12-6-2006

Banner News

Becky Lauritzen
Tim Larson
Moses Powell Eckstein
Julianne Hamil
Erick Ude

See next page for additional authors

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Indonesian student finds opportunity

Becky Lauritzen
Contributing Writer

America is revered by many as the “land of opportunity.” So when Cynthia Sari decided to advance her current situation, America was just the place. Indonesia affords great opportunities for those who study overseas in America. Cynthia appeared excited when she remarked, “I came to America to study!”

In Sari’s case, coming to America meant becoming more independent and brave, able to advance her opportunities in life. Cynthia, with her dark brunette hair and a bubbly personality comes from a small city called Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Her family lived on the second floor of the two story building that housed their small auto parts store. In Indonesia, working in a restaurant or other service industry, shows a lack of motivation for education and personal advancement. Sari’s family insisted she get a good education.

Living in America Sari has noticed the difference between driving here and driving in Indonesia. “Back home in Indonesia, people don’t use traffic rules,” said Sari. The majority of the people in her city don’t use cars to get around. Becak, chauffeured bicycles, are her favorite. Sari said, “Traffic is more busy back home.” Sari thinks this is because there are no traffic laws to help the flow of traffic.

Cynthia misses her family and friends, though she still tries to stay in contact with them. While being away is at times lonely, living in Ames provides a laid-back atmosphere and a chance for her to escape the busy Indonesian city life. Sari plans to transfer to Iowa State University to complete the college experience she has been longing for.

The longer Sari has been in America, the more she has developed a comfortable sense of home. Since first arriving at the beginning of the semester, Sari has separated from her parents and shaped herself into a more independent person. She has enjoyed the laid-back Midwestern lifestyle, as opposed to the fast-paced Indonesian culture she once endured.

How commerce saved Christmas

Tim Larson
Editor in Chief

Each year around this time the debate over how Christmas became so blatantly commercial and how to restore its religious foundation re-emerges. Evangelical leaders like, Pat Robertson, criticized Wal-Mart last year for using “Happy Holidays” instead of “Merry Christmas” on their signs. Preachers around the country encouraged their congregants to remember that “Jesus is the reason for the season.” Through all of this, the factual and historical origins of Christmas seem to have been ignored.

The Christmas traditions we recognize now have been taken from times and places throughout history. The Christmas tree, for example, came to America from old Northern European Germanic traditions. The traditional Christmas Goose has its roots in ancient Egyptian religious practices. The goose, seen as a symbol of sacrifice, was killed and eaten in observance of winter solstice. Hanging mistletoe comes from Norse mythology. The story goes that Baldur, the most loved of the Norse gods, had a premonition of his death. His mother, Frigga, on hearing of this, persuaded everyone on Earth not to harm her son. She neglected to speak to mistletoe; Loki discovered this and killed Baldur with an arrow of mistletoe. The arrow of mistletoe was given to Frigga to deal with the hatred and jealousy of Loki. She hung the mistletoe from an arch and ordained that everyone who passed under it receive a kiss as a sign of love and forgiveness, contrasting the hatred and jealousy of Loki.

The celebration of the birth of Christ on Dec. 25 was originally intended to supplant the celebration of the birth of Sol Invictus, the chief god of the Roman Empire. When the Roman Empire was Christianized it seemed only natural to replace the celebration of their former chief protector’s birth with the celebration of their new chief protector’s birth. The

Winter music program features students from Boone Campus

Students will perform this Friday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m. in the DMACC Theater. The program is presented by Marilee Crawley-Mertins and will feature performances by DMACC students Jeremy Britton, Ah-Jung Goung, David Hefner, Ryan Logan (right), Tessa Schadler, and Nicole Smith.

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Textbook Buyback, p. 2
Mad Chad, p. 5
All-American, p. 6
## Final Exam Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday, December 12</th>
<th>Tuesday/Thursday courses</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Time</td>
<td>Exam Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:05 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:25 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.</td>
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<td>4:00 p.m. – 5:25 p.m.</td>
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<th>Mon/Wed/Friday courses</th>
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<td>10:10 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.</td>
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<td>12:20 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.</td>
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<td>2:30 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.</td>
<td>3:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</td>
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<th>Thursday/Thursday courses</th>
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<td>Exam Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 a.m. – 7:55 a.m.</td>
<td>6:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.</td>
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<td>9:40 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.</td>
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<td>12:50 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>11:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Friday, December 15</th>
<th>Mon/Wed/Friday courses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Time</td>
<td>Exam Time</td>
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<td>6:35 a.m. – 7:50 a.m.</td>
<td>7:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.</td>
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<td>9:05 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:25 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:35 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>3:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</td>
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</table>

### Make-Up Day

**Monday, December 18, 2005**

If the College would close due to inclement weather on any of the four days listed above, final exams for that day will be rescheduled for Monday, December 19, at the times they would have been scheduled.

### Evening/Saturday Exams

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

- Last Monday night classes (Final Exam) December 11
- Last Tuesday night classes (Final Exam) December 5
- Last Wednesday night classes (Final Exam) December 13
- Last Thursday night classes (Final Exam) December 14
- Last Friday night classes (Final Exam) December 15
- Last Monday/Wednesday night classes (Final Exam) December 13
- Last Tuesday/Thursday night classes (Final Exam) December 12
- Last Saturday classes (Final Exam) December 9

### Grades Due

- January 8

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## Students unhappy with book buyback policy

Moses Powell Eckstein
Banner Staff Writer

As the deadline approaches for textbook buyback, Boone students reflect on the best ways to get the most for their money.

Buyback week begins Monday, Dec. 11. It continues until Friday, Dec. 15, from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m.-noon on Friday.

Not every student is planning to sell back their textbooks to the bookstore. Sophomore Kylla Olsen said she didn’t like the bookstore’s buyback policy because she spent $500 on her textbooks once and only got $70 back.

Even though several large posters, pinned to the walls around campus, display the book buyback dates in large, bold letters, five out of five students polled did not know when to sell their textbooks. But, every student polled said that they were planning to re-sell their textbooks.

Freshman Lukas Schroeder said that he wanted to sell his books to make money.

Sophomore Shannon Sommers said she sells her textbooks, “to get rid of the books and to get some money back.”

---

## Knowledge Knook Bookstore Buyback List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Buyback Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business Writer’s Companion</td>
<td>Aird</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convergences</td>
<td>Arwan</td>
<td>$29.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Literature</td>
<td>Barnett</td>
<td>$37.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elem Statistics Package/w Math Zone</td>
<td>Bluman</td>
<td>$64.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology w/CD</td>
<td>Campbell</td>
<td>$72.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resource Cons.: Management...</td>
<td>Chiras &amp; Reganold</td>
<td>$56.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>$36.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brief Penguin Handbook</td>
<td>Faigley</td>
<td>$27.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peebles’ Artforms</td>
<td>Frank</td>
<td>$48.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physics of Everyday Phenomena</td>
<td>Griffith</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding Human Sexuality</td>
<td>Hyde</td>
<td>$57.25</td>
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<td>American Government</td>
<td>Jillson</td>
<td>$28.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Biology</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>$51.75</td>
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<td>Choices in Relationships</td>
<td>Knox</td>
<td>$52.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology: An Intro w/CD/Powerweb</td>
<td>Lahay</td>
<td>$49.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervision-Concepts &amp; Practices of Man...</td>
<td>Leonard</td>
<td>$63.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finite Math</td>
<td>Lial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Society: The Basics w/CD</td>
<td>Maciosis</td>
<td>$38.75</td>
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<td>Successful Coaching</td>
<td>Martens</td>
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<td>History Western Society Vol I</td>
<td>McKay</td>
<td>$43.50</td>
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<td>History Western Society Vol II</td>
<td>McKay</td>
<td>$40.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Law Today/w/Online</td>
<td>Miller</td>
<td>$78.50</td>
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<td>Understanding Social Problems</td>
<td>Mooney</td>
<td>$44.75</td>
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<td>Human Development w. Lifemap &amp; Pow...</td>
<td>Papalia</td>
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<td>Human Communication</td>
<td>Pearson</td>
<td>$39.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lit for Children</td>
<td>Russell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physics for SCI &amp; ENG w/CD</td>
<td>Serway</td>
<td>$79.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trig for Coll Students</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>$61.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry, An Intro</td>
<td>Timberlake</td>
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<td>Microbiology w/CD</td>
<td>Tortora</td>
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<td>Physics</td>
<td>Walker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Calculus Early Transcendentals</td>
<td>Weir</td>
<td>$76.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting Principles with Pepsicoannual</td>
<td>Weygandt</td>
<td>$73.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Enter the World of Opportunity

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Photo: Eden Hinrichs
Adviser wins cruise

Julianne Hamil  
Banner Staff Writer

After one week of deleting messages from John Sanders, founder of Premier Christian Cruise line and member of the band “Brothers Keepers,” academic adviser Rita Davenport finally accepted her all inclusive cruise for two to the Bahamas.

“I just kept deleting the messages because I thought they were trying to sell me something,” said Davenport. “It wasn’t until John said he was with the ‘Brothers Keepers’ that I figured it out.”

Davenport regularly used the Christian ticket service, I-tickets. Last May she received an e-mail with a contest entry form for a free trip for two to the Bahamas. Less than five minutes later, after entering the appropriate information, that was it. She never thought about it again and never did it again. This was the first contest Rita has entered, and she won.

On Nov. 9 Rita and her best friend, DMACC student Tricsha McWilson, set sail for a first ever, five day chartered cruise for Christian women. The boat came fully staffed with free room service 24/7. The ship’s bartenders and blackjack dealers honed their crossword puzzle skills during the trip. Not one woman felt the need to drink or gamble with all the events the Premier Christian Cruise line had in store for the ladies.

“It was the best time I have ever had! I was surrounded by people who were there for God,” said Davenport. “Not themselves.” Davenport plans to take a cruise next year with her husband.

FREE EC DAY
(efficiency contraception)
at your local
Planned Parenthood!
WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 6

what if...

NEED CHINA
Restaurant
Lunches Dinners Carry Outs
432-8089
716 Story, Boone, Iowa 50036
Manager: Kent Mui

To play Sudoku, enter the digits 1-9 in each cell of the 9x9 grid until every region (3x3 grid), row, and column contains only one appearance of each digit.

ANSWERS
this week’s puzzle

Need to
Move?
Want the best of both
worlds? Why not school in Boone,
and live in Ames! Brand new apartments
FREE rent until Jan 1. All sizes available
Rent starts at $550. Amenities include
FREE High Speed Internet, FREE satellite TV,
FREE Ames Fitness Membership
FREE washer/dryer
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Call today to discuss your needs with one of our transfer admissions counselors. Classes start January 8.

SUDOKU

Julianne Davenport (back right) and Tricsha McWilson (back left) in the Bahamas.

Photo: Contributed

Photo: Courtesy of www.sudoku-puzzles.net

515-263-2810  800-444-6083  www.gvc.edu
Mad Chad juggling and jokes

Erick Ude
Banner Staff Writer

Mad Chad Taylor performed his extreme comedy and juggling act on Nov. 18 in the Courter Center of the Boone Campus.

Taylor, a resident of Santa Monica, Calif., has made many television appearances throughout the years on shows like “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno,” “Roseanne,” and “The World’s Most Dangerous Acts.” He has also acted in movies and appeared in many commercials for beer and other products.

Taylor started out by asking the audience what they were excited to see, and most of the audience replied with Taylor’s famous chainsaw juggling act. Taylor informed the audience that FedEx had lost his chainsaws and a couple of his other props. Throughout the performance Taylor apologized for FedEx’s mistake and added that he would try some different things to make up for his renowned juggling act.

Taylor performed “L.A. Juggling,” which was the juggling of three silicone breast implants, accompanied by a few dirty jokes and met with few laughs. Taylor joked that an ex-girlfriend convinced him to pay for her breast enhancement and then left him high and dry. By using the implants in his act, Taylor joked that he can write them off on his taxes.

Taylor asked students from the audience of 30-40 to throw bats onto the stage from where they were sitting while he continued to juggle. He also asked students to pick an object in the Courter Center that they wanted him to juggle with an egg and a fake shot-put. They chose a 20 pound chair, which Taylor managed to juggle for about a minute.

Throughout the show Taylor made it known that he was not only a fantastic juggler but also a pretty decent comedian. “By the way I’m not showing off up here,” Taylor told the audience, “I’m just doing things you can’t.”

For more information about Taylor and his act, visit www.madchadtaylor.com.

Farewell Banner Staff Members

Moses Eckstein
Moses Eckstein, 21, will graduate from DMACC Dec. 13 and move on to major in biology at ISU in January. Eckstein is from Nevada, Iowa and has been a member of the Banner staff since fall 2003. He is also a specialist in the Iowa Army National Guard stationed in Boone.

Erick Ude
Erick Ude, 22, is transferring to Iowa State and will begin classes there in January. Ude has attended DMACC only one semester. He is a zoology major but joined the Banner staff in the fall of 2006 and enjoyed the course.

“I like doing the layout and seeing the final product,” Ude said about being on the Banner staff.

“Lost” is currently his favorite television program and “The Fifth Element” is his favorite movie.

Jesse Blackwell
Jesse Blackwell, 20, began his DMACC career in the fall of 2006 as a student as well as a forward on the men’s basketball team.

Blackwell is majoring in criminal justice and has one semester remaining at DMACC.

Of the five courses Blackwell took this semester—psychology, juvenile delinquency, newspaper production, marriage family, and health—he said the newspaper was his favorite.

Kal Schuller
Kal Schuller, 19, has been at DMACC for three semesters and will be back for his forth starting next January.

Schuller said his favorite part of being on the Banner staff was “access to an empty computer lab all day.”

In his free time Schuller likes to play Xbox and watch or play sports.

Join the Banner News Staff!

The Banner is looking for:
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Sports Writers
Feature Writers
Columnists
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Layout Editor
News Editor
Sports Editor
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Students can work at the Banner for:
1. Course credit - Newspaper Production (see details below)
2. Workstudy - check with the financial aid dept. to see if you qualify
3. Just for fun - contribute your work for use in the Banner (contributions may be sent to tsharson@dmacc.edu)

Newspaper Production involves writing for the Banner News, designing and implementing page layout, reporting on campus activities and events.

Newspaper Production CRN: 20543
Course # JOU125
Instructor: Jan LaVille

For more information about Taylor and his act, visit www.madchadtaylor.com.
What do you want for Christmas?

Aly Trotter, 18
Boone Student

“I’m asking for money because I don’t like getting gifts I don’t like. I need money, so I can move out. Other than that, I’ll probably get a case for my new laptop.”

Aaron Irving, 19 ¼
Boone Student

“Give me love. I want a house, from the ground up, four stories and a basement.”

Kellie Bradley, 18
Boone Student

“I haven’t really thought about what I want at all—maybe clothes from PacSun. I’m the youngest of seven, so we do kind of a drawing.”

Becky Lauritzen, 18
Boone Student

“I want big headphones for music purposes—ones with really good sound quality. I asked for a comforter set, and I saw it in the mail, so I know I am getting it.”

Royce Phillips, 19
Boone Student

“What I really want is a PS3, but I know I’m not going to get it. I’ll settle for an Xbox 360. My family has one, but I want my own.”

Members of PBL who decorated the Christmas tree in the Courter Center are (from left) sophomore Adam Conzemius, sophomore Vickie Spears, sophomore Katy Farlow, freshman Sara Gliem and freshman George Cyr.

The Christmas tree located in the Courter Center was set up and decorated by members of Phi Beta Lambda. Students were also encouraged to help decorate. Those who helped decorate were rewarded with cookies and other treats.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM THE BANNER STAFF
Men’s basketball team defeats Morningside 73-52

Kal Schuller
Banner Staff Writer

The Bears men’s basketball team, keeping their winning streak alive, defeated the Morningside Mustangs 73-52 in the Den on Dec. 3.

Morningside brought the full court press early and started off with a 6-0 lead. The Bears’ offense got going with help from John Holmes who had seven of his 15 points early on.

Morningside kept the game close by hitting three pointers and playing the full court press. DMACC’s Rico Gillespie came off the bench to help break the press and made six points. The Bears began to pull away and led at halftime 34-23.

In the second half the Bears took the Mustangs hope away by dominating the offensive rebounds and making big plays. J’Sean Gaddy energized the crowd with two powerful dunks and led the Bears in scoring with 17 points. Ashton Sauls made a couple of three pointers and 14 points overall. Morningside stayed in the contest by hitting three pointers but could never get within 10.

Big plays for the Bears, like John Holmes’ alley-oop dunk, courtesy of Grant Burns, lit up the crowd. The Bears are undefeated at home and 12-1 overall.

Batting Cage open to public

Jesse Blackwell
Banner Staff Writer

With a new coach comes a new attitude and new experiences. DMACC’s head baseball coach Travis Wyckoff opened the baseball team’s indoor hitting facility to the public for instructional hitting and pitching events.

Wyckoff said, “The players need somewhere to practice in the winter time, and this way we can get the community involved also. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

Wyckoff has extensive baseball experience that includes three years in the Florida Marlins organization and All American honors as an outfielder and pitcher.

The indoor hitting and pitching facility will offer individual hitting and pitching instruction, as well as make team use available. There will be hitting and pitching leagues, so one can test personal skills and challenge others in the area. Camps will run for one day and will be organized into age groups. On Dec. 28 ages nine to 13 can attend a pitching camp from 9 a.m.-noon, followed by the hitting camp from 1-4 p.m. Children Ages five to eight can participate in a hitting camp, which will start at 9 a.m., Dec. 29.

High school students will have an opportunity on Dec. 27 to attend a three hour pitching camp, and on Dec. 28, they can attend the hitting camp from 2-5 p.m.

Coach Wyckoff said, “Whomever comes to us, will learn a ton of stuff, and the most important is improving their game. That’s what the facility is for.”

For more information, contact Dan Fitzgerald at (515) 433-5032.

Women’s basketball stomp Briar Cliff

Andrew Penner
Banner Sports Writer

For some students Thanksgiving Break meant not having to show their faces on campus, but it was different for the women’s basketball team as they hosted the Briar Cliff Chargers from Sioux City. The Bears took the lead early and never looked back as they mauled the Chargers 93-46.

Alisa Brinkman got the ball rolling in the first half with a score of 50-21. For the Bears as she scored six of the first eight points. Minutes later Heather Holler hit a three-pointer, and Jocelyn Anderson came through for the Bears with a block. Again Holler attempted a three-pointer but wedged the ball between the rim and the backboard.

The Bears made two defensive stops as Anderson made another block. They forced a Charger turnover with a shot clock violation. After a missed shot by the Chargers, Monica Hernandez got the rebound and made an easy two points.

Holler wasn’t the only one getting involved also. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

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Jesse Blackwell
Banner Staff Writer

With a new coach comes a new attitude and new experiences. DMACC’s head baseball coach Travis Wyckoff opened the baseball team’s indoor hitting facility to the public for instructional hitting and pitching events.

Wyckoff said, “The players need somewhere to practice in the winter time, and this way we can get the community involved also. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

Wyckoff has extensive baseball experience that includes three years in the Florida Marlins organization and All American honors as an outfielder and pitcher.

The indoor hitting and pitching facility will offer individual hitting and pitching instruction, as well as make team use available. There will be hitting and pitching leagues, so one can test personal skills and challenge others in the area. Camps will run for one day and will be organized into age groups. On Dec. 28 ages nine to 13 can attend a pitching camp from 9 a.m.-noon, followed by the hitting camp from 1-4 p.m. Children Ages five to eight can participate in a hitting camp, which will start at 9 a.m., Dec. 29.

High school students will have an opportunity on Dec. 27 to attend a three hour pitching camp, and on Dec. 28, they can attend the hitting camp from 2-5 p.m.

Coach Wyckoff said, “Whomever comes to us, will learn a ton of stuff, and the most important is improving their game. That’s what the facility is for.”

For more information, contact Dan Fitzgerald at (515) 433-5032.

Women’s basketball stomp Briar Cliff

Andrew Penner
Banner Sports Writer

For some students Thanksgiving Break meant not having to show their faces on campus, but it was different for the women’s basketball team as they hosted the Briar Cliff Chargers from Sioux City. The Bears took the lead early and never looked back as they mauled the Chargers 93-46.

Alisa Brinkman got the ball rolling in the first half with a score of 50-21. For the Bears as she scored six of the first eight points. Minutes later Heather Holler hit a three-pointer, and Jocelyn Anderson came through for the Bears with a block. Again Holler attempted a three-pointer butwedged the ball between the rim and the backboard.

The Bears made two defensive stops as Anderson made another block. They forced a Charger turnover with a shot clock violation. After a missed shot by the Chargers, Monica Hernandez got the rebound and made an easy two points.

Holler wasn’t the only one getting involved also. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

Wyckoff has extensive baseball experience that includes three years in the Florida Marlins organization and All American honors as an outfielder and pitcher.

The indoor hitting and pitching facility will offer individual hitting and pitching instruction, as well as make team use available. There will be hitting and pitching leagues, so one can test personal skills and challenge others in the area. Camps will run for one day and will be organized into age groups. On Dec. 28 ages nine to 13 can attend a pitching camp from 9 a.m.-noon, followed by the hitting camp from 1-4 p.m. Children Ages five to eight can participate in a hitting camp, which will start at 9 a.m., Dec. 29.

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For more information, contact Dan Fitzgerald at (515) 433-5032.
Understanding Life
Poem by Eden Hinrichs

It was the light that got me from the start,
The over hovering pressure. The soundless void,
Saying too much yet nothing at all.
Fishing line fantasies playing a comedy to the light.
Images of friends and family some coming, some going,
Their secrets and their lives are slowly becoming a part of me,
I understand, Years and many lives past,
Now I understand.
To bust,
To love,
To feel and to fear!
But these new feelings, of total and utter completion are above me
My hands! Ahs these hands they are tools!
To do my bidding all the power in the universe all at the tips of my fingers, the ever lastling feeling of the ocean running through me,
Absolute freedom,
What a gift this is!
The pleasure! Washing over me! The satisfaction! Oh the beauty of humans! A million sensations!
The world over, people running through my mind,
Numerous faces slowly blending together! Their lives! Their pain?
Oh what must pain have
Their wounds gushing blood! Their bile encasing me! Pain! Sorrow! Woe! Heartbreak? Had we not been friends?
Why oh must your force be greater now then ever before?
The power inside of me growing fiercer with each scream!
Each growl, No! No! No! My spit ragged! NOT THIS!
Then silence. The light came again and I then understood.
The powers I felt, the flow of both love and hate... this was a gift.
And was to be treated as such.

EDITORIAL

Hate is a difficult word to define because every person has his or her own meaning for it. Only one thing is certain; we are all guilty of hate. Accusations of racism, as a form of hate, are far too common in this society. That charge can terminate a person’s career, as will be the case of Michael Richards who played Kramer in the sitcom Seinfeld. Richards voiced a racist tirade against two African Americans at a comedy club in November. Unlike Richards, most Americans have a substantial and fervent fear of speaking their minds. Weback, nigger, kike, raghead, chin, gyp, and cracker are all words that belong to a category of society that many Americans would like to see buried at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. Nevertheless, the reality is different than the pipe dream. Racism is real.

However, the basis of racism is the belief in the concept of Race. Perpetrators of racial prejudice are those who are ignorant of or belligerent to reality. We are all members of the human race. Like racial intolerance, religious intolerance and fanaticism are common features of the world and current events. Religion is not the savior of the human race. Actually it may be humanity’s downfall. This goes for fanatical Muslims, Christians, and Jews, and any of the countless other religious organizations who preach hate. A radical Christian who partakes in violence against others or the oppression of others is in the same boat, headed down the river Styx, as the terrorists who intentionally murdered thousands of innocent citizens in 9/11. History is replete with religious fanaticism. The Catholic Church is responsible for such tragedies as the Crusades, the European witch hunts, and the Spanish Inquisition. This is common knowledge, but still some choose to believe that religious fanaticism is a novel movement or that it is solely the action of Muslims.

Prejudice to those of differing sexual orientations is just as foul as hate led by religious intolerance. Words like faggot, homo, dike, and queer are terms that are not only inaccurate, but they indicate that someone is defined entirely by his or her sexual classification. Homosexuals, heterosexuals, and every one in between merit the same respect in American society. No one person is inherently superior to any other. Actually scientists are now beginning to realize that all humans are somewhere on a continuum between fully heterosexual and fully homosexual. Instead of placing value on those few who meet all of society’s desirable classifications, it is time Americans place it on deserving individuals.

Human history is a recorder of hate in all of its hideous forms. One truth is certain. Life is not heaven, nor is it Hell. It is only what we make of it.

X-Mas continued form page 1
actual date for the birth of Christ is a matter of some contention. Scholars and theologians throughout history have variously placed the day from Nov. 18 to May 20.

When the Quakers and Puritans arrived in America the celebration of Christmas was universally frowned upon, if not banned outright, in the colonies. In 1789 the first United States congress, under the newly ratified constitution, remained in session on Christmas.

Despite the sentiments of the upper class and religious leaders, the lower classes continued to enjoy and in ever more indulgent revelry. Reverend Cotton Mather, in 1712, lamented the situation, saying: “The feast of the Christ Child’s Nativity is spent in reveling, dancing, carding, masking and in all licentious liberty... by mad mirth, by long eating, by long drinking, by lewd gaming, by rude reveling.”

The celebration looked more like Mardi Gras than our modern Christmas celebrations. Mummery, the practice of men and women switching clothes and then going out for a night of reveling, was as common in 19th century America as carnival is today.

The tradition of caroling itself is a version of its more rabuncious ancestor, Wassailing. The lower class of society would go to the houses of the more wealthy and sing songs in exchange for food and ale. If those in the house declined to provide food and ale to the Wassailers, their house was likely be looted by the already intoxicated mob.

These practices were troublesome to New York elites like Washington Irving, Clement Clarke Moore and John Pintard. In his book “Knickerbocker’s History of New York,” Irving sets St. Nick up as a cultural hero. Moore’s poem “A Visit from St. Nicholas,” which is better known as “Twas the Night Before Christmas” written in 1823, was a work of pure fiction. Moore was not describing a nostalgic scene from his youth; rather he was inventing a new nostalgic narrative of the season. Pintard, a wealthy merchant and philanthropist, was a great purveyor of Moore and Irving’s tales.

Where the Church had failed to co-opt or curtail the reverberous celebrations of the season, Pintard, Moore and Irving hoped commercialism could succeed.

Santa Claus became the central character of the Christmas season. While the character of St. Nick was originally Dutch, he became uniquely American. In the Netherlands Criss Kindlein, or Christ Child, flew over the cities by night, delivering presents into the people’s homes. Irving’s Santa Claus did much the same but without religious implications.

Christmas had always been a time when the lower and middle class abandoned their sensibilities and gave over to indulgence. This indulgence, which formerly took the form of drinking and carousing in the streets, would, with the help of Pintard and company, become private and consumerist. What once was a time for the rich to give to the poor became a time for the parents to give to their children.

This transition was made all the easier by the cooperation of merchants and newspaper editors. The merchants wanted the people out of the streets so that those wishing to shop would easily and safely pass from their stores to the homes. The editors wanted the merchants who supported their papers to be happy. Formerly the rotund celebrations had been referred to in the papers as “Christmas celebrations.” The editors began running what we would easily recognize as Christmas stories under the headlines of “Christmas celebrations” and reported on the rotund activity as criminal.

By 1834, hardly 20 years after Moore first published his poem, American society had so fully adopted what we now recognize as Christmas that there was concern that the children were being spoiled by the celebration and giving of gifts.

The blatant and intentional commercialization of Christmas transformed a societal problem into a cherished American holiday. Christmas is no longer always, celebrated in many different ways. The modern American incarnation of Christmas, however, is historically and fundamentally, commercial.

Fall 2006 Banner Staff
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The Boone Banner is a student newspaper published bi-weekly at Des Moines Area Community College, 1125 Hancock Dr., Boone, IA 50036. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 250 words and may be submitted to tsilcock@dmac.edu.
One day the narrator proclaims that Cricks folders, as he chats with his coworkers. This becomes a habit that he keeps up. As he flips through his Gyllenhaal from “World Trade Center”). This is behaviour that Cricks, narrates his life as he audits the tax his life.

An invisible lady with a British head. An invisible lady with a British accent (Emma Thompson) starts to narrate his life. The mysterious voice, heard only by Cricks, begins to hear a voice inside his head. An invisible lady with a British accent (Emma Thompson) starts to narrate his life.

All of this is fine until one day when Cricks begins to hear a voice inside his head. An invisible lady with a British accent (Emma Thompson) starts to narrate his life. The mysterious voice, heard only by Cricks, begins to hear a voice inside his head. An invisible lady with a British accent (Emma Thompson) starts to narrate his life.

While many of these behaviors are fine, they can become bothersome and problematic. After a while, the voice becomes intrusive and Cricks may begin to experience symptoms of a voice disorder, such as auditory hallucinations. These symptoms can be distressing and may lead to significant disability.

The situation frightens Cricks, so he calls up Professor Jules Hilbert (Dustin Hoffman) to help him figure out what is going on. “Stranger Than Fiction” is a neat concept for a movie, and the Kay Eiffel (Thompson) character is excellent as an author tormented with writer’s block. Pascal is genuinely sweet and lovable. However, the film leads up to a less than believable and storybook ending, which really diminishes the plot. Fans of Will Ferrell’s earlier work like ‘Old School’ may find it odd that he is rarely funny in this film. The situation frightens Cricks, so he calls up Professor Jules Hilbert (Dustin Hoffman) to help him figure out what is going on. “Stranger Than Fiction” is a neat concept for a movie, and the Kay Eiffel (Thompson) character is excellent as an author tormented with writer’s block. Pascal is genuinely sweet and lovable. However, the film leads up to a less than believable and storybook ending, which really diminishes the plot. Fans of Will Ferrell’s earlier work like ‘Old School’ may find it odd that he is rarely funny in this film. The situation frightens Cricks, so he calls up Professor Jules Hilbert (Dustin Hoffman) to help him figure out what is going on. “Stranger Than Fiction” is a neat concept for a movie, and the Kay Eiffel (Thompson) character is excellent as an author tormented with writer’s block. Pascal is genuinely sweet and lovable. However, the film leads up to a less than believable and storybook ending, which really diminishes the plot. Fans of Will Ferrell’s earlier work like ‘Old School’ may find it odd that he is rarely funny in this film. The situation frightens Cricks, so he calls up Professor Jules Hilbert (Dustin Hoffman) to help him figure out what is going on. “Stranger Than Fiction” is a neat concept for a movie, and the Kay Eiffel (Thompson) character is excellent as an author tormented with writer’s block. Pascal is genuinely sweet and lovable. However, the film leads up to a less than believable and storybook ending, which really diminishes the plot. Fans of Will Ferrell’s earlier work like ‘Old School’ may find it odd that he is rarely funny in this film. The situation frightens Cricks, so he calls up Professor Jules Hilbert (Dustin Hoffman) to help him figure out what is going on. “Stranger Than Fiction” is a neat concept for a movie, and the Kay Eiffel (Thompson) character is excellent as an author tormented with writer’s block. Pascal is genuinely sweet and lovable. However, the film leads up to a less than believable and storybook ending, which really diminishes the plot. Fans of Will Ferrell’s earlier work like ‘Old School’ may find it odd that he is rarely funny in this film. The situation frightens Cricks, so he calls up Professor Jules Hilbert (Dustin Hoffman) to help him figure out what is going on. “Stranger Than Fiction” is a neat concept for a movie, and the Kay Eiffel (Thompson) character is excellent as an author tormented with writer’s block. Pascal is genuinely sweet and lovable. However, the film leads up to a less than believable and storybook ending, which really diminishes the plot. Fans of Will Ferrell’s earlier work like ‘Old School’ may find it odd that he is rarely funny in this film. The situation frightens Cricks, so he calls up Professor Jules Hilbert (Dustin Hoffman) to help him figure out what is going on. “Stranger Than Fiction” is a neat concept for a movie, and the Kay Eiffel (Thompson) character is excellent as an author tormented with writer’s block. Pascal is genuinely sweet and lovable. However, the film leads up to a less than believable and storybook ending, which really diminishes the plot. Fans of Will Ferrell’s earlier work like ‘Old School’ may find it odd that he is rarely funny in this film.

The McNamara’s vertically-challenged son, Wilbur. The urban legend kidney plot line has left this season feeling flat, but with the return of topics from other seasons, like Wilbur, the season finale could leave fans drooling for more.