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Banner News

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DMACC student death death is result of diabetes

Molly Lumley
Banner Staff Writer

Losing someone we love is never easy, especially losing someone who inspired so many lives on the DMACC campus.

Nate Prindle, 21, died at Mary Greeley Medical Center on Sept. 23, from complications due to diabetes. He graduated from Ames High School in 2005. He had finished the graphic technologies program with an emphasis in digital publishing in December 2006, and took general education classes at the Boone campus this fall and at the Ankeny Campus last semester.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, diabetes was the sixth leading cause of death on U.S. death certificates in 2002. "He was the nicest guy and all his classmates loved him," said Carin Murphy, chair of the Graphic Technologies program at the Ankeny Campus. "He was a really good student, very talented, excellent graphic design work."

Prindle had finished all of the courses for the program, but never applied for graduation and was awarded an Associate of Science degree in graphic technologies posthumously.

Prindle won an award in graphics for a poster of the Ankeny Hawks Girls' basketball in a contest sponsored by the Midwest Printing and Graphic Association and the Printing Industry of the Midlands in January 2007. He received a gold award. The poster was on display at the Ankeny campus, but has been returned to the family.

Prindle had lived with juvenile diabetes his entire life. "He wore an insulin injector on his belt. He was at risk, as all diabetics are," Murphy said.

According to the American Diabetes Association, 20.8 million children and adults in the United States have diabetes.

Prindle's optimistic attitude towards life was expressed over and over again in the Facebook group, "In Loving Memory of Nate Prindle." There were comments from his closest friends all the way to those who had barely known him. There was one common theme to all of the comments; Nate Prindle was loved.

Continued on PAGE 3, PRINDLE

Students urged to get involved in SAC

Jessi Smith
Managing Editor

The Students Activities Council plans events and activities for DMACC students throughout the year. Only a few students are on the SAC, along with their advisor Steve Krafcisin.

Krafcisin has been overseeing the SAC for over three years and has seen very little participation from DMACC students. "I think it’s probably kind of typical, to have a small SAC. We have never had a huge turn out. I don’t mind as much because I know we’ll have three or four students at large. And to me that’s OK because everybody else is a club representative, and sometimes the clubs haven’t met," said Krafcisin.

Krafcisin is looking for more participation from the students and clubs of DMACC. "It would be nice to have every club have a representative at our meetings so they know what’s going on," said Krafcisin. "You want the ones who want to be there. You always want more involvement."

Although some DMACC students may be interested in student government, many are not aware that DMACC has any form of student run governance. "A lot of people walking around have been involved in high school student governments, and then they get here and now there are classes, work, boyfriends, girlfriends, whatever, and they’re not thinking we even have it [student government]," said Krafcisin.

The SAC has seen a rise in student involvement this semester. More non-athletes are involved this year than in previous years.

"We’ve got four at-large [students], before we hadn’t even had that, being non-athletes is even better," said Krafcisin. "A lot of times I’ll pull a, ‘I need someone from volleyball’ and they’ll say, ‘I need someone from basketball.’ And they come, kind of begrudgingly.

Krafcisin is looking for stand-up students to join and participate in SAC. "I don’t want to run the meetings. I want the student government to run them."

Activities must be planned at least one semester in advance, which makes planning difficult. "I was a really good student, very talented, excellent graphic design work."

"I saw a thing in some Sunday [Des Moines] Register," said Krafcisin. "We’ve got 2000 students, but not all 2000 students are here very often. As a community college, you want to meet their needs academically first and it’s not going to be exactly like a four year school."

Students who have ideas for activities that they would enjoy having at the Boone Campus, should contact the SAC.

Although signs are posted around campus and promotions for upcoming SAC events are sent to all students enrolled at the Boone Campus via E-mail, Krafcisin finds that students are still not aware of the events.

There are men’s and women’s basketball games on Jan. 9, and Krafcisin has arranged halftime entertainment.

Krafcisin would like to begin using the DMACC theatre to give students the opportunity to see influential films that they may not otherwise be exposed to.

"I saw a thing in some Sunday [Des Moines] Register," said Krafcisin. "It was like the top 10 most influential black films of all time or something like that. What I want to do is make these two films in one evening or evening [is to] play one in the auditorium. I think that would be way cool, you know, for people to see ‘The Color Purple’, or other major influences that people have no idea about.

See PAGE 2 for complete Students Activities Budget

Transition to OneCard confuses, frustrates students

Tim Larson
Executive Editor

The true test of DMACC’s new ID card system came last week with the first round of financial aid disbursements. Over 3,500 refunds were issued to DMACC students. The new system still has a few issues to address.

Robin Lake, supervisor of student accounts receivable, said, “There were problems. We have problems whenever we send out that many refunds.”

Until this year all refunds were handled directly through DMACC. This required the school to issue checks to each student receiving a refund and mail the checks in a relatively short span of time. The financial department would regularly have improperly addressed checks returned. This recurring problem is now the responsibility of HigherOne.

“There have been new problems, but they haven’t been a lot more than what we normally take care of,” said Lake. “It’s solving a lot of other problems that we haven’t had to deal with.”

Many of the problems associated with the OneCard are not problems with the card itself or the system but rather a problem with communication. Returning students received their card in the mail several weeks before the beginning of the semester. Several students, unaware that this was their new student ID card, simply threw it away.

Students have not been universally happy with the new OneCard. Ben Volklander, DMACC assistant controller, said, “I’m not going to lie, there are a lot of frustrated [students] out there with the OneCard.”

Less than 10% of students are still waiting for their financial aid refunds.

“We really need to continue on the educational and communication piece to really get this out there,” said Volklander. “Returning students are the ones we didn’t get as many communications

Continued on PAGE 2, ONECARD
Student Activities Budget
Fiscal year 2007-08 Boone Campus

The Student Activities Budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year has been released with a few changes from last year. The Drama budget was cut in half from last year from 1.0% to .5%. The Phi Theta Kappa budget was cut by .5%. The only area to receive a higher budget this year was Rotaract, whose budget was doubled. The budget sheet for this year read, "The Boone Campus Activities Board has approved and recommends the following budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008. The budget is based on activity fees collected from Boone Campus students (part-time and full-time). The budget is stated as percentages of the total collected.

The Boone Campus Student Activities Board has approved and recommends the following budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008. The budget is based on activity fees collected from Boone Campus students (part-time and full-time). The budget is stated as percentages of the total collected.

All funds remaining in the activities accounts on June 30th will be carried forward to the following fiscal year.

Megan C. Omans
Co-President-S.A.C
Deborah M. DeHoe
Co-President-S.A.C
Tom Lee
Provost
Steve Krafasin
S.A.C. Coordinator

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a person who always had a smile on his face. "He was always full of life and full of laughs," Andy Wass, creator of the group said. "He would do something goofy and get everyone laughing. He was a great guy that has really taught me to appreciate life while we still can."

Prindle attended the First Evangelical Free Church in Ames and participated in the church’s youth group in middle school and high school.

"His faith was a huge thing for him. It was his defining characteristic," said Brent Thomas, youth pastor at the First E-Free Church in Ames. "He was the quintessential cheerleader for everyone. He was very gregarious; a real people person. This was a real loss for his mother and sister and all of his friends."

"I remember hearing about one time he skipped church and got up too late. His roommates got home from church and said 'Hey what have you been doing?' Why didn’t you go to church?'" and Nate said 'I’m doing church now.' He was listening to a web broadcast of our church service. And then a few minutes later a guy came out and [Nate] had ESPN going on the TV and the church service going on the computer. He was eating pizza and pop and his friend said 'Hey what are you doing?' and Nate said 'Dude what’s it look like, I’m having communion!' said Thomas.

"Sometimes all somebody might need is that one little push, and their world becomes a better place," said Phi Theta Kappa advisor, Nancy Woods. The project has had a profound impact on the lives of those involved.

"He was always full of life and full of laughs," said Andy Wass. "We’re going to miss him, no doubt about that!"

Phi Theta Kappa heads food donation campaign

Eden Hinrichs

Phi Theta Kappa wants to save the world one piece of trash and donated food item at a time. So far this year Phi Theta Kappa has collected 1,288 donated food items along with $500 to help feed the hungry in central Iowa.

"Our overall goal is to do 10% better than last year—and I think we’ve done that. Totals are still coming in," said Phi Theta Kappa member, Peter Huffman. Huffman hopes that the efforts of Phi Theta Kappa will inspire others to work for the betterment of their own communities.

"Perhaps they will remember what it was that turned everything around, that helping hand, that little push that tipped the scales in their favor," said Huffman. "Hopefully, they will remember all of that and do the same for somebody else. The cycle starts again, and person by person the world becomes a better place."

On Sept. 29 Phi Theta Kappa members went to Boone and Ames area grocers to collect non perishable food items. A local area businessman donated $500 to the PTK event. All donations from Boone were given to the Red Rock Community Action Program.

Collections from Ames were donated to the Bethesda Community Food Pantry.

Red Rock is a nonprofit organization that works within the community to help the economically disadvantaged. This event is the first in a long list of community orientated and environmental projects.

"We went to a lot of AHS events. I went to everything I could and Nate went to everything, period. He continued to go to most of the events even after he graduated," said Wass. "He experienced more in his short 21 years of life than a lot will in four times that," said Wass. "We’re going to miss him, no doubt about that!"
The Millenium Falcon flies the Death Star’s explosion in “Star Wars.” The film set new standards in visual effects.

**THE CRITICS SAID...**

*Sci-fi fans weren’t the only ones raving about “Star Wars” then and now. As the nation celebrated the 35th anniversary of this classic tale of good versus evil, it’s hard to ignore the impact the movie made on popular culture.*

“A grand and glorious film that may well be the smash hit of the year,” said the New York Times, May 10, 1977.

“Once you get over the opening crawl and the first drive-in show, you come to grips with the space ship movie of the year,” wrote the Chicago Tribune, May 25, 1977.

“With Y ou” buttons. Another friend thinks we bought a new copy. Even I bought a new copy. I'm glad I was swept away. I'm glad I was wild by constantly playing the soundtrack. I'm glad I was able, however, to ignore the impact the movie made on pop culture.”

— Jack Kroll in Newsweek, May 30, 1977

“The Millennium Falcon flies the Death Star’s explosion in “Star Wars.” The film set new standards in visual effects.”

**REMEMBERING 1977**

“Star Wars” was one of the biggest stories of the year, but there were other memorable moments in entertainment.

— rattled Mac’s “Rumors” and the Eagles’ “Hotel California,” who are among the top-selling albums of the year.

— Nearly half the U.S. population watches the finale of the TV mini-series “Roots.”

— The average price of a movie ticket is $2.23.

— Research by Jody Mitori, McClatchy-Tribune

**THE TOYS**

“Star Wars” changed the business of movie merchandising. The film’s logo and characters could be found on everything from drinking glasses to T-shirts to bed sheets — a precursor to the kids’ toys we see today.


**THE MUSIC**

“Star Wars’” operatic score was the perfect companion to the film’s groundbreaking visuals. Composed by John Williams, the soundtrack was something of a throwback to the sweeping scores of the 1930s and ’40s, while the music of “Star Wars” remains one of the most frequently performed in movie history hitting No. 10 on Billboard’s Hot Pop chart and winning a Grammy and an Oscar.

— Jack Kroll in Newsweek, May 30, 1977

**ONE FAN RECALLS OPENING DAY**

By Tru Wells

May 25, 1977, “Star Wars” opened at a theater near my high school in New York City.

I had just finished my freshman year at New York Pratt Institute and had heard of the film. A veteran reader of science fiction, I clipped up his book, read it, and became an enthusiast. I credits myself to my love of science fiction, and I was even able to create a poster for the galaxy that I’m about to see today.

— Touching bases with them made me feel we had many years of memories in common. Remember that first day we played baseball in the upper galaxy of the old-timers?

But even 30 years later, everyone remembers the opening scene and the first fight of the Star Destroyer. It was a scene that had been on the screen, it was something that was so iconic. The summer of ‘77, “Star Wars” is no longer a movie, it’s a part of the culture. It’s a part of the common language. The culture that has grown up around Star Wars has had an impact on pop culture, on movies, TV shows, and games. It’s a part of the cultural fabric of the world. Star Wars has become an icon of America.

**MOVIES/TELEVISION**

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, George Lucas has received enough compliments to last several lifetimes. “Star Wars” shattered box office records, launched new special effects techniques and revitalized the science-fiction genre. It influenced countless filmmakers, and the man himself could have been Hollywood’s latest movie studio for trying to ride that success wave.

You can see the impact it had on films as early as 1979, when the cinephile magazine *The Movie Maker* interviewed George Lucas about the impact of the film. Star Wars inspired “Buck Rogers in the 25th Century” and “Flash Gordon” (1980), the latter actually used the soundtrack of “Star Wars” for its opening title sequence.

— Star Wars also helped change the tone of movies. Much of the ’70s cinema — such as “The Godfather” (1972) and “Taxi Driver” (1976) — reflected the more realistic, less stylized approach of the times.

**Star Wars**

With the help of Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia and Darth Vader, George Lucas made movie history 30 years ago with “Star Wars.”
What are you going to be for Halloween?

I want to be Keira Knightley like she was in Pirates of the Caribbean.
-Cynthia Sari

A model.
-Justin Edwards

I want to be a Geisha.
-Chanda Touch

I'm going to be one of the cops from Reno 911.
-Charlie Krabby

DMACC trailer visits campus receives little attention

Mary Elizabeth Drahos
Opinion Editor

Even though the cold morning prevented students to view the DNR trailer, Rebecca Funke was still in good spirit.

“We have only had one or two people come through so far, but I think it is because of the weather. It should pick up here soon.”

The DNR trailer, which was on campus on Mon Oct 8 and Tues Oct 9, is an educational trailer that gives tips about how to protect the environment better.

Funke came up with the idea to make the trailer when she learned that the DNR is running as high as $100,000 per trailer that gives tips about how to protect the environment better.

Funke's goal was to have the DNR trailer visits campus to spread the message of conservation.

Iowa's conservation efforts, though, haven't been as good as people think, according to Funke. The state legislature gave Iowa a goal to have a 50 percent recycling rate by the year 2000. Seven years later, the state is still only in the mid 20 percent range.

The DNR trailer visits campus receives little attention

The DNR has been trying to work with manufacturing plants to reduce their packaging on products, since a lot of waste comes from the packaging itself.

On the upside, people are starting to understand they need to make a change such as using appliances and light bulbs with the Energy Star stickers on them. Funke hopes that everyone who views the trailer will learn how to take care of the environment better and learn better ideas of how to help.

“If only one or two people walk in here,” said Funke, “and a light bulb goes off in their head that they need to take better care of the environment, then I think the whole thing is worth it.”

DMACC instructor to display work on studio tour

Molly Lumley
Banner Staff Writer

As an art instructor at the Hunziker Center in Ames and full-time mom, Melissa Stenstrom somehow finds time to pursue a hobby she loves.

Stenstrom is currently a member of the Creative Artist’s Studio in Ames. CASA is a private organization; most of the artists work with clay. There are a few artists who paint or work with calligraphy, but Stenstrom is the only one who works with metal.

Stenstrom hand crafts jewelry, including rings, necklaces, earrings, brooches and bracelets. She specializes in anticlastic methods of shaping metal. Anticlastic shapes are pieces of metal that have been bent into a saddle-like shape.

Stenstrom will be displaying some of her artwork (pictured above, courtesy of Melissa Stenstrom) in the upcoming 4th annual Lincoln Highway Artists Studio Tour in Ames on Oct. 20 and 21. This is her second year with the tour, and she will be participating with 30–40 other members of CASA. Her display will be at Creative Artist’s Studio in Ames, 130 Sheldon Avenue, Ames.

The Lincoln Highway Artists Studio Tour is sponsored by the Octagon, a local community art center in Ames. The Octagon had its own art festival a few weeks ago, with around 100 artists participating.

The Studio Tour takes place along the old Lincoln Highway, with display in Ames, Nevada, State Center, and Marshalltown.

“It’s a lot of fun. It’s a neat way to meet new people and a good way to share what I do with the public,” Stenstrom said.

Stenstrom usually spends between 2 and 3 hours a day at the studio. “It depends on the day,” she said. “It’s a comfort to go to the studio; it’s much more than just a hobby.”

Her love of metal crafting began when she took a jewelry class in high school. She got her BFA in craft design with an emphasis in jewelry and metal and her MBA in art appreciation from Iowa State.

Stenstrom worked at Lockwood Jeweler’s in Des Moines.

“You refine your skills a lot when you do that kind of work,” Stenstrom said.

Stenstrom taught at DMACC for a semester while still in graduate school after being referred by some of her professors. After graduating, she began to work full time. She started at the Boone campus three years ago.

“[Working at DMACC] opened doors for me after I graduated,” Stenstrom said.

During the fall semester, Stenstrom teaches art appreciation at the Hunziker center and at the Ankeny campus. Next spring, she will add a painting studio in Boone to her list of classes.

Reporting by Jessi Smith  Photos by Mary Elizabeth Drahos
DMACC President receives marketing award

DMACC—President and Chief Executive Officer Rob Denson has received the District Five Pacesetter of the Year Award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR).

The Pacesetter of the Year Award recognizes a college chief executive officer who has demonstrated special leadership, support and/or ability in the area of college communications and marketing.

Each Denson’s leadership, DMACC is Iowa’s largest community college serving more than 28,000 credit and 34,000 continuing education students annually.

Denson is also spearheading major fund-raising efforts at DMACC leading to construction of a $14 million Health Sciences Building and a new FFA Enrichment Center to be built on the Ankeny Campus. He successfully helped raise $5 million for a new Career Academy building in Story County to teach vocational skills to high school students during the day and college credit classes at night. He is already replicating the model for the DMACC Newton Campus.

Besides building projects, Denson has been a strong advocate or raising additional funds to support student scholarships. Earlier this year, Denson received the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction at the 89th Annual Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Convention. The prestigious award is presented to a college president of Chief Executive Officer who has made outstanding efforts toward promoting the goals of PTK.

President Denson has also met with the President of India to offer help as that country considers establishing a community college program modeled after Iowa’s system. “President Denson is an outstanding communicator who understands the value of marketing and has a great presence with both the media and public audiences,” said DMACC Marketing Director Todd Jones. “Through his initiatives and community engagement with opinion leaders and potential students, including delivering 100 speeches in his first 100 days as President, Denson has improved the reputation and overall brand of DMACC.”

Denson received the Pacesetter Award in a special ceremony held at the NCMPR District Conference in Davenport.

New scholarship fund announced

DMACC—Dennis Albaugh (second from right), president of DRA Properties and the developer of the Prairie Trail in Ankeny, presents a $100,000 check to Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) President Rob Denson (left). Albaugh also met with the President of DMACC Foundation Executive Director Ganesh Ganapat (second from left) the check was Albaugh’s commitment to the Prairie Trail Scholarship Fund that he is establishing to provide funds for Ankeny-area students who wish to pursue a higher education. Others taking part in the announcement include Iowa Governor Chef Culver (third from left), Ankeny Schools Superintendent Dr. Matthew Wendt, Ankeny Mayor Steve Van Oot, Albaugh and one of Albaugh’s daughters, Tara Meredith. As part of the scholarship program, one half of one percent of all property sold within the Prairie Trail development in Ankeny will go into the Prairie Trail scholarship fund. Students who live within the new Prairie Trail Community, now under development near DMACC’s Ankeny Campus, will receive first priority for the scholarship funds. Applicants will be eligible for a maximum lifetime award of $10,000.

Former assistant coach, new Bears baseball skipper

Mary Elizabeth Drahos
Opinion Editor

Dan Fitzgerald is in his first year as head baseball coach for the DMACC Bears.

He graduated from the University of Minnesota, then started coaching at the University of Iowa in 2001. In 2003 he became an assistant coach at Northern Iowa Area Community College (NIACC). After that, he went on to Flagler in St. Augustine, Florida.

Fitzgerald came to DMACC as the assistant baseball coach with Travis Wyckoff. He and Wyckoff were on the same staff at the University of Iowa.

Fitzgerald has faced a few challenges as head coach. One of the main challenges is trying to get 33 different personalities on the same page. Also, the transition from assistant coach to head coach brings new responsibilities, but according to Fitzgerald, it has been pretty seamless.

He credits Tom Lee and Brian Green for being great mentors to him and easy to work with.

Working with the team does keep him on his toes. He jokes that being on the road so much with the guys is fun and the interaction is unique.

“I could write a book a day about what goes on,” Fitzgerald said.

In the future, Fitzgerald wants to win a National Title, and thinks it is possible with the right discipline, excellence and hard work. He feels that the team is doing everything right with the utmost excellence and will continue to “with the bar raised high.”

During his spare time, Fitzgerald loves to go fishing and hunting. He is also really close to his family. He is really excited that he is going to be an uncle pretty soon.

He also feels he is really blessed because his job is fun. “I love my job, and always wanted to do something I love.”
**Editorial**

The First Amendment protects our right, as Americans, to free speech. This allows us to speak our minds without fear of persecution or arrest. It seems ironic that Constitution Day is a required event for any educational institution that receives government funding. You will celebrate your freedom, or else. This makes no sense. It seems almost unconstitutional that anyone should be forced to celebrate freedom. Our government should have never passed any legislation calling for a mandatory commemoration of our constitution.

As we all go about our days living in a free country and doing what we please, people rarely stop to think about the fact that our freedoms are really very limited and regulated by our government. The Constitution provides us with the freedom to own guns, to hold assemblies and petition, worship in our own way, and to have a free press. All of these are things that we, as Americans claim are important to our way of life. But these freedoms are not unrestricted, whether we realize it or not.

When some politicians give public speeches, anyone opposed to that issue (or, as the government would say, anyone who is “disruptive”) is ushered to the “free speech zone.” These protesters are positioned in a place that is safely hidden from the politicians themselves, the public at large and, at nearly one half mile away, far beyond the range of the photographers’ cameras and reporters’ microphones.

What is America trying to say? You can exercise your right to free speech so long as no one can see or hear you do it. Maybe Constitution Day celebration is just a diversion. This way, when someone is denied the right to speak their mind, the government can say, oh well... You should have done that on Constitution Day. I guess it’s just too late to say anything now.

What a glorious country this is. You are required to celebrate your freedoms, and then denied the privilege of practicing them. Next thing you know, we will all be required to purchase lovely handmade beaded bobble heads featuring the face of our great leader and display them proudly on the upper left corner of our dashboards.

That’s just another point added to the board for the great and all powerful United States.

**Lobotomy please**

Mary Elizabeth Drahos
Opinion Editor

If you are one of the many people who can get a song stuck in your head, then you know what I am going through. As of this moment, I am trying to think of an opinion article to write, but all I can think about is Ching’s song “Radin’ Dirty.” What is even worse is that I don’t even know the words to the song. What happens to me all the time. I get the most random thoughts in my head that I don’t normally listen to. Another example of an annoying song is “This is the way I live” by Akon. I have only heard the song once, but after I haven’t been able to see him for a long time, he seems directly at a person while they are asking me a question, and then have to ask them repeat it. It isn’t because I don’t listen; it is because I have no idea what they are saying because of the montage of random songs parading in my mind.

Also, it seems that my head tends to make up its own theme songs for things I am doing at the time.

If I am walking through the supermarket, jet starts singing. When I’m working at my waitressing job, Dinah Washington gets stuck in my head. At my bar serving job, a little Steelers Wheel can keep humming in my ears all night.

To add to the madness, there have been times when the world around me seemed to move the music in my head so that I felt as if I were sitting in my own music video. This happens especially when I am around someone that I have strong feelings about. When my boyfriend walks into the room after I haven’t been able to see him for a long time, he seems to be walking in at a slow pace while I hear “Bad Medicine” in the background.

Granted, in my own personal world, my music videos sometimes involve much more people than people walking slow motion, but let’s not get off track here.

Could this be a problem stemming from the fact that I feel a need to listen to music 24/7? Should I try to give up music cold turkey or would it make things worse?

Maybe I have a problem. Maybe there is a meeting I can go to. Music in My Head Anonymous, or something like that.

For now, since there isn’t anything that I can do, I will just continue to try to write while David Bowie screams in the background.

**Fall 2007 Banner Staff**

Ted Herrick
Banner Columnist

On Oct. 3, President Bush used his preemptive as chief vetoing bill for the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, also known as SCHIP. The bipartisan bill would have provided yearly funding of $7 billion for 5 years. SCHIP provides healthcare funding for the poorest of the poor children among us in the United States. The bill would also provide healthcare to children from families who earn too much for Medicaid, but are, nonetheless, unable to afford insurance. This program, for little or no cost to the recipient, would cover physician visits, hospitalizations, and emergency room visits. This bill appears to be very good policy. Bush’s veto is mute testimony to the fact that he has lost the sense of “compassion” he so often spoke of during his first campaign for president. It blatantly shows how out of touch this president is with the working class of our country. It’s a shame Mr. Bush has lost touch with the middle class folks who comprise the backbone of America.

This program, which Bush apparently feels isn’t necessary, has support from many Republicans you wouldn’t normally view as....well...let’s say, “progressive.” Both Iowa Sens. Chuck Grassley and Tom Harkin, came out in favor of this program, which demonstrates wide bipartisan support for this funding. When the President chooses to veto a program with such wide appeal?

I believe Bush’s veto should make the people of this country look at our healthcare system and examine it thoroughly. We need to ask some very tough questions. Do we, as a country, want to continue with a system which, although economically the envy of the world, is so rife with inequality? Is it fair that many of us have health insurance claims denied due to “pre-existing conditions,” which are no fault of our own, but are merely genetic mishaps? Is it to be “admirable” that little old ladies must, as trite as it sounds, choose between food and their medication? Is this what we want our nation to be?

With literally thousands of horror stories detailing the suffering of Americans as the backdrop, the time is right to fix our ailing system. Another bandage will no longer suffice. I realize that universal healthcare is going to be a tough pill to swallow, but sometimes tough medicine is the only way to rid oneself of a sickness. A healthy workforce, primarily composed of middle class folks, should be considered a matter of national security. Sick workers can’t be productive in munitions factories, nor can they adequately fight a war. It is in our interest to support single-payer health coverage. Perhaps this could be our way of supporting the “troops” here at home, the “troops” manning the machines of industry. Indeed, economics of scale should lower any premiums associated with guaranteeing a healthy workforce.

There is also something to be said for basic fairness. Shouldn’t we take care of each other? Try to picture you losing your home or financially ruined due to some unfortunate disease. What if your child or significant other simply can’t be helped due to an inability to pay for health services? Imagine the fear, the loneliness that must accompany being placed in such a position by a system that sees profits instead of people.

Of course, all problems will not be healed by a single-payer plan. Let us at least begin a dialogue into what would be the best system for all of our citizens. Perhaps if any good can be found in Bush’s veto, it may be that it focuses public attention on a very important issue.
Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 19) _ Today is a 7 _ The lesson the New Moon conveys is “You’re Not In This Alone.” Let people help. Lighten your load and increase your effectiveness.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) _ Today is a 7 _ There’s plenty of work. Hurry and do it and gather the ample rewards. Stash away provisions for the winter. You love a full pantry.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) _ Today is a 9 _ This New Moon marks a transition into a new phase. The promises made now will last, and the partnerships will produce results. Visualize your goals as happening, and proceed.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) _ Today is an 8_ _ Don’t feel the tiniest twinge of guilt if you want to hide out all day. Use your considerable talent to find a way.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) _ Today is an 8 _ It’s not only luck that’s involved. Your odds improve enormously the more you know about your subject. Don’t be lazy; study.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) _ Today is an 8 _ You can make lots of money from the privacy of your own home. “How”, you ask? You’ll have to choose. The possibilities appear endless.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) _ Today is a 9 _ All of a sudden everything seems to make perfect sense. Your studies are paying off. You’re learning the material.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) _ Today is an 8 _ Finishing old projects is a great source of revenue. Tune up your old stuff and sell it. You’ll make more than expected.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) _ Today is an 8 _ Dig deep for a worthy cause. It puts a slight strain on your budget, but it looks like this is as good for you as it is for the other folks.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) _ Today is a 5 _ You always have to be telling the truth, but you don’t always have to be telling it. In other words, don’t offer comments until asked.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) _ Today is an 8 _ The more you venture outside your comfort zone, the more comfortable you get with adventure. It’s a wonderful thing.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) _ Today is a 5 _ Paperwork isn’t probably your favorite thing to do. Get yourself a cup of tea and pretend it’s loads of fun. That ought to get you at least halfway through the stack.