Book buy back: Are students getting their money’s worth?
Craig VandeVenter
Staff Writer

The DMACC Boone Bookstore will be offering more money back to students by buying their textbooks for half their retail price.

This year’s book buyback will be beneficial to students because more money is being offered back in return for their used textbooks.

“It is always good to be on the student’s side,” said bookstore clerk Lisa Savits.

The Boone Bookstore is operated by Bookstore Manager Carol Petersen and Sales Associates Lisa Savits, and Vicki Jones. Petersen said, “This is the first time we’ve done anything like this so hopefully it will be better for students.”

This year’s book buyback for students will be conducted differently than it has been in years past.

If a book is on the bookstore list for next semester, they will buy it back at half price - with interest for use - for the next semester. Once the bookstore has enough copies for the next semester, the buyback price goes back to that of the wholesale market. However, if a book has been replaced by a new edition, or the

“It is always good to be on the student’s side.”
-Bookstore clerk Lisa Savits

class is not offered in the spring semester, they will not be buying them back.

Initially the bookstore must decide on whether or not the books being bought back are in good to perfect condition.

This means that the textbook has to be in perfect condition. If the textbook has missing pages) and must include the original software.

If the bookstore buys back student’s textbooks that were purchased from the Boone Bookstore in the fall, they will have two options to decide how they can receive their money.

This money can either be received on a gift card for their next semester’s textbooks, or it can be received on the spot in cash. The refund will remain the same regardless of the type of refund.

Students will benefit from the new system of textbook buyback because it allows for students to receive more money from their used textbooks.

Besides the chance for more money, students will also have the ease of knowing that the costs for future textbooks will not be as high if they choose to put it toward other text books.

The bookstore’s hours for the buyback are Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday closed.

Students may be surprised by some of the rules of the new book buy back. The difference could mean your hard earned dollars.

Jeff Doran: Math instructor by day,
Nami Ryu Aiki Heiho student instructor by night

Derrick Roffman
Contributing Writer

Jeff Doran is a mathematics teacher here at DMACC, but few people would guess he also teaches a Japanese sword art called Nami Ryu Aiki Heiho. “I blame Robin Hood, Lord of the Rings, and one or two Kurosawa movies,” Doran said.

This form of martial arts is a fairly new style that began when sensei James Williams opened his own dojo in Encinitas, CA in 1992. “Ever since I was a kid, I have been fascinated by medieval weaponry and combat, in particular with sword arts,” Doran said.

Doran explained that the movements of Nami Ryu Aiki Heiho come from the Japanese sword. “I wasn’t satisfied with a sword hanging on my wall. I wanted to know how to use it safely and most effectively.”

“arusted with a sword hanging on my wall. I wanted to know how to use it safely and most effectively.”
-Jeff Doran
Adjunct math instructor

Nami Ryu has three main principals which are: don’t contest for space with force vectors (force vectors being anything that can do you harm for example a knife) and gain a tactical advantage. Then achieve both tasks without leaving yourself vulnerable. Doran said students should never use more energy than what it takes to keep them safe.

While these three principals sound easy, making them second nature is not. “Ultimately, Nami Ryu is based in principals that extend beyond martial arts and are universally applicable.”

Doran believes that his critical thinking helps not only in teaching math but martial arts. “My scientific and philosophical background has allowed me to approach this martial art in an analytical way.”

Doran believes that physics and human psychology is rooted in not only the functional combat but in the basics of movement, “Nami Ryu allows a more scientific approach in which we can strip away all the mystification that permeates many martial arts and get to the heart of how things work,” Doran said, “We have sports science, but why not martial science?”

Doran teaches in Ames on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays evenings. He encourages people to ask questions.

The first class is free and he always welcomes visitors. To find out more information on how to join these classes visit www.ma-sakatusudojo.com

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Adjoint math instructor Jeff Doran (right) shows an example of sword work with student Derrick Roffman. Doran works very hard to emphasize safety and prevention of violence. Editor’s note: these photos are staged and used as an example of sword play.
Booth: Nursing is not easy

Jenna Kroll
Contributing Writer

Connie Booth, the Nursing Program Chair at DMACC in Boone, said nursing is not easy. Booth has a M.A. in medical surgical nursing and is in charge of admissions, clinical sites and schedules for the nursing program.

“Nursing today is a lot different than it was when I went to school,” Booth said. “With new technology, students use clickers and have web interactive activities in class. We have come a long way since colored overheads.”

The DMACC nursing program is different from nursing programs at most other schools because DMACC was the first credited two-year program in Iowa. Booth’s office is covered in Nebraska colors and memorabilia. She was born in Harlan, Iowa and went to Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. for her undergraduate degree. From there she went on to get her M.A. at the University of Nebraska and worked in nursing for a few years.

After receiving both her degrees, Booth moved back to Iowa where she decided to get her teaching certificate and a minor in administration. These new skills led her to a position at DMACC.

When asked about how she came across this job, she replied, “I kind of fell upon it. A friend of mine told me about the position, and I looked into it. I liked the convenience of living and working in the same town while also being able to connect with the community.”

Booth said that there has been a lot of tension in the nursing program even though she believes that some students get scared by the entrance exam. The exam includes reading, writing and math.

“The test can be intense,” Booth said. “Some students believe that it is the entrance exam alone that makes nursing hard, but it is a lot of work, especially if you are an adult learner.”

In order to pass the Nursing Entrance Test, students have to get a standardized score of 50 in all three categories. While it is a difficult exam, DMACC recognizes that some students may not pass the test on the first try. Students are given the chance to take the NET once every 90 days until they get into the program.

While nursing jobs are in high demand now, Booth said they have been getting more and more applicants, including individuals with four year degrees. Currently, there are approximately 85-90 students in the nursing program. Despite the majority of students who are in the program between the ages of 23-27 years old, there are a few students who are right out of high school. Interest has increased in this program, but DMACC has still managed to keep the classes smaller. Each class has 24 students in each class and seven full-time faculty members, said Booth.

After seven weeks in the program, students get the chance to start their clinicals in locations such as Boone County Hospital, Mary Greeley Mental Health and in community jobs. Students are required to do clinicals, but they also have other nursing oriented opportunities on campus.

In fact, on Nov. 11 and 12 the nursing students gave flu shots to other students for $10. As Booth said, nursing is a difficult program. Students have class seven hours a week, 15 hours of clinical and 22 contact hours with instructors. The nursing program also requires a lot of time outside of class including multiple homework assignments.

Even though the nursing program is difficult, it prepares students for their LPN and RN exams. Booth stated that approximately 92 percent of DMACC students pass their LPN’s each year and about 80 percent of students pass their RN license the first time. While nursing requires a lot of work, many students believe it to be worth the time and money. DMACC has one of the least expensive and most credible two-year nursing programs in Iowa, said Booth.

The tuition for the nursing program is $12,000 for two years. “Bottle conditioning” as this means you should decant just like you would do with an older wine. “Bottle conditioning” means that the yeast is on the bottom of the bottle, conditioning the beer as time goes by. This means the beer will not spoil within six months if kept in prime condition. Also watch out for the champagne-like action when opening the cork or bottle cap.

You can also enjoy these fine Belgian Christmas beers with the others in food and wine, I’d suggest trying these seasonal beers. They have as much or less than a bottle of wine of the same price.

You can use your wider mouth wine glasses for these beers. Be on the lookout for the words, “bottle conditioning” as this means you should decant just like you would do with an older wine.

Beer for the season

Derrick J. Roffman
Contributing writer

Christmas is a very special time in Belgium. Brewers get to brew something a little special, not just the usual stuff.

It’s the time of the Christmas beers, or Bière de Noël. These beers are made with candy sugar and darker grains to bring out spicier, sweeter flavors that come alive with warmth.

These beers don’t come from only Belgium. These are the wine-like sippers of the beer world.

Some people wait all year to use their chalices and tulips, glassware that they rarely get to use with more common beers.

These are beers with dark fruit flavors in the nose, clove and spice on the back of your tongue and a warm feeling in your belly. Only a few of these beers make it to our part of Iowa. Not many people try these different beers.

So, why not try something new? Something that costs more than the regular stuff? You’re happy with is worth the time to try it out?

If you’re an explorer who likes to find new and different flavors in food and wine, I’d suggest trying these seasonal beers. They are as much or less than a bottle of wine of the same price.

You can use your wider mouth wine glasses for these beers. Be on the lookout for the words “bottle conditioning” as this means you should decant just like you would do with an older wine.

The orders were either cancelled or changed at the last minute, leaving Jones very apprehensive about his would-be tour in Iraq. His deployment orders came via a text message from his friend John.

According to Jones, the hardest thing about going to Iraq was he would be leaving his family and friends for an entire year. Being in Iraq hadn’t really sunk in until he got off the plane and heard live rounds being fired at American soldiers.

While Jones was riding through the streets of Mosul, his truck hit an IED. According to Jones, “It was weird because I was just supposed to work on trucks, but there weren’t any there, so I helped find bombs instead.”

Jones couldn’t stay awake on the trip back to base after being hit. Later, he learned, he had received a severe concussion as a result of the explosion, earning him a combat action badge.

Continued on Page 4
DMACC--On Wednesday, Nov. 12, the DMACC Baseball program announced the signing of eight of their 2008 sophomores to National Letters of Intent at NCAA schools.

"This is a big day for DMACC Baseball," said Head DMACC Baseball Coach Dan Fitzgerald. "Southern Arkansas, LSU, NDSU, Tyler Robbins, Dallas Baptist, and Bradley are nationally recognized programs and to have our players associated with them is a testament to how hard our players have worked to become their best. I am very proud of all of our sophomores -- they have helped build DMACC into what it is today."

Mitch Mormann signed with Louisiana State University. A 1st round pick of the Cleveland Indians in the 2008 MLB First Year Player Draft, Mormann posted a 3.76 era with 59 strikeouts in 52 innings pitched. Mormann was also an All-Region selection and was among the national leaders in saves with 12.

Louisiana State University Associate Head Coach David Grew on Mitch Mormann: "Mitch is a left handed pitcher who is a great athlete. He has a high ceiling and he has the ability to be a starter. Mitch is going to come in and impact us right away. We look forward to having him around for the next three years." Head Coach Dale Main is extremely excited about Mitch joining the Tigers. "Mitch is an athlete. We are very excited that he decided to sign with LSU. He will be a big addition to our team."

Mark Schroeder signed with North Dakota State University. Schroeder started 12 games for the Bears and posted a 4.08 era with 81 strikeouts in 68.1 innings pitched.

Auburn Assistant Matt Heath on Mark Schroeder: "Mark is a very good pitcher. He has the ability to start and he can also pitch out of the bullpen. Mark has a quality fastball and curveball. He has the stuff to become a guy who can pitch at Auburn the first day he gets here."

Nic Obey signed with Southern Arkansas University. Obey hit .344 with 6 HRs and 25 RBI in 42 games played. Schroeder started 12 games for the Bears and posted a 4.08 era with 81 strikeouts in 68.1 innings pitched.

North Dakota State Head Coach Tod Brown on Mark Schroeder and Nic Obey: "Nic and Mark are two guys that we are really excited about getting. They both come from an extremely competitive program at DMACC where they are leaders on and off the field. Nic is very athletic - can run, throw, defend, hit, and has all the intangible character qualities we want our program to be about. Mark is a true four pitch guy. He has outstanding command and strikes out a ton of hitters. Most importantly, he's a bigtime competitor and a great kid. Both Mark and Nic are going to be looked upon to contribute immediately for NDSU."

Dallas Baptist University signed their second DMACC Bear in as many years with the addition of Tyler Robbins. Robbins was named the 2008 ICCAC Player of the Year while also receiving 1st Team All-AFC Honors after hitting .394 with a DMACC school record 20 HRs. Robbins was also 18-22 on stolen bases with 97 hits and 24 doubles.

Dallas Baptist Head Coach Dan Heefner on Tyler Robbins: "Tyler is a two-way player. He has played center field and shortstop. Tyler has always been a very good hitter for us. His ceiling is much higher. He is going to be a big addition to our club." Head Coach Dale Main is extremely excited about Tyler coming to the Bearcats. "Tyler is a special player. He has a great upside and he is going to be a guy that we can build around."

Women’s ranking makes history

DMACC--DMACC’s Women’s Basketball team is ranked the number one team in the nation according to the latest National Jr. College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II poll.

The Bears are 6-0 under Coach Steve Krafcisin. The Bears are followed by conference foe Kirkwood Community College, which is second in the nation.

Jason Jones

From Page 3

They would happen so often. After a three month extension, countless nights falling asleep to gunfire, and many fine steak and potato meals later; everyone in his unit was coming home alive. Jones claims to have some symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder, it’s just less of an influence in present day. When he first got back home, he checked every pot hole he saw and was always on guard in public places. Jones can now be found roaming the hallways of DMACC Boone campus. He is still in the Army but he is on reserve so he can finish his schooling. He claims that not working, going to school and spending time with his girlfriend of three years, Melanie Bevitt is what he enjoys doing now that he’s back in Iowa.

Just so you know – get an HIV test today!

DMACC Bears open their season on Feb. 27 when they travel to Fort Scott, Kansas, for a four-game series with Fort Scott Community College.
Student wrote down things they needed to work on in commemoration of One Book, One Campus, One Community's book choice "The Kite Runner".

Phi Theta Kappa inducted many new members this year and look forward to gathering more. While trying to take on the world, inductees will have their work cut out for them.

Open mic day allowed for students and faculty alike to express their creative side. Tiara Mays, Brittany Ward, Dani Lang, Ellie Ritcher, and Danielle Daniels took the stage doing a lip-synced version of "My Girl" by the Temptations, to a cheering crowd in the Courter Center.

Student wrote down things they needed to work on in commemoration of One Book, One Campus, One Community's book choice "The Kite Runner".

Nurses worked hard all semester toward their degrees. These are a few of the projects, which enabled students to view the hard work of our future nurses. In this picture are nursing students from the top, Megan Howard, Rhondi Leedam, Jill Hendrick, Maggie Stevens; middle photo: Lori Vandepol, Laura Rich, Amy Birdsong, Jodee Amundson, finally the bottom contains Amy Huston (far right) and three other nursing students.

Jodi Rantschler writes down what things she wants to change. These kites were written to commemorate the theme of "The Kite Runner," "There is a way to be good again."

The death of former DMACC student, Marissa Hagen left daughter Autumn, family and many beloved friends behind. Yet the community gathered together to help support Autumn in her time of need.

Nancy Woods, adviser for Phi Theta Kappa, works hard toward the go green attitude recently adopted on all DMACC campuses. While constantly working to keep cans and paper separated, she can be seen being a mentor to students.
Josh’s two cents

Intelligence vs. Charisma

Josh Marker
Staff writer

One day, I was sitting in class thinking out loud when my editor stopped me on one of my thoughts. Our conversation has stirred a debate that has gone on for about roughly a month.

The question is what kind of men do women prefer? My research asks what does a woman prefer a man who is very intelligent or a man who is charismatic? Although my research is non-scientific, I had to find out for myself.

This debate should have stopped within minutes but I am stubborn, and I believe that I am right. According to Webster’s dictionary website the definition is:

Charismatic - the ability to lead and influence large numbers of people.

The free online journal says:

Charismatic - possessing an extraordinary ability to attract; “a charismatic leader”, “a magnetic personality.”

Therefore, I went to a few parties, and posed this question to approximately ten women. You know what their responses were? without even thinking, they all knew what their response was? Approximately ten women. You parties, and posed this question to a person. The results are as follows:

Charisma: 10
Intelligence: 34

The results speak for themselves. I know that as previously stated men have many traits aside from charisma and intelligence.

Kay Mueller so eloquently said the day I took this poll, “Charisma is good for a short-term liaison but it wears off eventually. For something more long-term, look for intelligence.”

Eden Hinrichs
Executive Editor

This is good bye, dear friends. After taking my final swing at the paper I leave at the top of my game and with hopes that I have done justice to your stories. All I have ever cared about is you, the readers. Even if nothing I have ever said during my time here has made you think, let only one phrase ring true to you all; if you believe in yourself all things are possible.

It’s so easy to believe all the bad things people say to you because it’s a hell of a lot harder to push back and say “enough.” It’s even harder to prove your critics wrong by succeeding.

I can’t even begin to tell you how often I literally posted people’s criticisms on my wall and tried to improve everything. I felt that I only failed in my almost successes.

Many people say that getting your education isn’t the easiest path but what they don’t tell you is that “life happens.” Things will always come up that you’ll never expect and the problem is that all of a sudden you have to become an adult.

Then what? Suddenly you’ve been thrown into your own labyrinth and can’t seem to see the light of day and even worse you get stuck in the sludge of your ego.

When I first started on this paper I never thought I’d end up where I am. I tend to keep thinking back to others and the mistakes they made and somehow they seem so minuscule to mine. I spent most of my time as editor ruminating on mistakes I was making rather than progressing forward.

I will be the first to admit that I have made many errors in judgment and gotten into many fights with people which now seem frivolous. I never believed in myself in the first place but to have people look to me for leadership, I realized that there are bigger things out there than my issues with ego.

The world is changing; you can either fight against or adapt. However it is the fighters in history who determine the path of civilization. There is a leader in all of us waiting for the right guidance. Are you ready to stand up?

This is goodbye my dearest of friends, and I leave you with the knowledge that anything is possible.

Even though I may have never met you, a piece of me is always with you. Always let your stories be your own and even when no one else in world believes in you, always know that I do.

Fight to believe in yourself and if you believe in yourself all things are possible.

Amber’s 2 Cents: Intelligence? I think so

A few weeks ago, I was asked if I preferred men with intelligence or charisma. I was at first perplexed at having to answer, as I’m sure someone is now.

I recognize that intelligence and charisma are not exclusive traits. I answered as best I could and simply said I prefer men with intelligence.

I was a little surprised to hear that Josh found most other women’s answers to have been the opposite.

Believe me, I understand that most people have a combination of intelligence and charisma, but for the sake of argument, I’ve been asked to poll each trait exclusively.

I went ahead and asked forty-four female students and faculty around the Boone campus which trait they preferred.

The results are as follows:

Charisma: 10
Intelligence: 34

The results are as follows:

Days passed and I still want to buy the product. After weeks of research, I bought it and it was totally worth the money. The only complaints were from the primary company that sells the DVD’s and not the workout itself. How could I resist?

I always love new workout challenges and this was a lot of fun but a full workout nonetheless.

Turbo jam is a high paced workout that incorporates cardio with kickboxing and dance moves. This workout is definitely the best workout I have had in a long time.

I love kickboxing and you can burn over 700 calories in one hour. Not only does Chalene help you with form but helps melt off the calories.

The package also offers online support to help you track and shed off those pounds.

I bought the entire package. In this package there is a 20 minute quickie workout and the moment I got it I started working out.

Well, needless to say I sweated my butt off. I was a little sore but this an awesome workout and totally worth the money.

Turbo jamming the pounds off

Eden Hinrichs
Executive Editor

After many late nights vending out on the couch, I began to watch infomercials to see what new toys washed up soap-stares were hocking and I came across Turbo Jam.

I watched bouncy blond Chalene Johnson jump around like a bunny on coffee making the workout seem really fun. Maybe it was the fact I had just ate well over a pint of ice cream, or the fact that it was 3 am but I was slowly becoming convinced to try this program.
An experience in dating: do's and don'ts for ladies and gentlemen

Amber Smith
Staff Writer

I was asked out on a date on the 21 of Nov. It started well. I had been talking to a guy who had met on Halloween, when he asked for my number. I called him back a few days after and eventually I was asking him to do something. He seemed pretty easygoing and funny, asking me out after I had been talking for the equivalent of perhaps three days. This is my advice to you:

• Ladies tip #1: Don’t call the guy, have them call you. If they aren’t interested enough to call you themselves, don’t bother with them. The decent ones will show their interest by calling. If they leave a message, then go ahead and call them back.

• Men’s tip #1: If you are interested in a woman, call her. Don’t sit around waiting for her to approach. We like it when a man is a confident enough to take some initiative. What have you got to lose? Nothing. If a woman isn’t interested then you should have the self-respect to find someone who is.

• Ladies tip #2: Be aware of where you are going and watch your drink at all times. Try to get to know your friends to join so you don’t feel alone in the crowd of strange people. Or let him know that you would rather spend time with him: just him. The point of a date, especially the first date, is to get to know the other person. Inviting your friends is a major breach of social etiquette outside of a pre-arranged group date.

• Men’s tip #2: The first date is generally used to get to know the other person, as stated above. This applies to guys too. Show her you are interested by taking this time away from your buddies and devoting it to getting to know her, letting her get to know you. Would you really want the buddies at the bar to get in the way of that?

• Ladies tip #3: My date ignored me in favor of a friend. I didn’t even introduce me. Don’t let your date be rude to you. Stand up for yourself. You are not some bit of luggage to be set aside and ignored until he thinks it prudent to pay attention to you again!

• Men’s tip #3: Introduce your date to friends you stop to talk to and/or run into! It is about respect. Ladies Tip #4: When dating, watch your partner’s eyes. Eyes do indeed tell you a lot about a person. Usual gauges for whether or not they are stoned. I thought he had too much to drink at this point or had the cold empty gaze of a serial killer. A friend of mine pointed out that he might have been stoned. I did overhear his friend saying something about opiates while we were outside and hadn’t put two and two together at that point. Maybe some people like that, but I don’t.

• Men’s tip #4: If you’re with someone and feel the need to get stoned to feel comfortable, see a therapist. You shouldn’t need some substance to make yourself feel better and it is a sign of a deeper problem. At the very least, find out if your date is okay with it. If not, you should evaluate whether or not you really want to continue the date. If you keep a secret like that, it will always end badly.

• Ladies tip #5: If someone is disrespecting you, stop them immediately. If you don’t split up for yourself the first time someone pulls something like that, they will continue disrespecting you. Let your date know immediately when he crosses a boundary.

• Men’s tip #5: Listen to your date if she tells you not to do something. It is a matter of establishing respect and trust. It is greatly embarrassing and not okay to ask permission to take a step further, if you aren’t sure if she would be alright with it. Points to that guy.

• Ladies tip #6: If your date is lying to you about something so simple as playing a game, what else are you being lied to about? Call him on it right away. Watch their body language when they talk to you. When in doubt believe in body language no matter what is said. Trust your instincts.

• Men’s tip #6: Don’t lie! Ever! About anything! What starts out as a little white lie may be what breaks off all deals, so stop and think, “Is this really worth it?” Don’t allow him to lie to you anymore. As previously stated, call her on it immediately and trust your observation.

Final tips for ladies: listen to your date to friends you stop to talk to and/or run into! It is about respect. Ladies Tip #4: When dating, watch your partner’s eyes. Eyes do indeed tell you a lot about a person. Usual gauges for whether or not they are stoned. I thought he had too much to drink at this point or had the cold empty gaze of a serial killer. A friend of mine pointed out that he might have been stoned. I did overhear his friend saying something about opiates while we were outside and hadn’t put two and two together at that point. Maybe some people like that, but I don’t.

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ries: Be careful and keep your head down. What you think is happening is not and the elves are playing games with you.

aurus: If you don’t keep on track, your horns are going to get caught in the mistletoe.

emin: Your evil twin is going to steal Santa’s cookies. Keep your other half in check or you may get a lump of coal.

eo: Your roar will scare off a potential love, keep your tail between your legs.

zr: Your kindness is a virtue; be nice to the pink bunnies after partying; they will steal your keys.

obra: Mind your mind will wander. Go ahead and skip through the tulips in your id. Don’t get lost. You may never get back.

corpio: Your stinger is sharp but not as sharp as your tongue; accept compassion, and don’t ever let anyone walk over you for the sake of being nice. Always ask around about a guy you are thinking of going out with, in addition to doing a background check. If you tell the guy and he freaks out, that isn’t a good sign. A guy with nothing to hide will be alright with it.

spric: Be careful and keep your head down. What you think is happening is not and the elves are playing games with you.

arpit: If you don’t keep on track, your horns are going to get caught in the mistletoe.

ariscus: If you don’t keep on track, your horns are going to get caught in the mistletoe.
When I first picked up this book, I was hooked. The opening was enough to get anyone curious about what was going to happen. Unfortunately, over 400 pages of Bella’s inner monologue bogged the plot down and created a superficial view of the characters.

I felt bad because I had bought into the hype and purchased the entire series. I cursed at myself because it wasn’t the best purchase. Months later, I ran through all the books I had bought over the last few months and only had three left that I hadn’t read. I picked them up because I just didn’t have time to buy anything else. Once again I was hooked, only this time I wasn’t disappointed. The other books were fantastic!

With this in mind I decided to go see the movie and much to my surprise I loved the movie. Although, it wasn’t entirely true to the book I thought it was the best way to summarize the story and see the tension between the characters.

I was also really happy with the casting with the exception of Carlisle Cullen. I feel that he wasn’t the handsome, charming and whimsical character that I had imagined.

The author chose to sell the rights to the rest of her novels in the series to Summit studios. I can look forward to seeing the rest of the books hit the silver screen.

I wasn’t very happy with Bella at times because she seemed very stiff in the beginning of the movie.

Almost as if she was a twitchy rabbit afraid of the big bad wolf but I suppose that’s the idea.

Rob Pattinson despite his small acting list did incredibly well. I can see a very good future in the film world for him. As for his counterpart, Kristen Stewart, I know that her acting can go further then what it did.

I think that maybe in the beginning she wasn’t comfortable in the role and eventually got a little more comfortable as she became the character.

Overall, I would say the Twilight series is really good but as for the first book I would bee line for the movie and save yourself the inner dialog.

Let me just get this on the table: I have read the Twilight Series. I enjoyed the Twilight Series. I am not blindly loyal or blind to the faults of the series of books.

Since that issue has been addressed, let us begin.

For the most part, the book was much better than the movie. The characters were less stiff and cliche. The book painted the vampires as being pale - the movie had the vampires looking like they had just escaped an explosion at the flour mill.

The cast looked like they hadn’t eaten anything (human or otherwise) for weeks, but I suppose that is the norm in Hollywood. As requisite in pretty much every movie marketed to teenage girls (and lonely forty somethings who want to relive their youth with softer edges and plastic vampire teeth) the movie was full of shots of the chilly hero.

That having been said, one scene was much better orchestrated in the film. The book is written from Bella’s perspective, so the reader only gets to see or hear what she gets to see or hear. There is a very important action sequence in the movie that is not in the book because the main character is unconscious.

In the book, she is told of the battle secondhand, which is not the most engaging way to get adrenaline pumping through the veins. In this respect, the film had a definite upper hand.

In the future of these movies, I am curious to see if the cast will be the same for each movie. The actors that were supposed to be the ages of high school students already look well into their college years.

It is stated that Edward will forever be 17. Robert Pattinson is already 22. The next movie is rumored to be released in winter of 2010, with filming being the year before. If the movies continue at this rate, the fourth movie will have the eternally 17 year old being played by a 27 year old Pattinson.

My hopes are higher for the next movie, knowing that studios can never resist not only a huge fan-girl base, but extremely successful series that are completed by said fan-girl. The books following Twilight were much improved, and I can only hope that pattern is repeated.

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