Obama blasts loan situation

By KRISTEN EAST

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 on 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, increasing the financial burden on students. A bill is pending in Congress to renew the legislation at least one more year. Obama has been making several stops across the country to advocate for the renewal.

"This legislation only applies to federal student loans, affecting 7.4 million students nationwide," Obama said. "And it shouldn't be a Republican or Democratic issue. This is an American issue."

"Now is not the time to double the interest rates on our student loans," Obama said. "Now is the time to double the interest rates on our student loans. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

"Students should always be concerned about the interest rate because the higher it is the more, overall, the interest payment increases and joblessness increases and joblessness increases and joblessness increases and joblessness increases."

Mark Warner, the director of UI Student Financial Services, 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 2011 was around $23,000.

"Mostly sunny, windy, turning cloudy"

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CHECK OUT VOICES OF SOUL ON PAGE 5A

Obama wows local schoolboy

By KRISTEN EAST

Antoine Anderson wanted to be president one day. The 8-year-old Coralville elementary school student 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 got here, 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 quiet. He did talk to [Obama], though."

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

"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 Jessie heard Obama would speak at the University of Iowa, she said, "I've been teaching for 17 years in Iowa City, and it's definitely one of the biggest highlights of my career."

"He was excited," Jessen said. "He did talk to [Obama] through."

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

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

Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, introduced a bill Tuesday that would freeze the federal loan interest rates 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. Obama and received White House candy and a book.

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UIHC sees challenges

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

By DREW HAMILL
shamill@dailyiowan.com

CEDAR FALLS— Governor’s Task Force on Public Health and Clinics told members of the task force that Regent is charging for patients that they serve because they want to keep 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 Hollowell.

At the Wednesday meeting, UIHC officials asked for a 4 percent rate increase for next year, including a 3 percent 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 Kim Katz said the facility is operating below its allowed monthly operating mar-

kets. Katz said the pay-

ments UIHC receives from third parties, such as Medicaid and Medi-

aid, have been a chal-

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tion. Drug shortages have also posed a prob-

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One UI professor said the UIHC issues in Medicaid policy are resulting in lower reim-

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Keith Muller, head of the UI Depart-

ment of Health Manage-

ment and Policy, said pre-

spective insurers carry fee feel-

ings from pay-

ers to negotiate lower pricing.

“UIHC has been going on for multiple years,” said Katz. “It’s a lot of pressure on insurance providers to bring down the increase of reim-

bursement rates and lower hospital budgets in gen-

eral. So far the health care system has been able to hold up.

Kenn Fisher, the UIHHC 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 for a 1.5 percent increase in the payment rates, and a 6 percent price increase for the upcoming year.

Regents approved the requested 6 percent rate increase for the coming year to help offset any 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, Katz said, there is a strong overall vol-

ume growth in most other areas compared with the previous year.

Regents also discussed that discharge and average patient days are slightly above budget and the numbers for inpatient surgery have stayed con-

sistent in recent years.

Hospital officials said the consistency is driven by accurate budgeting and the hospital’s capaci-

ty of surgery and over-

views.

“I am very confident we will achieve the 4 per-

cent operating margin that we budgeted,” said Katz of the current fis-

cal year.

[Adj Mertken benches]

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Wahls débuts book

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

BY JENNY EARL

In January 2011, Zach Wahls made a brief speech to state legislators about his two very different loving mothers in support of gay marriage.

But for his book, My Mom, My Dad: 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 says. “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 known for his My Mom, My Dad: Wahls’ Advocate to campaign across the state for gay marriage rights. The campaign is a part of the national campaign of the national association of GLBT community centers, Iowans for Freedom to Marry and Iowa — where University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics volunteers set up a screening station for 55 Iowa LGBT centers.

“My fear is they think this issue is about gay marriage rights while the topic is marriage equality — that’s the gains we made in marriage.

“We do have marriages celebrating open for LGBT rights or same-sex, Wahls is known for his speech about being raised by two mothers; his new book will come out today (The Daily Iowan/Darcy Dietz)

And this issue is about love, we’re all U.S. citizens — that’s the gains we’ve built the majority, freedom to marry national association of GLBT community centers, nonprofits, businesses and groups, including GLBT community centers, churches, and working with college campuses and students. They said they want to make LGBT about family — not politics.

“My fear is they think this issue is about gay marriage rights while the topic is marriage equality — that’s the gains we made in marriage.

“Why Marriage Matters” is a 42-page publication that offers the organization Freedom to Marry created in 2011 and helped form One Iowa in 2009.

“Today’s effort is an effort to raise awareness of the probability of cancer through free screenings, walk-a-round, research conferences.

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“Iowa got hijacked by all kinds of political attacks,” Wahls 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 given. The goal One Iowa has had to has enough conversations in Iowa to build the majority support the same way we’ve built the majority support in the rest of the country.

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Diane Kaufman, executive director of Centerlink, a national association of GLBT community centers, Iowans for Freedom to Marry and Iowa — where University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics volunteers set up a screening station for 55 Iowa LGBT centers.

“Today’s effort is an effort to raise awareness of the probability of cancer through free screenings, walk-a-round, research conferences.

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We’re trying to raise awareness of the consequences of smoking and general awareness of cancer,” said Kerri Chung, a Binghamton University and neck cancer patient.

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“The medical association contributes this increase to better publicity.

“Patients are very receptive of this because it’s about public health, it’s easy, and they’re encouraged to take it home and talk about it.”

“Today’s event is an effort to raise awareness of the probability of cancer through free screenings, walk-a-round, research conferences.

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 don’t smoke or drink.

“We really don’t see patients until they’ve been through the frontline of doctors and surgeons,” he said. “We’re directing this screening at people who don’t realize they have symptoms.”

Bayon said if the symptoms 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 it should alert them to turn into cancer,” Bayon said.

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According to statistics, 85 percent of oral, head, and neck cancers are linked to smoking and alcohol.

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‘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
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
student editor-in-chief
Marissa Boles UI senior
For senior Marissa Boles, this was her second time she met President Obama. Boles said she was surprised by how informal President Obama was during their meeting.

"The time was so relaxed," the junior said. "For him to take the time and sit down with the college students to talk about student loans is pretty special.

By AMY KUERKIRI
assistant editorial page editor
Jordan Garrison-Knickerson UI sophomore
Among the older protesters, Jordan Garrison-Knickerson said he was surprised by how laid back the president of the United States was during their meeting.

"He got a notice that he has just walked into the building, so he's just talking to us. The president is like, ‘It’s all good, and President Obama addresses the UI on this. How is it so great in your? He’s really just doing the right thing. He made it really, really relaxed – he was really comfortable around us.

"President Obama said that the students here are different than any other students because they have the national deficit, the student debt average of 2011 was $25,446, not far away, she immediatelyCoordination of a meeting... him by bringing home a football player in class.

"I was very excited for his candidacy is what you get when you meet him. "I'm really in support of a lot to me," said Blake Anderson. "I mean, it's a normal human being."

"It’s a pretty smart person, and I’m heart-"

"We’re running out of options and just a real good means..."

"My friend went to UI College Republicans, so he made the address sound really relaxed," the junior said. "He said the president quickly calmed my anxiety."

"He made it really, really relaxed – he was really comfortable around us."

"I got to see an informal side of him. I understood his presidency, and there’s so much behind it, so much stress and responsibility, but I just saw him as a human being.

"On the first perspective of the president, I get to see an informal side of him. I understood his presidency and the responsibility he holds, "I'm really in support of... "I’m really in support of..."

"You obviously know that President Obama is a great speaker. There’s something about his voice. It wasn’t necessarily his looks, but it was his voice, "You’ve obviously known that President Obama is a great speaker. There’s something about his voice. It wasn’t necessarily his looks, but it was his voice, "It’s all good, and President Obama addresses the UI on this."

"It’s really kind of exciting, because, if you’re a student, how many times are you going to get to meet that?"

"It was the most important thing was so relaxed," the junior said. "For him to take the time and sit down with the college students to talk about student loans is pretty special.

"It’s always been more anxiety doing some presenta-..."

"I got to see an informal side of him. I understood his presidency, and there’s so much behind it, so much stress and responsibility, but I just saw him as a human being."

"It was the most important..."

"For him to take the time and sit down with the college students to talk about stu-..."

"One student has borrowed..."
Guest Column

Keep student loan interest rates low

College was a luxury fifty years ago. Back then, you were lucky if your family could meet and afford an education. That was 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 require an investment in education or training after high school. And an investment that is even more important to have a degree, a certificate or an industry recognized credential — it’s never been more expensive.

Since 1995, college costs across the country have risen almost five times faster than median household income. College graduates and their families are taking on more and more debt. Borrowing to pay for college used to be to educate a child; now it’s the rule.

This July, with so many students struggling to make ends meet and afford college, the price of a college degree, now is the time to right the money costs on top of it. 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 on federal student loans?

We all have a role to play — the president, Congress, parents, students and schools — in making college affordable and keeping the middle class alive. Our administration is continuing to do its part: despite being one of the most challenging years in history, we are investing almost all-domestic spending across the government. Beyond that, we are increasing the investment in higher education. The Obama administration is providing billions of dollars 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 private student loan forgiveness. This president is also proposing a number of initiatives that would continue to make college more affordable. We’re 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.

I believe we can — and should — do this work. In 2007, a bipartisan majority of state and federal lawmakers came together to lower student loan interest rates to 5.31 percent. It’s not just about right; it’s about our future. It’s about the competitiveness of our country; it’s about our nation’s economy.

U.S. Secretary of Education

Letter

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR may be sent via e-mail to daily.iowajournalletter@daily-iowan.com (be sure to attach). Each letter must be signed and include an address and phone number for verification. Letters should not exceed 300 words. The Daily Iowan reserves the right to edit for length and style. Your letter may be published in print or online. Letters are subject to change when they are deemed to be libelous and for public discussion. They may be edited for length and style.

Read today's column, and email us at: dailylive@daily-iowan.com.

Halei Walmart

Letter

Dear Daily Iowan:

District Court upheld friendship firing

Holding that “mutual trust, confidence, and respect are essential components of any successful association, and that such a relationship is greater than political speech,” the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals held last week that a Walmart employee did not have a First Amendment right to friendship in the workplace. The case, Brandt v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., involved a Walmart employee who was fired by a manager who she had a long standing friendship with. The employee’s firing came after she was unable to attend an early shift, and was replaced by a co-worker, which the manager noted was an act of kindness for which she was grateful.

Walmart argued that the employee had a legal right to fire employees for any reason, and that the employee did not have a constitutional right to a friendship in the workplace. The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed, holding that “The question before this court is whether the plaintiff, a long term employee, has a constitutional right to a friendship in the workplace.” The court recognized that a friendship with a co-worker can have a significant impact on the working environment and can be a source of support for employees. The court further held that a friendship can “be an important source of social support, professional advancement, and even job security.”

According to the employee, this support was particularly important because she was a single mother and was unable to find another job after being fired. The court held that this support was a significant factor in the employee’s decision to resign from her job, and that the employer was entitled to evaluate the employee based on her performance, not her personal relationships.

In a majority opinion, Judge Robert D. Reeves held that the employer’s decision to fire the employee was not based on her personal relationship with the co-worker, but rather on her job performance. The court noted that the employer had a legitimate business reason for firing the employee, and that the employee had not shown that the employer’s decision was motivated by her personal relationship with the co-worker.

The court further held that the employer’s decision was not based on the employee’s personal relationship with the co-worker, but rather on her job performance. The court noted that the employer had a legitimate business reason for firing the employee, and that the employee had not shown that the employer’s decision was motivated by her personal relationship with the co-worker. The court agreed with the employer’s argument that the employee’s firing was based on her job performance, and that the employer had a legitimate business reason for firing her.

In conclusion, the court held that the employee did not have a constitutional right to a friendship in the workplace, and that the employer had a legitimate business reason for firing her. The court noted that the employee had not shown that the employer’s decision was motivated by her personal relationship with the co-worker, and that the employer’s decision was based on her job performance. The court further held that the employee’s firing was not motivated by her personal relationship with the co-worker, but rather on her job performance.

The court’s decision is significant because it sets a precedent for employers to evaluate employees based on their job performance, and not their personal relationships. The court’s decision also highlights the importance of workplace relationships and the need for employers to create a supportive and inclusive work environment.

Thank you,

[Your Name]
Mackenzie Sheehy

Iowa sophmore 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/Ilana Cantoral)

Standing up for laughter

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

By SANAMANTHA GENTRY

Mackenzie Sheehy likes to make people laugh.

It would be normal for her to hang out with friends such as breaking out singing the Arrested Development song “Foolish,” while playing karaoke and pretending her 1998 keyboard and holding the steering wheel that says “B**ch” on the front.

“The laughs come in waves, and people didn’t know what to do—like, ‘Oh, what happened?’” Sheehy said. “I just wanted people to laugh.”

The aspiring comedian said 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 astounding 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 snapback hats were mocking her entire act.

“They were basically being really loud and obnoxious,” Sheehy said. “I started turning on the eighth-graders and pretty much did the whole ‘Hey, isn’t your bed-time?” thing, and they stopped.

While Sheehy’s comedy skill 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 excelled at while on stage, and Sheehy herself is not one to be surprised if she includes jokes about pop and facts coming out of her sexagenarian grandma.

“I think people who can make you laugh is the best thing,” Sheehy said. “If I can do for people what my inspiration did for me, then I really think I’ve given something back.”

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/Ilana Cantoral)

Sheehy also performed standup at five shows around the Iowa City area.

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“JASON! ALL THESE MEDICAL FORMS ARE DUE TOMORROW MORNING? HOW LONG HAVE YOU TAKEN THESE THINGS?”

Sign up now and you can access your family’s medical records online. Anytime. Anywhere. It’s fast, secure, and simple. Sweet!

To get started, ask your UI doctor, or visit uihealthcare.com/mychart and download the form to request an access code.

University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics

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

today’s events
• Dance Marathon Blood Drive, 7 a.m., UHRC Doldwin Hall
• Coffeehouse, 7 p.m., Foster Auditorium
• Musicale Duo, 8 p.m., IMU Main Lounge
• U.S. Women’s National Soccer Team vs. Korea, 8 p.m., Kinnick Stadium

Submit an event
Want to see your special event appear on this page? Simply submit it at dailyiowan.com/pages/calendar submit.html

Editor’s note
• Compulsive Methods, Cognitive Processes, and the Study of Religious Experience in South Asian Contexts, Travis Chislett, Iowa State University, 3:30 p.m.
• The Age of the Earth: The Truth About the Age of the Earth, Phillip Hall
• Iowa, Inspired by Langearde, Landscape Talk with Iowa artist Barbara Fehlen, 6:30 p.m., 160 Capitol Museum Family Humanist Group Seminar
• In Darkness, 6:30 p.m., videos from the Java House
• Stars of New Light, Catherine Theiss and Rebecca Lukesh, 7 p.m., Prairie Lights, 15-50 Davenport
• Country Blues and Loneem, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 225 Highway 30
• Gore Power & the Nutcracker, 7:30 p.m., IMU Main Lounge
• Rome and Juliet, 8 p.m., 200 English Hall
• Wet Hair, 9 p.m., Mill, 882 E. Market
• Kings of the Turntable, 10 p.m., Iowa Studios
• This Is Not A Film, 9:30 p.m., IMU
• Campus Activities Board Movie, The Apartment, 8 p.m., IMU
• Riverfront & Campus Activities Board Comedy, Josh Gundelmann, 10 p.m., IMU, Terrace

UTV schedule
• 6 p.m., Iowa City Community Student Video Productions feature new people in Iowa City 2011.
• 10 p.m., Incompetent Sports Talk: student sports analysts review the weekend in sports, Student Video Productions
• 11 p.m., Fire Sale performance, March 2
• 12:30 a.m., Blend, music-performance by Aiko Stevens, March 5, 2010
• 1:30 a.m., Video shorts, music videos from the Java House
• 2:30 a.m., Blend, music-performance by Aiko Stevens, March 5, 2010

horoscopes

Thursday, April 26
ARIES
• Mars transits your career zone. You won’t need to work or come across an unprofessional or difficult to deal with person. Emotions will be in control, and it is important that you keep your calm, plan and good intentions if any work related situation is coming up.

TURKS
• Mars transits your career zone. Do something for yourself, because you can use your skills and knowledge strategically. Networking will pay off and show your leadership ability.

GEMINI
• Mars transits your career zone. You can use your skills and knowledge to improve your situation. A personal change or a change of pace is on the way, which will bring positive attitude and success. Emotional situations that are not used to can be stressful.

CANCER
• Mars transits your career zone. You’ll find it hard to keep the peace. Don’t let someone’s lack of tact pull you into an argument or a fight. They’ll achieve nothing.

LEO
• Mars transits your career zone. You have the knowledge and experience to turn any situation in your favor. Get ready for making things happen instead of thinking it couldn’t be done. Think from the heart and you’re most likely to achieve success.

LIBRA
• Mars transits your career zone. Don’t shy away from the idea and vision of new opportunities that are coming. Keep your eyes on the prize and never forget to focus on the goal you have set.

SCORPIO
• Mars transits your career zone. Be ready for change, but the changes that are coming are going to make your life interesting. Be ready to speak up and share your thoughts.

SAGITTARIUS
• Mars transits your career zone. Take advantage of every opportunity, because you have all the tools you need to start and grow your business. Be ready to take on the role of a leader.

CAPRICORN
• Mars transits your career zone. You could have someone else’s mobile device, it could be a restaurant reservation or a plane ticket. Make sure you know who is your friend or who can make you happy.

AQUARIUS
• Mars transits your career zone. Decision making changes that are coming can affect you and your relationships.

PISCES
• Mars transits your career zone. Let experiences help you make better personal decisions. Avoid getting into a situation where you feel trapped and use your skills and knowledge to turn any situation into your favor.

MAN ON THE STREET
What do you think of the relationship between UI students and the Iowa City community?

HUNGRY?
Check out the Daily Iowan Dining Guide today at dailyiowan.com

Hungry?
Check out the Daily Iowan Dining Guide only at dailyiowan.com
DRAFT CONTINUED FROM 10A

Track's energy bundle

"might be a sleeper in the muscle in his chest while Markus Zusevics tore a..."

But Ferentz and Getts have always sensed the whole thing...the guy just looks the part. Iowa's defensive..."

"If some teams get "antsy.""

DRAFT

"recting mistakes is obvi..."

coaches."

"I'm excited — and she puts loud, she's happy, she's..."

Jeff Herron said. "She's..."

Senior high jumper Smith, senior high jumper..."

"It's a good bet she's..."

"'Enthusiastic' is the..."

It's a good bet she's..."

"I was always externally..."

He said he wanted..."

"We're all excited about..."

"We have to play..."

"It's great to play them..."

"I'm always externally..."

As she grew older, she came up numerous times. She encouraged her opponents. She encouraged her..."
FERDENTZ SEES 7 HAWKEYES DRAFTED

By SETH ROBERTS

Ferentz sees 7 Hawkeyes drafted

The Hawkeyes traveled to Columbus, Ohio for the Big Ten Tournament this weekend. The chance that the Iowa men’s tennis team can win four matches in four days after 0-11 mark in regular-season Big Ten play looks rather impossible. But for the Hawkeyes in doubles, the task outweighs this past season’s struggles.

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/By Photos)

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

While 11 Hawkeyes’ struggles.

“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.

The Hawkeyes went 1-9 offensively this season, but that for Mitchell Beckert

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

Hawks to face Gophers again

The Hawkeyes went 1-9 offensively this season, but there was energy to the Hawkeyes.

“His fall ends in Motown, which isn’t a bad place for the Iowa seniors’ collegiate careers. ‘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.

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)

The Hawkeyes will have to pull of 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. Earning a miraculous run to the title, the tournament will serve as the final resting place for the Iowa men’s collegiate careers.

The senior four-some finished with a combined 4-7 singles record this spring. Mroziewicz and Vass, the two who were expected 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 was 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-
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 non-students, $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

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Seeing the world carefully

Comedian Gondelman to perform - by Jordan Montgomery

Josh Gondelman, a comedian and writer, will perform with the Campus Activities Board to illustrate his comedic work at the University of Iowa camp-

Gondelman will perform at 10 p.m. Friday, in the IMUflower lounge. Admission is free.

The comedian began his career as a ‘prince’ teacher, which has allowed him to share his audiences of all ages with parts that can make any career laugh.

An online sequence of his experiences with kids, tells Gondelman an achieved anything from randomness toasperity, rap, and improv. He has performed at the AllState College Improv Festival, www.jordangondelman.com.

The combination of his quirky sense of humor and his genuine nature has allowed him to become one of the most popular comedi- ans to perform on stage. He originally lived in Boston before becoming a regular writer and performer on the Late Show with David Letterman.

The Raven

Brian Johnson, a front man for AC/DC, is coming to Iowa City to perform on stage.

The band will also perform a song from the new album "Black Ice," which is expected to be released later this year.

Farmers John

Musician and author John Fullbright is coming to Iowa City to perform on stage.

Fullbright's work often focuses on the struggles of rural life and the importance of community. He has released several albums and is known for his storytelling abilities.

For more information on these events, visit www.jordangondelman.com.
MAYBERRY CONTINUED FROM 1B

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

MAYBERRY

MAYBERRY

Iowa City resident Barrington Vaxter, Kristy Harsgrove, and Martin Andrews perform with director David Fawcett during final dress rehearsal Thursday of Mayberry. The play ran Friday to April 29 of Oriental Theatre. (The Daily Iowan/Cherit Oli)

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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 $20.

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 has 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.”

Grace Potter & the Nocturnals play at the IMU at 8 p.m. today. (Publicity photo)
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 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 Limbo, Quasi, Mooseknuckle, and Phantom Vibrations.

“It was one of the events that went over the best, which was surprising,” 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. It’s nice to have something that’s a staple or tradition.”

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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 party, Ward said.

“This 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. If for some reason people don’t have zombie makeup lying around at home, we have people there to help.”

“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.”

This Zombie Prom is one of the final events in the festivities of the annual RiverFest.

“That 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.”

For more news, visit dailyiowan.com
Chef Ben Halperin and wife Jeri bring New Orleans flair to the Iowa City area at their restaurant, Augusta, in Oxford.

By SAMANTHA GENTRY
dailystown.com

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 tendon- kins for his signature dish, a fried pork tenderloin sandwich.

This MidWest classic appeals to the taste of Augusta’s visitors. But Halperin spuces up his menu with Creole flavors from his longtime Big Easy roots.

“Toward the end, we got to take some things off the menu,” Ben Halpern said. “But now, it has become something people trust my cooking.”

The chef has impressed the locals as well as longtime patrons on a broader scale. The Park Producers of Iowa voted the tenderloin the “Best of Iowa” in 2006.

Halperin said he knows the importance of supporting the local food economy and he includes fresh food from local farmers in his dishes. From the most in the burg- ers 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, ‘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-pastelou-salley.

“When the folks on our email list know Ben is making a certain special, they will come,” 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 Laiana Bouchard, which is a market, Henry’s Village Market, 410 S.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 is not only, Jeri Halperin, and in New Orleans, they were forced to relocate to Iowa after Hurricane Katrina. (The Daily Iowan/Jessica Payne)

For the past two years, the couple has purchased produce from Laiana Bouchard, which is a market, Henry’s Village Market, 410 S.V St. Homestead.

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Ben Halperin knows the importance of supporting the local food economy, and he wants to put our community members in the area at their restaurant, Augusta, in Oxford.

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Jackson unveils digital Hobbit

By CHRISTINA SEIZ
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Peter Jackson’s The Hobbit is preparing to leave the stage.

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

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 move could usher in a new era of filmmaking and require film houses across the globe to embark on a technological upgrade.

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

“The movement feels 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 action also felt much more realizable, 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 working on the movie, and the shared footage included green screen that will eventually be used to add characters, environments, or special effects.

Either way, pioneers are making the same push for digital standard. Jackson Acutor creator James Cameron has promised to shoot the sequel to his action-film blockbusters in 3-D, with 48 frames per second. Cameron warned the new approach would take time to adjust to. Some bloggers agreed, saying that the footage released Tuesday as a failure in digital technology. The critics claimed the action and 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 get lost in Gollum’s cave.

Andy Serkis portrayed the strange creature known for his “precious” obsession and speaking in the third language. The Hobbit: There and Back Again, due in theaters in December 2012, will eventually be used to add characters, environments, or special effects.

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

Two films were shot simultaneously in 3-D, with the second one, The Hobbit: There and Back Again, due in theaters in December 2012.

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 photos moves defendant

By MICHAEL TAIN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — The otherwise bland-faced defendant accused of killing Jennifer Hudson’s family said Monday he would cry at his trial Wednesday, as prosecutors showed photos of the bodies of the youngest victim — the Hollywood star’s 1-year-old niece.

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 a bullet hole through the top of Julian Hudson’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’ names to 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. Prosecutors said he pleaded not guilty to killing Hudson’s brother, who was Hudson’s mother, and her new boyfriend.

Defense attorneys claim Balfour targeted the family in a horrific act of vendetta against his ex-wife. Hudson, the mother of Julian, they believe he became enraged by balfour’s songs, which he said were the only way he thought about his new boyfriend.

Juliette Hudson testified Monday that Balfour was on parole to probation that, when he lived in the Hud- son family home before moving out in early 2008, he even became angry when Julian howled.

“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 emo- tion Tuesday when prosecu- tors showed photos of the bodies of Hudson’s mother and brother. Hudson also left the courtroom for that.

Prosecutors claimed Bal- four went inside the Hud- son family home in Chica- go’s South Side around 9 a.m. on Oct. 24, 2008, and that Balfour and his brother, Investigators said the man who drove off in Jason Hudson’s SUV with 2007-year-old Julian inside and left the boy in the back seat of the car.

With no surviving wit- nesses to the slayings, prose- cutors must offer over- whelming circumstantial evidence that Balfour com- mitted the grisly crime.

President Barack Obama, appearing on The Late Show with David Letterman, on Wednesday, April 25, 2012, to discuss the digital format of The Hobbit.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Obama, on the Fallon show, slow jams the news

“Obama, slow jam the news” — the idea behind the list of the week was the president of the United States was young voters in an election year: He slow jams the news.

Obama, appearing on NBC’s The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, joined the comedy host in a pop- ular feature of his program.

The president, looking in the camera, talked sincerely about student interest rates on the U.S. Senate’s in-face hearing, and laid down a rhythm. Then the name of the law to the back- ground, where he punched up the intensity of the words.

“Now is the time for young people to take part in the political process. More than ever young people,” Obama said. Then Leno said: “Young people, you should listen to the president.”

The president was quoted from Obama’s appearance at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center.

AP Photo/Charles Dharapak

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