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Banner News

Molly Lumley

Mary Elizabeth Drahos

Ryan Buck

Eden Hinrichs

Jessi Smith

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Molly Lumley, Mary Elizabeth Drahos, Ryan Buck, Eden Hinrichs, Jessi Smith, Ted Herrick, and Jason Munday

Bears volleyball win regional tourney beat Kirkwood, advance to Nationals



Photo: Eric Ver Helst

The Bears volleyball won the IJCAA Region XI B tournament in Creston, Iowa over the weekend.

In the first round, the Bears dropped Southeastern in three, 30-14, 30-19, 30-16.

The Bears knocked off longtime rival Kirkwood in three 30-23, 30-22, 30-25 to win the regional tournament and advance to the national tournament.

The Bears will be in Scottsdale, Ariz. for the NJCAA Division II National Tournament Nov. 15-17.

Shelby DeNeice and Kaitlyn DeVries led the team in kills against Kirkwood with 14 and 12 respectively. Kayla Knobbe racked up 41 assists against Kirkwood.

Young Roland mayor runs for re-election



Photos: Tim Larson

Sam Juhl, the 20 year old mayor of Roland, wraps up his first term in office this week. Juhl is running for mayor again this year. Results of the election are expected sometime today

Molly Lumley
Banner Staff Writer

On Nov. 6, the citizens of Roland will vote to choose their mayor. The incumbent, Sam Juhl, a student at DMACC, has been the mayor of Roland of two years, and the first time he ran unopposed.

Juhl said the main reason he is running again is because he wants to see the library issue finished. There is a debate in Roland over how a new library should be built, and it is a debate that has continued for almost ten years.

Juhl, who celebrated 20th birthday on Nov. 3, is the youngest mayor in the country. He turned 18 five days before the last election and for someone to take the title from him, their birthday would have to be less than five days before the election.

Initially, Juhl was disrespected by some members

of the city council because of his age, but doesn't have that problem anymore.

"After I graduated [from high school], the superintendent came in to talk to the council about something and I called him by his first name, Mike, and one of them goes 'You mean Mr. Billings?' The superintendent actually crabbled at the council member about how we were equals. I was happy with the superintendent about that."

Juhl plans to graduate from DMACC in the spring with an Associate of Arts degree and attend Iowa State University next fall. He wants to double major in politics and history, and get his teaching certificate. If his career as a politician doesn't work out, he sees himself teaching government. He is considering running for the state legislature in the future.

Juhl said that his father is the main reason he's interested

in politics. "He the kind of guy that would talk politics with you when you were two, I've grown up listening to him." He said his parents have always been supportive of his political career, and he's trying to get his sister, Lauren, who is junior in high school, interested in politics as well.

One of the biggest advantages to being young, Juhl explained, is that he is more flexible than someone older. "I'm more open to change; to changing my viewpoint. I'm more likely to listen to someone, I think. You can get the kind of complex 'Oh I'm older than so and so, I don't have to listen to them.' And as a younger person, you don't have that kind of complex."

Juhl feels a responsibility to the elderly citizens of Roland because there are a large number of retired people living there.

"We don't want to raise taxes too high in Roland. One guy said

to me 'I get my Social Security check and the more you take out of that check, the less I'm able to live. And he's right.'" Juhl seems to be popular with the elderly in Roland as well.

"The best feedback I get has been from the elderly. They seem to be the happiest with the way I do things. The people that are my parents age, there's a lot of them that like me, but I've heard the most dislike from them. I don't think they [had a lot of confidence] in me when I got into office," said Juhl. "I don't see why they wouldn't be confident in me now." Juhl added, jokingly, that he has been mayor for two years and the town still hasn't burned down.

Although the position of mayor does not carry a great deal of power, Juhl said his job is incredibly stressful. With small town politics come small town disputes.

"We had a birds-on-the-

water-tower fight. Two neighbors didn't really like each other, and they were both neighbors of the water tower. The birds would sit on the water tower and poop one someone's house so he complained to the city and the city put up this box that made noise and tried to scare the birds away," said Juhl. "That annoyed the other neighbor who didn't want to hear all of the squawking. So then we had a period of about six months were one person would come in and complain about the birds and the other person would come in and complain about the noise. We finally put fake owls on the water tower."

Juhl encouraged anyone that is interested in running for office to go for it. "It doesn't hurt; it probably wouldn't hurt anyone to understand what it's like to be on the other side of the fence."

Dr. J., The King take top honors in costume contest



Photo: Tim Larson

Heather Bassett, Eric Holmes and Curt Myers, the three finalists for Best Student Costume in the Courter Center costume contest, show off their Halloween handy-work.

Mary Elizabeth Drahos Opinion Editor

Halloween is a holiday celebrated by people wearing costumes and eating sweets, and students at DMACC were no exception.

On Oct 31, students dressed up in their costumes for a shot at \$25. All around campus there were many original costumes such as nuns, pirates and even a s*** sandwich.

The contest had to be divided into two separate categories since there were so many costumes this year. The faculty and staff portion had several original costumes including the contest finalists, Raggedy Ann and a '70s ABA player Dr. J. Steve Krafcsion won with his Dr. J. costume.

The student portion was a little more difficult since there were more costumes. The final three were Velma from Scooby Doo, Elvis, and a dead pirate. The competition between the final three was fierce, but after a yell off, Elvis was named the winner.

"There should've just been a tie," said Sandy Johnson, a faculty member who was watching the festivities.

Another event on campus was the taffy apple eating contest. Each contestant had 30 seconds to eat as much of the taffy apple as they could to win \$25.

Six contestants lined up at noon waiting to dig into their taffy apple, but Barret Werner ate the most, literally eating his way to a clear victory.

Those events, along with the free pumpkin bars that were given away at the Courter Center, made Halloween a fun celebration for students on campus.



Photo: Joseph Mawien

Women's basketball coach, Steve Krafcsion, dressed as Julius (Dr. J.) Erving, demonstrates his basketball skills for the crowd. Krafcsion won the award for Best Faculty/ Staff Costume in the Courter Center costume contest.



Photo: Joseph Mawien

Pirates, Niki Carlson and Jessi Smith, take a break from plundering and pillaging to pose for the camera. Carlson and Smith took advantage of Halloween because, according to Smith, "Who doesn't want to dress up like a pirate?" The Halloween costume contest was sponsored by the S.A.C.

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Hildreth helps keep students on successful path



Photo: Eden Hinrichs
Shelby Hildreth

Ryan Buck
Contributing Writer

The easiest way to interrupt Shelby Hildreth's busy day for a nice chat is to make an appointment. Hildreth is an Academic Advisor at DMACC's Boone campus.

As an advisor at DMACC, Hildreth encounters a wide range of students. Many of these students are unsure about what the future may hold for them. Any time a student begins to panic about eventually landing a job in their field, Hildreth calmly hands them one of her favorite quotes, a line from Marilyn Ferguson's book, *The Aquarian Conspiracy*, "It is not so much that we are afraid of change or so in love with the old ways, but it's that place in between that we fear. It's like being between trapezes; it's like Linus

when his blanket is in the dryer. There's nothing to hold on to."

Hildreth understands what her students are going through, and she assures them that they can succeed. "I went to school to become a teacher and now I am an advisor," said Hildreth.

Instead of giving in to the fear of the unknown, she tells her students to embrace it.

"You never know what path you are going to take or how your experiences will eventually come together," said Hildreth. "But if you can wake up and say to yourself, 'This is fun, I can handle today,' then you keep going."

While Hildreth makes advising seem like a piece of cake, it is inevitable that there will be some problems along the way. "I keep a magic wand in my office to remind myself that I can't fix all the

problems," she said.

Hildreth does the best she can to lay out a plan for each student to follow. "I view each student as puzzle and it is my job to put things together the best I can," she says.

Ultimately each student will have to make some decisions on their own. "I try to give the students as many options as I can so that they will take the initiative and see what else is out there," she said.

No matter how overwhelmed or busy Shelby Hildreth gets, she will still take the time to stop and talk with students she sees in the hallways.

Hildreth starts each day, with reference to Winnie the Pooh, by asking herself, "Am I going to be an Eeyore or a Tigger today?"

Instructions and rules for the DMACC district-wide creative writing contest 2007-2008

Eligibility: Any full or part-time DMACC credit class student enrolled fall 2007 semester.

What to enter:

- 2-3 short stories, poems, and/or single, sustained personal narratives
- Each individual work may be no longer than 20 pages
- No more than a total of three works per person (2-3 pieces are your entry)
- No plays
- Format requirement for cover letter and each piece of writing:
- Cover letter with your name, address, phone number, DMACC student ID number, titles of your pieces, a statement expressing your interest in competing for a DMACC scholarship or cash award only, and the following signed and dated certification of originality and publication release:

I certify that the short stories, poems, and/or personal narratives that I have entered in this contest are original to me. Also, I grant permission for DMACC to publish my work in Expressions, DMACC's Creative Writing Magazine, and on the DMACC Creative Writing Website.

Your name (fill in) Date (fill in)

Format requirements for each piece:

- All pieces need to be typed
- Each piece should be titled.
- All short stories and personal narratives should be double-spaced.
- Do not put your name or other identifying information on any of your pieces.

Submissions:

- Put all of the pieces that you are submitting along with the cover letter in an envelop marked DMACC Creative Writing Contest Fall 2007 and do one of the following:
- 1) bring to Judy Hauser's office: Bldg. 2, Rm. 5Y, Ankeny Campus, and place in the plastic box on Judy Hauser's office door
 - 2) mail to Judy Hauser using DMACC campus mail (Judy Hauser, English Department, Building 2)
 - 3) Send via regular mail to Judy Hauser, English Department, DMACC, 2006 So. Ankeny Boulevard, Ankeny, Iowa, 50023-3993.

Absolutely no email or faxed entries will be accepted.

Deadline for entering: Friday, December 7, 2007 at 5:00 PM.

Keep your own copy of your entry in electronic format: (Microsoft Word 6.0)

For questions:

Call Judy Hauser, DMACC District-Wide Creative Writing Contest Coordinator, at 1-515-964-6535 or jahouser@dmacc.edu

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MOTOROLA

You Can't Get There From Here performs despite last minute cast changes

Eden Hinrichs
Staff Writer

On Oct. 27 "You Can't Get There From Here," written by Pat Cook, was performed by Kay Mueller's talented cast. Despite casting problems, including cast members dropping out of the play, the performance went off without a hitch.

As the players stirred backstage and the crowd hushed, there was a quiet anticipation awaiting the rise of the curtain. The actors whispered their lines to one another in hushed tones making certain that no words reached the audience to ruin the surprise ending.

The light rose and the characters took their spots. The play started in a quaint, cozy inn in the town of Shadow Falls. We were quickly introduced to four main characters Aunt Myrtle, Ann, Queenie and Liz. The over-the-top old Aunt Myrtle, played by Lauren Vidimos, comedic

accents lit up the stage with the force of a seasoned actress. The character of Ann, the single young maid of the inn, played by Jaci Zimmerman, embodied the role of youth.

Small town journalist, Queenie, played by the veteran actress, and real-life reporter, Mary Elizabeth Drahos, is more than what she appears to the audience. Although it may have seemed like she was only playing a small role at first, by the last line she became the star.

The inn keeper, Liz, played by Patty Rockwell, had an easy going nature and articulate voice and almost mothering sarcasm that carried her through the production.

Aunt Myrtle and Liz had been trying to set up young Ann with any eligible suitor who would come to pass, until luck, or pot hole, would have it, a young, hot reporter by the name of Arthur, played by Caleb Avery, fell into a the young maid's

life. Caleb Avery oozes reminisces of a very young Clark Kent which appears to be the inspiration for his character, although not as heroic as the man of steel, he still gave a good performance.

Unbeknownst to our characters the journalist is after a big story by the name of Lilith Mansfield, a Pulitzer prize winning journalist who disappeared off the face of the earth. After hitting the infamous pot hole and falling into dire need of a new radiator, Arthur decides to write a conspiracy story about how the pot hole was deliberately put in the street to suck money out of poor citizens.

Calling his editor, Dolores, played by Dee Egdorf, Arthur pitches the story idea to her about a little town that scams money out of people instead of chasing down the award winning journalist who secretly lies in seclusion.

The once cut throat journalist, touched by the small town, adapts to the

local colors in the span of a few short hours. When Aunt Myrtle and Liz stumble across an almost fully written article, things begin to spin out of control as he tries to pull out of the story.

Arthur attempts to destroy the story but his new love, Ann, reads it first and flies into a rage. While trying apologize and protest his innocence, his editor takes the stage like a whirlwind and causes chaos by the mere opening of her mouth. Much like weather itself she cannot be reasoned with.

The protagonists then decide to trick Dolores into believing that Lilith Mansfield is truly in Shadow Falls to avoid the slander that would be caused by the editor. As the chaos continues, Aunt Myrtle attempts to use her theatrical skills to make Dolores think that a spell has been cast on her. At first she laughs until Horace, the head of the paper, turns up at the inn. Horace, played by Ted Herrick, plays along with the plot to give the vicious editor a taste of her own medicine.

As the play is drawn to a close and happy endings are dispensed as if out of cookie cutters a plot that had been hidden behind the stage comes to light. The parts of Horace and Dolores nearly had no actors to bring them to life when it was discovered that Stephanie Allen and Jonathan Lut dropped the roles.

Although at times the actors seemed as if they were uncomfortable with the audience, the play was an over all success.

If studied closely the writer of the script appeared to have major points of writers block during the writing of the script, knowing what he wanted to happen but not knowing quite how he wanted to get there. The actors covered this up with clever character, yet the office like humor seemed like it needed to stretch for laughs.

Over all the production was a good play with fledging thespians getting to spread their wings through awkward script. The production brought a smile to the faces of the audience, leaving them eagerly awaiting the next production.



Photo: Eden Hinrichs

Lauren Vidimos, Dee Egdorf and Ted Herrick performing in the DMACC Theatre production of You Can't Get There From Here.

WHO IS YOUR HERO? WHY?



My mom. She had to raise three boys by herself. She sacrificed a lot and put us first.

-Corey Dick



My sister. I can always look up to her and she has always been there for me.

-Krystyna Abbott Kolton Reed.



Kolton Reed; he is the best friend one could ask for.

-Mark Nelson



My brother. He has been through a lot in his life and he still holds strong.

-Sue Barkema

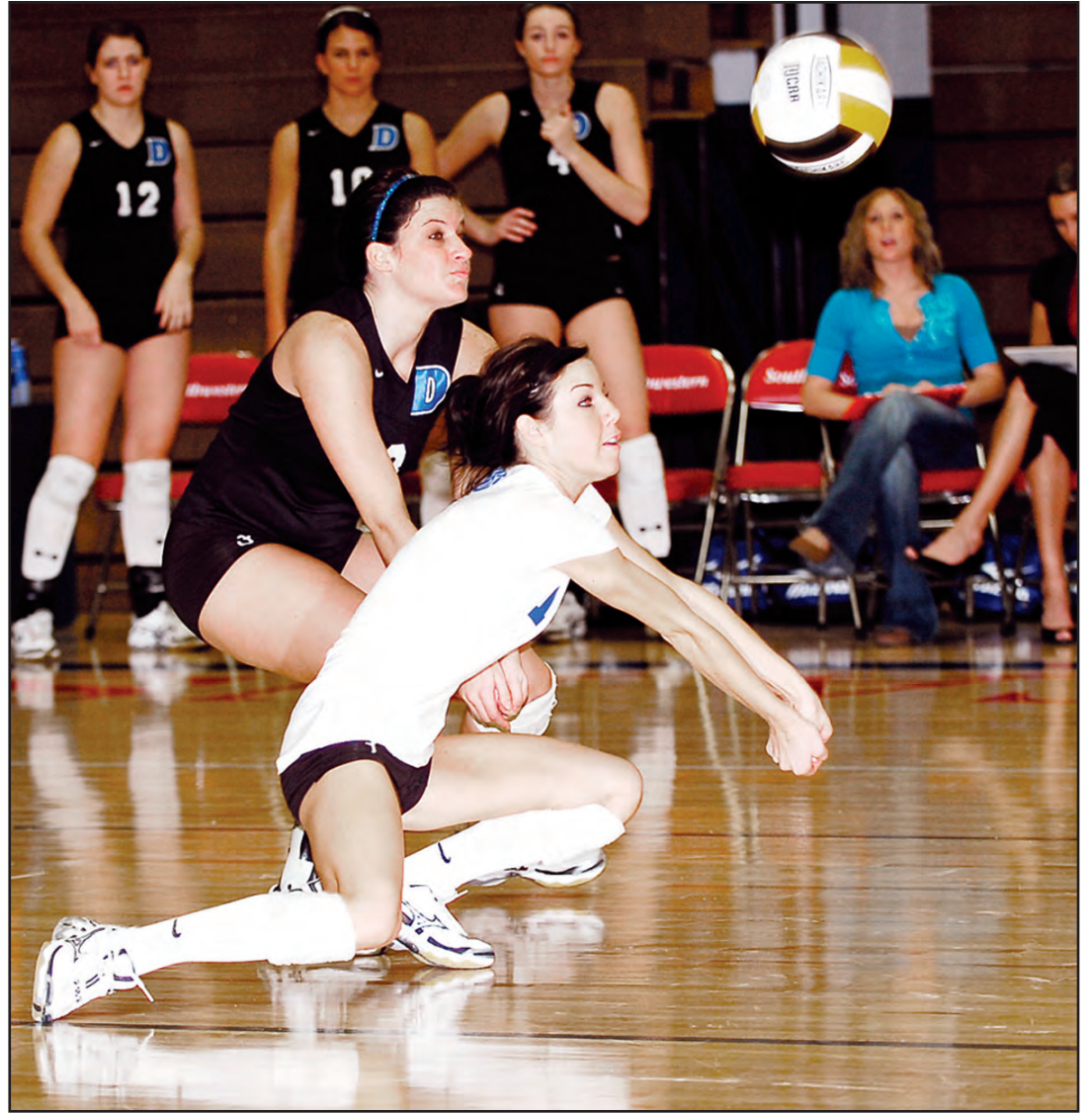
Bears win IJCAA regional tourney

topple Kirkwood en route to Nationals

Photos: Eric Ver Helst



Kaitlyn DeVries slams the ball home in the Bears' victory over Kirkwood.



Rachel Wenzel picks up one of her 44 digs in last weekend's IJCAA Regional Tournament.



Monica Driscoll

DMACC-Boone Campus Presents:

The Terminator and Spectator: Does Media Violence Cause Societal Violence

Dr. Brad J Bushman, University of Michigan



Wednesday, November 14th @ 10:10-11:05am and 12:20-1:15pm (2 sessions)
DMACC- Boone Campus Auditorium

Dr. Bushman's presentation focuses on debunking 5 myths associated with violent media:

- Myth #1: The level of violence in the media simply mirrors the level of violence in the real world.
- Myth #2: Violent media decrease aggression
- Myth #3: Media violence has a trivial effect on aggression
- Myth #4: One cannot know whether media violence causes aggression
- Myth #5: Decreasing violent crime rates prove that media violence cannot cause violent crime.

Dr. Bushman will also discuss research on the effects of violent video games on helping behavior, aggressive behavior, aggressive thoughts, angry feelings and physiological arousal

For information contact Sean Taylor (Sociology/Psychology Instructor) at 515-451-5211 or email astaylor@dmacc.edu

THE LIVING TREE

BY JESSI SMITH

There she lies, there she lies
 Under root and stone and leaf
 Beauty there is eternal and pure
 The eyes do not see
 and the ears do not hear
 yet the heart beats
 as the flesh dies
 There she lies, there she lies
 The roots wrap around her body more each year
 the earth and its followers penetrate her bones
 No name is found to mark her residence
 and the tree grows strong as she weakens
 Her body deteriorates into minerals that
 give life to the world around that place
 Leaves grow and bloom and die and fall
 Wind blows and
 the tree sways
 There she lies, there she lies
 A daughter of our mother earth
 Forgotten by the memories
 remembered by the rings in this tree
 Though she lies there under the ground
 the tree holds her existence and carries it
 on through time
 There she lies

The bookstore guru

Molly Lumley
Banner Staff Writer

Even though she's been working the same job for eight years, bookstore clerk Lisa Savits still looks forward to coming to work. While sipping coffee and joking with students, she creates a welcoming and friendly atmosphere in the bookstore. Her goal is to make everyone at DMACC feel comfortable. She says the best part of her job is interacting with the students.

"I love you guys," Savits says with a wide grin. "It's fun to watch the students grow. I know a lot of the students by name. I like to make them feel like this is their school."

Savits says her most recognizable feature is her poofy hair. "Before we had nametags, people used to call me the bookstore lady, or the loud bookstore lady with the big hair," she said.

"There's nothing I don't like about this job...I'm weird, I know," she said. After being a stay at home mom for four years and a manager for a Foot Locker for seven years, she was hired as a part time employee of the bookstore. She became a full time employee four years ago. "I love the campus, I love the people, and I love the job. Out of all the jobs I've ever had, I enjoy this one the most." The only training Savits needed was on how to operate the cash register, which was taught to her by the bookstore manager, Carol

Petersen.

Savits, 36, lives in Ogden, with her husband of 21 years, Mike. They have two children, Leah, 15, and Logan, 13. "I'm the loud soccer mom," she said. Her face lights up as she talks about her children. "We love going boating in the summertime." She watches them during ski season at Seven Oaks. "I don't ski, hell no. I enjoy going to their sporting events."

Savits remembers when the bookstore was in the back half of what is now the Academic Achievement Center 2 years ago. "It was the size of a classroom, there would be days that no one would come in," she said. "We had one window, but it looked out at a brick wall. The new store allows us to have a lot more clothing." The store is no longer stuffed away in a corner of the school. "We don't look like a closet anymore," she said.

Savits went to high school through 10th grade, but received her GED in 1987. "I kinda hung with everybody. But I wasn't a cheerleader, let's not go there," she said. Savits was the vice president of the student senate, and a member of the pit orchestra.

Savits deals with difficult customers like she deals with her children. "You guys are kids," she said. "I look at them as a challenge. I don't alienate them. They're the reason I'm here, they keep food on my table," she says while laughing. "We really don't



Photo: Eden Hinrichs

Lisa Savits smiles for the camera while hard at work in the Boone campus bookstore.

get any hard customers. People come in and they know what they want and if they can't find it Carol and I will hold their hand."

While chatting with students last Tuesday, Savits was adamantly searching online for the perfect Halloween costume. She wants to go as Freddie Kruger, the killer from Nightmare on Elm Street, this year. "I don't want to be sexy," she said. "I want to be scary and nasty. I want people to look at me and go 'Woah'." She was Hannibal Lecter, the crazy cannibal doctor, last year. "I'm not right in the head," she joked. "I never claimed to be."

Savits doesn't foresee herself leaving the store anytime soon. "I'll leave when Carol gets tired of me and makes me leave. [I'll be here] forever."

Bandwagon America

Jessi Smith
Managing Editor

The 2008 presidential election is just around the corner and my peers don't seem to have any clue as to what is really going on.

I was talking to a classmate about different candidates the other day and I found myself feeling very alone in my political awareness. I asked her who she favored and she said Hillary.

We were writing persuasive papers at the time and she was doing hers on why gay marriage should be legal. I mentioned to her that Hillary was opposed to gay marriage and that it was a little silly to pull for a candidate that so blatantly opposes the things she holds in high regard. She pondered this for a moment and then said that it didn't really matter because she wasn't voting anyway.

How is it that someone would have a preference for a particular candidate and not want to vote? It seems to be incredibly pointless to me. This classmate is very intelligent, and I generally agree with what she has to say, so this made me more than a little

worried.

We are living in a bandwagon generation. I find more and more that college age Americans do not have the information to back up their own decisions about their choice of candidates. Does this mean that the media is not doing its job of informing the masses? Or does this reflect a much more serious problem?

My fear is that my generation has forgotten how to question the world. More and more I see my peers swallowing ideas without ripping them apart first. They are being spoon fed by mother and never once ask "What is this that I am eating?" But it tastes good, it might be filled with lead based paint, but it tastes all right.

In the last presidential election, only 47 percent of people between the ages of 18 and 24 voted. Not even half of the college age people bothered to vote. I don't expect this election to run differently. We live in this country, we live by its laws, shouldn't that be enough to motivate us to want some say as to who runs it?

Not all students are

advocates of the bandwagon, and I am aware of this. I have talked to students who have a great deal of knowledge about the candidates and who have chosen the candidate that best represents their political views.

Those are the people who will be voting. Those people make up the 47 percent of college age individuals who actually made it to the voting booth in 2004. But what about the other 53 percent? Why are they not exercising the privilege of voting for our leaders?

This is it, this is our time. We are America. Our generation will eventually be running for office, driving mini-vans and catering to a dog, spouse and 2.5 kids. Will we be ready for it when it arrives? This can't continue. If we want to continue this tradition of a free democracy, then we must make our voices heard. We must vote, we must stand.

Wake up people! You can't survive this world if you don't anchor yourself to something. You will be swept away in the current and lost to the great oblivion that is a blissfully ignorant America.

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POLITALKS Sopranos eat your heart out



Ted Herrick
Banner Columnist

Aldo Leopold, a famous U.S. forester and ecologist, once said "that land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics." One can now ask, do we love and respect the land or even our planet today?

We have many more ecological disasters simultaneously occurring in our world than Leopold saw in his day. Human technology has advanced to where we are permanently changing our environment. The consequences of our collective actions will have a profound effect on the way we live and on our own quality of life. Decisions that governments and their citizens make now will shape human success for years to come.

The Bush administration has been no friend to the environment. The president has called for opening up the Artic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration, potentially disturbing native animals along breeding routes unchanged for millennia. He has advocated logging in the Tongass National Forest, both the largest national and largest temperate rain forest in the United States, covering some 17 million acres. In an extraordinarily insensitive measure, President Bush spoke of logging the majestic Redwoods in California. One can only wonder how this President can be so callous regarding our national treasure and its transitory trusteeship by his generation.

We now see the long-voiced concerns of the environmentalists coming to fruition. Polar bears are disappearing at an alarming rate. These animals are probably some of the hardest hit from the effects of climate change. The arctic pack ice, where they feed in the summer, is expected to disappear in the not-too-distant future, leaving the bears landlocked without access to their food source.

As the planet's temperature increases and tempers flair, many naysayers contend that there really is no human-caused crisis. Those PhD's must have it wrong,

as the petroleum industry has conducted its own research and suggested that global warming is still "a matter of debate." However, industry sponsored studies never seem to make it into any reputable scientific journal. So the tug-of-war continues.

We have seen this debate before: economics vs. environmentalists. In the mid to latter part of the 1800's, scientists were sounding the alarm over the decimation of passenger pigeon populations. Again, many said that these birds were too numerous ever to be wiped out through any human efforts. The scientists couldn't possibly be right. Well, in 1914 the last passenger pigeon, "Martha," died in captivity in the Cincinnati Zoo.

In addition, scientists spoke for years on the potential fate of the Yangtze River Dolphin, only to be mocked as "animal rights nuts." This year, the dolphin was declared extinct. In 2006, the Western Black Rhino was declared extinct after years of warning from Rhino activists.

The disappearance of the world's flora and fauna seems to pose no alarm for President Bush. Bush cites both "an ongoing debate" as to the existence of global warming and "economic consequences" to a sound, renewable energy and environmental policy. Scientists have been citing case after case in the reduction of the world's biodiversity which have been met only with contempt by the entrenched powers. Now, as then, these pleas seem to fall on deaf ears. We must ask ourselves, does the cure for cancer or AIDS lurk somewhere in the intestines of the Polar bear, or somewhere in the great Tongass? Or perhaps, sadly, it was lost in the adrenal glands of the Yangtze River Dolphin when it ceased to play along the river's shoreline. We may never know.

All of us lose a part of something special when a child never sees the graceful way a bald eagle takes flight or the wistful feeling that arises at the sound of a wolf howling at the moon. Imagine a world where all that remains of the eastern prairie fringed orchid is what can be seen in some textbook photograph. The now-endangered orchid, once bountiful on Iowa's virgin prairie, used to bloom in her full regalia to the delight of Mother Nature. The thought of a child never knowing the wonders and beauty of some of our most precious wildlife should sadden all of us. Yes, global warming is chilling.



Mary Elizabeth Drahos
Opinion Editor

I perceive myself as a passive-aggressive person. I'm normally really laid back, but when I need to throw down, I will do my best.

But let me start from, well, the beginning.

I have been working at a certain bar for a few months. During the duration of my employment there, I have had a boyfriend whom I absolutely adore. Apparently, not everyone is as pleased about this as I am.

A regular at the bar seemed to have a little crush on me. I was completely oblivious to it (I normally am very oblivious to people liking me) but I thought he was a cool friend to have.

This guy (we'll call him Bill) would get pissy whenever

I mention my boyfriend and actually tried to start a spat with him one time. But he called and apologized to us both, so we moved on.

Well, the other night I was at a going away party for someone I worked with. B happened to be there, since we are friends, I went over and started talking to him. The whole party crew was very hip, very happening and very cool. In fact, within the first ten minutes, many Jell-O shots were consumed and we all ended up singing all the drunken bar room songs that normally are annoying to us.

In the middle of 'Sweet Caroline' (BA BA BA), Bill decided to look through my phone for no good reason. When he flipped it open, he saw a picture of my boyfriend, then closed it and looked at me.

The next words out of his mouth were possibly the stupidest things a guy trying to get with me could say: 'Your boyfriend is an effing gay emo kid.'

What happened next could be described as my inner mob-like Sicilian soul finding its way to my outer self.

I don't know exactly what I said, or exactly what I did, but I know everyone I work with

couldn't stop their jaws from dropping to the ground since I am normally a funny, laid back individual.

Eventually I had to be pulled aside and calmed down because I almost threw a punch at him. I scared him so much with my not-so-calm demeanor that he started crying.

I am not quite sure why he said what he said. I know he likes me, but how was he expecting me to react? Did he expect me to say "Wow, I never thought of it like that before. Thank you for opening my eyes so that I could realize that the guy I am completely devoted to is a gay emo kid. I never knew. Marry me."

Granted maybe it was the alcohol that made his cognitive ability go awry, but I still don't think that should excuse him from saying what he did. It obviously did not impress me.

However, a lot of good did come out of this. People I work with are now treating me like one of the gang, now that they know that I'm not Mary Sunshine 24-7.

But one of them better not think of messing with me anymore.

My inner Sicilian has been released, no telling how long it will hang around for.

Why I hate the news

Eden Hinrichs
Staff Writer

Journalism is full of it. People are always looking for the deep dark secret behind this or that. No matter how grand the deed or the idea there is always some scandal waiting to be unearthed. If there is none, "trash journalism" will conspire to spin facts and manipulate truth to suit their agenda and titillate the public.

For example, if a man saves children out of a burning bus there will be armies of muckrakers looking to expose him as a pedophile or a drug addict. A good deed is no longer a good deed; leaving true the saying, no good deed goes unpunished.

There is no such thing as a good, heart warming story that doesn't have some "scandalous" backdrop. The media is a parasite. The host in which the parasite exists is society and, like any host, society is weakened and

decayed as the parasite grows stronger. The two cannot live in harmony.

The media kept society honest by exposing its flaws and society's flaws were the media needs. Honesty has taken a dive and gossip has become the main attribute to "breaking news." In journalism, we are taught to follow the money, but it's not good enough to follow the money, we always have to make some one look bad in the process. They are taking the glory away from the good deeds and great people who are the backbone of society.

Why is it that when we do something like back into a pole it is a "fender bender," but any public official does it and they are an alcoholic? Everyone has a private life and it should stay that way. How would you like it if someone dug into your life and published everything you did? What if someone revealed every heartache you had just so that they could make a few bucks?

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was not photographed in his wheel chair, or leaning with braced legs on crutches. It was simply agreed that the media, and the nation, wanted him to be seen as a strong president rather than exposing his disability. As a matter of fact, most people outside of New York didn't even know he was in a wheel chair! They focused on his duties and good deeds.

In the media today, everything is a scandal. There is no substance and nothing positive. It seems like we build people up only to condemn them for being human.

Soon it won't be enough just to cover celebrities or war, instead, we will have our lives exploited every minute for non-stop-privacy-violating-action (probably on FOX). The nightly news is now only a celebration of kitsch. In the last 50 years we've gone from Edward R. Murrow to Geraldo Rivera; what will happen in the next 50?

Fall 2007 Banner Staff

Tim Larson	Executive Editor
Jessi Smith	Managing Editor
Jason Munday	Layout & Design Editor
Molly Lumley	News Editor
Mary Elizabeth Drahos	Opinion Editor
Eden Hinrichs	Staff Writer / Photographer
Joseph Mawien	Photographer
Ted Herrick	Political Columnist

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MUSIC REVIEW



Photo: www.shinytoyguns.com

SHINY TOY GUNS WE ARE PILOTS

Jason Munday
Layout & Design Editor

If you missed the debut album by Shiny Toy Guns, “We Are Pilots,” maybe you heard their second release of it, or if you missed that too, then maybe you caught their third and final version. With that many takes, it’s no wonder this album stands out with its catchy tunes and its excellent production.

This is the first album I’ve heard this year that I was really impressed by. It’s a little out of the ordinary in terms of style, but it’s innovation and creativity has just the right mix of dance beats, driving synthesizers, sweet melodies and in-your-face vocals.

The band formed in 2002, added a couple new members in 2004, and independently shot out their first version of the album in early 2005. Then late in 2005, they rerecorded it and released it, again independently. Universal Records got in on the Shiny Toy Gun action in 2006 and released the final version, and the rest is history.

Many of the songs on the album (i.e. “You Are The One” and “Rainy Monday”) will inevitably get either your hands or feet tapping or both. I woke up everyday for the last week with “Rainy Monday” already playing in my head, and my foot started going to the beat in my head. The album is chaulk full of catchy choruses with that perfect epic sound which the huge production only adds to.



Photo: www.shinytoyguns.com

There is a slight experimental feel to this album which renders a couple songs that I wouldn’t prefer to hear running through my head 24/7 but, for the most part, the little things, that probably only a musician or producer would notice as first listen, give the album a unique feel. “Waiting” has a nice, calm feel to it, but also a lot of interesting things going on in the background.

The final track just happens to also be the self-titled track. It sounds to me like a song by Enya that an electronic band covered. “We Are Pilots” the song is quite atypical, but probably some of the band’s best work. It’s pretty common, while listening to this album, to hear a verse that sounds pretty calm almost as if it were playing during a sentimental moment in a movie but then would explode into a enormous chorus with all the synth and programming.

“We Are Pilots” is definitely a feel-good album. It’s just fun to listen to. The songs are very contagious and are almost sure to get you hooked. There’s new things I hear each time I listen, and I’m constantly liking it more with each listen. Great record.



Horoscopes

Jessi Smith

Aries (March 21-April 19)

You have a lot of extra energy that needs an outlet. And no, this does not mean you should ‘relieve’ that sexual tension you’ve been having over your lab partner. Use this energy to push forward, or you will fall back on some old habits that your mother will, I repeat, will find out about.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Use the good karma that is in the air to strengthen your relationships with classmates. Having them on your side could prove beneficial if you need to dispose of a body.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

You’ve finally overcome a creative dry spell, good for you. Now use this new persona to tackle some big projects you’ve been avoiding, and not to get yourself into trouble with the law...again.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Remember those black bags you helped your friends dispose of in that hog lot last fall? It’s time to call in some long overdue favors; you’ll need them when the stormy weather reaches hurricane levels.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Romance is the key to getting what you want right now. Use your smooth talking abilities to coax opinions onto your plain of thinking. You don’t have to be sleezy, but a little smoozing never hurt anyone.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You’ve been wishy-washy over very simple issues for far too long. Stop it. You are starting to piss people off. Make up your mind, it might not make everyone happy, but it will gain some much needed respect from your peers.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Focus on your most significant relationships right now. There may be some underlying issues that you haven’t noticed that need to be resolved. There are a few tag-along friends that are stopping you from accomplishing this, drop them.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Your social energy is through the roof! Use it to the best of your ability. Go out with your friends to that bar people have been raving about, or ask the cutie in your math class to go out dancing. This may result in some bad behavior, but that’s Ok, no one is watching.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Your friends have been using you as a counselor more than usual. They may think they need your advice, but make sure you don’t abuse your power or it will come back to haunt you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Work and school have taken over your world as of late. You are putting all your energy into pleasing people who probably don’t deserve it. Who cares if your teacher doesn’t like you? If their opinion is reflected in your grade, there are lawyers for that. Take some time to remind your friends that you haven’t forgotten about them.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You’ve been ignoring personal issues and it’s starting to show. Turn your focus inward and start re-evaluating where you stand. Stop pointing out everyone else’s flaws, if you don’t, then your deepest problems will soon surface for the world to see.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Your constant debauchery, in the fullest definition of the word, hasn’t gotten you to where you should be. Although it was fun, and will continue to be, you need to settle yourself down and take care of what’s necessary.

Toonsies

by Eden Hinrichs

