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Banner News

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U of I student arrested in anti-Iraq war protest speaks to writing class

Julianne Hamil
Business Manager

Ryan Merz spoke to Sam Pritchard's English classes on April 2 about his recent arrest at Sen. Charles Grassley's office in Cedar Rapids.

Merz, a University of Iowa student and active member of UI's Antiwar Committee, spoke of his commitment to stopping Grassley's continued funding for war campaigns.

The Antiwar committee had contacted Grassley's office in person and with written request to talk to the senator about their concerns. After constant denial, the committee chose to use civil disobedience tactics to be heard by Sen. Grassley.

On Feb. 26, eleven protestors, including Frank Cordaro, a Catholic priest, and Joshua Casteel, the Iraq War Veteran who received Grassley's 1998 nomination to attend the prestigious West Point Academy.

Cordaro, Casteel, eight UI students and one other Iowa City resident, entered Grassley's office late Monday and said they wouldn't leave the building unless Grassley communicated with them via telephone.

Grassley was traveling to Washington at the time and declined to meet the demands of

the protestors.

U.S. Marshals overseeing the complex notified Cedar Rapids police. Shortly after 5 p.m. the 11 were arrested and transported to the Linn County Jail where they stayed the night.

Merz said, "This was one moment in my life when I felt the most power, I was spiritually justified."

According to Pritchard, "The group acted in accordance with the fundamental tenets of civil disobedience as outlined by Gandhi and [Martin Luther] King."

The protest was organized by Voices for Creative Nonviolence and other peace groups.

Protesters saw similar treatment at Grassley's office in Des Moines.

In a press release, representatives for Grassley's office said, "The state offices do not handle policy questions."

Nationwide there were 50 arrests related to anti-war protests on Feb. 26. More than 300 people have been arrested for protest related offences since then.

"Almost always I am inspired by those who have the courage to act on their convictions," said Pritchard, "and I especially appreciate the idealism of youth."



Photo: Contributed

Ryan Merz (right) and Justin Riley pose for a photo during an anti-war protest in Washington D.C. earlier this year. Merz, Riley and nine others were arrested in Cedar Rapids on Feb. 26. after refusing to leave Sen. Grassley's office. The "Cedar Rapids 11" will face charges ranging from trespassing to obstruction. The trial date is set for April 25.

National Alcohol Screening Day

Jessi Hackler
Banner Staff Writer

For National Alcohol Screening Day on April, 5, Sashya Comito, the Boone County Coordinator of Community and Family Resources, conducted surveys of DMACC students to gather data about alcohol consumption among college students.

According to the Adult Outpatient Treatment Programs for Alcohol and Drug Dependencies, alcohol and drug abuse are the third leading killers in this country.

Substance abuse appears so high on the list because of health problems caused by abuse and the increased accident rate and greater chance of risky behavior associated with substance abuse.

"I'm trying to educate. It's kind of more of a prevention endeavor more than anything else," said Comito.

"If you are going down



Photo: Contributed

Boone County CFR Coordinator Sashya Comito was at DMACC educating students on substance abuse treatment options.

a slope backwards, you don't realize you have a problem until you slide off the edge of the cliff," said Comito.

A pamphlet provided at the screening stated that the causes of alcohol or drug addiction aren't known.

What is known is that alcohol and drugs affect brain chemistry, which can cause inappropriate behavior and poor decision-making.

Genetics may be a factor in substance abuse. "If someone is experiencing problems I'm hoping they would be receptive and ask for help," said Comito.

Adult Outpatient Treatment Programs can help people recover from addictions and offer alternatives to drugs and alcohol for living a healthy, balanced life.

Community and Family Resources offer services including evaluation and assessment of individual problems, counseling and support. CFR can also refer individuals to other community agencies for help.

"I got about 45 screenings here in 2005," said Comito. Turn outs like this one will keep Comito and others coming back to DMACC for survey purposes.

Burns named Best Small Man at nationals

DMACC basketball player Grant Burns, a first-year player from Prairie City-Monroe High School, was recently given the Jack Cistriano Award which is given to the best small man at the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II National Championships in Danville, IL.

Burns, a 5' 9" point guard, led the Bears to an eighth place finish in the tournament while averaging 12 points, nine assists, and two steals per game.

"This was a good honor, but I would have traded this award for another win or two," said Burns.

Burns had an outstanding freshman season. He helped lead the DMACC Bears to a 31 win season, which tied a school record. Individually, Burns broke a 29 year old record by dishing out 271 assists, shattering the previous record of 234 assists. He also broke the school record in steals with 99.



Photo: Eric Ver Helst

Grant Burns

Other honors included Iowa Community College Athletic Conference Scholar Athlete of the Week during the week of March 1 through 7; he was named Second Team All-Conference and was named the Most Valuable Player in the Region XI Tournament.

Marketing class presents Cola Challenge

Jessi Hackler
Banner Staff Writer

The Courter Center bustled with students on Mar 28 as lines of people formed to join in the Cola Showdown, hosted by Tammy McElroy's Business 102.

Students were given samples of different colas and asked which one they preferred. They then documented their responses. With this data, the Business 102 students were able to gain experience in gathering information and researching via public polls.

"I'm hoping they will learn the value of gathering information and get the experience of gathering primary data, the whole research process," said McElroy.

The marketing students designed unique signs for each

group, this way they could also gather information on what sort of signs or colors attract different consumers.

"We are seeing if people can determine their favorite cola and we're also practicing getting marketing research," said Amy Sapp, a Business 102 student. DMACC students swarmed the small cola testing tables and gave the Business 102 students the opportunity to gather the data that they required for the class.

"This is not to find out what people's likes and dislikes are about cola; it's to gain experience for the whole marketing research process," said McElroy. Business 102 teaches students about business and marketing by engaging them in the process. It is a hands on class that explores several different aspects of marketing and business.



Photo: Eden Hinrichs

Michelle Klindt and Jamie Ridenowr take part in the Cola Challenge put on by Tammy McElroy's Business 102 class, in the Courter Center.

Bleakest report ever on global warming approved at Brussels climate conference

Seth Borenstein
AP Science Writer

BRUSSELS, Belgium – As the world gets hotter by degrees, millions of poor people will suffer from hunger, thirst, floods and disease unless drastic action is taken, scientists and diplomats warned Friday in their bleakest report ever on global warming.

All regions of the world will change, with the risk that nearly a third of the Earth's species will vanish if global temperatures rise just 3.6 degrees above the average temperature in the 1980s-90s, the new climate report says. Areas that now have too little rain will become drier.

Yet that grim and still preventable future is a toned-down prediction, a compromise brokered in a fierce, around-the-clock debate among scientists and bureaucrats. Officials from some governments, including China and Saudi Arabia, managed to win some weakened wording.

Even so, the final report "will send a very, very clear signal" to governments, said Yvo de Boer, the top climate official for the United Nations, which in 1988 created the authoritative climate change panel that issued the starkly worded document.

And while some scientists were angered at losing some ground, many praised the report as the strongest warning ever that nations must cut back on greenhouse gas emissions.

The report is the second of four coming this year from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a United Nations network of 2,000 scientists. The new document tries to explain how global warming is changing life on Earth; the panel's report in February focused on the cause of global warming and said scientists are highly confident

most of it is due to human activity.

All four reports must be unanimously approved by the 120-plus governments that participate, and all changes must be approved by the scientists.

That edict made for a deadline-busting contentious final editing session that was closed to the public. However, The Associated Press witnessed the hectic final 3 1/2 hours of objections and conflict.

At one point, Chinese and Saudi Arabian delegates tried to reduce the scientific confidence level about already noticeable effects of global warming. They lower the confidence level from 90 percent to 80 percent. Scientists objected, and one lead author from the United States, NASA's Cynthia Rosenzweig, left the building after filing an official protest.

"There is a discernible human influence on these changes" that are already occurring through flooding, heat waves, hurricanes and threats to species, she said.

Under a U.S.-proposed compromise, the final report deleted any mention of the level of confidence about global warming's current effects. And that may have saved the day, according to some scientists who said the report had appeared doomed over that issue.

Often it was the U.S. delegation who stood with scientists and helped reach compromise, said Stanford University scientist Stephen Schneider, a frequent critic of the Bush administration's global warming policies.

British scientist Neil Adger said he and others were disappointed that government officials deleted parts of a chart that highlights the devastating effects of climate change with

every rise of 1.8 degrees in temperature.

Some scientists bitterly vowed never to take part in the process again.

Still, Adger and other scientists and even environmental groups hailed the final report as the strongest ever.

"This is a glimpse into an apocalyptic future," the Greenpeace environmental group said of the final report.

The tone of the report is urgent, noting those who can afford the least get hit the most by global warming.

"Don't be poor in a hot country, don't live in hurricane alley, watch out about being on the coasts or in the Arctic, and it's a bad idea to be on high mountains with glaciers melting," said Schneider, the Stanford scientist who was one of the study author's.

Africa by 2020 is looking at an additional 75 million to 250 million people going thirsty because of climate change, the report said. Deadly diarrheal diseases associated with floods and droughts will increase in Asia because of global warming, the report said.

The first few degrees increase in global temperature will actually raise global food supply, but then it will plummet, according to the report.

"The poorest of the poor in the world _ and this includes poor people in prosperous societies _ are going to be the worst hit," said Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. "People who are poor are least able to adapt to climate change."

But even rich countries, such as the United States say that the report tells them what to watch for.

James Connaughton, the head of the White House Council

on Environmental Quality noted that food production in North America would rise initially, but so will increased coastal flooding.

The head of the U.S. delegation, White House associate science adviser Sharon Hays, said a key message she's taking home to Washington is "that these projected impacts are expected to get more pronounced at higher temperatures," she said in a conference call from Brussels. "Not all projected impacts are negative."

Schneider said a main message isn't just what will happen, but what already has started: melting glaciers, stronger hurricanes, deadlier heat waves, and disappearing or moving species.

It all can be traced directly to greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels, according to the report.

Martin Parry, who conducted the tough closed-door negotiations, said that with 29,000 sets of data from every continent include Antarctica, the report firmly and finally established "a man-made climate signal coming through on plants, water and ice."

"For the first time, we are not just arm-waving with models," he said.

But many of the worst effects aren't locked into the future, the report said in its final pages. People can build better structures, adapt to future warming threats and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, scientists said.

"There are things that can be done now, but it's much better if it can be done now rather than later," said David Karoly of the University of Oklahoma, one of the report authors.

"We can fix this," Schneider said.

PBL Gone Eggy

Mary Elizabeth Drahos
Opinion Editor

Wednesday, Apr. 4, started out like any other day for most students. Members of Phi Beta Lambda, however, spent their morning hiding several hundred Easter eggs around campus for their annual Easter egg hunt.

Phi Beta Lambda, a business organization on campus, organized an egg hunt that involved students finding eggs randomly around campus and turning them in for prizes. The prizes varied from candy, to plastic rings, to mouse pads.

Katy Farlow, president of PBL, manned the booth from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. along with new members Jill Siders and Heather Oxley. Liz Jay, who found one of the eggs, said "The eggs were pretty easy to find, some easier than others. It seems that the harder the eggs were to find, the better the prize."

"We were up hiding eggs around campus since 7:30 a.m.," said Farlow. Linda Plueger, the advisor for PBL, said the idea came from PBL members in the past. "The PBL wanted to do this a few years ago, and we just carried on the tradition."

The egg hunt was also used to raise awareness about the PBL. "Any student is welcome to join," said Plueger. Students who are involved in PBL will be able to participate in many activities during the year including adopting a family for Christmas, Adopt a Highway, field trips, and a chapter Christmas party, as well as various other activities throughout the year.



FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE SPRING 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.

Monday, April 30, 2007

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.

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

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.

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

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.	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.


Thursday, May 3, 2007

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.

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Jokes:

Q: How can you tell when a fax had been sent from a blonde?
A: There is a stamp on it.

The British had an organization that Americans are now considering adopting. It seems that in England, they had a men's club, Bachelors' Anonymous. It was highly successful in making men fear or even hate marriage. The club provided a unique way to treat the problem of bachelors wanting to marry. They send over a mother-in-law in nightgown, hair curlers, and a mud pack.

Did you know that heaven and hell are actually right next to each other? They are seperated by a big chain-link fence. Well, one day hell was having a big party and it got a little out of hand. God heard the ruckus and arrived to find his fence completely smashed by the wild partiers. He called the devil over and said "Look, Satan, you have to rebuild this fence." Satan agreed. The next day God noticed that the devil had completely rebuilt the fence...but it was 2 feet further into heaven than before.

"Satan!" beckoned God. "You have to take that fence down and put it back where it belongs!"

"Yeah? What if I don't?" replied the devil.

"I'll sue you if I have to," answered God.

"Sure," laughed Satan. "Where are you going to find a lawyer?"

Q: Where is the best place in a book store to find a man who is handsome, a good lover and a stimulating partner?

A: In the pages of a romance novel.

A famous professor of surgery died and went to heaven. At the pearly gate he was asked by the gatekeeper: 'Have you ever committed a sin you truly regret?'

'Yes,' the professor answered. 'When I was a young candidate at the hospital of Saint Lucas, we played soccer against at team from the Community Hospital, and I scored a goal, which was off-side. But the referee did not se it so, and the goal won us the match. I regret that now.'

'Well,' said the gatekeeper. 'That is a very minor sin. You may enter.'

'Thank you very much, Saint Peter,' the professor answered.

'Im am not Saint Peter,' said the gatekeeper. 'He is having his lunchbreak. I am Saint Lucas.'

(Jokes courtesy of ahajokes.com)

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY: EASY

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

courtesy of www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Answer to this week's puzzle:

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

To play Sudoku, enter the digits 1-9 in each cell of the 9x9 grid until every region (3x3 grid), row, and column contains only one appearance of each digit.

A NICKEL'S WORTH OF FREE ADVICE: Actually, the world revolves around the sun, not you.

WORD FIND

L	D	S	T	T	F	H	B	B	N
L	I	N	O	O	I	E	O	R	I
E	U	V	A	E	N	A	N	A	K
U	S	N	E	H	G	D	E	I	S
G	N	M	G	R	E	A	K	N	E
N	I	M	C	S	R	I	G	E	L
O	E	R	E	D	D	A	L	B	C
T	V	A	H	N	N	O	S	E	S
T	R	A	E	H	F	O	O	T	U
S	E	Y	E	S	P	I	N	E	M

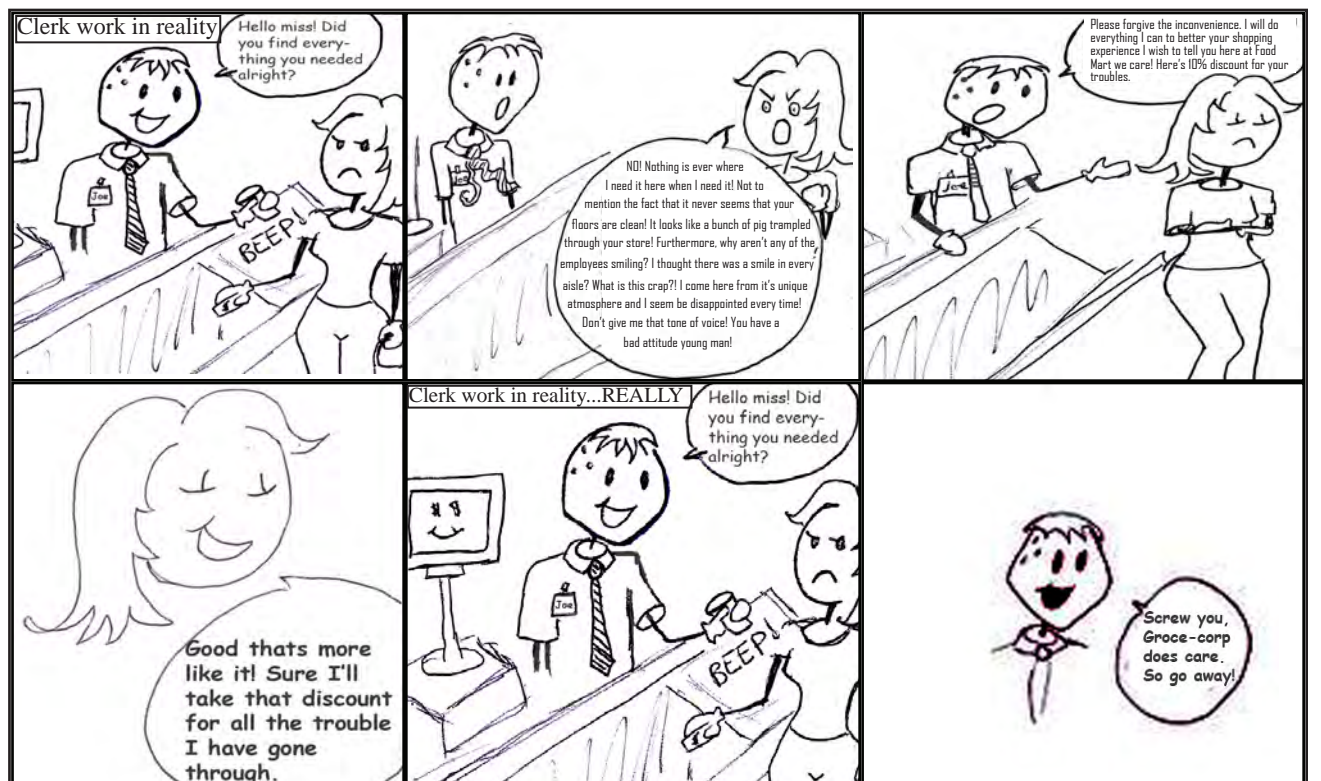
- | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|
| ARM | HAND | MUSCLES |
| BLADDER | HEAD | NOSE |
| BONE | HEART | SKIN |
| BRAIN | KIDNEY | SPINE |
| EARS | LEG | TOE |
| EYES | LIVER | TONGUE |
| FOOT | LUNGS | VEINS |
| FINGER | | |

The Top 10 Bad Response For Guys To Give To The "How Do I Look" Question

1. "That's a great outfit honey but Halloween was 6 weeks ago."
2. "I ain't seen a caboose that big since Amtrak left town."
3. "Uh-uh, the last time I answered that question, I went temporarily blind."
4. "Ssshhh, the games on right now..go look in the mirror, that's what its there for!!"
5. "Oh man, I'm gonna lose my lunch."
6. "Like the girl I was with yesterday."
7. "Like someone in dire need for some liposuction."
8. "Well, if I close my eyes, just like my previous, prettier girlfriend."
9. "How can I put this...MOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!"
10. "You look fantastic... in the dark"

JOE'S WORLD

BY EDEN HINRICHS



Have you ever purposely broken a law because you thought the law was wrong?



Yes. I drank yesterday. I think the drinking age should be lower.

-Ronnie Fiedler

I run stop signs all the time. And I run stop lights when it's late at night and no one is around.

-Vanessa Brayton

I don't think pedestrians should have the right away. They just walk right in front of cars without looking!

-Niki Carlson

For 30 years I've been driving without a seat belt. I can't safely drive strapped to the seat. I even have a clean accident record.

-Anonymous

Reporting by Mary Elizabeth Drahos Photos by Eden Hinrichs



Bears win NJCAA Regional Championship Advance to Nationals



Boone Campus students place at PBL competition

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Course # JOU125

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Credits: 3
Instructor:: Jan LaVille



May term and summer classes available on Boone campus

Liz Jay
Banner Staff Writer

With graduation approaching some students may find they need more credits. The perfect way to gain those extra credits is to sign up for May or summer term classes.

May term classes start on May 7 and end on May 18. Some of the classes offered include Intro to Computers, Intro to Sociology, and Introduction to Psychology.

The classes take place on Mon. - Fri. and are about four hours long. A complete list of these classes can be found on page 35 of the credit schedule or at dmacc.edu.

Summer term classes

are more condensed and can be more effective due to the shortened time period. Most of these classes start on May 29 and end on Aug. 8. There are many different classes available and can be found in the credit schedule.

Online classes are also very popular in the summer. "People are signing up. Some online classes are already closed," said Rita Davenport. However, students need to be aware that just because the classes are online, they won't be easier. Students have to be committed to doing their work and understand that deadlines are enforced.

Another type of class offered are television classes. This type enables the student to stay

at home and learn during the specified viewing schedule. After signing up, a packet including the syllabus, viewing schedule, and Distance Learning Program Student Handbook will be mailed to the student to use. More information is listed on page 13 of the credit schedule.

Students should check online or pick up a credit schedule on campus to find a complete list of classes that are available. Registration for summer classes is going on now until the first week of classes on June 4.

"Sign up. If [students] are needing classes look at our credit schedule," said Davenport, "Boone and the Ames Hunziker Center both have classes going on."

Iran announces expanded uranium enrichment program, in defiance of U.N. sanctions

Ali Akbar Dareini
Associated Press Writer

NATANZ, Iran – Iran announced Monday that it has begun enriching uranium with 3,000 centrifuges, defiantly expanding a nuclear program that has drawn U.N. sanctions and condemnation from the West.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said at a ceremony at the enrichment facility at Natanz that Iran was now capable of enriching nuclear fuel "on an industrial scale."

Asked if Iran has begun injecting uranium gas into 3,000 centrifuges for enrichment, top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani replied, "Yes." He did not elaborate, but it was the first confirmation that Iran had installed the larger set of centrifuges after months of saying it intends to do so. Until now, Iran was only known to have 328 centrifuges operating.

Uranium enrichment can produce fuel for a nuclear reactor or the material for a nuclear warhead. The United States and its allies accuse Iran of intending to produce weapons, a charge the country denies.

Sean McCormack, the State Department spokesman, said the U.N. Security Council and the U.N. nuclear watchdog group "don't believe Iran's assurances that their (nuclear) program is peaceful in nature."

The White House also criticized the announcement.

"Iran continues to defy the international community and further isolate itself by expanding its nuclear program, rather than suspending uranium enrichment," said Gordon Johndroe, a spokesman for the National Security Council.

The United Nations has vowed to ratchet up sanctions as long as Iran refuses to suspend enrichment. The Security Council first imposed limited sanctions in December, then increased them slightly last month and has set a new deadline of late May.

"What we are looking for are reasonable Iranian leaders who view the cost-benefit calculation and see that it is not to the benefit of the Iranian people to continue to pursue the course on which they find themselves," McCormack said.

Michael Levi, a fellow for science and technology at the Council on Foreign Relations, was skeptical of the Iranian claims. He said by his calculations, the capabilities Iran has just announced would provide 10 percent of the material needed to run its plant.

"To me, that's not industrial scale," Levi said. "An industrial-scale facility is a facility that can support your industry."

On the other hand, "from a political perspective, it's more important to have them

in place than to have them run properly," he explained since the announcement stirs up support and patriotism at home, and the international community has almost no way to verify how well the program is working.

"Iran looks to be moving its nuclear program along on a political schedule rather than a technical schedule," Levi said.

Levi marveled that Iran has the power to cause such a stir with an announcement. He noted that most of the time, world leaders complain they can't trust Iran, "except when they say something really scary, we take them at their word."

In his speech, Ahmadinejad insisted Iran has been cooperative with the U.N. nuclear watchdog, allowing it inspections of its facilities, but he warned, "Don't do something that will make this great nation reconsider its policies" in a reference to the threat of increased U.N. sanctions.

"With great honor, I declare that as of today our dear country has joined the nuclear club of nations and can produce nuclear fuel on an industrial scale," Ahmadinejad said.

Larijani said his country was willing to offer assurances that its program is peaceful. But he said the West must accept its nuclear program as a fact: "We do not give in our rights."

Across Iran, school bells rang on Monday to mark the "national day of nuclear energy." The government sent out text messages of congratulations for the occasion to millions of mobile phone users.

In Tehran, some 200 students formed a human chain at Iran's Atomic Energy Organization while chanting "death to America" and "death to Britain." The students burnt flags of the U.S. and Britain.



The "I'll Just Have One More" Martini

3 oz. gin or vodka
1/2 oz. dry vermouth
3 olives
1 automobile
1 long day
1 diminishing attention span
1 too many

Combine ingredients. Drink. Repeat.
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Death of Jive

Jessi Hackler

Music used to flow free through these veins
it poured out onto the ground and sprouted roots
grew tall into a mighty oak and covered the world
The grass swayed to and fro in the melody
as the leaves danced in a hypnotic breeze
Music used to live here where you stand now
A big company with an axe cut it down
they paved over those jive weeds
to make way for customer service with a smile
Now music works a 9 to 5er in the warehouse
You won't find music around here
If you ever catch him on a break for coffee
ask him if he'll play you a little tune
Music might take you back to the 60's and
A mighty wood stock oak
But be quick, Music's break is up at noon
Music used to flow free though these veins
sorry to say, but taxes and a retirement plan
moved in and dried up that jive melody
You won't find that sweet shade around here



Golf is a sport?

Eden Hinrichs
Banner Staff Writer

I am in no way familiar with the game of golf so this was a new experience for me.

I walked onto the golf course wearing a pair of shorts and a polo shirt, as required by the club's dress code. For a denim enthusiast, like myself, this was about the worst possible start to the day.

I decided to sit out the entire game for the simple fact that I was not anxious to embarrass myself in front of my aunts and uncle, three seasoned golfers, by hitting some poor old women in the back of the head with an errant golf ball.

While pretending to know what was going on (yeah, right) I watched this seasoned trio whacking the hell out dimpled balls. I watched in rapt attention from the golf cart as I tried to learn the basics of the game. As far as I could tell, you knock a ball around the course with a long stick, which has a hunk of metal attached to the end. It seemed like an over glamorized version of croquet, where you hit a wooden ball around the yard with a stick, which has a huge wooden hunk on the end).

As the game began my aunt leaned over to me and told me that it was important to face forward and never watch the ball. This is about the time I noticed that the grass looked more like the green felt on a pool table, than actual grass, but I thought it

might be in bad taste to ask if I could use a pool cue to play.

My aunt told me about the different colors that marked different distances to hit from, depending on your level of skill. All I could think was, "Oooo... look at the pretty colors."

After the first three holes, I began to realize that this is not just some game for old men in goofy looking pants and weird hats. I still can't get past the fact that people have to wear this stuff. I soon realized that most of the people are well dressed (if you're into the Country Club look) and that the game requires some real skill.

One of my fellow golfers, who also happened to be a denim enthusiast, told me about his run-in with the Fashion Police. "They took me off the course because I was not wearing a collared shirt, and once when I was wearing jeans they took me off the driving range." His remark made me feel slightly naked and lost without my jeans, but at least I wasn't the only one.

As the outing continued, I began to understand the golf lingo being bandied about. Words such as par, birdie, and snowman began to make sense. I thought there were odd pet names for numbers, but this was my first time golfing, so what do I know.

As we finished our outing, I finally realized that all the clichés and misunderstandings understated what was actually a challenging game. Though I may never wear shorts or polo shirts on a regular basis, playing golf is most definitely in my future.



Mary Elizabeth Drahos
Opinion Editor

Well, one week of my new job has gone by and I only had one complaint about it, a revelation if you will. I hate being a Newb.

A Newb (short for Newbie) is a new person. The term also is used to taunt or suggest the person is not very good at what they do; which perfectly describes my first week.

I knew things were going to be a little hairy from the get go when the boss told me they didn't have any uniforms in my size. He did say they had some that were ONLY a few sizes to big, trying to make it sound like it wasn't a big deal.

When I came out of the back room, wearing the shirt that was so huge it looked like an 80's sweater dress with 3/4 sleeves, he took one look at me and apologetically told me they would be ordering new uniforms in a few weeks. But I would have to make-do with what I had until then.

I took a deep breath and decided to go on with my life, deciding that I would only have to put up with gigantoid top for a few weeks. Besides, I was fretting more about what I had to do next: pants shopping.

Those who know me know my view on wearing khakis. I hate them. I look like dork wearing them, and wouldn't even put them in my closet with my REAL clothes if I had them. However, these are required for the uniform, so khaki shopping had to be penciled into my schedule.

I didn't realize until I stopped at about eight or nine stores that there is no such

Newbie or not Newbie

a thing as khaki pants that aren't too tight, too white, too expensive, or made me look like I was 40. Every pair I tried on aged me or had such a low rise that my butt crack was hanging out for the world to see.

If I were a stripper, that would be fine. However, wearing butt crack bearing pants in a family restaurant does not fare well. So I ended up getting something that I felt would look pretty decent. I didn't really care about the look at time because they are just work pants, right?

Then came the day of doom. The actual first day. I showed up to work wearing old lady looking khakis (that made my butt look like the entire span

professional, young, and cute. Then they looked at me. I looked like I had borrowed pants from my grandma and bought my shirt at the big and tall store.

I kid you not, these people talked to me like they were talking to a 3 year old who was playing dress up in their mom's clothes. I had no idea how to react to this, so I just nodded and smiled, fueling their antipathy toward me. I ended up making little stupid mistakes that were irrelevant, but still made me look like a Newb with no smarts.

I left that night (and the next few after) feeling like I was scum of the earth and I had failed myself as a person since I couldn't even seem to serve

food anymore. Then, yesterday, I decided to try a little experiment and shop for some "cute" khakis. I bought some that were tighter, had a lower rise, and looked like something a person

who was catching someone's eye would wear.

I also fixed my big shirt with rubber bands and safety pins to make it fit a little better. Although it still looks huge, it doesn't look nearly as bad anymore.

When I walked in, the looks on my co-workers faces were priceless. I don't think any of them had any idea that I knew how to dress. That night, I ended up making about \$100 in tips on about 10 tables. I didn't make any mistakes, and I made people laugh by doing what I do best; cleverly insulting them but doing so in such a way that it makes them feel like I'm kidding around.

My co-workers even seemed more comfortable joking with me. I even made some of them laugh when I talked instead of them looking at me like I had turrets. It seemed like an impossible task to me a week ago, but within one day, I had made the smooth transition from Newb to server.

Cute khakis: \$25
Rubber-banded shirt: \$0
Making more tips for wearing tight pants: PRICELESS

of the globe) and a shirt that could've fit the Jolly Green Giant. My next several days I was supposed to follow the other servers around learning how to serve (not everyone knows this, but I have been waitressing for about 12 years. I was not thrilled about following some 18 year old around who has only been serving for a month or so).

Customers looked at me strangely but I didn't care, I was a Newb. By the first shift, I had it down what to do and relayed that information to my boss in my normal, extremely subtle way. However, extremely subtle to me means telling him straight out that this is crap, and he's wasting my time and gas money to learn something I already knew.

He decided to let me try it on my own, thanks to my negotiating skills. So onward to first day of actually serving! Let me tell you, I had NO idea that customers will tip the bare minimum if you look like you are a Newb. They looked at the other servers around who looked

Spring 2007 Banner Staff

April 11, 2006

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The Boone Banner 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 tslarson@dmacc.edu.

Editor's Note: The following message was found posted on the bulletin board in the north stairwell. There was no identifying information accompanying the message. If anyone has information about the author or intention of this message, please contact the Banner staff at (515) 433-5092 or tslarson@dmacc.edu

REPUBLICANS!

When we proudly and honorably served in our American military uniforms some decades ago, we were taught never to debate people who believe one political party should rule any nation-we were taught to shoot the Commie bastards!

~Paul Revere in Boone

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19) – When everything you touch turns to gold only then can you spend all the money you make. For now try staying out of touch with your savings.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - Waiting until all the pertinent information comes forward will assure the right decision is made.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) – A controversy about what is or isn't a big deal arises late in the week. Remember what's big to you might not be to another.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) – Put in the extra effort this week, check your syllabus and finish all upcoming assignments. This will help balance your attempt at a 4.0 and give you the free time you expect.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) – Overspending will leave you over wanting for the rest of the month. Make a list and buy according to what you need; the wants can come later.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) – It's time to create a self improvement plan. You only get one body, it's time to care what you put in it and what you do with it. The warmth of the sun will inspire you!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) – Consider yourself a sponge that is soaking up all the information you are faced with throughout the day. Concentrate on learning and your brain will do the rest.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 22) - Adventure is on your mind and driving you to dream. Think, then plan ahead and everything you expect is everything you will get!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) – You have to give to receive and one door must shut for another to open. As this semester ends focus on what door you would like to open and it will.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) – The ability to inspire gives you a chance to mold your friends and family to your will. Remember your inspired thoughts should benefit you and them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) – Only one month before summer break, it's time to focus on making money! Pick the job you want now before you suffer with what's available.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) - Keep your pants on! The only true side affects to sex are empty promises, STD's (STI's) and babies. Guys only want what they can't have!



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