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Banner News

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Banner News

Des Moines Area Community College Boone Campus

Wednesday, March 10, 2010, Vol. 9, No. 11



Photo by Derrick Roffman

DMACC students Shannon Jefferson and Brad Burton compete in a preliminary round to get the most colors on one side of a Rubik's Cube in the Dash for Dollars event Wednesday, March 3 in the Courter Center. Jefferson won the round and the overall competition.

Students win cash at SAC event

By Austin Leeds
Columnist

DMACC student Shannon Jefferson left the Courter Center 133 dollars richer after winning the Dash for Dollars event on Wednesday, March 3. In what ended up being a very close race to the prize—a potential 500 dollars—Shannon faced off against Derrick Roffman, DMACC student, in the final round.

Progressing separately through the smaller, 25 dollars

challenges, Jefferson and Roffman went head to head in the final block-stacking challenge.

“She wasn’t even breaking a sweat,” Roffman remarked after watching a video of the event.

After stacking a tower of blocks over two feet high, meriting several amazed gasps from the gathered audience of DMACC students, staff, and faculty, Roffman inadvertently disrupted the tower and sent all the blocks crashing across a small table and

See Dollars on page 4

Phi Theta Kappa elects new regional officers

By Tanner Sandrock
Copy Editor

Every year, Phi Theta Kappa is tasked with electing new officers. Each of Iowa’s 28 chapters gets one vote. As a chapter, they discuss, deliberate, and finally cast one ballot.

This year, during the eleventh annual Phi Theta Kappa Regional Convention, the new officers were announced. The state of Iowa consists of four regions, each having their own officer to represent them, and one Iowa Regional President who is in charge of keeping communication open between the four smaller regions.

Newly elected officers included Iowa Regional President, Luke Gerst of Kirkwood Community College; Northwest Vice President, Rob Zahnd of DMACC Boone Campus; Northeast Vice President, Teresa Dehning of Northeast Community College; Southeast Vice President, Gloria Garcia of Scott Community College; Southwest Vice President, Therese Wissler of Iowa Western Community College; and Secretary and Public Relations Officer, Brittany Zumbach of DMACC Boone Campus.

Outgoing officers included Iowa Regional President, Toni Linberg of DMACC Carroll Campus; Northwest Vice President, Linda Mui of DMACC Boone Campus; Northeast Vice President, Beshara Moussa of Kirkwood Community College; Southeast Vice President, Mar-

cy Snook of DMACC Ankeny Campus; Southwest Vice President Jennifer Gehrls of Ellsworth Community College; and Secretary and Public Relations Officer, Stephaney Brown of Scott Community College.

Linda Mui, DMACC student and ex-Northwest Vice President said, “I believe that this new regional team has a lot of potential. They are a lot like the outgoing officers: personality wise, compassionate and passionate. I have complete faith in these people.”

Although Mui is stepping down from her office, she still has a lot planned with PTK. She graduates from DMACC this May, and she was asked to be president of the newly chartered Iowa Alumni Association. “I’ll be stepping out of one office into another office,” said Mui.

As for her term as Northwest VP, “It flew by,” she said. “I was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa one week. I was elected into office the next week, and from then on I’ve been on hyper-drive.” But when asked if it was a relief to be giving up some of her responsibilities, she responded, “Relieved? Kind of but not. It’s bittersweet. I loved being an officer, and I loved serving my region. It’s been fun, and I’ve learned a lot.”

Taking Mui’s office was fellow Boone DMACC student, Rob Zahnd. As well as being a full-time DMACC student, Zahnd is a full-time Paramedic and Firefighter

See Regional on page 3



Photo by Derrick Roffman

Local officers, Jason Borkowski, Linda Mui, former Northwest Vice President, Jennifer Doake, and Rob Zahnd, recently elected Northwest Vice President (left to right) pose outside the auditorium during PTK initiation on the Boone Campus.

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Photo by Mary Langel

The Boone Campus Concert Choir performed in Ankeny in a joint Winter Concert II with the Ankeny choirs March 6. This is the first time in DMACC history that the two choirs have shared the concert program and both directors, Jim Loos (Ankeny) and Steve Hoifeldt (Boone) said they hoped it wouldn't be the last. Shown above is Hoifeldt and the Boone Campus choir performing one of the four numbers presented Saturday night. Members who performed include (row 1) Ana Vilmain, Nicole Young, Brittany Zumbach, Gina Ryan, Travis Clary-Aust, Kevin Langel, Kara Sickau, Kritchmer De La Cruz, (row 2) Ashley Heun, Stephanie Erb, Angela Leopold, Sarah Jensen, Jana Grove, Marcia Johnson, Sam Nelson, Seth Reineke, Stephen Weimann, Chris Reiman and Reginald Stuhldryer.

Phi Theta Kappa helps feed Haiti

“We change a lot of lives.” ~ Hammer

By Tanner Sandrock
Copy Editor

The first night of the eleventh annual Phi Theta Kappa Regional Convention ended the way anyone would expect PTK to wrap anything up, with food packing for Haiti.

PTK with help from Outreach International has spent all of February trying to raise money to pack and send meals to Haiti. Their goal was 2,500 dollars and pack 10,000 meals, one meal costing a single quarter. Well, PTK smashed through their goal and raised around 4,400 dollars and packed one box short of their 10,000 goal and sent 9,884 meals only because they ran out of products to pack that night.

PTK had only promised to send 10,000 meals and even though they had raised enough money to send more, Outreach International only brought enough to make the around 10,000 meals.

Floyd Hammer, Director of Outreach International says the extra money made will roll over into the next food drive, which as of now will probably be next year.

“I'm thrilled, I really am thrilled. I'm amazed that students a quarter at a time are willing to

just step up and do this kind of thing,” said Nancy Woods, Advisor of the DMACC Boone Campus chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

“I think it went really well.” Said Anthony Ames, DMACC Student and new member of Phi Theta Kappa. “I think people enjoyed it and I had a lot of fun.”

Outreach International was founded in 2004 to build schools in places like Haiti. But after interviewing villagers they realized that their aim was a little off of what the villagers needed.

The Villagers priorities were first water, second food, third medicine and then finally education.

“If you are thirst, hungry and sick you can not be educated,” said Hammer.

Outreach International works with Life Line Ministries who distribute food water and medicine out of Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Last year Outreach International helped send 4 million meals while this year they have already helped send somewhere between 18 to 20 million meals with around 600,000 meals just coming from Central Iowa.

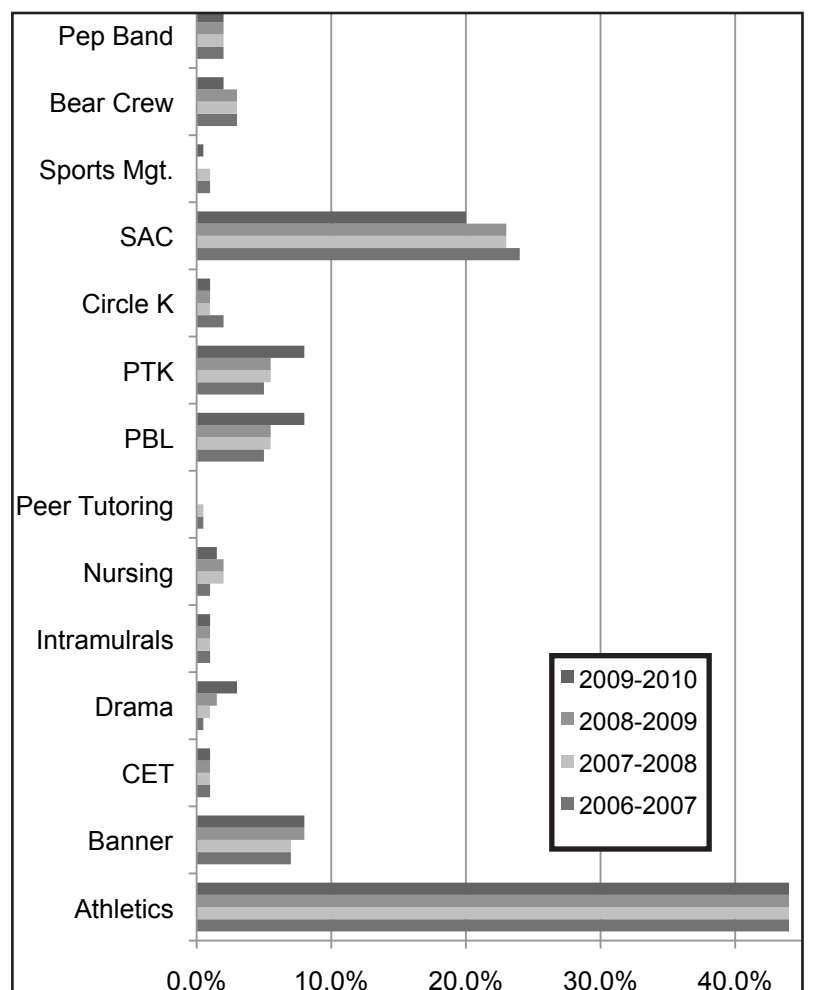
When Hammer was asked if Outreach International would be

working with DMACC again he responded, “We'd love too.” He said, “it was a good group, the people had a lot of enthusiasm.”

Next on the list for Outreach International is a medical trip to Africa in mid-March. They are taking 94 doctors and nurses, 38 of which are from Des Moines' Blank Children's Hospital and Mercy Medical Center. Also 3 members will be coming from England making this their first medical trip with international help.

Overall 104 individuals will be involved. They will have a full surgical team, a full pediatric surgical team and a full OBGYN.

Hammer says that this will be the seventh medical trip to Africa. He says everyone pays their own way and that “We change a lot of lives.”



SAC Budget 2006-2010

Wednesday March 10 at 10 a.m. in Room 129 the student activity council will be voting on the 2010-2011 budget. All SAC meeting are open to all DMACC students and community.



Cafe Hours

Monday- Thursday---7:30-6:00
Friday-- 7:30-2:00

Regional continued form page 1

for Boone County. He hopes that during his term he can help PTK chapters team up with their local fire department.

"We are having a tremendous spike of fire-deaths in Iowa," says Zahnd. "What I would like to do is see our chapters and our region work with local fire departments to help them with their smoke detector drives and battery drives and also educate the public. It's really a big task most fire departments no matter how hard they try, they sometimes fall short with the recourses to get our mes-

sage out there. I think Phi Theta Kappa is an amazing benefit and partnership opportunity."

Also stepping down was ex-Iowa Regional President, Toni Linberg a DMACC Carroll Campus students. Linberg was inducted into PTK in March of 2007. She says that she is a non-traditional student, going to school part-time and working full-time.

Although her term has ended she too has more plans involving PTK. She is currently running for international office as Vice President of Division 3, this division pertains to most of the Midwest. The election will be held this April during Phi Theta Kap-

pa's International Convention in Orlando, FL.

Linberg says, "Good luck," to those stepping into office and reminds them to keep communication open between each other, "especially when your spread across the state and you don't get to see each other as often, so if you keep in touch you can get a lot more done."

Taking her office is a student from Kirkwood Community College Luke Gerst. When asked what his motivation for running for this office was Gerst replied, "Having been in Phi Theta Kappa a year I saw people like me coming in as a 16 year old fresh-

man not really knowing the ropes, very scared, very intimidated, becoming regional officers and doing really great things and that's what I wanted to see."

"My big goal for this next year is to get our region to communicate better. I think we've done okay this past year; this past year was a big focus for communication as well but we are still lacking some things in the way of our regional Web site and getting the individual districts, which there are four split into 28 chapters, to work together as a distract and see what they can do together."

After the induction of the new officers PTK alum and past

International President of PTK Dr. Robert J. Exley, President of Snead State Community College of Boaz, Alabama, had a few words to say. Dr. Exley asked them to question the "Gestalt" of their lives or the whole of their lives. He asked them to think about where they were heading five, ten, thirty years from now and where they see themselves. He encouraged them to, "Have a purpose in life, not a title."

He said, "Set you goals higher. If you fail that goal learn something from it but don't lower you standards of where you're going to go. If you don't succeed set your goals higher."

BEAR BRIEFS

First Day of Spring March 20

Spring Break is March 15 through March 19.

Daylight Saving

Daylight Saving is approaching. Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour Saturday night, March 13 before you go to bed.

St. Patrick's Day

Remember to have a fun; happy St. Patties March 17.

Register for Summer classes

Career Education students: March 8 through June 1. Arts and Science students: March 11 through June 1.

The schedule of classes is online located on the DMACC home page. Be sure to register as soon as possible to get the best course selection. Stop by your Student Services department for registration assistance.

Casting call for DMACC students

Help promote DMACC; stop by the casting call from 10 a.m. to noon, on Thursday, March 11 Room 206. Selected students will appear in an upcoming "Welcome to DMACC" video production and other possible advertising that's being produced by DMACC's Enrollment Management and Marketing and Public Relations departments.

Earth Hour 2010

Turn off your lights for one hour on Saturday, March 27 at 8:30 p.m. Go to www.earthhour.org to sign up and make a difference in the awareness of climate change.

Palm Sunday March 28

Passover March 30

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Boone Campus
Award Winners
State Leadership
Conference

First Place

Felicia Albaugh

Word Processing

Fundamentals

Kathy Kinyon

Emerging Business Issues

Melanie Peebler

Business Graphics

Joni Rentschler

Emerging Business Issues

Who's Who in Iowa PBL

Jill Siders

Business Graphics

Vickie Spears

Applied Business Knowledge

Mikki Winebrenner

Payroll Accounting

Second Place

Felicia Albaugh

Payroll Accounting

Mikki Winebrenner

Accounting Analysis and

Decision Making

Mikki Winebrenner

Future Business Executive

Third Place

Melanie Peebler

Computer Concepts

Vickie Spears

Information Management

Mikki Winebrenner

Who's Who in Iowa PBL

Fourth Place

Joni Rentschler

Business Law

Fifth Place

Felicia Albaugh

Accounting Principles

Melanie Peebler

Computer Applications



Contributed Photo

Seven members of Phi Beta Lambda recently competed in the State Leadership Conference held in Iowa City Feb. 26 and 27. Members competing from the Boone Campus were (first row) Joni Rentschler and Mikki Winebrenner; (second row) Felicia Albaugh, Vickie Spears, Kathy Kinyon, Melanie Peebler and Jill Siders.

Seven qualify for national competition

DMACC--Members of the Omicron Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, DMACC's professional business organization, sent seven delegates to the 64th annual Iowa Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference, Feb. 26 and 27 at the University of Iowa.

First place winners from the Boone Campus were Felicia Albaugh, Word Processing Fundamentals; Kathy Kinyon, Emerg-

ing Business Issues; Melanie Peebler, Business Graphics; Joni Rentschler, Emerging Business Issues and Who's Who in Iowa PBL; Jill Siders, Business Graphics; Vickie Spears, Applied Business Knowledge and Mikki Winebrenner, Payroll Accounting.

Second place winners from Boone included Felicia Albaugh, Payroll Accounting and Mikki Winebrenner, Accounting Analy-

sis and Decision Making and Future Business Executive.

Students who placed first and second in their events can travel to Nashville, TN to compete nationally.

College membership in Phi Beta Lambda includes over 200 students statewide.

The nine colleges that participated in the conference included Ashford University, Da-

kota State University, DMACC Boone, DMACC-Des Moines, Grandview University, University of Iowa, University of Northern Iowa, Upper Iowa University and Wartburg College.

The DMACC Boone Campus chapter also received the first place award for the largest local chapter membership and second place for the largest percentage increase in chapter membership.

Summer job search sneaks up on students

By Jill Ackerman
Staff Writer

Some students have jobs during the academic year and do not have to worry about finding a job for the summer, but for others this may not be the case. Let the search begin!

Midterm was March 8, which marks the half way point for spring term. This means summer is almost here and many students will be looking for summer jobs!

Many businesses realize that college students are only looking for summer positions, so companies have started making jobs to fit this need, one example is College Pro Painters. They are a popular and well known company that is in the business of painting the exteriors of homes and also wash exterior windows.

There are two opportunities College Pro Painters offers for college students. They offer

painting positions and franchise manager positions. They train and equip both the painters and the managers for what they will experience during the summer. They promise to deliver a rewarding summer and the development of skills that will be beneficial for a future career.

The program focuses on business, marketing, financial, sales, technical knowledge and hands-on training. College Pro Painters allows this job experience to be counted as an internship. The student needs to check with their college or university to ensure that it counts for credit on the university's standards.

Another company that offers many summer positions is the YMCA. They have several positions in many different areas of in-

terest. There are positions in areas like, sports, aquatics, teen program staff, supervisors, lifeguards, site supervisors and many more depending on the location. In Iowa, the YMCA has eleven locations.

There are many Web sites that assist in the search for a summer internship. www.internshipprograms.com is a helpful Web site where the user is able to browse by location, employer, career field and the date that the internship was posted.

Students may not always realize that there is a department on campus to help with career exploration and employment. The DMACC Boone Campus has a career services center which guides students with resume, cover letter, thank you letter preparation and completing job applications.

Rita Davenport, a counselor on the DMACC Boone Campus says, "I work with students one-on-one to help them learn about themselves and find career choices that might fit well with their personalities, abilities and values." She also mentioned, "Indecision regarding career path can be a major barrier to academic success for many students."

DMACC also offers a one credit course, Career Exploration, which helps students who want to receive career counseling service and also get college credit for it.

For help with finding employment, DMACC Ankeny has an office for the whole district. The office gives information about summer employment and internship opportunities. They also have many tools to guide students in their search for employment this summer.

Dollars from page 1

onto the floor. Many members of the audience, who had been rooting for Roffman since the event started, groaned loudly as the tower fell.

After that, Jefferson was given a shot at grabbing 500 dollars out of the air—literally. Stepping into the "Cash Cube," a converted phone booth with an air blower installed in the floor, Shannon desperately tried to grab as many dollar bills as she could, stuffing them into an apron as they whirled up from the floor and over her head. Thirty seconds later, she had accumulated 58 dollars.

The host added 50 dollars, bringing her total up to 133 dollars, including 25 dollars she had won earlier.

In regards to spending her money, Jefferson replied, "I will save as much as I can. I am unemployed."

To see videos and photos of the event, check out Banner News' Facebook group, 'Banner Newspaper Online.'

Postcard from London

By Caitlin Palar
Contributing Writer,
Ankeny Campus Student



Caitlin Palar

You may be wondering what a classmate of yours is doing in London, England. Let me demystify this for you.

DMACC is part of a program called American Institute for Foreign Study, which allows for students from all partnering schools to sign up to study in London for a semester.

I am here with four other DMACC students and a DMACC professor who teaches us four out of five of our classes. Our fifth class is British Life and Culture which is taught by a British professor.

The duration of our semester is 10 weeks with classes Monday through Wednesday each week. This gives us four-day weekends to experience the city and travel to other cities in European. Also, for BLC class, we participate in day trips to places like Stonehenge and Bath.

The day trips have been so enlightening. We got on a bus in central London two weeks ago, drove two hours west, and spent the day exploring the ancient Roman Baths. Last week we drove almost the same distance and pulled up to Stonehenge.

The city of London
'This is only my third week here, and London has already changed my life.'

itself is full of history. The streets may look like any other modern city street you would see in America at first glance. However, if you tilt your head back and look up, you will notice the architecture that reflects the age and value of London.

Sometimes the feeling is overwhelming when I reflect on all the history I am surrounded by. For instance, the first time I walked by myself through the city, I passed St. Paul's Cathedral on my way to the Globe Theatre. When I crossed over the Thames River on the Millennium Bridge, life slapped me across the face and said, "Wake up! You are a part of all this!"

Most of the time, life in London is very normal. The Londoners have molded their modern lives around the history that dwells here.

A great example of how the locals live with the aged city is O'Neills Pub in Muswell Hill. Muswell Hill is the area of North London where I reside in a home stay. The other DMACC students live in the area as well. We meet several days a week at O'Neills which is a converted church. The atmosphere is spiritually inviting and provides for a good time.

Good times are easy to come by in London. How on earth do we get any school work done? We may not be in the midst of several blizzards like you all are at home, but we do have many rainy days that are perfect for staying in and doing homework. We save the walks along the River Thames from Big Ben to London Bridge for sunny days.

This is only my third week here and London has already changed my life. I encourage you to look into the DMACC study abroad program. Seriously consider adding a trip to London to your future plans. It is a life-launching experience that you will not regret.

Note: Please feel free to link to my blog page.
<http://caitlinannesblog.blogspot.com/>



Contributed Photo

O'Neills Pub in Muswell Hill is located in the area of North London where Caitlin Palar lives in a home stay. She said that other DMACC students live in the area as well and meet several days a week at O'Neills, which is a converted church. "The atmosphere is spiritually inviting and provides for a good time," said Palar.

Students travel to Belize

By Katie Cervantes
News Editor

Hundreds of ancient Mayan sites both excavated and jungle-covered, lush tropical rainforest with many species of birds, exotic tropical flora and fish, and the native experience.

These are just some of the sites Jeff Schroeder, political science professor, and eight of his students, will be seeing during their Spring Break trip to Belize City, Belize.

Schroeder and the students, will be leaving Des Moines Airport to head to Belize.

From Belize, they will be boarding a small prop plane to Placencia, Belize, home to the "Barefoot Perfect" beaches.

Placencia, has some of the best tropical environments in Central America. Snorkeling, saltwater fly fishing and exploring nearby Mayan ruins, are a few of the many of the activities they will be experiencing while in Belize.

DMACC student Eric Thiel, who is going on the Belize trip said, "We'll be fishing on an island, exploring Mayan ruins and we get to snorkel and see the Caribbean fish. They have a lot a caves in Belize and a lot have yet to be discovered."

Schroeder has traveled to Belize in past trips, but for Thiel and other students, it's their first time.

Thiel said, "I'm definitely pumped. I'm excited, but I'm a little worried because traveling always makes me nervous. I signed up for it a while ago, and realized that I'm about to go. I think I have everything I need and probably more. It's always better to be over prepared than under prepared."

DMACC student Nicole Erickson, who is also going on the Belize trip, said, "I'm very excited, but not quite prepared."

Erickson still has some shopping to do, but is she prepared to communicate with the natives? Erickson, who has already taken three

years of Spanish, said, "I'm not that worried; 80 percent of Belize speaks English."

Thiel explains why the majority of the country speaks English and a fewer number speaks Spanish.

"Seventy-three percent of the British that came here were African American slaves," said Thiel.

Historical accounts from the early 1700s note that Belize was conquered by the British and the Africans were brought to the settlement from Jamaica to work as slaves cutting timber. As early as 1800, Africans outnumbered Europeans by about four to one.

Some students are taking advantage of spring break vacation; others like Thiel, a history major, hopes for a better understanding of the country.

Schroeder and the students will be experiencing the culture, traditions and religion. Upon their return, DMACC students will be graded for their participation on the trip to Belize.

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Making the most of an old computer, Part One



By Austin Leeds
Columnist

At times, technology seems to move so fast. In the past five years, Windows has existed in three revisions: XP (released 2001), Vista (released 2007), and Windows 7 (released 2009). Mac OS X has gone through 10.4 Tiger (2005), 10.5

Leopard (2007), and 10.6 Snow Leopard (2009) in the same time period.

With a hectic update schedule like that, who has time to sit down and really enjoy their computer before the next update comes along? It's almost as if you have to drive a tank, fly a jumbo jet, and then turn around and captain your own private yacht, all with no time beforehand to learn how!

Sometimes, it's worth it to use an older computer. There are fewer surprises, fewer distractions, and fewer worries.

For example, I own a PowerBook G3 Pismo, a ten-year-old Apple Mac laptop. I've had it for nearly two years now, after buying it used off eBay. While it has needed its share of repairs and upgrades, the stress it has brought to my life has been nothing compared to the stress a brand-new laptop would have brought under the same circumstances. I haven't had to worry that my warranty would expire (it expired years ago), or that I couldn't run the latest programs (I knew that I couldn't before I bought it), or that it could get damaged and have to be replaced for many hundreds of dollars. Even so, there are many reasons why it is still a productive machine:

1. It supports the latest version of Microsoft Office for Mac, made in 2008.
2. I can browse the web wirelessly with my AirPort Wi-Fi card.
3. I can use Firefox 3.6 and Safari 4, just like everyone else.
4. I can go for ten hours without recharging my laptop, because of its twin high-capacity batteries.
5. I can watch DVDs with my removable DVD-ROM drive.
6. I can still run many useful applications, since I am using Mac OS X 10.4.
7. Yes, it does work with Facebook, though I don't use it much.

With that said, my laptop isn't the only useful old computer out there. In fact, even old Windows computers can have new life breathed into them. It just takes a little time, a little effort, a little (and I stress this part) investment, and a new operating system.

RAM (Random Access Memory—or just plain “Memory”) upgrades are probably the most-neglected useful addition to any computer—give a computer more RAM, and you'll be amazed what it can do. Most computers built back in the very late 1990s and early 2000s will take quite a bit more RAM than they were built with, usually up to 1 GB. Give a desktop a pair of 512 MB RAM sticks, costing anywhere between 25 to 50 dollars, and the benefits will be obvious the next time you turn on your computer.

Hard Drive upgrades are also important. With the market full of inexpensive, power-efficient, spacious hard drives, you can improve your storage space, as well as your overall system performance, by buying a new hard drive. A word to the wise, however; you'll want to back up the information on your old drive before you install your new one—new hard drives are completely empty and have no operating system, which leads me to my next upgrade.

Optical Drive upgrades are very beneficial. Taking a pure CD-ROM system to a CD-RW/DVD-ROM, for example, allows you to burn CDs and watch DVDs. Many computers will support DVD+RW upgrades, and some will even support Blu-ray.

I'll continue with some more upgrades in the next issue of the Banner News.

Concerts to come to Iowa

By Jill Ackerman
Staff Writer

Spring is quickly approaching and that means another round of music tours will be sweeping through Iowa. Whether jamming out to Taylor Swift's, “You Belong With Me” or The Black Eyed Peas, “Imma Be,” well known bands like these two, the tickets are sure to go quick.

Most music genres are covered this spring as bands move across Iowa. For country fans, Lady Antebellum will be performing at the Burlington Steamboat Days festival on June 20.

Picking it up a little bit and adding some hardcore shredding on the guitar, the Indie rock band, Angels and Airwaves will perform April 15 at the Val Air Ballroom venue.

The lighter alternative rock category is covered by the newer band, Owl City. Hoping over to its neighboring state (originally from

Minnesota) Owl City plays May 4, also at the Val Air Ballroom.

One of the bigger musical events in Iowa is the Veishea LIVE concert. Veishea, the spring event at Iowa State University, will be hosting Motion City Soundtrack as the headliner on April 16. The following day Hellogoodbye, Emerson Drive, Leslie and LY's, The Envy Corps, Down with Webster and the winner of Battle of the Bands perform at the outdoor concert.

Battle of the bands is a contest for local bands to enter to win a chance to perform as an act in the Veishea LIVE concert.

Another local music event popular among college students is Lazerfrest. This year, May 16 on the Indianola Balloon Field numerous artists including Godsmack, Three Days Grace, Rob Zombie, Papa Roach, Seether, Hell Yeah, Five Finger Death Punch and Skillet, will perform.

Can't decide which concerts

to hit up, let me help. I am a fan of Angels and Airwaves. They are starting their tour in the U.S. promoting their new album, LOVE starting March 27.

Another favorite of mine is Mat Kearney. From personal experience, Mat Kearney's concerts are a perfect mix of music and crowd involvement; he keeps you interested throughout the whole concert. His performance is set for April 3 at Peoples Court in Des Moines.

More concert dates

Black Eyed Peas- March 25
Wells Fargo Arena

Eric Church- March 24 Val
Air Ballroom

Taylor Swift with Kellie
Pickler- May 6 Wells Fargo
Arena

Casting Crowns- April 8
Mid America Center and
April 13 McLeod Center

Kathryn Bigelow and ‘The Hurt Locker’ make Oscar history

By Carrie Rickey
The Philadelphia Inquirer
(MCT)

Kathryn Bigelow made history Sunday night at the 82 Annual Academy Awards, becoming the first woman to win best director, for “The Hurt Locker,” which captured six awards, including best picture.

The tense film about thrill junkies who defuse bombs in Iraq won original screenplay, sound editing, sound mixing and editing.

“This really is—there's no other way to describe it—the moment of a lifetime,” said Bigelow, 58, who dedicated her award to “the women and men in the military who risk their lives on a daily basis. May they come home safe.”

Bigelow, whose movie barely recouped its \$15 million budget, bested her ex-husband, James Cameron. His “Avatar,” which won three Oscars including cinematography, is the highest-grossing movie ever, with \$2.5 billion in global revenue.

Hollywood veterans Jeff Bridges and Sandra Bullock won their first Oscars. Bridges, a second-generation performer, won best actor for his role as Bad Blake, a boozy country music has-been, in “Crazy Heart.”

“Thank you, Mom and Dad, for turning me on to such a groovy profession,” said the 60-year-old actor, whose first nomination was in 1971. “The Weary Kind (Theme from Crazy Heart),” a ballad from the film, won original song.

Bullock, the Miss Congeniality of comic actors, proved that she was equally adept at drama as Leigh Anne Tuohy, the real-life adoptive mother of NFL star Michael Oher in “The Blind Side.”

“Did I really earn this, or did I just wear you all down?” joked Bullock, 45, accepting her award.

On Saturday she won a Golden Raspberry as worst actress for “All About Steve,” making her the first performer to win an Oscar and Razzie in the same weekend.

The comedian Mo’Nique won the supporting-actress Oscar for her shattering performance as the abusive mother in “Precious: Based on the Novel ‘Push’ by Sapphire.” She thanked the Academy for showing “it can be about the performance and not the politics.”

Mo’Nique, 42, also cited Hattie McDaniel, the first African American to win an Oscar (“Gone with the Wind”), “for enduring all that she had to, so that I would not have to.” “Precious” screenwriter Geoffrey Fletcher won for best adapted screenplay.

Christoph Waltz, 53, captured supporting-actor honors for his role as the nefarious Nazi in “Inglourious Basterds.”

“Up,” Pixar's soaring animation about a retiree who pursues a long-deferred adventure, took two Oscars, one for best animated feature, the other for Michael Giacchino's sprightly score.

The wins by “The Hurt Locker” and “Precious” marked another year in which indies triumphed over studio blockbusters.

Given the 10 nominees for top movie and a new voting system for best picture, there was no clear front-runner as Hollywood prepared to celebrate the movies of 2009, a robust year at the box office.

Not since 1943, when “Casablanca” was named best picture, had there been 10 contenders in the top race. An added wrinkle was the new “preferential voting” system for best picture, which guaranteed that the winner received not the most votes, but a majority of them.

As the nominees and presenters filed into to Kodak Theatre, across the street from the Hollywood Roosevelt where the

Academy Awards were first held in 1928, the dominant color of the gowns was an azure hue that might be called Na’vi blue (after the color of the tribespeople in “Avatar”). Both Zoe Saldana, who played the Na’vi Pocahontas in “Avatar,” and Cameron's wife, Suzy Amis, wore dresses in that shade. Likewise Mo’Nique and Gabourey Sidibe, who played the mother and the title character in “Precious.”

“Star Trek,” J.J. Abrams' reboot of the beloved franchise, was presented the award for best makeup by Ben Stiller, outfitted as a Na’vi, with blue skin and frisky tail.

Sunday night's show opened with the 10 lead-actor and actress nominees on stage, followed by a musical number from Neil Patrick Harris introducing the evening's emcees as “the biggest pair since Dolly Parton.”

Co-hosts Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin (co-stars of “It's Complicated”) began the show with cheeky patter modeled on the naughtiness of Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis. Tweaking George Clooney and celebrating their “It's Complicated” co-star Meryl Streep, Martin and Baldwin were intermittently funny but often fogey-ish. In its first hour, the show front-loaded young talent (Amanda Seyfried and Miley Cyrus) and popular categories such as animation.

The late John Hughes, subject of a posthumous tribute from his discoveries Molly Ringwald and Matthew Broderick, received the evening's first standing ovation.

Argentina's “El Secreto de Sus Ojos (The Secret of Your Eyes),” a murder mystery, was the surprise winner for foreign film, edging out Michael Haneke's “The White Ribbon,” widely considered the favorite.

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Do you text while driving?

Photos & Reporting by Elliott L. Davis



Akot Akot

"No! Texting while driving isn't good. It can cause accidents. It's better to text before you drive."



Keith Abels

"No! I don't do it! That law is a good deal. People are distracted enough."



Rob Lehman

"No I don't text while driving. It's too distracting that makes it dangerous."



Kritschmer Dela Cruz

"No I don't text, I know people that do, it is a concern because it can cause accidents."



Ashley Platt

"I only text during a stop-light. I have been honked at when stopped at a light while texting."

Texting while driving: Killer skills or skills for killing?

Staff Editorial

Many of us have different views of using cell phones while driving. "It's too dangerous." "I can do it because I'm a more experienced driver." "Kids are such bad drivers that they don't need another distraction."

Our generation grew up on technology, and in most cases, we can multitask. However, there is a point where we need to draw the line, especially if someone's life is at risk, especially your own.

It's dangerous. There are enough distractions while driving to have to look at a phone too. Music, friends and the landscape are distractions to driving.

The amount of time we take to look at our phone is enough time for a deer, a child or another vehicle to be directly in front of our cars. Nobody wants the guilt of killing a four year old when she was

just chasing her ball.

Experience isn't everything. Being a good driver comes from experience. You can never get enough experience. New drivers are the worst at multitasking when driving. They shouldn't be allowed to even listen to music, let alone use their phones.

Multitasking isn't for everyone. Many people can't handle distractions while others thrive on doing something else. For those good at multi-

tasking, it's a talent.

For others who can't pay attention to the road and are terrible drivers in the first place, they should refrain from using their phones while driving. You know who you are. Everyone can practice a little patience and wait to look at the little demonic device.

Stop sign check. For those ultimately impatient people, the best thing to do is to wait for a stop sign before checking a message or texting. The ve-

hicle is stopped, and this prevents drivers from colliding, swerving or annoying the good drivers. Surely, it can wait until you get to where you're going.

Texting isn't worth losing or taking a life. Remember that the next time you hear the little twinkle or feel that buzz come from your purse or pocket while seated behind the wheel, one text could change someone's life forever. Don't be the reason for that.

'THE CRAZIES' HOME GROWN HORROR

By Tanner Sandrock

Copy Editor

It's not often that a Hollywood film is based in Iowa but unlike "The Field of Dreams," "The Crazies" is a little closer to hell than heaven.

This is another horror remake, of course, because obviously all the Hollywood's horror writers have either quit or are on vacation since no one can seem to find a new script or story.

I've never seen the original from 1973, but what I know of the story, it isn't too much different. In the first one there is a manmade chemical that cause the infected to suffer from a case of insanity and an uncontrollable urge to not only kill people, but do it in a way that's both disturbing

and for the horror junkies pretty cool.

This chemical is released on a small Pennsylvania town. The military shows up to try and cover up their big "whoops," and things really start going downhill for these townfolk.

The new film is basically the same except for the location change from small town East Coast to small town Midwest. The Hawkeye state may not see a jump in tourism after being featured as the host of a manmade apocalyptic epidemic but we can all smile and say, "Hey that town looks familiar."

Just a bit of information for those wondering. The town Ogdan Marsh, IA, doesn't really exist, in fact the county it's supposed to be in doesn't really exist, and

parts of the movie were filmed in Georgia. I'm not saying none of the movie was filmed in Iowa, actually a large part of it was filmed in both Lenox and Winterset. You might even know some of the lucky few that got to get all gored up and play bit parts in the movie. And believe me I'm jealous of you folks who did. I've always wanted to be in a horror movie of some type. But all random facts and jealous whining aside let me get back to the movie.

The story follows David Dutton (Timothy Olyphant), a Peirce County Sheriff, as he tries to save himself, his wife (Radha Mitchell), and anyone else they happen to come across from this nasty little mix up. There are townfolk running around killing each other with random farming supplies, the military killing and torching anything that might slip onto the news and make them look not so great and then you have your group of survivors trying their

hardest not to die.

Most of this movie is a decent adrenaline rush, watching the mayhem and madness. One thing that is sure to drive you mad is the lack of explanation. All you really know through the whole movie is that a plane carrying this manmade chemical that was intended to be used as a biological weapon crashed into the town's drinking water. A few days later the town is burning to the ground. The military comes in to try and "save" these people but anymore than that and you really don't know what is going on.

My biggest question is why some people in the town were infected and others weren't? Did some people only drink bottled water? Did Sheriff Dutton buy a Britta Water Filter the year before? They try to explain this by saying the Sheriff's house was further along the pipeline than others but that still doesn't explain the framer who burned his house

down with his family inside. Why was he crazy and his family not?

Another part that bugged me a little bit was the infected themselves. Why did they not kill each other? Why only kill others that are not infected? To me that just doesn't make any sense.

It is plot holes like these that really take away from the movie as a whole. Trust me, there are others besides these few I've mentioned. I just don't want to give away too much of the movie for those who still want to see it.

This is one of those movies that can be a fun viewing if you are into that genre, and by that genre I mean lots of blood, lots of gore, and little chance of a happy ending. But if you are not into this kind of movie, you might want to stay clear of this one. For me "The Crazies" gets 2 and a half stars out of 5.



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OR

Pick One

Cartoon by Josh Schmidt, DMACC student



Photo by Dan Ivis

DMACC sophomore Dani Lang (left) of Ankeny and freshman Carli Bunning of Boone put some defensive pressure on a NIACC player in the first round of the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Region XI Tournament. The DMACC Boone Bears rebounded from a 14 point first half deficit to beat the Trojans, 67 to 53.

Men end season with first round loss

By Shannon Jefferson
Sports Editor

The Bears season came to an abrupt end when Iowa Lakes Community College defeated the Bears 70-64 in the National Junior Athletic Association Region XI Division II tournament.

The Bears struggled in the first half of the game with offensive rebounds. They stayed strong and managed to stay in the game

going into the second half. "I feel we could of rebounded better offensively, but we really needed to focus on our turnovers and free throws," said Kannon Burrage.

Burrage with 22 points, Hal Bateman 15 points, and Tavaryus Gray 12 points led the Bears against the Lakers.

The Bears made a comeback in the game after Burrage hit 5 three-pointers in a 4-minute span.

With 14:13 remaining in the

second half, the Bears had the lead 49-40 holding the Lakers off until it came to a tie with 8:23 remaining on the clock.

Both teams battled it out toward the end of the second half.

Eventually after missed shots and free throws, the Bears fell behind the Lakers, sending the Lakers home with a win.

The Bears ended the 2009-2010 season with 22-7 record.



Photo by Derrick Roffman

Kannon Burrage drives past an opponent on his way to score during the Regional match up with Iowa Lakes Community College, Wednesday, March 3.

Women beat NIACC to advance in regionals

By Shannon Jefferson
Sports Editor

The DMACC women's basketball team advanced in the National Junior College Association (NJCAA) Region XI Division II basketball tournament, by defeating North Iowa Area Community College in Boone 67-53.

Leading scorer, Tia Mays, led the Bears to a victory with 28 points. Katlyn Wood contributed 17 points and Marni Jacobsen contributed 10 points to the Bears win over NIACC.

In the first half, the Bears struggled with the jitters. "I think people were playing not to lose," Tia Mays said. The Bears only shot 34.5 percent in the first half against the Trojans. NIACC guard, Amy Boley had 6 three-pointers against the Bears.

"We tried to locate her," Coach Steve Krafcsin said. At the end of the first half the Trojans were up by 8.

Coming into the second half the Bears made an immediate comeback. "Coach motivated us. Coach made us realize that we were still in the game," Mays said.

The Bears came out and had a great second half. They shot 88.9 percent from the free-throw line and 43.8 percent overall. With 7:21 remaining Wood hit a three-pointer and Skylar Johnson hit a three-pointer shortly after.

The Bears gained momentum and strengthened their lead and took the win, leading them to the semi-final round against Kirkwood Community College.

Kirkwood knocks women out of tournament play

By Shannon Jefferson
Sports Editor

On Mar. 4, the DMACC women's basketball team competed against five-time national champion Kirkwood Eagles in Creston in an attempt to advance to the finals in the Region XI tournament.

The Bears ended their season with a loss, 76-54.

Caitlin Axland hit 2 three-pointers with 12:21 remaining in the first half bringing the Bears to 11-point lead.

The Bears played a good first

half. In the last two minutes Kirkwood's Danielle Hellickson scored 2 points to bring the Eagles to the lead. "Kirkwood came back and took a little wind out of our sails," Coach Steve Krafcsin said.

At the beginning of the second half the Bears were down by 6 points. Foul trouble hurt the Bears as Katelyn Wood and Tia Mays picked up their second fouls. Kirkwood began to extend their lead against the Bears.

"I thought the season was a huge success; we finished fourth in our region," Coach Krafcsin said.

Ludwig to play volleyball for DMACC next fall

Monticello High School senior McKinzie Ludwig has signed a national letter of intent to play volleyball for the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Bears.

Ludwig was a three-year letter winner for Monticello. As a sophomore, she was voted by the team the Ms. Hustle Award recipient. As a junior, Ludwig was named to the First Team All-Conference. She was also a First Team All-Conference selection as a senior and was also voted by the team as the MVP Award recipient.

Ludwig is the daughter of Randy and Brenda Steiner and Steve and Shelly Ludwig.

She joins the Bears, who have advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJ-



CAA) Division II National Volleyball Tournament for the past four consecutive years. The Bears finished fifth in the national tournament and had a 44-9 overall record in 2009.

Baseball Scores

Record: 4-1
Feb. 27 vs. Independence
8-0 WIN
Feb. 26 vs. Independence
16-4 WIN
10-3 WIN
Feb. 25 vs. Crowder
7-5 WIN
4-5 Loss