

12-5-2007

## Banner News

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### Recommended Citation

Hinrichs, Eden; Smith, Jessi; Lumley, Molly; Larson, Tim; Herrick, Ted; and Uhl, Celine, "Banner News" (2007). *Banner News*. 204.  
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# BANNER NEWS

DMACC  
BOONE CAMPUS  
STUDENT NEWSPAPER  
1956 ——— 2007  
VOICE OF THE BOONE CAMPUS  
"Go Bears!"

DES MOINES AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOONE CAMPUS WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5 VOL. 7, NO. 7

## Tips for the savvy Christmas shopper

Eden Hinrichs  
Photographer

- Shop around. Just because it looks like a good deal doesn't mean it is.
- Don't be afraid of the internet. Chances are you'll be able to find any personalized or unique gifts from all over the world in just seconds.
- Search for shipping deals. Most retailers offer free shipping if you spend over a certain amount.
- Be careful of sites that don't seem secure. Look for a verification seal to make certain that the site isn't just there to steal your identity. If you seem uncertain about their identity theft protection, don't risk it. Just because you are feeling the holiday spirit doesn't mean criminals are.
- The best thing about shopping online, especially if you have children, is that you can do it on your own time. You also don't run the risk of your children or spouse sneaking a peek at their gifts. Some sites even offer a gift wrap service so if you don't have time, your gifts will look great and no one will be the wiser.
- Don't be a last minute shopper! Most businesses run weekly ads, promoting various deals. Don't risk someone opening up a last minute gas station gift, like a lighter, think ahead.
- Be prepared. Have an extra unisex gift lying around to make even the most picky person happy, even if you forgot them on your list.
- Company drops by and you haven't had time to wrap a gift or flowers? Think ahead! Always keep a few extra bottles of wine around so that when the occasion occurs you won't be empty handed.

## Bears start season strong



Photo: Eric Ver Helst

Vince Marshall goes for a dunk against the Wolverines. For more coverage, see PAGE 5

The Bears are currently 8-0. Their seventh win of this season against South Australia was also Coach Salmon's 200th win at DMACC.

### Bears Men's basketball games to date

- Nov. 27 vs. South Australia - 74-59
- Nov. 24 vs. Black Hawk - 67-57
- Nov. 23 vs. Univ. Park Academy - 74-39
- Nov. 20 vs. Wartburg J.V. - 78-45
- Nov. 17 vs. Minneapolis CTC - 65-43
- Nov. 13 vs. Morningside J.V. - 77-54
- Nov. 7 vs. William Penn J.V. - 100-60

### Bears Women's basketball games to date

- Nov. 27 vs. William Penn J.V. - 87-30
- Nov. 20 vs. Rochester - 77-44
- Nov. 17 vs. Minneapolis CTC - 83-57
- Nov. 14 vs. Saint Ambrose J.V. - 83-50
- Nov. 10 vs. North Platte - 81-47
- Nov. 9 vs. NE Nebraska - 61-82

## IMPORTANT DATES AT DMACC

- December 12**  
Graduation, 4 p.m.  
Boone Campus Theatre
- January 7**  
Beginning of Spring Term, Classes Start
- January 12**  
Last Day to Add Classes (at noon)
- January 21**  
Holiday, No Classes, Offices Closed
- March 7**  
DMACC All Staff In-Service, No Classes, Offices Closed
- March 17-23**  
Spring Break, No Classes, Offices Open
- May 1**  
Last Day of Regular Term Classes

## Raise your glass to National Repeal Day

Jessi Smith  
Managing Editor

In Jan., 1919, the Eighteenth Amendment was ratified and Americans lost their right to drink, import, transport, or buy intoxicating liquors (alcohol). The era known as prohibition had begun.

The idea was to create a safer nation, however, the result was more violence, a higher crime rate and a rapid increase in the influence and activity of organized crime. Americans did not take this oppression lying down. Smugglers, known as "bootleggers," imported alcohol into the U.S. from Mexico and Canada and former bars became underground speak-easies where mobsters could enjoy their gin. The "Roaring 20's" became an underground revolution for breaking the law in style.

Some Americans took refuge in Mexico where they could drink like free citizens and gamble on horse races. Twenty-four long years later, on Dec. 5, 1933, the amendment was repealed and the Twenty-first Amendment was ratified, giving Americans back



Photo: Used with permission from The National Constitution Center

their alcohol privileges.

It has been seventy-four years since the brave defenders of alcohol and the speak-easy owning bootleggers won their battle against the government and saved our right to drink the alcohol of our choice. This is the only truly American drinking holiday, yet few know anything about it. This is the celebration of the only amendment ever to be repealed. This is the celebration of our country's constitutional rights and an unyielding fight

to protect those privileges. As America's only patriotic drinking holiday, one would think it would be more widely proclaimed.

St. Patrick's Day is great if you are Irish, or just enjoy green beer. Halloween rocks if you don't mind paying for overpriced costumes and freezing while you wait in line to get

into the clubs. National Repeal Day, however, requires only that you live here in the United States and enjoy your right to consume alcohol. No one cares what ethnicity you are, or where your family is from, the only thing that matters is that you enjoy freedom. You don't need to dress for the occasion or wear a certain color to avoid pinching, all you need to do to celebrate is to pop the top of a cool beer, crack open a bottle of champagne with a close friend, sip martini's while

watching a movie with friends or grab a brew at your local bar. It is too easy not to want to celebrate, and as Americans, it should be our duty.

Another great thing about this holiday is that it falls right before finals week, so it's a grand time to enjoy a wind down to clear your head before the tests hit. Aside from this, it isn't too close to Thanksgiving or Christmas, so you won't have to blow off the family to go out and enjoy your freedom. It is also a fabulous excuse to get a group of good friends together to go out.

America's right to drink has been taken for granted for far too long. National Repeal Day could very well become an actual holiday, prelisted on calendars, some day. What it takes to make this happen is for America to pay homage to the great patrons of alcohol who illegally transported booze into the U.S. during the prohibition and fought for Americans' rights so many years ago.

Raise your glass high on Dec. 5, and enjoy your constitutionally protected drinking right.

# FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE FALL 2007

## Final Exam Schedule for Day Courses – Fall 2007 Des Moines Area Community College

All instructors in all programs are required to follow this schedule. Any deviations should be approved through the appropriate dean or provost. Instructors should consult the dean or provost if their courses do not appear to be included in this schedule. The schedule for evening and Saturday courses is on the reverse side of this sheet.

<b>Tuesday, December 11, 2007</b>		Tuesday/Thursday courses	
<u>Class Time Range</u>		<u>Exam Time</u>	
8:05 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	.....	8:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	
11:15 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.	.....	10:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	
2:25 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.	.....	1:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	
4:00 p.m. - 5:25 p.m.	.....	3:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.	

<b>Wednesday, December 12, 2007</b>		Monday/Wednesday/Friday or more courses	
<u>Class Time Range</u>		<u>Exam Time</u>	
8:00 a.m. - 8:55 a.m.	.....	8:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	
10:10 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.	.....	10:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	
12:20 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	.....	1:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	
2:30 p.m. - 3:25 p.m.	.....	3:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.	

<b>Thursday, December 13, 2007</b>		Tuesday/Thursday courses	
<u>Class Time Range</u>		<u>Exam Time</u>	
6:30 a.m. - 7:55 a.m.	.....	6:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	
9:40 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.	.....	9:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	
12:50 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	.....	11:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.	

<b>Friday, December 14, 2007</b>		Monday/Wednesday/Friday or more courses	
<u>Class Time Range</u>		<u>Exam Time</u>	
6:55 a.m. - 7:50 a.m.	.....	7:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	
9:05 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	.....	9:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	
11:15 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.	.....	12:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	
1:25 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.	.....	2:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	
3:35 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	.....	3:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.	

**Monday, December 17, 2007** **Make-Up Day**  
If the College would close due to inclement weather on any of the four days listed above, final exams for that day will be rescheduled for Monday, December 17, at the times they would have been scheduled.

### Evening/Saturday Final Exam Schedule Fall 2007

Evening courses will have their finals at the day and time of the final regular class meeting.

Last Monday night classes (Final Exam)-----	December 10
Last Tuesday night classes (Final Exam)-----	December 4
Last Wednesday night classes (Final Exam)-----	December 12
Last Thursday night classes (Final Exam)-----	December 13
Last Friday night classes (Final Exam)-----	December 14
Last Monday*/Wednesday night classes (Final Exam)-----	December 12
Last Tuesday*/Thursday night classes (Final Exam)-----	December 11
Last Saturday classes (Final Exam)-----	December 8

\* The last class meeting for the MW courses and the TR courses will be this night.

# HOLIDAY RECIPES

## Baker's Chocolate Fudge with Snow.

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 (8 ounce) packages Baker's Semi-Sweet Baking Chocolate
- 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 1 tsp of nutmeg
- 1 pinch of ginger
- 1/2 tsp of cinnamon
- 1/2 cup of powdered sugar
- If desired 1 cup of walnuts

### DIRECTIONS

1. Line 8-inch square pan with foil, with ends of foil extending over sides of pan. Set aside. Microwave chocolate and milk in large microwavable bowl on HIGH 2 to 3 min. or until chocolate is almost melted, stirring after 2 min. Stir until chocolate is completely melted. Blend in vanilla, nutmeg, and ginger. Stir in walnuts.
2. Spread into prepared pan.
3. While fudge is settling mix cinnamon and powdered sugar together.
4. Refrigerate two hours or until firm. Lift fudge from pan, using foil handles. Cut into 48 pieces.
5. Then sprinkle the powdered sugar mix over the fudge and enjoy!

## Eden Apple Crisp Pie

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 graham cracker crusts
- 3/4 cups of brown sugar
- 3 tsp of cinnamon
- 2 tsp of nutmeg
- 1 tsp of cloves
- 2 pinch of ginger
- 2 cans of desired apple pie filling
- One decent size Ziploc baggie

### DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. While your oven is preheating crumble up one of the graham cracker crusts into the baggie then add your brown sugar, 1 tsp of cinnamon, 1 tsp of nutmeg, 1/2 tsp of cloves, one pinch of ginger. Then shake mixtures in the baggie until mixed. In a separate bowl, mix your remaining spices and the apple pie filling together until mixed. Then turn your oven down to 350 degrees. Get the second pie crust and put the apple pie filling in it, then crumble the graham cracker mixture over the filling. Put into the oven and bake 30-45 minutes or when the top crust looks golden.

**Warning:** this pie will only be really good for 3 days, after which the bottom part of the crust may get soggy. When making this pie make, be certain that it will be eaten in a matter of hours.

## Brownies, Eh

### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 cup of chocolate chips.
- White chocolate icing
- Chocolate syrup

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour muffin pan. The muffin pan not only allows of single servings put also allows you to be creative with the presentation.
2. In a large saucepan, melt 1/2 cup butter. Remove from heat, and stir in sugar, eggs, and 1-tsp vanilla. Beat in 1/3 cup cocoa, 1/2 cup flour, salt, chocolate chips and baking powder. Spread batter into prepared pan.
3. Bake in preheated oven for 15-30 minutes. To prevent over cooking keep a weathered eye on the oven and you can never go wrong by doing the toothpick test.
4. After you take the pan out of the oven, allow time for it to cool. Then once cooled down or at the very least warm, NOT HOT. Apply the icing in moderation because too much icing can ruin the brownie. Then after the icing has been applied, drizzle the chocolate syrup.

IDEA: If being served to company use whipped cream or ice cream as a clever garnish. Not only will this make your brownies look more delicious but will taste delicious as well.

## Good bye to a good friend



Ryan Logan and Eden Hinrichs

Photo: Tim Larson

**Eden Hinrichs**  
Photographer

Every day Ryan and I attack each other with vicious and cutting comments that would make the most obscene script writer blush. We throw things at each other and sometimes we get into little fights but what most people don't realize is that he is one of my closest friends. For the first year I was at DMACC, he and I would sit down in the Courter Center and enjoy some tea with some beastly political humor.

For three years now he and I have joked, fought, antagonized and for the most part become a total pain in each other's butt. We even had scheduled "Walking taco time" but whether I like it or not there comes a time when the tide changes and you can either resist or support the change.

Ryan recently joined the Navy; when he told me, I had mixed feelings. I sat there for a minute in silence and thought about the way this decision would change the rest of his life and how it would affect his entire being. I thought of priests who have dedicated their entire lives to God, I thought about mothers and father who give their entire lives to their children, and finally I thought about all the good soldiers have done, not just in other countries but in America as well.

I turned to Ryan and said "go for it." He gave me a big smile and said thanks. As he meets with

people from the navy, I tried to put his possible going away in the back of head and try not think about it. Yet, time holds no master and no matter how much I don't want him to go away its going to happen.

Soldiers these days are not honored or welcomed as much as they should be. I once heard a man say, "What kind of stupid person would go to where he was going to be killed? I tell you who; kids who don't know any better." Stifling a fit of anger I politely responded, "Without men and women who are willing to die for something that is greater then themselves this country will wither and die."

Although, Ryan isn't the built, jarheaded male brimming with insane amounts of testosterone, he is the All-American male, with a good heart and good head guiding his motion. He is capable of such greatness that he could change the world with the right direction. Is it so bad that he chooses the Army to guide him? Or are we being taken over by baby killing propaganda?

I, for one, am happy for him. If he wants to devote himself to something greater to himself, who am I to stand in the way? I am there for him. I am really going to miss him but every sense of greatness has a price. So in closing, if you're reading this Ryan, we are all going to miss you very much and when you come back it's beer and pizza all around.

## Graduation reception to be held for mid-year graduates



Photo: Contributed  
**State Rep. Lisa Heddens.**

**Jessi Smith**  
Managing Editor

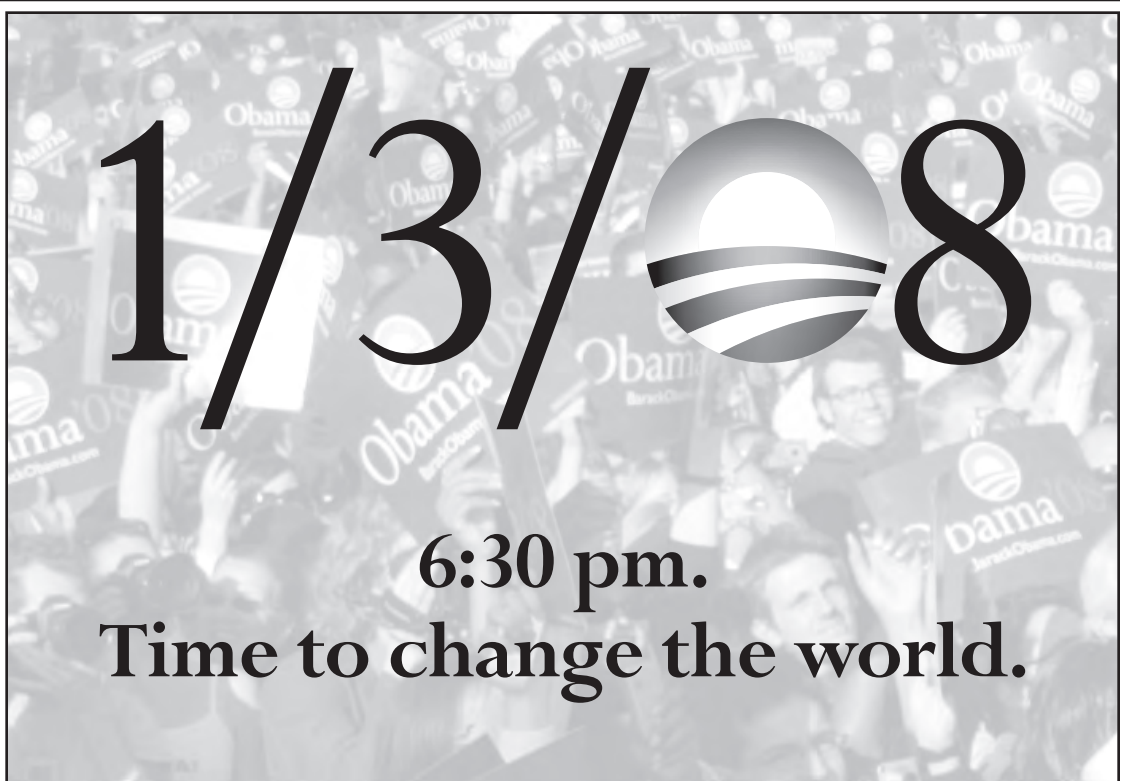
On Dec. 12 at 4 p.m. a graduation reception will be held in the DMACC Boone

Campus Theatre for the mid-year graduates.

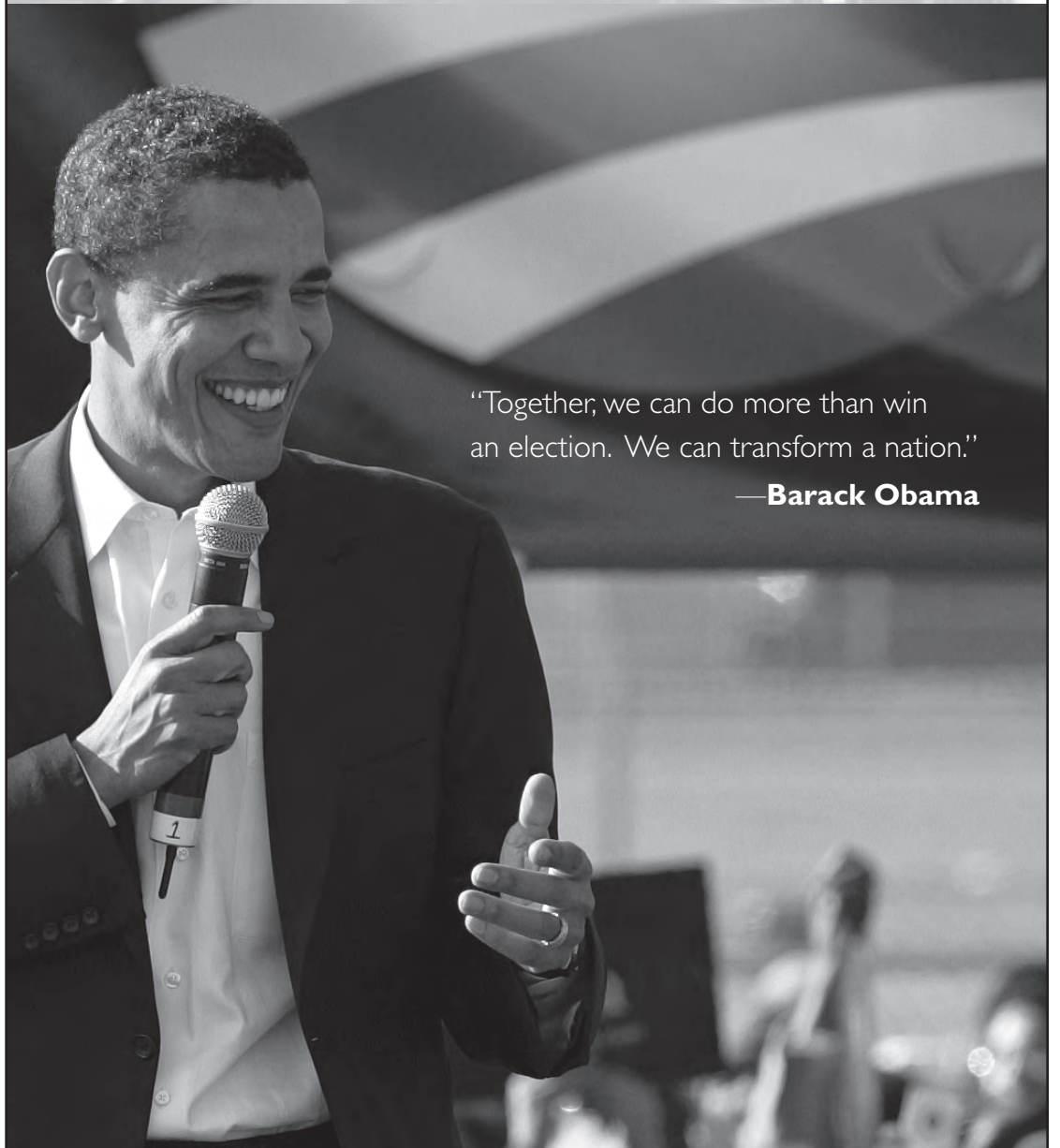
Lisa Heddens, assistant majority leader of the Iowa House of Representatives, will be speaking at the event. The event will be an informal reception for the sixty Boone campus mid-year graduates.

Cookies and punch will be served for those who attend. Family members and friends of the graduates are encouraged to share in this commencement reception.

The sixty graduates are invited to come back for the formal commencement ceremony on May 2, at 10 a.m. in the Boone campus gymnasium.



6:30 pm.  
**Time to change the world.**



"Together, we can do more than win an election. We can transform a nation."

—Barack Obama

We can end the war.

We can save the planet.

We can unite a divided nation.

And it all starts January 3rd at 6:30 pm.

If you want the chance to elect Barack Obama next November, you need to vote for him at the Iowa caucuses.

**It's your country too.  
And you have the power  
to change it.**

Caucus January 3rd, 6:30 pm.

### Caucus Tips

- You can caucus at DMACC Boone or your hometown in Iowa.
- You don't have to be registered to vote. You can register right at the caucus.
- You do have to be there if you want to change politics forever.

**To get involved, call  
Matt at 515.268.3148**



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# Choir concert held in Boone Campus Theatre



Photo: Tim Larson

**Molly Lumley**  
Banner Staff Writer

Last Friday, the DMACC Concert Choir preformed its annual Christmas concert. The choir, directed by Steve Hoifeldt, sang Felise Navidad, Let It Snow, Walking in a Winter Wonderland, and various other Christmas oriented songs.

Even though some of the members did not show up regularly to practice, the concert went well. Despite choir member Adam Uhl's irritated throat and sickness, he amiably took the stage and contributed to the choir's songs.

Human Services Major Jessi Smith said that the concert was fabulous. "I really enjoyed it; the choir did a great job."

Alto Niki Carlson said that she enjoyed the concert. "Nobody messed up and I thought it went well. Most of us are just amateurs."

Students and friends are encouraged to continue attending events such as the choir concert.

# Who are you voting for in the presidential election?



"Rudy Giuliani, look what he did for New York. He brought crime down."

- Michael Rand



"Undecided, one of those deals about voting for the lesser of two evils."

- Dave Woods



"No, probably not. I just don't really pay attention to it right now."

- Courtney Casper



"Obama. He talks about his subjects directly. He talks about it in detail. I don't like it when they don't."

- Trina Bishop

## Join the Banner News Staff!

The Banner is looking for:

News Writers	Advertising Manager
Sports Writers	Photo Editor
Feature Writers	News Editor
Columnists	Sports Editor
Photographers	Feature Editor

Students can work at the Banner for:

1. Course credit - Newspaper Production (see details below)
2. Workstudy - check with the financial aid dept. to see if you qualify
3. Just for fun - contribute your work for use in the Banner (contributions may be sent to bannernews@dmacc.edu)

Newspaper Production involves writing for the Banner News, designing and implementing page layout, reporting on campus activities and events.

Newspaper Production MWF 11:15 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.  
 CRN: 20526 Credits: 3  
 Course # JOU125 Instructor: Jan LaVille

**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
 1957 - 2007  
 BOONE DMACC

# Tyler named Athlete of the Week

DMACC--Second year men's basketball player Avery Tyler from Omaha has been chosen at the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference (ICCAC) men's division II basketball Athlete of the Week.

Tyler helped the DMACC Bears in their wins over University Park Academy (74-39), Black Hawk (67-57) and South Australia (74-59).

Tyler had 18 points, three

steals, eight rebounds and made 4 out of 8 three pointers in the game against University Park Academy.

He had 13 points, two steals and five rebounds against Black Hawk. He added 19 points against South Australia.

Tyler plans to attend a four-year school and continue playing basketball once he leaves DMACC.



Photo: Eric Ver Helst

Avery Tyler in last week's game against University Park Academy.



Jamie Sickles

Photo: Contributed

# Sickles named Scholar Athlete of the Week

DMACC--Second year women's basketball player Jamie Sickles has been named the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference (ICCAC) Scholar Athlete of the Week.

Sickles, who played at Wapsie Valley High School in Fairbank, was a three time First Team All Conference, First Team All-State Honoree and the all-time career assist leader in Iowa girls basketball history. She continues to prove herself in the classrooms as well, maintaining a 3.18 grade point average

while working toward a Nursing degree.

She scored nine points, grabbed three rebounds, dished out five assists and had four steals in the DMACC Bears' 83-50 victory over St. Ambrose. She then had five points, five rebounds, seven assists and a steal in DMACC's 83 to 57 win over Minneapolis CTC.

Sickles said she plans to graduate from DMACC and then continue her education and basketball career at a four-year school.

# DMACC caches earn milestone victories

DMACC--Two coaches recently earned milestone victories in their respective sports.

Head Volleyball Coach Patty Harrison earned her 400th career victory and her 100th win at DMACC in the Bears 3-2 win over Iowa Lakes Community College in the 2007 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II National Tournament recently held in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The Bears finished the season with a 46-11 record, a runner-up finish in the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference, a regular season and tournament championship in Region XI B and an eighth place finish at the National Tournament. The 46 wins posted this past year are the season most wins in school history.

"I am please for Patty that she has reached another milestone in her coaching career," said DMACC Athletic Director Orv Salmon. "She is a good person who does a wonderful job with her athletes on and off the floor. I'm proud that she is at DMACC."

Salmon recorded a recent milestone himself. With the Bears 74 to 59 win over South Australia, Men's Head Basketball Coach Salmon now has 200 career wins at DMACC. The Bears remain undefeated with a 7-0 record and are ranked third in the nation according to the latest NJCAA Division II basketball poll.

"Orv has turned the DMACC men's basketball team around since he arrived on the Boone Campus," said DMACC Boone Campus Provost Tom Lee. "Under Orv's leadership, the DMACC men's basketball team consistently vies for conference championships and national tournament appearances."

## Upcoming Women's home games:

- Jan. 9. vs. Iowa Central 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 16 vs. Kirkwood 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 19 vs. Ellsworth 2:00 p.m.
- Jan. 23 vs. Southeastern 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 9 vs. NIACC 2:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Men's home games:

- Dec. 12 vs. Marshalltown 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 9 vs. Iowa Central 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 16 vs. Kirkwood 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 19 vs. Ellsworth 4:00 p.m.
- Jan. 28 vs. Southern Neb. 7:30 p.m.

## Not ready for a baby yet?

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Please call 1-877-811-PLAN (7526) for more information or visit [www.ppgi.org](http://www.ppgi.org).

Planned Parenthood® of Greater Iowa

# Bars vs. Clubs, the showdown between good and trashy

**Jessi Smith**  
Managing Editor

It's Friday night and people are in the mood to go out on the town. Some go to the dark little pub down the street for a micro brew and good conversation; others head to the wild club where the girls dress like table dancers and the guys try their hardest to get laid while popping their collars. It's a matter of preference, but it is hard to beat a relaxing night at a bar.

Underground bars can be some of the best places to gather

with friends, the atmosphere is less hectic and it is easier to talk to the people near you without having to scream. At a club, the music is generally too loud and the dance floor is overcrowded. This is fine for untamed kids with a lover's agenda. For the laid back, busy college student, nothing suits like a comfortable booth and good brew.

Another game point to bars comes from the admittance age. A lot of clubs are 18 and up, however, some allow admittance to patrons as young as 16.

Most bars are 21 and up,

and there are few exceptions. This may be a downer for those under 21, but having a large number of high school aged kids running around tends to destroy the relaxed atmosphere and bring chaos to an otherwise laid back environment.

Iowa City is currently fighting to raise the bar admittance age to 21 for all Iowa City bars. This is causing friction for bar owners and students under 21, but there have been too many underage possessions and disorderly conduct tickets issued to continue to allow underage

students into the bars. From Jan. 1 to July 31, 2007, there were 505 underage possessions.

One upside to the club life is that the atmosphere is very social. A person probably has more of a chance of getting up the nerve to dance with someone they don't know on a crowded dance floor than to go up to someone they've never meet in a bar and strike up a conversation.

Clubs are not all bad, and people under 21 should be allowed to go out and dance, the club scene is perfect for them. However, bars are for drinking

with friends, not dancing, so there is no need for underage people to go to bars. Also, allowing underage students into bars can ultimately be a bar's downfall if the scene is busy and not everyone gets carded properly. It can happen to the most seasoned bar tenders.

For people who want to go out and meet new friends or love interests, going to a club is a fabulous idea. For others who aren't fond of mistaking jailbait for an adult and would rather stick with the people they know, bars are the perfect place.

## Shadow Barriers

by  
Jessi Smith

Playing shadow games  
alone in the dark  
Optical illusions dancing  
on the ceiling  
Stiff air detracts from the  
sound of the wind outside  
while I scream  
silently to myself  
There are no windows,  
there are no doors  
Only tiny spider cracks to  
let in the storm  
I hear you crying on the  
other side of the wall  
only 1000 miles  
away from me  
The sledge hammer in the  
corner makes a  
delightful crash  
against the stone  
breaking through to  
the light on the other side  
No barriers between up as  
we lay on the floor  
Contemplating the distance  
between where we are,  
and where we were  
Strips of sun light cascade  
across the carpet  
We watch in amusement as  
the shadows are  
swiftly cast aside  
Polyurethane and  
Jessalessolis the last  
dinosaur  
No longer alone, we raise a  
glass to the  
green Marilyn  
Monroe  
Beauty in the distance  
awaits us  
The shadows are left alone  
to play their games  
without us to blame

## Final thoughts

Kind of like Baz Luhrmann, only less music



**Tim Larson**  
Executive Editor

I've been wracking my brain for the last few days, trying to figure out what I want to say. This is my last column, or any writing for that matter, as the Banner News editor.

I thought about talking about how much I've learned in my three semesters as the Executive Editor, but that seemed too self-serving.

I thought about trying to convince all of you to come write for the paper; truthfully, it's just not for everyone. If you want to write, by all means, write for the paper, if you don't want to write, then don't, whatever you want to do is fine by me.

I thought about trying to write something deep and meaningful, but I'm not sure I can actually do that and not look like a pretentious ass.

I've been so distracted these last few weeks I haven't really thought about what I wanted my "famous last words" to be (OK, famous might be a stretch, but you get the idea).

I've been so pre-occupied with everything else that I haven't really thought about the fact that this is the last issue of the Banner I will ever work on. That may not mean anything to most of you, but this has been a major part of my schooling for the last three semesters. Now I'm done.

It occurs to me that this may just be the way of things. Life goes on; the Earth keeps turning, with no regard to the creatures living on it. I think that's kind of the point. We get so wrapped up in this that and the other thing that we don't really see the bigger picture.

I remember when my first girlfriend dumped me, I thought

I was going to die; as it turns out I didn't. The next girlfriend was the same thing. I moped around for a few weeks all morose and dejected. I listened to Dashboard Confessional nonstop. After all that, which, in hindsight, wasn't really as earth-shattering as I'd thought it was, I'm still here. But even if I weren't here, life would continue on. I won't be here next semester, but the paper will still be printed.

The point I'm trying to make is this: don't take anything too seriously. Treat every situation accordingly, but keep the bigger picture in mind. When you're at school, learn as much as you can. When you're at work, work as hard as you can. When someone cuts you off in traffic, let it go. When someone offends you, explain why it was offensive, don't flip out and stoop to their level.

Don't waste energy on that which has no lasting value.

Think about what it is that you spend the most time and energy on. Whatever that is, that is what you value the most in life. I'm not going to tell you what you should be doing, just know that, whatever it is you spend the majority of your time on, that's what you place the highest value on. You can argue all you want, but if something else mattered more to you, you'd be doing that. If you were gone tomorrow, how will you be remembered? Or will you even be remembered at all?

I don't want to sound like your parents, but seriously, think about this. Are you doing anything that will matter when you're gone? Or, for that matter, in another five or ten years? I'm not saying that you should give up, I am saying that maybe you should re-think your priorities.

Anyway, that's my two cents. Maybe I am a pretentious ass. Then again, maybe I'm just right.

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# POLITALKS

## Caucus Time



**Ted Herrick**  
Columnist

Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, Chris Dodd, John Edwards, Rudy Giuliani, Mike Gravel, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, Dennis Kucinich, John McCain, Barack Obama, Ron Paul, Bill Richardson, and Mitt Romney. Who to choose! Who would make the best President?

With the Jan. 3 caucus date only a month away, the seriousness with which Iowa seems to be taking its charge as "first in the nation" seems to be heightening.

We are seeing a tightening of the race in some unexpected ways. On the Democratic side, Barack Obama has overtaken Hillary Clinton for the lead. On the Republican side, Mike Huckabee has recently surged past Mitt Romney in the polls. One can only see this fluidity as a sign that Iowa politics can be a very rough, quickly changing game. Candidates must not forget us; they must continually tend to the fields of Iowa's political landscape. The "bypass Iowa" strategy has proved to be a disastrous one for many would-be Presidents.

This January, I would encourage all Iowans to participate in their local caucus. The stakes are much too high to stay home. Everyone has some burning issue that needs to be addressed. So please represent your interests and let your voice be heard! Remember, mark down Jan. 3 on your calendar!



**Ron Paul**



**John Edwards**



**Barack Obama**



**Rudy Giuliani**



**Hillary Clinton**



**Mike Huckabee**

## Fall 2007 Banner Staff

**Tim Larson** Executive Editor  
**Jessi Smith** Managing Editor  
**Jason Munday** Layout & Design Editor  
**Molly Lumley** News Editor  
**Eden Hinrichs** Staff Writer / Photographer  
**Ted Herrick** Political Columnist

# Merry Christmas No More



**Molly Lumley**  
Banner Staff Writer

In this age of political correctness, there is an overwhelming unease to not offend those who do not agree with your personal beliefs. This is fine with me to a certain point, but some people take this a little too far.

Over the last decade or so, I've noticed that the phrase "Merry Christmas" is slowly disappearing from our culture. It's being taken down from store fronts and commercials. Store employees are wishing everyone a generic "Happy Holiday." I understand the reasoning behind this; nobody wants to

offend those who don't celebrate Christmas, but I am getting sick of hearing it.

I celebrate Christmas and I have no problem with those who don't. It doesn't offend me if someone wishes me a "Happy Hanukah," or some other holiday I don't celebrate. This is America, everyone has the right to believe what they want, and celebrate the holiday they chose.

People who support the "Happy Holiday" mantra say this is to encourage tolerance and diversity. How? How can it encourage the tolerance of other cultures when personal expression of the holiday that you celebrate is discouraged? How is this encouraging diversity when everyone's holidays are lumped into the same category? The answer is that it doesn't. It does quite the opposite. It shows the intolerant attitude of those who claim they are trying to promote equality.

I know I'm not alone in this belief. In Dec., 2005, I spent the entire month bell ringing for the Salvation Army. I said "Merry Christmas" to every person who put money into the kettle, and

to most of those who didn't. I probably said it over a hundred times a day, and not one of those people said to me "Would you please not say 'Merry Christmas?' It offends me." In fact, many of them were quite pleased to hear it, and made sure to tell me so.

What I don't understand is why people make such a huge deal of making sure that nobody gets offended by someone else's beliefs. Why can't we all just accept that everyone is different and leave it at that? I would rather see a Christmas tree and a Menorah in the front of a store instead of a huge banner that says "Happy Holidays."

This doesn't just apply to what we say to each other around this time of year; the concept of merging our individually together so we don't offend those who are different than ourselves is becoming a tremendous problem. If we want to be a country that openly embraces all cultures, religions, and lifestyles, then why are we slowly being converted into a people who are giving up their individuality in order not to be politically correct?

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ms. Robeson, and editorial staff at Banner News,

To begin with, I'd like to congratulate Ms. Robeson on writing the editorial that just won't die. Her "A few of my own personal opinions" sparked not only a page's worth of response letters, but another opinion piece defending her ("Sticks and Stones..."), and a written apology for the technical quality of her editorial.

Most recently, the 11/21/07 issue of the Banner News carried an editorial defending and insulting Ms. Robeson's editorial, as well as vilifying Ms. Robeson's critics.

The editorial referred to a "...tone of response... substantially more offensive than her original piece..." and criticized "...professionals tasked with shaping the minds of the young editor..." for resorting to "...ad hominem attacks and self-righteous indignation."

To begin with, the ad hominem attacks (liar, nutty) appeared in Graham Jordison's letter. My search of staff information indicates this person is neither staff nor faculty.

Secondly, both Whitehurst and Winter, like the Banner,

seem chiefly offended by the quality of the writing. Whitehurst and Winter are "professionals" "tasked" to educate. The Banner may have viewed their response as "...vitriolic and spiteful..." but, like Ms. Robeson, they have a right to their opinion, and in their case, their feelings are somewhat justified. They examine writing professionally.

My own letter, which is not referenced in the Banner editorial, was neither "vitriolic," nor "spiteful." (Well, the last comment about Ms. Robeson needing to change may have seemed a bit snotty. Mea Culpa.) My letter was a fairly well-reasoned response to Ms. Robeson's editorial; providing evidence for my position, and providing sources for those arguments. I don't make those statements to stroke my own ego, but to point out what is ultimately wrong with Ms. Robeson's editorial, and the excuses used to defend it.

Both Ms. Minter and the Banner refer to deadlines, late nights, and inexperience as explanations for Ms. Robeson's sloppy execution.

I wrote, researched, proofed and edited my response in approximately 45 minutes (half

hour lunch, one fifteen minute break). That includes taking the time to reference the Bible and the APA in support of my arguments. Deadline? Please.

Four out of five of my work nights end at 1 am, bed around 2-2:30, up at 7 am to get my kids ready for school. During the day, I often travel to interview people and collect information for the Dallas County CASA program. I also attend classes at DMACC a couple days a week. Pressure, late nights, lack of sleep? Whatever.

Technically I'm not much more educated than Ms. Robeson. My credits equal approximately three semesters. I have done some writing, including a handful of short fiction. Experience? Maybe I'm a little ahead.

But, grammar and punctuation aside, there was no excuse for the quality of Ms. Robeson's arguments. I was able to respond to most of them with minimal effort.

Ms. Robeson is entitled to her opinion. But, I would respect her opinion more if it was well-articulated and well-reasoned.

Lewayne L. White - Custodian, Ankeny Campus

*The Banner News is a student newspaper published bi-weekly at:  
Des Moines Area Community College  
1125 Hancock Dr.  
Boone, Iowa 50036*

*Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 250 words and may be submitted to bannernews@dmacc.edu.*

# Horoscopes

Jessi Smith

**Aries (March 21 – April 19):**

This is your week to tackle big tasks. You've finally gotten out of your unmotivated slump and just in time because your friends were almost on edge with you over it. You've got the energy, now get to work!

**Taurus (April 20 – May 20):**

Karma is your friend right now, and you are feeling pretty good. Don't let him overpower your common sense or you'll wind up with a bruised ego and a black eye.

**Gemini (May 21 – June 21):**

Take your time this week. All of your projects will get finished, just not right now. Free time is great, but make sure you are using it to relax and not to relive old mistakes.

**Cancer (June 22 – July 22):**

Congratulations! You've bitten off more than you can chew...again. Slow down; focus on what is most important to you right now. You'll be running like hell to catch up later, but patience is your best ally in the present.

**Leo (July 23 – Aug 22):**

The same old routine and daily grind is anything but boring to you right now. It's great that you are enjoying yourself, but remember that not everyone has the same mind set. Do well not to drive your co-workers/class mates up a wall with your enthusiasm.

**Virgo (Aug 23 – Sept 22):**

Considering a big purchase? Go for it, the money issues will work themselves out, just make sure you don't go overboard or you'll wind up with more than you bargained for.

**Libra (Sept 23 – Oct 22):**

Your romantic side (or perhaps just your hormone level) is working double time. Use this to work your magic on a possible new fling, or rekindle a current flame.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21):**

Choose new sources for your vital information. A new view could enlighten you to some old issues you couldn't see before. Don't blow these ideas off, or you'll end up looking like a bigger ass than before.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21):**

Take your time with big decisions. If you feel like others are pushing you, inform them that their impatience issues are entirely their problems, not yours. Maybe your peers don't realize they are being such jerks; let them know how you feel. Honesty doesn't always win friends, but it does gain respect.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19):**

You are overly work oriented right now and that's great. You don't have to forget that you do have a life though. Make an effort to be well rounded. Workaholic = irritable ass, don't let that be you.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18):**

You have been focusing all your energy on an issue that means a great deal more to you than it does to your friends. You are coming off as opinionated and pushy. Try explaining your emotional standpoint instead of shoving your views down the throats of others.

**Pisces (Feb 19- Mar 20):**

Making up your mind could relieve some unneeded stress. You've got the pros and cons, now quit giving yourself the run around and do something about it.

# POETRY of Celine Uhl



Photo: Tim Larson

Celine Uhl is an seventh-grader from Ogden. She is the younger sister of DMACC student Adam Uhl. Celine has attended the DMACC Summer Journalism Camp the past two years.

**UNTITLED**

You made me promise to be a good little girl  
While you had a cigarette in one hand and  
A jack-and-coke in the other  
I can still smell your stinging words...

**THE PINK LEMONADE CONFETTI INCIDENT**

Flying pink and yellows  
Negatives and positives pink lemonade confetti falling from my fingertips.  
A silence just thick enough to slice with a steak knife,  
Perhaps even one of the ones my mother doesn't sharpen.  
Cellophane barely holding back  
Two-toned rainbows soaring from every direction.  
Well...  
Most directions.  
I won't lie to you; I'm embarrassed.  
You'd think I can keep my head better than this.  
But you know...  
Everyone's gotta lose their lemonade sometime...  
You just gotta know how to laugh about it for the rest of the class period

**A PRAYER FOR THE INTERNET AGE**

come one, come all to this final freak show  
expensive mechanical children and their  
choreographed stares  
oh, lordy.  
the sunightmoonlightearlysun again  
escaping the outer sky,  
these mechanical children lock themselves in  
barely lighted dungeons...  
let's all say a prayer for the internet age

**THE SKY IS BLUE TODAY.**

Not the blue that it normally is, with a transparent film of grey masking the rich cyan, no; today it is blue like when kindergartners draw pictures of their perfect little Americana families. Mind-numbingly, breath-taxingly, pull your-eyes-out-through-your-nose-and-feed-them-to-a-koi-tank blue.

I'm not sure if that's an Iowa thing, or if it's just generally Mother Nature's way of apologizing for the breath shattering cold of Northern winters, but it's never this way during the rest of the year.

**CHOC'LATE FREEVERSE**

the poet will eventually die.  
well that's just being morbid.  
but its true;  
fading colours of blue and bruises  
violet and midnight  
and the poetry will be left;  
but its not clear if anyone will know that much.

and with the poet's last ringing song in the air,  
deafening, of course,  
(how melodramatic of you)  
but its true;  
there are things in the world that require a little melodrama.  
if you believe in that sort of thing.

and as cold as it gets in the midwest, frost on iron benches with memorial names  
scratched in the onyx surface  
smooth as diamond  
the little clouds of breath with no parent lungs  
poor, orphaned clouds.  
i couldn't tell you what that's like, mostly because i don't know.

the sky will continue to be blue.  
the grass will be green in suburbia and  
yellow everywhere else on the planet.

FIN

# Toonsies

by Eden Hinrichs

