2-6-2008

Banner News

Patrick Hamm
Molly Lumley
Shane Meier
Eden Hinrichs
Jessi Smith

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: https://openspace.dmacc.edu/banner_news

Recommended Citation
Hamm, Patrick; Lumley, Molly; Meier, Shane; Hinrichs, Eden; Smith, Jessi; and Ihle, Christina, "Banner News" (2008). Banner News. 202.
https://openspace.dmacc.edu/banner_news/202

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Work at Open SPACE @ DMACC. It has been accepted for inclusion in Banner News by an authorized administrator of Open SPACE @ DMACC. For more information, please contact rsfunke@dmacc.edu.
Authors
Patrick Hamm, Molly Lumley, Shane Meier, Eden Hinrichs, Jessi Smith, and Christina Ihle

This book is available at Open SPACE @ DMACC: https://openspace.dmacc.edu/banner_news/202
Cancer survivor helps in fight for cure

Molly Lumley
Managing Editor

Cancer is not a word that anybody wants to hear when they go to the doctor, but for those who have, the American Cancer Society has been offering hope to those who want a cure.

According to the ACS, approximately 1.5 million people were expected to be diagnosed with cancer in 2007, and about 550,000 of those people were expected to die. Cancer can strike anyone at any time, but regular physicals can sometimes spot the early warning signs of this disease.

Mary Maybee, cancer survivor and contact person for this year’s ACS fundraiser, “Daffodil Days,” said there are more cancer survivors each year because of the research done by the ACS. The ACS is selling several combinations of daffodils and a teddy bear named Bea R. Hope. Contributions are tax deductible, and proceeds go to the ACS’s research. Payment can be made by cash, check, money order, or credit card. There is a registration form available at DMACC at the front desk.

“Daffodils are one of the first flowers of spring. They bring hope, hope that winter is gone and things are going to get better. Early or late, the daffodils will bloom,” said Maybee. “We’ve had tremendous cooperation from Boone, we wanted to show that Boone County gives hope.”

Maybee became passionate about finding a cure when one her grandson, Mikey, was diagnosed with leukemia in 1989. After a red spot was noticed on his foot, he began bone marrow transplants, radiation, and chemotherapy. Back in 1989, the cure rate for leukemia wasn’t as high as it is now. “He died when he was 8 and half years old. When he was healthy, he was a happy kid, he was a cub scout; he loved being a cub scout.” Shortly after Mikey was diagnosed, Maybee was diagnosed with breast cancer, and then brain cancer.

“[Having cancer] really changes your attitude. I couldn’t have done that if cancer research hadn’t found out how to help,” Maybee said.

Along with the fundraiser, people can help by donating their time to the Relay for Life teams. For Jerriene McCaffrey, English professor on the DMACC Boone campus and publicity chairperson for the Relay for Life committee, searching for a cure is a priority. McCaffrey was diagnosed with breast cancer 9 years ago, and has had many family members die from cancer.

“It’s such a good cause, but we really need more volunteers,” McCaffrey said. She said the committee has around 20 members. The committee host events such as the Pink Ribbon Tea last October, to raise awareness and funds.

McCaffrey urged people to get involved with the Relay for Life event hosted on June 21, 2008, at Goepinger Field in Boone, and she believes that DMACC should form a team. Teams need to consist of a minimum of 8 members, and during the relay, each team keeps one member on the track at all times. McCaffrey said that DMACC had a team last year, but there aren’t enough people volunteering to form a team this year.

Cancer is a devastating disease, but there is hope for a cure someday. “Gold and yellow daffodils are the hope of spring and the hope for a cure,” said Maybee. “That’s why we’re doing it.”
DMACC’S FALL SEMESTER STUDENT LIST

Des Moines Area Community College President Rob Denson recently released the names of students eligible for the Fall Semester President’s List. To be eligible, a student must have earned a 3.5 to 3.99 grade point average. Those recognized from the DMACC Boone Campus include:

- Adam Egeland, Business Administration
- Tiffany DeCook, Architectural Technology
- Kaitlyn De Vries, Liberal Arts
- Matthew Dawdy, Liberal Arts
- Mark Cirks, Fitness & Sports Management
- Heather Carpenter, Liberal Arts
- Jessica Bonthuis, Liberal Arts
- Mark Bonnell, Civil Engineering Technology
- Allison Berthel, Pre-Nursing
- Ceci Barry, Liberal Arts
- Allison Behret, Pre-Nursing
- David Boehr, Business Administration
- Joshua Bonett, Liberal Arts
- Mark Bonnell, Civil Engineering Technology
- Jessica Brubaker, Accounting Certificate
- Brittany Boorr, Accounting Certificate
- Rebbecca Brumfield, Criminal Justice
- Benjamin Boyman, Criminal Justice
- Richard Borden, Criminal Justice Technology
- Lisa Brekke, Liberal Arts
- Susan Bricken, Accounting Paraprofessional
- Jimmy Breck, Liberal Arts
- Jill Berry, Criminal Justice Administration
- Paul Brown, Criminal Justice Administration
- Tim Davis, Criminal Justice Administration
- Caroline Brumfield, Criminal Justice Administration
- Gracie Brumfield, Criminal Justice Administration
- Beth Barrick, Liberal Arts
- Ethan Bailey, Liberal Arts
- Adam Bailey, Liberal Arts
- Heather Carpenter, Liberal Arts
- Rachel Carnahan, Criminal Justice
- Jacob Carnahan, Criminal Justice
- Mirra Carnagio, Criminal Justice
- Shannon Clayton, Liberal Arts
- Allison Collins, Liberal Arts
- Donald Cors, Liberal Arts
- Joshua Corin, Liberal Arts
- Emily Cue, Liberal Arts
- Garrett Corwin, Criminal Justice Administration
- Marlin Croll, Business Information Systems
- Karen Daughtness, Business Administration
- Lauren Davia, Liberal Arts
- Matthew Davy, Liberal Arts
- Katie De Vries, Liberal Arts
- Tiffany DeCraiyk, Architectural Technology
- Shelby Deeter, Liberal Arts
- Amanda Dearden, Criminal Justice
- Angie DeGeoff, Pre-Nursing
- Connor Delaney, Liberal Arts
- Mike DePietro, Criminal Justice Administration
- Liselotte Dolen, Associate General Studies
- Samantha Dunca, Liberal Arts
- Adam Eagle, Business Administration
- Lasse Elliott, Entrepreneurship
- Zach Edgerton, Criminal Justice
- Will Estrella, Associate General Studies
- Ryan Evans, Business Administration

Satisfaction of admission and retention requirements ensures" follows "DMACC students planning on transferring to either Drake or Grand View can apply for the program. Once accepted, they will benefit from a number of Transfer Resource Initiative Program opportunities.

"We hope to make an impact on Iowa’s ‘brain drain’, students leaving both of their academic institutions and registering for the first semester of transfer, library and email access, participation in campus organizations and student activity passes."
Sponsoring a short one-hour skit during Black History Month, Boone campus is
hosting an impromptu skit by an historical interpreter, as a slave to becoming a
world phenomenon. The play will be performed by an historical interpreter, Paxton J. Williams.

Snow removal on campus brings challenges to custodial staff

Shane Meier
Staff Writer

Winter has hit Iowa with freezing temperatures, ice and snow. For commuters this means potential hazards from snow drifts, black ice and the threat of being stuck in. Once drivers get to campus, they expect clean parking lots and safe sidewalks.

Boone Campus staff work after every snow storm to clear the campus of snow. Boone Campus Supervisor of Building and Grounds, Dean Hatch, said the campus has a private contractor for the parking lots. The DMACC staff handles the walkways.

When they begin to remove snow usually depends on when it begins snowing. If it snowed the night before, they start around five in the morning and usually have the parking lots cleared by 7:30 a.m. If it snows during the day, however, they will wait until the students go home in the evening. If it snows a lot during the day, they will clean it off as the day goes on. When they clear the walkways, they generally start with the front walks and then move onto the back lots.

The contractor who clears the parking lots uses three pickups to carry the snow away and a snow plow. For the sidewalks, the DMACC staff use an out-front unit and a tractor to clear the snow, a utility cart to transport people and equipment and a truck to carry the snow away.

One of the challenges the staff faces when clearing the snow is the wind, said Hatch, because it blows the snow and forces them to clear it again. Another problem is ice, especially when it gets warmer and the snow melts and refreezes at night, he said.

Carver impersonator to perform at Boone campus

Shane Meier
Staff Writer

As part of Black History Month, Boone campus is sponsoring a short one-hour skit titled “Listening to the Still Small Voice,” on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 9:05 a.m. and will be shown in the theater.

This short play tells the story of George Washington Carver’s life from humble beginnings as a slave to becoming a world famous scientist, educator and artist. The play will be performed by an historical interpreter, Paxton J. Williams.

After graduating from Iowa State University, Williams went on to earn a master’s degree in public policy at the University of Michigan. Williams has done work as an actor, writer, and director for several local Iowa productions and has recently completed an independent film titled “Reel Competition.”

Williams has also worked as a legislative intern in Washington DC, managed political campaigns, and has created articles and workshops on diversity in the workplace. The play, which is free to the public, will include a short question-answer period. The play is sponsored by the Student Activities Council of Boone Campus.

Black History Month is typically celebrated in Feb.
Valentine’s gifts for the ways of the world -- I already know I am

Edward Hinrichs
Staff Writer

Choosing a Valentine’s gift for a special gal can not only be stressful, it can be detrimental if you don’t put some thought into the gift. Some questions to address are prices and how long you’ve been together. In a serious relationship, one might consider putting more meaningful thoughts into a gift. For a newer relationship, how much you care. Pick a fun recipe and do some research on what side dishes and drinks pair well with it. Can’t cook? Try ordering in his favorite food and setting up a nice candlelit meal; always pair with music and mood lighting.

Buying CDs can be tricky, it’s hard to know which ones a person might already have. If you don’t want to risk it, try making a fun mix of your own that he can listen to in the car. Remember to follow the mixed CD rules: never put more than two songs from the same artist on a mix, if you do have two, make sure they are at least 6 songs apart.

For the girl who enjoys a quiet night with her companion try a heart-shaped fondue kit. Bring chocolate or cheese and appropriate dipping foods, and you will have a romantic at-home gift that will be sweet to the taste and the heart.

Jewelry is always a do; however, ring size or a scent that smells wrong, improvement, and you don’t want to accidentally get the wrong size. Try a personalized necklace or bracelet. This works especially well for those women who already have everything and seem impossible to buy for.

If your guy has been stressing out over classes and work, sending her to a spa can be the best way to show her that you understand her troubles and want to help her relax. It also lets her know that you feel she deserves to be pampered. Massages are relatively inexpensive and are hard for any woman to pass up. Teddy bears and other traditional stuffed animals are cute, but they don’t show any real emotion. Roses have become extremely cliché as well. Try bright, spring flowers like daisies or lilacs instead. Giving her a live plant can convey the message that your relationship is strong. Not only does it add to the feng shui of any room, it lasts, unlike bouquets that die in a week and get tossed to the curb.

Don’t rule out the classic dinner and movie combo. But make sure it isn’t to the same restaurant you took her to the weekend before; Valentine’s Day needs to be special. To make the night unforgettable; write and recite a poem or song for her. Letting her know how you feel in your own words wins over the best Hallmark has to offer.

Don’t tell me I’m green to the ways of the world -- I already know I am

Jesi Smith
Executive Editor

Being in college is a lot being abandoned on an island with a large group of random people and a few acquaintances. You start out wide-eyed and frantic and try to take everything in. While your head reels with ideas and questions that you can’t seem to convey to anyone else even though everyone around you is going through the same thing. I came back to school after some thought. I took the situation firmly into my own hands and got those involved to calm things down.

I was sucked smooth of a transition as I had imagined it to be. I was sucked into the newsroom and found myself surrounded with all sorts of new concepts and career potentials. I watched writers come and go as I dove head first into a new notch in life. The paper gave me a sense of belonging and the ability to use my voice in a way that I had never considered. Now I’ve taken the position of executive editor of the Banner News, and I’m finding that I’m still a lot greener than I had previously perceived myself to be. Being in charge is not all that it is cracked up to be. On top of that, much like the people on the island that have no survival skills, I was not ready to take over such a position of importance and responsibility. But here I am, so now it’s time to make the most out of the time that has been given to me.

The first issue came out with very few delays or major road blocks and that made my newsroom extremely thrilled. It was great to see that I might make it out of this position alive after all. The review of our first issue came from a former student who has been reviewing our paper for years now. We were not pleased. A few of my writers were bashed quite harshly and a small uproar echoed through the office. This was my first opportunity to act like an editor as opposed to a co-worker or friend. I took the situation firmly and got those involved to calm down and think objectively. It was sort of scary to have to stand up and say to my peers, “You need to chill out.”

I may be green, but when push comes to shove I will be victorious. This balancing act of school, the paper, work and family is overwhelming at times for all, I’m sure. I’ve found that there is no right way to tackle any of it. We all have to find our own way in life. Though the first issue review hurt a few of my writers, I can sit back and say that I’m proud of them despite any and all circumstances. And personally, I think the issue turned out beautifully.

Now I’ve been on the island long enough to know how to create fire out of wet wood, this survival thing isn’t as bad as I thought.
Chocolate dipped strawberries

Eden Hinrichs
Staff Writer

This tried and true recipe can be the perfect way to any man or woman’s stomach. Not only is it convenient for the season, but with the proper initiative, chocolate covered strawberries can be an ideal snack when company is expected. It is also the perfect way to say I love you to that special someone.

Ingredients and equipment:
1 16oz. Bag milk chocolate
1 16oz. Bag semi-sweet or dark chocolate
1 16oz. Bag white or vanilla chocolate
3 small sauce pans
6 tablespoons of shortening
Wax paper
Two small pronged forks
One or two metal sheet pans

Okay, what now?
Place each bag of chocolate in a different pan and set each burner on a low to medium setting. Then add 2 tablespoons of shortening to each pan and stir it carefully into the chocolate. You can adjust the heat to high if you wish to get a quicker melt, however be very careful with the white chocolate because it burns easily which may cause discoloration to the chocolate.

Both darker chocolates will melt rather easily; however, the white chocolate will take a considerable amount of patience to melt properly.

While your chocolate is melting wash your strawberries gently. Make certain to keep the stems attached for aesthetic proposes. However if you are going to fully submerge the strawberry remove the stem.

Tear enough wax paper to cover the metal sheet and prepare for dunking fun.

When the chocolate is melted to a thick sauce, carefully dunk each strawberry, making certain that enough chocolate has covered the strawberry. Then set the strawberry carefully on the wax paper. DO NOT move the strawberries once you have set them on the paper! If you do you risk tearing all the chocolate off the strawberry.

You can dip them separately or mix and match chocolates. For a more decorative approach, drizzle the chocolate of the opposing color over the strawberries in patterns of your choice.

Set the trays of finished strawberries into the refrigerator on a level surface and let set overnight. After the chocolate has set, the strawberries will peel off the wax paper with very little effort.

Auditions have come and gone, choosing a cast for the all female production of “The Odd Couple.”

“We have some good mix of old and new people,” said Kay Mueller.

Stage veteran, Patty Rockwell, will play Olive Madison, whose slovenly ways drives her counterpart, Florence Unger, absolutely batty. Unger is played by another veteran to the stage, Lauren Vidimos. This off-the-wall comedy will premier on April 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m.

“The Odd Couple” started out as a hit Broadway play written by Neil Simon in 1965. After the play gathered extreme popularity, it became a movie in 1968, with screen legends Jack Lemmon (as Felix) and Walter Matthau (as Oscar).

However, as the play moved from the stage to the silver screen, the set changed from primarily being set in the apartment to filming in different places.

The play then progressed into a hit television show in 1970, lasting five seasons and 114 episodes. The success came to an end in 1975.

Seven years later another unsuccessful version of “The Odd Couple” using an all African American cast aired on ABC called “The New Odd Couple,” which lasted only a meager 13 episodes.

“The Odd Couple” is a story of two very different people living in a cramped space with a very humorous outcome.

“It’s hilarious!” said actress Lauren Vidimos. “The cast is so fun!”

The excitement is contagious among the cast as they start this stage classic.
DMACC- The first ever “DMACC Dash for Cash” will be held at half-time of the DMACC men’s basketball game against North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) on Sat., Feb. 9, in the DMACC Boone Campus Gymnasium. Tip-off for the game starts at 4 p.m.

At half-time of the men’s game, four selected individuals will have a chance to grab and keep as many of the 1,000 one-dollar bills that will be scattered across the gym floor as they can within a set time period.

Everyone who attends the DMACC women’s basketball game against NIACC, which starts at 2 p.m., Feb. 9, can compete a free entry slip. Entry slips will be collected throughout the women’s game and until there is 10 minutes left before half-time of the men’s game. At that time, four names will be drawn. Those four will compete in the “DMACC Dash for Cash” event.

DMACC--DMACC second year men’s basketball player Avery Tyler from Omaha has been chosen at the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference men’s division II basketball Athlete of the Week.

Tyler helped the #7 nationally DMACC Bears in their 91-85 overtime win against Iowa Central Community College. Tyler had 29 points, including five three-pointers for the Bears.

This is the second time this season that Tyler has been named the Athlete of the Week.

DMACC- Brittney McKowen of Fairbank has been named the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference Scholar Athlete of the Week.

McKowen, who played at Wapsie Valley High School in Fairbank, hit 3 three-pointers in a 71-62 loss to Iowa Central Community College. In a 76 to 50 win over Marshalltown, McKowen scored 16 points, including four three-pointers.

McKowen continues to excel on the court and in the classroom. She maintains a 4.0 grade point average and hopes to continue her educational and basketball career at a four-year school.

DMACC Spring Golf Schedule
Feb. 25-26 @ Hardscrabble CC, Fort Smith, Ark.
8:30 a.m. Shotgun

April 6-7 @ Ft. Dodge CC
1 p.m. Sun.–8:30 a.m. Mon.

April 10 @ Marshalltown CC

April 14 @ Ft. Dodge CC

April 22 @ Iowa Lakes CC

Women’s Regional
April 25-26 @ Brooks Golf Course, Okoboji

Men’s Regional
May 4-5 @ Ft. Dodge CC

Women’s Nationals
May 12-15 @ LPGA International, Daytona Beach

Men’s Nationals
May 19-22 @ Palm Valley Gold Course, Phoenix.

DMACC- Avery Tyler from Omaha has been chosen at the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference men’s division II basketball Athlete of the Week.

Tyler helped the #7 nationally DMACC Bears in their 91-85 overtime win against Iowa Central Community College. Tyler had 29 points, including five three-pointers for the Bears.

This is the second time this season that Tyler has been named the Athlete of the Week.

DMACC- Brittney McKowen of Fairbank has been named the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference Scholar Athlete of the Week.

McKowen, who played at Wapsie Valley High School in Fairbank, hit 3 three-pointers in a 71-62 loss to Iowa Central Community College. In a 76 to 50 win over Marshalltown, McKowen scored 16 points, including four three-pointers.

McKowen continues to excel on the court and in the classroom. She maintains a 4.0 grade point average and hopes to continue her educational and basketball career at a four-year school.

DMACC Spring Golf Schedule
Feb. 25-26 @ Hardscrabble CC, Fort Smith, Ark.
8:30 a.m. Shotgun

April 6-7 @ Ft. Dodge CC
1 p.m. Sun.–8:30 a.m. Mon.

April 10 @ Marshalltown CC

April 14 @ Ft. Dodge CC

April 22 @ Iowa Lakes CC

Women’s Regional
April 25-26 @ Brooks Golf Course, Okoboji

Men’s Regional
May 4-5 @ Ft. Dodge CC

Women’s Nationals
May 12-15 @ LPGA International, Daytona Beach

Men’s Nationals
May 19-22 @ Palm Valley Gold Course, Phoenix.

DMACC- Avery Tyler from Omaha has been chosen at the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference men’s division II basketball Athlete of the Week.

Tyler helped the #7 nationally DMACC Bears in their 91-85 overtime win against Iowa Central Community College. Tyler had 29 points, including five three-pointers for the Bears.

This is the second time this season that Tyler has been named the Athlete of the Week.

DMACC- Brittney McKowen of Fairbank has been named the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference Scholar Athlete of the Week.

McKowen, who played at Wapsie Valley High School in Fairbank, hit 3 three-pointers in a 71-62 loss to Iowa Central Community College. In a 76 to 50 win over Marshalltown, McKowen scored 16 points, including four three-pointers.

McKowen continues to excel on the court and in the classroom. She maintains a 4.0 grade point average and hopes to continue her educational and basketball career at a four-year school.

DMACC Spring Golf Schedule
Feb. 25-26 @ Hardscrabble CC, Fort Smith, Ark.
8:30 a.m. Shotgun

April 6-7 @ Ft. Dodge CC
1 p.m. Sun.–8:30 a.m. Mon.

April 10 @ Marshalltown CC

April 14 @ Ft. Dodge CC

April 22 @ Iowa Lakes CC

Women’s Regional
April 25-26 @ Brooks Golf Course, Okoboji

Men’s Regional
May 4-5 @ Ft. Dodge CC

Women’s Nationals
May 12-15 @ LPGA International, Daytona Beach

Men’s Nationals
May 19-22 @ Palm Valley Gold Course, Phoenix.

DMACC- Avery Tyler from Omaha has been chosen at the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference men’s division II basketball Athlete of the Week.

Tyler helped the #7 nationally DMACC Bears in their 91-85 overtime win against Iowa Central Community College. Tyler had 29 points, including five three-pointers for the Bears.

This is the second time this season that Tyler has been named the Athlete of the Week.

DMACC- Brittney McKowen of Fairbank has been named the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference Scholar Athlete of the Week.

McKowen, who played at Wapsie Valley High School in Fairbank, hit 3 three-pointers in a 71-62 loss to Iowa Central Community College. In a 76 to 50 win over Marshalltown, McKowen scored 16 points, including four three-pointers.

McKowen continues to excel on the court and in the classroom. She maintains a 4.0 grade point average and hopes to continue her educational and basketball career at a four-year school.
Compromises can lead to positive change

EDEN HINRICH
Staff writer

Valentine’s Day is famous for flowers, chocolates and wines. For the inexperienced wine drinker, picking out a bottle for that special someone can be overwhelming. Here are a few tips for picking out wine for Valentine’s Day and which foods go best with the selected wines.


This certified Chianti wine isn’t a typical “stuffed shirt” Chianti. This thick and satisfying wine has very strong blackberry and raspberry flavor that is really brought out when paired with chocolate. The first taste has a rich zest to it that seems stronger then its sister wine; Tuscan red.

The second sip has a berry taste leaving an almond aftertaste lingering. It is very dry but is saucy at the same time and has great possibility to stand out amongst the sea of wines.


This interesting blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot create a surprisingly rich and unique blend of floral and fruit satisfaction. Much like the Chianti, this wine pairs well with pasta or can be enjoyed alone. Not for a light weight wine drinker, this velvety red mix is defiantly something you do not want to pass up.

Ware’s Warrior special reserve Porto: Origin: Portugal Cost: 750ml $23.99 or $14.49 375ml Region: Quinta da Cavadinha. Pair well with: Blu cheese, but beware! If you do not like Blu cheese to begin with, this pairing may leave you with a sour taste in your mouth. “It’s like putting hot fudge on top of ice cream,” wine club regular Susan Burke said about the mixture.

This well bodied sipping wine is the perfect accent to this bitterly cold weather. Despite the rocky temperatures toward the end of season, the angues for this port turned out wonderfully. With its tart warmth and sweet taste it will leave the most cultured pallet craving a second trip to the glass. If you enjoy dry wines, this wine may not be for you. But if you are looking to kick back and relax with a sweet glass of wine and a book during this temperamental winter, then this one is for you.


This wine is not like a typical chardonnay. The first taste is very smooth and dry with hints of pear and lemon, which is followed by an aftertaste of toasted vanilla with a hint of almond. The aftertaste promotes a desire to continue coming back to the glass. It is worth a try for any first timer to chardonnay because of its smooth and uncompromising taste.

How can we solve the difficult issues and unite diverse opinions and ideas? We can look to our past and see that change follows compromise. Looking back to our founding fathers and their monumental task of writing our Constitution, we can see that they were also a group of diverse individuals with opposing political ideas. Yet, they worked tirelessly to have our Constitution recognize the importance of equal representation and the right to life and liberty for each citizen. Historically, our Constitution has been referred to a “bundle of compromises,” yet it doesn’t feel like a compromise to the average citizen. Through the process and spirit of compromise, our founding fathers achieved greatness with our constitution.

Our current political leaders could learn a lot from their predecessors. The concept of compromise is made possible when we separate our personal beliefs from our obligation to represent every American in our pursuit to resolve a debate, and by separating our personal interests from the interests of the common good.

A big example of the difficulty and compromise is made possible with this task is the current debate regarding same sex marriage. Some people want to write a statement into our Constitution that defines marriage based on the Judeo-Christian belief that states marriage is between a man and a woman. But how would that statement relate to the non-Judeo-Christian population in our society? It would exclude any other definition of marriage. More specifically, it would exclude a portion of our population that doesn’t have as narrow of a view of marriage as the Judeo-Christian community. Which definition is correct or morally right? It is a passionate debate, but not a method to resolve this problem. Based on precedent, our Constitution is not exclusionary, but equates the same liberties to all Americans.

Through the process and spirit of compromise we recognize our differences but institute policies and laws to reflect the equal rights of all citizens to pursue marriage based on their own definition. My personal opinion is that we need to separate church and state and let the state regulate the legal and tax status of couples, and let individual churches regulate which relationships they choose to recognize and bless.

On a more global issue, finding alternative fuel needs to be mandated by our government. Most political figures recognize the need for alternative fuel, but no legislation has come forth requiring auto makers to stop making petroleum fueled cars by a specific date. I remember when we used to run our car on regular gas, and how frightening it was to be forced to switch to unleaded gasoline. We had never tried it so we didn’t know how the new gas would affect our old car. But, because the government required automakers to make all automobiles and fuels unleaded, we went along with the change. We didn’t have a choice, and no problems resulted. The current political leaders have sought to protect the interests of the auto makers and the oil companies instead of accepting the challenge of implementing and enforcing needed environmental changes that not only affect the common good, but the global community.

I am not saying that affecting change becomes easier through the idea of compromise, but through compromise, change does become possible. When people get together and identify a need for change, and demonstrate the spirit of compromise, creativity has the opportunity to flow. America has always been a leader in innovation and the expression of creativity. Now, more than ever, our country needs its political and community leaders to accept the challenge of affecting positive change on many issues. They need to look back on our rich history for inspiration because we have been successful in the past. They need courage to move beyond these disagreements into the innovative environment of compromise. Our country needs self sacrificing, resourceful thinkers that can solve the problems and end the arguments that plague our country. The time for change is now.

CHRIS ILE
Political Columnist

Over the past 10 years I have seen our nation become polarized and paralyzed in resolving any of the tough issues that plague our country.

Issues such as accessibility and affordability of healthcare, global warming and alternative fuel, campaign finance reform, international trade and job losses, immigration issues, and the recently declining economy have been torn to every extremity possible. The polarizing opinions in our political arena have paralyzed the government from initiating any real change of law or policy to affect real change for these issues.

The Banner News is a student newspaper published bi-weekly at: Des Moines Area Community College 1125 Hancock Dr. Boone, Iowa 50036 Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 250 words and may be submitted to bannernews@dmacc.edu.
Toonsies
by Eden Hinrichs

candy
carnations
cocnut
crunches
cuddles
cupids
flowers
fuzzy

gifts
Godiva
happiness
hearts
honeymoon
lace
laughter

love
luna

memories
music

nuts
photos
red

Romance
strawberry
stuff
teddy bear

That’s just how we roll!

He lives blue and so can you. Get a top-notch education for only $110 per credit hour for on-campus undergraduate courses and $157 per credit hour for online undergraduate courses. That’s just how we roll.

Nebraska’s First and Fastest Growing College • Established in 1867 • Peru, Nebraska • Member Institution of the Nebraska State College System