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Banner News

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APOLOGY

In the Jan. 24, 2007 issue the Banner ran a story, “Lost Boy receives citizenship,” which was believed to be a first hand account of life in Sudan.

The majority of the story was, in fact, taken from a book titled “Escape from Slavery: The True Story of My Ten Years in Captivity—and My Journey to Freedom in America,” by Francis Bok.

The Banner deeply regrets this error and offers sincere apologies to Mr. Bok.

Story County rallies for Obama

Tim Larson
Executive Editor

The day started in the Press Access room at Hilton Coliseum. This was the day America’s new favorite black guy (sorry Tiger) was making his fourth stop on a nationwide announcing tour.

The camera crews from Fox, CNN, ABC, NBC and every other major news outlet in the world were set up to capture Barack Obama in action. An hour before Obama would come into the room, journalists and photographers, already set for the circus that would follow, killed time by trading the media equivalent of big fish stories. The camera man from ABC, an imposing gentleman, complained that the new light on his camera doesn’t get hot enough. “It used to be, some punk get in your shot you could up and sing ‘em with the light. They learn real quick.”

Next to the enormous camera man from ABC, stood the reason he missed his old light, three college interns. Two from Pepperdine and one from Stanford; the three girls were covering the event for local stations. While the reporters began to ready themselves for the press conference, these three discussed the finer points of the LA club scene and traded stories of their celebrity sightings.

Behold…the future of American journalism.

Obama entered the room shortly after 11 a.m. to an explosion of camera shutters and flash bulbs. The circus had begun. He stepped to the podium; the reporters shouted questions in unison. The first question he addressed was, predictably, about the Iraq war. “I don’t think there is a more significant decision than the decision to go to war.” He continued, “I think the war was a tragic mistake and it never should have been authorized.”

The Iraq war is sure to be a central issue in the campaign. Obama has said that he will institute a “phase re-deployment.” He was quick to add that this was not a complete withdrawal of troops.

Prime Minister, John Howard, suggested that Iraqi insurgents will be supporting Obama. “If I were running al-Qa’ida in Iraq, I would put a circle around March 2006 and be praying as many times as possible for a victory not for Obama but also for the Democrats.”

In his classic endearing style Obama promised to keep his campaigning clean. “I won’t make ad hominem attacks. [My opponents and I] will have

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Sen. Barack Obama is surrounded by supporters after speaking on Feb. 11, 2007 at Hilton Coliseum in Ames, the day after he officially announced he is running for president in ’08.

Possible $5 tuition increase per credit fall semester

Jessi Hacker
Entertainment Editor

Student Activities Council members from Boone, Ankeny, Urban and Newton Campuses met on Feb. 10 to discuss a tuition increase for DMACC.

DMACC currently costs $97 per credit hour. This price ties with Eastern Iowa for the lowest tuition of all 15 community colleges throughout Iowa.

Students can expect a $5 per credit hour increase on tuition next year. This will bring DMACC tuition up to $102 per credit hour. Eastern Iowa will also be raising their tuition by $5 per credit hour, keeping DMACC and Eastern Iowa tied for lowest community college tuition rates.

“No one wants to pay more money,” said DMACC student, Chris Nims.

To be considered a full-time student at DMACC, a student must have at least 12 credit hours per semester. This means that if a student maintains the minimum level of credit hours, they can expect to pay $60 more per semester for tuition.

SAC members who attended the meeting agreed that a $5 increase was reasonable.

DMACC faculty members are attempting to find cheaper ways to buy books for classes. This would help to make the tuition increase less detrimental for students. “We are considering keeping the same book for a longer duration in the class room,” said Tom Lee, DMACC Provost.

This tuition increase will help DMACC in many different areas. There is a 10 year goal to have the most full-time faculty on staff DMACC-wide, out of the 15 Iowa community colleges. A proposal will be presented to the Board to have 12 new full-time faculty positions opening across the DMACC community for the fall of 2007.

The possibility that the increase in tuition would be used to hire more faculty has had more than a little opposition from students. “We have enough coaches already,” said DMACC student Aaron Johnson. “They charge us enough as it is.”

Snakes Alive visits Boone

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Jesse Hacker
Entertainment Editor

Snakes took over the DMACC campus on Valentines Day. Students crowded around a small exhibit in the Courter Center to view the creatures that Herpetologist Tom Kessenich had brought to show.

Kessenich brought with him a wide variety of reptiles including, boa constrictors, alligators, corn snakes, black rat snakes, and a scrambled egg eating lizard.

Most of the animals were able to be handled and several students took turns letting the snakes slither around their arms and shoulders.

Student Brain Deal enjoyed holding the large boa constrictor. “I’ve always like snakes. They’re very friendly.”

Another DMACC student, Niki Carlson, took part in the event. “They are beautiful. I really like the boa.”

“I’ve been around these all my life and I just love animals,” said Kessenich. “They are really friendly animals.” Kessenich told the crowd all about the different reptiles that he had with him and showed them to the students.

“Black Rat Snakes can get to be about 6 feet long,” explained Kessenich.

Numerous students kept their distance, but they looked on anyway. “I like them, they think they are cool. But like any animal you’ve got to respect them,” said onlooker Hollie Smith.

“They love getting attention, just like you,” said Kessenich.
Managing test anxiety

Gracie Fellmet
Banner Staff Writer

Generally, everyone experiences some level of nervousness before tests or other important events in their lives. Some nervousness can help motivate, but too much can become a problem, especially if it interferes with the ability to prepare for and perform tests.

One cause of test anxiety is lack of preparation, which is normal and rational. Cramming the night before the exam, having poor time management, failing to organize test information, and having poor study habits are some examples. Many students worry about past performances on exams, how friends and other students are doing, and the negative consequences of failure.

However, some people may be adequately prepared but still panic, blank out, or overreact, which is not rational.

One of the main effects of anxiety is nervousness, which then leads to other things. It may cause difficulty reading and understanding the exam questions. This is known as mental blocking, which is a condition that can cause difficulty organizing thoughts and retrieving key words and concepts when answering questions. Even if students know the material they tend to do poorly, and may even remember the material they tend to do poorly.

It is common sense that test anxiety can be reduced by thoroughly studying the material. Tom White, a Psychologist and Associate Director at the Northern Arizona University, encourages learning and practicing good time management, such as scheduling study breaks. Take advantage of note taking, review lecture notes and textbook assignments, and use summary sheets. Learn and understand any key words, and use relaxation techniques like taking long deep breaths.

According to the Counseling Center at the State University of New York, avoiding laziness, procrastination, and day dreaming is important and effective means of avoiding test anxiety.

For many people, noise, interruptions, and time limits make test taking difficult. If that’s an issue, Students can ask a teacher about taking the test in the Academic Achievement Center. The AAC offers students extra help with specific class assignments or general help with fundamental skills.

The staff and tutors in the AAC provide students with the help they need for classroom success. Mary Ann Koch, an instructor in the AAC, said that “it doesn’t hurt to just try it once or twice. If people come in and try it when they have questions, they’ll find that [the AAC] is very helpful.” With six instructors and three receptionists, help is available for anyone who walks in.

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Difficulty: Challenging

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.

Free food offered in Courter Center in honor of Black History month

Steve Fisher
Banner Staff Writer

February is upon us and, as every American should know, February is Black History month. Black History Month is dedicated to African Americans in which our Nation recognizes past wrongs and advancements not possible with out the unjust help our Nation recognizes past wrongs and advancements not possible with out the unjust help from African slaves.

Black History Month, created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, was originally observed as Negro History Week. Many felt one week of celebration was not enough. Through hard work, fifty years later, the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, changed the observance to Black History Month.

Woodson’s vision involved peace between blacks and whites. With his hopes to improve race relations he needed a balance to where both blacks and whites could relate to his ideas. Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, who both fought on the forefront in the abolishment of slavery, had February birthdays. Making February a brilliant opportunity for each other and each other.

In observance of Black History Month, DMACC offered a free soul food lunch. Many students gathered in the Courtier Center to take advantage of lunch.

DMACC student Fred Perry, appreciated the efforts of the school, “It’s good to remember the sacrifices people made for us. For the past and future, it makes you appreciate life more.”

Activities Coming Up

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 11:30 a.m., Comedian Eric Blake will be in the Courtier Center. Free popcorn at this event.

Thursday Feb. 22, at 7 Oaks will be another DMACC event. Free lift tickets for students from 4-9 p.m. Students must pay for rentals. Free snow tubing from 6-9 p.m. for DMACC students, Faculty and staff.

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Bears take nosedive in second half against NIACC’s Trojans

Quintez Gillespie
Sports Writer

In their first encounter, the Bears met the Trojans in the Den. With the crowd on their side the Bears beat the Trojans mercilessly 108-49.

The next encounter between the two teams was in Mason City. The Bears would not be so blessed; losing in overtime 66-63.

Bears forward John Holmes stepped up to the plate. Holmes went 7 for 7 from the line, scored 31 points and had 13 rebounds. Holmes said, “I know that we beat them by 59 here so I know they were going to come out to play.” At halftime, the Bears went into the locker room with a comfortable nine point lead.

“We started playing not to lose instead of playing to win,” said point guard Grant Burns. Bears came out the locker room flat in the second half. Forward Rodney Grace said, “We lacked intensity in the second half.”

Jesse Blackwell, who had 22 points in their first encounter, said, “I did not play because [of] my shoulder, but I think I might try in practice so I can be their next time the guys need me.”

The Bears were bumped down to the sixth in the nation after the loss. Shooting guard, Ashton Sauls said, “We didn’t get the job done when the game was on the line.”

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Blast from the Past
Reliving Childhood Movie Favorites

1. **Willow** (1988)
   Val Kilmer, Warwick Davis
   Willow Ufgood and Madmartigan get mixed up in a perilous quest to bring to an end the reign of an evil sorceress queen and save the child who could destroy her. With annoying, tiny, brownies harassing them, and disgusting trolls climbing the walls, it’s a wonder how these two unlikely companions keep their sanity.

   Anjelica Huston, Raul Julia, Christopher Lloyd
   An incurably dysfunctional gothic family must pull together to save their beloved uncle Fester from being killed by his gold-digging, black widow new wife. With the two children being held captive at a psychotically happy camp and the parents losing their minds, it seems that nothing can save Fester from his blonde, murdering lover.

3. **Labyrinth** (1986)
   David Bowie, Jennifer Connelly
   A young girl accidentally wishes her baby brother away to the Goblin King Jareth who will keep him forever if Sarah does not complete his Labyrinth in 13 hours. With biting fairies and strange characters around every bend; Sarah is in for a lot more than she bargained for. Any movie with David Bowie as a goblin king has got to be well worth that 90 minutes of your life.

   Kay E. Kuter, Dan Mason, Lance Guest
   A videogamer, seemingly doomed to stay at his trailer park home all his life, finds himself recruited as a gunner for an alien defense force. Being millions of miles away from home, this young gamer must fight to save the lives of a very diverse group of aliens and his own. And yes, playing video games all day can get you somewhere!

5. **Goonies** (1985)
   Anne Ramsey, Cory Feldman, Sean Astin, Josh Brolin
   A group of misfits go on a search for buried treasure to save their neighborhood from being demolished by a gang of businessmen who seek to make a new golf course. They have a run in with a group of convicts how have recently broken out of prison and end up getting chased through death-defying dangers and booby traps on the adventure of a life time!

   Cary Elwes, Robin Wright Penn, Mandy Patinkin, Andre the Giant
   The Dread Pirate Roberts embarks on a comedic adventure to rescue his love, Princess Buttercup, from a terrible prince who plans to marry her and then kill her once he’s gotten his crown! This movie is filled with wild, witty humor and exquisite sword play. Beware of the Rodents of Unusual Size!

7. **Ferris Bueller’s Day Off** (1986)
   Matthew Broderick, Alan Ruck, Mia Sara
   Ferris, his girlfriend and his best friend Cameron ditch school to spend a day in down town Chicago. They “borrow” a very rare Ferrari from Cameron’s dad and take a joyride through town. With a principal who dead set on catching them ditching and a small mishap with the borrowed car, things get extremely risky and they must invent new ways to avoid getting busted! This is a movie to celebrate the slacker in all of us.

8. **Back to the Future** (1985)
   Micheal J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd, Lea Thompson, Crispin Glover
   A crazy inventor called Doc creates a time machine out of a DeLorean. Determined to change the past so a neighborhood bully will leave his dad alone, Marty goes back in time to change the course of history. After damaging the DeLorean, Doc and Marty must struggle to fix the time machine and help Marty’s dad to win the woman of his dreams and defeat the bully without changing the future too much.

   Brandon Fraser, Adam Sandler, Steve Buscemi
   Three band members hoping for a big break head to a radio station to play their demo tape and wind up holding everyone hostage with plastic guns when the player eats their tap. With cops surrounding the building and no way out, the guys have no choice but to hold out as long as possible while the police are sent on outrageous missions to meet their unbelievably hilarious demands. Down with Sammy Hagar!

    Eric Walker, Warwick Davis, Aubree Miller
    Wicket the Ewok and his tribe agree to help two shipwrecked human children on a quest to find their family. Filled with ewoks and villains, this Star Wars inspired movie is filled with good 80’s family fun!
‘Murder Is a Game’ set to open

Banner Staff

With midterms approaching, students in the DMACC play, “Murder is a Game” find themselves more stressed than at any other time of the semester since they are studying lines, memorizing where to stand, and remembering cues.

The play focuses on Toby and Sloan Bigelow, married authors who are suffering from writer’s block. Their publicist, Lois Dunston, plans a murder mystery weekend to try and jog their memories. She ends up inviting a handful of people to act out a fake murder. But when the fake murder is solved, a real murder happens.

With opening day, Mar 2, fast approaching students in the play are starting to feel the pressures of putting on a production. “I am feeling overwhelmed with all my lines and hope that I don’t let the rest of the cast down,” says Patty Rockwell, who plays Sloan Bigelow.

“Knowing where everyone is on stage and being able to respond accordingly is so important,” adds Dawn Prewitt, who plays the sexy BB Mink.

But although they are feeling a little stressed, there are also some positive feelings. They all have had a lot of fun times at rehearsals, especially when they try to make each other laugh on stage. “I feel like we have a special family, we seem to get along very well and enjoy being together at rehearsals,” says Rockwell. The cast of the play are; Patty Rockwell as Sloan Bigelow, Eric Brown as Toby Bigelow, Cynthia Sari as Lois Dunston, Rebecca Russell as June Ripley, Jonathan Lautzenhiser as Stephen Leech, Mary Elizabeth Drahos as Cora Leech, Aaron Van Pelt as Nick Ranelli, and Dawn Prewitt as BB Mink.

What ‘80s event was most memorable to you?

I really liked the bell bottomed pants and the hippy style that was still going on. I wore lots of those with headbands and tie dye shirts. I also liked Madonna and Cyndi Lauper.

-I really liked watching the Goonies. Especially the Truffle Shuffle scene.

-Joey Highland

The first thought that popped into my head was the Berlin Wall. Then, of course, Pink Floyd’s The Wall; the movie and the album.

-Sam Pritchard

I also liked Grease, but I love the fashion. Polka dot clothes, bandanas, and big loopy earrings. The 80’s fashion is awesome.

-Cynthia Sari

I liked listening to Michael Jackson. Also Madonna. Oh yeah, and the movie Grease. I grew up watching that movie.

-Chanda Touch

I liked the fashion. Polka dot clothes, bandanas, and big loopy earrings. The 80’s fashion is awesome.

-Cynthia Sari

DES MOINES--Two Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Men’s Basketball players have received honors from the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference. Ashton Sauls of Des Moines was named this week’s Division II Men’s Basketball Athlete of the Week. Sauls is averaging 13.7 points per game and two assists per game this season. This past week, he averaged 17.5 points and five assists per game during games against Southwestern Community College and Iowa Central Community College.

Sauls was an All-State performer for Des Moines East High School in 2005.

Rodney Grace of Omaha was named this week’s Division II Men’s Scholar Athlete of the Week in the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference.

Grace, who is enrolled in DMACC’s Arts & Sciences program, had a 3.66 grade point average in his first semester at DMACC.

Grace averaged 15.5 points and 10.5 rebounds per game in victories against Southwestern Community College and Iowa Central Community College.

Grace is averaging 10 points and six rebounds per game for the Bears, who are ranked number three in the nation according to the latest National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Men’s basketball poll.

Reporting: Mary Elizabeth Drahos Photos: Eden Hinrichs
Firehouse sheds light on Boone’s ‘The Venue’

Fall to the Corporates
Jessi Hacker

Fall, and fall, and fall, and fall
These things were not yet meant to fail
Death forgot them under the cement
What was meant to be was broken down
Into a drinkable serum
Take what the corporate world has put out
You’re just another #
Take a drag and exhale
That’s what you are supposed to do

The big bosses sit back and watch
Watch them all drop one by one
The cancer kills them everyday
The serum is all gone
No life can be saved
These things were not yet meant to fail
Fall, and fall, and fall, and fall
You took it without thinking at all
They gave you the cure before the cancer
Now you’re gone and no one’s to blame
Corporate American can’t be the reason
They hold fundraisers and donate to charities
How could such pure souls be responsible?
Never, never would this be
Take a number; you’ll be the next to die
Fall into the cement with the beast
They lie dormant in their sleep
Soon you’ll fall to join them
But when the morning comes you will not wake
Corporate America promises a great sleep
It’s a gift to the restless world
Fall, and fall, and fall, and fall
These things were not yet meant to fail

Firehouse played every hit of Boone is off the hook!
The people of Boone were warm and receptive,” said CJ Snave: vocals.

“The Venue is tripping in size to hold a capacity large enough to sustain the crowds forecasted for the future entertainment. Jackel, Tesla and Warrant are just a few shows scheduled to play. For tickets and directions to these events visit www.partythevenue.com. This new addition, full of live entertainment, to the small town of Boone is off the hook!”

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Manager: Kent Mui

Plotting! My life has run thick with plotting! I suppose I should explain first. Rose. My sister has had a long history of doing some incredibly shady things. I have seen her manipulate people all around her to get what she wants. When I started to talk to the aunt she told me “always be on your guard, never believe them. They are almost the same person.” Rose filled my head with stories that should have cramped my enthusiasm. It didn’t. I saw her destroy lives through weaving lies around others like a noose and after the wreckage she would reap the benefits. I can barely explain the horrible things that she has done. I care about her. I started Wondering if this was just another one of her tricks and I was equally cautious with not only my aunts but as her well.

Rose called me with a panicked tone in her voice asking for Jane’s number. I hesitated. She never cared before about talking to her. “Sam, I want Jane’s number. I thought I would give you sometime to bond with her so you would have someone that was just for you to talk to. I had known my father, Mary, and I have always had a connection. You never really had anyone you just connected with or was just yours to enjoy. So now that I have given you some time to talk to her and get to know her.” As if all my decisions were in her control. All her doing and planning.

Yet, she was speeding to get her wishes.
“Since you never had anyone who was just your own. But now I want to talk to her.” As Jane was a toy and she was reclaiming of her property.

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Property. Yet, I relented and had given her the number. I felt so horrible and uncomfortable, I keep deep down inside that there was something horrible going to come from this. “You remember what I told you about Mary and Jane being the same person?” They talk, Sam, they talk about mom. They are waiting. We hang up. I waited a few minutes. I picked up my phone quickly and dialed Jane’s number. I told the answering machine that I had given Rose her number and tried to make the situation sound as hopeful as possible. The beep said, “Sorry Jane didn’t get in touch with her either. I called Rose back, she picked up right away.

“What were you on the phone with?” she pressed.

“What?”

“Who do you need me.”

“Was calling you.”

“Oh,” her voice said that she didn’t buy it.

I was wondering why would Rose want to now talk to Jane now when she had a chance to do so many times before? Why wouldn’t she ask Mary for Jane’s number? Were Mary and Jane really the same woman as Rose made them out to be? Or was she plotting against me and them at the same time.

I needed to rest my head for a while before I tried calling Jane again. So I turned on the TV and reviewed the events of the day. Rose never did anything with out a purpose so what was her purpose with this? Why, after so many years, does she want to get involved with Jane? How would I warn Jane without seeming paranoid? My thoughts were eating at me and I thought I would try to call Jane again.

The phone rang a few times and the person who picked up surprised me. It was Jane’s husband, Fred. We made some happy conversation about our cousins, him, the wedding of my first cousin Fred and Fred promised that Jane would call me soon. I was very happy at how nice he was. My mother had always told me that he was cold and callous.

Later on that night I talked to June. She had been asking me, since we had been talking, if I wanted to go see her some weekend. I couldn’t because I was always working or at school. She asked when Spring break was and if I wanted to come and visit her. At first I was apprehensive, but I agreed.

I am excited about going to see her but I still wonder if things will blow over. 

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Some of you shouldn’t be in college. Truthfully some of you shouldn’t have been allowed to graduate from high school but you did, and now you’re here at a DMACC. For the great time we live in. Anyone can go to college and most people do. This year more people will graduate from college than at any other time in history. More incoming freshman will be accepted than ever before. More people who are unqualified will receive a degree, a piece of paper proclaiming them educated. One need not be a super-genius to attend college, but there is a certain base level of education necessary to participate in the academy. For example, if you don’t know the correct name of “their,” “there” and “they’re” and English is your first language, you should consider dropping out. If you know the name of Paris Hilton’s dog (Tinkerbell) but not the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (John Roberts) you should seriously reconsider your priorities.

So many students are so ill-equipped to deal with reality; one is forced to question the schools who let them graduate. How is it possible that a student can get a high school degree without knowing what they don’t know that Wikipedia is not a credible source? Middlebury College in Vermont recently instituted a policy that Wikipedia could not be used as a source. That such a policy is necessary is ridiculous, it’s like telling students that water is wet. Really, by now, you should know. The unfortunate state of America’s educational system is that we are more concerned with the bottom line than we are with educating the youth of this country. Public schools are failing because they don’t have enough money. Colleges are failing because they’re too small, too many and too much want more. It is not in the colleges’ best financial interest to maintain high educational standards. If classes are too challenging or standards too high, students will fail. If students fail or drop out, the school will stop making money on them. Institutions of higher learning are more focused on turning a profit then on education. It is, therefore, in their best interest to lower standards, keep the students who pay, regardless of their academic performance, and enroll as many people as possible. More students mean more money.

The ubiquity of college education has created a new kind of competition among colleges and universities. Schools no longer tout their high academic standards, or the scholarship of their faculty, or the flexibility of their class schedules and helpful instructors. Students aren’t pushed to learn or to engage their minds; instead they are allowed to remain blissfully ignorant of the world around them. Many students, it seems, are unwilling to alter any of their preconceptions or ideas, even in the face of overwhelming evidence. This is unacceptable. Behavior of that sort should be vociferously discussed. A good many students come to college as some right of passage. For them as well, our system does a disservice. The students who come to college seeking maturity or to experience the “real world,” are not given the requisite experience to function in the “real world.” Students are simply not treated like adults. Not that the instructors or institutions treat them like children, but that they are allowed to act like children. Students should be expected to act like mature individuals, not allowed to shirk responsibility. We have, in many ways, failed to equip students for life. We do not require that the place any value on objective truth, in fact we let them think that there needn’t be objective truth. We place a higher premium on feelings and individual freedoms or rights than we do on what will ultimately benefit the student. Some of you shouldn’t be in college, at least not yet. Go home and let them see the value of hard work. When you’re ready to take your life and education seriously, then, by all means, come back. Until then, try not to break anything.

One need not be a super-veteran of Iraq or Afghanistan (or any other war, for that matter), keep in mind that what they don’t talk about, because unless you’ve read it, you can have. “Did you go to Iraq?” he asked. I told him that yes, I had. And then he asked me the single stupidest question possible. “Did you kill anyone?” he asked.

The only reason I answered his question was because the answer was no. But there were times when I was pretty convinced that I would. But how do you explain what mortal terror feels like to someone whose greatest fear is that he’s double-dipped, and he might have to pay a $15 ticket? How do you explain to someone who’s never known any real danger what it feels like to look at another human being through the sights of an assault rifle with the rock-solid conviction that if you don’t pull the trigger, you will die? There’s no way to really communicate what it’s like to decide that you need to end a life. Lucky for me that I wound up not having to pull that trigger— the mere decision to take a life was traumatic enough. Now imagine the trauma of pulling trigger. Imagine the crack of the rifle, the slap of the recoil, the way the other man drops like a rag doll. I thank God that all I can do is imagine it, because I have friends who’ve done that, friends who have to live the rest of their lives with the knowledge that they took a life. Imagine what it would be like having to live with that. Forget the movies—killing is never a casual undertaking. It is brutal and traumatic, and terribly intimate. It is likely that there are people on campus who live with that burden. It is theirs to carry for the rest of their lives. It is not something that people want to talk about, because unless you’ve done it, you cannot possibly understand what it is like.

The next time you talk with a veteran of Iraq or Afghanistan (or any other war, for that matter), keep in mind that what they don’t talk about, because unless you’ve read it, you can have. “Did you kill anyone?” he asked. I told him that yes, I had. And then he asked me the single stupidest question possible. “Did you kill anyone?” he asked.

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Post Valentine Stress Disorder

Jason Munday
Layout & Design Editor

On Feb. 14 at 11:59 p.m., many people realized they have only one more minute to make their Valentine’s Day fantasy come true. One more minute to get more alcohol into their system and one more minute to find a person to kiss; just to have something to talk about the next day.

It’s a good idea to acknowledge you actually love someone, but why only one day a year? Whether it is your significant other, an ex, just a friend, or even a random person you send a valentine to; it seems to be a gift that holds the expectation of getting laid.

For the other half of the population, Valentine’s Day promotes depression. Life has a way of balancing itself out like that. One person struggles as the others thrive, or is that the other way around? For every couple that. One person struggles as the others thrive, or is that the other way around? For every couple that. One person struggles as the others thrive, or is that the other way around? For every couple that. One person struggles as the others thrive.

Why is it that the coldest most depressing time of the year is the time that Hallmark makes seem so great? This depression often causes regularly content people to drink themselves stupid.

I have to admit, I too was a little depressed that day. Everywhere I looked I was reminded of my last girlfriend. Seeing loving people everywhere I went made me feel sick to my stomach.

Of course, I did take the initiative to meet other hotties. But all I could do was wonder if they felt the same as me? Loveless, this one day, was making me actually think there was something wrong with me. Of course I woke up the next day, looked in the mirror and felt great about myself. No girlfriend, no problems right?

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