



Holiday / Entertainment



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He's Baaaaaaaack!!!
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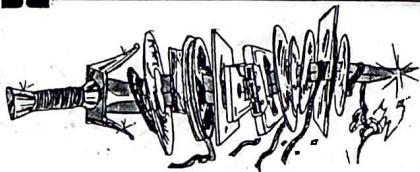
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THE

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DC

Dess Moines
Area
COMMUNITY
College
DC



Dagger's Best of the Cuts

Presto! Rush is back and strong on their new release. "Presto" is their first album on the Atlantic label after being with Polygram before. Neil Peart, Geddy Lee, and Alex Lifeson prove that they can still hold their own in the world of rock and show that they're not backing down from anyone. 'Tis' the season for yuletide music and there is quite a lot of it to choose from. Mannheim Steamroller always has a big seller in their "Fresh Aire Christmas" and this year is no different. Also watch for Christmas offerings from the Judds, Randy Travis, Kenny Rogers, Ricky Van Shelton, New Kids on the Block (it had to happen), Amy Grant, Crystal Gayle, and the Narada artists. "Twisted Christmas" is a funny look at Christmas with spoofs of songs by various artists. Another various album is called "A Very Special Christmas" and it includes such artists as Bon Jovi, Whitney Houston, Bryan Adams, Bruce Springsteen, Bob Segar, and Run D.M.C. to name a few. It was done a few years ago by the musicians to benefit the Special Olympics.

The 1980's brought us some great new bands and we also saw a few of the old ones disappear. The compact disc was definitely the major impact on the decade, as was the death of John Lennon. Los Angeles was the place to go if you wanted to make it as a new band and you could find 15-year-old guitar wizards on every street corner. MTV shot sales of albums through the roof and pretty much made winners out of some losers on the music circuit. We all remember Live Aid and Farm Aid and the reason for having them in the first place.

There were so many new bands during the last part of the decade that it would take forever to print them all. What I am going to do, then, is list which of these bands will be strong in the 90's and beyond. Remember these bands: Bonham, Winger, Hurricane, Badlands, Blue Murder, Living Colour, Bulletboys, Cinderella, Tesla, Skid Row, Babylon, Roxette, Warrant, Bad English, Jeff Healey, House of Lords, Stage Dolls, Saraya, Richard Marx, Milli Vanilli, Bobby Brown, Paula Abdul, all Rap artists, and you know the New Kids on the Block will be big for a few years until they reach puberty and their voices change.

Trends to watch for in the 90's will be: more reunion tours, more bands making it big out of Minneapolis, more artists doing solo projects while staying with their bands, more new record labels, more bands coming clean of drugs (or so they'll say), more bands will look the same as others, more videos, more concerts for charities, and more musicians producing new bands. The local music scene will be saturated as everyone will get into the act. Digital Audio Tape will replace the cassettes of today and the CD will be cheaper, and music stores will have booths where you can record your own songs on blank tapes and pay for it. Last but most importantly, someone that is big in the music industry will either die of a drug overdose or of AIDS. Watch and see. That's it for this issue and for this year. It's been great but it only gets better next semester, so be prepared. Take care and keep the faith, and remember never to give up.

Farewell to the Decade...

by Brad Dagger

Trouble, strife on the American scene
 Hostages in Iran, civil war in the Philippines
 Republican leaders leading us astray
 With Reagan and Bush showing us the new way
 The Achille Lauro, Ollie North, and Poindexter
 Gary Hart's fling, the Beirut disaster
 Quake on the Bay, famine in Africa
 The Wall tumbles down, new power in Russia
 Apartheid, Castro, the Mafia, cocaine and crack
 Student revolts in China, steroids on the Olympic track
 Strikes in pro football, college athletes paid to play
 Little Jessica McClure, Bakker and Swaggart aren't okay
 A nation mourns at the news of the Challenger
 So after a tearful farewell to the 80s, let's hope
 And pray that the 90s will be better for all of us.

Week at DMACC

College is a time for fun
 and hurrying to get assignments done
 Running here, running there,
 showing your talents if you dare
 Speeches to give, papers to write,
 studying until very late at night
 Hoping this week that you will survive,
 drinking caffeine to keep you alive
 Then Friday comes and the weekends near
 for friends and parties and parties and
 lots of good cheer.

Kathy Aldrich

Instructor Advocates Learning How to Love

by Brad Dagger
 Staff Writer

Meet Ron Noah. Noah is a part-time psychology and education teacher at DMACC. Next semester he is teaching the Intro to Education class. Ron, 53, lives in Des Moines and has four grown children away from home. They are twins Mitch and Mike, 23, Rob, 24, and his daughter Ronna, who is 27.

Noah received his undergraduate degree from Northwest Missouri State and his graduate degree from the University of Missouri. He has been teaching 22 years at the public school level and has taught in Missouri, Wisconsin, and Iowa. He has taught at the college level for five years and at DMACC for the past three years. When he's not teaching or working as an independent insurance agent, he enjoys hunting, playing golf, writing poetry and has had a few articles published in educational magazines.

Noah described what he likes most about teaching and DMACC: "The people and the students are what I like the most about teaching. I like DMACC mainly because of the students' attitudes and the philosophy behind the education program. There are a lot of students at DMACC who don't know that DMACC offers a Pre-Education Program." Ron has some career goals he wants to accomplish. He hopes to secure a full-time teaching position here while continuing his insurance business.

Over the semester break, Noah plans on spending some time with his family, relaxing and taking a break. He plans to use some of the time to prepare for the Intro to Education class he will be teaching in the spring.

Noah shares his thoughts on life, "We need more people who are willing to learn how to love."

Reporter's Note: *Anyone who has taken a class taught by Ron Noah knows how truly wonderful he is as a person and a teacher. I would recommend taking one of his classes and to all of the people in the Psychology of Human Relations and Adjustment class--take care of yourselves and have a great holiday.*

War of Roses: Thorny Divorce, Dark Humor

by Scott Flora
 Staff Reporter

Every once in a while there comes a movie that shows the true warmth, love, and beauty in a marriage.

"War of the Roses" is not one of those movies.

Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner star as Oliver and Barbara Rose a couple who has been married for 17 years. Now Barbara is sick of living her life through her husband and wants a divorce.

Danny DeVito directed and co-starred as Oliver Rose's friend and lawyer who remembers the sad story of their break-up.

The once happy couple become even more bitter when they both refuse to leave the home they have both been so fond of decorating. Along with the bitterness, their actions towards each other escalates in a violent fashion, making their house a battlefield and taking their marriage to the point of no return.

This film is not on the light-hearted side and will not appeal to everyone. Some of the scenes will disturb many people with their dark humor, especially those who have relationships on the skids. But the film shows a true representation of what a couple could actually do to each other.

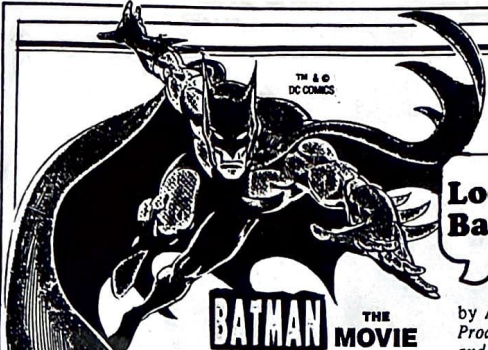
Devito should be commended for his direction in this film. Its abstractness hits home in a hard, but memorable way and is definitely worth taking the time out of a busy schedule to see.

Griswold Adventure Continues

by Chris Silver
 Staff Writer

The Griswold family is back in their third adventure, "Christmas Vacation." Clark and Ellen Griswold, (Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo), invite each other's in-laws over for Christmas. The grandparents quarrel inside of the house, while Clark attempts to light the exterior of the house.

continued on Entertainment/page 8



Look Up Folks, Bat-Signals Are in the Air

BATMAN THE MOVIE

by Al Weaver
Production Designer
and BATMAN fan

Just when you thought it was safe to sit through commercials on TV or go out to a local video market, "Batmania" STRIKES AGAIN! Look out for new figurines of the Dark Knight detective used to advertise the last month's release of movie history's biggest financial success -- BATMAN, the movie. Since its theatrical debut on June 23, this runaway mega-hit has grossed over \$248,000,000, and, perhaps, grossed out John Q. Public by the saturation of HYPE! We can expect another total merchandising onslaught for the gift hunters this holiday season.

But why should you buy or rent this video after all that has been said and done? You may be like readers of the DC Comics, the loyal fans of Adam West, and the followers of the campy '60s television series, who have been surprised by the fresh visions brought forth by Director Tim Burton and his potpourri of writers.

The production sets of Gotham City -- the stomping grounds of Batman and his arch nemesis, the Joker -- create for us a gloomy, foreboding metropolis. We are shown a downtrodden community where the seedy neighborhoods have lost their former claim to cosmopolitan beauty, where the natural landscape is buried. People there are oppressed. This movie is filled with black humor. The Joker laughs at death.

Each character has his own eccentricities. The Joker (Jack Nicholson) wears exotic costumes. After seeing his loud colors and hats, it was hard for this viewer to pick a favorite. Michael Keaton adds some vulnerability to his obsessive character as the socially-befuddled playboy Bruce Wayne. Vicki Vale (Kim Basinger) pulls us into her many-faceted role by not becoming too predictable. She is allowed to smile, show sensitivity and affection, while remaining an independent career woman. The ensemble of supporting roles carry the subplots with smooth success.

This movie does not attempt to cash in on Keaton's accepted comedy skills portrayed in films like *Mr. Mom*, *Beetlejuice*, or *The Dream Team*. Nor is the actor rude and selfish as his role in *Clean and Sober*. Fans of his are in for a refreshing new quality: Quiet, Leading Man Heroism.

Nicholson's followers will feast on his scene stealing and flamboyant efforts to be "out there," in left field. Nicholson has become known for his screen presence. He's sinister as the devil in *The Witches of Eastwick*, insane and wild in *The Shining*. He put on an act of insanity but was still a powerful man in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Is an Oscar for Nicholson asking too much? Some votes are out there already!

Batman video sales are running wild like never before! Upon its arrival in Des Moines, hundreds of copies were sold per-store in some cases. The popularity of this movie is due to its versatility in bringing an American Icon to film in his 50th anniversary year. This movie has drama, adventure, special effects, romance (with a modern style woman who isn't just a prop) comedy, and psychological interplay.

But if you're a movie soundtrack collector, don't plan to take this one home on a single disc or tape. There are instead two unique soundtracks, one features the orchestral/instrumental themes while the other has an upbeat, party/dance tempo composed by Prince.

The movie has enough high-tech gadgetry for fiction buffs too. The Batcave is foreboding with dark shadows and cold machinery. According to set designers, live bats were used in the filming. The memorable Batmobile will surely soothe car enthusiasts. Its an alluringly fast, sleek, robotized toy every millionaire should have! Did I mention the craftily designed Batplane? There's a neat symbolic scene above the clouds.

I did find that a friend that I took to see *Batman* was more sensitive to violence than I, so DO consider that if you can't tolerate it in your entertainment. Also DON'T take the film too seriously, it was made purely for entertainment/escapism. I found *Batman* personally fulfilling, and do enjoy sharing my enthusiasm with you. But not just me... The excitement has not died down yet for those of us Bat-afficionados who have waited years for this event to finally arrive.

POW! BAMM! SPLATT!! Holy-BAT EVERYTHING
He's BAAAAAack!

Just a FEW items, soon to hit the retail market.



For more movie related information, read on.



For former fans and new viewers the movie leaves a lot of unanswered questions. Some may have been left as a tease for future sequels to clear up. For example, where did Batman get experience with investigative research or his skill at self-defense (Just now being explained in comic format). How about a reason for his costume design. And of course, "Where does he get those wonderful toys?"

One can retrieve from proper sources, comic book plots, and fan magazines, answers to some queries that are asked most often.

#1. Where is Robin?

True to his comic book evolution, Batman had spent his formative years as a loner (Bruce was an only child). As a boy he witnessed the murder of both his parents by hoodlums! Luckily, he and his inherited estate were left in the care of his parent's butler, Alfred Pennyworth who then became a guardian to young Bruce. Batman's creator, Bob Kane, wanted fear to be Batman's mainstay of power over criminals. But later he saw a need to soften his persona and let people begin to see some humor/humanity. Therefore Robin-Boy Wonder was born.

For a touch of humor Robin would quote outrageous things like, "Holy laugh-track Batman, set up by a clown!" The costume Robin wore came from his roots as a circus acrobat (bats again!) and was a take-off of the mythical rogue, Robin Hood, hence his name, costume's bright colors, and funny shoes.

In comic book continuity Robin has grown to full maturity and has a new alias, "Nightwing" of the Teen Titans. This circumstance had left Batman on a lengthy hiatus where he became known as THE Batman, a solo crime fighter. The original Robin was replaced by a new side kick only to have him killed off by a readers poll (which by a slim margin voted in favor of letting him be snuffed-out by the Joker). After a short while this void is going to be filled by yet another aspiring youngster. This was to help curb the Batman's current loss of conscience and show criminals they cannot have a victory over justice. The writers could not get all this into the story line of the movie, so they chose the pre-Robin Era, and he does not appear here.

#2. The Joker Stole the Movie.

This is true, but not a bad thing. Nicholson's crazed Joker role was more versatile due to the chance at a macabre sense of humor, and the lack of restraint. The Joker is considered to be the flip side of Batman. He even has a taste for music and dance, as in the scenes where he tries to romance Ms. Vale. Due to the script, Batman is not seen enough to be dominant in this movie. We find him at a moody stage of recovery, living in isolation until a romantic side is reached by Vicki V.

#3. The Movie is too Dark and Serious.

This was an intentional attempt of the director to stay close to the cause/effect of psychological trauma. It can twist and change people, leaving life altering flaws and scars. Jack Napier becomes a mob boss psychopath, as the Joker. Bruce Wayne becomes an avenging vigilante of the fellow victims of Gotham's criminal element as Batman. Not too common, but how many of us may wear a mask of illusion in order to survive when threatened by life's crises?

#4. It is More Violent than Desired or Expected.

There have been movies of crime more realistic in their portrayal, but overall this movie is less graphic/blood crazy than most media today. The movie is intended more for young adults than for impressionable children. Violence in this story does not come near the graphic shock/horror films available to them. It is more like the old westerns that tried to give the hero a cause to protect or defend. The Joker kills for little more than a laugh or whim--the "Black Hat" stereotype.

People may be missing the tongue-in-cheek satire from the former TV series. This program was made for fun. It was based on the comic book characters, just as the movie *Casino Royale* with Peter Sellers, was based on the Ian Fleming super spy, James Bond. As a spoof, *Casino Royale* didn't need to keep true 007's ruthless killer-for-hire theme, nor follow the intense flavor of the novels. Note also *Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother*, with Gene Wilder, which came nowhere near Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's serious version of his fictitious, master sleuth.

#5. Comic Book Kinds of Movies Don't Interest Me.

This is purely a matter of taste. Serious minded types have found *Batman* to be too silly or moody. Children have grown restless waiting for the dark-clad star to make an appearance. They don't get enough of him here. Most of the non-action stop movies which are in demand leave an impatient mind little time to wander, and an intellectual mind no time to ponder. This movie seems right for a more adult crowd as suggested by the PG-13 rating.

Let Rick Help You Deck Your Halls With Gifts of Folly!

by Rick Natale
Staff Writer

Do you have to buy a gift for someone who has one of everything? There are many unusual things that can be found, but few people have time to go out and look for them. I have compiled a short list of gifts available in Des Moines and from national mail order catalogs that may help you find just the right gift for that special someone on your list.

Here is something that will turn some heads. It's a levitating world globe. Designed by aerospace engineers, this globe is suspended in a magnetic field and can be removed for easier observation. Since the globe doesn't touch any part of the stand, it can be spun in mid-air. The price for this little gift is \$154.50 and is available through Hammacher Schlemmer. Catalog # 36776R



Imagine it's about 2 a.m. and you're sound asleep. Suddenly you're awakened by the phone and when you answer it, a salesman is on the other end of the line. Most people would just hang up, but why do that when you can get revenge. Conair has just come out with a new phone. The thing that makes this phone so special is that it has a machine-gun sound effect and an atomic blast sound effect built right into the phone. This full-function phone works on either pulse or tone systems and has automatic redial. So instead of just hanging up the phone, you can just press a button and blow them off the face of the planet. The phone retails for \$19.99 and can be found in Ward's Department store at the malls.

Ladies are you tired of the way your hair looks? Conair has a new product called Impressions. This new product adds shapes to your hair using one of four interchangeable plates. It can be found at JCPenny for \$19.99



If you're a cat owner, you'll love this. It's an electronic cat door. This door can only be opened by your cat due to a specially-coded key which is worn on your cat's collar. This special device will keep out unwanted animals. Hammacher Schlemmer is offering this item for \$139.50. Catalog # 22265R



Women, never sleep alone again! You can purchase these satin sheets with a color photo of a man on them, a photo that is strategically placed. There is room for you along side. This unique gift can be purchased from Tapestry. Twin fitted sheets cost \$37.50 order # G714188. Full fitted sheets cost \$38.95 order # G714170. Queen sized sheets cost \$39.95 order # G701748.



Country Cows is a very unique gift to give to someone. These life-sized cardboard cows are lawn ornaments that will get your house noticed. These come cheaper by the heard. One cow is \$6.88, two cows only \$13, three cows are \$18, and if you really want to go all out, six cows are \$33. Available from Foster-Trent Inc. Order No. 8171.



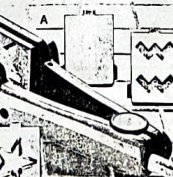
On guard!!! Nerf Fencing has come out on the market. Children will have hours and hours of fun hacking their friends into little pieces with this harmless toy by Nerf. The price at JCPenny is \$14.99.



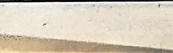
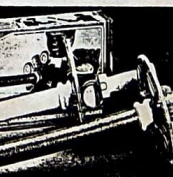
Pec-wee Herman has put out a lot of items recently. One of the more unusual products is the talking Pec-wee Herman doll. It says things such as the famous lines, "I know you are, but what am I?" and "Hey look." It is priced at \$24.99. Also available is "Chairry"--the chair with a personality--from his children's television program. This chair stands 32 inches high. The price of this chair is \$99.99. Both items are available from JCPenny.



Nintendo comes out with a new product almost every week. One of the latest is the U-Force. It's a type of controller that doesn't require you to hold anything in your hand. Instead it uses the motion of your hand and body to control the action on the screen. The price for this one is \$69.99 and is available at JCPenny.



Does your child wish he could be a star? Well, with the Fisher-Price Star Stage they can. This portable stage has its own built-in microphone and flashing lights, sure to bring out the imagination in your youngster. This toy is priced at \$32.99 and is available through JCPenny.



When you are traveling and have to spend the night in hotel rooms, do you ever feel insecure? This little device will help you sleep better because you'll know that you're safe. It's called the Watchdog. All you have to do is to hang it from a door knob, and if anyone touches the knob it will emit a loud alarm that will wake you and scare off any intruder. The Watchdog travel door-alarm sells for \$12.99 and is available from JCPenny.



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Here is a very unique gift to give someone. This book shows you how to cut up its pages to build a fully functional clock made almost entirely of paper. The clock even keeps accurate time. Order it from Edmund Scientific for \$9.95. Catalog # K9687



Doesn't it annoy you when somebody drives up next to you at a stoplight and flips you the bird. Don't just finger them back, moon them! Over our Heads Inc. has developed a car ornament that looks like a man. When a bulb is squeezed, the hands pull the character's pants down so it moons the world. These little fellows are called MOONIES and are available at Spencer's gifts for \$24.99.

Nasta has come out with a pair of binoculars that allows you to not only bring images closer, but actually hear the visuals you're looking at. They are called Sec 'n' Hear Binoculars. They can be found at Spencer's Gifts for \$14.99.

Why not give that someone special the things that dreams are made of, or should I say nightmares. Believe it or not, Elm Street's famous child killer, Freddy Kruger, can now be purchased as a doll. Matchbox's new toy sells for \$29.99 and can be found at Circus World Toys in Des Moines.

Addresses for Mail Order catalogs:

Hammacher Schlemmer, Midwest Operations Center 9180 Le Saint Drive, Fair Field, OH 45014 Phone Orders (800) 543-3366
Tapestry P.O. Box 46 Hanover, PA 17333-0046 Phone orders (800) 833-9333
Edmund Scientific Company 101 E. Gloucester Pike Barrington, NJ 08007-1380 Phone orders (800) 547-8880
Foster-Trent Inc. Dept. 248-ha 2345 Post Rd. Larchmont, NY 10538 Add \$2.85 for shipping and handling



Edmund Scientific is offering a pair of glasses that will allow you to lay in bed and watch television or read a book. The unique prism design is what allows this to be possible. Its cost is only \$30. Catalog # K61039

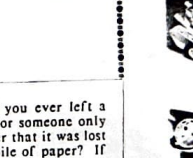
Have you ever left a message for someone only to discover that it was lost under a pile of paper? If under a pile of paper? If your answer, This unique product is styled like an old broadcast microphone. All you do is push a button and say your message and it records it. The next time someone picks up Mike, it plays the message back. Made by W.A.C.O. Products Corporation, the Message Mike sells for \$35 and can be found at Landmark Luggage & Gifts in Meric Hay Mail.

Why should you do when someone sends you a gift and you haven't gotten her anything? You should run out to the mall and pick up a present for her? Not unless you really want to. In Amy Vanderbilt's *Everyday Etiquette* by Leticia Baldridge, we are told that it is perfectly proper to just send a warm thank you note. Don't go for the guilt. Maybe you did something nice for that person, and it's that person's way of saying thank you.

Should you accept a gift that you feel that is a bribe? How can you refuse without being rude? According to the Amy Vanderbilt guide, when someone gives a gift with ulterior motives, unless you're willing to give up whatever that person wants, it is usually best to return the gift at once. For man's sake, you can attach a note saying "Thank you for your nice thought, but I cannot accept such a present." That way you are under no obligation.

Next time you receive a gift that leaves you perplexed, consult a guide to etiquette or your grandma. Grandmas always know what to do.

Freak out your friends with the Moon Blob. Looking like protoplasm, this stuff will crawl out of its container, ooze across tables, and even climb things! It's really just dehydrated plastic, but when water is added it comes alive with action. The price for this little novelty is \$5.95 and can be ordered through Edmund Scientific. Catalog # K38,440

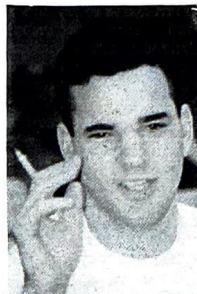


Here is a game for fans of the remote-control cars. It's called Deluxe Powerball by Tyco. There are two remotely controlled motorcycles with scoops fixed to the fronts of the vehicles to catch and push the balls. The object is to score the most goals. This can be purchased from Tyco's merchandise here in Des Moines for \$79.97. (catalog p. 407)

Etiquette Guides You Through Gift Blitz With Grace and Style

Etiquette Guides You Through Gift Blitz With Grace and Style

**Happy Holidays
To All
From The
Chronicle Staff**



You can call me Al. Family call me Lea. Some can call me Fred. I have been called by my last name, Weaver. But you's don't has ta call me, Alfred!

I work as one of the Chronicle's layout artists. I get my jollies by doing various drawings and manual tasks with design. So my chosen major is commercial art.

What I like to do is spend time with my fiancée, Mary. I also like to build models, play pool, go roller skating, out to dinner-movies-dancing and I like listening to music. I read comic books for the art and stories. I also like sleeping and talking to my friends.

I cannot stand: parking in downtown Des Moines, traffic troopers with radar and no forgiveness, smoking, politics, middle age spread, most math, time schedules made by "A" type performance people, the misuse (mine included) of money, loss of hair, for the moment BATMAN, being paid by the hour as a peak income.

Over a year ago I moved to Colfax, Iowa, from Denver, Colorado. I gave up a career of machine operating in a factory for the far-reaching hopes of college. I like DMACC for this chance to make an impression, gain knowledge and memories of this "secondary home and stepping stone." I hope your dreams work for you in '90!

Hey, guys. My name is John Davis. I am working on the Chronicle as a staff writer this semester.

I was born in Omaha, but my family moved. Then when I grew up I attended Roosevelt High School. When I grew older I attended and graduated from Roosevelt High School. Then I came to DMACC where I'm a liberal arts major.

Like most of the students that go here, I need money. That's why I work at Silverman's Clothing in Merle Hay Mall as a sales associate. It's not a bad job. It even leaves time for all my hobbies and school work. Some of my hobbies include: playing rugby, wrestling, running, weightlifting, hockey, bus driving, saving empty chewing tobacco cans and throwing them in my brother's closet, coaching jr. high school track, collecting comic books, dating, and trying to give Rose a heart attack. Boo!

When I'm not doing all that, I find time to battle my pet peeves. These are: interviewing Skye Anderson, staying up 'til 4 a.m. to write a speech, and waking up at 7 a.m. to go to sociology.

If you are thinking about taking journalism next semester, I highly recommend it. It's the most fun I've ever had.

P.S. The typo about my high school is Mark's fault.

Hi, everyone! My name is Mark Schneberger. For those of you who don't know who I am, let me explain.

My name is Mark, like I said. I am the Editor of the Chronicle. I was born several years ago, this December (gifts are welcome any time in the Chronicle office. Hint...Hint...) in Des Moines and lived ten impressional years in the "war zone" around 6th Street and Forest. My family moved to the east side of town and I transferred to a parochial school.

After running four years from knuckle-busting nuns, my mom guilt-tripped me into going to Dowling. I graduated in the spring of 1988.

After finally being let out of the jail called high school, I came here to DMACC where I'm majoring in journalism.

I already told you that I'm the Editor of the Chronicle, didn't I? Well, anyway, I am. Some of you might be thinking "What does the Editor do?" It's simple.

I edit all news for content and grammatical structure. I fight with Dave Champion. I do much of the layout. I argue with Brad Dagger. I design the overall focus of the paper. I yell at Lori Janssen. I try to motivate the staff and settle disputes, I..... Well you probably get the point.

When I'm not working on the paper, I enjoy



working out with my friends at Kim's (Merry Christmas Scott and Deb), drinking alcoholic beverages, dancing at Cantina, singing in my car when no one is looking, reading, going to see One Way play, going to parties (like birthday ones, hint, hint) watching tv, rapping with my friends, scamming chicks, and making new friends.





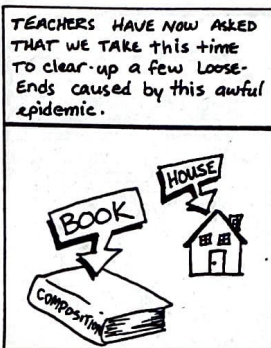
A Little Something To
Lighten Up Your Day

OUTER Limits



By Mike Lisac

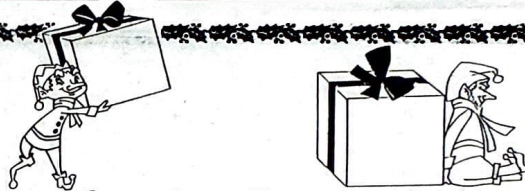
NOTICE TO THE READERS:
NEW INFORMATION OBTAINED THROUGH OUR EXTENSIVE STUDIES HAS LINKED READING "Billo and the Beast," more than once, with low intelligence and the cranial capacity of a grapefruit. DMACC students are strongly advised to stay away from that "comic" strip.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, AND, PLEASE REMEMBER TO HELP STAMP-OUT B.S. (Billo syndrome)

Can We Talk?

by Mark Schneberger
Editor



What is the Strangest Gift You've Ever Received at Christmas?



"I was joking with my friends about what I wanted for Christmas and when it finally came they gave me a Strawberry Shortcake Doll."

Steve Huber
Liberal Arts

"When I was twelve, my younger brother gave me a jock strap. He didn't know that girls don't need them."

Karen Saunders
Nursing

"One year I got a little clump of dirt."

Jody Rumbaugh
Medical Assistant

"I got a subscription of Penthouse from my parents."

Mike Clark
Psychology

3,243 Miles and 99 Courthouses in Four Days...

by Rick Natale
Staff Writer

While most people were visiting relatives over Thanksgiving vacation, Photo Instructor Curt Stahr and students Bruce Bergerud and Sheila Bergan were visiting all of Iowa's 99 county seats to photograph courthouses. The inspiration for this project came from a 1974 book of Iowa's courthouses. The authors emphasized the long time required to compile photos. Stahr and his students decided they could accomplish the project in one long weekend.

Two students studied an Iowa map and figured out several different routes which would allow them to visit all of the courthouses in four days. They then reviewed the different routes and the mileages that ranged from 2,808 miles to 3,400 miles.

"The trip was endless," said Stahr. They began their trip on Thursday at 7 a.m. and ended Sunday at 6:30 p.m. Having to go to all the counties gave them a chance to shoot in all types of weather from sunny to snow-covered and provided photo opportunities in both the day and night.

"Most people live in this state and don't know the beauty it has to offer, especially this time of year," claimed Bergerud.

Stahr's favorite part of the trip was seeing well-preserved courthouse architecture throughout the state. He and his students said a lot of the town squares had memorials to the people who died for their country in the wars, some going as far back as the Civil War. Stahr said one of the most interesting statues is the one of Norman Borlaug in Cresco, Iowa. Borlaug, who is still living, was the recipient of the 1974 Nobel Prize for his work in developing a disease and drought-resistant type of grain.

Reporter's Note: When Des Moines Register columnist, Chuck "Iowa Boy" Offenburger visited the Chronicle staff for a special meeting last week, he was tipped off about the photography courthouse weekend. Offenburger recognized the record-breaking accomplishment in his Saturday, December 9 column.

'Christmas Vacation' Really Drags, Corny Scenes Plague Picture

continued from Entertainment/page 2

Clark staples thousands of light bulbs all over the outside of the house and performs his usual klutzy gags. An example is when Clark slips off of the icy roof and catches the gutter. The gutter breaks off, sending a chunk of ice through the arrogant neighbor's window.

Weak and corny scenes plague this picture from start to finish. One part shows Clark greasing up the kids' sled with a special cooking oil formulated by his company. Clark slides down the hill leaving a trail of flames behind him. During his ride he manages to explode through an outhouse and slide into an intersection of cars after covering many miles.

The movie really drags on until Ellen's cousin Eddie stops by in his dilapidated camper. Dennis Quaid plays Eddie, the slobbish, beer-drinking, fool from the first movie, "Vacation." Clark stares out the window in disbelief as Eddie yells from the curb, "The shitter was full." Eddie is standing in his underwear, drinking a beer as he empties sewage from his camper's toilet into the storm drain. Quaid's role as Eddie is the only bright spot in this very dull movie.

Throughout the film Clark keeps hoping that he will get his Christmas bonus check so that the family can purchase a swimming pool. Instead of a bonus Clark receives a certificate for "Gelatin of

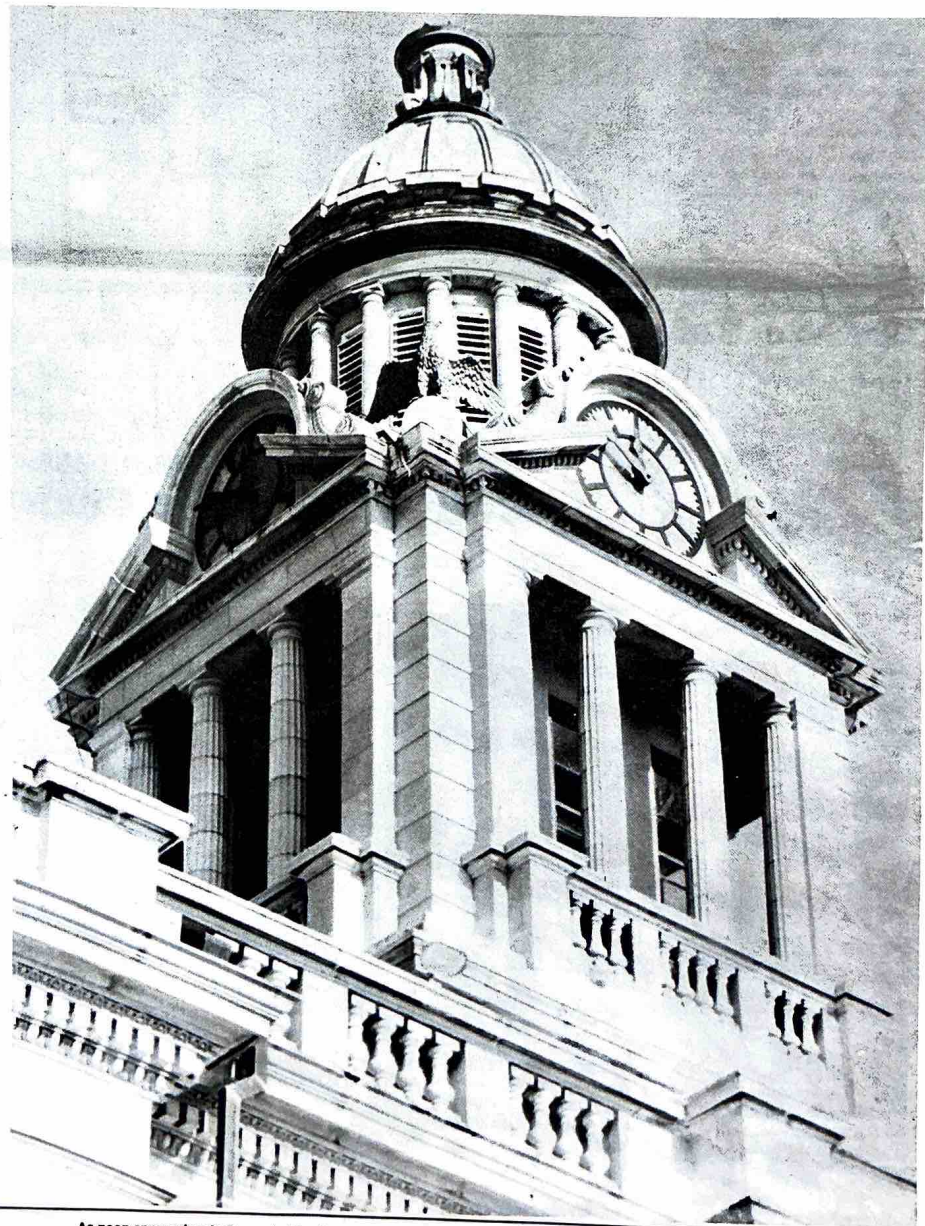
the Month Club." In a fit of rage, Clark screams that he would like to have his boss delivered to him tied in a bow. Then he could give him a piece of his mind.

Eddie kidnaps Clark's boss, played by Brian-Doyle Murray, and brings him to Clark's house. Tied up in a bow, Clark lets his boss know his grievances and the boss apologizes. Not only does he make amends with the Griswolds, but he gives Clark his bonus and drops the kidnapping charges. This was reminiscent of "Vacation" when the family visited "Wally World."

The movie had a few funny moments, although not funny enough to keep the viewer interested.

Chase, who is known for his clumsy roles, was not the Chase of old and came off as very boring.

Hopefully this is the last vacation for the Griswolds.



As noon approaches in Decorah, this view of the Winneshiek County courthouse is a display of architectural beauty.