

The Daily Iowan

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The Iowa softball team scored 10 runs in a five-inning mercy-rule win over Indiana. **Page 12**

ON THE WEB TODAY:

PHOTOS: The Drake Relays took place in Des Moines this past weekend.

PHOTOS: Zombies took over the IMU this past weekend as a part of RiverFest.

STORY: *The Daily Iowan* posted information throughout this past weekend about the former Hawkeyes taken in the NFL draft.

Correction

In the April 27 article "Watkins, Keim near end," the *DI* incorrectly reported that senior Katie Keim had started 195 games in her career. As of April 27, she had started 197. The *DI* regrets the error.

DAILY IOWAN TV

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WEATHER

HIGH **68** LOW **54**

Mostly cloudy, breezy, 30% chance of rain/T-storms.

BenchMarks kicks off with art



Taylor Ross spray-paints a bench on the north entrance to the Pedestrian Mall on Sunday. The art is part of a project called BenchMarks, funded by the Iowa City Downtown District. This summer, all the benches downtown will be painted by a variety of local artists. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

The BenchMarks project will be the second special event put on by the Iowa City Downtown District, following Fan Fest.

By **JENNY EARL**
jennifer-earl@uiowa.edu

Taylor Ross said hip-hop puts him in the right mindset to create art.

With a park bench as his canvas and nothing more than a few spray paint cans, the 22-year-old grooved to the music pulsing through his headphones as he put the finishing touches on his latest masterpiece.

Ross' bench joined three others painted as a demonstration for BenchMarks, a project started by the Iowa City Downtown District, a nonprofit organization funded by property taxes from properties downtown and the North Side Marketplace and formerly known as the Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District. City officials will continue recruiting local artists throughout the summer to

paint the benches.

Joni Schrup, the owner of Discerning Eye, 119 E. Washington St., and member of the special-events committee for the Downtown District, said the project was designed to bring attention to the downtown and North Side areas. "This is going to give us something to show off to people when

BenchMarks Project

The BenchMarks project will have demonstrations throughout the year in major public events downtown.

- Iowa Arts Fest: June 1-3
- Iowa City Jazz Festival: June 29-July 1
- Sand in the City: Aug. 10-12
- North Side Oktoberfest: Oct. 6

Source: Nick Arnold, executive director of the Downtown Association of Iowa City.

SEE BENCHES, 3

Thais study IC politcs

In 2011, Thailand voters elected their first female prime minister.

By **DEREK KELLISON**
derek.kellison@gmail.com

Two visitors from Thailand say their country is pushing for strong local governments, and they are stopping in Iowa City this week to examine the city's political structure.

Radio Thailand reporter Thanawan Chumsaeng and Karn Boonsiri, a director and lecturer at Thailand's College for Interdisciplinary Development, arrived on April 28 as part of the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program.

"Things are improving [in Thailand politics]; people who get elected must have experience, knowledge, and respond to people's needs," Boonsiri said.

The two focused on studying the local forms of government, such as county and city governments common throughout the States.



Radio Thailand reporter Thanawan Chumsaeng (right) and Karn Boonsiri (left), the director of Thailand's College for Interdisciplinary Development, sit with their translator in Iowa City on Sunday. Both came to the U.S. to study the American political system. (The Daily Iowan/Jacklyn Couppee)

Boonsiri said some political parties in Thailand are pushing for more power at the local level.

"This will happen in the future; it will take time, though," he said.

Thailand is established as a constitutional monarchy with federal, regional and local government systems. Much like Britain, the country has a king as the head of state and the

prime minister governs.

This week, Thai officials could consider a vote that would phase out regional governance, putting more power into local governments and a more nonpartisan election process at the local level.

Boonsiri said the independence the local branches of government have in the United

SEE THAILAND, 3

Rally will accuse Union Bar of size bias

By **LOGAN EDWARDS**
Logan-Edwards@uiowa.edu

The discrimination that one University of Iowa student allegedly faced at the Union Bar has led to a proposed rally at the bar's doorstep.

UI junior Jordan Ramos alleges she was stopped by a Union employee March 3 when she attempted to join a friend on the bar's dance platform. When she returned to the bar on April 4, she said employees allegedly referred to her as "pregnant" and "not pretty enough."

"They were letting a bunch of other girls on the platform, and the only difference [between them and I] was that they were thinner," she said.

Ramos has now organized a protest outside the Union Bar, 121 E College St., from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday, during which she and protesters plan to demand a public apology for everyone who has been allegedly discriminated against or denied entry, a public admittance that these types of situations occur, and for the bar to have in

SEE RALLY, 3

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Slockett case sparks discussion

Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board members will begin interviewing those involved with the complaint today.

By **LUKE VOELZ**
luke-voelz@uiowa.edu

A complaint against Johnson County Auditor Tom Slockett has incited debate over public nomination petitions in Iowa.

Slockett, who is running against Democrat Travis Weipert for county auditor in a June 5 primary, was accused in a complaint filed April 25 of allegedly distributing nomination petitions in the Johnson County Auditor's Office, discussing campaign strategy on his county email, and lecturing an employee who did not sign the petition. The Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board voted unanimously April 27 to launch an expedited investigation into the charges.

Slockett could not be reached Sunday for comment.

Board Executive Director Megan Tooker said the board sometimes rules such petitions don't violate Iowa law because they don't support a particular candidate over others. However, the board decided to pursue the charges under a separate law forbidding the use of government resources for personal gain unless similarly sit-



Johnson County Auditor Tom Slockett answers questions from audience members during a forum at the Senior Center in 2008. Slockett is under investigation by the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board. (The Daily Iowan/File Photo)

uated people — such as Weipert — are given the same opportunity.

The lack of clarity on petitions in state code, Tooker said, has led the board to consider asking legislators to ban nomination petitions in public offices altogether.

"Our board had a long discussion about how they really didn't like nomination petitions in [public] offices under any circumstances," she said. "Our board's job is to interpret the law, not to set policy — but they're going to encourage the Legislature to take a look at it and maybe make modifications to prohibit nomination petitions from being circulated."

Though the board will likely not approach policymakers until the next legislative session, lawmakers said they supported any efforts to clarify public ethics policy.

"We respect the concept of making sure all elections are held truthfully and faithfully," said Sen. Shawn Hamerlinck, R-Dixon. "If this is actually occurring, then yes, it's something the Legislature should look into."

Rep. Dave Jacoby, D-Coralville, said the issue at hand extended beyond sole nomination petitions.

"I think it goes beyond whether you can pass petitions; I think people have done petitions [in] workplaces before," he said. "I think that's not the issue as much as they had an actual checkoff, and the auditor knew who did and didn't sign it, and that's what I think campaign board will have to investigate or determine."

If the ethics board chooses to approach state government, Jacoby said, proposed code changes could come before the Rules

Review Committee, on which he served between 2006 and 2010, or the Government Oversight Committee. However, Jacoby said, it would be important to see if nomination ethics issues were more widespread before making changes to state code.

"You want to be careful not to change law or Iowa Code if there's one person or area abusing it," he said. "You [first] have to collect data for that area or charge that person. I'll be very curious to see the ethics board report even if it doesn't pursue it or send it to Government Oversight," he said.

The board has the option to issue reprimands, civil penalties up to \$2,000, or remedial actions such as reimbursement, though it cannot remove a public employee from office or prevent her or him from running for a position.

METRO

Man charged in attack changes lawyers

Peng Tang, an Iowa City man charged with first-degree kidnapping, has changed attorneys.

Tang, 21, 923 E. College St. No. 8, will now be represented by Eric Tindal and Clemens Erdahl, according to online court documents.

Tang allegedly kidnapped and assaulted a woman while viewing her apartment for a potential sublease. He allegedly stuffed a

towel in the victim's mouth and took explicit photos of her, threatening to post them on the Internet if she informed police, according to an Iowa City police press release.

Tang was charged March 30 with first-degree kidnapping. He also faces a tampering-with-a-witness charge.

Tang's was previously represented by Ray Reel.

Tang is in custody on a \$800,000 cash-only bond and immigration hold at the Johnson County Jail.

— by Beth Bratsos

Area man faces drug charges

A North Liberty man has been arrested for allegedly possessing six pounds of marijuana.

Timothy Coleman, 21, North Liberty was charged April 26 with a controlled-substance violation and a tax-stamp violation.

According to a Johnson County Sheriff's Office complaint, on April 26, Coleman accepted a six-pound package of marijuana

shipped via the U.S. Postal Service.

After the delivery, an Iowa search warrant was executed at Coleman's residence. According to the complaint, the marijuana was allegedly located in his bedroom, and some of it was separated into smaller bags.

A controlled-substance violation is a Class-D felony.

Failure to affix a tax stamp is a Class-D felony.

— by Jordyn Reiland

BLOTTER

Marcus Abbott, 26, 2401 Highway 6 E. Apt. 2605, was charged Sunday with inference with official acts, public intoxication, and disorderly conduct.

Cody Adams, 20, 278 E. Court St. Apt. 413, was charged April 27 with keeping a disorderly house.

Riston Bergan, 20, Coralville, was charged April 28 with PAULA.

Tyler Bullen, 20, 278 E. Court St. Apt. 413, was charged April 27 with keeping a disorderly house.

Tyler Cahalan, 25, North Liberty, was charged April 26 with driving while license suspended or canceled.

Lucy Campie, 19, 710B Mayflower, was charged April 22 with public intoxication.

Ryan Chapman, 19, Buffalo Grove, Ill., was charged April 22 with falsifying a driver's license and public intoxication.

Romeo Chavez, 29, Cedar Rapids, was charged April 21 with disorderly conduct and public intoxication.

Andrew Christopher, 26, Coralville, was charged April 28 with OWI.

Stephanie Church, 18, 408 Stanley, was charged April 28 with PAULA and public intoxication.

John Davidson, 19, 522 Stanley, was charged April 28 with public intoxication.

Bryan Drazner, 18, Buffalo Grove, Ill., was charged April 22 with falsifying a driver's license and public intoxication.

Kelly Dunn, 18, Mayflower 826D, was charged April 27 with presence in a bar after hours.

Gabrielle Flanagan, 22, Coralville, was charged Sunday with possession of marijuana and OWI.

A.J. Gawin, 19, 319 Rienow, was charged April 24 with public intoxication.

Patrick Gerace, 21, 18½ S. Gilbert St., was charged April 21 with public intoxication and disorderly conduct.

Heather Gibson, 26, West

Burlington, Iowa, was charged April 20 with disorderly conduct and public intoxication.

Stephanie Gibson, 27, Burlington, was charged April 20 with public intoxication.

Bobbi Halfhill, 21, 1125 Sandusky Drive, was charged April 28 with possession of marijuana, OWI, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Kevin Hall, 21, Woodridge, Ill., was charged April 28 with public intoxication and assault causing injury.

Ronald Ham, 24, Coralville, was charged April 21 with public intoxication and disorderly conduct.

Christina Hasenfuss, 27, Arlington, Texas, was charged Sunday with disorderly conduct.

Aidan Henry, 19, Chicago, was charged Sunday with PAULA, possession of an open container of alcohol in public, and public intoxication.

Zachary Hinton, 18, 104 Mayflower, was charged Sunday with public intoxication and public urination.

Garrett Hookham, 20, 702 N. Dubuque St., was charged April 21 with public urination and public intoxication.

Matthew Johanson, 20, 278 E. Court St. Apt. 413, was charged April 27 with keeping a disorderly house.

Alena Johnson, 22, 215 S. Johnson St., was charged April 21 with interference with official acts and public intoxication.

Michael Johnson, 33, Cedar Rapids, was charged April 26 with possession of an open container of alcohol.

Kyle Jorgensen, 22, Lemont, Ill., was charged April 27 with disorderly conduct.

Tasha Joynes, 21, Washington, Iowa, was charged April 25 with fifth-degree theft.

Pastorel Kaporalis, 40, 1010 Orchard St., was charged April 28 with fifth-degree theft.

Dylan Kidlow, 21, 327 E. College St. Apt. 1712, was charged April 28 with public intoxication.

Cody Lambert, 20, 505 E. Burlington St., was charged April 20 with unlawful use of a driver's license and presence in a bar after hours.

Tyler Lambert, 22, 505 E. Burlington St., was charged April 20 with unlawful use of a driver's license.

Roy Logan, 19, 406 S. Gilbert St., was charged April 28 with public intoxication.

Curtis Kemp, 45, 1100 Arthur St. No. M8, was charged April 27 with fifth-degree theft.

Magen Kronos, 23, 221 River St. No. 10, was charged April 26 with public intoxication.

Eric Marth, 18, W012 Hillcrest, was charged April 24 with public intoxication.

Eleanor McDonald, 19, 318A Mayflower, was charged April 27 with presence in a bar after hours.

Kara McDonald, 19, 325 E. College St. No. 1612, was charged April 21 with possessing or supplying alcohol under 21.

Mitchell Meyer, 20, 522 Burlington St. No. 10, was charged April 21 with public intoxication and public urination.

Michael Morris, 20, 613 N. Gilbert St. No. 6, was charged April 20 with possessing or supplying alcohol under 21.

Tanya Mynchenko, 25, Elmwood Park, Ill., was charged April 24 with possession of a controlled substance.

Daniel Niemiec, 20, 613 N. Gilbert St. No. 6, was charged April 20 with possessing or supplying alcohol under 21.

Casey O'Connor, 21, Coralville, was charged April 26 with OWI.

Gary Parker, 21, address unknown, was charged with interference with official acts and public intoxication.

Nathan Piasecki, 30, Minocqua, Wis., was charged April 22 with criminal trespassing.

Brooke Ritesman, 30, 4494 Tafe Ave. S.E. No. 9, was charged Nov. 6, 2011, with third-degree theft.

James Sanchez, 20, 278 E. Court St. Apt. 407, was charged Sunday with PAULA.

Peter Sarelak, 19, S35 Currier, was charged April 26 with possession of prescription drugs, public intoxication, and interference with official acts.

Megan Seibel, 318A Mayflower, was charged April 27 with presence in a bar after hours.

Paul Skrzypczynski, 26, Bolingbrook, Ill., was charged April 20 with disorderly conduct and public intoxication.

Richard Stochl, 18, 4224 Burge, was charged April 28 with public intoxication.

Cameron Tap, 19, 420A Mayflower, was charged April 20 with possession of a controlled substance.

Shelby Tesar, 19, 328 N. Clinton St., was charged April 21 with unlawful use of a driver's license and presence in a bar after hours.

Joseph Upchurch, 19, 710 Westgate St. No. 64, was charged April 27 with public intoxication.

Jace Vevera, 23, 1006 N. Dodge St., was charged April 26 with public intoxication.

Xavier Wells, 22, 1913 Taylor Drive, was charged Sunday with driving while barred.

John Windler, 22, 325 E. College St. Apt. 1632, was charged Sunday with keeping a disorderly house.

Nicholas Witthoft, 21, Washington, Iowa, was charged April 21 with public intoxication.

Shayna Wortham, 24, Washington, Iowa, was charged April 25 with fifth-degree theft.

The Daily Iowan

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BREAKING NEWS

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CORRECTIONS

Policy: *The Daily Iowan* strives for accuracy and fairness in the reporting of news. If a report is wrong or misleading, a request for a correction or a clarification may be made.

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TOP STORIES

Most-read stories on **dailyiowan.com** from April 27, 2012.

1. President Obama's UI visit spurs student-loan discussion
2. NFL draft 2012: Ferentz thinks seven could be drafted
3. Keep student loan-interest rates low
4. All hail Walmart, lord of sustainability
5. Support graduates through tuition reform

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BENCHES

CONTINUED FROM 1

they come downtown," she said. "Now [the benches] aren't very attractive, the city doesn't have a lot of money to take care of them, really it's a win-win."

In 2011, the former Downtown Association said it worked on a \$40,000 budget, with 80 percent of funding going toward a director and operations.

Mark Ginsberg, owner of M.C. Ginsberg, 110 E. Washington St., developed the idea for the project and contacted Ely Sotillo, a UI graduate working on getting a teaching certification.

Ginsberg, who said he crossed paths with Sotillo

during the piano project last year, said Sotillo's passion was the inspiration for the BenchMarks project.

"This creates a unique diverse environment for individuals from Burlington to Bloomington [Streets]. I thought this would be a large enough canvas to intersect unique thoughts," Ginsberg said. "Everyone uses [benches], but no one pays attention to them."

Sotillo said he hopes people realize the difference between their work and graffiti.

"I'm hoping people will see there are other art forms available that will help the downtown area just to give them a little more education behind street work," he said.

Ritu Jain, the owner of Textiles, 109 S. Dubuque St., and a member of the

Downtown District special-events committee, recently sent a proposal to city officials asking permission to paint the remaining benches. Jain said the city should notify her group before the next painting demonstration at the Iowa Arts Fest, June 1.

At the pilot demonstration Sunday, Jain said the program has started drawing people's attention downtown.

"It's really exciting to watch them work," she said as Ross painted an eye on a bench. "They're so intricate, they're precise — it's impressive to watch them. And people's reactions have been great, people stopping and asking questions — that's the kind of involvement we want."

ART ON THE RIVER



Naperville resident Stefany Spitzner buys jewelry from Wheaton artist, Barbara Bettag with her daughter Alice Claussen and granddaughter Steffy Claussen on Sunday at the IMU. The Riverbank Art Fair was hosted by the UI Fine Arts Council; it showcased original handmade artwork. (The Daily Iowan/Asmaa Elkeurti)

THAILAND

CONTINUED FROM 1

States, such as in Iowa City, interest him as a political professor.

"Decentralization is fairly new in Thailand," he said. "We have introduced many things locally, but still our local governments are not strong enough. There may be something not quite right, but we will improve."

Boonsiri said he was fascinated by the lack of strong party politics in U.S. city elections and appointments in such positions as city councilors, mayors, and city managers.

"It's good to have someone with experience and political neutrality," he said. "There is no position like the city manager in Thailand. It is a smart way of using someone who is really an expert, because most city managers have town and public-management degrees."

The two visitors have also visited several other cities throughout the country.

Chumsaeng said unethical election tactics slow the improvements in Thailand's political progress.

"Voters may be bought out or threatened in Thailand," she said. "This is a common practice, but it is not seen in the U.S."

The country has struggled through many political coups, including the last

one, in 2006, when sitting Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's brother was overthrown.

Iowa City officials say they're ready to inform the visitors about their positions, but the visitors also provide officials with an opportunity to learn.

"I don't think we have a perfect system; there are some things that we could use different perspectives on," said City Councilor Susan Mims.

Overall, Chumsaeng said, both parties will learn a lot from the exchange.

"I'm happy that we are able to talk freely," she said. "They learn the truth from us, and we learn the truth from them."

UNDEAD PROM



Holly Meurer and David Capesius are dressed for the Zombie Prom in the IMU on April 28. The event was part of RiverFest. (The Daily Iowan/Ya-Chen Chen)

RALLY

CONTINUED FROM 1

writing it will allow every paying customer the same privileges in the future.

Officials from the Union Bar did not return calls Sunday night.

Robert Oberbillig, an adjunct clinic professor at Drake University, said discrimination based on weight or size is not against the law, unlike dis-

crimination based on sex, race, religion, ethnicity, and sexual orientation.

"With legislative action, [size] could become protected by law," he said, adding he was unaware of legislation that had prevented such discrimination.

Ramos said she plans to continue to bring awareness of the bar's alleged actions.

"I am looking to raise awareness and get people talking about the issue of size discrimination," she said.

UI senior Rachel Hughes said she will attend the rally.

"I feel like most students are pretty supportive or they are super against it," she said. "It surprises me how many people are against the protest when it is a fellow student who feels like she has been wronged."

Ramos created a Facebook group for the rally, which had 186 people (as of 9 p.m. Sunday) who confirmed they plan to attend.

Though Iowa City Human Rights Commission member Howard Cowen said Ramos' situation is not a violation of the law, he encouraged other con-

cerned citizens to ask questions and make their cases.

"From a personal perspective, I think the more publicity a situation like this gets, the more people might take action in their own way," Cowen said.

UI junior Kenzie Schadel, who was with Ramos during both alleged

incidents, said the situation has disappointed her.

"When someone goes out to have fun with friends, they shouldn't have to worry about feeling like they are inadequate and not worthy of equal treatment," she said.

Ramos said she has heard arguments that obe-

sity is unhealthy but said she is not trying to advocate for it.

"I understand that obesity is unhealthy, and I'm not condoning it," she said. "What I am trying to do is say that we are all human beings, and we all deserve to be treated equally."

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May 12th	10:00a - 5:00p

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May 7th - 11th	10:00a - 4:30p

<p style="font-weight: bold; color: yellow;">HUBBARD PARK</p> <p>May 8 - 11</p> <p>9:30a - 5:00p</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: yellow;">BURGE</p> <p>May 8 - 11</p> <p>10:30a - 6:00p</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: yellow;">MAYFLOWER</p> <p>May 8 - 11</p> <p>10:00a - 5:30p</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: yellow;">HILLCREST</p> <p>May 8 - 11</p> <p>11:00a - 6:30p</p>
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Column

Independent voters
don't decide electionsDANIEL TABLESON
daniel-tableson@uiowa.edu

I was struck by an article posted on the Huffington Post a while back bemoaning President Obama's weakness as a negotiator.

By no means was this article unique in its tone. In fact, it is really just one of many in a long line of

articles, posts, and commentaries impugning Obama's apparent failure to serve as a standard bearer for this or that thing that the author considers some grand monolithic Democratic or liberal cause.

Lack of originality aside, the title of the article — "Let These 'Independents' Re-elect Obama, I Think I Will Sit This One Out" — got me thinking.

I feel you, but the president will probably have the last laugh in all of this. The president's flexibility might not play well with his base, but it plays well with independents. And seeing as independents decide elections, the president will be just fine even if his base is a bit disaffected.

Then I paused for a second, and I thought back to some rather interesting bits of research and history that call into question two important aspects of the common wisdom concerning independents and electoral politics.

These aspects being, the "fact" that independents represent a large percentage of people who vote in presidential elections and the "fact" that independents ultimately decide elections.

This in mind, I decided to go back and take a look at some research and electoral history in hopes of shedding some light on whether or not winning the hearts and minds of independents is worth alienating one's political base.

Once every five years or so, Pew goes out and constructs a "Political Typology," which categorizes and defines different voting blocs in the United States. The most recent was done in 2011.

When all was said and done, Pew found 25 percent of those surveyed fell into two voting blocs that could be considered core Republican voters. It also found that 40 percent fell into one of three core Democratic voting blocs and that the remaining 35 percent fell into one of three groups that were considered "Mostly Independent."

The last bit is where things become interesting.

Even though Pew categorized 35 percent of people as being "Mostly Independent," a firm majority of those people expressed strong party preferences. In fact, 16.5 percent of "Mostly Independent" people expressed a strong preference for the Republican Party, 9.6 percent expressed a strong preference for Democrats, and only 8.9 percent expressed no party preference.

In effect, what Pew found was only 8.9 percent of independent voters are truly independent.

At this point, some might contend that it is unfair to lump "lean-party" voters together with people who fully identify with a party.

To address this, I point to data collected by the American National Election Study after the 2008 elections.

In 2008, 40 percent of eligible voters identified as independents. Of that 40 percent, 33 percent actually voted. Furthermore, 26 percent of that 33 percent identified as being a lean-party voter. Of that 26 percent that identified as having a party preference, a full 87 percent voted for the candidate associated with their preferred party.

In short, most independents are effectively closet partisans who vote very much like their openly partisan counterparts, and truly independent voters represent a very small segment of the voting population.

This brings me to whether independents decide elections.

Common wisdom says that a candidate cannot win general-election contests without winning independent voters. However, this has proven to be far from a historical fact. Interestingly enough, you do not even need to go that far back in time to see that the common wisdom does not even come close on this one.

Actually it's not unusual for the winners of close elections (elections decided by 5 percent points or fewer) to lose the independent vote, it is downright common. In the past three "close elections," the winner of that election lost among independent voters.

True independents make up a very small segment of the voting population, they tend to turn out in low numbers, and rarely do they favor one side over the other to a great enough degree to overcome a well-mobilized base. This is not to say that independents cannot decide an election, but it is to say that the odds of them doing so are slim. ■

E-Raters will
kill creativitySAMUEL CLEARY
samuel-cleary@uiowa.edu

Hey prof, grade my essay? There's (kind of) an app for that.

The e-Rater, an automated essay-grading system developed by the Educational Testing Service, can grade up to 16,000 essays a minute. For educators across America, such a creation could mean a far easier job or even spell disaster in the form of "u-n-e-m-p-l-o-y-m-e-n-t."

But we're talking essays here, not math problems. When it comes to composition, right and wrong answers aren't always objective, nor do they always exist. So how effective are these robo-graders? And should they be trusted?

Incorporating robo-grading into academia will in time alter the way in which students write, being taught to fool a machine instead of establish a compelling argument in a creative way.

A recent study by the University of Akron College of Education compared the ratings of man and machine for some 22,000 short essays and found little difference in the final grades awarded.

"In terms of being able to replicate the mean [ratings] and standard deviation of human readers, the automated scoring engines did remarkably well," Mark Shermis, the study's lead author, said in an interview with *Inside Higher Ed*.

Are these robo-graders really this smart? Or has the general ability of students to write well become so predictably shallow that grading is a formulaic cakewalk? There's definitely a need for speculation.

The latter cynicism may be unanswerable and unfair: But Les Perelman, a director of writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, attempted to address the first question. And he argues, "No" is the answer.

The e-Rater, Perelman claimed in an article reported by the *New York Times*, is easy to fool once a writer gains an understanding of its biases. It seems to value certain things and discredit others: Short sentences, for instance, are bad. Big words? Good.

Essentially, the robo-graders do a less-than-stellar job of evaluating and interpreting content and concentrate on sure signs of intelligence in

the form of length and lexical complexity. If you can speak like an academic, the argument itself seems of little importance.

The e-Rater seems to think a bit like an idiot, fascinated and impressed by big words, long sentences, and syntactical diligence but utterly oblivious to content. It likes flashy, shiny things.

Yet, even if the system is a flawed one, what's disturbing is its existence in the first place. Writing has long stood up to technological imposition. It's to be a stubborn thing, something that refuses to be tied down or reduced to order. For the essay, possibilities are infinite; there are endless ways to arrive at a point and endless points at which to arrive.

The development of robo-graders for written works has far-reaching implications.

Not only does it degrade and limit writing to a science instead of an art, which it most certainly is, it also destroys creativity.

If these e-Raters, when "perfected" and approved by the mass culture of academia, overtake the process of grading essays, the educational system will then have to adapt accordingly. Instructors will be forced to teach their students how to write according to the mandates and criteria of a machine, thus making writing no different from mathematics: There will be a formula, a set methodology of arriving at a predetermined conclusion.

The e-Rater essentially poses a threat to originality. There is a constant struggle between the integrity of a discipline and the efficiency of it. In the search to eliminate labor and simplify the process of evaluating pieces of writing, the essence of why a student is taught to write will be lost. Standardization in the educational sphere works incredibly well, but it's limited to certain disciplines.

The attempt to objectify and formalize that which is dynamic and inherently unbound will be damaging.

A machine that operates in a consciousness dictated by algorithms cannot be expected — or allowed — to evaluate the legitimacy or quality of a product that is subjective by nature. ■

Your turn. Do you think e-Graders should be used to grade papers? Weigh in at dailyiowan.com.

Guest Column

Brawling over student loans

WASHINGTON — In the political campaigns still taking shape, President Obama, Republican challenger Mitt Romney, and lawmakers of both parties say they want to protect college students from a sharp increase in interest rates on federally subsidized loans.

Agree, they might, and act they surely will. But first, they settled effortlessly into a rollicking good political brawl.

In less than 72 hours, what might have looked like a relatively simple matter mushroomed into a politically charged veto showdown that touched on the economy and health care, tax cuts and policies affecting women. Accusatory campaign commercials to follow, no doubt.

"This is beneath us. This is beneath the dignity of this House and the dignity of the public trust that we enjoy," protested House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio as he and Democrats both maneuvered for position.

Evidently not. "It shouldn't be a Republican or a Democratic issue. This is an American issue," Obama said in North Carolina last week as he broached the topic of legislation in a move to gain support students in the fall election. He urged his listeners to tweet their lawmakers and urge them to block an increase in

interest rates on federally subsidized loans issued beginning July 1.

There was partisan pop behind Obama's message, though.

Over two days of campaign-style appearances on college campuses, he quoted one unnamed Republican lawmaker as saying she had "very little tolerance for people who tell me they graduate with debt because there's no reason for that." Another GOP lawmaker likened student loans to "stage three cancer of socialism." Both Republicans quickly said they had been quoted out of context.

Within a day, Romney told reporters he agreed on the need to prevent the rate increase, while conceding nothing to Obama in the search for political advantage. "I support extending the temporary relief on interest rates for students," he said and cited "extraordinarily poor conditions in the job market" in a jab at the president's handling of the economy.

Congressional Democrats announced they would write legislation to prevent a doubling of the current 3.4 percent interest rate and cover the \$6 billion cost by requiring more wealthy individuals to pay Social Security and Medicare payroll tax.

It was a not-so-subtle reprise of a campaign perennial, the allegation

that Republicans want to cut programs benefiting those who aren't rich to protect tax cuts for those who are.

Let's be honest, said Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. "The only reason Democrats have proposed this particular solution to the problem is to get Republicans to oppose it, to make us cast a vote they think will make us look bad to the voters they need to win the next election."

He then accused Democrats of wanting to pay for the legislation "by raiding Social Security and Medicare and by making it even harder for small businesses to hire."

Democrats noted that the Republican-written budget included no provisions to block the increase in the interest rate. It was evidence, they said, that if the GOP had its way, the cost of borrowing would double soon. Two conservative groups, the Heritage Foundation and the Club for Growth, both opposed the change, but only about 30 GOP House members voted against it.

The Democratic charge brought a rebuttal from Boehner, who said at midweek that the Republican-controlled House would vote quickly to prevent the interest rate from rising. "The issue is not a partisan issue," he said, echoing Obama on one point. "No one here expected interest

rates would go up in the fall."

Then he, too, put his thumb on the political scales.

The Republican bill would cover the \$6 billion cost by slicing into a fund to cover preventive health-care costs. That expanded the struggle to include one of the Republicans' own campaign planks — the promise to repeal what they deride as "Obamacare," and failing that, to dismantle it piece by piece.

Charge gave way to counter-charge having little or nothing to do with student loans.

Democrats said the health-care fund Republicans had targeted was evidence of a "war on women." "Give me a break," protested Boehner on the House floor. Addressing Democrats, he said, "you may have already forgotten that several months ago you voted to cut \$4 billion out of this fund to pay for the payroll tax cut."

By then, the White House weighed in with a veto threat, which House Republicans promptly ignored in passing its version of the measure on a near party-line vote of 215-195.

With that, Congress, its approval rating mired in the teens, went on a one-week vacation.

David Epsco
Associated Press

City move on purchasing pleases locals

City councilors voted on the 'Buy Local' procurement policy at a meeting on April 17.

By **JORDYN REILAND**
jordyn-reiland@uiowa.edu

Iowa City may see more local businesses bidding out non-local competitors.

The Iowa City City Council adopted a new "Buy Local" procurement policy at a meeting April 17. The policy would allow local business bids coming within 5 percent over a non-local bid to reduce or match the non-local price.

The new purchasing policy has excited local business-owners.

Bill Nusser, the owner of Hands Jewelers, 109 E. Washington St., said the move is a step in the right direction.

"I think this is a real indication of where our city management is going," Nusser said. "I am impressed, and I think it is a really great move."

City officials said they are aiming to create a competitive market and give local businesses better opportunities.

"We want to make sure that we have fair competition, but we also want to make sure local businesses have the opportunity to match or provide a quote that is less than the lowest bid," said Mary Niichel, the purchasing agent for the City of Iowa City.

Businesses that want to compete against non-local businesses under the policy must have previously been in the bidding process.

Nick Arnold, the executive director of the Iowa City Downtown District, said the allowance will help keep city funds in local businesses.

"Speaking for the Iowa City Downtown District, this policy will help keep municipal funds in local businesses, which is obviously beneficial to those

owners and employees," he said in an email. "It also demonstrates the city's commitment to supporting local merchants."

The city's purchasing policy was also outdated, Niichel said, leading city officials to believe it was a good time for updates.

Ritu Jain, the owner of Textiles, 109 S. Dubuque St., said bringing in local businesses can help the city know the quality of work beforehand, and she thinks the community will respond well.

"Iowa City is a very shop-local community, and everybody is interested in keeping business local," she said. "Keeping it local is always a good thing."

Cedar Rapids City Councilor Chuck Swore said the Buy Local policy — which was implemented in Cedar Rapids in January 2010 — has not affected larger purchases, but it does play a role when looking into smaller business ventures.

Despite the possibility for stipulations depending on the project, purchasing process, or source of funding, City Councilor Jim Throgmorton said the new policy will give businesses more opportunities for fair competition.

"I think it will stimulate small businesses," he said. "[The policy] will give businesses a better opportunity to compete fairly."

Arnold said he believes the initiative will have no problem in Iowa City because of the number of local businesses in place.

"The vast, vast majority of businesses are locally owned and operated," he wrote in an email. "I would wager college towns are more supportive of local businesses than other communities."

Swore said he did not know of other cities who had the policy.

"I hope other places adopt it, too," he said, and he believes it was a better idea than awarding tax dollars to non-local businesses. "I think it is something you will see more and more."

Local activists eye May Day

Occupy Iowa City was launched on Oct. 6, 2011.

By **CHASTITY DILLARD**
chastity-dillard@uiowa.edu

The May Day holiday will become a rallying point for the Occupy organization both in Iowa City and nationally as protests are expected to sprout up again Tuesday.

"We are living through some pretty serious times as far as the labor movement goes," said Shelton Stromquist, a University of Iowa history professor. "Labor's back is to the wall, and that has called forth a broader public support."

International Workers' Day, or May Day, is recognized each year on May 1. The day recognizes the 1886 Chicago Haymarket Massacre, in which workers protesting for the eight-hour workday were fired upon by police officers.

Occupy supporters nationwide plan to protest that same day regarding social and economic injustices in the United States and worldwide.

"The holiday, May Day, above all represents a kind of broader solidarity that workers have with each other and not just us but internationally," said Stromquist, who will speak at Tuesday's rally. "Labor finds itself in a very beleaguered position, mainly because of laws like collective bargaining."

Last fall, Stromquist and another UI professor set up an Occupy Iowa City public forum to



Iowa City resident Mary Adams cleans up College Green Park in February, when Occupy Iowa City's permit to be in the park expired. (The Daily Iowan/Ian Servin)

May Day Significant labor movements or relevant events in the United States include:

- 1886: Haymarket Massacre in Chicago
- 2006: Great American Boycott by undocumented workers
- 2007: Televised police disbursement of Los Angeles protest for undocumented workers
- 2012: Occupy movement's national protest for social justices

Source: March 25 Coalition, Occupy Iowa City, UI history Professor Shelton Stromquist

inform students of the movement.

However, UI political-science Associate Professor Tim Hagle said the labor and Occupy movement goals can sometimes conflict.

"A lot of times, the Occu-

py movement is anti-corporations," he said. "But as much as the labor movement doesn't like corporations, the corporations provide jobs, and the labor movement needs corporations to provide jobs."

Occupy supporters said recent events such as the 2006 protests for undocumented workers have made May Day protests more significant in the United States.

Paul Street, a local author and political commentator, said the May 1 celebration is largely an American event that has been forgotten until recently.

"And the Occupy movement is bringing up the same issues," he said. "The disproportionate power of the very rich few, the 1 percent, and new kinds of issues."

Ryan Spurgetis, one of Occupy Iowa City's May Day event planners, said he hopes the day will gal-

vanize community members to demonstrate for local issues.

"There is a lot of movement happening right now," the 29-year-old said. "I would like to see May Day as an opportunity to come together in Iowa City, and share solidarity, with each other and move forward for social change."

Members from Occupy Des Moines plan to rally as well on Tuesday evening, which will be followed by a public labor panel.

"Locally, we are trying to show our strength as a movement and basically trying to show a united front of social justice for international workers and immigrant workers," said Shawn Gude, a former *Daily Iowan* staff member and Occupy Des Moines member. "I do think that this will be a catalyst for more actions around the country."

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BOOKS

the ledge

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



In which I imagine my belongings have become sentient:

- **Car That Overuses Air Quotes:** "I think I should go to 'the mechanic' for a 'check-up,' because the simplest of maintenance tasks seems to be 'not your thing.'"
 - **Phone Who Has My Back:** "Oh, sorry — Will can't take your call right now. He's, uh, in a business meeting and definitely not having a burger-induced nap."
 - **Overly Ambitious Oven:** "I'm feeling underutilized. You know I can do other things besides frozen pizza, right? How's about we whip up a nice beef Wellington?"
 - **Fun-loving Bicycle:** "Wheeeeeee!"
 - **Passively Judgmental Refrigerator:** "Back for another beer already? Should you maybe consider slowing it down a tidge? Have you seen this lovely Brita pitcher in here?"
 - **Lazy, Enabling Couch:** "Ugh, close the drapes. Call in sick to work. Let's sleep all day. Don't you have some gaming to catch up on?"
 - **Sarcastic Coffee Table:** "No, it's cool. I'll just display all these unread magazines so that your many and various visitors will know what an informed and refined fellow you are."
 - **Wistfully Nostalgic Guitar:** "Man, remember that boss cover of 'Wish You Were Here' we used to do? Those were the days, dude. We should totally think about getting the band back together."
 - **Emotionally Traumatized Bath Mat:** "You cannot fathom the horrors I have witnessed."
 - **Mean Garbage Can:** "Gimme that Ledge draft. It's rubbish."
- Will Hartman has seen *Beauty and the Beast* more than once.

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www.hophomefurnishings.com

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

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

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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

SOLUTION TO FRIDAY'S PUZZLE

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

CHECK OUT dailyiowan.com FOR MORE PUZZLES

DILBERT

by Scott Adams

I READ A BOOK ABOUT HOW TO BE A GREAT LEADER. AND REALIZED I DON'T DO ANY OF THOSE THINGS.

I'M SURPRISED THAT A BOOK WITH SO MANY ERRORS COULD GET PUBLISHED.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY A DISGRUNTLED UNDERLING.

DO THOSE EXIST?

NON SEQUITUR

BY VIEV

ATTENTION: NOT LIABLE FOR LOST ITEMS OR INJURIES IN THIS STORE!

SO... WHAT'S NEW, PANAE?

A LEGAL EPIPHANY

AND SUDDENLY A RED FLAG IS HOISTED...

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

ALEX UP YET?

YUP, SHE WENT OVER TO TALK TO HER MOM ABOUT THE WEDDING.

SHUDDER.

WHY SHUDDER?

J.J.'S GOING TO WANT TO HIJACK IT, TURN IT INTO AN ART PROJECT, LIKE HER WEDDING!

OKAY, SO THE FIRST THING YOU'LL NEED IS A FIRE PERMIT...

ACTUALLY NOT, MOM. WE'RE GOING IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION.

mc ginsberg.com

OBJECTS OF ART

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

- **Toddler Story Time, 10:30 a.m.**, Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn
- **Pathology Faculty Recruitment Seminar**, "Assessment of Acute Gastroenteritis in a Pediatric Population," Gerald Thurston Van Horn III, Vanderbilt University Medical College, noon, W256 General Hospital
- **Hand & Foot Card Group, 1 p.m.**, Senior Center, 28 S. Linn
- **Plasma Physics Seminar**, "Simulations of Viscosities for 2D Dusty Plasma," Yan Feng, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Physics/Astronomy, 1:30 p.m., 309 Van Allen
- **Wii Bowling, 1:30 p.m.**, Senior Center
- **Iowa New Play Festival Reading, Free the ABC**, by Bonnie Metzgar, 2 p.m., 172 Theater Building
- **Affirmationists Toastmasters, 5:30 p.m.**, W402 Pappajohn

- **Iowa New Play Festival Staged Reading, Champagne Gods**, by Emily Dendinger, 5:30 p.m., 172 Theater Building
- **River City Toastmasters, 5:30 p.m.**, Bennigan's, 1451 Coral Ridge Ave., Coralville
- **Educational Meeting on Human Trafficking, 6 p.m.**, Iowa City Public Library
- **Tap Cats, 6 p.m.**, Senior Center
- **"Live from Prairie Lights," Guy Delisle, fiction, 7 p.m.**, Prairie Lights, 15 S. Dubuque
- **University and Concert Band, 7:30 p.m.**, IMU second-floor ballroom
- **Writers' Workshop Reading, Nathan Englander, 8 p.m.**, Frank Conroy Reading Room Dey House
- **One-Night Stand, 9 p.m.**, Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn

UITV schedule

Campus channel 4, cable channel 17

- 2 p.m.** Religion & Science Lecture Series, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Marilynne Robinson speaks on religion and science, March 25, Congregational Church
- 3 p.m.** Finkbine Awards Dinner, awards ceremony for outstanding students, April 10
- 4:15** Healthful Recipes, the expert chefs at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics demonstrate healthful recipes
- 5 Afro Cuban Jazz Show — Part 2**, jazz performance at the Englert, Dec. 8, 2011
- 6** Physics & Astronomy Demo Show, space weather, spacecraft, meteors, a presentation for school-age children, March 1
- 7** Religion & Science Lecture Series, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Marilynne Robinson speaks on religion and science, March 25, Congregational Church
- 8** Finkbine Awards Dinner, awards ceremony for outstanding students, April 10
- 9:15** "Perspectives," a student-produced public-affairs program by the Iowa Chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists
- 9:30** Daily Iowan Television News
- 9:45** Healthful Recipes, the expert chefs at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics demonstrate healthful recipes
- 10:30** Daily Iowan Television News
- 10:45** "Perspectives," a student-produced public-affairs program by the Iowa Chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists
- 11** Religion & Science Lecture Series, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Marilynne Robinson speaks on religion and science, March 25, Congregational Church

horoscopes

Monday, April 30
- by Eugenia Last

ARIES March 21-April 19 Expand your prospects by networking with people who share your interests. Travel or take on a challenge that will provide you with adventure or cultural knowledge. Social gatherings will enhance your love life. You are overdue to make positive lifestyle changes.

TAURUS April 20-May 20 Your family will be angry if you make changes without asking for approval. Avoid offending anyone in a position to influence your future. Excess, overvaluing your own opinion, or underestimating a situation will be your downfall.

GEMINI May 21-June 20 Make home improvements or take care of your personal needs. Love can be enhanced, but only if you strive for equality and prepare to compromise. A regimen that will help you achieve or maintain good health should be initiated.

CANCER June 21-July 22 Don't misinterpret what someone is telling you or asking you to do. Limitations will prevail if you take the long route unnecessarily. Gauge your relationships carefully, and revise or let go of connections that put too much pressure on you.

LEO July 23-Aug. 22 Think before making a decision or statement that may impose on an important relationship. Get involved in activities that will challenge you mentally or physically. You will see a situation much more clearly if you step back and review.

VIRGO Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Visit a friend or get involved in an event that is conducive to meeting new people. Putting money into your home or investing in your skills will help you create a better life. A colleague or peer is likely to mislead you.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 22 Do not spend money on luxury items. You cannot buy love and should not lend or borrow money or possessions. Concentrate on making improvements that will help you establish a better position with a healthier lifestyle. Love is on the rise.

SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21 You can make wise choices that will benefit you personally and professionally. A creative idea can prompt you to change, make a move, or form a partnership that will allow you greater freedom to follow your dreams, hopes, and wishes.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Slow the pace, and consider the consequence of any move you make. Problems can be expected while traveling or dealing with people who have information you want. Strategy must be used in order to come out on top.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Deal with personal issues. Make sure the estates of elders are in order and that home and family matters are secure and assessable. Taking the initiative ahead of time will ease your stress. Don't stir up trouble by asking for help.

AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Problems involving friends, relatives, or neighbors will spin out of control if you are too blatant about your feelings or too stubborn to compromise. Be reasonable, and figure out how to please everyone while taking care of your needs.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20 Put in extra effort to avoid criticism and complaints. Keep busy, and focus on goals that will help you get ahead professionally. Personal matters are likely to aggravate you and stand in the way of your success.

The New York Times Crossword

- Edited by Will Shortz No. 0326
- Across**
- Antlered animal
 - Provided with meals
 - With 58-Down, vehicle for people on the go? ... or a hint to five strategically placed answers in this puzzle
 - Alternative to chocolate
 - Musical performance
 - Low-cost, as an airplane seat
 - 1920s-'30s design style
 - Time of change
 - Intl. feminine group
 - Feminine title
 - Sir Walter Scott novel
 - Bouquet holders
 - Spy's knowledge, informally
 - Singer/actress Deanna of the 1930s-'40s
 - Pinocchio, at times
 - "___ about time!"
 - Complained loudly
 - 35 90° angle
 - Native of Cuba's capital
 - Cry for a matador
 - Rarely
 - Charged particle
 - ___ Nostra
 - Square dance maneuver
 - Senegal's capital
 - Was wide open
 - State of bliss
 - King Kong, for one
 - The second of the five W's
 - Roma is its capital
 - From one of the Baltics
 - Suffered an embarrassing defeat
 - Group artistically, as flowers
 - Desert procession
 - Smells to high heaven
 - Chicago trains
 - Brian of ambient music
- Down**
- Not odd
 - Fabric that doesn't block much light
 - Smart aleck, say
 - Bouquet-related
 - Violinist Mischa
 - 24 hours
 - Bygone Ford car, informally
 - General who became the first emperor of Rome
 - YouTube posting, for short
 - 10 ___ or less (supermarket checkout sign)
 - Mother-of-pearl
 - Lip ___
 - Words often declared after "Well!"
 - Colder and wetter, as weather
 - "Absolutely right!"
 - RCA or Samsung product
 - "Wheel of Fortune" purchase
 - 36 Snooker
 - Jordan's Queen
 - 47 Separately
 - ___ dish (lab holder)
 - Life-sustaining
 - Long-haired uglies
 - 55 Persia, now
 - Zinc's is 30: Abbr.
 - See 7-Across
 - One-spot card

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

M	A	M	M	A	S	T	O	P	P	R	I	Z	E
A	V	I	A	T	E	U	N	L	O	O	S	E	N
M	E	D	G	A	R	X	M	A	S	C	A	R	D
B	R	A	I	N	F	R	E	E	Z	E	B	O	S
O	T	I	C	E	D	D	A	P	E	E	L	A	
S	S	R	S	K	A	O	S	G	O	L	D	A	
Q	U	A	D	S	S	U	N	L	I	T			
M	A	T	U	R	E	S	B	E	N	Z	E	N	
I	S	H	A	L	L	B	R	A	S	I			
Y	O	U	R	S	M	R	I	S	C	A	T		
A	N	N	E	S	O	O	N	C	L	O	U	E	
Z	E	D	J	E	R	S	E	Y	S	H	O	R	E
A	M	E	N	A	M	E	N	O	P	E	N	O	N
K	A	R	E	N	I	N	A	N	A	M	E	R	S
I	N	S	E	A	S	O	N	D	R	E	D	A	Y

Puzzle by Ray Fontenot

25 Parts of a French archipelago
26 Cleopatra's river
28 Kellogg's All-___
30 Big name in pet food
32 "Don't just stand there!"
33 Lohengrin's love
34 Beloved

36 Snooker
37 Jordan's Queen
40 J.F.K.'s predecessor
42 Where Hudson Bay is
44 Nonsensical
45 Some office stamps
46 Fancy affairs

47 Separately
48 ___ dish (lab holder)
50 Life-sustaining
53 Long-haired uglies
55 Persia, now
56 Zinc's is 30: Abbr.
58 See 7-Across
59 One-spot card

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MAN ON THE STREET

What is your favorite study break?

"Watch 'The Office' or go for a run."
Bre Rozendaal
UI senior

"Getting a candy bar and a cup of coffee and a chilling out on one of library couches."
Cody Hodson
UI junior

"Watch TV and eat. Maybe watch basketball."
Deng Wour
UI graduate student

"Watch TV or mess around on the computer."
Maggie Thilges
UI senior

Spotlight Iowa City

Gust fuels Parkinson's support group

The Eastern Iowa Parkinson's Support Group meets every third Tuesday of the month.

BY DORA GROTE
dora-grote@uiowa.edu

Judi Gust dedicates her life to keeping the Eastern Iowa Parkinson's Disease Support Group enthusiastic and active, with a passion for nursing and helping others.

"What is so neat about this group is that everyone participates," said Gust, the leader of the group. "It really makes things easy for me, because they'll make suggestions of what type of speaker they would like and different discussion topics."

The 73-year-old began coordinating the support group in 2005.

Parkinson's disease is a slowly progressing neurological disease resulting in the loss of dopamine-producing brain cells.

Group member Caryl Lyons attends the meetings in support of her 71-year-old husband, who has Parkinson's disease, and said there wouldn't be a group without Gust.

"It's a very positive, upbeat group for people who have an un-positive disease, and Judi sort of sets that tone by being enthusiastic," the 69-year-old said.

Gust said she likes to provide the participants — approximately 15 to 30 — with a variety of activities to keep the meetings attractive. She invites medical experts to speak, introduces the participants to music and dance therapy, thinks of roundtable discussion topics, and encour-



Judi Gust speaks as her husband Bob McCown approaches at their home on April 2. Gust has been assisting McCown, who has Parkinson's disease, since the '90s. She became a the coordinator of a support group for those dealing with the disease in 2005. (The Daily Iowan/Jacklyn Couppee)



Judi Gust

The 73-year-old stays active outside the support group by:

- Texting her grandchildren
- Gardening
- Reading
- Cooking
- Hiking

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.

ages family members to attend.

"Sometimes, people are hesitant about coming and think it's about commiserating about their condition," Gust said. "But that's not what they do here."

While Gust is responsi-

ble for setting up the activities, Sue Mullins, client services representative for University of Iowa Community Home Care, collaborates with her to brainstorm ideas and take care of the finances.

"I just can't say enough about how happy I am just to talk to on the phone with her every week," Mullins said. "She and I are pals."

Mullins said Gust is wonderful to work with and is truly dedicated to the group and helping her husband, Bob McCown, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 1992.

"I think it really is a testament to her love for her husband," Mullins said. "She does whatever she can to be knowledgeable and find ways to be active, stay active, and stay happy."

Gust was a surgery oncology nurse at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics, and while there, she helped form a breast-cancer support group. Her experience was a factor in taking over the Parkinson's group.

After retiring and before taking over the group, Gust said, she was involved in the UI Museum of Art Docent Program. She

attended UI art-history classes, was a tour guide for the museum, and introduced students to art.

"We would take grade-school kids on tours of the Art Museum and bring art into schools after the flood," Gust said. "It wasn't us lecturing them but encouraging kids to look at art by exposing them to it."

However, as her husband's conditions pro-

gressed, the support group became her top priority.

"I definitely wanted to attend these meetings with my husband, but I didn't think I would be that involved with it," Gust said. "It's amazing how many show up for support groups. It's really been a fun group and a unique experience for me."

Aide: Obama wants 'balance' with China

WASHINGTON — A top White House aide on Sunday said President Obama wants to strike an "appropriate balance" between advancing human rights and maintaining U.S. relations with China, the first public comments by the administration on its potential involvement in harboring a Chinese activist on the eve of diplomatic talks between the two world powers.

John Brennan, Obama's counterterrorism adviser, declined to provide details on the incident or say whether the activist, Chen Guangcheng, might be hiding in the U.S. Embassy in Beijing as

reported.

Chen, who has exposed forced abortions and sterilizations in villages as a result of China's one-child policy, escaped house arrest a week ago in Shandong province in eastern China. Chinese-based activists say he was driven away by supporters and then handed over to others who brought him to Beijing.

"I think in all instances the president tries to balance our commitment to human rights, making sure that the people throughout the world have the ability to express themselves freely and openly, but also that we can continue to carry out our relationships with key countries overseas," Brennan told "Fox

News Sunday."

The U.S. relationship with China is "very important," he said. "So we're going to make sure that we do this in the appropriate way and the appropriate balance is struck."

Chen's escape comes at a politically sensitive time for the U.S. This week, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner will head to Beijing for long-planned strategic and economic talks. Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell began a hurried mission to Beijing on Sunday to smooth the way for annual talks involving Clinton and Geithner.

— Associated Press

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BLANK

CONTINUED FROM 10

Hoosiers. The collision knocked some of Blank's teeth loose and caused heavy swelling around her mouth, but she went 2-for-3, scoring 3 runs and delivering an RBI. The freshman reached base all three times she came up to bat.

"One thing about Megan is that she goes with the flow; she's easy-going," assistant coach Stacy May-Johnson said. "She got the OK to play from the doctors and everything taken care of at the hospital last night, so she got out here and played really, really well today."

The only sign that Blank was injured during Sunday's game was the face-mask added to her batting helmet. Head coach Marla Looper said they tried to find a protective mask she could wear during defense, too, but every device they tried put too much pressure on her face and caused pain.

Blank said she was only worried about being timid in the field, but she tallied a putout and an assist in five innings of play. She didn't register any errors.

"I was going to try to play no matter what, but it was more a matter of hoping that I wouldn't be too skittish if a ball would come my way," Blank said. "But I wasn't too nervous about that today once I got out there, so I played just like always."

Looper said she was nervous to put Blank back

in the lineup unless she was sure the shortstop was feeling OK. The head coach watched her during warmups on Sunday, though, and was quickly convinced Blank was more than ready to return to the diamond.

"We weren't going to throw her in a situation where she was apprehensive or still in too much pain, because it hurts the team — and the player — when you put someone in that situation," Looper said. "Watching her through warmups and batting practice, she was typical Megan. We knew she's our girl, and she was going to go in that spot."

Blank smashed an RBI double in the first inning to bring in the first run, then trotted around the bases to score the second on a Keim homer. The freshman then reached on an error in the third inning and made her way around the bases off a walk-single combination from Keim and Liz Watkins.

Blank also displayed her baserunning skills in the fourth inning when she slapped a shot to the left side of the infield and beat the throw at first. She advanced to third on two more singles from Keim and Watkins before beating a throw at home to score the game's ninth run, risking yet another collision.

"I wouldn't expect anything less from Megan," Watkins said. "It says a lot about her character and who she is a person. She's not going to give up even if her teeth get knocked out, she's going to stand right back up and put a fight out."

DORIS

CONTINUED FROM 10

front of the Iowa crowd," Doris said. "I finally got my flag and all that cool stuff ... I won the Drake Relays, and I won one for Iowa. I just couldn't hold it in."

Doris' victory over the NCAA indoor-triple jump champion halted Craddock's attempt at a third outdoor relay event title. The Gator had previously won the 2010 and 2011 Penn Relays, and came to Drake in hopes of seeking out good competition. He entered the competition as the second-ranked triple jumper in Division-I track and field.

Craddock spoke highly of Doris, and he described how the two athletes push each other when they compete together. The triple jump is an exciting event, he said, and any winning jump can happen at any time.

"Coming in second is always disappointing, especially because I knew I had [the winning jump] in me," Craddock said. "[Troy] is a phenomenal jumper and a great guy. The thing about our event is that you can never stop. You always have to work hard, and anything can happen."

Doris agreed, and he also spoke highly of the competition at Drake. He said he didn't let the hype get to him because he had to attack the field.



Nebraska-Kearney's Allen Osborn, Iowa's Ethan Holmes, and Indiana State's Greggmar Swift run the 110-meter hurdles final at the Drake Relays in Des Moines on April 28. Holmes finished fourth; Swift won the event with a time of 13.72 seconds. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

Doris also noted that all of the triple jumpers push each other — they're arguably the best overall athletes in the sport. He said competing with Craddock is always a good experience, and he'll be ready to battle him again at the NCAA championships in June.

"[Craddock] comes out here real cool and relaxed," Doris said. "He's unpredictable, so it keeps me on my toes. We have a lot to work on, he and I. There's going to be a lot of surprises between the two of us."

The Hawkeye wasn't joking about surprises — he had one of his own on April 28. Doris had tape wrapped around his right knee, choking the muscles around his patella. He injured his kneecap a week before the Drake Relays and didn't get the OK to jump until after his warmups.



Iowa's Jeff Herron competes in the high jump at the Drake Relays in Des Moines on April 27. Herron finished second in the event. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

Doris said his confidence was sky-high when he nearly set a new personal best with an injured knee, and that it's just another thing he had to work through in order to win his championship flag. "God has given me some good tools right now for me to work with," he said. "I can't take anything for granted right now."

That type of performance is one that impressed head coach Larry Wiczorek — it was one that stood out to a head coach that loves to put the emphasis on his team.

"I always like to focus on team," the head coach said. "But this weekend, individuals stood out to me. "Troy was one of them."

BIG TEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's golf finishes 6th

The Iowa men's golf team finished sixth at the Big Ten championships, held at the Pete Dye Course of the French Lick Resort in French Lick, Ind. Iowa finished at 51 over, 28 shots behind Big Ten champion Illinois.

The Hawkeyes couldn't overcome a rocky first day of the tournament on April 27, on which they shot a 38 over 614 in the opening two rounds.

The third round, held April 28, saw Iowa rebound with a 1 under 287 that tied with Indiana's final round for the best round of the tournament. Hawkeye senior Barrett Kelpin set a course record by firing a 5-under 67. Steven Ihm also recorded an under-par score by shooting at 70.

Iowa head coach Mark Hankins said he was pleased with the way his team was able to bounce back after a rough opening day in French Lick.

"We didn't play very well [on the first day] trying to get used to this golf course," Hankins said in a release. "[In the third round] I thought we kept our head, didn't panic, and Barrett and Steven came in with a couple of really good numbers to help put us over the top."

The Hawkeyes finished the tournament with a 14-over team score on Sunday. Senior Chris Brant led Iowa on the event's final day by shooting a 70 to finish the tournament at 9 over, a score good enough to tie for 10th place. Illinois' Luke Guthrie won his second-straight championship and became the 14th golfer to win numerous Big Ten titles — a list that includes PGA stars Steve Stricker and Luke Donald.

The Hawkeyes will hope to gain an invitation to the NCAA regionals, which will be held May 17-19 at sites to be determined after the conclusion of all conference tournaments.

— by Ryan Murphy

Women's golf finishes 10th

The Iowa women's golf team finished in 10th place at the Big Ten championships in French Lick, Ind., on Sunday. The Hawkeyes shot a 65-over 929 at the Donald Ross Course and finished ahead of Penn State and Indiana.

No. 25 Michigan State won the event at 21 over; it was followed by No. 33 Purdue (31 over) and No. 22 Ohio State (34 over).

Iowa head coach Megan Menzel said she was impressed with her team's effort on the final 18 holes of competition; the Hawkeyes jumped two spots on the leaderboard on Sunday.

"We definitely saw some areas of improvement," Menzel said in a release. "I was thrilled with the way Chelsea Harris played all three days. She ... had a great senior performance."

Harris, Iowa's lone senior, finished tied for seventh at 4 over par — one position from being named to the all-tournament team. It was the Illinois native's third top-10 finish this season; she's the first Hawkeye to place in the top-10 at the conference tournament since Tyrette Metzendorf took third in 2009, according to the release.

Teammate Kristi Cardwell finished second-highest for the Hawkeyes at 18 over and tied for 32nd. Gigi DiGrazia finished at 24 over and tied for 55th, and freshman Shelby Philips tied for 59th at 26 over.

Lauren English and Karly Grouwinkel rounded out Iowa's scorecard at 28 and 55 over, respectively; the pair finished in 62nd and 72nd.

— by Alex French

Baseball drops 2 of 3

The Iowa baseball team lost two of three to the Minnesota Golden Gophers over the weekend in Minneapolis.

Manager Jack Dahm said before the team left for the Twin Cities that he expected three low-scoring games.

That's exactly what he and the Hawkeyes got — the team dropped the first two games by scores of 5-4 and 4-3.

The Hawkeyes' lone victory came on Sunday in a 5-4 win in 12 innings. Senior Phil Kepler drove in Mike McQuillan with a single to right-center field in the top of the 12th inning for what proved to be the winning run.

Freshman left-hander Taylor Kaufman pitched 4 2/3 innings out of the bullpen to pick up his second win of the season. Fellow freshman Nick Hibbing relieved Kaufman for the final two outs to pick up his second save of the year.

Iowa again got solid starts from their No. 1 and No. 2 pitchers in Minneapolis. Jarred Hippen threw 7 2/3 innings, giving 5 earned runs in the first game of the series at the Metrodome. Matt Dermody was even better, working 7 2/3 innings while only allowing 1 earned run.

McQuillan hit his way into the school record books in the team's series-opening loss on April 27. The senior's seventh-inning single gave him 184 singles for his

career, eclipsing Keith Noreen's total of 183. McQuillan is fourth on the school's all-time hit list (225).

— by Ben Schuff

Rowing crews fare well

The Iowa rowing team qualified three crews for the Grand Final of the Big East Invitational against No. 15 Notre Dame, Louisville, Rutgers, Syracuse, and West Virginia in Indianapolis on April 28.

The Hawkeyes sent their Varsity 8 and second Varsity 8 boats into the final round, after both crews posted second-place finishes in their respective heats. Iowa's Varsity 4 team crossed the finish line in second place in its

morning heat following a weather delay to also move into the last round.

Iowa claimed a pair of third-place finishes and a fourth-place showing in the Grand Finals.

The Varsity 8 and second Varsity 8 squads both recorded third-place times, with the Varsity 8 boat scoring the best run of the day for Iowa. The boat notched a time of 6:47.6 minutes, just under six seconds behind first-place Notre Dame.

The Varsity 4 group trailed throughout its final, ending up with a fourth-place finish and a time of 8:06.3 minutes — more than 21 seconds off the pace.

The Black and Gold now have two weeks off to prepare for the Big Ten championships in Indianapolis on May 13.

— by Tom Clos

MCNUTT

CONTINUED FROM 10

conference in 2011; his 1,315 yards last season were the seventh-most in league history. He accounted for more touchdowns than any other receiver in the conference.

But he had to watch six other Big Ten wideouts get drafted before he heard his name called.

You can't look me in the eye and honestly expect me to believe McNutt was the 26th-best receiver available, much less the sixth-best in the Big Ten.

You can't possibly tell me three kickers and a punter can be expected to make more of an impact than Mr. McClutch, when — in the overwhelming majority of cases — specialists usually aren't selected until the

seventh round (if they're drafted at all).

You can't tell me it isn't strange that the Dolphins — who desperately needed a wideout after finishing 23rd in the league in passing and hired a longtime Iowan to coach the receivers this off-season — passed on McNutt's record-breaking numbers in favor of B.J. Cunningham.

This isn't new, either. Kirk Ferentz became Iowa's head coach before the 1999 season, and since then, the NFL has drafted 13 Iowa offensive linemen, 11 defensive backs, 10 defensive linemen, and seven tight ends.

Wide receivers? Three. None of them (McNutt, Kevin Kasper, and Kahlil Hill) went before the sixth round.

The NFL holds clearly holds Ferentz in high regard; he coached under Bill Belichick, his name crops up whenever a coaching vacancy appears, and you can't argue with the 53

Hawkeyes drafted during his tenure.

But while Mel Kiper called him an "offensive-line guru" after Riley Reiff was picked in the first round on April 26, Ferentz has had an incredible amount of trouble hearing his receivers' names called in New York.

McNutt wasn't the best receiver in the draft (that would be Justin Blackmon), and because he was widely expected to be taken in the fifth round, a slide down to the sixth isn't that big a deal.

But the manner in which

he slid should raise some eyebrows. He wasn't the best receiver, but he sure as hell wasn't the 26th-best, either.

McNutt didn't have character concerns like Alfonzo Dennard (punched a cop) or even Reiff (who ran naked through Pita Pit). He was a polite, hardworking player who just happens to be the best receiver Iowa ever had.

I hope McNutt gets his fair shake in Philly. His stats alone say he deserves a chance.

But the NFL isn't fair.

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FIVE YEAR ENGAGEMENT (R) ✓
4:20, 7:05, 10:00

PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS 3D (PG) ✓x
4:50, 7:10

PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS 2D (PG) ✓x
9:20

SAFE (R) ✓
5:20, 7:35, 9:50

THINK LIKE A MAN (PG-13) ✓x
4:15, 7:00, 9:45

LUCKY ONE (PG-13) ✓x
5:10, 7:30, 9:50

CHIMPANZEE (G) ✓
5:00, 7:00, 9:00

CABIN IN THE WOODS (R)
5:10, 7:25, 9:40

THREE STOOGES (NR) ✓x
4:40

TITANIC 3D (PG-13) ✓x
7:40

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SAFE (R) ✓
5:20, 7:35, 9:50

PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS 3D (PG) ✓x
7:10

PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS 2D (PG) ✓x
5:00, 9:20

THINK LIKE A MAN (PG-13) ✓x
4:00, 6:45, 9:40

LUCKY ONE (PG-13) ✓x
4:30, 7:00, 9:25

CABIN IN THE WOODS (R)
5:15, 7:30, 9:45

THREE STOOGES (NR)
5:00, 7:10, 9:25

AMERICAN REUNION (R)
9:40

TITANIC 3D (PG-13) ✓x
4:45

MIRROR MIRROR (PG)
4:00, 6:30, 9:00

HUNGER GAMES (PG-13)
4:15, 7:15

21 JUMP STREET (R)
4:35, 7:05, 9:35

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DRAKE RELAYS

Doris sails to Drake win



Iowa's Troy Doris competes in the men's triple jump at the Drake Relays in Des Moines this past weekend. Doris won the event with a jump of 16.41 on his final attempt. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

Hawkeye senior Troy Doris wins his first-ever title at the Drake Relays.

By **CODY GOODWIN**
cody-goodwin@uiowa.edu

DES MOINES — You'll never see a bigger smile on Troy Doris' face.

He was down to his final chance in the 2012 Drake Relays triple jump. He and Florida's Omar Craddock had gone neck and neck throughout the event, though the Gator had led most of the way.

The sixth and last round saw the rest of the field jump but not match the distances of

Doris and Craddock. The duo's closing leaps would decide who earned the championship.

The senior Hawkeye lined up just as he had before every other jump he had performed on April 28 and went through his pre-jump ritual. But this time, he seemed more relaxed — he smiled before he ran down the track.

"I really try to keep my emotions in check," he said. "All I can do is control myself."

Doris was in full control of his final jump, one he said he

Next Up: UNI Messersmith Invitational

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knew was special the moment he took flight. The Drake Stadium stands filled with oohs and aahs and ultimately cheers. Doris reached 16.41 meters (53-10.0625 feet).

That mark pushed Doris from fifth to third in the nation in the triple jump, and more importantly, passed Craddock

for first place by .01 meters, or .394 inches.

Craddock fouled on his final jump, securing Doris' victory. The Hawkeye fan section erupted with screams and shrieks of joy. Assistant coach Clive Roberts pointed his finger to the sky and pumped his fist with excitement. And Doris broke into a small victory dance — it was the senior's first-ever Drake Relays title.

"I was real happy to do it in

SEE DORIS, 8

COMMENTARY

NFL snubs Hawkeye wideouts

Marvin McNutt's freefall in the draft highlights an enduring problem for Iowa receivers.



SETH ROBERTS
seth-roberts@uiowa.edu

Conspiracy theories don't do a whole lot for me. Tupac doesn't live in Cuba; the government had nothing to do with 9/11; the Cubs would suck with or without Billy Sianis' goat.

But the weekend's NFL draft raised a question that won't quite go away.

Does the NFL really disrespect Iowa wide receivers, or does it just feel that way?

Marvin McNutt sat waiting for his name to be called. He waited. He waited some more.

He watched 25 other wide receivers get picked before him.

He watched three kickers and a punter find professional homes before him.

He watched Miami, where former Iowa offensive coordinator Ken O'Keefe now coaches wide receivers, choose a pass-catcher from the Big Ten. It wasn't him.

Philadelphia finally snagged him in the sixth round with the 194th overall pick, but the seed had long been planted.

What gives?

We're talking about the best wide receiver in Iowa history. McNutt owns four school records outright, and he is tied for tops in another. All of his 2,861 yards and 28 touchdowns came after the St. Louis native spent his first year and a half in Iowa City as a quarterback.

McNutt was named the Big Ten's Receiver of the Year and first-team all-

SEE MCNUTT, 8

IOWA 10, INDIANA 0 (5 INNINGS)

Softball blows out Indiana

Senior Katie Keim sent herself off in glorious fashion by hitting a home run in her final game in Iowa City.

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

The Iowa softball team emerged the victor of a three-game series against a Big Ten opponent for the third weekend in a row this past weekend, as the Black and Gold took two out of three from Indiana.

There was little scoring for either squad in each of the games on April 28; out of 16 total innings of play, runs were scored in only two.

The first game went extra innings. The Hoosiers then plated the lone run in the top of the ninth when Kelsey Brannon hit a go-ahead double to score Heather Nelson.

Iowa stared a scoring surge in the bottom of the fifth in the second game, when Johnnie Dowling hit a 3-run triple. Megan Blank then hit an RBI double to give the Hawkeyes a 4-0 lead that pitcher Chelsea Lyon defended for the rest of the game.

"I'm glad we put numerous runs up in one inning, but unfortunately, we didn't score any in the first [11]," head Iowa softball coach Marla Looper said. "It took us quite a few innings to score, and that's pretty frustrating when we had numerous opportunities."

Iowa had no problem putting up runs on Sunday.



Katie Keim is congratulated after hitting a home run against Indiana at Pearl Field on Sunday. The Hawkeyes beat the Hoosiers, 10-0, in five innings on a rainy Senior Day. (The Daily Iowan/Melissa Wilson)

Blank hit an RBI double in the bottom of the first inning to plate Dowling. Senior captain Katie Keim then stepped up to the plate with one on and no outs.

She launched a 1-1 pitch from Indiana's Meaghan Murphy over the right-field wall to record the final Pearl Field home run of her career. It was Keim's team-leading eighth jack of the season, and she has doubled her home run total from all of last season.

The scoring didn't end there. Senior Liz Watkins hit an RBI single to kick off a 4-run third inning. Melanie Gladden then stepped up to the plate and hit a line drive to left to score Keim home. Right fielder

Mallorree Grove then hit a double to left center, bringing in Watkins and Gladden.

Megan Blank scored on a throwing error to start the fourth, and designated player Michelle Zoeller doubled to deep right to send the final two runs of the game in.

The Hawkeyes never went back up to bat; the game ended in the top of fifth because of softball's 8-run rule.

"I think we learned from yesterday," Keim said in describing her squad's offensive surge. "I think we were hitting the ball well; it just wasn't going through. Today, we went through them and won the series."

Fellow captain Watkins said she thinks the last home game of the season helped spur all the scoring but noted that the season isn't over; her squad still has work to do.

"I think just the mindset of everybody — 'It's our Senior Day, and we're going to go out and do anything we can possibly do for Katie and me,'" Watkins said. "However, our season is not over. Being able to go out and whomp on Indiana, we're going to carry it over to the next couple weekends."

"We came out, and we were scoring runs and playing great defense — that's exactly how I wanted to play my last game at Pearl."

Blank rebounds with a bang

Megan Blank's resurgence from a facial injury impressed the Iowa softball team on Sunday.

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

Megan Blank slid into second base after smacking an RBI double on April 28. But the freshman collided with Indiana's shortstop and lay motionless and face-down on the dirt for several minutes.

Blank said she doesn't know exactly what happened because she had her eyes closed, but she thinks she might have been hit in the face with the throw because she can see the laces of the ball in the bruise on her swollen upper lip.

The coaching and athletics training staff surrounded the downed player, and Blank eventually emerged from the huddle. She slowly walked off the field, holding her face.

Blank couldn't return to the game for the final two defensive innings. An infield scramble occurred; Katie Keim moved from first to shortstop, Melanie Gladden from third to first, and Michelle Zoeller from the designated player slot to third.

But the injured player was back on Sunday to finish the series against the



Blank
shortstop

SEE BLANK, 8