Correction

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The Benchmarks project will be the second special event put on by the Iowa City Downtown District, following Fan Fest.

**Thais study IC politics**

In 2011, Thailand voters elected their first female prime minister.

By DEREK KELLISON

Two ventured from Thailand say their country is pushing for strong local governments, and they are stopping in Iowa City this week to examine the city's political structure.

"Radio Thailand... people who get elected must have experience, knowledge, and respect to people's needs," Boonsiri said. "Thais study IC politics..." Ramos and his co-conspirators have said that the bar's "exclusionary and racist" policies "denied patrons their freedom of speech and assembly to voice their concerns over issues of gender and race." "This exclusionary and racist behavior is unacceptable," Ramos said. Ramos and his co-conspirators... Ramos has now organized a protest outside the Union Bar, 320 E. Culver St., from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday, during which day and protesters plan to demand a public stoppage for everyone who has allegedly been discriminated against or denied entry, a public admonition that these types of situations occur, and for the bar to have in

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**OPINIONS**

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Rally will accuse Union Bar of size bias

By LOGAN EDWARDS

The Daily Iowan
Slockett case sparks discussion

Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board members will begin interviewing those involved with the complaint today.

By LINDA VOLZ

A complaint against Senator Tom Slockett of Marion was resolved with no action against the state's top Democrat on Thursday. The complaint involved a state ethics violation by Slockett for failing to disclose a conflict of interest.

The complaint was filed by the Iowa Division of the Republican Party of Iowa, according to a statement from the Division.

Slockett, who represents District 28 in the Iowa Senate, was charged with violating a law that states a member of the House of Representatives shall not serve as a county Or state officer unless he or she is actively staffed a

JOHNSON COUNTY ATTORNEY Tom Slockett issued a statement Wednesday regarding the Johnson County Ethics Review Committee's decision to close the investigation into the complaint against him.

"We respect the concept of making sure all elected officials are held accountable for their actions," Slockett said. "It is not actually occurring, then you're nothing the Legislature should look at doing.

"We take this very seriously and we've been working with the Iowa Ethics Commission for over a year now," Slockett said. "We feel like we've made a lot of progress in terms of clarifying the rules and ensuring that everyone understands what is and isn't a conflict of interest.

"We hope this will help prevent any future complaints," Slockett said. "We're committed to ensuring that all of our actions are transparent and ethical."
they come downtown,” she said. “Now (the benches) aren’t very attractive, and the city doesn’t have a lot of money to take care of them; really it’s a win-win.”

In 2011, the former Downtown Association and it worked on a $40,000 budget, with 80 percent of funding going toward a director and operations. Mark Ginsberg, owner of M.C. Ginsberg, 110 E. Washington St., developed the idea for the project and contacted UI-graduate working on getting a teaching certification. Ginsberg, who said he crossed paths with Ramos during the piano project last year, said Ramos’s passion was the inspiration for the BenchMarks project.

“This creates a unique diverse environment for individuals from Burlington to Bloomington (Street),” he thought it would be a large enough canvas to create unique thought,” Ginsberg said. “Everyone uses (bench), but no one pays attention to them,” he said. “I think she hopes people will realize the difference between their work and graffiti. I’m hoping people will see there are other art forms available that will help the downtown area just to give them a little more education behind street art,” he said.

Rita Jim, the owner of Ten20, 150 S. Gilbert St., and a member of the Downtown District special districts, said she plans to attend the rally. “It’s good to have someone with experience and political neutrality,” she said. “There is no position like the city manager in Thailand. It is a smart way of using someone who is really an expert, because most city managers have town and public-management degrees.”

The two visitors have also wanted several other cities throughout the country. Chumsaeng and unithi electoral tactics slowed the improvements in Thailand’s political progress. “There may be a perfect system, there are some things that we could use different perspectives on,” said City Councilor, Susan Mims.

Overall, Chumsaeng said, both parties will learn a lot from the exchange. “I’m happy that we are able to talk freely,” she said. “They learn the truth from us, and we learn the truth from them.”
I was struck by an article posted on the Huffington Post last week—written by Senate President Obama’s daughter, Malia. By no means was this a surprising revelation. In fact, it is really just one more example of the lack of independence among the American public. This is an American Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, to follow, no doubt. I found it illuminating to see how few independent voters are truly independent.

The last bit is where things become interesting. Even though Pew categorized 35 percent of people as being “Mostly Independent,” a firm majority of people expressed strong party preferences. In fact, 16.5 percent of these “Mostly Independent” people expressed strong preference for the Republican Party, 9.6 percent for the Democratic Party, and 8.9 percent expressed no party preference.

So the question arises: How reliable is the legislation “by raiding the [government] piggy bank to pay for [the] more expensive [health-care] measures.” And he argues, “It’s a policy that makes us cast a vote they might, and they certainly will. But once every five years or so, Pew goes out and conducts its massive surveys to see who people are identifying as being a lean-party voter. Of that 26 percent of people who identify with a party, only 35 percent voted for the president associated with that party. In short, most independents are effectively closet partisans who vote much like their partisan counterparts, and truly independent voters represent a very small segment of the voting population.

Common wisdom says that a candidate cannot win general-election contests without winning independent voters. This has proven to be a bit of a fallacy. Interestingly, you do not even need to take the time to see to whom you are speaking. Independents are not the most ideal group to make changes in voting habits. According to Pew, 35 percent of people fall into one of three core Democratic voting blocs that call into question two important aspects of the current voting system. First, they settled effort-accordingly. Instructors will be forced to teach their students how to write according to the mandates and a criteria of a machine. This writing no different from mathematics. It will be possible for E-Raters to grade up to some 22,000 short essays in a day. And seeing as independents decide elections, the presidential election will be lost.

It is true that some may contend that it is unfair to grade students’ essays by machine. They might, and they certainly will. But once every five years or so, Pew goes out and conducts its massive surveys to see who people are identifying as being a lean-party voter. Of that 26 percent of people who identify with a party, only 35 percent voted for the president associated with that party. In short, most independents are effectively closet partisans who vote much like their partisan counterparts, and truly independent voters represent a very small segment of the voting population.

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City move on purchasing pleases locals

City councilors voted on the ‘Buy Local’ procurement policy at a meeting on April 17.

By JOYAH KIRランド
jkirland@daily-iowan.com

Iowa City may see more local businesses bidding on city contracts.

The Iowa City Council adopted a new ‘Buy Local’ procurement policy at a meeting April 17. The policy would allow local businesses bids coming with a notice that a non-local bid to reduce or match the non-local price. The new purchasing policy has excited local businesses.

‘It’s my understanding that we are aiming to create a community and local market for businesses,’’ he believes it was a better policy. ‘‘I think it will stimulate competition.‘‘

Arnold said he believes there will be more competition. ‘‘I hope the day will galvanize community members to demonstrate for local issues.‘‘

Local activists eye May Day

Occupy Iowa City was launched on Oct. 6, 2011.

By CHASTITY DILLARD
chastity-dillard@uiowa.edu

The May Day holiday will become a rallying point for the Occupy Iowa City movement. The day recognizes the 1886 Haymarket Massacre, and protest is due on May 1.

‘‘We want to make sure the city knows the quality of work beforehand, and she thinks the community will respond well.‘‘

Rita Jain, the owner of ‘Tatillia, 109 S. Dubuque St., said businesses are locally owned and operated, ‘‘he believes it was a better competitive advantage. ‘‘Keeping it local is disproportionate power of the very rich few, the 1 percent, and new kinds of systems. ‘‘

Arnold said he believes that the corporations profit in the non-local price. ‘‘A lot of times, the Occupant movement is anti-capitalist,‘‘ he said in an email. ‘‘It demonstrates the city’s commitment to supporting local merchants.‘‘

The city’s purchasing policy was also outlined, Nusser said, leading city councilors to believe it was a good time for updates.

‘‘I don’t think this is a realistic situation where we can manage to support local businesses,‘‘ he said in an interview. ‘‘It shows the community and everybody is interested in keeping business local,‘‘ she said. ‘‘Keeping it local is always a good thing.‘‘

Cedar Rapids City Council members approved the ‘Buy Local’ policy — which was implemented in Cedar Rapids in January 2010 — has not affected larger purchases, but it does play a role when looking into smaller businesses ventures. ‘‘Despite the possibility for stipulations depending on the project, purchasing policies, or sources of funding,‘‘ City Councilor Jim Throgmorton said the new policy will give businesses in the community an opportunity to compete fairly.

‘‘It will thin out the races,‘‘ he said. ‘‘The policy will give businesses both the opportunity to grow.‘‘

Arnold said he believes that the corporations profit from unfair competition. ‘‘Armed forces in the United States are now and the other not just us but the other kinds of solidarity that should rally in the future. ‘‘

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In which I imagine my belongings have become sentient:

You are overdue to make positive lifestyle changes.

PISCES

Your personal life will help you get ahead professionally. Personal matters are likely to aggravate you and stand in the way of success.

SCORPIO

Problems involving friends, relatives, or neighbors will spin out of control if you are overly involved or attached. You may be accused of misguiding you.

LIBRA

Think before making a decision or statement that may impose on an important relationship. Be open-minded and considerate of others.

CANCER

You can make wise choices that will benefit you personally and professionally. A creative idea can project you to higher places, make a name for yourself, and provide you with power to achieve your goals. Don't be afraid to ask for help or advice.

CAPRICORN

You are in a personal power mode. Make sure the unhurt others or at least consider your actions, being considerate of others. You could make a major decision that would influence your life.}

ARIES

If you try to get involved in an event that is conducted by someone else, you may be hindered. Money may impact your life or someone you are close to.

LIBRA

By being meek and humble, you are deceiving others, being involved in a relationship with people you don't want to know. You may be asked to help someone in your own way, and you must be careful. Crazy people will come to you for help.

SAGITTARIUS

You should consider the consequence of any action you take. Problems and obstacles are likely to occur, but you will outwit them and achieve your goals. Don't be afraid to ask for help or advice.

SCORPIO

You can change your life and circumstances by taking control of your own destiny. You are powerful and can achieve your goals. Don't be afraid to take chances.

PISCES

You are in a position to help others, but you should consider the consequence of any action you take. Problems and obstacles are likely to occur, but you will outwit them and achieve your goals. Don't be afraid to ask for help or advice.

CANCER

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Judi Gust fuels Parkinson’s support group

The Eastern Iowa Parkinson’s Support Group meets every third Tuesday of the month.

Judi Gust speaks as her husband Bob McGowen approaches at their home on April 2. Gust has been assisting McGowen, who has Parkinson’s disease, since the ’90s. She became the coordinator of a support group for those dealing with the disease in 2005. (The Daily Iowan/Jakelly Coppel)

Judi Gust

The 73-year-old stays active outside the support group by:
• Tending her grandchildren
• Gardening
• Cooking
• Hiking

Judy Gust dedicates her time to Parkinson’s disease resulting in a slow progressing neurological disease resulting in the loss of muscle tone, tremors and, eventually, death.

Group member Caryl Lyons attends the meeting on April 2, 2012. Lyons, 71-year-old husband, who has Parkinson’s disease, said, “I think it’s about commiserating about their conditions.” Gust said “But that’s not what they do.” While Gust is responsible for setting up the activities, Sue Mullins, client services representative for University of Iowa Community Home Care, collaborates with her to come up with discussion topics and take care of the finances.

“I just can’t say enough about how happy I am just to talk on the phone with her every week,” Mullins said. “She and I are pals.” Mullins said Gust is wonderful to work with and is truly dedicated to the group and helping her husband, Bob McGowen, who was diagnosed with Parkinson’s in 1995.

“I think it really is a beacon for her to have her support,” Mullins said. “The obvious whatever she can to be knowledgeable and find ways to be active, stay active, and stay happy.”

Aide: Obama wants ‘balance’ with China

WASHINGTON — A top Chinese aid aide on Sunday said President Obama wants to strike an “appropriate balance” between advancing human rights and maintaining U.S. relations with China, the first public comments by the administration on the potential involvement in helping a Chinese activist to leave the country.

John Brennan, Obama’s counterterrorism adviser, declined to elaborate on whether the administration has coordinated the support on the visit of Chen Guangcheng, the Chinese-based activist say she has been driven away in support of him and handed over to others who brought him to Beijing.

“I think it all revolves around the president’s desire to balance our commitment to human rights, making sure that the people throughout the world have the ability express themselves freely and openly, but also that we can continue to carry out our relationships with key countries overseas,” Brennan told Fox News Sunday. “The U.S. relationship with China is very important,” he said. “So we’re going to make sure that we do this in the appropriate way and the appropriate balance is struck.”

Chen’s escape comes at a politically sensitive time for the U.S. This week, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner will head to Beijing for long-planned strategic and economic talks. Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell began a hurried mission to Beijing to smooth the way for annual talks, including Clinton and Geithner.

Associated Press

Student Publications, Inc. will be running an online election for one student seat.

The term is for one year with the option for a second.

Vote online at www.dailyiowan.com from May 1 at midnight through May 7 at midnight.

For more news, go to dailyiowan.com

Vote for one:

- Hanna Rosman
- Robert Johnson

University of Iowa’s Hospital Safety Store specializes in products to help you provide and information on the safest baby-prooing products.

Advanced registration is required. Onsite tickets are available at 877-MED-IOUXA

Pamper yourself and register to win a free manicure and pedicure.

University of Iowa Health Care
Men's golf finishes 6th
The Iowa men's team finished sixth at the Big Ten Championships, held at the Pete Dye Course in French Lick, Ind. Iowa finished at 1,064, 18 strokes behind No. 1 and defending champion Illinois. The Hawkeyes entered the final day of the tourney in a tie for fifth with Ohio State and Minnesota, but fell just short of a top-five finish.

"I don't think anyone can be that happy about finishing sixth," said head coach Mark Harbus. "We knew it would be a rebuilding year. To finish sixth was great. We outscored No. 1 and No. 2 (Purdue and Illinois) in a couple of rounds, and that's a good sign for the future."

The Hawkeyes finished the tournament with a 24-stroke win over Nebraska. The win made the Nebraska team the Big Ten runners-up. The team finished at 911, 64 strokes ahead of third-place Purdue. Iowa's score on Sunday was 297, the lowest score in the team's history.

Women's golf finishes 10th
The Iowa women's team finished 10th at the Big Ten Championships in French Lick, Ind. The Hawkeyes finished at 1,222, 18 strokes behind No. 1 Minnesota.

"We played very well on the first day," said head coach Katie Kooistra. "We're in the top 10 after the first day, and we're only 42 strokes out of the lead. We're in good position to make a run tomorrow."

The Hawkeyes will hope to improve their standing after the second day, which will be held May 6. The team finished 24 strokes behind the leaders after the first day of the conference tournament.

Bowling
The Iowa men's and women's bowling teams finished 10th and 5th, respectively, at the Big Ten Championships in Minneapolis.

"We're out of the top 10," said head coach Dan Johnson. "But we have a lot of experience with this group. We're looking forward to next season."

Baseball
doubles 2 of 3
The Iowa baseball team lost the second game of its three-game series against the Golden Gophers on Saturday at the Donald Ross Course and finished third in the conference.

"We didn't play very well today," said head coach Mike McRae. "Our hitting was off, and our defense wasn't up to par. We're looking forward to the next game."

The Hawkeyes scored three runs in the top of the first inning, but the Gophers responded with two runs in the bottom of the first. The Hawkeyes scored one run in the top of the third inning, but the Gophers responded with a run in the bottom of the third. The Hawkeyes scored one run in the top of the fifth inning, but the Gophers responded with a run in the bottom of the fifth. The Hawkeyes scored one run in the top of the seventh inning, but the Gophers responded with a run in the bottom of the seventh. The Hawkeyes scored one run in the top of the ninth inning, but the Gophers responded with a run in the bottom of the ninth.

The Hawkeyes' winning pitcher was Evan Korp, and the Gophers' winning pitcher was Brandon Kopa. The Hawkeyes' losing pitcher was Trevor Crabtree, and the Gophers' losing pitcher was Andrew Stumpf.
Doris sails to Drake win

Hawkeye senior Troy Doris wins his first-ever title at the Drake Relays.

By CODY GOODWIN

DES MOINES — You’ll never see a third-place finish on Troy Doris’s face.

He went down to his final chance in the 2012 Drake Relays triple jump. He and Florida’s Omar Craddock had gone neck and neck throughout the event, through the Gator had led most of the way. The sixth and last round saw the rest of the field jump but not match the distance of Craddock and Doris. The doubles closing laps would decide who earned the championship.

The senior Hawkeye lined up just as he had before every other jump he had performed on April 28 and went through his prep-jump ritual. But this time, he seemed more relaxed — he smiled before he ran down the track. “I really try to keep my emotions in check,” he said. “All I can do is control myself.”

Doris was in full control of his final jump, one he said he knew was special the moment he took flight. The Drake Stadium stands filled with oohs and ahhs as the rain poured down. Doris reached 16.41 meters (53.10-0752). That mark pushed Doris from fifth to third in the nation, and more importantly passed Craddock for first place by .04 meters, or .344 inches.

Craddock fouled on his final attempt, securing Doris’s victory. “The Hawkeye fans went absolutely crazy with screams and shrieks of joy. Assistant coach Clive Roberto pointed his finger to the sky and pumped his fist with excitement. And Doris broke into a small victory dance — it was the senior’s first-ever Drake Relays title.

“I was really happy to do it in my final game,” said Doris. “I really didn’t expect to do it. But the weekend’s NFL draft raised a question: what now goes for the Hawkeyes?”

Doris added, “It took us quite a few attempts to win, but once we had done it, all of last season helped spur all of us on.”

The coaching and athletics training the Hawkeyes can do for their players did not go unnoticed.

The Iowa softball team emerged the victor of a three-game series against a Big Ten opponent for the third weekend in a row this past weekend, as the Hawkeyes defeated the Hoosiers 10-0, in five innings on a rainy Senior Day.

Senior Katie Keim hit a 3-run triple. Megan Blank eventually emerged from the dugout to score Keim home. Right fielder Mallorie Groves then hit a double to left center, bringing in Watkins and Gladden.

Megan Blank benefited from the hit and doubled on a deep right to send the final two runners home. Mallories Groves then tripled to knock in a run and a third runner, Melanie Mallory, who hit a line drive to left to score Keim home. Right fielder Mallorie Groves then hit a double to left center, bringing in Watkins and Gladden.

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In the seventh, Mallory reached first on a throwing error to start the inning. Melissa Zoeller doubled to right and hit a line drive to left to score Keim home. Right fielder Mallorie Groves then hit a double to left center, bringing in Watkins and Gladden.