4-29-2009

Banner News

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This book is available at Open SPACE @ DMACC: https://openspace.dmacc.edu/banner_news/183
Shane Meier  
**Staff Writer**  

The semester is drawing to a close and for some students graduation is quickly approaching. At the beginning of the semester graduating students were given the choice of attending a graduation ceremony that will take place on May 8, at 10 a.m. with a reception afterwards. “Approximately 140 students will be going through the ceremony, the total number graduating about twice that,” said Assistant Provost Brian Green. “There are three graduations... in Boone, Carroll, and Ankeny. Newton, Urban, and West Des Moines combine with Ankeny.” The Ankeny campus funds pay for the graduation ceremonies. A number of students will be given special honors for participating in certain clubs like PBL and Phi Theta Kappa “We don’t have a valedictorian,” said Green. The students who are being honored will wear different colored cords, signifying which group they were a part of. There will be two speakers this year. “Greg Martin is one guest speaker,” said Green, “a former DMACC Boone Campus student [who] graduated in 1976. The student speaker this year is Jacob McLaughlin from Perry and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. McLaughlin was chosen, based on the reason that he personifies DMACC culture. Graduation will proceed with opening speeches by DMACC dignitaries, Honorary diplomas will be handed out to the two DMACC students who were killed last semester. Graduating students will then be ushered in and given their diplomas. The choir will perform during this time. After the graduation ceremony there will be a reception with food and refreshments. During this time the nursing students will receive their pins and be honored.

Commencement May 8

Shane Meier  
**Staff Writer**

Two of DMACC’s talented musical groups will be performing for students, friends and family on May 1 and 2.

Beginning on Friday, May 1 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium, DMACC students who have been taking piano and guitar lessons for credit will perform a Tribute to the Beatles. Their play list will include classic Beatles’ songs such as “Twist and Shout,” “Yellow Submarine,” “Michelle,” “A Little Help From My Friends” and “Yesterday.”

“The show is designed for families,” said instructor Marilee Crawley-Mertins. The stage will be set with nine guitar players, five pianos and also students who will be singing.

Jeremy Davenport, 34, of Boone, who has been a self-taught guitar player since the age of 16, and Sean O’Neal, 20, of Boone, who plays piano and guitar, will be two of the musicians who will be performing on Friday.

Following the Friday concert, the Boone Campus choir will begin their show at 3 p.m. on May 2, also in the auditorium. The choir consists of nine members – three men and six women – who have been rehearsing three days a week throughout the semester in preparation for their performance.

“We are doing more challenging music,” said Kara Sickau, 19, of Boone.

Brittany Banks, 19 of Ames and Michelle Leininger, 21 of Ames, both sopranos in the choir, accompanied Sickau, an alto/tenor in the choir, during one of their recent rehearsals.

Songs from “Wicked,” “Bohemian Rhapsody” and “The Lord of the Rings” will be some of the music featured at the concert.

“The choir is one of the best sounding groups on campus, and they have been able to learn more music this semester,” said Steve Hoifeldt, choral director.

Both concerts are free and feature students who have been taking music courses for credits as well as extracurricular activities.

Steve Hoifeldt, choral director on the Boone Campus, sits at the piano as the choir rehearses for Saturday’s concert.

Sounds of music  
Students prepare for spring concerts  

Hannah Quinn  
**Staff Writer**

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Commencement May 8

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Photo by Craig Vandeventer

May 8  
Graduation 10 a.m

May 27  
Summer Term Begins May 27 - August 6

June 2  
Last day to add class for summer term

August 26  
Fall Term Begins August 26 - Dec. 15
### Final Exam Schedule for Spring 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Time Range Exam Time</th>
<th>May 4</th>
<th>May 1</th>
<th>April 29</th>
<th>May 5</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>2:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>1:15 p.m.</td>
<td>2:25 p.m.</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>5:25 p.m.</td>
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**Evening/Saturday Final Exam Schedule**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:35 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.</td>
<td>11:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>6:40 a.m. - 8:55 a.m.</td>
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<td>2:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>6:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.</td>
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<td>1:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.</td>
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### Writers to read original work

Boone Campus professor Sam Pritchard invites students, faculty and staff to be audience for creative writing students, who will be reading original work this week on Wednesday or Friday 10:10 – 11:15 a.m. in the Boone Campus Library.

### Registration Plus

**DMACC** – Students registering for Fall 2009 classes and finalize their tuition payment plans before July 10, can defer their final tuition payment due date until Sept. 4, 2009.

To accomplish this, students need to complete the following steps:

1. Register for classes.
2. Select and complete one of the following payment options:
   a. Pay bill in-full through one of the following methods: online, in-person, by mail or by phone;
   b. Establish an active FACTS payment plan; online
   c. Provide DMACC Student Accounts with documentation that tuition will be paid for by a third party; or
   d. Submit a completed FAFSA and turn in all required documents to DMACC; or
   e. Pay a $200 nonrefundable deposit that will be applied to the tuition balance.

**Anticipated benefits**

Students register early for optimal course selection and pay later.

Establish firm payment method prior to start of term.

Avoid stress of last minute rush and limited class choice.

Go to www.dmacc.edu/registrationplus for more information.

### Healthcare Center in Ankeny available to all students

**DMACC** – The Des Moines Area Community College Campus Health Center is located on the Ankeny Campus but is for students at any of the DMACC campus locations.

The Campus Health Office is located in the new Health Science Building 24 in RM 103. The clinic is staffed with a full time RN, Sandra Foster.

Foster’s office hours are M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. during fall and spring semesters and 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. during summer semester. These hours are only when the students are on campus.

The clinic offers a variety of services for our students. DMACC has a Nurse Practitioner on campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., who will see currently enrolled DMACC students for free regarding their health concerns or needs.

Campus Health also offers immunizations (Hepatitis B, Tetanus/Diphtheria, and TB testing), assessment of minor illness-injuries/emergency first aid, physicals (appointments mandatory), basic lab testing and health care referrals to local health care providers.

Appointments are encouraged for all services and are mandatory for physicals.

Students are invited to call campus health at 515-964-6352 with any concerns or questions.

If students are on campus for any reason they may stop into campus health for any of their health needs or concerns and, hopefully, the services offered would be worth their trip to the Ankeny Campus.
Boone senior signs letter of intent

Carli Bunning, a 6’0” forward from Boone High School, has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball for Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC). Bunning was the leading scorer and leading rebounder for the Boone Toreadors this past season. She averaged 12.5 points and 10.6 rebounds per game. Bunning was a four-year varsity letter athlete. She was a unanimous First Team All Conference selection and named to the All-District team both her junior and senior seasons. She has also been named to the honor roll every semester at Boone High School.

I-K-M girl signs letter of intent to play basketball at DMACC

Caitlin Axland, a 5’9” guard from I-K-M Manning High School, has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball for Des Moines Area Community College.

Axland averaged 10.2 points per game and was a key player in helping the I-K-M Manning Wolves advance to the Class 2A State Basketball Championship and a 26-2 record.

Axland was selected to the All Area Second Team and was named to the All West Valley Conference Honorable Mention Team. She was also voted the offensive player of the year by her teammates.

Congratulations to Madi Fischels and Sam Pingel for qualifying as individuals for the National Golf Tournament in Daytona Beach, Florida on May 18-21.

PCM senior to play ball in fall

Katlyn Wood, a 6’0” forward from Prairie City Monroe (PCM) High School, has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball for Des Moines Area Community College.

Wood averaged 13.8 points and a team high seven rebounds per game while leading the Mustangs to a sub-state appearance and a 21-3 record.

Wood was a unanimous two time All Conference selection and was twice named to the All-District and All-Regions teams. In addition, she was an Iowa Girls Coaches Association Third Team selection as a junior and a Second Team selection as a senior. She was also selected to the 2009 Gatorade All-Star Game.

She also excels in the classroom. Wood has been on the honor roll every semester of high school and has been a member of the National Honor Society for three years.

Prairie City Monroe High School senior Katlyn Wood. Taking part in the signing ceremony was Katlyn’s dad, Dan Wood.

Tyler Robbins is having another solid season for the Bears as he is hitting .368 for the season and has 14 doubles, 3 homeruns and 25 RBI’s. Robbins, a 2008 NJCAA 1st Team All-American and ICCAC Player of the Year has signed a national letter of intent to continue his baseball career at Dallas Baptist University in Dallas, TX with former DMACC Baseball Coach Travis Wykoff.

Mitch Mormann is one of three pitchers with seven wins for the Bears for the 2009 season. Mormann was selected in 17th round of the 2009 Major League Baseball Draft but decided to return to DMACC for his sophomore season. Mormann was a 2009 NJCAA Preseason Third Team All-American and has signed a national letter of intent to continue his baseball career at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA.

Windom named to All-American team

DMACC—Scott Windom, of Cartersville, Georgia has been named a National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II Third Team All-American. Windom is a freshman on the men’s basketball team at DMACC.

Earlier in the year, Windom was named to the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference Division II Men’s All-Region First Team. He was also named ICCAC player of the week twice this season.

“Scott is a good player who only got better as the season progressed,” said DMACC Head Men’s Basketball Coach Orv Salmon.

Windom, a 6’5” forward, led the Bears in scoring averaging 15.1 points per game.

Lincoln High senior signs

Laurie Tremain, a 6’2” center from Des Moines Lincoln High School, has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball for Des Moines Area Community College.

“Laurie brings energy and enthusiasm in a 6’2” frame to DMACC,” said DMACC Head Women’s Basketball Coach Steve Krafcisin. “Laurie is a tall, determined young woman who loves the game of basketball. She had good skills and a very good work ethic that will help her develop into a very good college player within the next two years.”
Students make memorable trip to Paris

Chloe Coulter & Sacha Chandavong

Parisian barbeque throughout the trip. We also skewered them out of. Satisfied with sized how delicious it was. These were hesitant but we soon realizing the local cuisine. At first, we leave France without experiencing our priorities was to try the Escargot to come inside for a meal. One of each of their restaurants invited us.

The next few days were a cluster of museums, cathedrals, sights and sounds. The night before was behind us and we wished for more, and by walking inside; we were immediately appalled by the size of this structure and the crowd of people that swarmed into one area. Out of all the sights we experienced, the main attraction that intrigued us most was the Eiffel Tower. Being confident and bold, we climbed the stairs with the rest of the group to the first level. Others were feeling risky and decided to go for the second level. The panoramic view was exhilarating and overwhelming since we were so high above ground. At night, the tower beamed with golden light that lit the sky. Never did we think that we’d be able to visit the Eiffel Tower. We were standing on one of the most recognized structures in the world.

Though the first night caught us off guard, we still had fun. Negative or positive, still memories. Most of which we are sure will be told years from now. It was never easy for us to adjust outside of our comfort zones... but we will always remember Paris.

By Kate Glassman

London Correspondent

And Wales...Rugby at the local pub

If the king of American sports is football, then rugby rules the European continent. America loves sports - from baseball to hockey, NASCAR to football – loves sports, but also cultural. Excited to meet the rest of the group.

Scotsman games, and the Centenary Quaich is the prize for the Scotland versus Ireland winner. There is also the Giuseppe Garibaldi trophy for France and Italy, and the Millennium Trophy for England versus Ireland. With all these trophies in contention, there’s no shortage of competitive attitude (or obsessive fans) when the championship resumes every spring. This year was no different, and I was fortunate enough to be in Ireland when the championship came to its epic climax.

Hours before Ireland kicked off against Wales, the pubs were already filled to the brim and mostly with the green and orange of Ireland, despite some of the pubs insisting they were “Wales-friendly” establishments. I can’t imagine what it would have been like had Dublin been hosting the match instead of Cardiff because it seems almost impossible for the fans’ enthusiasm to be any higher.

Though we’d only intended to stop for a bit of late lunch, my family and I actually became trapped inside a local pub due to the sheer mass of people who’d crammed in to watch a match that wasn’t due to start for another three hours. Kids hardly out of primary school were discussing strategy, two girls were arguing over which team had the most aesthetically pleasing kicker, and an old man had commandeered the end of the bar to recount to a group of avid listeners the championship match he’d gone to sixty years ago.

When the match actually began, all decent conversation stopped and the screaming and swearing began. The kitchen staff stopped serving food, the TVs were set to an intolerable volume, and the bartender finally just started leaving pitchers of Guinness on the counter, so he could watch and scream obscenities along with the rest of the pub.

For eighty minutes we were swept up in a rush of adrenaline and increasingly--inappropriately language. Without even know- ing the rules of the game, we were screaming our lungs out as if we’d been supporting Ireland all our life and rugby was the only sport we’d ever known.

I toasted a well-made kick with an elderly man in a tweed jacket only to swear a blue streak along with a group of avid listeners the championship match he’d gone to sixty years ago. Better than being in Pitts- burgh when the Steelers win the Super Bowl, is being in an Irish pub when Ireland wins the Six Na- tions Cup. The streets of Dublin were flooded with fans sporting Irish green and manically wav- ing flags and the half-filled pints they’d run out of pubs with. It was the first time Ireland had won the Grand Slam since 1948, and the fans weren’t going to waste just one second of it.

Super Bowl celebrations can’t hold a candle to the shear pandemonium that broke out when Wales missed their final kick. By the time I made it back to the hotel at a quarter to ten, the trains were still packed with green-becked commuters re- hashing the game in boisterous tones, and celebrations were go- ing full strength with no signs of ending. It was a well-deserved win after so long a losing streak, and now Ireland has a whole year to bask in their Grand Slam glory before their title is once more up for grabs in the next thrilling and action-packed Six Nations.

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Swine flu infects Mexico, U.S.

Hannah Quinn  
Staff Writer

Cases of swine influenza A virus have reportedly infected a number of humans in the U.S. As of April 26, there have been 20 laboratory-confirmed cases and counting, according to the Centers of Disease Control (CDC).

Eight of these cases came from a school in New York, where more than 100 students were out with flu-like symptoms last week, according to the CDC.

The federal government has declared a public health emergency as a "precautionary tool" and to ensure the resources needed would be available quickly and effectively.

The virus has also been identified internationally in Mexico, where as many as 103 deaths have been related to the virus, and Europe, where the health commissioner advised people to avoid traveling to the US and Mexico.

The swine flu is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza virus, and is having a major impact on the swine industry on the US. When it is spread from pig to human and then from human to human, the virus is able to mutate, making it harder to treat and control, according to the CDC.

Further testing has found the swine influenza A virus is susceptible to prescription antiviral drugs, which can and will be used as treatment and prevention in settings where the virus has been detected.

COMMENTARY

Editor: This is goodbye

Craig VandeVenter  
Executive Editor

This will be the last issue of the Banner that I will be serving you on. It is my last semester here in Boone, as I will be transferring to the Ankeny campus in the fall in hopes of a successful writing career for The Chronicle. It has been my pleasure to serve you as the Editor-In-Chief of the Banner Newspaper this past semester.

When I first walked in the newsroom door in the fall, I never would have dreamed that after only serving one semester as a staff writer I would end up filling the role of Editor. I wish great things and many thanks to the rest of my staff here at the Banner. Thank you for all that we have worked so hard to achieve together, I couldn’t have done it without you. Last semesters staff, I would not be where I am today without your help and advice. Thanks so much, it means so much to me.

Jan, thank you for all that you have helped me to accomplish and overcome this year. Your guidance and support will never be forgotten. I look up to you very much and I hope only good things come your way in the future. As for the rest of you, my fellow students and readers, I wish you the best of luck.

We all are human, and part of being human is making mistakes. That just means we’re healthy. No one is this world can say that they are perfect, its just not possible or logical to say so. I can admit that I have had my own share of mistakes while serving you this year at the Banner. However, I have tried my very best to learn from those mistakes, and to be proud of my work. As should the rest of you, be proud of who you are.

One of my most favorite quotes is from the Social and Political Activist, Abbie Hoffman. “Avoid all needle drugs, the only dope worth shooting is Richard Nixon,” Hoffman said. I like this quote because it is so much more then just saying “don’t do drugs,” It is encouragement to stay true to yourself and not to rely on outside influences that may distort your judgment. Go through life being your own person, do what you feel is right for yourself, and more importantly believe that all things are possible.

I bid you adieu, and remember to always follow your heart.

Craig VandeVenter—Banner News Editor-in-Chief

Tips for moving out

Do you know your options?

Greg Laraia  
Staff Writer

The end of the semester is just around the corner and that brings up the topic of where to live while not attending school.

Do students move back home? Sign a sub-lease? Commit to a 12-month contract?

For students living in the Borgen Square apartments for a second year, mini storage is an idea to keep in mind for the summer. Mini storage is a convenient way to store furniture and belongings that do not need to be hauled all the way home for three months.

Eastside Mini Storage L.L.C., located in Boone, is a local mini storage business that offers affordable storage. It is located at 2121 Mamie Eisenhower Ave. Its phone number is (515) 432-3854. Prices range from $30-$85 per month, depending on the size of storage facility that is needed.

When moving out, apartements must be cleaned also so you can get your security deposit back. Cleaning is a pain, but can become easier if you get everyone to help and do their part.

Vacuums can be borrowed from the housing office for free student use. All you have to do is give them your ID as collateral. You’ll get your ID back when you bring the vacuum back.

Packing up a room full of personal belongings and clothes can be very hectic. That is why you should plan ahead when packing. Give yourself about two to three weeks before your move out date to pack. This way you make sure you have everything that is yours.

Pack like-items together; once you get home, unpacking is that much easier and faster. Safe-guard fragile or meaningful items, so they do not get broken in transit.

Stores like Hy-Vee, Fareway and Wal-Mart usually throw away empty cardboard boxes. These are perfect to use for packaging because they are large, free and plentiful.

Moving out does not need to be as hard as it may seem. If you plan ahead and obtain the correct supplies and information, moving out can be a breeze.
Congratulations 2009 DMACC Boone Campus graduates

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Shakena Varnell

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION—AS
Michael Odkrak

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Lindsey Marie Vozl
Michelle Frances Wagner
Bailey Thomas Wallace
Kathie Beth Walquist +
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Erica Anne Gross
Sara Lynn Gross
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Kyle Kae Maher +
Sara Meschelle Majak +
Jennifer M. Matters
Seth William Meyers +
Alice Lee Murphy +
Mallory Kay Neely +
Brooke Nichole Nelson
Elizabeth A. Nelson
Kelly Kay Nelson
Rachel Alice Olson
Sara Elizabeth Weber

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Adam Lee Bolinger
Piper L. Karts +
Michelle C. Miller +
Steven Lynn Smitherman
Brian Lee VanBrogen
Philip Ryan Wood

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Kari Elizabeth Necker
Amy L. Nelson +
Mary Lynn Papin +
Ashley Diane Pratt +
Laura Beth Rich
Bethany Ann Roush
Carrie Ann Samson
Morgan Marie Sierfelt
Debra Swamp-Summe +
Maggie Ann Stevens
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Lora Lynn VanDePol +
Stephanie Louise Webb
Courtney Marie Weed
Tracy Ann Zaleski +
As a gamer or a parent you hear about it all the time. Children and young adults who have committed acts of random violence at school and becoming evermore socially withdrawn.

As a parent you probably feel like you don’t know who or what to believe. The Media, elements of the government, certain interest groups would have you believe that they are the devil incarnate. Forgive my blunt speech, but this goes on to this day.

The story is the same logical human being could tell you. Bare in mind I do not completely disagree with these groups and I do agree that video games can be bad for teen and young adults. Though these issues do exist they’re not as bad as they seem with a few notable exceptions. Let me explain why I believe this.

The first thing these interest groups attack is the violence found in video games. Again I do not disagree here. Video games can cause children to develop more aggressive behavior. I seriously doubt that there is any real connection between that and the violent acts committed by teens and young adults. Groups who make this case typically use case studies and statistics to support their claims.

While these studies show that there is a correlation between these two factors the evidence is largely inconclusive. The reason for this is that the studies are usually biased and conducted poorly. The scientific studies they have conducted tend to use the most violent games available, games that were not meant for children in the first place nor are the violence in them typical for the average age group.

In addition, these groups often perform them and they tend to conduct these studies using shoddy experiment methods. As for the correlation it is important to note that a correlation only means that the two events occurred at the same time it does not mean that the two events occur as a result of one another. The real reason I believe this to be true is because of my own personal experiences and observations from my fellow gamers and I have seen while playing video games. I noticed that playing them actually reduces stress and aggression levels in teens and young adults and is one of the main reasons they play them in the first place.

As a side argument to their objections about video games, parents will often point out that video games are not accurately labeled for content. This is untrue because the video game industry has a regulatory body that marks games for their rating, the ESRB. The ESRB or Entertainment Software Rating Board’s, system is actually better than its government run counterparts. Which are the norm for other medias. It is better because in addition to having a letter rating like movie rating do, it also has a box where they give a brief description on what the content of the game really is. In addition to this they also display the rating of the game big and bold on the front and back of the cover. Though I will admit that the rating system set by the ESRB isn’t perfect but it is still better then the other government system. The major problem with the system is that it can only rate games. It can’t keep them from getting into the hands of children. Major game retailers try to stop this by not selling mature rated games to minors.

The problem occurs when parents disregard these ratings and buy the mature games for their kids. Parents can prevent this by heeding the rating on the cover of the game.

Another concern parents often express is that by playing video games their children become socially isolated. Again I would agree with them that under the right conditions and with the right child this is indeed possible, but the instances of this are only with certain groups of children.

From my own experience I can tell you that when they do isolate themselves in this manner, there is usually a reason behind it. The most important thing to remember is that children and people in general for that matter play video games for a variety of reasons. Children in particular often play violent video games because they are stressed out and need to blow off steam so naturally they seclude themselves in their rooms and play them.

Despite media bias and the accusations made by certain interest groups video games often have the exact opposite effect in that they often help kids become more social. This happens because kids often play them in groups they will play multi-player games either on or off line where they have to work together in order to complete an objective. I know from experience that kids socialize even when they are playing a single player game. I remember doing so with my brother. Where either he or I would play the game and the other would sit there and offer support.

Nevertheless kids can become socially isolated under the right conditions. The best way for parents to avoid this is to monitor their kid’s behavior. Keep a look out for acting out in school, and bad attitudes at home. Though these episodes sound like deviant behavior they are often cries for help. The best advice I can give you for this situation is to just be there for them.

Overall, video games have their own problems. At this time I wish to remind you that I’m not completely against your accusations. I grew up playing video games and I am fully aware of any problems having faced them myself in the past. I like many others, I have times gone mad and frustration as a result of certain things occurring in the game. This anger and frustration has always been defused by yelling at the television and throwing the controller across the room in most cases.

As a result of these incidents I agree with you that these are problems that need addressing at some level or another. Nevertheless I feel that many interest groups do get a bit carried away of their judgment of video games.

I hope that my argument will make a few of you see the other side of the argument and it allows you to make a more informed decision on this issue.

**CORRECTION**

The photo on Page 1 (Banner News, April 15) incorrectly identified the three women in the PBL photo.

They are left to right Linda Plueger, PBL advisor, Jill Siders, and Mikki Winebrenner.

Banner News regrets the error.

**Marriage O.K. for all people**

Craig VandeVenter  
Executive Editor

Discrimination is wrong. Be it racial discrimination, religious discrimination or the discrimination of one’s sexual preference. All citizens of the United States of America should all be created equally, as well as share the same rights regardless of any of their beliefs that they hold.

The injustice that people in this society have been doing to their gay and lesbian brothers and sisters is downright immoral and unconstitutional.

The sacrament of marriage is one of those rights protected by the constitution, even if it is shared between two men or two women.

To only allow civil unions between same-sex couples is the exact same treatment that African-Americans received from society with being segregated during the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s. We all know how that worked out, every person who was in favor of separate but equal realized that they were wrong and ended up with egg all over their face.

I would think that Americans would learn from the terrible decisions that were made in the past and relate them to our everyday lives today. Some say they are uncomfortable with the thought of gays and lesbians marrying. Our rights as Americans protect each and every one of us. We are not granted our rights by what people in society think about our decisions but by the rights that are guaranteed to us by the Constitution.

It is important for Americans to realize what they have been doing wrong in the past and to accept people for who they are based on their character rather than their sexual preference in life. People are people and should continue to be treated that way. Not as something lower in the food chain as we did in the past with minorities in this country.

The saying Let freedom ring from sea to shining sea should stick out in our minds, because that is what this country was built upon. The freedom of all human beings no matter their skin color or sexual preference is indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
Tax project
Prepares over 100 returns

Greg Laraia
Staff Writer

Tax season is similar to semester finals—feared by all. Accounting instructor Tim Prindle advised a tax return project this past tax season.

Filing taxes isn’t the easiest thing to do. It can be quite costly sometimes also. Prindle and a handful of students helped prepare tax returns for low-income families and elderly couples.

These tax returns were prepared for free by Prindle and five students with help from the Internal Revenue Service.

To be able to prepare tax returns these five students had to pass an exam given by the IRS.

“The biggest benefit of this project is that the students had the rare opportunity to apply accounting concepts in the real world and it gained DMACC positive public exposure,” said Prindle.

Five additional students acted as greeters and intake staff.

Prindle participated in a similar tax return project and had a dream to do a similar project in the future when he was an instructor. “Tom Lee [Boone Campus Provost] has been very supportive,” said Prindle on the success of this project.

Filing taxes is not a quick thing to do. The project began in October and ended around the time taxes were due.

Around January, Prindle sent out about 30 promotional letters to surrounding churches, schools, daycares and communities to spread the word about his project.

“The promotion helped immensely,” said Prindle when asked how effective the letters were.

“We also promoted the project on a few local radio stations.”

There were 133 total tax returns these five students had to prepare tax returns for low-income families and elderly couples.

“Had an accountant.”

Mary Lynn Papin
“Did them with my husband electronically.”

Kari Necker
“I didn’t file for taxes this year.”

Dong Li
“Have stuff set up at work in Ames; they take care of it for me.”

Eric Dorr

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