12-5-2007

Banner News

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Jessi Smith
Molly Lumley
Tim Larson
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Authors
Eden Hinrichs, Jessi Smith, Molly Lumley, Tim Larson, Ted Herrick, and Celine Uhl
Tips for the savvy Christmas shopper

Eden Hinrichs
Photographer

- Shop around. Just because it looks like a good deal doesn’t mean it is.
- Don’t be afraid of the internet. Chances are you’ll be able to find any personalized or unique gifts from all over the world in just seconds.
- Search for shipping deals. Most retailers offer free shipping if you spend over a certain amount.
- Be careful of sites that don’t seem secure. Look for a verification seal to make certain that the site isn’t just there to steal your identity. If you seem uncertain about their identity theft protection, don’t risk it. Just because you are feeling the holiday spirit doesn’t mean criminals are.
- The best thing about shopping online, especially if you have children, is that you can do it on your own terms. You also don’t run the risk of your children or spouse sneaking a peek at their gifts. Some sites even over a gift wrap service so if you don’t have time, your gifts will look great and no one will be the wiser.
- Don’t be a last minute shopper! Most businesses run weekly ads, promoting various deals. Don’t risk someone opening up a last minute gas station gift, like a lighter, think ahead.
- Be prepared. Have an extra unisex gift lying around to make even the most picky person happy, even if you forgot them on your list.
- Company drops by and you haven’t had time to wrap a gift or flowers? Think ahead! Always keep a few extra bottles of wine around so that when the occasion occurs you won’t be empty handed.

Bears start season strong

The Bears are currently 8-0. Their seventh win of this season against South Australia was also Coach Salmon’s 200th win at DMACC.

Bears Men’s basketball games to date
Nov. 27 vs. South Australia - 74-59
Nov. 24 vs. Black Hawk - 69-54
Nov. 23 vs. Univ. Park Academy - 74-39
Nov. 20 vs. Warburg J.V. - 78-45
Nov. 17 vs. Minneapolis CTC - 65-43
Nov. 13 vs. Morningside J.V. - 77-54
Nov. 7 vs. William Penn J.V. - 100-60

Bears Women’s basketball games to date
Nov. 27 vs. William Penn J.V. - 87-30
Nov. 20 vs. Rochester - 77-44
Nov. 17 vs. Minneapolis CTC - 83-57
Nov. 14 vs. Saint Ambrose J.V. - 83-50
Nov. 10 vs. North Platte - 81-47
Nov. 9 vs. NE Nebraska - 61-82

Raise your glass to National Repeal Day

Jesi Smith
Managing Editor

In Jan., 1919, the Eighteenth Amendment was ratified and Americans lost their right to drink, import, transport, or buy intoxicating liquors (alcohol). The era known as prohibition had begun.

The idea was to create a safer nation, however, the result was more violence, a higher crime rate and a rapid increase in the influence and activity of organized crime. Americans did not take this oppression lying down. Smugglers, known as “bootleggers,” imported alcohol into the U.S. from Mexico and Canada and former bars became underground speak-easies where mobsters could enjoy their gin. The “Roaring 20’s” became an underground revolution for breaking the law in style.

Some Americans took refuge in Mexico where they could drink like free citizens and gamble on horse races. Twenty-four long years later, on Dec. 5, 1933, the amendment was repealed and the Twenty-first Amendment was ratified, giving Americans back their alcohol privileges.

It has been seventy-four years since the brave defenders of alcohol and the speak-easy owning bootleggers won their battle against the government and saved our right to drink the alcohol of our choice. This is the only truly American drinking holiday, yet few know anything about it. This is the celebration of the only amendment ever to be repealed. This is the celebration of our countries constitutional rights and an unyielding fight to protect those privileges. As America’s only patriotic drinking holiday, one would think it would be more widely proclaimed.

St. Patrick’s Day is great if you are Irish, or just enjoy green beer. Halloween rocks if you don’t mind paying for overpriced costumes and freezing while you wait in line to get into the clubs. National Repeal Day, however, requires only that you be more widely known. It happens on Dec. 5, and enjoy your freedom. It is also a fabulous excuse to get a group of good friends together to go out. America’s right to drink has been taken for granted for far too long. National Repeal Day could very well become another actual holiday, prelisted on calendars, some day. What it takes to make this happen is for America to pay homage to the great patrons of alcohol who illegally transported booze into the U.S. during the prohibition and fought for America’s rights so many years ago.

Raise your glass high on Dec. 5, and enjoy your constitutionally protected drinking rights.
**Final Exam Schedule Fall 2007**

**Final Exam Schedule for Day Courses – Fall 2007**
Des Moines Area Community College

All instructors in all programs are required to follow this schedule. Any deviations should be approved through the appropriate dean or provost. Instructors should consult the dean or provost if their courses do not appear to be included in this schedule. The schedule for evening and Saturday courses is on the reverse side of this sheet.

**Tuesday, December 11, 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Time Range</th>
<th>Exam Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:05 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:25 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m. - 5:25 p.m.</td>
<td>3:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.</td>
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**Wednesday, December 12, 2007**

<table>
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<th>Exam Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. - 8:55 a.m.</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:10 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:20 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m. - 3:25 p.m.</td>
<td>3:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.</td>
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**Thursday, December 13, 2007**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Class Time Range</th>
<th>Exam Time</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>6:30 a.m. - 7:55 a.m.</td>
<td>6:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:40 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:50 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>11:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.</td>
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**Friday, December 14, 2007**

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<th>Exam Time</th>
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<td>7:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:05 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:25 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:35 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>3:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.</td>
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**Monday, December 17, 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Time Range</th>
<th>Exam Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If the College would close due to inclement weather on any of the four days listed above, final exams for that day will be rescheduled for Monday, December 17, at the times they would have been scheduled.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Evening/Saturday Final Exam Schedule Fall 2007**

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

- **Last Monday night classes (Final Exam)**: December 10
- **Last Tuesday night classes (Final Exam)**: December 4
- **Last Wednesday night classes (Final Exam)**: December 12
- **Last Thursday night classes (Final Exam)**: December 13
- **Last Friday night classes (Final Exam)**: December 14
- **Last Monday*/Wednesday night classes (Final Exam)**: December 12
- **Last Tuesday*/Thursday night classes (Final Exam)**: December 11
- **Last Saturday classes (Final Exam)**: December 8

* The last class meeting for the MW courses and the TR courses will be this night.

**HOLIDAY RECIPES**

### Baker’s Chocolate Fudge with Snow.

**INGREDIENTS**
- 2 (8 ounce) packages Baker’s Semi-Sweet Baking Chocolate
- 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 1 tsp of nutmeg
- 1 pinch of ginger
- 1/2 tsp of cinnamon
- 1/2 cup of powdered sugar
- If desired 1 cup of walnuts

**DIRECTIONS**
1. Line 8-inch square pan with foil, with ends of foil extending over sides of pan. Set aside. Microwave chocolate and milk in large microwavable bowl on HIGH 2 to 3 min. or until chocolate is almost melted, stirring after 2 min. Stir until chocolate is completely melted. Blend in vanilla, nutmeg, and ginger. Stir in walnuts.
2. Spread into prepared pan.
3. While fudge is setting mix cinnamon and powdered sugar together.
4. Refrigerate two hours or until firm. Lift fudge from pan, using foil handles. Cut into 48 pieces.
5. Then sprinkle the powdered sugar mix over the fudge and enjoy!

### Eden Apple Crisp Pie

**INGREDIENTS**
- 2 graham cracker crusts
- 1/4 cups of brown sugar
- 3 tsp of cinnamon
- 2 tsp of nutmeg
- 1 tsp of cloves
- 2 pinch of ginger
- 2 cans of desired apple pie filling
- One decent size Ziploc baggie

**DIRECTIONS:**
Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. While your oven is preheating, crumble up one of the graham cracker crusts into the baggie and add your brown sugar, 1 tsp of cinnamon, 1 tsp of nutmeg, 1/2 tsp of cloves, one pinch of ginger. Then shake mixtures in the baggie until mixed. In a separate bowl, mix your remaining spices and the apple pie filling together until mixed. Then turn your oven down to 350 degrees. Get the second pie crust and put the apple pie filling in it, then crumble the graham cracker mixture over the filling. Put into the oven and bake 30-45 minutes or when the top crust looks golden.

**Warning:** this pie will only be really good for 3 days, after which the bottom part of the crust may get soggy. When making this pie make, be certain that it will be eaten in a matter of hours.

### Brownies, Eh

**INGREDIENTS**
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 cup of chocolate chips
- White chocolate icing
- Chocolate syrup

**DIRECTIONS:**
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour muffin pan. The muffin pan not only allows of single servings but also allows you to be creative with the presentation.
2. In a large saucepan, melt 1/2 cup butter. Remove from heat, and stir in sugar, eggs, and 1 tsp vanilla. Beat in 1/3 cup cocoa, 1/2 cup flour, salt, chocolate chips and baking powder. Spread batter into prepared pan.
3. Bake in preheated oven for 15-30 minutes. To prevent over cooking keep a weathered eye on the oven and you can never go wrong by doing the toothpick test.
4. After you take the pan out of the oven, allow time for it to cool. Then once cooled down or at the very least warm, NOT HOT. Apply the icing in moderation because too much icing can ruin the brownie. Then after the icing has been applied, drizzle the chocolate syrup.

**IDEA:** If being served to company use whipped cream or ice cream as a clever garnish. Not only will this make your brownies look more delicious but will taste delicious as well.
Good bye to a good friend

Eden Hinrichs
Photographer

Every day Ryan and I attack each other with vicious and cutting comments that would make the most obscene script writer blush. We throw things at each other and sometimes we get into little fights but what most people don’t realize is that he is one of my closest friends. For the first year I was at DMACC, he and I would sit down in the Courter Center and enjoy some tea with some beauty political humor.

For three years now he and I have joked, fought, antagonized and for the most part become a total pain in each other’s butt. We even had scheduled “Walking taco time” but whether I like it or not there comes a time when the tide changes and you can either resist or support the change.

Ryan recently joined the Navy; when he told me, I had mixed feelings. I sat there for a minute in silence and thought about the way this decision would change the rest of his life and how it would affect his entire being. I thought of priests who have dedicated their entire lives to God, I thought about mothers and father who give their entire lives to their children, and finally I thought about all the good soldiers have done, not just in other countries but in America as well.

I turned to Ryan and said “go for it.” He gave me a big smile and said thanks. As he meets with people from the navy, I tried to put his possible going away in the back of my head and try not think about it. Yet, time holds no master and no matter how much I don’t want him to go away its going to happen.

Soldiers these days are not honored or welcomed as much as they should be. I once heard a man say, “What kind of stupid person would go to where he was going to be killed? I tell you who; kids who don’t know any better.” Stifling a fit of anger I politely responded, “Without men and women who are willing to die for something that is greater then themselves this country will wither and die.”

Although, Ryan isn’t the built, jarheaded male, brimming with insane amounts of testosterone, he is the All-American male, with a good heart and good head guiding his motion. He is capable of such greatness that he could change the world with the right direction. Is it so bad that he chooses the Army to guide him? Or are we being taken over by baby killing propaganda?

I, for one, am happy for him. If he wants to devote himself to something greater to himself, who am I to stand in the way? I am there for him. I am really going to miss him but every sense of greatness has a price. So in closing, if you’re reading this Ryan, we are all going to miss you very much and when you come back it’s beer and pizza all around.

Graduation reception to be held for mid-year graduates

On Dec. 12 at 4 p.m. a graduation reception will be held in the DMACC Boone Campus Theatre for the mid-year graduates. Lisa Heddens, assistant majority leader of the Iowa House of Representatives, will be speaking at the event. The event will be an informal reception for the sixty Boone campus mid-year graduates. Cookies and punch will be served for those who attend.

Family members and friends of the graduates are encouraged to share in this commencement reception. The sixty graduates are invited to come back for the formal commencement ceremony on May 2, at 10 a.m. in the Boone campus gymnasium.

1/3/08
6:30 pm.
Time to change the world.

“Together, we can do more than win an election. We can transform a nation.”
—Barack Obama

We can end the war.
We can save the planet.
We can unite a divided nation.
And it all starts January 3rd at 6:30 pm.
If you want the chance to elect Barack Obama next November, you need to vote for him at the Iowa caucuses.
It’s your country too.
And you have the power to change it.
Caucus January 3rd, 6:30 pm.

Caucus Tips
• You can caucus at DMACC Boone or your hometown in Iowa.
• You don’t have to be registered to vote. You can register right at the caucus.
• You do have to be there if you want to change politics forever.

To get involved, call Matt at 515.268.3148

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Paid for by Obama for America
Who are you voting for in the presidential election?

“Rudy Giuliani, look what he did for New York. He brought crime down.”
- Michael Rand

“Undecided, one of those deals about voting for the lesser of two evils.”
- Dave Woods

“No, probably not. I just don’t really pay attention to it right now.”
- Courtney Casper

“Obama. He talks about his subjects directly. He talks about it in detail. I don’t like it when they don’t.”
- Trina Bishop

Choir concert held in Boone Campus Theatre

Photo: Tim Larson

Last Friday, the DMACC Concert Choir preformed its annual Christmas concert. The choir, directed by Steve Hoifeldt, sang Felise Navidad, Let It Snow, Walking in a Winter Wonderland, and various other Christmas oriented songs.

Even though some of the members did not show up regularly to practice, the concert went well. Despite choir member Adam Uhl’s irritated throat and sickness, he amiably took the stage and contributed to the choir’s songs.

Human Services Major Jessi Smith said that the concert was fabulous. “I really enjoyed it; the choir did a great job.”

Alto Niki Carlson said that she enjoyed the concert. “Nobody messed up and I thought it went well. Most of us are just amateurs.”

Students and friends are encouraged to continue attending events such as the choir concert.

Join the Banner News Staff!

The Banner is looking for:

1. Course credit - Newspaper Production (see details below)
2. Workstudy - check with the financial aid dept. to see if you qualify
3. Just for fun – contribute your work for use in the Banner (contributions may be sent to bannernews@dmacc.edu)

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

Newspaper Production CRN: 20526 Course # JOU125

MWF 11:15 a.m. - 12:10 p.m. Credits: 3 Instructor: Jan LaVille

Students can work at the Banner for:
Tyler named Athlete of the Week

DMACC--Second year men's basketball player Avery Tyler from Omaha has been chosen as the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference (ICCAC) men's division II basketball Athlete of the Week.

Tyler helped the DMACC Bears in their wins over University Park Academy (74-39), Black Hawk (67-57) and South Australia (74-59).

Tyler had 18 points, three steals, eight rebounds and made 4 out of 8 three pointers in the game against University Park Academy.

He had 13 points, two steals and five rebounds against Black Hawk. He added 19 points against South Australia.

Tyler plans to attend a four-year school and continue playing basketball once he leaves DMACC.

Sickles named Scholar Athlete of the Week

DMACC--Second year women’s basketball player Jamie Sickles has been named the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference (ICCAC) Scholar Athlete of the Week.

Sickles, who played at Wapsie Valley High School in Fairbank, was a three time First Team All Conference, First Team All-State Honoree and the all-time career assist leader in Iowa girls basketball history. She continues to prove herself in the classrooms as well, maintaining a 3.18 grade point average while working toward a Nursing degree.

She scored nine points, grabbed three rebounds, dished out five assists and had four steals in the DMACC Bears’ 83-50 victory over St. Ambrose. She then had five points, five rebounds, seven assists and a steal in DMACC’s 83 to 57 win over Minneapolis CTC.

Sickles said she plans to graduate from DMACC and then continue her education and basketball career at a four-year school.

Upcoming Women’s home games:
- Jan. 9 vs. Iowa Central 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 16 vs. Kirkwood 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 19 vs. Ellsworth 2:00 p.m.
- Jan. 23 vs. Southeastern 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 9 vs. NIACC 2:00 p.m.

Upcoming Men’s home games:
- Dec. 12 vs. Marshalltown 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 9 vs. Iowa Central 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 16 vs. Kirkwood 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 19 vs. Ellsworth 4:00 p.m.
- Jan. 28 vs. Southern Neb. 7:30 p.m.
Bars vs. Clubs, the showdown between good and trashy

Jessi Smith
Managing Editor

It’s Friday night and people are in the mood to go out on the town. Some go to the dark little pub down the street for a micro brew and good conversation; others head to the wild club where girls dress like table patrons as young as 16. Most bars are 21 and up, and there are few exceptions. This may be a downer for those under 21, but having a large number of high school aged kids running around tends to destroy the relaxed atmosphere and bring chaos to an otherwise laid back environment.

Iowa City is currently fighting to raise the bar admittance age to 21 for all Iowa City bars. This is causing friction for bar owners and students under 21, but there have been too many underage possessions and disorderly conduct tickets issued to continue to allow underage students into the bars. From Jan. 1 to July 31, 2007, there were 505 underage possessions.

One upside to the club life is that the atmosphere is very social. A person probably has more of a chance of getting up the nerve to dance with someone they don’t know on a crowded dance floor than to go up to someone they’ve never meet in a bar and strike up a conversation.

Clubs are not all bad, and people under 21 should be allowed to go out and dance, the club scene is perfect for them. However, bars are for drinking with friends, not dancing, so there is no need for underage people to go to bars. Also, allowing underage students into bars can ultimately be a bar’s downfall if the scene is busy and no one gets carded properly. It can happen to the most seasoned bar tender.

For people who want to go out and meet new friends or love interests, going to a club is a fabulous idea. For others who aren’t fond of mistaking jailbait for an adult and would rather stick with the people they know, bars are the perfect place.

Shadow Barriers
by Jessi Smith

Playing shadow games alone in the dark, Optical illusions dancing on the ceiling. Stiff air detracts from the sound of the wind outside while I scream silently to myself. There are no windows, there are no doors.

I've been wracking my brain for the last few days, trying to figure out what I want to say. This is my last column, or any writing for that matter, as the Banner News editor.

I thought about talking about how much I’ve learned in my three semesters as the Executive Editor, but that seemed too self-serving.

I thought about trying to convince all of you to come write for the paper; truthfully, it’s just be the way of things. Life keeps turning, against the stone breaking through to the light on the other side. No barriers between up as we were, and where we were.

I've been so preoccupied with everything else that I haven’t really thought about the fact that this is the last issue of the Banner I will ever work on. That may not mean anything to most of you, but this has been a major part of my schooling for the last three semesters. Now I’m done.

It occurs to me that this may just be the way of things. Life goes on; the Earth keeps turning, with no regard to the creatures living on it. I think that’s kind of the point. We get so wrapped up in this that and the other thing that we don’t really see the bigger picture.

I remember when my first girlfriend dumped me, I thought I was going to die; as it turns out I didn’t. The next girlfriend was the same thing. I moped around for a few weeks all morose and dejected. I listened to Dashboard Confessional nonstop. After all that, which, in hindsight, wasn’t really as earth-shattering as I’d thought it was, I’m still here. But even if I weren’t here, life would continue on. I won’t be here next semester, but the paper will still be printed.

The point I’m trying to make is: don’t take anything too seriously. Treat every situation accordingly, but keep the bigger picture in mind. When you’re at school, learn as much as you can. When you’re at work, work as hard as you can. When someone cuts you off in traffic, let it go. When you’re at work, work as hard as you can. When someone cuts you off in traffic, let it go. When you’re at work, work as hard as you can. When someone cuts you off in traffic, let it go.

Don’t waste energy on that which has no lasting value. Think about what it is that you spent the most time and energy on. Whatever that is, is what you value the most in life. I’m not going to tell you what you should be doing, just know that, whatever it is you spend the majority of your time on, that’s what you place the highest value on. You can argue all you want, but if something else mattered more to you, you’d be doing that. Anyway, that’s my two cents. Maybe I am a pretentious ass. Then again, maybe I’m just right.
POLITALKS
Caucus Time

Ted Herrick
Columnist

Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, Chris Dodd, John Edwards, Rudy Giuliani, Mike Gravel, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, Dennis Kucinich, John McCain, Barack Obama, Ron Paul, Bill Richardson, and Mitt Romney. Who to choose! Who would make the best President?

With the Jan. 3 caucus date only a month away, the seriousness with which Iowa seems to be taking its charge as “first in the nation” seems to be heightening.

We are seeing a tightening of some in unexpected ways. On the Democratic side, Barack Obama has overtaken Hillary Clinton for the lead. On the Republican side, Mike Huckabee has recently surged past Mitt Romney in the polls. One can only see this fluidity as a sign that Iowa politics can be a very rough, quickly changing game. Candidates must not forget us; they must continually campaign. Candidates must not forget us; they must continually campaign.

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Merry Christmas No More

Molly Lunley
Banner Staff Writer

In this age of political correctness, there is an overwhelming unease to not offend those who do not agree with your personal beliefs. This is fine with me to a certain point, but some people take this a little too far.

Over the last decade or so, I’ve noticed that the phrase “Merry Christmas” is slowly disappearing from our culture. It’s being taken down from store fronts and commercials. Store employees are wishing everyone a generic “Happy Holiday.”

I understand the reasoning behind this; nobody wants to offend those who don’t celebrate Christmas, but I am getting sick of hearing it.

I celebrate Christmas and I have no problem with those who don’t. It doesn’t offend me if someone wishes me a “Happy Hanukkah,” or some other holiday I don’t celebrate. This is America, everyone has the right to believe what they want, and celebrate the holiday they chose.

People who support the “Happy Holiday” mantra say this is to encourage tolerance and diversity. How? How can it encourage the tolerance of other cultures when personal expression of the holiday that you celebrate is discouraged? How is this encouraging diversity when everyone’s holidays are lumped into the same category?

The answer is that it doesn’t. It does quite the opposite: It shows the intolerant attitude of those who claim they are trying to promote equality.

I now feel like I already know I’m not alone in this belief. In Dec., 2005, I spent the entire month bell ringing for the Salvation Army. I said “Merry Christmas” to every person who put money into the kettle, and to most of those who didn’t. I probably said it over a hundred times a day, and not one of those people said I celebrate “Would you please not say ‘Merry Christmas?’ It offends me.” In fact, many of them were quite pleased to hear it, and made sure to tell me so.

What I don’t understand is why people make such a huge deal of making sure that nobody gets offended by someone else’s beliefs. Why can’t we all just accept that everyone is different and leave it at that? I would rather see a Christmas tree and a Menorah in the front of the store instead of a huge banner that says “Happy Holidays.”

This doesn’t just apply to what we say to each other around this time of year; the concept of merging our individually together so we don’t offend those who our different selves is becoming a tremendous problem. If we want to be a country that openly embraces all cultures, religions, and lifestyles, then why are we slowly being converted into a people who are giving up their individuality in order not to be politically correct?

Letter to the Editor

To begin with, I’d like to congratulate Ms. Robeson on writing the editorial that just won’t die. Her “A few of my own personal opinions” sparked not only a page of response letters, but another opinion piece defending her (“Sticks and Stones...”), and a written apology for my position, and evidence for my position, and providing sources for those arguments. I don’t make those statements to shock my own ego, but to point out what is ultimately wrong with Ms. Robeson’s editorial, and the excuses used to defend it. Both Ms. Minter and the Banner refer to deadlines, late nights, and ineptitude as explanations for Ms. Robeson’s sloppy execution.

I wrote, researched, proofed and edited my response in an approximately 45 minutes (half hour lunch, one fifteen minute break). That includes taking the time to reference the Bible and the APA in support of my arguments. Deadline? Please.

Four out of five of my work nights end at 1 am, bed around 2:20-3:00, up at 7 am to get my kids ready for school. During the day, I often travel to interview people and collect information for the Dallas County CASA program. I also attend classes at DMACC a couple days a week. Pressure, late nights, lack of sleep? Whatever.

Technically I’m not much more educated than Ms. Robeson. My credits equal approximately three semesters. I have done some writing, including a handful of short fiction. Experience? Maybe I’m a little behind...

But, grammar and punctuation aside, there was no excuse for the quality of Ms. Robeson’s arguments. I was able to respond to most of them with minimal effort. Ms. Robeson is entitled to her opinion. But, I would respect her opinion more if it was well-articulated and well-reasoned.

Lewayne L. White - Custodian, Ankeny Campus

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Horoscopes

Aries (March 21 – April 19):
This is your week to tackle big tasks. You’ve finally gotten out of your unmotivated slump and just in time because your friends were almost on edge with you over it. You’ve got the energy, now get to work!

Taurus (April 20 – May 20):
Karma is your friend right now, and you are feeling pretty good. Don’t let him overpower your common sense or you’ll wind up with a bruised ego and a black eye.

Gemini (May 21 – June 21):
Take your time this week. All of your projects will get finished, just not right now. Free time is great, but make sure you are using it to relax and not to relive old mistakes.

Cancer (June 22 – July 22):
Congratulations! You’ve biten off more than you can chew…again. Slow down; focus on what is most important to you right now. You’ll be running like hell to catch up later, but patience is your best ally in the present.

Leo (July 23 – Aug 22):
The same old routine and daily grind is anything but boring to you right now. It’s great that you are enjoying yourself, but remember that not everyone has the same mind set. Do well not to drive your co-workers/class mates up a wall with your enthusiasm.

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sept 22):
Considering a big purchase? Go for it, the money issues will work themselves out, just make sure you don’t go overboard or you’ll wind up with more than you bargained for.

Libra (Sept 23 – Oct 22):
Your romantic side (or perhaps just your hormone level) is working double time. Use this to work your magic on a possible new fling, or rekindle a current flame.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21):
Choose new sources for your vital information. A new view could enlighten you to something you didn’t notice before.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21):
You are overly work oriented right now and that’s great. You don’t have to forget that you do have a life though. Make an effort to be well rounded. Workaholic = irritable ass, don’t let that be you.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19):
You are overly work oriented right now and that’s great. You don’t have to forget that you do have a life though. Make an effort to be well rounded. Workaholic = irritable ass, don’t let that be you.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18):
You have been focusing all your energy on an issue that means a great deal more to you than it does to your friends. You are coming off as opinionated and pushy. Try explaining your emotional standpoint instead of showing your views down the throats of others.

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20):
Making up your mind could relieve some unneeded stress. You’ve got the pros and cons, now quit giving yourself the run around and do something about it.

POETRY of Celine Uhl

A PRAYER FOR THE INTERNET AGE

Celine Uhl is an seventh-grader from DMACC student Adam Uhl. Celine has attended the DMACC Summer Journalism Camp the past two years.

UNTITLED

You made me promise to be a good little girl
While you had a cigarette in one hand and
A jack-and-coke in the other
I can still smell your stinging words...

THE PINK LEMONADE CONFETTI INCIDENT

Flying pink and yellows
Negatives and positives pink lemonade confetti falling from my fingertips.
A silence just thick enough to slice with a steak knife, perhaps even one of the ones my mother doesn’t sharpen.
Cellophane barely holding back
Two-toned rainbows soaring from every direction.

THE SKY IS BLUE TODAY.

Not the blue that it normally is, with a transparent film of grey masking the rich cyan, no; today it is blue like when kindergartners draw pictures of their perfect little Americana families. Mind-numbingly, breath-takingly, pull your-eyes-out-through-your-nose-and-feed-them-to-a-koi-tank blue.

I’m not sure if that’s an Iowa thing, or if it’s just generally Mother Nature’s way of apologizing for the breath shattering cold of Northern winters, but it’s never this way during the rest of the year.

CHOCOLATE FREEVERSE

The poet will eventually die, well that’s just being morbid, but its true; fading colours of blue and blues violet and midnight and the poetry will be left; but its not clear if anyone will know that much.

with the poet’s last ringing song in the air, deafening, of course, (how melodramatic of you) but its true; there are things in the world that require a little melodrama.

if you believe in that sort of thing.

and as cold as it gets in the midwest, frost on iron benches with memorial names scratched in the onyx surface smooth as diamond the little clouds of breath with no parent lungs poor, orphaned clouds. i couldn’t tell you what that’s like, mostly because i don’t know.

the sky will continue to be blue. the grass will be green in suburbia and yellow everywhere else on the planet.

FIN