

2-11-1998

Banner News

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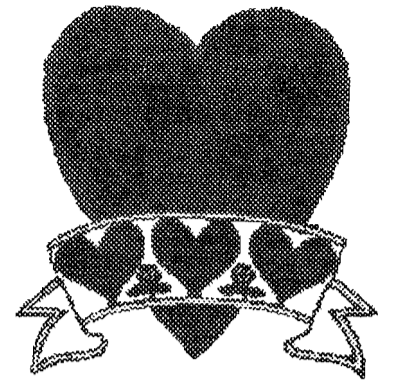
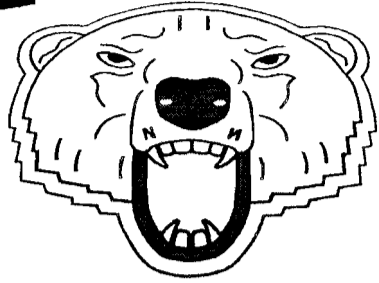
Powell, Lorraine; Harson, Patrice; Fester, Andrea; Gorman, Melinda; Eschliman, Bob; Swanson, Heather; Ybarra-Rojas, Ana; Kiley, Erin; Dorland, Dawn; Silberhorn, George; Siple, Joe; Lueth, Moses; and Whiteing, Charles, "Banner News" (1998). *Banner News*. 132. http://openspace.dmacc.edu/banner_news/132

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BEAR FACTS



February 11, 1998 "Voice of the Boone Campus" Des Moines Area Community College Volume XXVI, Issue 9



Students lobby Senator Jerry Behn at the state capitol. DMACC Boone Campus students traveling to Des Moines were Jaelyn Kelley, Patrice Harson, Anna Ybarra-Rojas and Charles Whiteing. Students also talked to Representative Mike O'Brien from Boone County and Representative Teresa Garman from Story County.

DMACC students meet with legislators in Des Moines

By Patrice Harson
Bear Facts Staff

Five DMACC Boone Campus students representing the press and student action board attended the 10th Annual Iowa Association of Community College Trustees Student/Alumni Legislative Seminar held Jan. 28 and 29 in Des Moines.

Charles Whiteing, social sciences major, Patrice Harson, editor of the *Bear Facts* campus newspaper, and *Bear Facts* staff writers Ana Ybarra-Rojas and Sharon Rood-Hughes attended meetings at the Savery Hotel Jan. 28. They were joined at the state capital the next day by Student Action Board representative Jaelyn Kelley.

The main intent of the trip involved receiving instructions and encouragement

from a panel of six speakers on how to meaningfully address the importance of Iowa's community college system to state representatives and senators. The students' assignment was to then put that instruction to use while carrying their message the next day to the state capitol.

This panel included; DMACC assistant to the president and legislative liaison Dave Palmer and other legislative liaisons Steve Ovel of Kirkwood Community College, Tim Wynes of Indian Hill Community College, Dr. Gene Gardner, Executive Director of the IACCT and Lowell Junkins, Lobbyist for Junkins & Associates.

Junkins opened the seminar by stating

that in these recent political times when no one really wants to explain anything, lobbying or influencing public officials seems overwhelming to many. Junkins agreed with a former speaker who said that "all politics is local" and boils down to simplistic things.

"Every person you talk to in the next 24 hours needs your vote more than you need them."

The panel suggested students share their ideas and feelings by telling legislators their own stories.

"When arguing your case, don't get too cerebral," said Junkins. "Don't get too

Campus record 1,126 students take 10,481 credits

By Lorraine Powell
Bear Facts Staff

Dean Philips reported that the final enrollment figure for the spring semester is 1,126 students taking a total of 10,481 credit hours. This was up 136 students, a gain of 13.7 percent.

According to Philips, about 50 classes or sections this semester were

Dean Philips stated that "this semester is going very, very well. With over 1100 students and over 100 employees, we've had minimal confusion--nothing that we couldn't handle pretty easily. We have a few growing pains, but we have a veteran staff that can straighten out any problem."

Additional computer classrooms

Philips admitted that "we do need more computer classrooms." In fact he has put together a task force that has written a rationale for additional computer space. The rationale was forwarded to Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, Kim Linduska, and is being strongly considered. Philips said, "We are getting by with the classroom situation now although it takes creative scheduling to keep it working."

logical and don't be intimidated. Every person you talk to in the next 24 hours needs your vote more than you need them. Before you go to the hill, empower yourselves with the knowledge that you count...and don't let the people back home, people who are counting on you to convey the message, down "

"...our state general appropriation... was so pathetically low relative to our growth, that for the first time in a long time it awakened a great many of the legislative leaders to our needs."

LEGISLATURE please see page 4



⇒ Talk Back ←

Reporting & photos
by Moses Lueth

What do you think about the Bill Clinton situation?



Antonio Ybarra

"I don't think he will be impeached. He will survive completely. If he is in a situation where he is facing impeachment, I think it would be wise for him to resign his position."



Ann Watts

"I wonder what happened to innocent until proven guilty? I think this is trial by media without benefit of law. I guess it is degrading that the American public can sink this low. Who wants to know such details about anyone."



Adam Pemberthy

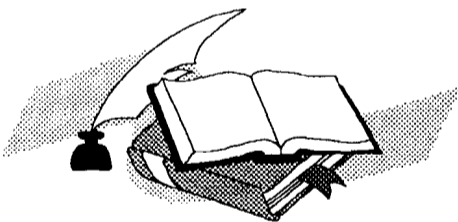
"As long as he is doing a good job in office, I don't care who he gets with. I believe he is one of the best presidents due to all the adversity he has gone through."



B.C. and Rockow

"Why is America trying to play a hate? People should not be concerned about his private affairs. He should be judged on the merit of his office performance, not his personal life."

Iron Man signs on as Read-in's heavy hitter



NEA Focus -- Major League Baseball's enduring hero, Cal Ripken of the Baltimore Orioles, has agreed to serve as a national co-chair of NEA's Read Across America. A long-standing advocate of literacy and the person with the longest playing streak in baseball history, Ripken will be closely involved in efforts to promote what may become the nation's largest literacy event. Read Across America is scheduled for March 2, 1998 to commemorate Dr. Seuss' birthday and encourage families and communities to read together every day.

Weather Cancellations

Kriss W. Philips, Executive Dean of the DMACC Boone Campus, has recently stated that if weather conditions in the early morning hours warrant, the decision to cancel classes due to inclement weather will most generally be made around 6 a.m. As soon as a decision has been made to cancel Boone Campus classes, the radio stations listed to the right will be contacted.

Cancellation announcements will also be recorded on the Boone Campus telephone system. The announcement on the telephone system can be accessed by dialing 432-7203 directly or by contacting the Boone Campus through the toll-free number 1-800-362-2127 and pressing 3 for Boone Campus.


Philips commented, "If the weather conditions during the school day warrant an early dismissal, I will make the decision, notify staff and notify the radio station as soon as possible." He also stated that his decision to cancel evening classes most generally is made by 4:30 p.m.

Please listen to the following radio stations

- KLRX - FM (96.1) Ames
- KWBG - AM (1590) Boone
- KCIM - AM (1380) Carroll
- KKRL - FM (93.7) Carroll
- KGRA - AM (1310)
- Perry/Jefferson
- KGRA - FM (101.7)
- Perry/Jefferson
- KLSN - FM (98.9) Jefferson
- KASI - AM (1430) Ames
- KCCQ - FM (105.1) Ames

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Financial aid opportunities available

By Andrea Fester
Bear Facts Staff

Today's expenses make it difficult for the college student to pay for their education. Often the student who has been awarded a Pell Grant or applied for a student loan, may need additional funds to pay for expenses during the semester. Simply walking through campus or speaking to various faculty can yield many possibilities for additional financial aid.

The DMACC Foundation Scholarship
Applying for a DMACC Foundation Scholarship may help alleviate financial pressure. Here at the Boone campus, due to the Foundation Board's fundraising efforts, students may find the financial assistance they need.

By obtaining an application from the files located in the hallway near the reception area, or by speaking to a financial aid officer, a student can begin the process needed to find if they are eligible. A student will also need to enclose a personal, one-page letter explaining why they feel they may be eligible for such an award. A student may also state any special reasons for their need and must also attach a high school and/or college transcript for review. Included with the scholarship application is a form for the student to fill in with any pertinent information that may help with the process of determining the recipients. It also asks for permission to submit the students' name and address to their local papers to publicly acknowledge the recipient.

Once the application is submitted, George Silberhorn, Maggie Stone, Lois Muncke, and Terry Jamieson, the reviewers for the committee, sit down and match the student's application to the

over forty-five accounts that contribute to the Foundation. By this process, over two hundred scholarships were awarded to students last year, with the average award being \$205. If interested, a list of recipients may be obtained from the financial aid office.

Hope Tax Credits

A HOPE scholarship is not actually a scholarship, but rather a tax credit that will be available to eligible students during the first two years of their postsecondary education. The non-refundable credit covers 100% of the first \$1,000 of tuition and fees, and 50% of the second \$1,000 during the period they are qualified. The tax credit will only apply towards tuition, not student books, travel costs, or other living expenses.

To utilize this tax credit, a student must be enrolled at least half-time (minimum of six credits) in a degree or other program leading to a recognized education credential, for example, an associate degree, diploma or credit certificate. The credit applies for expenses for education provided in academic periods after December 31, 1997.

Keep in mind that the amount of tuition and fees covered by the HOPE tax credit is reduced by other grant and scholarship aid the student may have received. Included are scholarship funds excluded from an individual's gross income, as well as federal grant aid such as the Pell Grant. Students that have been convicted of a felony related to possession or distribution of controlled substances are not eligible. A student is also ineligible if they are an individual filer and earn an income in excess of \$50,000 or a joint filer with an income in excess of \$100,000.

In order to take advantage of the

HOPE scholarship, eligible individuals will claim the credit when they file their federal income tax forms next year. Details for the program are still being completed, but it is expected that the student will receive a form similar to the 1040 received from an employer in order to file.

For additional information, students are advised to check with the Internal Revenue Service, a tax consultant or the Web site of the American Association of Community Colleges at <http://www.aacc.nche.edu>.

Lifetime learning credits

College juniors, seniors, graduate students, adults returning to college, and less than half-time students are now eligible for a new lifetime learning tax credit. This credit is available for tuition and fees paid after June 30, 1998, and is worth 20% of the first \$5,000 of tuition and fees through the year 2002, and 20% of the first \$10,000 in tuition and fees after that.

However, the student may not claim the lifetime credit during the same year as the HOPE tax credit. Those that are eligible need to follow the same requirements as the HOPE Scholarship.

Beta Sigma Phi Scholarship

Female nontraditional students may be interested in applying for the Beta Sigma Phi Scholarship. The application consists of the submission of a one-page letter about the student and why the scholarship is needed. If possible, it is recommended that a one-page letter of recommendation be attached. The recipient of this \$150 scholarship will soon be chosen by the committee members, so applications should be submitted to Pat Thieben at the Boone Campus as soon as possible. Beta Sigma Phi is a women's service and social organization, and will introduce the recipient at its annual Founder's Day dinner. For more information, students can contact Thieben at ext. 5080, or visit her office in Room 131 on the Boone Campus.

Roy J. Carver Scholarships

Students graduating from an Iowa Community College who plan on attending Iowa State University the fall semester of 1998 may be eligible for one of fifteen Roy J. Carver Scholarships. Requirements include that the student has graduated from an Iowa high school, have at least a 2.80 cumulative grade point average, and must be able to present evidence of unusual social and/or other barriers to attending college full-time. If a student is interested, applicants must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) prior to March 1, 1998, and demonstrate financial need. Contact the Student Financial Aid Office, Room 12 Beardshear, Ames, Iowa 50011 or call 1-800-478-2998 to receive a scholarship application. Brochures are

posted on the Boone Campus bulletin board.

Other sources of information

For further information on available scholarships, the student should stop into the Academic Achievement department on the Boone campus. With the software program Choices, there is literally thousands of possibilities for scholarship information that the student may be eligible for. If the student has available time during the day and there is space available to utilize the database they are welcome to stop in, but it is advised to make an appointment if possible.

Robert D. Blue Scholarship Application

An scholarship for the student who has provided service to the community is the Robert D. Blue Scholarship. Created by the Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation in 1949 by Governor Robert D. Blue, it is meant to encourage Iowa youth to attend college. The scholarship has since been dedicated to honor the late Governor Robert D. Blue and to date, has helped hundreds of Iowa students attend various state colleges and universities.

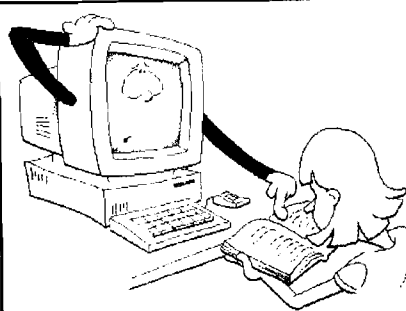
To follow the application procedure, an applicant must be an Iowan attending a college/university in Iowa. An application must be completed and submitted along with a grade transcript from the last school attended. A statement of expense and awards from the college financial aid office, three letters of recommendation, and an original 500-word essay must also accompany the application. The essay requirements are to choose a person from their community (not a family member) and write about what that person has done for his/her community.

The deadline for the scholarship is on or before May 10. Look for applications on the bulletin boards around campus or contact Michael L. Fitzgerald, Treasurer of State at the State Capitol Building in Des Moines for information on receiving an application.

If the student is proficient on the World Wide Web, they should not overlook the endless possibilities available to help finance their education. With a simple search under financial aid, a multitude of options await the patient browser.

Also, students should always remember to check the various bulletin boards located around campus, as various scholarship information can be found posted from time to time. Often applications included for interested students are available on a first-come first-served basis.

**Beware
of
Friday the 13th**



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A panel of lobbyists spoke to community college students during a recent legislative seminar. Representing DMACC was Dave Palmer (lower left-hand). Others on the panel were from Palmer's left, counterclockwise, Steve Ovel, Kirkwood, Tim Wynes, Indian Hills, Dr. Gene Gardner, Executive Director of the IACCT, and Lowell Junkins, Lobbyist for Junkins & Associates

LEGISLATURE *continued from page 1*

Ovel urged students to encourage the state legislature to increase the resources that they are investing in the state's community college system.

Ovel said, "The state is not making the investment that they need to make in our community colleges so that the students' needs can be met. This year, the governor recommended an increase in our state general appropriation that was so pathetically low relative to our growth, that for the first time in a long time it awakened a great many of the legislative leaders to our needs."

"The community college students...are going on into our citizenry and workforce in the greatest percentage numbers of any higher educational sector in the state of Iowa."

Iowa's community colleges received \$4,575,000 in additional State Aid monies for the 1998 fiscal year. This represented an increase of 1.8% of the colleges' combined operating budgets of \$253,216,556 for the 1996 fiscal year, and, although welcome, the increase doesn't come close to meeting the needs of Iowa's community college campuses. A 3% increase in labor costs alone requires approximately \$6 million in new monies.

If additional funding is not received, the deficiency could mean higher tuition costs for Iowa's students and a significant drop in certain educational offerings that would benefit the state's economic development.

Palmer said, "The community college students are viewed properly by legislators, the governor and his staff as the clients and beneficiaries of our educational training, and, most importantly, as the people who are going on into our citizenry and workforce in the greatest percentage numbers of any higher educa-

tional sector in the state of Iowa."

Palmer is deeply concerned that an attitude has arisen in this country toward politics and government that is the most destructive mood in the over 200-year history of this country--an attitude that politics is a rotten business, that government is bad and that somehow we're going to be better off if we attack and destroy the political process.

"This great democracy is founded upon the principal of citizen participation," said Palmer. "If you are not active as a citizen, wherever you land in life, there will be somebody there making decisions. If it's not you, it may be somebody you don't like. If you wait until the general elections to get interested in and excited about politics, you're too late. Choices have already been made for you. We are now in an election mode, play on that."

"One of the worst things we have done as instructors teaching government and history in this country is that we have taught students an altruistic myth of American history in government," continued Palmer, "a myth that political leaders and participants in the political process are somehow out serving a greater cause and a greater good."

"The fact of the matter is," said Palmer, "that this system was built upon the blocks of self-interest. Go out and vigorously pursue your self-interests and translate those interests into terms that make sense to the legislators. You must resolve...what are the things back home in your college programs that would be served if we could obtain more state support? Explain to legislators, the governor's staff and the executive branch why it (the community college process) has been a good experience for you."

"...we are coming together as a system of community colleges to meet some needs that are statewide in nature and at the same time preserving the considerable local autonomy and local ownership for community colleges in Iowa."

Wynes said, "What it all comes down to in our legislative agenda is this. If you take an ICN class, if you sit in a classroom in a community college, if you are in a vocational program with a lot of high tech equipment, if you have an arts and science teacher that you love and hope you'll see next year...it's about money. It's about the money we get from the people at the capital. They need to give us more. There are fifteen of us that provide 84 percent of the population that works in the state that graduated from college. You are the workforce, the voters, the taxpayers of this state...and the legislators need to see the faces of the constituents that actually benefit from this issue."

Director of the State Department of Education, Ted Stilwill, said that Iowa students are a part of one of the best community college systems in the nation. According to Stilwill, one of the incredible things that is happening at this point in the history of community colleges in Iowa is that "we are coming together as a system of community colleges to meet some needs that are statewide in nature and at the same time preserving the considerable local autonomy and local ownership for community colleges in Iowa."

"There is always that paradox between trying to provide enough state support and yet still provide enough local responsiveness so that we have a system of community colleges that truly are *community* colleges, fitting the unique needs of that part of the state," continued Stilwill. "If we are really going to have a strong state system of community colleges, we need a much stronger state administrative entity. Not strong in the need to control community colleges but strong in advocacy, communication and in formulating an agenda."

Stilwill said that unless Iowa can demonstrate that it has a quality workforce that is unparalleled in this nation, new industry, or industry that expands, will locate somewhere else. The most important resource that industry needs is a quality workforce that is well-trained. "There isn't anyplace they can get that today better than in Iowa," said Stilwill. "We have an excellent system of K-12 education. We have an excellent community college and university system. The problem is that more than half the people in Iowa that get a four-year degree leave the state. The educational opportunity that we create in this state is critical to our future. Without a strong economy, without the expansion of industry and the cooperation of labor and business, we will have very slow economic growth. Community colleges, more than any other

part of the system today, are key to making that work. Community colleges will respond to the market. They understand employers and know what their needs are."

The future for community college students interested in art and science degrees, according to Stilwill, continues to improve. There was tension originally when the tremendous arts and science growth in community colleges threatened many of the four year colleges and universities. However, now the universities, particularly the larger universities, work with community colleges on articulation issues.

"Universities realize that that's a pretty good deal for them," said Stilwill. "A growing number of students find it, to some extent, more affordable and more accessible to go to a community college prior to going to a four-year institution."

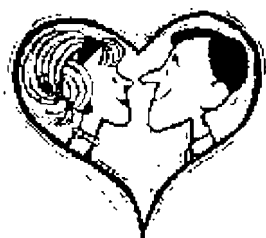
Evening presenters included Senator Mike Gronstal (D), Minority Leader of the Senate; Senator Kitty Rehberg (R), Chair of the Education Committee; Senator John Kibbie (D); Representative Dave Schrader (D), Minority Leader of the House; and Representative Brent Siegrist (R), Majority Leader of the House.

These speakers informed students of the recent activities in the general assembly regarding education in the State. The governor's budget was discussed along with the possibility of the House increasing this base budget for community colleges by a minimum of \$15 million. A technology fund was also established for the community college system with the intention of doing so again in 1998. Broadening the definition of what that money can be used for was also suggested along with keeping a closer eye on the rising cost of tuition. Education is at the top of the 1998 Democratic agenda.

"...community colleges are the best feeders we have in this state for the private colleges."

Senator Kibbie stated that the additional \$4.5 million requested by the community college system is certainly a step in the right direction. Kibbie said that in the last few years, the excuse for not funding community colleges properly, or at least at the same level as K-12 schools, was because the senate didn't have a formula. For the past two years, the Appropriations Bill called for the presentation of that formula, which the Department (of Education) and the Trustees Association since provided, and that all 15 community colleges have agreed to this formula.

Another excuse for inadequate funding, according to Kibbie, was that there was no information system in the Department of Education that provided like numbers from each community college. However, this system will be up and running by July 1. To fund the formula that



Melinda's Musings

By Melinda Gorman
Bear Facts Staff

Saturday morning my children will get up to find a little treat waiting for them on the kitchen table. For my husband, a card will be waiting. Valentine's Day is a time families, especially couples, take time to say I love you. But the keen observer will notice how their family says I love you every day.

My husband says I love you by keeping up with the laundry and helping me remember things I need to do today. I say I love you to him by cooking meals, loading the dishwasher, and not complaining about a weeks worth of newspapers on the kitchen table.

My oldest son says I love you by unloading the dishwasher and helping his brother take the laundry downstairs. I do have to make the request more than once. I say I love you by driving him to and from school daily when it would only take fifteen to twenty minutes for him to walk.

My middle son says I love you by taking the laundry downstairs and with an occasional hug. I say I love you by listening to him read for his pizza certificate and driving him to school though it would take a whole five minutes to walk it.

With both of my sons I say I love you with chasing games and piggy pile on mommy. Games my toddler enjoys playing, too.

My toddler says I love you by crawling up in my lap. I say I love you by kissing her boo boo's and holding her for only as long as she'll allow and letting her go.

As a mother, I sigh. I know my children will grow up and everything will change much sooner than I'm willing.



Valentine laundry – or knowing he cares

By Andrea Fester
Bear Facts Staff

What person feels more special than the one with a significant other willing to help with the laundry? When your loved one offers to 'throw in a load' or wash up a stack of dishes, it may mean much more to you than a bouquet of flowers or a card randomly picked from the store.

Granted it is not a task that is easy for them to accomplish. They may still be completing their course in Laundry 101 and have not yet finished the section on laundry sorting or temperature of wash.

As I perused the growing pile of laundry the other day, curiously I felt an overwhelming sense that yes, I am loved. There lay the pile ready to be sorted. Blue jeans thrown in with the towels, white tee shirts with my son's new red jersey. Somehow, I am the bearer of the knowledge that the whites go in one pile and the colored clothing in another.

As I whispered an expletive under my breath and proceeded to accomplish the task, I remembered that without my help, ninety-five percent of our clothing would be the same color. With the various odd-balled shirts already in the dresser drawers, we have the friendly reminder that my husband has discovered the hard way that the knobs on the washer have a purpose.

Don't get me wrong, I appreciate his help and his rather sheepish look when I find a shrunken shirt or he pulls on a pair of pink underwear. At least he tries. I remember as I throw my son's underwear in the whites that we will have a festive look on Valentine's Day if I dress him in his newly pink Power Rangers tee-shirt and I put on the grayish pink socks to keep my feet warm.

Yes, our valentines come in various sizes, small, medium, large, and even extra-large. They may not fit in an envelope, but they are special indeed.

At the end of sorting, I can't help but smile. When I come home from a harried

day of school or work, it is really relaxing knowing that I didn't have to fold a basket of laundry before going to bed. Not having to make subsequent trips to the basement to empty the dryer gives me a new appreciation for my significant other because that's what he is.

So the next time I view the weekly necessity of doing laundry as a chore, I'll remember the person responsible for lessening the burden and keep my cool. Honey, I appreciate you being there and Happy Valentine's Day, I love you, your card is in the sock drawer.

♥ Heather's hints for happiness ♥

By Heather Swanson
Bear Facts Staff

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

Happiness could be headed in your direction, but you need to want it first. Remember love and happiness may go hand in hand.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

You will spark an old flame after Valentine's Day. It's your decision whether it ignites or burns out. You must think of the feelings of others involved in this relationship.

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

You have a difficult decision to make regarding your love life this week. Don't forget that old saying, out with the old, in with the new. In your case it could be beneficial.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

You see red this month. As hard as it may be, run from it, not toward it. As much as it hurts, some things just weren't meant to be.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21)

You have to be on your guard and be careful who you let into your heart. If something seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22)

An Aries will give you the chance for a new beginning this Valentine's Day. If you move too fast, it could just end up in heartbreak.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Even though the lion is the king of the jungle, even a king must respect his queen. Love will evolve only when there is an equal commitment.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

A Capricorn has their eye on you. Be on the lookout for the subtle signals they have been sending you. Open your eyes, before it's too late.

Libra (September 23 - October 23)

Your scales are tipped in favor of love this month. Keep in mind, good communication and honesty are the keys to success in any relationship.

Scorpio (October 24 - November 22)

If you let go of the past, your future will definitely brighten up. Don't be afraid to approach a potential love interest, the feeling may be mutual.

Sagittarius (November 23 - December 22)

You are being admired from afar. Be patient and you will find it is definitely a virtue. Especially in cupid's field.

Capricorn (December 23 - January 19)

Friendship is the first step to starting a lasting relationship. Love could be right in front of you, but you have to want it first.



Reporter and columnist, Heather Swanson, joined the Bear facts staff this semester. Aside from work and attending college, Heather is the single mother of a 6-year old son. Her studies are focused with a major in law and a possible minor in journalism. "Writing is a way of relieving stress," says Heather, "I've always expressed my feelings best by writing them down."

Contact Swanson with news concerning Drama, Arts, and Music. (hls2101@dmacc.cc.ia.us.)

First day not so frustrating?

By Bob Eschlman
Bear Facts Staff

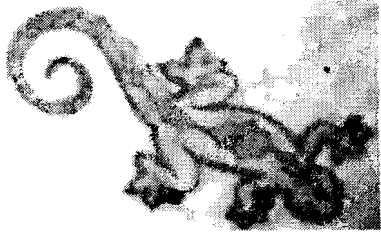
(Ed. Note: We're so happy to see that everyone had a great first day. We only received one suggestion for next year. Thank you to the student who submitted it.) In the January 28, 1998 edition of *Bear Facts*, we asked all students with concerns about the cancellation of classes at the beginning of the semester to submit suggestions for Dean Phillips to consider. Reader response was extremely low, as *Bear Facts* received only one suggestion. It was suggested, "How about publishing cancellations in *The Daily Tribune*, or other local papers?"

Rezoomers Club goes to basketball game

By Heather Swanson
Bear Facts Staff

"There was fun; there was excitement, and there was pizza," is how Maggie Stone, Rezoomers Club adviser, described the Rezoomers Club Family Day at the Ballgame on January 31. Eight club members and their families attended this first annual event.

The guests watched DMACC's men's and women's basketball teams battle NIACC. In between games, pizza was served in the Courter Center. After the games, Stone led the families on a tour of the building.



Body A

By Ana Ybarra-Rojas
Bear Facts Staff

Today body piercing and tattoo art have gradually moved into the mainstream. People from all walks of life and age groups are indulging in self-expression through these means. What ten years ago would have been shocking is acceptable today.

Body Piercing

Dennis "Gypsy" Smith has been piercing for the last five years. Lou and Dennis Smith, from Lasting Impressions in Ames, did a year and a half of research on body piercing in order to know how to treat problems or to refer people to doctors if the problem was out of their control.

In Gypsy's experience, the most commonly asked question by perspective clients is "Does it hurt?" That's the first question that comes out of their mouths," said Gypsy.

The most common body piercing for women is their navels and for men has become their ears and tongues. Typically, problems that arise from piercings are due to "infections because they do not take care of it properly," according to Lou.

In order to clarify some myths about body piercings, nipple piercings do affect breast feeding women. "You want to take the ring out (while breast feeding), but as far as breast feeding itself it doesn't affect it," said Gypsy.

"Navel rings will rip out during pregnancy, those you need to remove when you get pregnant for the simple fact that your stomach is going to swell and your belly button swells almost to an "outty." So it's best if you're pregnant to take them out," said Gypsy.

Both piercers agreed that the most painful body piercing to receive would be in the genital areas and the least painful would be an ear piercing.

Looking at piercings from the standpoint of how much care and time is going to be put into them, the least maintenance would be ear and tongue piercings. The high maintenance would be the navel and genital piercings.



Lasting Impressions staff from left to right are Jim Stevens, Lou Smith and Dennis "Gypsy" Smith.

You have to make sure that you clean all piercings according to instructions, always remembering to use clean hands when caring for piercings because "that is where infections come from, the bacteria from your hands," said Lou.

According to Gypsy, people get pierced for "shock value. It makes a statement, it's a personal statement, to be different not the norm."

When asked what his favorite piercing was, Gypsy said, "I think the tongue (piercing) is pretty neat. It's something that's not out in the open. (People from) All walks of life are piercing their tongues.

Tattoos

Gypsy considers both body piercings and tattooing an art form. "Piercing is an art form in its own way because if you don't place piercings right, they don't have an appealing look to them. I think tattooing has more of an art value than piercing does. Basically, piercing is a temporary adornment whereas tattoos are permanent," Gypsy explained.

Gypsy has 21 years of experience in the art of tattooing. He got his first tattoos at the age of 17 in Frankfurt, Germany. One of those tattoos was his ex-wife's name and the other was the military slogan, "Death before dishonor" since he was in the military at the time.

Lou's first tattoo was when she was 30. Lou said, "I got it because it stood for something that I felt strongly about." It was a heart with a rose and barb wire around it. "It signifies how you have to try love and how it's difficult at times but there's always a promise at the end," said Lou.

Lou and Gypsy believe that the greatest myth about tattoos is the stereotypes that there are about people with tattoos. In their experience every walk of life comes in to get tattoos from doctors to police officers. "Every walk of life has a tattoo now. I don't care what profession you're in you're going to find somebody in that profession that has a tattoo," said Gypsy.

As with body piercing the most common problem with tattoos is also not taking care of it properly. Another problem are people who've put significant others' names on and after the break-up have to get the tattoo covered up or have it removed by a dermatologist, which is expensive and does leave scars. "If I removed tattoos, I would be a millionaire," said Gypsy.

Lou's advice for people getting a tattoo is to "Think about it." Gypsy's advice is, "Put one on you that has meaning or something to do with part of your life, not because it's cute because it still

going to be cute 20 years from now." They tell all perspective clients not to be pressured into getting a tattoo. Gypsy has talked a lot of people out of getting tattooed because he felt that they were only doing it because their friends were getting one or because they really didn't want one.

Both Lou and Dennis Smith believe that people get tattoos because of self-expression. The shock value has gone out of tattoos except in cases of facial tattoos, but Gypsy doesn't recommend those.



Jenny Carter, DMACC student, got her eyebrow pierced. "Just because."

The average age of people getting piercings is from 16 to 50 and tattoos is from 18 and up. "I tattooed a 72 year old lady," said Gypsy. So it's all just a question of how you want to express yourself.

Women still tend to get pierced more often because of multiple ear piercings. This is because "women are more jewelry oriented than men are," said Gypsy. Also women are more accepted and or expected to decorate themselves in our society. Piercings start at \$12 and go up to \$50.

The legal end

There is no legal age for body piercings but Gypsy sets the limit at 16. He will not perform genital piercings unless the client is 18 years old. State law says that an individual must be 18 years of age to get a tattoo.

About 20 years ago Gypsy helped write the state laws on tattooing. "I've been trying to get the Health Department to set up some kind of laws on body piercing because of the popularity of it. Its becoming a danger factor when people are doing it in their own homes, due to AIDS" states Gypsy.

At Lasting Impressions, all needles and tattooing guns are disposed of for the protection of their clients. Gypsy pays a bio-hazard disposal company to get rid of the used equipment. Due to the strict health codes for tattooing, all tattoo artists

have to be licensed by the state, but on the other hand, body piercers do not, and there are no set health codes for them to follow.

Lasting Impressions carries insurance. They are also the only shop in Iowa that video tapes all piercings or tattoos where their clients have to remove their clothing, in order to protect both the clients and the establishment. These tapes are not shown to anyone unless it is in a court proceeding.

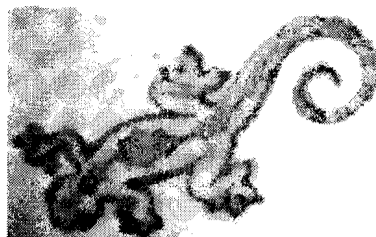
Piercing Dangers

- Piercing done without sterilized tools and jewelry could cause infection, disease, permanent injury, or death.
- Piercing should never be performed by a nonprofessional who might set up a shop out of a van or a house. These people are not practicing safe piercing and you are placing yourself in danger if you employ them for such a procedure. This is especially important because licensing is not required of piercers in Iowa.
- Keep in mind that in most matters, the legal age of consent for most related matters is eighteen. Although there is no law to the effect, a piercer willing to do a MAJOR body pierce (one with above-average safety concerns) on someone younger than eighteen without parental consent may not be on the level.
- Iowa has no specific piercing regulations. You are on your own, and you must take your safety into your own hands.
- Any time your skin is broken, infection is possible. Hepatitis B is one disease that can result from non-sterile body piercing.
- Proper care (with antiseptic, etc.) of a pierced area is necessary to avoid infection.

Questions to Ask a Piercer

- How did they learn to pierce? Are they pierced?
- How long have they been piercing?
- Approximately how many piercings have they performed?
- Do they have a portfolio?
- Do they have written aftercare? Who wrote it?
- How long has the studio been in existence?
- Do they have a covered ultrasonic cleaner and a working autoclave?

Gathered by Erin Kiley from "Body Piercing-A Guide to Safety" by W.R. Spence, MD



Triguiez, DMACC student, received his tattoo, "In honor of my father because there when he died."



Amber Reinsburg receiving a tattoo, "To remember my best friend (who died)"

Right, piercing artist Bert Du Chene piercing a clients nose.



Tattoo Dangers

- Tattooing done by unsterilized tools or nonprofessional tattooist can result in infection, disease, or a permanent injury or scar.
- Never get a tattoo from a scratcher--a nonprofessional who may set up a shop out of a van or a house or even their own studio
- The legal age for a tattoo in Iowa is eighteen. Anyone willing to break that law may be willing to cut corners on your safety, so beware.
- Iowa requires that tattoo artists be licensed
- As in piercing, in tattooing your skin is broken. Thus, infection is possible. Nonsterile tattooing practices can result in infections by such diseases as hepatitis B.

A Tattoo Artist Should

- Take new tubes and needles out of a sterile autoclave bag and put them in the tattooing machine before starting a tattoo.
- Use disposable ink cups to hold individual portions of ink
- Wear clean clothes and maintain a clean studio
- Be happy to answer questions about sterilization
- Show you an autoclave and an recent "spore test" that confirms proper sterilization and explain how the test works and the test results.

Gathered by Erin Kiley from "Tattoos- A Guide to Safety" by W.R. Spence, M.D.

Young and the Pierces vs. the Holy Tattooed Terror

Erin Kiley vs. Ana Ybarra-Rojas
Bear Facts Staff

One might say that the two of us come from opposite sides of the body art spectrum. I have been decorated from head to toe (eyebrow, nose, earlobe, tongue, and navel) as well as a hip and an ankle tattoo- a gecko and a butterfly, respectively). Erin, on the other hand, has pierced ears. Every other decoration she was born with. The plan was to explore both sides of the issue, as well as safety concerns. We wanted to help you to explore your options and make the matter through before acting carelessly.

What we have presented instead is more of a guide to body art, one that we hope that you will take to heart.

Erin: I, for example, would not be tattooed because I hate needles and feel that it is a form of torture. I would not get 'body art' because I would like to be let into my house sometime this millennium, preferably without giving my mother a heart attack. Maybe someday I will consider such decoration, but not today.

Ana: I believe that it is a form of self-expression for my personal enjoyment. Other people's opinions do not matter. I think my dad will agree with Erin's mother. Buyer beware- body art can be addictive.

Erin: At least you chose something more meaningful than a cartoon. And you put it in smart places. Put a dime-sized peace sign on your bottom and you could end up with the size of a stop sign when you're eighty.

Ana: If you haven't learned anything else, it's your body-- be happy with it.

Erin: And it's your choice what you do with it...a choice that you will have to live

How to annoy a dermatologist

By Erin Kiley
Bear Facts Staff

I set out to do an article on the safety issues of piercing and tattooing with the help of an area dermatologist, and I must say that I was a bit surprised with the results. The dermatological community was, for the most part...shall we say...resistant to the idea.

Their opinion could be summed up as 'sunscreen and moisturizer-good. Tattoos and piercings--bad.' I stated that people are going to get tattoos and piercings whether the medical field approves or not, but that it would be good to give guidelines to help them do so more safely. Such an argument was as affective on dermatologists as an argument for condoms in public schools would be to a conservative religious group.

One would think that dermatologists would relish the chance to try and dissuade human canvases for the new 'body art' craze from taking the big leap...or at least to help them to do so in the safest way possible.

Maybe there are dermatologists out there who feel that way, but none of them were available for comment. Those who would comment didn't have much to say, giving the effect of ostriches with their heads in the proverbial sand. Their philosophy seems to be that the body is a temple, and there are "No Graffiti" signs everywhere.

Photos by Ana Ybarra-Rojas
By the way that's my gecko!



Point/Counterpoint



□ This is second in a series of articles related to pressing moral issues faced by our society. It is the *Bear Facts'* intention that this column stimulate informed discussions among readers and ignite on campus a legitimate concern for the decisions made in our country. Exercises in freedom of speech through thoughtful and responsibly written letters to the editor are welcome--pmh2101@dmacc.cc.ia.us.

This issue's contributing writer for *Point/Counterpoint*, Dawn Dorland, is a senior at Woodward/Granger high school studying ethics on DMACC's Boone Campus and plans to attend a four-year university beginning next fall.

An argument in favor of legal abortion

By Dawn Dorland
Contributing Writer

To favor legal abortion does not mean that one insists on or even supports the killing of innocent lives for reasons of convenience or otherwise. An advocate of this medical procedure merely values human rights--more specifically, a female's right to govern her own body. Women's rights were practically non-existent at the beginning of this century, and, as humanity prepares to begin the new millennium, it is a time to reflect on the great strides females have taken toward gender equality. By legislating laws in the United States that would ban legal abortion, society would regress in the area of basic human rights, and women would again be subject to much of the same violating regulations they've spent generations trying to abolish. Therefore, placing legal restrictions on a woman's own body is a crime against humanity in every sense of the word in a country that claims to be founded on freedom. Such an act would indeed be as devastating to the female population as taking away its right to vote.

Diploma time is near Are your credits in order?

by George Silberhorn
DMACC Boone Campus Counselor

Think carefully before dropping a class you may need for your degree.

Earning an AA or AS degree from DMACC requires **successful completion** of 64 credits, but not just *any* credits.

Students are required to complete nine semester hours in communications. Students are urged to check the education program brief for particulars and visit with faculty advisors or counselors for verification of courses.

Nine semester hours of social and/or behavioral science are required to satisfy the requirements for the AA degree; 6

semester hours are required for the AS degree. The AA degree requires the completion of three distinctly different courses as defined by different acronyms (i.e. psyc, socy, plsc).

The AA degree requires completion of nine semester hours credit in math and science. Courses that satisfy the requirement are listed specifically as core requirements. Six semester hours satisfy the AS degree requirement of the math/science core. The humanities requirement of the AA degree may be met by completing nine semester hours of humanities core. Three semester hours of humanities core will satisfy the require-

Choosing to value and protect human life

By Patrice Harson
Bear Facts Staff

Reducing discussion on an issue as complex as abortion to the single argument of "a female's right to govern her own body" is unconscionable. When facing the decision to terminate the existence of a human fetus, the women of our society, who have intelligently fought for their human rights, need also intelligently examine why they abort.

Our medical profession has performed nearly thirty million abortions since *Roe v. Wade*, and the casual use of this medical procedure, along with the technology of the past 25 years, is brushing away the cobwebs of our morally lazy pro-life consciousness. It's time to ask tougher questions.

Is killing a fertilized human egg the best response to a bad situation? In fighting for our human right to choose, are we becoming blind to our responsibility to choose wisely *prior* to conception? In women whose health is not in jeopardy, who weren't raped or the victim of incest, or if there is no evidence that the fetus is developing abnormally, is it now *too easy* to get an abortion?

Refusal to examine our choices is as irresponsible as the Army of God's belief that murder is an appropriate response to killing. So is the difficulty some politicians experience in making the decision, when the mother's life is not at risk, to ban the procedure of puncturing the base of a human skull and removing the brain by suction after an infant merges partially from the birth canal.

Ultrasound, the pictures from which anti-abortionists use to terrorize women into choosing life, is now also used to detect pregnancies before women miss a period. Thanks to this breakthrough, 23 abortion clinics affiliated with Planned Parenthood destroy gestational sacs the size of a pea as early as eight or 10 days after conception...with no more guilt-ridden images of fingers or audios of heartbeats to contend with.

Has our common sense grown so accustomed to sitting on the fence that we cannot support contemplation before abortion? We've long known that improper or irresponsible use of the birth control pill can have abortive results. Now we've closed the gap between conception and abortion even more with the introduction of the French abortion pill, mifepristone. RU-486 lacks only final approval by the Food and Drug Administration. It also can't be found on our country's drug store shelves because of litigation brought on by a non-profit group arguing over who gets the profits. This argument is close to resolution, and people who wish to brush aside the abortion issue with the argument "my body, my business" may want to consider picturing women in our country reaching into their medicine cabinet and getting rid of a pregnancy as easily as they get rid of a headache.

When "fear of people finding out I am pregnant" and "inconvenient" continue to be two primary reasons why females in this country seek abortions, it becomes humiliatingly obvious that those of us on the pro-life side of this issue are not doing our job. When will those who claim to respect all life remove the patronizing robes of debilitating self-righteousness? When will we adopt Planned Parenthood's obvious ability to reach out to and counsel these women and young girls whose fear of being rejected by their loved ones or by their community is stronger than their need to make a fully informed and objective choice?

ment for the AS degree.

Distributed requirements for the AA degree are met by completing an additional 12 semester hours of credit from the communication, social/behavioral science, and/or humanities core categories.

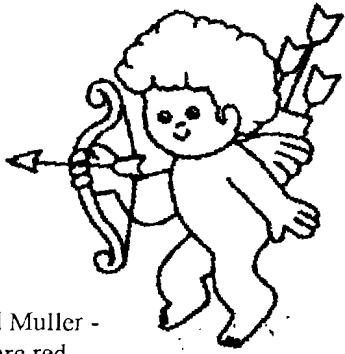
AS degree requirements are met by completing four semester hours of the distributed requirements.

See a counselor, educational advisor or faculty advisor for further information. Don't be bashful--ask questions.

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Donald Muller -
Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
Chocolate is a lot
Sweeter than you.
B.B.

Thank you, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, for
waking me up every morning and for
assurance of golden paths in life
everlasting. Thank you for grace. I love
you!
Monika Holtsmark

Mr. Alley -
Congratulations, and may "the force" be
with you in days and years to come.

To Sandi at registration -
Thank you for believing in a stranger
with an earful. You are an asset to
DMACC. Graduation in December '98.
Monika

Nursing Faculty -
Thanks for your caring and support.
Lois

Jo -
I Love You.
K.W

To FCA group at DMACC:
I believe I can fly
I believe I can touch the sky
Sometimes silence seems too loud, on the
verge of breaking down
There are miracles in life I must
achieve...
Being transformed daily from cocoons to
butterflies through the miracle of Christ.
Thanks for including me in your group.
Monika

Happy Valentine's Day to Pat from Lee

Thank you for being my big sister at
DMACC, Deb O'brien. Let's keep in
touch through all the moves in life.
Much love, Monika

Ana, Oh baby yo baby.
Yo Mike.

To Intro to Ed Students,
You, too, can educate
If in class you participate.
Love, Jane



To all my friends in Iowa like Kelley,
Ana, Dennis and Bob. I am really glad
that I moved here. Life is good!!
John Williams

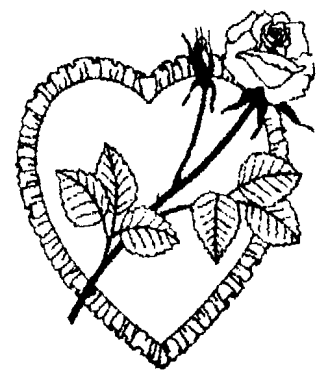
St. Valentine's Day sucks so you can kiss
my grits! Hey to Big John, Ana, Kelley
and Bob the cow! Moo! ROFLMAO.
};->

To Allison,
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love, Mom & Dad

Love is a language universal
An emotion we all share
This is just a note to say
"International students--we really care!"

Susan my darling♥♥♥
I always have♥♥♥still do♥♥♥and
always will♥♥♥LOVE YOU! Happy
Valentine's Day!
Love, Mike

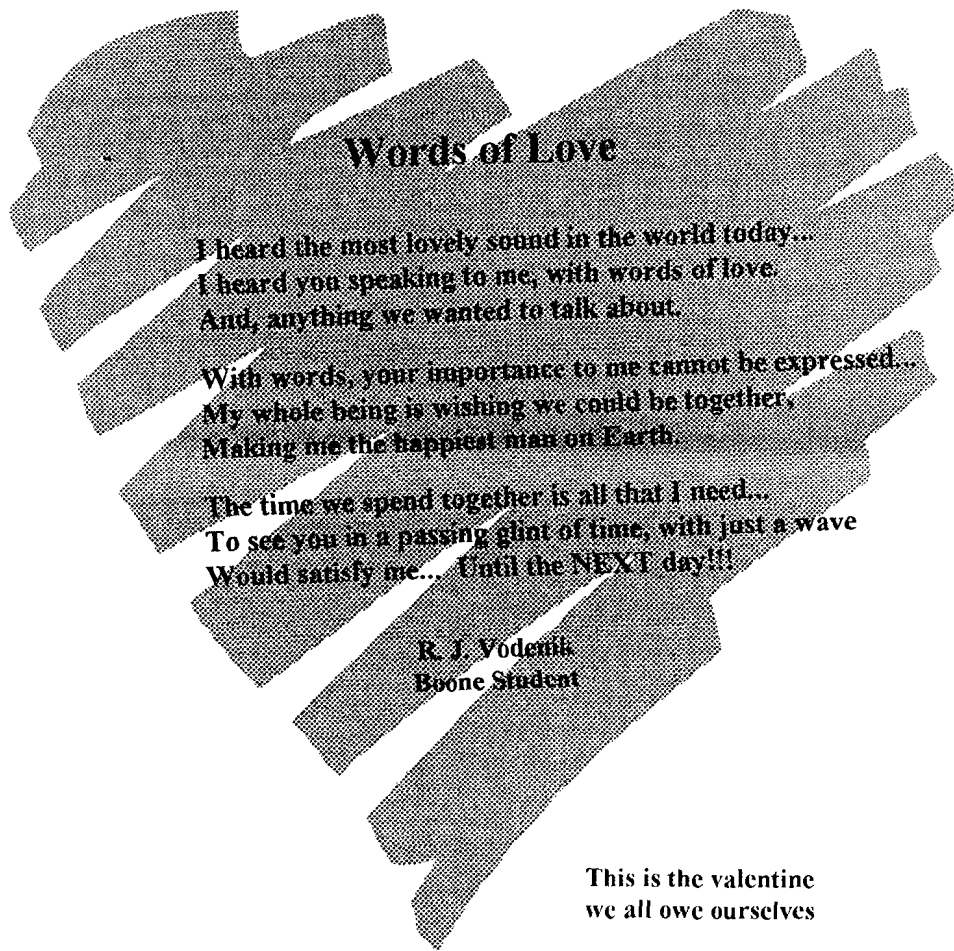
Happy Valentine's Day Pat. Rosi, Mary
Jane and Linda!
From Kim and Donna



To VAH,
Be mine tonight.
♥ Just Me



Good questions asked, in so many
words, by my DMACC Boone Campus
instructors and valuable answers found
by a grateful student in the accompani-
ment of their guidance and support...
*In this world there's a whole lot of
sorrow.
In this world there's a whole lot of pain.
In this world there's a whole lot of
trouble but a whole lot of ground to
gain.
Why take when you could be giving?
Why watch as the world goes by?
When you spend your whole life wish-
ing, wanting and wondering why...it's a
hard enough life to be living...
Why walk when you can fly?
And in this world there's a whole lot of
golden.
In this world there's a whole lot of plain.
In this world you've a soul for a com-
pass, and a heart for a pair of wings.
There's a star on the far horizon, rising
bright in the azure sky. For the rest of
the time that you're given...
Why walk when you can fly?
Excerpt from the song Why Walk When
You Can Fly? written and performed by
Mary Chapin Carpenter*



Words of Love

I heard the most lovely sound in the world today...
I heard you speaking to me, with words of love.
And, anything we wanted to talk about.

With words, your importance to me cannot be expressed...
My whole being is wishing we could be together,
Making me the happiest man on Earth.

The time we spend together is all that I need...
To see you in a passing glint of time, with just a wave
Would satisfy me... Until the NEXT day!!!

R. J. Vodenik
Boone Student

This is the valentine
we all owe ourselves

Les,
You are very special to me. Please be my
special Valentine.
Love Always, Beth

Dear David Hauser -
Let's make a trip to the library.
Lots of love -Judith Ann

To General, Educational and
Developmental Psch Students,
Beautiful people will think you're hot
When you study your psych a lot.
Love, Jane

To my darling husband, "Lexus"
I wish you a loving and joyous "HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY"
Love 'ya much,
Your wife, Aurora
"HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY," with
All My Love
HUGS-KISSES-SMOOCHES



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LEGISLATURE from page 4

was agreed to by Iowa's community colleges, it would cost \$6.9 million. "I doubt that we'll reach that," said Kibbie, "but we *should* reach that."

"In the dismal year we're in right now and in the one we were in last year," continued Kibbie, "the general fund appropriated more money for the private college students in need, per student, than for the community college students. We need to get in that \$6 million dollar area to get even or a little above what we're going to appropriate for the Iowa Tuition Grant Program. The Iowa Tuition Program is a wonderful program. Without it the private colleges would certainly be in

trouble. But the community colleges are the best feeders we have in this state for the private colleges."

Kibbie said, "Around sixty percent of the faculty in the community colleges in this state are part-time. In the urban areas that works out fairly well because there is a pool of qualified instructors. But in the rural areas that pool is not out there. In the community colleges, the faculties receive less salary than most K-12 schools in this state. In many cases you are not paying benefits and health insurance and so on. That needs to be addressed."

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"Around ninety percent of community college graduates stay in Iowa. That's better than any other higher educational institution."

Iowa's politicians are told by business and industry, the governor, the Department of Economic Development and, according to Kibbie, "everybody that speaks for jobs in this state," that Iowa is experiencing the greatest shortage of skilled labor than seen before in its history.

"Where are those skilled laborers going to come from?" asked Kibbie. "They're going to come from the community colleges. We need this legislature to step up to the plate and put some money out there for new programs, modern programs that industry needs today."

"We are the highest tuition state in the midwest, from the Canadian line to the gulf," continued Kibbie. "Thirty-three years ago we married vocational/technical and arts and science together. In other states--Minnesota, Wisconsin, Kentucky and Illinois--the big fight is to get like Iowa is...to get their vocational/technical system and their arts and science system together, run by the same boards, by the same state administration and on the same campuses. Fifty-two percent of our graduating seniors from last year who went on to college are in our community colleges. We need to step up the funding and fund them properly. Around ninety percent of community college graduates stay in Iowa. That's better than any other higher educational institution."

Kibbie said that Iowa needs its community college graduates. "If we vote for what the formula asks for," said Kibbie, "we can even write into that law that

community college tuition will not go up next year."

On Jan. 29, the DMACC Boone Campus representatives met with legislators and, as instructed the night before, told their story. After listening to the group, Senator Jerry Behn (R) said, "We have a large amount of money for education--that's not the problem. The problem is how to appropriate those funds fairly."

"You get more bang for your bucks through community colleges," said Behn, referring to life skills and necessary economic benefits community colleges offer the State.

At the close of the two-day seminar, Palmer said, "There is a tremendous need for citizen and student participation in the political process. Ultimately, the students are the proof of the pudding."

Bear Facts

February 11, 1998
Vol. XXVI—Issue #9

The *Bear Facts* is a student publication published bi-weekly at Des Moines Area Community College, 1125 Hancock Drive, Boone, IA 50036 (515) 433-5092. The *Bear Facts* is distributed free to all DMACC students, staff and alumni, or a subscription can be purchased at the annual rate of \$10 to the general public. Editorial and advertising offices of *The Bear Facts* are located in Room #210, 2nd floor of the academic building.

Editorial Policy

The *Bear Facts* welcomes all letters in an attempt to provide a forum for the many diverse views of the campus. The views expressed in the *Bear Facts* are not necessarily the views or endorsements of Des Moines Area Community College or the *Bear Facts* editorial board.

Letter Policy

Letters should be no longer than 200 words, signed and brought to the *Bear Facts* Room 210 and slipped under the door, e-mailed to jrlaville@dmacc.cc.ia.us or mailed in care of the college. The *Bear Facts* reserves the right to edit as necessary for libelous content, profanity, copyfitting, grammatical or spelling errors and clarity.

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Men's Basketball

When the going gets tough...

By Joe Siple
Bear Facts Staff

A couple of recent losses for the Bears have forced Coach Terry Jamieson into hopes for a better future and a finish with respect.

DMACC came up short against North Iowa on January 31, Kirkwood on February 2, and Iowa Lakes on February 7. The difficult losses did not help to salvage what has been a long road for the team.

"We just have to take it game by game now and hope to finish with some type of respect" said Jamieson.

The season has not been easy for Jamieson or his players. He points to the loss of his two best players at the beginning of the year. "Losing Rodrick (West)

and Cody (Mann) is like losing Pippen and Jordan. It makes it tough on the whole team" said Jamieson.

Once the season is over, the rebuilding process will begin. The coaching staff is excited about its first scholarship recruiting class and has high hopes for the future.

One bright spot Jamieson points out is the new arrival of Joe Critzer. Originally here to play baseball, Critzer has decided to try his hand at two collegiate sports and is adjusting well.

The Bears play at Iowa Western on the 11th with the next home game being a make-up game against Ellsworth on the 14th.

Carlson comments on women's season

"We won't need a lot with what we have coming back."

By Joe Siple
Bear Facts Staff

Coach Carlson and the DMACC women's basketball team took losses from two tough opponents this past week. The bears played Kirkwood at home and, most recently, visited Iowa Lakes.

Carlson says teams like Kirkwood make for tough games because of the talent factor. "They (Kirkwood) have so many good players. They have the money to go all out and get those great athletes" said Carlson.

Carlson also pointed out the difference in size. The Kirkwood squad has one regular player under 5'11" whereas the

bears have only one player over that height.

As far as the future goes, the bears hope to refine the players they have since they show a young line-up. "We aren't looking to recruit 7 or 8 girls," said Carlson. "Every other year we hit the recruiting hard and try to get quite a few new girls in, but next year we won't need a lot with what we have coming back."

The women also play at Iowa Western on the 11th and at home versus Ellsworth in a make-up game on February 14th.

Bear's Baseball gearing up

By Joe Siple
Bear Facts Staff

The outlook for the 1998 DMACC baseball team is very positive according to coach John Smith. The team has 13 sophomores this season and 17 freshmen.

"We have a chance to be a real good ball club," said Smith. "We should be better in most spots because we are a year older." Smith also pointed out that there are two or three spots open for freshmen to take.

The pitching staff is taking on high expectations this season. "Our pitching appears to be more consistent this year,"

said Smith. "Not only do we have more quantity, we also have more quality."

Practices have been held five times a week for the entire school year, with the exception of the month of October and winter break. This has given the infielders, outfielders and pitchers a chance to work out as well as getting the position players some batting practice. The Bears hope to improve on the up and down season of a year ago. Last year, the team finished with a 23-18 record.



Kings of the Hill: Ryan Gingery (left) and friends enjoy a day at Seven Oaks

Catching air: Surfing a mountain

By Moses Lueth
Bear Facts Staff

Snowboarding is a fast growing sport. Yet not all towns have the landscape, conditions, climate and resources to have a park. Boone, which has the landscape and the conditions, is home to Seven Oaks, a place where people from all over central Iowa can snowboard and ski. On any day of the week, people spend hours on the slopes honing their skills.

Mike Lansing, who has been snowboarding for two years, is a snowboard instructor at Seven Oaks. He believes that the addition of snowboarding into the winter Olympics in Nagano helped legitimize snowboarding as a sport. Like skateboarding, snowboarding was viewed as taboo, but the popularity is rising due to the 90's marketing geared toward a younger audience who are up for new challenges.

Ryan Gingery from Jefferson said he, "Skateboards in the summer and snow-

boards in the winter. Gingery likes snowboarding because of the speed and the chance to pull off new moves and catching big air (big jumps off ramps).

Many skateboarders, such as Gingery switch from the asphalt to snow in winter because it provides an activity similar to skateboarding just with different surface and weather conditions.

Bob Hauge who works ski patrol at Seven Oaks, has been skiing for several years. "I like snowboarding because of the potential to do more tricks. In skiing you can do a certain amount of things, but they are limited. Snowboarding is more fun-it is surfing a mountain," said Hauge.

Joel Bryan operations manager at Seven Oaks says the reasons snowboarding is available at Seven Oaks is that the popularity of the sport has surged rapidly in the last 5 years. On an average Saturday the 28 rental boards are usually gone within the first hour. Bryan also stated that the park is designed from the snowboarders point of view.

DMACC women's softball

Ready for some heat

By Joe Siple
Bear Facts Staff

The DMACC women's softball team has been busy preparing for the upcoming season. The squad holds practices three or four times each week and hopes to increase that as soon as the basketball season ends.

Practices consist of getting the pitchers into shape by throwing 100-200 pitches every day. Position players are concentrating on fundamentals this off season, taking grounders and incorporating gym drills into the workout.

One concern Coach Michelle Kruse has is the weather conditions during the

season. "Most of the girls are used to playing in warm or hot weather. Playing in cold weather will be a big adjustment for the freshmen" said Kruse. However, Kruse feels that they will field a strong team this spring and has high hopes for the season.

Players on the 1998 DMACC women's softball roster are:

Sophomores: Carisa Albin, Dottie Ausborn, Jeana Crouch, Ara Weckman, Jaclyn Kelley. Freshmen: Brooke Hansen, Laura Hatfield, Kari Hull, Ada Suarezblash, Raian Veach, Angie White, Brenda Woodyard.



Let your voices be heard

By Charles Whiteing
Guest Editorial Writer

Since the beginning of time, mankind has been on an endless quest, a quest to discover new ways to improve our existence on this earth. Whether it be the discovery of the wheel, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution, or the computer revolution of modern day, men, and women alike, have striven to be "the best that they could be."

How did these great inventors, discoverers, artists, and philosophers become the best that they could be? How can we continue this legacy and become the best that we can be? I have one simple solution: Education.

Education, the key to success. Or if you prefer, from the old Saturday morning School House Rocks episodes, "Knowledge is power!" I may be fooling around a little, but I do believe in the importance of education not only to improve one's self but also to improve society as a whole. But, as all of us struggling college students understand, oh so well, education doesn't come easy, and it doesn't come cheap.

I believe in equality in education. No matter what race, gender, or social status you are, everyone deserves equal opportunity when it comes to education. That's where Iowa's Community College system steps in. Iowa's Community College system was created to offer quality, yet affordable education to the citizens of Iowa, making equality in education more of a reality.

But in recent years this tradition has been threatened due to a lack of state funding, and a stigma that's been attached to Community Colleges as the "forgotten middle son." I first heard this metaphor used to describe how community colleges tend to get lost in Iowa's legislative "shuffle" by being caught in between the influential Regents schools (University of Iowa, Iowa State, and UNI) and the compulsory K-12 schools.

This obviously poses a disadvantage to community colleges. But the one defense mechanism they have always been able to count on to maintain their competitive edge has been low tuition. Without more state funding, the inevitability becomes higher tuition making affordable, practical education for the struggling student, the working mother, the non-traditional student looking for a second chance, along with many others, harder to find.

As students and citizens, we tend to look at situations like this and feel helpless. We feel like it's over our heads, out of our control, there's nothing we can do. But there is something we can do: We are blessed to live in a nation where we have guaranteed freedoms, like the freedom of speech, where we have a government that is by the people and for the people. We as citizens, I believe, have a civic duty to take advantage of these freedoms and let our voices be heard. And as students, I can't think of a better issue for us to stand up for than the improvement of Iowa's community colleges.

Five Boone DMACC students (including me), were honored two weeks ago to attend the 10th Annual Iowa Association of Community College Trustees Legislative Program. I know this sounds like a mouthful, but simply put, we, along with student delegations from all fifteen Iowa community colleges, received an opportunity to let our voices be heard.

This opportunity gave us a chance to speak with our state senators and representatives and let them know, as students, how important the community college system is to us and to the state of Iowa. Iowa Legislators are bombarded by lobbyists and special interest group representatives day after day trying to persuade them on how they should stand and vote on certain issues. Although lobbyists and special interest groups play a very important role in our legislative process, for legislators, nothing beats hearing issue concerns directly from the voices of their constituents.

Legislators are elected by the people, we the people, so when they are in office, they work for us, you might even say we are their bosses. They are there looking after their constituents' best interests. But they can't possibly know what best interests to look after if we don't communicate with them. Communication can be accomplished many different ways, and with modern technology, even faster and easier than ever before, really giving us no excuse not to let our legislators know what we want them to do.

You don't necessarily have to go down to the State Capitol and "lobby the hill." (Although I do recommend trying it. In my opinion it is exhilarating, exciting, and a great way to become politically active and involved.) Drop your legislators a letter or even easier, send them an e-mail. I know you can get a list of e-mail addresses at the State Capitol, and I think you might even be able to get them off of the State of Iowa web page. Let your legislators know how important DMACC is to you.

I'll leave you now with this last thought: An educated state is a prosperous state. Iowa's community colleges offer and provide a way to educate the masses, affordably and effectively. But to be able to continue, more state funding is needed. Let your legislators know how important the community college system is to Iowa. Get involved, play a part in Iowa's future.



Daily Grind

By Moses Lueth
Bear Facts Staff

Only in Lames, Iowa, could such a thing happen; a fabricated heroic action involving two chumps, a pistol and a lady. Such a town, when false crimes are staged to win the hand of a lady. From what I heard, dumbest and dumber were involved. Apparently, dumbest suggested this ultra-sweet plan to dumber to win the heart of his lady. And the scheme was this; a midnight rendezvous of dumbest and his Helen of Troy on the bridge by the park. This is where dumber would get to get his fifteen minutes of fame, the plan was that dumber would fake an attack on the girl, then Dumbest sweet Romco that he is, would play hero and ward off the pseudo attacker.

From what I heard there was a scuffle, the girl ran to the car, there was a shot, and sirens not too soon after. But wait, this caper would have been legit, but there were several holes in the planning and dumbest broke down and told the real truth about the matter. He wanted to impress his girl and so he called his good friend, Dumber, and they staged a mock mugging where Dumbest intentionally took a bullet. Now, there is no moral, but these two clowns would have saved all that grief, and community service if they had consulted a knowledgeable expert.

And what would have the expert said? Bowling at the Union and early morning breakfast at Perkins with transportation provided by Cy-Ride. Anything is better than a bullet, police interrogation, and a possible candidate of most likely to be on Jerry Springer Fellas, flowers not firearms. Peace...

To The Editor:

I am writing concerning the "Truth or Consequences" column. Within the latest article, the Bible is quoted to have said, "God created good and God created evil." When reading that statement, I felt compelled to respond.

That quote appears nowhere in Scripture. In the Bible, it says "For everything created by God is good" (1 Tim 4:4).

Please understand that I do not want to offend or personally "attack" anyone on the Bear Facts staff. I would simply like a wrong made right.

Jen Kovach

Counter response to editorial --

In response to the Jen Kovach who says that everything God created is good, I quote directly from Isaiah 45:5-7 "I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none

beside me. I am the Lord, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things."

The context of the passage in 1 Timothy 4:4 is the practice of eating what the Jews considered unclean animals. The word "good" used here in the Greek is kalos meaning good, valuable or virtuous (for appearance or use and thus distinguished from agathos which pertains to intrinsic). This is found on page 39 of the Greek dictionary in the Strong's Concordance that is collated with the King James version of the Bible.

God is good but the Spirit of God creates evil as judgment upon those who deserve it. In Jeremiah 45:4,5 it says "The Lord saith thus; Behold, that which I have built will I tear down, and that which I have planted I will pluck up, even this whole land. And seekest those great things for thyself? Seek them not: for behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the Lord."

Lorraine Powell, Bear Facts Staff

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

Morality is a choice

By Lorraine Powell
BearFactsStaff

"A man, woman or child convinced against his/her will is of the same opinion still"

As a mother of five children I am continually facing the issue of ratings: ratings of books my children read, ratings of videos and television programs they watch, ratings of music they listen to and possible ratings or blockages of what they may view on the internet.

What guidelines can a concerned parent give children today? My guidelines are not religious, but they are moral. For example, is what they watch degrading to the participants? Are the words of the songs embarrassing to a certain sex in terms of talking about their sexual parts as though they were sex-producing machines? Is being a male only the "machismo" of toting around a male instrument of power rather than taking responsibility and accountability for what you do? Is what is taking place going to help produce the conditions for a better world?

These are some of the issues that my children and I discuss in terms of today's rating systems. Coming to a resolution is a very difficult task.

Morals are not legislated. They are not dictated. They are chosen by each and every one of us. I do not want my children to carry with them through life an ever-growing list of do's and don't's or a set of Iowa Code Books. I do want them to learn how to make moral decisions based on conscience and then be able to evaluate those decisions based on the life situations they encounter.