

# The Daily Iowan

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2008

NEWSPAPER • **DI** DAILYIOWAN.COM • TELEVISION

50¢

## Happy trails

The Daily Iowan will shuffle off to Buffalo to see some real snow and bad football after today. The business office will close at noon today and reopen Jan. 5 at 8 a.m. Winter break hours will be Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The DI will resume publishing Jan. 19, just in time for the inauguration. Have a safe break.

## SPORTS

### Going to the Outback Bowl?

The city of Tampa has plenty to offer Hawkeye fans making the trip to Florida over the holidays to see Iowa play South Carolina. **1B**

### Reuniting with his past

Iowa defensive-line coach Rick Kaczynski was a South Carolina assistant when the Gamecocks last played in Tampa. **3B**



## NEWS

### 'Suspicious package'

East Side dorm residents are back in their rooms after some evacuated because of a "suspicious package" found in Burge on Thursday evening. **4A**

### Second Life

The UI is moving to the virtual world. **4A**

## ARTS & CULTURE

### Hottest holiday reads and flicks

Looking for a good book to take on the annual car ride to Grandma's? Need a good holiday flick to cozy up with during the four-week break? The DI has you covered. **7A**

## OPINIONS

### What's your problem, City Council?

The Iowa City City Council seems to have a real beef with students of late, and the new housing ordinance is only further proof of that. **6A**

## DAILYIOWAN.COM

For photos, videos, audio, blogs, and more, check us out online.

## Daily updates

Now check back at [dailyiowan.com](http://dailyiowan.com) during the day for the latest news on the UI and Iowa City.

## DAILY IOWAN TV

To watch Daily Iowan TV, go online at [dailyiowan.com](http://dailyiowan.com) or tune into UITV. The 15-minute newscast is on Sunday through Thursday at 9:30 and 10:30 p.m., with reruns at 12:30 and 1:30 a.m. and 7:45 and 8:45 a.m. the following day.

## Today's webcast

Watch a story on our pick for female athlete of the semester. Also see a story on the Theatre Building's reopening.

## WEATHER

**28** **16**  
-2C -9C

Cloudy early with a 50% chance of sleet/snow, then partly sunny with falling temps in the afternoon, blustery winds.

## INDEX

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# Many at UI saddened by deaths

## UI graduate faculty and students remember 'the perfect couple.'

By **KELLI SHAFFNER**  
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UI graduate students Sean Connolly and Sarah Pulvermacher had been planning their wedding plans before a Wednesday morning crash killed the couple.

After their engagement this year, the pair had set a date for a fall wedding next year — the weekend of the Iowa-Wisconsin football game, said Jon Hout-

man, Connolly's academic mentor and a UI assistant professor of microbiology.

Because of Connolly's love for the Hawkeyes, and Pulvermacher's Badger-fan family, "it was the perfect weekend for them," Houtman said.

"They were made for each other, a perfect couple," he said. "You saw them together and knew that it was right."

Pulvermacher lost control of the Ford Escort she was driving around 10 a.m. Wednesday and crossed the center lane on Highway 965, crashing into a semi near the Iowa Medical & Classification Center. The crash killed both 27-year-old Pulvermacher and 26-year-old Connolly.

"It's very somber and very sad in my lab," Houtman said.

The families are planning a joint memorial for the couple in Iowa City in January.

Pulvermacher and Connolly went to different undergraduate



**Pulvermacher**  
UI graduate student



**Connolly**  
UI graduate student

When it came to choosing graduate schools for the pair, they decided to come to the UI to be with each other, said Jeremiah Johnson, a friend of Pulvermacher's. Connolly was part of the immunology graduate program, and Pulvermacher was in the microbiology department.

"Together and apart, they were really happy people," he said.

On the day of the crash, the couple were likely heading to the UI to work in their respective

schools — Connolly to Buena Vista, Pulvermacher to Luther College — but met in a summer program at the UI.

SEE STUDENTS, 5A

# Tough times for pipe-organ program



JOE SCOTT/THE DAILY IOWAN

Ruth Hurlburt, a former organ graduate student at the UI, sits in front of the organ at St. Mark's United Methodist Church after giving a concert on Wednesday. Area churches have offered their organs for students to practice on after those in the Voxman Music Building were damaged in the flood last June.

## The UI's organ program is on life support.

By **KATIE HANSON**  
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Students and faculty sandbagged the Voxman Music Building and plastic-wrapped the doors to protect the organ corridor from flooding in June. But those efforts didn't stop the river from filling the hallway with up to 2 feet of water and badly damaging the organs.

Six months after the flood, the pipe organ program's immediate future remains uncertain.

"The No. 1 issue is that none of our organs are usable," said Gregory Hand, who started as

the program's new head in August.

He was a little overwhelmed at first, he said, but "everyone at the university was so upbeat and had their noses to the grindstone, so that's what I did, too."

Five organs were sent to their builders for repairs; they will be returned in December 2009, Hand said. Water did not reach the large organ in Clapp Recital Hall, but it is inaccessible and may have to be removed.

School officials then had to scramble at the end of the summer to provide organs for their students to practice on.

Numerous Iowa City churches have volunteered their organs, but Adjunct Assistant Professor Brett Wolgast said the transition hasn't been easy.

"More than any department, we have been dramatically affected," he said. "Everyone has been affected, but the difference is our instruments are only located in certain places and aren't portable."

Karl Divine-Koch, the pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 123 E. Market St., said the church volunteered to let students practice on its organ because they had space and the organ isn't used during the week.

"We've been happy to be of service," Divine-Koch said. "It's been kind of fun to have students in and out. It's like a constant concert."

Students use Google Calendar to reserve practice times, but the churches' regular business hours don't always mesh with class schedules.

David Crean, a UI graduate student and organist at Gloria Dei, said he mostly practices at night but still can't get enough time in.

"There has been a lot of conflict," he said.

UI graduate student Chad Fothergill said it is also diffi-

SEE ORGAN, 5A

# No rush to cite smokers

By **LAURA KLAIMONT**  
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Iowa's smoking ban hasn't exactly lit a fire underneath local police to crack down on illegal smokers.

Since the ban went into effect on July 1, people are prohibited from smoking in almost all public facilities, with the exception of casinos' gaming floors.

UI police have responded to 84 smoking calls, 27 of which were complaints, but no citations have been issued.

"I think we have an obligation to allow people to know what this law is and let them know where they can and cannot smoke before issuing citations," said Charles Green, the assistant vice president for the UI police. "I think that's fair because the rules are all very new."

The largest number of complaints came from the UI, Green told the state Board of Regents last week.

UI officials have had the most problems with people complying with the law near university buildings. But after being reprimanded, Green said, offenders have been compliant.

In terms of people smoking inside restaurants and bars, Green expects owners to regulate their own patrons.

"We've never had any problems — maybe a couple of times with people in the back who

## Up in smoke

**UI smoking numbers since the smoking ban passed last spring:**

- 84 smoking related calls
- 27 complaints
- Throughout the state:**
- 1,300 complaints

SEE SMOKING, 5A

# UI, other state agencies face more cuts

UI officials say it's too early to tell what specific effect the governor's budget reduction will have.

By **PETER GUSTIN**  
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The UI will have to take an additional \$4.5 million out of this year's budget after Iowa Gov. Chet Culver announced an across-the-board budget reduction Thursday.

The newest cut to the UI's budget comes after the university was told in November to slash roughly \$3 million. The \$7.5 million must be cut before June 30.

"We're halfway through a year in which we're dealing with flood recovery and record enrollment, so this presents quite a chal-

lenge," UI spokesman Steve Parrott said. "We're going to have to get people together and discuss the best place to go from here in order to provide a top-quality education."

The state's 1.5 percent across-the-board reduction — estimated around \$91 million with an additional \$10 million in transfer funds — was announced to meet budget challenges in Iowa caused by a global economic downturn.

"Maintaining a balanced budget and staying in front of this national economic crisis requires sacrifice throughout

## MORE INSIDE

For more on Culver's budget cuts, see **2A**.

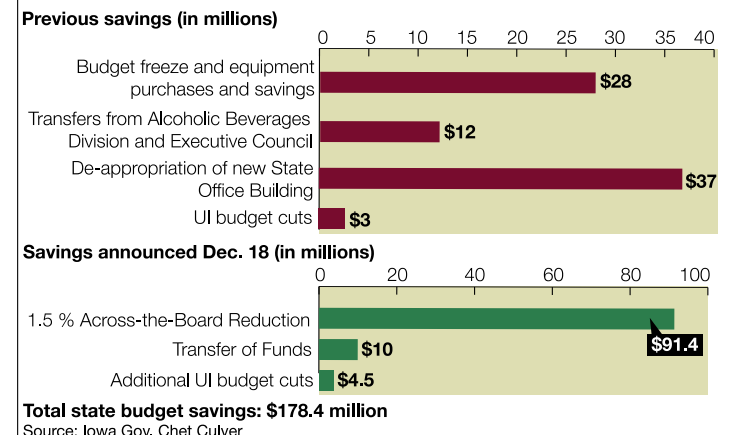
state government, as well as business, workers, urban, rural, and all of Iowa," Culver said in a statement Thursday.

The cuts mean more than \$50 million less will be available for education in the current budget year, one of the largest areas in the state's budget.

"It's not going to be positive by any stretch of the imagination, and, hopefully, it will be short-lived," Regent Robert Downer said. "At this point, until we have a

## Budget Savings

Budget cuts have been implemented across Iowa and at the UI. Iowa Gov. Chet Culver announced cuts in November and December.



Kate Rhomberg/The Daily Iowan

SEE BUDGET, 5A