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Banner News

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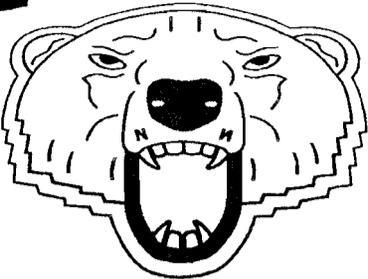
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BEAR FACTS



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

Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference held on Boone Campus March 6 & 7

By Lorraine Powell
Bear Facts Staff

Members of the Omicron Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, DMACC's professional business organization, sent 20 delegates to the 52nd annual Iowa PBL State Leadership Conference which was held on March 6-7 on the DMACC Boone Campus.

Pat Thieben, DMACC PBL advisor, said that members from the Boone chapter joined over 100 business students from across Iowa to compete for the chance to represent the state at the National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida, in July. College membership in PBL includes over 300 students statewide.

Thieben reported that colleges that participated in the conference included Clinton Community College, DMACC-Boone, DMACC-Urban, Hamilton College, Iowa Central Community College, Mount Sinai Claire College, Southwestern Community College, the University of Northern Iowa and Upper Iowa University. All PBL colleges are encouraged to find sponsors to fund the awards given at this conference. Sponsors for awards in the Boone area included Boone Bank & Trust, Boone County Hospital, and Boone Medical Associates Pharmacy.

Thieben went on to say that there were chapter, team, and individual events held at the Leadership Conference. Several students from the DMACC Boone Campus placed in the top five in their events. Students who placed first in their events will be traveling to Orlando to compete nationally. Second place students will have a chance to compete at the national level if the first place winners cannot attend. All students would appreciate any sponsorship that individuals, groups or businesses would like to provide in this effort.

Students who placed first are as follows: Donna Oertwig and Kim Luper for Business Graphics, Chris Swanson for Ms. Future Business Executive, and Dani McGowan for Salesmanship. Students who placed second included Marie Dostal,



Photo by Patrice Harson
Some Phi Beta Lambda members who participated in last weekend's State Leadership Conference were as follows: First row, from left to right, Denise Schmidt, newly elected State President Leisel Barrett, newly elected State Historian-Reporter Nicole Stocks, and Staci Tolan. Second row, from left to right, Michelle Fjelland, Jenni Henrichs, Dani McGowan, Marie Dostal, Chris Swanson and Diana Glandon.

tal, Jenni Henrich, and Teresa Espinoza for Business Decision Making; Chris Swanson for Machine Transcription; Leisel Barrett for Word Processing and Nicole Stocks for Word Processing Fundamentals. Students who placed third were Staci Tolan and Leisel Barrett for Desktop Publishing, Lisa Conner for Information Management, Dani McGowan for Payroll Accounting and Denise Schmidt for Word Processing Fundamentals. Students placing fourth were Crissia Breon for Job Interview, Nicole Stocks for Machine Transcription, Teresa Espinoza for Telecommunications, Chris Swanson for Who's Who in PBL, and Tanya Smuck for Word Processing. Students placing fifth were Leisel Barrett for Business Math, and Michelle Fjelland for Computer Applications.

In addition, two DMACC Boone Campus students were elected to state offices: Leisel Barrett, State President, and Nicole Stocks, State Historian-Reporter.

DMACC Boone Campus freshman and newly elected PBL State President, Leisel Barrett, said, "I'd like to see the elected officers keep a journal of their duties. The journal would increase involvement and communication between PBL chapter members. More people would run for offices if they knew the duties and responsibilities (of these offices).

DMACC Boone Campus freshman and PBL member, Lisa Conner, said, "I earn points for my class (Professionalism II) by providing service to the community. For example, I received points for donating blood during the blood drive held on Boone Campus March 2. We need to get PBL more involved in the communities."

DMACC Boone Campus PBL voting delegate Tracy Reed said that she would like to see more DMACC campuses and more community members involved with PBL. Inadequate communication is, according to Reed, why the involvement in this organization is not what it could be.



Photo by Patrice Harson
Phi Beta Lambda State President-elect, Leisel Barrett, explained to the Professional Business League voting delegates her desire to increase involvement and communication between PBL chapter members

Another students' day off?
DMACC instructors' had luck considered good luck by others...
Professional Day
Friday, March 13
All Staff In-Service
No Classes--
Offices Closed

ID, instructor's name, specific test Help students ease the pain of examinations

By Lisa Kahookele
AAC Staff Member

Ever missed a test? Don't panic, just talk to your instructor about taking it at the Academic Achievement Center.

At some point in their academic careers, most DMACC students will miss or retake an exam. When that happens, instructors frequently place tests in a folder in the Academic Achievement Center. The tests are then filed under the instructors' names.

"It is important for students to know the name of their instructor so that we can find the tests quickly," said Jinny Silberhorn, director of the AAC.

The AAC staff handles an average of 500 student tests each month. While the majority of the tests are from Boone campus instructors, the AAC also handles tests from other college campuses.

Some DMACC instructors have multiple tests for different classes in their folders, so students must also know which test they need to take. For example, Jane Martino is teaching four different psychology courses this semester. The student needs to know which class he or she

is taking as well as which particular test he or she needs.

Students are also responsible for having photo identification to prove who they are.

"We have ten staff members who work during the week, but they can't possibly know all the 1,126 students," said Silberhorn.

After a student signs in on an orange card and has his or her ID checked, an AAC staff member pulls the test from the instructor's folder and checks for any special instructions. If there is no test for the student in the folder, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor.

Students take their tests in the testing room. The AAC staff tries to keep noise away from the room so that students may concentrate. If the room gets noisy or uncomfortable, notify a staff member immediately.

The AAC is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday.



Four of the ten DMACC Boone Campus students who joined the Tau Phi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa are (from left to right) Stefanie Donnel of Ames, Kathleen Brice of Boone, Carla Wood of Panora and Kari Vickers of Boone. Other members inducted March 1 were Peggy Bagwell of Audubon, Debra Broich of Halbur, Debra O'Brien of Ames, JoAnn Seeman of Woodward, Suzanna Stork of Breda, and Mary Catlett of Madrid.

As a member of Phi Theta Kappa, I am committed to support the constitution and laws of my country insofar as they represent a commitment to the obligations, rights, and freedoms of people. I am committed to the pursuit of truth...to honesty and integrity...and to efforts that serve others...to enhance the beauty of life and the dignity of humankind...

~excerpt from the Constitution of the Tau Phi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa

Blood drive was a success 22 units drawn from 28 donors

By Barb Gano, Nursing Staff
Contributing Writer

Every 17 seconds, someone, somewhere needs blood. Thanks to the dedicated and caring faculty and students of Boone DMACC, the blood drive held Monday, March 2 was a success.

Lorie Larson, chairperson of the event, is to be recognized for the organization and motivation in assuring the blood drive went as smoothly as it did. At the drive, 28 donors were interviewed, and 22 units were drawn. This means at least 66 patients will be helped because of these people!

Six people were first time donors. Two things they learned were to eat breakfast the morning of your donation and you get a free can of Pepsi if you feel or become faint! There were some who wanted to donate, but because the drive needed to be shortened this semester, we were not able to fit them in. We hope you all will be able to donate at the next drive.

A big thank you goes to those volunteers who gave their time to assist with the blood drive: Danielle Berg and Tami Bower for the creative and eye catching bulletin board in the computer lab; Angie

Parle for pre-registration; Laura Elsberry, Rachel Thomas, Sheri Goshorn, and Lorie Larson for helping with set-up; Becky Hostetter, Kara Kennedy, Barbara Wilson, Jessica Hannusch, Sue Baumhover, Lorie Larson, and Barb Gano for working registration and canteen tables; and Connie Booth for her support. Donations for prizes came from the Blood Center of Iowa, Barb Gano and several from the Knowledge Nook (book store at Boone Campus)!

If you missed the blood drive this semester for some reason, it will be here again next year. The blood drive at the Boone Campus is conducted during the fall and spring semesters and is coordinated by students in the first and second level nursing programs. You can also check with your local neighborhood to see when they will be holding a blood drive.

The Blood Center would like to express appreciation to all those who participated. The support you provided helps The Blood Center to meet the increasing demands of the hospitals we serve in central Iowa.

If your grades are good... There's still time to join Phi Theta Kappa

By Patrice Harson
Bear Facts Staff

DMACC Boone Campus instructor Lee McNair announced last week that the deadline to join Phi Theta Kappa was extended to Wednesday, March 19.

The reason for this extension is due to a change in the rules of eligibility that grew out of forming chapters on all five DMACC campuses.

Interested students who have obtained 12 credit hours and have fulfilled the 3.5 grade point average required to join PTK are urged to see McNair in room 123 immediately.

McNair said the application to join PTK must be completed in full by March 19. The standard initiation fee is \$35.

Sizable scholarships are often available to students planning to transfer, "And it looks great on your resume," added McNair.

Fewer credits are now required to join PTK and the organization, according to McNair, "recognizes the value of scholarship, integrity and service."

The Academic Achievement Center

Open

- Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Fridays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- If you need to take a test please allow enough time.
- A picture I.D. is required to take a test



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⇒ Talk Back ←

Reporting & photos
by Moses Lueth

What are your feelings on doctor-assisted suicide?



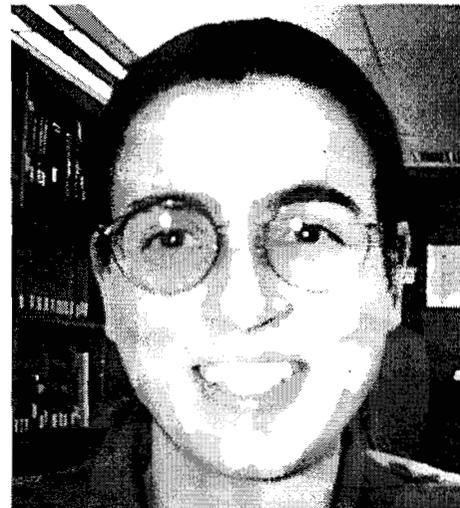
Nathan Stoll

"I think it is OK. There are certain cases when it is needed to limit the pain and suffering of the patient."



Chad Behn

"I think it is OK with the consent of the patient. There should be no blame on the doctor. They are just doing their job."



Idoia Ruiz

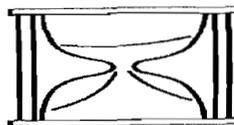
"I think it depends on the individual. People should have the right to choose. Some people have terminal diseases with no hope of cures. It takes as much courage to either live through the disease or to end the suffering."



Kelley Shonrock

"Basically, if someone feels they need to die, And that is the way they want to do it, I don't think anybody should stop them."

Melinda's Musings



By Melinda Gorman
Bear Facts Staff

A friend asked the other day if I always planned to be as busy as I am. I do plan to slow down some. When one gets so busy they think they might see themselves coming and going from the same door, it's time to slow down. But I've observed that our time gets filled with whatever we choose to fill it. To be bored or to fill our time with interesting things to do is entirely our own choice.

When I was elementary-school age, I thought that time went so slow, but that was usually when I was in school, wishing I could be out playing. The more things I learned to fill up time, the faster it seemed to speed by.

Now I have so many tasks to fill up my time that I make lists for myself and half the list doesn't get completed. I've never understood why people say "I'm bored. I have nothing to do." Perhaps it is because I have been able to distinguish between "I'm bored" and "I don't want to do those icky tasks that I don't like to do."

New web site for consumers

Washington D.C. -- The first Internet site to provide "one-stop" access to federal consumer information resources is ready for visitors. Located at www.gov, the site, named U.S. Consumer Gateway, offers information by subject, rather than by federal agency.

Each of the site's 10 major categories, including Food, Health, Your Money, Product Safety, and Transportation has its own subject areas, allowing consumers to locate and link to appropriate and late-breaking information quickly and easily. Topics are cross-linked to encourage and enhance access.

Among the site features are Scan Alert!, which provides information about current law enforcement efforts and tips on how to recognize -- and avoid -- fraudulent and deceptive practices in the marketplace, and OF Special Interest, timely and new information on a variety of topics.

The initiative to develop the U.S. Consumer Gateway at www.consumer.gov was led by the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection. As the "host" agency, the FTC maintains the site server and provides all technical support.

Last Day To Drop Classes
March 31

Deadline for Boone Foundation 1998-99 Scholarship Applications
April 1

1998-99 State Financial Aid Application Deadline
April 21

(Application forms available in file cabinet located in hallway between the front office and the Courter Center)

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Spring Break

No Classes
March 23-29

Offices will be open
7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Computer Lab and
Library Hours--
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Has lagtime got you down?

DMACC computer system may be getting upgrade by next fall

By Bob Eschliman
Bear Facts Staff

John has just left his 11:15 psychology class with a research paper assignment that needs information from the Internet. Like the good student that he is, he decides to do the research from school, right away. The computer lab is a little crowded, but there are a few terminals still available, so he quickly logs into the system, and starts up his Netscape application. He goes to the web search form located on the DMACC homepage so he can find his information more efficiently.

"Thank goodness they made that available to students. It's so user-friendly," John thinks to himself while the search query is running. But his smile suddenly fades as he realizes that the download time back to his terminal is too slow. Three hours later, having visited only four sites, he gives up his search, tries to make due with the information he has, and decides to start on his paper.

Trying to open his Word application takes a couple of minutes, and the computer tends to slow down from time to time while he types his paper. Saving the document takes a few minutes as well, and printing it takes even longer. In the end, John is quite the frustrated student.

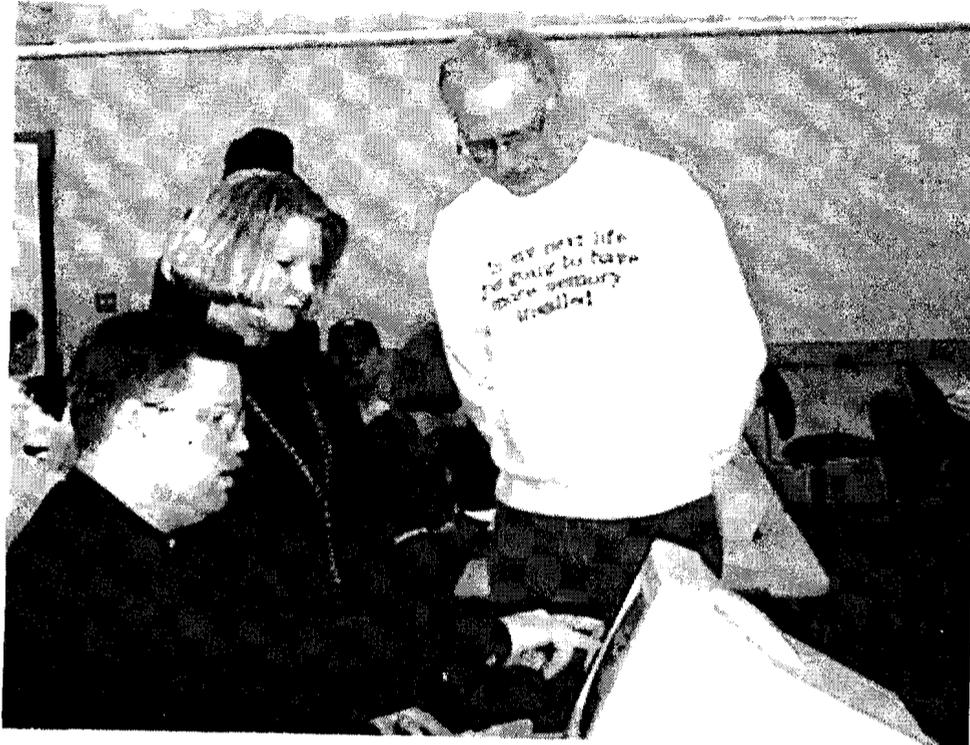
"What students need to realize is that there is only one phone line from the college's web-server to the Internet."

Reasons for a slow system

When asked about the computer services at the Boone Campus, most students will agree with John that it tends to be very slow. When compared to the mainframe systems at Iowa State, for example, the DMACC system seems to pale by comparison. What some users don't realize is that there are several very good reasons why it appears to be so slow.

"What students need to realize is that there is only one phone line from the college's web-server to the Internet," says Ron Erickson, Boone Campus Local Access Network Equipment Specialist. "Also, the Internet itself slows down during the late morning, until mid-evening, when the number of users is at its peak. The best time to use the Internet for research is either first thing in the morning or later in the evening."

Erickson also said that another factor that can slow down the system is system upgrades. Due to the nature of the DMACC computer network, system upgrades take time to be performed cor-



Bob Eschliman, Bear Facts staff member, gets advice on his computer article from Jan LaVille, newspaper adviser, and Ron Erickson, LAN specialist.

rectly. Changes to one part of the system have to be coordinated so that they won't adversely affect another part of the system. Erickson also added that while the current computer system wasn't exactly on the cutting edge of technology, it would soon be very close.

Moving to Windows NT

According to Erickson, the entire DMACC computer system may be going to a Windows NT system by this coming fall. Noting that this isn't a "done deal", he did stress that this new system would be more user friendly and would bring about major changes in the appearance of the system to students and faculty.

"Instead of seeing the DOS login screen, users will have a screen that looks quite similar to Windows 95. They can connect to a printer from within their applications, rather than having to remember to do it after logging in," Erickson said.

"Students are going to be able to register for classes over the Internet, as well as check their grades. And we're very excited to be offering two Internet-based courses next fall, as well. This will be a really big first for DMACC, and it will be happening right here."

A bright future for DMACC

DMACC Boone Campus Executive Dean. Kriss Phillips is very excited about the changes that this upgrade may bring to the Boone campus, as well as the rest

of DMACC. He said many new services will be available to Boone DMACC students in the near future.

Phillips said, "Students are going to be able to register for classes over the Internet, as well as check their grades. Even now, some teachers are placing their class notes on the (web-server). And we're very excited to be offering two Internet-based courses next fall, as well. This will be a really big first for DMACC, and it will be happening right here."

How equipment upgrades occur

Phillips also helped to explain how equipment improvement requests are filed annually and reviewed by Central Administration. These requests are generally weighed according to the needs of all five campuses, as well as the funds available. When submitting the Boone Campus requests, Phillips says he generally relies on the opinions of Erickson and "a group of faculty members with in-depth computer knowledge" to help steer the direction of the future for the computer services provided at the Boone campus.

Computer literacy is important

Is the system speed the only problem that students seem to have difficulties with, or is there more? Erickson indicated that due to the broad range of computer expertise found in the student body at DMACC, the problems he runs into with student users is also broad.

Generally, he said that most problems associated with student computer users were associated with logging in, too many e-mails being saved, and loss of files due to bad floppy disks. He also said that students should remember to always check

photo by Patrice Harson

the opening messages when they log in and should also make themselves aware of the proper procedures that are posted in the computer lab.

Erickson says that while the number of problems seems to be decreasing, he feels every student should take the time to acquire a good general computer literacy.

If a student still runs into problems, help is available from the lab assistants. Erickson finished by saying that while the number of problems seems to be decreasing, he feels every student should take the time to acquire a good general computer literacy.

DMACC offers a computer literacy course, Introduction to Computer Literacy (COMS 181), which instructs students in the proper use of the DMACC computer system, as well as how to use various software applications, which can be helpful in a student's college career. The class is also very helpful for individuals who are just trying to figure out how to use a computer. The COMS 181 course is immensely popular, even with non-traditional students.

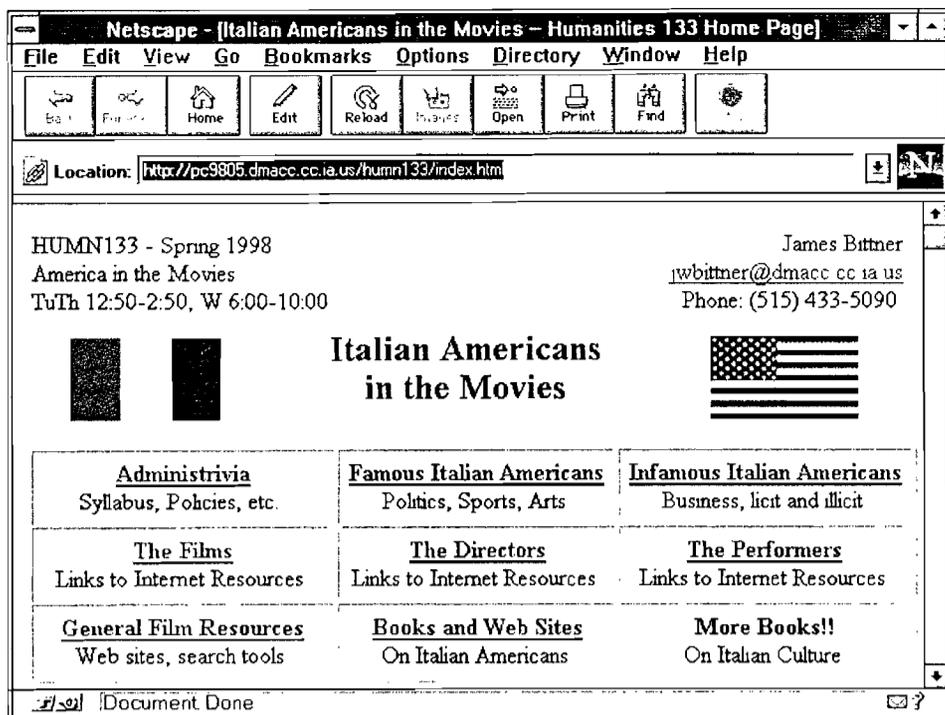
Computer science campus?

Mark Whitcher, a computer instructor here at the Boone Campus, teaches the COMS 181 course on Saturday mornings and has an unusually large number of non-traditional students and students who are taking COMS 181 only.

"DMACC needs to be prepared for the future generations. They're going to go to places we've only dreamed of."

He said, "I think Boone Campus has the perfect opportunity to become as well-known for its computer science as it is for nursing. Money, and a broader range of classes offered can make all the difference. It would be nice to have a lab where students can actually assemble and disassemble computers, like an auto shop for computers.

"Computers are very important to the future. They are to our children what TVs were to us. DMACC needs to be prepared for the future generations. They're going to go to places we've only dreamed of. We can't even imagine today where this is all going to go," concluded Whitcher.



Above is a screen shot of the Humn 133 home page where Web browsers can find additional information on Italian Americans by clicking on each specific area. Doing so will link the user to the site they wish to go to such as Italian American directors, performers, and artists. Also by clicking on the American flag, users can link to the American Embassy in Rome. By clicking on the Italian flag, users can be linked to the Italian Embassy in Washington D.C. The site was designed by Dr. James Bittner, group leader of communications and humanities on the Boone Campus for his spring semester class *America in the Movies*.

On-line classes to be available from DMACC Boone Campus

By Moses Lueth
Bear Facts Staff

According to English Instructor James Bittner, there will be two fall semester classes offered on-line for the Boone Campus. The classes that will be offered are Composition I (ENGL 117) and Internet Research Techniques (LIBS123).

This will be the first time that any classes are offered on-line for all the five DMACC campuses. This will give students the ability to log on from anywhere in the state, country, or the world and take the courses.

Students with prior experience of Textra-Connect will have an easy time in Composition I. The on-line class will be identical to Textra-Connect. But instead of being locally accessed, the classes will be accessed from any computer terminal with Internet capabilities.

Currently, the Humn 133 is on-line in conjunction with Italy week. This site has been available to students for *America in the Movies* since January. This site supplements the course with additional information regarding Italian Americans and their effect on cinema throughout the decades.

Also on the site are a course syllabus, policies, grading, assignments, and on-line discussions. Web surfers can follow links to famous and infamous Italian American athletes, politicians, artists, directors, and performers. This semester,

the web site merely supplements the course; students in future courses may be required to use the Internet.

AAC offers support with computers

By Lisa Kahookele
AAC Staff Member and
Contributing Writer

The Academic Achievement Center has done its best to keep up with technology that DMACC students use.

The Center has seven computers available to students. The software programs include the Microsoft Word, Pegasus e-mail, Excel, PowerPoint, and the Internet.

An added bonus is that the staff in the AAC is able to offer assistance with most programs.

The AAC also has specialty software to help students improve their grammar, speed reading, typing skills, math skills, and other skills. Another program available is the Choices program. Choices helps students explore career possibilities, financial aid, schools, and job and salary outlooks.

Students may sign-up to use specific computers at specific times, just stop in the AAC to make arrangements. The AAC is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays.

Ballantyne hopes early retirement will bring new-found freedom



photo by Ana Ybarra-Rojas
Martha Ballantyne

By Ana Ybarra-Rojas
Bear Facts Staff

Martha Ballantyne has been employed in the DMACC Boone campus Business Office for approximately 14 years. This is her last. She came to DMACC through a friend who was employed here. "We had a couple cups of coffee together, and I said, 'I'd sure like to have a part-time job,' and she said, 'I have a feeling I know where you could get one'--- and here I am." Ballantyne said.

"I'm ready for it (early retirement)" said Ballantyne, "DMACC has good benefits, and it's out with the old and in with the new." The decision to retire was made quite quickly, "I guess I'd been thinking about it-- but not that seriously." When she realized that she had to inform DMACC six months ahead of time about her decision to retire, the choice was hard to make but done quickly. Ballantyne believes it was the right choice.

"When I started, my co-worker and I worked in the same office. We shared a computer!"

Throughout Ballantyne's career, there have been some major changes at DMACC. The most overwhelming has been the growth on campus, "When I started, my co-worker and I worked in the same office. We shared a computer!" exclaimed Ballantyne. When Ballantyne started working at DMACC's Boone campus, there were 700 students compared to the 1,200 students of today.

Ballantyne stated that what she'll miss the most are her friends. "They are really good people, caring people," said Ballantyne, and those friendships will continue even when she's gone.

The only thing Ballantyne will not miss about DMACC is, "That first day of classes of each semester. That is really stressful, not just for students, but for everybody," laughed Ballantyne. She went on to say that no matter "how hard you work and how psyched-up you get, it is still mass confusion." She believes one of the contributing factors to the stress is

not having enough staff, but she strongly feels that staff and faculty, alike, do a great job regardless.

"I want to do more want to's, no have to's ; I want to be able to do what I want to, when I want to."

Ballantyne's plans for retirement are helping her five children, "I want to do more want to's, no have to's ; I want to be able to do what I want to, when I want to," explained Ballantyne.

In Ballantyne's life, the most influential person was her late husband, who was also her best friend. Since he's been gone, her children have filled that spot. "I'm really close with my kids. I'm the mom, but they are good friends, and I like to be around them and their spouses," Ballantyne elaborated. She's grateful for her life, and apart from a better education, she wouldn't change a thing.

Ballantyne believes that due to her early retirement, she'll gain some freedom and was adamant that she'll keep her friendships with co-workers. Ballantyne is happy and optimistic about her future endeavors.

With no real concerns about retirement, Ballantyne said she would keep busy and have fun. "I'll still work somewhere, doing something. I would like to work at my son's business, if they'll have me," Ballantyne stated.

Ballantyne's advice to the students at DMACC is, "Get your education. I think that is so important and DMACC has quality education," Ballantyne resolved.

Bear Facts

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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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Printer—Boone News Republican



Photo by Patrice Harson

Frustrated by trying to decipher her way to a family fortune, *Bone-Chiller* character Eloise Ainsley, played by Carla Wood expertly reads the line, "I still don't get it!" But play director Kay Mueller is confident that when she's through with this talented cast, both cast members and their audience will enjoy an evening of mystery and comedy. Also pictured is Jerry Delvin, played by Derrick Gorshe.

Bone-chilling production underway Murder and mystery abound on Boone campus

By Andrea Fester
Bear Facts Staff

A collection of characters gathers to read a will in the parlor/library of the Travers family mansion in New York City. Not an average will, but one written as a rebus (puzzle) to force the characters to do a little thinking. However, a difficult task is made even more complex as murder abounds.

This is not an average evening from a television screenplay. Instead, it is the current production in rehearsal by the theater department of the DMACC Boone campus. Kay Mueller, director, discovered the play, *Bone-Chiller*, researching scripts for the spring production. Mueller, knowing from interested parties that she might be faced with a large female cast, made her selection with the idea of a mystery in mind. Liking the characters and the additional fact that the script tossed in a little humor cemented her decision.

Talented students audition for cast

A week before the auditions, scripts were placed in the campus library for students to peruse. Those interested gath-

ered, were introduced to the various characters and scenes were read for auditions. Mueller, observing the variety of talent made available to her, made her final decisions recently. Students selected for rolls in the cast of *Bone-Chiller* are Derrick Gorshe, Charity Peterson, Neal Garvey, Dorothy Brogden, Taunya Winters, Kathleen Brice, Michael J. Chow, Ana Ybarra-Rojas, Allisa Wellendorf, Carla Wood, Joni Penfold, Katie Niemants and Alan Frederiksen. Complementing those who auditioned, Mueller inspired by the challenge of a sight-impaired person who came to read for her added, "The person was selected as a part of our cast."

Cast and crew hard at work

The three-act play will be presented on April 17 and 18 in the Boone DMACC campus auditorium at eight o'clock each evening. Kay Mueller, director, will be assisted by Adam Wile. Currently, construction of the set is in order and Mueller hopes to have it ready for use in rehearsal this week. The hard work and dedication of all should provide for an enjoyable event.



Photo courtesy of Ann Watts

DMACC Boone Campus English instructor Judy Hauser leads a group of children from two-weeks old to 6th grade at Lincoln Elementary School during a "Read-In" sponsored by PTA members from Lincoln and Garfield Elementary Schools in Boone.

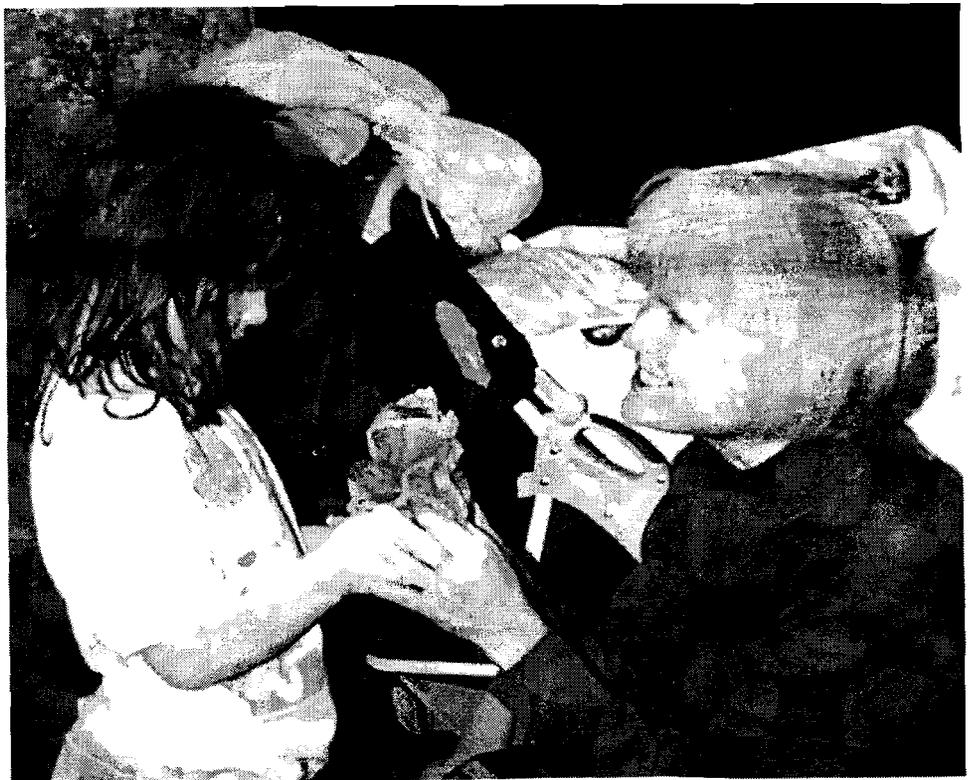


Photo courtesy of Judy Hauser

DMACC Boone Campus librarian and media specialist Ann Watts, better known as "Library Ann" to elementary students throughout Boone, makes tissue paper butterflies to go along with the book she just read to the children, *One Dragon to Another* by Ned Delaney.

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Snowmobiling--a popular Iowa sport

Some welcome recent central Iowa blizzard

By Cory Williams
Bear Facts Staff Writer

This year was supposed to be good for snowmobiling. A lot of people bought new or fairly new snowmobiles. This past weekend's snows, though a pain for most, brought one more opportunity for snowmobilers in central Iowa.

Snowmobiles are fun and exciting if you like snow, wind chills, and a frozen lake or river. Those are the requirements for a snowmobile, unless you are from California or Florida and play in the X-games.

Popular in Midwest

Snowmobiling is very popular around the United States. The best places to go are up to our neighboring states, like South or North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, or Michigan.

A snowmobile route starts in South Dakota and ends in the middle of Wisconsin.

A snowmobile route starts in South Dakota and ends in the middle of Wisconsin. Actually there are many routes in the Dakotas; it depends on how far you want to go. Detroit, Michigan, has many trails for snowmobiles; Yellowstone National Park in Montana has many tours throughout the winter; you can climb hills or trails in Utah.

Even Iowa has some trails, but they are not as good as those in our neighboring states. It depends how much money you want to spend on a trip, just like any other sport.

Snowmobiles are like Bass boats, you have the high priced to the junkyard

machines. A brand new sled will cost you around \$7 thousand. That's a little too much for me. Then, you have your middle class sled that runs around \$3 to 4 thousand. And the older machines you can get for \$100 to \$1500. Usually you can get them cheaper if you have connections.

The accessories for the snowmobile are not a necessity. If you want to spend the money, go for it. The studs are not necessary, but if you like dragging your sled, then buy them.

The equipment is like buying fishing tackle -- it depends on what you want. Helmets run from \$60 to \$150 depending on if you want the remote microphone called the Chat Box which costs around \$150.

The jacket cost from \$100 to \$500 for all leather. The boots average around \$30 to \$100. The gloves also range from \$10 to \$70. It depends on how much circulation you have in your hands and feet.

Staying warm is very important when riding the sled. When you're too cold, you're not having a good time

Staying warm is very important when riding the sled. When you're too cold, you're not having a good time.

To enjoy winter fun, in Iowa, you can invest a lot or a little, but without this "last" big snow, you couldn't have enjoyed your snowmobile at all, so Snowmobilers--get out there and enjoy this before it melts!

Annual Spring Break trip DMACC Baseball to head south

By Joe Siple
Bear Facts Staff Writer

While the rest of the DMACC campus students are soaking in the rays on the beach or taking it easy at home, the DMACC baseball team will make a trip to Miami, Oklahoma.

They will play in ten games against teams from Oklahoma and Missouri. The Bears have ten games scheduled over break including a stop at Kansas City for a double header on the way south.

Double headers are also scheduled for March 14 and 17, weather permitting. The 14th is at home against Ellsworth and the 17th is scheduled to be at Indian Hills.

To The Editor:

Jeremy Beck is a student here. He helped us out on the highway. Please put this thank you in the Bear Facts. Thank you.

Jeremy-

Thank you for your recent kindness. You helped us by pulling us over because we had a very low tire, and then changed it for us. In this crazy world, if we look close enough, there are still good samaritans and helpful people. Bless you as you blessed us.

Mike and Susan Larrew

Sports Briefs

By Joe Siple
Bear Facts Staff Writer

- Men's golf is being offered at DMACC for the first time. Five players have signed up to play in two tournaments at Iowa Central and one at Ellsworth.

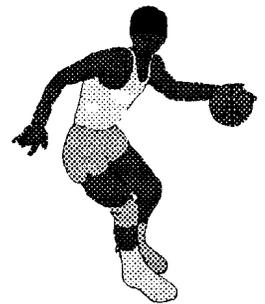


- Women's tennis was offered as a spring sport but no women signed up.

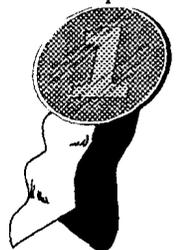


- Spike Craven, a DMACC Boone campus student, is offering a running program for those interested. For more information, contact Spike or Terry Jamieson via e mail.

- NCAA Men's tournament basketball sheets can be picked up at the front office to pick the winners. The winner of the contest will get a t-shirt.



- Fellowship of Christian Athletics meets Thursday nights at 6 o'clock. See Larry Schroeder for more details.
- Intramural update: Bill Myers and the "Boone Boys" won the three on three tournament last week. Bill is a DMACC Boone campus student.



- After Spring Break, the gym will be open every weekday and Thursday nights.
- Badminton will be at 5:30 and basketball at 7 o'clock on Thursday nights after Spring Break.

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TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

Is there extraterrestrial life in the universe?

By Lorraine Powell
Bear Facts Staff

Was the development of life on this planet, in this solar system, in this galaxy, just a mistake? Did it happen just by chance?

It is difficult for me to imagine that the creation of life is the result of a mistake or a chance occurrence. After watching the movie *Contact* for the second time, I asked myself the following question: "Who has more faith - the scientist who thinks he knows something and tries to prove he is right or the religious individual who accepts everything that is written down by men about God without questioning?"

I believe if the scientist was more apt

to believe in something besides himself and his own mind and abilities, and, if the religious person could question what has been written down, we would have a more balanced answer to the questions of life.

Most of the problem that I have concerning extraterrestrial life has to do with the time-space framework of my own mind. I think of life *as I know it*. That is not necessarily the way it is. It is the imagination that brings life to thoughts and ideas. Who am I to think that life as I know it is the only kind of life in this Universe?

Man has intelligence. Has it helped to

create a world without hatred and war? Intelligence without care is a very dangerous thing. Perhaps man is not ready to encounter extraterrestrial life or intelligence in this universe until he has learned to care for those in his own little world?

I honestly believe there is other intelligent life in this Universe. However, I do not think that either the scientific or the religious world is ready to encounter it until it learns to overcome its own self-centered thoughts and actions.

Letter to the editor: Disgusting

Stop! If you are a person who has any kind of environmental awareness, this article is for you. If you don't--please read--you might learn something.

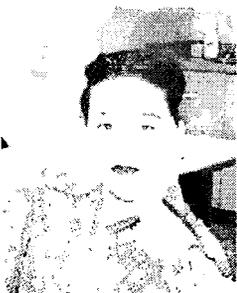
PBL has a can recycling program here on the DMACC Boone Campus. Unfortunately, the job has turned into a disgusting mess.

Picture this, you volunteer to help PBL by taking the cans to the recycling center, and, upon arrival, you dump out the cans you brought and there is garbage everywhere. We are not just talking paper--we are talking full cans of pop spilling out all over, chewing tobacco and spit, dirty baby diapers, nacho cheese, fast food containers--need I go any further? This is disgusting!

We are all adults and should not have to clean up after one another like this.

So, could you help the environment a little by helping to control the garbage population? Make sure your cans are empty and your garbage is in the proper containers. Thank you!

PBL Members



Point/Counterpoint



Assisted suicide: no easy answer

□ This is third 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.

It's euthanasia, not suicide

By Ana Ybarra-Rojas
Bear Facts Staff

We live in the United States, a country where its people don't like to feel *blue* or experience pain. Pills are on the market for everything that ails you. We even pity our four-legged companions. When they are in tremendous pain or suffering due to an incurable disease, we see fit to be *humane*. We even came up with neat word for putting them out of their misery--euthanasia.

How can we be so hypocritical? Is a pet's pain more important than our people's pain and how can we say that it's okay to let our people suffer or live longer than they choose to? People, we live in a nation founded on freedom of choice, as long as our choice doesn't hurt others.

Yet as a society we don't see fit to be *humane* to our fellow human beings who are suffering. If and when the suffering feel that the length of their life doesn't always correlate with the quality of that life, all they want is to die with dignity. Why can't we let them? This is not a decision for the court systems. This is a choice for an individual in conjunction with family and their *god*. We have no place as a society to make moral laws. Remember that little thing called the separation of church and state?

If it ever gets to the point that I can't walk, breath or eat on my own, please be *humane* enough to let me have the choice of euthanasia.

Finding better solutions

By Patrice Harson
Bear Facts Staff

A 21-year-old Oakland University student from Southfield, Mich., is now the youngest known person to commit suicide with the help of Dr. Jack Kevorkian.

On February 26, Roosevelt Dawson left behind his ventilator and the viral infection that left his arms and legs paralyzed. Now, many victims of the same affliction--sufferers who by the Grace of God, their family, their friends or their own conviction are living happy and productive lives--question the wisdom of Dawson's decision to die.

Some, while contemplating Dawson's assisted choice, remember the days of scorn associated with suicide--days not that far removed. Our advanced technology has brought us web sites produced by people who advocate the right to take one's own life. With this growing acceptance, Hallmark is examining the financial feasibility of marketing sympathy cards for the survivors of suicide--that's what mental health professionals call those left behind to contemplate, over a lifetime, the morality of the decision to choose death over suffering.

Just as the body deteriorates when inflicted with disease, so does the mind in the height of severe depression caused either by mental anguish, physical pain--or both. We, as survivors, are asking sufferers to demonstrate rationality that may be, at the moment of decision, nonexistent. Their freedom to choose with a clear mind is altered. Viewed by many as a totally selfish act, those left behind should be aware that often the determination to commit this act, whatever name we choose to give it, intensifies when a desire to end the suffering for others outweighs concern for self.

We, as a caring society, need to open our minds and our hearts to people faced with this decision. We need to shed the dark secrecy and prejudice associated with suicide and assist those, whose minds and bodies are tormented to the point of irrationality, in finding better solutions.