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## Banner News

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**Authors**

Allison Riley, Shane Meier, Hannah Quinn, Justin Mitchell, Rachel Pickett, Kristine Phannes, Craig VandeVenter, and Greg Laraia



Bears dominate during spring road trip P.7



Grotto still special Iowa tourist spot P.4



# BANNER NEWS

Des Moines Area Community College Boone Campus

Wednesday, April 1, 2009 Vol. 8, No. 12

## Holocaust revisited Study abroad student visits Auschwitz

Allison Riley, Urban Campus  
London Correspondent

"I freed Germany of the stupid and the degrading fallacies of conscience, morality... we will train young people before whom the whole world will tremble. I want young people capable of violence, imperious, relentless, cruel." This shocking comment was made by Adolf Hitler. The comment becomes even more appalling after visiting Auschwitz, one of Hitler's death camps.

I started out in Krakow, Poland, and had to take an hour bus ride to Oswiecim, the city where Auschwitz is located. Upon arrival the chills started to set in. The idea that less than seventy-five years ago an ethnic cleansing took place, made my everyday problems seem petty and cheap. While I chose not to take a guided tour, the exhibits were simply astounding, I could sense the fear that radiated from the prisoners of Auschwitz.

Auschwitz I is less than twenty times the size of the additional concentration camp Auschwitz II just down the road. As I walked in to the actual camp, I walked under an iron archway reading "Arbeit Macht Frei" meaning "Work is Liberation." The Holocaust victims were under the assumption when they arrived that they were simply being detained, so each and every family came with all belongings in hand, pots and pans, clothing, hairbrushes, children's toys, everything. Upon arrival they were separated into men, women, and weak. Each of the groups had to forfeit their personal belongings, strip down to bare skin, be washed, and then given a number.

The first three years of Auschwitz each of the prisoners' mug shots were taken and numbered and given clothes and shoes that didn't fit along with a colored patch showing why they were in Auschwitz, whether it be because they were Jewish, Gypsy, Orthodox, or a criminal, etc. As the population grew, they were numbered and in the later years tricked into a shower upon arrival, which was a gas chamber disguised as a

showing room with faucets and had no water hooked up to them, just the lethal gases.

The men were usually put straight to work doing labor that the Nazi's knew would break them down and eventually after breaking their souls, would also break down their bodies. The men were expected to do this work for twelve to eighteen hours a day with only 500-750 calories of food each day, and if they were lucky, they were able to sleep on piles of hay, while the others were forced into standing chambers to sleep, all which was simply unimaginable to me, a person hoping to one day have a NASA approved TempurPedic™ bed. While the men were put to work, the women and children were starved and secluded. Many of these women and children were tested in scientific experiments that would inevitably kill them

One of the most disturbing exhibits was named "Evidence of the Holocaust." This bunker or building housed many of the artifacts that prove the holocaust did, indeed, happen. They retain this evidence because there are still some who say that the Holocaust never happened and in many other cases the Nazi's destroyed the evidence from other concentration camps before the eventual Allie liberation. Some of the evidence was contained in exhibits two to three times the size of a basic DMACC classroom. These cases were filed with the shoes, pots and pans, and hairbrushes. However, the most disturbing material artifacts were the suitcases that had the names of the people entering the camp on them. The feeling I felt was indescribable, it is heart-wrenching, soul-crushing, and unimaginable. These people were outcasted, broken down and made into animals.

Up until around May of 1943, the women were allowed to keep their hair, but that changed and every woman who entered from then on had to have her head shaved just like the men. In the "Evidence of the Holocaust" exhibits they still have a lot of that

## 'Seeing Stars in Dixie' spring play



Photo by Dan Ivis

Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Boone Campus students Faith Burket of Ames, Linda Mui of Boone and Ashley Paulson of Ames, rehearse a scene for the upcoming production of *Seeing Stars in Dixie*. The play, written by Ron Osborne, tells the story of Clemmie, a widow who owns her own tea establishment and the other people she encounters there. *Seeing Stars in Dixie* will be performed on Friday and Saturday April 3-4, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Boone Campus Theater. Tickets cost \$5 per person and may be purchased at the door. DMACC students receive free admission.



Photo by Allison Riley

This is one of the lanes of buildings that housed gas chambers, as well as, victims of the Holocaust. At the end you can see one of the many watch towers, and on the left end of the lane is some of the barb wire fencing.

April 3-4

'Seeing Stars in Dixie'  
Boone Campus Theatre  
7:30 p.m.

April 12

Easter Sunday

April 13

Literary Arts  
Festival

April 20

Fall Registration  
Begins

Continued on Page 5



## Phi Beta Lambda Leadership Conference Award Winners

### First Place Winners

Joni Rentschler Business Communications  
Mikki Winebrenner Accounting for Professionals

### Second Place Winners

Joni Rentschler Desktop Publishing  
Jill Siders Business Graphics  
Vickie Spears Client Service  
Kim Stuhldryer Business Graphics  
Reggie Stuhldryer Desktop Publishing  
Mikki Winebrenner Payroll Accounting

### Fourth Place Winners

Vickie Spears Future Business Executive  
Vickie Spears Marketing Concepts  
Vickie Spears Marketing Analysis/Decision Making  
Reggie Stuhldryer Public Speaking  
Mikki Winebrenner Financial Analysis/Decision Making

### Fifth Place Winners

Jill Siders Word Processing Fundamentals  
Reggie Stuhldryer Computer Concepts

### Elected as PBL State Officers

Joni Rentschler Secretary  
Reggie Stuhldryer Historian/Reporter  
Mikki Winebrenner Treasurer

# Boone represents PBL at state competition

Hannah Quinn

Copy Editor

Six members of DMACC's Boone campus' professional business organization, the Omicron Zeta chapter of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL), were sent to the 63rd annual Iowa Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference on March 6 and 7.

"Students competed against students from across the state and South Dakota who were from two- and four-year colleges," said Linda Plueger, PBL advisor.

The conference took place at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, where members competed with over 80 other business students from Iowa and South Dakota to represent the state in the National Leadership Conference held in Anaheim, California, in June.

Ten colleges participated in

the conference, including Ashford University, DMACC's Boone, Des Moines and West chapters, Grand View University, Iowa State University, National Virtual Chapter, University of Northern Iowa, Upper Iowa University and Dakota State University.

Students competed as chapters, teams and individuals in events such as accounting for professionals, business communications, word processing and business graphics. Students who placed first or second in their events have the opportunity to travel to California for the national competition.

Several students from the Boone campus placed in the top five of their events, and the Boone campus chapter also received an award for the second largest PBL chapter in Iowa and South Dakota.

"DMACC Boone campus has smart students because every

one of the students who attended placed in the top five in at least one event," said Plueger.

Along with competing against other PBL students from across Iowa and South Dakota, state officers were also elected, including Joni Rentschler for secretary, Reggie Stuhldryer for historian and reporter and Mikki Winebrenner for treasurer.

"This is the first semester that I had three DMACC Boone students run for state officers are win," said Plueger.

In addition to competing in the State Leadership Conference, PBL participates in a number of other activities throughout the year, such as fundraising, adopting a family at during the holidays, Adopt-a-Highway, field trips and various other service projects.

And student interested in becoming a PBL member can contact Linda Plueger at [liplueger@dmacc.edu](mailto:liplueger@dmacc.edu).



Joey Highland, Boone campus custodian Photo by Shane Meier



Contributed photo

Jill Siders (front row, left to right) of Boone, Mikki Winebrenner or Jefferson; Reggie Stuhldryer (back row, left to right) of Boone, Kim Stuhldryer of Boone, Vickie Spears of Ogden and Joni Rentschler of Boone were all place winners at the Phi Beta Lambda Leadership Conference.

## DMACC custodian will have second surgery this week

Shane Meier

Layout Editor

DMACC custodian Joey Highland, 24 of Boone is absent this week so he can have surgery to remove the rest of a tennis ball-sized tumor that was discovered late last year. He has already had one surgery to remove 80 percent of the tumor and now doctors are going to remove the rest.

The cancer is known as bilateral acoustic neurofibromatosis, or NF2. It is a genetic disorder of chromosome 22 and it occurs in one out every 40,000 births.

Highland's troubles began on Oct 31, 2008, when after having trouble with his vision, went to the eye doctor and discovered

that his optic nerve was swollen. A week after this, Highland had a MRI done at the McFarland clinic and discovered the tumor. He was then sent to Iowa City to undergo

surgery to remove the tumor.

The surgery lasted 13 hours and affected eight of the 12 nerves in his brain stem. The tumor was growing on the eighth nerve that controls hearing and balance. They had to remove the right side of the eighth nerve in addition to the inner part of Highland's right ear so that they could remove the

tumor rendering him partially deaf. It took them five hours to remove. In total they removed 80 percent of the tumor.

After the surgery, he spent two days in an ICU and spent two months in physical therapy to regain his balance that he attended two times a week. He also suffered a staph infection on the inci-

sion.

The second operation is only the beginning for Highland. In 10-12 years, he will have to have the inner part of his left ear removed, which will render him completely deaf.

His family is currently attending sign language classes in preparation for this.

## Boone Area Humane Society Annual Garage Sale

April 22 - April 25  
At the Boone County Fairgrounds

April 22, 6:00p.m. - 9:00p.m.  
April 23 - 24, 9:00a.m.-8:00p.m.  
April 25, 9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.

We will pick up any items that are donated on Saturday, April 4th, 11th, 18th.  
Call the Humane Society to schedule a pick up time or if you have any questions call (515)432-6112

## Campus Cafe

Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Friday 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



DMACC MUGS!

\$6.00  
(1st drink free)

Refills - \$1.00



# Basketball coach named full time athletic director

Justin Mitchell

Sports Writer

Orv Salmon is stepping down as the head coach of the men's basketball team, but he will remain as the athletic director for the Bears.

During this past season, Salmon's ninth with the Bears, they posted a record of 18-11 before losing to the Ellsworth Panthers in the second round of the Division II tournament.

During his tenure as head coach, Salmon has posted an overall record of 235-60, while leading the Bears to two national elite eights and one national final four appearance. He has also helped coach and developed 7 All-American players.

When asked why he chose to step down now, Salmon replied, "I've been thinking about this for about a year and a half now and I think it's the right time."

The resignation of Salmon from the head-coaching job allows him to focus more on his work as athletic director. Focusing and improving the performance of DMACC's other seven athletic programs is now Salmon's main focus. "I've had a lot of fun coaching, but I'm getting older and the players always stay the same age," said Salmon jokingly.

The process for finding a replacement now begins for the Bears and assistant coach B.J.

McGinn is in consideration for the position according to Salmon.

He has done very well as my assistant for three seasons." McGinn has previous head coaching stint for two years at NJCAA Division I Eastern Arizona College, where he helped guide the Gilamonsters to a 37-23 record while producing one all-American.

He has also had previous assistant coaching experience while serving as an assistant for NCAA Division II Wayne State College in Nebraska for three seasons.

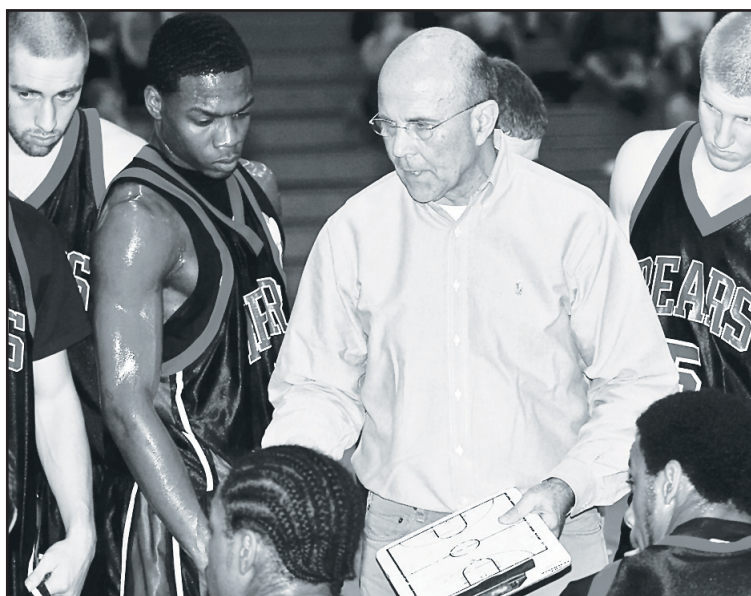


photo by Eric Ver Helst

Orv Salmon directs his players during the 2008-09 season.

# Bears baseball opens spring season on fire

Justin Mitchell

Sports Writer



contributed photo

1st basemen Jake Astor

The Bears are proving to their opponents that they deserved their number 1 preseason ranking.

The Bears opened the season on a road trip with stops through Kansas City Missouri, Texas, and Oklahoma and they dominated.

Starting the season with a 13 game win streak, the Bears offense averaged 9.6 runs a game while holding their opponents to 2.4 runs a game.

Head coach Dan Fitzgerald credits the fast start to his team's talent, "This team is very talented

and all of their hard work is paying off." The scorching Bears offense is lead by the dynamic duo of Jake Astor and Joel Hutter, who are one and two on the team; in batting average, hits, and runs batted in.

While the offense has been lighting up scoreboards left and right with an overall team batting average of .346, the pitching has been equally as dominating through the season's first 20 games. The staff has posted a team earned run average of

3.28 and the defense behind the pitchers has been solid. Staff ace Patrick Cooper is tied for second on the team in earned run average with a 2.33 and he is first in innings pitched with 21. Not only does Cooper lead the team in strikeouts, he leads all division II pitchers with 28.

The Bears (21-3) looked to continue their dominating ways as they began conference play.

"We have to make sure that when conference play starts we continue to play our best baseball

and focus on winning every game," said Fitzgerald.

When asked if there was a difference in preparing for conference opponents and teams they have never faced before, he replied, "There's no difference to our guys because they take the field against any opponent with an expectancy to win."

The Bears began their in conference season by trashing Iowa Central Community College with a four game series sweep.

# Five Bear women players named to All-Region Team

DMACC--Five Bears women basketball players were named to the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference Division II All-Region Team.

Sophomores Ellie Ritscher of Keystone and Likeisha Dotson of Sioux City were named to the First Team All-Region, while sophomore Ciera McGaughy of Detroit and freshman Marni Jacobsen of Spencer were named to the Second Team All-Region. Sophomore Brittney McKowen of Fairbank was named to the Third Team All-Region. Ritscher was named to the First Team All-Region last year as well. McCaughy is also a repeat Second Team

All-Region selection.

Ritscher averaged 11.3 points and 6.6 rebounds per game for the Bears. Dotson averaged 12.3 points and 8.7 rebounds per contest and made 51 percent of her field goal attempts for the year.

McGaughy averaged 7.1 points and 3.5 rebounds per game and had 50 steals for the Bears in the 2008-09 season. Jacobsen maintained a 12.5 point and 6.0 rebound average for the Bears. McKowen averaged 8.6 points per game and led the team with 65 three-point field goals and made 83 percent of her free throw attempts.



Ciera McGaughy



Brittany McKowen



Likeisha Dotson

# Three Bear woman players make the All-Region teams

DMACC--A Des Moines Area Community College Boone Bear's Men's Basketball player has made the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference Division II Men's All-Region First Team, another has been named to the Second Team and a third has been named to the Honorable Mention Team

Scott Windom of Cartersville, GA was named to the First Team, while Tavaryus Gray of Orlando, FL was named to the Second Team. Brad Burton of Toledo, OH was named to the Honorable

Mention Team. All three are freshmen.

Windom, a 6' 5" forward, led the Bears in scoring averaging 15.1 points per game while connecting on 59 percent of his field goal attempts. He also led the team in rebounds, averaging 7.2 rebounds per contest.

The 6' 3" Gray made a team high 65 three point shots while averaging 14.1 points. He also averaged 4.2 boards per game. Burton, a 6' 2 guard, averaged 5.8 points and 4.2 rebounds per game for the Bears.



Scott Windom



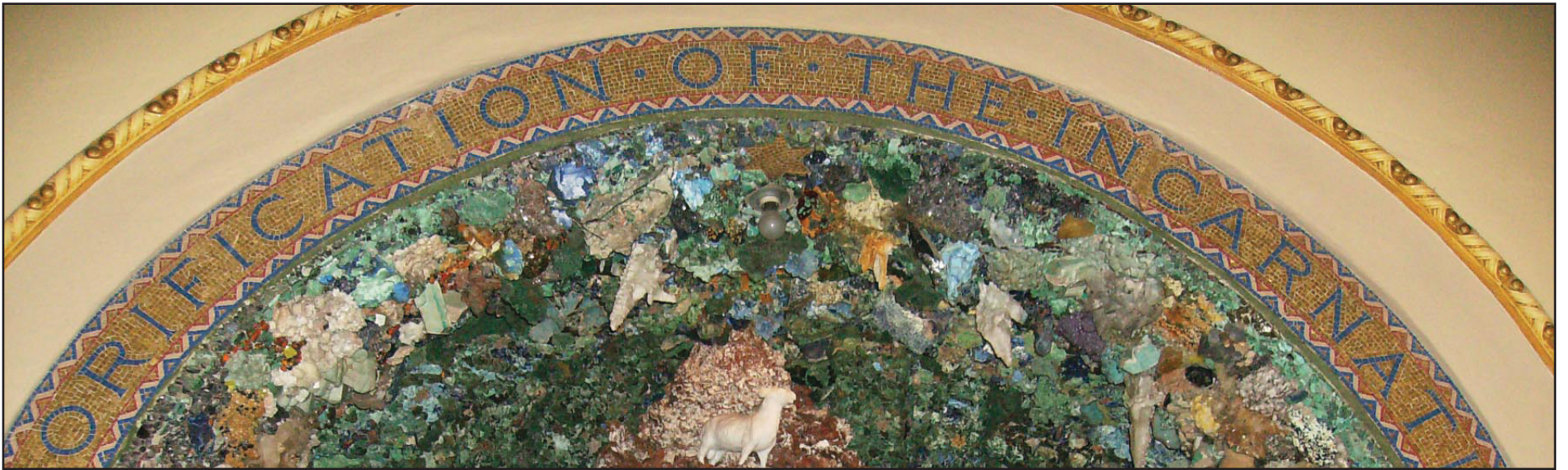
Tavaryus Gray



Brad Burton



# Grotto of the Redemption in West Bend well worth visiting



The top of the nativity scene shown inside the Christmas Chapel.

All photos by Shane Meier



Assorted agates are displayed on nativity scene.

**Shane Meier**

*Layout Editor*

There are many tourist traps throughout the USA. Most are just stupid ploys meant to draw people off the road like the worlds second biggest ball of twine. There is one in Iowa that is worth seeing however, the Grotto of the Redemption, which I went to see this spring break.

The Grotto of the Redemption, located in West Bend, was built by Father Paul Dobberstein after surviving a bout of pneumonia. It is said that he prayed to the Virgin Mary to save his life and he would build a shrine in her honor. Father Dobberstein started building the Grotto in 1912, and worked on it until his death in 1954, after which Father Grieving took over until his death in 2002.

The Grotto consists of 13 areas, all of which are scenes from Christian beliefs. The first one that we saw was is the Sermon on the Mount. It features a statue of Jesus beside the sermon that he preached that day. It usually has water below it, but because it was so early in the year the snow had yet to melt inside it when I went.

The next Grotto we visited was the Paradise Lost. This Grotto is easily missed because it is tucked away in a walkway and not easily seen. The part that is most notable is the serpent made of jade located next to the walkway, adjacent to the walkway next to it. There are also numerous statues depicting the scene of Adam and Eve being cast out.

After this most people either will either continue down the path which leads to two rows of shrines that lay on either side

of the walkway, each of which displays the eight Stations of the Cross - a belief exclusive to the Catholics. Or, they will turn east encountering the 10 Commandment Grotto. This Grotto, in my opinion, is the most beautiful of them all because of the dome that it has in the interior. In addition to the dome, it has the 10 Commandments displayed on the interior wall.

To the south of the 10 Commandments Grotto is a courtyard that displays the memorial wall of all the people who have contributed to the Grotto over the years. This area has no particular name, but it can only be described as a courtyard due to the benches, trees, and shrubs in it.

West of here you can either exit south out of the Grotto or proceed to the Garden of Gethsemane Grotto or you climb up atop the Grotto and take in the view. I have never visited the Gethsemane Grotto because it's out of the way and is easy to miss. The Gethsemane Grotto depicts the scene where Jesus is arrested after being betrayed by Judas.

The top of the Grotto is personally my favorite spot. From up there you can look down and see the entire Grotto and the surrounding countryside. There are three areas atop the Grotto you can look out from, but the very top one is the most spectacular form there you can see the very top of the Grotto which is crowned with a cross.

On the west side of the Grotto you have the final two areas the Bethlehem scene, and the scene of Jesus living in Nazareth. These are my least



Here is the front view of the Stations of the Cross.



Stations of the Cross are viewed from the top of the Grotto.

favorite because they are both very plain and uninteresting. On the west end you also have a statue of Father Dobberstein and the museum dedicated to the Grotto's construction.

The other place to visit at the Grotto site is the Christmas Chapel located next store to the Grotto. The Christmas Chapel is gothic style cathedral with stained

glass windows, a beautiful wooden alter, and a Grotto dedicated to the birth of Christ which houses rocks which were deemed to delicate to be displayed on the Grotto itself. The chapel also features a fountain located in front of it.

The Grotto overall is defiantly worth going out to see. I know I left out a lot of details about it, but a lot of it is hard to describe

in words. It is something that you just to have to see for yourself. In the end, it is a site worth seeing even if you're not Catholic or even religious at all because it is an impressive piece of artistic architecture with an interesting story attached to it. Take my advice - skip out on those other tourist traps and make your way up to West Bend.



# The TUBE

## Underground in London

Rachel Pickett, Urban

Kristine Phannes, Boone

*London Correspondents*

On Feb. 7, 17 students from DMACC started their journey to study abroad in London for 10 weeks. During this trip, it has become quite apparent that there are many cultural differences between Iowa and Europe. One such transportation difference became quite apparent while traveling on the underground subway known as the Tube.

The Tube's carriage is silent and reserved for a crowded train. For instance, during rush hour everyone was crammed into a carriage with no room to breathe, but none of the passengers became irritated by the invasion of their personal bubble. In fact, most of the passengers were not speaking or looking at each other in any way, which reflects one of the many differences between the British populace and that of the American populace. British people generally have a more reserved personality in comparison to Americans, who are generally more outspoken.

When riding on the Tube, it became obvious to tell those who were tourists versus the true "Londoners." The tourists were very loud and drew attention to themselves. They would often speak in a variety of different languages. An extreme example of touristic *faux pas*, which was witnessed by some of the DMACC students, was a group of foreign girls using the standing hand rails for pole dancing. Most in the Tube's carriage appeared to be appalled by their inappropriate and outrageous behavior.

The true Londoners would be well-equipped with a book, an iPod, or a newspaper to entertain themselves on their ride to their destination. Some may carry on a quiet conversation with someone near them if it were someone they know. They would not strike up a conversation with strangers, unlike people from the United States. These actions could possibly be viewed as snobbish, but in fact, it is due to their more reserved personalities.

Another issue that has been noted about the Tube is the great mass of people who use it. During early morning and late afternoon, the Tube is heaving with adults going to and from work. One carriage was so packed there was barely room to breathe. In some cases, even when there is no room left in a carriage, passengers shove their way into the carriage and create room. When a carriage is full to the maximum point, several passengers must step out of the carriage to allow other passengers off.

When the Tube is packed or even partially full, accidents can happen. In case they do, there are red emergency handles available



*Photo by Allison Riley*

"ARBEIT MACHT FREI" translates to "WORK IS LIBERATION." This sign is the entrance of Auschwitz I.

## Student visits Auschwitz



*Contributed photo*

**Allison Riley, DMACC Urban Campus student, standing in front of the Tower Bridge. Riley is one of several students studying abroad this spring. She is the author of the Holocaust article.**

### Continued from Page 1

hair. Again it was in a case about twice the size of a basic DMACC classroom and piled almost to the ceiling. This hair was used to make SS and Soviet uniforms.

The rest of the exhibit pertained to camp moral, camp escapes in which they reported that seven people escaped Auschwitz through different tactics but almost all of them were found and shot on site.

The museum went on to show how the Holocaust affected each country differently from Greece to Hungary to Poland to the Netherlands to France and more.

Each of these countries had experienced the same Nazi turmoil and many of the citizens from each ended up in Auschwitz or a horrible place like it.

Growing up in America, we are taught about the effects of

World War II on a different scale than children here in Europe. Europe was much more affected by the cruel scenarios caused by the Nazi invasions and Adolf Hitler.

The impact Auschwitz had on me is one I will never forget. It was such a powerful and disturbing place, and it made me look at the situation in a whole new light.

I always knew that innocent people were being massacred, but going to the actual site where roughly 1.4 million died made me look at the situation even more and I was ever more appalled at the ruthlessness of some of the human race.

Anyone who has the chance to experience this awful place should. Not only does a visit put history into perspective, but also it will be a humbling experience.

to alert the driver of such incidents. When something like this happens, the train automatically comes to a complete standstill and the driver walks through each carriage to make sure everything is okay. The train cannot go any further until the driver knows why the emergency handle was pulled and is assured that every In Iowa, the majority of students drive to school every day. This is not an option for most of the Londoners since the city is very busy and the roads often have traffic jams on a consistent basis.

It is apparent that London is very different from any city in the United States. There are many big cities in the United States that have their own subways, but they are not as easy to navigate as the London Tube. The people in the United States are not as tolerant to the invasion of their personal space as they are in London. This is due to their more reserved personalities. We have found London to be a very upbeat and exciting place. We thoroughly recommend other students to come and see for themselves



*Photo by Allison Riley*

**This photo is of the suitcases that were found at Auschwitz, with names and hometowns of people brought there with all their belongings.**



# Housing inspections Annoying or rewarding

Craig VandeVenter

Executive Editor

Monthly housing inspections aren't a new concept for student residents living in the DMACC owned Borgen Square Apartments. Housing officials conduct inspections on a monthly basis for all residents living in the apartments.

For students, this means frantic late night cleaning the night before the inspections are to be done.

The inspections might seem like a giant hassle for students, but only for those who do not clean their apartments on a regular basis. In retrospect the inspections serve a much higher purpose than to be a nuisance for students and the only reason that they clean their apartments. It is a way for housing to make sure living quarters for student residents are both sanitary and more importantly safe to live under.

As a student resident myself I used to fall partial to the thought that inspections were just a ploy by housing to make unruly students clean their apartments. After looking more into the matter I do not mind the thought of inspections as much as I did before. I came up with a theory of why it is important for someone to check up on residents from time to time.

First of all, everyone likes to feel safe about where he or she lives and whom he or she lives with. So to prevent a potentially dangerous situation between roommates the inspections pose as a way to make sure nothing



dangerous, harmful, or even illegal is happening in the apartments. Even though this might not be an issue for all residents it very well could be one for a small majority of them.

Secondly, it is a way that a housing official can sort of check up on things and make sure that appliances and such are functioning properly in the apartment.

However, the notion made by housing to check up on student's apartments could also just be an attempt to indirectly make us wash the dishes, vacuum the carpets, and take out the trash.

One thing is for sure though, if students took the time to keep their apartment's tidy in-between housing inspections they would not have to worry about cleaning up really late the night before.

Think of it as a stress reliever in this tense and stressful time after midterms but just before finals that we call spring. So take a load off and clean up your apartment every once in a while; who knows maybe it might make things a little less stressful when it comes time for finals.

## Editorial

The DMACC Board of Directors will meet Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> in the Borgen Administrative Building on the Ankeny Campus to vote upon the proposed cancellation of all second semester finals for students.

This is the first time in DMACC history that any sort of student led proposal has made it this far in the deliberation process.

If the board votes in favor of the proposal, there is talk of modeling all future spring semesters on this one.

What should students look forward to in the future if the proposal is approved? Students will no longer have to worry about cramming and studying for their spring semester finals at the last second and basically won't have to try at all in second semesters to follow this one.

Boone campus freshman and leader for the proposal, Jacob Anderson, said "Students will benefit tenfold by being able to focus on their Facebook statuses and making sure their social lives

are in order, without the traditional stress of studying for finals." Anderson who is a member of the golf team said, "My original idea for the proposal came about while playing a practice round of golf with my teammates this past month. We are all behind it one hundred percent."

All students are encouraged to check their DMACC daily messages in their email twice everyday for the next week in anticipation of the Board's decision.

A special note to all readers: If you have made it this far in this editorial, you are in for a surprise. All of the above mentioned information is absolutely and utterly false and made up in every way. Nothing like this has happened, nor will anything like this ever be approved by the DMACC Board of Directors. Come on people its spring, better start studying for your finals. Happy April fool's Day from all of us here at the Banner.

# "Choke" review

Greg Laraia

Assistant Layout Editor

The book "Choke" by author Chuck Palahniuk was a very stunning piece of writing. "Choke" is a novel about a troubled young man leading a borderline pathetic lifestyle. He works a petty job at a medieval times re-enactment facility. The main character, Victor Mancini, is in dire need to pay for medical bills of his mothers. She is living in an elder care home. To come up with money for bills he comes up with the ingenious plan to choke on food. By doing so people around him save him. After saving him his rescuers feel they must keep in touch with him



Greg Laraia

Assistant Layout Editor

Religion is one of those topics just like politics that not a lot of people like to go into conversation about. It has been and always will be a very controversial topic in society. It seems that religion has done more bad than it has good. The idea of gods and higher beings has caused problems such as war, poverty and false hope since the beginning of time. I myself am not a firm believer in religion, higher beings, or any form of God. I was raised in a family that attended a Catholic church. I never wanted to go to church on Sundays because i thought it was extremely boring and pointless. Religion always seemed forced to me. I was never keen on the stories the

and send him money on holidays and his birthday. Throughout the whole story Victor meets many different people who are struggling just as bad as he is.

Many of Palahniuk's books are dark and depressing. As disheartening as his stories are they have very good storylines and morals. The stories that Palahniuk writes are particularly aimed at audiences who are young adults to adults. They contain thematic elements involving drugs, sex and descriptive violence.

I enjoyed the book "Choke" because it kept my attention the whole time I was reading it. I could not put it down. I read the whole story in less than 3 days. I felt it was very compelling and

could have been written as a true story. The story to me was a horrific story of a young child's life affecting him as an adult.

As well as this book was written it was very short and fast. Palahniuk has the talent to write a longer story without having to cram everything into 304 pages. I'm not saying that a book should be 800 pages long but it shouldn't be crunched together so it's rushed.

I enjoyed reading this book and recommend it to anyone who enjoys reading satirical fiction. After reading this book it made me want to go buy Palahniuk's other books and read them also.

## According to Greg...

bible offered because they are so farfetched. I went through the motions of attending church until 8th grade when I had the option to stop going; so i stopped.

I feel that religion is not a necessary part of every person's life. Religion is not a necessary substance needed to survive in life. As many believers might think-religion is not for everyone. Things like food, water and air are what are required to survive in this world.

The idea of a god is an extra element added into the world and it has been causing problems for the longest time. If there were no religion in the world there would not be problems such as war due to religious intolerance/ignorance, questioning where we go when we die, religious cults and the division of society. There is proof that Jesus Christ was a real human being, just not the high

and mighty Jesus Christ that everyone makes him out to be.

Don't get me wrong-I don't care if a person believes in God. It's a personal choice what to believe in. All I'm saying is that my life is perfectly fine without any religion. I get to sleep in on Sundays, I don't have to worry about pleasing something i can't see, I can live for myself and nobody else.

To live without religion is like living without the use of drugs-you just don't need it to survive and be happy. Living with religion only leads you to believe that there is something looking out for you other than yourself. Every person is entitled to his or her own beliefs and that is why I have chosen to not believe.





# Horoscopes

# SUDOKU

**Aries:** As spring break came to an end, you realized that even though your routine is repetitive, it is not quite as bland as you thought... and having that tan is nice, too.

**Taurus:** Your birthday is getting closer and you are trying to decide the one thing you might ask for. Go with the item you have been thinking about the longest, it obviously is what you want most.

**Gemini:** You filled out your bracket and may regret your picks for the final four, but have faith and stay a loyal fan to your number one team.

**Cancer:** The hint of warm weather makes you think about your birthday and dream of high temperatures - don't get too ahead of yourself, there may be a little more snow in store for you.

**Leo:** One of your competitive friends keeps telling you he is going to win his NCAA pool - keep your mouth shut when he finally loses, and maybe buy him a drink with the money you win from yours.

**Virgo:** Classes seem to be dragging on longer than you would like, but don't worry, the end of the year will come quicker than you think... maybe before you are ready.

**Libra:** You are short on money, but with a little bit of looking you are able to find a job doing something that you like, something not a lot of people can find these days.

**Scorpio:** Even though basketball may not be your thing, other people's excitement makes it hard for you to stay away from the game. You might have just found your new hobby.

**Sagittarius:** You have finally decided to do something drastic - weather it be chopping off your hair, moving or switching jobs, don't be nervous, the change will do you good.

**Capricorn:** If you don't already have a team in mind to win the tournament, cheer for the underdogs! It is more fun to see them come out on top than the expected winner...especially if you bet on it.

**Aquarius:** You decide to check out a new bar or restaurant, and the service is far below par. Don't be afraid to speak up, they will appreciate your comments and you will probably get something for free.

**Pisces:** Watching the championship game will be fun, but it will be better when it's your team playing on a big screen against the team you hate the most! And the winner is...

4				5				7
		9	6		4	8		
7				3		4		
1					3	9		
	3		2				7	
	7				5			3
6		1		4		2		
			8				1	6
	9				6			

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# Literary Arts Festival to bring writers to Boone

DMACC--Des Moines Area Community College's seventh annual Celebration of the Literary Arts will be held April 13-15 with classroom visits to all six DMACC campuses by area writers and literary instructors.

Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville English and Creative Writing Professor and poet Allison Funk and Portland State University Senior Writer-in-Residence Craig Lesley will

read from their works on the **DMACC Boone Campus** from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Monday, Apr. 13.

Musician Rob Lumbard will entertain as a prelude to the readings from 10 to 11:15 a.m. in the L.W. Courter Center.

Funk is the author of four books of poems: "The Tumbling Box; The Knot Garden; Living at the Epicenter;" and "Forms of Conversion."

For her work in poetry, she

has received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and prizes from "Poetry" and the Poetry Society of America.

Her second book of poems won the Samuel French Morse Prize and the Society of Midland Authors Award.

Her poems have been included in "The Best American Poetry"; "The Paris Review: Shenandoah"; "The Georgia Review"; "Iowa Review": and

other journals. Funk co-edits the national literary journal, "Sou'wester" at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Lesley is the author of four novels and a memoir, along with numerous other works.

He has received three Pacific Booksellers Association Awards, the Western Writers of America Golden Spur Award for Best Novel and an Oregon Book Award.

He has been the recipient of

several national fellowships and holds a Doctorate of Humane Letters from Whitman College.

Both "Storm Riders" and "The Sky Fisherman" were nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

All events are free and open to the public.



Allison Funk



Craig Lesley

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## Iowa Studies Forum on Friday

A Celebration of Iowa's History, Science, Politics, Literature and Art will take place at the Second Annual Iowa Studies Forum to be held Friday, April 3 in Bldg. #7 on the Des Moines Area Community College Ankeny Campus.

The title of the 2009 Iowa Studies Forum is "Experiencing the Strength of Our Heritage." The forum will feature lectures, roundtable discussions, re-enactments, multi-media presentations and workshops, all focusing on Iowa's history and heritage.

The forum is free to Iowa high school and college students and \$25 for others. The price includes a continental breakfast and an Iowa luncheon buffet. To register, call [www.dmacc.edu/iowastudies](http://www.dmacc.edu/iowastudies).

The day-long forum will feature Zachary Michael Jack, editor of Letters to a Young Iowan (2007), as the keynote speaker. The morning features 11 themes with three sessions each.

For more information, contact Dr. Lisa Ossian at (515) 964-6568.