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Banner News

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Imbus entertains with mind games

Molly Lumley
Managing Editor

Brian Imbus, hypnotist and mentalist, amused students with mind games and hypnosis on Wednesday, Jan 9.

He gave brief teasers during the afternoon and during half time in both of the basketball games that evening. He gave a full performance after the game that lasted almost two hours.

Imbus has been studying magic his entire life. He said he became interested in the subject at his high school prom, where he saw hypnotist Jim Wand perform. Wand has also performed for students at DMACC.

Hypnotism is a state of mind where the subject is very susceptible to suggestion. Imbus explained that the subject is in the delta stage of sleep, which is right above REM, the state where dreams occur. Although the subject's brain waves are in a sleeping stage, the subject is still aware of his or her surroundings.

"Hypnosis is speaking to the unconscious mind," Imbus said. He said although during hypnosis a person is very open to suggestion, the subject would not do anything hypnotized that he or she would not do while they were awake.



Photo: Eden Hinrichs

Brian Imbus utilizes Boone Campus student Jake Balough for a card trick in the Courter Center.

Imbus doesn't claim to be psychic. "We don't talk to dead people; this is only for entertainment purposes," said Imbus. Imbus has gotten some

flack from religious groups when he performs at high schools. "They say we're messing with people's minds, but hypnosis is a natural state of mind," said

Imbus. Imbus explained that everyone goes through two periods of hypnosis daily; when a person goes to sleep and when they wake up.

Imbus started his afternoon show with a few mind tricks. After asking for a volunteer, he shuffled a deck of cards and then handed them to the student. He asked the student to cut the cards a few times and place the top two cards in the student's back pockets. Even though Imbus said he got this right every 2 out of 6 times, he accurately guessed both cards in the student's pockets.

Before beginning the hypnosis part of the show, he claimed that he could give the men's basketball team a few tips to help them be able to focus on their game and play better. The men went on to win their game later that evening against Iowa Central.

Imbus's visit to DMACC was sponsored by the Student Activity Council. Student Activities Coordinator Steve Krafcsin said that he thought that Imbus was well received. "Hypnotism is becoming an attraction," Krafcsin said. The event was paired with a free meal of chicken soup and chili as a welcome back event for the students.

Iowa New Choices presents Iowa Legal Aid

DMACC- Iowa New Choices, the Single Parent / Displaced Homemakers Center on the DMACC Boone Campus, is sponsoring a presentation on the services of Iowa Legal Aid on Tuesday, Jan. 29.

Two presentations will be held in the southeast corner of the Courter Student Center, one at 10:30 a.m. followed by a repeat at 11:30 a.m. Laura Jontz, an attorney with Iowa Legal Aid, will present information on earned income tax credit and child tax credit, plus details on filing taxes and how to get an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number or "ITIN."

In addition, Jontz will discuss information on tenant issues: how to deal with landlords, renter problems, and areas of concern.

Jontz will also provide information on the general services of Iowa Legal Aid, who can be served and what kinds of legal problems can be handled through Iowa Legal Aid.

These presentations are made available for all DMACC students and Boone area residents. There will be time for questions and answers following the presentations.

Contact Maggie Stone, Iowa New Choices Coordinator, Room 124, phone: 433-5037, if you have questions about this program.

St. Luke's Hospital librarian takes position

Molly Lumley
Managing Editor

Michelle Tedrow has accepted the Library/Media Specialist opening left vacant by Rebecca Funke. Funke became the Director of Library Resources at the Ankeny campus last October, leaving an empty space in the library staff.

Tedrow said she found the job on an Iowa libraries Website. "My goal was to find a more traditional college library," she said. Her last job was at St. Luke's Hospital library in Sioux City; where she worked for nine years.

After getting her BA in Library Science from University of Iowa, Tedrow received her Master's from Imporia State University in Kansas. She said that she never set foot on the campus, but commuted from Sioux City to an Omaha campus every other weekend. After graduating, she worked in student housing at University of Iowa and Briar Cliff. Her first library job was at Morningside College in Sioux City.

Tedrow's living situation

is a unique one. She lives in a small apartment in Boone while her husband Tom, daughter Kenzie, 18, and son Ryan, 13, live in Sioux City. She also has another son, TJ, who is a junior in college. "This is only a temporary situation," she explained. "Honestly I didn't want to move to a new job until fall of 2008, but when I came here to the campus I was so pleasantly surprised that I knew I'd regret it if I turned it down." Tedrow has to commute back and forth from Sioux City to Boone every weekend.

"My family has been very supportive of the situation. It was scary, but I'm glad I made the leap of faith and went for it," Tedrow said. "I've been used to kids and dogs so living alone is very foreign."

For now, Tedrow spends most of her time "learning the ropes." "I'm just learning what a typical day is," she said. Tedrow said that the library has been busier with the beginning of the spring semester. "That's one thing that's the same no matter where I work. There's always the beginning of the semester rush,



Photo: Eden Hinrichs

Michelle Tedrow

midterm rush, [and] finals rush." One of Tedrow's goals for the semester is expanding the library's collection of audio books. She wants to add more non fiction and fiction books, such as "Tortilla Curtain," which is this semester's One Book, One

Campus, One Community book. She explained that audio books are good for people who enjoy reading but never have the time.

Tedrow can be reached at 433-5040 or matedrow1@dmacc.edu, or in library in Rm. 135.

IMPORTANT DATES AT DMACC

February 2

Deadline to apply for 2008 graduation

March 7

DMACC All Staff In-Service, No Classes, Offices Closed

March 17-23

Spring Break, No Classes, Offices Open

May 1

Last Day of Regular Term Classes

Auditions scheduled for upcoming play



Photo: Eden Hinrichs

Kay Mueller

Molly Lumley
Managing Editor

Auditions are being held for the Boone campus's next play, Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple," on Wed, Jan 30 at 3 p.m. in the theatre. Anyone interested should contact Kay Mueller at her office, Rm 132, by phone at 433-5094, or via email at kemueller@dmacc.edu.

"If someone is unable to make it in on the 30th, she or he should contact me before then to set up an alternate audition,"

Mueller said.

There are 6 female and 2 male roles. The characters are: Olive Madison, a sports minded, divorced slob, Florence Unger, a neat freak who moves in with Olive after her husband dumps her, Sylvie, who has a wise cracking sense of humor, Vera, who is a little light in the head, Mickey, the police woman, and Manolo and Jesus, who are good natured gentlemen. Performance dates are April 4 and 5 at 7:30 p.m.



Photo: Contributed

DMACC Spirit Squad, back row, Colleen Christophersen, Jenna Cornelius, Aleesha Hopkins, Caitlin Mills, middle row, Nicole Bloomquist, Brooke Person, Kinsey Lehrkamp, front row, Alexa Kent, Brylie Reed.

Iowa Hospital Association provides college scholarships

DES MOINES – The Iowa Hospital Association's scholarship program for college students studying for health care careers is now taking applications.

The program, administered through the Iowa Hospital Education and Research Foundation, awards scholarships of \$3,000 per year for a maximum of two years to students enrolled in an accredited program leading to registration, licensure or a clinical laboratory science degree. In exchange for that financial support, students who accept the funds agree

to work one year in an Iowa hospital for each year they receive an award.

Since 2005, when the first scholarships were awarded, 79 students have received IHERF Health Care Careers Scholarships, with a total value of \$237,000.

Scholarship application packets are available at financial aid departments at all Iowa colleges. A link to application materials is also available on the home page of the IHA Web site, <http://www.ihonline.org> (click on "Health Careers"). The application deadline is March 14.

Hospital leaders from all parts of the state will evaluate the scholarship applications, which will be judged on grade-point average, a written personal statement, letters of reference, and extracurricular, community and health care-related activities.

The Iowa Hospital Association is a voluntary membership organization representing hospital and health system interests to business, government and consumer audiences. All of Iowa's 117 community hospitals are IHA members.

Spirit squad places 2nd in Iowa competition

Molly Lumley
Managing Editor

On Friday, Nov. 30, the DMACC Spirit Squad participated in the Iowa State Drill Team Association competition at Vet's Auditorium. They took second behind Iowa Central Community College.

Christina Graham, dance advisor, said this was the team's first year to go to the competition. She said the team's national performance at the men's basketball game on Nov. 20 helped to prepare the team.

The Spirit Squad performed a jazz routine for the competition. The other teams at the competition were broken down

into three categories: hip-hop, jazz, and pomp, which is a dance routine using pom-poms.

The Spirit Squad competed against other Iowa community colleges. Graham said there were not very many other colleges competing.

The nine women on the team have been preparing since September. The team performs for home games and at a spring show in March. They also have a clinic for Kindergarten through 4th grade children to teach them a 40 to 50 second routine.

The team is currently working on a hip-hop routine and Graham hopes they will be finished with it in the spring.

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Groundhog Day, a comprehensive guide to celebration



“Bill” the groundhog peaks out of the snow.

Photo: Eden Hinrichs

Shane Meier
Staff Writer

Groundhog Day, a rather obscure holiday celebrated every Feb. 2, in Punxsutawney, Pa., is not the typical holiday you think of celebrating in February.

Most of us are off buying cards and candy in preparation for the highly commercialized Valentines Day, but for my brother and I, only Groundhog day is worthy of being celebrated.

What is Groundhog Day

and were did it originate? The custom of a weather predicting holiday is as old as western civilization itself. It started with the early Christian holiday of Candlemas Day where the clergy would bless candles and distributed them to the townsfolk. It was believed that if the weather was clear and fair on Candlemas there would be six more weeks of winter, but if the weather was cloudy and rainy it was believed their would be an early spring. In time this belief was paired with a hedgehog that was believed to

be able to predict spring based on whether or not it sees its shadow. When German settlers first came to Pennsylvania they discovered the Groundhog which was very similar to the traditional hedgehog and decided to use it. On Feb. 2, 1886, the first official Groundhog Day was observed in Punxsutawney, Pa. The first one at Gobbler’s Knob took place a year later.

Groundhog Day, though relatively obscure by holiday standards, has quite a cult following with a record number of 35,000 people gathering in 1997 to see Punxsutawney Phil in all his glory. Phil is the one and only weather predicting groundhog in the world. He has been making his predictions for over 120 years and he is always 100% accurate. In those years he has seen his shadow 96 times, he has not seen his shadow 15 times, and there are 9 times in which

there is no record. According to traditional folklore, the reason this groundhog has been alive for so long is that every summer during the groundhog picnic he is given a special drink by the inner circle which magically gives him seven more years of life.

Following this age old tradition, spectators gather at Gobbler’s Knob early in the morning on each Feb. 2. Around 7:20 a.m. Phil comes out of his burrow and makes his prediction, which, as folklore tells, he tells to the president of the inner circle in “Groundhogese”. Then it is presented to the crowd by the president of the inner circle. The festivities continue long after the main event is over. The town of Punxsutawney has events and calibrations for three days before and after Groundhog Day for all ages and tastes.

In honor of Groundhog Day’s frivolous and seemingly ridiculous history, my brother and I have created a few fun family traditions of our own. My Groundhog Day usually begins with watching Phil’s Prediction on TV. Then in honor of Phil’s amazing predicting abilities my family and I place a stuffed groundhog on a pedestal in honor to groundhogs everywhere. We usually throw a lunch or dinner in Phil’s honor depending on whether or not we have school that day. Then, towards the end of the day, my family and I sit down and watch the movie Groundhog Day.

Groundhog Day can be a fun yet overlooked holiday. For those who do not wish to celebrate Valentine’s Day, Groundhog Day can be an entertaining alternative.

AAC is here for a reason

Eden Hinrichs
Staff Writer

At 8:00 a.m., the doors to the Academic Achievement Center, which allows local and international students to get help with the subjects they are struggling with, open to all students.

Although they have only tutors for English and math, they can also request a tutor for French, Spanish, accounting, science and computer classes.

Not only does the AAC offer these tutoring courses, they also offer computer services for international students who are having problems comprehending English. The student is able to log on to a computer program that is in their native language that helps them with visual and auditory comprehension.

The AAC is also the location of the general education degree, compass testing, nursing entrance examination and normal college testing. “I appreciate the opportunity to teach composition to aspiring writers,” said English tutor Pegi Bevins. Although she is very bashful about her accomplishments as a writer in

her field, she is happy to apply her knowledge to her students.

Another tutor, Mary Ann Koch, notices when the tutoring is truly working. “It’s always a good feeling when you help someone. It’s especially awarding when they come back to us and thank us for it.”

All AAC tutors are available Monday through Friday. They are understanding and always ready to help anyone who needs it.

Mary Ann Koch can be reached at 433-5095 or at makoch@dmacc.edu. The Academic Achievement Center Hours are: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mon. - Thurs. and 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Fri. Summer hours vary. For further information call 515-433-5096.

Minority Enrollment sets new record

DMACC - Des Moines Area Community College has set an enrollment record among diverse populations. DMACC’s fall semester enrollment showed an increase in the number of students for all racial/ethnic groups.

Overall, DMACC’s 2007 fall semester non-white credit enrollment is 14.0 percent. This compares to 13.1 percent in the fall of 2006. DMACC’s Hispanic population has grown 150 percent since 2003. The number of African American students has grown by 50 percent in that timeframe, and Asian students have grown by 32 percent.

A total of 1,057 African American students were enrolled in credit classes at the six DMACC campuses in the fall of 2007. That compares to 885 African American students enrolled in credit classes in the fall of 2006. DMACC’s Hispanic population increased to 645 students in the fall of 2007 from 523 students in the previous fall semester and DMACC’s Asian population increased from 545 students in the fall of 2006 to 602 students in the fall of 2007.

“DMACC is committed to serving the needs of diverse populations in Iowa,” said DMACC President Rob Denson. “While we have increasing numbers of minority students coming to DMACC, we want to do even more to recruit these important populations. Iowa will meet its workforce needs only if we encourage everyone to develop their skills.”

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

DMACC is among the finalists for the Greater Des Moines Partnership’s prestigious 2008 Diversity Award. The announcement was made at the Partnership’s annual meeting on Jan. 10. The award recognizes companies that create a diverse work force and client base, as well as an “environment of inclusion in greater Des Moines.” In 2007, DMACC was also a finalist for the Diversity Award, which was granted to Nationwide Property and Casualty.

In 2008, DMACC, Iowa Health-Des Moines, Kemin Industries and Wells Fargo are the finalists. This is the ninth year that the Greater Des Moines Partnership has bestowed a Diversity Award.

Weather Cancellations

If weather conditions in the early morning hours warrant the decision to cancel classes due to inclement weather, the decision will most generally be made around 6 a.m. As soon as a decision has been made to cancel Boone Campus classes, the radio stations listed below will be contacted.

KWBGAM 1590	Boone
KLRX FM 96.1	Ames
Lite 104FM 104.1	Ames
KCCQ FM 105.1	Ames
KASI AM 1430	Ames
KKRL FM 93.7	Carroll
KCIM AM 1380	Carroll
KDLS FM 105.5	Perry/Jefferson
KDLS AM 1310	Perry/Jefferson
KGRA FM 98.9	Jefferson

Cancellation announcements will also be recorded on the Boone Campus telephone system. The direct number for Boone Campus is 432-7203. Students and/or staff can also call toll free 1-800-362-2127, press 3 for Boone Campus to hear announcements of weather cancellations. Weather cancellations will also be announced on DMACC’s web site www.dmacc.edu.

When weather conditions in the early morning delay the start of classes (for example 10 a.m.), offices will be open for business at the designated time. Classes will begin with the first full class period beginning on or after the designated time.

If the weather condition during the school day warrants an early dismissal, the decision to close will be made and staff and the radio station will be notified as soon as possible. The decision to cancel evening classes will most generally be made by 4:30 p.m.

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Make your own awesome smoothie



Photo: Eden Hinrichs

Eden Hinrichs
Staff Writer

Step one:
Gather all the ingredients to make your smoothie. You will need two bananas, two mangos, two cups of orange juice, a container of frozen strawberries, (usually if it is strawberry season you would use 7 fresh strawberries), one and one half cups of water, a blender and a container for all the juicy goodness.

Step two:
Chop your bananas and mango (remember to peel and remove the pit of the mango, do not throw it in whole or you might break your blender or even worse, choke on the pit.) Put your chopped bananas and mango in the blender along with half of the strawberries. Then add water, orange juice and blend.

Step three:
You can either drink now or put a container full of the juicy smoothie goodness in your fridge to enjoy for later.

Saucy suggestions: Want a thicker smoothie? Skip adding water. Want an extra creamy flavor? Replace half a cup of water with half and half cream.

Cost of Ingredients:
2 Bananas : \$0.44
2 Mangos : \$1.76
1 container of orange juice: \$2.99
1 container of frozen strawberries: \$1.49

Total cost : \$6.68

Health benefits: Bananas are high in vitamin C, magnesium, collagen, protein, potassium, B6 and fiber. What does this mean for you? According to

<http://www.femhealth.com>, these nutrients aid with concentration and memory, and can reduce fatigue and lower cholesterol.

Mangos: According to <http://www.mad4mangos.com>, mangos are a rich source of antioxidants, minerals and vitamins A, B, C, along with calcium, iron and potassium.

Orange juice: It's famous for vitamin C but did you know that it can also very good for the heart?

Strawberries: Not only is high in Vitamin C and fiber but according to <http://www.ars.usda.gov> "Strawberries contain a plant pigment, anthocyanin, which has been used for studies in preventing initiation of cancers. Strawberries contain a unique phenolic group, ellagotannins, which are effective in preventing initiation of esophageal cancer"

The bottom of the wine glass

Eden Hinrichs
Staff Writer

This is comprehensive guide to foreign and domestic wines of more recent vintage. Listed are three different types of wine that seem to have superiority in their categories. Enjoy responsibly.

Bivio Pinot grigio

Vintage: 2006
Cost: \$12.85
Origin: North East Italy
Region: Friuli and Trentino Alto Adige

Straight out of Italy, this wine is not your typical Pinot Grigio. When you first pick up the bottle you can clearly notice that the bottle has a fun label using frisky colors unlike the typical almost antique looking bottles of the past. When you first pour the glass there is a lingering scent of fresh air followed by a wispy citrus scent. The taste is no

disappointment and the wafting scent is full of potent crisp apple and citrus that leaves a pleasant aftertaste.

Hundred Acre Layer Cake Shiraz

Vintage 2006
Cost: \$17.39
Origin: Barossa Valley, Australia

An array of different smells hit the nose as this cleverly titled wine breathes. You can smell the berries and spice through this almost inky looking wine. Much like the title dictates it is a layering of flavors. This vintage goes very pleasantly with chocolate, leaving a thick

raspberry taste. An interesting piece of information on this unique wine is that the 2005 vintage was a very superior year, so superior that it had sold off the shelves completely and there was already a waiting list for 2006. Better snatch this one up soon because there will be no 2007 vintage due to climate issues.

J. Lohr White Riesling

Vintage: 2005
Cost: \$11.29
Origin: Monterey

This medium dry Riesling has a fun fruit taste that embodies the true spirit of citrus, peach, nectarine, apricot and honey suckle. A strong vanilla body is detected when the after taste sets in. Though it is not a sipping wine, it is just as enjoyable and easy to pair with. The 2006 vintage will be much sweeter due to climate changes, but it is still a good Riesling none the less.



Photo: Eden Hinrichs

Cafe changes and work study

Jessi Smith
Executive Editor

The Campus Café has been running for the better part of a decade and providing students and staff alike with snacks and food, and now new treats have been added to menu.

New hot and cold drinks have brought an added flare to the already versatile menu. A new slushy machine featuring blue-raspberry and strawberry-kiwi flavors has been added along with a cappuccino and latte machine.

In addition to providing DMACC patrons with a place to grab a hot meal between classes, the café also supplies a work study program for students who need to make extra money. The partially student run café supports around sixteen staff members, most of whom are

doing work study in the café.

Student Nick Schroder, who is on his second semester of doing work study in the café, is attempting make extra money to help with his future transfer to ISU. "I really enjoy working here," said Schroder. "I'm here to make money."



Photo: Eden Hinrichs

Jenna Kramer, who is also in her second semester of working at the café, enjoys working there because, "It's a relaxed atmosphere." She also says that she loves the people that she works with.

The café work study program is beneficial for students with more complex class schedules. "It works really well with my schedule," said student Jake Balough. "I really needed a job, and this is a fast pace, fun environment."

The café serves breakfast for students with early classes. Waffles, biscuits and gravy, and omelets are a few of the choices during the earlier hours.

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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



Burns named athlete of the week



Photo: www.dmacc.edu

DMACC - Des Moines Area Community College second year men's basketball player Grant Burns has been chosen at the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference men's division II basketball Athlete of the Week.

The seventh nationally ranked DMACC Bears defeated North Iowa Area Community College 69 to 63 in their first game in conference play. Between points and assists, Burns was directly responsible for over half of DMACC's points. Burns scored 10 points and dished out 15 assists in the contest.

Burns, a graduate of Prairie City-Monroe High School, is currently tied for the most assists in a game in Region XI history with 18. He already holds the DMACC school record for assists in a season at 271, steals in a season at 99, and assists in a game with 18 against Cloud County.

Burns has signed with St. Cloud State University in Minnesota to continue his collegiate basketball career.

Coaches set milestone

DMACC--Two DMACC coaches recently earned milestone victories in their respective sports.

Head Volleyball Coach Patty Harrison earned her 400th career victory and her 100th win at DMACC in the Bears 3-2 win over Iowa Lakes Community College in the 2007 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II National Tournament held in Arizona.

Salmon recorded a recent milestone himself. With the Bears 74 to 59 win over South Australia, Men's Head Basketball Coach Salmon now has 200 career wins at DMACC.

Tom Lee presents awards to Patty Harrison and Orv Salmon.



Photo: Eden Hinrichs

Men, women start off 2008 with wins over NIACC



Photo: Eric Ver Helst

Keisha Dotson fights for possession of the ball in the Bears' 79-41 win over NIACC.



Photo: Eric Ver Helst

Brent Jackman jumps up for a shot during their 69-63 win over NIACC.



Photo: Eric Ver Helst

Kim Thissen looks for a shot.



Photo: Eric Ver Helst

Kenny Neelon goes for a layup.

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Is it over yet?



Chris Ihle
Contributing Writer

The Iowa caucus was huge. We had a record voter turnout and the energy was as exciting as any Iowa vs. Iowa State rivalry game; along with all the pre-caucus hype.

We went from nine hours per day of political ads to zero on Jan. 4. Although I'm glad that part is over, I miss the excitement of the race. You know that empty feeling after Super Bowl Sunday? I'm kind of feeling like that. Politics haven't been this exciting in our country since the 1960s. We had a nail biting race among the Democrats here in Iowa, and now the Republicans are having a three way race after New Hampshire. What should we think about all of this? Should we really care? Is there a reason for all the excitement? I believe there is, and I think you're missing out if you aren't part of the frenzy.

We keep hearing the word "change" and statements like, "This is the test of our generation." There is a feeling of urgency in the air regarding the economy, the war, the environment, and the health care crisis. But why should any college age student have much concern regarding these issues? Most of us aren't being directly affected by the issues, except maybe by the high cost of gas. But there are some issues that we might be passionate about, such as same-sex marriage, the cost of higher education, and the availability of good jobs after graduation.

Can we do anything about the issues? I believe we can. I also believe we have an obligation to ourselves and our country to be a part of the solution. The question of how does frequently arise when addressing this concept. I am old enough to remember John F. Kennedy's speech where these famous words were spoken, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for

your country." Find an issue that you are passionate about and get involved to make a difference. Let your voice be heard, your actions be seen, and your passion be shared. Look at Bono, he's leads a passionate cause for AIDS relief in Africa and has affected political figures around the globe to support his efforts.

A good place to start is in our current election. Research the candidates and identify their passion, purpose, and plan for our country. See where they stand on the issues that you care about. Get involved with your chosen candidates campaign on a personal level. Ask what you can do to help your candidate win the election.

There are immediate and long term benefits that come from involving yourself with a cause. First, there is an overwhelming sense of belonging that is experienced when you belong to a group that shares a passionate purpose. It far surpasses the connections you experience in your social groups. It's like the difference between watching your favorite team play in the Super Bowl at home with a friend versus watching the game at your local sports bar filled with other fans of your team, or actually going to the big game. The energy and excitement is awesome. Even if your team loses, you will never forget the experience. The connections you make with others that share your passion can develop into life long friendships and beneficial networking relationships. Employment opportunities can arise and organizational and networking skills develop. The opportunities for personal growth are infinite and benefit you throughout your lifetime. Ultimately, when you get involved with politics you affect your world, your life, and of course, your country.

If you are as excited about politics and life in general, like me, then the answer to my first questions is a resounding no. No, it's not over yet. We have a lot to do and a lot to look forward to this next year. Let's make this Presidential election a passionate and personal election. Let us listen to the candidates, but mostly, let the candidates listen to us. Our voices have the power to affect positive change in our country, and our voices and votes can make a difference. The race isn't over yet, get involved.

The "Happy Birthday Girl" strikes again



Eden Hinrichs
Staff Writer

I have this silly little tradition I do for anyone who has had a birthday while working with me. I get them a small birthday cake and belt out my own rendition of "Happy Birthday."

I love doing this because it makes people feel special and they get free cake. Not only does it give the birthday boy or girl cake and let be frank, who doesn't like free cake! It also allows people not to gorge themselves but to feel special.

I generally check the birthday board at work to see if anyone has a birthday is coming up next but as of late I haven't looked. Funny how Christmas can make us blow off the most minor of details but keep the important ones, like working, in

mind.

I went to work and began to check people out, as most clerks do, and a regular customer made a point to wish my boss, Doris, a happy birthday. She laughed as she walked away and said "Thanks, Mike". Then as Doris began to walk away a second customer said "Oh, it's Doris's Birthday! Happy Birthday Doris!"

Unfortunately, She was across the store at that point and couldn't hear the second customer wish her a happy birthday. A third customer, after over hearing the second customer, coolly said with a "higher than thou" haughtiness, "You're just now wishing Doris a Happy Birthday?"

I asked the third customer "Did you know it was her birthday?"

"Well of course I do! Didn't you?" replied the third customer. By this time I was already beginning to feel dumb. How could I have not realized it was her birthday? I usually have this kind of thing all planned out in advance. How was I going to pull my usual "birthday stunt" without her noticing? Just then a co-worker of mine, Amber, walked in. "Amber! Doris doesn't know you're here so do

me a favor and run to the bakery and get a cake and a candle."

Amber quickly ran to the bakery got a chocolate cake and even had the baker write "Happy Birthday" on it. She ran back to me and we lit the candle and paged Doris to come to the counter. Amber and I sang our hearts out and all the while Doris and another co-worker were laughing hysterically. At first I thought it was the cake and then I thought that maybe it was my horrid rendition of "Happy Birthday". I had to know, so I asked Doris, "Why are you laughing?"

"It's not my birthday." Doris managed to say through a fit of laughter. "Mike wishes me a happy birthday everyday because he missed it one year." Too make matters worse Mike came strolling in and said again to Doris, "Happy Birthday."

So for fifteen minutes I got made fun of by my co-workers and tried not to let it out of the department but whether I like it or not I am now known as the "Happy Birthday girl". There are two morals of the story here, always double check your sources! The second is always have someone else to blame incase you make a fool of yourself; I know I wish I had.

Does anyone know why we got the day off?

Jessi Smith
Executive Editor

Every Jan., the nation honors the birth of a historical figure that fought for equality and freedom for all Americans regardless of the color of their skin.

Some people get the day off from school or work, yet few stop to recognize why this day is so important.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was more than a civil rights leader; he was an icon for freedom and liberty. At age thirty-five Dr. King was the youngest man to ever receive the Nobel Peace Prize. He donated the awarded money from his achievement to help push the march for civil rights onward.

Dr. King was also a father and husband. He and his wife, Coretta, had four children together. Dr. King's family only added fuel to the fire for his cause. He had children to think about, children who he wanted to be able to attend school and live their lives not as "colored" people, but as human beings and fellow Americans.

On April 4, 1968, Dr. King was assassinated while standing on the balcony of his Memphis,

Tenn. Motel room. The story does not end there. Few take the time to remember why he was in Memphis. Dr. King was there to help lead a protest march for garbage workers who were being treated unjustly. No cause was too minuscule for Dr. King.

To celebrate the birth of this equality icon, DMACC students were given the day off. How one chooses to use this time is completely up to them. The Banner News staff spent it hard at work, tucked away in an office, trying to uphold a simple freedom, the freedom of speech.

Despite all the advances our society has made in equality, there is a very long stretch of road left to go. The battle for equal rights and the destruction of racism rages on. As long as there are people who think that they are superior because of the color of their skin or the gender of their birth, there will always be discrimination.

The effects of Dr. King's practice is evident today. Friends can play on the playground without fear of persecution because their skin color is not the same. Lovers can hold hands in public and not worry about who sees.

Some day skin will be skin. The color of it won't matter, and people can just be people. We live together in this world, and coexisting peacefully is the only way to survive.

Dr. King did not ask for any special treatment, he did not demand outrageous things, he only wanted equality. Unfortunately, we live in a world where people who speak out for justice and freedom get assassinated for pursuing the American dream.

Take a moment to reflect on how you spent your free day. Did you sleep in? Did you call your mom just to say hello? I drug myself out of bed, and came into school to do what I believe in. I believe in free speech, justice, and equality. That is why I put my time into this paper. That is what I do to honor Dr. King and all others who helped to make sure that I could publish what I think and how I feel without fear.

Dr. King, a free speaker and social revolutionary, is part of the reason why all Americans are free to live, love, laugh, and exist harmoniously. That is why there was no class, and all of us should remember that.

Spring 2008 BANNER STAFF

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Molly Lumley	Managing Editor
Eden Hinrichs	Staff Writer / Photographer
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WINE WORD FIND

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| CHEESE | GRIGIO | SWEET |
| CHIANTI | LEMON | TANNINS |
| CHOCOLATE | MERLOT | TASTE |
| COAL | PINOT | WHITE |
| COLOR | PORTO | ZINFANDEL |
| CONCORD | RASPBERRY | |
| CREAMY | RED | |

Horoscopes

Jessi Smith

Aries (March 21 – April 19):

After a long stint of rough breaks and disappointment, you've finally found a light at the end of the tunnel. Now quit wallowing in self pity and enjoy what you've got now.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20):

Your ability to please everyone is on the fritz. Use this opportunity to show the world that you have some individuality left in you. You can't always play neutral.

Gemini (May 21 – June 21):

You've been a model student all year long. Now is the time to take a breather. You don't have to be a slacker, but your perfectionist way of life is going to blow up on you if you don't slow down.

Cancer (June 22 – July 22):

You may have had a lot of conflicting issues on your mind as of late. Now find your happy place (alone) and sort them out before you end up talking to yourself in public.

Leo (July 23- August 22):

You've been blowing off friends to try to finish an important task and haven't accomplished anything. It's time to buckle down, get things done, and get back to having a life.

Virgo (August 23- September 22):

A person is perfectly able to handle more than one issue at a time. Stop making excuses not to deal with things, it's getting old. But don't tackle everything at once or you'll be worse off than before.

Libra (September 23- October 22):

Sort out your ideas. Some are ridiculous, but some might be worth chasing. If one grabs you, run with it, it's time for action.

Scorpio (October 23- November 22):

Money does not grow on trees. Fiery Scorpios have a habit of forgetting that. Start focusing on a new budgeting strategy so that no bill "slips your mind" again.

Sagittarius (November 23- December 22):

Living for the moment may have gotten you by thus far, but adulthood is calling. It's time to pay some much needed attention to you future plans and goals.

Capricorn (December 23- January 19):

It's a widely known fact that you are good at making your opinion known. Now shut up and give your friends a chance to speak.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18):

An exciting proposition has got your head in the clouds. It's great to express your joy, but don't rub it in, that's lame.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20):

There is a lot being expected of you and not enough time to accommodate everyone. Stand your ground, put first things first. The others will deal or die.

BOONE WEATHER

	HIGH/LOW	PRECIP.
WEDNESDAY JAN 23	8°/-9°	
THURSDAY JAN 24	12°/6°	
FRIDAY JAN 25	29°/24°	
SATURDAY JAN 26	30°/19°	
SUNDAY JAN 27	28°/19°	
MONDAY JAN 28	33°/20°	
TUESDAY JAN 29	30°/9°	
WEDNESDAY JAN 30	17°/15°	

THINGS TO PUT IN YOUR SMOOTHIE

By Eden Hinrichs

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Toonsies

by Eden Hinrichs

