Banner News

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DMACC recently added to Facebook

Richie Monk
Banner Staff Writer

Are you a Facebook member yet? There are over 1,300 out of around 14,000 students at DMACC that are currently members of the somewhat new phenomenon that is Facebook. Facebook is an online social network, very similar to MySpace, or Friendster. Only for this site, you must be a student at one of the institutions represented by the website. When DMACC students were asked why they signed up for the site, most of them replied to keep in touch with friends from other schools, or from high school. As a member of this site, you can post virtually any information you want. Most students post their phone number, e-mail address, home address, and class schedule. This is a lot of information to put out there, but when you sign up you don’t have to fill out any information except what school you attend. When asked “What kind of personal information do you put on Facebook, and do you ever worry that someone could misuse the information?” Amanda Meyer, a DMACC student, replied, “I really don’t think that my info on Facebook is so personal that anyone would do anything… and if they did, I’d kick their a@!%&... hahahaha... the personal information you put on there is optional so if you don’t want people to know, don’t put it there.”

Also this site has a feature that in class or off campus around lunch,” said Julia Porter, a DMACC student who was unable to attend the event. “I thought the students’ reactions were really positive. It was a nice kick off for the spring semester, but I’m always open to suggestions. We did it during lunch time because that is when the most students are on campus,” said Krafcisin. Some of the students that attended the event enjoyed the chicken noodle/chili feed. “I am totally enjoying the chili,” said John Mayse, a DMACC student. The SAC is holding many other events this semester, including free skiing and tubing at Seven Oaks, an Xbox competition, and maybe even bowling at the bowling alley.

Opening SAC event success or failure

Arley J. Sitzmann
Banner Staff Writer

“The SAC fed anywhere from 250-270 students. I don’t know how much it cost because we haven’t received the bill yet. I estimate about $500 for the food,” said Steve Krafcisin, the SAC advisor. Currently at the Boone campus there are 1,714 students, taking a total of 16,387 credit hours. That gives the SAC $24,580.50. Only a small percentage of the money goes to events such as the chicken noodle/chili feed. Forty percent of the SAC’s money goes towards DMACC’s athletic program. So, if there are so few students able to attend these events, are events like these beneficial? SAC events are usually held during lunch time. “A lot of students are

Boone Banner

Wednesday, January 25, 2006
Des Moines Area Community College

Xbox 360 still working out bugs

Grant Mulholland
Banner Staff Writer

For the lucky few that have thus far been able to scratch up the cash for Microsoft’s newest game console, things haven’t gone as well as they may have originally hoped.

Despite the hype behind the software giant’s release of the new Xbox, many gamers are experiencing some unexpected problems. The complicated new machines contain more than 1,700 parts leaving them very susceptible to crashes and hardware problems. Microsoft does not deny these problems but claims they are “isolated.” Some of the problems include but are not limited to; screens going black for no apparent reason, the appearance of various error messages. Also the console has been reported to crash possibly due to overheating by the system’s hard drive.

According to cdfinfo.com, Microsoft spokesperson Molly O’Donnell declined to comment on how many reports the company has received in reference to these problems but did say that the calls represent a “very, very small fraction” of units sold. According to consumeraffairs.com, 16 percent of respondents to a poll reported problems with their consoles.

“Number of calls was not unexpected,” she said. “With a launch of this magnitude, you’re bound to see something happening.”

If you own an Xbox 360, and are experiencing problems then the best way to resolve the issues is to call 1-800-4MY-XBOX. If this doesn’t remedy the problem, then Microsoft will either repair or replace your console. If you do own a 360 and need to call the help line, beware, according to some postings on some Xbox fan sites complain that the PlayStation 3 will be released before someone picks up the phone. Microsoft is even being sued by a Chicago man. The suit accuses Microsoft of rushing to market a flawed system to make sure it beats its competitors, Sony and Nintendo, to the release of their new game systems.

Crashes aren’t the only problems plaguing Xbox users. One of the biggest reasons many prospective Xbox 360 owners aren’t buying the new systems is because they can’t seem to find one.

Amanda Meyer, Michelle Kumrow, and Kayla Richter serve soup to welcome students back.

Banner Staff Writer

Are you a Facebook member yet?

The chicken noodle/chili feed held on Jan. 11 was a good kick off to the new semester, but was it worth the students’ money? “It’s stupid because it conflicts with my classes and a lot of other people’s classes,” said Justin Walsh, a DMACC student.

For every credit hour a student takes, $1.50 is charged to their tuition, which then goes to the student activity council. The SAC then disburses the money towards student activities such as the chicken noodle/chili feed. Essentially, these tasks are paid for by the students.

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Bin Laden warns of new attacks

Warren P. Strobel and Jonathan S. Landay
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON. In his first public communication in more than a year, terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden said in an audiotape released Thursday that al-Qaida is preparing to mount new attacks in Europe this year, terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden said in an audiotape released Thursday that al-Qaida is preparing to mount new attacks in Europe this year. "We don’t mind offering you a long-term truce on fair conditions that we adhere to," bin Laden said on the tape, first broadcast on the Arabic Al-Jazeera satellite TV network. "Both sides can adhere to," bin Laden said on the tape, first broadcast on the Arabic Al-Jazeera satellite TV network. "We won’t negotiate with terrorists. We put them out of business," said White House press secretary Scott McClellan. Current and former U.S. counterterrorism officials warned against seeing the truce offer as a sign of weakness in the al-Qaida terrorist network. One official, who like others requested anonymity to discuss intelligence matters, recalled that bin Laden offered a truce to European countries in 2004, about a month after the deadly bombing of commuter trains in Madrid. When it met no response, militants staged attacks in London. Bin Laden, citing the attacks in Europe, said, "The delay in similar operations is a harbinger of something to come." Bin Laden hadn’t been heard from since a December 2004 audiotape, leading some U.S. officials to question whether he was alive or still control of the terrorist network he founded. The consensus in the U.S. intelligence community before Thursday had been that he was still alive, officials said. CIA analysts using voice-match techniques quickly confirmed that the voice on the tape was bin Laden’s. "It could mean that key people were killed in the airstrike and that bin Laden is trying to show that the organization is still functioning and is not mortally wounded," said Kenneth Katzman, a terrorism expert at the Congressional Research Service. U.S. intelligence officials confirmed that the effort has involved monitoring al-Qaida’s communications, intense aerial surveillance and improved cooperation from Pakistani intelligence officials. Al-Jazeera at first said the bin Laden tape was recorded in December, but later corrected that and said it was made earlier this month, according to news reports from the region. In it, bin Laden mentions a purported remark by Bush to British Prime Minister Tony Blair about bomb- ing al-Jazeera’s headquarters in Qatar."News reports of the remark denied by the British government first surfaced last November, dating bin Laden’s audio recording in the last two months." Counterterrorism officials said they had no intelligence indicating an imminent attack on the United States. The Department of Homeland Security’s color-coded threat level remained at yellow.

Class Cancellation Information

If weather conditions in the early morning hours warrant the decision to cancel classes due to inclement weather, the decision will most likely be made around 6 a.m. As soon as a decision has been made to cancel Boone Campus classes, the radio stations listed below will be contacted. Cancellation announcements will also be recorded on the Boone Campus telephone system. The direct number for Boone Campus is 432-7203. Students and/or staff can also call toll free 1-800-362-2127, press 3 for Boone Campus to hear announcements of weather cancellations. Weather cancellations will also be announced on DMACC’s web site www.dmacc.org.

When weather conditions in the early morning delay the start of classes (for example 10 a.m.), offices will be open for business at the designated time. Classes will begin with the first full class period beginning on or after the designated time. If the weather condition during the school day warrants an early dismissal DMACC will make the decision, notify staff and notify the radio station as soon as possible. The decision to cancel evening classes will most generally be made by 4:30 p.m.

Five things about drinking in college

Emiliana Sandoval
Detroit Free Press/KRT

Alcohol is a big thing at college, and many a graduate gets misty-eyed remembering about a legendary party. That said, we absolutely don’t endorse underage or excessive drinking. Stay safe.

The Victors—Two recent University of Michigan grads won the World Series of Beer Pong this month in Mesquite, Nev. Jason Cohen and Nick Velissaris beat 162 other players to score $10,000 and the respect of frat boys everywhere. There are two dozen or so ways to play Beer Pong, but essentially, each player tries to sink a Ping-Pong ball into a cup of beer at the end of a table. The losing team has to drink.

Placed—Some longtime campus fave games are Three Man, quizzies and a few whose names aren’t suitable for print.

Midwest Gen Xers remember a game based on sports announcer Brent Musburger. We’re not telling you how to play any of ‘em. You can Google “drinking games” and investigate the more than 15,900,000 results yourself. Cheers.

3 out of 10—Each year, the Princeton Review lists the nation’s top party schools, based on student surveys about drinking, drug use, hours of daily study and the importance of the Greek system on campus. Of the 2005 Top 10 party schools, three were from the Big Ten. No. 1 University of Wisconsin, No. 6 Indiana University and No. 8 University of Iowa. IU also was the No. 1 beer-consuming college. (Irony: It’s a dry campus.)

Sobering Stats—The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism estimates drinking by college students ages 18 to 24 contributes to 1,700 student deaths, 599,000 injuries and 97,000 cases of sexual assault or date rape each year.

Better Bet—Studies have shown that keeping your brain engaged by playing safer games like chess, checkers or backgammon is healthier than playing drinking games. Other studies indicate that keeping your brain engaged by playing safer games like chess, checkers or backgammon is healthier than playing drinking games. We’re not telling you how to do either.

Another mental activity on the yes list: reading the newspaper. You’ll be smarter and not hung over.

Better Bet—Studies have shown that keeping your brain engaged by playing safer games like chess, checkers or playing drinking games is healthier than playing drinking games. We’re not telling you how to do either.
Upcoming area concerts

Beth Carlson
Banner Staff Writer

For those of you who live to see live bands, you’re in luck. A wealth of shows is coming to the area in the next six weeks. Whether you like hard rock or blues, driving to Des Moines or Ames, there’s a show for you.

In Des Moines, Feb. 2 is our first date at the new Wells Fargo Arena. Trapt will open for Canadian rock band Nickelback, with their tour promoting their latest album, “All the Right Reasons.”

Also coming to the Wells Fargo Arena on Feb. 16 is Nine Inch Nails, promoting their industrial rock album, “With Teeth.” Tickets to either of these shows or more information can be found at iowaeventcenter.com.

If you prefer a smaller venue, the Blue Air Ballroom in Des Moines has a few shows coming in February as well. John Mueller, a Buddy Holly impersonator, will be playing on Feb. 10. The following day, Feb. 11, hard rock bands Shinedown and Seether will be playing as part of the Winterfresh Snocone Tour. Look for a review of that show in an upcoming issue of the Banner.

If driving to Des Moines doesn’t sound like a good time to you, there are plenty of shows coming to Ames. If you like comedy, Ron White makes an appearance at Stephen’s Auditorium on Friday, Feb. 10. Also stopping at Stephen’s is Third Day, a Christian rock band, on Feb. 26. For more information or for tickets to any show at the Val Air Ballroom or Stephen’s Auditorium, check out ticketmaster.com.

As always, the Maintenance Shop, or M-shop, in Ames has a full calendar of shows for just about any taste in music. Tonight, Jan. 25, The Life and Times play at the M-shop, and the show starts at 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, Lil’ Ed and the Blues Imperials will play their own style of blues and jazz.

Friday, Jan. 27, Willy Porter, and Jan 28, Charlemagne will each take the stage at 8 p.m. Jan. 31 holds the show for a seasoned veteran of the stage, even opening for the Ramones in her early career. Feist will be playing a sound uniquely her own at the M-shop.

Jim Mathers plays on Feb 8, followed by Eric Hutchinson on Feb. 11. Andrew Bird comes to the M-shop on Feb. 16, and Ellis Paul on the Feb. 23. For a full schedule and a description for each performer, m-shop.com will have more details for you.

Blue Crew dances with children

Blue Crew performs during halftime of a Bears basketball game. Photo: Richie Monk

Anna Sunstrom
Banner Staff Writer

On Jan. 30 see the Blue Crew dance with children to the Oompa Loom-pa song from “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.”

The children are participants of the Willy Wonka Dance Camp, held on the Boone campus on Saturday, Jan. 21 from 8-12 a.m.

The 21 participants are elementary school students in grades kindergarten- tenth grade.

The workshop was a fundraiser for the Blue Crew, and they will be continuing the fundraiser at the performance by selling candy bars for $5.

As a special treat, five of the candy bars will have golden tickets in them, and these tickets will lead to a prize.

Spring One-Act Plays Cast List Announced

Presented March 3 – 4 7:30 p.m.
Boone DMACC
Directed by Kay Mueller

Romance Inc.
Alice Field
Amanda Pence
Pat Burke
Antorniece Lee
Minnie Brown
Anna Sunstrom
Mrs. Whitney
Rita Brim
Beatrice
Megan McMahon
Computer Pals
Mitzi
Patty Rockwell
Jake
Bryan White
Time Flies
May
Megan McMahon
Horace
Thad Imerman
Attenborough
Tammy Hartman
Vicar’s Wife
Madge
Tammy Hartman
Sylbl
Wendy Pixley
Such a Nice Little Kitty
Walter
Jason Allen
Edna
Noelle Derr
Officer Kelly
Alice Clemons

Phi Theta Kappa to induct new members

Brenda LaGrone
Banner Staff Writer

Phi Theta Kappa is an honor society that sponsors many events on campus. Nancy Woods is the Iowa Coordinator for Phi Theta Kappa.

“Do you join clubs in which you actually invest? After 12 credits of community college work, and earning a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, a student can join,” said Woods.

PTK is welcoming the month of February as the organization is hosting two events. An induction ceremony is being held on Monday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m.

“This night is going to be a celebration of excellence,” said Woods. There will be other honored guests in attendance. Honored guests and members are encouraged to step up to new leadership roles and opportunities. The ceremony is being held in the Boone Campus theater. Refreshments will be held afterwards in the campus center.

There is also a College Transfer Fair, with 28 college institutions from Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, and Georgia. Students attending this fair will learn about options available for them after graduation. Phi Theta Kappa does not want you to miss Friday, Feb. 24. “Plan to see what the future holds for you,” said Woods.

Jonathan B. Howe and Kathleen A. Crouse, Boone campus students, have been selected to the All Iowa Academic Team.
Women support each other before a free throw during their recent victory over the Kirkwood Eagles.  

**Women win big on the road 70-50**

By Andrew Penner

Sports Editor

The women’s basketball still No. 13 in the nation, went on the road to take on the Panthers from Ellsworth Community College on Jan. 21. The Bears pulled the cape over the Panthers in a blow out of 70-50.

After trailing throughout the first five minutes of the game, the Bears answered with a three pointer from Emily Duffy. The bears would then go on a 9-2 run with a basket from Duffy while being guarded by three Panthers. Going into half time, the Bears were up by 15 and a score of 33-18.

The bears started the second half with the ball and took it to the Panthers with a 15-6 run. After two Duffy three pointers, one basket from both Kristin Van Zee and Kayla Richter, Michelle Kumrow and Jocelyn Anderson combined shot for 3 of 4 from the free throw line.

Before the final five minutes of the game, the Bears made three back to back three pointers to put the score at 70-40, which was followed by a five minute dry spell, but held the Panthers to ten points. The Bears have now won five games in a row after defeating Ellsworth 70-50.

Jocelyn Anderson goes up for a shot.  

**Andrew Penner**  
Sports Editor

The women’s basketball team breached the top fifteen and put themselves at No. 13 in the nation. On Jan. 18 the Bears hosted the top school in the nation, the Kirkwood Eagles. The Bears would upset the Eagles 74-72.

The Bears started the game with a basket from Alisa Brinkman and later a three pointer from Brinkman to tie it up at 5. The Eagles soon regained their lead with a three pointer, but it soon fizzled thereafter. Then Kayla Richter stole the ball and took it coast to coast for two points.

At half time, the Bears had already proven a force to be reckoned with for the Eagles, with the score of 41-32. The Bears started the second half with the ball and used it to their advantage, capping off a 16-9 run with their largest lead being 17 points.

The Eagles managed to stay in the game by being successful from outside the arch, which allowed them to tie the game up at 72. Then the Eagles made the mistake of sending Michelle Kumrow to shoot two free throws, making both shots. Then with only two seconds left in the game the Eagles sent Kristin Van Zee to the line. Van Zee missed both shots, but missing the second started the clock sooner. In doing so she helped the Bears knock off the No.1 team in the nation by the score of 74-72.

“I was okay with Kristin Van Zee missing her second free throw, because the clock would start and Kirkwood wouldn’t have time to set up a last second,” said Coach Krafcisin. The Bears were led by Brinkman with 17 points and Jocelyn Anderson having a triple double— 15 points, 10 rebounds and 10 blocked shots.

Anderson has also been named as the Iowa Community College Athletic Conferences’ (ICCAC) Athlete of the Week for Jan. 5-11. This has been Anderson’s third time now. ICCAC has recently named Kayla Richter as the Athlete of the Week for Jan. 12-18, for her performance against Iowa Central and Marshalltown.

**THIRD TIME AWARD WINNER**

**BOONE— DMACC women’s basketball player Jocelyn Anderson of Gowrie has been named this week’s Division II Women’s Basketball Athlete of the Week in the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference, again. This marks the third week that Anderson has received this honor. This past week, Anderson had 14 points, 16 rebounds and nine blocked shots in a 73-65 win over North Iowa Area Community College. Anderson is the leading scorer and rebounder for the Bears. She is averaging a double-double with 17 points and 12 rebounds per game. Anderson, who is enrolled in DMACC’s Business Management Program, has led the Bears to a three-way tie for first place in the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference.**
**Bears maul Cougars**

Andrew Penner  
**Sports Editor**

The men’s basketball team came back to the den Saturday, Jan. 14 to take on the Clinton Community College Cougars. The Cougars put up one hell of a fight, but it wasn’t be enough when the Bears mauled them in the end 76-56.

The Bears started out slowly in the first half, but tied it up four times at 5, 15, 19, and 27 with only three minutes left in the first half. The Bears had enough playing cat and mouse. That’s when Jerry Bennett and Will Smith each made a basket and closely followed by a three pointer from George Pruitt. Buster Battreall knocked the ball loose from a Cougar, and Vince Johnson recovered the ball and took it to the hoop for two points.

The half time score had the Bears up 36-30. As the second half started, the Bears turned up the heat on the Cougars by going for a 15-6 run over eight minutes.

During the final seconds of the game with the Bears controlling the ball, Pruitt drained a shot from well beyond the three point line. The Bears smothered the Cougars 76-56.

**Panthers take a bite out of the Bears**

Andrew Penner  
**Sports Editor**

The men’s basketball team is still No. 9 in the nation after the loss to Kirkwood.

On Jan. 21, the Bears traveled to Iowa Falls, play the Ellsworth Community College Panthers. The Bears have now lost three of the last five conference games including the loss to the Panthers 53-68.

The Bears got the ball from the tip off, but had it stolen from them immediately. The Bears tied the Panthers with a three pointer from George Pruitt, followed by a steal from Demetrious Eason who passed the ball down court to Adam Weig for a basket to make it 10-8. Moments later, the Panther crowd was silenced by the Eason to Pruitt alley-oop.

At half time, the Bears were trailed 29-36 to the Panthers. The Bears only came within three points of the Panthers with 11 and a half minutes left in the game.

The Bears didn’t beat the Panthers, they beat themselves. The Bears had trouble from outside the arch with allowing the Panthers to make 13, while only having five for DMACC. Head Coach Orv Salmon was probably more frustrated with the countless turnovers in their 53-68 loss to Ellsworth.

**Sports**

Wednesday, January 25, 2006 | THE BOONE BANNER

BOONE-- Women’s Basketball player Kayla Richter of Council Bluffs was named the Division II Women’s Scholar Athlete of the Week by the Iowa Community College Athletic Association. Currently, majoring in Fitness and Sports Management, Richter has a 3.76 grade point average.

In the two victories for the Lady Bears this week, the 5’ 7” freshman Richter had a career high 20 points in a win over Iowa Central Community College. She followed that with a 12 point, five rebounds and four assist performance in a win over Marshalltown Community College.

Richter, who was a first-team all district and first-team all state player in high school, plans to graduate from DMACC and then continue to play basketball at a four-year school.

Eagles soar over Bears

**Andrew Penner**  
**Sports Editor**

The men’s basketball team has finally breached the top ten, landing at 9th place in the nation. It was a fierce rival match up on Jan. 18 between No. 9 DMACC Bears and the No. 1 team in the nation, the Kirkwood Eagles. However, the Eagles were just too much for the Bears, and went 61-72.

The Bears started out having an early lead of 16-11 only seven minutes into the game. Then the Eagles tied it up at 16, and minutes later again at 21. From there, the Bears went on a 6-14 run. At the end of the first half, the Bears were trailing the Eagles 27-35.

After eight minutes into the second half, Adam Weig hit a three pointer to put the Bears up by nine points. From then on, the Bears couldn’t keep up with the Eagles and lost 61-72.

**BOONE AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**SCHOLAR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

Kayla Richter, freshman  
Council Bluffs

**ISU coach scouts recruits**

Andrew Penner  
**Sports Editor**

There was another basketball coach present at the Bears’ upset of No. 1 Kirkwood. It was Iowa State University head women’s basketball coach, Bill Fennelly.

Fennelly said, “I came because my team isn’t playing, so it’s a good game to watch.” It soon became obvious that Fennelly came to watch Toccara Ross (Kirkwood), one of his recruits for next year and possibly to take another look at Joceilyn Anderson.

Fennelly had come to a game in November to look at Anderson after Coach Krafcisin asked him to come. “Both coaches (Krafcisin and Kirkwood’s Kim Muhi) are really good friends of mine,” Fennelly stated.
Opinion

New Editor-in-Chief, New Look

Arley J. Sitzmann
Editor-in-Chief

Welcome to the first issue of the spring 2006 Boone Banner! I’d first like to introduce myself. I’m Arley J. Sitzmann the new Chief-in-Editor for the Boone Banner. I am a sophomore here at DMACC and planning on transferring to ISU, majoring in journalism. This semester we also have 8 amazing staff members.

I’m excited for the new semester and am interested in hearing what you want to read! One of the most important things to us is to get you the news you want. We would like to hear your story ideas, breaking news tips, gossip, the best places to eat, letters to the editor, weekend ideas, or just your opinion on anything! This is very important to us. Letter, ideas, and opinion should be e-mailed to: ajsitzmann@dmacc.edu

I would also like to introduce our new look. We have a new look compared to last semesters Boone Banner, but it’s not completely new. We do have the a similar layout/look as the spring 2005 semester, which was done by James Bregenzer with the guidance of Micheal Keegan, assistant managing editor for the Washington Post.

We are now going back to National, Iowa and Campus news. Once again I would like to stress your opinions do matter and we would like to hear what you think! This is a great opportunity for you to voice your opinions, criticisms, likes and dislikes.

Myspace ruins the social lives of college students

Mary Elizabeth Drahos
Banner Staff Writer

Myspace will ruin your life. There. Enough said.

Thanks to some guy named Tom, millions of people, young and old, have come together to trade pictures, take quizzes, and design web pages. Some are on to find new friends while others are on to find a date.

I, myself, have fallen victim to this latest internet craze. Last semester, I complained of my lack of social life because of my job and classes. This semester, I found a new job, cut down on classes, and ruined my social life EVEN MORE! Because this page has absorbed most of my free time. I have spent many hours designing this page of mine to make it one of the best out there (and no, I am not over exaggerating).

Who am I doing this for you ask? I am not sure. Mostly this site seems to be used for my family to send forwards through the message board instead of through regular e-mail.

However, even though this has absorbed a lot of my life, I still feel good about all the hard work I have put in this page. Sure, in the long run, I am probably tainting my image, but at least I am showing my creativity.

Tom, thank you. Thank you for creating an inner computer geek monster that I had NO idea existed.

Thank you for connecting me to people who want to be my ‘friend’ for the sheer experience of saying they have friends.

And thank you for further making my plight into dating more messed up.

The other side of the Courter...

What are you doing during the Super Bowl?

“Buy about three cases of beer, open them by noon, and have fun watching the game.” – Dave Guthrie

“Find a place to hang out and eat mini weiners.” – Mike Smith

“Try to write the next chapter in a novel I’m working on.” – Bruce Kelly
Megan Shadle  
Banner Staff Writer

Arthur Golden’s “Memoirs of a Geisha” was beautifully written. It’s a novel about a young woman’s survival, as a geisha in a world where her virginity was auctioned off to the highest bidder, and love didn’t exist for her and other geisha.

Golden’s novel is excellent, while the recent film adaptation of the novel lacks the imaginative images it gives its readers. The film jumps around from scene to scene without a gentle transition that the novel had.

In the film, the scenes were short without much meaning, while in the novel the transitions were sometimes drawn out but given a good effect for imagination.

Some of the characters visually changed in the film. Nobu Toshikazu, a prominent character in the book was supposed to be missing his left arm above the elbow. Another character that changed in the film was Deputy Minister Sato. He was depicted as an American deputy minister, but was in fact a fat Japanese man who had an alcohol problem in the novel.

This film was beautifully made and shot in Japan with outstanding locations used to fill in what the novel had suggested.

I highly recommend this book, it is a quick read even though it has roughly around 500 pages. I suggest seeing the film that won a Golden Globe for best Original Score composed by John Williams and compare it for yourself.

See Dick & Jane

Arley J. Sitzmann  
Banner Staff Writer

“Fun with Dick and Jane,” which is based on the 1977 comedy of the same name, has plenty of laughs and something to say about the irresponsible corporate world.

Dick (Jim Carrey, who also produced) and Jane (Tea Leoni) Harper are a middle class family with one child and are doing well enough to afford a new lawn, a housekeeper, and a new hot tub.

One day, Dick is called to the illustrious, “On the way up,” 51st floor of his company, Globodyne, and informed that he has been promoted to VP of communications.

The next thing you know, Dick is on the television show “Money Life” defending his company, which just went under. Not only is now unemployed, but Jane is too. She quit her job as a travel agent after hearing about Dick’s promotion.

Dick had all of his savings tied up in Globodyne’s stock and pension. The Harpers quickly find themselves selling everything they own including their high-definition tv, and Dick’s BMW.

After everything is gone and Dick’s job as a supermarket greeter and Jane’s Botox test don’t work out, they are reduced to theft. Their target is Globodyne’s former president who put the company under.

The joke of the movie isn’t just Dick and Jane’s poverty leading to theft, but the jokes poking at the corporate world.

At the very end of the movie, before the closing credits, the movie gives “special thanks” to Enron and Worldcom, including a long list of executives who robbed their companies of millions of dollars.

“Fun with Dick and Jane” is 85 minutes and is rated PG-13 for brief language, some sexual humor and occasional drug references. It is now playing in theaters everywhere.

7 out of 10 grins
Auto safety made easy

By Dave Barry
Knight Ridder Newspapers

(This classic Dave Barry column was originally published on Aug. 13, 1995.)

Automobiles are a mixed blessing. On the one hand, they provide us with benefits that were undreamed-of in the “horse-and-buggy” days. For example, any time we get hungry, we can simply hop into the car, pull up to the drive-through window of a fast-food restaurant, purchase a tasty hot meal, spill our coffee on our thighs and sue a major corporation for millions of dollars.

On the other (or “left”) hand, automobiles can be very dangerous. The motor is a complicated and powerful machine; if we do not treat it with proper respect, it could put a radio antenna way up our nose. This actually happened to a man in Gresham, Ore., according to a news item from The Portland Oregonian that was sent to me by many alert readers. The article states that the man, who wound up in the hospital, didn’t know exactly how it happened; he was talking with some friends, then turned to leave, and “the next thing he knew the antenna on his 1984 Fiero was up his nose.”

The question is: What are we, as a nation, going to do about this problem?

The practical solution, of course, is for the government to order a mandatory recall of all cars ever made, so that they can be refurbished with antennas made from a safer, softer, less-penetrating material, such as cheese. Until this can be done, the public should be made aware of the danger via public-service TV spots featuring graphic filmed demonstrations showing exactly what can happen when automobile antennas are rammed way up the noses of actual Tobacco Institute scientists.

Also, everybody should wear nose plugs. I think this is a good idea, and “the next thing he knew the antenna entered his brain cavity, where it destroyed his pituitary gland.”

Our final automotive safety issue is raised by a news item from The Portland Oregonian, concerning a young man whose car would not start because the catalytic converter had clogged up. (In case you are unfamiliar with automotive terminology, I should explain that a “catalytic converter” is apparently some kind of thing in a car.)

The man, who was late for his job at a Sears auto center, wanted to fix the converter by drilling a hole in it, but he couldn’t find a drill. So, as a trained automotive professional, he decided to make the hole by shooting the converter with a.22-caliber rifle. This repair technique worked flawlessly, in the sense that the man got out of the hospital the very same day. Apparently the bullet hit a bolt, and the man wound up with metal fragments in his thigh. The emergency-room doctor advised the man to leave the fragments in his thigh. The emergency-room doctor advised the man to leave the fragments in his thigh. (In case you are unfamiliar with automotive terminology, I should explain that a “catalytic converter” is apparently some kind of thing in a car.)

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But that is not the point. The point is that if you, after shooting your car for whatever reason (and I can think of many), find that your body contains metal fragments, you know where to go for prompt, no-nonsense treatment.

Your local Sears auto center. They can also give you a good deal on batteries, tires and brain surgery. Happy motoring, and take that brassiere off your head.