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Banner News

Student Work

4-2-2003

Banner News

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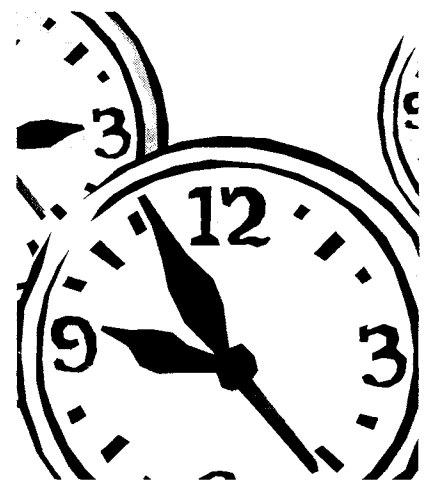
THE BANNER

April 2, 2003

"Voice of the Boone Campus"

Volume 2, Issue 12

Inside the Banner



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Boone gets high-speed computers

By Adam Sisson
Banner Staff

Students returning from springbreak on Monday were treated to updated computers in the media center lab and brand new machines in many classrooms.

The new PCs give the lab a much sleeker, more professional appearance. The most noticeable cosmetic difference in the new computers is the flat screen monitors. The flat screens help to reduce the glare produced by the older, conventional screens.

An update in performance is a definite plus to the new computers. The machines in room 215 sport 2.4 Gig Pentium Processors, and the media lab boasts 733 megahertz powering each machine.

As many students have already noticed, the computers in the lab lack "A" drives, or rather, lack floppy drive slots for 3.5 inch disks. This may present a problem for students who bring work from home on disks. Students should know that only the computers in the media lab lack floppy drives, all other machines in the building have them. There is even a computer set aside in the library which students can

access their disks and bring the needed information to their personal drives.

"If a student needs something on their 'A' drive, they should contact Karen, Donna, or Marilyn in the library," said Marilyn Prim, who works in the media center.

Student Heather Murray (front) and Marisa Kooima work on some of DMACC's new computers in Room 215.

Andrew Freed, DMACC student, says he likes the flat screens, but dislikes the lack of floppy drives. Other students have commented favorably on the increased speed of the PCs.

These new machines are manufactured by Compaq instead of the Gateway machines



Photo by Adam Sisson

which have been on campus for several years now.

Ron Erickson, computer specialist here at the Boone campus said, "Gateways have been good machines, and we have yet to have problems with Compaqs, but time will tell."

These new machines seem to be unanimous.

England resigns as DMACC president

Holly Losh
Banner Staff

The DMACC Board of Directors met on Wednesday, March 26 to accept the resignation of DMACC president Dr. David England.

There are several clauses to the resignation and release agreement between DMACC and England.

One stipulation states that England shall receive his contracted compensation and health insurance through April 24 2003. The amount of the compensation will be about \$28,000. He also gets his



Drawing by Jonathan Pratt

unused vacation, 17.8 days.

Some residents have shown a negative reaction to England receiving such benefits. Dr. Wayne Rouse, DMACC Board of Directors member from Boone, said he received several letters and emails asking why England would still be compensated.

If England had not resigned, the school would have had to pay him until this matter was resolved. "It could take anywhere from one to three months," said Dr. Rouse.

England will lose any annuity benefits, totaling around \$50,000, and any housing, car, and expense payments for the month of April.

The school and staff have been released by England from any future legal proceedings. Joe Pugel, board chairman said, "It'll be good to get something like this behind us."

One of the next things the board will discuss is appointing a new president. The

current acting president is Kim Linduska, senior vice-president of academic affairs. An interim president will be chosen, Rouse said.

The job will be advertised for someone permanently. Dr. Rouse said, "Often times the interim president is chosen as the eventual president." This process can take anywhere from six months to a year.

Some still wonder if the board did anything wrong during their hiring process of England. When asked if they will change anything in the process for the next candidate, Pugel said, "I don't know if we did anything wrong; we'll look at every step and see if we'll repeat that step."

On Wednesday, March 12, Dr. England was arrested at his home for conspiracy to manufacture and deliver marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, and failure to provide a drug tax stamp. At this time England will be putting in a plea of not guilty.

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Editorial policy

Boone Banner welcomes all letters in an attempt to provide a forum for the many diverse views of the campus. The views expressed in Boone Banner are not necessarily the views or endorsements of Des Moines Area Community College or the Boone Banner editorial board. Letters should be no longer than 250 words, signed and brought to the editorial offices of Boone Banner or can be e-mailed to *jrlaville@dmacc.edu* or mailed in care of the college. Boone Banner reserves the right to edit as necessary for libelous content, profanity, copy-fitting, grammatical and spelling errors or clarity.

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DMACC accommodates students with disabilities when students report them

Kristen Sampson
Banner staff

Struggling in school could be a sign of a learning disability not stupidity.

Accommodations are available for students who may have learning or physical disabilities.

Susan Smith, Boone campus student, is taking advantage of her accommodations. Smith said, "Learning disabilities aren't something to be ashamed of, but something to be managed."

Smith found out just a few years ago about her learning disability (LD), but has struggled with it her whole life.

"When I was in elementary, I was always inattentive and told that I was bright and intelligent, but wasn't doing my best."

She continues to struggle with concentration and writing even years later. "I walked into the ninth grade where I was just lost and couldn't focus, so I dropped out," Smith said.

Smith ended up getting her GED when she was 20, and some years later started at DMACC.

It was in her psychology class with Jane Martino that Smith realized she may have an LD. She ended up going to Psychologist Dr. Warren Phillips in Ames to get tested for possible disabilities. Her diagnosis was that of a written language disorder, which means she has trouble sometimes processing information and writing. In addition she deals with adult Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder which causes problems with distractions and focusing.



Banner Photo

DMACC--Lisa Wilson (left) poses with Nancy Woods, Iowa Regional Adviser for Phi Theta Kappa. Wilson will be the first DMACC honor society student to run for international president this week while in California. Wilson is an Ankeny Campus student and current Iowa Regional President.

Boone Campus students Perry Carlson and Cindy Wencel also went to California to represent PTK.

"Here we have students with accommodations for a broken arm to a student who's almost blind and deaf, so they vary from short to long term," said Shelby Hildreth, academic advisor in charge of accommodations.

It is important to see a professional if one suspects they may have an LD, so it may be documented and better managed.

Hildreth said, "It's your responsibility to provide documentation in order to get accommodations."

The accommodation process takes about one week. First, the students must request the application for accommodation, which they can get from their advisor. Hildreth is in charge of accommodations on the Boone campus, but the actual process takes place in Ankeny.

Next, they have to complete the application with information such as the nature of the disability, what it prevents them from doing, and how they could be accommodated.

For example, someone having trouble concentrating while taking tests could be accommodated by taking tests in the Academic Achievement Center.

Lastly, he or she must have a written professional evaluation which specifies the disability. These can be obtained by a physician or a psychologist.

After the application is completed, it needs to be sent to the special needs coordinator in Ankeny, where it is reviewed and a letter is sent back within about 10 days. Hildreth receives the accommodation letter also, and the instructors receive memos with the accommodations. Students still should speak with their instructors, but the

whole process is confidential.

Smith went through the process, which has made school much easier. Anyone suspecting a LD should get tested, so they can get help because disabilities never go away.. They are directly related to problems in employment, life situations, and education.

Common Signs of Learning Disabilities in Students and Adults

- * Continues to spell incorrectly or frequently spells the same word differently in a single piece of writing
- * Avoids reading and writing
- * Trouble summarizing
- * Trouble with open-ended questions on tests
- * Weak memory skills
- * Difficulty adjusting to new settings
- * Works slowly
- * Poor grasp of abstract concepts
- * Either pays too little attention to details or focuses on them too much
- * Misreads information

For more information go to www.ldonline.org

Receive full credit for two weeks of summer class in May

Laura Griffi
Banner Staff

DMACC students signing up for summer classes may have noticed that a few classes start and end earlier than the rest. These are interim classes and last two weeks.

Interim classes start May 12 and go through May 23. Classes that are offered are Intro to Computer Literacy, General Psychology, and Interpersonal and Group Speech.

Advisor Shelby Hildreth said these classes are fast paced and have to be attended regularly. Hildreth said that missing one day of interim class is like missing a couple of weeks in a regular class.

These classes are good catch up credits and they count toward summer credits. Grades are not given out until the end of the summer, just like regular summer classes.

The number of students who can register is just like any other class except that if the class is full, the student needs to get the teacher's signature to allow them to take the class.

Hildreth said, "I would recommend that students who have already taken a semester of classes take interim classes, not new students because of the fast-paced environment.

If interested, talk to any of the advisors as soon as possible because the classes tend to fill up fast after the beginning of April.

DMACC to celebrate literary arts

DMACC--Des Moines Area Community College's first ever Celebration of the Literary Arts will be held April 28-30 with classroom visits by area writers and literary instructors.

Iowa State University (ISU) English professor and fiction writer Debra Marquart and fiction writer Gary Eller will speak on the DMACC Boone Campus from 10:10 a.m. to 12:20 p.m., Monday, April 28.

Musician Rob Lumbard will entertain, and there will be informal discussions with the writers from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

Simpson College instructor and fiction writer Winifred Moranville and Simpson College English professor and poet Melvin Wilk will do readings and answer questions in the lobby of the DMACC Urban Campus from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Tuesday, April 29.

The Sons of Gladys Kravitz will play music, and there will be informal discussions with the writers from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

ISU English professor and fiction writer Debra Marquart, University of Oklahoma English professor and poet Carolyne Wright and John Domini, visiting English professor at Drake University and a fiction writer, will do readings and answer questions from 9:05 a.m. to 12:20 p.m., Wednesday, April 30 in the Starry Nights Gourmet Coffee and Cuisine area of Building 5 on the Ankeny Campus.

The Sons of Gladys Kravitz will play music, and there will be informal discussions with the writers from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

The events are free and open to the public.

Level ORANGE

Pam Snow
Banner Staff

On Feb. 7, 2003, the Department of Homeland Security made the decision to raise the national threat level from Elevated to High risk or Level Orange.

What does this mean for Iowa?

Governor Tom Vilsack says security at two Iowa railroad bridges across the Mississippi River was called to protect passengers and coal shipments. No specific threats were made, but both bridges are on a national list of 250 critical assets. Since Sept. 11, 2001, freight railroads have been on heightened alert.

Security has also been tightened at the Des Moines International Airport and other major airports across the state. All cars entering the parking lots at the Des

Moines airport are being searched.

Other major places being guarded in Iowa are the local Water Works plant, located west of Boone and the Duane Arnold Nuclear Power Plant in Palo. Planes are not allowed to fly over top.

This alert does not change anything at DMACC or other surrounding colleges. Director of Physical Plant, Mark Baethke and Assistant Director, Rod Clark have offices located at the Ankeny Campus.

Baethke and Clark have a computer list server that lets them know if security needs to be notified for a specific college. Clark said there is no threat to colleges at this time.

For more information on the different levels of security and what actions are being taken go to www.homelandsecurity.org.

The Homeland Security Advisory System

- Low = Green
- Guarded = Blue
- Elevated = Yellow
- High = Orange
- Severe = Red

This is the rating of risk to terrorist acts to federal, state, and local authorities and the American people.

Upcoming UK events on campus

DMACC--Des Moines Area Community College culminates its year-long focus on the United Kingdom with a week-long celebration April 7-11 with a series of events on all six DMACC campuses.

The United Kingdom Year events on the DMACC Boone Campus will be held on Tuesday, April 8.

English and history instructor, author and Irish storyteller Michael Carragher will speak on "The People, Culture and History of Northern Ireland" from 9:40 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in the Boone Campus Iowa Communications Network (ICN) Room.

Carragher is a native of Northern Ireland. He has a B.A. from Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland and has taught at Louisiana State University, the University of Arkansas, Dublin University and Gormanstown College in Ireland and was a visiting writer at the National

University of Galway in Ireland. His book, "A World Full of Places and Other Stories," was published by Blackstaff Press in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He has also written and published four short stories, three articles and 30 reviews.

Fiddlers to perform



"The Shetland Fiddlers" Graham Armstrong and Kate Wood, Cambridge, England will entertain students and staff from 10:45 a.m. to 11:05 a.m. originating from the ICN Room on the Boone Campus and from 12:20p.m. to 12:40 p.m. in the L.W. Courter Center.

DMACC Sociology Instructor Michael Delaney will speak about his research into the "Indentured Servitude in the British Caribbean" from 11:15 a.m. to 12:20

p.m. Delaney served in the Peace Corps in Grenada in the West Indies from 1968 through 1970. He became interested in a community of "poor whites" who were the descendants of indentured servants in Barbados. These people were originally from Great Britain and Ireland.

Last January, Delaney returned to Grenada to further his research. He has just returned from Ireland where he gathered more information about the Irish who were sent to Barbados in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Free to the public

All of these events are free and open to the public.

This marks the 19th consecutive year that the students, faculty and staff at all of DMACC's campuses have focused on an international year to learn more about the history, politics, culture and economy of a country.

DMACC English Instructors Ruthanne Harstad and Alan Hutchison are co-chairs of the United Kingdom Year activities.

Medium 1-Topping Pizza \$6.99

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Important dates for summer classes

- Registration March 12 - June 3
- Payment Due May 9
- First day of class May 28
- Drop date to get 100% refund June 3
- Drop date to get 75% refund June 10
- Drop date to get 50% refund June 17
- Last day of class August 7

Fish tales from down south

Laura Griffin
Banner Staff

When my boyfriend told me that we were going to leave at 3:00 a.m. for vacation, the first thought that ran through my mind was it had better be worth it. Going to Arkansas to fish didn't exactly sound like it was going to float my boat, but I was up for anything.

Despite the long 10 hour drive, weather was decent. Instead of the straight roads of Iowa, we had encountered the winding, hilly roads of Arkansas. I had to go to sleep or else I would have gotten sick. We finally pulled into Henderson, Ark. and found our way to Crystal Cove Resort. The weather, in the upper 70s when we arrived, got progressively cooler throughout the week.

On the first day, we trout fished on the Norfolk River Dam. My boyfriend's mother, Cristy, and I had worn rubber

boots and rolled up our jeans. We decided to walk alongside the river to get to a shallower area.

Being the one who wanted to get to a spot and fish, I took a short cut right through a mud hole. Next thing I knew I was up to the top

of my boots in mud. Cristy, standing on the other

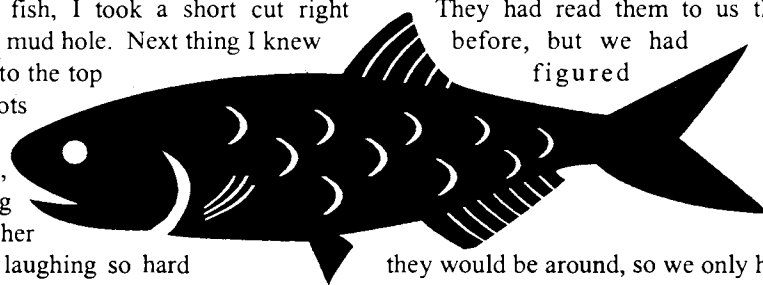
side was laughing so hard she was hoarse, wanted to come and help. I yelled at her to stay there.

I tried to walk, but my boot kept coming off. I started laughing and almost fell face first in the mud. I grabbed a stick lying by me and used it to steady myself. I finally got out by holding the back of my boots as I pulled my leg up.

We moved on down the river and got to

a place that was "our spot." I caught a fish, and we figured out that it was a rainbow trout. The guys were about a mile away, so we didn't know the restrictions.

They had read them to us the day before, but we had figured



they would be around, so we only half listened. I thought the fish had to be 16 inches or longer to keep it, so we let it go. Later we found out that I could have kept that one. I was upset.

The next two days consisted of dropping "us girls" off on the shore and them taking the boat out. We didn't catch anything, but we found lots of lures, line, and even a skeleton of an animal.

The third day was cool and rainy. I

wanted to catch a fish so bad that I decided to go out with the guys. I regretted that decision by the time we got to the spot where we were going to fish. I sat in the rain and cold for two and a half hours while the guys fished and didn't catch a thing. We got back and warmed up. Needless to say, I was glad to stay at home the rest of the day.

The last day we were there was sunny and cool. We went out fishing and we girls actually got to stay in the boat. We fished about four and a half hours and caught about 10 fish. That night, all the guys in camp cut up the fish. All together out of eight people, we had caught about 200 fish the whole week.

The ride home, which started at 6:45 a.m., was a lot better and seemed to go faster. The weather was warm all the way back to Iowa. As we crossed the state line, I breathed a sigh of relief as I saw cornfields and all those flat, straight roads.

War actually does have rules

Patrick Valdez
Banner Staff

Rules of war are known as the Geneva Conventions. They are a guideline on how to treat wounded soldiers, POW's (Prisoners Of War) and civilians who are under the control of an enemy power.

The idea of the Geneva Conventions dates back to 1859, when a Swiss man, Henry Dunant, witnessed how wounded soldiers were left untreated and in pain on the battlefield at the Battle of Solferino.

Later, in 1864, he helped organize the First Geneva Convention, which stated that a wounded soldier and medical personnel were to be considered neutral during battle and should not be attacked and wounded soldiers captured by the enemy must be given treatment.

The Second Geneva Convention expanded those rights to sea battles as well. These two conventions helped create the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The Third Convention dealt with Prisoners of War. Enemy soldiers who are captured and held must be treated, according to these rules:

Prisoners of war must be

- Treated humanely with respect
- Given the right to inform their family and The Central Prisoner of War Agency
- Given medical care regarding their health demands
- Quickly released when hostilities cease

Prisoners of war must not be

- Forced to give away any information concerning name, age, rank, and serv-

ice number

Held in close confinement except for breaches in the law

The Forth and final Geneva Convention deals with the treatment of protected civilians during war. Protected civilians are described as individuals "who do not belong to the armed forces, take no part in the hostilities and find themselves in the hands of the Enemy or an Occupying Power"

Protected civilians must be

- Treated humanely at all times
- Specially protected, for example in safety zones, if wounded, sick, old, under 15, expectant mother, or mothers of children under 7.

Civilians who are interned have the same rights as prisoners of war. They may also ask to have their children interned with them, and wherever possible families should be housed together and provided with the facilities to continue normal family life. Wounded or sick civilians, civilian hospitals and staff, and hospital transport by land, sea or air must be specially respected and may be placed under protection of the Red Cross or Crescent Emblem.

Protected civilians must not be

- Discriminated against because of race, religion, or political opinion
- Used to shield military operations
- Women must not be indecently assaulted, raped, or forced into prostitution.

All four Geneva Conventions were drawn up and ratified by nearly every nation in 1949, following World War II. The only major superpower that did not ratify the Geneva Conventions at that time was Great Britain, who did so in 1957.

Any leaders and officials who fail to abide by the Geneva Conventions during war can be brought up on war crimes charges after the war. For example, Slobodan Milosevic, the former Serbian

president, and others in his government were charged with and currently on trial for violations to the Geneva Conventions during the war in the former Yugoslavia.

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Mueller talks about upcoming play

Teresa McCane
Banner Staff

If you are looking for an evening of laughter, look no further. On your calendar mark Friday, April 11. This is opening night for "Late Flowering." The Drama Club, under the direction of Kay Mueller, has been working hard on this latest theater production.

Banner: How were auditions?

Mueller: They went well. I must say that I have the right people for the right parts.

Banner: Speaking of people, how many tried out?

Mueller: I had nine try out and roles for four females and one male.

Banner: Is it true not a lot of guys audition?

Mueller: Yes, unfortunately and I know this and for that reason I pick a play with mainly female roles.

Banner: How do you decide what play to perform?

Mueller: I look for parts that would fit the characters I have in my known talent. I cater to their needs and go from there. This is a wonderful and talented group. The set is also important. We are limited at times due to accommodations.

Banner: How often do you rehearse?

Mueller: It is time consuming. I feel a lot of people would like to participate, but time is a factor. We meet three days

a week, for two to three hours. Closer to opening night, it may be more often. I must say this cast is ahead of schedule. They are dedicated and talented. They've had no problem learning their lines.

Banner: What is the play about?

Mueller: "Late Flowering" is centered

on a dating service. It examines the perils of match making. I believe anyone can relate to it and have a great time. The cast includes Amber Adams as Daphne Pardoe, Megin Weiser as Elizabeth Foster-Buller, Olivia Hoff as Constance Beaumont, Jesse Curtis as Martin Whitaker and Cara

George as Caroline Pinder.

Banner: How long have you been at DMACC?

Mueller: I've been here 18 years.

Banner: What do you enjoy doing with your spare time?

Mueller: In the past 15 months, I've been in six plays at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater in Des Moines. Each show ran six to eight weeks with four shows each week. We average five weeks rehearsal for each play.

Banner: What else have you been involved with?

Mueller: I've done some TV commercials, including two for the Iowa Lottery, Pioneer and also one for Globus Insurance. I have an agent in Des Moines.

Banner: Where do you see yourself in five years?

Mueller: I'll probably still be here at DMACC.

Banner: What would your dream job be?

Mueller: I would like to design evening wear for film and movies.

The Drama Club looks forward to seeing you on April 11-12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Boone Campus Theater.

Students may also want to check with one of their professors and see if any extra credit is offered! Admission for students is free with school ID.



photo by Megan Thomas

The cast of "Late Flowering" (counterclockwise) includes Amber Adams, Olivia Hoff, Cara George, Jesse Curtis, and director, Kay Mueller. Not pictured Megin Weiser.

Local teen saved lives of hundreds

Pam Snow
Banner Staff



Kate Shelley, 15

March was National Women's month. One Iowan woman remembered during this month was Kate Shelley. She is a hero to all who know the story but to the residents of Boone County, she is a little bit more.

Shelley was nine months old when her parents came over from Ireland. They settled on a run down piece of farmland near Moingona, Iowa, all within sight of the railroad's Honey Creek Bridge.

The night of July 6, 1881, a fierce storm hit central Iowa. From Shelley's house she heard the bridge over Honey Creek collapse as an inspection engine passed over it. She ran out to find two engineers clinging to trees in the swirling waters.

Shelley, who was only 15 at the time, knew she was the only person to stop the Midnight Express, filled with passengers. To do this meant crossing another wooden trestle high above the nearby Des Moines River.

Shelley took her father's lantern and set out in the pouring rain, crawling 700 feet across the bridge. The sharp ties

and spikes tore her skin and clothes. The bridge had been built without planking, and the ties were 3 feet apart.

After what seemed an eternity, Shelley reached the other side and ran another quarter-mile to the Moingona depot, southwest of Boone, to warn of the danger. She brought the rescuers back to the bridge.

Shelley was instantly famous, and every reporter wanted her story. From the railroad she received \$200, a gold watch and chain, plus a lifetime rail pass. The state of Iowa gave her a gold medal.

Two years later in 1883, President Isabella W. Parks of Simpson College, in Indianola, contributed \$25 for Shelley to attend. Shelley attended Simpson for only one term and went on to be a school teacher. In 1903, she became the station master at Moingona. She died at age 47. A special train carried her to her final resting place in a Boone cemetery.

When a more modern bridge replaced the trestle in 1901, it took on Shelley's name. This bridge is located west of Boone and used by Union Pacific. Tourist can drive under the bridge and see her lantern in the Boone County Historical museum on Story Street in Boone.

PBL brings back awards from state conference

DMACC--Members of the Omicron Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda (DMACC's professional business organization) sent six delegates to the 57th annual Iowa Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference, held March 7-8 at Mount St. Clare College in Clinton, Iowa.

Members from the Boone Chapter, joined over 100 business students from across Iowa in competition for the chance to represent the state at the National Leadership Conference in Dallas this summer.

College membership in Phi Beta Lambda includes over 200 students statewide. The 10 colleges that participated in the conference included: Clinton

Community College, DMACC-Ankeny, DMACC-Boone, DMACC-Des Moines, Hamilton College-Cedar Rapids, Hamilton College-Des Moines, Mount St. Clare

College, Upper Iowa University, University of Northern Iowa, and Wartburg College.

There were chapter, team, and individual events held at this Leadership Conference.

Several students attending from the Boone Campus



Those who attended the recent conference included Linda Plueger, Adviser; Karen Shepard, Lacey Carlson, Anthony Morris, Kristi Hanson, Donna Jackson, and Shannon Egli

placed in the top five in their events. Students who placed first and second in their events can travel to Dallas to compete nationally.

Shannon Egli placed first in Multimedia Presentation.

Evanesence brings life to airwaves

Adam Sisson
Banner Staff

Those who have gone to see the new comic book hero movie, "Daredevil," have already gotten a taste of what the band Evanesence has to offer, as they are featured twice on the film's soundtrack.

Evanesence's new album, "Fallen," is an eleven-song masterpiece. If this record fails to take the music world by storm, I will forever be disappointed by the lack of depth and substance in the pop driven-market that is the music world.

This four-piece hard rock group takes cues from many musical styles, but ends up sounding like the guys from Linkin Park suddenly decided to use Tori Amos or Enya as their new lead vocalist. If you are saying to yourself, "How can a melding of such vastly different styles actually work?" and more importantly, "Does it sound good?" You can be assured that it does and is one of the best and most original albums to be released for quite a while.

The band is led by singer Amy Lee and guitarist/songwriter Ben Moody. According to the band's official website, the two met in their early teens. Soon after, Moody persuaded Lee to form a band with



Photo courtesy of evanesence.com

Amy Lee (front), and the rest of Evanesence take rock music to a whole new level with recent CD, "Fallen."

him. Together, they started to create songs and eventually gained a local following in their hometown of Little Rock, AK.

Evanesence's radio single, "Bring Me to Life," is deceptive in the way it portrays the band's sound. "Bring Me to Life" has a guest vocalist, Paul McCoy from 12 Stones. This is the only song in which Lee shares the vocal helm.

Lee shows her vocal versatility as the album sweeps from dark piano ballads to harder, guitar driven rock. Although the songs may be of a darker nature, the overall tone is quite positive.

The subjects of the songs are summed up in a quote from Lee herself, taken from the band's webpage: "The point of the whole record is to let people know their(sic) not alone in dealing with bad feelings or pain or anything that they go through. That's life and that's human. Their(sic) not alone, and were(sic) going through it, too."

While a million artists on the radio are simply rehashing the same three chord punk anthems of lost love and bling-bling the thug lifestyle, Evanesence comes along and injects some life onto the airwaves. For anyone who loves music, Evanesence is definitely worth a listen. You will not be disappointed.

Frankenixon: local rock four-piece

Leah Reeves
Banner Staff

All bands want to get their music to the ears of people who will enjoy them, even if it involves two weeks in a van. Frankenixon, an Ames based band, returned from their tour on Sunday.

Frankenixon is a female fronted progressive pop band. They sound kind of like Cat Power meets Queen, kind of. They mix indie rock, jazz, and pop in a way that can only be called Frankenixon. There is not a good way to describe their

sound, other than unique.

After two years of playing with their current line up they decided to take their act on the road. "It was now or never," said Ben Baier the bands bass player.

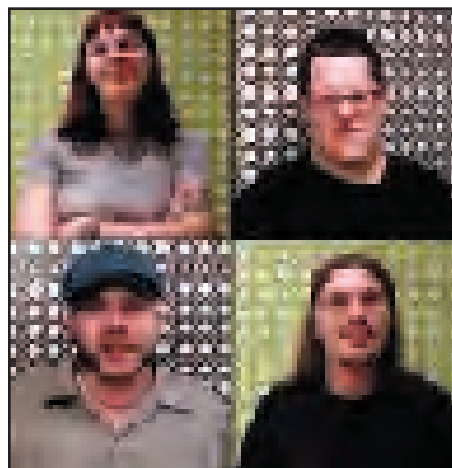
The band kicked off the tour in Iowa City and from there continued out to the east coast. Some of their stops included Washington D.C. and Road Island. All enjoyed their tour. They played to a lot of new people, and made a lot of new fans.

It wasn't all fun and games for the band. In Lafayette, Indiana they played to an unresponsive group who didn't get

the idea of a girl singing. Evelyn Finch, the bands front woman, had this to say about the club owner, "He didn't shake girl's hands; he hugged them. He didn't pay girls either."

Although they had a few rocky patches, the band had a successful first tour and is looking forward to another east coast tour in May.

If one wants to see Frankenixon, their next show will be at House of Bricks in Des Moines on April 18. For further information on Frankenixon visit frankenixon.com.



Picture courtesy of Frankenixon.com
Members of Frankenixon

Rob's one-minute movie reviews

Robbie Maass
Banner Staff

In Theaters

25th Hour

Staring: Edward Norton, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Barry Pepper, Rosario Dawson

Director: Spike Lee

The story of one man's last night of freedom before serving a 7 year prison sentence for drug dealing.

What I like most about this film is how director Spike Lee addresses the post-September 11 attacks in New York, where the story takes place. So many directors have done what they can to film around and avoid the terrorist attacks that took place a year and a half ago, but Lee, a New Yorker, embraces it and shows the true New York.

The cast is superb. Ed Norton carries another film where he's the lead, but not necessarily a good guy. Not too many actors can continuously play roles as complex as his.

New to DVD

8 Mile

Staring: Eminem, Kim Basinger, Brittany Murphy, Mekhi Phifer

Director: Curtis Hanson

Special Features: Five "Rap Battles" shot during the making of *8 Mile*; the music video for "Superman"; *The Making of 8 Mile* featurette

Eminem stars as Jimmy Smith Jr., a poor kid from Detroit trying to become a rapper.

The story is loosely based on Eminem's life but I'm curious of how accurate it is. I am not a fan of Eminem, but I've grown to respect some of his work. This being an example.

The "rap battles" are what make this film stand out. Director Curtis Hanson describes it as fighting with words, and I couldn't explain it any better. Under the special features section you can watch as extras compete in "rap battles" to earn a part in the film.

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Ataris takes a trip down memory lane

Darin Longman
Banner Staff

"Being grown up isn't half as fun as growing up," Kris Roe sings. How does he know, well he's grown up for one thing.

Next to being an expert in the science of nostalgic songwriting, he is also lead singer/guitar player for the pop-punk assemblage known as the Ataris.

Roe and the rest of the boys have come to the mainstream in a big way. Signing a major label deal with Columbia Records, the Ataris have finally brought their perfect-for-year-book-quote lyrics and power-pop stylings to a whole new slew of fans with their latest release. But this was not always the case.

In 1997, Roe was pushing the band's demo on the street to anyone who would listen to it. He managed to get it into the hands of one of the members of the Vandals, and also head of Kung Fu Records.

The Ataris then released two albums, "Blue Skies, Broken Hearts....Next 12

Exits" for Kung Fu and then "Look Forward to Failure" on Fat Wreck-Chords.

"So Long Astoria" is a power-pop ride, propelled by driving guitars that are only matched by its wonderful melody. The album was inspired by an idea expressed in a novel called "Go Now."

It was written by punk pioneer Richard Hell and later made into a spoken word album.

Kris Roe's lyrics are charming and touching, making it the warm, meaningful album that speaks volumes about anyone's past, who manages to put the CD in and push play.

The album is almost oversaturated with lines like "Life is only good as the

memories we make," and "The only thing that matters is just following your heart, and eventually you'll finally get it right."



Photo courtesy of ataris.com

The Ataris release the album of the summer. "So Long Astoria" takes the feelings of youth and captures them in song and lyric.

These and other lyrics would be perfect

for a high school yearbook. The song topics range, but the concept of getting in touch with our past, and the joys associated with youth stay constant.

Roe went back to his home and toured the places that were relevant in his childhood while writing the album. Songs like "In This Diary," and "Summer '79" are odes to summer, which will leave everyone with warm, fuzzy feelings of that season.

Other songs are more personal such as "The Saddest Song" in which Roe prays that he can make it up to his five year old for touring, and being away from home during the crucial years of their relationship.

The Ataris even manage to polish an old gem on their current record. The highlight of the album is the cover of Don Henley's "Boys of Summer," which manages to keep the integrity of the original while spicing it up a bit for the pop-punk junkies.

"So Long Astoria" is a pop punk masterpiece, it has what it takes to be a cult classic.

'Dreamcatcher' may leave you wondering

Josh Hutt
Banner Staff

If I told you about a movie, which features four telepathic friends, alien possession, John Wayne's gun and an insane general, you may think it has too many sub-plots for a single film.

Based on the best selling novel, Steven King gives us another glance into his some what creative and disturbing imagination.

With a well put together cast, "Dreamcatcher" starts off with four friends staying at a hunting lodge during a New England winter. Meanwhile the animals traveling past their cabin look like they are running away from something. When they take in a sick disoriented man, they find out what is scaring the animals. It seems the man was hungry, so he ate some berries, which weren't really berries at all.



Photo courtesy of Yahooomovies.com

Four friends toast to their lucky dreamcatcher.

He had something growing inside of him. What came out and where it came from I'll leave as a surprise.

Meanwhile the area is being quarantined by "a shoot first, ask questions later", general (Morgan Freeman) and his heir apparent (Tom Sizemore). Their task is to stop an alien invasion, and they try to keep it a secret from the general public at the same time.

"Dreamcatcher" has many twists, and at times you wonder if you saw what you thought you saw. It won't receive any awards, and Morgan Freeman's bushy eyebrows would scare most kids.

As a movie fan, I really enjoyed the film. This is a good film for any fan of creative screen writing.

Cast

Thomas James, Jason Lee, Donnie Wahlberg, Morgan Freeman, Tom Sizemore and Damien Lewis

Coming Soon...

In theaters now
Head of State: Starring Chris Rock

The Core: Starring Hilary Swank

The Hunted: Starring Benicio Del Toro

Opening nationwide

A Man Apart: Starring Vin Diesel

Phone Booth: Starring Colin Farrell

Opening in select cities

Cowboy Bebop: The Movie

Dysfunctional Family: Starring Eddie Griffin

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The Way I See It



Ben Carstens
Editor-In-Chief

When the war began, a CNN/USA Today/ Gallup poll showed three quarters of all Americans support the decision to go to war.

You wouldn't know it.

All I ever see out on the streets is anti-war protesters, signs hang everywhere questioning our country's judgement. Martin Sheen is spouting off every time I watch TV, and Michael Moore put a black cloud on our beloved Academy Awards with his "Pope and Dixie Chicks" defense.

It's all kind of cute actually.

There's something so darling about the fact they think it's doing any good. Protesting is like a rocking chair, it gives you something to do, but you don't get anywhere.

Do these people honestly think what they are doing will serve any purpose? Like Bush is gonna catch a glimpse of the news and say, "Damn, I think they're right!"

Not likely.

Most protesters I've seen are impressive young people looking to fit in, trying to belong to something. The rest are

Vietnam protester throwbacks who still are clutching on to the hope that what they wasted their lives on will turn out to do some sort of good. Just wasting time until their next "Legalize Marijuana meeting."

I guess I hope that's why the young are doing it, to fit in. I'm hoping it's not something quite as dumb as, "Martin Sheen kicks ass in Wall Street, so I'm with him!" Or the fact they are under the illusion that they will stop this war.

But rational thought never has been our strong suit.

Wouldn't it be more productive to show and send support to the troops? Maybe take the time to appreciate the fact that our country gives us the right to do such silly protests, where in Iraq they would probably never see the light of day again.

Now I'll be the first to agree that Bush was elected under shady circumstances. The system failed when he became President, but I find it hard to still hold him accountable. The fact is Saddam holds his power under even shadier circumstances, with no system to speak of to put the blame on.

It's been 12 years since the last war, with efforts on going since then to come to a peaceful resolution. Twelve years we've spent trying to disarm Iraq.

Twelve years, the Pope himself isn't that patient.

How can any educated person say we have no reason to invade? Bush is taking the blame for those who failed to take

action before him. The reasons have been stockpiling along with Saddam's weapons for all those years.

And he does have those weapons.

That's why his people have been starving for years, so he can build his arsenal. "But Saddam was making progress destroying his weapons of mass destruction, we should have had more patience right?"

Wrong. Don't expect me to pat a country on the back for destroying something they swore they didn't have.

The message from protesters is that this war is wrong. They say we have no reason to do what we are doing. We attacked Iraq without a strike on the United States.

Good.

Thank God that I live in a country who will take measures to keep us from getting struck upon. Why is that a bad thing? If a war would have prevented 9/11 wouldn't we be all for it? Or would we complain about that being a preemptive strike as well?

These things make no sense to me.

I've never wanted war; I'm a non-confrontational person. There's always a better way if both sides are willing, there in lying the problem. I guess I ramble on over this because I want people to support our troops, instead of slapping them in the face by protesting.

I love my country and every man and woman fighting for it. If you don't love it, well maybe you should consider leaving it, the borders are open both ways.

Ladies Room

Teresa McCane
Banner Staff



I hate using public restrooms. When it comes to restrooms; there's no place like home. You don't have to hurry, worry or try to squat.

When I was a child, my family went on a lot of road trips. Back then there weren't all the fancy rest stops you see now. We had to watch for the nearest gas station.

Although the restrooms would be on the outside, they would be locked. If you asked the attendant, he'd give you the key along with the key chain; a hub cap! Who in their right mind would want to steal a restroom key?

These days, there are some really nice public restrooms. The ones at school are always clean.

When I entered one last week, it was empty. I was glad because this meant my favorite stall was also. Don't laugh. I know for a fact that some of you have one too.

I walked towards it, opened the door and backed right back out. Upon opening the door, I had released something foul. My eyes watered and I had trouble breathing. I felt violated.

As I was leaving, someone else was coming in. Our eyes met. I could tell by her expression, that she blamed the smell on me.

"I swear, I didn't do it," I said, "it smelled like this when I got here!"

I feel this could've been avoided. How come public restrooms can't have a display of signs out front? They could be made like the one's you find at hotels. Except these would warn people before they entered. Like: Yield, Proceed with caution, Enter at your own risk, or just plain Stop.

I know everyone has to use public restrooms and we're lucky to have them. What ever happened to the courtesy flush? Is there any air freshener available? I think not. I wrote a song about it. Wanna hear it? Here it goes.

These restrooms we must share
Which means others go in there.
So please be considerate
When you have to take a...
Shall I elaborate
Sometimes we just can't wait
When flushing just won't do
Ladies it's all up to you.
Take with you some body spray
You can do your part today.

Commuters versus gas prices

Patrick Valdez
Banner Staff

For those DMACC students who live outside of Boone and commute to and from school know the high prices of fuel lately was probably not a welcome sight.

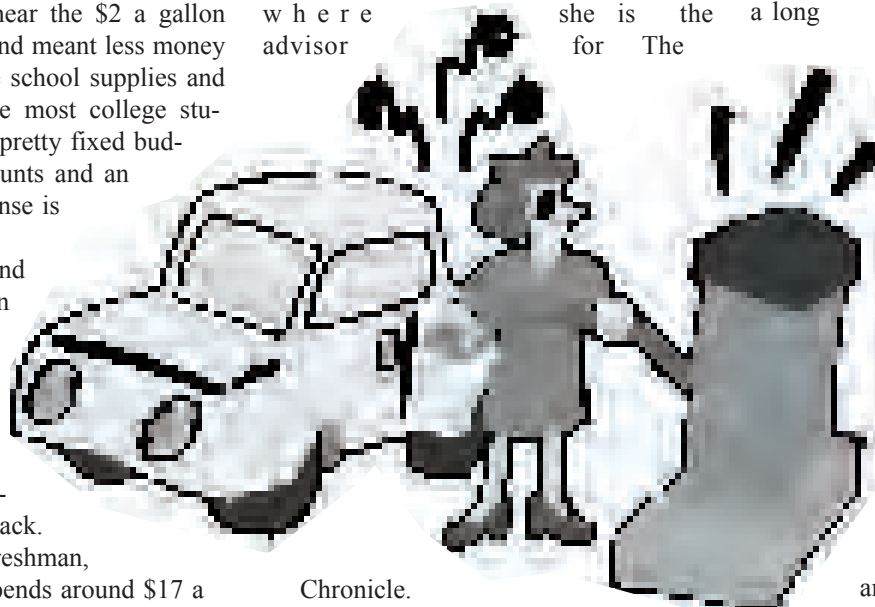
Prices hovering near the \$2 a gallon mark for weeks on end meant less money for other things, like school supplies and food. If you're like most college students, you live on a pretty fixed budget. Every penny counts and an increase in any expense is not welcome.

Some students end up paying more than others. Josh Hutt, a sophomore, lives in Woodward and pays approximately \$30 a week in fuel to commute to school and back.

Mike Kelso, a freshman, lives in Ames and spends around \$17 a week to fill his car. Shannon Elgin, sophomore, lives in Ogden and pays roughly \$15 a week to commute to school; however, his wife works in Ames and commutes

as well and that takes a larger chunk out of their budget.

DMACC staff is not immune, Jan LaVille, a mass communications teacher and the advisor for the Banner, commutes from Ames to Boone and commutes to DMACC in Ankeny where she is the advisor for The



Chronicle.
It's not just fuel.

Other costs are to be considered as well. Commuting puts wear and tear on

a vehicle. Driving to and from school or work puts miles on your vehicle, decreasing its resale value and increasing wear on the engine. Maintenance issues, such as increased oil changes and reduced tire life also come into play. Insurance companies may also charge more if you commute a long distance because statistically the more miles you drive the higher the possibility of you being involved in an accident.

The rural nature of central Iowa sometimes makes commuting a necessary evil. According to a 1994 Iowa State University research study of small Iowa towns, the average commute in rural Iowa is 11 miles.

Depending on where you live, the cost of fuel and commuting might balance out when the potential for increased rent and living expenses are factored in. Moving closer to where you work or go to school, thereby saves you only time, not money.

The World According to D



Darin Longman
Banner Staff

Americans are at war, but not the war you are thinking.

Everyone and their dog knows about Operation: Iraqi Freedom due to the onslaught of coverage that we all receive during such times of crisis. I would rather talk about another war. It is a civil war that is being waged on these very shores. It is fought with propaganda and protests and no one is apparently safe from it. America is at war with itself.

When I drive through Campustown in Ames, it is abundantly clear day after day that Pro-war and Anti-War people are always standing on Campus protesting. It is mostly pro-war, seeing that in polls the midwest is the region that is the most solidly in favor of our current campaign.

Let me rephrase that, no one is is pro-

war. War achieves nothing but death and destruction, and solves very little. People that are in favor of war usually seem to hold up signs that are in favor of supporting the troops. Which I think

is good. I am not in favor of war, I am a pacifist by nature, but no one called me to make the executive decision to make "Bombs over Baghdad" more than just a catchy Outkast tune.

I am not qualified enough to know when to execute a move of that nature. My idea of a difficult executive decision is McDonalds or Wendy's. I think that we are at war and we should support those over there who are protecting us. I may not agree with it, and others may not, but we should support those who are willing to go over and fight for our basic freedoms.

I may project tons of apathy, and possibly anti-patriotism, I just get tired of all the protesters. I don't care what they are protesting for whether its to support the troops or to end the war or what not. Some of the signs that I have read make

my teeth want to turn around in my head and swallow my brain.

The other day I read one that had something to do with Martin Sheen being communist. I have attempted to comprehend what this meant since the very day I saw it, and it has almost stopped the gears in my head from turning.

Martin Sheen is, as far as I know, just an actor. I know he has been in several movies and is the father of Emilio Estevez, and Charlie Sheen, but as for his involvement in the war. I am more than stupefied on this one. Perhaps he took a stance on the war that the fellow with the sign did not like, but why this remark about him being communist. The cold war ended a long time ago buddy, let it go.

This is why I get tired of protesting. It doesn't apparently do any good. Even Bush has said that he likes seeing protesting because it is a sign that democracy is live and well, but he still dismisses these protesters as "focus groups".

College students face this dilemma all the time, it is a challenge that is fitting to all those who are lazy, or who were will-

ing to spit in the face of those who would have them resign their lease, but it is a struggle with an uncertain outcome. The dreaded house search.

It hit me like a bolt from the blue one day, when I came to the terror filled realization that I would not have a place to live come next fall, due to a slight oversight in the renewal of our housing contract. Determined not to live in the box that my T.V. came in for 12 months, I scanned and combed the ames area for houses that would suit the educational and partying needs for my comrades and myself.

At first it was a struggle that made me feel like I was trapped on a sinking ship. The new zoning laws also seemed to put another nail in the coffin of my non-vagrant lifestyle. Finally though, we were able to find a college palace, one that is closer to campus (for the ISU roommates) and we were even able to get a porch. The best thing of all is we are no where near those damn protesters.

Sad day for DMACC

Ben Carstens
Editor-In-Chief

It was a sad, sad day when the news broke of Dr. England's plight. For those of you living under the nearest rock here at DMACC, Dr. England was arrested for manufacturing and conspiracy to deliver marijuana. Not to mention the fact he was smoking it in the middle of the day when he was supposed to be at work. He had called in sick earlier that day.

His cataracts must have been flaring up.

As I walk through the halls at DMACC and over hear conversations among students, I found the general consensus has been:

"Who cares about a little pot?" (72 plants isn't a little, I don't care if you're Tommy Chong himself, that's a lot of

reef.)

This is exactly the problem with this whole situation, nobody seems to care. Obviously Dr. England didn't care. He had to of known that he would get caught someday, they always do. He had to of known that someone knew what he was doing. He had to of known what that would do to DMACC, the college he's worked so hard to improve. The power of the pot was just too much I guess.

Marijuana's biggest defenders say that it isn't any worse than drinking and it is better for you than smoking. That very well could be, I've never studied all the effects. The point is it's illegal. And when you're in a position of power such as Dr. England was, you should use a little more common sense.

This brings me to ask the question; why don't we drug test teachers and

administrators?

Every Tom, Dick and Harry applying for a job at the local Target has to take one. Why not educators?

Apparently we are more worried about the mindset of someone sorting Ernest movies in the entertainment aisle than we are about people teaching our children and us. We'd rather make sure the Wal-Mart greeter isn't puffing some cheeba on break, who cares if the president gets stoned now and then?

The point I'm trying to make is that this is a big deal no matter what way you look at it. It's a sad situation and we wish it would never of happened, but in no way will I feel sorry for a man who brought this on himself. I will, however, feel sorry for his son and daughter. They obviously never had a chance to make their own decision on marijuana, growing up with it

in a household so freely displayed. They really had no choice. Mom and Dad say it's ok, then it's ok. Isn't that how we all grew up?

Maybe it's just me, maybe the fact that I have morals is once again hindering my ability to be cool and hip. If it weren't for them I could have been hanging with the Doc, talking about the newest Snoopy Dogg album and how this blunt is off the "heezy fo sheezy."

Maybe I'm just out of touch with reality. Maybe my parents raised me wrong. Maybe I'll never be cool enough to let a drug ruin my life, make me lose my wonderful home and job, and lose the trust of all those who believed in me.

Yeah my morals are messed up.



Cartoons courtesy of Knighttrider

DMACC's Ian Young leaves for higher level

Danai Chinoda
Banner Staff

Ian Young, the sophomore starter and leading scorer for the DMACC boys basketball team, will leave this year in order to continue his education and basketball success on a higher level. He averaged 21.5 ppg, 5 assists, and 5 rebounds this season.



Ian Young

Young, born in Brooklyn, NY, moved to Florida and attended Lake Howell High School. He only played half a semester in high school, where he averaged 35 points in 26 games. His performance was enough to be recruited by Coach Orv Salmon and the DMACC Bears basketball program.

Young had two successful years playing for DMACC. When asked about last

year, Young said, "I came to see how I fit in; it started different." This year, Young lead the team. He said, "This season I couldn't be stopped. I worked too hard, I focused so in a couple of years people can be like 'I know that guy and he used to work hard.'"

Young said, "This was my year, I knew I had to lead the team; this year I had to go hard and kill." This season the Bears went 25-6 and were tenth in the country. They were seeded second in the regional conference tournament.

When asked about his years here at DMACC, Young said, "My two years here have been great. I did something positive. I accomplished something." Young took this opportunity to learn a lot about himself and the talent he has on the court.

"I owe my success to God and my mother Marilyn Young who depends on me. I do this for my mom and my crew. I hoop for my crew that don't have it all; things ain't sweet and easy at home," Young said.

Next year Young will take his basketball talent to either Auburn University or Southern Florida. Young was also being looked at by Oklahoma, Dayton, New Mexico, and heavily recruited by other schools. "I want to maximize my talent to get me to the next level; which is the NBA."

This will be the last step to get to the professional league. "Playing in front of 20,000 will be different but will only make me play better. I play better under pressure; my goal is to shock the world," said Young.

Young has patiently awaited this important time and said, "When it all comes down to the end, I want to thank coach Orv Salmon for letting me play to my fullest level, and for not coaching me on a straight line."

Young leaves with full ambition and confidence, "The world is going to love me; I am too focused."

Bears open with mixed results

Josh Hutt
Banner Staff

While the students of DMACC enjoyed their spring break, the Bears were in Oklahoma showcasing their baseball talents.

With good pitching and solid effort, the Bears finished the trip 3-4. "We could've been 5-2 if we hadn't let things get out of hand," Coach Smith commented about the spring trip. The team split doubleheaders between Longview and Crowder but finished 1-2 against NEO.

The return to Iowa marked the start of a four-game winning streak. With timely hitting and clutch pitching, they swept Iowa Central and Central College in doubleheader games. Sean Zaborowski, freshman native from Winona, Minn., was clutch in the Central games batting a gaudy 7of 8 at the plate, which included four home runs.

The Bears were hoping to continue their winning course last Friday, but the game was cancelled. The reason for the cancellation was unknown at press time.

The Bears played the Kirkwood Eagles on April 1 but the scores were unavailable at press time. They will debut at home against Southwestern on April 5.

people to hire for the pit crew. The garage is adorned with toolboxes and catalogs to buy more parts. There is even a separate garage to paint your cars in.

I am not a huge fan of NASCAR at all but Dirt to Daytona brings a lot to the table. The perfect balance between difficulty and plain old fun is one of the games greatest draws. The playability and realistic car physics are fabulous as well. The only reason not to check out this game is if you hate racing altogether. Dirt to Daytona warrants a

'Dirt to Daytona' delivers perfect balance

Chris Barrett
Banner Staff

Get in, buckle up and get ready to work your way from local dirt-track hero to racing with the big boys in Daytona.

NASCAR Dirt to Daytona for the Playstation 2 puts you in the seat as a rookie driver in the lowest circuit there is and makes you work hard to make it to the top. As a first year driver you begin with very limited funds and a car that is less than stellar. Hard work and fine-tuning are necessary to come away with any chance of moving up in the racing world.

The creators of Dirt to Daytona found the perfect balance, making the game extremely challenging yet curiously fun at the same time. Moving your way through the ranks, even at the dirt track levels can be demanding. With a sup par vehicle, making it into the top ten is a challenge.

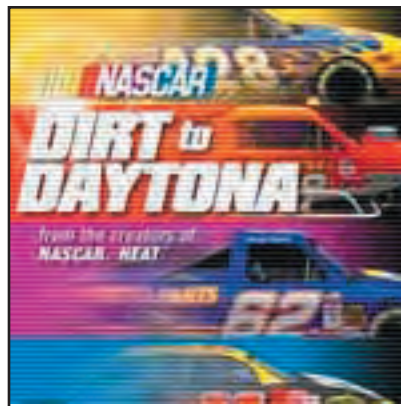


Photo courtesy of Metacritic.com

With every race you gain a little more money to spend on your dirt-flinging machine. Buying extra parts and upgrading what you already have is key to a winning season. After the first season of racing do not expect to be moving up right away, you must win first place in the dirt races before you are invited to join the open wheeled modified series.

The difference between the dirt races and the open wheeled races is perfect. The feeling of the tires gripping a paved surface for the first time and the extra horsepower is very noticeable.

Moving up past the open wheeled series brings you to the NASCAR Craftsman Truck series. Here is where things really get tough. Now drafting comes into play and the trucks can be thrown out of control by the slightest nudge. Racing the trucks gives you your first taste of the infamous

Daytona International Speedway, and it is a memorable one. Hitting the 150 mph mark in qualifying feels great until you see it is only good enough to start in 20th place.

Moving up to the NASCAR Winston Cup series is much like the truck series, except the cars are much faster. The driving physics come into play even more as well, drafting is key to winning any race and holding a steady line is equally important. Nothing is more frustrating than going into a corner too low and getting pushed into a 360-degree spin.

My favorite aspect of Dirt to Daytona is the depth and personalization. At the beginning of the game you are asked to input information like, name, birthday, and even a nickname. All these things pop up in the game at some point. My favorite is the post race announcement in the NASCAR



newspaper, which uses your name, making it feel very personal. You are treated to a page containing info on your last race, and there are even fake quotes thrown in like "I own this track" and sometimes you're quoted talking smack to other drivers.

Everything outside of the track is done well also. The garage and lobby are done superbly it really makes you feel like your on a racing team. Papers are strewn about the desk, like a race calendar and a list of

rental from anyone who remotely enjoys racing games and it is a must buy for any fan of NASCAR racing.

Graphics: 8
Sound: 8
Gameplay: 9
Overall: 8.5

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Skatepark heats up as summer approaches

Chris Barrett
Banner Staff

With the weather getting gradually warmer the Ames Skatepark is ablaze with extreme athletes.

On any given day hordes of young rollerbladers and skateboarders practice their crafts. They come to the park day after day to hone their skills to perfection. Most skaters say practicing everyday is a must to excel at either sport so athletes shouldn't come looking for instant gratification.

The Ames Skatepark opened last September and the weather got cold quickly after its completion. The anticipation to skate the park has been growing inside of the skaters all winter long. Paul Overton, father of two boys ages 11 and 8 said, "They spent the winter snowboarding and playing Nintendo. They're excited that the park is skateable again." The excitement shows in the skateboarders and rollerbladers as they cruise the park smiling.

Most of the skaters agree that the city did a great job with the park. The city recruited pro skateboarder Frank Hirata to design the park. Hirata got input from

local skaters and worked on a design that would be fair to all athletes no matter what their skill level.

The park has a color-coded sign with difficulties assigned to every area.



Photo by: Chris Barrett

Spencer Prati, 14, busts a boardslide down the 9-stair rail.

Beginning areas consist of mostly flat land and small curbs. Intermediate areas are the 5-stair handrail and the 4-foot high quarter pipes, and the experienced areas are the 9-stair rail and the 6-foot high quarter pipe.

All areas are well placed allowing the traffic to flow smoothly.

With so many people in the same small space accidents are bound to happen. Overton said, "It seems pretty safe." He added that his sons usually come home with "some bumps and bruises from falling."

Older skaters tend to look out for the younger crowd offering advice on how to handle the busy flow and letting them in on unspoken rules such as, waiting your turn and keeping your head up as much as possible.

The Ames skatepark is located on 6th Street across from Brookside Park east of the Iowa State soccer fields. Bleachers are set up for spectators, so people shouldn't be afraid to check out what's going on, even if they don't ride a skateboard or rollerblade.

QUALM COLUMN
Ryan Makovsky
Banner Staff



Getting it done the right way

The baseball gods are upon us.

Where Cinderella stories in professional athletics have redefined itself over the last couple of years, parody is now the expression in Major League Baseball.

No longer can the Yankees buy their way into the World Series.

A team that loads their roster full of franchise players no longer assures them a spot in the fall classic.

In the years past, teams like the Yankees simply dangled minor league talent to land big name players to fill their needs.

But as salaries increase, so do egos. The Yankees have enough egos in one dugout to compensate for the rest of the league. Similar situations exist in Texas, Cincinnati, and cross-city to the Mets.

The formula to success doesn't involve free spending anymore. Success now stems extensively through team chemistry.

Teams such as the Twins, Mariners, Angels, and A's all have experienced immense recent success because of careful free agent shopping, their farm teams, and growing pains.

Achieving team unity takes time. Growing as a team requires taking lumps from the opposition.

It seems as if the blueprint to success is to draft players that fit well into a team's structure, develop them in the minor leagues, and insert them into a comfortable surrounding.

The Twins did exactly that.

While not only working with a limited budget, a joke of a baseball park, and a rough decade of hard knocks, the Twins are now a budding dynasty.

With all eight starting positional players having spent time in the minors together before making it to the big leagues, there is minimal, if any jealousy or envy within the clubhouse.

In fact, only two players on their current roster have not spent time in their farm system.

So while it was a rocky beginning for such players as Torii Hunter, Jacque Jones, and DMACC's very own Corey Koskie, the Twins are now the favorite in many circles to represent the American League in the 2003 World Series.

This while having the 6th lowest pay roll in the league.

So much for free spending.

Marching into the Final Four

Danai Chinoda
Banner Staff

March Madness is all over the country as we go to war. College basketball rolls into the Final Four as the Elite Eight teams in the nation battle for victory over elimination in this war stricken time.

The first entrant into the Final Four came as Marquette upset Kentucky 83 to 69. Dwayne Wade was the leading scorer as he managed a triple double by scor-

ing 29 points, grabbing 11 rebounds, and dishing out 11 assists. The game was for representation of the Midwest region.

In the Western Region Championship, Kansas upset Arizona 78 to 75. Kansas was lead by the senior duo of Kirk Hinrich and Nick Collison. The two have been the glue for the Jayhawks throughout the tournament.

Syracuse trampled over a highly respected Oklahoma team, beating them 63 to 47 and winning the East Regional

championship. Lead by Carmello Anthony, who only had to score 20 points as the rest of the Orangemen mildly contributed to the winning effort.

In the South Region Championship Texas routed Michigan State 85 to 76 as T.J. Ford lead the Longhorns in scoring, dropping in 19 points and advancing the Texas Longhorns to the Final Four.

The Final Four will be played this weekend in New Orleans, bringing the nations top four teams to a royal rumble for the national semifinals. Kansas will play Marquette, and Syracuse will be playing Texas in the bayou capitol. The championship game between the winners will be played on April 7th to determine the National Champion.

-Makovsky's Pick: Kansas over 'Cuse

-Chinoda's Pick: 'Cuse over Kansas

-Carstens Pick: Texas over Kansas

-Maass Pick: Kansas over Texas

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The Other Side of the Courter

Pictures and text by Holly Losh

What is your opinion of the war with Iraq?



Melissa Joy
Freshman

I believe it is necessary to protect our country.



David Whetstone
Sophomore

I'm for it because Saddam Hussein was hiding out of range missiles.



David Moore
Freshman

I think we should kill them all except civilians.



Josh Clanton
Sophomore

I am undecided, but we should support our president and troops.

Horoscopes by Pam

Aquarius (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19) You may find that you've been easily distracted lately and your mood hasn't been all that great either. You might want to take a few days off before taking on new tasks. Finance: Good | Romance: Good | Lucky Number: 7,9,10

Pisces (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20) Summer is approaching soon but don't forget there is still a lot to get done before then. Stay focused and try to ignore any distractions. Finance: Poor | Romance: Fair | Lucky Number: 5,14,18

Aries (Mar. 21 - April 20) You may receive an invitation to a big social event. You won't want to go at first but you could meet new friends there. It's good to try new things. Finance: Fair | Romance: Fair | Lucky Number: 2,6,22

Taurus (Apr. 21 - May 21) Work in the future may go slower than usual because of a distraction. This may also affect your mood in a variety of ways. Just a warning. Finance: Good | Romance: Fair | Lucky Number: 6,15,18

Gemini (May 22 - June 21) A big trip may be put on hold because of a last minute argument. Find a way to settle the feud and continue on with you plans. Finance: Good | Romance: Poor | Lucky Number: 7,17,28

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) A close friend may be getting on your nerves. Try to avoid them for a while. Just until you can handle he/she again. Finance: Fair | Romance: Poor | Lucky Number: 3,15,19

Leo (July 23 - Aug 22) You may be

feeling a lot of pressure to do well in your schooling this month. It may be a good time to get organized and study. Finance: Good | Romance: Fair | Lucky Number: 10,18,26

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 23) Take your free time and try to meet new people before summer comes. You can never have too many friends. Finance: Poor | Romance: Fair | Lucky Number: 7,17,22

Libra (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23) An important project could take up all the attention you have. This could be frustrating to your friends but it will be worth it in the end. Finance: Fair | Romance: Good | Lucky Number: 9,18,26

Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Be careful not to get involved in other people's personal affairs. Come to your own conclusions rather than taking the word of someone else. Finance: Good | Romance: Poor | Lucky Number: 5,17,23

Sagittarius (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21) Close ties will help you out with a problem that you're stuck with. Once you get that figured out all will be back to normal. Finance: Good | Romance: Fair | Lucky Number: 1,8,29

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan. 20) Everything is moving quickly, just the way you like it. Just make sure you are not missing anything important along the way. Finance: Poor | Romance: Good | Lucky Number: 4,13,23

Students planning to graduate in May must contact the office immediately--deadline was Feb. 1.

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