

EDUCATION

Sexual violence targeted

UI president adopts all recommendations made by special panel

By Tom Owen
The Gazette

IOWA CITY — University of Iowa President David Skorton on Wednesday vowed to reduce sexual violence on campus and address complaints more effectively.

Skorton plans to improve training of faculty and staff on the issue; raise awareness within the UI; discuss the issue with other organizations; and improve policies and procedures.

In doing so, he will be adopting all the recommendations put forth in October by

The task force was formed in the wake of an incident involving basketball player Pierre Pierce.

a committee investigating the campus climate regarding sexual violence. It was organized last year by interim UI President Willard "Sandy" Boyd.

"We hope to make major progress on the issues in the academic year," Skorton said.

"The (recommendations) are very valuable and I want to make them come to fruition."

The UI has taken a fresh look at sexual violence on campus after Hawkeye basketball player Pierre Pierce pleaded guilty to assault causing injury in 2003. That plea was

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What UI will do

- Send letters to the parents of incoming students, noting UI policies and penalties for drug and alcohol abuse, sexual harassment and sexual violence
- Hold training for students, staff and faculty on sexual harassment and violence
- Pursue faster and more consistent discipline for infractions
- Initiate "non-confrontational" discussions with bar owners about alcohol-related sexual assaults

COURTS

Frantic rescue

Woman found all but one inside her burning C.R. home



Cliff Jette/The Gazette

Vickie Reed-Grahlman cries as she testifies Wednesday about her efforts to locate four children in her burning home in Cedar Rapids in April 2003. Reed-Grahlman was the first witness in the first-degree murder and arson trial of Brian Zirtzman in Linn County District Court in Cedar Rapids. Zirtzman is accused of setting fire to the home of his neighbors in northeast Cedar Rapids, resulting in the death of Reed-Grahlman's common-law husband, Jay Grahlman, and his daughter, Jaymie Grahlman.

In testimony, ex-C.R. woman tells what happened the night of fatal fire

By Elizabeth Kutter
The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Vickie Reed-Grahlman cried on the witness stand Wednesday as she told of making three trips into her burning house to rescue her family just before midnight April 5, 2003.

She pulled her husband and three of four children out of the house before firefighters arrived. But she

was unable to find 6-year-old Jaymie Grahlman, her husband's daughter.

Firefighters searched the smoke-filled house at 3755 H Ave. NE on hands and knees before finding Jaymie alive but unconscious in the bathtub.

Reed-Grahlman, 34, who now lives in Sioux City, was the first to testify in Linn County District Court in the trial of her former neighbor and family friend



Brian Zirtzman
Accused of setting fire that killed man, girl

Brian Zirtzman, 40, who is charged with first-degree arson and two counts of first-degree murder in the death of Jaymie and her father

Jay Grahlman.

Jaymie died April 6 and Grahlman on April 9 of injuries suffered in the fire.

Zirtzman, who has a juvenile record that

Online

■ For updates on the trial, go to www.GazetteOnline.com this afternoon.

of starting the fire so he could be a hero by rescuing the family.

During a police interview in June 2003, Zirtzman confessed to setting the fire by placing clothes over the

► TRIAL, PAGE 6A

includes arson, became a suspect when investigators ruled out accidental causes for the fire. He is accused

Gambling in Iowa

Iowa's casinos and tracks	
Fiscal year	Adjusted gross revenue
2004	\$1,051,515,709
2003	\$979,990,103
2002	\$959,958,783
2001	\$886,995,718
2000	\$878,967,316
1999	\$794,885,038

(Figures do not include Meskwaki and two other Indian casinos; they do not have to report to the commission.)

Source: Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission Gazette graphic

Gambling takes in a record \$1 billion

By Kurt Rogahn
The Gazette

Gambling revenues at Iowa's licensed tracks and casinos topped the billion-dollar mark for the first time in the fiscal year ending June 30.

Three tracks and 10 licensed casinos together raked in \$1.051 billion in fiscal 2004, a 7.3 percent gain over fiscal 2003.

The numbers, posted Wednesday by the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission, reflect a boost from seven months of discord at the Meskwaki Bingo-Casino-Hotel near Tama, up to New Year's Eve. That casino, unregulated by the state, does not report its receipts.

All but one of the licensed venues posted gains over 2003: Clinton's Mississippi Belle II riverboat reported \$27.8 million in gross revenues, down 2.83 percent, in a second year of decline.

Clinton's riverboat "never got a lot of play off what was happening at Tama," said Terry Hirsch, the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission's riverboat gambling director.

Showing sharp gains in fiscal 2004 were Rhythm City at Davenport with \$76 million, up 15.59 percent; Catfish Bend at Fort Madison and Burlington, \$31 million, up 10.61 percent; and Isle of Capri at Marquette, \$43 million, up 9.29 percent for the year. Prairie Meadows in Des Moines retained its lead as

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'Dream' comes true for parents, fans

By Keith E. Gottschalk
The Gazette

DYERSVILLE — Is it just a baseball field, created for a movie, or is it something more?

In the 15 years since the release of "Field of Dreams," a modern film classic about the magic of baseball and father-son relationships, people have come to Don and Becky Lansing's farm to find peace.

Reno and Jo-ann Bianco of suburban Philadelphia, who lost twin boys shortly after

Inside

■ The special edition "Field of Dreams" DVD marks the film's 15th anniversary with lots of extras. **Weekend!**

their birth in August 2002, are among many who have come and found magic.

On the anniversary of their children's deaths last year, the Biancos placed mitts made for their sons onto the porch swing of the farm-

house. "Becky (Lansing) said, 'Why don't you put the gloves on the swing so the kids can come and play with them' that night," said Reno Bianco, a die-hard baseball fan.

It was Reno Bianco's way of "having a catch" with his sons. "I absolutely believe it's more than just a baseball field, especially for those who have experienced a loss or trauma in their lives," he said.

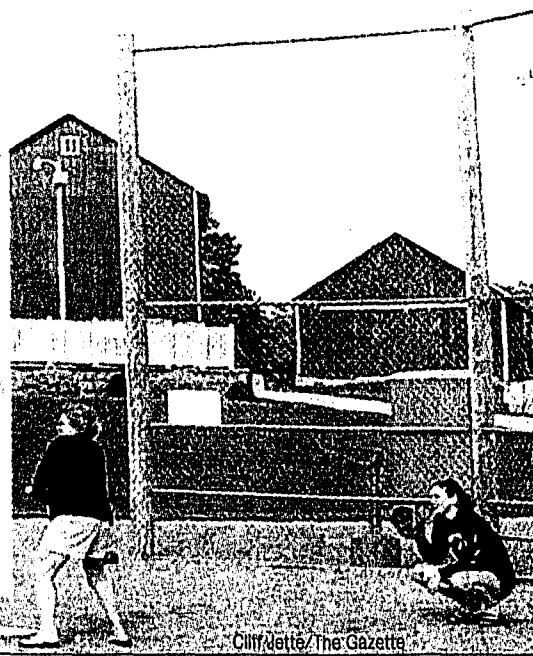
In 15 years of tending to this special field, the Lans-

ings know stories like this are as numerous as the cornstalks Shoeless Joe walked from.

"Just because we knew about and were touched by (the Biancos') story doesn't mean there aren't a million stories that happen here each day that we aren't aware of," Becky Lansing said.

They built it, and people still come.

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Cliff Jette/The Gazette

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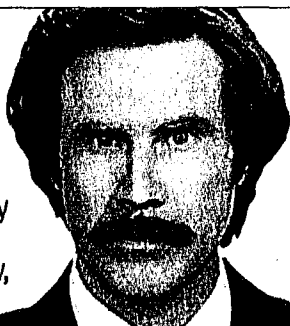
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NOW PLAYING

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PULLING AHEAD

Five-time winner Lance Armstrong moves to the front of the line at the Tour de France, **Sports, 1C**

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UI/Swift and consistent punishment promised

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in response to a September 2002 allegation by a UI female athlete who claimed Pierce sexually abused her.

In February 2003, Boyd organized two task forces: one to look into the handling of the Pierce incident and another to assess the campus climate regarding sexual violence.

According to the UI, 11 people — students, faculty or staff — reported rapes or attempted rapes on campus in 2002-03, the last year for which statistics are available. Thirty-seven other sexual harassment complaints — happening either on- or off-campus — were made by students, faculty or staff in 2002-03.

The UI does not keep statistics on how many of those complaints were founded and unfounded. In issuing its report in October, the committee on campus climate said admin-

istrators believe the rate of sexual violence on campus is "low."

However, Karla Miller, director of the Rape Victim Advocacy Program, said that law enforcement officials and those in her field agree that sexual assault is the most underreported crime.

"Is it a big problem (at UI)? Yes it is," Miller said.

Skorton on Wednesday said he was not sure how the university rated in terms of its safety.

But he said that UI administrators he trusts have assured him that the issue needs attention.

Among the changes Skorton has endorsed:

- Penalties for violations of UI sexual har-



David Skorton
UI president

assment and assault policies will come more swiftly, and with more consistency.

Miller said that various departments have handled discipline in such matters, leading to slow and sometimes inconsistent discipline. Now, the UI will take a more unified approach, with the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity taking the lead in many cases.

• People who report harassment to UI administrators will be informed of the Rape Victim Advocacy Program.

• Skorton will send a letter to parents of incoming students to inform them of UI policies and penalties regarding alcohol and drug abuse, and sexual harassment and violence.

• All academic and administrative officers will receive regular training about what constitutes sexual harassment and violence, and what procedures they should follow in

responding to reports.

• In the fall, the UI will conduct a campus-wide survey, last performed in 1993, to learn the extent of the problem and whether people are aware of help available for victims.

• The UI will also create posters or maps of the campus and Iowa City to explain the term sexual harassment and what resources exist to help victims.

• Students, especially first-year students, will be taught about sexual harassment and sexual violence.

• The UI plans to "communicate in a non-confrontational manner" with bar owners about alcohol-related sexual assaults, and poster campaigns may be used in residence halls and bars, posing questions about asking and giving consent for sex.

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Trial/Accused man was friend of family

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furnace, County Attorney Harold Denton said in his opening statement.

Zirtzman's 67 IQ makes the confession suspect, defense attorney Julie Trachta said in her opening statement. A psychologist is expected to testify that the words allegedly used by Zirtzman in his confession are well beyond his ability to use them correctly.

Hours before fire filled with family activities

The day of the fire, a Saturday, had been a family day, Reed-Grahlman said. While her husband, his brother and Zirtzman hung out, the children played in the yard. In the evening they grilled out and played cards.

Play ended about 11 p.m. at the conclusion of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," a favorite TV show of Reed-Grahlman and Kylie Reed, then 9.

Reed-Grahlman said she tied up the house and prepared the kids for bed. "You know, brushed teeth, pottied, hugs and kisses and tucked in," she said.

Kylie and Ida Mae Grahlman, 3, climbed into bed with Reed-Grahlman in the master bedroom. Jay Grahlman, who had been drinking beer for much of the day, moved from the card game to a recliner in the living room for the night.

Zirtzman, who didn't drink, was the last one awake.



Jay Grahlman



Jaymie Grahlman

Died as a result of fire

a small garden table to the window of Jaymie's bedroom. She and Zirtzman broke the window and Reed-Grahlman tried to enter the house again as a distraught Grahlman called out, "My baby, my baby."

Firefighters find victim in bathtub

The fire was too hot for firefighters to enter the bedroom immediately, but within minutes they were inside looking for Jaymie.

The first team searched for her unsuccessfully until their oxygen supply ran out and a three-man replacement crew entered the home. The firefighters crawled from room to room, yelling to each other to identify their locations in the smoke-filled house.

Within minutes they found Jaymie, not in her bedroom as Reed-Grahlman had expected, but lying face up in the bathtub, said Capt. Daniel Peck.

Jaymie was taken immediately by air ambulance to University Hospitals in Iowa City, where she died April 6 after being removed from life support.

The rest of the family was admitted to St. Luke's Hospital.

Reed-Grahlman said it was difficult to determine everyone's injuries at the scene

Before Jaymie died she was taken to her father's hospital room, said his wife, "so he could tell her goodbye, because he hadn't gotten to see her yet and to hold her."

because "we were all black, covered with soot."

Jay Grahlman was transported to University Hospitals shortly after he was admitted to St. Luke's. He died April 9.

Before Jaymie died she "was brought to Jay's room," said Reed-Grahlman, fighting back tears, "so he could tell her goodbye, because he hadn't gotten to see her yet and to hold her."

Reed-Grahlman said she was surprised when Zirtzman was charged with starting the fire. He had been welcome in their home and Zirtzman had helped coordinate a drive to collect clothing and household items for the Grahlman family and he helped her move.

The prosecution will continue presenting evidence today.

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Gaming revenue - fiscal 2004

Name	Total '04	% over 2003
Prairie Meadows	\$164,283,395	9.22%
Bluffs Run	\$127,611,791	3.63%
Dubuque Greyhound	\$44,110,187	6.71%
Isle-Marquette	\$42,778,923	9.29%
Diamond Jo	\$52,983,641	6.59%
Mississippi Belle	\$27,781,701	-2.83%
Cattfish Bend	\$31,096,261	10.61%
Argosy Sioux City	\$44,133,495	8.18%
Lakeside	\$60,924,409	10.16%
Rhythm City	\$76,079,829	15.59%
Isle-Bettendorf	\$105,415,991	5.85%
Ameristar	\$163,095,604	10.71%
Harrah's	\$111,220,482	0.46%
Total	\$1,051,515,709	7.30%

Source: Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission

Gazette graphic

Gambling/Poker popular

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Iowa's largest licensed gambling venue, with \$164.3 million in gross receipts, up 9.22 percent.

Comparisons of June this year and June last year show six state-regulated gaming venues lagging behind their Meskwaki windfall of a year ago.

Lagging are Diamond Jo Casino in Dubuque and Mississippi Belle in Clinton, both down 13.8 percent from June 2003; Dubuque Greyhound Park & Casino, down 4.93 percent; Isle of Capri in Marquette, down 4.17 percent; Isle of Capri in Bettendorf, down 3.35 percent; and Prairie Meadows, down 2 percent.

Poker receipts doubled in 2004, fueled by interest in

On the Net

■ Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission:
<http://www3.state.ia.us/irgc/>

poker on cable TV.

In March, only two Iowa casinos offered poker, Cattfish Bend and Isle of Capri in Bettendorf. In April, poker was added to Harrah's in Council Bluffs and Lakeside in Osceola.

Licensed venues pay nearly \$226 million to the state in taxes, \$3.1 million to gambling treatment programs, and \$5.2 million each to host cities and counties.

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3 crawl to safety after fire discovered

Reed-Grahlman said she was awakened by a loud, unfamiliar noise shortly after falling asleep. She saw fire and smoke coming from an electrical outlet and assumed it was the origin of the fire because of previous electrical problems in the house.

She woke Kylie and Ida Mae, who were still sleeping with her. They crawled along the floor to the front door and outside to safety.

Kylie went to a neighbor's house to call 911 while Reed-

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