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Banner News

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Mary Elizabeth Drahos

Jessi Hackler

Liz Jay

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Lost Boy receives citizenship

The older kids, including my friends Joseph, Chol, and Aguem were herded into another group and the women into a third. They were all crying. The bodies of Dinka men were lying all over the marketplace.

My parents were back at our farm. Scared, I wanted to be with the big kids from childhood. They were supposed to be looking after me. But they were in the other group, and I was afraid to go to them. I looked around the marketplace for help, but all I could see were those bodies of the men not moving, the blood running from them like water in little rivers, going nowhere.

I had never seen a dead body before. When an old person in our village died, they would not let the little kids see the body. Now I saw more dead bodies than I could count—some without heads, others looked as if they had just decided to lie down in the dust and sleep.

People always ask me how I felt at that moment, and all I can answer is that I had never felt such terror, confusion, and helplessness before—or will again.

I wanted my mother; I wanted my father to pick me up onto his shoulders and carry me away from this terror. I felt so many feelings at once, than I suddenly felt nothing. My entire body and mind turned numb as I waited to be killed. But with no Dinka men standing, the killing seemed to be finished.

While a few militiamen...continued on Page 2

Avalanche in Colorado hits close to home

Rolling down a mountain in a car is not an experience most people can relate to. “It’s hard to describe rolling in a car. If you ever see a movie that shows a car rolling, it’s actually pretty accurate. It’s bizarre and surreal. You don’t see anything but white and what’s inside the car” Cook said.

“As we kept rolling I was waiting for something to cause more pain. And we got to the bottom, and there was nothing,” said Cook. When the van stopped rolling Cook was the first to climb out of the vehicle. It was Cook who first called 911. “I was told that I was very calm and helped calm everyone down. I don’t know why exactly, I wasn’t scared. But I can tell...continued on Page 2
Avalanche hits close to home
continued from Page 1

you full well that I wasn’t scared to die. It wasn’t this realization that “well I know I’m going to heaven.” The car was rolling over and over and over, I figured this was it; and I thought ‘well I’m ok with that.’ When we finally hit the ground and nothing happened it was like ‘oh I’m still here” said Cook.
The reason for their Cook, is quick to point out, is God. “My life isn’t defined by an accident where God saves me, God saves me daily. When we drive down the street, it’s just as real then as when you get hit by a freak avalanche. I was asked over and over again by reporters ‘Do you think God saved you?’ Well, sure as heck he did, holy cow.”
The rest of his answer, Cook said, never made it to air. “[The reporters] asked me ‘do you think you were saved because of your faith in God?’ This never made the newscasts, it’s all been edited out. Of course I’m not saved out. Of course I’m not saved because of my faith. People that kill, they get across.”

One of the [rescuers] was one of the foremost experts in avalanche [search and] rescue.” Bland said that whatever, they all die. I full well believe that God saved me, but not because of anything I did. In this life our faith does not guarantee us a good life. That’s one of the things I really tried to get across.”

Mark Bland, one of the passengers in the van, was ready to die. “I was waiting for something to come in the window.” Bland said that circumstances of the accident were the best they could be. “One of the [rescuers] was one of the foremost experts in avalanche [search and] rescue.”

Darren Johnson, the most seriously injured of the group with five broken ribs, said, jokingly, that Cook has the story wrong. “Jordan got it all wrong. When we landed Mark got him a Kleenex and helped him stop crying. And then he and I lifted the van off of him, Mark carried Jordan [Cook] up the hill and I rescued everyone else.”

Joking aside Johnson said, “It could easily have been the end. We could have died or we could be right here, and here we are.”

Johnson’s wife, Sarah, remembers what was going through her mind as they tumbled down the mountainside. “I’ve thought about his at random times, what’s it going to be like when I die? What am I going to think about? I always think of all the things I could do better or do different. But in that instant there wasn’t anything I would change.”

Referencing Cook’s comment from earlier Sarah Johnson said, “I agree with Jordan [Cook]. God could have allowed us to die, and that would have brought him glory as well. I wasn’t scared of that, but I’m definitely glad that it isn’t over.”

Mary Elizabeth Drahos
Opinion Editor

The SAC is sponsoring a free snow skiing and boarding event for students and faculty on January 25th from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. for students and faculty on free snow skiing and boarding event for students and faculty on January 25th from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SAC sponsors free event at Seven Oaks Park

The SAC is sponsoring a free snow skiing and boarding event for students and faculty on January 25th from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. Students will be able to ski, snow board, and tube for free at Seven Oaks in Boone with purchase of ski or board rental. Although spouses and family members won’t be able to come for free, it’s still a fun activity and perennial favorite of students.

Last year’s turnout was good (36 people took advantage of the free fun), but more people are always appreciated. Students who are interested need to sign up in advance by e-mailing Steve Krafcisin at sjkrafcisin@dmacc.edu. For more information contact Steve Krafcisin at 433-5078.

For more information, please visit: www.desmoinesfordarfur.org
S.A.C. remembers M.L.King Jr.

Jessi Hackler  
Banner Staff Writer

In 1986, fifteen years after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., President Ronald Reagan signed a bill into law making the third Monday of January a national holiday, celebrating the birth and life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Student Activities Council conducted a memorial to Dr. King’s work by showing a film about him in the Courter Center on January 16, 2007. SAC Advisor, Steve Krafcisin, said the production was a great way to celebrate Dr. King, “It’s not a holiday just about him, it’s about his ideas and what he helped to accomplish. He’s done so much more than just giving the ‘I Have a Dream’ speech. The movie talked about a lot of other movements he was involved in.”

There were very few people watching the production in the Courter Center. Krafcisin believed the film’s showing was still a success. “I thought the Courter Center would have been closed area that it would have been harder for people to find out about it,” said Krafcisin. “I had some other ideas about where to show the video. I thought about the auditorium, but it’s such a closed area that it would have been harder for people to find out about it.”

“The video wasn’t advertised very well,” admits Krafcisin. “We are going to do a lot more for that next year.” The S.A.C. plans to get more publicity for the event in the future. After seeing how the production faired out this holiday, the S.A.C. has a much better perspective on how to celebrate M.L.K. Day in ’08.

Krafcisin noted that he hoped the film would, “Spark an interest in the students.” DMACC students could be seen in the Courter Center though out the showing of the production. “Whoever walked through there could hear what was going on,” remarked Krafcisin. Though not many students took the time to sit down and watch the production, the message that the S.A.C. was trying to convey, according to Krafcisin, did reach the students of DMACC.

Next year the S.A.C. plans to get an earlier start on the celebration. “Next year I’m going to try to get a lot more done for the holiday,” said Krafcisin. The S.A.C. plans to do much more to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day in future years.

The theme of this year’s holiday is Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off!!

Fun Foto with Captain Jack makes its way to the Courter Center

When coming back for another semester of school students had a chance to get their Fun Foto done for free by Captain Jack.

When getting your photo done your head is put on a picture of some one or something else that is funny like a hot bikini clad woman or a strapping beach boy with bulging biceps and so on.

Jack really enjoys making Fun Fotos, “It’s fun,” he said, “I get to travel all over the Country.” He said that he does about 40 or 50 dates a year.

Before Jack started doing Fun Fotos he was in an Indian reservation. “I was living in a teepee,” he said. Jack had been a palm reader for 40 years and did views as a psychic for fairs.

Jack’s life had lead him many places even right here to DMACC in Boone Iowa.
Meet the Banner News

Jessi Hackler, 20, Assistant Graphic Design Editor

Jessi has been at DMACC for one semester with no major declared at the moment. She is currently taking Creative Writing, Newspaper Production, Intro to Mass Media, and Creative writing, and stated the Creative Writing was her favorite.

In her free time, Hackler likes to write, draw, and to be outdoors, specifically hiking. Hackler’s favorite TV show is ‘That ‘70s Show’ and said her favorite band is ‘311’.

Something interesting about Jessi is she likes coffee and popcorn together, and “I also like to burn my toast.”

Isaac Rittman, 19, Sports Writer

Isaac Rittman has been a DMACC student for two full semesters; he currently has two semesters left. In August of 2008 Isaac hopes to transfer to the University of Iowa, to continue his education in the business world.

During free time Rittman enjoys lifting weights, playing the guitar, and doing anything athletic. Isaac’s favorite TV show is ‘family guy’ and said his favorite bands are Dave Mathews Band, 311, and Jesse and the Rippers.

Rittman mentioned that one activity he wants to do before he gets to old is go to a Manchester United soccer match.

Mary Elizabeth Drahos, 25, Opinion & Entertainment Editor

Mary Elizabeth Drahos is now in her last semester at DMACC majoring in Liberal Arts after attending off and on since spring of 1998. Drahos is currently taking human biology, newspaper production, and drama, and she enjoys drama and newspaper production the most because she is able to be creative.

Drahos would consider herself a movie and music buff, and likes to write, read, and cook. Her favorite TV show is Lost and right now she is addicted to boonies windy days.

Steve Fisher, 20, Entertainment Editor

Steve Fisher is currently in his fourth semester at DMACC with only one semester remaining, but still undecided on his major. He is going for his AA degree. Fisher is currently taking Criminal Justice, Ethics of Criminal Justice, Anthropology, World Relations, and Newspaper Production.

Besides lots of studying, Fisher enjoys skateboarding, ice hockey, and golf in his free time. His favorite TV show is ‘Married with Children’.

At some point, Fisher wants to visit Ireland.

Quinntez Gillispie, 20, Sports Writer

Quinntez Gillispie is a freshman in his first semester at DMACC, majoring in business. He says he hopes to start several businesses back home in Alaska. Gillispie is the youngest child of five and enjoys being the baby.

Q says he has already referred people to the news paper production class and enjoys the class.

Q enjoys listening to all kinds of music and likes to dance. Q also likes to play basketball, football, and baseball. Q graduated from the Alaska Military Youth Academy, one of the hardest schools in the U.S. “It was not easy waking up at 5am to do PT (physical training),” Gillispie said. Q misses home and is starting to adapt to boone’s windy days.

Joseph Maduol, 21, Photographer/Staff Writer

Joseph Maduol is a native of Sudan and just became a U.S. citizen on Jan. 19, 2007. This is Maduol’s first semester on the Boone Campus and his major is criminal justice.

“I am so happy to be here, with the Banner News,” Maduol said. “I want to make sure things keep moving forward in the right direction.”

In his free time, Maduol enjoys staying busy with homework and boxing.

One of Maduol’s great loves is music.

Liz Jay, 19, Copy Editor

Liz Jay is in her second semester at DMACC and is hoping for two more. Jay is currently taking intro to anthropology, newspaper production, American literature, and composition II.

Jay stated about being on the Banner staff, “It’s what I want to do with my life, and the people are great!”

Jay’s favorite TV show is ‘Scrubs’ and Yellowcard is her favorite band.

Jay became an aunt last May. Jay also stated that she hates being told by strangers that she is too young to get married.
New Year’s Resolutions for 2007

Dan Hawkins, Education Major

Trying to get through school and get a teaching job somewhere.

Jason Munday, Business Sports Management

This year I’m going to attend all of my classes!

Molly Jay, Liberal Arts Major

Quit drinking.

Britanie Feldman, Liberal Arts and Comm.

Get my synchro (swimming) tone back.

Alisha Markuson

Stop chasing girls.

-Aaron Irving

Report by Mary Elizabeth Drahos and Julianne Hamil

Photos by Eden Hinrichs and Julianne Hamil
Bears on the Road

Quintez Gillespie
Banner Sports Writer

DMACC Bears Men’s Basketball had their 15-game winning streak snapped by their long-time rival, Kirkwood Eagles.

The Bears were favored to win at Cedar Rapids against the unranked Eagles. The Bears, ranked first in the conference, are 2-1 in the conference season with 16 games remaining.

“We plan on going to the ‘ship,” said 4’9” shooting guard from Monona J’Sean Gaddy. DMACC sunk up the house with their sad attempts from the field, shooting only 27 percent. Kirkwood was on fire shooting, 50 percent from the field.

DMACC players say that there will be a different outcome if they come to the Bears Den back home. Jesse Blackwell, last week’s player of the week, had trouble getting open or creating his own shots. The Bears usual leading scorer, John E. Holmes, never got going and ended the game with only three points.

Playing on their own home court, the Eagles had one up on the Bears. The Bears just weren’t clicking; they had narrowed the lead down to six in the second half, with five minutes left in the game, but it wasn’t enough. The Eagles’ multiple second half three pointers where like nails in the coffin, sealing Bears defeat. Rico Gillespie point guard for the Bears, said they are “over the loss “and “are thinking about the next game”.

Harrison credits team for coach of the year award

Liz Jay
Copy Editor

Patty Harrison, DMACC’s head volleyball coach, was named National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II District “D” Coach of the Year. Harrison said it felt wonderful to receive this award. “I give a lot of credit to the group I had,” she said, “It was more symbolic for the girls.”

Harrison said at the start of the year they set high goals for the team and for each of the girls. Their goal was to get to the National Championships. Harrison said she felt honored to coach this team. She enjoyed the relationships she has with the girls and the relationships the girls had together. “Leadership, dedication and heart,” she said, were the three things that got them that far.

Harrison said the best moment of the year was, “Beating Kirkwood on their court to go to Nationals.” She said it was great to see all the hard work pay off.

Harrison said they have a good start for next year with five of their starting team coming back and six more girls signed already. They have three more scholarships left she said. Harrison said she is, "Looking forward to next year.”

Harrison wanted to give a special thank you to the community and the college for all of their great support throughout the season.

Anderson #44 named Athlete of the Week

DMACC--Jocelyn Anderson #44 has been named the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference DII Women’s Basketball Athlete of the Week. Jocelyn is a 6’3” sophomore center who is originally from Gowrie, IA.

Jocelyn has led her Lady Bears, who are ranked 49 nationally in the latest Women’s Basketball Division II polls, to two wins this past week. They tallied up victories over Iowa Central CC 72-57 and Marshalltown CC 78-65 respectively. With these wins, the Lady Bears move to 14-2 overall and 4-0 in conference play. In these two victories, Jocelyn led the way with averages of 23.5 points per game, 14 rebounds per game, and 3.5 blocks per game while shooting 20-24 from the field.

She currently ranks 3rd in the league in scoring average (16.4), 1st in field goal percentage (70.2%), 3rd in rebounding average (9.6), and 1st in blocks per game (4.8).

After completing her career at DMACC, Jocelyn will continue her education and basketball career here in Iowa at nearby Iowa State University, of which she has already signed with. Congratulations Jocelyn on your basketball accomplishments thus far and continue to lead the Lady Bears throughout the rest of the season.
The Diary of Samantha

Editor's Note: "The Diary of Samantha" is a fictionalized account of a young woman's life. It is contributed to the Banner and is published on condition anonymity. A new installment will run in each issue of the Banner this semester.

Why is a fresh start never really a fresh start? I moved away from a horrible place and decided to start a new life with my own rules leaving my small family including my mother, brother, sister and niece behind. Whenever I raised questions, about other family members (aside from a grandfather who had died) I was brushed off and told that I was "too young" to ever understand the past. In short, I was told that most of my family was dead. I only knew that my mother disowned my Aunt Mary and Aunt Jane. Though I vaguely remember my Aunt Mary, Aunt Jane was a total mystery.

My life was controlled by other people's mistakes which, somehow, I was guilty of. No matter if I was four or fourteen when the event occurred somehow I was tainted by the involvement. My mother was an alcoholic who, unfortunately, is still addicted to drugs. She always ran to the most abusive men, some of the worst men I would ever know. It's an usual feeling to be punished for making the slightest of noises or coughing at the wrong time. Eventually she would leave them and the cycle would begin again. She would trade one vice for another. She decided we were going stay with this guy she knew, a drug addict. He was in no way physically abusive to me or my mother but constantly drifted between becoming Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. There was always something happening. Drugs brewing in our basement and all that entailed meant I wasn't ever really allowed to have too many friends. I lived in constant fear that any friends I did have would expose my family and I would be placed in an orphanage somewhere. I grew up between gangs and drug deals; waging war within myself to avoid the siren call of the drugs that were oh so accessible.

Through writing and art I eventually broke the cycle and began to forge my identity, apart from that world. I became the black sheep of my family for attempting to live outside such sordid circumstances.

I had more family in another country but, unfortunately, I could not speak their language. When my mother disowned half of my family, she denied our heritage and refused to teach me or my siblings how to speak our native language.

My father left when I was three years old because of some "unspeakable crime" he had committed and, of course, somehow, I was to blame. For years I had to lie about my family pretend that there is, was and only will ever be my mother, brother, sister and niece. I never fully understood what people were talking about when they talked about how much family they had.

As time went on, I packed my bags and started a new life far away from the dishonorable reputation of my family. I started going to school, made new friends and found true love.

Shortly after 8 am one day, I got a phone call that would, without a doubt, change my life forever. "Hello Samantha! Do you know who this is?"

"Uh...no...should I?" The voice seemed strangely familiar. "It's your Aunt Mary!" I did not want to tell her that I had presumed her dead all these years. "I found your number and I wanted to talk to you. So how are you doing?"

After that, the conversation continued with small talk and I came to know a bit about her. Then she had stumbled across a name I hadn't heard in so long that I had almost forgotten it..."And your Aunt Jane has been fairly well. She has cancer but she's doing pretty good!" Without even thinking I asked questions about Jane.

When I realized what I was asking I turned the conversation back to small talk. I had jotted down a few addresses and phone numbers she gave me, and then the conversation ended.

That day I enjoyed the euphoria of knowledge and went about my day like any other day.

When I came home that evening there was a message on my answering machine. "Hello Samantha this is your Aunt Jane..."
The Prestige

Mary Elizabeth Drahos
Opinion Editor

Warning: If you plan on watching a movie while texting people on your cell phone or getting kissed-facial with your sweetheart, do not choose this movie.

This is definitely a ‘blank and you miss it’ kind of movie. Not a bad quality in a film, just one you have to keep your mind on.

The movie revolves around two magicians, Robert Angier (played by Hugh Jackman from “X-Men”) and Alfred Bordon (played by Christian Bale from Batman Begins), whose rivalry begins when Bordon accidentally kills Angier’s wife. Throughout the years, they keep getting back at each other losing fans, gigs, and appendages (yes, you heard that right).

Then Bordon performs a trick that Angier can’t figure out. After that, Angier becomes so obsessed that he does everything he can think of to figure it out.

In the end, he ends up pulling off a trick so mysteriously, that even movie-going audiences will be at the edge of their seat.

Even though the parts with the tricks were keeping the audience involved, there were many scenes that just dragged on and on. It seemed to be a balance of me getting into the movie, then me checking my watch.

Scarlett Johansson (Lost in Translation) and Michael Caine (Miss Congeniality) both make their presence known as well as a few surprise cameos including Piper Perabo (Coyote Ugly), Andy Serkins (Lord of the Rings), and the Goblin King himself, David Bowie (Labyrinth).

There were a few things about the casting I was disappointed in. First off, Piper Perabo should’ve had the bigger part and Scarlett Johansson should’ve had the cameo. Perabo seemed much more natural and watchable in her role. Johansson is normally a great actress, but in this role she seemed wooden.

Serkins and Bowie were trying to play some serious characters, but the images of Gollum and the Goblin King being partners in crime was distracting. This is a film that should be seen, but be prepared to be bored from time to time.

Rated: PG-13
Runnning Time: 128 Minutes
My Star Rating: 3 out of 5 stars

Stupid is as Stupid Does

Mary Elizabeth Drahos
Opinion Editor

How is it possible that some people can be put into high-end positions that they are not equipped to hold?

It seems to me that it breaks down to good old nepotism. If you don’t have the right connections, or if you aren’t a friend of a friend of the boss, then you are screwed.

Right now I am working under a person who is much younger than I am, much less experienced, and even TRAINED by me. However, they became a shift manager because they were friends with the old store manager.

Enter new store manager. The shift leader is now being watched more closely, but can’t be demoted from their position. Apparently you can’t demote someone for stupidity.

What exactly does it take nowadays to find qualified people for positions that actually require leadership skills? I’m not even talking just about my job. Think about where you are working; is there a person or two who does not seem right for the job?

Exactly my point.

Business owners are relying on information that is given to them by these ‘trained’ employees. There could be a huge crisis that resembles a restaurant-themed apocalypse, but as long as the shift manager says everything is running smoothly, then it is. They read the paperwork that is submitted, read a few of their notes, and are done with it. As long as sale quotas are met they really don’t care.

Sales going down? Raise the prices and cut the hours. Yeah, that’ll work.

They don’t understand that we, the little people who toil, sweat and bleed, are the ones directly involved with the customer. We know what will work and won’t.

Sales going down? Why not create a great deal where customers cannot help but be drawn in. Customers will come back to the place where they can get more for their money.

But don’t listen to me. I am just an underling. Listen to the person checking their e-mail in the back office. Because they TOTALY know what is going on.

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