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Banner News

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Troops Return Pictures, Page 5

BANNER NEWS

DES MOINES AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOONE CAMPUS



WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 26 VOL. 7, NO. 2

National Guard welcomed home

Molly Lumley
Banner Staff Writer

American flags waved from the hands of small children and young mothers. Couples stood waiting to throw their arms around the sons and daughters who they haven't seen in over seventeen months.

On the evening of Sept 13, nearly 2000 excited people lined up around the field outside of the Borgen Square Apartments.

The Co. C, 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Battalion was about to return home. At 5:54 p.m., six Black Hawk helicopters landed in the field.

"Oh my gosh! I don't believe it!" one woman cried as she ran towards the field where the soldiers started to exit the helicopters.

Meredith Johnson, wife of soldier Josh Johnson, sat in the front row of chairs in DMACC's

gymnasium, playing with her ten month old son Austin.

"It's been very hard to have him over there, it's been like a single parent house," Johnson said. She said that Austin had been sick with asthma trouble, but she was grateful that it was not something worse.

Johnson said that her husband has only seen Austin once when he was four months old. He had to leave for training in Fort Worth, Texas when Johnson was one month pregnant. Although they haven't been able to see each other, they have been able to talk on the phone everyday.

"He made it a point to call everyday to make sure that we were ok, we were very fortunate." Johnson said.

Continued on PAGE 3, TROOPS



Photo: Tim Larson

Above: Members of the National Guard walk past the line of flags outside of the Courter Center waiting for the soldiers to arrive on the evening of Thursday, Sept 13. The street was lined with signs that read "Welcome home Daddy! We love you!" and "We missed you!"

Left: A bagpiper salutes the soldiers outside the Courter Center. The four bagpiper from Des Moines serenaded the soldiers as they exited the helicopter and marched into the gymnasium.



Photo: Joseph Mawien

Funke takes job on Ankeny Campus



Photo: Jessi Smith

Rebecca Funke poses in front of the One Book One Campus One Community promotional display.

Molly Lumley
Banner Staff Writer

Rebecca Funke, librarian at the Boone Campus, will be leaving Boone to transfer to the Ankeny Campus library.

Funke accepted the position at the Ankeny Campus around Labor Day. After working on the Boone campus for three years, she was hesitant about applying for the position.

"It was a hard decision for me to even apply, but I went ahead and did." Funke said.

Funke will start working on the Ankeny campus on Oct. 15, but she will be splitting her time between Ankeny and Boone until a replacement can be found.

"I want to be in Boone when possible to make the transition easier for the new person." Funke said.

The former librarian on the Ankeny campus, Lisa Stock, transferred to a new position at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Ill. after working at DMACC for seven years. Stock left the Ankeny library to become the dean of libraries at DuPage and to pursue her Ph. D.

"This new job is a huge opportunity for me," Stock said. "I believe that Rebecca will do a fantastic job at the Ankeny campus."

Continued on PAGE 6, FUNKE

Iraq vet adjusts to academic, civilian life after Iraq tours

Tim Larson
Executive Editor

Although being back home is safer than being in Iraq, Sam Ruppert still finds himself missing the Marines.

"It's hard. Coming back from my experience in the Marine Corp, it's almost kind of a let down in some ways, being a civilian. You get the training, every day is so jam packed with getting out there and doing your thing. The skills I learned in the Marine Corp, and then coming back and not being able to use them anymore here. It's almost depressing. I've found myself lately almost missing the Marine Corps."

Ruppert said his experience in the Marines was "like taking a head first dive into manhood."

First Battalion, First Marine Division, Alpha Company, Ruppert's unit, saw action in two of the most notoriously violent cities in the Al-Anbar province, Karma and Fallujah.

"It was like the Wild West," said Ruppert. "There's not only civil war going on, we're training Iraqi army [Iraqi soldiers]. [The insurgents are] gunning for the Iraqi army and [the insurgents are] gunning for us."

"We had taken over a school building in Karma. We had cover and concealment, so we felt pretty safe. We always wear flack jackets and we were told we could take off our gear and sit down."

Ruppert, now a DMACC student, talks about this attack the same way a person talks about a fishing trip.

"My dumb ass is standing in a window, it had cardboard, so they couldn't see me, but there wasn't anything protecting me either. Obviously cardboard isn't going to stop a round from an AK-47. Well, they opened up fire on the building. For some reason my reaction to get on the

Continued on PAGE 4, VET

Jefferson stops by for Constitution Day

Jessi Smith
Managing Editor

“The First Amendment is the most important part of the constitution. Without the First Amendment, explicit and absolute, I believe the constitution is hardly worth the paper it’s printed on,” said Steven Edenbo, in character as Thomas Jefferson.

Edenbo, a first person historical interpreter, was on hand for Constitution Day at DMACC. He has been performing and speaking as Jefferson for more than eight years and is considered one of the best in his field.

The performance, paid for by Boone campus organizations, including the Banner News, was broadcast to all DMACC campuses via the ICN.

Edenbo, never breaking character, stressed the importance of the First Amendment, which was the focus of this year’s celebration.

Constitution Day is a required for all educational institutions that receive federal funding. In 2004, Congress passed legislation mandating that Sept. 17 of each year, these institutions hold an “educational program pertaining to the United States Constitution.”

Constitution Day T-shirts were sold for \$1 in various places around campus, and snacks were served in the Courter Center to celebrate the day.

“This is the first time I’ve ever spoken in such a circumstance as this, where I am being watched by people whom I can’t see directly,” said Edenbo, never breaking out of character as the third president of the United States. “We are here for Constitution Week, and I’ve been asked to talk about the First Amendment.”

Though he was introduced as the third President of the United

States, Edenbo was playing the roll of a younger Thomas Jefferson instead of taking on the character of Jefferson as president. Jefferson’s thirty-third year had been an important one he explained, “I am thirty and three years of age. The age at which I was when I wrote the Declaration of Independence. If you ever had the opportunity to come back again, how old would you choose to be?”

While browsing through a copy of the constitution, Edenbo (as Jefferson) acted surprised to see that more amendments had been added.

“Citizens have laws to protect themselves from themselves. Citizens have laws to keep one another from breaking each other’s arms and picking each other’s pockets,” said Jefferson.

“A citizenry has a constitution and countries have constitutions and bills of rights especially, not to protect citizens from each other, that’s the job of the laws. A country has a bill of rights to protect a citizenry from its government,” said Edenbo. “A bill of rights is a thing that every citizenry deserves to protect themselves from an unjust and disported government.”

“This idea of freedom of expression, and more importantly freedom of thought, freedom of expression is simply the result of a populace who is allowed complete freedom of opinion and thought. You cannot have true freedom of opinion or faith if you are not allowed to express it. So, freedom of thought is enabled by freedom of expression,” said Jefferson.

Jefferson went on to elaborate on why a democracy works.

“If you want stability, if you want security above all else, you want a monarchy,” said Edenbo.

“However, I believe this very instability that is part of the basis

of a democracy is a source of what is potentially the greatest strength of a democracy.”

“You cannot have a true conversation in a monarchy. You are not allowed to disagree with the king, not on any important level. And if you are not allowed to disagree, you cannot have a real conversation,” said Jefferson.

“The key to the importance of the First Amendment is the idea that freedom of expression is necessary for freedom of faith, for freedom of belief, and thought.”

Students and faculty seemed to appreciate Edenbo’s performance.

“It was a very worth while endeavor for the Boone campus,” said Rita Davenport. “Our students were very fortunate to see a performer of that caliber.”

“I thought it was very informational,” said student Niki Carlson. “I learned a lot about Thomas Jefferson that I didn’t know. It made me want to read more books about him and learn more about him outside of class.”

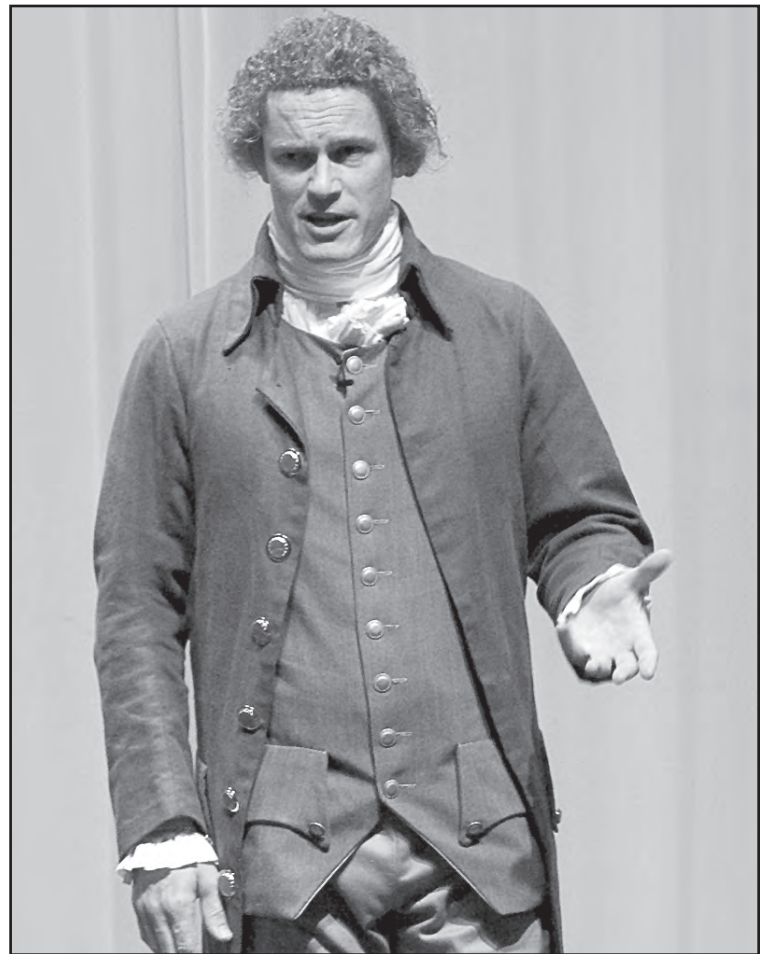


Photo: Eden Hinrichs

Steven Edenbo during a performance at DMACC on Sept. 17.

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TROOPS, continued from PAGE 1

After Josh comes home, the family is planning to take a vacation for a few weeks to relax.

"Daddy's coming home to give him his first haircut," Johnson said as she played with Austin's curly hair. "He'll be surprised to see how big Austin has gotten."

Another woman waited on the outskirts of the field with her children and family waiting for her husband, Steven Farquer.

"I'm very excited, I'm nervous," Farquhar said, "He gets to call us every now and then. We don't get to call them."

The Farquhar's 16 month old son, Hayden, dressed in an army

uniform, played happily with a red balloon, oblivious to the significance of the night's events. His two year old brother, Alex, sat in the bed of his dad's truck.

"She's so excited she's breaking out in hives," one woman said about Farquhar.

Outside, the street was lined with motorcycles and American flags. Each of the flags was held by members of various motorcycle organizations. One woman from the Christian Motorcycle Association had tears running down her cheeks as the soldiers marched into the school.

"I can't wait!" one little boy said. "Daddy! Daddy! Daddy!"

The ceremony lasted around twenty minutes. Iowa Governor, Chet Culver, Boone Mayor, John Slight, were among the dignitaries in attendance.

"I want you to know how proud we are of you. You served you state and your nation with distinction and honor, and we are all indebted for the invaluable service that you have performed," Culver said. "We're proud of the fact that you stood up to protect our country and to hold dear the liberty that we all cherish."

Mayor Slight also had a few remarks. "As mayor of Boone it is an honor for me to be here today. I want to personally thank

you for serving our country and for the sacrifices that you have made. The city of Boone is proud of you. I'm proud to live in a community where the National Guard has such a large presence and plays such a huge role. The freedom we continue to enjoy is because of the people like you that give up so much to serve our country."

Finally, the troops were dismissed to their families. Wives, husbands, fathers, mothers and daughters rushed to embrace family and friends that they have not seen in almost two years. The long wait was over, they were home.

One Book One Campus One Community discussions scheduled

DMACC -- Boone Campus is participating in an innovative program that uses a single book to foster creativity, critical thinking and fellowship among numerous academic disciplines.

The program is called, "One Book One Campus One Community," and the book selected is "The House of the Scorpion" by Nancy Farmer.

The book will be used in nine classrooms this semester, and 215 students will use it as part of their curriculum.

Copies of the book are available at the Ericson Public Library in Boone, as well as the DMACC Boone Campus library.

Events related to the One Book One Campus One Community include an appearance by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Educational Trailer, film showings, book discussions, guest speakers, an essay contest, a poster contest and an art contest.

The DNR trailer "Smart Choices. Clean Future. Better Iowa." is filled with displays, activities and educational videos to educate viewers about issues related to waste management and energy alternatives. The trailer will be on display in the DMACC Boone Campus front parking lot on Oct. 8 and 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The film "The Island" will be shown Oct. 18, and the film "Thirst" will be shown Nov. 8. Both showings are open to the public.

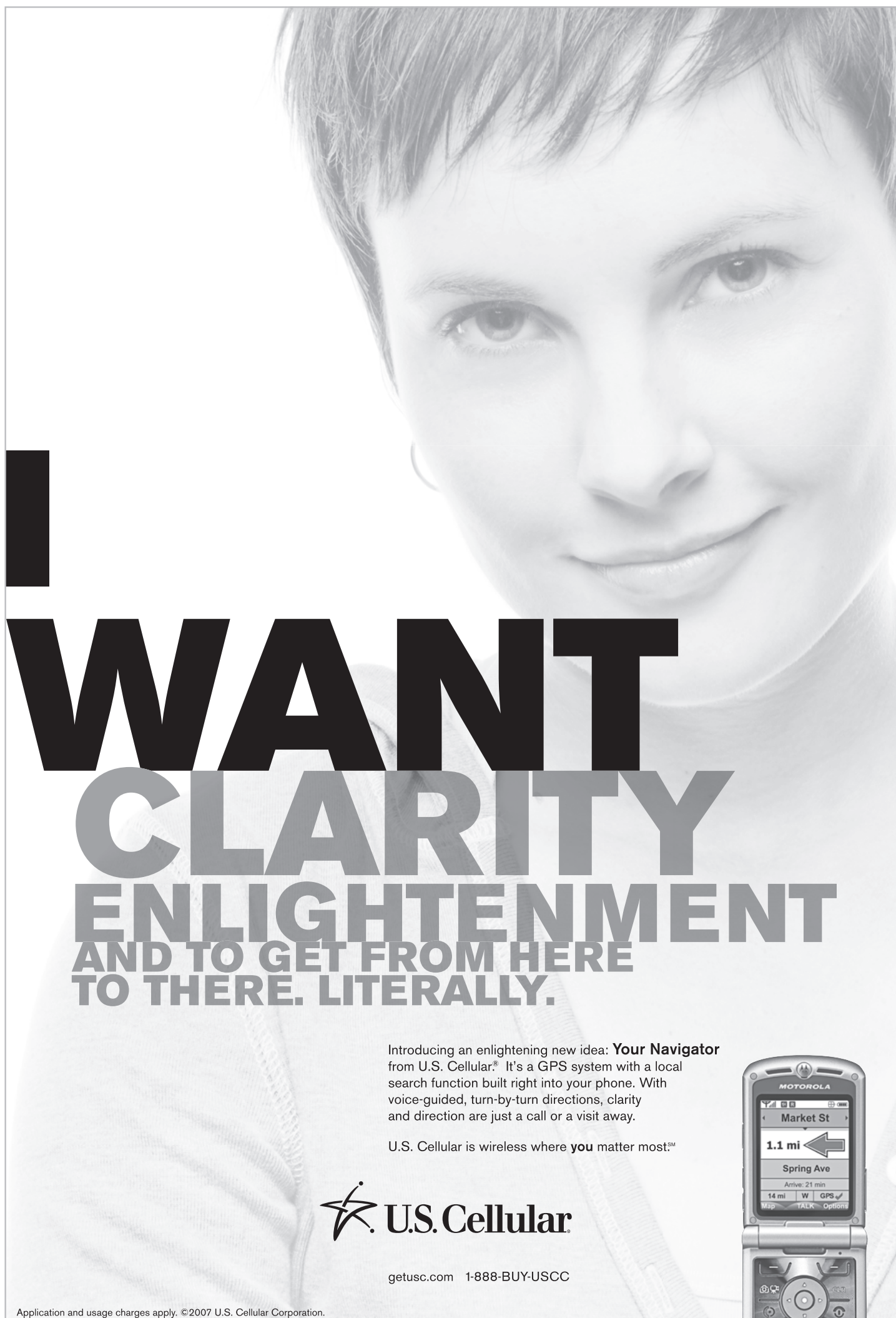
The book, "The House of the Scorpion" will be discussed from 12:40 to 1:40 p.m., Sept. 25 in Room 222C, from 12:20 to 1:20 p.m., Oct. 17 in Room 129 and from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Nov. 6 in Room 222C.

"The Stream" by Brian Clarke will be discussed from 12:40 to 1:40 p.m., Oct. 25 in Room 222C.

"Never Let Me Go" by Kazuo Ishiguro will be discussed Nov. 28 from 12:20 to 1:20 p.m. in Room 129.

All DMACC Boone Campus students and Boone High School students are eligible to submit entries in three different contests—an essay contest, a poster contest and an art contest. Winners will receive a \$100 gift certificate for the DMACC Boone Campus bookstore. The deadline for all three contests is Nov. 26.


All fall semester activities with additional details are listed on the web at <http://www.dmacc.edu/boone/boonelib/onebook.asp>



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DMACC student, Marine recounts time in Iraq

Faces new challenge of adjusting to life after war

VET, continued from PAGE 1



Photo: Courtesy of Sam Ruppert

Marine Corporal, Sam Ruppert, poses with a disarmed IED. Ruppert was standing on the device when an Iraqi insurgent attempted to detonate it. Improvised Explosive Devices are one of the most serious threats to U.S. forces in Iraq.



Photo: Courtesy of Sam Ruppert

Marine Corporal, Sam Ruppert and another member of his unit find a chance to sit after a patrol in Iraq. Ruppert, now a student at DMACC, served three tours in Iraq.

ground was kind of delayed. I just stood there like “is this really happening?” and then I hit the ground. After the firing had stopped [we] got our gear back on and stood up. I went back into the room to see where I was standing. There were bullet holes making a silhouette of my body, maybe an inch away from [where] my shoulders [had been]. That’s one of those moments I really felt protected by God.”

When asked why he felt he was protected, Ruppert shrugged and said, “I wasn’t supposed to die yet.”

During his four years in the Marine Corps, Ruppert served three tours in Iraq, roughly two years.

The transition back in to civilian life, and life as a student at DMACC, has been a long process for Ruppert.

“[In Iraq] I had to look after my life, the Marines under me, their lives, keeping them safe, making sure they get what they need,” said Ruppert. Now I worry about myself. I worry about coming home and doing my homework. The adjustment has really been getting used to being a student.”

Like many war vets, Ruppert has dealt with flashbacks and anxieties related to the trauma of war. Shortly after returning to Camp Pendleton in San Diego, Ruppert experienced one of his most dramatic flashbacks.

“I was doing one of those bicycle cab rides, I’m in America, I’m fine, nothing’s going on,” recalled Ruppert. “I’m in America for crying out loud.” The tire of the bicycle popped, the noise, similar to a gunshot, sent Ruppert diving into the street. He rolled to the side, dropped behind a tree for cover and began to scan the street for

the source of the “hostile fire.” Shouldering the rifle, which existed only in his mind, Ruppert tried to engage the non-existent enemy.

The incident in San Diego was the only time Ruppert has experienced a physical flashback; the rest have been more subdued.

“It’s more like I just get lost,” said Ruppert. “I get like a blank stare on my face. It’s just like I’m back there. I’m not reacting to it, in terms of jumping in a ditch or something. It’s like I’m back there again. It’s like a vivid dream almost. I get an anxiety in my chest. You can feel your adrenaline start to pump again.”

When he first returned, flashbacks were nearly a daily occurrence. After several months of working with his father, Ed, a professional counselor, they now happen only rarely.

After his time in the gulf, Ruppert has developed a formerly uncharacteristic mistrust of Arabic people.

“I grew up very loving and accepting of everyone,” said Ruppert. “Race, creed, color, religion, whatever, I didn’t care. Arabic people, I still have trouble being around, trusting. It’s not everyone; there’s no cookie cutter for Arabic people. They’re not all going to be terrorists; I’m well aware of that. But [after] my experiences over there, I’m on guard.”

Ruppert mentions that he has met another DMACC student, Mohamed, whom he considers to be a good guy. However, in spite of himself, Ruppert is still wary of him.

“I met a lot of guys [in Iraq] who I thought were great guys but they turned out to be [terrorists],” said Ruppert.

The Iraqi people were generally friendly and hospitable

to U.S. forces in the area. However, the same people who would drink tea and share stories with the soldiers one day would set IEDs and ambush convoys the next.

Ruppert explained the bizarre relationship between U.S. troops and Iraqi civilians with the simple phrase, “no greater friend; no worse enemy.”

This phrase became the guiding doctrine of Marine – Iraqi relations. “That’s basically what we had to go out there understanding,” said Ruppert. “These people who we were dealing with, they could bring us chai [tea], feed you, laugh with you, talk with you. The next day they could be the ones blowing you up. So basically we couldn’t trust them farther than we could throw them.”

This contrast in behavior was made abundantly clear to Ruppert the day after he miraculously survived the attack in Karma.

“I was talking with one guy one day and I was like, hey he’s pretty cool. The next day he was the guy trying to blow me up.”

This would be the second time in as many days that Ruppert inexplicably walked away, unharmed, from a potentially fatal incident.

“I was seriously standing on top of the bomb and I didn’t realize it until someone was like hey Ruppert, look down.”

Beneath Ruppert were two 155mm artillery rounds rigged to explode.

“The guy was obviously there, we were standing on it; he was obviously trying to blow

us up. Explosive Ordnance Disposal came in and looked at the device; they blew it up on the first try.” EOD told Ruppert that there was no logical reason the bomb didn’t go off.

“It’s another one of those things that almost makes you have cold sweats,” said Ruppert. “I really wanted to go buy a Powerball ticket, but I was in Iraq and I couldn’t do that.”

After his discharge from the Marines in late 2006, Ruppert moved back to his hometown of Ames and began to process his time in combat.

Three tours in Iraq have left their mark on Ruppert and his family. “It’s been hard on my family; knowing that there’s been a change in me. I’m not still their little Sam who’s innocent, I’m a war veteran.”



Photo: Courtesy of Sam Ruppert

Corporal Ruppert and other members of his unit stop for water and shade while on patrol in Iraq.

National Guard Troops Return Home



Photo: Joseph Mawien

Above: Meredith Johnson greets her husband Josh after the welcome home ceremony as he holds ten month old son Austin, whom he has only seen once since Austin was born.



Photo: Joseph Mawien

Right: Friends and family happily greet their loved ones after the welcome home ceremony for the Co. C, 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Battalion. The 50 soldiers were flown in by six Black Hawk helicopters around 6 p.m. on the evening of Sept 13.

What did you do in celebration of the big day two Saturdays ago?
What did you do in celebration of the big day last Monday?



Saturday: "I was at the races in Marshalltown."

Monday: "What was Monday?"

-Ashley Plahn



Saturday: "I worked."

Monday: "I bought a t-shirt and read through the booklet. Before I have never read the constitution all the way through."

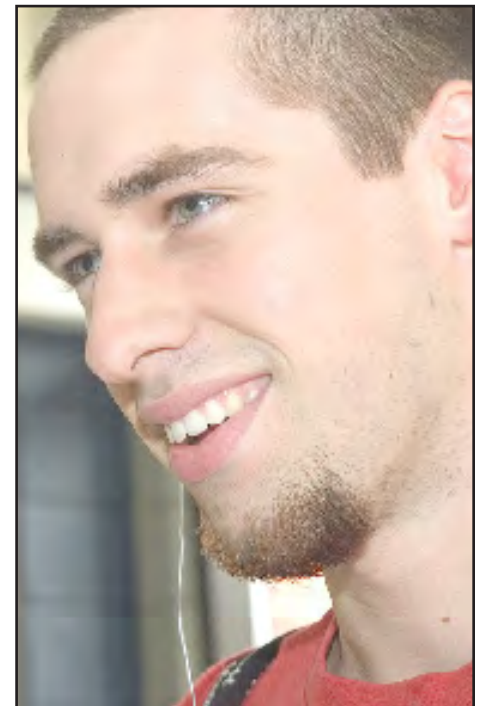
-Bob Stumbo



Saturday: "I worked."

Monday: "What was last Monday?"

-Kadee Wolfe



Saturday: "I had a party at my apartment."

Monday: "What was last Monday?"

-Zach Twedt

Saturday, Sept. 15 was the big ISU/Iowa football game. Monday, Sept. 17 was Constitution Day.

FUNKE, continued from PAGE 1

Funke will hold the same position at the Ankeny campus that she does at Boone. The position is not a district wide position, in that it does not oversee the other campus' libraries, but the position will help the Ankeny library take a lead in library services district wide.

"One of the things I like about it is that there's a lot of variety, there's a lot of ways you can impact the students and the staff and that's exciting. Sometimes that's harder to do on a big campus, like Iowa State. Things tend to get more departmentalized, more structured." Funke said.

Funke is responsible for starting the One Book One Campus One Community project on the Boone campus. The project, intended to promote literacy and reading, has been picked up by different campuses all around the country.

"It is an opportunity to create an avenue in which students, faculty, and staff to somehow meet in and out of the classroom and share a common experience. I think it has done that very well. We've had some nice comments from students who have been able to read a book and be able to share it with people from two or three different classes or a friend who doesn't take any of the same classes, but yet they share that

same book. It was something I knew was going on and I just knew that I wanted to try it here," Funke said.

Funke was also a recipient of the Tapestry Award for Diversity. The award is given to those who work to bring understanding of diversity and other cultures to the DMACC campuses.

"Of all the DMACC awards I could have received, this is probably the one I would have wanted to win," said Funke. "Diversity is a core value for me."

Funke received her bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in religious studies. She worked at St. Edwards University in Austin, Texas, for a year as an associate campus minister. She finished her master's degree in library science at the University of Iowa in 2003.

Although she didn't start out as a librarian, Funke has enjoyed the opportunities that the job affords.

"I love it; I'm really not sure how I could see myself doing something else. I like it because it so diverse. You work with the public and faculty and staff and students," said Funke. "You work with websites and databases. You get to teach. You get to select and buy books. You really get to do lots of things. It feeds me, it keeps

me going. I think it is one of those jobs where it's kind of hard to understand what people do. Some may think all I do is shelves books, or check out books, but there's just so more to it. You're swamped doing all kinds of things."

The One Book One Campus One Community book discussions have begun at the Boone campus. The first two discussions are Tuesday, Sept 25 12:40 p.m. – 1:40 p.m. in Room 222C for "House of the Scorpion" by Nancy Farmer, and Thursday, Sept 27 12:40 p.m. – 1:40 p.m. in Room 222C for "Tortilla Curtain" by T.C. Boyle. Copies of the books are available in the library for no cost.



When: Tuesday September 25
Time: 12:40pm - 1:40pm
Place: Room 222C



Photo: Tim Larson

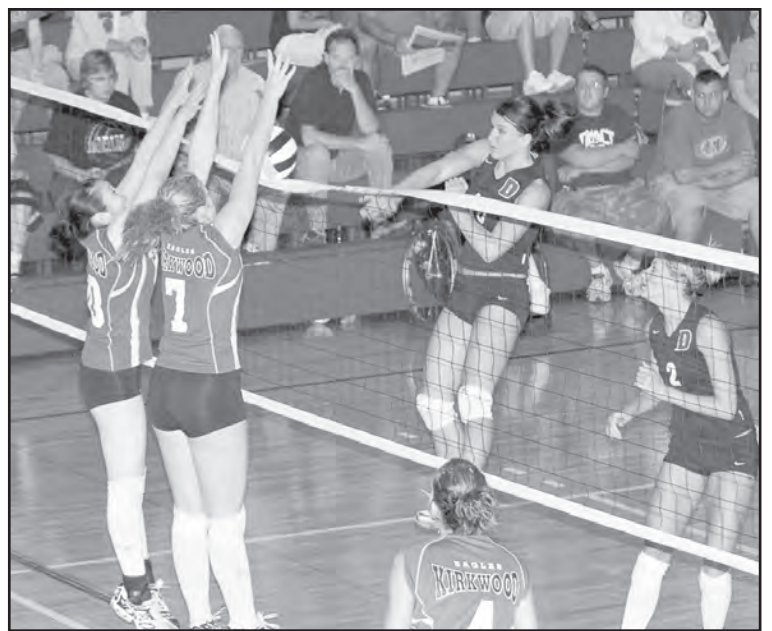


Photo Contributed by Sam Ruppert

Katie Heuer makes a hit past Kirkwood defense during the Bears home game last Wednesday.

DMACC BOONE CAMPUS HOSTS CENTRAL IOWA HOOPS CLINIC

The Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Boone Campus will host the second year of the Central Iowa Hoops Clinic. The clinic will be held from 7 to 10 p.m., Oct. 3, Oct. 10 and Oct. 17.

Clinic speakers include: Iowa State University Head Men's Basketball Coach Greg McDermott; University of Iowa

Assistant Men's Basketball Coach Chad Walthall, Drake University Assistant Men's Basketball Coach Justin Ohl, Iowa State University Women's Basketball Associate Head Coach Jack Easley and former Drake University Head Men's Basketball Coach Gary Garner.

The clinic was started to create an opportunity for

central Iowa coaches to develop communication, knowledge and awareness as coaches and leaders of young people.

For registration information, contact DMACC Athletic Director Orv Salmon at (515) 433-5050 or at ojsalmon@dmacc.edu.

DMACC SETS NEW ENROLLMENT RECORDS

Fall semester credit enrollment is up 8.7 percent and credit hour enrollment is up 7.5 percent on the six Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) campuses. Both are new DMACC records. DMACC has 18,320 students enrolled in credit courses at the six DMACC campuses this semester, compared to 16,854 students in the fall of 2006, an increase of 1,466 students.

Students are enrolled in a record 154,822 credit hours of classes this fall compared to 143,974 credit hours in the fall of 2006.

"We have great faculty and staff and more people are realizing that we provide an excellent education at an affordable price," said DMACC President Rob Denson. "DMACC classes are also readily transferable to other institutions."

Each campus is contributing to the record enrollment with double digit increases recorded at the Ankeny, West and Boone Campuses.

For the first time ever, enrollment at DMACC's Boone Campus has surpassed 2,000 students. The DMACC Boone Campus has set a new record with 2,090 students enrolled this semester compared to the 1,898 enrolled in the fall of 2006. That's a 10.1 percent increase.

Credit hours taken by students on the DMACC Boone Campus this fall total an all-time record of 21,138 compared to the 18,646 credit hours taken last fall. That's a 13.4 percent increase.

DMACC's enrollment figures are the official figures reported to the Iowa Department of Education on the 14th day after classes begin to

reflect accurate year-to-year comparisons.

DMACC offers credit classes in career education and collegiate arts and science programs at full-service campuses in Ankeny, Boone, Carroll, Newton, Urban Des Moines and at West Des Moines.

DMACC is committed to educating, training and encouraging success for students of all ages. DMACC is Iowa's largest community college, annually serving more than 28,000 students enrolled in credit classes and more than 32,000 students in non-credit programs on six campuses and many other locations across Central Iowa.

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Political Columnist

Iowans, a few short months from now, will take their Midwestern common sense and bucolic thoughtfulness with them on caucus night in January.

By then, however, the gentle vestiges of autumn will have long since vanished, buried beneath frigid temperatures and a foot of snow. We will again talk with our neighbors and friends about who would best be suited to occupy the Office of President of the United States. Some will arrive to support a particular candidate, while others are initially undecided.

We talk about where we'd like to see our country in the next decade or perhaps century. We look at each candidate and try to imagine their Presidency. We listen to all in attendance, letting everyone have a voice. This collective voice often produces a victorious candidate who is remarkably politically moderate.

This moderation, this middle-of-the-road stance has

served Iowa very well. Our rejection of extremes comes from our agrarian roots. Neither livestock nor plants can much tolerate huge fluctuations in temperature. Iowans realize that huge political fluctuations are just as deadly.

We also tend to hedge our bets politically. For example, in the United States Senate, a progressive Tom Harkin is balanced by the conservative Chuck Grassley. In the House of Representatives, we have a 3-2 split (about as even as one could get). After 30 years of republican governors, we "rotated the crops" about 10 years ago. We figured we'd give the other guy a chance.

In recent months, due to the barrage of candidates campaigning throughout Iowa, we have seen Iowa's normally centrist politics be dashed to shreds. We have heard from ultra-conservatives who deride everything Democratic, as well as super-liberals who claim conservatives are out to get us. Some Iowans have been swept up in this nonsense.

If Iowans, as a whole, share a weakness it is that we tend to take folks at face value. We often ignore their desire to divide us and keep us riled-up.

Sometimes, however, when we reverse course, as Iowa now desires, human beings have a tendency to over-correct. It is possible we might go too far. While we are rejecting the Republican candidates as a continuation of the Bush doctrine (perhaps somewhat unfairly), it seems more and more likely the

winner of the Democratic caucus will be propelled to the Oval Office in 2008.

For many of us, the harsh shrill of Hillary or the radicalism of Obama seems to be the answer. We feel that a proper balance to Bush would be an equally polarizing Democrat. This would be a huge mistake. This would not honor Iowa's tradition of centrism and moderation. It would be fitting to elect someone who would gently apply the brakes to America's car, rather than slamming on the breaks sending us all through the windshield.

John Edwards' pleasant voice of reason and common sense seems more in line with Iowa moderation. He speaks rationally and deliberately on the issues. He thinks before he subscribes to any course of action and doesn't promote a democratic version of "shock therapy" for our country. More importantly, he listens to the voice of the average American, the voice of reason.

Senator Edwards seems particularly well-suited to Iowa. He, like many Iowans, has rural roots and practical ways of viewing life. We aren't very flashy nor do we have ulterior motives. We say what we mean and then stand by it. We look you straight in the eye when we shake your hand.

Both Iowa and Edwards are ready for a change.

So, as autumn kisses the fields and faces of Iowa, let us remember to give the voice of moderation one more try.

How to party like a rock star during the big game



Mary Elizabeth Drahos
Opinion Editor

Last Saturday was an eventful one for a lot of people since it was the Iowa - Iowa State game. Most people were out drinking, tailgating and watching the game.

For me, it was eventful in a different way; different meaning not good.

It started on the morning of the big game. I opened the restaurant where I waitress and had high hopes of it being busy. After being there for three hours with no tables, my hopes had diminished.

I ended up making zero dollars in tips and wasted my morning when I could've been sleeping. But I didn't get too mad, because I was going to my other job where I am a bar wench (otherwise known as a server). I knew I was going to more than make up for the money there.

When I showed up for work, though, I had the feeling that the night wasn't going to go as well as I had hoped. I was supposed to wear an Iowa State shirt, but since I am an Iowa fan, I didn't own any.

Thinking that I was just going to cover up with my work shirt, I wore my Iowa shirt. That way I was able to support my team, but no one had to know about it.

I was wrong.

As soon as I walked in, my boss saw my Iowa shirt and shook his head emphatically. He couldn't even believe that I was brave enough to walk into an Ames bar during the big game wearing that evil shirt.

Even after assuring him that no one would see it, he said he didn't even want to think about me wearing that shirt. He ended up giving me money so I could go across the street and buy my own Iowa State shirt.

The rest of my shift was

pretty uneventful. I was surprised that I only had to threaten to kick out two people, which is pretty rare on a game night.

After my shift is when the fun started.

I went up to my car, which was parked on the curb, and noticed there was pizza thrown all over it. I started muttering curse words to myself knowing there was nothing I could do but clean it off. But then noticed a few pieces of paper stuffed under my windshield wipers.

The Ames parking police gave me not one, but TWO tickets; both because I was supposed to park on the other side of the road after a certain time. Granted, they were doing their job and it was my own fault for not reading the sign, so I shouldn't be mad at them. But they really were taking advantage of the fact that there was absolutely no parking anywhere.

Even though I was mad as hell, I could only think of going home and going to bed since I worked about 15 hours straight and wanted to sleep. Miraculously, I got home without getting pulled over by the many cops out ready to pounce on the drunk people. When I made it to my bedroom though, I noticed my dog left me a surprise; he puked on the bottom corner of my bedspread.

Now since he is a dog, and really didn't know better, I just petted him and told him it was okay. I couldn't get mad at him. Well, I didn't get mad at him until I took off my bedspread.

To my disgusted surprise, my dog blew chunks all over my pillow. To make matters worse, it soaked through my pillow into my mattress.

I stood there for a few minutes with my mouth open wondering if I was really seeing what I was seeing. Then I slowly turned and gave my dog the death look. My dog, sensing I was mad, took off into the living room, leaving me with tearing my bed apart and flipping my mattress at four in the morning.

After getting everything cleaned up, I finally was able to get into bed where I slept for about five hours so I could get up and work at both of my jobs again the next day.

Isn't it great to be me.

Ted Herrick's column Politalks appeared in the Banner, then the Bear Facts, from 2001-2002. For the last several years, Herrick has been working in Nursing Administration at Mary Greeley Medical Center, in Ames. He is now working on an associate degree in nursing. Herrick has been heavily involved in Iowa politics since the mid 1990's.

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GOOD LUCK CHUCK

Good Luck Chuck'
By Mary F. Pols
Contra Costa Times
(MCT)

There's got to be some explanation why Dane Cook is a movie star, although his new romantic comedy "Good Luck Chuck" provides scant evidence of the usual reasons like exceptional comedic or dramatic talent.

The movie does suggest he'd make a fine porn star. He's clearly completely at home with fake breasts, has no problem with bad dialogue and never misses an opportunity to strip down to his undies and show off his only indisputable assets.

To be fair, the plot does call for a lot of nudity. Cook plays Charlie, a dentist who suffers from a curse placed upon him by a Goth girl he spurned in junior high. Every one he sleeps with meets the man she's going to marry as soon as she and Charlie call it quits. He's the stepping stone to wedded bliss.

He becomes an urban legend and soon there's a line out the door of women wanting for his services, because as screenwriter Josh Stolberg ap-

parently believes, all women are desperate to get married. He obliges, and the movie digresses into a well-illustrated Kharma Sutra for frat boys. It's astonishing how unsexy director Mark Helfrich makes sex look.

The only woman Charlie wants is Cam (Jessica Alba), a comely penguin specialist who works at the local aquarium. (Wait, wasn't Adam Sandler just there in "50 First Dates"?) The very prospect that he could lose this girl to another man turns Charlie into a spastic fool, and as he flaps his lips and limbs in a poor imitation of Jim Carrey, any good will we had for Cook evaporates.

Cam is beautiful, sexy and nice, so the rules of romantic comedy call for her to be unusually clumsy. It's hardly even worth noting how tired this convention is. But honestly, I could live with "Good Luck Chuck's" determination to humiliate a cutie pie like Alba and its ongoing cruelty toward obese women _ it can't be worse than "Norbit," right? _ and even the way it treats most women as mere appendages standing behind giant,

surgically enhanced mammaries.

What makes the movie truly unbearable is Charlie's sidekick Stu, a plastic surgeon specializing in boob jobs and grotesquely crude statements. It's not rational to hate Dan Folger ("Balls of Fury"), the actor who plays Stu, but there's bound to be some seepage in ill will, because his Stu is so vile he actually made me angry. To quote one his more printable statements: "I (pleasure myself) to her mammograms."

He's George Costanza gone nuclear, and each time he pops up on the screen it's like having toxic waste thrown in our faces. Why would we ever care about a guy like Charlie when we see the company he keeps?

GOOD LUCK CHUCK
Grade: D-minus
Starring: Dane Cook, Dan Folger, Jessica Alba
Director: Mark Helfrich
Rated: R for sequences of strong sexual content including crude dialogue, nudity, language and some drug use
Running time: 1 hour, 36 minutes

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Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 19) _ Today is an 8 _ Not a good idea to run off at the mouth, just in case you wondered. Don't even say what you're going to do, there will be plan changes.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) _ Today is a 5 _ You've been accused of stonewalling, but that's not a bad thing. Hunker down and let the other guy try to convince you. Wait for the solid facts.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) _ Today is a 7 _ Your friends will admire you even more when you handle a tough situation with tact and diplomacy. Don't weasel out of a jam by lying, that's entirely different.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) _ Today is a 5 _ You'll be very busy for a while. No need to panic. Simplify your routine instead, so you can do more in less time.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) _ Today is an 8 _ The prize is so vivid in your imagination, you can almost taste it. You can't quite reach it yet, but with more preparation _ and practice _ you can get there.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) _ Today is a 6 _ Your next lesson has to do with buying, selling and saving. If you want to buy something, sell something else, so you can keep what you're saving.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) _ Today is a 7 _ Let yourself be talked into doing something a little wild and free. It's good to be good, and you are, but it's great to get a little crazy sometimes, like now.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) _ Today is a 7 _ Your workload is increasing to the point where it's hard to ignore. Luckily, you can whip out these chores in practically no time at all.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) _ Today is an 8 _ Love is in the air and it's the middle of the week. In many cities, this means there's less crowding at movies and restaurants. You and your date are less likely to be bothered by paparazzi.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) _ Today is a 6 _ Be careful at your job. Daydreaming leads to accidents. You'll want to make some changes soon, but don't act on impulse. Let your cooler side prevail.

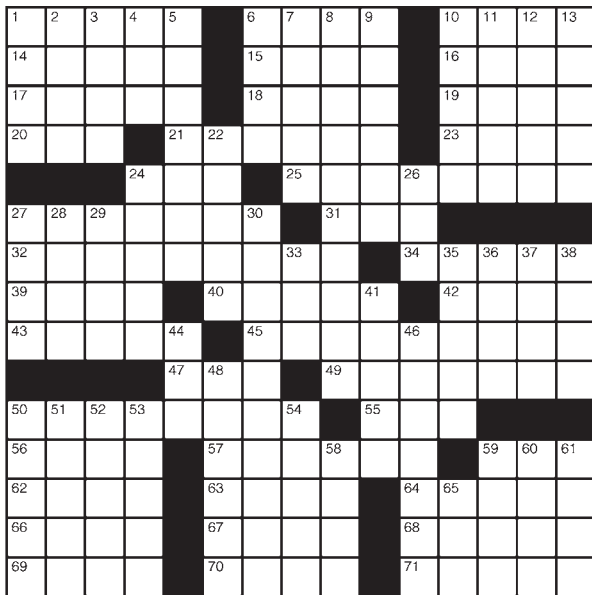
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) _ Today is an 8 _ You want more independence from all the rules and regulations. Unfortunately, this state of being requires great self-discipline to achieve. Practice.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) _ Today is a 5 _ Wait and let nature take its course. You'll soon be rewarded for efforts you've made in the past. There's no extra effort required now.

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- "A League of _ Own"
 - Gardener's soil
 - Swindle
 - Remove lather
 - Formerly
 - Jubilee Line, e.g.
 - Spoken
 - Religion spin-off
 - Russian river
 - D.C. wheeler-dealer
 - Main course
 - Mickey and Minnie
 - Soup veggie
 - Laggard
 - Pip-squeaks
 - Memorable period
 - Camp worker
 - Ignominy
 - Mother's sister
 - Miser Marnier
 - Charles Lamb
 - Staff of life
 - Unimportance
 - NCAA grouping
 - Most weird
 - Organized multitude
 - Squeeze (out)
 - Wine casks
 - Shuns
 - Unit of electrical resistance
 - Per person
 - Brooks and Gibson
 - Past hit
 - Cairo's river
 - Brit's carriage
 - Natural satellites
 - Pindar products
 - ID info
 - _ Day (April 22)



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9/26/07

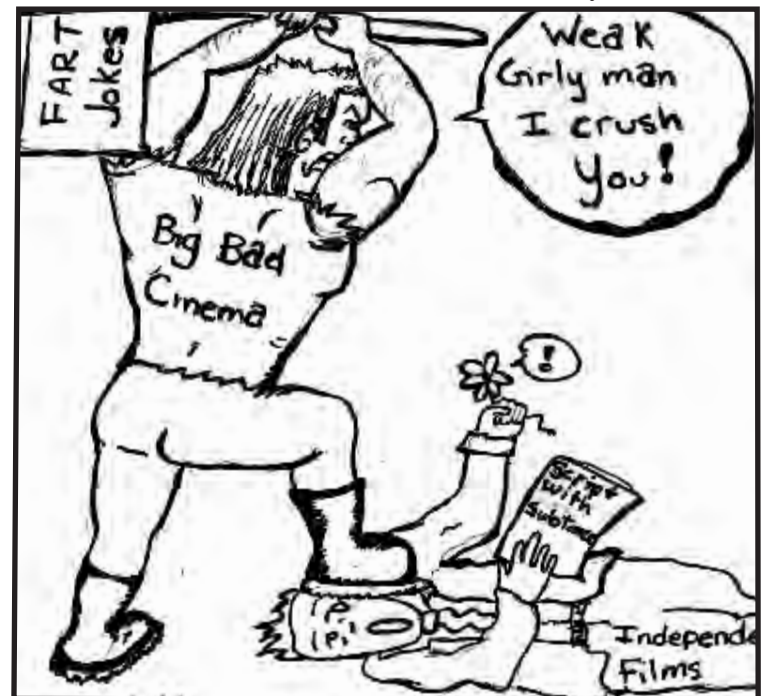
Solutions

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W	A	C	S	A	M	O	L	R	I	E	

- DOWN**
- Lobster catcher
 - Hawaiian city
 - Organic compound
 - Bird's alma mater
 - Buys back
 - Like Bo Peep's sheep
 - Lulus
 - Speed up
 - Shooting star
 - Tree remnant
 - Bric-a-brac piece
 - One way to be taken?
 - Battle royal
 - Backs of necks
 - Vessel of 1492
 - Existed
 - Wound crust
 - Appointed time
 - Old Norse character
 - Davenport wrappers
 - Corrida cry
 - Skater Sonja
 - Toward shelter
 - Wide shot
 - Roosevelt Island's river
 - Proud mount
 - Family member
 - Irritating
 - Muscle maladies
 - Secretarial talent
 - Dennis or Randy
 - Sam, for one
 - Grate collection
 - Pitcher Ryan
 - Distinctive doctrines
 - Smell
 - Subtle clue
 - Network
 - Mauna _

Toonsies

by Eden Hinrichs



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