By BILL COONEY  
william-cooney@uiowa.edu  
Ruth Harkin’s decade-long career on the state Board of Regents will come to an end today, but she will not step out of the public eye completely. Harkin was appointed to the board in 2005 and reappointed in 2009. She is married to former Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa.

Harkin said she first became interested in becoming a regent while she served as Story County county attorney in her late 20s.

“It interested me because it’s one of the largest, most well-funded boards in the state,” she said. “I think that it’s one of the most important in the state simply because of the number of people affected by each decision the board makes.”

Harkin is a strong supporter of higher education, said Regent Robert Downer, whose term will also end today.

“She has benefited, as I have, from getting a good education in college,” Downer said. “I think her time on the board reflected her attitude of support for the regent schools.”

Harkin to remain in public eye  

As Phil’s Day revs up for its fourth year, a sense is building that it is for the last time.

Alex Huff, the vice president of membership and recruitment for the UI Student Philanthropy Group, sits on the steps of the Old Capitol on Wednesday. As a freshman, Huffman became a member when the group started, and she is still a member now as senior. (The Daily Iowan/Mikaela Parrick)

By CINDY GARCIA  
cindy-garcia@uiowa.edu  
As the fourth-annual philanthropy celebration approaches, officials and students see more effects from the event than when it first began. This year’s Phil’s Day celebration, set to occur today, will include postcard signings to send thank-yous to donors, the tagging of buildings and programs made possible by donor donations, and the visit of guest speaker and philanthropy contributor Jerre Stead at the IMU.

The University of Iowa Foundation is amid a philanthropy campaign called For Iowa. Forever More. The campaign aims to raise $1.57 billion by December 2016. It has raised $1.458 billion so far.

UI’s Phil’s Day arrives  

As the UI Foundation, the group, sits on the steps of the Old Capitol on Wednesday. As a freshman, Huffman became a member when the group started, and she is still a member now as senior. (The Daily Iowan/Mikaela Parrick)

By CINDY GARCIA  
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Senate backs UI funding

By AARON WALKER  
aaron-walker-1@uiowa.edu  
The Iowa Senate approved an education budget, split by a partisan vote, that “backfills” the University of Iowa’s loss of funds and would sufficiently fund a third-consecutive tuition freeze for Iowa’s regent institutions.

“We believe in funding our entire higher education system in Iowa,” Sen. Rob Hogg, D-Cedar Rapids, said.

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The University of Iowa hosted Shibley Telhami to speak about issues in the Middle East. The upsurge in the Middle East has been a boon for Telhami and the Arab Spring is giving him a way to leverage the relationship between the government and the governing in Arab countries as well as other states with Muslim people around the world.

Telhami also said he doesn’t believe there was any sort of economic reasoning behind all the uprisings. Telhami said the uprisings were nothing particularly striking and that he said “this is the time (the uprisings) are going to start happening.”

Instead, Telhami said the uprisings are due to the government. “Every analyst knew that the Arab Spring was the result of the gap between people and governments is only widening.”

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In addition to all the governmental factors of the upsurge in the Middle East, Telhami believes social media has had a huge influence and has been used as a tool to gain information. Telhami said when you ask what is distinct about these uprisings, is it a new public empowerment on a scale we have never seen before enabled by a rapidly expanding information revolution that has no end in sight.

Through this information revolution does have a beginning, Telhami said does believe it will never ever have a clear end. Though this information revolution does have a beginning, Telhami said does believe it will never ever have a clear end.
with more than 180,000 donors.

“We’ve done a lot of things, but we can’t keep the price low so there will be a new model of giving that well, but she brings the time, and I’m not following the conventional wisdom all the way. I think that the current model is going to be a lot more successful,” she said.

“I voted in favor of the tuition fees whenever it came up,” she said. “We have a economic dilemma: How do we have to keep the price low so that we can serve the maximum number of people.”

“I actually do believe that will be leaving the board,” she said. “I’ll be leaving the board,” she said. “I’ll be leaving the board, but I’m not going to be a director anymore.”

Harkin was appointed to the board in December, said Harkin’s experience has helped her to be a leader. “Sherry Bates, who was appointed to the board in

min. Faculty and staff also benefit from philanthropy, with $221 faculty members holding positions provided by support from donors.

There are currently three co-chares for UI Phil Day and staff co-giving program. They provide support and encouragement for faculty and staff to donate.

The campaign for facul- ty and staff is usually held in the fall, but staff are encouraged to sup- port philanthropy efforts throughout the year,” said Joni Trosset, the director for human resources ser- vices and a UI Phil faculty and staff co-chair. “The number of people who are donating each year in- creases, which just shows how committed people are to giving to the University of Iowa and supporting the University of Iowa.”

Students have benefited from philanthropy as well. Privately funded schol- arships went to 2,587 stu- dents last year. The Stu- dent Philanthropy Group was launched in 2002 and currently has 30 members. Anthony Lehner, a UI student and the president of the Student Philanthro- py Group, said he has seen definite agreement that awareness of what philanthropy can have on a larger scale on our campus,” Huffman said about why she joined the board together.”

“Downer agrees that the regiment will miss Harkin. “She’s been an inde- pendent member with a lot on the board,” she said. “She has followed the conventional wisdom all the way. I think that if the board will have the same free spirit going forward.”

Harkin’s time as a re- gent may be coming to an end, but by no means is she retiring. “I will con- tinue to sit on the Board of Directors of Cono- caphils, the U.S. Iowas- Iowas, the UI Foundation’s $1.458 billion fundraising goal by December 2016 in the UI Foundation’s For Iowa, Forever More campaign.

The University of Iowa has a 21.7 billion fundraising goal by December 2016 in the UI Foundation’s For Iowa, Forever More campaign. More than $1.458 billion has been raised toward the UI Foundation’s $1.7 billion goal for the For Iowa, Forever More campaign.

Roughly 180,000 donors have contributed to the $1.458 billion raised toward the UI Foundation’s $1.7 billion goal for the For Iowa, Forever More campaign.

Iowa senior, will see her years on campus. Huffman says that on year on campus, Huf- fman said, “I think the biggest change is that I’ve noticed since I was a freshman is that the campus is much more aware of the pur- pose of Phil Day.” She said that the student Philanthropy Group has doubled in size since I’ve been involved. It seems that a lot more people know what Phil Day is, and it’s really good to see.”

However, the effect of growing philanthropic awareness on campus may take more time to reap. “One thing that’s kind of tough with awareness of philanthropy is we proba- bly won’t see a huge impact until five or 10 years down the line when students that are becoming aware today have the monetary ability to give back to the University of Iowa,” Lehnert said. “I think we’re going to see an increase in philanthropy support, as state appropriations con- tinue to decrease.”

“I won’t be ‘retired’ by any means when my time on the board comes to an end,” she said. “What I’m really looking forward to is spending more time with my children and grandchildren.”
Philanthropy

we had an idea that's been rocking the art world for the past few years. We're reaching out to art galleries and museums with a lab feature, which we call "Philanthropy Live." This feature will allow viewers to participate in conversations about philanthropy directly with the art world, whether it's through live webinars or in-person events. Our goal is to make philanthropy more accessible and engaging for everyone, from students to art enthusiasts.

In the meantime, if you'd like to get involved in our philanthropy initiatives, you can visit our website where you'll find information on how to donate, volunteer, and learn more about the impact we're making.

For more updates on our work and ways to support us, follow us on social media and sign up for our newsletter. Together, we can make a difference!
Après aims to be unique

By GRACE PATERAS
grace-pateras@uiowa.edu

Each week, The Daily Iowan will provide an in-depth look at a local business. Iowa City residents and other locals who take their dogs to Thornberry Park will soon be able to walk over to a new restaurant and grab food and drinks. Après, 1010 Martin Street, will be a wine bar and bistro in which customers can expect a variety of different menu items after it opens in late spring.

Après, meaning “after” in French, is slang for happy hour. Bistro means “a small, modest restaurant.” In Iowa City, both meanings will combine and form the first commercial business located in the Peninsula neighborhood. The neighborhood is located just off of Dubuque Street and Foster Road.

“To be a destination spot, we’re going to need to pull people in from outside of the neighborhood,” Emmett Carmichael, the owner of Après, said. “The way to do that is to provide the consumers something they can’t get anywhere else.”

One unique feature to the bistro atmosphere is Après’ full kitchen, in which the staff can prepare meals with nearly all new kitchen equipment.

“We want to be unique with our dishes, but we also want to make sure people aren’t intimidated when they’re ordering their food,” Carmichael said. “Comfort food” is how Carmichael describes the menu put together by himself, executive chef Michael Rohr, and others. “It can almost be intimidating when you look at some menu items, like I don’t know what that is and I don’t know if I’m going to like it,” he said. “Whereas if you look at our menu, you look at it and say ‘Oh, I recognize mac & cheese. I like mac and cheese. Oh it’s got lobster in it; I like that too.’”

In addition to the variety of wine imported from around the world, there will be a full alcohol menu with one of Carmichael’s favorite drinks featured: Scotch.

Inside, he describes his first restaurant to be casual yet with a clean look. A bar seating 13 people is in the center of the restaurant with tables surrounding it. A planned outdoor patio will seat around 30 more customers.

Upstairs, two balcony tables will overlook the main dining area, and one large party room is designed for seating.

Jake Smith, a subcontractor for Randy’s Carpets & Interiors, had worked on the project for less than a week when he oversaw the installation of the vinyl plank floors.

“The flooring is good for the bar,” he said. “It’ll stand up to abuse — it’ll take chairs, drinks, people, and everything else.”

Steve Stewart, project supervisor, said the rest of construction and design should be finished in four to five weeks. He said all project staff have left to do in the finishing touches, such as cleaning up and putting the bar in. In his experience of previous projects in the area, Stewart said he hopes the restaurant to be a place locals will appreciate.

“People Iowa put a lot of heart into it and own it,” he said. “I think it will be a place they’ll come to all the time and keep coming back to.”

Carmichael expects to offer Swiss cheese fondue and other fondue items on the menu down the road. He also wants to sell caviar by the tin, as well as serving it in dishes.

The planning and design process started in January for Carmichael, but he said he wouldn’t change a thing.

“But because we are in this secluded area, I think the neighborhood is going to be really supportive with it,” he said. “I want to see a lot of local people and familiar faces.”

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Christie eyes return to Iowa in June

By BRENT GRIFFITHS
brent-griffiths@uiowa.edu

After more than three months away from the home of the first-in-the-nation caucuses, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie will return to Iowa for a county GOP fundraiser. This hiatus was not a cause for concern among some state political hands.

“I’m not reading too much into a candidate’s travel schedule at this point,” former state GOP Chairman Matt Strawn said before Wednesday’s announcement of the trip.

More troubling in the eyes of someone who has studied the caucuses and Christie is the early competition for money and activists. The combination of the two is vital to contesting for the nomination, Rutgers Professor David Redlawsk said.

“I wouldn’t count him out, but the issue is a lot of activists and money people are locking up with other candidates,” said Redlawsk, a professor of political science at Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University.

Strawn also pointed out the presence of Phil Valenziano, a former Iowa House clerk, and Kevin Poindexter, the Republican National Committee’s state political director for the 2014 midterms.

“You don’t surround yourself with Iowa experience to just have them sit at a desk and not do anything,” Strawn said.

The Polk County Republican Party will host the two-term governor for its Spring Dinner in June. The event was something the party was working toward for a while. The party is eager to host Christie, who the chairman praised as someone who has displayed “bold leadership” in a tough environment.

“He talks without having to use a lot of political jargon or working around the issue,” Chairman Will Rogers said.

The trek will mark Christie’s fifth trip to the state this year, the first since his March appearance at the multi-candidate Iowa Agriculture Summit.

Christie was lauded for his administration’s response. He reached his apex shortly thereafter. Christie secured re-election with 60 percent of the vote in the presidentially blue garden state.

Along came “Bridgegate,” named for the politically motivated retribution surrounding traffic on George Washington Bridge. Christie has denied knowledge of the decision, but a number of aides were fired or resigned after stories surrounding lane closings dominated national news coverage.

“He was riding extremely high which gave him a lot of credibility nationally,” Redlawsk said. “When the scandal hit, it really knocked him down in terms of public opinion.”

During his time away from Iowa, Christie has expanded efforts in New Hampshire, home of the country’s first primary. Redlawsk said it appears that may be the governor’s strategy, which would fit with the Granite State’s business conservative and libertarian — the former could view the more moderate governor more favorably.

“He has some issues with Iowa Republicans as he is not viewed as positively by evangelicals and folks on the right side of the party,” Redlawsk said.

The best thing that can happen to Christie, Redlawsk said, is for investigations surrounding the scandal to end. Though the issue returned to the news on Wednesday with Bloomberg reporting that a former ally will plead guilty to charges in federal court.

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County picks OPN for ambulance facility

By BEN MARKS
benjamin-marks@uiowa.edu

After three one-hour long interviews, the Johnson County Board of Supervisors chose OPN Architecture as the contractor for the county’s $3.4 million medical examiner and ambulance building.

The Cedar Rapids-based company on Wednesday won over Carlson Design Team and Rohrbach Associates. The choice to go with OPN was not unanimous, with several supervisors and members of the Space Needs Committee — the committee tasked with whittling down the initial 10 applicants to only three — having various favorites.

“To me it seemed clear that OPN had done a lot of homework in regards to how much space we have, how much money we have to spend, where the floodplain is,” Supervisor Rod Sullivan said.

Supervisor Terrence Neuzil agreed and said while OPN wasn’t his first choice, it was clear it had done much research.

“OPN was actually not my first choice, but after getting comments from our facilities management as well as our ambulance team, they convinced me it was the choice to go with,” Neuzil said.

While several in the committee, including Facilities Manager Eldon Slaughter, agreed OPN was their first choice, assistant planner Josh Bussard voiced concern about how OPN’s larger size could affect how dedicated it was to the project and favored Rohrbach.

“I felt [Rohrbach] delivered the best client involvement,” he said. “They’re small enough that this project is important to them but big enough to have experience.”

During the interviews, the supervisors asked the firms about how they would deal with LEED certification, a non-flexible budget, timelines, and the county’s involvement with the project, which Supervisor Janelle Rettig said was vital.

“If you can’t sustain the operation of a system because it’s too new or complicated, then it’s not really sustainable,” Schumm said.

The supervisors also discussed whether the building’s construction would be phased or all at once. Simply leveling the building, OPN said, would be easier and quicker; it would require relocation of the services currently in the building, while phasing would allow work to continue but would take longer.

Bussard said they would look at the cost and time estimates between the two plans once things were more finalized, and make a decision then.

The supervisors hope to award the contract mid to late December 2015 so they can have the finalized cost in the budget before the budget cycle is up.

If everything stays on course, the estimated time to completion is 10 months to a year, with the building being finished sometime in December 2016.

Michael Mothershed performs a routine bag check on March 7, 2013 in the Johnson County Ambulance Service facility. Mothershed has worked as a paramedic for 13 years and has been with county service for eight years. (The Daily Iowan/File Photo)
Gaarde said. “If it does be-
Iowa City police Sgt. Scott
driving is an issue,”
because obviously, texting
that it has taken this long,
keep Iowans safe.

Officers can only issue
for texting and driving.
offense, meaning officers
texting and driving has
they're a rarity because
there have been a few
in Iowa, it would result in
be a primary offense
become a primary offense
safety but also motor vehi-
only pedestrian and bike
another tool to assist in not

By ALYSSA GUZMAN

The law went into effect
But it could be a difficult
gen to prove beyond a reason-

It would be very difficult
to prove beyond a reason-
viable doubt,” Pollack said.
But Cothran said that
since the law has come
people using their cell
phones while driving has
gone down.
The number of people in California who used cell
phones while driving peaked in 2012, with 12
percent of drivers using their cell
phones. Now, that number is just under 7 percent. Cothran said texting
is a more common method
of communication for
younger people.

According to a website
about texting and driving,
safety, 13 percent of driv-
ers ages 16 to 20 involved
in car crashes admitted to
texting while driving or
talking on their cell phones
during the time of the crash.
Additionally, 16 percent of
16- to 20-year-olds said they
had tested while driving.
Cothran also said he
believes the number of convictions for
texting and driving has gone up
because of police officers’ increased awareness.
“Now that they’ve been
doing it for several years,
police officers are getting
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NFL brings new challenges
The Iowa baseball team has already surpassed its win total from last season. Heller Ball takes Big Ten by storm

By RYAN RODRIGUEZ

The Iowa baseball team has hit the trend of the second-consecutive 30-win season, with head coach Rick Heller’s unique style of baseball quickly producing results for the Black and Gold. A deeper look between the numbers reveals just why Heller Ball has finally been successful for the Hawkeyes since his term as head coach began last season.

On-base percentage — 36%, 4th in Big Ten

Heller’s vision of an effective baseball team is one that hits a lot of singles. The Iowa baseball team has a batting average of .280, which is the 10th-best in the Big Ten. This team produced heavy on base percentage, particularly those 90-foot sprinters in base paths. If Iowa batters get on base, they have a good chance they’re already thinking about how that next bag might be scored.

Fortunately for Heller, his team is extremely apt at reaching safely. The Hawkeyes rank fourth in the conference in on-base percentage despite only ranking seventh in total hits. It also helps that they have the third-lowest strikeout total of any team in the conference, and are the second-most plunked team in league play with 50 hit batters in 42 games.

Sacrifice flies — 18 (4th in Big Ten); Sacrifice bunts — 29 (4th in Big Ten)

The Hawkeyes are perhaps the best team in the conference at manufacturing offensive in any situation. Shortstop Nick Ruotolo and leftfielder Josh Rozier each rank in the Top 5 nationally in sacrifice bunts that sent the bases loaded. Center fielder Eric Tolis is tied for third in individual sacrifice flies with four each.

You look at a school like Arizona State — they can play 90 percent of their schedule on the west coast — they can play 90 percent in the desert and Arizona State or a Florida or Georgia school, Iowa faces. “You look at a school like Arizona State or Florida or Georgia school in the south or the west — they can play maybe 50 percent of their games at home. That’s a luxury whereas we have to travel 50 percent of our games at home. If we do that, 10 percent is a luxury.”

Heller has encouraged his team to safely reach first, force a few tough pitches in the zone so I can make the defense work.

Takeaways from Minnesota

Iowa had a rough go against the Golden Gophers. They lost the opener in a single run game during the three-game series.

However, that was just part one of Iowa’s issues during the game. Sophomore starting pitcher Shylah Starkenburg also struggled during the two games she pitched, giving up 17 earned runs in just eight innings pitched. The biggest thing I took from the weekend was that I need to hit my spots more,” Starkenburg said. “I need to move more locations and just get the ball down into the zone so I can make the defense work.”

Certainty of strategy

Many of Iowa’s opponents this season have been teams riddled with injuries, forcing teams to step up and contribute more. “You’re attempting just 21 steals this year, though they’ve been successful in the small sample size and have only been caught four times. If we had a little more speed — I’m talking milli— seconds — we’d probably do it more often,” Leoper said. “Unfortunately depending on the situation, if we get down in a game the last thing I want to do is let them throw strikes out we finally get them on base.”

Follow @RyanRodriguez on Twitter for news, updates, and analysis about the Iowa softball team.

Iowa softball happy to have some practice time

After a rough past four games, Iowa doesn’t play a midweek game this week.

By JORDAN HASEN

For the Iowa softball team, full weeks of prac- tice have been hard to come by this season. The Hawks have played six midweek games in the Big Ten this season, played only one full week of practice in that time period. Because only one full week of practice has been available, the Hawks are happy to finally have some time to work. “When it’s not a rushed hurry to get ready for an opponent and then we play them and try to get ready for another oppo- nent, you don’t get a lot of reps to do that,” Leoper said. “That’s what a midweek game is, you get the opportunity to work more locations through practices short. We have one main thing that we’ve attempted to do in almost every game this season and that is extra bases and runners on base.”

Leoper admits he feels his team hasn’t had a lot of time to do this and the extra reps are something that she sees as a major positive for the team.

The weekend series against Northwestern will be the Hawkeyes last regular-season series of the year and practice at home all week is something that center fielder Summi Geyer says should be helpful. “It’s just so nice being on our field and having a whole week on our field and being able to be com- fortable,” Geyer said. “It’s going to be really nice.”

Being a northern school, Iowa faces some issues finding teams to play which leads to the WSU trip being a space to run practices short. The team will have a majority of the front half of their schedule on the road, meaning that if they want to play any home games they have to be inventive ones.

To further complicate the issue, they have to make agreements with some teams which will sometimes involve hopping in a bus and go- ing to play midweek games somewhere in the Midwest. “It’s kind of the beast in the picture,” Leoper said. “You look at a school like Ar- izona State or a Florida or a school in the south or the west — they can play maybe 50 per- cent of their games at home. That’s a luxury whereas we have to travel 50 percent of our games at home. If we do that, 10 percent is a luxury.”

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Pentacrest and throughout campus.
Visit PhilsWasteure.org for more info. 3:30 p.m.
LIFE WITH PHIL
Presented by Jerre Stead
IMU, Second Floor Ballroom
Who is Phil? Visit PhilsWasteure.org for more information.
DRAFT PREDICTIONS
The DI sports staff’s mock top-10 picks are on page 10A. Turn inside to see where Scherff and other notable players will be drafted in Chicago tonight.

LOOKING BACK
Scherff had a historic career at Iowa, including an Outland Trophy and consensus All-American selection during his senior year. Turn inside to see what else Scherff accomplished.

FOUR HAWKS TO FLY?
Scherff won’t be the only Hawkeye taken in the NFL draft. Find out who else could go, and where, and what adjustments they’ll have to make in professional football.

A MAN AMONG BOYS
Iowa’s former offensive lineman could go in the top ten. The DI’s predictions and more inside.

BRANDON SCHERFF
The NFL draft is scheduled to begin tonight and run through Saturday in Chicago. You can watch the first round on ESPN at 7 p.m. Rounds two and three are scheduled for 6 p.m. on Friday.

Rounds four through seven will commence beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday. The draft will be held in the Auditorium Theatre at Roosevelt University.

2015 NFL DRAFT COVERAGE
How, where, when the selections are made

How to follow along with Daily Iowan Sports
The DI will have coverage of the NFL draft in Friday’s print edition, as well as all weekend long on dailyiowansports.com and on Twitter @dipregame and @DI_Sports_Desk. Be sure to check May 4 print edition for full recap and analysis of the event, as well as where each Iowa player landed and what’s next in store for those former Hawkeyes.
Air disasters & Bigfoot

The 46th annual University of Iowa New Play Festival begins May 4 with a range of student-produced plays.

By GRACE HAERR | grace-haerr@uiowa.edu

For the University of Iowa New Play Festival, the largest event of its kind in the United States, graduate students working toward M.F.A. in theater are given five weeks to create, collaborate, rehearse, rewrite, and polish their plays.

The life of the New Play Festival has reached its “over the hill” marker with readings and new works having been produced for more than 40 years.

New Play Festival, a Friday event starting on May 4, including four main stage productions — Faculty Portrait, Silo Tree, TRICH, and Below the Pacific — performed twice at 5:30 and 9 p.m. on three consecutive days. Readings will also be hosted each day at 2 p.m., with the plays Hunting BigFoot, Right, Binary Star, Boom Boom Town, Melon (or would friends) and Cut & Run.

“The beauty of this festival is that there is still going to be development after those performances are displayed over the week,” said Ryan Oliveira, the playwright of Below the Pacific.

Popular readings from New Play become main-stage productions for the following year’s festival, and some of the most successful productions have risen to Broadway.

“It’s so exhilarating and so exhausting to go through this whole process,” Oliveira said. “As a playwright, you get it from the designers, the director, the actors, the stage designer, the dramaturge, and it’s never enough time to get something completely off its feet.”

These challenges, Oliveira said, are necessary in the world of drama.

“Theater shouldn’t be safe; theater should be asking the tough questions,” he said. “I like to think of theater artists as magicians. I think we are here to conjure stories, and weave stories together, and make sense of the world in that way.”

On the web
Get updates about local arts & entertainment events on Twitter @DailyIowanArts.

On the air
Tune in to KRUI 89.7 FM at 5 p.m. on Thursdays to hear about this weekend in arts & entertainment.

Events calendar
Want your event to be printed in The Daily Iowan and included in our online calendar? To submit a listing visit dailyiowan.com/pages/calendarsubmit.
Welcome to Night Vale

By CLAIRE DIETZ
cl-dietz@uiowa.edu

If Iowa City is a quirky town, Night Vale puts it to a whole new level. The popular podcast “Welcome to Night Vale” — which culminates with Palmer and Cecile’s relationship resolving after a threat to the town of Night Vale that is resolved by the Straight, which is then defeated by the Pillars of Creation, the unknown Salamander, and the invisible librarian, who then helps the Straight lead a new point of order — has been read. All this is made possible by a listener-submitted song, “Let’s All Sing Together,” which was written and performed by theLogin: “Tulip” from Colorado Springs, Colorado.

In this new world, the Straight have discovered that they are not alone, and they must fight for their survival. The Straight have the ability to control the weather and use their powers to protect themselves and their community. As Palmer and Cecile’s relationship comes to a close, they realize that they must work together to save their town. The Straight must use their powers to defeat the Pillars of Creation and the invisible librarian, who are working together to destroy the Straight and all that they stand for.

Despite the challenges they face, Palmer and Cecile are determined to save their town and their community. They know that they must work together to achieve this goal. As they work together, they realize that they are stronger together and that they can overcome any obstacle that comes their way. In the end, they are able to save their town and their community, and they are able to live in peace and harmony. The Straight have proved that they are not alone and that they have the power to control their own fate. With their newfound strength, they are able to create a better world for themselves and for all who live in Night Vale.

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Below the Pacific — which is appropriately set at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean — will be performed in the Theater Building’s Thayer Theater May 5, with seating on all four sides of the stage.

Oliveira said his play was inspired by the Malaysian Airlines Flight MH370 disappearance over the Indian Ocean in March 2014, as well as other airplane disasters over the years. "There are things that disappear and you wonder where they went," he said. "What does that mean for the people who live on after that, who have to search for them and who try to search for an answer? So in a way, my play is a large metaphor for that."

Oliveira said Below the Pacific is a "super ambitious" project, but that suits his style.

"My kind of theater is the kind of theater that imagines more than itself," he said. "It’s the little kitten that goes out to see the tiger and wants to grow up to be a gigantic tiger that strikes fear and awe in the world."

Marina Johnson, the director of Below the Pacific, and she prefers to think of the new play as a baby.

"It’s not what’s best for me as the director; it’s what’s best for the baby," she said. "Oliveira says to take care of the baby, and we have to see whether we can keep it alive so you can’t pull the plug on it."

The reading is all about the opening of the baby because it is the first time that it appears in the world.

One of Oliveira’s characters was given the Latin name Marina, both to honor his director and to honor his first choices.

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Most people know Studio Arts as either a bus route that takes one to Walmart or a far-off University of Iowa building unique in that it once was a Menards. But on Friday, Studio Arts will be transformed into an art extravaganza known as ArtsFest.

ArtsFest, put on by the UI School of Art and Art History, will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. UI senior Rachel Winter, the 2015 ArtsFest coordinator, planned an event that combines numerous art forms.

“What preparations haven’t gone into [ArtsFest]?” she said. “We start in September and identify a committee that everyone needs to feel like it’s a part of. We really work hard to ensure that everyone feels represented and on the same page.” Winter said the committee met in the fall to discuss themes. The committee was later chosen to represent every discipline so that everyone was equally represented, and the theme for this year’s ArtsFest was “Drewelowe.”

Winter said the Drewelowe exhibit is the feature she looks forward to the most. The exhibit examines the past, present, and future of the UI art school — including the move to a new art building, which was originally constructed in the 1960s.

“It’ll be looking at where we are now, what progress we’ve had, things we’re in the process of ... looking forward,” Winter said. “I’ll be curious to see how each discipline interprets the theme and brings it all together.”

ArtsFest, during its three hours, will have numerous events for the attendees to enjoy:

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Free for a day in comic-book universe

By JASMINE PUTNEY

Free Comic Book Day
When: Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Where: Daydreams Comics, 21 S. Dubuque
Admission: Free

By JASMINE PUTNEY

In the glossy pages of a comic book exists a world of characters who have flourished under the care of writers and artists. From action-packed issues featuring colorful crusaders to comedic portrayals of summer camps to suspenseful crime dramas, these books sit on shelves waiting to guide readers through an unforgettable experience, full of endless possibilities.

On Saturday, Daydreams Comics, 21 S. Dubuque St., will host Free Comic Book Day from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Owner and manager Zach Power said he hopes even people with little knowledge of the comic-book universe will come to “test the waters.”

“It’s not all capes and tights, which is what most people think of when they hear ‘comic book,’” he said. “Once you can get people to realize there’s so much more that the comic book industry has to offer, it’s pretty easy to find something that will be appealing to them to check out.”

Power said Daydreams Comics has only recognized Free Comic Book Day since 2009, but the nationwide event has been held since 2002 during the first weekend in May to celebrate the art form, participating comic publishing companies print a specific comic book in the event and then sell it to retailers at a reduced rate.

Before he worked his way into the field of comic book writing, Higgins was a student at the UI studying film and creative writing. Though he later transferred to Chapman University in California, he said his experience at the UI encouraged him to become more confident in his writing which ultimately led to his current success.

“I was finishing my senior thesis film, The League, which was designed as a superhero noir. I put the whole thing online via Vimeo and the link started to spread around the comic book industry,” he said. “The next day Joe Quesada, Marvel Comics’ editor-in-chief, reached out to tell me how much he enjoyed the film. I asked, somewhat on a whim, whether Marvel was ever looking for new writers and he offered to introduce me to the Marvel comics office. Nearly 10 months after he reached out to me, Marvel’s Higgins was given the opportunity to work on a Captain America comic. That led to the Avengers, which led to his current work with DC Comics writer Kyle Higgins, and Image Comics’ C.O.W.L. creator Alex Segui. These writing professionals will be sharing their experiences as comic book creators.

Free Comic Book Day is much more than an opportunity to scan the shelves for new reading material. Daydreams Comics will also host “Lumberjanes” artist Brooke Allen, D.C. Comics writer Kyle Higgins, and Image Comics’ C.O.W.L. creator Alex Segui. These visiting professionals will be sharing their experiences as comic book creators.

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In the heart of the voice comes to Iowa City

By LILY ABROMEIT
lily-abromeit@uiowa.edu

Chris Foss never expected to be accepted into Cantus after graduation and then travel the world, giving more than 70 performances a year. "It's really just a dream come true to sing and give the gift of music to people and to travel the world," he said.

This week, Foss, an Iowa native and bass in the group, will return to his home state this week to perform with the rest of Cantus. The group's "Anthem" concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. today in St. Mary's Catholic Church, 228 E. Jefferson St.

"I, of course, always have a strong affinity for Iowa," he said. "I think it's really exciting for us to bring who we are to the people of Iowa City. The University of Iowa has a great rep for its music program, for its writing program, there's sort of this great paradigm … it's a city with a lot of great creativity, and it'll be great to offer what we have."

Cantus, a full-time professional men's vocal ensemble, is based in the Twin Cities. It is one of two full-time groups in the country, and it spends the year touring the United States as well as performing internationally.

"We've been sort of crossing through the area, we're often invited to make stops in Iowa City," said Aaron Humble, a tenor in Cantus. "It's great, we love to be in centers for the arts (and not just for the arts but for higher learning, usually those people who are really interested in our programs.)

Cantus tries to program concerts that are collections of good music but also contain a narrative thread, Humble said.

Cantus' "Anthem" program, to be performed this weekend, relates to what brings people together to sing, using music to celebrate life and marriage all around the world.

"Throughout the whole concert is the idea of people coming together," Humble said. "It's something that we try to speak to in university communities."

This year, Hancher, which will host Cantus, has dedicated its programming to focusing on looking deeply at the issues in the world today as well. Jacob Yarrow, the Hancher programming director, said this is exactly why he is excited to have Cantus in town.

"Anthem," he said, is a part of the section "worth fighting for," which revolves around what people are willing to rally around.

"They sing about identity and pride," he said. "It made it a really interesting fit with that strain of the program."

Yarrow has hoped to bring Cantus here for a while, and he is excited to finally hear the group sing in Iowa City.

"I have followed its work and tried to figure out the proper and best ways to engage (the group) with our audience in Iowa City and I finally figured out the right glass and time," he said. "I'm looking forward to the pure and gorgeous sounds they make as an ensemble and how those sounds resonate in St. Mary's Church. Just a gift to come back and hear their beautiful sound would make it breathtaking."
the ledge

This Rally is Getting Out of Hand, Part 2

• WHAT DO WE WANT? (Better smartphone autocorrect)
  WHEN DO WE WANT IT? (Now)
  WHAT DO WE WANT? (No top-secret schedules)
  WHEN DO WE WANT IT? (April 30)
  WHAT DO WE WANT? (Publicize the author and not the DI Editorial Board, the Publisher, Student Publica-

...