Wikipedia has become the most well-known wikis on the web. It has become a popular resource for many research papers. But can you trust what information you find there? If not, what criteria must resources meet to be considered trusted or reputable?

First, start with the very basics. What exactly is a wiki? A wiki is simply a website that allows multiple people to work on one page. Anyone who visits the wiki can view and edit the text entered there. Some other popular ones besides Wikipedia are Wikibooks, WikiTravel, and Wikinews.

Since anyone who visits a wiki can edit the content on it, who would want to use a wiki, and what kinds of advantages does a website like this have? Wikis are common to see inside of large corporations and organizations. A wiki would allow hundreds of employees to access information, and update others with information over a subject. For example, a large corporation starts using a new type of software, but the training takes a short period, or delete abusive or inappropriate pages. There are also pages on Wikipedia that are protect ed from being edited. If you would like to add an edit to a page you are prompted to send an edit request and an editor with the ability to edit the page will contact you.

When asked, 9 out of 10 students on campus admitted to using information from Wikipedia as part of a research project. Erin Burk, a business administration student, admits to using Wikipedia as a source. Sometimes I just run out of time, or I don't want to put the effort into finding a journal or something. It's easy to put a subject into Google, and usually the first thing that pops up is Wikipedia.

If someone adds anything to a page, the online community decides what they want to do with your edits. They can decide to keep everything, change them, or even delete them altogether. This helps keep wrong information and vandalized in check.

If someone is caught habitually vandalizing a page(s), an administrator has the right to block or ban that users IP address, temporarily protect a page from being edited for a short period, or delete abusive or inappropriate pages. There are also pages on Wikipedia that are protect ed from being edited. If you would like to add an edit to a page you are prompted to send an edit request and an editor with the ability to edit the page will contact you.

When asked, 9 out of 10 students on campus admitted to using information from Wikipedia as part of a research project. Erin Burk, a business administration student, admits to using Wikipedia as a source. Sometimes I just run out of time, or I don't want to put the effort into finding a journal or something. It's easy to put a subject into Google, and usually the first thing that pops up is Wikipedia.

If professors don't want us to use Wikipedia, they should make that clear when assigning the paper, said an anonymous source. I don't think it's fair to be punished for using a resource that is just as reliable as any other. If I'm going to write an 8 page paper, I'm going to make sure I can do it quickly and (sic) easily as possible.

Wikipedia is not con sidered a reliable resource, then what makes a resource reliable? How can we tell as students what resources we should or shouldn't use for research? According to the DMACC Library website, students should apply the CRAAP test when evaluating the reliability of a resource. C stands for currency. Is the information on the website current and has it been recently updated and revised? R is for relevance. Is the information relevant to your topic, and does it answer your question? Is the information at the appropriate level for your needs, and would you be comfortable citing the source in your paper? A stands for authority. Does the information come from a source that has renowned credentials? Did the author have the qualifications to write about the topic? The second A is for accuracy. Is the information support by reliable evidence? Has the information been reviewed or revised by others or peers in the field? Is the information written and presented in an unbiased voice? And finally, P is for purpose. Why does the information exist? Is it propaganda or is it fact. Does the information appear to be impartial and objective, or is it an opinion?

An Iowa State sociology professor had this to say about the use of Wikipedia in his class. If you're going to use Wikipedia, fine. But don't expect to get a passing grade from me. When questioned after class about his reasoning he said that "Wikipedia is fine for personal enlightenment on a subject, but I expect stu dents to act like this is college. Not high school."

Whether you're writing an eight page in-depth research paper, or a one page subject overview, the reliability of the resources used matters. Wikipedia may be OK for your own personal use, but it is best if left off of college level research bibliographies and works cited pages. "Resources should reflect the level of writing you are doing, and Wikipedia shouldn't even be an option in any college level literary work."
Foundations Scholarships

DMACC students who are enrolled in 6 credit hours or more and have a 2.0 grade point average are eligible for DMACC Foundation Scholarships. The following DMACC Foundation Scholarship applications are now available on the DMACC Website:

Summer/2015: Application Deadline is 3/15/15 at 4 p.m. Fall 2015: Application Deadline is 6/24/15 at 4 p.m.

If you would like to apply for a Summer and a Fall scholarship, please complete one application and make sure to mark both the “Summer” and the “Fall” boxes to indicate which semester you are applying for.

These scholarships may be applied toward charges for tuition, fees, and/or book charges at DMACC for the semester for which the award is given.

To learn about the specific award criteria and to apply online, visit https://go.dmacc.edu/foundation/Pages/district-wide-scholarship.aspx.

If you have any questions, please contact Sue Rardin, Financial Aid Specialist-Scholarships at 515-965-7179 or via email at sgrardin@dmacc.edu.

Help stock campus pantry

As the semester begins, please consider donating your extra food pantry food. Current needs include:

• Canned meat
• Spaghetti sauce
• Canned fruit/Dried fruit/Applesauce
• Rice
• Peanut butter
• Jam/jelly
• Dried beans
• Oatmeal/Hot cereal mix/Bread/cereal
• Bread/Muffin mix
• Oils (vegetable, olive, etc.)
• Toilet paper
• Bath soap and shampoo

Please drop off donations to Erin Neumann (Room 124) or Jane Martin’s office (Room 122). All donations are greatly appreciated.

The food pantry is available to any student who might need assistance. If a student has a more significant need for food/resources than a visit to our campus food pantry, we may be able to assist with, please, contact Erin Neumann, eaneumann@dmacc.edu.

Phila Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa is the Inter- national Honor Society for two- year colleges. PTK will host sev- eral informational meetings on the Boone campus. Students are invited to attend to find out more about PTK. For more infor- mation, contact Nancy Woods, nwoods@dmacc.edu, 515-501-5601. Or Stacy Ameling, slaming@dmacc.edu, 515-433-5089.

Honors seeks applicants

The DMACC Honors Program is seeking highly motivat- ed students to apply for honors. There are openings for current DMACC students who want to challenge themselves and gradu- ate from the Honors Program. If you have completed one or more college-level English or one college-level math class or are currently enrolled, will have com- pleted a minimum of nine (9) col- lege credits and fewer than fifty (50) credits at the end of summer with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, you are eligible to become a DMACC Honors Student.

To read more about Honors and submit an application, go to dmacc.edu/honors and get started on your way to a rewarding, chal- lenging educational opportunity.

Netherlands contest

As part of DMACC’s celebra- tion of the Netherlands during the 2014-2015 academic year, there is a contest in which each of three persons will win two tickets to the Netherlands Gourmet Dinner on Thursday, April 23, 2015.

Go to the Netherlands Year site for details.

Income Tax Help

Free income tax help will be- gin on Friday, Feb. 6 and continue through April 10 each Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the DMACC Boone Campus. DMACC has been offering this service since 2008. DMACC accounting stu- dents who have been certified by the Internal Revenue Service will help prepare federal and Iowa in- dividual income tax returns for qualified residents. Each year accounting students process files and file approximately 150 federal and state income tax returns.

This service, called the Vol- unteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, offers free tax assistance to those with low-to- moderate incomes (less than $53,000 in annual personal in- come). VITA is particularly in- teresting to those who do not tax- payers who are eligible for earned income tax credits (EITC), which is a refundable tax credit to those who are low wage earners.

All tax returns will be pre- pared on-site at the DMACC Boone Campus by trained and certified DMACC student vol- unteers using software provided by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Each return will be re- viewed by the site coordinator and, after approval and signature of the taxpayer, will be filed elec- tronically with the IRS and the Iowa Department of Revenue. There is no cost to eligible taxpay- ers for this service.

People interested in receiving this service should bring their W-2 forms, interest statements from banks (1099 forms), copies of last year’s (2013) federal and Iowa tax returns, Forms 1095-A, B or C (Affordable Health Care Statements) and social security cards for all family members. Any other pertinent information re- garding personal income and ex- penses for tax year 2014 should be included.

Individuals may call 515-433-5002 to schedule an appoint- ment. Parking is available on the north side of the building, and people may enter through the northeast doorway. There will be no free income tax help offered on February 20 or March 20.

Writing Contest Winners

Here are the winners in the DMACC District-wide Creative Writing Contest:

First Place Overall
Sierra Holstad
“Pai Blue Eyes” (fiction)

Second Place Overall
Evam Bittner
“King of the Treehouse” (fiction)

Poetry
First: Jeffery Carter
At Devil’s Tower with the Boys”

Second: Becky Sterns
“Grandma’s Closets”

Third: Mary Rowan
Against Him”

Prose
First: Lisa Melchert
“Furnwell Trip” (nonfiction)

Second: Halley Dixson
“Rains” (fiction)

Third: Burt Hixenbaugh
“We Are All Turtles” (non- fiction)

Childcare and Transportation help

A program called Iowa New Choices offers assistance with childcare and transportation for qualifying single parents and dis- placed homemakers (separated, divorced, widowed or spouse disabled) for information, contact, Erin Neumann, Room 124, eaneumann@dmacc.edu. Or call 515-433-5037.

Free money for school

Have you done farm work in the last two years? If so, contact Carrie at Proteus Inc. 515-271- 5306 ext. 129.

Legal Aid

An attorney from Iowa Legal Aid will be on the Boone campus on Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for individual appointments with DMACC students. Legal Aid provides free legal help with civil law problems for eligible low-income law- settlers. Legal Aid provides brief advice on several areas of law, including:

• Family Law
• Housing
• Consumer and Small Claims
• Public Benefits
• 60+ Elder Law
• Taxes

To schedule an appointment, contact Erin Neumann in Room 124, e-mail at eaneumann@ dmacc.edu, or call 515-433-5037.
Editor's note: This section will feature a student, staff member, or instructor from the Boone DMACC campus. Do you have a suggestion for someone we should feature? Send your ideas to ban-
nenews@dmacc.edu

By Megan Olson
Staff Writer

DMACC Boone has added a new employee this school year. Christine Whitney joined the DMACC Boone Campus staff as a library specialist in August after working at the DMACC Ankeny Campus for two years prior. She joined the DMACC team in October 2012.

Whitney decided to apply for a job at DMACC after hearing about the opportunity from a friend of a friend.

“I have a lifelong passion for working with books. So, I decided to apply,” says Whitney. Prior to working at DMACC, Whitney worked at Barnes and Noble. She also previously worked at Sticks Incorporated in college, and was a teaching assis-
tant in the United Kingdom. Whitney lived in the United Kingdom for 4 years while work-
ing to earn her master’s degree of Victorian Studies from The University of Exeter. Along with being a teaching assistant in the United Kingdom she also worked with an internship in publishing.

Before moving to the United Kingdom, Whitney received her bachelor’s degree in English Lit-
erature at Iowa State University, then moved on to earn her BFA in Drawing Painting and Print Making (DPF).

Whitney is from Clive, a suburb of Des Moines. She gradu-
ated from Valley High School.

She is a practitioner of capoeira. Capoeira is Brazilian martial arts. “It is a great work out.”

Whitney enjoys DMACC because “I love the people I work with. The students and staff are friendly and welcoming. It has been a great experience,” says Whitney.

“Anyone is welcome to stop by the library. I am always avail-
able and happy to help.”

(TNS) LOS ANGELES _ The cur-
rent crop of college freshmen showed up at school as less ex-
perienced party animals than their older peers but with more mental health and emotional issues, ac-
cording to a survey by the University of California, Los Angeles researchers.

At the turn of the year, the new college students _ who entered their teens when many of their parents grappled with the recess-
sions of the 1970s and 1980s _ are more concerned about financial suc-
cess and aspire to attend graduate schools to enhance their career prospects, the annual American Freshman study found.

The survey suggests that the incoming freshmen _ were buck-
ing down prior to college and taking their academics more seri-
sously, _ said Kevin Eagan, interim managing director of UCLA’s Higher Education Research Insti-
tute, which has administered the poll for 49 years.

However, it remains unclear whether these students will prove on average to be a tame group, Eagan said. In fact, he said their relative abstinence during high school may mean they could be more tempted to binge drink and get into other trouble as so-
cial newbies away from the con-
straints of home.

That risk, along with report-
edly higher levels of depression and other emotional problems, will challenge colleges to provide enough counseling support and substance abuse education, he said.

Nearly 11 percent of respon-
dents said they spent six hours or more a week at parties during their senior year of high school, down from 23 percent a decade ago, the survey found. Addition-
ally, 61 percent reported that they spent only an hour or less a week at parties, up from 39 percent 10 years ago.

Along the same lines, those who said they occasionally or frequently drank beer dropped to 33.5 percent, compared with 45.5 percent a decade before and 69 percent in 1984. Just 38 percent of current freshmen said they drank wine or hard liquor in the last year, compared with about 52 percent 10 years ago and 68 per-
cent in 1987, when the poll ad-
dressed the issue.

Colleges around the coun-
try are struggling to meet higher demands for psychological and crisis counseling, heightened by fears that their campuses could face incidents of violence and sui-
cide.

The survey, which was taken by 153,000 students mainly dur-
ing last summer’s orientations at 227 four-year colleges, bolstered those concerns. Nearly 12 percent of the freshmen rated their men-
tal health as worse than most oth-
ers their age; that compared with roughly 7 percent about a decade ago and 3.5 percent in 1985, when the question was first asked. In addition, 9.5 percent said they frequently felt depressed, up from the 6 percent low point, recorded in 2009.

“This is signaling that stu-
dents are bringing with them some emotional struggles, some mental health issues” and those issues could make it harder for students to stay in school and earn a college degree, said Eagan, who is an assistant professor of education at UCLA.

Yet whatever problems the freshmen have, a lack of ambic-
tion is not one of them. A re-
cord 82 percent said that it was very important or essential that they become well-off financially, compared with nearly 77 percent in 2008 before the recession hit and almost double what it was 40 years ago during the countercul-
tural era.

Similarly, the share of stu-
dents entering college with plans to eventually earn a master’s de-
gree increased to about 44 per-
cent, also a record and up from 28 percent four decades ago.

Survey finds freshman party less, worry about money more

Christine Whitney
DMACC Librarian Specialist

‘Dear White People’ playing on campus
By Megan Olson
Staff Writer

In honor of Black History Month, the Student Activities Council is playing a movie called “Dear White People.”

“A biting satire of racial poli-
tics,” says Jada Tuam.

There are two showings re-
mainning on February 12 at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. in the auditorium.

“I could have shown some-
thing like Purple Haze, but I thought this was a much more modern and interesting movie,” says Steve Krafcsin, SAC adviser.

There have been three show-
ning so far. At the first showing at 9 a.m. on Monday, one student was present.

“This movie is not only about racism, but also sexual differenc-
es. One of the characters, Lionel, is a black homosexual college stu-
dent who is working up a story about the racial tension within a college.

Sam White is another character. She is fighting for what she believes in among having the struggle of finding herself. She is caught between two men; a white man that she loves and a black man who looks good with the position she is in.

Coco is a black woman that wants the world to know her name. She creates a blog that is a bit on the Internet.

Troy is another character fol-
lowed throughout the movie. He is the Dean of Students’ son and is expected to be the perfect girl, be a leader within the college, and do no wrong. Troy does not want the same future his father wants for him. He struggles to stand up to his father.

This movie talks about mod-
ern time and college students. There are many differences dis-
cussed that students can relate too.

“It is not what I was expecting when hearing the title, but I was pleasantly surprised,” says Krafcsin.
How dye choice can color our perceptions

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story originally appeared in the Iowa State Daily on Feb. 6. It is reprinted with permission. The reporter, Sarah Muller, is a student at ISU and DMACC. She works for the Daily and the Banner News.

By Sarah Muller
Staff Writer

Blondes have more fun, or so they say.

For years, people have dyed their hair different colors. But by changing their hair color, they may also be changing their societal stereotype as well.

"Any time you take a stereotype and apply it to a group of people, it's not going to be accurate at all. There is hardly going to be any truth to it," said Kevin Blankenship, associate professor in psychology and communications studies. "There is the idea of a kernel of truth that maybe there was something there initially".

Stereotypes are summary beliefs or characteristics we have about people generally, Blankenship said.

"We tend to have stereotypes about people we have never met and probably never will encounter," said Kristi Costabile, assistant professor in psychology and communications studies. "It's probably not from interacting with people that we learn these stereotypes. [Instead], it's from getting information from others."

Different things can contribute to stereotypes. Blankenship explains that one way is direct experiences, which means having an experience with someone with some type of characteristic and associating that with a quality that stands out in that person.

People can indirectly see rewards or punishments for particular behaviors or appearances. For example, Penny, a blonde character in the show "The Big Bang Theory," is depicted as ditzy or not as intelligent as the other females in the show, who are brunette.

"It does make sense that there are certain stereotypes that hold to certain aspects of people," Costabile said. "Hair color could be the sort of thing that men and women are treated differently. You might notice that hair color might have an interaction with race."

Blankenship said he thinks there are conscious cues that men may pick up on in a social atmosphere with women, making them more or less approachable.

He added that men may use those stereotypes to determine who they are attracted to or likely interested in. He said he believes people who have a preference in one hair color could be seen as bias or prejudice, however, it's a personal choice.

"They could be straining the potential dating pool or friendship pool by doing something like that. I'm not sure if it explicitly harms those who are excluded," Blankenship said.

Costabile said she believes that age might contribute to the way women and men are treated with different hair colors.

"It's possible that as a woman ages, she starts getting treated differently," Costabile said. "Maybe when she's younger, people are more interested in her potentially as a romantic partner, but as she gets older, people think she is someone to hang out with."

As for joking matters, Blankenship addressed the use of humor where there are two perspectives. Any time someone makes light of a stereotype — such as hair color by saying, "blondes have more fun" — it justifies or validates the stereotype.

"It's sneaking a way to make fun of or discriminates against a group," Blankenship said.

The other perspective is quite the opposite. Some believe to make light of or draw attention to these differences that may or may not exist is a positive step. People who use this method may believe that this is a healthy way to make a dialogue of stereotypes.

"I'm sure people do take [stereotypes] seriously, I guess. I've never meant them seriously if I've said them," said Marcie Stevenson, a graduate student in sustainable agriculture. "If people say them to me, I usually take them jokingly, but I'm a little more lighthearted about things like that."

However, people's intentions can affect how the jokes are perceived.

"Stereotypes are often really insidious, which means you don't know when they are affecting your judgments," Costabile said. "Even people who think they can make these jokes in good fun, it's definitely possible they could treat people differently."

In order to remove some of these predetermined ideas, Blankenship said he believes people should consider others on a more individual level, thinking about the qualities they possess and moving on from superficial aspects.

There are two effective ways to dissolve stereotypes in society. Costabile said.

One is presenting counter-stereotypical people in the media. Once society is exposed to more and more people who don't fit the stereotype, the people are typically willing to see there are exceptions.

The second way is the called the contact hypothesis, which is making people interact more so they can realize how similar everyone is.

When asked if hair stereotypes mattered, freshman Todd Price said that it shouldn't. However, he said he believes that hair stereotypes were gender-bias.

"When it's redheads, it's more men [being stereotyped], but when it's blondes, it's more women," Price said. "If anyone takes that seriously, they are an ignorant person. I feel like people would know better than to judge people on [hair color]."
Bears beat Iowa Lakes, 72-59
Sophomore Aarias Austin of Gurnee, Ill., scored a game-high 24 points to lead the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) men’s basketball team to a 72-59 win over Iowa Lakes Community College (ILCC) February 7 at the DMACC gymnasium.

The Bears, ranked fifth in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II poll, overcame poor shooting to improve to 20-4 for the season and 6-1 in the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference (ICCAC). DMACC made just seven of 27 field goal attempts in the first half, opening up a 27-22 margin at halftime. The Bears outscored the Lakers 45-37 in the second half when they hit 11 of 25 field goal attempts.

Women drop 66-63 decision
The Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) women’s basketball team saw its record fall to 16-9 overall and 4-4 in the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference (ICCAC) following a 66-63 loss to Iowa Lakes Community College (ILCC) February 7 at the DMACC gymnasium.

Freshmen Kiana Peterson of Madrid and London Vais of Adair led the Bears with 13 points apiece and freshman Ashley Dumler of Dike added 11 points. DMACC trailed 34-30 at halftime.

ILCC came away with a 42-32 advantage on the boards with freshmen Cassie Geopfert of Sioux City topping DMACC with eight rebounds to go with seven points. Peterson, Vais and sophomores Latala Harmon of Milwaukee, Wis., and Tiana Thompson of Tama had four rebounds apiece.

Peterson dished out five assists to go with her 13 points and Thompson, Geopfert and sophomore Chelsea Anderson of Gowrie had two steals apiece.

DMACC travels to Mason City Feb. 11 to face North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC). The Trojans are tied for the lead in the ICCAC with a 7-1 record and are 18-4 overall. They defeated the Bears 95-87 on Jan. 14.

Q&A: Elliott Defreitas
By Sarah Muller
Staff Writer

Hometown: Essex, England
Major: Sports Management
Year: Sophomore

Q. What brought you to DMACC?
A. I had previous experience playing at DMACC and was offered a scholarship.

Q. What does the next few years look like?
A. "After this, I hope to go to a division one or division two school and then hopefully overseas after that. I’m speaking to a few school right now, like Eastern Illinois and North Texas but no Iowa schools right now."

Q. What has been the biggest change coming to the States?
A. "Basketball-wise, the game is a lot quicker here. It took me like a year to adjust to that. With the people, it was basically the accents. I had to change my accent quite a bit so people could understand me. Last year, no one could understand me."

Q. Why did you decide to play with DMACC Bears?
A. "Coming out of high school I had a couple offers. Basically, my high school coach came here to DMACC in 2000, so I just followed in his footsteps."

Q. What has been the best part of being with the Bears?
A. "Well, we win a lot, so that’s obviously a good feeling. My high school team didn’t win too much. [I’ve liked] coming here and winning a lot of games and gaining some experience."

Q. What have you learned from your team?
A. [I’ve learned] leadership skills, back home basketball wasn’t that serious, while here if you don’t produce results, you don’t really get on the court. My first year I didn’t really play that much and then this year I’m beginning to play a lot more."

4 on 4 Basketball League
Come to WIN IT ALL or just have FUN!
Teams can be co-ed, all women or all men (all play in same league).
$50 Fareway gift card to the winning team.
SIGN UP by emailing asmartin@dmacc.edu
with names of teammates or show up at 9pm in the DMACC Boone Campus Gymnasium. Must bring proof that all teammates are DMACC students/faculty/staff.

Dates of Play (9 pm)
Monday, Feb 16th (First Night)
Thursday, Feb 19th
Monday, Feb 23rd
Thursday, Feb 26th (Final Night)
*Sponsored by Student Activities*
From the Editor

Vaccination talk off-limits on online forums

Tell us what you think!
Submit a letter to the editor or your own opinion column to bannernews@dmacc.edu
Submissions must be:
-DMACC student or locally related
-Well informed
-Approximately 500-700 words

Amanda Betz, Editor-Chief
albertz@dmacc.edu
I hope everyone has been having a great last couple of weeks. It’s that time during the semester where tests are starting to come around and, I hope you’re all managing well. I know it’s hard, at least for me, to balance everything in life and keep sane. Sometimes I wonder why all the tests have to happen at once. Do the professors get together and have a conference on when is the best time to schedule tests? It feels like we have a lot of fun stuff in this issue. Megan went and saw the free showing of Dear White People and she told us a great review of what the movie is all about as we celebrate black history month.

Sarah introduces us to one of our international student athletes, and I finally get to grace the front page with a story about the use of Wikipedia as a resource, and what makes a good resource. Personally, I don’t use Wikipedia for anything academic, but I have found some useful information about almost anything I could ever want to search.

Did you watch the Grammy’s this weekend? If not, there’s a short list of Grammy winners on page 7 for those of you who missed it. For those who didn’t, what did you think about Kanye? I think he has a little bit of a crush on Beyonce if you ask me.

We have a great week, and I hope you’re all lucky in love for the coming Valentine’s day.

Are electric cars greener? That depends on where you live

Long thought a thing of the future, electric cars are becoming mainstream. Sales in the United States of plug in, electric vehicles nearly doubled last year. Credible forecasts see the number rising within a decade to half a million vehicles per year, which would easily exceed sales of the Toyota Camry today. Although the technology for electric cars is improving quickly, the industry still depends heavily on public policy such as the $7,500 subsidy that the federal government gives everyone who buys one. The rationale for such an aggressive policy support is, in part, rooted in the idea that these cars can help slow population. Indeed, conspicuously “green” consumers dominate sales of electric vehicles, just as they did initially for hybrid vehicles such as the Toyota Prius.

But whether electric cars are actually greener depends on where the electricity comes from. Our research, along with other studies, finds that electric cars are not necessarily the environmentally friendly choice when it comes to the emissions of carbon dioxide, the pollutant of greatest concern for climate change. It is true that electric cars have no tailpipe emissions (they don’t even have tailpipes!), which means they can help clear local air. But the electricity used to charge these vehicles comes mainly from power plants that burn coal or natural gas, with coal being the biggest emitter. Other sources of electricity are wind, solar, hydro and nuclear, which are all cleaner and help ensure that electric-car emissions is how the electricity is generated.

Figure out whether the electricity is more environment-friendly than gasoline directly in cars depends on statistical sleuthing to estimate changes in emissions within the overall electricity grid in response to the additional electricity needed to charge an electric car. We’ve done this using data on every hour of every day for recent years across the nation, and our results are striking. Where and when electric cars are charging affects how their emissions compare with the alternatives of a conventional or hybrid car. In some places and at some times, electric cars generate more emissions. We find, for example, that charging an electric car at night in the upper Midwest will generate more carbon dioxide per mile driven than the average conventional car that burns gasoline. In contrast, electric cars in the western United States and Texas always generate lower emissions than even a hybrid, and this arises because natural gas rather than coal tends to be used for generating the additional electricity in these regions.

Our findings are based on how electricity is actually generated and current technologies that determine the efficiency of vehicles. But how might things change in the future to affect whether electric cars will reduce emissions and therefore help address climate change? We know the fuel economy of non-electric cars will increase in the coming years. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has nearly doubled the average fuel efficiency goal for cars by 2025. Meanwhile, the manufacturers of electric cars are seeking to significantly increase the distance that one can drive on a charge.

But the critical driver of electric-car emissions is how the electricity is generated. And this is where the future of electric cars as a means for addressing climate change is related to the future of power plant regulations. The EPA is in the process of developing its “Clean Power Plan” to reduce emissions from power plants. This, along with other rules, will make the electricity sector cleaner and help ensure that electric vehicles are the green choice down the road.

More than 100 years ago electric vehicles were the dominant and most promising technology for personal automobiles. But oil won that battle and reigned over the 20th century. Now electricity is poised to come back, and might yet power the transportation sector this century. The push is due in large part to concern about climate change, so it is important to have policies that ensure electric cars are part of the solution rather than the problem.
The fashion do’s and don’ts for this Valentine’s day

by Sarah Muller, Staff Writer

Do:
Wear your favorite color. Remember that time your significant other complemented you in the blue button up blouse? Just because it isn’t the sanctioned colors of Valentine’s day doesn’t mean they will hate it. Pair it with a nice skirt before you hit dinner and a movie.

Pull out former Christmas wear: As long as it doesn’t declare anything Christmas related, the sweater you purchased for family photos can be reused for a special date with your special someone.

Wear hearts: There is no shame in pulling out the cliches, such as a heart covered dress. However, this is the only time it is acceptable.

Don’t:
Use costumes: The cheap sexy nurse costume is a little inappropriate. Save the money and pull out a nice dress that has been waiting to be recognized. It’s time to keep it classy.

Wear fishnets: Unless you are Madonna out of the 80’s, you have no excuse to pull these out.

Don’t do drag: Just because it’s the most romantic day of the year doesn’t mean it requires the most makeup. Your significant other likes you for you, not how much make up you caked on.

StyleIt app takes the guess work out of your wardrobe

by Yael Kone

“Fashion is the filter through which we experience the world,” said Sarah Muller, University Public Information Coordinator. “It is the language we use to express our individuality and is a key aspect of the fashion industry.”

StyleIt app, the brainchild of Henry Kang and his wife, Shawna Shu, aims to make fashion design and shopping easier for women and men. The app, which launched in late 2014, allows users to create a closet and purchase items from numerous stores including Amazon, Macy’s, and Nordstrom. The app enables users to take photos of their outfits and automatically matches them with validator pieces from a database of millions of looks. The app then creates a personalized wardrobe, which users can use to purchase items from stores that match their style.

“There is potential for a lot of growth,” said Kang. “I know that women are starting to use it and find that they don’t need to go to stores to buy clothing anymore.”

As for the future of styleIt, Kang says, “I want to make styleIt as user friendly as possible. I also want to expand the app to include more stores and options for users.”

However, Kang acknowledges that there are still challenges to overcome. “There are still a lot of users who don’t know about the app,” he said. “I want to keep expanding the user base and making it more accessible.”

In the meantime, Kang is working on other projects, including a fashion app for men. “I want to make the app usable for both men and women,” he said. “I think there is a lot of potential for growth in the fashion industry and I want to be a part of it.”

Excerise now! The 5 immediate benefits of regular exercise

by Sarah Muller, Staff Writer

1. Boost your mood
You don’t need an hour-long, high-intensity workout to trigger a grim. Just 20 minutes of jogging has been found to elevate mood... and surprisingly the intensity doesn’t matter. In fact, there’s reason to believe that pushing yourself to the max can even reduce the likelihood of depression and anxiety.

2. Increase your self-esteem
We all want to feel like we’re on top of the world, and working out can be just the thing to boost your confidence. Researchers in Norway found that children who exercised regularly showed signs of improved self-esteem in the short term after working out

3. Increase your sleep
Sleep is another major benefit of regular exercise. Exercise increases your body’s production of melatonin, which helps you fall asleep faster and stay asleep longer. In addition, exercise can help reduce symptoms of insomnia, such as stress and anxiety.

4. Think more clearly
Moderate aerobic exercise (like running or cycling for 30 minutes) can make us ninja-like with our reaction speed and improve our problem solving abilities just the things you need for a productive day at the office! But try not to push too hard. High intensity interval training has been found to cause physical fatigue that also makes your reactions slower.

5. Have fun! (And forget whatever’s looming on your to-do list)
The days of aching, sore muscles that inevitably follow a return to the gym can make it hard to remember one of the best parts of working out. It can be a lot of fun. Research has found that minimizing pain (or perceived pain) from working out can be as simple as thinking about the activity as something you actually enjoy. In fact, the key to minimizing pain, all like a specific workout is a strong predictor of whether you’ll return again. One quick trick to make exercise enjoyable is to make sure you’re listening to some bouncing beats throughout your workout. This kind of enjoyable distraction can double the mood-enhancing impact of exercise.
Upcoming Events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 11, 2015</td>
<td>Grandma Mojo's Moonshine Revival</td>
<td>ISU M-Shop Doors open @ 10pm $1 Admission</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 12-15</td>
<td>The Best of Me</td>
<td>ISU Carver 101 – Free Admission 7pm &amp; 10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 13, 2015</td>
<td>Bonne Finken &amp; the Collective</td>
<td>ISU M-Shop, 9pm $10 admission, $8W/ ISU ID, $2 increase day of show</td>
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<td>February 14, 2015</td>
<td>Valentine's Day</td>
<td>All Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 17, 2015</td>
<td>Open Mic Night</td>
<td>ISU M-Shop, 8pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 19-22</td>
<td>Interstellar</td>
<td>ISU Carver 101 – Free Admission 7pm &amp; 10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22, 2015</td>
<td>SUB Comedy Night w/ Sara Schaefer</td>
<td>ISU M-Shop, 9pm Free admission</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 20, 2015</td>
<td>Varieties Finals</td>
<td>ISU Great Hall, MU, 9PM Buy tickets online at <a href="http://www.midwestix.co">http://www.midwestix.co</a> m/organizations/iowa-state-memorial-union</td>
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February 20, 2015 DMACC In-Service No classes

Your horoscope this week

(TNS) Ari (March 21-April 19)
Costs may be higher than expected. Hunt for a bargain. Recent mental gyrations give way to direct communication, now that Mercury’s direct. Values shift. Deliver a message of love. Reconnect with a distant friend or relative.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
It’s easier to learn, with Mercury direct. Creative efforts take a leap forward. A legal or partnership agreement comes together. Re-affirm a commitment. Opportunities return. Plans can advance quickly. Serve up love, beauty and deliciousness.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
Launch new projects now that Mercury’s direct. You can see clearly the future you want to create. Study. Solidify the steps to take to meet your goals. Work faster for higher income. Words flow like water. Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
Communication with your partner creates new possibilities at home. Resolve a breakdown. It could get intimate and lovely. Don’t spend beyond your budget or gamble, though. Creativity infuses the air. Harness it for beautiful results.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Cash flows in a more positive direction now, although a potentially expensive moment lies ahead. Look farther away for your answer. Creative solutions emerge. Friends believe in you. It’s easier to reach consensus and compromise.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
The game is getting fun (and profitable), despite setbacks. It’s easier to get your message out and advance to the next level now that Mercury’s direct. You’re exceptionally persuasive now. Agree on terms and send invoices.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
It could get intimate and lovely. Your partner creates new possibilities. It’s easier to learn, with Mercury direct. It’s easier to ask for money. Rest and think things over. Consider, and then ask for what you want.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Rest and think things over. A glass ceiling dissolves. All is not as it appears to be. Indulge in a little personal pampering. A bubble bath calms your spirit. Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Rest and think things over. A glass ceiling dissolves. All is not as it appears to be. Indulge in a little personal pampering. A bubble bath calms your spirit.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Travel plans advance, despite an obstacle. A test requires your full attention. Proceed with caution. A raise in status is possible. It’s easier to ask for money. Strengthen yourself emotionally. Collaboration is a good idea.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
A barrier to your objective is dissolved. Pack your bags, and get moving! Carried away by enthusiasm Words and traffic flow better with Mercury direct. A potential disagreement could disrupt things. Express love. A change in scenery delights.