Rainbow stoles light up the Old Capitol in Thursday evening's ceremony for the first time. This was the 12th year the UI held the alternative ceremony for LGBT students. (The Daily Iowan/Melissa Wilson)

Rainbow event draws crowd

The first Rainbow Graduation Ceremony at the UI was held in 2000.

By JENNY EARL
photojournalist.

When one strolls above the Flyerette State, a colorful patchwork of cornfields becomes visible, set against a backdrop of great mountains. The state’s invisible and odorless presence is the radioactive gas radon — which authorities say is responsible for 400 lung-cancer-related deaths across the state each year.

These numbers have caught the attention of environmental and public-health advocates throughout the state who are determined to educate, inform, and push for legislation related to radon safety.

Those advocates — including members of the University of Iowa College of Public Health and Johnson County Department of Public Health — helped form a Radon Coalition in 2010. Since then, they have attempted to introduce a bill in the Iowa legislature, as well as educate the public regarding the risks of radon exposure.

Attemping to pass a bill have so far failed, and so the coalition will meet in Grinnell one week from today to draft a new strategy.

Sara Comstock, the executive director of the Iowa Cancer Consortium and one of the coalition’s leaders, said the meeting’s main focus will be putting out a plan for the legislative interim aimed at advancing the radon bill — which did not make it to the floor this February — next session.

“It is important to keep the dialogue going so that partners stay engaged and informed to reduce radon exposure in Iowa,” she said.

Radon Coalition member and Iowa native Gail Orcutt is a poster child for why radon is such a concern. She received a home guideline.

After her diagnosis, Orcutt decided to test her home for radon and found the levels at 6.9 pCi/L. She then joined the coalition, worked with the Environmental Protection Agency’s salt mine panelists.

She’s now dedicated her life to helping others understand the dangers.

Ultimately, Comstock said, she hopes this meeting will begin the process that can finally lead to a bill passing through the Legislature.

“We hopefully will come out of the meeting with a plan, action steps, and a timeline for the next six to eight months,” she said. “We want to see passage of an Iowans’ Radon Act.”

“I was a little disappointed that the legislative interim aimed at advancing the radon bill did not make it to the floor this February,” she said. “I think for those of us that are advocates, it’s a challenge.”

“I think for those of us that are advocates, it’s a challenge.”

UI President Sally Mason said she’s disappointed they couldn’t pass the pay for the paid fundraising position husband Ken Mason, also a UI biology lecturer, hold at the university.

“Funding in particular is such a fundamental responsibility for the president and the president’s spouse in this day and age,” Mason told The Daily Iowan. “I was a little disappointed that there was any question that this wasn’t somehow very legitimate.”

Ken Mason receives $54,400 per year as a lecturer and makes an additional $54,175 each year through the UI Foundation. As a UI biology lecturer, Ken Mason, also an UI biology lecturer, holds at the university.

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Terrorist Monument — The CIA had Al Qaeda foiled for a second time last month, U.S. intelligence sources have confirmed.

Last month, U.S. intelligence officials say, Al Qaeda’s Yemen branch had just completed its latest plot — an attempt to detonate a bomb aboard an airliner bound for the United States.

But the man the terrorist group had planned to carry out the attack was a CIA and FBI informant, and the latest misfire for Al Qaeda, which has repeatedly failed to detonate a bomb aboard an airliner for the United States, was in a victory that demonstrated its close link to U.S. intelligence.

Plummer attended classes at U.S. Secret Service training in the University district. The attempted murder and attempted assault was reported to be an issue of the Jane Center near the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Firefighters responded to Oakcrest fire

Plummers, the official spokesperson for the Department of Public Safety, said the incident involved an internal investigation.

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Mason on admissions, tuition set-asides

University of Iowa’s LGBT-Friendly

MASON CONTINUED FROM 1

The UI was given five stars in the LGBT Support & Institutional Climate surveys conducted by Campus Pride, an organization that examines the climate for the LGBTQ student population on college campuses across the nation. The University of Iowa was given five stars in all categories of the surveys, which include: (1) LGBT Office; (2) Housing & Residence Life; (3) Student Life; (4) Athletics and Recreation; and (5) Campus Climate. The University of Iowa was also given five stars in the following categories: (6) Libraries and Learning Resource Centers; (7) MASON QA

rainbow

grad

continued from 1

by Campus Pride, a national non-profit organization supporting LGBT-friendly learning environments for college students.

The Daily Iowan's Q & A: Tom Moore and Ken Mason

Tom Moore says he’s pleased with the Daily Iowan's Q & A: Tom Moore and Ken Mason in order to ensure that everyone is getting through the admissions process.

Moore also says Ken Mason is very approachable and willing to meet with anyone who needs to talk about the admissions process.

The University of Iowa has a robust state funding structure.

(“Board of Regents” guidelines say you should also ask for fundraising activities’ sources, and “It might be unusual in the state, but it’s not unusual across the nation.”)

For the future, President Mason said she and her husband have a fundraising plan aimed at donors and alumni, set to launch next May with a goal of bringing in $2 billion for the university over a 10-year period.

Mason on admissions, tuition set-asides

MASON QA

Now Hiring

Starting Pay $11.00 & Up

Apply Online @ www.costcoco.com

Open House Event

May 2012

The Center for Computer Aided Design will host an open house event during May 2012:

Wednesday, May 9, 3:00-6:00 pm National Advanced Driving Simulator, 2401 Oakdale Blvd. directions: http://www.aae.uiowa.edu/facilities.php

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Letters to the Editor may be sent via e-mail to dailyiowan@dailyiowan.com (as text, not as attachments). Each letter should be 200 words or less and must include your full name and address.

Guest Column

Iowa & Gates

by Josh Carper

The Verge is an online magazine dedicated to technology, science, and culture. It is a platform for writers to share their thoughts and ideas on these topics. The magazine covers a wide range of subjects, including technology news, emerging technologies, and cultural trends. It is a popular source for up-to-date information on the latest developments in the tech world.

In this issue, the magazine focuses on the topic of nuclear power. It discusses the advantages and disadvantages of using nuclear energy as a source of power. The magazine highlights the potential benefits of nuclear energy, such as its ability to provide clean and reliable energy. However, it also acknowledges the risks associated with nuclear power, such as the risk of radiation and the potential for accidents.

The magazine also explores the history of nuclear power and its role in the energy industry. It discusses the challenges faced by the industry and the efforts being made to address these challenges. The magazine features interviews with experts in the field, including scientists, policymakers, and activists, who provide their perspectives on the issues.

Overall, The Verge provides a comprehensive and in-depth look at the topic of nuclear power. It is a valuable resource for anyone interested in this field, whether they are experts or novices. The magazine's approach is both informative and engaging, making it a great read for anyone interested in learning more about this complex and fascinating topic.
City High works on recycling

By DEREK KELLISON

City High School students are getting to know the Iowa City School District’s recycling program and organized and up to speed. City High class presidents and student senators began the initiatives at the high school but are now aiming to establish a unified recycling system across the district.

"City High student government presidents Sophie Neems, Neve Heimer, and Eli Shepard began the initiative at the high school and compared, "said John Bacon said the school’s recycling program was a little fuzzy." He said, and this made it difficult to track the recycling efforts.

After independently installing a new City High system May 4, the students sent a petition to the School Board, asking it to require a faculty member at each school to support the school’s recycling program.

City High Principal John Bacon said the students also found an abundance of plastic bottles mistakenly thrown in the trash.

"Plastic milk bottles were a big culprit in trash," he said. "We took a good close look at our recycling system and found a lot of good things, but there were a lot of plastic bottles."

The school has added four recycling bins to its lunchrooms specifically to combat the overflow of milk bottles. Students estimated that 100 bottles are thrown in the trash.

Neens said the cost for recycling service would only cost $50 to $70 per month, with additional costs being $11. The School Board will review the plan at its next governance committee meeting.

Senior Class President Eli Shepard said the recycling system would still save money for the district despite the potential additional costs.

"It’s probably only not a minimal expense to recycle — perhaps it could even be cost-neutral which would even save us money," she said.

The students placed handmade recycling advertisements around the school to attract people to use the bins.

They recently created a new recycling system that they hope will spread throughout the district. (The Daily Iowan/Melissa Wilson)

"Plastic milk bottles are a big culprit in trash," said Derek Kellison, a Daily Iowan reporter. "We took a good close look at our recycling system and found a lot of good things, but there were a lot of plastic bottles."

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LOWA'S LEVELS: HIGH

RADON AT IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The average Iowa grade-school student is required to spend half the year in a school, as teachers repeatedly stress the need for radon testing. But in the City Community School District, testing for radon is not only mandatory for preschool kindergarten and all elementary schools, based on the building standards in the Iowa Department of Human Services.

In 1988, 720 radon levels were performed on Iowa City School District buildings. Following a review from the Iowa Department of Public Health recommending all schools in the state test for radon, 42 such subsequent mass testing of all buildings began. Iowa City's tests were performed since 1991.

The district officials feel that testing is a moral obligation, as schools are conditioning system with ground source heat pump that includes piping fresh air ventilation through Loch's Ducts.

The district has not tested Whitten Elementary School, Central Junior High, or Central High School. In 1990, 42 testing was performed. The said.

Fears represent the possible concern about radon, the

RADON MITIGATION

If radon test results come back higher than 4 pCi/L per hour, the EPA advises action to lower the radon gas problem. Mitigation is a method used to reduce the concentration of radon in a building by flushing the radon out of the hardest part of the house and venting it above the roof. It's a chance to enter the home.

A popular method is called active soil vapor extraction. The radon reduction method involves digging a 10 to 12-foot-diameter through the foundation flooring. A PVC pipe passes through the hole, the gas and radon in the foundation soil can be airlifted through the soil. A radon mitigation system must be installed and have radon detectors to identify radon reduction systems in Iowa.

Source: Bill Hlein, IA Occupational and Environmental Health Program and radionuclide expert

TESTING FOR RADON

It doesn't take a professional to test for radon. Home-building kits are available online from $10 to $30, you can take from two to more than 400 test results, depending on whether a radon stain or long-term test is used.

Typically, tests are placed in high-occupancy rooms for a specified amount of time; all the results, the detectors have been to test for a few minutes, hours.

Air sampling is not considered a safe condition for testing, usually with just one test.

The EPA recommends two tests in the house for at least two weeks to check for radon levels. However, most people don't live in this type of environment, which poses a question on the accuracy of radon tests. Close-stained housing conditions are important to radon mitigation because test results can't be accurately measured.

Source: Bill Hlein, IA Occupational and Environmental Health Program and radionuclide expert

HOW RADON ENTERS A BUILDING

Once a house or building is constructed, it acts as a vacuum that takes the radon out of the soil and traps it in the structure. Radon enters a building through cracks in the foundation, sump pumps, and cracks around pipes.

However, the age of a building is not determined by the risk of radon.

Source: Bill Hlein, IA Occupational and Environmental Health Program and radionuclide expert

HOW RADON GOT TO IOWA

Radon is formed naturally by the decay process of uranium and radium — both of which can be found in many rocks. During the Ice Ages — spanning from roughly 4 to about 10,000 years ago — glaciers moved across the Midwestern United States, leaving rocks that contain uranium and radium. These rocks can provide radon and radium radioactive, but the glacier's movement pulverized the rocks into smaller chunks, increasing the surface area of the entire rocks. This increased surface area allows radon to escape the rocks more readily, allowing it to enter the soil, and travel to the air.

Source: Bill Hlein, Iowa state geologist

RADON LEVELS IN IOWA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulates the allowable radon level in residential buildings. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suggests measuring the radon in a building and taking the test results to the radon in the home. The EPA takes the radon test results from the Iowa radon zone, which measures every county in the U.S. with a radon level screening greater than the suggested 4.0 pCi/L per hour. Johnson County is one of the most radon levels in Iowa. This is lower than the most radon counties but more than those that have received the national average radon concentration.

Source: Bill Hlein, IA Occupational and Environmental Health Program and radionuclide expert

RADON IN RESIDENTS

It’s not something you would think about, but every day you breathe radon. Radon is a radioisotope that is produced in the soil and then enters the building through cracks in the foundation. Radon is a colorless, odorless gas that can accumulate in homes and buildings.

Source: Bill Hlein, IA Occupational and Environmental Health Program and radionuclide expert

RADON LEGISLATION

There is only one piece of legislation that has passed regarding the regulation of radon. This legislation is for buildings with radon levels that exceed the maximum levels allowed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

This is a very complex topic, but in essence, the bill is a radon legislation. It's a very complex regulation that the legislature has to pass. It's a very complex piece of legislation that has to be passed by the legislature. It’s a measure that the legislature has to pass. It’s a measure that the legislature has to pass. It’s a measure that the legislature has to pass. It’s a measure that the legislature has to pass.
The Daily Iowan - Iowa City, Iowa - Wednesday, May 9, 2012 - 7

IOWA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESCHOOL RADON LEVEL TESTS DURING 2009

All tests were conducted using activated charcoal tests.

Iowa City School District Preschool Radon Level Tests during 2009

Radon
Elementary
Horizon Elementary
Benedictum Elementary
Van Allen Elementary
Horizon Elementary

4 picocuries per liter of air (first highest level at which radon is still considered safe)

4 picocuries per liter of air (level of radon at which testing begins)

However, Peggy Hupp, Iowa director of governmental relations for the American Cancer Society, said the states aren’t doing enough to regulate schools, and she noted that children can attend the same school for many years.

“That seven years is a possibility (had environment),” she said. “There is more concern for the staff. Some schools are there for many more years, and they are exposed.” However, she said she saw no real risk for radon injuries in low environments.

“I work in these buildings as well as our support services staff,” she said. “If I fell ill it was an unsafe working environment; I would notify the district administration.”

RADIATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

With 1,700 acres of land, 150 major buildings, and thousands of rooms, the University of Iowa has a mass-support footprint in the state. However, only four buildings in 18 rooms have been tested for radon since 2003, Bluck at the chemical engineering department revealed that 40 percent of the buildings on the Iowa campus have been monitored.

The testing that was done have found some levels of radon that are not considered normal by the Environmental Protection Agency, which believes that the university that is already has a very safe environment for its employees. Moore said, “It is a very low environment for the employees.”

Moore said there are university regulations for residents and employees to report any concerns of radon and that the safety of all employees is very important.

RADO HEALERS

A district official has been found in several cases in the past two years.

Sue Johnson, a former state representative, said that the state’s official home for those with radon problems is the Iowa Department of Public Health.

“T he issue is not a simple one,” she said. “They can’t find the source and they can’t stop the radon.”

Johnson said the state has set up a program that would provide free radon testing for homeowners.

“T he issue with radon is that it is a very slow and dangerous problem,” she said. “People don’t realize how dangerous it can be.”

RADO TESTS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set up a program to provide free radon testing for homeowners.

“I think people should be aware of the dangers of radon,” she said. “It’s a very dangerous gas that can cause cancer.”

Johnson said the state has set up a program that would provide free radon testing for homeowners.

“We have a hard time saying anything on the record, but there are some states that have what we would call a radon test,” she said.

There’s just not a lot of good resources about writing laws about radon.”

Money was also an issue.

Giese, however, the chief financial officer for the Iowa School Boards Association, said a radon test would cost about $150.

The EPA’s proposed 2013 budget would eliminate all radon-related grants distributed to states — which in the 2012 fiscal year was $8.6 million — to help promove radon awareness, oversee professional leading, and reduce the risks for exposure. A spokesman for the Office of the Governor, D-Wood, said it’s a mistake for Congress to cut the budget. "The federal government is funding our schools, and it’s a mistake that they are not funding the states," he said. "We are already in a situation where we can’t afford to do that.”

Johnson said the state has set up a program that would provide free radon testing for homeowners.

“The federal government is funding our schools, and it’s a mistake that they are not funding the states,” she said. "We are already in a situation where we can’t afford to do that.”
**Horoscopes**

**Wednesday, May 9**

**AQUARIUS**

- Your intuition will be strong, so listen to your gut feelings. However, be careful not to act on them without first considering the consequences. A sudden change may be necessary.

**PISCES**

- A new opportunity may arise, but you must be prepared to act quickly. Unexpected obstacles may come your way, so be ready to adapt and respond accordingly.

**ARIES**

- A disciplined approach to both professional and personal money matters will put you in a good position. You may be able to save money by making wise decisions and avoiding unnecessary expenses.

**TAURUS**

- Don’t make hasty decisions. Take your time to carefully consider all options before making a choice. Patience is key in this period.

**GEMINI**

- A disciplined approach to both professional and personal money matters will put you in a good position. You may be able to save money by making wise decisions and avoiding unnecessary expenses.

**CANCER**

- Your emotions will be high, and you may need to be more careful with your budget. Try to avoid overspending on things that are not important.

**LEO**

- A disciplined approach to both professional and personal money matters will put you in a good position. You may be able to save money by making wise decisions and avoiding unnecessary expenses.

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SafeRide set to go

The new SafeRide program will have a soft-cap budget of $40,000.

By ANNA TEBBOSIS

Through University of Iowa student leaders say the launch of the SafeRide service this fall will help students, some worry the restricted use is pointless.

The UI Student Government recently completed its plans for the new program. The free taxi service will launch at the beginning of the fall semester and will provide safe transportation for undergraduate and graduate students when they’re in emergency situations.

UI President Bruce Harreld said in a press release, "I'm not concerned about what it specifically means for the specially gay 18-year-old. I'm concerned to get the message out there that it is OK to be gay in any circumstance that you are in." Fuller was awarded $40,000 scholarship

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Diocese denies teen pretestation of sponsorship

Fuller was awarded a $40,000 scholarship to the University of Iowa.

By CHASTITY DILLARD

Kooshian Fuller is one of the year's recipients of the Matthew Shepard Scholarship, and as such, he will receive funds through the University of Iowa experience.

The Catholic Diocese of Davenport — which oversees the Prince of Peace Catholic School where Fuller attends — refuses to allow the award to be presented at his graduation.

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The Catholic Diocese of Davenport — which oversees the Prince of Peace Catholic School where Fuller attends — refuses to allow the award to be presented at his graduation.

"I'm not concerned about what it specifically means for the specifically gay 18-year-old. I'm concerned to get the message out there that it is OK to be gay in any circumstance that you are in." Fuller was awarded $40,000 scholarship

Diocese denies teen pretestation of sponsorship

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plays later, but quarterback James Vandenberg’s pass floated well behind his star receiver. McNutt stuck a low line arm out behind him andSafety 10

The coaching life has con-

Third in a five-

2012 Male Athlete of the Year

Other nominees:

Kenyon Farley

Mizzou Memorial: Matt

Last five winners:

2010: Joe Grunov

2009: Jay Buschel

2008: Stew Dennis

2007: Jake Perry

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Esche. But every so often, a

...and told Esche’s parents

Esche’s parents flew a

along with Wieczorek.

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Aside from Marvin McNutt, who was Iowa’s Male Athlete of the Year?

By TORK MASON
tork-mason@uiowa.edu

Iowa’s Dan Davis took a roundabout way of competing for his hometown team, and he now has just one chance to make a name for himself in the Big Ten.

The senior was raised in Iowa City and graduated from West High in 2008. But the 2008 4A state champ in the 110-meter hurdles decided not to stay home and run for the Black and Gold.

Davis, a mechanical engineering major, chose to attend Washington-St. Louis on the basis of academics. But competing at the Division-III level was trying at times for him, he said.

“Division-III provided its own challenges — a lot of learning how to deal with things on your own and becoming your own athlete,” he said. “I didn’t have a sprints or hurdles coach down there, so it was just me and the hurdles crew coaching ourselves.”

By SAM LOUWAGIE
samuel-louwagie@uiowa.edu

Try to imagine what the 2011 Iowa football season would have been like without Marvin McNutt. It’s not easy. And it’s not pretty.

The Hawkeyes finished the season with a 7-6 record. They lost to Iowa State for the first time in four years. They lost to a 1-6 Minnesota team. They were nearly shut out by Penn State and Nebraska.

What kept the season from total failure? A walking 6-4, 215-pound highlight reel.

Iowa fell into a 34-7 deficit in the third quarter against Michigan State on Nov. 12. The team’s offense was stagnant, and restless Kinnick fans started booing on the team’s Senior Day.

Then McNutt single-handedly jump-started the offense. He caught one pass on the 3-yard line and dragged two Spartan defenders into the end zone for a touchdown. He ran a route down the middle of the field several times and blurred out a new name several times during a conversation about the topic.

Stetson Shoelace, a high school in Illinois. Scott Williamson at Nevada. Ray Varner. Jason Wakenight. Coach Wiz, as his runners fondly call him, half-joked that he tries to discourage them from following in his footsteps.

McNutt saved the season

For Davis, it’s all about time

Dan Davis is only getting one shot at Big Ten success. He has had to learn how to control his energy to make that shot count.

By BY TORK MASON
tork-mason@uiowa.edu

Iowa’s Dan Davis took a roundabout way of competing for his hometown team, and he now has just one chance to make a name for himself in the Big Ten.

The senior was raised in Iowa City and graduated from West High in 2009. Ray Varner helped in 2009. Heath Moenck works on a bike in 2007. And Heath Moenck was assistant coach in 2006. Kent, Varner, VanDenend, and Moenck all have become track and field coaches since they graduated. (The Daily Iowan/File Photos)

Several of track coach Larry Wieczorek’s former athletes are moving on to careers of their own. And when you listen to them speak about ‘Coach Wiz,’ it’s easy to understand why.

By SAM LOUWAGIE
samuel-louwagie@uiowa.edu

Signs of the passage of time stood on both sides of Larry Wieczorek. They were reminders of things he had done right in his 25-year coaching career at Iowa — the 48 All-Americans and 50 Big Ten champions he has coached and the 2011 Big Ten Coach of the Year award he won.

He stood next to the track at the Drake Relays on April 26. He talked to Jeff Kent — the director of operations for women’s cross-country and track at Arkansas — and Matt Esche, assistant coach at Bradley. Heath Moenck, the head cross-country coach at Simpson College, stood a few feet away.

All three had been Hawkeye runners for Wieczorek no more than six years earlier. Now they swapped training strategies for their athletes while a meet went on around them.

“My wife and I don’t have children,” Wieczorek said. “But when I see those guys with their teams, I feel like a proud papa.

Wieczorek is developing a coaching tree of sorts. Several of his recently graduated runners have gone on to pursue coaching careers. He stopped talking, snapped his fingers, and blurted out a new name several times during a conversation about the topic.

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‘The Wiz’ stride for stride with history

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McNutt saved the season

Marvin McNutt kept the Hawkeye football team alive in an otherwise disappointing season.

By SAM LOUWAGIE
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