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Banner News

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Students go to Belize for Spring Break 2006

Arley J. Sitzmann
Banner staff writer

DMACC students will be visiting Belize for spring break 2006 and earning credit for it. “This is a perfect first opportunity for students to study abroad,” said Jeff Schroeder, the course instructor. Belize, formally known as British Honduras, is located in Central America bordering the Caribbean Sea, between Guatemala and Mexico. During this semester, students are able to study the country of Belize and will visit Belize March 20 through March 24. The class is a three credit course. Students will do a presentation before and after the trip. The cost of the trip is $1,500 and students have to find their own airfare,” said Schroeder. The currency exchange in Belize is $2 Belize to $1 U.S. Most businesses will accept U.S. currency. When traveling, it’s usually best to carry traveler’s checks or small amounts of cash. Belize is tropical, very hot and humid. According to the Belize District, the busiest time of year to visit is November to May and the least busy time is June to October. During the winter months it’s a dry season in Belize, which means that normally there will be sunny skies. During the summer months Belize usually receives fewer visitors. The best feature about spending a summer vacation in Belize is the summer savings. Rates start falling from around May 1 and remain slashed until Nov. at most places, according to the Belize District. There are many sites to see when visiting Belize. One of the classic activities is snorkeling and diving. White sand beaches, palm trees, and the closeness to the barrier reef make Belize ideal for diving. “It’s a developing country. People are poor, but they are very friendly and very nice. Students will notice this right away,” said Schroeder. Belize is an English speaking country making it easier for travelers to get around by themselves or within a group.

Baseball Coach of 30 Years Retires

Grant Mulholland
Banner staff writer

After 33 years the only baseball coach DMACC has ever known is retiring. John Smith is finally calling it quits as DMACC’s head baseball coach after more than three decades. Coach Smith grew up in South Dakota a short distance from the Nebraska border. He has two older brothers, one lives in Nebraska, the other in Minnesota. His mother still lives in South Dakota.

For college he attended Southem State Teacher’s College. He has been married for “a long time”, 45 years this year. He has two sons, both of whom are married, and living in Texas and Florida respectively. He has been a part of the Boone community for 39 years.

He started teaching Accounting and Business Law at DMACC in 1967, which at that time was Boone Community College. Now has cut back to just teaching a night class.

Of his many years at DMACC, his proudest accomplishment is, “Just seeing the kids that played for me graduate. Seeing them develop their potential and become adults,” said Smith.

More than 80 of Smith’s former players have been drafted or signed and three have made it into the big leagues.

The thing that Smith thinks he will miss the most about being DMACC’s
Two campus editors suspended for running Muhammad cartoons

David Mendell
Chicago Tribune (KRT)

The editor in chief of a student-led newspaper serving the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has been suspended after printing cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad that, when published in Europe, enraged Muslims and led to violent protests in the Middle East and Asia.

Editor Acton Gorton and his opinions editor, Chuck Prochaska, were relieved of their duties at The Daily Illini on Tuesday while a task force investigates “the internal decision-making and communication” that led to the publishing of the cartoons, according to a statement by the newspaper’s publisher and general manager, Mary Cory.

Gorton said he expects to be fired at the conclusion of the investigation, which is expected to take two weeks.

“I pretty much have an idea how this is going to run, and this is a thinly veiled attempt to remove me from my position,” said Gorton, a University of Illinois senior who took the newspaper’s editor’s obligation to engage other student professional behavior dictate that it is the editor’s obligation to engage other student editors and student staff members in rigorous discussion and debate of sensitive content.”

decision to publish them in Thursday’s newspaper.

“This is not a publicity stunt, and this wasn’t an easy decision,” said Gorton. Gorton’s decision, however, caused an uproar in the local Muslim community and rankled other Illini staff members after the paper was deluged with negative letters and e-mails.

Gorton himself said he received 300 e-mails. Two-thirds of the e-mails were supportive and a third were hateful, he said.

University of Illinois Chancellor Richard Herman also wrote a letter to the newspaper saying he was saddened by Gorton’s decision.

Then, on Monday, the paper ran an editorial apologizing for Gorton’s decision and called the move “a blatant abuse of power” by a “renegade editor who firmly believes that his will is also the will of the paper.”

The task force will study whether Gorton made his decision in a vacuum that was improper according to the Illini’s journalistic standards, written in 1947. The Daily Illini is an independent publication that serves the university community and is overseen by a board of directors that includes students and faculty.

“The board and publisher reaffirm that final decisions about content in The Daily Illini rest with the editor in chief,” Cory said in a written statement. “But the board and publisher also recognize that journalistic norms regarding professional behavior dictate that it is the editor’s obligation to engage other student editors and student staff members in rigorous discussion and debate of sensitive content.”

This wasn’t an easy decision, however, Gorton said. “This is not a publicity stunt, and it’s obvious that the throwback design to the original 1970 Challenger, the concept also takes a cue from the Charger. As Dodge and Mopar enthusiasts are probably wondering: yes, it’s got a Hemi -- a 6.1 liter V-8 Hemi, to be exact.

Camaro, Challenger debut at Chicago Auto Show

Beth Carlson
Banner staff writer

The Chicago Auto Show 2006 kicked off on Friday, Feb. 10, at the McCormick Place in downtown Chicago. This show is the biggest auto show in the nation, and has been around for 98 years. According to the official Chicago Auto Show website, the show has also been held more times than any other auto exposition on the continent.

In all, 42 manufacturers presented automobiles for exhibition in Chicago. By far, the highest anticipated cars of the show are the concept cars from Chevy and Dodge: the Camaro and the Challenger, respectively.

Since the original Camaro ceased production in 2002, many fans have been left wondering if their beloved car would return. With its concept version unveiled, it’s obvious that the throwback design to the first generation Camaro is the prevalent idea in styling. According to the Chicago Auto Show website, the first generation Camaro is one of the most sought after collector cars of the era.

Also debuting in concept form is the Dodge Challenger, which hasn’t seen the production line since 1974. Again, with a heavy throwback design to the original 1970 Challenger, the concept also takes a cue from the Charger. As Dodge and Mopar enthusiasts are probably wondering: yes, it’s got a Hemi -- a 6.1 liter V-8 Hemi, to be exact.

Today’s Birthday (02-22-06). Today is an 8 - The complexity of the situation is not in control. Don’t be surprised if your team requests you assume more leadership.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Today is a 6 - If you’re having trouble getting your message across, get help from a spiritual friend. You don’t have to do it alone.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Today is a 7 - The objective is to make an investment that can’t do anything but increase. Don’t follow the advice of friends. Add to what you’ve already got.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Today is a 6 - Ask somebody else to do the impossible. You’re in line for a pleasant surprise. Might as well make the most of these unusual conditions.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Today is an 8 - The complexity of the puzzle just makes it more of a challenge. This phase has a happy ending, although something of a surprise.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is a 7 - You’re lucky in love, so make some long-term plans for the future together. Don’t worry about the money. This can take a while.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is a 6 - Don’t be dissuaded by a critic, but do heed a sensible warning. You may have to get rid of one thing to make room for another.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is a 6 - If at first you don’t succeed, try reading the manual. You’re about to make an amazing discovery.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is a 7 - A brilliant move financially brings you more than expected. This might be a pleasant surprise but it is linked to your past actions.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is a 7 - You’re changing in the way you see yourself. You’re more confident. This is a natural part of your growing process.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a 7 - Finish old business as quickly and completely as you can. The pace is about to pick up again, with new possibilities.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is a 6 - The truth is revealed. It’s good news for you and your associates. Your faith in each other has been fully justified.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 7 - Keep going, even if it looks like there’s no way you can achieve your goals. Believe in miracles.
Arley J. Sitzmann
Banner staff writer

The nursing program is one of the most time consuming majors at DMACC because of the work involved in the program. Health care is the fastest growing industry in the United States, providing millions of jobs all over the country.

"The nursing program is very difficult and the students never miss class," said Connie Booth, a nursing professor at DMACC. It takes about one to one and a half years to get into the nursing program and the student must have “good critical thinking, math and science, and people skills,” she said.

The program usually has around 100 students. Currently, there are about 75 students and DMACC will admit 24 more students for the next fall’s semester. The program lasts one year for a licensed practical nurse (LPN) and two years for a registered nurse (RN).

Prior to entering the nursing program, the students are required to complete two prerequisite courses, which consist of health science anatomy and general psychology. Once the student enters the program, there are a number of courses that must be completed with a “C” grade of above in order to progress into the next semester.

The health industry is always growing in the United States. After completing the nursing program, “most students can find their own job and don’t have any trouble with it,” Booth said.

DMACC currently does not have job placement for the nursing program. The average starting salary for a LPN is $27,100 and $35,415 for a RN.

"We are thrilled that the program is challenging for students," said Sitzmann. "It’s all worth it in the end because you get to help others," said Christina Kelch, a DMACC student.

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It’s just a cartoon

Arley J. Sitzmann
Editor-in-Chief

Riots around the Muslim world and many Danish cartoonists now fear for their lives and have gone into hiding. What is all of this for?

Anyone who hasn’t seen the cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad must think they are jarringly offensive and since very few newspapers in America have chosen to print the cartoons, what else would you think?

And to those of you who haven’t seen it, it’s a depiction of Prophet Muhammad with a bomb in his turban.

To Muslims, depictions of Muhammad are forbidden, so it doesn’t matter if the cartoons make a statement or not; the very fact that cartoons of Muhammad exist is offensive.

The overblown reaction to the cartoons in Muslim countries is what the story has become, as streets filled with violent protesters who are demanding that journalists in other countries respect the Muslim religion.

The proper response to an insult by the press is to respond with speech, rather than violence in the streets. It’s the people’s choice to choose whether they believe it is offensive or not.

America’s first amendment includes freedom of speech and for journalists there is a responsibility that comes with that, but for the Muslim people to react in such a way is a reaction to feelings and not a reaction of rational thought. American editors should rethink their decision not to reprint the original Danish cartoons.

What do you like better? Dick Fudd or Elmer Cheney?

Grant Mulholland
Banner staff writer

I need someone to explain this to me, so follow along closely. Here’s the deal, Dick Cheney goes hunting. With me so far? He shoots a bunch of birds. This apparent catastrophe fills the news for a week . . . what else is that hell is that?

I could maybe understand if he was hunting the last of the doves with a stinger missile, fishing for dolphins with sticks of dynamite, or even offing baby seals with a pitching wedge, but quail?

Why does this merit nationwide news coverage? I mean holy hell, of all the things to occupy the news in this country, the media focuses on the vice president’s hunting trip. I don’t know if it’s the fact that it was a “canned” hunt, or just that those tree huggers at PETA, people for the ethical treatment of animals, just can’t handle the idea of a man doing something that our species has been doing for thousands and thousands of years: hunting! For those of you who don’t know, a canned hunt is when an animal is specifically raised for the express purpose of being hunted. To me, that’s the same as raising cows to get me my damn steak.

I have a little message for you damn animal rights fanatics with your “turkeys are our friends” crap around Thanksgiving and your “fur is murder” protests while you stomp around in your LEATHER sandals. The message is very clear and simple: For every animal you don’t eat, I am going to eat three, maybe four if it’s ritualizing season. For those who think I’m ranting like this because I’m some gung-ho redneck with a gun rack in my truck, I have only this to say: not only have I never been hunting, I don’t even own a gun. I personally could never shoot a deer. Not because I empathize with them, but because I don’t have the outrageous amount of patience to sit in the damn woods all day waiting for the furry buggers to show up and let me shoot them.

Back to the antics of our geriatric VP. Our boy Dick goes hunting again and accidentally shoots some poor guy in the face. In the face! Let’s go over the “in-cident” step by step. Dick and his buddy are hunting on a ranch somewhere. They are hunting quail. They shoot one. Dick’s friend steps out of the hunting line to pick it up. Another bird pops up, Dick swings on it and shoots. Hits his friend in the face! At about 30 yards. In the face! Sucks to be that guy. This generates a repugnant amount of media coverage. It’s not like Dick was hiding in this guy’s bushes and shot him in the face when he came out for work in the morning. It was an accident! When you go hunting and don’t stay out of the way of the hunters, there is typically a good chance that you are going to be shot.

If you have ever been hunting or more importantly fishing, then you know that it is almost a moral imperative that there is beer present. I’m not implying that either of them were drunk at the time, I’m saying that beer and hunting or fishing in the great outdoors go together like frat guys and pink polo shirts, with or without the collar flipped. Any average guy born and raised in Iowa can tell you, there’s nothing quite like having a few beers and triumphing over nature.

As always if you have any feed back, send me an email. I am more than happy to listen to your opinion, and then explain to you why you’re wrong. I might even print a few along with my response. So, give me some indication that someone somewhere is reading this paper and send me some hate-mail, or just drop me a line to tell me you like my writing. Do whatever you want; it’s what makes our country great.

The Boone Banner is a student newspaper, published bi-weekly at Des Moines Area Community College, 1125 Hancock Dr., Boone, Iowa 50036. The Boone Banner news desk may be reached at (515) 433-5092.

The Boone Banner welcomes letters in an attempt to provide a forum for the many diverse views of the campus. The views expressed in the Boone Banner are not necessarily the views or endorsements of Des Moines Area Community College or the Boone Banner editorial board.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 250 words, signed and brought to the Boone Banner editorial offices, mailed in care of the college, or can be emailed to ajsitzmann@dmacc.edu. The Boone Banner reserves the right to edit as necessary for length, content, profundity, copy fitting, grammatical and spelling errors or clarity.

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The other side of the Courter...

What event would you like to see in the Winter Olympics?

-Extreme ice fishing because that’s never been done before.
-Michael Frost

-Paintball
-Nathan Treganza

-Snowman making because who wouldn’t want it.
-Jessica Maher-Lewis

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The Boone Banner is an independent student newspaper. Opinions expressed in this or any other Boone Banner publication may not necessarily reflect the views of DMACC or the Boone Banner editorial board.
Get to know your Banner staff

What’s your favorite drink.....

Arley Sitzmann
Editor-in-Chief
I like amaretto sour, but don’t drink too much it’ll give you a stomach ache.

Richie Monk
Photo Editor
Jack and Coke in a glass of ice. Well..... I guess minus the Coke. While we’re at it, let’s get rid of the ice and the glass, too.

Grant Mulholland
News Editor
Anything that can be poured into a funnel, although I would recommend staying away from tequila and Wild Turkey.

Beth Carlson
Managing Editor
Seven and sevens.

Anna Sundstrom
Features Editor
I go to coffee shops a lot, so I would have to say hot chocolate, chai or hot apple cider.

Brenda LaGrone
Copy Editor
Milk with ice cubes.

Megan Shadle
Staff Writer
Cherry Coke.

Andrew Penner
Sports Editor
Pepsi.

Moses Eckstein
Staff Writer
Fresh cold water.

One year ago:
“Hitch” was the number one movie. “Let Me Love You” by Mario was the number one song.

Two years ago:
“50 First Dates” was the number one movie.

Three years ago:
“Daredevil” was the number one movie.

Four years ago:
“Queen of the Damned” was the number one movie.

Five years ago:
“Hannibal” was the number one movie. “Ms. Jackson” by Outkast was the number one song.

Ten years ago:
“Rumble in the Bronx” was the number one movie. “One Sweet Day” by Mariah Carey was the number one song.

Fifteen years ago:
“Silence of the Lambs” was the number one movie. “Gonna Make You Sweat” by C + C Music Factory was the number one song.

1860: Organized baseball’s first game was played in San Francisco.
1924: President Calvin Coolidge delivers the first presidential radio address from the White House.
1935: Airplanes were no longer permitted to fly over the White House.
1980: In a major upset, the U.S. Olympic Hockey team defeated the Soviets 4–3 at Lake Placid, N.Y.
1997: A team of British scientists announced the birth of Dolly the sheep, the first clone of an adult mammal.
1998: 18th Winter Olympic games close at Nagano, Japan.
On Feb. 11, they hosted the Trojans of North Iowa Area Community College. The Bears improved to 5-4 in conference play by defeating the NIACC Trojans 75-68.

The Bears started out slow, but finally found their rhythm and regained the lead after a 3-pointer from Buster Battreall. After that the Bears exploded with Jerry Bennett and David Prince each making a basket. Followed by a 3-pointer from both Adam Weig and George Pruitt.

Before the second half started the Bears led 29-23. The Bears got the ball rolling after a dunk by Prince and a 3-pointer from Demetrious Eason. About a minute later it was Weig hitting a 3-pointer from well beyond the arch.

During the last five minutes the Bears would maintain their lead but not as aggressive, allowing the Trojans to come back within seven points. As the game ended the Bears won with a score of 75-68. The men’s basketball team has a record of 8-1 at home and 4-4 in the conference.

The Bears would go on a 16-8 run, having two 3-pointers, one by Demetrious Eason and the other by Mustafa Mosley. A little bit later Will Smith was fouled while shooting a basket, and turned it into a three point play. The Spartans were trailling 36-20 at half time.

During the second half the Bears gave sign of letting up as they continued their aggressive pace. Later in the half Smith took the ball to the hoop in the form of a dunk. During the Bears’ next possession Mosley stirred the crowd with a dunk of his own.

Finally after leading by a large margin Bears’ Head Coach Orv Salmon put Dan Clark in the game. With just over a minute left in the game Clark made a 3-pointer putting the crowd in a frenzy.

The Bears then finished off what was left of the Spartans, and won the game with a score of 81-53.

The women’s basketball team took to the court on Feb. 11, to play a conference match up with the North Iowa Area Community College Trojans. The Bears have had great success while in their den posting a 7- win, 3- loss record. But the Bears were out played and fell to the Trojans 52-60.

From the tip off the Bears took the early lead with a 2 point shot from Alisa Brinkman, and a 3 pointer from Michelle Kumrow as well as Emily Duffy. The Trojans would battle back to within four points before half time to make it 29-25.

The Bears would start the second half with an 11-6 run. The Bears then fell into a slump for the next 11 minutes, and allowed the Trojans to tie the game up at 47 with three and a half minutes left.

After it was tied up the Bears couldn’t regain their momentum, but were defeated 52-60 by the Trojans.

Bears dominate

The women’s basketball team hosted Southwestern Community College Spartans on Feb. 15. The Bears had little trouble in defeating the Spartans by the score of 66-47.

The Bears started the game out with an 18-9 run during the first nine minutes. As the first half progressed it became clear as to which team was aggressively attacking the hoop. When the first half came to an end the Bears had a commanding lead of 15 points as the score was 36-21.

As the game resumed after half time Michelle Kumrow made her presence known by making four baskets only five minutes into the half. During those five minutes the Bears capped off a 14-3 run.

Late in the second half the Spartans found themselves at the mercy of the Bears as the Bears continued to dominate the game. The Bears would eventually win the game as the score was 66-47.
Shaun White after winning the gold medal in Torino.

David Whiteley
The Orlando Sentinel (KRT)

TURIN, Italy _ GrandMaster Flash was about to perform Monday night. With any luck, Barbara Bush would rush the stage and trigger an international incident.

The president’s daughter was supposedly in the crowd at the invitation-only party. From the spotlights to the red carpet, the night felt like a Hollywood premiere.

It would be enough to make a young man’s head spin. Thankfully, Monday’s guest of honor does 1080-degree spins for a living.

“Look at this,” Shaun White said. “It’s crazy.”

About as insane as the thought that a pasty, 5-foot-8, 140-pound kid who looks like a young Carrot Top is the best athlete at the Olympics. And it’s not just what he looks like. It’s what he does.

Halfpipe?
They need to arrest people for trying some of those tricks. Now they give them gold medals. White earned it Sunday by snowboarding his way into Olympic history.

That phrase is enough to make Baron Pierre de Coubertin do a companion appearance this year in Torino. He competed in the men’s snowboarding halfpipe, and took the gold, seconded by teammate, Danny Kass who took silver.

Winning is no new thing for White. He turned pro in the sport of snowboarding at the age of 13, taking on sponsorship from Burton, one of the biggest names in the sport. White has won gold many times over at the Winter X-Games, in both SuperPipe, and Slopestyle.

There’s not much else to say about this remarkable young man other than, look out for him in the future. One of his nicknames is “futuroboy” which pretty much lets you know that he is predicted by many to be one of the innovators of this fairly new sport that is snowboarding.

The fact White’s 56-year-old father uses terms like “dis” and “gnarly” fits the snowboarding stereotype. It was cemented in 1998, when the first gold medalist in a snowboard event was disqualified for having drugs in his system.

He claimed it was from second-hand marijuana smoke. That’s what he got for hanging out with the half-piping crowd.

It’s easy to assume White is carrying on that piping tradition. But the kid who looks the least like a Greek statue of anyone in Turin is actually the epitome of what an Olympian should be.

Party hound?
“He’s just a regular kid,” Roger said, holding his hand at eye level. “Now he’s here.”

White’s dad is reaching to the sky.

The ceiling far above him was starting to thump to the music. His son had been whisked to the VIP room to hang with Nancy Kerrigan.

Long-term, you hope he all doesn’t change White. The Olympics need more Flying Tomatoes.

Short-term, you hope he met Barbara Bush on Monday night and they hit it off.

Once he gets to know White, the First Dude will love him.

Future of snowboarding

Richie Monk
Banner staff writer

For those of you who haven’t heard the name Shaun White, where have you been? What used to be a name only known by the few that followed extreme sports, is now a household name around the world.

This 19 year old professional snowboarder made his first Olympic appearance this year in Torino. He competed in the men’s snowboarding halfpipe, and took the gold, seconded by teammate, Danny Kass who took silver.

Winning is no new thing for White. He turned pro in the sport of snowboarding at the age of 13, taking on sponsorship from Burton, one of the biggest names in the sport. White has won gold many times over at the Winter X-Games, in both SuperPipe, and Slopestyle.

Long-term, you hope it all doesn’t change White. The Olympics need more Flying Tomatoes.

Short-term, you hope he met Barbara Bush on Monday night and they hit it off.

Once he gets to know White, the First Dude will love him.
Two scholarships are also awarded. JRF grant are due March 1.

Fall 2006 semester. Applications for the $2000 to 60 applicants enrolled for the grant is available to women over age 35. The Jeannette Rankin Foundation.

Do you want free money for school? It's as easy as filling out applications for scholarships and grants available from DMACC and the community. Scholarships and grants are available based on both need and merit, depending on which one you are applying for.

Deadlines approaching for scholarships and grants

Brenda LaGrone
Banner staff writer

Ames is opening its Des Moines Area Community College Campus which will be known as the DMACC Career Academy Hunziker Center. The Hunziker family donated land and helped to fund the building itself. The total cost is $5 million.

“We are very excited about having our own facility because we have been sharing with the Ames High School during the nights. They have been good partners and great landlords for us, but we’re very excited about having our own place and space and a bit of our own identity,” said Brian Green, Boone Campus Associate Provost.

At the present time, the Ames night classes and staff don’t have access to copy machines and other equipment that some of the faculty need for each room. “It’s going to very nice to meet the needs of the faculty with room requirements they have for each specific subject area”, said Green.

All specifications of the new Ames Facility competing with the Boone Campus can be dispelled. “Our Ames campus is not competing with our Boone Campus because our daytime programs in Ames will be for high school students, therefore bringing no student loss to the Boone campus. The Boone Campus has been here since the 1920’s as the Boone Jr. College. So we don’t want to do anything to jeopardize this history”, stated Green.

Boone faculty members don’t have to fret about losing jobs.

The center is strictly providing educational opportunity, accessibility, affordability, and breaking down any other barriers in the way of education.

There are nine schools involved in partnership with DMACC in offering consortium classes to the daytime high school students. They are Ames, Ballard, Boone, Collins-Maxwell, Colo-Nesco, Gilbert, Nevada, Ogden, Roland Story, possibly Madrid, and other area schools.

The night classes are open for non-traditional students, high school students, and college students. Well over 300 students are expected for the evening and night classes. Summer classes will be added in 2007.

The DMACC Hunziker center speculates that since the location is I-35 and Hwy. 30, some of the surrounding corporations have employees who would like to take classes between shifts. From 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., the center has plans to offer creative writing, technical writing, and technical math. Employees would benefit as a company as well as personally.

The classes cost $95.00 a credit hour which is approximately 35-40 % of the cost of Iowa State University. DMACC and Iowa State University share some of the same faculty members and have a good collaborative partnership.

“We are willing to work with all the community. It’s not just going to be a beautiful building, but we are going to put it to good use,” added Green.

DMACC–Four Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) students are selected from all of Iowa for a ceremony to recognize outstanding achievement by career and technical students organizations, and two of the four are DMACC Boone campus students—Tricia Fogarty and Trudy Seidel.

Seidel has also been selected to speak at the ceremony, which will be held at the State Historical Building on March 16.

Each of the 13 career and technical student organizations have been asked to recommend students who have received outstanding achievements accomplished at state and national levels. Approximately 50 students are expected to attend.

Governor Vilsack, the Department of Education, the Department of Workforce Development and the Iowa Association for Career and Technical Education will sponsor the event. In addition to the Governor, the State Board of Education, the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees (IACCT), school and college administrators, parents and family will be invited to attend.

The ceremony will be held at the State Historical Building starting at 9:30 a.m. A student recognition luncheon will be held immediately after the ceremony. All in attendance will be invited to participate. After lunch, students will travel to the capital to meet with their respective legislators.
Local Band: Obsidian's Dream

Megan Shadle
Banner Staff writer

Local band, Obsidian's Dream, has released a new CD called “Hide and Seekers Grove” one of their best CDs yet. They have their own genre of music, so it’s hard to put their music into just one category.

Five members from Boone and Ames came together, each from different musical backgrounds, to combine a very unique sound which formed into Obsidian’s Dream in 2003.

Obsidian’s Dream is made up of five members: Dean Erickson, keyboards, percussion and SFX; Mike Duff, drums and percussion; Mike “Fook” Larrew, guitar and vocals; Chris “Shaggy” Zeitler, lead vocals and rhythm guitar; and Eric “Bert” Carlson, bass guitar, vocals and keys.

Their newest CD “Hide and Seekers Grove” is a great listen, it has 12 unique tracks with a psychedelic sound and great vocals. Each track has a great sound that has to be listened to. The title track, “Hide and Seekers Grove,” track three, has great guitar and vocal sound that is so different from other bands. The uniqueness of their sound is indescribable.

This CD is one of the best yet from Obsidian’s Dream, if you want to get hold of a copy of “Hide and Seekers Grove” contact Obsidian’s Dream on their website http://www.obsidiansdream.com and if you want to listen or download to a few tracks for free, visit their myspace profile at http://www.myspace.com/obsidiansdream.
It’s time once again for the Winter Olympics - three magical weeks during which all of America will gather in front of the television to watch “American Idol.” But during the commercials some of us will also tune in to the Winter Olympics, a quadrennial competition that answers, once and for all, questions that burn in the brains of every true sports fan, such as: (1) Who will claim “bragging rights” as the world’s best in the individual, sprint and team Nordic Combined? (2) What, exactly, is the Nordic Combined? (3) Who the hell are the “Nordics,” anyway? We are about to find out, as the Winter Games are under way in the picturesque Italian city of Turin (or, as they call it in Italy, “Vienna”). It’s a truly international gathering of athletes from all over the world, except for those parts of the world located in Africa, South America, Central America, Australia and large sectors of Asia:

The games officially began Friday night with an unforgettable Opening Ceremony, climaxing with the lighting of the Olympic torch by Italy’s greatest and most beloved ski champion, Wayne Gretzky. (Note to editor: Please check this; I nodded off during the second unforgettable hour.) I wish I could be there to report on the Olympics in person, but my wife, Michelle, an actual sports reporter, is there, so I’m staying home with our daughter, Sophie. The other morning, as I was pouring Sophie a bowl of Lucky Charms, the phone rang; it was Michelle, urgently telling us to turn on the “Today” show. So we did, and we saw Katie Couric interviewing Scott Hamilton.

“I’m right behind Scott Hamilton!” Michelle shouted into the phone. “Can you see me?”

“Yes,” I said.

Sure enough, there she was in the background, holding a cellphone in one hand and waving wildly at the camera with the other. Michelle and I have often made fun of people who do this on the “Today” show, because they all look like pathetic no-life geeks.

“Do I look like a pathetic no-life geek loser?” she said.

“No,” I said, because I am not a complete idiot. But the point is, I am not personally in Turin. Nevertheless, I have preparing the following guide of Winter Olympic Events to Watch:

**FIGURE SKATING:** In this dramatic and demanding sport, competitors must perform difficult skating maneuvers while dressed as swans and wearing enough makeup to splatter a four-bedroom house. And these are the men. Judges enter their scores into a computer, which calculates the results using an objective scientific formula, after which the Russians always win because they CHEAT.

**BIATHLON:** This fun sport was invented by the Norwegians, often called “The Yuckmeisters of Western Scandinavia.” Rifle-toting competitors ski for a while, then shoot at targets, then ski some more, then shoot some more, then ski some more, then shoot some more, then ski some more, and so on until France surrenders.

**THE LUGE:** Competitors wearing Spider-Man costumes lie on their backs on tiny sleds and go down the bobbled run. The ones who survive (about 8 percent) are tested for drugs. If they don’t contain any, they are declared legally insane.

**THE SKELETON:** This is the same as the luge, except competitors go headfirst. The medal winners stand on a special “booster” podium because when they cross the finish line and hit the stopping barrier, their bodies are compressed to the height of a Pringles can.

**CROSS-COUNTRY CURLING:** In this grueling sport, competitors using brooms to clear the way, race to see who can be the first to slide a heavy stone across Italy.

**SKI-JUMPING WITH CELEBS:** This is a new sport, introduced this year to boost TV ratings. Competitors are sent down the ski-jump ramp, often leaving deep divots for the entire length with their fingernails, then soar into space, where they encounter gravity. The heavily favored U.S. team consists of Erik Estrada, William Shatner, Nicole Richie, Lieutenant Uhura from “Star Trek” and the naked guy from “Survivor.”

**BROKEBACK BOSLIED:** This is another new sport, about which little is known, other than that, according to International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge, it “involves sheep.”

Of course these are just a fraction of the Winter Olympics highlights. There will be plenty of other action in such events as the 500 meters, the 750 meters, the 1,000 meters, the 1,250 meters, the 1,300 meters, the 1,325 meters, and the 1,325,874 meters, to name just a few of the more exciting lengths. NBC is planning 17,000 hours of coverage, and you will not want to miss a single minute. So strap yourself into your Barcalounger and enjoy the show!

And if you happen to be watching Katie Couric, and you see a brown-haired woman in a light-green parka in the background, holding a cellphone and waving at the camera, I have no idea who that is.

Dave Barry
Knight Ridder Newspapers

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**Open Year Round!**

**Dairy Queen**

1304 South Story Street
Boone
132-6565.

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Megan McMillian (May) and Thad Imerman (Horace) perform in “Time Flies.”

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A night of one acts

**Anna Sunstrom**

Banner staff writer

Romance, mystery, murder, mating, travel, affairs and insanity is what you can expect from the five spring one-acts taking place at DMACC March 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Boone campus theater. The shows are “Romance Inc.,” “The Lamentable Affairs of the Vicar’s Wife,” “Computer Pals,” “Time Flies” and “What A Nice Little Kitty.”

“Romance Inc.” is about a travel agent trying to sell around the world tour. Many characters enter the office to buy tickets. The first is Minnie Brown, a rich, spinster who is wants to travel but is afraid to. Then enter Mrs. O.H.P. Whitney and her daughter Bea who are both high society. One takes the trip the other doesn’t. The travel agents in this story are Alice and Pat.

“Computer Pals” is a love story between two computer nerds. One is a secretary in a school and the other has a desk job in an office. They both tell each other they are who they are, not what happens when they meet. Time Flies is a tale of Mary Who Flies that they only have one day to live. The play shows what is that in a funny and uplifting way.

The last play that will be presented is “What A Nice Little Kitty.” This is about a 57 lb. cat, a husband that goes insane because of the cat and the wife who gets in the way of the husband trying to murder it.

The cost of the show is $5 and students are admitted free with a DMACC library card.

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**Richie Monk**

Banner staff writer

Is underage drinking really as big of a problem as it’s made out to be? According to Focus Adolescent Services, the average age at which Americans begin drinking regularly is 15.9. So why is the drinking age so high? You can drive a car, and purchase a gun in this lovely country before you can legally consume an alcoholic beverage.

According to a survey done by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration or (SAMHSA), of people ages 16-20, 17 percent reported last year DUI/DWI offences involving alcohol. That seems pretty bad. That is until you look at the survey for people over 21, which shows there were 15.7 percent reported cases of DUI/DWI offences involving alcohol.

So obviously people over 21 are just as prone to driving under the influence as people under 21. With so much money being thrown at the “problem” of underage drinking, it should be easy to find a clear cut reason why they legal drinking age is 21.

Some people might say the age is 21 because there were several studies done that say the brain continues to develop until around the age of 21, according to Monitor on Psychology, and drinking can damage this development. And this is true, but the drinking age has been 21 for quite sometime now, and these studies were just released in 2001. Prior to 2001 people thought the brain quit developing at age 16 or 17.

In short, the reasons for this magical age to be 21 are unclear at best.
In a movie directed by Richard Loncraine, the business world clashes with the one at home. Jack Stanfield (Harrison Ford) is a security supervisor for an important bank that is about to merge with a larger one in the heart pounding “Firewall.”

Stanfield has never had a gambling problem, so it is a surprise when a debt collector shows up at his office with an online bill for $95,000. Meanwhile his family at home cringes at the mercy of criminals led by mastermind, Bill Cox (Paul Bettany). Cox makes a deal with Stanfield. He will spare his family if Stanfield robs the very bank he protects. Stanfield agrees to help Cox after a teeth-grinding failure to escape his house where he and his family is under the duress of the kidnappers.

“Firewall” takes many suspenseful turns as the plot slowly unravels. Before it ends Jack will have to end more than one life to save the lives of his wife, daughter, and son.

Ford brings a sense of experience and adventure to the plot. This performance is among his best despite his age. Also Paul Bettany plays a fantastic madman, and his scenes with Ford are memorable.

Blessed with an inventive and intriguing script, great actors, and intense directing, this thriller will keep its audience guessing right up to its dramatic end. “Firewall” is rated PG-13 for some intense sequences of violence. It runs for 105 thrilling minutes. The best place to catch a showing is Movies 12 in Ames.

8 out of 10 Thrills

Moses Powell Eckstein
Banner Staff Writer

TiVo Top 25 Wish List Director rankings, for the week ending Feb. 12.

1. Alfred Hitchcock
2. Steven Spielberg
3. Martin Scorsese
4. Woody Allen
5. Quentin Tarantino
6. Stanley Kubrick
7. Joel Coen
8. Tim Burton
9. Ron Howard
9. Mel Brooks
11. Francis Ford Coppola
12. Kevin Smith

13. Akira Kurosawa
14. Robert Altman
15. Billy Wilder
15. David Lynch
17. Ridley Scott
18. George Lucas
19. Frank Capra
20. Ken Burns
20. Oliver Stone
20. Terry Gilliam
20. Pedro Almodovar
20. Michael Moore
25. Spike Lee

Tivo Top 25

Knight Ridder Tribune
Get involved with the ARTS

See “Born into Brothels” Thursday, March 2 at 11:15 in the theater, and enjoy Indian snacks, chai tea, and popcorn in celebration of India Year. See Jerrine McCaffrey or Sandy Chacko for details.

Read “The House of the Scorpion” and discuss the book over pizza at noon on March 13. See librarian for details.

Crossword

**ACROSS**
1 Acts down in the dumps
10 Attention getter
14 Amor... happening
15 Political unit
16 Pieces
17 Daring
18 Transcribed
19 Paper quantity
20 Diuretic
21 Author Ferber
22 Inconsequential
23 First garden
25 Nuts between
27 May celebrants
28 “Ol Laredo”
30 Boner
33 On the briny
34 Saltier
36 Turns bad
40 ... Marie Saint
41 Accosted
43 Medicates
45 In any way
46 Lawyer’s boy
48 Chest of drawers
50 Yonder
51 Kasha swash
54 No... for the anxious
56 Pelvis parts
57 Antlered animals
59 Catchall category
63 Color shade
64 Wine companion
66 Personal record
68 Biblical exposition
67 Organic compound
68 Band leader
69 Burn slightly
70 ‘Do Ya Think I’m...’
71 In a quest

**SOLUTIONS**
6 Not in residence
7 Went on the lam
8 Country singer
9 Mixtape
10 Type of cheese
11 Will’s expression
12 Get the ball rolling
13 Uses a stopwatch
14 Last letter of the alphabet
15 Beep on the roof
16 Ship’s pole
17 Note alert
18 Poultice
19 Repugnance
20 Harangue
21 Attenborough’s dog
22 Drop the ball
23 Locate
24 “...of the潍坊”
25 Ship’s polo
26 Nose alert
27 Poultice
28 Repugnance
29 Harangue
30 First name of a sailing trio
31 Cote’s
32 Kentucky fort
33 Despero
34 Author Estrada
35 Deli leaves

Boone’s Own Spring Creative Writing Contest
Cash prizes for Poetry and Fiction
For Submission Info and Contest Rules, Please Visit Our Library