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## Banner News

Trevor Gutknecht

KayCee Purdy

Brian Osborn

Jessica McNeece

Cainon Leeds

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# Banner News

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## Chemistry sends volleyball to NJCAA National Tournament

By Trevor Gutknecht  
Staff Writer

The DMACC Bears volleyball team has qualified for the NJCAA Division II National Championships by clinching the regional championship with a victory over Iowa Central Community College on Nov. 9.

The team will travel to Toledo, Ohio, to play on Thursday, Nov. 21, as the 11 seed to take on Glendale, Ariz.,

which comes in as the six seed. The game is scheduled for 9 a.m. (8 a.m. Iowa time.) The matches will be streamed at [www.ihigh.com/owenscc/](http://www.ihigh.com/owenscc/).

This is the first time since 2009 the team has qualified for the national tournament and the fifth time in the past eight seasons.

Making the national tournament wasn't the only big moment for the team. Coach Patty Harrison reached her 600 career victory on Oct. 30 with

a win over Northeast (Neb.) Community College.

According to a press release issued by DMACC, Harrison called the milestone "awesome."

"I've had some good years," Harrison said in the press release. "I took what they had started at DMACC and ran with it. I love what I do and I think I am a heck of a better coach now than I was 20 years ago."

Nevada Meis, a freshman from Council Bluffs and a middle blocker on the team,



Photos courtesy of Matt Oliver/Boone News-Republican

DMACC volleyball team celebrates their win over Iowa Central Community College in the regional finals Nov. 9, sending them to the NJCAA national tournament in Toledo, Ohio, Nov. 21-23.

said the coach didn't share the accomplishment with the team. "But its great feeling. After all the hard work she has put in. It was an emotional win."

Shelia Menezes, the sophomore from Sao Paulo, Brazil, said this about her coach: "It's like, 'wow.' It shows that we have a really great coach."

Looking back on the season and how the team got to this point, Meis said, the team really pulled together. "We built up good chemistry over the course

of the season. We really pulled together on the court."

Menezes gave credit to the team's teamwork. "We didn't play for a single person, we played as a team."

As far as things that can be improved on, Megan Harn, freshman from Waterloo said, "Block coverage, we work on that every day in practice."

See VOLLEYBALL, page 4

## What's an example of showing thanks?

Brock Lundquist



"I lend out money to people whether it's roommates or whoever."

Jacob Helgeson



"I am always looking out for other people because they would do the same for me."

Heather Caruthers



"One of my students sent me an email after the semester ended to thank me for all the help."

Nick Thomson



"I do nice things for people, like give people rides."

Morgan Jones



"I help my grandparents with chores, like raking leaves and cleaning the gutters out."



# Banner News Staff

## Fall 2013

### Editor-in-Chief

Jessica McNeece

[jcmcneece@dmacc.edu](mailto:jcmcneece@dmacc.edu)

### Copy Editors

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

### Staff Writers

Trevor Gutknecht

[tjgutknecht@dmacc.edu](mailto:tjgutknecht@dmacc.edu)

KayCee Purdy

[kmpurdy@dmacc.edu](mailto:kmpurdy@dmacc.edu)

Jessica McNeece

[jcmcneece@dmacc.edu](mailto:jcmcneece@dmacc.edu)

POSITIONS AVAILABLE!

### Contributing Writers

Brian Osborn

POSITIONS AVAILABLE!

### Columnists

Zach Kowalik

[zlkowalik@dmacc.edu](mailto:zlkowalik@dmacc.edu)

Cainon Leeds

[ckleeds@dmacc.edu](mailto:ckleeds@dmacc.edu)

### Cartoonist

Erica Brown

[ebrown11@dmacc.edu](mailto:ebrown11@dmacc.edu)

### Web Editor

Carl De Vries

[cjdevries@dmacc.edu](mailto:cjdevries@dmacc.edu)

### Advertising Sales

POSITION AVAILABLE!

### Business Manager

Cainon Leeds

[ckleeds@dmacc.edu](mailto:ckleeds@dmacc.edu)

### Faculty Advisor

Julie Roosa

[jkroosa@dmacc.edu](mailto:jkroosa@dmacc.edu)

### Contact us

Room 115, 515-433-5092  
[bannernews@dmacc.edu](mailto:bannernews@dmacc.edu)

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## Tenth year for DMACC President



Dan Ivis/DMACC

Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Board Chair Joe Pugel (right) presents President Rob Denson with artwork celebrating 10 years of service to the College. The presentation was made during the September board meeting at Southridge. Denson said he loves his job and is dedicated to encouraging students to graduate and helping meet the needs of Iowa employers.

## Bear Briefs

### Calling all creative writers

Students, submit your creative work by Dec. 5 for the opportunity to win cash prizes (top 3 stories and poems) and scholarships (1st: \$1,000 and 2nd: \$500), to be published in Expressions, to work one-on-one with a professional writer, and to present your work at a reading. For rules, regulations, and entry forms, please email Caitlin Hainley at [creativewritingcontest@dmacc.edu](mailto:creativewritingcontest@dmacc.edu).

### HiSET replaces GED test

Since 1949 GED has been the test of choice to determine whether a student has acquired the equivalency of a high school diploma. Starting January 2014, Iowa, along with other states, will begin using the HiSET test in place of the GED test. It will be similar to the GED with Reading, Social Studies, Science, Writing Skills, and Math tests.

All DMACC campuses, including the Boone campus, will begin to offer classes in January to help students prepare for HiSET testing. The first session is Jan. 13 through

Feb. 27. The second session will be March 3 through April 24. A summer session will be offered also. For more information please fstop by the AAC or call 515-433-5095.

### Childcare and Transportation help

A program called Iowa New Choices offers assistance with childcare and transportation for qualifying single parents and displaced homemakers (separated, divorced, widowed or spouse disabled.) For information, contact, Erin Neumann, Room 124, [eaneumann@dmacc.edu](mailto:eaneumann@dmacc.edu). Or call 515-433-5037.

### Writing Center open for business

Writing Center consultants are available to help with any writing assignment, during any part of the writing process. With their experience in different types of writing (technical to creative writing) and a broad range of life experience (journalism, firefighting, novel writing, Hawaiian culture, literature, and veterans affairs), you're sure to find someone that "gets you." Stop by Room

170 during office hours. No appointments necessary for this free service. For more information, contact Krystal Hering, WC coordinator, [klhering@dmacc.edu](mailto:klhering@dmacc.edu). Or visit <http://go.dmacc.edu/boone/writingcenter/>

### Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa is the International Honor Society for two-year colleges. Students are invited to attend to find out more about joint PTK. For more information, contact Nancy Woods, [nawoods@dmacc.edu](mailto:nawoods@dmacc.edu), 515-433-5061. Or Stacy Amling, [slamling@dmacc.edu](mailto:slamling@dmacc.edu), 515-433-5089.

### Differences United (LGBTQSA)

Differences United (LGBTQSA) is a student organization to support students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, or questioning, and their straight allies. We'd love to hear your suggestions and ideas for making this a great resource for DMACC Boone Campus students. Contact Krystal Hering, [klhering@dmacc.edu](mailto:klhering@dmacc.edu), 515-433-5212.

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## Universities, NSA partnering on cybersecurity programs

(MCT)

WASHINGTON — Universities across the country are racing to prepare the next generation of cybersecurity experts before a major cyberattack leaves the country's networks struggling to reboot.

Nearly 200 schools have partnered with the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security to meet the growing need.

The NSA, headquartered in Fort Meade, Md., and the homeland security department have partnered with 181 schools to come up with new programs in hopes of drawing more students to the booming field while securing the nation's information infrastructure.

For a school to be considered a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance or Cyber Defense it must adhere to the criteria outlined by the NSA and DHS. Certification ensures students leaving school with a background in cybersecurity have the necessary skills to help secure major networks for the government or private sector.

The requirements are broken down into 10 sections to evaluate the school's cybersecurity program in areas including academic content, the number of faculty who actively teach courses in cybersecurity, and student involvement in cyber-research.

Schools must offer classes in C programming language, networking, discrete math and cyberdefense, among other topics, in order to meet the NSA's academic content requirements.

In addition to government agencies, private companies have also partnered with computer science programs across the country in an attempt to educate students on how to effectively fortify and locate security breaches in computer networks.

With the help of \$1.1 million from Falls Church, Va., based Northrop Grumman, a defense and information technology company, the University



Mark Harrison/Seattle Times/MCT  
Mikhail Davidov, right, is a senior security consultant with the 20-person Leviathan Security Group. Duncan Smith, left, is his colleague. A Leviathan official says most of their clients are Fortune 1000 companies.

of Maryland created a new cybersecurity program emphasizing multidisciplinary solutions called Advanced Cybersecurity Experience for Students. The program contrasts with more technical approaches to cybersecurity problems preferred by other programs.

"Cybersecurity is really a systems problem. Some say it is a technical problem, but you need to look at the problems globally," said Michel Cukier, the director of ACES.

To combat the problem, Cukier said the new ACES program aims to focus on multidisciplinary approaches to cybersecurity. The program brought together 57 freshmen — from the computer science, engineering, and business majors — to analyze problems and discuss solutions in cybersecurity.

"Things will change, it's a field where you need to learn all the time," Cukier said. "We want to teach students that they need to keep their eyes open to get the most global picture to solve the problem."

Cybersecurity experts, who gathered at the Atlantic Council's first Cyber Risk Wednesday recently in Washington, continue to warn that a substantial cybersecurity attack may occur in the U.S. at any time. The same experts also believe the government and the private sector are woefully underprepared to deal with a major attack.

Larry Castro, managing director of The Chertoff Group, said at the Atlantic Council's panel that the government lacks the ability to efficiently prepare for or recover from a major cyberattack.

"Our country quite frankly does not have a governance structure that allows us to begin to either prepare for, or recover from, in some other than very chaotic way from a massive cyberoutage," Castro said.

Although a cyberattack leaving the U.S. without power for an extended period of time may not be realistic, cybersecurity experts said they believe an attack could compromise the networks of an entire industry, said Jason Healey, director of the Cyber Statecraft Initiative at the Atlantic Council.

Similar to how the risk management decisions of companies like Lehman Brothers affected companies that did not have a key role in the sub-prime mortgage crisis, the interconnectedness of information technology can leave entire industries vulnerable to the fallout of a successful cyberattack on just one company.

"There is a widespread understanding that this is an unmet need and universities are a good vehicle to bridge that gap," said Steven Weber of Drexel University's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in Philadelphia.

## Results split in smoking poll

By KayCee Purdy  
Staff Writer

New York City has increased the age a person has to be to legally buy tobacco to 21.

According to the Huffington Post, city officials including Mayor Bloomberg strongly supported raising the legal smoking age, as well as raising the price of a pack of cigarettes to a minimum of \$10.50 a pack.

They boasted the health implications, especially how it would deter underage smoking. Hawaii will be looking at similar legislation in December, and other states may begin adopting this policy as well.

An unscientific survey on the issue of raising the smoking age was conducted consisting of local residents and DMACC staff, faculty, and students. Out of 43 people surveyed, 19 people believe that the legal smoking age should be kept at 18, 22 said they believe it should be raised to the age of 21, and 1 person said they were not sure. Only 11 of those surveyed were smokers, but all the smokers agreed that the smoking age should not be raised.

The concerns that those who didn't want the legal smoking age to be raised had were unanimous. The first concern is that this kind of smoking poli-

cy will create a larger epidemic of underage smokers having people of legal age buy their cigarettes, or do unlawful or immoral deeds to get what they want.

"I am an adult, I should be able to buy cigarettes,"

Boone resident

Chad Nolan said. "If this was the law in Iowa, I couldn't buy my smokes anymore, and you're damn right that I would get someone to get them for me anyway," he said.

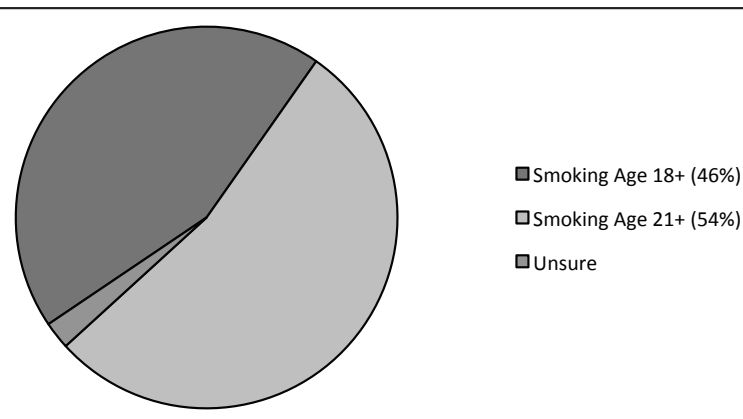
Corissa Ahrens, a non-smoker said, "But what about soldiers? They risk their lives and/or die for their country at the age of 18, but they aren't able to drink or smoke. I don't agree with that," she said. "If the law was changed for them, I would be happy for the legal smoking age to be raised for the rest of us."



Nolan



Ahrens



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# Volleyball plans to carry momentum to Nationals

**VOLLEYBALL, from page 1**

Chemistry is a big part of the players and team. Even Orv Salmon, Athletic Director for DMACC mentioned it. "They're a good group of girls."

"They're a tough minded team," Salmon said. "They have been fun to watch all season."

When asked about who has stepped up this season, names like Sarah Frish, Barbara Soranzo and Shelia Menezes came up. But Menezes herself has an interesting take, "The whole team has stepped up. Each player is a leader."

The team finished with a conference record of nine and one, a couple victories stuck out to Meis, "Kirkwood was a really good win, that really helped our season."

Harn brought up the win at Iowa Central, "going to Fort Dodge is always tough, they have a hostile crowd."

The team finished the season on a three match winning streak, Meis plans on carrying over that momentum to the tournament.



Photos courtesy of Matt Oliver/Boone News-Republican

**Top Left: DMACC bears make it to the NJCAA National tournament. This will be the first since 2009 but the fifth in 8 seasons. Top Right: Bears were awarded individual medals and a team plaque for being Regional Champions. Bottom Right: Barbara Soranzo celebrates by jumping on teammate Sheila Menezes.**

"It gives us a lot of confidence. It shows us that our matches should only take three games," said Meis.

Menezes said this about the conference record, "This year is different, we all played together and we played with great energy."

"I think our team is better than last year," said Menezes. "There wasn't as many road blocks this season."

The tournament schedule can be found on the volleyball page of the DMACC athletics website.



# Oz's fantasy football picks



**By Brian Osborn**  
Contributing Writer

**Start of the Week**

**QB- Tom Brady:** This will be 14th meeting between Tom Brady and his rival Peyton Manning. Thus far, Brady is 9-4 against Manning and I expect it to go to 10-4 after this showdown. Brady has a long resume of example where he has shredded mediocre defenses and the Broncos fit in that category. The Broncos' pass defense has been at the bottom of the league throughout the season allowing 279.1 pass yards per game and are ranked 11th in league with 18 touchdown passes allowed. Even with the wide receivers that he has (who should have a lot more respect now), Brady should have a great game.

**RB- Mark Ingram:** Ingram had a career game against the Cowboys where he rushed the ball 14 times for 145 yards and a touchdown. I'm looking for him to continue this success against their division rivals, The Atlanta Falcons. The Falcons are ranked 30th against the run, allowing 132.7 yards per carry. The Saints do spilt carries between Ingram, Pierre

Thomas, and Darren Sproles, but Ingram is more of the work horse back with a lot of power and is really utilized in goal line scenarios, which is good news for you. Plus with the Falcons defensive line being in shambles since John Abraham left, I am expecting to get a lot of production out of Ingram.

**WR- Wes Welker:** Who doesn't like shoving it in someones face when they doubt you or blow you off. Well that's why I am picking Welker this week. He gets to go up against the Patriots who didn't want to bring him back because they were getting nervous about his age and didn't want to pay. Well he now has 648 yards receiving which is ranked 23rd amongst receivers and is ranked 4th with 9 touchdown grabs. Expect Peyton to feed Welker the ball early and often to show the Patriots' brass what they are missing.

**TE- Rob Gronkowski:** Since Gronk has returned from injury, he has played three games excluding November 18th monday night match up. In those three games he has had 19 receptions for 284 yards and a touchdown. He has been playing lights out and with the suspect receiving company he keeps, he tends to get a lot of looks. As I said before, the Broncos pass defense has been pretty bad. One of their worst points of that defense is covering tight ends. They just don't have a lot of good match ups that can go against Gronk.

**Sits of the Week**

**QB- Ryan Tannehill:** Tannehill has been like most of my ex-girlfriends, first he's hot,

then he's cold, hot, cold, hot, cold, I can't keep up with it. Lately he has been pretty cold. Last Monday night, Tannehill and the Dolphins gave the o-8 Bucs their first win of the season. This next week is only going to get worse for Tannehill and co. as they go against the Panthers and their first-ranked defense. The Panthers are ranked fourth against pass allowing 201.3 passing yards per game and have allowed the least amount of touchdown passes this year other than the Titans who are tied with them. Plus with Luke Kuechly having a "defensive player of the year" kind of year, life is going to be very difficult for Tannehill.

**RB- Chris Johnson:** Johnson has also been really off and on this year. He can bust out 90 yards on 19 carries like he did against the Chargers in week 3 and then 21 yards on 15 carries the very next week. This week he will be playing

the Raiders. If you have been keeping up with my columns, you would have read that the Raiders hadn't allowed a rush for 20+ yards through week 8. Well going into week 12, that number is only one now. Especially in the age of the NFL that we are now where pretty much all running back split carries, you need your back to be able to break off those big runs and the Raiders aren't letting them do it. I would sit Johnson unless you have no better option.

**WR- Mike Wallace:** Remember earlier this year when the Dolphins had a great draft and spent a lot of money to bring in some pretty high end free agents and everyone was expecting to win the AFC East? Yeah.... It didn't pan out too well. Mike Wallace was one of the players that they made it rain for and it has not been pretty. As of now he has 44 catches for 534 yards and only one touchdown. That yard-

age puts him at 40th in league. Plus, as I said before with Tannehill, he is going up against a really good pass defense. Put him in your flex at absolute most this week, but I am sure there are better options in the waiver wire.

**TE- Jordan Cameron:** It pains me to write this because Cameron has been such a stud this season and he is on my fantasy team, but it isn't looking good for Cameron this week. He will be going up against the Steelers, which you may think is a good match up since the defense is nowhere near where it has been in recent years, but the one thing that they are really good at is shutting down tight ends. Even with old man Polamalu, he is a future hall of famer and still packs a punch. He isn't completely forsaken since he is the most reliable receiver on the team, but I think it is going to be tough for Cameron.



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# Softball thinks spring in off-season workouts

By Jessica McNeece  
Editor in Chief

For softball there are no breaks from practices or seasons.

The Bears go from fall softball, which ended Oct. 15, to off-season workouts, which take place Monday through Thursday, to spring season, which starts Feb. 20 with a tournament in Rosemont, Minn.

That means in exactly three months members of the DMACC softball team will switch from their off-season workout schedule to the regular season game schedule.

Softball captain Allison Fitzgerald sees the progress of the team from their daily workouts as they work on building strength and speed.

"My expectations for the season are that everyone contributes hard work, has great teamwork, utilizes communication and has fun. It's also very important to have a goal and have a good process to reach that goal," said Fitzgerald.

The Bears finished 2013 ranked sixth in the nation. The team had a 38-9; 22-6 record, placing them second in conference.

Sophomore captain Kaylee Buch has made goals as well to succeed.

"My expectations for the season would be to have a good work ethic and process through out the season and to stay ranked in the nation, win the region, and make it to nationals," said Buch.

Head coach Bob Ligouri has a plan to reach those goals that the players have set.

"We want to challenge our players. In the fall we played a lot of high-level competition (including Iowa State). We want to play at a championship level," said Ligouri. "We are going for the process, focus on the day and getting better than the day before."

As a leader and captain, Buch has a responsibility over the team and keeping them on track.

"I plan to lead my team

by example. We are in our off-season now and I want to keep pushing the team so that we can hit our full potential," said Buch.

Ligouri tells his players "improve 25 percent." If everyone can improve 25 percent, then that makes the team 500 percent better than when they started, said Ligouri.

The team got beat out by Kirkwood in the regional championship last year on May 7, ruining their chances to go to nationals.

Buch doesn't see that happening again this year.

"We have a lot of good players that are very talented. We had a good fall season and played well against good teams so that gives me a lot of high expectations for the spring," said Buch.

Fitzgerald can see the potential in the team for the spring.

"Our 'pros' that we have is the talent the team brings and the chemistry we all have," said Fitzgerald.

## Sports Round-Up

### Cross Country

The DMACC cross country finished up its season at the NJCAA Division I National Championships on Nov. 9 in Fort Dodge. The team finished 32 in the field. They were led by freshman Kim Teno of Albia, scoring 874 points in the meet, placing her 98<sup>th</sup>. Iowa Central Community College won the title.

### Women's Basketball

DMACC women's basketball traveled to Cedar Rapids for the Kirkwood Classic Friday Nov 15-16. The team went .500 at the tourney losing to Illinois Central 95-75, then bouncing back, beating Parkland 79-72. The teams was led by their All-American sophomore Carlee Schuhmacher combining for 70 points and 25 rebounds over the course of the tournament. With the 1-1 split, their record now stands at 5-2.

### Men's Basketball

DMACC men's basketball hosted the Baymont Inn & Suites Classic Nov. 15-16. The team took on County Upper Academy and John Wood, winning both games. The Bears beat County 103-28. Freshman forward Jamar Hurdle of Milwaukee scored 17 points off 80 percent shooting from the field and collected 5 rebounds. The team beat John Wood 81-70. Freshman guard Aarias Austin of Gurnee, Ill., led the team with 28 points shooting 11-14 with 2 rebounds and 2 steals. Their record with the two wins now sits at 5-2.

# Frisch sees double duty with basketball, volleyball

DMACC - Sarah Frisch, a sophomore from Grundy Center, was a standout player on the 2012-13 Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) women's basketball team, helping the Bears to a 24-8 overall record and a 12-4 mark in the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference (ICCAAC), good for second place.

This year Frisch has expanded her talents by joining the DMACC volleyball team and has helped the Bears to the ICCAAC championship, a National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region XI-A title and a berth in the NJCAA Division II National Championship.

"Volleyball has been a part of my life since fourth grade and after a year of not playing, I decided I wanted to try it again," said Frisch, who starred in volleyball and basketball at Grundy Center High School. "After a year of not playing, I decided I wanted to try it again."

DMACC women's basketball coach Steve Krafcisin



Photo by DMACC

Sarah Frisch (3) a sophomore from Grundy Center has been a stand out for volleyball and women's basketball. Frisch tops the volleyball team in blocks and is ranked fourth in kills.

gave Frisch permission to join the volleyball team, knowing

he wouldn't have one of his best players for the first three or

four weeks of the season. And DMACC volleyball coach Patty Harrison accepted Frisch with open arms.

"She initiated the contact and wanted to give (volleyball) a shot," Krafcisin said. "I think this is a place that if you are able to do it, it's a good opportunity. She does both well and I think she has been a big help to Patty."

That might be an understatement. Frisch leads the Bears in blocks with 197, including a team-high 159 block assists, and also has a team-high .318 hitting percentage. She has 253 kills this season, fourth best on a team loaded with hitters.

"We were more than willing to have her," Harrison said. "She came to me and said she had made a promise to herself that she was going to play both sports and that she was going to honor that promise. She's a great kid and is good at both sports."

Harrison said Frisch actually joined the volleyball team last spring after the basketball season had concluded.

"It helped that she was

able to play with us last spring," Harrison said. "She was able to get some swings in after basketball. She's a hard worker and the more she plays the better she gets."

Krafcisin said Frisch's absence from the basketball preseason and early-season games has enabled him to give opportunities to some of his freshmen athletes, which will benefit the team as the season progresses. And, of course, Frisch will be a bit behind the other players when she joins the basketball team.

"We're not doing everything the same as last year, but she's a smart girl and I think she'll pick it up pretty quick," Krafcisin said. "I think in February and March she'll be a little fresher and when she does join us should add a little fire and energy. It's going to be a win-win for us."

Frisch is confident that she has made a good decision.

"In high school I played club volleyball year around so I've had to juggle both," she said. "It is hard work, but I'm used to that kind of stuff."

## Sports Calander

### Men's Basketball

Nov 23	Dakota County @ Boone	3 p.m.
Nov 25	Simpson J.V. @ Boone	7 p.m.
Nov 30	Illinois Valley @ Oglesby, IL	3 p.m.
Dec 04	Southeastern @ West Burlington	7 p.m.
Dec 08	Graceland J.V. @ Lamoni	2 p.m.

### Women's Basketball

Nov 23	Briar Cliff J.V. @ Boone	1 p.m.
Nov 24	Ft. Scott @ Boone	2 p.m.
Nov 01	Southeastern @ Boone	2 p.m.
Dec 08	Midland J.V. @ Boone, IA	2 p.m.

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# Black Friday gobbles up Thanksgiving — and grows into a 2-month season

(MCT)

Black Friday, my how you've grown.

Once an event on the day after Thanksgiving — and the traditional start of holiday shopping — this year, you've grown into a two-month season of nonstop door buster deals, super sales and early early-bird specials.

"It's not a start or an ending to anything like it used to be," said Ken Nisch, chairman of JGA, a branding and retail design firm in Southfield, Mich. "We're in a whole new territory."

And while we may complain that Black Friday has no boundaries, holds nothing sacred — not even our Thanksgiving dinner with friends and family — the truth is many of us will ditch our loved ones (or take a few along with us) to dance and deal with the retail monster we've created.

This year, 38 percent of shoppers are likely to shop on Thanksgiving Day or night, according to a survey by Accenture, a management consulting company. Add to that: 55 percent of shoppers are likely to hit the stores on the day after Thanksgiving, compared to 44 percent in 2011.

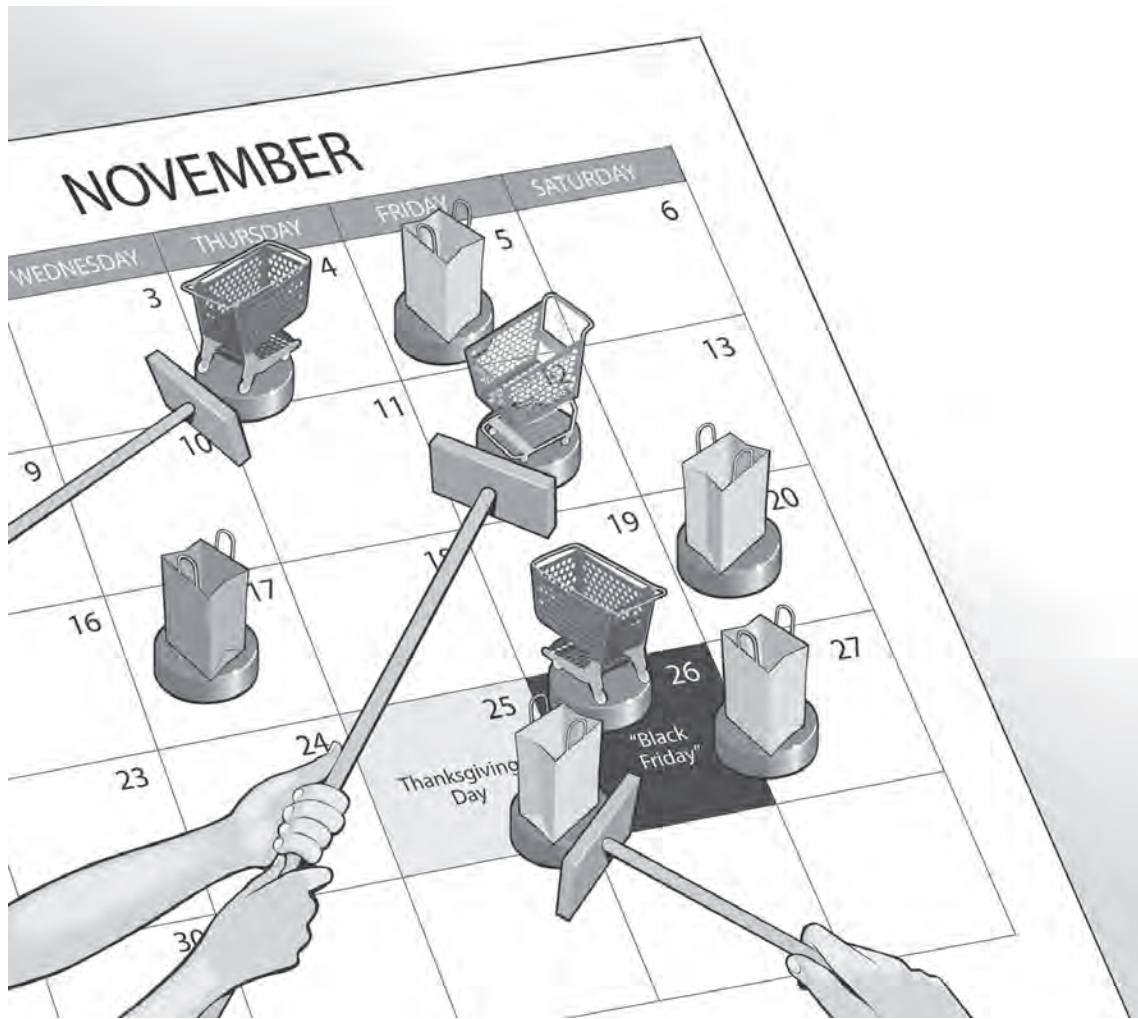
Even though more shoppers are expected to be shopping, their overall holiday season spending isn't expected to be much more than it was in 2012.

Stores know this and are working harder to lure shoppers. Shoppers know this, and are being picky. And this is how Black Friday morphed into a season that starts Nov. 1 and ends Jan. 1.

## A DIFFERENT WORLD

Once upon a time, stores closed on Thanksgiving and families and friends went to the parade or football game or grandma's and ate and argued and studied store circulars before heading out about 5 a.m. on Black Friday, full of anticipation.

Then, in the 1990s, technology happened. Amazon.com opened for business in 1995. The Internet allowed us to shop at home on Thanksgiving Day. Now Wi-Fi and smart-



phones allow us to shop anywhere — the parade, the game, the car, grandma's house.

We love spending the holiday shopping online for many reasons, including that we're easily bored.

"We are just so wired and connected to everything that is going on. We just don't know how to deal with the idle time because we're so conditioned to being entertained or active or interactive every waking minute," Nisch said.

"Christmas or Thanksgiving are what used to be the white space. I don't think the consumer is wired to have that white space," he added.

Since 2008-'09, when stores were forced to sell off merchandise at huge discounts because the economy took a downturn, we have become increasingly deal-oriented. We expect more things to be on sale at bigger discounts than ever before. According to Accenture, 62 percent of shoppers said they need a discount of 30 percent or more to persuade them to make a purchase.

"To me, 25-percent off isn't that big of a deal," said

Lisa Benedict, a bargain shopper whose attitude about what constitutes a deal changed, in part, because of the sizable discounts retailers offer all year. There's a sale every day — you don't have to wait until after Christmas to get ornaments half off anymore. You don't have to wait until September to get a good deal on a swimsuit, or until May to get a good deal on a winter coat.

Benedict knows that in many cases, she's going to get additional percentages off her purchases because of coupons and other incentives — a practice stores have become really good at doing. "To move me to even look for my keys, it's got to be 40-percent off or more.

"I do get the paper on (Thanksgiving) morning, and after everything's in the oven, I sit down with a Sharpie and circle what stores are going to offer and see what I can find online — the pricing online, compared to the actual sale. I want as much bang for my buck as I can possibly get," said Benedict, who is 47, has two teenage daughters and lives in Oakland Township, Mich. "I have to look

at what's being offered — can I get this anywhere else?"

## A RUSH FROM THE CRUSH

The desire for the best deal possible is what gets people to the stores on Thanksgiving Day.

"They're afraid of missing something," Nisch said. "They're afraid of being afraid of missing something. 'If I don't go, what might I not see that I would have seen if I do go?'"

Michael Bernacchi, a University of Detroit Mercy marketing professor is more blunt: "We are an addictive society. We're addicted to shopping. We're addicted to thinking we're getting the best deal.

"If nobody shopped on Thanksgiving, (stores) wouldn't open," Bernacchi said. "They would forget about it."

Plus, he said, there's a social aspect to shopping on the holiday that can't be beat. "Part of the experience, being in there with the shoppers, you can't get that online. The whole idea — the feel, the sounds, everything."

Most analysts are predicting small increases in holiday spending this year — the Na-

tional Retail Federation is expecting a 3.9-percent increase in holiday season spending while predicting shoppers will spend 2-percent less on gifts, decor and greeting cards.

Our growing savvy in seeking out deals, comparing prices, invoking price matching from competitors, and the sheer volume of places to shop creates increased competition from stores to grab what they can from us. In most cases, spending won't go up tremendously, and stores need to lure us in.

Starting a Black Friday sale early, turning Black Friday into a season instead of a single event, gives a retailer an advantage. Shoppers respond to the phrase Black Friday.

"A lot of people are predicting a tough Christmas. First mover gets the pocketbook," said Nisch, referring to establishing an early Black Friday presence.

Amazon already started its Countdown to Black Friday sales, telling shoppers, "Since you're already here, looking for Black Friday deals, we kicked off the deals a little early." Friday's deals included a garbage disposal for 62-percent off, a Calvin Klein robe for girls for 52-percent off and a Dell desktop computer for 26-percent off.

And for the first time ever, www.walmart.com decided to put items on sale Nov. 1 — like a 10-inch tablet for \$49 and a 42-inch JVC LED TV for \$299. It had been saving those things for Thanksgiving weekend.

Nov. 1 is "historically when we see a spike in our traffic," on Walmart.com, said Jaeme Laczowski, director of media relations for Walmart. "For us, it made a lot of sense."

At the same time, if every day is Black Friday, will the sales on Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving lose their power?

"It may start early, but it's still Black Friday," said Britt Beemer, chairman of America's Research Group, which tracks consumer behavior. "It's tradition, it's something that's unique in the country."

Even if it is the monster that ate Thanksgiving,

# Christmas lights are going green

(MCT)

Traditional but energy-thirsty incandescent Christmas lights are facing a dim future.

Holiday light bulbs were exempted from the federal law that's phasing out other incandescent bulbs, and that seemingly ensured that they could keep decorating trees, decking halls and providing seasonal cheer. But now they're being put to a test as fearsome as a government regulation: competition.

LEDs — super-efficient lights that use a lot less energy than incandescents — have been around for years. LED stands for "light-emitting diode," which creates light by moving electrons over a semiconductor material, instead of heating up a filament, as a traditional bulb does.

LED technology was expensive, which limited the lights' appeal, but prices have dropped dramatically. A couple of years ago, LEDs to replace a

60-watt bulb cost \$40, but they can now be found for under \$10.

And LED Christmas lights are cheap enough that the larger ones save enough energy compared with incandescents that most of their purchase cost can be recovered within a year.

The shift is showing up at stores, which are selling more of the efficient lights. Walmart is devoting half of its shelf space for Christmas lights to LEDs and offering a string of 50 mini LED lights for \$5, down

from \$6.30 last year.

"We know our customers are gravitating toward them," said Debbie Serr, a Wal-Mart spokeswoman.

Costco is selling no incandescent Christmas lights at all.

General Electric, which has peddled holiday lighting for more than a century, expects two of every five strings of lights sold this year will be LEDs.

Sales of the lights were up 50 percent last year at the Light Bulbs Etc. store in Lenexa,

Kan., and while it's too early to say how they'll do this season, sales are expected to be strong again.

"I think eventually we'll see Christmas incandescents go away," said Larry Fuqua, general manager of the store.

ChristmasLightInstaller.com, which sells, rents and installs Christmas lights in several cities including Kansas City, says that 30 percent of new customers are migrating to LEDs.



*Taking the lead*

# Be a leader, give a speech



**By Cainon Leeds**  
*Columnist*

I never have liked giving speeches. My hands shake and sweat. I tend to go stiff. My voice becomes monotonous too. I even get antsy when I have to speak in front of a group of a handful of people. I would rather talk with people one-on-one.

And I'm not alone either. An often-quoted statistic from 'The Book of Lists' says that Americans fear public speaking more than death, and as Jerry Seinfeld once remarked, that means that most people would rather be the person in the casket at a funeral than the person giving the eulogy.

However, speech classes are required for most, if not all, academic programs at DMACC. For most, if not all, jobs, public speaking is absolutely necessary.

Leaders need to communicate. It's vital. Without communication, I would dare to say there would be no leaders because those who would be followers would never know their messages, what they stand for and who they are. Where would we be if Martin Luther King Jr., Winston Churchill and Billy Graham never gave a speech? Speeches are the lifeblood of every message and every cause.

I get that public speaking is important. I understand that and I have the greatest admiration for those who give speeches; however, I still don't like to give them and I used to avoid them whenever possible.

My transformation from hardcore hermit to willing public speaker occurred when I

found a cause that outweighed my fears.

When I was asked to speak before about 600 of DMACC's employees regarding donating to the Foundation Scholarship fund earlier this semester, the cause of more affordable higher education for future students meant more to me than the fear of messing up in front of 600 people. Since then, I've spoken before the DMACC Board of Directors regarding Leadership Iowa University and a session at the National Collegiate Honors Conference in New Orleans regarding the DMACC Honors Program. I was still scared out of my pants, but the messages I presented meant more to me than any possible humiliation.

In addition to practice, I've been attending some sessions and reading some books on how to improve my public speaking skills.

I attended a presentation at Leadership Iowa University by John Amato, the Director of Integrated Training at Tero International, an interpersonal skills and corporate training company. In his presentation, Amato taught his audience the importance of eye contact. He instructed us on how to pause when switching eye contact from person to person in the audience. By using this technique, speakers focus on one person in the audience at a time, project more of a conversational tone and appearance and tend to rid themselves of filler words such as 'um,' 'like' and 'you know.'

One of the main points in Amato's presentation that caught my ear something he said about fear while speaking in public. He said that the key to effective public speaking is not to eliminate anxiety while giving a presentation, but rather to manage that anxiety with some good old-fashioned practice.

Now I don't see myself becoming a great, or even a frequent public speaker, but if an opportunity to help a cause I believe in by speaking in public comes up, at least I will be proficient at it, which is what is expected of every leader.

# 'Leading Ladies' leads



*Photo by Cainon Leeds*

**The cast of "Leading Ladies" (back row) Danny Philpott, Zach Clark, Chris Shannon and KayCee Stickle (middle) Brett Edmundson, Andrea Anderson, Keith Schreiber, Nick Hicks, Corrisa Ahrens and (front) AJ Woolson.**

**By Cainon Leeds**  
*Columnist*

DMACC Boone's theatre production of the semester was "Leading Ladies" by Ken Ludwig. The play was performed Friday, Nov. 15, and Saturday, Nov. 16, at 7:30 p.m.

'Leading Ladies' is an outrageous 1950s farce about two failed Shakespearean actors from England (Leo Clark, played by Brett Edmundson, and Jack Gable, played by Danny Philpott) who pretend to be an elderly Pennsylvanian woman's (Florence Snyder, played by KayCee Stickle) long-lost nieces to receive a share of her \$3 million inheritance. The actors' scheme falls apart and comes back together in the most memorable and humorous ways possible.

The play begins with Florence's actual niece, Meg (played by Andrea Anderson), and her fiance, Duncan (played by AJ Woolson), preparing to go to a show starring Leo Clark and Jack Gable. Duncan, a preacher, does all he can to prevent them from going to the show, and succeeds.

Meanwhile, Leo and Jack's show falls to pieces and the duo are left with only two train tickets, their suitcases, a newspaper and a dollar. After reading about Florence Snyder's search for her English heirs, 'Max' and 'Steve,' Leo convinces a doubtful Jack of his scheme to impersonate Florence's heirs and inherit their shares of the fortune. Although the two actors discover from Audrey (played by Corrisa Ahrens), a waitress aboard the train and personal aide of Florence's, that 'Max' and 'Steve' are really 'Maxine' and 'Stephanie,' Leo remains undaunted.

Upon arriving at Florence's home, 'Maxine' and 'Stephanie' meet an open armed welcome from everyone, including Florence's doctor (played by Zach Clark) and his son, Butch (played by Nick Hicks), except Duncan, who remains skeptical of the two.

Leo is immediately smitten with love for Meg, and Jack with Audrey, the apple of Butch's eye. After hearing of Meg's infatuation with the 'famous' actor, Leo Clark, 'Maxine' devises a

plan to continue being Maxine, introduce Leo to Meg and win her heart before her marriage to Duncan in a month. With Maxine's nudging, a play starring Leo and Meg is planned for the day before the wedding.

While rehearsals are taking place, Jack becomes jealous of Leo stepping out of character whenever he pleases and decides to have the equally 'famous' Jack Gable make an entrance to sweep Audrey off her feet, literally.

In the meantime, Duncan receives a telegram from another 'Maxine' and 'Stephanie,' saying that they are on their way home. He notifies the police, telling them to be ready to arrest the imposters when the real Maxine and Stephanie arrive.

As the day of the wedding approaches and Meg is still on the fence about her love for Leo, Leo creates another scheme to catch Duncan in the act of undressing 'Stephanie,' a move that would jeopardize the wedding. Jack detests the idea but eventually consents.

A steamy letter is given to Audrey to deliver to Duncan on Stephanie's behalf, but she accidentally delivers it to the doctor. In the scene that follows, Jack does his best and fails to seduce Duncan, 'Doctor Lust, the Monster of Medicine,' as Jack later put it, kisses Stephanie and does his best to woo her and Butch, stricken with jealousy over losing Audrey, fights over Stephanie and kisses her as well.

With little time to spare, Leo kisses Meg and tries to force a confession out of her of her love for him. Meg reveals to Maxine that she does love Leo, but she loves Maxine more. Maxine rejects her, and a distraught Meg runs to her room.

When Jack and Leo regroup to discuss their lack of progress, Meg and Audrey secretly overhear the dynamic duo and discover the truth about 'Maxine' and 'Stephanie.'

Shortly afterward, Jack admits his guilt to Audrey of his own accord and proposes to her. She accepts.

Meg agrees to tell Leo her true feelings for him as long as Maxine is present at the same

time. Leo is in the middle of a classic switch-up game when the police show up and arrest the incoming 'Maxine' and 'Stephanie,' much to Duncan's displeasure.

In the end, Meg admits her love to Leo and agrees to marry him.

Here's my quick rundown of Friday night's show.

I was blown away by Danny Philpott's leading role as Jack and Stephanie. His delivery, his presence on stage and even his accents were nearly flawless. And I must say, he did look good in tights.

DMACC play veteran, Brett Edmundson, with his star role as Leo and Maxine did not fail to impress either. His multiple switch-up scenes and remarkable footwork in high heels kept his place at center stage.

Newcomers Andrea Anderson playing as Meg and Zach Clark as the doctor also caught my eye. Anderson seemed nervous at the beginning of the play, but by the second half, she overcame any difficulties with the stage and earned her place as a 'Leading Lady.' Clark's confidence and comedy with his role almost made the doctor jump from being a side character to a main character.

Fellow newcomers Nick Hicks as Butch, KayCee Stickle as Florence and Corrisa Ahrens as Audrey definitely fulfilled their supporting roles. They were faithful with what they were given and made the most of it. I hope to see them return for more plays.

One of my only criticisms came from the telephone scenes with Duncan, played by AJ Woolson. I'm not sure if this was part of the script, but there was noticeable stammering at times and once or twice, I had difficulty hearing what he said, and I was sitting in the front row. I did enjoy and was pleasantly surprised by his fits of rage toward the end of the play. Nicely done. Overall, I think this is one of the better plays I've seen from the DMACC drama department. There is a lot of new talent, which was both energizing and refreshing. Director Kay Mueller, the cast and the crew have certainly done it again.

## Opinions Wanted

Submit a letter to the editor at  
[bannernews@dmacc.edu](mailto:bannernews@dmacc.edu)

-or-

publish your own columns through the Banner News.

Column submissions must be:

-DMACC student or locally related

-Well informed (facts stated must be cited)

-Approximately 500-700 words in length

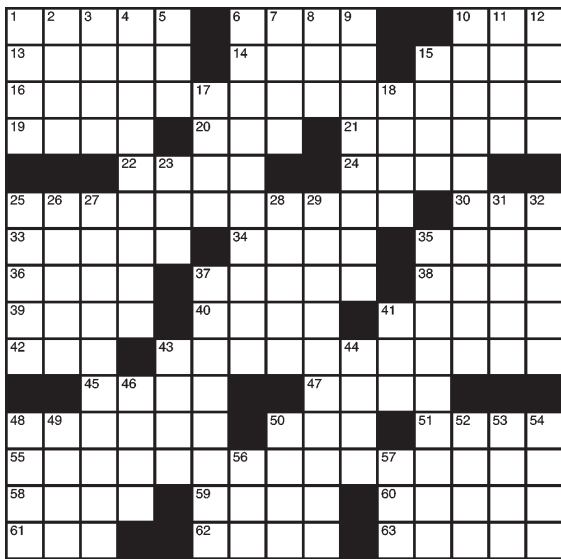
Please email us or stop by room 115 for submissions.



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Michael who plays Alfred in many Batman movies
  - 6 Mess maker
  - 10 Remote
  - 13 Lightweight synthetic
  - 14 Nothing, in Nicaragua
  - 15 Scheme in which three of four lines rhyme
  - 16 First two reindeer named in Rudolph's song
  - 19 Jai \_\_\_
  - 20 Fury
  - 21 Baseball legend Mickey
  - 22 It has a trunk but no wheels
  - 24 Layered cookie
  - 25 Use a mouse to move a file between folders, say
  - 30 Queue between Q and U
  - 33 Charged, infantry-style
  - 34 The Beatles' "Abbey \_\_\_"
  - 35 Administer, as justice, with "out"
  - 36 Eden exile
  - 37 Thorax organs
  - 38 Thor's father
  - 39 Book part
  - 40 Former Atlanta arena
  - 41 Lopsided
  - 42 Make a typo
  - 43 List of behavioral recommendations
  - 45 Cry of dismay
  - 47 Ten-speed unit
  - 48 Prisoner
  - 50 "How can \_\_\_ sure?"
  - 51 Ring of light
  - 55 2003 prequel subtitled "When Harry Met Lloyd"
  - 58 Many Keats poems
  - 59 Stunt rider
  - 60 Sprinkles or drizzles
  - 61 Was in first



By Erik Agard

11/18/13

- 62 "Don't touch that \_\_\_!"
- 63 Supplement

**DOWN**

- 1 Sonata ending
- 2 Inland Asian sea
- 3 "Casablanca" heroine
- 4 Diamond gem
- 5 Santa Barbara-to-Las Vegas dir.
- 6 Marching band percussion instruments
- 7 Freeway division
- 8 Unusual
- 9 Snits
- 10 Accounted for, as during calculations
- 11 36-Across' second son
- 12 Steak request
- 15 Djarist Frank
- 17 Nothing, in Nice
- 18 50-and-over org.
- 23 Critter before or after pack
- 25 Fall in folds
- 26 Plane tracker

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

B	U	O	Y	S	J	U	S	T	A	B	O	U	T
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T	N	O	T	E	S	D	E	M	E	R	I	T	
T	H	E	R	O	N	J	U	R	Y	D	U	T	Y
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S	W	E	E	T	E	N	E	D	H	E	L	O	T

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- 27 Made "talent" from "latent," e.g.
- 28 Prima
- 29 1980 De Niro film about a boxer
- 31 Clown heightener
- 32 Camp shelters
- 35 British heavy metal band with the album "Ace of Spades"
- 37 Not as tight as before
- 41 Cavity filler's org.
- 43 Census gathering
- 44 Regard
- 46 Research sites
- 48 Reversed entertainer
- 49 Naked
- 50 Inventor's spark
- 52 Bone-dry
- 53 Gave for a while
- 54 Roughly
- 56 506, in old Rome
- 57 Bikini top

# Review: A strong showing for 'Thor: The Dark World'



Photo courtesy Marvel Studios/MCT

Chris Hemsworth in "Thor: The Dark World."

This review appeared in the Iowa State Daily on Nov. 11. Reprinted with permission.

By Nick Hamden

I have a confession to make. I really enjoyed the first "Thor" movie, and I enjoyed it far more than everyone else I know.

It gets a lot of negative attention compared to the other "Phase 1" Marvel films, and personally, I disagree. I enjoyed it probably the third most out of all of the films, after "The Avengers" and "Iron Man." It had comedy; it had action; it had Norse mythology; and well, it had Thor. Like a lot of people my age, I first heard about the God of Thunder from watching "Adventures in Babysitting," which led to discovering the Marvel version. I think that film was received as well only because he was not as well known as the rest of the Phase I heroes.

So, "Thor: The Dark World" has an upward battle to climb.

This film takes place just as Thor, played by Chris Hemsworth, is proving why he deserves the "Mighty" adjective, by bringing peace again to The Nine Realms after the Bifrost was destroyed in the first film. He has been very busy, and could not return to Earth except for exceptional circumstances for that reason.

Unfortunately, the Convergence is about to occur, where the Nine Realms line up perfectly. It happens every 5,000 years, and causes all of the realms to be a bit wonky, creating portals to each other and messing with gravity/physics. It has also awakened an old threat, King Malekith, played by Christopher Eccleston, of the Dark Elves, who tried to destroy the universe at the last Convergence. He used an ancient magic source called the Aether, which has been hidden for thousands of years, but guess who found it? Oh, that meddling Jane Foster, played

by Natalie Portman, and her team (Kat Dennings, Jonathan Howard)!

At the same time, monarchy-based drama in Asgard is occurring, as Odin, played by Anthony Hopkins, and Frigga, played by Rene Russo, are planning on making Thor the next king, given the recent actions of Loki, played by Tom Hiddleston. But Thor's love for a mortal is worrisome and a cause for concern that he might be focusing too much of his attention on just one realm.

It is not too bad for Thor, I guess. He just has to save his very fragile love from the powers of the Aether, watch out for Loki while he is imprisoned in Asgard, deal with potential enemies on all sides, and try to stop an ancient race from destroying the universe. Probably just another Wednesday for him.

"Thor: The Dark World" features a whole lot of other actors, including the returns of Sif (Jaime Alexander), Heimdall (Idris Elba), Erik Selvig (Stellan Skarsgard) and The Warriors Three (Ray Stevenson, Zachary Levi, Tadanobu Asano). Well, Asano really was not in this movie much, and Levi replaced Josh Dallas, but hey, Stevenson is still there. Also introducing Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje as the second in command to Malekith.

One thing I learned from watching "Thor: The Dark World" is that Chris Hemsworth definitely helped cement himself as the only man who can play the God of Thunder. Over the summer, huge contract negotiations were taking place between Hemsworth and Marvel, the latter who claimed that they do not need him in "The Avengers 2: Age of Ultron," they could just hire someone else, and refused to budge. Well, eventually, they budged, thanks to the help of Robert Downey Jr., so presumably both sides reached a worthwhile agreement.

"Thor: The Dark World"

more or less gave me everything I wanted in a sequel movie, expanding on a lot of areas that the first film established. It still has the same level of comedy, so we are not just dealing with a serious space fantasy drama. The chemistry between Hemsworth, Portman and Hiddleston is electric, allowing the story to flow just a little bit better. The film also takes place a lot more off Earth compared to the first film, allowing the use of new landscapes and helping separate the franchise from the rest of the Avengers movies.

This does come with a downside, however. With a lot of the film set off world, we are given many more scenes that are heavy with CGI in order to create the scene, which gets tiresome after awhile. I would like more of it to be grounded in areas that are not created by green screens.

My biggest issue from the film actually has to do with the editing. I found the scene transitions really distracting, as on more than one occasion it felt like we were cut far too quickly to another scene, almost cutting off lines by the characters. We were not always allowed the appropriate time to even acknowledge what was just said, before having to focus our attention elsewhere. It made the pace of the film seem a bit off to me, and not what I would expect from a film at this scale.

Most likely, "Thor: The Dark World" will not get anywhere as close to touching the amount of money that "Iron Man 3" brought in. I hope that does not detract Marvel Studios from eventually bringing us more Thor outside of The Avengers.

This film had an excellent amount of drama, action and comedy to help create a fantastic theater experience, but has some technical aspects that distract me from giving it that perfect rating overall.

4/5

## This week's horoscope



(MCT)

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** -- Today is a 6 -- Stay close to home as much as you can; re-juice and restore. Keep up the good work; you're making a good impression. Don't believe everything you think. Realize a domestic dream.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** Today is a 7 -- Dream up a juicy goal, and then make it happen. Your skills are getting more impressive. Stop for long enough to give yourself credit. Keep on learning. No gambling or shopping. Craft your message, and get it out.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** Today is a 9 -- There are opportunities to make money, as well as some to lose it. Keep a clear head. Don't let it slip through your fingers. A little organization goes a long way. Friends succumb to your sparkling wit. Share a feast.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** Today is a 9 -- Your power is intense. Don't bowl someone over with your enthusiasm. Your dreams are achievable, and you see it. Follow your yellow brick road. Bring a friend for company and comfort.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** -- Today is a 6 -- It's easier to get things done privately now. Finish up old business with your creative touch. You're especially sensitive, and risk taking things too personally. Think about it for a while before spending. Comparison shop.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** -- Today is a 7 -- Everything is clear.

You see the changes you want to make. You're inclined to get a lot of work done; don't forget to play. Escape routine. Seize the day.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

Today is a 7 -- Career opportunities arise. You must be willing to play the game. Sometimes all it takes is a bold declaration, or to sign on the bottom line. You don't need to know how. Draw inspiration from loved ones and angels.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

-- Today is an 8 -- It's adventure time! Go to where you've never been before. And discover something about yourself by listening intently. Travel and romance look good for the next couple days. No need to be shy. Get philosophical.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

-- Today is a 7 -- Get ready for transformation, or just accept it. You feel rejuvenated and ready for action. Curiosity makes you quite attractive. Romance is part of the picture. Do financial planning. Grow your family wealth.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

Today is an 8 -- You're an expert at creating the right team for the task at hand now. You're encouraging and encouraged. Together you can do more than you thought possible. Don't leave anything to chance. Plan the route to take.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

Today is a 9 -- Embark on a challenging project at work, and succeed by thinking from a different perspective. Avoid distractions and focus on completion. Imagine the celebratory glass of bubbly, and the impact of the job done.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)**

Today is a 7 -- Love is definitely in the air, and serves comfort when money's tight. Finish something you promised. Honor your dreams and make them real because you say so. Make it fun. You'll soon have time to relax.