The other side of ‘The Long Walk’

Jessie Castner, wife One Book author, shares her perspective

By Kayla TerBeek
Contributing Writer

Last fall, author and military veteran Brian Castner visited DMACC to share his story on life during and after war. This spring, an interview with his wife, Jessie Castner, reveals another perspective entirely.

“The biggest struggle for me was to build trust,” wrote Jessie Castner in an email interview on Feb, 19. She was describing the obstacles she was forced to overcome after her husband returned from war.

When Brian Castner was on campus, he told audiences that his biggest struggle was leaving his brothers in battle and rejoining his civilian life as a husband and a father.

He wrote “The Long Walk” to document his time spent overseas, as well as to acknowledge the hardships of returning home with a mindset that is nowhere near where it was prior to deployment.

The book was selected for DMACC’s One Book, One College, One Community program this school year.

As part of the One Book project, Brian Castner traveled to the Boone and Ankeny DMACC campuses to give additional in-

See JESSIE, page 3

DMACC Athletics: Dating choice doesn’t matter

By Lester K. Mwirichia
Staff Writer

When college football player Michael Sam told an ESPN reporter “I am an openly, proud gay man,” last month it made headlines.

But is the sexual orientation of an athlete news at DMACC? Those in the athletic department have different perspectives.

Athletic Director Orv Salmon credited the those at the University of Missouri grade, has many years of experience as a coach. He said he believes that whether an athlete is performing as expected is what matters; not the athlete’s sexual orientation.

Salmon, also a Missouri defensive lineman, “The coaching staff handled the situation the right way.”

See SAM, page 5

what you said...

Tanae Hollar
“Play golf.”

Nico Costa
“Set up a Slip’N Slide!”

Majok Akoon
“Play Frisbee.”

Jess Wiedenman
“Be outside and wear my flip-flops.”

Bo Shen
“Go to a baseball game.”
Boston Marathon beefs up security

Ask a runner what sets the Boston Marathon apart, and he or she will tell you it's a people’s race. You run with a herd through a series of towns around Boston and finish downtown to the cheers of a jubilant mob.

But now, a year after two bombs killed three people and wounded scores more near the finish line on Boylston Street, one of the world’s most famous marathons has become a 26.2-mile public-safety puzzle for officials hoping to prevent another attack and ease concerns of partici-pants and observers without destroying its quirky personality.

On Monday, law-enforcement and race officials announced some of their solutions to the security cipher. In short, expect more cops at the race on April 21, about double the number in the past. With 36,000 runners and as many as a million spectators expected to clog the streets around the race this year, 3,600 police were expected to be scattered throughout the eight cities and towns that form the path of the marathon.

Obama to expand coastal protection in Calif.

President Barack Obama on Tuesday will use his executive powers to expand the California Coastal National Monument by adding the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands on the Mendocino County coast.

The order will add 1,665 acres of federal land north of the town of Point Arena to the monument, which was established in 2000. Managed by the federal Bureau of Land Management, the new acreage includes the area where the Garcia River enters the Pacific Ocean. This will be the first onshore land to be included in the monument.

The monument was set aside to protect the marine life habitats near the mouth of the Garcia River. In addition to the federal acres, the new monument will include the area where the Garcia River enters the Pacific Ocean. This will be the first onshore land to be included in the monument. The monument was set aside to protect the marine life habitats near the mouth of the Garcia River.

American from Texas on Malaysian flight

DALLAS _ One of the 239 passengers aboard the Malaysian Air- lines flight that disappeared early Saturday had roots in North Texas. Philip Wood, 50, who is believed to have worked for IBM in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, previously lived in Keller, Texas. The passenger manifest for flight MH370 bound for Beijing lists a Philip Wood as one of three Americans who were on board.

His ex-wife, Elaine Wood, posted a statement about her former husband Monday, calling him a “true family man” who had been a devoted father to their three sons.

Philip Wood, 50, who is believed to have worked for IBM in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, previously lived in Keller, Texas. The passenger manifest for flight MH370 bound for Beijing lists Philip Wood as one of three Americans who were on board.

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Castners agreed to commit, not split

Astronaut speaks at West campus

Captain Eugene Cernan

DMACC photo

Article submitted by the Campus Chronicle, Ankeny.

For the final talk of Celebrate! Innovation Week (ci-Week) at the DMACC West campus, students heard from Capt. Eugene Cernan; the last man to set foot on the moon.

Cernan spoke to students about his trip on the moon and the journey that he took to get to that point. He also made a few mentions about dreams during the speech.

"[Fred] Today’s generation of dreamers, comes tomorrow's generation of do-ers. You can do anything your heart was set to do..." Cernan said. He talked about the influence of his dad. “My dad never had a chance to finish high school, never went to college, so his dream was for me to get the finest education that he could afford,” said Cernan who chose to attend Purdue.

"I really think that it was at that point in my life that I made those first steps to the moon." After graduating from Purdue, he went into the Navy, and then a few years later, he received the phone call that the Navy wanted him to volunteer for NASA. "I said, 'What? I didn't apply for the space program,'" Cernan said.

He ended up being the youngest American to fly into space.

"Am I proud of that, yes I'm proud of that. But why me? There were a lot of people that was qualified or more qualified certainly than I was and the only reason I tell you this story is never shortchange yourself," said Cernan.

"If you're afraid to try, you'll never know how good you can be," he said.

Also a word of advice from Cernan: duct tape, never leave home (or Earth) without it.

He also emphasized the point that we will go back to the moon, but it will be the younger generations that will go back those now in middle school or in high school that will be seeing space.

FAFSA Fridays

It’s time to file the 2014-15 FAFSA!

Stop in during an upcoming FAFSA Friday to get free assistance with completing and submitting your FAFSA. (No appointment necessary.)

February 28: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
March 14: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
March 28: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
April 4: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: DMACC Boone Campus Room 141

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Students and Parents should bring the following items when possible to be prepared to complete the FAFSA:

✓ Social Security number, driver’s license number, and date of birth
✓ 2013 federal and state tax returns
✓ W-2 forms and/or other records of income earned in 2013 (or your last pay stub from 2013 if you haven’t filed yet)
✓ Current bank statements and investment records
✓ Records of untaxed income received in 2013 (e.g., veterans benefits, child support received, etc.)
✓ Alien registration number, if not a U.S. citizen

If you have filed a FAFSA before, bring your federal personal identification number (PIN) if possible.

Source: Iowa College Access Network

Questions? Contact Erin Neumann: 515-433-5037 or eaneumann@dmacc.edu

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For information, contact Julie Roosa, faculty adviser, jkroosa@dmacc.edu
Former astronaut lands on Boone campus

Former NASA astronaut Clayton Anderson spoke at the Boone campus on March 4.

Anderson spent five months aboard the International Space Station (ISS) during his first trip in space in 2007. He returned to the ISS in April 2010 during a re-supply mission.

Anderson spoke to elementary school, high school and DMACC students who are interested in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) fields. Anderson, who received a Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering from Iowa State University in 1983, has rejoined ISU as a distinguished faculty fellow in aerospace engineering.

At the Boone presentation DMACC student Carl DeVries introduced Anderson.

The introduction is reprinted below:

Clayton Anderson hails from Ashland, Nebraska. He graduated from Hastings College with a Bachelor of Science in Physics, and earned his Master of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from Iowa State University in 1983. In the same year, Mr. Anderson started his career with NASA at Houston’s Johnson Space Center.

He spent five years in Mission Planning and Analysis and another ten with the Mission Operations Directorate where held the positions of Flight Design Manager, Supervisor of Ascent Flight Design Section, Chief of the Flight Design Branch, and Manager of Emergency Operations Center.

In 1998, Mr. Anderson was selected as an astronaut candidate and eventually earned the title, Mission Specialist. Before his first space flight he held several positions including space station Capsule Communicator.

Mr. Anderson is a member of two spaceflights. He has logged 167 days in space and amassed 38 hours and 28 minutes of Extra-Vehicular Activity across six spacewalks.

In 2007, Mr. Anderson launched aboard Space Shuttle Atlantis as member of STS-117. While on the ISS he was part of the Expedition 15 crew and assumed the positions of Flight Engineer and Science Officer. His tour lasted 152 days during which he performed three space walks for total of eighteen hours.

Mr. Anderson's second flight was a resupply mission to the ISS in April 2010. He flew aboard Space Shuttle Discovery as a member of STS-131. He performed three more EVAs totaling just over twenty hours. During this mission he traveled over 6.2 million miles and orbited the earth 238 times.

In January 2013, Mr. Anderson retired from NASA. He is now a Distinguished Faculty Fellow in Aerospace Engineering at Iowa State University and currently authoring his own book titled "Takin’ Up Space!".

Photos by Lester K. Mwirichia and Cainon Leeds/Banner News

(Top photo) Former NASA astronaut Clayton Anderson speaks at the Boone campus theatre on March 4. (Bottom left photo) Anderson, left, talks with DMACC student Carl DeVries and DMACC President Rob Denson before Anderson’s lecture. Bottom right photo, Anderson is presented with a DMACC hat signed by members of the Bears basketball team.

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Women drop OT to NIACC

The DMACC women's basketball team saw its season come to a close following a 99-86 loss to North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) in the semifinals of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region XI Basketball Tournament March 7 at Fort Dodge.

The Bears, who dropped a pair of one-sided decisions to the Trojans during the regular season, but gave them all they wanted and then some in this game, closed the season at 19-13 NJCAA is ranked first nationally in NJCAA Division II.

Sophomore Carlee Schulmacher led DMACC with 25 points and a school-record 28 rebounds, including 12 offensive rebounds, and seven blocked shots. The double-double was Schulmacher's 24th of the season. Sophomore Taryn Wicks of Jewell reeled her 19th double-double of the season with 20 points and 15 rebounds and sophomores Jalossa Fehli of Bellビル, Neb., and Alexis Bunting of Indianola scored 18 and 12 points respectively. Sopho-

more Kate Ray of New Sharon had eight points and 12 rebounds.

The game was close all the way. NIACC had a 41-39 advantage at halftime and the two teams were tied at 81 at the end of regulation.

The two teams combined for 198 shots, including 73 three-point attempts, and 134 rebounds. DMACC had a 77-57 advantage on the boards, in-

cluding 29 offensive rebounds. Ray led the Bears in assists with eight and Fehli, Bunting and Wicks dished out four assists apiece. Fehli contributed three steals and Bunting and Schulmacher had two apiece.

Coaches help ensure safe environment for athletes

SAM, from page 1

amed the SEC’s Defensive Player of the Year.

On Feb. 9, Sam talked with an ESPN reporter about be-
ing gay. “Coaches just wanted to know a little about us, our majors, where we’re from, and something that no one knows about us,” Sam said. “And I used that opportunity just to tell them that I was gay. Their reaction was like, ‘Michael Sam finally told us.’

Sam is eligible for the 2014 NFL draft coming up this May. If drafted, Sam will become the first openly gay athlete in the history of the NFL. NFL senior vice president of com-
munications Greg Aiello said in the statement. “Michael is a football player. Any player with ability and determina-
tion can succeed in the NFL. We look forward to welcoming and supporting Michael Sam in 2014.”

Back at DMACC, Wom-
en's Basketball Assistant Coach Ashley Martin believes that “we should be who we are” and teammates should be respect-

ful of each other. Martin said, “If we let something like that become an issue on our team, it will then affect the way we play.”

DMACC softball player Jessica Bastian said, “It doesn't matter to me, as long as you are here to play softball.” Bas-
tian expressed the great rela-
tionship the DMACC softball team has, and said, “If any of my teammates were gay, it wouldn’t change our relation-
ship.”

Men’s basketball player Jamar Hurdle said, “I don’t let things like that bother me. At the end of the day we just play ball.”

Some wondered what other factors come in to play when this matter is at hand. DMACC Women’s Golfer Bay-
lie Wrangze said “ones religion and beliefs could play a role in sexual orientation discrimination.” Wrangze has friends who happen to be gay. She suggests that religion and beliefs and human rights are on different playing fields.

“There should be a safe environment amongst team-
mates,” Wrangze said.

Former baseball player Ty-
ler Fuller said, “It is a coaches job to over-see a matter like this.” It is the jobs of coaches to make sure that all of their ath-
letes have a safe environment.”

Some can’t help but ques-
tion if a teammate is gay, are they checking me out?”

Jessica Bastian said, “Just because somebody is gay on your team does not mean they are attracted to you.”

Follow the Bears at

www.dmacc.edu/athletics

For updated race information, bookmark dmacc.edu/boone/inmyboots5k
Meet Kate Ray

Sophomore basketball player impresses coach, team
By Lester K. Mwirichia

Kate Ray knew DMACC was the place she wanted to play basketball ever since she and her mother sat in the stands and watched the Bears play. Ray and her mother would drive the 107 miles between their hometown of New Sharon and Boone many times during her sophomore year at North Mahaska High School.

Eventually Ray was recruited by DMACC, but she continued to consider all her options to utilize her talents. “I chose DMACC because I felt that I could grow more as a basketball player here.”

Ray, a “contributing factor” on the women’s basketball team, is set to graduate from DMACC this May. Coach Krafcisin (Coach K) women’s head basketball coach, credits Ray’s skills, especially as a defender.

“It was one of the best I have seen when it comes to defensive transitions,” he said.

From her small hometown in southeast Iowa, Ray began learning the game of basketball in third grade. Ray played all throughout high school, along with winning a state championship her senior year.

“Kate came from a good program,” said Coach K.

Ray was recruited to DMACC for many reasons. One of them being that she expressed interest in the program.

Coach K. “In the recruiting process, friends, friends, family, teammates, and coaches had only good things to say about Kate, which said a lot about her.”

Ray’s general area of study is Liberal Arts. “Coach has high expectations for us on and off the court,” Ray said. Coach K expects his players to perform to their best ability in whatever it is they are doing.

Teammate Latasha Harmon admires Ray’s work ethic.

“Kate sets good practice goals,” Harmon said. Whether or not he is making five three-pointers in a practice or learning the set plays, Ray gets the job done.

“Kate sets a great example for us freshmen. She is a quiet leader, her actions speak louder than her words,” Harmon said.

Jasmine McCoy, another of Ray’s teammates said, “Kate is always willing to sacrifice.” Whether it’s taking a charge, sharing playing time, or playing wherever she is asked to play. “Coaches count on Kate,” McCoy said.

Dedication is something that is admired by most. Every morning before classes, Ray begins her day by making 50 free throws.

The Marshalltown game displayed Ray’s dedication to her coaches. Ray contributed in helping her team shoot 87 percent from the free throw line against Marshalltown. The Bears took the victory 72-65.

In her career here at DMACC, Ray has been asked to play all five positions on the court — sometimes as a guard and sometimes in the post against opponents physically larger than her. “When asked, she didn’t even blink,” said Coach K.

On top of basketball, Ray has had to deal with some other challenges off the court. Ray’s mother was diagnosed with breast cancer right before school started.

“Basketball turned into my release from things going on at home,” Ray said. “My coaches and teammates were a big part in helping me deal with the situation, without them and basketball, it would have been really tough dealing with everything that was going on.”

Ray mentioned that her mother is doing very well. She just finished chemo and has begun radiation treatment.

Despite all the adversity Kate has had to endure, “She has made herself in to a college basketball player,” said Coach K.

Women’s assistant coach Ashley Martin said, “Kate is always the first one in the gym.”

Martin expressed how she loves working with Kate, and that she can always count on her. “She rebounds well, she is aggressive, she takes good shots, and Kate understands how to win,” Martin said.

Kate is very consistent, “You know what you are always going to get from a Kate Ray and that is 110 percent. Kate is a coach’s dream,” Martin said.

Coach K. mentioned that it is Kate’s dedication and stubbornness that makes her the player she is. Ray’s determination is what makes her successful. “She wants to win. She is all in,” Coach K said.

Confidence is something that Coach K wants his players to leave DMACC with. He mentioned Ray when describing communication on and off the court, and how her skills have improved. Coach K has high hopes for Kate and knows she will do well wherever she decides to go after DMACC.

“Basketball is fun and I enjoy working with my hardworking teammates,” Ray said. Ray finds delight being a part of DMACC and the basketball program. As the semester is wrapping up, she will be withful to leave Boone. Although undecided on where her talents will take her next year, Ray is excited for the future.

By Lester K. Mwirichia

Women’s Basketball Coach Steve Krafcisin, DMACC Bears Sophomore Kate Ray

My NFL draft predictions

Reprinted with permission from the Cam- pus Chronicle (DMACC/Anoka)

By Logan Lantz

Contributing Columnist

The 2014 NFL Draft be- gins May 8 and ends May 10. The teams with the top 5 picks defend the Houston Texans, St. Louis Rams, Jacksonville Jaguars, Cleveland Browns, and the Oak- land Raiders. The first overall pick always comes with a difficult task. Who will be the number one overall pick? The Texans, although they didn’t show it this last season by winning their first two games then dropping 14 straight, are a very talented team. Matt Schaub (Quarterback, when he doesn’t throw 50 picks in the first half), Johnathan Joseph (Cornerback), Brian Cushing (Inside Linebacker), and Garrett Graham ( Tight End). The look for the Texans to draft Johnny Manziel, quarterback out of Texas A&M, or Jadeveon Clowney, defensive end out of South Carolina. I have some slight issues with Manziel such as his inability to stay in the pocket, his eyes, and his overall perform- ances. Although he is a college student, going into the NFL is a huge responsibility and if he can’t perform when he doesn’t have the luxury of successful as people think he’ll be. With Clowney, I feel he has a lot of growing up to do. He had some issues with not playing in games, otherwise refusing to do so, he also didn’t have a very suc- cessful season. I really can’t see him doing very well in the NFL unless he changes his behavior.

The second overall pick goes to the Titans. The Titans lost their starting Quarterback, Smith Bradford to a torn ACL last year. With the Titans offensive line struggling last season to keep Bradford off the turf, the Rams are most likely to go for an offensive lineman to help them keep him clean. My top five picks are Blake Bortles, Andrew Luck, Teddy Bridgewater, Johnny Manziel, and Jadeveon Clowney.

I would project either Greg Rob-inson, (Tackle) out of Auburn being picked up or Jake Matthews (Tackle) out of Texas A&M.

Robinson, during the scouting combine posted a sub-5.10 40 at 6-foot-5 and 332 pounds. That is really quick speeds for such a rather large individual, and I’m not talking about just weight. Robinson is most effective in the run game, which is bound to help the Rams in anyway possible, be it the run game or the passing game, Robinson will protect Bradford’s blind side no matter what.

The third overall pick goes to the Jacksonville Jaguars. The Jag- uars finished their season going 4-12, over the last few years… for quite a while actually the Jaguars have struggled find- ing Quarterback. Most analysts have projected the Jaguars to take Teddy Bridgewater, Quarterback out of Louisville. He’ll make a decent quarterback in the NFL, but I do have some slight issues with his physical stature. Bridge- water is 6-2, which isn’t really tall in the NFL, but he is right around the average. Also another issue is Teddy Bridgewater is 214 pounds, I believe he needs to put on some more muscle if he wants to stay healthy through a full NFL season. I also could see the Jaguars taking Johnny Manziel, if not taken, or possibly Blake Bortles, Quarterback out of University of Central Florida.

The forth overall pick goes to the Cleveland Browns. The Browns finished last season with a (4-12) record as well. From what I saw last season, the reason the Browns stayed in most of their games is because of their defense. The Browns really don’t have a quarterback. Jason Campbell and Brian Hoyer really aren’t getting the job done. Most analysts have the Browns taking Johnny Manziel if he’s not already taken or I could see it becoming a two way race to take Manziel, where you don’t really know where all these quarterbacks are going to land. I could also see the Browns going with Johnny Manziel if Manziel is taken, as well as Blake Bortles.

The fifth overall pick goes to the Oakland Raiders. The Raiders went (4-12) as well. Surpris- ing isn’t it? The Raiders have a decent quarterback in Terrelle Pryor. But if Johnny Manziel or Teddy Bridgewater fall to the fifth pick, it wouldn’t be all that surprising to see them jump up to Oakland. Most analysts project the Raiders will take a Wide Receiver, but like I said above, if Manziel and Bridgewater are available I wouldn’t be surprised to see Oakland take them. Some analysts have been talking about taking Sammy Watkins, Wide Receiver out of Clemson, I could also see them taking Mike Evans a very big a physical wide receiver out of Texas A&M. Not only is he big and physical, he has great hands and his speed is pretty impres- sive. Some analysts even say that he could have a Demaryius Thomas-like impact with the cor- rect team.

Now, all of these projections are just my opinions compared to other analysts opinions. There are some decent players in this draft, but I feel there have been better draft classes. Most NFL teams are looking to find a quarter- back with ‘Franchise-changing’ talent. I just can’t seem to find a quarterback in this draft that I feel that way about. The nearest to a quar- terback to have the most success in this league would be Blake Bortles. He’s a Solid prospect, but he’s got a long way to go. He allows everyone to contribute to the win.
Prospects of Congress lowering the income eligibility are dim, even at a time of belt-tightening in Washington. "It's definitely an uphill fight," Burd said. "It's politics. Upper-income families tend to vote more than lower-income families." The higher-education lobby also opposes lowering the income eligibility for tuition tax credits. "We think it's important to have mechanisms in place to help those students pay for college, other wise wouldn't go to college, but it's also about being able to help all students pay for college, including low-income students," said Steven Bloom, director of federal relations for the American Council on Education. Bloom said families that earn more than $100,000 annually can be hard-pressed to pay for college without help, depending on how many children they have enrolled at one time, for instance, and at which institutions.

"We just don't buy the argument that there isn't enough room in the federal budget to help different families in different income brackets in different ways," said Sarah Flanagan, vice president for government relations and policy at the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. And higher-income families, Flanagan said, "bring money to the table to keep the colleges going so they in turn can give more support to low-income students." The university associations "have a point," said Deborah Santiago, co-founder and chief operating officer of Excelencia in Education, which advocates for Latino and other underrepresented students. It can be a stretch these days even for wealthy families to pay for college, she said.

But as far as government policy goes, "Are you going to get more value from helping a low-income person achieve social mobility?" Santiago said, "or from helping a middle-class person stay where they are?"

Tuition tax credits and other tax breaks to offset the cost of higher education are nearly inviolate federal government subsidies for families that send their kids to college _ also disproportionally benefit more affluent Americans. So do tax-deductible savings plans and the federal work-study program, which gives taxpaying dollars to students who take campus jobs to help pay for their expenses. The tax credits alone cost the government a combined $34 billion a year, or $1 billion more than is spent on Pell Grants, the direct government grants for low-income students.

And even though only one-fifth of American households earn more than $100,000 a year, that group got more than half of the deductions for tuition, fees and exemptions for dependent students. Though only 20 percent of U.S. households earn more than $100,000 a year, that group got more than half the deductions for tuition, fees and exemptions for dependent students. The percentage of tax credits going to families that send their kids to college is shifting their financial aid incentives for 2013, by income group:

- **Lower middle:** Income between $11,926 and $27,562
- **Upper middle:** Income between $27,562 and $51,807
- **Top fifth:** Income more than $51,807

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Interval</th>
<th>Tax Credits Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Top fifth</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<td>Upper middle</td>
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<td>Lower middle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income less than $11,926</td>
<td>0%</td>
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(Using adjusted gross income)

Tuition tax credits are going beyond the middle-class. "The problem is that the tax credit is not guaranteed. A reporter and gothic re-searcher team up to find a serial killer that attacked over 40 years ago."

The university associations "have a point," said Deborah Santiago, co-founder and chief operating officer of Excelencia in Education, which advocates for Latino and other underrepresented students. It can be a stretch these days even for wealthy families to pay for college, she said.

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This review appeared in the Iowa State Daily on March 4. It is reprinted in the Banner News with permission.

By Nick Hamden

Guest Movie Critic

“Non-Stop” is a Liam Neeson action movie where he uses his wit and tactical efficiency to solve a crisis. I am not promoting from this review of “Non-Stop” I just promise to make zero “Taken” jokes even if the vague outline that I just provided sounds like it could easily be used for that movie. It is becoming old hat to make “Taken” jokes just because a movie stars Neeson, so I will let Zach Braff take care of that for me.

Bill Marks (Neeson) is a Federal Air Marshal. He is a quiet man who has had some problems in his life recently, including alcoholism. But that is okay, it is not like he ever has to do anything on his job.

Just kidding. On a flight to London someone wants to hijack the plane. They have hacked into the local network and are sending text messages to Bill, threatening that someone will die every twenty minutes on the plane unless they get $150 million sent to a bank account.

Even more troubling news is that bank account is in Bill’s name, so the TSA and other governmental agencies have assumed that Bill has gone rogue and is hijacking the plane until he gets paid.

Bill will have to use the people he can trust on the plane, Nancy (Michelle Dockery), a flight attendant who he has worked with before, Jack Hammond (Aron Mount), an off duty Air Marshal also on the flight, and of course Jen Summers (Julianne Moore), the woman he just met who was sitting next to him in first class, to help rescue the flight.

So, who is the terrorist? Here we have a list of actors also on the plane to pick from, assuming it actually is not an inside job and is not one of the people already listed in the review: Corey Stoll, Nate Parker, Josh Helman, Robert Duvall, Omar Metwally, Corey Hawkins and Frank Deal.

I know I might have written the plot of “Non-Stop” seem cliche/not exciting, but it turned out to be the opposite of that. First off, it was not a mindless action movie. The only big action sequence happens near the end, which you could tell from the trailers. Everything else is based on suspense and tiny clues along the way.

Outside of the first 8 or so minutes, I found myself watching “Non-Stop” on the edge of my seat. The parts of the movie before boarding the plane were a bit slow, but that can be expected in a movie like this.

Was it believable? No, not really. There are a lot of coincidences and lucky breaks that make the entire evil mastermind plan work. Kind of annoying, but I can get over it.

Somehow, despite the coincidences and questionable plot, I was really entertained by this movie. It was not obvious who the bad guy was - there were plenty of red herrings thrown our way throughout the film. In fact, I think knowing “who did it” would not even ruin future viewings for me, which is a rarity for these types of movies.

Neeson might have actually been the perfect pick for this role as well. He has that aged schlumpiness, perfect for a guy who has seen “some stuff” in his days.

Check out “Non-Stop,” which ended up being (surprisingly) one of the better movies for the month of February.

For the Review