strongly considered for the NFL.

But Bernstein has had as busy an off-season as any other former Hawkeye, Ferentz said.

"I think he has got a shot," Ferentz said. "He has been worked out by a lot of people and several teams. He tested very, very well, and I think he's going to get an opportunity."

"I'd be shocked if he didn't."

WOMEN'S TENNIS

CONTINUED FROM 10A

and playing away from the Hawkeye Tennis & Recreation Complex is something with which they struggled all season. But the tournament will be played on a neutral site — except in host Ohio State's meets — and Molnar said that could be an advantage for her team.

"It's great to play them again at a neutral site where [both teams] are not

accustomed to the courts and fans," Molnar said. "The outcome this time will be a more accurate evaluation of our ability."

Iowa will also be at full strength starting the tournament, a luxury the team hasn't enjoyed in almost three weeks. Freshmen Shelby Talcott and Ellen Silver, both starters for much of the year, didn't play in the first meeting with Minnesota because of nagging injuries. With both of them back in the starting lineup, Iowa can start athletes where they are used to playing and solidify the lineup throughout.

"We will have our No. 2 and No. 6 back in the line-

up," Dougherty said. "Having Shelby and Ellen back makes us deeper, and I feel like we have a much better opportunity to beat a good team. When we're all healthy and playing well, [Minnesota] is a team we can compete with."

The squad has toyed with doubles pairings in search of the right combinations and energy throughout the season, and Dougherty said she will unveil three new pairings today. Minnesota ended the season ranked No. 34 in the country and had a solid doubles team that was ranked No. 52. Dougherty said doubles were the key to beating the Gophers.

"The big thing for us is coming out strong in doubles and the first set in singles," the head coach said. "We're fired up, believe we can win, and are happy to have the opportunity to play another good team."

Senior Ally Majercik — who competed against Minnesota on April 22 but likely won't today because of Silver's return — said the team has a bit of a sour taste in its mouth from the last meeting.

"We're all excited about getting a second shot at them, and I know there will be different matchups," Majercik said. "Since we lost to them, it's kind of fresh. We want to bring it to them this time."

MEN'S TENNIS

CONTINUED FROM 10A

ior made his own mark on the program, and the class will leave Iowa with a lasting legacy.

"Will was the guy who played the most, and Tom certainly made his contributions," Houghton said. "Mitch was a good story in terms of moving up from the 13th man on the roster to the lineup. Chris was a good story in terms of not playing for three years, having a great fall — then

the injury turned him effectively into an assistant coach, where he's done a good job, too."

The Hawkeyes enter the conference tournament as the No. 12 seed and will take on No. 5-seeded No. 27 Indiana (21-8, 7-4 Big Ten), in the first round.

Houghton said each school the Hawkeyes line up against this weekend will have little respect for his team because of its low seed.

"There's no question that our opponents will be overlooking us, for sure," Houghton said. "Whoever we play, we'll have probably lost to already."

Vasos said he's looking at

the tournament as an opportunity for revenge on the teams that kicked the Hawkeyes while they were down this spring.

"Hopefully, we can get some vengeance from a team we've played before," Vasos said. "All we can really do is keep fighting."

For the Hawkeyes to make it to Friday, the team must be firing on all cylinders while accepting the fact that it's a big underdog.

"To do well, it's no secret that we need to have all of our guys playing well," Houghton said. "We have to hope that [Indiana] is off a little bit. That is the reality of things."

Houghton said there's one element that might work to Iowa's advantage this weekend.

"A factor that could help us is that we could play somebody at the tournament outdoors that we played before indoors," Houghton said. "Some of these teams are better indoors rather than outdoors, and vice versa."

Still, to pull off the unthinkable, the Hawkeyes need everything to fall into place.

"We're going to have to play really well and hope our opponents aren't playing their best," Houghton said. "And maybe a little luck on the side."

2012 DRAKE RELAYS

Track's energy bundle

By **TORK MASON**

tork-mason@uiowa.edu

Iowa assistant track coach Christi Smith can often be heard yelling from across the field at Cretzmeier Track.

It's a good bet she's happy about something.

Smith has brought a high energy level to the Iowa track and field program and has built her coaching philosophy around positive reinforcement.

"'Enthusiastic' is the best word to describe Coach Smith," senior high jumper Jeff Herron said. "She's loud, she's happy, she's excited — and she puts that into the athletes she coaches."

Smith said coaches can't focus only on what an athlete is doing wrong. Correcting mistakes is obviously the most important function of a coach, she said, but encouragement is

a key for the athletes' confidence.

Her mother inspired that emphasis on building confidence, she said.

"I was always externally driven by my family," she said. "I had my mother, who got polio at the age of 3 and learned to walk at 18. That's the type of environment I grew up in. We were driven to be something better and to always have confidence."

Herron — who recently set the school record in the high jump under Smith's tutelage — said his coach is the type of person who brings up the intensity in practice and never appears burnt-out herself.

"You can't come out here with a monotone kind of feel about it," he said. "You have to match [her] intensity, because when you match that intensity, the best is going to come out of you. And there's never a day when she's not live enough for you."

Head coach Layne Anderson said Smith's background in numerous events was something he

was specifically looking for when he hired her in 2008, because multi-event coaches often have the most expertise. He said he wanted to look in some of the smaller conferences for an "up-and-coming" coach, and Smith's name and record as an assistant at Kent State came up numerous times.

Her own athletics accomplishments didn't hurt, either.

Smith won the 2000 NCAA championship in the heptathlon after finishing as the runner-up in the event at the 1999 championships, which earned her a pair of All-American honors while at Akron. She also won 11 Mid-America Conference titles in a variety of events.

Anderson said Smith's enthusiasm was also a plus; he's a self-described "high-energy guy" and said her passion for the sport was palpable in his first conversation with her.

Smith said she has always had that zeal for the sport and desire to coach.

"I was coaching at a very early age, even during

Drake Relays

When: Thursday through Saturday
Where: Des Moines

[USA Track and Field] at the age of 11," she said. "We were down in Georgia, and I was out there in 100-degree temperature helping the girl next to me. My coach pulled me aside and said, 'What are you doing? Get some shade,' and I was like, 'She needed help.' I've always had a helping heart, and track and field is my true calling."

She said her desire to help those around her often spilled over to her opponents. She encouraged her competition and helped the opponents to jump higher so she could go out and beat them at their best.

Encouragement is just something she has always been around, she said.

"To be quite honest, I don't know any other way," she said. "I think that through encouragement and positive motivation, anything is possible."

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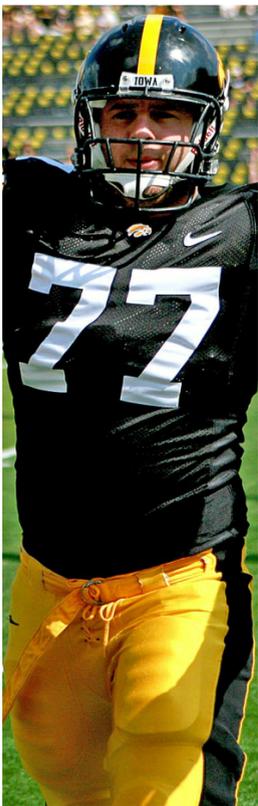
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2012 NFL DRAFT

Ferentz sees 7 Hawkeyes drafted



These five outgoing Hawkeyes are entering the NFL draft. Left to Right: Riley Reiff, Marvin McNutt, Adam Gettis, Shaun Prater, Mike Daniels. (The Daily Iowan/File Photos)

Kirk Ferentz says he expects at least seven of his former players will be chosen in the NFL draft.

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

A dozen of Kirk Ferentz's former players have been drafted into the NFL in the past two years.

If he has his way, that number will jump to 19 — or maybe even 20 — by the end of the upcoming weekend.

Seven former Hawkeyes worked out at the NFL's scouting combine in late February, and Ferentz said on Tuesday that he expects all to be chosen in this weekend's NFL draft.

"If [teams] want 340-pound linemen, don't take any of our guys," he said. "... But I think our guys fit for a lot of people."

Arguably the best of those guys isn't a good fit for New York City, though, and therefore

won't be sitting in Radio City Music Hall to hear his name called in person.

Former left tackle and presumptive first-round pick Riley Reiff will watch the draft from his home in South Dakota. Ferentz said Reiff's grandfather is "up there in age and a little bit frail right now," which is part of the reason he won't make the trip, but he also said Reiff likely doesn't want to deal with the distractions of the Big Apple.

"It's certainly not Riley's nature," he said. "Riley, I could promise you, would be a lot more comfortable in Green Bay than New York City if he had a choice where he went ... he'd rather be out fishing or things like that than be in Manhattan hanging out with whoever."

Reiff's draft stock has dropped somewhat

since he first announced he would forego his final year of eligibility and declared for the draft in January. He appeared as the No. 9 pick on ESPN draft analyst Mel Kiper's first mock draft, but he is No. 18 on Kiper's most recent one; he fell as far as No. 23 (Detroit) on *Sports Illustrated's* final mock.

"His fall ends in Motown, which isn't a bad place to land these days," *Sports Illustrated* columnist Don Banks wrote. "He infuses the Lions' offensive line with some much-needed youth."

Ferentz doesn't necessarily agree with the experts, though. He said this year's pool of offensive linemen isn't deep — Reiff is widely regarded as the second-best in the class —

NFL Draft

Round 1: 7 p.m. today
Rounds 2-3: 6 p.m. Friday
Rounds 4-7: 11 a.m. Saturday
Where: Radio City Music Hall, New York City
Where to watch: ESPN

MORE ONLINE

Will Riley Reiff or Marvin McNutt have more of an impact in his rookie season? DailyIowan.com

SEE **DRAFT**, 9A

BIG TEN TOURNAMENT

Hawks to face Gophers again

The Hawkeyes draw a rematch of their season-closing loss to Minnesota in the first round of the Big Ten Tournament.

By **PATRICK MASON**
patrick-mason@uiowa.edu

The Iowa women's tennis team struggled against Big Ten opponents this season. A large number of strong teams in the conference, coupled with facing good teams on the road, pushed the Hawkeyes near the bottom of the conference with a 2-9 Big Ten record.

That league mark dropped the Black and Gold to the No. 11 seed in the Big Ten Tournament, where they will face No. 6-seed Minnesota today in Columbus, Ohio.

This will be the first conference tournament for more than half of Iowa's starters. Four freshmen have been solid for the Hawkeyes throughout the year and will serve as a backbone for Iowa's tournament run.

Iowa has a few things to play for. Senior Sonja Molnar needs another singles win to nab her 100th, and the team will try to secure



Iowa freshman Shelby Talcott returns the ball in a singles match against Iowa State's Ksenia Pronina on Feb. 12 at the Hawkeye Tennis & Recreation Complex. Talcott and the Hawkeyes will take on Minnesota in the Big Ten Tournament today. (The Daily Iowan/File Photo)

its first-ever conference tournament championship — but that's something they will have to achieve from the bottom up.

Hawkeye head coach Katie Dougherty dismissed the idea that being a low seed gives a team the opportunity to sneak up on opponents that might take it lightly.

"With the strength of the league this year, there's a much thinner line between No. 11 and No. 6 than there

has been. [Minnesota] will be prepared for us," she said.

The Hawkeyes traveled to Minnesota on Sunday, and fell 6-1 in the last meet of the regular season. Now the Hawkeyes are eyeing a rematch at a neutral site in Columbus.

"It's a great opportunity for us to play Minnesota again," said Sonja Molnar, who is 5-1 against the Golden Gophers and lost her first match on Sunday.

Big Ten Women's Tournament

No. 11 Iowa vs. No. 6 Minnesota

When: 1 p.m. today
Where: Varsity Tennis Center, Columbus, Ohio

"It's revenge time."

The Hawkeyes went 1-9 on the road this season,

SEE **WOMEN'S TENNIS**, 9A

BIG TEN TOURNAMENT

Men's tennis wraps up season

The Hawkeyes' forgettable season will end at the Big Ten Tournament this weekend.

By **TOM CLOS**
thomas-clos@uiowa.edu

The chance that the Iowa men's tennis team can win four matches in four days after an 0-11 mark in regular-season Big Ten play looks rather improbable.

Throw in the Hawkeyes' ongoing 19-meet losing streak, and the task looks nearly impossible.

Iowa will have to pull off the impossible if it wishes to keep its season alive after this weekend as it heads to the Big Ten Tournament in Evanston, Ill., on Thursday. Barring a miraculous run to the title, the tournament will serve as the final resting place for the Iowa seniors' collegiate careers.

The 2012 campaign was a year that was supposed to be memorable, but it has been anything but that for Mitch Beckert, Tom Mroziewicz, Chris Speer, and Will



Mroziewicz
senior

Big Ten Men's Tournament

No. 12 Iowa vs. No. 5 Indiana:

When: 8:30 a.m. today
Where: Vandy Christie Tennis Center, Evanston, Ill.

Vasos.

The senior foursome finished with a combined 4-37 singles record this spring. Mroziewicz and Vasos, the two who were supposed to lead the Hawkeyes in doubles, went 2-6 as a duo this season.

Mroziewicz said that though 2012 was disappointing, the big picture outweighs this past season's struggles.

"I've definitely had a memorable career," Mroziewicz said. "There were a lot of ups and downs, but there are some things I will take with me from here for the rest of my life. I'm grateful of what I have become after four years."

Head coach Steve Houghton said each sen-

SEE **MEN'S TENNIS**, 9A

80 Hours
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April 26, 2012



Iowa City resident Martin Andrews plays a landlord during rehearsal Tuesday of *Mayberry*. The play will run Friday through April 29 at Riverside Theater. (The Daily Iowan/Asmaa Elkeurti)

Life in our town

A local playwright creates *Mayberry*, a play about class and ethnic issues in Iowa City.

By **JULIA JESSEN**
julia-jessen@uiowa.edu

Mayberry opens with the actors of the play portraying themselves, rather than their characters. They stand behind a chainlink fence and tell the audience about their life in Iowa City. The set then transforms into a collage of characters with myriad opinions about the city.

"All theater at its best is community theater in the sense of being about the community," said Sean Christopher Lewis, *Mayberry*'s playwright and the Working Group Theater's artistic director. "How often is there a play that is so immediately about where you live?"

The influx of predominantly African-

Americans moving to the Southeast Side of Iowa City is central to Lewis' play. The production, commissioned by Hancher, and produced by Working Group Theater, will premiere at 7:30 p.m. Friday to a sold-out crowd at Riverside Theater, 213 N. Gilbert St. Shows will continue at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on April 29. Admission ranges from \$10 to \$25. There will also be a free showing at 5 p.m. May 1 at Southeast Junior High, 2501 Bradford Drive.

"It's a tapestry of people who live in and around Iowa City — a tapestry of opinions and experiences," said Jennifer Fawcett,

SEE **MAYBERRY**, 38

Mayberry

When: 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday and April 29

Where: Riverside Theater, 213 N. Gilbert

Admission: \$25 for nonstudents, \$10 for college students, \$22.50 for senior citizens, \$12.50 for youth

Free community showing:

When: 5 p.m. May 1
Where: Southeast Junior High, 2501 Bradford

The cast of *Mayberry* performs during rehearsal on Tuesday. *Mayberry* is a play about ethnic issues in the community; it will run Friday through April 29 at Riverside Theater. (The Daily Iowan/Asmaa Elkeurti)



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We're up on the blog o-sphere! Check out this week's post at DailyIowanArts.blogspot.com

Q&A

Seeing the world carefully

University of Iowa Visiting Associate Professor Kevin Brockmeier walks around every day with a multitude of amazing story ideas floating around his head.

Earlier this week, the Iowa Writers' Workshop graduate and current faculty member gave a reading in Iowa City, and he will read on Friday in Cedar Rapids. Brockmeier has published seven books — novels for children and story collections and novels for adults.

The Daily Iowan sat down with the author to find out more about his writing.

Daily Iowan: How would you describe your writing style?

Brockmeier: I guess the easiest way to describe it is mainstream literary fiction with strong elements of science fiction and fantasy, sometimes.

DI: Where do you find inspiration?

Brockmeier: That comes from all over the place. I think, like most people, I have dozens of ideas every day that could make for a good story — the question is which of those ideas stick with you. What I tend to find is that there are a bare handful of ideas that I just can't dislodge; they linger with me, and they grow bigger, and they tend to gather other ideas around them, and those are the ideas that ultimately I say to myself, "Oh I think this is the basis for something, and I need to sit down and work on it."

DI: How does it feel to be back in Iowa City?

Brockmeier: It's wonderful. This is my third time returning as a teacher, and I'll confess that the first time I came back, I was really intimidated by the prospect. First because the students



Brockmeier describes his writing style as mainstream literary fiction. (Contributed photo)

are of such a high caliber and then also because I admire the rest of the faculty in the program so much, but gradually I found my footing in the classroom, and every time I return I'm nervous and gradually again I find my footing in the classroom.

DI: What do you most enjoy about the Iowa City writing community?

Brockmeier: I don't know that you'll find a better community of writers anywhere in the United States, honestly, so it's a great place to be reading, and writing, and involved in this kind of work.

DI: Can you tell me about your latest book, *The Illumination*?

Brockmeier: It's a novel about what happens to the world when people in pain begin to emanate light, so you can actually see when the people around you are suffering.

Specifically, it follows six characters: a data analyst, a photojournalist, a schoolchild, a missionary, a writer, and a street vendor. Their notion of themselves and of the people around them is reshaped by this phenomenon of the illumination.

DI: What do you hope readers take away from your work?

Brockmeier: Well, I don't have a moral in mind or a lesson in mind, but I do hope that what I've done in every book that I've written and in every paragraph and in every sentence that I've written is observed something very carefully and try to express it truly, and I hope that the people who read my books finish them with a sensation that they've observed something about the world carefully and that they've seen something truly.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Comedian Gondelman to perform

RiverFest will join with the Campus Activities Board to bring comedian Josh Gondelman to the University of Iowa campus.

Gondelman will perform at 10 p.m. today in the IMU River Terrace. Admission is free.

The comedian began his career as a preschool teacher, which has allowed him to charm his audiences of all ages with witty jokes that can make any crowd laugh.

Because of his experience with kids, Gondelman tells his audiences jokes about anything from rainbows to gangster rap, according to his website, www.joshgondelman.com.

The combination of his quirky sense of humor and his good nature has allowed him to become one of the most relatable comedians to perform on stage.

He originally lived in Boston but decided that he needed to live

in a city where comedy was everywhere — so he moved to New York City.

In 2008, he was awarded his first official recognition in the comedy community. In a showcase at the Boston Comedy Festival, Gondelman was awarded the "Best of the Fest."

With one festival under his belt, he traveled to Atlanta last year to participate in the Laughing Skull Comedy Festival, where he walked away with first prize.

Since then, he has been recognized on a national level by many festivals and fellow comedians including Rooftop Comedy Festival in Aspen, Colo., and Laugh Your Asheville Off Festival in Asheville, N.C. He was also picked by a talent agent to be on "Late Night with David Letterman."

Gondelman performs standup, sketch, and improv comedy at universities, theaters, and clubs across the country.

He has become known as a comedian that even a grandmother would love — though she may

not understand all his jokes.
— by **Samantha Gentry Novak to perform**

B.J. Novak, a comedian and star of "The Office," will perform at the IMU on May 4, according to the University of Iowa's Campus Activities Board.

The show starts at 10 p.m. and doors open at 9:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$5 or at the door for \$7.

According to the UI's After Class website, Novak was discovered as a standup comedian; he has performed on Comedy Central and "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." He's also sold out live shows at theaters throughout the country, including Caroline's on Broadway and the Hollywood Improv. In November 2008, his show "B.J. Novak and Friends at Town Hall" served as the closing night of the New York Comedy Festival, After Class said.

Novak plays the role of Ryan Howard on "The Office."

— by **Sam Lane**

TRACKS FROM THE PAST

Vs. by Pearl Jam

Before becoming a world-renowned ukulele player, Eddie Vedder had a life in music as the front man for Pearl Jam. The band has released nine studio albums to date. Its second, Vs., is this week's tracks from the past.

Compared with the band's debut album, Ten, Vs. had a much looser, more aggressive, and raw sound. But the masses were pleased.

Vs. spent five weeks on the top of the Billboard 200, more than any other Pearl Jam album. It has gone platinum seven times.

Critics liked the album, too. Rolling Stone gave it a favorable review upon its release, as did USA Today, which gave it four

out of four stars. The Los Angeles Times gave it three of four, and the Chicago Sun-Times 3.5 of four.

Vs. released four singles: "Go" and "Daughters" in 1993 and "Animal" and "Dissident" in 1994.

"Elderly Woman Behind the Counter in a Small Town" is the acoustic gem of the album and is definitely worth giving a listen.

— by **Jordan Montgomery**

MOVIES | MUSIC | WORDS | FILM
DANCE | THEATER | LECTURES

weekend events

NEW MOVIES OPENING THIS WEEKEND



The Pirates! Band of Misfits

Hugh Grant stars in this animated film as Pirate Captain. He and his crew face numerous adventures as they try to win the Pirate of the Year Award and beat their foes, Black Bellamy (Jeremy Piven) and Cutlass Liz (Salma Hayek). Peter Lord directed the swashbuckling tale.



The Raven

In this film directed by James McTeigue, Edgar Allan Poe (John Cusack) must team up with a detective (Luke Evans) to stop a serial killer who is murdering people and finding inspiration from the famous author's dark work.



Declaration of War

This film, directed by Valérie Donzelli, was a critic's pick at the Cannes Film Festival. The movie revolves around Romeo (Jérémie Elkaim) and Juliette (Valérie Donzelli) who must decide what to do after finding out that their newborn baby is sick. Donzelli and Elkaim's real life experiences inspired the story.

BEER OF THE WEEK

Farmer John

This week's Beer of the Week is the Farmer John from Davenport's Great River Brewery.

It is an American-style brown ale with a medium body. This classic style brown ale stands apart from most other craft brews because it is offered in a can.

The brew features mild tastes of coffee and hints of caramel. It's grainy, but not so much that it's off-putting. Farmer John has a mild fruit nose.

"It's a good grilling companion, and it would go well with classic English cuisine," said Joe Hotek of John's Grocery, 401 E. Market St.

Perhaps the best part of this beer is that it's an area product. So don't forget to invite Farmer John to your next cookout.

Cheers.

— by **Jordan Montgomery**

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Today 4.26

MUSIC

- **The Envy Corps**, 7 p.m., Blue Moose, 211 Iowa
- **The Dear Hunter**, 7 p.m., Gabe's, 330 E. Washington
- **Jazz Repertory Ensemble**, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Recital Hall
- **Na Palm**, 8 p.m., Blue Moose
- **RiverFest & SCOPE Concert, Grace Potter and the Nocturnals**, 8 p.m., IMU Main Lounge
- **JC Brooks & the Uptown Sound**, 10 p.m., Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn
- **Soul Dance Party**, 10 p.m., Gabe's

WORDS

- **"Live from Prairie Lights,"** Catherine Theis and Rebecca Lehman, poetry, 7 p.m., Prairie Lights, 15 S. Dubuque

FILM

- **In Darkness**, 6:30 p.m., Bijou
- **This Is Not A Film**, 9:30 p.m., Bijou
- **Campus Activities Board Movie, The Artist**, 10 p.m., 348 IMU

THEATER

- **Romeo and Julie**, 8 p.m., Englert, 221 E. Washington

LECTURES

- **Barbara Weinstein**, 3:30 p.m., 1117 University Capitol Center
- **"Comparative Methods,**

Cognitive Processes, and The Study of Religious Experiences in South Asian Contexts," South Asian Studies Program Research Presentation, 4 p.m., 312 Phillips Hall

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Art Iowa: Inspired by Landscape Gallery Talk with Iowa artist Barbara Fedeler**, 6:30 p.m., Hanson Family Humanities Gallery, Old Capitol Museum
- **RiverFest and Campus Activities Board Comedy, Josh Gondelman**, 10 p.m., IMU River Terrace

don't miss!

Wet Hair, with Featureless Ghost & Merchandise

Where: Mill, 120 E. Burlington
When: 9 p.m. Thursday
Why you should go: Wet Hair is back with new rhythms and sounds and a focus on vocals, which haven't been emphasized in the band's previous songs. The band will also perform with Atlanta duo Featureless Ghost, whose pop and new-wave sound sets it apart.

Friday 4.27

MUSIC

- **IWRESTLEDBEARONCE**, 4:30 p.m., Blue Moose
- **Defeater**, 5 p.m., Gabe's
- **Jazz After Five, Odd Bar Trio**, 5 p.m., Mill
- **RiverFest, Pajama Jam**, 7 p.m., IMU second-floor ballroom
- **Saxophone Studio recital**, 7:30 p.m., University Capitol Center Recital Hall
- **Simon Joyner & the Tarnished Angels, with Ed Gray, Ramon Speed, Samuel Locke Ward, and Douglas Kramer Nye**, 9 p.m., Mill
- **Roster McCabe**, 10 p.m., Gabe's

WORDS

- **Mark Levine and Michelle Huneven, poetry and fiction**, 8 p.m., Dey House Frank Conroy Reading Room

Saturday 4.28

MUSIC

- **Cristina Gerling, piano**, 3 p.m., Riverside Recital Hall
- **Catfish Keith**, 7 p.m., Mill
- **Lights**, 7 p.m., Gabe's
- **Free Bass featuring Rissi, D'Boy, Kage**, 9 p.m., Blue Moose
- **T.U.G.G.**, 9:30 p.m., Yacht Club
- **Robert Monroe vs. Blakk Forrest Ham, with William Stonewall Monroe**, 10 p.m., Mill

WORDS

- **"Live from Prairie Lights," Zach Wahls, non-fiction**, 2 p.m., Prairie Lights

FILM

- **Declaration of War**, 4:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Bijou
- **The Turin Horse**, 6:30 p.m., Bijou
- **Campus Activities Board Movie, The Artist**, 10 p.m., 348 IMU

THEATER

- **Mayberry**, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Theater
- **Romeo and Juliet**, 8 p.m., Englert

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Riverbank Art Fair**, 10 a.m., IMU Main Lounge
- **RiverFest: Zombie Prom**, 7 p.m., IMU second-floor ballroom

Sunday 4.29

MUSIC

- **Cristina Gerling piano masterclass**, 2 p.m., 150 Clinton Street Music Building
- **Chamber Orchestra/All University String Orchestra**, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Recital Hall
- **Electronic Music Studios**, 7:30 p.m., 101 Becker

FILM

- **Declaration of War**, 3 p.m., Bijou

- **The Turin Horse**, 5:15 p.m., Bijou

THEATER

- **Mayberry**, 2 p.m., Riverside Theater
- **Romeo and Juliet**, 2 p.m., Englert

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Riverbank Art Fair**, 9 a.m., IMU Main Lounge
- **RiverRun**, 9 a.m., IMU

MAYBERRY
CONTINUED FROM 1B

the associate artistic director of Working Group Theater and an actor in *Mayberry*. "I think that the play provides a platform for conversation by allowing people the opportunity, if they're willing, to listen to some very diverse opinions."

Creation of *Mayberry*

Lewis spent around two years conducting interviews with people living in Iowa City and in Chicago to gain understanding of the issues that he hoped his play would address.

"I think the thing with interviewing is it's like having a conversation where I just shut up a lot," he said. "I think those are the best interviews — people would get on a roll, and it was kind of informal in that sense."

He started by interviewing several people whose interviews led him to other people. Soon, Lewis had amassed a collection of stories and voices.

"From my perspective as an amateur community organizer, I think Sean has done a really great job of going into the Southeast Side and talking to people and doing interviews with all sorts of people from all different walks of life in Iowa City," said Robert Gutsche, a University of Iowa doctoral student in journalism and mass communication who studies controversies surrounding the Southeast Side.

Martin Andrews, a producing director of the Working Group Theater, plays a set of characters including an open-minded and progressive Iowa Citian, a principal of a local high school, a Chicago housing authority, a college student, and a puppet, "Mister Briefcase."

He said the most interesting part of the process was when Lewis conducted

workshops with the actors, giving them characters and settings and having them improvise scenes and lines.

"There was sort of a danger in the room, because you don't talk about race very much, and he was asking us to improvise on it — to just go with what we felt our character was feeling," he said. "It was really great to go there with my fellow actors, both black and white, and just go into that territory and see what we found."

Fawcett, who also plays various characters, said when she takes on the role of someone whom she has met in real life, she doesn't try to imitate that person.

"I'm trying to create a new character, but I'm obviously influenced by what I know," she said. "It's a bit intimidating knowing that the real person could be in the audience. You hope that you do them justice."

Although he has only seen a few scenes from the play, Gutsche said the production succeeds in presenting these characters who are based on real Iowa City residents. To him, the play has a journalistic quality that comes from the characters and the language of the play having roots in reality.

"It's trying to get to a sense of accuracy, maybe not objectivity, but accuracy in how words are spoken and how honesty can be expressed," Gutsche said. "I would say there's a real journalistic element to the play, and I think that gives it a lot of legitimacy and authority."

Questioning our community

Hancher Programming Director Jacob Yarrow said the issues portrayed in *Mayberry* apply to Iowa City and to a larger global scale.

"I think the subject matter and themes of race and class and how communities form and exist in our country are relevant pretty much all around the world and definitely throughout the U.S.," he said.

The culture clash in the play permeates several areas of daily life — including school systems, bus systems, and housing. The characters on stage allow the different arguments from all sides to be heard.

"I think this play gives you the opportunity to walk in other people's shoes," Fawcett said. "It doesn't give answers, because it's a really complex situation, and there's not a right and a wrong."

Andrews said the production raises many questions about the Iowa City community.

"I think the major issues are how does a community accept? How does a community respond? And what does a community learn about itself when it deals with others?" he said. "How do you incorporate them into the life of the city? How do you make them feel welcome? How do you teach them about your values and how do you understand theirs?"

Although the show raises many issues, Lewis said, he isn't trying to convey a single message to his audience.

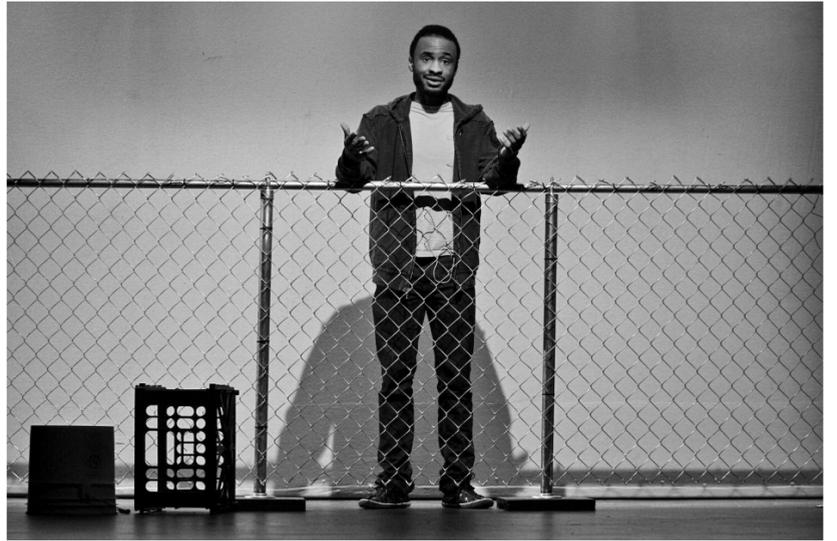
"The show was made so much from listening that I feel like I got taught a lot, so it feels weird to be like, 'This is what I'm going to show you, Iowa City,'" he said.

Serving a community purpose

Everyone involved in *Mayberry* said the production's main goal is to spark further discussion about acknowledging diversity in Iowa City.

"I think it's important to get some kind of dialogue going about race and economics," Andrews said. "Pretending that it's not there or feeling guilty about it isn't going to help anything. Having a conversation is probably the best thing we can do."

Educating and providing a platform for numerous



Iowa City resident Barrington Vaxter performs during rehearsal Tuesday of *Mayberry*. (The Daily Iowan/Asmaa Elkeurti)

voices are also important to those involved with the piece.

"I think the goal of the play is to give people the opportunity to learn about the people who they would consider 'other,'" Fawcett said.

As long as the audience has a reaction to the material, the actors said, they will be happy.

"We welcome whatever response people will have," Andrews said. "I think as long as you're seeking to tell the human story, I think people will find a way to connect to it, but it's always up to the audience for how they respond to the story."

The fast ticket sales before the play's opening seems to indicate that the community is interested in the topic.

"Everyone who's in the play and everyone who is going to come see this play are the people who actually own this town," Lewis said. "Owning sounds so possessive like, 'I get to decide who comes here,' but it's not about that. It's actually a great responsibility, because it means that you are responsible for the future of the town."



Iowa City residents Barrington Vaxter, Kristy Harsgrove, and Martin Andrews perform with puppets during rehearsal Tuesday of *Mayberry*. The play will run Friday through April 29 at Riverside Theatre. (The Daily Iowan/Asmaa Elkeurti)

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Beyond the pigeonhole

Grace Potter & the Nocturnals will perform at the 10,000 Hours Show as part of RiverFest 2012.

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

The members of Grace Potter & the Nocturnals met at a small university in northern New York about 10 minutes from the Canadian border. With few places to practice and many other bands in the town, the band was often stuck with the latest rehearsal time at a local coffee house.

"We would always be out playing during the witching hour," said guitarist Scott Tournet. "So that is how the Nocturnals were born."

Rayland Baxter will open for Grace Potter & the Nocturnals at 8 p.m. today in the IMU Main Lounge. SCOPE and 10,000 Hours will present the show during this weekend's RiverFest events. Tickets are available at the IMU Box Office; general admission is \$23.50.

Grace Potter & the Nocturnals

When: 8 p.m. today
Where: IMU Main Lounge
Admission: \$23.50

The 10,000 Hours Show is a yearly initiative to encourage Iowans to volunteer 10 hours with local nonprofits. If that is accomplished and logged with the organization, participants earn a free ticket to the show.

"We had a good boost in hours the last two weeks," said 10,000 Hours outreach director Katie Priske. "We have been trying to really push the concert and push logging hours. We are going to announce how many total hours of volunteering there were at the show."

Grace Potter & the Nocturnal's late-night java-joint jam sessions occurred

almost 10 years ago. The band has released three studio albums and toured almost continuously during that time. The group's fourth studio album will come out on June 12 — it's the first time the band has taken complete control in creating an album.

"Grace had a very clear vision and about how it should sound and what themes to cover," Tournet said. "So we were able to do it the way we wanted. [Making an album is] like seasoning a soup; you've got to be careful about a pinch of this and a dash of that."

In 2011, Potter collaborated with Kenny Chesney to create "You and Tequila," which peaked at NO. 3 on the U.S. country charts.

"We were really excited about them, because she is gaining a lot of buzz nationally right now," said SCOPE Public Relations

Coordinator and former *Daily Iowan* employee Zoey Miller. "She transcends genres, combining aspects of soul, rock, and country, so they offer something for everyone in Iowa City."

The band started out as most bands do, emulating classic rock and roll bands the members looked up to. But in 10 years, Grace Potter & the Nocturnals has developed its own sound.

"We evolved into this bluesy roots band, and then all of a sudden, we were playing jam-band fests, so we were a jam band," Tournet said. "Because of the last album we put out, people said we were a pop band. Grace did a song with Kenny Chesney, so now we're a country band. We're letting people perceive us however they want, and we're just making moves that feel right to us."

What is more consistent



Grace Potter & the Nocturnals play at the IMU at 8 p.m. today. (Publicity photo)

than the style of songs is the electric live shows the members are known to put on. Their energetic reputation have landed them slots at such music festivals as Lollapalooza, Wakarusa, and, most recently, Coachella.

"We freak out onstage. I don't know what hap-

pens," Tournet said. "We've had six months off from being on the stage — it's the longest break we've ever had. There's an energy that we feed off of, and we just lose our sh**. We're sweaty, things are falling over, sh**'s broken, we give it our all."



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Zombies return to dance

The Zombies will rise again this year at RiverFest's Zombie Prom.

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

The living dead, dressed in bloody tuxedos and ripped dresses, will invade Iowa City's RiverFest and groove to the tunes of local artists at the Zombie Prom.

The second Zombie Prom will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday in the IMU second-floor ballroom. The night will feature bands, food, and deadly dance moves. Zombie Prom is free and open to the public of all ages.

"We try to have wall-to-wall music playing until

Zombie Prom

When: 7 p.m. Saturday
Where: IMU second-floor ballroom
Admission: free

they kick us out," said University of Iowa junior and RiverFest marketing director Nico Ward. "Last year, we had a lot of dancing, aggressive and vigorous zombie dancing."

This year's lineup features mostly bands from Iowa City and the rest from Iowa, said UI senior and RiverFest executive director Josh Messer. There will be performances by Limbs, Quasi, Mooseknuckle, and Phantom Vibrations.

"It was one of the events that went over the best, which was surprising,

because it was something new that we tried out," Ward said. "Frankly, we got a really strong response to it in terms of attendance and people asking us to do it again this year. So it's nice to have something that's a staple or tradition."

The Zombie Prom evolved from a battle-of-the-bands idea. RiverFest organizers wanted something with music and a theme in the second-floor ballroom, and they wanted something different from the standard '80s part, Ward said.

"[Last year] we had a lot of people in full-blown prom outfits like torn-up suits. Even the bands participated with costumes," Ward said. "And we do makeup there. So if for some reason

people don't have zombie makeup lying around at home, we have people there to help. It's a frenzy of people in various forms of zombification."

Along with the music and dancing, food will go along with the theme. Zombies attending the event will feast on spare ribs.

"The best part about it is

that we're still able to do it for free. There is free music, food, dancing, and face painting," Messer said. "I think we really have something for everyone. We really cater to the hungry collegiate music fan, and there's a lot of us."

The Zombie Prom is one of the final events in the festivities of the

annual RiverFest.

"This is a great way to support the local music scene, and everyone is welcome," Messer said. "It's a delight to help put something on like this. It makes me really happy to see people who didn't intend on checking it out stop by; it usually makes their weekend."

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WHO-O-O	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Joe's Place 115 Iowa Ave.	HAPPY HOUR 4-8 \$1 OFF Drafts/\$5.50 Pitchers Nickel Night Never a Cover!	HAPPY HOUR 4-8 \$1 OFF Drafts/\$5.50 Pitchers \$2.50 Specialty Shots & \$3 Tallboys @ The Tub Never a Cover!	HAPPY HOUR 4-8 \$1 OFF Drafts/\$5.50 Pitchers \$2.50 Specialty Shots & \$3 Tallboys @ The Tub Never a Cover
Liquor Downtown 354-BEER 315 S. Gilbert Behind Kum & Go	\$3.99 - 6 Packs Four Loko \$7.99 - NA Jose Cuervo 1.75 L. (4 flavors) FREE Falbo's Slice w/\$15 Purchase - 21+ only	\$3.99 - 6 Packs Four Loko \$7.99 - NA Jose Cuervo 1.75 L. (4 flavors) FREE Falbo's Slice w/\$15 Purchase - 21+ only	\$3.99 - 6 Packs Four Loko \$7.99 - NA Jose Cuervo 1.75 L. (4 flavors) FREE Falbo's Slice w/\$15 Purchase - 21+ only
MIGERS IRISH PUB 11 S. Dubuque • 338-6860	5pm-close: \$2.50 Pints Sam Adams \$2.50 Pints Coors Light \$2.50 Pints Bud Light	2-5pm: \$2 Pints, \$2 Margs, \$3 Burgers 10-close: \$2 U-Call-It, \$3 Bombs	10pm-close: \$3 Domestic Pints \$3 Import Pints, \$3 Wells \$4 Bombs
the Mill 120 East Burlington • 351-9529	WET HAIR with FEATURLESS GHOST & MERCHANDISE 9pm - 19+ After 10pm	JAZZ AFTER 5 with ODD BAR TRIO - 5pm SIMON JOYNER & TARNISHED ANGELS 9pm - 21+ After 10pm	CATFISH KEITH 7pm - All Ages
MOONRAKERS 126 E. Washington St. • Iowa City 319-887-1909	\$6 Fish N Chips/\$8 Fish Taco Happy Hour 3-6pm & 9-11pm www.onetwentysix.net	Happy Hour 3-6pm & 9-11pm \$6 Fish N Chips during Happy Hour www.onetwentysix.net	HAPPY HOUR 3-6pm & 9-11pm \$4 Mixed Drinks \$2 Off Drafts www.onetwentysix.net
THE NICKELODEON Hwy 6 W., Coralville • 356-6903	Chicken Fried Steak • 11-2pm & 5-9pm Karaoke • 9pm 2nd St., Coralville • 356-6903	Steak & Fish Fry • 11am-2pm 2nd St., Coralville 356-6903	Grilled BBQ Chicken • 11am-? 2nd St., Coralville 356-6903
BREW WORKS PUBLIC HOUSE 525 S Gilbert St. • IC • 337-3422	GUEST BEER NIGHT 5:30-close Tapping A Great Beer Every Thursday	FLIGHT NIGHT 7-close Pick Any 5 Beers For \$5	All Day "YES WE CAN" \$2 Cans
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SCOPE	GRACE POTTER & The Nocturnals IMU Main Lounge - 8pm	X	X
SPARTI'S GYROS 61 2nd St., Coralville • spartisgyros.com	FREE DELIVERY with any \$20 order <i>(cannot be combined with any other offer)</i> Delivery or Carry Out - 319.512-5005	FREE FRY with purchase of any sandwich and beverage <i>(cannot be combined with any other offer)</i> Delivery or Carry Out - 319.512-5005	\$2 Chicago Style Hot Dog <i>(cannot be combined with any other offer)</i> Delivery or Carry Out - 319.512-5005
THE UNION BAR 121 E. College St. 339-4646	\$2 U-Call-It FREE Pizza	FAC - \$2 Wells, \$4 Keystone Pitchers, \$5 Dom. Pitchers After 10pm - \$3 Bacardi Drinks, \$3 Punch Bombs	\$3 Punch Bombs \$2 Tequila Shots
Vine tavern & eatery 330 E. Prentiss, Iowa City 39 2nd St., Coralville	\$6.99 French Dip Happy Hour 3-7pm	\$7.49 Fish & Chips Happy Hour 3-7pm	\$6.99 Philly Cheese Steak Happy Hour 3-7pm



Flair in Oxford

Chef Ben Halperin and wife Jeri bring New Orleans flair to the Iowa City area at their restaurant, Augusta, in Oxford.

By **SAMANTHA GENTRY**
samantha-gentry@uiowa.edu

From time to time, community members in Oxford, Iowa, can hear pounding coming from the restaurant Augusta, where Chef Ben Halperin is hard at work pounding tenderloins for his signature dish, a fried pork tenderloin sandwich.

The Midwest classic appeals to the taste of Augusta's visitors. But Halperin spices up his menu with Creole flavors from his longtime Big Easy roots.

"The area is saturated with chain restaurants, and we wanted to put our talents out here with New-Orleans-style food," Jeri Halperin said. "There was opportunity in a small town."

Augusta, 10 S. Augusta Ave., opened on Jan. 16, 2008, around two months after the two moved to Iowa. They met in New Orleans, but after Hurricane Katrina destroyed their home, they were forced to leave the city.

Opening the restaurant was a risk for the couple, who feared their Southern flavor wouldn't be well-received in Iowa.

"The flair [of Augusta] is having gumbo and a couple New Orleans dishes so people can try it if they like," Ben Halperin said.

Another risk the couple took was serving fresh fish on the menu. He said many patrons were "uneasy" about ordering it.

"In the beginning, we had to take some things off

Augusta

Hours of operation:
• Wednesday-Thursday: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
• Friday and Saturday: 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
• Sunday: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Reservations appreciated

the menu," Ben Halperin said. "But now, it has become easier because people trust my cooking."

The chef has impressed the locals as well as Iowans on a broader scale. The Pork Producers of Iowa voted the tenderloin the "Best of Iowa" in 2008.

Ben Halperin knows the importance of supporting the local food economy, and he includes fresh food from Iowa farmers in his dishes. From the meat in the burgers to the greens in his mixed salads, he is committed to staying local.

"There is a community aspect but also a sensibility [to fresh food]," he said. "As a restaurant, we can say, 'Hey, this is locally grown by one of your farmers.'"

Around town, he is also known for his specials, which might include a smoked duck and crab-meat-encrusted walleye.

"When the folks on our email list know Ben is making a certain special, they will come out," Jeri Halperin said. "Our regular menu will maintain the people, but our specials will bring them out."

For the past two years, the couple has purchased produce from Lalanya Bodenbender's market, Henry's Village Market, 4125 V St., Homestead.



Ben Halperin prepares a dish on the grill at his restaurant in Oxford, Augusta, on Wednesday. They serve unique dishes with some of the only New Orleans flavors in the area. He and his wife, Jeri Halperin, met in New Orleans; they were forced to relocate to Iowa after Hurricane Katrina. (The Daily Iowan/Jessica Payne)

Bodenbender said she and her husband have eaten at the restaurant since it opened. She loves how the chef can take a culinary twist on her vegetables.

"I felt like it was something we had been waiting for, because we would typically drive to Iowa City to eat," she said. "We thought this was something much closer that was different and had a local flair to it. There are people out this

way that want to eat different food, not just at a diner."

Bodenbender's personal favorite things to eat at Augusta are the side dishes of creamed corn, sugar carrots, and mashed potatoes because it is simple food yet cooked well, she said.

"The food is tasty, unpretentious, and very well-made," she said. "I really enjoy the cozy atmosphere, and it's a nice place to take friends from out of town."

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The Daily Iowan

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Trump assails wind power in Scotland

EDINBURGH, Scotland — He came, he saw, he blustered.

Donald Trump on Wednesday swept into Scotland's Parliament to demand the country end plans for an offshore wind farm he fears will spoil the view at his exclusive new £750 million (\$1.2 billion) golf resort.

In a typically blunt display, the New York property tycoon told an inquiry into renewable energy to stop the wind-power efforts in the country's north.

"Scotland, if you pursue this policy of these monstrous turbines, Scotland will go broke," he said. "They are ugly, they are noisy, and they are dangerous. If Scotland does this, Scotland will be in serious trouble and will lose tourism to places like Ireland, and they are laughing at us."

Members of the committee are looking at how achievable the Scottish government's green targets for 2020 are. The plans for 11 200-foot (60-meter) tall wind turbines are part of the government's goal of positioning itself as a leader in renewable energy.

When challenged to produce hard evidence about his claims on the negative impact of turbines, Trump said: "I am the evidence. I am a world-class expert in tourism."

The public gallery burst into laughter.

Trump claimed Scottish leader Alex Salmond and predecessor Jack McConnell gave him verbal assurances a wind farm would not be built off the

coast of his resort.

"They wanted my money," Trump said. "I was lured into buying the site, after I had spent my money they came and announced the plan. At the time I bought the land, I felt confident the wind farm was not going to happen."

— Associated Press

Riverbank Art Fair comes to town

Midwestern artists in a variety of media will converge on Iowa City this weekend for the Riverbank Art Fair. The annual free event will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 29 in the IMU.

Artists featured in the show have created works in painting, ceramics, photography, fiber, mixed media, jewelry, and many other media. They competed to be part of the show and were chosen by a jury. Works from these artists will be exhibited and sold at the Art Fair.

Two of the artists featured at the event are Sabrina Leung and Lisa Manney Kinzenbaw. Leung is a mixed-media artist who plans to donate her earnings from the Riverbank Art Fair to charity. Kinzenbaw creates photographic pieces.

— by Julia Jessen

the Mill

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10 am - 5 pm Saturday
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fineartscouncil.uiowa.edu

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11 am deadline for new ads and cancellations

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DI CALENDAR BLANK

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

Event _____
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Jackson unveils digital Hobbit

By **CRISTINA SILVA**

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Peter Jackson's *The Hobbit* is preparing to leave the shire.

The director of the Oscar-winning *Lord of the Rings* trilogy previewed 10 minutes of assorted footage Tuesday from his upcoming prequel.

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey, was filmed in New Zealand using more frames per second than the Hollywood standard. Jackson said in a video introduction that using 48 frames per second produces a smoother image.

The movie could usher in a new era of filmmaking and require film houses across the globe to embrace digital technology.

Jackson said the human eye no longer sees individual pictures under the faster speed but a steady stream of clear images.

"The movement feels more real," he said while introducing his film at the CinemaCon convention for theater owners on the Las Vegas Strip. "It's much more gentle on the eyes."

Indeed, the footage was vivid, with grass blades, facial lines, and soaring

mountains appearing luminous and pronounced. The actors looked almost touchable, as if they were performing live on stage.

It's unclear what the final product will look like when it's released in December. Jackson said he was still editing the movie, and the shared footage included green screens that will eventually be used to add in scenery, action, or special effects.

Other digital pioneers are making the same push for higher film speeds. *Avatar* creator James Cameron has promised to shoot the sequel to his science-fiction blockbuster at 48 or 60 frames a second.

Jackson warned the new approach would take time to adjust to. Some bloggers agreed, quickly branding the footage released Tuesday as a failure in digital technology. The critics claimed the unfinished scenes looked like a low-budget TV show.

British actor Martin Freeman stars as Bilbo Baggins, the hobbit who acquires the evil ring that sets the action of *The Lord of the Rings* in motion.

The footage showed Baggins lost in Gollum's cave. Andy Serkis' portrayal of

the strange creature known for his "precious" obsession and speaking in the third person is just as disturbing as it was in the trilogy, with Baggins forced to appeal to Gollum's love of games to survive.

Ian McKellen, reprising the role of the wizard Gandalf, persuades Baggins to leave the shire and join him on his journey. The footage of the hobbit's hometown is stunning, with each color having almost a neon glow.

There were other brief snippets of story. Orlando Bloom, as the elf Legolas, was shown with his character's flowing, blond hair. McKellen toured an ancient tomb that he surmised once housed someone evil. Trolls engaged in battle.

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey is the first chapter in Jackson's two-part adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy classic.

The two films were shot simultaneously in 3-D, with the second one, *The Hobbit: There and Back Again*, due in theaters in December 2013.

The final installment of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy swept the Academy Awards with 11 trophies, including best picture and director, in 2003.

Slaying photo moves defendant

By **MICHAEL TARM**

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The otherwise blank-faced defendant accused of killing Jennifer Hudson's family appeared to cry at his trial Wednesday when prosecutors projected photographs onto a large screen of the bloodied body of the youngest victim — the Hollywood star's 7-year-old nephew.

It was the third day of testimony and the first time Hudson's former brother-in-law, William Balfour, showed any emotion. After his lawyer grabbed a box of tissues and handed it to him, Balfour hung his head and dabbed his eyes in full view of the jury.

One of the graphic photographs showed bullet holes through the top of Julian King's head. Another showed the boy, nicknamed Juice Box, lying on a medical examiner's table with his white T-shirt drenched in blood.

Hudson spent much of the morning outside the courtroom as prosecutors showed the photographs of Julian. Wearing mostly black, Hudson entered later after the photos were shown.

Prosecutors often give victims notice that they are about to enter disturbing evidence to give them a

chance to leave.

Balfour was estranged from his wife, Hudson's sister, at the time of the 2008 killings. Balfour, 30, has pleaded not guilty to killing Hudson's mother, brother, and nephew.

Prosecutors claim Balfour targeted the family in a horrific act of vindictiveness against his ex-wife, Julia Hudson, the mother of Julian. They believe he became enraged by balloons he saw at the home that he thought were from her new boyfriend.

Julia Hudson testified Monday that Balfour was so prone to jealousy that, when he lived in the Hudson family home before moving out in early 2008, he even became angry when Julian kissed her.

"He'd say, 'Get off my wife,'" she said.

For their part, defense attorneys have said the killing could be connected to alleged drug dealing by Hudson's brother.

Balfour showed no emotion Tuesday when prosecutors showed photos of the bodies of Hudson's mother and brother. Hudson also left the courtroom for that.

Prosecutors contend Balfour went inside the Hudson family house on Chicago's South Side around 9 a.m. on Oct. 24, 2008, and shot Hudson's mother and

brother. Investigators allege he then drove off in Jason Hudson's SUV with 7-year-old Julian inside and later shot the boy in the head as he lay behind the front seat.

With no surviving witnesses to the slayings, prosecutors must offer overwhelming circumstantial evidence that Balfour committed the grisly crime.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Obama, on the Fallon show, slow jams the news

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Add this to the list of ways the president of the United States woos young voters in an election-year: He slow jams the news.

Obama, appearing on NBC's "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon," joined the comedy host in a popular feature of the program.

The president, looking in the camera, talked earnestly about

student interest rates as the Roots, Fallon's hip house band, laid down a rhythm. Then the camera cut to Fallon in the foreground, where he punched up the message in his own way.

"Now is not the time to make school more expensive for our young people," Obama said. Then Fallon: "Ohhhh, yeaahh. You should listen to the president."

The episode was taped during Obama's appearance at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

— Associated Press

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