Students may have noticed that the halls around DMACC are a little more crowded, that classrooms are a little fuller, and that perhaps some students were unable to get into certain classes they may have wanted. The reasoning behind this is not that the building has shrunk in on itself, instead the reasoning can be found in the increase in enrollment for DMACC. Boone-Campus has risen by more than 400 students this year. At this time last year, Boone Campus was playing host to 3,095 enrolled students, and according to a census as of January 22, enrollment for both Boone Campus and the Ames Hunziker Center has risen to 3,522, a 13.8 percent increase. This includes a seven percent increase in online credits as well as a 24.1 percent increase of face-to-face credits. Overall both Boone and Ames are having to accommodate an increase of 3,242 in-class, face-to-face credit hours.

“The economy has a huge play,” said Boone Campus Provost Tom Lee when asked about the increase. Teacher problems that arise on the first day of classes began to increase their head count for the term. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Iowa sits at a 6.9 percent unemployment rate as of December 2009, and according to Lee, there are many government incentives for the laid off to return to school, re-tool, and get a degree.

Lee also mentioned the cost of community colleges compared to that of a university. Undergraduates attending major universities such as Iowa State or the University of Iowa will likely have to pay in the area of $2,500 to $3,500 for a full semester, 12 credits, according to their Web sites. However, students attending DMACC will only be paying about $1,200 for a 12 credit semester, according to the DMACC Web site. “The quality of education is as good if not better than major universities,” said Lee.

Although, with the increase in enrollment, some problems will accrue. The biggest challenge that DMACC is facing is finding space for more classes between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Another problem occurs when students register late; it becomes hard to build a solid schedule. By the time these students try to register, required classes are closed. This spring term 255 classes were closed due to maximum enrollment.

To try and overcome some of these issues, Lee was asked about creating more classes for students, which he insured was something they were trying to do, but another problem arises when adding additional classes. Finding willing teachers to take on the extra class load becomes an issue. Late afternoon and evening classes are being added and students are being encouraged to sign up for these alternative times.

As for more drastic measures of resolver such as expand to the Boone Campus, Lee said that they would wait and see if this increase in enrollment continues. If in three years the numbers keep rising, talks of an expansion may start to take place, until then more classes will be added especially in the late afternoon and evening hours.

Overall, Lee’s main goal is to insure that DMACC continues to provide the best education to all DMACC students.
Natural disaster in Haiti brings world together

Medical marijuana legal in Iowa?

By Capray Canada
Staff Writer

Can you believe it? Monday, Jan. 11, 2010 the state of New Jersey legalized medical marijuana becoming the 13th state to do so.

Gov. Jon S. Corzine promised to sign the bill into office before he left. Hundreds of patients protested outside the State House shortly before the vote. The once helpless people broke into cheer and applause when law makers let out the good news.

The State Senate along with the General Assembly passed the bill, with comfortable margins. (48-14 General Assembly; 25-13 State Senate).

The drug cannot be grown or used in public. Limited to two ounces per month, the sick people of New Jersey have a happy sick day. The law permits doctors to prescribe the drug to patients of a certain list of illnesses such as; Cancer, AIDS, Lou Gehrigs Disease, Muscular dystrophy, and Multiple Sclerosis. New Jersey is known as the most restrictive in the nation.

Iowa Senator, Jon Bolkom, pitched the idea of legalizing medical marijuana and has been struck out continuously. He says he will try to throw the idea out there again with the hope of getting different results. Hypothetically, if the law was to pass identity cards will be dispersed to people suffering from qualifying chronic illnesses as cancer, glaucoma, AIDS and HIV, Alzheimers and Hepatitis C. Marijuana registry would also be established.

When Biology professor Marybeth Hanlin was asked how she feel about medical marijuana usage she responded, “They block the pain receptors but two ounces per month might be a lot. Marijuana is an addictive drug, do we want to feed a habit? We have to draw the line somewhere. The patients who feel like they need a smoke should go to the doctor and get it for that one time usage. On the other hand, I don’t have the right to tell people what to do.”

DMACC students and faculty joined together to start a relief fund raiser. Nancy Woods and the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society are working towards sending much needed meals to those in Haiti. Soon students will fund donation cans around campus asking for small sums of change. One quarter can buy one meal for the needy in Haiti.

“If I don’t see why we can’t raise $5,000,” said Woods.

If students wish to donate in the form of a check then they cab make it out to Outreach International but be sure to get the check to Nancy Woods.

Woods hopes that their goals will be met and then some and hopes to continue this project for years to come.

For more information about what can be done to help Haiti please contact Nancy Woods at nawoods@dmacc.edu.
New scholarships available
DMACC—Despite a down economy, the generous donations from Central Iowans and local corporations will allow the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Foundation to assist 150 students this spring. They’ll receive awards ranging from $500 to $2,000.

The private contributions came from Iowa Health – Des Moines, the EMC Foundation, the Bright Foundation, the Principal Financial Group Foundation, DMACC employee contributions and help from many other Central Iowans.

“More than ever, our students are expressing significant stress when it comes to funding their education. This is a special round of scholarship awards to meet some of that need,” said DMACC Foundation Executive Director Ganpat Ganpat.

“The support comes at a time of record enrollment and from students with greater needs that we have seen before. It’s concerning that we were only able to fund 38 percent of those who qualified,” said Ganpat.

While more than 520 students applied for assistance, only 391 were eligible. “There still remains great demand for many students who need financial assistance. Because of this need, we hope to find additional monies yet this year and will work toward greater fundraising efforts,” added Ganpat.

For more information on contributing or applying for DMACC scholarships, contact the DMACC Foundation at www.dmacc.edu/foundation.

Protection from fraud, identity theft
DMACC—Thieves are on a mission to steal information and money from you. The Electronic Crime Institute at DMACC wants to stop this trend.

Saturday, Feb. 6, the Electronic Crime Institute, in conjunction with the Des Moines Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners will host a free, three-hour conference to help consumers lower their risk for identity theft and increase their internet safety awareness.

The Protecting Yourself From Fraud and Identity Theft Conference will be from 9 a.m. to noon in the Lake View Conference Center of Building 7 on the DMACC Ankeny Campus.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Individuals can register the day of the event or go online for advanced registration at http://www.dmacc.edu/eci/fraud-feb10.asp

“Consumers are using a lot of sophisticated techniques to steal identities and personal information,” said Bryan Burkhardt, director of the Electronic Crime Institute at DMACC.

DMACC report now available online
DMACC—DMACC’s 2009 Annual Report in now on the DMACC Web site. The Annual Report highlights the achievements of faculty and staff members and contributions of the College to the lifeblood of the central Iowa workforce and communities DMACC serves.

The exclusively online report covers accomplishments from July 2008 through June 2009 and features details about the College’s enrollment growth, educational reach throughout central Iowa and focus on bettering the community.

The high points:
- Record enrollment growth has pushed the College’s student population to more than 22,000 students, which led DMACC to add 11 new programs and 74 courses to meet the student demand.
- New program offerings at each of DMACC’s six campuses are providing unique educational opportunities that match industry growth in the communities they serve; (Exciting new programs like the Pharmacy Technician and Optometric/Opthalmic Technician programs and the Wind Energy program are quickly preparing workers in these high-demand industries;)
- The success of DMACC’s Bears athletics teams has solidified the College on the national scene in both men’s and women’s athletics.
- The new 57,000-square-foot FFA Building is set to open on DMACC’s Ankeny Campus. The partnership between DMACC and the FFA will enhance agriculture-focused education and business in the state;
- Green job opportunities are a focus for the College as it develops new courses and programs.
- The College’s West Campus now boasts some of the same technology artifacts that are only found in the Smithsonian Museum, which is attracting a lot of attention.

Go to http://go.dmacc.edu/Documents/DMACCAnnualReport.pdf to read about the college and the impact DMACC is having on students and the state.
Justine Young named Honorable Mention All-American

DMACC—DMACC Volleyball player Justine Young of Parkerburg has been named an Honorable Mention All-American selection in volleyball. Young, a 6’1” middle blocker, led the team with 396 blocks and 2.2 blocks per game. She has signed a national letter of intent to play volleyball at Texas Tech in the fall.

Young’s father, Gary Young, and her twin sister, Leah Young, are also members of the DMACC volleyball team.

Ames High school senior Erin Smith (front row, third from left) signs a national letter of intent to play volleyball next year at DMACC. Those taking part in the signing ceremony include: Erin’s mom, Gina Smith (front row, left to right); Ames High School Head Volleyball Coach Cindy Holmes; Smith; Erin’s dad, Gary; Erin’s grandparents Georgina Gourley and Gary Gourley; Erin’s sisters Leah Smith (back row, left) and Sheldon Head Volleyball Coach Michelle Hoogers.

Sheldon High School seniors Rachel Ihnen, (front row, left) and her twin sister, Elizabeth (right) sign national letters of intent to play volleyball next year at DMACC.

Those taking part in the signing ceremony include DMACC Head Volleyball Coach Patty Harrison (front row, center) and the Ihnen’s dad, Gary Ihnen (back row, left) and Sheldon Head Volleyball Coach Michelle Hoogers.

Contributed photo

Sioux City Bishop Heelan Catholic High School senior Jamie Buchanan has signed a national letter of intent to play volleyball for the DMACC Bears.

Buchanan is shown with her mom (left); her high school volleyball coach, Lori Slight, (former DMACC volleyball coach) and current DMACC Head Volleyball Coach Patty Harrison.

Daley to play volleyball at DMACC

DMACC—Dike/New Hartford High school senior Meagan Daley has signed a national letter of intent to play volleyball for the DMACC Bears.

Daley played on the Dike/New Hartford high school team that participated in the state volleyball tournament this past fall. Daley is the daughter of Tim and Maureen Daley. She joins the Bears, who have advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association NJCAA Division II National Volleyball Tournament for the past four consecutive years. The Bears finished fifth in the national tournament and had a 44-9 overall record in 2009.

Ames High school senior Erin Smith (front row, third from left) signs a national letter of intent to play volleyball next year at DMACC. Those taking part in the signing ceremony include: Erin’s mom, Gina Smith (front row, left to right); Ames High School Head Volleyball Coach Cindy Holmes; Smith; Erin’s dad, Gary; Erin’s grandparents Georgina Gourley and Gary Gourley; Erin’s sisters Leah Smith (back row, left to right); Drew Smith; DMACC Head Volleyball Coach Patty Harrison and DMACC Assistant Coach Greta Billerbeck.

Ames High school senior Erin Smith (front row, third from left) signs a national letter of intent to play volleyball next year at DMACC. Those taking part in the signing ceremony include: Erin’s mom, Gina Smith (front row, left to right); Ames High School Head Volleyball Coach Cindy Holmes; Smith; Erin’s dad, Gary; Erin’s grandparents Georgina Gourley and Gary Gourley; Erin’s sisters Leah Smith (back row, left to right); Drew Smith; DMACC Head Volleyball Coach Patty Harrison and DMACC Assistant Coach Greta Billerbeck.

Ames High senior to play for DMACC

As a senior, Smith was an All-Conference Honorable Mention team.

As a sophomore, she helped the Ames High School Varsity volleyball team for the past four years.

As a freshman, she was a member of the Ames Little Cyclones team that won the conference and advanced to the state tournament.

As a sophomore, she helped the Bears finish fifth in the national tournament. The Bears finished fifth in the national tournament and had a 44-9 overall record in 2009.

Her 2007 IPV A 15 team placed second at the Crossroads National Qualifier in Denver, CO and finished in 23rd place out of 48 teams in the American division of the USA VB Nationals in Minneapolis.

“We’re counting on her to contribute immediately to the DMACC volleyball program in the fall,” said Harrison.

Smith joins the Bears, who have advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association NJCAA Division II National Volleyball Tournament for the past four consecutive years. The Bears finished fifth in the national tournament and had a 44-9 overall record in 2009.
Kirkwood hands men first loss of the season

By Shannon Jefferson
Sports Editor

The men’s basketball team competed against rival Kirkwood Community College on Jan. 13.

The Bears had their first loss of the season, DMACC 70 and Kirkwood 51. Tavaryus Gray led the team with 17 points and Scott Windom contributed 16 points to the game.

In the first half the Bears only shot 33.3 percent and Kirkwood shot 51.7 percent. “We could of knocked down shots we usually make. Every team has a bad game but I feel as if we learned from that experience,” Windom said.

The Bears struggled to control Kirkwood’s 3 point shooting. The Kirkwood Eagles had 11 three pointers to the Bear’s 4. Kirkwood’s leading scorer, Jordan Stoermer had 5 of Kirkwood’s 3-point shots.

In the second half the Bears shot 34.4 percent and Kirkwood only shot 29 percent. “The best thing we can do is defend better. We were energetic and ready to play,” Windom said.

The Bears were ranked number one in the country in Division II basketball according to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

However, their rank will change. “We need to get back to number one, we earned that,” said Windom.

The Bears are now 17-1 for the 2009-2010 season.

Men struggle in last three games

By Shannon Jefferson
Sports Editor

The men’s basketball team has struggled in the last three games.

The Bears perfect record came to an end against rival Kirkwood Community College. On Jan. 21 the Bears competed against Iowa Central Community College and lost, Iowa Central 84 -- DMACC 79.

Leading scorer Scott Windom contributed 31 points and Kannon Burrage also contributed 17 points for the Bears.

The Bears competed against Ellsworth Community College on Jan. 23 and lost at home, Ellsworth 80 and DMACC 77. The Bears struggled to control Ellsworth’s 3-point shooting in the first half. Point guard Vonrell Seroyer had three, 3-point shots for Ellsworth in the beginning of the first half.

Brad Burton said, “He was a good point guard that took advantage of his open shots.”

Burton said, “By not rebounding the ball, we gave the other team an opportunity to score, and that’s what they did.” Not rebounding for the majority of the game cost the Bears the game.

In the second half the Bears gained some momentum. Isaiah Gandy hit four, 3-pointers in the second half. The game was neck and neck at the end of the second half. “I thought when he hit those threes, we were going to win the game,” Burton said.

Unfortunately, the Bears weren’t able to finish the game strong. “Everyone on our team is used to a winning tradition, so it hurts when we lose, but we take these games that we have lost as a wake up call,” Burton said.

DMACC women on winning streak

By Daremey Steptoe
Staff Writer

The DMACC women’s basketball team is on a three-game winning streak.

The Bears beat Iowa Central Community College, the number six team in the country in Division II basketball, according to the National Junior College Athletic Association.

The Bears beat Ellsworth Community College on Jan. 23 and lost at home, Ellsworth 80 and DMACC 77. The Bears struggled to control Ellsworth’s 3-point shooting in the beginning of the first half.

The DMACC women are back in action Jan. 27 in Marshalltown.

Katlyn Woods goes up for the layup against Ellsworth. The DMACC women won 75-62 on their home court.

Men struggle in last three games

By Shannon Jefferson
Sports Editor

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Unfortunately, the Bears weren’t able to finish the game strong. “Everyone on our team is used to a winning tradition, so it hurts when we lose, but we take these games that we have lost as a wake up call,” Burton said.
Avatar: New generation of cowboys & Indians

By Austin Leeds
Photo Editor/Columnist

Avatar is an epic display of technology, talent and creativity. Director and writer, James Cameron, who also directed "Titanic," has surely changed the way Hollywood will view films for years to come.

Within the first five days in theatres and IMAX the movie grossed $232 million worldwide. Exceeding "Titanic" and becoming the second highest-grossing film. "Avatar" has already grossed over $1 billion.

Imagine a world full of the most vibrant colors (not as abstract as Dr. Seuss); a world full of peace and life. This moon is called Pandora. The indigenous people are the Na’vi. They believe that all life is energy borrowed and one day will be returned to the planet.

To be completely honest, the 162 minutes of Avatar are pure bodaciousness. In this one film viewers will be delivered loads of action, enough Sci-fi to make your mouth water, gripping adventure and for those soft at heart, touching romance. In this movie viewers will be handed aliens and marines, scientists and a new species; a new generation of cowboys and Indians.

One complex question that comes to mind is: as you get wrapped up in the plot is who the true aliens are? Are they the marines and scientist after the gray rock that sells for 20 million a kilo? Or is it the Na’vi, the so-called savage, hard to kill, natives that settled on a great deposit of the rock found near the human’s base?

In the year 2154, the Ava-tars are meant to be a diplomatic solution to war as well as a means to explore the moon for scientific reasons. An Avatar is a remotely controlled genome grown from both human DNA and DNA of the Na’vi. The main character, Jake Sully (Sam Worthington), is a ma-rine that is to control his broth-er’s Avatar, who was killed in a shooting.

Soon after arriving on Pandora, Sully is given a rare opportunity. Being separated from his group on his "Ava-tar" he is saved by Neytiri (Zoe Saldana), the daughter of the local chief. He is then allowed to learn the Na’vi way of life, something no outsider has been offered.

Sully then has two choices, use his newly acquired knowledge of the Na’vi people to help prevent war or give what he knows to Colonel Miles Quaritch (Stephen Lang), who will exchange spinal surgery to fix Sully’s legs for a key to the Na’vi’s Quaritch, the war hardened marine, plans to remove the Na’vi by any means necessary.

From his time spent as an Avatar and the time he spends as a paraplegic war veteran, Jake has to choose between the race he has known his entire life or the race he now consid-ers his family and true home.

In the movie view ered loads of action, enough Money. Mankind truly has their values mixed up.

A plot that will capture you mind, body and soul; it carries you away to this strange moon full of lush rain forests, new creatures, floating land masses and beauty beyond your wild est dreams. It is a visual pheno menon unlikely to be forgot ten.

To get the full effect, and be captivated beyond belief, I recommend seeing the movie in 3-D. You will actually feel like you reach out and touch anything in this mysteri ous new world. I give "Avatar" 5 out of 5 stars.

Erickson maintains Boone Campus technology

By Josie Kramer
Editor-in-Chief

Avatar is not the only high tech show to hit the screen this fall. The Top College Blog polled college students offering drama.

Top shows for college students offer drama

By By Jarl Ackerman
Staff Writer

Somewhere between intramural football games and homew ork, students seem to squeeze in some time for guilty pleasures on the TV screen. Sometimes college students need time to relax and be enter tained and many turn to television as their source. The Top College Blog polled college students and found that: "The average college student keeps track of at least three to four television shows." With the start of a new term also comes the start of a new season in the television world. Shows like "Lost", "24", "Greek", "American Idol" and "Nip/Tuck" all have premiers in January.

According to The Top Col lege Blog the shows "Lost" and "24" both were on the top ten shows for college students. "Lost" is one of the later winter premiers starting Feb. 2. This is the sixth and final season of "Lost." The series "24" had a two night two-hour premier starting Jan. 17 and 18. Season eight of "24" takes place in New York City, where the main character, Jack Bauer, is excited about getting away from the Counter Ter riotism Unit field and spending time with his granddaughter, but of course somehow he cannot es cape the drama.

Familiar faces from the past seasons as well as some new faces pop up this season like past heart throb, Freddie Prince Jr. He was in the popular movie “She’s All That” and will be the new "ass kicking bad boy" alongside Jack Bauer.

Prince will be playing a for mer Marine running the CTU field operations. He wants to fol low in the infamous Jack Bauer’s footsteps. With a new beginning, Jack Bauer will still be pumping the tension and heat into the col lege apartments giving students the time to indulge in something other than their schoolwork.

Catch the hour long "24" Monday nights starting at 8 p.m. on FOX.
Winter weather spirits AND causes stress?

Staff Editorial

Something almost everybody living in Iowa encounters during winter are road conditions, power outages, negative 40 degree weather plus wind chill and our favorite, missing a day of school.

In winter it can be hard for the Department of Transportation to keep up with the changing weather while keeping our roads safe. These workers plow the roads before, after and during our winter storms to keep state and county roads open.

However, accidents still happen. Going in the ditch because of undelightful road conditions can be very stressful. But, what doesn’t kill you, makes you stronger. We have all heard this saying. Sometimes after we hear it, we just want to scream, throw a tantrum, maybe even break a few things. Going into the ditch could cause one to miss class, be late to work, experience utter panic and be on the verge of losing one’s sanity. Not to mention being worried about the condition of the car.

One of the more recent features Ubuntu provides several features (ones). But behind the silly names, Canonical is one of the more recent names (version 9.04 Jaunty Jackalope). Canonical’s GNU/Linux operating system has been through the changing weather many times. The other place I found helpful is Red Rock Community PMC on Greene St. in Boone.

You first need to go to any church to get a referral for food pantry assistance. If you have utilities that need to be paid, they have contacts that fund mortgage insurance, taxes, water, power, gas and phone bill. If you know someone who is over 21 and has no place to stay or keep warm, or you see someone walking in the rain, ice, snow or freezing cold, don’t just drive by or walk by with total disregard for them. Remember what Jesus said: “Do unto others what you want them to do unto you.”

Some important phone numbers you can contact for help:

Red Rock 515-432-5052
Boone County DHS 515-433-0593

Sincerely,

Wesley Schaefer
DMACC Student

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We have heard about programs for persons under 18 years old. They are covered by WIC and Title 9 and Medicare. But once you are 21 or older things change greatly. It becomes much harder to get financial support from any source, if you cannot work due to a physical or mental condition. How do I know? Because I have lived through it myself.

Someone once said, “To know how you feel you need to walk a mile in my shoes.” As a Boone County Resident since 2002, I can tell you that there is very limited financial assistance for persons over 21 who have no family assistance. The churches in Boone try their best to help, but again their funds are very limited. In my case the Catholic Church in Boone referred me to the Salvation Army. Again the salvation army would only provide food assistance and only once every three months. The other place I found helpful is Red Rock Community PMC on Greene St. in Boone.

You first need to go to any church to get a referral for food pantry assistance. If you have utilities that need to be paid, they have contacts that fund mortgage insurance, taxes, water, power, gas and phone bill. If you know someone who is over 21 and has no place to stay or keep warm, or you see someone walking in the rain, ice, snow or freezing cold, don’t just drive by or walk by with total disregard for them. Remember what Jesus said: “Do unto others what you want them to do unto you.”

Sincerely,

Wesley Schaefer
DMACC Student

Ubuntu: GNU/Linux for the masses

By Austin Leeds
Photo Editor/Columnist

Warty Warthog—sounds like something you would want to try, right? Probably not.

Well, in the years since the release of Ubuntu 4.10 Warty Warthog, Canonical’s GNU/Linux operating system has been through quite a few less-than-attractive names (version 9.04 Jaunty Jackalope is one of the more recent ones). But behind the silly names, Ubuntu provides several features that Windows can’t compete with.

1. It’s free. That’s right—free. As in, “free of charge.” Canonical gets its income through technical support and Ubuntu-themed merchandise, like T-shirts, coffee mugs, and the like. They don’t need to charge for Ubuntu, par-ticularly because many people who help develop and test it aren’t actually on their payroll. Around the world, thousands of people with technical expertise use Ubuntu, constantly improving it and fixing its bugs for their own benefit. Then, they turn around and post the changes they have made on Ubuntu’s developer Web site, making the fixes available to everyone.

2. No malware. I’ll bet you’re wondering how this is possible if anyone can post fixes for Ubuntu to the developer Web site. Well, that’s where Canonical comes in. Canonical keeps a watchful eye over the development of Ubuntu, and its programmers have the final say over what goes in Ubuntu—and what doesn’t. Rest assured, your computer is safe.

And if you’re wondering how Ubuntu can be impenetrable against spy-ware, viruses, Trojan horses, and the rest—Ubuntu is built on a different core, or “kernel,” than Windows. Meaning that stuff that affects Windows doesn’t affect Ubuntu, and vice-versa. It also means that Windows programs can’t normally run on Ubuntu, which brings me to the next attractive feature of Ubuntu...

3. It can run Windows programs. “But you just said…” No, I said Windows programs can’t normally run on Ubuntu. With the help of programs like WINE (WINE is Not an Emu-la-tor), Qemulator, and Sun Virtu-ator, Windows programs and even Windows itself can be made to run on Ubuntu. For example, if WINE basically imitates Win-dows’ various little parts to fool Windows programs into running on Linux. This gives you the ability to use Microsoft Office 2007, which normally requires a Win-dows PC, and yet spares you from catching viruses. Nice, huh?

4. Help is on the way! The Ubuntu Forums Web site (www. ubuntuforums.org) is a place where Ubuntu newbies and ex-perts alike gather to ask questions, get answers, and exchange advice (or casual conversation) about Ubuntu and its derivatives. This, too, is free. Want to know more about Ubuntu before you try it? You’ll get to hear everybody’s perspec-tive at Ubuntu Forums, not just mine.

5. Si. Ubuntu habla Español. Ubuntu comes with multi-lan-guage support, so if you’re new to the US, or are just learning Eng-lish, you can set Ubuntu to your own language, in most cases. Plus, it’s a great way to practice typing English (or, for English speakers, another language).

Ready to take the plunge? Go to www.ubuntu.com and download a free LiveCD, which will let you try Ubuntu on your computer before you install it. If you have questions, check out www.ubuntu-forums.org.

Remember to visit the Ban-ner’s new Web site, www.chan-nernewnsonline.com. We’re in the process of preparing in-terest-ing stories for the site that will not ap-pear in the printed edition of the paper.

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Trees and sidewalk north of Boone DMACC Campus are covered in thick layers of ice.

As for missing a day of school, this is the one thing that puts some happiness into the horrid weather. Getting up early for school and seeing that it is snowing, we scramble for our phone for RAVE updates. We can get ahead on homework or good off all day if we have no school.

These weather related misfortunes teach us all lessons; from becoming stronger and more prepared to the, where to find matches and batteries, we are all wiser but still weary of winter weather.
**January Horoscopes**

By Jill Ackerman  
*Staff Writer*

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Romantic invitations, suggestive comments and sensualities are difficult to resist. Many Aries natives will now enjoy a sudden increase in vitality, fitness and emotional wealth. Avoid, however, becoming permanently distracted by short-term flirtations. Loved ones will soon ask for renewed promises or solicitations. Later in the week past financial mistakes will require new quotes, legal advice or quickly signed documents. No serious threats are likely, so not to worry. Stay open.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 20): Social timing and group sensitivities are now important to the success of long-term friendships. Early this week someone close may need help to resolve painful memories or move forward in new relationships. Encourage public optimism, fresh ideas and belonging. Moodiness or lingering moments of self-doubt will soon vanish. Tuesday through Saturday highlights unusual requests from colleagues or work partners. Hidden facts or changed documents may now advocate unique social occasions. Key officials will not offer clear instructions or reassuring words. Wednesday through Saturday a new fitness regime will prove extremely helpful: expect fast progress.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21): Last six weeks of fast business proposals and new financial discussions. Bosses will offer little warning, stay alert. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22): Silly antics between friends and partners are amusing this week but also easily misunderstood. After Tuesday loved ones and potential romantic partners are highly sensitive to feelings of social exclusion. Make sure invitations or creative activities include everyone. This is not the right time to ignore minor jealousies or private resentments. Later this week a private business discussion becomes public. Wait for shared agreement and express meaningful rewards: your instincts are accurate.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22): Job responsibilities or minor tensions between colleagues will be strongly felt this week. If possible, avoid emotional risk in the workplace. Key officials will not offer clear instructions or reassuring words. Wednesday through Saturday a new fitness regime will prove extremely helpful: expect fast progress.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Job responsibilities or minor tensions between colleagues will be strongly felt this week. If possible, avoid emotional risk in the workplace. Key officials will not offer clear instructions or reassuring words. Wednesday through Saturday a new fitness regime will prove extremely helpful: expect fast progress.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Family routines will this week be quickly disrupted by last minute group plans. Close friends or colleagues may now advocate unique social gatherings, new entertainment and rare artistic pursuits. All are positive but also time consuming. Check with loved ones before offering definite promises. Social sensitivities are now high. After Saturday many Librarians will begin six weeks of fast business proposals and new financial discussions. Bosses will offer little warning, stay alert.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 21-Nov. 21): Business demands are now increasing. Before mid-week expect recently silent or withdrawn managers to introduce rare policy changes or revised procedures. New methods, ironically, will likely trigger unnecessary confusion. Remain quietly detached and avoid public debate. The need for public respect will be deeply felt.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21): Business demands are now increasing. Before mid-week expect recently silent or withdrawn managers to introduce rare policy changes or revised procedures. New methods, ironically, will likely trigger unnecessary confusion. Remain quietly detached and avoid public debate. The need for public respect will be deeply felt.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 20): Before Wednesday expect a close friend to ask for controversial advice or emotional support. Marital disputes or ongoing family situations may now be unusually stressful. Offer kind words and concrete suggestions. Your attention to small details and practical wisdom will help clarify difficult relationships. Take time to consider all options. Later this week a recently postponed business project will require new attention. A complex job promotion may be offered: stay actively involved.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21-Feb. 19): Property agreements may now be cancelled or thoroughly redefined. Financial promises, delayed payments and public accountability may all be key factors. After this week, after Friday an unexpected social invitation may bring a passionate romantic attraction into your life. Remain attentive to all emotional overtures.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-March 20): Older managers and officials will this week provide constructive criticism. Wait for further information, however, before offering an extra effort. Private politics and policy change may be an ongoing theme over the next three weeks. Remain quietly detached and watch for obvious improvements. Late this weekend family relations may become briefly complicated by conflicting social plans. Remain cheerfully diplomatic: loved ones will soon resolve their own disputes.

*Cartoon by Josh Schmidt, DMACC student*