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Banner News

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From dropout to honor student

Kristen Sampson
Banner Staff

Susan Smith dropped out of high school when the school didn’t recognize her learning disability. Smith, DMACC Boone Campus, recently ran for Phi Theta Kappa Iowa Regional President on Feb. 27.

"I later got my GED, but I missed out on a lot of things. It was really exciting to participate in the election, and I learned a lot about myself," said Smith.

Smith is currently president of the Tau Phi Chapter on the Boone Campus. Smith thinks the best person got the job. "I just wanted to run because I thought I could do a good job and make a difference at the state level," said Smith.

The 24 PTK chapters in Iowa each got one vote in the election, but not all the chapters were represented at the election. "All the elections were very close, which implies all the candidates were competent and reasonable," said PTK Regional Coordinator, Nancy Woods. She also thought there was a lot more participation as far as both genders. "More men are taking interest, and people are realizing how important these elections are," said Woods.

The election is all over, but Smith plans to continue to be active in the Tau Phi Chapter and PTK. "I can get involved with individual goals and projects, which I’m excited about," said Smith.

Mother of two and grandmother of one, Smith will probably keep pretty busy for a while. She plans to be on campus until this December. "As far as where I’m transferring to after DMACC, I’d like to keep my options open," said Smith. It’s very likely Smith might choose Iowa State University, but even that’s not set in stone.

Smith and all the other PTK members can look forward to the 85th PTK International Convention coming up April 3-5 to be held in Anaheim, Calif. in two hotels that are walking distance from both Disneyland and California Adventure Park. During the day students can attend educational forums, where they might explore topics such as Five Star Chapter Development, Honors Study Topic Program Implementation, Fundraising, Public Speaking and Chapter Communication Skills. By night, they may be attending a PTK dance or out exploring California.

So, what is PTK, and how might a student become a member? The student must be taking a minimum of 12 credit hours, and have a GPA of 3.5 or higher. There also is a one-time membership fee of $38. After being inducted into PTK, the student must usually maintain a GPA of 3.25.

PTK members automatically receive scholarships when transferring, and get recognized for their excellence in academics.


Banner attends convention in Minneapolis

Carstens picks up honorable mention at Best of Midwest

Josh Hutt
Banner Staff

Normally when you hear six college students going to Minneapolis, you think the journey is anything but educational. But this four-hour journey up north had a purpose.

Six members of the Banner staff took part in the 12th annual Best of the Midwest college newspaper convention. It was held at the Marriott in downtown Minneapolis, Minn. The Associated Collegiate Press set up the conference. Two to four year colleges and universities all over the Midwest attended the conference. The Ankeny DMACC Chronicle was also among those attending.

"The purpose of the conference was to share papers with the other colleges that attended and receive tips from professional journalists. There were lectures including examples of page design, how to use our youth, and the truth about sports writing. There were three keynote speakers that spoke of experiences they had while covering tragic stories and other experiences out in the field."

Chris Barrett said, "It was a good time. We learned new ways to make our paper better, I hope."

The students spent two nights in the Marriott Hotel. Some of the students had the opportunity to room with other DMACC students they had just met. They also took the opportunity to experience the nightlife of Minneapolis. Mainly walking the streets and taking in the cold northern air.

The conference concluded with an emotional awards ceremony. Awards were handed out for photos, editorial, sports and news stories. The Banner’s very own Ben Carstens won honorable mention for his editorial column about the seven astronauts who tragically died in the shuttle accident.

Carstens said, "I was surprised to win the award with so many different colleges in the competition."
Daycare to open

Teresa McCane  
Banner Staff

Will a daycare be added to our campus? No, not anytime soon. Will the Boone community and DMACC students soon benefit from a new accredited daycare and Family Resource Center? Yes.

The planning and development of a Family Resource Center has taken over two years. A variety of services will be provided for all families in Boone County.

The childcare center will provide high quality care for young children and infants. The Open Bible Church offers daycare for children from 18 months to five years.

Currently there are only three licensed childcare centers in Boone County, none of which provide much needed care for ages 0-18 months.

According to the Center for Child Care Resource (2001) there are over 4,300 children in Boone County ages 0-12 and 1,195 childcare spaces identified. The new center should provide care for eight infants, eight toddlers, 12 two-year-olds, 12 three-year-olds, and 12 four-year-olds.

Does Boone County have a need for day care services beyond the normal eight to five?

Boone has 18 major manufactures and businesses employing a total of 2,000 people. Twelve offer a second or a third shift. This Family Resource Center would definitely benefit the community as well.

In addition, preschool services will be provided for 15 children five years of age. After-school care will also be available for children ages 6 to 12. Also an adult day service, which will be managed by the Boone County Hospital, is part of the plan.

The local Head Start program has been asked to move in. They serve 34 children annually. They are applying for expansion funds with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The facility to be constructed on South Linn, will break ground this July. Boone students and the community should start to enjoy the center spring 2004.

Academic probation
No joking matter

Pam Snow  
Banner Staff

April 1 is the last day to drop a class for the current semester.

It’s that time of the semester when students are waiting to see if a midterm will be delivered to their door. For those students who receive one don’t panic there are eight weeks of school left to change the grade.

Students having trouble with their grades may be worried about being put on academic probation. Something most students don’t want to hear about but need to know.

Students whose cumulative GPA drops below 2.0 will receive a notice letter to meet with their advisor and a hold will be put on their records. On the Boone campus students see Shelby Hildreth or Rita Davenport.

“Don’t panic if you receive a letter. Come in as we will help the you figure out what classes will need to be retaken for the next enrollment term by filling out an Educational Achievement Plan” said Hildreth.

The EAP is a contract between the student and an advisor to get things back on track. The courses that the student received the D or F grade will be listed on the EAP along with the expected grade for the next semester.

Students who are on academic probation and receive more than one D or F grade at midterm will not be able to register for future credit courses until an EAP is filled out. Midterms for this semester have already been sent out.

A good academic status will be returned to the student when he/she has raised their cumulative GPA to a 2.0 or higher.

If a student does not bring up and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 they will be put on Conditional Enrollment for the next term. The student must meet with an advisor no later than the first day of the new term. Failure to do so will result in canceled classes. Once again if the student raises their cumulative GPA to a 2.0 he/she will be put on good standing.

The last step, if the student does not bring their cumulative GPA to a 2.0 he/she will be put on Academic Suspension and will not be allowed to attend for one semester and will again have to fill out an EAP.

“If your address has changed please let the office know because you won’t be receiving your notice and all of your classes will be dropped” said Hildreth.

Anymore academic information can be found in the student hand book or on page 24 in the DMACC catalog. Students can pick these up at the office any time.
Spring Break precautions

Holly Losh
Banner Staff

For some students spring break is a time to travel and party. When traveling there are several things that students might want to consider to ensure a good vacation without incident.

Some students choose to get a travel package through travel agencies, or web sites (operators). Before signing a contract, read the fine print. Operators can change flight schedules or cancel a flight for any reason up until 10 days before the trip.

The Federal Trade Commission says to “Pay by credit card. It gives you more protection than cash or check.”

One thing students need to be aware of is knowing the laws of the countries that they will be visiting. The United States Embassy uses Cancun, Mexico as an example of this. “Excessive alcohol consumption and unruly or uncontrolled behavior can lead to serious problems with Mexican authorities,” says the U.S. Embassy.

San Diego State University printed a brochure to help students know the laws in Mexico. When crossing the border if you are under the age of 18, an adult must accompany you. False identification can lead to an arrest.

Open alcoholic containers, spitting and urinating in public are all illegal. If you get picked up by the police, they can hold you for 72 hours without charging you.

Another concern for students is traveling outside of the country since the heightened military alerts and terrorist activities. Officials say that there may be a delay going through U.S. customs when returning to the United States.

The U.S. Department of State says, “Students should make copies of their passport’s data page and any visas. They should keep a copy separately from the originals while traveling and leave one at home with their family. This will help in getting a replacement passport in the event that a passport is lost or stolen.”

Summer class sign up starts this week

Leah Reeves
Banner Staff

When the campus is covered with snow and ice the farthest thing from a student’s mind is signing up for summer classes. Believe it or not spring is almost here and it’s time to sign up for classes.

Enrollment for summer classes starts March 12. There is a flyer of classes offered available at the front office and online at the DMACC web site.

The first day of classes is May 28. The drop date to get a full refund for regular summer classes is June 3.

Shelby Hildreth, an educational advisor, said that summer courses offer a good time for students to play catch up and to retake any classes they may have failed. She also said that students home for the summer from other colleges and universities take classes at DMACC. This makes for a good mix of students.

Summer semester classes work a little differently than regular semester classes.

In the summer students only have to take eight credits to be considered full time. This is because summer courses have fewer weeks to meet and, therefore, have to meet more often to obtain the required number of class hours.

Students are advised to be open minded when signing up for summer courses. There are classes offered at the Ames high school and also in Ankeny that shouldn’t be ruled out. The summer is a good time to try out other campuses.

Another option that students have in the summer is the accelerated courses. These classes meet every day for two weeks. They are offered between the end of the fall term and the beginning of the summer term.

Summer classes, and all the options that come with them give students a great chance to get many credits out of the way in a short amount of time.

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
Tattoos—universal in appeal

Tattooing has become one of the most prevalent forms of body art in the American culture. For college students, getting inked is almost a rite of passage into adulthood.

Tattooing is an ancient art, dating back centuries and crossing many cultural barriers. The Old Testament has verses pertaining to the inking of Levite priests. The pages of National Geographic display pictures of many people across the world with skin decorations. Many DMACC students have their own reasons for getting inked.

Some tattoos are spur of the moment deals; everyone else was getting one, and the cash was at hand, so why not? Cara George has a heart with tribal decorations around it on her foot. She says she “was on vacation and it was spur of the moment.”

Remembrance of loved ones or where a person is from are noble themes of many tattoos. Derrick Ponder’s right bicep is a memorial to a loved one. “My uncle got killed, and basically, it’s in memory of him,” says Ponder.

Imari Sawyer says of the tattoo on his arm: “It’s got basketball and my city, where I’m from and where I’m going.”

There are many other reasons for getting inked, too numerous to name. “Some tattoos are medically necessary. They use them as markers for radiation therapy,” said DMACC’s nursing instructor Cindy Cory. Danai Chinoda’s barcode on the back of his neck would read out his birthday if scanned. Misty Matters has always liked horses, so she designed a tattoo for herself depicting horses running across the small of her back.

Tattoos reach from one side of history to the other, universal in appeal to many peoples. Important in religion, remembrance, personality, and perhaps just for fun. Kristena Arthur says the tattoo on her lower back is “Because I’m a badass.”

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Misty Matter’s tattoo is her own design.

Lacey Carlson’s yellow flower

Danai Chinoda’s birthday in barcode form

Haylie Hughes has the Chinese characters for dreamer on her shoulder.

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The Cafe serves up great food in a friendly environment

Chris Barrett
Banner Staff

The Cafe looks like it belongs in L.A. or New York not Ames IA. The building is highly stylized from the outside in with modern lighting and stylish artwork hanging about.

Even with the trendy looks The Cafe maintains a down-to-earth feel. The lighting is soft and the setting is intimate. The tables are separated nicely, leaving you and whomever you’re dining with feeling like you’re in the restaurant alone. Alison Doyle, store manager said “We are trying to keep things comfortable and informal.”

The Cafe is open for breakfast Tuesday thru Sunday at 7 am. Dinner is served till 9 pm, Friday and Saturday until 10 pm and Sunday till 8 pm.

The menu at The Cafe is small but offers an ample variety of choices. There are soups and salads, stone fired pizzas, sandwichs, steaks, and even some vegetarian meals. The prices vary from, $5.95 for the Country Olive Bruschetta to $12.95 for the Braised Pork Shanks. Doyle said “We are keeping the menu small because it changes so often. We are trying to make changes once a week.” The whole menu will not change but certain items may be replaced with something new.

Non-attending students may owe government money

Tanya Rohloff
Chronicle Staff

March 10 marked the day of midterm this spring semester that any student receiving a C- or below probably received a midterm letter in their mailbox.

The final deadline for instructors to report midterm grades was noon on Monday, March 3. Midterm letters were sent out around March 4 and were probably be in students’ mailboxes by the end of last week. The letters were mailed to the address the student submitted to DMACC when they registered for spring classes.

The letters students received with a C- or below will have received midterm grades. “Midterm letters are actually considered progress reporting and are not looked at as punishment,” said Kirschman, Director of Student Affairs/Registrar.

The main reason progress reports are sent to students receiving a C- or below said Kim Kirschman, is to let students know that they are having difficulty in a course.

“Progress Reports are mostly used as an intervention tool to let students know early enough to seek help from a tutor or the Academic Achievement Center, so they have time to improve their grade,” Kirschman said. However, there are some students that quit attending classes and are not able to attend the rest of the semester. The letters are then used to remind students that they have the option of dropping the class rather than receiving an F.

Federal financial aid regulations require the school and faculty to pinpoint any students who have quit attending their classes or “unofficially withdraw.” Therefore, instructors are also reporting any students who have quit attending their classes, and the Financial Aid Office uses the information to inform non-attending students about that financial aid.

If students have financial aid, and they quit attending classes, they will be administratively dropped as of midterm. There is a possibility students will have to pay back all or a percentage of the financial aid they obtained.

Phyllis Bailey in the financial aid office said, “Students receiving financial aid who have quit attending classes will be sent a letter next week with a calculation saying how much they owe.” The letter may provide students with an opportunity to meet with their instructors by a certain deadline. Students who quit attending classes and who would like to return to class may with the instructor’s permission.

The search for the next Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Jason Hays
Chronicle Staff

Need some cash for college. DMACC is sponsoring a writing contest with possible awards of $300 for first place, $200 for second and $100 for third.

All amateur writers at all area campuses are eligible and encouraged to enter the upcoming Detective Fiction Writing Contest. The contest will attempt to uncover DMACC’s top natural sleuth and will be accepting submissions between March 3 and March 31.

Contestants will be limited to one story and one award and all contest entries must be original detective fiction pieces and be double-spaced and titled. There is no set limit on length of contest submissions, but organizers would prefer that entrants make and effort to keep their pieces in “short story” format. Also, contestants are advised that they need not make a detective the focal point of their work, as long as the text remains true to the detective fiction genre.

The selection process will include an initial screen of all submitted work, followed by the judges selection of the 3 best pieces out of the top 10. Contest judges are Rick Christian (from the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation), Joe Rippetoe, Executive Director, Dean Vivian Brandmeyer of West Campus, Dean Jim Knott of the Carroll Campus, former Dean Nancy Noth of the Newton Campus, Ann Fremont, the Urban Campus SAC and Barbara Giese, Associate Dean at the West Campus.

Sponsors of the event are the Ankeny Student Activities Council, the DMACC Foundation including Joe Rippetoe, Executive Director, Dean Vivian Brandmeyer of West Campus, Dean Jim Knott of the Carroll Campus, former Dean Nancy Noth of the Newton Campus, Ann Fremont, the Urban Campus SAC and Barbara Giese, Associate Dean at the West Campus.
‘Nightfire’ is missing key elements

Chris Barrett  
Banner staff

Saving the world, driving exotic cars, using high tech gadgets, and scoring a lot of chicks are all in a day’s work for James Bond 007. In the newest Bond title for the Playstation 2 these essential elements are present, but not much else.

The general scheme of ‘007 Nightfire’ hits dead on. The Bond humor and sexual innuendos are present making for some comical cut scenes. The computerized Pierce Brosnan looks and acts exactly like his real life counterpart, Bond and all.

Along with the usual Bond attitude comes all the cars and gadgets. There are a wide variety of futuristic toys available; the cell phone/grappling hook is my personal favorite. The Bondmobile is also an important aspect and ‘Nightfire’ doesn’t disappoint by serving up the Aston Martin V12 Vanquish (the one used in “Die Another Day”). The Vanquish is equipped with the latest technology, like homing missiles and smoke screen. It’s too bad that great graphics and a great Bond feel don’t make a great game. The biggest problem with ‘Nightfire’ is the sound; it’s absolutely atrocious. The guns sound more like BB guns, when I fire a 9mm into somebody’s chest I expect it to sound painful. The car sounds are a little better but still lacking. The Vanquish should sound like a V12, not like my girlfriends’ 98 Saturn. The best aspect of the sound is the original Bond tune at the beginning of the game.

The driving levels are enjoyable but the physics are totally lame. The Vanquish does not slide at all. I’m not asking for super realistic handling but some realistic power slides would have been nice. There is no distinction between driving on pavement versus driving on a frozen pond, the car handles the exact same in both situations. I don’t know about James Bond but my car slides around on ice.

Take out the terrible sound and all the weak spots in the gameplay and ‘Nightfire’ may have been great instead of mediocre. I am just waiting for the day that Bond returns to the glory that was ‘Goldeneye’ (sigh).

Chris Barrett  
Banner staff

‘Nightfire’ does a good job mixing up the gameplay. There is a great mix of driving levels and first person levels. Some stages have Bond driving the Vanquish through crowded streets, some have him completely on foot, there is even one level where he takes the reigns of a chain-gun mounted on a snowmobile.

The conclusion gets a bit over sentimental, but hey, that’s Hollywood.

Robbie Maass  
Banner Staff

Tears of the Sun
Starring: Bruce Willis, Monica Bellucci  
Director: Antoine Fuqua

Willis stars as Lt. A.K. Waters, leader of a Navy SEAL team on mission to get an American doctor (Monica Bellucci) out of Nigeria before a war breaks out. But the doctor won’t leave unless Lt. Waters and his men get the refugees she cares for out as well.

This is director Antoine Fuqua’s latest film since winning Denzel Washington an Oscar for Training Day. Though Tears of the Sun isn’t as good as the former, it is still a well-crafted war film. Willis is as good as they get for a lead in an action film and he shines yet again. The only problem I had with this film is the ending. The conclusion gets a bit over sentimental, but hey, that’s Hollywood.

New to DVD

The Ring
Starring: Naomi Watts, Martin Henderson  
Director: Gore Verbinski

Special Features: bonus short Watch if You Dare

An urban legend comes true when four high school kids die seven days after watching a mysterious tape. Investigative reporter Rachel Keller (Naomi Watts) sets out to reveal the mystery of the tape as she too watches it and believes she has seven days to solve the unknown.

After watching this film in the theater for the first time I classified it as one of my “guilty pleasure” movies, but after second and third viewings of it I realize what a great piece of work it is. Though the story might sound cheesy, director Gore Verbinski pieced together a very sleek and good looking film with a cast of virtually unknown actors.

I was a little disappointed with lack of special features on this DVD but I’m sure a criterion collection DVD loaded with special features will come out later in the year.

Road to Perdition
Starring: Tom Hanks, Paul Newman, Jude Law  
Director: Sam Mendes

Special Features: Audio commentary with Sam Mendes, making of featurette, deleted scenes, photos, production notes

Set in the Depression-era Chicago, hitman Michael Sullivan (Tom Hanks) sets out to avenge the death of his wife and youngest son after they were murdered by the outfit he works for.

This is one of the best looking films of last year, and will probably get its dues come Oscar time. Cinematographer Conrad Hall proves again he is one of the best in the business. He picks up right where he left off after he and director Sam Mendes teamed up for the Academy award winning American Beauty back in 1999.

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Meet the local band: Argos

Leah Reeves
Banner Staff

There are a slew of talented local musicians in central Iowa. One group that stands out from the rest is Argos. Argos is a band based in the general Ames/Des Moines area. Their music is eclectic, but not so much so that it is accessible only to the musical elite.

Argos sounds like what would happen if The Pixies met up with The London Symphony in a dark alley. With maybe a metal head guitar player perched behind a garbage can watching the whole thing go down.

They are a five piece that consists of a vocalist, guitar, bass, drums, and keyboard. The lineup has changed in the last few months. In the past they could be seen with an electric cello and violin.

Argos has been playing every show they can get and really making a name for themselves. In November, Old Era Recording Company out of Urbandale released Argos EP “Days of Being Wild.” This EP has received good response from fans and critics alike. They are in the process of recording another EP, which they plan to release in the near future.

Anyone interested in seeing an Argos show can do so over spring break. They will be playing at the Botanical Center on March 18 at 6:30 pm. Also, they will be playing at VEISHA on the free stage. If interested in additional information on Argos, check out their Web site www.argosrock.com.

‘Columbine’ hits on key issues

Ben Carstens
Banner Staff

3 1/2 out of 4 stars

Michael Moore’s “Bowling for Columbine” is a documentary that will make you laugh at times, and feel deep sorrow at others. All in all it hits on numerous important issues, most important of which is why Americans feel the need to shoot at each other more than any other country.

“It if bleeds, it leads.” Moore finds this to be the American news policy. He tries to answer the question; why was this to be the American news policy. He examines this question in Canada, another developed nation that owns more guns per household, but has one-tenth the shooting deaths of the United States.

Probably the most chilling moment of the piece was when Moore went to Columbine, and showed us actual camera footage from inside the school. That morning Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold went bowling for a class, we all know what happened later. Moore poses the question; did bowling make them do this? Most people probably found this absurd, but it truly showed Moore’s genius when he followed it up by an interview with Marilyn Manson, goth rocker who was blamed for the incident. Wasn’t blaming Manson just as absurd as bowling?

During one phase of the movie Moore takes two victims of Columbine to Kmart to return the bullets still lodged in their bodies that were bought there. After a couple visits Kmart held a press conference and announced they were starting a 90-day process to phase out the sale of ammunition. This was a true victory for the filmmaker and victims.

The best part of the documentary was the interviews. Matt Stone, Columbine alum and Southpark co-creator, told us a little about Littleton. He also voiced his concern on how they were so close to graduation, and how life changes so much after high school, if they only knew it’s just a small part of your life. Also was a truly scary yet hilarious interview with James Nichols (brother of Oklahoma City co-conspirator Terry Nichols). He tried to tell us that dynamite was your basic farm product, and that “the pen is mightier than the sword, but you must keep the sword around in case the pen fails.”

“If my cold dead hands,” Charlton Heston proclaimed holding a gun high in victory at an NRA rally in Denver just a few days after the Columbine massacre. It would seem insensitive to hold a rally so soon after the incident, maybe they made a mistake and realized they hurt a lot of people. But when a six-year-old shot another six-year-old in Flint, Michigan, there he was again, talking about how he didn’t need him there.

Moore decided to interview Heston. The NRA president looked like a scared schoolboy being asked questions by a principal. He sidestepped the question on how he had a loaded gun in his house that was gated and impossible to penetrate. He also seemed to slip up when he blamed the mixed ethnicities of America for the violence problem. He ended the interview by walking away while Moore tried to question him.

“Bowling for Columbine” is a movie that everyone must take the time to watch. Although it paints an ugly portrait of all gun owners and is unfair at times, it raises a lot of important questions. The one thing that bothered me was that this movie was rated R. The people who truly need to see the movie is the young people in this country, it’s sad that we are keeping it from them.

Look for ‘Columbine’ to run away with the Academy Award for best documentary on March 23.

March 12, 2003

Retro toys, clothing are truly outrageous

Laura Griffin
Banner Staff

Almost every young girl has seen a valued piece of their childhood disappear with the rest of the family’s junk. Since the recent Retro craze has taken hold, those heartbroken women can now wear their childhood icons as t-shirts or accessories.

A walk through the mall is like a trip down memory lane. Rainbow Brite, Care Bears, Muppets, My Little Pony, Strawberry Shortcake, and Jem and the Holograms are all visible in some way shape or form.

Lite Brites and Etch A Sketches are making a comeback with the new generation of youth. Pound Puppies, Fraggle Rock, and Hello Kitty are still in the consumer market.

The once popular Huggables, Popples, and Cabbage Patch Kids are now outdated by new dolls that cry, laugh, and burp. The ancient shows like Sheeran and Punky Brewster are long gone but are still remembered by those that were loyal fans. Alf is remembered through MCI’s 10-10-220 commercials on television. Thundercats, Smurfs, and the Chipmunks are still aired on Cartoon Network.

Clothing stores, such as Hot Topic and Gadzooks, sell the retro clothing and accessories. Hot Topic associate, Shannon Murphy, said retro clothing has sold successfully for about five years.

Murphy said, “Everyone likes the nostalgia of remembering their childhood toys, games, cartoons, etc. The 80’s retro licensed stuff in Hot Topic has become a staple.”

Clothing and even old toys can be found on eBay for a reasonable price. So if that long lost child is trying to get attention, either go look in your attic or go shop for some appeasement.

A few of the new, and old items available
The Way I See It

Ben Carstens
Editor-In-Chief

It’s strange how a person can come into someone’s life and touch them, without even meeting them. It’s strange how a voice can be familiar, even when you don’t know the face to put with it. Strangest of all is having love for someone you’ve never even met.

Where’s Pete?

It was another long day at work, and I was ready to get home. I hopped into my car and hurriedly tuned in the Cyclone’s game. Something struck me as odd while I sat at a stoplight listening to the play-by-play. Something didn’t sound right.

The familiar voice tied with all of Cyclone athletics I was used to hearing was gone, what I didn’t know, was that it was gone forever.

Who was Pete?

Pete Taylor was the voice of the Iowa State Cyclone football and men’s basketball teams for more than 30 years. He served in the athletic department for Iowa State University as associate athletic director. Also the sports director for KRNT, then KCCI television in Des Moines for 22 years, he was named Iowa Sportscaster of the Year four times.

Taylor, 57, died tragically on Wednesday, March 5 from complications due to a stroke. His seat on press row in Hilton Coliseum goes empty for the first time, just like that big space in Cyclone nation’s heart.

No Pete?

Ever since I can remember I’ve been listening to Pete. When we were little, my brothers and I would gather around the radio for the ISU games, fantasizing about playing for Jim Walden and Johnny Orr. I could almost hear Pete yell, “Carstens scores!” Even when we would get killed, he made us feel like we were in it and a block or two away from winning. Man, you could just feel the “Hilton Magic.”

He could sum up that feeling better than anyone, just through his voice. There was never a doubt in my mind who he was rooting for. Though he’d never say it, you could always tell when the refs were giving us the short end of the stick. You never needed to hear the score. Pete’s tone let you know where we stood.

As we got older and moved up to a satellite dish and ESPN, we started watching more of the games on television. Our devoted Cyclone neighbors would come to the games with us. They would throw french fries and pop in Kool-Aid, frozen juice or cocoa mix added.

I baked chicken instead of frying it because I can’t fry it without making mashed potatoes and gravy. I cooked the same food for the whole family. They tolerated baked cod served with a salad and fruit instead of beer-battered catfish, homemade mac and cheese, baked beans and apple pie. Just thinking about it is making me hungry.

After a couple weeks, I got bored with eating all the right foods. Not to my surprise, even my supportive kids were sick of my menus. They had stopped asking, “What’s for supper?”

“ ‘What’s for supper?’”

They now had the nerve to be saying, “I don’t even want to know what we’re having!” Michael started avoiding my meals altogether; like I can’t smell McDonalds, as he rushes past me to the privacy of his room. I knock on the door, only to hear the crinkling of fast food wrappers.

“What are you doing?” I ask playing dumb.

“ ‘Nothing mom!’ His mouth is so full of French fries, he can hardly speak.

I open his door, only to catch a glimpse of the last fry being shoved into his greedy mouth. I snatch the bag, hoping there’s a stray one hidden under the napkins. There is! I close my eyes, relishing the crunchy, perfectly salted and still warm fry. I smile and try to make it last forever.

I’ve been cheating on my diet. It’s so hard. I swear I gain 10 pounds each time a fast food commercial comes on T.V. Don’t get me wrong, I really want to lose weight. It’s a lot easier to gain, than lose.

I have a love-hate relationship with food. Emotions drive me to eat. Unfortunately, the only time I can seem to control my eating habits is when I’m in love. So, I’ve come to the conclusion that Dexatrim or the Atkins plan won’t work for me. I need a diet supplement that’s about six foot three!
March 12, 2003

THE BANNER

Opinion

The World
According to D

Darin Longman
Banner Staff

Chris Carabba once said in one of his songs, “We’re not 21, but the sooner we are the sooner the fun can begin.”

These words aren’t just song lyrics they are in fact the chronicles of a great universal truth that we all believe in but never truly experience until we’ve seen 365 days come and go at least 21 times.

As the days and hours flew past I remember pondering that particular line in the song and trying as desperately as a minor can to unravel the mystery of what it would finally be like to be this particular age. I went through the list of what my new abilities would be. I would have powers far beyond those of minors, such as the ability to legally buy and consume alcohol, and the ability to gamble. Those things seemed like they would be fun.

Anticipation seemed to pour from every fiber of my being, as I awaited the arrival of the big D-Day, and all the fun I would be having. Chris said it would be fun, and he is a cult hero to masses of emo kids who enjoy Dashboard Confessional and an all-round nice guy. Good old reliable and trustworthy Chris Carabba, how could he ever be wrong?

Unfortunately Chris was wrong. He was not exactly wrong, but he was entirely right. Chris failed to inform me during his song that perhaps there is a darker side to things one has to be prepared for. It sneaks up and attacks wihout warning. Its sole purpose is to make sure that a 22nd birthday is never seen, and it uses all your friends to accomplish this goal. This dark side is called poor judgment.

Poor judgment has been a round for a long time and has caused several terrible occurrences to be brought about throughout time. It seems to run rampant when there is alcohol involved. It also seemed to infect my friends’ minds with visions of terrible shots going into D’s belly. I gave

I gave into poor judgment rather quickly as I turned my stomach into a liquor store.

in to poor judgment rather quickly as I turned my stomach into a liquor store.

During the course of the evening I filled my belly with all of the foulest tasting alcohol concoctions know to man. I gulped down White Russians, I guzzled blue Houdinis, any even felt the burn of a Prairie Fire. The drinks were good, but the

shots were not. I had everything except antifreeze, and I believe that maybe have tasted better then half of the shots I took. Oh Chris you should have prepared me for this.

The evening after that is mostly an enigma that can never be solved. Poor judgment had been attacking full force because I apparently made snow angels in the driveway while wearing very little clothing. I can just imagine the roommates taking pictures and giggling with delight at my inebriated state.

The next day was another milestone in complete worthlessness. I was rendered nearly incapacitated by the binge drinking nightmare that was the previous evening. The hangover was all-powerful, and couldn’t be escaped. The theme of my actual birthday was thinking that I was better off dead, and this hangover couldn’t get any worse.

During the hangover period I felt very much like a man lost in the desert with vultures circling over me waiting for me to die. I pressed on all day wondering what would become of me, wondering what happened to me? The car rides were nauseating, and the simplest tasks such as holding up my head and opening my eyes became as unfamiliar to me as the Chinese language.

The hangover was an unrelenting beast that continued when my parents and my grandmother arrived to help me celebrate. This most joyous of occasions that had gone terribly wrong. They seemed to be ok with it, citing that “you only turn 21 once.”

When Chris Carabba wrote the song, “The Swiss Army Romance” about growing up and turning 21, he never once mentioned a hangover in any verse. I suppose he was talking about minors’ perceptions of turning 21.

I have studied Romanticism in both Literature class and also the idea of Romantic love in Sociology. Never once in either of those books was the term Romance ever synonymous with vomiting the next day.

The 21st birthday, Poor judgment + Hangover = Fun. That equation is slightly screwy, but hey, your friends know best. They will go out and get you lit up, and if you wake up the next day feeling like something that the Grim Reaper would turn away from in disgust. I guess that was the fun you have been waiting for.

‘Married by America’ reaches reality show low

Patrick Valdez
Banner Staff

If you believe the ratings, Americans have gone averse over this phenomenon of reality-based TV.

There is a virtual plethora of offerings from the various networks, “Survivor,” “Meet the Folks,” “American Idol,” “Big Brother,” “The Real World,” “The Osbournes,” etc. Whether you wanted to see a bunch of people living in a squalid pit or a fancy house, getting grilled by their potential in-laws or getting berated by a blowhard with a British accent, you had your choice.

The Fox Network, never one to be afraid to air a show with a controversial topic or story, raised the bar on reality based TV shows with “Joe Millionaire.” Unlike what happened in the earlier Fox program “Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire”, which ended up a disaster

for the bride and groom, “Joe Millionaire’s” female contestants at least got to see the guy.

I got the feeling from people I know that most of the guys really liked this show because it gave them justification for their opinion on women as being selfish and gold diggers. Especially Heather, who didn’t do much to hide the fact that she was only in it for the money. I secretly wanted her to win, just to see her face when it was revealed that “Joe” was “Millionaire”.

But now, Fox has reached a new low with “Married by America,” a show where the audience chooses a mate for the contestants, and they agree to get married, on television, sight unseen. Arranged marriages: Fox-style.

What I want to know is, why? To look

at some of the contestants, at least the female ones, one has to wonder why they would have so much trouble on the dating scene. I thought pretty girls never had a shortage of suitors. I thought handsome guys always had plenty of girls to choose

from. Evidently this is not the case anymore, why else would they have to go on a TV show to find a suitable mate?

The biggest question on my mind is, why would you need to go on TV to find a man or a woman? I’ve love and romance that dead out there? Is it so dead out there that going on a TV show and having their spouse chosen by the viewing public is a good idea? People have enough trouble making good decisions with mates for themselves, much less choosing for another.

I find the whole premise of this show disgusting. It takes love and attraction out of searching for a mate and replaces it with a gamble. The latest statistics say that 50% of all new marriages end up in divorce court. I think it’s because many people don’t take marriage seriously anymore. And a show like this doesn’t help.

And how seriously can two people like a marriage that was chosen by “Joe American” who took more time choosing what TV dinner was going to preheat in the microwave than he did choosing a mate for “Married by America”?

What’s next, “Groomed by America,” where a trial is decided by people?
Right connections prepare Bears for upcoming season

Josh Hutt
Banner Staff

Today to be successful you have to have the right connections.

With DMACC baseball Coach John Smith’s connection, he has recruited a fresh crop of international baseball players. Their nationalities vary from Panamanian to Canadian. Some are returning starters while most are fresh faces in the lineup. “They are all good kids.” Coach Smith commented about his players.

The returning players include Oscar Luque, who formally resides in Panama. A line drive hitter, he batted .302 and knocked five balls out of the park last season. He is also a model student earning a 3.75 grade point average. Also returning is Quebec’s own Max Lamarche. He is poised to be the starting catcher this season.

The many new faces in the locker room have come a great distance to showcase their talents on the baseball field.

Oscar Luque returning starter from last season.

Luis Magdaleno, who plays outfield and pitcher and Luis Diaz, who is working at the catcher position are from Venezuela. Barranquilla, Colombia has also contributed the DMACC baseball program.

Nabil Sagbine works as outfielder and pitcher while achieving a 3.3 G.P.A. Fabian Sotelo, ready to play either infield or outfield, is also from, Barranquilla, Columbia.

The player to keep an eye on this season is Mark Major. The left-handed freshman pitcher, from Quebec, has impressed coaches with his focus and strong arm. Coach Smith is expecting Major to be a strong candidate to be drafted into the major league. Pierre- Alexander Brunet was also found in Quebec. The coaches are grooming him to be an infielder/catcher.

With the guidance of Coach Smith the DMACC Baseball team are going places in the 2003 season with the help of his international players.

Women’s basketball doubles up wins record for season

Ben Carstens
Banner Staff

The Women’s basketball team’s season ended March 7 with a 59-68 loss to Waldorf in Regional Semifinals.

The Bears beat Iowa Central 67-66 in an exciting game March 6 to advance to the semifinals. This brought their record to 20-11, twice the wins of any other Bears women’s team.

Looking back on the season, one of the positives to look back on. The team fea-

Eldon Miller and a year under Sam Weaver, a former Tim Floyd assistant.

The Bears on March 7 played her last game for Graceland University.

T h e

For their continued success next year.

Looking forward to next season, Conrad has been hitting the recruitment trail already. So far the prospects look good. A few of the commitments include 6’3” Alyssa O’Brien, a 4-A all stater from Fort Dodge, 5’10” Caroline Straight from North Cimil, and 5’9” Katie Riemann from Iowa Valley who averaged 18 ppg as a junior. Recruits like these hope to ensure continued success next year.

The Bears say goodbye to sophomores Jennifer Luckett and Trista Kolder, both will be missed next season and spots hard to fill.

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On April 22, 2002, Ben Conrad was named the new head of the Women’s Basketball team. Conrad graduated from North Polk High School in 1994. And attended college at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) where he received his Bachelors Degree in 1999.

He started his coaching career out at UNI as a student assistant under coach 20-11, twice the wins of any other Bears women’s team.

Eldon Miller and a year under Sam Weaver, a former Tim Floyd assistant. After his four-year stretch at UNI, Conrad moved on to graduate school at Iowa State University (ISU) and was a graduate assistant for Head Women’s Basketball Coach Bill Fennely. After graduating from ISU with his Masters in 2001, he moved on to be Associate Head Men’s Coach at Graceland University.

Looking back on the season, one of the most impressive games for the Bears was a loss. On Feb 22, the DMACC women went to Kirkwood Community College to take on the 24-4 ICC Conference leaders. They had put themselves in a position to win, and nobody had done that all season in the conference against Kirkwood.

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Bears season comes to abrupt end

Ryan Makovsky  
Banner Staff

The DMACC Bears men’s basketball team saw their season cut short on Sunday, losing to Iowa Central 53-71.

After winning their first game against Ellsworth 63-60 in the opening round of their conference tournament in Clinton, the Bears could not put it together to advance to tonight’s semifinals.

Despite the disappointing loss, Salmon summed up an otherwise successful season saying, “I was pleased with the periods of play I received from my freshman at times throughout the season.”

The second place finish in the conference reflected a final record of 13-5. Not a far cry from last year’s team that won the conference tournament and finished 4th in the national tournament.

Despite the loss of key contributing sophomores like Ian Young, Dominique Leake, and Charles Boyd, among others, Salmon feels confident his team can reload and field another successful team next season. “We’ll regroup, get a little more structure within our team, and just recruit the best players we can for next year.”

With that said, Salmon particularly stressed the importance of weight training to add needed strength and muscle to give his team the edge. “We’ll become a little more rigid, certainly with our spring training programs, especially our weight training and our conditioning.”

With a good training regimen and a good recruiting class, Salmon believes he can couple this with the nucleus and talent coming back next season. “I was pleased with the periods of play I received from my freshman at times throughout the season.”

Although the coach is confident in the prospects of his team next season, the loss of five sophomores will be a hit on the early stages of 2003-2004 campaign.

Gone are statistical leaders Ian Young and Dominique Leake. Also on to broader horizons are Jordan Jackson, Rafinee Williams, Charles Boyd, and Nick Knutson. “I think it’s all going to work out for the guys moving on, they all had good careers here for us,” Salmon explained.

“Junior College is just a steppingstone for these guys…they are all going to have opportunities somewhere else.”

With Coach Salmon continuing to build a highly touted program, there is no reason to believe that next year’s team won’t be a force within the conference.

College Hoops Quick Hitters

- Former DMACC standout forward and All-American Shelton Colwell had a solid season for Southwest Missouri St. Bearcats. He finished the season averaging 9.6 points, 4.8 rebounds, and a shade under one block a game. This all despite battling injury problems for the better half of the year.

- Colwell’s former DMACC teammate, Jamaal Jackson, averaged 1.7 points, 1.4 rebounds, and 1.6 assists a game for Siena College in University in New York.

- With Iowa St. slated to take on Texas A&M on Thursday at noon in the first round of the Big 12 tournament, they hope to win their first postseason tournament game since 2000.

- The Hawkeyes hope to win the rubber match against Ohio St. in the first round on Thursday at 1:30. A win would pit them up against Big Ten champion Wisconsin. This would be an upset special.

Qualm Column

Ryan Makovsky  
Banner Staff

College Basketball is in a state of apocalypse.

For any sports fan that has just came back from Mars, March Madness has taken on a new meaning.

Gonzaga, perhaps the most prolific mid-major program in college basketball today, was upset in the championship game of their conference tourney on Tuesday night.

For the first time in five years, they will not be receiving the automatic bid to the field of 65.

Unbelievably, this was not the biggest upset of the young tournament season, or the day for that matter.

The biggest upsets have been off the court.

St. Bonaventure, Fresno St., and Villanova have redefined upset. Or just upsetting.

With the exception of Villanova, the onus falls onto the coaches of these teams to explain why they destroyed their players’ opportunity to play in this year’s, and perhaps future postseason tournaments.

Is this fair to the players?

In the case of Fresno St., it isn’t even fair to their current coach, Richie Lopes.

Future punishment dished out to his program will be in response to his predecessor, Jerry Tarkanian and his uncovered unethical recruiting tactics.

It is being speculated that Tarkanian payed recruits during his five-year stint as Bulldog head coach.

In a similar situation at Georgia, coach Jim Harrick has been accused of academic fraud by a former player with credibility issues.

The only problem is that Harrick has been accused of this at the three previous schools he’s coached at.

Unfittingly, the three schools along with Georgia will all be punished. Not necessarily Harrick.

Perhaps the slimiest scandal is Jan Van Breda Kolf of St. Bonaventure.

Not only was he aware that he was letting an academically ineligible player participate in games this season, he encouraged the players to walk out on the season when the scandal was uncovered.

The coach made the mistake, but the players have been conned into taking the heat.

The same goes at Georgia, Fresno St., and other programs that have been punished for violating rules.

It seems as if the coaches and their superiors are making the mistakes, violating the rules, and deceiving their players.

So while the Georgia players, fans, and the university itself will be punished for this year and years to come, Harrick will be somewhere else next year, with no restrictions.
What are you doing for spring break?

Patty Rubin
Freshman
I’m going to catch up on my school work.

Jim Carstens
Freshman
Spending time with my brother, and drinking a few beers.

Okjoo Yoon
Sophomore
Spending time with my family and quilting.

Myka Loftus
Sophomore
I’m going to be working at Hickory Park.

Horoscopes by Pam

Aquarius (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19) You could soon receive news of an unexpected cash inflow. This might be money earned on your own, but it’s more likely to be investment income. Finance: Poor | Romance: Fair | Lucky Numbers: 5,17,21

Pisces (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20) If you are taking a trip any time soon you can expect a powerful attraction for someone you’ll meet. This will definitely make your journey more interesting. Finance: Poor | Romance: Good | Lucky Numbers: 6,13,24

Aries (Mar. 21 - April 20) Watch for an old friend when you attend an upcoming event. Don’t be surprised if they seem to have changed because you’ve always thought of this person as unique. Finance: Fair | Romance: Good | Lucky Numbers: 7,12,16

Taurus (Apr. 21 - May 21) You’ve been working hard at your current job and feel that no one has noticed. Watch for a thank you on an up coming pay check. Finance: Good | Romance: Fair | Lucky Numbers: 6,19,28

Gemini (May 22 - June 21) You could find yourself hosting a spur-of-the-moment party as friends bring others to you place. Take advantage of this social gathering to meet new people. Finance: Good | Romance: Fair | Lucky Numbers: 10,11,26

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Go outside and enjoy the changing season, and take a break from your very hectic schedule. Call up some friends to join you for a walk or a nice jog in the park. Finance: Poor | Romance: Good | Lucky Numbers: 9,19,25

Leo (July 23 - Aug 22) You’ve been releasing a lot of stress during mid-terms. With them over a considerable amount will be lifted off your shoulders. Finance: Good | Romance: Good | Lucky Numbers: 3,5,22

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 23) Some rather intense work might take up much of your time. You could find yourself in library or on the Internet, trying to find all the facts you need to complete this task. Finance: Good | Romance: Poor | Lucky Numbers: 4,7,18

Libra (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23) It’s a great time to take care of all those old tasks that have been weighing on you. You’ll be in a better mood after all these tasks are done. Finance: Good | Romance: Poor | Lucky Numbers: 9,15,27

Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Money and friendship rarely mix. Keep this in mind if a friend hits you up for a loan. As much as you would like to help, often it does more harm than good. Finance: Fair | Romance: Good | Lucky Numbers: 2,4,20

Sagittarius (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21) You would most likely prefer to just stay home and watch a good movie, but you can expect friends coming over wanting your company. Just go with it, it may be fun. Finance: Good | Romance: Fair | Lucky Numbers: 1,8,29

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan. 20) It might be time to say goodbye to a relationship that is holding you back. Remember to do what’s best for you and maybe in the future you could be back together. Finance: Fair | Romance: Fair | Lucky Numbers: 12,14,22

Spring Break
March 17--March 21

What college should be when you’re ready for the next step...

For transfer information contact
Gwen Schroder, director of transfer enrollment
800-362-2454 x1624

Indianola, Iowa - www.simpson.edu