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BOONE BANNER

Vol. 4 No. 12

Wednesday, March 30, 2005

Des Moines Area Community College

Lee selected as new Boone Campus provost



New Boone Campus Provost: East High principal Tom Lee (center), spoke to (clockwise): Jennifer Spry-Knutson, fitness instructor, Wanda Goeppinger, president of the Boone Foundation, Kelly McMullen, area businessman, Bob Flynn, area businessman and Judy Hauser, English instructor, during the informal interview phase of the hiring process.

East High principal chosen to succeed current provost Brandmeyer

By Andrew Austin
Banner Staff Writer

Tom Lee, principal of Des Moines East, was chosen last week to lead the Boone Campus into the future.

"I'm really excited about the opportunity to be part of the Boone Campus, the Boone community, and the DMACC community," Lee said.

The announcement will become official this week at a press conference to be held Thursday, March 31 at 4 p.m. in the Boone Campus Courter Center, which is open to the public.

Current Boone Campus provost Vivian Brandmeyer is retiring at the end of the semester.

"We interviewed five top candidates and they were all amazing," said Boone Provost Search Com-

mittee member Shelby Hildreth, a campus educational advisor. "One thing about Tom Lee that did stand out was his ability to communicate and his ability to raise funds."

Kim Linduska, senior vice-president of academic affairs, said, "His dedication to education, commitment to students, and involvement in the community [set Lee apart]."

"We have offered the position and he has accepted; it has not yet gone to the Board for approval," Linduska said.

DMACC President Rob Denson and Linduska made their decision to choose Lee early last week. The DMACC Board of Directors who must approve the choice before Lee can officially be hired by the college.

If he is approved, Lee will begin August 1, 2005.

"He wants to move the college

See **PROVOST** on page 2

Tom Lee
Boone Campus
Press Conference
4 p.m.
Courter Center
Thursday, March 31

Boone Campus blood drive needs donors

By James Bregenzer
Banner Staff Writer

The Student Activities Council is sponsoring a blood drive at the Boone Campus on Monday, April 4 from 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the L.W. Courter Center.

The event will be facilitated by the Blood Center of Iowa, a local company that has served Iowa communities' health care needs for over 40 years.

"We serve 46 hospitals in 42 Iowa counties, including the Boone County Hospital," said Meg Miller, mobile marketing specialist for the Blood Center of Iowa.

Any blood that patients require from the Boone County Hospital is supplied from the Blood Center of Iowa, Miller said.

"We also make sure that all blood collected stays here in Iowa to help Iowa patients ... but we need more donors," Miller said.

The company supplies all of the necessary medical staff, beds, materials, equipment and complementary refreshments for this event, in exchange for the donors and use of the location, Miller said.

The Center will be on campus for over three hours, creating approximately 20 time slots available for donors to give blood.

Currently the SAC has a little over half of the available slots filled, meaning more blood donors

are needed.

"We need to fill a lot of time slots," said Nate Lahner, president of SAC.

"We are shooting for around 24 time slots to be filled," Lahner said.

Signing up and donating blood is something easy to do, and important for the community, Lahner said.

According to the Center's Web site, blood donors save up to three lives with each donation they provide, but fewer than 8 percent of the Iowa population donates blood.

The Center reports that it needs to collect more than 100,000 units of blood each year to meet the rising needs of Iowa communities.

Monday's blood drive is a way for students, faculty members and members of the greater Boone community to get involved in a charitable cause with a local objective.

Anyone interested in participating and donating blood Monday is encouraged to call Ben Conrad, SAC adviser, at 433-5078 or reserve a time slot through the Boone Campus front desk.

There are still times available that need to be filled.

More information on the Blood Center of Iowa can be found online, at <http://www.bloodonor.org>.

Authors to read on campus

By Andrew Austin
Banner Staff Writer

The Boone Campus will play host to two nationally published authors as part of the Des Moines Area Community College Celebration of the Literary Arts, on Monday, April 18.

Lisa Chávez, an associate professor from the University of New Mexico and H. Lee Barnes, an English instructor at the Community College of Southern Nevada,

will read selections of their works for Boone Campus students.

"It's a great opportunity for students and the public to interact with published authors," said Judy Hauser, an English instructor on the Boone Campus.

Chávez is the author of two books of poetry: *Destruction Bay* and *In an Angry Season*. Barnes is the author of three books, including *The Lucky*, a novel.

"It's important for our many [Boone Campus] students who like

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Provost receives prestigious leadership award from Phi Theta Kappa



DMACC NEWS, PAGE 3

Linda Plueger honored with top adviser award.



SPORTS, PAGE 4

DMACC Bears end season one shot from championship season



ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8

Area rock bands perform in Des Moines March 16



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CAMPUS NEWS

PBL member takes 1st in C++

Boone campus PBL members attended the State Leadership Conference at Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa. Several awards were presented to the first place through fifth place winners, and Boone came home with 15 awards. The awards were as follows:

Jim Johnson – first place C++ programming and second place computer concepts; Jen-

nifer Kruse – fifth place business law, second place business graphics and third place desktop publishing; Trudy Seidel – third place future business executive, fourth place business law and fourth place applied business knowledge; Tricia Fogarty – second place job interview and fifth place in word processing fundamentals; Lori Johnson – second place multi-

media presentation, second place business graphics and fourth place word processing; and Megan Runge – third place desktop publishing and fifth place computer applications.

Boone campus received a communications award; placed second in event sponsorships; and second in largest local chapter membership.

Provost hired

PROVOST from page 1

forward; he seems very energetic in bringing in new ideas and continuing the connection to the community," said Paula Goldsworth, an administrative secretary and member of the Search Committee.

Lee earned his bachelor's degree in 1971 from Monmouth College, in Illinois. He earned a master's in educational administration from Drake University in 1989, and has been the principal of East High School since 2001.

"His background is perfectly suited to the position [he will be accepting]," Goldsworth said.

Lee was one of five candidates interviewed by the Boone Campus Provost Search Committee; Lee was recommended to DMACC President Rob Denson and Kim Linduska, senior vice-president of academic affairs, by the committee.

Authors read work

AUTHORS from page 1

to read and write to hear famous writers read their work," said Dr. Jerrine McCaffrey, an English instructor on the Boone Campus. "It gives them an opportunity to participate in the writing process themselves."

Winners of the Boone Creative Writing Contest will be announced. Thirteen students entered the contest, which garnered 49 poems and 11 short stories, according to Hauser, who helped organize the contest.

The authors will read from 10 a.m. to 12:15 in Room 109 on the Boone Campus; the Creative Writing Contest winners will be announced beforehand.

Members elected to state offices



Tricia Fogarty and Trudy Seidel, DMACC Boone Campus students, were elected State Secretary and State Historian/ Reporter (respectively) at the recent PBL State Leadership Conference.

Fogarty and Seidel have been PBL members since 2003.

Fogarty serves as the secretary for Boone Campus PBL and Seidel serves as vice-president for Boone campus PBL.

Brandmeyer honored by PTK



Lifetime achievement: DMACC Boone Campus Provost Vivian Brandmeyer (right) receives the prestigious Michael Bennett Lifetime Leadership Award from the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society. PTK Division III International Vice President Brandon Marsh presents the award to Brandmeyer at the All-Iowa Academic Team Recognition Ceremony.

Brazilian culture

Art historian, author speaks at DMACC Boone campus

Art historian and author Dr. José Neistein will speak on "Brazilian Culture" from 10:10 to 11:05 a.m., Wed., April 13 on Boone Campus.

Dr. Neistein is the Executive Director of the Brazilian-American Cultural Institute in Washington, D.C., a member of the Brazilian and International Art Critics Associations and a contributing editor to the Handbook of Latin American Studies of the Library of Congress.

Dr. Neistein, who earned a master's of art degree from the University of São Paulo, Brazil and a Ph.D. from the University of Vien-

na, Austria, is the curator of nearly 300 Brazilian Art shows presented in the U.S. and in other countries.

His latest book, "Brazil Is Painting Now," just appeared in Brazil, and is printed in Portuguese and English.

Following Dr. Neistein's presentation, a free Brazilian lunch, prepared by the Colorado Grill in Boone, will be served in the L.W... Courter Center.

DMACC's annual international year focus this year is on Brazil.

Dr. Neistein's presentation is free and open to the public.

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DMACC NEWS

Past Banner editor to work for Bruisers



Eschliman

PAULLINA, IA—Fresh off one of the most impressive inaugural seasons in North American Football League history, the Northwest Iowa Bruisers have been looking to elevate its profile on the Iowa foot-

ball scene. The first step in that process began this month with the addition of Bob Eschliman to the team staff.

Eschliman will serve as the media relations director for the Bruisers this season. His duties include pre-paring all official team communications with the media, assigning game-day press credentials and acting as the go-between for players, staff and the media.

"I am honored the owners, Jeremy and Trever Coxworth, would ask me to help them elevate their team's stature in the public eye," he said. "I believe this team is going places — in a hurry — and to get to share the ride to the top is going to be a lot of fun."

Eschliman's duties are the polar-opposite of his regular duties as a staff writer for Iowa Information Publications in Sheldon, IA.

There, he often works with media and public relations directors as an enter-tainment writer for DISCOVER and as a features writer for OKOBOJI. He also writes stories for N'West Iowa BUSINESS and the N'West Iowa REVIEW, the 16-time Iowa Newspaper of the Year.

Eschliman began his career in journalism as a staff writer and managing editor for the Bear Facts student newspaper at Des Moines Area Community College-Boone Campus. From there, he worked as a news editor for the Dallas County News in Adel, IA, and as sports editor of the Maquoketa Sentinel-Press before taking on his current duties at Iowa Information.

"Last year, we looked at DISCOVER and liked what we saw. I kept telling Jeremy that we needed to find a way to make Bob our friend," said general manager

Trever Coxworth. "He's already done good work for us and we're really excited to see where it will take us in the future."

Under Eschliman's guidance, Bruisers news releases are now read in more than 30 newspapers across the United States, including the Orlando Sentinel, the New York Daily News and the Los Angeles Times. The team also is about to launch its own regional radio network.

In 2004, the Bruisers broke all of the unwritten rules by locating its team in Paullina, IA, a town of little more than 1,000 people and drawing a North Central Division-record average 1,011 fans to each home game. The remainder of the division averaged a little more than 300 fans. The team finished 6-4, just missing the NAFL national playoffs.

"People are going to see that 2004 wasn't a fluke and I'm glad that I get to be the person who shares that with the public," Eschliman said. "We're bringing in a load of new talent this season and a lot these guys have some very compelling stories to tell. I can't wait for the season to start."

Spring training started in February for the Bruisers with practices at the indoor arena in Worthington, MN. The team is moving to outdoor practices on April 2 and will host a media day in May. The first game of the season will be June 18 in Paullina. In the meantime, the team is still signing players to fill out its 50-man roster.

For more information about the Bruisers, visit <http://nwiabruisers.bravehost.com> online.

Plueger honored by PBL



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Outstanding adviser: Linda Plueger, Boone Campus business instructor, was recently honored at the Iowa PBL State Leadership Conference in Clinton, Iowa. PBL members submitted nominations for Plueger, along with letters as to why she should be selected from the group of advisers. The group of six members, one guest and Plueger left on Friday, March 18 to attend the conference at Ashford University (formerly Franciscan University of the Prairie) where they competed in various events.

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Bears one shot short of championship

Ben Bolluyt
Banner Staff Writer

The DMACC Bears men's basketball team streaked past two opponents in the regional tournament earlier this month in Mason City, but was defeated in the regional championship by Cedar Rapids' Kirkwood Eagles.

DMACC vs. NIACC

The Bears showed little tension in their first Mason City game versus NIACC on March 12, despite having won their last regular-season game against the Trojans only by virtue of a Kenny Jackson two-pointer in the closing seconds.

George Pruitt's three-point goal with two seconds left in the half sent the Bears into the locker room with a 36-19 lead.

The Bears didn't let the Trojans get any closer in the second half, and the game ended at 76 to 56.

Pruitt was the Bears' MVP, hitting seven of twelve shots, including five of nine threes, and finishing with 21 points.

DMACC vs. Ellsworth

Ellsworth proved a tougher opponent on March 13.

The Panthers and the Bears traded leads throughout the game,

with DMACC leading by two at the start of the second half.

With the score tied and fewer than ten seconds remaining, Al Stewart hit a pull-up jump shot near the free throw line to pull the Bears ahead.

On the next play, Stewart snagged the Panthers' inbound pass to effectively end the game.

These two clutch efforts earned Stewart MVP honors alongside the Bears' leading scorer, Naim Benjamin, with 17 points.

DMACC vs. KIRKWOOD

The tournament's final game was to be played at the home of the top-seeded contender. The Bears were ranked second, behind the Kirkwood Eagles, who defeated Iowa Central in the semifinal, despite a second-half Central surge.

Two chartered buses full of Bears fans rolled into Cedar Rapids on March 15. The supportive push filled the Eagle's gymnasium with as many Bears fans as Eagles fans, regardless of the distant location. Cheers were loud and raucous throughout the tightly-contested game.

Stewart and Benjamin would reclaim co-MVP honors, scoring 13 and 15 points respectively in a

game that was marked by tough defense on both sides.

The Bears went into the locker room with a 35-32 lead at half-time.

In the second half, DMACC fans were dismayed to see the lead vanish, and the Eagles led by as many as 10 points. But the Bears picked up their game again in the final minutes, and secured possession of the ball with a one-point deficit and time left for only one more play.

It was a familiar situation for DMACC, in which they had triumphed before, but this time it was not to be. Their season ended with a missed shot, and not enough time left to put the rebound back into the basket.

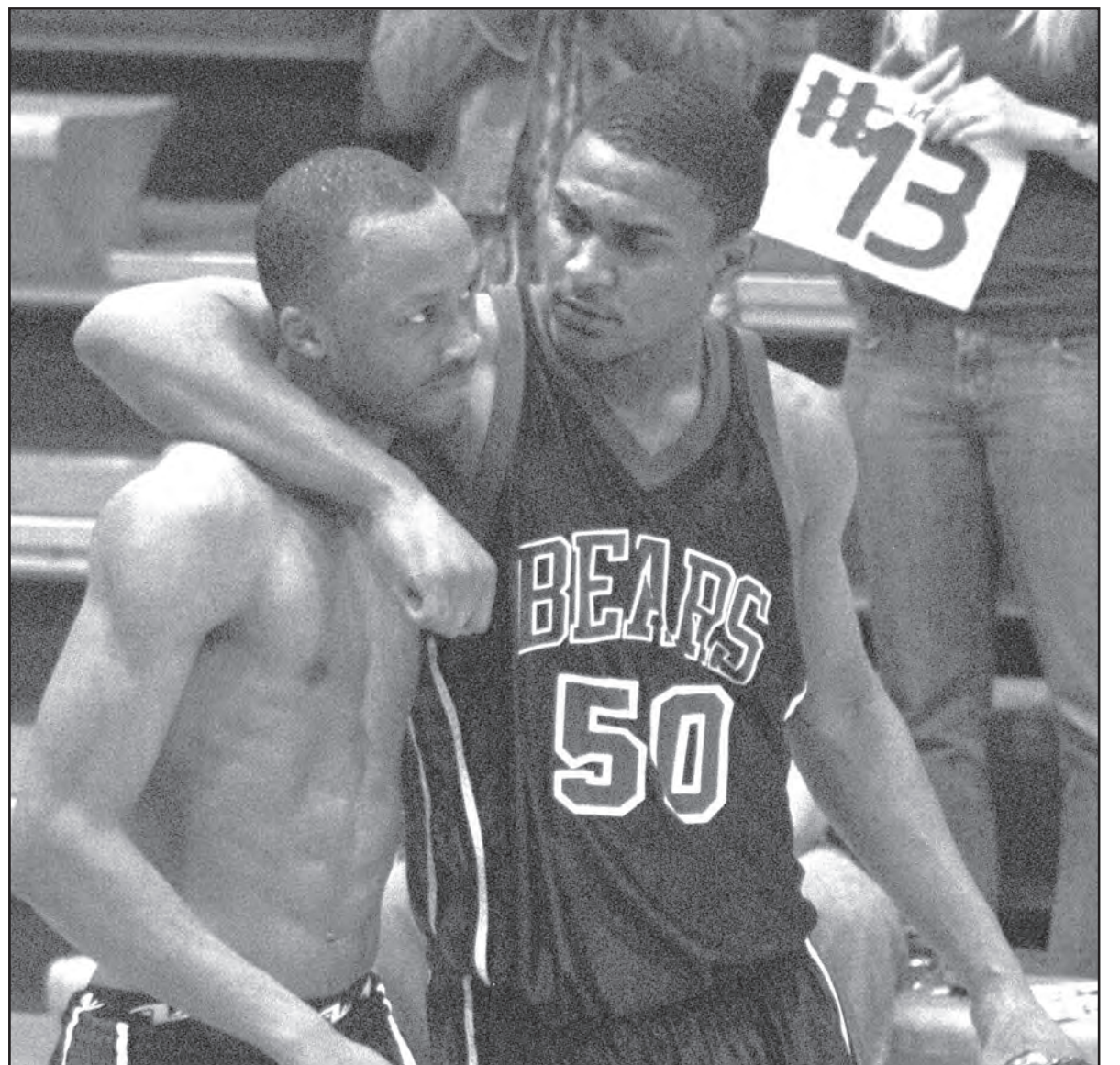
Bears fans returned to the buses, and players to the locker rooms, with the strange sadness of those who know they can triumph, but who have fallen short this time.

Coach Orv Salmon came into the chartered buses to thank everyone who made the trip and was greeted by cheers from grateful fans.

The Eagles would go on to two national tournament victories, losing only to Brown Mackie College from Kansas in the championship.



Final shot of season: Bear fans look on with anticipation as time runs out, and George Pruitt takes the final shot in the regional championship game against Kirkwood in Cedar Rapids on March 15, 2005.



So close--Jerry Bennett (right) consoles Kenny Jackson, following the one point loss to the Kirkwood Eagles in Cedar Rapids. Two bus loads of fans followed the team to eastern Iowa, hoping for a win that would have taken the Bears on to Danville, Ill. for the Division II NJCAA Finals during spring break. The final score was DMACC 53, Kirkwood 54.

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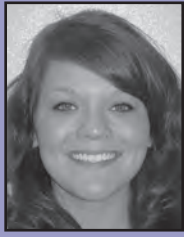
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YOUR PAGE

Dear Cass,



Cassandra Peterson

Dear Cass,

I am nearing the end of my third year in college. I am terribly frustrated.

When I graduated from high school, I planned to leave my home town and start a new life. I never wanted to go to college.

My parents lured me into going and here I am three years later, just doing the motions to try to get done.

I don't want to be here, I am not doing a good job, and to make things worse, I am wasting my own money to do something that I don't want to do. I am torn; I have "wasted" a lot of money to come to school, and I really don't want to finish. This isn't my dream. I am just afraid that I will look like a failure and my parents might never forgive me. What do I do?

Frustrated in school, M.S.M.

Dear Frustrated in school,

First, it is important to realize that this is YOUR life; you need to make sure you are doing what makes you happy.

Love and the approval of your peers, friends and family is very important, but so is your true happiness.

Anyone close to you will understand that you have to do what makes you happy. They will support you whether they agree or not with your decisions.

Sit them down, talk to them, and plead your case, and hopefully they will understand your decisions.

So, if you feel strongly about dropping out and continuing on with your dreams, go for it. Follow your heart, and lead the happiest, most fulfilling life you can.

Cass

Other side of the Courter

"What did you do on your spring break?"



"Over spring break, my family and I went to the Reiman Gardens and we ventured down to the Des Moines Art Center to see the impressionism art."

Judy Hauser
Boone Campus English Instructor



"I didn't really do all that much this spring break. I stayed in Ames, worked a little bit, and hung out with my friends."

Kendra Ewing
Boone Campus student



"I went to California: Long Beach, Hollywood, Santa Monica, Venice Beach and even Disneyland."

Christi Johnson
Boone Campus student

Ben's Banter



Benjamin Bolluyt

I would like to rant about a trend in casual greeting. When I pass someone I know, the greeting they're most likely to receive from me is, "Hey." Casual, friendly, hard to trip over.

Language is a naturally evolving thing; someone utters a phrase first, either by accident or because they're one of the seven American citizens left who do not speak entirely in quotes from popular media. (Oops—six. Ol' Johanssen just croaked. Good man, I'll miss him.) Someone else hears it and thinks it's a catchy way to express a

common idea, so they repeat it, then their friend copies it from them, and before long, the 46-year-old fast-food employee who gives you the wrong beverage is saying, "My bad."

But these phrases don't always fit the context in which they're used. This brings me back to greetings.

Way too many people are asking me, as I pass, "What's up?"

You mean, what's happening? Well, I think my car is losing gas mileage and I'm not sure why. I keep forgetting to buy dish soap, so I've been settling for a hot-water rinse on my pizza pan, and I think I might be getting some kind of rash...but you don't actually want to know that, do you?

I didn't think so. And I would return the greeting, except that I don't expect you to answer, and even if you did, I don't want to know about your uncle's intestinal blockage, your abandonment issues or the decision regarding mauve

vs. sepia for the new paint in your house. I could pretend to be interested, of course, but I'm not going to.

Plus, sometimes a person will ask me this as one (or both) of us is either walking or driving by. As they fade into the distance, responding becomes even more difficult:

"Well, I'm not really sure if this cortisone is working out on my nasty feet!"

So, if you know me, the next time you walk past, give me a greeting that simply acknowledges my presence and our mutual acquaintance. And don't feel put off by a simple, "Hey."

One exception to the rule: I keep hearing about an old South Hamilton buddy that I haven't seen for years. I've heard that he attends DMACC, but I haven't laid eyes on him yet. D.P., if you read this and you see me strolling, ask me what's up, and I'll stand around and let you know.

Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services

Aries (March 21-April 19) The goal you've been after for so long is almost within your reach. Conditions are in your favor, finally.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Tally your resources and figure out what you have and what you don't. You're in for at least one pleasant surprise, and you'll know where to focus attention.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) You're wise to keep your opinions to yourself for a little while. The odds are not good that you will, but it would still be wise.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) A change in how you do a job will free up a lot of your time. It's OK to get assistance, that's not cheating in any way.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Your relationship grows stronger the more stuff you do together. Declare your intentions then ask the questions that lead to a solid commitment.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You're close to making a change that you've been contemplating for ages. It has to do with your home, family or possibly your decor.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Don't be stopped just because you have no idea what you're doing. You're a quick study, especially now.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Keep pushing, your reward is closer now than ever before. Accept more responsibility, and the included benefits.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You're lucky in games because you've got a few tricks up your sleeve. Amaze them with your fabulous sense of humor, too. You're the star.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Push to get a household job wrapped up in the next day or two. You get extra points for using stuff you already have in storage.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You're in an excellent frame of mind to learn an amazing trick. Something that was impossible is about to become commonplace. Be on the leading edge.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) The effort you've put in earns you more than a fatter pay check. You also are granted more respect and, quite possibly, a promotion.

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OPINION

Welcome to new provost



The Boone Banner
DMACC Boone Campus
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(515) 432-7203

March 30, 2005

RE: Welcome new Boone Campus provost

Dear Mr. Tom Lee:

On behalf of the Boone Banner and the entirety of the Boone Campus student body, I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you to the Boone Campus, and mark the continuation of your educational career, and your leadership of the students of this campus into the future.

As evident by the last several issues of this publication, both students and faculty members of this campus have recently made significant strides toward DMACC's mission, "creating opportunities for success," and in improving the overall educational environment of this campus.

This includes faculty members being honored with prestigious honors and awards, and otherwise being recognized for their educational excellence and commitment to the students of this campus. Students have been named to honor societies and other academic-based organizations recognizing their commitment to academic excellence and our value of higher education.

Also, while apathy among students remains a major problem on this campus, many students are involved in extracurricular activities and athletics, campus clubs and organizations, as well as charitable philanthropy events at school and throughout the community.

A great deal of energy has been spent by Boone Campus instructors, faculty members and administration to uphold DMACC's high academic standards, while pushing ahead, breaking through barriers and raising the bar to consistently offer Boone Campus students with opportunities for academic and lifelong success.

You are taking over a position that is important in so many ways, currently held by Vivian Brandmeyer, a "very difficult act to follow." Being fortunate enough to personally interview, interact with and observe her in a professional setting, I see that you certainly have your work cut out for you, but am confident in your abilities to do so successfully- largely by our brief meeting a few weeks ago, and your endorsement from an instructor I have grown to value the most in my entire academic career.

Again, welcome to the Boone Campus. I am certain that the Boone Campus hiring committee, as well as DMACC's senior administration has made a very wise decision in selecting you to be the new Boone Campus provost, a decision that will no doubt prove to be beneficial for both the Boone Campus and its students. We look forward to your ideas, service and leadership into the future.

With the highest regards,

James Bregenzer

Editor-in-Chief, Boone Banner

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The Boone Banner welcomes letters in an attempt to provide a forum for the many diverse views of the campus. The views expressed in the Boone Banner are not necessarily the views or endorsements of Des Moines Area Community College or the Boone Banner editorial board.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 250 words, signed and brought to the editorial offices of the Boone Banner, mailed in care of the college, or can be e-mailed to jmbregenzer@dmacc.edu. The Boone Banner reserves the right to edit as necessary for libelous content, profanity, copy fitting, grammatical and spelling errors or clarity.

Member of ICMA, ICCMA and the ACP

Could China be to blame for high gas prices?

Extra demand for world's oil may be causing U.S. prices to soar

By James Bregenzer
Banner Staff Writer

The nation has seen steadily rising oil prices over the last month of filling up fuel tanks, and prices are only expected to get worse later this summer.

With even higher oil prices impending our certain bankruptcy, I wonder if current trends in the retail gas market are more than meets the eye.

Certainly, I'd like to think it's more than capitalism and an unbalanced, unnatural demand curve for oil in the United States pushing prices to all-time highs.

American consumers use up nearly 21 million barrels of oil every day, a quarter of the world's total consumption of 84 million barrels a day, reports the International Energy Agency.

As recently reported in the Washington Post, China is now second in the world's oil consumption, at 6.4 million barrels a day, and its abnormally high demand could double by the year 2020,

various analysts reported to the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington this week.

It is still unclear, however, what impact this increase in demand for oil will have on the world's oil production and overall ability to increase its supply, ultimately affecting U.S. price levels.

As dictated in the economic principle of supply and demand, higher gas prices should effectively lower its demand, even if only temporarily, and encourage an increase in oil supply and production from companies wanting to cash in on oil's exceeding profitability.

This, however, is not happening for several possible reasons.

First, the big oil companies are less willing or less able to find or successfully extract oil.

This immediately causes consumers to fear the future of the world's oil supplies, and will keep prices high everywhere.

There is also perpetuating fear of current oil supplies being depleted from terrorists and other conflict-

ing international threats, such as ongoing war conflict, politics, accidents and natural disasters.

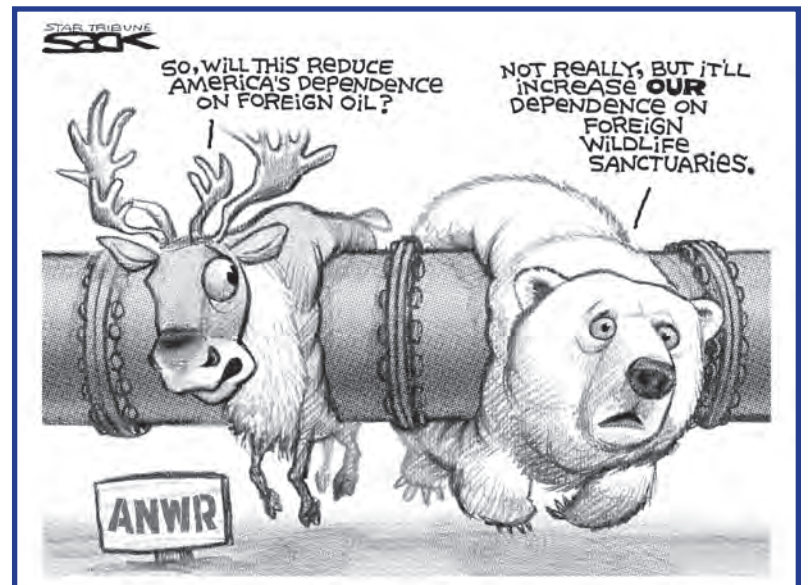
Another reason for oil's high prices not decreasing its demand temporarily, thus raising supply and lowering prices, is U.S. consumers' income levels being able to support the high prices of gas, thus creating a never-ending increase in demand.

In the last month, despite its unnaturally high prices, U.S. demand and overall consumption for oil is up by nearly 2 percent.

Neither only increasing oil production or only increasing oil conservation will appropriately solve the problem of high gas prices in the United States.

It is foolish to think that we as a country would limit our oil consumption so significantly so drastically to decrease prices, we also need to encourage the increased production of oil as well.

By doing this, both supply and demand curves for the world's oil will be able to find equilibrium.



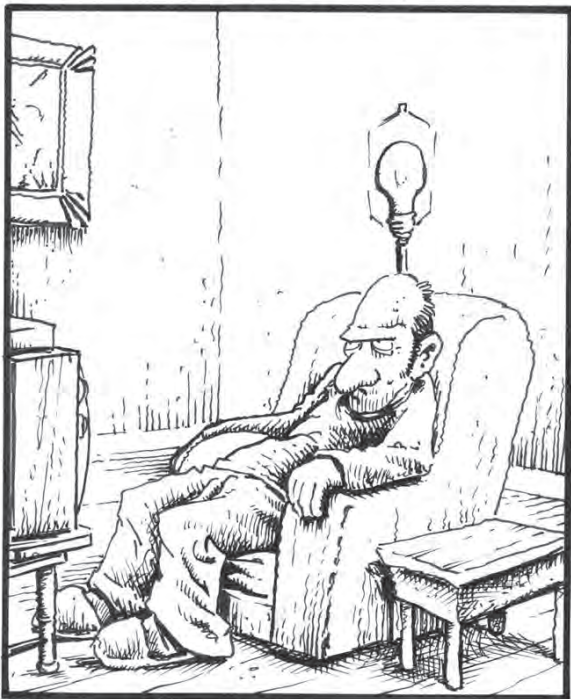
COMICS

DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling

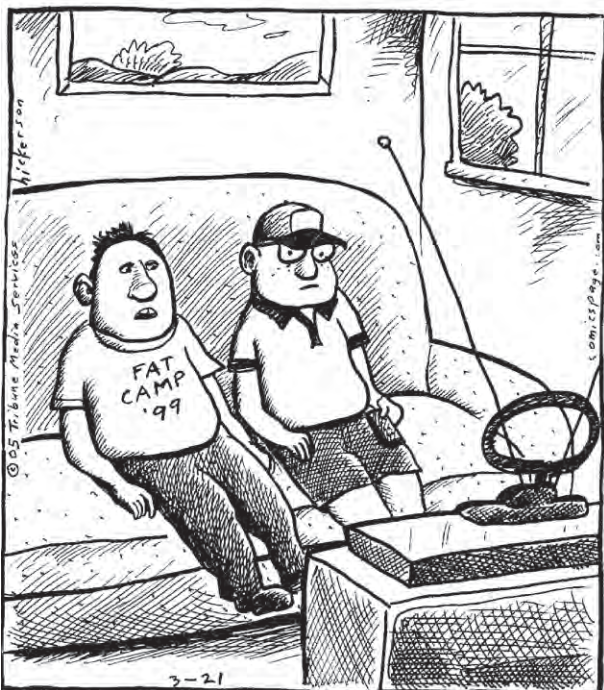


Randy: "Osama, Osama, Osama. How's the lice, man?"
 Paula: "Move over Adolf, here comes Osama. Touchdown!"
 Simon: "Look, here's the deal. There can only be one Al Qaeda Idol and quite frankly, the dromedary dump station attendant has you beat. Sorry."

You Are Here by Aaron Warner



Everyone thought Bill Junior had a lot of great ideas, but actually he was just too cheap to buy a lampshade.

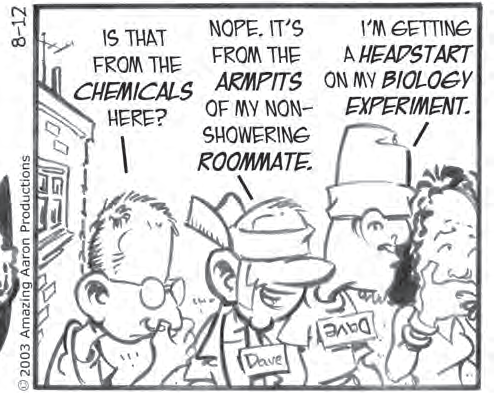


I wish someone would tinker, tweak and cunningly edit my life the way they do on reality TV."

2 Dudes



IT SMELLS LIKE EGGS LEFT IN A HOT CAR FOR OVER A WEEK.



By Aaron Warner

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ENTERTAINMENT

CONCERT REVIEW

'Taste of Chaos' tour rocks my socks off



Local flavor: Area rock band Sweet Afton, from Ames, performed March 16 at the West Des Moines Val-Air Ballroom to a crowd of over 2,500 rock fans. The band (from left to right): Seth Hoveland (guitar, vocals), S. Thomas Troskey (drums), Wesley Fuhrman (guitar, vocals) and Dan Myers (bass guitar, vocals).

By Megan Shadle
Banner Staff Writer

Over 2,500 fans packed the Val-Air Ballroom March 16 in West Des Moines to see several rock bands from all over the nation.

Performing bands included The Used, My Chemical Romance, Killswitch Engage, A Static Lullaby and Underoath.

Bands played on two stages set up on either side of the ballroom: the main stage and the acoustic stage.

Ames's own Sweet Afton, who won a spot on the acoustic stage in a contest held on <http://www.myspace.com>, started the night off.

Other bands that performed on the acoustic stage included Bleed the American Dream, Opiate for

the Masses, American Heart and Sophomore.

Underoath was the first band to play on the main stage, right after Sweet Afton finished their set.

The night was filled with music and fun; vendors sold a variety of things including T-shirts, skateboards, sweatshirts, Nintendo DS, hats and much more.

Tons of people bought T-shirts to support their favorite bands, especially Sweet Afton fans, who bought some of the brand new merchandise the band had just started to sell.

When it came time for the main bands to come on, the audience was more than ready to get the mosh pits going. When My Chemical Romance took the stage, the crowd literally went silent listening to every word the lead singer,

Gerard Way, was saying about how much they have enjoyed their short time in Iowa and how they were looking forward to coming back in May when they go on tour with Green Day.

My Chemical Romance played their hearts out with the exception of their missing guitarist, Frank Iero, who had to leave the tour early due to family issues. Guitarist, Quinn Allman, from The Used took his spot for the rest of the tour.

Then came the time for The Used to take the stage, the crowd was yelling and screaming for them to start playing. When they finally got into place the crowd went silent to hear lead singer, Bert McCracken, introduce them, and that's when the mosh pits started up again, throwing people everywhere.

At the end of the set for The Used, they went off stage for a few minutes and the crowd started to chant for an encore, but little did the audience know that a special surprise was coming. The Used returned on the stage and then My Chemical Romance followed. The two bands began to play together on stage and the two lead singers, Way and McCracken, began to sing their cover of David Bowie and Queen's "Under Pressure" to show their support for the Tsunami victims.

Overall the Taste of Chaos Tour was a great concert with all kinds of bands under one roof performing for their many fans in Iowa. It was definitely worth the \$25 to see all 10 bands.

WINNING POETRY

Boone Campus student wins DMACC-wide poetry contest



Award-winning poet: Breget Medley (right) of Boone receives congratulations from Creative Writing Contest Coordinator Dr. Rick Christman for being named the Best Poem Writer in the annual DMACC Creative Writing Contest. Medley, a DMACC Boone Campus student, received a \$100 award. Funding for the awards came from the DMACC Foundation and the Ankeny and Boone Campus Student Activities Councils.

Sitting on my stoop

By Breget Medley

Old jacked up cars screaming,
Unkempt yard, corroded paint cans,

Bricks collecting from a building
That once was.

Lawn mowers rusting, sleeping
Once new, broken glass, tires pass
Their prime, batteries seeping
Acid, and old furniture past
Its usefulness.

As I look at this house stretching
Beyond its limits, who once in
Its glory saw better days. Its
Doors and windows weeping,
And the roof was weary from the
Beating of the elements.

The house inside gutted
From all the years of abuse
And neglect. Ceilings
Cracking, dripping rain and
Snow. Pipes stopped up,
Wires strangling and
Exposed. Dirt and dust
Caused me sneezing,
And clutter suffocating
My existence.

As I looked around for
Some glimmer of hope,
My sad eyes rested upon life
Bursting from the infertile
Ground, and glaringly new
buds sprouting from the snarled
Tree limbs.
It's a new day

Several Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) students were recently honored for their writing talents in the annual DMACC Creative Writing Contest.

Lois Knight of Des Moines was named the Best Overall Writer. She received a \$1,000 scholarship for her efforts.

Angie Bouska of Altoona was named the Runner-Up Best Writer and received a \$500 scholarship.

Julie Herrmann of Johnston was named winner of the best story and received a \$100 award.

Sharon Becker of Osceola was named the runner-up best story and received a \$50 award.

Breget Medley of Boone was named the Best Poem Writer and received a \$100 award.

Michelle Tapps of Coon Rapids was named the runner-up best poem writer and received a \$50 award.

Patricia Peery of Monroe and Mary Beth Jones of Pella were honorable mention recipients in the Creative Writing Contest.

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