DMACC buys land south of campus and looks to reduce carbon footprint

By Joise Kramer
Copy Editor

Many changes are in store for DMACC Boone Campus from lightning to the purchase of 5.2 acres of land.

The 5.2 acres is directly south of the apartment complex. The land was part of the Boone Country Club. Once the club closed, the land was returned to the bank.

DMACC Boone Campus Provost, Tom Lee, said, “At the present time we do not have an immediate vision for the land. We thought it was prudent to purchase the land for possible use by the college in the future or it could be sold at a later date.”

Lee said it is also important to have control over the land if Boone Campus ever needs to expand. Administrators don’t want the land to be a detriment to the campus or the Burgen Square Apartments on campus. They don’t want any development to jeopardize their previous investments and by purchasing the land they can control what is in making for the land in the future.

Although the DMACC Board of Directors recently opted to add women’s softball to their athletic offerings, the land is “not envisioned” to be used as a softball field, said Lee.

Lee added, “I feel it is a good long term investment to the college.”

In addition to buying land the interior of the DMACC Boone Campus building is expecting lighting changes scheduled to be complete over the winter break period.

“DMACC has made a commitment to reduce our carbon footprint,” said Lee.

According to the posting on the “Operation Green” page on the DMACC Web site DMACC “aims to foster… a deep commitment to environmental and sustainable issues,” in an attempt to reduce energy consumption. Three lighting projects are scheduled over winter break to fulfill the Green Ribbon Pledge. All recommendations have been made by an energy audit.

The lights in the library will be replaced by fluorescent tube fittings.

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The lights in the library will be replaced by fluorescent tube fittings.

In regards to the projects, Lee said, “Not only will the projected reduce energy but we hope they improve our lighting.”

By Tanner Sandrock
Editor-in-Chief

Every year a certain amount of money is set-aside for the Student Activity Council (SAC) and until now out of that, 44 percent was used for athletics. This year will mark the first time that athletics will be excluded from the distribution of this money.

For every credit hour taken on the Boone Campus, $1.25 is placed in the SAC funds. During the term it becomes the job of the SAC to distribute this money among the different groups and clubs around campus as well as providing activities for students. For the 2010-2011 fiscal year, $53,000 was set aside for the Student Activity Budget.

The $22,440 that athletics would have received will instead be placed back in the activity funds to be distributed among the remaining groups. Tom Lee, DMACC Boone Campus provost, intends for this money to help other groups travel, help pay registration fees for groups such as Phi Theta Kappa, when they attend national conventions across the nation, as well as other clubs.

“This is something I’ve been campaigning for, for four years now,” said Lee.

“I didn’t feel it was fair.” Lee went on to say how the Boone Campus SAC is the only DMACC campus SAC that is paying to support athletics. Instead he feels that the money would be put to better use helping the students.

“We have doubled in size in the last five years, and we need more money to support student activities,” said Lee. Lee hopes that by returning this money to the SAC, it will help improve student activities around campus.

All clubs and organizations can now claim up to $2,000 dollars of the money that would have gone to athletics. All requests however, must be approved through Lee’s office.

As for the money the athletics department lost due to this redirection of funds, Lee says they will receive financial support through DMACC’s auxiliary funds. These are maintained through DMACC’s earnings through venues such as the bookstore or vending machine revenues.

Redistribution of wealth takes athletics out of SAC

By Tanner Sandrock
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DMACC students, faculty hold food drive

By Kevin Langel
Online Editor

Eleven DMACC students and faculty members from both the Ankeny and Boone Campus and members of Phi Theta Kappa and Phi Beta Lambda braved the cold elements that Mother Nature provided and held a food drive on Nov. 20.

The students and faculty had stations at Clarks Food Mart in Ogden and Hy-Vee and Fareway in Boone.

All of the items donated will go to the Red Rock Community Action Center in Boone, but before they are taken there, all of the items were taken to the DMACC Boone Campus.

Here the students and faculty built a sculpture and decorated a Christmas tree with all of the food and hygiene items.

“It was a much needed project in the community, especially this time of year,” said Sandi Johnson, Phi Theta Kappa advisor and Boone Campus office assistant.

“We had a very good turnout, and it was a good service project for Phi Theta Kappa,” Johnson said.

Bruce Kelly, over twenty-five years of service

By Austin Leeds
Staff Writer

In December 1985, instructor Bruce Kelly was a “featured teacher” in the Boone Campus Bear Facts (now the Banner News). One of the longest serving DMACC instructors, Kelly started teaching at Boone Campus in 1983.

Having graduated with a BA in history from Kearney State College, Kelly was unable to find a teaching job. So he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1969 and served as a translator during the Vietnam War, from May 1971 to April 1972. After talking about a thrilling helicopter ride over the jungle, Kelly remarked,

“But you’d hear about shellings. The airbase up the road would get shelled by the VC [Viet Cong], and the next day we’d walk up there and see all the damage... It was just a job. There was nothing terribly traumatic about it.”

After returning from the war, Kelly earned his MA in political science from ISU, married, and tried to find another job. His degrees made him overqualified for high school teaching positions, and the U.S. was going through hard economic times, which made his job searches doubly difficult.

After a string of dead-end jobs, Kelly was recommended to Boone Campus Dean Kris Philips by an administrator at Ankeny Campus. Philips hired Kelly “on the spot,” and Kelly started teaching part-time in 1983. After five years, he was made a full-time instructor and continues teaching history and political science to this day.

“All of the other things that I would almost literally do for free”

When asked if he had any advice for posterity, he replied, “Keep the emphasis on academics. Remember what our basic mission is.”

Bruce Kelly

When I came here in 1983, says Kelly, “we had something in the neighborhood of 500-700 students. Today, if you look at the highest head count, I think it’s about 3,100.

“The other thing in terms of growth is how little the size of the faculty has kept up with the growth of the students. Which leads into the other things, which is the takeover of sports here— the fact is that sports is a higher priority in terms of new funding than academics is, and I don’t back away from that statement one bit.”

When Kelly first started at DMACC, the Boone Campus had two separate buildings, with neither the Courter Center nor the nursing wing yet in existence. In the absence of the Courter Center, the Student Center was an open area consisting of what are now Rooms 129 and 129, the offices opposite those rooms, and the computer labs. Before the Courter Center was built, the double doors just past the auditorium marked the end of the main building.

In those days, students spent more time outside. Besides the grayway gap between the main building and the gymnasium, there was a patio just outside the Student Center.

“The patio out there [outside the double doors of what is now the computer lab] was used more then. They’d use the patio for cooking hamburgers and stuff like that. But after they remodeled the library, and those doors became more like emergency doors, that patio really isn’t used much anymore.”

After almost thirty years of teaching, Kelly plans to retire after the Spring 2013 semester, though he admits he might delay his retirement until after Spring 2013. For the rest of his life, he plans to continue writing and attempt to self-publish some of his already-written books.

When asked if he had any advice for posterity, he replied, “Keep the emphasis on academics. Remember what our basic mission is.” To which he added, “Go Bears.”

The students who helped with the food drive sit in front of the food sculpture in the Courter Center on Saturday, Nov. 20. (Left to right) Hannah McKeever (Ankeny), Taylor Williams (Ankeny), Gabrielle Woods (Nancy Woods’ daughter), Nicole Young (Boone) and Kevin Langel (Boone).
Get a full-time lift achieving your goals serving part-time in the Air Guard. Whether it’s money for college, real world career training, or low-cost health insurance, we offer what it takes to succeed in today’s competitive world. Call the Air Guard today to find a unit near your hometown.

David S. Grainger
Air National Guard

Bear Briefs
Campus to close early

All DMACC campuses will be closed Wed. Nov. 24 at 2:30 p.m. Campuses will remain closed until Mon. Nov. 29.

SAC serves turkey dinner

By Evan McCutcheon
Contributing Writer

“Thank you, DMACC, for the thoughtful meal,” said DMACC student Liz Heller during the Nov. 17 free turkey dinner.

The dinner was served from 11 a.m. until the food ran out. The meal consisted of a turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and a sugar cookie.

The Student Activities Council sponsored the event but did not make an appearance, except for Coach Steve Krafcsin, who oversaw the dinner. Krafcsin said he wanted to do something nice for the students.

“The open turkey sandwiches was a new idea we wanted to experiment with,” said Krafcsin. He also said the next event will be a soup supper with two types of soup to choose from.

Most people seemed to enjoy the meal but there were a few small complaints, such as the cookie was “dry” or “tasteless.” There was also a suggestion to add pumpkin pie next year.

Happy Thanksgiving from the Banner News

DMACC, Walmart and Mediacom send care packages to troops

ANKENY, IOWA – Eleven Central Iowa Walmart stores, Des Moines Area Community College and Mediacom are partnering to send a few of the comforts of home to Iowa soldiers who are serving overseas this holiday season.

“Salute Our Troops” boxes are stationed at the entrances of 11 Central Iowa Walmart stores and on each DMACC campus.

Besides allowing the collection boxes in their stores, Walmart has also donated $8,000 to offset the expense of shipping the gift packages abroad.

For a complete list of items being asked for, go to www.dmacc.edu/troops. “Many times our military men and women are stationed in remote parts of the world and don’t have access to these things that we take for granted,” said Col. Greg Hapgood, the Iowa National Guard’s public affairs director. “Our soldiers are grateful for mailings from home and will put these gift boxes to good use.”

Once the collection boxes are full, DMACC’s chapter of the national honor society, Phi Theta Kappa, will sort, box and mail individual gift packages to Iowa soldiers who are serving overseas.

The goal is to ship the items in time for Christmas. While not every Iowan in uniform will receive a gift box, it’s hoped there will be enough donations to mail more than 200 packages.

“DMACC is committed to serving veterans and current men and women in uniform,” said Rob Denson, President and CEO of DMACC. He noted the College has 436 students who have served in the military and several dozen who are in active military serving abroad who are taking DMACC online courses.

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For the second consecutive year, DMACC has earned the distinction of being a “military friendly college” by G.I. Jobs Magazine.

“We are grateful to Walmart and Mediacom for helping us honor these dedicated men and women who are important to our College and to our communities,” concluded Denson.

Cafe Hours
Mon-Thurs: 7:30-6:00 & Friday: 7:30-2:00

Campus Cafe
Have a Happy Thanksgiving
Cafe closes at 1:00 Wednesday 24
As the show progresses, viewers murdered or committed suicide. It is rumored that the manor is Lexington invites five guests to “Invitation to Murder” was world of genres for the DMACC “too much of a good thing can suitable for their parts.

"Invitation to Murder" was a "memorable show." It was the five out of five stars and called it Back then, Mueller had a seasoned speech instructor and play "This Must be a "spectacular entertainment." Once again the cast was well-cast and suitable for their parts.

I'm a strong believer of "too much of a good thing can be a bad thing." Variety ceased to exist when it came to the world of genres for the DMACC Boone Campus theatre. Indeed "Invitation to Murder" was memorable from its transparent skirt to its transparent acting, but it didn't measure up to the two previous mystery comedies.

To set the scene, Lord Frederick Lexington (Nathaniel Andrews) and his maid, Nettie (Rachel Baldus) discuss his and his wife's upcoming party. Lexington invites five guests to stay at the manor until dawn the next day. Any who survive the night receive 1,000 pounds. It is rumored that the manor is haunted. All previous lords and ladies of the manor have been murdered or committed suicide. As the show progresses, viewers are splashed with tidbits of the mystery unfolding. It becomes a question as to who kills Lady Ella Lexington (Jessica Philips), a ghost or someone else in the manor. Then, like most mysteries, there is a not-so-shocking twist.

The action of the show took place in the living room of Foxworth Manor in England. The set was open, but it wasn't as upscale or as classy as I would expect. I found it clever that it was a stormy night and there was lightning outside the only window visible to the audience. The thunder echoing in the background as each act was underway would have been a smart touch, had it not masked the voices of the actors.

As for the actors, acting experience paid off for some while others fell short. Alex Reimann was a stand out. Reimann played Kevin Smith and was one of the few actors to stay in character throughout the show. While many actors lost their character half way through the production, Reimann stayed in tune with who and what it meant to be Kevin Smith. He had consistent mannerisms that helped to build his character such as his gestures between himself and Lord Lexington and Leslie Dunlap (Katie Sandquist). Reimann kept his accent through the entire production. One voice was excessively mousy and too fast to be audible in the middle of the auditorium, let alone the back row, while others didn't attenuate and were inaudible.

Rachel Davis was another actor who simply made her character. Davis played Madam Carlotta Butterfly. Davis was a former actor in the previous DMACC production, “This Must be the Place.” Her history in the preceding show did aid her justice. She enhanced the spookyness of the mystery comedy by simply staying in character and making Butterfly's aura magically chilling. The idea of the haunted manor and ghost existed. Butterfly is one who is thrilled by murder and the macabre history of Lexington manor.

Minor downsides of the acting skills during the production included the actors referring to other actors by the wrong character names. I needed to refer to my program to straighten out the confusion. Nettie, the maid, had been called "Elisa" as in Lady Ella Lexington. Also, Lord Lexington was interchangeable. "Lord Foxworth," the former Lord of the manor. In addition, kissing in a production is very tricky to master. It has to be believable. The scenes where the kisses occurred had no magic or chemistry.

The cleverest part in the script connected the board game "Clue" to "Invitation to Murder." One character would compare a move in the game to the activities of the actors.

As for the script, I find it typical for a mystery to have the props of the board game "Clue." A length of rope, a candle stick, a revolver, a knife, a wrench, and a lead pipe where all included. Another inclusive prop, however not so typical, was the liquor, beginning with the manor maid, Nettie, sneaking swigs to Madge Foxworth. Another clever part was the use of the words "offed" referring to someone being murdered. As for the script, I find it typical for a mystery to have the props of the board game "Clue." A length of rope, a candle stick, a revolver, a knife, a wrench, and a lead pipe where all included. Another inclusive prop, however not so typical, was the liquor, beginning with the manor maid, Nettie, sneaking swigs to Madge Foxworth. Another clever part was the use of the words "offed" referring to someone being murdered. As for the script, I find it typical for a mystery to have the props of the board game "Clue." A length of rope, a candle stick, a revolver, a knife, a wrench, and a lead pipe where all included. Another inclusive prop, however not so typical, was the liquor, beginning with the manor maid, Nettie, sneaking swigs to Madge Foxworth. Another clever part was the use of the words "offed" referring to someone being murdered. As for the script, I find it typical for a mystery to have the props of the board game "Clue." A length of rope, a candle stick, a revolver, a knife, a wrench, and a lead pipe where all included. Another inclusive prop, however not so typical, was the liquor, beginning with the manor maid, Nettie, sneaking swigs to Madge Foxworth. Another clever part was the use of the words "offed" referring to someone being murdered. As for the script, I find it typical for a mystery to have the props of the board game "Clue." A length of rope, a candle stick, a revolver, a knife, a wrench, and a lead pipe where all included. Another inclusive prop, however not so typical, was the liquor, beginning with the manor maid, Nettie, sneaking swigs to Madge Foxworth. Another clever part was the use of the words "offed" referring to someone being murdered. As for the script, I find it typical for a mystery to have the props of the board game "Clue." A length of rope, a candle stick, a revolver, a knife, a wrench, and a lead pipe where all included. Another inclusive prop, however not so typical, was the liquor, beginning with the manor maid, Nettie, sneaking swigs to Madge Foxworth. Another clever part was the use of the words "offed" referring to someone being murdered. As for the script, I find it typical for a mystery to have the props of the board game "Clue." A length of rope, a candle stick, a revolver, a knife, a wrench, and a lead pipe where all included. Another inclusive prop, however not so typical, was the liquor, beginning with the manor maid, Nettie, sneaking swigs to Madge Foxworth. Another clever part was the use of the words "offed" referring to someone being murdered. As for the script, I find it typical for a mystery to have the props of the board game "Clue." A length of rope, a candle stick, a revolver, a knife, a wrench, and a lead pipe where all included. Another inclusive prop, however not so typical, was the liquor, beginning with the manor maid, Nettie, sneaking swigs to Madge Foxworth. Another clever part was the use of the words "offed" referring to someone being murdered. As for the script, I find it typical for a mystery to have the props of the board game "Clue." A length of rope, a candle stick, a revolver, a knife, a wrench, and a lead pipe where all included. Another inclusive prop, however not so typical, was the liquor, beginning with the manor maid, Nettie, sneaking swigs to Madge Foxworth. Another clever part was the use of the words "offed" referring to someone being murdered.

Although admission was free to all students with an ID and Phi Theta Kappa students served great treats and refreshing lemonade, also free, “Invitation to Murder” leaves the mystery of "Murder Go Round." “Invitation to Murder” receives 3 out of 5 stars.
Breaking records start to finish

By Robert Robson
Sports Editor

The women’s cross country season came to a close a couple weeks ago when Katie Clark took part in the NJCAA national championship meet. This entire season Clark has been the Bears’ top runner, leading them in every meet this season. This season the Bears have completed is mostly 5K races, but on occasions such as the Dan Hinton Invite they raced on a 6K course.

Clark is a freshman this year at DMACC, and is part of Ames High School where she participated in track all four years. It didn’t take long for Clark to cement her name at DMACC. In the first meet Clark was able to set a new school record.

That was just the beginning for Clark as she would improve continuously as the season went on. In fact she would improve on her record at the very next meet that took place just one week later. She broke her own record by more than one minute and would lead the Bears to a 7 place finish at the Dutch Invitational. With the early success of the team they would be ranked in the top 25 in week one coming in at number 22.

Throughout the season Clark would continue to be consistent in every 5K race by keeping her time under 22 minutes. In the two 6K races, she was consistent with two times just under 27 minutes. It was only a couple days before Halloween at the Region XI meet, where Clark would qualify for the National meet by finishing up 12 individually. It was the first DMACC runner to ever individually qualify for the meet that would be held in Simpsonburg, South Carolina. Clark at the meet on November 13 would yet again break her own school record by setting a time of 20 minutes 45 seconds, which broke the old record by nearly 45 seconds. The time also helped Clark to finish in the top half of the meet, finishing 113 out of 217 runners.

From the beginning of the season to the end, the Bears had a runner that would rewrite her name in the record books. Clark was able to break the school record three times, earn all-region honorable mention and qualify for Nationals, and Clark was able to accomplish all of this in her first year at DMACC.

DMACC's other athletic programs include men's and women's golf, women's volleyball, women's cross country and men's baseball.

Katie Clark, Boone Campus freshman, was the women's leading runner and first individual qualifier for the National meet from DMACC.
Horoscopes for the week of Nov. 29-Dec. 5, 2010

(Aries) (March 21-April 19)

This week loved ones may define their expectations or romantic attractions. After Monday expect old habits and isolating emotional patterns to end. Let the past quietly fade: this is a positive time for social clarity and a public dedication to present commitments. Later this week, workplace assignments and money promises may also be affected. If so, watch for a new trend of open negotiations and revised family relationships. Some positive home discussions and revised goals may have your best interests at heart.

(Taurus) (April 20-May 20)

Romantic and social loyalty will soon be affirmed. Over the next few days watch for friends or lovers to actively seek approval, dedication and affection. Don’t disappoint: at present, vital emotional progress may rely on friendly agreements, long-term commitments or enduring trust. Thursday through Saturday accents positive home discussions and revisited family relationships. Someone close may reveal a new understanding of shared partnerships and financial planning. Accept all ideas as valid: much is changing.

(Cancer) (June 21-July 22)

Social relations may be dramatic this week: watch for friends or relatives to be moody and competitive. Long-term relationships now need to progress to a new level of intimacy. Before Thursday expect a friend or lover to outline bold expectations, revised goals and new deadlines. An important few days: stay focused. Later this week money discussions with authority figures will work to your advantage. Take extra time to describe complex projects and necessary changes. Your skills are important: ask for what you need.

(Gemini) (May 21-June 21)

Conflicting opinions and unethical disagreements can now be expected in all business relationships. Early this week watch for colleagues and officials to publicly defend their own ideas, actions or policies. Stay well away from controversy: this is not the right time to risk your creativity or negotiate issues of long-term security. To some degree family relationships may also be affected. If so, expect minor disputes between older relatives. After Saturday, romantic diplomacy is needed: home decisions may be a key concern.

(Libra) (Sept. 22-Oct. 22)

Social tensions are just under the surface this week. Late Tuesday watch for friends and co-workers to be highly focused on past actions, attitudes or events. Outdated policies or broken promises will need to be publicly addressed. If so, stay balanced and avoid emotional discussions. Thursday through Sunday highlight changing romantic expectations and new social promises. Family members will soon offer their approval, advice or opinions. Accept all as a compliment: loved ones have your best interests at heart.

(Sagittarius) (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Work routines may be briefly interrupted this week. Monday through Wednesday expect all new instructions and short-term business projects to require extra attention. By the end of the week, however, all will work to your advantage: after mid-week watch for authority figures to provide unique compliments and revised assignments. Some Sagittarians may also experience a powerful wave of dream activity or sudden intuitions. Closely study the comments, hints or expectations of loved ones. Diplomacy is needed.

(Scorpio) (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Social reunions will be compelling over the next four days. Early Monday expect memories, old friends or past lovers to capture attention. A new emotional awareness is now arriving in your life: take time to evaluate key relationships and build trust. Thursday through Sunday family members may be unusually communicative concerning financial issues and long-term home planning. Accept all comments as positive: at present, loved ones are preparing to expand their commitments and adopt new responsibilities. All is well.

(Pisces) (Feb. 19-March 20)

Closely study business communications this week. Over the next eight days long-term group plans and unique assignments may quickly lead to positive growth. Promotions, new partnerships and revised career goals are all accentuated. Use this time to expand your dreams or propose new ideas: it’s time for change. After mid-week a trusted friend or relative may revise an important schedule or challenge group commitments. Don’t confront: private emotions and hidden social politics may soon prove meaningful.

If your birthday is this week

News from work officials, managers or financial agencies may arrive without warning over the next six weeks. Areas affected may involve finalized policies, procedural changes or newly defined job roles. Practical decisions will work in your favor in the coming weeks and months. Although workplace improvements may seem dramatic, expect promising new beginnings or fast promotions before mid-January. Early in 2010 family dynamics may also change. Living arrangements, home commitments or property contracts are key issues. Settle all outstanding legal or financial conflicts before mid-April and all will work to your advantage.
Give me a break  Editorial

I could use a break, and honestly, I think we all could. And I’m sorry, but two days during Thanksgiving doesn’t cut it. At this time during the spring term we would be looking ahead towards spring break and a week-long pause in the academic year. It’s proven that a rested mind works better, and spring break, despite what it seems on the surface—a week of parties and sometimes bad decisions—is really a much needed time of mental rest.

We take a week off, relax, and come back ready for finals a few weeks away. What I can’t seem to wrap my mind around is this idea of a break seems to only be present in the spring term. What makes the spring term so special? Are we not as stressed or as mentally weary during the cooling months? Or, is it only the thaw from winter that puts us in a fragile state of being?

If anything, it feels that the stress during the fall would be greater and in much higher demand of a break. For many it’s their first term, the weather outside is cooling, snow is on its way, and the holidays are coming fast, bringing with them an entire new set of stressors. A week break right around this time would be much appreciated. Allowing us to get our things in order, see our families, and rest our tired minds in preparation for the coming month and finals.

It’s not a foreign concept—a fall break. Iowa State has one, as many of you know, as well as many other colleges. While we sit in classes for an extra three days, students across the nation will be kicking up their heels, and enjoying a five day rest from the education rigmarole. That is if students even show up to those three days of classes.

This isn’t about a petty, “they get out, why can’t I.” It honestly comes from a real place of concern. For many, it seems necessary to have a break during the spring and also during the fall. Why is it not necessary for us?

Burnout is a real and daunting threat, something that needs to be constantly monitored and controlled. It’s been proven that every person has a threshold on burnout, and once passed, that bridge has been burned—so to speak. It’s hard for someone to regain that enthusiasm for learning once they have been overexposed. Maybe it’s time to think of implementing a week break during the fall. Not as a reward, or to keep up with other colleges, but really as a preventative measure, like during the spring, to keep students at their best.

AROUND THE BC
Music made easy

By Austin Leeds
Staff Writer

I’ve seen many students walking around campus with iPod touches, blaring out music at obscene decibel numbers. I wonder how many of them know that same little pocket computer can produce music, rather than just consume it.

Everything gets smaller

Back in 1979, Korg Corporation released a synthesizer called the MS-20. It was as big as a desktop computer and much heavier. Only a few weeks ago, Korg released the MS-20, a software version of the MS-20 for the iPad. Compared side-by-side, sounds generated on the real synthesizer and the virtual synthesizer are indistinguishable. Plus, the iPad version has a few added capabilities absent in the real thing.

The biggest difference between the MS-20 and the MS-20, though, is not their size. It’s their price: the MS-20 will run you about $9000 on eBay, but the MS-20 costs only $15.99 in the App Store.

Any musician can be a professional musician

The MS-20 is a good example of how smaller size and lower price are making professional-quality instruments accessible to the common man or woman. Or child. Another major factor in the democratization of professional music is greater access to quality recording equipment.

Only a decade ago, professional musicians would need thousands of dollars worth of equipment to record, edit, and distribute their music. Today, a $999 MacBook (or PC equivalent) can perform these same tasks. Like most other computers, the MacBook includes a 3.5mm audio jack, which can record CD-quality sound using a free program like Audacity. Audacity is available for Mac, PC, and Linux, and can create multi-track recording sessions, where a single performer can create multiple parts through overdubbing (playing one piece of music over another already-recorded piece). The MacBook’s CPU, unlike those of netsbooks or low-end PCs, is powerful enough to record and edit audio without freezing up or skipping.

Making your music heard

Once you’ve recorded your music with Audacity, you want to share it with the world, and probably make a few bucks while you’re at it. That’s where iTunes comes in. iTunes allows independent “content providers,” such as artists or independent labels, to apply for iTunes hosting, making their music available on the iTunes Store. That’s really all it takes, if you’re accepted by iTunes, to get your music published. Compare this with months of work, manual editing, and tens of thousands of dollars of equipment required to get published before the advent of the Information Age, and you’ll see it’s much easier for musicians to go pro nowadays.
By Josie Kramer  
Copy Editor

“Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1” is an epic masterpiece based on the novel written by British author, J. K. Rowling and directed by David Yates. The film was written by Steve Kloves. They have all outdone themselves.

In the previous movie, “Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince,” we were surprised by Albus Dumbledore’s death (Michael Gambon). This had headmaster, murder at the wand of Severus Snape (Alan Rickman), the Potions Professor. Dumbledore leaves Harry to finish what he started. Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), and his best friends, Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson), find themselves in search for the Horcruxes made by Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes). Without destroying the Horcruxes, Voldemort can’t be destroyed.

The first year away from Hogwarts, Harry has much between him and his goal of destroying the Horcruxes. Horcruxes are one of the most evil forms of magic. They are meaningful objects that someone puts a piece of their soul into, in this case Voldemort’s soul.

Similarly, Harry is the only thing that comes between Voldemort and his evil plans. Voldemort has his minions, the Death Eaters, hunting Harry. In the mean time, the Ministry of Magic is overcome with Voldemort’s followers. The new Ministry much resembles Nazi Germany. They are humbling witches (true “Pureblood” both wizarding parents), nowhere is safe anymore; “Mudbloods” (muggle born witches) or wizard and “Halfbloods” (half muggle, half wizard) no longer stand a chance. The Ministry has even hired “Snatchers” to hunt for witches and wizards in hiding including “Mudbloods” and “Halfbloods.” Their job is to take them straight to the Ministry for questioning.

To help Harry and his friends, Dumbledore has left each of them something in his will. To Hermione he leaves a wizarding children’s story book. To Ron he leaves his Deluminator, an object of his own making. To Harry, the first wizard he caught during his first Quidditch match and the Sword of Gryffindor. As it turns out, the sword isn’t Dumbledore’s, yet.

Their search is not a cup of tea; Harry and his friends are even struggling to stay together. The film well portrays how much the main characters have matured. Harry, Ron, and Hermione are all showing a greater interest in relationships than previous films. Their relationships have grown between their goal of destroying evil. Ron becomes jealous of a possible relationship developing between Harry and Hermione.

Further displaying the maturity of the characters is the intimate scene between Harry and Ginny Weasley (Bonnie Wright), Ron’s little sister. Ginny asks Harry to zip up her dress before the wedding exposing her bare back to Harry (and movie goers) and expresses her appreciation by turning around into Harry’s arms and kissing him. These affections are aimed at an older audience, like myself, who have grown and matured along with the characters. Along with their maturity level, Radcliffe, Watson and Grint take their acting to the next level. They, no longer amateur actors, have made the film convincing. “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows” is without question the most emotional of the seven stories, and the actors nail every cue.

Now that the three friends have destroyed the only Horcrux they could find they are at a loss and don’t know where to turn next. Hermione, as a symbol in her wizarding children’s book that has also turned up in Godric’s Hollow. The place where they searched for another Horcrux but were unsuccessful, where Harry’s wand was found, Dumbledores family also once resided. They decide to go to Xenophilius Lovegood (Rhys Ifans), who wore the symbol around his neck at Fleur’s wedding. It is a forgone conclusion that vitamin C is in desperate need of all her family in the Malfoy manor. She is individualistic in the scene that makes Bellas facial expressions and gestures no other can impersonate.

Part one ends in a dramatic cliffhanger that just climaxed the plot. The film does exactly what a part one is supposed to do. It builds up, it has action and sequence, it grabs viewers by their feet and pulls them in. We are now expected to wait another six months until part two is released. With an ending that just hangs there, I will be forced to count the days until that July 15, 2011 when I will be able to finish the movie. Because “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1” met all my expectations and more as not only an avid Harry Potter fan but as a movie enthusiast, I give part one to the seventh movie 5 out of 5 stars.