

Defects found at new I.C. plant

Concrete panel breaks off and cracks are found in others; city seeks repairs

By Tom Fruehling
The Gazette

IOWA CITY — The city's new \$26 million water treatment plant was supposed to last at least 100 years, like the one it replaced in March 2003. But three months ago, it started to fall apart.

In early August, a 22,000-pound precast concrete panel broke off from an exterior wall and fell onto the roof of a five-bay garage. The roof was damaged extensively.

Others among the 19 concrete panels on the building, along DuBuque Street north of Interstate 80, are "cracking and compromised," said Andrew Matthews, Iowa City assistant city attorney.

The city is trying to get the problems fixed, but how much that

will cost and who will pay for it are still to be determined.

A preliminary report in late August by the plant's design engineering firm, Howard R. Green Company of Des Moines, said the failed panel and others were installed improperly.

"These panels are extremely heavy, and should any of the remaining panels fall, the results

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Jim Slosiarek/The Gazette

Concrete panels from the side of the Iowa City water treatment plant lie next to a parking lot at the plant Wednesday. One of the slabs fell from the building in August. The plant was completed in March 2003.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

2 nurses disciplined for drug recycling

Board calls conduct unethical; criminal inquiry continues

By Cindy Hadish
The Gazette

A state board investigation into the "recycling" of drugs for transplant patients at University Hospitals has resulted in minor discipline for two women, while a related investigation into possible criminal charges is still under way.

Barb Schanbacher and Ann Satterly, two transplant nurses who were fired from the hospital in January, were disciplined by the Iowa Board of Nursing.

Meanwhile, the criminal investigation into the redispensing of medication at the hospital remains active, Johnson County Attorney J. Patrick White said Wednesday.

White did not know a completion date for that investigation, which is being conducted with the help of University of Iowa police.

The Iowa Board of Nursing charged Schanbacher, a senior transplant coordinator for 30 years, with one count of unethical conduct.

Satterly, who worked in the transplant clinic 22 years, was charged with two counts of unethical conduct.

The charges were administrative actions against the nurses' licenses rather than criminal cases.

In a settlement agreement, both women were ordered by the board to complete 30 hours of continuing education, a considerably lesser discipline than other options available to the board, said David Lamb, a health

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VOTE '04

'This is our journey'



David Wallace/The Gazette

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry addresses a crowd of about 9,600 last night at the U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids. Also on the stage is Alexandra Kerry, one of his two daughters.

Kerry beseeches audience in C.R. to help send him to White House

By James Q. Lynch
The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Nine months after Iowans kick-started his presidential campaign with a victory in the precinct caucuses, John Kerry asked them last night to "complete this journey with me."

"This is not my journey. This is our journey," Kerry told a clapping, cheering, chanting crowd in Cedar Rapids. Security personnel said about 9,600 people passed through the gates at the U.S. Cellular Center.

Singer/actor Jon Bon Jovi entertained the crowd with four songs before

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Kerry arrived.

The Democratic nominee for president asked for the crowd's help for the next

six days "to make a difference in our lives and the lives of people around us and live up to a sense of values."

Kerry pulled out all the stops as he appealed to Iowans, including a reference to the classic baseball movie, "Field of Dreams," which was filmed near Dyersville.

"For me, Iowa has been heaven and I want to thank

► KERRY, PAGE 6A

COURTS

Jurors urge death penalty

Drug dealer awaits sentencing; last Iowa execution was in '63

SIOUX CITY (AP) — Jurors on Wednesday chose the death penalty for drug dealer Dustin Honken in the execution-style slayings of two children who were among five people killed in 1993 to protect his drug business.

The jury deliberated for 14 hours over three days before deciding on the death penalty for Honken, already serving a 27-year term on a 1996 federal drug conviction.

The jury was unable to agree on the death penalty in the deaths of the adults, instead recommending that Honken serve life in prison.

Iowa is one of 12 states without the death penalty, which was repealed by Iowa lawmakers in 1965, two years after the last execution at a state prison.

But Honken was convicted on federal charges.

The last execution in Iowa also was a federal case. Victor Feguer was hanged March 15, 1963, at the state penitentiary in Fort Madison for killing a Dubuque doctor whom he had kidnapped and taken across state lines into Illinois.

Honken was convicted earlier this month of killing Greg Nicholson on July 25, 1993, just weeks after Nicholson, a former drug dealer, betrayed Honken, the kingpin in a multistate methamphetamine ring, to a federal grand jury. Nicholson's girlfriend, Lori Duncan, and her daughters — Kandi, 10, and Amber, 6 — disappeared the same day.

Four months later, Terry DeGeus, another dealer turned informant, disappeared.

Their bodies were discovered in 2000 in shallow graves in farm fields southwest of Mason City. Each had been shot once in the back of the head.

Honken was convicted on

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Dustin Honken
Convicted of slayings

ANTHROPOLOGY

Human hobbit species discovered

Finding challenges history of evolution

Associated Press

In a breathtaking discovery, scientists working on a remote Indonesian island say they have uncovered the bones of a human dwarf species marooned for eons while modern man colonized the rest of the planet.

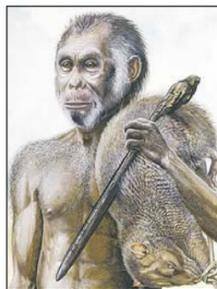
One tiny specimen, an adult female measuring about 3 feet tall, is described as "the most extreme" figure to be included in the extended human family. Certainly, she is the shortest.

This hobbit-sized creature appears to have lived as recently as 18,000 years ago on the island of Flores, a tropical Lost World populated by giant

lizards and miniature elephants.

She is the best example of a trove of fragmented bones that accounts for as many as seven of these primitive individuals. Scientists have named the new species Homo floresiensis, or Flores Man. The specimens' ages range from 95,000 to

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AP
An artist's rendering of Homo floresiensis, or Flores Man, a human dwarf species.

Flores Man

■ **The discovery:** The bones of a human dwarf species marooned on the remote Indonesian island of Flores between 95,000 and 12,000 years ago.

■ **The best specimen:** One tiny adult female, measuring about 3 feet tall.

■ **The implications:** Flores Man smashes the conventional wisdom that modern humans began to crowd out other upright-walking species 160,000 years ago.

■ **The skeptics:** Some researchers say Flores Man doesn't belong in the genus Homo at all, even if it was a recent contemporary.

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