

Des Moines Area Community College Open SPACE @ DMACC

Banner News

Student Work

11-25-2009

Banner News

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BANNER NEWS

Happy Thanksgiving!

Des Moines Area Community College Boone Campus

Wednesday, November 25, 2009, Vol. 9, No. 6

Hope's boy shares his story about growing up



Photo by Austin Leeds

Andrew Bridge, author of "Hope's Boy" shares the good and bad stories of his past.

By **Jamie Stueve**
Opinion/Feature Editor

A picture of a young boy on the cover of "Hope's Boy" is the now grown Andrew Bridge who spoke at the Boone Campus as an advocate for the foster children.

In the United States there are

half a million children who are fostered kids, the average age being 10 years old. Only three percent of these children ever make it to college.

The book's cover picture was taken at the age of seven, after he had been taken from his mother who was mentally ill.

Bridge lived in Los Angeles

foster care at the McClaren Institute. He now refers to it as "a violent dumping ground" where he, along with hundreds of others, shared and called their home.

"No one asked me my name, told me where I was going or said anything about my mother," said Bridge. "They took the last possessions of my identity and I be-

came a state ward."

He lived in a permanent foster home with a family of five for 11 years. He recalls the time being tense and the family full of rage. He would be woken up in the middle of the night and told to pack his bags and wait at the end of his bed in late hours of the night for his foster mother to decide his fate of being homeless. "I was more of a tenant than a child," said Bridge, "I was reminded that I was a child whose mother had failed him."

He took the \$300 in his pocket and took the road to college in Connecticut and proceeded to be a Harvard Law Graduate, a face in that small percentage. At the age of 20, he awoke to find a lump in his throat and later finds out that it was lymphoma cancer. He decided to make the call to his foster family and give them the news to only realize they were "too busy" to take the call. "They told me they couldn't take the call because they were eating," said Bridge, "Most people have someone to take that call or to get advice from, I didn't have that."

Bridge is not married but has an English Setter by the name of "Bean." The current relationship

with his 59-year-old mother consists of visits three to four times a year. He claims she is very quiet and replies with a majority of yes or no answers.

Bridge is a lawyer for the state of California and stands to change the way the foster care system works. "I have very good friends, and I am very fortunate professionally," said Bridge, "I was a really resilient little boy with an extraordinary level of strength."

Students could, or anyone for that matter, have opportunities to take their part in this change. The national Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse, CASA, is a program that aids in helping children who are homeless that with specific needs such as getting them a pair of glasses or helping them with homework.

If students want to go right to the problem, Bridge encourages students to contact their legislators to ask what they as individuals are doing directly to fix the problems in the system.

Bridge gave his encouragement to children and strength to progress and find their way. "Even in quiet, sometimes a boy can still find his way," he said.

Custer rocks the campus: Students want more

By **Tanner Sandrock**
News Editor

The Courter Center was alive with musical guest, Valerie Custer preformed Thursday Nov. 19. The Ohio native was brought in by Steve Krafcsin and the SAC to entertain students during the turkey feed.

Overall, the performance was well received by students. Samantha Kirby, second year student said, "She is good. It's kind of fun to hear her own twist on songs."

Songs preformed by Custer

included, "Wonderwall," (Oasis) "Hurt," (Johnny Cash, Nine Inch Nails) "I'm Sorry Miss Jackson," (Outcast) along with a few of Custer's originals.

Some students liked the idea of live music enough to suggest it happen more often. Melissa Martin, first year student said, "I think it should happen every Friday. I enjoy it."

Hailing from Akron, Ohio, Custer said she started playing and performing at the age of 14. After high school she attended college for a year while perform-

ing local shows on the side. She realized soon that her musical career and a college life could not coincide and made the choice to leave the academic race and pursue her dreams in music.

"I'm realistic about what this career holds but I can't picture myself doing anything else. I'm either going to do this or live in a gutter," Custer said.

When she realized what she wanted to do she sent her tapes out to a few agencies but received

no response, "No one wanted anything to do with me," she said.

However, Custer wasn't going to allow her musical aspirations to be dashed before they really got started. She decided to attend an APCA and NACA conference representing herself. The APCA, American College Personal Association, and the NACA, National Association of Campus Activities, are organizations that represent entertainers to colleges across the nation.

After attending the conference, Custer was able to book some shows and received a few calls from interested agencies, but as of now, she remains unsigned. Now Custer travels, playing exclusively at college campuses. In the 2008-09 school year she racked up over 100 shows and this year she was awarded the APCA Female Performer of the Year, voted on by the students she has preformed for.

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Photo by Derrick Roffman

Valerie Custer sings in the Courter Center during the turkey feed.

Students get ahead on college degree

By **Candace Daiker**
Copy Editor

In the past, the most common timeline for an individual pursuing education would be elementary, middle school or junior high, high school, and then college. Recent years have brought changes to speed up this timeline by allowing high school students to work on their college degrees before they even throw their graduation cap.

"I have 35.5 credits, at the end of my sophomore year. 48 are required for me to graduate," said high school and DMACC student Patrick Christianson. "I hope to start off using these credits and then transfer to ISU after I graduate from high school."

Courses offered to post-sec-

ondary students vary in order to achieve a license or certificate in vocational or trade careers, as well as transferable credits to college degrees.

"I did American history because it was a good way to get extra history credits. I am taking my IT class because I hope to have a job in that industry, said Christianson.

The DMACC Boone Campus currently has close to 40 post-secondary students registered, while all six DMACC campuses have a combined total of about 520, according to fall 2009 enrollment information said Student Service Specialist Nancy Moeller.

The Career Advantage Program is a partnership between DMACC and local high schools that allows juniors and seniors

to earn college credits at their school, on the DMACC campus, or online. The section dedicated to high school students on the

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Students throw down in 'Guitar Hero' rock off

By **Tanner Sandrock**

News Editor

After a live musical performance, students thought they would try their hand at a less realistic rock off.

Students gathered in the Courter Center late Thursday Nov. 19 to test their skills against one another and compete for a \$25 gift card to Fareway in a "Guitar Hero" contest.

"Guitar Hero: Aerosmith" was the game and "Movin' Out" was the song. Students took turns playing through the song, one by one, trying to achieve the best

score.

Max Rusch led off and set the bar extremely high with a score of 253,012. "It's the one videogame I'm good at so I figure I'd make some money," he said.

The second student up was Trevor Gould. Gould played well, but was unable to overcome Rusch's high score.

Brent Sobolik tested his skill but was booed off the virtual stage before the song could exit the intro. "Can't touch that, can't touch it. I'll be signing autographs later," Sobolik said jok-

ingly as he turned to the crowd.

In the end, Rusch's score remained untouched and he walked away with the glory and the gift card to Fareway. "I'm going to go get some food," Rusch said as he collected his winnings.

To keep updated on upcoming SAC contests and events students can check their emails, read the white boards posted around campus or read the latest edition of the Banner Newspaper on stands or online at www.bannernewsonline.com.



Photo by Eric Thiel

Dr. Tim Bergin won the pool tournament in the faculty division during a Wild Wednesday.

Schafer, Heun win pool tournament

By **Eric Thiel**

Sports Editor

Students gathered around the Courter Center pool tables to engage in the Wild Wednesday event on Nov. 11.

The pool tournament composed of a game called "4 ball" in which over 20 people participated.

The objective in the game is to get as least amount of shots with four balls on the table

"It's fun. I play on these tables almost every day against the same people," said second year student Tim Schafer, "Just having a tournament made it more exciting."

Schafer was the winner for the male students with a score of 3.

The tournament champions came down to Schafer and second year student Matt Henderson in a constant duel, in which they were both tied at 4.

They were in a constant hurry, going rack for rack since they had limited time.

It came down to the last rack where Schafer nailed two balls on the break so he was able to make

3 shots and win. Schafer said, "It was pretty intense!"

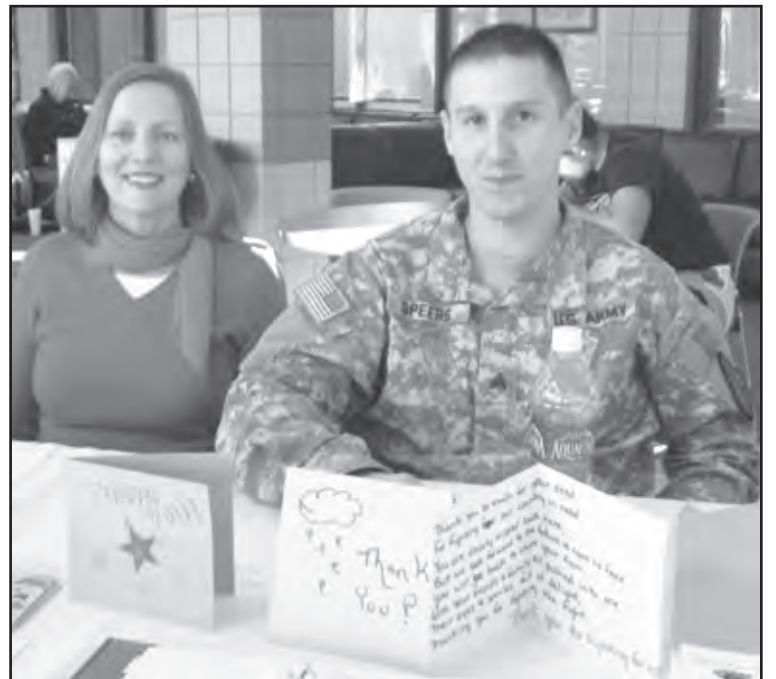
Schafer also said he has to give credit to Henderson for teaching him so much about pool, and that if Henderson never taught him, he would have never been able to beat him in the tournament.

The Courter Center has two pool tables for students to play during free time. They are usually available to play on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for free.

When students were asked about how they like the pool tables, most usual players complain about how other students sit on the tables and make it uneven. "They're crap," said second year student Robert Snyder, "People should stop sitting on them cause it bends the sides."

Other winners for the tournament were Ashley Heun for the female students who had 9 points, and faculty winner Tim Bergin who had 5 points.

More SAC events will come up for the students to take part in, but the pool tables will always be open; usually with the typical crowd playing.



Contributed photo

Linda Buxton, Writing Center tutor, and Sgt. Jason M. Speers helped out with the "Write a Soldier" project on Veterans Day in the L.W. Courter Center. Buxton said that 41 letters and care packages are ready to be sent.

GOP meets in Boone to look at candidates

By **Eric Thiel**

Sports Editor

The Boone County Republican Party hosted a Chili Contest at the Boone County Historical Center Monday night, Nov. 9. The Party's goal was to introduce Republican voters to new candidates for the upcoming 2010 elections.

Several Republican candidates at the Historical Center told about past experiences and plans for their positions if they are elected.

Iowa is currently engaged in the upcoming 2010 elections that will decide national, state, house, Senate, and governor positions.

Col. Paul Ladd, former Marine who is the Boone County Veteran Commissioner was there to thank veterans and current soldiers for their work to defend this country.

Republican Bill Yewell has already started his campaign to run for representative of the 48 district against Donovan Olsen Democrat. Yewell stands against gay marriage, abortion, and believes in harsher punishment for second and third offenders on drunk driving.

Former governor, Terry Branstad was there, to talk about another run for governor. Branstad has been referred to by other Republicans for being known as "Terry loves Taxes." Branstad plans to fix unemployment and get Iowa out of debt.

Iowa's Sen. Chuck Grassley Rep. is up for re-election. Democrat Bob Krause or Roxanne Conlin plans to run against him.

Gov. Chet Culver is up for reelection, however several Republicans are planning to win the GOP nomination to run against each other in the primary. Those Republicans planning to run are Branstad, Bob Vander Plaats of

Sioux City, Christian Fong of Cedar Rapids, Rob Roberts of Carroll, Christopher Rants of Sioux City, and Iowa's 24th district Senator Jerry Behn of Boone.

The Boone County Republicans also had a food drive to send snacks to the troops overseas.

These elections are coming up soon and time for students to get more active in knowing the candidates.



Photo by Eric Thiel

**Former governor
Terry Branstad**

Testing ... Testing ... 1 ... 2 ... 3 ...
Want your friends to be safe and get tested?
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Create a poem, song or rap about why it's important to get tested. (For extra points, make it into a short video!)
Contest begins Nov. 1 and ends Nov. 30.

Prize 1st place receives an iPod nano with video.

Visit www.ppheartland.org/GetTested for details and how to submit your entry.

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Dec. 7 deadline to spend spring semester in London

By **Jamie Stueve**
Opinion/Feature Editor

Castles, famous museums, ancient architecture, foreign food and unfamiliar faces make for an incredible journey across the globe.

The Des Moines Area Community College Study Abroad Program gives the opportunity for 10 weeks abroad in London in spring 2010. The number of students who participate is around 15 or 16 and live with host families. They attend the University of

London, which is in the heart of the city.

The only required class students take is on British Culture to familiarize themselves on the culture and history of their current residence. Other classes that are available for the upcoming trip will be taught by lead English professor Michael Hubbard. Students also have the opportunity to take Humanities 116, Literature 142, English 106, English 221, Speech 126 and Speech 101.

A professor accompanies the trip to teach and guide the

students through the experience. "I think most of the faculty who have participated would agree that it's an incredible teaching opportunity," said Randy Jede, DMACC study abroad professor for 2005 and 2009. "I love taking students to London so much; I wish it were my permanent spring job. London is such a wonderful city to live in, and the teaching moments, especially in literature and the humanities are unlimited."

Classes meet Monday through Thursday and fill up to

nine humanities requirements in the DMACC curriculum. A four-day class week, gives students a three-day weekend and many opportunities to make mini three-day vacations. "My students last spring went to Italy, Greece, Ireland, Wales, and Scotland, to name a few. I also took the students to Paris for a four-day field trip of our own," said Jede. This year a mini trip is planned for Scotland.

London is a big city with a lot to encounter. It becomes difficult to give a wide array of activities to

keep students intrigued. "My biggest challenge is always to make sure that I am integrating the assignments between classes, so that everything seems to fit together in a seamless fashion," said Jede. "The experience is like teaching in a one-room school-house, so we spend quite a bit of time together, and I am challenged to create a variety of teaching/learning experiences."

The estimated cost of the spring 2010 trip is \$12,050. Additional loans are available to

Continued on Page 8

NEWS BRIEFS

Turkey Feed

The turkey feed held on Nov. 19 raised \$172 and 143 food items to help families in need through Red Rock Community Action Center here in Boone.

Thanksgiving Break

DMACC campuses will close at 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 25 and remain closed for Thanksgiving and Friday.

Spring Tuition, Fees

Spring Term tuition and fees for students who registered for classes between Oct. 21 and Nov. 16 will be due on Friday, Dec. 11. To make payment arrangements go to www.dmacc.edu/payment.asp. To make payment in full students can use a number of methods. Payment options are also listed on the Web site previously mentioned.

Toys for Tots

DMACC is a drop site for the 2009 Toys for Tots Drive. Drop boxes are located at both Boone Campus and the Ames Hunziker Center as well as other campuses. Anyone is welcome to make a donation. The drive will run through Dec. 15.

NSU Collecting Children's books

Connie Booth and the Nursing Students United, NSU, are collecting children's books and craft materials that can be given to children while staying at Mary Greeley Medical Center and Boone County Hospital. Please drop off donations in the hallway near the nursing office (Room 164) by Dec. 16.

Creative Writing Contest

Entries for the Creative Writing Contest must be submitted by Dec. 4 by 5 p.m. For more information on the contest contact Lauren Rice at lrice@dmacc.edu or call at 515-201-5289.

Putting TVs on an energy diet

California is the first state to adopt energy efficiency standards for TVs and regulators say they will save consumers \$8.1 billion over 10 years.

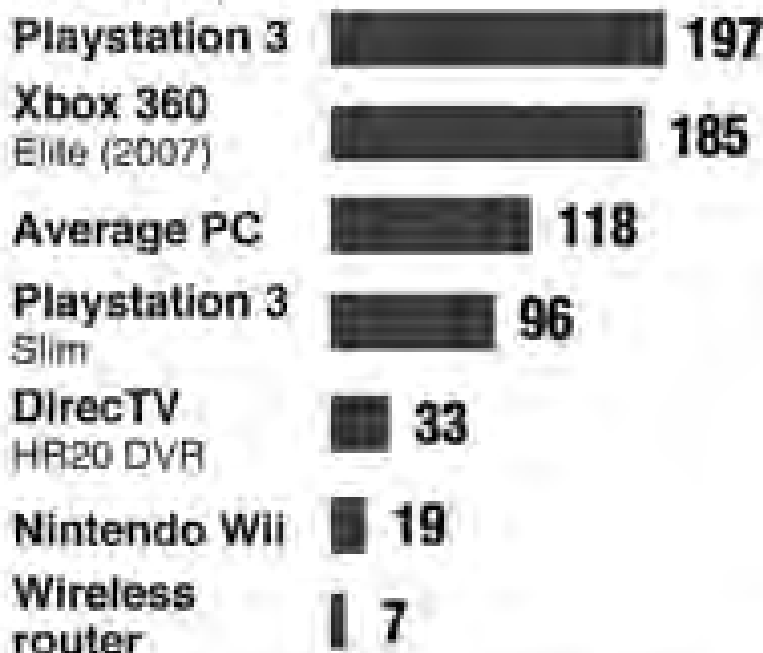
How much energy do TVs use?

Power use by average-size TVs in watts per year

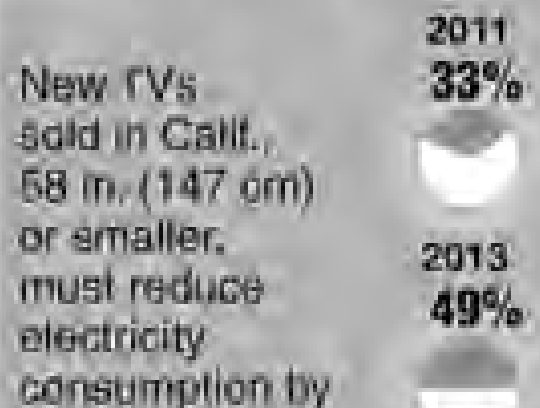


How about other gear?

Watts per year



New regulations



Why do it?

- Consumers save on electricity bills
- Conserve energy
- Cut greenhouse gas emissions
- Decrease need to build large power plants
- TV-related power usage in Calif. is 10 percent of a home's power use
- Will save enough electricity to power 864,000 single-family homes

Source: California Energy Commission, CNET Graphic: Lee Hulteng, Judy Treibin © 2009 MCT

DMACC Boone Campus Concert Choir

presents

Home for Christmas

7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5

Free concert located in DMACC Boone Campus Auditorium with refreshments following

COMMENTARY: Black Friday brings out the crazies

By Candace Daiker

Copy Editor

Waking up somewhere between midnight and 4 a.m., standing outside in the cold for hours shoulder-to-shoulder with grouchy strangers that would probably chew your arm off for the last holy-discounted coffee pot—when they probably don't even drink the stuff—isn't the most traditional way to start a typical morning.

On Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, however, it is the typical morning for many.

"It's my very favorite day of the year. Ask any of my relatives; they won't go with me anymore because I go from morning to night," said Campus Café supervisor Connie Ferguson, "I have fun and talk to everyone in the lines."

An opposing view came from Lee Simpson, second-year student, who said, "I've never cared enough to shop on Black Friday.

Plus, real men don't shop."

There are multiple claims as to where the unofficial holiday's name really originated.

One claim, considered the earliest, traces back to 1965's day after Thanksgiving in Philadelphia. The article, "Philadelphia's 'Black Friday'" by Martin Apfelbaum, in the "American Philatelist" from January 1966 states, "'Black Friday' is the name which the Philadelphia Police Department has given to the Friday following Thanksgiving Day. It is not a term of endearment to them. 'Black Friday' officially opens the Christmas shopping season...it usually brings massive traffic jams and over-crowded sidewalks as the downtown stores are mobbed from opening to closing." In other claims, the term refers to Christmas lists being checked off, college football nearing its end, more traffic, busy crowds, retailers turning a profit, and the headaches involved with the day.

Sale ads are jammed in newspapers and dedicated shoppers are making their itineraries weeks in advance. "I go for the sales and the clothes. Once I was after a pair of Jordans," said student Ayanna Prince. The hysteria of the day sometimes has the tendency to bring people's claws out. Beth Christianson said, "I've had something I was going to buy and a lady had taken it right out of my hand. I went up to her and took it out of her cart when she wasn't looking."

Despite the hype and assumptions that Black Friday is the busiest shopping day of the year, this is not always the case. Studies

have shown the busiest shopping day in the United States, in terms of sales and customer traffic, has usually been the Saturday before Christmas.

Products are discounted to the max and "dedicated" shoppers push through the crowds at all costs. "One year I had been in a car accident. I had vertigo, a cast on my leg, and was in a wheelchair. My mom pushed me around and the funny thing was we still had two carts full," said Ferguson.

Miranda Martin, second-year student, said, "I have never gone shopping on Black Friday, but I wanna go with Connie—only if

she's in the wheelchair again!"

It seems to be ironic to have what could be the greediest day of the year only hours after what's one of the most thankful, but it can become a family tradition that oozes togetherness from its pores.

I'm part of the family that get's up at 3 or 4 a.m., ventures to the city 45 miles away, and parks on some restricted grassy area by a Best Buy or Menards parking lot to fight the crazies inside. And you know what I look forward to? The hot chocolate we pick up on the way and the breakfast we have together when we're done.

Dylan Book: Spirited racer makes speedy recovery

By Coty Mallicoat

Staff Writer

Dylan Book, a 17 year-old senior at Adel-Desoto-Minburn High School, was recently injured in an accident while working in his father's tire shop on Oct. 20. The accident was near fatal and Book had to undergo surgeries in order to ensure recovery.

When something life changing happens it seems like a community comes together whether that be a community of race car drivers, fans, a town, or a school. In Dylan Book's case those communities all came together as one.

Book is also a talented race car driver and had recently won the 2009 International Motor Contest Association, National Rookie of the Year honors in the IMCA hobby stock division.

He did very well in just his first season of competition. Shortly before the accident, Book had bought an IMCA Sport Mod from Joel Bushore, a fellow racer, in order to move up to the next level in his racing career.

On Nov. 14 a fundraiser was held for Book. Racers, race fans, friends, and families from around the state of Iowa showed up to give their support for Book.

There was a tent full of silent auction items that had been donated along with a bunch of live auction items that were used to raise money to support Book.

There were also live bands as well as a raffle of racing shirts and hats that racers had donated. Photographers donated over 500 photos for the raffle and auctions. They were also selling Dylan Book T-shirts as well, for \$10.

According to Book's Caring

Bridge site, the estimated head count of the event was around 1,300 people and they went through 2 hogs, 200 pounds of pork loin, 500 hotdogs and 12 kegs of beer.

Current DMACC students and fellow racers Joel Bushore and Scotty Lograsso were also in attendance for the event.

"It's crazy to see all the people that haven't even met Dylan before but they still showed up to support his cause. There were racers that probably haven't talked to him at the track but when something like this happens, racers are a family and we stick together, even if we did run into each other on the track the season before," said Bushore.

The family had put together a video of an interview with Dylan and it was played during the event.

Dylan was in attendance in an RV brought out by Jim and Joy Greenslade. People were allowed to stop in and visit with Book as he hung out in the RV with his family.

Book is currently making his recovery and will be able to attend the IMCA national banquet in Lincoln, Nebr. to accept his Rookie of the Year title. Book also plans on running the Sport Mod next year after he makes a full recovery for the 2010 season.

Book's progress can be tracked on Caring Bridge at www.caringbridge.org/visit/dylanbook and will also have his racing site up soon for the upcoming season.

Book's strong spirit and determination to recover and get back out on the track has been inspirational and has shown people, like his T-shirts say, "Anything is Possible."

New Iowa travel guide released

By Kevin Shay

Contributing Writer

Lauren R. Rice, a 27 year-old writing professor at DMACC, has released a new Iowa travel guide. The guide, which is also Rice's first book, is titled "Iowa: An Explorer's Guide," and was released through W.W. Norton Publishing this past summer.

Although Iowa is not always recognized as a tourist destination, the book and the adventurous Rice strived to prove the skeptics wrong as well as showing Midwesterners great places to travel to for a cheap price within the state of Iowa. "All you need for adventure is the willingness to create it," said Rice. "You can find fascinating and interesting things in your own backyard."

The willingness to travel becomes even more fulfilling within a state that is abundant in beautiful state and national parks and full of generous locals, said Rice.

There are over 100 national and state parks within the borders of Iowa. The beauty of the state is not just the rolling hills of cornfields. "Northeast Iowa is my favorite area. I loved Dubuque and the small city Lansing," said Rice, "Dubuque has really nice restaurants, a cute bed and breakfast, and the beautiful river. It's the oldest settlement in Iowa. The bed and breakfast was built as a hotel before the Civil War. It's cool to stay in a place that has been there so long."

Rice's favorite state park was the Upper Mississippi State Park. "I love the views in that park," she said, "For anyone that thinks the Mississippi is flat, go to Northeast Iowa. The Mississippi River Valley there is just huge." Northeast Iowa has an extreme amount of bio-diversity, which has much to do with the Iowa's Department of National Resources' attempt to create abundant eco-tourism opportunities.

Rice thoroughly enjoyed the Bridges of Madison County. The area originally boasted 19 beautiful covered bridges. Six remain today, all of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. "When you find a bridge off of the beaten path (in Madison County), it is just really beau-



Contributed Photo

Lauren R. Rice, writing professor, published her first book, an Iowa travel guide, in the summer of 2009.

tiful," said Rice.

However, during her three month and 6,000 mile adventure during the summer of 2008, Rice did have her problems gathering information. Her lack of time associated with the generous nature of Iowans was one of her major problems.

"Iowans are too helpful; I would be trying to quickly get information and I would get bogged down for an hour. You have to be quick and concise (when writing a book like this)," said Rice.

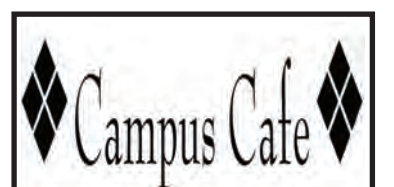
Also, Rice had to be selective and pick places that had the full travel package for tourists. "If I included all counties and cities, the book would be around 3,000 pages," said Rice. Having over 3,000 pages would also lead to a higher price to purchase the book. This would detract from the book's message that cheap, yet fun and fulfilling tourism can be found in your own back yard.

The amount of data entry involved with this type of book has Rice thinking of other roads for her next novel. "I'd like to write a research-oriented book for my next novel," said Rice. This would give Rice more flexibility, but still not the amount of flexibility one would think a creative writing major would want, she said.

Rice's first book has received positive reviews and is available at bookstores across the nation, especially in Iowa, and online at sites like Amazon for around \$20.

However, don't take everything Rice says in the book to

heart. "The book is not a bible (to Iowa travel), just a jumping off point. You should also explore Iowa and see what the state has to offer. The book is there just to guide you along your travels," said Rice.



Happy Turkey Day from everyone in the Campus Cafe!

Wake up for your final projects & exams with a Rockstar or Red Bull energy drink, or try and extra shot of espresso in your coffee!



Volleyball women go all American and commit to 4-year schools



Photo by Derrick Roffman

Bobbi Bayer, Justine Young commit to Alabama Birmingham, Texas Tech

By Derrick Roffman
Staff Writer

"Time to sign my life away" Bobbi Bayer said referring to

her contract with the Alabama Birmingham as she sat waiting to get her picture taken in the DMACC gym Friday Nov 13. Bayer and Justine Young signed

letters of intent accepting scholarships to the Alabama Birmingham and the Texas Tech. "I'll go down this summer right away and start training," said

Bayer.

Bayer grew up in Colorado and her family spent a lot of time on the road participating in the rodeo. "It was a big family affair.

That's definitely where my tough upbringing came from."

Young will be attending Texas Tech and looking to get her degree in psychology.

Women place 5th nationally in Wisconsin

By Brad Burton
Staff Writer

Faculty, staff, and students held a send-off Nov. 17 for the women's volleyball team who set off to compete in the national tournament for the fourth straight year in a row. The women defeated cross-state rival Kirkwood in the conference championship to advance to Wisconsin Dells, Wisc.

In order for the Bears to have a chance at the championship they would have to go through the entire tournament without any losses. On Nov. 19, the women defeated Glendale three to one.

After winning the first game the women knew they could play with anybody. After the victory the Bears took a loss from Cowley Community College, which caused the Bears to lose their shot to play for the national championship.

Not playing for a championship, the Bears still stayed together, played as a team and defeated teams such as Columbus State and Johnson County and finished fifth in the tournament.

"Nationals went well," said Justine Young, a sophomore player. "We came out getting fifth place. At the end of the season the team came together and fought

hard to make it to the National Tournament, and pulled together again at Nationals knowing the good competition we were going to be playing against and did our job."

Three members of the squad were named to all conference teams. Two of the three ladies are nominated for All-American honors that will be announced in a few weeks. "I thought Nationals went very well," said Coach Harrison. "The girls played up to the competition, and I was impressed. I feel like they played like National Champions. Our sophomores stepped up and did an awesome job of leading our freshman this

year. They represented DMACC well and I'm excited about next

year with our freshman class returning."

2009 Volleyball post-season honors

Bobbi Jo Bayer

ICCAC Volleyball all-region 11-B first team
B Regional All-Tournament team
All-Conference First team
Region 11 Cross Divisional All-Tournament Team
All-American nominee

Justine Young

ICCAC Volleyball all-region 11-B first team
B Regional All-Tournament team
All-Conference First team
All-American nominee

Darcy Christensen

All-Region Second team
All-Conference Second team

Women ranked 10th in Division II

By Brad Burton
Staff Writer

As of Nov. 17 the Bears have a record of three wins and two losses each loss coming from good junior college basketball programs.

The Bears started the season off strong winning three straight games. After tasting victory the Bears saw themselves in a slump losing the next two games.

"The season is going OK" said Coach Steve Krafcsin. "With our youth and injuries, we had to change lineups quite a bit."

With a young squad Coach Krafcsin has to become a lot more patient with his team. "The season is a marathon," said Kraf-

cisin. "We put our emphasis more on learning and teaching, so it's a slow process."

According to www.njcaa.org the Bears are ranked tenth in the country in Division II basketball.

"We have some improving to do," said Molly Boylan. "We really picked it up on the defensive end of the floor the past few games."

Once conference play starts, the Bears must keep their focus in order to succeed in such a tough conference. "We want to be all in sync when conference play begins," said Krafcsin.

The Bears will begin conference play Jan. 6 at Southwestern Community College.

Men's Basketball dominate Loras

By Eric Thiel
Sports Editor

The men's basketball team played a hard game against Loras Community College on Nov. 17. The Bears won 83 to 65.

Tavaryus Gray scored the most with 22 points for the team. Scott Windom scored the second most with 16 points, and third player Hal Bateman with 14.

After a missed layup by DMACC at the beginning of the game, Loras took the ball and a three pointer. Both teams

scored a few more times. That brought the score to an even 5-5. After DMACC made a 2-pointer by Bateman the Bears were constantly ahead.

At half time the game was at 40-26, the Bears winning. DMACC shot 33.3 percent of the free throws, in the first half.

At the end of the 2nd period Bateman made the last score for DMACC with a slam Dunk with only 49 seconds left in the game.

Then the game ended and the fans went home.

Men beat Grandview

By Eric Thiel
Sport Editor

DMACC won against Grandview on Nov. 20 with a score 89 to 40. With the Bears scoring with the first points they constantly led the way.

Tavaryus Gray made the most points for the Bears with 19. Kannon Burrage, with a score

of 14, second most points for the team. Hal Bateman and Cody Pearson both scored 11 points and Scott Windom with 10 points.

At the end of the first half DMACC had 51 points and Grand View had 13. The second half DMACC scored 38 more points and Grand View scored 27.

Men overcome Morningside

By Shannon Jefferson
Staff Writer

The DMACC Bears win over Morningside took place Nov. 10.

The Bears had their first challenging game as they struggled to over power Morningside's Josh Lenz's three point shooting. He made four out of five, three point shots.

The score went back and forth but the Bears pulled out with a win. Scott Windom led the team to a tough victory with 29 points and 12 rebounds.

Mike Schindel came in second, contributing 12 points and seven rebounds to the Bears win over Morningside.

Point guard, Hal Bateman said, "I don't think we were ready to play them at all. We were just looking past them because they were JV."

The Bears were challenged

for the first time this season. Multiple missed layups, missed jumpers, and turnovers almost cost the Bears their third win.

The lack of defense almost cost them the game. "We played pretty bad defense and didn't keep composure. We didn't think we had to play hard," Bateman said.

In the second half, Schindel had a nice jumper for leaving Brad Burton with the assist.

The second half started off with Morningside trailing the Bears by five points. The game was close throughout the second half with both teams battling it out.

The Bears led the game with 14 steals and finished the game with a win, Bears 63 and Morningside 60.

Women's Basketball Upcoming Schedule

- Nov. 28 South Australia*
- Nov. 30 William Penn*
- Dec. 3 Grand View JV
- Dec. 6 Southeastern*
- Dec. 10 Marshalltown*
*Home games



Photo by Derrick Roffman

Scott Windom dunks the ball

Men ranked 7th in Nation

By Shannon Jefferson
Staff Writer

The Bears are ranked seventh in country in Division II basketball according to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

After the tournament hosted by the Bears on Nov. 20 and the 21, the bears record for the season became eight wins and zero losses.

The Bears have started the season off strong. Although the Bears had a test of their teamwork against Morningside JV but managed to come out with a win.

"If we would have been ready to play we would have beat them bad," Bateman said. "We completely under estimated

them," said Kannon Burrage. The team looks at the game as a learning experience.

The Bears moved from number 12, there pre-season rank, to number 7 in the country in Division II basketball. The Bears are eager to make it to the national tournament this year.

This season the Bears are content with the way the team is playing so far. "We are not satisfied until we see number 'one' next to our name. Were still hungry," Burrage said.

The Bears are looking forward to the rest of the season. The Bears will continue Nov. 27 and 28 in Marshalltown to compete.



Photo by Derrick Roffman

Deremey Steptoe goes for the shot



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'MurderGoRound' cast has natural talent

By **Josie Kramer**
Editor-in-Chief

Not your typical mystery production, "MurderGoRound," directed by Kay Mueller and performed by DMACC students, offered everything playgoers expect and more: character and comedy.

Like in many other mystery stories, the lead role witnesses a murder. In this case, Pat (Ashlei Pritchard), under the witness protection program, is dragged to a country town, where she meets

quite a variety of characters. From the agent with amnesia, Peter (Brent Sobolik), to the flamboyant designer, Dino (Eric Thiel), Pat has her hands full.

Pat is surrounded by Susan (Linda Mui), Pat's personal bodyguard, Bea (Matt Henderson), the masculine and nosy housekeeper, Liz (Hannah Scott), the all but welcome trainee, Kevin (Trevor Gould), the college-aged con-artist, and last but not least, Ross (Lando McPherson), the lying fiancé.

Pat will be murdered by

midnight if she doesn't disclose the numbers to a bank account. Throughout the show, everybody she encounters wants to know the numbers. They all compete to get to them before the next person shows up.

The comedy was light-hearted, had some unexpected twists (like most mysteries) and was overall a magnificent play.

Thiel and Sobolik were especially talented in their portrayals. Dino and Peter were the most convincing characters. It takes a lot of work to make

your character convincing and legit. Acting one version of a character is one thing, but to act out the character in their disguise is a whole other playing field. I was convinced Peter actually had amnesia and that Dino was gay.

The members of the crew, which included many members of the cast, built a well-lit, open set. It wasn't too busy and seemed like an actual renter's home. Members of the crew included: Rachel Davis, Angela Leopold, Kristen Winslow, Brooke Lingren, Don Burkhart, Jasmine Santiago,

Jeliah Anderson, Chris Shannon (Stage Manager) and Joe Brioch (Asst. Stage Manager).

Director Mueller, the cast and the crew, put on a memorable show. As a thespian myself, I am proud to say that DMACC presented a 5 of out of 5 star show. It's not every day you get a free show with free refreshments with your student ID. I recommend everyone take advantage of this opportunity in the spring. It'll be the second and final show of the school year.



Photo by Derrick Roffman

The cast of "Murder Go Round" poses after the play on closing night: Linda Mui, Hannah Scott, Ashlei Pritchard, Eric Thiel, Lando McPherson, Trevor Gould, Matt Henderson and Brent Sobolik.

Thanksgiving is about being thankful

Staff Editorial

Everybody has something to be thankful for. Thanksgiving began as a time to give thanks. This year it falls on Nov. 26.

As we go through our daily routine, more often than not, we forget to be thankful for what is around us. The simple things in life can be a great start.

We should also remember to be thankful for the people who make a difference in this world. Our parents are a major influence in our lives and they are always there with their support. We need to remember to thank them.

Another very influential group of individuals are teachers. They are also strong role models in students' lives and even their careers. They provide a helpful relationship.

One of everybody's favorite things to be thankful for is the food we get to enjoy during this gluttonous holiday. You can have Thanksgiving without a great feast, but what fun is that? A local place to seek a free meal is First United Methodist Church at 703 Arden St. in Boone, located in the Fellowship Hall on the lower level of the church from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 26. Reservations are required; call the church office at (515) 432-4660.

The First Christian Church in Ames is having a free Thanksgiving dinner to those who are unable to have fellowship with their family or friends. The church welcomes all. It is held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 26 at the church, 611 Clark Ave.

Thanksgiving tips

1. Don't put a frozen

turkey in the deep fryer. You'll burn your house down.

2. Don't have a drama-filled day. You may have differences with certain family members, but arguing with them would defeat the entire purpose of the day.

3. Help out. The food can be more satisfying when you know you peeled the potatoes.

4. Watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, a football game, or have music playing to make it feel more festive.

5. Enjoy everything about it!

6. Did we mention be thankful?

Some things we should all be thankful for but tend to take for granted:

- Simply being alive.
- The air we breathe.
- The clothes we wear.
- The roof over our

heads.

-Our family and friends.

-Financial aid.

-Having the opportunity for education and higher education.

-The person that first made us smile today.

-The food we are blessed to be consuming.

Make cooking easier

1. Use Stove Top Stuffing. It tastes just as good and its fast and less stressful.

2. The same thing goes for pies. If you aren't good at making and rolling the perfect crust, try a Pillsbury Pie Crust and you're ready to go!

Quick-fix recipe for "Turkey Day" leftovers:

Throw any leftovers (turkey, stuffing, potatoes, etc.) in a greased pan, add a cream-of-something soup, cover with foil, bake, and enjoy.

Holiday recipe

DMACC Pumpkin Bars

- 4 eggs
- 2 c. sugar
- 15 oz. pumpkin
- 1 c. oil
- 2 c. flour
- 2 t. baking powder
- 2 t. baking soda
- 2 t. cinnamon
- 3/4 t. salt

Mix, pour into greased 15x10x1 pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 25 min. Let bars cool before frosting.

Pumpkin Bar Frosting

- Mix:
- 1 lb. powdered sugar
- 1/2 c. butter
- 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 2 T. milk
- 1 t. vanilla (optional)

Provided by Beth Christianson, Campus Cafe



Illustration by Kurt Strazkins 2001 (MCT)

Can't forget classic beauties

By Chelsea Magee
Staff Writer

Classic beauties aren't the normal women that one would see walking down the street. They were real, some of the most admired women, and the definition of "sexy" for most men.

These women were not about what their hair color was, how many plastic surgeries they could have, or who was the skinniest. They were each extremely unique, it was as though they were sent from heaven. Most of them did not have to wear all kinds of make-up or do the most ridiculous poses to make them feel better about themselves. All they had to do is look your way and they had eyes from all over gawking at them.

These women stood up for all the women across the world. Marilyn Monroe and Sophia Loren were prime examples of this. Even though they were sex symbol all across America, they still held their ground in a lot of the

situations they were faced against.

Monroe was more than just the 50's sex goddess. She had talent, poise, and dignity. Characteristics like this didn't come around very often for most women back in those days.

Loren was brought up in complete slums, but from hard work and dedication, she made her life spectacular, a life in which most women can only dream about.

These two lovely ladies were just a couple of the many classic beauties that were known. So many more made their mark in the world, and represented each woman in their own outstanding way.

Classic beauties should never be forgotten. They were the first symbols of the women of America. In my opinion, they did a great job at doing that. True beauty is what you make of it, and how one reveals oneself to the public. The stronger and more dignified ones are always remembered. The weak ones are lost in time.

Cussing lowers your IQ: The 'F' bomb

By Dale Walker
Web Editor

The "F" word is one of many socially unacceptable words heard frequently in the halls of DMACC. I find it offensive; particularly when it occurs with no mind for the presence of women or children, or when it occurs in a

public setting.

Swearing sounds nasty to me. It is immature, it interferes with many people's opinion of you, and it is poor practice for the behavior that will be expected of you in your professional career.

I grew up in the seventies and yes, we did have swearing then too. However, there were

standards of behavior that decent people rarely violated. These standards included no cussing in front of women or children at all and never in public. A gentleman would certainly accost you if you were to violate those standards.

I believe that the use of profanity violates section P of the student code of conduct by being

Our generation has gotten the opportunity to live among some of the greatest technological advances that allow us to be tech savvy and have the world at our fingertips.

My favorite part of technology I experience in my leisure time starting as a child was animation.

Animation has come such a long way even since the era I have gotten the pleasure to live in. It's astounding what animation has become in the last 100 years.

"Felix the Cat" was the first cartoon in 1913. This cartoon is still well known to a majority of the U.S. population.

The Disney Corporation was founded in 1923 with no one realizing at the time what an epic corporation empire would be built with the success and characters coming to life.

Mickey Mouse will always be the number one symbol linked to Disney along with the rest of the gang including Minnie Mouse, Goofy and Pluto being the first characters Walt and his brother Roy would work on.

What people forget is that animation is not just for children, even though a majority of animation may be aimed at them. It can be appealing to even adults, especially with the degree of realness these characters have that make you believe you can fly and go to Never Never Land, your toys actually have feelings, or that the spirit of Christmas is instilled in everyone regardless of your grim past. "Animation offers a medium of story telling and visual entertainment which can bring pleasure and information to people of all ages everywhere in the

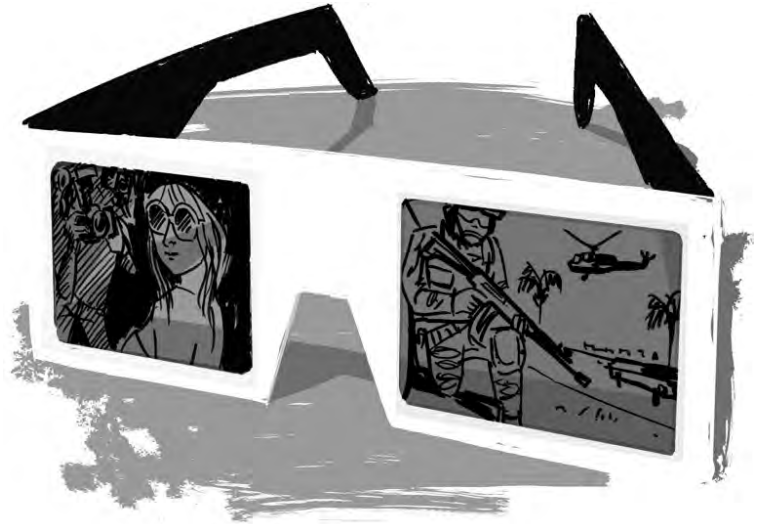
world," said Walt Disney the co-creator of Disney Productions.

My favorite part of animation is watching 3-D movies. I love the fact that you can put on these glasses and it takes you into another world to capture you and take you on the adventure alongside the characters, if only for those measly two hours.

I connect with the story and feel like a happy-go-lucky little buck-toothed baby once again as I watch the stories unfold. I feel what the characters feel, I see what they see and feel as though I could reach right out and feel the wetness of the snowflakes as they touch the tip of my nose.

Animation not just for kids

By Jamie Stueve
Opinion/Feature Editor



The Seattle Times 2007 (MCT)

I think that is fantastic ad-

vertising and brilliance in a nutshell. Even possibly imagining any further advances with movies and animation seem impossible, due to it already exceeding my expectations, but I assume it will only get more realistic and creative as the years go on. "We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths," said Walt Disney

Whether it's a family night out or a first date, movies in 3-D can explore parts of your imagination you never thought possible or even bring out that part of you that you

I think that is fantastic ad-

Study abroad

From Page 3

students interested in more funding, which can be found on the DMACC homepage as well as scholarships that pertain to international studies. A scholarship through DMACC is the Benjamin

A. Gilman international scholarship available for students on the London trip.

Jedele encourages students who consider this opportunity to start planning a year in advance, but that it is completely worth all the planning and money in-

"Although the program is expensive, none of my students regretted taking out loans and borrowing money to go."

--Randy Jedele

disorderly, lewd, indecent, or obscene. The Student Code of Conduct is available to every student and is published in the front of the DMACC Student Planner.

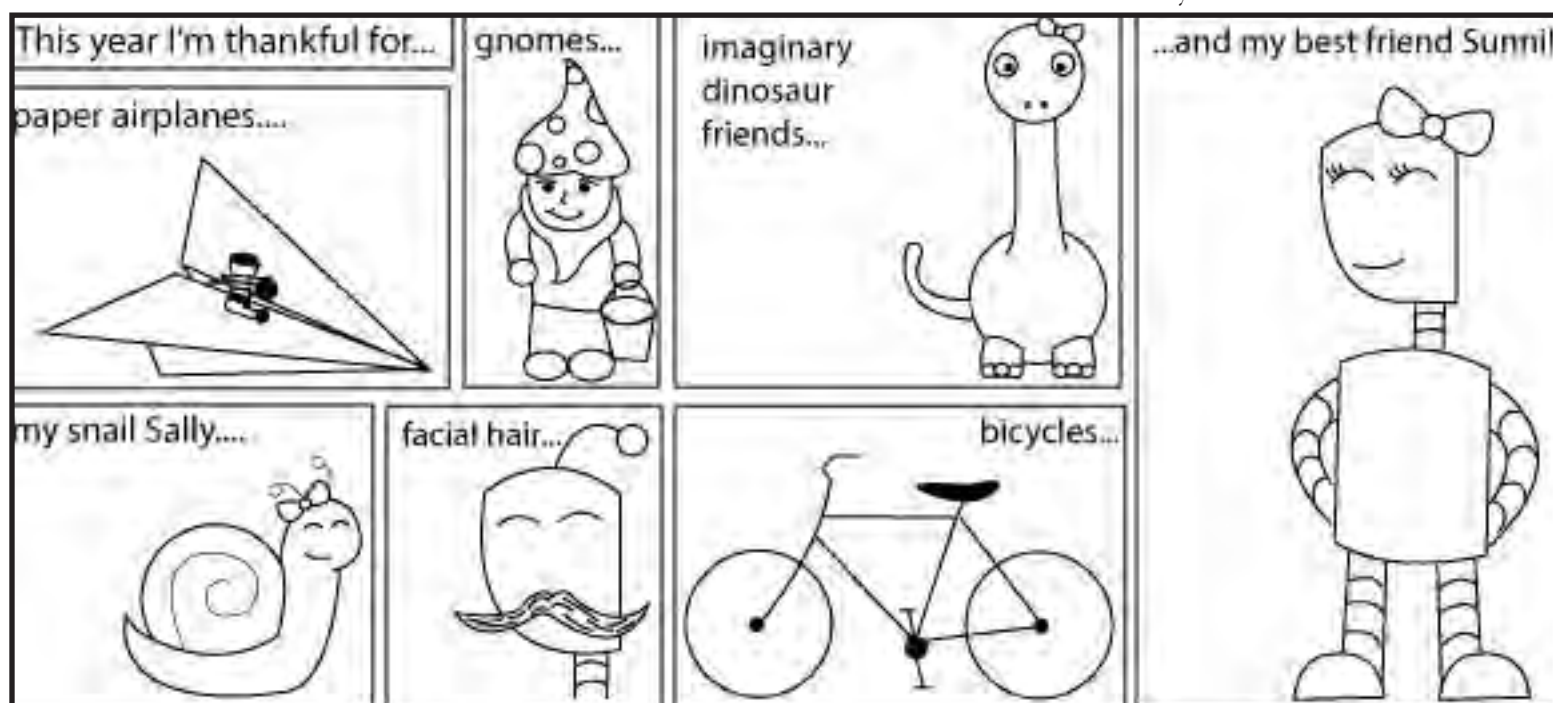
Please consider the effect of the words you use on yourself and the people around you. That person you cussed in front of today might be the one who interviews you tomorrow.

volved. "Although the program is expensive, none of my students regretted taking out loans and borrowing money to go. Also, this program is cheaper than the study abroad programs at four-year institutions."

Contact Maria Cochran, the study abroad coordinator for any further questions to acquire information in regard to the spring 2010 trip abroad in London at mecochran@dmacc.edu.

The deadline to participate in the program is now Dec. 7 due to a lack in numbers participating, six, when they need ten to continue on with plans.

The financial aid coordinator is Barb Badger who will also be able to provide additional information on funding for the trip at bbadger@dmacc.edu.



Cartoon by Jessie Vrba, DMACC student

Windows 7: Hyped Up?

By Austin Leeds
Columnist

Let's go back to 2007 and take a look at everyone's least favorite operating system: Windows Vista. Prone to errors and simply not compatible with much of everyone's important stuff, Vista earned Microsoft a pretty bad rep and caused many people to switch to Mac.

Fast-forward about two years, and everyone's crazy about Windows 7. What happened?

Microsoft woke up.

The latest version of Windows utilizes many features that had been common in Mac OS X for years, putting their own spin on them, of course. The "Superbar," aka the "Taskbar" or, if you want to be brutally honest, the Mac OS X "Dock," is one of the most Mac-like features about Windows 7. An imitation of Exposé had been around since Vista, along with a version of Mac's Dashboard, called Windows Sidebar. But Windows 7 is more than just a Mac imitation.

Windows 7 supposedly fixes many of Vista's flaws, including the ever-annoying UAC (User Access Control). You know, the window that comes up asking your permission every time you want to do anything? Windows 7 allows you to use custom settings for this, which makes it a little less tiresome. Most of the compatibility issues of Vista have also been solved by Windows 7's use of ex-

tensive updates. While I cannot address every issue, I can give my impressions.

I used Windows 7 Ultimate on a Mac Pro, but I didn't use any of the features that distinguish Ultimate from Professional, Enterprise or Home Premium. My experience was quite general and focused around the ease-of-use and smoothness of the operating system itself.

1) Windows 7 installed easily—only 20 minutes for a fresh install. While my experience here might not be typical, the Mac Pro is a very powerful computer and probably sped things up on its own. I can say with certainty that the process itself was very simple.

2) Start-up time and shut-down time have both been reduced, making it comparable to Mac OS X's start-up and shut-down times.

3) The new taskbar feels natural—a perfect blend of Mac OS X and Windows Vista. Instead of having window after window displayed in the taskbar, Windows 7 uses buttons to show running programs. To see how many windows are open in each program, you can move your mouse over the buttons and a group of thumbnails pops up, showing you each window and what's in it.

4) The old start menu is gone, but with most of us at DMACC using the new-style start menu from XP, this shouldn't be a problem.

5) Programs open quickly and without crashing. Again, this is only my experience, but after using Vista, this was one feature that caught my attention immediately.

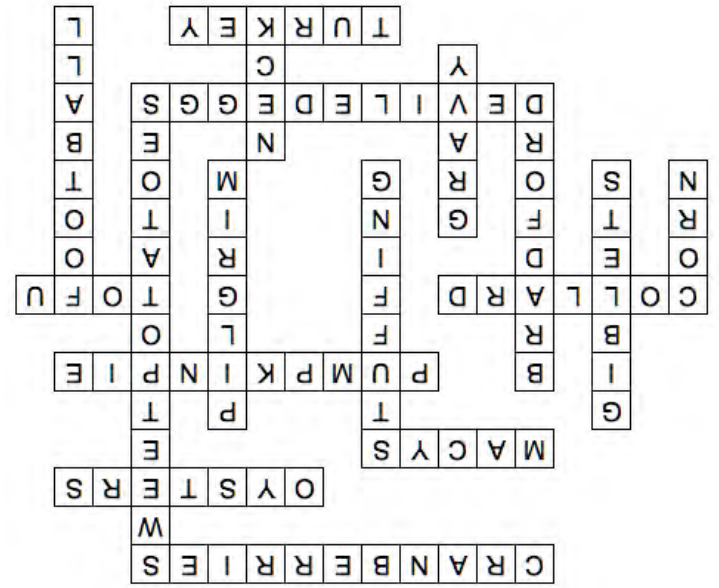
6) The new aero style uses transparent windows, which is simple but practical eye candy.

7) The Windows Flip 3D feature is apparently missing. This was one feature that was a definite improvement from XP to Vista. One of the reasons I use Mac OS X is its beautiful and efficient Exposé feature, and the absence of Flip 3D removes one competitive feature Microsoft could have expanded upon.

Overall Windows 7 is a great operating system, and is the best thing Microsoft has ever made. While Mac OS X is still the better of the two, Windows 7 is at least functional, easy to use and incorporates dazzling graphical effects without sacrificing speed.

I've been informed that DMACC is not yet ready to transition due to driver issues, but Windows 7 is certainly ready for most students and consumers. If you're ready to take the plunge, pick up a copy at the DMACC Bookstore for only \$10, but make sure you pick the right kind: 32-bit processors are Intel Pentiums and older AMD's, while 64-bit processors are Intel Core 2's. When in doubt, go with 32.

Gobble Gobble Crossword answers



Andrew Bridge: A student's experience

By Haley Miller
Contributing Writer

It all started with the book signing. I showed up early and actually got a glimpse of Andrew [Bridge] standing with a few of the teachers at the school. Right then I was star struck and couldn't WAIT for the book signing. I didn't realize how early I was until I found myself staring at the clock for ten minutes in the library. I went out to his table and waited in line. When it was my turn to get my book signed, he asked for my name and I told him 'Haley, H-A-L-E-Y.' Then he asked me about college and if I liked it. I told him I was from Nebraska and that my parents were foster parents. He said, "Oh, well how's that going?" I told him very briefly about the three children whose mom just got her rights terminated. I was very embarrassed and couldn't believe I'd just told him that. He smiled and said he thought it was a good thing what we were doing. Then I awkwardly waved goodbye and said, "Well, I'll see you when you talk." He laughed and I felt stupid but it was a good stupid.

Then, after another short while of waiting in the library, it was time for the lecture. I hurriedly searched around for places he might be speaking. I saw Mrs. LaVille and she told me that it was in the auditorium. I didn't really want to make it awkward and sit by anyone I didn't know, so I went to the second row, where nobody sits. Andrew Bridge ended up taking the seat in front of me right before his lecture. Again, it was awesome. So, he took to the podium and gave his lecture. He discussed his relationship with his mother, his journeys through school, his relationship with his foster parents, his current relationship with his mother and much more. He was a very good speaker and sounded just like the voice in my head as I would silently read the book.

At the end of his lecture, a select number of us went to a room where there was pizza and pop. As I was entering the room, Andrew was just about to enter as well. He let me go first since I was a girl, I suppose. I ended up sitting in the corner of the room right next to the pop. I am very shy and wanted to hear the discussion but knew I wouldn't be part of it. Andrew Bridge actually got himself some pizza and pop and made sure to ask how I was doing while he got his pop. I had no idea he was talking to me so I felt stupid when I realized he was and answered, "Oh, good." He smiled and took his seat in the center of the room. People asked their questions and Andrew made sure to answer them. I felt the urge to ask him just one question or to at least tell him thank you while we were in that room, but I never did.

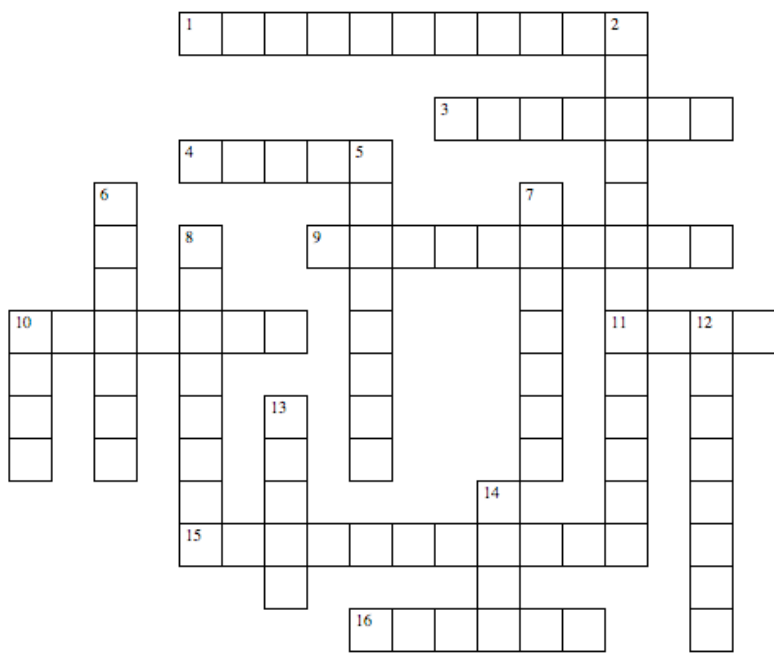
All of a sudden, it was a little past one o'clock and Andrew had to leave. Of course, everybody else wanted to say their piece to him and, of course, so did I. I didn't get the chance to tell him thank you in that room.

I left the room and, as if by fate, Andrew was walking down the same hall as me. He and his guide were headed to a different room but, knowing that this would be the last time I would ever see him, I knew what I had to do. I said, "Andrew?" He smiled as we both walked. I can't remember what I said but I do remember that it was a jumbled mix-up of a thank you and that I even said "I'm really nervous right now." He stopped walking and said it meant so much to him and said thank you to me. He then gave me a brief hug and said thank you again. It was better than going to the Britney Spears concert. Heck, I'm sure it was better than if I ever got the chance to meet Britney Spears.

Why I admire Andrew Bridge is because his book literally changed my perspective on life and how I share it with my foster siblings. The insight he provided in Hope's Boy spoke to me and reminded me of the same heartbreaking story that the foster children in my house are living right now. Andrew Bridge was a very well-spoken, nicely dressed man and one of the best authors in the world, according to me. I don't know if he will ever remember me, but I will always remember personally meeting him and him being so gracious. Yesterday was one of the most exciting moment of my college life so far. It is not everyday that you get a hug from a New York Times best-selling author.

Gobble Gobble Crossword

By Candace Daiker
Copy Editor



ACROSS

- 1 What makes your meal saucy.
- 3 Added to stuffing for seafood lovers.
- 4 New York City parade.
- 9 Goes great with Cool Whip.
- 10 Greens commonly eaten in the South.
- 11 A vegetarian's alternative to turkey.
- 15 Evil chicken's babies.
- 16 Your feast's centerpiece.

DOWN

- 2 A side dish eaten with marshmallows.
- 5 Soggy seasoned bread casserole.
- 6 Removed from turkey.
- 7 English settlers who celebrated the "First Thanksgiving."
- 8 "Of Plymouth Plantation" author.
- 10 Served scalloped, creamed, or with butter.
- 12 Most watched American sport of the day.
- 13 What some cover their entire meal with.
- 14 Weird part of the bird Grandpa likes to eat.

Do you feel the need, the need to read?



By Coty Mallicoat
Staff Writer

Have you ever been so bored that you actually took the time to read a book? This happened to me recently and, to be honest, I think some of you should do it, too.

Normally this is something I wouldn't tell people to do, until I

started doing it myself. Instead of staying up all night playing video games like I had before, I started reading a book. I didn't know how long I would actually stay awake or even get through the first chapter but before I knew it, it was 4 a.m. and I had the first 60-some pages down.

This probably wasn't the smartest way to go about it, but the point I'm trying to get across is that reading books can actually be good for you. So instead of staying up until 4 a.m. playing video games, I feel like reading a book is probably much better for a person. That is, unless you feel you need to work on hand-eye coordination.

A book that keeps your interest is the best choice. I came to the conclusion that if it is good for

someone like me who has trouble reading textbooks let alone reading for fun, it can probably be good for you too. Reading can have positive effects on you.

One of the biggest benefits would be that reading helps increase a person's vocabulary. By using the context of the sentence, a person can infer the meaning of words in the text. Reading helps improve a person's concentration and focus as well. If I really get into a book, I can zone everything else out around me. I can focus on what is going on in the text.

At times a good book can make you see what is going on in the book at the same time as you read it. I recently finished a book about high school wrestling, and I could picture the wrestling matches in my head.

I also believe that reading can increase a person's creativity. Reading stimulates the right side of the brain and increases your creative nature. It also keeps your mind active and alert. It makes you use your brain, as opposed to watching TV or sitting on Facebook chatting or playing one of their highly addicting games.

Reading can help take you away from the world. It can help take a person away from monotonous day-to-day life. Reading can also be a big stress reliever. While reading takes our minds off of other things in life, it can be relaxing at the same time.

Another benefit to reading is that, yes, it can actually be fun. Whether it be fiction, non-fiction, a biography or something educational, if it interests you, chances

are you might have some fun reading it.

Clearly it takes some effort to pick up a book and read. Watching TV is effortless, but by reading a book, you can still get the same relaxation out of it but at the same time get much more out of it.

I think that by reading you get many benefits, and I see more pro's than con's. Besides, it won't kill you to learn something new today.

Not all habits can be bad; make it a habit to pick something up and read it every once in a while. Keep those juices flowing upstairs.

Pardon me, pilgrim: This Thanksgiving, ditch the dead bird

By Chris Holbein
McClatchy Tribune (MCT)

If tradition holds, President Obama will soon "pardon" two turkeys, the "National Thanksgiving Turkey" and a backup, in a much-publicized ceremony at the White House Rose Garden.

I'm not sure what misdeeds turkeys raised for food need to be pardoned for, since most of them spend their entire lives crammed into filthy, windowless warehouses where they can barely take a step. But let's not quibble: We should all follow the president's lead and pardon a turkey this Thanksgiving.

Animal behaviorists tell us that turkeys are intelligent, social birds who enjoy the company of others. According to one poultry scientist, "If you throw an apple to a group of turkeys, they'll play with it together."

Turkeys are also loving, protective parents who are very bonded to their young. In the wild, turkey chicks stay with their mothers for up to five months, and a mother turkey will courageously defend her family against predators.

The story is very different for turkeys on factory farms.

Fatter turkeys mean fatter wallets for farmers, so these gen-

tle birds are bred and drugged to grow so large so fast that their legs can't even support their own weight. Many turkeys become crippled as a result and some slowly starve to death within inches of food because they are unable to move.

When PETA conducted an undercover investigation at one of the world's largest turkey-breeding companies, a farm supervisor described the male breeding birds as "80 pounds on toothpicks."

PETA's investigator also saw birds die of heart attacks or exhaustion because of the unnatural strain that their enormous size

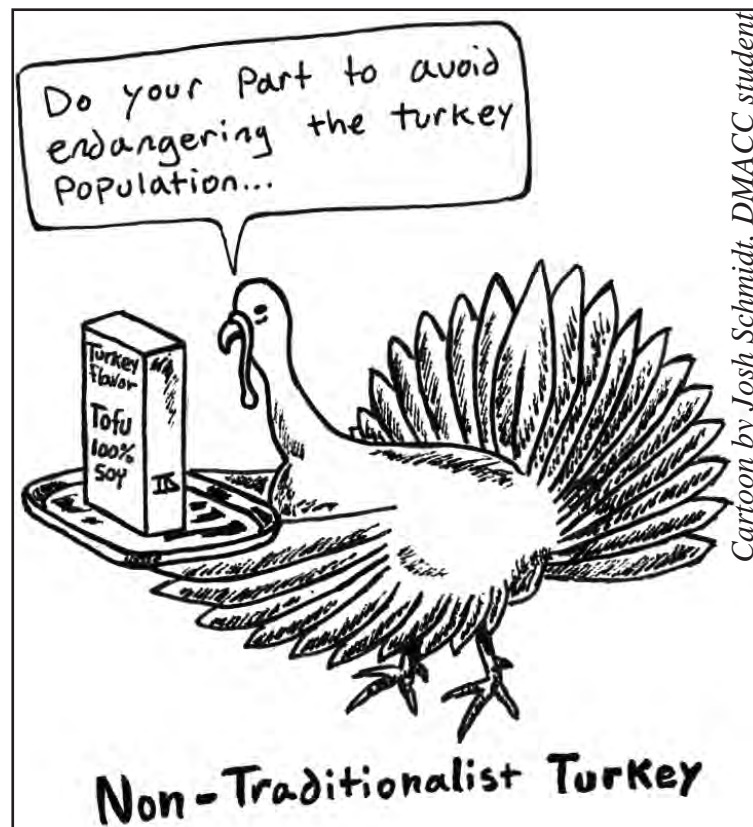
put on their internal organs.

If all this isn't enough to make you reach for the Tofurky, consider this: U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection reports reveal that an average of one out of every eight turkeys served on Thanksgiving is infected with salmonella, a food-borne pathogen that sickens more than 1 million people every year.

It's not hard: Just eat something else. With delicious cholesterol-free vegan holiday recipes available online and fabulous "faux fowl" in most supermarkets, we can all pardon turkeys and truly celebrate the spirit of the holiday.



"Ha, ha. This is all just, ha, ha, a big misunderstanding ..."



Cartoon by Josh Schmidt, DMACC student

Have a voice!

Submit letters to the editor. This is the sixth issue of the year and we have had only one letter submitted. Please keep letters under 350 words. Article submissions are welcome. Send to bannernews@dmacc.edu.

What are your views?



What do you care about?



(Fred Matamoros/Tacoma News Tribune/MCT)

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'New Moon' delights viewers

By **Josie Kramer**
Editor-in-Chief
 And **Jamie Stueve**
Opinion/Feature Editor

The year wait is finally over, the premiere of 'New Moon,' the sequel to 'Twilight's' saga, came out in theatres Nov. 20. Crowds awaited in the lobby of Movies 12 with lap tops, espresso's and McDonalds. The anticipation built up from the previous movie led to the lines and abundance of attendees to the second movie in the saga for the six showings available.

Being avid fans of the saga, we just had to go to the premiere. It lived up to our expectations and blew 'Twilight' out of the water.

Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart)

is left behind by her love, Edward Cullen, (Robert Pattinson). Through out the movie she begins to reminisce with an old friend, Jacob Black (Taylor Hotty aka Taylor Lautner) after Edward's disappearance.

She begins reckless and obstructive behavior to see realistic visions of Edward. The only thing that seems to fill the gap in her chest is by Jacob, and that is only temporarily; until she has her dreams again.

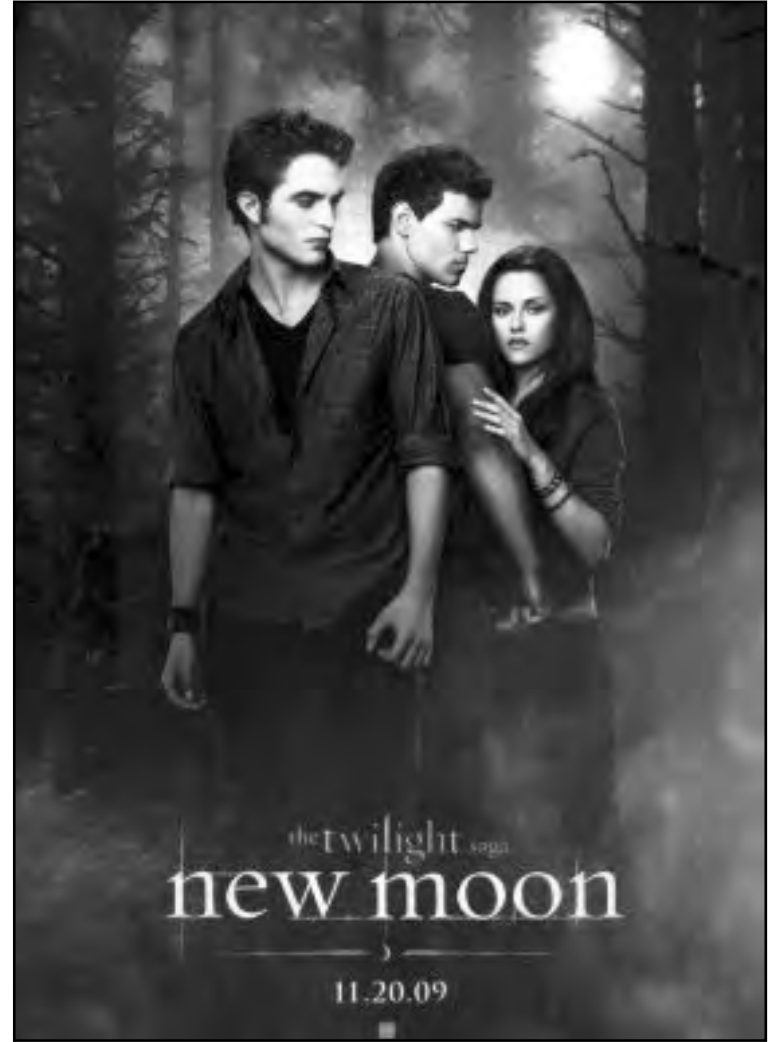
During Edward's absence, Jacob becomes Bella's best friend and protector. The secrets in the Quillette tribe reveal it self as there are intruders in Forks after Bella now that the Cullen clan has disappeared.

Bella becomes even more

reckless by bounding off a cliff into the ocean to see Edward once again, only to be rescued by Jacob. As Edward is told of the vision his sister Alice (Ashley Greene) saw of Bella's selfishness, he presumes Bella is deceased and feels there is no world worth living in with out Bella.

This easily becomes the climax of the movie with the drama and quickened pace of the story. Alice and Bella pursue Edward, who is in Italy. They want to prevent him from doing anything irrational.

The movie comes to an end where Bella is forced to choose between her best friend, and protector Jacob, and her love, Edward. This movie gets a 4 and a half out of 5 stars from us.



CALL OF DUTY: MODERN WARFARE 2 Steps up first-person-shooter genre

By **Tanner Sandrock**
News Editor

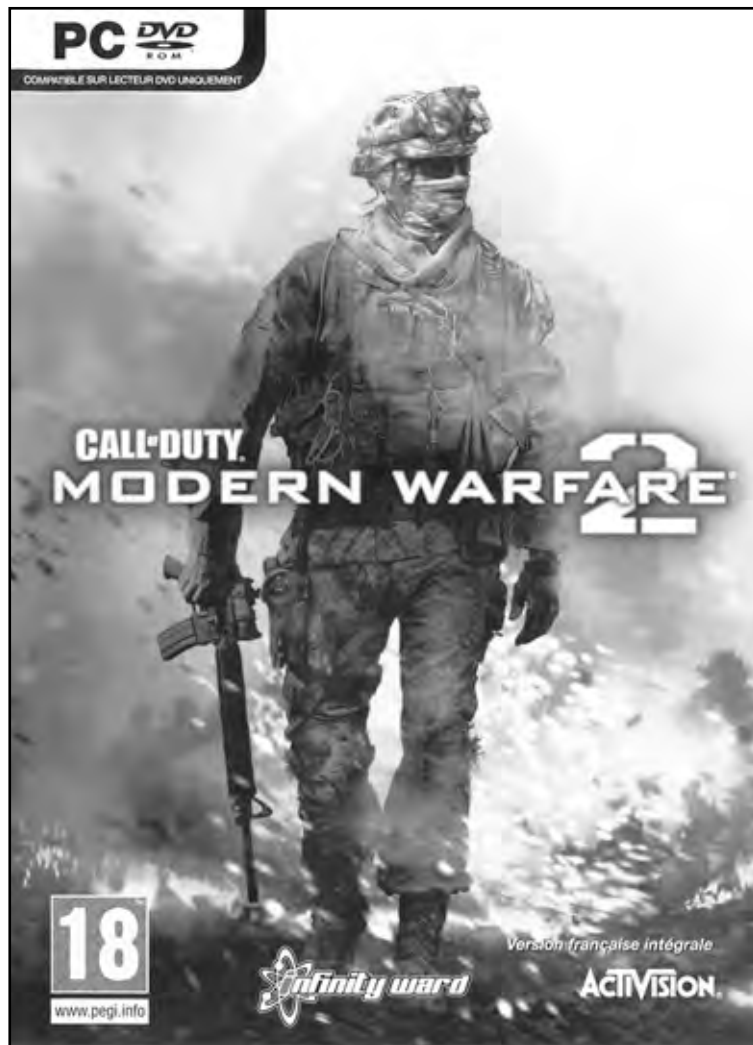
Infinity Ward and Activision's latest creation, "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2," hit shelves across the country Nov. 11. One of the most anticipated games of all time, but did it meet the hype?

MW2 is the sequel to 2007's "Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare." The series beforehand had been based in World War II but relented itself into the modern age and fans loved it. Combined with a great story, realistic weapon choice, amazing graphics and a kick butt multiplayer CoD 4 quickly rose to the top of the first-person-shooter genre competing with the likes of "Halo 3."

Right out of the gate in the first 24 hours, retailers pushed in the area of 4.7 million copies; we're talking about \$310 million in the first day alone. Apparently some people out there are excited about this game and with good reason.

MW2 picks up five years after the action where "Modern Warfare" left off. Instead of playing as Soap again you take up arms as Roach, a rookie taking orders from your former character. You also spend a few levels playing as varies other characters as well as Soap. Once again you and the S.A.S, the Special Air Service a specialized force of the British Military, are combating terrorism and the threat of world war.

The fast pace shooter delivers were it counts. Earth quaking explosions, in-depth scenery and enough lead slinging shootouts to make your heart skip a beat. The story keeps you absorbed and it's not like one of those shooters where it's shoot this move, shoot that move; MW2 keeps you going



with different and interesting goals like scaling a virtual, icy cliff face with not much more then your hands.

When the main story is over, do not fret. Like any other of the top shooter games on the market now, MW2 has one of the series best for multi-player, and that's saying something for a series known for its multiplayer action.

MW2 adds tons of new features that make playing way more customizable. Along with the loads of weapon selections they have, new kill streak bonuses ranging from your standard radar all the way up to a tactical nuke

that ends the round with quite the bang.

Overall, "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2" is one of those games that you go out and buy. If you want to rent, be my guest, but when you take it back and find yourself craving more of that in-your-face action don't come crying to me.

This game is definitely the next step in the first-person-shooter genre and leaves me excited to see what Infinity Ward and Activision have coming next. For me "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2" get a 5 stars out of 5 stars.

Ashes to Ashes

By Sam Nelson
 Contributing Poet

When we first find someone to call our own,
 we become overwhelmed with a sense of belonging,
 an awareness of joy and jubilant shaking in our stomach.

When time goes by that feeling either grows with compassion
 or it can also go in the opposite direction as well.

If you have enough courage to do something about it,
 then you are stronger than you ever thought you could be.
 But the addiction of the body will keep you at bay for as long
 as you allow it.

This is a powerful thing but when it comes to love,
 love always trumps the sweet addiction of the body.
 Through love, trial and error
 Anything is amazingly possible.

We sometimes learn to love in a very hard way.

The road is not clear for anyone at anytime.

We have to strive and commit ourselves to not be perfect,
 but to be a union of thoughts of the same.
 Same compassionate thoughts toward each other.
 Same common aspirations and desire in life.

My friends, this is one of the truly elusive things nowadays.

But when you find it, savor it and cherish it.

REMINDER: Creative Writing Contest deadline Friday, Dec. 4

DMACC--The deadline for the DMACC district-wide Creative Writing Contest is 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4. This contest is open to all full- or part-time DMACC students.

If interested, please fill out an application form and submit two or three poems or short stories less than 20 pages each. For an application form, go to llrice@dmacc.edu. The top prize is a \$1,000 scholarship with the runner-up receiving a \$500 scholarship. In addition, there will be cash prizes of \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place in each of the short stories and poem categories.

For the instructions and rules about this contest, go to <http://www.dmacc.edu/CreativeWritingContest2009.pdf>

If you were an inventor, what would be your invention?

Photos and reporting by Elliott L. Davis



Akuei Chiman

“A machine that filters snow into water to preserve the water.”



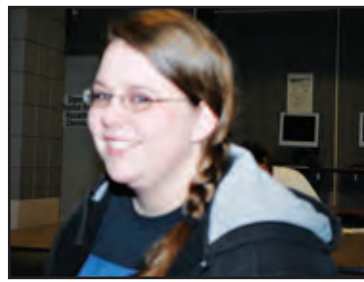
Anthony Ames

“Commercialize the hover craft.”



Cory Atkinson

“A hoverboard. You would use less energy and have cleaner shoes.”



Rachel Johnson

“A machine that does my homework.”



Susan Stevens

“A time machine.”

Musical guest Valerie Custer

Continued from page 1

Custer says she has many influences for her own music, “Pretty much anything I listen to, be it a good or bad influence.” She says she listens to most anything outside of country, anywhere from MRP to jazz, hard rock to alternative, Tool to Death Cab for Cutie. However, Custer says she remains untrained in traditional music and claims to be self-taught. “I like my ignorance to music. I think it makes my music more unique.” said Custer

“At the moment I have 20 songs but three I would record.” Custer said when asked about her original pieces. “I think I’ve gone as far as I can by myself. I’d like to put a three piece together when

I get home,” a three piece being a drummer, a bassist, and herself.

After the show Custer had plans to head back up to Bloomington, “You may think I’m crazy but I’ve never heard of the Mall of America. All I heard about when I was up there was the Mall of America so I think I’m going to go check it out.” Custer has the next couple days off before she has to be in DePere, Wisconsin for a performance at Saint Norbert College.

Students interested in learning more about Valerie Custer and her musical career can find more information as well as upcoming show dates at www.myspace.com/vmusicSPACE.

Post-Secondary students

Continued from page 1

DMACC website explains Career Advantage courses supplement high school courses and are the same quality as the courses taught on the college campus.

While post-secondary enrollment is intended to give students a start on their college degrees, but not to breeze through their high school careers. The PSEO require students to comply with DMACC policies and know dual-credit grades will be reflected on their transcripts. Students can only enroll in courses if something comparable isn’t available at their high school, and then must complete prerequisite coursework assigned to the class with a grade of C or higher.

One of the most common

driving forces to post-secondary students enrolling in college courses is the lower cost. In most cases, tuition, fees and textbooks are free to the participating students, according to DMACC’s Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) under Iowa’s Post-secondary Enrollment Options Act.

Tara Tonsfeldt, first semester student on the Boone Campus, took 32 credits through Iowa Central Community College while in high school, and 22 of them transferred to DMACC. “I’m grateful I took them in high school and got ahead of the race in college. Plus I saved a bucketload!” said Tonsfeldt.

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Happy Thanksgiving from the Banner News Staff