

IT'S BEEN A YEAR TO REMEMBER.
AND *THE DAILY IOWAN* HAS COVERED IT ALL.
CHECK OUT OUR YEAR IN REVIEW. **PAGE 8B**

THE INDEPENDENT DAILY NEWSPAPER FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COMMUNITY SINCE 1868

The Daily Iowan

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2012

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50¢

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DAILYIOWAN.COM POLL:

Do anti-tax policies solve anything?

Yes - 33 percent



NO - 67 percent



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MULTIMEDIA: Curtis Fry is spending the time since his release preaching about the importance of personal choices.

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WEATHER

HIGH **77** LOW **52**

Mostly sunny, quite windy, turning cloudy, 30% chance of rain/T-storms.

Striving for redemption



Curtis Fry stands on his parents' property near Wilton, Iowa, on April 20. Fry was convicted of voluntary manslaughter after a night of drinking led to his killing of Iowa City resident Patrick McEwen in April 2009. Fry has been free since Jan. 18 after serving a shortened sentence. He now works in Iowa City and talks to youth groups about the importance of personal responsibility. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

BY SAM LANE

samuel-lane@uiowa.edu

His father's words haunt him, even today. "What're you doing? Things can happen when you drink," Jim Fry told his son on a blustery day in February 2008.

But the God-fearing, upstanding young man from Wilton, Iowa — who had never raised a fist to anyone — didn't take his dad's advice.

Instead, he spent the night of his 21st birthday like so many others before him, becoming completely inebriated at a number of downtown Iowa City bars. Two days later, he was arrested for the violent, heinous killing of an innocent elderly man.

Today, however, Curtis Fry is free.

Fewer than five years after Fry's 21st birthday celebration ended in the killing of 75-year-old Jerome "Patrick" McEwen, he is back in the real world. And he's spending his time preaching about the importance of personal choices.

"Because of one choice I made, a 75-year-old man, Patrick McEwen, lost his life," Curtis Fry said last month while standing in the spotlight at the First United Methodist Church in Marion. Wearing a blue plaid button-up with perfectly rolled sleeves, Fry spoke to around 80 high-schoolers, who hung on his every word and gave his speech a rousing applause.

For some, the attention Fry has received in his nearly-triumphal return to society is troubling.

Still, he insists he's trying to make good on a crime no one saw coming — and one he has no recollection committing.

The facts of Fry's case are chilling.

After a night of intense drinking in Iowa City, Fry broke into McEwen's Van Buren Street apartment and brutally beat him. The next day, neighbors found McEwen's frail, blood-soaked, lifeless body lying on the floor of his own bathroom.

A year later, Fry's highly publicized second-degree-murder trial brought several witnesses to the Johnson County Courthouse, including police investigators, alcohol experts, Fry's friends and acquaintances, and those close to McEwen. The proceedings and testimony captured the attention of a city in which officials have battled alcohol issues for more than a decade.

And in a controversial verdict, a 6th District judge ruled that Fry's heavy state of intoxication led him to believe he was in his own apartment in Wilton and killed McEwen, whom he thought was the intruder. Fry received the 10-year maximum sentence for voluntary manslaughter, which would later be trimmed because of prison overcrowding, good behavior, and time served. Following prison, Fry moved to a halfway house in Coralville and became a free man on Jan. 18.

So how did Fry — a soft-spoken, chiseled young man of deep faith — end up in McEwen's apartment that night?

He has no idea.

SEE **FRY**, 4A

Faculty tend to be liberal

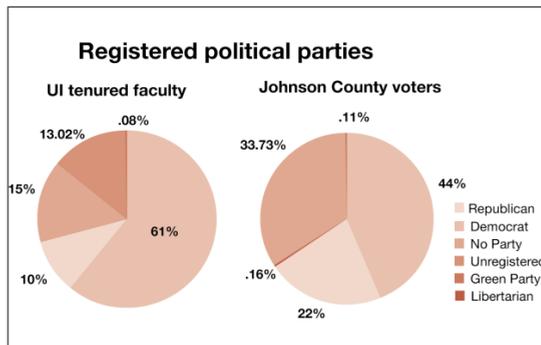
Sixty-one percent of tenured UI faculty identify as Democrats.

By KRISTEN EAST
kristen-east@uiowa.edu

Local and national experts say professors are typically more liberal because Democrats and Republicans holding a different set of values and job aspirations.

According to records obtained by *The Daily Iowan*, 61 percent of roughly 1,200 tenured faculty members at the University of Iowa identify as registered Democrats. Roughly 10 percent are registered Republicans.

A discrimination case involving a former dean of the University of Iowa College of Law has sparked



discussion about a potential liberal bias at the school.

Teresa Wagner has alleged law-school administrators denied her a faculty position in 2006 because of her conservative political views. A trial date is set for mid-October this year.

UI President Sally Mason defended the UI's hiring processes last month when Johnson County Republicans protested in support of Wagner's lawsuit.

"We adhere strictly to

federal law," Mason said. "We're careful to adhere to all the laws, all the guidelines. Political affiliation is not something we ask [during the hiring process.]"

One UI political expert said he doesn't understand the reasoning behind the percentage breakdown.

"It doesn't make sense," said Cary Covington, a UI associate professor of political science. "I don't know

SEE **BIAS**, 7A

Official: No sex abuse occurred

The verdict in the case will likely be delivered by jury today unless the judge acquits Freeman-Murdah.

By BETH BRATSOS
Bethany.Bratsos@gmail.com

The Broadway Neighborhood Center director charged Feb. 1 with failing to report sexual abuse testified during her trial at the Johnson County Courthouse Thursday that the alleged sexual abuse never occurred.

Susan Freeman-Murdah expressed numerous times throughout the trial her and her staff's utmost confidence that Colleen Varney, the teacher accused of sexual abuse, did not commit the act — nor did anyone else at the center.

"I thought [the mother] believed it," Freeman-Murdah said. "But I didn't think it happened."

Attorneys said a mother of a 3-year-old child

SEE **FREEMAN**, 7A



Tate eyes culinary training

The new class and the internship program will be implemented in the fall.

By **ASMAA ELKEURTI**
asmaa-elkeurti@uiowa.edu

Tate High students could soon have the option to gain culinary and other experiences as part of a new internship program pairing students with local businesses.

Iowa City School District officials are planning a vocational career class and developing partnerships with local restaurants and businesses as part of the ProStart program, a national course that instructs high-school students in skills as chefs, managers, and restaurant owners.

Joan Vandenberg, the district's youth and family-development coordinator, said the internship would be the first of its kind in the Iowa City schools.

"I think this is a brilliant idea. It brings real world experiences to the classroom," Vandenberg said. "I wish we had more like it in the district."

Owners of Basta, Atlas, and Jimmy Jack's Rib Shack restaurants have met with high-school officials to outline plans for the internship.

Jeffrey Adams, the general manager at Jimmy Jack's, said he believes the restaurant's atmosphere would work well with the program.

"I think that Jimmy

Internship plans

The Tate High ProStart class would require students to complete 400 hours worth of training at local restaurants. Students will learn:

- Management skills
- Culinary skills
- Customer relations
- Meal presentation

Source: Will Hollander, Tate High principal

Jack's is definitely a learning environment," Adams said. "That's what we strive for, that we take the time to teach all of our employees, and that's what we'd do with our interns."

While students would not earn any wages directly for their 400 hours of training at the restaurants, they would receive seven credit hours if they continue on and join Kirkwood's culinary program and also receive certification from the National Restaurant Association.

"The idea is to get the experience, and have the hands on and hopefully in the end, end up with the paying position," Tate High Principal Will Hollander said.

Currently, plans go beyond just culinary work.

"There's the management side of it, cooking, learning to interact, present, describe meals as a chef would — those are the



Sean Loren, one of the Jimmy Jack's managers, cleans the front counter on Sunday. The barbecue restaurant is implementing an internship program for high-school students. (The Daily Iowan/Melissa Wilson)

aspects that come to mind immediately," Hollander said. "The goal — besides training and educating kids — is to have that direct tie with industry and also that hands-on experience."

The program will use resources the school already has to minimize outside costs, the principal said.

"All we need to get are some additional materials to supply the Tate High School cooking space. A lot of what we're going to use is kitchen as it is," Hollander said. "It's small, but it is a commercial production kitchen."

Vandenberg said she felt the program would be a positive addition to the postgraduation and career placement programs the

Iowa City school district offers students.

"I really don't see a downside to this," she said. "I think it's an excellent idea, and I'm looking forward to seeing how it turns out."

Yet Hollander said officials still have a few kinks to work out before the class opens to students in the fall.

"It's a long ways from being implemented," he said. "It's still in the brainstorm stage. We have training for staff to do, we have equipment to purchase, and transportation issues to take care of."

And Hollander said he's optimistic.

"Knock on wood that we do get it kicked off on time," he said.

METRO

Man charged with theft, forgery

A local man was charged with allegedly stealing a car and its title.

Altan Jackson, 26, 1313 Marcy St., was charged Tuesday with second-degree theft and forgery.

According to an Iowa City police complaint, police officials were dispatched to 1100 Arthur St. after receiving a report of a motor vehicle theft.

The registered owner of the vehicle allegedly reported that Jackson took the keys to her vehicle as well as the title following an argument. According to the complaint, Jackson drove off in the victim's car and refused to return the vehicle, stating that the title of the car was his.

— by Jordyn Reiland

Council to vote on zoning laws

The Iowa City City Council will vote on the third and final consideration of two proposed rezoning amendments that have garnered a combined 100-plus petitions.

The first rezoning amendment would establish three as the maximum number of bedrooms allowed in a multifamily housing unit in multifamily zones.

The other would require at least one parking space per bedroom for multifamily housing units in the University Impact Area.

An ordinance requires three votes. Councilors will vote on the third consideration of each of these ordinances at its next meeting, May 15.

— by Kristen East

Council to consider diversity

The Iowa City City Council will consider a resolution at its next meeting regarding diversity issues in the community.

City Councilors Rick Dobyms and Jim Throgmorton met to draft the proposed resolution.

Throgmorton introduced a

similar resolution following the slaying of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, but some councilors had expressed some concerns about the council's role in making resolutions on national issues.

"[We must be] really cautious that about where we start and draw the line on making resolutions on national issues," Councilor Susan Mims said during the April 17 council meeting. "To me, as a council, what we need to focus on is what's going on in our own backyard. Racism is alive and well in this community."

The resolution regarding diversity issues will be introduced and voted on during the council's May 15 meeting.

— by Kristen East

Council to discuss Melrose Place

The Iowa City City Council will hold a public hearing regarding the conveyance and vacating of Melrose Place.

According to city documents, University of Iowa officials requested that city officials vacate and convey a portion of Melrose Place in order for the school to construct a 252-space parking lot.

City staff recommended the city convey the right-of-way to the UI. The conveyance is expected to have no cost.

The city councilors voted at their last meeting, May 1, to approve the first consideration of an ordinance requiring the city to vacate that portion of Melrose Place. Councilors will also vote on the second consideration of the ordinance.

Councilors will hold a public hearing and consider a resolution at the next meeting, May 15.

— by Kristen East

Student faces charges after cab fight

A University of Iowa student has been charged with allegedly damaging a taxi cab after an

altercation over the cost of a cab fare.

Christopher Ajluni, 23, 705 Streb St., was charged Tuesday with assault causing bodily injury and fourth-degree criminal mischief.

According to an Iowa City police complaint, police responded to reports of criminal mischief/assault on March 18. A cab driver told police officials the verbal argument they were having over the cost of a cab fare turned physical when Ajluni started kicking the side of the cab.

The driver allegedly took Ajluni down to avoid being assaulted, and the two fought.

According to the complaint, the driver received several abrasions, a swollen bloody lip, and an injury to his ribs. Ajluni allegedly admitted to being in a fight with the driver and stated several times his friends had to hold him back so he would not hurt the cab driver further.

Assault causing bodily injury is a serious misdemeanor.

Fourth-degree criminal mischief is a serious misdemeanor.

— by Jordyn Reiland

Woman charged with theft

A Coralville woman was charged with allegedly stealing two baskets worth of merchandise from Target worth more than \$2,000.

According to a Johnson County Sheriff's Office complaint, Larkito Porche, 27, was charged April 30 with second-degree theft.

Police were dispatched to Target after receiving a report of an alleged theft. According to the complaint, Porche and two others exited Target with two baskets of merchandise. Porche allegedly passed all points of sale while making no attempt to pay for the items.

According to the complaint, the total value of the items was \$2,074.80.

Second-degree theft is a Class-D felony.

— by Jordyn Reiland

Police seek public help in vehicle break-in

The Iowa City police seek public assistance in finding an alleged vehicle burglar.

According to a police press release, on March 7, a vehicle was broken into while parked in the Walmart parking lot, 919 Highway 1 W., and several items were allegedly stolen from the vehicle.

A man wearing a white shirt pictured in a surveillance photo on the police website may have knowledge about the vehicle burglary, the release said.

Iowa City Area CrimeStoppers is offering up a reward up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest.

— by Jordyn Reiland

Man faces numerous charges

A local man was charged with allegedly assaulting an officer while being intoxicated.

Leon Shivers, 41, 60 Regal Lane, was charged with assault on peace officers and others, third offense OWI, and driving while license denied or revoked.

According to an Iowa City police complaint, on Thursday, police observed Shivers driving westbound on Lakeside with a brake light that was not operating. Police officials pulled behind Shivers and he allegedly got out of his car, was ordered back into the vehicle, and attempted to get into a residence.

Shivers refused police official orders and began fighting with officers, the complaint said. Following the altercation, Shivers was Tasered and arrested.

Assault on peace officers and others is a serious misdemeanor. Third-offense OWI is a Class-D felony.

Driving while license suspended or revoked is a serious misdemeanor.

— by Jordyn Reiland

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BREAKING NEWS

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

CORRECTIONS

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

Copy Chief:
Beau Elliot 335-6063

Photo Editor:
Adam Wesley 335-5852

Design Editor:
Alicia Kramme 335-6063

TV News Director:
Jake Abrams 335-6063

Web Editor:
Tony Phan 335-5829

Business Manager:
Debra Plath 335-5786

Classified Ads/ Circulation Manager:
Juli Krause 335-5784

Advertising Manager:
Renee Manders 335-5193

Advertising Sales Staff:
Bev Mrstik 335-5792
Cathy Witt 335-5794

Production Manager:
Heidi Owen 335-5789

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Kyle Davis, 19, Chicago, was charged Wednesday with fifth-degree theft.

Devin Gale, 22, 201 Hawkrigde Drive No. 2105B, was charged Thursday with OWI.

Armando Garcia, 26, Muscatine, was charged Wednesday with obstruction of an officer.

Jennifer Garringer, 31, address unknown, was charged Dec. 16,

2011, with fifth-degree theft, fraudulent criminal acts, and identity theft.

Tobein Newson, 35, 2675 Heinz Road No. 4, was charged

Wednesday with driving while license suspended or canceled.

Brandon Rea, 23, 1004 E. Bloomington St. was charged Thursday with public intoxication.

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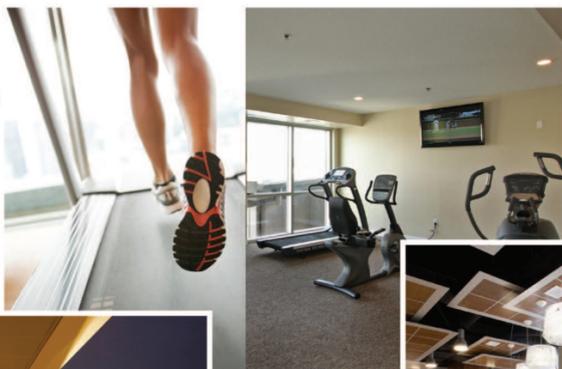
RESIDENTS' GUEST RENTAL SUITE

A studio suite for owners to rent for overnight guests is fully furnished and has a kitchenette. A second residents' rental suite is planned for the building.



RESIDENTS' GYM

An owners' exercise room on the fourth floor has aerobic and anaerobic exercise equipment.



PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AND BOX OFFICE

The Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, with comfortable seating for 480 people (300 on the main floor and 180 in the balcony), brings cultural events to the heart of the city and provides first-rate space for community-group performances. Its lobby is designed to be used for public and private events.



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Curtis Fry talks to a youth group at First United Methodist Church in Marion about his 2009 conviction for voluntary manslaughter and the importance of personal responsibility. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

FRY

CONTINUED FROM 1A

CHAPTER 1

Curtis John Fry has been involved in his share of confusing situations.

The now-25-year-old was born on Feb. 6, 1987, but somehow in the transfer of his birth certificate from the hospital to the state, his recorded date of birth became Feb. 7. On numerous occasions, Fry and his parents have attempted to correct his date of birth, but “for whatever reason,” he said, their efforts have been futile.

Until his fateful 21st birthday, the mix-up meant relatively little in Fry’s life — one typically filled with hunting, sports, and God.

Religion

Fry doesn’t like to use the term “religious” to describe his faith.

“Religious, to me, just seems like you just go through the traditions, and it’s definitely more than that,” he told *The Daily Iowan* in one of a number of in-depth interviews. “It’s about living your life for God, day in, day out. Not just going to church on Sunday and looking good.”

For Fry and his family, Christian beliefs drive all aspects of life — from the walls in Fry’s home, which are covered with crosses, to the Bible verses the young man rattles off from memory.

And it’s been this way for as long as Fry, who considers himself a non-denominational Christian, can remember.

After a stint working on a ranch for troubled boys in Missouri, Jim and Cathy Fry moved back to Iowa in 1992, when Curtis was 5. Within a year, the Frys opened the Miracles Can Happen Boys’ Ranch near Wilton, which houses 14- to 18-year-old boys with difficult home lives who require a more structured environment. The two adult Frys “felt God calling them back to their home area to start up a boys’ ranch,” they wrote on their website.

Growing up, the Fry family went to church each Sunday and Curtis attended youth group on Wednesdays. Among the family’s tributes to the Bible, the children were punished with 10 pushups each time they cussed.

Throughout the young man’s life — from his upbringing in Wilton to his time in prison — people, he claims, have expressed confusion about his faith, belittling his devotion to God or asking why he doesn’t swear. But Fry, with a cross dangling from his neck and a purity ring around his finger, said he doesn’t care what people think.

“Everyone’s entitled to their opinion.”

Wilton life

Fry’s childhood was seemingly idyllic — a far cry from his fateful night in Iowa

City.

Cathy Fry home-schooled Curtis until eighth grade. He dual-enrolled with the Wilton School District during that time, which allowed him to play football and baseball with the kids who became his closest friends.

Fry said those friendships made his eventual transition to public school easier, adding he’s a “self-learner,” which initially made academics a breeze, too.

Active from an early age, he enjoyed helping his father around the family’s property, which numbers around 50 acres. At the end of a narrow gravel driveway sits a large wooden cross. Cars, machinery, and sheds dot the landscape around Fry’s house, which faces a small, rippling, man-made pond.

It would be an understatement to say Fry basks in the seclusion of the area.

“I just love sittin’ in God’s creation,” he said in a silky country accent, gesturing to his wooded backyard, where he’s hunted nearly 30 deer.

High school came naturally for Fry, who accumulated a 3.45 GPA. In his favorite class, called “building trades,” Fry and others built two houses, one in Wilton and one in nearby Durant.

“I love starting with nothing, then finishing with something,” said Fry, who was also a server at a local restaurant and performed a variety of odd jobs throughout high school. “I love that sense of ownership, that sense of accomplishment.”

In addition to his work ethic, Fry maintains he was completely non-violent while growing up in Wilton, a fact that, in retrospect, might surprise some.

Fry remembers an instance when, after working on one of the houses for class, another student wiped his dirty boots on Fry’s pant leg. Fry said he flipped off the student’s hat, prompting him to pummel Fry with his fists. After absorbing the beating, Fry said to the bully, “Do you feel better now?”

The incident was the only one Fry could recall when asked if he’d ever gotten in trouble. But Fry said he was never punished because he never retaliated. And in a statement that’s now part of Fry’s court record, Cathy Fry recounted a number of other instances when her son was the victim of bullying or violence. Each time, she wrote, he did not retaliate. Jim Fry’s statement described his son with the words “loyal,” “gentleman,” “polite,” and “God-fearing.”

Others in Fry’s life agreed. Keith Nester, the 37-year-old youth pastor at First United Methodist Church in Marion, said Fry was a “model kid.”

“He’s a kid you want yours to be best friends with,” Nester said.

Kenneth Crawford, the principal at Wilton High, said Fry was “just like his parents — a high-quality individual.”

“He was a leader in the classroom ... He was the kid you went to with issues,” Crawford said. “He was not a kid you worried about one iota. You knew he going to be just fine.”

Sports

Throughout school, sports reigned supreme for Fry.

In a workout room in the basement of the boys’ ranch home, a shelf holds dozens of sparkling trophies and medals marking his athletic accomplishments.

He wrestled, but back problems led to an injury in seventh grade that made the sport more difficult. He also played golf and baseball, starting in right field for Wilton’s undefeated 2005 state-championship team.

But his favorite sport remains football.

He played quarterback, running back, and linebacker for the Beavers. He enjoyed quarterback the most, he said, because he liked being in control. Other coaches often told Fry he was the player they spent the most time trying to defend. During his senior year, when the team’s starting running back went down with an injury, Fry filled in, playing the rest of the season alongside his friend and future Hawkeye wrestler Chad Beatty.

Fry won all-district honors his junior and senior years and was named to the All-Eastern Iowa team.

His play at linebacker piqued the interest of coaches from around 20 area colleges, and he eventually decided to attend St. Ambrose College in Davenport.

The rock solid, 6-foot, 200-pound Fry played on the St. Ambrose football team for just one semester. Of 60 freshmen on the team, he was one of four to see the field. He spent most of his playing time on special teams and said his most memorable moment came on a kickoff, when he broke the wedge, did a half-bear crawl, and tackled the ball carrier at the 5-yard line.

Despite Fry’s love for the sport, class was a different story. He worked hard and got good grades, but he said he had no idea what he wanted to do academically.

The real world

Fry eventually decided he wasn’t getting anything out of his education and didn’t want to simply pay to play football.

So he left St. Ambrose in December 2005, and, in his first job after dropping out, began working in a warehouse at the HNI Corp. in Muscatine, loading furniture into trailers. The work was tedious and mundane.

“It wasn’t the worst job, but I like being a problem-solver,” he said. “I don’t like things that are repetitive. I like a variety.”

After nine months at HNI, Fry moved to Bryan, Texas, to live with his sister and worked at Still Creek Children’s home, a place that

sought single males to be father figures for younger boys.

“I was always drawn to the kid who doesn’t get treated right,” Fry said about his work with places like Still Creek and his parents’ ranch. “Seeing boys come in here, hearing about their family life — some kids don’t get a chance.”

In Texas, Fry worked as a farmhand and a relief parent, taking kids to school, making dinner each night, acting more like an older brother than a parent. He was only 19.

Three months later, when Fry learned his father was beginning a dairy operation on the ranch, he moved back to Wilton to help.

Then, in July 2007, Fry led a group of nine high-schoolers on a trip to Colorado through a group called Young Life, an eye-opening spiritual journey he calls the best week of his life.

But upon his return, Fry, then 20, said he “allowed Satan to get small footholds” in his life. He went to parties and was the designated driver. Later, he decided it wouldn’t hurt to have an occasional beer. It was a period, he said, in which he was around a big crowd without another strong Christian. Fry’s parents decided they taught their son everything they could and didn’t chastise or punish him when he told them he drank from time to time.

He later began working at Gerdau Ameristeel in Wilton. He was trying to save enough money to open a Christian recreation center in Wilton that would serve as a weekend alternative to farm parties.

Fry began renting his own apartment in January 2008, a month from his 21st birthday.

21

To celebrate the 21 milestone, Fry began making plans with his older brother.

They decided to take a road trip to Iowa City, where Fry would sleep in the bed of a friend at the University of Iowa who was headed home for the weekend. He said the decision to celebrate in Iowa City was virtually automatic, something he now believes is a problem.

“It’s crazy how that is the staple point of a 21-year-old — to go and get hammered drunk at a bunch of different bars and not remember the night,” he said. “Looking back now, it is kind of a sad thing to think that’s what people think of when you say, ‘21st birthday.’”

But beyond making sure no one in his group would drive back to Wilton that night, Fry didn’t have much of a plan. He knew he would hang out with his friends from high school before heading to the bars of downtown Iowa City.

“I thought I was taking precautions,” he said.

The night before the trip, a winter storm blasted the area, and Fry said the group had “lots of reasons not to go.”

But he said he had his decision “locked in his head.”



The entrance to the Frys’ “Miracles can Happen Boys Ranch” in Wilton, Iowa.

CHAPTER 2

Sourcing note: With the exception of quotes from Fry, Jeff Portman, and Lonny Pulkrabek, information in this chapter comes from a *Daily Iowan* analysis of court documents and *DI* stories from Fry’s trial. Most description of what Fry and his group did on Feb. 6 and 7, 2008, came from the case’s verdict, search warrants, and police complaints. Information and quotes from Ryan Theis and Kyle Gayman came from a combination of a *DI* story from his trial and the judge’s verdict. Some description of Patrick McEwen’s condition before the killing and all information about his condition after came from court documents.

The blizzard that pummeled eastern Iowa on Feb. 5 and 6, 2008, blanketed the streets and sidewalks of Iowa City in a way that would have kept even the most ardent of college-age partiers indoors.

But Curtis Fry was on a mission.

“I made a choice the night of my 21st,” he told the *DI*. “I was going to live like the world would want you to live.”

When Fry arrived at his friends’ house at 513 Bowery St. on Feb. 6, one of the roommates, Kyle Marks, was shoveling the driveway.

Fry and his high-school friends began playing beer pong quickly after his arrival. He had never played the game before, but he said he thinks he probably drained Ping-Pong balls with relative ease, thanks to his athletic talent and hand-eye coordination. He downed numerous beers.

An hour or two later, the group made its way through the snow to the Vine Tavern & Eatery, 330 E. Prentiss St., where Fry ate the restaurant’s award-winning wings and drank more beer. He said he remembers taking around seven birthday shots back-to-back.

“I was feeling fine, I guess; then, so, I don’t know,” he said, trailing off. He reached a level of intoxication he had never experienced but said he didn’t really think about it and wasn’t concerned.

After the Vine, Fry went to Brothers Bar & Grill, 125 S. Dubuque St. The group walked into the bar, where a doorman questioned Fry’s ID, which said he wasn’t quite 21. Fry pleaded, saying it was less than an hour until his birthday. The doorman let him through.

“I remember going in and seeing the inside of [Brothers] and, after that, I don’t remember being in there, doing anything, talking to anyone, drinking anything,” he said. “Right there is kind of the last thing I remember.”

But Fry did drink at Brothers. And after roughly an hour, he went to Bo-James, 118 E. Washington St., where he had another beer. The group went to the now-defunct bar One-Eyed Jakes, 18-20 S. Clinton St., shortly before midnight on Feb. 7.

Approximately an hour after an intoxicated Fry arrived, he was asked to leave the bar because he was on the brink of vomiting. Despite Fry’s drunkenness, Ryan Theis, a Jakes employee, said he was “100 percent cooperative.”

But when Fry tried to re-enter Jakes, the doorman at the time, Kyle Gayman, stopped him. Fry’s level of intoxication was an 8 or a 9 on a 10-point scale, Gayman said.

Fry became aggressive, calling the situation “bulls****” and pointing to

DAILYIOWAN.COM

Go online to see a multimedia piece about Fry’s life.



his arm muscles. At that point, Fry’s brother and friends pulled him out of Jakes and the group went back to Brothers, where Fry’s binge continued.

Fry stumbled out of Brothers, one arm around his brother and the other draped over the shoulders of his friend, Kevin Anson. At the intersection of Burlington and Gilbert Streets, Fry let go of his human crutches and staggered off into the cold Iowa City night, leaving his brother and friends chasing him through the snow before they stopped, thinking they’d meet him back at the house.

Blacked out

The group returned to the Bowery Street house, expecting to find a heavily intoxicated, newly minted 21-year-old waiting for them.

But he wasn’t.

Fry’s companions roamed the streets of Iowa City. They walked up and down the snow-covered roads near the house.

Anson tried to call Fry on his cell phone several times, but he only answered once, making shivering noises.

Fry had stumbled to 513 S. Van Buren St., an apartment building roughly one block north of his friends’ house. Fry recognized the “513” on the outside of the building because it was the same number on his friends’ Bowery Street house. He staggered through a hallway, fell down, and pounded on doors.

Eventually, he maneuvered down a half flight of stairs and turned right, as he would in his own apartment building in Wilton.

Without a key to the apartment he thought was his own, he kicked open the door of unit No. 1, at once leaving a shoe mark, hurting his foot, and bursting the deadbolt.

Fry made his way back to the bedroom, where he set his wallet on the nightstand and undressed before going to bed.

Pat

Jerome “Patrick” McEwen converted to Judaism based, like many other things in his life, on something he read.

McEwen — who had one half-sister with whom he had limited contact — was an avid reader and decided to give Judaism a chance around age 50.

Jeff Portman, the rabbi at Agudas Achim, the Iowa City synagogue McEwen attended, performed McEwen’s conversion and described the man whom he knew for nearly 25 years as “a little different.”

McEwen, an Iowa native with a thick, white, scraggly beard was frail and hampered by physical and psychological issues. He wore a back brace and thanks to a cane, he had limited mobility, but suffered from Parkinson-type symptoms, a schizophrenic-type personality disorder, asthma, and high blood pressure. He also experienced anxiety and depres-



Iowa. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

sion.

"He was a frightened individual," Portman said. "The synagogue was his oasis."

Portman said he was never concerned about McEwen's living situation, noting his neighbors were all very friendly and supportive. They knew about his health problems and "watched over him."

McEwen loved science-fiction movies and, if the rabbi would let him, McEwen would "talk my head off about some movie," Portman said.

Portman said McEwen also said he didn't know what he would do if he didn't have the synagogue.

But as much as McEwen needed Agudas Achim, the synagogue needed him. He gave every Bar and Bat Mitzvah child a simple drawing he made on the computer — sometimes of a landscape, a pasture, or the sky. And McEwen always was present to make sure the synagogue had enough people to conduct a service.

McEwen wasn't necessarily the most religious member of Agudas Achim, but he was one of the most dependable.

'A horrific death'

Curtis Fry didn't expect to find anyone in the bedroom he apparently thought was his own.

He especially didn't expect to find 75-year-old Pat McEwen.

But a dangerous mix of confusion and alcohol lead to a minutes-long period in which "one man's life was tragically taken and another man's life was irrevocably altered," 6th Judicial District Judge Mitchell Turner later wrote.

Fry grabbed McEwen by the neck with one hand and punched him several times in the face.

McEwen didn't die immediately. He suffered two fractured cheek bones, cuts on both sides of a broken nose, lacerations in his mouth, and one broken rib. The amount of force applied to McEwen's neck caused both thyroid horns in his voice box to shatter. Eventually, McEwen did die — from a combination of blunt force trauma to the face, head and neck.

"He must have been frightened out of his mind," Portman said. "It must have been a horrific death."

Johnson County prosecutor Janet Lyness shudders when she thinks about the killing.

"He was badly beaten," she said. "There were so many blows to the head. It's not a one-punch deal. It was a bad assault, and he was left to die ... it had to have been terrifying."

Turner's ruling said a blood stain in the snow outside the building proved McEwen left his apartment with the use of his cane, perhaps trying to see which direction his assailant had gone. Fry, meanwhile, had received a call from friend Simon Maurer, during which he told his friend he thought he'd been in a fight with a kid and was freaked out because the person was "gurgling." Testimony also indicated Fry mentioned he thought the person may be dying.

Roughly half an hour later, Fry made his way down Van Buren Street wearing two coats that didn't belong to him. He wore one regularly and the other was wrapped around his legs as pants. When Fry's friends saw him, they called to him, eventually getting him to pass out in the bed where he planned to sleep. He had a cut under his left eye, a mark near his left wrist, a small nick above his ear, and a bruise on the right side of his forehead.

The next morning, Fry joked with his friends about his lack of recollection of the previous night. They shared a laugh after informing Fry he reunited with the group wearing the two different coats.

"I don't remember anything until that next morning waking up, and they're just telling me all that stuff — I had no idea," Fry said. "I'd lost my wallet; I was disappointed about that. I don't know. I had no idea what to think."

After grabbing a change of clothes from his truck, Fry started on the half-hour ride back to Wilton.

'A bomb went off'

Fry awoke on the morning of Feb. 8, 2008, to a thumping on the door of his Wilton apartment.

He opened the door to find a 6-8 Iowa State Patrol officer standing in his doorway.

Following some innocent questioning, the officer asked Fry to accompany him to the Iowa City police station. Confused, he complied.

"I had no reason to be worried," Fry said. "I had no idea what to expect."

An hour and a half after he arrived at the Iowa City police station, officers told Fry they found his clothes and wallet in a man's apartment, and the man was dead in the bathroom.

"For me, it was like a bomb went off inside me," Fry said, his voice shaking slightly. "My whole world was shaken up, and I didn't know what to think, what to feel ... How could I have done this? This isn't in me. I walk away from fights. No. What's going on?"

Immediately, Fry, who had zero memory of the ordeal, did what he was accustomed to: He turned to God and prayed.

Trial

Curtis Fry was charged with second-degree murder within two hours of arriving in Iowa City. He was taken to the Johnson County Jail, where he spent roughly a year before his trial.

"It was an eye-opener, big time," he said. "My vision was: I'm going to be around all these hardened criminals that want to beat me up for everything I say. I was just so worried about that, but then you get in there, and you start talking to guys, and they're people just like we are ... The thing that got to me the most was how much they almost didn't have a chance, a lot of the guys because of the environment they grew up in."

And Fry said some of his time was spent thinking about Patrick McEwen.

"I guess it was just wondering just how it all came about. All the different correlations in the numbers, and the apartment number, and all that and I just wondered why it was his apartment," Fry said. "I didn't know him at all — just what people at the depositions had said, and it seemed like he was a very nice man. I was just extremely sorry for what happened. I had no idea what happened, but I knew I was there."

In jail, Fry read Christian suspense novels, played cards, and even started drawing. He exercised in spurts — he'd do pushups, pull-ups — "at least do something to use my muscles." He also ministered to other inmates.

Fry recalls an instance where an inmate took another smaller inmate's dessert

at every meal. The night Fry received word about the bullying, he decided he'd give the larger inmate every one of his meals. For breakfast, Fry got his tray, walked to the guy who'd been taking the dessert, and handed him his meal. At lunch, Fry got his tray again, handed it to the man, and said, "Here, I don't need it."

At supper, the bully stopped Fry from setting down his tray.

"He goes, 'Hold on, no — I know why you're doing this. I don't want it.' Fry recalled. "So I said, 'Well, then, you go give it to the guy whose food you've been taking.' And he did. So that was kind of the end of that. Just seeing the guys who think they're better than other people and watching them tear down other people — that was the hardest part on me."

Fry said he felt like God gave him a personality that allows people to get along with him easily.

"[In jail, I just acted like myself and didn't try to be someone else, and I got along with everyone," he said. "There were very few people that I had a confrontation with."

Johnson County Sheriff Lonny Pulkrabek said he never had direct contact with Fry while he was in jail, but he said jail officials never had a problem with him.

"What he's saying is what staff said also. They didn't hear much out of him. He went about his business; he did what he had to do," Pulkrabek said. "If there's such a thing as a model inmate, he'd be in that category. He made the best of that situation, from what I recall."

Leading up to the trial, Fry and his lawyers — local public defenders Peter Persaud and Quint Meyerdirk — decided to waive his rights to a jury and let a judge decide his fate. A judge, Fry said, knew the law better than a person on a jury.

"The truth would come out," Fry said about his thoughts in the days before the trial. "I felt that, obviously, I was there. I don't know what happened or how it came about, but I felt like if my body did something even though I may not know what it was, that I should serve consequences ... I was willing to accept the punishment that they gave me."

For five days, Fry stared straight forward as he heard friends testify about his character and the events of Feb. 6 and 7, 2008. He listened to McEwen's friends, alcohol experts, police detectives, coroners, and his lawyers, who used Fry's heavy state of intoxication to argue he thought he was in his own home and McEwen was the intruder.

Fry said he cried during the trial and the hardest parts were when McEwen's friends and people from the synagogue spoke about what kind of person he was.

"I was nervous, but I don't know about worried, really," Fry said. "I knew that whatever happened, I was going to be OK. I just kept that positive attitude through the whole thing."



Curtis Fry surveys his sports awards at his family's home on April 20. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

A little less than a month after the end of Fry's trial, the judge issued his ruling, convicting the then-22-year-old of voluntary manslaughter, a charge to which Fry's attorneys tried to negotiate "from the beginning." The charge held a 10-year maximum sentence, 40 years less than the maximum sentence for second-degree murder.

"I didn't [think I would receive a 50-year sentence] just because I knew that I didn't intend anything, so there's no reason it could be 50 years," Fry said. "I don't know — maybe that was something that helped me get through it, continually not even thinking about it. I didn't really dwell on it a whole lot, I guess."

While there was subdued happiness from Fry and his supporters after the verdict — and the issuance of the sentence — McEwen's friends and the prosecution blasted the ruling.

"I'll try to put this in words that are printable. The ruling was a shock to everyone," Lindsay Eaves-Johnson, a friend of McEwen's from the synagogue, told *The Daily Iowan* following the sentencing, noting that she wouldn't vote for the judge's retention.

Portman also said he "disagreed totally with the judge's conclusion," calling the assertion that McEwen left his apartment in pursuit of Fry before crumbling on the floor of his own bathroom to die "ludicrous."

"He couldn't have staggered outside," Portman said. "[The judge] tried to make the facts fit the ruling."

But after the ruling, Turner was defiant.

"I do not apologize for my decision," he said, according to *The Daily Iowan*. "You have a right to believe if the system functioned properly or if it has gone awry."

As for Fry, the response to critics is familiar.

"Everyone is entitled to their opinion."

CHAPTER 3

As surprised as Keith Nester was when he heard Curtis Fry killed Patrick McEwen, the Marion youth pastor said he was equally proud when he heard Fry was speaking to groups about the importance of personal choices.

"Would you do what he's doing or would you run and hide?" Nester asked the youth group at First United Methodist Church before Fry took the stage. "Listen for the voice of Jesus. You're going to hear about someone who refused to stop listening



Curtis Fry is escorted to his trial in 2008. Fry was charged with second-degree murder but was convicted of the lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter. (The Daily Iowan/File Photo)

to Jesus."

Then Fry told his story.

"How many of you guys have made a bad choice?" Fry began, eliciting a rush of hands into the air.

For the next hour, he carefully wove a narrative about his decision to make a trip to Iowa City for his 21st birthday. He described what he remembered of the night — the beer pong, the wings and drinks at the Vine, walking to Brothers — before recounting his interaction with state police in the doorway of his Wilton apartment. An eerie silence fell upon the room when Fry said he was charged with second-degree murder for killing an elderly man on the night of his 21st birthday.

"So you guys see how big of an impact one choice can make?" he concluded.

'It's not me'

After his sentencing, Fry returned to the Johnson County Jail for five weeks. Then, he spent 47 days at the Iowa Medical & Classification Center, in Oakdale, before being sent to the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility, where he spent year and three months, the longest period he stayed at one location during his sentence. Finally, he spent a year in the North Central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City.

Fry was denied parole in April 2011, but he was granted work release that August and moved to the halfway house, where he spent the remainder of his prison sentence, just under five months.

During that time, Fry landed a job with a piping group that installs steam lines for the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

On Jan. 18, Fry became a free man. He returned to Wilton to live with his parents and remains on parole until August. Now, he commutes to Iowa City four days a week to work and pray. After his release, Fry began dating an old friend who sent him letters of encouragement when he was in prison. He helps his parents on the boys' ranch, and he has spoken to more than a dozen groups about his experiences.

Fry's hope is to eventually give up his job with the piping company and become a full-time speaker. For now, he's requesting groups pay for his travel expenses and reimburse him if he misses any time from work. Additionally, some groups who listen to his speech collect a small amount of money from

audience members. The speeches — even the one he gave not so many blocks from the site of the killing earlier this year at the Englert Theater, 221 E. Washington St. — aren't difficult, Fry said.

"I guess I don't think into things too much," he said. "I'm not a deep thinker."

So are Fry's actions enough?

Rabbi Portman, McEwen's personal contact, said no matter what Fry does, "he can't erase the fact he killed someone" and "it wasn't an accident."

When asked if he would be open to allowing Fry to speak to a youth group at the synagogue, Portman was firm.

"I don't want him anywhere near here," he said, adding, "I don't ever want to see him again."

And when prosecutor Lyness heard of Fry's release and saw coverage of his speeches, she said she was concerned Fry would be made to look like a "hero."

"I wish they would talk more about Mr. McEwen," she said. "It's very good he's talking, giving words, saying, 'Don't let this happen to you.' That's a positive message. But I think focusing on Curtis Fry instead of Mr. McEwen is disconcerting. If you ignore what he did, you're not getting the full picture. I feel bad there was nothing in [the coverage of Fry's release and speeches] that says a man was beaten in his own home."

Still, Curtis Fry, who said he won't drink ever again, believes his story is an important one.

"I know there's going to be critics out there of everything that we do," Fry said softly, adding, "I know that, in my heart, I would never intentionally do that to someone. It's not me."

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 6, 1987
Curtis Fry is born

1992

Fry family moves back to Wilton to eventually open boys ranch

2000

Fry enrolls in the Wilton School District

FALL 2005

Fry enrolls at St. Ambrose College and plays special teams on the football team

DECEMBER 2005

Fry drops out of St. Ambrose and begins working at HNI Corporation in Muscatine

SEPTEMBER 2006

Fry moves to Texas to work at the Still Creek Children's home

DECEMBER 2006

Fry moves back to Wilton to work on his father's dairy operation

JULY 2007

Fry leads Young Life trip to Colorado

FRY'S BIRTHDAY

• Around 6 p.m., Feb. 6, 2008 — Curtis Fry arrives at 513 Bowersy St. in Iowa City with his brother and sister-in-law and begins playing beer pong

• Around 7 p.m. — Fry and the rest of the group heads to The Vine where he ate, drank beer and took shots

• Around 11:00 p.m. — Fry begs the doorman at Brothers Bar & Grill to let him in even though he was not yet 21

• Around midnight Feb. 7, 2008 — The group went to Bo-James bar where Fry had another beer before going to One-Eyed Jakes

• Around 12:26 a.m. — Fry is asked to leave Jakes, but attempts to re-enter the bar

• Around 1:30 a.m. — After drinking more at Brothers, Fry leaves the bars with one arm around his brother and another around his friend before running away from the group

• Around 2 a.m. — Fry breaks into Patrick McEwen's Van Buren Street apartment and beats him

• Around 2:30 a.m. — Fry's friend sees him coming down Van Buren Street with two coats wrapped around his body; search for Fry is called off

FEB. 8, 2008

Police officer knocks on the door of Fry's Wilton apartment and asks him to come to Iowa City, where he's charged with second-degree murder

MARCH 2009

Fry stands trial

APRIL 2009

Fry convicted of voluntary manslaughter

MAY 2009

Fry receives 10-year maximum sentence

JUNE 2009

Fry transferred to Iowa Medical & Classification Center

JULY 2009

Fry transferred to Fort Dodge Correctional Facility

SEPTEMBER 2010

Fry transferred to North Central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City, Iowa

APRIL 2011

Fry denied parole

AUGUST 2011

Fry granted parole

SEPTEMBER 2011

Fry moves to Hope House in Coralville

JANUARY 18, 2012

Fry becomes a free man

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Column

Writing is far from dead

SAMUEL CLEARY
samuel-cleary@uiowa.edu

I'm one of those people who gets irritated by poor writing. I get annoyed when someone writes "to" instead of "too" or when a friend ends a sentence with a preposition. Call me old-fashioned.

In a casual conversation earlier this week, I was shocked to hear my roommate tell me that "writing is dead."

Yes, it stung a bit — I'm a writing major. But it wasn't the comment that bothered me: It was the explanation. Apparently, spell-check means that learning how to write is unimportant, twitter-speak means that we don't need to use full sentences, and that, well, everything's about math and science nowadays.

Such logic astounds me: Writing is not an art as much as it is a language in and of itself — a code, so to speak. Good writing is good thinking. How well we write determines how well we can articulate our thought processes, our ingenuity, our scientific discoveries.

I'm going to explain why writing is important. For one, it's a gate-keeping skill and a practical one. With an ever-increasing number of kids entering the professional world, correspondence with potential employers occurs primarily at an electronic level. Email, social networking, and résumé presentation epitomizes nearly all preliminary interactions



Freshman Haley Mueksch (left) and Mary O'Connor sprawl out on the Pentacrest lawn to study on April 1. (The Daily Iowan/Chastity Dillard)

between employer and applicant. Often, it's that first email that gets your foot in the door. Those who fail to write well will also fail to enter the job market at the level for which they've been formally educated. And those who have well-developed communicative abilities? They'll not only enter the work world successfully, they'll excel.

I won't delve into the cultural importance of writing — let's be honest, no one seems to care. What people seem to be concerned with is marketability: What skills are important to master in order to be professionally equipped for the work world? Writing, my friends, is at the top of the list. But don't take my word for it.

According to a College Board report conducted by the National Commission on Writing, writing is, more or less, a ticket into the work world. In a survey of 64 major American companies, the study found

that businesses consider writing a threshold skill for both employment and promotion.

According to the findings, people who fail to write well and communicate clearly are not only seldom hired, they also fail to be considered for promotion.

Eloquence, my friends, is everything.

In an age in which face time is a dying art and impressions are often made via technological means of communication, writing is how you present yourself. Each time you correspond through writing, you're painting a picture of who you are: And if you can't master the simple brush strokes, you're a lost cause.

Another surprising — and daunting — statistic: More than 80 percent of the companies surveyed by the National Commission on Writing assess writing during the hiring process. One executive even contended

that applicants who present poorly written cover letters are seldom considered for employment.

How people present themselves on paper means the difference between a tailored, Armani get-up and a neon jumpsuit in the eyes of the employer.

Writing is thinking on paper. Failure to master its basic components can be interpreted as a basic inability to think critically. And what kind of employer is actively seeking a young, college grad with little to no critical thinking skills? Check Craigslist.

We attend a school that has a national reputation for its outstanding writing programs. So take a few classes. Rhetoric's not enough: Trust me, I took it. Yes, it's a joke. Whether you're a physics genius or a math wiz, a doctor or a geologist, you'll still have to explain yourself one day.

Your turn. Do you think writing is dead? Weigh in at dailyiowan.com.

Column

We need better government

DANIEL TAIBLESON
daniel-taibleson@uiowa.edu

It is perfectly fine for ideology to play a role in the debate over what government sets out to do, but once that debate ends and it comes time to make policy, data should pave the way forward.

I have spent much of the space I have been afforded — for which I am very grateful — over the past few months pushing against the often penny-wise, pound-foolish nature of using tax cuts to solve every single economic problem our country faces. The reason I have so persistently pushed against the idea of tax cuts as a panacea stems from the fact I am a proponent of policies that make government more efficient and effective.

There are two reasons I fixate so narrowly on the ideas of efficiency and effectiveness rather than paying any credence to how "big" or "small" a policy is liable to make government.

First, the concepts of "big government" and "small government" have little, if anything, to do with making government better. Second, unlike "big government" and "small government" (which are highly subjective terms), we can actually reliably quantify whether a policy is likely to make government more efficient or effective.

I admit determining what policies will actually make government more effective and efficient is daunting. It requires studying history and understanding what is politically feasible. More importantly, it requires undertaking the often slow and frustrating process of weighing the respective costs and benefits of a multitude of policies against one another.

Up to this point, I have spent most of my time discussing policies that are ineffective and inefficient. In fact, my entire column Thursday was intended to put a bow on my campaign against imprudent anti-tax economic theories and policies.

However, I feel that I have failed to do enough to discuss alternatives. That said, here we go.

Right now, all of the Bush tax cuts are still on the books. They are slated to phase out soon, but Republicans will likely fight tooth and nail to extend them because they warn that tax increases will dampen economic growth.

No doubt this is true. The tax cuts were not accompanied by spending cuts, putting them squarely in the realm

of classic Keynesian expansionary economic policy. As far as expansionary policy goes however, the tax cuts (38 percent of which benefited the top 1 percent of income earners) are notably inefficient.

In their first 10 years, the tax cuts cost around \$250 billion a year. According to Mark Zandy's testimony before Congress, every dollar we spent on these tax cuts increased GDP by around \$0.31. This means the tax cuts provide us a \$75.5 billion economic boost each year.

That established, here are three ways we can make government either more effective or more efficient by simply redirecting money from one expansionary policy to another.

According to the Congressional Budget Office's analysis, infrastructure spending increases GDP by \$0.5 to \$1.2 per dollar in budgetary cost. This means that in the worst-case scenario, we could reduce the debt by \$95 billion a year without depressing GDP by letting the tax cuts end and reinvesting some of those dollars in infrastructure spending.

That same CBO analysis also found that aid to states to prevent layoffs and service cuts increases GDP by \$0.4 to \$1.1 per dollar in budgetary cost. In the worst-case scenario, we could expect U.S. GDP to grow by an additional \$25 billion by turning all of the tax cuts into aid to states. This also has the added benefit of preventing states from laying off teachers, police officers, and other first responders.

Back to Zandy's Congressional testimony; he found that each additional budgetary dollar spent on food stamps increases GDP by about \$1.73. That means if we shifted less than one-fifth of all the tax cuts to additional food aid for the poor, we could decrease the annual debt by \$200 billion and U.S. GDP growth would remain about the same.

None of what I just said concerns bigness, smallness, fairness, or morality. These are just numbers, and they speak for themselves.

There is considerable room for ideologically founded debates over what government should and should not do. But once that ideological battle has been waged and it comes time to construct policy, data should dictate the path going forward.

Whether it is alleviating poverty, stimulating economic growth, or improving education, the policies that most directly and efficiently achieve those things should be given preference over all others. ■

Letter

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Gay people ruin lives

Gay people are ruining my life. For the longest time, I dreamt of a career, a wife, and a nuclear family, but I can't find fulfillment in doing any of those things unless I can do them while actively discriminating against a minority group. I don't even understand why gay people have to get in on marriage. Like, honestly, if gay people get married, it just won't be cool anymore. If everyone can do it, it's going to be so over.

To give an example, I was totally the first person to like Animal Collective. I knew about it before it was cool and I listened to it religiously, reveling in the satisfaction I got from being part of an exclusive group. But then everyone jumped on the boat, and it totally sank, man.

Marriage is no different. I don't want to get married if everyone can do it. That's just boring. I really don't under-

stand why gay people are being so insensitive to my needs. Can't they see what they're doing? God himself made marriage exclusive, which makes it the coolest exclusive club in the universe. If gay people invade the sanctity of that decree, getting married is going to be like listening to Animal Collective. It's going to be so over.

Recently, I was relieved to see North Carolina protecting the sanctity of marriage and striking down civil unions. Because honestly, gay people, civil unions just make you look like posers. Perhaps, if gay people are lucky, God will reconsider his definition and expand the club. I would be OK with that. But last time I talked to God, he said his position was still "evolving."

Brian Healy
UI student

Slinging mud at Slockett

Iowans prefer clean campaigns, and it is unfortunate

that negative-attack politics has appeared in an extreme form in Johnson County. The May 10 letter to the editor opposing Tom Slockett's re-election bid as Johnson County auditor contains innuendo, half-truths, and outright lies. Contrary to the writer's claims, Slockett has never harmed anyone. Nor did he "repeatedly harass" his employees. On the contrary, when he realized that some members of his staff felt pressured to sign his nomination papers, he acknowledged his mistake and apologized to the staff. He later repeated that apology in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* and promised to take steps to repair morale in the office, steps he has begun.

In the midst of all the campaign mud-slinging, it is important for Johnson County voters to understand what is at stake. There is a nationwide campaign underway to roll back voting rights, including the rights of students and minorities. Slockett leads the nation in

extending the right to vote to all citizens by making voting accessible. This could not have been done if he were not an efficient, competent manager of his office. His well-documented success in increasing voter turnout in Johnson County, one of the most transient counties in Iowa, is one of the things that should make us all proud to live in Iowa.

Supporters of Slockett's opponent, Travis Weipert, are running a negative campaign because they can make few positive arguments for their candidate, who lacks any experience running elections. They suggest that he probably wouldn't interfere with the fine work on elections performed by the skilled staff that Slockett has hired. That hardly seems sufficient cause for Johnson County voters to reverse their longstanding bipartisan support for an outstanding public servant, Tom Slockett.

Jeffery Cox
Iowa City resident

FREEMAN

CONTINUED FROM 1A

in the center's Headstart Program first went to teacher Michael Crowley in December 2011 with concerns her daughter had been sexually abused by Varney. The mother first came to staff with her concerns after her child sat on her lap and "kissed her passionately." When the mother asked the child where she learned to kiss like that, the child repeatedly answered "Colleen" — in reference to Varney.

Crowley then informed Freeman-Murdah. Freeman-Murdah, as a mandatory reporter in her position, is required to report

allegations of sexual abuse to the Department of Human Services within 24 hours.

But Assistant County Attorney Meredith Rich-Chappell said during the trial that Freeman-Murdah's speculations about what did or did not happen should not override what the child's mother reported her daughter had said.

"So you were not able to take on face value what a mother had said that her daughter reported?" the attorney asked Freeman-Murdah.

Rich-Chappell then asked Freeman-Murdah if she was required to take any specialized training as to whether child abuse has or hasn't occurred, and Freeman-Murdah — other than mandatory reporter training — said she had

not. The mother was revealed earlier in the trial to have experienced sexual abuse herself as a child. Freeman-Murdah's attorney Leon Spies discussed a prior statement Freeman-Murdah made that this fact may have partially triggered the feelings and reactions the mother had toward her daughter's reports.

"We find working with women [who have been sexually abused] that things will trigger," Freeman-Murdah said. "That it leads to some immediate conclusions that other people might not make based on her experience."

Brian Loring, the executive director of the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County, testified that although staff members

are required to report allegations of sexual abuse to Human Services and not rely on personal investigations to determine if abuse occurred, he and other Neighborhood Center staff were under the impression the issue was resolved after Freeman-Murdah met with Varney in mid-December.

"We wouldn't hesitate if we believed there was abuse to report," he said.

When Spies asked Loring if he believed Freeman-Murdah deviated from any responsibilities over the course of the matter, Loring said, "I do not believe so."

The jury also heard testimony from Sarah Swisher, an AmeriCorps member who works at the Broadway Center, Valerie Kemp, a probation officer whose

office is located in the center, and Rod Sullivan, a Johnson County supervisor. All three spoke to Freeman-Murdah's character in a positive way. But Rich-Chappell said in cross-examinations that none of them had firsthand knowledge of the specific case at hand.

After the jury of seven was dismissed, Spies said the state did not prove Freeman-Murdah guilty beyond a reasonable doubt and asked 6th District Judge Stephen Gerard to acquit her.

The jury is expected today to hear closing statements from both attorneys and begin deliberations.

If convicted, Freeman-Murdah would be the first person in Johnson County to possibly serve time for failing mandatory-reporter duties.

Broadway Neighborhood Center trial

Attorneys argue:

- Leon Spies, defense: No evidence was given that Freeman-Murdah had some other belief besides the "abuse did not occur." The reasonable-person assessment in based on Freeman-Murdah in her own shoes.
- Meredith Rich-Chappell, prosecution: Giving meaning to the words "reasonable" or "reasonable belief" make the statute virtually impossible to violate. There is evidence that a reasonable, cautious person would have made the conclusion there was possible child abuse and it needed to be reported to Human Services for further investigation.

Source: Johnson County Courtroom dialogue

BIAS

CONTINUED FROM 1A

why conservatives wouldn't want to be just as equally as involved in educational pursuits. I would expect conservatives to be just as interested in higher education and helping college students as liberals and independents are."

Covington said people typically assume most professors — at the UI and nationwide — identify either as liberal or Democrat. But, he said, that isn't always the situation.

"I do think that universities are places for reflection and self-correction and, in the interest of diversity, I think that universities should make sure that they represent the full spectrum of viewpoints as well as demographics," he said.

A 2010 study reported 43 percent of professors nationwide as being liberal. Neil Gross and Ethan

Fosse — who conducted the study — concluded that rather than asking why so many professors are liberal, the better question to ask is why more conservatives are not choosing the higher-education career path.

"On the whole, our research shows that there isn't a systematic discrimination among conservatives ... they just tend to not go into higher education," Fosse, a Ph.D. candidate in sociology at Harvard University, told *The Daily Iowan*. "Conservatives, I think, should be looking inward and thinking, Why is it that young conservatives want to go into the private sector instead of the public sector?"

UI political-science Associate Professor Tim Hagle also noted conservatives are more likely to go into the private sector while liberals remain in academia.

"Conservatives and Republicans that are perhaps more entrepreneurial, more business-oriented are

more interested in going out and creating jobs and businesses," he said. "The academic environment doesn't appeal to them as much."

Hagle said the percentage of Republicans at the UI isn't that surprising.

"Ten percent doesn't seem that bad," he said. "Someone outside may think that's pretty low, but it depends on what the comparison is."

Hagle said different departments within the university lend themselves to an overwhelming majority of Democratic professors. Business and medicine colleges, he said, typically have more Republicans than others do.

Fosse said it's important not to generalize higher education trends at all, though there isn't much research on this topic.

"There's no systematic bias across higher education in terms of hiring, the recruitment of professors, [or] students," he said.

NO FINALS, NO WORRIES



UI alumnus Justin Sukup plays Frisbee with UI senior Adam Freese near the Pentacrest on Thursday. (The Daily Iowan/Jessica Payne)

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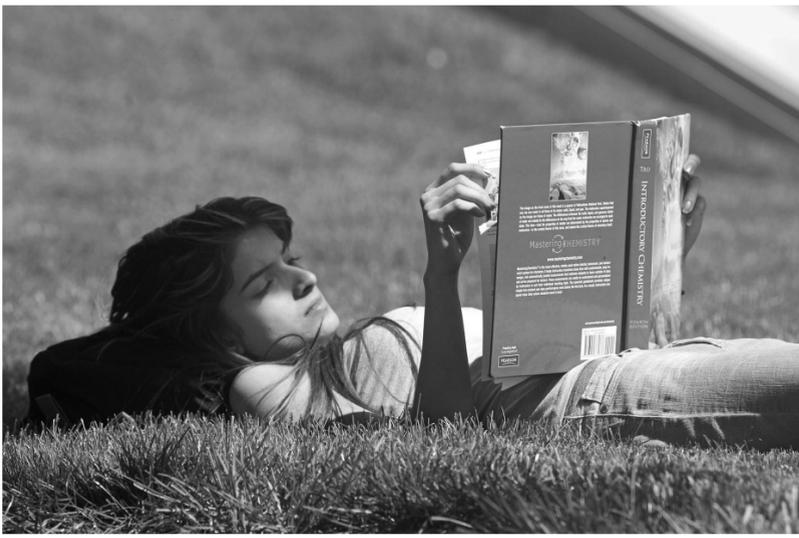
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WORKIN' HARD OR HARDLY WORKIN'?



UI freshman Riju Ghimire, a biology/pre-med student, studies for a chemistry exam on the Pentacrest on Thursday. (The Daily Iowan/Jessica Payne)

Officials: No effect from 'Don't Ask'

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Military leaders have concluded that last year's repeal of the ban on gays serving openly in uniform has not affected morale or readiness so far, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Thursday.

"My view is that the military has kind of moved beyond it. It's become part and parcel of what they've accepted within the military," Panetta told reporters during a Pentagon press conference.

Panetta's comments come a day after President Obama announced he supports same-sex marriage. And the Defense secretary's statement reflects what has been an assessment of the impact that gays serving openly would have on the military. Some military leaders initially had expressed concerns that repealing the 18-year-old ban could undermine unit cohesion, particularly among troops serving on the battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But a report to Panetta, obtained by the Associated Press, provides the individual assessments of all the military services and the combatant commands, and

all said that as of May 1 they had seen no issues or impacts of the repeal.

The military service leaders have been sending Panetta monthly updates on the impact of the repeal, which took effect in September.

Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also said he had seen no negative effects on military order or discipline.

"What were we afraid of is we didn't know," Dempsey said when asked why military officials were so worried about the repeal before it took effect. "I think that the way we were given a year to make this assessment to educate ourselves to collaborate, to build the sense of trust on this issue, and given that time to do it, I think it worked out well."

The Pentagon's worries were buttressed by early surveys that showed combat troops in particular — including 56 percent of Marines who served in combat — viewed repeal negatively in terms of how it could affect readiness and unit cohesion.

After the repeal date,

however, defense officials said the concerns apparently were unfounded, and it turned out to be a "non-event."

To date there appears to have been just one incident that may have involved anti-gay violence in the military.

Last month a Marine allegedly stabbed another Marine to death in Washington after a fight that reportedly began when the suspect used an anti-gay slur to refer to the victim. The slaying occurred near the Marine Barracks in southeast Washington.

District studies bullying

By DEREK KELLISON
derek.kellison@gmail.com

Iowa City School District officials are aiming to revise the district's bullying policy in light of concerns over clarity and punishments.

Board member Sarah Swisher said the current policy — which intensifies punishment from a warning on first incident to expulsion or possible police intervention as bullying incidents escalate — lacks some important measures.

"The language for the policy is very strong, but it's vague because it doesn't say what the consequences are," she said.

According to state and district policy, bullying is "any electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or conduct" that creates a "hostile school environment."

District Director of Equity Ross Wilburn said the district faces difficulty matching the sufficient punishment to the intensity of the bullying.

"The distinction between conflict and bullying is hard to understand," he said. "The incident has to meet a certain threshold which depends on the person filing the complaint."

Yet satisfaction with Iowa City school safety has stood around 90 per-

cent since 2007 — almost 100 percent in 2011 — according to the district's Youth Survey of sixth-, eighth-, and 11th-grade students.

But the same surveys also showed 60 percent of students consistently reported bullying incidents involving verbal abuse. Swisher said the discrepancy between reports may come from students not knowing when to report bullying cases.

"We have made steady improvements [in school safety] over the years," she said. "But that doesn't mean there's no bullying going on."

Iowa City Education Association President Tom Yates, who brought the issue forward at a May 1 School Board meeting, also said the district needs to give more attention to bullying. The problem could be fixed, he said, by developing a board of student peers or by implementing more advertising for counseling.

Yet a focus on more effective punishment would best deter bullies who think they can get away with their actions, he said.

"We see instances all the time when bullying seems to work," Yates said. "But if you keep seeing this, you might think you can get away with it."

Bullying is hard to combat across the nation, according to a study by the National Technical Center of Positive Behavior Research. The study, completed in 2012, indicated 80 percent of bullying incidents give the bullies some kind of attention and likely lead them to continue their actions.

"The major challenge we face is creating an effective learning environment in school systems," said Rob Horner, Center director. "You can't just tell people not to bully."

Horner said the Center released a new program this year for addressing bullying nationwide called the Multi-Tiered Systems Report — which focuses on more intensive programs teaching students about bullying from the start of their education. The program is used in parts of Illinois, California, New Mexico, Maryland, and Iowa, though not currently in the Iowa City School District.

"The traditional punishment was to expel the 'bad [students,]'" he said. "The new way of thinking is to do what works for most and develop specialized programs that work with smaller groups."

The Iowa City School District Governance Committee plans to review the district bullying policy at a future date.

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YEAR-END AWARDS

Hoopsters bounce back



Iowa players and fans celebrate the Hawkeyes' 67-66 victory over Wisconsin in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 23. Iowa won four more Big Ten games than it did in 2011, marking the program's best conference improvement since 1995. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

After years of mediocrity, the Iowa men's basketball team showed signs of a bright future in the 2011-12 season.

By **BEN SCHUFF**
benjamin-schuff@uiowa.edu

The Iowa men's basketball team posted an overall winning record in 2011-12 for the first time in five years.

And for the first time in what seemed like forever, Hawkeye basketball became exciting to watch again.

"It was a matter of us believing we could do it," guard Devyn Marble said.

"Coming into the year, we knew we'd be better than last year — but we didn't know how good."

The Hawkeyes' most significant achievement in year two of the Fran McCaffery era came in the form of the program's first postseason victory in almost a decade. Iowa defeated Dayton, 84-75, in the first round of the NIT before a raucous home crowd on March 13.

The 2011-12 season was

a season of firsts in many ways. Iowa's first-round defeat of Illinois in the Big Ten Tournament marked the first time in six years the Hawkeyes lived to see round two.

This past season also marked the first time in four years Iowa didn't finish second-to-last in the Big Ten. The team's 8-10 conference record tied for fifth-best, and it doubled its league victory total from a year ago.

The Hawkeyes' 18 victories were the program's most since the 2005-06 season. Matt Gatens was only a sophomore at Iowa City High that year and hadn't yet started a career that would land him sixth on the school's all-time scoring list.

When asked if he thought Iowa had a realistic shot at post-season play during his first two years with the Hawkeyes, Gatens said, "It didn't look good."

"But with Coach McCaffery coming in and really shocking the program, getting the fans back involved, that really helped," he told *The Daily Iowan*. "Things are on the rise."

Some of the largest

SEE **BASKETBALL, 3B**
DAILYIOWAN.COM
MORE INSIDE
Besides the men's basketball team's return to relevance, what was the Story of the Year in Iowa sports?
Page 2B

Fifth in a five-part series

All week, *The Daily Iowan* has revealed its athletes, coaches, and stories of the year.

- Monday: Freshman of the Year: Aaron White
- Tuesday: Coach of the Year: Fran McCaffery
- Wednesday: Male Athlete of the Year: Marvin McNutt
- Thursday: Female Athlete of the Year: Becky Stoughton
- Today: Story of the Year: Men's basketball resurgence

Tracksters push the 'mercury'

The Hawkeyes are near 'boiling' as they enter the Big Ten outdoor championships.

By **TORK MASON**
tork-mason@uiowa.edu

Many track and field athletes keep track of "paper points" — the number of points the team would score in a meet based on performances throughout the season.

The Iowa track and field team has taken that to another degree.

The Hawkeyes use a paper-point thermometer, which they have kept in their locker room for the past few seasons. The more points they have on paper in the Big Ten, the higher the temperature, and it's updated every week to include the latest results from around the conference.

"I've observed that if you get 100 points at the [Big Ten] meet, you're usually in the top three," head coach Larry Wiecek said. "And so I said, 'Hey, we want to move to that 100 points.' And one of our goals on our board in the locker room is 'Be a 100-point team.'"

Assistant coach Joey Woody said he talked about the team's goals with his wife, Heather, who is a corporate-success coach. She suggested the team should have some form of visual representation of how it performs.

The coaching staff went with the thermometer graphic for a specific reason, Woody said.

"It was more about how we want to be hot at the right time," he said. "That was the euphemism we wanted to use is that, 'Guys, we want to be really boiling at the right time and hitting it on all cylinders as we head into the [Big Ten] meet.'"

SEE **TRACK, 3B**

Softball eyes shot at the title

The Iowa softball team has turned into a top-three team in the Big Ten after placing eighth one year ago.

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

The Iowa softball team is just one year removed from a 9-11 conference record and an eighth-place finish, but it is now in the midst of a three-team race for the top finish in the Big Ten.

Iowa, second in the league with a 14-7 mark, will head to Minnesota (9-12) this weekend for its final regular-season competition.

The other two squads still in the hunt for the Big Ten title, Michigan (15-5) and Purdue (13-7), play each other this weekend in a three-game series in Ann Arbor, Mich.

The Hawkeyes don't



Senior catcher Liz Watkins throws an Indiana player out at first base at Pearl Field on April 29. Watkins and the Hawkeyes can win the Big Ten this weekend if they can sweep Minnesota and if Purdue can take its series with top-ranked Michigan. (The Daily Iowan/Melissa Wilson)

necessarily control their own destiny. The Black and Gold can claim the top spot by end of the week if they sweep the Gilded Rodents in Minneapolis and get a little help from Purdue.

If the Boilermakers can take at least two games from the reigning confer-

ence champions, Iowa will earn its highest finish since it placed second in 2005.

Senior captain Katie Keim said she thinks the Hawkeyes don't add any extra or unnecessary value to the closing games of the Big Ten season and head into them as they do any

other contest.

"We try not to think about it," she said.

The Hawkeyes can still look back at a successful season if they don't win the conference, especially because this is only the second year head coach

SEE **SOFTBALL, 3B**

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

What other top stories?

Olympic wrestling trials in Carver-Hawkeye Arena

A statue of wrestling legend Dan Gable stands outside Carver-Hawkeye Arena. Thousands of fans gathered in April to pose for pictures with the figure before they filed inside to watch the country's best wrestling.

Slightly more than 22,600 people attended the 2008 U.S. Olympic wrestling trials; that wasn't enough. American wrestling was in a tough spot as it struggled to attract fans and sell tickets, and programs all over the country were falling apart or were killed completely. That's why the U.S. trials committee decided to host the event in Carver-Hawkeye Arena this Olympiad.

USA Wrestling commissioners hoped holding the trials in the "Mecca of wrestling" would breathe life back into the sport and bring a few more wrestling fans into the venue. Gable himself said Iowa City could "make a difference" on the fate of wrestling in America.

It worked. The University of Iowa sold 54,766 tickets. More than 13,000 fans packed Carver-Hawkeye for each of four sessions — even in the second period on April 21, which featured no Hawkeyes. Iowa City shattered every Olympic wrestling trials attendance record.

The athletes who hadn't wrestled in Carver-Hawkeye before said it was a dream — that wrestling in front of a crowd so passionate was life-changing. The athletes who had seen the mats in Carver-Hawkeye before said it felt like coming home.

Wrestling fans saw some of the most powerful moments in all of American

wrestling. Clarissa Chun became the United States' first two-time Olympian in women's freestyle wrestling. Henry Cejudo — the youngest competitor ever to win Olympic gold medal in wrestling — took his shoes off on the mat and retired at the age of 25. Rulon Gardner, the 2000 gold and 2004 bronze medalist, revealed a new healthy body that had lost 200 pounds. Ben Provisor made the Olympic team at 21 years of age. Ellis Coleman made it at 20.

The Olympics only come around every four years, and only once has the United States seen so many people ecstatic to watch 18 weight classes of wrestling for two full days. Wrestling is man's oldest sport, but Iowa City brought something new to it this year — something special. Iowa City took a sport that was falling apart, packed 54,766 people into it, and let it start to grow again.

Iowa City witnessed the rebirth of wrestling.

— by Molly Irene Olmstead

Iowa City as Big Ten title town

The University of Iowa hasn't won any team Big Ten championships in the 2011-12 school year.

But this year, no town was home to more Big Ten championships than Iowa City.

The UI played host to four Big Ten championship events — men's and women's swimming, and men's and women's gymnastics.

Iowa City was painted with the colors of the 12 conference institutions during those four events — the Scarlet and Gray of Ohio State, the Maize and Blue of Michigan, and, of course, the Black and Gold of Iowa.

The championships all

boasted down-to-the-wire finishes, memorable athletes, and of course, championship performances.

Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, and Nebraska claimed the respective championships, and fans from the other 11 Big Ten towns left either the Campus Recreation & Wellness Center or Carver-Hawkeye Arena with a taste of Iowa City.

The reason Iowa City's place as Big Ten title town is so notable is because no other university can boast three championship events, much less four.

Only Indianapolis, which has become the center of the Big Ten but doesn't house a team, hosted four events. The only two Big Ten towns to host even two championships are Evanston, Ill., and Columbus, Ohio.

The four championships boasted an atmosphere unlike any other local event this year, but Iowa City shouldn't get too used to being Big Ten title town. The 2012-13 schedule has only one conference championship coming to town — field hockey.

— by Ryan Murphy

Men's tennis struggles

I thought the Story of the Year competition was no contest when I saw the list of candidates.

Only one team at Iowa completed a historic season this past year: the men's tennis team. The Hawkeyes were supposed to feature one of its better teams in recent memory, but instead, they made up the worst edition in program history.

Iowa started the season 1-2 — it defeated George Washington at a neutral site — before losing its final 20 meets for a 1-22, 0-12 Big Ten finish.

The Hawkeyes weren't just losing; they weren't even close most of the time. Iowa scored two or fewer points in 19 of its matches and was shut out four times.

Seniors Will Vasos and Tom Mroziewicz, both of whom were to lead the squad because of their experience, posted a combined 4-28 singles record. Freshman Matt Hagan, who entered the spring having been named the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Missouri Valley Player of the Year in the fall, posted a 2-18 singles mark. Seniors Chase Beckert and Chris Speer combined with sophomores Jonas Dierckx and Michael Swank for a 6-27 singles record; Dierckx posted all six victories.

Add up all of the numbers, and the team finished with a 25-98 record overall in singles play. Combine that with a 22-39 doubles record, and you've got yourself a historically bad season.

But just how historically bad was the season? The 2012 Iowa men's tennis team (with a .045 winning percentage) beat out Don Klotz's 1961 group that went 1-13 (.076) for the title of "worst in program history."

So let me ask you a question: What's the better story? The men's basketball team's mediocre season that ended with a whimper in the NIT, or the men's tennis team was the worst of all time?

The answer seems pretty obvious to me.

— by Tom Clos

Your turn. Log on to Facebook.com/DailyiowanSports and follow @DI_Sports_Desk on Twitter to weigh in on the debate.

Kuebel steps up into No. 2 spot



Iowa freshman Sasha Kuebel pitches against Northwestern at Banks Field on March 25. Kuebel has pitched in the No. 3 slot all season, but he will move up to pitch on Saturday as the Hawkeyes' No. 2 starter this weekend. (The Daily Iowan/Jessica Payne)

Iowa manager Jack Dahm said starting pitcher Sasha Kuebel has exceeded his expectations by being 5-0.

By BEN SCHUFF
benjamin-schuff@uiowa.edu

Iowa's top starting pitcher models his game after a former major-league journeyman shortstop.

When freshman Sasha Kuebel was asked if he tries to emulate a big-league pitcher when he toes the rubber, the St. Louis native immediately offered David Eckstein's name instead.

"As weird as that is to say," Kuebel said and laughed. "I always looked

Iowa (19-24, 7-11) at Michigan State (30-16, 10-8)

When: 2 p.m. today, noon Saturday & May 13
Where: McLane Stadium, East Lansing, Mich.

up to him, not because of his talent — he's not one of the big dogs like [Albert] Pujols or one of those guys — but he came to the field every day with the mentality that he's going to work as hard as he can, and he's going to do what he can to help the team win."

While the left-hander may not think of Eckstein as a "top dog," Kuebel has become one himself in the Big Ten. His consistent effort has earned him a Saturday start as Iowa's No. 2 pitcher this weekend when the Hawkeyes travel

to East Lansing, Mich., for a three-game series with Michigan State.

Kuebel had started the third game of each of the Hawkeyes' Big Ten series to this point in the season, but a strong case could be made that he has been Iowa's top pitcher. He ranks in the top-10 in the conference in several pitching categories and leads all Big Ten freshmen in ERA, opponents' batting average, runs allowed, earned runs allowed, and fewest walks allowed.

All that comes from a pitcher that Iowa manager Jack Dahm said before the season would be given a few starts and "we'll go from there."

"I thought he was going to be successful," Iowa pitching coach Chris Maliszewski said. "I can't say I knew he'd be this successful."

Kuebel's 3.03 ERA is the

lowest of Iowa's starting pitchers, and it has been for a significant portion of the season. It's one reason he's the only one of the Hawkeyes' three weekend starters to boast a winning team record of 7-4. Iowa is 5-6 when Jarred Hippen takes the mound, 1-10 in Matt Dermody's starts.

"The confidence Sasha has in himself rubs off onto other players when they're playing behind him," Dahm said. "It seems nowadays it's tougher and tougher to find kids with his type of confidence — but also back it up when he gets on the mound. It's pretty rare to see."

What's not rare to see is Kuebel giving Iowa a quality start. He has only failed to pitch into the seventh inning in three of his 11 starts.

Kuebel's most recent outing was arguably the best of his young Big Ten career. He shut down Michigan on May 5 by pitching a complete game and allowing only 2 runs to keep the Maize and Blue from a sweep. Michigan had scored 19 runs in the first two games of the series.

Kuebel really struggled only twice this year. The first time was on March 4 against Youngstown State — a game Iowa won in extra innings — and the second came on April 1 at Indiana, a 10-5 Hoosier victory. Both starts taught him some tactical aspects like the importance of keeping the ball down, he said — but they also taught him to slow down mentally.

"You can't go out there thinking about a million things every second," Kuebel said. "You just have to go out there and have fun."

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BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM 1B

crowds Carver-Hawkeye Arena has hosted in recent seasons saw the team upset the likes of No. 13 Michigan, No. 20 Indiana, and No. 15 Wisconsin.

Iowa's home wins over the Hoosiers and Badgers in February featured an unconscious scoring stretch from Gatens, who scored 30 and 33 points in those two games, respectively. The sharp-shooting Iowa City native connected on 7-of-10 3-point attempts in each victory and ended up making a team-record 12-consecutive treys.

But a midseason road trip demonstrated the Hawkeyes' potential. Iowa went on the road early in the Big Ten season and defeated No. 11 Wisconsin and followed that with a road win over Minnesota.

"It just showed us we can

2012 Story of the Year

Second place: Olympic wrestling trials

Honorable mention: 10
Other nominees: Iowa City as Big Ten title town

Last five winners:

- 2011: Football's roller-coaster season
- 2010: Football's Orange Bowl championship
- 2009: Football beats No. 3 Penn State
- 2008: Wrestling's NCAA championship
- 2007: Todd Lickliter's first year

be a good team in the Big Ten, and we don't have to be at the bottom like we were the year before and the previous years," Marble said.

Gatens carried the team through large chunks of the season, but no player stepped up more for the Hawkeyes than Marble. The sophomore saw his playing time increase by

nearly 10 minutes a game from his freshman year, partially because of injuries to point guard Bryce Cartwright.

Marble responded, and his 11.5 points per game was the second-best mark on the squad.

"The beauty of what happened [with Marble], I think he grew and developed as a point guard — but then we were able to move him back over to the wing, and that gave us another weapon," McCaffery said. "We had much more versatile pieces."

Freshman Aaron White exemplified that versatility; the 6-8 freshman led the team in rebounding while often hurting opponents from the perimeter offensively.

White will be one of several underclassmen who McCaffery said will see significant playing time next season. Iowa has a highly touted recruiting class coming to Iowa City in the



Then-Iowa guard Matt Gatens reacts during the Hawkeyes' 84-75 win over Dayton in the first round of the NIT in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on March 13. Gatens and the Hawkeyes reached the postseason for the first time since 2006. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

fall, led by center Adam Woodbury.

While Gatens won't suit up in Black and Gold again, he said next year's team and those of the foreseeable future under

McCaffery are very close to being legitimate Big Ten contenders.

"We're right on that edge," he said. "We're not far off; it's just going to depend on the guys return-

ing, having that same mentality, the coaches keep coaching the way they are, and the new guys having an impact like these freshman did.

"Good things will happen."

TRACK

CONTINUED FROM 1B

Junior hurdler Ethan Holmes recalled the first time he saw the graphic in the locker room.

"The first time I saw it, our points were kind of low," he said and laughed. "It was kind of a shock to the system a little bit, to see yourself not ranked where you want to be."

The coaching staff also works to determine what each individual needs to do in order to score points at

Big Ten Championships

When: Friday-May 13
Where: McClimmon Track and Field Complex, Madison, Wis.

the Big Ten championships. Woody said he and his colleagues look at averages from the past three to five years to find what it takes to score, place in the top three, and win at the conference meet. He said this helps the athletes create more attainable goals by giving them clear targets.

"If you don't know what

you're shooting for, how are you going to get there?" he said.

Woody said that's especially important for the athletes who aren't in the first tier in their events. But the thermometer gives the athlete sitting in 15th place an idea of what he needs to do to make it to eighth place, where he can score points.

Holmes said he checks results every weekend and keeps tabs on what other schools and athletes are doing around the conference. He said paper points are beneficial for a team to show the athletes where they are, but it's important

to not place too much emphasis on them.

He said it's a good feeling to beat a higher-ranked athlete head-to-head, because it shows he can beat the opponent when it counts even if he's ranked behind him.

But he admitted it isn't a one-way street.

"[Paper points] definitely let us know where we stand, but at the same time, you can't take them too seriously," he said. "It's a good thing to know where you stand going in, but last year we definitely weren't in the lead based on paper points — or even close, at that. You can't let them get

to you too much."

The Hawkeyes held 100 points going into last year's conference outdoor meet, and they scored 125.5 at the event itself to win the program's first conference title since 1967. The Black and Gold has 92-94 points on paper going into this weekend's event, Woody said.

Iowa has hovered in the 90-100 point range for most of the season, which has placed the team in fourth going into this weekend.

"That's about where we were last year," Wiecezorek said. "So I said, 'Hey, we're contenders. We're underdog contenders, in fourth, but we're contenders.'"

SOFTBALL

CONTINUED FROM 1B

Marla Looper has been at the helm of the Iowa program.

The former Texas assistant didn't take much credit when asked about the vast improvement her squad made from last year. She said she only shows players they have the ability to be successful; it's up to them to play to that ability.

"It's not about what I have done or what our coaches have done," Looper

Iowa (25-25, 14-7) at Minnesota (30-20, 9-12)

When: 7 p.m. today, 2 & 4 p.m. Saturday
Where: Metrodome, Minneapolis
Where to watch: Big Ten Network (today)

said. "We do our best to steer them and get them confident in their own abilities so they can just go play. Their being empowered to know, 'I will do this,' not just 'I can do this' — that's the biggest basis of my phi-

losophy, empowering the people to do what they can do and what they're capable and willing to do."

The last time the Hawkeyes made it to the postseason was in 2009, when they lost to Boston University in the regional round of the NCAA Tournament.

Seniors Keim and Liz Watkins were freshmen on that squad, and they are the only players on the current roster with any postseason experience.

Watkins didn't appear to lack confidence when asked about the upcoming games;

she said she's playing with extra motivation in order to reach her goal of making it to the postseason her senior year.

"These games are crucial if we want to make postseason or have a chance on Big Ten," the Illinois native said. "We have that drive as seniors; we want to go to the postseason really bad."

"Keep rooting for us, because we're going to sweep Minnesota. Michigan has to lose ... hopefully, everything works out."

Vikings to get stadium

By MARTIGA LOHN

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — After a plan to build the Minnesota Vikings a new home cleared its final hurdle Thursday in the state Senate, the team executive who spent much of the past decade lobbying for the nearly \$1 billion stadium could hardly contain himself.

"Let's build it," Vice President Lester Bagley shouted, hugging Viking communications director Jeff Anderson.

In the gallery above the Senate chamber, Vikings fans broke out in a rendition of the "Skol Vikings" fight song, earning a reprimand from the Senate secretary. But it held no sting for Bagley and others associated with the team.

The Senate vote capped an amazing comeback for the Vikings' stadium dreams, which just a few weeks ago were fizzling before a visit from NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell crystallized fears that the Vikings could leave the state without a new home.

Gov. Mark Dayton has

promised to sign the bill, a \$975 million plan to build on the Metrodome site in downtown Minneapolis with just over half the cost paid with public money.

At a celebratory news conference, owner Zygi Wilf recalled when he and his brother Mark first took ownership of the team nearly seven years ago and being asked whether they would move the team.

"We kept on fighting that this day would come, and it's here today," Wilf said.

Dayton, who served as a main cheerleader for the deal for months, publicly thanked the Wilfs for agreeing to a \$50 million bump in their share in final negotiations this week.

"Without your willingness to take that last step, we wouldn't have crossed the goal line," Dayton said.

On Thursday, the Vikings and the University of Minnesota announced they have reached preliminary agreement on the Vikings' use of TCF Bank Stadium during construction of a new Viking stadium. Under the agreement, the Vikings will pay the university a fixed fee of

\$250,000 per game. The combined rent and expected concessions and sponsorship revenue that the Vikings would share with the university would amount to \$300,000 per game, or \$3 million per regular NFL season. The Board of Regents will take up the agreement today, and university President Eric Kaler could sign the letter of intent in the next few days.

The Vikings had pursued a stadium for years but gained leverage only when its lease on the Metrodome expired this past year. The team argued that the 30-year-old Metrodome didn't generate enough revenue for it to compete. Dayton, a Democrat, argued that without a new building the state could lose its most beloved franchise.

The deal guarantees the Vikings' future in Minnesota for three decades.

The team would pay 49 percent of construction costs: \$477 million, which is \$50 million more than owners initially committed. But the total public expense is slightly higher: \$348 million for the state and \$150 million for the

city of Minneapolis.

"We've scored a touchdown, and it's a touchdown for the state of Minnesota and it'

s a touchdown for the Vikings fans," said Sen. David Tomassoni, a Democrat from Chisholm, prior to casting his vote in favor of the bill.

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MAY 16

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OHEN FOR

EG HAYDEN ERIC KISSACK
MAZER



Human beings, who are unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so.

— Douglas Adams

the ledge

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



Why I Could Never Be a Conservative:

- I'm middle-aged, straight, and white — but I don't act that way.
 - Rachel Maddow is much hotter than the slutty bim-bos on Fox.
 - I only own five guns.
 - I don't know a damned thing about President Millard Fillmore.
 - God help me, but I like paying taxes. I really do.
 - I know for certain that the Devil is not controlling liberal college professors; he told me personally.
 - I'm not all that interested in my Constitutional right to shoot my neighbors.
 - For some reason, trickle-down economics always reminds me of peeing off a bridge ... onto the poor and homeless people below it.
 - I always thought pro-life meant you don't execute prisoners.
 - I'll never benefit from any proposed tax cut for millionaires.
 - I think Ronald Reagan's greatest accomplishment was his role as a college professor who lived with a chimpanzee.
 - I realize global warming is a plot, but I just can't seem to persuade my polar bear friends.
 - Supporting gay marriage doesn't make me worry that I might be a homosexual.
 - I'd never wait on hold for an hour to say, "Ditto, Rush, Ditto."
 - Got a soul; don't want to give it up.
- Duncan Stewart is an oxymoron.

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1 2**
3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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

SOLUTION TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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by Scott Adams

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BY VIEV

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BY GARRY TRUDEAU

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today's events

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- **English Conversation Group**, 10 a.m., Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn
- **Musical Moments Demonstration**, 10 a.m., West Music, 1212 Fifth St., Coralville
- **School of Management M.B.A. Commencement**, 10 a.m., Marriott Hotel, 300 E. Ninth St., Coralville
- **A Wolf at The Door**, Three Brothers Theater, 10 a.m., Coralville Center for Performing Arts, 1301 Fifth St., Coralville
- **Chess Group**, 1 p.m., Uptown Bill's, 730 S. Dubuque
- **College of Law Commencement**, 1 p.m., IMU Main Lounge
- **Book Babies**, 1:30 p.m., Iowa City Public Library
- **Friends of Hickory Hill Park Plant Sale**, 4 p.m., 1167 E. Jefferson
- **Picnic at the Pitch**, 4 p.m., West High, 2901 Melrose Ave.
- **Free coffee for finals**, 6 p.m., Hardin Library
- **Veteran Voices**, 6 p.m., Mill, 120 E. Burlington
- **Carver College of Medicine Commencement**, 6:30 p.m., Marriott Hotel
- **Ballroom Dance**, 7:30 p.m., Old Brick, 26 E. Market
- **Khaira Arby**, with Bermuda Report, 8 p.m., Englert, 221 E. Washington
- **OSG and Uniphonics**, 9:30 p.m., Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn
- **Ladies' Night**, 10 p.m., L&J Kitchen BBQ House, 320 E. Burlington
- **Limbs and Half Naked**, with Sean Tripp, Kage, 10 p.m., Blue Moose, 211 Iowa
- **Skeetz & Feets**, 10 p.m., Gabe's, 330 E. Washington

SATURDAY

- **College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Commencement**, 9 a.m., Carver Hawkeye Arena
- **College of Engineering Commencement Ceremony**, 10 a.m., Marriott
- **College of Nursing Commencement**, 10 a.m., IMU Main Lounge
- **Graduate College Commencement**, 3 p.m., Carver Hawkeye
- **Dance Forum/UI Youth Ballet Winter Concert**, 7:30 p.m., North Hall Space/Place

UITV schedule

Campus channel 4, cable channel 17

- 1 p.m. UI College of Law Commencement (live), May 11 from the IMU
- 2:30 UI Symphony Orchestra, selections by Bistrow, Dukelsky (soloist Tricia Park), and Tchaikovsky, March 28
- 4 Thesis II Dance, UI Dance Department, April 14
- 5:30 UI Chamber & UI String Orchestras Concert, conducted by Chun-Ming Chen, Hyeyoun Jang, Kira Horel, Michael Wright, Dec. 4, 2011
- 7 UI Tippie College of Business M.B.A. Commencement, May 11
- 8 UI College of Pharmacy Commencement, May 10
- 9 Fine Arts at Iowa Music, concerts and performances
- 10 UI Tippie College of Business M.B.A. Commencement, May 11
- 11 Fine Arts at Iowa Music, concerts and performances

horoscopes

Friday, May 11, 2012
— by Eugenia Last

- ARIES** March 21-April 19 Sign up for something you enjoy doing, or get together with someone who shares your sense of humor. A love relationship will develop with someone who shares your concerns. Do what needs to be done, and make the necessary reforms.
- TAURUS** April 20-May 20 Overlook the little things people do that bother you. It's far better to project a positive attitude than to complain or criticize. Your lightheartedness will earn you a stellar reputation and win the confidence of peers and colleagues.
- GEMINI** May 21-June 20 Make special plans. Attending a function that will encourage you to participate in self-improvement or awareness practices will leave you feeling rejuvenated and confident that you can accomplish anything. Love is in the stars.
- CANCER** June 21-July 22 Don't let emotional issues sway you where money matters are concerned. You can't buy love. Donations, lending, or borrowing should all be off-limits. Nurture a partnership by being generous with your time, your affection, and your presence.
- LEO** July 23-Aug. 22 You'll find it difficult to deal with emotional matters. Don't let anything stop you from taking care of your responsibilities. Overindulgent people will cause you grief. Avoid anyone demanding your time or restricting what you can do.
- VIRGO** Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Take part in activities you enjoy, and you will gain confidence and meet worthwhile individuals who can contribute to one of your goals. Creative ideas will develop through conversations you have with or about people from your past.
- LIBRA** Sept. 23-Oct. 22 Finish what you start. Keep things in perspective; don't allow emotions to stand in the way of a good decision. Romance is in the stars, and a promise can be made that will bring you closer to the one you love.
- SCORPIO** Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Don't take criticism too seriously. Your attitude can make a difference in the way others treat you. Share thoughts, dreams, and ideas that are conducive to making your surroundings comfortable and more affordable. Talk will lead to action.
- SAGITTARIUS** Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Social events that include past partners or that reunite you with people from your past may bring back emotional disappointments that you thought you had forgotten. Love is on the rise, but don't make the same mistake twice.
- CAPRICORN** Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Spend time dealing with personal matters. You can make a difference to close friends and family if you listen to grievances. Expanding your residence or inviting more people to enjoy your space will bring excellent results.
- AQUARIUS** Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Put more time and effort into the way you look and the way you present what you have to offer. Love is on the rise, and getting together with someone you care about will lead to a stronger relationship. Don't overindulge or overspend.
- PISCES** Feb. 19-March 20 Straightforward answers will be the best way to handle a troublesome relationship. Whether it is business or personal, you have to clear the air with anyone you work alongside. Good fortune will come from good connections.

mc ginsberg.com

OBJECTS OF ART

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0406

- Across**
- 1 Letter carrier
 - 8 Quaint place to live?
 - 13 Extreme choice
 - 16 Farmer's enemy
 - 17 Much-favored person
 - 18 Some subatomic particles
 - 19 Retired
 - 20 ___ Plus (razor brand)
 - 22 Home to a school of pre-Socratic philosophers
 - 23 Comedic duo?
 - 24 Using an Rx, say
 - 26 Ron who played Tarzan
 - 27 Where your ship may come in
 - 28 Loafs on the job
 - 30 Filling point
 - 34 "When I was a lad ..."
 - 36 Smooth
 - 37 Six-time Tony winner of 1984
 - 40 Stump the crowd?
 - 41 Vet employer, maybe: Abbr.
 - 42 16-Across, e.g.
 - 43 Rambled
 - 45 Bygone
 - 46 86 or 99 on "Get Smart": Abbr.
 - 47 Tangles
 - 49 Chip in a dish, e.g.
 - 53 Gush (over)
 - 55 Round nos.
 - 56 It's often backed up
 - 57 Foreign assistance org. since 1961
 - 59 Use advantageously, as an idea
- Down**
- 1 Word with square or number
 - 2 Helpless?
 - 3 "Can you beat that?!"
 - 4 Bonanzas
 - 5 Raised
 - 6 Rule among true crime writers
 - 7 Run wild
 - 8 Physical "Psst!"
 - 9 Grandnephew in 1960s TV
 - 10 Not marked up
 - 11 Cat's gift
 - 12 Final words?
 - 14 Passing remark?
 - 15 "Gentle reader, may you never feel what I then felt!" speaker
 - 21 Attach (to)
 - 24 Instrument with a bell
 - 25 Average
 - 29 [This is scary!]
 - 30 Lose it
 - 31 Contents of the rightmost column of a table
 - 61 Big name in watches
 - 62 Place to find subs
 - 63 Rob of "Melrose Place"
 - 64 Discharged

- Puzzle by Mike Nothnagel
- 32 Words of anticipation
 - 33 Political writer ___ Bai
 - 35 Scoop
 - 38 Prizm and Spectrum, once
 - 39 They're not hot for very long
 - 44 Anchorage-to-Fairbanks dir.
 - 48 Order: Abbr.
 - 49 Contents of many outtakes
 - 50 Wash against gently
 - 51 Win by ___
 - 52 Declined
 - 54 Figure on the front of Olympic medals since 1928
 - 56 Forward who wore #10
 - 58 Elements of some lists
 - 60 Quickly turn back

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RHINO LOVE



In a May 7 photo provided by Disney, Kendi, a 13-year-old female white rhino, tends to her new male calf at Disney's Animal Kingdom in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. The yet-unnamed calf was born May 4 after a 16-month gestation period. It is the ninth white rhino born at Disney's Animal Kingdom, with Kendi being the first. (Associated Press/Disney, Gene Duncan)

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THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS



President Obama speaks in the Field House on April 25. Obama discussed the high level of student debt in the county and advocated stopping a planned July 1 interest-rate hike on student loans. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

Obama visits UI

President Obama visited the Field House on April 25 to discuss student loans and college affordability.

More than 5,500 students and members of the UI community gathered in the Field House as Obama spoke for nearly an hour about the federal loan situation he's urging Congress to act on before July 1.

Interest rates for federal loans would double from 3.4 to 6.8 percent if Congress doesn't vote to extend the cuts for at least another year. Roughly 7.4 million students nationwide receiving federal student loans would be affected by this legislation.

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

Mark Warner, the UI director of Student Financial Aid, said students should be focused on the possibility of an interest rate increase.

Federal student loans represented roughly 93 percent of loans borrowed by UI students in 2010-11. The average student debt for the graduating class of 2011 was \$25,446, Warner said. The national student debt average is \$25,000.



Lars Headington stands with an American flag near his home in Iowa City on Sept. 8, 2011. He enlisted straight out of high school in 1997. (The Daily Iowan/File Photo)

Remembering 9/11

The UI and Iowa City communities gathered on Sept. 11, 2011, to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

The Consultation of Religious Communities held a gathering at the Riverside Theater Shakespeare Festival Stage in Lower City Park to present speeches and embark on a "walk of peace" around City Park.

Rep. Dave Loebsack, D-Iowa, and Veterans for Peace Iowa President Ed Flaherty spoke at the event of the importance of carrying on despite great tragedy.



Tents of protesters are seen in College Green Park on Monday, October 10, 2011. (The Daily Iowan/ Adam Wesley)

Occupy IC protesters camp in College Green

Iowa City residents founded a local chapter of Occupy Wall Street, a movement protesting the distribution of wealth among corporations and corporate influence in politics.

Occupy Iowa City obtained its first permit to camp in College Green Park in October, and the group set up a host of tents and outposts for community discussion and organization.

The number of protesters decreased during the winter months, going from around 70 to 10 protesters when the permit was set to expire late January. City officials denied the protesters' reapplication for a permit.

City officials said Occupy Iowa City representatives, who did not appeal the denial, were very cooperative when told they needed to vacate.

Though the protesters moved out of the park, they continued to hold meetings elsewhere Sundays and Thursdays.

Occupy Iowa City advocates marched from College Green Park to the Pedestrian Mall on May 1. The march was to protest corporate greed and other alleged social inequality.

Ryan Spurgetis, Occupy Iowa City's May Day event planner, said the protest worked well with May Day traditions solidarity among under-mined groups.

"I think [the May Day] message carries forward from the 99 percent," he said. "... Identifying that it's the wealthy and the powerful who cause the problems for our world. These struggles are in fact connected, and we need everybody to fight for change."



UI sophomore Curtis Weston dances at the Dance Marathon on Feb. 4. The song was performed by Good Luck Jane Band. (The Daily Iowan/File Photo)

Dance Marathon breaks record

The UI Dance Marathon 18 had another record-breaking year, as February's Big Event raked in more than \$1.3 million for pediatric cancer.

"The total is great, but at the end of the day, it's for the families. It didn't matter what we raised," Elyse Meardon, the executive director of Dance Marathon 18, said after the Big Event concluded. "At the same time, it's a great feeling to have the money to provide monetary support for families."

More than 2,300 dancers participated in the Big Event, dancing for 24-consecutive hours to raise money for pediatric cancer patients and their families.

UI Dance Marathon has raised more than \$11 million since the organization's founding in 1995. This year's participants allowed the organization to finally surpass the \$10 million mark in fundraising efforts.

Bloom sparks firestorm

University of Iowa journalism Professor Stephen Bloom wrote a long piece for *The Atlantic* about the Iowa lifestyle and culture and the caucus process. The article, "Observations from 20 years of Iowa Life" drew harsh criticism from Iowans.

Bloom's article drew accusations of inaccuracies and stereotypical portrayals of the state and its residents.

The article depicted a negative perception of Iowa's rural culture and discussed the state's role in politics with its first-in-the-nation caucuses. Bloom also faced criticisms from many of his colleagues.

The professor received so much backlash, he said he feared for his family's safety.

UI President Sally Mason said she "disagreed strongly and was offended" by the article in an open letter to *The Atlantic*.

Man charged in attack

Twenty-year-old Iowa City resident Branden Plummer was charged with attempted murder and willful injury after allegedly assaulting an Iowa city police officer Nov. 18, 2011.

Police reports said police Sgt. Brian 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. Police arrested Plummer Nov. 29 after an anonymous tip identified him based on a wanted poster.

Plummer was listed as a UI student before the alleged assault, but he is no longer in the university directory.

Plummer's friends said he had a difficult past – his parents divorced and his father died of cancer several years later. Yet they also said he was a kind, likable person, and they were surprised by his alleged actions.

Plummer's trial was originally set to begin Feb. 21 but was moved several times; it is currently set for June 29 in Johnson County.

Slaying suspect gets plea

Iowa City resident Charles William Curtis Thompson, formerly charged with first-degree murder following the death of Broadway apartment landlord John Versypt in October 2009, was released December 2011 from the Johnson County Jail.

Sixth District Judge Sean McPartland declared 19-year-old Thompson's September 2011 homicide trial a mistrial after the prosecution played part of a videotaped interview with Thompson that was not supposed to be presented to the jury.

Thompson's attorney, Tyler Johnston, argued in October 2011 that the state withheld evidence regarding inmates telling detectives Thompson was not involved in Versypt's slaying. Johnston said Oct. 20 that he had frequently requested the documents but did not receive them until several weeks after the interviews. However, Johnson County prosecutor Janet Lyness said the defense did not request those documents until Oct. 19.

The defense filed a motion to dismiss the first-degree murder charge against Thompson, which McPartland denied, ruling the defense did not show sufficient evidence to prove the prosecution intended to

cause a mistrial in September.

Following the denial, Thompson pleaded guilty December 2011 to accessory after the fact and signed documents stating he knew Justin Marshall – another suspect in the case – committed Versypt's murder.

Thompson's sentencing is set for June 11 at 11 a.m.

UI student dies in India

UI sophomore Tom Plotkin died Sept. 22, 2011 during a Semester in India course with the National Outdoor Leadership School.

While hiking near the village of Munisiyari, Plotkin reportedly lost his footing in the rain and fell more than 250 feet down a steep and rocky slope into the Goriganga River. His body was not discovered, causing Indian government officials and locals interviewed on site by a *Daily Iowan* reporter to question the timeliness of search efforts.

A National Outdoor Leadership School report stated students retrieved ropes and webbing from a nearby hiking group and attempted to search for Plotkin. The school instructors then contacted their headquarters in a village 150 miles away and emailed the U.S. Embassy later that day to request a helicopter.

Officials from nearby villages and an Indo-Tibetan Border Police supply post less than a mile away said they were surprised they were not contacted immediately. A school program manager said locals did not have adequate training or equipment to go down the mountain.

School officials said they did contact the disaster management department in Munisiyari and did not actively decide keep the Border Police in the dark.

Romney wins – er, no

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney was initially declared the winner of the 2012 Iowa caucuses by a narrow margin on Jan. 3.

However, the Iowa Republican Party later said former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., had won the caucuses. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, finished third.

Romney had significantly more support in Johnson County, where he earned votes from 35 percent of caucus-goers, compared to Santorum's 16 percent. Despite wide support from UI students, Paul only won 31 percent in the county.

Local transgender community struggles with health-care access

Former *Daily Iowan* employee Shay O'Reilly visited the UI Hospitals and Clinics endocrinology clinic to regulate a hormone imbalance in May 2012 and was turned away because he identified as transgender. Individuals who are transgender identify with genders different than their biological one.

O'Reilly later filed a complaint against the UIHC to make sure easy access to health care would not be denied to any others who identify as transgender.

"What I would like to see out of this complaint is that the university would do whatever is necessary to ensure no patient is turned away," O'Reilly said.

A similar case occurred when UI student Zeke Swim – who had been undergoing hormone therapy for seven years – was in need of immediate medical attention because of abdominal pain and vaginal bleeding.

Swim said hospital staff does not know how to treat a transgender person.

Two UIHC doctors confirmed the medical field may be behind the times but said the UIHC is taking necessary steps to better serve the transgender community.

Man charged with kidnapping

Iowa City resident Peng Tang allegedly assaulted a woman while she was showing him her apartment for sublet on March 29.

Tang allegedly restrained the woman and threatened to post online nude photographs he took of her during the assault. He was charged March 30 with first-degree kidnapping.

In a later search, police found handcuffs, a knife, women's clothing, and Viagra at Tang's apartment, 923 E. College St. No.8.

Many of Tang's apartment neighbors had never met him, and they said he usually kept to himself.

Tang's parents, Li Qiao and Xuefan Tang, were charged April 5 with allegedly sending a letter to the victim promising a reward if she changed her story. Those charges were later dropped.

Peng Tang also allegedly sent a letter to the victim claiming he would reward her if she dropped the charges against him, and he was charged April 13 for solicitation to commit an aggravated misdemeanor and tampering with a witness or juror.

Tang is being held in the Johnson County Jail on immigration hold with a \$750,000 cash-only bond.

UI junior holds protest for size discrimination

UI junior Jordan Ramos said bouncers at The Union Bar allegedly discriminated against her by not allowing her on a bar dance platform because of her size.

"They were letting a bunch of other girls on the platform, and the only different [between them and I] was that they were thinner," Ramos said about her March 3 and March 4 visits to the bar.

Ramos said she and supporters planned to protest the bar, demanding three things: for the Union bar to publicly apologize to her, for the Union bar to apologize to anyone it has discriminated against, and to have it in writing that all customers will be allowed the same privileges.

Union owner George Wittgraf offered an apology for the employee's alleged actions, and Ramos changed the protest to a May 4 rally on the Pedestrian Mall against size discrimination in general.

Some UI students said Ramos deserved the apology, but they were skeptical of comparing size discrimination to other forms of discrimination.

HawkAlerts draw concern

A series of HawkAlerts, and concern over the university's decision not to send out alerts in some cases, drew attention during the fall and spring semesters.

Iowa City authorities first heard about a possible armed suspect near town around 9 p.m. Nov. 14 but did not send out a Hawk Alert until 10:30 that night. UI officials said steps were taken to ensure warnings were issued as quickly as possible.

According to an Iowa City police press release, a female UI student was assaulted at night on Jan. 20 near the Becker Communication Studies Building. A HawkAlert was not sent out, UI officials said, as it not generally thought of as posing a potential immediate threat to others.

A HawkAlert was sent Feb. 2 after a man allegedly robbed a woman at knifepoint in downtown Iowa City.