Students around DMACC 4

Students using instructor textbooks

By Samuel Titus
Staff Writer

A message to everyone at DMACC from the Executive Dean of Student Services, Laurie Wolf, stated, “using an instructor textbook in lieu of the student version of a course textbook is considered a form of academic misconduct...” The consequences of this “could result in the reduction of a student’s grade, including the assignment of a failing grade (F) for all or any portion of the course.” This message originated as a surprise to many on the Boone Campus. Some were questioning the plausibility of it, and others were outraged by the idea and attempt of it. “There were no prior complaints to my knowledge that happened on the Boone Campus,” he also said if such a situation would arise on the campus “we would try to determine thoroughly how the student became in possession of the teachers material,” and “every situation may be different.”

As far as how these students came into possession of these textbooks may have happened in several ways. Textbooks could have been taken off campus or been received from an outside source. Possibly being outdated or no longer used by an instructor, they may lend or sell in person or on the Internet that may pass as a bookstore Store Manager, said, “there’s a lot out there... it’s not ethically right, there may be bookstores that would do so, but not DMACC.” The money that was used to purchase the books from the Campus Book Stores also goes back to the college unlike other source markets. How much of a negative impact could the use of these textbooks have? It may depend how often the instructor changes and gets a more recent edition. The process at which the books are selected is publishers send sample textbooks to the instructors, who will examine and choose the books they are to use within their class.

The textbook, depending on its subject and advancement or addition of material, may cause how different an edition may be pressuring in congress to lower costs on textbooks and make them available to students and staff, and the expanding availability of the World Wide Web market, it looks as if these cases may increase. One place they will not occur is the DMACC Campus Bookstores. Carol Peterson, a bookstore Store Manager, said, “there’s a lot out there... it’s not ethically right, there may be bookstores that would do so, but not DMACC.” The message that was ordered to purchase the books from the Campus Book Stores also goes back to the college unlike other source markets.

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Students around DMACC 4

Correction: In the Sept. 15 2010, Banner News Issue in “eBooks hit campus” the mentioned application should have been called CourseSmart. Banner News regrets the error.
Notebook computers are almost a must for academic success here at DMACC. Despite the fact that Boone campus requires a computer lab and numerous other desktops, laptops and netbooks tend to be more useful for students and instructors. This is due in part because they make consolidation of important data—like essays, e-mails, and bookmarked Web sites—easier and faster.

But what are the current trends? Which notebooks are the most satisfying purchases? Which operating systems work the best? Where is the best place to buy laptops and netbooks?

Operating Systems

Who's Using What

Out of the sixteen people surveyed, nine of them used Windows X, two used Mac OS X, and the grand scheme of things, that adds up to a user share of 56 percent—not too shabby for an operating system that was just released last year. What’s more, Windows XP was nowhere to be found among notebook computers—Windows 7 has superseded it quasi-fantastically all-around.

Another statistic of note is the share of Mac users on campus. With one user of Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard, Macs represented 25 percent of all student and instructor notebook computers. Ahead of Vista by 6 percent (one person), Macs are clearly a popular alternative choice for laptops here at DMACC.

Operating Systems Satisfaction

With a ranking of 4.67 stars for Mac OS X Snow Leopard and a single ranking of 3 stars for Mac OS X Leopard, Macs ranked first and second, with Windows 7 (4.30 stars) ranking third and last, respectively. The range of this data tells a more interesting story. The range between the high and low scores in Mac OS X was only one star between four and five. Windows 7 varied more widely between 2 and 5 stars, and Windows Vista had a narrow range, between 3 and 4 stars. What this means is Macs had a more consistent good experience. Windows 7 users had widely varying experiences, and Windows Vista users had consistently mediocre experiences.

Notebooks—User Share

Four brands represented the majority of laptops in this survey: Acer, Apple, HP, and Dell. With 31 percent of all laptops on campus, the rest (Compaq, Gateway, MSI, and Toshiba) were compiled into an “Others” group. The brand representing the greatest number of users at DMACC was Apple, at a 27 percent user share. Tied at 20 percent were Acer (two laptops and a netbook) and HP (three laptops) and “Others” (three laptops), and Dell brought up the rear with 13 percent (two laptops). In light of the fact that HP and Acer rank first and second among the largest computer manufacturers in the world, their large presence at DMACC should not be surprising, especially since Acer is the only computer brand sold at DMACC Bookstore. With a global user share of around 6 percent, Apple is grossly over-represented on campus—even so, Apple’s primary user base is college students, so this is not entirely unusual.

Notebooks—Satisfaction

With a ranking of 4.68 stars, Apple again took the cake, ranking highest in laptop user satisfaction. Following Apple, HP (4.66) and Toshiba (4.54) received the highest rank. The laptop user satisfaction is very consistent across good and bad laptops. As a result, laptop user satisfaction was not as affected by operating systems as laptop user share.

Laptops on campus

Student Activities Council announces fall 2010 budget

By Josie Kramer

Copy Editor

The Student Activities Council is funded by student activities’ activity fees. Students were invited to the first meeting Thursday Sept. 16 to discuss what the SAC does and how much money it has for the activities.

The SAC budget receives $12,252 from every student credit hour enrolled. For the 2009-2010 academic year the fee was $1.05. The higher the enrollment for the semester, the more money in the SAC budget.

The SAC splits the total budget on student activities, clubs and organizations like the Banner News, athletics and Phi Beta Lambda.

The SAC’s sponsors its own events. Their individual budget is 21 percent of the total. They spend it on Wild Wednesday events like Jim Wand, the hypnotist, which cost $1,500 and the hooteney feed for about $300.

During the spring semester of 2010 the SAC budget was $25,626.30 with athletics receiving 44 percent, generating $11,275.57. According to an article in the March 31, 2010 Banner News issue, “the money from student activities is used for the operating cost of athletics, things like officials and uniforms but doesn’t include transportation and salaries,” said Tom Lee, Boone Campus Provost in the spring term.

The Banner News uses its entire SAC budget to print a freely distributed paper to faculty, staff and students. The publication receive 9 percent of the budget. The ad sales they receive go for operating costs and maybe a staff trip to a writing or journalism convention. “Their hope this fall is to go to the National College Media Convention in Louisville on October 27 through 31,” said Jan LaVille, Banner News editor.

According to Linda Puerger, PBL advisor said, the PBL uses their budget, the eight percent, for state and national membership registration fees, conferences, and local projects. Puerger said, “I am very appreciative of the SAC funding for PBL. The SAC funding is very adequate.”

Upcoming events sponsored by the SAC are the Blood Drive at the Courter Center September 29, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Magician Dan Spyry in the Courter Center on October 8, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Students interested in donating blood can schedule an appointment online at http://www.mfbdonor.org/iowa and click on “Find a Mobile Blood Drive,” or by calling 800-287-4693, The Blood Center of Iowa.

Managing work load, get assistance around campus

By Josie Kramer

Copy Editor

Having the summer off, waking up when wanted, staying up late to watch very specific TV programs or anything else that doesn’t how to manage. Making the back-to-school transition can be tough for students who are going from caring to worry about class work and grades can cause stress, even for an “A” student.

DMACC student, Kannon Burrage, said before his first visit to the Writing Center “I heard that [the Writing Center] was very helpful.”

The DMACC campus provides a handful of stations including the library, Academic Achievement Center, the Writing Center as well as multiple computer labs. “When the computer labs needed extra help, they can visit Mary Ann Koch and her staff in the AAC for tutoring. The AAC is located in the lower west hall opposite the library.

Students are also welcome to visit Krystal Hering, Writing Center Coordinator and tutor, or the other tutors in the Center to receive a helping hand on writing a paper, letter, research, an essay outline or various other compositions. It can be found straight east of the Courter Center.

Writing Center, Writing can be difficult at any skill level. Sometimes you need a sounding board or someone to guide you through the revisions process. So, that’s what we are here for: to encourage and guide you.”

After Burrage’s first visit to the Writing Center, he said, “It helped me a lot. Mr. Pritchard pointed out what I needed to do and I was able to do my paper. I will definitely go back for future help. All students who need help writing, students in Comp I and Comp II or students who want to succeed should go there.”

There is also the option of finding a quiet corner in the library to study away from noisy eating early morning brain food, they fill their brains. Breakfast is called the first and second among the largest computer brands sold at DMACC. With a global user share of around 6 percent, Apple is grossly over-represented on campus—even so, Apple’s primary user base is college students, so this is not entirely unusual.

By Austin Leeds

Copy Editor

I had never eaten a banana before. That is until I was about 6 and a half years old. I was home from camp with my brother and sister and my mother had to make lunch for all of us. She made us a sandwich with banana slices and a little peanut butter. I did not want to eat it and my mother told me to eat it or I would not be able to go back to camp. I finally ate it and I have been eating bananas ever since.

Managing work load, get assistance around campus

By Josie Kramer

Copy Editor

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News
DMACC Sets Enrollment Record

DMACC—Enrollment at Des Moines Area Community College’s six campuses has reached yet another milestone. Head count has increased 10.46 percent to 24,658 students this fall compared to fall of 2009. The number of credit hours was up nine percent reaching 211,828 credit hours taken by DMACC students this Fall.

The head count and number of credit hours were up double digits at DMACC’s Ankeny and Urban Campuses. Last fall at this time, there were 22,324 students taking 194,179 credit hours. 2009 fall enrollment grew 19 percent over 2008.

“With more than 2,300 additional students on our campuses this Fall, DMACC is an exciting place to work” said Rob Denson, President of DMACC. “As a result, we’ve hired new faculty, added more online and face-to-face classes, found additional classroom space and made other accommodations to serve these students.”

Denson pointed out that these figures are only credit students. Non-credit, English as a Second Language and General Education Degree (GED) students could easily double the number of students taking classes at DMACC. Administrators predict nearly 70,000 credit and non-credit students at DMACC during this fiscal year.

Transfer Student Visit Day at ISU

DMACC—If students are considering transferring to Iowa State, they are encouraged to attend a Transfer Student Visit Day. Experience Iowa State by taking a campus tour, learning about admission requirements and campus life, and visiting the academic department of interest to you. Lunch is provided. Visit Days are scheduled for Friday, October 8 and Friday, October 29. To learn more and register online, go to www.admissions.iastate.edu/visit/transfer.php.

Win $100 Gift Certificates

DMACC Library Student Contests

As part of the One Book One College One Community program, the DMACC libraries will offer three different contests, each with a prize of a $100 gift certificate from the DMACC bookstores. For more information, please check out our Web site at: libguides.dmacc.edu/content.

Win $100 Gift Certificates

DMACC Library Student Contests

Students interested in transferring to UNI can experience UNI by attending Transfer Visit Day on Friday, October 8. Learn about admissions and financial aid, tour a tour of campus, and visit the academic department of interest.

Lunch is provided. Saturday visit days are also available. To learn more about upcoming events and to register online, go to www.uni.edu/admissions/.

Students using instructors textbooks (continued)

may be on a publisher’s Web site or separate manual.

These are highly maintained and restricted to students and instructors are to vow not to let instructor material get into the hands of students. Even so, there is a worry or some that the instructor’s manual may contain information that may allow students to have access to these materials, but some instructors may also believe that there is little difference between a student and a faculty textbook. Whether it’s effective, it may give a false impression and non-honest advancement above other students.

Whatever the case, it’s encouraged that students may heed these warnings. It should come as a relief as Tom Lee said, “I am glad we are [staff] and students are made aware of this report.”
one of them may have murder in er they emerge to be. More than not everyone is quite the strang history and this mysterious eve has a heartbreaking and dreadful mailing won't be any exception. As the local doctor, the erratic real-house party in their newly pur

terious night to host a haunted theatre performers is just around the corner. The performances will take place on November 12 and 13 at 7:30 in the Boone Campus Theatre. Boone Campus Theatre Direc tor, Kay Mueller, has chosen the play “Invitation to Murder” for this semester’s performance.

According to the description of the play, Lord and Lady Lex ington have selected a rather misterious night to host a haunted house party in their newly pur chased home, Foxworth Manor. Their party guests are unequal and worried strangers—the pretty secretary, the gossipy columnist, the local doctor, the erratic real estate agent and a good looking, but somewhat impolite young gentleman. The Foxworth Manor has a heartbreaking and dreadful history and this mysterious evening won’t be any exception. As the storm progresses on outside, the guests abruptly discover that no one is quite the strang er they emerge to be. More than one of them may have murder in mind.

“I think that it is going to be through that once in a lifetime ex perience. It was like a cherry on top when I was crowned queen. It meant a lot to me because it was a huge honor.”

A native of Knoxville, Iowa, Stevenson graduated from Knox ville High School in May of 2010. During her high school years, she was in Future Farmers of America and served as Sentinel officer her junior year and president her senior year. She was also a part of the National Honor Society her junior and senior year and was on the basketball, softball and cross country teams. Stevenson was apart of the friendly Guys and Gals 4-H club for nine years. She served as presi dent of the club her senior year. While in 4-H, she showed beef and swine at her local county fair as well as the state fair. Dur ing her junior and senior year, she showed her steer during the Gov ernor’s Charity Steer Show. This past summer, her steer was shown by Iowa Governor Chet Culver and was named the reserve grand champion. During this event, Stevenson met Governor Culver and was crowned the Iowa State Fair Queen that night.

To celebrate the Iowa State Fair Queen Contest, each county fair in Iowa holds a contest to deter mine their own county fair queen. Stevenson was chosen out of seven girls to represent Marion County. All of the contestants had to go through interviews with a panel of judges and give a pre sentation before an audience that told a little about themselves. During the start of the 2010 Iowa State Fair, the 102 girls met at Hotel Fort Des Moines and had their first interview with a panel of six judges. This interview was when the judges got to know each candidate. “It was difficult to have them get a sense of who to get to know you because you had little time to do it,” said Stevenson.

“The next interview process was a group interview with each group consisting of nine to eleven candidates. The judges would throw out different questions to the girls to answer. In Stevenson’s group, the topics had to deal with Bill Rely Talent Shows that will take place all over the state.

This summer, Stevenson will do different duties for the first three days of the Iowa State Fair. She’ll give a speech and will then crown the 2011 Iowa State Fair Queen.

“One I finish my reign as the 2010 Iowa State Fair Queen, I will have met highly respectable people that I will always look up to. It will always be an honor for me to say that I got to experience something that meant so much to me that many others will not get to.”

Woods (DMACC, physics profes sor) wrote a fantastic letter for me that helped open the doors,” Ellis said. After the door had been opened, the following turned into a series of assignments to create a new Mars rover for NASA, outlining goals and objectives, budget and time line, equipment and ex periments and finally a 3-Dimen sional design of the rover.

Ellis is already an accomplish ed individual, holding a Bachelor of Business Adminis tration in finance and marketing from the University of Iowa’s business school. As of right now, Ellis is working towards a degree in aerospace engineering through Iowa State University. His reason for pursing this new, unrelated degree comes straight down to “pass ion,” Ellis said. “My first time through college, I understood that I needed a degree to have a comfortable life style, but I didn’t know what I wanted to do with my life.”

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The students visited Stonehenge on one of the four field trips for their British Life and Cultures course during the spring 2009 trip.

London (continued)

$450 to AIFS, American Institute for Foreign Study. Students attending will receive medical insurance through the program.

The students will have classes Monday through Thursday and will reside in, groups of 2 to 3 students, with London families. Students will have the opportunity to take three-day trips and attend two theatre events. Many students in the past have traveled to Ireland, Sweden, France, Germany and Spain.

Randy Jedele, a DMACC professor who previously taught in London said, “I can say that the majority of [the students] love the program and return different people because of the travel and other experiences they have while living in London for 10 weeks. Also, most of them will tell you that it was worth every penny that they spent and/or went into debt for the experience.”

Students interested in attending can see Shelby Hildreth, Boone Campus advisor; LaVille, Boone DMACC English professor; Marla Inks, Ankeny Campus class advisor; or Maria Cochran, study abroad coordinator, Ankeny Campus. Students may also visit the Web site at www.dmacc.edu/ studyabroad.

By Kylika Miller & Corey Trader
Contributing Writers

In today’s technologically dependent society, the average person is exposed to government entities, digital databases and third-party interest groups without making even slightly informed decisions. Cindy Cohn, a lawyer who works for the Electronic Freedom Frontier, spoke about how exposure affects people’s Constitutional rights, during her presentation in the DMACC Boone Campus Theatre on Constitution Day.

The EFF, with offices in San Francisco, makes sure that Constitutional rights also apply to online content. Cohn said the battle to retain online rights is a task that never ends. As new technologies are created, so are opportunities for infringement on people’s rights.

For example, she recalled that people, 40 years ago, didn’t have free speech protection. Cohn said that before technology, our free speech was very limited to the world before the Internet; however, different individuals interpret the Constitution in different ways, which often leads to the involvement of the judicial system.

Prior to what people now know as mass media, people who passed out flyers, and the only people who would see them is whoever walked by. But now days, the whole world can see what one has to say in just seconds. However, Cohn also pointed out that technology has helped the First Amendment also due to freedom of association, another guaranteed right.

The primary concern in the digital frontier is the government’s ability to track and monitor people. Cohn believes that the government should have some of the employees to be able to track where a person is located by their phone or Internet use. She believes that without a warrant, this practice violates the Fourth Amendment (unlawful search and seizure). In addition, she told the audience that every e-mail a person sends is also wired to government computers. Cohn said that our government is “treating you as if you are a criminal in waiting.”

Her agency (EFF) is trying to protect the rights of citizens. With just a click of the button, employers or a movie, it will play on more than one certain brand of player. Cohn was in favor of online learning because she said a little girl from Newton, Iowa, (her hometown) could learn from any place in the world and not just from what was available in a small Iowa town. She also talked about digitized medical records since some people have died in the past due to lost medical records.

Cohn believes that with the increasing necessity of these technologies in today’s society, understanding these rights properly is vital.

NASA (continued)

He began his collegiate life chosing after a career in programming in high school. “I wasn’t happy with the career path I was on. The end goal of portfolio manager would be financially rewarding, but it didn’t drive me forward.”

Now returning to school Ellis said he decided on aerospace because the education shares many different areas of engineering including programming, mechanical, materials, and its own specialization of physics and dynamics.

Along with the knowledge of the potential career path and a bit of positive motivation from Dr. Woods he was well on his way. “I’m no stranger to classes at a large university,” Ellis said; however he still credits his professors at DMACC with being “…hands down among the best instructors I have ever had.” He gives special mention to Nick Thorp, Nancy Woods and Douglas Johnson, all professors in DMACC’s math and science departments. “They taught the material in a way that was easy to understand, apply and remember. I only wish that I could have taken more classes at DMACC.”

Ellis remains a current DMACC student, taking a web-based spreadsheet class. He says he is taking the class to maintain his eligibility for National Community College Aerospace Scholars. He also plans on returning to the DMACC grounds to take differential equations.

Laptops (continued)

And Acer (4.33) were far ahead of the competition. Dell ranked at a mediocre 3.50, with all others (excepting Toshiba at 4.00) scoring at or below that. A single Gateway user gave his laptop two stars, the lowest rank.

Stores—Where to Buy

All four of the Mac users surveyed had bought their MacBook Pros from Iowa’s only Apple Store, located in the Jordan Creek Mall in Des Moines. Sears, OfficeMax, and a fewutoff dealers sold 25 percent of all laptops purchased by DMACC students and instructors. Customer satisfaction for both their Mac OS X operating system and their MacBook family of laptops, according to customer surveys that were passed out, was very high.

With leading scores in total user score (against individual competition), customer satisfaction for both their Mac OS X operating system and their MacBook family of laptops, Apple appears to be the leader in presence on this PC-oriented campus.

HP seems to be the best PC brand to buy, with the second highest user share (tied with Acer) and the second highest customer satisfaction. It explains why all of Boone Campus’ desktop computers (excepting the 16 Macintosh computers used by the Banner News, the nightlife Photoshop and photography classes, and some applied music classes) are HPs.

Ranking suggest that the DMACC Boone Campus Bookstore is doing a good job— it ranked second (4.5) after the Jordan Creek Apple Store (5). The Boone Campus Bookstore sells Acer laptops and netbooks, HP printers, Microsoft Office (for Windows and Macs), Windows Vista Home Basic and 7. If one hasn’t upgraded to Windows 7 yet, one can purchase it for only $10 at the bookstore. If the Windows 7 is here to stay, and Windows Vista is on its way out. Microsoft’s latest operating system, Windows 8, will come with built-in Microsoft Office and Acer/HP desktops next year… right before Microsoft is allegedly announcing Windows 8. Hopefully the IT department can keep up with frequent upgrades from here on out. It appears that Microsoft is revving up back after their six-year XP spasm (2001-2007). Expect Windows 8 by 2012 and Windows 9 (whatever it may be named) not long after that.
Volleyball takes four matches at Marshalltown

DMACC – The DMACC women’s volleyball team ran its winning streak to five matches with four victories Friday and Saturday at the Marshalltown Community College tournament in Marshalltown. The Bears, who improved to 9-1 and are nationally ranked at number 15, had three blocks and six kills respectively. Overturf and VanderKamp contributed eight and five digs respectively. VanderKamp and Bormann finished with 11 and 10 kills respectively. Bormann also had three blocks and six wins finished with 27 assists. Buchmann and Jamie Simms-Ford won with two and four assists respectively. Overturf and VanderKamp made their way with six and five digs respectively. DMACC hit .197 in the win against Northeast Community College with VanderKamp and Ennen getting 11 and 10 kills respectively and each had four blocks. Weis finished with 25 assists. Weis had five ace serves and VanderKamp contributed eight digs.

The LaBette match saw VanderKamp and Christina Richter of Bismarck complete six kills each and Bormann contributed nine assists to home. Bormann and Caucasian added three blocks each. Stephanie Bockman of Fort Dodge added 15 assists and three digs and Ennen had four ace servers.

DMACC’s Matt Mikkelsen

Golfers play well at Fort Dodge and Mason City

DMACC – The men’s and women’s golf teams competed in the Iowa Central Community College Invitational at the Fort Dodge Country Club on Friday, Sept. 17, and traveled to Mason City on Sept. 21 for the North Central Community College Invitational. The Bears got a 93 by Hillygus and a 94 from Western Community College. Other DMACC scores included a 90 to lead the DMACC women. The DMACC men and women finished second in the North Central Community College Invitational. Ashley Bloomendaal fired an 82 and Staci Hillygus of Marshalltown added a 90 to lead the DMACC women in the Iowa Central Community College Invitational. The Bears got a 93 by Hillygus and a 94 from Motorcycle Laverne and Motorcycle Bockman of Fort Dodge. The DMACC men and women finished second at 343 strokes to finish 29 strokes behind Iowa Western Community College. Other DMACC scores included a 93 by Hillygus and a 94 from Anna Hoss of Spirit Lake. Iowa Western’s Ashley Himmels added 102. DMACC’s Matt Mikkelsen shrunk 72 and a 76 by Joel Lester of Gilbert helped the DMACC men to a 304 total and a third-place finish. DMACC’s 304, won by Hillsboro Lakes (300) and Hillsboro Lakes (303). Hackett added a 77 for the Bears and Gregersen finished with a 79. DMACC finished sixth strokes ahead of Iowa Central. The DMACC men and women finished second at the NIACC Fall Invite on Tuesday at the Highland Park Golf Course in Mason City.

Sports Briefs

Women’s volleyball

Sept. 29, the women’s volleyball team will be a home volleyball game against conference opponent Des Moines Community College. Oct. 8 the volleyball team will begin the DMACC Tournament in the gym starting at 10 a.m. and will continue play the following day at 8 a.m.

Women’s x-country

Last week at the Iowa Intercollegiate meet the DMACC girls took 8th place while Katie Clark lead the Bears with a 3:11:31 on the 5K course.

Baseball

This past year five former DMACC players completed there first season of professional baseball. Players include Cole Nelson, Patrick Cooper, Travis Meiners, George Jensen and Scott Scherer.

Women’s basketball

Sept. 29 the basketball team will have a home game against Grandview at 2 p.m. This will be there last home game until October.

Women’s basketball

Women’s basketball hires Jocelyn Anderson. Anderson is a former DMACC basketball player before transferring to Iowa State.

Men’s basketball gains new assistant coach

By Robert Robson

Men’s basketball caret has kept him in Iowa for the ex- tent of it and has also placed him in the record books as well. Megkwon is from the town of Fairbank, Iowa and has had success from the start of high school and throughout college. He was a star player at University of Northern Iowa, graduat- ing in 2007 before bringing his talents to DMACC.

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Homecoming Editorial

So fall is upon us, and like every college with sports we are all preparing for homecoming. Wait, what, DMACC doesn’t celebrate a homecoming? It’s true, although our campus is the only one of the DMACC campuses to have any sports teams, we don’t have a homecoming.

It’s not like it would be a new concept here. There was a time when we did, in fact, celebrate homecoming. We would even crown a king and queen, and throw a dance. Over the years the tradition fell by the wayside, and with the short-term memory syndrome of a community college, with students only being in attendance on average for two years, it was one of those things that fell from the communal mind of the campus.

Having attended a few of the Student Activity Council’s (SAC) meetings, a common question asked is, “What events can we hold that students would get behind?” The answer is quite obvious—homecoming. Who doesn’t like to go to a football game and make it a weekend event. Activities for students, decorations, school pride, students only being in attendance on average for two years, it was one of those things that fell from the communal mind of the campus.

If you agree that this is a tradition that needs to be reinstated, speak up. Find a member of the SAC or talk to Coach Steve Krafcsin or just send him an e-mail at sjkrafcsin@dmacc.edu, he is always open to suggestions. It’s time that we bring back a tradition of the past, for our future, for our students, just for the good plain fun of it.

Dear Editor,

As we all have noticed the weather is changing and winter is coming at us quickly. With the winter season approaching soon what are we going to do about the parking situation? As we all remember in last year’s flame there were cars parked everywhere making the parking lot a cluster of metal, tires, snow, and ice. It’s hard enough to go around a corner when the snow is already a foot high, add in a whole lot of people parking crazily next to the curb and diagonally in the space that is available, and you have the ingredients for a disaster all over again. The worst part of the entire situation is that no one cares enough to say something, and even if someone has spoken, they don’t seem to be speaking loud enough to make a difference. There needs to be change and in order for there to be change we must go to the source. To make a difference we in turn need to be willing to change our ways to improve the atmosphere that surrounds us all. By not parking next to the curb and parking straighter in the areas that are available, we can create an easier environment for everyone. I also believe there needs to be a change in the policy on snow removal from the DMACC campus itself. If the parking lot was kept cleaner, using ice melt and snow plows towards the very back, parking your vehicle would become easier and therefore help take care of at least some of the disorganization. So in the long run it comes down to whether or not you want to change the way you look at the situation, because until we do there will not be a change in the way the process is being taken care of presently.

Michael Gonzalez Santos

To submit a letter to the editor, please e-mail bannernews@dmacc.edu

Ubuntu: Stepping Out of the Box (part one)

By Austin Leeds

Staff Writer

You’ve heard me say it before, and no doubt you’ll hear me say it again: Ubuntu is changing our perceptions of what a personal computer should be, do, and cost. Sponsored and developed by Canonical, Inc., a British company started by entrepreneur (and civilian astronaut) Mark Shuttleworth, Ubuntu Linux is making waves this year by offering something unheard of in a Linux distribution: a paid “app store.”

Before I go into too much detail, though, I’ll explain what Ubuntu is. Named after the Zulu philosophy ubuntu—that is, “humanity towards others”—Ubuntu Linux is an operating system, like Windows 7 and Mac OS X. Unlike Windows and Mac, Ubuntu Linux is free.

We’ve been using the Internet for even a few years, you should know by now that almost nothing worth having is free. Some “free” programs even spread viruses and other malware to your computer. Naturally, you should be pretty cautious about free stuff on the Internet.

Ubuntu, however, is free and safe! Safer than Windows or Mac, in fact.

You see, every piece of software must have a developer. Developers generally don’t like to work alone on large projects, so a lot of software, such as Microsoft Windows, Adobe Photoshop, or Google Chrome are created and maintained by large teams of developers. Ubuntu is different—Ubuntu’s official development team could probably fill all the DMACC Boone auditorium. And yes, most of these developers do earn a living by creating Ubuntu. Money from enterprise (big business) tech support is Canonical’s source of revenue. No, the development team is paid with some of this money.

However, a large group of developers outside Canonical’s development team, all of whom actually use Ubuntu in home or work settings, contribute to the creation and maintenance of their favorite operating system. This group of developers is called “the Community,” and because they each have their own interests, many of them focus on helping to build specific features of Ubuntu that they are knowledgeable about. The Community consists of generally-unpaid hobbyists, who write code for Ubuntu in their spare time, for their own personal enjoyment.

Think of them like “community” volunteers. They invest their time into Ubuntu knowing that what they invested will help make the whole operating system more enjoyable to use. Everyone benefits.

OK, But What About Security? What About Viruses?

Ubuntu is built on the Linux kernel (a small piece of software that serves as the building-block for an operating system), unlike Windows, which is built on the Win32 API, and Mac, which is built on the Mach kernel. This building-block is a solid foundation for whatever operating system is built on top of it, and Ubuntu is about as solid as they come.

Better yet, whenever a security vulnerability wiggles its way into Ubuntu, both the official development team and the Community pitch in to “patch” (fix) the vulnerability. Like sandbagging before a flood, patches hold off a “flood” of malware and viruses, at least until the development team has time to evaluate the source of the problem and permanently repair it (“clam it up”). The permanent repairs come with each successive version of Ubuntu Linux.

How New is Ubuntu? When and How Will I Have to Upgrade?

The first release (version) of Ubuntu was Ubuntu 4.10 Warty Warthog, made in October 2004. The most recent version is Ubuntu 10.04 Lucid Lynx, made in April 2010. Ubuntu follows a 6-month development cycle, meaning that it is always up-to-date. Every two years, however, a special version of Ubuntu comes out. This is the Long-Term Support (LTS) version of Ubuntu.

Ubuntu LTS has been released three times as of this writing: Ubuntu 6.06 Dapper Drake (late by two months), Ubuntu 8.04 Hardy Heron, and Ubuntu 10.04 Lucid Lynx. The differences between these versions are roughly comparable to differences between different versions of Windows or Mac. For example, Ubuntu 8.04 was released just after Windows Vista and Mac OS X Leopard, and Ubuntu 10.04 was released just after Windows 7 and Mac OS X Snow Leopard.

Unlike Windows and Mac, which need an installer DVD to update, Ubuntu can be updated directly through the Internet. Connecting to Canonical’s update repository (collection of software packages), Ubuntu can automatically update itself every time a new version is released. That would be like Windows Vista automatically updating itself to Windows 7—for free!

You have a choice to follow the 6-month release schedule or upgrade every two years to an LTS. The LTS is updated with newer software packages during those two years, making the regular and LTS versions equally secure. The LTS version, however, is very carefully programmed to be especially stable, and as such is seen most often in business and education.

So, you’ve heard a few of the important advantages of Ubuntu Linux. In the next issue, I’ll explain a few of the attractive features of Ubuntu and how you can get Ubuntu on your computer. For more information, check out www.ubuntu.com.
most part. It reminds me of the days when Affleck was a big name, "Armageddon," and "Goodwill Hunting." For the longest time I thought the only good roles Affleck would be able to land were going to be that of the "Smoking' Aces" caliber, when he meets a quick and abrupt end and everyone breaths a sigh of relief and goes on with the entertainment. But, I guess he proved me wrong; he is someone worth watching and "The Town" gets 4 out of 5 stars.

By Tanner Sandrock
Editor-in-Chief

Ben Affleck. Yeah, I get the same feeling, too. Anymore when I hear that name, my mind instantly goes back to scenes from "Daredevil" and "Jersey Girl." Images of poor acting in poorly written movies fill my senses and all my interest in anything Affleck related vanishes faster than M. Night Shyamalan's fan base after "The Last Airbender." So, it's understandable that when I saw the exciting previews and then read the raving reviews for "The Town" I was a little interested, however cautious. I guess the biggest thing that caught my attention was the casting for James Coughlin, Affleck's best friend in the film, who displays a tendency for psychotic behavior. A detrimental role to the complexity to the story that almost overshadows the main character in some aspects. Jeremy Renner stepped into the shoes of this key role, you know the same actor from the Oscar-winning "The Hurt Locker." My interest had now begun to dwarf my reservations; although still present, I was now willing to give this one a go.

The story follows Doug MacRay (Affleck,) a young guy who grew up in Charlestown and besides earlier opportunities to leave the life he had, he somehow remains and takes up the seemingly common local profession of robbing banks. On the first heist that we get the privilege of viewing, the group runs into some complications when bank manager Claire Keesey (Rebecca Hall) is abducted in the hopes of gaining leverage if they happen to run into the fuzz. But, no worries, the get away is clean and Miss Keesey is dropped off on the beach, threatened and thought no longer to be a problem, right? Wrong.

Turns out that the one person in the bank they chose to abduct just happens to live right around the corner from them and now becomes a security risk for their entire operation and it's up to ol' Douggy boy to make sure she's not about to talk, a seemingly simple enough task for a hardened bank robber. Too bad he has a soft side for the damsel in distress that he himself distressed. Doug tries to hide his true life from Claire, hide Claire from Coughlin, and at the same time try to leave his old lifestyle and "the town" behind, but nothing seems to be going right. Doug's past and future are running opposite ways down the same track and the whole time the FBI is right on his tail. So what will it be? Jail? Run away? Or die, face down in the streets of Charlestown?

Besides that fast-paced sound of the story, the movie is actually pretty slow moving; however, it's still entertaining. It's not an over produced action flick but instead a close look into the life of a modern anti-hero. A man with a past, a situation he can't control or escape.

You find yourself cheering for a man that robs banks, that threatens innocent people, and at the same time your hoping the FBI agent finds some untimely end. It really turns into a story of man just trying to overcome his past, and who really can't relate to something like that? Affleck wrote it, directed it, and starred in it, and I wasn't disappointed on every possible level. Not only that, I actually liked it for the most part. It reminds me of the days when Affleck was a big name, "Armageddon," and "Goodwill Hunting." For the longest time I thought the only good roles Affleck would be able to land were going to be that of the "Smoking' Aces" caliber, when he meets a quick and abrupt end and everyone breathes a sigh of relief and goes on with the entertainment. But, I guess he proved me wrong; he is someone worth watching and "The Town" gets 4 out of 5 stars.

Top summer movies of 2010

By U.S. domestic gross

1 Toy Story 3 $405,659,221
2 Iron Man 2 $312,057,433
3 The Twilight Saga: Eclipse 296,027,752
4 Inception 270,519,920
5 Shrek Forever After 238,053,790
6 Despicable Me 236,276,085
7 The Karate Kid 175,908,763
8 Grown Ups 159,372,006
9 The Last Airbender 130,590,256
10 Salt 113,260,644

Summer movie seasons over the last 10 years

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