



THE LITTLE COMEDY SCENE THAT COULD

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

The Daily Iowan

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50¢

Dry winter no longer



A city worker clears the sidewalk outside City Hall on Wednesday. This season's snowfall remains far below average, and the city expects to save up to \$300,000 on snow removal this year. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

Overall, Iowa City has had minimal snow this year, which has spared the city and UI's budgets.

By **STACEY MURRAY**
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School districts were closed, buses were slowed down, and students trekked across the icy University of Iowa campus as snow fell Wednesday morning.

Before Wednesday, however, Mother Nature brought only a few flakes this winter — and left city workers sitting on stockpiles of sand.

Iowa City saw roughly 3 to 4 inches of snow Wednesday, and this snowfall was one of the first of the year, clos-

ing the Iowa City School District.

"It hasn't been a hectic pace, but we have found things for the staff to stay busy and continue to put in a good day's work," said John Sobaski, assistant superintendent of the Iowa Street Division.

The winter thus far in Iowa City has slowed the Iowa City Street Division, along with work for the UI Facilities Department.

Iowa City spends on average between \$400,000 and \$600,000 per year on snow removal, but officials estimate this year's expenditures to

be around \$300,000. This, however, is not as low as last year's spending.

Rick Fosse, the city director of Public Works, said the department used significantly fewer resources this year, an echo from last year's report. The city accessed less than half of the available budget — roughly \$300,000.

The budget accounts for staff fuel, materials, sand, salt, and extra rental equipment.

The residents working for the Io-

SEE SNOW, 5A

Loebsack pushes pay

Loebsack: Congress needs to have 'personal stake' in deficit reduction.

By **BRENT GRIFFITHS**
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Following recent progress from fiscal negotiations, Rep. Dave Loebsack, D-Iowa, is optimistic his Congressional-pay bill will bring "momentum" for further deficit cuts down the road.

"We know that Iowa families are hurting ... and we need to make every effort to reduce the deficit," he told *The Daily Iowan*. "Congress needs to have a personal stake in this."

Loebsack introduced the Congressional Halt in Pay Increases and the Cut Congressional Pay Act on Jan. 24. Loebsack's bill follows recent efforts by other members of Congress to halt automatic pay increases and address Congressional benefits. According to the Congressional Research Service, average members of Congress — not including such positions as Speaker of the House — make \$174,000.

One political expert said while many of these bills "haven't gone very far," there is a possibility for momentum.

"There's always a possibility that people get really fired up and support something like Loebsack's bill," said Tim Hagle, a University of Iowa associate professor of political science.

While Hagle said most bills of this nature die in committee, Loebsack remains optimistic that parts of his bill will be passed.

Joe Hand, a spokesman for Loebsack, said he is "aggressively" seeking cosponsors for his bill, which currently has the support of one oth-

SEE PAY, 5A

DANCE MARATHON 2013: FAMILIES

Iowa 2-year-old battles leukemia

Bethanie Johnson's mother started a fundraiser for Dance Marathon called 'Bows 4 Bethanie Rose.'

By **DORA GROTE**
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Bethanie Johnson and twin sister Marleigh make for a rambunctious set of "terrible twos." They pitter-patter through puddles, bang household pots and pans, and color outside the lines — all while sporting an impish grin.

But even though Bethanie seems like a typical 2-year-old, sitting in her high-chair, eating a hot dog with mouse bows pinned to her short brown hair, she's matured faster than her sister — in more ways than one.

"She was the first one to pull herself up and the first one to crawl out of the two twins," said father Jason Johnson. "But now, she's matured faster emotionally. Kids are resilient. They think, 'This is life, OK. Boom. I'm going to take what I have and be happy with it.'"



Bethanie Johnson lies in a hospital bed in her room in the UI Children's Hospital on Wednesday. (The Daily Iowan/Rachel Jessen)

When Bethanie's developmental progress started to regress, and crying became constant, her parents knew something was wrong. They checked her arms and legs for signs of injury, but

didn't see any problems.

"She went from being this happy independent little baby to just crying,"

SEE BETHANIE, 5A

Bringing books to the people

A mobile library is set to head to southeastern Iowa City.

By **LAUREN COFFEY**
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A group of children mills about the Iowa City Public Library, all with books in their hands and eager smiles on their faces.

For most, this is a common scene experienced a handful of times per month. But for the children living in southeastern Iowa City, this occurs far less often.

"With single parents and working families, going to the library just is not a priority," University of Iowa library student Cassanda Elton said. "You have to drive there, and pay for parking, or it's free after 5, and by then it's all gone. By the time the parents get home at 5 at night, they have other things to do."

SEE LIBRARY, 5A

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News

DANCE MARATHON 2013

Dance Marathon sparks teens

Dance Marathon teens 'come out of shells' and get the backstage treatment as morale captains in training.

By EMMA MCCLATCHEY
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As Dance Marathon's morale captains lead the crowd in another rendition of the revered "Morale Dance," toddlers bounce in their parent's arms, and young children accept a twirl from a green-clad dancer.

But waiting in a sort of limbo between the little kids and the college-age captains and dancers are Dance Marathon's teenagers, who might feel a bit out of place at the 24-hour "Big Event."

"The little kids seem to fit right in with the dancers; I think the teens have to work at it a little more," said 17-year-old Dillyn Mumme, who first participated in the Big Event at the age of 13, when he was starting treatment for lymphoblastic leukemia. "Once I got to meet some of the dancers and stuff, I got to interact more and be more involved in what's going on."

The best way to facilitate this interaction, Dance Marathon family representatives decided three years ago, was to establish the Morale Captains in Training Program. This organization teams Dance Marathon patients and family members ages 13 through 18 with the family representatives and morale captain assistants for an inside look at leadership. Since 2010, the program has grown by dozens of participants.

"A lot of the kids look up to the college students and want to hang out as a more

peer relationship," said Emily Dungan, a family representative head. "It kind of makes them realize what goes on from behind the doors of Dance Marathon and what has to happen in order for them to get what they do out of Dance Marathon."

Donning red and white tie-dye shirts, the morale captains in training will meet in their exclusive team room in the IMU five times over the course of the Big Event on Friday and Saturday to speak with Dance Marathon leadership, eat pizza, collect "swag" such as glasses and bracelets, and learn the Morale Dance just in time to perform it on the stage during Power Hour — the high-energy last 60-minutes of the Big Event.

The latter was one of 14-year-old morale captain in training Aimee Johnson's favorite parts of last year's Dance Marathon, along with getting to know other teens and her morale captain assistant mentor.

"There's so much adrenaline, running around and doing random things for 24 hours and having fun," she said. "It was a great learning experience, and I basically did not want to miss out on it this year."

Because her 2-year-old sister, Bethanie, is being treated for acute lymphoblastic leukemia, Aimee's mother, Melissa Johnson, encouraged her to join the Morale Captains in Training Program.

"Siblings maybe feel more



Dillyn Mumme (center) stands with leadership friends at Dance Marathon 18. (Contributed Photo)

disconnected from the experience, but Morale Captains in Training really gave Aimee a place to belong," Melissa Johnson said. "She had a blast last year—we didn't see her until like 10 the next morning."

Dillyn, the first ever Morale Captain in Training Program director, proposed even more community-building measures this year, including increased communication via a group Facebook page and games to help the teens become more comfortable with fellow kids and college students.

"Everyone's there to get people to come out of shells and to just have fun," he said, who plans to get involved in Dance Marathon at Iowa State University, where he will start classes next fall. "Morale Captains in Training helps get people who are going through things like me involved and gives them insight

on what being a dancer is about."

Alissa Bornhoft, a member of the Dance Marathon family-relations committee, said approximately 50 teens are registered as morale captains in training — about 25 of them returning members — and they expect an upwards of 75 kids to sign up by Friday night, in comparison with last year's 63.

Aimee said she hopes to pursue Dance Marathon leadership in the future. For now, she said, she is committed to the Morale Captains in Training Program.

"The Dance Marathon representatives and the family-relations kids helped mold our family into what it was before my sister was diagnosed," she said. "Dance Marathon's just another family. As far as I am concerned, I will be doing Morale Captains in Training until I am 18."

Event mulls mental health care

Following his visit in Iowa City, Rep. Dave Loebsack, D-Iowa, will continue on to Newton and Burlington to speak further on mental health and school safety.

By MANDI CAROZZA
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With increasing turmoil regarding school safety and mental health following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, one local congressman held a forum in hopes of creating a dialogue on improving Iowa City and Iowa's mental-health programs.

Rep. Dave Loebsack, D-Iowa, listened to health-care professionals and members of the University of Iowa College of Education at a forum held at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics on Wednesday, as they suggested ways to better mental-health programs in Iowa.

"I've done everything I could to draw attention to the issue," Loebsack said regarding his interest in spreading mental-health awareness.

Loebsack was scheduled to speak at City High to teachers, administrators, parents, and students, but

the event was canceled because of inclement weather.

Among other topics, attendees voiced desire to implement telemedicine, providing health care from a distance, throughout the state and to increase funding for such programs.

Realizing that funding is limited, Jennifer McWilliams, a UI clinical assistant professor of psychiatry, said the state needs a unique, sustainable program that provides mental-health care, and psychiatric telemedicine would do just that.

"It's a cost-efficient way to achieve access," Loebsack said.

James Potash, the head of the Psychiatry Department at the UI Hospitals & Clinics, said 80 percent of Iowa is rural with scarce psychiatric resources, and it is important to offer psychiatric treatments over the phone or online.

"Telepsychiatry is a way to reach [the rest of the state]," he said, noting psy-

chiatrists densely populate only two Iowa cities: Iowa City and Des Moines.

But Potash doesn't want to stop at the state level. Through the Establish a Network of Health-Advancing National Centers of Excellence for Depression Act, he believes mental-health experts could collaborate to help people on a national level.

"It would allow us to extend expert care," he said.

What Potash describes as a "shovel-ready program," the act would create a nationwide community of excellence in psychiatry, and telepsychiatry would be a key element. Officials said the next step would be to obtain funding for the program.

While Loebsack could not make any promises for funding at Wednesday's roundtable meeting, the congressman has a personal investment in mental-health issues.

"It's been an issue that has taken a lot of our atten-

Mental Health in Iowa

Rep. Dave Loebsack, D-Iowa, visited Iowa City to discuss mental-health and school-safety issues Wednesday.

- Mental-health experts suggest Iowa adopt telepsychiatry to service rural areas of the state.
- Loebsack will visit Newton and Burlington next.

Source: Roundtable news release

tion and our concern," Loebsack said about him and wife Terry, who is a former second-grade teacher.

Having grown up with a mother who suffered from mental illness, Loebsack has an intimate knowledge of how mental illness affects a person.

"I try to do what I can on a personal level and while I'm in Congress," he said.

METRO

Iowa City gets Blue Zone mark

Iowa City has officially become a Blue Zone following an announcement in Des Moines Wednesday.

According to an Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce press release, the group learned this morning following a news conference and reception held at Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Des Moines.

Over the next year, the city will follow other communities that have been designated as Blue Zones to learn more about the process and "build a strong foundation to achieve healthier lifestyles." The chamber will receive assistance from national experts beginning in 2014 to help maintain the Blue Zone status, the release said.

"We are elated to have been se-

lected as a Blue Zones community," said Nancy Quellhorst, the Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce President & CEO, in a release. "Blue Zones strategies will reduce health-care costs and positively affect the at-large community."

Cedar Rapids, Marion, Muscatine, Oskaloosa, and Sioux City were also on the list of Blue Zone sites.

The Blue Zones program is part of the Branstad's Healthiest State Initiative.

— by Jordyn Reiland

Marshall trial postponed

The trial for 20-year-old Justin Marshall was postponed Wednesday because of inclement weather. The decision to postpone the trial was made by the judge.

Marshall's trial began Jan. 22, and it was expected to end Friday prior to the postponement. If Marshall is found guilty, he faces life in prison.

Marshall is on trial this week facing a charge of first-degree murder in connection with the Oct. 8, 2009, killing of former Broadway Condominiums landlord John Versypt.

The trial is expected to resume today at 9 a.m.

— by Jordyn Reiland

Man charged with threat of terrorism

A Lincoln, Neb., man has been arrested after allegedly sending text messages threatening to commit a shooting at a college in Lincoln. Justin Coleman, 24, Lincoln, Neb., was accused Wednesday

with threat of terrorism.

Coleman was allegedly sending text messages from 11:53 p.m. on Tuesday to 1:16 a.m. on Wednesday to an acquaintance from Lincoln, the police complaint said.

The text messages Coleman sent threatened to kill an unnamed female and people at a college in Lincoln. One text message said, "I am going to shoot up this school tomorrow. Ready to die and fully arm," the police complaint said.

The Lincoln police located Coleman's cell phone at the Iowa City Shelter House, 429 Southgate Ave. The police responded and reportedly saw Coleman leaving the bathroom, with the cell phone still in his possession.

Threat of terrorism is a Class-D felony.

— by Rebecca Morin

The Daily Iowan

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BREAKING NEWS

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CORRECTION

In the Jan 30 story, "Marshall murder trial testimony centers on legal pad," *The Daily Iowan* incorrectly reported that Marshall knocked on Charles Brown's door and asked to be let in. In Brown's testimony, he stated he heard Marshall knock on apartment 5C, the apartment where Marshall was staying. In addition, the *DI* incorrectly reported Brown later asked Thompson about the owner of the gun used to kill Versypt. In Brown's testimony, this event occurred the day before the shooting. The *DI* regrets these errors.

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IC finance head retires

Kevin O'Malley handled the funding and reallocation of dollars following the flood of 2008. O'Malley will officially leave the position at the end of this month.

By NICK HASSETT
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Kevin O'Malley is not used to being the center of attention.

The outgoing Iowa City finance director, who has worked in the Finance Department since 1985, described public service as a noble, honest profession — something that often happens behind the scenes.

As O'Malley retires from his position, he hopes his successor will keep in mind more than just the numbers.

"Every job besides the work is the people," he said. "I believe in education you need to provide opportunities for staff to grow. We always get new statutes that affect city operations."

His successor, Dennis Bockenstedt, works as the city finance director in Hutchinson, Kan. He is a native of Iowa. Bockenstedt was not available for comment Wednesday evening.

But despite his successor's qualifications, those who have known O'Malley over the years say they'll miss the unique qualities he brought to the position.

"He's always fair with people; he's a straight shooter," said Denny Gannon, an Iowa City assistant city engineer.

City Manager Tom Markus thinks O'Malley was thorough and professional in the fi-



Kevin O'Malley, the Iowa City director of finance since 1999, will retire at the end of this month. (The Daily Iowan/Chris Willauer)

nance-director position. "From an objective review, he maintained the city's AAA bond rating throughout his career," he said. "That says a lot about him, and he'll be missed."

O'Malley grew up in Chicago in a large Irish-Catholic family, which, he says, taught him the values of discipline and sharing.

One moment in particular helped shape his view of what government should be.

When O'Malley was playing basketball as a child on a hot, dry day and wanted to get a drink, he discovered the water had been shut off. But after a call to the local waterman, the

waterman came out and turned on the water the next day.

"Chicago was not always the most honest form of government," he said. "But after that, I thought, 'That's what government should be. Responsive.'"

O'Malley was the city's risk manager during several disasters, such as floods and straight-line winds, and he managed the funds. With budgets having been worked on 18 months before they were put into place, it was often difficult to keep the finances in order.

"We had to put projects on the back burner and spend a lot of

money," he said. "FEMA helped, but there was a lot of paperwork."

That's one aspect of the job that O'Malley won't miss.

"If the city had book-sized paperwork, and the state had volume-sized, then the federal government had a bookshelf," he said.

But O'Malley did more than just manage the money and handle the paperwork.

"Kevin has very strong values. He's very considerate of all employees," said Deb Mansfield, a budget analyst for Iowa City. "He's always aware of people issues, not just dollar issues, and that's pretty rare."

Giffords speaks for gun law

By ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON— Severely wounded and still recovering, former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords begged lawmakers at an emotional hearing Wednesday to act quickly to curb firearms because "Americans are counting on you." Not everyone agreed, underscoring the national political divide over gun control.

Giffords' 80-word plea was the day's most riveting moment, delivered in a hushed, halting voice two years after the Arizona Democrat suffered head wounds in a Tucson shooting spree that killed six people. The session also came two months after 20 first-graders and six women were slain by a gunman who invaded Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

At the same hearing, a top official of the National Rifle Association rejected Democratic proposals to ban assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines and said requiring background checks for all gun purchases would be ineffective because the Obama administration isn't doing enough to enforce the law as it is.

Even if stronger background checks did identify a criminal, "as long as you let him go, you're not keeping him from getting a gun, and you're

not preventing him from getting to the next crime scene," said Wayne LaPierre, the NRA's executive vice president. He said poor enforcement is "a national disgrace."

Giffords, who retired from Congress last year, focused during her brief appearance on the carnage from armed assailants.

"Too many children are dying," she said at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. "Too many children. We must do something. It will be hard, but the time is now."

Guiding her in and remaining to testify was Mark Kelly, the retired astronaut who is Giffords' husband. The couple, who both own guns, has formed a political action committee called Americans for Responsible Solutions that backs lawmakers who support gun restrictions.

"We're simply two reasonable Americans who realize we have a problem with gun violence and we need Congress to act," Kelly said.

Wednesday's session played out in a hearing room packed to capacity. While both sides appealed to their followers beforehand to arrive early and fill the room, most in the public audience of around 150 appeared to be gun-control sympathizers, including relatives of the shootings at Virginia Tech.

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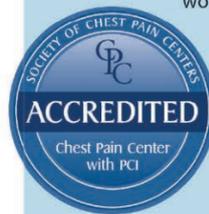
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EDITORIAL

Allow for entertainment, not underage illegalities

The Iowa City City Council appears to be on its way toward allowing 19- and 20-year-olds to stay in entertainment venues beyond the current midnight curfew. At last week's City Council meeting, an ordinance that would lift the current ban was unanimously approved on its first consideration.

The ordinance will be required to pass two additional votes in the coming weeks before any policy change would be put in place, but the rules can't be changed soon enough.

City Councilor Rick Dobyns characterized the move as a "reward" for the music venues' collective "good behavior." While it is true that Iowa City's music venues have been "good" — in 2012, only 43 under-21 violations were found to have occurred in music venues that sell alcohol — the repeal of this rule is more about justice than reward.

The exclusion of underage people from many of Iowa City's music venues was one of the most draconian provisions of the so-called 21-ordinance, the 2010 rule that imposed curfews for underage bar attendees in an effort to curb binge drinking downtown. The ordinance, many local music venue owners argued, unfairly detracted from their ability to profitably offer a perfectly legal product to Iowa City residents.

Trenton Dickel, the general manager at the Mill, 120 E. Burlington St., told *The Daily Iowan* that while he couldn't assign a dollar value to the law's effect on his business, it has been substantial.

The rule also had the particularly unfortunate effect of turning many young patrons of Iowa City's music scene into unwitting scofflaws.

"[The policy] has caused kids who forget about the curfew to get a \$300 ticket," said Scott Kading, the owner of the Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn St. "We're not trying to serve underage kids."

The *DI* Editorial Board applauds the City Council for moving to strike down this partic-

ularly unfair policy, though the city's leaders should have had the foresight to prevent it from coming into existence in the first place.

But while the Editorial Board supports repealing the curfew for people under the age of 21 in Iowa City's music venues, we do not support any extension to repeal the 21-ordinance further to include Iowa City's bars, whose primary reason for existence is to serve alcohol.

The reason for this easily perceived inconsistency in opinion stems from the nature of the businesses in question. Iowa City's music venues have a legitimate gripe with the city — access to their product, musical entertainment, was being unfairly curtailed by the city's rules. Bars can make no similar complaint.

Already, establishments that can claim that they offer something other than alcohol — music or food, essentially — to their customers are eligible for an exception to the 21-ordinance. To argue bars, like music venues, are economically worse off because of restrictions on underage customers points to a serious problem with the business model of the local bar scene.

The implicit message of such anti-21-ordinance argument is that bars can't make money unless they break the law by selling directly or indirectly to underage patrons. The city should offer no sympathy for such a business model.

It is perhaps the case that the country's drinking laws at every level are comically strict, but that argument should make no difference in the discussion in this particular case. Businesses of all kinds must operate in the real world where rules exist, for better or worse. Iowa City's music venues deserve a full break from the 21-ordinance; Iowa City's bars do not.

Your turn.

Should the age restriction on entertainment venues be lifted? Weigh in on at dailyiowan.com.

Combating old notions



By KATIE KUNTZ
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After the announcement from the Pentagon last week that women would no longer be banned from combat, people throughout the United States, and even here at the University of Iowa, offered their opinions about whether women belong in a war zone at all, as *The Daily Iowan* has previously reported.

Despite the many varying objections, whether women belong in the military has already been answered — and they have proven their worth and been in combative situations. Since 2001, more than 280,000 women have already served in Iraq and Afghanistan, 152 giving their lives for this country. It's not simply that women should be allowed to serve in combat, they already are. What the new rule has really given women is an opportunity to rise through the ranks when their efforts and courage are deserving of a promotion.

"I think that women can do whatever they choose to do so long as they meet the demands," said John Mikelson, the coordinator of the UI Veterans Center. "We have had women earn the Silver Star as recently as 2008. It's just the government's policy catching up with what is happening on the ground."

Before the ban was lifted last week, as many as 184,000 positions were closed to women that will now be open to women who can meet the standards those positions demand. Before the ban was lifted, women were serving in combative situations but they weren't given the titles, or promotions, deserving of troops given jobs specifically in combat.

Still, women were said not to be in combat because they were not labeled as being on the frontline.

"If you think of traditional war, that was probably true, but the nature of these two wars [in Iraq and Afghanistan] is not like that," Mikelson said. "A [military] truck driver is as likely to engage in gunfire combat as anyone else."

Iraq and Afghanistan are two countries that offer obstacles not common before the war on terror. Enemy combatants do not wear uniforms, do not have a specific battlefield and it's not always clear if someone is a soldier or a civilian.

Women who are supposed to have noncombat jobs are still asked to participate in combat situations, still are in the line of fire, still protect themselves and their country, but are denied the dignity of being recognized for their duty.

Denying women access to combat is a fictional idea that only serves to insult the courage that female soldiers bring to the field. Denying those same women access to higher-ranking positions is a waste of resources. The military has in place gender-neutral requirements for specific jobs, and the most capable person should be given the job regardless of her or his sex.

For more than a decade, the U.S. armed forces have adapted to having women in combat. In the Army, women work in 93 percent of the positions available to them. While there are still many threats to any soldier, regardless of sex, female troops have already proven themselves an integral part in numerous operations, protecting the lives of civilians and other Americans.

"When they started doing house-to-house searches, because of Sharia law, Muslim women cannot be touched by men who are not their husbands, which made the searches very difficult," Mikelson said. "Female troops were pulled from other jobs and asked to be part of female engagement teams."

These female soldiers offered the only solution to an otherwise dangerous operation, which became known as Operation Lioness in Iraq. These lionesses made it possible for a necessary operation to be completed with dignity and respect for civilians and safety for Americans.

Of the 500 veterans enrolled at the UI, nearly 30 percent are women. These women are classmates who served our country, took the same oath as their male counterparts, and made our safety their duty. It is our duty, then, when considering women in combat, not to question whether they should be there, but thank them for their service. ■



FUN STUFF

by BEN MACKAY

Governor Terry Branstad stands firm in his opposition to marijuana reform.

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

School revenue policy reasonable

Can I think of reasons to vote "no" for the [revenue purpose statement] on Feb. 5? Certainly, I can. While I'm not a complete cynic about the nature of public agencies, politicians, and local disputes, I recognize there many things that have gone wrong in our School District during the 20 years I have lived in Iowa City.

But I am a pragmatist. During my professional life (before becoming a professional nonprofit fundraiser), I was a performance-improvement consul-

tant — so I know a little about inefficiencies and dysfunction in organizations and processes. Do I recognize these signs in the Iowa City School District? Certainly, I see some. But I also have seen them at some of the most outstanding businesses in our area as well. Even the most successful organization has room for improvement — the key is that those organizations move forward with an eye toward improvement. We are not perfect as a district — but I do believe that with the new [diversity policy] and a new approach to funding facilities, our board and administration are in

a position to finally catch up on critical facilities needs within our school district.

These needs are not new; our kids have been sitting in temporary classrooms, in buildings that aren't handicapped accessible, eating lunch in hallways and smelly gyms, and sweltering in dangerous 100-degree classrooms for years. We can do better.

With one of the fastest growing student populations in the state, we've spent the past several years just trying to find seats for kids, using some bond money and funds available under our "pay as you go" school infra-

structure local option model.

This means critical upgrades to existing schools have been ignored because the money hasn't been there to do both, creating an inequitable learning environment across the district and exacerbating the tensions and frustrations among constituents in areas of the district who feel their needs have been ignored.

Do I believe that facilities are the only thing that determines the quality of education? Absolutely not. But I do believe they provide a strong base to allow our teachers to perform at their highest levels and our children to

learn in an environment that is comfortable, accessible and safe. And I believe that the same standard of excellence should apply to every child in the district, not just mine.

Do I trust the board to do what they say they will? As much as I trust any elected official to do what they say they will do, given that circumstances change and competing constituencies want and need different things. But I do believe that the One Plan is a great place to start — and I believe that there are processes and checks in place to hold the board and administra-

tion accountable to make good decisions as we begin to spend the money that the new [revenue purpose statement] will make available to them.

If you want to make a point to this board, participate in those processes and hold them accountable — or speak with your vote during School Board elections in September. But don't use the [revenue purpose statement] vote as a way to "make a point" with the board — the only people that get hurt from that are our kids.

Marsha Grady
Iowa City resident

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News

dailyiowan.com for more news



SNOW

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

wa City Street Division employees' hours haven't suffered. Instead, they have been working on city maintenance not normally possible

during the winter.

Brush clearing and street patching — jobs not usually feasible during winter months — are among the latest job duties for the Street Division, instead of the usual early morning snow plowing, Sobaski said.

UI officials have also accessed fewer resources during the past few months — a rare occurrence in Iowa.

Scott Gritsch, the manager of landscape services for UI Facilities Management, said during a typical winter, Facilities Management

is called out 26 times for snow removal. They've only been called out three times thus far into the winter.

The UI uses roughly 400 tons of salt and 300 tons of sand per winter, but it has only brought in half the sand and salt during the last few

months.

Due to the overall lack of snow, UI officials estimate another under-budget year.

"January is usually our big month," Gritsch said. "I would say we'll be under what our budget is again this year." Despite the UI's confi-

dence it won't face much more snowfall, Fosse said more expenditures could be expected in February.

"We can have some pretty significant expenditures in February," Fosse said. "The 90-day outlook is looking wetter than normal."

PAY

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

er Democrat.

Republicans included another provision related to Congressional pay in a bill allowing for a three-month suspension of the debt ceiling. The suspension allows for an increase in the total amount the United States is allowed to borrow to meet its existing obligations. The provision would hold salaries in an escrow account until the House and Senate

pass a budget or the last day of the 113th Congress occurs.

One local Republican says the actions Republicans in Congress took were the "proper outlook," and he spoke against the proposed 10-percent cut in pay in Loeb'sack's bill.

"The 10-percent cut is meaningless," said Bob Anderson, the chairman of the Johnson County Republicans. "Lately, the action taken in the House is the best thing I have heard. It's critical for Congress to fulfill its responsibilities, which includes both houses

passing a budget."

UI law Professor Todd Pettys said such actions could run into problems with the 27th Amendment, but it's unlikely such a challenge would occur.

"It's been so sparsely regulated that we don't have enough cases to know what it means," he said. "However, someone who directly suffered would have to sue, and it's not politically popular to do that especially if there is a perception you're not doing your job."

Loeb'sack said even though he does not have professional experience

on this issue, he thought that escrow fix would not violate the amendment. While there are many reasons bills relating to pay and benefits may fail, some members of Congress may just want to avoid the issue by letting the bills die, Hagle said.

"They may not be all that forthcoming to avoid the issue by saying, 'All right, it's just a sideshow or stunt,'" he said.

Hand said while Congressional pay may make up just a small part of the budget, it's a great place to start.

"Congress needs to set the example," he said.



Rep. Dave Loeb'sack, D-Iowa, sits at a meeting in 2011. (The Daily Iowan/ File Photo)

"Every bit helps, and Congress needs to set an example and deal with

less serious issue ... before taking steps forward to cut the deficit."

BETHANIE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

said mother Melissa Johnson. "She would only stop crying when she was in my arms, and she'd start crying as soon as we'd put her down. She'd bawl and just sit there and act like something was hurting her."

Bethanie's abnormal behavior sparked a trip to the doctor's office. Melissa and Jason Johnson took Bethanie to be examined twice, and unsatisfied with the answers they got, took her to the emergency room, where they were told Bethanie had an elevated count of white blood cells. She was transferred to the University of Iowa Children's Hospital.

"I think my reaction, my coping mechanisms —

how I dealt with it — was probably a little bit different from my husband and different from a lot of different families," Melissa Johnson said, noting she had previously worked as a pediatric oncology social worker. "There was no learning curve for me per say. I was told her white count at the ER, and I knew what the doctor was telling me."

Bethanie was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia on July 4, 2011 — around 11 months after she was born, on Aug. 19, 2010.

Bethanie's treatment was primarily in-patient for the whole first year. For a girl who's lived merely 900 days, she's spent 192 of those in the hospital — most of which came within the first five months after her diagno-

sis. While at the hospital, she received various forms of chemotherapy — both high and low dosages — including IV, oral, spinal, and steroids acting as a chemo agent.

But a group of college kids never let Bethanie's or her family's spirits down.

"I didn't know what the full extent of Dance Marathon would mean to us," Melissa Johnson said, noting that her family had just moved to Bettendorf from Tampa, Fla., almost immediately before Bethanie's diagnosis. "Being new to the area and not knowing anyone when our daughter was diagnosed, then turning around and living in the hospital, they became our family."

Bethanie's family shared her battle with

cancer in a story before Power Hour at Dance Marathon last year, and they said they wouldn't miss the Big Event for anything this year.

The bows in Bethanie's hair reflect the fundraiser Melissa started called "Bows 4 Bethanie Rose," where she makes hair bows and donates 50 percent of the proceeds back to Dance Marathon.

With leukemia, the patient's goal is to get into remission in the first 30 days, which Bethanie achieved. Remission means the doctors can't find any evidence of the cancer in the bone mar-

row. Bethanie, "B-Bug," as her family calls her, is now in a maintenance phase — going to the hospital once a month and taking medications at home. If all goes well, she'll be done with treatment in July 2013.

And that's good news to the whole family. Bethanie's five-year-old sister, Sydney, and 14-year-old sister, Aimee, known as "Mini-mom," said they both missed their sister while she was in the hospital.

"It was different with my mom and sister being gone," Aimee said, tears welling up in her eyes. "I

can't explain how I felt, but it just wasn't right. Throwing in Dance Marathon was just kind of like the glue. They brought everything together."

Even though the heavy chemotherapy treatments took a growth toll on Bethanie — she remained a size two shoe while in the hospital — Bethanie is a trooper, and her now size five shoe can prove it.

"She's a typical 2-year-old now, with a little more fight, a little more badass in her," Melissa Johnson said. "She's a little more strong-willed. She's a fighter. She always was, but now she is even more."

LIBRARY

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Because downtown is farther away for these families, many of the residents have difficulty coming to the library. This leaves children with their school libraries, which have limited options, Elton said.

Several UI library students, including Elton, decided they wanted to alleviate the problem by creating their own library to specifically serve children in southeastern Iowa City. Their idea, called the Antelope Lending Library, was created in April 2012, and it is getting closer to becoming a reality.

The library would be a satellite library, in which books could be moved various places to reach as many children as possible.

The group for the project has had some financial issues and has done a multitude of fundraisers. Its biggest fundraiser occurred through a website called indiegogo.com. Through the website, the members raised \$13,509.

A study was published May 2011 by the Himmel Wilson Library Consultants that determined that of the active households of southeastern Iowa City, only 16 to 20 percent of them visited the circulation portion of the library, whereas 31 to 35 percent of the population in central Iowa City did.

As of now, Elton and her colleagues are looking into a book mobile: a bus that has shelves to hold all the books, as well as computers in one place.

Despite financial issues, the Antelope Lending Library team hopes to be up and running by the sum-

mer, when children need to continue their learning after schools ends.

Iowa City is certified as a "City of Literature," a title given in 2008 by UNESCO. At the time, Iowa City was one of three in the world with this title. Now, it is one of six.

John Kenyon, the executive director of the Iowa City City of Literature, believes that although Iowa City has many opportunities with reading, placing books in children's hands is something that everyone should strive for.

"Just having access to books is the key," he said. "If you're in home where having books is a luxury, or if you have to choose buying a staple or buying a

Antelope Lending Library

A group of UI library students hope to create a new library in southeastern Iowa City.

- It would not be in a permanent building; most likely in a moving bus or have the materials be moved in a trailer.
- It is hoped to be completed before June.
- The group has raised around \$13,500.

Source: Cassandra Elton, UI library student

book, well, the choice is obvious. So to have projects like [the Antelope Lending Library], it's incredibly important to have."

TARA
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2013

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FEB. 12TH

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The Daily Iowan DAILY BREAK

“Democracy is the art of running the circus from the monkey cage.”
— H.L. Mencken

the ledge

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



Thoughts on Breakfast:

- They say breakfast is the most important meal, so eat it three to four times daily.
- Breakfast dates never work. At the end of the date, you'll get excuses like "I would, but I have to do my laundry" or "How about we see where grocery shopping leads us."
- Little known fact: all Kevin Bacon fans prefer sausage with their eggs.
- Anything bite-sized can be cereal, just add milk. If you don't have milk, then coffee, Mountain Dew, or orange juice can serve in a pinch.
- Waffles, pancakes, and fruit are only healthy if they are not soaked in syrup, butter, and powdered sugar, even if they are in the shape of Mickey Mouse.
- Shakes and smoothies can be a quick, nutritious breakfast. I would still suggest you cook your frozen pizza, waffles, and bacon before blending them, though.
- Did you know: Eating eggs was illegal until 1973? That's the year the Supreme Court ruled in favor of farmers, deciding that "chickens aren't legally alive until they've hatched."
- Sick of French Toast? Make American Toast instead. Recipe: Make macaroni & cheese, substituting Budweiser for water. Mix in hamburger (87/13, preferably). "Dip" Texas Toast into mix. Deep fry. Top with cheese, ketchup, and a doughnut. Eat less than half of it, and throw the rest away.

Andrew R. Juhl thanks Nathan Wulf for the material in today's Ledge.

The Daily Iowan
www.dailyiowan.com

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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BY GARRY TRUDEAU

DILBERT

by Scott Adams

'NON SEQUITUR

BY VEJ

HUNGRY?

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

today's events

SUBMIT AN EVENT Want to see your special event appear here? Simply submit the details at: dailyiowan.com/pages/calendarsubmit.html

- **Institutional Review Board Office Hours**, 10 a.m., Human Subjects Office, 101 Hardin Library
- **Spanish Conversation Classes**, 12:15 p.m., UIHC Melrose Conference Center
- **Food Assistance Program for Seniors**, p.m., Senior Center, 28 S. Linn
- **Seniors Against Investment Fraud**, 2 p.m., Senior Center
- **Little Village Live**, 5 p.m., Public Space One, 129 E. Washington
- **Tai Chi Open Practice**, 5:30 p.m., Senior Center
- **Country Dance Lessons**, 6:30 p.m., Wildwood, 4919 Walleye
- **Bill W.**, 7 p.m., Bijou
- **Country Dance**, 7 p.m., Eagle's Lodge, 225 Highway 1W.
- **Open Mike**, 7 p.m., Uptown Bill's, 730 S. Dubuque
- **Spoken Word**, 7 p.m., Uptown Bill's
- **The Exit Interview**, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Theater, 213 N. Gilbert
- **Campus Activities Board Movie**, *Perks of Being a Wallflower*, 8 & 11p.m., 348 IMU
- **Trouble: A Foot**, Gallery Series, 8 p.m., Theater Building Mable Theater
- **Robot and Frank**, 9:15 p.m., Bijou

UITV schedule

Campus channel 4, cable channel 17

- 8 Piano Sundays Concert, Faculty Recital, Oct. 3, 2010
- 9 Lisa Bluder Weekly Press Conference, media meets with the Iowa women's basketball coach
- 9:30 Daily Iowan TV News Update
- 9:45 Inside Iowa, weekly campus magazine covering education, research, and service at the UI
- 9:45 Inside Iowa, news and features from the UI
- 10 Hawkeye Sports Report, sports magazine presented by HawkVision
- 10:30 Daily Iowan TV News Update
- 10:45 Inside Iowa, weekly campus magazine covering education, research, and service at the UI

horoscopes

Thursday, January 31, 2013 by Eugenia Last

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Don't let erratic behavior cloud your vision or send you spinning in the wrong direction. Look at what transpires, and size up your situation based on what you can win or lose in the process. Change is necessary, but it has to be positive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Don't let compliments fool you into believing you have everything under control. Someone is trying to manipulate the situation or get something from you. Rethink everyone's motives, including your own, before you proceed. Love is in the stars.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You've got plenty of choices. Use your intelligence, and separate your emotions from the equation, and you will make a suitable decision that will bring you good fortune and greater opportunity. Speak concisely and from the heart.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Go out and have fun with friends. Attend a reunion, or contact someone you haven't seen for a long time. Interacting with people from your past will help you see your personal situation clearly, giving you ideas about what you should do next.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Expand your interests and your friendships. Call in favors, and travel to unfamiliar places that are sure to inspire you to follow through with your goals. Avoid anyone putting demands on you. You need a little time to develop your plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You can get a lot done, but you must also put time aside for love and your favorite pastimes. All work and no play will lead to someone's loss of interest in you. Nurture the relationships that are dear to you. Put love first.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Make plans to get out and have some fun. Networking functions will lead to greater prosperity. Your intelligent way of expressing your plans for the future will interest someone entrepreneurial. An unexpected change will end up being beneficial.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Don't waste time trying to prove a point to someone who is stubborn. You are best to focus on your interests or creative projects. Avoid overdoing it in any way. Keep your money in a safe place and your assets well protected.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You'll have a good view of the possibilities that exist through a friendship or a change in location. Strive to contribute, and you will earn a secure position. Personal changes will turn out well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Pressure can be expected from an unusual source. Prepare to make your point clear, but be willing to listen. Combining what you have with what's being offered will be what leads to your success.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You are the one everybody is watching. You are a trendsetter and do what you can to change the way people think or do things. Invest in yourself, your surroundings, and your lifestyle. A reward is within reach.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Too much information is being kept a secret. You either have to share or avoid moving in a direction that can be detrimental to your future goals. Not everyone will be willing to give you the benefit of the doubt. Play fair.

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OBJECTS OF ART

The New York Times Crossword

- Edited by Will Shortz No. 1227
- ACROSS**
- 1 One of the folks say
 - 5 Bit the bullet, say
 - 10 French
 - 14 Shoveler's target
 - 15 XC60, XC70 or XC90
 - 16 "The Hurt Locker" setting
 - 17 SON
 - 19 Junior of the N.F.L.
 - 20 U.S./Canadian sporting grp. since 1936
 - 21 Rear-
 - 22 To love, to Livy
 - 23 Output from an old printer
 - 25 2001 French film nominated for five Academy Awards
 - 26 TIN
 - 29 Latin abbr. meaning "he speaks"
 - 30 Bust
 - 31 #26 of 26
 - 32 Subject of four Sports Illustrated covers between 1966 and 1993
 - 35 Chicken
 - 36 Rare goose
 - 37 Balneotherapy locale
 - 38 Tito's surname
 - 40 Rapper behind the 2012 "Gangnam Style" YouTube sensation
 - 42 LIP
 - 47 "That's it for me"
 - 48 Stone Age artifact
 - 50 Oenophile's installation
 - 51 "Hell, yeah!"
 - 53 Transportation Dept. agency
 - 54 An emollient
 - 55 FIN
 - 57 Of two minds
 - 58 Systems (computer networking company)
 - 59 Aéroport d'
 - 60 Quarters in Québec?
 - 61 One working on some panels
 - 62 "Wassup"
- DOWN**
- 1 "Fie!"
 - 2 How some balls are fielded
 - 3 Hoi
 - 4 Personal ad abbr.
 - 5 Hit Broadway musical with the song "I'm Not Wearing Underwear Today"
 - 6 Shared with, as a story
 - 7 If not
 - 8 "The Dancing Years" composer
 - 9 Heap
 - 10 What's in the stars
 - 11 "It's clear to me ..."
 - 12 Designer of the Tulip chair
 - 13 Tool with a blade
 - 18 Clark Bar company
 - 22 In
 - 24 Edit out
 - 25 Male name that spells another male name backward
 - 27 Was paralyzed with fear, say
 - 28 Ski shop supply
 - 32 Say "hey," say
 - 33 Tony winner after 5-Down
 - 34 Dedicated
 - 35 Professional runner
 - 36 Org. in 1997's "Cop Land"
 - 38 Mail room sights
 - 39 Singer Carly Jepsen
 - 40 Represent, in sports
 - 41 Area of decades-long conflict
 - 43 Some board game equipment
 - 44 Prime
 - 45 Theodore Roosevelt was on one in 1909
 - 46 Friend no more
 - 49 Course with no homework, say
 - 51 Hippie celebration
 - 52 City west of Novosibirsk
 - 55 College dept.
 - 56 Japanese drama

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

KRUI

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- 6 p.m. Feb. 4
- 7 p.m. Feb. 5
- Where: 348 IMU

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11 a.m.-noon, The New Deal
Noon-2 p.m. This is Radio
2-3 p.m. Nick After Noon
3-5 p.m. L'Heure Française

5-6 p.m., Fred from the Block
6-7 p.m., Daytrotter Radio
8-10 p.m., The Night Café
10-midnight, The Chrysanthemum Sound System



OUT IN THE COLD
Pedestrians confronted snow and freezing temperatures in downtown Iowa City on Wednesday, the result of thoughtful Canadians airmailing their weather to us. (The Daily Iowan/Juan Carlos Herrera)

Sports

THREES

CONTINUED FROM 8A

Winless Lions come to Carver

Penn State (8-12, 0-8

Big Ten) started the season 8-4 but has lost its last eight games, the most recent a 65-51 loss to Ohio State on Jan 26.

The Nittany Lions have struggled adjusting to life without their best player, senior point

guard Tim Frazier, who ruptured an Achilles tendon suffered against Akron on Nov. 20. The team is now in the hands of sophomore guard D.J. Newbill, who leads the Lions, averaging 15.5 points per game.

"They have had some time now, and with injuries, you typically want to know as early as possible," McCaffery said. "They are going to battle you as hard and as long as anybody else in college basketball."

All of that being said, Penn State is winless in conference play, has an RPI of 182, and it ranks 146th in the nation in scoring (61 ppg). In other words, tonight is a must-win for the Hawkeyes. There's no need to tell

the head coach though, he knows the situation his team is in.

"We have to win our next game, that's what we've got to do," McCaffery said. "If we lose, we better play well and feel like we've made progress."

GYMNASTICS

CONTINUED FROM 8A

said. "If someone fell, we'd put in the alternate and worked to get the most solid team that we can, that we can trust."

Many GymHawks refer to the mentality that's required when competing on the beam as the most difficult aspect of the event; the width of the beam is a daunting factor to think about when performing this seemingly difficult event. Glover noted that the gymnasts have key words

they use during their routines as a way to keep calm — she constantly reminds herself to breathe and focus during her routines.

"Try walking on a curb," Libby said. "If you had to walk on the curb the rest of your life, you would fall off at some point."

Point deductions come very easily when a gymnast falls off the beam, as the GymHawks have experienced. This has been a key factor in all of their meets so far. The team's losses against Penn State and Ohio State were both decided by less than a point.

"I only have 4 inches to work with [on the beam]," senior Kaitlynn Urano said. "I have to put aside the fact that it's possible to fall and have to put into my head that I won't fall, that I do not fall. That's something I've really been working on this year, telling myself that I never fall on beam and that it's not a problem — 4 inches is big enough."

Despite their struggles, the GymHawks believe their troubles to be over going into this weekend's meet against Michigan, which is ranked third in nation.

"I'm confident in my beam team, I'm confident

in myself, I'm confident in the five other girls and our alternates," Urano said. "No matter who goes, we're all going to hit. There's no question."



Iowa gymnasts watching during Jessa Hansen's routine on the beam against Penn State in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 3, 2012. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)



Iowa's Sam Logic looks for a pass against Purdue in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Jan 20. The Hawkeyes defeated the Boilermakers, 62-46. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

ASSISTS

CONTINUED FROM 8A

since Big Tens," Johnson said. "I was seeing double teams one game, and Jaime [Printy] stepped up and had a big game. Bethany has also stepped up and had big games. You can't stop everyone on our team."

The Hawkeyes are a very cohesive unit, which allows for numerous players to be called upon to step up when Johnson or Printy — the senior guard was named Big Ten Player of the Week this week — faces too much pressure from opposing defenses. The Hawkeyes' ability to share the basketball and break down defenses is why they lead the Big Ten and rank 25th in the country in assists with 16 per contest.

All of this however, isn't possible without the progression of Logic.

"She has made a lot of progress and has cut down her turnovers tremendously," shooting

guard Theairra Taylor said.

The Hawkeyes next game will surely test their focus as they play at Illinois tonight, which has lost all three of its Big Ten games at home.

"Playing at Illinois is going to be one tough basketball game," Bluder said. "They are an aggressive team, and you have to keep your composure. I think Sam is going to be big for us because she did such a great job in the Michigan game of keeping her composure and the rest of the team fed off that."

Iowa leads the series 49-16 and has won its last eight games against the Fighting Illini.

Logic and the rest of the Iowa squad will have to maintain their high-level of play as they prepare for the second half of their conference schedule.

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We now accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover for tickets and at the concession stand.	LAST STAND (R) ✓ 7:05, 9:40	HAUNTED HOUSE (R) 9:35
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	MOVIE 43 (R) ✓ 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	LES MISERABLES (PG-13) 4:20, 8:00
	PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG) 4:30	LINCOLN (PG-13) 4:45, 8:10
	PARKER (R) ✓ 4:15, 7:00, 9:45	MAMA (PG-13) ✓ 4:15, 6:45, 9:15
	SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) 4:10, 7:00, 9:50	MOVIE 43 (R) ✓ 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
	ZERO DARK THIRTY (R) 4:10, 7:40	PARKER (R) ✓ 4:05, 6:50, 9:40
		SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) 4:00, 6:50, 9:40
		ZERO DARK THIRTY (R) 4:20, 8:00

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3-point woes plague Hawks

The Hawkeyes haven't been able to shoot 3-pointers all season, and it's cost them up to this point as they get ready for must win against winless Penn State.

By **TOM CLOS**
thomas-clos@uiowa.edu

The Iowa men's basketball team has been vastly improved in many areas this season — primarily on defense and overall depth.

Three-point shooting has been a different story.

The Hawkeyes rank 10th in the conference in shooting percentage from the 3-point line and beyond, entering tonight firing at a 30.3 percent clip. Since league play has started, the group is shooting just 27.2 percent overall from long range, highlighted by a 3-of-17 (17.6 percent) day against Indiana Dec. 31 and a 2-of-10 (20 percent) night in their victory over Wisconsin Jan. 19.

On an individual level, sophomore guard Josh Oglesby has been the biggest offender from long range this season. The underclassmen has attempted a team high 83 3s but has made only 23 of them, posting a 27.7 percent average.

"Your confidence is obviously not that high when you aren't making shots, but in practice I've been making them," Oglesby said. "It's just frustrating going into the game feeling good and it's just not going in."

Oglesby hasn't been the lone culprit in the team's bad 3-point shooting. Junior guard Devyn Marble, freshman guard Mike Gesell, and junior forward Zach McCabe have collaborated to go 65-of-196 (33.2 percent) from long range.

For Iowa head coach Fran McCaffery, one player having a bad season is feasible but a team-wide struggle such as this has seemed inconceivable.

"A lot of times you figure one guy has a 1-for-5 and the other guy has got a 3-for-5 and the other guy has got a 2-for-5 out there; now you're OK," he said. "So the fact that all of them are struggling at the same time is kind of odd."

The Hawkeyes' woes from 3-point land has hurt in big moments, especially in tight losses to the Hoosiers, Michigan State, and most recently, Purdue on Sunday. The lack of accuracy has es-



Iowa guard Devyn Marble shoots a 3 against Indiana in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Dec. 31, 2012. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

sentially kept the Black and Gold out of the NCAA Tournament picture entering the final full month of the regular season.

"[The 3-point shooting struggles] are frustrating because the guys have really battled for us and we are in a position to win all these games," McCaffery said. "I mean, if we win some of those, we would probably be ranked."

Luckily for Iowa, its defense has stepped up when called upon to supplement for lackluster offensive performances, leading some to believe if the 3 balls can begin to drop, the Hawkeyes could be on their way to dancing come March.

And at this point, they'll have to. "We've actually been playing some

defense, and it's really kept us in games and given us a chance to win at the end," Marble said. "If we continue to get stops and rebound the ball, shots are going to fall. They're going to have to."

SEE **THREES**, 7A

Iowa men's basketball (13-7, 2-5 Big Ten) vs. Penn State (8-12, 0-8)

Where: Carver-Hawkeye Arena
When: 7:02 p.m. today
Where to Watch: ESPN
Cost: Free to students (IDs required)

Hawks shine in assists

With Iowa breaking through in the rankings, they'll need to continue their unselfish play.

By **CARLOS SOSA**
carlos-sosa@uiowa.edu

Assists are just as valuable as rebounds and points.

This year, Iowa, given its well-balanced roster, has used assists to its advantage. And leading the way is sophomore point guard Sam Logic.

"She would rather have a pass than a score, and that's so seldom anymore," Iowa head coach Lisa Bluder said. "What I also like about Sam is that you give her a challenge, and she's going to step up and meet it."

The Racine, Wis., native leads the Big Ten in assists at 7 per contest, which ranks sixth in the nation. She's tallied at least 8 assists in six of Iowa's last eight games — the Hawkeyes are 6-2 in that span.

Logic's play thus far has helped the Black and Gold land a spot in the AP and *USA Today* top-25 polls — coming in at No. 24 and No. 25 respectively — their first spot in such polls since February 2011.

"It has a lot to do with my teammates," Logic said. "Having numerous threats inside and outside with Bethany [Doolittle] playing well now, too, it's really rounding out our team."

Iowa's depth allows Logic to be successful on the court. For a point guard to have a scorer in guard Jaime Printy and two dynamic post players in Doolittle and center Morgan Johnson is a great advantage.

"On any night, any one on our team can step up. Which has been proven

No. 25 Iowa women's basketball (16-5, 5-2 Big Ten) vs. Illinois (11-8, 4-3)

Where: Champaign, Ill.
When: 7 p.m. today
Where to listen: AM-800 KXIC

SEE **ASSISTS**, 7A

Iowa's Ballweg comes charging back

By **SAM LOUWAGIE**
samuel-louwagie@uiowa.edu

Mark Ballweg doesn't talk much. He answers questions about his success on the wrestling mat this season with a shrug, a sentence, and a sheepish smile indicating there isn't anything more to it.

Iowa wrestling head coach Tom Brands said on Tuesday the team is looking for "statements" and "exclamation marks" against top-ranked Penn State on Friday. At least Ballweg's results this season have provided those.

The Waverly, Iowa, native is off to a 15-1 start this year, and he has moved from No. 14 in InterMat's rankings before the season to No. 8 this week.

"I probably am wrestling the best I have in my entire career," he said on Tuesday. "I'm excited about that, feeling confident."

His biggest win of the season came in Minneapolis on Jan. 27. Nine of the 10 matches in Iowa's dual against Minnesota had clear favorites. But Ballweg, then ranked ninth at 141 pounds, faced No. 10 Nick Dardanes.

Ballweg took a quick shot with 22 seconds left in the match and fought for a take-down that gave him a 3-1 victory. The Hawkeyes went on to escape with a 16-15 win.

"We believe that's our match to win," Brands said on Tuesday. "It's a tossup on paper, but I don't know if you can really march that way. Ballweg is wrestling well. I think he knows what he wants to do, and he probably



Iowa 141-pounder Mark Ballweg wrestles Purdue's Danny Sabatello on Jan. 6 in Carver-Hawkeye Arena. (The Daily Iowan/Rachel Jessen)

found out something about himself Saturday."

The senior isn't just winning matches. He's frequently dominating them, racking up a team-high nine major decisions this season. He's also scored 59 dual-meet team points, trailing only Tony Ramos and Derek St. John.

It's been something of a payoff for Ballweg, who suffered through a frustrating two previous years. In 2010, Ballweg was a surprise success story for Iowa, starting at 141 pounds and showing a knack for pinning opponents. But then Montell Marion was reinstated from what had been previously called a per-

manent suspension, sending Ballweg back to the bench.

Since then, he's only seen spot duty at 149 pounds, where he struggled. In typical fashion, he doesn't have much to say about the experience.

"It wasn't easy to deal with, but I dealt with it," Ballweg said. "I moved forward, kept training, and didn't let it bother me."

Ballweg said he is "older, wiser, and a little more experienced" in his second stint in the starting lineup. It also helps to be back at his natural weight class, where he has won 40 of 44 career matches — compared with 14 of 27 at 149.

The Hawkeyes will likely need an NCAA Tournament run from Ballweg in order to compete for a team title. And after a few years spent on the outside looking in at the team's tournament lineup, the senior is ready to make one.

"He's really putting himself all in this year," teammate and occasional practice partner Brody Grothus said. "Being at the weight you feel comfortable at is a big thing. He may have felt like he was the smaller guy [at 149], and that may have played a role in how he approached those matches. But he's at his weight this year, and he's tearing it up."

SEE **GYMNASTICS**, 7A

Mentally on the beam

A coaching change has helped the GymHawks improve on the beam.

By **MATT CABEL**
matthew-cabel@uiowa.edu

It sits 5 feet above the ground. A thin layer of chalk dusts the surface. Remains of small footprints dance across it.

On this 4-inch wide beam, some gymnastics meets are won and lost.

Gymnasts perform a variety of tricks on the beam, including turns, leaps, hops, and flips. The athletes are judged by the difficulty of their tricks, the execution of them, and whether they can stay on the beam for the length of their routine.

The Iowa women's gymnastics team struggled with the balance beam early in the season. In the GymHawk's opening meet against Ball State, three of the six gymnasts fell at some point in their routines. The team hopes its troubles are over after a strong performance against Penn State, Pittsburgh, and Rutgers last weekend.

First-year assistant coach Jacob Lee switched to coaching bars after the GymHawks tallied their lowest scores on the beam in their first two meets. The change worked — Iowa scored a season high 48.725 on the beam last weekend. Head coach Larissa Libby thought the gymnasts needed to hear different things. She had Lee focus more on pressure than individual numbers.

"We started off by just going back to the beginning: setting up our lineups, running through them like we would at a meet, in competition order," freshman all-around gymnast Alie Glover



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80 HOURS

Thursday,
January 31,
2013

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HA!

HA!

HA!

Kings of comedy

Comedians flourish in Iowa City, including UI alumnus Tom Garland. Garland recently performed with Steve-O, who said the Iowan is 'doing everything right.'

By **AUDREY DWYER**
audrey-dwyer@uiowa.edu

Down a dimly lit staircase, an eerie-looking basement emerges. Once a mortuary, the brick building is now filled with laughter.

The cause? Comedy.

"The Catacombs of Comedy" at the Yacht Club is the hub for performers in the local comedy scene. The historic building was once the location of Hohenschuh Mortuary; it became the original Yacht Club in the '80s, and then, in 2003, it became what it is today.

Three years ago, the "little comedy scene that could" had not been conceived. Now, with the help of comedian Tom Garland and a few other local stars, it has flourished with hopeful performers eager to make a big break. Garland, a former Daily Iowan TV reporter, got his comedic start

SEE COMEDY, 8B

PHOTOS BY JUAN CARLOS HERRERA
DESIGN BY HALEY NELSON



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Dark comedy hits IC

By EMILY BURDS
emily-burds@uiowa.edu

Chaos descends on a cabin in the middle of the Rocky Mountains. There are feet in cabinets, axes in hands, and a woman in a chest. This is Marek Muller's quirky creation *Trouble: A Foot*.

As part of the Theater Department's Gallery Series, Muller's play will debut at 8 p.m. today in the Theater Building's Theatre B. Performances will continue through Feb. 3 with a 2 p.m. show. Admission is free for UI students with valid IDs, \$5 for the general public.

When Muller created this dark comedy, her partner in crime Morgan Miller was her obvious choice for director. The two met their freshman year at the UI and instantly became friends.

"I just knew that Morgan had to be the one to direct it," Muller said.

But sometimes, Miller said, there are drawbacks to working with one's best friend.

"The disadvantages probably come more from us being friends than collaborators," she said. "There are some things that no one else would un-

derstand, so we have to be conscious of that and try to take the play in a direction that would be funny for everyone."

The women worked together on another one of Muller's pieces, "Bearly Legal: A Love Story," which was featured in last year's Ten-Minute Play Festival.

At the festival, the playwright and director discovered their artistic chemistry and now are reaping in the benefits the Gallery Series has to offer.

"[The Gallery Series] gives students an opportunity to gain experience in the area of theater of their choice," Miller said.

Miller's stage manager, Kathleen Hains, said she could not agree more and being able to work with peers provides students with real-world experience.

"It's a great way to work on your communication skills and get to know the people in your school and your community," she said.

Hains jumped at the chance to work with the Muller/Miller team when she heard about the show from her adviser.

An M.F.A. stage-management student in the theater program, she said this show turned out to be

THEATER

Trouble: A Foot

When: 8 p.m. today through Saturday and 2 p.m. Feb. 3

Where: Theater Building Theater B

Admission: Free for UI students with valid IDs, \$5 for the general public

a perfect fit for her, and she couldn't ask for a better cast and crew.

Muller said they could not have found a better or a more diverse cast for the production. Ranging from a brand-new freshman to a graduate actor, she said, the audience would never be able to tell the age difference watching them act.

From the playwright's perspective, the cast also helped shape the script, letting her know what was and wasn't working in terms of comedy and dialogue.

After 15 or so rehearsals, Hains said, the entire cast is excited to have it all come together.

"This is not a play that's trying to save the world or the relationships of the people watching it," Miller said. "But the endorphins it gives you from laughing will make you feel better."



After finding a prostitute (Christopher Matheson) in a truck in an abandoned cabin, Sammie (Kat Gatewood) pulls her out so she can get some answers. (The Daily Iowan/ Callie Mitchell)



Matt Schutz and Kat Gatewood rehearse Tuesday. *Trouble: A Foot* opens today. (The Daily Iowan/ Callie Mitchell)

MOVIES | MUSIC | WORDS | FILM
DANCE | THEATER | LECTURES

weekend events

NEW MOVIES OPENING THIS WEEKEND



Warm Bodies

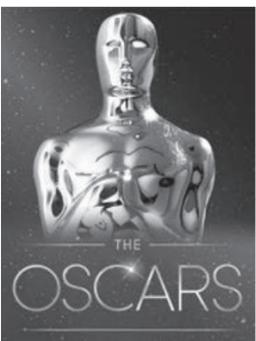
This paranormal romantic comedy follows the life of a teenage girl who develops a relationship with a zombie and how their friendship counteracts the curse of the undead.



Bullet to the Head

A Southern hit man, played by Sylvester Stallone, and a New York City cop form an unlikely alliance in order to stop the killers of their respective partners.

AT THE BIJOU



Oscar Shorts: Live Action

Showtimes: 7 p.m. Friday, 6 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Feb. 3

Short films that were nominated for an Oscar this year.

Oscar Shorts: Animated

Showtimes: 9 p.m. Friday, 4 & 8 p.m. Saturday

Short films that were nominated for an Oscar this year.

BEER OF THE WEEK

Dugges High Five India Pale Ale



Product of:

Dugges Ale & Porterbryggeri, Landvetter, Sweden

Size: 1 pint 9 fluid ounces

Serving Style: Chilled bottle, Pint glass

Sweden may not always be in the conversation of countries with the greatest brewing traditions, but Dugges Ale & Porterbryggeri has used this to its advantage and established a unique identity for itself.

The packaging is as flashy and modern as can be: A big hand is waiting for you to high-five it, like in front of what looks like a colorful wormhole. Not exactly your average label, but hard to resist.

Smell: Citrus flavors and hops dominate an aroma that is simple but very enticing. 4.2/5

Appearance: After I popped the top off the beer, a little foam bubbled out the top of the bottle. The carbonation level of this beer is incredible; the beer has some of the tiniest, most active bubbles I've ever seen. The bubbles leave a heavy lacing on the glass and give the beer a gold coloration that really shines. 4.8/5

Taste: I was taken off guard by the sweetness that hits first – raisins and caramel are the likely culprits here. The taste finishes with the expected citrus and fruit flavors. The beer had an enjoyable aftertaste as well, but I couldn't help but feel that one last key ingredient was missing. 3.9/5

Overall: High Five is a delicious rendition of an India Pale Ale that packs a little extra punch at 7.5 percent alcohol by volume that is still very drinkable. 12.9/15

– Dan Verhille

Today 1.31

MUSIC

• *Little Village Live*, 5 p.m., Public Space One, 129 E. Washington

• *Open Mike*, 7 p.m., Uptown Bill's, 730 S. Dubuque

WORDS

• *Spoken Word*, 7 p.m., Uptown Bill's

FILM

• *Bill W.*, 7 p.m., Bijou
• *Campus Activities Board Movie, Perks of Being a Wallflower*, 8 & 11p.m., 348 IMU
• *Robot and Frank 9:15 p.m.*, Bijou

THEATER

• *The Exit Interview*, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Theater, 213 N.

Gilbert

• *Trouble: A Foot*, Gallery Series, 8 p.m., Theater Building Mabie Theater

DANCE

• *Country Dance Lessons*, 6:30 p.m., Wildwood, 4919 Walleye
• *Country Dance*, 7 p.m., Eagle's Lodge, 225 Highway 1 W.

MISCELLANEOUS

• *Institutional Review Board Office Hours*, 10 a.m., Human Subjects Office, 101 Hardin Library
• *Spanish Conversation Classes*, 12:15 p.m., UIHC Melrose Conference Center
• *Food Assistance Program for Seniors*, 1 p.m., Senior Center, 28 S. Linn
• *Seniors Against Investment*

Friday 2.1

MUSIC

• *"Java Blend,"* 2 p.m., Java House, 211 E. Washington

WORDS

• *Martin Luther King Jr. Research Symposium*, noon, N300 Lindquist Center
• *"Live from Prairie Lights,"* Ben Nugent, fiction, 7 p.m., Prairie Lights, 15 S. Dubuque

FILM

• *Friday Afternoon Movies*, 1 p.m., Senior Center
• *"Oscar Shorts: Live Action,"* 7 p.m., Bijou
• *"Oscar Shorts: Animated,"* 9 p.m., Bijou

THEATER

• *The Exit Interview*, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Theater
• *Trouble: A Foot*, Gallery Series, 8 p.m., Mabie Theater

• *"Trouble in Tahiti"/"Amelia Goes to the Ball,"* 8 p.m., Englert, 221 E. Washington
• *12 Angry Men*, 7:30 p.m., Iowa City Community Theater, 4265 Oak Crest Hill S.E.
• *Urinetown*, City Circle, 7:30 p.m., Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 1301 Fifth St.

DANCE

• *Ballroom and Latin Dancing*, 7:30 p.m., Old Brick, 26 E. Market

MISCELLANEOUS

• *Intensive Fulbright Workshop for U.S. Students*, 9 a.m., 1117 University Capitol Center
• *Origin of Names*, 2 p.m., Senior Center
• *UI Museum of Art February First Friday*, 5 p.m., hotelVetro, 201 S. Linn
• *Dance Marathon*, 7 p.m., IMU

Saturday 2.2

MUSIC

• *New Horizons Orchestra*, 10:45 a.m., Senior Center

• *Jessica Ducharme*, trombone, 2 p.m., Riverside Recital Hall

• *Wyde Nept*, 5:30 p.m., Eagles Lodge No. 665

• *Dueling Pianos*, 8:30 p.m., First Avenue Club, 1550 S. First Ave.

• *Avian Hightower*, 8:30 p.m., Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, 3184 Highway 22

• *Dick Prall*, with Dave Tamkin, 9 p.m., Mill, 120 E. Burlington

FILM

• *"Oscar Shorts: Animated,"* 4 & 8 p.m., Bijou

• *"Oscar Shorts: Live Action,"* 6 p.m., Bijou

• *Campus Activities Board Movie, Perks of Being a Wallflower*, 8 & 11 p.m., 348 IMU

• *"Trouble in Tahiti/Amelia Goes to the Ball,"* 8 p.m., Englert

DANCE

• *Milonga en El Centro: Tango*

Dance Party, 7:30 p.m., Senior Center

THEATER

• *The Exit Interview*, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Theater

• *Trouble: A Foot*, Gallery Series, 8 p.m., Mabie Theater

• *"Trouble in Tahiti"/"Amelia Goes to the Ball,"* 8 p.m., Englert

• *Urinetown*, City Circle, 7:30 p.m., Coralville Center for the Performing Arts

MISCELLANEOUS

• *Dance Marathon*, all day, IMU
• *Saturday Morning Yoga*, 8:30 a.m., Senior Center
• *Conscious Birth Summit 2013*, 9 a.m., Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn

• *50-plus Singles Breakfast*, 9:30 a.m., Midtown Family Restaurant 2, 1069 Highway 1 W.

• *How to Use Your Bean: Cooking With Chuck*, 10 a.m., Iowa City Landscaping and Garden Center, 520 Highway 1 W.
• *Irish Night*, 5:30 p.m., Eagles

Sunday 2.3

MUSIC

• *Piano Sunday*, with Ksenia Nosikova and Studio, 1:30 p.m., Old Capitol Museum

WORDS

• *Note by Note: The Making of Steinway L1037*, noon, Old Capitol Museum

THEATER

• *The Exit Interview*, 2 p.m., Riverside Theater

• *Trouble: A Foot*, Gallery Series, 2 p.m., Mabie Theater

• *"Trouble in Tahiti"/"Amelia Goes to the Ball,"* 2 p.m., Englert

• *Urinetown*, City Circle, 2

p.m., Coralville Center for the Performing Arts

FILM

• *Let's Talk Inclusive: GLBT Movie Series*, 1 p.m., Senior Center

• *"Oscar Shorts: Live Action,"* 3 & 5 p.m., Bijou

MISCELLANEOUS

• *Regina Boy Scout Troop 218 Chili Dinner*, 11 a.m., St. Wenceslaus Church, 630 E. Davenport

• *Delay the Disease: Exercise for Parkinson's Disease*, 1 p.m., Senior Center



GAMER TALK

Black Ops II DLC isn't entirely disappointing

By DAN VERHILLE
dan-verhille@uiowa.edu

To the untrained ear, Downhill, Grind, Mirage, Hydro, and Die Rise might sound like words you'd expect to hear from an X Games announcer.

But they're actually the brand-new Call of Duty Black Ops II multiplayer and zombie maps from the Revolution add-on.

In the past few years it has pretty much become the norm for developers to follow up major releases with major downloadable content releases available for an additional purchase. Firms collect some bonus cash after the original release, and fans get some premium content that's (hopefully) been catered exactly to their tastes because the developer has spent time digesting feedback.

In my review of Black Ops II, I commended Treyarch for redirecting the Call of Duty franchise back toward close-quarter maps with clear team "sides" and choke points, rather than large myriads which equated to the player being shot in the back more often than not.

The new maps take the concept players love and push it to fruition, eliminating much of the superfluous running about and twiddle-your-thumbs time that occurred in many previous titles while you waited for the player you just killed to respawn and run a mile back to

where you could re-engage him.

While some of the new maps may come across gimmicky at first, their commitment to theme is what makes them stand above other levels. For example, Grind, a Venice Beach skate park, is full of half-pipes, rails, and cool skateboard graffiti while Hydro, a Pakistani hydroelectric dam, dares players to cross the spillway running through the center of the map in the intervals between violent torrents of water.

Downhill and Mirage were my less preferred of the four, but I will admit that the attention to detail on the architecture and layouts in these maps is still nothing short of impressive. However, if four polished maps aren't enough to sell you, it may be time to switch over to zombie mode.

Die Rise is perhaps the most innovative installment in the entire series, because all of the perks available for purchase are completely mobile. Players will find themselves fighting zombies in every nook, cranny, and corridor of this massive, nonlinear level.

The difficulty of this new zombie map — even on easy — is no laughing matter. The level contains countless doors to be opened, a smattering of new weapons, and maddening elevator mechanics that make the Tower of Terror elevator ride at Disney World feel like a leisurely stroll in the park.

The entire map has a way of giving the player the feeling that he's walking a tightrope or

crawling through a cave, but with a hungry horde of zombies in tow in both cases. And by the time the player has his bearings and thinks that he has a chance to buy some upgrades, the rapid frogs attack.

Well, they aren't actually rapid frogs, but a new type of zombie called a "minion" attacks the player every five rounds using a technique that resembles what a giant frog on rabies would use if such a thing were possible.

If you hate surprises, be prepared to despise this dastardly alien-amphibian hybrid.

The only things left to ask Treyarch for is a chance to actually win the stinking game. Sure, I have fun exploring and mowing down zombies, but I feel like the potential for a big resolution is being overlooked.

I want the ability to survive the zombie attack by solving some puzzle in the game mechanics, or the ability to permanently apply perks from the game's outset as a reward for reaching a certain level. Regardless of how exactly it's done, zombies mode desperately needs to give us something to aspire to besides being eventually run down when the clip is empty.

Many critics will denounce this and other downloadable-content releases as shameless attempt on the part of developers to milk every last dollar from their customer base, but Treyarch has done a laudable job providing fans with more of what they actually wanted.

WORDS

Vows versus love at UI

By JUSTUS FLAIR
justus-flair@uiowa.edu

Ben Nugent found Iowa City an easy place to fall in love with.

"I miss the languorous pace at which evenings used to progress in Iowa City. People getting together in a house with peeling wallpaper and talking for hours about everything and nothing," he said. "Time passes differently in a grad-student population."

Nugent, an Iowa Writers' Workshop graduate, can easily reminisce about his time as a student.

"I miss smoking a cigarette on the porch of my apartment in a drafty Victorian on a winter morning, the smoke really sharp against the off-white sky, and the woman I was in love with smoking next to me, standing barefoot in the snow," Nugent said. "And I miss closing down Hamburg Inn No. 2, a plate of hash browns at my elbow, writing in a notebook. That's where *Good Kids* began, in the bosom of Hamburg."

Nugent means his travel back to Iowa City for a reading at Prairie Lights, 15 S. Dubuque St., at 7 p.m. Friday.

He will read from his new novel, *Good Kids*.

Good Kids is a novel about two 15-year-olds, a boy and a girl, who discover his father and her mother making out in a supermar-

ket. They develop a friendship and vow never to cheat on anyone. Thirteen years later, they meet again, both engaged to other people, and fall in love.

This is Nugent's debut novel, but he has been writing in some form or another for most of his life. In 2009, Nugent released the book *American Nerd: The History of my People*, about the history of nerds and nerd culture.

"I started out as a journalist; for two and a half years, in my early 20s, I was an arts reporter at *Time*," he said. "And, of course, *American Nerd* is all non-fiction, except for the short story at the end of the paperback edition. Reportage was the kind of writing that came most naturally to me for a long time."

Nugent said working on the novel was a bit of a change from journalism.

"It took me a while to learn how to love somebody I had made up; in fiction, you have to love the characters, to know them like friends," he said. "Journalism is different. You don't have to fall in love with me to write this story."

Michelle Huneven, who was familiar with Nugent during his time at the Writers' Workshop, agrees that it took him a while to love his characters. She often visited him at the Dey House for what she called the "daily chat."

"We talked about journalism, and books, and

Ben Nugent reading

When: 7 p.m. Friday
Where: Prairie Lights, 15 S. Dubuque

writing, of course. He was working on *Good Kids*, which I read at a couple of stages," she said. "The first time, I thought it was smart, and very funny, and quite close to being done. But then Ben worked on *Good Kids* for another year, tweaking the prose, going more deeply into the characters, and when I read it again, it was beautifully improved, more resonant and mature, and just as funny: a real testament to the revision process."

Brant Rumble, Nugent's editor, has worked with him extensively on revising different pieces over the last several years.

"My favorite aspect of Ben's fiction is his sensibility with regards to interpersonal dynamics — the details he brings forth are unusual and insightful. My favorite fiction is that which I can easily relate to but also still feel like I'm getting a whole new perspective, and that's what Ben does so well," Rumble said.

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by WILLIAM MISSOURI DOWNS

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MUSIC/THEATER

Not all hearts & flowers for Englert operas

By SAMANTHA GENTRY
samantha-gentry@uiowa.edu

A disparate look at dysfunctional marriage sets the scene for this pair of one-act operas.

Placed in New York suburbia in the 1950s, "Amelia Goes to the Ball" and "Trouble in Tahiti," do not portray the typical "hearts and flowers" relationship but rather a cynical and comical look at love.

These two American operas will take the stage at 8 p.m. on Friday at the Englert Theater, 221 E. Washington St. Performances will continue through Feb. 3 with a 2 p.m. show. Admission is \$5 for UI students with valid IDs, \$10 for youth, \$15 for seniors, and \$20 for the gen-

eral public.

"Amelia Goes to the Ball" follows the life of a young woman who is desperate and will stop at nothing to attend the first ball of the season.

But her plan goes awry when her husband discovers a letter from the "lover" and forbids Amelia to attend the ball.

Kaitlin Shewmake, a second-year graduate student in vocal performance who plays the role of Amelia, said her biggest challenge was working with a character who is made to be a villain by other members of the production.

"It's a challenge to not judge your own character because then you can't give an honest portrayal of the person," Shewmake said.

"So you have to think how [the character] might rationalize what she's doing."

It took a lot of digging in the fictional mind of Amelia before Shewmake felt she could work with the comedic aspect of the opera.

She does believe, however, it is an important element to the story, which allows the audience to see the "ridiculous" side of things.

"I think that when we are dealing with some of the more complicated issues like infidelity and domestic abuse, it enables us all to handle them from a lighter side," she said.

While "Trouble in Tahiti" doesn't exactly involve infidelity, it does follow the unhappy marriage of Sam and Dinah, who are striving for

the American Dream.

Nick Miguel, a second-year graduate student in vocal performance, took on the character of Sam, who he describes as the 1950s picture-boy husband.

The only catch is, Sam is not a nice guy, and many of the troubles in his marriage are his fault.

Besides the complicated characterization, one distinct aspect to both of these operas is they will be sung in English, something Miguel enjoys.

"There's an immediate connection you have to the language, and you know how things are inflected," Miguel said. "As a challenge, there are higher standards for your audience in terms of being able to understand it."

Opening the lines of communication with the audience members and making sure they are able to understand the language was a necessity for the director, Visiting Assistant Professor Laura Johnson.

"An audience familiar with Italian can appreciate that sound but might miss some nuances," she said. "But if you can help the audience by putting it in their language so they understand the story, then that's what I would like."

To further the audience's opera experience, the Englert will also project "super titles" above the stage, where the full text will be printed to ensure audience members won't miss any jokes.

"Once [the audience mem-

THEATER

Winter Operas: "Amelia Goes to the Ball"/"Trouble in Tahiti"

When: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Feb. 3

Where: Englert, 221 E. Washington

Admission: \$5 for UI students with valid IDs, \$10 for youth, \$15 for seniors, and \$20 for the general public

bers] see both works, they might scratch their heads about why I'm calling 'Trouble in Tahiti' a comedy," Johnson said. "But in some ways, at the end of each of these operas, life goes on for all of the characters, and they do have a comic point of view."

WHO-O-O	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ENTERTAINMENT			
<p>Movie Hotline: 335-3041 Tickets @ University Box Office, IMU</p>	<p>ROBOT AND FRANK 9:15pm BILL W. 7pm</p>	<p>OSCAR SHORTS: LIVE ACTION 7pm OSCAR SHORTS: ANIMATED 9pm</p>	<p>OSCAR SHORTS: LIVE ACTION 6pm OSCAR SHORTS: ANIMATED 4pm & 8pm</p>
<p>CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BOARD DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE</p>	<p>The Perks of Being a Wallflower 8pm & 11pm Illinois Room • \$3</p>		<p>The Perks of Being a Wallflower 8pm & 11pm Illinois Room • \$3</p>
<p>3184 Hwy 22 • Riverside, IA • 319.648.1234</p>	<p>January Gas Giveaway – TH, FRI & SAT Earn 100 Pts = 25¢ off per gallon Earn 500 Pts = \$5 off any purchase Valid at the Riverside Travel Mart</p>	<p>Avian Hightower – 7:30 PM Classic & Country Rock FREE Concerts – FRI & SAT LIVE - Show Lounge Stage</p>	<p>Sensational Sunday Slot Tournaments Starts Tomorrow! 11 AM – 4 PM Free Entry \$5,500 in Prizes</p>
<p>213 N Gilbert St Iowa City (319) 338-7672</p>	<p>1/25-2/17, THE EXIT INTERVIEW 7:30pm Thur, Fri, Sat • 2pm Sun www.riversidetheatre.org/</p>	<p>1/25-2/17, THE EXIT INTERVIEW 7:30pm Thur, Fri, Sat • 2pm Sun www.riversidetheatre.org/</p>	<p>1/25-2/17, THE EXIT INTERVIEW 7:30pm Thur, Fri, Sat • 2pm Sun www.riversidetheatre.org/</p>
<p>Department of Theatre Arts Box Office 335-1160 or 1-800-HANCHER</p>	<p>arts.uiowa.edu</p>	<p>arts.uiowa.edu</p>	<p>arts.uiowa.edu</p>
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<p>JOSEPH'S — STEAKHOUSE — 212 S. Clinton Street • (319) 358-0776</p>	<p>Daily Cocktail Hour 5-6pm Buy 1 App. Get 1 1/2 Price 1/2 Price House Martinis</p>	<p>Daily Cocktail Hour 5-6pm PRIME RIB NIGHT: 16oz. Prime Rib - \$24</p>	<p>Daily Cocktail Hour 5-6pm Buy 1 App. Get 1 1/2 Price 1/2 Price House Martinis</p>
<p>Wine tavern & eatery 330 E. Prentiss, Iowa City 39 2nd St., Coralville</p>	<p>\$6.99 French Dip Happy Hour 3-7pm Iowa City & Coralville</p>	<p>\$7.49 Fish & Chips Happy Hour 3-7pm Iowa City & Coralville</p>	<p>\$6.99 Philly Cheese Steak Happy Hour 3-7pm Iowa City & Coralville</p>
BARS			
<p>BO JAMES Burgers and Beers Est. 1983 118 E. Washington • 337-4703</p>	<p>Lunch: \$5, choose from Grilled Cheese/Tomato Soup, Burger Basket or Hawaiian Chicken Basket KARAOKE NIGHT</p>	<p>BURGER BASKETS BIG ASS BEERS NEVER A COVER</p>	<p>BURGER BASKETS BIG ASS BEERS NEVER A COVER</p>
<p>BROTHERS Est. 1967 BAR & GRILL 125 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City</p>	<p>MUG NIGHT \$1 Wells \$2 Calls with Mug</p>	<p>FAC \$3 For All \$3 Wings & Burgers</p>	<p>\$4 Premium Long Islands \$3 Bacardi Drinks</p>
<p>C LUB CAR 122 Wright St. 351-9416</p>	<p>\$2.25 Dom. Bottles • All Day \$2.50 Bottles & Tall Boys • 4-6 \$2.25 Wells & Pints • 4-6 \$3.75 Jager Bombs • 7-close</p>	<p>\$2.75 19oz. Dom. Mugs • All Day \$2.50 Bottles & Tall Boys • 4-6 \$2.25 Wells & Pints • 4-6 \$4.25 All Bombs • 7-close</p>	<p>\$2 Wells • All Day \$2.50 Tall Boys • All Day \$2.50 Tiles/TBoys & \$2.25 Wells/Pints • 4-6 \$2.75 19oz. Dom. Mugs • 7-close</p>
<p>THE DEADWOOD 6 S. Dubuque</p>	<p>ANGRY HOUR • 4-6:30pm \$3.25 All Bottles • 9-close FREE WiFi/Join us on FB</p>	<p>ANGRY HOUR • 4-6:30pm \$2.50 Pints Leini Reds • 9-close</p>	<p>ANGRY HOUR • 4-6:30pm Make it a Double for \$2 more • 9-close FREE WiFi/Join us on FB</p>
<p>GIVANNI'S VEGETARIAN 109 E College St • (319) 338-5967</p>	<p>HAPPY HOUR 5-6PM DAILY: 1/2 Price Select Draft Beer & Cocktails Buy 1 Appetizer, Get 2nd 1/2 OFF</p>	<p>HAPPY HOUR 5-6PM DAILY: 1/2 Price Select Draft Beer & Cocktails Buy 1 Appetizer, Get 2nd 1/2 OFF</p>	<p>HAPPY HOUR 5-6PM DAILY: 1/2 Price Select Draft Beer & Cocktails Buy 1 Appetizer, Get 2nd 1/2 OFF</p>
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New York city native runs unique gong business

By MARGERY BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA — Listen closely, and the deep rumblings of gongs can be heard emanating from a small warehouse in an industrial section of Lincoln in southeast Nebraska.

New York City native Andrew Borakove keeps his inventory for Gongs Unlimited in the building tucked away on the southwest edge of the city. And each day, he “tests” the merchandise for customers who call wanting a certain sound by holding the phone up to the gongs as they’re struck.

A decade ago, Borakove, 51, was a television comedy writer living in Los Angeles. But the work was hit-

or-miss, and his family was growing.

He said he headed to the beach one day to meditate and seek divine guidance for his life. It was during that time that he was hit with the notion to sell gongs.

“You get the vision, then you test it with software,” Borakove said. “You beta-test it.”

His research showed there was high demand for the flat, metal musical discs, but few sellers on the Internet. So, in 2005, he started Gongs Unlimited with a \$3,000 line of credit. Two years later, he and his business moved from LA to Lincoln’s southwest edge — sight unseen — after he had another whim, this time to relocate to a mid-

size Midwest community.

“I just put my finger on a map, and it landed on Nebraska,” Borakove said. “My wife is from Elkhorn. She’s the one who went and picked out the house. But the day I moved was the first time I ever set foot in Nebraska.”

Now, Borakove may be the world’s pre-eminent gong dealer, selling hundreds of gongs, stands, and gong-banging mallets a year — \$800,000 worth last year. His clientele runs the gamut from car dealerships to Dubai casinos to rocker Roger Daltrey of the Who.

“We’re growing. We’re bursting at the seams with our gongs,” he said. “We’re putting on a big gong show, really.”



Andrew Borakove of Gongs Unlimited strikes a gong in his warehouse in Lincoln, Neb., on Jan. 17. Borakove, a former comedy writer from California, switched occupations and moved to Lincoln, where he may be the world’s pre-eminent gong dealer, selling hundreds of gongs, stands, and gong-banging mallets a year. (Associated Press/Nati Harnik)

The Iowa City Area’s Entertainment and Specials

Look for it on The Daily Iowan Mobile App or Google: dailyiowan/Nightowl.com

WHO-O-O	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
B A R S			
210 N. Linn St. next to Hamburg Inn	\$5.50 Domestic Pitchers \$2 Domestic Pints	\$4.25 All Bomb Drinks \$3.75 Shot Wheel \$3 Domestic Steins	\$2.50 Domestic Pints & Well Drinks
440 N Dubuque St North Liberty, IA (319) 626-3033	KARAOKE EVERY THURS & SAT \$2 U-Call-It, \$4 Fish Bowls FRI - Live: BAD HABITS, 9:30pm	TONIGHT LIVE! BAD HABITS, 9:30pm SAT: KARAOKE	KARAOKE
IRISH PUB 11 S. Dubuque • 338-6860	HAPPY HOUR 2-6PM \$5 Burger Baskets • \$2.50 Margs \$2.50 Dom Pints • \$3 Guinness Pints 9pm-close: \$5 Tallboy + Shot of Jack	HAPPY HOUR 2-6PM \$5 Burger Baskets • \$2.50 Margs \$2.50 Dom Pints • \$3 Guinness Pints 9pm-close: \$3 3 Olives Flav. Vodka Drinks	\$3 Wells \$2.50 Domestic Pints After 9pm
120 E Burlington 351-9529	UI Jazz featuring: Laranja 6pm - All Ages HH 2-6pm M-F: \$5 PBR Pitchers, \$3.75 Craft Beer, \$4 Burger Baskets	Mill Karaoke 9pm, 21+ After 10pm HH 2-6pm M-F: \$5 PBR Pitchers, \$3.75 Craft Beer, \$4 Burger Baskets	Dick Prall w/Dave Tamkin 9pm <i>FREE Delivery Starting 11am Great Music, Pasta, Pizza</i>
516 E Second St Coralville (319) 337-3000	Happy Hour Every Day 3-6pm \$2.50 Bud Lights, \$3 Wells, \$3 Margs, \$5 Appetizers, \$5 Bloody Mary, \$5 Specialty Margs	34 SPECIALTY BEERS ON DRAFT Come try a seasonal flight www.mondos.net	Happy Hour Every Day 3-6pm \$2.50 Bud Lights, \$3 Wells, \$3 Margs, \$5 Appetizers, \$5 Bloody Mary, \$5 Specialty Margs
112 E. College St. Iowa City 319-354-3837	\$3 SALOON TACOS \$3 HOUSE MARGARITAS \$3 MEXICAN BEER	\$3 WATERMELON MARGS \$3 MELTDOWN MARGS \$2.50 DOMESTIC DRAFTS	ALL DAY \$3 WELLS \$4 BOMBS
MOONRAKERS 126 E. Washington St. • Iowa City 319-887-1909	\$2 OFF Burgers at Lunch Everyday \$6 Fish N' Chips http://onetwentsix.net/daily-specials/	\$2 OFF Burgers at Lunch Everyday Happy Hour Everyday 3-6pm http://onetwentsix.net/daily-specials/	\$2 OFF Burgers at Lunch Everyday Happy Hour Everyday 3-6pm http://onetwentsix.net/daily-specials/
Hwy 6 W., Coralville • 356-6903	HAPPY HOUR M-F 3:30-6:30: \$2 Domestic Bottles, Pints & Well Drinks Karaoke • 9pm-close	HAPPY HOUR M-F 3:30-6:30: \$2 Domestic Bottles, Pints & Well Drinks \$3 Shot Specials • 7pm-close	Hawks on the Big Screen Food Specials/Potluck 2nd St. Coralville, 356-6903
525 S Gilbert St. • IC • 337-3422	5-8pm Tapping Event, \$1 OFF new tap 8pm-cl, \$2 U-Call-It* \$2 Calls, \$2 Domestic Tall Boys	FAC 4-8pm: \$4 Bombs, \$5 Pizza 8pm-cl, \$3 U-Call-It* \$3 Call, \$3 Domestic Tall Boys	ALL DAY, \$2 Cans \$2 Wells \$3 3 Olives
75 2nd St. Coralville 248-1220	BUCKET NIGHT - ALL DAY \$12 Dom. Bucket \$16 Corona Bucket \$17 Microbrew and Import Bucket	\$2.75 & \$3.50 HAPPY HOUR FOOD 3-6pm & 10pm-midnight	\$2.75 & \$3.50 HAPPY HOUR FOOD 10pm-midnight
347 S Gilbert St	\$3 Double Wells \$2.50 Tallboys	\$3 Whiskey and Vodka \$2.50 Tallboys Karaoke @ 10!	\$3 Double Wells \$2 Kamikazes \$2.50 Tallboys
215 E. Washington Downtown Iowa City 319-354-7074	HAPPY HOUR 5:30-7:30pm \$4 Big Girls \$4 Bombs	HAPPY HOUR 5:30-7:30pm \$4 Big Girl Margaritas	HAPPY HOUR 5:30-7:30pm \$3 Stoli & Three Olives Vodka \$5 Doubles
2500 Corridor Way Across from Bed Bath & Beyond Coralville 319-625-2221	HAPPY HOUR 3-7pm \$4 Big Girls \$4 Bombs	HAPPY HOUR 3-7pm \$4 Big Girl Margaritas	HAPPY HOUR 3-7pm \$3 Stoli & Three Olives Vodka \$5 Doubles
819 S. 1st Ave. Iowa City 337-7275	PINT NIGHT 5pm - Close: Buy A Glass & Get 75¢ OFF Any Pint 5pm - 10pm: \$1 Off Wraps	5pm - Close: \$5.75 Dom. Pitchers 5pm - 10pm: Steak Special	\$3.50 Pints of Fat Tire
12 S. Dubuque Iowa City	\$7.99 Philly w/choice of sides \$2 U Call It 8-close \$6 Domestic Pitchers 8-close	\$8.99 Steak, Potato, Salad FAC - \$2 U Call It 4-9pm \$2 Big Beers Keystone Light	TVs GALORE! COME CELEBRATE THE HAWKS!



80 Hours

FOOD COLUMN: BEAVERS' NIGHT OUT

Dining at the Social Club



By BEN VERHILLE

benjamin-verhille@uiowa.edu

A typewriter sits beneath "Murderers' Row," a 16-year-old bourbon of AH Hirsch is locked in a birdcage, and an Old Fashioned rests on a solid ash bar top. This is the scene of a classic speakeasy or Iowa City's very own, the Clinton Street Social Club, 18.5 S. Clinton St.

This young venue, open since September 2012, boasts a powerful menu dressing up traditional pub plates, intended to match the ambiance of a Prohibition-era restaurant.

After tasting chef Jacob Huth's "buttermilk dressing" or his special stout-beer-infused pub mustard, or his upcoming creation of special house ketchup, I found that no taste buds are left out of this party of flavors. Not hungry? The Social Club's bar is as far as one needs to go, the staff being full of beverage connoisseurs, happy to converse about the drinks, the establishment, or whatever you please.

The Drink - an Old Fashioned

Bartender: Matt Skinner

Original recipes only, the Old Fashioned comes from a Prohibition-era recipe, just as the Manhattans.

This house specialty — bourbon on the rocks — is served with a maraschino cherry, a sugar cube, and a fiery orange rind. Skinner and the other barkeeps will burn your orange before matching it with your bourbon to caramelize the oils and bring out the true essence of the orange. Try this for an authentic 1920s experience.

The Atmosphere

The main level of the establishment has an ash bar, a billiards room, as well as a dartboard, with blues music to remind you that you are no longer in 2013. The open restaurant style is on this floor, and the mysteries extend to the upper level. The jazz on the upper floor is

a throwback to the '20s style. Owner Brian Vogel may even make an appearance, exemplifying the outgoing nature that every employee exhibits.

Meeting the other patrons, servers, or anyone else at the Social Club is effortless.

Live music takes place Fridays and Saturdays, bringing more than just records to the authenticity of the "social club." The chefs take delight in preparing special meals for holidays, and they are preparing for Valentine's Day. Reservations are available for special events or weekends.

The Plates

Executive Chef: Jacob Huth

I was brought to Clinton Street Social Club by a friend who suggested I should try its corn dogs. Although I am an Iowan, I have never enjoyed a corn dog, no matter where it's been from. Then I tried it at Clinton Street. This recipe originally included duck sausage, but that has recently been changed to Iowa pork sausage.

A golden exterior invites you to try its surprisingly soft bite, paired with a stout-beer pub mustard to offer a kick that makes this much more than just a corn dog. Even the pickle served with each dog is loaded in flavor, a "quick pickle" in an apple-cider vinegar. The pork is from Bud's Meats, a local producer, and it is expertly highlighted by Huth and his staff.

I emphasize the corn dog, but there are many more treasures to be found. The Green Eggs & Ham is another recent menu addition. These deviled eggs include spinach, prosciutto, mustard, and lemon to provide a delightful adventure. Another delicious version of this sampling include flavors of apple, bacon, and chives. Indulgence would be all too easy with these plates by themselves, but why cut the experience short?

The house Hush Puppies host a variety of flavors, none too overpowering. This old recipe has a new spin, with a crispy exterior and fluffy interior. Why are they called hush puppies? Huth said these



A bartender serves a drink at the Clinton Street Social Club. The house special is bourbon on the rocks.



Clinton Street Social Club's corn dogs are a flavorful experience.

cakes were "fed to the dogs" to keep them quiet, and the *American Heritage Dictionary* concurs, with the qualifier "perhaps." Served with the spicy Creole aioli sauce and made with flour, cornmeal, eggs, finely diced onions, and corn, you won't be able to shut up about how good these treats taste.

Available as part of the Poutine plate, the cheese curds have their exquisite flavor augmented by an in-house beer batter, made fresh daily. They are served with hand-cut potato fries, made fresh daily (get the trend?), including a Creole aioli sauce for a spicy excursion or the "buttermilk dressing" for a creamy and rich vacation.

Last of this feast of delicacies are the Brussels sprouts, served with shallots and apple and covered in a warm bacon vinaigrette. This bold combination realizes the potential of apples and Brussels sprouts with a bacon flavoring ... need I say more? A must-try.

If spirits and provisions don't satisfy your needs, there is live jazz or blues performances on Fridays and Saturdays.

Still not content? Then there is no pleasing you.

Fun in the time of need

By AUDREY DWYER
audrey-dwyer@uiowa.edu

A common object — a urinal, symbolizes a town's outrage at corporate greed. A scene set for a town like that of Gotham City.

Jesse Jensen, the director of the satirical comedy *Urinetown*, written by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollman, creates an avant-garde satire about current issues and scenes in today's society. The play is a production of the City Circle Acting Company of Coralville, which will present the show at the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 1301 5th St., on 7:30 p.m. Friday. Admission is \$22 for the general public, \$17 for seniors and students, and \$12 for children.

Jensen said the performance will likely resonate with students.

"I would assume it would appeal to college students because the show is very socially conscious," Jensen said. "... It's a ton of fun, but because it's a satire that explores cur-

rent social and economic issues, it also makes you think a little bit."

During a time of poverty and shortage of basic needs such as water and use of public amenities, a hero rises to create a "revolution" for the city. Elements of greed, corruption, love, and revolution are all explored in the story of a town experiencing difficult circumstances.

Jensen said the play started with a group of fringe artists from Chicago traveling in Europe who discovered fees had to be paid in various locations in order to use the public restrooms.

The bizarre idea sparked the idea for the play.

The play eventually made it to Broadway in 2001. Now a decade old, it has won three Tony Awards.

"This play is about paying homage or tribute to the roots here in town," Jensen said.

Additional performances of *Urinetown* will take

place 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Feb. 3 and will continue through Feb. 10.

Additionally, City Circle will perform nine short plays at its New Play Festival at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 4 and 5. Admission is \$10.

Chris Okiishi, the choreographer of *Urinetown* and supervising director for the New Play Festival, said the submissions for the festival came from authors located as far away as New Zealand.

"It was interesting to read plays no one else has ever seen before, and now we are the first people to perform them," he said.

A committee of six individuals gave preference and priority to submissions fewer than 10 minutes long as well as authors who had a strong Iowa connection or who recently lived in Iowa.

"The neat thing about running the productions together is that *Urinetown* started at a small-play festival in Chicago, then went on to Broadway in New York and became a hit," Okiishi said.

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COMEDY

CONTINUED FROM 1B

at the Yacht Club and the Penguin Comedy Club in Cedar Rapids. He is the regular host of the venue's open-mike nights, held every Monday at 10 p.m.

Not only has Garland helped kick-start the local comedy scene, his career has also taken off; last year, he met actor/writer/comedian/stuntman "Steve-O" Glover at the First Avenue Club, 1550 First Ave. Glover, who is perhaps most well-known for his comedic stunts in the movie and TV series *Jackass*, has performed with comic Tom Green in the Starlite Theater in the Rivera Hotel & Casino on the Las Vegas Strip.

In an email interview, Glover said he was "beyond impressed" with Garland's material the second time they met. The two remained in touch, and recently Garland asked Glover for the opportunity to perform with him and Green. Garland met with the show's promoters, and the deal was set. He spent four nights earlier this month working in Vegas with the famous duo.

"Garland is a funny comic, but what's been winning everyone over more than anything is the enthusiasm and gratitude he has to be working with us," Glover said. "If you ask me, he's doing everything right."

Aspiring comedians may be apprehensive about dipping their toes into the unknown waters of performing on a stage.

"You have to in a way, baptize the newbies by fire, and toss them up on stage, and have them learn as they go," Garland said. "You want them to under-

Upcoming shows/ open-mike nights for Tom Garland:

- Today, radio appearance with Bruce Jay on KRUI 80 Hours Show, 4 p.m.
- Feb. 4, House MC for the Yacht Club, "Catacombs of Comedy," 10 p.m.
- Feb. 7, Campus Activities Board Comedy, Brooks Wheelan, with Tom Garland, 10 p.m., Public Space One, 129 E. Washington

stand the dynamic of being comfortable on stage. Just go up there, talk into the mike, and have fun."

Scott Kading, the owner and talent booker for the Yacht Club and Gabe's, said he didn't expect the comedy scene to be what it is today.

"It caught us off-guard," Kading said. "We didn't think it would catch on so fast and become a big thing. It is way more fun than we expected — it is a pretty entertaining comedy scene. There was a need for it here; it's neat."

What started off as open-mike nights for music or comedy is now primarily just for aspiring comedians. Local comedian Greg Gettle, who began doing comedy with Garland, has also developed quite a career. His destination? Chicago.

"It's crazy to see where everyone has gone since they started with such a small scene," he said. "I was so nervous my first open mike at the Penguin Comedy Club. Now, I'm more open on stage. I think the audience should get to know who you are as a person, and I try to be true to that."

He and local comedian



TOM GARLAND/PUBLICITY PHOTO

Keegan Buckingham have gone on to be featured in weekly showcases by Chicago's Duck Duck Comedy Group.

These individuals carefully mold their craft in the hope of putting a smile on someone's face or creating an evening of fun. But some comedians said they are often left feeling disconnected from the world, feeling lonely — which they find can only be cured with one thing: laughter. Laughter is their way of communicating and connecting with the audience.

"What sets me apart from other comedians, I think, is that I pretty much only tell outrageous stories that are completely true, which nobody else would admit to," Glover said.

Comedy is a form of self-expression for these

seasoned comedians. It is the raw, intimate, and vulnerable truth of who each is as a person. Bruce Jay — a professional comedian who is a coach and mentor to Garland and has previously been featured on "The Man Show" and "The Gong Show" — said he is passionate about comedy because of the honesty and personal insight each person brings to the stage.

"Sometimes, you can feel disconnected in life, and when you go to a show, you connect," Jay said. "There is passion, hatred, anger — everything. You're talking to the crowd, but what is the crowd? You can feel isolated and lonely ... feel like you're the only one feeling these things, and when you watch another comedian or make your audience laugh, you connect with them."

If the audience is difficult, Jay said, he uses it to his advantage. He tries to immerse himself into a "conversation" with the audience.

"I like when people heckle me — it's fun, because I can have constructive play," Jay said. "You want to lose yourself. When you see a good comedy, you almost have an orgasm. You think, 'Oh, that was so fun I forgot all of my problems.'"

Each comedian admitted to having challenges.

"You have to be an attention whore with a personality and, I believe, a certain amount of self-hatred," Glover said.

Jay agreed, saying said it takes skill and craft to not only write jokes and punch lines but also to create a structural form worth

watching.

"Comedy is a lot of self-expression; it has a poetic art element," he said. "There is a lot of therapy in comedy. It's all about negativity and anger, and that's kind of what comedy is. If you're mad, you want to shout and get it all out."

The best thing Garland and the other professional comedians advised new comedians to do is to go to the open-mike nights and try out new material. He also had some advice about handling some of comedy's biggest challenges.

"The challenge is to stay consistent and have something new you're working on and that you're excited about," he said. "You have to break your routine every now and then. If you're not excited, then the crowd won't be."

"Unfortunate title...Great Musical!"

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