

10-27-1999

## Banner News

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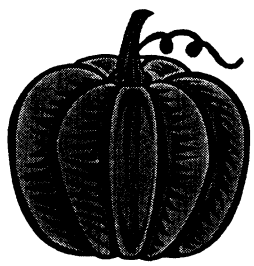
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# BEAR FACTS

Volume 45, Issue 4

*"The Editorially Independent Voice of the DMACC Boone Campus"  
Serving the Community Since 1956*

October 27, 1999

## Student government offers activities through rest of year



**The Roundguy entertained students in the Boone Campus Theatre last week. After performing, he shared a pizza with several admirers in the Courter Center.**

*Photo by Jay Cue*

**By Zach Evans**  
*Bear Facts Staff*

The Boone Campus Student Activities Council has set its sights high as it plans activities for the rest of 1999 and the spring of 2000. Behind the leadership of advisor Terry Jamieson and SAC president Jaret Morlan, the SAC has planned over 10 activities for this school year.

The SAC has also been busy getting permanent acquisitions for the student body. Money for the purchase of a big screen television has been approved. The SAC is also looking into purchasing a ping-pong table for the Courter Center. SAC president Jaret Morlan's enthusiasm was contagious; "I can't wait for some of these activities,"

Morlan said. "We really have some excellent activities."

On Nov. 3 will be a Pet Exhibit Day of Exotic Pets; Nov. 17 will be Boone v. Ankeny in intramural basketball; Dec. 4 brings another dance to campus; Jan 25 will be the "Blizzard of Bucks Game Show for a few of the upcoming events

The first endeavor of the year has already taken place. Local comedian the Roundguy brought his comedy act to the DMACC auditorium on Oct. 20. The Roundguy had the students rolling in the aisles, but several students thought that he crossed the line. DMACC student Bryan Young said, "He was hilarious, but some of his jokes were just gross." Overall, though, most of the students and faculty had praise for this comedian. The SAC is contemplating bringing him back sometime next year.

## Think spring—think registration

**By Mandy Olson**  
*Bear Facts Staff*

Over 11,000 students enroll in DMACC classes for college credit each year. With the start of spring semester right around the corner, the time to register is now. Spring credit schedule booklets are available in the office.

This booklet, called "Spring Credit Schedule" tells when and where students may register for spring classes. But be sure to read it carefully; different degrees register at different times.

Registration may be done in one of several ways. First, a student may register on-line at [www.dmacc.cc.ia.us](http://www.dmacc.cc.ia.us), the official DMACC web site (or Web Info System).

"DMACC's web info system is a new service that provides a convenient method for students to obtain information via the web," according to the Spring Credit Schedule. Students may also check their financial aid status and view their student records and personal information on DMACC's website.

Second, a student may register by

telephone between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturdays. For this, the students will need their CRN/Subject number and course title for each class they are interested in registering for. If paying by credit card, the student should also have credit card account number and expiration date ready. The telephone number for registering by phone is 1-800-342-0033.

Third, a student may register in person at the campus' office during these same hours.

Students may also mail in their registration. They will need to complete the printed registration form found in the spring credit schedule booklet or nearest office. The mailing address is as follows: DMACC, Attention: Registration, 2006 S. Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny, IA 50021.

After registering, a student must pay tuition and fees. Full and partial payments are accepted anytime after registration until January 04, 2000. After this date, student's classes will be canceled unless other payment plans

have been established.

"Loan and grant money is split up fifty-fifty for each semester. The money is automatically applied to you account after registering," said Boone Campus bookkeeper, Vicki Lauzon.

The payment plan that is available to everyone, if set up with the financial aid office, will guarantee enrollment throughout the semester. When setting up this plan, students will pay one third of their tuition and fees, plus a \$25 service charge by the first due date given. The second one third is due about a month later; and the last one third is due in the third month of the semester. Basically, students get three months to pay for their schooling, if they set up the payment plan.

### Phi Theta Kappa plans new involvement

**By Zach Evans**  
*Bear Facts Staff*

DMACC Boone Campus' Phi Tau chapter of Phi Theta Kappa has new leadership, new members, and a new vision. Faculty member Jan LaVille

will be taking over for Lee McNair for advising PTK, and president Michelle Johnson has shown a lot of enthusiasm planning projects for the group.

PTK is an honor society for two-year colleges and offers substantial financial rewards for students who want to transfer to a four-year school. Over 30 million dollars of scholarship money was awarded last year. Iowa State usually grants a \$1500 scholarship to transfer students.

To gain admittance into PTK, DMACC students must have a 3.5 cumulative GPA. This year's initiation will take place November 21, in the Courter Center. During initiation, PTK members light a candle and say a pledge to honor the statutes of Phi Theta Kappa. After the ceremony, refreshments are provided for inductees and their friends and family.

PTK held their statewide conference the first weekend in October on the Marshalltown Community College Campus. LaVille and PTK member Michael Chow attended the event. Chow said, "I had a great time. I can't wait to get started."

**BEAR FACTS**

October 27, 1999

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*Bear Facts* is a student publication published bi-weekly at Des Moines Area Community College, 1125 Hancock Drive, Boone, Ia. 50036 (515)433-5092.

*Bear Facts* is distributed free to all DMACC students, staff and alumni. Subscriptions can be purchased at the annual rate of \$10 to the general public.

The editorial offices of *Bear Facts* are located in Room 210, on the second floor of the Boone campus.

**Editorial Policy**

*Bear Facts* welcomes all letters in an attempt to provide a forum for the many diverse views of the campus. The views expressed in *Bear Facts* are not necessarily the views or endorsements of Des Moines Area Community College or the *Bear Facts* editorial board.

Letters should be no longer than 200 words, signed and brought to the editorial offices of *Bear Facts* or can be e-mailed to [jrlaville@dmacc.cc.ia.us](mailto:jrlaville@dmacc.cc.ia.us) or mailed in care of the college.

*Bear Facts* reserves the right to edit as necessary for libelous content, profanity, copy-fitting, grammatical and spelling errors or clarity.

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# PBL keeping busy on campus Attend conference in Des Moines



By Amy Rusnak

**Contributing Writer**

The PBL State Fall Leadership Conference was held October 8 and 9 in Des Moines at the Urban Campus. Seven Boone DMACC PBL members attended: Audra Price, Amy Rusnak, April Richards, Lynn Dutcher, Marie Dostal, Nikki Scott, and Nancy Thomas. Linda Plueger, PBL advisor, accompanied the students

A general session helped students get to know other PBL members. Then members attended workshops. At the end of the night, the members attended a casino party and got to bid in an auction on different items with the paper money they had won.

On Saturday, the toured the Principal Financial Group. The luncheon speaker, Bill Withers from Wartburg College, talked about how people are more important in an organization rather than profit.

The PBL State Fall Leadership drew a total of 61 members attending from eight different colleges in Iowa.



Contributed Photo

Seven PBL members attended the recent State Fall Leadership Conference on the Urban Campus: (Seated left to right) Marie Dostal, Nikki Scott, Nancy Thomas, Lynn Dutcher; (Standing) Audra Price, Amy Rusnak, April Richards. The group was accompanied by Linda Plueger, PBL advisor for the Boone Campus.

**No Boone Campus homecoming planned this year**

Brenda Johnson

*Bear Facts Staff*

Homecoming is a traditional part of high schools, colleges and universities all over the United States. It is a time for students to celebrate their school and show their spirit. It is also a welcome back for the alumni.

The homecoming court is different depending on the school. In some schools there is a king and queen and in others a queen and her escort. The king and queen are often invited back for the next year's festivities. Our own, Scott Cue, former homecoming king and a first year DMACC student, returned home to Glid-

den to crown his replacement.

Not all colleges have a homecoming though. Last year, the SAC tried to revive homecoming at DMACC Boone Campus. Dean Philips says, "Students are more involved with things outside of school. Also, the DMACC students are now older than what they once were. So many students are busy with jobs and even their children."

The dean also said, "We are located next to a major university and many students participate in the activities at Iowa State." According to the dean there has been no final decision on DMACC having a homecoming in the future.

**PBL selling  
holiday wreaths**

By Elainea Davis

**Contributing Writer**

PBL is selling holiday wreaths starting Friday, October 22, and continuing through Wednesday, November 3. If you would like to order these wreaths, you can contact any PBL member or Linda Plueger, PBL Advisor, Room 201.

The wreaths are made out of fresh and fragrant balsam and decorated with pine cones, berries, and a bow. They are \$15 each. They will be delivered by the PBL members on Monday, November 22, or the next day. This isn't only for DMACC personnel, but the public will also have a chance to buy the wreaths.

Enjoy the holidays with a beautiful 24" fresh wreath. The wreaths will be sold for two weeks only. The money raised will go toward PBL students competing in the Spring Leadership Conference here on the Boone Campus and the National Leadership Conference next summer in Long Beach, CA.

**Upcoming PBL  
activities at Boone**

By Amie Hull

**Contributing Writer**

The PBL Service Committee has planned various events. On Wednesday, Oct. 27, the PBL members will visit the Eastern Star Masonic Home for a Halloween party. The members will visit the residents during their lunch hour and provide them with some Halloween treats. Some of the PBL members will even be dressed in costume.

In November, PBL plans to collect nonperishable food for the Food Pantry for families in Boone for Thanksgiving dinners.

PBL will collect toys for the Toys for Tots program in December. The PBL Chapter itself may even be taking a couple of the mittens from the Wal-Mart tree and providing a few children with a merrier Christmas.

Boone Campus students and staff mark your calendars, and plan to donate food for Thanksgiving dinners and toys for Christmas. PBL members will be posting signs when your donations will be collected.

**VALET**

Boone County Hospital has immediate openings for several Valet parking attendants. Flexible hours are available. Candidates must be at least 18 years old with a violation-free license, be able to drive both manual and standard transmission vehicles, and have excellent customer service skills. If interested, please complete an application at the Patient Registration area:

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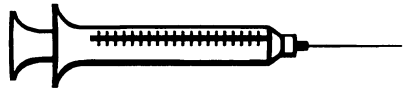
The Editorially Independent Voice of the DMACC Boone Campus

NEWS

October 27, 1999

## Off the wall Spring scholarship deadlines approaching fast

By Patrice Harson  
Bear Facts Staff



**Public Health Nursing of Boone County Hospital and DMACC Boone Campus Nursing Students United** are offering

### Flu shots

to faculty, staff and students on **Wednesday, November 3** Noon to 2p.m. in Room 127  
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Sign-up sheet located outside Boone Campus Nursing Department  
\*\*\*

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\*\*\*

### 24-hour crisis line



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**ACCESS** now has an outreach site available in Boone County to provide services to those whose lives are affected by domestic violence and sexual assault:

Date: Every Monday  
Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Location: Lutheran Social Service  
105 S. Marshall  
Boone  
(in the brick building across from the hospital)

Telephone: 515-433-7836

Anyone wishing to meet with an advocate may walk in or make an appointment by calling the 24-hour crisis line. An individual wishing to meet with an advocate on a different day or time should also call the crisis line

By Patrice Harson  
Bear Facts Staff

As quick as mid-term papers and exams found their way into instructors' brief cases, so comes the Spring Semester and another opportunity for Boone Campus students to learn, learn, learn.

Spring credit schedules are out, and although DMACC students have until January 8 to fill out their schedule grids, some significant scholarship deadlines will come and go while the harvest moon wanes.

While thumbing through course catalogs, the cost per credit is often as heavy a consideration as the course title and, if awarded, four types of scholarships now in the offering for the Spring Semester could help lighten the load for some.

**Deadline: October 29, 1999**  
**DMACC Alumni Association**

The Alumni Association scholarship, not to exceed \$750, applies directly toward tuition, fees, required books and/or approved tools for the Spring Semester. Over \$18,000 is available, and only full-time students with 12 credits completed prior to applying qualify. Applicants must have some type of involvement in community or college organizations as well as carry a minimum 3.25 GPA (verified by the Student Records Office).  
**Deadline: November 1, 1999**

**DMACC Boone Campus Foundation**

This semester, 120 Boone Campus Foundation scholarships totaling \$27,989.80 were awarded to 116 Boone Campus students. To be eligible for the next round of Boone Campus Foundation scholarships, students must be enrolled for a minimum of 6 credit hours, have a minimum GPA of 2.0 and must show verifiable financial need. Meeting minimum requirements does not guarantee selection for this award.

**Deadline: November 1, 1999**  
**Corporate Scholarship**

The Corporate Scholarship is open to all current and prospective DMACC students and will be applied directly toward tuition, fees and books. To be eligible, an applicant must be enrolled for a minimum of 6 credits, have a minimum 3.0 GPA and show verifiable financial need. Again, meeting minimum eligibility requirements does not guarantee se-

lection. Interested applicants with questions regarding this scholarship opportunity may call the Ankeny scholarship office, 515-964-6278.

**Deadline: November 15, 1999**

**Altrusa Memorial Vocational Scholarship**

The Altrusa Club of Ames is offering a \$500 vocational scholarship in memory of pioneer members of Altrusa in Ames. The club, a nonpartisan, nonsectarian, nonprofit association of professional women representing a variety of fields, is

a significant volunteer force aimed at improving the quality of life in the community. The scholarship is intended for adult women students 25 years of age or older seeking vocational training through a community college or professional school. Applications for this scholarship must be sent to Carmen Kenyon, 1115 Johnson Street, Ames, Iowa.

Applications for these scholarships are located in the file cabinet in the hallway leading to the L.W. Courter Center.

## Mixed opinions about tobacco

Catherine Houghton  
Bear Facts Staff

Tobacco products have been consumed by people for thousands of years. Even a few decades ago people smoked chewed or even snorted tobacco without thinking twice about it. Since finding out about the dangerous effects of tobacco, the government and health officials have been on an expedition to stop the consumption of tobacco.

The big fight in the tobacco industry in our country today, is to stop children from smoking. Many anti-smoking programs have been introduced to elementary and high schools to prevent tobacco use. The thing is that kids are still using it no matter what they are taught. Even though children are taught a great deal about the dangers associated with tobacco, they still use it. Most of the time being "cool" or being accepted plays a big role in tobacco use among young people. So when a kid sees an admirer do it, whether it be a media icon or just a friend, they sometimes want to do it too, to be accepted.

According to the 1997 statistics found from The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 18% of students in grades 9-12 in Iowa are frequent smokers and nearly double that figure, is the number of kids that have smoked a cigarette in their lifetime. Coincidentally 23.1% of all adults in Iowa smoke tobacco. So maybe this means that most people start smoking when they are young.

The government has claimed that they have known for years that people had been starting smoking at these ages. They have tried to start using stricter punishments for stores that sell to minors, raising prices, not advertising on TV, and many non-smoking public service announcements to deter these vulnerable children from consuming tobacco. In some areas, children's tobacco use has fallen and in other places it has risen. It has not stopped this problem.

Our government seems to care a lot about not only the children, but adults too. They do not want to see people using tobacco in their daily lives. So, now they want to stop the abuse of tobacco. Some of our government officials have been upset about the money they have had to pay for all the medical bills that people have acquired during years of consuming tobacco. So now they are suing the tobacco industry for billions of dollars to pay for these medical bills. One of the most recent players in this lawsuit is Philip Morris, the nation's largest cigarette maker. They have to pay billions of dollars as part of this lawsuit, and also have to reveal the scientific opinions about the health risks linked with tobacco. Philip Morris has also changed their web site perhaps due to the ruling against them, downplaying

continued on page 4

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# Wicca—more than

By Joshua Keller  
Managing Editor

Satanists, warlock, heretic, all of these terms have been associated with the ancient religion of Wicca, that is, witchcraft. However, to the followers of this religion, these words send out the wrong message to those who would criticize it.

Even the *Webster Third New International Dictionary* is off the mark, it states that witchcraft is “an act or instance of employing sorcery with malevolent intent.”

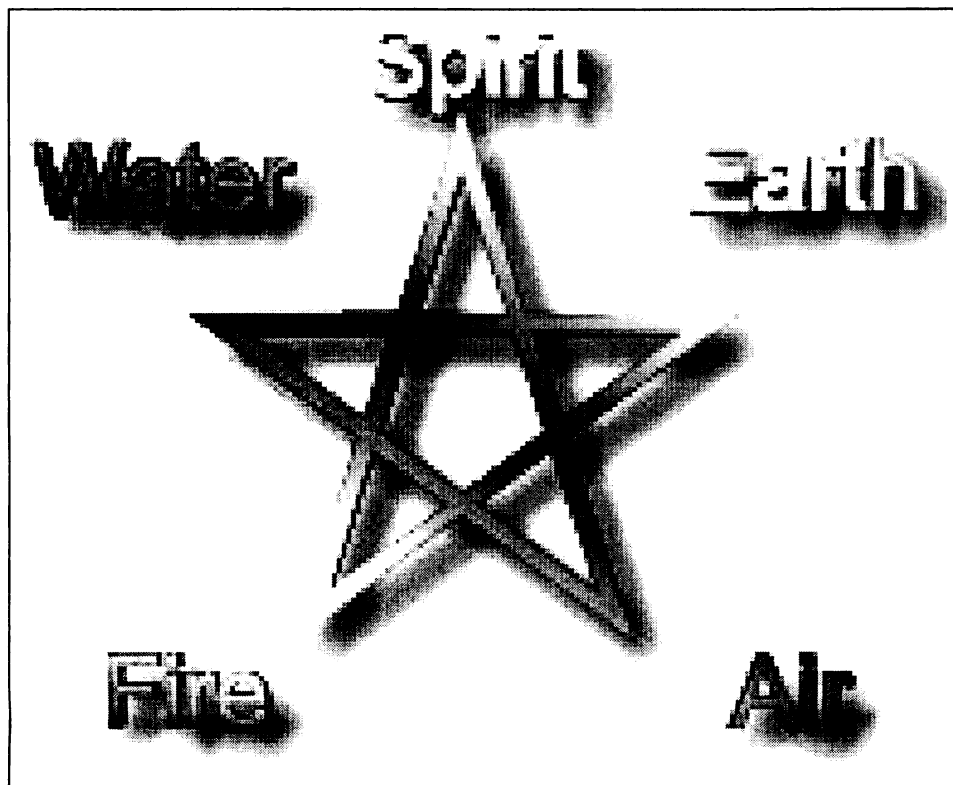
## Black and White

Only a small number of witches dabble in the art of black magic. The majority practice only white magic, which is magic that does not harm. In fact, the main rule in Wicca, stated in the Wiccan Rede is, “An ye harm none, do what ye will.” This gives witches the right to practice any magic that they like as long as no harm, physical, emotional, or otherwise.

The other main rule in Wicca is “the Rule of Three.” This rule states that whatever magic is sent out, it will return three fold. So, if a witch were to cast a black spell it would come back on them with three times the consequence, whereas a witch casting a white spell can expect three times the blessing.

## Worship

Many people believe that in order to be a witch one must worship Satan. However, Wicca has been around since



nearly the beginning of mankind in some form or another. It has no place in it for the Christian god or devil. It seems a bit hard to say that witches worship something that they have never believed in. What witches do worship are a god and a goddess. They see these beings not as rulers of the universe but as actually being the universe. The god represents all

that is man, including war, fire, and protection. The goddess represents all that is woman; this includes birth, fertility, healing and the earth in general. It is a harmonious blending of these beings and their energy that creates and sustains life.

The basic Wicca beliefs are as follows: Worships the divine in the things of nature,

Prefers the temple of the forest to a building of stone,

Seeks communication with the Gods through his or her own action, Is accepting and tolerant of the Gods of others, which exist as rightfully as our own,

And is drawn to face the challenges of today with the wisdom of the ancients.

As a general rule many, if not most, witches are vegetarians and have a heightened awareness of nature, but it always depends on the individual.

Although these are basic beliefs, several others exist. Witches are left to themselves to decide what exactly they believe.

## The Witch

Traditionally, witches were viewed as evil women that met together in the woods to cause all kinds of trouble. Very seldom was a man accused of witchcraft, but when one was he was called a warlock. Today, the term “witch” is used regardless of gender. Warlock, a Scottish Gaelic term, is a negative term meaning liar, thief and oath-breaker.

Witches today also have the choice of whether they remain an individual witch or if they join a coven.

A coven is a group of witches that have similar beliefs and focus on raising each other’s spiritual level. A coven is much like a denomination of the other religions

as it separates the different ideas and beliefs.

There are two main categories to the Wicca, traditional and eclectic. Traditionalists have a set way of life. They are classified into organized sects, each with their own belief system. Often, traditionalists have teacher and student relationships. Eclectic witches are a more loosely organized religion. Eclectics are usually individuals that are open to various beliefs from many different pagan and non-pagan religions. They choose whether they take on a teachers and/or students. This group searches for the beliefs that they “feel” fit them.

## Wicca in the Law

David March, an inmate at the Marquette Branch Prison in Michigan, converted to Wicca while serving his term. Shortly after he filed a suit against the prison claiming that his constitutional rights had been violated. He claimed that because he was not allowed to burn incense on the eight holidays that he worshipped on, even under the supervision of a guard, that he was being discriminated against. In the

Continued on page 5

## Mixed opinions about tobacco

Continued from pg. 3

their role as a tobacco producer. The new web-site shows their other two major brands, Kraft Foods and Miller Brewing Company, instead of their distinctive Marlboro logo.

In 1997, Representative Nita Lowey (NY) proposed an amendment; it was to end crop insurance and non-insured crop disaster assistance for tobacco farmers. The bill failed 216-207. In July 1998, our own Senator Tom Harkin proposed an amendment to the 1999 Agriculture Department spending bill, which would add \$100 million dollars for anti-teen smoking. The bill failed 50-49. So it seems from this lawsuit and the proposed amendments, a little less than 50% of the government is on the tobacco side.

According to one statistic obtained from The Center for Responsible Politics, in 1995-1996 the total soft money contributions taken from the

tobacco companies were almost 7 million dollars. The Republican Party took \$5,768,591 of these contributions while the Democratic Party took \$1,064,680. Even Iowa Senator, Tom Harkin took in \$2,000 in hard dollar contributions from tobacco companies in 1991-1996. Nita Lowey took \$500 dollars from tobacco companies.

So it seems that the government supports the tobacco industry, but is not willing to pay any money out to the counter effects of using tobacco. They want to stop the use and abuse of this substance that people choose to consume. People can buy tobacco products almost anywhere in Iowa, and can also consume them in most outside public areas.

Some changes we might see in the future because of this ruling against Phillip Morris and other similar future

Phillip Morris and other similar future settlements are, increased taxes, raising prices to \$5 a pack, and possibly getting rid of all smoking areas in restaurants. Some believe many states, including Iowa, will follow California’s strict laws restricting tobacco consumption in public places. Some believe that it may go as far as the government saying that smoking in your own car, on public property, such as on the highways, will be illegal as well.

Information for this article was gathered and used, with permission, from:  
The Center for Responsible Politics,  
[www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org),  
The Center for Disease Control and  
Prevention, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
And Philip Morris at  
[www.philipmorris.com/pmhome.2.html](http://www.philipmorris.com/pmhome.2.html)



# spells and curses

end, March won and the jury had decided that both his first and fourteenth amendments had been violated. Thus showing that Wicca is a legal religion.

## Tools and Magic

Witches all use the same basic tools. These tools are cared for like priceless objects for they hold and direct the very power of the witch. Most witches make their own tools and advise against accepting anyone else's tool just in case it may be cursed or hold the wrong type of magic. The basic tools include:

**The Wand**-a wand is the most basic, and also the most powerful tool. It channels the witch's energy into the appropriate place. Wands are made out of wood cut from specific trees to determine their magic ability.

**The Athame**-this is the witch's ceremonial knife. The basic uses are mixing potions and inscribing the circle.

**The Chalice**-the chalice is the vessel of the Goddess, it symbolizes the Holy Grail. It holds the ceremonial drink and is also used for mixing potions.

**The Cauldron**-the cauldron symbolizes the Goddess's womb. It signifies resurrection and inspiration.

It is used for brewing herbs and potions.

**The Bell**-bells are used to banish any evil spirits or negative energy that may be around.

**The Broom**-The broom signifies the unity of man and woman, the phallic stick connected to the feminine brush. It is used for ceremonial cleansing, sweeping out the bad energy.

**The Circle**-the circle is the most misunderstood tool in witchcraft. The basic circle is either a pentagram or a pentacle, a five-pointed star encompassed by a circle, with the point always facing up or north.

The points represent different things to the various groups. Some groups believe the points represent the elements needed to live: earth, air, wind, water and spirit, each with an appropriate direction.

Before the Catholic Church decided that the symbol was an evil thing, the circle was the basic symbol of truth and security. Some Christian groups used to believe that the points symbolized the five wounds of Christ.

In rituals the circle is used to protect the witch from any harm while they are in it and casting spells. The circle is often confused with the symbol of Satanism, which is the same sign turned upside down. Just like an upside-down cross is a sign of evil to Christians, so to is an upside down pentacle for Wiccans.

**Elements**-Elements are the basic necessities of life. More powerful than the deities of nature, elements can not always be controlled. Many witches avoid the use and worship of them altogether.

**Runes**-Runes are stones that are inscribed with sacred symbols. Each rune has it's own meaning. Runes are used in divination, or foretelling the future, along with tarot cards

## Witches Viewed

Wicca is the eighth largest religion in the US today, according to the religious tolerance web-site. However, an exact number of witches can not be determined because many of them are too afraid of how the public will react.

Because of the Christian influence, witches have for centuries been damned.

And this led to the "burning times" that lasted from the 16 to the 18-century CE. These times included the Spanish Inquisition and the Salem witch-hunts. As people become more tolerant of other beliefs more witches and neo-pagans are emerging.

Margot Adler, a Wiccan lobbyist, summed up the feelings of witches by saying, "We are not evil. We don't harm or seduce people. We are not dangerous. We are ordinary people like you. We have families, jobs, hopes, and dreams. We are not a cult. This religion is not a joke. We are not what you think we are from looking at television. We are real. We laugh, we cry. We are serious. We have a sense of humor. You don't have to be afraid of us. We don't want to convert you. And please don't try to convert us.

Just give us the same right we give you--to live in peace. We are much more similar to you than you think."

It seems that witchcraft is more than it appears to be. When we look at it a little closer it is more than spells and curses.

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**CHRISTIANITY****My way or the highway?**

By Jay Cue  
Bear Facts Staff

Don't hate me because I'm Catholic. I was born and baptized Catholic, and it's all I've ever known. When I want to be close to God, the Catholic ways are what seems to open up my heart and strengthen my spiritual relationship. It's the way I wish to worship.

Jesse Ventura, Governor of Minnesota, got into some trouble, again, a few weeks ago for a comment that some found offensive. The man had the nerve to say, "organized religion was for the weak minded." How dare he! Every bit of information I have absorbed since the day I was born has taught me that this statement is false.

Every adult lecture, every sermon I sat through, every television program and even in the public school system, everyone was something. Whether it was Catholic, Protestant, atheist, agnostic or otherwise, everyone had a category, and it was their duty as a member to strengthen their particular category according to how their fellow members saw fit. It's obvious that this is how things should be, everyone says so.

In my opinion, everyone should be Catholic. It's the only way to get to

heaven. Some Protestants have told me they were taught to hate Catholics. They informed me that they were not to associate with them, befriend them, and especially marry them. Unfortunately, they are the byproduct of organized brainwashing--just like me.

All too often, there are droves of religious clones marching the streets bantering about how they have the answers billions of people throughout the ages have yet failed to conclude. Groups claim to be the most divine, calling other mislead, astray, lost and without truth.

As far as I'm concerned, preaching to one another seems to be a waste of time because all the preachers get in return is an earful from the other side. Soon the preaching turns to arguing, which turns to disputing, which turns to violence and finally war. It's a phenomenon that has happened hundreds of times throughout the ages and has made an impact even today. Millions of people kill or are killed to prove they are the ones who know God best. They defend their beliefs of "love thy neighbor" by slaying the neighbors who don't agree.

Fortunately, religious war only involves a small percentage of the world's population. Sadly, there are those who fight the same war on a verbal, emo-

tional and spiritual basis everyday. What's even sadder is that the wars are being fought amongst Christians themselves. Catholics are too good for Protestants, Protestants are rebelling against Catholics, Lutherans aren't Protestant enough, and Baptists are too Protestant. Then there are those unheard-of groups who call themselves Christians, but refuse to take a specific name like the others.

The Christian religion has fueled a big debate on which form is the most divine, when in reality, most members are conformist robots who have yet to read the Bible with their own soul. Instead, they have their interpretations programmed into them from birth so that they may remain a strong member of their growing organization. Some organizations set themselves above all others who, ironically, are striving for the same goal, eternity with God.

In a society of get rich quick, lose the pounds fast and 0 to 60 in less than five seconds, people want to be spoon-fed results. People today don't seem to want to find their spiritual place in this world. They want it given to them, typed out on an 8 1/2" by 11" sheet of paper, double-spaced, size 12 font. They want to see themselves as Christians, not find them-

selves as Christians. And when others tell them they are different, the world becomes full of spiritual chaos, Christians converting Christians. It sounds kind of ridiculous when said out loud.

So where does this put the future of Christianity? It all depends on the strength of the next generation. It depends on the tolerance and acceptance preached to children by their parents, and it most importantly depends on the First Amendment. It's ironic, the same amendment that grants people the freedom to worship as they choose, also grants those same people the freedom to tell everyone else how much better they are.

From my experience as a young adult, I am seeing positives in the way people think. The MTV generation is now seeing ads, movies and television shows preaching tolerance. Young adults are beginning to receive messages soaked in "be yourself" and "dare to be different" challenges.

Today when students walk down the halls of their schools, rather than seeing a fellow student and immediately wondering how they size up in God's eyes, they tend to accept the person for what their heart tells them. Today, young people tend to view each other not as Presbyterians, Methodists and Catholics, but as fellow Christians, fellow members of God's people. In a world of random violence and hate crimes, it's tolerance and acceptance like this that could eventually save the human race. Because once we stop trying to teach people the proper way to love, we can accept the different types of love shared among people. That is when great things begin to happen.

Was Jesse Ventura right in his comment? Not totally. There is nothing wrong with being a member of a church. There is nothing wrong with worshiping the way you see fit, and there is nothing wrong with doing what brings you closer to God. I challenge you; however, don't deny others the same opportunity. Don't persecute those who are different just like you. Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, we're all Christians, aren't we?

audience then is replied to by cheesy sound box responses. The truth is Elmo is aimed at the youngest of young audiences; therefore, this movie is played at that level. But the movie does have enough humor in it to keep the adults happy. The performance of Mandy Patinkin is, sadly enough, wasted on such an audience that won't appreciate it.

**The Front Row**

By Jaret Morlan

**Three Kings** ★★☆☆ (R)

Dir. David O. Russell; George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg, Ice Cube, Spike Jonze, Nora Dunn

Just another war movie, if you judge by the previews; if you see the film, it's something completely different. In this artistic, and very provoking film about the Gulf War, three U.S. soldiers go treasure hunting for gold that has been hidden by the Iraqis.

This disturbing film about the rape and pillaging of Kuwait by not only their oppressors, but also their defenders (the U.S. Army), opens a window to the goings on of operation Desert Storm. The "Three Kings" come upon a map showing where the Iraqis have placed the gold they've stolen from Kuwait. Since the cease-fire was just called, they felt it was the perfect opportunity to take the gold.

As the story develops, compassion swells and the realization that the war isn't, and never may be, over, begins to control the actions of our three heroes. Incredible performances, are turned out by

the usually dry George Clooney, and the ever-improving Mark Wahlberg. Hats off though to the biggest underdog of them all; Ice Cube. If he ever performs better than he did in this film, it will be a day to write on your calendar. Another excellent point to show is the surrealism of the Gulf War, as if it were all a dream.

This and the amazing wit and dialogue by writers John Ridley and David O. Russell make this a movie for all to see. This film is probably a solid candidate for an Oscar nomination.

**The Adventures of Elmo in Grouchland** ★★½ (G)

Dir. Gary Halvorson; Kevin Clash, Mandy Patinkin, Vanessa L. Williams, Sonia Manzano, Roscoe Orman, Dave Goelz, Joey Mazzarino, Steve Whitmire, Frank Oz

Sesame Street strikes again with their second full-length feature film, proceeded only by *Follow That Bird* in 1985. This time, Elmo becomes greedy in the sense that he loves his blanket so much, that

only he is allowed to touch it. Through a series of over excessive happenings, Elmo ends up in Grouchland.

Grouchland is Sesame Street's interpretation of Oz, and Elmo, though he's no Judy Garland, is Dorothy. After landing in Grouchland he gets an idea of the surroundings through a musical number complete with the Grouchland Mayor.

Though there is no representation of the lollypop guild, they do have a Wicked Witch of the West known in Grouchland as Huxley. Huxley is an over the top villain, played by the consistently incredible Mandy Patinkin, who wants everything to himself. He flies in a machine which sucks things into it, stealing everything, including Elmo's blanket. The rest of the film is his journey to Huxley's castle to get it back.

Not much to say about this film other than mediocre. Unlike most muppet movies (I don't care what you say, Sesame Street is still the Muppets) the characters, mostly Elmo, ask for help from the



# BEAR FACTS

The Editorially Independent Voice of the DMACC Boone Campus

## SPORTS

October 27, 1999

# Volleyball successful on home court DMACC wins over Ellsworth

By Scott Cue  
*Bear Facts Staff*

If two words could be used to describe the DMACC volleyball team against Ellsworth, it would be, "on fire," according to Coach Lori Dejongh-Slight. On October 20 the Bears destroyed Ellsworth 12-15, 4-15 13-15. They had their highest hitting percent of the season at 95%.

Coach Slight was very proud of the team and said, "Everyone stepped up and played well that night. We really looked like a team. They have improved so much since the beginning of the season; it was great to get

another win, especially in front of a home crowd."

Emily Brooks and Stephenie Henderson lead the team in hitting. Brooks was 18/19 with 9 kills and Henderson was 26/27 with 13 kills. They also had a great night blocking as they put up 20 of the 37 blocks.

Wendy Johnson also had a great night setting the ball as she had 24 assists, which aided in the great hitting night said Slight.

A week prior, the Bears played very well after two weeks off but had no victories to show for it. They faced Wartburg and NIACC in the same night.

Wartburg defeated the Bears 15-17, 12-15. They also lost to NIACC 6-15, 10-15.

Coach Slight commented, "We played very well, but we need to learn how to finish off the game and win."

Serving was the highlight of the night for the women. As a team they served 93%. Individually Victoria Rowley served an astonishing 100% and Leslie Howerton 95% on the night.

Johnson contributed 32 assists while Henderson and Brooks combined for 15 kills and only 3 errors.

DMACC's women's last home game is October 30 at 2 p.m. against Iowa Lakes.

## November Men's Basketball Schedule

Nov 13 Kemper Classic Away

Nov 19 ICC Classic Away

Nov 26 McHenry Tourn. Away

Nov 29 Riverland Away

## Move back the fences in baseball

# Room to run

By Merrick Havens  
Contributing Writer

How could one describe America's favorite past time? Of course, I'm talking about baseball. With its glorious history, fans can remember all of the legends of the diamond, Joe Di-maggio, Roger Maris, Jackie Robinson, Ted Williams, Mickey Mantle, and, of course, "The Babe," just to name a few.

Baseball has been thriving for over a hundred years now and has become a symbol of our country. It has seen its way through many military wars such as WWI, WWII and Vietnam. As a matter of fact, some of our players were forced to hang up their baseball uniforms in exchange for camouflaged. One may recall the famous powerful lyrics of Paul Simon's "Mrs. Robinson" which read "Where have you gone Joe Dimaggio? Our nation turns its lonely eyes to you, wooo-hooooo-ooooo."

Baseball even helped to break the racial barrier. One of the greatest players ever to play the game, Jackie Robinson, was the first African American to play in the Majors. He is looked upon as a hero not only in the African American community, but also by a whole nation. Baseball has always been an American legacy. When Lou Gherig began his touching speech, "Today, I consider myself, the luckiest man, on the face of the earth." after

being diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gherig's Disease, you could feel the sadness as if he occupied a tiny space in each of our hearts. Why on earth would we want to erase the wonderful memories of these great men?

If something is not done to change the game, our heroes from the past will be soon forgotten. The homerun rate in the game today is way too high and something needs to be changed!

I'm a big fan of baseball, and I, like other fans, was very excited about the great homerun race of 1998 between Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire. For the season, Mark McGwire ended up edging Sammy Sosa by blasting out 4 more to give him a total of 70 dingers. Both Sosa and McGwire obliterated the old record, but was this a fluke or would they carry over their explosive batting into the 1999 season? The answer is yes. Unlike last season, however, Sosa lead most of the way. He carried that lead all the way up to the last series when he and McGwire would go head to head. Again, McGwire came through to beat Sosa 65 to 63.

The record for most homeruns in the Major Leagues in a single season by anybody until 1998 was 61. Roger Maris of the New York Yankees accomplished this feat ironically, in 1961. That means that Maris's record stood strong for 37 consecutive seasons. In 37 years nobody, but nobody,

could catch Maris, then in two consecutive seasons not only one, but two players did it in both 1998 and 1999. Something seems a little fishy about that.

With the addition of the expansion teams, the Florida Marlins and Colorado Rockies in 1996, and the Arizona Diomandbacks and Tampa Bay Devil Rays in 1998, plus a lot of the other numerous cities putting up new stadiums, like Pittsburg, the outfield fences are not as far as they once were.

This is not only occurring in the new stadiums either. In fact, when Yankee Stadium was first constructed back in 1923, it was the first ballpark in America to be called a stadium. When Babe Ruth stepped out of the Yankees' dugout and onto the field for the first time, he looked around and declared, "Some ballyard!" It was so big that it seemed to disappear at the 490-foot mark in dead center. The mark on the left center field fence read 460 feet. These dimensions were so big that it created an alley in left center that right-handed power hitters dubbed Death Valley. The Yankees shortened the Stadium's deepest fences in 1937. The center field fence was moved from 490 feet to 461, left center went from 460 to 457, and right-center from 429 feet to 407.

Babe Ruth and Roger Maris were both left-handed and when their era in the majors was up, the Yankees replaced them with some right-handed

sluggers like Dave Winfield. With the left center field fence at 457 feet, it would take a mammoth shot to hit one out, so in 1973, the stadium's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it would undergo major surgery. The Yankees moved the fences in again. "People want to see home runs," explained George Steinbrenner, the owner of the Yankee organization.

Today, that original 460-foot power alley in left center is now 399 feet, and the centerfield wall, once 490 feet away, is now 408. If Babe Ruth and Roger Maris could jack 60 and 61 homeruns out in one season with those dimensions, imagine how many they could have hit with the fences closer.

I propose that every Major League stadium should be required to have an area of no less than 230,000 square feet. The parks could be arranged however the owners and the designers see fit, as long as the fair territory covers an area of at least 230,000 square feet. This distance would be an average of 420 feet down both lines and 460 feet to dead center, just to give you an idea. There would still be the opportunity for originality in every ballpark's design, the number of homeruns would most likely decrease and most importantly, it would give the outfielders room to run.

The Yankees aren't the only ones that are going with shorter outfield fences. A lot of the newer ballparks are hitter-friendly because the outfield fences are closer, for instance: Balti  
*Continued on Page 8*



## 👉 Talk Back 👈

### “What is the *scariest* movie you have ever seen?”

By-Scott Cue  
Bear Facts Staff



Nancy Thomas  
Student

“*Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, because the plot was good, and you didn’t know what was going to happen next.”



Kandy Weigel  
Academic Achievement Center

“*Scream*, because there are people with guts hanging out.”



Brian Jacobsma  
Student

“*Halloween*, because I was watching it at night, and the guy did all of his killing at night.”



Allan Sitzler  
Student

“*The Exorcist*, because I don’t believe in the devil; he is bad.”

## Room to run

From Page 7

more, Cleveland, and Texas. The Houston Astros have moved their fences in as well. One may suspect that if the fences are moved back there won’t be as much excitement. However, with the fences being shortened, we will never get to see the excitement of an outfielder chasing a ball down 460 feet from home plate like in the 1954 World Series when Willie Mays made an unbelievable, full speed, back facing home plate, over-the-shoulder catch of the ball smashed off of Vic Wertz’s bat. This play has gone down in history as one of the greatest plays ever. These days when a shot like that leaves the bat, all the outfielders can do is turn around and watch how far it goes. On top of that, when the batter hits it, rather than legging out a double, triple, (which are next to extinct in today’s game) or possibly even an inside the park home run, he stands and admires it followed by a slow trot around the bases. How exciting is that?

Even players with not much slugging power have been able to rack up on the homeruns. On May 19, 1999, the Reds beat the Rockies 24-12. In the game, Jeffrey Hammonds, of the Cincinnati Reds hit 3 home runs, and he’s not even a power hitter. In the 1999 season Jay Bell, of the Arizona Dia-

mondbacks hit over 40 homeruns and in 13 previous seasons, he never hit more than 21.

One could argue that it just wouldn’t be convenient to move the fences back. Every year the cities with Major League franchises are pushing to get a new stadium. The problem could be avoided simply by making the fences longer in the original plans before construction gets underway. And, as for all of the other cities, moving the fences back would be a minute expense.

One way to cut down on the home-run total would be to raise the pitching mound again. This was done once in 1984, and hitters had their lowest average in years. The American League leading batting average was 301 and nobody in the majors had over 40 homeruns. In comparison, this year the leading batting average was 375, and two players had over sixty homeruns. By giving the pitchers an advantage, you will see a lot more swinging and missing and that would make for some pretty boring games. I don’t want to take the bat out of the hitter’s hands; I would like to see more action with less homeruns. With the fences moved back, the number of doubles and triples should escalate and, as I mentioned earlier, there would be a return of great catches like the 460-foot slam by Vic Wertz that Willie Mays ran down.

Another possible solution to cut down on homeruns would be to change

the way the baseballs are constructed. If they were made a little bit softer than the ones currently being used, a hitter would have to hit one extremely hard to send it over the fence. This would definitely cut down the amount of homeruns, but I must elude back to the doubles, triples, and great catches. With the same dimensions, the outfielders would still be limited on space. Granted, that would solve the problem, but why not kill two birds with one stone and improve the game on top of cutting back the homeruns. If every Major League stadium was required to have an area of no less than 230,000 square feet, there would still be the

opportunity for originality in every ballpark’s design, the number of homeruns would most likely decrease and most importantly, it would give the outfielders room to run.

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