

The Daily Iowan

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2012

NEWSPAPER • **DI** DAILYIOWAN.COM • TELEVISION

50¢

WHAT'S INSIDE:

METRO
The trial began Tuesday in the case of Broadway Center Director Susan Freeman-Murdah. **Page 2**

City High students are looking for revisions to the School District's recycling plan. **Page 5**

A future UI student is in the midst of a controversy over a scholarship he received for work with the LGBT community. **Page 9**

The SafeRide program will debut this fall. **Page 9**

OPINIONS
Iowa (and Bill Gates) could lead the way. **Page 4**

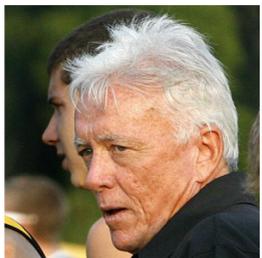
Don't worry, there's always the Bijou. **Page 4**

Student organizations are more than just organizations. **Page 4**

SPORTS
Who did *The Daily Iowan* select as its male athlete of the year? **Page 12**

Hawkeye trackster Dan Davis is working to control his energy for one shot at Big Ten success. **Page 12**

Iowa's Larry Wiecezorek's coaching tree is sprouting. **Page 12**



DAILYIOWAN.COM POLL:

Should special accommodations requirements for standardized tests be revisited?



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INDEX

Classifieds **11** Sports **12**
 Crossword **8**
 Opinions **4**

WEATHER

HIGH **64** LOW **41**
 Partly to mostly sunny, windy.

No summer plans? There are still positions open at *The Daily Iowan*. Apply to be a summer staff member today.
dailyiowan.com/pages/jobs

Iowa's silent killer



Radon is a naturally occurring gas formed by the decay of uranium and radium. The gas commonly enters buildings through cracks in the foundation, often accumulating in the basement. Iowa has the highest average levels of radon in the United States. (Illustration by Adam Wesley)

GRAPHIC BY ALICIA KRAMME

By DORA GROTE
dora-grote@uiowa.edu

When one soars above the Flyover State, a colorful patchwork of cornfields expands below. A closer look at the bucolic landscape reveals flourishing gardens filled with flowers and fresh produce. Crisp, fresh streams can be heard trickling through the pastures. But these serene observations of Iowa miss one integral element — something that can't be seen, smelled, or heard.

The state's invisible and odorless presence is the radioactive gas radon — which experts estimate is responsible for 400 lung-cancer-related deaths across the state each year.

On a bigger scale, radon is a leading environmental carcinogen and second most common cause of lung cancer in the nation, behind tobacco use.

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.

These advocates — including members of the University of Iowa College of Public Health and Johnson County Department of Public Health — helped form a Radon Coalition group 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.

Attempts at passing 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 mapping 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 energized to reduce radon exposure in Iowa," she said.

Radon Coalition member and Iowa native Gail Orcutt is a poster child for why radon matters. Orcutt, 59, leads an active and healthy lifestyle. And though she never

smoked a day in her life, a persistent, wheezing cough made her decide to visit the doctor in 2010.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine someone would tell me I was diagnosed with lung cancer," Orcutt said, who survived the cancer. "It was devastating."

After her diagnosis, Orcutt decided to test her home for radon and found the levels at 6.9 picoCuries per liter — 2.9 picoCuries above the Environmental Protection Agency's safe home guideline.

She's now dedicated her life to helping other Iowans understand the danger.

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

"Hopefully, we will come out of the meeting with a plan, action steps, and a timeline for the next six to eight months," she said. "We hope to play off of everyone's strengths to maximize the effectiveness of our coalition's work."

SEE RADON, 6

Rainbow event draws crowd

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

By JENNY EARL
jennifer-earl@uiowa.edu

Rainbow stoles lit up the Old Capitol on Tuesday evening, worn by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer students graduating from the University of Iowa.

This year's Rainbow Graduation Ceremony — an annual event honoring the achievements of LGBTQ students who choose to be recognized — celebrated the success of 17 UI graduates, one of the highest turnouts the ceremony has seen since its beginning in 2000.

"It's my heartfelt desire to send accomplished, talented young people out into our community and into the workforce to make life better not only for [our students] but our greater society," said UI President Sally Mason, speaking at the ceremony for the first time.

UI officials said they were pleased with the high attendance, compared with previous years in which the number of participants ranged around four or five.

"Our ultimate dream is that more and more people will feel



UI President Sally Mason speaks during the Rainbow Graduation in the Old Capitol Senate Chamber on Tuesday. This was the 12th year the UI has held the alternative ceremony for LGBT students. (The Daily Iowan/Melissa Wilson)

that this is for them, and they can come in whatever identity they choose to present," said Roy Salcedo, the coordinator for multicultural programs at the UI.

Jefri Palermo, a co-head of the UI LGBT Staff and Faculty Association, estimated universities the size of the UI graduate around 300 LGBTQ students each year — a number she would like to see at a future Rainbow Graduation Ceremony.

"I'm hopeful it will only get bigger and better from here on out," she said. "I want to get to that 300 point."

One of the graduates, transgender student Stef Shuster, said the UI can be an exciting but scary place for LGBTQ

individuals — but there's plenty of room to grow if students take advantage of their time here.

"I think for those of us that identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender ... at some point [you have] an experience where it feels really hard and really challenging," Shuster said. "At the same time there are those really beautiful moments in which we can build communities, cross-communities where it feels like everything's worth it."

In 2011, the UI was given a 4.5 out of 5 stars on the LGBT Campus Climate index for its LGBT-friendly policies, programs, and practices. The index is owned and operated

SEE RAINBOW GRAD, 3

Masons both busy raising \$\$

UI President Sally Mason and husband Ken Mason have attended 1,300 fundraising events since the couple arrived at the university in 2007.

By ASMAA ELKEURTI
asmaa-elkeurti@uiowa.edu

UI President Sally Mason said she is disappointed in the media's portrayal of the paid fundraising position husband Ken Mason, also a UI biology lecturer, holds at the university.

"Fundraising 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 \$53,400 per year as a lecturer and makes an additional \$54,175 each year through the UI Foundation as presidential fundraiser — in which he attends athletics and outreach events, President Club events, Board of Director meetings, and IClub meetings.

President Mason said she wanted her husband to work at the university and

SEE MASON, 3



Mother testifies in abuse trial

Broadway Center officials said some of the mother's allegations were "not a concern" in a case involving alleged child sexual abuse.

By **BETH BRATSOS**
bethany.bratsos@gmail.com

The mother of an alleged victim in a child sexual-abuse case testified in the Johnson County Courthouse on Tuesday that she began noticing behavioral changes in her daughter around the time of the incident.

The 23-year-old — who, along with her 3-year-old daughter, are not being identified in accordance with *Daily Iowan* policy — said her daughter started to act unusual about five months ago after sitting on her mother's lap and grabbing her face.

"She was kissing passionately," she said. "As if we were having sex." When the mother asked numerous times who "taught her to kiss like that," the daughter repeatedly said it was Colleen Varney, a teacher at the Broadway Neighborhood Center's HeadStart program.

"I started piecing everything together," the mother said.

The mother first approached Michael Crowley, a teacher who works with 3- to 4-year-olds in the HeadStart program. Crowley then told Susan Freeman-Murdah, director of the Broadway Center.

As a mandatory reporter, Freeman-Murdah is required to report any alle-

gations of child abuse to the Department of Human Services within 24 hours. But she allegedly conducted an internal investigation after being approached by Crowley.

Freeman-Murdah, 44, was charged Feb. 1 with failing to fulfill her legal duty as a mandatory reporter after hearing evidence the child had been sexually abused in the Headstart Program, which Freeman oversees.

Though most officials at the Broadway Center seemed to agree no form of sexual abuse had occurred, Assistant County Attorney Meredith Rich-Chappell said the case aims to determine whether Freeman-Murdah had sufficient reason to report the suspected child abuse to Human Services.

Freeman-Murdah's attorney, Leon Spies, later said Human Services officials eventually conducted an investigation on the matter and did not find any evidence Varney abused the child.

Crowley, also a mandatory reporter, told Freeman-Murdah in December 2011 he had been approached by the mother with concerns her daughter had been sexually assaulted after her daughter came home from preschool with her underpants inside out and backwards and complained of

pain in one of her private areas. Crowley was not charged because he was only required to report the incident to his superior.

Rich-Chappell said in her opening statement Freeman-Murdah began the internal investigation after speaking with Crowley.

On Dec. 8, Freeman-Murdah spoke with Varney, a co-teacher of Crowley's. Freeman-Murdah later met with the child's mother on Dec. 12. Varney was eventually included in the meeting that same day.

Rich-Chappell said earlier testimony stated Freeman-Murdah told the mother she had confidence in Varney and didn't believe she had committed the act.

When the mother found no one from the center had reported to Human Services, Iowa City police Lt. Doug Hart said the mother informed the police of the alleged incident. Hart then assigned Detective Kevin Bailey to the case.

"I explained I would assign an investigator right away," Hart said in his testimony Tuesday.

He added Human Services was then notified of the incident; Iowa City police and Human Service officials work together regardless of who is contacted first regarding child-abuse investigations.

Freeman-Murdah Timeline

Director Susan Freeman-Murdah is required to report allegations of child abuse within 24 hours.

- Late November or early December: Parent of child in the Headstart Program reported that her child was sexually abused by a teacher in the program

- Dec. 8, 2011: Freeman-Murdah met with teacher accused of child abuse

- Dec. 9, 2011: Incident not yet reported to the Department of Human Services

- Dec. 12, 2011: Freeman-Murdah met with mother of alleged victim. Accused teacher joined the meeting. Incident not yet reported.

- Later date: Child's mother contacted Iowa City police, who then contacted Human Services officials

- May 8-10, 2012: Freeman-Murdah's alleged failure to fulfill duties as mandatory reporter trial

Source: Attorney Leon Spies and Attorney Meredith Rich-Chappell

The trial will continue at 9 a.m. today with testimony from Human Services and others. The jury of seven — consisting of numerous current and former mandatory reporters — should return a verdict Wednesday or Thursday.

CIA sting foiled bomb plot

By **ADAM GOLDMAN, EILEEN SULLIVAN, MATT APUZZO**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The CIA had Al Qaeda fooled from the beginning.

Last month, U.S. intelligence learned that Al Qaeda's Yemen branch hoped to launch a spectacular attack using a new, nearly undetectable bomb aboard an airliner bound for America, officials say.

But the man the terrorists were counting on to carry out the attack was actually working for the CIA and Saudi intelligence, U.S. and Yemeni officials told the Associated Press on Tuesday.

The dramatic sting operation thwarted the attack before it had a chance to succeed.

It was the latest misfire for Al Qaeda, which has repeatedly come close to detonating a bomb aboard an airliner. For the United States, it was a victory that delivered the bomb intact to U.S. intelligence.

METRO

Attempted-murder trial delayed

The attempted murder trial of a former University of Iowa student has been pushed back again.

Branden Plummer, a 20-year-old Iowa City resident, allegedly assaulted police Sgt. Brian Krei on Nov. 18, 2011. Police reports said Krei approached Plummer because he was reportedly disrupting traffic at the intersection of Linn and Burlington Streets. Plummer allegedly proceeded to strangle Krei and hit his head against the sidewalk, causing him to lose consciousness.

BLOTTER

Kaleb Alfred, 20, Burlington, was charged May 5 with possessing or supplying alcohol under 21.

Patrick Avello, 20, C123 Hillcrest, was charged May 5 with possessing or supplying alcohol under 21 and public intoxication.

Nadjib Bourahla, 19, 11 N. Mount Vernon Drive, was charged Monday with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, and possession of prescription drugs.

Brian Brookhart, 22, 1227 Sheridan St., was charged Monday with public intoxication.

The officials spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the operation. The cooperation of the would-be bomber was first reported Tuesday evening by the Los Angeles Times.

The FBI is still analyzing the explosive, which was intended to be concealed in a passenger's underwear. Officials said it was an upgrade over the bomb that failed to detonate on board an airplane over Detroit on Christmas 2009. This new bomb contained no metal and used a chemical — lead azide — that was to be a detonator in a nearly successful 2010 plot to attack cargo planes, officials said.

Security procedures at U.S. airports remained unchanged Tuesday, a reflection of both the U.S. confidence in its security systems and a recognition that the government can't realistically expect travelers to endure much more. Increased costs and delays to airlines and shipping companies could have a

global economic impact, too.

"I would not expect any real changes for the traveling public," said House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, R-Mich. "There is a concern that overseas security doesn't match ours. That's an ongoing challenge."

While airline checks in the United States mean passing through an onerous, sometimes embarrassing series of pat-downs and body scans, procedures overseas can be a mixed bag. The United States cannot force other countries to permanently adopt the expensive and intrusive measures that have become common in American airports over the past decade.

The Transportation Security Administration sent advice to some international air carriers and airports about security measures that might stave off an attack from a hidden explosive. It's the same advice the United States has issued before, but there

ture fire at 8:40 p.m. Monday.

According to an Iowa City press release, the department responded to 1001 Oakcrest St. with Quint 2, Engine 1, Engine 4, Truck 1, and the battalion chief. When officials arrived, they found a second-story apartment fire with the fire threatening adjoining apartments.

Fire crews brought the fire under control in approximately 12 minutes and searched the apartment for victims, the release said. A total of 13 on-duty firefighters responded to the fire and

was charged May 5 with public intoxication.

Charles Luehrman-Stempel, 26, 4391 Berkeley Lane, was charged Sunday with driving while license revoked.

Grant Mahoney, 22, Ames, was charged May 4 with fifth-degree theft, disorderly conduct, public intoxication.

Sean McMahon, 23, Wauconda, Ill., was charged May 5 with public intoxication.

Julio Menjivar, 30, 5 Solar St., was charged Monday with public intoxication.

was a thought that it might get new attention in light of the foiled plot.

The United States has worked for years to try to improve security for U.S.-bound flights originating at international airports. And many countries agree that security needs to be better. But while plots such as the Christmas attack have spurred changes, some security gaps that have been closed in the U.S. remain open overseas.

Officials believe that body scanners, for instance, probably would have detected this latest attempt by Al Qaeda to bring down a jetliner. Such scanners allow screeners to see objects hidden beneath a passenger's clothes.

But while scanners are in place in airports nationwide, their use is scatter-shot overseas. Even in security-conscious Europe, the European Union has not required full-body imaging machines for all airports, though a number of major airports in Paris, London, Frankfurt, and elsewhere use them.

were able to contain it to the apartment.

According to the release, the fire was completely under control in 30 minutes, and fire crews were at the location for approximately two hours. The occupants of two apartments were reportedly displaced by the fire; the damage to the building and contents is estimated at \$42,000.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation by the Fire Department.

— by Jordyn Reiland

The Daily Iowan

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BREAKING NEWS

Phone: (319) 335-6063
E-mail: daily-iowan@uiowa.edu
Fax: 335-6297

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Call: 335-6030

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Call: Juli Krause at 335-5783

E-mail: daily-iowan-circ@uiowa.edu

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Send address changes to: *The Daily Iowan*, 100 Adler Journalism Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-2004.

STAFF

Publisher:

William Casey 335-5788

Editors-in-Chief:

Hayley Bruce 335-6030

Sam Lane 335-6030

Metro Editors:

Alison Sullivan 335-6063

Luke Voelz 335-6063

Opinions Editor:

Benjamin Evans 335-5863

Sports Editor:

Seth Roberts 335-5848

Arts Editor:

Hannah Kramer 335-5851

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Adam Wesley 335-5852

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Alicia Kramme 335-6063

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Tony Phan 335-5829

Business Manager:

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Classified Ads/ Circulation Manager:

Juli Krause 335-5784

Advertising Manager:

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Advertising Sales Staff:

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Cathy Witt 335-5794

Production Manager:

Heidi Owen 335-5789



TOP STORIES

Most-read stories on dailyiowan.com from Tuesday.

1. A West Coast perspective of Iowa
2. Union protest observes call for attention on issues other than size discrimination
3. UI officials: Classes like *Harry Potter* and *The Beatles* help engage students
4. 'Is horse racing a sport?' Are you serious?
5. You're welcome

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RAINBOW GRAD

CONTINUED FROM 1

by Campus Pride, a national nonprofit organization supporting LGBT-friendly learning environments at universities.

"I think it shows the UI is dedicated to making the university inclusive and welcoming to all students," Salcedo said.

Bret Gothe, a creative coordinator for IMU marketing, said the ceremony is also important for families and allies as well.

"It's really a meaningful and touching change for everyone to recognize what's going on in communities and moving forward and acknowledging those

relationships," he said.

Gothe said spreading the word on campus and better marketing for next year's LGBTQ events will help make the UI a safer, more-aware campus.

Students and faculty agreed visibility will be the key to the future success of the UI LGBTQ community, and events such as the Rainbow Ceremony help show the university's commitment to diversity.

"I definitely think [the Rainbow Graduation Ceremony] shows how progressive the university is and how open and proud they are of us," said UI senior and ceremony participant Xavier Woodson. "It shows Iowa is a safe environment for a student who is unsure where to go."

University of Iowa's LGBT-Friendly Factors

The UI was given five stars for LGBT Support & Institutional Commitment, Academic Life, Student Life, and Counseling and Health. Categories where the UI fell short of five stars include:

- LGBT Policy Inclusion: 4.5 stars
- LGBT Housing & Residence Life: 4.5 stars
- LGBT Campus Safety: 3.5 stars
- LGBT Recruitment and Retention Efforts: 4 stars

Source: Campus Climate Index

MASON

CONTINUED FROM 1

negotiated for his fundraising position with the Board of Regents, but did not negotiate for anything else during the hiring process.

"It was very quickly accepted and accomplished, but I didn't negotiate for anything else either," she said. "That was really the only thing important to me."

Regent Robert Downer said he doesn't believe Ken Mason's compensation for his positions at the UI is excessive.

"It's important to remember that Dr. Kenneth Mason is a professional in his own right, and I believe because of his duties he has had by

virtue of President Mason's decision, he has been able to hold less than full-time appointment on the faculty," Downer said. "And the overall compensation that he receives is not excessive for someone who has the professional credentials that he has, were he full-time as a teaching faculty member."

President Mason said since she and her husband joined the UI in 2007, they've contributed to two of the most successful years of fundraising efforts and have brought more than \$840 million to the school.

"I'm really glad I have him as a partner, so when we do go to events, I can go off in one direction and meet lots of people and talk to them, and he goes off in another direction, and he talks with our

donors and our alumni," she said. "We can cover a lot more ground that way."

UI spokesman Tom Moore said Ken Mason does not report to President Mason in order to avoid conflicts of interest, going instead through the UI Provost's Office.

Moore also said Ken Mason's financial arrangements were within state governing rules.

"[Board of Regents] guidelines say you should pay spouses for fundraising activities," he said. "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 \$2 billion to the university over a 10-year period.

Q&A

Mason on admissions, tuition set-asides

The Daily Iowan: The state Board of Regents has discussed examining tuition set-aside policies in light of several legislative concerns. Have regents discussed the practice with you recently? What was said?

Mason: Not since the board meeting, and we have some discussions scheduled for after the semester is over and in preparation for the next board meeting. We haven't had the discussions yet. The regents want to do this in a thoughtful and constructive way. The idea is obviously not to harm students and their ability to come here and graduate in a timely fashion. That's going to require some time to think through. We're constantly outreasing money for scholarships, and we currently give out somewhere in the vicinity of \$14 million in privately raised money for scholarships now. Since I've been here, we've continued to place a high emphasis in raising money for scholarships. If tuition set-aside isn't the right way to do it, we'll look at ways through the budgeting process that

we can do this. I'm certainly not at this point thinking that we're going to lose our ability to continue to recruit a high-quality, diverse class each year.

DI: In a past Staff Council meeting, you told members the UI would be focusing in the coming year on recruiting more in-state students instead of focusing efforts on increasing overall class sizes. How, specifically, does the UI plan to increase in-state enrollment? How might that affect the amount of tuition dollars that come in, since theoretically out-of-state and international students pay more for tuition than in-state students?

Mason: This is one of the things we'll work on more this summer — what kinds of things can we be doing, certainly through the Admissions Office, and that we aren't overlooking opportunities to send out information to students at the earliest possible time to make sure they understand the University of Iowa is a good choice for them. That includes making more information available at earlier and more

opportune times for Iowa students in particular. We'll be doing a lot of things that will, I hope, be appealing to students and attractive to students, and we think we're still an awfully good bargain out there.

Obviously, with more in-state students, we will see fewer tuition dollars. [But] the House-and-Senate-approved appropriations increase was wonderful news — assuming that the governor signs that bill, that provides those appropriations, we will see for the first time in almost four years an increase in our state appropriations. With the state appropriations increases, it makes it easier to recruit more in-state students and not worry about tuition dollars. We're not going to neglect our nonresident students, however. We're still going to be actively recruiting kids from all over. We love the diversity that brings to Iowa.

DI: What are some things you hope to see improve next semester relative to this year?

Mason: The [main library] commons is going to be finished in a year or

so. It won't be this coming year that the students will see the new 24-hour facility where they can go and study. They can do organized activities there. It'll be open all the time. We think it's kind of the future for student spaces on campus. The other thing that's going to be very different and still about a year away is the completion of the IMU, where we get the spaces in the basement area completed and the new patio out back completed. For students, I think there will be some great and positive things happening over the next year.

They'll be able to watch the progress of that develop over the next year with what's going on in the library and the IMU.

There's going to be some new cluster hirings for faculty and new areas of focus for research that'll be done on campus.

The biomedical discovery building — as we get closer and closer to the opening of that building — we'll be looking more and more to the areas of emphasis that will live in that building like the diabetes research institute, for example. There are a lot of things

that are in transition and in growth right now that we'll keep our eye on, and see what we can do to make them thrive in the future.

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Go online to read more of the Daily Iowan's Q & A with UI President Sally Mason.

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Attendees will have an opportunity to meet the CCAD director, division directors, faculty members, and researchers to discuss their research and opportunities for engagement. Attendees will also have an opportunity to see and experience CCAD's labs and facilities. Dr. Karim Abdel-Malek, director of CCAD and the Virtual Soldier Research division, will give a brief talk at 4:00 p.m. each day.

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact Deborah Hampton in advance at (319) 335-5722.

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Guest Column

Don't worry, there's always Bijou



The Bijou marquee in the IMU on Jan. 20, 2011. (The Daily Iowan/File Photo)

Imagine for a second that to see a movie, you would have to be under the age of 18. No longer can you lose yourself in a narrative that can change time and space in the blink of an eye; Never again may you observe the skill cinematographers have as they pan, tilt, and zoom across a fictional realm. Movies, like moon bounces, playgrounds, or Chucky Cheeses, are only for children once you reach this certified age of adulthood. It may sound ridiculous, but with all the expenses a college student has (tuition, books, rent, and board, to name a few) college movie-goers usually can't afford to purchase \$7 to \$10 movie tickets.

With all these expenses, the traditional movie-going experience is becoming as accessible for college students as a "you must be this tall to ride" roller coasters for kids.

Fortunately, film departments all over the United States have recognized the Hollywood oppression on the cinema market and have taken an uprising of film on college campuses.

The IMU is a Swiss army knife of building capabilities. From Dance Marathon to band concerts and even standup comics, the IMU also houses a theater known for its dedication to well-received yet not quite blockbuster titles.

There's something for everyone, for every genre at the Bijou. But this theater brings more than movie choices; it brings a true movie experience.

You may not expect much when you walk into the doors of the IMU. There may be a dance-off going on in auditorium next or maybe the sounds of a fraternity meeting in the opening foyer. Posters of *King Kong* and *Casablanca* are seen on the walls to the left, showing

that movies are one of the few things that can bring us into the nostalgic emotions of yesteryear.

Three dollars later, you take your popcorn and your Coke into a small theater room. Though it is tiny compared with modern theaters, it holds plenty of room for laughter, tears, screams, oohs, and awes. You sit down in a comfortable seat and watch your film. Two hours pass, and you leave the theater with a tranquil happiness.

It's a graduate-student-led organization that never forgets that we are college students. We are people often without large amounts of money to spend on entertainment. The Bijou gives us entertainment, at a reasonable price.

Free movie tickets and dollar level refreshments are things I've never witnessed at other college campuses. I often visited the University of Michigan cinema, for example, and the prices for refreshments were much higher than at the Bijou. In addition to the simple price difference, though, the Bijou gives us the joy of filmmaking on an artistic level by offering films that one wouldn't always see.

This film movement is happening around the country. We are fighting Hollywood through our independent theaters, and on an artistic level, we are winning. Right here in Iowa City, we see the impacts of film on everyday life. It can occupy you on a Saturday night if drinking isn't your thing, and it can satisfy you during the week if you need that always important study break. Want to see a movie but don't have cash for that chain theater? Don't worry, there's always the Bijou.

John Campbell
UI freshman

Letter

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR may be sent via e-mail to daily.iowan.letters@gmail.com (as text, not as attachment). Each letter must be signed and include an address and phone number for verification. Letters should not exceed 300 words. The *DI* reserves the right to edit for length and clarity. The *DI* will publish only one letter per author per month. Letters will be chosen for publication by the editors according to space considerations. No advertisements or mass mailings, please.

GUEST OPINIONS that exceed 300 words in length must be arranged with the Opinions editor at least three days prior to the desired date of publication. Guest opinions are selected in accordance with word length, subject relevance, and space considerations.

READER COMMENTS that may appear below were originally posted on dailyiowan.com in response to published material. They will be chosen for print publication when they are deemed to be well-written and to forward public discussion. They may be edited for length and style.

Guest Column

Student organizations are more than mere groups

It was in the hot, sweat-stained shirt, water-bottle-drained-dry August heat that I took my first steps on campus at the University of Iowa as an incoming freshman: My major was only half-decided; I only knew two people here; I had no roommate; I was not yet settled in; I needed to prepare myself for classes; I needed to get involved and meet people. I needed to find my balance in this new place.

I found it in a student organization. The first lesson in swing dancing is on balance.

My first weekend living on campus, I discovered the Swing Dance Club. I had gone to a campus Activity Fair, hoping to

find an organization to join, and there it was. I had arrived right as the members were about to perform a routine. I sat off to the side and watched in amazement; the people were jumping, clapping, stepping, kicking, spinning, smiling the whole time. I knew this was where I wanted to be. Though I had already signed up and given them my email address, I sat and watched for an hour; twisting, turning, circling, dancing.

Second semester. Finally, I could start taking real lessons. There were a few faces I recognized from the Sunday night dances, but I was essentially alone to start. I had never properly

learned how to dance, and here I was, in a group of strangers, about to put myself on display.

Lessons progressed, and I grew more confident. Not only was I improving at dancing, but I was finally starting to get to know the people in my class. We rotated partners every few minutes; I had talked to everybody. I was starting to carve my niche.

These weekly classes were something I really looked forward to. They were a break from classes, a chance to see the new friends I was meeting, a way to keep active throughout my year. This club gave me a social life. Though I had so far only gotten a loose grasp on the

basics of swing dance, I felt I was starting to find my balance.

Lessons finished, and my school year has since died down. As I take my finals now and graduate from my first year of college, I realize the full effect that joining that club had on me. I hadn't realized the importance of being active outside of class until I started swing dance. Whatever you do on campus, it's more than just an organization. It's friends and it's fun; it becomes your organization. It's one more accomplishment to graduate from as you move through life.

Johanna Olson
UI freshman

Guest Column

Iowa (& Gates) could lead

Everywhere you turn, someone is having a "green" energy conference or an "environmental" awareness day. These events focus on solar and wind energy, on electric cars, on reducing your carbon footprint, and living a sustainable life. What they do not focus on is increasing the use of the greenest energy of all — nuclear energy.

Wait, you say, "Nuclear energy is dangerous and scary. It blows up. We can't have more of it. All that waste. It's not 'green.'" Yes, we can — and we already do.

More than 30 percent of the world's nuclear energy is produced in the United States. We have 104 nuclear reactors, producing more than 800 billion kWh per year. The plants run at about 91 percent of capacity. Significantly, recent plant upgrades, combined with operating and maintenance efficiencies, have greatly increased the amount of power produced from each plant.

In 1990, the output was 577 billion kWh per year, and average capacity was only 66 percent. No new plants have been started since 1977, but most of those currently in operation have had the operational permits extended and are expected to continue operating for many more years.

None of these plants have blown up, and none have released dangerous levels of radiation into our communities. Nuclear plants produce no dreaded CO₂. Most of us do not even know where the plants, located in 31 different states, are. The plants have not caused "environmental destruction," as alleged by opponents.

Some opponents of nuclear energy claim that wind and solar power can be used to replace nuclear power. However the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in an Ohio case recently rejected this claim. In a 5-0 vote, the agency ruled that the claim against a new plant was "unsupported by evidence" and that the potential capacity of wind generation was "insufficient" to show viability as base-load power able to generate more than 900 megawatts of energy per year.

Nuclear energy has been in the news more this year in Iowa, as a result of proposed legislation that would facilitate a potential new plant by MidAmerican Energy. In March, the Senate Commerce Committee passed House File 561. Before committee passage, the bill was amended to provide increased fiscal oversight by the Iowa Utilities Board. Additionally, it would prevent MidAmerican from pre-bidding customers for costs associated with a possible new 540-megawatt plant. Other components of the bill would prevent MidAmerican from increasing rates for low-income customers and require the plant to be built, if it was approved.

Nationally, since 2007 16 license applications have been initiated with the NRC, which would

result in 24 new nuclear reactors. While many of these applications will not be followed to completion, as many as six new traditional reactors are projected to be operational in the next eight years.

On an international basis, the projections are for as many as 96 small modular reactors to be built in the next 18 years. The reactors built with that technology would be self-contained units — made from a simpler design, able to be built in a factory, and have lower on-site costs. The reactors would be buried underground. All of these factors would make the units safer and more cost effective. They would be about 75 feet long by 12 feet wide and could be moved from the factory on a rail car. The unit resembles a "nuclear battery." This design would also protect the power plant from "tornadoes, hurricanes, or tsunamis."

At this time, the U.S. Department of Energy has signed agreements for three demonstration small modular reactors at Savannah River in South Carolina. These units, from 180 to 300 megawatts each, could power 200,000 homes for a year. This size allows for one to become operational and another to then be easily added when more capacity is needed. It also mitigates the enormous up-front costs for a full-size reactor project, which can reach \$7 billion and take many years to get approved and built.

This is the issue facing Mid-American Energy and the Iowa Legislature.

Microsoft founder Bill Gates is also encouraging innovative development of nuclear energy. He has invested in the development of fourth-generation nuclear-power-plant designs, which would run on leftover fuel from current plants and would require few, or no, humans to operate on a daily basis. He is also skeptical about the long-term viability of wind and solar power because of problems with reliability and storage.

In discussing nuclear power at several national conferences in February and March of this year Gates said, "There is no inherent reason why nuclear power needs to be expensive."

Further, he supports nuclear energy as an "energy miracle," and clean technology. Finally, he characterized the inexpensive energy potential of nuclear energy for developing countries and poor people as a "vaccine" that would improve their lives significantly.

Iowa could take the lead in America's energy future by supporting new nuclear-energy technology and encouraging innovation. And Gates could join us in leading the way — or at least send his check-book.

Deborah D. Thornton
research analyst
Institute Brief, Public Interest
Institute

Your turn. Should Iowa lead the way in nuclear energy? Weigh in at dailyiowan.com.

City High works on recycling



Student-government presidents Sophie Neems, Neve Heimer, and Eli Shepard put recycling bins in the cafeteria at City High on Tuesday. They recently created a new recycling system that they hope will spread throughout the district. (The Daily Iowan/Melissa Wilson)

A City High student study estimated 700 plastic milk bottles are thrown in trash cans during the average lunch period.

By DEREK KELLISON
derek.kellison@gmail.com

City High School students are pushing to get the Iowa City School District's recycling program organized and up to speed. City High class presidents and student senators began the initiative at the high school but are now aiming to establish a unified recycling system across the district. "[City High student government] did research at other schools to see what kind of systems they had and compared," said Senior Class President Sophie Neems said. "The

process across the district is a little fuzzy." District schools have varied recycling systems that are organized outside the district, said Sophomore Class President Eli Shepherd. "Basically, all the programs we found were based off-site of the campus," 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 cans," he said. "We took a good close look at our recycling system and found a lot of good things, but [there was] no recycling for plastic bottles." The school has added

District Recycling

When City High students scoured the district, they found several unorganized programs:

- On-site composting
 - Can redemption
 - Individuals collecting recycling point
- Source: Individuals collecting recycling

four recycling bins to its lunchroom specifically to combat the overflow of milk bottles. Students estimated that 700 bottles are thrown in the trash daily. After the students' study, Bacon contacted Johnson County Refuse to establish a recycling delivery system for the rest of the semester. The work of volunteer custodians — who deliver the bags to a pickup zone and reline the bins — have made the program completely free, Bacon said. Yet costs will likely arise once school officials decide to use the services of the Johnson County Refuse.

Neems said the cost for recycling service would only be about \$50 to \$70 per month, with additional bins costing \$15. The School Board will review the plan at the next governance committee meeting. Board member Sarah Swisher said the recycling system would still save money for the district despite the possible additional costs. "It will probably only cost 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 the bins. "The process has been difficult because people are still throwing things away in the wrong bins," Shepherd said. Bacon said the recycling system would take time to set in and some aspects were still being developed. "We're taking further steps to institutionalize the process in the school," he said.

GOP senators block loan bill

By ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans blocked a Democratic bill Tuesday to preserve low interest rates for millions of college students' loans, as the two parties engaged in election-year choreography aimed at showing each is the better protector of families in today's rugged economy. The 52-45 vote to begin debating the legislation fell eight votes short of the 60 needed to proceed and stalled work on an effort both parties expect will ultimately produce a compromise, probably soon. For now, each side is happy to use the stalemate to snipe at the other with campaign-ready talking points while they are gridlocked over how to cover the \$6 billion cost.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said the vote showed that despite Republicans' claims that they support preventing an increase in student loan rates, "Republicans showed today that it's only talk." He also noted that the likely GOP presidential candidate, Mitt Romney, supports a temporary extension of today's low rates and needed, "I suggest he pick up the phone and call Sen. McConnell."

That was a reference to Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who said the battle is a phony one manufactured by Democrats to woo votes from students. Both parties say they want to extend low interest rates. "The Senate has ceased to be a place where problems are resolved," McConnell said. "It's become instead a place where Democrats produce campaign material." The vote was nearly party-line, with Reid voting "no" to give himself the procedural ability to demand another vote once a compromise is reached. Sen.

Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, voted "present," saying she wanted to avoid any vote that might affect a private education business of her husband, John McKernan. The Democratic bill would keep interest rates for subsidized Stafford Loans at 3.4 percent for an additional year rather than doubling automatically for new loans starting July 1. It would have no effect on current loans. A 2007 law approved by a Democratic Congress gradually lowered the rates but pops them back up to 6.8 percent in July because lawmakers were worried about costs. Stafford Loans are for low- and middle-income students. The Education Department projects the measure would affect 7.4 million undergraduates borrowing money in the year starting July 1. Republicans oppose the Democratic plan to pay for the bill by forcing high-earning stockholders in some privately owned corporations and professional practices to pay additional Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes. Even if it passed the Senate, it would have no chance of emerging from the Republican-controlled House. Democrats reject the GOP version, which drums up money for the extension of low rates by abolishing a preventive-health program created by Obama's 2010 health-care overhaul. Republicans are demanding a Senate vote on their measure, but it cannot pass that chamber, and the White House has threatened to veto a House-passed bill that uses that same funding mechanism. Both sides know they can push no student-loan bill through Congress without a bipartisan consensus on paying for it.

The UI Staff Council is seeking nominations for the following staff awards:

- Board of Regents Staff Excellence Award
- UI Outstanding Staff Award
- David J. Skorton Award for Staff Excellence in Public Service

Deadline for submission is June 7, 2012
Information and forms can be found at:
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~staff/awardsmain.html>

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Iowa Department of Transportation

Public Information Meeting

to discuss proposed feasibility study for the I-380 corridor

Tuesday, May 22, 2012, between 4:30 and 6 p.m.

Iowa DOT's District 6 field office, Lower Room A,
5455 Kirkwood Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids

All interested persons are invited to attend this meeting to discuss the proposed Interstate 380 feasibility study where a range of alternatives will be shared. The study area in Cedar Rapids begins south of U.S. 30 and continues north to the I-380 interchange at County Home Road.

No formal presentation will be made. Iowa DOT staff will be available anytime between 4:30 and 6 p.m. to individually discuss the proposed feasibility study.

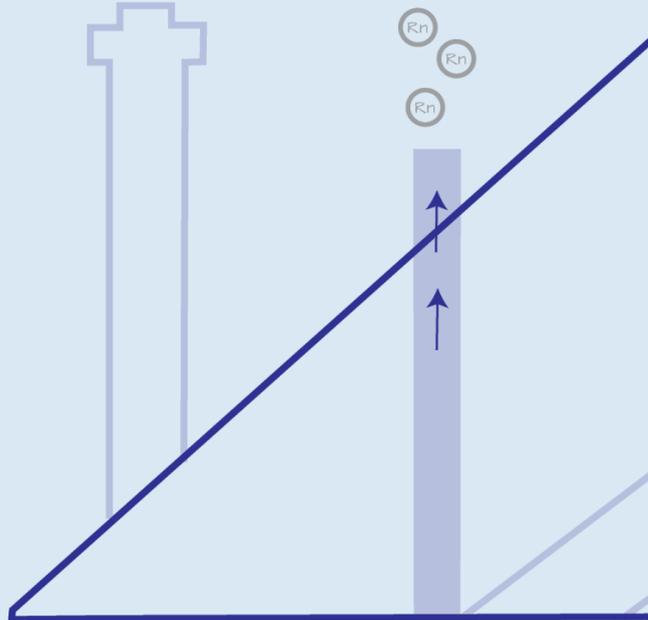
The meeting space is accessible for persons with disabilities. However, if you require special accommodations at the meeting, please notify the Iowa DOT contact listed below by May 16, 2012:

Catherine Cutler, transportation planner
Iowa DOT District Office
430 16th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
Phone: 800-866-4368 or 319-364-0235
Email: catherine.cutler@dot.iowa.gov

More information will be posted as it becomes available at the Iowa DOT's website: <http://www.iowadot.gov/pim>

Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran's status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-457-4416 or Iowa Department of Transportation's affirmative action officer. If you need accommodations because of a disability to access the Iowa Department of Transportation's services, contact the agency's affirmative action officer at 800-262-0003.

Iowa's levels: Higher



RADON AT IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The average Iowa grade-school student is required to spend half the year in class, while a preschooler spends much less time hitting the books.

But in the Iowa City Community School District, testing for radon is only mandatory for preschool rooms and not all elementary schools, based on the licensing standards of the Iowa Department of Human Services.

In 1990, 535 radon tests were performed on all Iowa City School District buildings following a notice from the Iowa Department of Public Health recommending all schools in the state test — no such subsequent mass testing of all buildings has been performed since then.

Paul Schultz, the School District's director of the physical plant, said most of the tests came back with results below 4.0 picoCuries per liter, but 37 fell in the range of 4.0 to 20.

There was one outlier, a room at Lemme Elementary, that tested at 23.9 — if a test is above 100, it is strongly recommended that students relocate.

Schultz said "construction efforts" took place at Lemme in

1991, but he has no records indicating whether those efforts were strictly due to the high radon test results.

"This facility had a heating and air-conditioning project that would have allowed for more fresh-air exchange in 1991," he said.

Additional testing was performed in this location in 1991 and found to be 3.2 picoCuries per liter.

However, David Dude, the district's executive director of operational resources, said a new heating system was installed in 2004 in Lemme Elementary — 14 years after the radon test results.

"The district installed a [heating, ventilation, and air conditioning] system with ground source heat pumps that includes piping fresh air ventilation throughout Lemme," Dude said.

The district has not tested Wickham Elementary or North Central Junior High because they were built after the 1990 testing was performed, he said.

Few parents have expressed concern about radon, he

RADON MITIGATION

If radon test results come back higher than 4.0 picoCuries per liter, the EPA advises action be taken to mitigate the radon problem.

Mitigation is a method used to reduce the amount of radon in a building by sucking the radon out of the soil underneath the house and releasing it above the rooftop before it has a chance to enter the home.

A popular method is called active soil depressurization. The radon-reduction method involves drilling a 4-inch diameter through the foundation flooring. A PVC pipe is placed through the hole, into the ground and extends through the house into the attic. A fan is installed in the attic to draw air from under the house and vent it through the rooftop. A radon-mitigation specialist must be trained and have credentials to install radon-reduction systems in Iowa.

Source: Bill Field, UI Occupational and Environmental Health professor and national radon expert

HEALTH RISKS OF RADON

The first symptom of radon-induced illness is serious — lung cancer.

As radon decays, it produces solid radioactive products that people can inhale. The decayed products attach to the lining of a person's lungs and can lead to the formation of cancer, but there are no prior symptoms, not even a cough, said Bill Field, a national radon expert.

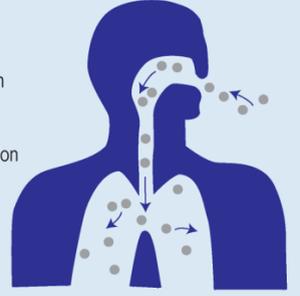
And while lung cancer can be caused by many different factors — such as smoking, genetics, or pollutants — Thomas Gross, an associate professor of internal medicine at the UIHC Pulmonary and Critical Care Division, said radon has a clear association with lung cancer.

However, the magnitude of the risk is hard to determine.

"There are radon zealots who think all lung cancer can be traced back to radon and others who think it is a very minor player — [the] truth [is] probably somewhere in between," Gross said.

But according to unofficial estimates from the EPA, radon is the No. 1 environmental carcinogen that causes death and is responsible for 21,000 deaths per year in the United States.

The EPA estimates radon is responsible for 21,000 deaths per year nationwide with 400 of those in Iowa.



TESTING FOR RADON

It doesn't take a professional to test for radon.

Home testing kits are available ranging in cost from \$10 to \$30; it can take from two to more than 90 days to complete testing, depending on whether a short- or long-term test is used.

Typically, kits are placed in high-occupancy rooms for a specified amount of time; to obtain the results, the detectors have to be sent to a lab for analysis.

Fans, fireplaces, furnaces, air-conditioning use, open windows, rain, and barometric pressure are just some of the factors that play a role in causing radon levels to fluctuate.

Therefore, it is advised houses be under "closed conditions" when performing a short-term test. This means all windows and doors are shut during the testing.

However, most people do not live in this type of environment, which poses a question on the accuracy of

radon tests. Closed house conditions are intended to maximize radon concentrations so that if the short-term test result indicates radon concentrations below 4.0 picoCuries per liter, there is little chance the yearlong average will be more than 4.0.

But for those who are concerned about the accuracy of a home test, state-licensed radon professionals can perform checks for about \$100 to \$150.

Source: Bill Field, UI Occupational and Environmental Health professor and national radon expert



RADON IN RESIDENTS

UI graduate student Katie Jones has lived in her co-cabin-like apartment in Iowa City for the past 10 months.

Upon starting a job with the Iowa Cancer Consortium, she learned what radon was and how to test for it, which led her to place a testing kit in her bedroom on April 1.

And while Jones' radon levels were low, this is a step she wished more students would take.

"A lot of young people just don't think about it a lot and are aware of it," she said. "Students only live [in a specific apartment] for a year or two and might not want to start an issue with the landlord. It's just an awkward position to be in as a tenant."

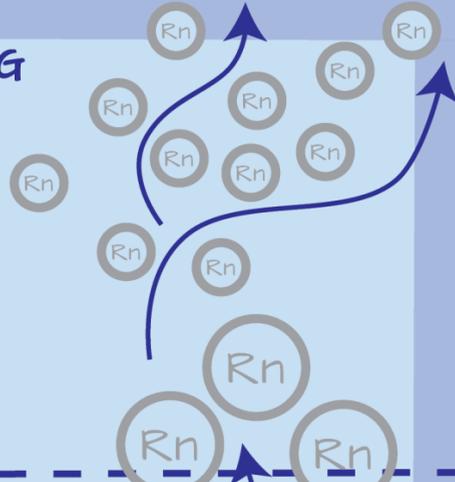
But Iowa City residents can breathe a little easier knowing there are local laws in place that require more protection against radon in comparison with towns

HOW RADON ENTERS A BUILDING

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

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

Source: Bill Field, UI Occupational and Environmental Health professor and national radon expert



RADON LEVELS IN IOWA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency capped the allowable radon level for safe buildings at 4.0 picoCuries per liter of air — which is the unit of measurement used to measure the amount of radon in the air.

Iowa has the highest average levels of radon in the nation, according to the EPA. The state falls into the EPA radon red zone, which means every county has a predicted average indoor radon screening level greater than the suggested 4.0 picoCuries per liter. Johnson County's levels are estimated to be 4.4 picoCuries per liter, which is lower than most surrounding counties but more than three times greater the national average radon concentration.

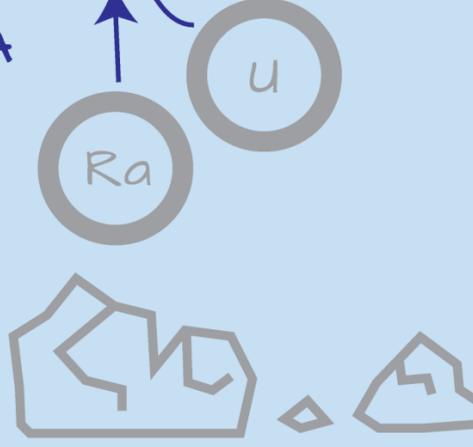
Source: Bill Field, UI Occupational and Environmental Health professor and national radon expert

HOW RADON GOT TO IOWA

Radon is formed naturally by the decaying process of uranium and radium — both of which can be found in many rocks. During the Ice Ages — spanning from roughly 3 million to around 10,000 years ago — glaciers moved over, ground up, and carried rocks from what is now Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ontario to Iowa.

All rocks that house uranium and radium naturally release radon, but the glacier's movement pulverized the rocks into smaller chunks, increasing the surface area of the once whole rocks. This increased surface area allows radon to escape the rocks more readily. Over time, rain, freeze-thaw, plant roots, and exposure to oxygen weathered the pulverized rock fragments, which increases their porosity, allowing more opportunity for radon to escape into the soil, air, and water.

Source: Bob Libra, Iowa state geologist



RADON LEGISLATION

There is only one piece of legislation that has passed regarding the regulation of radon testing: that licensed daycares are required to be tested every two years.

However, a radon-disclosure law requires homeowners who have tested for radon to disclose the results of their tests when they sell their homes.

"This is a very counterproductive law, in my opinion," said Bill Field, a national radon expert.

"Most people do not remember accurately what their radon test indicated. It also tends to reduce radon testing, because people do not want to have to disclose that they tested."

The Radon Coalition proposed a bill in the Legislature this February that would have required "the state building code commissi

Best in the nation

said. "About others inquiring [regarding radon concerns], I only know of one inquiry from a parent who also runs a home-safety-products business," Dude said.

Kelli Kucera, a Longfellow Elementary parent, said radon has never worried her.

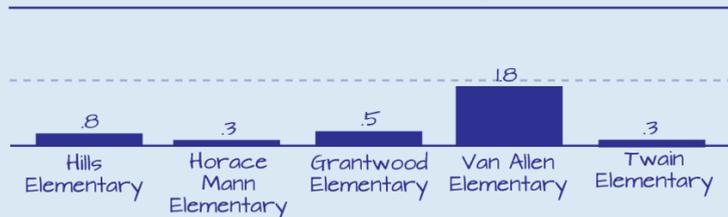
"I haven't been concerned, but honestly, I haven't really looked into it," she said. "I don't remember the school sending anything home with students [about radon], so there's nothing that I'm aware of, but I could be wrong."

The district's preschools were tested in 2010 and will be tested again this year. The last test was at Hills Elementary and cost the district \$125.

Sen. David Johnson, R-Ocheyedan, said there is reluctance in the Legislature to further mandate any program on local governments such as school districts.

"Education efforts should continue, but it should be up to school districts and school boards to decide what to do rather than the state requiring what to do," he said.

Iowa City School District Preschool radon level tests during 2010



4 pCi/L per liter of air (the highest level at which radon is still considered safe)

All tests were conducted using activated charcoal tests.

However, Peggy Huppert, 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's seven years in a [possibly] bad environment," she said. "But there is more concern for the staff. Some staffers

are there for many more years, and they are exposed."

However, Schultz said he does not feel at risk for radon injuries in his work environment.

"I work in these buildings as well as our support services staff," Schultz said. "If I felt it was an unsafe working environment, I would notify the district administration."

RADON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

With 1,700 acres of land, 129 major buildings, and thousands of rooms, the University of Iowa has a massive footprint in Johnson County. However, only four buildings and 11 rooms have been tested for radon since 2008. Each of the tests performed registered a level of radon below the EPA requirement of 4.0 pCi/L.

UI spokesman Tom Moore said the UI has an effective preventative system in place to eliminate the need for routine testing.

"The testing that we have done has only found levels of radon that are not considered harmful by the Environmental Protection Agency, which seems to indicate that the university already has appropriate safeguards in place," Moore said. "In summary, the university appears to have an effective prevention strategy in place and testing seems to confirm that approach works."

Moore said the buildings maintain low levels of radon from the

heating, ventilating, and cooling systems that mixes in outside air. He said this system is different than the ones used in residential homes.

"Most homes are negatively pressurized due to exhausting combustion air from the furnace and a natural stack effect of hot air rising to the highest point in the home, thus creating a negative pressure which naturally draws soil gases such as radon into the home," Moore said.

Bob Libra, who is Iowa's state geologist and works in Trowbridge Hall, said he has never thought about radon in his workplace.

"I never have been concerned," he said. "You're only here so much, but it's not that much."

Moore said the university responds to requests from faculty and staff to have their offices or buildings tested for radon and that the safety of their employees is of utmost importance.

129 MAJOR BUILDINGS belong to the University of Iowa.

4 UI BUILDINGS have been tested for radon since 2008.

11 ROOMS out of thousands have been tested at the UI, none of which tested above the EPA maximum standard of 4pCi/L.

LEGAL IOWA CITY

azy across the state.

In Iowa City, builders are required to put in a passive mitigation system — a vent pipe — that would allow for a fan to be installed if the homeowner decides to mitigate in the future, said Tim Hennes, Iowa City senior building inspector.

In addition, said Stan Laverman, another city senior housing inspector, radon testing must be completed upon selling a house, which is stricter than the state law, which simply requires homeowners who have tested their homes to reveal the test results before the sale.

John Marshall, the president of the Iowa City Area Association of Realtors, said part of the purchase agreement concerns radon testing.

"Buyers can then choose whether or not if they want to

have the testing done," Marshall said. "But it is at their expense that it is done, usually."

Marshall said if the results come back and lead to mitigation, then the buyer and seller need to negotiate the expense.

Greg Bal, the supervising attorney of UI Student Legal Services for five years, said he has never been approached by a student with legal questions about radon.

"Essentially, the landlord has to provide a residence that is safe and habitable," Bal said. "Radon is very dangerous and unacceptable and would be the basis for termination of lease if the apartment or house is no longer safe."

Bal said the landlord should be required to pay for the

testing and mitigation. If the landlord refuses to mitigate, the tenants should have the right to terminate the lease, ending all obligations they hold to the landlord.

Bill Field, a national radon expert, said several students have contacted him about radon concerns, and residential radon is worrisome because of how much time people spend in their homes.

"I am aware that several leases were successfully broken when the landlord refused to lower the radon concentrations in the apartment," Field said. "Students have the right to live in a safe dwelling. I personally would love to see all off-campus housing tested for radon."



GRAPHICS BY ALICIA KRAMME

Average radon levels of Iowa counties (in pCi/L per liter of air)



4 pCi/L per liter of air (the highest level at which radon is still considered safe)

RADON HEALERS

A distinct tie to lung cancer would be enough for most people to shy away from radon, but not Briana Harris.

She thinks low level exposure is just fine.

Harris is the office manager for Merry Widow Health Mine in Montana — a group that takes people into a mountain tunnel for radon therapy allowing them to sit and drink mine water.

She said she believes radon helps sick patients recover from arthritis and allergies, and it even cures bad cases of acne.

"I have to admit that when I first started working here, I was a true skeptic," she said. "I couldn't believe that something I had heard bad things about could possibly be good for you, but after a couple of months, I was convinced. I have seen people that could barely walk or move when they first arrived here literally be able to walk miles while doing their treatments."

LEGISLATION IN IOWA

to adopt statewide radon-control standards in residential construction, requiring that radon testing, mitigation, or abatement be conducted in schoolhouses and certain residential buildings, requiring certain notifications, and providing an income tax credit, and including retroactive applicability provisions."

However, the bill never reached the floor.

Peggy Huppert, Iowa director of governmental relations for the American Cancer Society, was one of the bill's authors. She said the bill failed because the group could not come to an agreement over what the bill should encompass in a timely fashion.

"We had a hard time agreeing on what we wanted to ask for," Huppert said. "There is no state that has what we would call an ideal radon law. There's just not a lot of great

resources about writing laws about radon."

Money was also an issue.

Galen Howsare, the chief financial officer for the Iowa Association of School Boards was a registered lobbyist against the bill. He said requiring schools to be tested would be too expensive.

"They keep adding to the list of what we have to do, and we don't have any money left to do it," Howsare said. "The way we felt the legislation was written, the testing wouldn't be funded by insurance, and the districts wouldn't have any money to withstand the costs."

The EPA's proposed 2013 budget would eliminate all radon-related grants distributed to states — which in the 2012 fiscal year was \$8 million — to help promote radon awareness, oversee professional testing, and reduce the

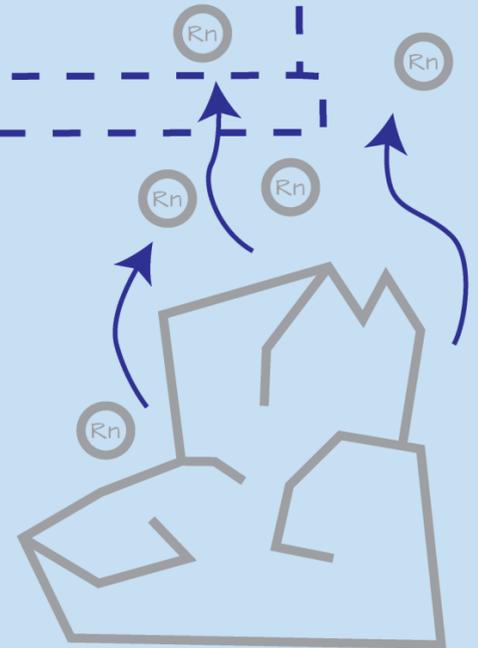
risks of exposure.

Sen. Joe Bolckom, D-Iowa City, said it's a mistake for Congress to cut that funding.

"States rely on that funding, and for some states, that's the only funding they have," he said. "Radon is deadly in places such as Iowa."

Though radon is a concern, Sen. David Johnson, R-Ocheyedan, said the nation is financially struggling.

"The federal government is handing out money to states, and they can't sustain that very long," Johnson said. "There is either federal stimulus money or the states have to increase taxes to keep programs running. I don't think we ought to have a roller-coaster ride like that financially. There have to be cuts somewhere."



Instead of being presented with stereotypes by age, sex, color, class, or religion, children must have the opportunity to learn that within each range, some people are loathsome and some are delightful.

- Margaret Mead

the ledge

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



Things I learned at the UI:

- The number of times I look at the clock is directly proportional to the number of times I will fall asleep. Not necessarily in class.
- My entire tuition was probably spent solely on maintaining the Pentacrest lawn.
- There is no such thing as a smoke-free campus.
- How to parallel park when I'm seven minutes late for class.
- The number of inches my skirt is from my knees is directly proportional to the number of guys who will offer to buy me drinks.
- How to cross a street without stopping, looking, or listening — but still texting.
- The number of times I text in class is directly proportional to the number of hours I'll spend starting at a blank Word document in the middle of the night.
- The only theorists I need to know write for the EPB bathrooms.
- I used more highlighter at one highlighter party than I have reading in my entire academic career.
- It is more acceptable to wear pajamas to finals than to WalMart.
- I'm always in class when cute boys are having a bake sale in the Old Capitol mall.

- Trisha Spence will miss the UI.

The Daily Iowan
www.dailyiowan.com

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

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

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 TUESDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CHECK OUT dailyiowan.com FOR MORE PUZZLES

DILBERT

by Scott Adams



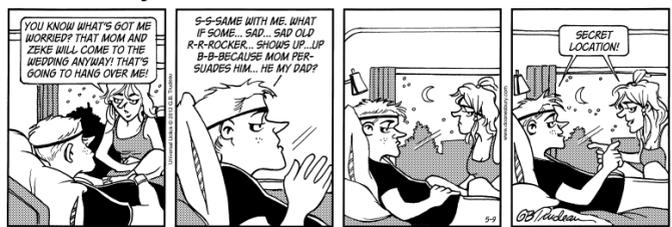
'NON SEQUITUR

BY VIEV



Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



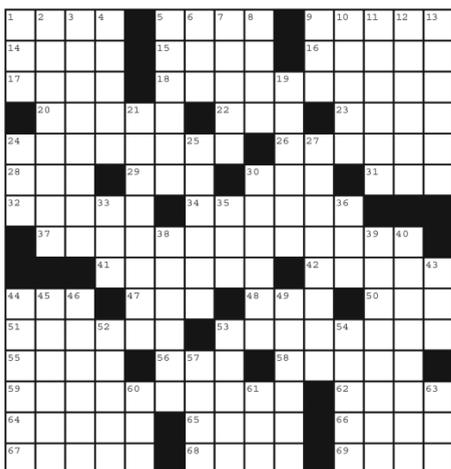
mc ginsberg.com
OBJECTS OF ART

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0404

- Across**
- Frankenstein's monster had one on his forehead
 - Crop circle, some believe
 - Mahmoud of the P.L.O.
 - Lasso
 - ___ child
 - Word sung twice before "hallelujah"
 - One who's junior to a jr.
 - Acts the heckler at the Westminster dog show?
 - Commemorative item
 - Busy one
 - "Scat!"
 - Cheeses manufactured in the Mediterranean?
 - D flat equivalent
 - Cousin of .org or .com
 - ___ standstill
 - Baseball Hall-of-Famer who batted left and threw right
 - Stack in a mag. office
 - Pondered
 - Furbys and yoyos, once
 - Entourages for Odysseus' faithful wife?
 - Lorna (cookies)
 - Jot (down)
 - "___ Chef"
 - Amusement show?
 - Long time
 - Blast
 - Quick smells
 - Ricky Martin and Neil Patrick Harris?
 - "___ dead people"
 - Cousin of an ostrich
 - Department in SE France
 - Expressions of regret from apartment building managers?
 - Icelandic epic
 - Skipping syllables
 - Romance/thriller novelist Hoag
 - McDonald's founder Ray
 - Intelligence
 - 1982 sci-fi film with a 2010 sequel
 - Harmonize, informally

- Class of '12 in 2012, e.g.: Abbr.
- Confined
- Flashing sign in a TV studio
- What a user goes into for help
- "Que sera sera"
- Odysseus' savior
- Lumps
- It lists G.M. and I.B.M.
- Long ___
- Bit of makeup
- John of Led Zeppelin
- Enthusiasms
- Online network admins
- Not just busy
- Giving up of one thing for another
- Half a school yr.
- Irish equivalent of Edward
- Spelling, e.g.?
- Continued, as with a job
- Some records, for short
- Features of many spy films
- "I bet!"
- Tin tossed as the first Frisbee
- Sun-Maid tidbit
- Intuits
- Dearie
- Less-than-social sorts
- Politico Romney
- Singer Corinne Bailey ___
- Med. group
- Va. Tech is in it



Puzzle by Zoe Wheeler

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

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

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

- **Tech Help**, 10 a.m., Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn
- **Preschool Story Time**, 10:30 a.m., Iowa City Public Library
- **Web Basics**, 2 p.m., Iowa City Public Library
- **Staff Council Meeting**, 2:30 p.m., 2520D University Capitol Center
- **National Advanced Driving Simulator Open House**, 3 p.m., University of Iowa Research Park
- **An Oversimplification of Her Beauty**, 7 p.m., Bijou
- **Burlington Street Bluegrass Band**, 7 p.m., Mill, 120 E. Burlington
- **"Live from Prairie Lights,"** Larry Baker, fiction, 7 p.m., Prairie Lights, 15 S. Dubuque
- **Eco-Pirate: The Story of Paul Watson**, 9:15 p.m., Bijou
- **Jam Session**, 10 p.m., Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn

UITV schedule

Campus channel 4, cable channel 17

- 12:30 p.m.** John Cage Centennial Panel Discussion, Center for New Music, expert panel discusses the work of John Cage, Feb. 12
- 1:30** John Cage Centennial Concert, Center for New Music, "Sonatas & Interludes," Patricia von Blumroder, Feb. 12
- 2:45** John Cage Centennial Dance Performance, Musicircus Dancers and performers fill the second floor of the University Capitol Center (highlights)
- 3** John Cage Centennial, "Lecture on Nothing," narrated by Mark Clague, University of Michigan, UI Center for New Music, Feb. 12
- 4** John Cage Centennial Panel Discussion, Center for New Music, expert panel discusses the work of John Cage, Feb. 12
- 5** John Cage Centennial, CMN Ensemble Concert, compositions from the 1930s to the 1970s, UI Center for New Music, Feb. 12
- 6:15** President's Forum, UI President Sally Mason and Dr. Terry Wahls, Feb. 29
- 7** College of Public Health New Building Dedication, April 20
- 8** John Cage Centennial Concert, Center for New Music, "Sonatas & Interludes," Patricia von Blumroder, Feb. 12
- 9:15** John Cage Centennial Dance Performance, Musicircus Dancers and performers fill the second floor of the University Capitol Center (highlights)
- 9:30** Daily Iowan Television News
- 9:45** Orchestra Invitational Gala Concert, Bach Cello Suite, Stravinsky, Copland, Mozart, Feb. 17
- 10:30** Daily Iowan Television News
- 10:45** John Cage Centennial, CMN Ensemble Concert, compositions from the 1930s to the 1970s, UI Center for New Music, Feb. 12

horoscopes Wednesday, May 9

- by Eugenia Last

- ARIES** March 21-April 19 Don't take action unless you are certain that you are responding appropriately. An impulsive move at this point may damage what you have been working toward. Take a deep breath, and recalculate your next move. When in doubt, stop and observe.
- TAURUS** April 20-May 20 Look for opportunities to learn. Take part in functions that can help you further your position. Getting together with people who share your interests will help you direct your energy efficiently. Do something nice for someone you love.
- GEMINI** May 21-June 20 Get down to business. Take care of personal affairs. Don't leave anything to chance. Luck is with you if you do your due diligence and focus on getting ahead. Financial gains are likely if you are disciplined and negotiate strategically.
- CANCER** June 21-July 22 Spread a little cheer, and engage in friendly banter. Discuss your plans openly, and be playful with your friends, family, and lover. Your attitude will make the difference in the outcome of whatever you pursue. A partnership will bring you good fortune.
- LEO** July 23-Aug. 22 A disciplined approach to both professional and personal money matters will put you in a good position. Extravagance of any kind must be avoided. Don't allow your emotions to lead to an impulsive promise that will be difficult to fulfill.
- VIRGO** Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Show how energetic you can be. Take the initiative, and add your personal touch to whatever you do. Your ability to persuade others to help you will put you well ahead of schedule. Communicating and networking will enhance your reputation.
- LIBRA** Sept. 23-Oct. 22 You'll have excellent vision when it comes to stretching your money so you can purchase everything you need for the right price. Greater security will result if you discuss your plans for the future with someone you love.
- SCORPIO** Oct. 23-Nov. 21 As long as you weigh the pros and cons before you proceed, you will not have to backtrack. Impulse will be your downfall. Focus on how you can tactfully make the alterations you want without raising suspicion. Use creative logic.
- SAGITTARIUS** Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Complete whatever is asked of you as quickly as possible. You will want to leave enough time to do something enjoyable late in the day with a friend or lover. A change at home should turn out in your favor.
- CAPRICORN** Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Let your emotions show, and you will be able to get others to do as you please. Making changes to your home will bring about an opportunity to meet someone who will benefit you in the future. An investment will pay off.
- AQUARIUS** Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Slow down, rethink your steps, and be careful how much you take on. Love will be enhanced if you are open about your feelings and your long-term intentions. What you do for others will be repaid tenfold.
- PISCES** Feb. 19-March 20 Concentrate on your professional goals. Make calls, and present what you can offer to someone who may be able to utilize your services. Don't let an emotional issue with a family member hold you back.

MAN ON THE STREET

What is your favorite caffeinated beverage to drink during finals?



"Red Bull." Nick Shepperd senior



"Coke." Kaitlin Glagola junior



"Soda." Hayley Perrin senior



"Red Bull." Jaimie Marchant senior

The Daily Iowan

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SafeRide set to go

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

By ANNA THEODOSIS
anna-theodosis@uiowa.edu

Though 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 present an alternative for undergraduate and graduate students to get home in emergency situations.

Former UISG Vice President Brittany Caplin said the program does have some restrictions. Students' use is limited to once per semester, and if people are caught abusing the system — using the service numerous times or for non-emergencies — they will be banned for four years.

UISG officials said emergencies include being intoxicated and unable to drive home or at a house party and feeling uncomfortable enough to leave.

"[Students] need to clarify what the emergency is," Caplin said. "The cab will take you to your home or the hospital, nowhere else."

SafeRide was developed in response to numerous alleged assaults on campus this past school year and the installation of the 21-ordinance in 2010.

UI junior Jessica Defino said she's aware of campus

safety and likes the additional service.

"I think it's a good idea because of some of the dangers that happen on campus," she said.

Currently, the UI police offer a NiteRide service to female students, picking them up at a few locations on campus and taking them home.

SafeRide will be available for male and female students.

Campus manager Brian McClatchey said that though the program could benefit students, it doesn't provide the same advantages as NiteRide.

"I think it has potential," he said. "One ride per semester? Obviously, it's not an option for regular transportation. I think the intentions are good; it's just very limited."

Caplin said the limit is an effort to keep costs from exceeding the \$40,000 budget.

The purpose of SafeRide is to complement NiteRide, Caplin said, not replace it.

"NiteRide takes you from on-campus to on or off campus," she said. "SafeRide takes you from on or off-campus [to home or the hospital]."

UISG is collaborating with Yellow Cab to provide the taxis. Caplin said she felt Yellow Cab was the best company to partner with.

"They understand the workings of the university,"

SafeRide

The new free taxi service will begin this fall.

- Students can only use it once per semester
- Students can only be driven to their registered address or a hospital
- Only two people can be in the taxi at one time
- If a person abuses the program, he or she will be banned for four years

Source: UI Student Government

she said. "They also have the number of vehicles, [and] their security on their vehicles is also very well-done."

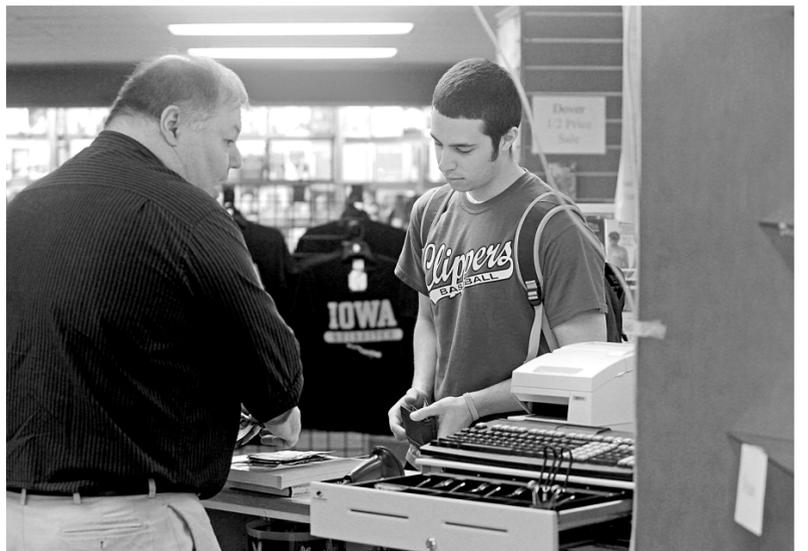
Caplin said the service also helps students who find themselves in trouble at house parties.

"We believe that there are more house parties and more underage students — because of the ordinance — are drinking more at their houses," she said. "The idea is to remove any barriers that would prevent a student from helping their friends in an emergency. SafeRide is if you just need to get out, you need to go home."

Despite McClatchey's concerns, he said he applauded UISG for its efforts.

"It'll be interesting [to see] how many people use it," he said. "I commend them for giving it a shot; you have to put it out there and see what the response is."

BOOKING IT



Salesman Chris Carpenter gives student Tony Casella money for his books at Iowa Book on Tuesday. Students can check online to see if the business will buy their books. Iowa Book is buying back textbooks for more stock for itself and for other companies nationwide. (The Daily Iowan/Tessa Hursh)



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Diocese denies teen presentation of scholarship

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

By CHASTITY DILLARD
chastity-dillard@uiowa.edu

Keaton Fuller is one of this year's recipients of the Matthew Shepard Scholarship in Iowa — and as such, he will receive \$40,000 toward his University of Iowa experience.

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

"I'm not concerned about what it means for me specifically," the openly gay 18-year-old said. "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 through Iowa's Matthew Shepard Scholarship from the Eychaner Foundation for his efforts toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights in his community. The Diocese of Davenport decided to reverse the school's decision to allow the foundation to present the award to Fuller at his graduation.

UI freshman Quentin Hill, a 2011 recipient of the same scholarship, said the presentation is one of the greatest parts of receiving the award.

"Especially if you are in a city where it's hard being the odd one out," the 19-year-old said. "We are looked at as outcast or the black sheep or the rainbow

sheep, if you want to call it that."

Hill was the only openly gay student in the history of his high school in Eagle Grove. Coming out created a division in his church and pushed him out of friend circles, he said.

"[But] it's important not to generalize all of the religious community," Hill said. "There are a lot of progressive communities out there. It's just institutions [like the Catholic Church] take a little bit longer to adjust on these things, especially social issues."

The Davenport Diocese issued a press release explaining its "long standing policy regarding guest speakers."

"This policy was explained to Keaton's parents at their meeting with Bishop Martin Amos last week," wrote Deacon David Montgomery, the director of communications. "It states: 'We cannot allow any one or any organization that promotes a position that is contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church to present at a diocesan institution.'"

Fuller said he wants to promote equality for all people and believes his action will make a difference as there have been few openly gay students at his school.

"It's a little bit overwhelming, but I am really very happy to have all this support," he said. "It's incredible."

Matthew Shepard Scholarship

Three students who plan on attending the University of Iowa in the fall were awarded the scholarships for 2012:

- Fabio Vidal, Des Moines Lincoln High
- Keaton Fuller, Prince of Peace College Preparatory
- Derek Steinauer, Linn-Mar High

Source: Eychaner Foundation

Sexuality and gender-rights advocates statewide said they were disappointed by the bishop's actions.

"It's always shocking when this kind of thing happens, because you hope that hearts and minds have changed," said Ryan Roerman, the executive director of Iowa Pride Network. "To have someone at the top keeping a young man from having the best moment of his life because of bigotry is disappointing."

Rich Eychaner, the founder of Iowa's Matthew Shepard Scholarship and the denied presenter, said the organization is trying to provide a lifeline for people and save lives through the scholarships.

"The kid's OK. The money's OK, and the scholarship is OK," he said. "Then why can't the organization that funds and makes available for the student come and present? What line does that cross?"



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WIZ

CONTINUED FROM 12

steps. He said he cautions them against ending up "a beaten, bedraggled man with a broken heart."
"They still seem to do it," he said with a grin.

Stealing a Badger

Esche's parents flew a Wisconsin Badger flag in their front yard as he grew up in Waukesha. All his relatives, neighbors, and distance-running teammates assumed he would go on to run for the Badgers. Esche was a decorated high-school runner, and Wisconsin had long been a dominant cross-country program. It was a perfect fit.

But Esche remembers his prep coaches getting a call from Iowa — a program, he said, that was "not good at the time" — and telling him how impressed they were by the ambitious, genuine Hawkeye coach.

Esche and his parents visited Iowa and took a tour with Wiecezorek.

Hawkeye football coach Kirk Ferentz ran into the group, pulled them aside, and told Esche's parents Wiecezorek was "the best man on campus" and that their son would love running for him.

Esche committed to Iowa. He went on to be a top-10 finisher at Big Ten meets and an all-region cross-country runner.

"Wisconsin was a little too cocky," he said. "Coach Wiz was the opposite. He just said, 'I want to build a program, and I want you to help me do that.'"

An injured prodigy

Micah VanDenend was a distance-running prodigy — one of the state's best — as a high-school sophomore in Glen Ellyn, Ill. But VanDenend, now a head coach at Wisconsin-Parkside, suffered a nasty stress fracture to his leg before his junior year. He couldn't run or train for eight months. As a result, VanDenend didn't get much attention from around the country.

But he did from Wiecezorek. VanDenend remembered being surprised by the continued letters sent

to his coaches and offers for informal visits to the Iowa campus, even as he was unable to guarantee any kind of recovery from his injury.

VanDenend healed and became a state champion his senior year. He came to run for Wiecezorek and the Hawkeyes, who "stood out" as the one program that had shown faith in him while he was hurt.

The injury problems didn't go away for VanDenend once he reached campus. Leg problems prevented him from competing in a single outdoor track meet during his first three seasons.

But Wiecezorek stayed positive. The pair's motto became "greatness deferred is not greatness denied."

"Any other program or coach would probably have taken me off scholarship or removed me from the team," VanDenend said. "It was big to have a coach who had been through the same things."

An old record falls

VanDenend began the final lap of his first-ever 5,000-meter race and looked at the clock. Wiecezorek saw his runner's eyes

widen as VanDenend realized he needed to run that lap in under 60 seconds to break a 38-year old school record.

A record held by Larry Wiecezorek.

VanDenend finished the race in 13:55.96. He had beat Wiecezorek's mark by 0.04 seconds.

It was a joyous culmination of years of rehab for VanDenend, and Wiecezorek called it one of his happiest moments as a coach.

"At some point, records aren't doing you any good anymore," Wiecezorek said. "You just get your name back in the paper if somebody breaks it. Micah did some amazing things."

VanDenend thought about what his coach had often told him as he struggled in the trainers' room or sat on the sidelines.

"He would always tell me, 'This is going to end with us hugging at the finish line,'" VanDenend said. "And that's exactly what happened."

The coaching tree grows

Kent said Wiecezorek was "90 percent" of the reason he wanted to become a coach. Several of his team-

mates said similar things.

"Wiz proved every day it's possible to love work," Heath Moenck, the Simpson College coach, said. "Without Wiz, I'm pretty sure I'd be miserable in some cubicle, working 9 to 5."

The coaching life has separated close friends Kent, VanDenend, and Esche. But every so often, a big event will bring the whole group together.

Wiecezorek will spend time with them. They're his colleagues now, but they still ask him for advice. He remembers the panicked feeling of being new to the job, so he'll give them tips on how to manage athletes, how to feel the pulse of a team, and know exactly what workout they need at

a given time.

He'll coach them on coaching.

As he looked around at the Relays last month, and saw so many former pupils who are now friends, Wiecezorek felt a little bittersweet.

"I'm closer to the end of my career than the beginning," he said. "One of the things I'm really going to miss is the relationships with the guys that develop into friendship. The ups and downs of their life that you go through with them. And then all of a sudden, I won't be Coach Wiz anymore. Standing out there with those guys, I was thinking, 'I'm going to miss this.'"

MCNUTT

CONTINUED FROM 12

plays later, but quarterback James Vandenberg's pass floated well behind his star receiver. McNutt stuck a long arm out behind him and palmed the ball out of midair for a long gain.

But the rally, which consisted almost entirely of McNutt making plays, fell short.

"He played his heart out today," Vandenberg said after Iowa lost, 37-21. "We all wish we could have sent him out on a better note."

McNutt finished the season with 82 catches for 1,315 yards — good for 10th in the nation — and his 12 touchdowns were more than all but five players in the country. He became the Hawkeyes' all-time leader in touchdown receptions and receiving yards. He took home the Richter-Howard Trophy given to the Big Ten's top receiver.

Not bad for a guy who famously spent his first year at Iowa playing quarterback.

"You don't win records by accident," head coach Kirk

Ferentz said after McNutt broke the team's touchdown-catch mark. "It's a real tribute to his work ethic. He's got good size and good range. That's only an advantage if you use it, though."

ESPN.com's Adam Rittenberg named McNutt the eighth-best overall player in the conference last season. He was Rittenberg's top-ranked wideout, ahead of the Spartans' B.J. Cunningham and first-round NFL draft pick and former Illinois receiver A.J. Jenkins.

"McNutt was a very good receiver who achieved greatness as a senior," Rittenberg wrote. "He did enough in 2011 to be considered the league's best receiver and one of the Big Ten's top overall performers."

The monstrous performances speak for themselves — 140 yards and 2 touchdowns against Tennessee Tech; 184 yards and 3 touchdowns against Indiana; 151 yards and 2 touchdowns against Purdue.

It was a dominant season from McNutt. He kept the Hawkeye offense from collapsing in several games on the road, where it struggled all season. And Vandenberg

Third in a five-part series

Follow along this week as *The Daily Iowan* reveals its athletes, coaches, and stories of the year.

- Monday: Freshman of the Year: Aaron White
- Tuesday: Coach of the Year: Fran McCaffery
- Today: Male Athlete of the Year: Marvin McNutt
- Thursday: Female Athlete of the Year
- Friday: Story of the Year

2012 Male Athlete of the Year

- Other nominees:**
- Second place:** Matt Gatens
- Honorable mention:** Matt McDonough
- Last five winners:**
- 2011:** Vince India
- 2010:** Jay Borschel
- 2009:** Shonn Greene
- 2008:** Brent Metcalf
- 2007:** Mark Perry

said he was just happy to have seen it up close.

"I'm so glad I got to be a part of it," he said about McNutt's record-breaking performance. "Because I know I've learned a ton from him over the years."

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'The Wiz' stride for stride with history



Clockwise starting in top center: Iowa head coach Larry Wiczorek stands with Jeff Thode and then-Hawkeyes Mark Battista and Tommy Tate in 2009; Jeff Kent warms up in 2005; Ray Varner hurdles in 2008; Micah VanDenend works out on a bike in 2007; and Heath Moenck runs in 2006. Kent, Varner, VanDenend, and Moenck have all become track and field coaches since they graduated. (The Daily Iowan/File Photos)



Several of track coach Larry Wiczorek'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 Wiczorek. 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 Wiczorek 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," Wiczorek said. "But when I see those guys with their teams, I feel like a proud papa."

Wiczorek 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,

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and blurted out a new name several times during a conversation about the topic.

Stetson Steele, at 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 foot-

SEE WIZ, 10

YEAR-END AWARDS

McNutt saved the season

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

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 high-



Then-Iowa wide receiver Marvin McNutt tries to break a tackle from Purdue cornerback Josh Johnson during the Hawkeyes' 31-21 win over the Boilermakers in West Lafayette, Ind., on Nov. 19. McNutt set several school receiving records in 2011 and was a major reason the Iowa football team won seven games. (The Daily Iowan/File Photo)

light 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 boo-

ing 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

SEE McNUTT, 10

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 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."

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