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Banner News

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Nostalgic event raises scholarship money for students

Laura Griffin
Banner Staff

Stepping through the silver tinsel curtain, the era of records, poodle skirts and chocolate malts came alive. Even if it was only for one night, Maggie Stone, Iowa New Choices Coordinator, said, “It was fun, a flashback in time.”

Friday, Nov. 14 was the date set for Nifty Fifties, a fundraiser for scholarships, sponsored by the Boone Campus Foundation. A goal was set to sell 200 tickets. Each of 13 foundation members was given eight tickets to sell or buy.

The Boone Golf and Country Club was decorated with black and pink music notes, as well as streamers. Each table had a center-piece of a black and white checkered flag, two records, malts, Coke bottles, and candy. Jane Martino, a psychology instructor, said, “The decorations were amazing, and most of them were donated.”

When guests entered, they walked past a table full of door prizes to be given out throughout the evening. Prizes included a hostess set, timeshare, candles, athletic passes to DMACC sporting events, a DMACC throw, Pepsi products, golf balls and hats, a golf umbrella, a walking stick, two bottles of wine, a wind-suit and an oral hygiene basket, all donated by area businesses, faculty and staff.

As the guests proceeded into the main room, they got to have their picture taken by a cut out of Elvis and a jukebox. There they mixed and mingled. Dinner consisted of hamburgers with all the fixings, French fries, and chocolate malts.

However, dancing was the main event. Stone said, “Usually people just sit there when the music comes on, but there was definitely no hesitation to dance.”

Dic Youngs, a radio personality from KIOA, provided music and attitude throughout the night. “The credit for having him there has to go to our marketing department in Ankeny, especially Diane Downing Nelson,” Dean Vivian Brandmeyer said. Martino said about Youngs, “We like Youngsie, my generation does. He experienced our lives with us. It was a kick.”

Nancy Moeller, an office assistant, said, “I think everyone had a good time. It went back to our childhood.”

Many DMACC personalities from all campuses attended, including Rob Denson, DMACC president, his wife, and Dr. Wayne Rouse, Board of Directors.

Martino thought the turnout was amazing and that the people of Boone were very generous in supporting the students.

“It shows that even in tough economic times, people share what they have with the students,” Martino said.
Lighted holiday parade Thursday

DMACC’s Boone Campus will have two floats in Boone’s fourth annual Lighted Holiday Parade. One float is sponsored by the Rotaract Club and will show some of the outreach programs Rotaract is involved in. Members of Phi Beta Lambda, Rotaract, SAC, and Phi Theta Kappa are involved in constructing the other float. The parade will be Thursday, Nov. 20, starting at 7 p.m. on the corner of Boone Street and 5th Street. From there the parade will move to Story Street and continue north to 9th Street ending in the city parking lots at 9th and Keeler, where the floats will be on display. At 8:15 p.m. there will be a tree lighting ceremony at Heritage Park, on 9th and Story, and sing-along caroling for the whole community.

Jane Martino, advisor to Rotaract said, “I believe Christmas is about giving to the community what the community needs.” The Rotaract has membership in the local Rotary giving students the chance to participate in local events and interact with community leaders. Some of the outreach programs Rotaract is involved in are “Toys for DMACC Tots” and providing books for newborns at the Boone County Hospital.

Nancy Woods, advisor to Phi Theta Kappa, is organizing the other float project with the theme being “Picture Us at DMACC” fitting into the overall theme of the parade “A Picture Perfect Place To Be.” The float will be constructed Wednesday, Nov. 19, around 3 p.m., in the Boone campus parking lot. Woods extends an invitation to all students “To Come and Help.”

Online offers opportunity

Wendy Goering
Banner Staff

Four years ago DMACC was awarded a grant from eCollege to offer online classes.

Dean Vivian Brandmeyer said, “Classes were developed to accommodate people whose schedules made it very hard to continue their education.” Brandmeyer also added, “This opportunity targeted shift workers, people with special circumstances, etc.”

There are many classes offered online, however they may be difficult to register for. The Director of Distance Learning, Pat Thieben, said, “We are trying to add more sections within the classes already being offered. However, some of the instructors do not have time.”

A first year student, Ranea Bell, who works at my own pace.” She also added, “It does take self motivation, but it’s great as long as you’re lucky enough to get into the class itself and if the instructor has the time.”

We want full classes.” Thieben said. “We are constantly monitoring the classes and doing our best to come up with solutions for our students.”

Darin Longman, a student, said, “I have taken online courses and found that it was more hassle than it was worth.” He also added, “There isn’t the ‘one-on-one’ attention and it’s easy to fall behind if you don’t have a lot of self discipline.”

Thieben concluded, “Online classes are not for everyone. Contrary to popular belief, they are not easy. It takes a lot of discipline.”

Students who are interested need to get the Online Handbook. Information is also available online at www.DMACC.edu.

Introducing new internet portal

DMACC– Microsoft is working with the college on a Share Point Portal system that could change the way users log on.

Ann Watts, the instructional design coordinator for DMACC, has come up with the Portal idea.

A portal is primarily a site that reorganizes information to cater to specific individual that is using it at that time. People will be able to have their own preferences on the DMACC portal page. The DMACC campuses that have a news paper would be able to put it online.

Using the portal students can find web pages faster that contain more of the factual information they are looking for. Instructors can also make their own web page which students can click onto and find the site they need for an assignment.

“The web no one knows if you are who you say you are. There is no rule that you have to put your name on the web page. This way students can be sure they are getting the right information,” said Watts.

Watts has been through three different versions of this Portal system. With the Internet worms, being spread around, Watts had to deal with many different problems. The goal is 100% up time which hasn’t happened yet. Watts is optimistic it will happen in the future with the Portal being available on all DMACC campuses buy next semester.

“The roll out for this won’t take any time at all. We just need to reorganize the information which is already there. The big deal is getting people to use it. There will be people who catch on right away and people who won’t see the need for it,” said Watts.

Cost for the Portal is $10,000 per year with upgrade of $1,700. The Portal site will be found at www.my.dmacc.edu.

In DMACC News

“Get on Track”

Phi Beta Lambda and Phi Theta Kappa are teaming up to organize this annual giving event.

Bring any nonperishable food items, personal hygiene items and new or gently used books and place them in the boxes in the breezeway to the Courter Center by no later than Dec. 8.

All items will be given to needy groups and organizations, such as the shelter in Boone, the Visiting Nurses Association and the Boone County Hospital.

Holiday Parade

The 4th annual Holiday Parade is Thursday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. downtown Boone on Story Street between 5th and 9th Streets.

DMACC Boone campus’s entry is “Picture Yourself at DMACC!” Students will be working together on the entry on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 19.

Any old Christmas decorations, such as lights, garland, imitation trees or large picture frames are wanted. Bring them with you to the decorating of the float. These donations will save student organizations from purchasing them.

Christmas Tree Dedication

Phi Beta Lambda will be decorating the Christmas tree in the Courter Center on Wednesday Nov. 19, from 11 a.m. to noon. At noon there will be a special dedication of the tree decorating in memory of Gary Johnson.

Vivian has been asked to officially light the tree.

The decorations are donated by Gary’s family. The decorating theme will be DMACC’s royal blue colors.

Correction

Sarah Whitford was incorrectly identified as Patty Rockwell in the picture of the cast of “Steel Magnolias” in the last issue.
College students meet to support candidate

Darin Longman
Banner Staff

The Boheme isn’t normally thought of as a place that could decide a presidential election, but for the “Cyclones for Dean” it could be the starting point to catapult their candidate of choice to the goal.

On Nov. 9, a group of Iowa State students met at the Boheme to discuss how to get the word out to others about the “Colligate Commitment for Change,” an event where Howard Dean will be speaking.

The group spent the majority of the meeting talking about passing out fliers to draw students to the event, scheduled for 5:15 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 14 at the Memorial Union’s South Ballroom. Jesse Wilcox, the new president of the group, hopes that the event will be a success.

“We are hoping for a thousand or more. I feel that goal is easily attainable if we get the word out,” Wilcox said.

Nicolai Brown agreed that the turnout would be large, “I haven’t seen a single Howard Dean event that wasn’t overwhelming.”

It is not surprising though that so many have been taking an interest in backing Dean. He is the stand out candidate among college age students. “He has really good support from 18-24-year-olds. He really relates well to college age students,” said Jennifer Riggs, vice president of Cyclones for Dean.

“One reason Dean appeals to young voters [is that] a lot of politicians in general ignore them. Dean reaches out and talks about youth issues; a lot of candidates don’t reach out to us,” said Hannah Schoenthal-Muse, President of ISU Democrats, and current member of the group.

Not only has Dean drawn support from college students who have already taken an active role in politics, but he found some support from unlikely sources as well. “Young people that weren’t involved [in politics] before are getting involved, rallying around candidates such as Dean,” Brown said.

One of the reasons that Dean has amassed his support is through what Wilcox called a “grass roots movement,” coupled by his stance on issues that supposedly matter to college students, such as healthcare.

Brown supports the plan for a healthcare system that will be instituted for “virtually all Americans, a full nationalized healthcare.”

One of the other big issues that affects students is the war. Drew Miller, member of Time for Peace, a local campus antiwar group felt disillusioned with his group’s antiwar views, citing that they were against war in general and not against the war in Iraq for any particular reason. He later found that Dean had other similar views.

“I didn’t think people shared my reasons for [being against] the Iraq war. I felt that Dean did. I think Dean is the most logical and consistent [of all the candidates] for war when we are attacked and against war when we are not. It doesn’t get much simpler than that.”

Others are in support of Dean because of a lack of faith in the current administration. “I think Bush has done a horrible job,” said Schoenthal. “Bush has been a radical conservative extremist. Dean is the opposite.”

Application deadline for study abroad program approaching

Pam Snow
Banner Staff

Study in London Spring 2004. See the Globe Theater, the medieval Stonehenge, social life in the London pubs and much more.

The study abroad program is available to all Iowa college communities. Students stay in Bloomsbury for 10 weeks. The University of London is located there as well as many tourist sites. Classes are four days a week, so students have time to travel around and take in the life.

Dr. Alan Hutchison, English teacher on the Ankeny campus, is the lead teacher for the study in London program. “It is a great way for students to learn about other ways of life.”

The program fee per person is $4,335. This does not include airfare, passport, meals, and spending money. Students should be looking at a grand total of $8,700. Students can get financial aid to help pay if they qualify.

“This may seem expensive but students must realize that if they study abroad while a student at a university, they would spend much more,” said Hutchison. “Internships are also available where students can work in a London business. If you have international experience on your resume it would take you to the top of the pile.”

Students stay at a home stay with a fellow college student. A home stay is not like being a foreign exchange student. Students are boarders which have their own bed and a space for their own food. Breakfast is provided.

Maura Nelson, coordinator for the Study Abroad Program at DMACC said, “What the students take home with them is the most important thing. They often come home and tell how the program changed their lives.”

“The study abroad program was a great way for me to go to another country that I may never have gotten to go to. The people are very nice and the other students help each other out,” said Emily Vinson, former DMACC student.

Vinson has been to London and Germany for study abroad programs. She graduated from DMACC and now goes to the University of Iowa where she is still involved with the study of other countries and is planning to spend the summer in Japan.

Many students don’t think 10 weeks is enough to take everything in so many find other places to stay and travel around to Germany, Ireland and many other places.

“If they wish to stay they can change the plane tickets, and hostels are around $9 a night,” said Hutchison.

Students must have a 2.0 GPA and take 12 credit hours to be eligible for the study abroad program. Students must also take British life and culture class which is where the traveling comes in.

Applications and deposits are due by Dec. 5 and final payments are due by Dec. 19.

...
Walking into the Boheme last Wednesday night was almost like walking into another world where nothing was as it seemed. Five beautiful women performed to a highly excited crowd. But, all of these women were actually men, female impersonators or drag queens.

That was the first drag show I had ever attended, and I had one of the best times that I have ever had.

Vanessa Taylor, the star of the show was also mistress of ceremony. Taylor seemed at ease in front of the crowd and often used wit, humor and sarcasm to win over the audience. At the beginning of the show Taylor said, “We do accept tips…dollars…new twenty dollar bills.”

Each woman performed to songs, such as Aretha Franklin’s “Freedom,” while working the crowd for tips, and just overall exhibiting energy and pizzazz.

One of the definite highlights of the night was when Critiqa Mann performed as Saturday Night Live’s Mary Katherine Gallagher. Mann appeared wearing the SNL traditional costume of plaid school skirt and SNL monogrammed vest.

The performance began with a monologue by Mann as Gallagher, and then turned into her normal routine of smelling her hands after putting them in her armpits and excessive jumping. Mann did a wonderful reenactment of the SNL parody, and it seemed to be a crowd favorite.

I also have to give credit to Tonisha Taylor for wearing a two piece costume that included a thong. As a female I would never be caught wearing a thong in public. But, not only did Taylor wear a thong in public, she seemed extremely comfortable and proud of what she could show off.

In total there were five drag queens who took the stage for the show. The performers were Vanessa Taylor, Tonisha Taylor, Evian Waters, Kitti Taylor, and special guests Anita Mann and Critiqa Mann from Peoria, Ill.

The night proved that men can dress as women wearing fringe, one-piece jumpsuits, and fiber optic wigs, and still look good doing it. In my opinion this is one show that everyone should see at least once if you want to have a great time.

Those interested in seeing this show can go to the Boheme, located on West Street in Ames, IA, the second Wednesday of each month. There is a $5 cover charge, and patrons need to be over the age of 18.

Drag show provides entertainment and variety

Photos by Roxann Stoker

All performers after the drag show thank audience for coming.

Critiqa Mann does the splits during her portrayal of Catherine Zeta Jones in “Chicago.”
Waddy selected GWC scholar

Shanae Longman
Banner Staff
Shanae Waddy is a typical student at DMACC. She is a 21-year-old student who does student work in the Campus Cafe, and hopes to one day be a teacher. Waddy seems very similar to any of the students you might find on campus, but she is special in the fact that she is one of the few who has been selected for a unique opportunity, the George Washington Carver Teacher Education Program. It is a collaborative degree program that involves DMACC, Simpson College and Iowa State University.

The program is designed so that working adults can become teachers. The end result is teacher certification, an associate of arts degree from DMACC and a joint bachelor of arts degree from ISU and Simpson.

The program was created because of the lack of minority teachers on an elementary and high school level. Eligibility for the program requires high school education, and being a member of a minority group. Those who apply need to submit a completed application and previous transcripts. Applicants must also satisfy all assessment requirements and attend the orientation session. Waddy has weathered the process and is ready to reap the benefits after having gone through the final interview process.

The program allows members to work at a full time job, and get the education that they seek in a 10-week course schedule.

“The program guarantees my success by the way that it’s set up,” Waddy said.

The classes take place at the Des Moines Higher Education Collaborative on 460 Locust St. where classes are attended two nights a week.

Waddy originally heard about the program through an employee of Iowa State University that happened to attend the same church. Waddy felt very positive about being accepted.

“I felt very blessed because of the price of it,” Waddy said referring to the fact that she would be taking credits to earn ISU and Simpson degree with credits priced the same as DMACC credits. “At either of the big schools it would be hard to afford. The program is catered towards working adults; these types of opportunities are one in a million.”

For more information on the program contact Dr. James Wright by phone at 515-284-

Commentary

40th anniversary of JFK assassination Nov. 22

Josh Hutt
Banner Staff

It took only a few seconds for Dealey Plaza to become a dark location in American history.

Saturday will mark the 40th anniversary of the assassination of President John Kennedy. Most anniversaries consist of celebration, but Nov. 22 will be a day of remembrance.

Although most students were born after the assassination of JFK, it is a moment that still lives on in American history. This raises the problem of finding the truth of what happened in Dallas.

During those moments in Dallas, the American public received minute-by-minute updates of the assassination through the news media, which had to have the facts straight during this delicate situation. America was in the heat of the Cold War, and the Vietnam War was getting bigger. The public was still recovering from the Cuban Missile Crisis. Any error by any of the networks might have caused a national panic. After Walter Cronkite emotionally confirmed the death of Kennedy, the public wanted the killer.

Lee Harvey Oswald worked at the Texas School Book Depository stacking books. He had spent time in Russia and had a background of being a Communist. So when Oswald disappeared from the building shortly after the assassination, he was a suspect. Oswald walked to his boarding house, grabbed his revolver and left.

According to witnesses, Oswald was walking on the sidewalk until a police car stopped him in his tracks. Officer J.D. Tippit got out of his car and proceeded toward Oswald. Oswald then shot Tippit several times and ran away. He was found in the Texas Theater and was brought out to a fleet of police cars and a screaming mob.

After hours of interrogation Oswald never confessed. He proclaimed his innocence

On Nov. 24, Oswald was being led to a truck that would transfer him to county jail. As he walked to the truck, Jack Ruby swiftly moved through the crowd and shot Oswald in the abdomen. Oswald died within an hour, ending any chance of getting the truth. Ruby’s excuse for killing Oswald was he didn’t want Jackie Kennedy to testify at Oswald’s trial. Ruby died in prison on Jan. 3, 1967.

Kennedy’s funeral was televised live to an audience of millions. The funeral was held in Washington, D.C. The funeral train included state and world leaders. The most emotional moment was when President Kennedy’s 3-year-old son, “John John,” stood out and saluted his father’s casket as it passed by.

Shortly after Oswald’s death President Lyndon Johnson appointed the Warren Commission to “evaluate all the facts and circumstances surrounding the assassination and the subsequent killing of the alleged assassin.” The Commission found Oswald was the lone assassin. The report answered, according to many sources.

The only person to be brought to trial for the assassination was Clay Shaw. He was brought to trial by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison. Before the trial many key witnesses were killed. Shaw was found not guilty. Oliver Stone’s movie “JFK” was based on the events that led to the trial.

The American public received broken promises and the question of what might have been that day in Dallas. Kennedy started to pull troops out of Vietnam and began peace talks with Russia to attempt to end the Cold War.

There have been a great deal of writings of assorted conspiracy theories about the assassination but we still are no closer to the truth than we were that day at Dealey Plaza, 40 years ago when innocence was lost and a country was robbed of its leader.
Campuses contribute to Toys for Tots

Christine Carter
Contributing writer

You have probably already noticed the boxes marked Toys for Tots that are located around the various DMACC campuses.

Judy McCrary, Project Coordinator for Accounting Professionalism is working with the Iowa Marine Corps to collect new toys and donations for this year’s Toys for Tots Program. The donation boxes are quite easy to spot. They are covered in Christmas wrapping paper and they bear the Toys for Tots logo.

If you would like to participate, purchase a new toy and drop it in a box at your campus. The deadline for donations is Dec. 6.

Toys for Tots was founded in 1947 and every year it gets bigger and bigger. According to Sgt. Norgart, the coordinator for DMACC’s Toys for Tots collection, the Des Moines Toys for Tots Program nationally ranked in the top three for the last five years. In 2001, Iowa ranked number one and in 2002, the state ranked number two based on donations received. “Working with the community to raise awareness is key to the success of our program here in Iowa,” said Norgart. “We [the Marines] would never achieve such tremendous results without such dedicated community involvement.”

In Iowa, there are over 260 churches or outreach programs working with the Marine Corps. They are in charge of matching the new toys with the families in need. One of these organizations is All Nation Church of God In Christ. Deacon Kemp, who is in charge of the program there, will be responsible for designating the families in his location that are in need, and he will also handle the actual distribution of the new toys to children who need them the most.

According to the Toys for Tots website, the mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys each year and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children within the community in which the campaign is conducted. They help needy children throughout the United States experience the joy of Christmas.

The following actual account reveals that even the smallest positive influence can make a lasting impression on a child, and motivate him/her to pursue a path to a productive adulthood.

Aaron Jacobs grew up in a poor family on a small farm in South Carolina. The only toys he and his sibling received at Christmas were those provided by Marines from a nearby Marine Corps Reserve Unit. When Jacobs finished high school he enlisted in the Marine Corps and has progressed from Private to Staff Sergeant. While stationed in Washington, D.C. in the early 1990’s, Jacobs had an opportunity to work with the local Toys for Tots Program.

Because of the positive impact the Marines and their Toys for Tots program had on him, he volunteered to work on Toys for Tots during his off duty hours. Jacobs wanted to be a role model for needy children just as Marines had been for him. Jacobs proudly boasts that Toys for Tots played a major role in molding his life. Today, he is doing his part to help today’s children follow his lead.

Phi Beta Lambda select officers for 2004

President: Karen Shepard
Major: Liberal arts.
Future plans: Transfer to a radiology program.
About PBL: “PBL has given me confidence to do the things I want to do. Being president has been a wonderful experience. I never thought I would ever hold an office of any kind. A wonderful experience for everyone.”

Vice President: Anthony Morris
Major: Accounting--para-professional
Future plans: I hope to become a LPA.
About PBL: “I enjoyed the camaraderie of the spring state conference and torturing candidates at the delegate luncheon.”

SAC Representative for PBL: Kristi Hanson.
Major: Accounting specialist.
About PBL: “I have enjoyed being in PBL and being able to meet new people.”

Secretary: Audra Mosha.
Major: Accounting.
About PBL: “I was a member of PBL my first time at DMACC in 1999. I love all the activities we do for the students, staff and community.”

Administrative Asst. Parliamentarian: Jonell Keleher.
About PBL: “PBL is a great way to meet and interact with fellow students.”

Not pictured:
Treasurer: Lori Johnson

Help PBL decorate a Christmas Tree Nov. 19 at noon in the Courter Center.

Thanksgiving break begins Wed. Nov. 26 @ 3 p.m.
Matrix: Revolutions disappoints fans

Holly Losh  
Banner Staff

Going into see “Matrix: Revolutions” I had a fairly high expectation for the movie due to the actors involved, the plot, and all of the hype. I walked out of the movie feeling extremely disappointed, and upset that I spent money to see it in the theater. When the original “Matrix” came out it made people think about the philosophical side of the story, plus it had amazing fight sequences. When the second installment, “Matrix: Reloaded,” came I was a little bit disappointed in the quality of the film. However, I thought that there would be redemption in the final movie. How wrong I was!

The basis of Revolutions was purely a fight between good and evil, the humans versus the machines. They did also include the super villain Agent Smith (Hugo Weaving), a foe to both humans and machines. How many times have you seen a movie with this premise?

I have no problem with this type of plot. But, I do have a problem with it being put so blatantly in our faces when a movie tries hard to stress a philosophical point.

During the film the point of the movie can be taken with different meanings even those not intended by the writers. I think a lot of it has to do with two different religions, Neo being the savior and Smith being the opposite. Man made the machines in his likeness, and God made man in his likeness. I didn’t like that,” said Mic Young, 22, Ames.

With a movie that made technical advances in the fighting genre, the Wachowski Brothers haven’t gone any further in that advancement than allowing Neo to fly. After seeing this I wanted to leave the theater immediately because I found this so out of the bounds of imaginable reality, and just plain stupid.

The final battle between Neo and Agent Smith definitely lacks something to be desired. It was supposed to be colossal battle, but it was lacking in believable emotion due to the acting, and was just trite and boring due to the repetition. It seems that they were more concerned with the fighting sequences between the machines and Zion, and Neo (Keanu Reeves) and Agent Smith (Weaving) than the overall plot of the movie.

“I didn’t like that they drew out the fighting parts,” said Natalie Topp, 20, Ames. about to the battle between Zion and the machines, which seemed to last for at least an hour. During this hour the same thing happened over and over again. The humans tried to beat the machines with unbelievably low odds of actually winning.

“I liked it, but there’s something about it doesn’t really strike me as good. Something was missing from the movie that would make it really good, and I’m a fan. I should know.” said Chad Furman, 27, Ames.

The one thing I can suggest to those who plan on seeing the film is to watch “The Animatrix,” “The Matrix” and “Matrix: Reloaded,” before you go see the final movie. By doing this, things will make a little more sense in Revolutions. But overall, the people leaving the theater felt confused about some parts of the movie.

Family Guy box set provides weekend fun

Lacey Dierks  
Banner Staff

Saturday night was a grueling evening of doing absolutely nothing at all. The night was so dull that the boxed set of “Family Guy” cartoons sitting on top of a friend’s t.v. looked exceedingly enticing.

“Family Guy” is a cartoon on Fox about a family called the Griffins, a seemingly normal family from Quahog, R.I. There’s Lois, the dedicated mother and homemaker; Peter, the father who means well but doesn’t ever quite make it; Meg, the 16-year-old daughter who constantly struggles with self-image and the effort to become popular; Chris, the 13-year-old son who constantly struggles with self-image and the effort to become popular; Chris, the 13-year-old son with a heart of gold but a definite shortage of brain cells; Stewie, the 1-year-old baby of the family who has grand plans to kill his mother and take over the world; and Brian, the alcoholic family dog who just can’t quite accept the fact that he is, in fact, just a dog.

In this boxed set, there was humor, there was sarcasm, there was irony… and there were also pointless events that were included for no reason at all. I especially liked the episode in which Meg gets a job as a waitress at a pancake house to earn money for a Prada bag and told the customers Stewie was her crack-addicted son in an effort to gather more tips. Why didn’t I think of that?

The episodes have recurring themes, such as jokes about the Fox Television Network and Stewie’s attempts to murder Lois. Meg always has a social crisis, and Peter always seems to be able to magnify that crisis and embarrass her even more. Chris can never seem to figure out just where babies come from, and Brian drinks his sorrows away.

Nearly 40 episodes is a lot for one Saturday night, even for mindless lumps such as myself. I only watched roughly eight to ten episodes, but what I did see, I loved.

“Family Guy” ran on Fox for three seasons, and was taken off the air in May 2000. However, you can still catch old episodes on Fox.

On a scale from one to ten, I’d give the set of DVD’s a nine. At around $100 for seasons one through three, the set is somewhat expensive, and you have to have a certain type of humor (mindless or dry) to enjoy them, but once you do start watching, I guarantee you’ll get hooked for one reason or another.
Reviews
She says: ‘Steel Magnolias’ was wonderful

Laura Anderson
Banner Staff

Sitting front row center anxiously waiting for the lemon colored curtains to disappear to the sides, I could hardly wait to see one of my favorite movies in person. At 7:30 p.m. the curtains pulled open and thus began “Steel Magnolias,” DMACC drama department’s fall play.

I was immediately flabbergasted at the scenery that appeared to be doused with Pepto Bismol. Pink is not my favorite color. The pictures on the walls and the bottles of shampoos, conditioners, and nail polishes led anyone to realize we were in a beauty shop. After my initial shock, I quickly became accustomed to it and focused my attention on Annelle and Truvy. Annelle showed us her hair styling talents and allowed us to see we must be set in the late 1980s as Truvy’s hair was teased and ratted beyond belief. Their loud clothes and big hair overruled the backdrop, and I settled in for what I hoped would be a night of laughter, and, if it was any good, tears.

The rest of the cast soon entered the beauty shop on stage and sweet southern accents filled the theater. The bickering and bantering seemed to float in with the accents filled the theater. The bickering and bantering seemed to float in with the accents filled the theater. The bickering and bantering seemed to float in with the accents filled the theater. The bickering and bantering seemed to float in with the accents filled the theater. The bickering and bantering seemed to float in with the accents filled the theater. The bickering and bantering seemed to float in with the accents filled the theater.

The plot unfolds through the characters as they wear all the things women crave- a beauty salon, pampering and gossip. It offers life lessons that everyone can benefit from. Life is short and precious. And through all of life’s ups and downs, sometimes what you need the most are the people right in front of you, your friends.

In the end, as Truvy had explained that her favorite emotion was laughter through tears, I had to agree. I would guess there wasn’t a dry eye in the theater, or at least not a dry female eye. I laughed and I cried. But the play wasn’t good, it was great.

What made it so great was the acting. I couldn’t have found a better Clairee or M’Lynn if I tried. Clairee even looked like the Clairee I see when I close my eyes! M’Lynn’s calm, sweet demeanor is typical of a concerned mother and she played her part beautifully. Both the actresses who played these parts did an amazing job and were very believable as their characters. Clairee was undeniably southern and sophisticated with a flare of sarcasm. M’Lynn was an excellent mother and friend who can deliver a powerful speech and still keep her composure.

With the help of the actresses who played these two roles, it’s no wonder such a wonderful production transpired.

DMACC students performed “Steel Magnolias” this past weekend in Boone.

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He says: ‘Steel Magnolias’ is ‘women’s territory’

Josh Hutt
Banner Staff

“Steel Magnolias, huh?”

That is the answer I got when I told friends and co-workers what I was doing Saturday night. “Steel Magnolias” is the first play I have ever attended. I really had no idea what I was getting myself into.

I have to be honest; The “Steel Magnolias” movie was entertaining. Shirley MacLain as Ouiser was my favorite character with smart attitude and sarcastic humor. But it is considered a chick flick by guy standards. I knew the play wasn’t going to have much violence or off color humor.

The setting takes place in a small hair salon in Chinquapin, La., where six women sit around and gossip while getting their hair and nails done. Unlike the movie, the play is set only in the salon. The plot unfolds through the characters as they primp for the events about to happen. It reminds me of the Red Green Show. Red tells the plot of the show to the viewers by telling the story. Red enters the lodge with his story and his friends enter with their point of view on what is going on.

The play was better than I anticipated. I thought the cast was well prepared. Emotions were high through performances. The age range of the cast made the story more believable. You meet the characters one by one and you get a sense of their personalities. The play was more centered on Shelby and how she somehow helped or changed the lives of the ladies in the hair salon. The play was stuck in the salon but the actresses somehow made you believe there was a world outside of the salon.

Being a 21 year old guy, I like my beer cold and my steaks hot, so I might not spend an average Saturday night at a play about a bunch of women chit-chatting in a salon while getting their hair done. The only thing that would have appealed to guys was a gun found in a purse, and it wasn’t even used.

There was a line in the play that best describes my thoughts. It was said by one character, who was explaining why her husband doesn’t set foot in that salon. The line was, “It is women’s territory.”

DMACC did a great job in remaking the movie into a shorter version without leaving anything out. The audience could tell by the work of the students that a lot of time was put into this presentation. It ended sadly but with a positive thought. The students who put all that time deserved a standing ovation. It was a pleasant performance and had all the criteria needed for a good play.

Lowe’s lowdown on performance

Shawntae Lowe
Contributing Writer

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Upcoming area concerts

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Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 20) Over the next few days, close relatives may rely on your advice, wisdom and social advice. Financial restrictions will gradually fade. Finance: Good | Romance: Poor | Lucky Numbers:2,16,27

Taurus (April 21-May 20) Money discussions may be unusually complex over the next few days. Friends and relatives will easily misinterpret key information. Finance: Good | Romance: Fair | Lucky Numbers:5,13,20

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Share all ideas with trusted companions and find positive ways to regain perspective. Recently discussed career plans will soon be put into action. Finance: Poor | Romance: Poor | Lucky Numbers:8,12,22

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Someone close may wish to explore a new level of commitment and trust. Carefully consider all consequences. Passions will be high. Finance: Good | Romance: Fair | Lucky Numbers:8,12,18

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Expect distant companions or past acquaintances to reappear. Unresolved relationships may soon be the focus of discussions. Finance: Poor | Romance: Fair | Lucky Numbers:3,19,20

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Pay special attention to fast changes in relationships. At present, positive displays of assurance will bring improvements to you life. Finance: Poor | Romance: Poor | Lucky Numbers:2,14,17

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Younger friends or relatives rely heavily on your advice. Stay focused on them and stick to your own advice. Finance: Good | Romance: Good | Lucky Numbers:5,11,23

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22) Expect roommates or relatives to be moody or quick to judge. Take none of it personally. Finance: Good | Romance: Fair | Lucky Numbers:5,11,23

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) In coming weeks, both emotional and financial security will increase. Respond honestly to all proposals or suggestions. Finance: Good | Romance: Fair | Lucky Numbers:5,8,20

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Rethink your decision to loan someone money. You may never see it again. Finance: Good | Romance: Good | Lucky Numbers:2,11,19

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Before midweek, you may encounter an important breakthrough to a problem you have been facing. Be honest. Your observations are valid. Finance: Good | Romance: Fair | Lucky Numbers:10,15,19

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) Friends may soon reveal their emotional needs. Take time to help them out with any questions they may have. Finance: Fair | Romance: Fair | Lucky Numbers:7,12,17

Something Corporate maintains image

Darin Longman
Banner Staff

Whether you like pianos or not, Something Corporate has proven time and again that they belong in a rock band.

The Southern California five-piece made their mark on the college radio scene with previous albums, “Audioboxer” and “Leaving through the Window.” The Drive Thru Records band has just released their new album “North.”

The record is essentially a rock album laced with lead singer, and pianist Andrew McMahon’s beautiful melodies. The only problem is that at first listen, the use of the piano that is a permanent fixture in the band seems at times kind of redundant.

What upsets this near redundancy is that Andrew McMahon is a great lyricist. The 19-year-old’s writing ability is uncanny. Any aspiring songwriter would give their right eye for a half hour with his muse.

McMahon touches on the subject of lost love mostly but occasionally he breaks that rule. One such case on the record is “Me and the Moon” a song about a wife murdering her spouse. The song is slightly disturbing. One cannot help but sympathize with the killing after McMahon croons “Seventeen years and all he gave was a daughter.”

Songs like “Miss America” and “She Paints Me Blue” truly are anthems of heartbreak, but manage to invoke many different feelings. It is amazing how something structured on tragedy could be uplifting but when McMahon unleashes “You are my reason for breathing from”
Letter To The Editor

Cafe tries to accommodate everyone

This is in regard to the article in the Banner in the November 5th issue written by April Walker, Banner Staff. I would like to say a few things about her article. I am sorry that she cannot eat pork products.

A lot of people, myself included, have food allergies or problems with certain types of food and the digestive system. Do I make a real big issue of it? NO! I just stay away from the foods I can’t eat. (They serve some of them at the snack bar.) I know that they don’t serve pork products every day. We have other items on the menu besides pork.

For breakfast, we have bagels with cream cheese, muffins, doughnuts, granola bars and fruit. They also serve ham egg and cheese, or sausage egg and cheese biscuits and breakfast pockets. On some days we serve biscuits and gravy, the latter being one of the days we serve biscuits and gravy, the latter of these do have pork products.

At lunch we serve salads, lettuce and pasta, hot sandwiches, such as chicken breast, hamburgers, tenderloins, Mr. Ribs, Italian sausage, with some of these being pork products. We also have cold sandwiches like turkey and swiss, chicken salad, tuna salad, and ham and cheese.

We also serve different kinds of soup daily. Some of which are vegetarian soups. We serve a hot dish like chicken casserole, enchiladas, walking tacos, and scalloped potatoes and ham.

We usually offer a variety of foods. I know at times, especially at noon, the food pickings get to be slim to none for some items, but you must remember than when you close at 1:00 p.m. and it takes time to make some of the items and to clean up. We have micro-waved a few hamburgers for some people, but some of the items don’t taste very good nuked. We try accommodating everyone, but sometimes it just can’t be done.

I know April has a right to voice her opinion, and so I’m using my right to voice mine. We are not a FIVE STAR restaurant, or a short order one. We are a snack bar, so we serve snack type foods. We try our best to be friendly, helpful and fast.

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The sheer thought of bringing home a complete stranger to those that bore me gives me shivers up my spine. My spine isn’t the only thing that is affected. My brain has fallen victim as well. It does nothing but concoct terrifying scenarios of how the Thanksgiving break could turn into a nightmare. The visions are colored that we evolve things like verbal arguing and even reach far into the absurd, such as a light saber fight between my special lady and my mother, or “Twenty paces, turn and fire” between my Dad and my lady friend.

I think the reality of the situation is less grim. I just want my girlfriend to think my parents like her and feel welcome, and I want my parents to legitimately accept her as well. Two important pieces of the puzzle that is my life, and I want those pieces to fit together and have the big picture look right. If this occurs I could avoid a mental breakdown, for which I would certainly be thankful.

Dean’s Hard Message, Soro’s Soft Money

James Joy
Banner Staff

Howard Dean’s decision to give up federally matched funds has been coined “a decision to avoid special interest money.” But if he wins the nomination, he will be the benefactor of a soft money spending frenzy.

George Soros, billionaire liberal activist, has become the most important fund raising machine that the democrats have today.

Mr. Soros has long been a supporter of finance reform; remember the reform we often hear about in the news that banned large “soft” money donations to each party. Soros, who has pledged $15.5 million of his own money, has found new routes to send money to aid in the advancement of his political agenda. He has pledged $10 million dollars to America Coming Together, (ACT), a new organization that has vowed to spend $75 million dollars to defeat President Bush next year.

Liberal organizations focused on defeating our president are expected to raise over $400 million dollars by election time, already collecting over $150 million. One of the top money men in these organizations, Soros has vowed that beating President Bush is “a matter of life and death.”

It is obvious why Dean can give up federally matched funds with the size of soft money that awaits him if gains the nomination from the Democratic Party. Mr. Soros has already hosted a September fund-raising event for Dean in his New York home. He seems hard to believe that Dean would not be influenced by Soros in the event of a Dean nomination and win.

Dean will have a hard message against Bush if he is nominated, but don’t think that it is financed by those five dollar internet donations from Dean.com.

The World According To D

Darin Longman
Banner Staff

Thanksgiving is pretty simple really; it’s a time for giving thanks. I personally look at it as a break from school (Yippee), but it is more than that. Thanksgiving is a time of food, family and football. It involves many things: mashed potatoes, Indians, stuffing, pilgrims, and this year, a possible problem for everyone’s favorite Banner staff member and all-around great-guy, me.

Now that I have put my ego back in its box, let me explain. This year the normal conventions of Thanksgiving have been overshadowed by the scary fact that I am bringing my girlfriend home to meet the parents.

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Behind the Desk

Wendy Goering
Banner Staff

As the weather gets colder we can look forward to enjoying the wonderful winter holidays. We’ve made it through Halloween, so now we can look forward to ……Christmas? No, wait. I have forgotten something! I haven’t, but it feels like everyone else has. Thanksgiving!

I can’t look anywhere without seeing it. Christmas decorations cover the downtown Boone streets, Christmas trees at every glance in the malls, and Christmas music in almost every store I walk into. Why are people skipping Thanksgiving?

It is, after all, a very important holiday which holds a significant amount of our nation’s history.

Thanksgiving Day commemorates the harvest by the Plymouth Colony in 1621. Along with the Native Americans they enjoyed a wonderful feast. They were celebrating a victory of great achievement after suffering great loss due to starvation during the winter months. They worked together in a family atmosphere and for three days enjoyed each other’s company and knowledge. Is that not important? Is that not what this nation needs? People working together in peaceful and knowledgeable ways?

Even if only for one day – plus leftovers – it is a wonderful thought. After all, Thanksgiving is not loaded with the pressure and religious restrictions that some of our other holidays are. The worst that can happen is a dry turkey, lumpy gravy, and the occasional burnt rolls. At best, we still enjoy the comfort of our loved ones, and, of course, a good football game.

So, the next time you pass by a beautiful Christmas tree or a couple of singing Santas, just remember, it’s fine to “deck the halls,” but not until we’ve stuffed the turkey, and given thanks.
Women stumble at JCCC tourney

Ryan Makovsky
Banner Staff

The DMACC women’s basketball team continued their quest for national respect this past weekend at the Johnson County Tournament in Overland Park, Kansas. Although the Bears lost both games in the tournament, the two losses came at the hands nationally ranked teams.
The first loss came at the hands of the tournament’s host, fourteenth ranked Johnson Community College, 63-79.
The second game was a loss to tenth ranked Penn Valley Community College, 61-69.

Despite the two losses, Coach Ben Conrad acknowledged that his team is not that far from where they want to be. “We’re not far, really, we played two nationally ranked teams this weekend…Penn Valley had two girls who were over 6’5.”

Optimism aside, Coach Conrad’s disappointment was apparent during the interview. “I think we have to get more committed defensively and to rebounding.” He was also quick to point out the importance of taking care of the ball after a barrage of turnovers plagued the Bears in the recent tournament. “We need to take better care of the ball; we had 24 turnovers in the game against Penn Valley after having a plus 20 turnover ratio in three of our first four games.”

In effort to alleviate his team of these mental mistakes, Conrad has held 5:30 a.m. practices to start off the week. “We need to get the girls disciplined mentally,” he acknowledged. The early practices give a sense of re-evaluation of the team. “Sometimes you need to take a step back, to take two steps forward.”

Overall, Coach Conrad hopes he can use the tournament as a springboard to motivate his team. “We just need to get tougher basically,” Conrad said. “We just need to use the non-conference games to get ready for conference play,” he added.

Conrad also stressed how well his team has rebounded thus far this season, even though being overmatched up front at times. “We’ve rebounded extremely well on a consistent basis this season; it’s really been the only thing we’ve done well in every game this season.”

Throughout the interview, Conrad was quick to point out his team’s shortcomings are easily fixable. “A week or two of good practice, and we’ll be good; we’re in really good shape actually.”

With the DMACC tournament looming this weekend, the twelfth ranked Bears hope to get back on the winning track.
While gaining more respect along the way.
Bears end 2003 season with a 33-17 record

Sophomore Betsy Dunphy prepares to serve against Kirkwood.

Sophomore Courtney Thomas eyes the serve against Kirkwood.

Sophomore Este Huston lines up the serve.

Sophomore A.J. Lewis starts the rally.

Sophomore Callie Jo Blood waits to serve.

Sophomore Allison Hyland serves against Kirkwood.

Photos by James Joy