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Banner News

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This book is available at Open SPACE @ DMACC: https://openspace.dmacc.edu/banner_news/177
Andrew Bridge, author of “Hope’s Boy” shares the good and bad stories of his past. Bridge lived in Los Angeles foster care at the McClaren Institute. He now refers to it as “a violent dumping ground” where he, along with hundreds of others, shared and called their home. The book’s cover picture was taken at the age of seven, after he had been taken from his mother who was mentally ill. He now refers to it as “a violent dumping ground” where he, along with hundreds of others, shared and called their home.

Bridge lived in Los Angeles foster care at the McClaren Institute. He now refers to it as “a violent dumping ground” where he, along with hundreds of others, shared and called their home. The book’s cover picture was taken at the age of seven, after he had been taken from his mother who was mentally ill.

Bridge is not married but has a really resilient little boy with an extraordinary level of strength. "I’m realistic about what this career holds but I can’t picture no response, “No one wanted anything to do with me,” she said. However, Custer wasn’t going to allow her musical aspirations to be dashed before they really got started. She decided to attend an APCA and NACA conference representing herself. The APCA, American College Personal Association, and the NACA, National Association of Campus Activities, are organizations that represent entertainers to colleges across the nation.

After attending the conference, Custer was able to book some shows and received a few calls from interested agencies, but as of now, she remains unsigned. Now Custer travels, playing exclusively at college campuses. In the 2008-09 school year she racked up over 100 shows and this year has attended the APCA Female Performer of the Year, voted on by the students she has performed for.

Custer rocks the campus: Students want more

By Tanner Sandrock
News Editor

The Courter Center was alive with musical guest, Valerie Custer performed Thursday, Nov. 19. The Ohio native was brought in by Steve Krafcisin and the SAC to entertain students during the turkey feed.

Overall, the performance was well received by students. Samantha Kirby, second-year student said, “She is good. It’s kind of fun to hear her own twist on songs.” Songs performed by Custer included, “Wonderwall,” (Oasis), “Hurt,” (Johnny Cash, Nine Inch Nails), “I’m Sorry Miss Jackson,” (Outcast) along with a few of Custer’s originals.

Some students liked the idea of live music enough to suggest it happen more often. Melissa Martin, first-year student said, “I think it should happen every Friday; I enjoy it.”

Hailing from Akron, Ohio, Custer said she started playing and performing at the age of 14. After high school she attended college for a year while performing local shows on the side. She realized soon that her musical career and a college life could not coincide and made the choice to leave the academic race and pursue her dreams in music.

“I’m realistic about what this career holds but I can’t picture no response, “No one wanted anything to do with me,” she said. However, Custer wasn’t going to allow her musical aspirations to be dashed before they really got started. She decided to attend an APCA and NACA conference representing herself. The APCA, American College Personal Association, and the NACA, National Association of Campus Activities, are organizations that represent entertainers to colleges across the nation.

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Students get ahead on college degree

By Candace Dailer
Copy Editor

In the past, the most common timeline for an individual pursuing education would be elementary, middle school or junior high, high school, and then college. Recent years have brought changes to speed up this timeline by allowing high school students to work on their college degrees before they even throw their graduation cap.

“I have 35.3 credits, at the end of my sophomore year. 40 are required for me to graduate,” said high school and DMACC student Patrick Christianison. “I hope to start off using these credits and then transfer to ISU after I graduate from high school.”

Courses offered to post-secondary students vary in order to achieve a license or certificate in vocational or trade careers, as well as transferable credits to college degrees.

“I did American history because it was a good way to get extra history credits. I am taking my IT class because I hope to have a job in that industry, said Chris- tianson.

The DMACC Boone Campus currently has close to 40 post-secondary students registered, while all six DMACC campuses have a combined total of about 5,000 students, according to fall 2009 enrollment information said Student Service Specialist Nancy Moeller.

The Career Advantage Program is a partnership between DMACC and local high schools that allows juniors and seniors to earn college credits at their school, on the DMACC campus, or online. The section dedicated to high school students on the
Students throw down in ‘Guitar Hero’ rock off

By Tanner Sandrock

After a live musical performance, students thought they would try their hand at a less realistic rock off.

Students gathered in the L.W. Courter Center late Thursday night for the second annual “Guitar Hero” contest.

“Guitar Hero: Aerosmith” was the song and “Movin’ Out” was the song. Students took turns playing the song, one by one, trying to achieve the best score.

Max Rusch led off and set the bar extremely high with a score of 253,012. “It’s the one videogame I’m good at so I figure I’ll make some money,” he said.

The second student up was Trevor Gould. Gould played well, but was unable to overcome Rusch’s high score. Brent Sobolik tested his skill but was boooed off the virtual stage before the song could exit the intro. “Can’t touch that, can’t touch it,” he said. “I’ll be signing autographs later,” Sobolik said jokingly as he turned to the crowd.

In the end, Rusch’s score remained untouched and he walked away with the glory and the gift card to Fareway. “I’m going to go get some food,” Rusch said as he collected his winnings.

To keep updated on upcoming SAC contests and events students can check their emails, read the white boards posted around campus or read the latest edition of the Banner Newsletter online at www.bannernewsonline.com.

Schafer, Heun win pool tournament

By Eric Thiel

Students gathered around the Courter Center pool tables to engage in the Wild Wednesday event on Nov. 11.

The pool tournament consisted of a game called “4 ball” in which over 20 people participated.

The objective in the game is to get at least amount of shots with four balls on the table.

“It’s fun. I play on these tables almost every day against the same people,” said second year student Tim Schafer. “Just having a tournament make it more exciting.”

Schafer was the winner for the male students with a score of 3 shots and win. Schafer said, “It was pretty intense!”

Schafer also said he has to give credit to Henderson for teaching him so much about pool, and that if Henderson never taught him, he would have never been able to beat him in the tournament.

The Courter Center has two pool tables for students to play during free time. They are usually available to play on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for free.

When students were asked about how they like the pool tables, most usual players complain about how other students sit on the tables and make it uneven. “They’re crap,” said second year student Robert Snyder, “People should stop sitting on them cause it bends the sides.”

Other winners for the tournament were Ashley Heun for the female students who had 9 points, and faculty winner Tim Bergin who had 5 points.

More SAC events will come up for the students to take part in, but the pool tables will always be open, usually with the typical crowd playing.
The turkey feed held on Nov. 19 raised $172 and 143 food items to help families in need through Red Rock Community Action Center here in Boone.

DMACC campuses will close at 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 25 and remain closed for Thanksgiving and Friday.

Spending time abroad in London is a wonderful city to live in, and the teaching moments, especially in literature and the humanities are unlimited. Classes meet Monday through Thursday and fill up to nine humanities requirements in the DMACC curriculum. A four-day class week, gives students a three-day weekend and many opportunities to make mini three-day vacations. “My students last spring went to Italy, Greece, Ireland, Wales, and Scotland, to name a few. I also took the students to Paris for a four-day field trip of our own,” said Jedele. This year a mini trip is planned for Scotland.

London is a big city with a lot to encounter. It becomes difficult to give a wide array of activities to keep students intrigued. “My biggest challenge is always to make sure that I am integrating the assignments between classes, so that everything seems to fit together in a seamless fashion,” said Jedele. “The experience is like teaching in a one-room school-house, so we spend quite a bit of time together, and I am challenged to create a variety of teaching/learning experiences.”

The estimated cost of the spring 2010 trip is $12,050. Additional loans are available to Dec. 7 deadline to spend spring semester in London

Continued on Page 8
COMMENTARY: Black Friday brings out the crazies

By Candace Dauker
Copy Editor

Walking up somewhere between midnight and 4 a.m., standing outside in the cold for hours, shoulder-to-shoulder with gothy strangers that would probably chew your arm off for the last half-dranked coffee pot—when they probably don’t even drink the stuff—ain’t the most traditional way to start a typical Friday night.

On Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, however, it is the typical morning for many of the crowd that had stood in line all night. Ask any of my relatives; they won’t go with me anymore because I’ve got a job on Oct. 20. The accident was near fatal and the driver died. It was a 1989 Grand Prix. We had to call Dylan Book’s strong spirit and his family to come and talk to everyone in the line. Dylan and it was played during the event.

Dylan was in attendance in an RV brought by Jim and Joy Greenslaade. People were allowed to stop in and visit with Book as he hung out in the RV with his family.

Book is currently making his second book available to attend the IMCA national banquet in Lincoln, Neb., to accept his Rookie of the Year title. Book also plans on running the IMCA Sport Mod next year after he makes a full recovery for the 2010 season. The 27-year-old was tracked on CaringBridge at www.caringbridge.org/visit/dylanbook and will also have his racing site up soon for all to be able to see.

Book’s strong spirit and determination to recover and get back out on the track has been inspirational and has shown people, like his T-shirts say, “Anything is Possible.”

New Iowa travel guide released

By Kevin Shay
Contributing Writer

Lauren R. Rice, a 27-year-old writing professor at DMACC, has released a new Iowa travel guide. The guide, which is also Rice’s first book, is titled “Iowa: An Explorer’s Guide,” and was released through W.W. Norton Publishing this past summer.

Although Iowa is not always recognized as a tourist destination, the book and the adventurous Rice strove to prove the skeptics wrong as well as showing Midwesterners great places to travel to for a cheap price within the state of Iowa.

The book’s message that cheap, yet beautiful state and national parks and full of generous locals, said Rice.

There are over 100 national and state parks within the borders of Iowa. The beauty of the state is not just the rolling hills of cornfields. “Northeast Iowa is my favorite area. I loved Dubuque and the small city Lansing,” said Rice.

Dubuque has really nice restarants and fun and fulfilling tourism can be found in your own back yard. Rice thoroughly enjoyed the Bridges of Madison County. The area originally boasted 19 beautiful covered bridges. Six remain today, all of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. “When you find a bridge off of the beaten path (in Madison County), it is just really beautiful.”

She’s in the wheelchair again!” It seems to be ironic to have what could be the greatest day of the year only hours after what’s one of the most thankful, but it can become a family tradition that causes togetherness from its pores. I’m a part of the family that gets up at 3 or 4 a.m. to venture to the city 45 miles away, and parks on some restricted grassy area by a Best Buy or Menards parking lot to light the fireworks inside. "You know what you look forward to? The hot chocolate we pick up on the way and the breakfast we have together when we’re done.

Happy Turkey Day from everyone in the Campus Cafe!

Wake up for your final projects & exams with a Rockstar or Red Bull energy drink, or try our extra shot of espresso in your coffee!
Volleyball women go all American and commit to 4-year schools

Bobbi Bayer, Justine Young commit to Alabama Birmingham, Texas Tech

By Derrick Roffman

“Time to sign my life away,” Bobbi Bayer said referring to her contract with the Alabama Birmingham as she sat waiting to get her picture taken in the DMACC gym Friday Nov. 13. Bayer and Justine Young signed letters of intent accepting scholarships to the Alabama Birmingham and the Texas Tech. “I'll go down this summer right away and start training,” said Bayer.

Bayer grew up in Colorado and her family spent a lot of time on the road participating in the rodeo. “That's definitely where my tough upbringing came from.”

Young will be attending Texas Tech and looking to get her degree in psychology.

Women place 5th nationally in Wisconsin

By Brad Burton

Faculty, staff, and students held a send-off Nov. 17 for the women’s volleyball team who set off to compete in the national tournament for the fourth straight year in a row. The women defeated cross-state rival Kirkwood in the conference championship to advance to Wisconsin Dells, Wisc.

In order for the Bears to have a chance at the championship they would have to go through the entire tournament without any losses. On Nov. 19, the women defeated Glendale three to one.

After winning the first game the women knew they could play with anybody. After the victory the Bears took a loss from Cowley Community College, which caused the Bears to lose their shot to play for the national championship.

Not playing for a championship, the Bears still stayed together, played as a team and defeated teams such as Columbus State and Johnson County and finished fifth in the tournament.

“Nationals went well,” said Justine Young, a sophomore player. “We came out getting fifth place. At the end of the season the team came together and fought hard to make it to the National Tournament, and pulled together again at Nationals knowing the good competition we were going to be playing against and did our job.”

Three members of the squad were named to all conference teams. Two of the three ladies are nominated for All-American honors that will be announced in a few weeks. “I thought Nationals went very well,” said Coach Harrison. “The girls played up to the competition, and I was impressed. I feel like they played like National Champions. Our sophomores stepped up and did a awesome job of leading our freshman this year. They represented DMACC well and I'm excited about next year with our freshman class returning.”

2009 Volleyball post-season honors

Bobbi Jo Bayer
ICCAC Volleyball all-region 11-B first team
B Regional All-Tournament team
All-Conference First team
Region 11 Cross Divisional All-Tournament Team
All-American nominee

Justine Young
ICCAC Volleyball all-region 11-B first team
B Regional All-Tournament team
All-Conference First team
All-American nominee
Darcy Christensen
All-Region Second team
All-Conference Second team
Women's Basketball ranked 10th in Division II
By Brad Burton
Staff Writer

As of Nov. 17 the Bears have a record of three wins and two losses each loss coming from good junior college basketball programs.

The Bears started the season off strong winning three straight games. After tasting victory the Bears saw themselves in a slump losing the next two games.

"The season is going OK," said Coach Steve Krafcisin. "With our youth and injuries, we had to change lineups quite a bit."

With a young squad Coach Krafcisin has to become a lot more patient with his team. "The season is a marathon," said Krafcisin. "We put our emphasis more on learning and teaching, so it's a slow process."

According to www.njcaa.org the Bears are ranked tenth in the country in Division II basketball.

"We have some improving to do," said Molly Boylan. "We really picked it up on the defensive end of the floor the past few games."

Once conference play starts, the Bears must keep their focus in order to succeed in such a tough conference. "We want to be all in sync when conference play begins," said Krafcisin.

The Bears will begin conference play Jan. 6 at Southwestern Community College.

Men's Basketball dominate Loras
By Eric Thiel
Sports Editor

The men's basketball team played a hard game against Loras Community College on Nov. 17. The Bears won 83 to 65.

Tavaryus Gray scored the most with 22 points for the team. Scott Windom scored the second most with 16 points, and third player Hal Bateman with 14.

After a missed layup by DMACC at the beginning of the game, Loras took the ball and a three pointer. Both teams scored a few more times. That brought the score to an even 5-5.

At half time the game was at 40-26, the Bears winning DMACC shot 33.3 percent of the free throws, in the first half.

At the end of the 2nd period Bateman made the last score for DMACC with a slam Dunk with only 49 seconds left in the game.

Then the game ended and the fans went home.

Men beat Grandview
By Eric Thiel
Sports Editor

DMACC won against Grandview on Nov. 20 with a score 89 to 40. With the Bears scoring with the first points they had to change lineups quite a bit.

Tavaryus Gray made the most points for the Bears with 19. Kannon Burrage, with a score of 14, second most points for the team. Hal Bateman and Cody Pearson both scored 11 points and Scott Windom with 10 points.

At the end of the first half DMACC had 51 points and Grand View had 13. The second half DMACC scored 38 more points and Grand View scored 27.

Men overcome Morningside
By Shannon Jefferson
Staff Writer

The DMACC Bears win over Morningside took place Nov. 10. The Bears had their first challenging game as they struggled to over power Morningside's Josh Lena's three point shooting. He made four out of five, three point shots.

The score went back and forth but the Bears pulled out with a win. Scott Windom led the team to a tough victory with 29 points and 12 rebounds.

Mike Schindel came in second, contributing 12 points and seven rebounds to the Bears win over Morningside.

Point guard, Hal Bateman said, "I don't think we were ready to play them at all. We were just looking past them because they were JV." The Bears were challenged for the first time this season. Multiple missed layups, missed jumpers, and turnovers almost cost the Bears their third win. The lack of defense almost cost them the game. "We played pretty hard defense and didn't keep compouese. We didn't think we had to play hard," Bateman said.

In the second half, Schindel had a nice jumper for leaving Brad Burton with the assist. The second half started off with Morningside trailing the Bears by five points. The game was close throughout the second half with both teams battling it out.

The Bears led the game with 14 steals and finished the game with a win, Bears 63 and Morningside 60.

Men's Basketball
Upcoming Schedule

Nov. 28 South*
Nov. 30 William Penn*
Dec. 3 Grand View JV
Dec. 6 Southeasterna
Dec. 10 Marshalltown*a
*Home games

Women's Basketball
Upcoming Schedule

Nov. 28 South Australia*
Nov. 30 William Penn*
Dec. 3 Grand View JV
Dec. 6 Southeasterna
Dec. 10 Marshalltown*a
*Home games

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See for yourself!
Schedule a visit today.
By Josie Kramer
Editor-in-Chief

Not your typical mystery production, “Murder Go Round,” directed by Kay Mueller and performed by DMACC students, offered everyone playfulgoers expect and more: character and comedy. Like in many other mystery stories, the lead role witnesses a murder. In this case, Pat (Ashlei Pritchard) under the witness protection program, is dragged to a country town, where she meets quite a variety of characters. From the agent with amnesia, Peter (Brent Sobolik), to the flamboyant designer, Dino (Eric Thiel), Pat has her hands full. Pat is surrounded by Susan (Linda Mui), Pat’s personal bodyguard, Bea (Matt Henderson), the maudline and nosy housekeeper, Liz (Hannah Scott), the all but welcome trainer, Kevin (Trevor Gould), the college contact, and last but not least, Ross (Lando McPherson), the lying fiancé. Pat will be murdered by midnight if she doesn’t disclose the numbers to a bank account. Throughout the show, everybody she encounters wants to know the numbers. They all compete to get to them before the next person shows up.

The comedy was lightweight, had some unexpected twists (like most mysteries) and was overall a magnificent play. Thiel and Sobolik were especially talented in their portrayals. Dino and Peter were the most convincing characters. It takes a lot of work to make your character convincing and legit. Acting one version of a character is one thing, but to act out the character in their disguise is a whole other playing field. I was convinced Peter actually had amnesia and that Dino was gay.

The members of the crew, which included many members of the cast, built a well-lit, open set. It wasn’t too busy and seemed like an actual enterer’s home. Members of the crew included Rachel Davis, Angela Leopold, Kristen Winslow, Brooke Lingen, Don Burkhart, Jasmine Santiago, Don Burkhart, Jasmine Santiago, and the crew, put on a memorable show. As a thespian myself, I am proud to say that DMACC presented a 5 of out 5 star show. Isn’t it every day you get a free show with free refreshments with your student ID. I recommend everyone take advantage of this opportunity in the spring. It’ll be the second and final show of the school year.

DMACC BANNER NEWS

OPINION

Thanksgiving is about being thankful

By Josie Kramer

Staff Editorial

Everybody has something to be thankful for. Thanksgiving began as a time to give thanks. This year it falls on Nov. 26.

As we go through our daily routine, more often than not, we forget to be thankful for what is around us. The simple things in life can be a great start.

We should also remember to be thankful for the people who make a difference in this world. Our parents are a major influence in our lives and they are always there with their support. We need to remember to thank them.

Another very influential group of individuals are teachers. They are also strong role models in students’ lives and even their careers. They provide a helpful relationship.

One of everybody’s favorite things to be thankful for is the food we get to enjoy during this gluttonous holiday. You can have Thanksgiving without a great feast, but what fun is that? A local place to seek a free meal is First United Methodist Church at 703 Arden St. in Boone, located in the Fellowship Hall on the lower level of the church from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 26. Reservations are required; call the church office at (515) 432-4660.

The First Christian Church in Ames is having a free Thanksgiving dinner to those who are unable to have fellowship with their family or friends. The church welcomes all, it is held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 26 at the church, 611 Clark Ave.

Thanksgiving tips
1. Don’t put a frozen turkey in the deep fryer. You’ll burn your house down.
2. Don’t have a drama-filled day. You may have differences with certain family members, but arguing with them would defeat the entire purpose of the day.
3. Help out. The food can be more satisfying when you know you peeled the potatoes.
4. Watch the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, a football game, or have music playing to make it feel more festive.
5. Enjoy everything about it!
6. Did we mention be thankful?

Some things we should all be thankful for but tend to take for granted:
- Simply being alive.
- The air we breathe.
- The clothes we wear.
- The roof over our heads.
- Our family and friends.
- Financial aid.
- Having the opportunity for education and higher education.
- The person that first made us smile today.
- The food we are blessed to be consuming.

Make cooking easier
1. Use Store Top Stuffing. It tastes just as good and its fast and less stressful.
2. The same thing goes for pies. If you aren’t good at making and rolling the perfect crust, try a Pillsbury Pie Crust and you’re ready to go!

Quick-fix recipe for “Turkey Day” leftovers: Throw any leftovers (turkey, stuffing, potatoes, etc.) in a greased pan, add a cream-of-something soup, cover with foil, bake and enjoy.

DMACC Pumpkin Bars

4 eggs
2 c. sugar
15 oz. pumpkin
1 c. oil
2 c. flour
2 t. baking powder
2 t. baking soda
2 t. cinnamon
3/4 t. salt

Mix, pour into greased 13x9x1 pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 25 min. Let bars cool before frosting.

Pumpkin Bar Frosting

Mix:
1 lb. powdered sugar
1/2 c. butter
8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
2 T. milk
1 t. vanilla (optional)

Provided by Beth Christianson, Campus Cafe

Holiday recipe

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Provided by Beth Christianson, Campus Cafe

Photo by Derrick Roffman

The cast of “Murder Go Round” poses after the play on closing night: Linda Mui, Hannah Scott, Ashlei Pritchard, Eric Thiel, Lando McPherson, Trevor Gould, Matt Henderson and Brent Sobolik.

The cast has natural talent
Can’t forget classic beauties

By Chelsea Magee
Staff Writer

Classic beauties aren’t the normal women that one would see walking down the street. They were real, some of the most admired women, and the definition of “sex” for most men.

These women were not about what their hair color was, how many plastic surgeries they could have, or who was the skinniest. They were each extremely unique, it was as though they were sent from heaven. Most of them did not have to wear all kinds of make-up or do the most ridiculous poses to make them feel better about themselves. All they had to do is look your way and they had eyes from all over gawking at them.

These women stood up for all the women across the world. Marilyn Monroe and Sophia Loren were prime examples of this. Most of them did not have to wear all kinds of make-up or do the most ridiculous poses to make them feel better about themselves. All they had to do is look your way and they felt like a happy-go-lucky little buck-toothed baby once again as they watch the stories unfold. I feel like a happy-go-lucky little buck-toothed baby once again as I watch the stories unfold. I feel what the characters feel, I see what they see and feel as though I could reach right out and feel the wetness of the snowflakes as they touch the tip of my nose. I think that is fantastic advertising.

By Dale Walker
Web Editor

The “F” word is one of many socially unacceptable words heard frequently in the halls of DMACC. I find it offensive; particularly when it occurs with no mind for the presence of women or children, or when it occurs in a public setting. Swearing sounds nasty to me. It is immature, it interferes with many people’s opinion of you, and it is poor practice for the behavior that will be expected of you in your professional career.

I grew up in the seventies and yes, we did have swearing then too. However, there were standards of behavior that decent people rarely violated. These standards included no cursing in front of women or children at all and never in public. A gentleman would certainly account you if you were to violate those standards.

I believe that the use of profanity violates section F of the student code of conduct by being disordered, lewd, indecent, or offensive. The Student Code of Conduct is available to every student and is published in the front of the DMACC Student Planner.

Please consider the effect of the words you use on yourself and the people around you. That person you cursed in front of today might be the one who interviews you tomorrow.

Illustration by Kurt Strackzinski 2001 (MCT)
windows 7: hyped up?

by austin leeds

columnist

Let’s go back to 2007 and take a look at everyone’s least favorite operating system: Windows Vista. Probe to errors and simply not compatible with much of everyone’s important stuff, Vista earned Microsoft a pretty bad rap and caused many people to switch to Mac. Fast-forward about two years, and everyone’s crazy about Windows 7. What happened? Microsoft woke up.

The latest version of Windows utilizes many features that had been common in Mac OS X for years, putting their own spin on them, of course. The “superbar,” aka the “taskbar” or, if you want to be brutally honest, the Mac OS X “Dock,” is one of the most Mac-like features about Windows 7. An imitation of Expose had been around since Vista, along with a version of Mac’s Dashboard, called Windows Sidebar. But Windows 7 is more than just a Mac imitation.

Windows 7 supposedly fixes many of Vista’s flaws, including the ever-annoying UAC (User Access Control). You know, the window that comes up asking your permission every time you want to do anything? Windows 7 allows you to use custom settings for this, which makes it a little less tiresome. Most of the compatibility issues of Vista have also been solved by Windows 7’s use of extensive updates. While I cannot address every issue, I can give my impressions.

I used Windows 7 Ultimate on a Mac Pro, but I didn’t use any of the features that distinguished Ultimate from Professional, Enterprise or Home Premium. My experience was quite general and focused around the ease-of-use and smoothness of the operating system itself.

1. Windows 7 installed easily—only 20 minutes for a fresh install. While my experience here might not be typical, the Mac Pro is a very powerful computer and probably sped things up on its own. I can say with certainty that the process itself was very simple.

2. Start-up time and shutdown time have both been reduced, making it comparable to Mac OS X’s start-up and shut-down times.

3. The new taskbar feels natural—a perfect blend of Mac OS X and Windows Vista. Instead of having window after window displayed in the taskbar, Windows 7 uses buttons to show running programs. To see how many windows are open in each program, you can move your mouse over the buttons and a group of thumbnails pops up, showing you each window and what’s in it.

4. The old start menu is gone, but with most of us at DMACC are Intel Core 2’s. When in older AMD’s, while 64-bit processors are Intel Pentiums and AMD’s, while 64-bit processors are Intel Pentiums and older AMD’s, while 64-bit processors are Intel Core 2’s. When in doubt, go with 32.

5. Programs open quickly and without crashing. Again, this is only my experience, but after using Vista, this was one feature that caught my attention immediately.

6. The new Aero style uses transparent windows, which is simple but practical for candy.

7. The Windows Flip 3D feature is apparently missing. This was one feature that was a definite improvement from XP to Vista. One of the reasons I use Mac OS X is its beautiful and efficient Expose feature, and the absence of Flip 3D euros one competitor feature Microsoft could have expanded upon.

Overall Windows 7 is a great operating system, and is the best thing Microsoft has ever made. While Mac OS X is still the better of the two, Windows 7 is at least functional, easy to use and incorporates dazzling graphical effects without sacrificing speed.

I’ve been informed that DMACC is not yet ready to transition due to driver issues, but Windows 7 is certainly ready for most students and consumers. If you’re ready to take the plunge, pick up a copy at the DMACC Bookstore for only $10, but make sure you pick the right kind. 32-bit processors are Intel Pentiums and older AMD’s, while 64-bit processors are Intel Core 2’s. When in doubt, go with 32.

Andrew Bridge: A student’s experience

By Haley Miller

Contributing Writer

It all started with the book signing. I showed up early and actually got a glimpse of Andrew Bridge standing with a few of the teachers at the school. Right then I was star struck and couldn’t WAIT for the book signing. I didn’t realize how early I was until I found myself staring at a clock for ten minutes. When I went to get my book signed, I asked for my name and I told him ‘Haley, H-A-L-E-Y.’ Then he asked me about Ridge and if I liked it. I told him I was from Nebraska and that my parents were foster parents. He said, “Oh, well how’s that going?” I told him very briefly about the three children whose mom just got her rights terminated. I was very embarrassed and couldn’t believe I’d just told him that. He smiled and said he thought it was a good thing what we were doing. Then I awkwardly waved goodbye and said, “Well, I’ll see you when you talk.” He laughed and I felt stupid but it was a good stupid.

Then, after another short while of waiting in the library, it was time for the lecture. I hurriedly searched around for places he might be speaking. I saw Mrs. LaVille and she told me that it was in the auditorium. I didn’t really want to make it awkward and sit by anyone I didn’t know, so I went to the second row, where nobody sits. Andrew Bridge ended up taking the seat in front of me right before his lecture. Again, it was awesome. So, he took to the podium and gave his lecture. He discussed his relationship with his mother, his journeys through school, his relationship with his foster parents, his current relationship with his mother and much more. He was a very good speaker and sounded just like the voice in my head as I would silently read the book.

At the end of his lecture, I heard a number of us went to a room where there was pizza and pop. As I entered the room, Andrew was just about to enter as well. He let me go first since I was a girl, I suppose. I ended up sitting in the corner of the room right next to the pop. I am very shy and wanted to hear the discussion but knew I wouldn’t be part of it. Andrew Bridge actually got himself some pizza and pop and made sure to ask how I was doing while he got his pop. I had no idea he was talking to me so I felt stupid when I realized he was and answered, “Oh, good.” He smiled and took his seat in the corner of the room. People asked their questions and Andrew made sure to answer them. I felt the urge to ask him just one question or to at least tell him thank you while we were in that room, but I never did.

All of a sudden, it was a little past one o’clock and Andrew had to leave. Of course, everybody else wanted to say their piece to him and, of course, so did I. I didn’t get the chance to tell him thank you in that room.

I left the room and, as if by fate, Andrew was walking down the same hall as me. He and his guide were headed to a different room but, knowing that this would be the last time I would see him, I knew what I had to do. I said, “Andrew?” He smiled as we both walked. I can’t remember what I said but I do remember that it was a jumbled mix-up of a thank you and that I even said “I’m really nervous right now.” He stopped walking and said, “I meant so much to him and said thank you to me. He then gave me a brief hug and said thank you again. It was better than going to the Britney Spears concert. Heck, I’m sure it was even better than if I ever got the chance to meet Britney Spears.

Why I admire Andrew Bridge is because his book literally changed my perspective on life and how I share it with my foster siblings. The insight he provided in Hope’s Boy spoke to me and reminded me of the heartwarming story that is my foster children in my house are living right now. Andrew Bridge was a very well-spoken, nicely dressed man and one of the best authors in the world, according to me. I don’t know if he will ever remember me, but I will always remember personally meeting him and him being so gracious. Yesterday was one of the most exciting moment of my college life so far. It is not everyday that you get a hug from a New York Times best-selling author.
Do you feel the need, the need to read?

By Coty Mallicoat
Staff Writer

Have you ever been so bored that you actually took the time to read a book? This happened to me recently and, to be honest, I think some of you should do it, too.

Normally this is something I wouldn't tell people to do, until I started doing it myself. Instead of spending all day playing video games and watching TV, I started reading a book. I didn't know how long I would actually stay awake or even get through the first chapter but before I knew it, it was 4 a.m. and I had finished the last 60-some pages down.

This probably wasn't the smartest way to go about it, but the point I'm trying to get across is that reading books can actually be good for you. So instead of staying up all night playing video games, I feel like reading a book is probably much better for a person. That is, unless you feel the need to work on hankie eye coordination.

A book that keeps your interest is the best choice. I came to the conclusion that if it is good for someone like me who has trouble reading textbooks, it can probably be good for you too. Reading can have positive effects on you.

One of the biggest benefits would be that reading helps increase a person's vocabulary. By using the context of the sentence, a person can infer the meaning of words in the text. Reading helps improve a person's concentration and focus as well. If I really get into a book, I can zone everything else out around me. I can focus on what is going on in the text.

At times a good book can make you see what is going on in the book at the same time as you read it. I recently finished a book about high school wrestling, and I could picture the wrestling matches in my head.

I also believe that reading can increase a person's creativity. Reading stimulates the right side of the brain and increases your creative nature. It also keeps your mind active and alert. It makes you use your brain, as opposed to watching TV or sitting on Facebook chatting or playing one of their highly addicting games.

Reading can help take you away from the world. It can help take a person away from monotonous days-to-day life. Reading can also be a big stress reliever. While reading, we take our minds off of other things in life, it can help relaxing at the same time.

Another benefit to reading is that, yes, it can actually be fun. Whether it be fiction, non-fiction, a biography or something educational, if it interests you, chances are you might have some fun reading it.

Clearly it takes some effort to pick up a book and read. Watching TV is effortless, but by reading a book, you can still get the same relaxation out of it but at the same time get much more out of it.

I think that by reading you gain many benefits, and I see more pros than cons. Besides, it won't kill you to learn something new today.

Not all habits can be bad; make it a habit to pick something up and read it every once in a while. Keep those juices flowing upstairs.

Pardon me, pilgrim: This Thanksgiving, ditch the dead bird

By Chris Holbein
McClatchy Tribune (MCT)

If tradition holds, President Obama will soon “pardon” two turkeys, the “National Thanksgiving Turkey” and a backup, in a much-publicized ceremony at the White House Rose Garden.

I'm not sure what misdeeds turkeys raised for food need to be punished for, since most of them spend their entire lives crammed into filthy, windowless warehouses where they can barely take a step. But let’s not quibble: We should all follow the president’s lead and pardon a turkey this Thanksgiving.

Animal behaviorists tell us that turkeys are intelligent, social birds who enjoy the company of others. According to one poultry scientist, “If you throw an apple to a group of turkeys, they’ll play with it together.” Turkeys are also loving, protective parents who are very bonded to their young. In the wild, turkey chicks stay with their mothers for up to five months, and a mother turkey will courageously defend her family against predators.

The story is very different for turkeys on factory farms. Fatter turkeys mean fatter profits for farmers, so these gentile birds are bred and drugged to grow so large so fast that their legs can't even support their own weight. Many turkeys become crippled as a result and some slowly starve to death within inches of food because they are unable to move.

When PETA conducted an undercover investigation at one of the world’s largest turkey-breeding companies, a farm supervisor described the male breeding birds as “50 pounds on toothpicks.” PEAls investigator also saw turkeys die of heart attacks or exhaustion because of the unnatural strain that their enormous size put on their internal organs.

If all this isn’t enough to make you reach for the Tofurky, consider this: U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection reports reveal that an average of one out of every eight turkeys served on Thanksgiving is infected with salmonella, a food-borne pathogen that sickens more than 1 million people every year.

It’s not hard to get something else. With delicious cholesterol-free vegan holiday recipes available online and fabulous “faux fowl” in most supermarkets, we can all pardon turkeys and truly celebrate the spirit of the holiday.

Have a voice!

Submit letters to the editor. This is the sixth issue of the year and we have had only one letter submitted. Please keep letters under 350 words. Article submissions are welcome. Send to bannernews@dmacc.edu.

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'New Moon' delights viewers

By Josie Kramer
Editor-in-Chief
And Jamie Stueve
Opinion/Feature Editor

The year wait is finally over, the premiere of 'New Moon,' the sequel to 'Twilight's' saga, came out in theatres Nov. 20. Crowds awaited in the lobby of Movies 12 with lap tops, espresso's and McDonals, in-123 seats; built up from the previous movie led to the lines and abundance of attendees to the second movie in the saga for the six showings available. Being avid fans of the saga, we just had to go to the premiere. It lived up to our expectations and blew 'Twilight' out of the water. Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) is left behind by her love, Edward Cullen, (Robert Pattinson). Through out the movie she begins to reminisce with an old friend, Jacob Black (Taylor Hotty aka Taylor Lautner) after Edward's disappearance. She begins reckless and obstructive behavior to see realistic visions of Edward. The only thing that seems to fill her chest is Jacob, and that is only temporarily; until she has her dreams again. During Edward's absence, Jacob becomes Bella's best friend and protector. The secrets in the Quilette tribe reveal itself as there are intruders in Forks after Bella now that the Cullen clan has disappeared. Bella becomes even more reckless by bounding off a cliff into the ocean to see Edward once again, only to be rescued by Jacob. As Edward is told of the vision his sister Alice (Ashley Greene) saw of Bella's selfishness, he presumes Bella is deceased and feels there is no world worth living in with out Bella. This easily becomes the climax of the movie with the drama and quickened pace of the story. Alice and Bella pursue Edward, who is in Italy. They want to prevent him from doing anything irrational. The movie comes to an end where Bella is forced to choose between her best friend, and protector Jacob, and her love, Edward. This movie gets a 4 and a half out of 5 stars from us.

CALL OF DUTY: MODERN WARFARE 2
Steps up first-person-shooter genre

By Tanner Sandrock
News Editor

Infinity Ward and Activision’s latest creation, "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2," hit shelves across the country Nov. 11. One of the most anticipated games of all time, but did it meet the hype? MW2 is the sequel to 2007’s "Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare." The series beforehand had been based in World War II but reinvented itself into the modern age and fans loved it. Combined with a great story, realistic weapon choice, amazing graphics and a kick butt multiplayer CoD 4 quickly rose to the top of the first-person-shooter genre competing with the likes of "Halo 3."

Right out of the gate in the first 24 hours, retailers pushed in the area of 4.7 million copies; we’re talking about $310 million in the first day alone. Apparently some people out there are excited about this game and with good reason. MW2 picks up five years after the action where “Modern Warfare” left off. Instead of playing as Soap again you take up arms as Roach, a rookie taking orders from your former character. You also spend a few levels playing as various other characters as well as Soap. Once again you and the S.A.S, the Special Air Service a specialized force of the British Military, are combating terrorism and the threat of world war.

The fast pace shooter delivers were it counts. Earth quaking explosions, in-depth scenery and enough lead slingin shootouts to make your heart skip a beat. The story keeps you absorbed and it’s not like one of those shooters where it’s shoot this move, shoot that move; MW2 keeps you going with different and interesting goals like scaling a virtual, icy cliff face with not much more than your hands. When the main story is over, do not fret. Like any other of those games that you go out and buy. If you want to rent, be my guest, but when you take it back find yourself craving more of that in-your-face action don’t come crying to me.

The game is definitely the next step in the first-person-shooter genre and leaves me excited to see what Infinity Ward and Activision have coming next. Overall, “Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2" is one of those games that you go out and buy. If you want to rent, be my guest, but when you take it back find yourself craving more of that in-your-face action don’t come crying to me.

When we first find someone to call our own, we become overwhelmed with a sense of belonging, an awareness of joy and jubilant shaking in our stomach. When time goes by that feeling either grows with compassion or it can also go in the opposite direction as well.

If you have enough courage to do something about it, then you are stronger than you ever thought you could be. But the addiction of the body will keep you at bay for as long as you allow it.

This is a powerful thing but when it comes to love, love always trumps the sweet addiction of the body. Through love, trial and error Anything is amazingly possible.

We sometimes learn to love in a very hard way. The road is not clear for anyone at anytime. We have to strive and commit ourselves to not be perfect, but to be a union of thoughts of the same. Same compassionate thoughts toward each other. Same common aspirations and desire in life.

My friends, this is one of the truly elusive things nowadays. But when you find it, savor it and cherish it. REMINDER: Creative Writing Contest deadline Friday, Dec. 4

DMACC--The deadline for the DMACC district-wide Creative Writing Contest is 3 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4. This contest is open to all full- or part-time DMACC students.

If interested, please fill out an application form and submit two or three poems or short stories less than 20 pages each. For an application form, go to llrice@dmacc.edu. The top prize is a $1,000 scholarship with the runner-up receiving a $300 scholarship. In addition, there will be cash prizes of $100 for first place, $50 for second place and $25 for third place in each of the short stories and poem categories.

For the instructions and rules about this contest, go to http://www.dmacc.edu/CreativeWritingContest2009.pdf
If you were an inventor, what would be your invention?

Photos and reporting by Elliott L. Davis

“Commercialize the hover craft.”

“An inventor? I get home,” a three piece being a drummer, a bassist, and herself.

“A hoverboard. You would use less energy and have cleaner shoes.”

“A machine that filters snow into water to preserve the water.”

“A machine that does my homework.”

Musical guest Valerie Custer

Continued from page 1

Custer says she has many influences for her own music, “Pretty much anything I listen to, be it a good or bad influence.” She says she listens to most anything outside of country, anywhere from MRP to jazz, hard rock to alternative, Tool to Death Cab for Cutie. However, Custer says she remains untrained in traditional music and claims to be self-taught. “I like my ignorance to music. I think it makes my music more unique,” said Custer.

“At the moment I have 20 songs but three I would record,” Custer said when asked about her original pieces. “I think I've gone as far as I can by myself. I'd like to put a three piece together when I get home,” a three piece being a drummer, a bassist, and herself. After the show Custer had plans to head back up to Bloomington. “You may think I’m crazy but I've never heard of the Mall of America. All I heard about when I was up there was the Mall of America so I think I'm going to go check it out.” Custer has the next couple days off before she has to be in DePere, Wisconsin for a performance at Saint Norbert College.

Students interested in learning more about Valerie Custer and her musical career can find more information as well as upcoming show dates at www.myspace.com/vmusicspace.

DMACC website explains Career Advantage courses supplement high school courses and are the same quality as the courses taught on the college campus.

While post-secondary enrollment is intended to give students a start on their college degrees, but not to breeze through their high school careers. The PSEO require students to comply with DMACC policies and know dual-credit grades will be reflected on their transcripts. Students can only enroll in courses if something comparable isn’t available at their high school, and thus must complete prerequisite coursework assigned to the class with a grade of C or higher.

One of the most common driving forces to post-secondary students enrolling in college courses is the lower cost. In most cases, tuition, fees and textbooks are free to the participating students, according to DMACC’s Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) under Iowa’s Post-secondary Enrollment Options Act.

Tara Tonsfeldt, first semester student on the Boone Campus, took 32 credits through Iowa Central Community College while in high school, and 22 of them transferred to DMACC. “I'm grateful I took them in high school and got ahead of the race in college. Plus I saved a bucket-load!” said Tonsfeldt.

Call today to discuss your needs with one of our transfer admissions counselors!

DMACC BANNER NEWS
ENTERTAINMENT
11.25.09