12-3-2003

Banner News

Holly Losh

Wendy Goering

Laura Griffin

April Walker

James Joy

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Recommended Citation
Losh, Holly; Goering, Wendy; Griffin, Laura; Walker, April; Joy, James; Longman, Darin; Snow, Pam; Foley, Laura; Anderson, Laura; Carter, Christine; Hutt, Josh; and Makovsky, Ryan, "Banner News" (2003). Banner News. 261.
https://openspace.dmacc.edu/banner_news/261

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Register for spring classes before break
Holly Losh
Banner Staff

Advisors are starting to warn students about the problems associated with procrastinating on registration for next spring. Shelby Hildreth, Boone campus educational advisor, stressed the importance of students registering before leaving for winter break. Students who register late could face only being able to take night classes or early morning classes. “If you do register late, be ready to be flexible,” said Hildreth.

Many classes are already full for the spring semester. Classes that are primarily full include English 118, biology, sociology, psychology, Web, and philosophy classes. “The first day to register is the best day to get Web classes. By the second day of registration the Web classes were full,” said Hildreth.

Students may want to watch for new or revamped classes, when registering, like Sociology 103 (courtship, marriage, and family), Psychology 101 (general psychology) on the Web, English 118 (honors English), and Journalism 125 (principles of advertising). These classes are open to all students except for English 118 (honors English).

According to Hildreth, in order to gain admittance to honors English, students must be referred by their English 117 instructor or contact Judy Hauser for further information. The difference between the honors program and the regular program is the different emphasis on writing, and it also might look good on future applications for employment.

Students can register at DMACC up until Dec. 24 at 3 p.m., when the campus will be closing for break. The campus will not reopen until Jan. 5 and classes begin on Jan. 12. The advisors will be taking walk-ins, or appointments can be made for half-hour sessions.

Tree dedicated to former employee
Wendy Goering
Banner Staff

As in the past, students and staff walking through the campus Courter Center can admire a festively decorated Christmas tree. This year the beautiful royal blue school colors reflect more than just a decoration – they reflect a memory.

The blue trimmings were hung on the tree during a special dedication in memory of Gary Johnson. Gary was the campus Buildings/Grounds Supervisor for nearly twenty years. He was diagnosed with Lou Gehrigs Disease in February, 2003 and passed away in July, 2003.

The decorations were donated by Gary’s family. His wife Diane Johnson, his daughter Lori Johnson, and his grandson, Jim Johnson “Dad loved blue,” Lori said, “It was his favorite color. I think I bought every blue decoration on the shelf!”

Along with several PBL members, Linda Plueger, a Business Instructor on campus, also joined in the ceremony. “Gary was a wonderful man,” Plueger said. She also added, “We are very happy to be a part of this dedication.”

As the group tied on bows, strung lights, and hung ornaments Diane sat and watched with a smile on her face. “Gary really loved Christmas,” she said. “He would’ve loved this beautiful blue tree.”

The ceremony was concluded with Dean Vivian Brandmeyer lighting the tree. The family took several pictures to add to their memories.

“Gary will be missed,” Brandmeyer said. “We were all lucky to know such a wonderful man.”

The tree will remain in the student center until the end of the holidays.

Diane Johnson, widow of Gary Johnson; Linda Plueger, PBL advisor; Lori Johnson, daughter of Gary and Diane; and Dean Vivian Brandmeyer pose around the dedication plaque during a recent ceremony in the Courter Center.
Eight-week summer classes offered

Laura Griffin
Banner Staff

Students registering for summer classes will notice that classes are offered as either eight-week or ten-week terms on the Boone Campus.

“Each department will identify the courses that will work on eight week schedules,” Boone Campus Executive Dean Vivian Brandmeyer said.

She said that some departments might not use the eight-week option based on the faculties’ experience and whether or not they may want to teach a course in eight weeks.

Judy Hauser, group leader of the Boone Campus communications department, decided to schedule the day classes of literature, composition and speech on the eight-week term.

She kept night classes on the ten-week term. “If we had decided to shift our evening speech and composition courses to the eight-week schedule, the classes would have met twice a week. We thought that students would probably be most interested in coming to class one night a week rather than twice a week for one class during the summer.”

Both the ten-week and eight-week terms have 45 seat hours and start June 1, 2004.

The eight-week summer term ends July 27, 2004. Classes meeting during the day, three times a week, are an hour and forty-five minutes long and classes that meet twice a week are two hours and fifty minutes long. Night classes for the eight-week term meet once a week.

The ten-week summer term ends Aug. 11, 2004. Classes that meet during the day three times a week are usually an hour and 25 minutes long while classes that meet twice a week are two hours and five minutes long. Night classes that are ten weeks long meet twice a week and are also two hours and five minutes long.

Mary Jane Green, the head of business, and management, decided to schedule day classes offered this summer eight-weeks and kept her night classes ten-weeks.

“I decided not to make the night classes go on the eight-week term because most students don’t want to come two times a week for a night class. Also, some adjuncts don’t want to teach that many times during the summer,” Green said.

Green offers two ten-week night classes, introduction to investment and business law, which meets twice a week. She isn’t sure how exactly this new term is going to work out.

Green said, “I don’t know how it is going to go, but it will be interesting. I am anxious to see how keyboarding will go because it is a comprehensive course, and there is a lot of material to get covered in such a short period of time.”

Jane Martino, group leader of social science department, also kept night classes on the ten-week term. She said that the instructors claimed that no human being can be seated for that long to fit an eight-week term session.

“We made the day classes eight week so that we played well with others,” Martino said.

Eight-week classes are more focused and condensed, while ten-week classes take up most of the summer.

“Summer school is intense. Students work hard two months and then get a well earned vacation.”

Brandmeyer said that more than likely, some student’s activities will interfere with an eight week class schedule.

Brandmeyer said, “Students need to look at the dates carefully because both of the regular summer classes begin at the same time.”

Work study not accepting new students in spring

Wendy Goering
Banner Staff

Students counting on starting work study this spring are going to have to count on somewhere else.

“The funding is gone,” said DMACC business manager Vicky Lauzon. “We’ve turned down about ten students already.”

The students who are currently in the work study program can continue through the spring semester. However, no new students will be accepted.

DMACC is allotted money from the federal government for the work study program. “We have had this problem in the past,” Lauzon said. “It just depends on how many students are in the program. The money only stretches so far.”

Circumstances such as these can create frustration. Gerri Bacon, a first-year student said, “I was granted work study funds through my financial aid, and now I won’t be able to have any of that money.” Bacon also added, “It seems a little deceiving when you’re reading it in black and white, but that’s not how it ends up.”

The only event that could change the course of this problem would be if some of the students working the fall semester did not return, due to graduations, drop outs or transfers. This would free up some of the funds. At that time the staff would notify the instructors and the applications would be back in flow.

Lauzon said, “Last February we not only ran out of funds but were notified that we may have to let several students go. Luckily that didn’t happen.” She concluded, “We will continue to hope for the best.”
Fourth annual lighted parade draws crowd

April Walker
Banner Staff

Two weeks ago Story Street in Boone was filled with bouncing children and grinning faces waiting for the fourth annual Lighted Parade to begin. Holiday merriment by the folks at Extreme Promotions, helped set the mood.

The theme for the DMACC float built by members of Phi Beta Lambda, Rotaract, Phi Theta Kappa, and the Student Activities Council, was “Picture Us at DMACC.” The float was covered in multi-colored lights and had a balloon snowman among the students riding, there were also students walking along the side of the float, handing candy to the children lined on both sides of the street.

The Boone Police Department began the parade with a patrol car flashing lights and sounding the siren. A Boone color guard group followed with each branch of the military represented. An ambulance and fire truck both covered with lights and flashing their own lights excited the children watching. Later in the parade there was a 1971 Chevy that glowed brightly, covered from bumper to bumper in lights.

Children hollered greetings to Santa and Mrs. Claus on The Hy-vee float, Santa’s elves were there to hand candy to the eager children. One child jumped up and down laughing with glee at The Barrel Train, filled with children and covered in strands of multi-colored lights.

Members of ABATE (A Brotherhood of Motorcycle Enthusiasts) rode their motorcycles to promote Bike’n for Tykes. Bike’n for Tykes is a gift collection program. Some had strands of lights, some wore Santa hats and some had baskets full of toys. Someone in the crowd was overheard saying, “Look at Santa's Elves riding motorcycles.”

Other entries included Santa’s reindeer, which were treated to a bus ride in the parade, courtesy of Subway.

Carolers from the Boone radio station 1590, sang “Hark the Herald Angels Sing,” and Hair Affair’s float carried Tammy Platter, singing a tribute for the troops overseas.

Presidential candidate Howard Dean was the only candidate who was represented in the parade; his people handed out stickers and t-shirts.

The Community Bank of Boone brought up the rear with Santa in a horse drawn carriage.

After the parade, Platter entertained the crowd at Heritage Park with song as they waited for the tree to be lit. The wind was icy and many people had gone home by then. The tree was lit at 8:15 p.m. and was decorated with red and silver bells and multi-colored lights.

AAC employee explains diagnosing of Pick’s Disease

Editor’s Note: In an e-mail to the Boone Campus faculty and staff, Sandi Frank, who works in the Academic Achievement Center, explained Pick’s Disease, which her husband Verlin Frank died from last week. She agreed to let the Banner print her story in order for others to better diagnose a loved one who is suffering from this disease. We express our condolences to Mrs. Frank and her six children, and thank her for allowing us to run the following story.

Sandi Frank
DMACC Staff

One of the things that was so hard for me (before my husband was diagnosed with Pick’s Disease) is that there was no rhyme or reason to his behavior changes, and he had no reasonable explanation, either. If I could save even one family from all those hurts and misunderstandings, it would be worth it.

Pick’s Disease is a rare neurological disorder affecting 1 in 100,000, where the frontal lobes of the brain atrophy. This atrophying especially affects the ability to think and process information. The disease is terminal, with an expected 3-5 years to live. There is no cure or treatment to slow or stop its progression. It is a dementia like Alzheimer’s, but with Pick’s those with the disease remember their family, where they live and anything with numbers. (i.e. time, dates, etc.) There is not much known about this disease because of its rarity, though I have surprisingly learned a lot over the internet. Currently, it appears Canada and the UK are more deeply studying it than the US.

Verlin (Frank) was misdiagnosed with “depression” in the beginning, which is a very common misdiagnosis, as well as Alzheimer’s. Since his Pick’s diagnosis in April, his ability to speak and think deteriorated in levels, where he would get a little worse, and then it would level off and there would be no change for few or more weeks. However, the last 2 weeks, he had gotten much worse (unable to swallow liquids, drooling, coughing and sometimes choking, hand tremors, weaker in body strength, and in thinking.)

As in my case, with Verlin, in the early stages of the disease, not knowing what was wrong when behavior changes occur can cause misunderstandings and hurts, (i.e. actions and words not in character, like not answering over and over when asked simple questions, and odd comments like saying “run it” when you are waiting at a stoplight, being unable to work, that type of thing.) In the earlier stages, when he was diagnosed with depression, he kept saying he didn’t feel depressed but he thought he should—he just didn’t know why he didn’t. Here he was, only 57, couldn’t talk without stumbling over his words or stuttering, repeated phrases or couldn’t fill out a job application. Also, he would say his mind “went blank” when asked questions—he meant it literally, but who knew.

I had a hard time coming to grips with this disease, but having so much support helped tremendously. I am very thankful for all the thoughts and prayers and encouragement that I continue to receive from so many (at the Boone Campus). I wanted to give as much information as possible to anyone who has a loved one involved with Pick’s or a dementia like it.
DMACC marketing director speaks to class

Darin Longman
Banner Staff

On Wed., November 19, Don Honnald, the director of marketing and public relations for Des Moines Area Community College spoke to the Basic Reporting Principles class.

Honnald talked about what a public relations person does and about what measures were taken during the situation involving Dr. England, DMACC’s former president. Honnald spoke of public relations as basically “influencing opinion” in order to “improve image [and] convert detractors.”

After Dr. England was arrested on drug charges, it was up to Honnald to do just that in order to keep DMACC’s good name out of the mud.

“I provided mostly facts and official statements about the president,” Honnald said.

Honnald spent 24 hours on the phone conducting interviews, while the Board of Directors placed England on paid administrative leave.

Honnald said, “[Public Relations] builds a company institution’s image...its brand is its biggest asset.”

Honnald explained that there are many ways to build a company’s image, but the number one way is word of mouth.

The P.R. director explained that a public relations official was responsible for many things such as research, professional disciplines, media relations, student recruitment, parent relations, government relations, sales, fundraising, advertisement in publications and on the web, and planning events.

During his presentation, Honnald also wanted to make clear the differences between the media and public relations.

“The media decides what is news...P.R. goals are not shared by the media.”

Besides contrasting media and P.R., Honnald also taught the class helpful tips on how to deal with the media, “Cultivate good relations with the media, be prepared for what they ask you, and be available.”

Honnald added that there was “no such thing as off the record,” and that one should never speculate.

Honnald was linked to the Boone and Urban classrooms via the ICN from Julie

Internship program available

April Walker
Banner Staff

DMACC students can sign up for an internship position for credit at the beginning of a semester, after completing their required courses.

Mary Jane Green, coordinator of internships for Boone Campus students, said that “this semester there is only one student taking advantage of the internship program.”

Some positions are paid positions, but Green said “It can be hard to find positions that pay.” If an internship position does pay, it is usually minimum wage or a flat pay at the end of the internship based on performance.

If students want to use an existing job for internship experience and it is within the requirements of the student’s program, their job supervisors will be asked to give some new tasks to the students along with the previous tasks, in order to meet credit guidelines, Green added.

Internships are available for accounting careers, office careers, co-op career experience, and life experience.

The accounting internship can be taken during the third term of the accounting program. A student needs to have 11 hours of accounting courses completed to be eligible. An accounting career seminar worth one credit is also part of the internship requirements.

The office internship is available for term four of the administrative assistant program. The prerequisites for the internship are OFFC 205 Business English, OFFC 305 Word Processing Skill Development I, and OFFC 355 Computer Applications. The office internship also has a one-credit seminar, which is a part of the requirements for the internship.

COOP Career Experience is the internship available for other programs. Students can get work experience for jobs in their declared program area. Each credit hour requires 60 hours of work experience, for up to six credit hours or 360 hours of work. There is also a one-credit seminar attached to this internship that can be repeated for up to four credits.

The Life Experience credit is for students who have previous work experience in the area of their chosen program. The credit requires a description of the duties performed on the job and written verification from the supervisor.

The internship program is a requirement for both accounting programs and the office program. It gives students work experience that can be put on a resume, and can help verify that a student has chosen the right job field. Green said “The internship is also good for learning how to work with other people in the workforce.”

Interested students should contact Green in Office 212, at extension 5085.

War hits close to home for student

James Joy
Banner Staff

As finals week approaches, many students at DMACC begin to feel stress levels increase as the days expire.

For one student, final exams are not the first things on her mind; she is focused on her family. Patty Rockwell thinks everyday of her husband and son who are active in the U.S. military.

Rockwell’s husband Tom Rockwell is an E6 staff sergeant SSG and is currently stationed in Tikrit, Iraq, with the 3rd Army Calvary Regiment. He was activated in May and his tour is expected to last until the end of May 2004. Patty was disappointed when his tour was extended but not surprised.

Her son Joshua, 19, is currently stationed at Fort Stewart, Ga., and is training for a peace-keeping mission in Kosovo.

Ashlee, 18, and Lance, 11, help her remember that she has a mission here to keep the family going in Pilot Mound, where they have lived for 12 years.

“The girls watch them and giggle. They are allowed to wave or smile for the first time,” said Patty.

She said that her husband was amazed when he heard that many of the people in Iraq had never seen television until the U.S. arrived.

Patty expressed her concern of the media coverage of the war and the jobs that the military is doing.

“I am very frustrated. The media is good at making it appear that nothing positive is happening over there,” she said.

Patty continued to comment on some of the stories she used to hear when she watched the news. “There are a few I am sure that don’t want us there, but I guess it is not good news to show that so many of the people do want us there.”

Patty welcomes Tom’s middle-of-the-night phone calls; his loving voice on the other end helps keep her mind at ease. Her husband tells her about life in Iraq and some of the obstacles they are faced with.

His story of the terrorist that walked up to the gate of their compound and blew himself up was disturbing to hear and confusing as well.

“I can not understand why people do that. All it accomplished was killing himself,” she said. When they see the good that they are doing in helping the people, it makes it all worth while, Patty said about Tom’s commitment to his duty.

Even though terrorism has increased against the troops, Patty still supports the mission and believes that the U.S. is doing the right thing. Some of the stories her husband tells her of the lack of freedom that existed makes her believe in the long run that the people will be better off.

When asked about her feelings towards a growing number of people who feel the United States should not be policing the world, she was quick to say, “I feel sorry for them. They must be thinking of only themselves. Many people do not have the privileges we do, and we take that for granted.”

The holidays will be tough this year not having her husband and son at home, but Patty is trying to keep everything as normal as possible for her two younger children.

“Normally, I have the Christmas tree up the day after Thanksgiving, but I have to hurry because I have not put it up yet,” she said. Rockwell knows that her husband would not want her to change things, and she knows that his thoughts are here with them.
The Academic Achievement Center (AAC), on the Boone campus, is here to help students with any problem they may have with classes. But are students taking advantage of that help when it becomes test time? In October 2003, 800 tests went through the AAC. That is more than the average of 500-600 per month. These tests included retakes, missed tests, COMPASS tests, and tests sent over from other campuses and other colleges for Boone Campus students. Students who take courses online may also go to the AAC to retake or makeup test.

There are eight stations reserved for students to take tests in room 102. When those stations are filled, students are put wherever there is space, sometimes taking space from students who need help with homework. Students are monitored for cheating and must show picture identification before taking a test.

“The AAC can see anywhere from 60-80 students a day coming through the door. Many of the students who come in to take or retake a test are the same students over and over again,” said Jinny Silberhorn director in the AAC.

“The AAC can see anywhere from 60-80 students a day...”

Some disadvantages for students taking tests there is that it isn’t as quiet as in a classroom and the tests may end up being harder, said Silberhorn. Some teachers let students use their books in class and not in the AAC when testing. A percentage could be taken off the final score and the instructor can give a different test in the AAC than in the classroom.

Jane Martino, Boone Campus psychology instructor, said she gives students the choice on the first day of class if they would like to take tests on paper in the classroom or on the computer in the AAC. Almost all of Martino’s students chose to test on the computer in the AAC. Martino averages around 150 students a semester.

“Students at a community college need to make as many decisions for themselves as possible. It gives students more freedom. The AAC is there to support them not to parent them,” said Martino.

“The AAC never tells me to stop putting tests in there and gives me much support. The AAC is the best thing we have going,” said Martino.

Silberhorn said that midterm and finals weeks are when most students come to retake and makeup tests. She also wants students to know that when classes aren’t in session, the AAC is closed.

Iowa State students attending classes at DMACC Boone Campus com-

Students participate in Clavinova Piano Festival

DMACC students, who performed in the Clavinova Piano Festival on Nov. 16 in Des Moines, are Rebekah Crim, Nekoda Harris, Patricia Savage, and Kari Boyer. They are all students of Boone Campus music instructor, Marilee Mertins-Crawley.
DMACC campus mirrors national feeling about war

James Joy
Banner Staff

From the Courter center to the AAC, the timeless battle of the liberals and conservatives is on-going and being fueled by the war in Iraq.

Their political ideology is being debated on campus by students, faculty and staff. The difference of opinion on campus mirrors the national feelings of the population on the war.

Leaning back on his chair in his office, Bruce Kelly loves to discuss politics and world affairs with many of his students.

“I think what (President) Bush said before the war began was deceptive and borders on outright lies” said Kelly.

Kelly, a political science instructor at Des Moines Area Community College in Boone, expressed his dismay for the current president and the job he is doing directing our country. When asked about the war in Iraq, Kelly peered through his glasses and simply stated that the war was “unjustified and bogus.”

Kelly referred several times to the president’s inability to prove that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction. “We have been there for several months and have not found anything.” Kelly’s feelings are mirrored by many in his party which has been reported by many media outlets as unfounded.

Laura Foley
Contributing Writer

At Des Moines Area Community College’s Urban Campus, domestic violence is a disturbing story told in the hallways. Fortunately, young women escaping abusive lovers and rising above them has become a better story. Sara Stubbs* is just one of these women.

It’s been two years, since Stubbs left her abusive boyfriend, a person who haunts her every day of her life. She endured the abuse. She’s left an abusive boyfriend. But Stubbs has one more thing left to do...tell her story.

In 1994, Stubbs met Tyler Rose, the object of her adolescent affections. She moved in next door to Rose and his family. In the beginning, Rose tormented Stubbs. He said whatever he could to frustrate Stubbs. This would send Stubbs chasing him throughout the neighborhood. When Stubbs would finally catch up with Rose, the two would beat each other up, until their parents would call them in.

In 1995, the two became “secret friends.” When no one was around, the two would cuddle and show each other the love and affection that only two people who truly loved each other could. Every time one of Stubbs’s boyfriends would break her heart, Rose would be there to help mend it.

In 1996, Stubbs was in the eighth grade. She and Rose now had mutual friends and actually had things in common. Stubbs no longer had problems with Rose’s “hippie” lifestyle (Rose smoked pot, wore tie-dyes, and had hair down to the middle of his back). The two talked of getting married when they grew up, talk that Stubbs refused to look at this a “childhood dream,” and their love as “puppy love.” When the two broke up six months later, Stubbs was devastated.

From 1997 to 2001, the two didn’t talk. Stubbs started to have new boyfriends and realized that there was life beyond her small town and her small neighborhood. Things generally went well, when Stubbs had a boyfriend. However, when she was without a boyfriend, Rose would think that she was “chasing him.”

In a hallway as Valley High School, Stubbs would realize that the odds of reconciliation were slim. Rose had been trying to pay girls to beat Stubbs up. As far as she could tell, these girls would have it, these girls were friends of Stubbs and refused to hurt a hair on her head. Stubbs approached Rose. She called him names and teased him about not having the gall to beat up a girl. When Rose had his back turned, Stubbs attacked him. Rose turned around and threw Stubbs. He threw her three feet. She hit the wall, the water fountain, and the floor. According to Rose, she woke up and passed out in between each fall. Stubbs woke up to Rose freaking out, asking her, “Are you okay?” over and over again.

Stubbs gave up on Rose at that point. She accepted the fact that he lived next door and that they had to tolerate life with or without each other. Stubbs frequently asked Rose’s friends how he was. She still loved him and worried about him.

The two would reunite in 2001. They fell in love quickly, forgetting all of the turmoil that their junior high and high school relationship had brought them. They felt as if the four years they went without only made their love stronger. Stubbs said, “There were things that happened in both of our lives that we wouldn’t want each other around for.”

Though Rose and Stubbs were completely content, there were two people who weren’t very excited about the two reuniting. Stubbs parents. Stubbs was given a choice, “Its either him or us.” Stubbs chose Rose. The two moved in together in Dec. 2001.

The two moved into a duplex on the wrong side of town. They lived in a side of town that was so bad that “Tyler wouldn’t let me leave the house after dark by myself. He had problems with me leaving the house but it was what was going on inside the house that would hurt me,” Stubbs said.

The two went through hard times that would have killed many people, and still haunts Stubbs to this day. “A few times a week, I have dreams about going back to the apartment.”

“We had no food, I must have dropped five to ten pounds that first week,” Stubbs confesses. That first week would change who Stubbs was, and her life.

At their first party, Stubbs snorted her first line of coke. “I didn’t make me a fun party girl, like I thought it would. I just wanted to be alone.”

“I wasn’t going to be the girl they passed around like a joint.” There were certain advantages to being the only girl in the house. “I was a hot commodity,” laughs Stubbs. However, with those advantages, come certain responsibilities. “I had to say no to at least two guys at our parties, every weekend.”

What Stubbs also learned is that some guys didn’t listen to the word “no.” “Guys would wait for me to get drunk and pass out. I’d be passed out so hard, that I wouldn’t know what happened until the next morning.”

Rose knew this was happening, but he said it was Stubbs’s fault for drinking with a bunch of men she didn’t know. Yet Stubbs didn’t quit drinking because, “It was the only time I laughed in a week. My life had become such a sad place.”

“I was abused in every way possible.”

The abuse started as a warped complement. “When Rose noticed I’d lost weight, he said “good job, keep going.” Stubbs kept going, all right. By the time everything was said and done, Stubbs weighed 90 pounds.

Meanwhile, Rose let girls who sexually abused Stubbs into their house. When Stubbs was asked why, she answered, “It’s simple, they were our source of coke.”

When the abuse got physical, Stubbs said, “Enough is enough,” and moved back in with her parents.

Overall, Stubbs was very fortunate for his parents to allow her to move home. However, it was a hard transition. No longer were there parties every night, stalked with her “friends,” (none of whom she speaks with anymore).

Stubbs bounced from job to job, like it was a game. She found herself bouncing from guy to guy, as well.

Stubbs dreamed about Rose every night, when she first arrived home. “I thought I was crazy. I had dreams, where he was nice to me and we were in love. I missed that. I felt sick, every time I missed him,” Stubbs confessed.

“I didn’t feel normal again, until I started college.”
Retro toys among popular toys this Christmas

Laura Anderson
Banner Staff

Christmas is just around the corner and shopping for children, brothers or sisters is underway. Kids only want the best and most popular toys from Santa on Christmas morning and this year, some of the most popular toys are the same items that were well-liked years ago.

Lisa Savits, who works at the Knowledge Knook Bookstore on the Des Moines Area Community College Boone campus, says her kids are into all kinds of things, such as “video games, CD’s, clothes and Care Bears.”

Care Bears were popular over 15 years ago and are making a strong comeback among youngsters these days. My Little Pony is another hot item making a comeback. At Wal-Mart in Boone, Sing-Along Care Bears sing “Wheels on the Bus,” “Row, Row, Row Your Boat,” and “If You’re Happy and You Know it,” and sell for $19.74. My Little Pony sells for $4.77.

Andrea Hicks, a student at DMACC, says her children enjoy anything that has to do with Harry Potter, Barbie, books and movies. “Computer games and educational toys or games are popular [this Christmas],” says Hicks.

LeapPad, an interactive learning system, made by LeapFrog, offers kids fun ways to learn their ABC’s, numbers, writing skills, and phonics. At Wal-Mart, the LeapPad Plus Writing System sells for $48.88. Books and cartridges for the system sell for $14.97. Books available include pre-reading, phonics, and Spanish to English translations.

WHO-TV has done the Great American Toy Test for nearly 25 years, and its sole purpose is to discover which toys are popular with children and parents. Toys are graded on “quality, durability, ease of assembly, maintenance, short-term and long-term interest, educational value, safety and just plain old fun.” Over 90 toymakers submitted nearly 7,000 toys to the Toy Test this year, and sets of 100 toys were sent all over the United States. Kids from age two to 12 in daycares played with the toys for three weeks while supervisors observed them. Children, as well as adults, graded the toys.

Among The Great American Toy Test’s most popular toys were Leapfrog’s LeapPad Plus Writing Learning System, Pretend and Learn Cash Register by LeapFrog, Pretend and Play Doctor by Learning Resources and Unbelievably Soft Baby from Goldberger Dolls.

Parents at DMACC feel the same way when asked what they thought were popular toys for Christmas; overwhelmingly anything LeapFrog or educational learning came to mind.

Laura Foley

Laura Foley is currently a student at the Des Moines Area Community College Urban Campus.

Her friends view her as an incredible person with very high goals in life, both personal and professional. Laura plans to change the world. She is full of life and ideas on how to make this world a better place. Her motto is “work, work, and then work some more.”

Before Foley’s grandmother died, Foley made a promise to her. That promise, to write a book, helps keep her focused. Foley will be transferring to the University of Iowa to attend the Writers Workshop in fall 2005. She plans to become a powerful novelist by using her words to change the world.

There are many things people take for granted in this life. With Foley’s disability, she has to focus all her concentration on literally putting one foot in front of the other.

As she walks down a flight of stairs she grasps the handrail tightly and approaches each stair with extreme caution. Although she has adapted to these physical challenges and barely recognizes them anymore, they are still very real.

Brain injuries affect each individual differently. Each one is unique. A traumatic brain injury occurs when an outside force impacts the head hard enough to cause the brain to move within the skull or if the force causes the skull to break and the brain is directly affected.

Foley still copes with her brain injury everyday. Her physical, cognitive, and behavioral impairments could last for years or even be permanent. Some of these include sleep disturbance, balance problems, decreased concentration and attention span, memory problems, depression, anxiety, and emotional mood swings.

“Just a few things I had to relearn after I came out of the coma were how to write, go to the bathroom and feed myself,” said Foley.

Each day is another day that she exudes determination, strength, and an incredible personality.

She has a full-time class schedule, a part-time job, and she still finds time to be an active member of Urban Campus’ Student Activity Council. No matter how bad something is, Foley has an amazing ability to find something positive in it.

Foley is an example of a success story, and she is grateful for every thing she has now and plans to accomplish in the future.

To Foley’s many friends, she is a wonderfully spirited person to be around.

According to one of her friends, “Laura just doesn’t have an unhappy bone in her body. She lives life with optimism, sheer strength, and she is wise beyond her years.”

Anyone around her couldn’t help but absorb some of her positive energy and the happy spirit that she couldn’t hide even if she tried.
A darker Blink 182

Darin Longman  
Banner Staff

Blinks 182 has been around for many years. These pop-punk pioneers have made the mainstream safe for the happy go lucky three chord songs about love that spring from bands such as Simple Plan and Good Charlotte. These court jesters of punk rock have finally done the unthinkable, they have begun to take things seriously and go in a new direction. The result is a unique and brilliantly orchestrated album that should catapult the blink boys from sell out status to brillianty orchestrated album that should finally done the unthinkable, they have begun to take things seriously and go in a new direction. The result is a unique and brilliantly orchestrated album that should catapult the blink boys from sell out status into the embrace of the under-ground.

Blink 182 has been around since 1992 and has released eight albums since that time. Most people became familiar with the band with the release of “Dude Ranch” in 1997. After their drummer Travis Barker replaced Scott Raynor (formerly of the Aquabats) the band released three more albums.

Blink 182’s departure is a welcome breath of fresh air. The album as a whole is darker and more experimental. In fact one might not even guess that it is Blink 182 except for the easily distinguished voices of duo vocalists Mark Hoppus and Tom Delonge.

The record starts out with the first single “Feeling This” a good starting point for the record. Sounds enough like Blink so as not to disappoint the current fan base, but has enough extra production goodness to improve on the already existing formula. The drums alternate from the cliché sounding normally produced set to one that was probably played and recorded in a room that allowed the set to produce some kind of an echo.

The song also has a vocal sample of Captain America yelling, “Let’s get ready for Action” taken from an old Cartoon. The song isn’t necessarily about the type of action the Cap was probably yelling about, instead of fighting super villains; The Blink Boys sing about ‘getting action’ a metaphor for sex.

“I Miss you” is a charming track that involves acoustic guitar, piano and bells. It is like nothing that could ever be expect-ed from Blink 182. The second verse follows the string section and is just as addictive and hooky, and the refrain where Tom bellows “Don’t waste your time on me, You’re already the voice inside my head”

Another track that was based off the acoustic guitar is called “All of This” it features guest vocals from Robert Smith of the Cure.

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Elf is big Christmas hit

Pam Snow  
Banner Staff

It all started when a baby in an orphan-age climbed into Santa’s sack on New Years Eve and made a surprise trip to the North Pole.

Buddy (Will Ferrell) is about twice the size of every other elf on Santa’s staff. Raised by Papa Elf (Bob Newhart) and with his human heritage kept secret from him. Buddy grew up thinking he was an elf just like everyone else, except for his giant size and failure to assemble toys as quickly as the other elves.

Buddy eventually learns of his true identity. Santa tells him that his real father, Walter Hobbs (James Caan), is a book publisher who lives in New York City and is always on the naughty list. Setting out to reveal his past, Buddy arrives in New York wearing his complete elf outfit. Buddy also finds he has a step-mom (Mary Steenburgen) and a ten-year-old half-brother.

Buddy wants to spend time with his dad, but ends up mistaken by a Gimbles department store manager as one of his Christmas workers. There, he meets Jovie (Zooey Deschanel), a cynical young woman who hates her job and is bored with life.

It takes some convincing before his father believes the man in yellow tights is really his son. Finally agreeing to bring him home, the elf realizes his family, and the rest of New York City, have no Christmas spirit. With Christmas around the corner and Santa in need of energy for his sleigh to the lack of Christmas spirit, Buddy sets out to save the day.

Elf is a funny movie for people of all ages. Ferrell keeps movie goers laughing throughout the movie from drenching his spaghetti with syrup to eating cotton balls at the doctor’s office. Caan does a good job playing the dad who has too much work to do and not enough time for his family. The film isn’t overly filled with Christmas music and the ending is somewhat predictable but movie goers were still laughing till the end. I recommend this movie to anyone who wants to see a funny, heartfelt Christmas movie. Directed by Jon Favreau.
Upcoming area events

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Horoscopes

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18) Sometimes you get your message across best when you don’t say a thing. Romance: Fair | Finance: Good | Lucky Numbers: 3, 14, 22

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20) Minor delays are likely to cause some expensive cash-flow problems. Romance: Fair | Finance: Poor | Lucky Numbers: 2, 13, 13

Aries (Mar 21 - April 19) If you’re thinking about loaning money, get over it. A tendency to rush things could lead to errors in the future. Romance: Good | Finance: Good | Lucky Numbers: 10, 15, 33

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) You are very energetic and on top of things. If shopping, take care that you don’t spend without thinking first. Romance: Good | Finance: Good | Lucky Numbers: 5, 18, 31

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Make sure that the signals you give others are clear. You may be lucky with a game of chance, but that may run out. Romance: Poor | Finance: Good | Lucky Numbers: 1, 16, 42

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Watch for some minor obstacles you may encounter in trying to complete an upcoming task. Romance: Poor | Finance: Good | Lucky Numbers: 9, 23, 26

Leo (July 23 - Aug 22) There is a valid reason for everything that happens, although it may not become clear for quite some time. Romance: Good | Finance: Fair | Lucky Numbers: 19, 26, 28

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sept 22) Make an effort to meet new people, and be open to discussions. An outgoing attitude will help to improve your reputation. Romance: Fair | Finance: Poor | Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 9

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22) This is not the best time to start taking new risks. Never do anything for anyone that they can do for themselves. Romance: Good | Finance: Good | Lucky Numbers: 16, 17, 19

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) Try to come up with new ways of earning extra cash. Use your creativity. Romance: Good | Finance: Good | Lucky Numbers: 14, 29, 30

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) You have friends in places you never thought of. They could open new doors and help you to get where you want to be. Romance: Good | Finance: Good | Lucky Numbers: 3, 8, 15

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) Take some time alone to think things over. Don’t get caught up with the season. Romance: Fair | Finance: Good | Lucky Numbers: 18, 32, 38

by Pam

Mindless Self Indulgence presents eccentric show

by Holly Losh

Banner Staff

What do you get when you have bull riding, a boxing ring floor ripped apart, and a man wearing a fishnet tank top? A Mindless Self Indulgence concert.

This concert encompassed extreme music, extreme fans, and just outright insanity. The general idea of the night can be summed up when Bryce Burroughs, 24, Ames said, “I just saw all of that, but you’ll have to explain what happened after the show.”

M.S.I.’s music is a mixture of punk, electronic, and heavy metal. Band members include Jimmy (vocals), Kitty (drums), Steve (guitar), and Lyn Z (bass). Music wasn’t the only thing that the band presented to the audience though. They started off the night playing songs from their CD, “Frankenstein Girls Will Seem Strangely Sexy.” Upon hearing this, the audience erupted into screaming, singing, and crowd surfing. That was the mood for the rest of the night.

It seemed M.S.I. could do no wrong with their fans. Every song was a song that the audience wanted to hear. In the world where it’s hard for a band’s live show to sound like their CD M.S.I. did exactly that.

Besides hearing good music, fans witnessed unexpected events. At one point Jimmy ran off stage and rode a mechanical bull, the guitarist Steve played on top of a pool table, and Lyn Z pulled a boxing ring mat onto stage and proceeded to tear it apart.

For such a strange concert, the end of the show was completely appropriate.

Slowly different band member left the stage at random times, and then Jimmy grabbed an old boombox and played “Bette Davis Eyes,” while wandering around the bar singing to fans.

M.S.I. did a wonderful job of performing their music, and they knew what the audience wanted and gave it to them. All members of the band are actually talented musicians when you get past their antics. Anyone who wants to go to a show just to have a good time should see this band.

Currently M.S.I. has released four albums and are promoting their e.p. “Despierta Los Ninos,” which can only be purchased at their concerts.

Photo courtesy of www.mindlessselfindulgence.com
Bush’s economic policy need not be under scrutiny

President Bush and his economic policy have been under tremendous attack since he assumed office with a stagnant economy. Democratic hopefuls running for office have been using the economy to their advantage since they began their campaigns.

Many have forgotten that the economy was going down while Bill Clinton was still in office, but since he is the sitting president many are pinning the bad economy on Bush. Recently, the Commerce Department declared that the economy exploded at 8.2 percent growth rate in the third quarter. This is the fastest rate of growth in two decades and spells great news for everyone, but bad news for Democrats who have used the economy to their benefit.

The attacks on 9/11 had a terrible impact on the country, and the markets and many people pulled their money from the markets. Many Americans started shopping closer to home and didn’t travel, which impacted many industries and corporate America.

After the president stood up and showed true leadership and proved to Americans that national security was going to be improved, people started to travel and shop again. His advance on the war against terror has showed people that America will not be a land of terror and fear, but one that is prosperous and free. We took the fight to them and did not allow it to take place in our yard, which grew consumer confidence and increased the money flowing into the stock market.

Democrats do not have a sharp point with the economy now because of the recent upturn, and this puts candidates who have few ideas except anti-Bush rhetoric searching, for new ideas to defeat our economic-recovering president.

The World According To D

Darin Longman
Banner Staff

All good things must come to an end. Unfortunately, I feel like the crazy religious person but also because I am not talking about Revelations, but rather “The World According to D.”

Yes, sadly enough, it is true I think that this is my swan song. I have finally completed the process of petitioning for readmission into Iowa State University. All I am waiting on is the letter of acceptance. The only uncertainty lies in the fact that I have jumped the gun before. Let me explain.

This is the second time I have bid a fond farewell to the Banner and all those who are the watchdogs on the Boone campus, but it was a bit premature. I had made claims that I would be in Iowa State running around Lake Laverne, jumping like I was in a Broadway musical and as giddy as a school girl to be once again taking bubblesheet tests in auditoriums of 300, with professors that didn’t even know my name.

At the end of summer however, reality hit me smack in the face like a tack hammer as I found myself enrolling in DMACC classes once again.

Now that I realize I am so much closer to actually going back, I am over-taken by nostalgia. I think back to all the zany happenings that I have written about my world in the past two semesters and how much fun I have had while being here. Fond memories of Miss Piggy, an eventful 21st birthday hangover, and Adam Sisson dressing up as a half naked Batman for one of the Halloween issues (It gets pretty weird around here sometimes.)

My time as one of the elite on the Banner staff has lasted for three semesters. I have seen countless members come and go; I have lived through three editors and many changes with the paper. My newspaper skills have been honed to near perfection. I think back and laugh at the early days of page editing, when the sheer mention of Quark would almost put me in a fear-induced coma. Now I give out a manly laugh whenever I have to lay out the editorial page. It is a good feeling to go from an article writing pile of worthlessness to print productions titan, who can type, edit, and lay out with majestic glory. All with just a little help from Jan (or a lot I guess so mega props to her). I want to thank everyone who is currently on the staff who worked hard to meet deadlines and laughed at all my cruddy jokes. I also want to thank those from the previous staff that made the journey with me, Adam Robbie, Ben and Jason; It was good working with you guys my first two semesters here.

An extra special thanks goes out to Laura (Chiefy) for buying me McDonalds, and Pam, for pointing out the specific mistakes that I had already seen?

Well Buckaroos, its time for this cow- boy to hit the trail. It has been a long strange trip. I hope that if there was anybody who actually read my column instead of sliding it into the bottom of the hamster cage, that they at least get a laugh or two out of what I had written. That was the general idea most of the time.

Writing for the Boone Banner was one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life and I will never forget it. With that being said, I think this is it, but if indeed I am wrong, then you will be hearing from me again, After all, third times a charm.
Men's Basketball ranked 5th

Coach Orv Salmon had a lot to be thankful for as he sat down to eat his Thanksgiving meal.

The DMACC Men's Basketball team is currently ranked fifth in the nation according to the latest National Junior College Athletic Association Division II poll.

The Bears are 11-1 and are looking forward to conference play. The one loss came against Marshalltown in a tough game that ended with a 78-79 score.

The Bears rose from the loss to win the next eight games. During the Indian Hills Classic the Bears took their frustrations out on William Penn JV by defeating them 95-47 then continuing the trend by defeating Elgin 90-68.

Four days later they defeated a tough Indian Hills basketball team at Ottumwa, 79-65.

The Bears continued to sweep the Southwestern Tournament and the Iowa Central Tournament, averaging 87.5 points per game while allowing only 47 points per game.

"We are just trying to get better each game and that is how we approach the process", Salmon said.

Coach Salmon feels his team is progressing fine. "I like where we are at," Salmon said. Healso points out his team is starting to play together.

Sophomores Shaun Williams leads the team in points with 15.8 per game. Frashon McGee trails that lead by only one point.

With the leadership of the sophomores, this Bears team has received good play from the freshmen, in particular Euvon Turner and Naim Benjamin.

The Bears are confident going into conference play. "I think the aspect of this group that I like best is that they play hard and seem to enjoy competing", Salmon said.

The Bears play against Upper Iowa at 7 pm Wednesday Dec 3rd at Boone.

Bears win six in a row

As Coach Ben Conrad sits in his office planning his strategy for the beginning of conference play, he looks ahead with a team that is in a better position to do things this season than was expected with a young squad.

The Bears have been on a six game winning streak since dropping two straight at the Johnson County Tourney.

The defense was strong in an 80-52 win against William Penn, and in the DMACC Tourney, the Bears outscored their opponents 153-91 coming out on top of the Tourney.

"The progression of the team is faster than expected," Conrad said with enthusiasm.

Ashley Austin has shown she can do just about everything and has come out to be the most improved player on the team.

Rebounding has been the strong point on the Bears team this season. The transition defense has been the one weakness on the Bears.

As conference play begins Conrad points out the there is not one particular game the he is looking forward to. "All conference games are important."

"The players are beginning to figure things out fast then expected," Conrad said proudly.

"A team that can beat anybody" is how Conrad describes his expectations for the Bears at the end of this season. He expects the Bears to be at seasons end a national championship contender.

The Bears next game is the Illinois Central Tourney 6pm Dec 5 at Peoria.
How do you plan to spend your holiday break?

April Love: I am spending the holidays with family in Milwaukee.

Luis Diaz: Going to see family and friends in Venezuela.

Matt Pierce: Visit my aunt and uncle in West Des Moines, snowmobile if we get snow.

Rheza Canizar: I have a family reunion back home in Anchorage, Alaska.

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Final Exam Schedule

**Tuesday, December 9, 2003**
- **Class Time**: 8:05 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  
- **Exam Time**: 8:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
- **Class Time**: 11:15 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.  
- **Exam Time**: 10:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
- **Class Time**: 2:25 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.  
- **Exam Time**: 1:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
- **Class Time**: 4:00 p.m. – 5:25 p.m.  
- **Exam Time**: 3:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 10, 2003**
- **Class Time**: 8:00 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.  
- **Exam Time**: 8:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
- **Class Time**: 10:10 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.  
- **Exam Time**: 10:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
- **Class Time**: 12:20 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  
- **Exam Time**: 1:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
- **Class Time**: 2:30 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.  
- **Exam Time**: 3:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

**Thursday, December 11, 2003**
- **Class Time**: 6:30 a.m. – 7:55 a.m.  
- **Exam Time**: 6:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
- **Class Time**: 9:40 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.  
- **Exam Time**: 9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
- **Class Time**: 12:50 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.  
- **Exam Time**: 11:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

**Friday, December 12, 2003**
- **Class Time**: 6:55 a.m. – 7:50 a.m.  
- **Exam Time**: 7:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
- **Class Time**: 9:05 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  
- **Exam Time**: 9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
- **Class Time**: 11:15 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.  
- **Exam Time**: 12:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
- **Class Time**: 1:25 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.  
- **Exam Time**: 2:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
- **Class Time**: 3:35 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
- **Exam Time**: 3:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

**Evenings/Saturday**

Evening courses will have their finals at the day and time of the final regular class meeting.

- Last Monday night classes (Final Exam)  
  - December 8
- Last Tuesday night classes (Final Exam)  
  - December 2
- Last Wednesday night classes (Final Exam)  
  - December 10
- Last Thursday night classes (Final Exam)  
  - December 11
- Last Friday night classes (Final Exam)  
  - December 12
- Last Monday/Wednesday night classes (Final Exam)  
  - December 8
- Last Tuesday/Thursday night classes (Final Exam)  
  - December 11
- Last Saturday class (Final Exam)  
  - December 6