



HAWKEYES HEADING TO TAMPA
THE UI HAS SOLD MORE THAN 10,000 BOWL GAME
TICKETS. PAGE 7.

The Daily Iowan

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2013

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Last council day for Champion



Connie Champion stands outside of the clothing store she founded, Catherine's, on Monday. Today will be Champion's last day as a city councilor because she is retiring. (The Daily Iowan/Joshua Housing)

Longtime City Councilor Connie Champion will attend her last council meeting today as she is retiring after 16 years.

By **REBECCA MORIN**
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Taking care of people has long been Connie Champion's forte. After raising eight children, at least 10 foster children, and now helping care for 20 grandchildren, Champion is hoping to take a break from one of her other roles — the Iowa City City Council.

Champion will attend her last meeting as a city councilor today.

After serving 16 years on the council, the 74-year-old did not run for the District-B seat during this year's election because she "thought it was time for new blood" and decided to retire.

The Indiana native moved to Iowa City roughly 47 years ago, and she has been involved in a variety of committees and organizations, as well as co-owning Catherine's, 7 S. Dubuque St., since calling Iowa City her home.

"I was part of the group that got together to save Old Brick because they were going to tear it down, and there was a big hoopla about it, it even made *Time* magazine," Champion said. "I got involved in the fundraising to keep that building."

Before joining the council, Champion served on the Iowa City School Board for nine years before joining the City Council. She was recruited for the School Board after she questioned the board at the meeting.

"[The School Board] had a meeting

Connie Champion

Iowa City City Councilor Connie Champion will retire from the City Council after 16 years. Champion has also been involved with several other organizations in Iowa City.

Hometown: Camden, Ind.

Favorite place: Iowa City Public Library

First major city involvement: Saving Old Brick by raising funds to keep it from being torn down.

Biggest Disappointment: Not getting support for a new jail and courthouse

at Longfellow, and I asked a bunch of questions, and someone came to me later and said 'You should run for the School Board because you ask good questions,'" Champion said.

During her years on the council, she has helped make many changes to the city, which include establishing a homeless shelter and voting for the 21-ordinance.

"I think the culture downtown is a huge success from the City Council," Champion said. "The 21-ordinance has been very successful, and that is something I didn't agree with for a long time. I thought the bar owners would start to take control in what was going into their bars, and the

SEE CHAMPION, 3

English program draws raves

New English Language Learner programs are faring well for the Iowa City School District.

By **MEGAN SANCHEZ**
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The Iowa City School District has seen an increase in enrollment coupled with a rise in students needing English as a Second Language services. This year, the district added additional support for these students, which allowed nearly 500 more students to be served than last year.

English Language Learners is a program which helps students in grades K-12 learn the English language and help gain cognitive and academic skills needed to succeed in school in the United States.

The district serves 800 students out of the 950 identified English Language Learners enrolled in school. The four primary languages students speak from the district are Spanish, Arabic, Swahili, and Chinese.

"We have had a huge increase in enrollment since last September," wrote the district's English language coordinator Lisa Boyer in an email. "The influx has been a result of various factors ... I believe we are doing a much better job of identifying students in need of English-language support and providing them with services until they can be successful on their own."

In September 2012, the district was serving 350 of these students. The increase is largely attributed

SEE ENGLISH, 5

Israeli boycott announced

The American Studies Association has endorsed a boycott of Israeli academic institutions.

By **DANIEL SEIDL**
daniel-seidl@uiowa.edu

The American Studies Association announced on Monday the approval of an academic boycott of Israel, and at least two members of the University of Iowa community with ties to the organization say the move could have a negative effect on Israeli and U.S. universities alike.

"The discriminatory policy that seeks to punish another nation's



Kerber
Retired UI professor

SEE ISRAELI, 5

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DOG DAYS OF WINTER



Students play with therapy dogs brought by UI PAWS in the IMU on Monday. UI PAWS does the therapy-dog session at the end of every semester to help students with the stress of finals. (The Daily Iowan/Joshua Housing)

METRO

Man faces several drug charges

An Iowa City man has been accused of possessing marijuana, among several other allegations.

Christian Alvarado, 20, was charged Nov. 5 with possession of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance in a structure or vehicle, gathering for use of marijuana, failure to affix tax stamp, and controlled substance violation.

According to an Iowa City police complaint, officers executed a search warrant at 720 E. Market St. Apt. 3, and reportedly found seven people were in the living room smoking marijuana.

They had fresh marijuana, pipes, burnt marijuana, bongs, and other paraphernalia.

Several codefendants admitted everyone was smoking marijuana, the complaint.

Alvarado had a bag of marijuana and a Xanax tab in his pocket, the report said. Officers located a container with approximately four ounces of marijuana behind the couch, and Alvarado and several of the codefendants admitted the four ounces was his, the complaint said.

Possession of a controlled substance and gathering for use of marijuana are serious misdemeanors. Possession of a controlled substance in a structure or vehicle is an aggravated misdemeanor. Failure to affix tax stamp and controlled-substance violation are Class-D felonies.

— by Megan Sanchez

4 businesses fail alcohol stings

Alcohol compliance checks were conducted by the city on Dec. 13 at several businesses licensed to sell alcohol.

Police worked with underage persons to enter the establishments and try to illegally buy alcohol.

Four Iowa City businesses checked by police sold to the underage buyers. The businesses that failed the compliance checks were:

- Oyama Sushi, 1853 Lower Muscatine Road
- Pancho's Mexican Grill, 965 S Riverside Drive
- Jimmy Jacks Rib Shack 12, 1940 Lower Muscatine Road
- Clarion Hotel Highlander, 2525 N Dodge St.

The employees who sold were each charged with Selling Alcohol to Persons Under Age 21.

Twenty-one businesses refused to sell to the underage buyers. Some of the businesses that passed the compliance checks include:

- Airliner, 22 S. Clinton St.
- Short's Burger and Shine, 18 S. Clinton St.
- DC's, 124 S. Dubuque St.
- Players, 347 S. Gilbert St.

Selling (employee) alcohol to persons under age 21 years of age is a simple misdemeanor, punishable with a \$500 fine for the first offense.

— by Lauren Coffey

Ex-UI president gets honorary degree

University of Iowa law Professor and former UI President William "Sandy" Boyd received an honorary degree from the University of Michigan on Dec. 15.

The degree was an honorary doctorate of laws and was given to the University of Michigan alumnus, who received a master's and doctoral degrees in law from the school.

Boyd taught in the UI College of Law beginning in 1954, and he

became the UI's 15th president from 1969 to 1981.

He oversaw a variety of changes during his time as president, including the number of students increasing from 8,400 to 25,100. He has two buildings to applaud his efforts on campus: the Boyd Law Building and the Boyd Tower at the UI Hospitals and Clinics.

Boyd was also interim president for the UI for one year following the departure of then-UI President Mary Sue Coleman, who became president of the University of Michigan in 2002. Coleman presented Boyd with his honorary degree last weekend.

— by Lauren Coffey

UI fills economic-development group

The University of Iowa has completed an economic-development team by hiring a former software startup founder and University of Nebraska official.

Dave Conrad joined the UI as economic-development director in the Office of Vice President for Research and Economic Development, according to a university press release. Conrad will lead engagement throughout Iowa with activities such as workforce training to help add additional partnerships between the university and the private sector.

"Part of my job now is making university resources and programs even more accessible to Iowa companies," Conrad said in a release. "That means making visits and setting up relevant programs companies can easily take advantage of. Through university-industry partnerships, the UI can help create new companies, make existing ones more competitive and improve economic conditions across Iowa."

Dan Reed, the UI vice president for Research and Economic Development, welcomed the former associate vice chancellor for technology development at Nebraska back to Iowa. Conrad previously founded a software startup called Emergent Inc. in Ames and was a licensing associate for the Iowa State Research Foundation.

Reed, who joined the UI last fall coming from Microsoft, now adds Conrad to Associate Vice President for Economic Development David Hensley.

— by Brent Griffiths

Art Museum sees record attendance

An all-time record was set for the University of Iowa Museum of Art for the 2012-13 academic year: The museum drew 146,470 people, up from 146,466 attendants in the 2011-2012 academic year.

The museum lost its original building in the 2008 flood. Exhibitions are now spread across the city and state, including in the third floor of the IMU, as well as the Figge Art Museum in Davenport.

More than 10,000 viewers visited the museum's various outreach exhibits, located in Cedar Rapids and Mount Vernon in the last academic year. In addition, more than 14,000 people came to the Old Capitol Museum to view art as well.

The museum plans to expand outreach efforts in the upcoming academic year with partnerships in Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Maquoketa, and Dubuque. This adds to the current partnerships the museum has in Des Moines and Davenport. The museum is also discussing having programs in western Iowa.

"The [museum] has proved to be a powerful tool for reaching out to citizens across the state of Iowa by providing educational opportunities based on research and material created

by University of Iowa professors and academics. This is why the Art Museum is so important to the mission of the university and for public higher education," museum Director Sean O'Harrow said.

— by Lauren Coffey

Largest wind-turbine order confirmed

Siemens Energy confirmed a large wind turbine order placed by Mid-American Energy is the largest onshore wind-turbine order in the world.

The 1,050-megawatt project will have an energy output of roughly 10 nuclear-power plants, Professor Andrew Kusiak, the head of the University of Iowa Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, previously told *The Daily Iowan*.

The announcement was made on Monday at Siemens Fort Madison, Iowa, blade-manufacturing facility, according to a MidAmerican press release.

MidAmerican ordered 448 wind turbines for five project sites, which will result in a large energy output by the end of 2015.

Gov. Terry Branstad joined other officials at the announcement where he pointed out the plant's success and Iowa's continuing investment in wind energy.

"Iowa is a leader in wind generation, and I welcome the opportunity to expand renewable energy in our great state," Branstad said in a statement. "Together, these companies continue to greatly benefit Iowa's economy and demonstrate the state's commitment to renewable energy"

— by Brent Griffiths

UI-connected company gets \$50 million

A company partially funded by the University of Iowa has gotten \$50 million to help advance its programs by using clinical development.

The company, called Spark Therapeutics LLC, got the capital commitment from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

The money will go to helping with gene-therapy clinical research; the company has the goal of solving health problems by identifying specific genetic targets in patients and delivering effective treatments.

Beverly Davidson, a UI professor of medicine, physiology, neurology, and biophysics and head of the Carver Biomedical Research, is a scientific cofounder of and adviser to the firm.

The UI currently has a sponsored research agreement with the firm.

— by Lauren Coffey

Classics professor receives national outreach award

University of Iowa classics Professor Robert Ketterer, who is also the interim head of the Classics Department, has been awarded the 2013 Outreach Prize by the American Philological Association.

Ketterer received the award for organizing an interdisciplinary conference in 2011, "Re-Creation: Musical Reception of Classical Antiquity."

The conference brought many scholars from diverse fields. It focused on genres in cultural and literary studies, as well as music.

Ketterer currently holds a joint appointment in the Departments of Classics and Comparative Literature. His research focuses on Greek and Roman drama and its

reception in the classical tradition, with a special interest in early Italian opera.

— by Lauren Coffey

No suspicious devices found at Harvard after email

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Four buildings on Harvard University's campus were evacuated Monday after police received an email claiming that explosive devices may have been hidden inside, but after hours of searches and disruptions to final exams, no suspicious devices were found.

The buildings were evacuated and access to Harvard Yard was restricted after the email was received at about 8:40 a.m. Monday, shortly before students were set to begin final exams.

Investigators from several agencies searched the buildings for hours and cleared students to return to all four by mid-afternoon. One of the buildings was a freshman dormitory; classes are held in the other three.

In a statement to the Harvard community, Harvard Executive Vice President Katie Lapp said that the buildings were evacuated "out of an abundance of caution" and that activities at the Ivy League school in Cambridge were returning to normal.

"I am relieved to report that no suspicious devices were found," Lapp said in her statement.

She said Harvard police, and local, state and federal authorities, are continuing to investigate to find out who is responsible.

Harvard officials would not comment on speculation among students that the email was a hoax timed to coincide with finals at the school.

"I have a good guess somebody called it in so they wouldn't have to take an exam," said Alexander Ryjijk, a junior from Alexandria, Va., who was just about to take his Politics of American Education final when the evacuations were announced.

"It's frustrating because now the exam will have to be postponed," he said.

Harvard did not immediately say when students would be allowed to take the finals that were cancelled because of the evacuations.

The mood on campus was calm as students streamed out of Harvard Yard on a frigid morning with temperatures in the 20s. The gates around the yard were closed and people were allowed to leave but not enter unless they had school IDs.

A classroom building was also briefly evacuated Monday at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, which has 16,000 undergraduates and graduate students who are also taking final exams this week. University police got a call from someone who said they had seen a person with a gun in the building, which was closed while university, Boston and state police searched it. They determined there was no one with a gun and the call is being investigated, said school spokesman DeWayne Lehman.

Last month, another Ivy League school, Yale University in Connecticut, was locked down for nearly six hours while authorities investigated a phone call saying an armed man was heading to shoot it up, a warning they later said was likely a hoax.

And in February, someone called in a hoax about a gunman on the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, another elite school about two miles from Harvard. The university said the caller claimed the gunman was a staff member looking for revenge after the suicide of an Internet activist accused of illegally using MIT computers.

— Associated Press

The Daily Iowan

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BREAKING NEWS

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CORRECTION

In Monday's article "Finals at the IMU," *The Daily Iowan* incorrectly reported massage chairs were available from 8 p.m. to noon; the chairs are actually available from 8 p.m. to midnight. The *DI* regrets the error.

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CHAMPION

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

bars just started getting worse and worse.”

She also served on the Historic Preservation Committee while on the council. One of the biggest accomplishments she believes the council had during her time was restoring the Englert Theater.

“The city put in a lot of support in that, and so did the county, to get that theater restored and back to theater uses instead of just an old crappy movie

theater,” Champion said. She said the council works together to make all its decisions.

“I didn’t do any of it, it takes the whole council,” Champion said. “It’s not a one-person show.”

Mayor Matt Hayek said Champion benefited the council and always knew the city’s needs.

“She’s the institutional memory and has a real finger on the pulse of the community,” Hayek said. “She is blunt but wise, and I think she’s shown judgment that has benefited the council time and again.”

However, the boister-

ous 74-year-old could not always have her way. After serving on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, she worked with officials to help inform the community about a new jail and courthouse.

“I think of my biggest disappointment was we never got the city to support a new jail, which is what we need desperately,” Champion said. “I just think that it’s really sad that people just did not want to listen to the facts.”

Johnson County Supervisor Pat Harney, who worked with Champion

on the Justice Committee, said she was valuable and always voiced her opinion.

“We mostly worked on the initial needs and ideas and jail alternatives,” he said. “At the same time, we worked with prosecutors and defense attorneys.”

Harney said he also worked with Champion to help establish communication within the Johnson County area and thought the operation was a success.

“We worked together for the communication center,” Harney said. “She was valued in the committee and worked hard getting the communication together and in operation.

She did what was best for her city and the county as a whole.”

With some extra time on her hand, Champion hopes to continue to stay busy.

“I think I’m going to become a Big Sister [with the mentoring program Big Brother, Big Sister],” Champion said. “I think that would be kind of fun.”

Although Champion said she would not attend another council meeting after this year, she said she will continue to stay informed.

“I already warned them that I would go harass them if they make any dumb decision,” Cham-

pion said. “I don’t like it when they disagree with me. People don’t always agree with me, and that’s all right — but they’re wrong, they should always agree with me.”

Champion said she was happy with her time on council and being involved within the community, even if she wasn’t always sure how she got elected.

“I think there’s two positive things that I do: I have some common sense and I speak my mind and support strongly what I support,” Champion said. “People like that, that’s what they like about me.”

GOP leaders, hard-right showing cracks of dissent

By DONNA CASSATA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican leaders and several hard-right groups are displaying the classic signs of a political divorce, including bitter name-calling and reprisals against one another.

The recent eagerness of House Speaker John Boehner and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell to lash out at groups that have given them fits has unshackled others in the Republican ranks to publicly question the motivation of organizations like the Senate Conservatives Fund, Heritage Action, Madison Project, and Club for Growth.

Such organizations disparage Republicans they accuse of following the path of least resistance in Washington and vow to replace them in primaries with conservative purists.

“I think there’s a growing recognition around here that many of the outside groups do what they do solely to raise money, and there are some participants inside Congress who do the same,” said Sen. Bob Corker. He said that some

of the newer senators have caught on to “the disinformation, getting people to call offices, send in small donations to a website.”

“I think people are getting tired of that. I tired of it before I got here,” said the Tennessee Republican.

Increasingly in public, Boehner and McConnell are challenging the outside groups’ credibility — and complaining that they are the ones tarnishing conservatism.

But it goes both ways.

In the recent dust-up over the budget deal, the outside groups suspect that Boehner has a hidden motive. They suggest he’s anxious to put economic fights in the rear-view mirror so he can tackle contentious immigration legislation early next year, before the first round of March primaries in Texas and Illinois.

The groups’ suspicions were heightened by the recent high-profile budget success of Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., who favors a way out of the shadows for the estimated 11 million immigrants living in the U.S. in violation of the law, and in Boehner’s hire of a Senate staffer who worked on

bipartisan immigration legislation for Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

“It’s very easy to see that they want to clear a lane to pass amnesty,” said Daniel Horowitz, policy director for the Madison Project, who described the overall differences with Republican leaders as irreconcilable.

Michael Steel, spokesman for Boehner, scoffed at the link between the budget deal and immigration.

“The agreement has nothing to do with the need to fix our broken immigration system,” Steel said in a statement Monday.

It wasn’t always this acrimonious.

Tea partyers and conservative activists helped the GOP claim the House majority in 2010 and seize state legislatures that redrew congressional boundaries to the GOP’s advantage. Those new lines enabled Republicans to withstand strong Democratic turnout in the 2012 presidential year and hold their House edge, a margin the GOP is expected to maintain or even increase in next year’s midterm elections.

The outcome was far different in Senate rac-

es. Outside conservative groups backed less-viable candidates who flamed out in general elections in Colorado, Nevada and Delaware in 2010 and in Indiana and Missouri in 2012. Establishment Republicans insist that cost them a Senate majority as well as some breathing room for 2016 when 24 Republican seats are up, compared with only 10 for Democrats.

Senate Republicans were upset in the fall when outside groups did little to help bona fide conservative Steve Lonegan in New Jersey’s special election contest against Cory Booker, who won the open seat after a somewhat desultory campaign.

House and Senate Republican leaders, for their part, were angry when the Senate Conservatives Fund, the Madison Project and Heritage Action pushed for the undoing of President Barack Obama’s health care law, an unrealistic goal with a Democratic-controlled Senate that led to the 16-day partial government shutdown this past fall.

To add insult, the Senate

Conservatives Fund ran ads criticizing GOP incumbents for failing to champion defund “Obamacare” in states such as North Carolina, where Republican Sen. Richard Burr isn’t up for re-election but Democratic Sen. Kay Hagan is and remains vulnerable. Republicans said the strategy was misguided.

The hard-right groups have mobilized against a wide variety of legislative efforts, from once-easy, bipartisan transportation and disaster relief bills to the recent budget pact. Their efforts created agenda headaches for Boehner and McConnell, and the shutdown did apparent political damage to the GOP.

The campaign against health care and shutdown, however, was a financial boon to the Senate Conservatives Fund, the group founded by former Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., who is now president of the Heritage Foundation. The Fund raised less than a million dollars in the first half of 2013, but it collected more than \$4.7 million in the months leading up to the shutdown and during it, according to reports filed with the Federal Election

Commission.

Through the end of October, the organization had raised \$6.5 million. Among its endorsed candidates is Matt Bevin, a businessman challenging McConnell in Kentucky’s GOP primary. The Madison Project has collected \$1.7 million this year, while the Club for Growth has raised \$2.2 million.

The groups are determined to use their money and clout in next year’s elections in which seven of 12 Senate Republican incumbents face primary challengers. No Senate Democrat faces a primary foe.

“If Mitch McConnell and John Boehner think the grass roots are going to sit back and let them continue to work with Democrats to mortgage our nation’s future, they’re mistaken,” Matt Hoskins, executive director of the Senate Conservatives Fund, said in a statement. “It’s time for Americans to rise up and begin replacing establishment Republicans with true conservatives in the 2014 primary elections. There’s no question anymore about where these leaders stand.”

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OPINIONS

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— FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

COLUMN

Seems like winter



Beau Elliot
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So it's winter. Actually, it has been for quite a while around these parts, though we're not saying what these parts are, because we all know what these parts are. But winter doesn't begin till (preferred spelling — don't let the ludicrous Taco Bell ads, with their insane attempt at punctuation, tell you differently) Dec. 21, you say, enthralled with TV weathermen and -women (alphabetically designated, not by sex or gender, which are two different things, despite what your professors say). Speaking of winter, there's a budget deal afloat. Or an ice jam, depending on your point of view. Though we will point out that ice does float. (A rather great boon to us, as Kurt Vonnegut pointed out in *Cat's Cradle*, because otherwise, life as we know it would not exist. This is not to say we know anything about life.) Ah, the budget. Wouldn't life be simpler if we just didn't have the budget? But then, what would Republicans and Democrats have to argue about?

Oh, they'd find something. Anything, even. That's why we call them Republicans and Democrats.

Anyway, whether we like it or not, just like winter, we have a budget. We even have a budget deal, which seems about as rare as a day in June, to steal a line from some dead poet. (We have so many; poetry must be bad for your health, said the guy who was once married to a poet.)

Naturally, the budget deal contains, as the *Los Angeles Times* has reported, "something for everyone to dislike."

Well, (James Russell Lowell, by the way. The poet.)

Conservative Republicans and tea-party types (they know how to type?) don't like the deal because it doesn't reduce the deficit enough and, more impor-

tantly, doesn't take a meat ax to Social Security and Medicare.

Democrats don't like the deal because it doesn't extend unemployment benefits. Meaning that some of the unemployed are going to see their benefits go phhht into the night, right in the middle of the holiday, "giving" season.

Well, you know what they say about legislative deals: You don't want to watch sausage being made, because your congressman might be in the recipe.

Some observers — certainly not me — believe that Paul Ryan, R-Wis., one of the architects of the deal, positioning himself for a run at the presidency.

Well, you know what it takes for a Republican to win the presidency:

Buy a ranch, cut brush, and have the media photograph and videotape you doing so before you run for president — that's what "successful" Republican candidates seem to do. George W. Bush, for example. He, of course, famously followed Ronald Reagan's example.

Then there's Mitt "The Hit" Romney (well, there's another word ending in "-it" I could have used, but it didn't seem polite in a family newspaper). Of course, the sight of Romney cutting brush on his ranch would have been more preposterous than the sight of Paul Ryan suddenly embracing Keynesian economics on the National Mall.

Though I do wonder what the sight of embracing Keynesian economics might look like (or any other economics, for that matter, especially those of the Austrian School, as skimpy as they are). Would it be a full hug, as you would give a loved one, or would it be more like a "bro hug," in which the two males touch each other as little as possible?

And what would have Romney done once he had cut all the brush for the media? Tied it on the roof of his car and taken off for a vacation in Canada?

Well, you know what they say: A deal's a deal until it's not.

Wish we could say the same about winter.

EDITORIAL

Speculation trumps news

The time has arrived for the media to engage in their customary reckless guesswork about the 2016 presidential election.

Speculation for 2016 started emerging in March 2012 (before the Republican primaries were even over) when the *Washington Post* put out its Sweet 2016 bracket for future presidential candidates. Then, two days after President Obama won the 2012 election, *Politico* published an article titled "2016 election: Hillary Clinton vs. Jeb Bush?" Even the *New York Times* jumped on the great speculative bandwagon later in November 2012.

If even the premier media outlets in the nation are susceptible to this brand of extremely premature gossip, perhaps it only follows that the *Des Moines Register* included which possible Republican and Democratic presidential candidates Iowans favored when it published the results of the latest Iowa Poll on Dec. 14.

Granted, the media are usually early to cover the next presidential race, but it's about as early as retailers setting up Christmas decorations a week before Thanksgiving. The media's coverage of the 2016 presidential election, however, is on par with preparing for the next holiday season on Dec. 26.

It may not be so bad if pundits were good at predicting, but, especially this far from 2016, most prognosticating will fall flat.

This is partly because the incentives encourage pundits to make outlandish predictions, so if they're wrong, they pretend it didn't happen and if they're right, they tell everyone and make a boatload of money from book deals and guest appearances on TV.

The other problem is that the media are predicting *three years* into the future. Few would have seriously suggested in 2005 that a junior senator from Illinois named Barack Obama would beat Hillary Rodham Clinton in the 2008 Democratic primaries and go on to win the presidency. John McCain was largely ig-

nored by the media early on in the 2008 Republican primaries until he started winning left and right.

It's hard to say why rampant speculation has become so prominent among the mainstream press, but it's probably related to the media's traditional business model has been annihilated and shows few signs of improving. This mainly came to a head during the recession when circulation and ad revenue fell off a cliff. As a result, budgetary cuts had to be made.

The Pew Research Center reports that in 2000, there were approximately 56,000 newsroom employees. Since then, that number has fallen by more than 30 percent to a 35-year low of fewer than 40,000.

CNN, which sells itself on reporting in-depth stories has gone from devoting half its evening programming to edited packages in 2007 to just one-fourth in 2013. Across cable networks, live reporting has fallen by a third, replaced with cheaper interview segments.

Hard-news stories are expensive, and the media struggle to gather the resources to pay for them. News consumers have also noticed declining quality. Pew found that one-third of Americans have abandoned a news outlet because it "no longer serves their needs." Around half of those who stopped paying attention to a media source cited a decline in quality content.

Perhaps speculation on the 2016 presidential election is a desperate attempt to get more attention, and thus ad revenue, cheaply. Journalists and editors have to understand that reckless speculation is destroying their credibility with the public, and in a time of crisis for the media, that is the last thing they need.

YOUR TURN

Do you think the quality of the news media is declining? Weigh in at dailyiowan.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Frac sand mining leaves devastation

I commend *The Daily Iowan* for attempting to provide coverage of the recent presentation by the Allamakee County Protectors, which has been raising an alarm about the threat to our natural environment posed by the relatively sudden emergence of "frac sand" mining in Wisconsin and Northeast Iowa (*DI*, "Group Resists Fracking," Dec. 11).

However, readers of the article might have been a bit confused about what is actually already happening and what is threatening to happen in the near future. The actual fracking process has been

adopted in a number of areas such as Texas and North Dakota to extract oil and gas from the ground. This process has been controversial in its own right, but that is not quite what is happening in our area.

Instead, what we are seeing is the mining of fine sand from the hills and bluffs of Wisconsin and Iowa to provide the particular kind of sand used in the fracking process in other parts of the country. What this means in practice is the complete removal of hills and bluffs, some of them hundreds of feet high, and their reduction to desolate gravel pits. There were five of these mines in Wisconsin in 2010; today there are 115 mines,

and the number is likely to grow. And this "mountain-top" removal mining is happening in Clayton County and threatens to advance in Allamakee County.

In addition to the obvious threat that this poses to the extraordinary natural beauty of northeastern Iowa, this destruction threatens both air and water quality, poses risks to the aquifers we all depend upon for our water, and undermines property values for property owners in the vicinity of these mining operation.

We are told that these operations will provide jobs, but how many and for how long? Once these limestone and sandstone hills and bluffs have been obliterated, the mining will

go, leaving a shattered, devastated landscape, a once-beautiful country reduced to a vast gravel pit. Is this what we really want for our state? For our environment?

Iowans who are concerned about this issue need to contact www.allamakeecountyprotectors.com; check out the video "Frac Sand Land," and contact local political leaders and the Governor's Office to let them know: We do not want to allow northeastern Iowa to be physically and permanently destroyed. Say no to this planned destruction of our natural environment while there is still time.

Scott R. Grau
Iowa City resident

GUEST COLUMN

Grace in the New Year



Zach Wahls
zach-wahls@uiowa.edu

I've been thinking about grace a lot lately. I think you're supposed to think about grace during the holidays. I'm thinking about it because I've had a really rough last two and a half months, and grace seems like the hardest thing in the world to find right now.

By all accounts, it's been a good year — a great year, even. My mom is healthy, I'm back in school and on track to graduate in May. But there's this feeling crawling around underneath my skin that's hard to talk about. That difficulty isn't just in describing this feeling — which is difficult — but in talking about it at all because it feels personal, and so few things in my life are these days. Thinking about it feels I'm surrendering to the ever-encroaching searchlight.

Maybe if I'd just stop thinking about it, this existential melancholy would be over. Easier

thought than done. And it's embarrassing. I'm a man. I'm not supposed to feel vulnerable or weak or threatened.

It feels like a clichéd version of emotional self-awareness, but it's just so penetrating. It stares right through you like the disappointment of your second-grade teacher who's watching you struggle with cursive. I'm 6-5, and it makes me feel small.

But I also know that things are good. And if you're reading this right now, odds are that things are probably pretty good for you as well, all things considered. You live in a highly prosperous and democratic nation, you can read, you have access to multimedia journalism. This year, by all accounts, was a decent one. For the first time in a long time, the economic news seems positive, and it's clear that we've turned the corner.

Sometimes, things just feel right in a way that you can't quite describe while you're actually feeling it. Mostly because it wouldn't even occur to you to stop and record the moment. You're happy and smiling and things are good — life is good, great

even. But often, we don't actually remember it, just the idea of it, the shape of things. Because sometimes, a lot of the time even, things don't feel that way.

Smiles are harder to come by and laughs are less boisterous, you roll out of bed with a little less enthusiasm about the day. It's work and school and friends and "friends," and there's that pit in your stomach that comes and goes with more regularity than you would like. It's that nagging question that maybe there's something terribly, terribly wrong. And when you're feeling like that, it's hard to remember how it feels when it's good.

When I sat down to try and write this column, I told a friend of mine that I was struggling to find coherent thoughts about grace. She texted me, "Someone once told me grace was being thankful for others' words about you even when you wish to not be acknowledged." I think whoever told her that was correct, but that's only one part of it. Grace flows from gratitude, but the kind of gratitude that's grounded in humility and the awareness of how small we are in the

universe. But this is tricky. Grace requires recognizing action's importance. It requires the belief and appreciation of the power within one's grasp.

My recent failures reflect a lack of respect for that power. My high-school swimming coach used to remind my team that the expression "practice makes perfect" is wrong. Practice doesn't make perfect, he said. Practice makes habit. There's a world of difference, and it requires a choice.

Grace too, requires a choice and practice. Grace is a small grin on the inside, a confidence in oneself, despite one's doubts. Grace is standing tall, all 77 inches. Grace is owning your weaknesses and mistakes, without losing sight of the end goal. It's seeking help, but without a sense of shame, and with the freedom that comes from self-awareness and the courage to face what you have to face.

Grace is the cloth of strength and dignity and the laugh that resonates without fear of the future.

I hope you enjoy the holidays and may we all take on 2014 with the grace a new year deserves.

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THE DAILY IOWAN is a multifaceted news-media organization that provides fair and accurate coverage of events and issues pertaining to the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Johnson County, and the state of Iowa.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR may be sent via email to dailyiowan.letters@gmail.com (as text, not as attachments). 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.

ENGLISH

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

to the number of schools in the district that implemented their own programs this year.

In the 2011-12 school year, the cost to operate the program serving 483 students was \$587,626.20. In the 2012-13 school year, the program increased to 501 students at an overall cost of \$845,077.96. Costs have not been released for the current school year.

City High implement-

ed an English language program of its own this year. Prior to this program, students living in the City High area who wanted to take advantage of the services had to attend West High to be involved in the program.

There are four levels students can progress through — beginner, intermediate, advanced-intermediate, and advanced. As students move up the levels, they should become more independent with the English language.

City High English Language Learner

teacher Leah Tweedy said being in high school and learning a new language is much different from doing the same in elementary school.

"It's one thing when you're in elementary [school], and you still have 10 years ahead of you, but here it's relatively intense, because they're going to be out in college very soon," she said. "We provide a lot of support in the beginning, and then we start removing some of the supports as they get more and more independent with their English."

Horn Elementary

joined City High in getting a program this year. Principal Kristin Cannon said the experience has been "wonderful" so far, and she stressed that it's important that children stay in their neighborhood schools.

"I think it's something that should be available in every school, and I think that is what the district is working toward," she said. "I hope it brings together students and shows them we come from many different places, and we can understand and learn about each other through other cultures."

For junior-high students in the district, Southeast Junior High does not have an English-language program. Students in the area who want that service have to go to Northwest Junior High.

Southeast Principal Matt Degner said he has experience with these programs from working in other districts, recognizing there is a need, and is looking into the logistics of putting in a program.

Currently, Degner said the school has trained personnel to assist the students, if they have

deferred to go to Northwest Junior High School.

Degner said the school would have to look at capacity, numbers, and how the program would be implemented before deciding to give it a try. However, he recognized the success of City High and said the service is something he would like to capitalize on.

"We know students have a need, and we always do our best to meet students' needs," he said. "For [English-language] students, [the solution] would be having the program they can easily access."

ISRAELI

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

universities and scholars would also punish us," said Linda Kerber, a UI retired professor of women's studies. "I also believe that ... our own university would not permit a boycott of this sort. We don't engage in academic boycotts, we encourage academic exchange."

Kerber, who was the national president of the organization from 1988-89, was one of eight past presidents of the organization who disagreed with the boycott, writing a letter to the organization's current members asking them to vote against the then-proposal.

"We believe academic boycotts to be antithetical to the mission of free and open inquiry for which a scholarly organization stands," the letter said. "We urge ... members to vote to reject this divisive and discrimina-

tory resolution."

The American Studies Association — its website states it is dedicated to improving studies of American culture and history — announced Monday that members voted to endorse an academic boycott of Israel with 66 percent in favor.

The boycott means anyone representing or associated with an Israeli university will not be able to attend association conferences, the group said in a press release on its website. This will not affect individual Israeli scholars who are unassociated with an institution.

The group's National Council contended that human-rights violations by the Israeli government, which limits Palestinian scholars, as the main reason for this boycott.

"The resolution is in solidarity with scholars and students deprived of their academic freedom and it aspires to enlarge that freedom for all, including Palestinians," the National Council

said in a statement.

Former association member and UI Professor Emeritus Richard Horwitz said while he partially agrees with the organization's views, a boycott isn't justified.

"It's about academic freedom," he said. "Even though I as an individual am opposed to many Israeli policies ... I don't think nationality should [limit people academical-ly]."

Others, including Hillel Director Gerald Sorokin, don't think the boycott will be as effective as the association hopes. Sorokin said the boycott is unfair to Israel, though it may be more of a statement than action.

"Irrespective of your beliefs about Israeli policies ... its hard to see why an academic boycott is justified," he said. "There are lots and lots of important countries with much worse human-rights records, that the [association] doesn't care about at all. This is clearly a power play

'It's about academic freedom. Even though I as an individual am opposed to many Israeli policies ... I don't think nationality should [limit people academically].'

— Richard Horwitz, UI Professor Emeritus

by people who just want to use their position as a platform to publicize their views."

UI Visiting Associate Professor of political science and former U.S. Ambassador to Eritrea Ron McMullen, who has worked in the Middle East region, said the boycott will have minimal impact and won't change the views of U.S. government.

"Israel does what it does that seems to [serve] its own self-inter-

ests," he said. "[The United States] remain[s] one of Israel's closest friends and biggest supporters."

Despite his opposition to the boycott, Sorokin said these issues should continue be discussed.

"I don't have any problem with people questioning the policies of any countries," he said. "I personally have beliefs about the wisdom and efficacy of the current Israeli government's approach. I think that those are valid and legit-

imate topics for debate."

Mark Hollander, a UI senior and member of the Hillel House, said the American Studies Association shouldn't ignore America's connection with Israel.

"If the United States is supporting Israel ... then clearly, America has a dedication to Israel as a state," he said.

Americans and Palestinians for Peace President John Dabeet said the human-rights abuses by the Israeli government necessitate some kind of a response.

"Basically, when the state of Israel continues its policy ... you can not call it anything but an apartheid," he said. "Every small thing can make a difference. We have to change, we should change, and we have to work step by step to make that happen."

**Name That
Holiday Movie
Daily Iowan
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<p>1 IOWA HAWK SHOP (Old Capitol Mall)</p> <p>December 10-13 8:00am-7:00pm December 14 10:00am-5:00pm December 15 12:00pm-5:00pm December 16-20 8:00am-7:00pm December 21 10:00am-5:00pm December 22 12:00pm-5:00pm December 23 10:00am-6:00pm</p>	<p>2 BURGE December 17-20 10:30am - 6:00pm</p> <p>3 HILLCREST December 17-20 10:30am - 6:30pm</p> <p>4 MAYFLOWER December 17-20 10:00am - 5:30pm</p>
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**NOW HIRING:
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The *Daily Iowan's* "Black & Gold Standard" Political Initiative is seeking to expand its political reporting team for January 2014.

Qualified candidates must be accomplished University of Iowa students who demonstrate high levels of aptitude for discovering, understanding, interpreting, analyzing, and reporting issues, topics, trends, and personalities that shape politics in Iowa and the United States. We seek those candidates pursuing a degree in journalism, political science, communication studies, English, or a related field.

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To apply, please send a cover letter, résumé, three writing samples, and three references to the following:

Kristen East, Editor: kristeniceast@gmail.com
Lyle Muller, Political Coach: lyle-muller@iowawatch.org

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION MATERIALS: JANUARY 19, 2014

DAILY BREAK

the ledge

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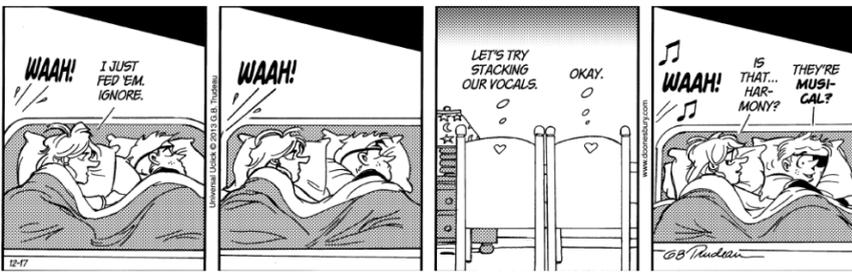
Christmas Trivia:

- During the Christmas/Hanukkah season, more than 1.76 billion candy canes will be made — enough to keep a medium-sized rave going for almost eight hours.
- For every real Christmas tree harvested, two to three seedlings are planted in its place. Christmas trees are like botanical hydras.
- Frumenty, thought to be the forerunner of modern Christmas puddings was a spiced porridge, enjoyed by both rich and poor — though admittedly, it was enjoyed a little bit more by the poor.
- The British believe that a wish made while mixing Christmas pudding will come true only if the ingredients are stirred in a clockwise direction. I believe that the British give unhealthy credence to the power of magic, coupled with OCD.
- The 2000 live-action version of *How the Grinch Stole* Christmas features roughly 52,000 Christmas lights, 8,200 Christmas ornaments, 2,000 candy canes, and 0 funny jokes.
- A traditional Christmas dinner in early England was the head of a pig prepared with mustard. English cuisine has improved little in the intervening centuries.

Andrew R. Juhl thanks various Internet sites for supplying him with these easily modifiable Christmas factoids.

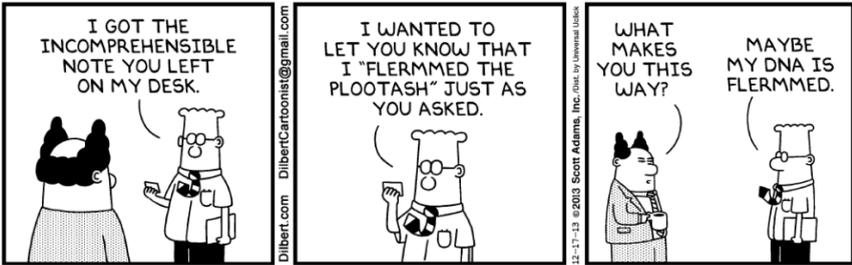
Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



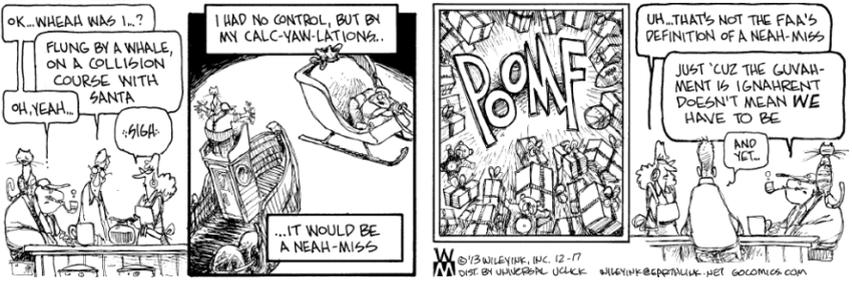
DILBERT

by Scott Adams



'NON SEQUITUR

BY VIEW



today's events

- **Call for Artists**, the UI Museum of Art seeks 12 artists to create wearable works of art inspired by Jackson Pollock's Mural. Works will be featured in a fashion show at the Museum Party, April 24, 2014. The Museum Party will celebrate the unveiling of the restored Mural at the J. Paul Getty Museum on March 10, 2014. Design submissions due Jan. 13, 2014: See the website <http://uima.uiowa.edu/jackson-pollock/> for details. Submissions, questions: Elizabeth Wallace, elizabeth-m-wallace@uiowa.edu
- **Lunch with the Chefs, University Catering**, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., IMU
- **PubMed: Going Beyond the Basics**, 1 p.m., Hardin Library East Information Commons
- **School of Music Presents: Lalitha Muthuswamy**, violin,

- with Scott Conklin, violin, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Recital Hall
- **Vino Van Gogh**, 6 p.m., Mill, 120 E. Burlington
- **Sioux City Pete**, 9 p.m., Gabe's, 330 E. Washington
- **Lower Deck Dance Party**, 10 p.m., Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn

SUBMIT AN EVENT

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

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE 12/17/13

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

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

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- 8-9 a.m. Morning Drive
- 10 a.m.-Noon Sports Block
- Noon-2 p.m. Sports Block
- 2-3 p.m. The Lit Show
- 5 p.m. KRUI News
- 8-10 p.m. I've Made a Huge Mistake
- 10 p.m.-Midnight Local Tunes
- Midnight-2 a.m. DJ Pat

mc ginsberg.com

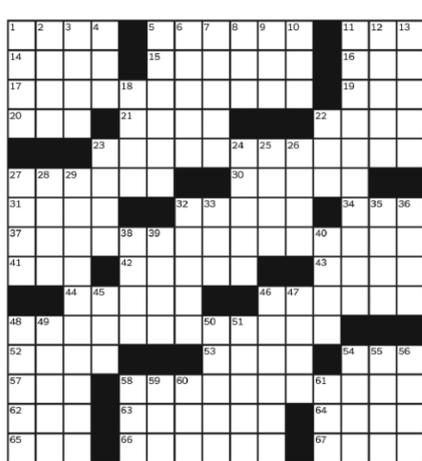
OBJECTS OF ART

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1112

- ACROSS**
- 1 767s, e.g.
 - 5 Tame, as movies go
 - 11 Move like a bunny
 - 14 Wyatt out West
 - 15 Farthest point of a 50-Down
 - 16 Goof or go off
 - 17 1960s dissident
 - 19 ___ de la Plata
 - 20 Suffix with Tao or Mao
 - 21 Fend (off)
 - 22 "You've gotta be kidding!"
 - 23 1987 movie with the hit "Hungry Eyes"
 - 27 Bodies of rules
 - 30 In other words, in old Rome
 - 31 Checkup
 - 32 More together
 - 34 He's no gentleman
 - 37 Smash-hit entertainment?
 - 41 K.C.-to-Nashville direction
 - 42 Tests for many Ph.D. candidates
 - 43 Farm unit
 - 44 Boxer Roberto with "hands of stone"
 - 46 Like some schoolbook folders
 - 48 Fast-food chain with an orange and pink logo
 - 52 "Dies ___"
 - 53 Series of golf courses that host the British Open
 - 54 Carrier to Oslo
 - 57 Co. whose logo includes Leo the Lion
 - 58 Jump-rope style
 - 62 ___ jeans
 - 63 Like some job training
 - 64 Grp. whose members account for more than 50% of the world's defense spending
 - 65 Abbr. on a golf scorecard

- DOWN**
- 1 Darth Vader, once
 - 2 Corny things?
 - 3 Public transport option
 - 4 Letters on a beach bottle
 - 5 Some control tower equipment
 - 6 To the left, at sea
 - 7 Winter warmer
 - 8 Flan ingredient
 - 9 Actor Billy ___ Williams
 - 10 Neighbor of Lux.
 - 11 Creature that adopts a seashell
 - 12 Figure of myth known for his belt
 - 13 Tine
 - 18 Minnesota player
 - 22 IV units
 - 23 "___ arigato, Mr. Roboto"
 - 24 T. rex and others
 - 25 Mideast port
 - 26 Mathlete, stereotypically
 - 27 Surrender
 - 28 Lumberjacks' tools
 - 29 Acted the fink
 - 32 Lectern, e.g.
 - 33 Suffer
 - 35 Skilled
 - 36 Like orange hair
 - 38 Actress Singer
 - 39 Hassan
 - 40 Goes back



- PUZZLE BY MIKE DORAN**
- 45 Lanai strings
 - 46 Students taught alone
 - 47 Slightly
 - 48 How romantic dinners are lit
 - 49 Encouraged
 - 50 Satellite's path
 - 51 Nick of "Cape Fear"
 - 54 Persian suffix that ends seven country names
 - 55 When the balcony scene occurs in "Romeo and Juliet"
 - 56 Like racehorses' feet
 - 58 Opposite of no-nos
 - 59 Prov. bordering Manitoba
 - 60 Winner of more than half of all the World Puzzle Championships
 - 61 Prefix with lateral

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

horoscopes

Tuesday, December 17, 2013 by Eugenia Latt

- ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Speak passionately, but be prepared to encounter other points of view. Sticking to your values will not be difficult, but accepting someone else's is not so easy. Wager the pros and cons, and decide if you want to make allowances or not.
- TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): A little extra work will go a long way. Don't hesitate to make financial adjustments in order to improve your cash flow. Consider your options and whether you should pursue new avenues. Romance is on the rise.
- GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Watch your spending habits. It's easy to get caught up in the festive spirit of giving. A positive change in your relationships with others will take place if you take the time to listen and discuss interests and plans.
- CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Make personal changes that will help you gain greater respect from your peers. Re-evaluate your position and your direction. It's up to you to do what's right. Don't let emotions swell and cause problems. Make love, not war, and you'll avoid duress.
- LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Make an effort to get out and meet some new friends. Networking will lead to intellectual banter as well as bright prospects for the future. You'll feel inspired about taking on a new direction. Take care of unfinished business, and make way for new endeavors.
- VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Trouble at home will mount if someone isn't being honest. Settle any turmoil quickly before too much has been said or done to reverse the problem. Develop a creative skill you enjoy doing. Pick up information regarding educational pursuits.
- LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Travel, communicate, and get together with old friends. Discuss your thoughts and plans with someone you've long shared an interest with. Don't ask questions unless you are prepared to hear the truth and deal with the outcome.
- SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Look over personal paperwork, and update whatever needs adjusting. Make alterations to your living space to accommodate guests or projects you want to start. Check your motives before you do something that may cause a backlash.
- SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Decorate, make a move, or change your environment to suit your mood and your future prospects. Spend time with someone you love discussing personal plans. Do whatever it takes to set an example that will lead to advancement.
- CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A friend or relative is likely to cause a problem. Don't let her or him meddle in your affairs. An impulsive move will make you look bad or cause a dispute. Step back, and consider the consequences before you overreact.
- AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Spend time shopping or picking up items that you can use for a creative pursuit. Send out résumés or answer ads that can lead to a higher income. A younger person in your life will have an effect on a decision you make.
- PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let emotions take over. Stick to your plan, and move toward your goal. Unfinished business will lead to added stress. Be industrious, and you'll be able to enjoy down time when you are finished.

Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions.

— Albert Einstein

Building has new life



Vera Gross, the owner of the Grossix Building, stands outside the building on Monday. The Grossix Building, built in the 1860s, is undergoing renovation. (The Daily Iowan/Joshua Housing)

By ABIGAIL MEIER
Abigail-meier@uiowa.edu

As half of the drywall peels away from the inside of the Grossix Building, the material beneath exposes almost a century of historical structural value of the downtown Iowa City establishment.

Community members admired the nearly completed renovations on Monday as officials announced the coming of a retail store to that space. Tailgate, a vintage-style clothing line, will enter the bottom floor in February 2014. The second and third floors, which are nearing completion, will be remodeled into apartments.

"The view from the top and the design of the building vitalizes the Iowa City area," said Vera Gross, the owner of the Grossix Building, 30 S. Clinton St. "A lot of this area was used for storage, but now you have two really great places to bring to Iowa City and bringing more people to the downtown area."

Iowa native Todd Snyder created Tailgate in his father's basement in 1997, and he has partnered with national brands such as Nordstroms, American Eagle, and Urban Outfitters. An official with the Downtown District said there an increasing need

for a business such as Tailgate in the area.

"There is a high demand for retail downtown," said Nancy Bird, downtown district executive director. "[Gross] took her time in finding a tenant who can service the community as well as the students."

Gross' family has owned the 1860 building for the past 28 years. In 1985, her mother opened Gilda Imports — a furniture, glass, china store — in the building. In the past three years, the building has been empty.

The renovation is the sixth of eight projects the Downtown District has supported to restore the structural value of the buildings.

A Downtown District initiative called Iowa City Building Change Program, which began last spring, has supplied Gross with \$43,629 for the installation of a sprinkler system and improvements to the building's façade. The total cost of the renovation is \$700,000.

Iowa City economic development coordinator Wendy Ford said the goal of the initiative is to renovate storage space to create offices, apartments, and retail stores as well as bringing more business to downtown. Ford said the renovations will improve accessibility by updating building requirements.

"We would have loved to have an unending pot of money to assist the business owners," Ford said. "But the project will help business owners see what their second floor could become."

The Grossix Building is one of eight Iowa City buildings receiving funding for improvements with aesthetics, safety, and energy efficiency.

"As you peel back the dry wall, it exposes this beautiful material," Bird said, as she pointed to the crumbling brick hidden beneath the drywall. "The key behind renovating the older buildings is to help owners invest in them to restore their historical characteristics."

Ford said after the Grossix is done, six of the eight buildings in the program will be finished. This coming spring, Atlas, 127 Iowa Ave., and the Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn St., will see renovations for new sprinkler systems and accessibility improvements.

As the initiative comes to the final stages, Bird said, many downtown business owners will continue to renovate the buildings.

"We hope there is more of this to come," she said. "We are going to try our best to help the owners to renovate back to their original design."

Bowl tickets going fast

Ticket sales indicate Hawkeye fan excitement.

By MEGAN DEPPE
megan-deppe@uiowa.edu

Despite the slow response from its opposing team's fans, the Iowa Hawkeyes can expect a large turnout at the Outback Bowl game in just a few weeks.

This is the fourth appearance for the Iowa Hawkeyes at the Outback Bowl since 2004, coming after failing to reach a bowl last year. The last game between LSU and Iowa ended with a last-second victory for the Hawkeyes, 30-25, in the 2005 Capital One Bowl. Nine years later, the two teams will face each other once again.

Since the Hawkeyes accepted the invitation to the Outback Bowl on Dec. 8, ticket sales have skyrocketed.

Mike Osmundson, the UI assistant ticket manager at the Sports Marketing Office, said slightly more than 10,100 tickets have been sold of the university's allotted 11,500 as of Monday.

Osmundson said part of this response could be that Iowa has not faced LSU since 2005, but he thought the larger reason was the location.

"Iowa fans are famous for traveling," Osmundson said. "Selling bowl tickets isn't usually much of a problem."

A travel agent from Cedar Rapids echoed this, saying she expects her company's packages to sell out by the end of the week.

"The Outback Bowl is pretty popular, so it's going quickly," said Laura Clark, a travel agent for Destinations Unlimited. "Each day, we're checking for more space [to give to travelers]."

Brian Broussard, the LSU assistant athletics director for ticket operations, said the school has sold approximately



Iowa fans celebrate a touchdown in Ross-Ade Stadium in West Lafayette on Nov. 9. Iowa defeated Purdue, 38-14. (The Daily Iowan/Alyssa Hitchcock)

6,000 tickets, with seating predominantly in the north end zone.

Broussard said while sales for the past three bowl games LSU has participated in have been relatively good, he is unsure of whether the Tigers will sell out their tickets this year.

"Based on our current pace, I'm not sure if we will sell out," Broussard wrote in an email.

The LSU Athletics Department is offering a "14 days of bowl ... ing giveaway" to celebrate the university being involved in 14 bowl games consecutively, as well as help raise ticket sales. For each ticket bought, the fan is entered into the contest, with prizes including as winning more tickets to the bowl game, as well as fan apparel.

LSU fan Jim Dumigan, who owns Jim Dumigan's Sports Travel, said the turnout for the trip package he offers for this game is the lowest he's had in 30 years. He said he's had fans attempt to sell him their tickets because they chose not to go.

"The interest in this game has not been keen at all, period," Dumigan said. "Iowa just doesn't have quite the appeal we're used to."

Dumigan also said it's been a bit of an off-season for LSU, and for fans who were hoping to go to the Cotton Bowl, there's just "not much of an interest." He said too many of the cheap tickets have already

Ticket Sales

The Hawkeyes will face the LSU Tigers in the Outback Bowl on Jan. 1 in Tampa, Fla.

- This will be the Hawkeyes' fourth Outback Bowl since 2004.
- The team accepted the invitation to the bowl on Dec. 8.
- The most current updates say 10,100 tickets of the Hawks' allotted 11,500 have been sold.
- The 2014 Outback Bowl will be the first time Iowa has played LSU in nine seasons.

Source: Mike Osmundson of the Sports Marketing Office

been sold, the distance of the bowl game may be too far away for some fans, and there are also flights are harder to book, because many people are headed to Florida for the holidays.

The warm weather and holiday destination may be an incentive for fans to attend the game, Osmundson said, but he also said fans want to go for the game itself, not just because it is a bowl game.

"LSU is a good match, and Tampa is a great place to play," Osmundson said.



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WOMEN

CONTINUED FROM 10

Someone who's enjoyed that opportunity — just as Disterhoft currently is — was junior point guard Logic.

Logic not only played in her freshman year, she was asked to play a key role, something Bluder asks the very same of from Disterhoft.

And while the season isn't even at its halfway mark, it's understandably hard for people not to be impressed with where Disterhoft's year could stack up against other former freshmen.

If her 11.4 points per

game average holds up for the rest of the regular season, then she would become sixth highest scoring freshman in the program's history. If she continues her rebounding pace, she would become the fifth highest rebounding freshman in the program's history.

What's more impressive about those marks is that they don't factor in any of Iowa's postseason games. If Iowa plays even a few tournament games, then Disterhoft could move up a few spots.

"Sam, Theaira [Taylor], Melissa [Dixon] — all of them have reached out," Disterhoft said.

She didn't exclude the importance of having a

coach willing enough to give freshmen big minutes.

"I think it's a major confidence booster when you know that your coach has that confidence in you already," Disterhoft said.

But perhaps the most surprising aspect of her year has been her immediate impact. There has been seemingly no transition period from her high-school days to the college level, something that caught the eyes of coaches and her fellow players.

"Ally came in with the mentality that, 'I'm going to do what this team needs me to do,'" Logic said. "And she's doing that. She's done it in so many different ways."



Iowa guard Ally Disterhoft goes for a layup at Carver on Nov. 17. Iowa defeated Stony Brook, 78-40. (The Daily Iowan/Margaret Kispert)

COMMENTARY

CONTINUED FROM 10

and finding great success getting to the free-throw line for old-fashioned 3-point plays. She's been a sight to see, and she's drawn praise from her coaches all season.

Sure, I expected this team to be good, but maybe not *this* good, *this* early. Two wins over teams that were ranked higher than them is downright impressive, despite the Dayton Flyers, who were once ranked 14, no longer being in the Top 25.

The Hawkeyes, meanwhile, are ranked 22nd after dropping last week's contest against Iowa State. Considering that last season, the Hawkeyes went in and out of the rankings despite numerous wins against ranked teams and numerous losses that should have been wins, this is a sign of respect for the program and its coaching staff that the team shouldn't ignore.

Maybe I wrote off this year's version of the Black and Gold a little bit, but I don't think I ever completely doubted

the team's ability to win. It would take a lot of disasters to take a team that had so much success last season to metaphorically fall off the face of the planet this season and not make its seventh-consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance.

But there's always that possibility — the chance that Nicole Smith's injury mere minutes into an exhibition game left the team one player short for its needed rotation, the chance that Dixon's shooting slump continued through the team's trip to Cancún and beyond.

But these worries are finished now, and the team is off to a fantastic start, sparse roster and all. And with Big Ten play coming up soon, we have yet to see the true potential of this persistent bunch.

If the 12 games so far are any indication, buckle up. Because it's going to be fun, up-and-down ride.

PCP

CONTINUED FROM 10

self and the team.

That's pretty much how almost every game has played out for Pittsburgh this year.

Coming off of a bad 2012 season that saw the Steelers miss the playoffs for the first time since their 2009 Super Bowl victory, expectations were high.

New offensive coordinator Todd Haley had some serious growing pains in his first year manning the Steeler offense. As a team in 2012, it managed to score only 336 points, 22nd in the NFL.

Unfortunately for the Steelers, it doesn't appear that much has changed.

After a full off-season, the offense has skyrocketed from 22nd in points scored all the way up to the 19th spot. With two games remaining on the schedule, the Steelers are on pace to barely eclipse their total point total from the previous season.

On the other side of the ball, Pittsburgh's defense has been equally brutal.

Once held as the trademark for Steeler football, this current edition of Pittsburgh "D" has looked more like a wet blanket and less like a "steel curtain."

A far cry from the menacing stopping power it had when it won two Super Bowls in four years, Pittsburgh's defensive corps has allowed 332 points, good enough for a very middling 15th.

Pittsburgh's defense is aging rapidly, and it is beginning to show on the field.

Not exactly the rebound they were looking for.

— by Ryan Rodriguez

Washington

I'm making the trek over from Opinions to lay down some truth on all these sports yokels: Washington is the most disappointing team in the NFL, and it's really not close.

In 2012, Washington finished 10-6 and won the NFC East thanks in large part to the shimmering rise of Robert Griffin III, who was widely considered the best quarterback among last year's impressive

rookie class. They closed the regular season on a seven-game winning streak, during which they beat the eventual Super Bowl-champion Ravens. By the end of last year, "SportsCenter" was running entirely on whack suits and fawning stories about RGIII's zany socks and limitless potential.

Then Washington's would-be savior tore his LCL in a wild-card loss to the Seahawks, and the 'Skins were sent home to dream of the titles Griffin would certainly be raining on the nation's capital by mid-decade.

Before this season began, Washington was the consensus pick of ESPN's crack team of NFL Insiders to win the NFC East. Most "experts" had 'em pegged around 9-7, at or near the top of a weak division.

Four months later, they are 3-11. Their erstwhile quarterback of the future (whose QB rating fell more than 30 points between 2012 and 2013, for the record) has been deactivated in favor of Kirk Cousins — *Kirk Cousins* — as a part of Mike Shanahan's ongoing campaign to be fired.

Think the Packers have disappointed? They still managed to crush the Redskins, 38-20, in September. The 4-10 Falcons? They beat the woeful 'Skins on Sunday.

The Steelers? At least they have a coach who wants to keep his job and a functional front office.

Barely a year removed from the unbridled optimism that surrounded the streaking 'Skins, this was the question posed about the organization last week in the *Washington Post*: "Who deserves more blame, Mike Shanahan, the weasel of a coach who defames his enemies, deflects blame, and now may duck out of town if he gets the firing he craves? Or [team owner Dan] Snyder, the man who picked Shanahan, his seventh coach in 14 years?"

To top it all off — the losing, the organizational chaos — this steaming heap of an organization still clings to a blatantly racist nickname that a growing number of media outlets won't even use. A disappointment indeed.

— by Zach Tilly

Atlanta

When considering the most disappointing teams of the 2013-14 NFL season, it's impossible to ignore Matt Ryan and his Atlanta Falcons.

At the beginning of this season, the Falcons looked like a contender for the Super Bowl. They had just come off a NFC championship appearance and one of their best finishes in franchise history. Their off-season had been fairly uneventful with the notable exception of the signing of running back Steven Jackson and the re-signing of future Hall of Fame tight-end Tony Gonzalez.

The plan did not work out at all. Early in the season, both wide receiver Julio Jones and Jackson went down with injuries, and Ryan struggled to carry the workload by himself. Coupled with Ryan's struggles, Atlanta hasn't benefited from owning the worst rushing attack in the league, which averages an abysmal 79.3 yards per game.

The Falcons, aerial attack hasn't been awful (they rank 8th in passing yards), but Ryan has thrown 14 interceptions, mostly because they usually play from behind.

On the defensive side of the ball, Atlanta hasn't fared much better and owns one of the league's worst defensive units. This, coupled with the high-powered offenses in their division (New Orleans and Carolina come to mind) became a recipe for disaster.

There are bits and pieces on the Falcons defense, such as defensive end Osi Umenyiora who has seven sacks on the season. Beyond that, the defense has not made many plays and has only 19 turnovers forced on the season.

What is most disappointing this season is the failure to meet the expectations raised by previous years' success. Ryan has made the playoffs every season he has been in the league, a streak that will come to an end after this campaign.

A series of events led to this being a flop of a season for the Falcons, and it may take several years before they truly are a contender for the championship again.

— by Jordan Hansen

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9:00, 10:00
CATCHING FIRE (PG-13)
12:00, 1:00, 3:15, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30
DELIVERY MAN (PG-13)
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
FROZEN 2D (PG) ✓
12:00, 1:50, 4:30, 6:20, 7:10
FROZEN 3D (PG) ✓
1:05, 4:00
HOBBIT: SMAUG 2D (PG-13) ✓
12:00, 2:30, 3:30, 6:00, 7:00, 9:30, 10:30
HOBBIT: SMAUG 3D (PG-13) ✓
1:30, 5:00, 8:30
OUT OF THE FURNACE (R) ✓
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
THOR: THE DARK WORLD 2D (PG-13)
1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:15

12 YEARS A SLAVE (R)
1:00, 4:00
ANCHORMAN MARATHON (PG-13) ✓
7:00
ANCHORMAN: THE LEGEND CONTINUES (PG-13) ✓
9:00, 10:00
BAD SANTA (NR)
2:00, 4:30
CATCHING FIRE (PG-13)
12:15, 3:25, 6:35, 7:30, 9:45
DALLAS BUYERS CLUB (R)
1:15, 4:00, 7:15
FROZEN 2D (PG) ✓
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
HOBBIT: SMAUG 2D (PG-13) ✓
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HOBBIT: SMAUG 3D (PG-13) ✓
1:00, 2:00, 4:30, 5:30, 8:00, 9:00
MARLINSKY BALLET: NUTCRACKER (NR)
11:30
OUT OF THE FURNACE (R) ✓
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
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804 Orange St, West Branch • \$309,900



Stunning 3 bedroom new construction home within 15 min of downtown Iowa City! Lower Cedar County taxes. Open floor plan with vaulted ceilings & skylights. Large upgraded kitchen with granite counters & hickory cabinets. Main floor has a large deck. LL walks out to patio area & private yard. Lovely views from grand room & master bedroom. Oversized 3-4 car garage with over 1000 sq ft!

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FREEMAN TO COMPETE IN DIVING CHAMPIONSHIP

Former Iowa diver Deidre Freeman will compete in the USA Diving Winter National Championships in Austin, Texas, from today through Dec. 22. The competition is held on the campus of the University of Texas in the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center.

Freeman will compete in several events throughout the course of the event, including the 1-meter springboard, the 3-meter springboard, and the synchronized 3-meter competition. The 1-meter competition will take place today, and the 3-meter will begin on Thursday. The preliminaries for the synchronized 3-meter will begin on Friday, with the finals on Saturday.

After an illustrious career at Iowa, where she was a two-time All-American, Freeman began



Freeman
former Iowa diver

competing on the national level. Most recently, she competed at the 2013 AT&T Diving National Championships, in which she won the 3-meter with a score of 303.40. In addition, she also won the synchronized 3-meter (286.35) and finished runner-up in the 1-meter springboard (287.15).

The Iowa graduate has also competed at the international level with an appearance in the FINA World Championships in Barcelona. She also competed at the USA Diving World Championship Trials, in which she won the 3-meter and finished second in the 1-meter springboard.

— by Jordan Hansen

UPCOMING HAWK SCHEDULE

- Today**
Men's Swimming vs. U.S. Diving Winter Nationals, Austin, Texas, All Day
Women's Swimming vs. U.S. Diving Winter Nationals, Austin, Texas, All Day
- Wednesday**
Men's Swimming vs. U.S. Diving Winter Nationals, Austin, Texas, All Day
Women's Swimming vs. U.S. Diving Winter Nationals, Austin, Texas, All Day
- Thursday**
Men's Swimming vs. U.S. Diving Winter Nationals, Austin, Texas, All Day
Women's Swimming vs. U.S. Diving Winter Nationals, Austin, Texas, All Day
- Friday**
Men's Swimming vs. U.S. Diving Winter Nationals, Austin, Texas, All Day
Women's Swimming vs. U.S. Diving Winter Nationals, Austin, Texas, All Day
- Saturday**
Women's Basketball vs. Drake, Carver, 4 p.m.
Wrestling vs. Penn State, Carver, 8 p.m.
Women's Swimming vs. U.S. Diving Winter Nationals, Austin, Texas, All Day
Men's Swimming vs. U.S. Diving Winter Nationals, Austin, Texas, All Day
- Sunday**
Men's Basketball vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Carver, 1 p.m.
Men's Swimming vs. U.S. Diving Winter Nationals, Austin, Texas, All Day
Women's Swimming vs. U.S. Diving Winter Nationals, Austin, Texas, All Day

SCOREBOARD

- NCAAM**
Duke 85, Gardner Webb 66
- NCAAW**
North Carolina 124, New Orleans 41
Florida St. 61, North Florida 42
Syracuse 82, Temple 76
Gonzaga 87, Cal-Riverside 43
Stanford 75, New Mexico 41
- NBA**
Detroit 101, Indiana 96
Atlanta 114, LA Lakers 100
Boston 101, Minnesota 97
Brooklyn 130, Philadelphia 94
Miami 117, Utah 94
Washington 102, New York 101
Orlando 83, Chicago 82
LA Clippers 115, San Antonio 92
- NHL**
Pittsburgh 3, Toronto 1
Winnipeg 3, Columbus 2
Ottawa 3, St. Louis 2
Colorado 6, Dallas 2

WHAT TO WATCH

- NCAAM:** Pittsburgh vs. Cincinnati
ESPN, 6 p.m.
- NCAAW:** Duke vs. Connecticut,
ESPN2, 6 p.m.
- NCAAM:** Memphis vs. Florida
ESPN, 8 p.m.

Disterhoft catches on early



Iowa guard Ally Disterhoft shoots a lay-up in Carver-Hawkeye on Dec. 7. Iowa defeated Idaho State, 95-47. (The Daily Iowan/Margaret Kispert)

Ally Disterhoft is succeeding as a freshman, but that isn't new to head coach Lisa Bluder.

By JACOB SHEYKO
jacob-sheyko@uiowa.edu

It really hasn't taken anyone by surprise. The rise of Iowa women's basketball freshman Ally Disterhoft seemed to have been expected ever since she became a part of the program that she spent so much time watching from the seats in Carver-Hawkeye Arena. Before the season even began, Disterhoft's teammates raved at her ability to quickly adjust to the college level. They dubbed both her and fellow freshman Alexa Kastanek scrappy players who would fit right in with the system. "We thought Ally and Lex could both have immediate impacts on this team, and we needed them to," guard Sam Logic said. "We don't have the numbers to not have them play."

Twelve games into the season, those predictions are looking pretty spot on. Disterhoft jumped out of the gate early this season. The 6-foot guard is one of five Iowa players to average double digits in scoring — 11.4 points per game. But her contributions don't stop there. Listed as the fifth tallest player on the Hawkeyes roster, Disterhoft also leads the Hawkeyes in rebounding, pulling down 6.3 per game. "I think having those few months in the summer — with this being the first year they could do that — has really helped," Disterhoft said. "Just getting stronger and improve all areas of our game earlier." But while a freshman making the impact such as Disterhoft has may be uncommon in

some programs, head coach Lisa Bluder has made it a staple of her teams ever since she took over in 2000. Currently in her 14th season of coaching at Iowa, Bluder has helped five players be named to the Big Ten All-Freshmen Team, with one of those being named Big Ten Freshman of the Year — Jaime Printy in 2010. Bluder believes that her success with freshmen has boiled down to two factors. "I think it's talented freshmen living up to their potential, but I also think it's opportunity," Bluder said. "We're only 10 deep right now, so there's opportunity. If you had 15 people on scholarship, they may not be as much opportunity."

SEE WOMEN, 8

COMMENTARY

Hawks off to soaring start

Things could have gone very wrong for the Iowa women's basketball team; instead, things have gone very right, and the team is quickly earning its way to its seventh-consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance.



Matt Cabel
matthew-cabel@uiowa.edu

I'm not really sure what I expected to see from this year's iteration of the Iowa women's basketball team. On paper, you have a team with extremely talented players, including Sam Logic, Theairra Taylor, and Melissa Dixon, who were all big contributors last season to a Hawkeye team that made it to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. You have freshmen Ally Disterhoft and Alexa Kastanek coming in after highly praised prep careers, and of course, head coach Lisa Bluder, a fantastic coach at the helm of a strong program. But you never know. Dixon opened up the season in a shooting slump, for example. Sometimes, freshmen with tremendous potential come into college and take time to adjust to the height, speed,

and regimen of Division I basketball. But that hasn't been the case for Lisa Bluder's latest squad. In fact, it's been quite the opposite. The Hawkeyes have one of the best records in the Big Ten at 10-2, having lost only to Colorado and Iowa State on the road, and players are starting to emerge in the national spotlight. Logic, for example was named Big Ten Player of the Week in the first week of the season, and she has chipped a tooth and had to receive some seven or eight stitches on her forehead in a thrilling contest versus ACC counterpart Syracuse, all in the name of the game of basketball. And when Logic has been forced to leave games because of injury — which happened to be against ranked opponents both times — her freshman backup Kastanek has managed to keep Iowa in the game. For a team with a primary rotation of only seven players, that's pretty impressive. Disterhoft has been a force off the bench, becoming one of the team's leading rebounders

SEE COMMENTARY, 8

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Biggest NFL bust?

Daily Iowan staff members debate which NFL team has been the most disappointing team in 2013.

Green Bay

If Charlie Kelly were a Packer fan, his favorite team's season would cause him to go into his bad room on a weekly basis. And if you don't watch "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" (you should, by the way), just know that Green Bay has been the most disappointing team in the NFL this season. On paper, it may not look as though that's true (7-6-1 isn't awful) but when the Pack play in the sad excuse for a division that Roger Goodell calls NFC North, it's very true. The 2013-14 campaign started off well for Mike McCarthy's crew, with a 5-2 record and an MVP quarterback who completed roughly 67 percent of the balls he threw and on pace to pass for more than 4,000 yards. But then, in what will probably go down as Shea McClellin's only play with lasting effect in his lackluster career (why he was a first-round pick is beyond me), the defensive end shed a block, chased down Aaron Rodgers, corralled and slammed him on his left shoulder, and broke the quarterback's collarbone — not a fun injury. I've broken mine. With that first-quarter break came a loss to a Bears' squad that can only be described as brutally average and a defense that is just plain bad. The ensuing weeks brought four losses and a tie with the division rival Vikings in a game that was miserable to watch.

Of late, Green Bay is on the upswing, meaning it beat Atlanta and Dallas, teams it should've, so the Pack have that going for them. What I'm saying here is this should've been the Packers' division to lose, which is why their season is disappointing. The Vikings are a joke, the Bears are, well, the Bears, and I'm convinced a Jim Schwartz-coached team riddled with dirty players (see Ndamukong Suh, Nick Fairley) will never win a playoff game. Rodgers still could come back — the unbiased fan in me hopes he does — and Green Bay may still be in it come the Week 17 tilt in Chicago. But right now, No. 12 is out, and Packer fans are asking themselves a simple question, "What if?"

— by Danny Payne

Pittsburgh

When Mike Tomlin stepped on the sideline and impeded Ravens punt returner Jacoby Jones' progress downfield during a game against the Ravens on Thanksgiving night, it poetically summed up the entire Steeler's season in one play. Outmatched and playing from behind, Tomlin's attempt to help the Steelers gain an advantage over their opponents ultimately ended in failure and embarrassment for both him-

SEE PCP, 8